

THREE HEAVENS

Written by

Andrew Wankier

11284 Montana Ave #20
Los Angeles, CA 90049
801.895.9050
andrew.wankier@gmail.com

FADE IN:

SUPER:

2015. The Mormon Church has issued a new policy, declaring homosexual marriages to be apostasy.

Church-owned Brigham Young University has long practiced discrimination against its homosexual students, strictly banning such behavior. Caught students face expulsion.

PRELAP: DISTANT THUNDER

EXT. WOODS - DAY

We're in a meadow. Nearby trees have cried away their leaves. The disease of fall has overtaken almost every living thing.

An ANTLERED BUCK graces into view. Its large glass-like eyes scope. Right behind the animal,

A SMALLER BUCK follows. But it's too close to be keeping a normal distance. It's right on his tail.

CHILD'S WHISPER (O.S.)
Why are they moving like that, Dad?

BEHIND A FOREFRONT OF TREES

Two HUNTERS, obscured to us. One is larger than the other. It's reasonable to presume the smaller figure is the child.

The FATHER HUNTER hands the CHILD HUNTER the bow. We spot a SILVER RING on the father's finger.

FATHER
Aim for the buck.

CHILD
What if I miss?

FATHER
You're not the type who will.

Child Hunter nervously places the arrow into the bow's arrow rest. Tightens his grip, pulls back on the arrow nock. The bow bellies as he aims.

The animal's mule ears prick. It sees him but doesn't move.

FATHER
Release.

Child Hunter isn't sure he can, as though he senses the animal's spiritual plea. A flash of lightning dances across the meadow.

Startled, he releases the weapon. But instead of thunder, we hear an ALARM CLOCK.

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

A clock BUZZES on a nightstand.

BINGHAM ANDERSEN (24) awakens in bed, drowned in sweat. Early morning light knifes through the curtains.

He clicks off the alarm.

MOMENTS LATER

From under his bed, Bing slides out a small, white rectangular pillow.

Kneels on it, against the bed.

BING
Father in Heaven...

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM

SERIES OF SHOTS

--Showered, Bing combs his wet hair. Every strand in place.

--He shaves meticulously, making sure he gets every nook.

--Rinses his face.

--Slips a WHITE UNDERGARMENT over his torso, then buttons a white dress shirt over it.

--Ties a pristine Windsor knot. But it's not perfect enough. Re-ties it.

--Studies his reflection. We see he has a geeky but confident Clark Kent charm about him - worried he might appear ungainly, but hopeful he can earn his red cape soon.

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Hot water boils.

The freezer door opens. Bing peers in. Reaches deep inside.

Pulls out a re-sealable bag of frozen peas. Opens it to reveal--

PACKETS OF INSTANT COFFEE.

Bing looks to see if he's in the clear.

He plucks one out, whiffs it. Then re-seals the bag and tucks it back inside the freezer.

Goes to open his coffee pack, when--

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hey, sweetie. What's for breakfast?

GEOFF DAVIS (24), Bing's best friend and roommate, enters. He's still in his pajamas, scruffy but gets away with it. A good nature often hidden by an athletic build.

Bing conceals the coffee.

BING

Morning. You look like...crap.

GEOFF

Nicole had me up late last night
with wedding plans.

Geoff opens the freezer. He takes out the peas. Reaches for a box of frozen waffles.

Bing watches nervously; Geoff stuffs the peas back inside.

BING

You've only been engaged for a day,
literally.

Geoff maneuvers past Bing for the toaster; Bing tucks the coffee in his pocket.

GEOFF

You boiling water?

BING

It was dry in here. We still on for
basketball this afternoon?

GEOFF

Nicole wants me to look at venues.

BING

What? It's Sunday. Nothing's open.

GEOFF

There are a few online virtual
tours that she found.

BING

You can do that anytime. She can't
wait a couple hours?

GEOFF

Girls will be girls.

Bing shuts off the burner, stifling his annoyance.

GEOFF

She's just excited, Bing. Once
we're married, she'll be fine.

BING

We'll see.

GEOFF

Do you want to skip church and go
for a hike or something instead?

BING

I'm meeting with the Bishop this
morning. We can't miss church just
because. You gonna be on time?

GEOFF

Relax. It's church.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

White springtime blossoms look like popcorn clusters on the
sprouting trees.

Bing strolls up the walkway to the brick Mormon chapel. It's
early, deserted. But on a bench sits--

MOLLY MCKENNA (22), Bing's sweetheart. Not a hair out of
place either. She'd do anything for Bing, but she keeps
herself pure and believes modesty is her greatest weapon.

MOLLY

Morning, handsome.

BING

Molly. You're here so early.

Kisses her, a moral peck.

BING
My appointment is in a few minutes.

MOLLY
The Bishop won't care if you're a little late. I made you some breakfast.

She reveals a basket of homemade muffins. Hands him one.

MOLLY
I knew you'd spend all morning getting your tie right.

He eats one; she watches with buoyant eyes.

BING
They're good. Blueberry.

MOLLY
Your mom gave me the recipe. She said they're your favorite.

BING
(checks watch)
I'm sorry. I get super anxious being late.

MOLLY
I know...but, I just wanted to tell you something.

He stuffs the muffin, waiting.

MOLLY
I...lo...

She loses her nerve.

MOLLY
Sorry. It's just, I've been thinking about it.

BING
No, it makes sense. I have too.

MOLLY
Sorry. I wasn't trying to trap you into it.

BING
It's okay. I think I lo...I'm sorry. It's scary, isn't it?

She finds this charming, in its way.

MOLLY
Go on in, geek.

He kisses her on the cheek. Her smile fades as she processes the conversation.

INT. CHURCH - BISHOP'S OFFICE - DAY

BISHOP WILLIAMS (60s) sits across his desk from Bing. Compassionate, like a good dentist.

BISHOP WILLIAMS
And you're keeping yourself morally clean? I know in college, it can be a struggle. You and Molly have been together for, how long?

BING
Seven months, but we'd never do anything before marriage.

BISHOP WILLIAMS
Molly is a good girl, remember that.

BING
I'm absolutely crazy about Molly. I wouldn't do anything to compromise that.

BISHOP WILLIAMS
And you're obeying the Word of Wisdom? No alcohol? Coffee? Drugs of any kind?

Bing feels his pocket for the coffee packet.

BING
Never.

BISHOP WILLIAMS
Brother Andersen, I'm asking these questions because I'd like to offer you a calling as my Second Attendant.

BING
Service to others. Excellent.

BISHOP WILLIAMS

I understand you're busy with school and your jobs. And other social committees. This will be an hour a week, before church. Then other meetings as necessary.

BING

No, this is perfect. I'm as clean as it gets. I can make time.

BISHOP WILLIAMS

How's your family doing, Bing?

It's hard to answer.

BING

Holding up.

INT. CHURCH - CHAPEL - DAY

A silver tray of sacramental water cups. Bing maneuvers down an aisle between a series of pews, carrying the tray. STUDENTS everywhere. He reaches--

Molly. He holds the tray to her, official-like. She gives a coy look.

Next to her sits NICOLE WILKENSON (21). She holds hands with Geoff. Her DIAMOND RING sparkles and fits her style. But don't let her glamor fool anyone. The girl is sharp, a cactus with brains.

Geoff, on the other hand, has a sloppy tie and shaggy hair.

Nicole fakes a smile of muted resentment toward Bing.

BING

(to Molly, mouthing)

I love you.

Molly takes the water, beaming.

Nicole doesn't buy it for a second; Geoff remains oblivious. He sneaks a bite of a muffin, lacking reverence.

Molly passes the sacrament to Nicole. Geoff uses a cup of water as a chaser for his muffin.

Nicole nudges him, *stop that*.

The tray makes its way toward another BEARER (23) at the other end of the pew.

Bing moves past.

INT. CHURCH - CULTURAL HALL - DAY

Tables and chairs are set up throughout. Random food items. The students socialize at the "linger-longer". The room is essentially a decorated basketball court with a performance stage, but that's how all Mormon churches are built.

Bing enters. A natural leader, several attendees greet him.

Molly moseys over. Bing gives her a coy grin.

MOLLY

What did Bishop Williams want?

BING

To give me a new calling. First Attendant.

She locks elbows with him, proud. Motions to a corner.

MOLLY

They officially announced it.

Nicole boasts out her ring to a girlfriend, Geoff on her arm.

BING

"In the beginning the Universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a very bad move."

MOLLY

What's that from?

BING

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.

Molly leans into Bing as if to say, "We're next."

MOLLY

(re: Nicole)

Don't worry, she'll grow on you.

(beat)

I love you too.

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

On a desk, a thick set of SCRIPTURES lie face open, larger than a regular Bible. They're marked with notes and highlights. Bing studies them. Next to them, a COMIC BOOK.

Superhero decor clutters the room. A geek? Check.

Reed's SILVER RING on the desk.

Off Bing, it gives him pause.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

A RING OF KEYS sways as Bing's hand works a stubborn knob. He dons a custodial shirt. Steps into the--

JANITOR'S CLOSET

And grabs a large push broom.

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

The bristles sweep the linoleum. Bing waltzes behind it. He strolls past an open classroom, where A TWEED PROFESSOR lectures a full class. Scriptures open on every desk.

TWEED PROFESSOR

The two lower degrees of heaven are
for those who don't make, or live
up, to the Lord's covenants. This
relate to temple marriage, how?

BING

Families can only be sealed
together forever in the highest
kingdom. In the temple.

He moves along proudly before being too noticed.

INT. UNIVERSITY TESTING CENTER - DAY

Bing slides his student card under the glass window.

Carpeted arrows guide students to a wall of RECEPTIONISTS behind an army of glass windows, like a box office.

The Receptionist swipes the I.D.

RECEPTIONIST

Politics of the Middle East
midterm?

But then, another TESTING STUDENT erupts at the next window.

TESTING STUDENT

I came yesterday with no problems.

A STERN RECEPTIONIST examines the guy's face - obvious amounts of stubble.

STERN RECEPTIONIST

Come back when you've shaved, sir.

TESTING STUDENT

This is ridiculous. It's not even that much.

STERN RECEPTIONIST

Rules are rules, sir. Take 'em up with the Church if they bother you.

The Testing Student storms off.

Bing feels his recently-shaven face, just to be sure.

INT. LARGE LECTURE ROOM - DAY

Bing scribbles on a board: "Review Next Mon."

BING

I'll see you in a week.

He stands before a large class. The collective student interest tells us that they like him.

PROFESSOR BALLIF (40s), more chill than Tweed, has been observing, impressed.

BALLIF

That was good, Bing. Very good.
What's the word on grad school?

BING

Same as always. Too expensive.

BALLIF

I have some news for you.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS COURTYARD - DAY

Boulders in a fountain of water as it SPLASHES. Beyond them, students bustle. Bing and Professor Ballif sift through.

BALLIF

It's an honors at entrance
scholarship for the Masters in Poli
Sci at Princeton.

BING

Think I stand a chance? I mean,
from custodian to Princeton?

BALLIF

A colleague of mine is a vice
chair. He's willing to extend the
deadline for you, based on my
recommendation.

BING

Wow. How long would I have?

BALLIF

A couple weeks. But that also means
we'll have to send hard copies of
your materials. You'll need another
letter of recommendation and a
killer essay on something you've
overcome. Can you get it done?

BING

I'm not sure if Molly will be keen
on me--or possibly us--moving.

Bing looks across campus. Large mountains loom nearby.

BING

A couple weeks isn't a long time.

BALLIF

You're my top T.A. If anyone can do
it, it's you. I know your dad would
agree.

EXT. STUDENT UNION WALKWAY - DAY

Student committee booths clutter the sidewalks. EXCITED
STUDENTS in colorful t-shirts badger innocent PASSERSBY.

A sign: "SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE".

From behind a table, Bing holds out a clipboard to a few
interested COEDS. He wears a proud blue BYU tee over his
button-up.

BING

We organize a lot of activities,
like school dances, charity drives,
fundraisers. I'm organizing a clean-
up project over at Utah Lake next
week.

INTERESTED STUDENT

Bet it looks good on a resume.

BING

It does, especially for grad
schools.

More students approach, overwhelming Bing with questions.

BING

Geoff? Where'd you go?

Under a nearby tree, Bing spots Geoff and Nicole, leaning
into one another. They wear the same blue shirts, but they're
preoccupied with one another's lips.

BING

(to students)

I'll go ahead and add you to the e-
mail list. Let me see if I can find
another pen.

(to Geoff)

You can't do that on campus, you
know.

NICOLE

Go ahead and report us.

BING

I need your help. If you could come
up for air, then maybe--

Just then, A MEGAPHONE VOICE suddenly rips through the air.

PROTESTER (O.S.)

Last October, the Church released a
new policy against homosexual
marriage.

Everyone takes notice of a PROTESTER (22) atop a literal
soapbox, with a small group of ACOLYTES.

PROTESTER

Acting on it is a sin, plain and
simple. Yet so many of you sit by
and accept federal gay marriage as
part of a normal society.

Nicole thrashes closer, a tractor ready to till.

NICOLE

Hey. I know gay people who still go to church.

PROTESTER

It's a distorted sense of reality. You're either all in, or you're all out.

NICOLE

Easy for you to say, judgmental prick.

PROTESTER

Calling me that is a judgement, isn't it?

Nicole wants to rip the megaphone away. Geoff keeps her back.

GEOFF

First amendment, Nicole.

NICOLE

You agree with this?

GEOFF

Just let it go. You're not going to change his mind.

NICOLE

Especially if I say nothing.

Bing approaches.

BING

I'm sure you could both find common ground on other things. That's the point of this event. Community-building.

NICOLE

Cut the citizenship shit, Bing. This is serious.

Everyone pretends to be shocked at the word "shit". Nicole eyes Bing, pressing for a stance.

BING

Feelings like that are like alcoholism. You don't have to drink just because you get the urge.

NICOLE

A sheep's response. Baaaaa.

PROTESTER

Homosexual behavior should be
curbed. It's documented that it can
be cured with reparative therapy.

Nicole is about to explode, when--

A MAN'S VOICE suddenly booms as loud as the megaphone.

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

How many places in Mormon scripture
does it talk about homosexuality
being a sin?

Bing looks over, sees--

JAKE BARRON (29), wearing a STUDENT LAW GROUP shirt. A suave-
tongued lion, a steady voice with a bite. He's handsome, not
cocky...although we'd forgive him if he were, because yum.

XJAKE

Zero. Any other interpretations
come from the Bible.

PROTESTER

Which we believe to be the Word of
God. Eighth Article of Faith.

NICOLE

"As far as it is translated
correctly." Say it right.

Jake shares a congenial look with Nicole, then notices Bing.

For some reason, Bing feels exposed by Jake's omniscient
gaze. Does he know him?

BING

Geoff, I need your help at the
booth.

JAKE

(to Protester)

My name is Jake. I'm a third-year
law student. I'd like to challenge
your assumptions on this.

As Bing heads back, he rubbernecks curiously at Jake.

INT. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - PRIVATE STUDY ROOM - DAY

A laptop screen. On it, a mock-up of a flyer: "LAKE CLEAN UP PROJECT". Molly, the artist, works the mouse.

Bing, on his phone, searches Facebook for "Jake". A blank notebook page in front of him.

MOLLY
(re: flyer)
Here. Take a look.

BING
Wow, you made that so quickly, Mol.
I love it. I can't believe your
talent sometimes.

He puts his arm around her.

MOLLY
What are you working on?

BING
Just some essay.

MOLLY
For which class?

Bing is afraid to tell her. He's saved by a KNOCK. Geoff enters, wearing basketball gear.

GEOFF
You ready, Bing?

BING
Just a sec.

Bing grabs his gym bag.

BING
I'll call you later, Mol'. Thanks
again for doing that.

But then, Nicole approaches in gym wear; Bing deflates.

NICOLE
(re: laptop screen)
Molly, did you make that? That's
amazing.

Molly is too modest to accept the compliment.

NICOLE

I hope Bing appreciates that you work for free. You could charge for this, you know.

MOLLY

That's the plan someday. When we're ready.

Molly and Bing share a warm look.

NICOLE

You should come with us. The boys are going to play pick-up ball.

MOLLY

I don't have anything to wear.

NICOLE

I have some extra gear.

MOLLY

I don't know. I should finish these first.

NICOLE

They look incredible. C'mon. We can all get dinner after.

MOLLY

Really? Yeah, okay. Why not?

GEOFF

Is that cool with you, Bing?

BING

Of course.

INT. STUDENT REC CENTER - BASKETBALL COURT - DAY

A basketball dribbles between Geoff's legs. His athletic ability shows.

He charges past awkward Bing and scores an easy layup.

GEOFF

C'mon, man. Give me something to work with.

BING

I'm trying to.

CARDIO AREA

On the treadmill controls, Nicole flips a bridal magazine. Molly speed-walks next to her.

NICOLE

You really do have the talent to start your own business.

MOLLY

You think? That's my goal.
(re: bridal magazine)
Well, at least one of them. I love that one.

NICOLE

I already had my dress picked out a month after Geoff and I met.

MOLLY

Glad it's not just me who did that.
(beat)
There've just been so many lousy guys: cheaters, liars, instigators. It feels good to finally get it right.

NICOLE

I've had my share of dirtbags. I know exactly what you mean. You think Bing could be "the one" then?

MOLLY

Spiritually, yeah. It's like you can know someone in a day, if that makes sense.

NICOLE

Do you think he's ready?

MOLLY

Guys never are, are they?

BASKETBALL COURT

To no one's surprise, Bing loses the ball.

Geoff uses the time to take a swig of water. He takes a seat against the wall.

Bing joins him.

BING
I need to head to the copy store to
print the flyers before dinner.

Geoff grabs the ball from under Bing. Dribbles. Shoots a free-throw. Swish.

BING
You always make it look easy.

Geoff sinks another one.

BING
Geoff, do you know what you stand
for?

GEOFF
Do I what? Why?

Bing doesn't want to say.

GEOFF
Nicole doesn't mean what she says.
She's fiery. But that's good.
(beat)
Remember that road trip we took to
Vegas two years ago? When we sat in
on that wedding chapel?

BING
That's not what you and Nicole
decided on, is it?

GEOFF
I want you to be my best man, Bing.

BING
What about your brothers?

GEOFF
Puh-lease, I wasn't any of theirs.
I want you there.

BING
And Nicole is okay with it?

GEOFF
Nicole doesn't get to decide this.
I know we don't get to spend much
time together lately, but this
means a lot to me.

Bing is touched.

BING
Here, throw me the ball.

EXT. PROVO TEMPLE GROUNDS - NIGHT

Bing carries a small box of printed flyers. Molly walks next to him, Geoff and Nicole behind. They're on the sidewalk of the pretty blooming gardens.

The temple is a polished 19th century brick edifice. A monument to pioneer craftsmanship.

NICOLE
Do you have your '80s outfits ready to go?

MOLLY
I do. Not sure about Bing.

BING
What '80s outfits?

MOLLY
The spring dance. It's in two days.

BING
Oh. I forgot all about that.

NICOLE
Busy little bee.

Bing reacts, *what's that supposed to mean?*

Nicole just gazes up at the temple.

NICOLE
(to Geoff)
This is where it's all going to happen. Sealed together "for all time and eternity."
(beat)
You ready, Geoff?

GEOFF
Since the day we met.

Molly understands exactly why Nicole asked that.

MOLLY
(to Bing)
Nicole wants me to do the invitations. My first paid gig.

NICOLE
Should be a boost to your business.

Molly admires the body language of Geoff and Nicole. She leans into Bing, grabs his hand.

MOLLY
Where should we go to dinner?

FLASHCUT:

TWO OLDER HANDS, a man's and a woman's, their fingers interlocked on a hospital blanket.

BACK TO SCENE:

Bing slips his hand away. Nicole notices; Molly pretends she doesn't.

BING
I don't know if I have time tonight. I have so much to do with this application.

MOLLY
Application?

Oops. He's spilled the beans.

BING
Professor Ballif is putting me up for a scholarship to a masters program at Princeton.

MOLLY
Princeton? When were you going to tell me?

BING
It's not really an issue unless I get in.

MOLLY
But you have a good shot, otherwise Ballif wouldn't nominate you.

BING
If I get this, I could write my own ticket. Find a job in D.C. in no time.

MOLLY
D.C.? What are you talking about? Am I part of this plan?

NICOLE

"Secret-secrets are no fun, secret-secrets hurt someone."

BING

(to Nicole)

I'm tired of your little jabs. You don't know anything about me. I'm not a sheep.

NICOLE

If you feel otherwise, that's not my fault. Baaaa.

GEOFF

Don't do this, you two. Not here.

NICOLE

I can't help it. He just admitted he keeps secrets. I've been telling you that.

GEOFF

He was just waiting for the right time to tell us.

MOLLY

Is that it, Bing?

Bing eyes the trio. Molly is distressed.

BING

Everyone has a right to keep some things to themselves. I need space.

EXT. CANYON ROAD - NIGHT

A set of open scriptures held by Bing's hands. He stands close to the edge of a rock.

We pull back to see that he's atop a small boulder, overlooking the ledge. A steep drop-off descends into the black mass below.

Bing's eyes are flushed. He's been crying. Suddenly,

His phone DINGS.

It brings him back a little - *an exciting beep to him*. He reaches for it, then hesitates, knows he shouldn't.

He tries to go back to his scriptures. But something about that sound lures him.

His resistance fails, breaks for the phone.

Opens a SOCIAL APP. We can't tell 100% what it contains, but it appears to be a dating app.

He slips off his ring.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

A hand writes notes in a legal pad.

Bing sulks in a chair, fiddling with the ring.

BING

Sometimes I wake up, and I sit
there a moment, wondering.

We see DOCTOR WOOD (35). Caring but overly clinical. A born-that-way type.

DR. WOOD

Wondering what?

BING

If I'm still...I had that dream
again the other night. The hunt.

DR. WOOD

You never told me how that story
ends.

BING

We camped for three days. Nothing.
No deer. No elk. We were almost
ready to quit, when we came upon a
clearing. And there, in the
distance, we saw two deer. One was
leading the other, just inches
ahead. I'd been practicing my
shooting for months. My dad handed
me his bow. I pulled the quiver
back as far as I'd seen him do it.
I took aim. I steadied my breath.
And I fired.

Dr. Wood waits.

BING

Dr. Wood, I slipped up again last
night.

DR. WOOD

In what way?

BING

Molly tried to hold my hand. I got triggered. It all spiraled from there.

DR. WOOD

Were you at least careful?

BING

You're not going to report me to the school, are you?

DR. WOOD

Maybe you should try talking to your mother again. It's been six months.

BING

Nothing good will come from that. Trust me.

DR. WOOD

You need to face these urges, Bing. For your own sake.

BING

I was doing okay with them. I was just triggered. I can focus now that I have a set goal.

INT. REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - DAY

Bing approaches a window.

BING

Can I please get a printed copy of my transcripts?

He slides his card. The REGISTRAR (25) swipes it. Something is wrong.

REGISTRAR

There appears to be a hold on your records.

BING

What do you mean "a hold"?

REGISTRAR

We can't release your transcript until you straighten it out with the department that placed it.

BING
I need it for grad school. Which
department is it?

REGISTRAR
You'll have to contact the Honor
Code Office.

Off Bing, both shocked and worried.

EXT. COLLEGE ADMIN BUILDING - DAY (TO ESTABLISH)

A STATUE OF A WELL-DRESSED MAN: Brigham Young. Pious pioneer
cane in hand.

INT. COLLEGE ADMIN BUILDING - HONOR CODE LOBBY - DAY

The OFFICE ASSISTANT (25) doesn't give Bing much
consideration. Bing waits near the desk.

BING
Is this about the coffee?

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Please come with me.

The Office Assistant leads Bing down a--

HALLWAY

OFFICE ASSISTANT
I'm not allowed to talk to you
about any specifics. That's for the
Director.
(beat)
But I doubt it's about coffee.

He halts, *director*?

She nears a door, "HENRY LEHMAN, PH.D" name-plated. Opens it--

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

A BRONZE MORMON PROPHET BUST leers back from a shelf.

Bing enters.

OFFICE ASSISTANT
The Director will be with you in
just a minute. Take a seat.

The door closes behind him. Bing sits.

A NEWTON'S STEEL BALL CRADLE smacks back and forth on the desk.

He's soaked with intimidation.

Someone enters through a side door.

LEHMAN (O.S.)
Bingham Andersen.

Bing stands. Robotically, they shake hands.

BING
Yes.

DR. HENRY LEHMAN (65) sits across from Bing. He's gracious, paternal. Has had this job forever and cherishes it.

LEHMAN
Hopefully this doesn't take up too much of your afternoon. Please, take a seat.

Lehman's presence fills his large chair.

LEHMAN
Thank you for replying so promptly. I'm Brother Henry Lehman. We usually have a more formal process set in place, but situations like this have become very sensitive lately. I decided to take on this case myself.

BING
The hold obviously didn't say what kind of situation this was. So I was confused.

LEHMAN
I've met your mother on a number of occasions. She's the assistant to Elder Morgan up in Salt Lake, yes?

Bing nods, *where's this going?*.

LEHMAN
I was sorry to hear about your dad's passing.

BING

Thank you. I'm sorry, Brother
Lehman, but I have to be at work in
fifteen minutes.

LEHMAN

You're one of our custodians,
correct?

BING

For the past two years. I've never
been late once.

LEHMAN

My top concern is that you feel
safe on campus here, Brother
Andersen. Has anyone, anyone at
all, been coercing you?
Manipulating you?

The steel balls CLANG. CLANG. CLANG.

BING

No. Not that I know of. Why?

LEHMAN

And I hope you'd feel safe enough
to tell us?

BING

Absolutely. This school is my home.

LEHMAN

Brother Andersen, we've been given
information into some of your
activities lately. We've had to
open an investigation.

BING

An investigation? What for?

LEHMAN

Sometimes a student can cross a
moral boundary without realizing
it.

CUT TO:

EXT. CANYON ROAD - NIGHT BEFORE

Bing's phone. It's definitely a dating app, or more a SEX APP. And it's men. Lots of them.

BACK TO SCENE:

Bing looks emotionally worn.

Brother Lehman folds up a piece of paper with printed photos. Although we only catch a glimpse, we know they're incriminating of Bing.

Bing's strength decomposes.

BING

Those aren't me. I'm going to be late. I need to go.

LEHMAN

It's one thing to have these kinds of feelings. It's another to act on them.

BING

Whoever gave you that, I'm sure I can explain.

LEHMAN

Can you?

He gives Bing a moment to answer, but nothing comes. Bing's eyes verge on breaking.

LEHMAN

We have documentation from more than one source, Brother.

BING

I'm up for a scholarship at Princeton.

LEHMAN

A strong alumni is important to us. What do you want to do with this degree?

BING

My dad was a city manager. I want to go into government.

LEHMAN

And you wouldn't want to disappoint your parents.

BING

My mom knows I used to struggle with these feelings. She can't find out about this. Neither can Molly.

LEHMAN

We don't need to tell anyone, young man. This doesn't have to leave our office.

BING

I promise I won't do it again. I swear on everything. I'll focus.

LEHMAN

Unfortunately, there are policy guidelines I'm bound to. I'm doing all I can so this investigation doesn't cause any hiccups with your graduating.

Bing goes white.

BING

I've worked hard for four years. Please. I'll do anything.

LEHMAN

How many on campus do you know are acting on these feelings?

BING

I don't involve myself with them. I wouldn't lie about that.

LEHMAN

Your phone is what got you into trouble. It's time to reclaim it. I want to help other students...like you.

BING

How would that--

LEHMAN

Reach out to them. Use this dating application.

(beat)

Get us names.

BING

You mean...snitch?

LEHMAN

You're a pillar in your community, Brother Andersen. My students are my top priority. We want to make sure they get the guidance they're afraid to ask for. Before they go too far.

BING

Are you allowed to do this?

LEHMAN

Do you want to be able to graduate, Brother Andersen? Then you must trust in the Lord. It's your way of helping others. Service.

BING

I don't know anyone.

LEHMAN

You said you'd do anything. Get me names. Then you'll get your transcripts.

Off Bing, in terrified disbelief.

INT. CHURCH - BISHOP'S OFFICE - DAY

Bishop Williams sits again behind his desk.

BISHOP WILLIAMS

It's important to act in accordance with the school, Bing.

BING

What he's asking, it seems against school conduct.

BISHOP WILLIAMS

I'm not going to compromise your current church standing, but if you're non-compliant--

BING

I need you on my side, Bishop. Consider all the good things I've done.

BISHOP WILLIAMS

And that's why I'm not denying your school endorsement.

(MORE)

BISHOP WILLIAMS (CONT'D)
But until you repent, I can't have
you serve as my First Attendant.

BING
What am I supposed to tell
everyone?

BISHOP WILLIAMS
We're on the same side. Repentance
is what matters to you most. And
graduation. He just wants names.
That's all.

EXT. CAMPUS NORTH QUAD - DAY

Bing staples Molly's "LAKE CLEAN UP" flyer to a bulletin board, his hands trembling. As he kneels to collect another--

Someone hands him a piece of paper with "I'M SORRY" written. Molly stares, hopeful.

BING
I was the one who was out of line.
I'm sorry.

MOLLY
You're stressed out. I get it.
You're always trying to do the
right thing.
(beat)
Since when have you wanted to go to
D.C.?

BING
It's where my dad got his start.

MOLLY
Okay then. Princeton it is. We can
make this happen. I love you.

Bing brings her in for a loving hug, not letting her see his distress.

BING
I won't let you down.

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Bing stands at an unmarked grave. The weather glooms around him, as though the air compresses.

He kneels on it. Prays.

EXT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - DAY

A local store on a quaint downtown strip. Bing stands out front, looking at his phone. He appears worn.

ON HIS PHONE:

[NOTE: All text messages will be written in italics.]

BING (TEXT)

*Let's meet at the comic store in
ten minutes.*

TARGET (TEXT)

*Sounds good. I'll be in a blue
baseball cap.*

Bing pockets his phone, his inner wire tightens.

INT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - DAY

Bing slips his ring into his shirt pocket. He sits alone in a barista section.

Out the window, he can see Geoff working inside a YOGURT SHOP across the street. But Geoff doesn't see him.

Before him, a comic book. But there's no way he could read it now. His eyes skate the large window for a blue baseball cap. The door CHIMES.

In walks Jake - the handsome law student from the protest. No blue cap, just there to browse.

But he recognizes Bing.

JAKE

Hey. You're Mr. Citizenship.

Bing remembers Jake. Tucks the coffee near him.

JAKE

It's okay. I like coffee too.
What are you reading?

BING

I should put it back. I'm just
skimming.

Bing advances into the stacks. Jake follows.

JAKE
You have an interesting name, if I
remember. Bing, right?

Bing replaces the book.

BING
Bingham. Friends call me Bing. I
really have too much work to finish
to be slacking off in here.

Bing crosses back to his table. Jake shadows, spotting Bing's
blank notepad. Just chicken-scratch writing.

JAKE
What's that?

BING
Nothing. Just trying to write an
essay for grad school.

Outside, Bing spots a YOUNG MAN in a BLUE BASEBALL CAP.

JAKE
(re: empty pages)
"Nothing" is the right word for it.
I was a journalist before I came to
law school, if you ever need any
help.

Blue Cap's nerves are winding. *He won't stay long.*

BING
I should get moving.

Jake takes a seat; Bing wants to strangle him

JAKE
What program are you applying to?

Bing's phone BEEPS again.

BING
(checks phone)
One sec.

BLUE CAP (TEXT)
I don't see you.

Blue Cap is quickly over it. Departs.

JAKE
Here or out of state?

BING
 (snaps)
 What's it to you, Jake?

A beat, a tug of sexual attraction.

JAKE
 You remembered my name?

BING
 I stand by what I said. You don't
 have to drink just because you get
 the urge. If you'll excuse me. I
 have to focus.

Jake wryly signals to Bing's coffee. Bing looks back at the
 yogurt shop, *can Geoff see them?*

Bing gathers his belongings.

BING
 I only drink it off campus.

As he heads out, one of his FLYERS falls to the ground.

Jake collects it, reads it.

INT. LEHMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Bing sits at the desk, defeated.

LEHMAN
 It was my fault, Brother. I
 shouldn't have asked so much of
 you.

Is he softening?

LEHMAN
 I apologize for throwing you in so
 blindly before. You needed
 parameters.

BING
 I'll go to conversion therapy,
 Brother Lehman. Please. Anything
 but--

LEHMAN
 I spoke to your Bishop. Two weeks.
 We decided that two weeks is fair
 for your repentance.

(MORE)

LEHMAN (CONT'D)

That's enough time for you to send your transcripts. And to work on your essay.

He knows everything.

BING

I can't just meet them in public. It'll be their word against mine.

LEHMAN

You're a perceptive young man. Perhaps I could assign you a simpler task.

(motions to bronze bust)

Did you know that Brigham Young was the first man in Utah to own a bar? His response was always "Who better to run such an establishment than a man who doesn't drink?"

BING

I don't drink. I never have.

LEHMAN

I fear that many young men with your kind of inclinations may venture up to Salt Lake City to visit...a specific kind of bar.

BING

I wound't go to a place like that. I just told you, I don't drink.

LEHMAN

So who better? Who better than someone who doesn't associate with that web?

BING

But being in a bar like that also violates the honor code.

LEHMAN

I'm not asking you to go in. Just see if you can locate any of our school decals in the parking lots. Maybe take a photo for verification.

BING

If I do this for two weeks, you'll release my records? I can graduate?

LEHMAN

You have my word. But you start tonight.

BING

It's the spring dance tonight.

LEHMAN

Two weeks, starting tonight.

INT. MOLLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Molly's '80s clothes are sprawled out on the floor. She adds some flair and accessories to them.

Bing watches her earnestness, appreciating her. He masks his guilt, but Molly picks up on something.

MOLLY

What's wrong? You're acting like you got bees in your mouth.

BING

Just watching you. That looks so good.

He kneels next to her, takes her hand.

BING

I love your creativity. Your testimony of the church. You're too good.

MOLLY

You're acting weird. What's got into you?

BING

Nothing. I just don't want to let anyone down.

MOLLY

Don't worry. You never could.

Bing looks up at the clock.

BING

We need to go. Geoff...and Nicole-- vomit--are waiting.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

A piece of paper ripples across a sandy terrain. Litter.

Bing's hand grabs it. Thrusts it into a garbage bag. The beachfront is a sullied remnant of a once-beautiful landscape.

Geoff busies himself by shoveling out thistles, several other DO-GOODERS help.

In the peripheral, Molly and Nicole, with other girlfriends, talk.

BING

I wonder what she's telling Molly about me.

GEOFF

She said she was going to apologize for the other night. She feels bad.

Geoff gets pricked by a thistle.

GEOFF

Dang. Why'd we pick this as the project again?

BING

I've cleaned worse at campus. At least the turnout is good.

Bing keeps his eye on Molly. She and Nicole head his way.

GEOFF

Do you want to go to trivia tonight after the dance? It's sports themed.

BING

That'd be fun. We haven't done that in awhile.

NICOLE

Or we could all see that new movie that just came out. The virus one.
(to Bing)
Maybe we could bury the hatchet.

Bing doesn't buy her sincerity.

NICOLE

Would you be up for that, Mol'?

MOLLY

I can't, sorry. One of my best friends is coming into town tonight.

NICOLE

Guess it'll just be Geoff and me tonight then. I'm sure Bing wouldn't want to come without you.

MOLLY

Do you guys want a water? I'm gonna grab one.

BING

No thanks. I'm gonna check out what's over that ridge.

Molly goes to get the water. Bing leaves Geoff and Nicole behind, rounding a bend.

The lake appears in full view. The water glistens in stark contrast against the neglected shoreline. Its blue-green surface thaws Bing's mood.

He absorbs the breeze. But then a RUSTLING disrupts him. He turns--

Someone picks up bottles and cans. Bing adjusts his angle...

It's Jake.

Bing tries to sneak away before being noticed, but then:

JAKE

Are you following me, Bingham?

Bing knows there's no escape, tries to act cool.

JAKE

I read your flyer. I brought some of my law school friends.

Jake points to fellow LAW STUDENTS several yards away.

BING

Bing.

JAKE

I hear this was a beautiful lake, once upon a time.

BING
It was. My dad brought me here a
lot when I was a kid.

Bing turns back to the body of water; Jake stands beside him.

The light hits the water just right.

JAKE
"Here is a moment in every dawn
when light floats, there is the
possibility of magic."

BING
Hitchhiker's Guide.

They share another moment of unspoken attraction.

JAKE
It's hard, isn't it?

BING
What is?

JAKE
To date. Who you want to date.

BING
I should be getting back.

JAKE
I'm sorry. I just...
(beat)
Am I wrong?

An idea hits Bing.

BING
Hey. What are you doing tonight?

JAKE
The usual. Studying at the library.

BING
Want to hang out later? Maybe go up
to a bar in Salt Lake City or
something?

INT. CHURCH - EVENT HALL - NIGHT

A poster on the wall: "THE GR-EIGHTIES". Students dance in
'80s attire.

A STUDENT CHAPERONE, wearing a LCD-lit mesh vest, ensures that dancing couples maintain a moral distance from one another - "a Bible apart".

Geoff and Nicole dominate the floor. They dance just close enough.

Nicole breaks away into a solo as the music climaxes.

Bing's hands rest on Molly's waist. He doesn't noticed Nicole, but he breaks into his own dance solo.

Their backs to each other, they each steal the floor. Students cheer.

They turn and eye one another. The song finishes. Nicole softens with a slight smile.

LATER

Bing stands with Molly near the refreshments. His phone DINGS. He checks it.

JAKE (TEXT)
Be there in fifteen?

MOLLY
Who is it?

BING
Wrong number, I think. I need to get home and work on my application soon.

MOLLY
You always get brain-locked on stuff like this. Do you want me to cancel my plans and help?

But suddenly, a DRUM ROLL. An ANNOUNCER (22) takes the stage.

ANNOUNCER
Okay, everyone. It's time to announce the "Zach and Kelly" crowns.

The Announcer opens an envelope.

ANNOUNCER
Bing Andersen and Nicole Wilkenson.

Bing reacts, *oh shit*. Nicole is equally less-than-thrilled.

They take their stances on the stage.

The Announcer adorns Bing and Nicole with sashes. Photos flash. He and Nicole fake grins.

Another text DINGS.

JAKE (TEXT)
Does that work for you?

Bing is unable to message back in front of the crowd.

NICOLE
You're texting? Right now?

He pockets his phone.

BING
It's not like this means anything.
Just smile and wave.

As soon as the ceremony is done, Bing stands down. Beelines to Molly.

BING
I'm sorry, Mol'. I need to go. I'll
call you later.

He kisses her on the cheek. She chases after him.

MOLLY
Can't we wait a few more minutes?

BING
You said you have plans with your
friend.

MOLLY
It's only 7:45. She doesn't get in
till 9. I hate it when you run out
like this, Bing.

She gives up, irked.

EXT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - NIGHT

Bing hides in the shadows, near the store entrance. Still in his decades-old dance clothes.

The small downtown strip is deserted.

Two headlights slowly roll up. Through the windshield, Jake smiles.

The corner of the windshield catches Bing's attention.

MATCH CUT:

INT. JAKE'S CAR (MOVING) - NIGHT

A BYU DECAL sticks to the lower corner of a windshield.

JAKE

There are a few bars we could try.
But it's not '80s night, sorry.

Bing reads his phone:

MOLLY (TEXT)

It's fine. Just don't do it again.

BING

(texting Molly back)
I'm open to any. Maybe just one
though.

JAKE

You've never had a drop of alcohol
in your life, have you?

BING

I tried a sip of beer once in
seventh grade.

JAKE

You rebel. You ever done...this
before?

BING

I've hung out with guys, yeah.

JAKE

But never dated.

BING

Well, I have a girlfriend. I guess
I should have mentioned that.

JAKE

That girl today at the lake?

Bing's discomfort answers the question. He spots a business
card in a cup holder: THE TREVOR PROJECT.

BING

What's this?

JAKE
It's a crisis hotline for LGBT
youth that I help with.

Damn. Guilt hits him.

JAKE
I know of a low-key gay bar you
might like.

BING
I'd go as an observer, but that's
all. How's the parking?

JAKE
The parking?

BING
I mean, it's kind of cold out.
Could rain.

Jake finds the nervousness endearing.

JAKE
I'll park as close as I can,
princess.

EXT. GAY BAR - NIGHT

A large sign: CLUB AXIS.

Jake's car is parked near the entrance. He locks the doors.

Bing moves to the front of the vehicle, his eyes shifting
toward the school decal.

JAKE
It's not my scene, but it's
interesting.

PATRONS gather outside. One smiles at Bing.

Bing shirks, spooked.

JAKE
Tell me about this girlfriend. Is
it serious?

BING
I have to play my cards right with
grad school, then I can think more
about that.

Jake feeds the parking meter.

Bing pulls out his phone. On the camera screen:

HE TRIES TO FIT JAKE'S CAR DECAL IN FRONT OF THE CLUB SIGN.

SNAP!

But it's too blurry. *Shit.*

SNAP!

This one does the trick.

Bing pockets his phone just in time.

JAKE
Shall we?

He leads Bing to the door. Bing does his best to act cool,
but he's freaked as hell.

INT. GAY BAR - NIGHT

Music THUMPS. Shirtless DANCERS.

Jake moves to the bar, smiles to a handsome BARTENDER. Bing
feels a ping of jealousy.

JAKE
(to Bartender)
Spiked spritzer.

BING
You drink?

JAKE
Only on occasion.

Bing can't make peace with this place.

BING
Maybe this was a bad idea.

JAKE
It's still early.

BING
If I stay out too late my roommate
will know.

JAKE
We spent a half-hour getting here.
Let's at least enjoy what we can.

BING
How about a walk instead?

EXT. DOWNTOWN SHOPPING CENTER - NIGHT

Store facades, desperate to look like Santa Monica, stand on all sides. The crowd is sparse.

Bing and Jake walk side-by-side. Bing partially conceals his face with his popped jacket collar.

JAKE
Law school taught me to study
things from all angles to determine
truth. I think the same applies
religion.

A few TEENAGERS, the shitty judgmental kind, pass. One whispers to the other.

BING
They're talking about us.

JAKE
They are? Wow. Why didn't you tell
me you have super-hearing?

BING
They looked at us and whispered to
each other.

JAKE
Maybe they just haven't seen anyone
pop their collar since 2005.

BING
Just to be upfront, Molly and I
have a plan. I'm going to get into
grad school. She's going to start
her own business.

JAKE
Do you love her that way?

BING
I could. I want to.

Jake has his doubts. Bing spots Jake's Mormon undergarment collar.

BING
You wear your garments.

JAKE
It doesn't have to be all-in or all-out.
(beat)
Any headway with that essay you told me about?

BING
I'm trying. I can't wrap my mind around it. I have a lot going on.

JAKE
I wrote about my dad's death.

This sidelines Bing.

BING
My dad died. Six months ago.

JAKE
I was eighteen. It was fucking awful.

BING
Do the bad dreams ever stop?

A moment. They stare at one another with a newfound appreciation. Jake moves in closer; it seems like Bing likes this.

JAKE
You've probably never kissed a guy in public.

But then--

WATER STREAMS UP FROM A SPLASHPAD THAT THEY DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE STANDING ON.

Jake playfully nudges Bing. A water stream geysers. Nails Bing.

Then comes the pompous ORCHESTRA MUSIC. The fountain lights change color. Jake removes his jacket, runs into the streams.

Water explodes all around him. He dodges them, but one squirts him right in his safety deposit box.

JAKE
Lightsaber war.

Jake makes a VROOOOM noise and readiest his stance with the invisible weapon. Talks like Darth Vader:

JAKE

"When I left you I was but a learner. Now I am a master."

Bing embraces this. VROOOOM.

BING

"Strike me down. I will become more powerful than you will ever know."

They mock fight. Move about. Noises and all. The water streams splash them throughout.

People stare, but without judgement.

Soon, the water and music stop. The plaza lights fade to normal. Bing and Jake are soaked to the bone, yet neither seems disturbed by it. They take a moment to study the other.

Bing wants to kiss him. Leans in close.

But he pulls back, gapes around. People stare.

EXT. GAY BAR - NIGHT

Bing hurries to the car, gaining as much distance as possible. Jake catches up.

JAKE

Slow down, would you?

In the parking lot, Bing spots another BYU DECAL. Pulls out his camera--

SNAP.

JAKE

What are you doing?

BING

I need to leave. She'll tell Molly.
Molly will tell my mom.

JAKE

Nothing even happened, Bing.

BING

It's too risky with school. I've got a lot riding on this.

JAKE
Riding on what?

BING
I just want to get home. I really
do have work tomorrow.

Bing stops. They share another look. Despair drips down
Bing's face.

JAKE
You try so hard. Give yourself a
break.

BING
I'm scared of losing...

JAKE
Losing what?

HOMELESS MAN (O.S.)
Get a room, fags.

A HOMELESS MAN (50s) wretches. Just jeans and a shirt.

Bing appears demeaned, this is clearly the first time he's
been called this.

Jake controls his rage. Suddenly, he removes his jacket, his
only dry garment, and offers it to the Homeless Man.

JAKE
Here. Stay warm.

The Homeless Man takes it and trails off.

Bing is stunned, also impressed.

EXT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - NIGHT

Jake rolls to a stop.

BING
Thank you again. Sorry I'm so...

JAKE
Don't worry about it. I get it.

He gets out of the car. Moves around and opens Bing's door
for him.

JAKE
Maybe I could see you again
sometime.

BING
Really?

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Bing?

Bing turns and sees--

Nicole, across the street outside the yogurt shop. She ambles over.

Shit. Shit. Shit.

NICOLE
What are you doing here?

BING
I thought you were with Geoff.

NICOLE
We were at the trivia thing, but
his boss called him to come check
out the store. They thought someone
tripped the alarm.

JAKE
Is everything okay? I'm Jake, by
the way.

They shake hands. Bing wants to die as these worlds collide.

NICOLE
Nicole. I'm marrying Jake's
roommate. You look familiar.

JAKE
You were that "shit"-sayer at the
protest the other day.

NICOLE
Oh that's right! I liked your
thoughts. I was so glad you said
something. I didn't know you knew
Bing.

JAKE
I'm helping Bing with his
admissions essay.

She dissects this but finds Jake charming.

NICOLE

(to Jake)

That's super nice of you.

(re: store)

Geoff is in the back. He might've set the alarm wrong when he left.

BING

Classic Geoff.

JAKE

It's good to know there are open-minded people at school. What do you study?

Bing hates this: they're getting along!

NICOLE

Communications. I want to go into broadcasting.

JAKE

I can tell you'd be good at that. You have presence.

(to Bing)

I need to get going. Let's talk later about your application. It was really nice to officially meet you, Nicole.

NICOLE

Likewise. Maybe I'll see you around. You want a ride home, Bing?

BING

Um. Sure.

Jake hugs him goodbye. Nicole senses something between them, notices their wet clothes.

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bing prays at his bedside, guilt-laden.

Texts Molly:

BING (TEXT)

I love you.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Bing sits in a nervous stupor. He's not sleeping well.

On his phone, he maneuvers back-and-forth between the photos of Jake's car:

THE BLURRY ONE?

--SWIPE--

THE CLEAR ONE?

He deletes them both.

INT. LEHMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Bing's phone: THE SECOND CAR.

Lehman holds the phone at his desk, Bing across from him.

BING
It's all I could get. The lighting
was terrible.

LEHMAN
One photo isn't very many.

BING
You didn't specify a number.

LEHMAN
I can't help but have the feeling
that you're protecting someone.

BING
No. No, I agree with you. I want to
help.

LEHMAN
Tell me, how is your application
coming?

BING
I'm still working on it. I have a
lot going on.

LEHMAN
I'd hate for you to disappoint
Molly. I'm sure she's excited for
you to take her with you to
Princeton.

Bing can't answer. Lehman gestures to a photo on his desk:
Him and a woman.

LEHMAN

My wife, Deborah. Married for eight years last December. Our second marriage. I believe in second chances. But third chances?

BING

I got you a decal. I can get more.

LEHMAN

We need something more fail-safe. Come with me. I have a thought.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - DAY

Lehman leads Bing past a BRONZE WALL, Mormon pioneer religious lore on it.

A couple of students wave at Bing as they pass.

MOMENTS LATER

Lehman and Bing reach a--

BATHROOM DOOR.

LEHMAN

This one of the bathrooms that you clean for us, isn't it?

BING

Why'd you bring me here?

LEHMAN

Look up.

Bing follows orders. The building stretches five stories.

LEHMAN

Does the name David Wolter mean anything to you?

BING

No.

LEHMAN

Twenty years ago, my first year here, Brother Wolter jumped to his death. He was your age. It was over feelings, feelings like this.

Bing moves off of the sidewalk.

LEHMAN
(re: bathroom)
Lure students in here. Once they're
inside, text me.

BING
No. I can't do that. I'll find more
decals.

LEHMAN
You've tried the other ways. I
think we need to contain it to our
campus. For your safety. Just text
me a coded message after you
arrange the meetings. You were
right, we need to catch them in the
act itself.

BING
I never said--

LEHMAN
Students who fail to repent lose
their ecclesiastical endorsement.
Expulsion. Think of Molly.

Bing knows he's cornered.

BING
Just to be clear, how many do you
want?

LEHMAN
Enough that when you leave you'll
know you'll have helped young men
from ending up like David Wolter.

Off Bing, the stress crushing him.

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bing's schoolwork is spread across the coffee table. He talks
on the phone.

BING
My mom wants to know if you want to
come to dinner at her house
tomorrow.

His phone BEEPS, checks the message:

APP MESSAGE (TEXT)
*Okay. I'll meet you there at 9PM.
Sounds fun. ;)*

The wall clock reads 7:30PM. Suddenly,
Geoff enters through the front door.

BING
(into phone)
Sorry, sounds good. I should get
back to studying...Love ya too,
Mol'.
(hangs up; to Geoff)
Hey. I wasn't expecting you. I
thought you had water polo.

GEOFF
That's tomorrow night. What are you
up to? We haven't hung out for
awhile.

BING
Just homework. Might go to bed
early. Nicole busy?

GEOFF
She's FaceTiming her mom and
sisters. I thought you and I could
play Rocket League.

Bing likes the sound of this.

LATER

On the floor, the two friends play a one-on-one rally on the
video game. Geoff scores a goal. Wins the match.

BING
Dang it.

Sets down his controller.

BING
We used to play this with Greg and
Dave for hours. We were unbeatable.

GREG
Hey. Who was your friend Nicole saw
you with by my work?

BING
No one. Not even a friend really.

Bing checks his watch: 8:45PM. He's lost track of time.

BING
I have to go.

GEOFF
I thought you were gonna hit the
hey early. Where you going?

BING
I have to drop something off for
Ballif. I totally forgot.

GEOFF
We used to talk. What's going on?
There's, like, a rift between us.
If it's because Nicole--

BING
It's not Nicole.

GEOFF
Then what?

BING
It's...you always win. Never mind.

Geoff is dumbfounded.

BING
I'll see you later.

INT. CAMPUS RESTROOM - NIGHT

Fluorescent lights flicker. Below, Bing sits atop a toilet tank, stares at the stall door, at nothing. He's in his custodian shirt.

He checks his watch. It's 8:59PM.

Through the reflection, he eyes the door.

MOMENTS LATER

9:03PM.

He looks outside.

MOMENTS LATER

9:06PM.

Bing waits, back at the mirror. He could stir his nerves with a spoon. But then--

The door OPENS. Bing stabilizes.

Behind him stands a student, KEVIN (23).

Kevin halts. Then moves past Bing toward the stall, both too nervous to make the first move.

BING
We should hurry.

KEVIN
You sure we should do this in here?
We could get caught.

They step inside the stall, shut the door. Kevin wraps his arms around Bing.

KEVIN
This feels weird. But good-weird.

Bing leans on him. Kevin moves his hands over Bing's body. Kisses his neck.

Just then, someone enters the bathroom. Another student. Bing and Kevin stop, petrified.

Through the cracks of the stall, Bing watches as the STUDENT checks himself out in the mirror.

Goes to the bathroom.

Slowly washes his hands.

Finally exits.

KEVIN
That was kinda hot though.

Kevin mouths Bing's neck again.

With Kevin distracted, Bing pulls out his phone. Types:

BING (TEXT)
Creation holds its breath.

His thumb hovers over the "SEND" button.

KEVIN
Is something wrong?

A surge in Bing's eyes. The fluorescent lights flicker.

He pounds "SEND". A few seconds pass,

TWO SECURITY GUARDS ENTER.

Kevin freezes. The stall door kicks open, tearing them both away.

Bing's face is paralyzed as we hear Kevin's pleas.

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

Bing lumbers through the grounds.

He stops at the religious bronze wall. Analyzes the sculpture. Behind it, a chapel. Its steeple towers above him.

Pangs of consciousness chime in his head.

FLASHCUT:

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

Young Bing approaches the deer. It stands before him, motionless.

Bing's eyes saucer as they catch something unexpected.

BACK TO SCENE:

Bing presses forward, but fear slashes at his backside. He picks up his pace - he needs to run.

He quickens.

His breath comes heavier, breaking. He somehow sprints faster, tearing through the campus. It's invisible to him.

But he knows he can't outrun his conscience. He halts.

His eyes well. Before him,

A trash can.

He vomits into it.

Yanks out his phone, dials.

VOICEMAIL (FILTERED)
Hi, you've reached Geoff. Text me
if it's important--

Bing clicks off.

The guilt swells. He almost loses it. Flustered, he turns to see--

THE LAW LIBRARY.

MOMENTS LATER

Jake exits from the library. Sees Bing sitting near a fountain.

JAKE

Bing?

Bing tries to cover his emotions. Hugs him.

BING

Hey. How's studying going?

JAKE

Are you alright? I was surprised to hear from you. You look flushed.

BING

Allergies.

JAKE

(unconvinced)

You must be allergic to dust. Why are you sweating?

BING

I want to go somewhere. Do you want to go somewhere?

JAKE

I need to get home. I have to be at city hall in the morning.

BING

What's at city hall?

JAKE

I intern with the city attorney.

BING

I don't care where we go. Doesn't have to be for long.

Jake senses Bing's despair.

JAKE

Want to come to my place?

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Bing studies his reflection again, calmer. There's an '80s HULK poster on the wall.

He swipes some mouthwash. Swishes.

INT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bing sits on the sofa. Jake organizes his files.

Jake's place is donned with movie memorabilia. A different kind of geek.

BING

Do you have anything to drink?

JAKE

There's some soda in the fridge. I could give you a Xanax.

BING

You get anxiety?

JAKE

Grad school comes with a prescription. Be ready.

BING

But you don't show it. At all.

JAKE

I'm a classically troubled Bruce Banner. Always fighting against myself.

(re: files)

This one's a civil suit. Someone's trying to sue the city for towing their fucking car in a red zone.

BING

That's cool that you work for the city. My dad was a councilman and then city manager for Salt Lake.

JAKE

I'm hoping they hire me on full-time. You should come by sometime.

Bing digs this. Jake annotates his paper.

BING

Do you ever feel like the Church misled you?

JAKE

I...I haven't thought about that for a while.

BING

What if I don't know how to feel about it? Do these doubts make me a bad person?

JAKE

With what we've been through? Hell no. You need to question things if you want to figure out what any of it means. Shit, that's three years of law school in a nutshell.

Bing sits closer to Jake.

BING

Not all-in or all-out, then. I just don't know if I'm wired that way. Like you are.

(beat)

Do you really think you could help me write my essay?

Jake puts his files down. They inch closer.

JAKE

Tell me what this is about.

BING

I don't know why I thought to text you. I just...wanted to be around you again. It feels good to me.

Bing places his hand on Jake's leg.

JAKE

Are you sure you want to do this?

Jake leans in and kisses Bing. It's as good as Bing hoped for. Bing sinks into Jake.

JAKE

"Funny. How just when you think life can't possibly get any worse...it suddenly does."

On a shelf, a copy of *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

EXT. BING'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Bing approaches the stoop. A small wrapped PACKAGE leans against the door.

On it, only his name is written - in block writing.

Opens it. A book:

UNDERSTANDING SAME-SEX ATTRACTION: A GUIDE OF WHERE AND HOW TO GET HELP.

Bing spins around, scanning. Then back at the book.

INT. ANDERSEN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Bing's hands steady a religious portrait. He takes a step back to see if it hangs straight. He looks as though he didn't sleep well.

IRIS (O.S.)

What time will Molly get here?

Fabric is fed through a sewing machine. IRIS ANDERSEN (51) controls the pedal, pinned tight. Her focus surgical.

BING

About a half hour. She had a photo session at school.

IRIS

I have an order of quilts on my ETSY. Busy, busy.

BING

Have you sent me anything in the mail lately?

IRIS

Like what?

She lets off the pedal as she notices Bing, his back to her. From her perspective, he's in reverence.

But to us, shame weighs on him. Iris' hand comes around his shoulder.

They both gaze at the photo, for different reasons.

IRIS

My Superman.

INT. IRIS' HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Bing whisks muffin batter.

BING
Blueberries.

Iris rinses a basket of berries under the faucet.

IRIS
Think fast.

She tosses one into the air; Bing catches it in his mouth.

IRIS
You looked like your dad just now.
(pours in berries)
Careful not to over-stir.

Bing listens to his mother.

IRIS
Is everything okay with Molly?

BING
Molly's great.

IRIS
Your dad always had that same
expression when he was worried
about me.

BING
Mom, I need to tell you something.

Iris is instantly alarmed. Bing wants to tell her the truth,
but he retreats with:

BING
Professor Ballif thinks I have a
good chance for a scholarship at
Princeton. He's nominating me.

IRIS
Bing, that's wonderful. What can I
do to help?

BING
I've got it under control. I just
need to write an admissions essay
and snag another letter of
recommendation.

IRIS

My boss will write one for you. I
can ask him tomorrow.

Bing isn't sure about this. Pours the batter into the cups.

BING

I bet he has more important things
to do. I can ask another professor.

IRIS

Any letter from a church Apostle
would go far, even at Princeton.

BING

Not everyone cares about the
Church.

Her expression turns, she stops his pouring.

IRIS

What is that supposed to mean?
(she knows)
Those temptations you told me
about, you're handling them okay?

BING

Yeah. It's been totally fine.

IRIS

If you need to talk, honey. I'm
always here.

BING

I know. I'm okay, Mom. I promise.

Iris reads his face, her concern deepens.

She holds up his hand and caresses his silver ring.

IRIS

I gave your dad that ring when we
were married. Not many have the
strength you do.

BING

You're right, a letter from Elder
Morgan is a good idea.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

IRIS

That must be Molly. I'll get it.
You finish these.

INT. IRIS' HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

The finished dinner muffins. Iris places them on the table.

Bing and Molly sit next to one another.

MOLLY

Muffins are great because they can
go both ways.

IRIS

Go both ways?

MOLLY

Breakfast or dinner.

Iris perches herself at the head of the table.

IRIS

Bing, will you bless the food,
please?

Bing takes Molly's hand in his.

BING

Father in Heaven, thank you for
this food. Thank you for the hands
that prepared it--

Suddenly, his phone DINGS. The women open their eyes, watch
for Bing's reaction.

BING

Please bless this dinner and let it
strength and nourish our bodies. We
say these things in the name of
Jesus Christ, Amen.

MOLLY/IRIS

Amen.

Another DING.

MOLLY

Who's texting?

BING

I don't know.

IRIS

You usually check right away.

Iris hands Molly a plate of chicken, her eyes don't leave
Bing.

BING

I'm trying to spend less time on my phone. You're the one who says I'm on it too much.

IRIS

Check your phone. Otherwise Molly might assume you're keeping secrets.

Bing nervously pulls out his phone, *please don't be Jake*. Molly peers over to see--

GEOFF (TEXT)

What time home?

(second text)

Nicole wants to come over.

BING

I told you.

IRIS

You know, this whole Princeton thing could be a sign that it's time to start taking things more seriously.

BING

I've been working my butt off.

IRIS

It might be a good idea if you started taking marriage prep courses together at school.

MOLLY

Yes. I'd love that. What do you think, Bing?

She puts her hand on Bings. He clenches.

FLASHCUT:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The two hands, interlocked fingers.

BACK TO SCENE:

Bing's hand goes dead.

IRIS

It is a sign, son. Maybe from your dad. You need to do what it takes.

EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

In his work gear, Bing collects garbage from the bins.

Glances at his ring. His phone DINGS.

A DATING APP MESSAGE:

TARGET (TEXT)

Want to meet up tonight? I'm down.

Off Bing, feeling the pressure from his mom.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY (TO ESTABLISH)

A charming, mid-sized brick building on the downtown strip.

INT. CITY HALL - CITY ATTORNEY'S LOBBY - DAY

Through a glass wall, Bing watches Jake with idolization as he leads a team meeting.

Jake winks at him.

Bing smiles, steps out of the office suite, into the--

MAIN HALL

And admires the artwork, the high ceilings. He wants to enjoy it, but his heart is heavy.

A moment. Then, Bing's phone suddenly DINGS. A Snapchat ALERT.

SNAPCHAT MESSAGE

Snow_Requiem has added you as a friend.

Bing stares, curious. Adds them back.

SNOW_REQUIEM (SNAPCHAT)

Maybe you should read that book.

BING (SNAPCHAT)

Who is this??

SNOW_REQUIEM (SNAPCHAT)
Read that book.

He looks around, walks down an empty hallway for any suspects.

A couple WORKERS emerge from a doorway, exit the lobby. He's alone. But then,

His phone RINGS. PROFESSOR BALLIF.

BING
Hello?... Yes, I'm on it... No,
it's not quite ready yet... I just
want it to be the best it can be...
I know, I'll make sure it's ready
on time.

INT. CAMPUS BATHROOM - NIGHT

Bing hovers over the sink. He cleans a smudge off the mirror.

On his phone, he types:

BING (TEXT)
First stall.

Bing slips into the stall. Shuts the door. Sits on top of the tank.

He then preps another message for Lehman:

BING (TEXT)
Creation holds its breath.

The bathroom door opens. FOOTSTEPS. They approach the stall door. Three KNOCKS.

A CUTE FRESHMAN (19), nervous eyes, comes into view. The type that wouldn't hurt a fly.

CUTE FRESHMAN
Hi.

Bing says nothing. Stands aside. The Cute Freshman enters. They shut the door.

CUTE FRESHMAN
You're Robert?

BING
Yeah. How old are you?

The Cute Freshman comes in closer, puts his hands on Bing's waist.

CUTE FRESHMAN

Nineteen.

Bing chokes, finally looks this person in the eye. The Cute Freshman goes in for a kiss.

CUTE FRESHMAN

This should be fun.

Bing kisses back, but it's empty. He pulls out his phone, ready to send the message to Lehman--

SMASH CUT:

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Bing heaves over the toilet.

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Bing appears cadaverous.

Dr. Wood examines the book Bing found on the doorstep.

DR. WOOD

Who do you think sent it?

BING

I don't know. Nicole maybe? She saw me with...

(beat)

I used to think I was bound for the third heaven. Everyone told me I could go far in the Church.

DR. WOOD

Tell me, Bing, why is this so important to you? This image.

BING

It's everything I believe in. Some people are able to just do it, like Geoff. He doesn't even try, and it's so easy for him. I try so hard just to be normal. I'm afraid of losing my faith.

DR. WOOD

Why?

BING
I want to see my dad again.

DR. WOOD
Try to tell me the rest of the
hunting story, Bing.

Bing digs up the memory. He's ready.

FLASHBACK:

INT. MEADOW - DAY

BING (V.O.)
The deer just stood there
motionless. My dad and I moved
closer.

Young Bing stares at the motionless deer, confused.

BING (V.O.)
And it still didn't move. I thought
it was dead, just somehow standing
like that. It wasn't until I was a
few feet away that I realized--

In the deer's mouth, the other deer's tail. Shot clean off.

The deer's eyes are a blue-white.

BING
It was blind. The other deer led it
with its tail. But I cut it with my
arrow. The deer was standing there,
waiting for the other to move
forward.

BACK TO SCENE:

DR. WOOD
What did your dad do?

BING
He knew it wouldn't survive. So he
pulled out his handgun.

Bing motions: *bang*.

DR. WOOD
So all that blind faith, you feel,
got the deer killed.

BING
I've met someone, Doctor Wood.
Someone who, for the first time,
makes me...glad I'm like this.

DR. WOOD
Who?

EXT. PUBLIC PARK - DAY

Molly SNAPS her camera.

Geoff and Nicole stand under a gazebo, posing. *Very Sound of Music.*

MOLLY
Now one with you two holding hands.
Molly snaps the photo. Checks the image.

MOLLY
Alright. Nicole, now you sit on
that bench. Geoff, you sit below
her.

Geoff helps Nicole take a seat.

MOLLY
You should give Bing some lessons,
Geoff. He's always so awkward.

NICOLE
Have you talked to Bing today?

MOLLY
He's working extra-hours.
She zooms in on Nicole's ring.

MOLLY
I think maybe he's trying to save a
little money for something.

NICOLE
I met his friend Jake the other
night. He's really nice.

Molly pauses, she doesn't know a Jake.

EXT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - JANITOR'S CLOSET - DAY

Bing grins down at his phone.

JAKE (TEXT)

"In the beginning the Universe was created. This has made a lot of people very angry and been widely regarded as a very bad move."

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Brother Andersen.

Startled, Bing tucks his phone away.

BING

Brother Lehman. How are you?

LEHMAN

Thought I'd pop in and see how you're holding up.

BING

I'm just working.

LEHMAN

What you're doing for me is difficult. If you need to talk about any stresses, I can provide you with resources.

BING

Thank you. I appreciate that.

LEHMAN

I know your deadline is approaching. The students you've given us have shown repentance. We need just a few more.

BING

Brother Lehman, I'm doing the best I can. When are you going to release my transcripts?

LEHMAN

Every man is capable of better. Don't forget what you have on the line. Do you want me to enforce reparative therapy? I could talk to Doctor Wood.

BING

I can do better. I'm running late. Excuse me.

Bing moves past Lehman with his broom.

LEHMAN

And Bing.
(re: stubble)
Be respectful. Shave.

LATER

Alone in the closet, Bing SNAPS the broom handle on his knee.
Takes the splintered handle and pounds it against the wall.
Harder.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

At the front, a MARRIAGE PROFESSOR lectures. "Temple Marriage Preparation" written behind her.

Bing sits next to Molly, square-jawed - his mind locked on something else.

Molly gestures to him, hoping he's with her.

MOLLY

(mouthing)
Love you.

INT. YOGURT SHOP - DAY

A self-serve dispenser GRINDS yogurt into a cup.

Bing and Molly take their yogurt to the register, still emotionally muted. Geoff stands behind the counter.

GEOFF

On the house.

EXT. YOGURT SHOP - DAY

Bing passively holds the door open for Molly.

MOLLY

You're being such a gentleman
tonight.

He holds out a chair at a small table. They sit, eat in awkward dissonance.

Molly looks in the window and see Geoff smelling his fingers.

MOLLY

Do you want to see some designs I
came up with for my business logo?

BING

(disinterested)

Sure.

MOLLY

Bing, who's Jake?

BING

What? Why?

MOLLY

Nicole told me he's a friend of
yours. I didn't recognize the name.

BING

He's not a friend, just someone
from school helping me with my grad
school app.

MOLLY

Your mom called me. She wants to
know if I'd want your grandmother's
wedding ring.

Across the street, the comic book shop captures Bing's
attention.

MOLLY

Bing?

BING

This is happening too fast, Mol'. I
need to think. So should you.

Molly's rage festers. If she were the type to curse, she
would, but instead she says nothing. Stands and leaves.

BING

I'm sorry. I do love you.

She chucks her yogurt into the trash.

EXT. CANYON ROAD - NIGHT

The canopy of stars blaze above Bing and Jake. They both lean
against the front of Jake's car grill.

JAKE

You okay?

BING

Rough day. I hurt someone I care about.

JAKE

Who?

BING

Molly. I don't want to talk about it.

Jake pulls out a bottle of champagne.

JAKE

The city offered me a position today.

Bing is breathless, *this guy is everything he's not.*

BING

I could use some of that.

Jake fills a plastic cup, hands it to Bing.

Bing stares at the fizz, his first drink ever. Takes a hesitant sip. Coughs.

BING

It's good.

Jake pours his own cup. Then tries to take Bing's hand, but--

Bing snaps back.

BING

Do you have faith that you'll get to see your dad again?

JAKE

Absolutely. Being gay has nothing to do with my faith.

Bing's phone BEEPS. The dating app.

JAKE

I know that sound.

BING

It's not what you think.

JAKE

It's fine. We all explore.

BING
How many people are you dating?

JAKE
None. Not seriously.

Jake moves to the ledge where Bing once stood. At the drop-off. Any further movement could be fatal. Takes a sip.

JAKE
How close do you think a person
could get without falling?

He inches a little more. Bing springs over, takes Jake's hand.

BING
Don't.

JAKE
Did you think I was going to jump?

Bing notices THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS. For the first time, Bing immerses himself in it - finally forgetting the shame.

JAKE
It feels good, if you let it.

Bing's phone BEEPS again.

BING
Jake. I need to tell you something.

CUT TO:

INT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - NIGHT

Both at a table. Jake is in shock. Bing has just told him everything.

JAKE
I can't believe the school still
does this. Fuck.

BING
Still does this?

JAKE
In the '80s, they called it the
Justice Administration. You could
earn credit for it. I thought they
dismantled it.

BING

Then I can go to the chancellor.
He'll help me. I knew Lehman wasn't
within his rights.

JAKE

("Keep your voice down.")
You still broke the honor code.
That's enough for them to kick you
out.

BING

I can't do this anymore. I won't.

JAKE

We can build a case against him.
Legal intimidation. When you stand
accused, you have the right to know
your accusers.

BING

What do I do in the meantime? I
need him to release my transcripts.

JAKE

He was never going to, Bing.
They're a dangling carrot.

Bing thinks, *he's right*.

JAKE

Can you figure out who turned you
in? Maybe you could get them to
retract it.

BING

I have no idea. I'd never met up
with anyone who goes to BYU.

JAKE

Then avoid him. Make excuses. I'll
do all the paperwork. We'll get
your transcripts.

BING

I have to officially call it off
with Molly. I'm hurting her. I'm
leading too many lives.

(beat)

Fuck the rules.

Bing maneuvers over and kisses Jake. In public.

EXT. JAKE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

'70s and '80s movie posters decorate the walls.

In the bed, Bing lies wrapped in Jake's hold. Both asleep. But Bing's eyes slowly open. He realizes where he is.

Jake lies motionless. Bing watches him softly breathing.

For the first time, Bing looks at peace.

PRELAP: Church MUSIC.

INT. CHURCH CHAPEL - DAY

Geoff passes the sacrament. He approaches a bench...Bing.

He sits apart from the crowd. Rows ahead of him--

Nicole and Molly. Molly struggles to keep herself together.

Geoff holds out the sacramental tray for Bing.

Bing visually dissects the water cups. Doesn't take one. Passes the tray along.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Bing storms out the door. Church is over.

Geoff chases after.

GEOFF

Where are you going?

BING

They put in my dad's headstone. My mom wants to see it together.

GEOFF

Do you want to do something later?
A little guy time?

BING

Nicole is going to parole you?

GEOFF

Look what I found yesterday.

Geoff pulls out a PHOTOGRAPH: him and Bing together as Mormon missionaries. They look like they could be auditioning for the Book of Mormon musical.

BING
You know how my mom gets when
people are late.

GEOFF
This was right before we came home.
Remember our plan?

Bing spots some freshly sprouting daisies. Kneels and cuts
the stems with his keys.

GEOFF
What are you doing?

BING
We were twenty. We didn't know
anything. Things change.

GEOFF
The two "G"s: graduate, get
married.

BING
Easy for you to say.

Bing cuts a few more stems.

GEOFF
What happened with you and Molly?
Nicole told me that Molly has been
crying for days.

BING
What else has Nicole told you?
That photo has been on your
bulletin board forever. You didn't
just find it.

GEOFF
Something is going on with you.
What is it?

BING
Have you or Nicole ordered a book
or anything lately?

GEOFF
Not that I know of. Why?

Bing stands, a bouquet of daisies.

BING
I need to go meet my mom.

GEOFF

Where are you spending your time lately? Is Nicole right? Are you seeing someone else? Who is she?

BING

Like I said, things change.

He walks away.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Iris' hand swipes away the recently cut grass. Under it, a polished gravestone: "REED ANDERSEN".

IRIS

(re: stone)

Your dad would love it. Right?

Bing doesn't want to see it. He holds the haphazard daisies. It's a sunny day, but to Bing, it's a downpour.

IRIS

A person's entire life gets a tiny dash, but the dates get all the attention.

BING

I don't like being here.

IRIS

I feel closer to him, don't you?

He finally looks at the marker.

BING

Maybe at the lake or at the house. He has zero connection to this place.

Iris reaches into her bag, pulls out an ENVELOPE.

IRIS

Your letter from Elder Morgan. He gave it to me on Friday.

His phone RINGS. It's BROTHER LEHMAN. Nervous, he lets it go to voicemail.

His mom, for once, is oblivious, her concentration on her husband's resting place.

BING

Mom, you always say I can tell you anything.

IRIS

Of course, honey.

BING

What we talked about after Dad died...

The storm clouds roll over. His PHONE rings again. They both wait until it finishes. Iris tempers herself.

BING

How do you know when you've met "the one"?

IRIS

Molly told me what happened. It's just cold feet. I told her that all men get it. What you have with her is special.

BING

What if she's not the one?

IRIS

If you're scared, that means you feel something deeply. Remember, people love you and just want to make sure you stay focused.

BING

How far would you go to ensure that?

He reaches for the letter; she denies it.

IRIS

You're not making any sense. And I don't like this kind of talk, not here.

BING

Questioning things is good. It's not all-in or all-out.

IRIS

God's terms aren't negotiable, honey. Sorry. No one is that special. Not even you.

BING
Can I have that letter?

IRIS
Maybe we should say a prayer before
we go.

BING
I know what I'm doing. I'm almost
done with my application.

Bing places the flowers, aching. Iris reluctantly hands him
his letter.

IRIS
Bow your head.

INT. UNIVERSITY LAW LIBRARY - STUDY ROOM - DAY

Bing's essay is written and printed. Jake reads it.

Bing watches with eager eyes.

Jake finishes, hangs a moment.

BING
How is it?

JAKE
It should do the trick. I like the
story about how you overcame the
fear of heights by skydiving.

BING
So you think I'll get in?

Jake pulls out a legal document.

JAKE
I finished the "cease and desist"
letter. I referenced some
comparable cases. The word
"extortion" should scare him.

Bing scans the document, *something is wrong*.

BING
Who's name is signed at the bottom?

JAKE
I made one up. He can't know my
name. Or that I'm just a student.

BING

I'm not sure that I can just walk in and slap this on his desk.

JAKE

He won't release your records any other way. Trust me.

BING

(re: essay)

Once I get my transcripts, I'm done then. You really think it's good?

Jake nods, his phone RINGS.

JAKE

Hello?...Oh no...I can be right there.

Hangs up.

JAKE

That was the suicide hotline. They're short-staffed. Want to come with me?

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Jake answers phones for the suicide hotline. Out in the--

HALLWAY

Bing waits, reading Jake's legal letter.

An "LGBT MORMON STUDENTS" sign sits on an easel in front of him. Beyond it, inside a classroom, a bunch of chairs gathered in a circle. GROUP MEMBERS socialize.

An androgynous girl with facial hair, ZOE (25), greets Bing.

ZOE

Hi, I'm Zoe. Will you be joining today?

BING

I don't think so.

ZOE

We're anonymous. Names aren't required. May I give you a hug?

Uncertain, Bing consents.

She wraps her arms around him. It lasts awkwardly long.

ZOE

Here, let me give you a sticker.

It says "HUGGED BY A MORMON" in rainbow writing.

INT. COMMUNITY CENTER - CLASSROOM - DAY

Bing sits with the group, observing.

ZOE

We have a new face today. Would you like to introduce yourself?

Bing thinks she's talking to him, when--

MAN'S VOICE

My name is Paul.

The voice belongs to a young man, PAUL (22). A confused soul.

PAUL

Well, that's not my real name, but I like that name. This is my first time ever at one of these things. So I guess I'm a bit nervous.

ZOE

You'll fit right in.

A few laughs.

ZOE

What made you decide to come?

PAUL

I go to a school that doesn't really have any outlets like this, and I wanted to meet people like me.

ZOE

We're glad you're here.

PAUL

(more emotional)

People look at me and think, "Oh, he's athletic. He should have a wife by now." Sometimes I look at myself and...it's hard to believe that I can be this thing that everyone around me says is evil.

ZOE

You can trust us, Paul. This is a safe zone.

PAUL

One of my friends got kicked out of school last week. He got caught by the honor code. He tried to kill himself.

Bing goes white. Paul's words fade away as Bing's anger crescendos.

INT. LEHMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The Newton Cradle SMACKS again. Bing stands in front of Lehman's desk.

BING

You lied to me. You said they were repenting.

LEHMAN

Young man, don't make me lose my patience by coming into my office, flailing accusations.

BING

One of them tried to kill himself. I thought that's what you wanted to prevent.

LEHMAN

We can't be held accountable for one student's judgement. "It's better than one man die than a whole nation perish in disbelief."

BING

Bullshit. You can't use scripture quotes to defend this.

Bing slams Jake's legal document on the desk.

LEHMAN

What is this?

BING

Read it. You can't do this anymore.

Lehman scans the writing.

LEHMAN

You're willing to go public with this?

BING

I just might. I need my transcripts by tomorrow. Or else--

Lehman unlocks a desk drawer, retrieving a SCHOOL ENVELOPE.

LEHMAN

I took the liberty of printing them for you.

He holds the envelope out for Bing; Bing readily goes for it, but--

Lehman snatches it back.

LEHMAN

You thought you'd just slam a poorly written "cease and desist" on my desk and that would be that? Did a friend write that for you?

Bing doesn't answer.

LEHMAN

This is a different young man standing before me than the one I first called into my office. Look in that mirror.

Bing turns his attention to a large mirror on the wall.

LEHMAN

That man was a steward of this university. And now he's disgracing it. An apostate. With the click of a button, he'll have never existed here. His schooling. Job. Housing. All gone. And for what? Desires?

BING

You can't do that. I'll go public.

LEHMAN

You have no evidence, young Bingham. Your mother is an important woman in this church. You'd shame her that way?

BING
(unsure)
My mom loves me no matter what.

LEHMAN
Does she?
(beat)
I remember six months ago, at
General Conference, Elder Morgan
mentioned his assistant's husband
passing away after a long battle
with cancer. He mentioned how her
son had given him a blessing.
(a cruel beat)
Do you ever wonder why it didn't
work?

HE LOCKS THE ENVELOPE BACK IN THE DRAWER - and locks Bing's
heart inside with it.

LEHMAN
You've made your choice. Our deal
is off. I'll be in touch with
Bishop Williams about this. Get out
of my office.

EXT. COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY

Bing exits. Above, he spots the window to Lehman's office.
He's on the verge of tears.

His phone suddenly DINGS.

SNOW_REQUIEM (SNAPCHAT)
That book will help you.

He can't take it anymore.

BING (SNAPCHAT)
Who are you??

SNOW_REQUIEM (SNAPCHAT)
I don't want to see you get hurt.

BING (SNAPCHAT)
Leave me alone!!

As he hits send, he hears a nearby similar ALERT. He scans
the area. It's close.

Another SNAP comes through.

SNOW_REQUIEM (SNAPCHAT)
It's for the best, Bing. You know that.

BING (SNAPCHAT)
Tell me who this is!

He sends it. Another nearby ALERT.

He orbits in on it. He spots a YOUNG WOMAN on a bench, her back to him. She holds a phone, typing away.

SNOW_REQUIEM (SNAPCHAT)
Just read that book.

BING (SNAPCHAT)
Are you on a bench?

The young woman turns--

IT'S MOLLY!

She sees Bing. Quickly, she stands and hurries off.

Bing is in pursuit.

BING
 Molly. Get back here.

Molly's shoes can't keep up with her pace. She relents.

BING
 Are you the one who's been messing with me this whole time?

MOLLY
 My feelings are a toy to you. You think I never saw you looking at those dating apps? I didn't know what else to do.

BING
 Do you have any idea what I'm going through because of you?

MOLLY
 I'm sorry about the book. Your mom is the one who told me to send it to you.

BING
 What about everything else?

MOLLY
What else is there?

She's genuine, her heart breaking.

BING
You're in a bubble, Molly.

MOLLY
Maybe I am. So what. I like that. I like that I can see through the bubble and know I don't want to live on the other side. I want someone who can take me to the Temple. Support me in what I want to do. You made me think that was you. Turns out, I'm just part of the crowd.

BING
That's not true. I love you. Just not that way.

MOLLY SLAPS HIM.

It's over. They both know it.

BING
I'm sorry. I didn't want to hurt you.

She leaves.

Bing stifles his shame.

INT. IRIS' LIVING ROOM - DAY

The sewing machine needle throbs up and down against quilt fabric. Iris is dedicated, her concentration intent.

The doorbell RINGS wildly. She answers.

Bing charges in, his nerves amped.

IRIS
Bing, honey. What's wrong?

He stares at the religious portrait he'd hung.

IRIS
Did something happen with Molly?

BING

Do you know of anything that's
going on right now?

IRIS

You're scaring me, Bing. Did you
not get the scholarship?

BING

You wouldn't ever do anything you
thought might hurt me, would you?

IRIS

Absolutely not. Do you need a glass
of water?

BING

I need to talk to you. You said
you'd be there for me.

IRIS

Whatever it is, I'm sure we'll
figure it out.

He turns to her.

BING

I want to talk about it. We never
do. You always think I can contain
it.

IRIS

I have a million things to do. I'm
in the middle of making your
wedding quilt. Maybe you could--

BING

Mom, I've met someone.

The silence is deafening. She knows exactly what he means.
She breaks for the--

KITCHEN

And starts to sponge down the countertops.

Bing saunters in.

IRIS

This place is a mess. I always say
I'm never going to let it get this
messy. Then I do.

BING

Mom, you knew this was who I was.

Iris works her sponge.

IRIS

Maybe you can talk to your therapist more. You're just confused after losing your dad.

BING

I'm not confused. I don't need therapy.

IRIS

We all go through phases where we don't know what we feel. We talked about this. You and Molly--

BING

You told me what being in love feels like. That's what I feel. But it's not for Molly.

Iris pauses. The clouds gather, lightning strikes. She suddenly torpedoes the sponge into the sink.

IRIS

And I thought I knew death the day your dad died.

She storms back into the--

LIVING ROOM

IRIS

You've been lying to me this whole time. Who knows about this? Does the school?

His reaction tells her "yes".

IRIS

Are you even going to be able to graduate?

Bing wishes he knew the answer.

IRIS

I'm talking to a stranger. After all I've done to help you through this.

BING

Nothing has changed. I'm still me.

She grips a pair of large silver scissors sitting on her sewing table.

IRIS

Everything has changed. You raise your child. You give everything. You give yourself. You claw at your faith. All for the dream and belief that your family can grow. You were my Superman. And you choose this?

SHE SHREDS THE QUILT FABRIC, FLAILING THE BLADES WILDLY.

IRIS

You disappoint me. And your dad.

Bing's heart shatters.

Iris looks to the religious portrait for refuge as we hear Bing exit.

EXT. TEMPLE GROUNDS - NIGHT

The golden angel glows against the starry sky.

Bing sits alone on a bench. Tears trail down his cheeks as he stares up at the Temple.

He examines his ring.

FLASHBACK:

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - DAY

SQUEAKY wired spokes churn. A wheelchair.

Bing's hands grip the handle bars behind, pushing the chair along.

Reed (now 54) rides passenger as Bing wheels him. Reed's appearance is withered.

A row of three large windows spill sunlight into the hallway, creating stretched, faint islands of light on the tile floors.

REED

Is it springtime?

Bing glances out the window. A white November afternoon.

REED

Winter is a cold time to leave.

They roll past the third window frame. Bing slows. Reed rests inside the window's light.

REED

I hope it's like this.

Bing kneels by his dad's side, banked with worry. Reed uses his strength to lift his hand to display his ring.

REED

Your mom gave this to me the day we were sealed together, twenty-eight years ago. I want you to have it.

BING

Dad--

Reed places his hand on Bing's face, cupping it. Bing remains stoic, hiding the tears.

REED

You always wanted to do the right thing, son. There comes a time when everyone, no matter how good or what religion, will question who they are. But when you find someone, Bing, it'll all make sense. Your mom is the best "right thing" I've ever done.

BACK TO PRESENT:

REED (POSTLAP)

I want you to find someone. Someone who makes you happy.

Bing trembles. Tries to call Jake, but Jake doesn't answer.

Bing's shaking causes him to lose the phone. As he kneels to retrieve it, he decides to bow in prayer instead.

BING

If you're there, God, I'm sorry.

Buries his face in his hands.

BING

I can't do it. I'm not good enough.

AT THE SIDEWALK

Geoff and Nicole pass by, outside the grounds. They hear Bing CRYING.

GEOFF
Is that Bing?

They approach.

GEOFF
Bing.

Bing starts, realizes it's Geoff. Bing collapses into him.

GEOFF
What's wrong?

BING
Geoff. I'm gay.

Geoff and Nicole look at one another. Geoff is in shock, gives Bing a bit of distance.

BING
Please don't hate me.

For once, we see compassion in Nicole.

She sits by Bing, places a reassuring hand on him.

NICOLE
That doesn't mean something is
wrong with you, Bing.

CUT TO:

INT. BING'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Bing sits in a chair, flushed eyes. Sips a cup of hot cocoa.

Geoff and Nicole sit opposite him. Geoff is a bit uptight.

GEOFF
(to Bing)
I'm pissed.

NICOLE
Geoff.

GEOFF

That you didn't tell me. What did you think, I was some kind of Neo-Nazi?

NICOLE

I'm sorry, Bing. I thought you were, I don't know. Cheating on Molly.

BING

There...is someone. I didn't mean for it to happen. She deserves someone who can give her what wants. I wanted to be that person, more than anything. But I'm not. I tried. I promise I did.

(beat)

I know it's not a good excuse. You were just looking out for her, and you were right.

Nicole takes Bing's hand.

NICOLE

My brother was gay. I know it's hard.

BING

Was?

NICOLE

He committed suicide. Three years ago.

GEOFF

You never told me that.

NICOLE

(ignoring him)

What's the Honor Code saying, Bing?

BING

That I need to help others by reporting them. If I don't, I'm expelled, and my transcripts are frozen permanently. I won't be able to transfer or anything. These four years would be for nothing.

NICOLE

We could tell someone. Maybe your mom's boss?

BING

I'm the one who broke the honor code. I'll get kicked out either way.

Silence but truth.

BING

What am I going to do about Molly?

NICOLE

I'll talk to her.

BING

I've given my whole life to the Church. I didn't want to hurt anyone.

GEOFF

We've all given everything we have, Bing.

BING

But it's so damn easy for you. You don't even have to try, or care that much, and you just...fit. It isn't fair.

GEOFF

I don't want to be obsessed and judgmental like my prick brothers, but I care about it.

He takes Nicole's hand.

GEOFF

I might show it differently, but marrying Nicole in the temple is all I've ever wanted. And make no mistake, I love you like a brother. I miss how close we used to be, every day.

NICOLE

What are you going to do, Bing? You have to graduate.

Bing pulls out his JANITOR KEYS.

BING

I have a key to the admin building. But I'll have to break into his office. My transcripts are locked in his desk drawer.

NICOLE
You can't do that. He'll know it
was you.

A TEXT interrupts the moment. Bing checks his phone.

BING
Um. He's outside.

GEOFF
Who?

BING
That guy. The one I just told you
about.

GEOFF
(trying)
Bring him in. Let's meet him.

MOMENTS LATER

Jake enters. He and Nicole recognize one another.

NICOLE
Hi...Jake, right?

GEOFF
Hey. You're that loud guy from that
protest.
(to Bing)
Did you two know each other, back
then?

Nicole takes Geoff's hand, *now is not the time*.

JAKE
I'm here to help Bing. I have
something.

Jake holds out a set of KEYS.

JAKE
They're to Lehman's office.

BING
How did you get those?

JAKE
I called in a couple favors from my
law school friends.

Nicole finds this answer curious.

GEOFF
We can all go.

JAKE
I think it's best if it's just me
and Bing.

BING
He's right. Don't get involved.
Just tell everyone we were at a
movie.

NICOLE
No. We should go. They can't expel
all of us quietly.

Off Bing, knowing she has a point.

EXT. ADMIN BUILDING - NIGHT

Bing jiggles open the lock to the doorway with his JANITOR
KEYS. The door opens.

NICOLE
Geoff, stand guard.

GEOFF
You're bossy.

She leans into him, they kiss.

NICOLE
Call if you see anyone.

Bing, Jake, and Nicole sneak inside.

INT. ADMIN BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

Their FOOTSTEPS ECHO. They advance down the hall.

NICOLE
We have to keep as quiet as poss--

Nicole spots the SILHOUETTE OF A MAN a few yards down. Grabs
Bing's wrist. Points.

Jake and Bing halt. The silhouette doesn't move, as if
staring at them.

They wait.

JAKE

Hello?

Nothing.

Bing points the light of his phone at the silhouette to reveal--

A BUST OF BRIGHAM YOUNG ATOP A COLUMN.

A collective sigh of relief.

MOMENTS LATER

They approach the suite. But Bing halts--

JAKE

Shit. There's a camera.

Above them, a SECURITY CAMERA rotates back-and-forth across the hall.

They hug the wall, under the camera, just as the lens rotates their way.

NICOLE

Did it catch us?

BING

I don't think so.

Bing studies the suite's entrance.

BING

I'll open the door really quick.
You two wait until the camera turns
away and then run in together.

NICOLE

We're not the Mod Squad.

She takes off her jacket. Throws it over the camera. It holds.

INT. LEHMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

The door opens. Bing sneaks around the desk. Tugs at the drawer. Locked.

BING

Do you have a key to this?

Jake tries the set. No dice.

Bing takes the BRONZE BUST from the shelf and holds it into the air, ready to smash it into the drawer.

JAKE

Don't. I don't want you to get caught.

Jake takes the bust, then RAMS IT INTO THE DRAWER. Several times until it splinters.

The drawer now in shambles, Bing yanks it open.

A folder with his name. He opens it to find--

DATING APP CONVERSATIONS. REVEALING PHOTOS OF HIM.

No transcripts.

BING

Where are they?

Bing scours his file.

Nicole spots something else in the drawer.

She pulls out a PHOTOGRAPH. Stares at it in utter confusion.

BING

What is it?

Jake knows, tries to tear it away from her, but she snaps it to Bing.

A PICTURE OF JAKE AND LEHMAN. SMILING TOGETHER.

BING

What the hell is this?

JAKE

It's not what you think.

NICOLE

I knew it. "Keys from your law school friends" my butt.

Her phone rings: GEOFF.

NICOLE

Hello?... Okay.

(to Bing)

We have to go. Someone's coming.

But Bing is frozen where he stands.

JAKE
You don't understand.

BING
No shit.

NICOLE
Bing, I'm serious. Let's go.

JAKE
He's my stepdad.

Bing eyes the documents.

BING
It was you. You garnered all of
this on me.

JAKE
He's allowing me to get my degree
as long as I help him.

NICOLE
Bing, this needs to wait.

BING
You fucked up my life. I had one
semester left.

JAKE
My feelings were genuine. I really
did try to help you get out of
this.

BING
(re: Bing's file)
How the hell did you get this?

Nicole peers out the door. Someone's FOOTSTEPS approach.

BING
Tell me. You piece of shit.

He tries to punch Jake, but Nicole grabs him, yanks him
toward the doorway.

JAKE
Don't be so mad at me. You were
never going to get into grad school
anyway with that fuck-all-boring
essay you wrote.

Bing restrains himself.

He and Nicole duck out of the office, Jake heads out the office's side door.

EXT. CANYON ROAD - NIGHT

Bing looks out over the gaping chasm.

His feet are closer to the ledge than we have ever seen.

His eyes tell us he's lost it - an upwell of terror in him. He pumps forward. Nothing to lose. But then--

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Bing.

He stops. Turns, surprised to see Molly.

BING

How'd you know I was here?

MOLLY

I've been looking everywhere for you. Your mom's in the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - E.R. ROOM - NIGHT

Iris lies on a gurney, half-conscious. Molly sits at her side.

Bing stands at the door, talking to a doctor.

DOCTOR

Her blood pressure was through the roof. We think it was a panic attack.

Bing looks back at her. Guilt t-bones him.

INT. IRIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Geoff helps Iris inside. Bing follows behind.

Geoff takes her to the sofa.

IRIS

Thank you, m'dear. You really didn't have to.

GEOFF
 (to Bing)
 I'm off to Nicole's. Do you want us
 to stop by later?

Bing shrugs.

BING
 Maybe. Thanks for helping.

GEOFF
 I'll catch up with you later. Take
 it easy, Mrs. Andersen.

He hugs Bing, leaves.

Bing shuts the door, still distant. Awkward tension
 resonates.

BING
 How are you feeling?

IRIS
 Have you heard anything else from
 Molly?

Bing just heads up the stairs.

INT. IRIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Bing slips on a t-shirt. No undergarment.

He moves to a suitcase and pulls out a pile of folded white
 clothes. His temple garments.

After a moment, he goes to the closet. Stacks them on a high
 shelf.

He then takes his scriptures, when suddenly--

His phone RINGS: JAKE.

Sends it to voicemail.

EXT. IRIS' HOUSE - MAILBOX - DAY

Bing checks the box. Inside, a letter to him.

From the school.

He tears it open, scans the letter. A sullenness comes over
 him. Something dreadful.

DR. WOOD (PRELAP)
What happened?

INT. THERAPIST'S OFFICE - DAY

Bing sits across from Dr. Wood.

BING
I got expelled. This is my last visit.

DR. WOOD
I'm so sorry, Bing.

BING
I did it to myself.

DR. WOOD
What are you going to do?

BING
I scheduled a review with the Dean of Students. I'm going to finish that essay, but for myself

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Bing sits at the shore.

He's writing in his notepad, with purpose. More sure of himself than we've seen.

INT. IRIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

A cardboard box on a chair. Iris unpacks Bing's belongings.

She lifts a stack of books. Opens them.

A STRIP OF COMIC falls to the floor. Iris picks it up--

It's a SUPERMAN COMIC.

She stares at it tenderly.

INT. UNIVERSITY MEETING ROOM - DAY

Bing is escorted into a large room by an ASSISTANT.

Lehman sits across the long table. Next to him, the Dean of Students, DEAN CHAMBERS (64). A shared laugh - these two are friends.

Bishop Williams sits next to them.

ASSISTANT

Dean Chambers, this is Bing Andersen. He's here for his review.

The Assistant shuts the door.

Bing remains standing.

DEAN CHAMBERS

Welcome, Brother Andersen.

LEHMAN

His name has been removed from the school due to non-compliance with these allegations.

BING

I'm not here to waste anyone's time, Dean Chambers.

DEAN CHAMBERS

I understand you want to appeal the decision of Brother Henry Lehman.

BING

I'm here because I want my records released. That's all.

Bing and Lehman make eye contact. Bing conceals his hatred.

LEHMAN

Everything we did was procedure.

BING

If it's alright, I'd like to read something I've been working on.

DEAN CHAMBERS

Young man, we're just here to determine if the decision was reasonably supported by the facts of the case.

BING

I think it may help shed some light onto my situation.

LEHMAN

No bias took place. I assure you.

DEAN CHAMBERS

Brother Lehman, with all due respect, this is Brother Andersen's time. I'll let him use it as he wishes.

(to Bing)

But please, be brief.

Bing pulls out a piece of paper. His hands tremble. Reads:

BING

There were many gifts in life that my father gave me.

The door suddenly opens. IT'S IRIS.

IRIS

I'm sorry I'm late.

The men stand.

DEAN CHAMBERS

You're--

IRIS

Iris Andersen. Elder Morgan's assistant. Bingham's mother.

She sits.

IRIS

I'm here for my son. I don't know what he's going through, but I need him to know that.

Bing and Iris share a subtle smile. Bing is restored, resumes with a newfound strength:

BING

There were many gifts in life that my father gave me. A home. Knowing I was loved. Teaching me what a man should be. But his greatest gift was also his worst: telling me that I could do anything. Because I grew up in a world that also told me what I was feeling was wrong.

(MORE)

BING (CONT'D)

Every night I'd pray I could wake
up the next morning and be like my
friends.

CUT TO:

INT. BRIDAL SHOP - DAY

Molly grieves as she watches Nicole try on a dress.

BING (V.O.)

I did all I could to stifle and
change who I was, constantly
thinking I'd let God down.

BACK TO:

MEETING ROOM

BING

Growing up, I saw my friends
experiencing life and learning what
love was like. I wanted to know
that for myself, but inside, I felt
that I wasn't good enough. Or maybe
that God had made a mistake. So I
prayed harder. I held on by a
splintering rope, all in the belief
that if I followed God's teachings,
He would help me to not have these
feelings. I was a blind deer,
following the example of the man
who raised me.

(beat)

The day my dad died initiated a
change in me. It wasn't confusion.
It wasn't an excuse.

FLASH CUT:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Iris rests her head on her husband in the hospital bed. THEY
HOLD HANDS.

Bing watches from the hallway.

BACK TO SCENE:

BING

I stood at his hospital room window, and I saw him and my mother looking into one another's eyes, moments before his passing, holding hands. And I knew if I wanted to ever find that kind of love that they had, I'd have to change. I had to lead myself, blindly. For the first time in my life, I had no one to guide me. I imagined dying would be a release, and I thought about ending my life. I lived in constant fear that exploring this side of me meant I'd also be abandoning all that I believed in and all that I loved. I grew angry, unable to process what I was feeling.

Iris pulls out a tissue and wipes her eyes.

Bing diverts from his paper.

BING

I didn't handle it well. I became two people. Two people who hated each other. Two people I hid from each other.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY

Jake approaches. He hears Bing's words through the door.

BING (O.S.)

(reading again)

I continued down a path of self-hate. But the day came, when there proved a moment, in every dawn when light floats, there can be magic. For the first time, I knew peace.

The words impact him as Bing keeps reading.

CUT TO:

MEETING ROOM

BING

And that moment came from finally knowing that I was someone worth loving. Maybe it wasn't love like I thought, but I knew that I could feel it, and it didn't have to come with doubt or shame. I know that I can take the parts of the Church that define me, and I can carry them with me. I can lead myself, and for the first time, I'm unafraid. And I know, without a single doubt, my dad would be proud.

Tears roll down Iris' face. She shares a sympathetic look with Dean Chambers.

Lehman isn't moved.

LEHMAN

That's all well and good, but it hardly changes the fact that you broke the honor code.

BING

The code also states that the office must follow procedure. You forced me to entrap others, holding my transcripts for ransom.

LEHMAN

There's nothing of record to indicate any of that.

DEAN CHAMBERS

Do you have any proof of this, Brother Andersen?

Bing pulls out some papers.

BING

Texts I sent him. Pictures he asked me to take.

Dean Chambers reviews them.

DEAN CHAMBERS

I'm afraid these are very cryptic. Without more, Brother, it isn't enough to move forward.

(MORE)

DEAN CHAMBERS (CONT'D)
Do you have any witnesses who can
attest to this? Bishop Williams?

BISHOP WILLIAMS
I believe Bing.

DEAN CHAMBERS
Do you have any evidence of any
wrongdoing on Brother Lehman's
behalf?

BISHOP WILLIAMS
I...do not.

HALLWAY

Jake clenches. He takes a step forward, wanting to enter
inside. We think he might--

But he stops. Instead, he turns and cowers away.

EXT. COLLEGE ADMIN BUILDING - DAY

The sun blares in Bing's eyes. He stares up at the Brigham
Young statue.

DEAN CHAMBERS (POSTLAP)
Unless you have some kind of
tangible proof, there's not much
leeway we can give.

Bing turns and leaves.

INT. COMIC BOOK SHOP - DAY

Bing sits at his laptop, unkempt, his facial hair stubbly.

Geoff and Nicole sit with him.

Bing sips his coffee, no longer keeping it hidden.

GEOFF
What did the University of Utah
say?

BING
That I'll be a freshman. I'll have
to take out a private loan. There's
nothing they can do.

NICOLE
It's still a good school, though.

Bing shrugs, not pleased.

GEOFF
Found a job yet?

Nicole shoots him a look, *seriously*?

BING
Four years of my life. Gone.
(beat)
Have you heard from Molly?

NICOLE
She's been dating around. Says she
actually wants to get to know
someone first this time. Set on
starting her business.

The door CHIMES.

They all see Jake. He looks like shit.

Bing shoots daggers.

NICOLE
Come on, Geoff. Let's go look
around.

Geoff gets it. They both leave.

JAKE
Mind if I sit down?

BING
What are you doing here?

JAKE
I've been trying to get ahold of
you.

BING
There's nothing to say.

Jake reveals an ENVELOPE.

JAKE
Here.

BING
I don't want anything from you.

JAKE
Just look at it.

THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL SEAL. HIS TRANSCRIPTS.

JAKE
I looked into it. It all transfers to the University of Utah. You only have to take one more semester to graduate.

BING
H-how did you...?

JAKE
I testified against my stepdad to the Dean. It's the least I could do. The very least.

Bing takes the envelope, wipes his eyes - he wears his dad's ring.

BING
I wanted to ask, how did you find out all that info on me?

JAKE
It wasn't hard. I saw your picture on the dating app and asked around.

BING
Why me?

JAKE
He wanted leaders.

BING
Yeah, well. I was just trying to run away then. I'm not anymore. So there's that.

JAKE
Are you happy?

BING
I'm learning.

Bing doesn't have to ask if Jake is - we can see he's miserable.

JAKE
What about the Church?

BING

I don't know. Maybe I don't need to know right now.

JAKE

It'll always be a part of you. The shame is what drives us.

(beat)

Kind of funny. We were both trying to turn each other in at first. Now, here we are.

BING

Here we are.

Jake has a million things he wants to say, but ends with:

JAKE

For what it's worth, Bing, I'm sorry. You were always better than me.

Bing watches him go, pitiful.

EXT. LAKE - DAY

Bing cleans up waste at the lake.

Iris holds a garbage bag open for him. They work together.

EXT. TEMPLE GROUNDS - DAY

Geoff and Nicole exit the temple, surrounded by a party of family and friends.

Molly photographs.

Bing shies away from the group. But he and Molly share a look, at peace with the situation.

Geoff walks over and hugs Bing - his best man.

Molly snaps a photo of them.

LATER

Bing stands at the sidewalk, taking a moment alone. A busy road next to him.

On the other side of the temple grounds, he spots--

A DEER.

The animal graces along, unaware. Majestic.

Its eyes are grayed over--blind.

No one else seems to notice besides Bing. The creature departs the grounds, onto the sidewalk.

The traffic hurls past.

Bing grows anxious as the deer steps onto the road--

But it effortlessly maneuvers through.

Once safe on the other side, the animal peers back, locking gazes with Bing, as if sensing him.

Bing stares up at the temple. The sunlight reflects against the golden angel. He looks back.

The deer is gone.

Bing stands all-amazed.

THE END.