GOD GETS FIRED

by

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FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - DAY

The elevator doors open to reveal a lone man.

He’s young. Cool.

A little rumpled and he could lose a few.

He’s God.

He approaches the RECEPTIONIST.

    RECEPTIONIST
    Good morning. How can I help you?

    GOD
    I have an appointment with Quentin.

    RECEPTIONIST
    Oh yes, you must be the God from...

She squints at an appointment calendar.

    RECEPTIONIST
    E-rath. If you could just take a seat...

    GOD
    It’s Earth.

    RECEPTIONIST
    Hmm?

    GOD
    It’s pronounced Earth.

    RECEPTIONIST
    Says here E-rath. E-rath is better, don’t you think?

    GOD
    Yeah, but I’d need to get all new business cards, so--

She giggles.

    RECEPTIONIST
    Ahh, you’re teasing me!

He winks.
RECEPTIONIST
I’ll tell his secretary you’re here.

God sinks into a leather couch.

The receptionist dials two buttons with the end of her pen.

RECEPTIONIST
Phyl? Hi. I’ve got the God from Earth out here. Yes, well he calls it Earth. That’s exactly what I said. Wonderful.

Hangs up.

RECEPTIONIST
She’ll be out in two shakes. Can I offer you something? Water?

Suddenly the door to the inner office bangs open.

Two SECURITY GUARDS drag a man out.

They throw him against the wall.

Start cuffing him.

GUARD ONE
Eat some wall ‘Mr. Creation’!

GUARD TWO
You make me sick. You know that? (mocking falsetto)
I’m an artist! I’m an artist. You hear that shit?

They both laugh.

PRISONER
Listen to me. Creativity doesn’t just happen. It’s a process. A-a-a process relative to the dynamic exchange of omnipotent life forces and the algorithms---

GUARD ONE
Get him out of here before I puke!

The elevator opens and they exit.

God and the Receptionist watch them leave.
RECEPTIONIST  
Quentin is in a chipper mood today.

GOD  
Did you say you had water?

The door opens and PHYLLIS enters. All business.

PHYLLIS  
He’s ready for you.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

A busy modern office, more L.A. than New York.
Computers, cubicles, and urgent professionalism.
Phyllis leads God through the mayhem.

PHYLLIS  
Sorry to keep you waiting. It’s been a busy morning.

She notices a staffer walking by.

PHYLLIS  
Tim, I’m still waiting for those forecast reports. No excuses.
Eleven-thirty. No, eleven-fifteen. My desk!

Staffer rushes off. They arrive at Quentin’s--

OUTER OFFICE

PHYLLIS  
Have a seat.

God sits, tries to smooth out the wrinkles in his clothing. Shakes his shoulders. Recites some silent mantra of calm.

He notices a PICTURE OF THE MILKY WAY GALAXY on the wall. There are little push pins stuck all over it representing planets.

No pin for Earth!

He takes a pin from Phyllis’s desk.

Sticks it in. Smiles.
God turns and sees QUENTIN standing in the open doorway with a dour expression. Caught!

Suddenly he smiles and throws his arms out.

QUENTIN
There he is! There’s my man! Get over here.

They embrace like footballers.

QUENTIN
How long’s it been, huh? Crazy long, I’m telling you.

GOD
It’s been a long time, man.

QUENTIN
We have to stop doing this. These other jamokes, I can live without for...forever. You? Everything’s changed since you’ve been gone.

They walk through the door to--

QUENTIN’S OFFICE

God sits down next to Phyllis across from Quentin’s desk.

A stern accountant-looking guy named ARCHIBALD stands nearby.

QUENTIN
So I’m sure I don’t have to tell you there have been a lot of changes around here.

GOD
I can see that.

QUENTIN
Back in the day we could get away with anything. Remember those giant reptiles you did?

GOD
Dinosaurs.

QUENTIN
Right! Dinosaurs.

He turns to Phyllis and Archibald.
QUENTIN
You guys should have seen it. He had these massive killer creatures all over the entire planet. It was crazy.

God smiles meekly.

QUENTIN
And even though they were pissed everybody here was like, ‘Hey, get rid of them and move on.’ No big deal. Remember? A little asteroid, we make with the boom-boom, and we’re back in business.

GOD
I was a lot younger then. So were you. We were just learning.

QUENTIN
It’s not like that anymore. I know you don’t want to hear a lot of bullshit, so I won’t give you any. They want to shut it down.

GOD
But the millennial review committee doesn’t meet until next month.

PHYLLIS
They had a special session last week.

ARCHIBALD
Just for you.

GOD
Why?

QUENTIN
You really want me to say it?

Archibald flings a crumpled document at God.

ARCHIBALD
That’s why! And I think you know it! What do you think we do here all day?

God smooths the document. Reads it.

QUENTIN
Is that Rule number one?
GOD
Yes.

QUENTIN
So these hominids of yours. What are they called?

GOD
Humans.

QUENTIN
Your ‘humans’ figured out Rule number one.

ARCHIBALD
On their own!

GOD
You’re spying on me?

QUENTIN
Is it so hard to believe they might eventually figure out the other thirty-nine?

GOD
Pssh. They’re not that smart.

PHYLLIS
The board estimates they’ll figure out Rule number two in less than seventeen years.

QUENTIN
This is a threat to all of us. Everything. We can’t just look the other way this time. This is way worse than dinosaurs.

GOD
What are you going to do?

Conspiratorial glances all around.

QUENTIN
Don’t worry about that.

GOD
Oh no! Not Rax!

QUENTIN
She went to the board and requested the assignment personally.
ARCHIBALD
It’s going to be an ‘apocalyptic’ shut down.

GOD
That figures. When?

QUENTIN
If you have anything down there you want to keep...you better get it now. She’s already on her way.

INT. MATT’S HOUSE - DAY

GARAGE

Summer. Seattle suburb. MATT BUSSEY, (18) is sitting at his makeshift work area in his garage. The desk is a morass of computer guts and programming manuals.

A framed photo of Matt and a Hot Girl sits nearby.

Matt speaks into his cell.

MATT
No, I totally get it. It’s no problem.
(beat)
Yeah, you don’t want to take any chances in this weather.
(beat)
We can bike it next week. Do you need anything? Want me to bring you something?
(beat)
Okay, well, take care of yourself and feel better.

As he hangs up he hears the sound of a pool party in the background, then a playful scream. He listens.

MATT
Rachel?

CLICK.

God drives up in a convertible pulling a U-Haul trailer.

He jogs up the driveway.

GOD
Hey, Matt!
MATT
Hey, Mr. Evans.

GOD
Graduation was last week. I’m not your science teacher anymore. Why don’t you call me Sean.

MATT
Okay. My Mom’s not home.

GOD
No? That’s too bad. But I wanted to talk to you anyway. Decide on a school?

MATT
Stanford.

GOD
Not M.I.T.?

MATT
Closer. Easier to get to.

GOD
That reminds me...did you hear about that new equation?

MATT
Which one?

GOD
Unification.

MATT
Unification! You’re kidding.

GOD
Yeah, I subscribe to this magazine. I meant to bring it over. I forgot.

MATT
Is it legit?

GOD
It’ll blow your mind.

MATT
Who?
GOD
Some dudes in Norway. I think I remember it. Got something to write on?

Matt clears a space on his desk.

God thinks for a moment and jots down a complex mathematical equation.

Matt stares in slack-jawed wonder. Holds it up. Reverently fingers the sheet.

MATT
Is this right?

GOD
I think so.

MATT
This explains...everything. The universe. All of Einstein’s work.

GOD
I knew you’d like it.

Matt stares and stares and stares and stares.

GOD
I tell you what. You want to make a couple of bucks? Help me move some stuff to my house? I’ll give you the article.

MATT
Hmm? Yeah, sure.

GOD
You’re not busy?

MATT
No, I was going to bike the foothills with Rachel. But she’s...

GOD
Sick?

MATT
I guess. Something like that.

GOD
It’s going around.
EXT. CITY STREET – DAY

Cracked concrete, chain link, and dented cars.

Sleek as a machine gun and sensual as a black widow RAX THE DESTROYER cruises the boulevard in a decked out car.

She spots some teen boys hanging out. Pulls over.

They gawk at her shape as she opens the trunk. It’s full of smokes and liquor and fuck-mags.

RAX
You boys want some cigarettes?

MOMENTS LATER

She watches the boys puffing away as they fade in the rear-view mirror. Checks her lipstick.

RAX
What did you do to these things?

EXT. GOD’S LOFT – DAY

God and Matt pull up in front of a decrepit warehouse. God turns the radio up.

NEWS ANNOUNCER (O.C.)
The daring heist was pulled off sometime last night. The Pope is said to be ‘heartbroken’ over the loss and praying for a quick recovery of the priceless works.

GOD
You hear about this?

Matt is still staring at the formula.

MATT
Huh?

NEWS ANNOUNCER (O.C.)
Police cannot explain how security was breached on such a massive scale...

God switches it off. Steps to the trailer.

GOD
Want to give me a hand?
MATT
You live here?

GOD
Yeah, it looks better on the inside.

MATT
Is this going to be real heavy or...

God opens the trailer. There are big chunks of the Sistine Chapel ceiling in it. Matt gapes.

GOD
They’re a little weighty.

MATT
Are these...?

GOD
Real? C’mon! No, I picked these up at that antique joint near Fulton. Real! Pssh.

MATT
It’s just a little ironic...you know.

GOD
Hmm. That is strange.

INT. GOD’S LOFT - LATER

God and Matt manhandle a chunk through the door. The roomy space is crammed with artifacts from around the world. Texts, artwork, jewels, assorted flora, and a menagerie of caged animals.

GOD
Just lean this against the wall.

MATT
You, um, storing some stuff or what?

GOD
Oh, this? I had some stuff left over from some experiments. Hey, you want a Mountain Dew? Fanta?

MATT
You got that magazine?
GOD
Oh yeah. Let me look for it.
Relax if you want.

Matt surveys the clutter.

MATT
You know, hoarding is a real thing.

God startles him when he returns with two strange soda bottles.

GOD
Here.

MATT
What’s this?

GOD
I couldn’t find that magazine.

MATT
Maybe I can look it up online.

GOD
Yeah, that should work. Cheers!

God takes a big swig. Matt sips too.

GOD
Like it?

Matt is in bug-eyed ecstasy.

MATT
What is this?

GOD
Ambrosia. Pretty good, huh?

Matt checks the label.

MATT
It’s amazing. I never heard of it.

Matt seems a little woozy.

MATT
Is it alcoholic?

GOD
No, no, no. No alcohol. I promise. Want to sit down?
God clears some stuff off the couch. Matt falls into the cushions.

GOD
Better?

Matt notices a caged tiger cub in the corner.

MATT
Is that a tiger?

GOD
Yes. He’s perfect.

MATT
What do you feed him?

GOD
Fancy Feast. A whole bunch of it.

MATT
That’s good.

GOD
Matt? Do you think you’d describe yourself as a religious person?

MATT
Mom always says we’re more spiritual than religious.

God rolls his eyes.

GOD
You know who says that? People who are too lazy to go to church, Matt. It’s one day a week for crying out loud. Is it really that much to ask? I don’t even care which one either. They’re all pretty much the same.

MATT
We used to go all the time. After my dad died.

GOD
I’m sorry about that.

MATT
It’s okay. It was a long time ago. A lot of people have it a lot worse.
Good smiles approvingly.

GOD
I love you.

Matt mistakes his intent. Gets up and starts edging toward the door.

MATT
Yeah, okay. That’s really great. So I got to blast now. I tell you what, I’m just going to jump a bus home.

GOD
Relax Matt.

MATT
No it’s cool. I mean, I know my mom shut you down. But I’m closed too, you know? I’m not making judgements here, it’s just not my thing, right?

GOD
Sit down, Matt. Nobody is trying to rape you.

MATT
Not yet, maybe.

GOD
That equation I showed you? There’s more of them.

MATT
More? Like that? Universe altering?

GOD
They’re secret. Nobody is supposed to know about them.

MATT
Oh, but you know? Do you work for the government or something?

GOD
Let me show you something.

God leads him through the loft toward where he has a bunch of tree specimens. God pushes some branches out of the way and beckons to Matt.
He follows hesitantly.

EXT. TROPICAL RAIN FOREST - CONTINUOUS

God has magically transported them to Brazil.

Matt is mystified.

    MATT
    How big is this place anyway?

    GOD
    Couple of million square miles, give or take.

Matt is terrified by a snake slithering by. He struggles to keep up with God tromping through the brush.

    MATT
    Where are we? Is this the warehouse district?

    GOD
    Matt I don’t have a lot of time. You’re going to start processing information a lot faster.

    MATT
    What did you give me?

    GOD
    The key to the universe. Make any more sense?

Matt stares.

    GOD
    The equation. Unification. Time and space are controllable constructs. Get it?

    MATT
    Sort of.

    GOD
    That’s better than most people could do. Keep your eyes open for some dope. It’s around here somewhere.

God sniffs the air like a Labrador.
GOD
It’s over here!

He rushes toward a--

FIELD OF MARIJUANA PLANTS

God hacks a football-sized bud from a plant.

MATT
You better look out. I hear growers like to booby-trap their fields.

He holds the bud like a trophy.

GOD
And the award for most massive bud goes to...me. Hey, you want to see something?

MATT
What? A giant bong?

GOD
Follow me.

God leads Matt toward a...

SCENIC OVERLOOK

A small ledge on the mountainside looks over the valley and a rivulet of waterfall in the distance.

Matt drinks in the splendor.

GOD
Some of my best work. I spent years, just on this one little section.

He gets a little weepy.

GOD
I wish I could take this with me.

A tear falls.

Suddenly, a METEOR rips through the sky.

It smashes into the mountainside across the valley causing a huge explosion.

GOD
She’s here.

MATT
Who?

GOD
My ex-wife.

They back away from the ledge to a--

FORREST CLEARING

Rax poses amidst the trees.

God and Matt stop short.

RAX
Pretty good shot, eh?

GOD
Hi, honey.

RAX
If my calculations are correct...and they always are...I just woke up that dormant volcano.

She circles Matt. Examines him like a smashed piggy bank.

RAX
This time tomorrow...your little valley is just a lake of lava. Why’d you make it so fragile?

GOD
Wow. It is so awesome seeing you again.

RAX
It’s just a dumb choice.

GOD
You might be surprised.

RAX
I doubt it. Who’s this?

God doesn’t answer.
MATT
I’m Matt Bussey.

RAX
Oooh. Okay, Mr. Matt Bussey. I’m Rax the Destroyer.
(to God)
He has an erection.

Matt covers himself.

RAX
You like me, Matt? I’m flattered, but really we just met.

She crowds him. She morphs into another woman.
Then another.
Then all women. Ever.
Matt is mesmerized. Gets pulled into her vortex.

God yanks him back.

GOD
That’s enough. It’s been like cotton candy at the fair, but we gotta blast.

He pulls Matt through the forest. Rax calls after them.

RAX
Did he tell you, Matt? Did he tell you what I’m going to do? They said I could do whatever I wanted!

She giggles.

God leads Matt through some dense underbrush which becomes--

EXT. HIGHWAY REST AREA - CONTINUOUS

God and Matt burst out of the men’s room.
A burly trucker is walking his foofy lap dog.
Mount Rainier is in the background.
God’s convertible is parked nearby.

MATT
Okay, now just wait, God damn it!
GOD
I don’t like that language.

MATT
You don’t like it? You don’t! I don’t know what the fuck is going on here, but it stops here. Now!

He looks around.

MATT
Where the hell am I, anyway?

GOD
Interstate ninety. Hop in, I’ll give you a lift.

He tosses the bud in the backseat.

MATT
No! I’m not going anywhere with you until you tell me exactly what’s going on.

God thinks. Stares.

GOD
Fine. I’m God. The all-powerful creator of everything you know. I got fired last week. I have a chance to pick up a few things so I grabbed you, among other things. Rax is going to destroy the planet so somebody else can start over. It’s a giant drag, but that doesn’t mean we can’t have a little fun first.

MATT
Come on, man.

God steps closer. Puts his hands on Matt’s shoulders.

GOD
You ready?

MATT
What are you doing...?

God slaps Matt across the face.

GOD
You ready!
MATT
Hey! What the--

GOD
Honestly, the tiger was easier to convince.

They elevate in unison.
Trucker-guy and dog freak out.
Matt panics. Grips God’s arms.
God smiles.
Up and up they go.
Slowly at first.
Then faster.
Then rocket-speed.
Bursting through the top of a cloud.
Doppler effect of a jet barely missing them.
The ground gets further and further away.
They pass into the darkness of...

OUTERSPACE
Our blue orb floats before them. The moon hovers over it.
Matt gasps, sure he can’t breathe.

GOD
Behold.

MATT
Okay! Okay!

He calms enough to enjoy the view.

MATT
Aaah...it’s impossible.

GOD
We can stay until you believe me.

Matt stares. Understanding dawns.
MATT
You...

GOD
Me.

MATT
You taught me physics.

GOD
I’m still teaching you. What can you learn?

MATT
Everything.

GOD
How about getting down?

MATT
Wha...?

Gravity returns. Terrified, Matt claws the emptiness as he falls.

God laughs as he descends like a gymnast.

Matt gains enough confidence to try a few backflips himself.

INT. LITTLE CHURCH - DAY

Tiny country church. Fat white parishioners. REVEREND FOGG is dressed all in white.

He’s blind.

FOGG
And then I saw friends. Saw more clearly than the sunniest summer day. Saw, saw, saw...the eeeeeevil.

Assorted ooohs and aaahs and amens from the crowd.

FOGG
Yes! The evil. The evil that’s all around us. And I saw it come for me and Betsy, and little Petey too. And I saw it come for each and every one of you.

Oooh, aaah, amen!
FOGG
But I stood my ground. And I said, 'Get back Satan! These are mine! You take your evil back to Hades with you, because this is my flock and you’re messing with the wrong Alabama preacher now!'

Applause.

FOGG
Then he raised a finger to me. Like this. And he said, 'You’ve been a worthy adversary, preacher. I’m going. But you should know there is something worse coming. Something beyond even your power to defeat. Something that makes our battles look like kindergarten scuffles.'

Stunned silence.

Rax the Destroyer sits in the back row smiling to herself.

FOGG
Mmm hmm. That’s what he said. And he said only I would be able to see it. Only me. And I see it right now. It’s so close...

He collapses into a spastic foam-spitting mess.

Parishioners rush to him.

Rax glides out.

EXT. GOD’S CONVERTIBLE - DAY

God and Matt cruise a Seattle boulevard.

MATT
What is she going to do?

GOD
They don’t call her Rax the Destroyer for nothing.

MATT
You mean, like a flood?

GOD
A lot worse than that.
MATT

MATT

They cruise by the marquee of a grunge club advertising 'SATAN’S SANDWICH TONIGHT'.

GOD

Hey, check it out! Satan’s Sandwich. These guys are awesome. If they had enough time they’d be bigger than the Stones in a few years. We totally have to check it out. Want to go?

MATT

I think I’m starting to see the problem.

GOD

With what?

MATT

With you! The world is ending? Hello!

GOD

You have a chance to see a huge band for a two drink minimum. How you going to pass that up?

MATT

Is there anything you could be doing besides getting stoned and looking for grunge bands?

GOD

We all mourn in our own way, Matt.

MATT

How about doing something.

GOD

Like what? Shrooms?

MATT

Not shrooms! Fight for us! Fight her.
GOD
It doesn’t really work that way.
It’s too late. Unless--

MATT
Unless what?

GOD
Unless we get her to relent. It has to be her decision.

MATT
We have to convince her then.

GOD
She hates me. I got news for you, she hates you too. She’s pretty much made of hate.

MATT
Aren’t we worth trying for?

God pulls over. Slumps his shoulders.

MATT
What’s wrong with us?


PEDESTRIAN
Get a room, homos.

INT. GOD’S LOFT - LATER
Matt noses around the loft while God sings in the shower.

He spots a funky box in the kitchen labeled, “RULES.”

He peeks.

It holds about 40 richly decorated cards. They are labeled, “VISION, POWER SLIP, DISTANCE, & POTATO SALAD.” Etc.

He pulls out one labeled, “ATTRACTION.”

Runs a finger over the complex equation, struggling to understand.

The numbers slide and shift around on the card.

Matt smiles mesmerized. He doesn’t notice when--

God comes out of bathroom with a joint in his mouth.
Rummages a drawer, probably looking for a lighter. Still humming some sixties stoner song.

Matt stuffs the attraction card in his pocket.

GOD
We should totally nosh before the concert, dude. You like Thai food or...

MATT
Whatever.

GOD
You want to text Rachel? Your Mom maybe? I can get them on the VIP list.

MATT
Hey, tell me the truth. Did you and mom ever...you know?

GOD
Achieve adult intimacy? No. I don’t do things like that. There are very strict rules against it....

FLASHBACK
God pounding the crap out Matt’s mom, LISA.

LISA
Oh God! Oh God! Oh God!

His satisfied smile...

END FLASH

INT. GOD’S LOFT – CONTINUOUS

GOD
Honestly, I’m surprised at you, Matt.

MATT
Good. I don’t think I could handle that.
INT. NEWTONE’S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

God and Matt enter. As they cross the threshold Matt’s dork clothes are magically replaced with a cool look.

Matt starts to complain but God is already off shmoozing the band.

    GOD
    Declav! Hudson! Hey guys.

The sinister rockers drop pretense to greet him warmly.

Matt elbows his way to the bar.

    BARTENDER
    Pick, pay, and pound brother.

    MATT
    Jack and Coke?

    BARTENDER
    Nice try, Junior Mint.

    MATT
    Hah, just kidding.

    BARTENDER
    So was I.

Bartender points to God on the dance floor.

God makes a guzzling motion followed by a fist pump.

Matt turns to see a giant cocktail in front of him.

    BARTENDER
    You friends with Sean? Lucky you.

    MATT
    Sean? Oh, yeah.

Bartender hands Matt a CD.

    BARTENDER
    This is my demo. Can you ask him to listen to it?

    MATT
    Uh, sure.

    BARTENDER
    Alright. This one’s on me. Next one too.
MATT
Thanks.

House music goes down as an ANNOUNCER takes the stage.

ANNOUNCER
Ladies and Gentlemen...Satan’s Sandwich!

Thunderous beat. The crowd surges. God carried along.

Matt hangs back near the emptying bar. Checks his phone. “YOU HAVE 0 NEW MESSAGES.”

Sighs. Takes the “ATTRACTION” card out. Studies.

Jots some notes on a bar napkin.

A GOTH GIRL comes up behind him.

GOTH GIRL
First time here?

MATT
Here with a friend.

GOTH GIRL
Me too. You’re really cute. Know that?

She leans in. Kisses his mouth.

Another HOT BABE arrives.

HOT BABE
Sorry, I saw him first.

Kisses him with a full-body grind.

HOT BABE
Ooh, baby. I need you now!

GOTH GIRL
How about this?

Goth Girl pushes the Hot Babe against the bar and starts kissing her.

Rips her top open.

She pulls a shocked Matt in for some three-way mouth action.

Hot Babe reaches for the Bartender as he rips off his shirt.
The equations on the “ATTRACTION” card quake and pulse.
The spontaneous orgy spreads to the dance floor.
Romanesque decadence for everyone!
God doesn’t even notice until the music stops.
Declav and Hudson drop guitars and go at each other.
God looks around furiously...spots Matt.
Charges toward him.
Pulls him away from two girls. They barely notice.

    GOD
    Having fun?

Drags him outside.

EXT. NEWTONE’S NIGHTCLUB

    MATT
    I don’t know what happened.

    GOD
    I do. You’re an amateur, and you
    wrecked my concert.

    MATT
    Sorry.

    GOD
    You know what happens now? We have
    about ten minutes before they start
    killing each other.

Matt is horrified.

    MATT
    No!

    GOD
    Okay, maybe no killing. But shame.
    Shame and guilt...and a couple of
    pregnancies. And some STD’s.
    Don’t forget the STD’s.

The orgy spills onto the sidewalk.

A couple of cop cars roll up.
COP
(into radio)
Yes! Public indecency on a massive scale...and sex. Sex in the street!

One couple collapses onto the hood of the cop car.
Another cop starts feeling him up from behind.
God waves a hand.

COP
Hey! Get the hell off me, Gary!

God and Matt stroll away.

GOD
The first thing they teach you is balance. It’s all about balance.

INT. FOGG HOUSE - MORNING
The Reverend is sitting at the kitchen table.
His wife refills his coffee cup.
He continues cleaning a handgun.
The newspaper is open on the table.
One headline reads, “ROCK CONCERT ORGY SPREADS THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD”.
There are a couple of grainy photos.
The article has a red circle scrawled around it.
A suitcase sits by the door.

EXT. GUERILLA COMPOUND - DAY
Couple of ramshackle huts surrounding a dusty central square.
A rag tag platoon of BOY SOLDIERS is listening to Rax.

RAX
The cockroaches have struck again!
Not ten kilometers from here our enemies are raping your sisters and mothers.
They are burning your fields, and forcing your fathers to dig their own graves where they will machine gun them to death. They are doing these things because you have failed. You have failed to find the courage to stop them. With their dying breath, your families cry out your names. Cry out for vengeance. Cry out a single question. When? When will you find the courage to stop the cockroaches?

ASSEMBLED
Now!

RAX
Yes, now. Captain!

One of the soldiers rushes to her.

RAX
No excuses tonight, Captain. We retake the village or have none back alive. Understand?

The Captain begins barking orders as Rax turns to her--

INT. RAX’S HUT - CONTINUOUS

She enters and sloughs off a utility belt, ammo bandolier, and a couple of grenades.

Examines her face in the mirror.

Sees God watching behind her.

GOD
I knew I could find you here.

RAX
There’s a real energy here, you know? I love the vibe. Plus, the constant killing is nice too.

GOD
I heard your speech. Stirring.

RAX
I’m no Hitler, but I thought it was pretty good.
GOD
Everything you said was a lie.

RAX
What are you? A journalism professor?

GOD
They’re very trusting.

RAX
Little killing machines is what they are. Big old gigantic brains and no feelings. You had to know they’d shut you down as soon as they found out.

GOD
They’re capable of so much.

RAX
Capable of destroying the universe maybe. Can you imagine setting these critters loose? Gives me nightmares just thinking about it. I’m doing you a favor here.

GOD
I could always count on you.

RAX
What I can’t figure out is why. Why would you do it? I mean, you were always a little ‘out there’ in your ideas. That’s one of the things I liked about you. You were original. But they put these rules in place for a reason.

GOD
You think I’m original?

She assumes a languid pose. Stares at him.

RAX
You lost weight. You look good.

God shrugs.

RAX
A woman?

GOD
No.
Rax rolls her eyes.

GOD
Nothing serious.

RAX
I bet that’s your problem. You’re going crazy out here. Nobody to talk to.

GOD
I came to ask for a favor.

RAX
You want my answer now? Or after your little speech?

GOD
You can make a courageous call here.

RAX
They’re parasitic rapists.

GOD
They’re just learning. And they get scared.

RAX
Frightened parasitic rapists. Just what the universe needs.

GOD
Then what are you waiting for? Why haven’t you done it yet?

RAX
Don’t rush me. I’m looking for something.

GOD
What?

RAX
Whatever you’re hiding. I’m going to start there, you know. Maybe it’s that kid.

INT. GOD’S LOFT - DAY

Matt is typing on his laptop.

The ‘RULES’ cards are scattered around the table.
Matt’s computer keeps giving him an ‘ERROR MESSAGE’.

MATT
God damn it!

Oops. He looks around expecting a blow.

EXT. MATT’S HOUSE - LATER
Matt pulls up in God’s car. Enters the--

INT. GARAGE
Rummages through assorted computer guts.
Mom enters. LISA BUSSEY, 40’s, milf.

LISA
You have to clean this crap out of here before you leave. It’s Seattle. It rains.

MATT
Mom, there’s something going on here.

LISA
Freshman orientation is next week. I was thinking...maybe I’d drive down with you. Fly back. Or take the train.

MATT
I can keep the car?

LISA
You need a car.

MATT
What are you going to do?

LISA

MATT
How well do you know Mr. Evans?

LISA
Was he talking about me? You know I don’t like people talking about me behind my back.
MATT
No.

LISA
He’s alright, I guess. I think he might be one of those religious kooks.

MATT
He’s okay. He thinks the world is ending is all. I talked him into trying to stop it, but who knows?

LISA
Global warming? Oh man! He is a kook. He’s not trying to talk you into going to measure glaciers in the Arctic or anything, is he?

MATT
Nothing like that. Have you seen my expansion pack?

LISA
The whatsis now?

MATT
Forget it.

LISA
Rachel called.

Matt whirls.

LISA
She said you should recharge your phone. And you got tagged in a YouTube video.

Matt stares at his dead phone.

MOMENTS LATER
Matt in front of his PC. Mom over his shoulder.
Makes a few keystrokes.
A grainy cell phone video shows last night’s orgy.
Matt is clearly visible making out with two girls.
Mom is looking over Matt’s shoulder.
LISA
Oh, yeah! That’s just great. What kind of happy horseshit is this? You said you were doing science experiments.

MATT
Mom! Don’t freak out, okay.

LISA
This was in the God damn paper for crying out loud! You were there?

Matt looks around nervously.

MATT
Don’t say that, okay?

LISA
It’s on the internet now. You might as well go apply at Burger King. It’s impossible to get these things off. Two million views! Jesus!

MATT
You really don’t want to say that.

RACHEL (19, pretty) pulls up in her car, gets out. Charges up the drive.

MATT
Rachel?

RACHEL
This is great. Just great! I was thinking I would give you a chance to explain...but honestly I just don’t care.

MATT
I didn’t do anything. She practically attacked me!

RACHEL
Both of them? I want my iPod back.

LISA
Damn!

RACHEL
And my panties.
MATT
(to Mom)
It’s not what you think.

RACHEL
It’s exactly what you think.

LISA
Okay, I’m going to let you two sort this out.

She goes inside.

RACHEL
There’s nothing to sort out. Matt decided to run around behind my back with a couple of whores.

MATT
No running. There was a complete lack of running!

RACHEL
I saw it myself, Matt. I’m not that stupid.

She turns to leave.

MATT
Rachel wait! Wait a second. Look at something.

RACHEL
Oh, God.

MATT
 Seriously. Just two seconds. Look at this.

He hurriedly scrawls the ‘ATTRACTION’ equation.

Holds it up to her.

RACHEL
I always thought you were like Bill Gates. Dorky but cute. Now you’re just a dork. I want my stuff back.

Matt stares at the equation.

Shakes it.

Rachel is impervious.
Taps her foot impatiently.

EXT. SEATTLE SPACE NEEDLE - DAY
The observation deck slowly rotates.
Fogg and his wife stand at the rail.
He stares blindly at the horizon.
She only watches him.
Fogg raises a hand and points.
She notes the direction and landmarks.

EXT. ROMAN COLLISEUM - DAY
A couple of gladiators are fighting.
One fighter goes down. The other moves in.
He invites the crowd to declare his fate.
Thumbs down? The crowd ROARS.
Thumbs up? A lone voice--

    GOD
    Yay!

INT. LUXURY BOX

    RAX
    This place is awesome!

    GOD
    I knew you’d like it.

God and Rax react to the gore.
They’re enjoying antipasto and wine in Roman garb.

    RAX
    You’re outnumbered here.

    GOD
    Shocking. Aristotelian concepts of man’s relationship with his world haven’t taken hold yet.
RAX
I’d like to take hold of the
winner...woohoo!
(points)
They’re dragging the loser out in
pieces. Look.

Giggles.

GOD
That’s what I meant.

RAX
Know what this place really needs?

GOD
Yes. Open mic comedy.

RAX
A better snack bar. When do they
invent pizza?

GOD
Not for awhile. If you want pizza
you need to go to Chicago.

RAX
New York!

GOD
Whatever.

RAX
The gangland violence would be
cool. Want to meet me?

GOD
I have to go.

RAX
I’m sorry about this, you know.

GOD
No you aren’t.

RAX
Okay, maybe not. But I appreciate
the work you put in here. More
than most. Makes it harder.

GOD
It’s nothing. Next one will be
better right? By the rules. Isn’t
that what they say?
He gets up to leave.
A different gladiator is on the ropes.
This time there is a smattering of voices for mercy.
The smattering turns to a chorus. Saved!

    RAX
    Crap.


INT. COMPUTER STORE - DAY
Matt enters.

    CLERK
    Hey, Matt.

    MATT
    Hey. What can you show me in the way of RAM expansion packs?

Clerk pulls gizmos from under the counter.
Lays them out.

    CLERK
    How much you want?

    MATT
    All of it.

INT. GOD’S LOFT - DAY
Matt has a bunch of extra parts hooked to his computer.
The RULES CARDS are laid out more neatly now.
He selects one. Starts typing.

    “AN ERROR HAS OCCURRED.”

Matt is frustrated.
God appears behind him. Surprising him.
Taps a few keys.
The screen flickers.
Rows and rows of numbers start flying by.
The rows morph into different shapes and colors.
Matt mesmerized.

MATT
This is only the fifth one.

GOD
I know.

MATT
They’re amazing.

GOD
I know.

MATT
I don’t get this one though.

Holds up a card. Reads.

MATT
Potato salad?

GOD
Oh, that’s just my recipe for potato salad. The secret is to boil before peeling...very important.

MATT
Oh. How’d it go with...her?

GOD
You better get packed.

MATT
To go where?

GOD
With me.

MATT
...Heaven?

God laughs.

GOD
No.

MATT
Where then?
GOD  
I’m not sure yet. But you can’t stay here.

MATT  
What about my mom? Rachel?

God shakes his head.

MATT  
Then I’m not going.

GOD  
What do you think this is? A chartered flight? You can just buy an extra ticket?

MATT  
But you can take all this other crap? And the tiger?

Tiger growls in the corner.

MATT  
I’m not leaving them.

GOD  
You don’t have a choice.

MATT  
Yes, I do. This is my choice right here!

He waves a bunch of the cards at God.

MATT  
This is all the power in the universe! Even I can see that. She wouldn’t have a chance against you.

GOD  
I can’t.

MATT  
She’s stronger?

GOD  
No.

MATT  
Then you’re afraid.
GOD
It’s against the rules. They’ll kill me.

Matt stares out the window.

MATT
I can do it.

God laughs.

MATT
What?

GOD
About time.

MATT
You left these here on purpose.

GOD
They’re just the secrets of the universe, Matt. In a format you could access and understand.

MATT
They’re working.

GOD
You’re not ready.

MATT
I can feel it.

GOD
What do you feel?

MATT
I feel like I could fly out the window.

He’s manic, breathing hard.

GOD
We have a name for that.

MATT
What?

GOD
Suicide. You have a long way to go.
MATT
What do I do?

EXT. OLD WEST TOWN - HIGH NOON
Tombstones, tawny sands, tumbleweeds.
Matt steps onto the dusty main street. Spurs jangling.
Shucks his serape to one side revealing revolvers on his hips.
Looks back. God gives him an encouraging ‘thumbs up’ from the saloon.
It’s black. It’s leather. It’s Rax.
She rounds a corner. Confronts him.
A hawk cries.
Matt steps forward. Plants himself.
Lip curls. Fingers twitch.
DRAWS!
Matt fires furiously. BAM BAM BAM.
Does a barrel roll to the left, comes up firing.
CLICK CLICK. Empty.
The dust clears to reveal Rax.
Standing uninjured, laughing.

RAX
Really? This is what you came up with?

God steps out of the saloon. Shrugs.

RAX
I was hoping for some competition at least.

Matt takes off his hat. Flings it into the air.
When it lands, an EARTHQUAKE rumbles the ground.
The ground splits between Matt’s feet, revealing roiling lava underneath.
The chasm steams and smokes toward Rax.
She nods, impressed.
It circles her.
Strands her on a crumbling remnant of solid ground.
She calmly shrugs.
Starts to jump, but she’s STUCK.
Matt is magically holding her in place.
She turns furious.
Her bobbing island is sucked into the infernal maelstrom.
Matt and God approach the edge.
Look in.

GOD
She’s not dead. You have to follow.

MATT
In there?

GOD
You’ll be fine.

God gathers up some dirt. Spits on it.
Forms a clod. Tosses it in the hole.
It makes a black tunnel through the flames.

GOD
Don’t lose.

MATT
Don’t worry.

GOD
I’m serious. If you lose I can’t help you. Can’t take you with me. You won’t belong in any world. Understand?

MATT
No.
GOD
In you go.

He shoves Matt down.

EXT. GOTHIC CASTLE - NIGHT
Baroque castle carved out of the mountainside.
The lava still pours down from some unseen upper world.
It collects in roiling deadly pools.
The only approach is narrow land bridge.
Matt feels the heft of a SWORD in his hand.
Starts across.
A burning tree falls across his path.
He barely dodges it.
Lava demolishes part of the path.
He parkours from the crumbling chunk back to the path.
A murderous troll blocks his advance.
Matt holograms himself into three images.
The troll lunges at the center.
Grips vapor.
The real Matt slashes at him from the side.
Kills him.
Finally reaches the main entrance.
Collects himself.
Pushes in to--

INT. THRONE ROOM
Rax lounges on an opulent throne.

RAX
Have any trouble finding the place?
Matt assumes a fighting stance, sword poised.

Rax giggles.

Sword turns to sand.

RAX
That was a very naughty thing you did. It’s time for your punishment.

Matt looks around desperately.

Notices he is now chained to the ground. Tugs at it.

RAX
I’m going to do you a favor, Matt.

MATT
I don’t need anything from you.

RAX
I’m going to tell you the truth.

MATT
I know the truth.

RAX
Oh, really?

MATT
He’ll never leave us.

RAX
He doesn’t give a shit about you.

MATT
He loves us.

RAX
If he loved you he would have worked a lot harder. You are designed about as well as a ninth-grade science project. You are an obscenity to the universe. An abomination. And you must be destroyed.

Rax is bathed in light from a movie projector.

Horrific black and white images are being shown on the wall behind her.

Hitler.
Hiroshima.
Race riots.
Rax’s silhouette conducts a symphony of agony.
Matt looks away. Ashamed.

RAX
You want to know the worst part?
The only thing you have going for you as a species is your giant brain. You barely use two percent of it of course. And the only thing you use if for is to invent new ways of killing each other.

Matt is furious. Sputtering.

MATT
Oh, sure if that’s all you look at! A bunch of black and white pictures of the worst of us. Like we never accomplished anything. We never got to the moon?

RAX
They know what you’re capable of. And what you’re not. That’s why I’m here.

MATT
We can do anything!

RAX
He didn’t tell you, did he?

MATT
He told me everything.

She comes close.

RAX
Such a smart boy. I’m surprised you didn’t ask him. Aren’t you just a little curious?

MATT
About what?

RAX
About what’s wrong with you. You must be wondering.
Why would all the power in the universe be against you?

MATT
You already said. For the violence.

RAX
No. That’s not it. The universe can handle violence. Just look at me.

MATT
What then?

RAX
You can’t feel.

MATT
We can. We feel. We feel everything.

RAX
You know how a blind man can sometimes barely tell the difference between night and day?

MATT
So?

RAX
That’s how much you feel. It’s a vestigial remnant. An echo. Think you know what love is? Hate? Jealousy? Pain? If you could really feel them you’d actually be able to see them. You walk around with these emotions in your back pocket. But experiencing them full force is like standing in front of an avalanche.

MATT
You’re wrong.

RAX
You’re not important enough to lie to.

MATT
You can’t see an emotion.
RAX
Did I mention arrogant and close-minded, too? I can prove it. If you want.

The doorway to a balcony bursts open. BANG.

Rachel is there being restrained by two demon-creatures.

She has a noose around her neck.

She spins to face Matt and Rax.

Frantic. Terrified.

RACHEL
Matt!

MATT
Rachel!

RACHEL
What is this? I was home. In my room, on my computer.

MATT
Don’t worry.

RAX
Worry.

RACHEL
Who is that?

MATT
I know what to do. I’ve been training.

He raises his arms. Casts his most powerful magic at Rax.

She rolls her eyes. Bored.

The demon-creatures share a look.

RAX
Almost finished? We’ve got a lot to do.

Matt examines his impotent hands.

RACHEL
Matt!

The demon creatures start to push Rachel over the rampart.
RAX

Stop!

The demons stop.

RAX

I’ll give you a choice, Matt. Your woman or your world.

RACHEL

I’m not his woman. I broke up with him.

RAX

I’m not interested in the current ups and downs of the relationship.

RACHEL

You should have those two sluts here.

MATT

I told you. Nothing happened!

RACHEL

Sure it didn’t. And now I have to deal with this too. Great! Just great.

MATT

Me. Let me take her place. She’s innocent in all this. Let her go.

RAX

That’s not an option.

She points at the demons. They push Rachel over the side. Screams. Flailing limbs.

MATT

No!

He rushes to the low wall. Looks over. Rachel’s dead body swings near the ground. He leaps! Does a tuck and roll thing in mid air. Grabs the rope and slides down one-handed. Lands in the--
COURTYARD

Rachel sways before him. Limp and lifeless.

He cradles her.

    MATT
    I’m so sorry. I’m so sorry, baby.

Holds her close.

    RACHEL
    Boo!

Matt staggers back, terrified.

    MATT
    Wha--?

Rax appears at his side.

    RACHEL
    I told you he was chicken.

    RAX
    You were right.

    RACHEL
    So predictable. It’s pathetic.

She grabs the rope and pulls her legs over her head. Wriggles out of the noose like an artful gymnast.

Drops to the ground.

    MATT
    Wait a minute. I’m a chicken? I volunteered to take your place. How is that being a chicken?

    RACHEL
    You just wanted to kill yourself.

    RAX
    So you could avoid making a tough decision.

    MATT
    (to Rachel)
    What is this? You’re working with her?
RACHEL
More like partners. Wouldn’t you say?

MATT
Do you realize she is the enemy? She is here to destroy the world.

RAX
I am here to purify the world! To cleanse the disease and vituperation.

RACHEL
I’m helping. She’s got these formulas. They’re amazing. They’ll change the way you see the universe.

MATT
Rachel, look! She’s brainwashing you or something. She’s evil. Look inside yourself. You can see it!

She concentrates.

RACHEL
Wait, wait. There is something. Matt come here.

He steps closer.

Rachel punches him in the mouth.

RACHEL
That’s for the other day.

Matt staggers back.

Bumps into Rax.

RAX
See you around.

She flicks her finger.

Matt is magically flipped into the sky.

EXT. OPEN OCEAN – DAY

God fishing in a little dinghy. Wears a stupid fishing hat.
Matt falls out of the sky. SPLASH!

God rows over.

    MATT
    I...I...couldn’t.

    GOD
    Don’t.

Hauls him aboard.

    GOD
    Want to see something amazing?

God whistles.

Some whales breach.

They do a couple of tricks.

Matt is amazed.

God smiles.

    MATT
    I lost. You told me not to lose
    and I lost.

    GOD
    No you didn’t.

    MATT
    She kicked my ass!

    GOD
    She’s just showing off. You showed
    her courage and strength. She
    likes that. Trust me. You bought
    us some time.

Raises his arms.

    GOD
    Big finish!

The whales jump over the boat.

EXT. GOD’S LOFT - DAY

God and Matt are unloading cases of Fancy Feast from the convertible.
Matt pushes the cart. God holds the door open.
An elderly couple approaches.
The man is blind, tapping a cane.
Fogg and his wife.

**FOGG**
Excuse me. Do you know how to get to the wharf from here? We were on the tour and got separated.

God doesn’t answer. Seems perplexed.
Stares at the Reverend.
Matt jumps in.

**MATT**
Yeah, sure. It’s down this way.
(points)
Just follow the signs at the end of the block. You didn’t go too far wrong.

**FOGG**
Thank you, young man. You must have a lot of cats.

He laughs. Points to his nose.

**FOGG**
It’s the only thing that still works. Heh heh. Come on, dear.

They start walking away.

**MATT**
(to God)
What’s wrong?

**GOD**
Hmm? Nothing. Get a move on!

Matt’s mom drives up. Runs over the curb.
She’s yelling before she gets out.

**LISA**
Matthew Patrick Bussey! Would you mind telling me where you’ve been for the last two days? Sean?
I should have known you’d have something to do with this. Get in the car now!

MATT

No.

GOD

No.

LISA
No? No? I don’t know what you think is going on here mister but this kid starts Stanford next week and I won’t have him gallivanting all over the northwest with a some radical environmentalist.

GOD
Radical?

MATT
Mom, look. It’s nothing like that. Mr. Evans is just showing me some stuff.

LISA
What happened to your face?

She whirls on God.

LISA
Was he in a fight? What happened to his face? What’s going on here?

MATT
Nothing. I’m fine.

LISA
In the car now!

GOD
Just wait.

LISA
No. He needs to be home.

BANG! A gunshot blasts.

Fogg slowly lowers the smoking revolver.

God crumples to the pavement holding his guts and gasping.
FOGG
I see you Satan! I don’t need eyes. I can see your evil with my heart.

MATT
He’s not Satan you idiot. He’s God!

FOGG
Die devil-worshiper. Die!

He starts firing more.

Matt and his Mom dive behind the car.

God drags himself across the sidewalk.

GOD
Matt.

Mrs. Fogg holds the ammo box, while Fogg reloads.

They drop some bullets. They roll around.

MATT
Stay down!

FOGG
The almighty will rain brimstone upon you for your blasphemy. Oh yes, I am blind. But he

(Bang)
Sees

(Bang)
Everything

(Bang)

Fogg strides forward. Tries to shoot God close up.

FOGG
He sees the emptiness of your soul.

Draws a bead. FIRES!

MATT
Noooo!

Lisa grabs Matt from behind, yanks him back.

Fogg turns and fires at them too. Bang! Bang! Click! Click!
EXT. RACHEL’S HOUSE - DAY
Matt careens to a stop over the curb. Leaps out.
Rachel opens the screen door.

    MATT
    Where is she?

    RACHEL
    I don’t know. She’s gone.

    MATT
    Bullshit! Tell me now.

    RACHEL
    I don’t know. I swear.

    MATT
    To what?

Rachel thinks.

    MATT
    Can you contact her?

INT. HOSPITAL - LATER
Rain lashes the windows.
Matt’s mom is talking to some cops. They’re taking notes and talking into radios.
Matt sits morose, head down.
Doctors and nurses scurry by.
Some nuns walk by. The last one has her face obscured but her shoes are way too sexy.
She ducks into--

GOD’S HOSPITAL ROOM
She removes the habit. It’s Rax.
God is hooked up to all kinds of machines. Face bandaged to the point of mummification.
She comes close. Touches his forehead.
Leans in. Whispers something. Pulls back.
RAX
Nice try, dumb ass.

GOD
Hey, he could have killed me.

RAX
I doubt it.

GOD
Did you send him?

RAX
Maybe.

GOD
Why?

RAX
You need to know what’s going on here. They’re dangerous. They’re even dangerous to you. Get me now?

Turns his back on her.

GOD
I’m not leaving.

RAX
You have to.

GOD
No.

RAX
Listen to me. You don’t have a choice. They were very strict with me on this.

GOD
Quentin?

RAX
All of them.

GOD
What did they say?

RAX
They said.... They said if you wouldn’t leave I should just go ahead and destroy it anyway.

God deflates.
INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS
Matt stares at God’s closed door. He’s suspicious.
Gets up. Pushes it open.
Slips inside.
Beat.
Explodes back out.

MATT
He’s gone!

EXT. TABLE LANDS - DAY
Rax drives a motorcycle below towering flat-topped cliffs.
Turns sharp. Goes off-road. Guns the engine.
God rides in the sidecar. Struggling to hold on.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - LATER
Rax’s hair cascades down as she removes her helmet.
God opens a bottle of wine.
Four-star feast on a table nearby.

RAX
How’s your head?

GOD
Better.

RAX
Is this it?

She examines the view.

GOD
This is it.

RAX
Amazing. And it works?

GOD
Works thick and thin.
RAX
Wow. I have to give you credit on the imagery at least.

GOD
It’s just water and limestone. And time.

RAX
Lots of time.

He hands her a glass of wine.

GOD
Too much time. Cheers.

She sips. Loves it.

RAX
This is...mosaic.

GOD
Been a long time since I heard that.

He leans in.

Hesitates. Kisses her.

She yields. Pulls him in.

Releases.

RAX
Feed me first.

GOD
Okay.

He pulls out a chair for her.

RAX
That better be potato salad.

GOD
Of course.

RAX
Ahhh, you remembered.

She steals a bite. Smiles.

Grows suspicious.
RAX
What is this?

GOD
Well, the secret is to boil the potatoes with the skin on--

RAX
No! All of this.

She sweeps her arms.

GOD
This is me saying goodbye.

RAX
Sure it is. You need candles and silver for that?

GOD
I was trying to make it nice.

RAX
You think you can seduce me? Are you crazy?

She waves her arm.

In the distance a mesa TIPS OVER.

RAX
This is for your little plan.

GOD
It’s nothing like that.

RAX
So you won’t mind this--

Another mesa EXPLODES.

GOD
Honey, wait!

RAX
No! No waiting. The time for waiting is over.

Another mesa is split down the middle.

God stares in horror.
Ever since I got here you’ve been running this little game on me. Keep trying to find the way in. You think you can play me?

She waves her arm again.

Nothing happens. No destruction.

God is preventing her.

You can’t do that.

She jerks a shoulder, trying to shake the spell loose.

You have to listen to me.

Let go.

No.

Do you know what I could do to you for that?

Yes.

It would be the end of you.

I don’t care.

Not just your career either. You entirely.

Remember when we first came here?

Last chance.

And we were going to do something nobody had ever tried before.
RAX
Is this where I’m supposed to remember how great it was?

GOD
I know I let you down.

She laughs.

RAX
I could live with ‘let down’. I can recover from ‘let down’. What I can’t do is survive contempt. Contempt and dismissal.

GOD
I was lost. And consumed.

RAX
You destroyed us. You almost destroyed me.

GOD
You want to return the favor?

RAX
I don’t work for you. I’m here to correct a mistake...that’s all.

God surveys the desert, still beautiful after Rax’s wrath.

GOD
Go ahead. I won’t interfere anymore. It was a stupid idea anyway. I’m sorry.

Rax watches him leave.

Samples the potato salad again.

Can’t resist the...tiniest...smile.

INT. MATT’S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY
Matt sits at the kitchen table.
Mom puts a sandwich in front of him.
She sits.

LISA
What did you mean today? What did you yell at that guy?
Hmm?

LISA
You said he wasn’t Satan. He was God. What does that mean?

MATT
I’ve had a weird couple of days, Mom.

LISA
I’ll say. You’re in the paper again.

MATT
Does it say if they caught the guy?

LISA
Not yet.

MATT
You okay?

LISA
Me? Of course. A couple of crazies open fire on the street. What’s the big deal? Takes a lot more than that to rattle me. It’s not like I did a tour in Fallujah.

Takes a sip of wine.

MATT
How many is that?

LISA
Of course I’m not alright! Are you crazy? They shot at us today.

MATT
I know.

LISA
I mean you were there right? I’m not just imagining it? Real guns. Real bullets. Yeah, but I’m fine.

MATT
Mom.

LISA
And then they steal Sean out of the hospital. You know he’s dead.
MATT
Mom!

LISA
He got shot in the head, Matt! Right in front of us. They took away the body for police...business.

MATT
Why would they do that?

LISA
It’s what they do. When they don’t want the killer to know he’s dead. They hide the body.

MATT
Oh man, mom. You gotta--. Maybe if you lay down for awhile--.

LISA
I had a dream about your dad. Did I tell you?

Matt leads her to the--

LIVING ROOM
Lies her down on the couch.

LISA
--And we were living in some kind of mountain cabin. It was beautiful. That’s what I remember when I think about it. It was so pretty it didn’t seem like Earth.

MATT
Because the Earth was destroyed?

LISA
Yes! Yes, that’s it exactly. How did you know? Did you have the same dream?

MATT
Something like that. Just try to relax.

He sets her wine glass on the table.

Shuts off the light.
LISA
Will you stay with me?

MATT
I have to go out for awhile.

LISA
Honey, no! I don’t like any of this. Something terrible is going to happen, I know it.

MATT
Maybe I can stop it.

LISA
Maybe you shouldn’t try.

The doorbell CHIMES.

Matt goes to the

FRONT DOOR

He’s surprised to find Rachel.

MATT
What?

RACHEL
Something’s wrong.

MATT
Gee, you think?

RACHEL
Can I come in?

MATT
No.

EXT. GOD’S CONVERTIBLE - LATER

Matt drives with Rachel in the passenger seat.

Cruising the rain-soaked boulevard.

RACHEL
She told me if I studied hard I could have whatever I wanted.

Matt gives her an understanding glance.
RACHEL
And it was amazing.

MATT
I know.

RACHEL
And they...filled you up. Right?

Matt laughs.

MATT
Yeah. What did you tell her you wanted?

RACHEL
In the beginning...just one thing. You. But she turned me against you. She was the one who showed me that video.

MATT
Nothing happened.

RACHEL
I know. She told me you were weak. That your weakness would end the world. I didn’t even know what she meant, but I believed her anyway. She told me you’d try to take my power away. Go to war with me. It was like I was on drugs or something.

MATT
It’s okay.

RACHEL
Can you forgive me?

MATT
I don’t know. Can you tell me what she taught you?

EXT. AFRICAN SAVANNAH – DAY
Rax treks through the bush on foot.
Reaches a clearing.
Steps closer to a ledge. Surveys the landscape.
A magnificent valley lies before her.
Shucks off her knapsack. Tosses it aside.
Rax raises her arms.
The ground RUMBLES.
Grazing herds bolt for safety.
Suddenly, hot holes dot the valley floor.
Dirt, rocks, and debris shoot out with explosive force.
Jagged fissures join the holes together.
The valley becomes a roiling cauldron.
The dirt and debris is PUSHED AWAY from the center, like a flower bud turning inside out.
An ornate spire is brought to the surface.
Then another.
And another.
GOD’S HOUSE reveals itself, layer by layer, clean and new.
Rax smiles.

RAX
Found it.

She admires her discovery.

EXT. GOD & RAX’S HOME - DAY
Marble columns. Soaring arches. Tinkling fountains.
Wild animals in peaceful repose.
Rax glides through the main arcade. Her safari khakis replaced by a gown of gossamer.
She leans against a column. Staring at a dais ahead.
Two ornate thrones, side by side.
A lion sidles up, nudges her. She scratches him behind the ears.
She notices a stairway curving upward. Starts up. Enters--
GOD'S LIBRARY


She approaches a writing desk. Sits.

Opens a notebook. It is full of charcoal drawings of assorted plants and animals.

Lifts another book. It is full of drawings of humans only. Sketches, doodles, scientific notations.

She looks closely. Turns to the back of the book.

The drawings turn horrific, frightening.

Some torn pages. Some with X’s drawn over them.

Notes here are in RED.

Rax runs a hand over the page, trying to divine the emotion.

She closes the book. Stares across the valley toward the setting sun.

INT. GOD’S LOFT - NIGHT

Matt is opening a ton of Fancy Feast cans.

Rachel thumbs through the formula cards.

    RACHEL
    No, these are different.

    MATT
    This one?

    RACHEL
    No. No offense but the ones she showed me were more...powerful.

    MATT
    Do you remember any of them?

He opens up his laptop.

    RACHEL
    Sure.

She points.
RACHEL
See this one? It’s very similar to
one she showed me, except in mine
the coefficient was negative two.

MATT
That doesn’t make any sense.
Unless...

RACHEL
Unless neither of them is telling
us the truth.

MATT
Surprised?

RACHEL
Yeah.

MATT
But I’ve run a couple of these a
dozen times. They function.
They’re true.

RACHEL
What if we were both just getting
half? The half they wanted us to
understand?

MATT
He told me once, ‘The first thing
they teach you is balance.’

She laughs.

MATT
What?

RACHEL
You tried to use...what was it?
‘Attraction’ on me?

Matt shrugs. Embarrassed.

RACHEL
I could feel it right away. It was
like a tugging. But I balanced it
with Trailing Smoke.

MATT
Sounds like cowboy cigarettes.
RACHEL
That’s what I said. But it obscures, mutes. Evens out the edges. You know?

MATT
Destroys. Maybe they only work in conjunction with each other. Or all of them together. How many did you learn?

RACHEL
Eight.

MATT
Nine.

RACHEL
Show off. Look at this one.

She taps out a few keys.

Matt leans over the couch.

Unbelieving. Swallows hard.

Grabs a fistful of Rachel’s hair. Torques her head back.

Puts his mouth on hers. She yields.

MATT
(into her neck)
Is it love?

RACHEL
It’s called fusion. The first time I saw it, I about beat myself into a coma.

MATT
You should have called me.

RACHEL
I hate you. Ahhh.

BEDROOM - LATER

Rachel is splayed across the bed like a murder victim.

Matt stands over her sipping from an Ambrosia bottle.

She stirs.
RACHEL
What time is it?

MATT
Late.

RACHEL
Water.

MATT
Try this.

Holds the bottle out to her. She reaches for it.
An nearby explosion rocks the building. KABOOM!
They are both terrified.
They rush for window.
Small meteors are raining down.
A couple more hit nearby. BOOM BOOM.

MATT
Rax.

In the distance a meteor slashes through the Space Needle.

INT. STRIP CLUB - EARLIER
God is drunk and surrounded by a coterie of hot babes.
He’s whooping it up and passing out twenties.

FRONT ENTRANCE
Rax enters.
A sleazy manager approaches.

CLUB MANAGER
You’re hired!

RAX
I already have a job. Want to hear about it?

CLUB MANAGER
I got your job right here, baby.
Let’s get a look at those titties.
RAX
How charming.

A giant snake appears on his shoulder.
Wraps itself around his neck before he can react.
He spastically claws at it.
Some dancers notice the horrific spectacle. They bolt in all
directions, twenties flying behind them.
God looks around for the disturbance. Raises his shades.
Spots Rax.

GOD
Honey! You came back.

RAX
Maybe.

God notices the writhing manager.

GOD
Oh cool! You did the snake thing
on him.

RAX
He’s one of those dirty talkers.
You know?

GOD
Sorry.

RAX
Outside.

She turns for the door.
God turns the snake into a feather boa, then follows her.
The manager heaves a breath.

EXT. STRIP CLUB – NIGHT
Rax’s decked out low-rider is parked in front.
She leans into the passenger window.
Comes out holding the leather-bound sketch book.
Presents it to him.
GOD
Where did you get this?

RAX
The house.

GOD
You found it?

RAX
I read the notes. You did it intentionally. You created these people this...flawed. On purpose.

Some strippers come running and screaming from the club.

God doesn’t notice. Keeps staring at Rax.

RAX
You did it because you wanted to get fired.

God looks down, ashamed.

RAX
Because you knew they’d send me back?

He meets her eyes.

Chokes back a sob.

GOD
I missed you so much. I didn’t know what else to do.

RAX
I missed you, too.

An embrace.

RAX
I love you.

They kiss.

An meteor demolishes the Space Needle.

The stare at the spectacle as debris rains down.

GOD
Quentin!
RAX
Nice shot.

GOD
This is not part of my plan! Why are they doing this?

RAX
It might be my fault.

GOD
Oh, no! He’s in love with you, isn’t he?

RAX
He shouldn’t be. But he is.

GOD
And now he’s pissed.

RAX
We should get out of here.

GOD
I can’t.

RAX
You can’t stay here.

GOD
No! I really can’t.

RAX
What did you do?

GOD
It was the only way I could make it work.

RAX
You anchored yourself? Without permission? That’s permanent.

God nods.

RAX
That’s why it’s so pretty.

GOD
Thanks.

Rax scans the sky.
RAX
It’s not going to be pretty for long.

GOD
Can’t you do something?

RAX
Like what? Speed them up? I’m a lot better at sending them than stopping them.

GOD
What are they aiming for? Were there any obvious weaknesses you found?

RAX
It’s nothing but weakness.

GOD
Do you think you could get him to lay off for a day?

INT. GOD’S LOFT - NIGHT
Matt and Rachel are getting dressed when God and Rax arrive.

GOD
What’s this?

MATT
Nothing.

GOD
You had sex on my bed didn’t you? That is totally gross.

RAX
Check out what the kids did, honey.

Rax shows God a marble-sized POINT OF LIGHT hovering around the loft.

GOD
Oh, crap.

It floats near some plants, which immediately wilt.
The point gathers their life force and gets a little bigger.

RACHEL
What is it?
Isn’t it sweet, dear? The kids made their own world.

The tiger swats at the point. Growls.

You’re supposed to do that out in space.

We didn’t know...

We better just get rid of it now.

He pulls on some heavy gloves and goggles.

Reaches for it.

No! We want to keep it.

Are you out of your mind? Do you have any idea how much work is involved?

If you think for one second that I’m just going to be able to take care of it for you...you can forget it!

We’ll take care of it ourselves.

God gets a hold of the light.

Corrals it into a metal box the size of a suitcase.

I can’t just add another planet to the solar system. I have enough things flying around.

Look at the appetite on this thing. It’s already killing the trees.

This won’t hold it for very long.

He checks some knobs and dials on the box.
GOD
Oh that’s great! Just like Earth.
What a surprise.

Matt and Rachel share a proud smile.

RACHEL
Will it have people?

RAX
You better hope not.

GOD
Hard to say.

Rax looks out the window.

RAX
Pretty soon this planet won’t have people either!

They all look. A giant fireball glows in the distance.

EXT. OUTERSPACE - NIGHT
The fireball hurtles towards Earth.
It passes some asteroids and pulls them in.
Grows larger.
Aiming straight at a little blue planet in the distance.

INT. OBSERVATORY - NIGHT
Bedlam.
Some astronomers are looking through the telescope viewer.
Others are running for phones.

INT. OFFICE RECEPTION AREA - NIGHT
The same office we started in. Now dark and deserted.
The elevator doors open. Rax squints into the dark.
Enters
OFFICE

Glides through the cubicles towards a light from Quentin’s office.

OUTER OFFICE

She knocks.

QUENTIN (O.S.)

I know it’s you.

She enters.

QUENTIN’S OFFICE

Sits. Throws a leg over the chair arm.

RAX

Why do you have to be such a bitch? For this?

She indicates her lugubriousness.

RAX

It’s beneath you.

QUENTIN

He is in violation.

RAX

You said I could do whatever I wanted. And I want to wait.

QUENTIN

I lied.

RAX

It’s a higher planet. And you know it. Much higher than you told me. Some of it is brilliant.

QUENTIN

I don’t care. You had a job. You didn’t do it.

RAX

He has rights. He anchored himself.

QUENTIN

Without permission.
RAX
I could go to the council for relief. You know what you’re doing is illegal. They would destroy you.

QUENTIN
You don’t know that. At least I can say I’m doing my job. You don’t have time for that anyway.

He points a remote control at the wall. A screen flickers on.

It shows an animation of the meteor inching closer to Earth.

INT. GOD & RAX’S HOME - NIGHT
God stampedes up the main arcade.
Matt and Rachel trailing behind.
They stop to gawk in wonder.

GOD
Hurry!

He starts running.
Outside the line of pillars some birds and animals keep pace.
Matt and Rachel follow.
They reach the--

NAVE
Just as God disappears up a curving staircase.
They follow.
They arrive at the--

SPIRE TOP
An open air court provides a stunning view of the approaching menace in the sky.
He takes out a sling. Whips it overhead.
Sends a rock soaring into the stratosphere.
INT. QUENTIN’S OFFICE

Rax and Quentin watch the screen as a glowing object leaves Earth on a collision course with the meteor.

QUENTIN
He’ll never make it.

RAX
Hey, Quentin!

He turns to find her in a bikini. He gapes.

Rax seizes the moment to push some buttons on Quentin’s desk.

He moves to stop her. She repels him backwards into the wall.

EXT. OUTERSPACE

The meteor crumbles a little bit.

Some flaming chunks fall away.

EXT. CITY STREET – DAY

A worried mother leads a couple of her kids up the block.

Meets her husband.

They kiss. Dad sweeps the youngest into his arms and together they enter a--

CHURCH

Surging crowd. Standing room only.

An organist plays softly. All heads bowed.

MONTAGE

The scene is repeated across the world.

Groups big and small join hands to pray while a growing fireball turns night to day.
At a Buddhist temple.
An Islamic mosque.
An aircraft carrier.
By the roadside in gridlocked traffic.

END MONTAGE

EXT. SPIRE TOP - NIGHT
God is loading up another shot in his sling.
Matt and Rachel look over the side.
Suddenly STREAKS OF LIGHT whoosh across the valley floor.
They are the physical emanations from the worldwide prayers.
They come from all directions.
Converge on each other.
Become an unbroken beam.
Circle up the sides of the spire.
Flow into God himself.
Matt and Rachel see a God transformed. The wise-cracking hipster is replaced by a God more...biblical.
Instinctively, they join hands.
Their hands create a shaft of light as well.
It caroms toward God.
Absorbing strength, He hefts a much larger boulder.
Does a shot-put spin.
Heaves it skyward.
No arc. It just hauls ass.
God tears chunks out of the rampart with his bare hands.
Flings them too.
OUTERSPACE

God’s first few missiles are aiming for the flaming meteor.

IMPACT!

A couple of chunks fly off, but not enough to make any difference.

QUENTIN’S OFFICE

Rax watches the screen.

    RAX
    Come on...

Suddenly, Archibald grabs her from behind.

    ARCHIBALD
    You bitch!

He throws her down. Starts hitting buttons.

    ARCHIBALD
    Couldn’t leave well enough alone could you? Doesn’t anybody around here believe in rules anymore?

Rax wipes a trickle of blood from her mouth.

    RAX
    Like rules?

    ARCHIBALD
    It was a simple assignment.

    RAX
    Here’s a rule for you. You said I could do whatever I wanted.

    ARCHIBALD
    Within reason.

    RAX
    How’s this for reason?

A snake appears on his shoulder.

Wraps itself around his neck. He struggles in bug-eyed terror as another snake slithers across his face.

He topples.
Rax turns her attention back to the screen.
But it’s too late.
The meteor is just seconds away from Earth.
She frantically hits buttons anyway.

OUTERSPACE
The meteor is closer to earth now.
Blows a bunch of dust off the moon as it whooshes by.

EXT. SPIRE TOP - CONTINUOUS
The fireball fills the sky now.
Night turns to a reddish day.
The bands of light still rush over the hillsides, infusing God.
He kneels. Draws a finger across the stones. Whispers some incantation.
Stands. Turns to the fireball.
 Raises an arm.
The light streaks swirling around his feet are redirected out his fingers.
A blade of light shoots skyward.

OUTERSPACE
The meteor hits the leading edge of the blade of light.
Skids along for a second.
Then a crevasse appears in the crust.
It splits into two tumbling halves.

SPIRE TOP
Matt, Rachel, and God watch the meteor chunks fly over head.
There is a huge wind, and some debris is churned up but no real damage.

Spontaneous applause breaks out in--

THE VATICAN

A MUSLIM MOSQUE

AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER

AN OVERCROWDED CITY STREET

INT. QUENTIN’S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Rax breathes a sigh as the display shows Earth still intact. She turns to see Quentin rousing himself.

RAX
Here’s the deal. Leave it alone.
And I disappear.

QUENTIN
They’re going to want to see a clean planet. Otherwise, they’ll never stop looking.

RAX
I might have just the thing.

EXT. MOUNTAIN VALLEY - DAY

A sparkling clear day. Picturesque valley.

A rough-hewn log cabin with a curl of white smoke.

Rachel emerges, and squints across the valley. Sees two approaching hikers.

RACHEL
They’re here!

Matt comes out of the cabin. They wave to the distance.
EXT. LOG CABIN - LATER

Everybody sits, relaxing in the sun.

GOD
I’m proud of you two. You’ve accomplished something remarkable here.

RAX
It’s beautiful.

MATT
I’m honored you think so. A lot of this was just here. We’ve seen rams...buffalo too.

RACHEL
He’s cataloguing the insect life. He’s filled up two notebooks already.

GOD
Remarkable. It’s fun too, isn’t it? It’s okay, you can tell me the truth.

MATT
It’s a lot of work. But we’re determined to create something special here.

GOD
Well, you’ve made a good start. Trying to give me a run for my money?

Matt laughs.

MATT
I’m sure I’m a long way from that.

RACHEL
We’re honored that you would come all the way out here to visit.

RAX
I’m sorry it’s taken us so long. Do you need anything?

MATT
I’d sure take all the advice you could offer.
GOD
Just remember to make this section as solid as you can before you move on. Don’t go wandering around until you’re sure everything is done.

LOG CABIN - LATER
Matt and Rachel wave as God and Rax hike away.

GRAVEL PARKING AREA - LATER
God and Rax come to a high-country parking area. His convertible sits at the ready.

They toss their backpacks in the trunk.

As they drive off they pass a sign: GRAND TETONS NATIONAL PARK.

The radio is on.

NEWS ANNOUNCER (O.S.)
So the latest conspiracy theory is that the ‘gubmint’ was responsible for removing all the artifacts because they knew the meteor was coming. I mean, it sort of makes sense. How else do you explain everything just reappearing the next day? Go ahead and give us a call on the news line if you have a better idea. In the meantime here’s new music from Carrie Underwood on AM 560, Wyoming’s Big Country...

RAX
When are you going to tell them?

GOD
I don’t know. Never?

RAX
You can’t leave them out there over the winter. They’ll freeze to death.

GOD
They have firewood. I feel like Thai food.
RAX
It’s morning in Bangkok right now, dummy. They won’t have dinner for hours. How about Paris?

GOD
I hate getting dressed up. Morocco?

RAX
Cool. Can we spend the night?

GOD
Sure.

Rax opens the glove compartment.
The giant bud comes rolling out.

RAX
What’s this?

GOD
Oh? That’s just something new I was working on.

FADE OUT.