THE WATCHERS

A musical by Josh Wellman, with Doug Yetter

Based on "Miss Tempy's Watchers" by Sarah Orne Jewett

Excerpt: Scene Three, with the song "I Dreamt"

SCENE THREE

The bedroom at dawn. YOUNG TEMPY is sitting on the window sill, looking out at the dawn. SHE looks mischievously at YOUNG ESSIE and YOUNG SARAH ANN, who are still asleep. SHE tiptoes over, takes a pillow in each hand, and gently hits both GIRLS in the head. THEY groan.

YOUNG ESSIE

Oh, don't get started with that, Tempyyyyyyy-*uh*! Let me sleeeeep.

YOUNG TEMPY

But yer missin' the dawn! It's beautiful.

YOUNG SARAH ANN

You made us watch the sunset, that was enough beauty for one day.

YOUNG TEMPY

Nonsense! There ain't never enough beauty in a day. Get up!
(pause)
Last one up's a rotten egg!

YOUNG ESSIE

Ugh, let me rot.

YOUNG TEMPY

You're no fun.

YOUNG SARAH ANN

Oh, my!
(SHE has rolled over and is looking out the window)
It really *is* amazing! Essie, come and look't this!

ESSIE is up. Not happy about it until:

YOUNG ESSIE

Lands! That *is* somethin'!

YOUNG TEMPY

Only thing'd make it better is if there was a tree right about there. Think I may plant one someday. If Ma'll let me.

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YOUNG ESSIE

Your Ma'll let you do just about anything.

YOUNG SARAH ANN

As long as it doesn't wake her up!

YOUNG TEMPY

Jealous?

YOUNG SARAH ANN

Yep.

YOUNG ESSIE

My Ma, she says I'll be better for how strict she is now.

YOUNG TEMPY

Shh… all this jabberin'. Let's just watch. Just for a minute. Just keep't all… for a memory, someday.

THEY sit silently for a moment. YOUNG ESSIE gets the giggles.

YOUNG ESSIE

Oh, I'm sorry, Tempy. You get so serious about things sometimes.

YOUNG TEMPY

Oh, yeah?

(SHE tickles YOUNG ESSIE, who yelps.)

YOUNG ESSIE

Stop that! You *know* how ticklish I am!

YOUNG SARAH ANN

We know.

(tickles HER)

YOUNG ESSIE flees them and stands on the bed, armed with two pillows.

YOUNG ESSIE

Next one who tickles me gets pillow-hit to death!

YOUNG TEMPY

(laughs)

Shh… Ma'll hear. She'll be up to make breakfast soon but she'll be cranky if we wake her up early.

(back at window)

That really is a beautiful dawn.

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She is interrupted by a jaw-breaking yawn and settles contentedly on the edge of the bed. Music.

But yes. I could sleep more. If I *wanted*. I had wonderful dreams last night.

(sings)

I DREAMT
BEAUTIFUL THINGS,
BEFORE THE BEAUTIFUL MORNING DAWNED.
IT'S STRANGE
HOW THE DARK NIGHT BRINGS
PRETTY THOUGHTS,
PRETTY PICTURES,
PRETTY SONGS THE HEART SINGS
TO THE WAKING DAY BEYOND.

YOUNG SARAH ANN

I DREAMT
THAT I WENT WAY UP TO THE MOON.
IT WAS SHIMMERIN' AND SHININ' AND SUCH.
IT WAS MAGICAL –
MARVELOUS! –
LIKE ONLY FULL MOONS ARE.
AND AS I GOT CLOSER I COULD TELL:
IT WAS MADE OF SNOW!
AND,

I LIT
ON THE SURFACE LIKE A BIRD FROM THE TREES,
AND I DANCED LIKE A SNOWFLAKE ON THE BREEZE.
AND I WALKED UP TO A DRIFT,
AND I DOVE RIGHT IN,
AND I CAME OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE
A-COVERED IN THE WHITE-MOON SNOW,
A-SHININ' LIKE THE MOON!

AND EV'RYONE BELOW,
WHO WAS LOOKIN' AT THE SKY –
THEY SAW *ME!*

AS LOVELY
AND AS LIGHT AS THE MOON.

YOUNG TEMPY & YOUNG SARAH ANN

I DREAMT
BEAUTIFUL THINGS,
BEFORE THE SUN MADE THE SKY START BLUE.
IT'S GRAND
HOW THE NIGHT TIME BRINGS
LOVELY LARKS,

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LOVELY FOLLIES
THAT CAN GIVE A HEART WINGS…
AND CAN MAKE A FANCY TRUE.
(to YOUNG ESSIE)
HOW ’BOUT YOU?

YOUNG ESSIE

Me?
(Sits up proper, and sings:)
I DREAMT
I WAS A PRINCESS, MOVIN’ HUMBLY THROUGH THE STREETS,
AS THE PALACE GATES PARTED FOR MY FINE CHOCOLATE STEED.
AND I CLUMB FROM MY HORSE
TO THE CROWD UPON THE STREET,
AND I GIVE ’EM COMFORT,
AND I GIVE ’EM GOLD.

AND THE PEOPLE,
HOW THEY LOVED ME
FOR MY KINDNESS AND MY LOVE –
THAT A PRINCESS FROM THE PALACE
WOULD EXTEND A FINE, WHITE GLOVE,
AND PRESENT THEM …
HOPE!

BUT OF COURSE,
MY MA,
SHE SAYS YOU CAN’T GIVE THINGS AWAY.
THAT THEY’LL TAKE AND TAKE AND TAKE,
IF YOU DO.
SO MY MA,
SHE SAYS,
ALL THAT YOU CAN DO IS PRAY.
AND YOU HOPE OTHER PEOPLE
ONE DAY
HAVE AS MUCH AS YOU…

ALL THREE

(canon)
I DREAMT.
I DREAMT.
I DREAMT.
I DREAMT.
I DREAMT!

YOUNG TEMPY

I DREAMT
OF GRAND ADVENTURES WITH THE TWO OF YOU.
I DREAMT

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OF GOIN' TO ARABIA WITH THE TWO OF YOU.
OF GOIN' TO CHINA WITH THE TWO OF YOU.
OF GOIN' TO NIAG'RY WITH THE TWO OF YOU!
OF GOIN' DOWN TO BOSTON WITH THE TWO OF YOU!

YOUNG ESSIE
What?! Arabia, China, Niagary Falls… and *Boston?!*

YOUNG TEMPY
Yes?! What's wrong with Boston? I dreamt we went there… we never seen it. All splendid and big.
(sings)
AND WE WERE TRUE FRIENDS FOREVER.
FOREVER.

LET'S NOT LET ANYTHING EVER COME BETWEEN US.

YOUNG SARAH ANN
LET'S NOT LET ANYTHING EVER COME BETWEEN US…

YOUNG ESSIE
I DREAMT
BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

ALL THREE
BEFORE THE SUN MADE THE SKY START BLUE.
I LOVE
HOW THE NIGHTTIME BRINGS,
PRETTY THOUGHTS,
PRETTY PICTURES,
LOVELY LARKS,
LOVELY FANCIES,
GRAND AFFAIRS,
GRAND ADVENTURES,
WITH THE TWO OF YOU…

AND I WISH THAT THE DAY
COULD MAKE LAST NIGHT'S DREAMS COME TRUE.

The door opens.

YOUNG TEMPY
Sorry, Ma!

THE GIRLS run off stage as the room darkens considerably. YOUNG TEMPY drops her pillow, pauses to get it, and then flees, leaving it there.

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