

Turning a Prophet:
Episode 1 (Pilot)

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ACT I

EXT. RICH CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

A dark sedan pulls up to a massive home in an ultra upper class neighborhood. TED (40's, jolly heavyset mustached suburban dad type) steps out.

INT. UPPERCLASS CALIFORNIA HOME - NIGHT

LIZ (50's, elegant, poised) sits anxiously spinning a coffee cup on her dining room table. Her husband JERRY (50's, a trust fund "Yes Man") sits across from her.

A LARGE ENVELOPE separates the two. Liz checks her watch.

LIZ
Ezra said his guy would be here at
ten... Maybe I should call-

TWO KNOCKS on the large front wooden door.

JERRY
...I guess that's him.

Liz picks up the envelope and walks briskly to the door with Jerry in tow. She opens it to Ted looking as cheery as ever.

TED
Howdy! Liz and Jerry I take it?

LIZ
Yes... You're Ted?

TED
Last time I checked!... That for me?

Ted looks down at the envelope Liz clenches tightly.

LIZ
Yes. I'm sure it's mostly information you've already been given- oh and one of Ezra's PIs got a lead on an ex-member that left sometime last year, so... that's in there too...

Liz hesitantly extends the envelope to Ted.

LIZ (CONT'D)
I just want to be clear--we expect
results--

Ted smirks and nods slightly. Liz lets go of the envelope.

JERRY
I think what my wife is trying to sa-

TED
You're in good hands.

JERRY
Great! And no need to count it. The
money's all there.

Liz shakes her head annoyed. Ted chuckles.

TED
I'd hope so. After all, I know where
you live, right?
(beat)
Alrighty, well, we're all set! Unless
there's anything else?

JERRY
No no, the less we know, the better.
We'll just--we'll leave it to you.

Liz turns to her husband, calm but stern.

LIZ
Honey, can we have a moment.

Slightly caught off guard Jerry nods.

JERRY
Oh uh, sure. Gotta get some work done
before bed so... Nice to meet ya Ted.

Jerry nods and leaves. Liz's demeanor grows hard and cold.

LIZ
Hiring you makes my husband a bit
uncomfortable. I'm not sure he shares
my concerns for the severity of the
situation... but I want you to know,
when I met with Ezra, I was very
specific about what kind of person I
was looking for. I want this handled.
I don't care how. Get her back.

TED
Great to finally meet you Liz. I'll be
in touch.

Ted smiles and raps the door as he turns to leave. Liz lingers, watching as he walks back to his car.

EXT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT PATIO - DAY

COLLIN (late 20's, charismatic slacker) sits in a lawn chair drinking a beer. ALAN (mid 20's, polite, timid) walks up. Collin hops up enthusiastically.

COLLIN

There he is! Alan my man, how goes it?

Collin holds his arms out for a bro hug which, slightly hesitant, Alan allows.

ALAN

Hey Collin. Good to see you.

COLLIN

Good to see you dude! How's the new job treating you? They promote you to manager yet?

ALAN

Ah no. Still just getting the hang of things. Taking it one day at a time.

COLLIN

Well, smart guy like you, I'm sure it won't be long. You look good man.

ALAN

Thanks. Been eating right and stuff.

COLLIN

I love hearing that! Oh, here you go.

Collin reaches into a beer cooler and pulls out a SOGGY PAPER BAG and hands it to Alan, who stares at the soaked bag bewildered. He fumbles in his pockets for money.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Oh, don't worry, the pills are in a bottle. They're good. Want a beer?

ALAN

Uh, no thanks, I gotta take off actually. Have work in a bit. Plus probably shouldn't drink while...

Alan shakes the soggy bag before he puts it in his backpack.

COLLIN
Oh shit, duh-

Collin spots NATE (20's, a jacked rich Hispanic college student) heading his way.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Maybe some other time, I'll catch ya
later buddy.

ALAN
Okay, thanks, I appreciate it.

COLLIN
Of course. See ya in a month!

Alan leaves as Nate struts up holding his arms out like a big shot waiting to be welcomed. Collin shakes his head amused.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Yo Nate, what time is it?

Nate checks his watch as Collin digs into his cooler.

NATE
It's about one... COLLIN
Island time baby!

Nate looks up just in time to dodge the beer Collin has chucked in his direction. They stare dumbly as it shatters on the sidewalk in front of GARY (late 30's, uptight) out walking his dog.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
(sheepishly)
Hey Gary.

Clearly upset Gary huffs and heads the other direction.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
I'll clean that up! (to Nate) Don't
worry, he's always pissed...

Collin holds out another bottle. Nate grabs it takes a seat on the patio then gestures to Alan leaving.

NATE
He go to USC? Do I need to be worried
about some competition coming in?

COLLIN
Him? Naw, he's just a sweet dude

that's been dealt a rough hand.
Insurance won't cover his anti-psychotic meds so I found him some cheaper ones on the dark web.

Nate turns to Collin to see if he's joking then scoffs.

NATE
Shit man... You got quite a unique customer base, I'll give ya that.

Collin nods in agreement.

COLLIN
So what brings you by? Already need to re-up?

NATE
Yes sir, Addys and Xanax.

Collin gives him a knuckle bump.

COLLIN
God damn brother, nice.

NATE
And secondly. (apprehensive) I wanna run an opportunity by you...

Collin shakes his head and sighs not having it. Nate holds his hands up slowing him down.

COLLIN
Noooo.

NATE
Just hear me out! You might find it intriguing.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Let me ask ya, does it have anything to do with your cousins or the cartel?

Nate hesitates.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
I knew it! Dude, no. Absolutely not. I want no part in that shit.

NATE
I'm just saying, they're in town and I really don't think you realize the possibilities here. Connections, expansion, security, within the year

we would be crazy rich dude!

COLLIN
(countering)
Life in prison, living in fear, being
murdered. I think I'll pass.

NATE
Oh come on man, don't be overly
dramatic.

Collin looks at him like he's insane.

COLLIN
They're the CAR-TEL, they kill people
literally all the time for nothing.

NATE
Those rules wouldn't apply to us man,
I'm family. We'd be like royalty.

COLLIN
You're family. As where I frequently
sleep through my alarm... Which they'd
certainly kill me for.

NATE
Just-

COLLIN
Nate, dude, I appreciate you trying to
bring me in to what I think for some
reason you genuinely believe is an
awesome opportunity. But I'm good man.
Look at me, it's noon and I'm drinking
on my patio and considering a nap. I'm
good.

Nate holds up his hand conceding.

NATE
Alright, alright. Just thought I'd
give it one last try.

COLLIN
No worries, I'll get your stuff.

Nate nods as Collin stands up and heads inside.

EXT. BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS - DAY

In a small makeshift town made up of cheaply built structures, trailers, and a church, FATHER WISDOM (50's, Black, overtly confident, magnetic personality and speaks with a southern drawl) walks the grounds with purpose stopping only for brief exchanges with FOLLOWERS around him. An oddly high amount of the women appear to be pregnant.

JOHN, (late 50s) cuts ELI's (6) hair and waves. Smiling, Father Wisdom nods and while rubbing his bald head calls out.

FATHER WISDOM
Cut looks good Eli. May need a trim
myself John, think you can fit me in?

JOHN
I'm sure I can manage a wax Father.

Father Wisdom chuckles and gives them a wink. TONY (10) sits nearby fiddling with a Rubik's cube then holds it out.

TONY
Father Wisdom, can you help me finish
this? I can't get it.

FATHER WISDOM
Now if I just did everything for you
what would you ever learn?

Tony sighs and Father Wisdom continues on his way. RAJ (early 30's, buff and aggressive) jogs up.

RAJ
(timid)
Uh, hey Father, do you have a moment?

FATHER WISDOM
No Slick I do not, but I'm sure you'll
keep bothering me anyway so go ahead.

Father Wisdom sees IRENE (40) knitting on a porch close by.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
Irene darlin', have you seen Mother
around? We got a new arrival coming in
today and I want her there with me.

IRENE
Think I saw her heading to the garden
a little while ago with Tess.

Father Wisdom clenches his jaw then fakes a smile and nods.

FATHER WISDOM
Very good, thank you, I'll check
there. (to Raj) Well get to it then.

Raj nods and hurries following after him.

EXT. BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS (GARDEN) - DAY

ALEENA (early 20s, sheltered, smart) prunes a tomato plant.
TESS (20's, exuberant, agreeable, VERY pregnant), sits next to
her staring quizzically at her own plant.

ALEENA
I can mark which ones you should cut
again if you'd like?

TESS
No, no, just resting my hands...
(joking) I am pregnant you know.

ALEENA
Ahhh.

Aleena watches Tess with a smirk. Tess confidently brings her shears up to a branch, then stalls as she looks over. Aleena shakes her head, and leans closer pointing.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
That's the main stem. You can tell
because as you follow it you continue
to see these flower and leaf nodes.
This over here is the sucker. And he's
so small you can just pinch it off.

Tess watches Aleena remove the branch.

TESS
Did you start gardening when you lived
in Georgia?

Aleena freezes for a moment lost in thought. Tess looks over with a curious gentle smile.

ALEENA
Uh, no. It- it was later. After that.

Tess nods and they both get back to work.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Partially dressed for work, Alan sets his belt on the table and pulls bacon out of the oven. A knock on his door interrupts him--Alan sighs and walks to the door, opening it.

With a cheerful smile, Ted stands with a folder in hand filling the frame.

TED
Alan Palladino?

Ted extends his hand. Alan looks confused but shakes it.

ALAN
Uhhh yeah. Can I help you?

TED
Oh I sure hope so. Agent Rogers, with the FBI. Mind if I come in and ask you a few questions?

Alan stiffens up.

ALAN
Uh, what is this in regards to?

TED
Oh well, the Blessed Nation unfortunately. Yeah, we have reason to believe there are plans for a demonstration in the works and many of the current members may be in serious danger. Obviously we're aware of your history with the... organization and hoped you might cooperate in order to save the lives of some of your old friends.

Alan takes a second to process what he just heard.

ALAN
What? N- no, that's crazy. I mean, I know they have some unusual beliefs, but no, Father Wisdom would never hurt or- or endanger any of them.

TED
Perhaps things have changed since you left... Which, was why again?

ALAN

It just- It wasn't for me. But I have no issue with them.

TED

Were you aware Father Wisdom's wife Cirie passed recently? From what I hear, he hasn't been in his right mind ever since.

Alan is stunned by the news and looks at Ted for confirmation. Ted subtly nods.

TED (CONT'D)

Look, Mr. Palladino, you very well may be right, that our intel is incorrect, in fact, I hope you are! But as you can imagine the Bureau doesn't take these threats lightly. Always better to get in front of these things, even if just to realize there's nothing to be worried about.

Alan stands motionless in thought, then looks up at Ted.

ALAN

I understand, I do. But that's not my life anymore and I don't feel comfortable getting involved. If it's as different as you claim it is, I would have nothing to offer anyway. Best of luck on your investigation.

Alan begins to shut the door but Ted puts his foot in the jamb, and pushes past Alan.

ALAN (CONT'D)

Hey!

TED

(calming)

All good! Take it easy.

Ted turns and sees one of Alan's neighbors leaving. He gives a friendly wave as he steps fully inside, closing the door behind him.

TED (CONT'D)

I wanna show ya something.

Ted takes a surveillance photo of Alan and Collin exchanging

money for a bag. Alan stares at it.

TED (CONT'D)

So let me ask ya, how well do you
think a junkie will fair in court for
aiding and abetting an extremist cult
leader who carries out a mass suicide?

Alan looks up at Ted now afraid. Ted remains cheery.

ALAN
(defeated)

What do you want?

Ted walks to Alan's table and sits down. Just for a moment his demeanor becomes more serious.

TED

I just want you to tell me everything
you know about the Blessed Nation.

EXT. ROAD TO BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS - DAY

An Uber drives down a bumpy dirt road off the beaten path. It passes a sign reading "**Welcome to the Blessed Nation**" then below on an additional sign "**NO TRESPASSING**".

EXT. BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS (GARDEN) - DAY

Father Wisdom and Raj approach the garden just as Aleena and Tess emerge carrying a basket of vegetables.

RAJ

I just don't understand why Tess has
to keep having Creation Sessions.

With a hardened demeanor, Father Wisdom turns to Raj and stares him down.

FATHER WISDOM

Are you questioning The Message?

RAJ

N- no Father, I'm not. I would never-

FATHER WISDOM

So then you're questioning me.

RAJ

Father, no I promise, I- I'm sorry,
I'm just confused.

FATHER WISDOM
That is abundantly clear. Do not
challenge me like that again Slick. I
don't have the time nor the energy.

Raj nods shamefully as the women approach.

ALEENA
Everything alright?

Father Wisdom takes a deep breath and relaxes looking at her.

FATHER WISDOM
It is now my love. We have a new
member arriving today so I'll need yo-

An TAXI pulls up at the property's edge stopping at the large rocks blocking entry from the road. ZOEY, (mid 20s, pretty, optimistic, irresponsible) exits the car.

Beaming, Father Wisdom heads to meet her.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
Welcome, my dear welcome! We are happy
you've decided to join our family.

Father Wisdom gives her a deep embrace then locks eyes.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
Darlin', you are home now.

Overwhelmed by the nerves and excitement of it all Zoey tears up as she smiles nodding. Aleena joins the two of them.

ZOEY
I followed your teachings since San
Jose, so I'm sure you can imagine just
how grateful I am to finally be here.
(waving to Aleena) Hi, I'm Zoey.

Aleena steps forward arms outstretched smiling and hugs her.

ALEENA
Welcome Zoey, I'm A-...

Face flushed, Aleena pauses mid-hug then pulls away. Shaking her head with an embarrassed chuckle and corrects herself.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
I'm Mother Wisdom. Nice to meet you.

Zoey cocks her head curiously. Father Wisdom looking slightly perturbed steps forward and takes Zoey aside under his arm.

FATHER WISDOM

When you last saw Mother on our tour,
she was very sick. But I'm happy to
say that we have been blessed with
quite a miracle. Mother Wisdom's
spirit has taken on a new vessel. One
free of the painful illness.

Zoey looks at Aleena wide-eyed in awe. Father Wisdom laughs as he directs her toward Tess and Raj.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

Oh I know, I know, it's a bit
overwhelming and I'm sure you have
many questions. Luckily for you we
have the answers. In due time my dear.
For now, Tess here will introduce you
around. Slick, set her up with a bed.

With a reassuring smile Father Wisdom passes her off to Tess and the three head out. He turns to Aleena looking concerned.

FATHER WISDOM

...How are you doin' today darlin'?

Aleena looks at him and nods unconvincingly.

ALEENA

Pretty good I think. Just trying to
stay productive and focused I guess.

FATHER WISDOM

Good. Good. Glad to hear it... I've
noticed you've been gardening lately.

ALEENA

Oh. Yeah. It's- it's calming... Is
there a problem?

FATHER WISDOM

It's just... That was more Aleena's
hobby, you know?

Emotions start to wash over Aleena and Father sighs deeply.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

This sudden newfound interest just
seems a bit unusual to some of our

flock. Might be best if you found something else more suited to your interests. Reading to the children perhaps? You've always enjoyed that.

ALEENA
So... I- I can't garden?

Father Wisdom pulls her in gently for a hug.

FATHER WISDOM
I agree, I think it's for the best.

He steps back to look at her as tears well up in her eyes.

ALEENA
Father, I- I just-... I don't know if it worked.

Father Wisdom's demeanor gets instantly cold and hostile. He notices some followers looking their way and steps in uncomfortably close and speaks quiet but stern.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
Now hush! You're tired is all, you understand? Go lie down. Take some time to get your head straight. Now.

Aleena nods and walks off as Father Wisdom watches uneasy.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Nate sits at a table as SHAWN (19, wannabe frat bro) walks up. The two do a cool handshake.

SHAWN
How much?

NATE
Give me a G and I got 50 of each for you. Bars and Addy.

SHAWN
...Wait... it was \$7 a pop last time, why's it \$10 when I'm buying in bulk?

NATE
Are you stupid dude? Naw it's-...

NATE (CONT'D) SHAWN
Shit, right, never mind. I Yeah, see, that's what I'm

forgot to- yeah, yeah. saying, tryin' to tell ya.

NATE (CONT'D)
A G and I got 100 of each. So five
bucks a pop, alright? New price.

SHAWN
Dude, that's what I'm talkin' about!
You're the fuckin' man brother.

They bro hug as Nate's phone rings. He pulls it out and answers as Shawn leaves. Nate's tone changes dramatically from confident to polite and slightly nervous.

NATE
Hey Raph, what's happening man?

EXT. AJO ARIZONAN NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS

RAPH (late 30's, sophisticated, intimidating) exits a shitty desert-town house carrying his suit jacket over his arm. JULIO and SANTI, two well-dressed Sicarios follow behind.

RAPH
...You called?

Julio jumps in the driver seat of a BMW parked out front. Santi takes Raph's jacket, pops the trunk and removes a new one from a garment bag inside. He then holds it for Raph as he puts it on.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

NATE
Yes! Yeah, Tiá said you and Julio were going to be in town. Thought I'd see if you guys wanted to meet up!

INT/EXT. RAPH'S MERCEDES BENZ - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Raph sits in the back of the car and notices a small crimson splatter on his white button up. He swats Santi on the arm pointing. Santi hands him a Tide stain pen from the glovebox.

RAPH
We're working Natán.

NATE (V.O.)
No I know, which is good, because I actually wanted to run an idea by you.

Raph's focus is almost entirely on the stain.

RAPH

Okay... Tomorrow. Julio will send you the address.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Nate silently pumps his arm in celebration.

NATE

Cool, cool, I'll be there.

Realizing Raph has already hung up Nate puts the phone away. TERRY, 20, an All-American douchebag, and another large FOOTBALL PLAYER approach him. Nate gangsters up his attitude.

NATE (CONT'D)

What's up? You boys need somethin'?

Terry looks to his buddy and smiles.

INT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Alan goes over the Blessed Nation's layout on a poorly sketched map. Ted follows along.

ALAN

Over here is Father Wisdom's trailer, then the church, and over here is his office and the Creation Trailer.

TED

Where you say he usually goes after his afternoon services. Those are only on weekdays, correct?

ALAN

Yeah, unless he's off site.

Ted cocks his head.

ALAN (CONT'D)

When he gets stressed he'll take off for a bit. Probably just finds some place peaceful to meditate and pray.

Ted nods staring at Alan for a moment then slaps his knee.

TED

Well, I'm satisfied! That should about

do it!

Alan stands up and begins to tuck in his shirt, then pauses and surveys the room looking confused. Ted stands behind him.

TED (CONT'D)
The Bureau certainly appreciates your cooperation.

In one swift motion Alan's belt loops around his neck and he's lifted into the air.

Ted holds the belt apathetically over his right shoulder using his massive body as leverage. Alan thrashes wildly against Ted's back.

TED (CONT'D)
Nothing personal. Just can't have you alerting any of your old cult pals.
I'm sure you understand.

Alan's flailing slows as he grasps helplessly at the belt. A moment later his body goes limp.

EXT. ALAN'S APARTMENT - NOON

Ted exits eating a BLT sandwich. For a brief moment before the door closes behind him, Alan's body can be seen hanging from his ceiling fan.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

INT. FATHER WISDOM'S TRAILER - NOON

In the bedroom of a higher end trailer Aleena sits lost in thought staring in the mirror of an old vanity. She then looks at a photo stuck in the mirrors edge.

PICTURE: Father Wisdom next to a smiling older black woman wearing deep crimson lipstick. Both look genuinely happy.

Aleena parses through the lipsticks on the desk, finds the color the woman was wearing and applies it. She returns the lipstick and stares into the mirror. She eyes a small drawer.

Old photos of Aleena and scattered nicknacks are inside. She picks up a uniquely beautiful GOLDEN HAIR CLIP that she's seen wearing in many of the photos. Staring at it she smiles.

FATHER WISDOM (O.S.)
That color always looked great on you.

Aleena quickly shuts the drawer and pockets the hair clip.

ALEENA
Oh, thanks, yeah it's- it's nice.

Father Wisdom walks up behind her and places his hands affectionately on her shoulders. They both stare into the mirror.

FATHER WISDOM
Look love, about earlier...

He struggles to find the best words to his point.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
I need you here with me Cirie. I need
my wife... Without you, all of this
here...

Father Wisdom gestures to his surroundings, then shakes his head and shrugs as if it's all bound to disappear.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
I just want what's best for us. For
our people... You do know that, yes?

Aleena gives a shameful nod.

ALEENA

I know.

Father Wisdom stares at Aleena intensely, then with a deep sigh of relief accepts her response and nods back.

FATHER WISDOM

Good. Good... Alright, well I should get a move on. Prepare for service.

Father Wisdom kisses Aleena on the cheek and heads to the door. Before exiting he stops and snaps his fingers recalling a thought.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

(casual)

Oh, the young woman that joined today, Zoey was it? Need you to make sure she'll become a Nurturer. Our flock must continue to grow. Push her in the right direction.

He leaves and Aleena sits staring in the mirror feeling empty and alone. She closes her eyes for a moment breathing deeply, then opens them now with an angered look of defiance.

She pulls the clip from her pocket and pins it in her hair.

EXT. DAVE AND BUSTERS - DAY

Collin exits Dave and Busters. The HOSTESS calls to him.

HOSTESS (O.S)

Bye Collin!

COLLIN

See ya Shan! Have a good one!

His phone beeps several times and he pulls it out.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Oh shit, I'm blowing up!

He presses the call button and holds it to his ear.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Yo Nate, what's up man?... Oh yeah, I was at Davey B's, they got the new Tomb Raider game. I don't get service in there... Oh shit, where you at, I'll swing over...

INT. THE BLESSED NATION'S CHURCH - AFTERNOON

Nearly a hundred people sit packed like sardines on wooden benches. Father Wisdom stands at the front energetically preaching with rhythm and power.

All but one are fanatically praising. Aleena sits in the front row lost in thought. On one side of her sits Zoey fully enamored. On the other sits MARGE, (60s, a fervent believer).

FATHER WISDOM

So why would God do this? Ask us, the chosen, to live in a world he created, alongside those that would without a second thought trade peace for power. That would kill their own brother, if it meant getting ahead? Anybody know?

Father Wisdom steps closer as he looks over the crowd. Tess raises her hand and Father Wisdom shakes his head smiling.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

Oh I know you got the answer, don't you beautiful.

As Father Wisdom approaches Tess she blushes. He then turns to Raj sitting next to her and holding her hand.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

But I don't want her answer. I want to hear... Your answer Raj.

RAJ

I- I don't-... T- To test us?

Father Wisdom gets close to Raj putting a hand on his shoulder, then looks around the room and nods.

FATHER WISDOM

To test us. That's right Slick, very good. But then we gotta ask ourselves why exactly does God want to test us? Don't these tests cause pain? Don't these tests make us feel vulnerable? ...Hell, I don't like pain. I don't like to feel vulnerable! Do you?

The crowd shakes their heads, and hollers "no!". Father Wisdom takes a moment to acknowledge his followers then shifts his focus back to Raj. The atmosphere grows tense.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

Then why Raj? Why would God want to put us through all that? Why would God want to make us feel that suffering?... Does it mean he doesn't love us?

The exchange feels very personal as Raj begins to tear up.

RAJ

No.

FATHER WISDOM

... So why?

RAJ

To-.... to make us stronger?

FATHER WISDOM

To make us stronger... That's right.

Father Wisdom nods then returns to addressing the whole room.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

We will always face hardships. Hell, being a Nurturer. A beautiful gift but ask any of 'em here, it's not easy.

Pregnant women and mothers nod and "mhmm".

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

(somber and sincere)

We will continue to be tested. That I can promise you. But fact of the matter is, we are the chosen few, whether you like it or not.

Father Wisdom's demeanor grows intense and wild.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

There will be challenges... But with those challenges, comes incredible gifts... I cannot give you easy...

Father Wisdom turns and looks profoundly at Aleena with a dramatic pause, then to the whole crowd.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

However, what I can give you, is power so incredible, so amazing... that even DEATH will bow to you! How about that!

Empowered beyond reality the crowd gets to their feet and collectively loses their fucking minds cheering.

Panic rushes through Aleena as she looks at the chaotic mob around her. She begins to hyperventilate, stands, and quickly runs out. Father Wisdom watches her leave seething.

EXT. THE BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Aleena bursts out of the church gasping for air. She breathes deeply attempting to collect herself, then as her breathing slows looks toward the church enraged.

She marches to the tool shed and grabs a gardening shovel when the sound of a door closing catches her attention. Leaving the shed she sees Ted exiting the Creation Trailer.

ALEENA

Hey! You! Who are you?

Ted turns and points to himself innocently as he casually approaches Aleena.

TED

Hello there! John, pleasure to meet you! Quite the place you have here.

Ted offers his hand. Aleena tightens her grip on the shovel.

ALEENA

Why were you in that trailer?

TED

Oh, I was uh looking for someone. Yeah, chatted with a fellow outside of St. Mary's a few weeks back about coming by. So thought I'd drop in, then couldn't seem to find anyone.

Noticeable sounds of enthusiastic praising continue to emanate from the church. Aleena's unconvinced.

ALEENA

Visiting days are the first Friday of the month... Who'd you speak to?

TED

Shoot, don't recall the name. Well, sorry to intrude. I'll just come back then... You've been very helpful!

Ted turns to head out, with his back to Aleena he waves goodbye. She watches suspiciously as he leaves the grounds.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - AFTERNOON

Collin exits an Uber in front of a college dorm and walks over to Nate standing out front.

NATE

Hey man, sorry about this. I didn't know who else to call.

COLLIN

You're good. So yikes, you got robbed by a student huh?... Where is he?

NATE

(pointing)

In his girlfriend's dorm. But I should tell you, it was Terry Bronson.

COLLIN

Oh, okay gotcha... Also uh- who is that? Like your rival or something?

NATE

(unsure if he's kidding)

No. Terry Bronson... The quarterback of the football team. He's on ESPN highlights like all the time.

COLLIN

Ah! Okay, not a big sports guy.

Nate looks around the area and gestures to multiple Terry Bronson posters nearby. One takes up the side of a bus.

COLLIN

(bluffing)

Oh! Yeah, that guy, very cool...
Anyway, should we go talk to him?

Nate is pleasantly surprised by Collin's confident demeanor.

NATE

Uh yeah! Let's do this! Oh and hey, just in case.

Nate opens his backpack to show a pistol, Collin closes it frantically.

COLLIN
What the fuck is that!?

NATE
Like I said. Just in case.

COLLIN
(strained whisper)
You brought a fucking gun on to a
college campus? While you're here to
get back the drugs that you sell!?

Collin shakes his head and places the backpack in a trashcan.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Criminal Pro Tip for ya, try not to
commit more than one felony at a time.
Grab it when we leave... Un-fuckin-
believable.

Collin walks off mumbling angrily. Nate hustles after.

NATE
(calling out)
Wait, there's an R.A. in the lobby.

INT. DORM LOBBY - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Collin walks right past the front desk toward the elevator.
Nate looks over at the R.A. just as she notices them.

R.A.
Hey, you guys need to sign in.

Collin glances over--then presses the UP button.

COLLIN
We're already signed in. Just went out
for a smoke.

R.A.
Cool. Whatever.

The R.A. goes back to watching Grey's Anatomy on her laptop.
Ding! Elevator doors open and they step inside.

COLLIN
Lot of doors start to open for you
when you realize nobody gives a shit.

INT. DORM UPSTAIRS - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Collin knocks on door 312. Nate gives him a questioning look.

COLLIN
We'll just talk to him.

NATE
...That's your plan? Great. Really
glad I called you.

Terry swings the door wide open. More huge dudes sit inside
staring out at them. Terry notices Nate and smirks.

TERRY (CONT'D)
(to Nate)
Oh who's this? Your bodyguard or, no
wait, lemme guess, your boyfriend?

Nate clenches his fist and steps forward. Collin intervenes.

COLLIN
Woah just chill for a second. (to
Terry) Hey man, I gotta ask... did you
rip off my buddy here?

TERRY
Yeah. Wait, why? What'd he tell you!?

Slightly confused Collin looks to Nate then back to Terry.

COLLIN
Yeah, no, he said you ripped him off,
so... okay! Glad we're all on the same
page there.

Terry nods looking at Nate suspiciously.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Any chance you could give it back?

TERRY
...I suppose.

Collin is happily caught off guard.

COLLIN
Yeah? Well alright! Great! Easier than
I expected... Can you go grab 'em?

TERRY

What? No. You asked if there was any chance. But no, not happening.

Baffled, Collin stares intently at Terry trying to figure out how this guy's brain works.

COLLIN

Wha-? Alright, Jesus Christ dude. How about this, let's just be reasonable. Look at you. You're huge, you're a football star probably heading to the NFL. You're going to be rich as hell. If you want them, just pay for them. If not, give them back... Trust me man, being a dick catches up to you.

Terry begins to ponder it over. Collin winks at Nate smugly.

TERRY

Naw, I'm good.

Terry starts to close the door. Collin jams it with his foot.

COLLIN

Hey, wait, we can figure out a sol-

In a flash, Terry decks Collin sending him stumbling back onto the floor. Nate watches in shock then turns back just in time to see Terry's fist connect with his own face putting him down right next to Collin.

Terry looks down at them aggressively.

COLLIN

(dazed)

Terry. Buddy... we're not mad at you... we're just really disappointed.

TERRY

'Kay.

Completely content, Terry slams the door. Nate and Collin are struggling.

NATE

Nice work Dr. Phil.

COLLIN

(joking)

Alright, you win... Let's shoot him.

EXT. THE BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS - EVENING

Aleena gardens as the church empties. She stops and hides her tools as Tess and Marge approach her.

TESS

Mother Wisdom, it's a shame you had to leave the service. Father really felt the spirit this evening!

ALEENA

Yeah... wasn't feeling well.

MARGE

Tess? Can I speak with Mother for a moment?

TESS

Of course! I'll see you at dinner.

Tess smiles at Aleena and leaves. Marge takes a moment.

MARGE

Mother... I don't claim to understand the vast miracles of the universe so please forgive me if this is out of line. I'm sure it's pretty clear that I'm still struggling to accept God's decision to sacrifice my daughter to use her vessel, so trust me, I'm well aware of my limitations. It's just... at times I do feel like a part of my Aleena is still in there and I just... I want you to know, you can always confide in me, just as she could.

ALEENA

...Really?... You mean that?

Aleena looks at her mother anxiously then jumps to hug her. First Marge is caught off guard, then hugs her back tightly.

MARGE

Of course Mother. I will support the Great Messenger in any way I can.

Aleena's hold on her mother loosens and she steps back looking her in the eye, now tearful and emotionally deflated.

FATHER WISDOM (O.S.)

Now what's goin' on over here?

Aleena quickly lets go entirely and wipes away a tear as Father Wisdom approaches. Zoey walks by his side. He touches her back and leans close to her speaking softly.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
You go on ahead to the Creation
Trailer. I'll be there in a moment.

Zoey nods and politely waves at the two women.

MARGE
Father! Your sermon was so
enlightening!

Father Wisdom takes Marge's hand affectionately in his.

FATHER WISDOM
I'm so glad to hear that Marge. So...
what are you two talking about?
(gesturing) So very close might I add.

MARGE
Oh, Mother just seemed upset. I wanted
her to know I am always here for the
two of you. After all, you've done so
much for all of us.

Father Wisdom nods with a smile then looks at Aleena.

FATHER WISDOM
Well that is sweet. Very gracious of
you Marge, we certainly appreciate it.

Marge smiles with a nod and leaves. Aleena begins to walk off but Father Wisdom follows her.

FATHER WISDOM
(slightly irked)
Still not feeling well my love? You
left the sermon in quite a rush.

ALEENA
I'm fine.

FATHER WISDOM
Fine huh? Well that's good, that's
good. I'm glad to hear you're fine...

Father Wisdom forcefully grabs her arm turning her around.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

But once again, I am not! Why are you determined to make problems for me? It's becoming an all too common occurrence. Appointed by God to be his messenger, to spread his word and lead the chosen people, and yet half my day is having to check in on you! Make sure you're not upsetting the others. We are here for them! Not the other way around!

ALEENA

I- I felt sick. Thought I might throw up.

FATHER WISDOM

Well next time, you will stay and you will sit there in it!

As Father Wisdom stares her down something catches his eye and he leans in for a closer look, then begins to shake with rage. Aleena flinches as he aggressively snatches the golden clip from her hair. She begins to panic and plead.

ALEENA

No, please, that was my Grandmother's!

FATHER WISDOM

It was Aleena's Grandmother's!

Devastated, tears again run down Aleena's face as Father Wisdom pockets the hair clip. As he stares at her, sympathy and shame begin to replace his frustration. He shakes his head and breathes deeply trying to find the words.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

(soft)

Why Cirie-... Why do you insist on making me the bad guy? I just want things back to normal around here... When I lost you I...

Struggling to keep it together, Father Wisdom looks away, clears his throat and composes himself.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)

We just need things to go back to the way they were... All of us. You are Mother Wisdom for these people... Whether you believe it or not.

Aleena gives a slight nod to which Father Wisdom nods back. Then hesitantly he turns to leave, when...

BOOM! A flash of light and deafening eruption! The Creation Trailer **explodes** knocking the two to the ground. They shield themselves as debris falls all around them.

Father Wisdom stares at the charred burning remains in shock. Disoriented, Aleena gets up and walks toward it seeing quick flashes of the stranger from earlier.

People surround her, asking questions she can't hear over the ringing in her ears. She looks past them to Raj who waves others over as he drags a body from the rubble. It's Zoey.

Aleena slowly turns her gaze to Father Wisdom. Despite many trying to help him up, he sits motionless with a blank expression. A feeling of retribution flows over Aleena as she stares at him. A broken defeated man.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

EXT. MODEST CALIFORNIA NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Birds are chirping, the sun is shining, joggers are jogging.

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Collin pours himself a cup of coffee when there's a knock at his door. He looks suspiciously towards it then at his watch.

COLLIN

God damn, it's barely 11:30.

He opens the door to see Father Wisdom looking rattled.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ! Wiz, you look like shit!

Father Wisdom gestures to Collin's black eye.

FATHER WISDOM

Right back at ya Slick.

EXT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT AREA - DAY - CONTINUOUS

Ted sits in his car watching Father Wisdom enter Collin's apartment, looks at the surveillance photo of Alan and Collin and gives an amused "huh!".

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Collin walks out of his room and hands Father Wisdom a black plastic bag.

COLLIN

Alright, there's your usual, and...
You sure you still want more Oxy?

Giving Collin a wad of cash, Father Wisdom taps a key on his necklace.

FATHER WISDOM

Gotta find some reason to open the safe. Can't take it with you and all.

COLLIN

As you like to say.

Father Wisdom begins crushing a few of the pills on Collin's coffee table.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

Oh! Here! This is for you and, uhh
Tess, right? She's the pregnant one?

Collin grabs a gift bag sitting beside the couch and hands it to Father Wisdom. He opens it and pulls out a baby's onesie with "Lil' Wisdom" printed on it. With a peculiar look Father Wisdom stares at it then nods politely.

COLLIN (CONT'D)

There's a site that'll let you print
whatever you want on any piece of
clothing! Pretty hilarious right?

FATHER WISDOM

Uhhh, yeah Slick. I appreciate it.

Father Wisdom puts it to the side, snorts a massive line from the table and starts setting up another one.

COLLIN

Course man, that's what friends are
for, right? Uhh... You doin' okay?

He hits the second line, pounds the table with his fist and lets out an amphetamine fueled hoot.

FATHER WISDOM

WOOOO!... I will be.

EXT. CALIFORNIA TRUCK YARD - DAY

Nate parks and walks up to the main office. A tough looking BIKER sits near the door. As Nate heads to enter the Biker stands up blocking his way.

NATE

All good brother, I'm a Gusmán. Here
to see my cousins.

The Biker doesn't move nor respond. Nate is unsure how to proceed.

NATE (CONT'D)

So can ya fucking move? Or go get
your- your boss or manager or what
ever?... Just go tell them I'm here!

The Biker gives a bored sigh as Nate looks at him appalled.

NATE (CONT'D)
For real man, you're going to make me
call. I'm trying not to get you in
trouble, you get that, right?

Nate pulls out his phone when Julio walks around from the side of the building, whistles and waves him back. Nate gives the Biker a "see!" look and runs over to join Julio.

NATE
Dumb shit Biker wouldn't let me in.

JULIO
That's his fuckin' job.

NATE
...So how's everything, business good?

JULIO
Your checks keep clearing don't they?
The fuck happened to your face?

EXT. CALIFORNIA TRUCK YARD (BEHIND THE OFFICE) - DAY

Nate, Julio, and Raph sit joking and telling stories.

NATE
So party went great but my buddy Mike
was beyond passed out so I just
figured I'd let him crash for the
night and went to bed. Next morning I
wake up, go out to the living room and
guess what?... There's shit
EVERYWHERE. All over the carpet, on
the walls and a trail leading behind
the couch, just shit. So I'm like,
what the fuck happened!? Then, from
behind the couch I hear Mike wake up
and yell, "who the fuck shit on me!?".

Julio busts up laughing. Raph shakes his head amused.

RAPH
Happy to see you're doing well Primo.
It's been a while.

NATE
For real man. Too long!

Nate sees this as his moment and leans in a bit more serious.

NATE (CONT'D)
 Which, I was thinking, maybe in the
 near future I could be around more...
 You know, maybe join you guys. Start
 working for the family business.

JULIO
 (laughing)
 Oh right! And what would you be doing
 for "the family" in this near future
 exactly!?

Nate looks to Raph who cocks his head curious for an answer.

NATE
 Well, I've been selling out here, I'm
 taking business classes at school,
 and... I'm fucking capable man. You
 give me a job and I'll do it. End of
 story. Sure, I'm a long way away from
 your guys' experience, but everyone
 starts somewhere, right? I'm a fast
 learner and I'm not afraid to get my
 hands dirty...I want to help. I want
 to be apart of the family.

To Nate's delight, Raph genuinely seems to consider the idea. Then the back office door opens and Santi pops his head out. He gives Raph a nod. Raph stares at Nate then stands and walks to the back office door.

RAPH
 Why don't we step inside.

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Far more upbeat and energetic Father Wisdom snorts another line and rambles. Collin sits nearby drinking a beer.

FATHER WISDOM
 As I've told you, Raj has always been
 a bit of a hothead. When he first
 joined the Blessed Nation he had a
 warrant out for his arrest, remember?

Collin nods looking a bit bored.

FATHER WISDOM (CONT'D)
 So we have a way of doing things. And
 listen, I'm not saying it's easy, no,
 that was part of my sermon actually,

but what I'm saying is, don't sign up for it and then complain constantly! How does that make sense?

COLLIN
What's he complain about?

FATHER WISDOM
He's insecure! Insecure that Tess has been blessed to carry!

COLLIN
Yeah... or insecure that you were having sex with his girlfriend and now she's having your kid.

FATHER WISDOM
(irritated)
Slick, we've been over this a hundred times. Can we just stay on topic?

Collin nods smiling and holds up his hands.

COLLIN
Alright, just another perspective, go on.

FATHER WISDOM
So, he has the nerve to come and tell me now how uncomfortable he is with everything and- this is my child he's talking about... my child!

Collin nods confidently though not sure at all if he really understands the situation. He does his best to talk it out.

COLLIN
Yeah, I mean... it's weird that he agreed in the first place. But also you're like his boss or whatever, right? Which on the other hand gotta give him that, takes courage to bring up any issue with you face to face and not just talk shit behind your back.

Father Wisdom mulls this over and nods reluctantly.

FATHER WISDOM
Fair enough... Think I'm just stressed because on top of that, Cirie has been acting all out of sorts... I've been

feeling like I don't know how to speak to her anymore?... My own wife... What do I say to get her back to feeling herself?

COLLIN
(avoiding)
Ahhh yeah... I don't know man, that's- yeah, that's a tough one.

Father Wisdom is perturbed by Collin's deflection.

FATHER WISDOM
Come on Slick, I'm aware that there's plenty we don't see eye to eye on. If you have something to say just say it.

Collin sighs really not wanting to continue down this road.

COLLIN
I feel like this topic may be just a bit, you know... too personal. I like shooting the shit with you, but these type of conversations, the ones where our perspectives really differ never end well for us. You know what I mean?

Father Wisdom shakes his head and takes some pills from his bag then sulks.

FATHER WISDOM
I'm going to stay a bit longer if you don't mind.

Collin nods a bit annoyed, feeling the tension even after having successfully avoided the conversation.

COLLIN
Knock yourself out.

EXT. CALIFORNIA TRUCK YARD (BEHIND THE OFFICE) - AFTERNOON

Nate bursts out of the back office door hand over his mouth holding in puke, then proceeds to vomit all over the side of the building. Julio and Raph follow behind, sit back down and start drinking their beers again.

JULIO
Is this what you meant by getting your hands dirty?

NATE
What the fuck. What did he do to him?

RAPH
He got information Natán, and then
sent a message. We need to make sure
our enemies and allies know what
happens when you steal from us.

Santi steps out wearing a plastic apron and gloves then
begins spraying down a pair of pliers and two bloody knives.

NATE
What happened to his face?

SANTI
Left it in his desk drawer for his
successor.

Nate sits at the table, swishes beer in his mouth and cleans
his hand. Raph sighs looking agitated.

RAPH
This business is not easy nor
pretty... And you are unfortunately
not cut out for it.

Nate takes this in looking hurt, then shakes his head.

NATE
N- no, no I- I can deal with this
shit. I can! It's just- I'm not use to
it. Ya know, I'm more of a big picture
guy, usually... you know, usually had
my partner take care of this kind of
stuff. Just give me some time.

Julio stands looking at Nate pissed. Raph gets very serious.

RAPH
...Partner?

Unsure if he just said something terribly wrong Nate
nervously spirals trying to put them at ease.

NATE
Uh- no he's not even- he's just- don't
worry, he's a good guy... You know, uh
loyal. Trustworthy. It's all good!

JULIO
Have you told him about us? About who
your family is?

Nate looks between the two of them unsure what to say.
Irritated Raph shakes his head disappointed and sighs.

RAPH
Give us the address...

Off Nate's hesitation.

RAPH (CONT'D)
We're not going to hurt him, but we do
need to know who it is you've been
talking to.

EXT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT AREA - AFTERNOON

Ted sits in his car. His phone buzzes. A text message reads:

TEXT: "Hey hon, just a reminder, Chelsea's dance recital is
at 6:30 so we need to leave here around 6:00. Love you!"

Ted looks at his watch and sighs, then grabs a silenced
pistol and puts it in his jacket while opening his car door.

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Father Wisdom, now completely zooted, can barely sit up as he
tries to snort another line. Only halfway through it he falls
back down on the couch. Collin is worried.

COLLIN
You want to take it easy there bud?
It's not an olympic event. If it were
you already won gold.

Father Wisdom mumbles incoherently to himself as Collin gets
a text notification. He pulls out his cell.

TEXT: "My cousin is coming to pick you up, I'll explain
later, just be cool and DON'T freak out."

Horrified, Collin immediately freaks out.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
(disbelief)
Whaaaaat the fuuuuck? Nate you fucking
idiot.

Collin starts for the door then looks back remembering Father Wisdom on the couch.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Oh shit- for cryin' out loud!

Collin rushes back and attempts to help him up but Father Wisdom jerks out of his hold.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
(frustrated and antsy)
Wiz! Hey WIZ! I need you to move
buddy! We gotta go, or- I gotta hide
you in a closet or something. The
fucking cartel is apparently on the
way!

Barely conscious, tears form in Father Wisdom's eyes as he stares at the ceiling again softly mumbling.

FATHER WISDOM
She's gone Collin. I think... I think
you're right. Cirie is gone...

Collin terrified and now feeling awful stands completely still unsure what to do.

COLLIN
(exasperated to himself)
Not the best time for this epiphany.

There's a knock at the door. He looks at it panic-stricken.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Ohhhh shit... they're here.

Collin looks down to see Father Wisdom is already out snoring again. He takes a deep breath and walks to the door texting.

TO Nate: "He's here. PS. I'm going to fucking kill you dude."

He opens it slowly at first peaking out, then looking confused opens it all the way. Ted stands smiling pleasantly.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Huh... figured you'd be Mexican.

TED
(amused)
Sorry to disappoint.

Collin looks behind Ted for others then around the parking lot and shrugs not sure what to make of the situation.

COLLIN

Uhh, well welcome I guess. Uh you want to help me bring my buddy into the bedroom before the others get here? He's kinda out cold.

Ted looks at the powder on the table and Father Wisdom laying unconscious on the couch then turns to Collin with a smile.

TED

Certainly!

INT. COLLIN'S ROOM - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

The two drop Father Wisdom on Collin's bed. Completely over the day, Collin walks out to the living room and calls back.

COLLIN (O.S.)

I'm going to grab a beer, want one? Or... And what- are we going somewhere? Or, what's the deal?

Ted, stays in the room looking at Father Wisdom with delight.

TED

(calling back)

A beer sounds great!

Ted firmly places his hands over Father Wisdom's nose and mouth. Father Wisdom's eyes open wide with panic. He flails weakly trying to push Ted off, but fails. A moment later he's completely still. Ted checks his pulse then leaves the room.

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Collin opens two beers and starts to head toward the living room as Ted passes him heading to the door.

TED

Shoot. Unfortunately looks like I'm going to have to head out. Raincheck?

Collin stares annoyed like "wtf?" then just shrugs confused as fuck.

COLLIN

(sarcastic)

Uhh yeeeaaah, Suuuure man, definitely.

TED
Oh, might want to check on your friend
in there. He doesn't look so good.

COLLIN
Wha-

TED
Take care now!

Ted exits. Puzzled, Collin looks at the front door as it closes then strolls back to his bedroom and walks in inside.

COLLIN (O.S.)
Wiz? Ya alright bud? Wi-... OH FUCK!

INT. LARGE CALIFORNIA HOME - AFTERNOON

Liz sits at her kitchen table on her laptop. Her phone rings.

LIZ
Hello?

TED (V.O.)
Your issue is taken care of.

Liz calmly places her phone down on the table. Jerry sits in the living room watching television.

JERRY
Who was it?

LIZ
Telemarketer.

Jerry nods still focused on his show. Liz closes her eyes and exhales deeply. She looks relieved, happy even.

EXT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Ted snaps a burner phone in half, chucks the pieces in a nearby dumpster and continues to his car.

HONK! In the middle of the lot, Ted looks up to see a black SUV in front of him. Julio and Santi sit inside. Ted stands motionless staring at them grimly. Julio honks again and rolls down his window.

JULIO
Hey maricón, move your fat ass!

Ted's hardened stare fades and he waves kindly.

TED
Sorry neighbor, didn't see you there!

JULIO
Jesus Christ gringo, you deaf or
stupid!? Get. Out. Of. The. Way!

Julio holds a gun loosely out the window and lays on the horn. Ted holds up his hands like "alright, alright, my apologies", then walks past them to his car.

INTERCUT the next scenes:

INT. COLLIN'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Collin shakes Father Wisdom trying to wake him up then checks for a pulse. His mouth hangs open as he backs away slowly.

COLLIN
Oh no... No, no, no. Fuck!

Collin pulls out his phone and dials 911. As it rings he looks around at all the illicit shit in his room, freaks and instinctively chuck's his phone at the wall.

INT. JULIO'S CAR - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Julio shakes his head and continues forward.

JULIO
Shit man, fuckers out here are creepy.

Santi nods staring out the window bored. Something in the side mirror catches his attention and he leans forward.

Alarmed, Santi pulls his gun and turns to aim out the rear window just as a barrage of bullets start blasting through the back of the vehicle. Santi is hit first in the shoulder, then Julio in the back immediately after.

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Collin freaks out again hitting the deck as bullets ring out in a consistent terrifying stream.

EXT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

Ted stands with an automatic rifle riddling the SUV with bullets until the clip is empty. Reloading, he approaches the

vehicle, looks at the men inside, then empties the new clip for good measure. After he calmly walks to his car.

Sirens blare in the distance as Ted pulls out of the lot.

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Collin looks around cautiously.

COLLIN
(terrified)
Jesus fucking Christ!... I gotta get
out of here.

END ACT III

ACT IV

INT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Collin grabs a bag from behind his bed and frantically starts to pack, then suddenly, he stops. He can't help but stare at his long time customer/friend laying motionless on his bed.

COLLIN
(sincere)
God dammit Wiz, I shouldn't have let
you take that much...

Collin snaps back into panic mode. Rushing to his sock drawer he grabs a wad of cash then continues to rifle through looking for more with no success. Giving up he stares at the small bundle of bills concerned then slowly turns to stare at the key on FW's necklace.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
You think it would be super fucked up
if I took your key?... I mean, you
don't need it anymore, right?

Collin shrugs quickly assuming he's correct, puts the necklace on and takes off out of the room.

EXT. COLLIN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Running outside Collin sees a black SUV with two dead guys inside. Shaking his head in terrified disbelief, he turns around, runs in the opposite direction and past Gary who's strolling down the walkway boppin' to music on headphones.

COLLIN
(out of breath)
Hey Gary.

Gary rolls his eyes ignoring him then suddenly freezes eyes wide in horror as he approaches the scene.

EXT. CALIFORNIA TRUCK YARD (BEHIND THE OFFICE) - AFTERNOON

Nate sits anxiously as Raph checks his watch again then makes a call. No answer. Raph debates for a moment while looking at Nate suspiciously.

RAPH
Get up. Let's go.

NATE
What's going on?

RAPH
Something's wrong.

EXT. CITY STREETS - AFTERNOON

Collin walks with his hood up paranoid as cop cars rush by.

COLLIN
Shit. Shit. Shit! What do I do?... I killed the only guy who would probably even hide me.

He pauses and grabs the key around his neck thinking.

INT. FATHER WISDOM'S OFFICE - EVENING

The door to Father Wisdom's office opens slowly and Aleena enters holding a small folded note. She walks to his desk. About to place it down she jumps noticing someone else in the room.

Tess sits on a large leather bound couch. Father Wisdom's office has the best quality everything, furniture included.

TESS
Oh whoops! Sorry to frighten you Mother. I was just waiting for Father to return. I know we're not suppose to be in here, but my feet and back have been killing. Hope that's alright.

Aleena hides the note behind her back and smiles stiffly.

ALEENA
Sure, of course.

The phone on Father Wisdom's desk begins to ring. Tess groans.

TESS
Finally! One of you is here to answer that. It will not stop ringing!

ALEENA
Oh, I don't-...

She stops herself and picks up the receiver.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
Hello?... Well I-...yes, this is his
wife...

A moment passes, then Aleena turns to Tess in shock, the blood drains from her face. Tess sits up anxiously, knowing something is wrong.

INT/EXT. RAPH'S CAR - EVENING

As Raph and Nate approach Collin's apartment they notice activity ahead. Raph slows as they pass without stopping. They stare in shock at the web of caution tape and cops milling about scene.

Raph clenches his jaw furiously as they pull into a nearby neighborhood. Nate shakes his head mumbling to himself in disbelief then Raph gets out of the car, slams the door and begins kicking the shit out of the front tire.

RAPH
FUUUUCK!

Raph returns to the driver side window staring at Nate.

RAPH (CONT'D)
Did you tell him they were coming?

NATE
Wha-

RAPH
DID YOU TELL HIM THEY WERE COMING!?

Nate clumsily pulls out his phone and hands it over.

NATE
Just that! That's all I said!

Raph reads the texts then looks at Nate on edge.

RAPH
What happens when your friend "freaks out", huh?

Nate frantically clarifies in a panic.

NATE
Like he- HE'LL GET SCARED!

RAPH
Scared enough to do something like
that!?

Nate raises his voice agitated that he can't seem to convey the fact that, if anything, Collin is a pacifist pussy.

NATE
NOOOOO!

EXT. BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS (GARDEN) - NIGHT

Aleena sits on a bench next to her garden deep in thought. She looks at her note and shakes her head aggravated.

ALEENA
Right when I decide to leave, you go
and do it first. Selfish asshole.
Can't even be here to take care of the
mess you created...

MARGE (O.S.)
...So I take it what Tess was saying
is true. Father Wisdom is gone?

Alarmed, Aleena spins around to see her mother. Unsure of how much she heard she looks down ashamed and nods. Marge holds back tears in recognition and sits down next to her.

MARGE (CONT'D)
Safe to say all of us are feeling a
bit unsure as where to go from here.

Marge looks to Aleena hoping for a reassuring response, but Aleena just stares ahead silently.

MARGE (CONT'D)
Tess left, after she told us. Few of
the others did as well...

ALEENA
Probably a smart move. Good for them.

Marge stares at Aleena dismayed then looks forward defeated. For a moment they sit in silence.

MARGE
During my time on this earth, I have
many regrets, but if I were to be
honest, above all I regret not being a
better mother.

Aleena subtly looks over at her mother curious to see where this is going.

MARGE (CONT'D)
When Aleena was really young, her father left us, left me, with nothing. Thought I could pick up the pieces, but I'm ashamed to say I could barely cope. For about a year, I went from job to job trying to make things work, but just couldn't seem to. That's when I found The Blessed Nation... For the first time in a while I felt stable again, like I had hope. Now thinking back, with Aleena being so young I suppose I took away a lot choices she'd have been able to make for herself on the outside. And then last month... she made the biggest sacrifice of all...

Marge turns to look Aleena with sadness in her eyes.

MARGE (CONT'D)
If no one is here to lead, we don't have much of a chance, so I understand why Tess and the others left. But... many of us don't have anywhere else to go... Mother, if you choose to leave, I wouldn't blame you. Truly... I just hope you don't live to regret your decisions, as I do everyday.

Marge touches her on the shoulder sympathetically and stands up. She kisses the top of Aleena's head before walking off. Aleena buries her face into her own arms and cries.

INT/EXT. RAPH'S CAR - NIGHT

Raph and Nate sit in silence as they drive.

NATE
...So what happens now.

RAPH
I drop you off and get to work sorting this out.

Nate takes a moment feeling responsible for everything.

NATE
Let me help. Please.

RAPH
No.

Raph is definitive and unwavering. Nate looks helpless.

NATE
Then can we at least make one stop
before you drop me off?

Raph looks over at him, still tense but slightly curious.

EXT. BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS - NIGHT

Collin sneaks past the tree line onto the Blessed Nation's grounds, spots a large group of followers near a church-looking building and decides to head the opposite direction.

While walking the dimly lit grounds, he hears muffled sobs near a garden. It's unsettling.

COLLIN
(whisper to himself)
Well that's fucking creepy.

He continues forward and sees a small building that appears to be in far better shape than the rest.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Bingo!

En route to the building he spots the origin of the noise. A girl sitting on a bench crying. He looks at her empathetically wanting to console her then shakes his head.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
No. Come on, find Father Wisdom's safe
and leave. Don't get distracted.

We see Collin sneaks out of view toward the building, then immediately back into view sighing and shaking his head knowing he's an idiot as he walks straight toward Aleena.

EXT. BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS - NIGHT

Hearing someone approaching her, Aleena wipes her eyes.

COLLIN (O.S.)
Hey there... You alright?

Aleena turns to see a stranger standing nearby. He appears genuinely concerned.

ALEENA
Yeah... Who- You should't- never mind.

COLLIN
...Mind if I sit?

Aleena moves to the side to make room and he joins her. They both sit in silence for a moment processing life.

ALEENA
What happened to your face?

Collin gives a confused look then remembers he was punched.

COLLIN
Huh? Oh shit, yeah, forgot about that.
Uh, nothing, just some guy knocked my
ass to the ground. Hah... Simpler
times... Mind if I ask why you're
crying? All good if you don't want to
talk about it.

Aleena looks at him trying to figure out what his deal is then just doesn't care and explodes.

ALEENA
Why is it always up to me!? To be the
bigger person? To be more patient,
more responsible, more understanding?
To take care of everyone else?...Why
is it always my job? It's just not-
It's not fair!

She chokes up. Collin nods slightly shocked by her intensity.

COLLIN
Damn... Yeah, being the person people
look to for everything is never easy.
I mean I don't know your situation,
but just from my perspective... No one
owes anyone anything... On the other
hand, everyone probably depends on you
because you're capable and they're
not... I mean, I think we should try
and help out when we can, especially
those close to us, but just make sure
you don't end up throwing your life
away because you're too afraid to live

for yourself, ya know?... I don't know, that's just my two cents.

Something about this resonates with Aleena and she nods. Collin pretty tapped out of advice and time considers his job here done and stands up.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Alright, well I gotta get going, but... I really hope you find the answers you're looking for ____...?

ALEENA
Aleena. My name is Aleena.

Collin nods understanding the situation much more clearly.

COLLIN
It was super nice to meet you Aleena.

Collin gives a genuine smile and heads out. Aleena watches as he goes straight toward Father Wisdom's office. She decides he's not her problem.

EXT. FRAT HOUSE ON CAMPUS - NIGHT

A car pulls up and Terry gets out. He walks around the car and leans in the window. There's a COLLEGE GIRL driving.

TERRY
God you're sexy. Why don't you come in for a bit? We'll have some fun.

COLLEGE GIRL
I want to, but not tonight.

Terry is clearly irritated but kisses her and she drives off. Terry shakes his head mumbling as he walks toward the house.

TERRY
Fuckin' tease.

Nate walks up the sidewalk toward him. Terry notices and squints to better see the figure in the dim moonlight.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Oh shit! Ha, what do you want bitch?
Came to ask me to hit you on the other side, even it out?... What's that?

Terry looks closer, getting nervous as Nate holds up a pistol

and aims it at him. Terry holds up his hands and pleads.

TERRY (CONT'D)

Oh fuck... No man, look, I'm sorry, seriously, I am. You want your stuff back? Is that it? I got it. I was just fucking around, I'll go get it right-

BANG! Nate fires a round into Terry's head. His body hits the ground, then it's silent. Nate stands in a daze, shaking but unable to move. Raph walks up behind him nodding and guides him back to the car.

INT. FATHER WISDOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Entering, Collin looks impressed by the finely furnished office.

COLLIN

Damn Wiz, why'd we always hang out at my place when you had this!?... Okay, if I were your safe, where would I be?

He begins to search the office looking behind paintings and shelves for a hidden safe.

EXT. BLESSED NATION'S GROUNDS - NIGHT

Feeling more confident Aleena stands up and composes herself. She heads toward the church but sees the large group of followers heading straight toward her.

RAJ

(yelling)

There's Mother! There she is!

The crowd hurries forward. Aleena anxiously tries to calm the group as they meet up halfway right in front of Father Wisdom's office. They surround her begging for answers.

FOLLOWER 1

Mother, what's the plan!?

FOLLOWER 2

What will happen to us?

ALEENA

Everyone, j- just try and calm down.

They begin to encircle her tight. She can't even think as they bombard her with questions. Breaking through the group she goes to stand on the stairs leading up to Father Wisdom's office.

ALEENA
EVERYONE SHUT UP!

Everyone pauses caught off guard by the outburst.

INT. FATHER WISDOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

All the furniture has been moved and paintings taken down, Collin scans the room for any possible clue he missed.

Just then he hears screaming right outside. He ducks quickly and peaks out the window to see Aleena on the stairs and a herd of followers surrounding her. He drops down to hide before anyone spots him. He whispers to himself.

COLLIN
Oh shit!

EXT. FATHER WISDOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

ALEENA
Look, the news about Father Wisdom...
it's true.

Panicked murmurs resonate through the crowd.

ALEENA (CONT'D)
But everyone needs to remain calm. If we can do that, we can work together and figure out a path forward okay?... But I'm going to be honest with you all right now, I don't have all the answers.

The crowd doesn't like hearing that and starts to object.

FOLLOWER 3
What does that mean? We need a real leader!

FOLLOWER 1
You came back from the dead.
When will Father be back?

FOLLOWER 2
Does God even speak through you!?

FOLLOWER 4
Yeah, when will Father be back! We need a Messenger!

INT. FATHER WISDOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Collin watches Aleena's situation go from bad to worse.

COLLIN
(whispering to himself)
Come on girl, these freaks are crazy.

You gotta get out of there. Just
run... Fuck!

Collin slides back down the wall debating the situation.

EXT. FATHER WISDOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

The mob closes in tighter and begins to move up the stairs. Marge moves to the front and tries to reason with them.

MARGE

I have faith in Mother! She can figure this out. Let's all just listen to her and try and relax!

RAJ

Wait, Marge is Aleena's mother... How do we even know that's the real Mother Wisdom!? Maybe Aleena took back her vessel and now they're lying to gain control!

One of the scared enraged followers grabs Marge by her cardigan and forcibly tosses her out of the way and into the crowd. Aleena looks terrified as the group moves in.

Then, out of nowhere...

The door to Father Wisdom's office is kicked open. Collin stands in the doorway and posing like Superman. He looks at the crowd shaking his head disgusted.

COLLIN

Tsk. Tsk. Tsk. Look at all of you...
Acting like animals... Despicable!

The crowd quiets momentarily as they try and comprehend this completely random turn of events.

RAJ

Uhhh.... Who- Who are you?

The crowd rambles in agreement demanding an answer. Collin walks slowly over to Aleena's side. She looks nervously at the deranged psychopath with an apparent death wish.

COLLIN

Oh... You all know who I am. Don't ya?

Collin pulls the key necklace out from his shirt.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
... Slick.

Aleena's eyes go wide as she looks at him in disbelief. The crowd goes dead silent, then whispers start back up. "Could it be?" "It's him!". Hesitant, Raj stands his ground.

RAJ
H- ...How can we be sure?

FOLLOWER 1
Look Raj! the necklace!

Collin hears the follower throw out Raj's name and decides to run with it. He steps forward getting in Raj's face.

COLLIN
Raj... Did we not just have this talk
about you doubting me? You wanna go
down this road again?

RAJ
(nervous and ashamed)
No Father Wisdom, I- I'm sorry, just
wanted to be sure.

The crowd erupts in applause.

FOLLOWER 2
Praise be! The Great Messenger has
returned!

While waving gracefully Collin backs up the stairs toward Aleena who is more on edge and weirded out than ever. He looks over at her and gives her a quick wink. If anything it makes her feel more uncomfortable.

INT. LARGE CALIFORNIA HOME - NIGHT

Liz sits stiffly on the couch drinking tea. Jerry walks up behind her and places his hands on her shoulders.

JERRY
Hey darling, I'm going to head up.

Eyes fixed forward, Liz nods. Jerry begins up the stairs when there's a knock at the door. Liz jumps up and runs to answer it. Jerry looks down alarmed.

JERRY
Honey wait! We don't know who-

Too late, she's already flung open the door. In front of her stands Tess. Liz looks at her daughter, then at her pregnant stomach in shock. Tess, sobbing, looks up ashamed.

TESS

Mom... I'm so sorry I didn't tell you.
I'm sorry I left, I'm sorry I'm
here... I- I have nowhere else to go.

Liz takes a moment to accept that this is all real, then opens her arms wide to embrace her daughter.

LIZ

Of course baby. Of course. All that
matters is that you're back.

In awe, Jerry comes and hugs them both.

TESS

He's dead mom. Father Wisdom, The
Great Messenger. He- he's gone.

Jerry looks uneasily at Liz who ignores the statement
entirely and pulls Tess in closer.

LIZ

It's okay sweetie. Everything is going
to be okay.

INT. FATHER WISDOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Collin takes a seat at Father Wisdom's desk. He could get use to this! Raj stands in the doorway.

RAJ

Need anything else Father?

COLLIN

Yeah, my head is still whirling from
the... You know th- the transfer
thing. Where do I keep my safe again?

RAJ

What safe?

Collin sighs and drops his head to the desk.

COLLIN

Eh, never mind. Don't worry about it.

RAJ

Okay. Also, we got the Zoey situation taken care of Father. Her body won't be found.

COLLIN

(weirded out)

What the fu-... Okay?

RAJ

And, I just want to say... I'm sorry for doubting you Father.

COLLIN

Well uhh...Good! You should be sorry! That was super fucked up!

RAJ

Yes, Father. It won't happen again.

Raj walks out of the room sheepishly as Aleena walks in closing the door behind her. She stares at him warily. He turns to her excitedly smiling and cartoonishly wipes fake sweat from his forehead. She's dumbfounded.

COLLIN

PHWEW! Holy shit, right?

This is all too strange, Aleena shakes her head and walks up aggressively to confront him.

ALEENA

Who the hell are you and what are you doing here?

COLLIN

Woah, relax. You mean other than saving you from an insane mob?

ALEENA

How did you know all that stuff.

Collin takes in her intensity and realizes he needs to be careful. He pauses for a moment considering his options.

COLLIN

Look, for as long as I'm here, as far as anyone is concerned, I'm Father Wisdom reincarnated. After all, you know how that can be, right? Mother Wisdom?... Or wait, was it Aleena?

She takes that in and stares at him, now on guard she nods.

ALEENA
Fine.

They both stand there cautiously hoping they have an understanding. Aleena starts to leave then stops...

ALEENA (CONT'D)
Can you toss me my hair clip?

COLLIN
Uhhh, yeah sure, where...?

Collin looks around the desk, spots it and tosses it to her without hesitation.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
There ya go.

Aleena catches it and nods at Collin with a slight smile.

ALEENA
Thanks.

COLLIN
Not a problem... Slick-

ALEENA
Don't!

Collin holds up his hands apologetically. She did NOT think that was funny.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
Sorry!

Aleena exits the room. Collin looks around with a sigh.

COLLIN (CONT'D)
I swear to god Wiz... did you even have a safe?

Collin lets out an exhausted sigh.

EXT. UPPERCLASS CALIFORNIA HOME - MORNING

The sun is shining, birds are chirping, and everything is perfect in this beautiful wealthy California neighborhood.

INT. UPPERCLASS CALIFORNIA HOME DOWNSTAIRS - MORNING

Liz walks down the stairs.

LIZ

Hey Honey, what do you say we go out
for lunch? We could get our nails
done. Have ourselves a girls day out?

Liz looks around but can't find Tess. She starts to panic.

LIZ (CONT'D)
Tess? Honey? Tess!?...

Liz sees a note on the kitchen table. It reads

NOTE: The Great Messenger lives. I shouldn't have turned my back on him. Thank you for everything. Love, Tess.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Parents sit around a green soccer field watching a little league game. A cell phone rings in the background.

ANGLE ON: Parents on the sideline cheering like crazy.

The ring gets closer as we go down the line of parents until we get to the cargo shorts pocket of a large man.

TED

Hustle Sammy, hustle, you got it
buddy! YEAH! That's what I'm talking
about!

The man pulls out the phone and turns around. It's Ted.

TED (CONT'D)
Hello?

END PILOT