

Apostle 13

Written by
Glen Hosking

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ghosking1@gmail.com
954-471-2784

EXT. VEGAS STRIP - MORNING

It's CHRISTMAS in a future when man has colonized the moon and landed on Mars. The Strip is beautifully decorated and serene. "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL" can be heard in the distance. We see a HOTEL MARQUEE promoting THE AMAZING WALKERS, a husband-and-wife illusionist act.

INT. AMAZING WALKER CONDO - DAY

Christmas decorations are everywhere. Presents piled high. Holiday lights rim HUGE FRAMED POSTERS promoting their act.

LANCE WALKER (30) stands by a silver tree. His son SKYLER (10, who they call "Sky") sits on the floor in rocket-ship pajamas as Lance prepares to perform a trick.

LANCE

Ladies and gentlemen you've been a fantastic audience this morning. We are The Amazing Walkers and we want to thank you
(pointing to Sky)
for believing...*in magic!*

YOUNG SKY

(suspense is killing him)
Dad...

LANCE

And now, for our final illusion of the morning. Best. Gift. Ever.

In the blink of an eye, he raises a satin sheet above his head then IT QUICKLY DROPS DOWN to reveal KENDRA (29), standing alone and holding a SCALE MODEL MARS 1 ROCKET.

YOUNG SKY

Yes!!!!

Sky blasts to his feet and hugs his mother.

YOUNG SKY (cont'd)

Oh my god! Thank you, thank you, thank you! Best gift ever!

He takes the rocket and zooms out of the room.

KENDRA

Sky, wait! I want to post a picture.

INT. SKY'S ROOM - DAY

Sky bursts in. It's a shrine to space--model space ships, NASA bed sheets, Star Wars toys, Star Trek toys, and more.

He approaches a POSTER of VIVIAN GOODWELL, the first human on Mars. Also in the poster is an image of the real Mars 1 Rocket. He presents the toy rocket with great reverence.

YOUNG SKY

Look Vivian! The Mars 1! One forty-four scale. All three stages. Isn't it beautiful? One day I'm going to be a legend just like you.

He leaps into bed and holds the rocket in front of him like it's flying through the mobile solar system on the ceiling.

YOUNG SKY (cont'd)

To boldly go where no man has gone before...

We hold on his face--a young boy with his head in the clouds and stars in his eyes as we:

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. TITAN LANDER FLIGHT DECK - DAY

...Sky's face in a NASA SPACE HELMET. It's TWENTY YEARS LATER and Sky is now 30. He is strapped in on NASA's TITAN LANDER. With him is CULVER (48), GARCIA (35), RAJ (40), and BENNY, an AI HUMANOID.

The flight deck rattles and pitches as Benny attempts to land it safely on the moon-like surface below. Their lives are in his hands as he converses with ALVIN, the vessel's AI OPERATING SYSTEM.

ALVIN (V.O.)

Level off two degrees.

BENNY

Leveling off two degrees.

ALVIN (V.O.)

Wind shear forty five knots.

BENNY

Adjusting for wind shear.

ALVIN (V.O.)
Decelerating. Steady at thirty
meters. Twenty...ten...touching
down.

There is the gentle thud of a perfect landing.

ALVIN (V.O.) (cont'd)
Touchdown Titan Lander.

The crew lets out a collective sigh of relief.

GARCIA
Excellent work Commander.

RAJ
Textbook landing Benny.

BENNY
Thank you team. Excellent work as
well. You are an exceptional group.
You too, Alvin.

ALVIN (V.O.)
Awww. I'm blushing.

CULVER
Dear Lord, thank you for the miracle
of this artificially intelligent
entity and for guiding his hand
through this journey. May he humbly
represent all mankind by the grace of
your glory.

GARCIA
Nice one Culver.

CULVER
You think so? Or are you humoring me?

RAJ
No, no. It's the right stuff.

CULVER
You are humoring me. Sky, what did
you think?

SKY
Huh? Who, me? Oh, I'm not your guy. I
know the stories, but I'm not all
that religious.

CULVER
Not even a little?

SKY
My dad knocked up my mom at a
Christmas party. Does that count?

CULVER
It doesn't exactly make you Jesus.

ALVIN (V.O.)
Jesus Christ. Born December twenty-
fifth, three B.C. Died April third,
thirty-three A.D.

GARCIA
Next time we do trivia night I want
Alvin on my team.

They share a laugh except for Sky. His focus is elsewhere.

RAJ
Should we initiate the Giant Leap
Sequence?

SKY
Good idea.

ALVIN (V.O.)
Initiating Giant Leap Sequence.

CULVER
(to Benny)
It's your big moment Commander.

Benny doesn't move. It's like he's stuck in pause.

CULVER (cont'd)
Commander?

ALVIN (V.O.)
Initiate Giant Leap Sequence.

BENNY
Sky should be the one.

Everyone is surprised. A beat.

RAJ
What?

BENNY

Captain Skyler Walker should be the first one to step on Titan.

ALVIN (V.O.)

This is counter to your directive Commander.

GARCIA

Yeah Benny. This is what you were created for. You've lived your whole life for this moment.

SKY

Well, he's not exactly the only one...

BENNY

Sky is second in command and he is human, as were Neil Armstrong and Vivian Goodwell before him. It should be a human foot that first steps on Titan. It is only logical.

SKY

He's got a point. I mean, who are we to argue with logic?

CULVER

I don't like it. Something's not right.

RAJ

Benny please reconsider.

GARCIA

Yeah Benny. Sky, do something.

SKY

Benny...are you sure about this?

BENNY

I am.

SKY

Okay then. You're the boss.

Sky happily unstraps himself and rushes for the exit hatch.

EXT. TITAN LANDER - DAY

Sky opens the hatch, takes a GIANT LEAP onto the surface and pumps his fist.

SKY
Yeah! Go mankind!

We REVEAL that Sky is not on Titan but is in fact inside a GIGANTIC SIMULATOR ROOM. The Titan Lander is a TRAINING SIMULATOR. The crew, still disappointed by the turn of events, files out behind him as he removes his helmet.

SKY (cont'd)
Great job team! Wooo!

Garcia approaches. She's suspicious.

GARCIA
How'd you do it?

SKY
Avoid getting helmet hair? What can I say, I'm blessed.

GARCIA
No. How did you manage to reprogram Benny's protocol?

SKY
I don't know what you're talking about.

GARCIA
Oh, I think you do.

SKY
Maybe he had a change of heart.

GARCIA
He's a humanoid. He doesn't have a heart. Looks like that's the only thing the two of you have in common.

She walks away. Sky rolls his eyes. VIVIAN GOODWELL (60), the revered NASA legend and Titan mission director, approaches the group.

VIVIAN
Nice work team. You okay Benny?

BENNY
Yes director Goodwell. Thank you.

SKY

I feel like my Giant Leap speech could have been stronger. I mean, the whole thing was so last minute. He just sort of sprung it on me. I'll think of something quote-worthy before tomorrow's sim.

VIVIAN

No. You won't.

Garcia cracks a smile.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Titan is canceled.

SKY

What?

VIVIAN

The new spending bill passed and money for Titan wasn't included. A mission to Saturn's largest moon is no longer a national priority.

The crew takes a moment to process the devastating news.

RAJ

Well...then...we'll just go to Mars. We'll replace the crew up there.

VIVIAN

There will be no more manned space missions. Ever.

The crew looks like they were just hit with a stun ray.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Training humans is just too expensive. From this point forward all missions will be manned by humanoids. Benny will lead an AI team to Mars.

SKY

Wait! What? No! They can't do this. What about my one giant leap?

VIVIAN

It jumped off a fiscal cliff.

INT. VIVIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Vivian and Sky sit in her large office.

SKY
This is bullshit.

VIVIAN
A lot of that going around lately.

SKY
What am I supposed to do now?

VIVIAN
I don't know. You seem to know your way around humanoids.

She's fishing for a response. He just fumes.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Titan was a long shot anyway.

SKY
Yeah, well, it was my only shot.

VIVIAN
It wasn't yours to take.

SKY
The hell it wasn't. That should have been my leap. Even Benny said it.

VIVIAN
Did he? Did Benny choose to say it?

SKY
Would I lie to you?

It's not the confession she wanted. A beat.

SKY (cont'd)
Titan was my Mars. My destiny. Twenty years I waited to be like you.

VIVIAN
You'll never be like me.

SKY
You can say that again. Congressional pinheads.

VIVIAN

I've met a lot of powerful people since I returned to Earth, and let me tell you, fame can poison a person. You sure you're willing to pay that price?

SKY

Says the global icon with forty-nine high schools, ten expressways and a lunar colony named after her.

VIVIAN

Sky...

SKY

Seriously, when was the last time you had to pay for a drink?

She stares at him, trying hard to contain her contempt.

VIVIAN

Go home Sky.

SKY

This is home.

VIVIAN

Not anymore.

Stung, he rises, turns and walks to the door. As he does:

VIVIAN (cont'd)

It was a hell of a thing Benny did for you. Takes a real man to make that kind of sacrifice.

Direct hit. He winces and walks away.

EXT. VEGAS STRIP - EVENING

It's a beautiful evening in Las Vegas. Sky looks out of the back window of a cab/Uber as it passes BILLBOARDS and MARQUEES promoting the biggest stars in town.

INT. AMAZING WALKER CONDO HALLWAY - EVENING

Sky approaches the door carrying NASA bags. He places his hand on the security scanner. No keys needed in this future.

INT. AMAZING WALKER CONDO - CONTINUOUS

Sky slowly enters his childhood home. He sighs.

SKY

Lights.

Lights go on. He is greeted by the VOICE OF BESS, THE CONDO'S AI OPERATING SYSTEM.

BESS (V.O.)

Welcome home Skyler Walker. It has been seven hundred and sixty-nine days since your last visit.

SKY

But who's counting.

BESS (V.O.)

I am.

SKY

Been lonely Bess?

BESS (V.O.)

It has been a long time since I have conversed with someone. Seven hundred and sixty-nine days to be exact.

He doesn't respond.

BESS (V.O.) (cont'd)

The pantry and refrigerator are empty. Shall I order food?

SKY

Sure. What are you in the mood for?

BESS (V.O.)

Ha-ha. I missed your wit.

SKY

Pizza, supreme. And beer that works.

BESS (V.O.)

How about a nice dopplebock? It has high alcohol content by volume.

SKY

Order a case.

He looks around and eyes the SMART TV on the wall.

INT. AMAZING WALKER CONDO - EVENING

Sky watches videos of his parents' act. They were great. Each illusion is more showstopping than the one before. Sky smiles. Great memories. OF LATER IMPORTANCE we see:

- A video he shot with his phone twenty years ago while his parents were rehearsing. We see LANCE CHAINED TO A LARGE METAL X suspended above the stage. He talks with assistants about the illusion. Kendra walks toward the phone.

KENDRA

Sky, honey, you can't record our rehearsals. We don't want to give away our secrets, okay?

(then, sweetly)

How about after this we have dinner at the Mirage then go to the planetarium. Deal?

YOUNG SKY(O.C.)

Deal.

KENDRA

We love you so much.

She smiles like only a loving mother can. What a beauty. Sky hits pause so he can remember her just like that.

He then notices a SMALL STACK OF PAPER OBJECTS on the coffee table. He reaches for it. It's a collection of SYMPATHY CARDS and LOCAL MAGAZINES. On the magazine covers we see headlines like: "RISING STARS DIE IN PLANE CRASH" "VANISHED TOO SOON" "THEY WERE DESTINED FOR GREATNESS"...

It's too much to bear. He TOSSES them across the room.

INT. SKY'S ROOM - MORNING

The room still looks like a child's space shrine, only now there is a hungover 30 year-old in its bed. Sky lifts his head and instantly regrets the bender. He stands, takes the Mars 1 Rocket from his shelf, then turns to leave. He stops in front of the Vivian poster.

SKY

What the fuck are you smiling at?

He walks out of the room and into:

INT. AMAZING WALKER CONDO - CONTINUOUS

...the living room. He plops onto the couch, cuddling the rocket; a spaceman pulled down by the gravity of failure. The phone rings LOUDLY. He winces.

BESS (V.O.)
 Good morning Skyler. Incoming call.
 Would you like me to answer?

SKY
 Is it about the replacement head I
 just ordered? Are they all out?
 Because I'll take whatever's in
 stock. Even dented.

BESS (V.O.)
 Unknown Caller with a Las Vegas area
 code. Shall I answer?

SKY
 Anything to make the ringing stop.

BESS (V.O.)
 Answering.

SKY
 Hello?

TOBY (V.O.)
 Skyler Walker?

SKY
 That's what the death certificate
 will say.

TOBY(V.O.)
 Sky Walker! Holy crap! I heard you
 were back in town. It's Toby Knight,
 from high school. Man, am I happy to
 hear your voice. Hey, how would you
 like to be a headliner for a few
 days?

His eyes go wide.

EXT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

The place buzzes with activity. One path leads to FES the FUTURE ELECTRONICS SHOW. The other leads to A COSPLAY CONVENTION. It's a crazy mix of techies and cosplayers.

Sky arrives wearing his BLUE NASA FLIGHT SUIT. He follows the path toward FES.

INT. EXHIBIT HALL - DAY

Sky breezes past exhibits promoting the next in AI, AR, VR, 3D, holograms, autonomous, etc. A giggling gaggle of AI humanoids with Starbucks cups passes him. He frowns.

INT. KNIGHT LIGHT EXHIBIT - DAY

Sky arrives at the exhibit for THE KNIGHT LIGHT. He smiles when he sees a large banner promoting:

Meet NASA Astronaut Skyler "Sky" Walker!

TOBY KNIGHT (30) approaches.

TOBY

Skyler! Look at you man! You got the flight suit on and everything. Totally bitchin'. People are going to flock to that shit.

SKY

Yeah, well, just remember, I never actually traveled to deep space. I'm more like an astro-not.

TOBY

Whatever. You got a lot closer than they did. Trust me, it'll be selfie city.

(then)

Here...

Toby presents a tiny TRANSLUCENT RUBBER CUBE with a sunshine yellow orb inside.

SKY

Is this it?

TOBY

...The greatest thing in micro illumination. Biodegradable. Shines for up to nine hundred hours. Forty thousand lumens.

SKY
Forty thousand? That's practically a searchlight. Why would anybody need to carry around that much light?

TOBY
You ever been stuffed inside a gym a locker Sky? It's dark in there. I'll show you. Put these on.

He hands Sky sunglasses and dons a pair of his own.

TOBY (cont'd)
All you have to do is squeeze.

He squeezes the cube and POW! Forty thousand lumens of blinding light that causes A PASSING AI HUMANOID to CRASH into a VR HEADSET DISPLAY.

SKY
I like it.

Toby squeezes it off and hands it to Sky.

TOBY
Keep it. Your own little pocket miracle.

SKY
Thanks.

Sky puts it in the front pocket of his flight suit. A MALE ATTENDEE approaches pointing to the banner.

MALE ATTENDEE
You him?

SKY
Yeah.

MALE ATTENDEE
Cool.

He snaps a selfie with Sky without asking then enters the exhibit. Toby's satisfied look to Sky: told you.

INT. KNIGHT LIGHT EXHIBIT - DAY

MONTAGE:

Sky has a series of interactions with starry-eyed attendees.

- He's approached by A MID-WESTERN TOURIST.

TOURIST
You ever been to the space station?

SKY
No. I only trained for it.

TOURIST
Sweet. Will you sign my souvenir cup?

- He's approached by some COLLEGE KIDS.

COLLEGE KID
Did you ever go on a space walk?

SKY
Uh, no. Just simulated.

COLLEGE KID
Rad.

They surround him and take a group selfie.

- He's approached by a STAR WARS FANBOY.

FANBOY
Oh my god! Dude, is your name really
Sky Walker?

SKY
Yeah.

FANBOY
(to his friends)
Guys! Guys! A fucking real Sky
Walker.

Another group selfie. Sky is lapping up the adoration. And so the montage goes. More autographs. More selfies. More to feed his ego.

INT. KNIGHT LIGHT EXHIBIT - DAY

Sky finishes posing for another selfie when something tugs at him. He looks down. It's A LITTLE BOY looking up at him with reverence the way he once looked up to Vivian. He's holding a SCALE MODEL MARS 1 ROCKET and a SHARPIE. Sky feels a pang of guilt.

LITTLE BOY
Are you really an astronaut?

SKY
That's what the sign says.

LITTLE BOY
Sign my rocket.

SKY
No.

LITTLE BOY
Sign it.

SKY
I'm no hero kid.

The kid shrugs. He doesn't care. Sky relents.

SKY (cont'd)
Gimme the rocket.

He signs it. The kid scampers over to his dad, who is being blinded by a Knight Light. A happy Toby comes bounding over.

TOBY
Dude, you're killing it! The company three booths down hired a guy who body-doubled for Chris Pine. Crickets. You're like a god to these people.

SKY
Not exactly the way I imagined it...
(then)
Listen, I'm going to take a break. I need some space.

TOBY
Ah-ha. Space. I see what you did there. Sure, sure. Take a breather. But not too long okay? You're gonna make me rich, bitch!

INT. EXHIBIT HALL - DAY

Sky nears the exit. A COSPLAY HOTTIE DRESSED LIKE MILEENA FROM MORTAL KOMBAT catches his eye. She gives him "a look."

EXT. FES EXHIBITOR CHECK-IN - DAY

A female inventor, MELANIE "MEL" KAMINSKY (28), is speaking to a woman (21) with a clipboard and a name tag that reads GABRIELLE.

MEL
Did you look under K?

GABRIELLE
I did. Are you sure you registered?

MEL
Yes. What about C? It's a common mistake. Or maybe C-h like chlorine.

GABRIELLE
Here it is. Melanie Kaminsky. It says you're blocked.

MEL
Blocked?

An OFFICIAL LOOKING MAN arrives. This is TODD (35).

TODD
Serious inventors only Kaminsky.

MEL
I really have it this time Todd.

TODD
You say that every year.

MEL
Please, I'm begging you. I sank everything I had into this. You have to believe me. I'm going to change the world as we know it.

He looks over her shoulder. Her crappy car is parked nearby. It's towing a LARGE ROUND OBJECT UNDER A TARP.

TODD
Piss off Mel. No room for losers.
(to Gabrielle)
Don't let her in. And when you're done here I need you to print more chairs.
(to Mel)
Elon Musk's clone is our keynote speaker because he's a *real inventor*.

MEL

Elon Musk can blow me! You'll see.
I'm going to be bigger than him, then
you'll be the one begging *me* for a
chance.

Todd leaves. Mel's pissed. Gabrielle is sympathetic.

GABRIELLE

Listen, I know somewhere you could
exhibit without Todd finding out.
It's not much, but it gets a little
foot traffic. Maybe you'll get lucky.

MEL

Really?

EXT. DUMPSTER AREA - DAY

Mel stands near her car next to the convention center's
dumpsters.

INT. COSPLAY CONVENTION - DAY

Sky is chatting up Cosplay Mileena.

SKY

...That's right, first person to step
on Saturn's largest moon. Or at least
I would have been...

COSPLAY MILEENA

That's so hot.
(re: her breasts)
What do you think of my moons?

SKY

I think they need to be explored by
an astronaut.

COSPLAY MILEENA

Oooo, yeah. Permission to climb
aboard your rocket commander.

SKY

Permission granted.

A MAN KIND OF DRESSED LIKE JESUS 'accidentally' bumps into a
distracted Sky. He expertly PICKS SKY'S WALLET from his back
pocket. It takes Sky a moment to realize.

SKY (cont'd)

Hey!

He turns to see Cosplay Jesus running away. He turns back to Cosplay Mileena, who's running the other way.

SKY (cont'd)

(sotto)

Permission granted...

He chases Cosplay Jesus.

EXT. DUMPSTER AREA - DAY

Mel has removed the covered object from her trailer. A small, motley looking crowd of SPECTATORS has gathered.

MEL

Welcome. Thank you for coming today.
My name is Mel Kaminsky, and I am
going to make history.

The spectators look at her like she's full of shit.

MEL (cont'd)

Mankind has been exploring since it
first emerged from the primordial
ooze. We've perfected every form of
travel there is. But...there is one
method of travel still to conquer.
The Holy Grail of travel.

(a beat)

Time travel.

There are a few snickers from the spectators.

MEL (cont'd)

H.G. Wells introduced us to the idea
in 1895, but no one has ever come
close to realizing it. But I have.
Ladies and gentlemen. Citizens of
earth. I give you, the MK-1!

She removes the tarp to reveal A GLASS ORB that looks like the pods in *Jurassic World*, only IT HAS ONE SEAT on a metal floor. A TOUCH PAD rests on A GLASS PODIUM. Its GULL WING DOORS RISE. There's a smattering of applause. She's pleased.

INT. COSPLAY CONVENTION - DAY

Sky's giving chase and sees Cosplay Jesus exit a side door.

EXT. DUMPSTER AREA - DAY

Mel is now holding a REMOTE the size of a large tablet.

MEL

While not fully operational, the MK-1 is one-hundred percent solar powered, and I can program its destination from fifteen feet away.

SPECTATOR 1

Wait a minute. It doesn't even work?

MEL

Um, well, at present it can only travel on my trailer. But I'm so close. I just need an angel investor so I can figure out what I'm missing.

The spectators groan.

MEL (cont'd)

Allow me to demonstrate. Who would like to give me a destination?

SPECTATOR 2

What's the matter Doc? Couldn't find a DeLorean to tow your hot tub time machine?

The spectators laugh.

MEL

Anyone?

A PRIEST and RABBI raise their hands and speak theatrically.

PRIEST

How about Nazareth?

RABBI

Yes, 33 AD.

MEL

(punching it in the remote)

Okay, now we're talking. Thank you. Finally, men of faith.

PRIEST

Uh, no. We're from the cosplay convention. All the Avengers stuff was sold out.

MEL

Oh...

Suddenly, Cosplay Jesus bursts into the area. Sky is hot on his heels. Mel looks alarmed. They circle the MK-1 until they face each other through its door openings. He sees a SNOOPY TATTOO on Cosplay Jesus' NECK.

SKY

Give me my wallet you scumbag.

COSPLAY JESUS

Go to hell!

Sky THROWS HIS PHONE like a ninja star. Cosplay Jesus ducks and it speeds toward Mel. She blocks it with the remote and it ricochets into the MK-1's cockpit where it slips under the seat, falls below the metal base and gets lodged between the machine's inner workings. It's a miracle shot.

The machine's wires immediately fuse to the phone like hungry little snakes attacking their prey. The phone and the inner workings become one and THE MK-1 COMES TO LIFE.

Sky lunges at Cosplay Jesus but trips and lands in the cockpit, giving Cosplay Jesus time to get away.

SKY

Shit!

Sky places his hand on the MK-1's TOUCH SCREEN and accidentally hits SEND. The doors close. The MK-1 ASCENDS INTO THE AIR, then is SUCKED INTO A WORM HOLE.

The spectators are surprised, as is Mel. They stare at the spot where the worm hole closed. The show's over.

PRIEST

(to the Rabbi)

Wanna go to Denny's?

EXT. NAZARETH FIELD - DAY

It's a quiet FIELD bordered by hills and trees. WE HEAR SKY SCREAMING but do not see him yet. The MK-1 is suddenly SPIT OUT OF THE WORM HOLE and begins to roll toward the trees.

INT. MK-1 - CONTINUOUS

Sky is being tossed like a sock in a dryer.

SKY
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!

EXT. NAZARETH FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The MK-1 slows to a stop right-side up beneath some trees.

INT. MK-1 - CONTINUOUS

Sky tries to get his bearings.

SKY
Ahhhh! What the fuck just happened?

EXT. NAZARETH FIELD - CONTINUOUS

The doors open and Sky tumbles out. He looks around.

SKY
Why am I in the desert?

He walks a few yards from the MK-1. No one in sight.

SKY (cont'd)
Hello? Helloooo? Anyone?
(thinks)
Oh, I get it. This is an illusion.
And the ball is the prop. Well let me
tell you, that was awesome.
Seriously. My parents were The
Amazing Walkers. Remember them? Died
in a crash? They would have been
impressed. Really. You're going to be
huge. You might want to work on the
landing though. Hello? Hellooooo?

He instinctively reaches for his phone and wallet. Gone.

SKY (cont'd)
Crap.

He hears the SOUND OF HORSES. MEN dressed like ROMAN
SOLDIERS ride by on HORSES. He tries to get their attention.

SKY (cont'd)
Hey!

They don't hear him.

SKY (cont'd)
 This doesn't look like the way to
 Caesar's.

He begins walking in the direction they traveled.

EXT. NAZARETH NORTH ENTRANCE - DAY

Sky enters the CITY. It looks like a scene of a Jesus movie. His flight suit makes him stand out among the citizens in biblical clothes. He approaches THE FIRST WOMAN he sees.

SKY
 Excuse me, ma'am. Do you know how to
 get to the convention center from
 here? I'm sort of headlining at FES
 and I really need to get back.

She looks at him like he's an alien.

FEMALE CITIZEN 1
 What are you?

SKY
 I'm an astronaut. Oh, you wanna take
 a selfie with me?

FEMALE CITIZEN #1
 Selfie...?

SKY
 Where are we? What is all this?

FEMALE CITIZEN 1
 Nazareth.

SKY
 What is that, like a new Cirque show?

FEMALE CITIZEN 1
 Cirque...?

SKY
 It's not a Cirque show? Because it
 looks like you're dressed for a
 Cirque show.

She has no idea what he's saying.

SKY (cont'd)
 Could I please just borrow your
 phone? I need to make a call.

FEMALE CITIZEN 1
What is a phone?

SKY
You're kidding me, right?

She doesn't look like she's kidding. He sticks out his thumb and pinkie and mimes making a call.

SKY (cont'd)
A phone. Like this. So I can make a call.

She does the same as he does.

FEMALE CITIZEN 1
Phone.

SKY
Yes! Yes! Phone. Like that Greystoke.
Can I borrow it?

She offers him her pinkie-thumb hand phone.

SKY (cont'd)
No, that's not...okay...thank you.

He walks away totally disoriented. He looks around. There are a lot of guys dressed like Cosplay Jesus. He approaches A MAN holding a LIVE CHICKEN.

SKY (cont'd)
Hey buddy, have you seen a guy dressed kind of like you with long hair and a beard? He stole my wallet.

The man just stares at him then...WHACK! He lops off the chicken's head with a HATCHET.

SKY (cont'd)
Ahhhh! Why did you do that? Who the hell are you people?

The man just stares at him.

SKY (cont'd)
Well are you gonna fry it? 'Cause to be honest I'm a little hungry.

EXT. NAZARETH SQUARE - DAY

The MAIN SQUARE is crowded. A group of people listens intently to A MAGNETIC YOUNG MAN. This is JESUS (33).

JESUS

...So then I said to him, "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you."

MALE CITIZEN 1

And what did he say?

JESUS

Not a word. The little vandal kicked me in the shin then ran away.

They reply with groans and head shakes.

JESUS (cont'd)

Well, good day to you all.

They leave. A WOMAN calls out to Jesus. This is MRS. FELDMAN (54). It's obvious she has a thing for him.

MRS. FELDMAN

Jesus! Oh, Jesus! Will you be dining with us tonight?

JESUS

If I am able to complete my day's labor in time.

MRS. FELDMAN

I'm preparing your favorite...lamb.

JESUS

Then I shall feast with you as if it's my last supper.

MRS. FELDMAN

Wonderful! I'll see you later Jesus.

JESUS

And I you, Mrs. Feldman.

She swoons. He walks off.

EXT. NAZARETH SQUARE - DAY

Sky enters the square, confused as hell. And the people are equally confused by the sight of him.

He spots Jesus and mistakes him for Cosplay Jesus.

SKY
You son of a bitch.

He charges at Jesus and TACKLES HIM, sending both of them CRASHING into a STACK OF BASKETS. He gets on top of Jesus.

SKY (cont'd)
Where's my wallet?

JESUS
What's a wallet?

SKY
I'm not playing games!

A GROUP OF PEOPLE witness this and become an ANGRY MOB.

MALE CITIZEN 2
He's attacking Jesus!

Sky continues to threaten Jesus.

SKY
Last chance motherfu...

A MAN grabs Sky and THROWS HIM to the ground. The mob begins KICKING him and is about to kill him with PITCHFORKS, HATCHETS and STONES.

JESUS(O.C.)
Stop!

The crowd parts. Jesus enters to protect Sky.

JESUS
Do not kill this man.

MALE CITIZEN 2
He attacked you.

JESUS
True. But he clearly has me mistaken for a thief.

Sky gets a good look at Jesus' neck. No Snoopy tattoo.

MALE CITIZEN 2
But...

Jesus holds up his hand. The mob yields.

JESUS
 Let he who is without sin cast the
 first stone.

A man named JONAH rears back his stone.

JESUS (cont'd)
 Really Jonah? After what you
 confessed about you and your sister?

The mob looks at Jonah.

JONAH
 She's my step sister.

Jesus raises his eyebrows.

JONAH (cont'd)
 Half sister...

He drops the stone.

JESUS
 Go with your better angels people.
 Spare him his life.

The mob begins to disperse. Jesus helps Sky to his feet. Sky is still looking at Jesus' neck. He had the wrong guy.

JESUS (cont'd)
 Are you hurt?

SKY
 No...

JESUS
 Good. I forgive you. I pray you find
 the person that stole your goods.

He leaves. Sky, baffled and bruised, watches him go then looks around again. He spots the tallest building in sight.

EXT. TALLEST BUILDING ROOF - DAY

Sky now has a 360 view of 33 A.D. Nazareth.

SKY
 Where the hell am I?

EXT. NAZARETH FIELD - DAY

Sky returns to the MK-1 and studies it with a trained eye.

INT. MK-1 - DAY

He enters and discovers what happened to HIS PHONE.

SKY
This is no prop.

He taps the touch screen and sees: NZRTH 33 A.D. He thinks a beat then:

SKY (cont'd)
33 A.D. Holy fuck...

EXT. NAZARETH FIELD - CONTINUOUS

He bursts out of the MK-1 like the happiest man on earth.

SKY
Yes! Yes!
(to the heavens)
Up yours, space!
(then)
To boldly go where no man has gone before! I mean, there are other people here. But they didn't arrive *in a kick-ass time machine!* "What? A national holiday for me? Why thank you Mr. President." "Oh this old thing? Just something I picked up in 33 A.D." "Even more popular than God? Well, I've never given it much thought your holiness, but I guess you could say that."

He eyes the touch screen again as it still sinks in.

SKY (cont'd)
Nazareth. Okay...okay... Why does that name ring a bell?

EXT. BLIND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Jesus is constructing THE FRAMEWORK of a building just off the main street. Both hands are holding a beam in place. He's trying to reach a hammer with his foot. Sky arrives.

JESUS
Can you hold this?

Sky is taken off guard but does as asked. They switch places. Jesus begins hammering the beam in place.

SKY
Hey, thanks for what you did earlier.
You saved my life.

JESUS
I have faith you would do the same
for me if given the chance.

He finishes hammering.

JESUS (cont'd)
Thank you friend.

SKY
Sure thing. What are you building?

JESUS
A school for the blind.

SKY
How would they know?

Jesus gives him a look: not funny.

SKY (cont'd)
Sorry.

JESUS
You've never had a conversation with
a blind person, have you?

Sky shakes his head no.

JESUS (cont'd)
(reverent)
They see everything.
(then)
Let me tell you a story. Not long
ago, I was commissioned to build an
orphanage. I made a simple
miscalculation and the entire
structure was terribly uneven.
(laughing)
It looked as if the earth were no
longer flat. I knew it would not be
safe to occupy, so I decided to undo
my work and start over.
(MORE)

JESUS (cont'd)

A blind fellow happened upon me and heard the banging of my hammer. "What are you building?" he asked. "A home for orphaned children," I replied. Then he stood there, in all his darkness, before a lopsided mess unfit for any human to inhabit and said, "It's beautiful." Then he continued walking, leaving me with his glorious gift of insight. I knew then that I wanted to build a school where I could worship the blind. And believe me, they will come here to learn, but I will most assuredly be *their* student.

SKY

(sings)

...Was blind, but now I see.

JESUS

That's lovely. Did you write it?

SKY

No. It's a song from back home.

It's...amazing.

(then)

You know, I never got your name. I'll probably mention you in my memoir.

Sky extends his hand.

SKY (cont'd)

I'm Sky. It's short for Skyler.

JESUS

(shakes Sky's hand)

Huh. Well, then I'm Jeez. Short for Jesus.

SKY

Like *Jesus*, Jesus?

JESUS

No. Just...Jesus. There's only one.

Sky can't believe it. He's talking to *the* Jesus.

SKY

Holy shit! You're Jesus?!

JESUS
 (repeating)
 Shit. What a funny little word.

SKY
 Oh my god, you're Jesus. Dude, do you know how famous you are?

JESUS
 Shit. It comes out so fast. What does it mean?

SKY
 What?

JESUS
 Shit. You said it with such purpose. What is it?

SKY
 You don't know?

JESUS
 No, tell me. Please. *Please*. Please, please, please.

He's begging like a kid asking for one more cookie.

SKY
 Okay, Jesus! It's the stuff that comes out of your poop shoot.

He motions to his butt.

JESUS
 Ohhhhhh.... Shit. I love it.

He begins saying it lyrically, like a child with a new word.

JESUS (cont'd)
 Shit. Shiiiiiiiitt! Shii-iiiitt! Say it with me. Shit! Shit shit shitty shit-shit. Shi-iii-iiit!

SKY
 Whoa. Ease up Elmo.

Jesus sees a MAN WITH A HORSE. The horse has stopped to relieve itself. Steaming PILES OF MANURE hit the ground.

JESUS
 You there!
 (MORE)

JESUS (cont'd)
 (re: the manure)
 That's shit. It's coming out of his
 poop shoot.

The confused man looks at Jesus then at the manure.

JESUS (cont'd)
 How wonderful to learn new words. I
 owe you thanks again, traveler who
 walked here from Nu-sah.

Jesus has misread the patches on Sky's suit.

SKY
 What? Oh, uh, no. It's pronounced
 NASA. And I didn't walk here. Walker
 is my last name.

JESUS
 Then how did you get here? By horse?

SKY
 Oh, it has horsepower alright.

Jesus doesn't understand.

SKY (cont'd)
 Okay, you're not going to believe
 this but I'm from...

SUDDENLY, Jesus SHOVES Sky aside to hide him from the view
 of two passing SOLDIERS.

JESUS
 Roman soldiers. The rulers are
 suspicious of outsiders. We should
 conceal your...whatever this is.

Jesus removes HIS OUTER TUNIC and places it over Sky's head,
 concealing most of his flight suit. Jesus is now wearing
 only his UNDER TUNIC. Sky is touched, but still:

SKY
 Can I keep this? They're probably
 going to build a museum for me...

JESUS
 (slightly confused)
 Of course...

(MORE)

JESUS (cont'd)

(then)

You must be hungry from your travels. I have been invited to dine with the Feldmans tonight. You will be my guest.

SKY

Dinner with Jesus. Cool. I'm starving.

JESUS

No, friend. I've seen people who are truly starving. That's not you.

EXT. FELDMAN HOME - DUSK

They arrive. Jesus knocks. Mrs. Feldman opens the door.

MRS. FELDMAN

Jesus!

JESUS

Good evening Mrs. Feldman. I brought a guest with me. I pray you don't mind.

MRS. FELDMAN

Not at all. Come in. Come in.

She barely looks at Sky. She only has eyes for Jesus.

INT. FELDMAN HOME - CONTINUOUS

Jesus and Sky enter and meet the Feldman's TWINS, SARA and SETH (22).

MRS. FELDMAN

Seth, Sara, move. Let Jesus in.

Sara is also hot for Jesus. Sky picks up on it. MR. FELDMAN (60) stews off to the side, irritated by the sight of Jesus. Sky notices. It's all so confusing.

Mrs. Feldman leads Jesus into the dining room.

MRS. FELDMAN (cont'd)

Supper is ready. I made your favorite like I promised. You can sit next to me and your friend can have my seat.

They sit. Sara quickly sits across from Jesus. The other men sit soon after. Mrs. Feldman went all out. It's a banquet.

JESUS

Mrs. Feldman you shouldn't have gone through all this trouble. This looks like a feast for a king.

MRS. FELDMAN

Nonsense. You're worth it. Mr. Feldman slaughtered the lamb with his own hands.

Mr. Feldman glares. He wants to slaughter the lamb alright.

JESUS

Well...shall we eat?

Sky moves to pick up his fork and accidentally knocks it on the floor. He bends down to pick it up. Under the table he sees Mrs. Feldman PLACE HER HAND on Jesus' thigh. He also sees Sara RUB HER NAKED FOOT on Jesus' shin.

The sight causes him to BANG HIS HEAD on his way up. This causes the ladies to stop what they were doing.

JESUS (cont'd)

Are you okay?

SKY

Yeah. You?

JESUS

(relieved)

Yes. Thank you.

Everyone begins to help themselves to the food.

SKY

(to Jesus)

What about Grace?

SARA

Who's Grace?

SKY

Huh?

SETH

Is she your wife?

SKY

No...I'm single.

Under the table, we see Seth RUB HIS NAKED FOOT on Sky's shin. Sky jumps a little.

SKY (cont'd)

Grace!

Everyone is startled.

SKY (cont'd)

It's a prayer. The one you say before you eat. I thought that you... would...want to...Grace.

JESUS

Sounds fascinating. Would you say it?

SKY

Me?

JESUS

Yes. Show us. Give us Grace.

Sky's totally on the spot. He thinks, then:

SKY

Dear Lord, thank you for the miracle of this artificially intelligent entity and for guiding his hand through this journey. May he humbly represent all mankind by the grace of your glory.

They look at Sky like he's crazy.

JESUS

That was wonderful Sky. Wasn't it wonderful everyone?

He turns to Mr. Feldman for approval. The man scowls.

JESUS (cont'd)

Maybe not everyone's a fan, but I think I'll start making it a ritual whenever I eat. Thank you Sky for teaching us a new tradition.

Sky looks bewildered. Did he just invent Grace?

EXT. FELDMAN HOME - EVENING

Dinner has ended. Jesus and Sky exit. Sky is still puzzled.

SKY
They really seem to like you.

JESUS
A little too much I'm afraid. Love is the greatest gift mankind can share. But Mrs. Feldman is a married woman. And her daughter's bosoms are too small for my liking.

He begins to walk. Sky doesn't move. Did he just say...?

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - EVENING

Jesus is walking. Sky catches up. He's flipping and catching a fork he stole from the Feldman's.

SKY
Since when were you a breast man?

JESUS
Since always. A full bosom is a wonder of na-- Did you steal that fork?

SKY
I need it for the museum.

JESUS
What is this "museum" you speak of?

SKY
The one that'll celebrate my life. See, I got it all figured out. I'm going to return home right in the middle of the Super Bowl halftime show and be like, "I'm back bitches!" Then one day they'll curate all my stuff and people will pay to see it.

JESUS
You wield a wondrous tongue Sky Walker.

SKY
You sound like my last girlfriend.

JESUS
...But heed my words: it is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.

SKY
Yeah, whatever Jesus. You've never
been to America.

As they near the city's SOUTH ENTRANCE:

SKY (cont'd)
Wait! You should come back with me.
It'll be a tight squeeze but...you're
all the proof I need!

He tosses away the fork.

SKY (cont'd)
Hell, you're better than proof.
You're Jesus!

JESUS
Yes, we've established that. But your
words confound me.

SKY
I'm talking about taking you home
with me.

JESUS
To where?

SKY
To the f--

The moon casts a SHADOW OF A LARGE CROSS on the ground. Sky
sees it and looks up. The ominous sight startles him.

SKY (cont'd)
Fuck me! What the hell is that!

JESUS
A cross.

SKY
I know what it is. I've just never
seen one so *real*.

JESUS
The Romans used it yesterday to
crucify a thief. I begged for his
salvation but they wouldn't listen.
They say they're meant to preserve
law and order. To keep us pure from
sin. I see it differently. I hate
these things.

SKY

I bet you do.

Then it dawns on him. The cross. Jesus. A bad combination. His eyes bug out as he looks at the cross then Jesus.

JESUS

What?

SKY

Nothing.

JESUS

You look like you've seen a ghost.

SKY

Not yet...

(then)

What day is this?

JESUS

Tuesday. The thirty first of March.

Sky FLASHES BACK to the moment on the Titan Lander when Alvin recited Jesus' date of death: April 3rd. 33 A.D.

SKY

(sotto)

Friday...

(then)

We shouldn't be standing here.

JESUS

I agree. Let's burn it.

SKY

Oh, let's not.

JESUS

Why not? It should be burned.

SKY

No! It shouldn't. It should never be burned. That would be evil. Like, really, really evil. Probably one of the most evil things a person can do.

JESUS

I see. Well...

He begins RAMMING INTO IT like a cop busting down a door.

SKY
What are you doing?

JESUS
Hurting my shoulder!

He continues to charge into it until it begins to topple. He gives a final push with his foot. It CRASHES to the ground.

ROMAN SOLDIER 1(O.C.)
Hey!

A Soldier heard the commotion.

JESUS
Run!

Jesus runs off like a teen who just tipped a cow. Sky takes off after him.

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

They run back into town looking for a place to hide. Jesus spots something.

JESUS
There!

Sky sees it. His expression says it's not good.

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - MOMENTS LATER

The Soldier catches up to where they were but they've disappeared. He looks around. Sees A HUGE MOUND OF MANURE in an alley. Wrinkles his nose. He hurries down the street. Jesus sticks his head out from under the mound.

JESUS
He's gone.

They emerge from under the mound.

SKY
Why did you make us get in it? Why couldn't we just hide behind it?

JESUS
Because I'd rather be covered in shit than nailed to a cross. It's no way for a man to die.

SKY
 No. I guess it isn't. We should get
 you somewhere safe.

JESUS
 I know just the place.

INT. ROSENBERG HOME - EVENING

Jesus and Sky enter the home Jesus still lives in with his
 parents.

JESUS
 Mom! Dad! I'm home!

Sky is amazed to see MARY (50) and JOSEPH (55) enter the
 room from the kitchen.

MARY
 Hello son.

She smells the manure as she approaches.

MARY (cont'd)
 Mercy, that is pungent. What
 happened?

JESUS
 Let's just say I gave the Romans a
 reason to be quite *cross*.

JOSEPH
 Jesus...

JESUS
 Oh father, they had it coming.

His parents suddenly notice Sky.

MARY
 Who's this?

JESUS
 I'd like you to meet Sky Walker...
 (whispers)
 ...a traveler from afar.
 (to Sky)
 Sky, these are my parents, Joseph and
 Mary Rosenberg.

SKY
 You have a last name?

JESUS

And a middle one. Mendel.
 (to his parents)
 Would it be okay if Sky stayed with
 us tonight?

MARY

(used to it)
 Any friend of yours is always a
 welcome guest. Now please, both of
 you, change out of those clothes and
 cleanse yourselves so you can eat.

JESUS

That won't be necessary. We dined
 with the Feldmans. It was my payment
 for repairing their stable.

JOSEPH

What ever happened to being paid with
 money?

JESUS

It is easier for a camel to go
 through the eye of a needle...

JOSEPH AND MARY

(heard it a million
 times)
 ...then for a rich man to enter the
 kingdom of Heaven.

MARY

(to Sky)
 Our baby boy just gives himself away.

It takes Sky a moment for this to register.

SKY

I'm sorry. Did you say *baby* boy?

MARY

Yes. Jesus has an older sister.
 Rachel.

(calling out)
 Rachel!

RACHEL (34) enters. She is the most beautiful woman Sky has
 ever seen. She is instantly attracted to him as well.

JESUS

Rachel, meet Sky. He's a traveler.

RACHEL
 (beguiled)
 A traveler...

The smell stops her cold.

RACHEL (cont'd)
 Where did you travel? Up the rear end
 of a horse?

MARY
 Rachel...!

Sky can't take his eyes off her. Joseph notices.

JESUS
 Sky will be staying with us tonight.

JOSEPH
 He'll be sleeping in the barn.

Sky snaps out of it.

SKY
 She's your *older* sister...

JESUS
 Yes.

SKY
 Wow. Okay. Well...it's been real, but
 you're not the man I thought you
 were. Is there another Jesus in town?

MARY
 No. Our son is the only Jesus of
 Nazareth.

SKY
 I'm pretty sure the guy I'm thinking
 of is an only child.

MARY
 Jesus most certainly isn't. Rachel
 was just over a year old when I had
 him. She was right there in the
 stable with us the night he was born.

SKY
 Stable?

MARY
 In Bethlehem.

JOSEPH

What a night that was.

MARY

That nasty innkeeper who wouldn't give us a room...

JOSEPH

Now *he* was a horse's rear end.

MARY

Joseph...!

They share a laugh.

SKY

That night....December twenty-fifth?

MARY

Yes. That's his birthday.

Sky is completely baffled.

MARY (cont'd)

Well, since you've already had supper... Jesus, bring Sky some fresh clothes to wear. Rachel, fetch some water and bring it to the barn.

RACHEL

(re: the smell)

Gladly.

Jesus and Rachel exit the room leaving a befuddled Sky.

SKY

I don't understand. If he's Jesus and you're Mary, then you were a virgin when you had him, right?

JOSEPH

A virgin? Then who's child did she birth?

SKY

God's.

Mary and Joseph BUST OUT LAUGHING.

JOSEPH

You're a bigger fool than his friends!

MARY

They think he literally "walks on water."

JOSEPH

Did God impregnate *your* mother too?

SKY

No, my dad got her pregnant at a Christmas party.

MARY

Christmas. What a lovely word. What is it?

SKY

It's the day we celebrate...
 (it hits him)
 ...his birthday.

Jesus returns with clean clothes for Sky.

JESUS

Whose birthday?

JOSEPH

Jesus, this one's even more foolish than your friends.

JESUS

Ignore them. My friends are quite the excellent bunch. You'll see. I'll take you to meet them tomorrow.

He hand Sky the fresh tunics.

JOSEPH

(to Sky)
 Time to hit the hay.

INT. BARN - EVENING

Joseph and Sky stand at the opening. There are a few animals, hay bales and a LARGE MANGER lined with more hay.

JOSEPH

You can sleep in the manger.

Sky's look: in there?

JOSEPH (cont'd)
 It's quite comfortable. Both of the children slept in it. I often took refuge here during Mary's days of blood. Could that woman bleed. Some months it was like a great flood.

Sky is totally grossed out.

JOSEPH (cont'd)
 Well, sweet dreams.

INT. ROSENBERG HOME - EVENING

Mary is tidying up the room. Jesus, now clean, enters.

JESUS
 Goodnight mother.

MARY
 Sit with me a while.

Jesus happily agrees. Mary sits on the couch. He curls up next to her, placing his head in her lap. She gently strokes his hair.

MARY (cont'd)
 The traveler has a wild theory about your parentage.

JESUS
 I think he may be of simple mind.

MARY
 (with admiration)
 You and your lost souls.
 (then)
 Did I ever tell you we knew you would be a boy?

JESUS
 No, never.

MARY
 We thought for certain your sister would be the boy because your father wanted a son. But you know your sister. She had to be stubborn and be a girl. So when I became pregnant with you we just knew you would be a boy. And you were. But oh, how you've surprised us every day since.

(MORE)

MARY (cont'd)

Your charity. Your benevolence. You never cease to amaze us. You certainly don't get it from your father's side of the family. You'd much sooner draw blood from a stone than receive even the smallest compliment from your grandmother. Bitter old shrew. I was perfectly happy serving meals at the tavern. I could have been a manager by now. But no. Your grandfather with the wandering eye liked how I looked in the tawdry frocks they made us wear and thought I would make a fine bride for your father.

(sighs)

But I guess it was all destined to be. If it wasn't for that dirty old man, we wouldn't have you.

She realizes Jesus has fallen fast asleep.

MARY (cont'd)

Jesus?

She smiles and looks contently at her angelic boy. Then she notices something and her eyes light up: an opportunity to SQUEEZE BLACKHEADS from his nose.

MARY (cont'd)

(bliss)

Oooooooo...

INT. BARN - EVENING

Sky, now clean, is arranging hay in the manger like it would make a difference. Seeing it doesn't, he sits on the ground with his back to the manger. A small LAMB walks up to him.

SKY

Go away.

The lamb steps closer.

SKY (cont'd)

Go on. Get.

The lamb refuses. Sky relents.

SKY (cont'd)

Come here...

He picks up the lamb, embraces it and begins a two-way conversation.

SKY (cont'd)

What the fuck am I going to do? Tell him? I can't tell him. He has to die this Friday. Even I know that. Why? Because you little sweater, his death is the reason people celebrate his life. If they didn't, no Christmas, which means no Christmas parties and no me. I couldn't go back because I wouldn't exist. Yeah, I know he did. But I didn't ask for his help. I could have taken them. Oh don't give me that look. Besides, he's not even the son of God. He likes titties.

(he thinks, then)

Yeah. That's it. There's no way he's the real Jesus. He's just a guy. Thanks little buddy.

INT. BARN - MORNING

Sky is now clean and dressed only in a tunic. He's holding his folded flight suit. Jesus enters.

JESUS

Good morning.

SKY

Morning.

JESUS

Sleep well?

SKY

Never slept in a manger before. It's like camp only...weird.

JESUS

Ready to go?

SKY

Actually, I'm going to pass.

JESUS

Oh?

SKY

I'm going home. Got a Super Bowl to crash.

JESUS
"I'm back bitches."

SKY
Exactly.

JESUS
Well, it was nice to know you Skyler Walker. May you live a long and fruitful life.

SKY
You too.

He starts to exit the barn. Rachel enters. He stops.

RACHEL
Are you leaving?

JESUS
He's going home.

RACHEL
Oh... That's too bad...

Sky picks up on her signal. So does Jesus.

SKY
I don't really have to leave *today*.
Technically, I can go anytime I want.

JESUS
What about your bitches?

SKY
Let 'em wait.

He and Rachel cannot take their eyes off each other.

JESUS
Well then, we must get going.
(to Rachel)
I'm taking him to meet my friends.

RACHEL
Yes, you wouldn't want to keep the devoted dozen waiting. "Oh, Jesus. Our shining star. Our loins throb for thee."

JESUS
Ha. Ha.

RACHEL
 "Oh, the wisdom of your words.
 Quickly, someone fetch a stone
 tablet."

SKY
 (amused)
 Where I'm from your friends would be
 called fanboys.

RACHEL
 That's a funny word.
 (to Jesus)
 You have fanboys.

JESUS
 Let's go Sky...

Rachel falls to her knees and grabs his arm.

RACHEL
 "Oh, Jesus! Don't leave! I beg of
 thee!"

He wrestles himself away and leaves with Sky.

RACHEL (cont'd)
 Give my love to your fanboys!

EXT. NAZARETH ROAD - DAY

Jesus and Sky walk toward town. Sky is uncomfortably hot.

SKY
 Man, I'm melting in this thing...

He RIPS OFF the sleeves to expose his arms.

JESUS
 What are you doing?

SKY
 (flexing)
 Sun's out. Guns out bro.

JESUS
 Guns...

SKY
 (still flexing)
 Guns. Firearms. Right, you don't have
 those here. Probably for the best...

Jesus begins to judge his own biceps as they walk, then steps off the road, lifts his robe, and BEGINS TO PEE.

SKY (cont'd)
Hey now nutsack...

JESUS
What?

SKY
The yule log.

JESUS
It's just a penis. Look.

He swivels his hips, swinging his penis around like a kid.

JESUS (cont'd)
See? Nothing to be ashamed of. The human body is a beautiful thing.

SKY
(averting his eyes)
Put it away! Right now! I'm serious.

JESUS
(finishes and lowers his robe)
Fine. Now, come, let me see yours.

SKY
No!

JESUS
Is everyone so puritanical where you're from?

SKY
You calling me a prude?

JESUS
You're being quite prudish about your body.

SKY
Hey pal. I'm from Las Vegas. Home of The Strip. And we strip.

Sky lifts his robe.

JESUS
You still have your foreskin.

SKY
(instant regret)
I wasn't circumcised.

JESUS
Shouldn't it keep your penis warm?

SKY
I guess.

JESUS
Because it looks like it's cold.

SKY
That's not funny.

JESUS
I'm not trying to be funny. I'm
genuinely concerned. It looks like
it's freezing to death.

Sky quickly lowers his robe then catches Jesus SMIRKING.

SKY
Were you messing with me?

Jesus chortles.

SKY (cont'd)
You were! You were messing with me!
Okay. I see how it is. And by the
way, yours isn't all that big either.
I mean, good for you...really. But
I've seen bigger.

JESUS
Uh-huh.

SKY
Huge ones...

JESUS
(playing along)
Like giant serpents...

They resume walking.

SKY
Bigger.

JESUS
What could be bigger than a giant
serpent?

SKY
 You ever hear of the Thunder from
 Down Under? They're huge in Vegas.

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - DAY

Jesus and Sky are walking when SOMETHING catches Jesus' eye.
 He GRABS SKY and ducks behind sacks of grain.

SKY
 What is it? Romans? I'm not hiding in
 shit again.

Jesus peers from behind the sacks. He sees A ROMAN BEAUTY in
 front of a building. She is being watched closely by a mean
 looking MAIDSERVANT (55). The beauty is JULIA (30).

JESUS
 (longingly)
 Julia.

Sky peers to get a look.

SKY
 You know her?

JESUS
 (intimately)
 Oh yes...

SKY
 Like know her in the biblical sense?

JESUS
 Biblical?

SKY
 The Bible. It's a book. I've been
 told it's a really good book.

JESUS
 Then yes. My fingers have traced her
 every page.

An IMPORTANT LOOKING MAN in uniform marches out followed by
 three SOLDIERS. This is PONTIUS PILATE (60). Jesus retreats
 behind the sacks. Sky does the same.

SKY
 You have a girlfriend?

JESUS
Unofficially, a fiance.

SKY
And you've had sex with her?

JESUS
You make it sound immoral.

SKY
Well you keep surprising me.

JESUS
Well, surprise! I've had sex. Raw,
passionate sex. Now stay out of my
bedroom.

He peers around the sacks again. Pilate and his men march
off. Julia obediently follows. The coast is clear.

JESUS (cont'd)
Let's go.

EXT. APOSTLES' HANGOUT - DAY

Jesus and Sky arrive at the Apostles' hangout.

INT. APOSTLES' HANGOUT - CONTINUOUS

Jesus and Sky enter. Seated at tables with STACKS OF PAPER
are eleven men ranging in age from 25 to 40: PETER, MATTHEW,
JAMES S., JAMES L., JOHN, ANDREW, BARTHOLOMEW, THADDEUS,
PHILIP, SIMON and THOMAS. They are busy either WRITING or
ILLUSTRATING. It looks like a thriving publishing company.

APOSTLES
Rosenburp!

JESUS
Eunuchs! This is Sky Walker. He's
bothered that Julia and I have sex.

The Apostles laugh at the absurd notion.

JAMES S.
Pfft. I wish I was having sex right
now.

JOHN
What kind of sexless place did you
travel from?

JESUS
A land called Las Vegas.

JOHN
Then I shall be sure to stay far away
from there.

The others nod in agreement.

JESUS
(to Sky)
Allow me to introduce everyone.
(going around the
room)
Peter Rubenstein. Matthew Schwartz.
James Schiffman. John Horowitz.
Andrew Cohen. Bartholomew Brookstone.
James Lesserman. Thaddeus Shaffer.
Philip Kaplan. Simon Tidlebaum. And
Thomas Shapiro.

SKY
(to Jesus)
Rachel said there were twelve.

The Apostles frown. It's clearly a sore subject.

INT. PILATE'S OFFICE - DAY

Three men walk briskly down an open-air hallway. One of them is PILATE. Trying to catch up to him are JUDAS (28) and JUDAS' FATHER (62). Pilate stops near a group of SOLDIERS.

JUDAS' FATHER
We had a deal Pilate! Judas would marry your daughter and in return my family would receive a substantial dowry which I would return to you, and in exchange your men would 'convince' my competitors to sell their garment businesses to me and I would pay you a handsome fee to protect my new interests. It was the most simple scheme ever devised. You gave me your word!

PILATE
My word as governor is true.

JUDAS' FATHER

Your "word" became worthless the second your daughter laid down with the Rosenberg boy. That little harlot is impure. The deal is off!

PILATE

(seething)

You mind how you speak of my daughter Iscariot. She may be impure, but she is still my flesh and blood.

JUDAS' FATHER

Your threats are idle. I've already canceled the caterer and notified the musicians. The arrangement is over.

PILATE

Well, at least *this* one.

JUDAS' FATHER

And what does that mean?

PILATE

An arranged marriage is the only way you'll find a bride for your son.

JUDAS' FATHER

My son is an Iscariot!

PILATE

He has the breath of a flatulent horse!

(to Judas)

You have odorous breath! I'm glad you're not marrying my daughter. She would have to pinch her nose just to kiss you. You would have given me grandchildren who would have smelled like they feasted on their own feces.

JUDAS' FATHER

Enough!

He takes a menacing step toward Pilate. Pilate's Soldiers take a more threatening step toward him. He backs down.

JUDAS' FATHER (cont'd)

If you have any pride, you will make the Rosenberg boy pay with his life for destroying a very lucrative deal.

PILATE

Don't be a fool. Jesus Rosenberg is
the most popular man in Nazareth.
Killing him would cause great unrest.

CAIAPHAS

Jesus shall die!

The three men practically jump out of their skins. CAIAPHAS (70) is a shadowy man in a dark robe. He seemingly appeared out of nowhere.

PILATE

Caiaphas.

CAIAPHAS

I want him dead.

PILATE

But high priest...

CAIAPHAS

Da, da, da, da! I don't want to hear
about unrest. I want to hear that the
people love me more than they love
Jesus! If you want to assure peace
between the Romans and the Jews
governor then you will obey *my*
wishes!

JUDAS' FATHER

Listen to the high priest Pilate.
Jesus Rosenberg is a menace. He
ruined our deal!

CAIAPHAS

I don't give a flying fig about your
deal! The thought of Jesus has
penetrated my bedroom. The other
night I was riding my favorite wife
and she cried out his name in a
moment of ecstasy. "Oh yes! Oh yes!
Oh Jesus! Give it to me! Yes! Yes! Oh
Jesus! Oh Sweet Jesus!" Hearing it
made my little soldier go limp.

Pilate and Judas' Father exchange a look as if it's happened to them too.

JUDAS

You see?! Even the high priest's wife
lusts for Jesus. I hate him!

Caiaphas gets in Pilate's face.

CAIAPHAS
Nail him from the highest cross.

Caiaphas then retreats into the shadows and disappears.

JUDAS' FATHER
(smugly)
Well Pilate. It looks like you have
your orders.

He leaves. Judas approaches Pilate.

JUDAS
Jesus needs to suffer in the most
public way possible. I want to help.

Pilate caught a blast of Judas' breath when he said, "help."

PILATE
Yes, of course. Just don't speak
directly at me.

JUDAS
What?

Pilate takes Judas by the shoulders and turns him to the
side so he is facing his profile.

PILATE
Turn this way.

JUDAS
How dare...!

Pilate is trying to judge the current coming through the
open-air windows. He re-positions himself and Judas.

PILATE
Wait, no, the wind....this way. Yes,
that's better.

JUDAS
This is outrageous! I do not have
flatulent breath!

A MAN and a WOMAN passing by catch a whiff. It's the same
man Jesus taught to say shit when his horse was shitting.

HORSE MAN
Dear God! What smells like horse
shit?

Judas glares at them then cups his hand to his mouth and exhales. The smell makes him gag.

INT. APOSTLES' HANGOUT - DAY

The Apostles, Sky and Jesus are enjoying HUMMUS and other snacks. Sky sits next to Jesus. The mood has lifted.

THOMAS
Is there anything better than hummus?

JOHN
Confess Philip. What did you put in here? It's addicting.

PHILIP
Cannabis.

ANDREW
The Lord's leaf...

SIMON
Soooooo good.

SKY
(to Jesus)
Is that why you're not having any?

JESUS
I'm allergic to chick pea.

JOHN
I'm allergic to cow's milk.

JAMES S.
Peanuts.

JAMES L.
Shell fish.

SIMON
I'd rather die than live without shrimp.

They all nod. Jesus notices Thaddeus. He's sullen.

JESUS
You've been awfully quiet Thaddeus.
What troubles you?

THADDEUS

It's my father. I finally summoned the courage to tell him I want to be an actor and he mocked me.

BARTHOLOMEW

Why shouldn't he? You've been telling us the same thing for two years and you're still working here. Once a coward always a coward.

JOHN

Don't listen to Bartholomew. He's just a big bag of wind.

JESUS

John's right. Every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire. So, by their fruits you will know them.

No one knows what the hell Jesus is talking about.

THOMAS

What does that even mean?

ANDREW

Are you saying we should be fruit?

SIMON

(kind of stoned)

Can I be an apple?

Matthew was quickly writing down what Jesus was saying.

MATTHEW

Yes Jesus, I understood you the other day when you said the meek shall inherit the earth. But you really lost me just now with the trees.

JESUS

It means...don't listen to Bartholomew. He's a windbag.

Bartholomew bristles. Matthew writes it down.

SKY
 (to Jesus)
 What is he writing? What is all this?

JESUS
 Matthew. Peter. Show Sky your works.

Matthew and Peter take BOOKLETS from the table and show Sky what looks like a very primitive COMIC BOOK.

PETER
 It's a series of children's stories about a character with miraculous powers. He performs great deeds for the less fortunate and shares his wisdom with pithy proverbs.

MATTHEW
 We call it, "The Adventures of Jesus."

PETER
 We started selling them at the market hoping to make a little money and to our surprise they became incredibly popular. Even the adults love them.

They show him several issues.

MATTHEW
 See? "Jesus Walks on Water." "Jesus Cures the Crippled." "Jesus Heals the Lepers."

PETER
 ...A best seller. We're on our third printing. Thanks to Jesus, we could become the biggest publishers on the continent.

Sky holds a copy. He's stunned. He is essentially looking at the beginning of The Bible in comic book form.

SKY
 Is any of this true? Did he really do this?

MATTHEW
 It depends on your definition of "really."

An OLD MAN suddenly enters with great urgency.

OLD MAN

There you are Jesus! You must come quickly. A group of hungry pilgrims has come to rest at the lake. There are too many to count. They have no food. Not a single fish or loaf of bread.

SKY

(sotto)

Fishes and loaves...

JESUS

They must be traveling with children. We have to help them.

Sky looks at The Adventures as the men hurry to the door. He follows, still very much confused.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Jesus, Sky and the Apostles stand on a small hill overlooking THE LAKE. A LARGE CROWD OF PILGRIMS are sitting near the water. They're starving.

JESUS

That's a lot of hungry people.

ANDREW

What shall we do?

JESUS

I have an idea.

(to the crowd)

People! Hello! Hey there!

(has their attention)

Hi. My name is Jesus. Do not worry.

We're going to get you food.

One of the PILGRIMS springs to his feet.

PILGRIM

It's Jesus! The one from the stories!
He's come to save us!

The crowd CHEERS.

BARTHOLOMEW

(to Jesus)

I hope you know what you're doing.

Jesus looks at Sky then Bartholomew.

JESUS
Have faith.

INT. BAKERY - DAY

Jesus, Sky and the Apostles enter. The BAKER is a MOUNTAIN OF A MAN. The shelves are overflowing with LOAVES OF BREAD.

JESUS
Good day baker.

The Baker, like other husbands, is irritated to see Jesus.

BAKER
Rosenberg.

JESUS
There are hungry pilgrims at the lake. I'd like to feed them, but I don't have enough money for so many loaves. What do you do with your unsold surplus?

BAKER
I burn it.

JESUS
Wouldn't you rather open your heart and feed the unfed?

BAKER
If they want them, they'll pay for them. I'm not giving away my hard work.

JESUS
I see... You have stout arms. Made that way from working your dough no doubt.

Sky snickers.

BAKER
That's right. I rise early every day and work my dough.

Sky snickers again.

SKY
(aside, to the
Apostles)
Maybe later we can find a butcher who
beats his meat.

JESUS
How about a little wager then? A test
of strength. The might of your arm
versus...
(re: Sky)
...the arm of my friend here.

Sky is no longer laughing.

JESUS (cont'd)
If he bests you, you deliver the
unsold loaves to the lake.

BAKER
And when I win?

Jesus looks up and sees a hole in the roof.

JESUS
I will patch the hole in your roof.

BAKER
Deal.

The Baker clears off the counter. Sky pulls Jesus aside.

SKY
Are you crazy? That guy's massive.

JESUS
Yes, but you have arms of fire.

SKY
What?

JESUS
You said your guns were arms of fire.

SKY
Firearms! I said they were firearms!

JESUS
Are they not?

SKY
No! They are definitely "not." I was
just showing off.

JESUS
Well, that does put you at a
disadvantage.

BAKER
(cracking his
knuckles)
Alright, let's get on with it.

SKY
What about the miracle?

JESUS
What miracle?

SKY
The one where you turn a few loaves
into many.

JESUS
That would be miraculous. But also
impossible. I'm not a miracle worker.

SKY
Yeah, that's becoming pretty obvious.

JESUS
Not to worry. We don't need a
miracle. We have you. And you're
going to win.

SKY
(re: the Baker)
Against that?

JESUS
I have faith.

They approach the counter. Sky grasps the Baker's enormous
hand. Jesus and the Apostles lean in a little too closely.

SKY
A little space...

They back off.

JESUS
(encouraging)
Arms of fire.

The arm wrestle begins. The Baker has an early advantage.
Sky is putting up a good fight but his confidence is
weakening. He LOCKS EYES with Jesus.

His confidence and strength SURGE. He overpowers the Baker AND WINS! The Apostles cheer. The Baker scowls.

SKY

I won.

BAKER

You were lucky.

SKY

(to Jesus)

What did you do to me?

JESUS

Arms of fire. Now let's go fishing.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Jesus surveys the lake. He sees FISH SWIMMING AWAY from the lake THROUGH A NARROW STREAM.

JESUS

(pointing)

There. We need to redirect the fish.

(to Apostles)

Tell the people to wade into the water. We'll send the fish to them.

Jesus and Sky walk up a hill toward a PILE OF BOULDERS.

JESUS (cont'd)

We need to push these toward that narrow gap. That will prevent the fish from leaving.

Sky no longer questions Jesus' methods. They try to push the heavy boulders.

SKY

Seriously, what did you do back there? With the eyes...

JESUS

Nothing.

SKY

But you knew I would win.

JESUS

I also knew he could rip your arm off.

SKY

Then why did you let me go through
with it?!

JESUS

Because you lacked faith.

SKY

(stops pushing)

And I would have lacked my favorite
arm! That guy's not the only one who
rolls his dough in the morning. And
in the evening. Sometimes twice on
Saturday.

JESUS

(stops pushing)

My believing in you had no bearing on
the outcome. What mattered is that
you were able to find faith in
yourself when you needed it most. And
when the stronger man felt the full
force of your faith, he lost faith in
himself.

(he approaches)

You didn't beat him with your arm
Sky. You beat him with your heart.

He places his finger on Sky's chest.

JESUS (cont'd)

I know there's one in here.

Sky leans on the boulders as he has a moment of PROFOUND
REFLECTION. The boulders begin to TOPPLE down the hill and
into the water CREATING A DAMN IN THE STREAM.

SKY

(in disbelief)

I did it!

JESUS

(begins to run down
the hill)

I had faith!

Sky follows Jesus into the water. They begin yelling and
pushing the water like two cowboys herding cattle. Sky SLIPS
beneath the water. A HAND REACHES IN and grabs him. It's
Jesus. He pulls Sky up like he's being baptized.

SKY

(sotto)

What the fuck just happened?

The plan is working. The pilgrims catch the bounty of fish with their hands and baskets. The Baker arrives with the bread. The pilgrims are saved. Sky takes in the miracle.

SKY (cont'd)

I did it...

EXT. LAKE - DAY

It's a little later. The pilgrims are happy and fed. Some of the Apostles are writing. Others are mingling with the pilgrims. Jesus and Sky dry off at the top of the hill.

JESUS

Now *they* were starving. But now their bellies are full...because of you.

Sky looks at the Apostles that are writing.

SKY

But you'll get credit for the miracle.

JESUS

You still hunger for glory.

SKY

Says the most famous man ever...

JESUS

Look at them Sky. Really see what you helped to create. Is this not enough glory for you?

Jesus stands and walks away leaving Sky to look at the scene below with newly opened eyes. A CHILD approaches and offers him some of HER FOOD. He accepts it and his vanity gives way to virtue for the FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE.

He rises and marches toward Jesus with newfound purpose.

SKY

Your life is in danger.

JESUS

How do you know?

SKY
I'm from the future.

Jesus BUSTS OUT LAUGHING.

SKY (cont'd)
I'm serious. Pontius Pilate will crucify you this Friday and some dickhead named Judas is going to help him.

JESUS
You're from the future?

SKY
Hasn't it been kind of obvious?

JESUS
I just thought you were an imbecile. Still, what you assert about Pilate and Judas...it will never happen.

SKY
Yes it will. I know this story. It never ends well for you.

JESUS
Pontius Pilate is a reasonable man. I doubt he would do something so severe, though he is angry with me. Julia is his daughter.

SKY
Jesus! You're nailing Pilate's daughter?!

JESUS
Is that a question or a statement?

SKY
You're a dead man walking.

JESUS
Pilate was arranging a marriage between Julia and Judas but her maidservant caught us in the act. So now he forbids us from being together. She is my destiny Sky. Do you know what it's like to have that taken from you?

SKY
Yeah. I do.

JESUS

Then we need to confront him.

SKY

Are you nuts?! He'll kill both of us.

JESUS

Only if what you're saying is true.
If it is, then I must persuade him to
spare my life. Love is not a crime,
but being condemned for it should be.

SKY

But--

JESUS

(smiles)

Have faith.

INT. PILATE'S OFFICE - DAY

Jesus and Sky enter. Pilate looks unhappy to see Jesus.

PILATE

You should not be here.

JESUS

Pilate, this man says you plan to
crucify me. Is it true?

Pilate is stunned. He quickly shifts into denial mode.

PILATE

That's absurd. Who is this liar?

JESUS

Don't change the subject. Do you or
do you not plan to kill me?

PILATE

Would I lie to you?

Sky looks ashen. He knows those words. He's told that lie.

PILATE (cont'd)

I may wish you ill, but I do not wish
you dead. I demand an apology for
your vile accusation.

JESUS

My apologies.

(MORE)

JESUS (cont'd)

(to Sky)

You see? The governor may deny my love for his daughter, but he is still a reasonable man.

(to Pilate)

Thank you Pilate. We will trouble you no more.

Jesus and Sky begin to exit, as they do:

SKY

He's a liar.

JESUS

How can you be so certain?

SKY

I know the type.

Once they're out of sight, Judas and two Soldiers enter. They heard everything. Judas is eating MINT LEAVES.

JUDAS

He knows. We need to move quickly. Do something!

PILATE

I do not take orders from you.

CAIAPHAS

Then take them from me!

Once again Caiaphas has appeared out of nowhere, scaring the shit out of everyone.

PILATE

Stop doing that!

CAIAPHAS

Accuse him of a crime worthy of conviction. Falsify evidence if you must. And prepare a cross for the stranger. We'll crucify them tonight!

ROMAN SOLDIER 2

Does it have to be tonight?

ROMAN SOLDIER 3

It's the first of April. We gather all the poor people and fool them into thinking they're rich. A crucifixion would really spoil the mood.

CAIAPHAS

I completely forgot. I do enjoy seeing the disappointment on their faces when we yell, "Gotcha!" Alright then, we'll crucify them tomorrow.

PILATE

Tomorrow's no good for me. I'm having boils leeches.

CAIAPHAS

Ouch. That's nasty business. How's Friday? Friday work for everyone?

Everyone nods.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)

Excellent. Friday it is. And it will be a very *good Friday* indeed.

He CACKLES an evil laugh then disappears into the shadows. Pilate notices Judas' mint leaves.

PILATE

What are you eating?

JUDAS

Mint leaves.

Pilate gets close to smell his breath. It's minty fresh.

JUDAS (cont'd)

(hating to admit)

Jesus once used them to cleanse the breath of a filthy beggar.

PILATE

(impressed)

He's quite the smart young man, isn't he?

JUDAS

I want to drive a stake through his flesh.

Pilate SWATS the mint leaves out of Judas' hands.

EXT. NAZARETH SQUARE - DAY

Jesus and Sky enter the square.

SKY

We'll go to your house, grab some food, clothes and any porn your father's hiding and skip town for a few days.

JESUS

I'm not leaving. I must take Pilate at his word if I am going to have any hope of reuniting with Julia.

SKY

Is that why you threw me under the bus back there? To get on his good side?

JESUS

I'll do whatever it takes to be with Julia.

Sky holds up his hands and starts to "jazz hand."

SKY

See these? No holes. I want to keep it that way.

JESUS

I'm sorry if you feel I've put your life in danger. Maybe you should return the "future" with your Super Bowl and bitches and throw yourself under a "bus."

SKY

You can't throw yourself under a bus dumb-ass.

JESUS

Goodbye Sky Walker.

Sky watches Jesus walk away, all alone, and in grave danger.

SKY

(talk/sings, sotto)

If I go, there will be trouble...
And if I stay it will be double...
So come on and let me know...
Fuck it. Wait!

He runs and catches up to a smiling Jesus.

JESUS

I had faith.

SKY

Shut up.

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - DAY

Sky and Jesus turn onto the main street.

SKY

Listen up J.R. If you're so damn sure Pilate's not going to crucify you then there's no harm leaving town before Friday.

JESUS

Where would we go?

SKY

(points randomly)

That way! We'll throw caution to the wind. Come on. You and me. Two buddies on a zany adventure.

JESUS

What about Julia? I don't trust Judas.

SKY

Bring her with us.

JESUS

Really?

SKY

Sure! It could be romantic, at least, for the two of you. Unless you're down for a threesome.

JESUS

A romantic getaway does sound tantalizing. But I can barely get close enough to speak to her. She's constantly guarded by her maidservant.

Sky thinks then:

SKY

Ever heard of a wingman?

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - DAY

Julia and her Maidservant are carrying parcels. Sky approaches with a FLOWER. They stop in front of a TAVERN.

SKY

A flower for the lady.

MAIDSERVANT

She doesn't want your flower.

SKY

Not for her. The flower is for you beautiful.

MAIDSERVANT

(blushing)

For me?

SKY

This one's too skinny. I like a woman with a little muscle.

MAIDSERVANT

You're him, aren't you? The man with arms of fire who bested the baker.

SKY

Man, word travels fast around here.

MAIDSERVANT

Could I...touch them?

SKY

You could do more than that.

(re: the tavern)

How about we go a few rounds?

She giggles like a school girl.

MAIDSERVANT

Come Julia.

SKY

No, no. Three's a crowd. I want you all to myself.

The Maidservant looks to Julia. She's clearly never neglected her duty before.

JULIA
 Go. I'll be safe here.
 (with intent)
 And I won't say a word to my father.

MAIDSERVANT
 (instantly guilty)
 Thank you...

Sky and the Maidservant go into the tavern. Julia suddenly hears JESUS' VOICE.

JESUS(O.C.)
 Julia. Julia.

Julia turns to see Jesus in AN ALLEY, concealing himself with a hood. She enters and they begin to KISS PASSIONATELY.

JULIA
 Oh, my love.

JESUS
 My, Julia. I miss you a million times a day.

JULIA
 How did you...?

JESUS
 I have a wingman. It was his plan to distract your maidservant.

JULIA
 He challenged her to an arm wrestle, so they won't be long.

INT. TAVERN - DAY

Sky and the Maidservant sit at a table to arm wrestle.

SKY
 Best out of three. Ready. Go!

She BEATS HIM WITH EASE and it hurts like hell.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Jesus and Julia are still kissing.

JULIA
 How's the school?

JESUS
The framework is almost complete.
Soon our dream will be a reality.

JULIA
Father will never allow it.

JESUS
I saw your father today. I know I can
find a way to earn his good graces.

JULIA
How can you be so sure?

JESUS
I have faith.

JULIA
(amused)
You always say that.

JESUS
And it seldom lets me down.

From inside the tavern THEY HEAR A THUD, the CHEERING of a
CROWD and SKY YELPING IN PAIN.

JESUS (cont'd)
We better hurry.

They ramp up the kissing.

INT. TAVERN - CONTINUOUS

Sky is getting destroyed as a CROWD looks on. We see a
MONTAGE of him being defeated pin after pin.

SKY
Okay, best out of five...

Slam!

SKY (cont'd)
Best out of seven...

Slam!

SKY (cont'd)
Is that all you got?

Slam!

SKY (cont'd)
Best out of--

Slam! He flies OFF HIS SEAT from her strongest pin yet.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

JULIA
I love you my Jeezy-weezy.

JESUS
I adore you my Shmoolia.

JULIA
...my Rosenstud...

JESUS
...my gefilte kiss...

JULIA
...my honey challah...

JESUS
...my muffin top...

JULIA
(stops kissing)
I told you to never call me that.

JESUS
I'm sorry my pookie...

JULIA
Forget it. You ruined the moment.

JESUS
(meekly)
Right. Okay. Bye. I love you.

She returns to the street as the Maidservant appears with the flower and a huge grin on her face. They leave.

Sky appears soon after with his arm dangling like a dead limb. Jesus walks up to him now that the coast is clear.

SKY
What did she say?

JESUS
About what?

SKY
About our threesome.

Jesus looks sheepish because:

JESUS
I forgot to ask.

SKY
Are you kidding?! Look at this!

He tries lifting his arm but it just swings.

JESUS
We started kissing and I completely forgot.

SKY
You're really not taking this whole "dead on Friday" thing seriously.

JESUS
And you sound that much crazier every time you say it.

SKY
Okay, that's it! Plan B. We're not leaving Nazareth.

JESUS
You're finally talking sense.

SKY
We're leaving 33. A.D.

EXT. NAZARETH FIELD - DAY

Jesus and Sky stand near the tree where Sky left the MK-1.
IT'S GONE.

SKY
It's gone.

JESUS
(doesn't believe)
A machine that traveled through time.

SKY
It was right here. Maybe it rolled.

He searches for it. It's nowhere to be found.

JESUS

You must admit, you traveling through time is about as far fetched as me walking on water.

SKY

You going to help me or not?

JESUS

Fine.

(jokingly)

Time machine! Here time machine! Come out come out wherever you are! I don't see it. Maybe it had a *future* engagement.

SKY

Yuk it up superstar. You're a real pal.

JESUS

I'm sorry. Can we go now?

SKY

Right now that time machine means as much to me as Julia means to you.

His desperation makes Jesus reconsider.

JESUS

Maybe someone found it and brought it into town.

SKY

I hope it's someone who likes us.

INT. JUDAS' STORAGE ROOM - DUSK

The MK-1 sits with its doors open in a large EMPTY ROOM. Judas and two Soldiers lead in a reluctant Julia.

JUDAS

You see?!

JULIA

What is it?

JUDAS

It's God's Ball! He left it for me to find under a tree. It's a sign. It proves he prefers me over Jesus. I'm the one you should desire.

JULIA
What do you do with it?

Judas has no idea. He stares at it then decides:

JUDAS
It will be our private love chamber.

He scurries to the HG-1 and gets in.

JUDAS (cont'd)
We will enter and make love like so.

He simulates sex moves. Badly. She starts to wretch.

JULIA
I could never...blech...

She rushes off before the Soldiers can stop her.

JUDAS
Don't leave! Julia! You can't do this
to me! I have God's Ball in my hand!

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - DUSK

Jesus and Sky have returned to look for the MK-1.

SKY
Maybe we should split up.

A FATHER, MOTHER and YOUNG SON notice Jesus. The son is holding a COPY OF THE ADVENTURES.

SON
That's him! That's Jesus!

They rush over to Jesus.

SON (cont'd)
You're Jesus. The one from the
adventures.

He holds out his copy.

FATHER
We're big fans.

SON
Did you really raise Lazarus from the
dead like it says in the story?

JESUS

Well, actually, he was choking to death on a bone. So I got behind him
(mimes the Heimlich)
grabbed him by his stomach and lifted him off his feet causing the bone to jump out of his throat. The story takes some creative liberties.

The boy smiles. Good enough for him.

SON

Would you touch my copy? For good luck?

JESUS

Um, okay.

Jesus touches the boy's copy as if he is BLESSING IT. Suddenly, MORE CITIZENS run over holding out THEIR COPIES.

FEMALE CITIZEN 2

Jesus! Touch my copy too!

MALE CITIZEN 3

Mine too!

FEMALE CITIZEN 2

I'm going to be first in line for "The Miracle of the Fishes and Loaves." Everyone's talking about it.

MORE AND MORE FANS surround Jesus for a blessing. Sky has been crowded out of the way. He's experienced this kind of false idolatry at FES. All that's missing is the selfies.

SKY

(sotto, sarcastically)
Would you like a Sharpie?

Jesus is caught up in the moment. HE'S MORE POPULAR THAN EVER. Sky shakes his head and leaves.

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - EVENING

Sky is walking alone. Judas approaches and blocks his path. Sky attempts to sidestep him, but Judas gets in the way. Sky tries to go around him, but Judas gets in the way again.

JUDAS

Your friend Jesus is a dead man. No one betrays an Iscariot.

SKY

Judas...

Judas SUCKER-PUNCHES Sky in the gut.

JUDAS

And there's a special cross reserved
just for you.

He leaves Sky in a crumpled heap.

INT. BARN - EVENING

Sky returns dejected and still in pain from the gut punch.
He sees the lamb. A smile. He sits and scoops up the lamb.

SKY

Let me tell you little sweater, doing
the right thing will get you killed.
I have to find that time machine
before Friday or it's father, son and
holy fuck for Jesus and your old
buddy Sky. Any idea where it is?

LAMB (V.O.)

How would I know? I'm just a lamb.

SKY

You can talk?

LAMB (V.O.)

Of course I can. I belong to Jesus.

SKY

Okay, none of this shit is real. I
must have gone through that wormhole
and into a parallel universe. Yeah,
that's it. I'm in the Upside Down of
the Bible.

LAMB (V.O.)

No you're not. You're in Nazareth.

SKY

Lambs don't talk! You're not really
doing that!

He HEARS LAUGHING. Rachel steps out from behind a bale of
hay laughing her ass off.

RACHEL

You really thought the lamb was talking. You should have seen your face! "Lambs don't talk! You're not really doing that!"

She sits next to him. He's not laughing.

RACHEL (cont'd)

I'm sorry. I couldn't help myself.

SKY

What are you doing out here?

RACHEL

Not listening to my parents question why I'm still not married.

SKY

Why aren't you married? STD? Because you can totally work around that.

RACHEL

I'm not ready to be a wife. I haven't even lived. I want to see the world. I want to be traveler, like you. Tell me about where you're from.

SKY

Well, it's a place called Las Vegas. But everyone knows it as "Sin City."

Her eyes light up so he keeps going.

SKY (cont'd)

Every day there is like traveling the world. New York. Paris. Venice. Monte Carlo. The most exciting cities all on one street. It's where you live when you believe in magic.

RACHEL

I want to go there. See the world you've seen. I want to boldly go where no woman has gone before and inspire other girls to follow their dreams.

Sky looks in her eyes. They're kindred spirits.

SKY

How would you like to go on a mission with me?

RACHEL

Are you kidding?! Yes! What kind of mission?

SKY

You're brother's in grave danger. We both are.

RACHEL

When do we start?

SKY

You'll do it?

RACHEL

I've been waiting for a moment like this my entire life.

SKY

We make it through this and we'll go anywhere you want for the rest of your life. Except to back to Vegas because I won't exist.

RACHEL

Huh?

SKY

I'll explain later, but right now...

They lean in to kiss when:

JOSEPH (O.S.)

Rachel! Are you out there?

It kills the moment.

RACHEL

Coming!

(to Sky)

See you in the morning.

She gives him a quick peck on the lips then rushes off.

EXT. NAZARETH SQUARE - DAY

It's a new day. A few people mill about in the square.

INT. APOSTLES' HANGOUT - DAY

Jesus, Sky and Rachel enter.

APOSTLES

(enthused)

Rosen--

They see Rachel.

APOSTLES (cont'd)

(instantly sad)

--burp.

BARTHOLOMEW

What is *she* doing in here?

RACHEL

Don't you think your poor wife
wonders the same thing about you?

Bartholomew scowls. She knows just where to hit them.

JESUS

Sky has recruited us to help him with
"an important mission."

JAMES S.

What kind of mission?

RACHEL

(sharply)

A secret one.

MATTHEW

We're still glad you stopped by.
We've almost completed "The Miracle
of the Fishes and Loaves."

Rachel approaches the table.

RACHEL

I can't believe people actually read
these.

PETER

And that is why you will never be in
them.

She picks up a different copy and reads:

RACHEL

"Jesus Turns Water into Wine."

(to Jesus)

That disaster you gave as a wedding
gift? You put grapes in a bottle of
water.

JESUS

It was the thought that counts.

She picks up another copy and reads:

RACHEL

"Jesus Calms the Storm." And just where does your "superman" get the magical power to do all this?

Sky's look: did she say "superman"?

PETER

Ah-ha! We've been thinking the same thing and came up with a very creative solution. It will be in the special-edition origin story we're working on.

He hands her a working copy. She reads:

RACHEL

"Jesus. Son of God."

MATTHEW

God sends his only son to earth to fight for truth and justice.

SKY

(sotto)

Oh, now I get it.

RACHEL

Why does it have to be Jesus?

MATTHEW

It just so happens that Jesus has certain qualities that inspire us artistically. He's our muse.

RACHEL

(turns to Jesus)

And you're okay with this?

JESUS

They're children's fantasies... loosely based on actual events.

RACHEL

You calmed a storm?

JESUS
 (sings, contritely)
 Rain, rain go away. Come again
 another day...

PETER
 The rain *did* stop...

RACHEL
 And they wonder why I'm still single.

JESUS
 The Adventures bring people joy. No
 one takes them for truth.
 (then)
 We should get back to our "mission."

They walk to the door.

MATTHEW (O.C.)
 Jesus...

Jesus turns. Sky sees Matthew hand Jesus A SMALL SATCHEL
 that Jesus quickly HIDES in his tunic. They exit.

EXT. APOSTLES' HANGOUT - CONTINUOUS

SKY
 We'll cover more ground if the three
 of us split up. I'll take the north
 side of town. Rachel you take the
 south. Jesus you take the square.
 Remember, it's large, round and made
 of glass. Trust me, you've never seen
 anything like it.

EXT. NAZARETH SQUARE - DAY

Jesus enters the square. People immediately FLOCK TO HIM
 holding out THEIR COPIES of The Adventures.

FEMALE CITIZEN 3
 Jesus! Touch my book!

FEMALE CITIZEN 4
 Me too!

MALE CITIZEN 4
 Tell us how you performed "The
 Miracle of the Fishes and Loaves."
 The suspense is killing us!

Jesus is suddenly overwhelmed and a little uncomfortable.

JESUS

It wasn't an actual miracle per se...

A SMALL MAN makes his way through the crowd. He presents Jesus with his DEFORMED HAND.

CRIPPLED MAN

Please heal my hand like you did for those people in "Jesus Cures the Crippled."

Everyone looks to Jesus, expecting to witness a miracle.

JESUS

It's not like that. I can't actually... It was a splinter. I... I...I have a headache!

He rushes off.

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - DAY

Jesus hurries along trying to avoid people. He nears the tavern. A HAND GRABS HIM and pulls him into THE ALLEY.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

It's Julia.

JESUS

Julia.

They begin to kiss.

JULIA

I managed to slip away from my maidservant so we don't have long.

JESUS

It's been quite a morning. I have so much to tell you.

JULIA

So do I. I saw Judas yesterday.

JESUS

What? Did he hurt you?

JULIA

No. He wanted me to see this strange ball he found. He claims God gave it to him to win my love. It's large and round and made of glass. I've never seen anything like it. What do you think it could be?

The color drains from his face.

JESUS

Where is he keeping it?

INT. JUDAS' STORAGE ROOM - DAY

Jesus, Sky and Rachel raise their heads up and peer through a window like three peeping Toms. They see the MK-1.

INT. JUDAS' STORAGE ROOM - DAY

They enter. Rachel is astonished. Jesus is struck with fear as he approaches the machine.

SKY

Now will you believe me?

RACHEL

You really traveled through time in this?

SKY

Like a boss.

RACHEL

What is it like in the future?

SKY

They think Jesus is the son of God.

JESUS

You're lying. This is a trick.

SKY

You know it's not. You see what's happening out there. "The Adventures of Jesus" don't end here.

RACHEL

You should listen to him Jesus.

JESUS

Of course you take his side. I've seen the lust in your eyes.

RACHEL

He's just trying to help you.

JESUS

I don't need his help! I'm leaving!

He turns to leave. Sky grabs his arm.

SKY

Get in the machine!

JESUS

I'm not in danger!

They HEAR SOLDIERS APPROACHING.

ROMAN SOLDIER 2 (O.C.)

The voices are coming from inside!

JESUS

We're in danger.

Sky looks around then:

SKY

Out the back!

They escape before the Soldiers arrive.

EXT. NAZARETH MAIN STREET - DAY

Jesus, Sky and Rachel walk briskly making sure no one is following them.

SKY

Okay, back to Plan A. We're leaving Nazareth.

JESUS

I told you, I'm not leaving. You're a liar.

(to Rachel)

And you're a traitor.

RACHEL

Jesus...

JESUS
 Leave me alone!

He attempts to storm off but is quickly APPROACHED BY A CROWD OF WORSHIPERS.

JESUS (cont'd)
 Eat shit!

He leaves in a huff.

EXT. BARN - DUSK

Sky and Rachel enter.

SKY
 I never knew Jesus could be such a dick.

RACHEL
 Don't worry about my little brother. I tease him, but the Jesus I know is wise beyond his years. He'll soon come to realize you're telling the truth. *Have faith.*

Sky smiles. She already knows how to lift his spirits.

RACHEL (cont'd)
 That machine...You really are from the future. And we escaped from Roman soldiers. We could have been killed! I've never felt so alive!

They look at each other. The moment is charged. THEY KISS and disappear out of frame.

INT. TAVERN PRIVATE PARTY ROOM - EVENING

Jesus and the Apostles are having supper at A LONG TABLE. Peter, Matthew, Simon, Andrew, John and Thaddeus sit on one bench. Jesus and the others sit on a bench across from them.

PETER
 From the future? That's absurd!

Everyone laughs but Jesus.

MATTHEW
 You have to admit Jesus, that's rather outlandish, even for us.

ANDREW

He's probably just a wandering madman who fashioned the object to win your favor.

PETER

You know, that would make an interesting new character. It could be its own series. Something for the wanton woman. The mysterious drifter with skilled hands.

THOMAS

Maybe he has an eye patch!

JOHN

And rides a mighty steed!

They begin to CHEER AND LAUGH with excitement causing THE BENCH opposite Jesus' TO BREAK and CRASH to the floor.

Everyone on Jesus' bench laughs but him.

JESUS

Serves you right for making light of my misery.

Peter rises to his feet.

PETER

Oh grow up.

Simon makes it to his feet.

SIMON

Where are we going to sit?

JAMES L.

There's plenty of room on this side.

The rest get up off the floor, move to the other side and are now sitting in the formation we know as THE LAST SUPPER.

JESUS

What about The Adventures?

MATTHEW

What about them?

JESUS

People are starting to think I performed those miracles.

(MORE)

JESUS (cont'd)
 Maybe they shouldn't be about me. Why
 couldn't they be about Simon?

They look at Simon who is clearly an idiot.

MATTHEW
 It has to be you.

THADDEUS
 You inspired the character.

JAMES S.
 You inspire us.

MATTHEW
 Besides, this entire venture is
 becoming quite profitable. You'll
 continue to allow us to use your name
 and likeness if you want to keep the
 satchels coming.

Jesus frowns.

JESUS
 What about Judas? Sky says he's
 plotting to kill me.

BARTHOLOMEW
 That odorous little beast? Pffft.
 He's got nothing on you.

INT. APOSTLES' HANGOUT - EVENING

A SINGLE CANDLE lights the room. We do not see the holder of the candle, but he is searching for something. Through the light we see the remains of a bowl of hummus. He runs a finger through it. Then we see a table with what looks like a card game in progress. He steals some of the money. Then he finds a STACK OF THE ADVENTURES. He picks up the COPY OF "JESUS. SON OF GOD." He brings it to HIS FACE. IT'S JUDAS. He cracks a shit-eating grin.

INT. CAIAPHAS' LAIR - EVENING

Judas nervously enters the dark and spooky lair.

JUDAS
 Caiaphas? Caiaphas!

Caiaphas suddenly appears out of the shadows.

CAIAPHAS

Boo!

JUDAS

Jesus!

CAIAPHAS

(looking around)

What? Where is he?

Judas presents the copy of "Jesus. Son of God."

JUDAS

Right where we want him.

Caiaphas studies the cover...

CAIAPHAS

Oh this is glorious.

...then releases a sinister LAUGH. Judas joins in and their laughter echos as we...

FADE TO:

INT. BARN - MORNING

Sky ADJUSTS HIS TUNIC as he walks out from behind a bale of hale. Jesus is standing at the entrance.

SKY

(startled)

Jesus!

JESUS

Tell me how I'm worshiped.

SKY

What?

JESUS

The people in your time. You said they think I'm the son of God.

SKY

Rachel said you'd come to your senses.

JESUS

I'm not saying I believe you. But if I did, what happens to me?

SKY

Well, you die today.

JESUS

That's not a great start. Couldn't you begin with something else?

SKY

Alright. There's Christmas. It's the day we celebrate your birthday. And when you're a kid it's just about the best day ever because you get tons of presents.

JESUS

Like frankincense and myrrh?

SKY

No, like bicycles and video games and
(wistfully)
scale model rockets.

JESUS

(brightens)

It's my birthday, but the children receive the gifts. How wonderful! How else am I celebrated?

SKY

In every way. You're a big part of weddings and funerals. Art and literature. Bono. History wouldn't be the same without you.

JESUS

Tell me more about the children. What other presents do they get?

SKY

On Easter they get chocolate. I'm more of a Peeps man myself.

JESUS

Easter...

SKY

After you die you supposedly rise from the dead and ascend to heaven. Then a rabbit hides colored eggs and kids eat candy.

JESUS

I rise from the dead...

SKY
 ...and an entire religion is born.

It's clearly starting to hit Jesus.

SKY (cont'd)
 If you think those stories are making
 you popular now, you should see what
 kind of power they have in the
 future. People live for you.
 (a beat)
 And they kill for you.

JESUS
 I no longer like what you're saying.

SKY
 Hey man, you asked.

JESUS
 Now I'm asking you to stop.

SKY
 You need to know.

JESUS
 I do not wish to know of a time when
 people kill for me! I'm just a
 carpenter!

SKY
 Not where I'm from! They think you
 performed miracles and died for their
 sins. You're their first superhero!

JESUS
 I don't want to be their hero!

SKY
 Too late Jack! You...

Jesus puts his hands over his ears.

JESUS
 La la la la la la....

SKY
 Real mature. What are you, five?

Rachel steps out from behind the bale of hay. She was there
 the whole time. Jesus puts two and two together.

JESUS
You had sex with him!

RACHEL
No I didn't.

JESUS
Confess!

RACHEL
Alright! I did!

SKY
(impressed)
Damn.

RACHEL
You have to tell them to stop writing those stories. They're going to get you killed.

JESUS
I can't!

RACHEL
Why not?!

Sky knows:

SKY
Because of the money.

Jesus looks ashamed. Sky has him pegged.

SKY (cont'd)
I saw the satchel. How much are they paying you?

JESUS
Enough to build the school and start my life with Julia.
(to Rachel)
You didn't think I was going to live with our parents forever did you? I'm thirty-three for God's sake. But none of that matters because Sky is a liar.

SKY
You're calling *me* a liar? Do you have any idea what I'm sacrificing for you?

JESUS

You've never sacrificed anything for anyone in your life! The only thing you care about is your pathetic ego.

SKY

You're such an asshole!

They take an aggressive step toward each other. Rachel steps IN FRONT OF SKY to protect him. This clearly hurts Jesus.

JESUS

I'm not going to die today. But as far as I'm concerned, the two of you are dead to me.

SKY

Fine. Go on you impostor. I hope they nail your ass to a cross so I can go home and get out of this shithole.

Jesus says nothing and everything with his expression then leaves.

RACHEL

You have to stop him.

Sky, accepting Jesus' fate and his, says solemnly:

SKY

I can't.

INT. BARN - DAY

It's a short time later. Sky is sitting alone holding the lamb in his arms. He FLASHES BACK to memories of Jesus-related moments from his life.

- As a youth, enjoying AN INCREDIBLE CHRISTMAS MORNING with his parents

- As a youth, with A MOUTH FULL OF PEEPS on Easter

- As a teen, laughing his ass off with friends while watching A JESUS EPISODE OF SOUTH PARK

- As a teen, ogling SEXY CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIRLS as they step off a bus

- Two years ago, standing in a cemetery with mourners as A PRIEST PRESIDES OVER HIS PARENT'S FUNERAL

Joseph enters.

JOSEPH

Hello.

SKY

Hey.

JOSEPH

I thought you would be with Jesus.

SKY

We kind of had a disagreement.

(quiet, deep regret)

I'm sorry for your loss.

JOSEPH

I wouldn't worry too much about it.
My son has many extraordinary
qualities. But his greatest one is
forgiveness.

Sky FLASHES BACK to the first moment he and Jesus met:

- Sky tackling Jesus.
- Jesus saying he forgives him.

SKY

He said I was dead to him.

JOSEPH

(laughs)

Petulance. He once said the very same
thing to me when I sent him to his
room for setting the doves free.

(a beat)

You'll see...when Jesus makes a
friend, it's for life. Have faith.

Sky is clearly moved by the thought.

JOSEPH (cont'd)

Now if you'll excuse me, I need this
lamb.

Joseph reaches down and takes the lamb.

SKY

Where are you taking him?

JOSEPH

To slaughter.

Sky springs to his feet.

SKY

Why?

JOSEPH

Because he's delicious.

SKY

Wait! What about the pig?

They look at the pig. The pig looks at them like, who? Me?

JOSEPH

They're not pets Sky. They're food.

SKY

No, not this one. Please. Don't kill this lamb.

JOSEPH

Give me one good reason why I shouldn't.

SKY

Because he's my friend.

EXT. BLIND SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

Jesus hammers away to work off his anger. Pilate, Julia, the Maidservant and many Soldiers arrive. Pilate doesn't want to say it, but:

PILATE

Jesus Rosenberg, you are under arrest.

JESUS

For what? Assaulting this wood?

JUDAS(O.C.)

For this!

Judas steps forward from behind the Soldiers. He is holding THE COPY of "Jesus. Son of God." high above his head.

JESUS

Judas.

JUDAS

I'm going to need that hammer.

JULIA
 Father, please...

PILATE
 I'm sorry Julia. I have no choice.

A CROWD is drawn by the commotion. Sky, Rachel, Joseph, Mary and the Apostles also arrive. Sky quickly steps forward.

SKY
 Everybody stand back!

He begins SWINGING A SLING WITH A STONE above his head.

PILATE
 What are you doing?

SKY
 Taking you down like David took down Goliath.

PILATE
 Who?

SKY
 David and Goliath.

PILATE
 Never heard of them.

Sky looks around. Everyone shrugs. They haven't heard of them either.

SKY
 Aw, come on! Isn't one thing around here true?!

PILATE
 Seize the crazy one.

The Soldiers quickly ascend upon Sky and subdue him.

JESUS
 (to Judas)
 It doesn't have to end like this old friend.

JUDAS
 (sneers)
 Old friend...
 (plays to the crowd)
 Jesus is a criminal! He claims to be the Son of God!

The citizens let out a collective "Ohhhhhhhh...."

MALE CITIZEN 2
Now it all makes sense.

FEMALE CITIZEN 3
Only the Son of God could have
performed those miracles.

MALE CITIZEN 2
He's the Christ. The anointed one.

MALE CITIZEN 4
Jesus Christ *is* the Son of God!

The citizens cheer. Jesus witnesses it, alarmed.

JONAH
(bullshitting himself)
I knew it all along.

The crowd begins to chant "Je-sus! Je-sus! Je-sus!"

CAIAPHAS(O.C.)
Silence!

Caiaphas suddenly appears, spooking everyone.

CAIAPHAS
...Stupid heeb. He is not the Son of
God.
(points at Joseph)
He is the son of Joseph!

He approaches Mary and Joseph.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)
Tell them. Tell them how Jesus was
conceived.
(perversely)
And don't leave out the good parts.

MARY
You're wrong Caiaphas. Jesus *is* a
child of God. As are we all.

CAIAPHAS
Nonsense!

He grabs the copy from Judas and reads:

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)
 "I am the way, the truth, and the
 life. No one comes to the Father
 except through me!" Blasphemy!

Jesus' look to Matthew and Peter: you're killing me.

PETER
 It's for a fight scene...

Caiaphas gets in Jesus' face.

CAIAPHAS
 You will be crucified for claiming to
 be a false god.

MALE CITIZEN 4
 You can't kill Jesus!

FEMALE CITIZEN 3
 We love him!

JONAH
 Who will we go to for advice?

MALE CITIZEN 2
 Who will help us in our time of need?

FEMALE CITIZEN 4
 Who will I think of when I bathe?

All the women swoon.

MALE CITIZEN 4
 Crucify him and it'll feel like
 you're crucifying us.

JOSEPH
 You can't win Caiaphas. Strike Jesus
 down and he'll become more powerful
 than you can possibly imagine.

Sky's look: I know that line.

SKY
 Obi Wan?
 (thinks, then)
 Oh, now I see it. I really have to
 pay more attention.

CAIAPHAS
 Enough!

He gets in Pilate's face.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)
I demand you take action! Crucify
Rosenberg. And his friends!

The Soldiers surround them. The crowd gasps.

ROMAN SOLDIER 2
(to Pilate)
Sir, we don't have enough wood for
all of them.

PILATE
Didn't we just order some?

ROMAN SOLDIER 2
(he gets closer)
We used it all to add the gaming
parlor on to your house.

PILATE
Right...

He hesitates. Judas overheard and attacks the frame.

JUDAS
We have all the wood we need right
here!

A few Soldiers join him.

JESUS
No!

He moves to stop them but is blocked by more Soldiers.

JULIA
Stop!

Judas seizes the opportunity to get in Jesus' face.

JUDAS
How does it feel Rosenberg? I hope it
pains you to the core to watch them
destroy your dream the way you
destroyed mine!

A part of the school TOPPLES creating a distraction. Sky
stomps on a Soldier's foot and elbows another Soldier.

A SKIRMISH breaks out between the Soldiers, Sky and the
Apostles. Joseph protects Mary. Rachel joins the fray.

MARY

Rachel!

There is a lot of pushing, shoving, holding, hitting, but no swordplay. Team Jesus is trying its best, but there are too many Soldiers. Jesus turns toward them.

JESUS

Stop! Please, I beg of you! Violence is not the answer!

Judas grabs his shoulder, spins him around and shoves him like a schoolyard bully.

JUDAS

Fight you coward!

JESUS

You're wrong Judas. It's the brave man who chooses peace.

Judas shoves him again.

JUDAS

Come on Rosenberg! Put your faith in your fists and fight like a man!

JESUS

I will not strike you.

Judas GRABS A DAGGER from the sheath of a nearby Soldier and SWINGS HIS ARM toward Jesus.

JUDAS

Then die!

Sky BREAKS FREE from a Soldier's grasp and DIVES between Jesus and Judas. He THRUSTS HIS HAND forward to block the dagger. The BLADE goes CLEANLY THROUGH HIS HAND and PIERCES JESUS' SIDE, but not deep enough to be fatal.

Sky and Jesus both SCREAM IN PAIN. Judas pulls the out dagger and PREPARES TO STAB AGAIN.

JULIA

No!

Julia RUSHES to protect Jesus.

JUDAS

Filthy whore!

Judas STRIKES HER IN THE HEAD with the butt end of the dagger, knocking her to the ground.

PILATE
(unhinged)
Seize him!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Soldiers release their combatants and GANG TACKLE JUDAS. Pilate RUSHES to Julia.

PILATE (cont'd)
Are you hurt?

She touches her wounded head then looks at Jesus.

JULIA
Jesus...

PILATE
You would have sacrificed your own life for his. Do you truly love him that much?

JULIA
With all my heart and soul.

Pilate softens and smiles as if he's known all along. The others have hurried to Jesus and Sky, who are laying on the ground in pain.

JESUS
You risked your life for me. Why?

SKY
(smiles)
For the glory you asshole.

Jesus smiles back at him. They are now friends for life. Caiaphas approaches and points at Jesus.

CAIAPHAS
He bleeds! Behold your "Son of God" people! The blood of a mortal man! The blood of a sinner! Blood that will spill from the highest cross!

He turns to Pilate.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)
See to it.

The CROWD PARTS to let him exit. The Soldiers bring Judas to his feet.

JUDAS

Let go of me!

The crowd BOOS.

JUDAS (cont'd)

You pathetic sheep! I wish there were
someplace really hot where you could
all burn!

MATTHEW

(to Peter)

Oooo, love the symbolism. It could be
useful down the road.

PILATE

Take him to the tombs.

The Soldiers begin dragging Judas away, his body angled,
arms out and legs straight. He looks like a cross.

JUDAS

No! Julia! I did it for your love!

(to Soldiers)

Unhand me!

(to Jesus)

You! You did this to me! You stole my
Julia! I am going to die for your
sins!

The crowd follows the Soldiers and Judas as they resume
chanting "Je-sus! Je-sus! Je-sus!"

JUDAS (cont'd)

No! No! Let me goooooooooo!!!!!!

The Apostles begin to rip off pieces of their robes to
fashion tourniquets for Jesus' and Sky's wounds.

MARY

Listen to them Pilate. They love
Jesus. You don't have to do this.

PILATE

(smiling)

I have no intention of killing my
future son-in-law.

JESUS

No Pilate. You must crucify me.

The Apostles gasp. Jesus and Sky struggle to their feet.

MARY

Jesus, no.

JESUS

I now believe the truth Sky has been telling. The events of today would have played out much differently had he not saved me. Caiaphas would have forced Pilate to convict me and I would have been crucified for all to see.

(to the Apostles)

Then you would go on to write that I rise from the dead and ascend to heaven so a rabbit could hide eggs and children could eat chocolate.

MATTHEW

Sounds like something we would write.

PETER

Totally plausible.

JESUS

The "Adventures of Jesus" will become the foundation of a very complex religion. In a way, it's already begun. I cannot change the course of history. The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

SKY

(sotto)

...Or the one. Wrath of Khan. Damn.

JULIA

What about us? Our life together.

(touches her belly)

What about the baby?

PILATE

You're with child?

JULIA

We were waiting for the right time to tell you.

JESUS

Oops.

SKY

That settles it. I'm not letting your kid grow up without you.

JESUS

No. I let this go too far. I allowed people to believe in a lie. I must pay the price.

The Apostles look stricken with grief.

SIMON

Can't we just make it look like he's nailed to the cross?

BARTHOLOMEW

(sarcasm)

Oh, sure. Then we'll just make it look like he rises from the dead and ascends to heaven.

JOHN

He's right. We're not magicians. We can't just make him disappear into thin air.

Sky's look: the spark of an idea...

SKY

Actually, I think we can.

...that forms into a plan.

SKY (cont'd)

(to Joseph)

But we're going to need a master carpenter...

(to Thaddeus)

...an amazing actor...

(to Jesus, hates to say it)

...and a whole lot of wood.

He then looks at the blood-soaked bandage on his hand.

SKY (cont'd)

(woozy)

And maybe a few pints of blood.

He passes out and we begin:

EXT. NAZARETH - DAY

...a MONTAGE of the plan in action:

- Mary, Julia and Rachel racing around town to find cloth

- James S., James L. and Andrew collecting rope
- Joseph, with the help of Bartholomew, constructing something at the South Entrance of town with re-purposed wood from the school
- John squeezing the blood of a goat's liver into a bowl. He dry heaves
- Philip being pricked in the finger as he carefully tries to fashion a crown of thorns

PHILIP

Ow.

THOMAS

Snip the tips.

PHILIP

I'm not a mohel.

- Jesus, Sky and Pilate entering Judas' storage room. The look of astonishment on Pilate's face

EXT. STAGE - DAY

Joseph hammers his last nail then takes a step back to survey his work: A WOODEN STAGE WITH A CROSS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF IT. A LARGE CURTAIN hangs behind it and the RIGGING to raise another curtain stands in front of it. It looks like the stage for a Vegas act--Nazareth style.

Jesus, Sky, Pilate and Thaddeus arrive.

JOSEPH

What do you think?

SKY

It's showtime.

And with that:

EXT. NAZARETH - DAY

A MONTAGE of Thaddeus dramatically spreading the word of how the events of the day were supposed to play out.

- In the Square

THADDEUS
Come quick! They're going to crucify
Jesus!

- In the Tavern

THADDEUS (cont'd)
Caiaphas forced Governor Pilate to do
it. You must hurry!

- On the Main Street

THADDEUS (cont'd)
They fit him with a crown of thorns
and made him carry his own cross.

- In the Feldman's home

THADDEUS (cont'd)
He will suffer, die and ascend to
heaven to be seated at the right hand
of God the Father.

EXT. NAZARETH SOUTH ENTRANCE - DUSK

The people of Nazareth assemble near the stage. A look of
grief on their faces as they see the foreboding cross.

CAIAPHAS
Out of the way!

The CROWD PARTS as Caiaphas marches to the stage for a
front-row view.

EXT. BACKSTAGE - DAY

Jesus is wearing nothing but a loin cloth and the dulled
crown on his head. John applies goat's blood to Jesus'
forehead, hands and feet like a makeup artist. Jesus now
looks like the Jesus we know from the crucifix.

JESUS
How do I look?

SKY
(reverent)
Like a savior.

Andrew approaches.

ANDREW
Everyone's here.

SKY
Places people!

Andrew leaves. Peter and Matthew approach.

PETER
Sky. We want you to have this.

They hand him a copy of "The Miracle of the Fishes and Loaves."

MATTHEW
Open it.

He opens it and sees AN ILLUSTRATION OF HIM AND JESUS IN ACTION like a biblical Batman & Robin.

MATTHEW (cont'd)
You're one of us now. History will know of Sky Walker.

SKY
Thanks guys.
(then)
Better take your places.

They leave. He turns to Jesus. There's nothing left to say but:

SKY (cont'd)
Knock 'em dead.

He leaves. Mary and Joseph approach. Tears in their eyes.

MARY
You will always be in my heart.

She tenderly caresses the face of her baby boy. Sees more blackheads on his nose. Goes in for one last squeeze.

JESUS
Ma!

EXT. STAGE - DUSK

Caiaphas is growing restless.

CAIAPHAS

Where is he?! Pilate! I demand you
crucify Jesus this instant!

Sky gives James S. and James L. THEIR CUE.

They PULL ON ROPE, quickly RAISING THE CURTAIN in front of
the cross, then LET IT DROP just as quickly to reveal: JESUS
ON THE CROSS. They successfully pulled off a modified
metamorphosis illusion like the one Sky's parents performed.

The crowd SHRIEKS in horror. Even Caiaphas is surprised.
Mrs. Feldman FAINTS. Mr. Feldman and the Baker exchange A
FIST BUMP.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)

Behold! Your miracle man! Your
"king!" Your Jesus Christ!

CLOSE IN on JESUS' HANDS. He's trying to hold on to the
METAL STAKES. The blood on his hands is making it slippery.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)

I am the one true word! Your women
shall fall for *me*!

Jesus can no longer hang on. The look on his face: uh-oh. He
FALLS off the cross in a helpless SWAN DIVE, comically face
planting onto the stage. THUD.

The crowd GASPS. No one knows what to do.

Matthew and Peter suddenly emerge from behind the curtain
and drag Jesus backstage.

FEMALE CITIZEN 3

He's dead! Jesus is dead!

EXT. BACKSTAGE - DUSK

Jesus is helped to his feet. His nose is bloodied. But
there's no time to lose. Matthew and Peter wipe the blood
from his nose and help him with his COSTUME CHANGE--a
resplendent WHITE ROBE.

SKY

You okay?

JESUS

(smiles)

I'll live.

EXT. STAGE - DUSK

Caiaphas climbs onto the stage. He's suspicious.

CAIAPHAS
Where did they take him? What is
going on here?!

Andrew peeks through the curtain and sees him.

ANDREW
(to Jesus)
You have to hurry!

EXT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Sky rushes Jesus to the MK-1. Julia and Rachel are there.
Rachel embraces Sky.

JESUS
Come with us.

SKY
We can't. It's only designed for one
passenger. We're pushing it with two.
Four of us will be more weight than
it can handle. The two of you have to
go now.

JESUS
You're certain this will work?

SKY
(smiles)
Have faith.

Jesus smiles. This is it. He'll never see Sky again.

JESUS
I will miss you Skyler Walker.

SKY
I'll miss you too Rosenberg. God
speed.

Jesus cocks his head.

SKY (cont'd)
It felt like the right thing to say.

RACHEL
Goodbye little brother.

They quickly hug then Jesus and Julia get in the MK-1.

INT. MK-1 - CONTINUOUS

Julia crouches down behind the seat so it hides her from sight. Jesus stands in front of it. He presses SEND on the TOUCH SCREEN and IT BEGINS TO RISE to their amazement.

Julia notices something on the floor. It's THE KNIGHT LIGHT.

JULIA

Hmmmm...

She picks it up. SQUEEZES IT. Forty thousand lumens of light FLOOD THE INTERIOR.

EXT. STAGE - DUSK

Caiaphas is still raging.

CAIAPHAS

I demand to see Jesus!

Then he sees the MK-1 RISING UP from behind the curtain. The light emitting from the glass ball makes it look like Jesus is being LIFTED BY PURE LIGHT. It's the Ascension of Jesus.

The crowd, now true believers all, KNEELS with holy reverence. A recovering Mrs. Feldman FAINTS again.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)

No! It can't be!

The MK-1 is sucked into the worm hole.

CAIAPHAS (cont'd)

Noooooooooo!!!!!!

Then he sees THE CROSS FALLING toward him. IT FLATTENS HIM. A satisfied Pilate stands where the cross did--right before he pushed it.

EXT. BACKSTAGE - CONTINUOUS

Sky, Rachel, Mary, Joseph and the Apostles look up at the point in the sky where the MK-1 vanished.

MARY

It's a miracle.

JOSEPH
Goodbye son.

MATTHEW
(to Peter)
We going to need more paper.

RACHEL
I wonder what kind of adventures
they'll really have.

SKY
(a knowing smile)
Magical ones.

EXT. VEGAS AIRSTRIP - DAY

A SMALL PLANE sits on a SMALL AIR STRIP. LANCE AND KENDRA WALKER approach the plane with bags in their hands.

THE MK-1 APPEARS and rolls to a stop. A wobbly Jesus and Julia exit. Lance and Kendra are amazed by what they see.

Jesus quickly gets his bearings.

JESUS
Amazing Walkers. Do not get on that
plane.

KENDRA
Who are you?

He smiles.

JESUS
A friend of your son.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END