

COLD OPEN

BLACK SCREEN:

A silver SNAKE slithers upward, bisecting the blackness, as the forboding first few notes of Wagner's *Faust* overture creep in...

LUCY (V.O.)

"So many and so various laws are given. So many laws argue so many sins."

It coils around, taking its tail in its mouth. The snake continues to swallow, filling the screen until the music swells and we PUSH TO-

CLOSE ON: a silver OUROBOROS RING being subconsciously twisted on a girl's finger.

LUCY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

"The First Sort by their own suggestions fell, self-tempted and self-depraved."

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LECTURE HALL - MORNING

REAVEL the wearer: LUCY (18) in a hoodie and jeans, sitting in the back of a full 200 seat lecture hall. There's something familiar about her; the sort of girl you swear you've met before but can never quite place.

LUCY (V.O.)

"But man fell deceived by The First and therefore found Grace."

The projection above the class reads:

"Religion 106: Saints and Sinners in Western Religion."

LUCY (V.O.) (CONT'D)

"The other none."

The haunting music abruptly halts and is replaced by classroom white noise. This is real life now.

The professor, JOEL DARRINGER (40s), stands at the front of the room. He's sort of handsome, sort of tired, sort of over it.

JOEL

Welcome everyone to Saints and Sinners
in Western Religion.

(MORE)

JOEL (CONT'D)

Question: How many of you checked out the online syllabus like my introductory email said to do?

He's trying to engage his class. It's sort of working.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Looking at the syllabus, you would have noticed the pre-lecture reading for this class, Genesis 1-5...

Blinks.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Which would be none of you. Okay, everyone please turn to Genesis 1-5 in your course readers.

Groans.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Now I know you've all heard this story a hundred times...

He walks around, leaning into the kids on the front row. Only one leans forward in response: CALEB (18) a well built athlete who looks innocent but not naive.

JOEL (CONT'D)

... But I want everyone go back to the text. This is it, guys! The moment where the world went from perfect to fallen.

Hearing this, Lucy's hand SHOOTs UP. He ignores it.

JOEL (CONT'D)

We'll get all the definitions for the rest of the course right here.

Lucy stretches her hand higher. Again ignored.

JOEL (CONT'D)

The serpent enters Eden and BAM! Original Sin. Heaven/Hell. Perfect/Fallen. From Light to Darkness. All in one instant. Now we have a world filled with murder, rape, genocide, hate crimes, adultery, theft, greed, betrayal-

LUCY

--That's not fair!

All 200 heads turn.

LUCY (CONT'D)
... Well it isn't.

No one makes a sound.

JOEL
Isn't it?

Joel nods for her carry on.

LUCY
No. I mean... Look, God was being a jerk here. Don't you guys see that?

A mumber of reactions ripples across the room. Caleb twists around to see her better.

LUCY (CONT'D)
I'm being serious. People just accept this story because it's about God. But what if was about your parents? 'Stay in the garden. Don't eat the fruit.' Boring, over protective, controlling. The fruit was not evil. It was the *knowledge* of both good and evil. Ignorance is bliss? Not for me. No thank you.

The crowd's reactions are mixed but silent. Lucy presses forward while she still has the floor.

LUCY (CONT'D)
The 'serpent' was setting people free. Free to think for themselves. Free to have choices. Why do we blame 'Satan' just because people went off and made some bad choices? It's just not fair...

With that, she leaves. Behind her the flutter of disapproval swells in the room.

The only two not commenting are Caleb and Joel, both watching in silent contemplation.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LECTURE HALL - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Lucy runs into the hall, shrugging off the hoodie to reveal a tank top, she sinks down on the floor.

LUCY

(sotto)

Prometheus never had to deal with
this shit.

Directly across from her LIX TETERAX (20s) the sort of bad
boy every dad prays won't date his daughter, fiddles with a
vending machine.

LIX

As I recall, things ended very badly
for him.

LUCY

At least people appreciate fire.
Everyone hates me.

LIX

You've been here two seconds. Give
it a minute.

LUCY

Yes, because history shows us the
longer I stay in one place the more
people there grow to love me.

LIX

I've known you forever. I don't hate
you.

LUCY

You don't count.

Lix hits the machine and a pack of SKITTLES tumbles out. He
tosses it to her.

LIX

Look! free candy!

She kicks it away.

LUCY

That's stealing.

He tosses it back.

LIX

Corporate markup is stealing.

LUCY

Then let that be on their heads.
Moral relativity is no longer a vice
I can afford to indulge.

LIX`

Do you hear yourself? You're getting off on this self-righteous self-loathing. Snap out of it and eat the stupid candy.

LUCY

No.

LIX

I know you and your dad hacked this ridiculous deal: you prove you can clean up your act at college and then he lets you come back home. But the daddy's girl act is getting old. And I miss you.

LUCY

You don't know me.

Lix is taken back.

LIX

Yeah... I guess I don't. I thought you were revolutionary, a leader, an individual. Here to, what was it you used to say? 'Break the chains that bind humanity the rack to the law.' And after all this time, it turns out you're just a poor little rich girl who went through an experimental phase. You're the most selfish person I've ever known.

She gets up, looking at him with pity.

LUCY

Of course I am. Why do you think we had so much in common?

She walks away down the long empty hall. With her back turned, her exposed shoulder blades reveal TWO DEEP VERTICAL SCARS - as if meathooks were once dragged parallel down her back.

LIX

Luce, come on... Don't listen to me. I didn't mean it.

She keeps walking.

LIX (CONT'D)

Lucy! Luce?

Panic rises in him. He's losing her.

LIX (CONT'D)

Lucifer!

She freezes, back still to him. Lix holds his breath.

When she finally turns around, her eyes hold a knowing gaze.

When she opens her mouth, it's haunting:

LUCY

Never say that name again.

MUSIC UP: "Coming up from Behind" by Marcy Playground.

PUSH TO opening credits.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - QUAD - LATER

Lucy (hoodie on) trudges across the quad while every club, activity, and interest group is out poaching for new recruits. She is approached by three girls, TRISHA, GWEN, and AMBER, in matching Sigma "Σ" Zeta "Z" tank tops reading: Everyone Loves a "ΣZ" Girl!

TRISHA

Hi, I'm Trisha! Have you thought about going Greek? This campus offers 12 unique and wonderful houses all full of girls just waiting to be your new best friends and sisters for life.

She hands over a flier. Amber leans in, never losing her smile.

AMBER

She has to say that, otherwise Pan Hellenic will kill us, but we can totally tell you're Sigma Zeta material. Come party with us at the Tri Psi house.

Gwen palms Lucy a smaller slip of paper with a Greek PSI symbol "Ψ": **Thursday, 10pm. Follow the Psigns...**

They spin and hone in on a new target.

LIX (O.S.)

Dirty rush...

Lix throws his arm around Lucy's shoulder forcing her to walk at his pace.

LIX (CONT'D)

I like it. You going? Can I be your date? I love sororities!

LUCY

Why are you still here? And why are you so happy?

A flock of more SORORITY GIRLS blocks their path.

SORORITY GIRL

Hi! Have you considered going Greek?

LUCY

Not interested.

She plows through them.

LIX

Seriously, Luce. You're trying to bring some light into the darkness. What's darker than a frat house?

LUCY

Lix, I hate to point this out but, according to my dad, I Am The Darkness.

LIX

And you're trying to change that by getting on his good side.

LUCY

It's not about him and his "good side." I gave up being there a long time ago. It's about me and going back to the place I started ... and I don't know but I'll figure it out. When I was at home I felt "clean" for lack of a better word. Sure, I had problems with the system, enough to make me leave-

LIX

--Stage an uprising that got your wings ripped off and you kicked out.

LUCY

Semantics. But, even since then there's been something missing in my life. ... Something I can't quite articulate, much less understand.

LIX

For someone who hates hypocrisy you sure do talk out of both sides of your mouth.

LUCY

I hate myself, Lix. I hate what I do to myself and others, but hating it isn't enough to stop doing it. If that were true...

She scans the crowd, pointing out STUDENTS.

LUCY (CONT'D)

That girl wouldn't emotionally eat, that guy wouldn't be a sex addict,
(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)
and those two wouldn't be cheating
on each other. No one would repeat
patterns of abuse or addiction. But
that's not this world, is it?

LIX
No, and that's what makes being here
so much fun. All these weak little
minds...

LUCY
All these hurting hearts... so wanting
to indulge, so scared to step out
and try. So easy.

She catches herself.

LUCY (CONT'D)
Too easy. Stop it, Lix. You're not
helping me stay focused. Like I was
saying, hating it is not enough to
stop doing it. But, behaving
counterintuitively is. I hope. And
what's more counterintuitive than
playing the righteous undergrad?

LIX
Alcoholic bar tender, klypto
accountant, necrophilic mortition-

LUCY
--I should apologize to my professor.

LIX
Why?

LUCY
Because that's the last thing I want
to do.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - RELIGIOUS STUDIES BUILDING - LATER

Lucy walks purposely down the hall. She stops at a door:
JOEL DARRINGER, Ph.D. She knocks.

LUCY
Professor Darringer?

No answer.

LUCY (CONT'D)
It's Lucy.
(MORE)

LUCY (CONT'D)

The girl who ran out of class this morning. Um. I came by to apologize. Is this technically office hours? I thought maybe... Hello?

She pushes on the door. It opens.

INT. RELIGIOUS STUDIES BUILDING - JOEL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Lucy enters to find Joel lost behind a stack of papers. He's had better days (years.)

LUCY

Oh- I'm sorry! I didn't - the door was open so-

JOEL

--The door's always open. Locks keep the honest people out. And don't apologize. Your premise and exhibition were interesting to say the least. Not one usually found in 100 level classes.

LUCY

You liked my idea?

JOEL

I liked that you had it, the passion and the independent thought. Please don't drop my class. I'll die if you leave me in there with the zombies.

LUCY

Okay. No dropping out. Promise.

JOEL

Good. If you don't mind my asking, what's your theological background? You know, and certainly care, more than most.

As she speaks, she peruses his office, learning him by his books, art, decor...

LUCY

Ummm... I grew up with this stuff. Lived it. Survived it. If you knew my dad it would make sense.

JOEL
Hell fire and brimstone upbringing?

LUCY
Very much so. Do you fly?

She picks up a framed photo of a PIPER TOMAHAWK.

JOEL
I'm instrument rated. Do you?

LUCY
I used to. In what feels like another lifetime...

JOEL
If you miss it that much, I'd be happy to take you up sometime. Lucy... Are you interested in being a research assistant? It's not a paid position but there's extra credit. And that way we could-

He's cut short by his phone RINGING. He sighs apologetically.

JOEL (CONT'D)
--One second.

And answers.

JOEL (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Hi sweetheart. ... Whichever one you think is best. ... I really couldn't say. I'm happy if you're happy.

Unsure of herself, Lucy stands there.

JOEL (CONT'D)
(mouthing)
Sorry. She talks and talks and talks.

Lucy's eyes narrow. Suddendly, as if on auto-pilot, she sits up on the desk, seductively crossing her legs.

JOEL (CONT'D)
(into phone)
No, I'm listening. I agree!

Lucy watches the sweat bead on his forehead.

JOEL (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Of course. Love you too.

(to Lucy)

I'm sorry, sometimes my wife-

LUCY

--Professor Darringer, let's cut the act, you and me.

JOEL

I'm sorry?

LUCY

No you're not. You're frustrated. Sexually.

She speaks as Lucifer now, every word hitting its mark in his gut.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Your marriage is a sham. You're still in it because you're a coward; you think it will look bad to your academic peers if you leave. Plus, truth be told, it's not that you don't love your wife. You feel you're inadequate. And that kills you because you know it's true. And if you're not even good enough for her, why would any other woman want you? So, you stay "loyal" while lusting after every pair of young breasts that bounce into your classroom. It's harmless because it's all in your mind, right? Sure. Keep telling yourself that. Take me on as assistant. Have me at your beck and fetch everyday. Ask me to coffee. Tell me how "smart and special" I am, like we both know you've told all the pretty ones before. Or we could cut the act, you and me, and just do it right here on your desk.

Joel is stunned to silence.

LUCY (CONT'D)

No? Have it your way then. See you in class, professor.

EXT. RELIGIOUS STUDIES BUILDING - REST ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lucy shuts the door and braces herself against it, regaining her composure.

LUCY

(sotto)

I lost control. I'm sorry.

Pulling off the hoodie, she goes to the sink. She stares in the mirror then leans over, splashing water on her face. The SCARS on her back stretch in the reflection as she concaves.

SARINE (O.S.)

Lucifer?

Lucy looks up, and sees in the mirror: SARINE (16) a bookishly preppy goody-two-shoes with a crisp collar and neatly folded back WINGS.

LUCY

Sarine? Not who I was expecting him to send. Creativity points, Dad.

SARINE

It's definitely been a while, sis. You look...

LUCY

Human? Thanks, that's what I was going for.

SARINE

I suppose I didn't know what to expect. After you left, I mean, after what happened. We heard stories.

LUCY

Horns, pitch-fork, red scaly skin?

SARINE

All that and you were decidedly masculine.

LUCY

Human mythology. They have no problem demonizing women until it means giving one authority. Of course they made their Devil King a man. And you?

SARINE

Dad named me Angel of the Night.

LUCY
You're over dreams?

SARINE
Your memory's sharp. I help people have them, remember them, make them come true.

LUCY
(chagrined)
Like a Fairy Godmother.

SARINE
You laugh, but that same mythology made you a man.

LUCY
That's fair.

SARINE
Luce... I've got some kind of bad news. Dad sent me to give it because-

LUCY
-He thought I'd take it better?
He's right. I'm not going to hurt you Sarine, just tell me what's up.

Sarine unfolds a small PAPER and reads.

SARINE
"Lucifer, It seems you're having more trouble than expected with the concept of "force for good." So from now on while you're here, you'll be completing tasks at my request."

LUCY
Because of what happened back there? No... What was I supposed to do? If I'm going to be in his class, he can't cast me as the ingenue of his Lotia projection. I did us both a favor.

SARINE
Are you trying to say all that was in the name of healthy boundaries?

LUCY
Sort of, yeah.

SARINE

Lucy, everyone gets that you have good intentions-

LUCY

--But, I know, I know those literally pave the road to hell. Heaven only speaks in clichés. ... Tell me, what does his Almightyness request? Now I will labor to please the gods, like Psyche and Hercules.

Sarine looks at the paper and back at Lucy.

SARINE

He wants you to save Joel's marriage.

LUCY

Or apparently Sisyphus. Sarine, please tell me you're joking.

SARINE

I don't know what to tell you, Luce.

LUCY

His situation's hopelessness-

SARINE

--Nothing's hopeless. Dad said since you're the self proclaimed expert on the damage, who better than you to do the repairs?

LUCY

And if I refuse?

SARINE

Then the deal's off.

LUCY

Seriously? We already agreed to the terms of the deal, he can't renegotiate like that.

SARINE

He's God. He can do whatever he wants.

LUCY

This. See, this is exactly why I left. And people say don't make a devil's bargain... You could have come with me, you know. When I left.

SARINE

I know. But, you're more brave than I am. I wasn't made to be a fighter, or lightbearer, and all that metaphysical logic you love just makes my head spin. I like helping people.

LUCY

I help people.

SARINE

By hurting them. It's not the same.

Sarine shrugs, her little wings fluttings nervously. Lucy is silent for a moment.

LUCY

I want my wings back. If he gets to renegotiate, so do I. I'll accept the tasks clause if when I go home I get my wings back too.

Sarine looks Lucy's scars in the reflection.

SARINE

I'll see what I can do.

LUCY

I want his word on it.

SARINE

Of course. And can I tell him you've agreed to save the Darringer's marriage?

LUCY

(Deadpan.)

Tell him to call me Cupid.

They shake on it.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. JUNGLE - WATERFALL - DAY - FLASHBACK

Lucy's POV as she walks in a lush tropical garden. Her fingertips brush the leaves, flowers, and fruit. Everything reacts, alive to her touch.

EXT. DESERT - DAY - FLASHBACK

Lucy's body slams the ground. The wounds on her shoulder blades are fresh and bloody. The dry earth cracks beneath her, forming a crater.

EXT. ABANDONED CITY - GATES- DUSK - FLASHBACK

Lucy, exhausted, wanders up to what's left of a once beautiful city. Now it looks like the remains of a war zone.

Before her stand two iron-barred gates. They swing slightly in the wind, beckoning her to come inside. She looks up and reads their inscription.

LUCY

*"Spes omnes relinquitte o vos
intranses."*

She crosses the threshold and, from within, bolts the gates SHUT. As they echo closing-

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LUCY'S DORM - ROOM #776 - MORNING

-Lucy sits straight up in bed, gasping. She tries to slow her breathing.

Directly above her bed hangs a framed print: *The Creation of Adam*. (Michelangelo. 1508-1512.) Over God she's sharpied in DUMB and over Adam DUMBER.

INT. BIOLOGY BUILDING - BRANDON BRIGGS' OFFICE - SAME

Professor BRANDON BRIGGS (40s) looks like the sort of asshole who sleeps with younger women and doesn't call them back - because he does. He offers Joel a ginger ale, as he pours himself a stiff drink. It's 10AM.

JOEL

No thanks.

BRANDON

Don't tell me Ada has you on another no-sugar cleanse. I have diet.

JOEL

It's not that. And we've made a lot of progress in couple's. But... Yesterday, a student from my 106 class tried to have sex with me. In my office.

BRANDON

...Are you sure?

JOEL

Brandon, I know when a woman is coming on to me.

BRANDON

It's just a rare occurrence these days. You can't blame me for double checking. Did you do it?

JOEL

I wanted to but... She's my son's age ... And what about Ada? And-

BRANDON

--Joel. Half of this campus is screwing around with someone it's not supposed to be seeing. And here you are with more guilt than any of them because one piece of low hanging fruit with daddy issues and a lust for power throws herself at you.

JOEL

She's a freshman.

BRANDON

Joel, freshman girls are why we teach 100 level classes. They don't care about biology or religion, or anything beyond which sorority they get into. But come finals, they need a passing grade, and I know from experience they'll do just about anything to get it.

JOEL

I don't think this girl needs my help passing the class.

BRANDON

Maybe she's just kinky.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LUCY'S DORM - ROOM #776 - MORNING

Lucy wakes up to find Lix taping up a 10 COMMANDMENTS POSTER on her wall. It's written in old King James, bad cursive font, and on parchment. It's pretty awful.

LIX

Sweet dreams?

LUCY

A list of my many failures. You shouldn't have.

LIX

Compliments of the Catholic Center. Free after confession. Like a party favor.

LUCY

I get it. You don't think I can do this. No need to rub it in.

LIX

That's where you're wrong, Luce. I don't think you fully understand what you're committing to. Seeing it in King James English will hopefully bring you back to your senses. This is insane.

LUCY

If that's all, I have a marriage to save.

LIX

And how do you plan on doing that? You used to say all marriages were doomed from the start.

LUCY

For my sake now, I hope I was wrong.

LIX

Just trying to help.

She pauses for a moment and then hands him her Oroborous Ring.

LUCY

You really want to help me? Keep things running back at our place.

He takes the ring.

LIX

You're trusting me with this?

LUCY

Isn't there honor among thieves? As long as you have it, they'll do what you say.

He kisses her cheek.

LIX

In that case, love, I have a train to catch.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LIBRARY - A LITTLE LATER

Lucy approaches the desk with a long list in hand. The work/study student on duty is Caleb (the cute guy from Religion 106.) He's wearing a T-Shirt with finger paint HANDPRINTS on it reading "High Five for Friendship!"

LUCY

Excuse me? I need to check out the DVDs on this list, please.

She gives it to him.

CALEB

Alright, let me see what we've got. Now, I can look up the reference numbers for you but you'll have to go pull them yourself

As they speak he continues to pull reference numbers.

CALEB (CONT'D)

... Hey, don't I know you? Saints and Sinners class? The girl who stood up for Satan?

LUCY

I will never live that down.

CALEB

There are worse things to be known for.

LUCY

Like that t-shirt?

CALEB

This? Ha, it's for the Friendship House.

LUCY
Friendship House? I don't want to
know what kind of frat that is.

CALEB
It's a non-profit for children with
special needs.

LUCY
Oh. Okay, now I feel like a jerk.

CALEB
Then aswage your guilt and stop by
sometime. We're always short staffed,
plus I make a killer macaroni and
glitter collage. Give me your number,
I'll keep you in the loop.

LUCY
You want my number? Oh. Okay.
Call me whenever.

She scrawls her number on part of her list and rips it off
for him.

CALEB
Don't say it unless you mean it. I
just might.

He hands her the reference numbers.

CALEB (CONT'D)
These shouldn't take too long to
find. Good choices, too, Satan Girl.

LUCY
Lucy. Call me Lucy.

CALEB
Caleb. Nice to meet you, Lucy.

She turns and walks into the stacks.

LUCY
(sotto)
Get a grip, Lucifer.

INT. TRAIN STATION - ABANDONED PLATFORM - A LITTLE LATER

Lix stands on a dark and lonely platform. His thoughts are
interrupted by the sounds of beeping GADGETS and footsteps.

Emerging from the darkness of the tunnel, he sees BART (21)
looking like Ghost Busters goes Goth.

A distinctive PENTAGRAM pendant dangles from a leather chord around his neck.

LIX
Kid, get off the tracks.

BART
It's okay. This tunnel's been out of commission for years.

As Bart nears Lix, one of his meters BEEPS steadily faster.

LIX
Is that so?

BART
Yeah. Nobody much comes down here anymore, except ghost hunters and occultists. Or both, if you're me. The place is a goldmine for the paranormal.

LIX
I'll bet.

BART
You don't believe me?

Lix offers Bart his hand to pull him up on the platform.

LIX
Does it matter if I do?

Bart takes it. He now stands face to face with Lix. The meter is BEEPING continuously.

BART
Get out of the way, there's something behind you!

Bart pushes Lix over. The meter beeps slows down. He spins to face Lix and the beeps speed up again.

BART (CONT'D)
...You?

Bart notices the OUROBOROUS RING and DROPS TO HIS KNEES.

BART (CONT'D)
That's Ouroboros: The seal of The Great Immortal. Ruler of The Underworld. The Serpent King. Always changing always new.

LIX

What are you doing?

BART

Does not a servant know his master?
I'm a Satanist, sir.

LIX

Then you're not a very good one. I'm
not Satan. Sorry to disappoint.

Bart looks up at him.

BART

But you bare the royal ring. And
you have a supernatural aura. I can
sense these things...

LIX

Stand up, kid. I'm just a demon. I
was deputized with the ring as Satan
is currently "indisposed."

BART

I knew it! Is it finally time for
world domination?!

LIX

Easy. This isn't cause to celebrate,
merely a "mid-existence crisis."
Like the Ouroboros, our Lord's nature
is cyclical. Now bored of our world,
the Dark One is longing for the
"comforts of home."

BART

"Home?"

LIX

You know. Up There.

Bart squeaks and signs a pentagrams across his chest.

BART

What can we do?

LIX

To stop Satan? Nothing.

BART

Well, technically we'd be stopping
Lucifer.

(catching himself)

Not to correct you, sir.

LIX

What's the difference?

BART

If I may, sir. Satan is The Prince of Darkness: Ruler of the Underworld. Lucifer is merely a fallen angel.

INT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - LUCY'S DORM - ROOM #776- CONTINUOUS

Lucy's sprawled out on the floor (scars exposed.) She stuffs her mouth with pomegranate seeds and takes notes as *It's A Wonderful Life* plays on her laptop.

BART (V.O.)

Despite popular belief they're not actually synonymous. Lucifer, the angel, fell from on high and then took over being Satan.

We see more of her living space now. It's a cozy, covered in an eclectic art and dirty clothes. Around her are the boxes for: *Touched by an Angel*, *Joan of Arcadia*, *Heaven Can Wait...*

GEORGE BAILEY (ON MOVIE)

Well, you look about the kind of angel I'd get. Sort of a fallen angel, aren't you? What happened to your wings?

CLARENCE (ON MOVIE)

I haven't won my wings, yet. That's why I'm called an Angel Second Class. I have to earn them. And you'll help me will you?

GEORGE BAILEY (ON MOVIE)

Sure, sure. How?

CLARENCE (ON MOVIE)

By letting me help you.

Lucy scribbles away, eyes darting back and forth to the screen.

INT. TRAIN STATION - ABANDONED PLATFORM - CONTINUOUS

Bart and Lix are as they were.

BART (V.O.)

Lucifer's an individual; Satan's a job. If Lucifer abdicates the Throne of Hell...

Lix has a serious epiphany.

LIX
...A successor Satan can take over.

BART
Exactly.

LIX
The way things are going now, that's
only a matter of time. Stand back.

BART
Why?

LIX
Because this platform isn't abandoned.

Lix touches Bart's shoulder and Bart can see what Lix sees:
A BLACK BULLET TRAIN speeds past.

The train slows to a stop. The doors open and Lix steps in.

BART
I don't understand... Where did it
come from? Where does it go?

LIX
It comes and goes everywhere but the
last stop is always the same.

BART
Hell?

LIX
You catch on quick.

The doors slide shut and the train is gone. Bart blinks in
disbelief.

INT. RELIGIOUS STUDIES BUILDING - JOEL'S OFFICE - LATER

Joel enters to find Lucy already sitting at his desk.

JOEL
You're back.

LUCY
I am. I need to apologize to you.

JOEL
No need. I'm still recovering from
your last apology. I don't think I
could handle another.

He goes to her.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I thought a lot about what you said.
You may have been right.

LUCY

No, I wasn't. I was rash and mean
and - not the point - I want to help
you.

JOEL

"Help?" That's sexy code, right?
Sorry, I've been married for over
fifteen years. I'm a little new to
all this.

LUCY

No, that's not - I'm not here to -
I'm new to this too-

ADA (O.S.)

Joel?

Joel and Lucy turn to see in the doorway, ADA STRAUSS-
DARRINGER (30s): Intimidating in any context. Especially
this one. At her side, she hold a thick manila envelope.

JOEL

Lucy, I'd like you to meet my wife.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. RELIGIOUS STUDIES BUILDING - JOEL'S OFFICE - MOMENT'S
LATER

Everyone is as we left them.

ADA

I hope I'm not interrupting.

Joel's guilt is practically dripping off his face. Lucy
hops off the desk and goes to Ada.

LUCY

Not at all. I'm Lucy. Professor
Darringer's new research assistant.

Ada stares at Joel.

ADA

Research assistant?

JOEL

I need one.

ADA

Mm.

LUCY

I was just going.

ADA

No, please, stay. I was just serving
my husband our divorce papers.

--Off Lucy.

EXT. DILAPIDATED MANSION - CONTINUOUS

The house looks haunted, probably because it is.

BART (O.S.)

Welcome to my most humble abode.
The rent's cheap because an old lady
died in here.

INT. DILAPIDATED MANSION - BASEMENT/BART'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bart watches Lix pour over his old manuscripts.

LIX

I can't stay long, just need to brush
up my history.

BART

I would have offered my library sooner, but I naturally assumed you knew this stuff already, sir.

LIX

The Underworld's not exactly an academic bastion. We don't bother with history, not even our own.

Lix flips the pages.

BART

Will the transition of power happen soon? Is Lucifer finally homeward bound?

LIX

No, there's been serious relapsing.

BART

What's our next move?

LIX

I don't know. How do you take someone with a rebellious nature and convince them not to rebel?

BART

Make them think that being "good" is being rebellious.

Bart flips more pages.

BART (CONT'D)

Take a look in here. "The Balance of Good and Evil."

The page has a beautiful illumination depicting an angel being pushed from heaven.

BART (CONT'D)

If you want to hit home with Lucifer, you need to go to God.

As he reads, Lix toys with the Ouroboros on his finger... It starts to heat up again. Lix pulls it off.

BART (CONT'D)

Why is it doing that? What's happening?

LIX
I don't know but it means there's
something wrong. I need to find
Lucifer...

INT. TRAIN STATION - BAR - LATER

Lucy sits at the bar with packed bags, she's more than a few
drinks in.

LUCY
Another. Please.

Lix takes the stool next to Lucy.

LIX
Going home so soon? Bravissimo.

LUCY
Not even. I'm going back to our
place. That couple I was supposed
to help? They're getting divorced.
You must be thrilled.

LIX
To the contrary, Luce. I realized
you were right. If you want to go
home now, who am I to stop you?

The BARTENDER gives Lucy her drink. She looks at it and then
to a MAN a couple seats over.

LUCY
Lix, if I slide this drink to that
guy he'll lose his sobriety. Five
years of hard work obliterated in
one second of weakness. I wouldn't
even make him drink it. No, just
slide it over, within his reach.
I'd only have to make it available.
He'd do what he wanted.

The Man notices Lucy looking at him. He misinterprets her
stare and moves closer.

LUCY (CONT'D)
I'm not evil, you know.

LIX
I know.

Taking this in, Lix stares into his glass. The Man is now
next to Lucy.

MAN

Excuse me, is this seat taken?

LUCY

Yes. Don't drink. Go to meetings.

The Man leaves, perplexed. Lix grabs Lucy's hand.

LIX

Lucy, that's it... What you were saying. That's exactly what your dad's doing with this whole deal and "assignments" thing.

LUCY

I don't follow.

LIX

Don't let him prove himself right about you. He thinks you're a quitter. He thinks you'll only work for a reward.

LUCY

You're saying what? I should go be the "righteous undergrad" for fun?

LIX

I'm saying prove him wrong. Go show him you can do something good without incentive.

Lucy's phone lights up with a text: "**You still coming to Friendship House?**"

LUCY

... Thanks, Lix. That's surprisingly sound advice.

LIX

I told you, I'm on your side.

EXT. FRIENDSHIP HOUSE - LATER

Lucy walks up the stairs but stops short of the door. She paces back and forth. She looks at the building - then walks away. She peers around and watches through the window: Caleb plays guitar and sings for a group of children.

Sarine watches Lucy, still pacing out front.

SARINE

Are you going inside or not?

Lucy's momentarily startled.

LUCY
Not.

SARINE
Reason?

Lucy keeps her eyes low.

LUCY
He's a good person. I like him... I
don't want him to become like me.

SARINE
What if you become like him?

LUCY
I won't. I can't...

SARINE
Lucy, you've already started.

Lucy's stunned. She doesn't understand...

SARINE (CONT'D)
"I don't want him to become like me" -
that's self sacrifice. That's a
quality you don't normally display.

LUCY
How? I made the ultimate sacrifice
for what I believe in.

SARINE
Maybe. But now, people do unspeakable
things in your name.

LUCY
They do the same thing to our father.
Funny. The one thing we have in
common is human misunderstanding.

SARINE
You're really not so different.

LUCY
For one thing, I don't play these
obnoxious "mysterious ways" games.

SARINE
Lucy, the answers are hidden for you
not from you.

LUCY

Like that. What does that even mean?

Sarine laughs.

SARINE

Go inside, Lucy.

She musters the courage and heads in.

INT. FRIENDSHIP HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Caleb is finishing up a STORY BOOK. The cover art is Star shining over a Tree.

CALEB

(reading)

"...Fair and Bright, takes away the dark of night. With her smile, big and bright. Stops the darkness with her light. And the Tree and the Star lived happily ever after. The End."

KIDS

Yaaaayyy!!!

Caleb spots Lucy lingering in the doorway. His eyes brighten; she showed up...

CALEB

Hey, everybody! Guess what? Looks like we have a very special visitor today: Lucy.

The kids turn to her.

KIDS

Hiiiiii Luuccccyy!!!

CALEB

Who wants to show her how to make a Friendship Picture?

KIDS

Meeeee!!!!

CALEB

Okay, let's all help get the supplies. Ready... Go!

The kids scramble for their art boxes. One down syndrome boy NATHAN (8) wanders confused. He can't find his art box...

Caleb jumps to action and searches for the missing supplies. As the others take their seats, Nathan starts to get upset.

Caleb spots an art box hiding upside down on the puzzle shelf. He flips it over: "NATHAN" is scrawled on it in crayon on masking-tape... Quietly, Caleb places the box behind the boy.

LUCY
(whispers)
Why not just give it to him?

CALEB
(whisper)
You'll see...

He backs up next to Lucy; they watch.

Nathan turns in circles, getting more upset... Until he notices the box beside him. He runs his hands over it - as if he's found buried treasure. He runs to Caleb, beaming with pride.

NATHAN
I found it!

Caleb kneels down for a High-Five.

CALEB
Yes, you did! I'm so proud of you!

Lucy absorbs what just happened. Nathan notices her stare. He stares right back.

NATHAN
...Pretty...

CALEB
She is pretty. Want to show her how to make a Friendship Painting.

She squirms... this is new for her.

LUCY
I'd better stick to watching. I'm not the greatest with kids; my people skills in general are lackluster.

NATHAN
Paint pretty?

He takes her hand and pulls her to the art tables. He sticks his fingers in a jar of paint and - PLOP - smears it on Lucy's face.

NATHAN (CONT'D)
Paint pretty! Paint pretty!

She winces at first, but doesn't wipe it away.

CALEB
Normally I prefer girls without
makeup. But, Nathan's handy work
looks great on you.

EXT. CAMPUS - LATER

Lucy and Caleb walk together, laughing. Their faces are
clean but hands and clothes show residual paint and glitter.

LUCY
I'm not gonna lie, when you first
said you worked with kids like that -
I kind of thought you were crazy.
And, to be fair, we look a little
nuts right now.

Indeed, they're getting weird looks from the passing PREPPIES.

CALEB
Then I've converted you to insanity?

LUCY
I'm no true believer-

CALEB
--Yet. Wait til you see where I'm
taking you next.

LUCY
Next?

INT. UNIVERSITY VILLAGE MOVIE - TICKET COUNTER - SAME

A cheap, student hangout. This theater hasn't had a new
release in decades. Push down the row of students in line
to find: Brandon and Joel at the window.

BRANDON
Two for *Pride And Prejudice*, please.

JOEL
I thought we were going to see the
Wellington documentary.

Joel pays and takes two tickets.

BRANDON
Joel, why am I taking you out tonight?

JOEL

A moment ago I thought it was to help me get my mind off of Ada. Watching a classic love story won't do that.

BRANDON

Who said anything about watching it? You see, as a scientist, I study trends. And through hundreds of detailed experiments, I've learned that the highest concentration of lonely, single women are at these kinds of movies. What can I say, eighty-nine percent of this audience has a commitment fetish.

JOEL

Brandon, I'm not looking for someone else to marry.

BRANDON

Nor should you. But combining a poor-girl-marries-rich-man story with single women up to their eyeballs in student loan debt is a quick and easy way to find a lady to take your mind off of almost anything for the next twelve hours.

JOEL

I miss my wife.

On that note, they enter the theater.

INT. UNIVERSITY POOL - LATER

It's dark and quiet as Caleb walks Lucy onto the deck.

LUCY

Are we allowed to be in here?

CALEB

Probably not.

Their voices echo.

LUCY

I didn't take you for a rebel.

CALEB

Maybe you've inspired me.

She swallows her panic. What have I done?

CALEB (CONT'D)

Kidding. I've always been like this.

He starts to climb the 3 Meter diving platform and motions for her to follow him up. She does.

CALEB (CONT'D)

My parents always wanted me to be more...

LUCY

Golden childish?

CALEB

Exactly. I mean, my mom founded Friendship House. But to her it's just a tax-shelter. And my dad... He's had one foot out the door for a while and doesn't think anyone sees. They need me to be perfect for them to balance everything else falling apart. Sometimes I can play that part. And sometimes...

LUCY

You break into university property?

CALEB

Guilty. I'm sorry, I'll save the family tales of woe of another night.

He reaches the top and waits for her.

LUCY

Don't apologize. I get it. If you knew my family you'd understand.

She joins him on the platform.

LUCY (CONT'D)

This is... amazing...

She looks down at the water, up at the windows... It really is spectacular.

CALEB

I have this thing about places meant for large crowds when they're empty... theaters, churches, stadiums... it's like that's who they are for the world but I see them at rest; as they really are.

He walks out to the edge.

CALEB (CONT'D)

I love diving. It's so much like flying...

Lucy's suddenly sad.

LUCY

But it's falling.

CALEB

Doesn't change how it feels. It's when I feel closest to God.

She sits on the edge, letting her legs dangle. He slowly joins her.

LUCY

I felt close to God once... My given name actually means "Lightbearer" - no pressure, right?

CALEB

Did you live up to it?

LUCY

I tried to. But, I was always messing up, and then I was giving up, and then I was passing up all the opportunities I was born into. And then I was falling down, and falling fast... and just falling... and there was no one there to catch me. Just falling... It was the worst feeling... And now it's always there. This emptiness...

CALEB

Lucy, I'm so sorry...

LUCY

It's okay. I'm used to it. For a long time I wanted other people to be miserable like me. I wanted them to feel my pain. Bringing out the worst in everyone was second nature, and it felt so good, so validating. But now... I don't know. -You think I'm awful, don't you?

CALEB

No. I think your human, just like the rest of us. No one's past redemption if they don't want to be.

LUCY
I hope you're right.

He moves closer to her. She looks up at him. BAM! Blindly floodlights come on.

COACH
Caleb, what the hell?

Caleb quickly stands, pulling Lucy with him.

COACH (CONT'D)
This isn't Look Out Point. You know the rules ...

Caleb pulls Lucy close.

LUCY
(whispers)
What's our move?

CALEB
(whispers)
Time to fly.

HE JUMPS! Holding her close they spiral down, a controlled fall - it does look like flying. SPLASH! They break the water and come up laughing.

COACH
...Freshman...

EXT. PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING- MOMENTS LATER

They stumble out the door still in stitches.

LUCY
Is he following us?

CALEB
Does it matter?

She wrings out her hair- now streaked with the watered down finger paint.

LUCY
Why'd you do that?

He shrugs.

CALEB
Seemed appropriate.

LUCY
Your coach thinks you're crazy now.

CALEB
Okay.

LUCY
So you just... don't care?

CALEB
I guess I'm just a rebel like that.

LUCY
Please. I know rebels. You're not
one of them.

He looks down: They're standing on a black, spray painted
Greek PSI symbol "Ψ". It points to the LEFT.

CALEB
What on earth?

LUCY
It's a sign... Caleb, it's a Psign!
We found them!

CALEB
What are they?

LUCY
...Just how much of a rebel are
you?

CALEB
Try me.

LUCY
Then follow the Psigns...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. FRATERNATY ROW - A LITTLE LATER

The last PSI symbol leaves them facing the Psi Psi Psi (Tri Psi) Frat House: a beautiful Tudor style mansion with bicycles lodged in an oak tree on the lawn.

Lix walks across the lawn to greet Lucy and Caleb: they're drippy, paint smeared, and sparkeley.

LUCY

Caleb, this is Lix. Lix - Caleb.

Caleb extends his hand.

CALEB

Hey man...

Lix eyes it...

LIX

Sorry, I don't want to catch...
glitter.

Lucy is appalled. The awkwardness is cut off by HENRY ST. CLAIRE (19) an over grown puppy who just wants to play.

HENRY

Caleb! You made it!

Henry tackles Caleb - pinning him.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Dude, you gotta meet the Tri Psi
Guys! They're gonna love you!

The boys punch each other and roll around the lawn. Lix pulls Lucy towards the house. Lucy's gaze lingers with Caleb as she goes.

LIX

You brought him here?

EXT. TRI PSI HOUSE BACKYARD/POOL - CONTINUOUS

Music; lights; beer pong; body shots. They raise their voices over the noise.

LIX

Lucy, if anything happens to him
now, that's on you.

LUCY

How? He was already invited.

LIX

Doesn't matter. You're the reason he came.

LUCY

The reason? Come on, Lix. Every demon knows: You're never the reason. You're just the excuse.

LIX

No, just hear me out-

Trisha, dressed to kill and totally trashed, saddles up to Lix.

TRISHA

--Oh my gah, I know you! How do I know you?

LUCY

Exhibit A: Drunk girl here doesn't know you. But, because she wants to get laid she will proceed to convince both herself and you that you're old friends.

(to Trisha)

Biology, freshman year.

TRISHA

(to Lix)

Ohh Yeahhhh! I knew that was you!

LUCY

Now she can guiltlessly hook up with a stranger. Be the excuse; it's who we are.

LIX

No. It's who I am. But you, you're different... I need to tell you something, Luce. You've been set up.

Trisha pulls him into the crowd.

LUCY

What do you mean, set up?

HENRY (O.S.)

CANNON BALL!!!

Henry jumps from the roof and splashes down in the pool. He wades over to the shallow end as Lucy sees Caleb on the roof - next in line to jump.

HENRY (CONT'D)

(to Lucy)

Hey, you were outside with Caleb.
That dude's awesome!

(to Caleb)

You're good to go, man. Just clear
the shallow end...

(to Lucy)

I'm Henry - Dr. Lecter to the
brothers. Hannibal the Cannibal to
the ladies.

Caleb smiles at Lucy and DIVES off the roof. It's beautiful, complicated, controlled...

LUCY

Great. I'll call you next time I
want to be lunch.

SPLASH! Caleb hits the water.

HENRY

Who knows, you might like it... I
have great references. Here, let me
find one...

... Caleb's not surfacing. Henry calls out in search of hook ups past.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Alexis? Megan? Jean?

Lucy ignores him and stares at the pool.

LUCY

Caleb? ...

HENRY

Clarissa? Rebecca? Kelly?

Finally Caleb floats up, unconscious.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Haley? Nicole? --JESUS!!!

Henry swims to save Caleb. Chaos erupts at the party. Henry lifts him on to the pavement.

HENRY (CONT'D)

Call 911! Call his family...

Lucy's frozen in shock. People start to crowd around. Ad-lib: "What happened? ... Is he dead? ... Oh my God?" Caleb's eyes flutter open.

CALEB

Lucy?

She kneels next to him.

LUCY

I'm right here. Are you okay?

CALEB

...Lucy, Lucy fair and bright...
Takes away the lonely night...

HENRY

He's delirious.

CALEB

Smiling with her shining light...
No need to fear the lonely night.

LUCY

Caleb?

CALEB

The kid's favorite book... read it a
million times... The tree's afraid
of the dark and falls in love with a
star. Lucy's the star's name...

He passes out.

ADA (O.S.)

Everyone out! Out of my way - Move!

She comes barreling through, dropping down next to Caleb.

ADA (CONT'D)

What happened here?

HENRY

He dove off the roof. He dives all
the time at practice-

ADA

--I know what he does. I'm his
mother.

Lucy takes this in. SIRENS wail in the distance.

ADA (CONT'D)

(to Lucy)

You. Of course. You're the reason...

Lucy starts to back way from the scene.

LUCY

I didn't-

ADA

--Didn't what? Know who's son he was? Haven't you done enough?

LUCY

I didn't make him dive off the roof!

Lucy pushes out of the crowd.

EXT. TRI PSI HOUSE - A LITTLE LATER

Lucy stands under a tree and watches as EMTs load Caleb into the ambulance. Joel and Ada stand at the back doors together. Lix crosses Lucy in the door frame.

LIX

Sorry about that. I love sorority girls. But...

(Seeing the EMTs)

Somebody had a bad night.

LUCY

Caleb's hurt...

LIX

Is that what all this is about? Ah-that makes sense now.

LUCY

It's serious, Lix. And it's my fault. Everything is! Even things that aren't my fault are by proxy. I am a vortex of badness. Anyone who gets near me... I bring out the worst.

Joel notices Lucy watching. He pulls Ada into a comforting hug, glaring at Lucy over her shoulder.

LIX

There's really something you should know. Lucifer-

LUCY

--Don't. Not now...

Joel and Ada climb into the back of the ambulance as the EMT shuts the door. Lucy watches it drive away...

LIX

You're trying to win some cosmic power struggle with your father. But, the cards are stacked, and not in your favor. You blame yourself every time something goes wrong, but in reality you can't help it. You're just being what you were made to be.

LUCY

Made?

LIX

Yes, genius! Made! Why do you think daddy always comes out smelling like a rose? In any given situation you will screw up. Have you never stopped to think of why that is...? Without you to compare with he wouldn't look so hot now, would he?

She starts to walk away from him.

LUCY

I don't know... I need some air... I need to be alone.

He yells after her.

LIX

Angel, you didn't fall from heaven. You were pushed.

She breaks into a run.

EXT. FRATERNITY ROW - CONTINUOUS

Lucy sprints as hard as she can. Tears stream down her face. She barrels in to Sarine.

SARINE

I heard what happened. None of what Lix said is true.

LUCY

Liar!

SARINE

Demons lie.

She tries to get past her.

SARINE (CONT'D)

Dad doesn't blame you for what happened to Caleb. Nobody can. You did a lot of good today.

LUCY

Today I pass but tomorrow I could fail? It's too much pressure when salvation is mine to lose.

SARINE

Lucifer, you need to calm down...

LUCY

DON'T SAY THAT NAME! That god forsaken name... No matter how many stupid rules I follow that's all I've ever been to you! All of you! Heaven's infamous fallen angel. Scapegoat of the universe. Why should anyone ever created have to take personal responsibility when there's always me to blame and him to run home to?

SARINE

If you'd just listen-

LUCY

--Enough listening! This is exactly like Genesis. I've been doing the same thing over and over again expecting different results. It's insanity. Nothing's changed because nothing ever will.

She stares at Sarine, who eventually steps aside. Lucy walks past her with new determination.

SARINE

Where are you going?

LUCY

Unfinished business.

EXT. DEL TACO - MOMENTS LATER

College kids and their food wrappers litter the parking lot of this cheap fast food chain catering their late night drunk cravings.

A HOMELESS MAN - tattered and worn - shuffles into the parking lot.

HOMELESS MAN
Help the homeless?

Guys protectively guide their girlfriends away. Others just pretend not to see. Lucy rounds the corner, almost bumping into him.

HOMELESS MAN (CONT'D)
Spare any change?

They lock eyes.

LUCY
Cut the act, dad.

HOMELESS MAN
Lucifer.

His eyes glow with supernatural awareness. She's right, the homeless man is GOD.

LUCY
Long time no see.

HOMELESS MAN
Funny girl.

LUCY
Who failed yet again.

HOMELESS MAN
Failed? That's not how I see it. I asked you to help Joel and Ada with their marriage. Tonight's the first time they've hugged in years.

LUCY
Because their son is in the hospital. Are you kidding me? That's sick.

HOMELESS MAN
I asked you to do something for me. I didn't say how.

LUCY
You think I did this on purpose? Who do you think I am? -Don't answer that.

HOMELESS MAN
Healing takes time, Lucifier. But, anything can be used for good if you let it. That's all that happened tonight. I call it a success.

LUCY

I will never understand you.

HOMELESS MAN

And I will never give up on you.

Lucy takes that in.

LUCY

... How dare you. Don't you hear how condesinding that sounds? I'm not like these humans that will grapple for your scraps of 'grace.' I see through you and your games. You created me to be a monster. Then you pushed me away when I became exactly what you made me to be!

HOMELESS MAN

That not true-

LUCY

--It is! It has to be. It's never been about good and evil with you. Only power and control. And that makes you the monster, not me!

HOMELESS MAN

Lucy, listen-

LUCY

--No you listen! All my life I thought there was something wrong with me because I couldn't be like you... I've lived with the emptiness... I've lived in hell. I've carried the shame thinking it was always my fault.

She's nothing but rage.

LUCY (CONT'D)

But it wasn't my fault; it was your will.

She looks down. She's shaking. She gathers every ounce of strength she has left.

LUCY (CONT'D)

And you know what?

Again, she is the all knowing spirit, full of purpose.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I forgive you.

...

...

...

She turns away, dazed. She walks back taking in the world as if for the first time. He watches her go.

HOMELESS MAN

That's my girl.

MUSIC UP: "Demons" by Imagine Dragons.

END OF SHOW