

"THE 23RD PSALM"

A Screenplay By
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CONTINUED:

1

The phone SLAMS.

*

SMASH CUT TO:

DETECTIVE JOHN SMITH slams down a CELL PHONE on his DESK.

*

FREEZE - JOHN

SUPER

"DETECTIVE JOHN SMITH"

BACK TO SCENE

Detective John Smith (45) is a kind man, but a tortured soul. Well manicured, as a result of healthy living and not Hollywood Vanity, he's lost his way, but wants to find it.

John picks the cell phone back up. Dials: "611".

*

JOHN (CONT'D)

Big mobile?

John looks at his watch.

*

JOHN (CONT'D)

Damn it. Late for court.

*

*

John sighs, then disconnects the phone. Places it in his pants pocket.

*

He picks up the Sodoku Puzzle. Waves it with satisfaction. Looks at his WATCH. Time to go.

*

*

He opens a desk drawer and removes a PISTOL. Sticks it behind his back.

*

John stands, grabs his SUIT JACKET and heads for the door.

*

DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE

*

--Mulholland Drive aerial shot of Downtown Los Angeles.

*

--Alley with indigents and prostitutes.

*

--Small non-traditional church.

*

--Entrance of a non-profit clinic.

*

--Cemetery with many tombstones.

*

--Small 7-Eleven type shop.

*

DISSOLVE TO:

2 EXT. STREET - POLICE STATION - DAY 2

John trots out the front door of the station. As he checks his watch, he does notice SILAS (40), a know-it-all blind homeless man wearing sunglasses, rise from a garbage can. *

FREEZE - SILAS *

SUPER *

"SILAS THE BLIND" *

BACK TO SCENE

John accidentally knocks Silas down. *

JOHN
(realizes that Silas
is homeless)
Sorry--

SILAS
Spare change, mister.

John flashes a BADGE. *

JOHN
It's Detective. Get a job. And
watch where you're going.

SILAS
You may have eyes, but you can't
see.
(beat)
I'm blind. *

Silas rises. He removes his glasses. *

John grimaces. He pushes Silas aside and makes his way. *

Beat.

John's momma must have raised him better than this. *

He returns to Silas. Reaches in his WALLET. Gives him a
twenty dollar bill. *

JOHN
This isn't spare change. I need
this. First of the month: rent,
utilities, car note.
(stuffs \$20 in Silas'
hand)
Make it count. *

(CONTINUED)

2

CONTINUED:

2

John carries on about his way.

*

ALLEY

ANNA (37), a burnt-out drug addict, LIGHTS up a CRACK PIPE.

*

FREEZE - ANNA

SUPER

"ANNA THE AFFLICTED"

BACK TO SCENE

JOHN (CONT'D)
(flashes bad)
Hey, put that--

*

Too late. The rock is gone and Anna has gone to that magical place reserved in Hell just for junkies.

*

ANNA
Is that you, Jesus? Take me home,
Lord.

John checks his WATCH. He doesn't have time for this. Shakes his head and heads for the crosswalk.

*
*

CROSSWALK

*

CLAUDIA (50), an overly expressive wheelchair bound homeless woman struggles to cross the street in a wheelchair.

*

FREEZE - CLAUDIA

SUPER

"CLAUDIA THE LAME"

BACK TO SCENE

John blazes past Claudia. She's so slow, she's going to get hit, or worse yet, damage a full fledged citizen's car on impact.

*
*

John returns. Wheels Claudia across the street.

*

At the end of the crosswalk, Claudia grabs John by the hand.

*

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

CLAUDIA *

God's got a plan for you.

John's legs buckle as he *

Grabs his head. *

DISSOLVR TO: *

VISION

3 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT 3

THE BODY of a PROSTITUTE (Jessie) crumbles to the ground. *

A Bible falls by her side. Blood trickles from her throat. *

A trail of blood slowly forms a pool around her body. *

The blood stains the Bible. *

WE HEAR the sound of FOOTSTEPS and sound of a CAR WITH A *

BAD MUFFLER speed away.

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK TO SCENE

4 EXT. STREET - CROSSWALK - DAY 4

Claudia lets go of John's arm. She smiles. John stands *

bewildered. *

DISSOLVE TO:

SUPER

"12 HOURS LATER"

5 EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT 5

A Mulholland Drive shot at night.

6 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT 6

John is in that same alley where he had the vision of the *

prostitute, except this time it's not a vision. It's *

real.

John steps over of the body of JESSIE (35), prostitute.

6 CONTINUED:

6

Laying in that pool of blood, Jessie appears to be nothing more than an everyday ho that society ignores and whose spirit has given up on itself. But life and human beings aren't that simple, and appearances can quite often be deceiving. There's something else going on with this one.

CAMERAS FLASH.

John takes a long cold stare in Jessie's face. What is he thinking? John turns his back and steps away.

*
*

DISSOLVE TO:

VISION

Jessie's body is nailed to a CROSS in the alley. A REEF OF THORNS pierces her skull. BLOOD trickles from NAILS driven through her hands.

*
*
*

Clasp in her right hand, we see a BOTTLE OF PILLS clutched in it.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

John wipes his brow with his HANDKERCHIEF. He checks to see if anyone is watching to sneak a swig from a SMALL WHISKEY BOTTLE in his breast pocket, but instead of drinking it, He takes of the cap and smells it, then puts the whiskey bottle away.

*
*
*
*

John takes another look at Jessie's body. He uses a PEN to pick through her clothes, then notices something in her hand.

*
*

He can't get it free with the pen. Rigor mortis has set in. He pries the object free from Jessie's dead lifeless hand. It's a PRESCRIPTION PILL BOTTLE.

*

John reads the bottle label and it's a prescription for MORPHINE prescribed by DR. NAJUMA JOHNSON, and prescribed to: "JESSIE", but we cannot see what Jessie's last name is because John's thumb covers it.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: (2) 6

John whips out his cell phone. He dials "411". *

JOHN
(into phone)
Los Angeles. I'd like the number
for Dr. Najuma Johnson.
(beat)
Office, please.

DISSOLVE TO:

7 EXT. POLICE STATION - ESTABLISHING - DAY 7

SUPER *

"DAY 2, TUESDAY, 12:17 P.M." *

8 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY 8

John sits behind his desk thumbing through a JESSIE'S CASE FILE. *

It contains PHOTOS OF JESSIE'S CRIME SCENE AND SEVERAL DOCUMENTS. A CUP OF COFFEE rests on the desk, as well as the EVIDENCE BOX FULL OF JESSIE'S BELONGINGS. *

WE HEAR a KNOCK at the door.

JOHN
Come in. *

DR. NAJUMA JOHNSON (37) enters.

FREEZE FRAME - NAJUMA *

SUPER

"DR. NAJUMA JOHNSON"

BACK TO SCENE

Najuma's an accomplished woman of stature. Tough, but fair. A striking face and well-dressed, but the stress of her work has worn her down in just a short period of time. *

John rises. Extends his hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Detective Smith. Detective John Smith.

Najuma takes his hand. *

NAJUMA
Dr. Najuma Johnson.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Najuma takes a seat in front of John's desk. *

JOHN *

Thank you so much for coming on
such short notice.

NAJUMA *

No problem, the clinic is just a
few blocks away.

JOHN

Investigations run so much more
smoothly when they are free of the
interactions of the natural
workplace.

NAJUMA

(a bit surprised)

Am I under investigation?

JOHN

Bad choice of words. Police talk.
Please, have a seat.

Najuma sits. John returns behind his desk and takes his
seat.

JOHN (CONT'D) *

Nice day, isn't it? Last night on
the news, they said it wouldn't
last too--

NAJUMA

I'm more than happy to help out,
but keep in mind their are many
sick people who depend--

JOHN

Just trying to make small talk. *

Najuma gives John a faint smile.

JOHN (CONT'D)

A prostitute named Jessie was
murdered last night just a few
blocks from this Police Station.
We don't really have a lot of leads,
but we do have a bottle of
Morphine...

(places a baggy
containing the
morphine pill bottle
on the desk) *

With your name on it, so to speak.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

NAJUMA
There are lots of pill bottles
with my name on it, Detective Smith.

John pushes the BAGGY CONTAINING THE PILL BOTTLE towards
Najuma.

*

JOHN
Of course there are. What was it
for?

*

NAJUMA
Pain and suffering.

*

JOHN
Go on.

NAJUMA
I met Jessie for the first time
about 6 months ago. She was a
wreck.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

9 EXT. FREE CLINIC - ESTABLISHING - DAY

9

SUPER

*

"6 MONTHS EARLIER"

*

10 INT. NAJUMA'S OFFICE - FREE CLINIC - DAY

10

Jessie sits on a EXAMINATION TABLE in RAGGEDY MISMATCHED
CLOTHES. Her hair is a wreck. She itches continuously.
There are visible BRUISES on her limbs.

*

She waits, and waits, and waits. Then an idea comes.
She tries to open a cabinet. It's locked. She finds a
PAPERCLIP and tries to pick the lock.

*

*

*

*

Najuma enters.

*

Jessie is startled.

*

NAJUMA
(motherly)
Don't waste your time. You won't
find any drugs in there.

*

10 CONTINUED: 10

Jessie pounds her fist against the cabinet. *

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

11 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY 11

John writes on a YELLOW LEGAL PAD. *

JOHN
So she was using--

NAJUMA
What wasn't she using? Drugs,
Johns, booze...

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK

12 INT. NAJUMA'S OFFICE - FREE CLINIC - DAY 12

Najuma hovers over Jessie, not even making eye contact,
nervously staring at Jessie's chart. *

NAJUMA
(compassionate)
Well, the good news is, you're
definitely not pregnant. *

JESSIE
So, I'm sick, right? I need some
medicine. Give me the medicine! *

Najuma takes's Jessie's hand lovingly. *

NAJUMA
I don't know how to say this,
sweetie, but your blood work came
back, and as I feared, you have
contracted the HIV virus and have
developed AIDS. *

Najuma lets this sink in with Jessie. *

NAJUMA (CONT'D)
As a result of the of the immune
deficiency, you caught arbovirus
encephalitis. You've got 6 months
to live at the most. I'm sorry.
There's not too much I can do for
you now other than subscribe
something to ease the pain. *

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

Najuma sniffs.

JESSIE

(agitated)

Are you crying? What, you feel
sorry for me or something? Feeling
guilty - living in your big house
on a big hill, driving a big car.
You don't even know me. Just give
me the damn drugs!

*

Najuma writes a prescription.

*

NAJUMA

A bit ironic, don't you think?
You're an addict but you're getting
a doctor's prescription for drugs.
How absurd?

*

JESSIE

(crazed)

Just give me the damn drugs!

*

Najuma reaches in her pocket and removes a small SAMPLE
OF MORPHINE.

*

Najuma hands the sample to Jessie along with the
prescription.

NAJUMA

Take these. They'll get you
started. Please dear, take care
of yourself.

*

Najuma leaves the room and closes the door.

*

JESSIE

Take care of your own damn self!!!

Jessie rips open the sample and swallows some pills.

*

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

13 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY

13

John leans back in his chair in deep thought.

*

JOHN

When was the last time you saw
Jessie?

NAJUMA

I haven't seen her in about 2
months.

*

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

NAJUMA (CONT'D)

She came to ask me to increase the dosage on her prescription, and even though it might have eased the pain, I didn't oblige.

JOHN

I see. Did she ever talk about any--

NAJUMA

Johns, no. I wanted to help her, but all she wanted was those drugs. Poor thing. If you ask me, you're wasting your time on this case.

It was obviously a John that killed her. She was always coming to the office with bruises and broken bones.

John shakes his head

JOHN

(mumbles)
Proverbs 1:31-33.

NAJUMA

Excuse me.

JOHN

Nothing.

NAJUMA

No, you mumbled something under your breath. One something.

JOHN

(laughs)
I said Proverbs 1:31-33. In the Old Testament, Solomon, son of David, King of Israel wrote in Proverbs 1:31-33,

"Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear or evil."

END SPLIT SCREEN

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2) 13

A beat. *

NAJUMA
What are you, some kind of religious
nut or something? *

A beat. *

JOHN *

Well, if there's nothing else--

Najuma rises and heads for the door. She pauses. *

NAJUMA
Oh, there was one person, not
necessarily a friend or a client
though.

She had been attending this church
called Love Fellowship. She talked
about it a lot and how much she
loved the Pastor.

I think she even got counseling
from him once. Maybe he knows
something about some angry Johns
and the like.

John grabs his pad. He writes: "LOVE FELLOWSHIP". *

JOHN
Love Fellowship. Got it. I'll
check it out.

Najuma leaves the office. *

John sits back down behind his desk. *

He taps on his computer to surf the internet. He googles,
"LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH". The Pastor's name is: "PASTOR
DENNIS LUTHER". *

John googles more information on Pastor Luther and Love
Fellowship Church.

He finds an article about: "PASTOR DENNIS LUTHER, LIKELY
CHOICE FOR INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP WEST COAST BISHOP".

Another article reads: "PASTOR DENNIS LUTHER RELINQUISHES
BISHOP APPOINTMENT." *

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

JOHN (CONT'D)
(to self)
Interesting.

*

John visits Love Fellowship's website and gets the phone number for the church. He dials the number on his desk phone.

*
*
*

JOHN (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Love Fellowship? Yes. May I speak with Pastor Luther? Detective Smith. Detective John Smith. There's been an, an incident. Okay, thank you.

*

John peruses the Love Fellowship website.

*

JOHN (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Pastor Luther, Detective John Smith. A prostitute-- You saw it on the news. Jessie? Yes. Yes. Today? Thank you.

John glances at his watch. It reads "1:15".

*

JOHN (CONT'D)
(into phone)
How does 3:00 at my office sound? Great. I'll see you soon.

*

John hangs up the PHONE. Grabs his COFFEE CUP. Takes a swig. Hmm, something's missing.

*

He checks to see if anyone's outside the door, then reaches in his desk for a BOTTLE. He starts to pour some whiskey into the coffee, but changes his mind.

*
*
*

John grabs JESSIE'S FILE from the desk and looks at the PHOTOS.

He pauses at a PHOTO OF A SCAR ACROSS JESSIE'S THROAT.

*

John gags, and rushes For the restroom.

*

CUT TO:

14 INT. RESTROOM - POLICE STATION - DAY

14

John runs into a stall and VOMITS into a toilet basin. He takes a moment to breathe, then hurls again.

*
*

As he stares into the basin...

VISION

14 CONTINUED: 14

John senses that something is wrong. He steps out of the stall. *

In the center of the floor is a LARGE WOODEN BOX. *

John slowly steps toward the box.

Inside the box is Jessie's body. She is covered in FISH and LOAVES OF BREAD. *

As John reaches to touch one of the fish WE HEAR A TOILET FLUSH. *

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE - STALL

John is back on his knees hung over the toilet. His hand is on the toilet handle and the toilet finishes its FLUSH. Disoriented, John looks around and checks himself. *

He steps out of the stall and makes his way to the sink. Turns on the facet. Washes his hands and face. As he looks into the mirror he see's Jessie's face. *

He's shaken. Glances at his WATCH. It reads: "3:15". Shucks, Pastor Luther is waiting. John composes himself and rushes out of the restroom. *

CUT TO:

15 INT. HALLWAY - POLICE STATION - DAY 15

John steps to the doorway of his office. He notices a man sitting in front of the desk. *

John can see the man's body, but he can't see his face. The body rises.

LUTHER (O.S.)
I hope you don't mind. They said
it would be alright at the front
desk.

16 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY 16

John steps into the doorway frame. The body now stands in the office and it belongs to a man - PASTOR DENNIS LUTHER (40). *

FREEZE - LUTHER

SUPER

"PASTOR LUTHER"

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

BACK TO SCENE

Luther wears an expensive suit, donning a CLERGY COLLAR and a CROSS ON CHAIN draping around his neck.

Pastor Luther is a charismatic man full of charm, style and grace. He's one of those new school preachers with enough charm in one pinky to tame the devil.

Pastor Luther extends his hands. *

LUTHER

Pastor Luther.

John enters his office and extends his hand. *

JOHN

Smith. Detective John Smith.
Pleased to meet you.

John steps around to the back of his desk. He waits for Luther to take a seat, then he sits. *

JOHN (CONT'D) *

Sorry to keep you waiting. I was,
I was--

LUTHER

(finishes)
Police business?

JOHN

Yes.

LUTHER

No problem. Love Fellowship is just a few blocks away. Besides, I like a man who's a hard worker. The Bible says in Luke 10:7 that a workman is worthy of his hire. God likes to reward those--

John notices that Luther's suit is not cheap and he's wearing an EXPENSIVE WATCH and JEWELRY. *

JOHN *

Who reward themselves?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

LUTHER

(laughs)

In my father's house our many mansions, full of riches.

JOHN

Does your ministry cater to many indigents and the like?

LUTHER

Sick and shut-in, prisoners, the homeless, you name it.

JOHN

When I was on your website I didn't notice a link for your homeless--

LUTHER

(defensive)

Be ye encouraged. It's on there. But I've complained to the webmaster before that our site is hard to navigate.

Thank you for bringing that to my attention. I'll speak to my webmaster first thing tomorrow. "It'll be all over, in the morning".

JOHN

Now Reverend, you need not defend yourself. You're not on trial. I can definitely respect a man who's committed to the cloth.

I went to graduate school to earn my Ph.D. in one thing, but didn't have the commitment once I graduated, and ended up in career for an entirely different thing.

I admire your commitment.

LUTHER

A Ph.D. - praise God. Well I'm sure the dedication it took to get your doctorate reveals itself in your dedication to law enforcement.

JOHN

Jessie.

LUTHER

Yes. It's a terrible shame, isn't it? Just a few blocks from this Police Station, too.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (3)

16

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Whenever one of God's children has
fallen on the battlefield, it
saddens my spirit.

But rest assured, she was saved,
sanctified and filled with the
Holy Spirit. I'm a witness.

JOHN
Really. How well did you know
Jessie?

LUTHER
(smug)
It all began about 6 months ago.
She wandered into service and was
moved by my message.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

17 EXT. LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - ESTABLISHING - DAY 17

SUPER *

"6 MONTHS EARLIER" *

18 INT. SANCTUARY - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - DAY 18

Jessie sits at the back of the church in a very SEXY RED
DRESS. She looks like a stereotypical street walker.
She sniffles and dabs her eyes with a SMALL TISSUE. *

Pastor Luther walks down the center aisle from the pulpit. *

LUTHER
I've been noticing you for the
past few weeks.

Luther extends his hand.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Pastor Luther.

Jessie takes his hand. Luther sits next to her. *

JESSIE
Jessie.

LUTHER
The sermon gets even better when
you can hear it from the front.

Jessie laughs. *

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

JESSIE

(shy)

You know I can't. It wouldn't be--

LUTHER

Wouldn't be what? Right?
Christian? The church is a hospital
for sinners.The Bible tells us in Ephesians
2:8, "For by Grace are ye saved
through faith; and that not of
ourselves: it is the gift of God."

Jessie smiles.

*

JESSIE

(re: the Bible)

No, it doesn't.

LUTHER

Yes, it does. We are saved by his
grace and mercy, and not by our
own works.

Jessie considers this.

*

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Are you happy?

A beat.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Do you go to bed at night and say,
Lord, "if this day was my last
day, then I have no regrets? I've
fought the good fight of faith"?

TEARS well up in Jessie's eyes.

JESSIE

I think I should go now.

Luther compassionately takes Jessie's hand.

*

LUTHER

Whatever you have and haven't done
is between you and the Lord. Let
no man or woman stand in the way
of your salvation. Jesus Christ
died on the cross for our sins so
that he may sit on the right hand
of God and be our intercessor for
prayer.

Jessie listens intently.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

JESSIE

You wouldn't understand. You're like a Pastor and all. You've probably never been in place you just can't get out of, and no matter what you try, or what you do, you just can't seem to find your way--

LUTHER

Home? Find your way home? Jessie, the spirit of God is home. When you take one step towards God, God takes two steps toward you.

JESSIE

I can't do this.

LUTHER

Yes you can! The only thing that God asks is that you believe. Believe in him. Believe in yourself.

God is everywhere. He's in the trees, in the wind, in the rain, in the laws, in the books, and even inside of you.

If you can believe in God, then you can believe in you. Faith. It was brings us through. It's absolutely free.

You don't need money. You don't need muscles. You don't need to be from the right side of town. All you need is to simply be.

Jessie cries.

Luther motions for her to kneel. Luther grabs a BIBLE from the pew.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

In Romans 10:9, the Bible tells us, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved".

Tears pour from Jessie's eye's. Luther puts Jessie's hand over the Bible.

JESSIE

(choked up)

Yes. Yes. Yes. I believe.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

JESSIE (CONT'D)
I believe. Thank you, Jesus.
Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus.

LUTHER
Though art saved. Welcome to God's
family.

*

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

19 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY

19

John sniffles.

*

JOHN
So you saved her?

LUTHER
(grins)
God, saved her. Not my will, but
thy will be done.

JOHN
Did she ever talk about any of her
clients, dealers, pimps, possibly
someone with a grudge?

LUTHER
I left that between her and God.
I'm afraid in her line a work, all
of the above our natural hazards
when you deviate from God's line
of work.

John makes a note in his LEGAL PAD.

JOHN
Yes, of course.

A beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(direct)
When was the last time you saw
Jessie?

*

LUTHER
She came to church on and off for
awhile, and then she just
disappeared. The last time I saw
her had to be about 2 months ago.

John makes another note on his legal pad. He rises.

*

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

JOHN

Thank you for your time Pastor
Luther.

Luther rises and shakes John's hand. He turns to the
door, and pauses with a thought.

LUTHER

There was one more thing. On the
corner near the alley where she
worked, not that I've been there,
she said something about a
shopkeeper that she had exchanged
words with in the past.

A-1 Discount, I believe. Possibly
he saw something or knew of somebody
that--

JOHN

A-1 Discount. Got it. Thank you
again for your time.

John shows Luther to the door. Luther leaves.

John takes seat behind his desk.

He leans back in his chair pensive for a beat.

Picks up the phone. Dials.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Los Angeles. A-1 Discount, please.
Thank you.

John dials a number.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(into phone)

May I speak with the--.

(to self)

I'm on hold. Gee that was poli--

(into phone)

Yes. May I speak with the manager
or owner please.

A police matter. This is Detective
John Smith-- Well, about a
prostitute... Uh-huh... but not
necessarily the prostitutes.

Close enough, huh.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

JOHN (CONT'D)

It would be great if you could come by-- Anything about those prostitutes, huh.

5:00? Now? Sure. I'll be waiting. Ask for-- Yes. Smith. Detective John Smith. Goodbye.

John hangs up the phone. John steps over to his FILE CABINET. The telephone rings. John picks up the phone.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Detective Smith.

CUT TO:

20 INT. CORONER'S OFFICE - COUNTY HOSPITAL - DAY

20

HAROLD JESSUP (35), Coroner, is a straight-shooting slightly geeky doctor type that knows his schlock. Harrold stands at his desk reading through a FILE.

FREEZE - HARROLD

SUPER

"HARROLD THE CORONER"

BACK TO SCENE

HARROLD

(into phone)

John, it's Harrold with the Coroner's office. I've got the results of the autopsy for the prostitute murder last night.

INTERCUT - JOHN IN HIS OFFICE & HARROLD IN HIS OFFICE

JOHN

Shoot.

HARROLD

Turns out that our victim was strangled.

20 CONTINUED:

20

JOHN

What about the blood around her neck?

HARROLD

Looks like she put up a struggle. Twisting turning - but her throat was cut just after she was strangled to death.

JOHN

What can of knife was it?

HARROLD

Wasn't a knife at. Just the edge of some unknown object.

JOHN

Hmm. Anything else?

HARROLD

I'm hypothesizing that the victim knew the assailant. You'd have to be in pretty close range to strangle someone.

From the angle of the marks, it looks like the assailant was facing the victim when the assailant began strangling the victim.

It looks like the victim was seated. The victim had bruises on her knees and calves, most likely from banging them on a blunt nearby object. Possibly the dashboard of car.

JOHN

Probably a deadly John.

HARROLD

That would be my best hypothesis. Maybe a regular.

JOHN

Thanks.

END INTERCUT SEQUENCE

21 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY

21

John leans back in his chair. He thinks for a moment. Reviews his notes. Disgusted, he reaches in his drawer for the little whiskey bottle.

He starts to take a swig, but instead plants the whiskey bottle on his desk.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

John reaches in the EVIDENCE BOX OF JESSIE'S BELONGING and pulls out a BAGGY WITH JESSIE'S BLOOD STAINED BIBLE. Places it on his desk. Stares at it for a long beat.

John removes Jessie's blood-stained Bible from the baggy. He places his hand on it.

DISSOLVE TO:

VISION

John hears the sound of a HEAVY OBJECT BEING DRAGGED DOWN THE HALLWAY. John's door is open.

JOHN

Hello.

(beat)

Hello.

(beat)

Hello, is there anyone there?

The DRAGGING SOUND CONTINUES.

John rises from his desk and slowly walks toward the door.

John sees through the doorway a BARE FOOT.

He slowly sees that the bare foot belongs to a BRUISED AND BLOODIED JESSIE dragging a cross on her back down the hallway in front of John's door.

She stops in the middle of the doorway. Faces John. Looks him square in the eyes. Starts to speak.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

John's door is now closed and he hears LOUD KNOCKING on his door.

BACK TO SCENE

The KNOCKING continues.

WIL (O.S.)

Hello.

(beat)

Hello.

(beat)

Hello, is there anyone there?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

Disoriented, John checks his surroundings. The whiskey bottle is still on the desk and his hand is still on Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

WIL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Detective Smith? Are you there?

John puts the bottle away.

JOHN
Just a moment.

John sticks Jessie's blood-stained Bible back in the evidence box.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Come in.

The doorknob jiggles, but the door does not open.

WIL (O.S.)
It's locked.

JOHN
(to self)
It's locked?
(to voice)
Just a moment.

John heads for the door. Looks at it puzzled. Opens the door.

As the door opens, he sees standing before him, WILLIAM "WIL" FREEMAN (38), Shopkeeper.

FREEZE - WIL

SUPER

"WILLIAM "WIL" FREEMAN"

Wil is an everyday kind of man. Baseball, barbecue and bar room brawls.

Wil grabs John's hand. Shakes it vigorously.

WIL
Officer Smith--

JOHN
Detective--

WIL
William Freeman. And boy am I
glad to talk to you.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (3)

21

Wil plows past John. Seats himself.

WIL (CONT'D)

These prostitutes are out of control. Not that I'm some tightwad...

(remembering
prostitution is
illegal)

But this ain't Nevada and the law is the law.

*
*

John woefully takes a seat behind his desk.

WIL (CONT'D)

I'm a businessman and I'm trying to run a reputable business. Although the girls do buy lots of snacks and other occupational consumables...

JOHN

(overlaps)

Mr. Freeman--

WIL

(overlaps)

Please, call me Wil. What I'm trying to say is, it just ain't right, only few blocks from this Police Station, them girls doing all kinds of things scaring off decent folk...

JOHN

(overlaps)

Okay then, Wil--

WIL

I've got a wife and kids. Do you have a wife and kids? Every night I have to go home to the same old song. Wil, when you going do something about them girls...

JOHN

(overlaps)

Wil--

WIL

Wil, did you call the mayors office about them girls?

Wil, you know them girls is using drugs and have all kinds of diseases from dirty needles and dirty Johns. Wil... Wil...

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (4)

21

JOHN
(interrupts)
Wil!!!

WIL
I'm sorry, were you trying to say
something to me - Detective Smith,
was it?

JOHN
Yes!

WIL
Then why didn't you say so? All
you had to do was speak up.

John waits a beat, assuming that Wil's banter will continue aimlessly, but for some bizarre reason, Wil has stopped and sits there silent and still with a stupid look on his face.

JOHN
This is about a prostitute but not
the prostitutes.

WIL
You mean that one that got killed
last night. Jessie, was it? Man
she was--

JOHN
(interrupts)
Hah-taht. Shush.

Wil is taken aback.

JOHN (CONT'D)
The prostitute that was killed
last night. Jessie. Did you know
her?

WIL
Well, yeah I knew her, but not in
the biblical sense, if you know
what I'm saying. Other than those
consumables they would buy ever
now and then, them girls was usually
just a thorn in my side...

JOHN
(overlaps)
Wil--

WIL
(overlaps)
But being a card carrying Christian
an all,

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (5)

21

WIL (CONT'D)
(actually shows his
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP
CARD)

And yes I do tithe every Sunday,
but I tithe on what I get after
taxes, do you think that's cheating?

JOHN
(overlaps)

Wil--

WIL
It's not like I actually had that
money, well although as a small
businessman I do put it, well, am
supposed to put it in a--

JOHN
Wil!!!

WIL
Yes.

JOHN
Jessie. You were telling me about
Jessie.

WIL
Oh yeah, Jessie. Well one day
about 3 months ago she was beat up
real bad. I think she had a run
in with nasty John.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

21A EXT. ALLEY - ESTABLISHING - DAY

21A *

SUPER

*

"3 MONTHS EARLIER"

*

22 EXT. ALLEY - DAY

22

Wil SWEEPS up TRASH in the alley with a BROOM.

*

WIL
(mutters to self)
Don't nobody have pride in their
neighborhood these days. Just
ain't right. My momma would have--

Wil notices a PAIR OF LEGS sticking out from amongst the
TRASH CANS.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

WIL (CONT'D)

My Lord. Is that a body? Jesus,
I don't want to have to be a
witness.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

The legs move and Wil hears MOANS.

Wil walks over to the body and sees Jessie. She is BRUISED and BLOODIED.

He extends his hand.

Jessie looks at him distrusting.

WIL (CONT'D)

It's okay.

Jessie stares.

WIL (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Wil. What's your name?

JESSIE

Jessie.

WIL

Jessie, are you hungry?

Jessie takes Wil by the hand.

CUT TO:

23 INT. WIL'S OFFICE - A1-DISCOUNT - DAY

23

Wil seats Jessie in a chair and hands her a CUP OF FRESH BREWED COFFEE.

WIL

How long were you down there?

JESSIE

I don't know. Maybe all night.

Jessie sips from the coffee. She winches.

WIL

Careful now. It's hot.

Wil opens up a package of DONUTS. He hands her a donut.

WIL (CONT'D)

Eat. It will make feel better.
Carbs. They're good for you.

Jessie bites into the donut cautiously.

WIL (CONT'D)

It's okay. I don't want nothing
from you.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

WIL (CONT'D)

Just didn't seem Christian like
with you being all... well you
know; down in the gutter, no pun
intended.

Jessie bites into the donut like a wild animal.

WIL (CONT'D)

Go ahead. Eat up. There's plenty
more where that came from.

Wil slides the whole package of donuts over to Jessie.

Wil steps out of the office.

She tears into them, guarding the package like a starved
lion, devouring the donuts as if she hadn't eaten in days.

Wil returns with something in his hand.

He touches Jessie's leg.

She flinches and tries to flee.

Wil takes her by the hand, compassionately. He shows her
what's in his hand.

WIL (CONT'D)

Bandages. And some alcohol. You
need to get them cuts cleaned up
so they won't get infected.

Jessie gives him an uncomfortable look.

WIL (CONT'D)

You don't use--

Jessie takes the ALCOHOL and BANDAGES carefully from Wil's
hand.

JESSIE

Maybe I should do that.

Understandingly, Wil hands Jessie the bandages and alcohol.
There's an uncomfortable silence.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Thank you. You're too kind. I
can take care of myself from here.

Jessie gathers her things and heads for the door.

WIL

Here, take these donuts with you,
too.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

WIL (CONT'D)

And don't worry about paying me any money or anything, consider it a gift.

Oh, and when you give a gift, it's not to get anything in return, if you get my drift.

JESSIE

Thank you.

Jessie leaves.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

24 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY

24

John scribbles notes on his yellow legal pad.

JOHN

Did she ever mention or give any clue as to who it was that assaulted her?

WIL

No, she never did say, but it was pretty much implied that a John did it.

JOHN

Hmm, I see.

WIL

That alley is a viper pit for crime, filth and disease. You guys really need to do something about it.

I know those girls are trying to make a living and all, but just because a man is thirsty doesn't mean he should drink poison because it's liquid.

JOHN

Do you know of any other girls that she was friendly with? Pimps? Boyfriend? Manager?

WIL

Most of the girls that work that alley are independents, not that I'd know anything about that, or

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

WIL (CONT'D)

renegades as they say in Pimps Up
Ho's Down.

JOHN

When was the last time you saw
Jessie?

WIL

About 2 months ago and then she
just disappeared. And if you ask
me, it was some John that killed
that girl.

Save the department some time and
money and close this case. She
was a prostitute a willing
participant in an illegal
transaction between two consenting
adults.

There are cars getting jacked,
purses being stolen and old lady's
getting their head's bashed in by
muggers.

There are far more better things
the city could be doing with its
time and money. After all it was
not like she was--

JOHN

(interrupts)

A human being?

WIL

Well, I wasn't going to say that,
I was--

JOHN

Who are we to determine who counts
and who doesn't?

WIL

Sounds like you're taking this
kind of personal, Detective Smith.
Maybe you should have a drink or
something and just chill for a
minute.

John rises from his chair. He points to the door.

JOHN

You know, maybe I should.

Wil heads for the door.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

WIL

I'm glad the police have finally taken an interest in that alley. Too bad it took it death in the alley for that to happen.

Wil leaves the office.

John sits back down behind his desk. He grabs the whiskey bottle from his drawer.

JOHN

(mumbles to self)
Death in the alley.

John holds the whiskey bottle to his mouth, but before he can stick it in his mouth, he freezes, thinking about his words.

John puts the whiskey bottle down. He reaches in the evidence box and grabs Jessie's blood-stained Bible. Places it on the desk.

Stares at it for a few beats.

Takes a deep breath.

Places his hand atop Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

DISSOLVE TO:

VISION

25 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

25

John is in the alley where Jessie was murdered. A CUP is in John's hand. The chalk line is still on the ground and the police tape is still up.

Jessie slowly approaches John. She walks with a LONG STAFF in one hand and a PITCHER OF MILK in the other. She points the staff at John, and he raises the hand with the cup clasp in it.

Jessie pours milk into the cup letting it overflow and stream continuously onto the ground.

She looks into John's eyes and speaks, but it is unintelligible.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

26 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

26

John wakes up violently. He notices that his hand holds the whiskey bottle and lets the alcohol pour into his coffee cup overflowing, spilling onto the desk and onto the floor.

John quickly reacts, and places the whiskey bottle on the desk. He notices his other hand on a page in Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

He looks at the page his hand covers and notices it is the 23rd Psalm. He reads aloud:

JOHN

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the path of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

The 23rd Psalm.

John leans back in his chair for a beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Damn it, Jessie, what is it? What is it that you are trying to tell me?

John puts Jessie's blood-stained Bible away and reaches in his suit coat pocket for a PACK OF CIGARETTES. He grabs a CIGARETTE and sticks it in his mouth, but doesn't light it.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 26

Slips on his suit coat, leaves his office.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. STREET - POLICE STATION - NIGHT 27

John stands on the sidewalk in front of the police station. Whips out a MATCH and lights his CIGARETTE.

Nearby, Silas - the blind man - puts spare change in expired meters.

John notices this.

JOHN
(under his breath)
Christ.
(to Silas)
Hey.

Silas ignores him.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Hey.

John walks over to Silas. Silas continues adding change to meters.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Hey!

John grabs Silas by the arm.

JOHN (CONT'D)
That's illegal. I'm a police officer.

Silas looks John square in the eyes. Silas is no longer blind.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Wait a minute. Weren't you blind yesterday?

SILAS
You are correct. I was blind this morning.

JOHN
Yeah, right. Give me my \$20 back.

SILAS
You told me to make it count, so I got \$20 in quarters to repay my debt for God's miracle.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

JOHN

Sure, you did. You know what?
Forget it. I'm bringing you in.

John grabs Silas by the arm.

SILAS

There's nothing you can do to break
my spirit after the Angel of the
Streets healed me.

JOHN

Save it for the judge.

SILAS

You will find her killer, won't
you? I recognize your voice from
the police who came to the crime
scene Monday night.

*

John stops. This sinks in. His stomach knots.

JOHN

What the hell are you talking about?

SILAS

Surely you must know. You are a
detective, aren't you? The Angel
of the Streets was slain last night.

The ex-prostitute who was redeemed
and blessed by the hand of God to
work miracles.

JOHN

What!?

SILAS

For the last month, it was rumored
that the Angel of the Streets was
working miracles amongst the
homeless and the needy for all
those who believed in the glory of
God.

I didn't believe it myself, until
I saw it with my own eyes, all
puns intended.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

28 EXT. STREET - POLICE STATION - DAY

28

SUPER

*

"YESTERDAY"

*

Silas sits near the door of the Police Station jingling his CUP for spare change. He's wearing his SUNGLASSES.

Jessie walks down the sidewalk talking on her CELL PHONE. She is dressed sensibly and conservatively.

JESSIE

(into phone)

It's different this time. I've changed. I don't want anything. I'm saved. You're not taking me seriously.

You think this is funny, don't you? I want you to come see me. If you won't, I'm coming there. I want to see you. God bless you.

Jessie ends her call and puts away her cell phone. She now stands in front of Silas. Silas jingles his cup in front of Jessie.

SILAS

Spare change? Spare change for a blind veteran?

JESSIE

Why are you sitting there?

SILAS

Excuse me, Miss? Spare change?

JESSIE

Why are you sitting there?

SILAS

Well, isn't that obvious? I'm blind, homeless, hopeless. Why not?

JESSIE

You served your country well. You carried yourself with bravery, courage, avoided taking human life and were an inspiration to your unit.

SILAS

Your voice. Your voice. It sounds so familiar. I don't think I've met you, yet there's something familiar in the sound of your voice. Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

JESSIE

God has not forgotten you. He loves you. All he asks is that you believe and have faith. Faith in him and faith that he lives within you.

SILAS

Who are you? Do you know me? Is this some kind of joke? What kind of sicko would play jokes on a blind homeless man.

JESSIE

What do you believe in?

SILAS

I don't know. I used to believe in God, but I just don't know anymore.

I don't even know if I believe in myself anymore. Take a good look around you, sister. Crime, poverty, sickness, famine destruction. How could there possibly be a God?

JESSIE

The Lord works in mysterious ways. This life is not an end, but merely the beginning.

God has not forgotten you. He does not even forget those who forget themselves.

If there be no God, then how may I ask that you explain, the wind, the rain and the trees.

The human body is so complex, intelligent in every way in its design and sophistication.

Think of it as a well-crafted machine that houses our true essence, our spirits. Pure consciousness and energy.

Life eternal. When you prick a finger, because it hurts, do you insist that God does not exist?

So why in the pantheon of all eternity would you curse God for sitting on this sidewalk.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Did God seat you on that sidewalk,
or did you seat yourself on that
sidewalk?

Silas rises to his feet.

SILAS

Who-are-you?

JESSIE

Can you at least consider those
words.

SILAS

Yes, I suppose so. Anything is
possible. I suppose you've got
me. I guess I do believe, after
all.

JESSIE

The Bible tells us in Proverbs 3:5-
6, "Trust in the LORD with all
thine heart; and lean not unto
thine own understanding.

In all they ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct thy path".

*

SILAS

I will.

Jessie places her hand over Silas's eyes.

Silas removes his sunglasses. He looks around trembling.

SILAS (CONT'D)

Great God. Good Lord. Jesus
Christ. It's a miracle. It's a
miracle. It's a miracle!

JESSIE

"So whatever you wish that men
would do to you, do so to them;
for this is the Law and the
prophets." -- Matthew 7:12.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

29 EXT. STREET - POLICE STATION - NIGHT

29

John's eyes water. Silas is full of energy.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

SILAS

And then she walked away. I didn't know what to do.

When I put my hand in pocket I found that \$20 bill you gave me, and I guess I just wanted to do something, so I got \$20 in quarters and started putting money in expired meters.

So if you want to take me to jail for that,

(he bows and pantomimes
tipping his hat)

I do so with honor.

JOHN

Do you know of anybody else who claims to have been healed by the Angel of the Streets?

SILAS

Sure, she must have been on a roll or something. She went all up and down the street healing folks.

It's a miracle, I tell you. A miracle. Do you think Christ has returned for us?

JOHN

When I hear the trumpet sound, you'll be the first person I let know. If you can, take me to some of these other people who claimed to have been healed.

DISSOLVE TO:

30 EXT. STREET - LATER - NIGHT

30

Not too far from the Police Station John and Silas come across Anna the addict. Anna is now clean-cut and well-groomed.

She stands in front of a cardboard table with food from the 99 Cents Store, distributing it to any who ask.

A makeshift sign reads: "FREE FOOD FOR THE NEEDY".

Silas and John approach Anna.

SILAS

Praise the Lord, sister.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

ANNA
Praise the Lord.

John rolls his eyes.

SILAS
This is a police detective who
wants to hear about how The Angel
of the Streets healed you.

ANNA
It's a shame, isn't it? Why would
someone kill such a beautiful
person? She was Angel. I tell
you, an Angel. The end of the
world must be near.

JOHN
So what did this lady do for you?

ANNA
She cured me of drug addiction.

JOHN
How long ago?

ANNA
Monday night.

JOHN
Yesterday? What makes you think
you're cured?

Anna extends her arms.

ANNA
What do you see?

JOHN
Arms.

ANNA
What do you see on them?

JOHN
I don't know, nothing.

ANNA
That's right. Nothing. Nothing
here...

(points to arms)
Nothing here...

(points to legs)
Nothing anywhere. Monday morning
I was covered in scars and tracks.

*

*

*

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

ANNA (CONT'D)

Now there's not a single scar on
my body. The monkey's off my back.
I've lost the taste. In fact, if
you even say drugs, it makes me
sick.

JOHN

(skeptical)

So what happened?

ANNA

I was in the alley with a needle
when she appeared before me.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

31 EXT. ALLEY - DAY

31

Anna sits perched against the wall amongst the TRASH.
She pulls out a HYPODERMIC NEEDLE. Ties off her vein
with a SHOELACE.

Her arm is full of scars and junkie tracks.

Jessie steps into the alley and stands over Anna.

JESSIE

It won't take you higher.

Anna whips at a SCREWDRIVER. Points it at Jessie.

ANNA

(protective)

Hey, back off. Get your own stash.

JESSIE

It won't take you higher.

ANNA

But it will take me away

(laughs)

At least for a little while.

JESSIE

It's not your fault--

ANNA

(finishes Jessie's
words)

The house, the job, the family,
yadda, yadda, yadda. You name it.
It's not my fault?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

ANNA (CONT'D)

I suppose not. It's God's fault.

(laughs)

It's God's fault. That is if you also believe in little green men and Santa Claus.

Anna taps her vein.

JESSIE

The children who burned in the fire while you were asleep.

Anna pauses at this.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

It's not your fault. The house had faulty wiring. There was nothing you could do. You could not save them. It's not your fault.

Anna grabs the screwdriver again.

ANNA

Hey, who the hell are you? You some kind of IRS detective. Well as you can see,
(holds up needle)
the insurance money is all gone. Just leave me be. Let me live and get high in peace.

JESSIE

I didn't say you can't go higher, I said that stuff you are about to put in your arm won't take you higher.

ANNA

Oh, I get it. You must be the new dealer in town. Does Big D. know you're out here?

This here is D.'s territory. You know what? Scram. You bothering me. Can't you see I'm trying to get high?

JESSIE

Brandon says he's sorry. You told him not to plug in that old lamp, but he was afraid of the dark. He's sorry.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

ANNA

Shut up. Shut up. Shut up. Shut-up!

(in tears)

What are you trying to do to me.

(places head in hands)

I need more drugs.

JESSIE

If that's truly your wish, I can leave, but I came here to deliver another message.

ANNA

Please, no more messages.

Jessie turns and begins to walk. Anna cries and prepares to take the needle.

ANNA (CONT'D)

(re: Jessie's message)

From who?

Jessie pauses in her tracks. Turns toward Anna.

JESSIE

From Him.

ANNA

Him?

JESSIE

Yes, from Him. You asked Him a question and he answered you, but you haven't been listening, so he sent me to tell you the answer. The answer to your question is, "believe". He says believe.

Anna overcome with tears, cries and cries and cries.

Anna extends her hand to Jessie.

Jessie takes her hand.

ANNA

Thank you.

JESSIE

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" --
Romans 10:13

Jessie releases Anna's hand.

Anna looks at the needle perplexed, and lets it drop to the ground with the trash.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

Anna rolls up her sleeves. The scars and junkie tracks are gone.

ANNA

It's a miracle. It's a miracle.
Thank you, Jesus. It's a miracle.
It's gone. The monkey's gone. I
don't want anymore drugs.

JESSIE

"Give, and it shall be give unto
you; good measure, pressed down,
and shaken together, and running
over, shall men give into your
bosom.

For with the same measure that ye
mete withal it shall be measured
to you again." -- Luke 6:38.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

32 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

32

John stands with Silas before Anna in pure amazement.

JOHN

Did she say where she was going?
Who she might be meeting later in
the day?

ANNA

No, nothing. First thing I did
after that was clean myself up,
hit the 99 Cents Store, and set up
this table. I've been blessed. I
want to give back.

JOHN

Thank you.

SILAS

Thank you, sister. Praise the
Lord. There's much work to be
done in the vineyard.

Silas leads John away from Anna and further down the
street.

CUT TO:

LATER

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

John and Silas come across Claudia the lame. She wears a REFLECTIVE VEST and holds a MAKESHIFT STOP SIGN, and stops traffic to help people across the street. A WHEELCHAIR is folded up, pushed against the wall of a building.

SILAS (CONT'D)
(to Claudia)
Praise the Lord, sister.

CLAUDIA
Praise the Lord, brother.

SILAS
Claudia, this is Detective...

JOHN
(finishes)
Smith.

CLAUDIA
I recognize him. He helped me
cross the street Monday. Such a
fine man. *

John slowly remembers.

SILAS
Detective...

Silas looks to John.

JOHN
(finishes for Silas)
Smith.

SILAS
(continues)
...is investigating the murder of
the Angel of the Streets last night.

CLAUDIA
Such a tragedy. Such a tragedy.
What kind of monster could erase
such goodness and beauty?

JOHN
Silas says you were...
(hesitates)
Healed by Jessie, yesterday.

CLAUDIA
Was that the Angel's name? I hear
she used to be a prostitute.

JOHN
What happened? What did she do?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

CLAUDIA
It was a miracle, I tell you. A
miracle.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

33 EXT. STREET - DAY

33

SUPER

*

"1 DAY EARLIER"

*

Claudia sits in her wheelchair shaking a CUP OF COINS at passersby. She doesn't bother to speak or even look them in the eye.

Jessie appears before her.

JESSIE
What do you expect that cup to do
for you?

Claudia shakes the cup for Jessie.

JESSIE (CONT'D)
What you need does not fit in a
cup?

CLAUDIA
Lady, last thing I need is a
lecture. You got some spare change
or not? Can't you see I'm working?

I don't work for food. Give me
some change, or please change your
position, and step away from my
view. You're blocking my progress.

JESSIE
It believes in you.

CLAUDIA
What!?

JESSIE
It believes in you.
(beat)
Love.

CLAUDIA
What the hell do you know about
love? Please.

JESSIE
I know that God is love.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

CLAUDIA

Oh, hell no. Are you one of those religious nuts? Jesus--
 (catches herself)
 Okay, I love Jesus. He's wonderful. He's the man. Go team go. Now scram, you're cutting into my shift. The blind man get this spot at 6:00.

JESSIE

I noticed you chose not to use the Lord's name in vain. Why is that? You're homeless. You have no money, food or a table to put it on.

CLAUDIA

You're not very good at this witness stuff are you? Listen, sweetie. Ms. Claudia is a survivor.

I may be in this wheelchair, and I may be on the street, but I ain't no heathen. Ain't no law against being homeless, accept in the City of Santa Monica I hear -- they're the heathens.

But that's besides the point. I live off the land and other people's waste because there are many that have so much, that they are unaware of it's true value. God has a plan for me.

And if it's my cross to bear, I bear it, and to God be the glory when he accepts me into his kingdom. The sooner the better, as a matter of fact. Praise be unto God to whom all blessing flow.

A beat.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Now scram! You're cutting into my shift.

Tries to look around Jessie, while she shakes her cup.

JESSIE

I have something for you. Come take it from my hand.

Claudia gives Jessie a good stare, then puffs.

She reaches for Jessie's hand, but cannot reach it.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

CLAUDIA

I can't reach it.

JESSIE

Yes, you can. Come forward.

Claudia puffs again, leans forward in her chair then pauses.

She is filled with fear, wonder and amazement. Her hands tremble.

Looks at her legs.

Tears fill her eyes.

JESSIE (CONT'D)

Come forth.

Claudia slowly places one foot on the ground at a time. Then stands.

CLAUDIA

It's a miracle. It's a miracle.
Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Jesus.
Hallelujah!

Jessie extends her hand. Claudia takes Jessie by the hand.

JESSIE

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude.

Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away."

1 Corinthians 13:4-10

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3) 33

BACK TO SCENE

34 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 34

John stands with amazement. Silas waves his hands.

SILAS

Praise the Lord. He's real. He's real. God is real.

JOHN

And could you walk at all before that? Move your legs? Wiggle a toe? Anything?

CLAUDIA

Not a lick. And look at me now.

Claudia cuts a dance step.

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)

Thank you, Jesus. I just wanted to tell the world and do something for somebody after the Angel of the Streets healed me.

First thing I did was run down to the thrift store and buy this reflective vest and make this stop sign, so I could help people across the street. Hallelujah!

SILAS

Hallelujah!

JOHN

Did she say where she was going?

CLAUDIA

No, not a word.

JOHN

(disappointed)

And that was the last time you saw her?

CLAUDIA

No.

JOHN

It wasn't?

CLAUDIA

No, indeed. I thought that's why you came to talk to me.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

CLAUDIA (CONT'D)
 I've been trying to tell them uniforms at the station all day what I saw, but seeing as how I'm homeless they wouldn't listen. I thought that's what you came to talk about.

JOHN
 You saw the murder?

CLAUDIA
 No, not exactly.

JOHN
 You saw the murderer?

CLAUDIA
 No, not exactly that either.

JOHN
 Then what did you see?

CLAUDIA
 I saw that hippity-hoppity shopkeeper threaten to kill her. *

JOHN
 What shopkeeper?

CLAUDIA
 That mighty mouth, young punk, Wil Freeman. *

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

35 EXT. ALLEY - DAY

35

Claudia jogs down the sidewalk waving her arms.

CLAUDIA
 Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.
 Praise the Lord.

She pauses at the corner and looks down into the alley.

Wil shoves Jessie to the ground.

BIBLE TRACTS fly about.

WIL
 Now get the hell out of here!

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

WIL (CONT'D)
And if you ever come back again,
I'll kill you.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

36 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

36

John stands quite disturbed. Silas looks as if he's ready to kill.

SILAS
(waves his fist)
Come on Detective. Let's string
'em up.

John grabs Silas by the arm.

JOHN
Hold your horses. We're not
stringing anybody up just yet.
This is official police business,
and a murder threat, although
illegal, is still not an actual
murder.
(to Claudia)
Are you positive about this?

CLAUDIA
Right as rain. I would have beat
the hell out of him myself, but
next thing I knew, she was gone,
and Wil had stepped back into his
shop and closed the door.

JOHN
Thank you so very much...
(searches for name)

CLAUDIA
Claudia.

JOHN
You have been an immeasurable help
to my investigation. You too...

SILAS
(finishes)
Silas.

JOHN
I'm off to the office. I have
work to do.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

John walks away.

CLAUDIA
(shouting to John's
back)

If they need some witnesses for
his execution, you can count me
in.

SILAS

Me, too.

DISSOLVE TO:

37 EXT. POLICE STATION - ESTABLISHING - DAY

37

SUPER

*

"DAY 3, WEDNESDAY, 12:43 P.M."

*

38 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY

38

John sits behind his desk. Reviewing Jessie's case file.
He looks at the PHOTOS OF JESSIE'S BODY and shakes his
head with disgust.

His desk phone rings. He picks up the phone.

JOHN
(into phone)

Detective Smith... Yes, please
send him in.

John picks up Jessie's blood-stained Bible and his legal
pad. He reviews his notes.

A few beats later, there's a KNOCK at the door.

Wil Freeman's body comes into view.

WIL
Detective Smith, Wil--

JOHN
(firm)

Sit down.

WIL
(guarded)

They said on the phone that you
urgently needed to see me. Did
you have some questions about the
other prostitutes? Are the police
finally going to do something about
that alley?

John opens Jessie's blood-stained Bible to a bookmarked
page.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

JOHN

Matthew 7:15-21,

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven."

John closes Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

He reaches in his desk and pulls at a SMALL TAPE RECORDER.

Places it on the desk. Turns on the tape recorder.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(into mic)

This is Detective John Smith with Wil Freeman.

(to Wil)

Did you kill Jessie?

WIL

(nervous)

Excuse me, detective.

JOHN

Did you kill Jessie?

WIL

Detective Smith, I'm confused, I--

Detective Smith BANGS his fist on the desk.

JOHN

Let me be more direct!

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

JOHN (CONT'D)

Why did you kill Jessie?

WIL

(shaken)

I didn't kill her. I didn't kill
her. I swear it!.

John turns off the tape recorder. He places handcuffs on
the desk.

He gets up from his seat and walks around the desk behind
Wil. *

Leans over to his ear.

JOHN

(whispers)

Behind this curtain...

(points to door)

We have kids, a wife and some good
loving. Behind this curtain...

(points to handcuffs)

We have the electric chair
(runs his hand gently

across Wil's face)

And some not so good loving.

WIL

(whines)

What? What do you want from me? *

John bangs his hand on the desk.

JOHN

Damn it, Wil! Are we going to
have to do this the hard way? Are
you not going to tell me you didn't
kill Jessie?Are you not going to tell me that
you didn't see Jessie just 2 days
ago? Are you not going to tell me
that you did not threaten to kill
Jessie in that very alley she died
in?Are you not going to tell me,
someone didn't see you kill Jessie.
Huh, Wil. Huh!

WIL

(whines)

I want my lawyer. *

JOHN

You want your lawyer. Sure, no
problem.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (3)

38

JOHN (CONT'D)

But I can hold you for 24 hours
before you can see your lawyer.

As a matter of fact, I'd love to
take you to the lawyer's waiting
area with all the other unsupervised
murderers, rapists and drug dealers.

I can call your Pastor or your
wife to call your lawyer and explain
to them that you, a card carrying
Christian man, has been implicated
in having relations with Satan's
serpent in a den of iniquity, and
then slayed that serpent with your
sword.

WIL

I didn't kill her. I threatened
her, but I didn't kill her.

JOHN

Now, we're getting somewhere.

John sits back down behind his desk.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Sing.

WIL

I saw her a couple of days ago in
the afternoon.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

39 EXT. ALLEY - DAY

39

"2 DAYS EARLIER"

*

Jessie, clean cut, well-groomed and conservatively dressed,
stands at the edge of the alley with her Bible under one
arm and BIBLE TRACTS in the other.

JESSIE

(to passerby)

Are you saved? Will you go to
heaven if you die in a car accident
tonight? Jesus is real. Seek ye
the kingdom of God. If you have
only the faith of the grain of a
mustard seed.

Wil storms out of his back door.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

WIL

Hey.

JESSIE

(to passersby)

Trust in the Lord with all thine
heart and lean not to thine own
understanding.

Wil rushes over to Jessie.

WIL

Hey! What did I tell you about
handing out them damn Bible tracts?

JESSIE

(to Wil)

When people stand in this alley
and defile the human temple, its
fine with you as long as they buy
a condom and a Coke.

But when I choose to profess the
Lord Jesus Christ as my personal
savior, you suddenly have a problem.
Satan, I rebuke thee.

WIL

I've had enough of that rebuke
thee nonsense. I'm trying to run
a business here. Take a good look
around you. This is the bottom.

Hell in a hand basket. Ain't nobody
around here interested in God.
Just bitches, beers and blunts.
You're scaring off my business.
I'm trying to make a living.

JESSIE

If though shalt confess with heart--

WIL

That's it. I've had enough of
this.

Wil grabs Jessie by the arm drags her down the alley and
shoves her, knocking her to the ground. Bible tracts fly
about.

WIL (CONT'D)

Read my lips. I've had it. If
you ever come back in this alley
again, I swear to God, I'll kill
you. Leave while you still can.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: (2)

39

BACK TO SCENE

40 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION DAY

40

John is visibly sick to his stomach.

JOHN

Card carrying Christian, please. *

WIL

Don't judge me. The neighborhood is a dump, and the slime that lives here is lucky someone will even open a shop down here.

We're just a few blocks from the Police Station, and still crime runs wild.

My insurance is more than my lease. There's nothing but pimps, pushers, Johns... You name it.

Those are the only people that come in my store and they don't pay to hear that Jesus crap. Light of my salvation my butt. *

I'm the light in that alley. I run stuff down there. So did I threaten her, hell yeah I threatened. *

Did I kill her, hell no. But had I saw her again, I probably would have. And if this is the best you got on me, you best be letting me walk, or let me call my lawyer.

JOHN

Spare me the tough guy routine. We all know what really happened. Free condoms and no calls to the cops, makes going to work a release from the old wife.

But a ho turned holy, is offering an entirely new benefits program.

WIL

You know what, Detective? Big deal. I don't even know why you're even going through the trouble of this investigation. After all, she was just a prostitute.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

John erupts from his desk.

JOHN

Now I know you couldn't kill her
Wil, because you don't have what
it takes to do it.

*
*

Grabs Wil by the arm.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You're wasting my time.

Drags him to the door.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Get the hell out of my office.

Shoves him out the office. SLAMS the door.

Johns returns to his desk. Falls into his chair.

Sits for a few beats. Spins around in his chair.

Lets his head drop. To the desk. Places his hand on
Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

The PHONE RINGS. John picks up the phone.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Detective Smith... Detective
Smith... Hello? Hello? I think
we have a bad connection. All I
can hear is static. Can you call
back? I can hear you breathing
now, but if you don't say anything
I'm going to hang up.

JESSIE (O.S.)

(covered in EVP static)
Luther lied.

JOHN

What?

JESSIE (O.S.)

(covered in EVP static)
Luther Jessie church.

JOHN

Luther Jessie church?

John waits a beat. The voice does not speak.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Luther saw Jessie at the church?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: (2)

40

JESSIE (O.S.)
 (covered in EVP static)
 Luther Jessie church day murder.

JOHN
 Luther saw Jessie at the church
 day murder?

John ponders this for a beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Oh, I got it. Luther saw Jessie
 at the church the day of the murder,
 right?

The phone disconnects.

John looks at the phone strangely, then hangs it up.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 (mutters to self)
 Luther saw Jessie the day of the
 murder at the church.

John sorts through his yellow legal pad.

He picks up the phone. Dials a number.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Pastor Luther, please. Detective
 Smith. Detective John Smith.
 Thank you. Hello, Pastor. I had
 a few more questions.
 (beat)
 Would much rather talk to you about
 them here. You'll be right over?
 Much appreciated. See you soon.

John hangs up the phone.

DISSOLVE TO:

41 EXT. POLICE STATION - ESTABLISHING - LATER - DAY 41

42 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY 42

John stands behind his desk looking out the window.
 Jessie's blood-stained Bible and a blank yellow legal pad
 sits alone on his desk.

Luther appears in his doorway.

John senses his presence.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

JOHN

Please come in and close the door
behind you.

Luther steps inside the office and closes the door behind
himself. He takes a seat in front of John's desk.

They both remain quiet for a few beats.

LUTHER

Was there something you forgot to
ask me the last time we spoke?

Silent, John continues to stare out of the window.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

I've been praying that Jessie's
killer is brought to justice.
Anything I can do to help, just
ask, and you've got it.

JOHN

Anything?

(beat)

Could you put your left hand on
that Bible, please?

John steps around to his desk.

LUTHER

Detective.

JOHN

Please.

Luther puts his hand on Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you recognize it?

LUTHER

Detective, I'm no stranger to God's--

JOHN

That's Jessie's Bible.

John takes a few beats to let this sink in with Luther.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Raise your right hand please.

Luther raises his right hand.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you solemnly swear to tell the
whole truth and nothing but the
truth, so help you God?

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (2)

42

LUTHER

I do.

JOHN

Thank you.

The TAPE RECORDER CLICKS.

John turns it around and places it on the desk.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You said that you would do anything
to help bring Jessie's killer to
justice.

LUTHER

Yes.

JOHN

We can start with your confession.

John stands with one foot on his chair.

He hands Luther a pen.

Luther holds the pen for a beat, then places it down on
the desk.

LUTHER

How dare you? I am a man of God.

JOHN

A man of God. Is that right?

LUTHER

Either you charge me with something
or let me go.

John turns off the tape recorder.

JOHN

Okay, guess my theatrics aren't
working. You're free to go.

Luther considers this, then rises.

LUTHER

God is watching, Detective.

Luther regains his composure and heads for the door.

John takes a seat. John removes his yellow legal pad
full of notes from his desk drawer.

As Luther's hand opens the door...

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: (3)

42

JOHN

One last thing Pastor. Can you tell me why would someone call me and tell me that you met with Jessie at your church on the day of her murder, when you told me that you hadn't seen her in 2 months?

Luther pauses, then closes the door. He comes back over to the desk and takes a seat in front of John.

LUTHER

Alright, Detective. What is it that you want from me?

JOHN

The truth.

LUTHER

Yes. Yes I did see Jessie the day she was murdered. But I was too ashamed to tell you because I felt partly responsible for her death.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

43 EXT. LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - ESTABLISHING - DAY 43

SUPER *

"2 DAYS EARLIER" *

44 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - DAY 44

Pastor Luther reads through his Bible, making notes for his next sermon.

He hears a KNOCK at the door. Luther looks up.

LUTHER

Come in.

In walks Jessie. She is visibly disturbed.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Jessie, what a blessed surprise. I haven't seen you in so long. How have you been?

Jessie sits down in chair in front of Luther's desk. She sticks her face in her hands and weeps.

Luther extends his hand to gently comfort her.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

LUTHER (CONT'D)
What's wrong, dear?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

LUTHER (CONT'D)

It's going to be alright.
Everything's going to be alright.

Jessie looks up.

JESSIE

(cross)

That's just it. Everything is not
alright. It's never been alright
and never will.

LUTHER

Don't talk like that. If you just
trust in the Lord, I know he will
answer your prayers.

Jessie knocks the contents of the surface of Luther's
desk onto the floor.

JESSIE

Lies, lies, lies! It's all lies.
There is no God.

Luther stands.

LUTHER

That's blaspheme, Jessie. You are
in the house of God.

Jessie pounds her fist on the desk.

JESSIE

I did everything the Bible told me
to do. I confessed with my heart,
I prayed, I had faith, I did good
deeds, but still mercy and grace
did not come.

LUTHER

Stop this. Stop this, this instant.

JESSIE

He didn't heal me? I'm going to
die. I'm going to die. My doctor
tells me that I'll be dead by the
and of the month.

Jessie collapses into a ball of tears.

Luther comforts her.

LUTHER

Jessie, don't underestimate the
power of God. Our old selves must
first die, so that our spirits may
be born eternally.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (3)

44

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Death is not the end. It's the beginning. In my father's house there are many mansions--

Jessie breaks free of Luther.

JESSIE

You know what, Pastor. Save it. Save it for some other sucker. Even if God is real, I know he doesn't love me.

Just look at me. My life is a living testament. And if God doesn't love me, I don't love him.

LUTHER

Hush now. How dare you curse the name of the Lord?

JESSIE

I know what I have to do.

LUTHER

What do you mean?

Jessie backs away slowly.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Do what Jessie?

Jessie continues to back away.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Jessie, do what.

Jessie runs out of the office.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Jessie. Jessie.

Luther steps into the doorway.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Jessie you come back here. Jessie come back.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

45 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY

45

Luther paces the room, as he finishes his story. Tears fill his eyes.

John leans back in his chair listening intently.

LUTHER
Jessie come back!

Luther collapses into his seat and cries uncontrollable.

LUTHER (CONT'D)
Yes, it's my fault. I've failed.
I killed her. Yes, I killed her.
I killed her when I let her walk
out of my office in that condition.

Although it wasn't by my hand, it
was by my ineptitude and lack of
action. I'm the guilty one.

John rises. Waits a beats. Claps his hand once.

Beat.

Claps twice.

Beat.

Claps three times.

Beat.

Slowly erupts into a soliloquy of applause.

Luther dries his tears.

JOHN
Bravo. Bravo. Bravissimo.

Luther is visibly annoyed.

John shakes his finger looking for the right words. He picks up Jessie's blood-stained Bible instead. He flips to a bookmarked page.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Exodus 20:16.

Luther looks at John with a blank face.

John steps closer to Luther.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Exodus 20:16.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

Luther still just stares at John.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Come now Pastor Luther. Surely a man of your stature must know what the Holy Bible says in Exodus, Chapter 20, Verse 16.

LUTHER
"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

JOHN
(reads)
"Thou-shalt-not-bear-false-witness against-thy-neighbour."

John closes Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

JOHN (CONT'D)
"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Pastor Luther, have a nice day.

Luther is caught off guard by John's word.

JOHN (CONT'D)
You're free to go.

LUTHER
Free to go.

JOHN
You may be guilty a few things: dipping in the offering, the extracurricular laying on of hands, but, that doesn't exactly equate to murder one.

Luther proudly rises from his chair. He won't dignify John's remarks with a response.

Luther heads for the door. As he reaches, the doorway...

JOHN (CONT'D)
Pastor Luther.

Luther pauses at the door. Turns to face John.

Beat.

JOHN (CONT'D)
God is watching you.

Luther smiles.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (2)

45

LUTHER

God bless you too, Detective Smith.
Now if you'll excuse me, I have an
appointment with the Hummer Dealer.
I've got a bad muffler.

Luther leaves the office.

John searches his thoughts. He digs through the evidence
box of Jessie's belongings. He pulls out the baggy with
the morphine pill bottle.

Takes a seat at his desk.

Stares at the baggy.

He opens the desk drawer and grabs his whiskey bottle.
He takes a long deep inhale, then puts the whiskey bottle
away.

John takes the morphine pill bottle out of the baggy. He
clenches the pill bottle tight.

DISSOLVE TO:

VISION

John hears FOOTSTEPS IN THE HALLWAY.

JOHN

Hello... Hello... Jessie?

Jessie slowly walks through the door.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Who killed you?

Jessie continues to walk toward John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Why? Why did someone kill you?

Jessie continues to walk toward John.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Help me, help you.

Jessie is now in front of John. She reaches for the pill
bottle. Takes it from Johns hand.

Jessie pours the pills onto the floor.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED: (3) 45

John's hand is outstretched in a trancelike state with the pill bottle and he's slowly pouring the morphine pills onto the floor.

John realizes what he is doing and stops.

He stoops over to pick up the pills, but then he gets a thought.

He grabs the phone and quickly dials a number.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. COUNTY HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING - DAY 46

47 INT. CORONER'S OFFICE - COUNTY HOSPITAL - DAY 47 *

47A OMITTED 47A *

Harrold keeps himself busy on his desk with paperwork. *
The telephone rings. He picks up the phone.

HARROLD
Coroner's office.

INTERCUT - JOHN & HARROLD

John stares at the pill bottle.

JOHN
Harrold, it's Detective John Smith.

HARROLD
How goes it, John?

JOHN
Got a question for you.

HARROLD
About that prostitute homicide?

JOHN
Yeah. Jessie was supposed to be
on morphine to treat
(checks notes)
Arbovirus...

HARROLD
(finishes)
Encephalitis. An infection of the
brain.

JOHN
Could you run a test to see if the
morphine is in her blood stream?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

HARROLD

Already did? It's standard procedure in a homicide to test for any prescription drugs the victim may have been taking to determine whether or not there may have been an overdose.

JOHN

Was there any morphine in her blood stream?

HARROLD

No.

A beat.

JOHN

How long would it take morphine to leave the blood system?

HARROLD

Morphine can be eliminated from the blood system in about 12 hours.

JOHN

Hmm. Okay--

HARROLD

Not like she needed it anyway.

JOHN

What do you mean?

HARROLD

When I examined her brain, there was no sign of arbovirus encephalitis.

JOHN

What?

HARROLD

Not a trace. Must have been misdiagnosed. Damn free clinics. Those doctors are hacks. Hope this helps.

*

JOHN

Yes, it does. I can't even begin to tell you how much.

END INTERCUT SEQUENCE

CUT TO:

48 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY 48

John hangs up the phone. Searches through his notes.
Picks the phone back up.

JOHN
(into phone)
Doctor Najuma Johnson please.
Yes, I'll hold.
(beat)
Doctor Johnson. Something has
come up.

DISSOLVE TO:

49 EXT. POLICE STATION - ESTABLISHING - LATER - DAY 49

SUPER *

"2 DAYS EARLIER" *

49A INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY 49A *

John sits at his desk surfing the internet. Najuma steps
into his doorway frame. *

NAJUMA
Detective Smith.

JOHN
Doctor Johnson. Please take a
seat.

Najuma takes a seat.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Thank you for coming on such short
notice.

NAJUMA
Your welcome.

John grabs a file. Sorts through some documents.

NAJUMA (CONT'D)
Detective Smith, I really--

JOHN
Hah-taht. Just a moment.
(beat)
Here it is.

John slides some documents across his desk toward Najuma.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Were you aware that 5 of the
patients that you've treated in

(CONTINUED)

49A CONTINUED:

49A

JOHN (CONT'D)
the last 6 months have all died.
All of them women. Prostitutes.
Junkies. Take your pick.

(CONTINUED)

49A CONTINUED: (2)

49A

Najuma slides the documents back across the desk to John.

NAJUMA

Were you aware that I treat hundreds of patients at the free clinic. Most of them indigents, and almost every month, someone dies?

John looks at the documents.

JOHN

Yes, yes. But of course.

John digs through his folders. He slides another document across the desk to Najuma.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Were you aware that Jessie's autopsy showed no signs of the morphine you prescribed in her blood stream?

Najuma slides the document back across the desk to John.

NAJUMA

Were you aware that morphine leaves the blood system within 12 hours?

John slides the document back across to Najuma.

JOHN

Yes, but were you aware that Jessie's autopsy showed no sign of
(reads from another document)
Arbovirus encephalitis, was it?

Najuma firmly plants her hand on top of the document, stopping John's slide dead in its tracks.

NAJUMA

Look, Detective Smith. I really don't have time for this cat and mouse game. What do you want from me?

JOHN

I like a woman who goes straight to the point. You told me that you hadn't seen Jessie in 2 months, but a very reliable source says she was down at the clinic the day of the murder. Now which is it?

NAJUMA

Big deal. Yes, she was there. Doesn't exactly make me a murderer.

(CONTINUED)

49A CONTINUED: (3)

49A

JOHN

Might I remind you that perjury is a very serious career-ending offense.

Najuma shoots John a dirty look.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Unless you want to be looking at charges for murder one, I need to know what happened when you saw Jessie 2 days ago.

NAJUMA

Whatever. She was just a prostitute anyway.

JOHN

You know everybody's been telling me that, "She was just a prostitute, she was just a prostitute", and it's starting to really piss me off.

She wasn't just a prostitute. She was a living, breathing human being. What happened when you saw Jessie?

NAJUMA

It was early in the afternoon and she had that damned Bible with her.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

50 EXT. FREE CLINIC - ESTABLISHING - DAY

50

"2 DAYS EARLIER"

*

51 INT. NAJUMA'S OFFICE - FREE CLINIC - DAY

51

Jessie enters Najuma's office dressed conservatively, carrying her Bible and a stack of Bible tracts.

Najuma follows behind her and closes the door.

NAJUMA

And just what the hell do you think you're doing out there?

JESSIE

There are many out there who are afflicted and need a healing.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

NAJUMA

I told you never to come back here again, but yet you persist.

JESSIE

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

NAJUMA

Knock it off with that Bible mumble jumble. You don't fool me. You're still that same cracked up prostitute that wandered in here 6 months ago.

JESSIE

Dr. Johnson, do you believe in God?

NAJUMA

God?

(laughs)

You little whore. Are you trying to witness to me. How pathetic. Let me tell you something about God. Does God heal the afflicted?

JESSIE

Yes.

NAJUMA

Can God raise the dead?

JESSIE

Yes.

NAJUMA

That's right. God can and so can I.

I can't tell you how many times I've sat down in the E.R. with the cardiopulmonary resuscitators bringing back some brain dead soul because some crazed junkie like yourself stabbed them with a screwdriver and let them bleed half to death over a ten dollar bill.

You want to know God, know me. I'm your God. I'm the one who heals the afflicted and brings people back from the dead. I am God.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

51

JESSIE

Ye of little faith. Where do you think you go when you die?

NAJUMA

What? Are you concerned if I'm going to heaven? How sweet. Let me tell you something. When I die, I'm going 6 feet under.

And if it's anyplace else, as long as it's far, far away from a cracked out whore like you, I really don't give a damn.

JESSIE

God still loves, Doctor, even if you do not love him.

NAJUMA

Listen cupcake. Let me tell you something. If I ever catch you in this office again, preaching, handing out Bible tracts, giving my patients false hope, you'll be sorry. Now get the hell out of my clinic.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

52 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION

52

John looks at Najuma with disgust. He gags.

JOHN

In the New Testament, in the Book of John, Chapter 8, when Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives and early in the morning he came again into the temple and the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman accused of adultery.

By the laws of Moses, it was written that she should be stoned to death. But rather than condemn the woman for her crimes, in John 8:7, Jesus said unto them, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

(beat)

Who gave you the right?

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

Najuma rises to her feet.

NAJUMA

(defiant)

How dare you. I took an oath to help the sick. The only Gods on this earth are the doctors.

That crazy whore was filling my patients - my sick patients - with venomous lies contrary to their own wherewithal.

There were people in that clinic that if they just missed one pill - one pill - would have been dead by sunrise.

It's my right and duty to do whatever it takes to protect my patients. Even if it means letting one patient go.

JOHN

Dr. Johnson. Did you kill Jessie?

NAJUMA

What?! No!

JOHN

Then what did you exactly did you mean by, "you'll be sorry"?

NAJUMA

What did I mean? Who knows? I'd call security, I'd call the cops or hell maybe I'd even call her pimp, boyfriend, manager or whatever hell they call themselves these days.

John considers this, then turns his chair away from Najuma.

JOHN

Thank you for your time, Dr. Johnson. I trust that you can see yourself out.

Najuma huffs, then storms out of the office.

John swings around to face his desk. He ponders for a beat then violently knocks things off of his desk, including the evidence box of Jessie's things.

John's stops cold as he looks at Jessie's blood-stained Bible sprawled open on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

52

CONTINUED: (2)

52

He places Jessie's blood-stained Bible on his desk.
 He just stares, and stares, and stares at it for a beat.
 John reaches in his drawer and grabs his whiskey bottle.
 He starts to drink then stops. Just gives the whiskey
 bottle a good stare.
 John takes the whiskey bottle and dumps what's left into
 the trash can.
 Once the whiskey bottle is empty, the throws the bottle
 into the trash can, breaking it.
 John loosen's his tie, then rolls up both of his sleeves.
 He holds both of his hands over Jessie's blood-stained
 Bible, but does not touch it.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 Talk to me Jessie.

*

John places both of his hands on Jessie's blood-stained
 Bible and squeezes it firmly. His body trembles
 uncontrollably. He raises his head to the heavens.

JOHN (CONT'D)
 AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

DISSOLVE TO:

VISION

53

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

53

John stands on the street corner before the alley.
 Jessie stands by his side.
 John attempts to speak, but Jessie gently places her hand
 over his lips to shush John.
 She smiles.
 Jessie leads John slowly into the alley to where she was
 murdered.
 The chalk line and police tape are still there.
 Once Jessie and John reach the spot where she was slain.
 She stops there. She lets go of John's hand.
 She points all around the alley.
 John looks around.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: 53

Jessie looks into John's eyes.

John looks back. He nods.

Jessie smiles.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

54 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - NIGHT 54

John violently explodes away from Jessie's blood-stained Bible. He grabs his trash can. Vomits into it.

JOHN

(mutters to self)

Why couldn't I have been an accountant or basketball player.

John wipes his mouth.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(to self)

Three blocks, John. Three blocks. It's only three blocks away. You can do this.

Stands. Grabs his suit coat.

DISSOLVE TO:

55 EXT. STREET - POLICE STATION - NIGHT 55

John walks out of the police station and heads down the street. He runs into Silas, putting PRAYER SLIPS under windshield wipers.

*
*

JOHN

Still at it, aye Silas?

*

SILAS

Praise the Lord. There's work to be done, Detective Smith. How's the investigation coming along with the murder of the Angel of the Streets?

JOHN

I don't know Silas. I really don't know. I'm heading back down to that alley to take another look. My instincts tell me the clue is with that alley.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

SILAS

That's the spirit. Follow your instincts.

JOHN

If only someone had seen something or even heard anything.

SILAS

Did you say, "hear anything"?

*

JOHN

Yes. Why, do you know someone that heard something?

SILAS

Well, me.

JOHN

Why didn't you say anything?

SILAS

Well, I didn't exactly hear the whole thing, but I heard how it ended. It's not like I could see a couple of days ago, so didn't think it would be much help, or even anyone would believe me.

JOHN

What makes you think you heard something?

SILAS

Let me tell you something, Detective Smith. When you lose one of your senses, your other senses have to become exceptionally sensitive to overcompensate.

I know I heard a body hit the ground, because well, frankly in this hell hold, you hear that just about every other day. I know it was Jessie's body, because I recognized her scent.

JOHN

Perfume?

SILAS

More like hooker spray. Body wash from the 99 Cents Store Only. It's real strong.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: (2)

55

SILAS (CONT'D)

I think they like to use it because it's real strong, and doing what they do and all, I don't think they ever feel like they're ever clean.

JOHN

Anything else?

SILAS

I heard whoever it was who murdered her drive away. When Jessie's body hit the ground, the door closed and the person sped off in their truck.

JOHN

How do you know it was a truck?

SILAS

I used to be a mechanic in the military. I'd know that rumble anywhere. Hummer. Even had a bad muffler.

John stands stricken with terror.

He knows who did it.

John regains himself and takes off running down the street.

SILAS (CONT'D)

(fades)

Detective? Detective? Did I say something wrong?

John whips out his phone. Dials a number.

JOHN

(panic stricken)

This is Detective John Smith, requesting immediate backup. And wake up Judge Stone. I'm going to need a warrant.

DISSOLVE TO:

56 EXT. LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

56

John walks towards the door of the church. He pulls out his gun.

Cocks it.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: 56

Unlocks the safety.

Sticks it back in the holster behind his back.

57 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH 57

Luther frantically stuffs money from the a safe into a large bag.

John steps into his office.

JOHN

Going somewhere in a hurry?

Luther jumps.

LUTHER

Lord, Jesus! Oh my God, Detective Smith. You startled me.

JOHN

Cookies?

LUTHER

(continues)

How long have you been standing there?

John saunters into the office.

JOHN

Long enough.

LUTHER

I know what this looks like, but every Wednesday I make a deposit of the midweek service offering.

JOHN

(stern)

Sit down, Luther.

LUTHER

Pastor Luther.

Luther does nothing.

John takes out his badge and hangs it around his neck. *

JOHN

Am I going to have to ask you again?

Luther gets the hint and takes a seat behind his desk.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

JOHN (CONT'D)

And leave that bag of money right where it is.

LUTHER

Look, Detective. I swear, I--

JOHN

Shut-up. Just shut the Hell up.

(beat)

For the past two days, everybody's been telling me stories. And they're all just that stories. Well, now I think I'd like to tell you a story. You like stories Luther? Do you?

Luther sits quiet.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I think you do. Let me tell you a story about someone less-than-a-man named Luther. A very pathetic wannabe' Bishop. It was just two days ago, when a very changed woman set foot in your office.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

58 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - DAY

58

SUPER

*

"2 DAYS EARLIER"

*

Luther sits behind his desk preparing for his sermon. He's very disturbed.

Jessie knocks on the door and then steps into the office.

LUTHER

Jessie, I can't--

JESSIE

I know you said not to disturb you, but I just had to thank you for showing me the light.

LUTHER

Jessie--

JESSIE

Please. My affliction is gone. I am no longer an addict. I have no terminal disease.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

JESSIE (CONT'D)

I have but the faith of the grain
of a mustard seed.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (2)

58

JESSIE (CONT'D)

And by the grace of the almighty redeemer, the Lord has blessed me as his humble servant with the gift to heal. Give me your hand Pastor.

Luther will not touch her hand. Disturbed, but tries to hide it.

LUTHER

Jessie, I know it can be quite intoxicating joining the body of Christ, but gifts such as these are divine and are not just placed upon the new in Christ.

JESSIE

Pastor, I did not come here for your approval. Only to give thanks.

LUTHER

Thank you. Jessie, do take care.

Jessie leaves the office.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

59 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - NIGHT

59

John leans back in his chair smugly watching Luther.

JOHN

You know, anyone else would have just let it go, but it bothered you.

What if God had actually blessed this lowly neophyte with the mightiest of gifts. After all, you had been studying the Word all your life.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

60 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - DAY

60 *

Luther sits behind his desk trying to write his sermon, but he can't concentrate. In disgust, he knocks everything off of his desk.

Picks up the phone.

JOHN (V.O.)

So you pick up your phone and dial her cell phone. You had that number because of, well, we'll leave that to imagination.

You tell her that you know someone who needs her help and ask her to meet you very, very late in the alley where she used to work.

DISSOLVE TO:

61 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

61

Luther walks down the alley. Jessie is in the alley waiting. She holds her Bible.

Luther checks to see if anyone is looking. He takes off the cross and chain around his neck and places it in his suit coat pocket.

JESSIE

Pastor, where is this person who needs a healing.

LUTHER

It's me.

He holds out his hands.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

I've been plagued with an ungodly eczema for most of my God given life. Sometimes it hurts so bad that I can't even write Sunday's sermon.

Jessie affectionately kisses Luther's hand.

JESSIE

In Jesus' name. Behold.

Luther's hands tremble. He's been healed.

LUTHER

No. No. It can't be. How?

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

LUTHER (CONT'D)

What perverted...

JESSIE

(confused)

Pastor, it's a miracle. In Christ
Jesus all things are possible.

Luther catches himself.

LUTHER

Of course they are sweet Jessie.
I just had to know for myself.
You've done good, Jessie. Real
good.

Luther extends his arms to hug Jessie.

Jessie opens her arms and receives him lovingly.

Luther and Jessie embrace.

Luther reaches into his pocket.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

(whispers)

Ashes to ashes, dust to dust...

JESSIE

What was that Pastor?

Luther raps his cross and chain around Jessie's neck. He
chokes her.

Jessie's tries to scream, but she can't get any air.

LUTHER

This is between me and God.

Jessie's arms and legs flail, her legs hit a trash can.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Stay still. It will be easier for
you. It'll all be over soon.Jessie continues flailing, but she's almost out of oxygen
and her body is becoming limp.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

It'll all be over soon. You'll
seen. Sleep child. Sleep.Jessie reaches into her pocket and grabs her morphine
pill bottle and clutches it tight.

And within a heartbeat she goes limp.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED: (2)

61

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Rest child. Rest in peace.

Luther removes his cross and chain from around Jessie's neck and slashes her throat with the edge of the cross.

Luther lets her body drop onto the ground like a piece of trash.

He looks over Jessie's body, then spits on her corpse.

DISSOLVE TO:

BACK TO SCENE

62 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - NIGHT

62

John stares at Luther with utter distaste.

JOHN

How could you?

LUTHER

I dedicated my entire life to God's word. My first word was, "Jesus". At the age of eight, my Pastor laid hands on me and prophesied that I would become the youngest Bishop ever.

I didn't drink. I didn't smoke. I didn't even have sex. I paid my tithes, I helped the sick and shut in, I believed. I did everything it was that God told us to do. If there ever was a man who lived as close to Christ's principles it was me.

I did it all, and I did it with a smile. Not once did I ask for anything. All I wanted to do was help Jessie. And then one night she asked me to come help her. I had just been made a Bishop.

She said that she was in the alley and in danger. And when I went to the alley, do you know what happened?

JOHN

You slept with her?

DISSOLVE TO:

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

FLASHBACK

63 EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

63

SUPER

*

"3 DAYS EARLIER"

*

Jessie pulls Luther close and kisses him on the lips.

A photo flashes. We hear RUNNING FOOTSTEPS.

LUTHER (V.O.)

No, she grabbed me and kissed me.
It was a set up.

Luther pushes away from Jessie.

LUTHER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It seems that someone promised her
\$50 bucks, if she'd lure me to the
alley and photograph me.

Jessie holds her head down. Luther grabs her hand and in
it is a \$50 DOLLAR BILL.

Luther backs away from Jessie.

LUTHER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It was a private detective hired
my competition. Seems someone
else wanted to be Bishop more than
I did. I tried to explain the
pictures to the Church Board they
just didn't want to hear it.

,They agreed to let me keep my
church, but I had to relinquish my
Bishop appointment, and I could
never be appointed again.

Luther falls on to the ground. Sits in the trash. Holds
his head down. Puts his hands over his head.

LUTHER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

\$50 bucks. This was my life. And
\$50 bucks and rock was all it meant
to that crackhead whore. Sure she
apologized many times later, but
the damage was already done.

CUT TO:

BACK TO SCENE

64 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

64

Luther gazes into space as he recants his memories. John listens earnestly.

LUTHER

And when she came into the office to tell me that her, of all people, had been blessed with the mightiest of blessings, I could not believe my ears. What blaspheme.

So yes, you were right. I had to see for myself if it was true. And it was. She healed me. Undeniable proof.

And it was at that point where I felt all the anger and hatred in the world. I had done nothing wrong yet God had spited me.

God had used the agent of my demise as the instrument of his wonder. God had spited me. And if God was going to spite me, I was going to spite him.

So I strangled that whore. I strangled that ungrateful crack whore right between my very hands, and I took the symbol of the Lord his very self, and I slashed her throat. I got my revenge and it felt good.

We hear a CLICK.

John holds up his tape recorder.

JOHN

Thank very much, Luther, I think I've got enough.

(beat)

Job...

(beat)

The wilderness experience...

(beat)

You did everything you were supposed to do, except... believe.

John lets this sink in.

LUTHER

(matter of a fact)

So you bringing me in?

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

John holds up his handcuffs.

We hear the sound of POLICE SIRENS.

LUTHER (CONT'D)

Do we have to use those?

JOHN

I'm afraid so.

LUTHER

Let me just grab thing.

Luther reaches into the desk.

JOHN

No, don't do that. Keep your hands--

Luther whips at a pistol and sticks it into his mouth.

John leaps over the desk and goes for the pistol.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. STREET - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - NIGHT

65

POLICE LIGHTS FLASH. We hear the a GUNSHOT.

CUT TO:

66 INT. LUTHER'S OFFICE - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

66

John is on top of Luther on the floor. They both lie motionless.

John slowly gets up off Luther.

Neither has been shot.

John has the pistol. Puts the safety on and sticks it in his pocket.

JOHN

You're not getting off that easy.

Luther cries.

John rolls Luther over face down. Pulls Luther's hands behind his back. Cuffs him.

LUTHER

Why? Why? Why?

JOHN

Get up.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

Luther rises.

John gives Luther a hard look.

He yanks Luther's cross and chain from around his neck.
Sticks it in his own pocket.

Rips off Luther's clergy collar and tosses it on the desk.

Tears stream down Luther's face.

CUT TO:

67 EXT. STREET - LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH - NIGHT

67

All cast members are present, except for Jessie. Najuma,
Wil, Silas, Claudia, Anna and Harrold.

POLICE LIGHTS FLASH.

SLOW MOTION

John walks Luther out of the church.

Luther holds his head down low.

Everyone looks at Luther and shakes their head with
disgust.

END SLOW MOTION

John and Luther now stand on the sidewalk.

LUTHER

(soft)
What was it?

JOHN

What was what?

LUTHER

Your doctorate. You said that you
had earned a Ph.D. but couldn't
keep the commitment. What was it
that you earned a Ph.D. in?

JOHN

Theology.

Luther's face is horrified.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Matthew 22:14. "For many are
called, but few are chosen."

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

JOHN (CONT'D)
I was called, but wasn't sure if I
was chosen. I was afraid I wouldn't
be able to live up the example the
Christ Jesus sets for us.

Luther holds his head down.

John pushes Luther along.

DISSOLVE TO:

68 EXT. POLICE STATION - ESTABLISHING - DAY

68

SUPER

*

"3 DAYS LATER, SUNDAY, 12:20 P.M."

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69 INT. JOHN'S OFFICE - POLICE STATION - DAY

69

John sits at his desk completing paperwork.

He sticks Jessie's belongings back into the evidence box.

He pauses at Luther's cross and chain.

He thinks about it for a moment, then puts it on.

John then comes across Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

He hesitates.

Gently touches it.

Let's out a breath of release. No vision.

He notices something strange about the first page.

The blood stains have caused the first page to stick to
the cover. He pries the page apart from the cover. In
it is a photograph.

John removes the photo.

It's an OLD PICTURE OF JOHN IN A GRADUATION ROBE AND
JESSIE'S ARM AROUND HIM.

He flips the photo over. Inscribed on the back it reads:
"TO MY DEAREST BROTHER JOHN. THE PERSON I ADMIRE MOST IN
LIFE. I HOPE TO GROW UP TO BE JUST LIKE YOU. LOVE, YOUR
SISTER, JESSIE."

A tear falls from John's eyes onto the photo.

JOHN
(to self)
I should have let you come to see
me.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: 69

He breaks down and sobs and sobs.

DISSOLVE TO:

70 EXT. GREEN PASTURES CEMETERY - ESTABLISHING - DAY 70

71 EXT. GREEN PASTURES CEMETERY - JESSIE'S GRAVE SITE - DAY 71

John stands in front of a tombstone in a green pasture.

He wears Luther's cross and holds Jessie's blood-stained Bible and flowers in his hands.

The engraving on the tombstone reads: "JESSIE SMITH.
BORN 1970. DIED 2006."

John places the flowers in front of the tombstone.

He starts to place Jessie's blood-stained Bible on the tombstone but changes his mind.

John's fingers gently caress Jessie's blood-stained Bible.

He slowly turns around.

He see's JESSIE'S SPIRIT DRESSED IN WHITE smiling at him.

John smiles back at Jessie.

FADE OUT.

THE END.