# Missionaries

Ву

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Based on the short story "Missionaries" by Bradford Tice

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EXT - ROAD - DAY

A remote desolate road in the deep south in summer.

TWO CYCLISTS are pedaling their bikes down this road; the image blurred by the sweltering heat flowing across like a river.

### CREDITS BEGIN

They are CASE RISELER and JOSEPH KNOX, both 19 years old. Together they're Elders in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. And their "mission", so to speak, is to convert as many followers into the church as they can using their copies of the Book of Mormon, their salesmanship skills, and persuasive charm.

Case is the seasoned veteran of the duo, having been out in the field over a year. He has a natural ability to grab people, and a powerful drive and dedication that will carry him high up the church ranks. Joseph, younger than Case by two months, is a rookie training under Case's wing. He's the polar opposite of Case: sullen, withdrawn, and as Case often puts it, "confused".

MONTAGE - CASE AND JOSEPH

### CREDITS CONTINUE

- --riding through a residential neighborhood
- --several doors getting slammed in their faces
- --a barking dog chasing them out of a front yard
- --more doors getting slammed in their faces

## INT - FAMILY HOME - DAY

A MOTHER, FATHER, TEENAGE SON and DAUGHTER flee from the living room, through the kitchen, out the back door and into a tool shed in the back yard to hide as Case and Joseph make their way to the front door.

# CREDITS CONTINUE

EXT - ROAD - DAY

Case and Joseph continue riding down the remote road.

They stop for a moment along the side of the road. Case pulls out a map from his backpack and checks it while Joseph looks on.

They look up and see an old, weatherbeaten sign on a rotted, chain-link fence reading AVIS MARBLE CO. TRUCK ENTRANCE with a road going off to the side.

Case smiles, puts the map away, pats Joseph on the shoulder and heads for the road. Joseph, exhausted and drenched with sweat, rolls his eyes and follows.

CREDITS CONTINUE

EXT - MARBLE QUARRY - DAY

CREDITS END

Hidden among the tall weeds and kudzu are the remains of a marble quarry, looking like a lost city in a jungle.

Underneath one of the structures still standing is an old VAN that probably hasn't seen the road in years.

Sitting inside the van, both back doors gone, among the clutter of old blankets and clothes, reading a paperback book is CLAUDE, a bare-chested, pot-bellied old vagabond in his late 50's or early 60's, with long, grizzled gray hair and a thick gray beard.

Claude looks up from his book and notices something coming in the distance. He takes out a pair of binoculars for a closer look.

POV - CLAUDE - BINOCULARS

Case and Joseph approaching like two cowboys on horseback.

Claude notices the clothes they're wearing--white dress shirts, black ties, black pants, black shoes with white socks--and he immediately makes them out to be Mormons out to try and sell the Lord to him.

He rolls his eyes thinking "Why me?" and goes back to his book.

Case and Joseph arrive at the van.

CONTINUED: 3.

CASE

(enthusiastically)

Morning!

CLAUDE

(still reading)

The pit's over there if that's what you came for.

His left thumb points in the direction of the pit.

CASE

Well, sir. We did come for a swim. But that's not all.

They get off their bikes and take off their helmets. Case stretches. Joseph squats down on the gravel and tall grass. Claude puts down his book and slides his butt out of the van and onto the back bumper.

Suddenly, a wave of foul odor from inside the van hits Joseph. He quickly reacts by picking a nearby dandelion and holding it up to his nose to thwart off the smell.

Case immediately goes into his preaching mode.

CASE (CONT'D)

We're here to help you.

He outstretches his hand. Claude grabs it suspiciously and shakes it, never taking his eye off him.

CASE (CONT'D)

My name is Case Riseler, and this is my good friend Joseph Knox. And you are, sir?

CLAUDE

(mumbling)

Claude.

Case begins his sales pitch, sounding like a televangelist from one of those TV gospel shows.

CASE

Well, Claude. Seems like you got a nice thing going on here, living in your van and all.

He looks out toward the quarry, shielding his eyes from the sun.

CONTINUED: 4.

CASE (CONT'D)

No neighbors to bother you. Nice view. But it's not what God has got planned for you.

He turns to Joseph.

CASE (CONT'D)

Elder Joseph, what does God have planned for old Claude here?

Case coaxes Joseph with his hands. He hesitates for a moment. His salesmanship skills haven't been sharpened yet. But Case is working on it.

JOSEPH

He's got a condo set aside for you in heaven.

CASE

(back to Claude)

That's right, Claude. You ever been inside a condo?

Claude looks at Case like he's got a real live one here. Case just grins and scratches his armpits.

CASE (CONT'D)

And that's not all. He offers you salvation. And a principality in His kingdom.

He looks around at the mess inside Claude's van and shakes his head pitifully.

CASE (CONT'D)

Which sure beats the living arrangements you have now.

Claude takes out a small plastic bag with some grassy substance inside and a pack of rolling papers from his pants pocket. He begins to roll a joint.

Case heads over to have a closer look at the quarry pit. Joseph follows.

He stands at the edge of the pit and looks down.

POV - CASE - QUARRY PIT

It's at least a fifty foot drop into the water below.

CASE

(to himself)

Yeah.

Joseph comes up from behind Case and puts his hand on his shoulder.

JOSEPH

Look, Case, I don't think you should do this. Besides it's against the rules. You don't know what's down there.

CASE

(waving him off)

Ah, you're such a lamb, Joseph. My mother's got more backbone than you.

JOSEPH

I'm just saying don't be an idiot, that's all.

CASE

Won't deny that.

Case starts stripping off his clothes. He shouts back to Claude.

CASE (CONT'D)

Hey, Claude! You ever jump from here?

He looks back and sees Claude rolling his joint.

CASE (CONT'D)

You know, Claude, God doesn't like for you to do drugs to get rid of loneliness.

Claude holds up his finished joint.

CLAUDE

Want a hit?

Case walks back to the van. He steps carefully over the gravel and bits of broken glass with his bare feet.

CONTINUED: 6.

CASE

Well, it seems like the only Christian thing to do.

Suddenly, his bare foot stumbles on something.

CASE (CONT'D)

Ow, shoot!

He raises his foot and picks out a thorn from his heel.

He reaches the van. Claude lights the joint with a match. He takes a hit for himself and passes it to Case.

CASE (CONT'D)

(taking the joint)

You're a sad man, Claude. Why, it's divine intervention that we came when we did.

He turns to Joseph standing behind him.

CASE (CONT'D)

Isn't it, Joseph?

JOSEPH

Yeah, Case.

Case takes a hit of the joint. He holds the smoke in and passes it back to Claude. Claude then offers it to Joseph. But he shakes his head and shyly looks away.

CASE

(holding the smoke in)
You'll have to forgive Joseph. He
lacks social grace.

He exhales and coughs, giving him a fine buzz. He then coaxes Joseph over with his hand to join him as if to say "C'mon, you yellow-bellied coward".

Joseph shyly steps forward like a six-year-old to take the hit. But he tries to inhale as little of the smoke as possible. He can't and coughs violently.

Case, standing there nude, shivers a little from a morning breeze that's suddenly picked up.

CLAUDE

You gonna walk around like that all day? You haven't exactly walked into Eden, you know.

Case looks at himself as if he didn't know he was nude.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 7.

CASE

Does it bother you?

CLAUDE

Not really. But you're not going to tell me about how man was made in God's image and we shouldn't be afraid of our nakedness and all that crap, are you?

For a moment Case feels as if he's just been insulted. But he swallows the comment in stride.

CASE

(smirking)

No, Claude. I see you're the kind of man who doesn't like a lot of smoke and mirrors.

He pats Claude on the shoulder.

CASE (CONT'D)

But let's face it. You're bound for hell. And I doubt anything will save you.

He starts toward Joseph.

CLAUDE

(to Case's back)

Least you're honest.

CASE

(calling back)

I try, Claude. Now.

Case slams the palm of his hand against Joseph's chest.

CASE (CONT'D)

Let's do this.

JOSEPH

(rubbing his chest)

Do what?

CASE

Strip.

Joseph stares at Case in disbelief.

CASE (CONT'D)

C'mon, Joe. We're a team, you and me. Let's go in the river together.

CONTINUED: 8.

JOSEPH

It's not a river. It's...

CASE

(interrupting)

I know what it is, Joe. You know I wouldn't make you do anything I wouldn't do. Now strip!

Joseph is getting nervous. Case holds out his hand to him.

CASE (CONT'D)

Look, I'll even hold your hand.

They begin to hear Claude laughing from the van.

CLAUDE (O.S.)

Don't do it, boy! You're friend's crazy!

Joseph jerks his hand away form Case and starts taking off his clothes.

JOSEPH

Don't need you to hold my hand!

CASE

All right then. Let's go take that leap.

Case starts off ahead of Joseph.

By the time Joseph makes it to the cliff, Case is tossing little rocks into the water below, spinning them in the air before they make their final plunge.

He turns to look at Joseph. He sees he's left his temple garment on.

CASE

You're leaving that on?

JOSEPH

(psyched up)

It'll dry.

CASE

Suit yourself. You go first.

JOSEPH

(befuddled)

What...why do I have to go first?

CONTINUED: 9.

CASE

Because I said so, dummy.

He turns and walks behind Joseph.

CASE (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I'll be right behind you.

Joseph turns and looks out over the quarry and the pit below. He starts to feel his stomach churn, making him queasy.

All around there's a deafening silence. Even the insects have stopped making noise. It's almost as if the whole world is watching and holding it's breath to see if he'd make the jump or not.

All except Claude, who's laughing his ass off back at the van.

CLAUDE

(slapping his knee)
Belly flop, boys! Ha, ha ha!

Joseph is ready to chicken out. Suddenly, he feels the weight of Case's body slam into his back. The impact sends the both of them plummeting over the edge.

It's a long way down. They both go screaming.

JOSEPH

AAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!

CASE

OH SHIIIIIITTTT!!!

### UNDERWATER

They plunge into the depths like two depth charges dropped into the sea.

Joseph hits a huge rock below with the side of his body. The impact knocks him unconscious. He floats for a minute or two underwater, looking as if he may be dead.

He begins to have a dream.

## JOSEPH'S DREAM

It's a bright, sunny day, almost heavenly. He's standing on the shore of the GREAT SALT LAKE in UTAH, where he's originally from. The lake stretches for miles from his standpoint as far as the eye can see.

A congregation of Baptists are having a ceremony in the waters. Among them are his MOTHER, in her 30's, blonde, very attractive, wearing a floral sun dress.

Joseph watches from the shore as his mother breaks from the group and scoops up a cupful of water in her hands.

MOTHER

A sea in the middle of the waste.

She releases the water form her hands.

MOTHER (CONT'D)

That's what you have to be in this life, Joseph. Balm in the desert.

#### UNDERWATER

Case grabs Joseph's body and pulls him to the surface.

### ON THE SURFACE

Case treads water while he tries to hold Joseph's head up. He tilts it back to clear his airway, holds his nose and mouth steady and gives him two quick rescue breaths.

Joseph comes to, spitting out water and howling in excruciating pain.

JOSEPH

OWWWWWW!!!

Case then puts his arm under Joseph's torse and starts sidestroking toward the nearest shore.

CASE

Sorry, man. Thought you needed some inspiration up there.

JOSEPH

(straining)

Can't...breathe.

CONTINUED: 11.

CASE

Keep trying, Joe. It'll get easier. You did good. I'm proud of you. What do you say we call it a day after this and celebrate?

JOSEPH

(wheezing and coughing)
What...what are we celebrating?

CASE

Somebody up there likes us.

He smiles back at Joseph and continues towing him toward shore.

EXT - HOUSE - NIGHT

An old Victorian-style house on a quiet residential street, with electric candles illuminating in the windows and the front porch light still on.

There is the SOUND of CRICKETS.

A light is also on in the attic. This is the studio apartment where Case and Joseph sleep during their missionary runs.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

Oooh.

INT - APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joseph is lying on a double bed near the window, trying to shift his weight and get comfortable with a mound of pillows supporting him underneath. He's still wincing in pain from his injury.

He takes an ice pack off and looks at his side, seeing an enormous dark bruise there.

Case comes to the bed with a butter knife and a 3-pound tub of butter from the refrigerator.

CASE

Put some of this on it. It'll help bring down the swelling.

Joseph takes the butter and knife and starts smearing it on his sore spot, cringing at the cold touch on his skin.

CONTINUED: 12.

JOSEPH

Case, what did you do with your parents on Family Home Nights?

Case lays down on the bed alongside Joseph, supporting his head with his hand and forearm.

CASE

My mother would turn off the TV and make my sisters and me read from the Book of Mormon. Mondays were so frigging boring.

JOSEPH

What about your dad?

Case lays back in the bed, folding his hands behind his head and staring at the ceiling.

CASE

Did I ever tell you he was a physicist?

He looks at Joseph. He shakes his head no.

CASE (CONT'D)

Once he took me to his research facility for Family Day, when I was ten. He worked with supercolliders.

JOSEPH

Sounds pretty interesting.

CASE

Yeah, that kind of stuff always excited him. He'd come home and talk about how he hurled a helium atom at a whatever particle and something remarkable would happen. It was all Greek to me, but that was all he could talk about. Quarks, mesons, dark matter.

He looks at Joseph.

CASE (CONT'D)

How's your side?

JOSEPH

I can't feel my lower half. Or my upper.

CONTINUED: 13.

CASE

Me either.

Joseph laughs, too. Case takes the butter and knife, gets up and puts them back in the refrigerator.

CASE (CONT'D)

So what does your father do for a living, Joe?

JOSEPH

He sells insurance.

CASE

Sounds pretty ordinary.

JOSEPH

(shrugging his shoulders)

Sorry.

Case returns to the bed and takes off his undershirt and pants, revealing a pair of boxer shorts.

CASE

Gimme a pillow. We've got an early start tomorrow.

JOSEPH

(handing Case the pillow)

Where we going?

CASE

Mechanicsville. Elder Tom says the families out there are low-income. Poor people are more pliable.

Joseph scoots over a little, still grimacing from the pain.

Case turns out the lamplight and climbs into bed. He lies on his back, sighs, closes his eyes to sleep and folds his hands on his chest, looking like a body in a casket at viewing.

Joseph lies awake, listening to the SOUNDS of the CRICKETS outside. The room is illuminated in moonlight. He stares at the ceiling for a bit.

JOSEPH

Case?

CASE

What?

CONTINUED: 14.

JOSEPH

How come you never call your parents on P days?

CASE

(sighing)

I don't have anything in particular to talk about. Once I make district leader, I'll call and let them know. Shouldn't be too much longer. I brought in more baptisms than anyone else. My dad made AP at the San Francisco mission when he was out in the field, before he went to college.

They stop talking.

Joseph continues staring up at the ceiling, listening to the sounds of the night.

EXT - ROAD - DAWN

Case and Joseph ride down a rural road leading into Mechanicsville, passing a sign reading "WELCOME TO MECHANICSVILLE."

Joseph is still in a lot of pain from his injury. But he tries his best to keep focused on the road ahead of him.

MONTAGE - STREETS OF MECHANICSVILLE - CASE AND JOSEPH'S POV

- --riding past closed and dilapidated storefronts
- --a group of bums hanging out on the sidewalk
- --an old man sitting in a chair outside
- --a stop sign
- --a one-way sign
- --houses boarded up

They stop at a phone booth where Case rips out a street map from a phone book inside. He takes it to Joseph, showing him the route they're taking.

They pedal on.

EXT - HOUSE - DAY

They stop in front of a house overrun by vegatation. One can barely see it from the street.

Joseph is worn out from his ride, panting. But he's okay.

Case slings off his backpack and takes out his battered copy of the Book of Mormon.

CASE

Let me do the talking while we're here, okay?

Joseph nods.

Case wipes sweat from his forehead with his shirt sleeve.

CASE (CONT'D)

Okay then, let's do this.

They start up the walkway to the front door. The walkway is aligned on both sides by old tires with flowers in them. Joseph likes the scent.

Case reaches the front door. He holds the screen door open with his hop and knocks on it loudly. Joseph, standing at the foot of the steps, tenses.

JOSEPH

You think anyone's home?

At that moment the door opens to the end of a chain, revealing an elderly African-American woman in a blue bathrobe.

CASE

Hello, ma'am. My name is Case Riseler. And I was wondering if I might have a moment of your time today.

WOMAN

I got no money to give you.

CASE

(smiling)

Oh no, ma'am. We're not looking for any money. We'd like to talk to you about the Church of Latter Day Saints. It'll take no more than 15 minutes of your time.

CONTINUED: 16.

The woman hesitates a little and looks behind her inside the house.

WOMAN

The house isn't really clean. And I don't have much time for religion anymore.

CASE

That's quite all right, ma'am. We're not here to pressure you.

He wipes sweat from his forehead with his shirt sleeve.

CASE (CONT'D)

Whew. But could we at least step inside for a moment? Maybe cool down a bit? Plus Elder Joseph here needs to use your restroom, if you don't mind.

He turns to Joseph, looking on from the front step. He's crouching a little to signify he needs to go bad.

CASE (CONT'D)

That right, Elder Joseph?

JOSEPH

(crouching up and down)
Yes, ma'am. I really need to use
your restroom.

She gives them both a good hard stare for a moment.

WOMAN

You both don't look old enough to be Elders.

Case and Joseph don't respond. Case gives a reassuring smile.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Besides. House is a mess.

CASE

I assure you, ma'am. It'll just take a moment.

He hold up two fingers and puts his other hand over his heart and smiles.

CONTINUED: 17.

CASE (CONT'D)

Scout's honor.

WOMAN

All right. But just for a minute.

She unlatches the door and leads them inside.

INT - HOUSE - DAY

The house is dark. Rays of light barely make it through the thick curtains on the windows.

In the living room along the far wall is a couch covered with heaps of clothes and newspapers and a table covered with porcelain figures.

The woman leads them through the kitchen.

CASE

(whispering to Joseph)
Look at this place. The woman's a loon.

INT - KITCHEN - DAY

The kitchen is in an even worse mess than the living room. The linoleum floor is yellowing and sagging in several places. Ants are parading through.

Case and the woman sit down at the kitchen table. It is littered with salt and pepper shakers, plastic cups, and canned food.

Case, balancing the Book of Mormon on his thigh, looks around and smiles.

CASE

Seems pretty cozy.

He turns to Joseph.

CASE (CONT'D)

Elder Joseph, why don't you find the restroom while me and Mrs.--I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name.

WOMAN

Ida Marsh.

CONTINUED: 18.

CASE

Ida. That's lovely. Where's your bathroom?

She raises her index finger and points toward the hallway.

TDA

Down at the end of the hall to the left.

CASE

(to Joseph)

You heard the lady. At the end of the hall.

Case makes a scooting motion with his hands while Joseph walks into the dim hallway. As he leaves he hears Case starting his sales pitch.

CASE (O.S.)

Ida, have you ever wondered what God has planned for you?

He finds the bathroom at the end of the hallway.

INT - BATHROOM - DAY

It's a very dirty bathroom, looking like it hasn't been cleaned in years. Dust-colored mushrooms are sprung up in clusters between the tiles in the corners of the room.

Joseph sands in the mirror and gazes at his reflection. He starts to think about Ida, and then about his own mother.

INT - LIVING ROOM, JOSEPH'S HOME - DAY

Joseph's mother is smiling as she dusts off her collection of crystal - cut angels in a hardwood cabinet. The sunlight coming in through the windows makes her and the angels look heavenly.

INT - HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph leaves the bathroom and stands in the middle of the hallway. He overhears the conversation going on in the kitchen.

IDA (O.S.)

I don't have no way to get down to the mission.

CONTINUED: 19.

CASE (O.S.)

That's all right. We can send an elder down here to pick you up and take you to the church to be baptized.

IDA (O.S.)

They'd do that for me?

The emotionless tone of Ida's voice nearly brings Joseph to tears. It brings about another flashback.

INT - AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Joseph is saying goodbye to his mother before he boards a plane to Knoxville.

She gives him a copy of the Book of Mormon and silver dollar.

JOSEPH'S MOTHER

This is to keep you on your path. And this is for luck.

She smiles and they embrace.

JOSEPH

I love you, mom.

JOSEPH'S MOTHER

I love you, too, honey. Make me proud.

They wave each other goodbye as he heads down the walkway to the plane.

EXT - AIRPORT - DAY

Joseph's plane touches down in Knoxville.

INT - AIRPORT TERMINAL - DAY

Joseph is at an airport newsstand buying a magazine and a bag of saltwater taffy.

After he lays his money on the counter, he realizes he's laid the silver dollar his mother gave him for luck on the counter. The cashier takes it and puts it in the drawer before he could say anything.

CONTINUED: 20.

He walks away from the counter with his magazine and saltwater taffy, feeling ashamed.

CASE (V.O.)

Of course. I'd see to it myself.

INT - KITCHEN - DAY

Ida picks at the threads on the robe she's wearing. She's considering Case's offer.

IDA

Maybe I should start back to church. Once Stuart gets back from the war, he'll want to go.

CASE

And who is Stuart?

IDA

He's my son. He's over in Afghanistan right now.

Case looks up at Joseph, who is standing behind Ida. He rolls his eyes and grins.

IDA (CONT'D)

Maybe Stuart can be a deacon in the church when he get's back.

CASE

(turning toward Ida)

Maybe.

JOSEPH

Case, I think we should probably tell Ida how some Mormons feel about blacks in the priesthood.

Ida turns and looks at Joseph, then back at Case.

IDA

What's he saying?

Case motions a cutting gesture with his hand. Time for damage control.

CASE

Don't pay any attention to him. He's talking about the Mormon church, not the Church of Latter-Day Saints. So, will you be (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 21.

CASE (cont'd)

here if I send a car around Thursday?

IDA

Sure. I'll be here.

CASE

(standing up)

All right, then. Thursday it is. We'll let ourselves out, if you don't mind.

Case motions with his book for Joseph to follow. They leave the kitchen.

EXT - HOUSE - DAY

Case and Joseph are on the sidewalk outside Ida's home. Case is pretty pissed.

CASE

What the hell was that all about?

JOSEPH

I don't know. I felt sorry for her.

CASE

(pacing back and forth)
Jesus, Joe. It's not like we're
robbing her.

He points his finger at Joseph, trying to control his anger.

CASE (CONT'D)

Just thank God she was soft in the head. Because if you'd ruined that conversation, I'd have skinned your scrawny ass.

JOSEPH

Don't you feel bad at all?

CASE

Why should I? Grow a friggin' backbone, Joe! Don't you want to make AP? Don't you want to make our parents proud?

JOSEPH

It's all a game to you, isn't it? Who do you think you are, bartering salvation like it were currency? CONTINUED: 22.

CASE

We're here to do a job, Joe. Bring people to the Lord!

Case sighs and shakes his head. He's calmed down some.

CASE (CONT'D)

If there's one thing I learned from my father, it's the way to make it is by force of sheer will. It's what people respond to. Otherwise you end up like a statistic.

He points toward Ida's house.

CASE (CONT'D)

Like Ida there.

He punches Joseph's arm.

CASE (CONT'D)

Come on, Joe. Don't look at me like that. We got a lot more houses to go through. We can do whatever you want tomorrow. Just you and me. But right now, I need you to focus.

JOSEPH

It's just not what I thought I'd be doing here.

They both get on their bikes and ride on.

INT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Case and Joseph are in the living room of a young girl's apartment.

A stereo is on a table playing alternative rock music at a low volume. Several bookshelves are lining the walls, with titles such as Jack London's "Call Of The Wild" and H.P. Lovecraft stories.

Joseph is sitting on the floor, Indian-style, looking around at the stains and spots on the carpet.

Case is sitting on the couch with the YOUNG GIRL. She's in her early 20's, dressed all in black with scuffed combat boots, wearing thick coats of lipstick and eyeliner colored purple and black. Her hair is dyed jet black in a freaky style.

CONTINUED: 23.

Together they're smoking cigarettes and flicking their ashes in an ashtray between them. Case's arm is slung over the back of the couch.

CASE

So, you live here alone?

GIRL

Just me.

She picks at the fabric of her long skirt.

GIRL (CONT'D)

So you guys are Mormons? How many wives do you all get?

She looks at Case seductively from under her eyelids.

Case is using a routine he uses on most young people, pretending he wasn't really interested in what he's doing and that he's cool just hanging out.

CASE

Most Mormons don't follow the polygamy thing anymore. Only the really devout and the unconventional sects do.

GIRL

That's too bad. Polygamy was what made you guys interesting.

Case gives her a fake look like he's hurt.

CASE

You don't find me interesting, do you?

GIRL

(smiling)

Haven't decided yet.

Joseph is getting restless. He doesn't like being in this girl's apartment.

JOSEPH

Uh, Case? It's getting dark. Shouldn't we be going?

Case turns toward Joseph, giving him a blank look. Joseph lowers his eyes.

CONTINUED: 24.

GIRL

I can take you back to your apartment. I'm still waiting to see if you can convert me, though.

CASE

So what's it going to take?

She smiles and flicks her cigarette over the ashtray. A fleck of ash falls on her lap. Case leans forward and picks it off.

GIRL

Thank you.

CASE

Don't mention it.

GIRL

You're getting warmer.

CASE

(eyes darting up)

What do you mean?

GIRL

Never mind.

She turns to Joseph to include him in the conversation. But he ignores her.

GIRL (CONT'D)

So how'd you guys get put together?

CASE

Luck of the draw, I guess. I'd say we're a pretty good match. Isn't that right, Elder Joe?

JOSEPH

(nodding)

We get along okay.

The girl tucks a strand of hair behind her ear.

GIRL

Why do you call each other Elder?

CASE

It's an address of respect.

She stubs out her cigarette.

CONTINUED: 25.

GIRL

Should I call you "Elder"?

CASE

You can call me whatever you want. Speaking of which, I never got your name.

GIRL

Margo.

CASE

Well, nice to meet you, Margo. So what's it going to take to get you into the Church?

MARGO

I've got reservations. I'm not a stranger to sin. Impure thoughts and all that.

CASE

Well, we all have those. I don't think God splits hairs over salvation.

Joseph notices Case is having an erection. He also feels one coming on himself. He pulls at the legs of his slacks in hopes no one would notice.

MARGO

That's good to know.

She pauses for a moment.

MARGO (CONT'D)

You want to come into the bedroom with me?

Case smiles and stubs out his cigarette. He stands up quickly.

CASE

Yeah, let's go.

He looks down at Joseph.

CASE (CONT'D)

Joe, you can find something to do, can't you?

CONTINUED: 26.

JOSEPH

(holding his side)

My side's starting to hurt again.

Case's eyes are focused on the front of Margo's dress, and the dark velvet fit snugly around her breasts.

MARGO

(to Joseph)

I have some Advil in the cabinet above the stove in the kitchen. You're welcome to it.

She rests her hand briefly on Joseph's head and walks slowly toward the bedroom, looking back at Case and smiling.

Case squats next to Joseph. He's leaning forward and crossing his arms over his lap so Case won't notice his erection.

CASE

I owe you big time for this one, Joe. Anything you want. I swear.

Joseph watches as Case follows Margo into the bedroom. He hears the door SQUEAK.

He remains seated for a few moments, looking around the living room. The silence is deafening.

He gets up and goes to the kitchen.

INT - KITCHEN - DAY

He finds the bottle of Advil in the cabinet above the stove and takes it. But he doesn't open it. He just stands there for a minute holding the bottle, thinking.

He then goes down the hallway toward the bedroom.

INT - HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph sees a crack in the door of the bedroom. He steps forward and looks inside.

# CRACK IN DOORWAY INTO BEDROOM - JOSEPH'S POV

Case is sitting on the edge of the bed, stripped down to his underwear. Margo stands in front of him, her dress slides off her body and crumples on the floor.

Case reaches to undo her bra. She pulls the straps from her shoulders. He then hooks his fingers under the elastic band of her panties and pulls.

# INT - HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph then turns away. He feels his side throbbing and presses his hand to it.

He stands there for a moment, thinking. His eyes widen as if he's come to some kind of revelation.

He looks back into the crack in the doorway.

### CRACK IN DOORWAY INTO BEDROOM - JOSEPH'S POV

Case's hands move up and down Margo's belly and between her breasts.

He then presses his lips against her stomach. She sighs, then tangles her fingers into Case's hair.

### INT - HALLWAY - DAY

Joseph then walks to the end of the hallway toward the kitchen. He sits down against the wall and waits quietly for Case to come out.

FADE OUT