

**Act 2, Scene 3:**  
***Facing a Secret***

*Setting: A pathway with a stone protruding fence*  
*(Ruth enters wearing the white/cream, faded dress. Rachel approaches her friend.)*

**Ruth:**

Lord, please help me . . . forgive . . . and believe . .  
and . . . well . . . forgive me? . .

**Rachel:**

Amen.

*(Ruth recoils.)*

**Rachel:**

Ruth, don't run . . . I need to talk to you . .  
Ruth, Boaz didn't do anything. He was just comforting me.

**Ruth:**

Looked like he was plenty comforted to me.

**Rachel:**

It was me. Not thinking straight . . . been sick -- but that's no excuse. Haven't been myself --  
always late . . . but that's no excuse. Look, it's you he wants, not me.  
Please . . . please forgive me. . . But whether you forgive me or not -- I don't care if you never  
talk to me again -- forgive him! It wasn't his fault. Give him another chance . .

**Ruth:**

Don't worry, I will.

*(Rachel exhales)*

**Rachel:**

Hey, you're not going to work in that, are you?  
What are you up to?

**Ruth:**

Oh, this . . . no . . . um, I was just . .  
say, why aren't you at the harvest party?

**Rachel:**

I'm taking the evening off. Give the gossips some space . .  
I'm sure I've given them enough to talk about already . . .  
I got back late . . . . I've been late with everything lately. . .

*(Turning head.)*

**Ruth:**

. . . late . . . how late?

*(Rachel looks at Ruth, she sits down on the fence, her head down.)*

**Rachel:**  
Ten weeks.

**Ruth:**  
I see.

**Ruth:**  
So when I arrived?

**Rachel:**  
I already suspected. I think it happened back when  
they were planting that back field.  
*(Slightly annoyed.)* Spinach wasn't the only seed being planted  
in the wrong field that day.

**Ruth:**  
Have you told Levi he's going to be a father?

**Rachel:**  
No. And I won't. . . and don't you . . . he'll never know.

*(Slightly taken back)*

**Ruth:**  
He won't? . . . How? . . . What are you planning?

*(Rachel takes out small container or shows it to Ruth.)*

**Rachel:**  
I . . . I went to the medicine woman . . . got this container . . .  
she said it'll make me sick . . . get cramps . . . miscarry . . .  
if I don't do it now there's a woman in Jerusalem . . .  
she uses a long metal hook. . . *(both shudder)*  
I could die.

**Ruth:**  
Rachel, do you want this baby?

**Rachel:**  
*(Shrug/nod of assent.)*

**Ruth:**

You could tell Levi, I'm sure . .

**Rachel:**

I won't trap him. My parents had to get married and they were miserable. All they did was yell at each other. I always said I'd never . . .

**Ruth:**

Rach', are you so sure Levi doesn't want to marry you?

**Rachel:**

You've heard him: "Kids are expensive" . . .  
With him it's all shekels.  
The selfish jerk. I just wish *once, once* I could see him do something for someone else . . . like the old times . . . then maybe I could believe in him again.

**Ruth:**

The old times?

**Rachel:**

Back when. He'd schmooze people for their own good . . . got my cousin out of a tree when she climbed too high . . . taught her the Ten Commandments, too . .

**Ruth:**

*Levi?*

**Rachel:**

He was easy to love back then . .  
I'd image . .

**Ruth:**

Rach', are you sure he didn't want to be trapped?  
I mean . . Levi .. he thinks.

*(Rachel shrugs/shakes her head.)*

**Rachel:**

I don't think either of us were thinking much. .  
Hate me?

**Ruth:**

No . . . why?

**Rachel:**

Some would. What would you do?

**Ruth:**

. . . I suppose . . . I'd tell the father. . .  
hope he wouldn't turn his back on me . . .

**Rachel:**

Yeah, well, you've got more courage than I do.  
And Boaz. Now *there's* a man you can depend on.  
He's marry a girl if he got her pregnant.

**Ruth:**

I'm not sure he'd go to bed with her unless he'd married her.

*(Skeptical muffled "Humph!")*

**Rachel:**

You believe in the Tooth Fairy, too?

**Ruth:**

No . . . but I believe in him. . . Rach',  
sometimes you have to reach out for love. . .  
Sometime it works . . . sometimes . . .

*(Rachel should be looking at Ruth, eyeing her  
with a growing awareness of what Ruth is planning.)*

**Rachel:**

. . . men use you and throw you away like garbage . . .

**Ruth:**

and you're left behind . . .

**Rachel:**

sobbing into a pillow of dashed hopes . . .

**Ruth:**

and broken dreams . . .

**Rachel:**

with no good choices.

*(Below done freely/improvisational Jazz.)*

### **Every Choice I Lose**

**Vocals: Mandy Cook**

**(Rachel)**

I dreamed of a home and family.  
A life with my love and my kids,  
Oh, why can't it be?  
But now I'm alone  
a baby inside.  
No hopes, no dreams,  
and no place to hide.

Oh God, what should I do?  
I never really learned to call out to you.  
Oh God, which path to choose?  
Regret or rejection await,  
Every choice I lose.

I guess I could run.  
But where would I go?  
To live with the shame  
and the scandal that everyone knows.  
A child needs a dad,  
but this man's unfit.  
No way he'd play, provide,  
or just babysit.

Oh God, what should I do?  
Is it too late for me to cry out to you?  
Oh God, which path to choose?  
A life on the line, plus mine,  
Every choice I lose.

To drink of the vial  
get on with my life.  
A life with no love,  
and no kids, and never his wife.

To live life alone.  
I won't let him in.  
That selfish, greedy, lout,  
I'm finished with men!

Oh God, what should I do?  
There's something precious in me,  
I don't want to lose.

Oh God, which path to choose?  
My womb a tomb --  
(*Spoken in a whisper*) I'm doomed --  
Every choice I lose.

**Ruth:**  
Rachel . .

***Hope in the Darkness***

***Vocals: Barbara Richardson***

*(Ruth)*

I have felt the gloom,  
the darkness that consumes,  
the emptiness inside.  
My husband in a tomb.  
My unfruitful womb,  
the wish that I had died.

But in my despair, God was there.  
A still small voice, my grief to share.  
And when I pray, I've heard Him say,  
"I am with you. You're in my care."

Can you wait a day, can you wait a week?  
For the answer that you seek?  
Hope sometimes will rise, through our teary eyes,  
though our lives seem bleak.

There is hope in our darkness.  
There is joy after tears.  
There is help in each other,  
as we face our fears.

And you are a friend to me.  
I will be with you, whatever will be.  
Please wait 'til tomorrow, before you decide.  
My God has wings, where you're welcome to hide.  
(*They may give each other a hug.*)