

Gilded  
Jukebox Musical  
For Analysis Purposes Only

2016

OVER BLACK comes the sound of the guitar riff from "Spirit in the Sky" builds intensity as the scene opens...

INT.MARRON FARM-MORNING

A GOLD CROSS lays against a white dress worn by a plump,white, southern belle VIRGINIA(17) sh she runs out of the house.The CONGREGATION of white southerners SING along to music that conveys the hope of Heaven like in "Spirit in the Sky" .

EXT.MARRON FARM-CONTINUOUS

The songs continues as Virginia runs into the family car.We see white tenants plant cotton with tractors out into the fields while Black sharecroppers plant their cotton by hand.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.NAVE-MOMENTS LATER

Teens are walking and singing in confirmation garb, down the aisles to take their seats. Virginia trails behind the rest by a gap. Her parents EDWARD(43) and JUDITH(40) and seen sneaking into the pews by the back.

STEVE, a middle-aged pastor man address the crowd and they take their seats.

STEVE:

Thank you all for coming... some earlier than others.

MUFFLED LAUGHTER by the congregation. Judith gives Virginia a stern look. Virginia looks for CAROLINE her grandma who smiles warmly at her.

STEVE:(CONT'D)

No matter...today is a day of celebration. Today is a journey into adulthood, accepting your responsibilities and gifts from God.First Let's begin with a performance from our girls' choir.

TEEN GIRLS and Virginia gather in front of the crowd at the front. Virginia front and center opens with a song about loving someone like "Somebody to Love"

The rest of the girls join in to sing. As the performance gets more intense, the crowd gets visibly uneasy. Judith locks a stare with Virginia who looks away.

The girls make their way back to the pews. The crowd claps uncomfortably. Virginia looks at Judith who seems angry. In the back pew, JOHN BRENN, a young 15 year old boy clapping along.

STEVE:

Lovely girls. It's important to remember that when you can't find somebody to love. Let's remember the seven gifts of the lord.

INT. SAINT ANTHONY'S. ALTER-MOMENTS LATER

Father Steve anoints chrism onto a couple of teens' foreheads as Virginia stands next in line with Caroline.

STEVE: (V.O)

Counsel, wisdom,  
understanding, fortitude, knowledge, piety,  
and fear of the lord. With these  
you may live through life through  
the good and the bad.

Steve anoints the chrism onto her forehead.

STEVE:

God be with you.

VIRGINIA:

And with your spirit.

EXT. SAINT ANTHONY'S-LATER

The congregation lingers talking outside. An OLDER WOMAN meet to talk to Virginia's parents.

OLDER WOMAN:

It looks like you showed up a little late today.

JUDITH:

Yes. We' had a little trouble getting V out of bed. She's been so nervous about today.

Virginia breaks away from the crowd and meet up with John who's against a tree playing with a POCKET KNIFE.

JOHN:

Great song. Better than the rest of the crap.

VIRGINIA:

I'm glad at least you did.

JOHN:

No, really V. Everyone did. Have more faith in yourself it was great.

A red 1950s CAR pulls up with two teens, SCOTT who drives, and DON who's drinking beer, in the passenger. They HONK repeatedly for John.

JOHN:

I've got to go. I'll see you to practice. Bye V.

He kisses her on the cheek and leaves to get into the car. They drive toward the KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE to the other side of town. She notices the knife John dropped. She picks it up and hides it behind her. Virginia walks to her parents. Judith avoids eye contact.

JUDITH:

Was that Jonathan Brenn? I haven't seen him at church for awhile.

VIRGINIA:

He's just been out busy with his new friends. He invited me to his house for dinner to practice dancing. If that's okay?-- Did you like our song?

Judith smiles and ignores the question.

JUDITH:

You can go as long as you're back before curfew.

VIRGINIA:

He told me to wait here until he comes back he just went to drop off something. I'll wait for him.

Edward breaks away from talking to the crowd to join Virginia.

EDWARD:

Great song V. I'm proud.

Edward hugs her warmly. He walks off with Judith. Virginia waits until they are out of eyesight. She walks towards the bridge.

EXT. SAMUEL'S BAR-EVENING

Virginia walks down the streets. the building are noticeably poorer .She looks around but can't find the car. SAMUEL'S, a bar is up ahead.

A PUNCH thrown at a young effeminate man, CHARLIE HOWARD by another YOUNG MAN. A young woman JESSICA BELTRI, pushes the man back.

CHARLIE:  
Just leave us alone!

Virginia slowly walks closer to them, cautiously wielding the knife. She intervenes and holds up a knife to the young man who backs away.

VIRGINIA:  
Get away from them.

He's unconvinced and steps forward. Scared, she backs away. Jessica takes the knife from her hand and holds it to the man's throat cutting him slightly.

JESSICA:  
Fuck off.

The man runs off. Relieved Charlie hugs Jessica. He has trouble breathing and begins to cough. Jessica hands the knife back to Virginia.

JESSICA:  
Thanks for the help.

VIRGINIA:  
I wasn't much of it.

CHARLIE:  
You did enough sweetie. You should  
be home it's dark out.  
(to Jessica)  
I need to sit down.

Jessica helps Charlie into the bar as Virginia follows.

INT. SAMUEL'S BAR-CONTINUOUS

MUSIC Of ELVIS on the radio radiates through the crowded, but quiet bar. Virginia looks around the classic bar filled with mostly gay, black Patrons. A black, bartender SAMUEL serves drinks. Charlie and Jessica join with Ron a young black man at a booth. Charlie COUGHS while Ron, offers him some whiskey but he refuses. Virginia eavesdrops nearby.

RON  
 ( to Samuel)  
 Could you turn that shit off! At  
 least play some B.B. King or Little  
 Richard.

CHARLIE:  
 But I like it!

RON:  
 A no-talent, white, rip-off. Doesn't  
 deserve to be played.

Charlie pours a drink over Ron's head. Annoyed, Ron wipes it  
 from his face.

RON:  
 HEY!

SAMUEL:  
 Keep it down over there. I don't  
 want to throw you out.

RON:(CONT'D)  
 Okay fine leave it on. But only  
 because you nearly died trying to  
 get fresh air. I told you that you  
 should be less obvious.

CHARLIE:  
 Like it's my fault. He's just  
 another piece of trash that don't  
 know any better.

They kiss.

CHARLIE:  
 We've got work tomorrow better get  
 home.

Samuel spots Virginia who looks shocked, staring at the  
 group as they begin to leave.

SAMUEL:  
 You look lost. Can I get you  
 anything?

VIRGINIA:  
 I was looking for a friend and lost  
 my way.

Samuel looks at the and notices Jessica on her last drink  
 kissing everyone goodbye.

SAMUEL:  
 (to the group)  
 Would anyone over there like to  
 drive this girl home? She say she's  
 lost.

Jessica walks over to Virginia who's red in the face and  
 extends a drink in her hands.

JESSICA:  
 Drink this it will calm you down.

VIRGINIA:  
 My mother says drinking isn't very  
 ladylike. I've got school tomorrow.

JESSICA:  
 So you do everything you're told?

Hesitant, Virginia takes it and does as she's told.  
 She's taken aback at the intensity and GASPS.

JESSICA:  
 I'll return the favor.

Amused, Jessica extends her hand. Slowly, Virginia takes it.  
 Ron WHISTLES and the group LAUGHS. They leave the bar.

THE NEXT MONTH

SINGING of a CHURCH CHOIR over footage of news reports of  
 BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION, Then ROSA PARKS refusing to  
 give up her seat, and then footage of EMMITT TILL in his  
 casket.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH-DAY

A black CONGREGATION and CHOIR continue sing a song about  
 healing with God and move joyously to the music. Ron and  
 Charlie linger in the back. The energy of the uplifting music  
 like "The Healing" radiates as the crowd moves along to it.

The congregation sits. William stands and holds hands with  
 his wife MAE and their two young sons DERREL and ADAM. He  
 addresses the crowd.

WILLIAM:  
 We stand here today ready for  
 another opportunity for strength,  
 as each day is a blessing provided  
 by the Lord. Our times are  
 changing.

Some nod in agreement.

WILLIAM: (CONT'D)

With any step forward the Devil  
will try his best to drag you into  
the dirt. Our journey, is no  
different from the storm we have  
already weathered.

Members link hands in agreement. A few stand up in excitement.

WILLIAM: CONT'D

We owe it to God to stand together  
in the toughest of times. Like Job  
before us, every trial in life is a  
test of our convictions and our  
will. Everything is a test to make  
us stronger.

Mae and their two sons take seats. William spots Ron and Charlie in the back row.

WILLIAM:

First let's welcome a new member to  
our church. Ron who'd you bring  
with you?

Without looking back, people MURMUR. Ron and Charlie stand up.

RON:

This is my...friend Charlie Howard.

Some people turn their heads. Ron and Charlie politely wave but sit quickly.

CHARLIE:

(to Ron)

See, it wasn't that bad.

Ron shakes his head and shrugs.

WILLIAM:

Any friend of Ron's is a friend of  
ours.

(to the mass)

Let's remember endurance through  
tough times. We we only find  
strength in each other and in  
God. We'll see you at summer  
potluck. God be with you, Amen.

CONGREGATION:

Amen.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY.STEVE'S OFFICE-DAY

Virginia brings worn Sunday school books in from school room.

VIRGINIA:

The school room is finished. A lot of these books are getting old.

She sets books down on desk.

STEVE:

We're due to get new ones. Thank you for cleaning up. See you tomorrow.

She gather her things to leave.

EXT.SAINT ANTHONY'S-MOMENTS LATER

Virginia rushes down the steps of the church. She spots Jessica getting into her car across the street.

VIRGINIA:

(to herself)

I'd better not.

Virginia walks the opposite direction. Jessica spots her across the street and turns her car around. Jessica drives up to the curb and keeps the same pace as her.

JESSICA:

Need a ride? Where you heading.

VIRGINIA:

To the grocery store.--I shouldn't ride with people I don't know.

JESSICA:

Well I drove you home a couple weeks ago. I was even stranger then.

Virginia muffles a LAUGH. She shakes her head.

VIRGINIA:

It was late and I was lost.-- I didn't know what I was doing.

JESSICA:

Now you're just being stubborn.  
C'mon I'll let you drive.

The car stops. Virginia takes a few more steps and stops too. Jessica gets out of the car and throws the keys over to Virginia who misses the catch.

VIRGINIA:

I don't know how. I haven't really practiced.

JESSICA:

Great. Time to learn.

Virginia walk over to the driver's side and they get in.

INT./EXT. JESSICA'S CAR.PRENT STREETS-CONTINUOUS.

Jessica puts on Virginia's seat belt in a sensual way, and her own.

JESSICA:

Check the mirrors and adjust them so you can see. Then put the keys in the ignition and turn them forward.

Virginia checks the mirrors and starts the car. Jessica lights a cigarette. And turns on the radio with a country Gospel playing in the background.

JESSICA:

You mind?

VIRGINIA:

No it's okay.

JESSICA:

First signal then look out at for traffic before you get into your lane.

Virginia signals and looks, a bit unsure.

JESSICA:

Right foot on the left brake pedal and shift your gear into drive. You're going to put your foot on the gas pedal on the right to drive.

Virginia does as told, but JOLTS out fast. Jessica LAUGHS.

JESSICA:  
 Okay, take it easy. We turn left  
 the corner on Park Ave to stop at  
 Gerald's Grocery. Wait, signal and  
 turn.

Virginia tries to relax as Jessica lights a cigarette.

VIRGINIA:  
 So...where are you from?

JESSICA:  
 The Midwest. Moved south for  
 something new... artistically. This  
 pace has tension externally and  
 internally. It helps inspire. I  
 paint.

VIRGINIA:  
 Externally?

JESSICA:  
 History. Our country's history.  
 Union and Confederate. Fought a  
 brutal war. Lots of old baggage  
 being carried around by the "Good  
 'Ole Boys" who can't shake old  
 ways.

VIRGINIA:  
 Internally?

JESSICA:  
 It's hard to be... well you know  
 like Charlie and Ron at the  
 bar. Welcome to the Bible Belt. But  
 really it's like that everywhere.

VIRGINIA:  
 I've never seen anything like it  
 before.

Jessica nods and blows more smoke out the window. They get  
 close to Park Ave.

JESSICA:  
 I'm sure....They've been together  
 for a while now though I'm not sure  
 how they do it. They're the first  
 friends I've made here....Okay turn  
 here and park.

EXT.GERALD'S GROCERY PARKING LOT-CONTINUOUS  
 Virginia turns into the lot and finds a space.

JESSICA:

So what do you want to be. You must have just finished school.

VIRGINIA:

One more year until I graduate. I'm really not sure what I want.

JESSICA:

Been there...Well get what you need, I'll be here waiting.

EXT. GERALD'S GROCERY.PARKING LOT-LATER

Virginia carries groceries to the car. She sees Jessica by her car exchanging marijuana with a YOUNG DRUG DEALER. Jessica hands him money. They hug and he leaves.

VIRGINIA:

Who was that?

JESSICA:

No one. You need more practice.Drive us home.

Virginia puts groceries away. Jessica tosses her the keys and Virginia catches them with assurance. She smiles for once.

INT./EXT.JESSICA'S CAR.GERALD'S GROCERY-CONTINUOUS

JESSICA:

You know you look so much prettier when you smile. You should do it more often.

Virginia blushes.They JOLT out and they drive off.

EXT.MARRON FARM-AFTERNOON

They arrive at Marron Farm, an antebellum house that's a grandiose plantation.WHITE TENANTS help care for the Marron's section.Tens of YOUNG BLACK TENANTS are seen in the fields cultivating cotton for their own. We see small houses in the distance behind the field. The women hear SINGING a gospel like "Next to Me" and the PIANO, from BERNADETTE, MARTHA'S daughter as they get the groceries.

JESSICA:

Jesus it's like out of a movie. I thought farm kids learned to drive earlier.

VIRGINIA:  
My mother doesn't think it's  
ladylike.

Jessica rolls her eyes and they haul groceries inside.

INT. MARRON FARM. ENTRANCE-CONTINUOUS

They enter the house to find Judith instructing Bernadette.  
Jessica looks across the finely furnished home.

VIRGINIA:  
I'm home!

Bernadette stops playing and runs over to hugs  
Virginia. Judith stands surprised at the unannounced guest.

JUDITH:  
I thought you wouldn't be back  
until later.

Judith looks skeptically at Jessica but smiles warmly.

JUDITH:  
It looks like you've brought a  
friend.

Jessica steps forward and extends her hand. Hesitant, Judith  
shakes it.

JESSICA:  
Jessica Beltri. I drove Virginia  
home on Sunday awhile ago.

Judith eyes Virginia who looks away.

JUDITH:  
Oh.--Yes she came home after  
curfew.  
(to Virginia)  
I thought you walked home after  
practice with John.

VIRGINIA:  
...I got lost.

JUDITH:  
You were lost from his house?

Her expression turns from anger back to Fake-Happy. She pats  
Bernadette who runs to the kitchen.

JUDITH:(CONT'D)

Martha's waiting for you to start the stew. Go help her in the kitchen.

(to Jessica)

Why don't you stay for dinner?  
It'll be my thank you.

INT.MARRON FARM.KITCHEN-CONTINUOUS

They set groceries on the table. MARTHA, a young black house keeper is plays with her daughter. She turns to hug Virginia.

MARTHA:

Just in time. I was wondering when you'd get back.I'll start dinner. Your Caroline was waiting for you to play with Bernadette.

VIRGINIA:

Oh...I forgot. I've just so busy.

Martha looks over Jessica, who senses her suspicion.

JESSICA:

Jessica Beltri. Virginia's been kind enough to invite me over. I'll help with dinner.

INT.MARRON FARM.LIVING ROOM-NIGHT

Jessica looks around the living room . PHOTOS of the family are on the wall. One photo has Virginia and her parents happy on her confirmation day.

FIRST DINING ROOM

Caroline, sits at the head of table the across from Edward. Martha and Virginia set the table.

EDWARD:

...It's just been a long day a lot to care for. The niggers are doin' their part for their land. Feel like I have to watch em to make sure they're doin' it right.

Virginia opens her mouth to speak, but keeps silent

CAROLINE:

They make do with what they have Edward. You know how a harvest can go.They're doin' it by hand.

Judith comes in and sits and Jessica joins in between Carolin and Virginia. Caroline notices as she moves a piece of hair out of Virginia's face.

CAROLINE:  
V, lead us in prayer.

They link hands and bow heads with the exception of Jessica.

VIRGINIA:  
God is good and good is God.

Caroline extends her hand and Jessica. She reluctantly takes it and links Virginia's.

VIRGINIA:  
May God feed our lives like God  
feeds our lives. Thank you for this  
meal, and for grandma Caroline  
visiting us this summer.

ALL:  
Amen.

They eat in an awkward silence. Caroline observes affectionate way Jessica looks at Virginia.

JESSICA:  
(whispers to Virginia)  
What next we sacrifice a lamb? Make  
an offering?

Virginia LAUGHS with her mouth full. Judith scorns at her.

JUDITH:  
Young lady don't laugh with your  
mouth filled with food. Where's the  
manners you're supposed to practice  
for Cotillion?

VIRGINIA:  
Sorry.

JESSICA:  
That's a lovely song Bernadette  
played. Is it a new tune?

JUDITH:  
No, it's actually an old church  
hymn. Aren't you familiar with  
gospel?

JESSICA:  
Not Really. I don't attend church.

JUDITH:  
Oh you have to join us sometime.  
We're always looking for more  
people.

JESSICA:  
Oh, I don't believe in that sort of  
thing. My understanding of Darwin  
and evolution, I don't find  
religion fits the basis of his  
research.

Judith hesitates to eat. Edward COUGHS to try to distract  
her.

JUDITH:  
So you're one of those people you  
think we came from the monkeys?

Jessica laughs.

JESSICA:  
No ma'am, not quite. It's a process  
that took millions of years. We  
share a common ancestor.

JUDITH:  
It took six days to make heaven and  
earth. It's a miracle we exist.

EDWARD:  
Judith...

JESSICA:  
I just don't see how that's  
possible.

Judith angrily sets down her utensils, and takes a drink.

EDWARD:  
V, how was your day filing for  
Father Steve? Anything interesting  
happen?

VIRGINIA:  
 Fine. Nothing really interesting  
 though. Jessica let me drive her  
 car.

EDWARD:  
 Good, it's good to practice.

JUDITH:  
 (to Edward)  
 You were supposed to do that.  
 (to Virginia)  
 That could have been dangerous. We  
 agreed near the farm so you don't  
 run into traffic.

JESSICA:  
 She was fine. Took it to like fish  
 to water.  
 Judith exchanges a look with Edward who counters hers.

CAROLINE:  
 It's good she's trying new things.  
 Eat.

They eat rest of dinner in silence.

EXT. MARRON FARMS. PORCH-LATER THAT NIGHT

Jessica hugs Virginia goodbye.

JESSICA:  
 Sorry it turned awkward.

Jessica walks to her car and she drives away while Virginia  
 stares. Judith joins Virginia onto the porch. She puts her  
 hands on Virginia's shoulder's

JUDITH:  
 I don't want you polluted by her  
 theories. You're a good girl right?  
 Good girls believe in right and  
 wrong.

VIRGINIA:  
 I know mother.

Judith turns Virginia's face to meet her own.

JUDITH:  
 I don't care what your grandmother  
 or father says. You're never to see  
 (MORE)

JUDITH: (cont'd)  
 that woman again, is that clear?  
 She will pollute your mind.

Virginia nods along, looking defeated. Judith goes back into the house. Virginia blankly into the distance.

INT./EXT. MARRON CAR-DAY

Judith drops of Virginia. She kisses mom goodbye, but Judith turns away. She leaves.

EXT.SAINT ANTHONY'S-CONTINUOUS

The car drives off, Virginia looks behind her and spots the empty place Jessica's car usually is. Virginia decides to skip and heads downtown towards Samuel's to look for the her.

EXT.PRENT STREETS-LATER

Virginia walks cautiously down the streets she's seen before John's knife in her side. She reads a sign TENN. APTS. for an apartment building across Samuel's bar. Jessica's car's by the curb and Virginia walks closers.

EXT.PRENT STREETS. TENN APTS.-CONTINUOUS

Jessica gets out of her car and spots Virginia.

JESSICA:  
 I'm surprised to see you here.

VIRGINIA:  
 Me too.You weren't at work.

JESSICA:  
 I called in sick. A day for my  
 sanity really.--Why don't you come  
 with me?

INT.JESSICA'S APT-MOMENTS LATER

They enter her small messy apartment. Simply furnished, books and Rothko and Kooning-eske paintings some unfinished litter the place. Ron and Charlie are baking a cake.

CHARLIE:  
 We're never going to get this cake  
 in the oven we keep paintin' each  
 other with it.

RON:  
 (looking at Jessica)  
 Speaking of painting when are you  
 going to finish the one you're  
 workin' on.

A canvas covered with a sheet sits untouched in the dining  
 room.

JESSICA:  
 I hate to show things before I  
 figure them out.--I bought a little  
 treat.

She pulls out a JOINT she bought earlier and hands it to  
 Ron.

RON:  
 Been waiting all week.  
 (to Virginia)  
 You ready Virgin?

Charlie puts cake in the oven. Jessica gets a bottle of  
 vodka and glasses from cabinets and they make their way to  
 dining room at a small table.

#### JESSICA'S DINING ROOM-EVENING

The group is eats cake and reads. A JOINT is passed around  
 and carry on topical conversation. Books are open as they  
 read some sections out loud.

CHARLIE:  
 "The best minds of our generation  
 kept under the heal of a heartless  
 machine."

Ron takes a puff from the joint.

RON:  
 Yeah right. People become the  
 machine. Boycotting,desegregation,  
 it's just a front. Society can't  
 mix.

VIRGINIA:  
 How do you figure? Isn't that what  
 you want?

RON:  
 We'll be next to each other but not  
 the same. White people will always  
 look down on us no matter how much  
 (MORE)

RON: (cont'd)

money we have, jobs will always go to people with lighter skin even if we're more qualified. The scales will unbalanced.

VIRGINIA:

Well we have black tenants that work at our farm.

RON:

You're right. And they have credit for the land. Sharecrop and work long days. Crops that are unreliable. Profit barely covers costs for supplies so they live in debt.

CHARLIE:

You're just being cynical again.

RON:

Can't tell me I'm wrong.

Charlie rolls his eyes and takes a PUFF of the joint and passes it to Ron.

JESSICA:

Like us. We can't be honest about they way we are. Even after those books Kinsey wrote became best sellers. It's still not normal.

RON:

Yeah, but white queers aren't the ones being lynched by mobs. You didn't have Jim Crow. We can hide how we feel.

JESSICA:

We should be so grateful that we're expected to. Act like they do, get married, have kids.

CHARLIE:

Oh, you two are just being sticks in the mud.

(to Ron)

I don't know why you're so negative. Your brother Carl made his way into a government job. There are others just like him.

RON:  
They think he's uppity. Just like  
they think people me are beneath  
'em.

JESSICA:  
God bless America.

CHARLIE:  
C'mon you don't get to blame him  
every time.

JESSICA:  
I can't believe you believe in that  
shit.

VIRGINIA:  
...You guys believe in God?

Ron nods his head and blows smoke in Jessica's face, she  
leans away.

RON:  
Born and raised a baptist. The  
church is, across town where you're  
from. Marron farm, right?

She nods her head.

CHARLIE:  
Why not? If I'm wrong there's  
nothing, no heaven.

VIRGINIA:  
If we're right, then there is a  
heaven. A place to call home.

RON:  
Spend eternity with love and peace.

CHARLIE:  
Miss Jessica you're going straight  
to hell.

Jessica sticks her tongue out.

JESSICA:  
Why you still bother to go is  
beyond me.

CHARLIE:  
Join us sometime. You might like  
it.

JESSICA:

Right... I suppose they approve of you and Ron?

CHARLIE:

He introduced me as his friend. I'm a white guy in the congregation. I don't want to stick out more than I need to.

RON:

I think they know you're not my friend.

JESSICA:

(to Charlie)

You can't but stick out like a sore thumb anyway.

VIRGINIA:

...So do they not say anything to you about it?

RON:

I've known these people my whole life, and I know how much Charlie is going to compromise. We just keep quiet.

JESSICA:

Right, everything is swept under the rug, and we wonder why we can't even talk about it. You know it ain't even about Good and Bad. God's true purpose is dealing with the fear of death.

VIRGINIA:

Always thought that it was a good way to deal with life. Values like patience, love, knowing thyself...

JESSICA:

Too bad those aren't the ones being followed. War, bigotry, poverty, famine, genocide, have all happened even with the invention of God.

CHARLIE:

You just need to lighten up. God or no God you just need something to live for. Life is hard and it's it's too damn short.

(CONTINUED)

RON:  
Or someone.--It's not easy but what  
choice do we have?

Charlie kisses Ron. The joint is finally passed on to Virginia who takes a long PUFF. She COUGHS it out harshly and they LAUGH.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH. DINING HALL-NIGHT

The annual potluck is hosted. There are many tables with Patrons as we hear CHATTER among the congregation. Ron has brought Charlie along to help the Reverend.

REVEREND WILLIAM:  
(to Ron)  
Thank you for helping out today. I know it's been hard the last couple of years for you. I'm glad to see your...friend is making you happy.

RON:  
I have you and Mae to thank for your support. It was hard for Mama to deal with alone.

Ron scans the dinner hall.

RON:  
More people than I expected.

REVEREND WILLIAM:  
Word of mouth son, that's how to get things done. Spread the Word of God and people will come.

Charlie hands out meals prepared by the church as Ron makes his way in line. People settle to their seats. Reverend leads them in prayer as everyone joins hands.

REVEREND WILLIAM:  
Lord bless this food to our nourishment. We know that the real nourishment is the one of feeding our souls. Lead us through darkness and into the light.

They eat.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH. DINING HALL-LATER THAT NIGHT

Hall empty, Chairs and seats are being put back into storage by a few Patrons along with Ron and Charlie. ELDERS say farewell to William and May.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM:

...Thank you for coming. The apple pie was delicious.

William heads over to Ron who's just finishes cleaning.

WILLIAM:

Thank you for helping thing run so smoothly.

RON:

It's the least we can do.

Ron leaves with Charlie. William runs back to his wife, picks her up and spins her around. She GIGGLES.

WILLIAM:

See great things can happen.

MAE:

Okay your idea worked. But don't get to cocky.

WILLIAM:

I have just a few things to finish up. I'll see you at home.

Mae kisses William. She leaves with the kids.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH-LATER

Cloaked members of the KKK are in the lot before the church. They grab ROPE, from the truck driven by their feverish young leader. This is PAUL.

The men BREAK the stained glass windows with ROCKS. A cross is set on ABLAZE. William runs out the church.

PAUL:

There he is! Get him!

They charge and seize Reverend William. A PUNCH causes him to hunch over. They seize him as he struggles.

RON:

No!--Stop. We don't have to do this!

They tie the rope one end around tree in front yard, one end around his neck. The Reverend YELLS. They TAUNT and hoist him up. A cross is set ablaze. Still struggling, the KKK flee the scene.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH-LATER.

(CONTINUED)

The lawn is crowded as POLICE and FIRE DEPT. To investigate the scene. Members of the congregation await the arrival of Mae who shows up in a car of another patron. She makes her way through the people to the AMBULANCE. An OFFICER holds her back as the body is being loaded in by CORONERS.

MAE:

Let me see him! Oh my God please  
tell me he didn't go like this.

OFFICER:

There's nothing we can do Ma'm.

Mae tries reach out, but is held back by the officer. She breaks free. Member of the congregation try to comfort her as she crumbles to her knees and CRIES.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH-DAY

A week has passed. Singing of a gospel by the church choir members is heard. The windows have boards on them.

INT. BAPTIST CHURCH-CONTINUOUS

William's body lay in the front of the mass in an open casket. Members finish singing the gospel song and sit. We see Virginia, Jessica and Charlie in the back row, Ron as pallbearer. Mae stands in front and delivers a Eulogy.

MAE:

It's been a week since the life of Reverend William Johnson has been taken from us. He was the bedrock on which our community could depend on, a father figure not only to his sons, but to the community. I find it hard to deal with this sudden death of someone I considered to be a gift from God. I am told by the police of this county that there are no leads on who committed this this murder.

A beat as tears of anger and sadness come over her.

MAE: (CONT'D)

I find that hard to believe. If things were different, we'd have justice. It's hard to find forgiveness, even though that's what he'd want. So maybe if we can hurt together, we can heal.

(CONTINUED)

Mae walks in front of the choir. She sings a song about anger and sadness. Hurt is on the faces of the crowd.

The choir joins in with Mae. The pallbearers start their final walk and a Ron leads the closed casket down the aisle.

EXT.BAPTIST CHURCH-CONTINUOUS

Most of the congregation is now on the front lawn in the rain.They choir sings over as the casket's being loaded into the hearse. As it drives away finish singing.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH-CONTINUOUS

Virginia genuflects. Jessica hesitates, and joins her on her knees. Virginia looks up surprised. Jessica holds Virginia's hand without praying as Virginia pray.

VIRGINIA:

In company with Christ,Who died and  
now lives,May they rejoice in your  
kingdom....

INT./EXT.JESSICA'S CAR. A BLOCK FROM MARRON FARM-EVENING

The women drive home after the funeral.She kisses Virginia's forehead. Jessica kisses her hand. Unbalanced, Virginia gets out into the rain and walks the rest of the way.

INT.MARRON FARM.KITCHEN-MOMENTS LATER.

Judith is getting supper ready as Martha is off today. She turns around to see Virginia.

JUDITH:

You're back. Oh and you're soaking  
wet.

She walks over with a towel to dry off Virginia and wipe off her running mascara.

JUDITH.

Oh look at your face.-- I thought  
you were going to call me after you  
practiced with John.

Virginia breaks away and walks toward the sink.

VIRGINIA:

I decided to walk home.I wanted to  
feel the rain.

Virginia washes up and joins in to peel carrots alongside Judith.

(CONTINUED)

JUDITH:  
V, change into something dry.  
You're still wet and dripping all  
over the kitchen.

Virginia puts the peeler down. Almost brave she faces Judith without making eye contact.

VIRGINIA:  
And who's going to notice mama? I'm  
not going out I'm staying in to  
help you cook.

JUDITH:  
Don't take that tone with me young  
lady! Why does your breath smell  
like whiskey? I thought you said  
you walked home John's.--Are you  
drunk?!

Virginia steps away from her mother's hold.

VIRGINIA:  
No Mama, I drank. I'm not drunk. I  
just had one drink. I got a ride  
home and I'm not changing.

She slaps Virginia's face. Red, Virginia backs away further.

JUDITH:  
Who does this woman think she is?  
Keeping company with a child. I  
ought to let the authorities know  
and have her run out of state!

VIRGINIA:  
She doesn't tell me what to do all  
the time!

Judith looks at her, startled. She walks towards Virginia who's now crying and holds her against herself.

JUDITH:  
It's happening again isn't it.

Virginia breaks down into Judith's arms.

INT. VIRGINIA'S ROOM-MOMENTS LATER

Jessica has changed into dry clothes. Judith helps dry off her hair

INT. SAINT ANTHONY'S. STEVE'S OFFICE-NIGHT

(CONTINUED)

Judith finishes talking with Pastor Steve. Virginia waits outside.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.NAVE-DAY

THE NEXT DAY

REPARATIVE GROUP,with MIDDLE-AGED men who accompany Virginia as they sit in the pews and pray.Virginia genuflects with the group.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.NAVE-DAY

Another group session, some men share their stories with each other. An older gay man, HENRY stays in the back an anti-social distance.A young man Nathan, shares his story.

NATHAN:

...My wife found out about the affair and threw me out of the house. I was left with nothing. It's been a year since I've seen my kids and I just want to get back to my life.

INT.JESSICA'S APT-LATER

Jessica works on another painting while Virginia watches. She offers Virginia the brush and guides her hands with strokes.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S-DAY

THE NEXT WEEK

The group recalls stories. Henry still in the back. An older man, GEORGE recall a story.

GEORGE:

...sitting there crying in a corner and my father yelled at me to get come out. He hadn't finished giving me welts. Said he wasn't going to stop until I took off my mother's shoes.

INT.SAMUEL'S-LATER THAT DAY

The group is seen dancing with the crowd. She and Jessica drink and kiss.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.NAVE-DAY

THE NEXT WEEK

(CONTINUED)

The group CLAPS after hearing a story from another man. He gets up and sits back to the pews. Henry lingers in the back as usual.

STEVE:

Virginia you've been quiet for the last sessions. How about this time we get to know you.

VIRGINIA:

My name is Virginia Marron. I'm born and raised in Prent.

STEVE:

Tell us when you started noticing your feelings.

VIRGINIA:

My first was when in school we held a gift exchange. I remember getting a necklace from a girl Sarah who was really pretty.--I was so excited because she had asked what I wanted. I kissed her on the cheek.--She never spoke to me after that.

STEVE:

How did that make you feel?

VIRGINIA:

Embarrassed. Like I had done something wrong.

STEVE:

Like you had done something you knew was foolish?

Virginia nods her head.

STEVE:(CONT'D)

What have you been doing instead of volunteering Virginia?

VIRGINIA:

I've spent time with a woman, Jessica, from across town. I met her at a bar. We've been seeing each other for the last couple of weeks.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE:

And how does Jessica treat you?

INT.JESSICA'S APT-FLASHBACK

The group plays a drinking game. Virginia drinks and reacts adversely. The group LAUGHS and Virginia kisses Jessica.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.NAVE-PRESENT

VIRGINIA:

We get along pretty well.

STEVE:

How is her relationship with God?

INT.JESSICA'S APT-DAY-FLASHBACK

The group continues to laugh. Jessica plays with the cross around Virginia's neck for a bit, and let's go dismissively.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.NAVE-PRESENT

VIRGINIA:

What exactly are we doing here anyway? Are you supposed to cure me? I love her I don't see that needs to be taken away.

STEVE:

Virginia we bond because we have something in common with another person. What you feel isn't love.

(to the group)

It sounds like temptation from a woman who doesn't stand with God who's taking you away from your responsibilities. It's not love but deception and lust.

Henry, COUGHS and faces Steve. Surprised, Steve looks back briefly.

STEVE:

That's all this week. If it was right, there'd be no shame.

As the group files out of the church. Steve makes his way back to Henry.

HENRY:

Just because God don't agree with it what we are doesn't mean it's not real love.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE:

It's so nice of you to contribute this week Henry. Why don't you share sometime?

HENRY:

Remember Arthur? How you were inseparable?

Steve is taken aback.

HENRY:(CONT'D)

But I guess it's been so long who can say.

STEVE:

That was a mistake. I lost my way and found God. Why do you come into my church if you not taking anything out of it?

HENRY:

Same as everyone else I guess. He broke your heart, I've lost mine. That means something.

Henry briefly points up to the sky.

HENRY:

Maybe He doesn't agree, but that doesn't mean it isn't real. You're not leading them Steve, you're lying to them.

Henry gets up from the pew. Henry hands Steve some change. Henry turns and leaves.

HENRY:

For the commonwealth.

He exits.

INT.EXCO-DAY

WHITE WORKERS are seen lining up an engine with the a frame a car.

Other BLACK WORKERS are seen drilling the shell of the car together.

Another young worker sits in the car and tests the horn and checks the windshield.

(CONTINUED)

At a automobile company, Ron and Charlie place the hood onto a 1950s car

IN FRONT OF COMPANY OFFICE

A YOUNG BLACK worker WALTER defends himself against their manager EUGENE. Ron and Charlie take note and Ron walks over.

WALTER:

...I didn't take Eugene. Walter is a lying bastard! It was there this morning, gone after lunch.

Eugene hold up a drill.

EUGENE:

We found this in your locker. You ruin company property you're out. Get off of my floor.

RON:

(to Eugene)

Sir he was here the whole time. He couldn't have done it.

EUGENE:

Oh you want to be a hero? Get the hell out of here.

WALTER:

Stan probably put it there.

RON:

(to Eugene)

But sir there's no where he could have taken it. We ate lunch.

EUGENE:

What you want to be a hero? Covering up for a friend? Off my floor.

RON:

But sir!

EUGENE:

Out!

Defeated, he looks at Charlie who tries to leave but he puts up his hand to stop him. Ron and Walter leaves the shop while Charlie looks on helpless. Charlie gets back to work.  
EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE-NIGHT

(CONTINUED)

Virginia exits John's house after practice. He walks her to the curb where she waits for Jessica. His friends spot him from a distance and pull up to the curb.

DON:

Hey remember our plans for tomorrow.

JOHN:

Not now guys.

SCOTT:

Better keep your promise faggot.

They LAUGH and speed off.

VIRGINIA:

Some friends you have.

JOHN:

...When is your mom coming? I thought you said 5:30.

VIRGINIA:

Soon enough.--Oh I forgot to give you this.

She pulls out the knife she from her purse and gives it to him.

JOHN:

I was wondering where... well thanks.

VIRGINIA:

Thank you for practicing I know it's been busy.

John puts his head in his hand and looks embarrassed and tired.

JOHN:

Yeah. The guys aren't really into this scene.

He kisses her. Virginia breaks the kiss and backs away. Jessica drives to the curb and waits for Virginia. She rolls down the window and blows out smoke.

JESSICA:

(to Virginia)

You coming?

(to John)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA: (cont'd)  
Who are you?

John looks back and forth between them.

JOHN:  
Hey look I'm sorry...I don't know  
what came over me.

VIRGINIA:  
(to Jessica)  
He's my friend John.

JESSICA:  
C'mon Charlie and Ron are waiting?  
I've had a long day.

Virginia looks over at John who gives her a glare.

JOHN:  
Some friends yourself.

Virginia opens the car door and gets into the car John holds  
the door.

VIRGINIA:  
I'll you tomorrow then.

(cont'd)  
JOHN:

Yeah. I can't wait.  
(to Jessica)  
You know smoking is bad for you.

John kisses Virginia again this time more intense. He shuts  
the car door and walks back to his house.

INT./EXT.JESSICA'S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Jessica stares out after him and takes another puff.

JESSICA:  
How rude! So much for southern  
charm. Why did he kiss you anyway?

VIRGINIA:  
It means nothing. Just go.

Jessica shakes her head and blows smoke.

JESSICA:  
I don't like him.

They drive off to Samuel's bar.

(CONTINUED)

EXT.SAMUEL'S BAR-EVENING

BARFLIES file into the bar.

INT.SAMUEL'S BAR-CONTINUOUS

The group sit in a booth and drink together.

RON:

So anyway the short version of the story I'll out looking for a job.

CHARLIE:

I should have joined you.

J

RON:

Don't be stupid. We're late on rent as it is.--Mae invited me to work at the church for awhile

JESSICA:

Who have they had to replace William?

RON:

There's an interim, but he's not really good.

CHARLIE:

He's boring.

RON:

He's trying.Anyway...I was wondering V, if you want to help out at a fundraiser we're doing next week at Leon's. It's down a few blocks from here.

VIRGINIA:

I'll see what I can do.

JESSICA:

Ron kisses Charlie. Virginia sits across Ron and Charlie and curiously studies them.

JESSICA:

We'd better go before your Judith throws a fit.

Virginia rolls her eyes but follows.

(CONTINUED)

EXT-SAMUEL'S-MOMENTS LATER

Virginia and Jessica walk outside to the car.

VIRGINIA:

Do you think that it could ever be that way for us? Like for Charlie and Ron.

JESSICA:

What do you mean?

VIRGINIA:

Being together for that long

JESSICA:

I don't know. I've never had a long term commitment.

Virginia looks on disheartened. Jessica tosses her the keys and they get into the car.

INT./EXT.JESSICA'S CAR-CONTINUOUS.

VIRGINIA:

Do you think it's possible in general. To be with someone for better or worse?

JESSICA:

You mean like marriage?

Virginia looks at Jessica she opens her mouth to speak but doesn't.

JESSICA:

V, that's not realistic for people like us. It's best just to settle for what we can get. If this is about God, I don't think he'd approve.

Virginia runs through a red light and picks up her speed.

VIRGINIA:

The problem isn't him. Where is this going?

She maintains the high speed in the car as she speeds past a stop sign.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA:

Okay first concentrate on the road  
you're going too fast. Calm down.

Virginia relieves her foot pressure to a normal speed.

JESSICA:

V, I don't know where we'll be  
three years or even three months  
from now. I don't think marriage  
even works for men and women. They  
just put up with it.

VIRGINIA:

Then what's going to happen to us?

INT./EXT. JESSICA'S CAR. A BLOCK FROM MARRON FARM-CONTINUOUS

Virginia parks the car a block from the Marron Farm. She  
turns to get out but Jessica grabs her arm to stop her.

JESSICA:

All I can say is we can enjoy each  
other for as long as we can.

VIRGINIA:

That's not good enough. Charlie and  
Roy can do it.

JESSICA:

And that could get them killed.

JESSICA:

People have lost everything their  
jobs, their apartments, their  
family. Ron and Charlie are not  
honest with everyone. It's hard to  
maintain a relationship if  
everything's at stake.

VIRGINIA:

Do you love me?

Jessica lets go of her hold. She thinks.

JESSICA:

Yes, I believe I do.

After a moment, Virginia kisses her. Virginia gets out of  
the car.

(CONTINUED)

INT.SAMUEL'S BAR-EVENING.

Jessica sits at the bar alone with an empty glass. Samuel is cleaning his bar nearby. Noticing Jessica's bad mood he speaks.

SAMUEL:

You're here without Virgin tonight.

JESSICA:

She's been busy lately. So have I.

SAMUEL:

As am I. Something's in the water.  
We've been busier than ever. I'm a  
little worried we'll be more  
obvious.

He pours a drinks and hands it to a Henry who sits close by.

SAMUEL:(CONT'D)

I haven't seen Roy or Charlie stop  
by.

JESSICA:

Ron's been helping out at the  
church, Charlie been stuck at work  
and V's at church. I'm actually  
feeling a bit lonely.

SAMUEL:

Maybe that's good. She's still a  
kid. Doesn't really know what she's  
getting into.

Jessica playfully hits Samuel's arm. It catches the  
attention of Henry.

JESSICA:

She's not stupid Sam. But she did  
bring up marriage...

Samuel laughs as he refills her some drinks.

SAMUEL:

There's still a lot to learn. She's  
Catholic, it's the way they've been  
raised. She's conflicted. I felt  
the same, praying to a God who I  
thought made a mistake making me.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA:

Which is why I don't understand why you or Ron, or Charlie believe. It's a joke.

SAMUEL:

Oh hush. Not everyone can be as "superior" as you.

Henry turns to butt in.

HENRY:

Does Virginia have blonde hair, a bit on the heavier side.

Jessica turns to face Henry.

JESSICA:

I wasn't talking to you. You should keep to yourself.

Henry mockingly raises his hands pretending to be defensive.

HENRY:

Just thought you'd like to know what this Virginia might do on Sunday nights after church.

Jessica looks away and goes back to drinking. He's undeterred.

HENRY:

Miss Virginia has been attending a reparative group, attempting to cure "unnatural feelings" as we're told. Never too late to pray the feeling away.

Jessica slams down her drink and faces him.

JESSICA:

You're a part of the group?

HENRY:

I was.--There's a meeting tonight. If you go now, you could probably see for yourself.

Jessica looks away embarrassed. Hurried she gathers her things to leave.

(CONTINUED)

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.FOYER-LATER

Jessica waits outside the doors of the pews. She slowly opens the door and peeks inside. Steve address the crowd. She creeps inside as he continues.

STEVE:

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man. It's with this template God let's us create new life. One man and one woman.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.NAVE-CONTINUOUS

Jessica stops behind the congregation.

JESSICA:

Wow. That's interesting. God seems to been so keen on taking that life he gave you away.

The group turns to face her. Shocked, Virginia gets up and walks over to stop her.

STEVE:

Ah, and you must be Jessica, Virginia's friend. Nice of you to join us.

Virginia pulls her out of the mass hall.

JESSICA:

How could you do this V?...What are you ashamed?

Virginia looks away from Jessica and sits on a nearby bench and bows her head.

VIRGINIA:

I don't know. My mother brought me here.

JESSICA:

I know that. But you have free will But you wear that cross. You're listening to this garbage week after...

VIRGINIA:

(interrupts)

Okay, I get it! Sorry I believe in such a stupid story. Sorry if would

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA: (cont'd)  
like to believe that maybe we go  
somewhere after we die.  
I guess I have to have my tail  
between my legs for both of you.

Cautiously Jessica walks over to talk to her. She kneels  
down by Virginia. Virginia lifts up her head to meet hers.

(cont'd)  
JESSICA:

You need to think about what you  
want. Judith can't solve your  
problems, neither can I. Only you.

Jessica exits. A few moments later Virginia walks outside to  
see Judith waiting to pick her up.

INT.MARRON CAR-CONTINUOUS

JUDITH:  
Father Steve said you've made  
progress. I'm really proud of you.

Virginia nods passively. Judith kisses her and drives off.

EXT. LEON'S GRILL-DAY

Many young BLACK GIRLS delivering food on roller skates  
in packed lot. Older Patrons help expedite near the food  
shack. Virginia skates back the the food shack to meet with  
Mae who talks with LEON, the older, black, grill owner.

MAE:  
(to a skater)  
Go to the red car over there with a  
father and his son.

She hands a hot dog to a YOUNG BLACK GIRL, who skates off.

LEON:  
Getting busy. Hope you can handle  
the heat Mae.

MAE:  
I've got plenty of hands, I think  
we can handle the heat.

The girl trips while carrying the food. Ron rushes over to  
help up the girl skate back.

(CONTINUED)

MAE:

(to Virginia)

Here take this shake. It's going to  
the white Alpine.

She takes it and turns to see Jessica leaning against her car. Virginia waves. Jessica stays stoic and stares back, smoking.

Virginia begins to skate to sing a songs that conveys acceptance of sin and God's grace like in "I'm a Sinner". The girls skate in a sequence in a Rodgers and Hammerstein style musical. She skates her way to Jessica through the dance.

The girls join along to sing along delivering food.

The girls stopped skating and get down on their knees and surround Virginia who stands at the center or the group and sings.

They continue skating with food and deliver them to customers. She gets lost in the moment elated, making her way closer toward Jessica.

The songs ends, Virginia stops over to Jessica and gives her the milkshake. Jessica leans to whisper in her ear.

JESSICA:

Live with me.

Virginia looks down. Jessica lifts Virginia's head with her finger to face hers.

JESSICA:

For once don't question it. Just do  
it.

Jessica kisses her on the cheek. She skates back to the grill.

INT. SUPERMARKET-DAY

Charlie spends time perusing through the supermarket.

We hear faint whispers two ELDER WOMEN about his appearance which is more effeminate than usual.

CHARLIE:

Can I help you?

ELDER WOMAN#1:

Look into yourself young man, let  
God help you.

(CONTINUED)

Frustrated, Charlie continues to push his cart through the aisles. An older CUSTOMER notices Charlie and cringes. Charlie notices his stare.

CUSTOMER:

What are you doin' wearin' your  
mother's clothes boy?

CHARLIE:

They're my clothes.

Charlie tries to turn the corner to another aisle but accidentally KNOCKS food down. He is met by stares from everyone. A young STOCK BOY angrily walks over and helps clean up the mess with Charlie.

CHARLIE:

Sorry. I was goin' faster than I  
thought and clipped the corner.

STOCK BOY:

That's fine. I can clean the rest.

John stares at Charlie as Charlie walks away. Almost out of earshot we hear the stock boy MURMUR.

WAYNE:

Faggot.

Charlie stops and looks back.

CHARLIE:

Excuse me?

John makes indirect eye contact as Charlie moves back to face him.

CHARLIE: (CONT'D)

That's no way to treat a valued  
customer.

WAYNE:

Where are your values? This is a  
family store. You come here lookin'  
like that. How are parents goin' to  
explain that to their kids.

Embarrassed, Charlie abandons his cart and heads out the grocery store. The two old women from before are now in the checkout aisle.

(CONTINUED)

OLD WOMAN#1:  
(to the other old woman)  
That pervert, he's still here.

He turns defiantly and blows them a kiss. They react in disgust.

INT.TENN APTS.HALLWAY-LATER

Charlie towards his apartment and spots his kitten, CAMPPELL, on the floor strangled and their door opened. He walks over and picks up the kitten to hold in his hands, devastated.

CHARLIE:  
Oh my God, who could have done this?

Charlie picks up the kitten in his hands. He holds Campell to his chest and slumps against the wall. Ron comes up from the stairs to the hall to see Charlie.

RON:  
Hey what's wrong Charlie?

Ron closes in and sees their apartment door open, and their apartment ransacked. Furious, he enters the apartment.

APARTMENT

Ron looks around frantically. He checks places where they've hidden money, drawers under the mattress. Frantic, he throws a lamp at the wall and YELLS.

HALLWAY

Ron walks slowly outside.

RON:  
Nothing's been stolen. I think whoever did this just wanted to scare the shit out of us. I'll call the police.

Charlie starts crying.

CHARLIE:  
Don't be stupid. We'll get thrown out if we say anything.

RON:  
Right.--Well what hell are we supposed to do? Do you have any better ideas?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE:  
It's not my fault!

Charlie continues to cry. Ron regains composure to comfort Charlie and sits down along beside him. Ron hugs Charlie and they both look at Campell.

RON:  
I'm sorry it's not your fault.  
We'll figure it out, we always do.

They sit in silence.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH.CLERGY OFFICE-EVENING

Ron files away paperwork with Mae. Other CHURCH WOMEN are seen packing up their things to go home. One says goodnight.

MAE:  
Alright good work helping us get organized. Tomorrow's going to be great.

CHURCH LADY:  
Okay we'll see you tomorrow.  
(to Ron)  
You've been a great help. I'll see you tomorrow.

Mary hugs Ron goodbye. The women leave. Mae sits down at her desk that was once William's. Ron looks at her finishing his work. She looks at a CROSS William once wore.

RON:  
I think he'd be proud of what you're doing. The boys actually smiled today.

Mae laughs gently. She bows her head in her hands. Ron walks over and hugs her.

MAE:  
I just don't understand how this happened. This is my life now. My son's life without a father. Now I have to be both parents.

RON:  
Maybe we can't see it now, but there is a plan. Good can come from this Mae. William never gave up.

Mae looks at Ron and nods as tears stream down.

(CONTINUED)

MAE:

No he never did. The police did.  
They never found out who did it.  
Probably never gave it a second  
thought.

RON:

Then we've got to remember him.  
Keep him alive in a way they can't  
kill him.

MAE:

That won't bring him back. And I  
don't know how do it.

RON:

We're here for you. You have a  
whole community to depend on, for  
sitting, for anything material you  
need. God will help you with the  
rest.

INT.DANCE HALL.ballroom-EVENING

TEEN COUPLES are dancing for cotillion. PARENTS are standing  
by watching the show and everyone is dressed to the nines.  
The dance finishes and the teens leave the floor. Judith  
walks into the middle floor. The chatter quiets as they turn  
their attention to her. Virginia looks on nervous with John  
by her side.

JUDITH:

Next we will see another  
performance that represents values  
of family and of God. Ladies act  
like ladies and gentlemen like  
gentlemen. We celebrate good  
manners,modesty, listening to our  
elders and only speaking when  
spoken to.

Judith looks at Virginia and and back at the crowd.

JUDITH:(CONT'D)

It's with these values that God  
looks at us in his favor. My own  
daughter Virginia has worked and  
has come far to be the person Our  
Father has intended.

(CONTINUED)

The teens take their place as Judith leaves. Couples dance in sync as Virginia and John lead in a song that says they'd be together through thick and thin. They continue to dance wistfully as teens join in the song in the name of "God only Knows"

She locks and intimate stare with Jessica, who she imagines in place of John. She sings of God and their unity. For the first time Virginia is happy. They continue to in sync with the others.

They stop dancing with the music. Reality hits and Jessica turns back to John. Virginia's smiles disappears. Light CLAPPING is followed.

JOHN:

What's wrong?

Virginia shakes her head.

VIRGINIA:

Nothing.

(beat)

Let's get back

The others go back to sit and conversations pick up again.

JOHN:

Actually, I promised I'd go with my friends. They expect my company and I'd better not disappoint.

Virginia looks over at her parents and Caroline, and back at him.

JOHN:(CONT'D)

Listen... I had to bargain with my mother. I'll pick you up after it's over and we'll go to a party my friends are making me go to. I've got things to do first.

He kisses her on the cheek.

JOHN:

Bye V.

He leaves the hall. She hesitantly joins her table.

INT./EXT. SCOTT'S CAR-KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE-LATER THAT NIGHT  
John sitting in the driver's seat of Scott's car and watches Scott and Don who have just finished assaulting two GAY MEN. Don spits on one them as we hear them GROAN in pain. John looks on scared.

(CONTINUED)

INT./EXT. SCOTT'S CAR.KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE-CONTINUOUS

Don and Scott rush, Scott passes a beer to Don in the backseat.

DON:

Start the fucking car asshole!

Anxious he starts the car and they drive off away from bridge to the main town.

EXT.DANCE HALL-EVENING

People are leaving Cotillion. Judith and Edward say their final goodbyes. Caroline hugs Virginia and leaves. John drives up to the curb. John gets out of the car.

VIRGINIA:

Well,it's about time.

INT./EXT.SCOTT'S CAR. PRENT STEETS-CONTINUOUS

She slides next to John.They kiss but she's awkward about it. Scott moves to the driver's seat. They get into the back of the car. They drive to the party.

INT./EXT.SCOTT'S CAR.PRENT STREETS-CONTINUOUS

The crew is riding across the other side of the tracks near Samuel's bar. Scott is drinking and driving and Don does the same. Don looks back at Virginia who by now is aggravated.

DON:

So you've been fucking with our John right?

Virginia looks down and laugh nervously. She stares at the ROSARY she's holding.

SCOTT:

Tell me you have. We're beginning to think he's a queer.

They LAUGH and drive past Samuel's bar. Virginia looks at it in longing. After a couple of awkward moments she decides.

VIRGINIA:

I'd like to get out of the car.

JOHN:

V, I thought you wanted to go to the party with us?

(cont'd)

VIRGINIA:

I'd like to get out... Now!

(CONTINUED)

Scott rolls his eyes and pulls over. Virginia gets outside the car door. John holds her arm.

JOHN:

Come on V, they're not that bad.

Virginia releases from his grip and walks into the bar. It's busy and there's loud CHATTER. Ron, Charlie and Jessica wait by the bar.

INT.SAMUEL'S BAR-NIGHT

The gang turns around to see her. The CROWD CHEERS.

SAMUEL:

Hey, keep quiet.

PATRON#1:

Just this once Sam.

SAMUEL:

I don't want to give the police a reason to suspect. I don't want a visit to my bar.

PATRON#2

Let them! She came!

Jessica gets on top of the bar and sings a song a song against God, against Judith like "Only the Good Die Young".

Samuel throws down his towel, and throws up his hands. The crowd joins in and they get louder and messier as people start dancing and SINGING along. Jessica gets down from the bar and dances around Virginia taking her rosary from her. She breaks it apart the crowd CHEERS.

Still in song, Jessica walks on top of top of the bar and extends her hand as Virginia takes it. They kiss at the songs end, and the crowd cheers.

EXT.MARRON FARM-NIGHT

The women drive from the bar to see Caroline waiting on the porch, smoking. Virginia gets out from the driver's side and stumbles then regains composure and walks up the steps.

PORCH

She meets Caroline who looks off into the distance.

(CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA:  
Grandma...

Caroline nods and smokes.

CAROLINE:  
Do what you have to do.

Footsteps are heard in the background.

JUDITH:(O.S)  
Virginia?

Judith steps outside the front door.

JUDITH:  
We've been waiting for you. You  
were to be back from John's by  
dinner. Martha made your favorite  
meal and it's gotten cold.

Jessica steps outside of the passenger seat and leans  
against the car.

JUDITH:  
What is she doing here?

Virginia avoids direct eye contact.

VIRGINIA:  
I came for my things.

JUDITH:  
(to Jessica)  
Bible-burning tramp!  
(to Virginia)  
Have you lost your mind? You can't  
be serious.

EDWARD:(O.S.)  
What's going on?

Virginia tries to face Judith but looks away again.

VIRGINIA:  
No.I need to get my things, I'm  
leaving.

Virginia tries to walk around her, but Judith blocks her.  
She slaps Virginia. Edward rushes out of the house.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD:

What's going on here? V, get inside the house we've been waiting up for you.

JUDITH:

Virginia thinks by running off and disobeying her mother she can prove a point. Tell her she can't leave.

CAROLINE:

Let her go.

Caroline focus between them, but Judith dismisses her.

EDWARD:

Listen Judith she sounds like she's serious. Either we let go or she'll run off anyway.

JUDITH:

Are you suggesting we take the advice from your mother, who can't even dress herself. I help with that. You never take my side.

Virginia attempts to walk around her, but Judith stops her. She pushes Virginia backwards who falls down. Jessica walks to the porch and helps Virginia up as Edward restrains Judith in his hold.

JESSICA:

C'mon lets go. I'll get you what you need.

JUDITH:

I'm her mama!

They rush into the car.

JUDITH:

You'll be back when you don't know what to do without your mom. Stupid child!

Judith collapses on the porch floor as Edward holds her. We hear Judith CRY.

INT./EXT. JESSICA'S CAR-CONTINUOUS

Tears flow down Virginia's face. Jessica turns Virginia's head to face hers.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA:  
Remember how she made you feel?  
That's all over. You never have to  
feel that way again.

VIRGINIA:  
Am..I...ever... Going to see them  
again?

JESSICA:  
I don't know. You have to trust me.

They kiss. After a moment they drive away as Judith cries,  
collapsed on the porch floor with Edward holding her.

INT.STORE.DRESSING ROOM-DAY

THE NEXT DAY

Virginia enters a dressing room to try a dress on.Careful o  
hide the cross she's wearing, steps out to model the dress.  
she model's for Jessica.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH.DINING HALL-SAME TIME

Mae and the church administration, work setting up  
furnishings. The windows have been repaired, but there's  
still a lot to do.

INT.EXCO-SAME TIME

Charlie is busy working on tire assembly for cars. A group  
of white men harass a group of black workers who try to  
defend themselves. Begrudgingly he continues to work.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH-SAME TIME

Ron sits with other church ladies studying the bible. He  
leads them in reading.

RON:  
"The steps of a good man are  
ordered by the lord and he  
delighteth in his way.Though he  
fall he shall no be utterly cast  
down; for the lord upholdeth him  
with his hand."

INT. MARRON FARM-SAME TIME

Judith is teaching Bernadette at the piano as Martha  
prepares a meal. Judith slaps the hand of Bernadette when  
she gets a note wrong. Caroline watches in disapproval.

(CONTINUED)

JUDITH:

No, that's not right. How many times do we have to go over this. Sit up straight you're slouching.

She straightens Bernadette's back.

BERNADETTE:

But I'm trying.

JUDITH:

You can try harder. Come on from the beginning.

Edward comes in tired from work. Edward walks in while Bernadette screws up a note. Judith slaps her hand. He keeps silent and walks to the kitchen.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.STEVE'S OFFICE-DAY

Steve gets dressed as we see his back has marks of self flagellating. A KNOCK on the door and he panics. He hides OLD PHOTOS of ARTHUR.

STEVE:

Come in.

Officer RICHARD enters to room. He seems,anxious.

STEVE:

Please sit. What brings you in?

RICHARD hesitantly makes a few paces towards Steve's desk and looks around the office. Stephen decides to sit in the chair opposite Steve.

RICHARD:

Father, it's good to see you again.

STEVE:

It's been awhile since your last confession. Hope it's nothing too bad.

Richard laughs awkwardly.

RICHARD:

No father.Nothing on my mind. But I am here to hear about any of yours.

A beat as Steve takes off his gasses and rubs his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE:

It's been a long day, what are trying to tell me.

RICHARD:

I don't know Father. There's been...talk. You have your new class.

STEVE:

Reparative prayer sessions..

RICHARD:

Right. There's been rumors swirling around.

STEVE:

And who did you hear them from?

Richard shares a look.

STEVE:

Oh, I see.

RICHARD:

We've known each other for a long time. Parents are just worried about who's teachin' Sunday lessons.

STEVE:

About what exactly?

RICHARD:

It's great what you're doin' for the queers.

STEVE:

Homosexuals.

RICHARD:

...Right. They're just worried some things are going to spill over.

STEVE:

I just don't know what anyone thinks is gonna happen.

RICHARD:

I know what you're doin' is right. Trying to fix them. Hell you've fixed yourself. It's just getting to close. They just want they're kids safe.

(CONTINUED)

Steve stands up abruptly.

STEVE:  
So you what do you think I'm doin'?  
The kids and the adults are  
separate.

RICHARD:  
Not exactly...They just don't want  
old habits to come over you. It's  
not safe.

STEVE:  
What isn't safe?

RICHARD:  
Father, I'm just the messenger. I  
don't know what to believe.

Steve paces the room.

STEVE:  
I'm only giving the class to  
adults. It's completely honest. I  
can't believe what I'm hearing.

He slumps against the wall.

RICHARD:  
I just thought I'd let you know  
what you're up against.

Richard leaves the office. Steve look around his office  
panicked. He punches the wall.

INT.SAMUEL'S BAR-EVENING

Charlie sitting in a booth alone eating. It's a quiet night.  
Virginia walks over and models a new dress for him.

CHARLIE:  
Wow, look at you! You looks so  
great in it.

She joins him in the booth.

VIRGINIA:  
You don't look to good yourself.

CHARLIE:  
It's been a long day.

Virginia pulls out her cross out from under the collar of  
her dress.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE:

That reminds me.

Charlie pulls a box out and sets it in front. Virginia finds a rosary inside and inspects it.

VIRGINIA:

Oh. I don't know what to say.

CHARLIE:

After what happened to your last one, you need this.

Virginia laughs weakly.

VIRGINIA:

Has your apartment be ransacked again.

CHARLIE:

No, thank God. Ron's been so strong. We can't be shaken by these people.

VIRGINIA:

Thank you for the rosary, but I can't have it.

Charlie laughs softly and rolls his eyes.

VIRGINIA:

I just...I just feel this pressure from her not to say anything that going to upset her.

CHARLIE:

Pressure like your mother gave you?

VIRGINIA:

I didn't mean...

A beat as as takes a sip from his drink. She relaxes.

VIRGINIA:(CONT'D)

It just feels whatever decision I make is wrong. Everything I do seems wrong.

CHARLIE:

It's not you who's wrong. Jess just needs some time to get off that high horse of hers.

He takes her hand that holds the rosary in his.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE: (CONT'D)

Believe or not I'm thankful that I was made this way. I am what I am. God has given me Ron and a life we never thought possible. It's the best gift I could ask for.

Music starts in the background about faith like "Father Figure." Charlie sings to Virginia as they sit together. He comforts her with the message of father love and holds her head up to wipe away her tears.

The rest of the CROWD gathers around. Multiple couples are holding each other, some kissing some in each other's arms.

The crowd joins in. Acceptance is felt throughout. Virginia stops crying. They share a moment of silence.

CHARLIE:

Tell her what you told me. She'll understand. The world isn't worth the tears.

INT.JESSICA'S APT-EVENING

The next night. Virginia walks in to find Jessica painting the Rothko-esque black and white painting". Sexually suggestive music plays on her record player, could be " I Want Your Sex."

JESSICA:

(not looking behind)

Welcome back. I bought groceries. We can make that stew you were talking about.

Virginia walks closer.

JESSICA:

Where have you been?

VIRGINIA:

I was out looking at all the weird shops you've got on this side. Never realized what a different world this all is.

Virginia looks at the library of book in Jessica's bookshelf. She spots a couple and takes some in her hands.

VIRGINIA:

I thought you gave up on this?

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA:

I might as well try.--So what else did you find?

Virginia sits down by a nearby chair and watches.

VIRGINIA:

A bunch of weird things.Tarot cards from Gina's.

JESSICA:

That store across the street from the butcher.

VIRGINIA:

Yeah that one. It has a bunch of odd kick-knacks.--So I've been thinking. A lot of strange things I haven't seen. It's a lot to get used to.

She sets some books on the table next to Jessica for her to see. "THE GAY SCIENCE" and "SEXUALITY IN THE HUMAN FEMALE".

JESSICA:

Is there something wrong?

VIRGINIA:

I just... it's just...there's a lot to learn. I left behind everything I knew.

JESSICA:

And who made that decision?

VIRGINIA:

I know it's my responsibility. I just feel a litte...lost.

JESSICA:

I've done a lot to make you feel at home. Bought you new clothes, and food. I've looked the other way when I come out from showering and find you praying by the bed before we sleep.

Virginia opens her mouth to fight, but shuts up.She walks to turn off the music. Jessica gets frustrated and whites out a chunk of the painting.

EXT.BAR-CONTINUOUS

(CONTINUED)

John, Don and Scott leave a party drunk, with a TWO GIRLS. The Scott throws his empty beer bottle. They get into the car. Scott drives them toward the bridge.

EXT. KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE-CONTINUOUS

Charlie and Ron walk hand in hand walk to the post office. They decide to go over the bridge. The car with the group of boys and girls meets up with them. John points them out.

JOHN:

Pull over, we've got some fresh ones.

Scott stops the car. He gets out with Scott while the girls remain.

SCOTT:

(to John)

Well are you coming?

Hesitantly, John gets out of the car.

GIRL#1:

C'mon guys lets go my house. My parents aren't home. You're making us wait.

INT. JESSICA'S APT-NIGHT

Jessica takes Virginia and guides her hand with the paintbrush. Their painting gets messy. Virginia makes the first move and kisses Jessica. She takes Jessica's shirt off while singing a song of new found defiance against God and the rules, like in "Gods and Monsters".

INT. JESSICA'S BEDROOM-CONTINUOUS

They take off each others clothes. Under the covers they have sex as the song continues over their sex.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE-NIGHT

Virginia SINGS OVER as we see action WITHOUT SOUND, the boys confront Ron and Charlie. Charlie step in front of Ron defend him. Ron pulls Charlie back. The Scott pushes Ron. Charlie stands in between to block Scott. The girls are screaming from the car. Ron's tugs at Charlie's arm and they run.

The women are having sex. It gets progressively more intense as does the music, with Virginia taking the top.

(CONTINUED)

Charlie trips and begins to have a cough attack. Ron is a great distance away when he turns to realize Charlie is far behind. We see Ron yell Charlie's name.

The boys catch up to Charlie and kick him. Don makes a gesture to throw him over and they pick him up. John and Don grab Charlie and hold him over the bridge. Charlie holds on the ridge for dear life. He's screaming "I can't swim" but no-one can hear.

Scott gives the final push and throws Charlie over the bridge. Charlie takes a slow descent down to the stream below the song ends with his crash to the water.

SOUND RESUMES as Virginia and Jessica CLIMAX.

EXT.KENSDUSKEAG BRIDGE-NIGHT

Scott gives the final push and throws Charlie over the bridge. Charlie takes a slow descent down to the stream below.

JOHN:

God save the queen.

CHARLIE:

I CAN'T SWIM! I CAN'T SWIM!

Charlie has trouble staying afloat and sinks under briefly.

DON:

He's lying. He'll be alright.

Charlie's taken away from the current struggling to stay above the surface.

The panicked group of boys head back to the car and flee the scene. Henry a long distance away, avoids getting hit by their car.

RON:

Swim to the side and hang on. The fire department will be here shortly. Hang on!

Charlie makes his way to the sides and attempts to hang on. The tides prove to strong and he loses grip. Charlie is pulled under by the current and Ron loses sight of him.

RON:

CHARLIE! JESUS WHERE ARE YOU?  
CHARLIE?

(CONTINUED)

He looks for a sign that never comes. Ron sits down defeated. Henry comes running from a distance to him.

HENRY:

Hey! Go an get help I'll stay  
behind!

Ron looks back and forth between Henry and the empty stream in a state of shock. He runs off the into town.

EXT.FIRST STREET-MOMENTS LATER

Ron runs down the street. He pulls a nearby fire alarm and runs to the police station in the distance.

INT.JESSICA'S APT.JESSICA'S BEDROOM-NIGHT

They girls lay in bed together in an afterglow. SIRENS of the firetrucks rush to the scene. The women look at each other in concern.

EXT.KENDUSKEAG STREAM BRIDGE-MOMENTS LATER

It's raining as they arrive at the scene and run to Ron. FIRE FIGHTERS and COPS by the bridge. Ron stands back from the scene and is by being questioned by police.

VIRGINIA:

Oh my god what happened?!

Ron turns to face them. OFFICER #1 grabs his arm.

RON:

He's in the stream. They still  
haven't found him.

OFFICER #1:

We're not done yet Mr. Olsen.

OFFICER #2 WHISTLES.

OFFICER #2:

We've got him!

The boat pulls up to the shore. The officers haul the body together to the ground. Paramedics perform CPR to no avail.

Charlie is pronounced dead. Shell shocked, Virginia stands away looking hopelessly at Charlie's limp body.

VIRGINIA:

Oh my God, I can't do this, I --

(CONTINUED)

Terrified, Virginia walks slowly away and turns her back on them.

JESSICA:  
Virginia where are you going?  
--Virginia?!

OFFICER #1:  
Okay show's over.  
(to Ron)  
We'll need take you to the station  
for questioning.

The officers drag Ron into a cop car as Jessica fails to cling to him. The body is put into a bag.

Jessica looks back to Virginia walks away away from the scene back to Marron Farm.

News footage of John, Scott, and Don being escorted by police into a cop car for they're first court hearing. A REPORTER describes the incident.

REPORTER (V.O):  
The three juvenile delinquents  
responsible for the death of 23  
year old Charlie Howard are  
escorted to their first day of  
Trial for manslaughter. A memorial  
service will be held for Charlie at  
Kenduskeag Bridge.

EXT.BAPTIST CHURCH-DAY

Baptist church members walk in the rain from the Baptist Church to the Kenduskeag bridge led by Ron, Jessica and Mae. Purple ribbons tied to arms and white roses are carried. On the opposite end of the bridge, Virginia stands with her parents. They sing of song of going heaven and the end of life maybe" Knockin' on Heaven's Door".

EXT.KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE-CONTINUOUS

The crowd continues to walk to the bridge singing with grief. It feels somewhat poignant within their pain there's unity.

White roses are dropped into the stream. The congregation walks back to the church. Virginia and her parents walk home.

INT.MARRON FARM.DINING ROOM-DAY

NEXT MONTH

(CONTINUED)

Virginia slams down an empty glass of bourbon on the table. Mascara runs on her face as she rests her head on the table. Her uneven haircut is jarring. Virginia sings about the downfall of live, the expectations of her mama, like "Mamma's Broken Heart".

INT.SAMUEL'S BAR-DAY

She sings over as we see Samuel serves drinks to Ron and Jessica. He shares gossip as Ron shakes his head.

INT. MARRON FARM.VIRGINIA'S ROOM-DAY

Virginia sits at her vanity in new clothes.Judith tries to make her bangs even while Virginia wipes away mascara. They sing and we feel the tension.

INT./EXT.MARRON CAR-DAY

She drives away from home taking sips of whiskey.

PRENT STREETS

She continues to drive recklessly around time. She breaks traffic lights and ends up at John's house.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE-CONTINUOUS

Virginia sings over as we see John's inside kept under parental supervision with his MOTHER. We hear rocks being thrown at windows outside. John and his mother look out.

EXT.JOHN'S HOUSE-CONTINUOUS

Virginia is outside drunk and throwing rocks at his house. He comes outside and stands looking sorry. She throws a rock at him and angrily and runs away.

INT. MARRON FARM.FIRST DINING ROOM-DAY.

Martha other maid STAFF clear out the LIQUOR CABINET of all alcohol. Bottles are thrown away.

INT.MARRON FARM.VIRGINIA'S ROOM-SAME TIME

Virginia sits back at her vanity. Her mother applies her make up while singing. Judith puts finishing touches on Virginia's outfit while they stand in front of the vanity.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH-DAY

Ron and Virginia help set-up for a potluck dinner. Other young black GIRLS and BOYS moves tables and chairs and put chairs in their place.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA:  
How many do we need?

RON:  
150. We've got people out of town.

Mae comes in and directs some kids to move the furniture table.

MAE:  
Put this back a little.

The helpers continue to move furniture according to Mae's rules.

JESSICA:  
  
I'm half expecting to hear Charlie laugh and make some comment on the dress I'm wearing.

A beat as Ron moves some chairs.

RON:  
Charlie felt comfortable here.  
Everyone else was kind of getting used to us.

JESSICA:  
Why do you still believe after all of this? Doesn't the fact that three boys can throw kill off someone who never hurt anyone prove there's no God?

Jessica angrily pulls a chair. She sits down and looks away.

RON:  
Charlie would want me to believe. He's said that God has looked out for him.

JESSICA:  
So what he just didn't look to see if he was drowning? He didn't look out for William?

Ron sits with her. He grabs her holds her hands.

RON:  
I've been studying the bible lately. It's a nature of duality. In the first book of Samuel it discusses God's two sides. The LORD  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RON: (cont'd)  
killeth, and maketh alive: he  
bringeth down to the grave, and  
bringeth up.

(cont'd)  
JESSICA:

How could God let something like  
that happen to someone who  
believed?

She gets up and continues to assemble tables.

JESSICA:  
Now V is driving around town and  
drinking like a lunatic. Who'd she  
learn that from?... Maybe her  
mother's right.

RON:  
That's V's responsibility.. Each  
man for his own sin. I don't  
remember you driving around town  
drunk.

Ron stands up and continues to move set chairs to tables.

RON:  
Charlie told me she came to him  
afraid. She was afraid of you'd the  
like she was afraid of her mother.

JESSICA:  
Maybe it was stupid to think I  
could make it work. She's so young,  
still just a kid.

RON:  
That isn't the problem. You asked  
and never gave an inch. How do you  
think relationships work? Charlie  
was willing to compromise when he  
came to church, because he knew  
people won't understand. He know  
how important it is for me to be  
accepted so when it came time, he  
toned it down a little. Just for a  
little while. He was willing to  
try.

They finish putting the last chairs in.

RON:

It doesn't matter who you're with,  
things take compromise. Put some  
faith in.

The other boys and girls finish and they stand together.

EXT.MARRON FARM-EVENING

The annual summer party commences. Bernadette PLAYS on the piano. CHURCH MEMBERS sit in dining room table set up with a feast for many. Judith walks and enters

SECOND DINING ROOM

The guests are smiling and drinking non-alcoholic drinks. Judith smiles and walks past into

FIRST DINING ROOM

The guests drink and chatter. ALICE, whispers to her friend in earshot of Judith.

ALICE:

I guess we won't be drinking wine  
tonight.

We follow as Judith enters...

FRONT ENTRANCE

Bernadette finishes the song as Judith passes by. Caroline and Judith clap.

JUDITH:

I can tell you've improved.

BERNADETTE:

Thank you Mrs. Marron. I thought  
you said they were going to  
compliment my playing.

Judith looks back at the guests who ignore the music.

JUDITH:

Children shouldn't ask such  
questions, and should only speak  
when spoken to.

She kisses Bernadette who continues to play.

INT.VIRGINIA'S ROOM-EVENING

(CONTINUED)

Virginia applies make-up at her mirror. A song by Johnny Ace plays in the background. She tries to wipe away the tears from ruining her mascara with a tissue. She hears Edward call for her.

EDWARD:(O.S)  
V, we're waiting for you.

INT.STAIRCASE-CONTINUOUS

Virginia watches quietly as the guess mingle.

INT.FIRST DINING ROOM-EVENING

Martha and other black female STAFF sets the last plates down in the second dining room. Martha joins them in the first room.

MARTHA:  
Well I think we done Mrs. Marron. I hope the meal is as good as last time.

Martha stands ignored. She turns to Judith for validation, Judith bails.

JUDITH:  
That will be all Martha. Leave us be.

Martha looks between the staff and Judith. And anger grows.

MARTHA:  
No, thanks necessary Judith.

She storms off into the kitchen with Bernadette and the staff.

FRONT HALL

Virginia sneaks past Caroline who watches as leaves out the front door. Caroline shakes her head and heads towards the dining room.

EXT.PRENT STREETS-NIGHT

A GUITAR RIFF of song of anger, against God plays, like, "East Jesus Nowhere". as the KKK members put their hoods on. Carrying heavy sticks and lighter fluid,they ride in the trunk of a truck. PAUL their leader leads in singing.

EXT.MOVING CAR.PRENT STREETS-CONTINUOUS

(CONTINUED)

The group continuous to sing in rebellion and anger.

EXT.BAPTIST-CHURCH CONTINUOUS

They make their way to the front lawn and empty the car. Paul sticks a cross into the ground and sits it on FIRE.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH-CONTINUOUS

The congregation is eating. The group of men BURST through the doors to the dining hall. We hear GASPS from some Patrons.

The KKK pour kerosene around and flip over tables.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S-NIGHT.

Virginia lights a candle and crosses her heart and sings along.

The KKK ruin furniture and harass members. Paul spreads light fluid while the rest flip tables and continues to sing. He finishes the song while dropping a match to IGNITE flames.

A young baptist man gets PUNCHED. He buckles down and is held in a choke hold. Ron comes over and PUNCHES the member holding him. Paul continues to sing.

Virginia genuflects in a pew and continues singing of anger.

Jessica, and Mae assist people out the exit. KKK continue to fight as the male baptists fight back, now edging a lead over the Klan.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.EVENING

Virginia walks by the Steve's office. She hears talking in his office, and decides to hide in a nearby coatroom. There is a middle-aged MOTHER are at his office.

MOTHER:

I don't see how you can just sit there? Children under your care for school lessons and you're hiding this.

STEVE:

Ma'am nothing indecent is going on inside these walls.

(CONTINUED)

MOTHER:

Those perverts into God's house.  
You're one yourself. It's a  
disgrace.

The mother SLAMS the office door exits the church. Virginia trails after.

EXT.SAINT ANTHONYS-CONTINUOUS

From the steps, smoke is seen coming from the direction of the Baptist church. She runs to see what's going on. We follow her as she passes the Kenduskeag Stream bridge. She pulls the Alarm and it SOUNDS.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH-CONTINUOUS

Ron and other men fight the Klan with chairs. Women help continue escort older members out of their seats towards the exit. Ron is pushed and CRASHES into chairs.

Men of the congregation help Ron up. Klan men start to leave the scene. A remaining BURLY KLAN MEMBER who knocks out a few of the young men.

EXT.BAPTIST CHURCH-CONTINUOUS

Smoke surrounds the church as people are huddling, COUGHING, outside. Mae and Jessica bring out more of the elderly. Jessica runs back inside and Virginia follows.

INT.BAPTIST CHURCH-CONTINUOUS

The structural integrity of the church crumbles. Ron dodges a punch. Ron pushes back. A piece of the ceiling falls on of the man trapping him.

BURLY MAN:

Ahh! Fuck get me out!

Jessica escorts last person. She grabs Ron's arm to pull him.

JESSICA:

Let's get the hell out. It's all  
coming down.

RON:

(coughing)

Just get stay out on the lawn I'm  
coming.

(CONTINUED)

BURLY MAN:

Oh my God, I can't die like this!

Ron looks back at the man and contemplates. Jessica leads the last member out but spots Virginia.

JESSICA:

What the hell are you doing here?  
Stay outside.

VIRGINIA:

I came to get you. Where's Ron.

JESSICA:

He's coming. Get back out.

Virginia spots Ron who's trying to help the man up. She slides past Jessica who gets out. Virginia attempts to help Ron.

BURLY MAN:

No Jesus, not you. I'd rather be dead.

RON:

(To the man)

Shut up, you're fucking coming with me.

(to Virginia)

Get out V it's all coming down!

Virginia picks up the man and puts one of his arms on her, Ron with the other. More of the structure fall down around them.

VIRGINIA:

I'm not going unless I can get you out.

They struggle to drag the man out.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH-LATER.

FIRE MEN finish putting out the fire. The lawn is mostly vacant, and AMBULANCES drive off. Mae huddles with her two sons, while Ron checks on people who for the most part seem sad. A GROUP OF WOMEN sing a gospel like song, like "SHINE".

Ron meets up with Jessica and they hug. They see Virginia in the distance waking home.

EXT. MARRON FARM-NIGHT

(CONTINUED)

Patrons are heading to their cars after the meal. Virginia walks up looking deshelved and everyone sees. Judith walks out to the porch as Virginia walks up the steps.

PORCH

JUDITH:

I was waiting for you young lady.  
We have guests at a party waiting  
for..

Without a word Virginia pushes her aside and heads inside the house. The guests seem entertained and SNICKER to each other. Judith stands alone watching people leave, helpless.

INT.VIRGINIA'S BEDROOM-NIGHT.

Virginia lays awake in bed with the lights on. YELLING is heard in the background by her parents. She turns off the light.

INT.VIRGINIA'S ROOM-LATER

Judith sneaks in and sits by the side of the bed. She turns on the light and sees Virginia's face asleep and dirty from the rubble. She sings "God know I tried" Virginia wakes up.

Judith turns off the light.

EXT.MARRON FARMS-DAWN

Judith packs one last suitcase into a cab. She stands back and looks at the house and farm. White tenants use a cotton stripper for the harvest, the back tenants pick their section by hand.

INT.VIRGINIA'S ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Virginia wakes up to notice She makes her way to her front window and looks out to see Judith who meets her. Judith gets into the cab and it drives off.

EXT.MARRON FARMS-DAY

Virginia runs onto the porch to watch the car drive off. She sits down with Caroline.

CAROLINE:

It's better this way. She was never  
happy.

(CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA:  
It's my fault.

CAROLINE:  
No. It's her own. Some people just  
don't want change.

She gets up from the bench and helps up Virginia.

CAROLINE:  
There's going to be a lot of  
explaining to do.

EXT.PRENT JUVENILE FACILITY-DAY

Virginia drives into the driveway in front of the brick walled facility. young TEEN BOYS are playing basketball under supervision.

INT.JUVENILE VISITING ROOM.CONTINUOUS

John is waiting by a table along with other inmates his age. He looks nervous. Virginia walks up to him and makes contact with him. GUARDS watch as he stands up to meet her. He attempts to touch her, but she stays back.

VIRGINIA:  
Let's talk.

They sit across each other.

JOHN:  
I playing playing ball with some of  
the other boys, it's nice weather  
out today.

VIRGINIA:  
The weather? That's what we're  
gonna talk about?

JOHN:  
I'm sorry I just...

VIRGINIA:  
Yeah, I'm sorry too.-- You know  
that could have me out there. I'm  
one of those people. Those queers.

JOHN:  
Wouldn't have guessed.

(CONTINUED)

VIRGINIA:  
Wouldn't have cared either  
apparently.

He briefly looks away embarrassed.

JOHN:  
I've been taking group sessions  
with other kids. We've shared  
stories about our mistakes. Each  
one horrifying. One kid beat his  
sister on Thanksgiving for being  
rude to him.--We try to learn from  
it.

VIRGINIA:  
Good for you.

JOHN:  
I don't always know right from  
wrong but I'm trying. I'm going to  
church again and I've stopped  
talking to Scott and Don. That must  
mean something!

GUARD:  
Keep it down Brenn!

After a moment, John pulls a letter out of his pocket and  
puts it on the table in front of him.

JOHN:  
I've written this for Charlie. It's  
an apology letter to him. We have  
reflection time to think about what  
we've done, how it's affected the  
ones who loved him.

She takes the letter.

JOHN:  
If you could just deliver this to  
his friend Ron I'd appreciate it. I  
understand if he doesn't want to  
read it.

She gets up to leave and he stands with her. He reaches out  
his hand and she holds it briefly. She exists.

INT. BARRON WAREHOUSE-DAY

(CONTINUED)

Ron, Mae and other women are in sitting at a makeshift facility trying to fundraiser. Mae and other ELDERLY WOMEN are on the phones calling out of town. Ron is seen wearing a Reverends uniform for his new role.

MAE:

...Alright, thank you bye now.

She hangs up the phone.

MAE:(CONT'D)

We've got a thousand dollar pledge from Sister's United over from Franklin.

The rest of the women CHEER.Mae gets up and hugs Ron.

RON:

That's great but we've got to keep going and stay positive. We've got to have faith. We've come this far.

Virginia enters the building. Surprised, Ron walks over and greets her.

RON:

How've you been?

VIRGINIA:

Better off than you, I guess. I've about the suit you have against the county.

RON:

We were left with no choice.

VIRGINIA:

Things have certainly changed.You got a new uniform.

Ron LAUGHS lightly.Virginia takes the letter from her coat.

VIRGINIA:

I've been thinking a lot about closure. I visited John one of the boys...

RON:

Who killed Charlie I know.

VIRGINIA:

When I talked to him he looked  
ashamed. I think he really wants to  
make it up to everyone. He wrote  
Charlie a letter.

Virginia hands over the letter . Ron skeptically looks it  
over.

VIRGINIA:

I know this doesn't bring him back,  
but it's something.

RON:

It's gonna take time to heal. Maybe  
one day.

She kisses him, and leaves. Ron gets back to the phones.

INT. WAREHOUSE-LATER.

The day is gone and the ladies are leaving.

MAE:

I'll see you tomorrow. Thanks for  
keeping things together.

She kisses him and leaves. Jessica walks in with dinner.

JESSICA:

Thought you'd need a break. You've  
been at it all day.

The ladies make their way out. Ron grabs a burger and beings  
to eat.

JESSICA:

I heard one of your adds on the  
radio for another fundraiser. Maybe  
thing will work out this time.

Ron nods as he chews his food. He puts down his burger and  
wipes his hands.

RON:

Virginia stopped by earlier today.  
I really think she's sorry for what  
happened. I think she wants to make  
up for it somehow.--Maybe it's time  
we turned the page.

They eat together in silence.

INT. MARRON FARMS-DAY

(CONTINUED)

The several tenants are harvesting cotton in the fields come into the house and see Edward who's reading newspaper in living area.

TENANT#1:  
We need to talk.

Edward looks up from the paper.

EDWARD:  
First let's eat.

INT.MARRON KITCHEN-DAY

Virginia and Martha are cooking breakfast.

MARTHA:  
I'm real sorry about your mother V.  
I didn't know it would end up like that.

VIRGINIA:  
I'm not, we have you. Thank you.

MARTHA:  
Hasn't always been easy.

They hold hands.

INT.FIRST DINING ROOM-LATER

The family and tenants eat together and light conversations take place.

EDWARD:  
So, have you decided on whether or not you're gonna stay for another year?

TENANT#1:  
We're thinking about our options.It's been difficult to keep up with expenses.

EDWARD:  
I can help you with the business side of things make it easier for profit. Let you use the stripper...

TENANT#2:  
We're moving up north. It'll be better for the family.

(CONTINUED)

EDWARD:  
Just give people more time. Things  
will...

VIRGINIA:  
(interrupts)  
Dad that's enough.

Edward stops eating surprised.

VIRGINIA:  
I'll help stay, learn to help  
around. We'll make it work.

TENANT#1:  
We want a fresh start. A better  
future. I don't think we can get  
that here.

EDWARD:  
(to Virginia)  
As long as you stay, I'm okay.

They continue to eat while light conversations pick up.

INT.JESSICA'S APT-DAY

She works on the unfinished painting. It's there's shades of  
gray in between the black and white.A RADIO ANNOUNCER for  
the Baptist church reads the add as she makes final touches.

ANNOUNCER:  
Join the Prent Baptist Church on  
August 30 with a potluck to help  
rebuild the church. A gathering for  
all ages held at The Downtown Dance  
hall on Main Street. Funding will  
help additional costs.

Jessica observes the finished painting. She grabs her  
cigarettes and leaves the apartment.

INT.WAREHOUSE-SAME TIME

Ron holds and early morning mass in folding chairs. He's  
seen standing in front of the crowd reading scripture.

RON:  
"The righteous cry out, and the  
LORD hears them; he delivers them  
from all their troubles. The LORD  
is close to the brokenhearted and  
saves those who are crushed in  
spirit. "

(CONTINUED)

EXT.MARRON FARM.PORCH.LATER

Virginia sits on the porch. Caroline sits in a rocking chair smoking a pipe behind her.CHURCH BELLS RING. Virginia looks off as the bells segue into a song ,maybe "Show Me What I'm Looking For". She starts singing a song about being lost, about finding God.

Virginia walks into town towards the Kenduskeag bridge.

EXT.TENN.APTS-SAME TIME

Jessica holds a cigarette standing on the steps outside her apartment building holding a cigarette. She sings her song about faith, in the likes of "See the Light".

INT.WAREHOUSE-SAME TIME

The congregation stands and sings the same song as Virginia as their gospel.

EXT.DOWNTOWN-CONTINUOUS

Jessica drops her cigarette and walks toward the Kenduskeag bridge.

An INSTRUMENTAL part of Virginia's songs plays as they continue to get closer. Their eyes meet, Virginia smiles, and they continue to walk to the middle.

EXT.KENDUSKEAG BRIDGE-CONTINUOUS

They meet in the middle of the bridge and finish their songs. Virginia extends her hand for Jessica. They stand to look over the ledge at the water below.

INT.STEVE'S OFFICE-DAY

Steve packs up a suitcase He and looks around at his empty office. He sits at his desk opens a drawer and pulls out a PHOTO of a young man ARTHUR. He packs it in with his stuff.

GEORGE the interim pastor, steps in.

GEORGE:

Are you ready?

Steve nods. He gathers his things and leaves the office. We see his uniform on his desk before he turns off the lights.

INT.SAINT ANTHONY'S.ALTAR-CONTINUOUS

Steve enters the hall where he gave mass. He stands in front suitcase behind him and looks up the cross.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE:

What now?

He shakes his head and turns around to see Virginia and Jessica, standing at the front of the nave. Virginia leads Jessica toward him.

VIRGINIA:

I heard you stopped the reparation group.

Steve nods.

STEVE:

I'm leaving my duties to George. I don't think I'm doing God's work anymore.

Virginia reaches out and touches his collar on his shirt, and notices the suitcase.

VIRGINIA:

I hope I'm not too late.

STEVE:

It wouldn't be the first time. But better late than never.

VIRGINIA:

Father if I can ask on last favor.

She WHISPERS in his ear as Steve makes eye contact with Jessica. He nods in agreement.

INT. SAINT ANTHONY'S. NAVE-MOMENTS MOMENTS LATER

Virginia stands at the beginning of the nave as Jessica fixes her hair.

JESSICA:

Sure, you get to be one one walking down the aisle.

The two girls imagine Charlie by their side. He takes their hands. Jessica starts to sing a song about acceptance, and understanding, a continuation of "Father Figure".

Jessica walks toward the Altar. Charlie links arms. He starts to sing the song.

They start to walk down the aisle and continue to sing.

The three close in on the altar. Virginia looks between the Charlie, and Jessica.

(CONTINUED)

Virginia climbs the steps as they all join in.

Virginia takes Jessica's hand as we see the two women stand before Steve to be united.

FADE OUT.