

COMPLICIT

Written By

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FADE IN:

INT. JESUS HOUSE -- BEDROOM - DAY

JESUS GONZALEZ, forties, slim, puts on a back brace, a blue, crossing guard shirt, with patches insignia on shoulders that read, TOWNSHIP OF BELLEVILLE N.J. POLICE DEPT.

There's a visible sadness in Jesus eyes as he checks, through the dresser mirror, on SAM ROMANO, thirties, looks older, purple lesions on face, asleep in a hospital bed.

JESUS  
(whispers)  
I love you, Sam.

Jesus sits on the edge of Queen size bed, reaches, prescription medication bottle on nightstand, takes one white round pill, swallows it down with a sip of coffee.

DOORBELL SOUND

Jesus races down the

STAIRCASE

Through a short

HALLWAY

and into the

KITCHEN

GLORIA, forties, black, home aid, care-giver, dressed in uniform.

GLORIA  
Good morning, Jesus.

JESUS  
Morning Gloria. Cold out?

GLORIA  
A bit chilly. Well, after all is late October. But, is gonna be a beautiful sunny day. Praise God.

JESUS  
Praise God. Okay, I gotta get going. Sam's still asleep, he was vomiting at around one a.m. So, please try to get him to eat.

GLORIA  
That's the AZT.

2.  
JESUS

I know.

GLORIA

It supposed to help him with the disease, but with very unpleasant site effects... And you, poor thing, you look exhausted.

JESUS

I am. See you in a bit.

INT. JESUS CAR -- DAY

Car radio plays, as Jesus takes the short, seven minute drive to his post in the same town.

NEWSCASTER (V.O.)

1010 wins time at the beep exactly, seven-thirty, on this Wednesday the 23 day of October, 1985. Current temperature is 47 going up to a comfortable 51 degrees. Now, here's John Smith with your traffic--

Jesus turns off the radio.

EXT. FOUR STREET INTERSECTION -- DAY

Jesus drives across intersection, turns left into local Bank, parking lot, where he parks Monday to Friday.

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT -- CONTINUOUS

Jesus exits car, opens trunk, removes hand held stop sign. He proceeds to the corner where he stands and waits for pedestrians, specially children, to cross this very dangerous intersection.

SIDEWALK

The street he guards has four different traffic lights.

DOROTHY, seventy-five, is standing on the other side of the street, waiting for Jesus to assist her.

LIGHT turns RED.

Jesus whistles, raises stop sign up, steps out to the street. Dorothy crosses towards him.

DOROTHY

Good morning, Jesus.

JESUS

Morning, Miss Dorothy.

DOROTHY  
Lovely morning, isn't it?

ON SIDEWALK

JESUS  
Sure is.

DOROTHY  
Would you like a cup of coffee or  
tea from the bakery?

JESUS  
No, thank you. Already had me a  
cup. Going for your bread?

DOROTHY  
You know me, I gotta have my coffee  
with a piece of fresh, Italian bread.  
Oops. Kids coming. See you in a  
bit.

JESUS  
Bye.

As Jesus makes eye contact with two male teenagers, MICHAEL,  
fifteen and CHARLIE, fourteen, black, both across the street,  
the light-counter is flashing, counting down the seconds.  
FIVE, FOUR, THREE, TWO...

The two teens talk among themselves and proceed to cross.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Wait! Wait!

Teenagers ignore Jesus request.

Jesus, blows whistle to get cars attention to wait for the  
kids, as the light turns yellow to green.

Now two teens and Jesus safely on

SIDEWALK

JESUS (CONT'D)  
What is wrong with you?! Didn't you  
hear me telling you to wait? You  
could'a been killed!

MICHAEL  
(innocently)  
I, I didn't hear you. Charlie, did  
you hear him?

CHARLIE  
No, Michael, I didn't. Sorry, Jesus.

JESUS

Michael, you're new here but, Charlie you know me. You know the rules. You have to wait for my signal regardless if the light is red or green.

MICHAEL

Why don't you get a real job, buster.

Jesus grabs Michael by the jacket.

JESUS

Hey...Don't do that. I'm here to protect you. Show some gratitude and respect. Please.

MICHAEL

(defying)

Are you finished? Now, let go my arm.

JESUS

Have a good day.

The two walk away slowly. Michael's eyes remain locked on Jesus, as he backs away, devilishly smiling.

The two teens break into laughter.

TOMMY NOLAN, fourteen, shoulder length hair, tied in a pony tail, shy, quiet, approaches the corner street, waits for Jesus to signal him to cross.

Michael notices him.

SIDEWALK

MICHAEL

Yo, Charlie, look. Sissy boy, Tommy Nolan, is coming.

CHARLIE

We better keep going, Michael. We don't need no more shit from the guard.

MICHAEL

You're right. But, he better leave me the fuck alone. Damn Puerto Rican.

STREET

Jesus next to Tommy crosses back to

SIDEWALK

TOMMY  
(barely audible)  
Thanks.

JESUS  
Take care, son.

Tommy smiles, nods, without making eye contact.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - LUNCHROOM - DAY

Tommy is seated alone, eats his lunch. Charlie and Michael are in a table behind Tommy.

MICHAEL  
Charlie, watch this.

CHARLIE  
Michael, we don't wanna get caught--

MICHAEL  
Stop being such a chicken, bro.

Michael throws peas at Tommy. He misses. Second attempt, pea, lands on Tommy's neck.

Tommy turns.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
What?! You're gonna do something about it, sissy boy?!

Group of FOUR TEENAGERS boys, girls, nearby tables, laugh.

Tommy gets up, walks away, head down

CHARLIE  
God, he's such a coward.

MICHAEL  
Faggot is more like it, with that freaking hair.

CHARLIE  
Yeah.

MICHAEL  
He thinks he's a girl.

CHARLIE  
All he needs is make up.

MICHAEL  
Now that you mention it, you should see the way he looks in the mirror at night in his bedroom.

CHARLIE  
How do you know--? That's right!  
You guys are next door neighbors.

MICHAEL  
His a little freak.

CHARLIE  
Hey, what'd you think his gonna dress  
as for Halloween?

MICHAEL  
Boy George. Ha, ha, who else? He  
already has the hair and same color  
eyes.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gloria is in front of the stove, boiling water for tea.

Jesus comes in, kitchen door.

GLORIA  
He's been vomiting again. He can't  
hold anything down.

JESUS  
Oh, God.

GLORIA  
I'm making some linden tea.

JESUS  
Let me go see him.

MASTER BEDROOM BATHROOM

Sam's on the floor, head on toilet, drench in sweat, vomiting.

Jesus takes a hand towel, opens medicine cabinet, takes  
alcohol bottle, wets towel, rubs Sam's forehead.

SAM  
Oh, God! The meds--!

JESUS  
I know, I know. Breath the alcohol,  
it always helps with the nausea.  
God, you're drenched. I'll draw a  
bath--

SAM  
No. You go rest. You gotta get  
back to work--

JESUS  
Shh. You need a bath and I know you  
don't like Gloria to--

7.

SAM  
It's okay. She can help me.

JESUS  
Stop it. I know you don't like to undress in front of her. You're just saying it now because you want me to take a nap.

SAM  
You hardly slept last night between looking after me and your back pain.

JESUS  
Enough about me. Come on, start undressing while I fill the tub.

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT -- DAY

Jesus is seated in his car, looking ahead, asleep, eyes opened.

INT. JESUS CAR -- DAY

Jesus notices time, 3:15 P.M. He rushes out.

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT -- DAY

Jesus opens car trunk, grabs stop sign. TWO CHILDREN are waiting for him across the street.

He rushes to his corner.

SIDEWALK

Light changes to red, Jesus raises the sign, steps out into the street and signals for the two kids to cross.

As they cross Jesus BRANDON, fourteen, ANGEL, fourteen also.

BRANDON  
Jesus, we thought you forgot about us.

JESUS  
Sorry guys. It wont happen again--

BRANDON  
Just kidding, bro.

ANGEL  
Don't sweat it, amigo.

BRANDON  
We know you'll give your life for us if you had to.



JESUS  
You bet. Take care.

Moments later Tommy approaches the sidewalk across the street.  
Michael and Charlie approach Tommy, side by side on  
OPPOSITE SIDEWALK

MICHAEL  
So, tommy? What are you gonna dressed  
as for Halloween?

TOMMY  
I--I don't know.

CHARLIE  
Michael and I were thinking you should  
dress up like...Boy George.

Michael starts playing with Tommy's hair.

MICHAEL  
Yeah, sissy boy. After all, you  
already have the long, beautiful  
hair and you're such a cutie...that...

The light changes to GREEN.

TWO CARS continue turning, as Tommy to get away from Michael's  
taunting him, starts crossing.

Jesus quickly jumps to street, blows whistle.

Driver hits his breaks hard, seconds before impacting Tommy.

THREE CARS behind stop suddenly, paralyzing traffic.

JESUS  
Tommy? Why didn't you wait?!

MALE DRIVER sticks head out window.

DRIVER  
You stupid kid! I could'a killed  
you!

JESUS  
Sorry sir! Kids, come on! Hurry!  
Wait for me on the sidewalk, Tommy.

Michael and Charlie as they pass Jesus.

MICHAEL  
You saw what he did?

JESUS  
Side walk! Wait for me.

SIDEWALK

CHARLIE

Hey, Jesus, why are you piss at us?

JESUS

Because I saw what you two did.

MICHAEL

What the fuck did we do?

JESUS

You were taunting him.

MICHAEL

What!?

JESUS

You specifically, playing with his hair. What was that all about?

MICHAEL

I was just telling him what he could do with his hair for Halloween!

JESUS

Well it didn't seem that way to me... Tommy, what happened, son?

TOMMY

They...um... Well..he called me sissy boy and said I could be Boy George for Halloween.

Michael pushes Tommy, knocking him down.

MICHAEL

You lying, faggot!

Jesus grabs Michael.

JESUS

Hey! What are you doing--?

MICHAEL

Let go of me, man! What's wrong with you?!

JESUS

Apologize.

MICHAEL

Fuck you!

JESUS

I'm going to ask you nicely one more time. Please, apologize to both of us.... Michael?

A POLICE CAR approaches the scene. DAVID BONGINO, thirties, build, tall, flashing lights on, gets off quickly.

MICHAEL

You need to take your hands of--!

DAVID

Jesus! What's going on!?

JESUS

These two-- Well, this one mostly, was taunting this kid and nearly got him run over.

MICHAEL

He's exaggerating!

DAVID

Quiet! Go on, Jesus.

JESUS

He then pushed him, knocking him down to the pavement.

MICHAEL

We, we, we were just playing--!

DAVID

What is your name, young man?

MICHAEL

Me?

DAVID

I'm looking at you, aren't I?

MICHAEL

Michael.

DAVID

Stop being a smart ass! Give me your full name!

MICHAEL

Michael O'Brien.

The officer writes it down.

DAVID

And you?

CHARLIE

Charlie Jackson.

DAVID

What school you go to?

CHARLIE  
Belleville Middle school.

DAVID  
And you?

MICHAEL  
The same.

DAVID  
How old are you?

MICHAEL  
Fifteen.

DAVID  
So you got left back? You need to start concentrating more on your studies and less on being a bully, which is not going to get you anywhere. You hear?

MICHAEL  
But, officer--

DAVID  
Enough. This is not a discussion. I'll be stopping by your school tomorrow.

MICHAEL  
But, I--

DAVID  
I said enough! Get out of here!

Michael gives Tommy menacing look, and Jesus an evil smile as he and Charlie walk away.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Hey! Keep walking!

MICHAEL  
Yes, sir.

DAVID  
You go home, son and tell your dad Officer Bongino, is going to handle what happened today personally. What the hell is happening with our youths, Jesus?

JESUS  
They're mostly good kids. I just wish I knew what's going on with this kid, Michael. Feel sorry for him, more than anything, you know? Thanks officer.

DAVID  
 Jesus, please? How long do you know  
 me? Call me, David. We're co-workers.

JESUS  
 Thanks, David.

DAVID  
 By the way, is everything okay?

JESUS  
 Um...yes. Why?

DAVID  
 I see great sadness in your eyes.

JESUS  
 Just a bit tired. That's all.

DAVID  
 Here for, buddy. Okay? See you.

Jesus reflective, a small smile on his lips and eyes.

INT. MICHAEL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michael's on the phone.

MICHAEL  
 Charlie, I swear if I get in trouble  
 because of that damn spic.

CHARLIE (V.O.)  
 In trouble? Man, you'll probably  
 get detention or suspended.

MICHAEL  
 He's gonna pay big time if that  
 happens, Charlie.

CHARLIE (V.O.)  
 Michael, just drop it, bro.

MICHAEL  
 No fucking way. Tommy and that,  
 that other fairy, because I have a  
 hunch that guard is also a fag--

CHARLIER (V.O.)  
 No. You think so?

MICHAEL  
 I'm not sure...But, I have a plan to  
 get him in real deep trouble, if I  
 get suspended.

CHARLIE (V.O.)  
 What are you going to do?

MICHAEL

Make sure he not only loses his stupid job, but that he also goes to jail.

CHARLIE

Michael, you're crazy.

MICHAEL

You'll see, Charlie. It's gonna take me some time, but I'm gonna do it. And you, even sissy boy, Tommy Nolan, are going to help me put that fuck face away for a long, long time.

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Gloria enters into a small

FOYER

She puts her coat away in closet, walks towards through

HALLWAY

and enters first

BEDROOM

POP MUSIC is playing.

ANDY, sixteen, black, tall, in bed doing homework.

GLORIA

Hi, baby..? Andy! Andy!!

Andy looks up.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Lower the music!!

Andy complies angrily.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

What is your problem, son? I'm speaking to you and you continued ignoring me with that stupid music!

ANDY

Sorry, mama. And is not stupid music.

GLORIA

Are you very hungry?

ANDY

Not much. Why?

GLORIA

Well I was going to make something fast, but if you can wait, I--

ANDY

I'll wait. But, please, just make sure you wash your hands real good before you start touching food and--

GLORIA

Excuse me?

ANDY

You know what I mean.

GLORIA

No. What do you mean?

ANDY

I just don't wanna catch no "faggot diseases" from that--

Gloria slaps him

ANDY (CONT'D)

Mama, what the fuck?!

GLORIA

I don't want you using that racial slur ever again! You hear me!?

ANDY

Everyone knows that the, the homosexuals are the carriers of that--

GLORIA

I don't want to hear another word from you in relation to AIDS and gays. Sam's my patient, but more importantly, he's a human being who's suffering. So, I expect you to have some compassion! They have enough to worried about with a President who doesn't give a damn whether they live or die!

ANDY

Alright. Don't take it so personally. Jesus!

GLORIA

And I always wash my hands before, during and after cooking. But, even more so, before I touch any of my patients. Because is from us they have to protect themselves. Not the other way around.

ANDY

Oh, really?

GLORIA

Educate yourself on AIDS and HIV  
before you open your BIG mouth, again.

ANDY

Are you done? Because I have a lot  
of homework to do.

GLORIA

I'll call you when dinner is ready.

Gloria turns to leave.

ANDY

Mama...! My bad... I'm sorry for  
what I said. It wont happen again.

Gloria smiles as she closes the door.

INT. JESUS HOUSE -- BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jesus is feeding Sam some mashed potatoes. Sam is having a  
hard time swallowing.

SAM

Oh! Oh! I can't, Jesus! My tongue!  
It feels like is on fire.

JESUS

I know, Sam. But, you need to eat.  
Look at you! You're wasting away  
little by little.

SAM

This is what AIDS does to a normal  
vibrant body, Jesus, and nothing  
can't stop it.

JESUS

Don't say that. I don't want you  
giving up! You hear?

SAM

Jesus, I'm not giving up. But, I'm  
fighting an invisible enemy far more  
powerful than me...and his winning.  
We are all dying with no one to help  
us! Can't you see that?

JESUS

At least drink the Ensure. Please.

Sam takes a few sips, as Jesus holds the can with a straw,  
he kisses Jesus hand.



SAM  
 (teary)  
 I'm sorry.

JESUS  
 For what, stupid?

SAM  
 For getting this and bringing it  
 into our lives.

JESUS  
 It's not your fault.

SAM  
 Yeah right.

JESUS  
 We both know it was Steve the one  
 who gave this to you. The man was a  
 tramp.

SAM  
 And now he's dead.

JESUS  
 Sam, I--I want you to know that you've  
 given me the best six years of my  
 life...The best.

They embrace.

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT -- KITCHEN - NIGHT

Gloria is seated on the kitchen table, staring at a letter.  
 Concern look she closes her eyes.

ANDY  
 Ma?

GLORIA  
 Oh... Hey baby. I'm sorry. Dinner  
 is ready. Sit down.

She gets up and takes letter with her. Andy sits.

Gloria starts serving.

ANDY  
 Ma...? I know. You don't have to  
 hide it from me.

GLORIA  
 Did you open the letter from the  
 landlord?

ANDY  
 The super gave it to me opened.

GLORIA  
Well, it's nothing you should concern  
yourself with.

ANDY  
I live here too don't eye?

GLORIA  
Yes. But you're only sixteen. I'm  
in charge here.

ANDY  
Ma, I can help.

GLORIA  
Really?

ANDY  
Yes. I can work after school and  
weekends.

GLORIA  
You're not going to jeopardized your  
education for a minimum wage job.

ANDY  
But, lots of my school friends have--

GLORIA  
That's not your problem.

ANDY  
Mama.

GLORIA  
You are a straight "A" student and  
you will continue to be until you  
graduate and get a scholarship. You  
are the minority on that school don't  
you forget it.

ANDY  
Oh, Jesus.

GLORIA  
I'll take care of this.

ANDY  
Yeah, by packing before the end of  
next month or we'll come home to a  
padlock apartment.

GLORIA  
Eat. Food's getting cold. Oh, and  
don't forget to say grace first.

ANDY

For what? For the food or for getting ourselves evicted?

GLORIA

You wanna get the other cheek slapped too?

ANDY

Sorry.

GLORIA

Mm. I didn't think so.

INT. FOUR STREET INTERACTION -- DAY

Michael and Charlie are waiting on the sidewalk for Jesus to cross them.

Jesus signals with his hand for them to cross.

JESUS

Good morning boys.

MICHAEL

Don't talk to me, man.

SIDEWALK

JESUS

Son? Hey! Why do you have such hostility against me?

MICHAEL

I'm not your son. My father works for a living.

JESUS

I'm only here to protect you all from harm. That's my job and I'm proud to do it.

MICHAEL

Really? To protect us or that little fairy!

JESUS

Please, I beg you. Listen to yourself and what you're saying about another human being. Do you realize the damage you are inflicting just with your words? Those words have consequences. Have you thought about that?

MICHAEL

I guess I'll find out today, thanks to your big mouth.

JESUS

I was asked to come to your Principal's office in two hours. I promise you, I'll be very fair.

MICHAEL

Are you going to deny that I said what I said to sis-- to Tommy?

JESUS

I will not lie, if that's what you're asking me to do. But, I will say that you didn't mean it, if you truly show remorse, give Tommy and myself a sincere apology in front of your parents and Principal.

MICHAEL

Screw you.

JESUS

It saddens me to see someone like you behaving the way you do, for no reason at all.

MICHAEL

Listen, man--!

CHARLIE

Michael lets--

MICHAEL

You know nothing about me. So, mind your Goddamn business. Come on Charlie. Say what ever the hell you want. I don't need your damn pity.

Jesus looks at his watch, heads to his car.

EXT. BANK PARKING LOT -- DAY

As Jesus is putting the stop sign into his trunk, a luxurious car stops close to him..

RICHARD GONZALEZ, mid sixties, well dressed, suit and tie, rolls down his window.

RICHARD

Son!?

JESUS

Richard.

RICHARD

How are they treating you here?

JESUS

Very well.

RICHARD

You could be making four times what you're making here, if you had studied law and joined my firm.

JESUS

Under what conditions?

RICHARD

And you wouldn't have hurt your back the way that you did, if you hadn't been working for that airline where you met--

JESUS

They pay me very well for my injuries. They pay for my three spinal cord surgeries. I got my house paid off. It's all good.

RICHARD

I was going to say, you wouldn't have met him. Who--

JESUS

His name is Sam and he's made me very happy.

RICHARD

Pass tense, huh? He brought that disease into your life and God only knows if you--

JESUS

Have you forgotten your last words when I told you I was gay?

RICHARD

Jesus, please.

JESUS

You said, "I rather see you dead, than a homosexual." Well, I'm still here and by the grace of God I'm clean. No HIV in my system.

RICHARD

For how long?

JESUS

For as long as God decides. Good bye, Mr. Gonzalez. I hope you're having a great life with your new wife, now that mom is dead.

INT. JESUS HOUSE -- KITCHEN - DAY

Gloria is standing in front of the sink, with the water running, in deep thought.

Jesus enters. Gloria doesn't realize his there.

JESUS  
Gloria...? Gloria?!

GLORIA  
Oh, I'm so sorry.

JESUS  
It's Sam okay?

GLORIA  
He's doing great today. He just had lunch. Ate it all.

JESUS  
Thank God. What about you?

GLORIA  
What'd you mean.

JESUS  
What's going with you? If I may ask. This morning you looked very tired, you still do. What is it? Maybe I can help.

GLORIA  
Well...We gonna have move.

JESUS  
Why? What happened?

GLORIA  
I'm behind on my rent. I--I tried hanging on to our apartment because it's a nice neighborhood and close to Andy's school, but it's been now almost...seven months since my ex husband passed and as you know...He was a big help with...

JESUS  
Oh, Gloria. I--I wish I could give the money, but with Sam's illness, hospital bills, medication--

GLORIA  
I know, honey. This is why I didn't wanna say anything to you. You, you both are more than kind with my salary and giving me time off when I need.

(MORE)

GLORIA (CONT'D)

We'll be fine. My sister in Florida  
can take Andy and I--

JESUS

But, what about his school?

GLORIA

He's gonna have go--

JESUS

What about here?

GLORIA

Here? What'd you mean?

JESUS

Here! You can both live here!

GLORIA

Oh, Jesus...I couldn't--

JESUS

There's two empty bedrooms upstairs  
and even the basement is livable.  
All it needs is furniture and you  
got that. I'll rent a truck and  
I'll pay two of the delivery guys  
from the deli in my corner to help.

GLORIA

Oh, Jesus. I, I don't know what to  
say.

JESUS

We need you here, Gloria and you  
need us. Just say, yes.

GLORIA

(crying)

Yes! Thank you, thank you, thank  
you.

Gloria hugs Jesus.

INT. SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE -- DAY

PRINCIPAL LARRY CLARK, late 40s, deep voice, is with officer  
David Sullivan, Michael and his father EDGAR O'BRIEN, mid  
30's, built, loud voice, dressed in mechanic uniform.

EDGAR

But, are you sure, Principal Clark,  
that this kid..? What's his name?

LARRY

Tommy Dolan.

EDGAR

Are you one hundred percent sure that his telling you the truth about what my son said? Because you heard what Charlie Jackson just said, he doesn't recall my son--

LARRY

Mr. O'Brien, there's an adult witnesses who heard your son not only calling this teenager that, plus he also pushed him to the ground.

DAVID

Not only that, principal, but the Nolan kid nearly got hit by a car, according to Guard Gonzalez as he--

DOOR KNOCK

LARRY

Come in!

JESUS

Hi. Am I late?

LARRY

Hello, I'm Larry Clark. No your not late.

Edgar whispers to his son.

EDGAR

You just wait to we get home, kid.

DAVID

Hi, Jesus.

JESUS

Officer.

DAVID

Seat here, Jesus. I've already said what I had to say.

LARRY

I wanted to get everyone's testimony individually. The Nolan kid was already here with his mother. Mr, Gonzalez, this is Mr. Edgar O'brien, Michael's father.

JESUS

Hello.

EDGAR

I've seen you on the interception of Belleville Avenue, busy place, huh?



DAVID

Busy and dangerous. But, Jesus has been doing a great job for over four years.

Michael keeps his head down.

LARRY

Now, Mr. Gonzalez, Tommy Nolan told us that Michael started asking him who he was going to dress as for this coming Halloween and then Michael proceeded to play with his hair. You take it from there, if you will.

JESUS

Well um...Principal, right after Michael started taunting Tommy about his long hair, Tommy in an attempt to get away from what was going on, he ran into the street unaware the light where changing to green, nearly getting himself hit by a car that I was able to get the driver's attention by quickly rushing to the street and using whistle.

Michael biting lips, looks at Jesus with hate, rage.

LARRY

Then what else happened once all the three boys were on the sidewalk?

JESUS

I asked Tommy what happened and he told me Michael had called him sissy boy and Charlie the other teen, said he could dress up as boygeorge for Halloween. Michael, then pushed Tommy down and said...um, "you lying faggot."

EDGAR

You did that? Deny now it now?!

LARRY

Sir, please.

JESUS

If I may... I--I think things just got out of hand. I'm sure Michael is sorry for what he did.

EDGAR

He's not sorry. He kept saying he didn't do anything, when is obvious that he did. You just wait to we--

LARRY

Under the circumstances, son, you leave me no other choice but, to suspend you for one week and if this happens again I will be force to expelled you. Thank you all for--

MICHAEL

But, he's lying! They're all lying!

Edgar grabs Michael by the arm, drag's him out.

EDGAR

Stop lying! Move it! Because of you I had to miss half a day of work.

Edgar slams door.

DAVID

Wow, like father like son. Both bullies.

JESUS

I...I really was hoping he take responsibility and apologize for his actions.

LARRY

You have to much faith on all of our youth of today, Mr. Gonzalez. Not all, but many are arrogant and think of themselves as invincible. They have a problem with authority and if, we as educators and parents don't correct them at an early age, we will be giving them permission to do far worst things...including stealing and or worst, murder.

DAVID

Totally agree, Mr. Clark.

JESUS

My God.

Sadness and fear overtake Jesus.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - DAY

Edgar and Michael are walking towards Edgar's car.

EDGAR

You really did it this time, boy.

MICHAEL

Dad, the crossing guard is lying!

EDGAR  
(slapping Michael)  
Shut up! I don't wanna hear another  
word from your mouth! I had to miss  
hours of work because of your little  
stunt with the Nolan kid. Good  
neighbors of ours!

MICHAEL  
He's nothing but a fag!

Edgar grabs his son by the neck, pressing him against the  
car.

EDGAR  
I've had it with you, boy! So, you  
just better shut your fucking mouth  
and get in the car! And don't you  
for one second think that you're  
gonna have it easy while your  
suspended.

MICHAEL  
What--what are you gonna do?

EDGAR  
Get in the car!

Scared, Michael gets in the car.

INT. EDGAR'S CAR -- CONTINUOUS

EDGAR  
Put on your seat-belt.

Michael has a hard time with the built.

MICHAEL  
Dad, its stuck.

Edgar reaches over Michael's body, grabbing seat-belt, locking  
it.

Michael's EYES light up, smiles devilishly.

EDGAR  
What the hell are you smiling about?

MICHAEL  
Nothing, dad. I was just...

Michael looks out the window, smile shifts to anger.

INT. MICHAEL O'BRIEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Michael enters, followed by Edgar, who slams the door.

EDGAR  
You listen to me very careful, son--

MICHAEL  
Yes dad--

EDGAR  
Don't interrupt me.

MICHAEL  
Sorry.

EDGAR  
Tomorrow you will be getting up at six thirty, and I want dressed and ready by seven thirty, which is the time I leave for work everyday Monday through Saturday. You will be working in the auto shop with me--

MICHAEL  
But, dad I--I nothing--

Edgar slaps his son across the face, making his lip bleed.

EDGAR  
Shut the fuck up! You will only listen! I want you up, dressed, breakfast finished and ready to leave by seven thirty. You got that...? Answer me!

MICHAEL  
Yeah.

Edgar disconnects a small TV set and picks up.

EDGAR  
No TV, until you get back to school.

Michael sheds tears of anger, locked rage, he starts panting.

EDGAR (CONT'D)  
I'm going back to work now. You stay here and reflect on what you did to that kid, who did nothing to you. Your mother will call you when dinner is ready.

Edgar exits with the TV set.

Michael, panting, wipes his tears, stares at the blood in his hand from his cut lip. Dark emotions take over him.

Edgar holding TV crosses

LIVING ROOM

NANCY, forties, simple, soft spoken.

NANCY

What happened to Michael's tv?

EDGAR

Nothing happened. His punished and during his suspension from school, no TV, no going out with friends.

NANCY

But Edgar he--

EDGAR

And I don't want any of his buddies coming here either, you hear? Starting tomorrow and for the entire week, his coming to work with me.

NANCY

Edgar, he doesn't know anything about fixing cars or--

EDGAR

There's plenty of things he can do. Don't you worry. I'm putting the TV in the garage, then I'm going back to the shop. Oh, and go check on him.

NANCY

Why? What happened?

EDGAR

I broke his lip with a slap.

NANCY

Jesus, Edgar! He's only a kid.

EDEGA

He's not a kid, he's a young man, who has behavior issues and if we don't strait him out now, we gonna regret it the rest of our lives. I gotta go.

Nancy, concerned, shakes her head, looks up

NANCY

Oh, Jesus.

EXT. FOUR STREET INTERACTION -- DAY

Jesus is crossing a small group of FIVE TEENAGERS. They're whispering to each other as they pass Jesus.

ONE GIRL, fourteen, says to GIRL as they pass Jesus.

TEEN ONE

Michael got suspended because of  
this creep lies.

Jesus overhears this, it hurts, but he ignores it. Seconds  
later, Tommy Nolan rushes to make the light.

JESUS

It's okay! Slow down, I got you.

SIDEWALK

TOMMY

Thank you.

JESUS

Tommy wait... I went to your school  
and I told the principal everything  
that's going on with Michael O'brien  
and what he said and did to you.

TOMMY

I know. He got suspended.

JESUS

Well, he needs to learn to have  
respect for others. Even if  
suspension is the only way. You  
realize that what he said to you was  
not right. It was a racist slur  
whether you are or not what he called--

KATHY NOLAN (late 30's) Tommy's mother, stops her car by  
Jesus and her son.

KATHY

Hi!

JESUS

Hello. I--I don't think you can  
park here-

KATHY

Oh no, I'm leaving. I'm his mother.

JESUS

Oh. Sorry. Nice to meet you.

KATHY

It's everything okay, Tommy? Come  
on, get in.

JESUS

I was telling Tommy... I went to  
his school earlier and told the  
principal what's been going on with  
the O'brien kid and your son.

KATHY

Thank you...Really, I'm grateful.  
I'm Kathy. What's your name, my  
good man.

JESUS

Jesus-- Rather you call me..  
(in Spanish)  
Jesus.

KATHY

You're an angel, Jesus. Thanks, for  
protecting my son and for all that  
you do. I've heard nice things about  
you from everyone. Sorry I didn't  
stop sooner to thank you for your  
service.

JESUS

It's my duty and my pleasure. But,  
thank you for the acknowledgement.

KATHY

Bye.

INT. KATHY NOLAN'S CAR - DAY

KATHY

Nice man, Jesus... Are you okay,  
sweetie? You seem worried.

TOMMY

I'm fine, mom.

KATHY

Good. And don't you worry about the  
Nolan's kid, your dad is going over  
there later to speak to them and  
hopefully we can all put this behind  
and move on with our lives.

fear's visible on Tommy's eyes, looks away.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Sam's seated at the table finishing his meal. Gloria is  
putting some dishes in the dishwasher, when Jesus enters.

JESUS

Hi, Glo- Oh, my God! Sam, you're  
up!

GLORIA

And eating everything I prepared for  
him.

SAM

It was delicious.

Jesus hugs, kisses Sam on the head.

JESUS

Oh, you have no idea how happy this makes me. Gloria you're an angel, a true angel.

GLORIA

Thanks.

JESUS

Oh, I spoke to two of the deli guys and they agreed to help with the moving.

SAM

No. You-you're not leaving me--?

JESUS

Gloria and her son I moving here with us!

SAM

Oh...that's so great. You're family Gloria, I want you to know that.

GLORIA

(teary)

Thank you, baby. Thank you both.

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT -- ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Andy is doing his homework. Gloria opens door.

GLORIA

Hi?

ANDY

Hi, mom.

GLORIA

How's my one and only most beautiful son, doing today?

ANDY

Alright, just say it. What is it that you want?

GLORIA

Well! You really think you know me, huh?

ANDY

Since I was born.



GLORIA  
(laughing)  
You do have a point there... Andy,  
we're moving.

ANDY  
Where to?

GLORIA  
To my patient and his partner's home.

ANDY  
What!?! You're joking, right?

GLORIA  
No, I'm not. They've got plenty of  
room--

ANDY  
Those two are fa-- They're both  
gay, ma! I--I can't live--

GLORIA  
They're good people!

ANDY  
And besides one of them has AIDS.  
AIDS, mom!

GLORIA  
And his dying from it just like your  
father!

ANDY  
What...? Dad...? He, he died from  
AIDS?

GLORIA  
Yes.

ANDY  
Now I see why you didn't let me go  
see him...

GLORIA  
He didn't want you to see him in  
that condition. He beg me.

ANDY  
Was he... Was dad gay?

GLORIA  
No. He got it from... Look, I don't  
want to talk about your father anymore--

ANDY  
I do!. Tell me. How did he get it?  
Was it drugs? Sex?

GLORIA  
From a women, yes.

ANDY  
Mama, a women? Or a prostitute?

GLORIA  
We need to start packing. We don't have much time.

ANDY  
I'm not going.

GLORIA  
You are a minor and you're my son, so you will do what I tell you. Period! I'll get dinner started--

ANDY  
I'm not hungry. Lost my appetite.

GLORIA  
Well, I'm hungry. I'll cook for both of us and if you decide to join me, I'll call you when its ready...  
(from door)  
Oh, an this is all temporally, until I save up enough for us to get a new apartment, which will be after you graduate. By then you'll start work--

ANDY  
Mama, that's almost a year from now!

GLORIA  
Time goes by faster than you think.

Gloria exits. Andy starts crying.

HALLWAY

Gloria cries silently against her sons bedroom door.

INT. MICHAEL OBRIEN'S HOUSE - MICHAEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michael is the phone.

MICHAEL  
(whispering)  
Charlie, I swear to God, I wanted to kill that-that spic! He defended that little fuck face as if it was his own son... He's gotta be a fag.

CHARLIE (V.O.)  
But, what happened? Did your dad believe everything they said even though I deny it?

MICHAEL

I got bit up by my maniacal, crazy  
dad. For a whole week I gotta go  
work at his stupid, filthy shop...  
(enraged)

He's gonna pay for this, that damn  
guard. And Tommy is gonna help me  
and I already know how.

INT. GLORIA'S APARTMENT - ANDY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gloria walks in. Andy is finishing packing a suitcase on  
top of the bed, another is on the floor.

GLORIA

Dinner is-- What's this?

ANDY

You said we didn't have much time.  
I started packing.

Gloria smiles, her eyes watered, walks over, kisses Andy.

GLORIA

Let's eat. I made your favorite.

ANDY

Chicken fricassee.

GLORIA

Yeah.

ANDY

Mama? I...I'm sorry about dad.

GLORIA

Andy, he did the right thing refusing  
to let you to see him sick and dying.  
AIDS is not a pretty disease, as you  
yourself will see once you meet Sam.

ANDY

That scares me, mama.

GLORIA

Baby, it isn't contagious by being  
in the same room. Food's getting  
cold. Let's go.

INT. MICHAEL OBRIEN'S HOUSE - EDGAR'S BEDROOM - DAY

Edgar is finishing getting dressed. Nancy walks into the  
room.

NANCY

Edgar, breakfast is ready.

EDGAR  
I'll be right out. It's Michael in  
the kitchen.

NANCY  
No...he must-

EDGAR  
I knocked at his door over half and  
hour ago. He said he was getting  
up. I'm gonna kill him!

NANCY  
You go have your breakfast. I'll-

EDGAR  
No. I got this.

NANCY  
Please...be kind to him.

INT. MICHAEL OBRIEN'S HOUSE -- BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Michael's in bed covered.

Edgar opens the door, like a wild animal, removes blanket.  
Michael is fully dressed.

MICHAEL  
What, what's going on?

EDGAR  
Why aren't you up and eating your  
breakfast?

MICHAEL  
I got up and wasn't hungry, so I got  
dressed and lay back down.

EDGAR  
Go eat something. You're gonna need  
your strength.

MICHAEL  
I'll be fine. Just call me when  
you're ready to go.

Michael covers himself back up.

Edgar, violently uncovers him, drags him by his toes to floor.

EDGAR  
Get the hell up and go have--!

MICHAEL  
What the fuck's wrong with?!

EDGAR

Do as a say. I've had enough of  
your shit!

MICHAEL

I hate you!

Grabbing Michael by the neck.

EDGAR

You-you listen to me boy, you better  
keep your damn mouth shut when I say  
something to you. All you need to  
do is obey! I work to damn hard for  
you, so you can have everything that  
I didn't have! The least you can do  
is be grateful! Now, I want you in  
the kitchen in three minutes.

INT. JESUS HOUSE -- BEDROOM - DAY

Jesus is getting dressed for work.

Sam is in his hospital bed looking at Jesus.

JESUS

What?

SAM

Do you know how much I love you?

JESUS

As much as I do, I hope.

SAM

More.

JESUS

Okay, I'll take it. You have no  
idea how happy seeing you better  
makes me feel.

SAM

I do. But, enough about me. How  
are you? How are things at work? I  
know you had to go into the school  
yesterday afternoon--

JESUS

It was just an incident with a couple  
of teenagers. Well, one in  
particular.

SAM

Jesus...be careful.

JESUS

What'd you mean by that?

SAM

Jesus, teenagers today are violent and disrespectful towards authority figures, like police officers, teachers, sometimes even their own parents. And you're an authority figure.

JESUS

Mm...

SAM

What is it?

JESUS

Nothing. I got it all under control.

SAM

I wish you didn't have to work there any longer. Anyway..go

JESUS

This is the only job I can tolerate with my chronic back pain. I don't have to stand, nor seat for long periods of time and I get lots of time of. Plus I get pay well.

SAM

Um...I--I know.

JESUS

Stop worrying then.

SAM

Um...you better go downstairs. Gloria should be here soon.

JESUS

Sam, are you okay?

SAM

I'm fine. Just tired.

JESUS

Rest up.

As Jesus leaves, Sam rushes to the bathroom, closes door but, vomiting sound is still heard outside.

INT. MICHAEL OBRIEN'S HOUSE -- KITCHEN - DAY

Edgar is eating his eggs and bacon. Nancy is by the sink.

NANCY

More coffee?

MICHAEL

Yes, please.

Michael enters, takes a Pop tart from cabinet, puts into toaster.

NANCY

Good morning, sweetheart.

MICHAEL

What's good about?

EDGAR

This kid thinks he's stomach is gonna be filled until lunch time with just one Pop tart. Unbelievable.

NANCY

He's young. He'll be fine.

MICHAEL

Hope he doesn't pass out at work.

NANCY

Michael, you want some orange juice?

MICHAEL

Yeah.

NANCY

Sit down sweetheart.

MICHAEL

I'm fine here.

EDGAR

Hurry. Because we're going next door to the Nolan's.

MICHAEL

What the hell for?

EDGAR

You want another slap? You're going to apologize to Tommy.

MICHAEL

I'm not apologizing to that--!

EDGAR

(grabbing Michael)

You're gonna do it! As soon as I brush my teeth, something you never do.

Edgar leaves.

MICHAEL  
I hate him, mom.

NANCY  
Michael, please don't say that.

MICHAEL  
Why does he hate me so much?

NANCY  
Michael, he's your father. He doesn't hate you. You have to understand, you haven't been in your best behavior in the last year. First you get left back, you get into fights at school. Now, we just moved here in August and you do this thing with the Nolan's son.

MICHAEL  
Mom, that kid is a faggot--

NANCY  
Michael enough! I love you, but I can't allow you to talk like that about a child that hasn't done anything to you. So what, if he's gay.? Finish your breakfast and please do what your father says for God's sake!

INT. JESUS HOUSE -- BEDROOM - DAY

Gloria enters the bedroom.

GLORIA  
Sam? Sam!

SAM (O.S.)  
Bathroom!

GLORIA  
May I come in?

SAM (O.S.)  
Yes.

Gloria opens the door. Sam's on the floor over toilet.

GLORIA  
You poor baby. What happened?

SAM  
AIDS happens, Gloria. AIDS.

GLORIA  
You were doing better.



Gloria, wets a bath towel in rubbing alcohol, passes it through Sam's sweaty forehead.

SAM  
That feels good. Thank you, Gloria.

GLORIA  
My pleasure, baby. Come on lean on me. Lets get you to bed.

They slowly walk through

BEDROOM

SAM  
Gloria, don't tell Jesus. He's got enough to worry about.

GLORIA  
But Sam, you know he--

SAM  
What can he do? Promise me.

GLORIA  
Lay down, sweaty.

SAM  
Gloria, we both know I'm dying, but I want Jesus to think that I'm getting better. Telling him that truth is not going to prolong my life, but it can definitely shorten his.

GLORIA  
I wont say anything. Now, would you mind if I pray for you.

SAM  
Grateful that you would.

EXT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE -- DAY

Michael and Edgar are standing in the front door.

EDGAR  
I want you to sincerely apologize to the Nolan's and especially to their son. You hear?

MICHAEL  
All right, all right?

The front door opens.

KATHY  
Mr. O'Brien?

EDGAR

Mrs. Nolan, my son here wanted come and apologize to you, to Tom and your son of course.

Tommy, and TOM senior, late thirties, come to the door, coats on, ready to leave.

TOM

Honey, we gotta get-- Oh... Hi Edgar?

EDGAR

Tom...Michael, wants to apologize to all of you for what happened--

TOM

Edgar, this was teenage stuff. We've all been there.

EDGAR

No, Tom. This was more than that. Michael.

MICHAEL

(head down)

Mrs. Nolan, Mr. Nolan, Tommy, I'm sorry for what I did. Tommy, the name calling... But, I...I want to warn you, Tommy--

EDGAR

Michael--!

MICHAEL

If I were you, I'd be very careful with that crossing guard--

EDGAR

Michael, what the hell are you doing?!

TOM

No, Edgar-- Michael, what'd you mean?

MICHAEL

Um... Jesus, the guard, he's after Tommy.

TOM

After my son? What exactly do you mean by that, son?

Edgar grabs Michael's arm.

EDGAR

Tom, this is all bullshit. We gotta go--

Edgar drags Michael away.

TOM  
But, Edgar, Edgar!

KATHY  
Tom, ignore that boys innuendos--

TOM  
No, Kathy. Tommy, what's going on?

TOMMY  
Nothing is going on. All Jesus did was defend me.

TOM  
Please tell me, has he in anyway acted inappropriately towards you?

KATHY  
Tom, that man is kind, gently and very caring. All the mothers--

TOM  
Maybe too caring. Tommy, is there anything you're keeping from me about that guard?

TOMMY  
No. He's a nice man! Honestly.

TOM  
Alright. Let's go I'll drop off in the corner. I'm running late.

KATHY  
Tom, I can drop him off.

TOM  
Kathy, I'm all ready to go. Bye.

EXT. FOUR STREET INTERACTION -- DAY

Jesus is waiting for the light to change to cross two teens.

Light turns RED.

Brandon and FRANKIE, fifteen, both start walking towards Jesus, on his command.

JESUS  
Come on, guys!

FRANKIE  
Hey, Jesus!

JESUS  
Frankie. Brad...?

BRANDON  
Brandon, bro!

JESUS  
Sorry.

BRANDON  
No sweat. By the way, glad you did what you did by speaking up against Michael O'Brien.

JESUS  
I just told the truth. Just hope he doesn't hold any grudge.

FRANKIE  
I watch out if I were you. Michael is one crazy dude.

JESUS  
How do you mean?

BRANDON  
Don't worry. We got your back. If he tries anything you let us know.

FRANKIE  
Damn right, Jesus.

JESUS  
Thanks. But, I think I'll be fine.

INT. TOM NOLAN'S CAR - DAY

Tom, slowly drives, eyes on Jesus, still talking to two teens.

TOM  
It's that him, Tommy? The Guard?

TOMMY  
Yeah. Jesus, has been working this corner for many years. He's the best.

Tom looks at Jesus, with suspicious eyes as he drives off.

TOM  
I hope so. I'll drop off at school. He seems busy talking to those teens.

EXT. FOUR STREET INTERACTION - DAY

JESUS  
Guys go. You'll gonna be late.

BRANDON  
We got your back, Jesus.

JESUS  
 (smiling)  
 Thanks again

BRANDON  
 I have practice later, so I won't  
 see you. Enjoy your weekend.

JESUS  
 You too.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - TOMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tommy is on his desk doing some homework. His father enters.

TOM  
 Son, we are leaving. Are you sure  
 you don't wanna come? "When Harry  
 Met Sally" has received great reviews.

TOMMY  
 Dad, that's a date movie. You and  
 mom go and enjoy. Besides, I've got  
 a lot of homework.

TOM  
 Will be back early. By the way, was  
 everything okay in school today with  
 the O'Brien's kid being suspended?

TOMMY  
 Everything's fine. Dad listen, you  
 don't have to drive me to school  
 every morning. I can walk. Besides  
 the crossing guard is always there.

TOM  
 Okay. See you later.

TOMMY  
 Bye.

INT. TOM NOLAN'S CAR -- NIGHT

Kathy is seated, waiting on her husband Tom.

Tom enters car.

TOM  
 Well, I asked him again if he wanted  
 to come and he said this is a date  
 movie.

KATHY  
 You should have asked him if there's  
 any other movie he'd like to see.

TOM

I don't know, Kathy. Tommy, is a strange teenager.

KATHY

What'd you mean.

TOM

He has no friends, no girlfriend.

KATHY

He's focus on his school. I rather he be the way he is than hanging out with who knows what kind of kids these days.

TOM

I hope he comes out of his shell eventually or I'm gonna have to have a serious conversation with him.

KATHY

Jesus, Tom! He's only fourteen! Besides, how do you expect him to trust anyone, if all the kids make fun of him.

TOM

And why do they pick on him?

KATHY

Because kids are mean and when they don't like someone they pick on that someone.

TOM

Kathy, the last thing I want is my only son to be constantly taunted and bullied in school because he comes across as a fairy or worst a Homo.

KATHY

Tom!

TOM

Don't Kathy, please. I will not have a Homo in my family, not in this times, with them catching and spreading that damn disease.

INT. MICHAEL OBRIEN'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Michael talking on the phone.

MICHAEL

Charlie, my parents just went food shopping, can you come over with the movie camera...? Please, bro. This might be the only chance we have. Tommy's parents just left and I bet you a million dollars, the little creep is gonna do one of his crazy, faggot acts in front of the mirror and I wanna get it all on film. Then I'll have him just where I want him. Eating out of my hand.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

But Michael, what exactly is it that you're planning on doing?

MICHAEL

Revenge, Charlie. That damn guard name Jesus...

(chuckles)

What a coincidence, his name is Jesus...Well it's time to crucify the son of a bitch.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

ISABELLA (50's) Sam's mother, is seated having some tea with her son.

GLORIA

Well, if you don't mind staying a bit longer, Mrs. Romano, I'm gonna go.

ISABELLA

Gloria, please, call me Isabella. You're like family now.

GLORIA

Alright, Isabella.

ISABELLA

Go, dear. I'll be here until Jesus gets in.

GLORIA

He called, he's at the supermarket. He wont be long. I have to start packing. I'll see, Sam.

SAM

Take care, Gloria.

ISABELLA

Nice lady.

SAM

Yes. I'm very lucky to have her.

ISABELLA

Is she going on away? She said she has to pack.

SAM

No, mama. She-- It's not important.

ISABELLA

Sam, tell me the truth? How are you doing, sweetheart?

SAM

Day by day, mom. I count my blessings for the good days and pray that the bad days pass by quickly.

ISABELLA

But, what are the doctors saying?

SAM

Mama, I don't want to talk sickness or AIDS.

ISABELLA

You know your father wanted to come, but--

SAM

Stop lying for him, mama. He doesn't want to accept that his son is gay and that he's got, "the gay disease" as everyone calls this. We are on our own mama, all of us who have this disease. Even President Reagan, has turned his back on all of us and I voted for the bastard.

ISABELLA

Sam, your father loves you. He just--

SAM

Really? Wow, I wonder what he would do or say if he didn't love me.

ISABELLA

It hurts him to see you like this, son. He's not as strong as me.

SAM

What about before I was sick, mama? What was his excuse then, for not visiting me or even taking my calls?

ISABELLA

Sam...



SAM

I forgive him, Mama. You tell him that, okay? Because I don't think I'll be around much longer to tell him in person.

ISABELLA

(crying)

Oh baby. Don't say that...

INT. MICHAEL OBRIEN'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Michael opens the door for Charlie.

MICHAEL

Damn, Charlie. What took you so long?

CHARLIE

I couldn't find the camera and I didn't want my parents to find out about this.

MICHAEL

Did they see you leave?

CHARLIE

That's why it took me so long. I waited. They're out shopping.

MICHAEL

I you sure this works?

CHARLIE

Yeah, my dad just used it this passed summer on our trip to Disney. There's a brand new film in the case.

MICHAEL

Great, lets get it ready before we go over to sissy boy's home.

CHARLIE

Here, I'll do it.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - TOMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

POP MUSIC plays on his radio.

Tommy studies his face in mirror, begins to apply red lipstick on, followed by eye-liner.

EXT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Michael and Charlie approach house. Charlie holds camera.

CHARLIE  
Michael how sure are you that Tommy  
is doing something like...?

MICHAEL  
Queer?

CHARLIE  
Well, yeah.

MICHAEL  
The kid is a fairy, a freak. Every  
time he's alone, he starts playing  
with make up, like the real girl  
that he wishes he was. I saw him  
doing it a couple a weeks ago. I  
told you. He only does it when he's  
home alone.

CHARLIE  
You want me to film him?

MICHAEL  
Yes. I'll tell you went. His bedroom  
is on the side it faces mind, that's  
how I see him.

They start walking behind a tree inches away from Tommy's  
window.

CHARLIE  
The light is on. We better hide  
behind this tree.

MICHAEL  
Whisper, we don't want him to hear  
us.

CHARLIE  
This has a zoom lens. We don't need  
to get close.

MICHAEL  
Great. I see him

MUSIC.

CHARLIE  
I hear music.

MICHAEL  
Yeah. He dances in front of the  
mirror. We're lucky the curtains  
are drawn.

CHARLIE  
What the fuck?

MICHAEL  
Shh! Whisper. What is it?

CHARLIE  
Bro, he can't hear us with that song playing.  
(through camera lens)  
Fuck, it can't be him in front of the mirror.

MICHAEL  
Why, what'd you see?

CHARLIE  
Ha, ha. He's got a fucking dressed on.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - TOMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tommy dances in front of mirror, waving his long hair from side to side.

OUTSIDE

MICHAEL  
Ha, ha. His dancing like a girl.  
Are you filming this?

CHARLIE  
Yeah. I got him.

MICHAEL  
Make sure you zoom in on this face.

CHARLIE  
Don't worry...I...I'm getting it.  
The mirror is right... Holy, shit.

MICHAEL  
What? What is it?

CHARLIE  
He sure looks cute as a girl.

MICHAEL  
What the fuck's wrong with you?  
Don't tell me you're a Homo now too?

CHARLIE  
Just kidding, bro. But, he does look cute as a girl.

MICHAEL  
He's a freak. A little queer, just like his friend the crossing guard.  
That's why he protects him.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Now I got what I need in order to  
get our Tommy girl to do exactly  
what I want in order to get my revenge  
on our soon to be disgraced, crossing  
guard.

Michael and Charlie high-five each other, laughing devilishly.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE -- TOMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

He continues dancing to the SONG playing on the radio, in a  
liberating manner. He closes his eyes, smiles as he gets  
lost in the song, loves what he sees in the mirror.

EXT. JESUS HOUSE -- DAY

There's a small truck parked in Jesus driveway. TWO LATINO  
young MAN are coming out of the house, as Andy unloads a  
small box.

ANDY

Guys, that's it. Finito.

JESUS

(in Spanish)

Guys, hold on! Here, I put a little  
extra. Good job and thanks again.

The two guys node in gratitude, get into the truck and drive  
away, as Gloria exits the house.

GLORIA

Jesus, where are the guys? I gotta  
pay them.

JESUS

Gloria, I got it.

GLORIA

But, I had the money.

JESUS

I know them, Gloria. Besides you  
need to start saving your money.  
That's the reason you're here.

GLORIA

Thank you, sweetheart.

JESUS

Need help with that box, young man?

ANDY

No sweat. I got it.

Andy heads inside.

JESUS  
Gloria, is he all right?

GLORIA  
What'd you mean?

JESUS  
I mean is he okay about coming to  
live with...two gay man and one who  
has AIDS?

GLORIA  
I'll be honest, Jesus. At first he  
wasn't too happy about it. I...I  
had to tell him about his dad.

JESUS  
God, Gloria. How did he take it?

GLORIA  
I don't know yet.

JESUS  
Oh, boy. Wait to he sees, Sam.

GLORIA  
I can't wait. He needs to understand,  
that people with AIDS are victims of  
a disease that none of us still no  
much of.

JESUS  
I hope he likes it in the basement.

GLORIA  
Like it? He's gonna love it.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - GUEST BEDROOM - NIGHT

Gloria is dressing the Queen size bed.

SAM  
Where's Jesus?

GLORIA  
Hi, sweetheart? He went to the liquor  
store for some wine. He wants to  
officially welcome us to our new  
home.

SAM  
I'm glad we could help in some small  
way. Besides, at least I know he'll  
have someone to comfort him once I'm--  
You need help with--

GLORIA  
 You're gonna be with us a long time.  
 A cure will be available soon.

SAM  
 Don't think so, Gloria. I do pray  
 that a cure is in the horizon, even  
 if I don't get to see it.

ANDY  
 Mom, I need--

Andy freezes once he sees Sam.

SAM  
 Don't worry. It looks worst than it  
 feels.

GLORIA  
 Andy, this is Sam.

SAM  
 (stretching his hand)  
 Nice to meet you.

Andy, doesn't shake Sam's hand.

ANDY  
 Hi. Mama, I need sheets and a  
 blankets.

Andy rushes back down as his mother yells his name.

GLORIA  
 Andy! Andy!

SAM  
 It's okay, Gloria.

GLORIA  
 It's not okay. I'm gonna have a  
 talk with him later and--

SAM  
 Please...don't. He's a teenager and  
 he's afraid. I'm afraid.

GLORIA  
 We already spoke about you, Sam. He  
 was rude and I didn't raise him to  
 be that way. Compassion is number  
 one in my book and my son is going  
 to learn it one way or the another.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Andy is lay down on sofa, crying.

Gloria comes down the stairs.

Andy, quickly wipes his face, turns his body away.

GLORIA

Andy? Why would you do that to Sam..?  
How would you feel if someone did  
something like that to you? Andy,  
I'm speaking to you.

ANDY

I--I'm sorry, mama.

GLORIA

You've been crying. Why?

ANDY

I... When I saw that young man,  
with those lesions. I--I thought of  
dad. How he... How he must've  
suffered.

Andy breaks down. Gloria hugs him.

GLORIA

Oh, baby. Then you do care. You do  
have a compassionate heart. Thank  
you, Jesus.

JESUS (O.S.)

Gloria! Andy! Dinner's ready!

GLORIA

We are coming, Jesus! Andy, please  
join us and be strong, act normal in  
front of Sam.

ANDY

I...I can't, mama. I'm not hungry.

GLORIA

But, Andy.

ANDY

Please, mama, don't make me.

GLORIA

I know you're mourning your father  
and I'm so sorry if I have a lot to  
do with this.

ANDY

It's okay. I wanted to know.

GLORIA

But, your mourning him all over again.

ANDY

Not again. For the first time.  
Please, don't make me go up.

DINNING ROOM -- NIGHT

Gloria, Sam and Jesus are seated at the table, food is served.

Jesus raises a glass of wine.

JESUS

I want to propose this toast as a  
warm welcome to Gloria and Andy to  
our home, their home now.

They each tap their glasses.

SAM

Cheers.

GLORIA

Cheers and thank you both.

Andy appears on the door.

JESUS

Andy, come sit down next to mom.

ANDY

No. I...I want to sit...here.

He looks at Sam, smiles, seats next to him.

GLORIA

Great to have you with us on this  
special night, son.

JESUS

Gloria, can you please say grace?

GLORIA

Yes.

As Gloria vows her head, everyone follows, by holding hands.

Andy puts his hand over Sam's, eyes closed.

Sam smiles, eyes fill with tears.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Lord, we thank you for this two  
wonderful human beings, Sam and Jesus,  
for their kindness in taking us into  
their home. Bless this food we are  
about to receive, and always bless  
this home with your everlasting peace.  
In Jesus name. Amen.



JESUS  
Amen!

SAM  
Amen.

ANDY  
Amen.

INT. JESUS HOUSE -- BASEMENT - NIGHT

Andy is studying.

The SOUND of someone vomiting on the first floor bathroom, gets his attention. Seconds later, Andy slowly heads up the

STAIRS

And into the

LIVING ROOM

Sam is seated on the sofa, he has a small towel which he coughs into. The TV is, a black & white movie is on.

ANDY  
Are you okay?

SAM  
Oh...Sorry. Did I wake you?

ANDY  
No. I was doing homework. Can I get you anything? Maybe mom can--

SAM  
No. Let her rest, is her day off. Besides there's nothing she can do. I'm surprise you're home. Isn't it Halloween?

ANDY  
Yeah. But, mom doesn't let me drive her car. I didn't wanna take the bus to my friends house over in Kearny.

SAM  
But, you have a license?

ANDY  
Yeah, yeah.

SAM  
Mm. We have to change that.

ANDY  
It's okay. Can I ask you something?

SAM

Sure.

ANDY

Does it hurt?

SAM

This? No. It's living that hurts.  
It's the waiting that hurts more.

ANDY

But, the medication is helping you?

SAM

The medication, the remedy rather,  
is worst than the disease. They're  
killing us all.

ANDY

Jesus.

SAM

I take them to make Jesus happy. He  
doesn't want me to give up, but we,  
all of us who have this disease, are  
fighting a lost cause.

ANDY

I...I know. My dad, he...

SAM

Yes, I know. I'm so sorry.  
Listen...um...I'm sorry I forgot  
your name...

ANDY

Andrew. I preferred Andy.

SAM

Andy...um...I forgot what I was going  
to say. Another asset of this  
disease, mental lapses.

ANDY

Sorry.

SAM

I came down to vomit because I didn't  
want to wake up Jesus. He suffers  
from chronic back pain and takes  
very strong pain medications. But,  
here you are. You like video games?

ANDY

Yeah.

SAM  
Well, I got a Nitendo player in that  
top drawer of the wall unit. You  
want play?

ANDY  
Sure.

Sam gets up, retrieves Nitendo plus some cables.

SAM  
I forgot how to hook it...

ANDY  
I can figure it out.

SAM  
Andy, thanks for being here.

Andy smiles.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - TOMMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tommy listens to music on his Walkman, glances at pictures  
of super models in an all female magazine.

DOOR KNOCK

KATHY (O.S.)  
Tommy! Tommy!!

Tommy quickly hides magazine under his bed, unlocks door.

KATHY (CONT'D)  
Did I wake?

TOMMY  
No. I was listening to music.

KATHY  
Honey, are you having a hard time  
falling asleep?

TOMMY  
Not really.

KATHY  
Are you sure?

TOMMY  
Yeah.

KATHY  
Tommy, your dad is worried about  
you.

TOMMY  
Why? I'm fine.

KATHY

You don't go out, you have no friends.

TOMMY

Most kids don't understand me. Um,  
we don't have much in common.

KATHY

That's the thing. How could you not  
have nothing in common with kids  
your own age?

TOMMY

Because we don't! They're always  
calling me names!

KATHY

What'd you mean?

TOMMY

Look, mom I don't wanna talk about  
it. It's late. Go to sleep.

KATHY

Alright. But, I want you to know  
that if anything is bothering you,  
that you can come to me about it.  
Together we can work it out.

TOMMY

What about dad?

KATHY

You can talk to him as well.

TOMMY

I doubt it.

KATHY

Tommy, all I want you to know is  
that I'm here for you. Okay?

TOMMY

Okay.

Kathy kisses him in the forehead.

KATHY

Good night.

As Kathy leaves, Tommy puts his headphones back on and raises  
the MUSIC. He gets emotional and cries silently.

MASTER BEDROOM

Kathy lays down. Tom opens his eyes.

TOM

How is he?

KATHY

I'm sorry?

TOM

I know you went to check on Tommy.  
How is he?

KATHY

He's fine.

TOM

I hope so, for his own good.

KATHY

And what does that mean?

TOM

You know what I mean.

KATHY

No, what? That his different? That  
he has no friends?

TOM

It's late and I'm tired--

KATHY

That he has long hair and they make  
fun of him?

TOM

Kathy, I don't want to do this now,  
damn it!

KATHY

Shame on them, not on my son! Good  
night.

TOM

He's my son too.

KATHY

Good. Don't you ever forget that  
and try to understand him. He's got  
enough judges at his school. The  
last thing he needs is us prejudging  
him too.

TOM

That is not what I'm doing. I'm  
just worried about him. It's my  
job. You should be as well.

KATHY  
He'll find his way and whatever that  
is, I will always love him.

Tom gets up.

TOM  
Well I don't a fairy for a son.

KATHY  
Stop calling, him that!

TOM  
You know what? I need a drink because  
you just don't get it!

EXT. FOUR STREET INTERACTION -- DAY

Jesus is standing at his usual corner in uniform.

Michael and Charlie approach the street crossing, wait for  
Jesus to signal them.

MICHAEL  
Look at him, Charlie. What an  
innocent face.

CHARLIE  
Michael just ignored him.

MICHAEL  
I will.

CHARLIE  
He's just doing his job.

MICHAEL  
No, he's not. But starting today my  
plan to get my revenge will be set  
into motion. I just hope the little  
freak shows up for class today now  
that I back and--

Jesus blows his whistle.

JESUS  
Come on guys!

Michael and Charlie cross.

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Good morning.

MICHAEL  
Good morning, sir.

The two teens continue walking.

CHARLIE

(whispers)

Sir? What the fuck was that all about?

MICHAEL

I need him to think that everything is okay. I don't need to raise any suspicions once my plan sets into motion.

CHARLIE

I wish you tell me already what your plan is?

MICHAEL

You'll hear about it very soon and not from me. Now hurry, we're late.

They run.

SIDEWALK

Officer David Sullivan stops his patrol car in the corner where Jesus is standing. Jesus doesn't notice, he's very pensive.

DAVID

Gonzalez! Jesus!!

JESUS

Yes, sir.

DAVID

David! How did it go with that kid that got suspended? I just saw him.

JESUS

Fine. He even said, "good morning sir." That's a first for him.

DAVID

(chuckles)

That's so great. I'm happy to hear that. Jesus, I'm worried about you. You seemed really preoccupied.

JESUS

Like I said before, I'm just tired... But, really thank you...for asking.

The two man lock eyes for a brief moment, David smiles.

DAVID

Well I gotta go. You take care now.

JESUS

You too.

DAVID  
 Hey! Maybe we can do lunch one of  
 this days. My treat.

JESUS  
 Okay.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - LUNCHROOM - DAY

Michael and Charlie are seated eating.

MICHAEL  
 Where the hell is he?

CHARLIE.  
 Who?

MICHAEL  
 Sissy boy, bro. I know he's in  
 school.

CHARLIE  
 Maybe he's avoiding you.

MICHAEL  
 I bet he is-- There he is. Stay  
 here I gotta talk to him in private.

Tommy seats at table where Brandon and another teen are  
 seated.

BRANDON  
 Hey Tommy?

TOMMY  
 Hey.

Michael seats across from Tommy.

MICHAEL  
 Tommy, what's up man?

TOMMY  
 Nothing much.

MICHAEL  
 Tommy, you listen very carefully--

TOMMY  
 I--I don't wanna listen to you.  
 Leave me--

MICHAEL  
 If you know what's good for you, you  
 better listen and do what I'm going  
 to ask you to--



TOMMY  
Just leave alone.

MICHAEL  
Tommy don't make me--

BRANDON  
Hey Michael, why don't you just--

MICHAEL  
Brandon, but out!

Brandon gets up.

BRANDON  
No. Now, leave him alone. It's obvious he doesn't want to speak to you.

MICHAEL  
I need to speak with him.

BRANDON  
You better leave him alone now or I'm gonna tell on you. I'm not afraid of you Michael.

MICHAEL  
And I'm not afraid of you. But, okay, I'll leave.

BRANDON  
Good.

Brandon returns to his seat.

MICHAEL  
(whispering)  
I'll wait for you outside after school. You don't show up, I'm telling everyone, including your parents, all about your perverse secret, you little freak.

Tommy stares into Michael's eyes, Michael has an evil smile.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)  
I knew that will get your attention. See you later, buddy.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Gloria is giving Sam his medicine with a can of Ensure.

SAM  
I don't even know why the hell they're giving us this meds. They're not helping Gloria.

GLORIA

Sam, Andy told me what happened the other night. You were vomiting a lot. So, I want to ask you, do you want to stop taking your meds?

SAM

Jesus doesn't want me to stop them. He hopes that eventually they're find a cure for this and if I stop...

GLORIA

It's your body. You can decide.

SAM

You know me Andy had a great time Saturday night playing Nintendo.

GLORIA

I know, he told me.

SAM

He beet the crap out of me, but we had fun.

GLORIA

Glad to hear that. By the way it's his birthday Wednesday and I want to get him a small cake, have a little party for him.

SAM

Yes, lets do that.

GLORIA

You really up to it?

SAM

Yeah. It's been so long since we had a celebratory event in this house. It's about time.

GLORIA

Then is all set.

SAM

Gloria, is he a good driver?

GLORIA

Well, I don't let him drive my car much, but the times I driven with him to the stores, he's done good.

SAM

Great.

GLORIA

Why'd you asked?

SAM

Um...we were talking about cars and he told you didn't let him drive.

GLORIA

It's the only car I have and the last thing I need is have it smashed.

SAM

He'll be fine. You watch.

Gloria with a confused expression walks away.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL -- DAY

Charlie and Michael are waiting outside. The street is empty, just a couple of teenagers getting into their parents cars.

CHARLIE

Yo Michael, I think he left early in order to avoid seeing you.

MICHAEL

I don't think so. You should have seen the look he gave me when I told him I knew everything about his big secret and that I was going to tell on him.

CHARLIE

Yo, I think he left. I'm out of here, bro.

MICHAEL

You're right. I'll get him. Don't forget he lives right next door from me.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - TOMMY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Tommy enters, goes to bedroom window and looks across to Michael's house. Panicked, quickly closes the curtains to his window. Panting he lies in bed.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The Nolan's are all having dinner.

KATHY

Honey, you haven't hardly touched your food. Lasagna, your favorite.

TOMMY

I'm not hungry, mom. I got a lot of homework.

Tommy rushes off.

TOM  
 Something is going on and if he  
 doesn't tell us soon, I'm going to  
 force it out of him.

KATHY  
 You will not do such thing.

TOM  
 No. Watch me.

DOORBELL

KATHY  
 I'll get it.

TOM  
 Who can it be at this time?

TOMMY'S BEDROOM

He's in bed staring at the ceiling.

KNOCK

TOMMY  
 It's open!

KATHY  
 Sweetheart, you have a visitor.

TOMMY  
 Who is--?

Holding a backpack, Michael--

MICHAEL  
 Hey, Tommy boy!

KATHY  
 Can I get you anything, Michael?

MICHAEL  
 No thank you Mrs. Nolan. Me and  
 Tommy have a lot of homework to get  
 done. Right buddy?

KATHY  
 I leave you two alone then.

As soon as Kathy closes the door, Michael gets on Tommy's  
 face, angry.

MICHAEL  
 I waited for you outside of school  
 like an idiot and you were obviously  
 gone.

TOMMY

I--I--

MICHAEL

No, don't say anything. I'm going to be doing all the talking. You just listen and listen very carefully because if you mess up, your parents and everyone at school are not only going to know what you really are, but they're going to see it with their own eyes when I show them the video I made of you last week, dancing in front of...that mirror, to that queer song, make up and all in, your mother's dress.

TOMMY

I don't believe you.

MICHAEL

(laughing)

No. You had a red dress and red lipstick to match it. Unless it wasn't your mother's dress, but one of your own little creations. Was it, sissy boy? One of your many creations?

TOMMY

What do you want from me?

MICHAEL

Revenge, sweet, fucking revenge for what that other freak friend of yours did to me because of you.

TOMMY

Who are you talking--?

MICHAEL

Jesus! You idiot! After you're done with him, he'll rot in jail! Now, listen very carefully and take notes because if you fuck up, I swear, I will reveal your secret without any mercy!

FRONT DOOR

KATHY

Did you two get all your homework done in such a short time?

MICHAEL

I did, Mrs. Nolan.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

In reality I had most of it done,  
except for some math problems and  
Tommy is such a math wiz.

KATHY

That he is. He takes after his  
father. Well you are welcome back  
any time.

MICHAEL

Thank you so much, ma'am.

KATHY

Michael? Can I ask you a question?

MICHAEL

Sure.

KATHY

How is Tommy in school?

MICHAEL

He's very smart, I know--

KATHY

I don't mean that. I mean, how is  
he with the other kids? Does he  
socialize a lot?

MICHAEL

Well he does keep to himself, but  
hey that's why he's so smart. He  
don't play around, Mrs. Nolan and  
you should be proud of him. Look, I  
know Tommy and I, we had our  
differences, but I promise you that  
from now on we're gonna be the best  
of friends. Anything else?

KATHY

No-no. Thank you, Michael.

MICHAEL

Good night.

KATHY

Night.

TOMMY'S BEDROOM

Tommy seated in bed, panic in his eyes.

TAPPING ON WINDOW

Tommy opens curtains.

MICHAEL

Remember sissy boy, you have until Friday to practice and memorize everything you need to do. Friday and not a day later! Ha, ha, ha!

INT. JESUS HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jesus seated by Sam's bed, falling asleep watching "Dynasty."

The show's MUSIC theme comes on. Sam turns T.V. off.

JESUS

What--what happened?

SAM

It's over, sleepy head. Don't worry, I'll fill you in tomorrow. Come on, let me help you into bed.

JESUS

It's okay I-- Oh!

SAM

Yeah sure. Come on old man, lean on me.

Jesus complies.

JESUS

My back feels like a ninety year old men's

SAM

Easy. Lay down old pup. Did you take your pain medication?

JESUS

I did. Did you take yours?

SAM

You gave them to me.

JESUS

That's right. Now my memory is going too.

SAM

All you need is rest. Here, I'm gonna lay down next to you until you fall asleep.

Sam lays down. Jesus puts his head on Sam's chest.

JESUS

Mm. Thank you. It's been so long since we've slept together.

SAM

Well, in that case I think I'll sleep here the entire night.

JESUS

Oh...this feels so good. I don't ever want to let you go, Sam. Never.

SAM

Shh. Just enjoy this moment. Now go to sleep, it's late.

Jesus takes a deep breath, falls asleep.

Sam's eyes water up, as he caresses Jesus.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Andy, Jesus, Sam are seated in the table decorated with birthday cups, plates, gifts.

Gloria enters holding a cake with a wax number seventeen candle already lead. She starts singing, "Happy Birthday." Sam and Jesus join in.

Kissing Andy, Gloria-

GLORIA

Happy birthday, baby.

ANDY

Mama, I'm not a baby. Stop calling me that in front of company.

SAM

Hey, I love when she calls me baby.

ANDY

Good, you can have her.

JESUS

Okay, Andy, make a wish and blow your candle.

Andy closes his eyes and blows out his candle.

Claps from everyone.

GLORIA

What did you wish for, son?

ANDY

I wished...

(choked up)

I wished that they soon find a cure for AIDS.



GLORIA  
From your lips to God's ears, son.

SAM  
Thank you for that my friend. Okay  
enough sadness, lets cut the cake  
and you can open your gifts.

GLORIA  
Yes.

Gloria starts cutting the cake. The first piece is for Andy.

SAM  
Andy, this is from both of us.

Sam hands Andy small wrapped box.

GLORIA  
Guys, you've done enough for us--

JESUS  
Gloria, let the kid open his gift.

ANDY  
Yeah, mama.

Andy unwraps the box, opens it, inside is a key chain with  
the letter "A" and a car key attached.

SAM  
Do you know what that key is for?

ANDY  
It--It looks like a--

GLORIA  
A car?

ANDY  
Oh, my God.

SAM  
Yes. Now, its not a brand new car,  
but it runs in perfect condition.  
It used to be my car until I...  
Anyway, it's in the garage.

JESUS  
Oh, and I just got it serviced today  
and it's also insured for another  
five months in your name, you just  
gotta registered it.

ANDY  
Oh, my God. I...I don't know what  
to say.

SAM

A simple, thank you, and a promise  
that you're going to be very careful  
on the road.

Andy hugs Sam.

ANDY

I will... Thank you.

JESUS

Hey, don't I get a hug?

ANDY

Sure! Thank you... But, what about--  
Don't you want to drive, Sam?

SAM

I do and you're going to drive me  
around as soon as you get it  
registered.

ANDY

I will. Can I go see it now?

GLORIA

Hey, what about your cake?

ANDY

Just for a minute. Please?

GLORIA

Alright.

ANDY

Sam, please come.

SAM

You bet. We'll be right back.

Sam and Andy rush off.

JESUS

Look at them. Sam's acting like a  
kid again.

GLORIA

I know.

JESUS

Gloria, you have no idea how grateful  
I'm to you for being in our lives,  
both of you. Andy is a wonderful  
kid and uh...he really makes Sam  
happy for what ever time he has--

GLORIA  
Don't, don't say it. That's only  
God's will. No one else's.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Tommy is putting away some books into his locker.

Michael sneaks up on Tommy.

MICHAEL  
Hey, Tommy?

TOMMY  
What'd you want?

MICHAEL  
Listen, it looks like it's going to  
rain, so I want you to do it today.

TOMMY  
Why?

MICHAEL  
Because, the rain is going to be  
your excuse to get into his car.

TOMMY  
I don't know what you mean?

MICHAEL  
Class is starting. Meet me outside  
and I'll give all the details.  
(into Tommy's ear)  
Did you memorized everything you  
gotta do?

TOMMY  
Yeah.

Brandon near by, notices Michael whispering into Tommy's  
ear.

MICHAEL  
Did you bring an umbrella?

TOMMY  
Yes.

MICHAEL  
Give it to me.

TOMMY  
But, I'm going to--

MICHAEL  
I said give it to me, damn it!

Tommy removes umbrella from backpack, hands it to Michael.

BRANDON

Tommy is everything okay?

MICHAEL

Brandon, are you always so protected?

BRANDON

Only from bullies like you, Michael.

MICHAEL

Everything is cool, bro. Right Tommy?

Tommy nods in agreement.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

See? Thanks for the umbrella, buddy.  
I'll return it tomorrow. You do  
have another one don't you?

TOMMY

Yeah.

MICHAEL

Brandon, don't you have class?

BRANDON

I'll be right in.

Michael disappears.

BRANDON (CONT'D)

Tommy, tell me the truth. It's  
everything okay between you and  
Michael?

TOMMY

Yeah. We're cool.

BRANDON

Are you sure?

TOMMY

I'm okay. Thanks. I gotta go.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL -- DAY

Michael and Charlie are waiting outside the door for Tommy.

Michael looks up at the dark clouds approaching.

MICHAEL

Look at those clouds, Charlie.

CHARLIE

Yeah man, we better hurry or we're  
gonna get hit with heavy down pours.

MICHAEL

But, Charlie this is exactly what I was hoping for.

CHARLIE

I don't get you, man.

MICHAEL

Today is the big day, buddy. You'll see. Did you bring an umbrella?

CHARLIE

Yeah, why?

MICHAEL

Because you're gonna need it, so you can watch what's about to go down in the bank's parking lot, in just a few--

Tommy exits the school.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What the hell happened to you, man?

TOMMY

Nothing, I was just--

RAIN BEGINS

MICHAEL

Come on I'll walk with you half a block, then I'll go ahead. You do everything exactly as I told you. Got it? Hey! I asked you a question!

TOMMY

Got it.

MICHAEL

You better not fuck up!

CHARLIE

Michael what--

MICHAEL

Shut up, Charlie. Open your umbrella and lets go.

Michael opens his umbrella, covering himself and grabbing Tommy by the arm, covering him as well.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Lets go!

111.  
EXT. FOUR STREET INTERACTION -- MOMENTS LATER

Jesus is standing in his corner, waiting, wears a yellow raincoat.

The streets are pretty much clear of children by now. Rain is strong and steady.

Michael and Charlie approach the street crossing, wait for Jesus to signal them to cross.

CHARLIE

Michael, I don't know exactly what your plans are, but I don't like it, man.

MICHAEL

You better shut the fuck up, Charlie. This is something I had to do. He put through hell--

CHARLIE

But, Michael, he was just doing his job--

JESUS

Guys! Come on!

MICHAEL

You shut your fucking mouth and lets go. Be nice to him.

They start to cross. Passing Jesus.

JESUS

Get home safe guys.

MICHAEL

Thank you, sir.

CHARLIE

Good night, Jesus.

JESUS

Night, Charlie.

The two teenagers rush off, down a steep sidewalk.

MICHAEL

Hurry, we gotta hide down there where he can't see us.

CHARLIE

What for?

Michael looks back, notices Tommy waiting for Jesus to cross him.

MICHAEL

Shut up and you'll see. Hurry, Tommy is coming. It's gonna happen soon. Over here, where we can see it all.

They hide on a downward sidewalk, side of bank.

INTERSECTION

Jesus blows his whistle, stopping traffic, calls Tommy.

JESUS

Son, what happened? Where's your umbrella?

TOMMY

I--I forgot. No worries, my mother is picking me up. I'm just going to wait right there by the bank entrance.

JESUS

Well, I'll be here another fifteen minutes. So, I'll keep an eye out for you.

TOMMY

Thanks. I'll be alright. Good night.

JESUS

Good night, son.

Tommy rushes over to bank's entrance, stands there. THREE FEMALE BANK TELLERS are visible working behind counter.

A MALE customer exits the bank. Seconds later PAUL RIZZO, thirties, the bank manager, comes to the door holding multiple keys. Paul opens the door.

PAUL

Hello? Oh, hi Tommy?

TOMMY

Hi, Paul.

PAUL

Are you okay?

TOMMY

Yeah. I--I'm just waiting for my mom.

PAUL

I'm going to be here for another twenty minutes or so. You wanna come in and wait?

TOMMY  
No, no, no. Thank you. She'll be here shortly.

PAUL  
Well, if you need me to call your dad or--

TOMMY  
No! He's still working. Jesus...the guard he's still here.

PAUL  
Okay. Take care.

Paul locks the bank's glass, double doors.

DOWN THE HILL

CHARLIE  
Michael, will you tell me once and for all what the hell--

MICHAEL  
Fuck you man! Get out of here!

CHARLIE  
But, Michael--

MICHAEL  
Go, Charlie! For your own protection, you better get out of here.

CHARLIE  
What are you talking about?

MICHAEL  
Go! GO HOME!

Charlie slowly backs away, then runs.

EXT. BANK ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Jesus approaching Tommy.

JESUS  
Son, it's getting late. Are you sure your mother's coming?

SILENCE

JESUS (CONT'D)  
Tommy?

TOMMY  
I...I don't know. Maybe she...



Through the bank glass doors, PAUL stops what he's doing and notices Jesus talking to Tommy.

JESUS

Look son, I can stay here for as long as you need me. But, what if she forgot or maybe she got...tied up at the last minute?

As Jesus is speaking, Tommy recalls Michael's words.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

You need to get in his car. So you gonna half to at some point, ask him to take you home.

TOMMY

Can you-- take me home?

JESUS

Tommy...I...I--

TOMMY

Please. It's...not that far.

JESUS

But, Tommy, I'm not--

TOMMY

My mother knows you. She likes you.

Jesus ponders for a beat, takes deep breath, bites his lips.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Make Jesus take you home no matter what you have to do or say.

TOMMY

My mother...she trust you...I trust you.

JESUS

Alright. Come on. That's my car right over there.

Tommy looks over and up above the car, notices the BANK CAMERA as they walk.

TOMMY

Thanks.

JESUS

Don't sweet it.

INT. BANK -- DAY

Paul concerned look, follows the two with his eyes.

INT. JESUS CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Tommy enters the car first.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Don't forget, you pull on the seat-belt, but it's stuck. Make him put it on for you.

Jesus enters

CAR

JESUS

Okay.

(turns engine on)

I hope your mother is home.

TOMMY

I have the keys.

JESUS

Son? Are you okay?

TOMMY

Ye--yeah. Why?

JESUS

You sure?

TOMMY

Yeah. I...I'm just--just cold.

JESUS

You poor thing. I forgot, you're wet. Okay. You need to buckle up.

TOMMY

Oh, sorry.

Tommy struggles with the belt.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I...I-- It's...

Tommy recalling Michael's words-

MICHAEL (V.O.)

When Jesus, reaches over to help you with the belt...

JESUS

What is it? Is it stuck..? Here let-let me help--

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Bang! You grab him! Kiss him right in the lips.

Tommy does just that, grabs Jesus coat, brings lips to Jesus.

Jesus pulls away in shock.

JESUS

Tommy what-- Oh, my God. Why would  
do such a thing....? Answer me!

TOMMY

I'm sorry. I--I, I, I, I got, gotta  
go.

JESUS

(holds Tommy)

No! You're not leaving until--

TOMMY

(panicked)

No, no, no, no. I, I, I gotta go!

JESUS

Tommy, I need an answer! Why would  
you--

Recalling Michael's last words-

MICHAEL (V.O.)

You scream, scream as loud as you  
can and get out of the car!

TOMMY

Let, let, let go of me!

(opens car door)

Let go of me!

Jesus grabs Tommy by arm.

JESUS

Tommy please!

Bank manager Paul rushes to Tommy's help.

TOMMY

No, no, no. No!

JESUS

Tommy, please!

TOMMY

No! No! NO!

Paul tapping car window.

PAUL

Man, what the hell are you doing?

Let go of him!

Jesus releases Tommy.

Tommy opens door, gets out, leaves car door opened.

Paul crosses over to Tommy.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Son are you okay? Come inside.

Tommy runs off.

Michael, smiles as he realizes his plan worked so far.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
What the hell were you thinking,  
man?

Jesus at first is numb, stunt, confused, scared, then it hits him. Eyes wide opened.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
You're in a lot of trouble, mister.

Jesus quickly closes passenger door.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
I'm reporting this. You hear?

Jesus drives off.

Paul rushes back to the bank.

SIDE WALK

Michael gets on Tommy's way, stopping him.

MICHAEL  
(laughing)  
Good job buddy. What's the matter aren't you happy? Now, don't forget to tell the cops exactly what I told you. Remember, I still have the tape.

TOMMY  
(enraged)  
Ahhhh!

Tommy pushes Michael, knocking him. He runs off.

Michael on the ground, evil laughter.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE -- DAY

Tommy comes in, slams door behind him.

TOMMY  
(panting)  
Oh God, God, God.

KATHY

Tommy? Sweetheart, are you okay...?  
Tommy your drenched! What happened  
to your umbrella?

TOMMY

I--I forgot it--

KATHY

How? I put it in your backpack this  
morning.

TOMMY

I, I, I lost it.

KATHY

Tommy are you sure you're okay?

TOMMY

I...I--I gotta change.

He rushes rushes off.

TOMMY'S BEDROOM

Tommy sits against door, sobbing quietly, scared, confused.

EXT. JESUS HOUSE - DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

The rain has stopped. Jesus is seated in his car.

Gloria comes down the back of the house stairs, taps on car.

Jesus rolls down window.

GLORIA

Jesus? Honey, are you okay?

JESUS

It's Sam up?

GLORIA

Yeah, he's upstairs waiting for you  
to have dinner.

JESUS

I don't think I can eat... Gloria  
something really serious happened  
about half-hour ago.

GLORIA

What--what is it?

JESUS

I don't want Sam to know. After  
dinner, ask Andy take Sam out for a  
ride. So we can talk. I--I also  
need to call the Precinct.

GLORIA

But--

JESUS

Not now, Gloria. Please.

GLORIA

Okay. I'll talk to Andy now. He just got in.

Jesus gets out of car.

JESUS

I'll try to eat something, so Sam wont suspect anything. Let's go inside.

On UPSTAIRS WINDOW Sam has been watching.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sam in bed.

JESUS

Hey.

SAM

High. You look exhausted.

Jesus removes his shirt and back brace.

JESUS

This weather...is killing my back.

SAM

You want your pain medication?

JESUS

I'll take it after dinner. Gonna take a fast hot shower.

SAM

Jesus, it's everything alright?

ANDY

Sam! Oh, hi Jesus?

JESUS

Hey, Andy.

ANDY

Sam, I was wondering if after dinner we can go together for a short ride around the--?

SAM

Andy, I'm sorry, but um--

JESUS

Go. Please, you asked him to take you and now you wanna back out--

SAM

Alright, Andy.

Jesus disappears into the bathroom.

ANDY

Great. Thank you, man! I...I promise you we wont be too long. I just wanna show the car to some friends over in Clifton...

Sam tunes Andy off. His eyes are focus only on the bathroom.

ANDY (CONT'D)

Then we'll just take a short ride through Branch Brook Park...

BATHROOM

Jesus looks in mirror, covers mouth, as tears cascade down his face, recalls the car scene with Tommy.

QUICK FLASHBACK

JESUS CAR - Tommy kisses him.

BACK TO SCENE

JESUS

(barely audible)

Lord...why...? Why? Dear God, I need you, I need you.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tom Nolan enters, slams door.

TOM

Tommy! Tommy!

KATHY

Tom, why all that shouting?

TOM

Is he home?

KATHY

Yeah, he's in his room.

TOM

Tommy! Tommy, come out here immediately!

KATHY

Will you please tell me what's going on?

TOM

You'll find out now.

Tommy appears, head down.

TOM (CONT'D)

I want you to tell me exactly what that--that sick creep did to you!?

KATHY

What--what are you talking-?

TOM

Kathy, damn it! Let him answer! Tommy, Paul, the bank manager, who as you know works for the same bank I work for, called me and told me that the guard had you trapped in his car and that there was a struggle between you two because he would not let you get out.

KATHY

I--I don't believe it. There must be a mistake--

TOM

Well it's all on the bank's surveillance tape, which Paul is going to provide to the police. Now, son, you want to tell me what happened...? Damn it, answer me!

TOMMY

He...he kissed me.

KATHY

Oh, my God!

TOM

Damn creep. What else did he do?

TOMMY

He...

Recalling Michael's instructions.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Tell everyone he grabbed your dick.

TOM

Tommy, I want to know everything word for word, play by play. What else?



TOMMY  
He...touched me...down--

KATHY  
Oh, Jesus!

TOM  
Did he forced you into his car...?  
Tommy, answer me. Did he?

TOMMY  
No. It..um... It was raining really  
hard and...  
(tearful)  
He offered me a ride, and uh...

TOM  
I'm calling the police.

Kathy hugs Tommy.

KATHY  
Oh, sweetie. I'm sorry. I'm so  
sorry.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Gloria and Jesus are having tea.

Gloria is shocked by what Jesus told her.

JESUS  
And that's basically all that  
happened, Gloria.

GLORIA  
Jesus, this is not good. Like you  
said, the bank manager apparently  
misinterpreted everything.

JESUS  
Well, yes, because I was trying to  
stop Tommy from leaving without  
explaining to me why he did what he  
did. I just don't get it.

GLORIA  
I know. Honey, you need to get ahead  
of the manager and tell your immediate  
supervisor what happened.

JESUS  
Gloria, I should'a never offered to  
give that kid a ride home. I broke  
company policy.

GLORIA

I know. Here, let me get you more tea.

INT. ANDY'S CAR -- NIGHT

ANDY

Sam, are you okay, man? You haven't said a word since we left the house.

SAM

Andy...please pull over here.

ANDY

What? Sam, we just left the--

SAM

Please do it.

Andy complies.

ANDY

Okay, now what?

SAM

What'd you know?

ANDY

I-- What'd you mean?

SAM

We are friends, right?

ANDY

Yeah.

SAM

Then please tell me what's going on with Jesus? Your mother knows.

ANDY

Sam--I...

SAM

I saw them talking in the driveway and I bet this trip was all planned by Jesus to get me out of the house.

ANDY

Damn you're smart. Look, all I know is that something happened at Jesus' job and he was going to discuss it with my mother once we left.

SAM

That's all?

ANDY

I swear.

SAM

Take me back.

ANDY

But, Sam you're gonna get me in trouble if--

SAM

We'll tell them that I got sick. I have a really bad feeling about all this. Let's go.

INT. JESUS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

GLORIA

Do you think the bank manager already called the cops?

JESUS

I don't know. But, this is why I wanted Sam out of the house as soon as possible. What time is it?

GLORIA

It's almost seven. Don't worry, I told Andy to take him to one of his friends house in Clifton, to show him his car.

JESUS

Clifton is not very far. I--I better go into the Precinct and file an incident report before--

DOORBELL

GLORIA

Who could that...?  
(looking out window)  
Oh, my God!

JESUS

They're here for me.

GLORIA

I think is a detective's car. Blue, flashing lights

JESUS

It is.

POLICE (O.S.)

(banging door)  
Mr. Gonzalez! Police, open up!

GLORIA  
What should I tell Sam?

JESUS  
That I had to go in for an incident report with a student. Give him his meds. He'll fall asleep before I--

POLICE (O.S.)  
Mr. Gonzalez! We know your in there! Please open up!

JESUS  
Take care of my boy?

GLORIA  
Like my own flesh and blood.

JESUS  
Thank you.

GLORIA  
Do you want me to call someone? A lawyer?

JESUS  
I'm sure they'll assign me one.

GLORIA  
Don't say award until they do so.

JESUS  
(tears up)  
I wont.

GLORIA  
Give me a hug... I'll pray for you.

JESUS  
Please do.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Andy drives in one way street that leads to Jesus' house, traffic is backed up a bit.

INT. ANDY'S CAR -- NIGHT

ANDY  
We'll almost there, Sam.

SAM  
I know-- Do you see what I see?

ANDY  
No, what?

SAM  
Flashing lights by-- Oh, my God.  
That's our home. Pull over here.

ANDY  
But, Sam--

SAM  
Pull over, damn it!

SIDEWALK

Sam exits the car and sees ONE POLICEMAN and a PLAIN clothes  
DETECTIVE with Jesus, handcuffed, coming down the short stairs  
from back of the house.

SAM (CONT'D)  
Oh my God. They got Jesus!

Andy exits cars, walks to sidewalk.

ANDY  
What!? Are you sure?

SAM  
(seizing)  
The--they ta--ta..king--

ANDY  
Sam! Sam! What's wrong!?

Sam slowly hits the floor, trembling.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
Sam! Oh God!

Andy runs, passes three houses until he reaches Jesus home.

The cops drive off as he heads up the short stairs to ring  
the bell in a panic.

ANDY (CONT'D)  
(banging door)  
Mama! Mama!

INT. JESUS HOUSE -- KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Gloria is on the phone.

GLORIA  
I suppose the Bellville Police  
Precinct...

ANDY (O.S.)  
Mama, open up!

GLORIA  
Yeah, that's where-- I'm sorry sir,  
someone is--

ANDY (O.S.)  
MAMA!!

GLORIA  
Oh God, its my son and Sam... Yes.  
Please do that and thank you. Bye.  
What the hell--

Opens door.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
Andy, what--?

ANDY  
Mama...Sam, he's on the side walk--

GLORIA  
What happened?

ANDY  
I--I don't know. He, he started  
trembling and mumbling his words--

GLORIA  
He's having a seizure. Oh, sweet  
Jesus

ANDY  
What?

GLORIA  
The keys!

Gloria enters.

ANDY  
(screaming)  
But mama, shouldn't we call an  
ambulance?!

GLORIA (O.S.)  
They won't take him!

ANDY  
What?! Why not?!

Gloria locks the door.

GLORIA  
Andy, he's got AIDS, they're afraid  
and that includes E.M.S workers.

ANDY  
But you're not afraid.

GLORIA  
I'm well informed. Your dad...

ANDY  
(shocked)  
My God.

GLORIA  
Come on, baby.

As they walk.

ANDY  
Mama, what happened to Jesus?

GLORIA  
I tell you once we get to the hospital. Listen, I'm gonna need you to drive. We'll put him in the back seat.

ANDY  
Anything else I can do?

GLORIA  
Pray baby, pray real hard for both Sam and Jesus.  
(leans over Sam)  
Oh, God. Sam, my sweet, kind Sam.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - CELL - NIGHT

Jesus sobs, lays down in fetal position, turns against wall  
A POLICEMAN (30s, heavysset) approaches the cell.

POLICEMAN 2  
Gonzalez! Come on, you got a visitor.

Jesus wipes his face, gets up, front of cell door.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM WAITING AREA -- NIGHT

Andy is seated looking at a TV playing '80's comedy sitcom.  
There are about FOUR other patients waiting to be seen.

Andy walks over to vending machines. Seconds later Gloria appears.

GLORIA  
(teary)  
You're hungry, baby?

ANDY  
I was just. How is he?

GLORIA  
They're going to admit him. You  
sure you don't want--?

ANDY  
Mama, tell me the truth. It's bad?

GLORIA  
I'm afraid so. He has viral  
meningitis on top of the Toxo.

ANDY  
What's that?

GLORIA  
Toxoplasmosis is lesions in the brain.  
He's not gonna make it. And Jesus,  
in jail to make matters worst.

ANDY  
But didn't you tell me in the car  
that his father is a big time lawyer?

GLORIA  
Yes, but Jesus, probably won't be  
arraign until two or three days and  
there's no guaranteed he'll get bail.

ANDY  
Oh mama, why did this had to happened  
to them?

GLORIA  
I don't know. We just gotta put all  
our trust in God Almighty.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

HARRY COHEN, thirties, lawyer, is seated across from Jesus,  
taking notes on a legal pad.

HARRY  
Okay...I pretty much have everything  
I need. But, as you already know,  
according to the charges, what you  
just told me is not what the Nolan  
kid told the detectives earlier this  
evening and there's also the bank  
tape.

JESUS  
I don't have a clue to why he said  
those things. Or why he did what he  
did. He's a good kid.

HARRY  
And you know this...how?



JESUS  
I just know it.

HARRY  
Well, that will be my job once I interview him on deposition, to get the real truth out of him. Now, we first have to wait 72 hours to go in front of a judge to enter a plead and hopefully you can get bail.

JESUS  
Seventy-two hours?

HARRY  
Yeah, that's pretty much the maximum wait time after being served with an arrest warrant. Which is your case.

JESUS  
How much do you think bail is gonna be?

HARRY  
Don't--don't you worry. I'll handle it.

JESUS  
I'm sorry I-- You said your name is Larry--?

HARRY  
Cohen, Harry. You can call me Harry.

JESUS  
And you work for...?

HARRY  
The...Legal Aid Society of New Jersey. I'll leave my card with the Officer in case you need to reach me.

JESUS  
That's fine. But, can I just see your business card now?

HARRY  
I don't get it. Why do you--?

JESUS  
Harry, please. Let me see your business card. You do have one?

Harry hands Jesus business card.

Jesus looks at it, smiles, shakes his head.

HARRY

Your father send me. I been working for him for three years.

JESUS

I thought so. Poor Gloria. I knew she would call him. I should've warn her not to. Nothing personal, Harry. But, I don't want anything from that man...my father.

HARRY

But, Jesus, your father is really worried for you and has the best intentions--

JESUS

Well, it's a bit late for that. Officer! I'll take my chances with a public defender, which I'm sure I'm entitle to. Plus, I am innocent. The truth will set me free. Officer!!

HARRY

But, sir, you don't know the law and--

The same heavysset Policeman appears.

JESUS

Good night, Mr. Cohen. Tell my father I said: "thanks, but no thanks."

INT. JESUS HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Gloria gives Andy a sandwich she just prepared. Andy is very pensive.

GLORIA

Andy, eat?

ANDY

Thanks mama. I'll take it to my room.

GLORIA

Sweetheart. I'm sorry you had to see Sam that way, with the seizures and all.

ANDY

I...I kept thinking about dad.

GLORIA

Andy...

ANDY

Did he suffer like Sam?

GLORIA

No, baby.

ANDY

I love Sam, mama.

GLORIA

I know. He loves you too.

PHONE RINGING

GLORIA (CONT'D)

Go, go eat. You have school tomorrow.  
Hello. Yes, Mr. Gonzalez..? Sorry  
about earlier. I had to rush to the  
hospital. Sam, had a seizure.

RICHARD (V.O.)

And how is he?

GLORIA

Not well.

RICHARD (V.O.)

I send one of my lawyers to see Jesus,  
but he practically threw him out,  
once he found out he works for me.

GLORIA

I will talk to Jesus tomorrow.

RICHARD (O.S.)

Do you think you'll convince him  
that is in his best interest to--

GLORIA

I assure you, once I tell him about  
Sam, he'll change his mind and accept  
your help. Please, you don't need  
to thank me. I'm the one who's  
grateful for all that your son and  
Sam have done for us. I'll call you  
tomorrow. Good night.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT CELL -- DAY

JESUS

I'm sorry, David. I really don't  
have any clue as to why Tommy did  
what he did. After it happened I  
try to get him to tell me why, but  
the bank manager appeared.

DAVID

Jesus, this had to be all planned.

JESUS

By him?

DAVID

I--I don't know. I don't think so. But, I promise you I'm going to find out. You have a lawyer yet?

JESUS

My father, the famous lawyer of this town, send someone last night. I send him away.

DAVID

Why?

JESUS

It's a long story.

OFFICER appears.

OFFICER

Sullivan, he's got a visitor.

JESUS

Is it a lawyer?

OFFICER

A female. Black, bit heavysset.

JESUS

That's Gloria. I'll see her.

DAVID

I'll see later.

INT. DOROTHY'S HOME -- DAY

The 70 year lady, who's known Jesus for years, is on the phone, desperately calling.

DOROTHY

Okay, Don't forget Marge, spread the word. Bye!

(dialing)

Hello, Helen? It's Dorothy. I'm Fine. Listen, I've been making dozens of calls today. Jesus, you know, the kind crossing guard over by Belleville Avenue? Yes. Well, they arrested-- Oh, you heard? I need you to call everyone you know in your grand-kids middle school. We are all going over to the Precinct later this evening with signs to show our support for Jesus innocence. What?! He isn't guilty, you idiot! He's gay! 'Cause I know! I'm old! Mama mia, You're stupid-- Sorry, I meant to say, naive. Okay, bye!

Dorothy looks up, blesses herself.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - VISITORS ROOM -- DAY

Jesus is seated across from Gloria, both hands on the table. Officer is stands by, keeping watch.

GLORIA

Jesus, please you need to accept the help your father is offering.

JESUS

Gloria, don't make me repeat myself. I don't want nothing that comes from that man and you know very well why.

GLORIA

I know. But, Jesus, Sam needs you.

JESUS

I should be out on bail in 48 hours.

GLORIA

That's too long.

JESUS

What do you mean...? Gloria, what's going on?

GLORIA

Sam's dying. He's in the hospital.

JESUS

Oh, God.

GLORIA

Doctors don't give him much time.

(cries)

You have to be certain that you get bail and your father's firm is the best guaranteed you have!

JESUS

Call him. Call my father.

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Michael puts some books away in his locker.

TOMMY

Did you bring the tape?

MICHAEL

I already told at lunch, I did. Stop asking me.

TOMMY

I want the tape now.

MICHAEL

I also told you, I will give it to you outside.

TOMMY

Now. My dad is picking me up early.

MICHAEL

Okay, okay. I have it right here. Open your backpack when I tell you.

Brandon, whose close by, sees Michael as he puts VHS tape into Tommy's backpack.

TOMMY

It better be the only copy or I swear I'll tell on you and--

MICHAEL

Trust me, girlfriend. We both got what we wanted.

TOMMY

You did. Because of me, an innocent man is in jail.

MICHAEL

And I hope he rots. Bye, sweetheart.

Michael walks away. Tommy heads towards exit.

Brandon looks on suspiciously.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - HALLWAY - DAY

Jesus walks next to an officer.

OFFICER

You know, you've become a real popular guy in this town.

JESUS

Yeah, but for the wrong reasons.

OFFICER

Group of people just started gathering outside with holding signs, demanding your immediate release and chanting in support of your innocence.

JESUS

God is good, my friend.

OFFICER

Amen. He sure is.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Officer opens the door for Jesus. William is in the room.

William stands up, looks at son. Brief silence.

WILLIAM

First of all, I'm here as your father.  
Second, as the best, damn lawyer in  
town. Jesus, I assure by tomorrow  
morning I'll have you out of here so  
you can go and be with the man you  
love. Then, I'll find the truth,  
and you wont even have to stand  
trial... I know you're innocent, son  
and I will prove it!

Jesus holds back tears, but fails. He's father hugs him  
hard.

JESUS

Thanks...Dad.

WILLIAM

(whispers to Sam's  
ear)

I love son.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE -- DAY

Tom enters, Kathy concerned--

KATHY

You're back already?

Tommy runs to his room.

TOM

He refuse to see the Psychologist.

KATHY

Why?

TOM

Don't ask me! Ask your son!

KATHY

Tom, please.

TOM

Kathy stop saying: "Tom please!"  
I'm telling you, there's something  
wrong with that kid and if it's what  
I suspect, I swear I will personally  
fix him for good!

INT. MIDDLE SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Officer David, exits the Principals office.

Brandon walks out of the bathroom, approaches David.

BRANDON

Officer!

DAVID

Yes?

BRANDON

I need to speak to you, if I may?

DAVID

Sure.

BRANDON

My name is Brandon Hall, and I have some information, I think can help Jesus, you know the crossing--?

DAVID

I know Jesus. Is why I'm here. I had some questions for Michael...he's--

BRANDON

I know him very well. Bad kid, Officer. I honestly think that is Michael who set up Jesus. He also had an accomplice, Charlie, he's buddy.

DAVID

Did you overhear anything or--?

BRANDON

There's a tape. I--I don't know what it's all about, but Michael gave Tommy a VHS tape earlier. You need to speak to Charlie, he's scares easily. I bet, if you ask him, he'll turn Michael in.

DAVID

What about Tommy?

BRANDON

Tommy is too scare. He wont do it, also because, Michael has something on him on that tape. Jesus is a good guy. He risk's his life everyday for all us.

DAVID

I know.

(MORE)



DAVID (CONT'D)

Look, I'm going to ask Charlie's parents to bring him to the Precinct and if I need you, can you do the same?

BRANDON

Sure thing.

DAVID

Good. Thanks, son, this is very noble of you.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- DAY

Andy enters room, stands over Sam, who's eyes are closed.

ANDY

Hey Sam, buddy? It's me, Andy, your friend. Sam, I really wish you could get better.

Gloria stands appears at door.

ANDY (CONT'D)

I'm gonna miss you, buddy.

Andy seats down, wipes tears away.

GLORIA

Andy, why didn't you tell me were coming here after school?

ANDY

I wanted be alone with him, mama.

GLORIA

I heard what you told him.

ANDY

He...he and I became such good friends in such a short time. I...I just wish he'd stayed longer.

GLORIA

Son, what's important is that in that short time, you made him happy. In life, today is the only guaranteed with have. Tomorrow, only God knows.

ANDY

You think he heard me?

GLORIA

I'm sure he-- Look! Look, Andy. He's crying. Sam!? Sam, I saw Jesus earlier. He'll be here soon, real soon, you hear?

EXT. POLICE PRECINCT -- NIGHT

A CROWD of man, woman, teenagers, adolescents, and DOROTHY, holding signs that say: FREE JESUS, JUSTICE FOR JESUS, JESUS IS INNOCENT!! They're chanting

CROWD  
Justice for Jesus!

DOROTHY  
When do we want it?!

CROWD  
NOW!!

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

Through glass door, we can see Charlie, seated between his PARENTS.

Det. HARRY MURPHY, fifties, is seated across. Officer David Bongino, stands by the Detective.

Charlie removes VHS tape from backpack, hands it to David.

David places the tape into VCR.

EXT. POLICE PRECINCT -- NIGHT

Outside the crowds continues chanting. TV MEDIA TRUCKS are now present.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - CONFERENCE ROOM -- NIGHT

Det. Harry Murphy is seated. Officer David Bongino, removes tape from VCR. Brief silence from both cops.

DAVID  
We have to make this right, Det. Murphy. The people of this town, love Jesus more than he himself realizes.

DET.MURPHY  
Well he knows now. Just listen to those crowds. Contact his lawyer. I'll call the A.D.A. to expedite his release immediately. Then we need to visit those kids...um--

DAVID  
Nolan and O'Brian. Tommy Nolan is the kid on the tape. Both families live side by side.

DET.MURPHY  
We both need to go over there.  
(MORE)

DET.MURPHY (CONT'D)

If you don't mind? After all you solved this case.

DAVID

With pleasure, Sir.

DET.MURPHY

Bongino, sorry I doubted you. Good job.

They shake hands.

EXT. POLICE PRECINCT -- NIGHT

The CROWDS are now larger and louder.

Seconds later Jesus, and his father step out and in behind a podium, with different media outlets, microphones.

The CROWD cheers. Dorothy in particular gets very emotional to see her friend free.

WILLIAM

On behalf of my son and myself, I want to thank each and everyone of you for the love and support you have all shown here today. And guess what? My son is free because and all charges have been dropped!

CHEERS.

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Tom Nolan watching the news.

TOM

What?! Kathy! Kathy!!

KATHY

What--what is it?

TOM

They're releasing him! His lawyer, who's also his father, is saying that he's innocent.

KATHY

But--but why? How?

TOM

Where's Tommy?

KATHY

In his room.

DOORBELL.

TOM  
Unbelievable!

Tommy stands outside his bedroom door, fear in his eyes.

Kathy opens door to Detective Harry Murphy and Officer David Bongino.

KATHY  
Detective Murphy?

HARRY  
Good evening, Mrs. Nolan...

TOM (O.S.)  
Honey, the creep is going to give a  
speech! Who is it!?

Tom at door.

HARRY  
Mr. Nolan--?

TOM  
Just heard you let the creep who  
molested--

DAVID  
He is not a creep. He's a victim,  
just like your son.

TOM  
What the hell are you talking--

DET.MURPHY  
Bongino, please. Mr.Nolan, we try  
to make it here before the press  
conference, but traffic was-- Anyway,  
we got something we need you to see.  
May we come in?

TOM  
Sure.

EXT. POLICE PRECINCT -- NIGHT

Jesus is at the podium. CHEERS and APPLAUDS from the crowds.

JESUS  
First I want to thank God for His  
mercy during the last hours. Second  
I want to thank all of you for  
believing in my innocence, for being  
here for me. Ms. Dorothy, I love  
you. I--I never knew so many of you  
cared so much for..insignificant  
guard, little, old me.

(MORE)

JESUS (CONT'D)

So, in some way, what happened has been a blessing because now I know, the love you have all have for me. Including the love of my father, here. So, I'm grateful. I love my job, protecting children everyday, protecting all of you... This is all I wanted to do, but what hurts the most is that the intolerance and lack of compassion by one adolescent has caused a chain reaction of pain, of anguish, where innocent lives, including the life of my accuser as the life of his victim, will forever be scared...

INT. THE NOLAN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Tom Nolan and his wife are watching the tape of their son playing girl and dress up.

Kathy's eyes water. Tom is shocked, holds back tears.

Tommy who's been watching un-noticed, covers his mouth, crying. Rushes off to his bedroom.

Jesus voice is heard over the scenes.

JESUS (V.O.)

I truly believe, we all need to teach our children, compassion, love, who are different from us... Because embracing our differences is what America is all about... Lastly, parents, please accept and love your children no matter who or what they are, because they're all created as one in God's Holy image. Thank you. Thank you very much.

TOM

Turn it off.

KATHY

No.

TOM

(enraged)

Turn it off!!

Kathy turns tape off.

DET.MURPHY

Sir, we want you to know that the other kid--

TOM  
Kathy, go get Tommy.

DET.MURPHY  
Sir, I think is best if--

TOM  
Get him Kathy.

Kathy complies.

DET.MURPHY  
Mr. Nolan, I want you to know that even though your son, along with two others are all complicit in this terribly act against an innocent man, we believe, he is also a victim of one in particular kid, name Michael O'brian.

TOM  
I don't even know what my son is anymore. What the hell is he?

DAVID  
He needs help. He needs both his parents to be there for him. The Crossing Guard also believes your son is innocent and that he was coached and blackmail into doing what he did because of the video.

KATHY  
Tom, he's not responding. The door is locked.

Tom gets up.

DET.MURPHY  
Sir, please don't something you're gonna regret.

TOM  
He's my son, Detective. I know exactly what I have to do.

Tom quickly walks to

FOYER

and knocks at Tommy's bedroom door

TOM (CONT'D)  
Tommy! Tommy, open this door now...!  
Tommy, if I have to knock this door down it's going to be worst on you...  
Tommy, damn it!!

Tom starts kicking door.

KATHY

Tom, please stop! Detective!!

Fourth kick, door breaks open.

Tom's eyes wide open for what he sees.

KATHY (CONT'D)

Oh God! Tommy!!

Officer David Bongino, Det. Murphy, rush to bedroom.

DAVID

Oh, Jesus!

TOMMY'S BEDROOM

Tommy hangs closet door, suspended by a belt.

DET.MURPHY

Bongino, help me get him down.

KATHY

(crying)

Oh God! Oh God! My baby! My sweet baby...

They get Tommy down on the floor.

Officer David Bongino starts CPR.

DET.MURPHY

557G to central.

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

Central 557G.

DET.MURPHY

Detective Murphy, need an ambulance at 528 Weaver Avenue. Quickly.

SERIES OF SCENES -- NIGHT

--Ambulance arrives to The Nolan's block.

--Michael's bedroom, he looks out, talks on phone.

--E.M.S take Tommy on stretcher, continued CPR.

--Det. Murphy and Off. David, knock at Michael's house.

--Michael's house, living room, Mr/Mrs. Obrian watch video.

--Michael's bedroom - Edgar enters son's room, locks door, grabs Michael.

## MICHAEL'S BEDROOM

EDGAR

(barely audible)

Why?! Why?! I slave myself for  
you! I give you everything and all  
you do is cause trouble!! Why?!

Kicks his son on the floor.

Det. Murphy and Off. David, break door down, drawing their  
guns.

Edgar stops, raises his hands. Michael is really hurt, bloody  
face, swollen eye, cries in pain.

Nancy cries as she holds her son.

EXT. MICHAEL OBRIEN'S HOUSE -- NIGHT

Michael is placed into ambulance. Nancy gets in with her  
son.

Edgar handcuffed is put into police car, drives away.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

Sam is on oxygen as he struggles to breath.

Gloria holds Bible, prays. Andy by her side.

Isabella (Sam's mother) hold's Sam's hand.

At door.

JESUS

Gloria.

GLORIA

Oh, Jesus. Thank God! I prayed so  
much for you to get here before...

JESUS

Well, it worked.

ANDY

Great see you, Jesus. He's been  
waiting for you.

ISABELLA

Jesus.

JESUS

Isabella. I bet he is. He's very  
stubborn.



GLORIA

We'll be outside. Talk to him. He  
can hear you. Here's my Bible.  
Please read it to him.

JESUS

I will. Thank you all.

Gloria kisses Jesus, they all leave.

Jesus approaches Sam's bed, takes his hand, kisses it.

Sam, forced breaths, opens eyes, can't speak, teary eyes.

JESUS (CONT'D)

I'm here now sweetheart....I'm here  
and I'm not leaving you for one  
minute...It's okay... You--you rest  
now. I'm here...I'm here, my love.

Jesus puts head on bed, takes Sam's hand, placing it over  
his head.

Sam caresses Jesus hair.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING LOUNGE - NIGHT

Andy is asleep. Gloria sips coffee, next to William Gonzalez.  
Isabella is asleep.

CLOCK 10:00 P.M.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

Jesus reads out loud from The Bible.

JESUS

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not  
want. He makes me lie down in green  
pastures...

INT. HOSPITAL WAITING LOUNGE -- NIGHT

CLOCK 2:00 A.M

Officer David Bongino now in the lounge with Gloria, William  
and Andy.

Jesus praying voice continues over next scenes.

JESUS (V.O.)

He leads me beside the still waters.  
He restores my soul; He leads me in  
paths of righteousness For His name's  
sake.

INT. HOSPITAL, EMERGENCY ROOM -- NIGHT

Tommy's lifeless body, lies in a stretcher.

Kathy cries on top of her son. Tom cries in silence.

JESUS (V.O.)

Yea, though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear  
no evil; For You are with me...

INT. HOSPITAL, WAITING LOUNGE -- NIGHT

ON CLOCK 4:00 A.M.

Jesus stands by the door. Andy notices him first.

ANDY

Mama! Mama!

GLORIA

What, what is--?

William Gonzalez goes up to his son.

JESUS

Sam's gone.

Gloria breaks down. Andy starts to cry.

Isabella rushes out crying

ISABELLA

Oh, my baby!

WILLIAM

Son, I'm so sorry. If--if you need  
me to make arrangements--

JESUS

No Dad. No need. Sam took care of  
it months ago. You can all go see  
him if...

ANDY

Jesus, I want you to know that Sam  
was more than a friend, he was a  
brother, a father. I'm gonna miss  
him.

JESUS

You made his last days very happy,  
Andy. Don't ever forget that.

They all exit. Jesus sits down.

DAVID

If anyone knows what you're feeling  
it's me. Believe me.

JESUS

I--I don't understand...How could  
you...?

DAVID

I lost my partner of four years, to  
AIDS, exactly one year ago the day  
after tomorrow... So, I want you to  
know that I'll be here for you if  
you'll have me.

JESUS

Thanks to you. I was able to make  
here because of you and for that I  
will always be grateful, David.

DAVID

Well right now, I'll be grateful if  
you can come with me for just a few  
minutes... There's someone here that's  
been desperately asking to see you.

JESUS

(confused)  
I don't...

DAVID

I'll explain on our way.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM -- NIGHT

Michael is in a bed, with oxygen and all sorts of I.V bags.  
His face is swollen, and some stitches.

Nancy is in a reclining chair, eyes closed.

DAVID

Mrs. O'Brien? Sorry to wake you.

NANCY

It's quite alright. I wasn't asleep.

DAVID

Jesus is out there.

NANCY

Oh. Thank you, for bringing him...

DAVID

Jesus, please...

NANCY

Hello.

(MORE)

NANCY (CONT'D)

I'm so sorry on behalf of our family for all that you had to go through because of my son's evil acts, where even an innocent life was just lost forever.

JESUS

I just heard. It's amazing how the actions of one can create such a horrific, ripple effect. However, if this is what your son's father did to him, I really think that it all started with him. Some old, buried resentments between father and son which I hope they can both forgive and move on.

NANCY

I don't know. Time will tell. The Nolan's are not pressing charges. They have their own crosses to bare as well.

JESUS

How is he?

NANCY

He's got multiple broken ribs, some lacerations on his face. He's in a lot of the pain, but medicated. Please talk to him, he's been asking for you.

DAVID

Come on, I'll buy you coffee.

NANCY

Thank you, I need it.

Jesus seats by Michael's bed, takes his hand, begins to pray in silence.

Michael slowly opens his eyes, squeezes Jesus hand.

MICHAEL

Oh..I...I...

JESUS

I know. It's okay.

MICHAEL

I'm sorry.

Jesus smiles nodding.

Tears roll down Michael's face, Jesus wipes them away.

SUPER Three years later.

INT. WILLIAM GONZALEZ'S LAW FIRM -- DAY

Jesus is in an office, finishes packing some boxes. He looks at a photo of him and Officer David Bongino, hugging. Puts the photo on box, seals box with tape.

WILLIAM

All packed and ready to go, son?

JESUS

And ready to unpack at our new duplex in the Village.

WILLIAM

You really sold your house here in no time, that says a lot about your neighborhood.

JESUS

It's a great neighborhood. But, David got promoted and it's also better for both of us to live and work in the Village, where...Well--

WILLIAM

I know, son and I'm happy for both of you.

JESUS

Thanks for all that you taught me these last three years Dad, while I was getting my Paralegal Certificate.

WILLIAM

You have really done some excellent work here before and post-grad. Goldstein, Booker and Jimenez are very lucky to get you.

CAR HORN Sound.

JESUS

That's David. Andy, Gloria and her fiancée Doctor, are all meeting us at Naninas in The Park to celebrate their engagement.

WILLIAM

Gloria's marrying a doctor. Good for her.

JESUS

That's what happens when you are an R.N. and work in a hospital.

WILLIAM

Son, I keep forgetting to ask you,  
have you seen that kid what was his  
name...

JESUS

Michael O'Brian. He's on his year  
of High School and wants me to be  
there. He's parents are divorced,  
but he works three times a week at  
his father's auto shop.

WILLIAM

That's so great to hear.

CAR HORN

Jesus picks up two boxes.

JESUS

We'll stop by tomorrow before we  
head to the city.

WILLIAM

Good. I'll have, Greta, catered  
something nice as our good bye party  
for both of you.

JESUS

Thanks Dad.

WILLIAM

Son...I'm really proud of you and I  
hope you never ever forget that I  
love you very much.

JESUS

I love you too Dad... Bye.

They kiss.

EXT. PARKING LOT. -- DAY

David gets out of the car, opens trunk.

DAVID

Here give me one of those boxes.

JESUS

Thanks, babe.

INT. DAVID'S CAR -- DAY

DAVID

All set.

JESUS

No.

DAVID  
What's wrong?

JESUS  
Where's my kiss.

David smiles, he kisses Jesus.

DAVID  
I love you.

JESUS  
Now...a little music...and lets roll!

EXT. CITY STREET -- DAY

David drives away.

FADE OUT.