

COLD OPEN

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - DAY

KATHY (23) is lying in bed. She is already awake, giddy with excitement, as she looks straight up at her ceiling which is decorated with heavenly clouds. The ALARM goes off.

KATHY
(enthusiastically)
Good morning, Alarm Clock!

BEGIN MONTAGE

- Kathy gets out of bed and slips on fuzzy pink slippers.
- Kathy sings a Christian rock song in the shower.
- Kathy flosses in front of the bathroom mirror.
- Kathy lays out a matronly dress and a pink cardigan.
- Kathy counts strokes as she brushes her hair.
- C.U. on Kathy straightening her cross.

END MONTAGE

EXT. KATHY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Kathy opens the door to her white 2014 TOYOTA PRIUS. She waves to a NEIGHBOR.

KATHY
Good morning!

NEIGHBOR
(in Spanish with
subtitles)
Who is that?

KATHY
(not understanding)
Thank you! You too!

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Kathy is driving and cheerfully listening to news radio.

RADIO (V.O.)
... shipments of the Coronavirus vaccine
make their way to Africa with assistance
from Christian missionaries.

Kathy is pleased to hear this news and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

While many are grateful for the medical aid, others are critical of the church's mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some attribute the third wave of cases--

Kathy strains hold her smile and she switches to a Christian rock song.

Extreme C.U. on a mini picture frame hanging off the rearview mirror. It's an autographed photo of a Christian rock star named "PETER".

Kathy sings along as she pulls into:

EXT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

We see a bright, light brown cathedral with a large outdoor sign with changeable letters that reads:

WELCOME TO SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH

FRI 7PM - BINGO

SAT 11AM - BIBLE STUDY

SAT 1PM - SPANISH SERVICE

SUN 11AM - REAL SERVICE

Kathy unlocks the door and hauls an ice chest behind her.

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Kathy sets up for bible study: she unfolds the table, lays out snacks, and sets up the chairs in a circle.

She steps to the back of the room to take in all her hard work: the room is set perfectly. She wipes her sweat, lets out a sigh of accomplishment, and looks at her watch.

KATHY

With 2 hours to spare!

We see Kathy standing alone in the big, empty rec room.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. SKID ROW - DAY

A VAGABOND awakes and shields his eyes from a beam of light.
A MYSTERIOUS MAN (30s, Black) emerges from the light, naked.

VAGABOND

I would ask 'how's it hanging,' but I
can see it's perfectly symmetrical...

The Mysterious Man walks past the Vagabond.

VAGABOND (CONT'D)

Wait, I think I got an extra pair of
shorts or something.

The Vagabond shuffles through his things.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

(apathetically)

My appearance makes you uncomfortable.

VAGABOND

Hey man, I think you look great. But
some of them messenger bag folks don't
take too kindly to naked Black dudes.

The Vagabond looks up and the Man is now wearing white shorts

VAGABOND (CONT'D)

Where'd you find those fresh undies?!
What I wouldn't give for a fresh pair of
Jockeys that haven't been farted in!

The Man produces a second pair and hands it to the Vagabond.

VAGABOND (CONT'D)

Whoa! You're like a human Macy's
catalogue! So what's your story?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

I am going to Saint Cumberbatch Church.

VAGABOND

Shoot, everyone there is uppity and
stingy with spare change. You want some
real change? Go to the farmer's market!

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Tell me what kind of change you desire.

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

VAGABOND
(joking)
Can you spare \$5?

The Man produces a \$5 bill and gives it to the Vagabond.

VAGABOND (CONT'D)
Can I have \$100?

The Man produces a \$100 bill.

VAGABOND (CONT'D)
W-what's the catch? You making a TikTok
or something? What do you want from me?

MYSTERIOUS MAN
I want nothing from you. It is everyone
that wants something from me. So tell me
what kind of change do you desire.

VAGABOND
(sincerely)
What I really want... is to go home.

The Mysterious Man puts his hand on the Vagabond's shoulder.

FADE TO WHITE:

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Kathy walks around with a sign-in sheet. OMAR (19, Hispanic) is helping his grandmother, ROSA (late 60s, Hispanic), to her seat. LARRY (43) is helping himself to cookies and punch.

The Mysterious Man walks in, now donning a white linen outfit. Kathy rushes to him with a welcoming smile.

KATHY
You look like a new face; are you here
for bible study?

MYSTERIOUS MAN
This is a house of worship... I've come
to observe you worship.

KATHY
Yes, this is Saint Cumberbatch Church.
Our group is non-denominational, so we
welcome everyone!
(under her breath)
Except Jews.
(normal voice)
I'm Kathy, leader of the bible study
group!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kathy extends her hand. The Man doesn't even look at it.

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Hello Kathy... I will take a seat now.

The Man walks to the chairs.

KATHY

Help yourself to some snacks and--

In the background, Larry sips the punch, winces, and spits it back into the bowl.

LARRY

Yuck! Sugar-free?!

KATHY

Water from the drinking fountain.

ROSA

(in Spanish with
subtitles)

Disgusting!

JESSY (31, Korean) walks in recording a video in selfie mode.

JESSY

(to phone)

Checking in at St. Cumberbatch for bible
study! Comment with your favorite verse!

Kathy waits patiently for her to finish recording.

KATHY

Hi Jessy, don't forget to sign in!

JESSY

(annoyed)

Do we really need to sign in every week?
You can clearly see I'm here.

KATHY

(awkwardly)

I just figured this gives us a chance to
catch up! How are you... girl?

JESSY

(as she signs in)

Gooood, thaaaanks. There. All caught up!

Jessy sits down next to Larry. He offers her a cookie. She ignores him and moves to the seat next to the Mysterious Man. She takes a photo of the Man and captions it "Old Testament Much? #BibleStudy #Cosplay #BlackJesus!"

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED: (2)

OMAR

Are we gonna get started soon? Gramma has to leave by 12:30!

KATHY

We'll begin shortly. Just wanted to give any other newcomers a chance to show up.

Time slows down as the door opens. PETER (27) glides in like a rock star, complete with smoke and lights. Kathy is enraptured. Jessy takes a photo. Rosa claps her hands. The Mysterious Man even doesn't look. Peter plays with his hair as he walks up to Kathy.

PETER

(seductively)

Hope I'm in the right place for bible study. Oh, is that a sign-in sheet? I love sign-in sheets! Keeps everyone accountable.

Peter takes the clipboard and winks at Kathy.

EXT. MAIN STREET IN CARIBOU, MAINE - DAY

The Vagabond is awoken again by the sunlight. He realizes it's very cold and puts on a jacket and the white shorts over his sweatpants. Just then, a POLICE OFFICER approaches him.

POLICE OFFICER

Morning. What you are doing in Caribou?

VAGABOND

Caribou? But I was just in Los Angeles!

POLICE OFFICER

And I was just in high school; at the prime of my life! But here we both are. What's your name, stranger?

VAGABOND

I'm Jeremy Chasen. My father owns the Caribou hardware store.

POLICE OFFICER

Okay, Jeremy, have you been drinking or taking any illegal narcotics? How did you end up asleep in the town square?

VAGABOND

... I have no idea.

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Everyone is seated in a circle: Kathy, Omar, Rosa, Larry, Peter, Jessy, and the Mysterious Man. Peter is holding a plate of cookies and takes a sip of the punch. Omar gags.

KATHY

Good morning everyone. As you can see, we have two new members joining our group. How about we go around the circle and introduce ourselves. I can go first:

My name is Kathy. I graduated from Azusa Pacific College last spring.

INT. KATHY'S KITCHEN - [DAYDREAM]

Kathy is on the set of her own cooking show, wearing a graduation gown. She pulls a tray of cookies out of the oven.

KATHY (V.O.)

My senior year, we raised over \$5,000 for our Easter Bake Sale! Some of you are lucky enough to try a taste of my **best-selling cookie!**

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Kathy looks eagerly at Peter's untouched cookies.

KATHY

Anywho, I moved to LA after I graduated and started this bible study group to find a sense of community, a deeper connection to God, and maybe a husband.

Jessy stifles a giggle as she looks at an unsuspecting Peter.

OMAR

I'm Omar. I study art at ELAC.

EXT. VATICAN PALACE - [DAYDREAM]

It's the 18th century and Omar is dressed as the Pope, kicking back in sunglasses and drinking from a chalice. The King hands him a sack of gold and they bump fists conspiratorially.

OMAR (V.O.)

I don't really believe in the whole God thing anymore; organized religion is just a tool used by governments to control the people. But don't tell Gramma Rosa...

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Omar smiles at Rosa who didn't seem to understand.

OMAR

After my mom died, Gramma took me in and forced me to go to church and translate for her at bible study. But it's cool 'cuz this place has free Wi-Fi.

Larry checks his phone as if he didn't know about the Wi-Fi.

ROSA

(in Spanish with subtitles)

Hello, call me Rosa.

EXT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - [DAYDREAM]

We see the staging of an photograph of Rosa and her family wearing baggy 90s fashion in front of the church.

ROSA (V.O.)

(in Spanish with subtitles)

My family has been part of Saint Cumberbatch for 25 years. Omar and I go to the Spanish service, but we come early for bible study...

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Rosa is now standing and speaks with conviction.

ROSA

(in Spanish with subtitles)

Because your generation is weak in faith and need to be reminded that Jesus is always watching... and so is the Devil!

Kathy, Larry, and Jessy stare blankly and nod politely.

OMAR

Gramma says 'she loves the sense of community of this group.'

PETER

(in Spanish with subtitles)

Nice to meet you, Rosa.

Rosa and Kathy look at each other, impressed.

LARRY

Back to the American-speaking portion of the meeting. I'm Larry...

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EXT. FACTORY - [DAYDREAM]

There is a cheap, cardboard backdrop of a factory like the kind one would see on a daytime children's show. Larry smiles while holding an oversized cardboard wrench. An aluminum robot marches through and takes the wrench from Larry.

LARRY (V.O)

And I'm a factory worker, or at least I **was** 'fore one of Jessy's cousins built a robot to replace me. So I had to sell my great granddad's railroad bonds and retire early in San Marino.

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Larry pretends to wipe a tear.

LARRY

I tell ya, it don't feel right being outta the workforce! Anyway, I'm here to learn God's plan for my life.

Omar rolls his eyes.

PETER

Hello everyone, it's a pleasure to meet you all. You may know me as "Peter: Christian music sensation," But I assure you, I'm just your average Christian.

INT. PETER'S BEDROOM - [DAYDREAM]

Peter is kneeling beside his bed which is decorated with purple silk sheets and neon lights. He is praying to a comically large, golden bible.

PETER (V.O.)

I want to be the best lamb of God I can. That isn't always easy, which is why I think **He** put me in Kathy's way for a reason... You see, I met Kathy after one of my gigs... waiting at my car...

Kathy is outside, pressed up against Peter's window.

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

Which is parked in a secret spot... like really deep; no one would ever have any reason to be **that** deep in a garage...

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Kathy is eating up every word.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PETER

I knew it was because God wanted me to join this group and refortify my faith. *Hey, that's a good name for a song!*

Rosa whispers something disapprovingly to Omar.

JESSY

I'm @Jessy4Jesus.

INT. JESSY'S HOUSE - [DAYDREAM]

We see the POV of Jessy's phone as she is vlogging. There are two small children behind her who wave as they fade away.

JESSY

I'm a homemaker and mother of 2; the boy is 7 and the girl was supposed to save the marriage, but that didn't work out. My ex-husband has them on weekends and I found that getting more involved at St. Benedict was a good way to spend my time apart from my family.

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Jessy was vlogging in the real world as well.

JESSY

By the way, I always follow back because that's what Jesus would do.

KATHY

(to the Mysterious Man)
Would you care to introduce yourself?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

Very well. I know all of you already, but none of you know me. You come here every Sunday to be with me, but I am never here. Some of you pray to me about your problems, while others blame me for them. You now have the opportunity to ask me anything you wish.

Everyone looks confused. Kathy checks her sign-in sheet.

KATHY

I'm sorry, who are you?

MYSTERIOUS MAN

I am the one you call "God."

END OF ACT ONE

"Pilot"

ACT TWO

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

GOD is sitting alone in the circle of chairs.

Kelly and Larry are in the kitchenette. Kelly is dumping the backwashed punch down the drain. Larry is fixated on God.

LARRY

I'm tellin' ya, something ain't right with that boy. He just shows up here and calls himself "God?!" You think this is one of 'em *Punk'd* pranks?

KELLY

Punk'd was cancelled like 10 years ago.

LARRY

They brought it back in 2015 for BET.

KELLY

Did they really?!

LARRY

And again in 2020 for Quibi.

KELLY

Well that's just unnecessary...

Rosa pulls Omar aside for a private conversation by the snack table.

ROSA

(in Spanish with subtitles)

That man is crazy! How dare he take the Lord's name in vain like that!?

OMAR

(in Spanish with subtitles)

Maybe he is, but we can't turn our backs on someone with a delusional disorder. True Christians would show him compassion.

ROSA

(in Spanish with subtitles)

A true Christian wouldn't call himself 'God!' That's a sin!

OMAR

(in Spanish with subtitles)

So what if he's a sinner? Does that mean he doesn't deserve our help?

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

Rosa hugs Omar and kisses his head.

ROSA
(in Spanish with
subtitles)
I'm glad we're on the same page!

Peter and Jessy play on their phones by the door.

JESSY
Are you pretending to be on your phone?

PETER
Yep.

JESSY
Me too.

PETER
Wanna talk about that God guy?

JESSY
Nope.

PETER
Me neither.

KATHY
(to the room)
The punch has been refilled! We can
resume the meeting.

Kathy replaces the punch bowl on the snack table and everyone goes back to their seat.

ROSA
(in Spanish with
subtitles)
I'd like to start off by asking that
gentleman exactly what he meant when he
called himself "God."

LARRY
Actually Rosa, 'fore we do that, I think
we should ask the new guy what he meant
when he called himself "God."

OMAR
God doesn't owe us an explanation; they
can go by whatever name, gender, or
astrological sign that they want. What's
your preferred pronoun, God?

JESSY
Wait, if we're picking new names, I
wanna be Jessie with an "ie."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The group starts to bicker.

PETER

I think we should do whatever Kathy wants to do... Kathy?

The group looks at Kathy expectantly. Kathy is overwhelmed.

GOD

Kathy is overwhelmed. I will answer your questions. I do not have a gender, but I have assumed the form of a human man. If you were to perceive me in my true form, it would flood your mortal six senses and boil your brains.

JESSY

Six senses???

GOD

I also do not have a name. Although, humans have tried to give me one for millenia: God, Jehovah, Yahweh, Yeezus. I care not what you call me; I know when I am being addressed.

ROSA

!Ya güey!

KATHY

Why are you here?

GOD

For 2000 years, billions of humans have yearned for my return, praying for me to solve all of their problems. So I have decided to experience life as a human to see for myself which issues are mine to solve. And then, the yearning can cease.

LARRY

(sardonically)

Heh, is that right, God? You wanna solve our problems? Well then where were you when "kung flu" shut the country down?!

IN UNISON:

JESSY

That's REALLY offensive!

KATHY

We talked about that word!

PETER

Gooood question!

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED: (3)

14.

GOD

I am responsible for all life. From the majestic narwhal, down to the virus you call COVID-19. I do not interfere when a narwhal hunts a fish just like I do not interfere when a virus infects a human host... I **almost** interfered once when a narwhal accidentally pierced a fish with its tusk; he kept trying, but he just... couldn't... reach the fish.

God juts his mouth forward repeatedly, as if he were trying to bite something just out of reach.

OMAR

But hundreds of thousands of people died around the world... mostly the elderly, immunocompromised, and people of color.

GOD

Then the young, healthy, and Albino people could have helped. That issue was not mine to solve.

God stops. For the first time, He shows an emotion. Concern.

GOD (CONT'D)

Apologies. Something is wrong with this human form. I know it to be hunger but this is the first time I have **felt** it. It is distracting. May I have a morsel?

Peter rushes to God with his plate.

PETER

Have one of Kathy's cookies!

GOD

Thank you, Peter.

Jessy records God eating the cookie. Kathy smiles with pride.

GOD (CONT'D)

This is mostly sugar, but it will suffice. The human body was not meant to consume this much sugar at once, you know...

Kathy looks devastated. Jessy posts the video and captions it "#BlackJesus Diet Gospel." She starts a new recording.

JESSY

Speaking of hunger, why do you let so many children starve in Africa?

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED: (4)

LARRY

Or in **America** for that matter?

God looks at the trays of uneaten cookies and snacks.

GOD

Why do you not feed them?

Jessy looks guilty and puts her phone away.

GOD (CONT'D)

That was rhetorical. I know why you do not feed them; you are as concerned with the children in Africa as I am with that narwhal who eventually broke his own tusk just to eat the fish.

ROSA

(in Spanish with subtitles)

How foolish!

GOD

Yes, it was very short-sighted.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The Police Officer is taking a smoke break with a JOURNALIST.

JOURNALIST

So this Jeremy Chasen claims that he was in Los Angeles this morning, met some Black guy wearing nothing but boxers, told him he wants to go home, and somehow teleported all the way to Caribou?

POLICE OFFICER

I know how it sounds, but his psych eval and blood tests came back clean. Except for chlamydia... looooots of chlamydia.

JOURNALIST

How could that happen?

POLICE OFFICER

I mean you or me, we just take some antibiotics; clear it right up. Where's he gonna get antibiotics on the streets?

JOURNALIST

No, I mean travel 3000 miles in 20 minutes.

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

POLICE OFFICER

Oh that... maybe he got beamed?

JOURNALIST

Beamed?

POLICE OFFICER

You know, like a spaceship. "Beam me up, Scotty, ET go home, Get to the choppa!"

The Journalist considers what the Officer just said.

JOURNALIST

... I should see what the LAPD makes of this.

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

God is standing on one of the chairs. Larry is standing behind God holding the back of the chair. Larry quickly pulls the chair back. God loses his balance and hops off the chair.

LARRY

Ah ha! See? If he was really God, he would've floated or something!

OMAR

Really, dude? A witch hunt?

LARRY

Witch hunt; good idea, Omar! Let's set him on fire and see what happens!

GOD

I would advise against that. If anyone should try to harm me, the damage would be inflicted on them instead. It is a safeguard I set up for this mortal body.

PETER

He is rubber, we are glue...

ROSA

(in Spanish with subtitles)

I've had enough of this.

Rosa walks up to God, face-to-face.

ROSA (CONT'D)

(in Spanish with subtitles)

If you're really the all-knowing, all-seeing God, then tell us something about ourselves that nobody else would know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JESSY

I wish Rosa came with Google translate.

GOD

Very well. This shall help us better understand each other.

With the wave of His hand, everyone becomes a polyglot. From now on, we hear Rosa in English.

GOD (CONT'D)

(To Jessy)

You influence people on social media to make up for the fact that you are losing influence over your family.

(To Omar)

You stopped believing in me the day your mother died.

(To Rosa)

You only believe in me to feel superior to other people. I care not who believes in me or not. It does not affect me.

(To Peter)

You are afraid of me because you think I will hate you for being a homosexual. I do not care about your sexuality; it was determined randomly by your hormones.

(To Larry)

You are also afraid that I will punish you for all the awful things you say and do. There will be consequences for your actions, but not mine.

He turns to Kathy.

KATHY

Please don't do me. I already believe you're real.

GOD

Yes, you do. You are the only one here that wants me to be real... but now you are disappointed to learn that I am not some bearded white man watching over you from the pearly gates. I am not the God you pray to. I am the God that everyone warned you about; an unjust God.

God turns to the rest of the room. They are all upset by what they heard and revealed to one another.

GOD (CONT'D)

I am no longer wanted here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

God vanishes from the room. Everyone is stunned.

BEAT.

ROSA
I knew you all lacked faith!

JESSY
(in Spanish with
subtitles)
Rosa, you're speaking English!

ROSA
And you're speaking Spanish!

LARRY
¡Ay Dios mío! I can understand Rosa AND
Jessy!
(in Korean with subtitles)
It's a miracle!

INT. FIRST-CLASS CABIN - DAY

The Journalist is sitting next to CARSON DALY.

JOURNALIST
... I figure if I ask around for any
reports of men wearing magic underpants,
maybe I can find out who this mysterious
teleporting man is.

CARSON
So this kid says he wants to go home and
miraculously wakes up at home? Sounds
like an act of God.

JOURNALIST
What's that now?

CARSON
An act of God. You know, like a prayer
being answered. "*I just wanna go home.*"
That's exactly how I feel whenever I'm
at baggage claim!

JOURNALIST
(laughing)
Classic Carson Daly! So what were you
doing in Maine?

CARSON
I own some property in the area. I
actually own properties and businesses
across the country.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

JOURNALIST

No kidding! How did you get into that?

CARSON

I don't like to talk about it, but I made A LOT of money from TRL. And once you get to a certain level, banks just don't cut it anymore. It's safer to invest.

JOURNALIST

Get outta town... how much?

CARSON

Again, I don't like to talk about it. When people find out, they usually stop liking me.

JOURNALIST

C'mon Carson, I'm a huge fan! TRL, Last Call, the Voice! I go way back!

CARSON

(considering)

Alright, I'll tell you.

Carson whispers into the Journalist's ear. Her smile drops and she picks up a magazine.

JOURNALIST

It's not that much--hey, I just remembered that a friend of mine wrote an article in this month's issue of...

She checks the cover and it's actually a comic book.

JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

Spider-Man. So I'm just gonna...

She buries her face in the comic book. Carson Daly dies a little on the inside.

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Everyone is still sitting around the circle, stunned.

OMAR

I can't believe this... God **is** real! And He doesn't give a damn about us!

ROSA

Watch your language!

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

OMAR

A drunk driver took mom away from us and God did nothing! He's not going to care if I say a few bad words! Damn! Shit! Hell! Titicaca!

ROSA

Ay, caramba!

LARRY

Was that English or Spanish?

JESSY

Everyday, there are people suffering: unable to pay for healthcare, getting evicted from their homes, being shot down in the street... do you know how many GoFundMes I had to share this week?

KATHY

C'mon everybody, let's not let this shake us! Now, I know meeting God wasn't what we had in mind. And I know that he refuted the scripture from which we base every decision of our lives. And I know we're all thinking about switching to oatmeal raisin... but we can't give up on this group! I mean, how reaffirming is it to know that God is real and He is watching us and--

LARRY

He don't care! Listen y'all, if you told me that God was coming down to Earth, I woulda thought he was here to smite us for our sins... well He is here and we ain't smought! So what are we even here for? This is pointless... I'm leaving.

Larry exits and Jessy, Rosa, and Omar follow him. Peter sits next to Kathy and puts his arm around her shoulder.

KATHY

Are you really gay?

PETER

I am. God just outted me which is about as out-of-the-closet as I can come.

KATHY

But you're also a Christian? Or were?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

PETER

I still am a Christian... maybe now more than ever. All my life, I was worried that God would hate me for who I loved. But now that I know he couldn't care less, I'm rethinking things; including what it means to believe in Him.

KATHY

I'm sorry God ruined your gay secret. Can I tell you my gay secret?

Peter looks at Kathy with intrigue.

KATHY (CONT'D)

My college boyfriend was gay. We dated for 3 whole years and I thought we were going to get married after graduation. But right before midterms, he came out to me and I didn't know what to do. My gay secret is that I didn't want him to be gay. I kept telling him I could fix him and I made it all about me. That was pretty messed up, huh?

PETER

It's okay, Kathy.

KATHY

That's not all. I have another gay secret.

PETER

You don't have to keep calling them "gay secrets."

KATHY

I had a big crush on you. I have all your songs on my phone and I listen to them every night before I go to sleep.

PETER

I know, Kathy. Every Christian woman has a crush on me. That's why I'm #1.

KATHY

But I had a crush on you because I thought that maybe if I dated a super Christian guy, then there'd be no chance that he'd be gay. But you're super Christian AND super gay. Now I can't have a crush on you anymore and that bums me out... I guess that's pretty messed up too, huh?

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED: (3)

PETER

Kathy, it's fine.

KATHY

That's not all. My high school prom date was gay too...

PETER

Oh Kathy...

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

God walks around observing families, couples, and cat owners at the market. Some are squeezing fruit and smelling homemade candles. The sun is harsh, so God produces a straw sunhat. An old lady walks by holding a big bag of kettle corn.

GOD

(inhales)

What a temptuous aroma...

God produces a bag of kettle corn. He samples a kernel.

GOD (CONT'D)

Melted refined sugar and curdled cow's milk on steamed corn - that explains it.

God gives the bag of kettle corn to a child running by. He then observes a portly man eating a street hot dog. God produces a street hot dog. He takes a bite.

GOD (CONT'D)

An odd presentation for raccoon flesh...

God sees the portly man spread mustard on his hot dog. God magically spreads mustard out of his fingertip and takes another bite. And then the entire hot dog.

GOD (CONT'D)

(mouthful)

This condiment really makes the raccoon palatable!

INT. OMAR'S CAR - DAY

Omar is driving while Rosa looks at him accusingly.

ROSA

How long? How long have been lying to me and **pretending** to believe?!

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

OMAR

(hesitantly)

After the accident, some kids at school made fun of me for being an orphan. So everyday, I would pray for something to happen: a teacher to overhear, a friend to stick up for me, Angelina Jolie to come adopt me. But it kept happening... so I stopped praying.

ROSA

My little Omar, I know it hasn't been easy growing up without a mother. Still, you turned out to be good man; one that she would be proud of! And you did it without your faith... maybe you don't need it as much as the rest of us.

BEAT.

ROSA (CONT'D)

You don't have to come to church with me anymore.

Omar looks at Rosa wistfully.

OMAR

And miss out on Kathy's overly-sweet sugar cookies? Yeah right!

Rosa smiles proudly.

ROSA

(bitterly)

Now who were those kids that picked on you? I can back you up!

Rosa takes out brass knuckles from her purse.

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

God sees an ICE CREAM VENDOR handing a waffle cone of vanilla ice cream to a little girl. She licks the ice cream and has the most delighted grin. God produces a cone for himself and takes a lick. Another emotion.

GOD

(gleeful)

My Godness! This must be joy that I am feeling! I want to spread it all around.

God looks around at the other patrons.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOD (CONT'D)

Everyone, this is the most wonderful thing I have ever... **tasted**. You all must try it. Please, try!

God waves his hand and everyone magically has an ice cream cone in their hands. They're all confused, especially the Ice Cream Vendor.

GOD (CONT'D)

Try the ice cream! It is, as you say, yummy-yummy.

ICE CREAM VENDOR

(angrily)

Hey!

The Ice Cream Vendor marches over to God.

ICE CREAM VENDOR (CONT'D)

What in the **hell** do you think you're doing?

GOD

I can assure you this ice cream is not of Hell. This is far too cold and calorie-dense for Hell.

ICE CREAM VENDOR

What're you doing handing out free ice cream to everyone?! You're poaching my customers! Who're you with? Dreyer's? Van Leeuwen? What's with the getup?!

GOD

It is a hot day and I wanted to share this refreshing treat with all these weary people.

ICE CREAM VENDOR

Well you just cost me \$200 bucks, asshole. Who's gonna pay for that?!

GOD

You seek money. You don't have much of it which is why you are so miserable.

The Ice Cream Vendor grabs God by the collar. Bystanders take out their phones and start filming.

ICE CREAM VENDOR

You got a smart mouth, don't ya? How 'bout I shut it up?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

25.

GOD

I would not do that if I were you. I
have a safeguard in which any harm--

ICE CREAM VENDOR

I don't care, let this go viral! I'm
sick of you people thinking you can walk
around doing whatever you want!

The Ice Cream Vendor punches God right on the mouth. But
instead of God getting hurt, the Ice Cream vendor ends up
with a swollen, bloody lip.

ICE CREAM VENDOR (CONT'D)

Did everybody see that? You get that on
video? He sucker-punched me! Somebody
call the police!

The crowd stirs with confusion. All eyes are on God.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

Kathy and Peter are cleaning up the room. Peter stacks chairs as Kathy puts her snacks away.

PETER

So are we still going to meet next week?

KATHY

I guess there isn't a point to study this anymore...

Kathy picks up her bible and throws it in the trash can.

KATHY (CONT'D)

... I'll let everyone know.

Kathy checks her phone. There are dozens of notifications. A message from Jessy reads: "#BlackJesus is trending!" Another message from Larry reads: "God is on TRL! Btw, did u kno they brought back TRL?" Kathy opens the link and sees the video of the Vendor punching God and getting hurt in process. Kathy gets a phone call from Omar. She answers on speakerphone.

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - CONTINUOUS

Omar is standing outside of the crowd with Rosa.

OMAR

Kathy, I think you'd better get down to the Civic Center... God is here and so are the cops!

INTERCUT BETWEEN OMAR AND KATHY & PETER.

KATHY

What?! Omar, what's happening?

OMAR

I guess there was a fight between God and some guy so they called the police. God hasn't said a word or moved an inch, but somehow, people are getting hurt.

PETER

...everything we do bounces off of him and sticks to us.

OMAR

Now they're threatening to shoot him but God isn't moving a muscle!

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

PETER

If they try to shoot God, all those cops are gonna get hurt!

KATHY

And then **everyone** is going to get hurt!

OMAR

Things are escalating so fast! You gotta hurry down here, Kathy!

Kathy hangs up and hands the sign-in sheet to Peter.

KATHY

Peter, listen to me. This is very important. I need you to contact the group and tell them to meet back here. Lock these doors and don't let anyone in except for one of us. Also, I'm gonna need to your car keys.

PETER

But you have your own car--

KATHY

I'll explain later, just trust me!

Peter hands his keys to Kathy.

KATHY (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, one more thing.

Kathy goes in for a kiss. Peter stops her.

PETER

Kathy, what are you doing?

KATHY

Oh shoot... I forgot! Uhh, I gotta go!

Kathy gets embarrassed and runs away.

PETER

My car is parked under--

KATHY

I **know** where it's parked!

Kathy exits the church.

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - LATER

Kathy stops her Prius as close to a crowd as possible. She gets out and tries to squeeze through the mob.

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

KATHY

Excuse me! I know him. Black Jesus is a friend of mine.

INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

Carson Daly is sitting in the TRL News Chopper reporting on the scene.

CARSON

Sway, we are circling the scene and it is absolute bedlam down here. You've got a crowd of civilians joining hands and making a circle around the man they are calling "Black Jesus." Police are trying to push their way through, but so far, no progress has been made.

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - CONTINUOUS

A DOPEY COP shoots a tear gas canister into the crowd. The crowd starts to cough and tear up.

CARSON (V.O.)

They've begun firing tear gas into the crowd, which seems unnecessary because witnesses say that Black Jesus and the civilians have been completely peaceful.

The wind blows the gas into God's face, but he is unaffected. Instead, the DOPEY COP starts choking up.

DOPEY COP

(coughing)

They got me! I think it's the 5G!

CARSON (V.O.)

We are now seeing tweets from the police claiming that officers have been hit with rubber bullets, bricks, and shards of glass.

POV of cameraphone: A man in riot gear throwing a glass bottle at God and then grabbing the back of his own head as if he were just hit by a glass bottle.

God is looking at the clash between the angry mob trying to rush at him and the crowd of people creating a human shield to protect him. He sees the tearfully regretful Ice Cream Vendor and the little girl watching from the sidelines eating her kettle corn.

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

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

It doesn't look good out here. I have a feeling things are about to get ugly if someone doesn't come in and de-escalate the situation soon...

Kathy is able to break through the crowd and run to God.

KATHY

(shouting)

Don't shoot! Please don't shoot me!

CARSON (V.O.)

What's this? It looks like someone has made it through the fray. It's a white lady! Hallelujah!

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

The rest of the group watches the scene from their phones.

JESSY

What the hell is she doing?

LARRY

Dammit, Kathy, this isn't the time to pass around a sign-in sheet!

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - CONTINUOUS

Kathy puts her hand on God.

KATHY

God, we gotta get out of here! Can you teleport us somewhere safe?

GOD

You are safe, Kathy. And I am learning so much about the human experience... From up above, I can see, hear, and feel everything all at once; it all culminates into din and numbness. But down here, in one body, one set of eyes and ears, one point-of-view... it is much more painful than I had expected.

KATHY

I'd love to hear more and maybe make a podcast about it someday, but right now we **really** have to get you out of here. I have a car in an underground garage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOD

I will be fine. Remember Kathy, I have a safeguard; any damage that I would take will instead be inflicted on them.

KATHY

(shouting to the crowd)
He's fine! We surrender! Don't shoot us!

The Dopey Cop mounts his rifle on the roof of his truck.

CARSON (V.O.)

The white lady has been identified as Kathy Chambers. She drove in on her white Prius moments ago and now she appears to be acting as a white flag.

KATHY

(to God)
You'll be fine, but hundreds of others **won't** be! Everyone is going to hurt themselves and then each other. Aren't you afraid of what will happen then?

GOD

I cannot feel fear. But if people do not wish to get hurt, then they need only stop hurting others.

KATHY

But you know how humans are, it's in our nature to make confrontations worse... Maybe you could help us fix our nature?

The Dopey Cop sets his sights on God.

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Rosa, Peter, Larry, and Jessy start to pray. Omar joins in.

ROSA

Omar, you're praying again!

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - CONTINUOUS

Kathy spots the Dopey Cop getting ready to shoot. She instinctively leaps in the way to protect God. The Dopey Cop fires the bullet and God freezes time.

POV of helicopter camera: Everything is silent and motionless except for God and Kathy. The outside world fades to white.

"Pilot"

INT. WHITE VOID - CONTINUOUS

God and Kathy are alone in a white void.

KATHY

Oh my God! Oh God! Oh you! What's going on? It's like a Forever 21 fitting room in here. Is this what it's like to die?

God studies Kathy up and down carefully.

GOD

(perplexed)

Kathy... are you also a God? Are you an immortal being that I don't know about?

KATHY

Noooo, I don't think so.

GOD

That bullet is going to hit you. It's going to strike you right through the chest. Why did you leap in its path?

KATHY

(innocently)

I really didn't expect him to shoot me.

GOD

(annoyed)

No, that is not it. That is true, but that is not the reason you did it. I know why you did it, mortal. **I am your creator**; I see and know everything. And if there's one thing I understand now after being among you humans... *Wow, this anger is not going away!*

(angry)

You humans think of yourselves as Gods! That is where your arrogance, selfishness, and entitlement comes from. You risked your life to save mine. Why? Do you think you are stronger than me? You thought he would shoot **me**, but not **you**. Why? Do you think he values your life more than mine?

God starts to glow and grow to an inhuman size. Kathy starts to sink in with a genuine fear of God.

GOD (CONT'D)

You humans think you understand me, understand the world I gifted to you, understand what it means to be a God.

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

KATHY

(frightful)

I'm sorry, God! Forgive me! I didn't know any better... I was just doing what I was taught. You know, from the bible!

GOD

Your bible knows nothing of me, but it got one thing right; I **am** a jealous and vengeful God! And I do not like it when you humans act like you are the same as me! You have strayed too far from the herd!

KATHY

(with humility)

You're right; about me, about all of us. We think we know better than you. We have no one to show us the way. We really need you now...

God shrinks back down. The white void fades back into the real world.

EXT. EAST LA FARMER'S MARKET - CONTINUOUS

God unfreezes the world except for the bullet. The crowd screams and ducks. All the police officers withdraw their guns. God speaks softly but everyone can hear him inside their heads.

GOD

A God deigns itself to walk among you in a deciduous human body and this is how you react. I pity you and would sooner castigate your souls asunder were I not responsible for your insolence.

Everyone drops their guns, clubs, bricks, and other weapons.

DOPEY COP

(God's voice)

I am the reason behind your power...

God makes his rifle disappear.

ICE CREAM VENDOR

(God's voice)

I am the reason behind your ego...

God heals the Vendor's fat lip.

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

CARSON
(God's voice)
I am the reason behind your avarice...

Carson checks his phone and sees the headline: TRL Canceled AGAIN!

EVERYONE
(God's voice)
Because I am in all of you.

GOD
And now I am one of you.

God walks over to Kathy and puts his hands on her shoulder.

POV of helicopter camera: God and Kathy disappear.

DOPEY COP
We got some serious praying to do!

INT. SECRET PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Kathy and God get into Peter's black TESLA MODEL S. Kathy plays one of Peter's songs. It's a cover of "One of Us" by Joan Osborne.

EXT. SECRET PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Kathy drives out of the garage.

CARSON (V.O.)
Earlier today, I met a man, who met
another man, who met another man who
woke up next to God.

EXT. FARMER'S MARKET - CONTINUOUS

Kathy drives past the Farmer's Market crowd cleaning up. Her Prius has been trashed.

CARSON (V.O.)
This man did not want power, fame, or
fortune from God.

The Ice Cream Vendor gives out free ice cream.

CARSON (V.O.) (CONT'D)
This man didn't ask to be a bigger,
stronger, or faster.

INT. PETER'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

God sees a poster featuring a narwhal and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

"Pilot"

CONTINUED:

34.

CARSON (V.O.)
This man simply asked to be shepherded
home. And God obliged.

EXT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

The car pulls into St. Cumberbatch Church. Peter opens the door for Kathy and God. They close the door behind them.

CARSON (V.O.)
This is Carson Daly for TRL... for the
last time.

FADE TO WHITE.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Kathy is lying in bed. She is already awake and she looks like she barely slept. The ALARM goes off.

KATHY
(sluggishly)
I know, Alarm Clock...

BEGIN MONTAGE

- Kathy gets out of bed wearing soiled socks.
- Kathy yawns in the shower.
- Kathy flosses, staring into the distance.
- Kathy lays out a t-shirt and jeans.
- Kathy puts her hair up in a ponytail.
- C.U. on Kathy taking off her cross.

END MONTAGE

EXT. KATHY'S APARTMENT - DAY

As Kathy walks to her car, dozens of REPORTERS wait for her.

KATHY
Good morning!

REPORTER 1
Kathy, how did you meet God?

REPORTER 2
Are you the new messiah?

REPORTER 3
How much money does Carson Daly make?

KATHY
(in Spanish with
subtitles)
Have a nice day!

NEIGHBOR
(in Spanish with
subtitles)
Thank you! You too!

Kathy gets into her still-trashed car and drives off.

"Pilot"

INT. KATHY'S CAR - DAY

Kathy is listening to one of Peter's songs. She switches it to the news radio.

RADIO (V.O.)

The world is left stunned after the confrontation with the mysterious man dubbed 'Black Jesus.' Some call it the third coming, others call a hoax--I'm calling it freaky as hell! I mean time literally stood still! But some people choose **not** to believe...

Kathy listens cheerfully as she pulls into:

EXT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - DAY

We see a large outdoor sign with that reads:

CHURCH SERVICES CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
BINGO WILL PROCEED AS SCHEDULED

INT. SAINT CUMBERBATCH'S CHURCH - CONTINUOUS

Kathy is shocked that God is inside and the room is set up.

KATHY

Good, you're here! Thanks for meeting me on Sunday; I know it's your day to rest.

GOD

I do not require rest. That was Moses' idea. He was... very lazy. Here, have a hot dog.

God gives a hot dog to Kathy.

KATHY

Thanks! You taught me an important lesson yesterday, which made me realize there's a lot more work to be done...

Kathy picks up a bible.

KATHY (CONT'D)

On this! We have to redo the bible!

Kathy takes a bite of the hot dog.

KATHY (CONT'D)

This is good, what's in it?

END OF SHOW

"Pilot"