



Arts Engagement  
and Education

## MARISOL

"No? Then what is it? Are you real or not?"

From *Marisol*

By José Rivera [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jose\\_Rivera\\_\(playwright\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jose_Rivera_(playwright))

Gender: Female/Feminine Presenting

Style: Contemporary Dramatic

Age Range: 20's

**Link to Buy Script** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

### **Play Synopsis**

Marisol Perez, a young Latina, is a copy editor for a Manhattan publisher. Although she has elevated herself into the white collar class, she continues to live alone in the dangerous Bronx neighborhood of her childhood. As the play begins, Marisol narrowly escapes a vicious attack by a golf-club-wielding madman while traveling home on the subway. Later that evening Marisol is visited by her guardian angel, who informs her that she can no longer serve as Marisol's protector because she has been called to join the revolution already in progress against an old and senile God who is dying and "taking the rest of the universe with him." The war in heaven spills over into New York City, reducing it to a smoldering urban wasteland where giant fires send noxious smoke to darken the skies, where the moon has not been seen in months, where the food has been turned to salt, and where water no longer seeks its level. Alone, without her protector, Marisol begins a nightmare journey into this new war zone. She finds herself on the streets, homeless, where her many encounters include a woman beaten for exceeding her credit limit and a homeless burn victim in a wheelchair looking for his lost skin. With the apocalypse well under way, the angels have traded in their wings for Uzis and wear leather motorcycle jackets and fatigues. As the action builds to a crescendo, the masses of homeless and displaced people join the angels in the war to save the universe.

### **Before this Moment**

There is a lot of Chaos happening in Marisol's apartment building. One of her neighbors in particular is visited by a woman who is threatening to come back with a gun and kill everybody in the apartment building including the children because he won't answer the door. There's silence for a brief moment as she comes to Marisol's door instead. She informs the deranged woman that she has the wrong apartment and the woman accuses Marisol of being his new girlfriend. The gun is cocked and the scene is now silent again. Amazed by the instant calm Marisol goes to her door to look thru her peephole. When she opens the door she discovers that there is a pile of salt on the floor. She quickly closes and locks her door then dives into her bed. The light shifts in Marisol's apartment as the Angel climbs down the ladder to Marisol's bed. The Angel speaks directly to Marisol as she sleeps.

### **Monologue(Act 1 Scene IV)**

No? Then what is it? Are you real or not? 'Cause if you're real and God is real and the Gospels are real, this would be the perfect time to tell me. 'Cause I once looked for angels, I did, in every shadow of my childhood—but I never found any. I thought I'd find you hiding inside the notes I sang to myself as a kid. The songs that put me to sleep and kept me from killing myself with fear. But I didn't see you then. C'mon! Somebody up there has to tell me why I live the way I do! What's going on here, anyway? Why is

there a war on children in this city? Why are apples extinct? Why are they planning to drop human insecticide on overpopulated areas of the Bronx? Why has the color blue disappeared from the sky? Why does common rainwater turn your skin bright red? Why do cows give salty milk? Why did the Plague kill half my friends? AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MOON? Where did the moon go? How come nobody's seen it in nearly nine months?

**Helpful Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IVburnjxOY>