

FADE IN:

EXT. MISSION VIEJO TOWN - DAY - ESTABLISHING

Joyful images of a town moving through its bustling day mix with sounds of laughter under a permanently blue sky drops us down to reveal..

EXT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The school's established front entrance of stone is devoid of human life, obviously containing something hilarious bellowing from a classroom's open windows.

MOVING TOWARD AND THROUGH THE CLASSROOM WINDOW

INT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL / NELSON'S CLASS - DAY

Students stand and cheer over a loud voice. Through the hilariously entertained students, NELSON THOMAS (30s) is seen sprawled across his decorated desk, costumed with an obviously fake head.

NELSON
We lost the match..!

STUDENTS
Off with his head..!

A costumed STUDENT steps forward with a cardboard knife.

NELSON
A suitable sacrifice..!
(pause)
What I do in the name of education.

STUDENT
Do you have any last words..?!

In the midst of laughter, there are diagrams of Aztec pyramids and a painted cardboard set depicting the ancient ball court at Chichen Itza, from Mexico's Yucatan.

NELSON
We lost in overtime..
(thinks)
I'd like to appeal..
(searching)
To the international federation of
the gods..?!
(looks around, calls)
(MORE)

NELSON (CONT'D)
Is there an official from the
federation present..?!

Behind the crowd at the back of the class, Nelson can't see
PRINCIPAL PETER, languishing with a stained expression.

STUDENT
The gods have spoken..! And so
have the people..!

Students begin wildly cheering as TWO STUDENTS hold Nelson's
arms as he leans forward.

NELSON
Wait..! Wait..!

The crowd softens, the knife lowered.

STUDENT
What now..!

NELSON
Don't forget to read about the
Aztec calendar for tomorrow's
class..!
(students hiss)
Read all the chapters.. Before the
calendar celebrations..
(sounds of rebellion)
In one week..!

Students erupt with a chorus of "booooo" as the student with
the knife raises it.

STUDENT
Off with his head..!

Students cheer wildly again..

THE BLADE

Passes into and through Nelson's fake head. It falls off.

THUD..!

Hitting the floor, rolling across the classroom.

FAKE BLOOD

Covers Nelson while he fakes his death at the front of the
class. The students cheer more wildly than ever.

THE BELL RINGS

The class ends, sending the kids out of the class in euphoria, passing Principal Peter's disdain.

Nelson wiggles his real head out of the costume, finding his staid administrator with his empty classroom a disaster.

PRINCIPAL PETER

Nelson Thomas.

(looks around)

Enemy to quality education. What was that..?!

(disgust)

Defend yourself, Thomas..!

Nelson scans the empty class, finding Principal Peter.

NELSON

Wow. They listened. They were engaged..! Did you see that..?! They loved it.

PRINCIPAL PETER

Ohhhh, I saw it Thomas, I saw it.

(hot)

With my own head..! And my own two eyes..!

NELSON

Ahhh, there.. See.. You got it too..!

(chuckles)

Neat, uhh.

PRINCIPAL PETER

Nooo, Thomas, it was not neat..! It's an affront to decent, quality education..!

Nelson spins, frustrated.

NELSON

Ahh come on, they're showin' up for class.. In record numbers.

(pleads)

Principal Peter..

(chuckles)

Man, I love that..

(refocusing)

Look, they never cared about history before. Times change.

This is change.

(MORE)

NELSON (CONT'D)
(serious)
They're listening.

PRINCIPAL PETER
To verbal flatulence.
(pause)
Nelson Thomas.. If you continue to
stray from the state curriculum, I
will have no choice but to dismiss
you.

Nelson watches Principal Peter exit.

INT. NELSON'S APARTMENT - DAY

JANE THOMAS (30s) is Nelson's quirky confidant and natural
history writing wife. She's typing at her laptop in the midst
of books scattered across her desk.

Nelson enters, fake blood stained with a gored expression.

NELSON
Honey, I'm home.

Jane twists her head, seeing his stained clothes.

JANE
What happened to you..?

Nelson gets a drink of water, turns to her.

NELSON
I was sacrificed.
(thinks)
In just about every way.

JANE
Didn't we talk about this..?

Nelson turns down the TV, showing images of armed conflict,
moves to shut the window to dampen sounds of passing sirens.

NELSON
People are shooting each other and
dying in the streets, but I can't
entertain my class during a history
lesson.
(looks at her)
Sacrifices happened, I didn't make
it up. Maybe we should get away
for awhile.

JANE

Nelson, you need to embrace normalcy and boredom. What happened..?

NELSON

It was great. We reenacted the ancient ball court contests and my team lost.

JANE

(rolls her eyes)
And..?

NELSON

Principal Peter was standing at the back of the class.

(animated)

The kids were yelling, my head came off, and fake blood went all over me.

(more serious)

Then he said if I stray from the curriculum one more time, he'd have no choice but to dismiss me.

JANE

(instructing)
So I guess you won't be doing that again.

NELSON

Why not..! It's history. It happened. Yes I'm bored. And I detest being normal. Can't we just run away from all this..?

JANE

No.. I'm in the middle of writing a book.

(frustrated)

And you have a job.

(child like emphasis)

You're a teacher. This is how money is made.

(beat)

We don't have any money after we pay our bills, so therefore you need to keep your job as a teacher and I need to keep my job as a writer, so we can make enough money to pay our bills.

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

(slow)

This is called responsibility.

NELSON

Yeah, and lose our minds in the process.

JANE

Nelson, you're coming undone. Like a ship without a destination, a bottle without a message, a cloud without the sky.

(sarcastic)

Tap, tap.. Anybody home..?

(emphasis)

You need to structure your courses and your life.

NELSON

I'm planning ahead all right.

JANE

You don't have to plan ahead. You need to go to work, like millions of people, do your task, and come home again.

Nelson circles, his mind spinning.

NELSON

I'm losing my mind..! All this politically correct nonsense..!

(paces)

He's going to fire me. For being interesting.

Jane exhales her frustration.

JANE

Interesting.

(pleads)

Can't you conform, just once..?

NELSON

I can't believe this..! What happened to that late blooming flower-child I met on the front lines of freedom..?! What happened to you..?!

It gets quiet for a few seconds, Jane reflecting.

JANE

She.. Lost her petals I guess..

(thinks)

And she started liking a little stability. They were great times, but times change. And she changed too.

(reflects)

I think they call it growing up.

Nelson, pausing for a moment, starts pacing wildly again, his hands in the air now.

NELSON

So, that's it..! We're gonna throw in the towel and join the Lemming march of programmed, hypnotized, zombified masses addicted to smart phones, social media, streaming, advertising, labels, processed food, and screens galore..!

JANE

When are you going to stop being idealistic and face reality..?

NELSON

Some reality. We got a generation hypnotized by their phones.

(mocking to the phone)

Take me to your leader..!

(beat)

We're marching down a skinned trail to nowhere.

JANE

There.. All better, now..?

Nelson scans Jane's wall of books.

NELSON

Do you have anything on the Aztec calendar..?

(sarcasm)

It's gotta be boring.

Jane joins him, scanning the books. She touches one of the books, an old one, then moves on.

JANE

Not that one.

NELSON

Wait, what was that..?

JANE

I said no.

Nelson sees the binding is blank, reaches for it. Jane puts her hand over his and gives him a serious stare.

NELSON

You don't trust me..!

JANE

No, I don't..!

NELSON

And you're admitting it..?!

Nelson pulls the crusty book out.

INSERT - BOOK COVER

Reads: LEGENDS OF THE WINGED PROPHET

NELSON (O.S.)

Legends of the Winged Prophet.

BACK TO SCENE

JANE

This isn't be right for you now.

Nelson starts reading, immediately fascinated.

NELSON

Ohh.. Look at this.

JANE

You want to lose your job. Is that what you want to do..?

Nelson continues to devour the contents.

NELSON

I want to lose the barriers of intellectual freedoms imposed by a staid curriculum.

Jane, exasperated, watches Nelson crash on their book filled sofa, devouring the contents.

JANE

You can't teach something like that when you're under the microscope. Don't you get it..?

(thinks)

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

It's old. I have no idea how old it is. And it's esoteric.

NELSON

It's about the Aztec calendar. We're studying the Aztec calendar. The Aztec calendar ends a week from now. What's not to get..?
(looks at her)
Hey, you remember the calendar festival in Mexico City..?

JANE

We both have degrees in history. Yes, I remember.

NELSON

You're writing a book on the subject. We should go.

Jane tries not to let on that she'd like to go too.

JANE

I'm sure my publisher would love it..
(retracts)
But you need to save your class from their phones and everything else that's wrong in the world.

NELSON

Believe me, I am.
(tells her)
So, pack your bags for Mexico.

She surrenders to his affable, lovable, screwy nature.

JANE

For the weekend.

INT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL / NELSON'S CLASS - DAY

Nelson's hazardously embarked on another off the wall journey of education, based on the crusty old book of Mayan wisdom he's holding in the air.

NELSON

This is the book of Mayan wisdom.

A lot of *ooohhs* from the students.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 That's right. This is the Legend
 of the Winged Prophet.
 (making it up)
 We got a lotta gods, a lotta gods
 in here. And they're, like, flying
 around on chariots.

A lot of *aaahhs* from the students.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 And the book says, the book says
 they're all coming back to earth.
 (beat, searching)
 Sooner than later..

Students cheer.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 They're bringing with them the laws
 of the universe, outlined in this
 very old book.

PRINCIPAL PETER

Is peering through the door at the back of the class,
 surveying the lesson that Nelson seems to be making up on the
 spot, horrifying him.

NELSON
 These laws.. The laws of the
 universe that the gods are bringing
 with them.
 (unsure)
 Will be the new laws.
 (beat, asking)
 Do you get it..?

Students squirm, make faces.

STUDENTS
 Nooooooooo.

Principal Peter steps into the back of the class so he can be
 seen. Nelson waves, prepares his finale.

NELSON
 Principal Peter everyone.

Nelson starts putting up esoteric diagrams of the Aztec
 calendar with spirals running through it, four pyramids
 intersecting, pictures relating to the Book of Days.

NELSON (CONT'D)

(continuing)

The gods are coming back to earth
to recreate the earth a fourth
time, according to the book.

(referring to the book)

We got the Mayan mythical animal
beings. They're coming back too.
C'mon, lets hear it..!

There is a slightly subdued cheer.

NELSON (CONT'D)

We need to do better than that..!
Everyone get out their paper animal
heads they made..!

They do, laughing and cheering.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Cheer like animals cheer..!

The volume starts to go up with the redness on Principal
Peter's face.

NELSON (CONT'D)

The mythical animal beings..
(makes big eyes)
Will come down from the sky.

A little girl takes her animal head off, raises her hand.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Question.

GIRL STUDENT

Excuse me, I'm confusing your
analysis of the Mayan animal beings
with the symbolism expressed in
Tonalamatl's, The Book of Days,
regarded as *the authority* of
ancient Mayan wisdom, compiled by
Mesoamerican cultures.

Principal Peter's look says, *what the..?*

NELSON

Great question, great question.
(smirks)
I wish I had the answer.

Everyone laughs, except Principal Peter.

NELSON (CONT'D)
Kidding..! Kidding..!

The girl student sees the tension between Principal Peter and Nelson, wanting to help.

GIRL STUDENT
Quick, the reversing spirals..!

Nelson has lost his focus, now in a deep hole.

NELSON
Ah yes, the reversing spirals.
(searching)
The reversing spirals mean..
(guessing)
That mankind will experience a
dramatic shift away from life as we
know it..?

GIRL STUDENT
(whispers)
There's more.

NELSON
(trying to recall)
The Winged Prophet, our lady of law
and justice, predicts that we will
all discover and learn the ways of
the universe.

Students *ohhhhhh*.

GIRL STUDENT
(quietly)
What does that mean..?

Exactly is the look on Principal Peter's face.

NELSON
It means.. School will never be
boring, it will never be staid, it
will never consist of lessons that
have no real bearing on your young
lives.
(smiles)
School will be cool.
(students cheer)
School will be a place where we
learn how to take care of each
other and our world, using the
universal principles of the gods.
(rolling)
(MORE)

NELSON (CONT'D)

Schools will be a place where it's cool to be smart, because you just are.

(on the fly)

There's no more schools for dummies because there just aren't any more dummies, because we've all received the wisdom.

(guessing)

And you'll never need your phones again. You'll all become these little incredible flesh robots who can just transmit your thoughts.

The bell goes, ending the class.

GIRL STUDENT

Let's hear it for the Winged Prophet..!

The students cheer and hoot on their way out of the class, passing Principal Peter and his deathly gaze.

The class now empty, Principal Peter begins his slow walk toward Nelson's desk where the men face each other.

PRINCIPAL PETER

I tried to warn you.

(pause, exhales)

Take your things with you

Nelson watches Principal Peter exit.

INT. NELSON'S APARTMENT - DAY

Jane paces in front of Nelson, angry and defiant.

NELSON

Before you start, just blow it all out..!

JANE

You mean like you did today..?!

(nods, agreeing)

I..! Told..! You..!

NELSON

You can do better than that.

JANE

(different voices)

I told you..! I told you. I told you. Did I say that I told you..?

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

Or how bout IIIIIIIII Toooolllllllddd
you..! I told you.

(singing)

I told you, oh baby, I told you, so
many times, I told you..!

NELSON

Just because I have a little
imagination.

JANE

A little imagination..! A little
imagination.

(wags her head)

You are way too involved in this.

Nelson picks up her old book, waves it.

NELSON

Ohhh.., so it's all my fault.
And in whose book did I find all
this new wisdom..?!

Jane spins, sustaining a heavy blow to her rant. She takes
the book from Nelson.

JANE

Nelson, I said this is esoteric
material. Do you know what that
means..?

NELSON

When I opened it, I wasn't
transported to some imaginary
fantasy land that doesn't exist.
(sincere)

It spoke to me. It's real.

Jane slides the book into the bookshelf, stares blankly.

JANE

These are charming stories that are
old, yes, but they're just stories.

NELSON

You're writing about a subject you
don't believe in..?

JANE

This is my job, my task. I do my
task well and I pay bills, that's
what life is.

Nelson sees her inner tiredness.

NELSON
What happened to you..?

JANE
What happened to both of us..?

They look at each other, wondering.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AIRPORT - MEXICO CITY, MEXICO - DAY

In a sea of human chaos, Jane and Nelson navigate their way through people everywhere, there for the calendar holiday.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

Outside the airport, hitting a wall of people, they try flagging down a taxi.

JANE
Taxi..!

One stops, but is hijacked by other people.

NELSON
Hey..!

Another taxi approaches. Nelson runs into the road, stops it.

NELSON (CONT'D)
Taxi..!
(to Jane)
Quick..!

She piles in the back seat of the barely functioning wreck. Nelson grabs their bags and wrangles open the mangled trunk lid, deposits their bags, held shut by a bungee cord.

The taxi pulls away again, leaving a trail a smoke, stopping and starting through the clogged roadway.

INT. TAXI - DAY - MOVING

Jane has her mouth covered with a handkerchief, a poor way of battling the heat and the pollution that engulfs them.

JANE
What are we doing..?

Nelson's head, drenched, nods with realization.

NELSON
Witnessing the end of civilization.

THEIR POV - FROM INSIDE THE MOVING TAXI

Seeing graffiti, people, dense air, fires, procurers of junk, trinkets, costumes, and signs of a living circus.

BACK TO SCENE

Their taxi pulls over next to their little villa. A GUARD is smiling, armed, and has no teeth. He moves to open their door.

GUARD
Wel'home to Meh'ico 'ithy.

NELSON
Ah, thanks.

They scramble out of the taxi.

EXT. VILLA - DAY

Jane surveys the toxic environment.

JANE
Right now, I'm witnessing the end
of my sanity.

Nelson rescues their bags through toxic exhaust before they scurry into the villa together.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MEXICO CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Jane and Nelson, disappointed, view the surroundings of the city center and the Aztec temple, a focal point of the celebrations.

JANE
There's something you need to learn
from this.

NELSON
I'm not having one of those moments
right now.

JANE
Keep looking.

SERIES OF SHOTS - CELEBRATIONS

- A) Torch ceremonies.
- B) Mock sacrifices.
- C) Mayan men with twinkle lights on silver costumes.
- D) Cheesy theatrics at the temple show.

BACK TO SCENE

They're surrounded by trinket sellers and other procurers of crass junk.

JANE
Let's go home.

Nelson checks his watch.

NELSON
It's midnight. Shouldn't we see if
the world changes..?

Just then, a twinkling ball suspended from a large crane slowly falls during the last minute, counted by the crowd as if they were in Times Square.

JANE
This has potential.

An obnoxious rock tune rises with showering fireworks as the ball settles onto a stage connected to the foot of the Mayan temple.

The stroke of midnight opens the ball, letting SHOWGIRLS loose to rapturous applause. They're joined by more SHOWGIRLS and MALE COUNTERPARTS in a bawdy display of cheesy antics.

Nelson hangs his head. Jane gazes out at the scene.

NELSON
Honey, I'm sorry.

JANE
Let's just go home. Tomorrow.

NELSON
I thought this was it.

DISSOLVE TO:

A QUIET STREET NEAR THEIR VILLA

They walk arm-in-arm, feeling close. Nelson kicks a can.

NELSON
Why did I do it..?

JANE
Because, you get an idea. And then
all of a sudden..

NELSON
All of a sudden, what..?

JANE
No other ideas exist after that.
(they chuckle)
Wha'd you do, anyway..?

NELSON
I told them how The Winged Prophet,
the lady of law and justice, and a
whole cast of interesting mythical
beings, were all going to descend
from the sky to save us all.

JANE
You were so, *what?* Bored or
against the curriculum that you
sacrificed your living.
(stops, looks at him)
Our living, Nelson. I'm in this
too..

NELSON
I couldn't help it. I mean, look
around. Everything's going to heck
in a handbasket.
(looks at her, around)
We're all failing..

JANE
They paid my next advance early. I
was going to tell you. We're going
to pay the bills.
(quietly)
Yayyy..!

NELSON

When we get home, I'll make it up
to you. I'll eat crow, get back on
track, find something new.

JANE

I remember feeling the same way
when I first read the stories.
(thinks)
Who gets fired for teaching old
stories anyway..?

Nelson sheepishly raises his hand before they exit.

EXT. MEXICO CITY STREETS - DAY - MORNING

The heat enhances the smell of traditional food, corn dogs,
and cotton candy simmering through the sea of humanity.

A Mariachi band plays on the stage, in front of a large
graffiti covered replica of the Aztec calendar, surrounded by
souvenir stands and trinket sellers.

Nelson and Jane work their way through all the people and
distractions, entertained and at peace with each other. Each
have their bags, looking for a way out of the crowd.

NELSON

(smirks)
We're here.

Jane pretends to hold a microphone in front of Nelson for a
mock interview, both mocking thick British accents.

JANE

Jane Thomas with the BBC is here
with renowned historian, Nelson
Thomas, to talk about the Aztec
calendar.

(to Nelson)
Tell me Nelson, what drove you into
this sea of humanity to witness the
calendar celebrations today..?

NELSON

The calendar's expiration will end
our current age and begin a new
chapter in human history.

(thinks)
I'm here to experience a promised
encounter with the gods and the
universe.

JANE

And there are festivals like this everywhere in Mexico City, as the calendar festival continues.

(checks her watch)

It's approaching high noon, here in the heart of the city.

(she looks around)

Nelson, explain what it is we're seeing here today.

They chuckle.

IN THE SKY, A GIANT CLOUD FORMS

Darkening the scene a little. The reactions and looks up at the sky INTERCUT AS NECESSARY.

Nelson and Jane continue their interview.

NELSON

Well, as you can see Jane, a cloud has formed overhead. It's obviously a sign, but the party rages on.

JANE

Do you expect it's the gods, or just the aroma of corn dogs and cotton candy..?

NELSON

Yes, it's a sad comment, really. The whole world, indeed the whole universe, is to learn the ways of the ancients, but the Mariachi band plays on.

The cloud supernaturally grows in size and density. More people begin to notice.

JANE

Could it be mass flatulence..?

Nelson looks up, slowly halts his travel, keeping his gaze fixed on the cloud. Others around them begin to notice and point now. Nelson's left the interview.

NELSON

It's something.

The cloud, now large and dense, lowers itself down, hovering above the temple stage area. Now everyone has stopped, the scene becoming quiet.

JANE

(hushed)

The large cloud has descended,
silencing the crowd. Even the
Mariachi band has stopped playing.

Now Jane is seeing this is something really unusual, their voices returning to normal.

JANE (CONT'D)

Wait. What is it..?

NELSON

I have no idea.

THE CLOUD MAGICALLY PARTS, EXPOSING HUNDREDS OF GODS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION ON FLYING CHARIOTS AND MACHINES.

Every face, beginning with Nelson and Jane's, try to understand what they are witnessing.

JANE

No.

Nelson feels drawn, takes Jane's hand, begins to approach.

NELSON

Do you hear that..?
(Jane holds back)
C'mon.

JANE

Where are you going..?

Nelson stops, looks up at them with Jane.

NELSON

I can hear them.
(his look more serious)
They want something.

JANE

(listens, nods))
I can hear them too.

They look around, seeing the masses afraid, backing away.

NELSON

They're asking questions.

JANE
Yeah. Nelson, maybe..

NELSON
They're not hear to harm us.

EXT. MEXICO CITY STREETS / TEMPLE - DAY

Jane slowly climbs the steps of the temple ruins, behind Nelson, until they reach the top. Conversations with the gods INTERCUT AS NECESSARY.

The first god to approach on a chariot has an alligator's body and a woman's head. CIPACTILI has spikes radiating from her body and sits on a large egg. She smiles at them both.

NELSON
Hey.

JANE
(whispers)
She just greeted us.

Nelson backs up, both giving astonished waves of welcome.

NELSON
She needs to set it down.

They watch Cipactili set the egg down.

JANE
(whispers)
I don't want to set off any alarm bells, but in the book, she's Cipactili, the alligator. She's the Stone of Sun figure in the upper left section of the calendar.

Nelson nods agreement, smiles at her.

NELSON
Should we call you Cipactili..?

She smiles and nods as the egg begins to break open.

JANE
You remember this part..?

NELSON

(cautiously nods)

When Cipactili deposits the egg and it begins to break apart, the book says that the rebirth of the earth has begun.

JANE

There are similar stories in Asian and Eastern cultures that tell stories that say humans are cosmic creations.

As the egg continues to break open, Nelson looks around, surveying the crowd and the people below.

NELSON

(hushed)

Are you sure this isn't a magic trick..?

Just then the egg pops open, releasing THE MAGICIAN. He's a cerebral looking man, small in stature, and he's a snappy dresser, wearing a suit, and some other world shades.

JANE

Speak of The Magician, there he is. He represents timeless intelligence, long life, and a point of departure.

NELSON

(whispers)

I'll take your word for it.

JANE

(whispers)

I thought you read the book.

NELSON

(whispers)

It wasn't just esoteric, it was unbelievable.

Jane motions silence, mouthing, *they can hear you.*

JANE

Magician represents the beginning of discernment and selective thinking, the beginning of our ability to interpret the three planes.

(quietly)

Mental, astral, and physical.

Nelson strikes a mini-yogi pose.

NELSON
 Ooooooooooooooooooooo.
 (receives a jolt)
 Hey..!

He rubs his temple, receiving a knowing smile from Magician.

JANE
 Serves you right.

Magician rolls through different languages and dialects like a radio tuner finding it's proper station, finding English.

MAGICIAN
 Is this it..?
 (chuckles)
 Of course it is. Let me adjust.

Magician's voice changes slightly to include a British accent.

MAGICIAN (CONT'D)
 That's better. I loved your voices,
 so I said, my mortals, I think they
 have something.

NELSON
 Welcome.

MAGICIAN
 Thank you. And for the record.
 (he looks up)
 This is really happening.

Nelson and Jane look up into the sky above them.

EXT. SKY FULL OF GODS - DAY - INTERCUTS

The clouds dissipate, exposing hundreds and hundreds of chariots and strange flying machines, floating with their various god pilots. Conversations with Nelson and Jane
 INTERCUT AS NECESSARY.

Nelson and Jane are awestruck. The crowd below is too.

NELSON
 (quietly)
 And I thought Chariots of the Gods
 was just made up nonsense.

JANE

Shhh.

NELSON

But it's true.

MAGICIAN

Actually, it's not true. The truth is, we weren't going to come at all.

JANE

So, why did you come..?

MAGICIAN

Because of you, the both of you. And the book. You can help us.

(smiles)

We know you can.

NELSON

You're gods. Why do you need our help..?

MAGICIAN

How can I say it..?

(thinks)

Dude, the place is a mess. Look around.

They clue in, look up, hearing their thoughts.

JANE

Are you getting that..?

(Nelson nods)

This whole area is supposed to be where they give wisdom, or teach.

Nelson starts to get a big smile.

NELSON

Yeah. Good luck with that.

JANE

Honey, what's going on in that little head of yours..?

NELSON

They have a lot of work to do here. I know where they can do their work to give us the wisdom we need.

Magician immediately translates the news to the gods, causing a celebration amongst the floating gods.

JANE
 (whispers)
 Are you out of your mind..?

NELSON
 (hushed)
 Apparently, according to Principal
 Peter.

Nelson's smile grows, relishing his thoughts.

NELSON (CONT'D)
 There is a god.

JANE
 Quite a number of them.

They scan the gods, seeing every variety of character, from human-like, to animal & human hybrids, to the fantastical. They're organized in groups and divisions.

WINGED PROPHET, herself, appears and floats down toward them. Her chariot's extravagance sprouts wings on both sides and is led by a harnessed white winged horse.

NELSON
 Wait. I think it's her.

JANE
 Winged Prophet, the lady of law and justice, the wife of Zeus, a worthy arbitrator in both war and peace, she taught the art of taming horses, and harnessed the first war chariots.

A small winged dragon trails Prophet, arriving next to Nelson with two golden staffs, handing one to both Nelson and Jane.

PROPHET
 You know who I am. We've learned much about you.

JANE
 You have..?

PROPHET
 That's why we're here.
 (pause)
 On behalf of the coalition, I hereby appoint you both to be the new world leaders during the transitory period.

Nelson and Jane look at each other, trying to fathom the suggestion.

NELSON

Ahhh.. Did I hear that right..?
Are you suggesting that we're some
kind of new leaders of the entire
world..? Just like that.

MAGICIAN

Yes, just like that. And you're
also the transitory leaders of the
gods, until we settle a few things.

JANE

Settle a few things.

MAGICIAN

You're like the new, old world
leaders, until the earth is newly
created and restructured again.
(looks around)
It's a disaster. This could take a
while.

JANE

What about the President..? And
all the other world leaders..?

Prophet shrugs, a matter of unimportance.

PROPHET

It all works through you now.

NELSON

It does..?

MAGICIAN

(nervous chuckle)
There's a lot of work for us to do.
(laughter from above)
Don't worry, it'll work.
(nervous)
Like a lucky charm. Like all the
other recreation projects.

Prophet gazes at Magician with a look that knows different.

PROPHET

Magician.

JANE

So, like, what is it we do again..?

PROPHET
 You and Nelson, effective
 immediately, run the world.

Nelson and Jane give each other long looks before Nelson shrugs, emitting mock confidence.

NELSON
 Where do we start..?

MAGICIAN
 Will you go have a word with your
 people so they don't have a tizzy.

Long looks between Jane and Nelson.

NELSON
 It was *your* book.

JANE
 And it was *your* classroom
 performance that brought them here.

Jane looks out at the throngs of people, wanting to know what's going on.

NELSON
 You're coming with me.

They make their way down the temple steps to the stage, trailed by Magician and Cipactili. Floating down the steps, beside them, is Prophet and the trailing dragon.

EXT. MEXICO CITY / TEMPLE STAGE - DAY

On their way down to the stage area, Magician, Cipactili, and Prophet inspect the debris and graffiti with disdain. The Mariachi band backs away. Nelson leans over to Magician.

NELSON
 Anything we can do about the
 language difference..?

MAGICIAN
 Just speak.

Nelson approaches the microphone, his voice loudly amplified through the sound system.

NELSON
 Uh, yeah. Good afternoon.

There's a squelch of feedback.

NELSON (CONT'D)
I'm Nelson and this is my wife,
Jane.

Nelson head gestures, trying to get her to say something.

JANE
Hi.
(to Nelson)
Back to you.

NELSON
Does anybody have a cigarette..?

NELSON'S POV - PEOPLE IN THE CROWD

Holding up cigarettes.

BACK TO SCENE

Nelson smiles to Magician as one of the Mariachi band players offers Nelson a smoke and a light.

NELSON
(to Jane)
They understand.

After taking a couple very nervous puffs of the smoke, Nelson coughs, uncontrolled, throwing the cigarette away.

NELSON (CONT'D)
Bad idea. In fact, take your
cigarettes and just throw them
away.

Cigarettes and packages come flying up onto the stage. Jane sides with Nelson, watching what's happening, both in awe.

JANE
(hushed)
They not only understand you, they
do everything you ask them to.

Nelson pulls Jane to his side.

NELSON
I'm.. We're.. We're, like,
together. And, and, me and Jane
are like your new leaders.

Through a smattering of applause, Jane takes out the Winged Prophet book from her pack, becoming enthralled, stammering to explain what happened.

JANE

Nelson did this thing, you know
mock sacrifices with fake blood.

(searching)

His principal hated it. I can see
why. So then he got fired for
teaching his class that everything
in this book was going to happen.

(looks up)

Ummm, just like this.

There's a smattering of boos to their great surprise.

NELSON

I know, right..! Pfff.

JANE

What we are, really though, is..
Somehow through all this, we're
like..

PROPHET

(smiles, nods)

You're the new old world leaders in
the new age of the gods.

NELSON

Winged Prophet everyone.

(applause)

We're your new old world leaders in
the new age of the gods.

(shrugs)

When I know exactly what that
means, I'll get back to you.

Jane approaches Prophet.

JANE

This is a nice little moment here,
but you do realize that the world
is a lot bigger than the Mexican
valley now.

PROPHET

Of course we do. We're gods.

JANE

Then, you probably know there are
powerful people in the world who
may not take this as good news.

PROPHET

We run into this everywhere we go.
Love you, love you not, we're used
to it.

She returns to Nelson's side, quietly whispers.

JANE

They travel around.

NELSON

We're about to assign the work
details.

EXT. MEXICO CITY STREETS / DEFACED AZTEC CALENDAR - DAY

TWO WORKER GODS on chariots come down from the sky to inspect
the defaced Aztec calendar, complaining with their faces to
Prophet. INTERCUT AS NECESSARY.

Nelson looks at Prophet and Magician.

NELSON

What's wrong..?

MAGICIAN

(chuckles)

What's wrong..? What isn't wrong.

PROPHET

They complain that we left advance
evidence of our ways and a clock
saying when we'd return.

MAGICIAN

They complain that you didn't clean
the world up, like you do when your
parents are away.

Nelson and Jane exchange resolved looks, understanding.

JANE

(to the crowd)

Don't worry everyone. Things are
going to change.

NELSON

(to Magician and Prophet)

Why did you leave earth in the
first place..?

Magician and Prophet exchange uncomfortable looks.

MAGICIAN

The human race. Species in
conflict. With themselves and the
universe.

PROPHET

The killing wars.
(to Nelson)
The sacrifices. Who does these
things in the name of any god..?

MAGICIAN

Who makes such a mess of a
beautiful creation..? Or causes so
much strife among themselves..?

PROPHET

Not that we don't have our own
differences.

MAGICIAN

We can't kill. It's not in our
ability.
(looks at Prophet)
But we're also immortal.

PROPHET

How many times do we return to find
the whole planet a mess..?

MAGICIAN

All the time. For a minute, I
thought we were back on Korka.
What a mess that was.

PROPHET

Don't remind me.

NELSON

I don't want to sun on your parade
here, but I was about to assign the
work details before I take you to
your new school.

MAGICIAN

(sniffs)
I smell leadership.

Nelson holds up both arms, sporting V for victory. Jane
comes to his side, looking lovely.

NELSON

(to the people)
Welcome to the age of the gods..!
(MORE)

NELSON (CONT'D)

(applause)

They bring change. This valley was once a great valley. Farmland as far as the eye could see. Temples and cultural centers. It will be like that again. Work parties will begin today.

(applause)

The temple and surrounding streets and villages were once clean and free of garbage and debris. It will soon be this way once more.

JANE

(to the people)

And while this work and restoration is taking place, the gods will join us in opening the very first school of the ancients in Mission Viejo, California.

(applause)

There, people of the world will begin to learn the ways of the ancients and acquire new skills never thought possible before.

(applause)

These skills will be passed onto us through their godly wisdom. We will practice and learn, and then we will spread that knowledge throughout the world.

More loud applause from the people, turning to Prophet.

NELSON

(smirks)

We have a school to open.

Another crew of worker gods descends from the sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MEXICO CITY / ABOVE THE CITY STREETS - DAY - MOVING

Nelson and Jane are enjoying Prophet's chariot, waving to Magician and Cipactili in theirs, circled by winged dragon and surveyed closely by a gaggle of other gods.

Passing over the streets at first, quite low, they wave to the watching crowd, waving up at them. Then, they all lift up and away.

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAY - MOVING

Prophet's chariot approaches organized units of gods, beside which is Magician and Cipactili. They slow their travel.

PROPHET

(to Jane and Nelson)

They're here for your inspection.
Tilting your head forward is
approval. They have assigned
duties around the world.

Nelson and Jane both nod as Prophet passes the units.

NELSON AND JANE'S POV - GOD UNITS DEPART

To different parts of the world to do service.

BACK TO SCENE

Nelson and Jane, looking awestruck.

NELSON

Just like the book said.
(to Jane)
Unbelievable.

JANE

The book I said was esoteric.

NELSON

The lessons I gave because it was
so outlandish and I was bored.

Jane continues to approve divisions of gods.

JANE

They're going to their ancient
homelands to restore them.

NELSON

(exhales)
Really.

JANE

Is that all you can say..?

NELSON

(completely buzzed)
Yeah.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN SKY - DUSK - MOVING

The divisions of gods have dispersed, except for TWO DIVISIONS trailing behind. Nelson sees familiar mountains in the distance, feeling discomfort.

NELSON

The Sierra Madras. San Diego's on the other side.

PROPHET

You're afraid of your people.

NELSON

There's a military base there.

Nelson and Jane study their flying convoy.

JANE

They'll see us on radar and won't know what this means.

NELSON

They'll send a plane or helicopter to see who we are. They'll have weapons with them.

MAGICIAN

Surprise and folly are the great teachers of wisdom.

PROPHET

The teachers will teach and the pupils will learn.

Nelson and Jane trade looks.

INT. NORTH ISLAND NAVAL AIR STATION - SAN DIEGO - DAWN

The quiet morning is speckled with idle banter and a cup of coffee. The row of AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS monitor their screens, showing no air traffic.

INSERT - AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL MONITOR

Shows the tight procession of air traffic moving onto their row of screens, traveling from south to north.

BACK TO SCENE

A single AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER monitoring his screen is puzzled by the sight.

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER
Check this out.

One by one, the rest of the controllers turn back to their screens, silencing the banter.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAWN - MOVING

In Prophet's chariot, Nelson and Jane stir themselves awake, huddled together in the back of her lavish chariot.

Jane smiles, seeing the sun almost rise.

JANE
We should be there in time for your
first class.

Nelson gazes around, wondering.

NELSON
It's too quiet.

A SQUADRON OF FIGHTER JETS

Race overhead, then off into the distance. Interactions with war gods INTERCUT AS NECESSARY.

BACK TO SCENE

JANE
I think your first class just
started.

NELSON
(to Prophet)
Don't make any threatening
gestures.

Looks are exchanged.

PROPHET
We're not here to threaten.

Just then, a somewhat scary looking group of WAR GODS come to their side, heavily plated and battle scarred.

JANE
Who are they..?

MAGICIAN

They, my early risers, are war gods.

NELSON

Why don't I feel comfortable..?

Jane refers to the book, looks them up, shows Nelson.

JANE

They're defenders.

The steady thwap, thwap, thwap of distant chopper blades growing louder turns Prophet's look to Nelson.

PROPHET

You don't feel comfortable because we're about to come under attack.

(serious)

Secure yourselves.

The traveling coalition of gods move into a defensive air posture, seeing the arrival of FOUR BLACKHAWK CHOPPERS.

INT. BLACKHAWK CHOPPER - DAY - MOVING

A U.S. MARINE PILOT and CO-PILOT, looking all business, see the flying formation of chariots and exchange long looks.

Interactions with the god coalition INTERCUTS AS NECESSARY.

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT

(into his radio)

You better get Langley on the phone, you're not going to believe this. We're sending video.

The CO-PILOT flips some switches.

MARINE CHOPPER CO-PILOT

We're transmitting.

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT

This has gotta' be some kind of stunt.

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)

(through radio)

What are those..?

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT

Remember Ben Hur..?

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)
The chariots in Ben Hur didn't fly.

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT
Well these ones do.

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)
Are those civilians with them..?

Nelson stands in the chariot and signals double "V"s with his fingers.

Pilot and Co-Pilot comically look at each other.

MARINE CHOPPER CO-PILOT
What's he doing..?

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT
They're going to a high school in Mission Viejo.

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)
Base to squadron one. Are you reporting a U.F.O..?

MARINE CHOPPER CO-PILOT
Squadron one to base. We're not really sure what we're reporting at this time.

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)
We've received orders from central command to fire a warning shot in front of the lead craft.

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT
Squadron one to base. We're receiving information from the..
(hesitates)
Coalition, sir. I'm not sure we recommend action at this time.

MARINE CHOPPER CO-PILOT
They come with peaceful intentions. To educate humanity through the transitory period.

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)
Squadron one..! What's going on up there. What coalition..? Do you have radio contact with any of the crafts..?

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT

The gods, sir. The coalition of the gods. Negative, commander. We do not have radio contact.

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)

Will someone else on this radio tell me where you're getting this information..?

MARINE CHOPPER CO-PILOT

It just came to us, Commander. No other way to describe it.

MARINE COMMANDER (O.S.)

Squadron one, you're being ordered by central command to fire your weapons. Do you copy..!

A far out looking god with intergalactic shades pulls up to one side of their chopper, followed by a war god on the other side. They trade looks with the Pilot and Co-Pilot, who trade looks with each other. Co-Pilot unlocks their weapons.

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT

(hesitates)

Weapons are unlocked.

Escorting gods wag their heads, suggesting, *bad idea*.

CO-PILOT'S POV - BLACKHAWK INSTRUMENTATION

Acts erratic, on and off, dials spinning.

BACK TO SCENE

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT

What the..? Fire, fire, fire..!

STINGER MISSILE FIRES

And races toward Prophet's chariot. A pair of war gods put up their shields and deflect the stinger up into the sky, or it would have been a direct hit.

TWO MORE STINGER MISSILES come their way and are deflected up into the sky. One of the war gods takes chase after them.

Nelson and Jane hold onto each other, watching another PAIR OF LARGE, BATTLE SOILED WAR GODS come between them and the choppers. The war gods wind up and deliver..

A HUGE SONIC SHOCKWAVE

That shakes everything and everybody.

NELSON AND JANE

Are thrown onto the deck of Prophet's chariot, slowly getting up again.

BLACKHAWK CHOPPERS

All have their engines knocked out, blades slowing.

Nelson, Jane, and Prophet see the impending disaster. Prophet looks to her fleet.

PROPHET

The mortals are in danger..!
(instructs)
Carry them.

GODS MOVE TO SUPPORT THE CHOPPERS

And carry them back to their base. A war god, carrying all three of the missiles, returns and follows.

Nelson and Jane watch the fleet of gods, supporting the choppers, fly toward San Diego.

BLACKHAWK PILOT AND CO-PILOT

Look at what's happening. They pull their helmets off and look at each other with utter amazement.

MARINE CHOPPER PILOT

They really do come in peace.

Co-Pilot offers a salute to the gods outside his window, receiving one in return.

NELSON AND JANE

Exchange knowing smiles with Prophet, Cipactili, Magician, and the rest of the gods.

JANE

They're here to teach us.

Nelson looks down, sees where they are, hesitantly advises.

NELSON

Good, because we're going back to school.

INT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL / CLASSROOM - DAY

Principal Peter paces in front of the blackboard, trying to find his inner teacher in Nelson's old class. The students are on the verge of being comatose.

PRINCIPAL PETER

The Aztecs were a migratory race who wandered the Mexican valley until around the year..

(searching)

Thirteen hundred.

Girl Student, one of Nelson's prodigies, holds up a cue card reading: 1325

PRINCIPAL PETER (CONT'D)

Thirteen twenty-five.

A STUDENT falls asleep, his head falling on his desk. Girl Student looks outside the window and does a double-take, her eyes lighting up.

GIRL STUDENT'S POV - WINGED DRAGON

Circling outside the window before lifting up again.

BACK TO SCENE

GIRL STUDENT

Look..! Outside..!

Another student who saw the dragon moves to the window.

STUDENT 2

I saw it too.

Principal Peter claps his hands to get their attention, seeing nothing outside the window.

PRINCIPAL PETER

Class..! Class..!

(chuckles)

Attention, please. In your seats.

STUDENT 2

It was a flying dragon, I saw it.

She's looking around for it, but doesn't see it anymore.
Principal Peter launches into a lecture, ignoring the window.

PRINCIPAL PETER
Frivolous distraction is the
downfall of today's youth, and
society as a whole..! Academic
achievement demands strident focus
and dedication to learned
principles..! Daydreaming out the
window will not success make..!

Girl Student looks out the window again, this time her eyes
really lighting up big.

GIRL STUDENT'S POV - PROPHET'S CHARIOT AND NELSON

With Jane and the rest of their Armada appear in full view.

BACK TO SCENE

GIRL STUDENT
(amazed)
Look, it's mister Thomas..!
(class gasps)
Cool..!

The students are wonderfully shocked, slowly making their way
from their seats to the window. Principal Peter sees what's
outside the window with total disbelief.

PRINCIPAL PETER
(low voice)
Thomas..? It can't be.

GIRL STUDENT
This is so cool, I can hear what
they're thinking.

STUDENT 2
I can hear them too.

Nelson waves to his class and gestures to Prophet and the
rest of the gods like, *check it out*.

This causes his class to erupt into wild applause again. They
vacate the class, running outside to meet them.

PRINCIPAL PETER
(quiet surrender)
Class dismissed.

EXT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Kids from Nelson's class are the first ones to orderly file outside to see the floating spectacle. Prophet gently lands her chariot, followed by all the others.

His class comes forward, in awe of Prophet and the gods.

STUDENT

No way..! It's Winged Prophet.

NELSON

Prophet, as you already know, this was my class.

Nelson opens the sea of surrounding students, revealing Principal Peter.

PROPHET

The one who doesn't believe.

Prophet, Magician, and Cipactili, move to inspect Principal Peter. Cipactili, especially, freaks him out.

PRINCIPAL PETER

I don't know what to say.

MAGICIAN

You don't have to.

CIPACTILI

We know everything about you.

Principal Peter puts his hand to his temple.

PRINCIPAL PETER

Why am I having these thoughts..?

PROPHET

(smiles)

What thoughts..?

PRINCIPAL PETER

I have this crazy idea that Nelson Thomas is coming back to teach again.

Students erupt, cheering loudly. Cipactili calms them.

PROPHET

What else..?

PRINCIPAL PETER
 (nervous chuckle)
 Mission Viejo School of the Ancient
 Arts. What..?
 (continues)
 The school will become our
 generation's first school of wisdom
 and home of the gods.

Another big cheer erupts, lasting several seconds.

PRINCIPAL PETER (CONT'D)
 What they're going to learn is
 beyond me.

Cipactili leans in close, pats Principal Peter's head,
 terrifying him.

CIPACTILI
 Many things are beyond you.

The sounds of police sirens turn their attention to the
 streets, where the POLICE have arrived.

NELSON
 How do I explain this..?

Jane wags her head as they approach the tense scene.

JANE
 You don't.

TWO POLICE CARS let FOUR OFFICERS OUT.

POLICE OFFICER 1
 (gestures to Jane)
 Arrest these people. And their
 merry gang of misfits.

POLICE OFFICER 2
 (touches his head)
 Are you getting that..?

NELSON
 Welcome to Mission Viejo School of
 the Ancient Arts, a world first.

They chuckle as Police handcuff Nelson.

JANE
 He's my husband.
 (with whimsy)
 Oh, and by the way, we run the
 world now.

More chuckles as the posture of the enforcers relaxes.

POLICE OFFICER 1
 (disbelieving)
 We hear your funny little voices.
 What's a transitory leader..?

They all laugh, until all of the god figures approach and a tense standoff ensues. Students document the encounters with their phones.

PROPHET
 (stern)
 Welcome to the age of the gods. In the transitory period, your authority will be transferred to the gods for future governing.
 (beat)
 During this time, Nelson and Jane are your transitory leaders.

JANE
 You better let us go.

POLICE OFFICER 2
 Why's that..?

NELSON
 You don't want to find out on national television.

MAGICIAN
 Gentleman of the earth.

FEDERAL AGENT 2
 Who are you..?

MAGICIAN
 I am Magician. It's time to let our friends go.

The Police chuckle with the other officers. The gods chuckle among themselves, the two sides more entrenched, creating a distinct line between them.

POLICE OFFICER 1
 You're all under arrest. Anybody who wants to do this peacefully, step forward now.

Cipactili is the only one to do so.

CIPACTILI
 Can we take our chariots..?

POLICE OFFICER 1

We use cars on earth. How 'bout a ride down to the station.

This garners chuckles from both sides. Cipactili raises one of her alligator arms and starts crushing both black sedans with cosmic force, turning them into chariots.

Police Officers stop laughing. Nelson's students are totally amazed.

STUDENTS

Cooooool..

Magician steps forward, magically disarming the Police, laying their weapons to the ground in front of him.

MAGICIAN

Good idea, Cipactili. Who needs a car when you can learn the ways of the ancients and have your very own chariot.

JANE

There'll be no more guns. Enough of the guns.

Nelson, still in the Police's grasp, asks.

NELSON

How are we doing so far..?

OFFICER

Pretty good I'd say.

PROPHET

Just about there.

Prophet steps forward and raises her arm, lifting all the officers off the ground. Jane and Nelson are released.

JANE

Thanks for your help.

PROPHET

It's not as hard as it looks. You'll learn.

Jane, Nelson, his students, Cipactili, Magician, and the rest of the gods and dragons in the background, marvel at the elevated merry-go-round of law enforcers.

Girl Student holds her phone to video Nelson and Jane, who steps forward to be interviewed.

GIRL STUDENT

As you can all see, what mister
Thomas told us in class last week
turned out to be all true.

JANE

It sure did. To no one's surprise,
I might add.

Nelson clears his throat.

JANE (CONT'D)

Maybe a teeny bit.

GIRL STUDENT

What is this exactly..? Why am I
suddenly aware of what they're
doing and saying without words.

JANE

It's wisdom.

NELSON

This is the ultimate in teaching.
There's no homework or marking, it
just floods inside your head.

All the students look at each other, nodding affirmative,
like they know it's true.

GIRL STUDENT

They came here because of you,
history teacher, Nelson Thomas.
(beat)
And you, history author, Jane
Nelson.

Jane looks at Nelson, nodding admiration. She pulls the book
out of her pack.

NELSON

It's your turn.

JANE

Yeah, they did. But I almost didn't
let it happen, because I stopped
believing in ideas about improving
ourselves.

(to his students)

I stopped believing in the world I
dreamed about when I was your age.

GIRL STUDENT

Describe the world you believe in.

Students gather around Nelson and Jane.

JANE

We should be good to each other,
all the time. There shouldn't be
wars over gods. We'll feed the
hungry, instead of buying weapons.

(looks around)

It only matters that we don't fight
about anything.

(pause)

It only matters that we forgive one
another. And love one another.

Winged Prophet joins Jane, agreeing with her words.

PROPHET

Well said, my dear.

Jane brings Prophet to her side on camera.

JANE

This is Winged Prophet. She's the
lady holding the scales on our
courthouses. She's the reason
we're here.

More applause.

GIRL STUDENT

(to Prophet)

And I also understand, you're the
wife of Zeus. Where is Zeus..?

PROPHET

Well..

(chuckles)

I don't really care where he is.

They all clue in, chuckling some more.

GIRL STUDENT

Ohh, well then. Jane, as one of
our new world leaders, is there
anything you want to say to the
world watching now..?

JANE

What I wanna say is.. That driving
a motor vehicle, in the Mecca of
Los Angeles, and every other major
Mecca, will soon be against the
laws of the universe.

(beat)

(MORE)

JANE (CONT'D)

At Mission Viejo School of the Ancient Arts, you'll learn new skills, like driving chariots or something similar.

Nelson comes to her side, thinking she should wrap it up.

NELSON

(hushed)

Honey, I don't know if that's going to work. This is Los Angeles.

JANE

(hushed)

You said this was my turn.

(to the camera)

Resources will be saved. Recycling is mandatory. Stock markets will operate two hours a day to trade essential goods only. We'll find new ways of powering our homes and cities. And once we do, skies will clear.

(to Nelson)

This one's for you, okay hon..

(to the camera)

We really need fashion designers and cell phone manufacturers to focus on new ideas.

Girl Student gives Jane a thumbs up and puts her phone down.

NELSON

(to Prophet)

Can you put the men down now..?

(to Jane)

We're not overlords. You'll send the world into chaos.

JANE

They're gonna be driving chariots, what more do they want..?

Prophet joins them with the enforcement officers, who are extremely dizzy.

NELSON

I think we've done enough for one day. Quit now, before we send the whole world back to the dark ages.

CE-CUAUHTLI, the EAGLE, sides next to Jane with a grin.

JANE

It's Ce-Cuauhtli, the eagle. God of communications.

(to Ce-Cuauhtli)

Did you get all that..?

NELSON

You can't just dismantle complex world communication systems.

Ce-Cuauhtli twists his head, darting his big eyes between Jane and Nelson, like, *what's his problem..?*

JANE

He's still in a state of denial. He hasn't fully comprehended that we can actually change the world.

NELSON

(teasing)

Can't you conform, just once..?

JANE

We have a school to get organized.

Nelson follows Jane, wagging his head.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - WORLD EVENTS

A) EGYPT - THE GREAT PYRAMIDS

Where onlookers gather to watch Egyptian looking WORKER GODS on chariots survey the pyramids. They start to clean the stones.

B) IRAQ DESERT

A U.S. coalition of troops and an Iraqi coalition are racing across the desert in Jeeps, armed vehicles, followed above by helicopters. Worker gods on chariots race over a large sand dune. The troops stop.

ASTONISHED LOOKS

On the human faces gazing down into the sand on the other side.

A LARGE ANCIENT CITY

Appears in the sand, once built by the gods. The worker gods are removing and blowing the sand away, revealing its original glory.

Troops from both sides wander down inside the huge sand crater to see the ancient city.

C) PERU - MACHUPICCHU

Native Peruvians climb Machupicchu's steep mountain steps

Just then, they're buzzed by a group of worker gods, flying by on their way up and over the next mountain rise. There is waving and adoration as they pass.

VIEW OF THE ANCIENT CITY

Being cleaned and restored by worker gods.

D) SOUTHERN ENGLAND - SALISBURY PLAIN

Farmers, residents, news reporters with cameras, and tourists migrate on foot, bikes, and cars make their way across the Salisbury Plain to witness the ancients' return to their once great observatory, Stonehenge.

STONEHENGE MONUMENT

Is being inspected by worker gods and ASTROLOGER GODS, using an unusual instrument to check its alignment with the sun.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WHITEHOUSE - WASHINGTON, DC - DAY - ESTABLISHING

The world's old power center, still impressive looking.

INT. WHITEHOUSE / OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

THE PRESIDENT moves in the midst of a chaotic scrum outside the oval office. Nearby, a CNN feed comes through a monitor. A combination of over thirty WEST WING AIDS, CONGRESSIONAL AIDS, and WHITE HOUSE PRESS pepper the besieged President.

WEST WING AID

Mister President, we've lost contact with our troops in Iraq and everywhere else.

CONGRESSIONAL AID

Mister President, A U.S. Marine reported in San Diego that his squadron intercepted, quote, *flying chariots, piloted by strange characters*. When they were ordered to engage fire, their engines were rendered useless..

(shows photos)

They were carried to safety on their flying chariots.

WHITEHOUSE PRESS

(refers to a report)

Reports say they exhibited an unknown method of propulsion, they possess variable rates of speed and agility. When attacked, they were able to out maneuver rockets, in fact retrieving them before they could land in a populated area.

(beat)

Similar reports are coming in from all over the world.

WEST WING AID

We could send out the military, but we don't have one. All our defense computers are down, the phones don't work, and our generals claim they're more peaceful than we are.

(quietly asking)

What are you going to do..?

The President stops, does a slow 360, emitting a laser beam stare to everyone in the room.

THE PRESIDENT

Who do you think I am..? Superman.

You can hear a pin drop, except for the CNN feed, displaying pictures and audio of the world events, which then crackles and dies.

WHITEHOUSE PRESS

We just lost CNN.

The lights in the hallway begin to flicker.

THE PRESIDENT

I want information. I don't care where you get it. Just find it..!

West Wing Aid begins flipping through the cable stations, seeing all the stations are blank.

West Wing Aid comes across two stations, one showing Aztec history, the other showing YouTube clips of the activity at the high school being live streamed.

WEST WING AID
There's two history stations.

PRESIDENT
What the hell is this..?

WEST WING AID
A live stream from California.

Just then, a couple chariots with gods fly past in the background, igniting the room. The President squints.

EXT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL - DAY - INTERCUTS

Jane and Nelson are in front of Girl Student's hand held phone, both baffled in their live briefing. The live stream INTERCUTS AS NECESSARY with Whitehouse reactions.

JANE
We were supposed to have the network's news team here.
(beat)
Oops, I forgot. It's just us now.

Girl Student looks at them both, seeing they're lost.

GIRL STUDENT
Maybe you should tell the world who you are and what's happening.

Nelson looks at Jane, agreeing.

NELSON
Great idea. Please, after you.

JANE
But you're the one..

GIRL STUDENT
(rolling eyes)
We're live.

JANE
I told him not to, but he did it anyway. I just want to get that out of the way.

NELSON

And because I did what I wasn't supposed to do, we ended up with special powers to run the world during the transitory period of the gods' return to Earth.

JANE

I know what you're thinking out there. Actually, I don't. But this is what I can tell you.

(thinks)

They're much smarter than we are and they can't hurt anyone.

NELSON

Unlike us, who do the most vile things for almost no reason. They're here to help us.

JANE

We're making a horrible mess of everything.

NELSON

This isn't something easy to wrap your head around at first, but they talk without speaking and do things like fly without fuels and gas.

JANE

And they're going to teach us all how this works at the school where Nelson was. Where I told him to stop his wild imaginary teaching because he was..

NELSON

Bored. Teaching and learning stopped being interesting. With Jane's help, I wanted to believe in something better.

JANE

And then it all happened, just like the old book said it would.

More gods and a couple chariots now fill the background behind them.

IN THE WHITEHOUSE PRESS GALLERY

Mouths hang open with awe and wonder, watching scene.

WEST WING AID

This has got to be a left wing
conspiracy prank from California.

The watching staff wags their heads in agreement.

THE PRESIDENT

Turn around.

They turn in astonishment, seeing gods outside the windows.

WEST WING AID

An elaborate prank.

EXT. NORTH ISLAND NAVAL AIR STATION - SAN DIEGO - DAY

U.S. Fighter jets take off from an airstrip.

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAY - TRAVELING

A squadron of jets move into picture, dropping down toward
Mission Viejo High School, seen ahead.

Stinger missiles are released, heading toward the school.

EXT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Gods on floating chariots are re-constructing a corner of the
school building, decorating it with ancient writing. They
sense danger and immediately buzz off.

MISSILES STRIKE THE GROUND

Where the gods were, shooting explosions of fire and debris
everywhere. War gods briefly gather, before shooting up into
the sky after their attackers.

IN FRONT OF MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL

School kids load into busses that leave as they are filled.

INT. FOX HOLE SHELTER - DAY

Principal Peter is mortified, dumping maps on a table.
Concussions shaking the earth around them, Nelson and Jane
pin them up. Prophet puts up emergency lighting.

PROPHET
 (reassuring)
 This won't last long.

NELSON
 (to Principal Peter)
 I didn't mean for this to happen.

Principal Peter nods, tries to look outside, turns back.

PRINCIPAL PETER
 Teaching was my battle. I seldom
 won or found it interesting.
 (beat)
 Until now.

Magician enters with Ce-Cuauhtli, battle soiled, darting his
 eyes around the room. Cipactili joins them.

PROPHET
 What's happening..?

MAGICIAN
 War gods are working on the current
 dust-up, but I'm afraid we've got a
 much bigger problem.

Looks around the room wonder that would be.

PROPHET
 The only possible problem worse
 than this would be if our universal
 nightmare, Quetzalcoatl, had
 somehow enticed one of the lesser
 gods into freeing his evil soul
 from the bonds of stone I cast him
 in all those years ago.

MAGICIAN
 Say no more, lady of fairness.
 Quetzalcoatl is awake.
 (looks at the others)
 Bloody hell, we're in for it now.

PROPHET
 I told them, a thousand times I
 told them..!
 (gasp of exasperation)
 It was probably that weasel, the
 Devil, the crazy Moon, or that
 freak, Malinalli, the god of knots
 and all twisted things.
 (frustrated)
 (MORE)

PROPHET (CONT'D)

Why the coalition ever approved of something so insidious as a god of knots is beyond me.

Cipactili begins to shiver, putting fear on their faces.

JANE

I know, trust me, I know. They all have one thing in common, don't they, Prophet.

PROPHET

Of course, they're alllll man-gods. Human, or super-human, men just don't get it..!

JANE

(to Nelson)

Quetzalcoatl is the leader of all the war gods, the most ruthless and feared serpent god in the universal coalition of war gods governing the entire universe.

NELSON

(hushed)

Set in stone, until now.

Long looks are swapped, Prophet surveying the room.

PROPHET

I have another problem. In our hasty departure from earth, casting Quetzalcoatl was the last thing we did before we fled.

(trying to recall)

Somewhere in the Yucatan.

(to Magician)

Exactly where, I'm not sure.

MAGICIAN

(shrugs)

I was back in the egg at that point. Curled up in a little ball.

Magician receives a concerned look from Prophet.

CIPACTILI

The whole coalition vacated the planet by then.

PROPHET

In times like this, we look to our leaders.

Jane gets an epiphany as the ground shakes around them from another rocket blast, loudly instructing above the chaos.

JANE

Quetzalcoatl was cast in stone in Chichen Itza..! Not far from the ancient ball court..!! It's called the temple of warriors today..!

NELSON

War gods, stop the air strikes..!
(thinks)
Leave a small group here with Principal Peter to continue working on the school.

JANE

The rest of us will work together to deal with Quetzalcoatl..! We'll need gods with special skills..!
(thinks)
Ce-Cuauhtli, computers control the planes and weapons systems here on earth. Find and disable them..!

Ce-Cuauhtli nervously darts his eyes, nodding agreement, then takes off.

PROPHET

Meet you at the chariot..!

The gods exit, leaving Nelson, Jane, and Principal Peter. The noise has subsided.

PRINCIPAL PETER

(visibly shaken)
I have absolutely no clue what this is all about. It sounds like you could use a little luck out there.

Nelson swaps glances with Jane, pulling her to his side.

NELSON

A little luck and a few kick ass gods.

PRINCIPAL PETER

I was wrong about you.

NELSON

(hushed)
Off the record. In the classroom, I had no idea, it was just pouring out of me.

(MORE)

NELSON (CONT'D)
 (whispering)
 And now. You'd think I'd have a
 better idea, but I don't.

Principal Peter's look suggests, *we're doomed.*

NELSON (CONT'D)
 Life is crazy and you just have to
 go with it sometimes. With the
 gods on our side, we'll be okay.

PRINCIPAL PETER
 It sounds like the only thing
 that's going to be okay, is if you
 go and give this Quetzalcoatl a run
 for its money.
 (serious)
 Good luck out there.

NELSON
 Good luck finding your inner
 teacher. The future of the world
 depends on it.

Nelson and Jane exit.

EXT. MISSION VIEJO HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Prophet and her chariot wait for Nelson and Jane to get in.
 Cipactili pulls up next to them with Magician. Winged dragon
 is chomping at the bit too. Suddenly, the wind gusts.

THEIR POV - A SWIRLING RED CLOUD MASS

Forms and begins to lower.

BACK TO SCENE

Wind continues, speaking up over the gushing wind.

MAGICIAN
The winds of war..!

NELSON
Is this Quetzalcoatl's doing..?!

PROPHET
No, it's Ehecatl. The wind..!

Another explosion hits the ground around them.

MAGICIAN

The mortals are in danger..!

PROPHET

We have to fly into the eye of the storm to save them..!

Nelson and Jane look at each other, disbelieving.

JANE

But, they're attacking you..!

MAGICIAN

Like we said, mate, killing's not in our make-up..!

PROPHET

Hurry..! The cloud's starting to lower..! Ehecatl doesn't know his power too well..! Everyone hang on..!

The chariots take off together, buffeted against the wind.

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAY - MOVING

Prophet and Cipactili lead a small coalition of chariots on a steep incline up into the sky to get above the storm clouds.

Jane and Nelson are pressed back in the seat of Prophet's chariot, wondering about this band of gods they lead.

A WAR GOD, THROWN OUT OF THE STORM, SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL

Comes right for them, yelling on his way by.

PROPHET

Hang on..!

Prophet's fleet, narrowly avoiding a collision, climbs high above the storm system until it's calm.

Nelson and Jane stand, looking down at the danger below.

JANE AND NELSON'S POV FROM PROPHET'S CHARIOT

See Ehecatl's red storm swirling below, thick and massive. Ehecatl is small, in the middle of the eye, with lines attached to all the fighter jets, spinning with them, hollering from below.

EHECATL
Woooo..! Hoooo..! Yee..!
Hawwwwwwww..!

They can see chariots trying to go in and help, but thrown out again by the force of the wind.

BACK TO SCENE

Jane and Nelson trade looks.

JANE
Is he okay..?!

PROPHET
He can't see..!

NELSON
Get us down into the eye before he
crashes..!

MOVING DOWN INTO THE EYE OF THE STORM

They see war gods being thrown out of the spiral. They see Ehecatl in the middle of the eye, twirling the jets on his lines, and they see and hear him singing in the calmness.

EXT. OPEN SKY / STORM EYE - DAY - MOVING

Ehecatl is singing what sounds like an ancient Gaelic tune as he twirls his battle soiled chariot round and round. On his helmet, is fastened crooked Hubble-sized specs, soot coated.

PROPHET
Ehecatl..!
(no response)
Ehecatl..!

Ehecatl continues to sing, oblivious to their presence.

CIPACTILI
Call his brain..!

Prophet and the gods send mental messages. Ehecatl looks around.

PROPHET
Over here..!

Ehecatl finally finds them, searching through his huge specs, slowing the furious winds, slightly calming the scene.

EHECATL

Awww Jimmy, there is someone there.
Cipactili, is that you..?!

CIPACTILI

Prophet and Magician are here
too..!

EHECATL

Yah made it to the bigs..!
(sees Jane and Nelson)
Who's that ridin' posse..?! Boy and
girl wonders I bet..!

CIPACTILI

Yeah, that's them..!

JANE

I'm Jane..!

EHECATL

Wayne..?!

NELSON

It's Jane..! I'm Nelson..!

EHECATL

Can I just calls yahs Jimmy..?!

PROPHET

Your cloud is falling..!

EHECATL

My cloud is calling..?!

JANE

He's deaf too.

NELSON

(to Prophet)

He needs to stop..!

Ehecatl turns with a big look on his face.

EHECATL

Stop..?! Why should I stop..?!
The Jimmy's did us badly and soured
the land, just like the Korkans.

PROPHET

And by law, they will restore and
replenish the land, just like the
Korkans..!

EHECATL

You want me ta stop and bow to a
bunch of Jimmy's who pillage the
earth..?!

PROPHET

Yes..! And no..!

EHECATL

Jimmy..! Which one is it..?!

PROPHET

I want you to stop because
Quetzalcoatl is awake..!

EHECATL

For cryin' in the winds of war,
princess, why didn't yah say
somethin'..!

PROPHET

Then you'll help us..!

Ehecatl lowers the wind, which lowers the noise while still holding the planes.

EHECATL

The coalition is fractured,
Prophet. Ye can have our help, but
the Jimmy's close to Quetzalcoatl
will summons the serpent to punish
the mortals and you, Prophet.

(thinking)

If we's seen to be lyin' in da same
grass as you, princess, then we're
in his fire too.

(concerned)

If the serpent wields his power and
isn't defeated, we're all finished.

PROPHET

Then standing together is our only
chance, or Quetzalcoatl will
destroy the world and destroy the
coalition like he promised the
first time.

EHECATL

It won't be the last time, if
Quetzalcoatl has his way.

MAGICIAN

That is a mortal's path to choose,
not ours.

EHECATL

What is our path..?

MAGICIAN

To teach the laws and the power of the universe. And demonstrate the power of wisdom.

EHECATL

Mortals don't care about wisdom.

NELSON

We'll teach them.

(trades looks with Jane)

Together. The first school of the ancients just opened.

Prophet and Cipactili change looks with everyone while Ehec atl stops to clean the soot off his glasses.

CIPACTILI

You know what that means.

PROPHET

It means we're going to Cranium Island, near the islands of Greece. When we get there, we'll consult Hermes about inter-god relations and conflict/resolution dispute mechanisms.

Nelson and Jane trade looks.

NELSON

I didn't know it was this complicated.

EHECATL

(thinks)

Jimmy.. It means we need the mortals to help us.

MAGICIAN

The coalition really needs to address entrance requirements.

(complaining)

I'm not even considered a god. Why can't I be a god..?

NELSON

We can float here and debate your individual god status, or we can fulfill the universal law of wisdom and try to save the world and your coalition at the same time.

EHECATL

Aye, not bad for a buckshot, Jimmy.

Ehecatl breaks into laughter, joined by Cipactili.

CIPACTILI

He's the stuff legends are made of.

Gods all laugh themselves into a dry wheeze, except Prophet.

PROPHET

(to Nelson and Jane)

I'm sorry you had to witness that.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAY - MOVING - GODSPEED

Prophet and Cipactili race their chariots across the ocean at god speed, the mortal equivalent of supersonic. They're protected by invisible shields.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CRANIUM ISLAND - GREECE - DAY

Prophet and Cipactili ease their chariots to park near HERMES, a tall, lanky, older man, who just emerges from a cave, preoccupied with his disdain for the mess of litter and graffiti.

PROPHET

Hermes.

HERMES

Look at this place.

(sees them)

Prophet.

PROPHET

We have a situation.

HERMES

You're telling me. Look at what they did.

PROPHET

Hermes, Quetzalcoatl is awake..!
 (concerned)
 And there's an inter-god conflict
 in the coalition that could see
 Quetzalcoatl lead a group of war
 gods with intentions to destroy the
 world and the coalition.

Hermes is no longer concerned about the litter.

HERMES

Then, we're in trouble.

JANE

What's wrong..?

HERMES

My tablets and scrolls. I left them
 here, but they're all gone now.

NELSON

It's been thousands of years. A
 lot's happened since then.

HERMES

Who's the brain..?

PROPHET

Nelson and Jane are the new
 transitory leaders.

HERMES

Oh boy.

PROPHET

They studied our ways, going back
 thousands of year.

HERMES

You lose track after the first
 thousand.

JANE

Your scrolls are safe. We know
 where they are.

Hermes' eyes widen.

HERMES

I can't rule an inter-god conflict
 without them.

NELSON

They're in the Athens museum.

HERMES

Well, they can't have them. They belong to me. Let's go.

Hermes takes off toward the chariots, the others following. Nelson and Jane are a little behind them.

JANE

(hesitant)

I'm sure they're just going to hand them over.

NELSON

They have to. It's the law now.

Gods hide their smirks, Jane shrugs, they exit toward the chariots.

EXT. THE PARTHANON - GREECE - DAY

Tourist season is in high gear, people of all nationalities are taking in the site of worker gods restoring the temple structures. Not doing any work is, ZEUS, posing for pictures with stoic campiness.

ZEUS

How's this..?

(smirks, changes)

This.

(changes pose)

Where's my temple..?

(changes pose)

Welcome home.

(macho pose)

God of power and thunder..!

People applaud and jostle for more pictures. Zeus raises his hand, enjoying the attention.

MALINALLI, the god of knots and all twisted things, tries to share Zeus' limelight, but people cock their heads, motioning him out of the pictures.

MALINALLI

Hey, come on..!

(kicks the dirt)

Take a picture, will yah..!

(no takers)

You freaks..! I'm on the Aztec calendar for godsakes..!

(MORE)

MALINALLI (CONT'D)

(strange looks)

I'm the god of knots and twisted things..! Look at your shoes, people..!

(they do)

Yeah..! Don't look at me like that..!

Zeus puts his arm around Malinalli's grossly twisted body and takes him aside.

ZEUS

Mal, this isn't working for you.
You ever considered a makeover..?

MALINALLI

But this is who I am.

Zeus catches the sight of Prophet's arrival on her chariot.

ZEUS

Great. Here she comes.

ZEUS' POV - PROPHET'S ARRIVAL

Stepping off her chariot, followed by Hermes, Jane, Nelson, Cipactili, and Magician.

BACK TO SCENE

Hermes approaches Zeus.

HERMES

Zeus. Quetzalcoatl has been freed.

ZEUS

(concerned)

What..! By who..?

Prophet circles Malinalli, looking suspiciously around.

PROPHET

(to Malinalli)

Why aren't you in Mexico, with the rest of the coalition..?

MALINALLI

I don't know.

ZEUS

Doesn't he have enough problems..?

Prophet continues to circle, glaring at Zeus as she passes.

PROPHET

I see you haven't lost your vanity.

Zeus reels back, Prophet studies Malinalli.

MALINALLI

I'll get on my chariot and go..
Right now.

Malinalli tries to exit, but is held by Cipactili and Magician to be grilled.

MAGICIAN

Not so fast, our little ball of knots.

PROPHET

Where were you, Malinalli, along with that crazy Moon, and the weasel himself, Devil, the night Quetzalcoatl was cast free from the stone I set him in..?

(pressuring him)

So that the universe and the coalition would be free of his tyranny..!

Malinalli begins to noticeably shake. Jane and Nelson hear the sound of liquid dripping and look down, disgusted.

NELSON

Hey, we're in a public place.

JANE

(to Prophet)

Shouldn't we be moving on..?

Prophet stays focused on Malinalli, raising her hand.

MALINALLI

Moon, and, and the Devil. They, they tricked me.

PROPHET

What did they say and do..?

MALINALLI

They, they said I would have all this power. More power than you, Prophet.

ZEUS
 (complains)
 Ah, kid..! She doesn't need the
 ego shot, I'll tell you right now.

PROPHET
 (to Zeus)
 Silence..! To the one who the word
 ego was first made for.
 (to Malinalli)
 What else..?

MALINALLI
 They, they said people would love
 me, like they love you, Prophet.

Sympathetic looks are passed around, except Zeus, who can't
 fathom the suggestion.

ZEUS
 Really..! That's what they get for
 having a god of knots.

MALINALLI
 And they said women would think I'm
 hot because it rhymes with knots.

That stops everyone in their tracks. Magician squints.

MAGICIAN
 That just isn't right. Devil must
 have been behind that one.

Nelson and Jane pace, checking the time, impatient.

NELSON
Folks..! Gods..! Obviously you have
 things to work out.

JANE
 But now is not the time. We need to
 work together.

Nelson has a new appreciation for Jane, smiling.

NELSON
 Yeah, together. Let's have a show
 of hands if you can do that.

Hands slowly go up, except for Prophet and Zeus, who try to
 work it out.

PROPHET

(to Zeus)

I admit I was a bit of a perfectionist who liked to organize your life.

(thinks)

If you can say you spent too much time in front of the mirror.

Prophet's hand slowly goes up, hesitantly followed by Zeus.

ZEUS

It's true, I've never met a mirror that didn't love me.

HERMES

Then let's move on. I want my scrolls back.

EXT. MUSEUM OF THE GODS - GREECE - DAY

Jane and Nelson lead the gaggle of gods to the museum steps, looking up at its stone pillars and long line up to get in. A sign reads in different languages: MUSEUM OF THE GODS

Nelson and Jane survey the line to get in. They begin to attract attention and photos.

HERMES

Follow me.

Hermes leads the uncertain group forward to the entrance. Zeus admires the stone pillars and architecture.

ZEUS

Not bad for mortals.

They walk through the line of people, impatiently waiting to buy tickets to enter, stopped by MUSEUM STAFF. The staff member scans their appearances.

MUSEUM STAFF

I'm sorry, the costume benefit isn't until next week. We have a strict dress code.

(refers to line)

And even if you could come in, there's a line up.

JANE

Excuse me, do you live in a plastic bubble..?

NELSON

Do you have any idea what is
happening in the world right now..?

MUSEUM STAFF

Monsieur. Back of the line.

PATRONS nearby begin talking among themselves about their
invasion. A couple point and laugh at Malinalli. Cipactili's
alligator spikes are also the brunt of jokes.

MALINALLI

What are you looking at, mortal..?

PATRON

Back of the line, freak..!

CIPACTILI

He's not a freak, he's a god..!

Patrons start to laugh, point, then begin chanting.
Malinalli undoes a loose end of a knot, trying to whip the
unruly patron.

MALINALLI

Take that..!

PATRONS

Out..! Out..! Out..!

PATRON

How can you be gods..? Gods don't
look ridiculous like you do.

Nelson and Jane exchange nervous looks, the gods and patrons
getting closer and closer, about to jostle.

Nelson tries pushing twenty U.S. dollars into the hand of the
ticket taker, but they pick up the phone and dial.

MUSEUM STAFF

Security.

SECURITY arrives, the chant growing louder and louder.

MUSEUM SECURITY

You must leave now..!

Nelson sides with Zeus, speaking over the crowd.

NELSON

You have to show them..!

Zeus casually nods, wandering into a small open area where he raises his arms and extends them like his famous image.

LIGHTNING BOLTS

Extend from both hands. One bolt travels the entire length of the museum, striking the far wall. The other bolt flashes over the heads of the unruly patrons.

IMMEDIATE AND DEAD CALM

Reigns over the entire scene, gasps and all eyes turning toward Zeus and the gods in a new way.

ZEUS

I.. am.. Zeus..!

JANE

(quietly)

Introduce everybody.

Zeus continues his laser beam stare across the scene, nods. Each one steps forward as they're introduced.

ZEUS

Cipactili, the alligator..!

(two people applaud)

Magician---man of wisdom..!

(applause smattering)

Hermes---the messenger..!

(immediate applause)

Malinalli---lord of the knots..!

(confused applause)

Jane and Nelson Thomas---your new world leaders everyone..!

(surprised applause)

And the one I used to call my own.

The lady of law and justice,

herself---Winged Prophet

everyone..!!

Prophet steps forward to the loudest applause, looking at Zeus with an amount of forgiveness in her eyes.

ZEUS (CONT'D)

If everyone will stay where they are and remain calm, we'll secure our scrolls and be out of your way in a few short minutes..!!

(scans the crowd)

Again, my name is Zeus---your thunderous wonder..!!

Through more loud applause and cheering, Prophet rolls her eyes, unable to believe he actually said that.

They step forward, thwarted by FOUR SECURITY GUARDS.

MUSUEM SECURITY

The scrolls are museum property.
Your presence here is unwanted.
(points)
The door is behind you.

Hermes laughs and spins, playing to the crowd.

HERMES

How mortals amaze..! You found our
stuff---like you don't have enough
stuff of your own---but there's
never any giving back..!

NELSON

(to Security)
We really need the scrolls. The
future of the entire universe
depends on Hermes having them.

The security guards and patrons within earshot start to laugh out loud again.

MUSUEM SECURITY

Well, I get the lightning man.
(refers to Hermes)
But what's this old man going to
do..?

Hermes hears him and starts to get wound up. Jane steps in.

JANE

We have to get those scrolls back
to solve an inter-god conflict that
could destroy the entire planet.

More laughter builds into an impossible situation, moving into Nelson's stern gaze to his god squad.

NELSON

Use force if necessary..!

Bedlam erupts with guns being produced, but counteracted by Hermes' quick thinking, pulling the guns out of their hands.

MUSUEM SECURITY

Stop them..!

Hermes moves into the museum, followed by the others. The security guards are pushed away by Hermes' powers.

NELSON
Find the scrolls..!

Nelson leads the rest of them forward.

Zeus now lifts and suspends the Security Guards in the air, above the museum patrons, now mesmerized by the events. He takes a good look at the guards and the patrons.

ZEUS
Oh, and by the way, nice building.
The worker gods will be meeting
here once a month until the
Parthanon is rebuilt.

Zeus turns and follows the others deeper into the museum. The patrons, everyone, gives them a wide path to walk.

NELSON
Nice and easy. To them, we're
thieves.

HERMES
(laughs)
Teacher, have you not asked where
all these things come from..?
(looks around)
I have.

NELSON
You have an opinion.

HERMES
(spins, calls)
We are now entering the den of
thieves, everyone..! Please be
careful---thieves apparently have
feelings..! Good grief.

NELSON
Nice touch.

Hermes stops, throws his arms up, again totally disgusted.

HERMES
Now look what they've done..!

HERMES POV - MUSEUM SIGN

That reads: SCROLLS AND TABLETS OF THE WORLD

BACK TO SCENE

They all pause, trying to figure out his new concern.

NELSON

This is where your scrolls are.

HERMES

(disgust)

Read what it says though.

NELSON

Scrolls and tablets of the world.

HERMES

Of the world. Of the world..!

(to the other gods)

World..! World couldn't read and write. World has done nothing but get drunk and chase women---and look at the mess we're in now.

NELSON

The world's not all bad.

HERMES

That's why you're mortals.

CIPACTILI

We wouldn't be here without you and your mortal friends.

MALINALLI

I'm not perfect. I'm just doing my best.

CIPACTILI

(bats her eyes)

I think.. You're pretty close, Mal.

Magician's eyes just about pop out of his sockets. Nelson and Jane exchange curious glances.

MALINALLI

You do..? Nobody's ever said that to me before.

MAGICIAN

Love is in the air.

Hermes leads them into the display area.

DISPLAY CASES ARE OPEN, EXPOSING SCROLLS AND TABLETS

Hermes finds the largest scroll, inspects it.

HERMES

Universal laws.

(hands it to Jane)

Hold that---careful.

(inspects another)

Inter-god laws.

(hands it to Nelson)

Hold that.

(inspects another)

Lesser-god laws.

(hands it to Malinalli,
smirks)

For you my knotted friend. Don't
lose it.

Hermes studies two tablets sitting on a protective wood case, nods, then seals them in the box and takes it for himself.

NELSON

Okay, let's go.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAY - MOVING - GODSPEED

Prophet, Cipactili, Malinalli, and Zeus have their chariots almost joined, shielded from the supersonic speed. Nelson, Jane, Magician, and winged dragon are in the mix.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TEMPLE OF WARRIORS - CHICHEN ITZA, MEXICO - DAY

From a hill overlooking the ringed monument where Quetzalcoatl was once cast in stone, Jane slowly peeks over the rise.

JANE'S POV - QUETZALCOATL

The huge serpent is alive, holding court with a group of lesser gods inside the temple ruins.

BACK TO SCENE

Her eyes tell a story of fear, her voice hushed.

JANE
Quetzalcoatl.

She ducks back down, produces a pair of binoculars.

NELSON
That didn't sound encouraging.

Jane motions quiet.

JANE
He's huge. And he's alive.

They all slowly peek over the rise, Jane with binoculars.

JANE'S POV - BINOCULARS - TEMPLE OF WARRIORS MONUMENT

Oddly, tourists surround the temple, curiously taking photos. Chariots of the gods are parked around the outside. In the middle of the temple is Quetzalcoatl, holding court with:

OZOMATALI--- the monkey, DEVIL, QUIAHUITI---the rain, CUETZPALLIN---the lizard, ATL---the water, MOON, IZCUINTLI---the dog, the SUN, COZCACUAHTLI---the vulture, the FOOL, MIQUIZTLI---death, and the WORLD. Their physical characteristics are as unique as their domains.

BACK TO SCENE

They all slowly sink down again from their vantage point after witnessing the gravity of the situation.

JANE
Looks like they're planning something.

MALINALLI
(hushed)
You mean, like.
(swallows)
The destruction of the world and the coalition.

Stealth grave looks are passed around, the non-humans visibly upset with Malinalli, who's upset with himself.

MAGICIAN
You were saving that little gem all this time..?

ZEUS
 Oh, he saved it.
 (thinks)
 Can we break the coalition..?

Hermes furiously studies the scrolls.

NELSON
 (to Malinalli)
 How did you know about the
 meeting..?

Malinalli is visibly shaken and afraid.

CIPACTILI
 Mallll, hon.. You have to come
 clean, or they'll think you're
 aligned with them.

MALINALLI
 (frustrated)
 Can't they just vote me out..? I'm
 tired of the politics.

Hermes instructs without lifting his head from the scrolls.

HERMES
 Tell us my little knotted friend.
 (exhales)
 Then I'm going to tell you what
 we're going to do to fix it.

CIPACTILI
 Tell them.. I wanna hear what the
 crank-pot has in mind.
 (to Malinalli)
 We need an idea right about now.

MALINALLI
 (confessing)
 I did align with them.
 (gasps)
 But I didn't mean to. They tricked
 me. All these rules and little
 bitty details made it sound
 official, except for one thing.

CIPACTILI
 You aligned with them..?

MALINALLI
 I thought that something had to
 change---with mortals.

(MORE)

MALINALLI (CONT'D)

And I thought Quetzalcoatl was that change.

(severe regret)

But I was wrong.

HERMES

Fill our mortal friends in.

MALINALLI

Mortals and gods, we're all different. We do different things. We believe different things. We all make mistakes.

(looks around)

I'm living proof of that. So I started to think that maybe mortals aren't so bad after all.

(pauses)

The one---who doesn't make these mistakes.. He's our best ally.

HERMES

(disdain)

You know how much it pains me to admit that a god of knots and twisted things is right..?

They all look at Nelson and Jane warmly, even Hermes cracks a brief smile before resuming a cranky posture.

MALINALLI

If you don't argue with them, you have a chance. It takes their power away.

(exhales)

I'm going to be late.

Malinalli disappears over the rise to join Quetzalcoatl and the other gods meeting in the temple below. Nelson reacts.

NELSON

Hey.

JANE

Shhhh. They'll hear you.

NELSON

What was that all about..?

HERMES

You're in a pickle, sonny. It's going to take everything you've got to get out of it.

(MORE)

HERMES (CONT'D)

(smirks)

Malinalli's on our side.

They're joined by Ehecatl and Ce-Cuauhtli. A look of serious business comes over them as they circle around.

HERMES (CONT'D)

He's politically enticed members who are not war gods into his coalition. This is a flagrant violation of the coalition's universal agreement.

ZEUS

Here, here.

PROPHET

I second that.

ZEUS

You do..?

PROPHET

It's time to shed the bad blood between us all.

(scans them all)

Like The One.

Jane mouths *the one*, not understanding.

NELSON

We've never heard of---The One.

JANE

It wasn't in your book of wisdom.

There's a big gap of silence and strange looks.

HERMES

I risk my livelihood by telling you this. How many thousand years do I need to worry about mortals on one of the most beautiful planets we've ever been to..?

(thinks)

The One, simply put is The One. They're the only one. We're servants. We're his poppers, his tailors, butlers, surfs, his floor washers, dish washers, his beauty, and anything that's good.

NELSON

You're servants. God servants.

ZEUS

We have day jobs.

CIPACTILI

I have to get done up every time we go on tour like this.

MAGICIAN

I just about suffocate in that crazy egg every time, but that's what this gig is---and that's what I am obligated to do. Every time.

PROPHET

We've never had mortal friends.
(to Jane and Nelson)
Until we met you.

HERMES

The coalitions, all of them, are afraid they'll lose status if mortals ever found out that the universe could be governed under one god, one Kahuna, one chief, one all mighty.

Jane twists in her thoughts, joined by Nelson.

JANE

Then we need The One on our side.

PROPHET

Nelson lost his job for the sake of my name and our stories.
(regret)
We owe him and the world.

NELSON

The only thing we need to worry about is stopping Quetzalcoatl.

HERMES

(refers to a scroll)
It says an inter-god conflict can be solved by playing a match on the ancient ball court.
(to Nelson)
And there's a secret law I can't even put in my mind, fearing interception.

NELSON

Then issue the challenge.

Hermes continues to read, fearing.

HERMES

They will negotiate severe terms.

JANE

Terms..?

HERMES

We can make the sporting challenge due to ineligible members in his coalition. But in return, they have the authority to challenge for control of the entire coalition. Even The One would come under Quetzalcoatl's authority if we were to lose the challenge.

Jane and Nelson look at each other like, this sounds like it was just made up.

JANE

Did any of you think about how this was going to sound thousands of years later..?

NELSON

Was there a meeting or a vote..?
How did this happen..?

Hermes issues Nelson the most piercing stare as he slowly winds the scroll shut.

HERMES

We're gods..!

NELSON

With day jobs.

HERMES

Shhhhhhhhh.

JANE

We're out numbered and we can't lose.

As they ponder their potential misfortune, the swooshing sound of an approaching chariot delivers one belonging to POPOL VUH, divine twins of ancient Maya, big, athletic in their nature.

All business looking, they depart from the chariot, making eyes with Prophet and Cipactili, nods to Jane and Nelson, salutes to the rest.

POPOL
 Good afternoon, divine lovelies,
 mortals, and other minor gods.

ZEUS
 Minor..? Speak for yourselves.

Zeus, Popol, and Vuh, get into a strutting contest. Nelson covers his eyes.

NELSON
 Guys..! Gods..!

POPOL
 The Future kept us in the loop, she
 sends her best.
 (looks are traded)
 We've been on three-a-days, getting
 ready for the match. We cut back
 last week, fueled up last night---
 got our..
 (winks at Prophet)
 Beauty sleep.

VUH
 We haven't worked..
 (winks at Cipactili)
 Or played with you before.
 (beat)
 We're Popol Vuh. He's Popol, and
 I'm Vuh.

Nelson turns to Jane, shrugs, like, *who are they..?*

JANE
 (whispers)
 Popol Vuh, are divine twin heroes
 who've played the ancient game for
 centuries against the lords of the
 underworld.

NELSON
 (whispers)
 Are they any good..?

JANE
 (blushes)
 Well, look at them.

NELSON
 This is serious.

VUH

(winks at Jane)

This is serious, and we're serious.

(smirks)

Someone tell me why the women get us all the time, but the men don't.

POPOL

What Vuh's trying to say is, we're here to help.

NELSON

Did the Future tell you what happens in the match..?

VUH

It's against the law. But she did say to kick the bleepidy bleep serpent where the sun don't slither.

POPOL

Vuh, wha'd'yah say we go down and trash it up a little with those war dogs before the match.

NELSON

There's a real government, run by mortals, who can help work this out.

JANE

Really..?

VUH

Pope, it's that weird hand over situation again. Nobody knows what fire's comin' from which dragon.

JANE

There'll be no kicking Quetzalcoatl. He wants to destroy the world and the universe.

(thinks)

Maybe he needs a friend.

POPOL

The breathing fire gets old.

Nelson and Jane look at each other with serious looks.

NELSON

Issue the challenge. Assemble the team.

EXT. WHITEHOUSE / OUTSIDE OVAL OFFICE - DAY

The lights are mostly out, a couple flicker, and candles have been lit. The History Channel is on the television.

An ASTROLOGER comes to the President's side, seeing chariots and gods hovering outside.

THE PRESIDENT'S POV - GODS ON CHARIOTS

Floating outside his window, issuing a salute.

BACK TO SCENE

The President slowly salutes back in disbelief.

ASTROLOGER

It was only a matter of time before they returned.

THE PRESIDENT

Really.

(looks out again)

You don't think it's fake..?

ASTROLOGER

It looks pretty real to me.

THE PRESIDENT

Close the drapes, maybe they'll go away.

Staff shrugs and closes the drapes, as good as any other suggestion right now.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TEMPLE OF WARRIORS - CHICHEN ITZA, MEXICO - DAY

Malinalli is grim faced, the meeting becoming heated. Quetzalcoatl shakes the ground as he moves around.

QUETZALCOATL

This meeting confirms I will control all the coalitions at long last..! I hereby make the motion under the coalition's universal agreement, that I, Quetzalcoatl, be named the new leader of the universal coalition of the gods. Do I have a seconder?

DEVIL
 (raises his hand)
 I second that.

QUETZALCOATL
 All in favor..?

All hands go up, except the World and Malinalli's.

QUETZALCOATL (CONT'D)
 Against..?

No hands or arms go up.

QUETZALCOATL (CONT'D)
 Abstained..?

The World and Malinalli put their arms up. Quetzalcoatl leans into Malinalli, intimidating him, face-to-face.

QUETZALCOATL (CONT'D)
 You weaken the resolve of our new coalition, with anything less than a unanimous vote. Are you sure you don't want to vote for me..?

MALINALLI
 (terrified)
 I don't know everything there is to know about universal politics, but there are other coalitions not here that should vote.
 (carefully)
 Coalitions loyal to The One.

WORLD
 You'll never get a vote from me on destroying the world, you know that..!

Quetzalcoatl paces back and forth, looking at the rest of the gods, resisting the temptation to breath fire on the tourists.

QUETZALCOATL
 That is confidential information!
 I am seizing the coalitions, even those loyal to---The One..!
 (firmly)
 It's time to get on with destroying the world, so we can start renewing it---from scratch..!

WORLD

Nooo.. That's a terrible idea, it
always has been. We have to break
the cycle.

Quetzalcoatl goes into a mini-rage, spewing fire in a big
circle, then off before staring Malinalli and the World
straight in the eye again.

Quetzalcoatl is panting, gathering himself before he can
speak, when a TOURIST with a video camera stammers.

TOURIST

That, that, that was g, great..!
C, can we see th, that a, again..?

Tourists applaud and cheer. Quetzalcoatl rolls his eyes and
chuckles, along with the other gods.

QUETZALCOATL

They want to see it again.

DEVIL

(snickers)
Oh, they're going to see it again.

MOON

(howls)
Oooooooooooooo..!
(smirks)
Did you get that..?!

WORLD

Don't pander like that, you're
supposed to be war gods..!

Fool, adopts a foolish pose, thinking it's threatening.

FOOL

Here's what a war god looks like.

Sun takes over by flaring bright, blinding the tourists.

SUN

This is what you want.

Quiahuiti---rain, drenches the Sun, dulling his rays.

QUIAHUITI

Sun shower everyone.

ATL

(applauds)
Bravo, bravo..!

An all out *ham fest* breaks out, with Izcuintli--- the dog, barking, Ozomatali---monkey, jumping, Cuetzpallin--- the lizard, doing tongue tricks, and Miquiztli---death, faking his death.

Quetzalcoatl, after watching this, wags his serpent head and winds up, delivering an obnoxious blast of fire just over the tourists heads, sending them running.

QUETZALCOATL

And don't come back..!

Cozcacuahtli---the vulture, does a little chicken dance.

COZCUACUAHTLI

Buk..! Buk, buk, buk..! Chickens,
chick, chick, chicken..!

Quetzalcoatl wonders what he's got for a team, circling, staring at each of them.

QUETZALCOATL

We are dangerous..! We are war
gods..! Can you at least pretend
like you've got an ounce of danger
somewhere in you.

The gaggle of characters try to act menacing.

ATL

I'll drip all over you, before you
slip and drown..! Arrrrrrr..!

FOOL

I'll fool you into thinking you can
run, but you can't hide..!

SUN

When I light up, you'll think it's
a nice day, but it won't be..!

QUIAHUITI

And then, I'll douse you back to
your worst nightmare..!

COZCUACUAHTLI

I'll peck, peck, peck crumbs off
your plate.

(resigned)

That's as mean as I get.

Quetzalcoatl buries his serpent head.

WORLD

That was weak. Try this.
 (badly done)
 Enter the world of pain..! Ah, ah.

MOON

You'll be in so much pain, you'll
 howl at the..
 (howling)
Mooooooooooooooooooooonnnn..!

MALINALLI

And I'm gonna line you up, knock
 you down, tie you down, and then
 I'm gonna string you up..!
 (shows a knot)
 Pain, you're knot going to forget.

DEVIL

Yeah, well I'm gonna trick you into
 thinking you're actually working
 for the other side.
 (clumsy)
 And you'll have a devil of a time
 trying to figure out why you're not
 winning.

Malinalli looks around in obvious discomfort.

MALINALLI

That's not funny, you guys.

Quetzalcoatl, turns his serpent head, right into Malinalli.

QUETZALCOATL

Why isn't it, my knotted friend..?

MALINALLI

(terrified)
 I, I don't know.

QUETZALCOATL

You weren't, by chance, visited by
 Prophet and her opposition party
 were you..?

MALINALLI

Why would you say that..?

QUETZALCOATL

Answer me..!

PROPHET (O.S.)
He's good for nothing..! You can
 keep him as far as we're concerned.

HEADS TURN

Revealing Prophet, surrounded by Zeus, Cipactili, Magician,
 Hermes, Popol, Vuh, Jane, and Nelson.

QUETZALCOATL
 It's the stone princess herself.

Quetzalcoatl cranes his long serpent neck toward her.

QUETZALCOATL (CONT'D)
 It's been much too long, my lovely,
 much too long.

PROPHET
 It hasn't been long enough

QUETZALCOATL
 What brings you here..?

PROPHET
 Your declared leadership of the
 coalition is being challenged.

QUETZALCOATL
 On what grounds..?

Hermes steps forward, unfurling his scroll.

HERMES
 Section delta, chapter nine.
 Ineligible membership. You have how
 many ineligible members..?

PROPHET
 All of them.

QUETZALCOATL
 You will not defeat me a second
 time, Prophet. I have declared my
 intentions to rule over all the
 coalitions, and---The One..!

HERMES
 (quotes)
 If a declared leader has even one
 ineligible member, they may be
 subject to a sporting challenge.

(MORE)

HERMES (CONT'D)

Failure to comply gives The One
full jurisdiction to rule and issue
punishment.

Fearful reactions by Quetzalcoatl's gangly crew.

PROPHET

We're here to challenge your
leadership over a match on the ball
court. Winner takes all.

Quetzalcoatl raises his eyebrows, grins, looks over at his
gangly crew, smiles.

QUETZALCOATL

If we win, it would be binding
under universal law..?

PROPHET

And if you lose, your coalition
would be declared illegal, and you
would be subject to my governing.

QUETZALCOATL

(smiles)
You have a deal.
(serious)
Gather your gods and let the game
begin.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANCIENT BALL COURT - CHICHEN ITZA - DAY

In the middle of the field, the teams line up. Their domains
and dress are unique, wearing ancient sporting gear.

Quetzalcoatl's coalition has fourteen players, including,
Ozomatali, Moon, Izcuintli, Devil, Quiahuiti, Sun,
Cozacuahtli, Cuetzpallin, Atl, Fool, Miquiztli, World, and
Malinalli.

Prophet's coalition for *the one* has ten players, including
Magician, Zeus, Cipactili, Nelson, Jane, Popol, Vuh, and new
arrivals, Ehecatl, and Ce-Cuauhtli.

Hermes comes to the middle of the field with a ball and his
officiating scrolls.

HERMES

Each team has one hour to see how many times they can put the ball through each ring in the side walls, using anything but their hands or arms.

(scans both teams)

You may jostle or check, but there can be no holding, tripping, roughing, clutching, or grabbing. And under coalition rules..

(hesitant)

You may use godly powers.

Quetzalcoatl and Devil begin laughing out loud. Quetzalcoatl extends his serpent body high above every player, showing how easy it is for him to defend his team's ring.

QUETZALCOATL

I like this..!

The serpent then lets a fiery blast from his mouth.

Hermes and Nelson exchange glances.

HERMES

I am the game's official. My decisions are final.

(beat)

Time, as always, will keep the time.

TIME, a god with clock bits and sundials in her attire, smiles and waves.

The players each step forward, showing their vanity to the other team.

Hermes, without the scrolls, walks to the center of the court with an ancient looking ball. When he raises it, the stadium is silent.

HERMES TOSSES THE BALL

Into the middle of the court line-up. God characters all mash up, the ball bounces around while the god characters unleash a comical storm of their powers.

QUETZALCOATL BALANCES THE BALL

Above their heads, looks down at Nelson and Jane.

QUETZALCOATL
Mortals..! Did anyone tell you it
is customary for the losers to be
sacrificed to the gods..!

Then, Quetzalcoatl swings his serpent tail around, kicking the feet of Prophet's team out, except Nelson and Jane.

NELSON
 I know it too well.

JANE
 It's a long story.

When Nelson and Jane move to block Quetzalcoatl, they're checked by Miquiztli---death, knocking them over.

MIQUIZTLI
Nothing like a little death in the
afternoon..!

Quetzalcoatl saunters over to their hoop and bounces it in for an easy point, but Hermes' arm goes up.

HERMES
 Let's see.. Tripping---of the
 whole team, roughing, and taunting.
 I am awarding three *try for*
 attempts for Prophet's coalition.

Quetzalcoatl spews a raging fire blast, just missing Hermes.

QUETZALCOATL
You got to be kidding me..! Are
you blind..?

HERMES
 (warns)
 I'll issue a technical.

Quetzalcoatl spews another fire blast, sending Hermes' arm the air again.

QUETZALCOATL
That's a hometown call, if ever
there was one..!

HERMES
 That's four *try for* attempts for
 Prophet's coalition.

TIME'S WATCHING THE GAME

And monitoring the clock. The GRIM REAPER is standing next to her. They offer play-by-play analysis. Their comments and reactions INTERCUT AS NECESSARY.

TIME

How is Quetzalcoatl's team going to destroy the world and the entire coalition when they keep putting the other team on the line..?

GRIM REAPER

I'm with yah, Time. It's a terrible strategy if you really want to end it all. It's sad, really. Death doesn't have an ego, but they do.

HERMES POV

Standing near Prophet's team ring with the ball, announcing.

HERMES

Try fors..!

Jane and Nelson come to a semi-circle drawn in the grass.

NELSON

You ever kicked a ball through a basketball hoop before..?

JANE

Never.

NELSON

Me either.

JANE

No pressure.

Hermes places the ball on the grass in front of Nelson.

NELSON

We should have practiced this in class.

JANE

Oh boy.

HERMES

Two shots each.

Nelson goes to the line, studies the ball, studies the hoop-
ring. He gets ready to kick it.

JANE

We really need these points.

Nelson is distracted, has to step back.

TIME

Lady, c'mon.

NELSON

You just iced me. How am I going
to make it now..?

Nelson makes his first kick, misses by a country mile.

JANE

We're not sports people. How do
you even know what that is..?

Hermes collects and sets the ball for his second attempt.

NELSON

It's when you say something at the
wrong time.

JANE

I don't think that's it.

Nelson kicks it. Again, he misses the wide side of the barn.

JANE (CONT'D)

(discouraged)
Okay, good try, good try.

NELSON

That was horrible. Your turn.

They're approached by Popol and Vuh, offering air demos.

POPOL

Off the foot. Nice and easy.
(claps)
Okay..! Ready..!

Hermes places the ball while Jane tries a really bad looking
yogic stretch.

NELSON

Don't hurt yourself.

JANE

You need to stretch.

Jane tries to kick the ball. It's a really bad kick that doesn't hit the wall. Nelson lightly claps.

NELSON

Okay, okay.. One more.

Her next kick is even worse, kicking it over the wall. She has an epiphany, gesturing to the game.

JANE

It was the downfall of their civilization and no one thought to change the rules.

Hermes returns with the ball.

HERMES

Zero, zero. War coalition's ball.

DISSOLVE TO:

SERIES OF SHOTS - BALL COURT MATCH

A) Magician uses his skills to move the ball along the walls of the court, watching it fall through the hoop to score. Team cheering after.

B) Quetzalcoatl answers, receiving a kick next to the hoop, bounces it in. Team cheering after.

C) Sun flashes on, blinds Nelson and steals the ball.

D) Fool makes a fool of himself with the ball.

E) Moon bounces a shot off his head, but misses.

F) Popol and Vuh work a double combo, put one in off their knees.

G) Zeus pressures back into Izcuintli---the dog, causing Hermes to put his yellow flag up. Dog barks.

H) Izcuintli---the dog, kicks try for attempt, firing back through his legs, but misses.

I) Cipactili winks, then scoots around Malinalli to score.

J) Cuetzpallin---the lizard, makes a shot with his tail.

K) Prophet and Zeus run a give and go. Zeus scores, they high-five each other.

- L) Malinalli's dangling lines dragging off his body cause his own players to trip.
- M) Quetzalcoatl breaths fire, gets another technical.
- N) Jane and Nelson can't make the free kicks---again.
- O) Time's score card reads: PROPHET 14 WAR GODS 14
- P) Grim Reaper stands next to a countdown clock reading:
1:00

BACK TO SCENE

A minute left in the game, the score is tied. World puts his hands together indicating time-out. Hermes raises his arm.

HERMES

Time out, war gods.

WORLD

There's no rush.

Both teams huddle for their time out meeting, when unexpectedly, from overhead, several swooshing sounds are heard.

MORE WAR GODS ARRIVE

By air, landing nearby. They're darker and nastier than any war gods we've seen before. They park their chariots and make their way onto the field, cracking their digits.

Quetzalcoatl grows a big smile, especially with the timing of their entrance. It couldn't of been more perfect. He directs his smile toward Prophet and blows her a kiss.

IN PROPHET'S HUDDLE

She lowers her head back into their huddle. Nelson pops his head out of the huddle for a second, touching his head. He makes brief eye-contact with Malinalli, puts his head down.

PROPHET

(concerned)

This isn't good. I wish I could say it was. Does anyone have a plan..?

NELSON

(whispers)

I received a plan.

POPOL
What..? Run.

NELSON
No, the opposite.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE END OF THE GAME

Hermes places the ball on the ground at center. Prophet's team is totally out-numbered. Ozomatli---the monkey, gets the ball and starts to freewheel with it. Ehecatl checks him.

EHECATL
Jimmy..! Yah play well for a monkey..! We can't top his play now, can we..?

Suddenly, Ozomatli makes a mistake and drops the ball. Cozcacuahtli---the vulture, starts making menacing faces while he controls the ball.

EHECATL (CONT'D)
Oh, lovely..! Jimmy..! You got a beautiful smile..! You're the star of the team..!

Cozcacuahtli drops the ball, picked up by Atl.

POPOL
Atl, the water, you're the most beautiful water there is.

Atl can't handle it and drops the ball. There's a trend---they can't handle compliments. Moon gets the ball.

NELSON
Everyone, let's hear it for the
Mooooooooooooonnnn..! Responsible
for more mended and tender hearts
than any other god..!

Moon can't handle the ball and kicks it to Sun.

JANE
(sings)
Here comes the Sun, little darlin'
Here comes the Sun, and I say...
He's all right..! Do, do, do,
do, do ,do, do, do, do, do...

Sun can't handle it and kicks it to World.

VUH

Give it up for World everyone. We wouldn't be here right now if it wasn't for the World..!

World's done, dead in a heartbeat after that. Seeing the whole war coalition weak at their knees, World kicks it to their leader, Quetzalcoatl.

INSERT - TIME'S CLOCK COUNTING DOWN

Reading: 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, etc.

INTERCUT COUNTDOWN AS NECESSARY

BACK TO SCENE

Quetzalcoatl, used to being feared and challenged, doesn't know what to do when Prophet's team stop defending against him and open a clear path to his hoop to win the contest.

Quetzalcoatl's being motioned forward by the new arrivals.

PROPHET

Quetz, we've had our days. I just wanna say sorry for the grief I've put you through.

MAGICIAN

Yeah, you know it's true, he's just misunderstood. A perfect serpent specimen, he is.

Quetzalcoatl tries to move forward to the hoop and stutters, the clock continuing to count down.

EHECATL

Awww, Jimmyy..! I don't reckon we'll ever have another like him. I feel all warm and safe just knowing he's got the whole universe at his control right now.

The adoration causing obvious distress, Quetzalcoatl tries to blow fire, but only smoke fizzles out.

QUETZALCOATL

Stop.

ZEUS

Why stop adoring such a great warrior, a true warrior.
 (to the whole team)
 All of you. There hasn't been this many superstars in one place since *We Are The World*.

Groans of agony from Quetzalcoatl's team.

CIPACTILI

We love you Quetzalcoatl.

Quetzalcoatl's eyes begin to spin in their sockets.

NELSON

We wouldn't be here without him.

JANE

The perfect serpent is about to...

Quetzalcoatl crashes to the ground, spilling the ball free. All the war gods are disabled from the compliments, except Malinalli---who receives the ball at his feet.

With 3 seconds left on the clock, Malinalli kicks the ball, bouncing off the wall and in through the hoop before time expires.

There's a moment of stunned disbelief, then a celebration, as they realize they've just won control of the universe.

NELSON

We won.. We won..!

The celebration is on, lots of congratulations. Malinalli goes over near Quetzalcoatl and does a little dance.

MALINALLI

(mocking)
 Are you sure you don't want to vote for me..?
 (laughs, sings)
 Ding, dong, the snake is gone,
 which old snake, the wicked snake.
 Ding dong, the wicked snake is gone..

Quetzalcoatl's tail grabs Malinalli, startles everyone. He revives himself and gets up, holding Malinalli. The rest of his team begins to revive themselves.

QUETZALCOATL

It's comforting to know I'm still despised.

MALINALLI

You can put me down now, because you lost the game.

(snickers)

And you won't rule the universe any more. The one will.

QUETZALCOATL

Oh, really..!

PROPHET

Let Malinalli go.

QUETZALCOATL

And what if I don't feel like it..?

PROPHET

You'll be subjected to a queasy love song before being committed to spend eternity in stone.

Quetzalcoatl looks around with the others, fearful.

QUETZALCOATL

You wouldn't.

Prophet's team breaks into a musical number, or song, along the lines of *feelings, nothing more than feelings*.

The war gods begin to choke and gasp again, buckling at their knees as the song progresses, until they drop like flies.

Malinalli uses string and line from his body to tie Quetzalcoatl up as a few flying worker gods approach with a large suspended cargo net underneath.

HERMES

(reviewing a scroll)

It's the salt water that does it.
For good this time.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN SKY - DAY - TRAVELING

The worker gods fly together with Quetzalcoatl bound underneath in the cargo net over salt water, about to cast the spell that will forever turn him to stone.

THE NET IS RELEASED

Watching Quetzalcoatl slowly splash into the ocean, slowly sinking to his forever stone state.

EXT. TEMPLE OF WARRIORS - CHICHEN ITZA - DAY

Around the pillars where the meetings took place, Quetzalcoatl slowly begins to appear again as the stone figure, merging back into the temple architecture.

EXT. ANCIENT BALL COURT - CHICHEN ITZA - DAY

A BRIGHTNESS RADIATES DOWN UPON THEM FROM THE SKY.

Prophet and Hermes are reading from scrolls, processing the lesser gods into probation, standing before them. They each look up, feeling the effect of the light.

MAGICIAN

It's from the one. He just sent his best to you both.

Nelson smirks, taking Jane to his side.

PROPHET

To the war gods.. It is hereby understood that while you were falsely coerced into entering a faction of the coalition that was breaking the law, you will be placed on probation for a time and a half, after which you will become members of the coalition.

HERMES

You will spend your probation completing the restoration work, per our coalition contract, after which you will improve your wisdom skills under the direction of Nelson and Jane Thomas.

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE - RESULTS OF THE GODS

Showing visual stories about life with the gods.

- A) Nelson teaches his old class, with Cipactili, about chariot driving, showing diagrams on the wall. Principal Peter is a student in the class.
- B) Jane signs her new book: *Gods of the Aztec*, with Ehecatl and Ce-Cuauhtli at her side enjoying celebrity status.
- C) Mexico City temple reconstruction progress, showing bright new facades on the temple, war gods in prison like garb working, and an expanded view of the surrounding area being restored.
- D) Nelson and Jane teach a group of gods about grocery shopping, among stunned store patrons. They're taught about money at the till, but the cashier is comatose.
- E) Mecca of Los Angeles showing a temple construction out of crushed automobiles, a freeway with a few cars, and an alternate level of chariot traffic that operates in the air above the cars, moving in the same directions.
- F) Nelson and Jane flying their chariots together.
- G) Principal Peter trying to learn how to fly his chariot, bumping into things before lightly crashing.
- H) The Whitehouse staff and the President induct Prophet, Zeus, and Hermes into civil service with the government.
- I) Popol and Vuh teach a gym class outside the school where everyone from the school is playing the ancient Aztec ball game, complete with modern hoops.

FADE OUT: