## "PRAY"

Written By

Paul J. Williams

FADE IN:

INT. PRISON - VISITOR'S AREA - DAY

MICHELE, 30's, waits alone on her side of thick plexiglass.

She wears an identification badge: "ASSOCIATED PRESS"

In the Prisoner's area, a loud buzzer SOUNDS off.

A large automatic door RUMBLES open under the sign:

"CONDEMNED PRISONERS UNIT"

Two large OFFICERS escort in a manacled prisoner:

ALEXA, 20's, tiny, clad in a gray jumpsuit, shuffles in.

They sit her down, fasten her shackles to the metal chair.

Michele and Alexa both pick up their telephone receivers.

MICHELE

Hi, Alexa, thank you again for letting me tell your story.

A CROSS dangles from Michele's neck. Light reflects off it, shines into Alexa's eyes, she turns in her seat to avoid it.

ALEXA

It's the same old story. Every woman in here could tell my tale.

MICHELE

Okay then, it'll still be your story. I'll start in the beginning.

EXT. LARGE VICTORIAN MANSION - DAY

The gated mansion sits on an estate of hundreds of acres.

ALEXA (V.O.)

Grew up dirt poor. We had nothing.

A large swing-set sits on the side of the immaculate house.

10 year-old Alexa laughs as MOTHER pushes her on a swing.

MICHELE (V.O.)

Were you close with your mother?

EXT. BACKYARD GARDEN - DAY

Alexa and her Mother plant flowers in the humongous garden.

ALEXA (V.O.)

Yeah, close when she would hit me with anything she could find.

INT. MANSION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dark, only a candle provides a minimal, flickering light.

Alexa's Mother is completely bound with rope to a chair.

An 18 year-old Alexa emerges from a darkened corner. She's pale skinned, wears all black, and dons a black-haired wig.

ALEXA

Hi, mommy.

She has black contacts in her eyes, appearing doll-like.

MOTHER

(horrified)

Alexa, what...what are you doing?

Alexa grins: All her teeth are filed down like a shark's.

She HISSES at her wide-eyed Mother, who JUMPS in her seat.

**ALEXA** 

How will God let you die tonight?

She produces a REVOLVER, giggles as she drops a single bullet into the open cylinder, spins it, then snaps it shut.

ALEXA (CONT'D)

A quick bullet...or burned alive?

Alexa kicks a red container of "GASOLINE" on the floor.

MICHELE (V.O.)

Tell me about your father.

INT. ALEXA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

FATHER reads a children's book to 10 year-old Alexa in bed.

ALEXA (V.O.)

He would touch me. Sexually.

Alexa's eyelids grow heavy, she dozes off to sleep.

Father closes the book, tucks her in, kisses her forehead.

EXT. TREE-LINED STREET - DAY

Father teaches 10 year-old Alexa how to ride her bike.

ALEXA (V.O.)

That's all the attention he showed.

INT. MANSION - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Next to Mother, Father is also completely tied to a chair.

Alexa leans in front of him, wiggles her tongue, which has a one inch incision, making it look like a snake's.

She licks the side of her trembling Father's face.

ALEXA

Daddy, I want you to make this easier for me. Do you know how?

Father breathes heavy with fear, shakes his head- no.

Alexa puts her mouth to his ear, whispers:

ALEXA (CONT'D)

I need to hear you pray.

She places the gun barrel between her Father's scared eyes.

FATHER

(closes eyes)

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, Blessed art thou-

She pulls the trigger- CLICK! Father JUMPS! Alexa smiles.

Alexa spins the cylinder again, snaps it back into the gun.

She places the barrel against her Mother's sweaty forehead.

ALEXA

I need your help, too, mommy.

MOTHER

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven-

She pulls the trigger- CLICK! Alexa HOWLS with laughter.

She peels off her black wig. Her head is completely shaved.

She leans into her parents, they GASP at something on her head.

Alexa grabs the gasoline container, pours it on her Parents. She SLAMS the container against the wall, GROWLS:

ALEXA

PRAY!

FATHER AND MOTHER Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit-

She throws the candle on them, igniting a huge fireball.

Alexa dances around the fire, glowing in the orange flames.

Her Parents SCREAM and WAIL as the flames eat their flesh.

Alexa stares into the fire, YELLS louder than her Parents!

INT. PRISON - VISITOR'S AREA - DAY

The screams seem to echo into here. Michele peruses a file.

MICHELE

Your brother, what happened to him?

ALEXA

I never had a brother.

Michele holds up a photo, presses it against the glass:

A boy, 8, dressed in his little First Holy Communion suit, smiles with Rosary beads clasped between his praying hands.

EXT. LARGE VICTORIAN MANSION - DAY

That boy, GABE, 8, dressed in the same small suit, exits.

MICHELE (V.O.)

Remember Gabe? Your twin brother.

Alexa, 8, wearing her white Communion dress, follows behind.

MOTHER (O.S.)

We're leaving for the church soon, don't wander too far! And please be careful, don't get hurt! EXT. BACKYARD WOODS - DAY

Gabe and Alexa skip alongside a creek. Alexa, angelic under the sun in her white dress, smiles, starts to lag behind.

ALEXA

Bet'cha I know my prayers better than you. You'll mess up today.

GABE

Not uh, watch: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name-

A rock SMASHES the back of his head. He falls face down, SPLASHES into the creek, his blood flowing downstream.

Alexa kneels down on him, holds his head into the water.

ALEXA

Thy kingdom come, thy will done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

INT. PRISON - VISITOR'S AREA - DAY

Alexa runs her snake tongue over her triangular shark teeth.

MICHELE

Do you think society creates evil...or it's born?

Alexa smiles, removes her wig revealing an INVERTED CROSS carved into her head, right above her hairline.

INT. MATERNITY WARD - BABY NURSERY - NIGHT

A large painting titled, "ST. BRIGID," hangs on a wall.

Ten newborn BABIES are lined up in two rows of tiny cribs.

One crib has the label: "BABY BOY GABRIEL" Inside: Gabe CRIES and SHRIEKS with the rest of the babies.

Next to him, a crib with the label: "BABY GIRL ALEXA"

Inside: Alexa is silent, peaceful as she stares up, smiling.

Under the painting of St. Brigid is the inscription:

"ST. BRIGID, PATRON SAINT OF INFANTS, WE PRAY THAT THESE BABIES MAY GROW UP WITH JESUS AND ALWAYS FEEL HIS JOY."

FADE OUT.