GOD’S DARTBOARD

By

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AN ORIGINAL STORY BY STEVE MCDONELL
80 Pages
INT. CONTROL ROOM - DAY/NIGHT

A small room, with computer consoles and numerous screens on the walls. The monitors show updates of various parts of the Earth: mountain ranges, oceans, cloud formations, etc.

It is similar to a NASA control room but on a smaller scale. There are two men, early twenties, sitting at their computers. They are ERIC, a tall black Englishman, and JACK, a short American. The two are clearly worried about something, and nervously check the screens.

A clock on the wall reads 2355. A panel slides open in the wall behind the console. Two more men enter, laughing and joking. They are NICK, a lean Australian, and ZIGGY, another American but tall and well-built. These two are a similar age to the others. All four wear casual clothes: jeans, t-shirts, shorts.

NICK (O.S.)
We knew something was up when we started our shift...

ZIGGY
Hello girls! Time for some real workers to take over.

He laughs and slaps Nick on the back. Eric and Jack smile halfheartedly but don’t look up.

ZIGGY
Hey, come on guys. Lighten up! Time to fuck off.

NICK
Normally you are at the door waiting to go.
(studies their faces)
Ok, what’s wrong? You both look shit scared.

Eric looks at Jack then waves a hand at the screens.

ERIC
Things are changing. Around the globe. It started slowly but has been building up.

NICK
(shrugs)
The world changes everyday, you know that. The boss does it his way, like the total eccentric he is.
JACK
(looking around warily)
Hey, come on Nick, keep it down.
He could hear you. Probably watching us right now.

ZIGGY
Settle down, man, relax. He hasn’t got time to worry about trivial shit like insults.

He studies the computer monitors then up at the wall screens.

NICK
So, tell us why you guys are worried.

He sits at his workstation and boots up his computer.

ERIC
Well, there were no major disasters today. No earthquakes, forest fires or tidal waves. Nothing.

NICK
That unusual, Ziggy? It’s your field.

Ziggy is at his computer now, examining data.

ZIGGY
Nothing peculiar about that. Every now and then things taper off, even dip. They’ll be back to normal in a few days. The boss is probably on a bender or something.

He looks at Nick and they both laugh. Eric and Jack are almost shocked by the levity. Jack starts speaking but his voice is tortured and muffled.

NICK
What was that, Jack? For fucks sake, speak up!

JACK
(low voice)
Greenhouse emissions.

ZIGGY
(impatiently)
What about them? We have work to do.
JACK
Cutting back to zero. All over the planet.

Nick and Ziggy exchange glances, now mildly concerned.

NICK
Are you sure about this?

Eric springs up from his chair, and gets right into Nick’s face. Nick flinches slightly.

ERIC
Of course we fucking are! We aren’t as stupid as everyone thinks. Look, I’ll show you.

He sits back at his computer and works the keyboard. The screens begin showing different views around the world:

Glacial ice, miles of it...

ERIC(O.S)
The ice caps have stopped melting. They are actually re-freezing.

Forests and lush jungles along a huge river...

ERIC(O.S)

Major cities...

ERIC(O.S)
Pollution levels decreasing. To zero in some places.
(beat)
Even China and India.

Flowing rivers, full lakes...

ERIC(O.S)
Drought areas are being reclaimed by water. Rainfall steady, storms minimal. Temperatures are dropping to mid 19th century levels.

JACK
(scared voice)
What’s going on, Nick? Ziggy? It’s not right. We need to...
NICK
Shut the fuck up! That’s what you need to do, Jack.

He is very worried now and looks to Ziggy for support. But he’s baffled too...

ZIGGY
Don’t know, man. This is something way bigger than anything before.

Eric is sitting at his computer, staring at the screens.

ERIC
We need to see Tanya. She’ll know what’s going on.

JACK
Yeah, yeah, good idea. Tanya. She’ll tell us.

Suddenly, the panel slides open and TANYA, a gorgeous blonde German in her late twenties walks in. She is wearing a skintight white jumpsuit and holds a clipboard. She surveys the room icily.

TANYA
Eric, Jack, it’s after midnight. Why are you still here?

Tanya speaks excellent English, with a trace of an accent.

JACK
We were just leaving. But there’s weird things happening around the Earth. Do you know about it? Please tell us.

TANYA
The only weird thing I can see is you. Get out now! You’ll be advised on your next shift.

Jack and Eric file out with heads bowed. Tanya turns to face Nick and Ziggy, who have been watching her perfect behind. The smirks quickly leave their faces.

ZIGGY
Uh, Jack may be a dick, Tanya, but he’s right.
   (gestures to the screens)
Some mad shit is going on.

NICK
You’re close to the boss.
   (Ziggy sniggers)
   (MORE)
TANYA
(nodding)
Yes it is. The boss sent me straight here to inform you of the new procedures.

She stands for a moment, looking magnificent and unflappable. Then her gaze takes in the screens and the veneer cracks. She sinks into a vacant chair and sighs. Nick and Ziggy look at each other, waiting.

TANYA
I never thought this day would ever come. Against all odds...

ZIGGY
Right, I’ve had enough of this crap! Tell us what the fuck is going on.

NICK
Hey, take it easy, man. Lay off the girl. Whatever is going down is worrying her.

ZIGGY
Hah! The only thing going down is her on the boss. He...

Ziggy is cut off by the sound of a VOICE from speakers around the room. Tanya looks up at the ceiling, tears welling in her eyes.

Nick feels a cold hand of fear touch him. THE BOSS’S voice is calm and terrifying all at once. Loud and soft, wise and insane. Reassuring... and chilling.

THE BOSS
Tanya, have you told the boys yet?

TANYA
No, sir. I was just getting round to it now.

THE BOSS
Good. Make sure you tell them everything, then return to my office immediately. I have some, ah, important files I need updating.
TANYA
Yes, sir.

She sits up straight, wipes her face and recovers her composure.

ZIGGY
I don’t think we’re gonna like this...

Nick nods and spins his chair to face the camera.

NICK
Oh, did I mention I work in heaven? Yeah, that’s right, I’m actually dead. We all are. And the Boss? You know him better as God...

INT.HOSTEL - TURKEY - NIGHT

A crowded noisy bar, filled with young backpackers from around the globe. Tables are overflowing with beer bottles and music pumps out. Nick, Ziggy, Jack and Eric are all at one table, chatting to some Russian girls. Everyone is laughing and having a great time.

SUPER: ISTANBUL TURKEY THREE MONTHS EARLIER

NICK(O.S)
As usual, it all started from nothing. I was doing the backpacker circuit around Europe and met these guys in Istanbul...

The girls get up to go to the toilets. Nick and Ziggy give each other high fives while Eric and Jack shake their heads grinning. Suddenly, there is a huge RUMBLING sound. The lights flicker and the music switches off. The bar patrons stop dancing and talking, and look around fearfully. Some of the staff run out the back.

NICK
Oh shit, it’s a bomb! Fucking terrorists!

ZIGGY
No, I think it’s an earthquake.

Before the four men can move, a giant crack in the floor opens, right under their feet. The table hovers for a moment and the boys instinctively lean over and hang on. Then the whole lot of them are gone...
INT. WITHIN THE EARTH - NIGHT

The table plummets downwards, the light above shrinking. Incredibly, the boys are still seated upright, the force of gravity keeping the chairs under them. On the table, four bottles of beer wobble but don’t spill! Abruptly the light blinks off, leaving utter darkness.

    NICK/ZIGGY/ERIC/JACK
    Fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuck...

They disappear into the gloom.

INT. ARRIVAL ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

A huge white room, with two very long rows of beds, and an aisle between. People are randomly appearing from nowhere on some of the beds. Suddenly, Nick materializes on a bed. He’s wearing the same shorts and T-shirt from the bar. He looks around blankly then examines himself. Not a scratch...

    NICK

Ziggy appears on the bed next to him, literally pops out of thin air. They look at each other. Other people in the room are being led to the entrance by white-uniformed men and women with clipboards.

    ZIGGY
    You ok, man? What the fuck happened? Is this a hospital?

    NICK
    (shakes his head) I don’t think so. Why bring us to a hospital if we aren’t hurt?

Ziggy looks down at himself then around the room. He laughs nervously.

    ZIGGY
    That’s true. I don’t think Turkish hospitals would be this clean anyway.

    NICK
    I have a theory about where we might be. But I don’t think we’re gonna like it.

On the two beds opposite, Jack and Eric appear. They too, are unharmed, and look about in wonder.
ERIC
Nick, Ziggy! What is this place?

JACK
Fuck, that was some super dope we scored.

NICK
Glad you guys could join the party.

The four get off the beds and meet up in the aisle.

ERIC
Something's not right. Last thing I can remember was falling. Yeah, falling into the earth! Are we...?

NICK
Dead? Yes. Yes, I think we are...

ZIGGY
(whispering)
Hot damn.

A beautiful blonde woman, Tanya, is coming towards them.

JACK
Hot damn heaven all right. And here's a moist angel come to...

Ziggy cuffs him on the back of the head.

ZIGGY
Show some fucking respect! How do you know we aren't in Hell? She could be Satan.

JACK
(staring at Tanya)
You reckon the devil would have tits like that?

Tanya walks up to the four and looks at her clipboard.

TANYA
Ah, the new arrivals. My name is Tanya, Welcome to Heaven, we've been expecting you. I know you have a lot of questions but please bear with me. Now__

ERIC
Ah, excuse me, Miss? Are you German, by any chance?
TANYA
Yes. Now, if you’ll follow me.

JACK
(giggling)
Excuse me, Miss? Are you single?
By any chance?

TANYA
That’s my business. But if I was,
then you’d be the last person in
the Universe I’d go out with.
Now, let’s go!

Tanya strides off, revealing a tight bottom encased in
white pants. The boys all stare before moving off.

JACK
Wow. Looks like I have a
chance...

EXT.PLAZA - HEAVEN - DAY

Outside the arrival building is a huge open area, a plaza.
There are more of the same buildings around it. No sun,
clouds or even sky above. Just a constant diffused light
that casts a daytime glow on everything. Thousands of
people are moving out from the buildings into the plaza,
then off on different pathways. The ‘ground’ itself is a
firm substance—not dirt or wood or concrete—just something
underfoot. Despite the masses of dead people, there is no
sense of panic, fear or limited space. The boys feel
relaxed, calm and in good hands.

TANYA
We have a few minutes before we
can proceed. It’s a very busy day
as you can see. You may ask some
questions but not too many.
There’ll be a lot of information
coming your way soon.

The five of them are in a line of people, moving toward a
square area marked out ahead.

NICK
What’s happening now? It looks
like everyone is being sorted in
to separate groups.

TANYA
(nodding)
That’s right. After death,
everybody comes through here to
be allocated their future tasks
in Heaven.
Nick and Ziggy look at each other and shrug.

JACK
Tasks? You got elephants up here?
Hey, cool. Can we see them?

Tanya doesn’t bat an eyelid, just smiles at Jack. She consults her clipboard.

TANYA
(leaning forward)
Jack, the animals have their own section. We leave them alone.
They leave us alone.

JACK
(nodding seriously)
I’ll remember that, miss.

The group are now at the marked-off area. Tanya steps over the low rope and the others follow. They are standing on a section about the size of a queen-size bed. Tanya gestures to smaller buildings along the plaza. Most have signs on them: Security, Maintenance, Reincarnation, Archives, etc.

TANYA
I’ll tell you about the different parts of Heaven on the way to the Control Room.

ERIC
Control Room? For what exactly?
Doesn’t God control Heaven?
(beat)
Oh, fuck. Don’t tell me there isn’t a God?

The other look at Tanya in concern. No one had even considered this...

TANYA
(faintly annoyed)
Of course there’s a God! But the whole Universe is basically run from our Control Room. Now, stand here. And be prepared. It’s a fast ride.

The four huddle next to Tanya.

ZIGGY
Ok, so why are we going to this Control Room? Are we destined to be cleaners or something?
TANYA
No, you’ve been chosen to run Heaven. Hang on!

Suddenly, the section drops and falls downwards at a very fast rate.

NICK/ZIGGY/ERIC/JACK
Fuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuck...

INT.ELEVATOR - HEAVEN - DAY

The elevator is still falling but there is no sense of sound or speed. The boys have adjusted and listen as Tanya explains how Heaven works.

TANYA
Right. It takes about fifteen minutes to get to the Control Room. I’ll give you a basic rundown of how things operate here.

JACK
Rubdown? You got massage here? You do it nude? What about hand jobs, they included?

Ziggy smacks the back of Jack’s head again.

ZIGGY
She said rundown, dope fiend. As in information.
(looks at Tanya)
Sorry for our friend’s so-called wit. Please continue.

Tanya smiles and looks at her clipboard. Suddenly, Jack is clutching his groin, moaning. He crumples to the floor and lays still.

TANYA
Thank you, Ziggy, I will. You can tell Jack later about everything. Poor boy looks tired in all the excitement. Now, I’ll quickly tell you about some of Heaven’s other sections. Archives contains exactly what it says: all the history of Earth and the Universe, as well as the memories of every person who has ever lived. The workers in there do a lot of filing and updating. God is a bit of a nostalgic, and likes to wander through sometimes.
Next is Maintenance. Heaven is a busy place, and things can get messy very quickly. The people in Maintenance do all the behind-the-scenes work, keeping it all clean and up to scratch.

Our Reincarnation department is very popular, and so is quite difficult to get a transfer to. Your best option is to pick something unusual to come back as on Earth. That’s the only catch.

NICK
Sorry, Miss, did you say transfer? So we are allowed to move from one job to another?

TANYA
That’s right. But it’s a lot tougher than on Earth. There is a lot of paperwork to fill out, and the waiting lists can extend for decades.

ERIC
What? That’s crazy! Sure, we’ve got eternal life but who wants to wait around?

TANYA
Well, after ten years you have to change jobs anyway. But don’t be too worried. It’ll pass quickly. Ten Heaven years is the equivalent of two years on Earth.

NICK
That doesn’t sound too bad then.

On the floor, Jack sits up slowly, and listens.

ZIGGY
(shaking his head)
No way, man. It just doesn’t seem fair. Why the hell should we die and have to spend eternity working in Heaven?

(getting angrier)
Billions of people have slaved away all their lives for fuck all and what’s their reward? Here’s a shovel, clean up God’s shit! Fix that cloud, it’s leaking! Wash those angel uniforms! Well, fuck

(MORE)
ZIGGY (cont’d)
that, missy. I bet there’s rich
and poor sections up here too.
Got to keep the riffraff away
from the good folk! The same old
prejudices and discriminations.
Now, I don’t care if you zap me
in the balls like my idiot
countryman here. But please,
before you do, tell us the
fucking truth.

He glares defiantly at Tanya. Nick and Eric hold their
breath as they wait her response.

TANYA
(softly)
It’s ok to let your aggression
out, Ziggy. We encourage that in
Heaven. I know all about your
family history. Your parent’s
farm, the poverty and drought.
How you fought your way out of
the crushing environment and made
something of yourself. But, like
on Earth, no one in Heaven gets
anything for nothing. That’s
God’s way. Besides, the work is
hardly the back-breaking labour
of Earth.
(beat)
Have you noticed anything about
your bodies since you got here?

JACK
I don’t know about the other
guys, miss, but I’ve had a damn
hard woody since we got to that
big room. Since we met you
actually. You’re a hottie!

Tanya blinks and looks at Jack. This idiot doesn’t give
up...but she withholds her wrath for now.

ERIC
Uh, I don’t feel hungry at all.
Or thirsty.

NICK
Yeah, that’s right. Don’t feel
tired either.

Ziggy and Jack nod in agreement.

TANYA
Correct, both of you. In Heaven,
you don’t need food or drink. So,

(MORE)
TANYA (cont’d)
no matter how much work you do, your energy stays at a constant high. You don’t need to sleep either, but some people like to rest when they can.

ERIC
You know, I hadn’t even thought about a beer or a joint till just now.

(looks down at his groin)
But Jack’s right about the throbber, miss. I’ve had one since we got here too. Ziggy, Nick? Come on, own up.

NICK
(nodding)
Yeah, feels like there’s half a pig in me pants.

ZIGGY
Fuck yeah! Sorry, Miss.

TANYA
(sighing)
Typical men. If I told you it’s from the different air pressure, you wouldn’t believe me.

(checks her watch)
Ok, we’re almost there. We’re behind schedule so I can only show you what to do quickly.

(notices the boys uneasy looks)
Hey, don’t worry. It’s not that difficult in the Control Room. Look, the last group of four guys were complete morons, and they didn’t do any damage.

(beat)
And they were French...

ERIC
(smiling)
Well, that’s alright then, innit? We know how useless they are.

TANYA
If you still have any concerns, Mr.Christ will be checking on you later. Now steady yourselves. The elevator will be stopping in a minute.
NICK
Did you say, ‘Mr.Christ’? As in Jesus?

TANYA
(bracing legs)
Of course! Why wouldn’t he be here in Heaven? Get ready.

The boys brace themselves but still fall over when the elevator comes to a shuddering halt. Tanya smiles at their awkwardness. A door panel slides open.

TANYA
Welcome to the heartbeat of Heaven.

INT.CONTROL ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

The group walks out into the Control Room, noting the screens and computer consoles.

TANYA
Now, gentlemen. The Control Room has monitors on every part of the Earth, able to be accessed instantly.

Behind her, the screens are interchanging, showing different shots from around the globe.

TANYA
Ok, the basics. You work in pairs, twelve hour shifts. Midnight to noon, noon to midnight. We keep Earth time in here for easier reference. The instructions from God will come up on your computer. You carry them out to the letter, with no exceptions. Some shifts will be extremely busy, others quiet. It all depends on, ah, God’s whims.

JACK
Have you met God, miss?

The others shake their heads at Jack’s latest show of dopiness.

TANYA
Of course I have! I work for him. I’m his personal assistant. I do everything for him. Only I can...

She breaks off, realising she’s given out way too much information.
ZIGGY
Everything, Miss? That sounds interesting.

Tanya’s eyes flash anger but she remains calm.

JACK
What’s he like?

TANYA
(impatiently)
Who?

JACK
God. what’s he look like? Will we meet him?

TANYA
(grinning wickedly)
Oh yes, you’ll meet him. But you may wish you hadn’t...

Nick and Ziggy are looking at the computers. Their names are etched on two of them. Jack and Eric’s names are on the other two.

TANYA
All four of you will work the first twelve hours, getting used to the equipment. Then Jack and Eric will have the first break. I already selected this randomly so there’d be no arguments.

ERIC
Hey, why do I get stuck with the dopey white guy? Look at him, he’s fucking brain dead!

Jack is staring at the monitors blankly. A faint line of drool runs down his chin.

TANYA
I don’t have time for this, so live with it. You can make an official complaint but I wouldn’t recommend it.

ERIC
Oh, is that a threat? well, I’m not scared of you and fucking German snobbishness. Whack me in the bollocks! See if I care. Punishment? Ha! I’m fucking dead!.

Nick and Ziggy swing around to watch. Jack is now staring at Tanya’s bottom. More drool runs out of his mouth.
TANYA
(pleasantly venomous)
That’s right, Eric, you are dead.
But God is the Creator. The
Supreme Being of the Universe. He
has many ways of dealing with the
souls who want to cause trouble.
So go ahead.
(beat)
Make his day.

She turns and re-enters the lift. It closes and she is
gone. The boys begin working on the computers, pushing
buttons, exploring.

NICK
Well, that was interesting.

JACK
Yeah. Hey, I wonder if we can
play Halo on this?

ZIGGY
No fucking around, you guys.
Look, here come the first
messages. Hmm. Seems like I’m in
charge of the weather. Let’s
see...storm front for Rio. Uh,
enter ’Rio’ and press this one.
(beat)
Yes, alright! There we go. Ok,
Jack, you do the next
one...snowfall in Beijing. How ya
doin’ there, Nick?

NICK
Yeah, we’ve got disasters.
Earthquakes, avalanches, tidal
waves, that sort of stuff. Eric,
you wanna handle that volcano in
the Philippines? Sweet...

Soon, the boys are busily engrossed in their work.

INT.CONTROL ROOM - HEAVEN - LATER
The four guys are working away. Every thing’s going well.
Ziggy stands up and stretches.

ZIGGY
This is sort of weird, isn’t it?
Playing God. Or doing his work
anyway.
NICK
Yeah, but I don’t get why he needs someone to do all this. The Earth should be capable of running itself.

ERIC
What do you mean, man?

NICK
(pacing about)
Well, the cycle of nature is pretty much set. The ecosystems, weather patterns, they’re all influenced by each other. I don’t see why we need to be tinkering with it. Ziggy? Any thoughts?

ZIGGY
(shrugging)
Maybe God likes to put his stamp on everything. It’s his creation, remember. Probably a real egotist.

ERIC
There’s something else I’ve noticed. Dunno about you guys, but I don’t seem be feeling any remorse. Here we are organizing disasters on Earth, with heaps of people dying. But I feel numb about it.

ZIGGY
Yeah, same for me.

NICK
Good point. Maybe being in Heaven sensitizes us to it. We aren’t a part of Earth anymore, so...Jack, what the fuck are you doing?

Jack is intently running the keyboard and checking the screens. Some of the camera views are zooming in, concentrating on the East Coast of the U.S.A.

ZIGGY
Jack! No fucking about now. I don’t think...

JACK
I think you guys should check this out.
NICK
(nervously)
Zig’s right, Jack. You shouldn’t be...holy fuck!

The pictures of Earth vanish to be replaced by images of a massive orgy taking place around a huge swimming pool. Each monitor shows different scenes of guys and chicks, some black, some white.

ERIC
Oh man...Jack, what is this? How did you know...

He trails off and just stares in awe. Nick and Ziggy are equally captivated.

JACK
(proudly)
It’s my folk’s house on Long Island. They go to Europe every summer. My brother - that’s him getting blown on number six screen - has these awesome parties when they go. This is his college football team and cheerleaders. Summer practice!

NICK
How the hell do you know about all this surveillance stuff, Jack? I wouldn’t have picked you to be the total-loser-in-all-categories-but-tech stuff kind of guy.

JACK
That’s me!

ZIGGY
That mansion in the background, that’s your parent’s house? Man, they must be loaded.

Jack nods, happy to be useful to his new friends.

ERIC
I don’t know where to look at. It’s simply brilliant. Must’ve been better amongst it all, hey Jack?

JACK
I wouldn’t know. My brother always kicks me out while it’s going on. This is the first time I’ve seen it.
He taps in some codes and some of the screens zoom closer. Genitals become mountainous, rising and opening like Everest...

JACK
It was worth dying just to see this.

There is silence as the four boys sit back and enjoy the show. Each one is scanning the different screens trying to absorb it all, but it's almost painful to watch. The overload of sex too much for the human brain...

ZIGGY
(urgently)
Quick, Jack, Monitor nineteen!
Can you make it take up the whole wall?

JACK
(pressing buttons casually)
Way ahead of you, dude.

Suddenly, the entire wall of screens is one gigantic image, like an IMAX theatre. Three girls and a black guy are at the shallow end of the pool. He is simply huge...in all aspects.

NICK
There is no way he'll get that thing in her. It's against the laws of nature! She's just skin and bones!

ERIC
Soon to be just boned.

JACK
That guy is Tavon Baker. Defensive end.

ZIGGY
That chick's end is gonna need defending real soon.

ERIC
Fuck this, I ain't shy. I need some relief!

He frantically whips out his dick and starts masturbating. The others look at each other and shrug.

NICK
Who cares? We're only dead guys. I'm game.
Soon, the four boys are pumping the fist. On screen the black guy is slowly entering the white chick, who squeals with delight. The boys can’t hold back...

NICK/ZIGGY/ERIC/JACK
OOOOOHHHHAAAAAAAHHHH.......WO

Behind them, the panel slides open quietly, and JESUS, a handsome, bearded man with long hair, watches silently. He’s wearing odd clothes – boxer shorts and tuxedo jacket, with hi-cut trainers.

His hands are covered with fine black silk gloves, and he holds a clipboard. The boys are slumped in their chairs now, somewhat shamefully observing the mess on the consoles!

JESUS
That sure brings back some memories.

The boys jump, hurriedly zipping up. They look at the newcomer in surprise, while trying to clean the computers.

ERIC
Jesus fucking Christ, who the fuck are you spying on us?

JESUS
You answered your own question there, buddy.

He checks the clipboard and grins at the images on screen.

ZIGGY
(realising)
You’re Jesus? The Son of God?

JESUS
That’s right. And you are the new guys.

He walks over to Jack’s console and works the keyboard. The orgy scenes disappear and the Earth views come back on.

JESUS
Just be glad I caught you fucking around and not my old man. I’ll let it go this time. I remember being your age and the silliness that went with it. Now, clean up the computers before the hard drives get damaged.

(beat)
Thank you. I take it Tanya showed you the ropes?
The way he sneers ‘Tanya’ indicates a hostility...

ZIGGY
Ah, yes, yes she did. We were going fine until...

JESUS
Until you got sidetracked by porn. Well, that’s basically been the sad trend all through mankind’s history, hasn’t it? Pussy and money.

He examines the screens, consults his clipboard and runs some programs on the computers.

JESUS
Good. It’s all still running smoothly. You’re quick learners, I’ll give you that.

He frowns for a moment, remembers something and looks at the clipboard again.

JESUS
Jack? Ah, yes Jack, our resident computer expert. There was a question I had to ask you. For our files.

JACK
(starstruck)
Anything for you, Messiah.

JESUS
Let’s see. According to our records, your occupation on Earth at the time of your death is listed as being a ‘fluffer’.

(beat)
It appears no one in Heaven knows what that is. Can you enlighten us?

Nick, Ziggy and Eric exchange glances and shrug. Strange place this Heaven...

JACK
Well, my Saviour, I wasn’t an electrician so I can’t help you with the lights up here.

(beat)
But the fluffing, well I did that for a few weeks. Before I went overseas.

The other three are trying to keep straight faces now. Fearful of JC’s wrath, they struggle to stop laughing.
JESUS
(oblivious)
Ok, go on. Tell us about it.

JACK
Well, my Lord, a fluffer is used on the set of porn films. In between takes, she, or in my case, he, has to keep the performers aroused. Funny really, when you think about it. Not staying hard when you’re paid to screw. But it’s a common problem within the industry.

Jesus listens intently but still seems puzzled.

JESUS
OK, I can understand these fluffers being needed, but what I don’t get is why they would have a guy doing it for other guys. And why would you want to do it? (looks at clipboard) It doesn’t say here that you were gay.

The boys are keeping still in the background, stifling laughter.

JACK
(smiling happily)
Oh no, sir, I’m no bowel bandit, don’t you worry about that. It’s just that my dad owns a few porn movie companies. He wanted me to have some work experience.

ZIGGY
Fucking arsehole. Typical rich fat cat, your father. Even an idiot like you deserved better treatment.

Jack breaks away from his hero-worship of Jesus to look at Ziggy.

JACK
Wow, thanks Ziggy. You guys are the best.

JESUS
Alright, enough of this shit. I’m truly sorry I asked. You have work to do. (points to computers) There’s more commands coming up.
The four turn to their consoles, grateful to be away from the gaze of Christ.

JESUS
At the end of the shift, Jack and Eric will finish. I’ll be back then to show your rooms. Later, I’ll do the same for Nick and Ziggy. Tanya will be checking on you at times. If she’s not too busy...

Again, that distaste at the mention of her name...

Jesus turns to go but stops again.

JESUS
One last thing. Did Tanya tell you about the Question?

The four boys all shake their heads.

JESUS
Ok, well, all newcomers to Heaven get the chance to ask God one Question and one only. It can be about anything in the Universe as long as it doesn’t compromise Him or his existence. So, none of this ‘where did you come from’ crap. Choose carefully.

Jesus turns away and the panel slides open. Jack has regained his general air of idiocy and looks at the others grinning.

JACK
(whispering)
I’m gonna ask God if he wanks at all.

The other boys can’t help laughing. They watch as Jesus steps into the lift and faces them. As the panel closes, he smiles at them and gives a short, evil laugh. Then he is gone.

Suddenly Jack is on the floor again, holding his groin and squealing. Ziggy stands over him, shaking his head.

ZIGGY
You’ll get used to it after 500 years.
Nick and Ziggy enter a small but neat furnished room. There is a main living area with couches and chairs, and a wall sized TV screen.

There is no fridge, sink or kitchen area, or a bathroom. No beds either. The boys sit and reflect on their first day in Heaven.

NICK
Well, here we are. First shift done.

ZIGGY
Yeah. It’s funny though, isn’t it? Don’t feel hungry or thirsty. (gestures around room)
No kitchen needed. No bathroom. No beds.

NICK
Just about perfect. Don’t have to worry about anything.

Ziggy nods but there’s an odd feeling of nostalgia...

NICK
I miss the Earth, Zig. Do you?

ZIGGY
What, you miss the crime and pollution? People treating you like shit? Yeah, I really miss that.

Nick is surprised at this and doesn’t know how to respond.

ZIGGY
(holding up hand)
Hey, man, sorry. I’m not making fun of you. Yeah, I kind of know what you mean. All this is great - not that we have much choice - but you ask yourself is this all there is? For eternity?

NICK
Surely there has to more. No wonder reincarnation is so hard to get into. We’ll be waiting for centuries.

He fiddles with the remote control and the TV comes on.
Eric said we can get all the Earth channels. Porn and everything.

He flips around a few programs. A porn movie is on one channel, and the boys watch it for a moment.

**ZIGGY**
Man, that orgy we saw was fucking awesome.

**NICK**
Shit yeah! Wonder when we’ll get to meet some chicks up here?

**ZIGGY**
Soon I hope. They’re gonna get sick of us jerking off on the equipment!

**NICK**
(laughing)
You know, Jesus didn’t really tell us much, did he? About Heaven and the other people up here.

**ZIGGY**
Maybe they want us to find our own way around. He’s probably busy like Tanya.

**NICK**
Those two hate each other’s guts for some reason. Be interesting to find out more.

**ZIGGY**
I think he’s jealous of her. He’s the number one son but she seems to have more status.

**NICK**
God has to be knocking her off.

**ZIGGY**
Be a damn fool if he wasn’t.

They both laugh. Suddenly the remote makes a RINGING sound, like a telephone on Earth. Nick and Ziggy look at each other then Nick examines the buttons.

**NICK**
(vaguely)
Uh, a button marked ‘ANSWER’ is flashing.
ZIGGY
Doh! Better answer it then.

Nick grins and rolls his eyes. He presses it and talks tentatively into the device.

NICK(ON PHONE)
Hello?

PHIL(O.S)
Yeah, hello? Is that Nick? The new guy?

NICK(ON PHONE)
Ah, yeah. Who is this?

PHIL(O.S)
The name’s Phil. I’m an Aussie, just like you. Thought I better meet up with a fellow legend.

NICK(ON PHONE)
Hey, that would be cool. You’re the first person apart from Jesus and Tanya we’ve heard from since getting here.

PHIL(O.S)
(chuckling)
Ah, yes. The dynamic duo. Some bad shit goes on between those two. Anyway, I’m in the room down the hall, if you’re keen. Number 26. I doubt very much you have other plans for the day.

NICK(ON PHONE)
True. Heaven isn’t exactly the liveliest place.

PHIL(O.S)
Of course not. Everyone’s dead. Hahahahahaha.
(infectious laughter)
A Sunday afternoon out the back of bum fuck would be more exciting. So you’ll pop in?

NICK(ON PHONE)
Yeah, sure. See you soon.

The call ends. Nick switches the TV off.

ZIGGY
Party invitation, hey? I’ll get the icebox packed.
They both look around the room ruefully, remembering better times on Earth.

INT.PHIL’S ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

PHIL is a tall Australian in his mid-thirties, with long black hair in a ponytail. He’s wearing the white uniform of Heaven, even on his work break. His room is exactly the same as the boy’s except for a closed panel on one wall.

The TV is on and he sits watching a movie. A light flashes above the door panel before the door slides open to reveal Nick and Ziggy. Phil walks over to greet them.

PHIL
Hey guys. Nice to meet you.

NICK
(shaking hands)
I’m Nick, this is Ziggy.

PHIL
(shaking Ziggy’s hand)
Hi Ziggy, I’m Phil. Actually my real name is John. Phil is just a nickname. Had it for years but.

ZIGGY
So why do they call you Phil?

PHIL
Ah, you’re from the states. Top stuff. Ok, my surname on Earth was McCracken – funny how we don’t have surnames in Heaven – and someone started calling me Phil one day at work. Typical Aussie humour.

Nick laughs but Ziggy hasn’t got the joke yet. The three sit on the couch.

PHIL
What do you think of the rooms up here? Lowest bidder paradise, ain’t it? At least we get six million channels to relieve the tedious decor.

NICK
Yeah, if you were a couch potato on Earth you’d...

PHIL
...think you’d died and gone to Heaven! Exactly!
They all laugh. Ziggy is still trying to solve the name joke.

PHIL
So how did you guys die? I only got your names when you arrived.
Not all the gory details.

NICK
Earthquake. In Turkey. Two other guys as well. They’re on the shift in the Control Room.

PHIL
(whistles)
You boys are working in there? I didn’t know that. Wow, God must really love your arses. Speaking metaphorically of course. Hahaha.

NICK
Of course.

PHIL
But seriously, only the privileged few get assigned to that gig. Control Room? That’s the big time.

NICK
Really? Lucky us.

ZIGGY
Hey, I get it! Phil McCracken! As in ‘fill my crack in’!

He laughs then looks sheepishly at the others.

NICK
(clapping)
Well done, Zig. I reckon Jack would’ve seen it quicker than you.

ZIGGY
Damn. Mental block.

PHIL
Can happen up here. Apparently it’s the different air pressure.
But it’s odd, you know. You guys aren’t being made to wear the official Heaven uniform. No one said anything?

The boys shake their heads and shrug. Nick wonders if there’s anything in their ‘special treatment”...
ZIGGY
How long have you been here, Phil? I mean, when did you die?

PHIL
Died when I was 35. Been here for twenty Earth years.

NICK
(calculating)
What’s that, a hundred Heaven years? Hmm...

ZIGGY
You don’t look that old.

PHIL
I’m not. Thirty five isn’t really old.

ZIGGY
No, I meant...huh? Shouldn’t you be 55?

PHIL
No. Oh, didn’t anyone tell you yet? After you die, you stay that same age for the rest of eternity. Fucking neat, huh?

NICK
So it’s true then. Live fast, die young, stay pretty.

PHIL
Yep, that’s me summed up!

ZIGGY
So how did you die then?

PHIL
Freak accident. One-in-a-million occurrence.

NICK
Go on.

PHIL
I was scuba diving off Brisbane and got swallowed whole by a fucking whale!

ZIGGY
Holy shit!
PHIL
Yep. Got separated from my diving buddy, swam into a plankton school. Whale just sucked me up like a vacuum cleaner.

NICK
That’s fucking...God, Phil I don’t know what to say.

ZIGGY
So how did you actually die, man? Like, did you drown inside? Dissolved by stomach acid.

PHIL
No, that would have been too easy. Before I could try and swim back out it’s mouth, I was heading the other way. Friggin’ whale shit me out of it’s arse! Hahahahaha, thought I’d made it. Tiger sharks were waiting, feeding on the whale crap. Fucker took off one leg. I died from blood loss.

NICK
Jesus, man. That’s...terrible.

PHIL
(cheerfully)
Well, shit happens! Hahahahaha. Next minute I was in the arrival room checking out Tanya’s tits. At least I got my leg back!

They all laugh. Ziggy points to the other door.

ZIGGY
You got another room here? Sorry for being nosy but...

PHIL
No, that’s fine, Zig. Actually, that, my friends, is where I work. My work mate’s in there now hard at it.

NICK
You work from here? What’s your job, anything interesting?

Phil looks furtively around the room, as if someone might be listening in.
PHIL
(lowering voice)
I don’t normally do this. Hell, I’ve never done this. But you guys are ok. I like you and it’s clear God does too.

ZIGGY
(grinning)
Aren’t we all his children? He’s our Heavenly Father?

PHIL
Well, yes. But he favours some and completely ignores others.

He leads them to the door panel and presses a hidden switch. It opens to reveal a tiny room, with a desk and computer console. A pretty English woman, early twenties, RITA, turns in alarm. She tries to cover the screen.

PHIL
Relax, Rita. These boys are cool.

RITA
Bloody hell, Phil. You scared me. Thought God had found it. You sure they’re ok?

PHIL
Trust me. This is Nick and Ziggy. They work in the Control Room.

RITA
(smiling)
Oh, then they must be alright. Tell them about the List then, but make it quick.
(looks around suspiciously)
You just don’t know with this place.

PHIL
Sure. Ok, guys, basically Rita and me have the job of blocking God’s access to what we call the List. It’s made up of certain things and people on Earth that would make God very angry.

NICK
Angry? I don’t follow you.

ZIGGY
I’m lost too. How can a benelovent God get angry?
PHIL
Oh, believe me, he’s gotten real cranky in the last few years. Jesus noticed it first. God is getting pissed off at mankind’s current state. Destroying the planet’s resources, wars about nothing, annoying celebrities, you name it. So now we carefully monitor the daily life on Earth and censor the sensitive material.

NICK
But what would happen if he saw any of this?

PHIL
Mate, he would end the world... (snaps fingers) ...as easy as that. No hesitation.

ZIGGY
Some people might consider that a good thing.

PHIL
True. Each to his own, I suppose.

Nick is looking over Rita’s shoulder at the screen. The List runs down one side and is constantly updating.

NICK
Reality TV... new album by Nickelback... Amy Whitehouse... the design of the new Cairo Sheraton... Cristiano Ronaldo... hmm, I can see the importance of your job.

PHIL
Fuck yeah. Rita and I work only work eight hour shifts cos’ the pressure is enormous. Once a week, Jesus lets us both have the day off and he takes over. We better leave Rita to it. See ya.

Phil shuts the door and the three go back to the couch.

ZIGGY
What do you do on your day off?

PHIL
(huge grin)
What do you reckon? Rita’s a real goer!
NICK
Half your luck. Where can we meet some girls while we’re on the subject?

PHIL
You’ll have to wait a bit longer, boys, I’m afraid. Couple more weeks. Then you get access to the other parts of Heaven.

NICK
Mr. Fist till then I guess.

ZIGGY
Tell me about it. Listen, Phil, I meant to ask before. Do we get to meet any deceased relatives up here? Or famous people?

PHIL
(frowning)
They don’t really encourage family reunions in Heaven. I know that sounds harsh but God doesn’t want any old Earth issues being dredged up. You know, family dramas and shit. So, a few days after arriving here, your memories of domestic life fade away.

NICK
Sounds brutal but better in the long run.

ZIGGY
The long run being eternity in this case.

PHIL
Yeah. The same for celebrities and historical figures. Naturally, once they die they aren’t famous anymore, are they? So they lose their memories of their wealth and status on Earth. Works out well and they aren’t bothered by people up here cos’ no one knows them anyway!

NICK
What about the evil, Phil? The tyrants, serial killers, the scum of history. What happens to them? Is there a hell in some other location? Does Satan co-exist with God?
PHIL
I’m not sure. There is a rumour about a sealed-off section of Heaven. Perhaps all the nasty ones go there. Maybe being lumped together for eternity constitutes a kind of hell for them.

ZIGGY
Maybe Earth is hell. We serve our time and come here.

PHIL
(grinning)
Who’s the philosophical one then? (checks the time)
Rita’s shift ends soon, then I’m back into it.

NICK
We’ll head off. Catch up later.

PHIL
No worries. I think you’ll both do well up here.

NICK
Funny how we still refer to Heaven as being ’up’. Like it’s in the sky.

ZIGGY
Hard to shake those earthly habits. Listen, Phil can I ask you one more question? It’s about the Question we get to ask God.

PHIL
Sure. Another week and you’ll be ready for it.

NICK
Do we get to meet him personally? Face to face? We don’t just write the question down and it gets sent to him.

PHIL
No, you definitely meet the Creator, in all his glory. Interesting experience.

ZIGGY
What’s he like? How does he look?
PHIL
That’s a tough one to answer.  
(beat)
God looks how you want him to look. That’s all I can say.

NICK
What did you ask him, Phil? Are you allowed to tell us?  

PHIL
(surprised)
You know something? No one has ever asked me that before. Not even Rita. You boys are really switched on. Sure you’re not related to God somehow?

NICK
No, we’re just your average dead men. So, ah, your question?

PHIL
Right. Ok, I asked something I’d thought of when I was diving.  
(beat)
I asked if he’d ever secretly gone down to Earth and experienced his own Creation. You know, walked through a sun-drenched field of daisies, or felt the autumn breeze on his face. Had an ice cold beer on a beach at sunset, or tenderly kissed the clean sweat from a lovers neck...

Nick and Ziggy glance at each other. This reverie doesn’t seem at all Phil’s style.

PHIL
And you know what, boys? God looked me in the eye with great sadness and shook his head slowly.

There is a silence, a moment of reflection.

NICK
(softly)
How did he look to you? Through your eyes?

Phil stares at the wall, remembering. He looks at Nick.
PHIL
Sorry? Oh, yes, well, before I met him, I purged my mind of all the images of the God stereotype. You know, the Charlton Heston bearded old fart look. Or the playful innocent from 'Dogma'.

ZIGGY
So what did he look like?

PHIL
A black, naked transsexual dwarf. With no body hair.

INT. NICK AND ZIGGY’S ROOM - HEAVEN - LATER

The boys enter their room, laughing quietly, and sit on the couch.

NICK
Top bloke that Phil. Funny prick.

ZIGGY
Yeah, but now we’re Fucked. How the hell do we not see God now as he did? Damn, that dwarf is stuck in my brain!

NICK
Maybe if we focus on Jack we can override it.

ZIGGY
Shit, I don’t know what’s worse. God as Jack or God as the midget.

NICK
You could imagine him as Tanya.

ZIGGY
That would work until I tried to screw him.

NICK
Not good for your salvation.

A light above the door flashes and a BUZZER sounds.

NICK
Someone there? How do we...?

Tanya’s voice comes from the remote.
TANYA (O.S.)
Hello there. May I come in?

NICK
Ah, sure, Tanya.

The panel slide open and Tanya walks in, gorgeous as always. She sits in an armchair and smiles.

TANYA
Everything alright? How has your break been?

ZIGGY
Good. We met Phil. He invited us over.

TANYA
(frowning)
Hmm. I wouldn’t get too close to that one. He’s strange.

NICK
Seemed ok to us. So, is this a social visit?

He’s a bit annoyed by Tanya’s attitude towards Phil. Ziggy too, isn’t happy and deliberately turns the TV onto a porn channel. As explicit images fill the screen, Tanya tries to ignore it. Ziggy casually ups the volume...

TANYA
No, actually I came to take you to God. It’s Question time.

NICK
Really? I thought we had to wait a few days for that.

Ziggy turns off the TV to listen.

TANYA
That’s the normal procedure, yes. But he’s fast tracking you both. And the other two fools.

ZIGGY
So when do we go?

TANYA
(standing up)
You’ve got two hours until your next shift. It’ll be done by then. Come, follow me.

The three of them head for the door.
INT. HALLWAY - HEAVEN - DAY

Tanya walks purposefully towards the lift. The boys ogle her arse as usual, but they are nervous about finally meeting God.

ZIGGY
(whispering)
I keep seeing that fucking dwarf.
I’ll laugh and he’ll crush me!

NICK
(whispering)
Relax. Try and picture him as someone you like or admire. Some American icon.

Ziggy nods thoughtfully as the three of them get in the lift.

INT. OUTSIDE GOD’S ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

The lift opens and Tanya, Nick and Ziggy walk out into another hallway. This one ends abruptly. There is a single door panel set in the wall. This is where God resides...

TANYA
Ok, I’ll go and see if he’s ready yet. Then we’ll all go in. My office is outside his main living area. Nick, you will enter God’s house first while Ziggy waits.

The panel opens and she goes in.

NICK
So did you think of someone?

ZIGGY
Sort of. The only American hero I could come up with was Ron Jeremy.

NICK
What the...fuck me, isn’t he a porn star? What is it with Heaven anyway? We’ve all got sex on the brain.

ZIGGY
I read his biography before I left the States. He’s a legend, the old hedgehog.
NICK
Couldn’t you have picked Abe Lincoln or DiMaggio? What about Muhammad Ali? There’s heaps to pick from.

ZIGGY
(shrugs)
Ron’s the one that came to mind. I think he was in that porn film we had on in the room. Besides, I won’t be so fucking over-awed by seeing him, will I?

NICK
I suppose not.

ZIGGY
So who you gonna picture him as? Crocodile Dundee perhaps?

NICK
What’s with the country of origin stereotypes? Just cos’ I’m an Aussie doesn’t mean I see God as one.

Tanya comes back out.

TANYA
He’s ready. Come in.

INT.TANYA’S OFFICE - HEAVEN - DAY

Tanya’s office is small but efficient. A desk with a computer and phone lines. The ever-present giant TV screen is on one wall. Another panel marked with a simple ‘GOD’ is in the opposite wall.

TANYA
Ziggy, you may watch television if you want. I have some updates to work on. Nick, knock once then enter.

Nick nods and moves to the panel. He looks back at Ziggy and knocks. The panel slides open and he enters.

ZIGGY
Good luck, man.
INT. GOD’S ROOM – HEAVEN – DAY

The room is dim, with shielded lights. It resembles the other rooms in Heaven, but on a much bigger scale. There are also other doors leading off it.

The couch in the middle of the room faces a TV screen on the wall. A single recliner is next to it. There is a shape on the couch, human-looking but the face is shadowed. This is GOD.

GOD
Welcome, Nick. I trust you are enjoying it in Heaven? Please sit.

God’s voice is pleasant but very deep. It soothes and threatens at the same time...

NICK
Ah, yes, thank you, sir? What should I call you?

GOD
Call me God. Call me anything. Just don’t call me late for the party. Hahahaha!

Nick has a blank look on his face. This makes God laugh again. His face is still blurry and dark.

GOD
What’s the matter, Nick? Didn’t you think I’d have a sense of humour?

NICK
Well, you must have. You invented the doggy style position.

God breaks into a laughing fit, ending in a series of coughs.

GOD
Excuse me. Excellent! If only mankind took time out to laugh more. Perhaps history would be less barbaric.

NICK (emboldened)
Are you talking about our capacity for massacres and atrocities that we seem to have built into our DNA? That’s rich coming from you. You made it all possible.
GOD
I’m intrigued, Nick. But first, is this your Question? Are you asking me why humans have a tendency to harm each other? If I may quote from ‘Terminator 2’.

NICK
What? I, no, this isn’t my Question! Aren’t we just having conversation?

GOD
(shrugs)
You tell me. What’s your Question then?

NICK
You know, I had a few picked out but couldn’t decide which one. So, I’m gonna improvise.

(beat)
A lot of our orders in the Control Room are very strange. Some just appear to be solely based on whim on your part. Can these be justified?

God gazes at Nick steadily. Two flashes that might be eyes are visible.

GOD
I’m the Creator. The Universe is mine to do as I wish. Do you think I can please everybody?

NICK
No, but___

GOD
(holds a hand up)
No buts. You’ve asked your Question.

NICK
I’m not satisfied with the answer. What happens now?

GOD
Nothing. You go back to the Control Room for your shift. That’s how Heaven works.

NICK
Your sense of humour didn’t last long.
GOD
That too, is mine to show when I please.

Nick gets up and walks to the door.

GOD
One last thing, Nick. How do I appear in your eyes? Have you seen past the darkness yet?

Nick turns and looks at God for a few moments. Then he shakes his head.

NICK
You don’t have any face. You’re as anonymous as the millions of innocents who die in your name. Have a good day.

He turns back to the door. God’s shape grows even darker, but he says nothing.

INT. TANYA’S OFFICE – HEAVEN – DAY

Nick walks in and the panel shuts. Ziggy looks up expectantly. Tanya does the same but with an air of indifference.

ZIGGY
How was it, man?
(beat)
You look pissed. Everything alright?

NICK
Yeah. I think I annoyed him. Looks like you’re up.

ZIGGY
(nervously)
Fuck, man. You put him in a bad mood? What if he...

NICK
Act natural. Ask him something simple. I had a go at him and he didn’t like it.

Ziggy nods and heads to the panel. He knocks and it opens.

ZIGGY
(murmuring)
I’m already dead, I can’t be hurt. I’m already dead, I can’t be...
INT. NICK AND ZIGGY’S ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

The boys walk into their room. Ziggy is happy, chatting away, relieved to have survived meeting God. Nick’s anger has died down, and he is thoughtful.

ZIGGY
Can’t believe how cool God is, man. You must have really got up his nose.

NICK
I think he put on a different face for you.
(beat)
Maybe his plan was to get us against each other.

ZIGGY
(frowning)
But why? Anyway, it wouldn’t work. You’re my buddy, Nick.

Ziggy pretends to hug him.

NICK
(laughing)
Get off! Bloody fluffer! Speaking of which, how did God look? Like Ron Jeremy?

ZIGGY
(grinning)
Yeah, worked a treat. I nearly called him Hedgehog a couple of times. He had the hair, the moustache. Classic 80’s porn look!

NICK
Hard to imagine the Almighty with a nine inch dick, though. Then again, he was a prick to me.

ZIGGY
You still think he wasn’t telling you the truth? That something funny is going on behind the scenes?

NICK
Oh, yes. There has to be. And I reckon he avoided it because it might compromise his existence. Remember what Jesus told us?
ZIGGY
(checking the time)
Yeah. Look, it’s our shift again soon. Time to get back to work. We can talk more about then.
(beat)
Maybe we could ask Jesus or Tanya for more info.

NICK
I doubt that would help. Jesus hates his old man and Tanya’s screwing him by all accounts.

ZIGGY
Well then, JC might do anything to take down God down. If that’s his agenda. It’s amazing, isn’t it? They have Heaven so well-organized but it’s liable to fall apart at any time.

NICK
Yeah. I suppose the Earth was like that once. Before we started fucking it up. Will anyone ever learn? Say, what did you ask him?

ZIGGY
(shrugs)
Nothing special. Kept it simple like you said. Asked him if he had any hobbies.

NICK
No shit? And?

ZIGGY
Darts. He said he played darts in his spare time. I thought that was cool.

NICK
 Wouldn’t think it would be his sort of game. Ok, let’s go shake up Jack and Eric.

INT.CONTROL ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

The opening of the first scene repeats and the vision fast forwards.

NICK(O.S)
Now something big was happening. And I had the feeling it was connected to God’s secret...
ZIGGY
So what’s up, Tanya?

Tanya sighs, gets up and walks slowly back and forth.

TANYA
It’s called Project New Earth. Over the next few hours, the Earth will transform back to how it was.

NICK
How it was? You mean, before the Twentieth Century?

TANYA
No, how it was before the advent of man.

ZIGGY
Are we talking Garden of Eden stuff here?

TANYA
Yes. An unspoilt world in pristine condition.

NICK
(frowning) But that...that would present a few problems, wouldn’t it? A lot of the Earth’s area is taken up by cities and towns. How could the land be re-claimed without a major population upheaval?

TANYA
(points at screens) It’s already happening. You can see it.

ZIGGY
I don’t have a good feeling about this.

NICK
Tanya, if this New Earth has no humans, how does it work? What happens to...oh, fuck.

Nick realizes the plan and slumps back in his chair.

TANYA
It’ll be painless. Instant vaporisation. They’ll wake up in the Arrival Room. I’m going to be very busy.
Ziggy is looking between Tanya and Nick, not quite up to speed yet.

ZIGGY
Nick, what’s she mean? Painless? Oh, so a few people will be permanently moved? That’s not so bad.

NICK
No, Zig. The whole human race will be wiped out. All at once. Gone.

ZIGGY
Holy fuck! You ain’t shitting me?

TANYA
Well, not all of them.

NICK
(sarcastically)
No? God does have a conscience after all?

TANYA
(ignores comment)
One hundred people will be left alive. Fifty males and fifty females, from different countries. Specially chosen to represent the best of Mankind. They will re-populate the planet.

ZIGGY
That wouldn’t be a bad gig, Nick. Can we apply for a position?

NICK
Ziggy, get real. Don’t you think this is way too drastic? Even by God’s standards?

ZIGGY
 seriou sly)
You were the one blaming him for all of history’s bloodbaths. You should be happy he’s finally putting an end to it. Just think, all the rich pricks will be gone. No money needed. Well, maybe not for years. Until some fool starts up a trading system. But it’ll still be a fucking Utopia.
NICK
You don’t see...ah, what’s the
point? Tanya, is there any way to
stop this? Anything at all?

TANYA
(amazed)
Are you serious? Stop God from
doing what he wants?
(beat)
Besides, maybe Ziggy is right.
Perhaps it is time for a change.
Look, Nick, I was worried about
at first but now I’m accepting
the situation.

NICK
That’s Heaven’s way though, isn’t
it? I’ve learned that since I got
here. Something in the air up
here calms people. Makes them
more compliant.

ZIGGY
(shrugs)
You can’t fight it, man. Go with
the flow.

NICK
I fucking hate that saying!
Always have.
(sighs)
Guess I’ll forget I even
protested soon.
(beat)
So Tanya, tell me. Why did God
spring this on the world all of a
sudden? Another one of his bloody
whims? No wait. Let me guess. He
tossed a fucking coin!

Nick starts giggling hysterically. Ziggy follows suit.
Tanya watches them for a few moments.

TANYA
Actually, you’re very close. He
hit the bullseye on his
dartboard.

Nick breaks off to stare at Tanya. Ziggy keeps laughing.

NICK
Oh yes, that’s right. His
favorite hobby is darts! He told
Ziggy that. What a wonderful
metaphor. God’s dartboard. Come
on, Tanya. Even he wouldn’t be so
casual as that.
Before she can answer, the door opens and Jesus rushes in.

JESUS
I knew that dartboard would fuck things up one day.

Tanya winces and turns her head. Nick and Ziggy stare at Jesus, who slumps in a chair.

NICK
Tanya? What’s happening here? This can’t be true...can it?

JESUS
So you finally told them, hey? Welcome to the real Heaven, boys.

ZIGGY
This is crazy! A dartboard?

NICK
Hang on, there’s something funny going on. What do you mean, finally told us? Tanya? The Earth has only started changing now.

JESUS
Oh, yes, that’s true. But God hit the bullseye a week ago. It’s taken that long to organise the Re-start.

ZIGGY
There’s that fucking bullseye again. Will someone please explain?

TANYA
Why don’t we let God tell you about it?

She stands up, confident now, having reached a decision.

TANYA
Jesus, what do you think? Face to face with him?

JESUS
(grinning)
For once I agree with you. He can tell these lads everything. Get it all out in the open.

NICK
Wouldn’t he be listening in now?
ZIGGY
Not with this audio switch off.

Tanya and Jesus head for the door, Nick and Ziggy following.

NICK
What about Jack and Eric? They should be in on this as well.

JESUS
I’ll go and get the fuckwits. Meet you at God’s room.

INT.TANYA’S OFFICE - HEAVEN - DAY

The group of six enter and march up to God’s door. There is a brief moment of hesitation. Tanya and Jesus seem to lose their nerve.

NICK
Come on, you wanted this. No fucking about. We’re sick of it. We’re all going in.

JACK
Can I ask God my Question while we’re here?

ERIC
Yeah, me too. We’ve been...

TANYA
Shut the fuck up! Nick’s right. Let’s go.

She knocks and the door slides open.

INT.GOD’S ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

God’s room has changed since Nick and Ziggy were there. The couch is gone, replaced by a simple mat on the floor. The TV screen is showing surfing footage. God sits cross-legged on the mat, intently watching.

He now has a distinct body - lean build, long blonde hair, smooth good looks. He’s wearing board shorts and a t-shirt. Everyone is amazed by his appearance.

NICK
Does he look like a surfer dude to you as well?
ZIGGY
Sure does.

JACK
Wonder if he has any weed?

ERIC
Is that gonna be your Question?

JESUS
He looks more like David Beckham to me.

TANYA
All of you, shut it! Gott in Himmell!

Her German fury shines through at last...

GOD
(noticing them)
God in Heaven? That’s me. So the lynch mob has finally arrived. Hahahaha.

He switches off the TV and walks towards them.

NICK
We want to know what’s happening. What’s this dartboard we’ve heard about? Why weren’t we told before?

GOD
Hey, calm down, people. Tanya and Jesus knew this day might come. Admittedly, the odds were trillions to one against it, but, hey, shit happens. (beat)
Follow me, please.

God heads over to one of the doors leading off. The others slowly walk behind him. The panel slides open and they all go through.

INT. GOD’S DARTBOARD - HEAVEN - DAY

The door closes immediately, leaving everyone in darkness. Gradually, a glow appears, and God’s secret is revealed. Before them is the Universe, spreading over millions of light years. Star formations, nebulae, dead suns...all of the matter of the Cosmos.
GOD
This is the Back door of
Creation. My yard, so to speak.
Here I relax, enjoying my
Universe.

A single recliner faces the galaxial window. A
small table next to it holds a simple wooden box. God
sits down and makes himself comfortable. He opens the box
to reveal a set of darts and a blindfold.

ZIGGY
So where’s the fucking dartboard?

Jesus stands to one side, bored. Tanya watches the boy’s
faces.

JESUS
You’ll see it in a minute.

God selects a dart, puts on the blindfold and waits.
Suddenly, a section of the star field begins spinning,
weaving back and forth. It is made up of millions of
squares, each with writing on them. It arcs over and
around God.

TANYA
All possible combinations of
events, disasters, weather
conditions are represented. God
throws the darts. Whichever
square it hits, the information
is instantly relayed to the
Control Room. Your orders.

GOD
Now, obviously this is just a
demo for you.

He peers around blindly then flings the dart with
lightning speed. It shoots into the rotating circle and
hits a square. The square disengages and zooms back to
hover near the recliner. Nick leans forward to read it.

NICK
‘Calcutta, India. Bridge
collapse’.
(beat)
This is no way to run the Earth.
This is murder.

GOD
(shrugs)
As I told you before, Nick, I’m
the Almighty. My world is mine to
do as I please. But you’ve
witnessed the last use of the
(MORE)
GOD (cont’d)
dartboard. Bullseye changes everything.

ERIC
(to Jesus)
Yeah he does look like Becks.
Fucking uncanny.

ZIGGY
Ok, what’s this bullseye?
Obviously you hit it the other day.

GOD
Project New Earth was written on the smallest square on the board, as a joke basically. It only comes around once every trillion years. I happened to jag it. Thus, the Earth changes.

NICK
So you’re gonna wipe out the people on Earth, all because you got lucky with a dart?

JACK
I got lucky with a tart once.
Mind you, I paid her.

Jesus and Tanya turn as one. Jack squeals and hits the floor, once more holding his balls. He passes out.

ZIGGY
Are you telling me that every atrocity in history was a result of you hitting a fucking triple 20 or double 10? That’s shit! You need to be taught a lesson!

He rushes forward. God, still blindfolded, smiles and listens. Ziggy bounces off an unseen shield around the chair.

GOD
Uh, uh. No touching the Heavenly Father.

NICK
Surely something like the Holocaust wasn’t caused by darts. Even you wouldn’t be that low.

GOD
No, you’re right in that respect. Actually, the dartboard wasn’t
(MORE)
GOD (cont’d)
created until 1966. Everything
before that was Mankind showing
his true colours, in all their
crimson glory.

TANYA
Mankind was formed in your image.
You created the evil in men’s
hearts.

GOD
(shaking head)
No, you’re wrong. I only gave him
the potential in his DNA. No
creature in the Universe can
survive without some degree of
hate in it’s genes. It’s nature’s
way.

NICK
Why was 1966 significant? What
happened then to make you build
this hellish thing?

GOD
Who said I built it?
(beat)
And 1966? Surely, Nick, a Beatles
fan like you would know.

ERIC
What the fuck have the Beatles
got to do with it?

NICK
(nodding)
John Lennon. The infamous ‘we’re
more popular than Jesus’ quote.
It all makes sense in a twisted
way.

ZIGGY
Tell us the story, dude. That’s
way before my time.

JACK
(reviving)
Who’s John Lennon?

Ziggy cuffs his head again and Jack is gone once more.

NICK
A journalist asked John about
Christianity. He basically
mentioned the dwindling power of
the Church on young people at the

(MORE)
NICK (cont’d)
time. He said the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. The ironic thing was that it was true.

Jesus mutters under his breath. The others glance at him.

NICK
It caused a shit fight in the U.S, especially in the southern bible belt states. Beatle records were burnt and they received death threats while touring there.

TANYA
(dreamily)
The Beatles are the greatest. Especially Paul. My mother saw in Hamburg, before they made it big.

ERIC
(giggling)
The four of them probably made it big with your mom. Wasn’t she a whore?

Before Tanya can respond, Jesus holds up his hands in fury.

JESUS
(roaring)
Enough of this! Just tell them the fucking truth. No, wait, I will.

(beat)
I built the dartboard for my father here.

NICK
Because of Lennon’s statement? Because it was true?

JESUS
(pacing back and forth)
Of course it was true. The kids were more interested in music and sex. Even television rated above me.

ZIGGY
So, you set this up. To get back at a world that had no faith.
JESUS
Exactly. If I wasn’t relevant anymore, then their pathetic lives deserved to be ruled by chance.

TANYA
(looking at God)
You never told me this part of it.

GOD
(shrugging)
You didn’t need to know everything. A God has to have some secrets.

NICK
But why did you want to use the dartboard? Were you that annoyed like Jesus?

GOD
Actually, no. I was getting bored shitless anyway. And darts seemed quite relaxing.

ERIC
Not so relaxing for the poor fuckers on Earth.

Jack comes too, again.

JACK
Hey God, can I ask you my Question now?

GOD
No.

TANYA
(shocked)
What? He is permitted one Question. So is the black dickhead. That is Heaven’s way.

GOD
Yeah, but I’m no longer God, am I?

Jesus looks up in alarm.

TANYA
Since when?
GOD (dramatically)
Since now!

He rips the blindfold off and stands. The others wait, expecting some kind of special transformation. But God merely tenses his body, face contorted. A loud and long FART is heard. The stench is enormous.

GOD
Aah, that’s better. Been waiting billions of years for that. It’s great to have a working arsehole at last.

JACK
What about my Question?

GOD
(points at Jesus)
He’s your boss now. Ask him. I’m off to live on the New Earth.

NICK
What? But you...

GOD
Sorry, but that’s how it works! Ask the new Creator. He built the dartboard. New earth – new God – new everything.

ZIGGY
But what about us? It’s not fair. We get stuck here?

GOD
What? No, of course not. Haven’t you realized yet?
(sighs)
I selected you four, remember?

NICK
That’s right. You threw the Bullseye before we died in Turkey. So you chose us by, let me guess? Another lucky dart?

GOD
(sheepishly)
Ah, yes. The actual earthquake was a triple 10. A double 7 then chose the first victims of the quake. That was you guys.

Nick and Ziggy look at each other uncertainly. Eric and Jack look blank.
ZIGGY
Look, I’m still lost here. What were we chosen for?

JACK
Perhaps for our good looks, wit and virility?

Eric strolls over and cuffs Jack. He stays on his feet, grinning.

GOD
You boys will accompany me to New earth. The chosen one hundred will need reassurance and help to get things going. They’ll be scattered in different countries, but my remote control has the power to transport us instantly.

NICK
Tanya mentioned these survivors before. What did she mean by them being the best of mankind?

God pulls a folder out from beneath the recliner.

GOD
All the photos and details are in here. The selections were done randomly, by dart, from a wider pool. They are all highly intelligent and extremely good looking.

He passes the folder to Nick, and the boys flip through it.

ZIGGY
(sarcastically)
Gee, the odd of your darts hitting the honeys of the planet must’ve been high.

GOD
I like a challenge.

ERIC
Bloody hell! These birds are gorgeous. All of them.

JACK
(drooling)
Wow, man. It’s like a Sports Illustrated yearbook.
GOD
Ok, ok. Don’t get too carried away. You four are only mentors. No fraternization allowed.

JACK
But we still get to fuck them, right?

Nick smacks Jack this time.

TANYA
Stay away from the females. We don’t want you to contaminate the gene pool.

Jesus is sitting in the recliner now, putting on the blindfold.

GOD
Right, let’s go back into my room and watch the population disappear.

(notices Jesus)
Hey, boy. What are you doing?

JESUS
(laughing)
I’m God now. Thought I’d play me some darts. Keep the family tradition going.

GOD
Like fuck you will! The dartboard is gone, finished. The Bullseye negated it’s purpose.

(voice thunders)
No one will touch my New Earth.

(beat)
Well, not for a few years anyway.

Jesus scowls and angrily throws a dart. Instantly, the dartboard disappears. The window to the Universe closes, leaving a plain wall. Jesus follows the rest of the group through the door.

INT.GOD’S ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

God flicks the remote and the TV comes on. The screen expands and pictures from all over the world are shown. The Earth is being re-claimed. All traces of mankind’s influence are erased.

The boys watch silently as whole cities vaporise. People simply turn into nothing. A few moments later, and it’s over, leaving New Earth.
GOD
There, that wasn’t so bad, was it? No pain or blood. No gratuitous violence.

ZIGGY
I have to admit your methods are humane.

GOD
Nick, do you still see me as some kind of monster?

NICK
(thoughtfully)
My opinion matters little, in the end. But it is sort of good to see the planet looking so refreshed.
(sighs)
Perhaps it’s better this way. We would’ve killed the place in a few decades anyway. So what happens now?

On the screen, pockets of survivors can be seen in different countries.

GOD
We get down there and start building our new world.

ZIGGY
Will we have to come back to Heaven? After we’ve helped you?

GOD
(glances at Jesus)
We’ll see.

JESUS
You’re still dead, don’t forget. I’m your new boss now.

ERIC
What the hell is that noise?

From Tanya’s office next door, the sound of ALARMS and BELLS can be heard.

TANYA
Oh shit. That’s my computer. New arrivals in Heaven.

NICK
Does it always make that racket?
TANYA
No. But five billion people just turned up at once. It’ll take weeks to process them.

GOD
Well, you and the Messiah here better get to it. I’ve got a date with a beach on New Earth.

JACK
(looking at screens)
Quite a few bitches as far as I can see. You need a hand with them?

Jesus smashes Jack then turns to God.

JESUS
Fucking hell! Can’t you help us before you go? It’ll be chaos in Arrivals.

GOD

Jesus rips off his black gloves. Holes in his wrists are visible.

JESUS
I went through this for the world. You made me do it.

The boys push forward to check his wounds.

JACK
Fuck, that must’ve hurt. You work on a building site? Those nail guns are nasty!

GOD
(laughing)

Jesus stares in disbelief at his father, then falls back onto the couch. God enters numbers on the remote, and the boys gather round.

JACK
Hey God. I just realised. You ain’t God anymore. What should we call you now?
JESUS
How about wanker?

GOD
(ignoring him)
You know, I’ve always envied the nicknames on Earth. Especially your Aussie ones, Nick. You guys do it well.
(beat)
I wouldn’t mind being called ‘Shagger’.

The boys all look at each other doubtfully.

NICK
I think we’ll stick with God a bit longer.

God shrugs and presses the remote. The five of them vanish.

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH - AUSTRALIA - DAY

God and the boys materialize on a golden beach. Crystal clear waves break on the shore. Coconut palms and tropical fruit trees sway on a gentle breeze.

GOD
Now this is more like it. I’ve waited eons for this.

ZIGGY
Where are we exactly?

GOD
Australia. And Nick should know what part. He was born here.

NICK
Huh? This is the Gold Coast? Ok, the beach I can pick. but the Coast wasn’t tropical.

GOD
Not in your day it wasn’t. But it was like this back before Man set foot here.

JACK
Hey guys! My woody’s gone! Must be the different air pressure.

A small monkey swings down from a tree, cuffs Jack in the head, then scampers off along the beach.
NICK
So I take it there’s survivors here someplace?

GOD
Yes. All ready to learn from us.
They shouldn’t be too far away.
Aah, here they come now.

There is the murmur of VOICES and leaves RUSTLING. Five men and five women emerge onto the beach. The guys are wearing t-shirts and boardies, the girls in bikinis. They are all as beautiful as the pictures in the folder.

GOD
Welcome, friends. Welcome to your New Earth.

JACK
My woody’s back.

ZIGGY
Mine too.

One of the guys steps forward and smacks Jack. The others nod.

GUY 1
Was it the end of the world before? Everything just...vanished.

GOD
Yes. Man’s misuse of the planet finally caught up with him.

NICK
(murmuring)
With a little help from you.

GOD
(undeterred)
So, it’s all set up to start again. And you have been chosen to be the forefathers of a new history.

The guys and babes look at each other uncertainly.

BABE 1
Are you God?

GOD
I was. I’m in retirement now.
I’ll be living on Earth, and I’m keen to learn more about being human.
BABE 1
Fuck, you look like Becks.

She comes forward and wraps herself around God giving him a passionate kiss. He blushes and glances down at his groin.

GOD
So this is what all the fuss is about.

BABE 2
Thank you, Lord. You have restored our Earth to its former glory.

The guys give God high fives. He turns to Nick.

GOD
Take the remote and the folder. Head to the U.S with the boys and get the survivors up to speed. Then do the same in the other countries. The transport codes are keyed in.

NICK
Aren’t you coming?

GOD
No, I’ll stay here for awhile. I’ve earned a good rest. I can visit the other places later.

ZIGGY
Well, try and stay out of trouble.

ERIC
(looking around)
Where’s that Jack got to?

GUY 3
That your dopey friend? Saw him heading into the rain forest.

NICK
Shit. We should find him. He’s liable to create all sorts of havoc here.

GOD
(waving hand)
Go. I’ll keep an eye on him.

(beat)
Hey, let’s all go for a swim!

The guys and babes cheer and swarm into the ocean.
NICK
Alright, let’s go. Soon as we can, we’ll come back. Hopefully the Garden of Eden won’t be totally fucked up.

Nick, Ziggy and Eric disappear.

EXT. TROPICAL BEACH - CALIFORNIA - DAY

The boys are on another beach near the former Los Angeles. The American survivors - ten guys, ten babes - are not happy. Ziggy is trying to placate them.

ZIGGY
Come on, guys. We didn’t wipe out everything. Fucking hell, we’re dead ourselves. At least you people get to live here. Look at your world, it’s perfect.

U.S GUY 1
Perfect? How can it be? There’s no electricity! How the fuck can we communicate? It’ll take years to get a basic information superhighway going!

NICK
I don’t fucking believe this.

ERIC
I do. Fucking Yanks. They never change.
(glances at Ziggy)
No offense, man.

ZIGGY
None taken. These pricks are pathetic.

U.S BABE 1
Tell God to provide us with some decent fashion accessories.

U.S GUY 2
And some fast food. Coconuts suck!

They all start complaining, a cacophony of whine.

NICK
Why can’t you accept this? You’ve been given another chance of preserving your world.
U.S GUY 1
Typical fuckin’ Aussie. Always preaching.

ERIC
Why don’t you pricks build a boat? Go and invade Europe?

U.S BABE 1
Shut the fuck up, English nigger.

ZIGGY
Don’t give them any ideas! Shit, let’s get out of here. Try another country.

Nick hurriedly works the remote and the three vanish.

EXT.TROPICAL BEACH - ENGLAND - DAY

The boys appear from the left, running along the beach. Nick is frantically keying the remote. A group of English guys and babes angrily pursue. Shouts of ‘We want our lager and football back. And fucking fish and chips’.

EXT.TROPICAL BEACH - GERMANY - DAY

The boys appear from the right, running along the beach. Nick is frantically keying the remote. A group of German guys and babes angrily pursue. Subtitles read ‘Where’s the fucking autobahns? And the sauerkraut’?

EXT.TROPICAL BEACH - CHINA - DAY

The boys appear from the left, running along the beach. Nick is frantically keying the remote. A group of Chinese guys and babes angrily pursue.

Subtitles read ‘We want a fully integrated conveyor belt based industrial production plant’! Supplied by a lower class system of fields and villages’.

EXT.TROPICAL BEACH - AUSTRALIA - DAY

At last, the boys appear back on the Gold Coast beach. No one is around. Nick shakes his head in concern.

ZIGGY
Damn! The rest of the world has gone mad. Even the Russians have lost the plot.
ERIC
Give them bikinis and that’s what happens in Moscow.
(beat)
Where is everybody? Is it siesta time?

NICK
I don’t like it. It’s too bloody quiet.

ZIGGY
(sniffing)
I smell smoke. There, above the trees.

Sure enough, a plume of smoke is visible, about a hundred yards into the forest.

ERIC
Looks like they discovered how to make fire. That’s a start, I suppose.

NICK
At least they haven’t burned down the jungle yet. Come on.

They head into the forest.

EXT.CLEARING - AUSTRALIA - DAY

The boys emerge into a wide clearing. A campfire burns in the middle, some type of primitive still bubbling away over it. Coconut shells are littered across the area.

God is lounging under a tree, smoking a huge joint, and drinking from a shell. Two babes are ‘servicing’ him. The other survivors are scattered around in various sexual positions.

NICK
(groaning)
Oh for fuck’s sake. What the hell happened?

ERIC
Man, they got weed and booze! Talk about advanced civilisation!

NICK
Shut up! It’s not funny. God? God, get the fuck up now!
GOD
Hey, my main dudes. Welcome back to Utopia.
(takes big toke)
How’s the rest of my perfect world?

NICK
Fucked. Absolutely fucked. They are all whinging. They all miss their old Earth. And you have completely screwed up this place.

GOD

NICK
Who made the still? What is it, coconut milk alcohol? Whose idea was that?

GOD
One of the guys here happened to have an in-depth knowledge of rudimentary distilling. His dad was a survivalist.

NICK
(fuming)
And the weed? No, let me guess. Jack found it. Where is that fucker? I’ll kill him. Jack!

The bushes RUSTLE and Jack appears, toting a giant spliff and wooden bottle of grog. A babe accompanies him, stoned off her mind.

JACK
My boys! Welcome to the party. Man, I found the best plants ever.

NICK
Yeah, I bet you sniffed them out. Come on then, party’s over for you. We’re going back to Heaven.

JACK
Aw, man. Can’t I stay here? For the first time in my life, sorry, death, I feel wanted. These people like me.
NICK
Only because you supplied them with A-grade mull! Fuck.

BABE 3
Jack is the world’s greatest lover.

She slumps to the ground and passes out.

ZIGGY
So much for the future of Mankind.

GOD
Jack’s staying. I have the right to choose. It’s my final act as God.

NICK
Which you just made up?

GOD
Yes. But Jack has become dear to me.

NICK
You are ripped! Ok, keep him. Good luck. Zig, Eric, we’re off.

ZIGGY
Any chance we can stay? Been a while since we had some pussy.

ERIC
Or any ganga or booze.

NICK
Sorry, lads. Back to Heaven. Do you really want to stay here? Live like this?
(beat)
Ok, don’t answer that. Come on.

Ziggy and Eric reluctantly drag themselves over to Nick. One last look around and they vanish.

JACK
(sadly)
Great guys. I’m gonna miss them.

GOD
Yeah, me too. Ok Jack, let’s get this party going again. You were saying something before about rehearsing? For a movie?
JACK
Yeah. I reckon we’ll invent video
cameras soon. We can make a
porno!

GOD
A porno? Sounds interesting. What
exactly is that? How can I help?

JACK
(claps God’s shoulder)
My man, you are going to make a
great fluffer.

INT.GOD’S ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY
The boys appear in God’s old room. Some of the furnishings
have changed.

ZIGGY
Looks like JC has started
re-decorating.

ERIC
Yeah. Real tasteful. What’s the
plan now, Nick?

NICK
Find Tanya. Or Jesus. Tell them
about the idiots on New Earth.

ZIGGY
They might already know if
they’re in the Control Room.

NICK
Good idea, Zig. Let’s go.

INT.TANYA’S OFFICE - HEAVEN - DAY
The panel opens and the boys are in Tanya’s office. To
their surprise, Phil and Rita are screwing on the desk!
Phil looks up and grins.

PHIL
Hey, my boys! What’s up?

NICK
(laughs)
You, by the look of it. What are
you doing here?

PHIL
What does it look like? I’m
nearing the vinegar stroke
actually!
ERIC
Woah! Too much information.

ZIGGY
Man, this dude is a fucking legend.

Phil hasn’t stopped pumping away and Rita cranes her head to smile.

RITA
Hi guys. How was New Earth? Oooh, yes...

NICK
Fucked. God and the survivors are trashing the place already.

PHIL
(shaking head)
Damn fools. Never learn. Anyway, we got promoted. Now that the old Earth has gone, we don’t need the List watch. So we took over Tanya’s job.

NICK
Ok, congratulations. So where is she?

PHIL
In the Control Room. Probably screwing Jesus.

RITA
That poor guy. He looks like he needs a good, hard shag.

ERIC
Don’t we all.

NICK
Right, we’re off then.

PHIL
Catch you later, boys. Ok baby, Daddy’s getting close.

RITA
Get it on. Fill me up, honey.

ZIGGY
Hey, I get it. Fill-me-up. As in Phil me...

Nick grabs him and the three head to the door.
PHIL
(pounding madly)
Lovely fellas the lot of them.

INT. CONTROL ROOM - HEAVEN - DAY

The panel opens and the boys come tumbling out. In the Control Room, the screens are showing all the views of New Earth. On one wall is a large digital monitor with the number ‘102’ on it. Jesus and Tanya leap apart as the boys come in, looking guilty.

JESUS
Ah, hello guys. Welcome back to Heaven. I was just showing Tanya the new system.

Ziggy and Eric snigger. Tanya blushes and adjusts her uniform.

NICK
Have you been watching New Earth? God and his mates are behaving like idiots.

JESUS
So what’s new? Yes, we’ve been monitoring the situation. We saw your attempts around the globe. I feared this would happen.

NICK
You can’t step in? Take control?

JESUS
No. It’s my father’s legacy. Down the track I will be able to have more of a say.

ZIGGY
These fools will end up hurting each other.

TANYA
(pointing)
It’s already started.

The boys turn to look at the digital display on the wall. The number has suddenly begun to count backwards. Slowly at first then blurring.

ERIC
What the fuck is that?
TANYA
Population counter. We set it up for the future births. One hundred chosen plus God and Jack.

Jesus is on the computer, running programs and working the keyboard. Eventually he sits back, shaking his head and laughing.

JESUS
It’s too late. Soon they’ll all be back here!

NICK
I don’t... are you saying they’re dying? The survivors?

JESUS
(nodding)
Yep. Look at the screens. They’re dropping like flies.

The monitors show the various groups around the world. Some are lying on a beach. Others floating face down in the water. Elsewhere, the camera show actual deaths in real time.

Guys and babes are stumbling drunk off cliffs, being eaten by wild beasts, burning alive in campfires. The counter moves at a frantic pace with each death. finally it reads ’3’...

NICK
Three left alive? Those fuckwits! Who is it?

Jesus taps the keyboard.

JESUS
The Aussie group. Let’s see...Jack, one babe and God. Haha. The old bastard always was a survivor.

One screen shows the scene on the Australian beach. Jack and the babe are running around in the sand, totally wasted. God is swimming, singing drunkenly.

Suddenly, a huge bubble of water swells under God. He is sucked beneath the waves. The digit counter moves slowly back to ’2’.

JESUS
God’s gone. Man, is he gonna be surprised when he wakes in the Arrival Room.
TANYA
I’ll alert Phil and Rita. They’re going to be busy.

ZIGGY
They’re always busy, those two.

NICK
So, it’s over already. New Earth lasted approximately one hour.

ERIC
That long? The fools outdid themselves.

Phil’s voice comes over the intercom.

PHIL(O.S)
Yeah, Tanya? What’s happening?

TANYA
You have new arrivals. Your first shift has started.

PHIL(O.S)
Sweet as. I knew they wouldn’t last long. Some people don’t realise the place they are already at is the best, in the end.

JESUS
Start the violins! Listen Phil, I think you’ll appreciate the irony of how God died.

PHIL(O.S)
(giggling)
I’m listening.

JESUS
He was taken by a whale. But slightly different. He was sucked into it’s arsehole and drowned.

PHIL(O.S)
Probably the same motherfucking mammal that got me.
(laughs)
It’s a wonder the arsehole didn’t reject him! Later, guys.

The group are silent for a moment, watching the screen. Jack and the babe are now naked, rolling on the shore.
NICK
Think they can start something?
Re-populate?

ZIGGY
Hideous thought.

JESUS
We’ll have to wait nine or ten months, won’t we?
(beat)
But in the meantime, we’re gonna have fuck all to do up here. I think it’s party time.

The boys all look at Jesus in surprise. Tanya makes a face.

JESUS
What? You all thought I was a total loser? You guys! I’ve just been pretending to be a nerd. Actually I’m a party animal.

ERIC
Well, sure. So, where’s the party?

JESUS
(working the keyboard)
Nick and Ziggy’s room. Check this out.

The boys look disinterestedly at the screen, then sit up in awe.

NICK
Hey, there’s a heap of chicks partying in our room.

JESUS
That’s right. And they’re waiting for us studs to join them!

TANYA
(murmuring)
You got to be kidding me.

ZIGGY
Hey, those girls are the cheerleaders! From Jack’s brother’s pool orgy!

ERIC
Holy fuck!
JESUS
Hmm. I like that title. ‘Holy Fuck’. Me to a T.

NICK
What are we waiting for?

The boys and Jesus move to the door. Tanya is sitting with her feet up on the console, watching Jack and the babe screwing on the beach.

NICK
Come on, Tanya. Come and party.

TANYA
(surprised)
You want me to go with you?

ZIGGY
Sure. You’re still a hottie!

TANYA
I...I, ok.

ERIC
Hey, I got a great idea. We’ll need some party gear. How about we pay a quick visit to Earth? Help ourselves to some wacky weed.

ZIGGY
Yeah, good thinking, man. And we’ll grab some of that booze they made.
(looks at Jesus)
That ok, Holy Fuck?

JESUS
You guys are so cool! I’ll get on it right away.

As they all prepare to go, Jesus starts giggling.

NICK
Now what?

JESUS
God is going to get a huge surprise when he gets to his assigned room. And I do mean, HUGE.

He laughs louder. The other join in, it’s so infectious.
JESUS
Some of Jack’s brother’s football team will be waiting for him.
Ten, very big, very black and very horny men.

The boys stop laughing for a moment, as they contemplate this scenario.

NICK
But those guys weren’t gay, were they?

JESUS
No. But God will have a different look.

(beat)
To them, he’ll look like Beyonce.

ERIC
Ouch!

THE END

ROLL CREDITS