The Novice Priest by Elisabeth Dubois

Name: Elisabeth Dubois

Australia +61401742962

INT. CHURCH - AFTERNOON

The afternoon sun's rays illuminate the interior of an old catholic church, through its ornate lead light windows.

There are about 20 long pews, long enough to sit 20.

The pews are equally divided by a wide aisle that leads to the altar.

Behind the altar is a large golden crucifix.

A confessional box is visible, to the right of the altar.

Two black curtains cover the entry of the confessional box.

BONITA, a voluptuous, long haired brunette of olive complexion, early 20's, is kneeling behind the second row of pews, closest to the confessional box.

Her hands are joined in prayer, keeping an eye on the confessional box.

A hand pops out of the right confessional box curtain and begins to wave, distracting, Bonita.

She refrains from laughing as she sees the hand gestures.

The single hand mimics animal head shapes; a dog, a swan, a snake...

The other hand pops out of the other side, of the same curtain.

The two hands now join to create the shape of a spider. The hands then gather in prayer.

The hands retract back behind the curtain.

The curtain draws open.

A man, CLYNE, fairly athletic, good looking, olive complexion, 20's, walks out.

He heads towards Bonita, his pockets rattling of loose coins.

A smirk is visible.

CLYNE

Your turn to confess, Bonita!

Bonita stands and heads for the box. They encounter each other with a smile.

BONITA (Whispering)
You're a jerk, Clyne.

Clyne looks her way smiling, blowing a kiss with his lips, as he heads for the pew.

Still looking to Bonita, Clyne accidently collides with the end of the pew, falling head first, causing a loud echoing noise throughout the silent church.

Bonita turns around, with eye stabbing looks.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Clyne.

The other confessional box curtain is pulled to one side, revealing a head.

A priest, FATHER JULIUS, 20's, timid looking with glasses, quickly takes a peak.

Clyne, on all fours, begins to pick up the coins, looking back towards the confessional box.

Father Julius quickly draws the curtain shut.

Bonita turns and enters the confessional box.

Clyne straightens himself and heads down the aisle towards the entrance of the church.

A collection box is placed a metre near the entrance.

Clyne looks around as he quickly opens the box removing it's money content.

INT. BONITA AND CLYNE'S APARTMENT - LOUNGE ROOM - EVENING

A two seater lounge fills a third of a cluttered lounge room.

A coffee table, placed in front of the lounge, is filled with magazines. (Magazine covers displaying "Holiday locations", "Wedding planners" and one "Hot air balloon trips")

Bonita, sitting on the lounge, is looking through a resort magazine.

She lifts her head and sees Clyne pick up the hot air balloon magazine.

Clyne sits down beside her, placing his magazine on his lap.

Bonita looks back to her magazine.

Clyne's magazine slips off his lap. He bends forward to pick it up.

Holding her magazine with both hands, Bonita shows excitement.

Clyne's left eye is level with Bonita's elbow.

Bonita excitingly elbows Clyne to get his attention, accidently landing it, in his eye.

BONITA

Hey, look at this one. That's my favorite.

Clyne hollers as he covers his eye in pain.

Bonita looks up, ignoring his pain, insisting.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Look!

Clyne, one hand over his left eye, looks to Bonita.

Bonita points to one of the images in the magazine.

BONITA (CONT'D)

That's where I want to go for our honeymoon.

Clyne looks to her squinting, one eye shut.

CLYNE

It's your choice Bonita. You pick the resort.

Clyne places his magazine over hers.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Look at this one. What do you think?

Bonita looks to the presented page.

BONITA

(apprehensive)

I don't know, Clyne. I would rather not.

Bonita has a second look then hands the magazine back to Clyne.

CLYNE

Oh, come on Bonita.

Clyne tries to give her a soppy look, still squinting.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

A wedding in the sky! Doesn't it sound romantic to you?

BONITA

Oh, even so, Clyne! We could never convince Father Augustus to perform the ceremony. He's afraid of heights. Remember?

INT. CHURCH - FATHER AUGUSTUS' SUITE - DAY

FATHER AUGUSTUS, 60's, is sitting behind his desk talking to Father Julius. Augustus has one hand placed over his chest, expressing pain.

Julius, standing, is about to sit as he looks to Augustus concerned.

FATHER JULIUS

Are you alright father?

Augustus nods as he pulls out a pill container from his pocket.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Please be seated, Julius.

He opens it and places two pills in his mouth as Julius sits.

Augustus takes a swig of water from the glass off the table.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Julius. You have been chosen to take over my post, upon my retirement.

FATHER JULIUS

Yes, I know father and I am very honoured.

Augustus stands. Father Julius eyes him along.

Augustus walks over to the window and looks to the skies. He sighs and faces Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

There are many things you need to experience, before you can qualify.

FATHER JULIUS

Yes father.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Julius. You, are going to perform your first wedding ceremony.

Julius is overwhelmed.

FATHER JULIUS

Thank you, father.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Bonita and Clyne came to see me last week, to finalise their wedding plans.

(beat)

I would like you to perform their ceremony.

Julius frowns in disapproval as he begins to twitch.

FATHER JULIUS

Those two, father? I would rather not.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

(stern)

Julius.

FATHER JULIUS

Please Father, anyone else's wedding but theirs.

Augustus walks back to his chair and sits.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Nonsense.

FATHER JULIUS

(Hesitantly)

I am very sure, they would prefer to have you do it, Father.

Augustus takes another quick glance towards the window, sighing, he looks back to Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Maybe so!

(Beat)

But, I am afraid of heights.

(Beat)

And I don't think my heart could stand the strain.

Father Julius twitches nervously as he removes his steamed glasses off his nose. He wipes them with his robe.

FATHER JULIUS

I understand your heart condition father. But,

(beat)

what does "height" have to do with their wedding?

FATHER AUGUSTUS

They have decided to say their vows in a hot air balloon.

Father Julius puts on his glasses.

FATHER JULIUS

A what?

Father Augustus giggles.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

A balloon, Julius. A hot air balloon.

FATHER JULIUS

But, father...

FATHER AUGUSTUS

No buts Julius. It shall be so.

Julius admits defeat and drops his eyes.

FATHER JULIUS

(sighing)

Yes father.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

(reassuring)

Don't worry Julius. It will be a great experience.

Julius looks up, disenchanted.

FATHER JULIUS

Yes, father.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

That will be all, father Julius.

FATHER JULIUS

Yes father.

Julius stands and nods in respect. Moving away from his chair, his robe catches on the arm rest.

He drags the chair a little. Augustus is amused.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

Sorry Father.

Julius straightens his robe and quickly exits. He closes the door.

Augustus, still giggling, looks to a framed photo, placed on his desk.

The photo shows almost identical twins, dressed in priest robes, himself and his brother.

Augustus smiles.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Oh, Peter. (Beat)

If only you could see the capers this church has to put up with.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - FOYER

The foyer is richly decorated.

Ornate with golden columns and floors covered in white marble tiles.

Large pillar candles, placed on golden stands, are scattered around the foyer.

30 or so, purpled robed individuals, are cleaning the resort; Mopping, dusting, cleaning windows, etc...

FATHER PETER, 60's, dressed in an ornate gold trimmed purple robe, is standing on a wooden step ladder, dusting a large clock on the wall.

The 24 hour analogue clock is of solid gold, with matching pendulum. It is located on the wall behind a gold trimmed reception counter.

Father Peter turns, calling out to all.

FATHER PETER

The resort's inspection is at 23:00 tomorrow. Let's be impressive.

Affirmative mumbling are heard.

He calls to FATHER JOHN, 30's. John is cleaning the outside glass of a large aquarium.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

John?

John looks to Peter.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

When you're finished, could you be so kind as to clean the pool?

John sighs, rolling his eyes.

FATHER JOHN

Why? Why does it always have to be me?

FATHER PETER

Who loves water, more than you, John?

FATHER JOHN

My baptism days are over, Peter. And no-one, ever seems to use the pool here, anyway.

FATHER PETER

(Reaffirming

compassionately)

John! Cleanliness, is next to godliness.

Father Peter steps down, from the ladder.

FATHER JOHN

(Sighing)

Very well, Peter.

John walks off.

The rest are giggling.

FATHER NOAH, 50's, is hammering brass nails into a timber trap door.

Noah's hammering is almost noiseless.

Peter walks over.

FATHER PETER

Great job, Noah! These nails seem to wear away, so quickly.

Noah looks up, frowning.

FATHER NOAH

Yeah. It's now a daily chore.

FATHER PETER

We're opening it up in another two hours.

FATHER NOAH

Yes, I know. It will be ready.

Noah continues hammering.

FATHER PETER

By the way! One of our guests asked me a question about you, yesterday!

Noah stops hammering.

FATHER NOAH

Yeah?

FATHER PETER

They wanted to know your wife's name.

FATHER NOAH

I've never had a wife, Peter!

FATHER PETER

Noah raises a brow, as Peter giggles.

FATHER NOAH

That's an old joke, Peter.

Peter shrugs his shoulders, as he heads for the entrance of the foyer.

FATHER PETER

It was new, to me!

Noah shakes his head as he continues hammering.

EXT. CHURCH ALLEY - BEGGAR

A BEGGAR, ROBERT, 60's, wearing dark glasses, is standing on the corner of an alley. The alley contours the church.

Bonita and Clyne are standing about 10 metres away, observing and whispering.

Bonita looks to Clyne.

BONITA

You ready?

Clyne nods.

They run up to the beggar.

Clyne gets hold of his arms from behind.

The beggar yells.

BEGGAR

Not you two again!

Clyne covers the beggar's mouth with one hand.

CLYNE

Be quiet Robert, or I'll tell every one, you're a phony.

Bonita picks up the beggars cup.

Although trying, the beggar is too old and weak, to break Clyne's hold.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Hurry up Bonita!

Bonita removes the notes from the beggar's tin, stuffing them down her bra.

She tips the remaining coins from the tin, in her hand, dropping some.

The beggar tries to kick her as she attempts to pick them up.

Clyne holds him back.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Stop that, Robert!

The beggar mumbles through Clyne's hand.

BEGGAR

The devil will get, you two.

CLYNE

I'm sure he'll get you too, Robert.

Clyne looks around.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Leave the coins Bonita. Let's go.

Bonita leaves them and stands.

Clyne lets go of the beggar. Bonita runs off. Clyne follows.

The beggar shakes his fist their way.

BEGGAR

You'll pay for your sins.

Clyne yells back.

CLYNE

Will be back tomorrow, Robert. Keep up the good work.

The beggar picks up the loose coins, placing them back in his cup.

BEGGAR

Those two should burn in hell.

He picks up his sunglasses, that have fallen to the ground during the struggle and puts them on.

He straightens his sign, which has fallen face down in the commotion and returns it near his cup.

The sign reads, "I am blind and homeless, your donations welcome".

Taking a peek over his glasses, Robert looks around.

He places his hand in his grubby trench coat pocket, pulling out a wad of notes; examining them, he smirks.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)

Fools!

Returning the wad to his pocket, he sits down and resumes the pretense of his blindness.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - FOYER AREA - DAWN

Seven people are standing in the foyer, including Peter.

Peter, wearing his gold trimmed purple robe, is blessing a group of six people, standing in a row.

The six, three of each sex, are dressed in white robes and are holding hands, coupled up.

A thin golden circular band sits on their forehead.

FATHER PETER

I hope you have all enjoyed your stay at Paradise Resort.

Peter points to the revolving doors as they all nod and smile.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

It's now time to go home.

I/E. PARADISE RESORT - GARDENS

All excitedly proceed towards the revolving doors and exit.

The sun has not yet broken the dawn.

Landscape surrounds the serene resort.

There is a crowd, gathered to their left, of about 100.

70 of them are dressed in numbered grey robes. The numbers are mainly sixes, sevens and eights.

The other 30 individuals are cloaked in plain purple robes.

The grey individuals are wearing a golden neck choker.

Six purpled robed individuals, three of each sex, step out of the crowd and join the six white robed individuals.

To Father Peter's right, stands six golden contraptions resembling catapults.

Each accommodate a golden chair and are set a metre apart.

The six purple robed individuals guide the white robed to the catapults.

Peter breaks the silence, as he points to the chairs.

FATHER PETER
Time has come, for you all, to finally go home.

Holding their partners hands and with the guidance of the purpled robed individuals, they advance to their allocated chairs.

They sit and look to Peter.

The six purpled robed individuals then proceed to the rear of each of the catapults and manually begin to wind a large wheel.

The swiveling chairs, placed at the end of the 5 metre golden supporting catapult frame, begin to lift off the ground.

Slowly, the catapults begin to rotate, in an anti-clockwise motion (like a single seat Ferris wheel), until the chairs are about a metre from the ground (8:00 position).

The sun filters on the horizon.

We hear a cock crow.

Peter, looks up, whispering sarcastically.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D) Enough, -- with the jokes!

The purple robes drop their heads in giggle.

Peter looks back to the catapults. All are silent.

Peter, facing the catapults, lifts his left arm.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D) With the dawning, of a new day...

All appear excited.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D) It is now time for you to grow wings!

Peter lowers his arm.

The purple robed individuals release a lever.

Not a sound is heard, except for a sudden rumble of thunder in the clear sky.

The catapults remain stationary for an instant as if frozen in time.

We hear ratchet type noises.

Peter blesses the six white robed, with the sign of the cross.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D) Have a safe journey home!

The catapults furiously begin to rotate, in a clockwise motion, ejecting all six bodies in the air.

All six scream in fright, as they are propelled out of their chair.

The crowd cheers and clap as they follow the bodies paths in the sky.

The bodies pirouette and cartwheel as they ascend.

Continuing their trajectory, the bodies become a bright white glow, resembling shooting stars; finally, they disappear.

The crowd stops cheering and dissipates in all directions.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D) Another great day!

All the purple robed individuals, including Peter, head for the revolving door.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D) Remember! The inspection is at 23:00, today!

INT. CHURCH - FATHER AUGUSTUS' SUITE

Augustus, sitting at his desk, is talking to Bonita and Clyne.

FATHER AUGUSTUS Father Julius is honoured, to perform your ceremony.

Bonita and Clyne, sitting in front of Augustus, look to each other raising an eye. Smirking, they look to Augustus.

CLYNE

He -- is?

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Shouldn't he be?

Clyne shrugs his shoulder as he tries to hold back from laughing.

CLYNE

No. That's, -- hum, that's terrific.

Augustus stands and walks over to the window. The two eye him along.

Augustus faces them.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I do have a slight problem, with the two of you, though.

They look father Augustus inquisitively.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

(sighing)

You regularly attend church and confession, every week.

(Beat)

I am very proud of that. But, there is one thing that troubles me.

Augustus looks to the window.

Bonita and Clyne look to each other confused, then back to Augustus.

BONITA

What do you mean father?

Augustus, pulling out his pill bottle from his pocket, returns to his seat.

Leaning his arms on the desk, he replies adamantly loud.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

You must stop stealing!

Bonita and Clyne shake their heads in denial, appearing shocked. Bonita gapes.

CLYNE

Father! We wouldn't do such a thing.

Augustus pops two pills in his mouth and takes a swig of water. He looks Clyne straight in the eyes.

Clyne senses Augustus is seeing right through him.

Clyne drops his head, followed by Bonita.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Clyne?

Clyne looks up.

CLYNE

(hesitantly)

Yeah?

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Promise me Clyne.

Clyne tries to deny.

CLYNE

But Father I wouldn't do su...

Augustus continues firmly.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Clyne?

Clyne, dropping his eyes, replies remorsefully.

CLYNE

Yes, -- father!

Augustus lightly shakes his head in disbelief, giving them the benefit of the doubt look.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Very well then!

Clyne and Bonita look up.

Augustus smiles. They timidly smile in return.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

You have my blessing and may God go with you!

Bonita and Clyne stand, nodding in respect, answering in unison.

CLYNE AND BONITA

Thank you, father.

They turn and head for the door. A doubtful Augustus eyes them out, holding on to his chest in pain.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

Stepping out of Father's room, Bonita and Clyne make their way down the aisle..

Bonita hits Clyne on the arm.

BONITA

(Whispering)

How does he know?

Clyne shakes his head in ignorance.

They near the church's entrance.

Clyne steps down the entrance's steps.

Bonita eyes the poor box.

She runs over to the box, emptying it's coin content and places them in her pockets.

Clyne, hearing the sound of coins, turns around.

CLYNE

Bonita? What are you doing?

Bonita finishes by stuffing the notes down her bra.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

We promised father Augustus, Bonita.

I/E. CHURCH ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Bonita quickly heads for the entrance and begins to run down the stairs, pockets jingling.

BONITA

You, -- promised. Not me. Come on, let's go.

Clyne shakes his head as he begins to run behind her.

He loses his footing and stumbles down the last step.

Bonita looks back.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Quit fooling around. Hurry up.

Clyne continues running, hobbling.

EXT. LAND - HOT AIR BALLOON

The inflated hot air balloon is on the ground.

White ribbons and small white rubber balloons ornate the outside of its basket.

Father Julius, dressed in a gold trimmed white robe, is standing in the basket, appearing nervous, wiping his foggy glasses. His bible is tucked under his arm.

The hot air balloon OPERATOR, CHARLES, 30's, is dressed in a suit for the occasion. He giggles as he places his hand on Julius' shoulder.

CHARLES

A bit nervous, Father?

Julius nods.

CHARLES (CONT'D)

It will be all over, before you know it. Don't worry, it's quite safe.

A small table, set up as an altar, has been placed in the balloon's basket.

Placed on it, is a chalice and a golden plate filled with holy bread.

Julius places his bible on the Altar.

Clyne and Bonita are nearing the Balloon.

Bonita, wearing a gorgeous full flounce laced wedding gown, has her hair set in a bun with a small tiara.

Clyne is wearing a black suit.

They near the side of the balloon's basket.

A small set of wooden stairs are placed next to the basket.

Bonita looks to Clyne a little cross.

BONITA

Where's the door?

CHARLES

It's an older style balloon. You need to climb in.

Bonita gives Clyne a filthy look.

Clyne nervously smiles.

CLYNE

We'll help you up.

Bonita, taking hold of her wide dress, begins to climb the three small stairs.

Charles moves up to take her hand.

Clyne is standing behind her. He places one foot on the step to support her, not noticing he has also stepped on her dress.

Bonita tries to straddle the basket as we hear a rip.

She looks back, assessing the damage.

BONITA

(Shouting)

Clyne, get off my dress!

Clyne steps off, levering himself on Bonita, who loses her balance, tumbling head first in the balloon.

Julius looks to the skies, panicky.

FATHER JULIUS

Oh father, please give me strength.

Looking to Julius, Charles giggles, then looks to Bonita as he tries to help her up.

CHARLES

Are you all right?

Bonita, struggling, appears stuck and yells angrily.

BONITA

Do I look alright?

Clyne quickly straddles the basket and hops in, helping Bonita up with Charles' help.

Bonita is fuming.

Charles holds back his laughter and turns to face the other way.

Father Julius is stunned and says nothing.

Bonita tidying herself up, gazes bitterly towards Clyne.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Great way to start. You and your great ideas.

Clyne looks to her lovingly.

CLYNE

It will be fun, darling. I promise!

Father Julius looks to them and speaks sincerely.

FATHER JULIUS

We could go back to the church.

Bonita gives him an evil gaze.

BONITA

No, we're here! Let's do it! What else, could possibly go wrong?

Father Julius shakes his head in disappointment then looks to Clyne.

FATHER JULIUS

Do you have the rings?

Bonita looks to Clyne, expecting the worst.

Clyne is relieved as he pulls out the two rings from his pocket.

CLYNE

Of course, I have.

Bonita looks somewhat relieved.

CHARLES

Would you like me to be your ring bearer?

Bonita looks to him, smiling.

BONITA

Great idea! I'm sorry, what is your name?

CHARLES

Charles.

She quickly takes the rings off Clyne and hands them to Charles.

BONITA

Thank you Charles.

Charles places the rings in his pocket.

CHARLES

Alright guys, are we ready?

All nod. Father Julius, not reassured, hugs his bible tightly.

Charles charges the balloon with hot air and bends over the side of the basket, to release the ropes.

The balloon slowly ascends towards the lightly cloudy, blue sky.

All three face to look at the scenery as Charles tends to the balloon.

The balloon keeps ascending.

There is no breeze.

EXT. SKY - HOT AIR BALLOON

The balloon keeps ascending.

A strong wind suddenly picks up from nowhere, noticeable by the clouds moving.

The balloon quickly drifts over water.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - FOYER AREA

Peter is near the Foyer's counter.

SISTER MARY, 50's, dressed in a gold trimmed purple robe, walks over to Peter. She is holding two folded white sheets and two folded grey robes, in her arms.

SISTER MARY

Peter? What time, are our newly weds arriving?

Peter turns and looks to the clock. It shows 17:00. He looks to Mary.

FATHER PETER

In about three hours, sister Mary. After, the sunset gathering.

Peter, upon saying these words, blesses himself.

Mary shakes her head, annoyed.

SISTER MARY

Another late arrival.

Peter looks back to Mary, nodding.

Mary shakes her head, looking up.

SISTER MARY (CONT'D)

Overtime, again?

She walks away.

E/I. HOT AIR BALLOON - MOMENTS LATER

The balloon drifts out to sea.

Charles looks a little concerned.

The ceremony is underway.

FATHER JULIUS

We are gathered here today to join Clyne and Bonita, in holy matrimony.

Julius is holding onto one edge of the table cloth, with one hand, as the draft is lifting it.

Charles is holding the other side.

Julius appears extremely nervous as he tries to read his bible, through is foggy glasses.

Clyne a little worried queries Charles who is standing next to him.

CLYNE

Where did this wind come from?

Bonita looks to Charles a little concerned.

BONTTA

Are we safe, Charles?

CHARLES

It might be wise to hurry the ceremony. I have never seen the wind pick up so fast.

Bonita looks to Clyne

BONITA

Clyne. Let's go back.

CLYNE

No! Father please hurry it up.

Julius finishes wiping his glasses, nervously replacing them skewed on his nose. He looks to Charles.

FATHER JULIUS

The rings?

Charles, as best as he can, in the now agitated balloon, quickly takes the rings out of his pocket. He places them on Julius' open bible.

Julius, straightening his glasses, continues nervously.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

Clyne, do you take Bonita to be ...

The balloon jerks, sending the rings to the bottom of the basket.

Charles, Clyne and Bonita bend down to search for the rings.

Bonita knocking her head with Clyne's.

The altar falls on top of them. Father Julius, attempting to stop the altar from falling, falls down as well.

Charles finally stands and tries to regain control of the balloon.

Clyne finds the rings.

CLYNE

I have them. Father please, finish the ceremony. Now!

All three remain seated at the bottom of the balloon.

CHARLES

Please make it quick. She's getting out of control.

Bonita is fuming and begins to hit Clyne.

BONITA

How did I let you, talk me into this?

Father Julius, holding onto the rings, nervously tries his best.

The balloon violently jerks. Bonita screams in fright.

CHARLES

Hurry!

Father begins to twitch as Clyne shouts.

CLYNE

Continue!

FATHER JULIUS

Do you Clyne...

Clyne interrupts .

CLYNE

Yes I do. Give me the ring.

Clyne grabs the ring out of Father Julius' hand and slips it on Bonita's finger.

Bonita looks disgusted.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

What?

Bonita shakes her head, gazing bitterly as she sulks.

Clyne looks back to Julius, insisting.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Father, continue!

Father Julius is trembling.

CHARLES

Hurry up guys the balloon is almost out of my control. We have to descend.

Bonita raises herself a little, glancing over the side.

BONITA

(frantic)

Where's the hell is the land?

Clyne pulls her back down and looks to Julius.

CLYNE

Father!

Father Julius, holding onto the other ring, looks to Bonita.

Bonita grabs the ring and places it on Clyne's finger.

BONITA

Whatever! Yeah! I do!

Bonita, shouting, looks to Charles as they all try to stand.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Get us down, Charles!

CHARLES

I'm trying. Hope you can all swim.

BONITA

Swim? I can't swim. Are we going to crash?

Clyne tries to help Bonita up.

Bonita looks to Clyne, eyes filled with daggers as she hits him in frustration.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Don't you touch me, Clyne. I told you these things weren't safe.

Father Julius looks very pale as he slides himself back to the safety of the basket's floor

Holding tight to his bible, he looks up to the heavens and begins to pray.

FATHER JULIUS

Our father, who art in hea...

BONTTA

(looking to Julius)

And you, shut up!

Father Julius drops his eyes and quietly continues.

Charles is trying to relight the flame that keeps going out.

CHARLES

I am sorry guys! I've lost control. Hold on tight.

A look of horror appears on all faces as they brace themselves in the bottom of the basket.

Bonita hangs onto Clyne. Father Julius onto his bible.

Charles is sill trying to ignite the flame.

EXT. SKY - HOT AIR BALLOON - CONTINUOUS

The sun is setting. No land is in sight.

The balloon is furiously descending towards the ocean.

EXT. PARADISE RESORT - BEACH - NIGHT

The full moon, in the night sky, is glistening over the water.

The waves creating a moderate surf.

Bonita and Clyne struggle out of the breaking ripples, exhausted, heading for the sand.

Clyne is without his jacket and shoes.

Bonita's dress is ripped to shreds.

They collapse as soon as they reach the sand, passing out.

50 metres away, Julius tumbles in with the surf.

His body reaches the shore, motionless.

Four grey robed individuals, are nearing Bonita and Clyne.

They are picked up and carried away.

Two purple robed individuals near father Julius. They also carry him away.

INT. CHURCH - FATHER AUGUSTUS SUITE - NIGHT

Two police officers are in Augustus' room.

POLICE OFFICER 1, a man, mid 20's, is sanding next to POLICE OFFICER 2, a woman, mid 20's.

Augustus is standing near the window, looking devastated, hand placed on his chest.

Officer 2 walks up to father Augustus.

OFFICER 2

I am so sorry father, but we are still searching.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

It was his first real assignment. I blame myself.

(Beat)

How, did they drift that far out to sea?

OFFICER 1

The balloon operator is still unconscious and critical, father. When he wakes, we'll let you know. He might be able to tell us what happened.

Augustus moves back to his desk and sits, looking to officer 1.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I would appreciate that.

Officer 2 rejoins her partner.

OFFICER 2

We'll keep you posted with the search, father.

Augustus nods as he pulls out his pill bottle, from his pocket.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Thank you my children.

Augustus is about to stand.

OFFICER 1

We'll see ourselves out, father.

Augustus remains seated. Saddened, he faces the window as he shakes a couple pills, into his hand.

The officers exit, closing the door behind them.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - FOYER AREA - NIGHT

A MAN, his back to us, dressed in a glorious golden gown, ornate with jewels, stands. His arms out, palms up, facing the revolving doors.

A thin solid gold head band is visible over his long undulating white hair.

The clock shows 23:10.

Peter, and the rest of the purpled robed individuals, kneel before him.

MAN (O.S.)

I am proud of you, my children. As always! Keep up the good work!

The man begins to glow in golden light, then white and disappears.

Peter looks up, followed by the rest.

FATHER PETER

Alright all, a job well done. Give yourselves a pat on the back and off to bed.

All stand, showing some form of ageing aches as they do.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - BONITA AND CLYNE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Bonita and Clyne lay awake, on a king size bed, in a large white room trimmed with gold architraves.

A bible is placed on each of their white bed side table.

No modern conveniences are visible; no phone, TV, lights, etc...

Church pillar candles are placed around the room, unlit.

Bonita and Clyne are gazing at the ceiling, appearing stunned.

BONITA

Clyne? Where are we?

Clyne lifts the bed sheet, taking a peak. Startled, he looks to Bonita.

CLYNE

I'm naked.

Bonita does the same and looks to Clyne, horrified.

BONITA

So am I!

A knock is heard.

Both pull the sheets to their neck, looking towards a golden door.

SISTER MARY (O.S.)

May I come in?

Bonita and Clyne look to each other, then back to the door.

SISTER MARY (CONT'D)

May I come in? (Insisting)

Bonita gulps.

BONITA

Yes!

The door opens. Mary enters, bowing in respect, holding onto a basket filled with fruit.

SISTER MARY

Welcome to Paradise resort.

Clyne and Bonita are speechless, looking on.

Mary places the basket on a small table, near the window. She draws the curtains open.

SISTER MARY (CONT'D)

It's Sunrise.

Four flares of light cross the sky, noticed by Bonita and Clyne.

Mary blesses herself.

CLYNE

What was that?

Mary doesn't respond. She walks over to golden twin cupboard doors, opening them.

two grey robes are hanging. She pulls them out. A number seven is printed on them.

Mary places them at the end of the bed.

SISTER MARY

Please get dressed. Breakfast is being served, in the master dining room.

CLYNE

What is this place? How did we get here?

Mary heads for the door. She looks back before exiting.

SISTER MARY

Paradise resort. The resort for newly weds. Please get dressed.

Mary points to the robes.

SISTER MARY (CONT'D)

These robes are only temporary.

Mary walks out, closing the door.

BONITA

Wait! How did ...

CLYNE

Wow!

Clyne is looking around the room, smiling.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Look at this place. Gold everywhere. We could get out of here pretty rich.

Bonita looks to him, bitterly, smacking him on the arm.

BONITA

How can you be thinking of stealing, already? We don't even know where we are. This place doesn't even look, like the resort I booked!

Clyne replies smiling.

CLYNE

Well we're here, Bonita, let's enjoy it.

Bonita sits up, frustrated and slides the grey robe from the bottom of the bed towards herself.

BONITA

Aren't you at least curious as to how we got here? 'cause, I sure don't remember.

She looks to the number seven.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What the hell have they given us to wear?

The room emits a loud rumbling sound, almost like thunder.

They look to each other inquisitively, for an instant.

Bonita shrugs it off and looks to her grey robe.

BONITA (CONT'D)

And what the hell is this number for?

The room emits another loud rumble.

Clyne sits up. They look to each other.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What is that?

Clyne shrugs his shoulders.

Clyne drags his robe across, looking to it.

Bonita disgusted, slips on her robe and steps out of bed looking for a mirror.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Where's the mirror?

She looks around the room.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Where's the bathroom?

Clyne dons his gown and walks over to Bonita, to give her a hug.

Bonita shrugs him off. She heads for the door.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Let's get something to eat. Then let's get out of here!

Clyne looks to her, blowing her a kiss with an over the top loving look.

Bonita is annoyed.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Let's qo!

There are woven grass sandals placed next to the door. Bonita looks back to Clyne, slipping on a pair.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Sandals? What next?

Bonita opens the door, stepping into the corridor.

BONITA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Bloody hell. It's dark in here!

Clyne slips on his sandals and follows her out, closing the door behind him, as a rumble is heard.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

They are in total darkness.

Bonita panics.

BONTTA

Open the door, Clyne. I can't see a thing.

CLYNE

I can't see or feel the door.

(Beat)

I can't feel any walls, either.

What the hell is this place?

A rumble is heard, Bonita panics.

BONITA

What is that rumbling sound? Ouch! Get off my foot!

A sudden flash of light surrounds them, blinding them, they cover their eyes, hollering.

INT. MASTER DINING ROOM ENTRANCE

Bonita and Clyne appear at a golden arch, which is the entrance of the dining area.

They drop their hands from their eyes, rubbing them as they do. They squint towards each other and their surroundings.

BONITA

What just happened?

Speechless, Clyne shrugs his shoulders as he points to the dining area, which faces them.

INT. MASTER DINING ROOM

The bright dining room is surrounded by large windows, revealing spectacular gardens.

10 long tables of twelve are organized around the room.

All are filled with grey robed individuals, silently having breakfast.

Bonita nudges Clyne, whispering.

BONITA

Clyne? Look! They are all in grey robes.

FATHER MATTHEW, 60's, dressed in a purple robe, appears next to them.

FATHER MATTHEW

Welcome...

He startles them. Father Matthew smiles.

FATHER MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(soft tone)

Please follow me. I'll show you to your table.

CLYNE

Who are you? What sort of resort is this?

FATHER MATTHEW

(Soft tone)

My, my. We are curious. We have rules here. One of them is, no talking in the dining area. After breakfast your questions, will be answered and you will be anointed. Please, follow me.

Matthew points to the dining area.

BONITA

Rules? Anointed?

Matthew, looks to her crossed.

FATHER MATTHEW

Please, quiet. Now, if you'll please follow me.

Bonita and Clyne cautiously and hesitantly follow. Bonita whispers to Clyne.

BONITA

What the hell is going on?

Clyne shrugs his shoulders, as a rumble is heard.

They both look around, searching for the sound.

Matthew looks to them with unforgiving eyes.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What is that noise? (Whispering)

FATHER MATTHEW

Shush!

Bonita is silently fuming.

Matthew points to two spare seats.

The table is filled with 10, number seven robed individuals, five women and five men.

All look to Bonita and Clyne, nodding with a smile, acknowledging their presence. They then continue with their breakfast.

Bonita and Clyne sit, as they look around, feeling uncomfortable.

FATHER MATTHEW (CONT'D)

(whispering)

I'll be back when you're finished.

Matthew walks off.

Bonita and Clyne look to each other then at their plates, which are filled with fruit, then back to each other.

CLYNE

Fruit?

All, in the dining area, turn to face Clyne.

Bonita and Clyne look around, stunned.

Bonita nudges Clyne's arm.

BONITA

Shut up and eat. (Mouthing)

Clyne pulls a face, glancing around the room, once more.

Bonita drops her head.

The crowd regains it's composure.

Clyne, agitated, picks up a banana and begins to peel it. Bonita picks at her grapes.

Clyne places the banana in his mouth, gliding it up and down gently between his lips.

Bonita's eyes widen in shock as she takes a quick glance around the table.

No-one has noticed.

Retaliating, she plucks two grapes from the bunch and places them in the palm of her hand. She oldly gazes to Clyne then to his crutch as she tightly closes her hand, pulping the two grapes.

Clyne pulls a pained face as Bonita scrapes the remainder of the grapes back in her plate, eyeing Clyne.

BONITA (CONT'D)

(mouthing)

Jerk.

INT. JULIUS' HOSPITAL BED - INTENSIVE CARE

Julius is in intensive care, hooked up to breathing apparatus and monitors.

The two police officers are by his side.

Charles, also present, is sitting in a wheel chair.

The chair is placed next to Julius' bed.

Charles's head and left arm are bandaged and his left leg is in plaster.

A nurse is standing behind the wheelchair. She begins to reel Charles out.

OFFICER 2

Thank you for confirming his ID.

CHARLES

Not a problem. Where are the others?

OFFICER 2

The search is ongoing.

Charles nods as the nurse reels him out.

Officer 1 looks to officer 2.

OFFICER 1

Better let father Augustus know.

Officer 2 nods and both step out of the room.

INT. CHURCH - FATHER AUGUSTUS SUITE

Augustus, phone in hand, is sitting at his desk looking concerned.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

(into phone)

In a coma? Are you sure it's him? (Beat)

I'll be there shortly. Thank you.

He glances towards the photo.

He places the phone down and grabs the picture frame with one hand, placing the other on his chest, expressing pain.

He sighs and places the picture upright, back on the desk.

He takes his bible off the table.

He stands and walks over to the door, grabbing his coat off the coat rack.

He suddenly huddles in pain, holding onto his chest.

Struggling to get the pill bottle from his pocket, he collapses.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - PETER'S SUITE

Four white chairs, center a small white room.

Large gold crucifixes are placed on each wall.

No windows are visible.

Peter, dressed in a gold trimmed purple robe, is standing in the room.

The door opens. Matthew enters with Julius.

FATHER PETER

Thank you, father Matthew.

Peter points to the chairs as a baffled Julius looks to him.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Please be seated, father Julius.

Julius, dressed in a plain purple robe, looks to Peter stunned and sits.

FATHER JULIUS

Father Augustus?

Peter smiles, reassuring him.

FATHER PETER

No. Father Augustus is my twin brother. I am Father Peter.

FATHER JULIUS

Oh! You sure look alike.

(Beat)

Umm! Where am I? And, how did I get here?

Peter sits in front of him.

FATHER PETER

You were a little water logged when we found you, father Julius. Your memory may be scatted for a while.

(Beat.)

As for your questions, you are at Paradise resort and we found you on the resorts beach. You washed ashore.

Julius begins to remember.

FATHER JULIUS

So the balloon must have crashed?

FATHER PETER

Yes! It did.

Julius looks to Peter concerned.

FATHER JULIUS

And the others?

FATHER PETER

Two more were found. Bonita and Clyne. They are also here at Paradise resort. They, belong here.

FATHER JULIUS

(Confused)

I'm sorry? They belong here? I'm not following you father.

FATHER PETER

This is Paradise resort! Not quite the place where someone, like yourself drops in.

Julius appears utterly confused.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Paradise resort is only for newlyweds.

Julius looks even more confused, but nods in affirmation, gaping.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

You, on the other hand, washed up on the resort's beach, by accident.

Julius breaks his silence, in a soft and shaky voice.

FATHER JULIUS

By accident? I'm sorry father, I really don't understand.

FATHER PETER

As newlyweds, Bonita and Clyne are most welcomed here.

Julius frowns.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

And so are you, of course. But, you are not a newly wed and this resort is for newly weds.

Julius, completely confused, tumbles his words.

FATHER JULIUS

We washed up on your shores. -- they are welcomed and "I" am not.

FATHER PETER

Yes, that's correct.

(Sighs)

The problem is, -- since you have graced our shores, it is the policy of this resort -- to make use -- of your services. Then, we can send you home.

Julius is completely confused.

FATHER JULIUS

Alright! I'm here and I don't belong. And, the only way I can go home, is to provide my services.
(BEAT)

What I am suppose to do?

Peter smiles.

FATHER PETER

You performed your first wedding ceremony during that balloon flight.

Julius' face lights up in pride.

FATHER JULIUS

Yes, father. I did.

FATHER PETER

Good! You have passed one of many major tasks, you will need to accomplish, to qualify as a priest.

Julius is attentive.

FATHER JULIUS

Yes, father.

FATHER PETER

Good! Now, you must fulfill another, -- here, -- at Paradise resort.

FATHER JULIUS

Another wedding?

FATHER PETER

No, no father Julius. You have done that. This new task will add another echelon, to your priesthood.

FATHER JULIUS

I will need to confer with father Augustus first.

FATHER PETER

That might prove a little difficult.

FATHER JULIUS

How so?

FATHER PETER

Let's put it this way, Julius. I don't think he would object and I am sure, you would have his blessing.

FATHER JULIUS

(hesitantly)

Then, -- I suppose, -- I would be honoured. What do I have to do?

FATHER PETER

We'll meet up with Bonita and Clyne shortly.

Julius looks a little shocked and begins to twitch as he gulps.

FATHER JULIUS

What do you...what does Bonita and Clyne have to do with this?

FATHER PETER

They will be your responsibility.

FATHER JULIUS

For what?

Peter gives a cheeky smile.

FATHER PETER

You will be their friend and guide, father Julius.

Julius wipes his sweaty hands on his robes.

FATHER JULIUS

Their what?

FATHER PETER

(sighs)

It's very simple. We need you to help them right their wrongs.

Julius removes his foggy glasses, wiping them with his robe, even more confused.

FATHER JULIUS

Uh?... Right their wrongs, father?

Julius nervously puts on his glasses. They sit skewed on his nose. Peter refrains from laughing.

FATHER PETER

(Cheeky authority)

They need to accept the seventh commandment!

Julius straightens his glasses.

FATHER JULIUS

Thou shalt not steal?

Peter nods, smirking as Julius nervously looks on.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

I -- I'm -- You have lost me again,
father.

Peter smirks.

FATHER PETER

Bonita and Clyne will be joining us shortly, father Julius. I will explain then. Make yourself comfortable until then. They won't be long.

Peter stands and walks out, leaving a rattled Julius.

INT. DINING ROOM

Matthew is escorting Bonita and Clyne out of the dining area.

The rest are seen dispersing towards the glass doors, adjoining the gardens.

Bonita, anxious, looks to Father Matthew.

BONITA

Can we have some answers now?

Matthew keeps on walking.

FATHER MATTHEW

Soon. Just follow me please.

Bonita pulls a face.

As they step into the corridor everything darkens.

CLYNE

Can't this place afford electricity?

A bright glow engulfs them. They appear in the foyer.

INT. FOYER

Bonita and Clyne look around stupefied.

BONITA

What just happened? Are we in Houdini's palace or something?

Clyne is gobsmacked as he spins on the spot, noticing the gold trimmings and items that surrounds him.

CLYNE

WOW!

Noticing a small gold empty candle holder, placed at arms reach, Clyne outstretches his hand to grab it.

Bonita notices and whispers angrily, as she punches his arm.

BONITA

Don't you dare.

Clyne retracts his hand, his eyes frowning in disapproval. He rubs his punched arm.

Matthew notices but ignores. He proceeds to open a golden door.

FATHER MATTHEW

Please step in here. Father Peter will be with you shortly.

Speechless, Bonita and Clyne step towards the door and enter.

Matthew closes the door as he looks to Mary who is walking past, her arms loaded with towels.

FATHER MATTHEW (CONT'D) Father Peter is going to have his hands full with these two.

SISTER MARY

He's found someone to help.

Matthew walks off shrugging his shoulders.

FATHER MATTHEW

Pity the poor soul.

TNT. PETER'S SUTTE

The door closes Behind Bonita and Clyne as they step into the white room, where Julius is still sitting.

BONITA

Oh my goodness, father Julius. It's so good to see you.

Bonita and Clyne are surprised to see Julius. They sit themselves in the empty chairs next to him.

Julius begins to twitch.

CLYNE

Where are we, father Julius? What is this place?

The door opens behind them and all turn towards it.

Peter walks in.

Surprised, Clyne and Bonita exclaim in unison as they stand.

BONITA AND CLYNE

Father Augustus?

Peter closes the door.

FATHER JULIUS

No, this is father Peter, his twin brother.

Bonita and Clyne look to each other dumbfounded as Peter smirks.

FATHER PETER

Welcome. Please be seated.

Peter points to the chairs. They sit gazing.

We hear a loud gong, then another.

All look to each other as the door opens.

Matthew rushes in.

FATHER MATTHEW

Father Peter. You have been summoned. It's urgent.

Peter stands.

FATHER PETER

I'm sorry. I'll be back shortly.

Peter looks to Matthew.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Please provide them with neck chokers, father Matthew. I'll brief them as soon as I return.

FATHER MATTHEW

Yes, father.

Peter exits quickly.

INT. FATHER AUGUSTUS' HOSPITAL ROOM

Augustus is laying on a hospital bed, eyes shut, hooked up to monitors. Nurse is tidying his sheet whilst the doctor places Augustus' chart at the end of the bed.

Monitors are showing stable vital signs. The doctor looks to the nurse.

DOCTOR

Any changes to his heart rate, or should he come out of coma, I want to be notified immediately.

NURSE

Yes, doctor.

The doctor walks out. The nurse shortly follows, leaving the door open.

Peter enters the room, walking over to Augustus' bedside.

FATHER PETER

(jokingly)

Hey little brother. You rang?

Augustus' ghostly self sits up, leaving his earthly body and smiles.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Long time no see.

FATHER PETER

It has been a while. You summoned me, Augustus. Is something troubling you?

Augustus nods as he completely steps out of his body and stands. He walks over to the window, followed by Peter.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I have a favor to ask of you. I want to trade places with Julius.

Peter looks to him curiously.

FATHER PETER

Why? Julius' time is up.

Augustus looks to Peter.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I know. I overheard the doctor and nurse talking. He is in a coma and his vital signs don't look good, but if I trade my life source with his...

FATHER PETER

Nonsense, Augustus. You of all people should know better. It is his time.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

No, it isn't and I want to trade places with him, Peter.
(MORE)

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

I am old and Father Julius will make a great priest. He never had a chance. I should have been in that balloon, not him.

Peter shakes his head as he rests his hand on Augustus' shoulder.

FATHER PETER

Nonsense! I can't let you do that, Augustus.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Why? I am old and I am dying. And he has so much to give, Peter.

FATHER PETER

Your church and people need you too, Augustus. "You" still have a few years left in you.

Augustus shakes his head in disappointment.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Please Peter, be reasonable.

Peter ponders a while as Augustus looks on with begging eyes.

FATHER PETER

Don't you give me that look.

They stare at each other. Peter mellows.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Aaah! Are you sure you want to do this?

Augustus nods.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I am.

Peter sighs and hesitantly replies.

FATHER PETER

Oh, Alright. But, under one condition.

Augustus frowns in curiosity.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

What condition, Peter?

Peter smiles.

FATHER PETER

I have set a task for him. If he succeeds, I'll grant your wish.
(MORE)

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Just hope, he is as good as you think he is.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Always have to have the last say, don't you?

Augustus and Peter exchange smiles.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Very well! You have a deal. I am sure he is capable of any task.
(Curious)

What is his task?

Peter smirks as he extends his arms towards Augustus.

FATHER PETER

I'll let you know later.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Typical!

They lock into a brotherly hug.

FATHER PETER

Now, brother dear, return to your body. And I'll keep you posted.

Patting each other on the back they both slowly dissipate.

The heart monitor alarm sounds.

The nurse rushes in, followed by another.

NURSE

Fetch the doctor, quickly.

The nurse reels the defibrillator towards the bed as the doctor rushes in the room.

INT. PETER'S SUITE

Bonita and Clyne are standing, trying to remove the choker that has been placed around their neck. Appearing like clowns approaching different techniques.

Julius, sitting down, is watching them. His hand placed over his mouth, silently laughing.

BONITA

This is ridiculous. I can't budge it. Get it off me, Clyne.

CLYNE

I can't get mine off either. Where the hell is this Peter dude?

The door opens as we here a loud rumble. Peter walks in, closing the door behind him.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

About time. What the hell are these dumb dog collars for?

A rumble is heard. Father Peter looks up in frustration, then back to Clyne, sighing.

FATHER PETER

Rule number one.

(Authority)

Do not mention the dark angel's territory.

CLYNE

(Frustrated)

The what?

Peter looks up again, seeking forgiveness, then looks back to Clyne.

FATHER PETER

Do not say HELL.

A rumble is heard.

CLYNE

What?

FATHER PETER

Please calm down and be seated. Let me explain.

Clyne verbally rebels in frustration, holding his choker.

CT.VNE

Just get these things off.

FATHER PETER

(Authoritatively)

Sit!

(Politely)

Please.

Bonita and Clyne, annoyed and a little shocked, sit hanging on their chokers.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

These chokers are temporary. But will cause discomfort by tightening, should you break any rules.

Peter points to the chokers. They both glow for an instant.

Clyne looks to Bonita then to Peter, annoyed.

CLYNE

Rules. What fucking rules?

A large rumble is heard.

Father Julius places his hands over his ears for an instant.

Clyne stands, his choker begins to glow.

He grabs onto it as it begins to lightly tighten around his neck.

Clyne pulls ridiculous faces, twisting his body around like a rag doll, grunting.

Bonita panics as Julius looks on, stunned.

BONITA

What are you doing to him?

FATHER PETER

The chokers are now active.

(Affirming with authority)

Break any rules and they will

tighten. Temporarily, of course.

(Beat)

Rule number two. There is to be

no swearing.

Julius drops his hands; although a little shocked, he grins. Bonita notices and points towards him, annoyed.

BONITA

Why isn't he wearing one?

FATHER PETER

He doesn't need to. He has not broken any of the 10 commandments.

(Affirming loudly)

You two, have.

Clyne is now breathing normally. Vexedly, he looks to Julius.

Remorsefully, Bonita looks to Peter.

BONITA

Are we in Jail?

Clyne tosses his head side to side, regaining his composure.

Dumbfounded and confused, they look to Peter.

Peter sighs, as he sits and points, showing Clyne the empty chair.

FATHER PETER

(Authority)

Sit! And let me explain.

INT. AUGUSTUS' HOSPITAL BED

The nurse is tidying up the leads as the doctor places his stethoscope around his neck.

DOCTOR

We almost lost him. I want someone here, with him, at all times.

NURSE

Yes doctor.

The doctor walks out. The nurse tidies the sheet as she looks to Augustus.

NURSE (CONT'D)

You gave us a little scare, father.

She tucks the side of the sheet and walks out.

INT. PETER'S SUITE

Clyne, infuriated, is pacing the room, watched by all.

He looks to Peter.

CLYNE

So, you're saying we're dead. And this "Paradise" resort, is a triage area for newlyweds?

FATHER PETER

Yes. And, with Father Julius' help you will have the opportunity to address and rectify your sins. Giving you, the opportunity to go to heaven.

BONITA

I want to go home. This is ridiculous. We're not dead.

CLYNE

If we are dead, why should we rectify our sins?
(He points to Julius)
And why do we need his help? Isn't he dead too?

FATHER PETER

Father Julius is not your concern but you are his; sort of.

Peter looks to Clyne and Bonita, frowning.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry but you have sinned and you must repent.

CLYNE

What fucking sins?

His choker glows and tightens. He grabs hold of it.

Losing control he kneels. Clyne's body slowly twists to the ground.

Clyne, pulling faces, grunts.

Bonita, frantic, stands and runs over to him, looking back to Peter.

BONITA

Stop that!

FATHER PETER

I can't. He has to learn, Bonita.

The choker's glow fades as it loosens.

BONITA

Are you alright?

Clyne nods, pulling a face. He looks to Peter, pointing to Julius.

CLYNE

Alright, let's say we are dead. How his he suppose to help us? He's useless. What's he going to do?

Clyne relaxes and stands.

Peter shakes his head in disappointment as the door opens. Matthew walks in.

Julius is nervously twitching as he wipes his glasses.

FATHER MATTHEW

The portal is ready.

Peter nods as he stands.

FATHER PETER

It's time.

CLYNE

Time for what?

Peter looks to Clyne, annoyed.

FATHER PETER

Please, follow me.

Bonita pulls on Clyne's robe.

BONITA

Come on. (Insisting)

Julius stands. All head out the door.

The door closes.

INT. FOYER - CONTINUOUS

The revolving doors are engulfed in a bright white glow.

BONITA

What is that?

Matthew passes a folder to Peter.

FATHER PETER

Thank you.

Peter passes the folder to Julius, as they near the glow.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Follow these written instructions, father Julius.

Julius looks puzzled as he takes the folder.

Peter looks to Bonita and Clyne.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

When the sun sets, you will be returned to the resort.

BONITA

Where are we going?

Peter points to the portal.

FATHER PETER

Please step in.

FATHER JULIUS

What am I suppose to do?

FATHER PETER

It's all in the folder, Julius. Please step in.

Clyne rebels.

CLYNE

I'm not going anywhere.

Peter looks to Matthew. Acknowledging, Matthew nods as he gently but forcefully grabs hold of Clyne and pushes him towards the glow.

Clyne tries to struggle but as soon as his hand makes contact with the glow, he disappears.

BONITA

Where did he go? What have you done to him? Clyne? (Frantic)

FATHER PETER

Step in Bonita. He's fine. (Looking to Julius)
Please step in.

Julius hesitantly nods. He grabs hold of Bonita's arm as he outstretches the other, holding to the folder, into the glow.

BONITA

Let go of me.

They disappear.

Peter sighs loudly as he looks to Matthew.

FATHER MATTHEW

Shouldn't one of us have gone instead of Father Julius? He has no experience in this.

Peter looks concerned.

FATHER PETER

Maybe.

He looks to the wall clock. It shows 9:00.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

He has 10 hours to accomplish his task. Let's see how he goes. Augustus believes in him and I must as well.

The glow has dissipated, revealing the revolving door once more.

Peter heads for the revolving door. Matthew walks in the opposite direction.

INT. CHURCH

A bright glow appears near the confessional box.

It slowly dissipates, revealing Clyne, Bonita and Julius, looking stunned.

Julius drops to his knees and begins to pray.

Bonita and Clyne look to each other then to a kneeling Julius.

BONITA

Here he goes again.

Clyne looks around.

CLYNE

How did we get back here?

BONTTA

Who cares. It's all been a bad dream. I'm going home.

Bonita heads down the aisle towards the entrance. She looks back.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Are you coming?

Julius looks up as Clyne heads towards Bonita.

FATHER JULIUS

Wait.

Clyne turns around.

CLYNE

For what?

Clyne turns and joins Bonita. Julius stands.

Julius opens his folder. Bonita and Clyne are at the entrance, ready to step down the steps.

Both suddenly howl, as they kneel, grabbing onto their glowing chokers.

Julius looks towards them in fright. He rushes over.

FATHER JULIUS

You can't leave.

Their choker hold loosens. The glow dissipates. Bonita and Clyne relax.

Julius opens the front page of his folder. The inscription in large bold letters reads. Remain together.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

We have to stick together.

CLYNE

This is all a fucking bad dream.

Clyne's choker glows and begins to tighten. He grabs hold of it, pulling a face.

BONITA

This can't be happening.

She begins to cry.

BONITA (CONT'D)

We can't be dead.

Bonita Looks to Julius.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Please tell me, this is all just a dream.

Julius sadly looks to Bonita.

FATHER JULIUS

I wish it was, Bonita.

Julius looks to the folder and opens it.

Clyne's choker stops glowing and loosens.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

It says there are rules you must obey. The first and second one you already know. Do not mention the dark angel's territory.

(He looks to them)

And "No swearing".

Clyne grabs the folder. Bonita looks over.

CLYNE

What is this book?

Clyne pulls a mocking face as he looks to Julius, then to the folder.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

(Looking to Bonita),

Huh?

(MORE)

CLYNE (CONT'D)

(Looking to the folder)

Rule number three. Follow and obey your peer?

Clyne looks to Julius, pulling a dissatisfied clown face.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

You?

Julius does not reply. Clyne looks to the folder, shaking his head.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Rule number four. Undo all wrongs?

Clyne looks to Bonita, frowning.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

What is that suppose to mean?

Julius nervously outstretches his hand and takes the folder. He points to the number seven on their robes.

FATHER JULIUS

Haven't you figured out what that number stands for, YET?

Both look at their robes, shrugging.

CLYNE

(sarcastically)

No! Should we?

FATHER JULIUS

You have broken the seventh commandment.

Bonita and Clyne look confused.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

(emphasizing)

Thou shall not steal!

BONITA

(shocked)

Oh!

FATHER JULIUS

(Timidly)

Why don't we all take a seat and read this together.

Bonita pinches Clyne, who screams.

BONITA

(sadly)

This is for real. I'm not dreaming.

Bonita drops her head in sadness.

BONITA (CONT'D)

We really are dead.

Frustrated Bonita hits Clyne.

BONITA (CONT'D)

(teary)

This is all your fault. You and your romantic hot air balloon wedding. Look where it got us.

CLYNE

It's my fault?

Julius walking off, shaking his head. He heads towards the confessional box.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

You were the one who wanted to do something different on your wedding day.

Bonita hits Clyne's chest with both hands, frustrated.

BONITA

I didn't choose the balloon did I? And now we're dead.

Julius takes a quick look back, seeing them still squabbling.

FATHER JULIUS

(Reinforcing)

Rule three. Follow and obey your peer.

CLYNE

(mimicking)

Rule three. Follow and obey your peer. You got to be kidding.

Bonita grabs Clyne by the arm. Leading him they follow Julius.

BONITA

(angry)

Shut up, Clyne.

INT. JULIUS' HOSPITAL BED - PRIVATE ROOM

The nurse is replacing Julius' glucose drip. The doctor walks in.

DOCTOR

Any changes?

NURSE

Some rapid eye movements a little while ago. I've never seen that in coma patients before.

The doctor picks up Julius' chart from the end of the bed.

DOCTOR

Rare, but it happens. We know so little, about the thought processes in such a state.

(Beat)

Any changes with Father Augustus? (He writes on the chart.)

NURSE

No changes, doctor.

DOCTOR

Let's check on him.

The doctor places the chart back at the end of the bed and walks out, followed by the nurse.

INT. CHURCH

All three are sitting on a pew, near the confession box.

Julius is reading his folder, out loud.

FATHER JULIUS

Rule number four.

Julius shakes his head and stands.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

It says here.

(Pointing to the page)

You must amend, by means of a good deed, the following two stealing offences.

Julius looks to them, frowning in disgust.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

Offence number one. Consistently robbing the Church's poor box.

(MORE)

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

(Looking to them)

So you were the one's. That's unforgiveable. How could you?

CLYNE

We had to eat. (Jokingly)

Bonita hits him.

BONITA

I really should have listened to my mother. She said you'd be nothing but trouble.

Clyne retaliates as Julius watches on.

CLYNE

No one twisted your arm and you did it too.

BONITA

Oh, so it's my fault, again?

Julius is frustrated and with authority avows loudly, shocking Bonita and Clyne.

FATHER JULIUS

Enough! I will not put up with all this bickering.

CLYNE

(Surprised)

Whoa, Father Julius. Way to go.

Bonita hits Clyne's arm.

Bonita and Clyne share a bitter stare.

Julius is becoming more confident and his nervousness appears to be dwindling.

He reopens the folder.

FATHER JULIUS

Offence number two.

Julius looks to them, disgusted.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

You robbed the blind?

Clyne raises a brow.

CLYNE

Not quite true. Robert, is not "really" blind.

BONITA

Uh? How are we going to rectify all of this?

Julius is looking at the folder. Nervously he takes a quick glance towards Bonita and Clyne. He grits his teeth in nervousness.

Bonita notices.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What's the matter now? What else does it say?

Julius timidly answers.

FATHER JULIUS

Nothing really.

Bonita stands and steps near Julius grabbing the folder, reading the page. Julius just stares.

BONITA

Huh? You're kidding?

Clyne stands and walks over.

CLYNE

What? What does it say?

He grabs the folder. Bonita stares at Julius, shaking her head.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Rule number five. Don't forget rule number three. Respect, respect, respect.

(Looking to Julius) Is this a joke?

Julius remains silent as he shrugs his shoulders. A small smirk is visible.

A bright light suddenly appears below the crucifix, near the altar. All eyes are drawn to the glow.

As the light dissipates, Peter materializes.

All remain quiet, staring. Peter looks around the church as he advances towards them.

FATHER PETER

Lovely old church. Now I understand why Augustus is so proud of it.

Julius nods in respect as Peter now stands next to them.

FATHER JULIUS

Father.

Peter smiles to Julius then looks to Bonita and Clyne.

FATHER PETER

It is obvious you two have a problem with authority and lack respect for each other and everyone else. Let me make myself quite clear. Father Julius is your mentor. He and only he, can make you better souls.

CLYNE

(baited)

Why? Why is all this necessary? If we're dead, we're dead. Why bother about the wrongs we have done?

FATHER PETER

One thing I didn't mention, Clyne. And, I didn't think I would have to.

He looks to all three.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

If you do not amend your wrong doings or are unable to show respect, God knows what Satan will do to you.

BONITA

Satan? We're Christians. We belong in heaven.

Bonita hits Clyne on the arm.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Your fault!

FATHER PETER

ENOUGH! You're running out of time. You have till sunset.

Peter begins to glow as a white light wraps around him.

FATHER JULIUS

Wait! How do I help them?

FATHER PETER

Try your best, Julius.

CLYNE

We don't need his help.

FATHER PETER

Ungrateful and disrespectful. I shall now up the Ante.

CLYNE

What do you mean, up the ante?

Bonita and Clyne look to each other concerned as Peter raises his left arm towards them.

BONTTA

What's he doing?

FATHER PETER

Rule number six.

Julius quickly flicks through the folder. Peter looks to him smirking.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

You won't find it. I've just thought of it. Bonita and Clyne need to learn the meaning of respect.

A glow suddenly engulfs Bonita and Clyne.

BONITA

What's going on? You and you're big mouth Clyne. What mess are you getting us into this time?

FATHER PETER

(Reinforcing)

Rule number six. Learn to respect yourselves and others.

Peter, laughing, disappears as his glow dissipates.

We loose sight of Bonita and Clyne as their glow intensifies, their voices still audible.

BONITA (V.O.)

I can't move. This is all your fault Clyne.

CLYNE (V.O.)

Stop blaming me for everything.

BONITA (V.O.)

Who else am I suppose to blame? Mother was right. She was always right. You're a jerk.

CLYNE (V.O.)

You and your mother!

BONITA

Don't say another word.

Julius looks to the white glow as it begins to dissipate.

CLYNE

Fine by me.

Bonita and Clyne stand back to back, arms crossed, infuriated.

The glow vanishes.

FATHER JULIUS

Can we proceed, now?

The two turn their heads towards him, frowning.

The two have unknowingly exchanged bodies.

CLYNE

Do we have a choice?

Julius, shocked, stares.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

What's wrong with you? Looks like you've seen a ghost?
(Mockingly)

"Ha, ha".

Bonita scratches her crutch.

BONITA

Uh! We are funny!

She gasps in horror, looking to her crotch.

She quickly turns to face Clyne and looks him up and down.

Julius is speechless.

Clyne now facing Bonita, realizes that he is looking at himself.

Speechless he looks to his new body and feels it, rubbing his breast.

CLYNE

Wow!

Bonita, whacks Clyne on the arm.

 ${\tt BONITA}$

(Infuriated)

Stop that. That's my body.

Both stare to each other dumfounded and turn to face Julius, who is gaping.

CLYNE

What's going on?

Julius shakes his head, stops gaping and takes a pronounced gulp.

Bonita and Clyne look to each other.

BONITA

This a sick joke.

A loud voice echoes throughout the church (Peter's)

They look around.

FATHER PETER

No joke! Learn to respect and you will return to normal.

Bonita begins to sob.

BONITA

But I don't want his body. I want mine back!

CLYNE

What's wrong with my body? I like yours.

Clyne begins to feel his breasts once more.

Bonita, still in tears, is furious. She slaps Clyne's arm, in frustration.

BONITA

Cut that out. I mean it.

FATHER JULIUS

ENOUGH!

INT. AUGUSTUS' HOSPITAL BED

Augustus lays motionless. Peter walks in the room and nears Augustus' bed.

Augustus' ghostly self sits.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Didn't expect to see you again, so soon.

FATHER PETER

I need to talk to you, Augustus. I need to reassure myself that you are adamant about trading places with Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Yes, of course. Why?

FATHER PETER

I don't think he's got what it takes.

Augustus stands.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Nonsense. I know he's capable.

Peter shakes his head as he walks to the window. Augustus follows him.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Why is he a concern?

FATHER PETER

I've honoured him with a task that I would normally have to do. I wanted to test him. I don't think he can handle it.

Peter looks to Augustus.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

If he fails, I cannot fulfill your wish.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Peter, that's childish.

FATHER PETER

It's not my decision.

Peter looks to the heavens.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Can't you help him?

Peter shakes his head.

FATHER PETER

No. I can't break the rule.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Why? You have broken rules before?

FATHER PETER

Regretfully, yes!

Peter looks up and blesses himself.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Well then, let me help him.

Peter shakes his head, his eyes downcast.

FATHER PETER

No, Augustus, I can't. He has till sunset.

Their eyes meet.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

And what happens then?

FATHER PETER

(Sighing)

If he is unsuccessful, he will die and you will live.

Augustus is aggravated.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Please, Peter, Let me help him.

Augustus gives him a child like begging look.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Please!

(Beat)

Please!

FATHER PETER

(sighing)

Oh Augustus, cut it out!

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Peter?

Augustus continues his child like look.

Peter sighs in defeat.

FATHER PETER

Oh! Augustus! Really!

Peter takes a big breath and closes his eyes for a couple of second. Augustus quietly looks on.

We hear a cock crow.

A faint smile appears on Augustus as he hears the crowing.

Peter shakes his head as he opens his eyes and looks to Augustus.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Well?

FATHER PETER

Your request has been granted.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Thank you, Peter.

Peter points to the ceiling.

FATHER PETER

Thank him.

They exchange smiles.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

They're in your church, Augustus.

(He hesitates)

But, I've up the ante.

Augustus looks puzzled.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

You'll see.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Oh! Not up to your old childish pranks again, Peter?

Peter smirks. Augustus shakes his head as they lock in a brotherly embrace, patting each other on the back.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

I'm sure I can manage whatever you've dished out.

Peter then takes a step back.

FATHER PETER

Good luck!

Peter is dissipating.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Thanks.

Peter disappears.

Augustus ghostly figure, glances towards his earthly body, smiling and walks out the door.

The nurse passes through him as she enters the room. She stops and rubs her arms feeling a chill. Has a look of wonder. Shrugging it off, she proceeds to check on Augustus earthly body.

INT. CHURCH

CLYNE AND BONITA STILL IN EXCHANGED BODIES.

All three are sitting on a pew, silent, looking towards the large crucifix.

Augustus is entering the church. Seeing them, he heads their way.

Bonita breaks the silence, not noticing Augustus.

BONTTA

Well we're doomed. That folder is useless.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (O.S.)

My, my, what sad faces.

Startled, all eyes face Augustus. They stand smiling.

FATHER JULIUS

Father Augustus. I am so glad to see you.

Augustus nears them.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Tragic end to your balloon flight. I am so sorry.

BONTTA

We're dead father.

Augustus, startled by the voice, holds back from laughing. He nods in agreement.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Yes, I know.

(He looks to Julius)

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

But, you are not.

Julius looks confused.

FATHER JULIUS

What do you mean?

Augustus' nods.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

You're not dead Julius. Your body is laying in a comatose state, at the hospital.

BONITA

He survived?

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Yes.

Bonita and Clyne look to Julius then Augustus.

CLYNE

How do you know all this?

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Let's not concern ourselves with that at the moment. We have more important things at hand.

Augustus smiles, looking to Bonita and Clyne.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Sorry about Peter's little prank. He can't help himself.

Bonita and Clyne look to each other frowning.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

But, I'm sure he had his reasons.

Bonita and Clyne remain quiet.

Augustus looks to Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

So what do you think, Father
Julius. Should we help these two
get to heaven? What's their
tasks?

Julius smiles as he hands Augustus the folder. Augustus opens it.

FATHER JULIUS

The beggar is the tough one. As for the poor box, I thought we could get them to clean the whole church.

Augustus looks to Julius, smiling.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

That's a great idea, Julius.

Bonita and Clyne are gobsmaked.

BONITA

You're kidding. The whole church?

Augustus begins to giggle as he keeps on reading.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Respect your peers.

Augustus looks to Bonita and Clyne.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Now I understand Peter's little prank.

Bonita and Clyne pull a face. Augustus hands the folder back to Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

I think you have it under control Julius. I'll be in my suite if you need me.

Julius smiles with pride.

Augustus heads for his suite, still smiling.

We hear him whisper.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Oh Peter. How could you?

FATHER JULIUS (O.S.)

OK, let's clean.

INT. CHURCH - MOMENTS LATER

CLYNE AND BONITA STILL IN EXCHANGED BODIES.

Bonita is wiping down the pews.

Clyne is polishing the crucifix.

Julius is sitting down, watching.

BONITA

You could help father Julius. We'll never finish.

FATHER JULIUS

It doesn't specify that in the folder.

CLYNE

(Mumbling)

That bloody folder.

Clyne's choker tightens. Pulling faces he continues polishing the crucifix.

Bonita looks to the crucifix.

BONITA

Don't you ever learn, Clyne? It's now my body that's suffering. Stop your swearing!

Clyne moans and groans as he shakes his head. The choker has loosened.

Clyne continues polishing the crucifix.

MRS. JONES, an elderly lady, walks in the church.

She approaches the pew, where Bonita is cleaning.

Mrs. Jones kneels and proceeds to pray.

Bonita, rag in hand, is a metre away. Invisible to Mrs Jones, except for the rag.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Hello Mrs. Jones. How are you?

Mrs. Jones is praying. Bonita moves closer.

Mrs Jones notices the rag moving in mid air. Startled she stares.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Mrs. Jones? Hi, It's Bonita.

Bonita is waiving the rag as she speaks.

Mrs. Jones only notices the rag waiving around. As she looks away, she notices another rag moving on the crucifix.

Horrified, she gets up screaming.

Bonita, in fright, screams in return.

Mrs. Jones hurriedly heads for the entrance, still screaming.

Bonita is shocked.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What's wrong with her?

Bonita looks at her arms and body, baffled.

Julius and Clyne look on, shrugging their shoulders.

Augustus exits his suite. Looking around the church, concerned.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Who screamed?

Julius stands.

FATHER JULIUS

Mrs. Jones. Bonita said hello and she just ran out, screaming.

Augustus looks to Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Father Julius, please join me in my suite.

FATHER JULIUS

Yes father.

Clyne and Bonita follow with their eyes until they're out of sight.

Clyne leaves the crucifix, joining Bonita.

CLYNE

Well I'm done.

Bonita wipes her brow as she looks around the church.

BONITA

Me too!

She sits on the pew, followed by Clyne. He hugs her.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Clyne? I wonder if we'll stay together in heaven?

Bonita looks into his eyes lovingly.

CLYNE

Of course we will.

(Beat)

I love you Bonita.

They kiss.

INT. AUGUSTUS SUITE

Augustus sits behind his desk as he points to the chair.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Please sit, Julius.

Julius sits.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Julius. This is now your church.

Julius looks surprised.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D) this church needs you and you have very little time to prove yourself, Julius.

FATHER JULIUS
This is still your church father.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

No Julius.

(Beat)

I suffered a heart attack yesterday. My body lays on a hospital bed, just like yours, comatose.

(Beat)

I am here only in spirit, like you Julius.

FATHER JULIUS I am so sorry father.

Julius drops his head.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Don't be. My time has come.

Augustus stands and walks over to the window.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

I came here to help you, Julius. And I wasn't sure how.

Julius looks up. Augustus faces Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

I now realize, you don't really need my help. You'll do just fine on your own.

Augustus walks up to Julius.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

This is god's house. You will now be it's keeper.

Julius drops his eyes.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

I have faith in you, Julius. I wanted to tell you this personally.

FATHER JULIUS

But father?

Augustus places his hand on Julius' head.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Julius...

Julius nods in respect as his body begins to lightly glow.

Augustus appears drained. His body begins to fade.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

I can't bestow much on you, Julius. But I would like to share my wisdom.

Julius keeps his head bowed. All fall silent.

Augustus begins to fade even more.

Julius Lifts his head and looks to Augustus.

Augustus, visible as a faint silhouette, is smiling.

FATHER JULIUS

Father?

Augustus, still smiling, finally disappears.

Julius looks around confused and stands.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

Father?

He drops his head, blessing himself.

Julius then looks to the window and walks to it. He looks up to the skies with eyes welling.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

I will do you proud, father.
 (Dropping his eyes)

I promise.

INT. AUGUSTUS' HOSPITAL BED

The nurse is pulling the last lead off Augustus.

She carefully pulls the sheet over Augustus' face and walks out.

Augustus' spirit sits and step off the bed.

He walks over to the window. Peter appears in the room.

FATHER PETER

That was a clever move with Father Julius.

Augustus turns to face him.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Peter?

Peter joins him by the window.

FATHER PETER

He still has to prove himself, you know. That was the deal.

Augustus smiles.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I have confidence in him. But you gave him an unfair disadvantage.

Peter smiles and places his arm around Augustus.

FATHER PETER

Well, with your wisdom, he'll have no problems, right?

They laugh.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Feel like a little break at the resort, before your big journey? It will give you the chance to see their outcome.

Augustus smiles.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Why not!

Exchanging smiles they face the window.

Peter pats him on the back as a white glow engulfs them.

They disappear.

INT. CHURCH

CLYNE AND BONITA STILL IN EXCHANGED BODIES.

Julius exits Augustus' suite, sullen faced.

Bonita and Clyne still sitting on the pew, stand. They notice Julius' sadness.

Julius attempts a smile.

FATHER JULIUS

Father Augustus has left us.

He blesses himself.

BONITA

What do you mean, he's left us?

FATHER JULIUS

He has passed on.

BONTTA

Oh my god!

Bonita heads for Augustus' suite.

FATHER JULIUS

Bonita, he's not in there.

Bonita stops and looks to Julius.

BONITA

What are you on about?

FATHER JULIUS

Father Augustus was only here in spirit. He had a heart attack yesterday and was taken to hospital.

Clyne stares into nothingness, whispering.

CLYNE

Poor father Augustus.

Clyne looks to Julius.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

Did you know, he baptized me in this very church?

BONITA

We never got the chance to say goodbye.

Julius drops his head. They join in.

FATHER JULIUS

He'll be missed by all.

They kneel and begin to pray.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - FOYER AREA

Peter and Augustus are stepping in the foyer through the revolving doors.

Augustus looks around stupefied.

There are several purple robed individuals, cleaning and doing their daily task.

Noah is hammering the trap door.

Peter, with Augustus, nears Noah.

FATHER PETER

Noah, I would like to introduce, Augustus, my brother.

Noah stands and nods.

FATHER NOAH

Welcome, Father Augustus.

Augustus smiles and nods. Then looks to Peter.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

What is this door for?
(Pointing to the trap door)

FATHER PETER

The gateway to Satan's world.

Augustus' eyes widen.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Does it get used much?

FATHER PETER

Almost every day.

Augustus is shocked.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

And maybe tonight.

Augustus looks on, fearing the worst. Peter sadly nods then smiles.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Let's hope Julius saves them.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

You never said anything about this.

FATHER PETER

Augustus! There can only be two choices. If they don't qualify

for heaven...

(peter looks at the trap

door))

...there's only one other place for them.

Augustus looks horrified.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Let me go back and warn them, Peter.

Peter shakes his head.

FATHER PETER

No. You said you had confidence in Father Julius.

Augustus sighs, pondering an instant, then smiles.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I do, but...

Peter cuts in as he pats him on the back.

FATHER PETER

Very well, then. Let me show you around.

EXT. CHURCH

CLYNE AND BONITA STILL IN EXCHANGED BODIES.

Bonita, Clyne and Julius are heading down the outside steps of the church.

BONITA

So, now what?

They reach to bottom of the steps.

Julius points to Robert, the beggar, who is placed 30 metres away from the churches entrance.

BONITA (CONT'D)

How do we make amends with him? (Looking to Julius) What does it say in the folder?

Julius looks disenchanted.

FATHER JULIUS

Nothing.

(Beat)

Just to make amends.

BONITA

Well, -- How are we suppose to do that?

FATHER JULIUS

I think maybe a good deed should do the trick.

CLYNE

What sort of a good deed? Robert is a phony.

BONITA

We could go over and apologize.

FATHER JULIUS

That might work.

All head towards Robert.

Robert is standing, wearing his dark glasses. His sign is placed near his collection tin.

Bonita and Clyne place themselves in front of him as Julius stands a metre away.

CLYNE

Hi Robert.

Robert does not respond. He begins to pick his nose. Clyne and Bonita look to each other in disgust, frowning.

Bonita looks to Robert.

BONITA

Robert. We've come to apologize.

Robert does not respond.

CLYNE

Pretending to be deaf as well, as blind?

(Annoyed)

We're here to say "sorry", Robert.
(Loud)

Clyne reaches for the tin and shakes it.

CLYNE (CONT'D)

(Whilst shaking tin)

Hoy! Stop ignoring us. This is insulting enough.

Clyne places the tin down.

Startled by the noise, Robert lifts his glasses and looks down at his collection tin. He then looks up and sees noone.

He looks around once more.

BEGGAR

I bet it's those two again.

Clyne and Bonita look to each other dumbfounded as Julius waves them on.

BONITA

He's ignoring us! (Looking to Robert) Hey? What's wrong with you?

Clyne gives Robert a little shove.

Robert quickly takes a step back, taking off his glasses. He sees no-one.

BEGGAR

Alright Clyne. I don't know what game you're playing, but I know it's you.

Clyne is startled. Robert puts on his glasses.

BONITA

Maybe he is blind after all.

CLYNE

Oh yeah? Then why is he pretending to be "DEAF" (Loud)?

FATHER JULIUS

You're dead Clyne. I don't think anyone can see or hear you.

CLYNE

(Loud)

Oh! Well, this is great. How the "HELL" are we suppose to apolo...

Clyne gasps for air as the choker tightens.

Bonita hits Clyne, frustrated.

BONITA

(Loud and frustrated) Stop your swearing.

Bonita covers her eyes and begins to cry.

BONITA (CONT'D)

We'll never make it to heaven. This is just impossible. (Dropping her hands and

gesturing, still in

tears)

Just look at us. A couple of good for nothing thieves. We even steal each others bodies. Why couldn't we have died like "normal" people?

Bonita in frustration, kicks Robert's tin, sending the coins rolling.

Clyne's choke hold has loosened.

Robert quickly reacts. Removing his glasses and nervously looking around, he bends to pick up his coins.

FATHER JULIUS

Help him.

They both look to him. Clyne is frustrated.

CLYNE

Help him do what? I've had enough!

Julius is more self confident.

FATHER JULIUS

Help him, pick up his coins.

CLYNE

Yeah, whatever!

Clyne bends down and picks up a coin, placing it back in the tin.

Robert gapes as he follows the coin and watches it drop in the tin. Loosing his balance, he gently falls on the pavement.

Bonita bends down to help Clyne pick up the remaining coins.

Robert, watching, sits horrified as he continues to see the coins place themselves in the tin.

BEGGAR

What's going on here?

Bonita, still teary eyed, gently taps Robert on the shoulder, startling Robert.

BONITA

(Heartfelt.)

We really are sorry, Robert.

Robert looks to his tapped shoulder, grabbing it, he quickly stands.

Robert is ready to run.

Clyne realizes and quickly grabs hold of him, wrapping his arms around him from behind.

A look of horror apprehends Robert as he looks around.

BEGGAR

Clyne?

CLYNE

Hurry up. I can't hold him much longer. Didn't realize you women have so little strength.

BEGGAR

What trickery are you using? Why can't I see you. I know it's you.

Bonita places the last coin in his tin and raises the tin to Robert's eye level.

Robert is trying to struggle out of the hold, now eyeing the tin hovering.

BONITA

They're all in there Robert.

BEGGAR

How are you doing this? That's my tin. Put it down.

Robert begins to panic.

BEGGAR (CONT'D)

I'm not blind. Why can't I see you?

(Shouting)

Why can't I see you?

Clyne looks to Julius, smiling.

CLYNE

Told you he wasn't blind.

BONITA

Let him go Clyne. We're scaring him.

Clyne, exhausted, lets go.

Robert runs furiously out of sight, leaving everything behind.

They eye him off silently. Bonita sadly drops her head.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What happens now?

FATHER JULIUS

(compassionate)

I don't know.

Julius looks to the setting sun on the horizon.

A golden glow surrounds the clouds.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

It's almost sunset.

Clyne moves closer to Bonita. Looking lovingly in each others eyes, they grin.

CLYNE

I love you Bonita, no matter what happens.

Bonita hugs Clyne.

BONTTA

(looking into his eyes)
I love you too, Clyne.

They kiss.

Julius looks on with a faint smile of approval.

Their gaze returns to the glorious sunset, for a few of moments.

Bonita looks to Father Julius, who is still admiring the sunset.

BONITA (CONT'D)

You tried, father. But somehow, I don't think we've accomplished our tasks.

CLYNE

Yeah, but there is one thing I am sure of. I believe you will make a great priest, father Julius.

Clyne smiles as he extends his hand.

Julius shakes Clyne's hand, smiling in admiration.

BONITA

I agree with Clyne.

FATHER JULIUS

Thank you. And, bless you both.

Bonita steps up and gives Julius a kiss on the cheek.

Julius shies a little away.

BONITA

It's me father, Bonita.
 (Reassuring)
In sheep's clothing.

All three giggle. Bonita takes a step back, as Julius holds his kissed cheek, smiling.

Julius' begins to fade. Bonita and Clyne notice.

BONITA (CONT'D)

(concerned)

Father, You're disappearing.

Bonita outstretches her hand towards Julius.

BONITA (CONT'D)

Father, don't leave us. Not yet!

The sun is setting. Father Julius is almost invisible.

FATHER JULIUS

May God be on your side.

He disappears.

Clyne and Bonita look to each other in desperation.

BONITA

He's gone.

She hugs Clyne.

BONITA (CONT'D)

What happens now, Clyne?

The sunset is almost over. A dark cloudy mass wraps around them, engulfing them.

BONITA (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Hold me tight. I'm afraid.

(Fading voice)

Don't let go of me, Clyne.

CLYNE

(almost inaudible)

I won't.

The cloud mass dissipates. Clyne and Bonita have disappeared with the mass. We are drawn to the final stages of the setting sun.

INT. JULIUS' HOSPITAL BED

Nurse is closing the blinds in Julius' room.

NURSE

What a glorious sunset.

Looking to Julius, we notice rapid eye movement. The nurse walks over to his bed side.

She takes hold of his wrist and checks his pulse, as she looks to her watch.

Julius' fingers twitch.

Nurse looks to Julius' face. Rapid eye movement are visible.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Father? Can you hear me?

Julius' slowly opens his eyes and smiles. The nurse calls out, looking towards the door.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Someone fetch the doctor.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - FOYER AREA

Peter and Augustus are entering the foyer through it's revolving doors.

The sun has almost set. The foyer is lit by candles.

Noah, Mary, Matthew and another five purpled robed individuals are standing around the trap doors, heads down in prayer.

Augustus looks to Peter as they head towards the trap door.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

What's happening?

Peter, appears sad.

FATHER PETER

(light voice)

It's sunset. The gateway to the dark world, will shortly open. Would you like to join the others in prayer?

Two hooded blacked robed individuals walk in silently, head down, guided by Father John.

The only sound heard are the prayers.

Augustus looks to Peter horrified.

Peter places his finger to his lips, whispering.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Shush, not another word. Only prayers.

Augustus shakes his head, whispering.

FATHER AUGUSTUS
It's not... Bonita and Clyne? Is
it?

Peter revealing sadness, slowly drops his head and begins to pray.

Augustus' eyes begin to well, as they follow the two being guided to the centre of the trap door.

Father John, leaving them there, joins the others. He begins to pray.

The two black robed individuals join hands.

Augustus, devastated, looks to Peter once more, whispering.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Peter?

Peter sadly looks to Augustus offering no answer. Peter drops his head and continues praying.

Augustus watches on and joins in prayer.

A black glow begins to engulf the two black robed individuals.

The trap door creaks.

In a wink of an eye it opens as quickly as it closes, engulfing the two, without a sound.

All present, end their prayer in unison with "Amen", including Augustus.

They Bless themselves and silently head towards the foyer's doors and exit. Augustus and Peter remain.

A distressed Augustus, looks to Peter.

FATHER PETER

(heartfelt)

Don't feel bad. Those two had a choice, Augustus.

Augustus remains silent, taking a quick glance back towards the trap door.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Come on Augustus. There's nothing more we can do.

Augustus drops his head.

Peter places his hand on Augustus' shoulder.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D) Let me take you back to your room.

A bright light engulfs them both.

They disappear, so does the glow.

INT. JULIUS' HOSPITAL BED

Julius is sitting up, sipping a glass of water.

The nurse is beside him.

He hands her back the glass.

FATHER JULIUS

What time did Father Augustus pass away?

Nurse is startled.

Julius looks to the window.

NURSE

How do you know about father Augustus?

FATHER JULIUS

What time was it?

NURSE

A few hours ago, father. I'm sorry.

Julius, still staring to the window, pushes his bed covers to one side and attempts to slip out of bed.

The nurse holds him back.

NURSE (CONT'D)

I don't think it's wise to stand yet, father.

FATHER JULIUS

I just want to look out the window.

NURSE

You can see it from here. Let me open the blinds for you.

Nurse walks over and draws the blinds. A faint reddish glow is visible in the dark sky.

FATHER JULIUS

(looking drained)

The sun has set. I have failed him.

She looks to Julius. Julius, still sitting, appears in a trance.

NURSE

Are you alright father?
 (She heads for the bed)
Father?

Julius looks to her sullen faced.

FATHER JULIUS

It's all too late. I have failed.

EXT. CEMETARY - AUGUSTUS' FUNERAL - THREE DAYS LATER - SUNRISE

Clergymen and loyal church members, including Mrs Jones, surround Augustus' grave.

The sun is lifting on the horizon.

Mrs Jones stands next to a sad Father Julius.

Augustus' coffin is slowly being lowered.

All heads are bowed in respect.

Mrs Jones wipes a tear as she looks to Julius.

MRS JONES

He'll be sadly missed. He was such a good man.

Julius nods, agreeing, as he places his hand on her arm, in reassurance.

Mrs Jones smiles.

MRS JONES (CONT'D)

I am glad he has chosen you, to take his place, father Julius.

FATHER JULIUS

Thank you, Mrs Jones. Will you be joining us for mass this morning?

The coffin is lowered.

MRS JONES

I wouldn't miss it, father.

Julius and the rest, bless themselves.

Julius steps to the edge of the hole, kneels and grabs a handful of fresh soil.

Tossing it on the coffin, he whispers.

FATHER JULIUS

I'll do my outmost best, father. I promise. I'll do you proud.

He looks to the heavens for an instant and looks down once more, blessing himself.

He slowly stands.

INT. PARADISE RESORT - FOYER AREA - SUNRISE

Mary, John, Noah and three other purple robed individuals are standing near the foyer door.

Augustus, dressed in a gold trimmed white robe, is walking towards the revolving door accompanied by Peter.

Peter is dressed in his gold trimmed purple robe.

FATHER PETER

Are you ready Augustus? You know, you could stay here and help me.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

(smiling)

No, I'm ready. You're job here, is too emotional, Peter. Heaven is waiting for me.

Peter smiles as Matthew appears next to him.

FATHER PETER

If you ever change your mind?

Augustus smiles as he negates the offer.

FATHER MATTHEW

We're ready.

Peter looks to Augustus.

Peter nods to Matthew. Matthew walks towards Peter's golden suite door.

Peter points to the revolving door.

FATHER PETER

This is it!

Augustus acknowledges with a smile. Both proceed towards the door. They exit.

EXT. PARADISE RESORT - GARDENS

A crowd of grey and purple robed individuals are gathered in the gardens.

Sister Mary and father John have placed themselves near Peter.

Augustus looks to Peter. They are 10 metres away from the door and about 15 from the catapults.

FATHER PETER

I am going to miss you, Augustus.

Augustus extends his arms.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I'll miss you too, Peter.

They embrace, patting each other on the back.

Augustus' back faces the revolving door.

The door begins to rotate.

Two white robed silhouettes are visible through the glass panels. They exit.

Peter smiles, releasing Augustus from their embrace.

FATHER PETER

Augustus. Turn around and meet your travelling companions.

Augustus turns around.

Before him stand Bonita and Clyne, smiling.

Augustus', shocked, faces Peter.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Didn't they...?

FATHER PETER

You assumed it was them, Augustus. I never said it was. It was another two misfortune souls.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

You sly dev...

Peter presses his finger on Augustus' lips smiling.

FATHER PETER

Shhhhh! No mention of that here.

Augustus laughs as he turns his head towards Bonita and Clyne.

Bonita and Clyne walk up to him.

CLYNE AND BONITA ARE BACK IN THEIR OWN BODIES.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

You have made me so proud.

CLYNE

It's nice to see you again father Augustus.

Bonita rushes over, eyes welling and gives Augustus a hug.

BONITA

I didn't get to say my good-byes.

Augustus is overwhelmed. Augustus and Bonita's eyes well.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

I am very proud of you both.

He glances over to Peter.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

Julius had it in him after all!

FATHER PETER

He is following your footsteps. I think you have left him too much of your wisdom.

They all laugh.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

You three will have plenty of time to catch up. We need to hurry, before the sun rises. Follow me.

Peter points to the catapults. Mary and John guide Bonita and Clyne, respectively, to the catapult's chairs.

Peter takes Augustus.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

This is a special send off. I usually spectate. But, today, it will be an honour to be your guide, Augustus.

Augustus smiles and looks to Bonita and Clyne.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Are you guys ready?

They both nod.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D) (authoritatively loud)
OK big brother. Send us home.

Peter laughs.

FATHER PETER

Hey. Don't steal my thunder. I still have the last say.

Everyone, including the crowd, laughs.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

I wish you all a safe journey home.

Peter pats Augustus on the shoulder. They exchange smiles one last time.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Let's do it!

Augustus smiles, whispering.

FATHER AUGUSTUS
Thanks for everything Peter.

FATHER PETER

(Whispering with a smile) That's what brothers are for.

Peter, Mary and John head for the back of the catapults. They begin to wind the wheel. The crowd is silent.

Bonita, Clyne and Augustus' chairs are now set in the firing position.

Not a sound is heard, except for a sudden rumble of thunder, in the clear sky.

The three catapults remain stationary for an instant as if frozen in time, then the ratchet noises begin.

Peter breaks the silence as the catapults furiously begin to rotate, in a clockwise motion, ejecting all three bodies in the air.

The crowd begins to cheer.

FATHER PETER (CONT'D)

Keep your eyes open for father Julius.

All three yell out, in unison, as they are propelled out of their chairs.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

What?

BONITA

What?

CLYNE

What?

Sister Mary walks over to Peter.

She shouts over the crowd.

SISTER MARY

I don't think they heard you over the crowd.

Cheers and claps continues as we follow the bodies being propelled to the skies.

The bodies pirouette and cartwheel as they ascend.

Continuing their trajectory, the bodies become a bright white glow, resembling shooting stars; finally, they disappear.

The crowd stop their cheer and dissipates in all directions.

Peter looks up smiling.

FATHER PETER

Another great day!

All the purple robed individuals, including Peter, head for the revolving door.

EXT. CHURCH - AFTER MORNING MASS.

Julius is standing at the bottom of the church's steps.

His congregation is stepping out after morning Mass.

All the worshippers shake his hand as they exit.

The last to step out of the church is Mrs Jones.

As she steps out, Julius hears a too familiar rumble.

He looks around, then up. As he does, he sees three bright glow shoot across the sky.

Mrs Jones, seeing Julius look up, copies.

MRS JONES

Oh my! Three shooting stars.

The glows dissipate.

She looks to Julius, astounded.

MRS JONES (CONT'D)

It must be an omen.

Julius is still gazing to the skies.

FATHER JULIUS

No, just three angels on their way to heaven.

Mrs Jones looks puzzled.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

Well, that's what I would like to believe.

MRS JONES

That's a nice thought.

She outstretches her hand.

MRS JONES (CONT'D)

Father Julius? I just wanted to say, it was a wonderful Mass, this morning.

Julius gently shakes her hand.

FATHER JULIUS

Thank you, Mrs Jones.

A gust of wind suddenly picks up.

Julius' robe begins to flutter.

Mrs Jones, releasing her hand from Julius', holds on to her dress as the gust lifts it up.

MRS JONES

Oh my, where did this wind come from?

Julius' hair becomes ruffled by the gust, as if someone was running their hands through it.

Mrs Jones, startled, places one hand on her mouth.

FATHER JULIUS

Are you all right Mrs Jones?

Mrs Jones gapes as Julius' glasses fly off his nose.

MRS JONES

Oh my...

In total shock, Mrs Jones quickly looks around and decides to run.

MRS JONES (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(Hysterical)

I was right! This church is haunted.

FATHER JULIUS

(Shouting)

Mrs Jones. It's just the wind.

Julius picks his glasses up from the pavement.

FATHER JULIUS (CONT'D)

This wind brings back memories.

He puts them on as he straightens himself.

As he looks up, there stands Bonita, Augustus and Clyne smiling.

Startled, Julius is gobsmacked.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

You didn't think we would leave without saying good bye, did you?

Julius looks to them smiling.

FATHER JULIUS

What an unexpected surprise. And, you two -- made it after all?

Bonita proudly grabs Clyne's hand.

BONITA

We sure did. And, I've got my body back.

Julius looks to Augustus.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

You did well Julius.

FATHER JULIUS

I could never have done it without you, father.

Augustus extends his hands.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

Nonsense.

Julius extends his, grabbing hold of Augustus'.

Julius nods in respect.

Julius looks up.

Augustus, smiling, gently squeezes Julius' hand then lets go.

FATHER AUGUSTUS (CONT'D)

We have to go, Julius.

FATHER JULIUS

I will miss you father.
 (He looks to Bonita and
 Clyne extending his
 hands)

I'll miss both of you, too.

Bonita and Clyne take hold of Julius' hands and nod in respect.

Releasing their hold they look up and smile.

Julius nods and smiles in approval as he looks to all three.

The three begin to fade.

CLYNE

(faint)

See you father. Sorry for being such jerks.

BONITA

(even fainter)

Bye father. Tell Robert, we're sorry!

They are almost invisible.

FATHER AUGUSTUS

(almost silent)

Take good care of the church, Julius. And I'll see you in heaven, when your time calls.

They have disappeared.

Julius looks up to the skies once more and smiles, whispering.

FATHER JULIUS

Have a safe journey home.

He turns to face the entrance of the church, taking one quick glance back to the skies.

Taking his next step up the stairs, Julius looses his footing, stepping on his robe.

Taking a timid glance around, he quickly straightens himself.

He looks up to the skies, shaking his head smiling, then casually enters the church.