WHEN JESUS WALKS

WRITTEN BY

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On a warm, sunny summer day.

The reverend WALTER HUDSON, a fresh-faced, thirty-year-old newly ordained minister, is standing at the front doors of his CHURCH as the parishioners arrive for Sunday morning service.

He greets everyone with an enthusiastic smile and a handshake. From inside the church, we hear the song "Jesus Christ Superstar".

Most of the church members are elderly or middle age and have been lifelong members. The church has been in the community for centuries and is showing it's age.

Approaching Reverend Hudson are longtime church members EDITH HENNING and EDNA WATTS.

REVEREND HUDSON Good morning ladies, beautiful summer day. It's Edith and Edna I believe.

EDITH Very good, Reverend Hudson. Two months and you know your flock.

REVEREND HUDSON Well, it is a small flock.

EDNA

We used to be so much bigger, twice the size we are now. And now that Reverend Harris has passed, well he was our priest for forty years.

EDITH

We're worried about our little church. It needs so much. I hope they don't close it.

REVEREND HUDSON Ladies, would they have sent me here if they were going to close the church? Of course not. (MORE)

REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D)

They sent me here and I intend to increase my flock.

EDITH

That explains the music. Reverend Harris would not have played that kind of music!

REVEREND HUDSON

It's music for the young. I thought I could attract some of the younger crowd. I noticed several of them hanging out at the park. All I have to do is get them interested. Don't worry we will be singing all of your favorites.

EDNA

Well, I guess. . . Oh, my nephew is coming by this afternoon to start repainting the sign.

REVEREND HUDSON Great, it needs it.

EDNA

You may want to make sure he spells your name right, good painter, bad speller.

REVEREND HUDSON Nice to get some things done around

here even if it's only cosmetic.

INT. ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

After the service, all is quiet as Reverend Hudson is sweeping the chapel floor with his back to the front door.

Slowly he raises his head and turns around. Standing in the doorway watching is a man. The man is tall, slender with olive skin and short dark brown curly hair. He is nicely dressed in a tan sports jacket and slacks. He has a pleasant, calming smile.

Reverend Hudson is a little startled as the men stare at each other.

REVEREND HUDSON May, may I help you?

JESUS No. . . Wonderful church.

REVEREND HUDSON Thank you. It's new to me.

JESUS

I know Peter.

Reverend Hudson approaches and holds out his hand. Jesus reciprocates.

REVEREND HUDSON No, I'm Reverend Walter Hudson. Do I know you? Do you live local?

JESUS No. . I'm a traveler.

REVEREND HUDSON I didn't see you at the service?

JESUS I just arrived.

REVEREND HUDSON Anything I can help you with?

JESUS

No.

REVEREND HUDSON You're not from the Bishop, are you?

JESUS No, that is not me.

REVEREND HUDSON

I've been given a year to increase my flock. I've only been here for two months. It would be a shame to close this church. . . Pardon me while I keep working we have Bible study in an hour. Stay if you like. JESUS Thank you. I am quite familiar with the good book. Your church will stay open.

REVEREND HUDSON I hope you're right.

Reverend Hudson walks back to the altar and continues sweeping. After a minute he looks up and both men smile at each other again.

> REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) Can I get you some water? I'm afraid that's all we have.

JESUS No, I am fine.

Reverend Hudson turns around, picks up a stack of hymn books and carries them to the back. He returns immediately and the man is gone. He is a little startled.

> REVEREND HUDSON I didn't get your name. I'm going to the diner for a little lunch would you like

He pauses in mid-sentence and looks around.

REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) Well, I'll be, a fast exit. Must be one of the colorful locals. Seemed friendly enough. . . Odd, he seems kind of familiar.

He walks out the front doors and stands in the entrance looking for the stranger. He sees Edna's nephew painting the church sign.

> REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) Hey, did you see where the man went?

> > NEPHEW

Who?

REVEREND HUDSON The man who just came out.

No one came out.

The Reverend looks confused as he returns to the church. Scanning the church he sees no one.

INT. MOTHER LARSEN'S CAFE, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

The Reverend Hudson is sitting eating at the counter of the mostly full local DINNER. Many from the church service are there. Edith Henning and Edna Watts are in a booth. They stop to speak with the Reverend as they depart.

> EDITH Hello, Reverend. Don't eat too much lunch, we baked cupcakes for bible study.

REVEREND HUDSON Cupcakes, wonderful, anything that gets souls in the door. I'll see you ladies at the church. Your nephew is at the church painting, tell him I'm bringing him some lunch. It's the least I could do, he's working for free.

EDNA

Will do.

REVEREND HUDSON

I think I'm mostly ready. Hopefully, we'll get a crowd. . . I had a visitor who hadn't been at the service. He didn't leave his name. He was tall, nicely dressed in a tan suit and curly dark brown hair. A rather striking figure. Didn't say much and then he was gone. Must be a local I haven't met.

EDNA Not any local I know and I know

everyone.

Edna and Edith look at each other and shrug.

EDITH

Are you sure he wasn't passing through? Maybe from one of the bigger towns around here, maybe Denison or Carroll.

REVEREND HUDSON That must be it. . . I'll see you ladies at the church.

INT. ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

The Reverend Hudson is pacing as he reads the Bible to a group of two dozen children and parents. Edith and Edna are on the end pew, bibles in hand.

REVEREND HUDSON Now, let us turn to

As the reverend starts to speak, six-year-old Armando points at a statue of the Virgin Mary and yells startling all.

ARMANDO She is crying. The Virgin Mary is crying!

All turn their attention to the Statue and start to murmur. The Reverend walks over to the statue and taking a tissue, wipes it dry.

> REVEREND HUDSON There, just a little moisture. It's a humid day. And don't we wish someday we can get the air conditioning fixed, someday?

The reverend walks back to the children and picks up his bible.

ARMANDO She's still crying! She sad!

REVEREND HUDSON Now, children, this is the weather. It's called humidity. It is a humid day and I guess I haven't learned of all the creeks and groans of my church yet. I've never seen that before.

EDNA Me neither. In all my years of coming here, I've never seen that.

The Reverend gives Edna a questing look. He, Edith and Edna walk over to the statue. The Reverend wipes the statue again as the others gather around. They watch the tears form again. The reverend reaches out and touches the tears.

REVEREND HUDSON They're cold.

Edith and Edna reach out and touch the tears.

EDNA

They are!

EDITH Yes, they are! Why would they not be hot on a day like this? The statue is warm.

The children start to yell.

CHILDREN I want to touch! I want to touch!

The reverend lifts them up one at a time.

EDITH What do you make of it reverend?

REVEREND HUDSON There has to be an explanation. But what? . . And you've never seen this before?

The Reverend starts to examine the statue everywhere.

EDITH We've never had a miracle here before.

EDNA

Never!

Edna drops to her knees closely followed by Edith and then the children. The Reverend is left to examine the statue as they pray.

> REVEREND HUDSON Let us not get carried away. There must be an explanation.

> > EDNA

There is, there is an explanation! It's a miracle. The man who came this morning brought a miracle to our little church! Our prayers have been answered!

EDITH Maybe he was Jesus! He must have been Jesus!

EDNA

Amen, Jesus!

Both women pray harder. The Reverend looks mystified as he examines the statue closer.

EXT. WEST 56TH STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - NIGHT

An inner-city neighborhood on a sweltering hot summer evening. Jesus is walking down the sidewalk for several blocks. He sees abandoned houses, graffiti, homeless pushing shopping carts, and many destitute people some appear to be mentally ill. Several of the houses have children playing in the front yards and on the street. Poverty is everywhere and drug use and prostitution are evident.

Jesus passes two prostitutes.

PROSTITUTE Hey there handsome. We don't get snappy dressers like you around here. Are you lost?

She reaches out and feels his lapel.

PROSTITUTE (CONT'D) Is that silk?

JESUS

Flax.

Jesus keeps on walking. Shortly after, a cat starts following him. After a block, he has two cats following him and a ground squirrel. Another block and he has picked up three more cats, a dog, and a raccoon. People are starting to notice the sight. Jesus stops turns around raises his hand and the animals disperse. Jesus continues walking with people staring.

He continues walking for a few more blocks walking past the same scenes until he comes across a small rundown wood frame house with an open porch mostly hidden by vegetation. Sitting on the porch and barely visible is JOSE PINA. Jose is a twelve-year-old with SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY TYPE 2. He is bent into a wheelchair and is watching the neighborhood children play ball on the street. Jesus stops next to the fence on the sidewalk in front of his house.

JESUS (CONT'D)

Hello, Jose.

Jose stares and says nothing.

JESUS (CONT'D) I heard you. I hear you and your mother every night.

JOSE

You heard me, when? No one ever stops to talks to me.

JESUS Tomorrow is your day of birth. You will be born anew.

JOSE How did you know, wait it's not my birthday?

JESUS Tomorrow you will be new.

From inside the house comes the voice of Jose's mother.

MOTHER (heavy Spanish accent) Jose, is someone out there? Who are you talking to?

As Jose looks toward the house and back to the street, Jesus continues walking out of sight.

JOSE

Mother!

EXT. JOSE'S HOUSE - DAY

The sun has just risen. The neighborhood is quiet with a spattering of neighbors going to work.

Suddenly a blood curdling unintelligible scream from the upstairs of Jose house. Jose burst out of the front door screaming and running down the street as his diaper falls off.

> JOSE I'm new! I'm new! I'm new!

EXT. JOSE'S HOUSE - DAY

There is a large crowd of neighbors in front of Jose's house. Jose and his mother are on the front porch. The neighbors are amazed at the miracle that they have just witnessed. The yard is filled with religious symbols.

A local television station is set up in the front yard. Local talent SANDY JOHNSON, microphone in hand, is making her way to the porch with the help of her engineer.

SANDY

Jim, Jim am I coming in clear? I'm almost to the porch. Hard to hear you, Jim. We have a loud crowd.

She reaches the porch.

SANDY (CONT'D)

Okay, we're on! I'm Sandy Johnson coming to you from West 56th street where the local people have witnessed a miracle at the home of Jose Pena. I am standing on the porch with Jose and his mother. Now, Jose, you look perfectly normal to me. What was this miracle you witnessed?

JOSE

It was not a miracle I witnessed, I was the miracle!

Jose moves his arms about and lifts up his legs to show everyone that his limbs work fine.

The crowd lets out a roar startling Sandy Johnson.

SANDY Okay, but what is the miracle and who performed this miracle?

Jose's mother interrupts.

MOTHER

Jesus, Jesus performed the miracle! He was here! My son has been crippled from birth and every night since he was born we prayed. Jesus answered our prays. He was here!

SANDY

He was here? At your house and you saw him?

MOTHER

Yes. No, I did not but he spoke to my son. I heard him.

SANDY

And your son has been crippled? How crippled?

JOSE

I had spinal muscular atrophy. I was born with it. I have not walked or stood for years.

SANDY

Now, are you sure of this? It sounds a little far-fetched.

MOTHER

Ask our neighbors.

The crowd reacts shaking their heads in agreement. .

SANDY And he's been to a doctor?

MOTHER Many doctors. SANDY Jose, what did Jesus look like?

JOSE He, well he, he was tall, and he looked like me, he was Hispanic!

The crowd lets out a roar.

SANDY

He looked like you! I think we're getting this miracle narrowed down folks. It's been my experience as a veteran reporter that people are quite capable to see and understand whatever they want. Whether it's Big Foot, UFOs, or ghost they have all been seen by someone. This is Sandy Johnson reporting from West 56th street. And we're out. Okay, let's get back to the station. Another amazing miracle story.

The crew starts to wrap up.

JIM

Sixth miracle this year. Still, nothing beats the terminally ill little girl who fell out of the tree. I wonder how that turned out?

SANDY

Nobody ever follows up, do they? Maybe we should do a story on how the miracles turned out.

JIM

That's not your worst idea. You should run it past the boss.

SANDY

Maybe we could find out why only the pour receives miracles.

JIM Who needs them more? A hectic trading day on a packed trading room floor.

JORDON WELLER is animated as he buys and sells. Suddenly over his left shoulder, he spies Jesus among a crowd of men who seem to be oblivious to him. Jesus is staring at him with a slight smile on his face. He is calm among a hectic scene.

A puzzled look on Jordon's face as he tries to concentrate on his trading, periodically looking over at Jesus.

INT. BATHROOM OFF THE TRADING FLOOR - DAY

Jordon is at the sink with a bottle of pills in his hand. In walks friend and fellow trader BILL RYLER. Jordon takes a few pills with a hand full of water. Bill holds out his hand.

> BILL Give me a couple. It's going to be a long day.

JORDON Okay, but I'll need to get a new prescription. Do you know a doctor?

BILL I heard of a guy. I'll let you know?

JORDON Did you see that tall guy in the tan suit?

BILL Tall guy in a tan suit? Can't say I have but who's looking. Why?

JORDON

He was staring at me. He wasn't trading just standing and staring.

BILL Did you talk to him?

JORDON

No.

BILL Well, give it a try.

JORDON

I guess.

They exit the bathroom and return to the trading floor. Jordon is looking around until he spies Jesus who is still staring at him.

> JORDON (CONT'D) There, there he is! See him!

He grabs Bill by the sleeve and spins him around.

BILL See him? I see two old bald guys in blue suits that are older than we are. I see Kevin Fallon from our firm. I see no one in a tan suit. But it's a sea of suits, mostly blue.

Jesus is still as he was.

JORDON He's staring right at me!

BILL I got to get back to it. You're stressed. It's the quotas. Cut back on the pills!

He runs off leaving Jordon and Jesus staring at each other for a minute until Jordon goes back to trading.

After glancing at Jesus several times between trades and seeing Jesus still looking at him, he walks over to where Jesus was standing. Several men block his view as he walks. When he reaches the spot, Jesus is gone. He looks around startled, confused.

INT. JORDON WELLER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jordon is home from work and is moving about his apartment. He places a TV dinner in the microwave and then places a mirror with several lines of cocaine on the coffee table along with a beer. He uses the remote and watches as the television comes on to the movie "The Last Temptation of Christ". The scene is the crucifixion. He speaks to himself as he snorts a line. Don't need to see that.

He scrolls through the station until he comes to a ball game. He puts the remote down and walks out of sight to the bedroom. He emerges a minute later in his sweats. The television has changed back to the movie and the scene of the crucifixion. Jordon takes notice and picks up the remote and changes it back. The microwave buzzes. He retrieves his supper and sits back down to find the television has changed back to the movie.

JORDON (CONT'D) That's a little weird.

He repeatedly pushes the button marked channel return to find the channel returning to the movie. He pushes the off button several times to no response.

> JORDON (CONT'D) Remote must be broken.

He manually turns the television off and returns his attention to the cocaine.

INT. JORDON WELLER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jordon is coming out of his bedroom as he finishes dressing for work. He picks up the remote and turns the television on, news comes on. He tosses the remote onto the coffee table and turns to go into the kitchen. He stops short, picks up the remote and scans through the channels and back to the news. He pushes the "return" button a couple of times before tossing it onto the coffee table. He heads to the kitchen as he talks to himself.

> JORDON Must be fixed.

INT. ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

Reverend Hudson is standing at the statue with DEACON JONES from the Des Moines Catholic Church watching the tears drip. The Deacon touches the tears.

DEACON JONES They are cold.

REVEREND HUDSON

Yes, they never stop, a slow drip and they never feel warm. No matter how hot it is in here.

DEACON JONES And this stranger never came back?

REVEREND HUDSON

No, and no one in town knows him. And in a small town like this, there are people that know everyone and everything.

DEACON JONES

We have had statues cry before. They always stop. Let's see if this one does the same.

REVEREND HUDSON

Okay. . . The donations are going through the roof. I don't have to ask for them. And speaking of roof ours needs repairs. And we need a new air-conditioner.

DEACON JONES

Keep the contributions coming to the Church for a while. As you know we have been hit pretty hard with the scandals. We need money, that's why we sent you here. This church has been under-performing for years.

REVEREND HUDSON

Yes, Deacon.

From outside comes the sound of buses arriving followed by the sound of people outside the door.

REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) It's nine, time to open. It's show time.

DEACON JONES Okay, I better get back to Des Moines. REVEREND HUDSON

Oh, and Deacon.

DEACON JONES Yes, something else?

REVEREND HUDSON He called me Peter.

DEACON JONES Peter, as in Peter the apostle?

REVEREND HUDSON I don't know. It felt familiar. It felt right.

DEACON JONES

Huh! That's a new one, Peter. Let's keep that between us. Keep the Church informed if there are any changes especially if the stranger shows up again. We'll be in touch. Oh, and it's okay to encourage donations.

EXT. GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA, EAST RIM - DAY

Jesus is sitting on the canyon rim staring into space.

A cloud floats into view and a scene appears on the cloud of the slave days and the building of the pyramids. He sees slaves being whipped and beaten and killed.

The scene then fades to a slaves quarters at night. The slaves are cramped together in a windowless dingy room with straw on the floor for sleeping and a hearth with a cooking pot at the end of the room.

Two female slaves are cooking as the other are sprawled across the floor exhausted from the days' labor.

AZIRA yells out from his place on the straw.

AZIRA Women what is taking the evening meal so long!

One women whispers to the other.

WOMEN 1 He is going to be mad when he finds out we only have half of what we usually get.

WOMEN 2 They keep cutting back our food. The men are getting weak.

WOMEN 1 (to the crowd) It is coming soon! But you will be unhappy with your portions.

Azira jumps up.

AZIRA What! What happened to our food!

WOMEN 1 The guards only brought one half of our usual daily portion. They said the men were not working hard enough.

Azira gets angry and stomps about. The others are reacting to this news.

AZIRA I will show them! We must rise up! We are not animals! We must not be starved!

SLAVE 1 That will do no good. We will only be beaten and killed!

AZIRA

(raging) We are dying now! They work us until we can no longer stand and then they starve us!

SLAVE 1

They would not want that, their pyramid would not be built. They would have to go capture more slaves and that is costly. SLAVE 2 Why do they starve us? Why are we being punished?

SLAVE 1 Because they can. More food for them.

AZIRA

Maybe, maybe if they thought they are starving us then they may give us more food.

WOMEN 1

They are starving us! And there is nothing we can do about it.

AZIRA

Could be, but if we starve, no pyramid. So let us starve. If they think all of us are starving, we will get more food. We work as if we are starving!

WOMEN 1 I heard the guard say the King was coming by tomorrow.

AZIRA

Then we shall show him what his starving us has done to his pyramid.

EXT. QUARRY - DAY

The slaves are arriving for work. They can be seen whispering to each other. They have their heads down and are moving slow. They work stumbling about. The guards notice.

> GUARD 1 What is wrong with the slaves?

GUARD 2 I don't know! Start whipping them. That is what they need!

The guards start to whip the slave.

GUARD 1 Get to work, you heathens!

GUARD 2 Get to it. The king is coming to inspect the progress! He will not be happy. You don't want an unhappy king, do you?

AZIRA

We are trying but we are dying. The food you provide is not enough. All of us are getting sick.

The guard whips him harder.

GUARD 1 Get to work, or it will be the death of you!

One guard to the other.

GUARD 2 What do we do? The King has ordered this.

GUARD 1 Then he will see what his order has done. We did as we were told.

GUARD 2 The King does no wrong! We will be punished!

Trumpets blare as the King and his son and his entourage arrive on horseback. The guards stand at attention. The King rides his horse around the site before returning to the guards.

> KING The work is slowing.

GUARD 1 (bowing) Yes, my Lord. We beat them daily and it does no good.

Azira runs up and kneels at the Kings horse. The guards react and beat Azira back. He is laying on his back. AZIRA

My Lord! My Lord! We want to build your pyramid but we are starving! We are starving my Lord! We are weak!

The King looks around.

KING You will work harder for me if you have more food?

AZIRA Yes, my Lord. We are starving.

KING Very well. Work harder and you will get more food. Do not and you will not.

The Kings starts to ride off stops and turns back to talk to the guards.

KING (CONT'D) Double the ration. And give them some wine.

The slaves let out a cheer as the king rides off. The Kings son turns to him.

SON Double, father, and wine?

KING

Learn something, my son. Slaves are ours to own but we must take care of them like any other animal. When our horses are hungry we feed them all they want. We must do the same with the slaves. We do not have an endless supply of either.

SON But you just cut the rations.

KING

Yes, to have them appreciate the food which makes them work harder. It's also good to be smarter than both the horses and the slaves. SON

And the wine?

KING To have them love me and to think they won something. Now they think they have a King who cares about them. . . The fools.

The scene fades in the cloud.

Jesus is still sitting staring into space.

The scene in the cloud changes and he sees back in time again to America's slave days. Slaves are working in the cotton fields on a sweltering hot August day. One male slave collapses in the hot sun. A ranch hand on a horse comes riding up and dismounts. He proceeds to whip the man as he lays on the ground moaning. Another slave rushes up and looks down at the man.

SLAVE 1

He is dead.

RANCH HAND 1 God dame slave! And let that be a warning to all of you! Slow down and end up like him!

The foreman comes riding up.

FOREMAN

Well, dang! Mr. Jackson will surely be mad! That's the third one this month. Tie a rope to his leg and drag him out of here. His own can bury him after the day is done. Come by the main house after supper. You can explain it to him.

RANCH HAND 1 Yes, sir. I was only trying to get them going.

FOREMAN Tell it to Mr. Jackson!

The slave obeys and the guard mounts his horse and drags the man off the field. One slave speaks to another.

They treat their horses better.

The slaves nod in agreement.

INT. THE MAIN HOUSE - NIGHT

The main house is a large three-story white mansion with many slaves moving about the residence.

A distinguished looking Mr. Jackson and the foreman are sitting in the office each having a glass of whiskey.

FOREMAN I sure do look forward to this glass of whiskey to cut the dust from a long day.

MR. JACKSON You deserve it. You handle my slaves better then any foreman I've had.

FOREMAN We did lose three this month.

MR. JACKSON I know that is too much. What happened?

FOREMAN We may be pushing them too much, it is August.

MR. JACKSON Yes, and we have to get the harvest

in. The work doesn't stop because of the weather. At least you have stopped them from running away.

FOREMAN

It's my experience with slaves that you have to give them a little something every once in a while.

MR. JACKSON Like what! They have plenty of food. They grow their own. We provide the rest. (MORE)

MR. JACKSON (CONT'D)

They have houses, not mud huts. They have Sundays off. I treat my slaves better than most!

FOREMAN

Yes, and your slaves are better behaved. . . I have a guard coming in. We have to fire him.

MR. JACKSON

Why?

FOREMAN

He beat a slave to death. I don't want the other guards to get the idea that's acceptable. Some guards are sadistic, bad for business. You can lose a lot of money with them. You don't want to replace slaves.

MR. JACKSON

No! Slaves are expensive. Guards are not. Beat the slaves don't kill them.

FOREMAN

Yes, keep stern control of them but give them a little something to make them feel like we care. Maybe some more meat or flour and sugar. Best way to handle them. You don't get as much trouble.

MR. JACKSON If that's what it takes. I need them to make me money.

FOREMAN

Lots of money.

MR. JACKSON Yes, lots of money.

The scene in the cloud fades.

Jesus is as he was sitting on the rim. He has not moved.

Staring into the sky this time he sees present-day migrant workers working in a pepper field on a hot August day in southern California.

There are three white foremen in charge who are alternating from sitting in their air-conditioned pickups to walking about the field checking on the workers.

The workers are using sharp knives cutting the peppers from the vines. Suddenly a Hispanic male screams out startling everyone. The head foremen, ED WARD, and two foremen come running. A worker is screaming and holding his bloody hand as he jumps around.

> ED WARD What happened! What Happened! Oh shit, he cut himself! Go grab the first aid kit!

FOREMAN 2 What first aid kit? I've never seen one!

FOREMAN 3

We had one once. I think we used it. We told the boss to get a new one. That was months ago.

ED WARD Oh, shit, it looks like he hit a vein! Get some rags!

The Hispanic male drops to the ground in a pool of blood. He is motionless. The crowd is suddenly silent as they gather around.

Foreman 2 rushes off as a female Hispanic breaks through the crowd. She starts crying hysterically as she drops to her knees and cradles the body.

FEMALE 1 (heavy accent) Manual, Manual! My Manual!

Foreman 2 returns with some paper towels.

FOREMAN 2 This is all we have!

Ed Ward takes foreman 2 and foreman 3 aside so the others can not hear.

ED WARD

We're in deep shit! This could be big trouble! The boss is going to want us to make this go away.

FOREMAN 2 How do we do that?

FOREMAN 3

Yeah, don't we have to report this to the police?

ED WARD

We do that and this place will be shut down. Third bad accident this year, first death.

FOREMAN 3 We paid-off the other two.

FOREMAN 2

They didn't die. One lost a leg and one lost an eye.

FOREMAN 3

So what's a death worth? Offer the widow his wages for the rest of the season and send her and the body back to Mexico. Make her think we care and we want him with his ancestors in Mexico. Those people love that shit! She won't know the laws. Then we just have to drive them down to Mexico.

FOREMAN 2

We could get a hold of the coyote. Hire him to handle the body.

ED WARD

Not bad, not a bad idea. Hire the coyote, I like that. I'll offer the widow ten thousand. That much will soften the blow.

FOREMAN 3

And send the body back. With that money, she will live good in Mexico, for a while.

INT. OFFICE OF A MAJOR FOOD CORPORATION - DAY

A board meeting is in session. Ed Ward is at the table. CEO JEFFERSON is at the head of the table.

CEO JEFFERSON

Gentlemen, I called this meeting to address a situation in our fields. We had an incident. A worker hurt himself and ended up dying. I brought Ed Ward to meet all of you because he showed the kind of forward thinking needed in our corporation. He addressed the situation and averted what could have been a disastrous situation for us.

BOARD MEMBER 1

We had a worker die. I would think that's not unusual. We can always get more, right?

CEO JEFFERSON

Of course, that's not a problem as long as our friends in Washington keep the illegal people flowing into the country, and they will.

BOARD MEMBER 2

How did we take care of this problem? Did we keep it from the authorities?

CEO JEFFERSON

Mr. Ward?

ED WARD

We have a pretty good relationship with our slaves.

CEO JEFFERSON

Let us not call them that, even though.

ED WARD

Yes, sir. We gave the widow ten thousand and offered to send the body back to Mexico. This made her happy and got them out of here. (MORE)

ED WARD (CONT'D)

We paid our coyote three thousand for that and bought two more workers to fill the void. All with no one knowing. Now we are at full strength and on schedule.

BOARD MEMBER 1

Disaster avoided for sure. We do not need the press on the illegal immigration matter.

BOARD MEMBER 3 We need to treat them just humane enough, give them just enough to keep them content. A lot of profit depends on that slave labor. Keep them happy. With that said, good job Mr. Ward.

CEO JEFFERSON And that should be our model for further incidences.

All at the table nod in agreement.

BOARD MEMBER 3

Do we keep statistics on accidents and such things?

CEO JEFFERSON

No, the less paper trail the better. As far as the government is concerned these people don't exist. The government turns a blind eye thanks again to our friends in Washington.

The board members nod in agreement.

BOARD MEMBER 1 (chuckles) Good day for us bigs.

Again the board members nod in agreement.

INT. APARTMENT OF MARY MACMURRY - DAY

Fourteen-year-old niece BECKY is at the kitchen table eating cereal and doing her homework.

Out of the bedroom carrying his shoes and shirt is BRAD. MARY, Becky's aunt's, taste in men leans towards the biker type. He is startled to see her.

> BRAD Wow, I thought her, a, she, a

BECKY

You mean Mary.

BRAD

Oh yes, that's her name. I didn't know she has a roommate. I didn't see you when we came in.

BECKY

Roommate no! Parole officer yes! Why do you think I have a key to her apartment.

BRAD Parole officer! Aren't you a little young.

BECKY

I just look young! Don't you look a little stupid coming out of a room of a person who was accused but never convicted of murdering her last two husbands?

BRAD

(nervous) What! I just met her last night!

BECKY

That is where it starts. Lucky I came by when I did. We have to keep a close eye on this one!

BRAD

They couldn't convict her?

BECKY

Not for murder. Disposing of a body. She's so good no one can tell how they die.

BRAD Holly crap! I'm out of here. He rushes out. A few minutes later Mary, attractive, dark hair, and thirty-something, comes out of the bedroom. She is disheveled and hung-over and a little embarrassed as she looks around for her date.

> MARY Hi, when did you get here?

BECKY About a half hour ago.

MARY Nobody else here right?

BECKY No, no I didn't see anyone.

MARY

Oh, good.

BECKY (cocky) Were you expecting someone? Someone here with you? Maybe a girlfriend slept over?

MARY No, no. I thought your mom came in with you.

BECKY That would have been funny.

MARY

Why?

BECKY Oh, no reason. What are we doing today?

MARY I have an assignment!

BECKY (excited) Great, can I go? MARY

You can! Your mom said she would be working late so you are mine all day. I'll get ready.

She rushes off to the bedroom.

INT. TELEVISION STATION KABC, OMAHA, NEBRASKA - DAY

Mary is rushing in closely followed by Becky. She has a camera around her neck and Becky is carrying two camera cases. They are greeted by Sandy Johnson.

SANDY JOHNSON Hi Mary, ready to get to work. I think the last time we worked together was last year on that football shoot. Nothing like a locker room full of half naked men to shoot. This assignment is not so exciting.

MARY I'll have to get you a copy of the best shots.

BECKY

Me too.

MARY Your mother would kill me. Sandy, this is my niece, Becky.

BECKY

Hi.

SANDY JOHNSON Hello, a chip off the old block I see.

BECKY No, my mom won't let me be a slut.

MARY

What!

Sandy breaks out laughing.

SANDY JOHNSON We all are a little dear! I like her! She's got a lot of sass.

MARY That she does. What's the assignment?

SANDY JOHNSON Jesus Christ.

MARY Jesus Christ what?

SANDY JOHNSON That's it, Jesus Christ. He's here on earth.

MARY Really! Okay, where?

SANDY JOHNSON

Well, I have him pinned down to a church in Iowa, a house in inner Chicago and I think someone in Canada saw him with Bigfoot.

MARY

I see the usual stuff.

SANDY JOHNSON

Yes. We'll be leaving tomorrow for Chicago. Back to where I came from. I ran a story of a sick kid who couldn't walk some time ago. His mother claimed Jesus healed him. A good place to start. We never did a followed up story. I always wanted to.

BECKY

Can I go? I don't have school for three weeks!

MARY

I don't think -

SANDY JOHNSON It's okay with me. The budget has room for an assistant.

Call your mother.

Sandy motions for Walter the company comptroller to come over.

SANDY JOHNSON Walter, we need tickets to Chicago for these two. You two go with Walter, he needs your information.

EXT. MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - DAY

The trio is walking into the hospital.

SANDY JOHNSON We tracked down one of the doctors who treated Jose Pina. Let's see what he says.

BECKY So, this guy can't walk?

SANDY JOHNSON The guy I saw could.

BECKY So, this is a scam?

SANDY JOHNSON Most if not all of them are.

MARY

Most?

SANDY JOHNSON There are things not explained.

BECKY

Like what?

SANDY JOHNSON Like UFOs and ghosts.

MARY Right and like Bigfoot. I dated him once. SANDY JOHNSON Once! Your aunt has bad taste in men. She likes the hairy biker bad boys.

BECKY I know I saw Bigfoot coming out of her bedroom this morning!

MARY

Okay, you guys! You did what?

They reach the front desk and Sandy speaks to the attendant.

SANDY JOHNSON Hi, I'm Sandy Johnson I have an appointment with doctor Hinkle. I'm with station KABC out of Omaha.

ATTENDANT

Let me call him. I believe he's in his office. . . Doctor Hinkle, yes a Sandy Johnson from Omaha is here. Yes, I will. Through those doors, at the end of the hall.

SANDY JOHNSON

Thank you. Why don't you two wait out here. I won't need pictures.

INT. DOCTOR HINKLE'S OFFICE - DAY

Sandy is sitting across from DOCTOR HINKLE.

SANDY JOHNSON Thank you for your time doctor. I just have a few questions.

DOCTOR HINKLE

About Jose Pina, my patient. I can't tell you much you know.

SANDY JOHNSON I know. I am interested in the obvious. Like can he walk and stand and maybe run.

DOCTOR HINKLE

Walk and stand and run. Not likely. I'm sure you know that he has spinal muscular atrophy type 2. Do you know what effect that has on the body?

SANDY JOHNSON Yes, I did my research. And he's had it since birth?

DOCTOR HINKLE That's right. I've been his doctor for seven years. Why all the questions? I haven't seen him for at least six months. His mother canceled his appointments.

SANDY JOHNSON

Isn't that a little strange?

DOCTOR HINKLE

Oh, not at all. Doctors lose patient all the time for no reason. Lot's of time they just move away and don't bother to tell us or they change insurance. We usually find out when another doctor requests their records.

SANDY JOHNSON

So if he was out walking and running around, well that couldn't happen right. That would be a miracle.

DOCTOR HINKLE

A miracle. I guess. Have you seen him walking or standing?

SANDY JOHNSON

I saw someone.

DOCTOR HINKLE

Yes, I think we wasted our time here. If you do find him healthy, call me. This I would need to see.

SANDY JOHNSON Thank you, doctor.

Sandy is walking out to the waiting area where Mary and Becky are waiting.

SANDY JOHNSON Okay, girls, let us go see the miracle boy! The very least we'll get some good pizza.

EXT. WEST 56TH STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - DAY

In a rental car, Sandy, Mary, and Becky pull up to the curb in front of Jose Pena's house.

SANDY JOHNSON

Here we are. I was here a couple years ago. It all looks the same. Maybe worse.

BECKY

(looking around) Ugh! People live like this!

SANDY JOHNSON Yes, children play in those streets among the trash and stray dogs.

MARY Poor kids. Look how lucky you are Becky, your moms a lawyer.

SANDY JOHNSON A lawyer is that what you're going to be?

BECKY

Maybe a photographer.

Sandy and Mary share a grin as they exit the vehicle. The trio proceeds to the porch where Sandy knocks as Mary readies her camera.

SANDY JOHNSON We're dropping in unexpected. They don't have a phone.

Mama Pena comes to the door. Mary takes a few pictures.

MAMA PENA

(heavy accent)

Yes.

SANDY JOHNSON

Miss Pena?

MAMA PENA

Yes.

SANDY JOHNSON I'm Sandy Johnson and I am doing a story on miracles. I was here two years ago when your son was visited by a man who helped him walk.

MAMA PENA

Yes, Jesus.

SANDY JOHNSON Okay, Jesus. You believe Jesus healed your son?

MAMA PENA Yes, Jesus. Jesus visited my son and he walks now.

SANDY JOHNSON He walks around now. Is he here?

MAMA PENA

No, he is at work. He is a good boy. He wants to make money to help his family.

SANDY JOHNSON You stopped taking him to his doctors, why?

MAMA PENA

(shrugs her shoulders) Why? No reason to go. Jesus healed him.

SANDY JOHNSON Could we go to his work? Do you think his employer would mind? MAMA PENA I guess so. He works at McDonald's that way.

She points down the street.

SANDY JOHNSON How far?

MAMA PENA Six blocks.

SANDY JOHNSON How does he get to work?

MAMA PENA

He walks.

SANDY JOHNSON He walks, six blocks. Okay, I guess we will too. Thank you, Miss Pena.

MAMA PENA Yes, he will talk to you, he's a good boy. He never works Sunday, he goes to church.

The trio starts down the street.

SANDY JOHNSON Lunch is on me ladies. Let's go see if this is the same Jose I saw two years ago. Maybe we could talk to some of the neighbors along the way.

They stop next door and approach to two teens sitting on a stoop.

SANDY JOHNSON (CONT'D) Hi, guys, no school today.

TEEN 1 No, out on vacation for the summer.

TEEN 2 Why are you taking pictures? MARY I shoot when I see something or someone interesting.

SANDY JOHNSON Do you know Jose Pena?

TEEN 1 Sure, he works at McDonald's. He brings us burgers sometimes.

SANDY JOHNSON So you haven't seen anything strange about him.

TEEN 1 No, what could be strange?

TEEN 2 He's as normal as us now since Jesus visited him.

Sandy, Mary, and Becky give each other a surprised look.

SANDY JOHNSON You saw Jesus?

TEEN 2 No, it doesn't work that way.

TEEN 1 Jesus only shows himself to who he wants.

SANDY JOHNSON And how do you know this?

TEEN 1 Everyone knows that!

SANDY JOHNSON How do you know he visited Jose?

The two boys look at each other and teen 1 runs into the courtyard out of sight. He returns a minute later pushing Jose's old wheelchair.

TEEN 1 This was Jose's. He didn't want it around anymore so the kids play with it.

Mary snaps pictures of the chair and the boys.

SANDY JOHNSON It looks like the one I remember on his porch. You saw him in this?

TEEN 2 Saw him in this! He was never out of it! He couldn't.

TEEN 1 Yeah, until Jesus saved him.

BECKY You sound so sure.

TEEN 1 Of course, I'm sure, I pushed him around for years. I once pushed him off a curb and he got cut below his eye. There's a scar you can see.

BECKY Now that's weird.

MARY I'm sure there's an explanation.

SANDY JOHNSON Well, thanks, guys. Off to McDonald's.

They depart walking.

INT. MACDONALD RESTAURANT - DAY

The trio is sitting in a booth eating and looking for Jose.

BECKY He could be working the drive-thru.

SANDY JOHNSON Could be. He must be here. MARY Everyone we spoke with seemed truthful.

SANDY JOHNSON

I've been a reporter for some time and they all seem real to me until they're not. Get some good pics of him.

BECKY

I'll go see if he's here.

She walks over to the counter. After speaking to a worker she returns to the booth.

BECKY (CONT'D) She'll send him over as soon as he can take a break.

A few minutes later Jose Pena walks up to the table. He is a little nervous.

JOSE I am, I am Jose.

SANDY JOHNSON (offering her hand) I'm Sandy Johnson, we met several years ago on your porch. Do you remember?

JOSE

No, no.

SANDY JOHNSON I'm a reporter and I was at your house. You said you had met Jesus?

Jose's eyes widen and he looks a little scared.

JOSE I, I can't talk about that! I must get back to work!

SANDY JOHNSON So, it was a fake?

JOSE No, no he is real and he healed me! SANDY JOHNSON Then why not tell the world?

JOSE Jesus would not want me to. He would not want me to profit off his miracle. He wants me to live a good life.

SANDY JOHNSON He told you this?

JOSE

I just know. I know what he wants. He wants us to be good, to love one another. That's all just love one another. My neighbors believed me at first then someone said I was my brother from Mexico and that I had died and he came up to take my place. I do not have a brother. Some who know me well still believe me.

MARY Has Jesus returned?

JOSE No, why would he? I am healed.

Sandy Johnson offers her hand.

SANDY JOHNSON Well, thank you. I must say your very convincing.

Jose walks away.

BECKY

Wow! He sure was convincing. Did you see the scar?

MARY

Yes, below the left eye and he seemed to believe what he said.

SANDY JOHNSON

Now you know what I get on most of these miracle stories. Most are obvious some are like this one. (MORE) SANDY JOHNSON (CONT'D) He's very convincing. Now how about a trip to middle Iowa. I'll have the staff at the station check him out, maybe they can come up with something. They can compare the pictures from last time. We can always come back. We have a flight in the morning. I don't think we're going to get anymore here.

EXT. ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

It is midday and the three have arrived in a rental car and are sitting in the parking lot. A tour bus is parked at the curb. There are a few people walking in and out of the church.

> MARY Looks peaceful enough. The tour bus looks out of place in such a small town.

> SANDY JOHNSON I've seen this scene twice before. Once in a small town in Mexico and once on a farm in Illinois. The town in Mexico had a similar crying statue.

BECKY How about the farm in Illinois?

SANDY JOHNSON A cow born with a Virgin Mary on its side. People love that stuff.

The trio exits the vehicle and walks into the church.

BECKY What happened to the cow?

SANDY JOHNSON After a while, the locals determined it wasn't divine intervention. So he's hamburger or was. His hide is displayed every year at the fair. INT. ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

The trio is standing in the back of the chapel watching the bus-load of tourist as they walk past the statue.

BECKY Can you see if it's crying?

MARY

Not from here but people are taking hankies and wiping at the face. They must be getting something.

SANDY JOHNSON Well, let's get a closer look. Take a lot of pictures.

They get in line and approach the statue.

MARY Look at that, there are tears!

SANDY JOHNSON Tears or something.

Sandy looks up and down and behind the statue.

SANDY JOHNSON (CONT'D) Becky, take a tissue and soak up some tears.

Becky takes a hankie from her purse and does as she's told.

SANDY JOHNSON (CONT'D) I'll get them to a lab. See if they're real.

As Mary is taking pictures she looks over and sees Reverend Hudson staring at her. She stares back. Sandy notices.

> SANDY JOHNSON (CONT'D) Mary, Mary, Mary, back to work. He's not your type.

MARY (puzzled) That, that preacher over there, he looks so familiar. I feel I know him! BECKY

He keeps staring. Kind of creepy.

MARY No, I must know him. I don't know where, but I know him.

Reverend Hudson approaches still staring at Mary.

REVEREND HUDSON Hello, I'm Reverend Hudson. You seem to be someone I knew from my past but I can't place you.

BECKY She was saying the same thing, how weird!

MARY

I know, I'm Mary. I feel like I know you but never met you! If that makes sense.

REVEREND HUDSON Same here. Are you from around here?

MARY

No, Omaha.

REVEREND HUDSON

Well, I've never been there. Must be one of those unexplained feelings.

SANDY JOHNSON Speaking of unexplained, this statue, how does it work?

REVEREND HUDSON I can't figure it out. It started one day and hasn't stopped.

SANDY JOHNSON Anything else strange happen around the same time?

REVEREND HUDSON I'm new here. There was a stranger that none of the locals knew. (MORE)

REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D)

He struck me as odd. A tall quiet man. Didn't say much. Very pleasant though. Odd, I had the same feeling of familiarity as I have with you, odd.

SANDY JOHNSON Do you think it's a miracle?

REVEREND HUDSON

That's not for me to say. That's up to the church. A Deacon was here so they will decide. It has brought a large number of donations when it is most needed. If that's a miracle.

BECKY

Why is the church so in need of repair if you have money?

REVEREND HUDSON

That too is up to the church. I pray to have the air conditioning repaired every day. . . It will happen.

SANDY JOHNSON

I've seen this happen before.

REVEREND HUDSON

Yes, It has happened throughout the world mostly in poorer nations. I checked on the computer. A couple times it has been red like blood but not blood. It always stops after a time, unexplained.

SANDY JOHNSON

And you swear you have had nothing to do with this.

REVEREND HUDSON I swear and I'm a Priest.

SANDY JOHNSON

It's getting late and we came from Des Moines is there any place we can stay the night? We better stick around a few days. REVEREND HUDSON The closest would be Carroll about twenty miles North on 30. You'll see the same thing tomorrow, bus-

SANDY JOHNSON We'll find some locals to interview. Thank you, Reverend.

REVEREND HUDSON Certainly and if you figure it out let me be the first to know.

SANDY JOHNSON

Will do.

INT. HOME OF EVANGELIST BILLY GRAHAM - DAY

loads of believers.

Ninety-year-old BILLY GRAHAM is confined to a bed with IVs hooked up to him. He has a French nurse attending to him.

The front door opens and in walks Jesus, the morning sun behind him. Billy raises up on one arm as he and the nurse strain to see. The shocked nurse crosses herself and drops to her knees.

BILLY GRAHAM (weak) Is it time.

JESUS Yes, very soon Billy.

BILLY GRAHAM I'm ready to be with you!

JESUS You have always been with me Billy but first I have something for you.

Standing to the left of Jesus in the blinding light is a figure. The figure moves forward to reveal a twenty-five-yearold RUTH GRAHAM. The nurse faints. Billy is shocked as he struggles to raise. Ruth Rushes over to help him get up.

> BILLY GRAHAM Ruth! Ruth Is that you?

As she takes his arm he starts to transform into a twentyfive-year-old Billy Graham. She leads him outside into the sunshine and he takes her into his arms and they dance and embrace.

> BILLY GRAHAM My Ruth as young as the first day I fell in love with you.

RUTH GRAHAM Yes, Billy, we have earned our place in heaven. We are new again.

BILLY GRAHAM And Jesus has come for us?

RUTH GRAHAM Yes, he's here. He hasn't told me anything yet. He's gathering up his disciples.

Billy has not yet adjusted to his refreshed body. He looks himself over moving his limbs freely.

BILLY GRAHAM Thank you, Jesus, thank you, Lord! Is this the end of earth as we know it?

RUTH GRAHAM He hasn't said anything to me yet. As we did so many centuries ago, we follow Jesus.

BILLY GRAHAM You've been to Heaven? You've met God? You're an Angel!

RUTH GRAHAM

Yes, I have been to Heaven and no I haven't met God, he's busy. I am an Angel. I've been to Iowa and Illinois and New York with Jesus. I've seen some of the disciples. Peter has a really nice church in Iowa. BILLY GRAHAM Why did he take so long to take me?

RUTH GRAHAM (shrugs) When it's your time, it's your time.

Ruth and Billy turn towards the house as Jesus and the nurse walk out onto the porch. They all stare.

EXT. ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

Sandy, Mary, and Becky are walking into the church. A tour bus is in the half-full parking lot. Off to one side are several tents set up for various vendors. People are going in and out of the church.

> MARY It's like an amusement park. All that's missing are the clowns.

BECKY Wouldn't that be angels?

SANDY JOHNSON

Clowns, angels, I would settle for an alien if I could get a story. So far we don't have much.

BECKY A kid with a scar and a statue that wets its self.

MARY I don't know, I have a strange feeling.

SANDY JOHNSON You have been a little spooky since we got here.

MARY I know. It feels like this is so familiar. They enter the church to find a quiet respectful crowd as they walk past the statue. Most are dabbing the tears with hankies. The room is now dimly lit.

SANDY JOHNSON Looks like a movie.

BECKY It does look staged.

SANDY JOHNSON Spread out. Take pictures of anything that seems out of place or odd. Listen to what people are saying. Maybe we can hit on some story. Some kind of human interest. Maybe someone got healed.

Reverend Hudson approaches the trio.

REVEREND HUDSON Hello ladies, back to explore some more? Let me know if I can help.

MARY

Where can't we go?

REVEREND HUDSON

Where can't you go! Why you can go anywhere. There's nothing to hide here. Believe me, I want someone to solve this. Many people have tried including the church. The statue, she just cries.

BECKY I wonder why she's so sad.

SANDY JOHNSON If she could only to talk, now that's would be a story.

REVEREND HUDSON

Could I show you the basement and the back quarters? They're the only places you haven't seen yet. SANDY JOHNSON Would you go with the Reverend Mary, Becky and I will talk to the tourist. Maybe there is a story there.

MARY

Sure.

Mary and Reverend Hudson walk towards the back of the church.

REVEREND HUDSON I still think I know you from somewhere.

MARY I've never been here before. I'm not a regular at church.

REVEREND HUDSON How about Des Moines, you ever been there.

MARY

No, never.

REVEREND HUDSON Let us start with the basement.

INT. BASEMENT OF THE CHURCH - DAY

Mary and Reverend Hudson are walking among the discarded pews and miscellaneous items in the large dimly lit room. Mary is looking up at the ceiling.

> MARY About where would the statue be?

REVEREND HUDSON

Where that space is cleared out. Several people have looked for pipes and whatever. No one has found anything.

Mary starts taking pictures.

REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) One guy brought in a portable x-ray machine and x-rayed the statue, nothing.

MARY Did he find any wires or switches? Magicians have all kinds of trick stuff, wires and such.

REVEREND HUDSON Nothing, it was hollow. I saw for myself.

The two continue to search the basement in silence. Mary slowly turns towards the stairs where Jesus has materialized next to Ruth and Billy Graham. Mary has a blank stare.

The look on her face goes from inquisitive to knowing with a sly smile as she understands who he is and who she is. She breaks out in a broad smile.

Reverend Hudson slowly turns and sees Mary's expression. He turns to face Jesus. Reverend Hudson's expression goes from concern to knowing.

REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) (elated) Peter, I am Peter! And long ago I knew you as my friend Mary!

MARY

(elated)
I see it now! I see the stories
from the Bible as if I was there. I
know who I am! I am, Mary
Magdalene!

REVEREND HUDSON Yes, you are! I see can that now.

MARY That explains my bad taste in men.

She rushes up to Jesus and drops to her knees.

REVEREND HUDSON It all makes sense now! Jesus! Jesus, you are Jesus, you've come back! She stands up and gives Billy and Ruth Graham a funny look.

REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) And you look like a young reverend Graham?

BILLY GRAHAM Call me Billy and this is my lovely bride Ruth.

RUTH GRAHAM Pleased to meet you.

REVEREND HUDSON (puzzled) You're young?

BILLY GRAHAM (confident) Yes, we are young!

RUTH GRAHAM Eternally young. Jesus gave us eternal life.

BILLY GRAHAM How wonderful it is to meet those who were with Jesus from the start, Peter and Mary.

MARY Why? Do you know why we are here?

Slowly from the shadows, Jesus's followers appear. His mother and father, Joseph and Mary, along with his brothers and the Apostles. All are happy with the greetings of old long lost family and friends.

Jesus has his arms around Joseph and Mary. He is smiling as the other move about greeting him and each other with much laughter and smiles as they catch up.

Andrew comes rushing over to Peter who is off to one side.

ANDREW (excited) Peter, Peter, it is you, my brother!

A big hug.

PETER

(excited) Yes, Andrew! We have come to this! We are back with Jesus!

ANDREW

Do you know why we are here? Wherever we are. The times are bad, is that why we are here? . . Where are we?

PETER

We are in my church or under my church, we're in the basement.

ANDREW Are we near the sea?

PETER

No, we are in Iowa.

ANDREW

Oh. Last thing I remember I was on a fishing boat in Alaska. Do you know why Jesus gathered us? Have you spoken to him?

PETER

I spoke to him only briefly but that was before I was aware of who he was and who I am. He visited my church. I know everyone here, not by sight but by the spirit. Like I know you're my brother.

ANDREW

That's right, there is James and John and Bartholomew and with Jesus is mother Mary and Joseph.

PETER

And our friend Mary came here first, days ago. Mary, Mary!

Peter waves Mary over.

PETER (CONT'D) Mary, brother Andrew is here!

Andrew and Mary Hug.

MARY How wonderful, everyone is here!

PETER Except for Judas.

MARY (whispers) I don't know if we should say his name.

ANDREW He's the only one not here.

MARY He's the only one who deceived Jesus.

Apostles John, James, and Philip, all smiles, approach the trio. All embrace.

JAMES

Here we are all together again in a different time.

PHILIP And on earth and not in heaven. Do any of you know why we are here?

MARY

As far as I can figure this out, we have all been living on earth. I now know I was in heaven once.

PHILIP

We all were.

They all nod in agreement.

PETER Maybe it's time to go back.

JAMES Maybe life on earth will end.

PETER Jesus brought us here for a reason.

JAMES Maybe we should ask him?

PETER

Lets.

Peter walks over to Jesus followed by the others. Jesus raises his arms.

JESUS My friends, all together again.

Several in the crowd start to kneel.

JESUS (CONT'D) No, no, no need to kneel.

PHILIP Jesus, we are all here. You awoke us anew, why?

JESUS

My friends, you all wanted another life on earth. So here we all are.

ANDREW Everyone except Judas. Understandably.

JESUS

He is here, on earth, living a life. He did not make it to heaven. It is not a good life. I visited him. Teased him a little. But I bother him no more.

BARTHOLOMEW But what great deed have you in store for us?

JESUS

Deed, there is no deed. Think of this as a vacation, a vacation from all of that kneeling and praying, kneeling and praying.

The crowd all nods in agreement.

PHILIP

Then what are we to do?

JESUS Disneyland is fun. I've been there many times.

They all look at each other bewildered.

PHILIP Fun, we're supposed to be having

fun?

They all look confused.

JESUS

Why not? . . .You all tried your best and suffered greatly as did I. Earth is a wonderful place put here for man to enjoy. So let us enjoy. The Grand Canyon is amazing. My favorite place.

PETER But with all the misery in the world.

JESUS (tense) We tried! You all did well. You spread my message. It is now up to man. Heaven awaits for all who live a good life.

PETER Oh, so have fun?

JESUS Party, dude!

All have a look of bewilderment.

PHILIP

Party, Jesus?

BARTHOLOMEW Vacation, Jesus?

JESUS Enjoy what earth has to offer. Enjoy the fruits. Speaking of which. He opens his hand and an apple appears.

JESUS (CONT'D) I still got it.

He takes a bite. All are murmuring amongst themselves.

BARTHOLOMEW Tho is a new Jesus.

JESUS

Bartholemew, it is 2018, it's not tho, and it's Jim. Just plan Jim. Here to enjoy earth and what good man has to offer. And to spend time with my friends.

JAMES What good does man have to offer?

PETER What could that be? What good has man done, always a war!

JESUS Plenty! There's Disney, it's a blast. I know a guy who works there. Let's go!

PETER That's a lot different than when we were together last.

BARTHOLOMEW Better than being stoned to death.

PHILIP

Yeah, that hurt.

JESUS

Tell me about it! My hands are still a little sore.

PETER And how do we get there?

JESUS Close your eyes. One of my better tricks. No one seems to doubt Jesus as they all close there eyes. Suddenly Mary burst out.

MARY

My niece?

JESUS Time does not move in our world. It does not exist. I'll have you back before they know you're gone.

All close there eyes again.

EXT. DISNEYLAND - NIGHT

The group appears and goes unnoticed among a large mob. It's night and the park is lit-up. Standing next to Jesus is Walt Disney.

JESUS Here we are. Enjoy yourselves. Walt and I are going to check out the new automatizations.

PETER

Walt Disney!

WALT DISNEY Hello, everyone, enjoy my park!

BARTHOLOMEW Wow, you're still here!

WALT DISNEY Why would I leave? Happiest place on earth. And there is plenty to do around here.

Walt bends down and picks up a piece of litter and deposit it in a trash-can.

MARY All right, I'm headed to splash mountain, who's coming?

PHILIP Yeah, sounds good, let's go!

WALT DISNEY Have fun kids!

Like a high energy twelve-year-old, Mary and Ruth lead the group as they dart across the park.

Several times the group is observed running, laughing, and skipping to another ride. Some have mouse ears on.

A voice over the intercom indicates the park is closing.

The exhausted group is gathered in the square.

PHILIP

Now what?

MARY I don't know, wait I guess.

PETER What was this all about?

BARTHOLOMEW I know, I bet I know. Enjoy earth, like Jesus, I mean Jim said before it's gone. The end of days.

All have a knowing look as if uncovering a secret.

PETER That makes sense!

RUTH GRAHAM Yes, it does, enjoy the earth before, before what?

BILLY GRAHAM

Armageddon!

PHILIP It would be something modern like the A-bomb!

Jesus and Walt appear walking from across the nearly empty park.

WALT DISNEY Have fun kids? Thanks for coming!

JESUS I love this place! Walt, as always, much fun.

They hug as friends. Walt waves goodbye and departs.

JESUS (CONT'D) Best imagination on earth and great organizational skills.

Jesus turns to the group.

JESUS (CONT'D) Well, everyone, have fun?

All nod and murmur agreement.

PHILIP It was like being a kid again.

JESUS

You were.

PETER

Jesus,

Jesus puts his finger to his lips.

JESUS It's Jim, let's not attract attention.

PETER Yes, Jim, what are we doing?

JESUS

Having fun.

BARTHOLOMEW Before earth is destroyed? Another flood or something?

JESUS Yea, no. That was tried, didn't work. This earth is left to man. Do with it what they may.

BARTHOLOMEW And again, we are just having fun?

JESUS Party dudes!

Jesus looks up into the sky.

EXT. BOURBON STREET - NIGHT

Jesus is leading his flock down a very lively Bourbon Street.

JESUS Don't you just love the spirit of Jazz! Man has provided many wonderful things, Jazz, Blues, all music really. Baseball, dancing and pralines and fudge. Chocolate, one of my finest achievements.

The group gets into the music as they move down the street pausing to listen and look.

BARTHOLOMEW

(whispers to Peter) Do you think we could have a drink, or two? I'm a little parched, all this traveling.

PETER Why not, we always could, wine anyone?

PHILIP Hey, Jes, a,a, Jim, how about a little wine?

JESUS You always did like your wine, Philip. A scotch and soda for me.

Towards morning the group, drinks in hand and noticeable drunk, are standing in the square.

PHILIP

What now?

JESUS How about a baseball game? PETER

Shouldn't we be doing some good? Something holy, helping someone. I should get back to my flock.

JESUS

Your flock is fine. You all did that so long ago. This is your reward. The earth is here for man's pleasure.

PETER So we should enjoy it before it's gone.

JESUS Exactly, chill! How about an Angeles game, they're playing the Yankees?

EXT. ANGELES STADIUM - DAY

Jesus is sitting among the group with a hotdog in hand and an Angeles cap on. The group is decked out in Angeles gear as they cheer on the team.

> ANNOUNCER Leading off is Mike Trout, batting 380 and having one heck of a year!

A crack of the bat and Trout hits a homer. The crowd leaps from their seats. Bartholomew turns to Jesus.

BARTHOLOMEW Did you do that?

JESUS No, why would I, that's all Trout. He could hit like that when he was twelve.

Jesus pumps his fist in the air.

JESUS (CONT'D) Trout-Trout-Trout!

The group joins in followed by the rest of the stadium.

GROUP

Trout-Trout-Trout!

The game has ended and fireworks are displayed as the stadium starts to clear. Jesus and his group are still in their seats.

BARTHOLOMEW

That was great! I haven't been to a game since I went with my dad to see the Twins, I think I was ten. Great fun!

JESUS

Fathers and sons and the love of baseball. Baseball is big throughout the heavens.

PETER

I worry about my church. My flock needs me.

JESUS

Indeed they do, need you yes, miss you, no. They will be right where you left them when you get back. Now, what's next!

MARY

The moon, could we sit on the moon?

JESUS

Been there. Boring! Nothing there. It's best to look at it from earth.

BARTHOLOMEW

How about on top of a mountain, to watch the sky?

JESUS

No, too cold. . . Hawaii, Hawaii to look at the moon. Have you seen the moon from Hawaii, best ever? But first, the birds, let's go hear the birds sing. EXT. TROPICAL FOREST - DAY

Jesus and his flock are dispersed through the trees. The sun is peaking through the canopy and a slight wind is blowing.

An array of every songbird on earth is serenading the flock. Joy fills their faces as the birds compete for their individual attention. Laughter fills the air.

Time has past and the serenade has turned into a lullaby.

JESUS Okay, everyone, let us go look at the moon.

EXT. A BEACH - NIGHT

Jesus is sitting on the end of a long line of lounge chairs. Billy Graham is next to him as drinks and snacks are being served. Jesus and his group blend in with a crowd that has gathered to feast at the Luau and to watch the sunset.

> JESUS Such a fun day.

BILLY GRAHAM Sure was. . . But are we suppose to be having fun?

Jesus laughs.

JESUS Joy, laughter, fun, that is what life on earth should be like. Don't you think?

BILLY GRAHAM More fun, less hate, is it possible?

On the other end, several in the flock are talking.

RUTH GRAHAM Beautiful beyond words, the earth.

MARY

Yes, it is.

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PETER

(puzzled)

What are we doing? With all the soles to be saved, should we not be doing that? I should be back at my church.

MARY Maybe we should ask?

BARTHOLOMEW I don't know, I'm starting to like this life. It might be hard to go back to my life.

MARY Ruth, do you know what we're doing?

RUTH GRAHAM I am not sure. Billy is talking Jesus's ear-off.

MARY Maybe we should ask?

EXT. A BEACH - DAY

Later that night the Luau crowd has dispersed leaving Jesus's flock to quietly talk among themselves.

PHILIP

What a beautiful night.

BARTHOLOMEW Life on earth at its best.

MARY Most peaceful anyway.

Jesus stands and moves in front of his flock with his back to the ocean. All are quiet and mesmerized.

JESUS My friends, this has been fun. Good memories, this time. . .I Love the earth.

All nod in agreement.

JESUS (CONT'D) When the sun rises on the seventh day, the war to rid the earth of Satan will begin. Satan has a strong grip on mankind. He has most of the political leaders and many of the religious leaders.

As he speaks the ocean behind him fills with slowing rising souls. They appear to be standing on the water.

The beach slowly fills with people all listening to Jesus.

JESUS (CONT'D) My friends, soon you will ascend to heaven with me as the war on earth rages.

A portion of the sky slowly lightens and a scene of one mass shooting after another appears. Scenes from a tower shooting in Los Vegas, several school shooting and a shooting at a Jewish synagogue.

All on land and sea remain transfixed and quiet.

The scene changes to a seedy tattoo parlor in a scary part of a city where drugs are sold and shifts to street prostitution and a woman being beaten in an alley.

The scene changes to a secluded island airport where six children, ages six to twelve, are escorted off a private plane by two middle-aged well-dressed men.

The scene continues with men of prominence lounging about a pool. They all have their arms around blanked-faced young children.

The scene continues with a scared, doe-faced, five-year-old girl being led into a room by a gray-haired, distinguished looking man. The door slowly closes.

The scene changes to a white, middle-aged TV preacher sitting on his couch in his opulent, multimillion-dollar mansion. Drink in hand, his gorgeous, voluptuous, wife is rubbing his neck.

He raises his drink in a toast.

PREACHER To the good life! His wife picks up her drink and reciprocates.

WIFE

To all those who give us money!

They laugh and drink.

The scene changes to a nice suburban family.

Mom and dad, a thirty-something modern couple, are in the living room watching a movie and passing a joint. The room is smoked filled. Their three children, Earth, Wind, and Fire, ages 8 to 5, are hiding behind the couch taking deep breaths of the marijuana smoke. The children giggle alerting the parents.

> MOM (yells) Are you kids back there? Earth, Wind, Fire you know you are supposed to stay upstairs!

> > DAD

Damn kids!

The children, giggling, jump up and run off.

EARTH You can't catch us, potheads!

DAD

Damn kids!

The scene changes to the Buddhist statues in Pakistan being destroyed by the Taliban.

The scene changes to a crowded Christian church in a remote location in an undisclosed third-world country. Outside the church is a group of Islamic extremist hiding in the trees. As the parishioners stroll out of the church and fill the front yard, the extremist attack with machetes and axes.

The scene changes to a ground war with Islamic extremist and then shifts to a refugee camp.

The scene changes to a hospital delivery room. A baby has just been born and has been placed on a metal table. A doctor addresses the mother. DOCTOR

It's like we suspected, he has downs. Not a severe case. Many like him live long productive lives. Some even marry. . . It's up to you.

MOTHER I told you, doctor, I want a perfect baby!

DOCTOR Yes, I understand.

Next, we hear the baby let out one loud cry before going quiet.

The scene shifts to the New York City's mayors office.

A champaign celebration is underway.

MAYOR To our great success in passing a law that gives women total control of their bodies!

WOMAN Three cheers for abortion!

A toast and cheers.

The scene splits to the New York skyline and several buildings lit in pink.

A LOUD THUNDERCLAP.

The scene changes to natural disasters, floods in Nebraska, tornados in Texas, ice melting in Greenland, fires in Northern California and Arizona, and volcanic eruptions and earthquakes throughout the world.

The roar of the earthquake gives way to silence and calm seas.

The sky closes up and the darkness dissipates as the sun rises.

All of the souls have dissipated. Jesus is left on the beach with his flock.

JESUS (solum) All is lost. The "end of days," is here.

PHILIP

Did we fail?

JESUS Man failed. Lust, greed, perversion, Lucifer has taken hold.

BARTHOLOMEW

What do we do?

JESUS

Go back, go back to your lives. You will ascend when it is time and we will be rejoined.

PHILIP Should we prepare for battle?

JESUS

We are ready.

INT. BASEMENT OF THE CHURCH - DAY

Mary and reverend Hudson are alone.

They exchange a known look and break out giggling.

MARY Well, that explains a lot about my life, my trouble with men.

REVEREND HUDSON And I'm a priest, what else could Peter the Apostle be?

MARY Now what, you're the priest?

REVEREND HUDSON As Jesus said, go back to our lives. I wonder how much time has passed? MARY That would be boring with what we just experienced.

REVEREND HUDSON Not for long. He said seven days.

MARY Shall we go upstairs and see what we missed?

REVEREND HUDSON I must prepare my flock.

Mary and reverend Hudson slowly ascend the stairs and enter the nave. They look around and see that time has stood still. Everyone is as they were when they went to explore the basement. They approach Sandy and Becky.

> REVEREND HUDSON (CONT'D) Did you unlock our mystery?

SANDY JOHNSON Nothing here, how about you.

Mary smiles.

MARY Just stuff from the old church.

Mary and reverend Hudson exchange a knowing look.

REVEREND HUDSON (excited) I must tend to my church, a lot of preaching to do in a short time. Nice to see you again Mary.

The reverend departs.

SANDY JOHNSON Nice to see you again, he seems awful friendly. I think he likes you. Now that would be something different for you.

MARY You don't know! BECKY Kind of creepy, the way he takes to you.

SANDY JOHNSON Your aunt has that effect on men. I think we're done here.

EXT. THE SEA - DAY

A calm sea on a sunny day. A pod of whales breaks the surface and floats. Slowly, the surface is full of sea animals of all kinds.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

Animals of all kinds are ascending mountains throughout the world. Mountain goats are leading the way as animals not usually able to climb, giraffes, water buffaloes, etc., are trudging along. An assemblage of birds, chickens, eagles, and some shorebirds, fly alongside.

EXT. THE SEA - DAY

In the distance, dark clouds creep across the sky. The animals, floating on the surface, suddenly dive.

The sea floor is covered in fish of all species sitting calmly.

EXT. MOUNTAINTOP - DAY

The mountaintop is a vast tropical oasis. The menagerie of animals is peacefully intermingling. The top of the mountain is surrounded by a dark cloud.

EXT. JUNGLE - DAY

The jungle animals are heading into caves and burrowing underground. Deep inside a crowded cave, gorillas are sitting peacefully next to bigfoot. Bigfoot is playing with a baby gorilla. Snakes and lizards are laying together peacefully as are lions and rabbits. The cave entrance darkens as the clouds move in. EXT. CITY - DAY

A busy sunny day on a crowded city street.

Slowly the sky darkens as the clouds move in. People on the street start to notice as they look up into the sky, shielding their eyes. As day turns to night, panic sets in.

From the sky, a booming but pleasant female voice.

FEAR GOD! THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS TO HATE EVIL. THE HOUR OF JUDGEMENT HAS COME! WORSHIP HIM THAT MADE THE HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND THE SEA, AND THE FOUNTAINS OF WATER!

Panicked, bewildered people fill the street.

The scene is repeated at a truck stop in the Midwest. Everyone is outside staring up at the sky. Some are kneeling and praying.

Cars and trucks are stopped on the interstate and people are out of their vehicles.

The scene is repeated at a monastery high in the mountains. Monks are praying.

The scene is repeated at an Indian reservation in Arizona.

AN EARTHSHAKING THUNDERCLAP.

God descends from heaven.

As God reaches earth, Christian souls start to ascend. Graves opened up and those who are alive are caught up together with these souls in the clouds.

As the souls stop ascending, the sky clears to a wedding where Jesus is marrying Mary. All of the apostles and friends are present. A glorious feast to follow.

After the ceremony, all becomes quiet on heaven and earth.

God appears at the altar with seven Angels.

Trumpets materialize in the hands of the angels. Another angel appears carrying a golden censer. This Angel approaches the golden altar which is in front of Gods throne and tosses incense into it causing smoke to swirl into the air. The angel then took the censer and filled it full of fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. On earth, there is fire, thunder, and lightning and earthquakes. The seven angels prepare to blow their trumpets.

The first trumpet sounded and an angel with a large bowl in hand tosses a mixture of hail and fire mixed with blood to earth. The grass burn along with a third of the trees.

The second trumpet sounded and an angel with a bowl tosses a mountain of fire into the sea and a third of the sea became blood. A third of the animals float to the surface.

The third trumpet sounded and an angel with a bowl tosses a flaming star to earth into a third of the rivers and springs.

ANGEL You are righteous, Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be. Because You have judged these things. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due.

The fourth trumpet sounded and an angel tosses his bowl into the sun. A third of the sun, moon, and stars are darkened causing panic among those who remained on earth. An angel is flying over heaven and earth, chanting.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of earth, because of the remaining three blasts of the trumpet of the remaining three angels who are about to sound!

Then the fifth trumpet sounded and an angel pours his bowl over the earth. Darkness blankets the earth. A star falls from heaven to the earth. An angel with a key opens a bottomless pit. Smoke rises out of the pit like the smoke of a great furnace. The sun and the air are darkened because of the smoke of the pit. Then out of the smoke locusts came upon the earth. And to them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

The angel commands them.

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ANGEL (CONT'D) Do not harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Do not kill them, but torment them for five months. The torment like the torment of a scorpion when it strikes a man. Men will seek death and will not find it!

The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lion's teeth. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. They had tails like scorpions, and there were stingers in their tails.

Then the sixth trumpet sounded and an angel tosses his bowl into the rivers on earth, drying the rivers up.

A voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet.

VOICE

Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates. The four angels, who had been prepared for this hour and day and month, and year, are released to kill mankind.

Now the number of the army of the horsemen are two hundred million. Those who sat on them had breastplates of fiery red, hyacinth blue, and sulfur yellow. The heads of the horses were like the heads of lions. Out of their mouths came fire, smoke, and brimstone.

The three plagues are killing by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone which came out of their mouths. Their power is in their mouth and in their tails. Their tails are like serpents, having heads. INT. ST. BERNADETTE CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST BRANCH, IOWA - DAY

As the war rages around the church, it sits unscathed. The church is empty. The statue is not crying.

INT. DISNEYLAND - DAY

As Los Angeles burns and explodes around it, Disneyland stands untouched.

Los Angeles lays in ruin.

INT. CONGRESS - DAY

The war rages outside. Panic erupts inside. All politicians remain inside cowering as the building start to collapse.

INT. CHINA CONGRESS - DAY

The National Peoples Congress is in session as the war rages outside. A blinding light, a shock wave, and a mushroom cloud appears as the building crumbles.

Another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. A rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars.

VOICE Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them!

The angel who was on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven and swore.

ANGEL

Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay no longer, but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished.

The seventh trumpet sounded and an angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne. And there were noises and thunder and lightning, and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone weighing a ton.

A booming voice from the altar.

VOICE It is done!

The end.

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