

# **ANGEL OF THE AMAZON**

Libretto

Evan Mack

## ANGEL OF THE AMAZON

Libretto and Music by Evan Mack

Each scene has two parts and is based on an specific beatitude. The “a” part for the scene starts from the day of her murder and go back in time, one day at a time. The “b” part of the scene is flashbacks of her life. They start from her first day in the Brazilian Amazon and moves forward in time (by five to ten year increments). The final scene of the opera is the repetition of the “a” part of the scene from all scenes. It starts from six days before her murder to the moment of her murder.

*Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

**Act I, Scene 1a:** Setting: *The Amazon, a dirt path.* Dorothy Stang is wearing a T-Shirt with writing on the shirt: “Connect people to land, connect them to God.” The T-shirt is a symbol of the plight of the peasants and the rising power of the people. In her life, Dorothy will go from wearing the habit, to wearing a plain white T-shirt, to wearing a T-shirt with a message on it. She has embodied her cause and that is symbolic in the T-shirt. At this point in her life, (in the “a” part of the scenes) the T-shirt has become a voice, and something to reckon with. Two men with guns approach her.

**Dorothy:** I thought I made it clear to both of you yesterday.

*(To herself)*, I thought I made it clear.

*(She opens the bible)* (**Gunmen** point their guns at her).

This is my only weapon, *(referring to the bible.)* *(She opens the bible,)* Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom.

*(Gunmen* slowly lower their guns) Blessed are the...

*Stage goes dark...interlude begins, setting up the first flashback.*

**Act I, Scene 1b: Flashback, Dorothy’s First Day in the Amazon—1969.**

Setting: Finishing up a feast at the Landowners house. It is filled with lavish, ornate furniture and china. The Landowner, his son, his wife, servants, and Sr. Dorothy are all at the table. The people of Dot’s mission work, the peasant farmers are looking outside. They are destitute, hungry, and in run-down working clothes milling around as if invisible to everyone.

Dorothy is wearing a traditional habit.

**Dorothy:** Your feast was delicious.

**Landowner:** You are an honored guest. We have plenty of everything.

**Dorothy:** I am excited to begin teaching your workers about my faith.

**Landowner:** (Self-aggrandizing) Sister, God has been good to me. Lots of money, lots of land, always able to feed my family, make a profit. But I always say, “it better to

give than receive.” *(As if sharing a secret)* I sell them a bit of land for a fair price, then they must sell their crop to me at a good discount. You see—

**Dorothy:** (puts down her fork implying disgust and politely interrupts) *(Spoken)*. So how do your workers ever stop owing you money?

**Landowner:** (ignoring her) Sister, Sister, God has been good to me (Gestures to his home) Take a look around. See how God’s plan is working.

**Dorothy:** (tongue and cheek) Let’s hope I fit into the plan. *(Dorothy stands to leave the table)*

**Landowner:** (motions to his son) My son will walk you to the door.

**Son:** (Walks Dorothy outside—and is concerned) Be careful sister, they live like animals out there...especially Luiz. He is the black sheep.

*Dorothy walks outside*

*There are a group of peasant farmers outside, huddled together, sharing one piece of fruit or bread. They look destitute. Some look famished, sick, tired.*

*The landowners keep an eye on the activity outside their house.*

*A woman rushes up to her:*

**Luanna:** Baptize my baby, fix him so he won’t die a beast.

**Raul:** Bless me now, so I won’t die today

**Dorothy:** *(Spoken)* It doesn’t work that way

**Little kid:** Ask God to give me food?

**Choir of Farmers:** Does God love us?

**Dorothy:** *(Spoken)* Of course God loves you.

**Luanna:** Please baptize my baby. Make him human

**Raul:** I do not want to die, heal me Sister.

**Little kid:** I’m starving. Ask God for some food.

**Dorothy:** *(Spoken and now frustrated)* Wait...you are pushing me.

**Choir of Farmers:** Will God love us?

**Luanna:** Baptize my baby!

**Raul:** I don’t want to die.

**Little kid:** I’m starving.

**Dorothy:** *(Spoken)* Don’t crowd me!

**Choir of Farmers:** Love us!

**Dorothy:** *(Spoken)* Back up!

*(As the volume comes to a head, Dorothy sings in full force)*

**Dorothy:** Blessed are the poor, *(the crowd gets quiet and interested, they murmur)* for theirs is the kingdom.

**Crowd:** *(spoken, ad lib.)* What is she saying? What does that mean? etc.

**Dorothy:** The words of Christ, *(the crowd gradually gathers around her)* As God has given the poor.

**Luiz:** (interrupts, still on the outside of the group,) What do you know about the poor?

You eat and drink with the man who makes us poor.

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*) They warned me about you.

**Luiz:** Because I see through their lies. You can talk to us about the poor, but don't know how we fight to survive.

**Dorothy:** I want to teach you what I know.

**Luiz:** (*Spoken, to the crowd*) She eats from their table, while we starve. We cannot be taught by one of them (*starts to exit and crowd follows*).

**Dorothy:** Please, listen to what I have to say. (*Spoken*) I can help you.

**Luiz:** Save your words, Sister, because we are still the ones who fight to live. (*Spoken, to the crowd*) I have seen enough, lets go. (**Luiz and the crowd exit**).

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken, ad lib.*) Wait...don't go, etc.

### **Have I Not Wept?**

**Dorothy:** (By herself)

Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?

The oppressed retreat from me as I come here to help them.

How can I raise the poor from the dust and lift them from the ashes

If they see me as a hand for the wicked?

I tried and failed. What did I do wrong?

Have I not wept? Am I not pained enough? Have I not grieved enough?

They cried for my help. They cried out to me.

And my words, only words could not comfort them.

I'll try again. And this time, I won't fail.

I must seek to follow Christ and give up what is mine

In the spirit of the Lord I will sacrifice it all

I cannot help the poor unless I'm one of them

Together, we'll walk the path of God

*End Scene*

*Blessed are the meek for they shall possess the land.*

**Act I, Scene 2a: 1 Day Before the Murder**—Evening: Dot is wearing a T-shirt with writing on it: "Connect people to land, connect them to God" She is teaching a child the prayer to bless the food. They are near a set table, very humble and small in comparison to the landowner's house in Scene 1a.

**Dorothy:** (teaching) Bless us,

**Young Child:** Bless us,

**Dorothy:** Bless us, O, Lord.

**Young Child:** Bless us, O, Lord.

**Dorothy:** Very good! But this time remember to breathe...continue.

**Young Child:** For these your gifts, which we're about to receive.

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*) Breath

**Young Child:** Make us mindful...

**Dorothy:** Be mindful of the Earth, and the forest that surrounds you.

**Young Child:** Mindful for the needs of others.

**Dorothy:** We're only here to look out for each other. Promise me, if I'm not here, you'll still be mindful of others.

**Young Child:** (*Spoken*) I promise.

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*) Well then, hurry up. The table's set. They're waiting for you.

**Young Child with Choir:** Bless us, O Lord,  
and these your gifts for which we're about to receive.  
Make us mindful of the needs of others,  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

(*2-armed men enter. As they enter, a few peasant men step forward in front of Dot, resisting their entrance.*)

**Dorothy:** Put away your guns, we are not armed. (trying to diffuse the situation) Are you hungry? You look hungry.

**Gunman 1:** (*Prideful*) No, we're fine

**Dorothy:** I know why you are here...  
(She reaches for her purse; the gunmen raise their weapons.)

**Gunman 2:** Easy lady...

**Dorothy:** (pulls out a bible) This is my only weapon. (Opens the bible, and pulls out a map, and points to it) (*Spoken*) We are standing right here. (*Sung*) We possess this land. INCRA, and the Bishop says so.

**Gunman 1:** Liar... Our boss, Vito, says you are trespassing.

**Dorothy:** Vito is greedy, a shark taking what is not his. Look at the map. This is where we lived for over three decades.

**Gunman 1:** Vito also has a map!

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*) Those are false documents.

**Gunman 2:** It is our job to see that you get off his land.

**Dorothy:** Don't let my meek appearance fool you. Tell Vito, the police know of his threats, the Bishop knows he set fire to our homes. So, what is killing an old nun going to do? It is our land.

**Gunman 1:** But Vito...

**Dorothy:** Vito mistakes his money for greatness. How much did he offer you? (The gunmen look away in shame).  
Our greatness lies with the land, and all that we get from it. (She picks up a piece of fruit). Please, take something to eat. You both look hungry.

**Act I, Scene 2b: Flashback, 1972**—Poor land, mud huts, primitive living, and she is working with them. She wears a *plain-white* T-shirt. Dot is in the middle of the peasant farmers. They are all working, some cultivating the land. Some are cooking, some cleaning.

**Luiz:** Some mother of God you are! (throws down his shovel) The rains are a month late. (To the sky) You can't even spare a drop. No fruit... no crop...*nada*. Only dust... and piss poor dust at best.

**Dorothy:** Patience, the rain will come...

**Luiz:** (*aside, muttering*) She has no idea. Just a few more days of drought and we all

suffer...*estupido*.

**Dorothy:** (*ignoring his remarks*) What are you planting there, Luiz?

**Luiz:** (*Spoken*) Like it matters. (*Sung*) There won't be any water to keep it alive.  
(*A few workers nearby stop and listen*)

**Dorothy:** Patience, the rain will come...

**Luiz:** (*Interrupts, and shouts*) It always comes! (*Sung*) But sometimes too late.  
(*The crowd stops and Dot is taken aback*).

Tell me sister, are you ready to decide who gets the last of our crumbs?

**Dorothy:** (*takes Luiz aside*) Would you rather go back to a life of servitude? Throw away two years of freedom?

**Luiz:** We do everything right. We pray, we give, we work, we praise. And for what? (*Spoken*) More drought!

**Dorothy:** Everyone's faith has to be tested.

**Luiz:** I am too hungry to be tested by you or by God! It will crush my people if we fail.

**Dorothy:** So you cannot falter. Their hope relies on you.

### **Freedom to Fail:**

**Luiz:** For decades we have been pushed around—lower than cattle  
And all we hoped for is to break free.

Free to no one's demands but our own.

But with that freedom comes the freedom to fail:

(*Spoken*) *If the rain is too late this year, we may have one or two feasts and then the starvation sets in.*

(*Sung*) no one thought that with freedom comes the freedom to fail.

**Dorothy:** Patience, the rain will come...but we must not take *all* that it brings.

**Luiz:** (*Spoken*) That's absurd!

**Dorothy:** The water brings us life and we must nurture that life.

**Luiz:** What are you saying?

**Dorothy:** We pick only enough to get by, store the rest for tomorrow.

**Luiz:** They will be too hungry; they won't go a long with it.

**Dorothy:** But they will follow you... convince them to live for tomorrow and not be consumed by today.

**Luiz:** (*Pauses*) Hey Raul! What will you do when the rain comes! (*the group stops working*)

**Brazilian Farmer's Song:** *Luiz, Dorothy, Luanna, Raul, Rosa, Jose, and a chorus of farmers:*

**Raul:** (*joking and spoken*) I don't know...take the day off!

**Luiz:** (*laughs*) And you, Jose?

**Raul:** (*spoken*) probably come to my house! (*the crowd laughs*)

**Luanna:** Not if your wife has anything to say about it!

**Jose:** (*a portly fellow, sings*) I'm going to eat as much as I can.

**Luiz:** (*Sarcastically*) You could save some for the rest of us! (*the crowd laughs*)

**Luanna:** (Gradually ensemble joins in)

*Campos do verde. Pacotes da fruta.* (Fields of green, bundles of fruit)  
*Abundância do alimento para comer.* (Plenty of food to eat)  
*O deus, traz na chuva* (God, Bring on the Rain).  
*Água da vida.* (Water gives life)  
*Logo, todos deleitar-se-a em* (Soon everyone will feast on)  
*Pacotes, pacotes da fruta.* (bundles of fruit).

**Luiz:**(interrupts) I will take only what I will need, only enough to live, and store the rest.

**Ensemble:** *Campos do verde. Pacotes da fruta. Abundância do alimento para comer.*  
*O deus, traz na chuva. Água da vida.*  
*Logo, todos deleitar-se-a em pacotes, pacotes da fruta.*

**Luiz:** Think about tomorrow by holding back today, and if the rains are plentiful, we can have it both ways.

**Dorothy and Luiz:** We must live for tomorrow and sacrifice today. And if the rains are plentiful, it will provide us for more than one day.

**Ensemble:** *Campos do verde. Pacotes da fruta. Abundância do alimento para comer.*  
*O deus, traz na chuva. Água da vida.*  
*Logo, todos deleitar-se-a em pacotes, pacotes da fruta.*

**Luiz:**(then gradually everyone) I will take only what I will need, only enough to live, and store the rest.

**Ensemble:** *Campos do verde. Pacotes da fruta. Abundância do alimento para comer.*  
*O deus, traz na chuva. Água da vida.*  
*Logo, todos deleitar-se-a em pacotes, pacotes da fruta.*

**Dorothy, Luiz, Luanna, Raul, Rosa, and Jose:** Live for tomorrow by saving today.

*End Scene*

*Blessed are the persecuted for theirs is the Kingdom of God*

**Act I, Scene 3a: 2 days before her murder.** Police station. Most of the police in there are later found to be corrupt. The Police Chief is demonstrating to the two Gunmen how to use a gun. The other police officers are watching.

**Police Chief:** (To the gunmen) (Holding a gun, entranced by it)

Hold her, gently. Careful. Handle her with great care.  
 Softly place in the palm of your hand.  
 Feel the metal flow through your finger tips  
 Lightly lower her head.  
 Tenderly, open her heart.  
 See the chamber where all the bullets are stored.  
 Load her gently.

(Loads the gun)

**Police Chief:** One,

**Gunmen 1:** They offered me a lot of money

**Police Chief:** Two,

**Gunmen 1:** I'll soon have a life worth living

**Gunmen 2:** Can I go through with this?

**Police Chief:** Three,

**Gunmen 1:** I hope they have the money

**Police Chief:** Four,

**Gunmen 1:** I never met the man who'll pay me.

**Gunmen 2:** To take a life...

**Police Chief:** Five,

**Gunmen 1:** I hope he has the money to pay me, this Vito,

**Gunmen 2:** Will I be able to?

**Police Chief:** Six.

**Gunmen 1:** Will Vito have the money.

**Police Chief:** Lightly lift up her head. Tenderly look in her eye,

**Gunmen 1&2:** Is this really going to happen?

**Police Chief:** Take aim through her soul, caress on the trigger with one of your fingers!

**Gunmen 1&2:** And if it happens, will we be ready for this?

**Police Chief:** (*Spoken*) Fire! Fire! Fire! (coming out of his trance and hands over the gun). (*Sung*) Now go and find your target. (Gunmen exit, Dorothy enters and their paths cross with no notice)

**Police Chief:** (*Groans to himself*) What is it this time?

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** (*mocking in the background*) Patron saint of the lazy

**Police Chief:** How can I help you Sister?

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** Sister of the "Freebee"

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*) We need more protection.

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** Sister of the "handout"

**Police Chief:** I'm very busy

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** Stopping Catholic gun runners.

**Police Chief:** Don't waste my time crying wold.

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** Are there no more handouts. Be she lost her freebee. She's tired of bein' a gun runner

**Police Chief:** Protection from whom?

**Dorothy:** Vito and his men.

**Policemen 1:** What did he do

**Policemen 2, 3:** Can't God help you?

**Policemen 4:** Another freebee

**Dorothy:** My men are missing

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** Maybe they left you.

**Dorothy:** They burned a house down

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** Probably and accident

**Dorothy:** I saw them stalking.

**Policemen 2, 3, 4:** Don't lie to us!

**Dorothy:** Please stop this man who persecutes us. I know Vito wants be dead, but I won't go away...*(spoken)* By that way, I told the Bishop of this violence. He will be calling the generals.

**Police Chief:** *(Nervous by her statement)* Okay, okay, we'll be on the lookout. *(Spoken)* I'm sure this will pass over. *(Sung)* You can count on me.

**Act I, Scene 3b, Flashback 1980**—Meeting of the Bishop, who is head of the Pastoral Land Commission, the INCRA—a government group to promote settling of the Amazon, Sr. Dorothy, and the owner of a Logging company named Vito. He is against this movement to “take their land.” Dorothy is wearing secular clothing but is not as dressed down as with the T-shirt. Her plain T-shirt is underneath a coat.

The scene begins in the middle of the meeting...

**Mr. Dove:** The mandate clearly states, that we at INCRA possess the power to oversee the land.

**Mr. Rico:** But we're lacking the funding to properly fulfill this mandate. We're looking for funding to oversee this land.

**Bishop:** Thank you Mr. Dove, Mr. Rico, you gave great insight into the process. Sister Dorothy, it's your turn to talk about the progress of the sustainable land project and its people.

**Ten Long Years:** Dorothy, The Bishop, Mr. Dove, Mr. Rico, and Vito.

**Dorothy:** (To the committee) It's been ten long years since my work began. (To herself) ten long years, everyday was earned. How naïve I was. How naïve. I tried again. (To the committee) It took ten long years for us to respect the land. (To herself) And what a day that was, they finally understood to live for tomorrow, today. It's been ten long years. (To the committee) And no ones' listening, no one listens today, you don't hear the cries of the poor.

**Mr. Rico:** (interrupting) Your time is up

**Dorothy:** Only ten minutes to speak, for ten years of work.

**Mr. Dove:** We will look into your claims.

**Mr. Rico:** (annoyed at Mr. Dove) we don't have the time, men, or money to look into these claims.

**Dorothy:** How much time remains, if you fail to protect our rights to farm the Amazon?

**Vito:** What about my rights? Should we only care about *your* people? I won't wait for you, farming land that's doomed.

(To himself)

This happened once before

They stole land from my father

This happened once before  
The government should never take land from hard working men like my father!

This won't happen again  
Giving land to the lazy.  
Stealing land from an honest man to give it to the lazy.  
I stand here to day to fight for the rights of men like my father.

What about my right?  
What about my right to make a profit?  
What about my right, to farm the land we've owned for centuries?  
What about my right?  
What else is left to give?  
How much more are you going to take from me?  
What else is left to give?  
Don't you know that farming the Amazon is doomed to fail.  
What about my right?  
What about my right to make a profit, to feed my family?  
What about my right?  
What about my right to use the land to make some money?  
What else is left to give?  
You're living on land that's technically mine  
What else is left to give?  
How much more are you going to take from me?  
Your living on land...that's already my  
My land, it's my land. My land, it's my land.

**Bishop:** We should intervene

It's mine, it's mine,

**Bishop:** We must keep both sides talking. We should intervene

**Mr. Rico:** (to Bishop) Do not intervene.

It's mine, it's mine,

**Mr. Dove:** What! No! He is out of control.

**Mr. Rico:** (to Bishop) Do not intervene. Do not interrupt him.

**Dorothy:** Look at what my people have to face. You just witnessed what we fight everyday. It's a fight to keep us alive. You just witnessed, ten years of strife just to keep the land that we own.

Some men have been beaten, women abducted.

**Mr. Dove:** We will look into your claims.

**Mr. Rico:** We don't have the money. We don't have the time.

We're constantly threatened, fearful of what will happen to us.

**Mr. Dove:** We will look into your claims.

**Bishop:** How can we keep you safe?

We need more land to shield us from all these attacks.

Guarantee ten more years if you give more land.

**Bishop:** Our work is with the people. We can't control what we do with the land.  
Spare us ten more years, we need more land.

**Mr. Dove:** We can protect the people if we give them more land

**Mr. Rico:** We could make more money if we lease the land

**Bishop:** Our work is with the people. We can't control what we do with the land.  
Guarantee ten more years. Give us land.

**Mr. Dove:** We could sustain more land if we give it to the people

**Mr. Rico:** We could make money. We need money to regulate the land

**Bishop:** Our work is with the people. We can't control what we do with the land.  
Guarantee ten more years. Give us land. We need land!

**Mr. Dove:** Give it to the poor. Sustain more land

**Mr. Rico:** Money can regulate land.

**Bishop:** Our work is with the people. We don't regulate land.

**Vito:** Don't you mean my land. It's my land

**Dorothy:** Your not listening to me.

**Vito:** My land. It's my land.

**Dorothy:** It's not your land to give away.

**Vito:** It's mine, it's mine, it's mine

**Dorothy:** All this land belongs to the poor.

**Rico, Dove, and Bishop:** ENOUGH!

**Bishop:** Both sides must compromise. Don't let these talks fall apart. We all have to sacrifice.

**Mr. Rico:** Compromise, Vito, if you compromise, you'll get what you want. I can help you. More than you need.

**Mr. Dove:** If you sacrifice, you will get what you deserve. If you *don't* sacrifice, you *won't* get anything.

**Dorothy:** For ten years we've compromised, talked of land. What more is there to sacrifice?

**Vito:** Why should I compromise what is already mine.

**Mr. Dove:** Sister Dorothy, you're people can keep their land.

**Bishop:** This is good we have a process.

**Mr. Rico:** Vito, continue logging.

**Bishop:** This is good we have a process.

**Rico and Dove:** No one, shall occupy the adjacent land.

**Dorothy:** We deserve more land, it all can't go to the rich!

**Vito:** I deserve more land, it all can't go to the poor!

**Rico and Dove:** These are the boundaries.

**Rico, Dove, and Bishop:** Agreed?

**Dorothy:** Agreed

**Vito:** (Disappointed) Agreed. (*Lights fade on scene, except for Vito*). Let them keep their land. I don't care what people say about this land. Let them fail at farming land that's doomed. Either way, in ten years, in ten years, this land will be my land. It's my land. My land, it's my land. It's mine, it's mine, it's mine... (fade away) **End Scene**

*Blessed are the peacemakers for they are the Children of God*

**Act I, Scene 4a: 3 days before her murder.** Dorothy meets with the Bishop and other church leaders. She is wearing her T-shirt and pants. The T-Shirt says “Connect people to land, connect them to God” Unlike the previous scene, events are too imminent to look formal. Bishops will be as diplomatic as they were in the previous scenes.

**Dorothy:** (rushing into the office) Your grace, thank you for meeting me on such short notice. Vito has started his invasion. Those lousy *Grilerios* have become more violent.

**Bishop:** Your work is with the people, let the government regulate the land. Did you contact INCRA?

**Dorothy:** Yes, but I think they’ve been compromised.

**Bishop:** Is it true that you spoke out against the logging companies at the capital, and to the press?

**Dorothy:** The public needed to know.

**Clergy:** It wasn’t authorized!

**Dorothy:** I’m sorry, but it had to be done.

**Clergy:** What about the process?

**Dorothy:** (under her breath) Kill a tree, Kill a person

**Clergy:** (*Spoken*) What did you say?

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*) Forget the process! (*Sung*) The Amazon is under siege, and you do nothing about it!

**Bishop and Clergy:** The process is working. Just, give it time.

**Dorothy:** For three decades we’ve been patient. Your mistake the process for peace.

**Bishop:** (*Spoken*) “*Grileiros, Sharks, invasion, under siege.*” Sister Dorothy, you’re in way too deep.

**Clergy:** They have threatened you, stay here so we can keep you safe.

**Dorothy:** My place is with my people. I am their voice—I have nothing to lose.  
Don’t help me, help my people.

**Clergy:** You’re too involved.

**Dorothy:** Call INCRA

**Bishop and Clergy:** In way too deep.

**Dorothy:** Or the General!

**Bishop and Clergy:** You’re over your head!

**Dorothy:** Enough with the process. We want peace.

**Bishop:** You’re too blind to see that all of these actions, (*spoken*) will only escalate the situation.

**Act I, Scene 4b: Flashback, 1985.** We see a more developed village. The mud-like huts are not of wood or tree branches. They have electricity, a school building, and a fruit factory. The people have clothing (T-shirt and jeans). The clothes have evidence that they have been used for working but it is not their only pair of clothing. People are working. Dorothy is walking around. Giving advice to the workers—almost as if she is supervising them. Luiz brings in a bushel of food.

**Luiz:** (wipes off his sweat) This should last us a while.

**Dorothy:** Great! Store it in the larger refrigerator unit. Plant those next week so the land stays viable. The dry season has come early this year...

**Luiz:** (*Lighthearted*) Living for tomorrow gets very tiresome. (*Serious*) Hopefully, soon we will see the rewards.

**Dorothy:** (*taken aback*) What do you call all this? (Pointing to the scene around her)

**Luiz:** (*Lighthearted*) More work (*Serious*) But soon we'll have the wealth to end this struggle.

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*) Luiz, we have been over this.

**Luiz:** If we just had more money...

**Dorothy:** (*Sung*) Careful...in time the fruits of our labor will be plentiful.

**Luiz:** It's just that when the dry season hits, the loggers test our borders.

**Dorothy:** Things have been relatively calm for the last 2 years. INCRA is making progress each day.

**Luiz:** It is tough being on guard all the time. (*Lighthearted*) Lord, give me the money to build a giant wall...or a fortress...to help us fight, (*spoken*), these awful people!

**Dorothy:** (*chuckles*) (*puts his arm around him*) If it were only that easy...

**Luanna:** (rushing in, out of breath) Luiz...armed men in jeeps...coming up the road. They have torches.

**Raul:** What would they want?

**Rosa:** Will they hurt us?

**Dorothy:**(surprised by the violence and the escalation) Torches! But that road is lit...What are they going to do with torches (*realizes*).

**Luanna:** They'll burn our homes.

**Dorothy:** (*Shouts*) Quick, Luiz! Go to the water reserve!

**Luiz:** I am going to get my gun!

**Raul:** They're coming up the hill. Head to the forest. Leave everything here!

**Jose:** Let's get out of here.

**Rosa:** Here they come, here they come!

**Dorothy:** (*Sung*) Luiz! Please, they are setting fire to the village. (Luiz runs off.)

**Fire Sequence:** The armed men arrive; Dorothy struggles to get off stage...the burning takes place. It is pure chaos. People running, buildings smoking, people screaming. The ensemble is singing off stage: Lacrymosa.

With all the chaos, *the music is slow and powerful*—acting as emotional commentary to the awful events taking place.

Finally, we hear gunfire in the distance from Luiz's gun! It scares off the armed men. Everything is burned to the ground! Smoldering.

**Luiz:** (*Sung*) (defeated, enters with a rifle) I couldn't stop them.... It was too much. (More people converge) Is everyone okay?

**Luanna:** Our homes...they burned our homes!

*Some are wailing. Everyone is extremely upset, angry and hopeless.*

**Dorothy:** Anyone hurt or taken?

**Luanna:** No, Just the fires

**Raul:** I have nothing left. Nothing.

**Jose:** All that I had is lost.

**Rosa:** Everything that I have is gone.

**Luanna:** Luiz, what are we going to do.

**Luiz:** Fight back! Men get your guns!

**Dorothy:** No! You must not fight.

**Luiz:** We need to attack!

**Dorothy:** They will kill all of you! Please! Think of your family.

**Luiz:** *(To the sky)* We were supposed to be protected. We did everything God asked for.  
No one watches over us? *(he falls to his knees—defeated)*

*Confusion and worry set into the crowd*

**Old Man:** We must get out of here, they're coming back.

**Raul:** I need to find a place to hide. **Jose:** All that I had is lost. I can't start over

**Rosa:** They might be coming back. **Luanna:** We must hide.

**Ensemble:** We must hide, we must run. We must attack, etc.

**Dorothy:** *(Spoken)* STOP!

### **Bring on the Rain: Dorothy, Luiz, and Farmers**

**Dorothy:** We must pray...we must pray for the rain.

Let every drop pour on our homes

Let it douse all the flames

Thank you Lord for you let us survive.

The sun may be darkened, the moon losing light

The stars will open up as the powers of heaven collide

But soon you'll see the Son of Man in all his glory.

**Dorothy and Peasant Farmers:** Lord, send you angels to gather the winds from all end  
of the earth. Bring on the rain, Bring on the rain

Let it douse the flames of hate.

**Luiz:** All we hoped for was to break free.

Free from living in fear, free from living a dejected life

Free to do what you can to live the life you always dreamed you would have.

No more running away, no more starting over again.

No more walking the path that leaves you open to things beyond your control.

I trusted you Lord and you failed us once again.

Now, it's up to me to put this to an end

I'll hunt them down; I'll kill them all

They'll never hurt us again.

**Ensemble:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

**Dorothy:** God, I need your guidance.

**Luiz:** No more running away, I will stand and fight, I have to protect what's mine.

**Ensemble:** Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lord, send you angels; with faith send your angels to gather the winds from all end of the earth.

**Dorothy:** I can't do this alone. Father, give these people the peace, this gift they deserve. Lord, I need you. I can't do this alone. With faith, with hope I'll lead my people to the promise land.

**Luiz:** Every day is a fight, a fight to survive, a fight to hold on, hold onto a battered dream. I trusted you Lord. I had faith in you, and you failed us once again. You failed me for the last time. I am the only one who can save us. No more relying on others. No more waiting for failure to kill the dream. Relying on God has killed my dream.

**Dorothy and Ensemble:** Bring on the rain, Bring on the rain.

**Luiz:** I'm on my own. I control how this will end.

**Ensemble:** Let the waters of God douse the fires of hate.

**Dorothy:** God our fate rests in you.

**Luiz:** It's up to me.

*END OF ACT I*

## ACT II

*Blessed are the pure of heart for they shall see God*

**Act II, Scene 1a: 4 days before the murder.** Luiz is walking home. Armed men—some in plain clothes, a couple in police uniforms—rush up to him. They start to harass him. There are TWO poor men (*later become the gunmen*) lounging on the street witnessing this whole thing, apathetic.

**Police Chief:** (*not in uniform*) Vito made you a good offer yesterday.

**Policemen 2 and 3:** Listen to Vito's offer

**Luiz:** (walking faster, trying to avoid) Leave me alone. Get off my land!

**Policemen 2 and 3:** Where you headed?

**Luiz:** Going home... Now, get lost! Vito doesn't own this land.

**Policemen 2 and 3:** What's the rush?

**Police Chief:** Where are you going?

**Policemen 2 and 3:** What's the hurry?

**Luiz:** I'm going home. So get lost. Vito doesn't own this land. So let me go home in peace.

**Police Chief:** Home? To your family?

**Luiz:** (turns around) What did you say?

**Police Chief:** How do you know if they are still at home?

**Policemen 2 and 3:** Should have taken the offer. Take the offer

**Luiz:** Where is my family? Where are they?

**Policemen 2 and 3:** Take the offer, take it!

**Police Chief:** They could be anywhere.

**Policemen 2 and 3:** Take it! Take it!

**Luiz:** You bastard! Where are they? (grabbing the Police Chief) WHERE IS MY FAMILY?

*The Police Chief punches Luiz in the stomach. He falls down. The other policemen spit on Luiz.*

**Police Chief:** Maybe you should reconsider Vito's offer.

*As the men exit, they see the 2 witnesses, unfazed by what just happened (To the two men) How would you two like to make 24,000 dollars?*

**Act II, Scene 1b. Flashback 1990.** The houses are rebuilt. We see a shell of the school to indicate the process of rebuilding from the fire. The people are cultivating the land. Dorothy is leading, teaching them. Talking about the rain, what to do with the land, how to plant...showing her difference from Act I, Scene 2b. She is wearing a T-shirt that says "Connect the people"—a fragment of the full slogan.

**Dorothy:** (to a farmer) Plant this over there...it loves the shade. Let the trees protect it.

(to another) Take this seed, keep them close together, they will spread on their own.

**Rosa:** (worried) And what if the rain does not come?

**Dorothy:** All it takes is one rain and they are reborn (hands her a plant). Be careful with it...only with great care can this plant stand on its own.

*Luiz enters, looking weathered, and carrying the rifle—a symbol of his warlike stature.*

**Dorothy:** It is too early to hunt.

**Luiz:** I was on a patrol.

**Dorothy:** You should be out in the field.

**Luiz:** I was on a patrol.

**Dorothy:** You mean looking for trouble?

**Luiz:** Two more men disappeared.

**Dorothy:** From another town!

**Luiz:** I told the police to get on it!

**Dorothy:** It has been five years since the fire. Five long years, and you're still on patrol!

**Luiz:** Yet places still burn, people disappear.

**Dorothy:** You can't control that. We need you here. Look at all we have rebuilt.

Look at what Peace has restored.

**Luiz:** This (lifts his rifle) restores.

**Dorothy:** That's foolish! What about your family and your community. That gun will get you killed...I am afraid that your heart is not pure. (*Exits*)

**Soliloquy:** Luiz and Offstage choir of farmers.

What does it take to live the life that you wanted?

A life you craved the moment you dreamed.

Everything gets in the way. The dream is a lie

I've had to fight for all my needs.  
 Fight for my food, fight for my home, fight just to live.  
 The dream had to die  
     Is it too much for you to help us, Lord?  
 So much pain that you've caused  
 So much hate you've allowed  
 Why should I waste another moment on prayer.  
 I have seen what you've done to your only son—what then will you do to my dream?  
     I've done nothing wrong—nothing to deserve this  
 I've only done right by the words you command  
 And worst of all, you send a servant down here to question my heart!  
     What gives her the right?  
 How dare she question me?  
 Has she given her blood, sacrificing her only dream?  
     It's not up to her, It's only up to me  
 My control, my beliefs, my life, my choice, my DREAM!  
     Tell me Lord, do you fear that your powerless over me?  
 I could just LET HER DIE?  
 Would you still question my heart?  
     What am I saying?  
 How could I even think that?  
 I only want to protect what little I have. (*Realization- "Have I not wept?" in the background*)  
     What little we BOTH have left.  
 She gave up her food, gave up her home, gave up her life.  
 She believes in us. She believes in me.  
 She believes in the dream. (*Off stage singing from chorus and Dorothy singing farmer's song*)  
 And I believe in her. Oh, Lord not you, Oh, Lord not me, but I believe in her!

*End Scene*

*Blessed are those who hunger for righteousness.*

*They shall have their fill.*

**Act II, Scene 2a: 5 days before the murder.** Mr. Rico, the Police Chief, and some policemen are in Vito's office. A radio broadcast gives commentary on Dorothy's speech to congress from the day before. (Act II, Scene 3a)

**Vito:** (to himself, interior dialogue) It's happening again.

It happened once to my father  
 They'll say just about anything to steal my land  
 It's happening again  
 The lies they tell must come to an end  
 I don't care how it happens  
 I swore to my father and swear to my son

That with all my power they won't take away what is ours.

(Turns off radio—to Mr. Rico) I thought she was under control.

You said she was under control. Dammit! This could ruin us!

**Mr. Rico:** For the past six months I've done everything to stop her from speaking.

**Vito:** Then how was she able to do this?

**Mr. Rico:** Her speech was not approved by the Bishop.

**Vito:** We need to get rid of her.

**Mr. Rico:** (*Spoken*) Get rid of her? (*Sung*) It's too risky.

**Vito:** SHE's too risky.

**Mr. Rico:** (he looks at Police Chief) Can't you force them out? The government will look the other way.

**Vito:** That will only make her stronger. (*Spoken*) I'll handle this. (To the Police Chief) Bring him in .

*Luiz enters the office. He is escorted into the room roughly.*

**Vito:** Her speech yesterday crossed the line. They tell me, you and the sister are close.

**Luiz:** (defiant) What do you want?

**Vito:** (false kindness) Please, have a seat.

**Luiz:** I will stand.

**Vito:** Please, I insist.

**Luiz:** I don't want to

**Vito:** You look hungry, take (points to a platter of food) there's plenty.

**Luiz:** (pauses, looks at the food) I'm not that hungry.

**Vito:** Then what do you hunger for?

As I see it, if you do me this one favor, you will never be hungry again.

(Offers Luiz the fruit. Luiz reaches out, it is not seen if he grabs it)

### ***Act II, Scene 2b: 6 months before her speech at Congress***

2004--Meeting of Dorothy and INCRA—Dorothy is wearing her T-shirt with writing on it. Mr. Dove's desk is next to Mr. Rico. Mr. Dove's desk has items on it but looks uninhabited. Mr. Dove is suspiciously absent from the meeting. She is wearing a T-shirt that says "Connect the people to the Land"—a fragment of the full slogan.

**Dorothy:** Mr. Rico, thank you for your time. Where's Mr. Dove?

**Mr. Rico:** Away.

**Dorothy:** (surprised) Away? Where?

**Mr. Rico:** Transferred.

**Dorothy:** But his stuff is.....

**Mr. Rico:** Enough questions. Why are you here? Our meeting with the Bishops is a month away.

**Dorothy:** We've rebuilt. We've restored and survived. The school is working, our fruit factory is running, and against all adversity we still move forward.

**Mr. Rico:** I can't believe you've withstood. I'm surprised you have held on for so

long. *(Spoken)* I thought you would've left years ago.

**Dorothy:** The rains can only protect us for so long. We need to stop Vito once and for all. Stop the invasion of these loggers.

**Mr. Rico:** We are trying our best.

**Dorothy:** That's not good enough. They still burn the forest and kill anyone who gets in their way. And some police are aiding him as well.

**Mr. Rico:** Like I told you, we looked into that. There are only a few bad seeds. *(Spoken)* Nothing major.

**Dorothy:** I think Vito is planning something big. His loggers are surrounding our land.

**Mr. Rico:** *(defensive)* Watch who you accuse. Vito has been helpful. In fact, he donated money to our cause...*(realizing how suspicious that sounds)* Uh..to hire more men, of course. *(Defensive)* He is still within the law.

**Dorothy:** He burned our homes.

**Mr. Rico:** We cannot prove that... and before you get all righteous...I have been getting reports, police reports that your people are carrying guns: Making idle threats It would be wise for you to keep quiet.

**Dorothy:** *(Realizing Mr. Rico is corrupt)* We've worked together for three decades. And Now you accuse me of wrong doing. Are you righteous enough to do so.

*(Lights fade onto Dorothy as the line is said, to set up interior monologue)*

**Mr. Rico:** *(Spoken):* Don't over react! I think Vito can still be trusted. I met with him many times and he still seems to be within his right...

**The Mountaintop: Dorothy and Offstage Choir.**

Dorothy, realizing that Mr. Rico has been corrupt all along, reflects on the inevitable of her life.

I don't know what will happen now.

We've come so far, but it's not quite over yet,

And my role is this is almost over now. And I know.

But I've been to the mountaintop

I have seen the promise land

I have been to the mountaintop, so I don't mind.

I lived a full life and the journey's been long.

I may not get there.

I may not see the end.

But I know, it will happen.

We will go to the mountaintop

We will see the promise land

We will reach the mountaintop

**Choir offstage:** Bring on the rain. Bring on the rain. *(Repeated throughout next stanza)*

I could die.

I could lose my life for the struggle.

I am scared, but won't be afraid.

I fear no evil, as you are with me Lord.

I have so much to gain, if I die, then let me die!

**Choir offstage:** Reach the mountaintop.  
Then we'll reach the mountaintop.  
We will reach the promise land.  
We will reach the mountaintop. (Lights come back up to full as if time has not passed).

**Mr. Rico:** (*Spoken*): Don't over react! I think Vito can still be trusted. I met with him many times and he still seems to be within his right... (*Lights fade onto Dorothy*).

**Dorothy:** In six months time, I'm going to the capital to name names.

**Mr. Rico:** Now why would you go and do something like that?

**Dorothy:** Once and for all, things will be made right! (*Exits*).

**Mr. Rico:** (picks up the phone and dials) We have a problem.

*End Scene*

*Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy*

**Act II, Scene 3a: 6 days before the murder.** The Capital: Dorothy is speaking to the assembly. She is wearing a T-shirt that says "Connect the people to the land, connect them to God." The assembly enters the stage as an offstage choir is heard.

**Offstage Choir:** Hear us. Listen to us. Hear the cries of the poor. (Dorothy, reflecting before she gives her speech.)

**Will they Listen? Dorothy and Offstage choir.**

**Dorothy:** Will they listen? Will they listen today? Will they hear the cries of the poor? I hope they listen. I hope they listen to me. So many years, no one has heard. O God, O God, let them hear. Make them hear the cries of the poor.

Make them listen. Make them listen to me to guarantee a life for tomorrow.

**Offstage Choir:** Hear us. Listen to us.  
Think of tomorrow and all we can achieve.  
O God, O God, this dream may die today.  
If they don't what all these struggles mean to me,  
And someone shows us mercy and restores my people's dignity.  
O God, give me strength, as I am their VOICE!  
I'll make them listen. I'll make them listen to me to guarantee this dream can SURVIVE!

*Music continues throughout. Dorothy's speech will begin live. Then will continue to be dubbed over the following.* The assembly scene fades out. As the speech and music continues, we see the last five days before her death in order. In order, we see Act 2, scene 2a, then Act 2, scene 1a, Act 1, Scene 4a, 3a, 2a.

**Dorothy:** (*Spoken*). My fellow Brazilians: I come to you as a citizen of the Amazon. For forty years, I have worked to help the poor settle the Amazon. Every step of the way we have faced adversity. Our adversity was not the poor soil or drought, crickets or locus. Our adversity was another infestation--the loggers who illegally steal our land. In broad daylight and full view they stole the land, then raped it of all its worth..

Then the loggers moved on, each time hungrier for the next feast.  
Through it all we still survive, we, ourselves, alone. All these years we have asked for help and all we saw was corruption at its finest.  
Men have been killed, from peasants to now a federal agent, though all are still classified as “missing”... and still... the government does not hear or see them.

Today I am here not to ask for your help, but for your mercy. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy...for once—from this tired and corrupt system, give mercy upon us and together we will see the kingdom of God...(crowd erupts)

*As the cacophony of sound reaches its highest climax we return to the dirt path on the Amazon from Act 1, Scene 1a:*

**Act II, Scene 3/Finale:** Setting: The Amazon, a dirt path. Dorothy Stang is wearing a T-Shirt with writing on the shirt: “Connect people to land, connect them to God” 2 men approach her. She looks at them with recognition. She pulls out her bible and they raise their gun. She shows them the bible to show that the bible is her only weapon.

**Dorothy:** I thought I made it clear to both of you yesterday. (To herself) I thought I made it clear (She pulls out her bible from her satchel) (To the gunmen) This is my only weapon. (To herself) I really thought I made it clear. (Opens the bible.) Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom...blessed are the...

*The gunmen shoot her 6 times and exit. All is silent. Then the rain comes and douses Dorothy's body. Luiz is the first there and runs to the noise...he is too late. He freezes as the farmers in 2s and 3s arrive and surround her body as the rain subsides.....*

**End of Opera**