

WET
by Terese Svoboda

SCENE 5

Video: Bottling plant imagery. River ribbon swells behind the bottling plant. A strip of rain continues underneath.

PREGNANT TEENAGE TWINS filling COOL WATER bottles from the tap next to HAL's shed. Water bottles, both full and empty, surround them.

TWIN 1
Evian is what spelled backwards?

TWIN 2
Naive.

BOTH laugh.

TWIN 1
I wish I were dead.

TWIN 2
I wish I were dead.

TWINS TOGETHER
I wish I were dead.

TWIN 2
Don't say that.

TWIN 1
Don't say that.

LED: An NRDC study in 1999 found one third of all brands of bottled water contained arsenic and E. coli and one fourth of them were just tap water. One touted as spring water was pumped from a parking lot next to a hazardous waste site.

TWIN 2 gestures toward a door that opens in the video.

TWIN 1
Oh, look, the banks are about to flood.

TWIN 2
Not our banks.

TWIN 1
Not with this job.

TWIN 2
Not in our state.

TWIN 1
Wave at the pretty boys.

WET

by Terese Svoboda

TWIN 1

Save us, Save us. Wave, wave, wave.

The TWINS wave in unison facing the door.

THEY turn back to their bottles.

TWIN 1

What have we got to save us?

TWINS TOGETHER

Lip. Lip. Lip.

TWIN 2

Don't give us any lip.

TWIN 1

Drip.

TWIN 2

Dead in the water.

LED: After 7 people died from E. coli contaminated water in Walkerton, Ontario in 2002, the private testing lab in Tennessee was no longer supposed to report any contamination to government authorities. Test results were “confidential intellectual property.” Blue Gold, Maude Barlow.

TWIN 1 shuts the door.

TWIN 1

Water, dead water.

TWIN 2

Makes me want to bottle it.

TWIN 1

Makes me want to bottle it.
Makes me want to drink it down.

The TWINS turn up their faces like baby birds and make sucking noises.

TWINS TOGETHER

We have each other.

The TWINS stick out their tongues at each other.

TWIN 2 (high-pitched voice)

Water is a girl with green hair
who whistles in the dark
and if you tell her no--

TWIN 2 makes the throat-slitting sign.

WET

by Terese Svoboda

TWINS TOGETHER

Aquafina, Aquasana, Aquarel,
Angelica, Aqualite, Arctic Blue,
Alaska Chill,
Asah Natural Mineral Waters.
Agua Purificado!

TWINS speak/sing/rap.

TWIN 1

Hal is dancing with the green girls
green girls
running down his windshield.

Green girls, green girls
Whistling in the dark.
No, don't tell water No.
Not no, not no.

TWIN 2

Mississippi, Missouri, Nile, Ganges, Yangtze--
but not the Rio Grande.

TWIN 1

The Rio Grande doesn't make it to the ocean anymore.

TWIN 1 and 2

It doesn't make it to the ocean anymore.
It's all down the drain, it's drained.

TWINS TOGETHER

Alhambra, Apani Purified, Artesia, Alps,
Dannon Natural Spring, Mount Olympus,
Fountainhead, Great Bear, Ice Mountain,
Pellegrino, Snow Valley,
Trinity Natural Mineral Dietary Supplement!

THEY stop their chanting and bow.

TWINS TOGETHER

Trinity Natural Mineral Dietary Supplement!

TWIN 2

Turn off the spigot!

TWIN 1

A real turn off.

TWIN 2 turns a small spigot on stage until the video one goes off.

TWIN 2

WET

by Terese Svoboda

Mother won't help us.

TWIN 1

Nada, nada.

TWIN2

Mother flipped her enchilada.

TWIN 2

What does it matter?

TWIN 1

What does it matter?

TWIN 2

Both of us together. What a guy, that Hal!

TWIN 1

What about Hal?

TWIN 2 shrugs.

TWIN 2

There's always the baby.

TWIN 1

There's always the baby.

TWINS TOGETHER

Babies!

TWIN 1

There's always this job.

TWIN 2

He set us up.

Said we'd really like it.

Both TWINS frown.

TWIN 1

Said we'd really like it.

TWIN 2

We'd really like it?

TWIN 1

Forever.

TWIN 2

Like never.