

CHURCH & STATE

Written by

Crystal Holt

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1 INT. PRISON CHECK OUT - DAY

1

BEAU HARPER (45) - black, bald, beautiful buck checks out of prison. If Idris Elba and Tyson Beckford were 2 out of 3 triplets, their hotter, tortured, pious, self-sabotaging brother would be Beau. The GUARD almost reveres him, like he's sad that he may never see him again.

GUARD

Mr. Harper, are you ready to go back into the world?

BEAU

Is the world ready for me?

GUARD

I can admit, that I have grown fond of you, Mr. Harper. But I don't ever want to see you again.

BEAU

Ditto.

Beau grabs his freezer bag full of belongings: wallet, a very expensive watch, a cross on a chain, a pocket bible, a dead cell phone and a wedding ring. He shuffles his tired but strapping frame through one buzzed door then another. The black suit and wrinkled buttoned shirt he came in with hangs on his frame like the clothes of a fatter man who finally started going to the gym.

2 EXT. PRISON - DAY

2

Beau exits the prison to find a lone Black SUV at the curb. There is a young black man BROOKS (25) waiting for him. Brooks is tall, gangly like an awkward basketball player. Engrossed in a dating app, Brooks stands at attention when he sees Beau. Beau doesn't know him from a hole in the wall. Brooks looks to him like a student to Aristotle.

BROOKS

Pastor Harper, you look well.

BEAU

And you are?

BROOKS

Brooks, sir, I'm your driver.

BEAU
I don't need a driver.

BROOKS
According to the state of Michigan,
you do.

BEAU
My wife sent you.

BROOKS
Your father.

Brooks opens the door and Beau warily gets in the back.

3 INT. BLACK SUV - DAY - CONTINUOUS

3

Brooks scrambles and gets in the front.

BEAU
How much is this fancy uber going
to cost me?

BROOKS
Nothing.

BEAU
Nothing?

BROOKS
I'm not an uber. I'm your driver.
Permanent if you like me.

BEAU
Who hired you? Marigold? Duke?

BROOKS
Pastor Sterling.

Beau rolls his eyes and sinks into the seat.

BROOKS (CONT'D)
Where too? Home?

BEAU
Drive around the city for a while.

Montage of them driving around Detroit. The abandoned
factories, the urban blight, the black fist, the middle class
neighborhood, the proximity to Windsor, Canada; the clubs,
the hole in a wall food joints.

EXT. ST. JOHN'S PARISH - DAY

Beau and Brooks pull up to the back of an old ornate Catholic church.

BEAU

Wait here.

BROOKS

For how long, Pastor Sterling is expecting us.

BEAU

However long it takes.

Beau gets out of the car.

4

INT. ST. JOHN'S PARISH - RECTORY - DAY

4

Poker Game with the whole gang. The catholic, Father FRANCIS DOHERTY(40s) - a dreamy intellectual that downplays his looks with vintage glasses and pious vestige.

The Buddhist, BODHI KENKAI(40s) - if Keanu Reeves were a Calvin Klein model, he'd still be ugly standing next to Bodhi. Bodhi is smug in his enlightenment. People are drawn to him like a butterfly to lava.

The Mormon, HILTON JONES(40s) looks like he has a sister mother. Skittish and overly helpful, Hilton stands out in the group as the person one wonders how he's friends with the group.

The Imam, AMIR MUHAMMAD(40s), is smoldering, emotionally guarded and humorless. He has the biggest heart and the hardest shell.

EPHRAIM COHEN(40s) - the rabbi - a little chubby, a little brash, a little progressive, and a little hot in his confidence and business acumen.

Like a dirty, off color political joke, they are the best of friends. Beau's friends. The secret kind. The kind that grew up w/ secrets. The kind you make secrets with. The kind that keeps them. They are milling about preparing for their poker game. They are simultaneously nervous and excited. They are betting on Beau's arrival.

AMIR

Do you think he will come?

EPHRAIM

It's our monthly card game. He was released today. Of course he will come.

FRANCIS

I don't know. He may feel shame.

BODHI

Beau does not know shame. He would not know her face.

EPHRAIM

He would know her fat ass, but her face, no.

HILTON

You're a pig.

EPHRAIM

That's your people. Made of bacon.

Beau walks in. Fanfare, exclamations of joy, dollars exchanged.

BEAU

You are the people I run to if there's something to be ashamed of, not run from.

Francis hugs Beau.

FRANCIS

As it should be brother.

Ephraim walks up and grabs Beau's face in his hands.

BEAU

How big is shame's ass exactly?

EPHRAIM

You dirty, rotten scoundrel. How are you holding up?

BEAU

Horribly.

EPHRAIM

Glad to hear it.

HILTON

He doesn't mean that.

EPHRAIM

The hell I don't. The man is a coke head felon. If his answer were sunshine and light, he'd be a liar too.

BEAU

Are we going around assigning labels?

Amir starts dealing cards.

AMIR

Oh, I'm sure Ephraim doesn't want that.

BEAU

Assalamualaikum.

AMIR

Alaikum assalam. How's Marigold?

BEAU

I wouldn't know.

Bodhi hands Hilton a \$20 bill.

BODHI

You came to see us first.

HILTON

(beems with pride)
He loves us more.

BODHI

That's not a good thing.

FRANCIS

You will have to face the music eventually.

Francis hands Beau a chalice of wine.

BEAU

We can get a few rounds in first, though.

Beau holds out his chalice to the middle of the table.

BEAU (CONT'D)

To the knights.

The men extend their cups as well. All chalice's. All different.

MEN
To the knights.

5 INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

5

Beau walks in a little drunk. His wife, MARIGOLD (30s) is drinking wine and cooking dinner. Smart, savvy, beautiful, dutiful - she's too good for him. They try not to fight. It doesn't work.

MARIGOLD
You got out of prison at noon.

BEAU
I did.

MARIGOLD
You're just now getting home.

BEAU
I am.

MARIGOLD
You saw those idiots.

BEAU
They're my friends.

MARIGOLD
With friends like those ...

He pours himself bourbon. Gives a side eye to Marigold's full glass of wine. Their two teen-aged daughters bound in like great danes. DAISY (13) happiness and light at the sight of him cozies up to Beau, the other NARCISSUS (16) moll and droll hangs back in the doorway.

DAISY
Dad!

NARCISSUS
Father.

DAISY
You almost missed dinner.

NARCISSUS
He's missed several dinners.

BEAU
I'm here now.

MARIGOLD
In body, not spirit.

Marigold gulps her wine. Narcissus puts the platters of food on the table family style. Daisy sets the table as Beau takes his seat at the head.

DAISY
Pot roast, mashed potatoes and
gravy, roast carrots and buttermilk
dinner rolls.

BEAU
What did you have to promise your
mom to get her to cook this?

DAISY
You don't want to know.

NARCISSUS
How was jail?

DAISY
Narci!

MARIGOLD
She has a right to ask.

BEAU
Horrible. How was the rest of the
school year?

NARCISSUS
The same.

BEAU
And you? Basketball camp this
summer.

DAISY
It was alright.

MARIGOLD
(pouring more wine)
She dominated. Don't be faux
modest, it's not becoming dear.

They eat in silence for a moment.

BEAU
Summer's over. First day of school
tomorrow. High school has no mercy.
You'll want to get some rest.
Prepare for war.

DAISY
Don't exaggerate.

NARCISSUS
He's not.

6 INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - STUDY - CONTINUOUS 6

Beau takes his dinner plate into his study. He makes himself a drink out of the globe, snuggles under the covers and turns on some jazz and the baseball game.

7 INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 7

Marigold goes to bed. Half her closet is empty. All of his clothes are missing.

8 INT. BUDDHIST TEMPLE - NIGHT 8

Bodhi Kenkai, alone in the silence and moonlight, lights some incense and says a prayer. He thinks he's alone. He hears footsteps, turns to look over his shoulder and is whacked in the head.

FRIDAY

9 INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - STUDY - DAY 9

Beau wakes up in a cold sweat. His dreams haunt him. His life. He gets up to take a piss. Hears cooking noises coming from the kitchen. He pulls on some jogging pants and opts to go outside the French doors for a run.

10 EXT. PARK - CRIME SCENE - DAY 10

DETECTIVE VANCE (40s) arrives on the scene. Fitted suit and bauble earrings scream old money, her taunt butt and perky breasts scream grasping onto youth, but her mouth and her vocation scream blue collar. She interacts with everyone, but you never see her face. POLICE OFFICER #1 (20s, a young buck) walks up to her.

DET. VANCE
Has anyone touched the body?

POLICE #1

We waited as long as we could. We took picture from every angle, but we had to cut him down.

DET. VANCE

Fucking Traffic. Where is he now?

POLICE #1

Under the tarp.

She puts on gloves and kneels down next to the body.

DET. VANCE

Pull back the sheet.

POLICE #1

I wouldn't get that close.

DET. VANCE

Sheet.

He pulls it back. He recoils though he's seen it before. She doesn't flinch an inch. Bodhi lies there, naked as a jay bird, except you don't know it's Bodhi because he has no face. Hair, ears, neck - yes. Face? Negative.

DET. VANCE (CONT'D)

Someone took his face.

POLICE #1

Looks that way yes.

DET. VANCE

And he's naked as a jay bird?

POLICE #1

Nude. Yes, detective.

DET. VANCE

Did they find his clothes?

POLICE #1

Burning in a trashcan fire.

DET. VANCE

Hmmm... wallet?

POLICE #1

All the plastic is melted. No names, no license.

DET. VANCE
And no robbery. They strung him up
like a may pole?

POLICE #1
Seems that way. I'll get you the
photos. Why would they do that?

DET. VANCE
I don't know.

She pulls back the sheet further.

POLICE #1
Ma'am, I wouldn't -

Again, she doesn't flinch, but he's ready to faint.

DET. VANCE
Oh. His face wasn't the only
souvenir. Did you find the member?

POLICE #1
No ma'am.

She sees a peak of a tattoo under his shoulder. She cocks her
head to the side.

DET. VANCE
Do you mind?

Police Officer #1 flips over the body for her, barely keeping
it together. A huge elaborate tattoo is revealed. She
recognizes it and recoils. He reacts to her face as if
they've both seen a ghost.

POLICE #1
What?

She grabs the corpses hand and sees sanscrit tattooed on it's
inner wrist.

DET. VANCE
Back away from the body.

POLICE #1
Why?

DET. VANCE
That's Bodhi Kenkai.

POLICE #1
Who?

DET. VANCE
Don't touch anything.

11 EXT. AFFLUENT DETROIT SUBURBS - DAY

11

Beau goes for a run through his gated community. McMansion after McMansion. Every quarter mile is a 2nd wife in her active wear running alongside a \$1k sport stroller, a 60YO shirtless white man with gray chest hairs trying to reclaim his 30s or a gaggle of first wives, power walking and gossiping - with a quick flirty hello - no doubt so they can tell people "they're not racist. They have a black "friend" named Beau."

Someone has been keeping up with Beau's stride, he speeds up and they do too, he slows and they slow. First annoyed, he yells back to them.

BEAU
It's rude to stalk your own father.

The runner quickly gains on him to run along side him. It's Daisy.

DAISY
You left me.

BEAU
Thought I'd let you sleep in.

DAISY
How am I going to go to war without stamina?

She runs ahead of him as he smiles.

12 INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

12

Breakfast, morning news breaks of a prominent Buddhist Leader getting killed, his phones start ringing off the hook. Narcissus and Marigold sit at the breakfast table.

NARCISSUS
Oh my god.

Beau and Daisy walk in, look at their faces then the TV.

BEAU
What's going on?

MARIGOLD
Beau, it's Bodhi.

DAISY

Shit.

MARIGOLD

Language.

BEAU

What happened?

REPORTER

Bodhi Kenkai, Buddhist guru and best selling author was found dead this morning of what can only be described as a homicide.

Reporter tells how. Phone starts ringing off the hook. Caller ID: Detroit Free Press.

MARIGOLD

I'll take the girls to school.

BEAU

Are you sure? It's her first day back.

MARIGOLD

Go figure out what's going on.

Beau's phone buzzes with a text. "Rectory, 1 hour"

13

INT. BLACK SEDAN - DAY

13

Big body Benz. Marigold pulls up the high school. Kids are bustling about, excited to be there, jovial. The interior of this sedan does not mirror that energy. Narcissus a H.S. junior is petrified to get out of the car. Daisy - the nerd - is so giddy with cockiness and anticipation it's odd. Marigold is tired of the hand she's been dealt.

MARIGOLD

Don't answer any questions about your father's friendship with Bodhi.

DAISY

Like this family needs anymore controversy.

NARCISSUS

No one here knows they are friends.

MARIGOLD

Help your sister make new friends.

NARCISSUS

No promises. Should have sent the ultranerd to St. Joan of Arcs.

MARIGOLD

I would send you both there. If we were Catholic ... and it didn't cost 20 grand/person.

NARCISSUS

No way I'm going to an all girls school.

DAISY

The last thing you need is a boy.

Narcissus and Marigold look at each other.

MARIGOLD

Get out. You'll be late. And stick together.

Narci gets out. Marigold to Daisy.

MARIGOLD (CONT'D)

Watch out for her.

NARCISSUS

You're on your own, freak.

14 INT. BLACK SUV - CONTINUOUS

14

Brooks is more nervous than Beau. Beau seems stunned more than anything.

BROOKS

We just saw him last night.

BEAU

I know.

BROOKS

It's so hard to think that in a snap of an eye.

BEAU

Or a neck -

BROOKS

Don't joke. He was your friend.

BEAU

Which is why I don't have the energy to comfort you about his death.

BROOKS

Maybe a little Miles will help.

BEAU

And a bit of silence.

Turns up Miles Davis. They ride in silence.

15 INT. ST. JOHN'S PARISH CATHOLIC CHURCH - DAY

15

Det. Vance and Police #1 stand in the foyer. She stands just out of sight. Father Francis is walking toward the confessional. He seems especially somber.

POLICE #1

Are you sure you don't want to be the one to ask the questions?

DET. VANCE

You'll be fine. Just stick to this list.

POLICE #1

I'm not a detective.

DET. VANCE

I'm not asking you to be. Just a proxy.

POLICE #1

Why?

DET. VANCE

All in due time.

She turns him around and pushes him toward the confessional box.

16 INT. ST. JOHN'S PARISH - RECTORY - CONTINUOUS

16

The gang all have a stiff drink at the rectory. They're all a bit freaked out and voice individual fears and concerns about how this murder reflects on them.

AMIR

Was it a fanatic?

EPHRAIM
Or a lover.

BEAU
A male lover? Bodhi?

FRANCIS
Stranger things have happened.

HILTON
Maybe it was a parent.

FRANCIS
You mean was he diddling with their kid.

HILTON
Well, was he?

FRANCIS
Why would I know? Because I'm the priest? You think I can sniff out a pedophile?!

EPHRAIM
Well, it wouldn't hurt your people to have that particular super power.

BEAU
Let's not turn on each other. That's what they want.

AMIR
That's what who wants? The police?

EPHRAIM
Do you think they suspect one of us of killing Bodhi?

HILTON
We were his best friends.

BEAU
That doesn't make us LESS likely.

FRANCIS
The cops just questioned me. Very informal, unassuming. Expect them to come to you next. Each of you.

EPHRAIM
Only one of us is a felon junkie whore.

BEAU

Thanks.

HILTON

That wasn't necessary.

FRANCIS

It could have been any one of us.

AMIR

For what godly reason?

BEAU

We all have our reasons - for everything?

They look around at each suspiciously like characters in Clue.

17

EXT. ST. JOHN'S PARRISH ALLEY - DAY - CONTINUOUS

17

The boys exit trying not to look like they are fleeing. Beau gets into his SUV. Ephraim asks him to roll the window down.

EPHRAIM

Apologies for the junkie whore comment. I got a little flummoxed.

BEAU

Water under the bridge.

Brooks' phone buzzes. It's a text.

BROOKS

We've been summoned.

BEAU

I have to go.

EPHRAIM

Of course. We should get together for a nosh.

BEAU

Just say when.

Beau rolls up the window.

BROOKS

Isn't he a Rabbi?

BEAU

He used to be.

18 EXT. STERLING HARPER'S BIG HOUSE - DAY 18

Brooks and Beau pull up to an old mansion. This stately home screams old money - it should, image is everything.

19 INT. STERLING HARPER'S BIG HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS 19

French provincial furniture, big rooms like a museum. Living rooms you don't live in. Dining rooms where you don't dine. Expensive paintings, vases, drapes. Show, don't touch. Beau walks through the front door like the president. Brooks trails behind like a page, scared and in awe.

BROOKS

I've never actually been inside.
I'm not sure I'm supposed to be in here.

BEAU

I need you with me. I need a witness. Someone who won't revise history. Think you're up for that?

BROOKS

Yes. No. I don't know. Did you grow up in here? Everything is so fancy.

BEAU

Don't touch anything. You break it, you bought it. Trust me.

Beau heads straight for the back shoulders squared for battle. Brooks trailing like a puppy.

20 INT. STERLING HARPER'S BIG HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS 20

There stands the man in all his glory - STERLING HARPER (70) - wiry frame, strong, clean, neat. He's in a crisp, white buttoned down shirt and slacks. This is his casual.

He pushes up his circle glasses to get good eyeballs on his eldest son, Beau, but says nothing, continuing to butter his toast. LANDON HARPER (40) sits at the breakfast table very casually in his bath robe, boxers, slippers. Chomps very loudly on a full breakfast plate that would give a pig a heart attack.

BEAU

Landon.

LANDON

Beauregard. Beau's baby sitter.
Father, you have company.

BEAU

He sees me just fine. You wrang?

Sterling bites his toast. Chews deliberately. Eyes still locked on Beau before moving to Brooks who becomes nervous under his gaze. Landon kicks a chair toward Brooks.

LANDON

Sit down. You're making me nervous.

Sterling's back to Beau, still chewing, still assessing, still judging. Then he wipes with his cloth napkin. Then takes a sip of tea.

STERLING

It was the only way to get you
here.

BEAU

What do you want?

STERLING

I wanted to see my son. You've been
out a day. You have not rang.

BEAU

Hasn't your lackey been supplying
you with all the intel you need?

STERLING

How is little Maxwell? Been out to
see the little bastard now that you
breathe free air?

BEAU

He's fine.

LANDON

So, that's a no.

STERLING

And you? Your friend was just
murdered, was he not.

BEAU

Yes.

STERLING

Terrible thing.

LANDON
Did you do it?

BEAU
Did I do what?

STERLING
(cool as a cucumber)
Murder Bodhi.

BEAU
No!

STERLING
I have to ask. You're self
destructive like your mother.

LANDON
It's true. Who knows what you are
capable of.

BEAU
Shut up. You're too young to
remember her. You wouldn't know
what she's like.

LANDON
If she was anything like you, I'm
good.

Sterling slams his hand on the table.

STERLING
Landon, that's enough. (back to
cool) Sunday is approaching. The
flock is anticipating your return.
They want to see what we will do.
They want to see if you will
return.

BEAU
You're trying to replace me.

LANDON
You've already been replaced.

STERLING
Temporarily. Beauregard, your heart
is weak, your character, your faith
... I see it dimming in your eyes.
Is this still the path you want?
The vocation? The responsibility?

LANDON
We don't need him.

STERLING
But he needs us. Does he want to
accept our help?

LANDON
I won't help him. You're a laughing
stock, a charlatan, a coke whore.

STERLING
Don't be cruel.

BEAU
You are no brother to me. I am all
of those things, yet I am still
better than you. What does that
make you? The dog shit on the
bottom of my shoe.

Landon tackles Beau. They go at it! Brooks backs up to the
wall in shock. Sterling is unfazed. He gets up to leave with
his toast and his tea with not a care in the world as his
sons beating the snot out of each other on the kitchen floor.

STERLING
I hope that's not your sermon on
Sunday. Think it over son.

21 INT. BLACK SUV - DAY - CONTINUOUS

21

Brooks gets in, shaken. Beau gets in, tired. Brooks hands
Beau a box of tissue for his bloody nose.

BROOKS
Do you guys always fight like that?

BEAU
Do you have a brother?

BROOKS
No, why?

BEAU
Because you wouldn't ask me that if
you did.

Beau gets a text from Marigold: Your daughter got into a
fight.

BEAU (CONT'D)
Take me to the high school.

22 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

22

Beau walks in fully expecting to see Narci sitting on the other side of Marigold. Instead, it's little ole Daisy.

DAISY

Sorry dad.

He doesn't quite know how to react. Marigold looks glazed and over it. PRINCIPAL MCMANUS (40s) pot belly, bald, sheepish - steps out of his office before Beau can find his words.

PRINCIPAL

Great. You're here. Come on into the office.

Marigold and Daisy get up to enter. Principal holds his hand out.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Just the men.

Even Beau is miffed.

BEAU

We all enter, or we all leave.

They all enter.

23 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -DAY

23

Beau and Marigold sit across from the principal as Daisy sits in a corner.

PRINCIPAL

Your daughter punched a student in the eye. We have to suspend her for a week.

Beau looks at Daisy who just shrugs.

BEAU

What were the circumstances?

PRINCIPAL

Excuse me.

BEAU

What mitigated her to punch someone in the face?

PRINCIPAL

I don't know.

BEAU
You don't know. Did you ask?

PRINCIPAL
I did not. We have a zero tolerance
policy on violence.

Beau gets visibly enraged. Marigold touches his arm to still him.

BEAU
Do you now? What are your policy's
on rape? How tolerant are you of
that crime?

PRINCIPAL
Mr. Harper, that happened off
campus.

BEAU
Yet everyone involved is from this
school. And you let this jaggoff
prance around the halls, go to
class, play sports -

PRINCIPAL
The charges were dropped. She
wouldn't press charges.

BEAU
And yet we all know he did it.

PRINCIPAL
I don't know what that has to do
with Daisy on this today. This
fight.

BEAU
You won't know shit, if you don't
ask.

Principal takes a breath and turns to Daisy.

PRINCIPAL
Daisy, would you like to tell us --

BEAU
No. Too late. This is what's going
to happen. Daisy will be here
bright and early tomorrow morning,
no questions asked.

PRINCIPAL
Or what?

MARIGOLD

Or we will sue the living daylights
out of you.

PRINCIPAL

You can't -

BEAU

She means you, personally. Not the
school. We will sue you. Narcis was
not his first victim. You knowingly
let a rapist back into this school -
twice. Daisy get your things.

Beau's turn to put his hand on Marigold's arm. He gets up to
leave, but gets in McManus's face before eh does.

BEAU (CONT'D)

Anything happens to my daughters
and I'll kill you.

PRINCIPAL

You can't threaten me.

BEAU

Did you hear a threat, Mari?

MARIGOLD

All I heard was a few promises.

Principal McManus looks at Daisy in shock. In turn, she puts
in her headphones. She heard nothing.

24 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - DAY - CONTINUOUS

24

Beau walks his family to their sedan.

BEAU

Why are they still at this school?
There are other schools!

MARIGOLD

Narci won't go anywhere else. All
of her friends are here.

BEAU

They are not her friends.

MARIGOLD

She won't go. And Daisy doesn't
want to leave Narcis alone.

BEAU
Ride with your mother.

DAISY
No.

BEAU
Who did you hit?

DAISY
Kevin Rogers.

BEAU
Dr. Rogers's kid. What are you
going to tell him the next time you
get a cleaning?

She shrugs.

BEAU (CONT'D)
What did he say to you?

DAISY
'I wonder if you taste as sweet as
your sister.'

MARIGOLD
Jesus.

Beau looks at Marigold. Then back at Daisy.

BEAU
You almost broke his ocular socket.

DAISY
I'll try harder next time.

Beau pulls a leatherman out of his pocket and hands it to
Daisy.

BEAU
Next time, cut his fucking balls
off.

Beau moves Daisy toward the SUV.

BEAU (CONT'D)
Get in. (to Marigold) Is this
therapy working???

MARIGOLD
Nope. But those krav maga classes
are.

25

INT. SOUL FOOD RESTAURANT - AFTERNOON

25

Greasy spoon, Beau tries to get some daddy daughter time in, but he is a minor celebrity,

STRANGER #1

Rev. Beau Harper.

BEAU

That's me.

STRANGER #1

Haven't seen you in here in a minute. Thought you were in hibernation.

BEAU

Yes, I went North for the summer.

STRANGER #1

Beach house?

BEAU

Rehab, prison.

STRANGER #1

I've always liked you for that. Your candor. Word of advice, you could use a bit more discretion, secrecy.

BEAU

You're only as sick as your secrets.

STRANGER #2

Beau Harper. I thought you were in rehab.

BEAU

They let me out early. Good behavior.

STRANGER #2

Well you're looking good. Will you be at church on Sunday?

BEAU

With bells on.

STRANGER #3

Hope the building doesn't burn down.

BEAU
No guarantees.

They all laugh.

STRANGER #3
I'm surprised you're walking around
seeing the light of day.

BEAU
Well, I could only deny smothered
pork chop's for so long. I start
dreaming of onion gravy.

STRANGER #3
You killed that kid. Mowed him down
in the street. You should be
rotting underneath the jail house.

BEAU
I do not disagree.

STRANGER #2
Give him a break. He did his time.

BEAU
I really just came for the chops.

STRANGER #1
My mother's sick. Won't make it the
week. Will you stop by.

BEAU
She still on Washington?

STRANGER #1
All her life.

BEAU
I'll stop by in the morning. That
ok?

STRANGER #1
Thanks, Rev.

BEAU
Call me Beau.

Kids drawings on the wall, a trolley of basketballs, bikes in
the corner. 10 folding chairs in a circle in the center of
the gym. NA meeting.

Doctor, lawyer, nurse, prostitute, preschool teacher. All share their stories of falling from grace. It's Beau's turn to speak.

BEAU

My name's Beau and I'm an addict.

ALL

Hello Beau.

BEAU

It's been 6 months since I've used. 6 minutes since I've thought about using. I still drink. Only socially. I smoke a little weed to keep the anxiety at bay. A cigarette here or there. A tray of brownies. But it's the smack with a side of coke that I really want. I was high as a kite when I hit that boy in the crosswalk. He haunts me everyday. Literally haunts me. I think I see his ghost every time I close my eyes, just beyond the doorjamb in my study, in any darkened bathroom. I see him. I want to get high for that reason alone, then comes the guilt, the shame, the pride. I don't know what keeps me sober. It's not God, not faith. I'm not just in a crisis of life, but of faith. My friend was killed today, and I - just want to crawl in a hole and pull the dirt on top of me.

His phone goes off repeatedly. He tries to ignore it, but he persists. Brooks appears in the doorway. Beau finally looks at his phone. It's a text from ROSE: Maxwell has hurt himself. Where are you?

BEAU (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

27

EXT. QUAIN T SUBURBAN HOME - EVENING

27

Beau and Brooks pull up to a nondescript suburban home.

DEACON SAWYER (50, pediatrician) pulls up in his Lincoln. He gets out with his medical bag.

SAWYER

She's been blowing up my phone all day.

(MORE)

SAWYER (CONT'D)

Have you been ignoring her texts?
You have to spend more time with
her. She goes crazy, gets paranoid
when you don't.

BEAU

The last thing I want to do is
spend time with her.

SAWYER

Well, it's too late for that.

Sawyer raps on the door.

28

INT. QUAIN T SUBURBAN HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

28

A young blonde shiksa goddess, ROSE (28) comes to the door
hysterical carrying a biracial young boy, MAXWELL (2). There
is a gash on his head. He's crying.

ROSE

He fell. I turned my back for 2
seconds and he fell.

BEAU

Rose, he's 2. You don't have two
seconds to look away.

ROSE

I know that!

BEAU

Do you? Because my son has a big
gash on his head that says
otherwise.

SAWYER

He'll live. Come on little man.
Let's go to the kitchen. I'll patch
you right up.

Sawyer takes the boy to the kitchen. Beau pulls Rose roughly
by the arm.

29

INT. ROSE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

29

Rose is pacing, crying hysterically. Beau is growing
impatient. He grabs a hold of her so she will be still.

BEAU

What happened?

ROSE
I fell asleep and he pulled a
bookend off the bookcase.

BEAU
Jesus. Were you high?

ROSE
No.

BEAU
You sure? Look at me.

He stares deep into her eyes. She holds his gaze.

BEAU (CONT'D)
How many days?

ROSE
Three.

BEAU
You've been to a meeting.

ROSE
No. I only go to meetings with you.

BEAU
You need your own meetings, your
own group.

ROSE
Where have you been?! You've been
out a day already.

BEAU
I've been with my family.

ROSE
You have a family here.

BEAU
You must never tell anyone that.

ROSE
I'm the last of your dirty little
secrets.

BEAU
They've been through enough
already.

She pushes him. Hard.

ROSE

I've been through enough already!!

He turns to leave. He's had enough of her. She rushes to him affectionate, apologetic. Her emotions turned on a dime. This is their dance.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

She hugs him like they are on a train platform and he's going away to war.

ROSE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

She kisses him. And again. Once more for good measure. His resolve is weakening. He's been inside for too long. He's thinking with the wrong head. He kisses back. She jumps him and it's on. The clothes start coming off.

30

INT. ROSE'S KITCHEN - DAY

30

Sawyer has sat Maxwell on the table. He sits in the chair and patches him up, putting a bandage over some stitches.

SAWYER

There you go Max. Three little stitches. You're a man now. Women love scars.

Rose and Beau walk in sheepishly. Sawyer just rolls his eyes. Seems they've all been here before. Beau stands in the doorway as Rose picks up her son off the kitchen table.

ROSE

There's my little man.

BEAU

He ok?

SAWYER

He'll be fine. You ok?

ROSE

He'll be fine. Thanks, Sawyer.

SAWYER

Yes, well, he doesn't seem to have a concussion. But watch him tonight. (looks at own watch) I have to get home to my own children. Don't you, Beau.

BEAU

Maybe just a little while longer.

Sawyer packs his medical bag and leaves.

31 INT. MAXWELL'S ROOM - NIGHT

31

Sailboats, legos and stuffed animals in primary colors. Beau snuggles up with his son. Rose stands in the doorway.

ROSE

Come to bed.

BEAU

No.

ROSE

Why not?

BEAU

Because I'll have sex with you again.

Rose laughs.

BEAU (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

ROSE

You think that's the last time we're going to have sex.

Beau kisses his son's head. They are both a bit sleepy. She goes to bed. Maxwell has already fallen asleep in his arms.

SATURDAY

32 INT. MAXWELL'S ROOM - DAY

32

Beau wakes up to the smell of bacon. Maxwell is cooing from another room.

33 INT. MAXWELL'S BATHROOM - DAY

33

It's rubber duckies, cartoon fish shower curtain and primary colors. Beau takes a piss and gets in the shower.

34 INT. ROSE'S KITCHEN - DAY

34

Rose is in her active wear. Damn she looks good in those Lulu lemons. Beau walks in in fresh joggers. He has clothes here. Rose places a plate in front of him. They eat in silence.

BEAU
I've got to head back to the house.

ROSE
This is your house.

BEAU
Don't do that.

Beau kisses the top of Maxwell's head.

BEAU (CONT'D)
(to Maxwell)
I love you. Forever and always.

35 EXT. ROSE'S HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

35

A neighbor waves to Beau as he gets into the waiting SUV. They know him in this neighborhood too.

36 INT. BLACK SUV - DAY - CONTINUOUS

36

Brooks is startled when Beau gets in. He's been asleep.

BEAU
Good night's rest?

BROOKS
Not really.

BEAU
Sorry. Forgot you were out here.

Brooks starts driving him home.

BROOKS
You do that a lot? Forget people exist?

BEAU
Probably more than I should.

They ride for a while before entering the gates of his neighborhood.

BEAU (CONT'D)
Drop me off here. I'll run the rest
of the way.

BROOKS
I need to go get some proper rest.
Text me when you're ready to go
somewhere.

BEAU
I sure will.

Beau jogs off.

37 INT. MORGUE - DAY

37

They have done a full autopsy on Bodhi. MEDICAL EXAMINER
wraps his body for transfer to the funeral home. Det. Vance
walks in - always sharply dressed.

DET. VANCE
Done already?

M.E.
Top priority. Came down from the
Mayor. Funeral today. Can't keep a
Buddhist out of the ground too long
after death. You find his face?

DET. VANCE
Nope.

M.E.
Too bad. Have to be a closed casket
then. That's a big deal to them.

DET. VANCE
Didn't know you knew so much about
the faith.

M.E.
You pick up things here and there.
There are different rules for the
dead.

DET. VANCE
Think the killer knew that too?

M.E.
Could be.

DET. VANCE
Tox screen?

M.E.

Negative for rohipnaul. Either he didn't see his attacker.

DET. VANCE

Or he knew them.

She turns to leave.

M.E.

Don't you want to know the rest of my findings?

DET. VANCE

They'll be in the report. I have a funeral to get to.

38

INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

38

House, everyone's sitting down to breakfast. A bit of an extravagant affair. Beau's absence is noted but unsurprising to all. Beau sits down sweaty and starving. It takes a lot of fuel to keep that muscle mass on.

MARIGOLD

Where were you last night?

NARCISSUS

At his mistresses. Where else would he be. He has them all over town.

BEAU

I do not.

DAISY

He's just down to the one.

MARIGOLD

Ah, Rose.

BEAU

What happened to this family while I was gone?

DAISY

We started telling the truth.

NARCISSUS

You're only as sick as your secrets, and I don't want to be sick.

BEAU

I liked things better when we ignored problems until they went away.

MARIGOLD

That's not how that works.

DAISY

Are you guys getting a divorce?

Marigold & Beau look at each other sheepishly.

BEAU

Daisy -

NARCISSUS

You don't sleep in the same bed anymore and you're a philandering junky. I mean, I'd divorce you.

BEAU

Thanks. It's more complicated than that.

NARCISSUS

Is it though?

Narcissus grabs her plate to each in her room. Beau stands up to go.

BEAU

I'm late for Beau's funeral.

MARIGOLD

Do you want me to go with you?

BEAU

No. It'll be a spectacle and the press will be there.

DAISY

Meaning your charade won't stand up to scrutiny.

Beau kisses the top of her head before exiting. Daisy sweeps her plate to the floor in a fit of rage.

MARIGOLD

Make sure you clean that up when you're done, honey.

Marigold goes over the cabinet and pops a xanax before leaving Daisy in the kitchen alone.

39 INT. BUDDHIST TEMPLE - DAY

39

Buddhist funeral. Everyone in white. An image of the Buddha, candles, flowers, fruit, and incense. Flowers and wreaths are given to Bodhi's family by mourners. Mourners approach the altar, bow with their hands pressed together in a pose of prayer, and reflect at the altar for a moment. Then they sit. It's an open casket, there is a shroud over Bodhi's face. He is dressed modestly in white linen.

Beau walks in a white tailored suit, no tie. The cloth glows against his chocolate skin. Standing in the doorway, back lit by the sun against the shadow of the temple, he looks like Jesus. He sees his friends, Francis, Amir, Hilton, Ephraim - all with family. Beau is alone. He sits in the back, as far away from them as he can. The lady detective watches them all. From her vantage point, none of them see her.

40 INT. HOTEL RESTAURANT - DAY

40

Dinner with MAYOR DUKE KILPATRICK (40s) - childhood friend, urban legend, two-faced snake. Duke dresses like a very well groomed pimp. Beau walks in the door, late. Mayor is already eating. When Beau sits down, a waiter places a plate in front of him - his food already being ordered.

DUKE

You're late.

BEAU

Coming from the funeral. The whole city was there. You should have come.

DUKE

It's not right to upstage the dead. Besides, I don't do fake. Bodhi was your friend, not mine. I don't trust that whole circle as far as I can throw them.

BEAU

I'm perfectly aware how you feel about the knights.

DUKE

Pretentious pricks, the lot of you.

BEAU

Coming from you, that's saying something. No entourage today?

DUKE
Made my page wait in the car.

BEAU
This must be serious.

DUKE
It is. I'm thinking of running for office.

BEAU
What office? You're already the mayor.

DUKE
Governor.

BEAU
Oh, Lord. Seriously?

DUKE
What? You don't think I can win.

BEAU
You won't survive the background check.

DUKE
I'm the mayor!

BEAU
Of Detroit.

DUKE
I need you by my side.

BEAU
A disgraced preacher with a substance abuse problem.

DUKE
Everybody loves a comeback story and you're coming back. Hometown quarterback hero got lost on the path of life, confessed his indiscretions -

BEAU
To get a reduced 9-month jail sentence in county.

DUKE
Still counts, and now he's on the road back to salvation.

BEAU

I'm on the road to being an
atheist.

DUKE

(looks around
suspiciously)

Shut your mouth. Who cares, anyway?

BEAU

There's got to be 20 preachers that
would die to be your spiritual
advisor, if only in press ops.

DUKE

None of them have been my best
friend since the 7th grade. I gave
you a full year on this "woe is me"
bullshit. I'm over it. Get your
shit together. I don't care if
you're as corrupt as Papa Legba as
long as you're discreet.

BEAU

I'll see what I can do.

DUKE

You damn well better. How was the
funeral, anyway?

BEAU

Horrible. They took his face.

DUKE

Damn. That's some long con hate.

For a moment, Duke feels sorry for his friend.

DUKE (CONT'D)

Sorry, I couldn't make it.

BEAU

Just as well. Bodhi hated you
anyway.

DUKE

I knew it! Holier than thou bastard
pretended that hate was beneath
him. I hope he comes back as a
slug.

BEAU

That's not how that works.

DUKE

Whatever. Come, on. I want to show you something.

41 EXT. LOT - NIGHT

41

Mayor and Beau get out the car. They stand in a lot full of weeds and trash. Industrial buildings all around. This is a bad neighborhood.

BEAU

If you're planning on offing me, make it quick.

DUKE

This is the site of my new Big Brother Center.

BEAU

This is a lot of land.

DUKE

A lot of kids, need a lot of help. Taking it back to basics. Sports, home ec, auto maintenance, family planning, counselling, reproductive health care.

BEAU

That sounds great ... how are you paying for this?

DUKE

You don't want to know.

BEAU

The road to hell Kilpatrick.

DUKE

You remember how we met in Big Brother.

BEAU

You hustling 6th graders in basket ball.

DUKE

You were a giant even then. The fuck up and the golden boy became the best of friends. Couldn't tell which one was which now or then.

BEAU
 Whatever you're mixed up in, don't
 fly too close to the sun.

DUKE
 Wings of steel. Do you ever think
 about her?

BEAU
 About who?

DUKE
 (smiles)
 You know who.

BEAU
 No. Never.

DUKE
 I bet she thinks about you.

BEAU
 She shouldn't.

Black SUV pulls up. Duke reaches for his piece. Window rolls
 down. It's Brooks.

BROOKS
 It's Mrs. Jackson.

Beau walks toward the SUV.

42 INT. MRS. JACKSON'S HOUSE - EVENING

42

Old oak furniture passed down for generations overwhelm the
 small house. Tchotchkes and figurines collect dust. There are
 eastern star medals, shrine to a dead husband. The air smells
 of collard greens, vick's vapor rub and a 12-year-old
 pekingese. The old lady's SON let's Beau and Brooks in.
 Brooks respectful of his place in the food chain opts to stay
 in the living room.

BEAU
 Where is she?

MAN
 Back bedroom.

The son lead's Beau to a back bedroom full of crotcheted
 blankets and needle point art work. There are newspapers,
 gossip rags and half eaten items strewn across the bed.

Beau sits on a foot stool next to the bed. He grabs MRS. JACKSON's (70s) crepe paper hand. Her eyes stir, focus on his face. The eyes are sharp though the flesh is weak.

BEAU

Mrs. Jackson. Beau Harper here.

MRS. JACKSON

Pastor?

BEAU

I haven't been a pastor for two years now.

MRS. JACKSON

Once a pastor, always a pastor, pastor. Do you still believe in God?

BEAU

On some days.

MRS. JACKSON

I heard about your family troubles.

BEAU

That's for another time.

MRS. JACKSON

I don't have much time left.

BEAU

Not in this life, but the next ...

MRS. JACKSON

I'm only concerned with this one. I could be a ferret in Madagascar in the next life. My son -

BEAU

Loves you dearly.

MRS. JACKSON

Would be lost without me. I spoiled him. Too much. And now I'm scared to leave this world. I'm scared I didn't prepare him for loss.

BEAU

He'll learn. The world will teach him.

MRS. JACKSON

And you'll be here?

BEAU

Yes. I'm not allowed to leave the city limits.

MRS. JACKSON

Wow, you must have fucked up more than I know.

BEAU

(laughs)

Only God knows how much.

MRS. JACKSON

You just got a lot more interesting Revered.

BEAU

It's just Beau.

MRS. JACKSON

Take care of my son, help him find a wife, a good woman - no bitches or whores.

BEAU

God fearing -

MRS. JACKSON

I don't care if she believes in God. You don't have to believe in God to be a good person. No offense.

BEAU

None taken. What's it like?

MRS. JACKSON

Dying? It's like the exhaustion you feel after running a marathon. You're spent. You just want a buffet and a nap. If you're lucky, it happens when you're old and ready. Are you ready, Beau?

BEAU

For death? Ready to run away from it.

MRS. JACKSON

You're still young. You think you still have something left to give, to prove. I've given all I've got. (to her son) Junior, get your dear mother some tea, son.

He won't move. He's afraid to take his eyes off of her for one second.

MRS. JACKSON (CONT'D)
Honey, it's just tea, not cyanide.

Junior doesn't want to leave, but he does as he's told. Mrs. Jackson looks into Beau's eyes, he looks back.

MRS. JACKSON (CONT'D)
I'm ready now.

BEAU
Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death -

She shakes her head "no".

MRS. JACKSON
No. Sing me out with some pizzazz.

BEAU
I don't -

MRS. JACKSON
A song, I said.

BEAU
(wracks his brain for sec)
Good bye my friend, will I ever
love again. Memories made in the
coldest winter.

The light goes out of her eyes. The son returns with the tea to find Beau singing to his dead mother. A wail the likes of which you have never heard escapes his body.

43 INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - FAMILY ROOM - NIGHT

43

Beau gets home at a reasonable hour. Marigold is watching Discovery ID drinking red wine. Beau walks in,

BEAU
Mrs. Jackson died to night.

MARIGOLD
That old bat has been dying for
years. Good riddance.

BEAU
Torrance is broken up about it.

MARIGOLD

Well, I hope her other son dances
on her grave. Kicking a 13-year-old
out of the house for having some
sugar in his pockets. Shameful.

Beau drinks all of her wine in one gulp. She just pours
another glass.

MARIGOLD (CONT'D)

Sober my ass.

BEAU

There's no cocaine in this merlot.
So, I'll be fine. Does wine mix
well with benzos?

MARIGOLD

Mind your business Beauregard
Harper.

BEAU

Where are the girls?

MARIGOLD

At a party.

BEAU

A party? Is that safe?

MARIGOLD

I can't lock them up in an ivory
tower. They have to go out into the
world eventually. I tether them
together and hope for the best.

BEAU

I'm worried about them. Narci seems
like a completely different person.

MARIGOLD

That's because she is. You don't go
through something like that without
it changing you. Permanently.

BEAU

How's Daisy doing?

MARIGOLD

Our little sociopath? Something got
knocked lose in that girls head.
You think that's the first guy she
beat up in school. I pity the fool
that corners her in a dark alley.

BEAU

I'm home now. I'll protect them.

She spits out her wine laughing so hard.

MARIGOLD

From what? Your lies and disappointment? You can't protect them from the world. The second you went to jail, I put them in therapy and martial arts. We go to the range every other Saturday. It's the only way I can sleep at night. We can protect ourselves.

Beau takes the wine out of her hand, puts in on the table.

BEAU

I was not a good husband.

MARIGOLD

Yeah, I know.

BEAU

A good father, a good friend, a good person. I will try to do better, be better.

MARIGOLD

I hate you.

BEAU

I know.

He sits on the couch next to her, pulls her to him, cradles her on his chest. Marigold begins to cry.

44 INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

44

1970s ranch style house, open floor plan, sliding glass doors to a pool. Too cool for school teens, scantilly clad girls, athletes, rap music, dance offs, beer, food. Party in full swing.

Narci walks in looking for her mean girl friends. The party parts like the sea. No one expected her to show up. Daisy trails behind her watching everyone with wide eyes, observing, taking notes.

In a back corner, tittering and judging people like a coven of witches are Narci's ex-bffs - lead by **ALEXIS** (16) who is perched on the back of a chair like The Queen of Idiots.

If Nicky Minaj and Courtney Love had a baby, it would be Alexis - minimal talent with nothing to say. Her natural hair is as wild and blonde as a lion's mane. Alexis stops snap-chatting when Narci steps into her space. Her entire mood turns sour.

ALEXIS

You showed. I owe Jackie 20 bucks.

Alexis pulls a folded 20 out of her bra and hands it to the Monster's High doll otherwise known as **JACKIE** (16).

JACKIE

I told her you were a masochist.

ALEXIS

I see you brought your body guard.

DAISY

My name's Daisy.

ALEXIS

Oh, honey, everyone in school knows who you are.

NARCISSUS

Leave her alone.

OPHELIA

She can fend for herself. Isn't that right, slugger?

OPHELIA (16) finally looks up from her Instagram feed to engage in her surroundings. Ophelia is a walking make-up tutorial, but twice as vapid. Daisy watches her like a pitbull.

ALEXIS

What do you want, Narci?

NARCISSUS

I wanted to say hi to my friends.

JACKIE

Well, let us know when you find them.

Laughter erupts from the pool area. Daisy, already bored of the 3 witches has wandered outside.

NARCISSUS

(to Alexis)

You were there. You saw what he did to me. Yet you chose, him? Them?

ALEXIS

What am I supposed to do? Choose you? ... You're a victim. If I hang out with you, what does that make me?

OPHELIA

A target. Birds of a feather, Narci. You understand.

ALEXIS

You should have seen you that night. You were partying too hard, drinking too much - out of control. You were -

NARCISSUS

If you say "asking for it" I swear to god -

ALEXIS

Looking for something.

OPHELIA

A bit of danger, of kink - some ooo la la?

JACKIE

I like to make love, ya feel me? I don't want to be taken from behind like a mannequin, bent over a washing machine.

OPHELIA

I heard she filled it halfway with vomit.

JACKIE

Disgusting. What's the point of getting a good fucking if you aren't awake to remember?

ALEXIS

We don't like it rough. We can't be friends with girls who do. The boys will get confused.

NARCISSUS

(angry tears stream down
her face)
Fuck you.

45

EXT. BACK YARD - POOL - CONTINUOUS

45

Another round of laughter at a joke unheard. There he is in all of his splendor, sitting front and center on the other side of the pool - **IGNACIO GREEN** (18) - the athlete, the scholar, the Blaxican rapist.

Daisy slowly tries to make her way to him. He sees her coming and doesn't move, but waits patiently for the confrontation.

Daisy stalks on, but walks into the back of **KEVIN ROGERS** (16) - the kid she punched in the face earlier. He has spilled his beer all down his shirt. His eye is swollen shut.

KEVIN

What the - (turns around) psycho bitch.

DAISY

(under her breath)
Fuck me.

KEVIN

Not even with Iggy's dick. Know he's got a thing for you Harper bitches. Are you going to apologize for my eye?

DAISY

No.

She side steps him. He puts his hand on her shoulder. She whips around and snags his wrist in a grip.

DAISY (CONT'D)

(whisper)
You don't want none of this. I'm not here for you.

Narci stands in the sliding glass doorway, sees Ignacio and starts hyperventilating. Daisy clocks Narci, turns to see Iggy smiling at Narci. Daisy lets Kevin go. She stands in front of Iggy blocking his view of her sister.

IGNACIO

Can you move a little to the left?
You're blocking my view.

DAISY

Iggy the rapist. Surprised to see you have so many friends. You guys rapists, too?

A couple of people peel off, but most stay.

NEANDERTHAL #1

(steps to Daisy)

If we were, you sure as shit
shouldn't be over here by yourself
running yo jib.

DAISY

Let me know big boy if you want to
meet me and Betty behind the wood
shed.

NEANDERTHAL #1

Who is Betty?

Daisy pulls out a switch blade. The crowd scatters.
Neanderthal stands his ground.

IGNACIO

Take a walk.

Everyone left leaves. Neanderthal, quite reluctantly. Iggy
stays on his perch.

IGNACIO (CONT'D)

Are you going to stab me in the
middle of a party?

DAISY

I'd prefer to kill you with my bare
hands.

IGNACIO

Then put that away. (she does) How
old are you?

DAISY

13.

IGNACIO

You're a big ass 13-year-old. This
is your first day of high school,
and you punched a junior boy in the
eye. That sends a message.

DAISY

Didn't think you were capable of
picking up on messages. "No",
"stop", "I don't want to", "You're
hurting me".

IGNACIO

Those sound more like suggestions
than requests to me.

He gets up to leave.

IGNACIO (CONT'D)

Just so you know, you shouldn't have any more trouble out of him. But not because of you, because of me. You're not ripe yet. But when you are, I'll be back to pluck your fruit. Just like I did your sister.

He walks off, finishing his red solo cup of beer. But you don't turn your back on a bear. Daisy gets a running start and tackles him and they both go straight into the pool.

46 INT. POOL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

46

Daisy tries to drown Ignacio. She's quite the swimmer, but he's strong. He bites her shoulder, hard, drawing blood. He surfaces and gasps for air. He makes it to the edge of the pool. Getting out and walking past Narci - who is still paralyzed with fear. Daisy surfaces like an evil mermaid and Narci rushes to her side. She helps her out of the pool. Some watch the scene in awe, others are oblivious to the tableau engrossed in the music, the dancing and the alcohol.

47 INT. HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

47

Narci and Daisy try to make a graceful exit. Daisy wet as a dog, people part as their approach. What happened in the pool spreads fast. They pass the 3 witches on the way.

OPHELIA

Freak.

Daisy pops her in the mouth with the back her hand and keeps it moving. Alexis and Jackie are shocked but say nothing. Daisy has managed to pick up a bag of chips and a beer on the way out. Narci just follows her out the door and to the car.

NARCISSUS

You may be prone to fits of rage.

She pops open the can of beer and she puts on her seatbelt.

DAISY

Let's hit the dairy queen.

Narci shakes her head at her little sister, both fascinated and afraid. She turns the car over and drives away - leisurely.

48

INT. BEAU'S HOUSE - NIGHT

48

The girls walk in all wet with sundaes and burgers. Beau and Marigold are slightly drunk and disheveled like they've been making out.

DAISY

What the? I don't want to know.

NARCISSUS

Were y'all doing it in here?

MARIGOLD

Has hell frozen over? Why are you wet?

NARCISSUS

Ask Daisy.

DAISY

I went swimming.

BEAU

Is everyone still alive?

DAISY

Today.

MARIGOLD

Let's go to bed. Tomorrow is judgment day.

BEAU

It's just church.

MARIGOLD

You heard what I said.

The ladies leave Beau sitting on the couch.

SUNDAY

49

INT. BLACK SEDAN - DAY

49

The Harpers all ride to church in silence, but they act like it's a funeral. Marigold drives. Beau looks out the window reflecting. He still sits in the back seat like a passenger of life.

50 EXT. ALL SAINTS BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY 50

The Staple Center for Jesus - including parking attendants charging \$10 for closer spots. The family makes their way to the ornate entrance in droves. It's a parade of pastel suits, alligator shoes, grandma's in their Kentucky Derby / milliner's wet dream finest, their granddaughters in their red bottoms. It's a Mary Magdalene fashion show.

Marigold is waved in and parks in the back where the elite have a private entrance.

51 INT. ALL SAINTS BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY 51

The Harpers walk in like a picture perfect family. Beau gets mobbed with well wishers, worriers and judgers. He makes his way to the Pastor's office. The ladies go to the sanctuary as service is about to start.

52 INT. ALL SAINTS BAPTIST CHURCH - PASTOR OFFICE - MORNING 52

Landon is in his office with Deacon Sawyer and Father Sterling. They are having a heated discussion. Beau walks in and they are quite as church mice.

BEAU

I'm giving the sermon.

LANDON

No.

SAWYER

Yes. (to Beau) You have to address it. (to Sterling) You have to let him address it. It's all anyone is talking about. It's not a secret. He was all over the news.

STERLING

Are you ready son?

BEAU

No. But it has to be done.

STERLING

Very well.

Sterling and Sawyer leave. Beau turns to Landon.

BEAU

Get out of my office.

53 INT. ALL SAINTS BAPTIST CHURCH - PASTOR BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Beau goes to the bathroom splashes water on his face. His hands are shaking.

BEAU

Man, I could for some coke right now.

54 INT. ALL SAINTS BAPTIST CHURCH - NAVE - DAY - CONTINUOUS 54

Beau, Sterling and Landon file in and sit in the pulpit as the choir sings. Some audibly gasp at the audacity. Marigold, Daisy and Narci sits front row, peacock proud. Church starts with its usual ritual when Beau interrupts and goes to the podium. He stands there for a second, about to have a panic attack before he begins to speak.

BEAU

I was a good boy. I did good in school, had loving parents. Wanted for naught. Then my mother died. That was my first experience with loss. As I got older, adolescence, I lost a love or two. Puppy love. Infatuation love, but then I found Marigold. Older still, I didn't lose a physical thing or a person I loved - I - I got lost. Lost in possessions, the lifestyle, the image, the greed, the fame, the power. Lost in things, lost in the world. I thought I was invincible. (sees Duke in the crowd) Like Icarus, I flew too close to the sun. I thought my wings were made of steel, but alas they were wax. Of my own hubris, I fell to earth with a great thud, a great thunder and down came the rain. And with them a flood of tears, but I soon realized those tears were not for me. When I fell from the sky, I did not fall alone. I took a life with me. A life full of promise, hope, a young life. This life cannot be replaced. Will not be forgotten. Will haunt me for the rest of my days. I will be repaying that debt in this life and the next. (crowd throws in a couple of Amens. Others still wish he'd burst into flames.) We all experience loss.

(MORE)

BEAU (CONT'D)

Whether it a son (he looks into the eyes of the parents who son he killed in that hit and run), a father, a husband (he looks to his family) a brother or your pastor - we've all felt loss. Out of the ashes of that turmoil, all we can hope for is healing, understanding, forgiveness and resolution. But those may be far away, so today, I offer you this: I am sorry. I'm sorry for disappointing you, for failing you. I should have been a better father, a better son, a better husband and a better pastor, and I wasn't. I faltered and I failed. I am sorry for killing your son. I truly understand if you hated me forever. I would. Let's take a moment to mourn their loss.

Beau starts to break down. The choir starts singing something sad and somber. Sterling collects his broken son from the pulpit and puts him in a seat. Sawyer is proud. Landon is jealous of the affection shown by his father. Life goes on.

55

INT. CHURCH NAVE - DAY

55

After church, Beau greets parishioners. The mother of the little boy he kills smacks him in the face. He just takes it. Her husband ushers her on.

Beau almost loses it as he sees a super hot woman approaches like the calvary. It's his first love, the love of his life. His siren, the one who shall not be named shows up. DETECTIVE VIOLET VANCE parts the sea of parishioners in her tight yellow dress.

BEAU

Violet.

VIOLET

Beauregard.

MARIGOLD

Your first wife.

NARCISSUS

Oh shit.

DAISY

Don't curse in church.

56

INT. PASTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

56

Beau and Violet retreat into Landon's office. Just two people having a tense conversation, pretending the air isn't thick as fog.

BEAU

Violent Vance. It could have been you up there as first lady. Wouldn't that have been something.

VIOLET

No one has called me that since high school.

BEAU

What brings you back to town?

VIOLET

Family, work, murder.

BEAU

Murder?

VIOLET

Bodhi got killed.

BEAU

I'm aware. What's that got to do with you?

VIOLET

I'm lead detective on the case.

BEAU

Is that right?

VIOLET

Just fell into my lap. I've been back about a week.

BEAU

How very serendipitous.

VIOLET

I could say the same thing about your prison release.

BEAU

If you have something to say Violent, say it.

VIOLET

Someone close to Bodhi wanted him dead. This murder was personal.

BEAU

Aren't all murders personal?

VIOLET

I'm going to catch this killer, Beau. I hope and pray to god on high that it wasn't you or one of your Knights of the Round Table friends.

Beau stands and hands Violet her clutch.

BEAU

Well, it was certainly nice to see you.

VIOLET

You as well.

She sashays out of the room. Beau pulls out his phone and texts the boys "The bitch is back".