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Title	J.B. Notebook, "in which the play was incubated and many of its scenes sketched out roughly"
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John O'Halloran

Sarah: If only everybody would love everybody else & help everybody else and be pretty, & have lots of babies we would all be happy. Help everybody else to what? Sarah never asks. She is as lovely as a young girl though almost forty. God is to her the ^{Est. Catholic} all-powerful creator to be placated by ritual words & observances but she turns against him [as S.M. did when B died] when her children are locked. Sarah's driving is to do: that God is life - which she cannot help loving - no matter how it hurts her. John O'Halloran is the only man in the life. If asked she would have replied quite honestly that she loved him dearly, but she has taken him for granted ever since the third baby & can think of other things which he brings between her & her. The characters, instead of bringing them together in common grief, separate them in different worlds - his rebellion John's acceptance. When John himself is stricken he becomes a stranger - a repulsive stranger. But when John has confronted God he becomes a new man: when John talks to her in terms of love she responds as a child - though the "love" he speaks & the "love" she knows are different altogether. Nevertheless, she too - like him - gives herself to "love it all again". They are both heroic. They both believe in life. They both begin upon their agreement - no "decision" - is his bringing as well as his

Steps in their relationship ① She assumes she loves him. ② The disaster separates them man & man - his father's boisterous optimism becomes unbearable ③ His physical affliction & his resistance to God - his demand for reasons - arouses her pity ④ His confrontation of God & recovery of his manhood moves her love.