

Grey Genesis  
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**FADE IN:**

A field of blurry grey, as if zoomed in far too close on something. Words begin to fade in, then sentences, until finally:

**The Lord saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth- for I am grieved that I have made them.**

The words slowly fade away and one line begins to emerge in its place:

**Genesis 6:5-7**

We zoom out to reveal that the grey image was a bright CRESCENT MOON surrounded by a black cloudless sky. The words Genesis 6:5-7 remain against the moon. Blue smoke rises from below, swirling about the words, eventually consuming them, and dissolving them into nothing.

The blue smoke continues to rise into the air.

**EXT. ALLEY WAY - NIGHT**

DETECTIVE HARMON is looking up at the moon and smoking what remains of a cigar. He wears a long trench coat and maintains a hard yet solemn look on his face.

**YOUNG OFFICER (O.S.)**

Um sir?

Harmon continues to look up towards the moon and puffs his cigar.

**YOUNG OFFICER (O.S.) (CONT'D)**

Detective?

The officer taps Harmon's shoulder. Harmon snaps back to reality, and turns to face the YOUNG OFFICER.

**YOUNG OFFICER (CONT'D)**

Sir, they're ready for you now..  
(looking up)  
What're you looking at?

**HARMON**

(pointing to the moon)  
It helps me relax, seems like the only constant anymore.

**YOUNG OFFICER**

They teach you that in the academy  
to deal with... stuff like this?

Harmon detects the officers uneasy tone.

**HARMON**

No, I taught myself. I'm just  
collecting my thoughts, I've heard  
this one is... unique.

**YOUNG OFFICER**

Well, um, when you're finished sir,  
forensics is waiting.

Harmon throws his cigar on the pavement and stamps it out.

**HARMON**

Alright. Lead the way.

The two begin walking down the alley, approaching police tape  
drawn across the entrance to an open area.

**YOUNG OFFICER**

So, have you ever been around  
something this, you know, horrible?

**HARMON**

Just once.

Harmon sees that the young man is visibly nervous.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

How's your stomach?

**YOUNG OFFICER**

Hasn't failed me yet, sir.

They duck under the police tape and...

**SUPERIMPOSE: 5 YEARS AGO**

We see a man crucified upside down on the back wall. Large  
spikes are driven through his legs, holding him into the  
bricks. A team of men are taking samples from the blood that  
has run down the man's body.

**HARMON**

Jesus...

**YOUNG OFFICER**

Doesn't strike me as his work,  
detective.

**HARMON**

Don't be so sure.

**FORENSICS GUY O.C.**

Harmon?

**HARMON**

(softly to the officer)  
Look, if this is too much for you,  
you can go question the nearby  
business owners. See what you can  
dig up.

The young officer smiles and quickly turns to leave.

One of the FORENSICS GUYS examining the body walks towards  
Harmon and extends his hand.

**FORENSICS GUY**

God, it is you. Of all the people,  
I can't believe they brought you in  
on this one.

They shake hands like old friends, and Harmon smiles.

**HARMON**

Just another day at the office.

The man nods.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Well, shall we?

Harmon follows the forensics guy to the body hanging on the  
wall.

**FORENSICS GUY (CONT'D)**

Whoever did this really took their  
time. Crucifixion causes death by  
asphyxiation, but not when its been  
inverted like this.

He points to the victim's legs.

**FORENSICS GUY (CONT'D)**

You see, they drove the spikes in-  
between his tibia and fibula bones  
to ensure it would hold his weight.  
Right through the meaty part. Now,  
that in itself isn't enough to kill  
a person, and it doesn't put any  
undue stress on the lungs, like  
traditional crucifixion would.

**HARMON**

Yes, I know.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Harmon, are you sure you can handle this? With how your father was killed I'd-

**HARMON**

Anything else?

The forensics guy stands back and looks up towards the spikes.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Well the big mystery is how the hell they got him up there. It would've taken six guys on ladders to do this with an unwilling participant. How they did it out in the open without anyone seeing or hearing is beyond me.

**HARMON**

Something tells me they didn't have to worry.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Why's that?

**HARMON**

The gang that did this controls the whole area, no one's talking.

**FORENSICS GUY**

A gang? What kind of gang does this?

**HARMON**

It's more a cult than a traditional street gang.

The forensics guy looks back up towards the body.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Yeah, I'd say so.

**HARMON**

Even if there were witnesses, they won't cooperate.

**FORENSICS GUY**

So what's their problem, they some sort of satanic group?

**HARMON**

Hardly. They're militant Christians.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Christian?

He points at the upsidedown cross.

**FORENSICS GUY (CONT'D)**

That's a satanic symbol.

**HARMON**

Not necessarily. The Apostle Peter asked to be crucified upside down, along with many of the followers of Jesus. They didn't feel they were worthy to be killed in the same way as their Lord.

Harmon kneels down to get right next to the corpse's face. He notices a catholic priest collar and a gold cross dangling.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

It's why they do things like this. The murdering of corrupt religious leaders reminds them, and us, that we're not the same as Christ.

The two men look up at the wall in silence.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Makes you want to say your prayers doesn't it?

**HARMON**

I don't know if there is a God, but stuff like this let's me know there's a hell.

**FORENSICS GUY**

So what do you want to-

**HARMON**

I'll need a moment.

The forensics guy gives Harmon a concerned look, but Harmon is unwavering.

**FORENSICS GUY**

Alright.

(To everyone else)

Let's take a break people.

The team clears out from the crime scene.

Harmon stands away from the corpse and shakes his head.

**HARMON**

A little too familiar.

He begins to circle the area, looking for something, anything, that might help him.

A shadow moves, Harmon's attention shifts to it.

He walks closer and we see it's a person, hiding in the darkness.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Scene is closed to civilians.

The man doesn't move. We hear him BREATHING.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Hey you, did you hear me?

Harmon quickly reaches to his hip and draws his gun. He chambers a round.

The man calmly raises his palm for Harmon to stop.

Harmon stops moving, gun frozen pointing at the man. His face suddenly softens.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Do I... know you from somewhere?

The man leans forward enough to show sparkling white teeth.

**DARK FIGURE**

I think you'll want to sit down for this.

SMASH CUT.

**SUPERIMPOSE: PRESENT DAY**

A boxing glove comes out of nowhere and smashes THEO in the face, sending him flying backwards onto the canvas. We are in...

**INT. BOXING RING - DAY**

THEO'S POV: We see NICHOLAS looking down with his arms spread wide. He is a well built and very handsome young man.

**NICHOLAS**

Do you just like eating canvas or what?

Theo gets up to one knee and Nicholas extends a hand. Theo stubbornly waves off the invitation for help.

Nicholas watches Theo slowly rise to his feet and they walk together to the side of the ring. The boxing gym is busy with people training.

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

You know, if you spent as much time working on your form as you do on those tests, you wouldn't hit the mat so much.

**THEODORE**

Time isn't a luxury I have these days, and thanks for reminding me, I need to be getting home.

**AVI** (O.C.)

Don't tell me you're leaving already Theo, you just started.

CLOSE on their trainer AVI walking towards them. Avi is a fit man in his mid 40's. The years of boxing show in his rough face, but a glint of life can be seen in his eyes when he looks upon the two boys.

**NICHOLAS**

His majesty suddenly has the idea that school is more important than sports. You believe that shit?

Avi crosses his arms and stops short of the ring.

**AVI**

A college grad... I'm still shocked they let you in.

**THEODORE**

Hey, I'm not a grad yet, I could still fail these finals you know.

**AVI**

I suppose so, Nick here playing nice?

**NICHOLAS**

If he is half as good a student as he is a punching bag, he will be fine.

Avi LAUGHS a hearty laugh.

**AVI**

Watch yourself there nick, soon  
you'll have a college grad knocking  
you around the ring.

**THEODORE**

Listen Avi, I know I say it all the  
time, but I really...

Sensing Theo's serious tone in voice, Avi cuts in.

**AVI**

Now before you get all hugs and  
kisses on me, remember where you  
are.

Theo looks surveys the gym. It's full of tough looking  
boxers. One stops punching a bag and winks at Theo.

**AVI (CONT'D)**

I know ok? And believe me you  
helped me as much as I helped you,  
so let's just leave it at that.

Theo smiles.

**AVI (CONT'D)**

I know school's tough, but you're  
almost done, so don't stumble at  
the finish line. I won't have some  
uneducated punk running my life's  
work into the ground.

Theo turns to stare at Nicholas.

**AVI (CONT'D)**

Well, I won't have two uneducated  
punks running my gym.

Nicholas gives Theo and Avi a blank stare.

**NICHOLAS**

Ouch, my feelings.

Avi grabs two nearby towels and throws them at Nick and Theo.

**AVI**

Get the hell out of here, I've got  
work to do. I'll see you both later  
tonight.

Avi gives the two boys a wink and turns to face his gym.

**AVI (CONT'D)**

(to a man shadow boxing)  
No, no! Keep your shoulders down,  
you want to tell him every punch  
before you throw it...?

Avi walks away and his speech fades into the noise of the gym. Theo watches him walk away when he is suddenly punched in the shoulder by Nicholas.

**NICHOLAS**

Waitin' on you, your highness.

Theo looks around noticing other fighters are waiting to use the ring.

He smiles apologetically.

**THEODORE**

Sorry.

**INT. BOXING GYM/REAR**

The two friends begin to walk toward the showers. Theo starts rubbing his jaw again.

**THEODORE**

Man, that kinda hurt.

**NICHOLAS**

Stop blocking punches with your  
face and it won't. We meeting at  
8:00?

**THEODORE**

Ish, yeah.

**NICHOLAS**

Alright man, I'll see you then.

Nicholas walks past the shower room and begins to walk toward the exit of the building.

**THEODORE**

Where you goin'?

Nicholas continues walking.

**NICHOLAS**

Errands my friend. I have errands  
that need my immediate attention.

Theo smiles.

**THEODORE**

New talent?

Nicholas flips Theo off as he exits the gym.

Theo chuckles to himself and enters the shower room.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Theo lives in an old run-down apartment. A very nice poker table sits in the middle of his living room, clearly the most expensive thing he owns. Nicholas and Theo sit across from each other. Their friends DEBORAH and CONRAD occupy the other two seats.

Nicholas rakes in a good sized pot.

**NICHOLAS**

Now, I know I'm the better player, but you guys could at least make it interesting.

**DEBORAH**

Always the gracious sportsman.

Conrad stares blankly at his cards.

**CONRAD**

(to himself)

I just don't get this game...

**THEODORE**

This guy told me once that integrity is more important than winning...

Nicholas stacks his newly acquired winnings.

**NICHOLAS**

Only people who never win say shit like that.

**CONRAD**

(to himself)

The numbers were in my favor...

**THEODORE**

Huh, I'll be sure to tell Avi that when he gets here.

Nicholas looks up at Theo, annoyed he fell into his trap.

**NICHOLAS**

I stand by my statement.

Theo and Deborah exchange annoyed glances.

**DEBORAH**

Nicholas I love ya... but you're kind of a dick.

Theo gives an agreeing shrug.

**NICHOLAS**

Oh lighten up you guys, it's just a game. You're out what 5 bucks now, maybe 20 at the end of the night? Hell, your bar tab would be twice that, this is cheap entertainment.

Theo smiles and shakes his head.

**THEODORE**

I need your cards Conrad.

Conrad looks up from his cards.

**CONRAD**

I've been studying poker books for two weeks. My cards had an 82 percent chance of winning...

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, but an 18 percent chance of losing.

Nicholas reaches over, grabs the cards from Conrad's hands and tosses them to Theo.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Besides, I knew you didn't have a straight. You bounce around in your chair like a kid with A.D.D. when you have something.

Conrad sits back in his chair, defeated.

Theo shuffles quickly and begins dealing.

**DEBORAH**

You're all still kids at heart. You guys haven't changed.

Theo looks at his cards to reveal two kings. He makes no indication of his hand and calmly raises.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

Or maybe you have.

Conrad looks at his cards, frowns, and folds.

**NICHOLAS**

You can't win if you don't play.

**CONRAD**

Four nine, 73 percent chance of-

**NICHOLAS**

Christ Conrad, play the man, not the numbers.

**CONRAD**

Well what's the use of playing the man if I only have a 20 percent chance to make a hand?

Nicholas shakes his head, briefly considers his cards and tosses in the money to meet Theo's bet.

Deborah looks down at her hand and tosses chips into the center pile.

**DEBORAH**

Is Avi still dropping by?

**THEODORE**

Yeah, he said he'd be here after closing up.

Theo checks a clock hanging on the wall. It reads 10:30.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Actually, he should've been here by now.

**DEBORAH**

That place is really taking off, isn't it?

**NICHOLAS**

Yup, Avi's boxers have been kicking ass all over the nation, really making a name for the gym.

**DEBORAH**

So who is he sending out next?

**NICHOLAS**

That would be me.

Theo shakes his head, burns the top card of the deck and lays the next three face up on the table: the four of hearts, the two of spades, and the nine of clubs.

**CONRAD**

(to himself)

You've got to be kidding me.

**THEODORE**

Maybe you should try praying next time.

Conrad lightly grunts and rolls his eyes.

Nicholas shakes his head, puts his cards down, and directs a smile towards Conrad. We're unable to tell if the smile was the result of his hand or the comment made by Theo.

**NICHOLAS**

Conrad, why can't you just believe in God?

Theo checks his hand, and throws in a large bet while Nicholas is distracted.

**CONRAD**

I just have a problem with anyone who blindly believes in anything.

**NICHOLAS**

So you have to see it to believe it?

**CONRAD**

No, but I need some better proof than two thousand year old stories.

**NICHOLAS**

Maybe the atheist cannot find God for the same reason a thief cannot find a policeman.

**DEBORAH**

Whoa Nick, have you been reading?

**NICHOLAS**

Quote of the day last week on Google, remembered that one just for you.

**CONRAD**

(to himself)

That... doesn't even make sense.

Nicholas notices Theo's bet and leans back. Without even looking at his cards, he stares directly at Theo and pushes his money into the pile.

**NICHOLAS**

I Call.

**THEODORE**

Seriously though, how can you deny that there is a creator, do you really believe the world around you came about by chance?

Deborah picks up her two cards, looks at them, and then tosses them down on the table.

**DEBORAH**

I hate you both.

Nicholas shrugs.

**CONRAD**

It's much more impressive to imagine it all came about with no intelligent help, isn't it?

**NICHOLAS**

Well look at it this way Numbers. You go on being an Atheist and you're wrong, it's hell for you, but if you believe and are wrong, nothing bad will happen, the odds are against you.

**CONRAD**

Pascal was an idiot. Playing poker and basing your life on the existence of an imaginary entity are two very different things.

Theo burns the top card of the deck and places the next card face up beside the three already there; the queen of clubs.

**NICHOLAS**

Just trying to help you man.

Deborah gets up and walks over to a small table where an overly fat GOLD FISH is swimming in a fish bowl.

**DEBORAH**

Hey Norman. You hungry?

Deborah picks up a small can of fish food and dabs some in. Norman lazily begins to eat the food.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

Anyone want a drink?

Both men keep their eyes on the newly turned queen, and simultaneously raise one finger indicating they want one.

**DEBORAH** (CONT'D)

Okay...

(beat)

...I'll just leave you two to decide whose is bigger.

Knowing he has the high pair on the board, Theo pushes in half his pile.

**NICHOLAS**

Theo, you've always been a shitty poker player. Your pair of two's don't scare me.

Nicholas matches Theo's bet.

Theo burns the top card and lays down a final card; the ace of diamonds.

Nicholas instantly smiles, unable to hold back his excitement as Deborah returns with three beers. She sets them on the table and notices the ace.

**DEBORAH**

I guess my aces were good.

Theo glances up, obviously not amused.

**NICHOLAS**

Theo, your bet.

The Ace has thrown off Theo's confidence, and he begins to feel the pressure from Nicholas.

**THEODORE**

I'll... check...

**NICHOLAS**

(laughing)

Yup, a pair of twos! I'm all in.

Theo looks at his hand. We ZOOM in on his pair of kings with the 5 cards on the table in the background. He has no clue what to do.

**CONRAD**

Well Theo, where's your God now?

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK.

The four stop and look at each other.

**NICHOLAS**

It's open Avi!

The knocking comes again, this time more demanding and urgent.

**THEODORE**

Deb can you let him in?

Deborah opens the door to reveal OFFICER #3. He is soaked from the rain pouring behind him.

**OFFICER #3**

I'm looking for Theodore Baron,  
does he live here?

**DEBORAH**

Uh, Theo...

Theo gets up from the poker table and walks to the doorway.

**THEODORE**

I'm Theodore.

**OFFICER #3**

I have some... difficult news.

**EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY**

An audience of people dressed all in black sit before a casket and a podium. An OLDER MAN is giving a eulogy. The four friends sit in the front row.

**OLDER MAN**

Aviram Baron, Avi, to those who knew him, was a rare gift to this planet. He did more good in his 43 years than most do with a hundred. He never had children himself, but he took in two orphans and raised them as his own.

Nicholas and Theo over look the coffin, their faces are stern and emotionless.

FOCUS on Theo's face.

FLASHBACK TO:

**INT. ORPHANAGE FRONT OFFICE - 15 YEARS EARLIER**

Two women are seen from the torso down, with four children peering in from an open door behind them.

**WOMAN**

Two children would be best,  
preferably a boy and a girl.

**ORPHANAGE DIRECTOR**

Oh, well we have two that get along  
magnificently! They're very well  
behaved, let me go see if I can  
find them!

**INTERCUT BETWEEN FLASHBACKS AND THE FUNERAL****INT. ORPHANAGE BEDROOM - 15 YEARS EARLIER****YOUNG THEODORE**

(sniffing with tears)  
Why don't they ever want us?

Nicholas gets up, wiping some tears from his face, and grabs  
a back pack and coat. He starts packing the bag with clothes.

**YOUNG NICHOLAS**

I don't wanna wait anymore. Today  
I'm leaving. You wanna go with me?

**INT. BOXING GYM OFFICE - 15 YEARS EARLIER**

A much younger Avi is sitting at a desk looking over a piece  
of paper. The two boys are sitting in chairs on the opposite  
side of the desk, wearing the same clothes as in the  
orphanage, though they are tattered and worn down. It's  
obvious they've been on the streets for some time.

Avi eyes the tears in their clothes.

**AVI**

Well boys, we usually require a  
parent's signature for kids under  
18.

He continues to look over the paper work.

**AVI (CONT'D)**

Looks like you forgot the address  
down here too. I'll just fill it  
in, what is it?

The two look at each other, trying to figure out what to say.

Avi smiles a compassionate smile.

**AVI (CONT'D)**

When was the last time you had a hot meal?

**INT. AVI'S DINNING ROOM - TEN YEARS EARLIER**

The two boys and Avi are gathered around an elaborate dining table. Everything about the room, including the dishes, looks expensive. A giant turkey sits at the center of the table.

**AVI**

Who said grace last year?

**THEODORE**

Do we have to do the grace thing?  
Can't we just eat?

**AVI**

Theo, it's important to take a step back and see where you are. Prosperous or poor, you should always give thanks.

**NICHOLAS**

So we should thank you then?

**AVI**

You know, you boys are what I'm thankful for. You're my family now and I feel blessed to have you in my life. You're my blood no matter what anyone says.

Avi raises a glass in toast, and the boys follow suit.

**AVI (CONT'D)**

To us.

They all clink the glasses together

**ALL**

To us!

**EXT. GRAVEYARD - PRESENT**

**OLDER MAN**

Theodore and Nicholas inspired Aviram to dedicate his boxing gym to children with nowhere else to turn. It was there that Avi gave them a place to go and showed them the meaning of love.

The older man takes out a bible and begins to read.

Thunder BOOMS and it starts to RAIN as they begin to lower the casket into the ground.

**OLDER MAN** (CONT'D)

Love is patient and kind, love is  
not jealous or boastful or proud or  
rude-

The mans's words fade as we ZOOM into Theo's blank face.

**EXT. FUNERAL/PARKING LOT**

It's pouring. Theo is walking towards us through a gravel parking lot. His eyes staring vacantly ahead. His friends come into view behind him, running to catch up.

**DEBORAH**

Theo!

**NICHOLAS**

Yo, man, hold on.

Their yelling goes unanswered. Nicholas runs ahead and grabs Theo by the shoulder, spinning him around.

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

Damn it Theo, he was a father to me  
too, we can get through this  
together.

**THEODORE**

Not this time Nick.

Theo angrily breaks away from Nicholas and walks to his car. Deborah and Conrad reach Nicholas.

**CONRAD**

Hey! Theo! Where are you going?

**NICHOLAS**

Conrad, don't.

**DEBORAH**

Well, should we go to his house, be  
there for him?

**NICHOLAS**

No, he just needs time.

**DEBORAH**

How are you?

Nick gives an uneasy smile.

**DEBORAH** (CONT'D)

Ok...

(she hugs him)

If you need anything, just ask.

Deborah walks towards her car as Conrad awkwardly approaches Nicholas.

**CONRAD**

Nick, I...

**NICHOLAS**

Thanks Conrad. I'll see ya.

Conrad nods, slowly turns, and leaves as well.

POV Nicholas: Theo's car pulls out and drives away.

**HARMON** (O.C.)

You Nicholas?

Nicholas looks over his shoulder to see Detective Harmon, now older, walking towards him.

Nicholas nods.

**NICHOLAS**

Who are you?

**HARMON**

Detective Harmon. I'm in charge of Aviram's case.

**NICHOLAS**

Ah.

**HARMON**

You have my sincerest condolences.

**NICHOLAS**

Thanks.

**HARMON**

I'm sure you have prior obligations, but would you mind coming down to the station with me for a few questions?

**NICHOLAS**

What about?

**HARMON**

Details regarding your father's murder.

**NICHOLAS**

What kind of details? We were told it was an open shut case.

Harmon stands silent as his face prepares itself for what it is about to say.

The rain continues to fall.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - DAY**

Theo slams his door shut and walks past his poker table. The table has not been touched since he heard the news, in fact, except for some dirty dishes, the entire apartment has not changed.

He notices Nicholas' cards face down by his seat. He flips them over.

ANGLE ON a two and a jack, with the 5 table cards in the b.g.

Theo shakes his head in anger, he looks as if he is about to scream.

**THEODORE**

That son of a...

He takes the cards and throws them into the table.

Theo circles the table and sits in his seat. He flips over his cards to reveal the two kings.

He puts his head in his hands and stares straight down at the table.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

(half screaming-straining words)

God! Is this how life is?! You play the cards you're dealt, and even when you have the better hand, some jackass can come around and strong arm you?! I am sick of it, none of this makes any damn sense! Where's the reason, do you even have one?!

Theo slams his fists into the table.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

God! Where are you?!

**GOD**

(from the table)  
Here am I.

The voice is deep and calm. Theo looks at Norman.

Perplexed, he looks back down at the table and sees the King of hearts suddenly shift its eyes to look at him.

Theo leaps to a standing position, knocking his chair backwards.

**THEODORE**

Holy-

**GOD**

(from an unknown location)  
You're on the right track.

The voice is coming from all over the room.

**THEODORE**

(yelling)  
What the hell?! Who's there?! Where are you?!

The voice continues to move around the room, and Theo turns in circles to face where it comes from.

**GOD**

Everywhere, and everything.

**THEODORE**

What...? what the...?

**GOD**

Well you should know, you asked for me, Theodore.

A long moment of silence as Theo ponders that statement.

**THEODORE**

God?

**GOD**

Some would call me that.

Theo sits in the nearby chair.

**THEODORE**

I'm loosing my mind...

**GOD**

You're mind is fine Theodore, what you are loosing is your faith.

**THEODORE**

(calmer now)

I'm not... well I... I didn't mean-

**GOD**

Don't worry Theodore, I do not mean you specifically, I mean humanity as a whole. Outbursts such as yours are becoming more common throughout the world. To be honest, I am beginning to wonder if this was all one big mistake.

**THEODORE**

Mistake?

**GOD**

Look around you Theodore, do you not see it?

Suddenly the small TV in the corner of the room turns on, and begins flashing various images of fighting in the middle east, people petitioning abortion clinics, and televangelists.

**GOD (CONT'D)**

The world is turning to evil. Atrocities are carried out in my name, billions of people knowingly defy my commandments, and those who do believe hold their faith over the heads of others, committing the greatest sin of all.

**THEODORE**

I... I... why are you-

**GOD**

I am telling you this Theodore, because I want to know if humanity is worth saving.

**THEODORE**

Saving? What do you-

**GOD**

This is an opportunity to convince me not to wipe the earth of mankind for the final time.

**THEODORE**

I don't understand.

**GOD**

Mankind has developed too far, too fast. You are unable to handle what power you have discovered, but you Theodore, you are different. I wish to bestow upon you a power that no human has ever known. You will be free to develop it as you choose. Neglect it and it will stay dormant, nurture it and it will grow into something you can not fathom. Theodore, do you accept this gift and challenge?

**THEODORE**

Why me? I'm not special.

**GOD**

You are a perfect representative of the whole of humanity. You are not evil, nor are you exceptionally pure. You go through your life not thinking of me, at least, not until you need something. You are perfect for my final test.

**THEODORE**

How am I supposed to show you we are worth saving?

**GOD**

Your usage of the power will be the key. You will have the ability to give this to others if you wish, but remember, anything that happens as a result of you awakening their power will be reflective of your choice, and subsequently your redemption or demise.

The lights flicker and the apartment begins to shake. Theo's hairs stand up on his arms and neck.

Suddenly he drops to his knees as if struck by a hard blow to the gut. Tears are streaming uncontrollably down his face as he gasps for breathe and tries to get to his feet.

**GOD (CONT'D)**

It is done.

The room hangs in silence for a moment. Theo looks around frantically.

**THEODORE**

(still gasping for  
breathe)

Wait! Is that it?! What do I do  
now? How long do I have?

**GOD**

As is the case with life, this does  
not come with instructions. I will  
know when you have succeeded or  
failed, and so will you. One final  
rule. You may never reveal the  
origins of this power, doing so  
would remove their faith, and bring  
about a quick end to this final  
chance.

A silence falls on the room. Theo looks around frantically.

**THEODORE**

God!? God!? Jehovah? How do I even  
use it? I don't understand!

Theo looks down at the table in deep thought and rubs his  
eyes, trying to regain his sanity. After a moment he looks up  
at a half full beer bottle, grabs it, and downs what is left.

He places the bottle back on the table but continues to hold  
on to it.

He looks at a PHOTO of Avi, Nick and himself, and nervously  
begins to laugh.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

The man who means more to me than  
anything is gone, and as a bonus I  
get to have a nervous breakdown.

As he talks the bottle begins to shake from Theo gripping it.

It SHATTERS.

Theo lifts his hand up, it's covered with tiny pieces of  
glass sticking into his hand.

Stunned, his jaw drops. Theo's eyes look upward.

**INT. POLICE STATION/HARMON'S DESK - NIGHT**

The station is bustling with officers going about their  
business. Nicholas stands next to Harmon's desk, one of many  
in the wide space. Harmon stands next to an office water  
cooler and pours himself a cup.

**HARMON**

(trying to be funny)  
Can I offer you a complimentary  
beverage?

**NICHOLAS**

Can you just tell me why I'm here?

**HARMON**

Direct, I like that. Please, have a  
seat.

Harmon motions to a chair, Nick sits, as does Harmon.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

I know you can't enjoy this, so,  
thank you for coming down here.

Harmon gulps down the a small cup of water.

**NICHOLAS**

Look, we were already interviewed  
by the officers the night of the  
attack. They said it was a random  
mugging, probably some rat ass hole  
looking for money to get high or  
something.

**HARMON**

Did they say it like that?

**NICHOLAS**

More or less.

**HARMON**

Nothing was taken off Aviram's  
body. Money, wallet, watch, all  
still on his person. This wasn't  
some... rat ass hole.

**NICHOLAS**

I'm sorry, what?

**HARMON**

We didn't release this information  
because we don't want who is  
responsible to know we are on to  
them.

**NICHOLAS**

But we asked for his possessions,  
the officer told us everything was  
taken, we-

Harmon pulls a leather wallet out from his jacket pocket and tosses it onto the table.

Nicholas picks it up and begins riffling through it.

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

This... this is... his.

ANGLE ON the wallet. Avi's driver's license sits behind a clear plastic window, his face smiling back. Nicholas opens the top fold to reveal a row of hundreds.

Harmon leans in close to Nicholas and speaking quietly.

**HARMON**

Have you heard about the crucifixion murders?

**NICHOLAS**

On the news, yeah.

**HARMON**

Know anything about the group that does it?

Nicholas slowly shakes his head, he's still focused on the wallet.

**NICHOLAS**

They're a religious group I guess, the news said they believe they're doing the real work of God.

Harmon opens a drawer to his desk.

**HARMON**

I'm telling you this in confidence ok?

He pulls out a wooden cross and places it on the desk.

**HARMON** (CONT'D)

This seems to be their calling card. It turns up in some way everywhere they've been.

(beat)

I found this one on Avi, positioned upside-down on his chest.

**NICHOLAS**

Why Avi? He was the greatest man I ever knew.

Harmon winces slightly.

**HARMON**

The why is important because it leads to the who. I need to know more about your mentor. Maybe something you know will lead me to these people.

Nicholas puts the wallet down and looks Harmon in the eye.

**NICHOLAS**

If it means catching them, I'll help you any way I can.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - MORNING**

A modest bedroom. Theo is asleep on a noisy spring mattress.

He awakens slowly and brings his hand up to face. He's surprised to find real wounds from the night before.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/BATHROOM**

Theo begins to operate on his hand with a pair of tweezers, picking out the shards of glass and throwing them down the drain.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN**

Theo stumbles sleepily into the kitchen with fresh gauze on his hand. He opens the fridge and finds a carton of orange juice.

He pours himself a glass.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM**

Still drinking his beverage, Theo moves into the room where he spoke with God. He sees the King of Hearts, the card that looked at him. He picks it up and examines it. After nothing happens he takes a large gulp of orange juice, still keeping the bulk of it in his mouth.

**THE DEVIL (O.C.)**

You don't expect to see the same trick twice do you?

Theo turns his head to the voice. Once he sees who it is he finishes the large gulp of juice.

Theo squints, he feels the evil emitting from this person.

A very lean but handsome man sits at the poker table across from him. He is well dressed in a white suit and is very neatly groomed. His eyes are stunningly blue. They are just a little wider than they probably should be, and stare an unblinking, relentless stare.

**THEODORE**

You're not...

**THE DEVIL**

God.

**THEODORE**

So, that would make you?

**THE DEVIL**

I think you know.

**THEODORE**

The Devil. I'm speaking to the Devil now?

**THE DEVIL**

Yes, you are.

**THEODORE**

Great, the Devil's in my living room.

Theo begins to walk back into the kitchen. The Devil nods toward Theo.

**THE DEVIL**

No, I think you'll want to sit down for this.

Suddenly, Theo finds a chair thrust underneath him and forced into a sitting position. Theo looks to his left, finding the Devil is sitting beside him, his face inches away.

The Devil smiles a friendly smile. We get a clear view of the Devil's teeth which are unnaturally white and sharp.

**THEODORE**

Wh- what do you want?

**THE DEVIL**

Just to chat.

**THEODORE**

What about?

**THE DEVIL**

Oh, don't be coy, you've been given a gift. A divine gift from The Man.

Theo swallows.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Yes, so it is true.

**THEODORE**

News must travel fast in the afterlife.

**THE DEVIL**

Ah you know how it is, you tell two friends, they tell two friends, and well, you get the idea. So! Here's what I know. He comes down out of the blue, or the card, as it were, and places the fate of mankind squarely on your shoulders. All that pressure on a child, it seems unfair.

**THEODORE**

Yeah, I thought so too.

**THE DEVIL**

Hah, really? Maybe we can do business.

Theo is suddenly released from what held him against the chair. The Devil gets up and walks around the room.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

As you might imagine having a human with divine powers walking around probably doesn't suit my interest. So let me make you an offer. Serve me with these powers and I guarantee nothing happens to you when the world ends. You'll be a god, as far as that can go, in a comfortable position by my side, and the world will be yours as much as it is mine.

**THEODORE**

Sounds tempting.

**THE DEVIL**

That's the idea.

**THEODORE**

And if I don't?

The devil smiles.

**THE DEVIL**

Surely you are familiar with my work, need I go into detail?

**THEODORE**

I don't know what to say.

Well say yes! It really isn't wise to reject a deal with me, you end up mine in the long run anyway, just look at Avi.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

What do you mean?

**THE DEVIL**

Avi, he's mine.

**THEODORE**

Avi loved God, there's no way...

The Devil laughs at Theo's ignorance.

**THE DEVIL**

Sometimes loving God isn't enough. Answer me this, did he have his boxing gym open on the Sabbath?

**THEODORE**

What?

**THE DEVIL**

You know the Sabbath. Working on it, not keeping it holy, it's up there with murder and adultery. I get so many of you on that one.

The Devil smiles and looks up.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Such a perfectly unattainable list of demands, he practically damns all of you.

**THEODORE**

You're lying.

Theo gets up from the chair and moves to the door.

**THE DEVIL**

I could let him out you know.

Theo stops.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Pull a string or two, have him in paradise in no time.

Theo turns back and faces the Devil.

**THEODORE**

You're a liar.

**THE DEVIL**

By definition, yes.

**THEODORE**

How do I know you're not lying to me now?

**THE DEVIL**

You don't, boy. You don't know anything. But it really doesn't matter. One way or another I'm going to get what I want, and what I want is everything.

**THEODORE**

So basically you just want me to speed things up for you.

**THE DEVIL**

Yes, that will do nicely, thank you.

**THEODORE**

Well, as wonderful as serving the Devil sounds... I think I'll pass.

**THE DEVIL**

This is an important decision, I suggest you think about what you are about to-

**THEODORE**

I'll pass.

The Devil smiles.

**THE DEVIL**

Fair enough.

Theo is suddenly pinned against the wall and unable to move. The Devil appears in front of him, his eyes burn with an intense anger.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

No deal?

Theo winces in pain. His wounded hand starts to tremble.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

No mercy. So let's make things even clearer for you. I am the prince of this world boy, me, not you. If you want to try and serve Him I can't stop you directly.

The Devil squints, Theo grits his teeth, blood seeps through the gauze on the hand.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

I'll stop you with everything you don't control. The world you fight for? It belongs to me. I do with it what I want, push it how I want, and it bends to my will. Your friends?

The Devil smiles

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Well let's just say they're going to be under... close observation, just as Avi was.

Theo suddenly snaps out of his pain and looks directly into the Devils eyes.

**THEODORE**

You... you did that to him?

**THE DEVIL**

Me? I'm flattered you think so. No, not directly. Typically I can't interfere.

The Devil quickly raises his chin. Theo reacts as if being slapped in the face.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Unless of course you've been tapped. Once you have knowledge and not faith different rules apply, the smoke and mirrors bit doesn't hold precedence anymore.

Theo's head slams into the wall. The invisible force relaxes and Theo crumples to the floor.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

A child saving the world... hasn't he tried this before?

**(MORE)**

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Why does he insist on playing these games? He only delays the inevitable.

Theo coughs.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

But don't think that lets you off the hook.

The Devil squints, Theo reacts as if kicked in the stomach.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

I'm going to break you boy.

Theo takes another invisible blow.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Your chance to save yourself and serve me has passed. It's a matter of principle now, just to show him his games are pointless.

The Devil steps on Theo's head.

**THEODORE**

Go ahead.

**THE DEVIL**

What?

**THEODORE**

I've had worse.

The Devil hesitates.

**THE DEVIL**

Hah, I see.

He stands back from Theo.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

He chose you because of your determination. You might just be an average human in mind and body, but your soul, your soul is what separates you from your fellow man.

Theo smiles a broken smile.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

But it wont save you.

The Devil happily does a 180 degree turn and walks towards the front door.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Try as you might boy, you wont stop me.

**THEODORE**

I will.

**THE DEVIL**

I know you will try.

The Devil continues to stare at Theo. Shadows from all corners of the room begin to writhe and come to life. They consume the Devils body. All but his eyes, his eyes remain staring the same unyielding stare. Eventually the Devil's eyes fade to nothing.

Theo picks himself up from the ground. He notices Norman hiding behind his tipped over castle.

**THEODORE**

You know, this whole tapped thing would have been nice to know before I pissed off Satan.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/KITCHEN**

Theo enters with fresh gauze on his hand, and holding his orange juice glass. Opening the refrigerator door, he grabs the orange juice. He stops, places the orange juice back, and fills the glass with water at the sink.

ANGLE ON the glass placed on the kitchen table, with Theo standing behind it.

**THEODORE**

(excited)  
Ok, then... how does this work.  
(rubing his hands  
together)  
What... would Jesus do?

Theo begins to wave his hands like some sort of cheap magician.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

And... wine!

Nothing happens.

Norman appears to be watching, he is unimpressed.

Theo rubs his hands together vigorously.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

And... wine, I command you!

Nothing happens.

Theo looks around. His eye catches a large puddle outside the kitchen window.

**EXT. THEO'S APARTMENT - MORNING**

The ground is soaked from the previous nights downpour. Theo emerges from the house and walks in front of the puddle. After considering it for a moment he taps his barefoot to the surface, and watches his toe sink in.

**THEODORE**

Maybe... a leap of faith?

Theo opens his arms wide, creating the image of Jesus on the cross. He closes his eyes and jumps as high as he can into the center of the puddle.

The puddle splashes, soaking Theo with muddy water. He is now standing in water above his ankles.

**INT. NEIGHBORS HOUSE**

A small BOY looks out the window at Theo standing in the puddle, arms still stretched wide. The boy looks on in wonder.

**BOY**

Mommy?

**EXT. THEO'S APARTMENT**

Theo lets his arms drop and walks back to the edge of the puddle.

**THEODORE**

Man... how'd he do this?

Theo looks as if he has an idea.

**THEODORE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

Praise be to Jesus! In the name of  
Jesus Christ, I command you!

Theo strikes the same pose and jumps into the puddle, with the same results.

**INT. NEIGHBORS HOUSE**

The MOTHER and boy are now both watching Theo splashing in the puddle.

**MOTHER**

Oh my... Bill!

**EXT. THEO'S APARTMENT**

**THEODORE**

What am I doing wrong?

In frustration Theo begins to repeatedly jump into the puddle, screaming to Jesus as he does it.

**INT. NEIGHBORS HOUSE**

Theo can be heard screaming "praise Jesus". He looks like he's out of his mind.

**BILL**

What did I tell you Margaret? It's those God Damn Jehovah's again!

**EXT. THEO'S APARTMENT**

Bill emerges from his house and heads straight for Theo. He is clearly not happy.

**BILL**

Just what'n the hell you think yer doing out here boy? We told you we don't want none of you Jesus types around here anymore! Now yer stompin' in my wife's flower garden? This some type of holy war?

**THEODORE**

No... no sir... not at all... I... I was just...

Theo turns and runs back into his apartment.

**BILL**

Ya God damn right!

**INT. THEO'S KITCHEN**

Theo slams the door, locks it.

He sits down at his poker table, at a total loss.

**THEODORE**

I don't understand, how do I make  
it work?

He closes his eyes.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

How am I supposed to save the world  
when I can't even figure out how to  
use this?

As Theo talks, objects around the room start vibrating,  
lights begin to flicker.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

I have to get this... I have to do  
this for Avi.

Poker chips, cards, and other various items begin levitating  
off their surfaces. Suddenly Theo is aware of what's  
happening. His eyes are wide as he looks around at everything  
floating.

He begins to laugh.

The sound of CLAPPING begins to grow louder and louder until:

**EXT. COLLEGE GRADUATION. - DAY**

An elderly SPEAKER wearing a graduation gown and cap stands  
at a podium in front of hundreds of similarly dressed  
students. Theo sits to one side of the crowd while his  
friends are at the other.

**SPEAKER**

I give to you our graduating senior  
class!

The students all leap to their feet and throw their hats in  
the air. Theo waits a moment before rising. He takes his hat  
off as if to throw it, but then puts it back on and begins  
wading through the crowd.

The mass of people becomes a festival of congratulations.  
Students hug each other, parents snap photos of their  
children, people shake hands, everywhere there are acts of  
accomplishment and happiness. Theo however, is focused on  
leaving.

Nicholas is maneuvering through crowd. He catches sight of  
Theo walking away. Nicholas' happy expression instantly  
becomes more serious and concerned.

**NICHOLAS**

Theo! Hey Theo!

Nicholas begins to move towards Theo but is interrupted by Deborah.

**DEBORAH**

Hey Nick!

She hugs him.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

Thanks for coming!

Nicholas remains serious, still looking at Theo walking away. Deborah follows Nicholas' line of sight seeing Theo walking away.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

Poor Theo, he's taken Avi's Death so hard this past month. Is he coming to your debacle tonight?

**NICHOLAS**

Don't know.

**CONRAD (O.C.)**

Well he should definitely go.

**DEBORAH**

Hey Conney! Congratulations.

She hugs Conrad.

**CONRAD**

Congratulations Deborah. Hey Nick.

**NICHOLAS**

Conrad. You're right, Theo's had enough time.

**CONRAD**

You invited him didn't you?

**NICHOLAS**

Of course, but the guy is suddenly impervious to communication. I've never seen him like this before.

The three friends share a moment of brief silence.

**DEBORAH**

You know, we should just make him go. Show up and drag him to Nick's.

**CONRAD**

Now that's an idea.

**NICHOLAS**

Forced debauchery. I like it.

**DEBORAH**

We'll I'm in.

**CONRAD**

Me too.

**NICHOLAS**

I guess it serves him right for being so sensitive.

**CONRAD**

Maybe he could give you lessons.

**NICHOLAS**

Hah, you think I need'em?

Conrad shrugs. Nicholas smiles and gives Conrad a friendly punch in the arm. We zoom out from the celebration. The noise of the festivities grows louder until:

Silence.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Theo is sitting on the floor in front of the poker table. The lamps in the room are dimly lit. Theo is holding the KING OF HEARTS in his hand and staring at it intently. He slowly closes his eyes. His brow begins to perspire, the hairs on his neck and arms stand up, and the lights in the room flicker slightly. Norman appears to be watching.

**INT. NICHOLAS' APARTMENT - NIGHT**

A sea of people holding red cups dance to BLASTING MUSIC. Nicholas notices Conrad at the other end of the room, talking to a HOT GIRL.

Nicholas walks towards Conrad, smiling at various women on his way. As he nears Conrad we can see that the hot girl is not amused with the topic of conversation.

**CONRAD**

So back in medieval times, people actually drank more beer than water, since it was more sanitary! They burned off all the bacteria in the brewing process.

**(MORE)**

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

Can you believe that? Drinking beer  
for breakfast?

The girl takes a long gulp off her red cup, then looks up to see Nicholas approaching.

**HOT GIRL**

Hey Nick! Great party!

**CONRAD**

(to himself)  
You know... since the water would  
kill you...

**NICHOLAS**

Glad you could make it, you two  
having a good time?

**HOT GIRL**

Well, Conrad here was just telling  
me about the ancient people's  
drinking habits.

**CONRAD**

Medieval...

**HOT GIRL**

Whatever.

The hot girl walks towards Nick and puts her hand on his chest.

**HOT GIRL (CONT'D)**

You know, I've always wanted to be  
a boxer, think you could show me a  
few moves later?

Nicholas glances at Conrad who is already turning to leave.

**NICHOLAS**

You know, Conrad here graduated at  
the top of his class...

Conrad's phone vibrates. He looks at the text message.

**CONRAD**

She's here.

Conrad turns and begins moving through the crowd to the exit.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

(to himself)  
Yeah, par for the course.

Nicholas watches Conrad walk away, he's noticeably concerned.

**HOT GIRL**

Nick?

He hesitates, then shrugs.

**EXT. NICHOLAS APARTMENT**

Conrad exits the front door of the apartment. Outside there are a few people talking and drinking. The music from the apartment can still be heard loudly.

Deborah sits in a small car pulled up to the curb. Conrad makes his way towards the car and gets in.

**INT. DEBORAH'S CAR**

Deborah is wearing a sexy party outfit, a very different look from her normal appearance.

**DEBORAH**

I know that look.

**CONRAD**

Hey Deborah.

**DEBORAH**

You can't let him get to you so easily.

**CONRAD**

I didn't think he had.

**DEBORAH**

Conney...

**CONRAD**

What?

**DEBORAH**

This isn't you.

**CONRAD**

What isn't me?

**DEBORAH**

Playing the tough man. You're not like Nick, or even Theo.

**CONRAD**

At least someone notices.

**DEBORAH**

Theo does too. He respects you for it.

**CONRAD**

I just wish Nick wouldn't give me so much grief is all.

**DEBORAH**

Look, Nick is all about competition. You have to beat him at something he's good at to get his respect. Then he'll treat you like an equal, or something close to it.

**CONRAD**

Did you do that?

**DEBORAH**

Well I didn't have to...

Deborah looks down towards her cleavage.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

I've got the girls.

Conrad laughs and shakes his head.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

Yeah so either grow a pair or rise up against him.

Conrad nods in approval.

The back door suddenly flies open and Nicholas jumps into the back seat.

**NICHOLAS**

Alright, ladies, let's get 'em.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM**

Objects around the room are now shaking vigorously. The lights and television are flickering hard.

Theo's eyes are shut tight.

**EXT. THEO'S APARTMENT**

Deborah's car pulls up to the curb in front of Theo's apartment. The windows are ablaze with flickering lights.

**INT. DEBORAH'S CAR****DEBORAH**

That seems a little strange.

**EXT. THEO'S APARTMENT**

They exit the car.

**CONRAD**

What's with the lights?

**NICHOLAS**

(excited)

Oh! He's watching scrambled porn!  
There's hope for him yet!

Nicholas runs towards Theo's door.

Conrad looks up and down the block and sees the same light pattern emitting from the neighbors windows and street lamps.

Deborah and Conrad look at each other and take off after Nicholas.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT**

Theo is now sweating profusely. His neck and arm hair are standing straight up and veins all over his body are becoming more and more pronounced. The lights are now violently flickering.

Theo begins to slowly rise into the air.

The front door swings wide open as Nicholas enters.

**NICHOLAS**

(sing-song)

Wakey wakey, hands off... snakey?

His speech slows as he catches sight of Theo suspended in air. Conrad and Deborah push Nicholas into the room as they too get a full glimpse of Theo levitating.

**DEBORAH**

Theo?

As soon as Theo hears the voice his concentration is broken, and he falls out of the air, CRASHING into the card table, breaking into a million pieces. The lights instantly stop flickering and return to their original opacity. Norman hides behind his castle.

**NICHOLAS**

Theo?! What the hell?

The three friends are a mixture of amazement and fear.

**CONRAD**

Theo you were just...

Theo scrambles to get out from underneath the broken card table.

**NICHOLAS**

Holy shit! He's a fucking witch!

The trio starts to move towards the door. Theo raises his open palm in reaction.

**THEODORE**

No wait!

The door slams shut.

Nicholas makes his fingers into a cross.

**NICHOLAS**

Back spawn of Satan!

Theo finally gets free from the wreckage and stands to his feet. He brushes himself off and takes a step toward his friends.

They all take a single step away from him in unison.

**THEODORE**

Guys...

**NICHOLAS**

Stay back! The power of Christ compels you!

**CONRAD**

Dude he's not possessed.  
(to Nicks fingers)  
Or a vampire.

**THEODORE**

I'm not a witch either.

**DEBORAH**

Were you just floating?

Theo pauses for a moment, lost in thought.

**THEODORE**

Look will you guys just calm down  
and take a seat.

**CONRAD**

(pointing to the wreckage  
behind Theo)  
Uh Theo...

Theo looks behind him to see the broken mess of wood and  
metal.

**THEODORE**

Great. Well just stay there and  
relax alright? I'll explain  
everything.

**DEBORAH**

Please do.

**THEODORE**

Nick will you lose the cross  
already, you look ridiculous.

He does. Slowly.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Thanks. Ok... where to begin.

Theo walks to the wreckage and begins to rummage through it.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Ever since Avi died, I've felt  
different. It's hard to put into  
words... It's like there's this  
untapped portion of my brain that I  
never knew was there, and ever  
since the funeral, I've been able  
to access it, and do things I never  
could before.

**CONRAD**

Like levitate?

**THEODORE**

Well... it started small. I found  
if I concentrated enough I could  
move small objects, like cups and  
things. But the more I worked on  
it, the heavier things I could  
lift. Even myself.

He continues to look through the mess, moving a large piece  
of table out of the way.

**THEODORE** (CONT'D)

It's like there's this barrier in my mind I have to get around before I can use it, but it requires a ton of concentration. It's getting easier though.

**DEBORAH**

So this is why you've been avoiding us the past month?

Theo hesitates a moment and then nods.

**THEODORE**

I didn't want to get you guys caught up in anything. I was afraid if anyone found out they would try to experiment on me.

Theo looks directly at Nicholas.

**THEODORE** (CONT'D)

Or maybe burn me at the stake.

He resumes digging through the rubble.

**NICHOLAS**

Looking for your broom stick?

**THEODORE**

Nick, I'm not a witch.

**CONRAD**

Theo... this is amazing! Do you know what you are saying? You're describing telekinesis!

Theo's eyes light up as he plunges his hand into the wreckage and emerges with the king of hearts.

**THEODORE**

Well, it's not just that. I can increase my strength and speed too. I feel like there is even more there, right behind the barrier, I just gotta figure out how to tap into it.

**CONRAD**

I've never heard of anything like this, you say it happened after Avi died?

Theo looks down at the king of hearts and hesitates.

**THEODORE**

It's a gift.  
 (beat)  
 A gift from Avi.

**NICHOLAS**

So Avi dies and you get  
 supernatural powers?

Nicholas looks around the room, and settles on a lamp in the corner.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Levitate that lamp over there.

**DEBORAH**

Nick, he isn't a circus act.

**NICHOLAS**

No, I want to see it again.

**THEODORE**

It's fine Deborah.

Theo closes his eyes. His face scrunches up and the hairs on his neck begin to rise again. The lamp in the corner of the room begins to shake, then slowly rise into the air. Nicholas walks over and grabs it. Theo opens his eyes.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

It took me two weeks to be able to  
 do that without causing a blackout.

**NICHOLAS**

Wait a second. Why don't I have it?  
 I was just as close to Avi as you.  
 Why can't I move things with my  
 mind and have super powers?

Theo puts his head down, struggling to come up with an answer.

**THEODORE**

Maybe... you can.

**NICHOLAS**

I think I would know if I could fly  
 around the room.

**CONRAD**

Theo, if it were that easy,  
 everyone would be levitating  
 things.

**THEODORE**

The first step is the hardest, but after that it's just a matter of practice. I mean, just ask Norman.

**NICHOLAS**

What, the fish?

Nicholas walks over to the fish bowl to see Norman staring lazily into space.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

You're kidding...

Nicholas grabs a can of fish food and taps some in. Norman begins slowly eating the flakes. Nicholas looks back to Theo, unimpressed.

**THEODORE**

Just watch.

Suddenly the fish leaps out of the water and hovers in front of Nicholas' face. It does a series of elegant twirls and spins before diving back into the water.

Norman promptly resumes his dull stare.

**CONRAD**

Wow.

**THEODORE**

It was an accident at first. I was trying to move his bowl, but then, I could feel Norman with the power, and how I could unlock the power in him.

**DEBORAH**

I thought you were against animal testing.

Theo shoots Deborah an irritated look.

**NICHOLAS**

So, you can give it to us?

Theo hesitates, and stares down at the king of hearts.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Theo? Can you?

**THEODORE**

I think so, yeah.

**NICHOLAS**

Well? What are we waiting for?  
Let's get to it. I've got a long  
list of things I could do with this  
sort of power.

**THEODORE**

See, that's what I am afraid of.

**NICHOLAS**

What?

**CONRAD**

He's afraid we'll abuse it Nick.

**NICHOLAS**

You want us to just sit on this?  
You're shitting me.

**THEODORE**

I shit you not.

**DEBORAH**

You were about to stick a stake  
through Theo's heart, imagine what  
the general public would do if they  
found out.

Nicholas sighs and nods his head.

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, I guess that's true.

**THEODORE**

That's why we need to keep it  
within our group, for now anyway.

Nicholas thinks long and hard about his decision.

**NICHOLAS**

Alright Theo. If you say so.

He extends his hand to be shaken. Theo smiles and takes it.  
Theo looks at Deborah and Conrad, they both nod in  
acceptance.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

So what now?

Theo places the king of hearts in his wallet and smiles.

**THEODORE**

I know the perfect place.

**INT. BOXING GYM - NIGHT**

The pitch darkness of the gym is interrupted by rows of heavy warehouse lights cracking to life. The four enter the Gym.

The quiet of the gym is haunting after last seeing it bustling with life and activity.

**THEODORE**

Stand against that wall over there.

The three of them stand in a straight line. Nicholas has his arms crossed in an impatient manner.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

I'm not sure how it will feel, but Norman seemed to make it out fine.

**NICHOLAS**

Alright already, do it.

Theo looks at Deborah and Conrad who are visibly nervous.

**THEODORE**

It's alright guys.

**DEBORAH**

I trust you Theodore.

**CONRAD**

Me too.

**NICHOLAS**

Theo, I, I love you.

Theo smiles and shakes his head at Nicholas' smart ass remark.

**THEODORE**

Ready?

They all nod. Theo closes his eyes and stretches out his arm, his palm turn upward.

There is a long moment of awkward silence as Nicholas, Conrad, and Deborah stare at Theo with his eyes closed. The moment stretches longer as Theo continues to stand with his palm up, eyes closed, not making a sound. Thinking it isn't working, Nicholas turns his head to look at the others.

**NICHOLAS**

Hey Theo... gah!

Suddenly all three of them drop to their knees from an internal pain, exactly as Theo did before. Tears stream down their faces uncontrollably as they gasp for breathe.

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

Oh man...

Nicholas is first to get to his feet and wipe his tears away. He immediately turns to a towel laying on a nearby bench, and holds his hand out, attempting to make it levitate.

Theo helps Deborah and Conrad to their feet.

**THEODORE**

Kinda tickles doesn't it?

**CONRAD**

Yeah.

Nicholas is frustrated at his lack of progress.

**NICHOLAS**

Theo, mine's broken. How's this work?

Theo smiles a competitive smile.

**THEODORE**

Come on, I'll show you.

#### **INT. BOXING RING**

Theo and Nick come together in the middle of the boxing ring. They are both shirtless and it's clear that Nick is in superior physical shape. They stare at each other, knowing that this is more than just a lesson on how to use the power. They're equipped with gloves but neither of them are wearing sparing helmets. Conrad and Deborah look on intently outside the ring.

**THEODORE**

You need to concentrate on what you want to do, you gotta focus-

**NICHOLAS**

I've never needed to concentrate much to beat you, let's do this.

They walk back to their opposite corners.

**DEBORAH**

Can I ring the bell?

Deborah runs over to the bell and RINGS it with her knuckle.

The two walk to the center, arms up in a boxing stance.

Nicholas immediately goes on the offensive. Theo easily dodges Nicholas' first few punches showing that he has no need to even block. Nicholas throws a hard right hook and Theo blocks it, creating an impact which SHAKES the entire room with a deep BOOMING sound. Despite the power of the punch, Theo doesn't budge.

**DEBORAH** (CONT'D)  
(whispering to Conrad)  
Did you hear that?

Nicholas freezes, leaving his fist where it landed.

**NICHOLAS**  
What... what was that?

**THEODORE**  
(grinning)  
Just the beginning.

The fight resumes. Nicholas fires off multiple punches, all blocked by Theo's hands which seem to magically appear to stop them. Each block is followed by the same SHAKING and THUNDEROUS sound. Conrad looks around noticing the sound vibrating off the walls in the gym.

**NICHOLAS**  
(out of breathe)  
Why aren't you fighting back?

**THEODORE**  
I'm letting you get a feel for it.  
You need to calm down and focus.  
It's the focus that taps the power.

Nicholas begins swinging wildly, throwing hook after hook into Theo's gloves. Each punch hits with more and more force, and although Theo keeps completely composed, his feet are sliding back and forth with each connecting punch, the sound keeps building with each blow.

Nicholas' punches accent his words.

**NICHOLAS**  
You're... not... this... strong...

Theo dodges one of Nicholas' punches, leaving Nicholas wide open. He lands a solid uppercut to Nicholas' jaw, sending him flying ten feet into the air. He lands with a resounding THUD and creates an indentation in the mat.

Deborah gasps.

**CONRAD**

Wow... Theo...

**DEBORAH**

Nick! Are you alright?

Conrad and Deborah run to the side of the ring.

Nicholas is flat on his back and raises his head. He looks around in a daze while beginning to sit up.

Theo walks to Nicholas.

**THEODORE**

You okay man? I... I didn't know I'd launch you that far.

**DEBORAH**

What hurts?

Nicholas brings his glove to the back of his neck.

**NICHOLAS**

No, I...  
(smiling)  
Feel fine.

**CONRAD**

Nick, you actually left the ground, do you know the kind of force it would take to do that?

**NICHOLAS**

I don't know. I actually feel great.

Theo looks lost in thought as he helps Nicholas to his feet.

**THEODORE**

Nick, your punches were becoming stronger at the end. What were you doing different?

**NICHOLAS**

I don't know... just... well... I just couldn't stand the thought of loosing, and when you tried to tell me what to do, I dunno...

Theo looks lost in thought, almost ignoring what Nicholas is saying.

**THEODORE**

Well, I think that's enough for tonight.

**DEBORAH**

I'd say so.

**THEODORE**

No hard feelings?

**NICHOLAS**

Hard feelings? I feel like a million bucks!

**THEODORE**

(laughing)

Glad you enjoyed it.

Theo hops out of the ring while Conrad climbs up and tries to get in, becoming entangled in the ropes.

**CONRAD**

Oh, we're not done yet.

Nicholas gives Conrad a bewildered look as he watches him work his way into the ring.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

I'm going to fight you.

**THEODORE**

Uh, Conrad...

**NICHOLAS**

(laughing)

You want to fight me?

**CONRAD**

Afraid?

**DEBORAH**

Conrad, this is not what I meant!

**NICHOLAS**

You're going bare knuckled?

**CONRAD**

I just have to focus, I think I can manage that.

Nicholas looks at Theo and Deborah, then back to Conrad.

**NICHOLAS**

Alright Conrad, let's go.

They square off.

Conrad runs at Nicholas screaming, Nicholas stands his ground. Conrad throws a punch that lands on Nicholas' cheek.

Silence.

Theo and Deborah look at each other.

Nicholas shrugs and lands a solid punch into Conrad's face, brining about the familiar sound, and sending Conrad flying backward on the canvas.

Conrad's brow is cut and bleeding down his face.

Deborah climbs into the ring.

**DEBORAH**

Damn it Nick...

Conrad is barely conscious and blood is dropping onto the mat.

**CONRAD**

Wah...

Theo and Nicholas are staring, but not doing anything.

Deborah runs over to Conrad and puts her hand on his head, trying to brush his hair aside. As soon as her hands touch him, she gasps and becomes rigid. Her hands clasp onto Conrad's head and her eyes shut.

The wound on Conrad's head begins to close, as if watching the healing process in fast forward. After a few seconds the wound is completely gone and the skin looks normal.

Deborah releases Conrad and quickly stands up, stumbling backward.

Conrad opens his eyes and sits up.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

What the... what happened?

**NICHOLAS**

Looks like you don't have it after all.

(looking at Deborah)

But she does.

**DEBORAH**

I... I don't know what I did. I put my hands on his head... and I could just, feel where the wound was, I could see it... I could see the cut closing.

Nicholas helps Conrad up. Conrad notices the dried blood on his face and the metallic taste in his mouth.

**CONRAD**

I don't get it, weren't we going to fight? What happened. Are we-

Conrad and Nicholas' conversation fade away as they walk towards the glove shelves. Nicholas tosses his arm around Conrad, the way an older brother would.

Theo walks up to Deborah, he has taken off his gloves.

**DEBORAH**

Theo... I've never felt anything like that, what's happened to me?

**THEODORE**

I don't know, I can't do that... and I'm guessing Nick can't either, it must work differently in different people.

(beat)

Tell you what, let's get out of here. We can all talk about this in the morning.

They meet up with the others at the door, Conrad still looks confused.

**CONRAD**

Because I don't feel any stronger. Hey Theo! Can you try to unlock it again, maybe you messed up?

**THEODORE**

We'll worry about it tomorrow. Janelle's?

**ALL**

Janelle's.

Conrad is a little delayed in the response. Nicholas smiles and punches Conrad in the shoulder.

**NICHOLAS**

You sure you're alright?

They flick the light off and walk out the door.

**EXT. BOXING GYM**

The friends walk towards Nicholas' truck. Conrad and Nicholas are arguing inaudibly. Theo stays back to lock the gym door.

As he finishes and walks towards the car, he stops and looks at the shadows behind him. Seeing nothing, he turns and continues on his way.

Theo enters the passenger side door, and the truck speeds away.

A figure emerges from the darkness near the gym door. The shadows eventually give way to reveal the Devil, wearing the same suit we saw him in before, staring the same wide stare. He looks out at the car driving away, smiles confidently, and returns to the shadows.

**INT. POLICE STATION/HARMON'S DESK - NIGHT**

The room is lit only by the moon light filtering in through the windows. Harmon is sitting in his chair, looking down at a case file on his desk.

The file contains photos of Avi's crime scene as well as photos of Nicholas and Theo.

He pulls out the pictures of Nick and Theo.

**HARMON**

I'm so sorry, I know what you are going through.

He covers his eyes and fights off the urge to cry.

He looks at a picture on his desk.

ANGLE ON the picture: An older man smiling, wearing the clothes of a clergyman.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

You don't deserve it, dad. I'll make it right.

He slams his fists on his desk in frustration.

**EXT. CONRAD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Conrad's studio apartment is very small and cluttered, with every surface covered with books. Piles of hard-covers rise into the air all around. This is clearly the room of a person who cares about knowledge above all else.

Conrad, looking completely dejected, sits on the edge of his bed. He rubs his forehead and stares off into space.

**CONRAD**

Even Deborah has it.

Conrad falls back onto his bed, completely perplexed.

**CONRAD** (CONT'D)

This is all impossible, how does a person magically get powers, magic isn't real.

Conrad turns his head to see a bible sitting at the top of a pile of books. He grabs it and looks at it.

**CONRAD** (CONT'D)

And neither is this!

Conrad throws the book across the room and closes his eyes.

**CONRAD** (CONT'D)

Come on, where's the answer?

Conrad falls back on a pile of books. His hand lands on a book called "Learning German, A-Z" A moment goes by with Conrad's eyes closed.

**CONRAD** (CONT'D)

Was mich verschieden von ihnen macht?

(beat)

Was, Was weitergeht?

Conrad turns around, grabs the German book and looks at it. His eyes become wide with excitement as he realizes what he has done. He raises his hands in triumph.

**CONRAD** (CONT'D)

Wunderbar!

**EXT. JANELLE'S DINER - MORNING (ESTABLISHING)**

**NICHOLAS** (O.C.)

Why can't he ever be on time?

**INT. JANELLE'S DINER**

Theo shrugs.

**DEBORAH**

It's not like you've never been late Ni--

Conrad comes running from the door.

**CONRAD**

(overly excited)

Ich machte es! Ich machte es! Ich  
habe das Geschenk!

The three look at each other.

Conrad closes his eyes and tries to calm down.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

(slowly)

I did it. I have the gift.

**NICHOLAS**

You unlocked his inner Nazi, way to  
go.

Conrad sits at the table.

**CONRAD**

I was at home trying to figure it  
out and it just happened! I touched  
a German book, and I knew German! I  
tried it with every book I own!  
It's incredible!

**DEBORAH**

So you can learn languages?

**CONRAD**

No! Anything! I touch a book and I  
instantly know everything in it!  
Watch!

Conrad reaches out and touches a closed menu.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

Today's special is house baked  
buttermilk biscuits split and  
smothered in Auntie Em's country  
sausage gravy. Served with fresh  
fruit and, as always, your choice  
of toast.

Deborah grabs the menu.

**DEBORAH**

That's it, word for word.

**THEODORE**

Yeah, that makes sense.

**NICHOLAS**

No, it really doesn't. Deborah can heal, I can fight, you can fly, and he can win on Jeopardy. This makes no sense.

**THEODORE**

(almost to himself)

Sure it does. The power manifests itself based on the personality of the person. Think about it. Conrad isn't strong...

**CONRAD**

Hey...

**THEODORE**

Or caring or...

**CONRAD**

I'm right here Theo...

**THEODORE**

Or particularly gifted in any area but his mind.

**CONRAD**

So how do you explain your ability, Theo? Telekineses doesn't exactly seem to fit in one area.

Theo becomes lost in thought for a moment.

**THEODORE**

Well, for me, it works when I am fully concentrating on what I want to do. I think I literally will things to move you know? I tap into my drive to succeed. You must have done the same by wanting to understand your power more than anything.

**NICHOLAS**

So why did mine work right away?

**DEBORAH**

Nick, you always want to win more than anything.

**NICHOLAS**

You say that like it's a bad thing.

Deborah rolls her eyes.

**DEBORAH**

So what's the plan now?

**CONRAD**

They say practice makes perfect.

**THEODORE**

That's not a bad idea. Take a week or so, and get a feel for things.

Theo stands up, pulls out some cash from his wallet, and throws it on the table.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Food's on me today guys. And remember, keep a low profile.

Everyone at the table nods, and Theo walks towards the exit.

**CONRAD**

Don't you guys find this a little weird?

**DEBORAH**

He's a nice guy Conrad, sometimes nice guys pay for meals.

**CONRAD**

The abilities. I mean what the hell is this? Do you buy his explanation?

**NICHOLAS**

It is strange.

**DEBORAH**

Well what do you think it is?

**NICHOLAS**

I don't know, but I kinda feel like he's holding back on us.

**DEBORAH**

Theo wouldn't lie to us, if he knew something, he would tell us.

**CONRAD**

Yeah but he had these powers for months and never told us. You think he ever would've if we didn't catch him pulling a peter pan?

The two look at each other and shrug.

**DEBORAH**

I'm reserving judgement for now.  
Wherever it came from doesn't  
really matter, we have them now,  
and we need to deal with that.

**NICHOLAS**

(smiling mischievously)  
Right.

**CONRAD**

Nick, be careful, alright. Don't  
do anything to give us away.

**NICHOLAS**

Of course not.

A loud BOXING BELL CHIMES.

SMASH CUT TO:

**INT. BOXING RING - DAY**

A boxer falls backwards onto the canvas, out cold.

The bell CHIMES.

Another boxer falls back, knocked out.

The bell CHIMES.

A different boxer falls back, suffering the same fate.

ANGLE ON Nicholas with arms spread wide. A crowd has begun  
gathering around the ring.

**NICHOLAS**

Oh come on! This is just  
embarrassing.

**TRAINER 1**

(to trainer 2)  
What's with Nick today?

**TRAINER 2**

Dunno, that's his third knock out  
in 30 minutes!

Trainer 1 nods.

**TRAINER 2 (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

Man, something's up, maybe he's  
juicin'.

Nicholas ignores their remarks.

**NICHOLAS**

Alright, who's next?

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT - DAY**

Theo is sitting in a chair, levitating the smashed pieces of his table, attempting to repair them. He tries fitting it back together in the air like a giant jigsaw puzzle.

Theo's fish, floats by his head, happily flapping it's tail as if it were swimming through water.

**THEODORE**

Hey Norman.

Theo continues focusing on his task, as if nothing abnormal is happening.

Suddenly Theo stops what he is doing.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Norman?

(beat)

Norman!

He tries to get up and go after Norman but trips and falls. The table drops out of the air, smashing his progress. Theo glares at Norman who continues on his path unaware.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Ugh... damn it fish.

**EXT. HOSPITAL DRIVEWAY**

Deborah is seen entering.

**INT. HOSPITAL/WAITING ROOM**

The room is full of people waiting to be seen by a doctor.

Deborah walks by a series of people.

An ELDERLY MAN with a broken hip, complaining about not being seen.

Two COLLEGE FRAT BOYS, one holding his hand in a bloody rag, the other telling him how he should not have tried to climb the tree while drunk.

A YOUNG GIRL sitting next to her MOTHER, apologizing for swallowing a Barbie doll's head.

Deborah finally stops in front of a WOMAN rocking a SMALL BABY in a stroller. The baby has its eyes closed, and is breathing slowly.

**DEBORAH**

May I sit here?

**WOMAN**

Um sure.

The woman moves her bag full of bottles and baby food. Deborah sits, and the woman goes back to rocking her child.

**DEBORAH**

What a beautiful little girl.

**WOMAN**

Oh, thank you.

**DEBORAH**

Is she sick?

**WOMAN**

Yes, I think so.

The woman is obviously stressed out, but Deborah is persistent.

**DEBORAH**

With what?

The woman looks at Deborah and sees she only wants to help. She sighs.

**WOMAN**

She came down with a fever last night. It hit 102 today, so I rushed in here as fast as I could. She isn't keeping any food down either.

**DEBORAH**

It must be a nightmare having an infant fall ill.

**WOMAN**

Her father is always away at work. I actually need to call him. I was in such a rush when I saw the thermometer...

Deborah nods.

**WOMAN (CONT'D)**

Would you, would you mind watching her for just a moment? I'm just going to call my husband and let him know we're here.

**DEBORAH**

Not at all.

**WOMAN**

Thanks, I'll just be a second.

The woman gets up and walks towards the desk. Deborah begins rocking the small child in the carrier.

**DEBORAH**

You're going to be just fine.

Deborah closes her eyes tight. She keeps rocking the child, and lightly touches the baby's head.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

(quietly)

Where are you...

The sounds in the room begin to grow louder and meld together.

Slowly the sound of the child's heart beat and breathing emerge from the white noise. The breathing is audibly labored by phlegm and congestion.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

(to herself)

There... Okay, here we go...

The breathing slowly clears up, and the heart beat increases. The sounds of the room mold together with the breathing and heartbeat until:

The baby begins laughing, and all the sounds return to normal. Deborah opens her eyes and smiles.

**INT. LIBRARY - DAY**

ANGLE ON Conrad's face. He has the look of total bewilderment, as if he can not believe what he is seeing. As he moves forward a wall of books at least 20 feet tall on either side of the door comes into view. Above the door a stone is carved with the words THE WORLD'S KNOWLEDGE, AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

**CONRAD**

Yeah, that's about right.

Conrad walks into the library.

**INT. LIBRARY/REFERENCE SECTION**

Conrad walks up to a shelf with the title PARANORMAL PHENOMENA.

**CONRAD**

Let's try to find out what we're dealing with here.

He places his finger on book one. The sound of passages being read by dozens of people are heard. They come faster and faster and overlap so that we can not make out more than a few words at a time. They continue to grow in volume and speed until Conrad takes his finger off the book and they suddenly stop.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

How can anyone believe this stuff?

**INT. BOXING GYM - DAY**

Nicholas is doing pushups face-to-face with another man.

**CROWD**

93! 94! 95!

Nicholas is staring straight ahead at the other man, who isn't doing pushups anywhere near as fast or sharp. The man is drenched in sweat and breathing hard. Nicholas looks as if he has only begun.

**NICHOLAS**

Tired?

**PUSH-UP MAN**

I... I'm...

The man collapses and the crowd erupts with cheers and groans.

Nicholas shoots up with his hands raised.

**NICHOLAS**

Alright, pay up! Come on, cough it up!

People start exchanging money, with half the crowd pleased the other muttering to themselves.

A wad of money lands at Nicholas' feet, he looks behind him.

A HUGE MAN is standing in front of the crowd. He is smiling a confident smile and flexing his huge pectoral muscles.

**HUGE MAN**

Come on mouth, I'll take you.

**TRAINER 1**

Oh no, Nick he is totally out of your class!

**TRAINER 2**

He's right, he must outweigh you by at least 60 pounds.

Nicholas considers the trainers words.

**NICHOLAS**

You know they're right.

(grins)

For you, make the bet three hundred.

**EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - DAY**

Theo walks down the street just outside of his apartment. He looks into his neighbor's yard to see the young boy happily jumping into a puddle.

**BOY**

Praise to Jesus! I command you!

Theo smiles and keeps walking.

**EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET/FARTHER DOWN**

Theo walks next to a golf course that straddles the road. A golf green is right next to him.

Theo hears the sound of a ball land on the green. He looks over in time to see the ball land within inches of the hole.

Theo smiles. He squints, and the ball rolls into the hole.

He continues walking, on a distant tee box we see a very old golfer, horribly dressed in golfer clothes, flailing shouting with excitement.

**INT. HOSPITAL/EXAM ROOM**

The woman and her baby sit in a sterile exam room. An older DOCTOR is looking down at the chart.

**DOCTOR**

Well, to be completely honest, I can't find a single thing wrong with your daughter. In fact, I would say she is the picture of perfect health.

**WOMAN**

This is not in my head! Check it again, she had fever of 102!

The doctor smiles and sits next to the woman.

**DOCTOR**

This is completely normal, most first time mothers go through something like this, there is nothing wrong with your little girl.

The woman shakes her head and stares into space.

**INT. HOSPITAL/WAITING ROOM**

The front doors slam open and a young EMT sprints to the check-in desk.

**EMT**

We've got a 25 year old male coming in. He was involved in a head-on collision, and sustained massive head and chest trauma. Get the OR surgeons prepped!

A NURSE runs to a phone and begins barking orders.

Deborah watches as two more EMT's roll a gurney into the room. One of the EMTs is holding an IV bag over his head.

**EMT 2**

He's been in and out on the way over, we need to get 'im in an operating room now!

**NURSE**

They're getting the surgeons prepped, maintain his vitals and we'll get him in as soon as they are ready.

The EMT's roll the man into a hallway.

**INT. HOSPITAL/HALLWAY**

Deborah follows them into the hall and walks up to the edge of gurney.

**EMT 3**

Ma'am, I need you to stay back!

**DEBORAH**

No, I'm...

(beat)

I'm his sister. Just, let me hold his hand.

The EMT's look at each other and shrug.

**EMT 3**

Your brother is a lucky man, miss. Wish I could say the same for the family he hit.

Deborah stops.

**DEBORAH**

What happened to them?

The EMT looks to the other EMT's, both of whom are not paying attention.

**EMT 3**

A mother and two children were in the van your brother hit. All DOA, there was nothing we could do.

Down a distant hallway we see the Devil leaning against the wall. He appears to be watching the drama unfold.

**DEBORAH**

My God, what a terrible accident.

The EMT frowns.

**EMT 3**

Well, his Blood Alcohol Level was .18.

Deborah is shocked, she looks at the EMT and then back to the man.

**THE DEVIL**

(whispering to himself)

Let him go... let him go... give him to me... let him go...

Deborah hand shakes as she reaches for the man's hand.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

(whispering)

He murdered that family... give  
them justice... let him go... let  
him die...

Deborah's eyes begin to well up. She clenches her hand into a fist. She stares long and hard at his closed eyes, her face twisted in thought.

She abruptly turns and walks away, crying. The Devil closes his eyes and smiles.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

That a girl.

**EMT 3**

Ma'am? Ma'am! We will need to get  
some information from you! Hey!

**EXT. HOSPITAL**

Deborah exits the hospital crying, her hand over her mouth.

**INT. LIBRARY - DAY**

Conrad is whistling a happy tune while walking down an aisle with the index finger of each hand running along the books on either side of him. The sound of passages being read is coming at lightning speed as he absorbs the information from every book he touches.

When he reaches the end of the aisle he sees a BEAUTIFUL GIRL reading at a table. There are empty chairs on the other three sides. She has a pile of books next to her.

ANGLE ON the books, they are all about poetry.

Conrad looks himself over, starts to brush dust from his shirt and saunters over to the girl. He slyly puts his hand on the pile of books and angles himself towards the girl.

**CONRAD**

By night, Love, tie your heart to  
mine, and the two together in their  
sleep will defeat the darkness like  
a double drum in the forest,  
pounding against the thick wall of  
wet leaves.

The girl looks up from behind her book with a blank confused stare on her face.

**GAY MAN (O.C.)**

(effeminate)

Oh my god, I love Pablo Neruda!

Conrad looks down to see the chair next to him now filled by a man who obviously cares about his appearance. He sighs as he realizes the book belongs to the gay man.

ANGLE ON the book the beautiful girl is reading: Electrical Engineering.

Conrad coughs, turns and leaves.

**INT. BOXING GYM - DAY**

Nicholas leans against a wall counting a huge wad of mixed bills.

**HARMON (O.C.)**

Quite the uppercut you've got there.

Nick turns to see Harmon. He looks back at the ring where a crowd of people are attending to the Huge Man who lays unconscious in the middle of the ring.

**NICHOLAS**

Detective, you were watching?

**HARMON**

Underestimated you huh?

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah...

Nick looks down at his money.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Yeah he did.

**HARMON**

Do you have a moment? Some things have come up in Aviram's case, and I want to run them by you.

**NICHOLAS**

You find the guys?

**HARMON**

Well, we may be getting close, but I need you to come take a look at a few things for me.

**NICHOLAS**

Sure, just let me change, alright?

Theo walks in the front door behind Nick.

Harmon sees Theo, but Nick has his back to him.

**HARMON**

Actually, we can talk later. I'll drop by your place later tonight.

**NICHOLAS**

Uh OK, I'll be there.

Harmon walks past Theo without making eye contact.

**THEODORE**

Who's that?

**NICHOLAS**

A detective. He's in charge of Avi's case.

**THEODORE**

Really?

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, I've been trying to help him out, but I don't think I'm doing much good. He thinks there might be a connection between Avi's death and some crime ring.

**THEODORE**

Hah, what? What a waste of time, Avi didn't have any ties to any crime ring.

**NICHOLAS**

Man, I'd think so too but... you should see some of the evidence.

**THEODORE**

Don't waste your time looking for something that isn't there.

**NICHOLAS**

At least I'm looking.

Theo becomes serious.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

I'm sorry man, what's up?

**THEODORE**

Want a re-match?

**NICHOLAS**

Absolutely, but I guess I should warn you, I've been working on this all day.

Theo looks at the ring where the Huge Man is finally coming to.

**THEODORE**

You need to be more careful, Nick.

Nicholas shrugs and reaches behind him to grab a pair of gloves. He tosses them to Theo.

**NICHOLAS**

Lace up.

Theo tosses the gloves back.

**THEODORE**

I know a better place than this.

**NICHOLAS**

(smiling)

Wherever, just lead the way.

**EXT. FIELD - DUSK (ESTABLISHING)**

The space is devoid of people. A vast field of grass accompanied by an abrupt tree line.

**EXT. FIELD**

Theo and Nicholas' fists smash together letting out an unspeakable CRASH. Their hands are wrapped with gauze but lack the red fighting gloves of a boxer. They both remain that way, knuckles entangled with one another.

CLOSE of Theo's face, it is covered in cuts and bruises, he smiles.

CLOSE of Nicholas face, which is equally bloodied and damaged. He smiles the same smile back at Theo.

The two friends engage in a brief struggle, neither one willing to give up. Suddenly Nicholas pulls back from the stalemate, and lunges at Theo.

Theo dodges the assault, appearing to move almost instantaneously. Once Nicholas passes, Theo attacks.

Nicholas spins around impossibly fast, blocking Theo's assault with both hands. The force skids Nicholas across the grass, leaving skid marks in the ground.

Nicholas stands up straight, looks down at his open palms, and cracks his neck. The two stand apart looking into each others eyes, both smiling.

**THEODORE**

You're pretty quick.

Nicholas confidently shrugs, and lunges Theo.

The fight is similar to their previous boxing match, except faster and more violent. They exchange, dodge, and block punches. Each fighter showing more confidence with each attack. As each blow is landed the fighter on the receiving end shows little sign of pain.

It's clear that while the fight is an even match, Nicholas is gaining the upper hand and landing more punches than Theo.

They both jump back from the intense fighting.

Nicholas rubs the blood off his mouth, and jumps high in the air, his right arm cocked with a vicious attack.

Theo, remaining calm, and squints his eyes. Nicholas' attack is instantly cut off as he is caught by the telekinetic grip.

Hovering in mid-air, Nicholas struggles to break free. Surprised, he looks down to Theo.

Theo smiles a sinister smile.

**NICHOLAS**

Awe shit.

Theo raises an open hand towards Nicholas, and quickly pulls it back into a cocked fist, simultaneously pulling Nicholas towards him.

Nicholas is defenseless.

Theo crushes Nicholas square in the face. The blow let's off a slight explosion of light as it impacts, the sound is deafening.

Nicholas hits the ground with tremendous force, sending pieces of earth flying up into the air followed by a cloud of dust as he skids across the ground. Finally, he runs out of momentum and comes to a stop.

Nicholas has his hands over his face, his eyes shut tightly in serious pain.

Blood comes pouring out from underneath his hands, running down his neck, and soaking his shirt.

From Nicholas' POV: He opens his eyes to see a confident Theo, his arms crossed, standing over him.

Theo extends his hand to help him up.

Nicholas keeps one hand on his nose as he slowly gets to his feet, declining Theo's offer for help.

He removes his other hand from his nose and wipes most of the blood away, though there is much excess around his nose, mouth, and chin.

Theo looks intently at his face.

**THEODORE**

It doesn't look broken.

**NICHOLAS**

You don't hit that hard.

Theo cocks his head.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Oh whatever, you cheated.

**THEODORE**

We said we were going to practice, that's what I did.

**NICHOLAS**

Man, I own you on the ground, but those little mind tricks of yours, they aren't fair.

**THEODORE**

Maybe you should try 'em out yourself?

**NICHOLAS**

Too boring my friend. All thought, no action.

Theo nods his head.

**THEODORE**

Hey, there's some blood on your nose.

Nicholas gives Theo an intense glare. He fights to maintain his composure, but reluctantly smiles.

**NICHOLAS**

Hah, screw you...

The two friends suddenly are aware that the sun is setting over the ridge in the park. They share a moment of friendly silence, taking in the beautiful scape.

Theo looks apologetically at Nicholas.

Nicholas nods his head in silent appreciation. He abruptly ends the moment by turning and walking away.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

I'll see you around Theo, we should do this again.

**THEODORE**

Whenever.

Nicholas slowly walks out of conversation range.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

(shouting)

Maybe you should have Deborah take a look at that.

He flips Theo off as he walks towards a path in the trees.

Theo laughs to himself as he turns and climbs a small hill.

The top reveals a body of water, with the beautiful sunset reflected into a thousand sparkling lights. Theo sits in the grass and smiles. He rubs his hands while he happily overlooks the view.

Suddenly his eyes narrow and his body tightens, something isn't right.

ANGLE on Theo's face.

**THE DEVIL (O.C.)**

Magnificent artist isn't he?

Theo's eyes dart to the right. The Devil sits next to him, wearing the same brilliant white suit.

He calmly resumes viewing the sunset, a serious expression on his face.

**THEODORE**

He really is.

A brief pause while the two take in the sunset together.

**THE DEVIL**

So! How are things?

Theo doesn't respond.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Somehow I get the impression you don't like me.

**THEODORE**

Perceptive.

The Devil laughs to himself.

**THE DEVIL**

You think I like doing my job? You think I get home at the end of a hard day, look back at my accomplishments, and feel good about it?

Theo's eyes don't move from the horizon.

**THEODORE**

Pure evil would, I assume.

**THE DEVIL**

And what makes you think I'm pure evil?

**THEODORE**

Wanting to be greater than God for a start.

**THE DEVIL**

You humans, you all think you have such a clear picture of what happened, but you only know what you've been told.

**THEODORE**

Really? So you didn't lead a rebellion and try to seize power for yourself?

**THE DEVIL**

Now how could I conceivably rebel against an all powerful, all knowing God, unless He himself were to allow it?

Theo's squints, deep in thought.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Hell is just another part of his grand design, how could it be any other way? He sent me out of paradise to do this job, his dirty work.

Theo's eyes move to the Devil.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

By my best friend, no less. The truth is I loved Him more than any human will ever know. He put me here, tempting your kind, prodding them, giving them another option as a way to test their loyalty. He gave me this role and I've embraced it.

**THEODORE**

So the pain you cause, it's just part of a job? You don't enjoy your work?

The Devil shakes his head.

**THE DEVIL**

Nothing happens that is not in His plan, not even me. I was destined for this role, I never had a choice.

The Devil has a look of true sincerity.

Theo slowly turns his head to meet the Devil's cold blue eyes.

**THEODORE**

Bullshit.

Theo gets up and begins to walk away.

The Devil laughs.

**THE DEVIL**

Do you think it wise, boy? Giving your friends this divine power?

**THEODORE**

I'm not afraid of you.

**THE DEVIL**

Boy, you just don't know me yet.

Theo laughs and continues to walk away.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Conrad, off having some fun in a library, he's of no use to me.

The mention of his friend stops Theo dead in his tracks.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Plus, he doesn't believe, so I can't exactly reach him. His lack of faith makes things difficult. Deborah, however, is coming along nicely. Deciding who lives and dies, the man upstairs can't like that.

Theo spins around to find the Devil standing inches away from his face, his arms folded behind his back. He calmly smiles, staring him down with his intense, unblinking eyes.

**THEODORE**

You leave them out of this.

**THE DEVIL**

But Nicholas, he's my favorite, he has more potential than any of them.

**THEODORE**

If you touch him...

**THE DEVIL**

So anxious to speak with me now?

Theo is infuriated, but somehow retains control.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Have you thought of a plan yet? A way to prove mankind's worth to Him?

**THEODORE**

Destroying you, that should be enough.

He turns from the Devil again, and begins to walk away.

The Devil laughs.

**THE DEVIL**

Your blind optimism is amusing, I must admit. You know, Avi really is remarkably strong. Breaking him took all of a week.

Theo's stops, his fists tighten.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

You know, I have been known to be wrong in the past, and I think you're right, I do take pleasure in some of my work. I really have enjoyed torturing Avi in hell.

Theo spins around and leaps at the Devil, arm cocked ready to unleash a furious blow.

The Devil keeps smiling.

**EXT. FIELD - DUSK (OVERVIEW)**

We hear the CRASH of the punch, shaking the trees in the park.

**EXT. FIELD**

We return to Theo's face, grimacing with force, his arm outstretched having delivered the blow. We ZOOM OUT to see the Devil restraining Theo's fist with a single outstretched finger. His other arm still behind his back.

**THE DEVIL**

If you want to dance...

His hand blocking the punch grabs Theo's fist.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Know the steps before you take an experienced partner.

He crushes Theo's hand. The bones SNAP and POP as Theo screams in agony.

The Devil twists Theo's fist, causing Theo to spin horizontally in mid-air a number of times before crashing into the ground. He quickly gets to one knee.

Theo looks down at his mangled hand just in time to see the Devil's shadow stretch across the ground.

Theo looks up and is struck by a telekinetic blow to the face, launching him into the sky. The Devil squints, and Theo slams him into the ground.

Theo gasps for breathe, he is completely helpless. His breathing is cut off by the Devil's foot slamming hard on his rib cage.

His ribs CRACK, as he hacks blood onto his own face.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Understand...

The Devil increases his pressure. Theo coughs up more blood, GAGING, and GASPING for air.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

You can't destroy me.

He leans more weight onto Theo's chest.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

No one, can destroy me.

He takes his foot off Theo's chest, and calmly produces a deep blue handkerchief from his pocket.

He begins cleaning Theo's blood from his hand.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Think about this from my perspective. Human kind has practically run itself into the ground. My job has become almost entirely unnecessary as the world slides deeper into moral depravity. The day of judgement, my day, is nearly upon us.

He gets right next to Theo's ear.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Then He decides to give you a last chance, one final gasp to save mankind.

(whispering)

I suppose I too can give you one last chance. Take my offer...

Theo is barely conscious, he is gurgling his own blood and each breath is a raspy, horrific sound. Theo's head turns towards the Devil.

**THEODORE**

(softly)

Lucifer...

**THE DEVIL**

Mmm hmmm...

**THEODORE**

(slowly and softly)

Go... fuck... yourself...

The Devil returns to a standing position, slightly straightens his suit, and places the blue handkerchief back in his pocket.

**THE DEVIL**

What a waste.

He puts his foot on Theo's throat.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Answer me this then. Are you willing to die for them? When push comes to shove, and believe me it will, are you willing to sacrifice your life for the greater good?

Theo looks away. The Devil is annoyed at his response.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Know this, you can't escape the path he has chosen for you, the sooner you embrace it, the easier it will be. So do everyone a favor and pick a side, this game bores me already.

The Devil begins walking away, but stops, as if forgetting something.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

By the way, attack me again and I'll hurt you so bad you'll think I blessed you today.

Theo grimaces. The Devil smiles.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

See you around.

The Devil is suddenly wrapped in shadows and vanishes, leaving Theo's broken body alone in the dark.

Theo slowly begins to get up, agonizing over every movement.

**INT. NICHOLAS' APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Nicholas is washing up from his fight with Theo. He walks out into his living room and sees a left over party cup sitting on the counter. He sits on his couch and begins staring intently at the cup.

The cup gives the slightest wobble.

Three loud KNOCKS come from the front door.

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, come in!

Harmon opens the door and walks into the living room. He is carrying a small briefcase.

**HARMON**

Sorry to bother you at home.

**NICHOLAS**

Forget it, have a seat.

Harmon sits next to Nick on the couch.

**HARMON**

Are you alright? There's some blood on your nose.

**NICHOLAS**

Hah, comes with being a boxer. So what's new?

Nicholas wipes the blood away.

**HARMON**

There was another murder late last night, but this time, there was a witness. They called the police, and luckily a squad car was two blocks away. They're in custody now.

Nicholas nods.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Both men had tattoos of upside crosses on their arms.

**NICHOLAS**

That's their calling card, right?

**HARMON**

It is.

**NICHOLAS**

So you have some of their crew?

**HARMON**

Well, yes and no. One took a deal and started talking. Turns out, the group's name is the Suicide Kings.

Harmon reaches into his briefcase and takes out two mug shots.

**HARMON** (CONT'D)

Take a look, have you ever seen them at the gym? Or ever talking to Avi?

Nicholas looks through the two pictures. Both men have long unkept hair and tough faces.

**NICHOLAS**

No, don't know 'em.

**HARMON**

You're sure?

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, if they were boxers I'd know.

**HARMON**

Damn it, I was hoping this might be the missing link.

Harmon takes the pictures back and places them in his briefcase.

**NICHOLAS**

Have these guys confessed to any of the other murders?

**HARMON**

No, not yet, the one who was talking is waiting for his lawyer before he admits anything else. This guy though, this guy is genuinely psychotic. He said the gang conducts satanic rituals, thinking they'll get powers. The finale is the sacrifice of a pious man, that seems to be their ultimate goal.

Nicholas looks down at a bruise on his hand and rubs it.

**NICHOLAS**

What kind of powers?

**HARMON**

It's just bullshit, but he said they found a way to unlock amazing abilities, super human strength and speed, the ability to move things with your mind, all sorts of madness.

**NICHOLAS**

You believe him?

**HARMON**

Normally I wouldn't give it a second thought, but five years ago I saw something that I can't explain. Now, I don't know what to believe.

**NICHOLAS**

It sounds like you do believe him.

**HARMON**

I just haven't found anything to disprove him yet.

Nicholas nods.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Well, that's all I came to tell you.

He gets up, Nicholas gets up to escort him out.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

If you think of anything, anything at all, let me know.

**NICHOLAS**

I will.

Harmon leaves, Nicholas shuts the door behind him.

Nicholas sits back on the couch and looks at a PHOTO of himself, Theodore, and Avi.

**EXT. DEBORAH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

A bloody finger reaches up and pushes a doorbell, leaving some blood as it releases the button. Deborah opens the door and gasps.

**DEBORAH**

Theo? Jesus! Theo!

Exhausted, Theo falls into her arms.

**THEODORE**

Deborah...

She catches him and immediately brings him inside, closing the door behind her.

**INT. DEBORAH'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER**

Deborah's apartment is much cleaner than any of the boys'. She maneuvers Theo onto a couch. He's still awake, but not by much. Deborah is frantic.

**DEBORAH**

I'll be right back, I've got to get a phone...

He grabs her wrist as she tries to leave, his eyes are shut.

**THEODORE**

No ambulance.

She hesitates.

**DEBORAH**

Oh Theo, I don't know, I haven't practiced on anything this severe before.

Theo slowly nods his head.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

Alright.

Deborah places her hands on his chest and closes her eyes. The lights in the room begin to flicker. She winces.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

There's so much...

Theo's raspy breathing grows louder and louder. His sluggish heartbeat grows with the same intensity.

Bones SNAP and CRACK back into place, as Theo's breathing clears.

Deborah opens her eyes, and moves one of her hands over Theo's broken fist. She closes her eyes again.

The bones begin to SNAP back into alignment. Theo grimaces in pain.

Deborah opens her eyes, amazed at her own power.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

(out of breathe)

There.

Theo's body is now fully healed. The blood from his wounds have crusted over and remain on his body and face.

Theo opens his eyes and quickly sits up. He looks at Deborah amazed and grateful. She returns his stare.

**THEODORE**

Thanks. Deb.

**DEBORAH**

No problem.

Theo gets to his feet and begins feeling his body. Feeling where bruises were, rubbing his chest, and of course checking his hand.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

So... are you going to make me guess?

Theo becomes serious.

**THEODORE**

I was fighting the Devil.

**DEBORAH**

I've seen Nicholas go overboard, but nothing like that.

**THEODORE**

Yeah.

He begins to move to the door.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Thanks Deborah, I know this seems odd by I have to go.

**DEBORAH**

Theo...

He turns back. He moves to her and hugs her.

**THEODORE**

Thanks... for you being you.

She smiles.

**DEBORAH**

I'll yell at Nicholas when I see him later tonight.

He lets go of Deborah and moves back to the door, opening it.

**THEODORE**

A date?

Deborah laughs.

**DEBORAH**

A date? Theo, he's like a brother to me, and I think incest is illegal in this state.

**THEODORE**

Right, just do me a favor, don't mention this to him, OK?

**DEBORAH**

(reluctantly)  
Alright, if that's what you want.

**THEODORE**

Thanks. Thank you.

He walks through the door, leaving Deborah confused and alone.

**EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT**

Theo is walking alone contemplating his recent beating.

He stops at an intersection, and looks across to see a church.

ANGLE ON a sign in the front yard of the church:

**Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. -James 4:7**

Theo stares at the sign.

**THEODORE**

Resist him...

Theo looks towards the sky.

**THEODORE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

I think I can do better than that.

**INT. THEO'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER**

Theo bursts through the door and into his living room.

Norman is busy righting his castle in his bowl. His various decorative pieces have been moved to a very organized position and the bowl itself is much cleaner. It's apparent the fish has taken the initiative in cleaning up.

Noticing Norman's progress, Theo laughs to himself.

He walks over to the broken table and chairs and sits on the floor. He becomes serious.

**THEODORE**

Okay... round two.

He begins to concentrate.

**EXT. THEO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

We see lights flashing from Theo's apartment.

**INT. BAR - NIGHT**

The bar is a dive with three pool tables in the center of a large room.

A triangle of billiard balls CRACK, scattering around the table. One ball pockets.

**NICHOLAS**

Don't you wonder where it came from? I mean Conrad's literally a walking encyclopedia, and even he says he's never heard of anything like this. Ever.

Nicholas takes his shot and misses

**DEBORAH**

Conrad doesn't know everything yet.

Deborah rounds the table looking over her options.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

And of course I wonder where it's from.

**NICHOLAS**

Conrad said he even targeted books specifically with this in mind and found nothing.

**DEBORAH**

So?

**NICHOLAS**

So? So he says he doesn't have a clue. I find all this a little hard to believe.

She begins lining up a shot.

**DEBORAH**

If he knew he would tell us, Nick.

**NICHOLAS**

I think he's still holding back.

Deborah shoots, sinking a difficult shot. Nicholas raises an eye brow while Deborah moves on to her next shot.

**DEBORAH**

Nick, what's going on, Theo's your best friend, where'd all this come from?

**NICHOLAS**

The whole thing feels too... loose.

**DEBORAH**

I don't doubt there's more to it, but I think Theo's telling us what he can.

**NICHOLAS**

You know why Theo sucks at cards? Cause he's a terrible liar. It's like he's bluffing or something.

**DEBORAH**

Maybe you're jealous he found them first.

Nicholas rolls his eyes.

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, that must be it.

Deborah sees that Nicholas is hurt by her remark.

**DEBORAH**

I'm not far off am I?

Nicholas looks at Deborah, his eyes full of sadness and confusion.

**NICHOLAS**

I just...

He struggles to find the words to express himself.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Say it is from Avi... that means he choose him and overlooked me...

**DEBORAH**

Nick... you think you were in  
Theo's shadow?

**NICHOLAS**

I was his son and his best  
fighter... but Theo... he's what  
Avi always really wanted.

**DEBORAH**

You know, Theo would say the same  
about you.

Nicholas smiles.

Deborah bends down to take her next shot. A TATTOOED MAN  
holding a beer bottle behind her openly glares and smiles at  
Deborah's back-side.

Nicholas notices, he is instantly disgusted.

**NICHOLAS**

Hey bud, you buy a ticket for that  
show?

The man smiles and takes a swig out of his beer bottle.

**TATTOOED MAN**

I didn't know this was pay-per-  
view.

The man reaches into his pocket and pulls out a dollar.  
Deborah turns around to look at the man. He walks up and  
places the dollar down the front of her shirt.

Deborah is speechless.

**TATTOOED MAN (CONT'D)**

There, now that I'm a paying  
customer...

Nicholas walks around the pool table and positions himself in  
between the man and Deborah, inches from his face.

The group of the man's friends are watching intently.

**NICHOLAS**

Friend, I suggest you apologize  
right now.

**TATTOOED MAN**

I suggest you get out of my face.

Both men are unwavering. Deborah grabs Nicholas' arm.

**DEBORAH**

Nick, we can go somewhere else.

Nicholas stares into the man's eyes.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

Please, Nick?

Nicholas turns his head and sees that Deborah is frightened. He looks back to the man.

**NICHOLAS**

That girl just saved your life.

They turn and begin to walk away.

**TATTOOED MAN**

Wasn't worth the dollar anyway.

Nick looks over his shoulder.

ANGLE ON the back of the man's right arm:

A TATTOO of an upside cross.

Surprised, he turns back.

**NICHOLAS**

Hey, hold up!

The man turns.

**TATTOOED MAN**

Persistent, isn't he?

**NICHOLAS**

(loudly)

Are you a suicide king?

The bar is suddenly silent.

**TATTOOED MAN**

What did you say?

**NICHOLAS**

Ever crucify anyone?

**TATTOOED MAN**

How the hell would you know about that... friend?

The man and his friends start working towards him.

**DEBORAH**

Come on.

Deborah drags Nicholas out the back of the bar into an alley.

**EXT. BAR**

They start walking away. The men burst out the back door.

**TATTOOED MAN**

Hey, where did you hear that name?

**DEBORAH**

Nick don't.

**NICHOLAS**

(whispering)

It's too late now. Don't move.

He turns and walks up to the man.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

You never answered my question.

**TATTOOED MAN**

Bring that up in public again, and next time I'll touch your lady friend with more than just words.

**NICHOLAS**

Are you one of them?

**TATTOOED MAN**

What if I am?

**NICHOLAS**

Just curious, is all.

Nicholas pounds the man square in the chest. The tattooed man staggers backward, eventually falling over, and vomits.

The man's friends are angered but equally afraid.

**NICHOLAS**

You guys all suicide kings?

Two men leap at Nicholas. He instantly knocks one of the men out and catches the other man's fist.

He tries to break free, but Nicholas refuses to let go. He punches the man's elbow, SNAPPING it backwards. The man screams in pain. Nicholas cuts off his howl with an uppercut. The man instantly stops screaming and drops, out cold.

Another man grabs Nicholas from behind in a bear hug. Still stone faced, Nicholas head butts him with the back of his head. The man releases his grasp.

Nicholas spins around and gives him a hard one-two shot, one to the gut, one to the face. He too, lands hard on the pavement, unconscious.

Nicholas glares at the only man left standing. He tries to run but slips on the puddle of vomit, falling on his back.

Nicholas slowly walks over to him, his face is emotionless. He isn't enjoying this fight.

**THUG**

No! Get away from me!

Nicholas snaps out a jab, hitting the man square in the face. His nose erupts with blood. Nicholas grabs his forehead and slams his head into the ground, the man instantly goes out.

He turns his attention back to the tattooed man. He is still gaging and trying to catch his breath.

Nicholas stands over him.

**NICHOLAS**

Do we understand each other now?

**TATTOOED MAN**

Fuck... you...

Nicholas squints in reaction. A small telekinetic blast hits the man in the face as if slapping him.

**NICHOLAS**

Huh, I didn't think I could do that.

**TATTOOED MAN**

I'll kill you... for thi-

Nicholas punches him in the mouth, he goes limp and drops.

**DEBORAH**

Damn it Nick! You can't do this in public!

**NICHOLAS**

I just need to get his ID to give to Harmon.

Nicholas reaches into the man's vest and pulls out his wallet. He opens it, looking for the man's ID. What he finds stops him dead in his tracks.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Wake him up.

**DEBORAH**

What?

**NICHOLAS**

I know you can. Wake him up.

**DEBORAH**

Why?

**NICHOLAS**

DO IT!

Deborah flinches. She lays her hands on the man's leg. His eyes slowly open.

Nicholas shoves the wallet in the man's face.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

What's the meaning of this?

**TATTOOED MAN**

Fuck... yo-

Nicholas grabs the man's throat.

**NICHOLAS**

Say it again.

**TATTOOED MAN**

I... don't know what you'r-

Nicholas slams his head into the ground. He drops the wallet and grabs the man's head. He puts his thumbs over each of the man's eyelids. He begins to apply pressure. The man lets out a blood curdling high pitched shriek. Deborah covers her ears and turns away, she's in tears.

**DEBORAH**

Oh Nicholas... Nicholas no...

The man's cry becomes more and more hysterical.

**TATTOOED MAN**

No! Stop! Please! Stop! Stop!

**NICHOLAS**

I'm listening.

**TATTOOED MAN**

It's our badge, our dog tags, how we know each other.

**NICHOLAS**

Who gives the orders?

**TATTOOED MAN**

I... I don't kn-

He grabs the man's throat, this time he's not holding back.

**NICHOLAS**

Aviram Baron! You know that name?

**TATTOOED MAN**

Wha... What!?

**NICHOLAS**

Did you kill him too!?

Nicholas begins to choke the man.

A flashlight blinds Nicholas, he looks up, snapping out of his rage. He releases the man and stands up.

An officer draws his gun.

**OFFICER 4**

You! Put your hands on your head!

He looks down at the terrified tattooed man who is attempting to crawl away. Nicholas complies, and slowly turns around.

The open wallet lays on the street in the puddle of vomit.

ANGLE ON: A KING OF HEARTS inside.

**INT. COMMUNITY JAIL SELL**

The bars SLAM shut as Nicholas looks on.

He turns around to see a number of intimidating inmates, all larger in size, staring at him intently. Uninterested, he silently walks to a corner bench. The group of men get up and gather around him.

Nicholas doesn't look up.

He punches the concrete wall, shattering it and leaving a small indentation.

**NICHOLAS**

Theo...

**EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT**

Deborah is standing outside on her cell phone. She is pacing and obviously worried.

**DEBORAH**

Theo, it's Deb, hey uh, Nick's in jail. He's being held at 5th and Pine, get over here as soon as you can, thanks, bye.

She hangs up the phone and immediately dials another number.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

Damn it Theo, where are you?

**INT. JANELLE'S DINER**

Conrad is eating a sandwich with one hand and touching a book with the other. Piles of books are stacked on the table.

His phone rings.

**CONRAD**

(his mouth full of food)  
Deb, what's up?

**DEBORAH**

Conney, thank God I got one of you.  
Where are you?

**CONRAD**

Uh, I'm eating dinner at Janelle's,  
why?

**DEBORAH**

Good that's not too far from here.  
Can you meet me at 5th and Pine?

Conrad notices a phone book on the bar next to him, he reaches over and touches it.

**CONRAD**

Um, that's the police station, are you in trouble?

**DEBORAH**

Guess again.

**CONRAD**

Nick, right. Yeah I'll be there in a few.

**DEBORAH**

Thank you Conrad. Do you know where Theo is?

**CONRAD**

Nope, haven't seen him.

**DEBORAH**

Okay, please hurry Conrad.

**CONRAD**

I'm on my way.

**DEBORAH**

Thanks. Bye.

**CONRAD**

Bye.

Conrad immediately takes another giant bite of his sandwich and gets up to leave.

**EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT**

**CONRAD**

Deborah!

She turns and sees Conrad coming and walks over to him. Seeing her distressed appearance he instantly is concerned.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

Deborah? What happened?

**DEBORAH**

Nick... he...

**CONRAD**

What'd he do?

**DEBORAH**

He got in an argument and then a fight... and then he... tortured one of them...

**CONRAD**

He what?

**DEBORAH**

Yeah...

**CONRAD**

How are they?

**DEBORAH**

I took care of it.

Conrad nods.

**CONRAD**

(sighs)

Come on, let's see what we can do.

The pair moves up the stairs into the police station.

**INT. JAIL SELL - MOMENTS LATER**

Nicholas is sitting alone on the same bench.

**TURN KEY GUARD**

You, pretty boy, you Nicholas?

He nods.

**TURN KEY GUARD (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

No charges, you're free to go, must  
be your lucky day.

Nicholas rises, showing no emotion. He looks towards the corner furthest from his bench.

ANGLE ON the other prisoners, they're huddled together in the far corner. They breath a collective sigh of relief as he leaves.

As Nicholas steps out of the jail cell the guard slips in a note in his hand.

It reads: **Cashed a few favors, meet me out front. Harmon.**

He crumples the paper.

**TURN KEY GUARD (CONT'D)**

Right this way.

Nicholas follows his direction.

**INT. POLICE STATION**

Conrad and Deborah are waiting in the lobby. Nicholas walks out, his face is emotionless. Conrad and Deborah get up and walk over to him.

**CONRAD**

Nick...

**NICHOLAS**

Where's Theo?

They don't respond. Nicholas glares at Deborah.

**DEBORAH**

I couldn't reach him.

Nicholas walks past them and out the door. The trio exit the police station.

**EXT. POLICE STATION**

Nicholas marches down the stairs in front of the police station, the other two come running after him.

**DEBORAH**

Nick! Wait!

Nicholas stops and waits for them without turning around.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D)**

What the hell happened tonight?

**NICHOLAS**

An epiphany.

**CONRAD**

Do you call that keeping a low profile?

Nicholas turns and looks Conrad in the eye.

**NICHOLAS**

No I don't.

**DEBORAH**

Damn it Nick Theo said...

**NICHOLAS**

Theo is a liar! He's been lying to us this whole time!

**DEBORAH**

He's still your friend!

**NICHOLAS**

Not anymore...

Conrad and Deborah are stunned.

**HARMON**

Nicholas!

Harmon steps out of the police station doors and approaches the three. He is wearing civilian clothes.

The three turn to Harmon.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Got my note I see.

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, thanks. Detective, I have some things to take care of tonight, but I might have something for you tomorrow.

**HARMON**

You know where my desk is.

Harmon turns to Deborah and Conrad.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Oh, I'm sorry, Detective Harmon.

Harmon shakes hands with Deborah, and then Conrad.

As soon as Conrad's hand touches Harmon, a series of images flash in Conrad's mind.

**VISION**

Attackers POV:

Avi exits the boxing gym, locks the door.

He begins walking towards his car.

We walk behind Avi, closer and closer until a hand reaches out and covers Avi's mouth. The other stabs him in the side repeatedly with a large knife. Avi's arms flail and grab onto the attacker, ripping his shirt as he falls to the ground bleeding and trembling.

The attacker's hands go through all of Avi's pockets, pulling out his valuables. They pull out a wallet and flip it open to see Avi's face smiling back on an ID.

**ATTACKER**

I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

He flips the wallet shut and shoves it into a trench-coat pocket.

The attacker stands and looks left, we see his reflection in the darkened window. It's detective Harmon, he's in tears.

An upside down cross is tattooed on the left side of his chest, exposed by the ripped shirt.

He quickly covers his chest and runs from the scene.

**PRESENT**

Conrad releases Harmon's hand, and looks up at him, afraid.

**HARMON**

Morning might be best, try to get  
in before 10:00 if you can, I have  
a lot going on tomorrow.

He pats Nicholas on the shoulder and trots down the stairs.

Conrad stares blankly, confused about what he has just seen.

**DEBORAH**

What are you going to do Nick?

**NICHOLAS**

I have to find Theo.

Conrad watches Harmon leave.

**CONRAD**

Jesus... you guys...

**DEBORAH**

What for Nick?

**THEODORE (O.C.)**

Deborah! I got your message.

Nicholas turns to Theo's voice. He walks up to Theo and slugs  
him in the stomach. Theo drops to his knees.

**DEBORAH**

Nicholas! Are you out of your mind?

Still watching Harmon leave, Conrad misses the punch  
entirely.

**NICHOLAS**

You're the one, you killed him  
didn't you...?

**THEODORE**

(slowly)

Nicholas... what the hell...?

Nicholas grabs Theo's wallet from his back pocket. He finds  
the king of hearts staring back at him.

**NICHOLAS**

Isn't that strange, those gang  
members had the exact same cards on  
them.

**DEBORAH**

Gang members?

**NICHOLAS**

Those ass holes at he bar, they said this card is their badge.

**DEBORAH**

What?

**NICHOLAS**

I know the power's origin. Harmon told me they sacrifice righteous men to gain supernatural powers. This ringing any bells, brother?

**THEODORE**

Nicholas... I didn't-

**NICHOLAS**

You murdered Avi to get the powers didn't you!?

**CONRAD**

Nick... you're wrong!

**NICHOLAS**

Conrad, I know you think Theo's your friend, but he-

**CONRAD**

I saw it!

Nicholas stops cold.

**NICHOLAS**

Saw what?

**CONRAD**

The murder, I saw it just now...

**NICHOLAS**

What?

**CONRAD**

I, well... just... wait...

Conrad walks over to Nicholas and grabs his hand.

Nick's eyes go wide as we again see the sequence of Avi's death, but this time in a much faster sequence.

Nicholas shakes off Conrad's grip.

**NICHOLAS**

No more...

Nicholas' eyes begin to well up.

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

Where are my keys?

He looks at Deborah

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

Give'em to me.

She hesitates.

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

Don't make me ask you again!

She flinches and gives him his keys.

He runs towards his truck in the parking lot. Theo finally regains his composure and stands up.

**CONRAD**

That detective...detective Harmon,  
he killed Avi.

**THEODORE**

(yelling)  
Nicholas! Nicholas don't!

Nicholas' truck peels out of the parking lot.

**DEBORAH**

(crying)  
He'll kill him.

**CONRAD**

We have to stop him, but he took  
the car...

**THEODORE**

I don't need a car.

**CONRAD**

What?

**THEODORE**

Get back to Nick's place. Stay  
there and wait for us.

**CONRAD**

Where are you going?

**THEODORE**

After him.

The lights in the area flicker and suddenly Theo is gone, shooting upwards into the sky. Conrad hugs Deborah and looks upward.

**CONRAD**

Man, when did he learn that?

**INT. NICHOLAS' CAR - TRAVELING**

Nicholas' truck flies down an empty city road. In the distance a pair of tail lights comes into view.

**NICHOLAS**

You son of a bitch.

He wipes his tears aside.

He drops a gear and the truck lurches forward.

Harmon's tail lights turn a corner and Nicholas sees a traffic light click yellow.

His speedometer creeps past 80.

**EXT. ARIEL SHOT: CITY OF CHICAGO - NIGHT**

Theo is flying over the city. It's clear that while he's able to fly, it's still a work in progress as he is wobbling and struggling to maintain control.

Theo's face is hard and determined. Tears are beginning to stream from his eyes from the wind as he scans for Nicholas.

**EXT. CITY STREET-INTERSECTION**

The traffic light switches to red.

ANGLE ON the green light now facing a city bus.

We HEAR the engine of the bus rev up.

**INT. NICHOLAS' CAR - TRAVELING**

The CITY BUS begins pulling into the intersection.

**NICHOLAS**

Shit!

Nicholas guides his truck into the oncoming lanes to avoid the bus. He finds an oncoming car coming straight for him. He frantically spins the wheel.

**EXT. CITY STREET/INTERSECTION**

The truck skids, narrowly missing both the car and the bus. They lay on their horns.

**INT. NICHOLAS' CAR - TRAVELING**

In the distance Harmon's car is stopped at a red light.

Nicholas takes a deep breathe as his speedometer falls to 25.

**EXT. CITY STREET/INTERSECTION 2**

Nicholas' truck pulls up behind the Harmon's car.

**INT. DETECTIVE HARMON'S CAR**

Harmon looks in his rear-view mirror, catching a glimpse of Nicholas' truck.

He thinks nothing of it and reaches down to turn up the volume on his classical music and lites a cigar.

**EXT. ARIEL SHOT: CITY OF CHICAGO**

Theo is still searching for Nicholas' truck.

ANGLE ON Nick's truck. He squints and begins slowly descending.

**INT. NICHOLAS' CAR - TRAVELING**

At the end of the block Harmon's brake-lights flash on. He turns down a road that leads into a rural area. Surrounded by trees with no neighboring houses.

**EXT. HARMON'S HOUSE**

Harmon exits his car. He goes to the trunk of his car and begins to look through his keys for the correct one.

**NICHOLAS (O.C.)**

Harmon!

A CAR DOOR CLOSES and Harmon looks up to see Nicholas marching directly towards him.

**HARMON**

Nicholas? I thought we were meeting tomorrow.

Nicholas punches Harmon in the face, causing the familiar sound of THUNDER, and sends him sprawling onto the ground.

Two of Harmon's teeth go flying, and blood begins pouring from his mouth.

Harmon's clasps his mouth.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Nicholas... what are you-?

Nicholas grabs him and lifts him up by the back of his neck. He rips his shirt open, revealing the upside-down cross. Nicholas is shocked to find it.

**HARMON (CONT'D)**

Nicholas... I'm...

He slugs Harmon. He drops to the ground. He grabs Harmon's hair, blood is pouring down Harmon's jaw and neck.

**NICHOLAS**

I saw you! I saw you kill Avi! You sick fuck!

Nicholas slams Harmon's head into mirror of his car, knocking out more teeth, then grabs him by the throat.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

Why?! Where's your why?!

Harmon gasps and spits blood.

**HARMON**

Nicholas I swear to you-

Nicholas knees him in the groin.

**NICHOLAS**

Don't lie to me!

**HARMON**

I... I... had to... you wouldn't understand...

He drops Harmon to the ground and kicks him. Nicholas starts sobbing.

**NICHOLAS**

Avi...

He shakes off his tears, his anger clearly over taking him.

He kicks Harmon's chin, his jaw CRACKS.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

And you tried to turn me on my best friend?!

**HARMON**

No choice Nicholas... I had-

Harmon looks beyond Nicholas, gasps, and passes out.

Nicholas turns to see Theo descend from the air.

**NICHOLAS**

Good, you're here. It's fitting.  
You can watch.

**THEODORE**

Don't.

**NICHOLAS**

He has to die.

**THEODORE**

It's not right.

**NICHOLAS**

Right? It's justice!

**THEODORE**

It's revenge.

**NICHOLAS**

Revenge is the same justice, just  
with less red tape.

**THEODORE**

Nick, you're not the one playing  
God. If you kill him, we all loose.

(beat)

Trust me.

Nicholas looks at Harmon, then back at Theo.

**NICHOLAS**

How can you be so calm with the man  
who murdered Avi right here?

**THEODORE**

Killing him ourselves, it's not the way to... prove anything.

**NICHOLAS**

Your mercy is a weakness.

**THEODORE**

It's the only way, please understand...

**NICHOLAS**

I don't need to understand. You're wrong, this time things go my way.

Nicholas turns his attention back to Harmon, raising his hand, preparing the final blow.

A telekinetic blast hits him. Sending him into the concrete.

Nicholas angrily gets up. His face furious with emotion.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

So this is how it's going to be huh?

**THEODORE**

I wont let you kill him Nick.

**NICHOLAS**

Fuck you Theo, it's not your decision to make!

Nicholas jumps towards Theo his arm cocked ready to strike.

Theo stops him in mid air. Nicholas' face and Theo's face are inches away. Nicholas in a state of perpetual rage and Theo in a state of unrelenting control. Nicholas' eyes begin to emit a brilliant electric blue aura.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

This... again?

**THEODORE**

This can't happen, Nick.

**NICHOLAS**

You... coward.

He spits on Theo's face.

Theo's composure leaves him as he wipes off his face.

He grabs Nicholas' head and slams him into the concrete.

**THEODORE**

You have no clue what's at stake!

Nicholas gets up and lunges but Theo stops him in mid air.

He backhands Nicholas' face.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Stop thinking about yourself!

Theo slams his fist into Nicholas' chest, and allows him to fall to the ground.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

You are nowhere near my level!

Nicholas scrambles to his feet and throws a punch at Theo.

Theo effortlessly catches it. Nicholas throws his other fist. It's also caught with ease.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

ENOUGH!

Theo releases Nicholas' fists and begins laying punches into him as if he were a heavy bag. Nicholas can no longer fight the pain and collapses.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

That man might have taken Avi's life, but I will not allow him to ruin yours. You think Avi would have wanted that? You think Avi would have wanted you to throw your life away!?

The beating seems to have given Nicholas some clarity.

**NICHOLAS**

(gasping for air)

Why are you such an authority on Avi... I was his son too...

**THEODORE**

You would have done the same to me moments ago if Conrad hadn't stepped in.

**NICHOLAS**

Avi deserves justice.. I can fix this...

**THEODORE**

Avi is gone Nick... and you're right, Avi deserves justice, not reckless vengeance.

These words seem to calm Nicholas, as if he understands exactly what Theo means. He looks at the bloody pulp of a mess that is detective Harmon. Shame overtakes his face.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

You think Deborah and Conrad want to visit you in prison? To know their friend is a murderer?

Nicholas looks away from Harmon, ashamed and appalled.

**NICHOLAS**

I'm not like him... Avi... he wouldn't kill him.

Theo grabs Nicholas by the shoulders and helps him to his feet.

**THEODORE**

These powers... they make it easier to make the wrong choices.

Nicholas nods.

**NICHOLAS**

God... I was so close... to becoming like him... it was like I was being shown the way...

A gurgling sound comes from Harmon as he tries to clear blood from his throat.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

So what now?

**THEODORE**

Conrad and Deborah are waiting for you at your apartment. I think you need to smooth things out with them, especially Deborah.

Nicholas nods.

**NICHOLAS**

What are you going to do?

Theo looks down at Harmon.

**THEODORE**

I need a moment with him, I'll bring him to Deborah soon.

Nicholas looks surprised.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Trust me.

**NICHOLAS**

I do.

**THEODORE**

Go home, I'll be there soon.

Nicholas nods, turns towards his car, but stops.

**NICHOLAS**

How you getting back?

**THEODORE**

I'll manage.

Nicholas gets into his car, and drives off.

Theo walks towards Harmon and kneels down to his level. He is struggling to breath.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Detective? Detective!

Harmon stirs and comes to.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

Why?

**HARMON**

Following... orders...

**THEODORE**

Orders?

**HARMON**

No choice... had no choice...

**THEODORE**

Who gives the orders, who told you to do it?

**THE DEVIL (O.C.)**

Yes, who indeed?

Harmon's eyes grow wild with fear, Theo spins around.

**HARMON**

Oh God... God save me...

**THE DEVIL**

I think you're beyond that now.

**THEODORE**

You?

**HARMON**

Let my father go... please...

**THE DEVIL**

But you failed Harmon. Nicholas hasn't turned, and this one is still breathing.

**HARMON**

I'm begging you, let him go...

**THE DEVIL**

No.

Harmon begins to sob. He grabs a pistol hidden on his ankle, and points the gun at Theo. Theo is caught off guard.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

It's too late even for that, there's only one way you can be with him now.

Theo looks at the Devil then back to Harmon.

**THEODORE**

Detective! No don't!

**HARMON**

I'm sorry.

He puts the pistol in his mouth and pulls the trigger. The back of Harmon's head blasts out in a bloody explosion.

Theo's jaw drops, he shakes with disbelief.

We hear the Devil taking in a deep BREATHE through his nose. Theo turns to see the Devil inhaling, eyes closed, smiling.

**THE DEVIL**

Home at last.

**THEODORE**

There are no words that can even come close to describing you.

**THE DEVIL**

And yet they always try.

Theo shakes off his shock and faces the Devil, anger is visibly building within him.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

It is only humane to put down a pet when it's injured.

**THEODORE**

You were behind Avi's death?

**THE DEVIL**

Boy, I am behind everything and I have influence over everyone.

**THEODORE**

Not us.

**THE DEVIL**

No? You're fortunate you're further along than Nicholas is, he'd have killed you both if you weren't.

**THEODORE**

No...

**THE DEVIL**

Like Harmon killed Avi.

**THEODORE**

Avi... you told me...

**THE DEVIL**

I told you what was necessary to get things to unfold as they have.

Theo's muscles tighten. He makes a fist in both hands.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

It's fascinating how naive you human's can be. That in a world full of such evil you still think good can triumph, or that God even cares about you.

Theo's anger visibly grows, his fists tighten.

**THEODORE**

Why Avi?

**THE DEVIL**

(laughing)

A good man?

**(MORE)**

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

A man who takes two orphan boys under his wing and fosters them into greatness? Not in my world boy.

**THEODORE**

That's why you killed him!? Because of us!? Because of me!?

All of the street lights go out. The darkness is pitch black except for Theo, shrouded in a pulsating, growing, brilliant blue light.

Feeding off the power within him, Theo grinds his teeth, his muscles bulge, and the street begins to shake. He closes his eyes. Pieces of earth, dust, and rocks begin to levitate. The earth begins to RUMBLE. The Devil, for the first time ever, shows signs of surprise and fear. He takes a single step backward.

**THE DEVIL**

I... I know this power...

Theo suddenly looks straight at the Devil.

A telekinetic blast SHRIEKS through the darkness hitting the Devil in the chest dropping him to his knees. The Devil recoils and grabs at his chest. He coughs up few drops of a thick dark blue blood.

The Devil is shocked and overwhelmed. He wipes the blood off his mouth onto his hand and looks at it.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

You filth... how dare you...

Theo's fists clench tighter than ever. His nails tear into his hand and blood sprays through his fingers.

The Devil begins to raise his head.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

I'll torture Avi personally for thi-

Before he can raise his head or finish his sentence Theo connects with an earth shattering blow. His fury only matched by the EXPLOSIVE sound.

The Devil sails into the nearby woods, exploding through small trees like they were nothing. Finally a large tree trunk stops his momentum. He rubs his jaw and looks up to see Theo's glow spreading through the trees toward him.

A telekinetic blast sails towards the devil. He bats it away and it shatters a monstrous tree trunk.

The tree falls and crashes in front of the Devil. He looks at his hand, it trembles with pain. He looks up to see Theo rocketing towards him, his arm cocked ready to strike.

The devil grits his teeth and squints. The blast hits Theo but he continues toward him. The devil can't believe it. Theo unleashes his attack, the devil catches his fist. The sound is like thunder BOOMING. The devils hand begins to SIZZLE and smoke.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

What?! No one can harm me!!

Theo squints and his aura engulfs the devil. The devil releases his hand and staggers backward, rubbing his eyes as if blinded. His exposed skin smoking from the intense aura.

He barely has his eyes open as Theo connects with a tremendous cross, sending the devil again crashing through the trees.

Theo is instantly on top of him and lands a vicious double-handed attack on the Devil's head. The sound just like thunder booming, the explosion of light from the impact turning night into day for a split second.

Theo continues his unrelenting attack, bouncing the Devil through the forest into and through trees.

Each blow sounding like an explosion of thunder, each connecting punch turning night into day.

The devil crashes into the ground. He lays broken in a crater, surrounded by shards of wood and leaves

Theo grabs him by the throat and lifts him up. We see now the Devil is badly beaten with many wounds, all of them bleeding the same dark blue blood.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

I'm impressed boy, you... you...  
surprise even me... I... I... don't  
know what to say...

**THEODORE**

(screaming in fury)

Beg for mercy! For twisting Harmon  
and murdering Avi! For everything  
you've done to this world! For  
betraying Him and forcing this  
power on me!

He strikes the Devil in the gut. The Devil gags and coughs up more blood.

**THE DEVIL**

What makes you think... you were  
talking to God?

(smiling)

Here... am... I...

Theo is surprised.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

Theo... go... fuck... yourself...

The Devil begins to laugh.

Theo slams his fist into the Devils mouth, grabbing his  
tongue.

He releases his grasp on the Devil's neck and uppercuts his  
jaw. The Devil's sharp teeth instantly cut through his tongue  
as the Devil drops to his knees. Blue blood sprays  
everywhere.

**THEODORE**

You use that too much.

The tongue squirming in Theo's hand seems to die a death of  
it's own as it shrivels into ash. Theo's body language is  
much calmer, though its intense blue aura remains.

The Devil gets on all fours and opens his mouth. A bucket of  
coagulated blue blood pours out.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

I think this might be enough.

The Devil is furious but incapacitated. He puts his hand over  
his mouth and reopens it, revealing a fresh tongue.

**THE DEVIL**

Enough? Was this your goal, to beat  
me? Hah! What's changed? Nothing!  
This world will never be free of  
evil, with, or without me.

Theo looks around.

**THEODORE**

He said I'd know when I'd succeed  
and I know I haven't yet. But I  
think I finally know how to...

**THE DEVIL**

How?

Theo smiles, turns, and begins to walk away.

**THE DEVIL (CONT'D)**

I'll get you boy, you can't beat me  
at my own game.

**THEODORE**

You can't kill me. You would if you  
could.

**THE DEVIL**

I will-

Theo spins around, his anger returns to him.

**THEODORE**

You'll what!? Kill me!? Break me!?  
I've ruined your plans here on  
earth, haven't I? So go ahead, stop  
me!

**THE DEVIL**

I am the dark prince you maggot! I  
had this power long before you  
stumbled upon it! I could end  
you're life in an instant if I  
wished it!

Theo hits the Devil with a telekinetic blast, sending him  
crashing into a tree. It showers him with pine needles.

**THEODORE**

(shaking his head)  
You're nothing but a pathetic liar.

Theo turns his back to the Devil and begins to walk away.

**THEODORE (CONT'D)**

I almost feel sorry you.

Theo flies away.

Now by himself, the devil watches him fly away. He easily  
stands up and begins to dust himself off.

He smiles.

The Devil's injuries all quickly heal themselves.

**THE DEVIL**

No boy, I feel sorry for you.

The Devil begins to walk into a seemingly endless darkness.  
Only his eyes remain lit.

**EXT. NICHOLAS' APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

Nicholas' apartment is much cleaner than before.

**SUPERIMPOSE: 6 MONTHS LATER**

Nicholas appears to be concentrating heavily, as if trying to levitate something enormous.

We zoom out to see he's in the middle of a hand of poker with Conrad. They are playing on Theo's large poker table, as it has been crudely glued back together. Conrad has a considerably larger stack of chips.

Deborah and Theo are standing behind Conrad.

On the table are the cards: nine, queen, seven and two.

**DEBORAH**

It's your bet, Nick.

**NICHOLAS**

Yes, Deb, I know, thank you.

**THEODORE**

How the mighty have fallen.

**NICHOLAS**

Well what do you want me to do, Theo? The guy has read every poker book ever written!

**CONRAD**

Play the man, not the cards.

Nicholas looks up at Conrad, annoyed.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

It's still your bet.

Nicholas looks Conrad. Nicholas' chips rise and begin shuffling themselves.

**NICHOLAS**

I'll check.

**CONRAD**

Ha, your duces don't scare me. I'm all in.

Nicholas smiles.

**NICHOLAS**

I've got you this time numbers.

Nick throws two kings on the table, Conrad shows a four and a nine.

**NICHOLAS** (CONT'D)

Oh, you need a miracle, Conney.

Conrad looks unworried.

**CONRAD**

Do it Theo.

The top card on the deck levitates off the stack and falls next to the others; a four.

**NICHOLAS**

Mother-, what the hell are the chances of that!

**CONRAD**

7.5% actually.

Nicholas throws his arms up, and gets up from the table.

**NICHOLAS**

Damn it, I'm getting another drink.

Nicholas walks into the kitchen, Deborah follows him.

Theo sits in Nicholas' chair, Conrad is happily stacking his winnings.

**THEODORE**

(quietly)

When are you going to tell him you can sense the order of the cards when you cut the deck?

Knowing he has been caught cheating, Conrad stops. He looks at Theo and smiles.

**CONRAD**

When I get back to even?

Theo smiles and shakes his head.

**INT. NICHOLAS' APARTMENT/KITCHEN**

Nicholas is popping open a beer bottle when Deborah walks into the room.

**DEBORAH**

Ah, don't take it too hard Nick. I think you are still up in the history of us playing poker.

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, probably.

He takes a drink of his beer.

**DEBORAH**

How are you coming along?

**NICHOLAS**

Not too bad. Theo has been helping me branch out into other areas, especially the mind stuff.

**DEBORAH**

That's not what I meant.

Nicholas sees Deborah's serious expression.

**NICHOLAS**

I'm not going to lie, it's been a bit rough.

Deborah nods. She reaches out and touches a wilting flower, it slowly straightens and brightens in color, until it is alive and vibrant.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

Wow.

**DEBORAH**

I'd say you deserve a second chance but... well... I hate you.

Nick smiles.

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah I hate myself too.

Deborah nods at Nicholas' attempt at apologizing.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

You can't bring... people back, can you?

**DEBORAH**

There's not much to plants, but people, they seem a bit too complicated.

She rubs her hands.

**DEBORAH (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

Plus, even plants take a lot out of me.

He takes another drink of his beer.

**NICHOLAS**

Yeah, I know what you mean.

Nicholas' notices Conrad and Theo talking outside.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D) (CONT'D)**

That stupid four! I totally had him!

**DEBORAH**

Yeah, that was divine intervention.

Deborah turns and walks away. He watches her leave, stunned, as if suddenly realizing a great truth.

**EXT. NICHOLAS' BACKYARD**

Conrad and Theo are looking up at a FULL MOON.

**CONRAD**

So what happens now?

**THEODORE**

What do you mean?

**CONRAD**

It wouldn't be right to waste this gift we have.

Theo continues to look at the moon.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

It would be irresponsible.

**THEODORE**

I'm not entirely sure what the next step is, but what I've done so far hasn't seemed to be enough.

**CONRAD**

What did you do?

Theo pauses for a moment, trying to come up with an answer.

**THEODORE**

Maybe... setting the example is what God wants us to do.

**CONRAD**

One of these days you'll realize that there is no God, and start gaining some self reliance.

Theo smiles.

**THEODORE**

Unlikely.

**DEBORAH (O.C.)**

So I take it we're leaving?

Theo turns to see Deborah and Nicholas walk out.

**THEODORE**

Yeah I guess so.

**NICHOLAS**

Conrad, I'm a little short...

**CONRAD**

Forget it Nick.

Conrad looks at Theo.

**CONRAD (CONT'D)**

We're even.

Theo nods at Conrad's decision not to take his money.

**NICHOLAS**

We still on for boxing tomorrow?

**THEODORE**

You know it.

**NICHOLAS**

Ok, I'll see ya then.

They shake hands.

**NICHOLAS (CONT'D)**

You want your table back?

**THEODORE**

Nah, I don't use it much anymore,  
keep it.

Nicholas looks through a window at the reassembled table.

**NICHOLAS**

Gee, thanks.

Conrad and Theo start to walk away. Deborah gives Nick a hug.

**DEBORAH**

Thanks for having us, we'll see you  
soon.

Deborah runs after Conrad and Theo. They get in a car and drive away.

Nicholas watches them drive off. Once they're gone he looks down at his hands.

#### **NICHOLAS' APARTMENT**

Nicholas enters looking downwards, closing the door behind him. He looks up and stops in mid step.

The Devil sits in front of him, his legs crossed, smiling a friendly smile and twirling a king of hearts through his fingers.

The silence continues as they stare at each other, Nicholas not moving from the door, the Devil not moving from his position in the chair. Nicholas squints.

#### **NICHOLAS**

Who are...

The Devil snaps the card to a halt, and raises his palm motioning for him to stop talking.

#### **THE DEVIL**

I think you'll want to sit down for this.

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

GREY GENESIS