

JOHN CONSTANTINE

SCREENPLAY BY CHRISTY CHARLES

BEACH FRONT SHACK WITH CHARM

Morning, about eleven am Caribbean light. Clear blue sky, water lapping lazily at the shore. Between the shore and the lush green foliage behind it, is a shack/hut /gazebo. Loud conscious music blares from inside and a girl early thirties makes her way from the inside to stand on the 'balcony' grooving as she rolls up her joint. The piece is Bob Marley's Redemption Song.

Emancipate yourselves from mental  
slavery;  
None but ourselves can free our  
minds.  
Have no fear for atomic energy,  
'Cause none of them can stop the  
time.  
How long shall they kill our  
prophets,  
While we stand aside and look? Ooh!  
Some say it's just a part of it:  
We've got to fulfil de book.

The girl turns to face the door and calls through it. We see her beautiful bum. A true local. She sniffs her joint, licking the end tip.

IYLA

You coming down John?

A muffled groaning sound comes from inside. Girl turns back and continues to grove and sing ...

Won't you help to sing  
These songs of freedom? -  
'Cause all I ever have:  
Redemption songs;  
Redemption songs;  
Redemption songs.

Her stares out towards the sea and does a double take when the thin air shapes into the form of a gorgeous black male, ripping chest and abdominal muscles with a rogue smile smiling lust and desire. The potential for wanton and exquisite satisfaction. She is completely taken in by his smile and physics that she forgets the impossibility of what she just saw actually happening. (We on the other hand know that we are in the company of Satan.)

SATAN

Hello Iyla. (Saying her name like he does is a very personal sensual massage.) Care to share that joint?

He hands her a light as she places the joint to her lips. Her heaving chest and slightly dilated eyes let us know what Satan is doing to her as they speak, even without touching her. As he lights her up an **Ah** escapes her full lips. We see her nipples erect through the fabric of her bikini top and Satan with his free hand caresses one of her breasts. She draws her body to him and he receives her by wrapping his arm around her waist. He takes the joint from her, the tips are wet with her saliva. He looks at the saliva smeared joint and looks back at her lips.

SATAN

Did those lips kiss John this morning? Did they roam all over his body? Did you ....

(he pauses and looks longingly at Iyla's lips)

Iyla's lips open. He has made an adultress of her and she's loving every second of it. She has lost control of her mind just burning with the flame which excites her.

Satan moves close to her.

Let me taste him on you.

He kisses her. And she swoons and passes out. He changes form to the last we saw in Constantine. White man, white suit, lecherous smile. He smells her neck, her chest and licks her hair. Obviously looking for traces of John on her. He starts to make his way down her body to follow a more intense smell when the groan from inside comes again. He drops her and she lands with a thud. Satan takes a huge drag on the joint and laughs. He walks into the shack. **SHOW TIME** The track Redemption song comes to us louder.

**Emancipate yourselves from mental  
slavery;  
None but ourselves can free our  
minds.....**

The inside of the hut is dark is contrast to the bright light of outside. A hammock hangs from two supporting posts and in it a black haired sixtyish old man is half sitting half lying. His face is red. A half finished bottle of rum lies at his feet below the hammock. Satan bends takes the bottle and pours him one from a glass he takes out of thin air. The drunk grins that silly childlike 'you just want to slap some sense into him' grin and takes the glass. Satan pours himself one too and they do cheers.

SATAN

From one spirit to another, huh?

Satan finds his joke funny and laughs aloud while the drunk knocks his back, wipes his mouth on his naked arm, grins then falls back into a drunken stupor. A door opens from a back room. It's Constantine. (Thank God, we were starting to believe that he was this drunk the hammock.)

SATAN

A man should build strong walls to his fortress John. I walk in and murder your soldiers and they don't even put up a fight.

John says nothing.

SATAN

Still the same I see, man of few words. A hello would be nice John. Iyla has lovely lips John they taste like you.

This starts to disturb John because he is not gay and the idea of Satan kissing him, even through a third person gets to him a bit. He swallows and remains silent. Satan seats himself at a table ...

John... you can't hide forever. (He gestures for John to come have a seat with him. Takes another drag on the joint.) Great stuff. Between this and the rum I have them...

(he hesitates and laughs. He shouldn't show his hand too early. John gets interested in what the point Satan is making. Satan cuts his sentence short but John knows.)

JOHN

Blindfolds. That's what they are to them. Great tactic. Its working.

SATAN

(Laughs) Always one to get to the straight to the heart of things huh John. If they think they're making communion (he snears) with God, why should I be the one to disillusion them. We all need our little distractions.)

JOHN

Distractions.... (he somewhat snorts)

SATAN

Iyla...(Pause) nice distraction. Bit

of Paradise you've got yourself here  
John. Eve, Eden... (he gestures  
towards outside. All you need is the  
serpent. (he hisses and laughs)

(John remains silent.)

You need to be tempted John. Like a  
man. The holiday, ah, no the  
sabbatical is over.

JOHN

Listen whatever you've come to say  
say it, and leave.

SATAN

(Making his ass more comfortable  
on the chair)

Are you packed John? Ah I forgot,  
you've always travelled light. Let's  
use up the packing time to have a  
chat. Just you and I. A little  
chat.

JOHN

Speak, then leave.

SATAN

You're not getting it are you John,  
I'm taking you back. We're taking  
you to LA. To be tested and tried  
properly. To fail.

JOHN

I'm not leaving. You are.

John makes to go to the corner of the room where there is a  
bowl of water with a crucifix above it. But he is too slow.  
Satan is up on his feet and points a finger at him.

SATAN

You're too slow for that holy water  
John. By the time you get there  
you'll be begging in LA. You're  
nothing now John. No power, no fame,  
no fortune. A mere mortal. One of  
our finger puppets. Nothing more.  
Nothing less. Between God and I  
you're one of the dispensables. It's  
been agreed between God and myself.  
And when I get you (he laughs a smug  
laugh) heaven falls. You're an  
important man John Constantine, the  
whole of Earth and heaven are on  
those puny shoulders of yours. Can't  
figure out what she sees in you.

(looking at his watch )

Time to go Johnny boy.

(he sings that line in Bob  
Marley's song)

**We've got to fulfill the books.**

He points his finger at John and we know the inevitable will happen. Then he stops.... he listens. He postpones the inevitable for a while.

SATAN

What's that? Did you hear that?

(John listens and we do, but all we hear is the waves outside and the wind. Satan hears something else though and moves to the door. The drunk snores on oblivious and outside Iyla remains in her sexual stupor.)

SATAN (ON HIS WAY OUT)

Keep your hand way from that water  
John or you'll regret it.  
Singing... I don't believe it.  
They're singing. On a day like  
this? They're singing. Well what do  
you know?

A CHURCH FILLED WITH CHILDREN

singing

**I've got a joy joy joy joy down in my heart**

**Where?**

**Down in my heart**

**Where?**

**Down in my heart**

**I've got a joy joy joy joy down in my heart, down in my heart  
to stay?**

**I know the devil doesn't like it but it's down in my heart**

**Where?**

**Down in my heart to stay.**

John sees it too. And smiles.

SATAN

(Mimicking the singing...)

**I know the devil doesn't like it but  
it's own in my heart. Where? Down in  
my heart...** Even got the little boys  
and girls brainwashed against me.  
What can I do? (Faux resignation)  
What can I do huh John? He shakes  
his head. What can ole devil Satan  
do? Let me show them what can I do.

And that's for evoking the name of  
Satan in vain.

He points his finger and a tremor shakes the shack a crack appears along the beach and extends itself into the country beyond the house. It reaches the church where all the the prettily dressed children start to scream as the earthquakes threatens to crack the very pillars of the building.

Satan turns to John who stands powerless yet defiant.

SATAN

Where is your God John? That's what they should be asking themselves.  
Where is the old hag? (he laughs)  
Only turns up to claim souls at death. A good coroner she.

The sound of wind which usually signals the passing of the holy spirit is heard. God alights in the room. She is magnificent. Beautiful and black.

GOD

Not in the house of the lord Satan.  
Anywhere else, but not where my people gather to sing my praise

Satan be still. (She extends her arm and the earthquake stops).

Gentlemen.

With a small movement of her head she motions for them to join her at the table. Satan sashays in ready for the show (or show-down)but John, spell bound and speechless can only stare at her in amazement. He has fallen for her and it shows. Big time. (A bit of revenge there for Angela.) He watches her in unabashed awe and wonder. Never has this man been moved like this. The mask of stoicism is lifted, behind it a man, a boy finally understanding what he needed, what he is being offered. He has never seen anyone so wonderful in his Godforsaken life. And he knows there will never be another. Oh God in heaven's above Constantine is in Love with God herself. And it's love at first sight.

Dragging out a seat in front of God Satan pauses and looks to where God is staring at John. He doesn't like it one little bit. No siree. And it's exactly what got him thrown out of heaven in the first place. Jealously, wanting God all for himself.

SATAN

Look at him. Just look at him.  
Slobbering all over you like an - an animal.

God is openly returning John's adoration. In her eyes he is a mirror to herself. She sees his good and her love flows

7

towards him copiously. Satan watches them and scrapes his chair louder and plonks himself into it like an insolent boy being deliberately rude but really only trying to get her attention focussed on him.

GOD

With all the gentleness existing in the world God turns to Satan.

Have you already forgotten how it was?

(Man if I were Satan under that ever gentle Gaze of love I'd want to die and go right to heaven but Satan plays had to get.)

SATAN

He is going to fall the same way I did. What you forget is

G-G-G-G-GO-Go-G-G...

(he stammers and chocks trying to sat the word God. Can't finish it.)

Dammit. We're males.

(Turning to John who is slowing remembering he has legs which support his weight.)

She doesn't have favorites John ole boy. Treats all her subjects equally so if you're expecting special treatment for the rest of eternity - forget it. Or you'll be bumped out of heaven in disgrace. I think they recorded it somewhere in genesis.

GOD

Lucifer...

SATAN

Don't call me by that name!

It's agony for him to hear his name said so lovingly. Satan doesn't look at her directly. To her left, to her right but never in her eyes. She follows his gaze, but he evades hers.)

GOD

Lucifer.. Our love was wonderful. Mine still is. Have you forgotten Lucifer?

She says that so lovingly that Satan drops his macho act and is putty in her hands. John smiles incredulously and relaxes to watch the play out.

GOD

You're losing Satan. Give up and come home.

SATAN

(he turns sarcastic)  
 And then what? Drink from your well  
 of endless love? All men at your  
 fountain. There may be many men  
 willing to play your game but I not.  
 Man, dear Lady, shall not live by  
 bread alone...

GOD

Still waiting for the exclusivity  
 contract huh Lu? Like all those  
 paradoxes in life Lucifer, when you  
 realize you can't get it you'll  
 realize you've already got it and had  
 it all the time. You've always  
 wanted the toppings Lucifer  
 forgetting the substance.

SATAN

Parables, proverbs, psalms... When  
 will you speak a language that I can  
 understand.

GOD

If you would only look at me Lucifer.

SATAN

(like a grouch)  
 You know damn well I can't.

GOD

When will you stop running from me?  
 When will the prodigal son ever come  
 home?

SATAN

I am not your son.

GOD

(still speaking kindly)  
 Words, they'll be the death of you  
 Lucifer. Attachment to words and  
 forms. Your need for the  
 satisfaction of each of your five  
 senses and then on top of it your  
 mind. (she shakes her head) You will  
 exhaust the world for acclaim and  
 acknowledgement. For position and  
 power. You have such a splendid mind,  
 such a shame to let it go to waste  
 like this.

(dropping her voice a bit)  
 Look Lucifer...

(a glass ball materialises and  
 through it we see the revelation  
 of heaven. God about to take her  
 position on the throne with

Satan as her right hand man  
addressing the multitude on her  
behalf.)  
See all that ... I will give to you  
all the kingdoms of the world if you  
will only follow me.

SATAN

No. Never. I shall never bow to you.  
I will ascend above the heights of  
the clouds; I will be like the most  
High.

GOD

But you will be brought down ....  
Again.

Your games are becoming so silly and  
crazy and not to mention tedious.  
You're like a beast gnawing at a bone  
not realizing the bone is his leg,  
Lucifer. You'll get no peace, no  
satisfaction, just the need and no  
matter how often is is satisfied  
you'll always have the craving. How  
long have we been doing this  
Lucifer? How many more centuries of  
pain do you need? Only your  
salvation can quench your thirst  
Lucifer.

SATAN

(rudely)  
Will there be anything else Madam?

GOD

How you have fallen from heaven, O  
Lucifer, son of the morning!

But you're set in your ways. Set on  
going about this the wrong way.  
Lucifer you're losing your flock  
daily, they're realizing how  
bottomless the well to unsatisfied  
desire can go. They're wisening up  
Lucifer. Give up.

SATAN

I shall make up enormously what I've  
lost. So are you going to send your  
only begotten son.

(sneering at John)

Let the boys fight it out like real  
men.

GOD

I keep on sending him back Lucifer.  
You don't seem to notice.

SATAN

Then why go on?

GOD

Because we're changing people one by one, one mind at a time. And so the flame spreads. Slowly at first but exponentially later. We're almost at later Lucifer. And as for your scare tactics, they've had their day. In fact according to my records they've had the remarkable effect of sending men and women to me in droves. Thank you, its almost embarrassing at times to be called upon with such passion.

SATAN

So why do you complain?

GOD

Because you've changed the game plan Lucifer. You've come full circle.

SATAN

So you've noticed?

GOD

Of course I have. I did say you had a splendid mind. Yet you lack wisdom. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom Lucifer. I think it's about time I teach you what that means Satan.

(She looks at him pointedly)

SATAN

(sacarsm)

Be my guest....

GOD

Lucifer ...

Satan whips up a chess board and it bangs on the table the pieces rattle. His king falls and he picks it up again. It's true his army is reduced but by the looks of things he still has a good fighting chance. God laughs, her laugh is like cristal clinking, the sound of pure happiness a tinge of amusement. John moves a bit closer in to look at the game.

GOD

You and your games Lucifer.

(sighs)

I don't play chess. Do you John?

It's my move.

John from the other side of the room from where he has been taking in the duel comes over to the table on God's side and has a look at the board. His sees a miniature of himself. His eyes open wide when he sees where he sees where he is positioned. He looks at God.

JOHN

No

GOD

Yes John. Please.

JOHN

No. Not again. I'm not the pawn.

SATAN

The game must go on.

GOD

John.

(she looks at him and  
understands)

You go before me.

SATAN

What is he, John the Baptist?

(Snorts something he does very  
well.)

JOHN

(He ignores Satan)

What if I'm captured

GOD

What if you're not captured John?

(John nods..)

I am in need of a right hand man

John.

SATAN

(Satan chuckles.)

More like a left handed man.

JOHN

But I don't want to go back.

GOD

It's not only in my hands John. It's  
in all of ours. In his,

(she looks over at a sneering  
Satan who nods)

in yours, in mine and in theirs

(she points to all the other  
players on the board.)

Now will I'll be seeing you again?

SATAN

Not if I have my way he won't. You'll  
be seeing **me** in hell Johnny boy.

Hell on Earth. My reign.

(turning to God)

So do we have a deal? Are you going  
to play him or keep him under your  
protective embrace.

GOD

That's up to John.

God and John stare at each other while Satan seethes between them.

GOD

(kindly)

So much for the little boy with the ant farm, huh John?

JOHN

(blushing in embarrassment. He raises one shoulder makes an arm gesture...*how could I have known?*)

And we haven't made a pact either John, Lucifer and I. With you poor humans the chips to be shared between ourselves. No, I don't go about whispering in ears giving that extra push into good. In fact John, I make no distinction between good and bad as both have the same potential for ... leading man to the ultimate goal. Knowledge and wisdom

JOHN

I thought that was something you didn't want us to have? What about the tree of life?

GOD

(looking at Satan)

He takes the truth and turns it on its head then others record it that way.

(Satan grins )

That tree John was the tree of ego. You had knowledge as it was already. A pure undiscriminating mind. Till the serpent came along and tricked you and gave you a self - nakedness. An then sold you identities to cover your *nakedness*.

(looking at Satan)

Pure Genius.

(back at John)

John, mount guard over your heart and mind.

(pause, God reminises)

Yet when I saw you then I was disappointed.

JOHN

Disappointed? You banished us from Eden and to a lifetime of suffering, if I recall correctly.

GOD

Mankind has moved on, John. A lot since the begining and so have I.

Even Lucifer has become more sophisticated, turning wickedness into art form. I who like nothing better than walking at dusk to the peaceful song of still waters is forced into showing my hand, forced to play. Again. Another Messiah. Heaven is full of dead Messiahs John.

JOHN

Where are you when you're not walking along the banks of the still waters? Why don't we see enough of you?

GOD

John, I have always been with you, from the beginning of time, till the end of time. You're looking in the wrong places.

JOHN

Where should I look then? In deja vu? Strange coincidences? The mysterious and unexplainable?

GOD

Those can easily be from him as well John. I know... lots of people look for me in signs, most of the time they're not from me.

JOHN

So where are we to look?

GOD

(Takes a quick look at Satan whose interest has suddenly been peaked.)

I can tell you this John. I am a man unto every woman and a woman unto every man. A mother unto every child.

God caresses his cheek and he relaxes.

GOD

Let me have your hands.

She takes her hand and brushes over the matching symbols on his forearms and they disappear. John looks at her. Why? What does that mean?

GOD

(pained expression)

This time John, you must walk this way like a mere mortal John. Are you ready?

She lets her hand drop and John raises his eyes to Satan.

JOHN

(He looks at Satan)

I'll go.

SATAN

About high time too, I was getting a bit tired of playing gooseberry.

Let's go John the Baptist.

(He turns to God who is getting up from the seat... )

See you in LA Madam.

GOD

(cattily and lovingly)

I am always with you Lucifer. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

This makes Satan ballastic and grabs hold of John and drags him out. God smiles and shakes her head as he disappears with John and she starts to tidy the hut. First she tosses the alcohol bottle away, makes the old drunk comfortable in the hammock. He grunts as peace floods his body. God rinses out the glasses makes them disappear. The she heads outside, takes Iyla up into her arms and carries her to the bedroom from where John had stepped out early. She lays her on the bed. Passes her hand over Iyla's face. With this Iyla relaxes and goes into a restful sleep.

THE SKY LINE OF LA

The devil lands with John atop the hospital where Isabel took her life.

SATAN

John, hope you didn't believe a word of that sweet placating nonsense. The ancient hag is done for. And she knows it. Now from one man to another get your balls out from where she hid them. Here's the litmus test. Call her bluff. Jump John. For she loves you so. She'll send her angels to catch you.

JOHN

I have proof enough. (pause)  
Lucifer, I have seen the glory of the Lord.

SATAN

Let's see whether you'll still feel that way when I land your sorry ass poor and lonely in the streets of LA.

JOHN

(with attitude)

For a little love Lucifer, I would go with my head bare and my feet unshod

SATAN  
Don't tempt me John..

JOHN'S VOICE  
I would go through ice..

SATAN  
You're asking for it ...

JOHN  
I would go through the storm

SATAN'  
You're making your bed John...

JOHN'S VOICE  
For a little love Lucifer, I would go  
to the end of the world, Like a man  
who stands at the door and begs.

We hear the devil laugh and he pushes John off the edge.  
John's thrashes about as gravity pulls him certainly down.  
Satan from above suddenly realises what he has done, he's  
sending John to heaven and regretfully causes him to glide  
down to the ground instead. John lands unceremoniously on the  
ground right onto a beggar who pushes him off roughly. It's  
not warm John clad only as we saw him in Eden is shivering.

JOHN  
(shaking his head)  
Nice start.

SATAN  
(calling out from above)  
The second temptation of the son of  
man begins now John.  
(he tosses some small stones  
down)

Hail stones drop on cars and the homeless who are huddled over  
in street corners stare up in disbelief.

Turn those stones into bread. Ha Ha  
Ha Ha

JOHN  
Fucker...

A BEGGAR  
(hearing all that and seeing all  
that..)  
Mary mother of God....

John looks over to the beggar and they make eye contact.  
Beggar smiles his nicotine stained teeth at John and offers  
him a bit of space and warmth under his shreds of cardboard.  
John shakes his spinning head walks on through the hail and  
brimstone.

John walks along the sidewalk trying to keep dry under the shop awnings. Not particularly effective. He huddles his arms around his body, his sleeveless vest not helping much in terms of protection from the cold. Where is he going? Does he know?

JOHN

He mumbles to himself. Chas boy, wish you were here. Could do with a lift.

A yellow taxi pulls up and the driver dives into a side shop cursing the weather. John sees an opportunity not to be missed. He climbs into the back seat and lowers himself. The driver gets back in starts his engine and starts to scout around for clients. His tour takes him into the nightclub area. John from the bottom of the car sees the passing 'landscape' and recognises where he is. Papa Midnite's.

JOHN

Number 36, two blocks ahead.

The driver jumps right off his skin and looks through the rear view mirror as John struggles to rise from his crouched position behind the driver's seat. The driver panics for a split second thinking the lunatic may chop his head off. He brakes and swerves wildly and John struggles to gain his balance.

DRIVER

Get the fuck out of my car you crazy bastard. Are you out of your God damn mind?

Well they have a little confrontation. The driver is more covertly afraid than raging mad though he covers it up with false bravado, slinging every imaginable name he can at John. John is more than happy to grant his wish and vacate the cab. He walks the few steps to Papa Midnite's refuge for half breeds.

Normal entry procedures still apply. The bouncers hold up the card. John looks at it, looks at them. He has no friggin idea what's behind it. We now realize that he is reduced to plain John. No power, no sight. Nothing.

They refuse his entry not giving him a second glance. Dressed as he is they don't recognize him as John. John starts to leave contemplating his next move. One half breed walking briskly out of Papa Midnite's pauses as he passes John. Recognizing John he stops.

HALF BREED

John? We thought you'd left us for good. It's been like three years? Where have you been?

JOHN

Eden.

(He may have lost his powers but

his attitude is still in place.)  
 How are things here these days.  
 Satan getting the upper hand?

HALF BREED

Well without you to control the  
 immigration services... (he laughs).  
 Actually John things are rather  
 quiet. Too quiet. (Looks around to  
 make sure he is not being over  
 heard) I am sure some thing's up.

JOHN

Like what?

HALF BREED

Can't say John. Just a feeling.  
 Things are too natural. The bad ones  
 are (nervously) in limbo so to speak,  
 without a leader. Almost like  
 Satan's deserted them. Can't figure  
 it out myself.

JOHN

Midnight's in?

HALF BREED

As usual in his element. His baby  
 sister has come of age. Quite a  
 gal. No one quite knows what to make  
 of her. Got the bad ones and the  
 good ones wrapped around her little  
 finger. Go have a look.

JOHN

Can't.

HALF BREED

Looking at him strangely, his eyes  
 fall on John's naked forearms. The  
 tattoos are gone.

(cottoning on...)

You've lost it.

(Incredulously!)

And you're not smoking? Jesus.. what  
 happened?

(Skipping a bit.)

Do they know?

JOHN

Not yet.

HALF BREED

Hey John if you want to live don't go  
 in there like this. They'll eat you  
 alive.

JOHN

I have to see Midnite.

HALF BREED

Let me give you some clothes.

JOHN

And maybe some cigarettes to complete the outfit.

INSIDE PAPA MIDNITE'S

John's entry causes a stir. The demon slayer is back. He is dressed as usual. Black trousers, white shirt black tie and in his hands a lit cigarette. The usual parading of tricks stops and John followed by the half breed heads straight for Midnite's private chambers. His 'don't give a shit about any one' attitude of before serves him well now as no one bothers to interrupt him, though they follow his trail with hungry eyes. At one point the half breed has to covertly remind John to smoke which John does and brings on a cough. At that point a clear line of demarcation appears between the good half breeds and bad ones. The good ones look on in sympathy and compassion while the bad one sneer - he's fucking up the third life too. They get to the door of Midnite's private chambers. The door opens before them and Midnite steps out to greet him personally. As they enter his private chamber he shuts the door behind them.

MIDNITE

Midnite makes like he's praying (as in the last time we saw him on screen with John and Chaz) Thanksgiving perhaps.

JOHN

Quit the shit Midnite. I need your help more than I need your prayers.

MIDNIGHT

(finishing his prayer)  
You haven't changed a bit man...

John lets out a shriek and looks down and drops his cigarette butt. He has burnt on his cigarette which he had completely forgotten about. The half breed laughs as John sucks his burnt fingers. Midnite doesn't quite get it.

JOHN

Haven't smoked a cigarette in three years man. Completely forgot they burn down.

MIDNITE

Just hold this a second. What am I missing here John?

JOHN

Mere mortal I am now Midnite.

MIDNITE

(Midnite gives him that long pregnant stare)  
That would explain a lot. What do you

want from me?

JOHN

I need some help till I can figure what the hell **I** am doing here.

Midnite comes over to his side...

MIDNITE

What kind of help?

JOHN

Basic stuff.. food, clothing, shelter...

MIDNITE

You mean protection.

JOHN

I could use some of that too.

A soft knocking at the door.

MIDNITE

Who is it?

FEMALE VOICE

It's me.

MIDNITE

Why are you knocking Aniya?

A black girl comes in. Very impressive face with soft eyes. Can she look more innocent? More gentle, more wise?

ANIYA

I heard Constantine was here?

JOHN

In the flesh.

He turns to her and gives the dry smile he reserves for females. The half breed takes his leave and John remembering his manners thanks him.

HALF BREED

I'll be seeing you John.

JOHN

Thanks a lot. I really appreciate the help.

HALF BREED

Anytime.

(he leaves)

ANIYA

Did you have a nice time in the Caribbean John? (John is taken a

back.)

JOHN  
How do ...?  
(Midnite chuckles)

ANIYA  
In St Lucia? In the shack on the  
beach?  
(she speaks gently, a breeze in  
the curtans)

MIDNITE  
Aniya, stop showing off. She surfs,  
she sees things... my little sister.

JOHN  
Do I know you? Have we met?

ANIYA  
I know you John. You've been walking  
in my dreams for three years now.  
The shadow in the dark. It's really  
nice to... finally meet you. Are you  
spending the night?

John no stranger to the para normal (though he has lost his  
para normal abilities takes this all in good stead.

MIDNITE  
(Shaking his head, this is a  
situation being forced on him)  
Take him down the back entrance  
Aniya. Make sure no body sees him.  
I'll be down after the show.  
( Turning to John laughing)  
Oh how the mighty have fallen John.  
You'll be alright in her hands.  
(He smiles at Aniya who nods.)

JOHN  
Chaz would have loved this.

MIDNITE  
I bet he would.

ANIYA  
Come John hurry. They'll be knocking  
down this door soon to get your  
news. Let's go.

INSIDE PAPA MIDNITE'S APARTMENT

Entering the room..

JOHN  
So you're Papa Midnite's baby sister.

ANIYA

Does it show? Don't know where he got his looks from though.

JOHN

(laughing)

I see he is still playing middle ground.

ANIYA

That's what he wants them to believe. Got to protect his ass.

(turns to look directly at him)

Not everyone is born to look the devil directly in the face John.

John looks at her sideways and half smiles.

JOHN

And you Aniya?

ANIYA

When I'm here I play by Brother Midnite's rules. When I'm not.. I'm good.

Don't look now John.

JOHN

Why?

ANIYA

Because I'm taking off my bra John. Then again its just another day at the beach because you've seen black breasts before haven't you John? Do you miss her?

JOHN

(Shakes his head and smiles)

Is there anything you don't know?

ANIYA

Iyla, lovely name. A distraction... a lovely distraction.

(John starts)

JOHN

Who are you?

She sits down half naked before him.

ANIYA

I am just a form John. A receptacle.

(She takes his hands and he

completely ignores her breasts.)

Alone I am empty. I use my body to hold what the universe has to offer.

I receive John.

John looks into her eyes. They're warm they're soft, they're inviting. He looks deeper and she lets him take in her substance. He cocks his head to the side and she at that moment caresses his face in the same way God had done back in the shack with the back of her hand.

JOHN

You're her, aren't you.

(He smiles and takes her hand.)

Wow...

(He looks deep into her eyes)

You're beautiful. You're wonderful  
and I-I-I

(he pauses, this is an emotion  
he's never experienced in his  
life before and its wretched out  
of him.)

You are beautiful.

John bends his head and lays it on her breast, as they lose eye contact Aniya shuts her eyes and a slow smile spreads across her face. She strokes his head which lies on her chest.

ANIYA

(Pulls John's head up to face  
her.)

John I am only a receptacle. I don't  
presume to be so great. Perhaps a  
part of her but I'm not her. She is  
man onto each woman and woman unto  
every man. That's what Lucifer  
didn't understand. Do you really  
think she'd leave you alone John?  
Without any help?

John draws her to him and they kiss and then they embrace.  
(Man he's done in for. Adam just took flipping the apple from  
Eve not knowing she's Lucifer's messenger.)

ANIYA

(pulling apart)

We've got to go to work. We've got  
to help Chaz.

JOHN

Chaz?

ANIYA

Didn't she tell you?

JOHN

(John is starting to get a bit  
doubtful)

Tell me what?

ANIYA

Chaz is the messenger John.

John gives her an 'I'm lost look'

ANIYA

You don't have a clue what you're up against, do you? Don't worry I'll help you.

She kisses his cheek and moves to her room, leaving the door ajar so John if he wanted could look in. He doesn't he is busy thinking...

JOHN

Where is Chaz?

ANIYA

(She comes out buttoning up her blouse, a doctors robe thrown over her forearm. )

Chaz is in the body of a near death experience. Stuck. With the message. God's plan for how you're to save the world this time. Free mankind from the clutches of Satan. Once and for all. She couldn't tell you in front of Satan. We are going to get him out. Chaz has something very important to tell you John. We need to hear it. Fast.

JOHN

Why are you helping me?

ANIYA

Because she told me to. Lets go.

JOHN

Where to?

ANIYA

(smiling in an innocent cheeky way)

To my office. I do have a day job.

John looks outside. It's witching hour. She leads him outside again an exit which is separate from the club. Flags down a taxi. Taxi driver takes one look at John and with a squeal of tires takes off. John laughs. Seconds later another pulls up and Aniya and John climb in.

HOSPITAL

Aniya walks up to the entrance of the hospital. As she steps in she gets into her kit. She stops an aide and asks...

ANIYA

How's the patient?

AIDE

Rearing and ready to go. He insists that we sign him out. We'll have to

let him go tomorrow Aniya.  
 (turning to John)  
 You must be Doctor Stanley.

ANIYA  
 John this is Janet Wise. Janet John Stanley from the Las Angeles Unit of near death experiences.  
 (they shake hands. John plays his role perfectly)

ANIYA  
 Has he had another...relapse?  
 Anything unusual?

JANET  
 No. Nothing. He was very shaken up after you left so we gave him something to make him sleep. He came out of it an hour ago. No memory of the incident. He is demanding we release him. We'll have to.

ANIYA  
 What do you think?

JANET  
 We'll have to. No medical reason why we should keep him. On top of, this this is beyond my sphere of competence.  
 (she is nervous and a bit afraid)  
 Perhaps you Dr Stanley can help us make sense of this.

ANIYA  
 We'll see him now. Try to persuade him to stay on a bit.

JANET  
 Don't do that. Let him go. If this begins to affect his life he'll seek help. We're not equipped to deal with this. We're doctors Aniya, not exorcists. As far as he is concerned and we are nothing has happened. He had a heart attack, we dissolved the clot, and he can go home.

#### THE PATIENT'S ROOM

On the bed a man sits reading the Financial Times. He lowers it as they enter.

ANIYA  
 Hello James, I've brought someone in to see you. It's John.

JAMES

(he looks across at John then  
lifts the newspaper and  
continues to read.)

I don't know any John who looks like  
he does. Do you think you could get  
them to let me have my mobile phone.

ANIYA

Well that's what got you here in the  
first place James, if you continue  
working so hard you'll just come down  
with another heart attack and the end  
mightn't be so lucky.

JAMES

I feel as fit as a fiddle Doctor.

ANIYA

It amazes us.

(checking his pressure)

We thought we'd lost you when you  
came in but some how you performed a  
miracle. How are you feeling?

JAMES

Like I told you I've never felt  
better. Don't understand it myself.  
First those gripping pains, like an  
elephant on my chest I wake up and  
I'm a new man. You guys are  
brilliant.

ANIYA

James we'll sign you out tomorrow but  
there's something which you should  
know before you go. You had a - how  
do I say it? An unusual experience.  
We'll show you a video of what  
happened. Dr Stanley is from the LA  
Unit for near death experiences, he's  
here to help you. And later if ever  
you wanted to contact him...

JAMES

What are you talking about.

ANIYA

We don't want to worry you James, but  
it would unethical of us not to let  
you know what happened when you were  
out. So to speak.

(She puts in a video and sits on  
his bed side.)

You were officially pronounced dead  
for two minutes and you game back.  
We record all major interventions as  
we can't afford to be sued for  
malpractice.

(the video starts)

The doctors are looking at the monitor the line has gone flat the beeping sound tell us the patient has gone. The patient lies lifeless on the operating table, all colour drained from his face.

ONE DOCTOR (ANIYA)

(speaking to Janet Wise)

Call Paul down in Antarctica, tell him to come get this one.

(he hardly finishes his sentence when..)

The patients body starts to thump and thump on the bed. Like it's having a seizure. He starts to froth at the mouth his muscles jerking he is straining to speak. For a split second the medics stand shocked then move into action and a nurse screams. They try to hold him down.

THE PATIENT

GET HIM OUT OF ME. GET OUT. GET OUT  
FUCKER. GET THE FUCK OUT OF ME. NO  
NO NO. I'M NOT GOING. YOU ARE.

The patient wide eyed and stack staring mad tries to make eye contact with a doctor. Pleading...

Doctor doctor, get him out. Get him out of me. What ever you do get him out.

DOCTOR ANIYA

Don't worry James, it will be alright. Try to relax. We're here.

(she looks up at the monitor.

The man is very much alive)

It is ok. You're doing really well.

At the sound of her restful voice he seems to deflate and fall into sleep only the occasional twitching of his knee let us know he is still alive.

VOICE INSIDE PATIENT (CHAZ'S VOICE)

Get Constantine.

(he look up at Doctor Aniya above him, directly into her eyes and repeats)

Get Constantine.

John reacts like someone walked over his grave. James is shocked putting it mildly.

JAMES

What the fuck is this? What happened there? Who the hell is this guy.

JOHN

James, you're alive because this guy is keeping you alive.

JAMES

No. No No No no no. I don't believe in that kind of crap. I'm a rational guy. I'm a stock broker Man.

JOHN

Looks like someone's just bought some shares in you.

ANIYA

James, you can walk out of here tomorrow, you may never remember this...

(James exhales ... there is mercy in this world)

But..

(he looks sharply back at Aniya)

ANIYA

But in twenty four hours he will leave and find another..

(searching for the right word form so to speak to inhabit. And you will go one to where you were before the mix up happened. When you were on your way out and he on his way in.

JAMES

You mean I am going to die... in 24 hours?

JOHN

You're on borrowed time James. Something happened.. either you hang on too long, or he jumped in too quickly.

JAMES

You mean this thing... I mean had I died, he would be walking around in my skin.

JOHN

But not in the circles you frequent, no one would know. You wouldn't.

JAMES

What kind of fucking game are you playing? You've just given me the scare of my life with that little video of yours, now you tell me I am on my way out in a day. If I had any sense I should sue ....

JOHN

You won't live to file the complaint James.

James takes his head in his hand. This was not the kind of

news he was expecting.

JOHN

James, I am Constantine. The guy he was calling for. I am an exorcist. The guy inside you is my friend, a good guy.

JAMES

And he's just gonna let me die. Well that good, that's really good.

JOHN

How much do you want to live James?

JAMES

What kind of frigging question is this? Let me turn your lights out see how much you'd like it.

(John gives him a rueful smile, if only you knew.)

JOHN

The two of you can coexist. It can happen. Either we pull him out of you and you go or you let him speak through you....

JAMES

Over my dead body.

(shaking his head and acting sarcastic)

No no. I'm not playing host to this ...parasite.

ANIYA

(slowly innunciating each words like she is talking to a retarded child)

What would you give to live John?

JAMES

(sarcastically)

My right hand. How about that.

JOHN

Ok

JAMES

What do you mean OK.

JOHN

(passsing Aniya's ledger and pen to the bedside table near James' right hand.)

Let him write then.

JAMES

(folding his arms accros his

chest.)  
I'd rather die first.

ANIYA

That's exactly what's going to happen James. In fact you should be dead. Sorry for being so brutal but you don't understand, We're trying to find a way to keep you alive. With a stroke like what you suffered James you should not be alive. Am I making this clear. He is keeping you alive. He is your life force. So strangle him at your own loss and peril. I don't know how long this one will stick around for under these hostile conditions. There are people dying everyday James and he could easily get another form. You on the other hand have been given an extra lease on life, if he goes, you go. Think about that.

JAMES

(agitated)

I don't believe in any of this shit. I have a stroke, you guys rush me here, I wake up and you feed me the nonsense that I am occupied, I am a host. When I am out of here I'll get my lawyers down on you guys like a ton of bricks... Look look at me, see anything strange or spooky going on? I'm fine man. I'm fine. Get me my stuff, sign me out. I'm fine.

We hear an tap tap tapping sound of someone tapping his fingers in impatience. It's James' right hand. James looks at it and grabs it trying to get it still. He is pure panic. John goes round to him and lays his hand on James'.

JOHN

It's alright Buddy? I know what you're going through. But this is a good one, if it were the other type you'd probably be walking on the ceiling by now or screaming obscenities in a weird language. Just let him talk to me.

JAMES

Panting, he says he doesn't want to.

JOHN

Why?

James pauses like he is listening to something in his head.

JAMES

He says he's not going to now.

JOHN

Why? Ask him why. Tell him its  
John. John Constantine.

JAMES

He says he knows who the fuck you  
are. But he's not talking now. And  
he is not saying why either.... now  
(panting heavily - this was a  
real strain)  
now leave me alone.

He falls back on the bed his forehead wet with cold sweat.  
Janet wise knocks at the door and enters.

JANET

How is it going?

Aniya is caught and facing mal pracitice.

Janet looks at James lying in a crumpled heap on the bed.  
Looks at Aniya.

JANET

We've seem to have a small situation  
on our hands Doctor, can I talk to  
you out side.

They head out and shut the door. As the door swings shut  
behind them the hand starts to move again. Feeling around on  
the table for something. James is too exhausted to speak or  
move or pull up a fight. The hand searches around on the bed  
stand for pen and paper and finds the Aniya's note pad. It  
begins to scribble fast.

John reads.

**Get away from...** (the hand pauses)

**She is the...** (hand pauses again.)

**The devils whore.**

(John hears the two doctors out  
side.)

JANET

What happened in there? He was fine  
when I saw him last. You're blurring  
the lines between medical  
responsibility and self interest  
Aniya. I want to see you in my office  
with a full report in five minutes.  
Tell Dr Stanley that the seance is  
over.

John hears Janet's footsteps walking away. The hand drops the  
pen and quickly pushes the paper towards John. John pockets  
the paper. Quickly The Hand grabs John's hand at the wrist.  
With his the thumb he makes a cutting movement across the  
palm and presses their palms in together and makes them

vibrate with urgency. Then as if nothing happened The Hand lies motionless on the bed just as the door opens and Aniya comes in.

JANET

We're going to lose both of them  
John. And I'm going to lose my job.

JOHN

I heard her.  
(indicating with his head,  
Janet)  
Give me five minutes here to talk to  
the kid. Then I'll meet you back at  
Midnite's ... at the flat?

She looks at him with those soft gentle eyes but John doesn't return her look. He looks down at James.

ANIYA

What is it John?

JOHN

We're going to lose him.

ANIYA

I'll take the chair later find out  
where he's gone.

JOHN

Alright.  
(still not looking at her)  
You gotta go save your job.

ANIYA

Everything alright John?

JOHN

(running his hand through his  
hair)  
It's been a long day.

Aniya rubs his back and leaves. Soon as she does, he wastes no time searches the room for something sharp. He breaks a drinking glass in a sheet and proceeds to cut a gash in his palm..

JOHN

(shaking his head)  
Man, thought I was done with all  
that. Sorry James.

John cuts James palm, James is so out he feel a thing. The he cuts his own palm. Knowingly inflicting pain on your self hurts like hell, perhaps more. But John grins and bears it. He's our hero isn't he. As the blood starts to run down his wrist he holds onto James bleeding palm and the miracle happens. The room is a glow. As their blood fuse 'Chaz' and all the power behind him flows into John's being. Like the resurrection. John is again powerful, more. A lot more.

He is filled presumably with the Holy Ghost. No mean feat. Anyway.... John opens his eyes to see James lying dead and performs his first miracle

JOHN

( places his hand on James' head  
and commands him out of his  
'sleep')

Get up James.

James sits up. The gash completely healed. No trace of blood. He looks at his hand, his legs, he feels a new man. Like Lazarus waken from the dead. He looks at John who smiles at him 'I got you covered brother'. Aniya chooses that second to come in.

ANIYA

John , I can't leave you alone...

She looks at the scene, James getting dressed to leave, John somewhat majestically transformed and John looks at her.

JOHN

(He strches an arm out in her  
direction)

Get behind me Satan, you are in my  
way.

ANIYA

John....

John removes every trace of her from earth. Turning to James who is frozen his trousers half way up his thighs.

JOHN

Not bad. One birth, one death.  
Balance. See you buddy. Got my work  
cut out for me. Considering the  
circumstances Dr Wise will be more  
than willing to sign your release.

PAPA MIDNITES

The bouncer is about to hold up a card. John holds up his hand.

JOHN

Don't bother, when I'm done here  
you'll be...

(looking at him closely with a  
private smile)

Lovely undies. Love the lace.

The bouncer loses his macho attitude and lets him go past. John enters. The news of his fall from power has spread and the badies are converging on him. One brain eater eating from what seemed a replica of Johns head heads the group. They laugh as demons do. On the other side of the room the goodies converge, their numbers far exceed that on the evil half breeds who number six. John is in the middle. The goodies

open their angel wings and step in front of John making a barrier between him and the demons. John making an opening through their wings comes out...

JOHN

Thank you Guys but I can handle this one....

(with a are you really sure you want to do that attitude he urns to the demons)

I shall teach you to fear the Lord.

The wicked rise to attack but a voice booms down at them. It's Midnite.

MIDNITE

Remember the rules of my house. John I'll see you now.

The wicked sneer. John walks past them unaffected. They enter Midnite's private chamber. An ugly faced not good half breed in there. John turns to him.

JOHN

Get out. Now.

(to Midnite, sarcastically)

Thanks for saving my ass. It's good to know I'm in good hands with you.

MIDNITE

You put me in a compromising situation John. You know I refuse take sides.

JOHN

Bad for business I'm sorry. I need to know whose side you're really on.

(getting straight to the point)

Your sister is the devil's whore Midnite.

MIDNITE

I shall murder you.

He moves towards John but John raises his hand and Midnite stops in his tracks.

JOHN

(pointing two fingers at Midnite, Midnite shakes as if being hit by one thousand bullets from a machine gun.)

God dammit Midnite, do I have to send you to meet her.

MIDNITE

(panting)

I swear to God I didn't know.

(John stops and Midnite gets up

from the floor.)

JOHN

I bought it too. Nice act. Nice sweet innocent Aniya. Sees thing, surfs... swallowed it. Man. Chaz saved my ass there.

MIDNITE

Chaz? What the hell are you talking about man?

JOHN

(proudly)

My new source of power.

MIDNITE

Who told you that?

JOHN

Oh fuck.

MIDNITE

Who's paying your bills buddy boy?

JOHN

A genius. You have to give it to him. Brilliant fucking mind.

MIDNITE

Well he's got yours.

JOHN

Midnite you've got to help me man.

MIDNITE

Again?

JOHN

We gotta get him out.

MIDNITE

Uh uh. No. The answer is no. And no. Not everyone can stare Satan in the face and live John. No.

JOHN

Do it, or you'll find your soul in limbo. Or better yet hell.

(John quotes a scripture passage for John)

Because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth. Here's your chance to save your soul my friend.

MIDNITE

John don't force me.

JOHN

Do it. Do it now, or your soul be  
damned.

Midnite goes about setting up the place for the seance. The preparation requires care, time and consideration. All the voodoo stuff. Exorcisms the black magic way. Smoke, candles, chanting, sweat pouring. Calling Satan himself out of John is not your ordinary exorcism. John lies on the bed..... (ok finish it up yourself because I want to sleep tonight.) Suffice it to say, this is no soldier demon. That thing inside John is the real thing and not even Midnite and all his strength and mutterings and doings can get it out. The whole building shakes. Midnite is killed by Satan. The wicked ones know their boss is in residence and go in to pay homage. The goodies flee the building.

From the mirror on the ceiling Satan holds court.

SATAN

Hear hear hear, You are all of us who  
remain.

I know you are enduring patiently,  
and are bearing patience for my  
name's sake and you have not fainted  
or become exhausted, or grown weary.

I am coming quickly hold fast to what  
you have, so that no one may rob you  
and deprive you of your crown.

There are seven half breeds to each from the mirror above the bed he hands a bowl. John lies in a stupor oblivious to the happenings around him. Satan looks down at John and speaks to his form.

SATAN

I know your record and what you are  
doing. You are supposed to be alive,  
but in reality you are dead.

(Turning to his subjects)

Rouse yourselves and keep awake and  
strengthen and invigorate what  
remains.

(he finishes handing out the  
bowl and each of the seven  
wicked angels look into it in  
turns and smiles)

In the first bowl, fowl and painful ulcers came upon people who were marked with the sign of God. Priests, nuns, believers etc...

Second bowl - The sea turns to blood thick corrupt and foul smelling and every living thing that was in the sea perished. This angel of Satan is loving what he sees in his bowl.

Third - Springs, rivers and all water sources turn to blood.  
The people die. This demon falls to his knees,

**Righteous You are in these your  
decisions and judgements. Because  
they have poured out the blood of  
your people you have given them blood  
to drink, such is their due.**

THE OTHERS CRY OUT TOGETHER  
**Yes Oh Satan the Omnipotent, your  
judgements are true just and  
righteous.**

Forth - the sun is seen to scorch all of humanity with heat.  
The people dry up and burn in the heat. They cry out for  
God? She does nothing and they begin to hate her. This angel  
of satan laughs approving at Satan's cunning.

Fifth bowl - the kingdom of God is in darkness and the people  
blasphem and give up on God. All the wicked demons laugh.

In the sixth bowl a mighty river is dried up and a road is  
being prepared for the king of kings. Workers labour to sift  
gold under the blazing heat to line the road bed which leads  
to a jewelled trown. (expensive gold asphalt) Such is the ego  
of the king.

The seventh demon empties is bowl into the air and the mighty  
voice of Satan booms and fills the room. He walks towards  
thrown. About to sit on it he calls out to his seven subjects  
dressed in robes around the thrown.

SATAN  
IT IS DONE

They roar a chorus of AMENS to lightning flashes, loud  
rumblings, peals of thunder, and a tremendous earthquake. The  
vibrations of which wakes John up. Satan vanishes from the  
mirror above the bed and his angels eyes look down at John who  
comes to with a gang of demons over him in a flaming circle  
singing Satan's praises. Not a pretty sight. One of the evil  
ones steps towards John to put a flaming crown on his head.

HALF BREED WITH THE FLAMING CROWN  
It is finished.

JOHN  
(rising from the bed he sends  
the crown flying)  
It's not finished yet.

John walks out. He walks and as he does darkness follows  
him. Night animals scurry into their holes. Doors of shops  
bang shut and bolt. It's as if by some special sence people  
know that the devil is out and about. Dragging chains and the  
running of hooves replace John's foot steps. Behind him his  
troup of evil half breeds folow their patron. This is not a  
night to be out. Dark clouds cover the moon. John walks from

street light to street light with firm determination. He reaches the ...

CHURCH

The same church where we previously saw John with Gabriel. He stands under a statue of Christ on the cross and looks up at him.

JOHN

We've come a long way since then.

Mary the mother of God smiles at him in her Mona Lisa sort of way. The angels look down at him. John is lost taking in the display of divine non intervention and doesn't notice a figure in the shadows observing him and a woman on his right praying. She continues to prayer and the passion of her prayers draw him out of his reverie he turns... its

GABRIEL

I have sinned, I have done wrong and have dealt wickedly. If I turn to you in the land of my captivity, and praying, facing the land which you gave to their fathers ..

(John is taken aback)

Then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, my prayer and supplications and maintain my cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you.

(John makes to go towards her but stops. Gabriel is praying with passion enough to shake the pillars of the church)

Now Oh my God I beseech you, let Your eyes be opened and your ears attentive to the prayer offered in this temple. Oh Lord God, turn not away the face of your anointed one, remember your good deeds, mercy and steadfast love for Your servant.

Gabriel weeps and John sits himself beside her. She hardly notices his presence, so strong is her repentance. He says...

JOHN

Your iniquity and guilt are taken away, and your sin is completely atoned for and forgiven.

(then he leaves)

GABRIEL

(looking up expecting to see a priest)

John....

JOHN

Gabriel.

GABRIEL

(apologsing)

When swelling and pride come, then  
emptiness and shame come also.

JOHN

(gently)

The unjust knows no shame

GABRIEL

(responding to his understanding  
and searching for a reason for  
this timely coincidence.)

Do two walk together unless they have  
made an appointment and have agreed?

(John says nothing for a while)

JOHN

(as if giving her a piece of a  
puzzle only she can understand  
due to her vast knowlege of the  
bible.)

Time and chance happen to them all.

(Gabriel fills in the rest of  
the scripture understanding  
John's predicament)

GABRIEL

As the fishes are taken in in an evil  
net, and as the birds are caught in a  
snare, so are the son's of men snared  
in an evil time when calamity falls  
suddenly upon them....

(He looks across at her. She  
understands. She reaches for  
his arm)

Oh John...

(he doesn't respond to her just  
turns his head and stares  
ahead. Then he speaks..)

JOHN

For without cause they hid for me  
their net, a pit of destruction they  
dug for my life.

(as he rises, he raises his  
voice)

Let destruction befall my foe  
unawares; let the net he hid for me  
catch him; let him fall into that

very destruction.

John walks purposely to the alter and genuflects. He stands and raises his head to the mosaic ceiling of the church.

I also will laugh at your calamity.  
I will mock when the thing comes that  
will cause you terror and panic.

We hear the flapping of anxious wings trying to escape a cage. A haunted terrified **NOOOOOO** fills the church. The wings flap even harder trying to break open the cage. Focus on the other figure in the shadows for a brief instant. She is calm with a gentle smiling knowing face. John moves towards the receptacle which holds the holy water. The wings are flapping inside his rib cage. It takes all the strength he has to lift his arm and bless himself.....

JOHN

In the name of the father, and of the  
son

(Gabriel comes to stand behind  
him)

and of the holy spirit Amen.

Silence. We hear wings, light wings, soft gentle wings. All the candles light up. The angels on the wall, mother Mary, Jesus all change their expression to one of a happy and joyous welcome. A choir of angels sing Hallelujah!

God alights.

GOD

Thank you John you have captured the  
king.

Whoever leads into captiity will  
himself go into captivity. If any  
one slays with the sword with the  
sword he must be slain.

Welcome home Lucifer. You know now to  
fear the Lord.

God undoes John's shirt and runs her hand over his stomach. Something small moves there. We see the outline of a small foot, a hand perhaps. God caresses it.

GOD

This is my son, my Beloved in whom I  
delight.

GOD

John, you shall writhe in pain and  
labour to bring forth. Take my yoke  
upon you.

Pain envelopes John whose abdomen cramps and he is doubled

over in pain. The baby starts to move upwards and the John is splitting up inside. He moans, he groans. Expanding his oesophagus beyond natural stretch his animal scream is choked. He can hardly breathe, he falls back onto the floor, God has mercy and takes on his pain. She kneels over and straddles him, her pelvis very close to his face, her hand on John's head her head raised in the pain and agony of childbirth. God writhes and cries while John's mouth stretches beyond imaginable widths to reveal the head of the baby. God's entire body contracts and she gives an animal roar and the baby falls out from John unto her waiting thighs, into her waiting arms under her loving gaze.

John opens his eyes sees the baby and is seized by a need to retch, out comes the after birth. God smiles down at him. Wipes his face with the hem of her dress.

GOD  
 (to John, smiling... panting)  
 It is finished.  
 (turning to Gabriel)  
 Gabriel, the water.

Gabriel brings the tub out of the holy water stand and lays it before God next to where John lies still straddled by God. God holds the baby over the receptacle with holy water.

GOD  
 (kindly like she is speaking to  
 a child)  
 Wash me throughly from my iniquity  
 and guilt and cleanse me and make me  
 wholly pure from my sin.

She submerges the baby totally in the holy water, she lifts it up and standing steps over John who rises to a sitting position, exhausted, bloody and shaken. The baby cooes. God undoes her tunic and puts the baby to her breast. She smiles her mother earth smile closes her eyes and her milk flows into her new baby's mouth.

GABRIEL  
 (falling to her knees)  
 Father I have sinned against heaven  
 and in your sight. I am no longer  
 worthy to be called your son.

God opens her eyes, looks at Gabriel and bids him to stand, he extends his arm and from the blessed air he pulls out a fine (yet simple)robe. God clothes Gabriel, puts a ring on Gabriel's finger and sandals on Gabriel's feet. Last he gives him wings. Gabriel is overcome. God then looks at John.

GOD  
 Now John, may the God who gives the  
 power of patient endurance, and who  
 supplies encouragement grant you to  
 live in such mutual harmony and full  
 sympathy with one another.

John is at first puzzled, trying to decipher her meaning. God lifts her beautiful head and looks to the back of the church where on one bench someone is rising. John rises and follows God's Gaze. It is dark there, John makes out a shape of a female moving along the pew. He sees only her side profile.

GOD

She is your companion, your wife,  
your helper.

That together you may with united  
hearts and one voice praise and  
glorify the God.

Go in peace John, to love and serve.

Gabriel, God and Lucider ascend and John walks towards the figure who is half in the light. She, we suppose is the human incarnation of God herself.

THE END

CREDITS GO UP TO BOB MARLEY'S REDEMPTION SONG.

Emancipate yourselves from mental  
slavery;  
None but ourselves can free our mind.  
Wo! Have no fear for atomic energy,  
'Cause none of them-a can-a stop-a  
the time.  
How long shall they kill our  
prophets,  
While we stand aside and look?  
Yes, some say it's just a part of it:  
We've got to fulfil de book.  
Won't you help to sing  
Dese songs of freedom? -  
'Cause all I ever had:  
Redemption songs -  
All I ever had:  
Redemption songs:  
These songs of freedom,  
Songs of freedom.