

DUMP MINER

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Based on the online novel
J.V. Errichetti's Dump Miner
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EXT. AMERICO RESOURCE AND WELFARE FACILITY 4499 - DAY

The SUN RISES over an ENCAMPMENT surrounded by HIGH-REACHING BARBED WIRE FENCE. LOOKOUT TOWERS MADE FROM SCRAPES OF STEEL AND RUSTED IRON SHEETS dot the fence. Inside, a compound SLUM of MAKESHIFT SHACKS AND SHANTIES rise from the desolation. Junk piles of cardboard and rotting wood fill the ground with grime and disgrace. Tiny fragments of broken glass glisten atop the mounds of garbage. Outlines of humans can be seen inside the lookout towers, but it becomes apparent that these towers are not here to protect the people within the camp. THEY PROTECT THE MONDS OF GARBAGE - the dumps.

As the sun continues its journey and hovers over the dumps of discarded rubbish and filth, ribbons of smoke can be seen rising like smoldering incense. From one of the facility towers, A SIREN SUDDENLY SCREAMS; it calls the dump miners to work. Six days a week, the dump miners start their day with this siren, a painful shriek which for some foretells their harrowing death. HUMAN SHAPES DRESSED IN YELLOW PLASTIC OVERALLS AND HATS. At the gates of the dump mines guards hand out the assignments and tools needed for the day; they extract aluminum, steel, paper, plastic, glass, methane gas for recycling and fuel.

A STRETCH TYPE LIMOUSINE RACES UP and met by two guards. As the guards approach, the rear passenger window of the limousine rolls down. It is FATHER LEO, A CENSUS TAKER FOR THE CHURCH OF AMERICO; TALL, BROAD-SHOULDERED, STRONG MAN, RUGGED FACE, DARK-RIMMED GLASSES, DEEP-SET EYES. He enjoys his work and uniform being a black suit, black shirt, black shoes, and white tie. Proudly, he displays his status in society with The Church patch on his left arm sleeve.

Underneath his left arm, as all priests, Father Leo carries his copy of the B.I.B.L.E.; A SMALL HANDHELD COMPUTER. The acronym B.I.B.L.E for stands for BASIC INDIVIDUAL BIOSCOPY LIFE EVALUATOR. It is a multi-use mechanical device that members of The Church enjoy the privilege of using to judge all citizens of Americo. The B.I.B.L.E. resembles a 1-inch thick black box with a top and bottom that measure 10 inches long, by 8 inches wide. The main function of the B.I.B.L.E. is to store and retrieve information about laws and procedures governing the people of Americo. When opened it can be used to find data regarding current statutes, laws, or commandments. It can also be used to send data back to the master database. The B.I.B.L.E. IS ALSO USED TO HELP CONFUSED SOULS RELIEVE THE ERRORS OF THEIR WAYS. The top part of the B.I.B.L.E. has a GROOVE OUTLINE SHAPED LIKE A DOVE WINGS SPREAD OUT. Prior to swearing on it, the B.I.B.L.E. is turned in such a way as to face the accused person. In this direction, the head of the outlined dove points directly to the accused.

The accused puts their right hand on the grooved outline, wrist resting on the dove's head, palm placed on the dove's body, and the fingers firmly planted on the dove's outspread wings. The B.I.B.L.E. reads the biorhythm's. Lying earns swift and painless punishment; by instant injection.

As Father Leo STRUCK BY THE STENCH reaches in his left breast pocket, pulls out a WHITE HANDKERCHIEF TO COVER HIS FACE.

GAURD

What business do you have here today?

LEO

I am Father Leo. I have come to audit this Facility under the order of Cardinal Superbia. I am sure that I am expected.

The guard looks at his records, and then SIGNALS to one of the towers. The iron gates CREAK OPEN and the limousine enters the facility. Winding its way it passes primitive and unfinished-looking MAKESHIFT DWELLINGS, tires RUMBLE through unpaved streets makes dust, limousine veers to avoid dump miners.

LEO (CONT'D)

These people are so lucky to have someone that cares for his country as Reagan Walker does.

Father Leo's driver looks in his review mirror and nods silently. The limousine approaches a large but oddly constructed house in the middle of the encampment. The structure is assembled from a haphazard collage of wood, stone, and steel. This jigsaw mansion-like building is strangely out of place. This is where THE CHIEF OF AMERICO RESOURCE AND WELFARE FACILITY 4499 RESIDES, BISHOP LAMB; church considers him to be a strong director who runs his facility with an iron fist. Well respected. Production has decreased sixty percent causing a red flag at THE REVENUE DIVISION within The Church. Facility 4499 mines the 1980's CASH VEIN, however they are under scrutiny.

EXT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION - DAY

The car SPEEDS to the front of Bishop Lamb's mansion and SKIDS to a stop. The driver jumps from the car and quickly opens the door for Father Leo. Father Leo exits the car gradually while covering his mouth with his handkerchief STRUGGLING TO KEEP FROM VOMITING FROM THE SMELL. Hurrying up the front steps of the mansion; ornate yet rust-covered. Door swings open.

A young, attractive man, barefoot, wearing a short tunic, STANDS IN DOORWAY. He does not smile nor raise his head. He is an ALTAR BOY. HEAD DOWN he greets Father Leo.

ALTAR BOY

His holiness will be with you
shortly, Father Leo. Please have a
seat and rest while you wait.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION FRONT DOOR - DAY

The altar boy gestures Father Leo to enter the mansion. Once inside, Father Leo is welcomed by the smell of damp and musty furniture. These furnishings are old and worn but still quite elegant. In the middle of the receiving room stands a cast-off soapstone fireplace, flanking it are two massive, high-back chairs, cracks on the heavily carved frame and legs indicating their age. These furnishings are a mish-mash of styles from no particular decade. A dated and dingy plastic torchiere lamp stands guard beside another door, a crumpled piece of tattered tapestry serving as a crude curtain. Behind the half-open curtain, Father Leo can see a bare wrought-iron bronze chandelier, its one bulb feverishly FLICKERING in the dark. Father Leo walks to a heavily stained, torn velvet high back chair, dusts it off, and awkwardly settles in. The altar boy follows Father Leo to his seat with his head still bowed.

ALTAR BOY

Bishop Lamb has asked that I make
you as comfortable as possible,
Father Leo. Is there anything I can
do for you after such a long
journey?

Having said this, the altar boy kneels in front of the seated Father Leo and crosses his hands behind his back. This does not surprise Father Leo at all. What does make him suspicious is that this type of practice, although not unheard of, is usually presented after any business transaction that may need to be addressed.

LEO

No, thank you, my child. I am fine,
thank you.

The altar boy stands up somewhat confused by Father Leo's reply.

ALTAR BOY

Would you prefer a nun?

LEO
No, please let the Bishop know I am here.

ALTAR BOY
Can I offer you some wine?

LEO
No.

ALTAR BOY
The Bishop told me to make sure you get any relief you need.

The altar boy's persistence begins to irritate Father Leo and it can be seen in his face.

LEO
Just let him know I am waiting.

ALTAR BOY
Any...

Father Leo becomes infuriated and explodes.

LEO
Now!

Startled, the altar boy turns and hurries back toward the door.

ALTAR BOY
I am sure that his holiness will be with you shortly.

Father Leo gets up from the chair and inspects the room looking at each piece of furniture. He starts making notes in his B.I.B.L.E.

A pale hand with gaudy rings on every finger carefully opens the door to the office halfway. It is BISHOP LAMB. Cautious to not allow the door to squeak, Bishop Lamb enters the receiving room. Father Leo does not notice him enter.

Bishop Lamb is a short man with no noticeable hair, the style made popular by highly influential fashion slaves. His jet-black eyebrows are penciled in and arched very high, making him appear that he is always in shock. This eyebrow style is widely accepted by the Ultra Republican women. He is very thin and pale giving him the appearance of frailty and feebleness. He dresses in very long silk robes with extravagant embroidery that has frayed in different places. The train is so long that it endlessly drags on the ground behind him.

On the upper arm of each sleeve is the symbol of The Church so heavily embellished in sequins and beads that it's hard to distinguish what it once symbolized. He enjoys wearing jewelry. On each of his fingers, he wears flashy baubles. Dangling around his scrawny neck hang pendants and necklaces made out of plastic, glass, seeds, and rosary beads. He is very effeminate and does not hide this at all. Bishop Lamb tries exceedingly hard to give the appearance of being very dainty and having excessive refinement.

BISHOP LAMB
Hello, Father Leo.

Father Leo looks up from his B.I.B.L.E. and turns to see Bishop Lamb. Father Leo can't help but to grimace at the sight of him and tries to hide his disapproval of the Bishop's appearance and the obviously flagrant lifestyle he lives. Father Leo extends a hand in friendship as the Bishop approaches.

LEO
Holiness.

Bishop Lamb approaches with open arms as if to hug Father Leo, his silk robe sleeves so long that they cover both his hands. Father Leo is not here for pleasantries; his intentions are only to find the reasons why that the facility is producing at such a low rate. Firmly, Father Leo offers only one hand. Reluctantly slowing his stride, Bishop Lamb reaches out from under his sleeve and gives Father Leo a very limp handshake.

BISHOP LAMB
What brings such a fine specimen of
a Census Taker to my humble
facility?

LEO
Didn't Cardinal Superbia contact
you?

BISHOP LAMB
He had an altar boy call about some
silly matter. But I thought I had
reassured him that I had everything
under control.

LEO
Cardinal Superbia can see no reason
why your production has decreased
so dramatically.

BISHOP LAMB

This is normal in every facility.
Production cannot be maintained if
there is nothing to produce.

LEO

Then you will not mind if I have a
look around?

BISHOP LAMB

What would you like to see first?

LEO

May I see your books?

BISHOP LAMB

Of course, come with me to my
office.

Bishop Lamb opens the door and waits for Father Leo to step through. It is, at once, bright and dark inside; a light FLICKERS from one chandelier bulb PLAYS HIDE-AND-SEEK with those who enter.

INT. HALL - DAY

Father Leo follows Bishop Lamb through a long hallway. Numerous doors line the hallway walls, some to the left, others to the right, some slightly open, and some completely closed. As they continue, Father Leo observes young, attractive altar boys or young attractive nuns, in different stages of grooming themselves or lounging in unsettling ways.

LEO

Why do you need so many altar boys
and nuns?

BISHOP LAMB

I have no more than necessary to
accomplish the will of The Church.
You do not approve?

LEO

Looks more like a harem than a
congregation.

Bishop Lamb stops and abruptly turns to Father Leo.

The hallway is DIMMER now. The FLICKERING chandelier bulb seems so far away the two figures stand facing each other. The glint from Father Leo's eyeglasses distinguishes them. Bishop Lamb speaks sternly but in a LOUD WHISPER, not wanting to be heard.

BISHOP LAMB

Ridiculous! What are you implying, Father Leo? I only use my staff as intended, according to the 7th commandment, paragraph 12, sub-section 1a. I abide by every rule of The Church and The Party. How dare you imply such a thing! Do not question my morality again, do you understand... Father?

Father Leo RETREATS a few steps BACKWARDS as Bishop Lamb speaks.

LEO

Yes, I understand your holiness. May we continue to your office now? I wish to finish my work here today.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE -DAY

Bishop Lamb directs Father Leo into his office. The windows in the Bishop's office are covered with thick blue-black velvet sheets fashioned into curtains. A mammoth flat-screen computer monitor takes up one complete wall of the office. Other walls are recklessly covered with different types of art from no particular era. An oversized paper poster of the Archangel St. Michael slaying the devil hangs frameless beside the flat-screen monitor. A cracked piece of stained glass, depicting a purple passionflower, leans against one of the velvet sheets.

The Bishop then walks over to his desk and sits on an old wooden swivel chair. His chair SQUEAKS and WHINES as he turns, not wanting to follow him. Striking a few keys, a large spreadsheet reveals itself on the massive monitor, the numbers on the columns and rows change constantly racing each another. This is the chart of the dump mine production from the Resource and Welfare Facility 4499.

LEO

May I use your keyboard?

BISHOP LAMB

Why?

LEO

I want to create a dump of all databases.

BISHOP LAMB

Why?

LEO

I need it for my report to Cardinal Superbia.

BISHOP LAMB

Is that really necessary?

LEO

Yes. Why are you being so uncooperative? Are you trying to hide something from us, Bishop?

BISHOP LAMB

No, of course not. I am... at your disposal, Father Leo. Haven't I offered every amenity?

Slowly, Bishop Lamb turns the keyboard towards Father Leo. Father Leo lays his B.I.B.L.E. on the Bishop's desk and starts hitting some keys, then looks at the screen. He hits some more keys, then more keys, then more; the almost RHYTHMIC POUNDING of his fingers sound like a dark symphony. The numbers and objects on the computer screen start to change, slowly, and then faster, pages flip from one to the other, trying to keep up with his pace. Bishop Lamb looks up blankly at the monitor; the numbers and objects appear to tattoo his mask-like pale skin. After what seemed like a never-ending arpeggio, Father Leo stops typing.

LEO

Your numbers are low considering this is a relatively new facility.

BISHOP LAMB

You know how miners can be. I could get more production out of them, if I could make a few examples out of the bad ones.

LEO

That won't be necessary. What doesn't make sense is that your flock is in the heart of a 1980's cash vein. But it's not producing the same amount of currency as other facilities mining within the same decade.

Openly confused Bishop Lamb looks at Father Leo, then at the monitor on the wall.

LEO (CONT'D)

Statistics show that your facility should be producing at least twenty pounds a day in copper coins alone, yet you show none. We need a full audit of this facility. Cardinal Superbia will want to look into this.

Befuddled, Bishop Lamb grabs the arms of his wooden swivel chair. It SQUEAKS and WHINES, as he tries to walk while seated.

BISHOP LAMB

Cardinal Superbia ...is that really necessary? You know running a facility has its advantages.

LEO

What are you saying?

BISHOP LAMB

I could make it worth your while. Just fill out the report as the heavenly father expected. None would be the wiser.

Father Leo is taken back by such a request and can barely retain his disdain for such an intentional disregard for the laws of Americo.

LEO

I could ask you to swear on the B.I.B.L.E. right now for such a remark, but no, with a discrepancy this large... Yes, I will be back with Cardinal Superbia. Be prepared if your books don't balance.

Father Leo leaves the Bishop's office. Bishop Lamb has real reason to be concerned. Not knowing what to do, the Bishop walks to the window nearest his desk. He draws the velvet sheet curtain partly to one side and gazes out. Watching as the limousine driver closes the door after Father Leo gets in, the Bishop stands at the window frozen in time.

While clutching the curtain with both hands, he ponders what is to become of him. Surely Cardinal Superbia will discover the missing funds. What if he is asked to swear on the B.I.B.L.E.? The truth will surely come out.

Embezzlement. The word rang in his head. Embezzlement. Transfixed, he closes his eyes and repeats the word over and over in his head.

Embezzlement is a crime punishable by death. What if The Church does a comprehensive scan of the mansion? They will surely find the money he has stolen and hid!

Bishop Lamb softly mutters to himself and relives his wrongdoing over and over again in his thoughts.

BISHOP LAMB
So close. So close indeed.

The Bishop's plan was to embezzle enough money to purchase membership into "Heaven". He only needed \$20,000,000 more and at the rate the miners were extracting currency from the dumps, it would have taken only five to six more years.

But now there is a problem. It would only be a few days until Father Leo returned with Cardinal Superbia. It would be impossible to move the already absconded funds to a new hiding place. There was no other place to hide that much cash in time without being found out.

Thinking to himself, the Bishop quickly concocts a quite devilish plan; he will invite Cardinal Superbia to visit before Father Leo could make his report. He hastily grabs the phone and dials.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Yes, I would like to speak with Cardinal Superbia... Hello, your Excellency. I am pleased to announce that Americo Resource and Welfare Facility 4499 had a tremendous blessing and have unearthed over \$520,000.00 in paper currency.... Yes, the currency is in perfect condition... It is contained in an old briefcase... You will pick it up personally, wonderful... I will have an altar boy make all the arrangements. Yes your Excellency... Bless you, your Excellency... No, bless you... I will await your arrival... Your Excellency, before I forget, I am expecting a Census Taker today, but he seems to be tardy in his arrival. For convenience, I have created a back up of the facilities database for him to bring back with him. He can show you the results of our production upon his return.

(MORE)

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

This way, I won't tie up any of his
and The Church's very precious
resources... Thank you your
Excellency... No bless you.

Bishop Lamb hangs up the phone and SLUMPS deep into his
chair.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Now I need to find an old
briefcase... Relief. I need relief!
Where is an alter boy when you need
one. Relief!

INT. CARDINALS' MAIN OFFICE - DAY

An old three-story marble-and-stone building serves as the
Cardinals' main office of operations. This grand faded
structure has retained much of its glory. Marble slabs cover
the buildings exterior; floor-to-ceiling stained-glass
windows tightly nested together cover most of the walls, the
ceiling boasts a glorious central dome with a bright
beautiful fresco that depict the creation of Americo.

It is almost sunset, as the Reagan George Walker enters the
Cardinals sanctuary, George Walker, the current Reagan of
Americo, has been Reagan since his mother, Nancy Bush Walker,
passed away twenty-two years earlier. Since assuming his
position, the Reagan George Walker has run Americo with an
iron fist. He has no enemies and no friends. His only concern
is Americo, its prosperity, and how to keep alive the
traditions set in place by his family and the Reagans before
him.

All seven of The Church of Americo's Cardinals, each one
representing a different deadly sin that they have come to be
the epitome of the very sins they were supposed to guard
against, are the highest authorities in The Church only
second only to the Pope himself, surround the Reagan in FIERY
debate over additional funding for Church affairs.

Each Cardinal, Superbia/Pride, Invidia/Envy, Ira/Wrath,
Avaritia/Greed, Acedia/Sloth, Gula/Gluttony, and
Luxuria/Lust, is dressed in the finest of handcrafted silk
robes decorated with fanciful embroidery stitching then
studded with an array of gems and rare stones. Their outfits
are finished with glorious headdresses covered in complex
beadwork that towers to the sky that the Cardinals seem to
effortlessly balance gracefully on their heads. These are the
finest garments that can be found in all of Americo or even a
European Democratic State. The Cardinals vigorously churn out
their arguments with passion, but each and every one lands on
the deaf ears of the Reagan.

REAGAN WALKER

I don't care what you have to say.
None of you would even be here if
it wasn't for the amendments my
family had put in place during the
"Dawn of Humanity."

CARDINAL INVIDIA

Oh your family, please.

CARDINAL IRA

You have no right to make any
decisions without consulting the
"Holy Father".

REAGAN WALKER

Are you talking about that half-
dead comatose figure head you call
the Pope?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Speak with humility! He represents...

REAGAN WALKER

You should confess your sins before
you speak to me of humility,
Cardinal. I know what your Pope
represents

CARDINAL ACEDIA

Then you should be more...

REAGAN WALKER

Enough of this! Since The Church
has been in charge of collecting
taxes I have watched resources
embezzled from the collection plate
since my late mother introduced me
to your supervisor fifty-five years
ago.

CARDINAL IRA

Watch your tongue!

REAGAN WALKER

You all look like very fanciful
peacocks for people who take vows
of poverty.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

These were from donations.

REAGAN WALKER

Is that so? What billionaire drag queen left you jeweled robes and beaded hats? You look like court jesters!

CARDINAL LUXURIA

Why don't you just leave?

REAGAN WALKER

Why? Do you need some relief? Do you need to break in a new altar boy?

The Reagan Walker STORMS out of the Cardinals refuge, leaving all in the room in a SILENT HUSH. Cardinal Invidia SIGHS a large breath and CLEARS HIS THROAT to get the attention of the other Cardinals in the room, the silence is finally broken.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

He thinks so highly of himself. He has to go.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

Why can't he just give in to want he knows he wants.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Would it be so bad if The Church had total control of Americo?

CARDINAL ACEDIA

He is a leach that drains the life from all he touches.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

I agree. He has over-stepped the framework of the former Reagans and has destroyed system of faith.

CARDINAL GULA

He is taking food from our mouths.

CARDINAL IRA

Everyone hates him! He is a truly a thorn in the crown of our glorious Americo.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

But who will replace him? His son is even worse.

CARDINAL IRA
Something must be done!

CARDINAL GULA
The Reagan Walker's son could be made to swear on the B.I.B.L.E. for all that he has done, no one would even question why.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Yes! That could be the answer to our prayers!

CARDINAL LUXURIA
What are you saying?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
A sacrifice to The Church would restore order.

CARDINAL INVIDIA
A sacrifice? What do you mean?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
The Second Commandment of course.

The Cardinals pause with interest and curiosity.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
Go on.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Paragraph Seven, Subsection 3-45 GR.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
A brilliant plan! It would clear the path for our "Holy Father" to take his rightful place as spiritual leader and Reagan of Americo.

CARDINAL GULA
Yes, yes, yes, a hostile takeover, delicious!

CARDINAL INVIDIA
That is a brilliant plan. I wish I had thought of it.

CARDINAL IRA

Yes, our "Holy Father" will take his rightful place as spiritual leader and Reagan. Then we will show them all how to run Americo.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Profits will be through the roof.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

I will have an altar boy draft a proposal and dispatch it to The Party for approval.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

What if the Reagan refuses?

CARDINAL GULA

Refuse? He won't. He is a selfish pig.

Cardinal Invidia HURRIEDLY STRIDES up the flight of stairs while the other Cardinals gather in a rigid circle and continue to discuss their plan.

EXT. AMERICO RESOURCE AND WELFARE FACILITY - DAY

A limousine pulls up to the front gate of the facility that transports Father Leo and the Cardinal Superbia. The guard at the facility gate approaches the vehicle and spies into the rear window of the limousine. Bishop Lamb is expecting them and the guard has been fully briefed prior to their arrival. It is a rare day when a Cardinal graces any facility. The guard waves the limousine through the gate without hesitation and calls ahead to Bishop Lamb's office to announce that their guests have arrived.

GUARD

Bishop Lamb, the Cardinal and the Priest have arrived at the gate. Yes your Holiness, I just sent them through. Thank you.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - DAY

Sitting in his office Bishop Lamb picks up a pile of currency from his desktop, stuffs it into an old envelope, and then calls for an altar boy. The altar boy enters without haste.

BISHOP LAMB

After we show our guest to their rooms, I want you to take this envelope and put it in the good Father's luggage. It is private...a note... just for him.

ALTAR BOY

Yes, your holiness.

The altar boy takes the envelope and puts it in a pocket under his tunic. Through the office window, Bishop Lamb can see the Cardinal's limousine pull up to the walkway of his mansion. The Bishop turns his attention back to the altar boy.

BISHOP LAMB

It is time to greet our guests.

EXT. BISHOP LAMB'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

The Bishop and the altar boy SWIFTLY move towards the front door arriving as the bell rings. Cardinal Superbia is standing there with Father Leo directly behind him. The Bishop throws his hands in the air and then lowers himself to one bended knee. Cardinal Superbia extends his right hand and the Bishop quickly kisses several of his rings then rises and extends his hand to Father Leo who receives the Bishops gesture with reserve.

BISHOP LAMB

Your holiness, welcome to my modest abode, let me show you to your rooms, welcome.

Father Leo never breaks his eye contact with the Bishop. He can tell something is wrong. The altar boy remains motionless keeping his eyes to the ground until the Bishop addresses him.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Get their luggage and bring it to their rooms, and don't forget what I told you.

Bishop Lamb returns his attention to the Cardinal and Father Leo as the altar boy DASHES to the limousine's trunk and retrieves a mountain of luggage.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Your holiness...Father Leo, can I offer you any refreshment before we get to work?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
That would be lovely.

BISHOP LAMB
I have a wonderfully special wine
that was given to me as a gift by
Cardinal Gula. This would be the
perfect occasion to drink it.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
If it is from Gula, I am sure it is
a treat.

BISHOP LAMB
Please, let us retreat to the
receiving room.

Bishop Lamb waves his hand and leads Cardinal Superbia and Father Leo through the mansion. When they enter the receiving room, a nun is opening wine and fills mismatched but very elegant wine glasses to the brim. She serves the wine on a tray in the three equally elegant but mismatched crystal glasses and gracefully serves each guest SILENTLY then whisks herself from the room.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Well, that is service. Almost like
"Heaven".

BISHOP LAMB
We aim to please.

Bishop Lamb and Cardinal Superbia enjoy a light laugh while Father Leo seems unwilling to let his guard down. The Cardinal and the Bishop both sip their wine. Father Leo holds his glass to the light and looks at it suspiciously.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Father Leo, you have been so quiet.
You are not drinking your wine, is
there a problem?

LEO
No, the wine is very good, thank
you.

At that moment the altar boy that Bishop Lamb gave the envelope of money enters the room and catches the eye of everyone. The conversation pauses.

BISHOP LAMB
Is our guests' luggage in order?

ALTAR BOY
Yes your holiness.

BISHOP LAMB
Everything?

ALTAR BOY
Yes your holiness.

BISHOP LAMB
You are excused.

ALTAR BOY
Thank you your holiness.

BISHOP LAMB
Let me show you where your suites
are located so we can get on to
business. Please follow me.

INT. HALL - DAY

Bishop Lamb opens the door to the hallway and directs the two men out. They follow the Bishop down a long corridor towards their quarters. This time, the doors to rooms are shut. Bishop Lamb stops in front of one of the closed doors and waves to Father Leo while opening the door with his free hand.

BISHOP LAMB
Father Leo, this will be your room.

Father Leo METICULOUSLY takes note of the location of the room as he looks through the open door and spies his luggage on the bed. He notices that one of the straps is unbuckled but does not give it much thought. Then the group continues walking, as they approach another door the Bishop pauses.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
And for Cardinal Superbia, we have
only the nicest room in the
mansion.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
This is just wonderful your
hospitality is notable.

BISHOP LAMB
Oh, thank you, your holiness. Your
escort does not seem to share your
enthusiasm. Is there something on
your mind Father Leo?

Both Cardinal Superbia and Bishop Lamb direct their attention to Father Leo. Father Leo stands motionless, not saying a word; he keeps an intent stare on Bishop Lamb. Father Leo can tell that something is wrong, but can't put his finger on it. An Americo citizen about to face a full audit from The Church should be more fearful. Just the threat of an audit usually would cause even the most unyielding Reagan to sweat a bit above the upper lip.

LEO

I am here on business not pleasure.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

I think he may be concerned with a conversation we had on the ride over here.

BISHOP LAMB

There is no need for concern, I am sure everything will turn out just as expected.

LEO

Then may we get down to business?

BISHOP LAMB

Oh, you are so impatient. Well let's get started. Please follow me.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - DAY

Bishop Lamb leads Cardinal Superbia and Father Leo to his office, opens the door, and they all enter. Cardinal Superbia and Father Leo take seats while the Bishop walks to his desk. Reaching under the desk he produces an old weathered briefcase. He sets the case on the desk and slowly unfastens the latches. After leisurely unfastening the left latch, Bishop Lamb pauses and smiles. Then he slowly unfastens the right latch, making sure that everyone in the room is aware of what he did. Right before he opens the lid of the case the Bishop ABRUPTLY pauses and pretends to think to himself.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Is there a problem?

BISHOP LAMB

Oh my, I almost forgot. While tending the field, one of the flock recently came across a simply wonderful gem ring that I was saving for Cardinal Luxuria.

(MORE)

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

But he never visits, and seeing you have a naked finger (pointing to Cardinal Superbia's hands) I think it should be for you.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

For Luxuria you say? He does have so many wonderful rings already. Leo, what do you think?

Father Leo looks at Bishop Lamb and then reluctantly gives the answer that he believes the Cardinal would like to hear.

LEO

Yes, Cardinal Luxuria has many rings.

BISHOP LAMB

Well then would his holiness please follow with me? I want to be the first to see when you put the ring on.

The Bishop pauses and looks at Father Leo.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

You don't mind, do you?

Father Leo knows better to stand between a Cardinal and a gift. He does not hesitate in his answer.

LEO

I will wait here your holiness.

Bishop Lamb and Cardinal Superbia depart the room. Father Leo, now alone, opens his B.I.B.L.E. and prepares for the audit. After a few minutes of waiting Father Leo starts to become bored and his interest is drawn to the briefcase on Bishop Lamb's desk. Curious he walks to the Bishop's desk and looks at the briefcase. The Father stands staring at the case and then turns to return to his seat. As he turns the door to the office opens and the Bishop and the Cardinal return, both admiring the large gemstone ring on the Cardinal's finger.

BISHOP LAMB

Does this mean we are dating?

Cardinal Superbia laughs at the Bishop's joke with full acceptance, but Father Leo is not enjoying this. He thinks that Bishop Lamb is just trying to put off the inevitable. Bishop Lamb SAUNTERS past Father Leo and picks up the briefcase off the desk.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Now on to the main event!

Bishop Lamb opens the unlatched case and exposes that it is full of old moldy currency and empty plastic zip-lock bags. Cardinal Superbia's EYES WIDEN with the site of the cash.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
And not to forget this grand find
of \$520,000.00 of mint United
States Treasury bills circa 1982 to
1985.

The Cardinal takes the case and counts the money as he speaks.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
I am proud to accept the \$520,000
dollar donation on behalf...

The Cardinal stops speaking and gives his full attention to the case of money. He shuffles through the bills and then looks at Bishop Lamb with a twisted stare

CARDINAL SUPERBIA (CONT'D)
Wait, wait, wait. There is only
\$370,000 here. What is going on? Is
someone trying to make me the fool!

Bishop Lamb looks at Father Leo WITH AN EVIL GRIN, pauses, and then speaks SLOWLY WITH PURPOSE.

BISHOP LAMB
It must have been stolen.

LEO (SURPRISED)
Stolen!?!

BISHOP LAMB
Yes, stolen. Thieves are not
uncommon here in the facility.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
We must find who is responsible, if
word of this gets out...it would not
reflect well on The Church. Oh no,
this would unquestionably not
reflect well on me!

BISHOP LAMB
Your Holiness, we will clear your
good name. Who had a chance to
steal the money?
(MORE)

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Let's see... I put the case on the desk... Opened it... Nothing was missing... Then we both went to get your new beautiful ring... So it certainly was neither you nor I, your Holiness.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Yes, agreed.

Bishop Lamb again looks at Father Leo with an even LARGER AND IMPIOUS GRIN. All his years with The Church has made Father Leo quite a good profiler and judge of character. Father Leo did not trust Bishop Lamb as far as he could see him. His thoughts flash to his room and the image of the open strap on his luggage. Like being STRUCK by bolt of lightening Father Leo realizes what is happening. He is being set up.

LEO

Excuse me, your Holiness, I must use the facilities.

BISHOP LAMB

Are you all right?

LEO

It must be something in the air. I am not used to the smell.

INT. FATHER LEO'S GUEST ROOM - DAY

Father Leo RUSHES to his room and starts to frantically dig through his luggage finding the planted currency just as the Cardinal and the Bishop enter the room with a facility guard. Cardinal Superbia sees Father Leo holding the currency and he starts to SHAKE WITH ANGER. Bishop Lamb's lips curl into an enormous twisted smirk, trying to retain his joy for a plan so well executed.

Father Leo knows there is no explanation that will suffice, he has many times made others swear on the B.I.B.L.E. for lesser crimes knowing that guilty or innocent the line of questioning that is asked usually leave no other conclusion expect that of guilt.

BISHOP LAMB

Well, it seems we have caught a child in the cookie jar.

LEO

No, your Holiness, I was not...

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Bite your tongue!

BISHOP LAMB
His guilt shines like rays of light
through a broken stained-glass
window. He is holding the stolen
money in his hands!

Cardinal Superbia shakes his head and tries to hold on to his composure. He stares at Father Leo with CONTEMPT, then looks at the guard standing at the door entrance.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Wait outside and close the door. I
will call for you if I need you.

The guard exits and closes the door behind him. Cardinal Superbia sits on the bed and takes the money from Father Leo's SHAKING HANDS. Bishop Lamb can hardly hold his excitement and almost giggles to himself. His plan could not be working out better.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA (CONT'D)
Leo, you would steal from me? You
would blatantly break one of
Americo's Commandments in front of
god? In front of god? In front of
me!

Father Leo COWERS and looks at the money in the Cardinals hand and realizes that there is no way out of this trap. He falls at the Cardinals feet weeping and begins begs for his life.

LEO
Dear Heavenly Father, I beg you to
see that I ...

Cardinal Superbia opens his robe and puts the currency in one of its pockets. He cuts Father Leo off mid-sentence.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Who do you think you are! This is
incredible! Of all people to steal
from me! Father Leo you where one
of my altar boys, oh Father Leo,
what to do? What will the others
think of me, what will they say?
What will they say?

LEO
Your holiness, I did not...

BISHOP LAMB

Yes, what will they say? What will they say?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Leo, oh Leo, you are one of my oldest friends in The Church. I thought I had trained you better than this. I am so ashamed for you as well as myself.

LEO

I am being set up!

BISHOP LAMB

Listen to his lies; caught red handed! He is no better than a dump miner. He should be made to swear on the B.I.B.L.E.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

That is true, you could be made to swear in this. I am so ashamed. If word of this gets out The Church will be a laughing stock, I will be a laughing stock. What to do?

Bishop Lamb looks at Father Leo and smiles.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA (CONT'D)

Leo, since you are one of my oldest friends I am going to make an exception, I am not going to report this, let's just say the money was never found.

With that Father Leo COLLAPSES into a puddle on the ground and GROVELS at the feet of the Cardinal, raising his head only to kisses the Cardinals feet.

LEO

Oh thank you your holiness, thank you.

Cardinal Superbia pushes Father Leo aside and adjusts his robe. The Bishop's smile droops. If the Cardinal let the Father off with just a warning then his troubles will just start anew, surely Father Leo would retaliate against him and that outcome would mean certain death.

BISHOP LAMB

But you cannot let his obvious disregard for one of Americo's Commandments to go unpunished.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

That is true.

LEO

Your Holiness, if you just do a little investigation into this, I am sure that we will find the truth, the truth that will clear my name and your reputation.

Father Leo looks at Bishop Lamb with a knowing look, but he knows he cannot make unfounded accusations or the consequences could be just as dire.

BISHOP LAMB

But then they will all know, entire Party will be aware that you were made to look the fool.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

That is true.

BISHOP LAMB

Let me take the blame for the missing money, I will state in the report that it was stolen. You could not carry any blame for that.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

You are a good soul Bishop Lamb.

Bishop Lamb turns and points to Father Leo wagging his finger.

BISHOP LAMB

But this one! This one cannot be trusted! He would obviously tell the others of your weakness if you allow it.

Father Leo stands in FEAR AND SHEAR SHOCK knowing that his life could be taken at any moment. He can see Cardinal Superbia thinking about the situation, the Cardinals face contorting in pain until he SLOWLY EXPLODES. Father Leo knows Cardinal Superbia all too well and hangs his head waiting.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

You are right! Father Leo you are no better than the dregs that wallow in the mud at this facility so you shall join them.

(MORE)

CARDINAL SUPERBIA (CONT'D)

Your punishment for this crime of theft is that you will be excommunicated from The Church. You should live with the scum you emulate. Guards!

The two guards RUSH into the room.

GUARDS

Yes, your holiness.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Father Leo has decided that he does not want to live under the protection of The Church's umbrella. Strip him of his of any Church property and cast him to the dumps. That is where he belongs.

The Bishop moves very close to the Cardinal, putting his arm around him he speaks with reassurance.

BISHOP LAMB

With his fellow dump miners. You are very wise, your holiness. He will learn humility here. That is a very beautiful ring.

The guards drag Father Leo out of the Bishop's office while Bishop Lamb continues to gush over Cardinal Superbia's new ring.

EXT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION - DAY

The facility guards drag Leo from of the Bishop's mansion and HURL HIM DOWN the front steps. A dazed Leo picks himself from the ground as the guards advance toward him, with all his might he tries to fend-off the facility guards' vicious attacks, but it is no relief from the NONSTOP BLOWS of the guards batons. Finally submitting, Leo falls limp and lifeless to the ground, the guards continue pummeling him with their batons even after he has lost all of his fight. As Leo lays on the ground beaten, the guards continue with their assigned task; STRIPPING him of any Church property. The guards strip Leo of his clothing, leaving him naked, bloody, and dazed.

EXT. TRAM STATION - DAY

The guards then each grab one of Leo's hands and DRAG the overwhelmed man to the facility tram station that will take him to the dump mines where he will now spend the rest of his days. The guards PUSH the crushed but still defiant man onto one of the tramcars, the doors shut and it quickly speeds Leo away. Badly beaten and alone, Leo falls into a seat and stares out a window as the tram follows the tunnels deep into the heart of the dumps. Leo sits motionless staring at the propaganda images that decorating the tunnel walls, larger-than-life images of a seemingly content men and a women dressed as dump miners waving signs that read "For the Glory of Americo", depictions of old weighing scales balancing an infant on one plate and food and medical vouchers on the other, still in shock from what has happened.

As the tram WHIZZES down the tracks the reality of what is happening engulfs Leo like a thick fog and he breaks down weeping. The tram SPEEDS Leo deeper into the heart of the dumps. Leo GAZES BLANKLY at the illusions of life on the walls of the tram tunnel as blood slowly drips down a wound on his head. Staring lifelessly, Leo wonders what has just happened, is there no way out of this mess, is this a test from God, and if so why? Leo closes his eyes, thinks to himself, and speaks aloud.

LEO

There is no hope for me now.

EXT. TRAM STATION - DAY

As the tram slows to a stop, another guard reaches in the car and grabs the exposed Leo by the arm, ripping him from the tram and thrusting him into the heart of the facility. Leo stumbles and lands face down on the tram's receiving platform that leads to the mines. Looking towards the sky, he raises his fist and starts to SCREAM. Passing dump miners and guards just ignore him except one, MARIA.

A dump miner since birth, Maria, has accepted her responsibility within Americo and does not question it. She has never tried to be anything but a dump miner and knows no other life. She has never had any reason to believe she is special or that she would be anything more than what she is, a dump miner. She is known throughout the camp as a kind and considerate soul, blessed with a rare beauty that could be seen even through the layers of filth and stain that have accumulated on her body and clothing from her daily work in the mines.

Maria wears of Americo-issued garments and rags that she has found in the dump mines that could not be recycled.

To protect herself from the sun's scorching rays, Maria wears a long stained sheet over her head as a veil. This also serves to ward off insects and other pests. Having come out of the mines after a full day's work, she is still dressed in her greasy and grimy yellow plastic coveralls that's three sizes larger, the matching yellow hat tucked but sticking out of the side pocket.

Maria runs to Leo after witnessing the heartless brutality inflicted by the facility guards. Seeing her approach from the corner of his eye, and disquieted by the way that she looks, Leo cringes into a defensive posture on the ground trying to protect himself from what may be another assault.

MARIA

Are you all right?

LEO

Don't touch me!

MARIA

I just thought you needed some help.

Leo looks up at Maria and realizes that she is not a threat to his wellbeing. Trying to regain his composure, he takes a large breath, and looks up at her.

LEO

Forgive me my child; yes I do need some help.

Maria offers her hand to Leo and helps the battered man to his feet. Taking off the stained sheet she wears as a veil, she offers it to him to cover his exposed body. Leo does not hesitate; grabbing the veil promptly from her, he wraps it around his waist to cover his shame.

MARIA

You are new here? You certainly do not look like the others. What is your name? Why don't you have any clothing?

Leo, STILL SHAKEN FROM THE BEATING, thinks to himself, who was he now? Everything he has known or believed in has just exploded in his face. His entire life's work destroyed by one malevolent man. He looks at Maria and speaks with reserve.

LEO

Fath... Uh, no, I am only Leo.

MARIA

Leo, I am Maria. Come with me,
let's get you something to wear and
something to put on treat those
bruises.

Maria offers her hand to Leo, HER KINDNESS OVERCOMES AND
PUZZLES HIM AT THE SAME TIME. He is not accustomed to such
random acts of compassion. He gently takes Maria's hand and
unsteadily stands to his feet.

LEO

Thank you my child, thank you,
thank you.

As they leave, Leo looks back at the tram station realizing
that this is now his life. With Maria's hand in his, she
escorts him towards her quarters. They walk towards what
resembles a large makeshift barracks assembled out of
cardboard, metal, and wood. Rust-covered pieces of corrugated
steel in different sizes, patched haphazardly on top of each
other form the roof of the structure and part of its siding.
Large open cardboard boxes, with their flaps flopping in the
wind, appear where windows are supposed to be, supported by
old and odd-sized pieces of wood. This is Maria's home, it is
also the home for other dump miners who are part of the
Americo welfare system. And now this will be home to Leo as
well.

INT. BARRACKS - DAY

Maria and Leo enter the rickety structure through a low-slung
wooden gate that serves as the main door; inside, it is dank
and dark. The one cavernous space inside is divided into
several housing and sleeping quarters. There is no coy
prudishness here, as the quarters are separated only by more
found items - old milk crates, an old blanket hung on a line,
and dilapidated wooden shutters serve as makeshift room
dividers.

Maria shows Leo her sleeping quarters. She takes off the
coveralls, revealing an equally dirty long-sleeved shirt and
oily pair of pants underneath. She ties her long dark hair in
a low bun with a piece of string she pulls out of her pants
pocket. Years of working in the dump mines and living in the
facility amid dirt and debris have taken a toll over Maria.
Like the other dump miners, her skin is pallid and drab; her
hands and feet are grimy. Her hair is somewhat tangled. Leo
looks at her dirty face and weak body dressed in rags then
lowers his head in disgrace.

MARIA

Now, let's get you in some clothing.

LEO

This is not right, I do not belong here.

MARIA

Why? Are you supposed to be in a different housing unit?

LEO

No my child, no, you misunderstand.

Maria walks to one corner of the barracks and pulls out a dirty cardboard box from underneath a pile of old blankets. Opening the box, she rummages through a disarray of worn-out shirts, pants, shoes, and work boots.

MARIA

Well, wherever you are supposed to be you will need to cover yourself. Betty had an Amerigo-issued Jacket that might have fit you, but the guards burned all of Betty's clothes. Let's see what we have. There are some old pants and a shirt here that you can wear. I don't think there are any extra shoes right now though. You will have to find or get an issued pair, but don't hold your breath.

Maria tosses several different items of clothing to a still perplexed Leo. He hides his disdain at the smell of the garments, anxiously gathers them, and puts some on.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Are you thirsty. Can I get you some water, Leo?

LEO

Yes, thank you.

Maria walks over to a rust-covered sink that is attached to a wall of the barracks. Inside the sink, a large plastic jar brims with brown-colored water trickling from the faucet above. She takes a dented tin cup from a makeshift wood shelf, fills the cup with water from the sink, and carries it back to Leo who takes it with a shaking hand. The water is the color of deep rust. Trembling, Leo lifts the glass slowly to his mouth but stops immediately when he is able to smell it and lowers the glass from his lips.

LEO (CONT'D)
Thank you Maria, I am not thirsty
right now.

Leo hands the cup of water back to Maria who TAKES IT WITH A PUZZLED LOOK. She drinks the water, washes the cup, and puts it back on the shelf.

Suddenly, the door to the barracks swings open. It is WEASEL. He is a shifty-eyed man who looks far older than his years, but none the wiser. His body is deformed and bent from all the time he has spent in the deep recesses of the mines, causing him to walk with a limp. Covered with dirt and holding a dead rat, he walks up to Leo and stares at him.

WEASEL
Who is this? Why is he here?

MARIA
Go away Weasel.

WEASEL
Why? Who is this?

Leo temporarily forgets his new place in within the world of Americo and speaks from habit.

LEO
I am father Leo.

WEASEL
You are a census taker!?!

LEO
Ah, no, please wait, I am no longer
with The Church. I was
excommunicated. I am only Leo now.

Several more dump miners enter the barracks from their day in the mines. Their bodies contorted from the life of labor that has been inflicted upon them for the good of themselves and Americo. One by one, each of dump miners notice that there is a new face in their barracks. Cautiously, the group gathers around Maria and Leo.

JACK
Maria, who is this?

WEASEL
He's a Census Taker!

SARAH
Maria! You brought the devil into
our home?

ROGER
What's he doing here?

SARAH
He doesn't look like a census
taker.

LEO
I am no longer affiliated with The
Church or the Party.

WEASEL
Maybe he is a thief. He looks like
a thief!

Roger walks to him slowly, squints, and gives Leo a one-eyed
stare.

ROGER
Are you a thief? We have nothing.

Weasel looks at the rat in his hand, then back at Leo, and
quickly hides it behind his back.

WEASEL
Let's take care of him! You'll get
nothing from us!

The worked up crowd starts to advance towards Leo.

MARIA
No! What is wrong with all of you?
This man is hurt. It doesn't matter
where he came from; he is one of us
now for whatever reason. We must
help our own, no one else does.

Maria's statement stops the advancing mob in their tracks.

ROGER
That is true, we must work to help
each other or we are no better than
the dogs that keep us here.

Leo watches with bewilderment as the crowd gently disperses.
Maria approaches Leo and offers her hand. Leo looks up in her
to Maria's eyes and instinctively takes her hand without
thinking. Beneath the filth and grunge and all the despair,
Leo senses that there is something pure about her. She is a
rare flower.

MARIA

You are home now; there is an open bed next to mine. Please come and get some rest.

She and Leo walk across the barracks to a row of old cots lined up against a far wall. Each cot is covered with old ragged sheets, stained over the years by urine, filth, and neglect. Maria leads Leo to a dirty bunk and he sits unenthusiastically on a small corner.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Do you have your PM? You are going to need to take it soon.

LEO

No, I do not have a PM, I have never needed a PM.

MARIA

You have never needed a PM? How do you sleep at night?

LEO

I never had a need for them.

MARIA

I do not know anyone who does not take AM's and PM's here, but you will need to take them if you are planning on staying here. The toxicity in the facility is too high to work without them.

Maria lifts up the pillow on her bunk and produces a balled-up soiled paper napkin. She carefully opens the napkin to display several pills, some red, some white. She reaches into the napkin, takes one red pill from the bunch, and offers it to Leo.

MARIA (CONT'D)

I do have some of Betty's that she left behind. Take this, it will help.

LEO

Who is Betty? Won't she need them?

Weasel sees Maria retrieve the drugs and is drawn to them like child to candy. He barges into the conversation, while never taking his eyes off the drugs in Maria's hand.

WEASEL

Betty doesn't need anything anymore; she's got out easy.

Weasel reaches out and attempts to grab a few pills from Maria's hand but she quickly turns her back and swats at him with her free hand, trying to shoo him away like an annoying mosquito.

LEO

I don't understand?

MARIA

Betty passed two days ago. That is why you have a place to rest. On Saturday, we are going to have a wake for her.

WEASEL

Ya, if you take a bunch of AM/PM's together they make you forget about this place for just a while and lucky for us, Betty just got a refill before she kicked.

Leo looks up at Maria and the pills in her hand, then to a very excited Weasel.

LEO

Shouldn't those have been turned into the Bishop or a guard to be redistributed?

Leo's words ECHO THROUGHOUT THE BARRACKS AND THE ROOM BECOMES VERY QUIET. Everyone in the small divided rooms turn their attention on Leo again, he can feel the tension build that he inadvertently triggered.

MARIA

We told the guard that they where destroyed when they burned her clothing. You are not going to inform on us, are you?

WEASEL

He is going to turn us in! I told you he was trouble, he has only been here a couple of minutes and already he is going to turn us in for stealing.

This again stirs the sentiment of the small crowd and they begin to CHATTER AMONGST THEMSELVES about the potential problems that would surely be caused by being turned in to the Bishop for stealing.

LEO
No, no, I am not going to say anything.

WEASEL
He is lying; he is going to turn us in for a reward!

LEO
What!?!

The crowd becomes more and more frantic with each word; a whirl of heated emotions start to take over the room.

JACK
Are you going to turn us in?

SARAH
Is this true?

ROGER
Someone could be made to swear on the B.I.B.L.E. for this! That would surely mean death!

Leo looks at the crowd of miners how are progressively getting overly agitated and worked-up, some starting to cry, some hitting themselves on the head with their on hands. They should not be getting so upset for something as trivial as turning in a prescription to the Bishop for redistribution. Bishop Lamb is truly worse than Leo could have ever imagined.

MARIA
Leo, are you going to turn us in for stealing?

Leo stands up and addresses the frantic miners, trying to calm their fears.

LEO
Everyone, please, I am not going to turn anyone in. I am no friend of Americo. I am no longer obligated by any codes or commandments. I am not a thief, a snitch, or a representative of Americo.

Leo pauses and looks to the floor.

LEO (CONT'D)
I am... only Leo.

Leo's words reassure the tattered group and they slowly melt into a sad calmness, little by little dispersing to different sections of the barracks. When Leo becomes conscious that he is out of danger by attack from the crowd, he turns his attention back to Maria remembering what she said.

LEO (CONT'D)
Maria, so why did the guards burn
Betty's clothes?

MARIA
She had bugs. You should try to get
some rest now.

Maria approaches Leo and has him sit on the side of his cot. She gently CLEANS THE WOUNDS on his forehead with a towel she wrung with water from the sink. She then leaves Leo and goes back to her cot.

Leo looks at the dirty sheets on the cot, not knowing what to think or do. But gradually overcome by exhaustion and the pain inflicted by the guard's beatings, he lowers himself on the cot, pulls the sheets, and drifts off to sleep.

EXT. DUMPS - DAY

Several months pass in the dumps, Leo has started to become accustomed to working as a dump miner. His status as the spiritual leader of the facility becomes accepted by most of the other miners and resented by the Bishop Lamb. He has been known to almost incite riots during his impromptu sermons where he touts what has become his version of faith. His views have become skewed by his anger and jealousy of what he once had and what he has become.

The sun blazes down on the camp as all the miners slowly toil to find anything that can be recycled on the heaping mounds of garbage. The miners pick up one piece of refuse at a time, inspect it, then place in their collection bag to be brought back and sent for recycling or to be disposed of in the facility's incinerator. Leo, not really paying attention to his work, walks around the dump kicking trash and removing only the cleanest of the refuse. In the distance, a piece of cardboard flaps and flutters from side to side catching his attention. What he is not aware that what's causing the cardboard to dance so freely is a much prized methane gas leak. Never having been trained to recognize these leaks, Leo meanders to what he believes is an anomaly to investigate. The closer he gets to his diversion, the more methane Leo inhales, and the cloud of the gas finally overtakes him.

A very dizzy Leo falls backwards and tumbles down the mountain of garbage. His lungs full of methane, the heat of the sun, and the sheer exhaustion of the work cause Leo to hallucinate.

Still lightheaded, Leo looks back up to the mountain of garbage he just tumble down and at the piece of still-flapping cardboard, which gradually takes the shape of a glorious angel dressed in pristine white floating in the sky.

MESSENGER

Leo.

Leo looks at the sky, everyone around him just ignores his actions. This is not the first time Leo has spoken to himself.

LEO

Who are you?

MESSENGER

I am a messenger, sent here to deliver the word of God.

LEO

What is his message?

MESSENGER

You must take a wife and have a child.

LEO

Why dear angel, why?

MESSENGER

This child is the Son of God and will be the Savior of the Lord's kingdom.

LEO

Who shall be the host to carry our savior?

Suddenly one of the guards notices that Leo is starting to act in a bizarre way. He SHOUTS at Maria to help Leo.

GUARD

Maria!

Maria does not hear the guard calling her at first.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Maria! Hey Maria!

Leo incorporates the guard's shouts into his hallucination.

MESSENGER

Maria. Aye Maria.

LEO

Maria.

The guard picks up his bullhorn and SCREAMS into it.

GUARD

Maria!

MESSENGER

Maria!

LEO

Yes, Maria.

Maria turns and looks at the guard.

GUARD

Bring Leo to the infirmary, he is
freaking out again.

Leo continues to stare at the sky for a moment and then collapses to the ground and passes out. Maria sees Leo fall to the ground and quickly runs to his side. She gently slaps his cheeks trying to revive him. Leo awakens after a few seconds of her coaxing. Trying to give Leo some relief from the heat, Maria holds him in her arms turns her back to the setting sun to keep its rays from glaring on Leo's face. Still groggy from inhaling so much methane gas, Leo slowly regains consciousness. Opening his eyes, he gradually focuses on Maria's face, THE SETTING SUN BEHIND HER GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF A HALO around her head.

LEO

Maria?

MARIA

Leo, are you alright?

LEO

We have been chosen.

MARIA

Chosen? For what Leo?

LEO

The savior, he is coming.

With that breath Leo, PASSES OUT AGAIN, FALLING LIMP in Maria's arms. Other miners start to gather around them.

A guard pushes his way through the cluster of people and stares down at Maria and Leo.

GUARD

Maria, bring him back to his barracks and put him to bed, he is going to be useless for the rest of the day.

MARIA

I will lose my vouchers if I do not work.

GUARD

I will write you a pass for the day. This should take care of it for you.

The guard takes out a pad, rips a piece of paper out of it, and gives it to Maria.

GUARD (CONT'D)

Now get him out of here, he is distracting the workers. The rest of you get back to work. These dumps are not going to mine themselves.

The guard PUSHES AND PRODS the miners as they gradually disperse, while Maria DRAGS Leo to the facility tram. Finally arriving at the station, she plops Leo in a seat, and sits next to him. She looks at his broken body then at the pass the guard gave her and sighs.

INT. BARRACKS - DAY

Maria leads a very woozy Leo into the barracks, sits him down on his cot, and gets him some water in an old plastic cup. Familiar with its taste by now, Leo drinks it and looks at Maria.

LEO

Maria?

MARIA

Yes, Leo.

LEO

God has sent a message to me today.

Maria looks at him with a CONFUSED look; she has heard his rants in the past.

MARIA
What did he tell you?

LEO
The messenger told me that you
where to bring the savior to us in
the form of a child.

MARIA STARES AT HIM IN SHOCK. She has heard him utter many
nonsensical things in the past but nothing like this.

MARIA
Leo, I am flattered that you would
think that, but I am not with
child, nor have I been approved to
have a child. It is the fumes from
the mines talking, not a messenger.

LEO
No Maria, you are to bring the
savior to us!

MARIA
And who is this savior's father?

LEO
The messenger said it was to be me.

MARIA
But you were a priest; you gave up
your seed when you joined The
Church.

LEO
We can always petition to have my
sample sent from the state archive
and you could be inseminated.

MARIA
This is ridiculous Leo. I am not
the mother of a savior. I am a dump
miner.

LEO
The savior will born a common man,
it is written that the meek will
inherit the earth and we are the
meek!

MARIA
Leo, I do not know if bringing a
child in to this world is a good
thing.

LEO

Not a child, the savior. The messiah! You have no choice. You have been chosen by God, this is your destiny!

MARIA

Leo, even if I did agree, getting approved for a child is highly unlikely.

LEO

If approved, then you agree that you will carry our savior?

Maria thinks to herself and reluctantly agrees.

MARIA

Yes Leo, if approved, I will take this responsibility.

LEO JUMPS UP AND RUNS AROUND THE ROOM WITH EXCITEMENT.

LEO

He is coming! He will smite all evil!

EXT. DUMPS - NIGHT

As the sun sets over the dumps ending another day, miners exit various caverns carved out of the sides of the heaping mounds of waste. Leo bursts from the barracks into the facility's common yard and forces his way through the crowd to the top of a mound of garbage yelling and screaming.

LEO

He is coming; don't give up hope!
He is coming to save us! Rejoice!
Rejoice!

The sound is all too familiar to the camps residents; they have heard Leo's rants before. The miners stop and look at Leo and then continue home from a hard day in the mines. A LOUD BANG, Leo knows what is coming, he crouches to his knees and a large net knocks him to the ground. The net tangles around him and throws his body to the ground. Four guards run to Leo, unsheathe their nightsticks and beat him ferociously, Leo just takes the abuse thinking, knowing, that they will be judged for their sins soon enough. His body bounces with each blow.

A WHISTLE BLOWS TWO SHARP BLASTS and the guards stop their attack, pick up Leo from the ground, and drag him into a facility vehicle.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The guards drive the again bloodied Leo to the Bishop's office and throw him on the floor. The Bishop looks up from his desk, then to Leo laying on the floor, then looks at the guards.

BISHOP LAMB
What did he do now?

GUARD
He was trying to incite a riot.

BISHOP LAMB
Thank you, I will take it from here, please wait outside until I call you.

The guards carelessly take the net off Leo's body, throw him back to the floor, then leave the room.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Leo, why do you think that your actions are going to do anything but cause a false hope in your fellow dregs of humans? Have you forgotten what we were taught in seminary school?

LEO
He is coming; the truth will be revealed!

BISHOP LAMB
Who is coming?

LEO
The Savior!

BISHOP LAMB
Have you gone completely mad? Why would you say such a thing?

LEO
An angel came to me in a vision with word that a child will be born in the dumps and that child will bring truth!

BISHOP LAMB

Truth?

LEO

You can't stop it! It will happen,
the truth is coming!

BISHOP LAMB

The only truth is that you are the
ones that keep yourselves here, you
are the sediment that that will
never amount to anything more than
dirt.

LEO

The savior is coming! He will smite
you!

BISHOP LAMB

Insanity is taking over your mind,
Leo. I thought you were stronger
than that.

LEO

The savior is coming!

BISHOP LAMB

Leo, only you can save yourself by
accepting who you are and that you
will always be just that, a dump
miner. The Party offers the chance
for you to better yourself,
redemption for your sins, but you
never try. Always waiting for
someone else to make your life
better. I have no idea what you are
talking about with this savior
business, but it obviously is
making you upset.

LEO (MUFFLED AND WHIMPERING)

He is coming.

BISHOP LAMB

Leo, accept what is offered by The
Party. This is your only salvation.

LEO

LIES!!!

BISHOP LAMB

Lies no, the truth, yes! Our
Supreme Reagan Walker offers you
the chance to better yourself;

(MORE)

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
it is completely up to you. No one
holds you here, if you don't like
it you are always free to leave.

LEO
That is not true! I believed that
in the past, before my
excommunication, but I know now
that it is not true.

BISHOP LAMB
It is true.

LEO
Then why is the camp surrounded
with barbed wire?

BISHOP LAMB
To protect you from the evils that
wait outside.

LEO
Why must we survive by eating rats
and scavenge like animals for
scraps of food?

BISHOP LAMB
The vouchers you receive are enough
to sustain you.

LEO
Why do you believe that man is
supposed to live like this?

BISHOP LAMB
Not all man, just dump miners. Now
get out of here, you sicken me.

Bishop Lamb pushes a button on his desk and the guards
return.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Bring him back to the facility. I
am done with him.

EXT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION - NIGHT

The guards take Leo by the arms, drag him out of the office,
and throw him into the compound. They turn and head back to
return to the Bishop's home. Leo picks up his battered body
and look back at the Bishop's home and screams.

LEO
You cannot stop him from coming!

The guards turn and look at Leo, Leo stands defiant. One of the guards waives his hand in the air as to brush him off and they continue to their posts while Leo continues his outburst.

LEO (CONT'D)
He is coming... he is coming... you will see!

(FADE OUT)

EXT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION - DAY

Maria and Leo walk towards the Bishop's mansion.

LEO
Maria, we need to be strong. The Bishop will surely try to talk us out of this.

MARIA
Why would he do that, what we are doing is a beautiful thing.

LEO
I don't talk too much about when I was active as a Priest, but one of the things we were taught in seminary school was to talk miners out of reproducing.

Maria looks at Leo, shocked to hear what he just said.

MARIA
Is that true? Why?

LEO
There are so many dumb miners already and barely enough food to feed them all.

They walk up the steps of the mansion and pause at the door.

LEO (CONT'D)
Are you ready?

MARIA
Yes, I am ready.

Leo knocks on the mansion door and it is answered by an altar boy. The altar boy opens the door and stares at the couple as they stand waiting.

ALTER BOY
What do you want?

FATHER LEO
We are here to see Bishop Lamb.

ALTAR BOY
I will let him know you are here.

With that, the altar boy tries to close the door, but Leo is on a mission and no one is going to stop him from his divine right to sire the messiah. Leo pushes the door open knocking the altar boy back a few feet and grabs Maria's hand. They work their way through the mansion towards the Bishop's office, with the altar boy trying desperately to stop them.

ALTAR BOY (CONT'D)
You can't do this... Please stop... I
am going to get in trouble... Please
stop...

Leo and Maria ignore him and continue to the Bishop's office. Once there, the altar boy throws himself in front of the office door and makes one final plea.

ALTAR BOY (CONT'D)
Please I beg you...

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE

Leo PUSHES the altar boy to one side, opens the door, and BARGES into the Bishop's office followed by the PLEADING altar boy. Bishop Lamb, sitting at his desk with his B.I.B.L.E., appears to be unhappy. The altar boy runs to the Bishop desk and tries to explain while Leo enters the office with Maria following.

BISHOP LAMB
What are you all doing in here? Did
I call for any of you?

ALTAR BOY
Forgive me, holiness, I tried to
stop them but they were able to
force their way past.

Bishop Lamb looks at the altar boy with disgust.

BISHOP LAMB

I will deal with you later. Eight o'clock tonight, my quarters. And bring your cilice. I don't want you to forget this lesson. Now go!

The altar boy grabs his right thigh. Trying to keep his composure, he turns and leaves the Bishop's office OCCUPIED WITH ANXIETY AND FEAR. Leo walks up to the Bishop's desk as Maria SKITTISHLY follows behind. The Bishop turns his attention to Maria and Leo.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Should I save us some time and just call the guards now?

LEO

We are here to apply for a child in accordance with the laws of Americo. You may not deny us this right.

BISHOP LAMB

You are joking, right? You are just trying to make my life miserable, right? If that is the case, then you are doing a pretty good job. Too bad, you can't put this much effort when you mine the dumps.

LEO

You can say what you want, but you have no choice in this matter.

BISHOP LAMB

You really want to go through with this? The chances of being approved for a child are very slim. Why don't you take a couple more months to reconsider this? The processing alone is going to take forever. Why get your hopes up for nothing? Maria?

MARIA

Yes, I would like to apply.

BISHOP LAMB

This is a huge waste of The Party's time as well as mine. You like to waste people's time don't you, Leo?

Maria moves behind Leo as if to hide.

LEO
It is our time.

BISHOP LAMB
Right, your time. Well let's get
this over with.

Bishop Lamb extends the B.I.B.L.E to Maria.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Maria, please place your right hand
on the B.I.B.L.E.

Maria reaches out and slowly places her hand on the
mechanical device and a LOUD BEEP emits from the device.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Leo, now you.

Leo does not hesitate and SWIFTLY, WITH CONFIDENCE, places
his right hand on the B.I.B.L.E and a LOUD BEEP emits from
the device. Leo starts to remove is hand from the B.I.B.L.E
and the Bishop QUICKLY GRABS IT AND HOLDS IT DOWN.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Don't remove your hand quite yet.
While I have you like this, I have
a question to ask you.

LEO
I am not afraid, ask your question.

MARIA
Leo, don't! It's a trick.

BISHOP LAMB
No tricks, just one question. Do
you really believe that you and
Maria are going to sire the
messiah?

Leo pauses and takes a breath. Maria stares at Leo's eyes and
can see a tear well up.

LEO
I do.

A LOUD BEEP emits from the B.I.B.L.E. Bishop Lamb looks at
the device, then at Leo, then at Maria.

LEO (CONT'D)
Were you expecting a different
result?

The Bishop just stares at Leo with A VERY PAINED LOOK over his face.

BISHOP LAMB
I will call for you when your results are returned. Now get out and get back to work.

INT. CARDINALS' MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Reagan Walker ENTERS as all the Cardinals are seated in their high back chairs, forming a circle.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Reagan Walker, please enter.

The Reagan Walker enters the circle and stands directly in the center.

REAGAN WALKER
What is this about? I am very important and don't have time to waste.

CARDINAL IRA
It is about your son, he is out of control.

CARDINAL ACEDIA
His embarrassments cannot be overlooked, it reflects upon all of us.

REAGAN WALKER
My family's standing in Americo and our actions are beyond reproach. You know that.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
No one individual that resides under the flag of Americo is beyond reproach.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
If we cannot be held responsible for our actions, then it is the responsibility of the educated community to help guide that soul in the direction of salvation.

CARDINAL AVARTIA
We have ways of getting what we want.

REAGAN WALKER
I don't have to stand here and
listen to this.

CARDINAL IRA
Yes, you do.

REAGAN WALKER
Are you questioning my authority?

CARDINAL LUXURIA
No one is questioning your
authority. We are concerned about
how your son's uncontrollable
actions and how they are affecting
Americo.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
He is setting a bad example for
everyone.

CARDINAL GULA
He is a drug addict!

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
He is a common hoodlum, a thug on
the streets, robbing this great
Party of its respect and standing
among the people of Americo.

CARDINAL ACEDIA
He is a pariah that feed on the
good fortune of others.

CARDINAL GULA
He disgusts me.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
Dear Reagan Walker, please
understand we have debated and
considered all options.

REAGAN WALKER
What are you asking me to do?

CARDINAL ACEDIA
You just need to do what is
necessary.

REAGAN WALKER
And what would that be.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
A sacrifice will show your
allegiance to The Party.

REAGAN WALKER
You want me to take my only son's
life to prove my allegiance to
Americo?

CARDINAL IRA
Did we say to take your son's life?
Although that would be in the best
interest of all, wouldn't it?

REAGAN WALKER
I refuse! You are all mad. How can
you even suggest such a thought?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
6th Commandment subsection 92.9,
paragraph 54, in conjunction with
the 5th Commandment subsection 32,
paragraph 2. It is all spelled out.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
If you cannot stomach the
responsibility, then we can send a
servant of The Church to
reintroduce him to God.

REAGAN WALKER
There is no other way?

CARDINAL IRA
No.

REAGAN WALKER
Are you trying to start a holy war?
I still do control the armed
forces.

CARDINAL INVIDIA
And we control the IRS. It would be
tough to send your soldiers into
battle if they where all being
audited.

The Cardinals and the Reagan stand silently as the Reagan
slowly decides.

REAGAN WALKER
I want something in return for
this.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

What could we possibly have that you want?

REAGAN WALKER

I want one hundred million shares of The Church of Americo stock transferred to my family's account in tribute.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

But then you will have majority control of Americo and The Church of Americo.

REAGAN WALKER

Do you have a problem with that? You get what you want and I get what I want. This is supposed to be for the good of Americo, not personal gain, correct?

CARDINAL ACEDIA

So be it.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

We will call The Church controller and have him transfer the certificates to your account.

REAGAN WALKER

I will take care of this within the month. You people make me sick.

The Reagan Walker leaves the room ANGRILY and slams the door.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

Well, he took that better than I thought.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - DAY

Leo is called into Bishop Lamb's office. As he enters Bishop Lamb is waiting for him behind his desk with his chair turned to the window with a guard next to him.

LEO

Why did you call me here?

The Bishop turns his chair leisurely to face Leo as he speaks.

BISHOP LAMB
I don't know how, but you have been
approved to procreate with that
piece of trash.

Leo is shocked but tries not to show his surprise, but can
not. His excitement overwhelms him

LEO
He is coming! You cannot stop it
now. He is coming!

BISHOP LAMB (TO A GUARD)
Shut him up.

The guard takes his nightstick and STRIKES Leo on the back.
LEO FALLS TO HIS KNEES IN PAIN.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
You have been a thorn in my side
since the day I met you. I am
disgusted that such a waste of life
is going to be created in god's
image with your spoiled seed.

LEO
There is nothing you can do, he is
coming and he will smite all the
moneylenders and heretics...

BISHOP LAMB
Shut up or you will taste more
penance from my guards. Your seed
will arrive tomorrow. Your whore
will receive this gift after the
workday is over.

BISHOP LAMB (TO THE GUARDS) (CONT'D)
Take him back to the dumps.

EXT. TRAM STATION - DAY

The guards drag Leo out of the office and put him on one of
the trams to the depths of the mines. As the train SPEEDS
down into the depths of the dumps, Leo stares out the window,
and watches the illusion of life that has been so carefully
erected on the walls. Images of fields of daisies, children
playing, and family sitting down to thanksgiving dinner. He
thinks to himself, "Now there is hope. I will bring hope."

Maria is working in the dumps Leo runs to her and tells her
the news.

EXT. DUMPS - DAY

LEO

Maria we have been approved! They are going to let us have the child.

MARIA

Oh Leo, that is wonderful!

LEO

He is going to save us all. The Messiah is coming!

MARIA

Oh Leo, do you really think he will be a leader?

LEO

Not a leader, our savior! He is coming to save us! He will smite those who enslave us.

The dump miners stop and look up at Leo. Leo continues his RANT WITH MORE AND MORE INTENSITY.

LEO (CONT'D)

He is coming and the meek will inherit the earth!

Maria is LAUGHING AND TRYING TO CONTAIN HERSELF. All this screaming attracts the guards' attention.

GUARD

Get back to work!

Leo and Maria keep celebrating. One of the guards lifts a large bazooka-looking object and aims it at Leo. The guard fires, a large net hurtles towards Leo. Leo crouches abruptly as if he knows what is about to happen. A net tangles around him and throws his body off the mound to the ground below. Four guards in full combat gear run to him, UNSHEATHE their nightsticks, and BEAT Leo ferociously. He does not resist, his body bounces with each blow. Maria tries to stop them and is pushed to the ground. Finally, a SIREN BLOWS TWO SHARP TOOTS, the guards stop and lift Leo's limp body and drag him to the Bishop's office.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - DAY

The guards throw Leo onto the floor of the Bishop's office.

BISHOP LAMB

You can't stay out of trouble for one minute. Why do you think that what you say is going to do anything but hurt the morale of the flock? Stop making waves, Leo.

Leo looks up from the floor.

LEO

You cannot contain the truth, we will...

BISHOP LAMB

Enough about this "truth"!

Bishop Lamb SMACKS Leo across the face with the back of his hand.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

The truth is that no Messiah is coming from your seed or that bitch you associate with the Madonna. If your child survives, it will be just another dump miner, nothing more.

LEO

No! He will be the King of Kings and the Reagan of Reagans! He will free us.

BISHOP LAMB

You keep talking about the truth, but you are too blind to see the truth.

LEO

So what is the truth?

BISHOP LAMB

You are ones who keep your selves here, you are the dregs that never amounted to anything, never tried to better yourselves, never caring about anyone but yourselves. The Party offers the chance for you to help yourselves.

LEO

LIES!

BISHOP LAMB

Lies no, the truth yes. Our supreme Reagan Walker offers you the chance to better yourself, but it is up to you. We don't hold you here; you are always free to leave.

LEO

That is not true, why are we surrounded with barbwire fences? Why aren't we given enough food to grow strong? Why do you believe that this is the way that man is supposed to live?

BISHOP LAMB

Not all men just dump miners. You are always free to leave.

LEO

To live like animals in the city; with no vouchers we would starve.

BISHOP LAMB

You work for your vouchers and I believe that the Reagan Walker offers more than a fair deal for the scraps you retrieve from the facility. You people sicken me! Wait a minute... Didn't we have this same conversation recently?

LEO

And we will have it again until things change.

BISHOP LAMB

No, we are not! If I hear one more report of you acting up I will take matters into my own hands, then only the Reagan himself will be able to save you. Do you understand?

Leo stares at the Bishop and reluctantly speaks trying to control his passion and fervor.

LEO

Yes.

EXT. DUMPS - DAY

Meanwhile in the mines, Maria is digging with her hands, removing bottles, cans, and paper, anything that could be reused. She moves a pile of dirt to one side and SOMETHING CATCHES HER ATTENTION, IT IS A TEN-DOLLAR BILL. MARIA LOOKS AROUND QUICKLY to see if she is being watched, grabs the bill and FRANTICALLY tries to decide where to hide the money. Her frantic movements CATCH THE ATTENTION of a guard.

GUARD

Get back to work!

Maria takes the bill, crushes it into a ball, sticks her hand in her pants and forces the bill into her vagina.

GUARD (CONT'D)

What are you doing there!

MARIA

I have crabs.

GUARD

Work now; go to the infirmary to have that taken care of later. God I hate this job.

Maria goes back to work with a spring in her step. Finding the ten dollars is surely a sign from God that he is coming. A SIREN BLOWS signaling the end of the day. All the miners gather their equipment and slowly return to camp except for Maria. She runs to the tram station and can hardly repress her joy of finding the money.

EXT. TRAM STATION - EVENING

The tram makes a stop near the Bishop's mansion. Maria sees Leo in the courtyard and jumps out of the tram. She grabs his arm and asks him to follow her.

MARIA

Come with me quickly.

LEO

Maria you look happy, would you share your thought?

MARIA (WHISPERS INTO LEO'S EAR)

I want to tell you, something wonderful, I can't tell you here, wait till we are alone.

LEO (WITH A SUSPICIOUS LOOK)
I can't wait.

Maria holds back her smile as they make their way back to the camp. All the miners struggle to get back to camp before their AM pill wears off. Maria is practically dragging Leo to the barracks. A guard notices her odd behavior.

GUARD
What is going on here, what is the rush?

Maria and Leo pause, Leo looks at Maria, Maria stops short.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Are you trying to sneak contraband into the camp?

LEO
I have nothing to hide.

GUARD (TO MARIA)
What about you?

Maria pauses, the guard starts to get suspicious.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Do I have to scan you?

MARIA
I am sick.

GUARD
From what?

The guard starts to walk towards Maria and Leo. Maria quickly grabs her stomach, bends over, and forces herself to fart as loud as she can. She can feel the ten-dollar bill pinching the inside of her vagina, which brings a tear to her eye. The Guard backs away from them.

MARIA
Please, I have run out of stool hardener and have no med vouchers, please don't make me explain more.

The guard looks at Maria and Leo and with a little disgust and waves them on.

GUARD
All right, move along.

Maria GRABS Leo by the hand and they make their way back to the barracks.

INT. BARRACKS - EVENING

LEO
Quick Maria, get to a stall before
you soil yourself.

MARIA
No Leo, I lied.

Leo looks at Maria and shakes his head.

LEO
It is written that the path to
damnation is paved with...

MARIA
Forgive me I have more to confess.

Leo looks at the ground and shakes his head, Maria turns from him and sticks her hand into her pants, making a TWISTED FACE and retrieves the wadded-up ball. She unravels it to reveal to Leo that it is a ten-dollar bill.

LEO
Maria?

MARIA
I stole today.

Leo looks at the bill astonished.

LEO
Where did you get that?

MARIA
I found it while mining. I have
been thinking about this since I
found it. I am going to sneak out
of the camp tonight and go to the
black market, and then tomorrow we
can have fruit after Sunday
service.

LEO
No Maria, it is not right. If you
are caught you will surely be
punished and then all our efforts
will be in vain.

MARIA
I will not be caught.

LEO

You will never make it, you will
pass out from the exhaustion before
the night has ended.

MARIA

I still have an extra AM pill that
was willed to me by Betty. I will
feel wonderful!

Leo stares at her and pauses.

LEO

Fruit would be nice. An apple...that
would be delicious. I have not had
an apple for what seems to be an
eternity.

MARIA

An apple, I have never had an
apple, if you say they are good.

LEO

You never had an... Oh yes, very
tasty.

MARIA

Then I will get apples.

LEO

I cannot stop you, so say three
Hail Mary's and go in peace.

MARIA

We are blessed today.

Weasel enters, catches sight of the money, and RUSHES over to
Maria and Leo.

WEASEL

What is that?

LEO

This is none of your concern.

WEASEL

Where did you get that?

Weasel GRABS at the money and Leo SLAPS his hand.

WEASEL (CONT'D)

If I don't get mine, I will tell
the Bishop. What is it?

MARIA

This is a gift from God to
celebrate the coming of the savior.

WEASEL

It looks like money.

Weasel again LUNGES toward Maria and grabs for it. This time
Leo FORCEFULLY PUSHES Weasel and Weasel falls to the ground
hard.

LEO

You will not say a word. If you do,
I will crush you with my bare
hands.

Other dump miners start to enter the barracks after their day
is complete. The COMMOTION CAUSED BY LEO AND WEASEL DRAWS
IMMEDIATE ATTENTION to see what is happening. A fight is
always entertaining and every miner in the small run-down
barracks would surely agree that Weasel probably has whatever
is going to happen coming to him even though the other miners
have no idea why.

TOM

What is happening?

JULIE

Kick his ass!

SUE

Fight!

LEO

Everyone calm yourselves, there
will be no violence. We are to have
a secret celebration tomorrow.

Weasel gets up quickly and moves away from Leo.

LEO (CONT'D)

Tomorrow we will have fruit after
the service.

JULIE

How? We have no vouchers for fruit.

TOM

I have never had fruit, where is it
coming from?

The crowd starts to talk amongst themselves.

MARIA

It is a gift from God.

LEO

Yes, a gift from God, but the guards cannot know of this or they will take the fruit from us. Do we all agree?

All the members agree with the exception of Weasel, who just stands in the back. Leo walks to Weasel.

LEO (CONT'D)

We must all agree.

WEASEL

I agree.

EXT. BLACK MARKET - NIGHT

It is nightfall and Maria sneaks out of the camp and goes to the black market. Using the facility's back gate that the massive dump trucks use to collect bulk items for recycling, she CRAWLS under the fence and evades the guard's attention as he goes through a checklist with one of the dump truck drivers.

Maria arrives at the black market. She puts the long stained sheet she uses as a veil across her face and ties it behind her head, to become less recognizable. There is nothing unusual about this as others cover their faces too, to avoid being recognized in the market. Tents made of tarp and vinyl, supported by wood or discarded steel poles serve as storefronts for some vendors. Other vendors have their wares spread on old blankets or cast-off stained rugs, or in large baskets and boxes. Dump miners from other welfare facilities can be seen buying leftover food or expired medicines. Facility guards and police officers can also be seen, selling vouchers or exchanging them with goods from other guards.

Later, Maria walks up to a fruit vendor. He has several different types of fruit displayed but all the fruit is old and rotting. Maria looks at the fruits as if each piece is perfect. She picks three apples from an assortment of fruit and the vendor puts them in a dirty paper bag.

MARIA

How much are these apples?

VENDOR

How much do you have?

MARIA

I am not going to just give you all my money. How much are they?

VENDOR

\$5.00 a piece.

MARIA

\$5.00 a piece! That is too much.

The fruit vendor pause with a sigh and motions for Maria to give back the paper bag with the apples.

VENDOR

If you don't like it then go to a Regulated Store. Apples are \$18.00 a piece there.

MARIA

I can't afford that, don't you have anything cheaper?

The vendor looks around and pulls out a small bag out from underneath the counter. Looking around to making sure that no one is looking he lowers his voice and speaks as if he is telling Maria a secret.

VENDOR

I was going to take these apples home for my family but you can have all of them all for five dollars.

Maria looks in the bag and sees several old rotting apples.

MARIA

I will take these.

Maria hands the vendor the ten-dollar bill and he puts it in his pocket and then goes about his business.

MARIA (CONT'D)

You owe me some money back.

VENDOR

What money?

MARIA

You owe me five dollars.

VENDOR

You only gave me a five. Now take a hike or I will call a cop.

Maria starts to SCREAM and everyone in the market looks in her direction.

MARIA
Give me my money!

VENDOR
OK, ok, calm down.

MARIA
Thief! This man is a thief!

The vendor reaches in his pocket and hands her a old five-dollar bill.

VENDOR
Here take it. Just shut up!

MARIA
Thank you.

VENDOR
Don't come back here or I will
report you to the authorities.

MARIA
Don't worry about that.

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Maria leaves with the apples. She HURRIES to get back to the camp in time for the next dump truck collection of recyclable items. If the guards catch her with fruit, there would surely be an investigation and she would surely be found out. It would be hard to explain where she got the money for the fruit, it would be hard to explain why she didn't report it, and the consequences would surely be very grave and probably cost her life.

Maria moves quickly past the black market, keeping to alleys and dark streets, she does not want to take any chances in being seen. She cannot help but smell the apples in the bag; even in their rotting state, they give off a perfume-like aroma.

As Maria walks down a dark deserted alley, with only the faint glow of the moonlight shining on her face. She lifts the bag closer to her face to take full advantage of the wonderful scent.

MARIA
So this is what an apple smells
like.

She says to herself.

The only fruit scents she or the other miners experience are that of their pre-packed "dessert like snacks" given out on holidays at the camp. As she walks, Maria takes an apple from the bag, puts it right under her nose, and takes a big whiff. It smells so good. She raises the apple above her head as if offering it to the gods. The moon approves and shines a dull glimmer on the fruit's spoiled skin. She puts the apple back in the sack and continues.

MARIA (CONT'D)
If I have just one bite of the
apple, no one will notice.

Maria stops and takes a small apple out of the bag and looks at it.

MARIA (CONT'D)
No.

Maria puts the apple back in the sack with the others and continues to walk.

Earlier that night, in another part of Americo, John Walker, the only son of the Reagan Walker, is out with his friends and decides to go slumming. He gets wasted on designer drugs and alcohol. John Walker becomes his obnoxious self again and his friends leave him, especially when he announces that he wants to have his way with a dump miner. Patiently, like a crazed wild animal released from the cage, he waits in an alley for a woman to come by. Any woman will do, for that matter anything he can molest. The mix of AM/PM pills greatly distorts John Walker's sense of reality. While he is on this drug cocktail, life is far better than he could ever imagine. His perspective of what he is, becomes very sharp; he is the future leader of the world. He is truly a king among the human sediment that seeps through the streets. And to spite his father and the Reagan name, and to prove to himself and to Americo that he is untouchable, John Walker has committed every crime conceivable.

Maria hurries from the black market back to Resource Facility 4499 with all the food she has bought with the found money. She cannot help but feel triumphant in getting such a great deal with the apples, and still have some money left in the process. Temptation almost takes over Maria, she reaches into the bag and takes an apple. She ponders to herself if she should eat the apple or wait to share it with the rest of the miners. She has never had an apple before. She keeps taking out an apple and looking at it, smelling it and contemplating on eating it, and then putting it back in the bag. As she walks, she keeps opening the plastic bag to look at the apples. Taking one out now and again and smelling it.

She is so preoccupied with the fruit that she does not notice the dark figure in the shadows of the alleyway. It is John Walker, the Reagan Walker's only son, who hides in the dark.

No longer in control of her will, Maria stops and takes an apple from the bag, smells it slowly and then takes a bite. The sharply rancid juice from the rotting fruit drips down her chin as she chews it very slowly. It is the most wonderful thing she has ever tasted. She starts to take another bite. The almost soft crunchiness of the fruit makes her close her eyes and she surrenders herself to the euphoric experience. Just then, the shadow reaches out of the alleyway, grabs her and pulls her in. As Maria takes another bite of the apple, John Walker EXPLODES FROM THE ALLEY AND GRABS MARIA FROM BEHIND. Startled out of her bliss, Maria does not even see his face; John Walker throws her to the ground. When Maria hits the unpaved alley, the bag rips and the fruits spill everywhere. Instead of fearing for her life and thwarting her attacker, she concerns herself more with the spilled fruits. In the dark, she grabs for the spilled fruits and yells.

MARIA (CONT'D)

Oh my god!

John Walker moves around behind her, he raises his fist into the air and yells.

JOHN WALKER

I am your God!

With that said, the future leader of Americo THRISTS HIS CLINCHED FIST into in the back of Maria's head. Maria falls face first flat on the deserted alleyway. Her head HITS the cement with a dull thud, it BOUNCES once and then comes to rest. A small TRICKLE OF BLOOD flows on to the sidewalk, the crimson color REFLECTED by the moonlight. Maria's world fades black.

INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

NURSE

Can you hear me? Hello, anyone in there?

Maria regains consciousness in the emergency room. There are two police officers standing next to her and a nurse shining a light in her eyes trying to get her attention. Maria slowly becomes aware of her surroundings.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Can you hear me? Hello?

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Is she going to come out of it?

POLICE OFFICER TWO
Is this going to take much longer?
We are supposed to be taking lunch
soon.

Maria starts to come around.

NURSE
Can you hear me?

MARIA
Yes.

NURSE
Do you have an insurance voucher?

MARIA
Ummm, no.

NURSE
She is fine.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
What happened to you?

MARIA
I don't remember.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Were you attacked?

MARIA
I don't remember.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
Do you remember anything?

MARIA
I heard the word "god".

POLICE OFFICER ONE
What?

MARIA
Yes, I heard someone say "god".

POLICE OFFICER TWO
So you think god beat you?

Maria just stares at the police, confused from what has happened. These officers have heard all kinds of stories in their days which causes them to give Maria the same respect.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
We better put out an APB for god.
This deity could be anywhere.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
Shut up.

He turns back to Maria stares at her for a moment and continues.

POLICE OFFICER TWO (CONT'D)
What do you mean? You heard someone
say god?

Maria's thoughts drift to the apples and the money and she become conscious that the bag is no where to be seen.

MARIA
Where are my apples?

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Maybe god stole them.

MARIA
My money!

Maria grabs to at her clothing to check and see if she still had the five dollars.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
What money?

Maria fiddles around in her pocket and feels the five dollars.

MARIA
Nothing.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
You have money?

MARIA
Ahhh... I... ahhh... no... I...

The nurse overhears the conversation and returns to Maria's side.

NURSE
Do you have a medical voucher?

MARIA
Where is the fruit?

NURSE
What fruit?

MARIA
I had a bag of apples.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Where did you get apples?

Maria, awakening from her unconscious state finally starts to become aware of the police behind her for the first time.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
Where did you get money for fruit?
Well?

Maria looks at them, puts her head down and does not answer; the nurse cuts in.

NURSE
Hey miner, Do... You... Have... Any...
Medical... Vouchers?

MARIA
No, I don't have my journal with
me.

The nurse looks at the two police officers.

NURSE
I have wasted enough time on this
one. Please escort her out when you
leave.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
You got it.

The nurse walks away.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Where you attacked?

MARIA
I don't remember.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
What do you remember?

MARIA
A voice.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Who's voice?

MARIA (STOPS AND THINKS TO HERSELF)
I think it was...

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Well come on.

MARIA
god, I think it was god.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Come on lady, we don't have time
for this. Who hit you?

MARIA
It was god.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
God hit you, maybe God took your
fruit?

POLICE OFFICER TWO
Oh, this is not going to be worth
the paperwork. Let's get something
to eat. Maybe this girl can get God
to give us some donuts.

The Police officer pretends looks to the sky ALMOST LAUGHING
to himself in mock prayer he blurts out.

POLICE OFFICER TWO (CONT'D)
Hey god, a dozen jelly-filled.
Pleasssse.

POLICE OFFICER ONE
Stop goofing around, let's go.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
You can find your way home, right?

MARIA
I don't know where I am.

POLICE OFFICER TWO
Well then, it's settled, off you
go.

The Police officers turn and leave. Maria gathers herself and
exits the hospital in a rush.

INT. BARRACKS - SUNRISE

Maria is able to sneak past the guards and returns to the barracks from the hospital, beaten and confused. She cannot take her PM because she will miss almost three-quarters of the day if she does. The other miners lie asleep in their beds, their PM pill will not wear off for another few hours. Maria has no choice except to wait until the morning and take the AM pill like planned.

Maria lies in her bed and goes over what has happened to her that night. The words "I am your god" swim in her head. The lack of food, sleep, and an over abundance of toxins in the air cause her to hallucinate. The violence of the night mixed with the joy of finding the ten dollars in the dump starts to confuse her. Maria slowly fades in and out of consciousness from the sheer exhaustion of what happened during the night and from the concussion she received when her head hit the ground. Her hallucinations guide her to a trusting sweet voice saying "I am your god," that slowly melts together with revelry and the words "Maria, can you hear me?" The revelry is a bittersweet sound in the back of her dreams. "I am your god. Maria, can you hear me. I am your god." Maria comes out of her stupor slowly. Everyone that lives with her in the makeshift shack is standing around her. A fuzzy outline of a face comes into view.

MARIA (SAYS WITH A CRACK IN HER
THROAT)

Lord, is that you?

The form comes into view; it is Leo standing over her. Maria slowly regains consciousness, and notices a crowd of people around her. The question is; where is the food?

LEO

Maria, what happened? Are you
alright?

JACK

Did you get the fruit?

SARAH

Don't play games Maria, where is
the fruit, I have never seen an
apple up close.

ROGER

Maria did you eat everything? Where
is the fruit?

DAZED, Maria pulls herself to her feet and FALLS to the ground.

MARIA
I don't know what happened. It is
all a haze.

Leo GRABS her face and looks in her glazed eyes.

LEO
Maria, try to remember what
happened.

MARIA
I don't know, I don't know.

Maria starts to weep.

SARAH
Where you attacked?

JACK
Were you robbed?

ROGER
What happened?

The group starts demanding to know about the fruit they were
promised.

MARIA
I don't know.

WEASEL
No, no, no, no! No! No! Maria ate
the food, and now we have none!

He runs out the door, Maria starts to follow but Leo grabs
her arm.

LEO
Let him go, he will cool off.

Maria starts to weep

MARIA
No, Leo he won't, he will run right
to the Bishop. Let go of my arm.

Maria wrestles out of Leo's grip and runs out to the shared
yard. She sees Weasel running towards the direction of the
Bishop's office. Realizing that she can't catch him in time,
she falls to her knees and begins to cry. Leo comes out of
the quarters, followed by others. Leo kneels next to Maria.
The group from the barracks follows.

Leo looks at the group and states

LEO

We all need to go to mass or we
will be docked for the day.

Maria returns to her bunk and starts crying. This was too much trauma for one person to be able to put into coherent words. Maria can think of nothing else to do but cry. The rest of the miners exit the barracks and make their way to The Church located at the center of the compound.

LEO (CONT'D)

Come, Maria. We need to go to mass.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The miners enter The Church one by one and take their seats in the pews and wait for mass to start. Leo and Maria make their way to their seats. A loud organ plays in the background with music that is toneless and wearisome to listen to. Weasel comes in last, limping. He sits across from Maria and Leo and looks at them with contempt. Maria looks at Leo.

LEO

They cannot hurt you here. Let us
pray.

The droning music stops. The precession music starts, five altar boys enter followed by Bishop Lamb. They walk to the Altar and proceed with the rituals of the mass. Bishop Lamb looks directly at Maria as the organ music comes to a slow stop. Bishop Lamb starts his sermon staring directly at Maria.

BISHOP LAMB

Thief!

Maria looks shocked, knowing that Weasel has told the Bishop about the money and what she had done.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

You are a thief!

Bishop Lamb pauses and Maria starts to cry. Leo grabs her hand and squeezes it. Bishop Lamb looks at the entire crowd and continues.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

You have all stolen from the Lord.
You are all thieves; you steal
God's love and offer nothing back...

Maria looks at Leo and breaths a heavy sigh. The mass continues as usual. At the end of the mass, Leo and Maria try to exit The Church and are greeted by two guards.

GUARD

The Bishop wants to see you in his office.

They take Maria by the arm and lead her to the office, Leo follows.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE -DAY

When they arrive in the office, Weasel is there as well. The Bishop looks at Leo.

BISHOP LAMB

Leo? I did not call for you. Why are you here? Leave.

LEO

No! She is the woman I am going to have a son with, I will stand by her side.

BISHOP LAMB

No bother, stay. Maria, did you find a ten-dollar bill in the dump mines yesterday?

WEASEL

Admit it!

BISHOP LAMB

Weasel; please hold your tongue or I will have a guard hold it for you.

MARIA

No Bishop, I found a five-dollar bill yesterday.

BISHOP LAMB

Where is it!

Maria QUICKLY pulls the bill out of here pocket and hands it to him. The Bishop looks at it.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Are you sure it was not ten?

MARIA

No, only five dollars.

BISHOP LAMB
Will you swear on the B.I.B.L.E.?

LEO
This is not necessary, you have the money.

BISHOP LAMB
Guards, restrain this miner, and if he says another word cut out his tongue.

The guards grab Leo. Leo just stands and watches knowing it is out of his hands.

Deep in Maria's womb the unborn daughter of Maria and John Walker grows.

Bishop Lamb holds out the mechanical B.I.B.L.E. and a trembling Maria places her right hand upon it.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Swear to me that you found only five dollars and nothing will happen. The B.I.B.L.E. will bring salvation one way or another.

Maria places her shaking hand on the B.I.B.L.E..

MARIA
I gave you five dollars.

BISHOP LAMB
That was not the question.

MARIA
Dear Lord, please forgive me.

BISHOP LAMB
I ask you again, did you find ten dollars?

MARIA
No, it was only five.

LEO
Noooo!!!

Maria closes her eyes but nothing happens. The Bishop, Weasel, and Leo are all somewhat shocked.

LEO (IN A DEMANDING VOICE) (CONT'D)
Can we leave now?

One of the guards strikes Leo across the back with his baton.

GUARD

Quiet!

There is a moment of silence. If she was lying, the B.I.B.L.E. would have surely taken the sinner to hell, but the B.I.B.L.E. cannot take an innocents life. The unborn child in Maria was the only person in the room that was truly innocent. The Bishop slowly turns and walks to his desk. Everyone in the room is stunned and silent.

BISHOP

Well, it seems you have not lied, so why didn't you turn this in at a station?

MARIA

Thieves. There are thieves everywhere. Like in your sermon today. And I was hoping there might be a reward if I turned it in.

BISHOP LAMB

A reward? There is no reward for not turning The Churches property over to The Church. Although you did not lie, your reward is that you will not be punished.

LEO

The B.I.B.L.E. has cleared her name, now may we leave?

BISHOP LAMB

Leo, you are lucky you still carry some privilege from The Church or I would make you swear on the B.I.B.L.E. as well. Now get out.

LEO

You unholy...

Leo mumbles under his breath and then turns to leave with Maria. Bishop Lamb hears the comment and stops them.

BISHOP LAMB

One moment.

The Bishop turns and picks up a small package.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Leo, this arrived for you today, it is your seed.

LEO
Thank God. When is the scheduled
insemination?

BISHOP LAMB
Your punishment for being so
insolent is this " it is not
going to be injected in your whore.

The Bishop throws the package to the ground and steps on it,
completely destroying the contents. Inside the package, the
muffled sound of a glass vial can be heard as it shatters.

Bishop Lamb turns and walks to his desk. Leo falls to his
knees screaming.

LEO
Nooo! What have you done!

Leo stands up and starts to charge the Bishop. The guards
grab Leo, subdue him and drag him out of the building. Maria
follows crying and trying to help Leo.

WEASEL (TO THE BISHOP)
So, is there a reward?

BISHOP LAMB
Out!

Weasel turns and runs out.

The guards throw Leo out of the building and he falls
weeping, insanely crying. Maria tries to comfort him but to
no avail.

EXT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION - DAY

MARIA
It must not have been God's will.

Leo looking into the sky starts to scream.

LEO
Why do you mock me! Why do you come
to me only to mock me!

Weasel walks past Leo and Maria.

WEASEL
I don't know how you fooled the
B.I.B.L.E., but you still have me
to deal with.
(MORE)

WEASEL (CONT'D)

You better watch your backs in the barracks tonight. I always get mine.

Leo's sorrow quickly turns to rage. He springs to his feet with vengeance in his heart and hatred in his eyes, and approaches Weasel.

WEASEL (CONT'D)

Don't look at me like that. You brought this upon yourself.

Weasel realizes that he is in trouble and starts to run. He is at a disadvantage since Leo can run faster. Leo chases after him screaming. Weasel knows that he must get away but has no allies in the camps. Weasel has hurt everyone he has met in his life one way or another. He runs to a guard.

WEASEL (CONT'D)

Help me!

GUARD

I'm on break.

WEASEL

What are you doing! You can't do this.

LEO

According to the first commandment, paragraph 8, subsection 7, I can do this.

And Leo hits him again this time so hard that Leo loses his balance and falls to the ground as well. Weasel staggers and falls to the ground at the feet of another guard who is positioned at the gate of the compound. The guard just looks at him. Maria tries to hold Leo back.

WEASEL

You have to help me.

GUARD

Aren't you the one that turned me in to the Bishop for smoking during work?

Leo pushes Maria away and she stumbles backwards. Leo picks up a large rock from the compound's ground and stands up. Breathing intensely, he walks towards Weasel. Weasel looks at the guard and pleads.

WEASEL

I am sorry, please help me!

GUARD

With what? I see nothing wrong here.

The guard turns away and lights a cigarette. Weasel backs up to the gate and cowers.

WEASEL

Please, no.

Leo walks past the guard and raises the stone above his head and screams.

LEO

He without sin cast the first stone.

The stone strikes Weasel's head with all of Leo's rage. Blood splatters everywhere. Leo falls to his knees and weeps as Maria just stands and stares in shock from what has happened. The guard looks at Weasel on the ground and at Leo who walks away. No one seems to care. Weasel is dead.

EXT. FORREST - DAY

It is late afternoon in the middle of a marsh like forest. A low-lying fog covers the ground, still wet from the rainfall earlier in the day. Other than the sound of an occasional bird, making its nest in one of the nearby trees, only the tall grasses and cattails make murmuring sounds.

The peaceful serenade is broken with the arrival of determined steps SQUISHING through the moist forest floor. Today, the supreme Reagan Walker and his son John Walker are out in the woods on a hunting trip. These yearly trips have been a Walker family tradition for generations. Several secret service agents stand guard around them.

JOHN WALKER (RAISING HIS RIFLE AND
PRETENDING TO SHOOT IN THE AIR)

This is so boring. Do we have to stay out here all day?

REAGAN WALKER

Just until necessary.

JOHN WALKER

What does that mean? And why did you force me to go on this stupid hunting trip? I could be out with my friends.

REAGAN WALKER

Your so-called cohorts are nothing more than leaches.

JOHN WALKER

Well, at least they are there when I need them, unlike you.

REAGAN WALKER

Watch your tongue.

The Reagan Walker looks at his son intently. Other than the fact that they have at least thirty years between them, his son is indeed his spitting image. They both have ashen blonde hair, his carefully parted to one side, and his son's, much longer and tousled in the wind. They both have steel blue eyes, a "gift" from the Walker lineage. They both have high cheekbones, aquiline noses, and thin lips. Their broad foreheads denote the wisdom passed down from generations; and their almost square faces have strong jawlines, commanding respect. But that's where the comparison stops. While he has a broad shoulder, his son's are weak and narrow. While his gait is always military-like, his son's are languid and feeble. Wearing the signet ring which bears the Reagan coat of arms, he always dresses in the Reagan tradition of formality and decorum. His son, however, chooses to garb himself entirely different, and as such, has been looked down upon by the Ultra Republicans, much to the shame of Americo.

JOHN WALKER

Let's get the hell out of here. If you want to do something together, let's go to a club. It could be fun.

REAGAN WALKER (TO HIS SECRET SERVICE MEN)

Would you please give us some private time? I would like to talk to my son alone for a moment.

SECRET SERVICE

Where would you like us to be?

REAGAN WALKER

We will meet you back at the camp. Just meet us there. I think this trip will soon be over.

The secret service agents start to walk back to the camp.

JOHN WALKER

Man, I thought they would never leave.

John Walker pulls a small vial out of his coat pocket and sniffs it. The Reagan Walker slaps it from his hand.

REAGAN WALKER
What the hell do you think you're doing?

JOHN WALKER
The same thing I do every night.

REAGAN WALKER
Where did you get that?

JOHN WALKER
Your private stash, where else? Was I supposed to offer it to you first?

Reagan Walker hangs his head and slowly raises it.

REAGAN WALKER
Do you realize how important your place in society is?

JOHN WALKER
Duh. I am the son of the C.E.O. of the World.

REAGAN WALKER
And what does that mean to you.

JOHN WALKER
I am bullet proof, what else? I am untouchable. I can do what ever I want; I get whatever I want; I am god. Damn that is good shit.

Reagan Walker slaps his son across the face.

JOHN WALKER (CONT'D)
Hey!

REAGAN WALKER
Look at me, a great responsibility comes with being Reagan and when I am gone you will have to carry on the legacy.

JOHN WALKER
I am ready.

REAGAN WALKER
I don't think you are.

With that the Reagan Walker points his rifle at his son.

JOHN WALKER

Stop joking around. Come on dad,
what are you doing?

REAGAN WALKER

This is too important; I have to
know that you are willing to
change. Are you willing to rise to
the position and be the man I know
you can be? Are you man enough to
do what has to be done!

John Walker quickly raises his rifle and points it at his
father, the Reagan Walker, and pulls the trigger. CLICK, no
bullets.

REAGAN WALKER (CONT'D)

Did you think I was going to put
live ammo in a drug addict's gun?
Goodbye, John. I love you; I wish
you could have made me proud.

The Reagan's secret service men are almost near the camp when
they suddenly hear a LOUD BANG. It is a gunshot. The secret
service men stop in their tracks, turn and rush back. They
find the Reagan standing over his dead son. The Reagan looks
at them. His face shows no emotion.

REAGAN WALKER (CONT'D)

Hunting accident. Call for air
support.

INT. - CONFESSIONAL - DAY

The dump miners wait their turn for the monthly confession in
a long straight line. One by one, with their heads bowed,
they wait outside the confessional. A door opens and as one
miner exits, the next in line, Maria, walks up to the trough.
The Bishop sits in a velvet chair behind a splatter guard. In
front of the Bishop is a panel with three lights colored
green, red, and yellow, much like a traffic light. Maria
walks up to the trough, lifts her clothing and urinates into
the receptacle. The light changes yellow and flashes.

BISHOP LAMB

Are you not feeling well?

MARIA

I am fine, your Holiness.

BISHOP LAMB
Stop by the infirmary and have a
scan done.

MARIA
Yes, your Holiness.

Maria exits and another miner enters and drops his pants and starts to urinate. The light turns greens and he leaves, the next miner walks in.

INT. INFIRMARY - DAY

Maria shows up at the infirmary. She walks up the desk to Bill who is the technician on duty.

MARIA
I need to have a scan done. The
Bishop sent me.

Bill picks up a thick paddle with a hand print on it.

BILL
Place your hand on the outline.

Maria places her hand on the paddle. Bill looks at a monitor and reads from it.

BILL (CONT'D)
You are actually doing pretty well.
Here is why the light was yellow,
you are pregnant.

MARIA
That is impossible!

BILL
Well, let's do the scan again.

Again, Maria places her hand on the paddle. Bill looks at the screen.

BILL (CONT'D)
This confirms it. Your record
states that you have been approved
for a child. Is this unexpected?

MARIA
Oh my, yes.

Maria stands motionless and stunned with one hand over her mouth.

MARIA (CONT'D)
You are sure?

BILL
Yes.

Maria starts to CRY AND LAUGH at the same time.

BILL (CONT'D)
Are you all right?

MARIA
Yes.

BILL
So this is good news?

MARIA
Yes. Yes. Oh Yes! It is a miracle!

Maria turns and exits the infirmary. She RUNS back to Leo.

INT. BARRACKS - DAY

MARIA
It is the miracle you asked for.

LEO
What is that?

MARIA
I am pregnant.

Leo stands and stares at Maria.

LEO
Maria, are you sure you did not
have intercourse with someone else?
I would understand if you did.

MARIA
No Leo, I have never been with any
man. I have been by your side every
conscious and unconscious moment.

LEO
Don't lie to me!

Maria starts to cry.

MARIA
No Leo, it is a miracle.

LEO
Don't mock my pain Maria!

MARIA
Leo think. Why would I do this
with? God must have touched me that
night. "I am your God" that is what
the voice said; "I am your God." We
prayed for a sign, this is a sign.

Leo stares at her for a moment. And then drops to his knees.

LEO
Father, thank you, for answering
our prayers; thank you for sending
us our messiah. Amen.

Leo looks up at Maria.

LEO (CONT'D)
That must be it. He has answered my
prayers it must be the second
coming. Yes, the second coming from
the depths of the bottom. The meek
will inherit the earth.

Leo starts to jump around the room. He runs over, grabs
Maria, and hugs her.

LEO (CONT'D)
Maria, he will deliver us from
evil.

Two guards enter.

GUARD
Maria, the Bishop wants to see you.
Let's go.

Leo starts to follow but one of the guard stops him.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Where do you think you're going?

LEO
With my wife and child.

Maria smiles at Leo as the guard nods his head in
frustration, then looking at his partner the guard speaks.

GUARD
It is not worth trying to figure
out what he means, just let him
come along.

The guards escort the two back to the Bishop's quarters.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION - DAY

Bishop Lamb is laying on a chaise lounge, eating a large perfect apple; he barely acknowledges anyone's presence but his own.

BISHOP LAMB

So Maria. How is it that you are pregnant?

MARIA

It is an act of God.

LEO

It is the second coming. You did this to yourself and your kind when you threw me in this hole.

BISHOP LAMB

Shut up, you blithering, egocentric, pathetic, and might I add a smelly man. No one cares about what you think, not anymore.

LEO

It is true!

BISHOP LAMB

Not very likely, Leo. It seems a more plausible answer would be your Madonna is a whore.

Bishop Lamb starts to laugh to himself.

BISHOP LAMB (UNDER HIS BREATH) (CONT'D)

Your Madonna is a whore; that is so funny... Leo, you are not laughing.

Leo becomes ENRAGED with the comment and CHARGES Bishop Lamb. The guards move quickly and grab him before he can get anywhere near the Bishop. One of the guards unsheathes his nightstick and repeatedly strikes Leo across the back.

MARIA

Stop!

Maria rushes to help Leo, she raises her hand and strikes a guard. Another guard intercepts Maria's attack with a blow to her ribs with his club. Maria falls to the ground. Seeing this, Leo stops fighting with the guard and starts to CRY SHAMELESSLY.

LEO
No! Oh, my Lord! No!

Leo falls limp in the guard's arms weeping; the guard drops him. Maria rolls in pain on the floor. Leo crawls to her and holds her as he weeps.

BISHOP LAMB
Get these two out of here.

GUARD
Your holiness, she looks pretty bad, maybe she should go to the infirmary?

BISHOP LAMB
Fine, I am going to hold you responsible for the vouchers. And while they are there have the lab run DNA matches to see whose bastard this girl is really carrying.

GUARD
Yes, your holiness.

The guards escort Maria and Leo to their truck to take them to the infirmary. Maria tries to hold Leo's hand but Leo is too preoccupied with his own rage.

INT. COMPOUND - DAY

MARIA
We have no vouchers.

GUARD ONE
What about him?

LEO
Neither of us have any vouchers.

GUARD ONE
Well, I'm glad I'm not the one that has to cover the tab.

GUARD TWO
Oh, come on man, let's split it.

GUARD ONE
No way!

GUARD TWO
Why not?

GUARD ONE

I need them.

GUARD TWO

For what? How many did you use last year?

GUARD ONE

Three.

GUARD TWO

So what did you do with the rest?

GUARD ONE

Sold them on the black market.

GUARD TWO

What do you get for them if they are expired?

GUARD ONE

Before they expire, you go to the black market. Usually right before Christmas, you get the best deals and you can trade for gifts for the family or food.

Guard Two looks at Maria and Leo then back at the Guard One.

GUARD TWO

Bring me with you next time.

GUARD ONE

You got it.

They drive off to the infirmary.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - DAY

An altar boy arrives with records about Maria's pregnancy. The bishop takes them and opens the packet, pulls out a long strip; looks at it slowly and speaks to himself.

BISHOP LAMB

All right, let's see who is the father of this young soul.

The Bishop picks up his B.I.B.L.E. and slides the strip into the side like a disk into a computer. The cover of the tablet displays the information almost instantaneously. The images are of DNA strands with names next to them.

He taps the images of the DNA with his middle finger. The screen converts and displays a picture of Maria and John Walker. The word "deceased" is prominently displayed below John Walker's picture.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
This must be broken. (He looks at
the B.I.B.L.E. and says
whimsically) Reboot.

The same images come up. The Bishop picks up his phone and speaks.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Lab.

BILL
This is the lab.

BISHOP LAMB
I just received the records you
sent, how accurate are these?

BILL
It is a 99.9% match.

BISHOP LAMB
Really? Do you still have the
cultures?

BILL
Yes, they are on file.

BISHOP LAMB
Test them again and make it your
priority. How long do you expect
this to take?

BILL
I am doing it now and... I have the
same results. I would safely say
that you have the names of the
mother and father.

BISHOP LAMB
Bless you.

The Bishop takes a long pause.

BILL
Excuse me, your holiness, is there
something else that you need?

BISHOP LAMB

Oh... ah... no. I will call if I need
you. Bless you.

Bishop Lamb looks out of his window. In the distance, he sees Maria and Leo making their way back to their barracks, celebrating the miraculous and seemly impossible conception.

EXT. COMPOUND - DAY

LEO

Maria, this is wonderful. A
miracle!

MARIA

I am so happy as well.

LEO

He is coming. He will smite my
enemies and deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Leo looks at Maria.

MARIA

Amen.

Maria and Leo continue to the barracks and start to spread the news to the other miners. Bishop Lamb turns his chair back to his desk picks up his phone and dials.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - DAY

BISHOP LAMB

I would like to speak to the Reagan
Walker please... I am sending some
data for him to review; I believe
that his life depends on it. Yes, I
will wait...

Bishop Lamb feed the DNA strip into a slot on the phone. The Reagan picks up the line.

REAGAN WALKER

Who is this?

BISHOP LAMB

Reagan Walker, I am Bishop Lamb of
the Americo Resource and Welfare
Facility 4499. And I have a miner
here that has come to my steps with
the news of a beautiful new soul.

REAGAN WALKER

What does that have to do with me?

BISHOP LAMB

Didn't you look at the DNA strip?

REAGAN WALKER

Yes.

BISHOP LAMB

Then it is obvious. Dear Reagan Walker, please don't be confused; I don't want to extort anything from you, I just want riches, good food, and luxury, nothing more.

REAGAN WALKER

That is extortion.

BISHOP LAMB

Whatever.

REAGAN WALKER

Meet my assistant at the "Ground Zero" monument in two hours and bring everything with you.

Bishop Lamb hurries to the monument to meet with his destiny. Reagan Walker's assistant meets him as planned and escorts him to the Reagan in a secure hidden room deep within the monument. The guards leave the Bishop and the Reagan inside the protected room and secure the room from outside.

INT. GROUND ZERO MONUMENT - DAY

REAGAN WALKER

Did you bring everything?

BISHOP LAMB

Not even a hello?

REAGAN WALKER

Don't fuck with me. Let me see the DNA strip.

The Bishop inserts the DNA strip in his B.I.B.L.E., taps the cover and hands it to Reagan Walker. The Reagan looks at the B.I.B.L.E.; he looks at his picture first then his eyes drift to the picture of Maria and the Reagan Walker pauses. He hears his son's voice in his head. "I am god. I can do what ever I want." The Reagan breaths a heavy sign, takes the strip from the B.I.B.L.E. and puts it in his pocket.

REAGAN WALKER (CONT'D)
Is this the only strip?

BISHOP LAMB
Of course not, I have back-ups in
the central database at the
compound.

REAGAN WALKER
What do you want?

BISHOP LAMB
Heaven. I want to be sponsored into
heaven.

REAGAN WALKER
Done. But if I ever hear your name
or of any of this again, that will
be your last confession.

The Bishop returns to the facility and immediately makes
arrangements to conceal the records of the father of Maria's
child. Bishop Lamb calls the lab technician into his office.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S OFFICE - DAY

BISHOP LAMB
Bill, how long have you worked in
the lab?

BILL
For about five years now. I enjoy
the opportunity to be employed by
Americo.

BISHOP LAMB
What if I told you that you could
retire, oh, let's say in a week.

BILL
How could I do that?

BISHOP LAMB
I need you to change some
information for me in the main
database.

BILL
Your holiness, that is a big deal,
morally and ethically.

BISHOP LAMB

But can you do it? That is the question.

BILL

If you're asking if it's possible to change the files, the answer is yes, but it is not permanent.

BISHOP LAMB

Why?

BILL

The records would need to be refreshed, say if there was a change in Reaganship.

BISHOP LAMB

Go on.

BILL

It is highly unlikely, but since the death of the Reagan Walker's son, if something were to happen to the Reagan Walker, a new Reagan would need to be elected and a DNA refresh would be called for to find the closest heir within seven degrees of separation.

BISHOP LAMB

Yes, right, that is correct.

BILL

But what are the odds of that happening? Nobody would probably find out.

BISHOP LAMB

My child, what if I told you that I can make it that you never have to work again.

BILL

I am listening.

BISHOP LAMB

I have a Grand Cayman bank account with roughly six million dollars in it. If you do this you can have it. I am not going to need it where I am going.

BILL
Six million, I could buy a house.
What do you need done?

BISHOP LAMB
I need you to change the results of
the DNA test for the dump miner
Maria.

BILL
That's it?

BISHOP LAMB
Yes.

BILL
Who is the lucky father of the
child?

BISHOP LAMB
There was a miner that was taken
from us about a month back, he had
a name like, ferret, or...

BILL
Weasel?

BISHOP LAMB
Yes, Weasel, that's him, make it
look like he is the father.

BILL
Can I ask why?

BISHOP LAMB
No. When it is done I will release
the funds to your account. You can
leave now.

Bill leaves the Bishop's office and returns to the lab to
start on his task. Soon after Bill exits, Bishop Lamb
receives a phone call from the Reagan.

REAGAN WALKER
Bishop Lamb.

BISHOP LAMB
The honorable Reagan Walker.

REAGAN WALKER
Arrangements have been made. They
are waiting for you in France. Did
you cover your end?

BISHOP LAMB

Yes, the new father is a dead miner.

REAGAN WALKER

I don't want to know who it is. There is no way that this can be tracked back to me?

BISHOP LAMB

Not in your lifetime.

REAGAN WALKER

I will have a car pick you up to bring you to the airport; tickets will be waiting. And don't ever contact me again.

Reagan Walker hangs up. On the Bishops B.I.B.L.E., there comes a message. An electronic voice from his computer announces "You have mail." The Bishop taps the face of the tablet and it is an e-mail from Heaven letting him know of his arrangements. The Bishop quickly scrambles to call the lab to see if the job is done, another lab technician answers the line.

BISHOP LAMB

Bill?

TED

Your holiness, this is Ted.

BISHOP LAMB

Well, find Technician Bill!

Ted finds Bill in another part of the lab, just as Bill hits the delete button. Bill is startled.

BILL

Hey, Ted. What can I do for you?

TED

What are you doing?

BILL

Ah, routine maintenance. What do you want?

TED

The Bishop is trying to get a hold of you.

BILL

Thanks.

Bill calls the Bishop while Ted hangs around and tries to find out what is happening.

BISHOP LAMB
This is Bishop Lamb.

Bill notices that Ted is within hearing distance, he lowers the phone and stares at Ted for a second before speaking.

BILL
Ted, I'm talking to the Bishop, get out of here.

Ted leaves the room SUSPICIOUSLY eyeing Bill. Bill just smiles and waits for the door to shut behind Ted before he continues his conversation.

BILL (CONT'D)
You called for me, your holiness.

BISHOP LAMB
Did you complete your task?

BILL
Almost.

BISHOP LAMB
Almost is not good enough.

Bill hits the delete button one more time.

BILL
Yes, it is done riiiiiiight...now.

BISHOP LAMB
Then like we agreed.

Bishop Lamb strikes some keys on his B.I.B.L.E. A green light flashes three times.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Almost done. Do you know of a quite place where we could meet? I will give you the account information then. Where shall I meet you?

BILL
The incinerator. I can meet you at the incinerator.

BISHOP LAMB
I will be there in fifteen minutes. Make sure no one follows you.

INT. LAB - DAY

Bill hangs up the phone and turns to finish his job. Ted returns.

TED

What the hell is going on? Why are you and the Bishop speaking in code, and what the hell are you doing with the records? You are screwing with our jobs. What where you doing?

BILL

Fuck you man, I don't need this shit.

Bill turns off his machine.

BILL (CONT'D)

I am out of here.

TED

What?

BILL

I have to meet the Bishop; later days buddy.

Bill exits and Ted just stands there with his jaw open.

INT. INCINERATOR - DAY

Bill walks down a long hallway to the incinerator room and waits for Bishop Lamb to arrive. Bill waits patiently, standing in front of a gothic pit of fire deep in the floor of the ground that is the facility's incinerator. The incinerator is an open pit with hot lava-like matter swirling in its belly. SWEAT DRIPS FROM BILL'S HEAD. Carts carrying waste run along a track and dump unusable waste into the pit. Small puffs of smoke emerge with each cart that is emptied. The Bishop enters and approaches him.

BISHOP LAMB

Did you take care of the matter?

BILL

Just as you requested.

BISHOP LAMB

And nobody witnessed this act?

BILL
Nobody is the wiser.

BISHOP LAMB
Good. Then as we agreed, I would
move the funds into an account,
they should be available for you
tonight.

BILL
About that.

BISHOP LAMB
About what?

BILL
If this is so important, then maybe
I should...

BISHOP LAMB
You should what?

BILL
Get more. Surely you have a few
more dollars stashed away that you
can spare. Six million will barely
cover the cost of a small cottage.

Bishop Lamb walks closer to him. The heat of the incinerator
is now making them both sweat.

BISHOP LAMB
You do not think my offer is
generous enough?

BILL
I am just saying...

BISHOP LAMB
You are going to extort a man of my
stature?

Bishop Lamb slowly advances towards Bill. A nervous Bill
backs up, not noticing the conveyor belt behind him that
brings the carts to the incinerator.

BILL
I am just saying that...

With those words, Bishop Lamb lunges at Bill and pushes him
into a cart. Bill sloshes around in the toxic muck that is
being delivered to the pit.

Bill struggles to get out of the cart but cannot get a foothold in the toxic goop that fills the cart. The more Bill struggles, the more he keeps slipping back in.

BILL (CHOKING IN THE SLUDGE) (CONT'D)

Help me!

Bishop Lamb just watches. As Bill gets closer to the pit, he starts to SCREAM, the heat of the incinerator is intense and his body starts to cook before he reaches the end. Bill finally stops screaming and his hair bursts into flames, then his skin starts to melt, the cart finally comes to the slide and dumps his burning body and the boiling waste into the pit and the fires below, the fires consume him quickly. No sound is heard, no crackle of his body, nothing, Bill has been eaten by the fires of the facility. Bishop Lamb stands back and takes a deep breath.

BISHOP LAMB

Forgive me, father, for I have sinned. All better. It is too hot in here and the smell, how do they stand it.

Bishop Lamb retreats from the room.

EXT. DUMPS GATE - DAY

A limousine SPEEDS towards the gates of the Americo Resource and Welfare Facility 4499. The car holds Bishop Magnus, the man that will replace Bishop Lamb as the new chief of the facility. Bishop Magnus is a simple man with simple robes. He joined The Church because of a call to serve man; he takes pleasure in the compassion and empathy he has for his fellow man. His type is rare but not unheard of in The Church.

This car not only is Bishop Magnus's ride into the camp but also Bishop Lamb's escort to Heaven. The driver is Father Templar, a Census Taker for the Church of Americo. As they approach the gate of the facility, Father Templar and Bishop Magnus see Leo on a mound of garbage preaching that the Messiah is coming, that Maria is pregnant. Father Templar directs the car to the front gate of the facility and comes to a stop, a guard walks to the passengers window.

GUARD

What is your business today?

BISHOP MAGNUS

I am the new Facility Chief. I am here to replace the current facilitator Bishop Lamb.

GUARD (LOOKING AT HIS CLIP BOARD)
You have arrived early. Welcome,
your holiness; I will announce your
arrival.

BISHOP MAGNUS (POINTING TO LEO)
Guard, why is that man making such
a ruckus?

The Guard looks at Leo and rolls his eyes.

GUARD
Oh that one, his wife is pregnant
but the kid isn't his and she
convinced him it was an immaculate
conception.

BISHOP MAGNUS
Really?

GUARD
She is a whore.

BISHOP MAGNUS
Is she a whore?

GUARD
Aren't they all?

EXT. BISHOP LAMB'S MANSION - DAY

The Guard backs away from the car and directs Father Templar to continue to the facility's mansion. The limousine pulls to the front entrance of the building. Father Templar leaps from the car and opens the door for the facility's new Bishop. The Bishop steps from the car and is immediately met by an altar boy.

ALTAR BOY
Your holiness, welcome to the
Resource and Welfare Facility 4499,
please follow me, Bishop Lamb was
not expecting you until tomorrow.

BISHOP MAGNUS
Yes, that is true, but plans
change. What is your name son?

ALTAR BOY
Andy.

Bishop Magnus notices the altar boy only wearing a short robe. His face shows his disapproval but he says nothing.

He follows the altar boy up the steps and enters the mansion while Father Templar goes back to the car and waits for his next assignment, to deliver Bishop Lamb to Heaven.

The altar boy leads Bishop Magnus towards Bishop Lamb's room. The door is open and Bishop Magnus can see that Bishop Lamb is preparing for his departure with the assistance of a nun. He also notices that the nun is dressed somewhat like the altar boy, in a revealing manner with nothing more than a short robe as a garment. As the altar boy turns to leave, Bishop Magnus asks him.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Andy?

ALTAR BOY

Yes, your holiness?

BISHOP MAGNUS

Do you have any pants?

ALTAR BOY (WITH A CONFUSED LOOK ON HIS
FACE)

Yes.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Can you please put them on?

ALTAR BOY

But Bishop Lamb said...

BISHOP MAGNUS

Well, things are going to change around here. So now, go put some pants on and please let the others know that I expect them to put something on, other than their robes.

INT. BISHOP LAMB'S ROOM - DAY

Bishop Magnus knocks lightly on Bishop Lamb's open door and then enters. His presence in the room is not noticed. Bishop Lamb has piles of old clothing and robes lying about covering every inch of open space.

BISHOP LAMB (HOLDING UP A VERY
FLAMBOYANT ROBE AND SHOWING IT TO HIS
NUN)

Does this look like Heaven to you?

NUN

It is very beautiful.

BISHOP LAMB

That is not the question. Now listen to me, do you think that this is worthy of bringing to Heaven with me?

NUN (SHRUGGING HER SHOULDERS)

I don't know.

BISHOP LAMB

Why am asking you anyway, you obviously have no fashion taste at all. Here you take it. I am not going to need it anyway. Did you know that Heaven is all-inclusive?

The nun shrugs her shoulders again and Bishop Lamb throws the robe at her.

NUN

Thank you, your holiness.

Bishop Magnus CLEARS HIS THROAT, but to no avail, Bishop Lamb is in a world of his own. Bishop Magnus CLEARS HIS THROAT again, this time VERY LOUDLY. Bishop Lamb and his nun turn abruptly.

BISHOP LAMB

Oh, I didn't know you were here.
You must be Bishop Magnus.

Bishop Lamb stops his packing and walks to the new Bishop and extends his hand.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Yes, it is pleasure to meet you. I have many questions about the operations of the facility that should be addressed as soon as possible.

BISHOP LAMB (SPEAKING WHILE HE PACKS)

Oh, I am sure you will catch right on. There is nothing out of the unusual here to concern you. I have taken care of that.

Bishop Lamb goes back to his packing and holds up another of his many robes towards the new Bishop.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)

Bishop, does this look like it would work for a casual event like brunch with royalty?

BISHOP MAGNUS

I do not concern myself with such thoughts. All your robes look like they are all of the finest quality. I am sure that you would always select the proper garment for the proper event.

Bishop Lamb holds the robe in front of him and BLURTS out.

BISHOP LAMB

Cocktails anyone!

Bishop Lamb laughs to himself as his nun continues stowing items in the open luggage.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Bishop Lamb it is imperative that I'm able to gain the inner works of this facility if I am to be an effective facilitator.

BISHOP LAMB

Oh, you are one of those. Oh yes, well I am done packing anyway; whatever I don't have I am sure that I can just pick up when I get there. I heard they have fabulous shops in Heaven. Have you ever been there?

BISHOP MAGNUS

No. I have never had the pleasure. Bishop Lamb it is imperative that we concentrate on the transfer of responsibilities within the facility.

BISHOP LAMB

Imperative? Imperative!?! Please, the only thing that is imperative for me is leave this abyss of a pothole as quickly as my little tootsies will take me.

BISHOP MAGNUS

I beg your pardon?

BISHOP LAMB (IGNORES BISHOP MAGNUS' CONCERNS AND LEAVES THE ROOM)

Don't beg, it isn't becoming.

Like a cat chasing after the aromatic herb, Bishop Lamb scurries down the steps followed by his nun and a frustrated Bishop Magnus. The nun stumbles behind trying to carry far more of the Bishop's luggage than she can handle.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Hurry now, I don't want to be late.

BISHOP MAGNUS
This is unacceptable.

BISHOP LAMB
Not my problemooooo.

Bishop Magnus stops and watches as Bishop Lamb and the nun rush towards the manor's exit.

EXT. DUMPS COMPOUND - DAY

Bishop Lamb approaches the waiting car and sees Father Templar standing by the open rear passenger door. Bishop Lamb looks at Father Templar and slows his stride. He enters the car while keeping his eyes on Father Templar.

BISHOP LAMB
Have we met before?

FATHER TEMPLAR
No.

BISHOP LAMB
You look very familiar.

Father Templar closes the rear passenger door and takes his place in driver's seat, and looks up at Bishop Lamb from the rear view mirror.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Your holiness, are you ready to be delivered to your destination?

BISHOP LAMB
I have been preparing for this all my life. On to Heaven!

Father Templar continues to look at the Bishop from his rear view mirror, which irritates the Bishop.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Well, what are you waiting for...
lets go? I am a very important man.

Bishop Lamb and Father Templar's EYES LOCK in the reflection of the limo's rearview mirror. Bishop Lamb is sure he has met this Priest before. Bishop Lamb is the first to divert his eyes from this staring contest and thinks to himself. Father Templar looks away from the mirror and puts the car in gear. The car slowly pulls from the front of the mansion, its tires crunching the hot gravel road. Then it starts to come to Bishop Lamb, he slowly remembers where he knows the Priest from, and it is from his reputation throughout The Church and Americo.

BISHOP LAMB (CONT'D)
Ohhh goodness. I wasn't expecting
that such a notable census taker
would be escorting me on my way.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Yes, your holiness.

The limousine picks up at an almost unstoppable speed as it exits the gates of the facility, CXHURNING A CLOUD OF DUST behind its tracks.

INT. CARDINALS' MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Cardinal Superbia calls a emergency meeting to discuss Father Templar's findings.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
What is so important that I had to
be called from my bathing?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
There is a rumor going around the
facilities that a Messiah is
coming.

CARDINAL INVIDIA
I have not heard this. Has any one
else heard of this?

A rumble starts among the other cardinals.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
Father Templar's responsibilities
brought him to a welfare facility
and he mentioned that he heard an
insane man saying that a Messiah is
coming. It was causing quite a
disturbance.

CARDINAL GULA

An insane man, many souls that live
in the facilities have mental
illness. This is nothing new, so
what is your concern?

CARDINAL INVIDIA

I think we should send someone, I
would be more comfortable.

All cardinals agree with him.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

You should send Father Templar. He
is already familiar with the
facility.

All cardinals agree.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

We need to move on to real
business. We need to discuss the
Reagan. He is making this world so
distressing.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

It is true! We are losing profits
every day.

CARDINAL GULA

And it is making us look bad! I
feel fat.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

What can we do about it though?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

He holds more stock than any
Americo corporation combined. The
Walker's will be the Reagan for
years to come.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

But the sad and recent loss of his
only heir. This leaves a lot open
to the imagination.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

But what if he was to pass.

CARDINAL GULA

Of what, he looks good enough to
eat.

CARDINAL IRA

We must eradicate him from our glorious Americo.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

It is the only way, he does not have children now, and he has no other relatives that we know of.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

And with no heir to inherit the Walker estate, The Church would receive all of the Regan's holdings by default.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

Giving The Church the control it needs to get this company back on the path of the righteous.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

But what if there is a sibling or a family member we do not know of?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

We will have to take that chance, what is truly the worst thing that could happen?

CARDINAL ACEDIA

Yes, I agree. They couldn't be worse than John Walker.

CARDINAL IRA

I will handle the arrangements. So this meeting is adjourned?

The Cardinals all agree and go about there regular business.

INT. CARDINALS' MAIN OFFICE - DAY

Cardinal Ira and Father Templar meet in the Cardinal's office.

CARDINAL IRA

I need you to return to Resource and Welfare Facility 4499 and find out what this talk of a Messiah is about.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Why don't you call and have the
facility lab just confirm the
parents?

Seemingly irritated at his response, Cardinal Ira looks at
Father Templar and speaks slowly.

CARDINAL IRA
I need you to go back to the
facility and find out what this
talk of a Messiah is. I do not want
the chief to know why you are
there.

FATHER TEMPLAR
How long should I stay?

Cardinal Ira explodes at Father Templar.

CARDINAL IRA
SHUT UP! Or I will cast you to the
hounds of hell! You stupid piss-ant
of a man! What is wrong with you!?!
You know your job more than I do.
How long have you been a priest?

As quickly as he raises his voice at Father Templar, the
Cardinal breathes deeply and pauses.

CARDINAL IRA (CONT'D)
You have to forgive me, it is my
sin.

There is a pause. Then the Cardinal explodes again. Cardinal
Ira commands Father Templar.

CARDINAL IRA (CONT'D)
Forgive me! Say it!

FATHER TEMPLAR
I forgive you, my holiness. I
forgive you.

CARDINAL IRA
You will stay as long as needed.
Use whatever means necessary to
accomplish this task or squelch
this rumor. I do not want to say it
again. I will call Bishop Magnus.
You have met him before?

FATHER TEMPLAR

Yes, I was his escort when he took over command at the Facility.

CARDINAL IRA

Excellent. Then go under the guise that you are just conducting a random survey of the facility's data. Then find out as much about this as you can and report back.

FATHER TEMPLAR

If I find this Messiah should I bring them back to you, your holiness, or do you have alternative orders?

CARDINAL IRA

You ask too many questions. Just follow protocol, find out what the ruckus is, and let's try to put an end to all this Messiah business.

FATHER TEMPLAR

I will leave immediately.

CARDINAL IRA

Excellent.

INT. LAB - DAY

Father Templar arrives at the Resource and Welfare Facility 4499 and makes his way to the facility Lab.

FATHER TEMPLAR

I am here to survey the database.

TED

Be my guest.

The technician steps to the side and lets Father Templar enter, he sits in front of the monitor and plugs in his B.I.B.L.E.. Numbers and letters scroll past the screen. Suddenly, the scrolling stops and it displays Maria's picture.

FATHER TEMPLAR

There seems to be a flag in the DNA field of one of the Welfare recipients. When was this data refreshed last? Was this data was altered recently?

TED
Last confession. Which recipient is it?

The Father Templar shows Ted his tablet. It is Maria.

TED (CONT'D)
I know her. She has the miners in frenzy.

FATHER TEMPLAR
How?

TED
Those poor saps think that she is carrying the Messiah.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Why do they think she is carrying a Messiah?

TED
The miners believe that it was an immaculate conception, that God touched her.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Artificial Insemination?

TED
No. What I think is that some guy knocked her up and then she made up the story so no one would call her a whore. Due to the law, she can't be tested again until next confession. So the rumor is growing.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Thank you for your time.

INT. BISHOP MAGNUS'S OFFICE - DAY

Father Templar leaves the lab and proceeds to visit Bishop Magnus. When Father Templar enters the Bishop's office, Magnus is behind his desk reprimanding a guard.

BISHOP MAGNUS
They are still people; treat them as such and save the force for when it is necessary. Now get back to your post.

He recognizes the Father Templar.

BISHOP MAGNUS (CONT'D)
My son, please sit. I am afraid my predecessor left rather hastily and left me at a disadvantage.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Your holiness, can you please tell me what these rumors are of a Messiah?

BISHOP MAGNUS
One of the technicians explained to me that there was power surge during confession and some of the data was damaged. We are doing a complete back-up and expect to have clean data by next confession.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Do you know who the father is?

BISHOP MAGNUS
My staff has told me that it was a miner who is back in the womb now. We should have a definitive answer soon enough.

FATHER TEMPLAR
I will have to inform the Cardinals of this.

BISHOP MAGNUS
I understand. Any assistance you require, my staff is at your disposal.

FATHER TEMPLAR
But I will wait, I will return after confession to view the results and if the data is in order then I think we can just forget about this.

BISHOP MAGNUS
Bless you my son. Will you join me for dinner?

FATHER TEMPLAR
No, my work brings me elsewhere now.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Go in peace.

Father Templar leaves the office and Bishop Magnus goes about his duties.

INT. CARDINAL'S LIBRARY - DAY

The high Reagan Walker enters the Cardinal's library. The walls are completely covered from floor to ceiling with volumes of cloth-bound books. At one end, there is a spiral staircase that leads to the open second floor, for easy access to the more rare editions. Some of the Cardinals are seen already enjoying their glasses of wine, while others are coming down from the spiral staircase. They greet the Reagan with the accolades of his position as he enters.

CARDINAL GULA

Here is the man of the hour. Would you like some wine, is it delicious.

CARDINAL LUXURIA (OFFERS HIS GOBLET)

Take this goblet, please, I just filled it.

REAGAN WALKER

Thank you.

He takes the goblet and sips some of the wine.

REAGAN WALKER (CONT'D)

Very good, thank you.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Yes, very good.

REAGAN WALKER

May I ask why you requested my presence, is this a social visit?

CARDINAL IRA

We need to talk to you about your sins.

The Reagan pauses, there are many sins they could be talking about, and he does not want to give himself away.

REAGAN WALKER

What sins?

CARDINAL IRA
 Don't play with us. Your sins are
 so monumental that there is rumor
 of a second coming in the dumps.

The Reagan pauses and takes a breath.

REAGAN WALKER
 I can't be linked to that.

CARDINAL ACEDIA
 It is true? You are linked to the
 rumors.

REAGAN WALKER
 I am taking the fifth commandment,
 sub section 35c ladies, and there
 is nothing you can do about it.

The Reagan finishes his wine. The Cardinals quickly start to encircle the Reagan, badgering him for what he knows. They have plotted for this moment. The Cardinals know that they poisoned the Reagan's wine and the drug will take effect in a matter of minutes. They need to extract the information with haste.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
 How are you involved?

Cardinal Ira smacks the president.

CARDINAL IRA
 Tell us how you are linked to this.

REAGAN WALKER (TAKEN BY SURPRISE BY
 THE CARDINAL'S BEHAVIOR)
 What is going on here?

The poisoned wine starts to take affect and he stumbles a bit, dropping the glass to the carpeted floor.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
 What did you do?

REAGAN WALKER (RAISES HIS VOICE)
 What did I do?!? What the fuck did
 you freaks do!

CARDINAL ACEDIA
 It is the poison taking effect?

REAGAN WALKER
 What!

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
We are exacting a 10th Commandant
subsection 91.6as

The Reagan Walker looks at the Cardinals with a blank stare;
he is all too familiar with this law.

CARDINAL GULA
Hostile takeover. So just tell us
what you know and we will absolve
you of your sins before you pass to
a better place.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
You will be with your son and your
wife.

REAGAN WALKER (SHOUTS AT THE
CARDINALS)
This doesn't have to happen! I am
asking for the review from The
Church.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
It is too late for that.

CARDINAL IRA
Shout all you want. The volumes of
books surrounding us make this room
quite soundproof.

REAGAN WALKER
I sacrificed my only son to appease
your god! You were going to send a
Census Taker because his sins were
so monumental!

CARDINAL INVIDIA
That was your decision, we just
asked you to get him under control.
Murder is a great burden; we would
never ask you to kill. That was a
decision you made.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
Have more wine, your passing will
be less traumatic.

The Reagan looks at the glass of wine in his hand, starts to
laugh, and then throws it at the Cardinals. The Cardinals
jump back, but some are splashed on their faces.

CARDINAL ACEDIA
I think some went in my mouth.

Cardinal Acedia SPITS SEVERAL TIMES AND FRANTICALLY WIPES HIS FACE with his robe as the other Cardinals look on equally frightened for him.

REAGAN WALKER

You screwed yourselves, your new messiah is my grandchild; it is my heir. This is too sweet; all right, here is my last confession. I found out that my son fucked that dump miner, she got pregnant, and that piece of shit Bishop Lamb, blackmailed me out of a ticket to Heaven.

CARDINAL LUXURIA (STARTLED AT WHAT HE HEARS)

You were the benefactor; we assumed he had a lover in the New Vatican.

REAGAN WALKER

So now when I drop dead, my medical alert implant is going to go off and a call will go out to refresh the DNA pool. This is too rich!

CARDINAL ACEDIA

What have we done?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

God is our only witness. We will answer to him for is our sins and no other.

The Reagan falls to his knee and then SLUMPS TO THE FLOOR DEAD. All the Cardinals look at the dead Reagan with pause.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

Oh, this is not good at all.

A LOUD ALARM goes off and several guards run in to the room. This is the same alarm that is going off all over Americo to let its citizens know that the Reagan has passed on and the DNA pool needs to be refreshed. The Cardinals and the guards look down the ex-Reagan lying on the floor.

EXT. DUMPS - DAY

At Resource and Welfare Facility 4499, the same alarm causes a slow confusion and raises heads from the miners. They stop what they are doing and look to the P.A. sirens. They are familiar with the sound; they are being called to confession.

A reminder of who they are, the wretches that they are, dump miners. The miners put their tools down and start to move towards the facility's confessionals, they do not question that the alarm has rung several days too early. No one questions why, the miners just get in line and wait for their diuretics.

INT. BISHOP MAGNUS'S OFFICE - DAY

Bishop Magnus hurries to put on his robes and prepare for confession while an altar boy assists him. Suddenly, a call comes on his office phone. It rings several times; the altar boy just stands there ignoring it. The phone continues to ring. The ringing starts to annoy Bishop Magnus.

BISHOP MAGNUS (INDIRECTLY TO THE ALTAR BOY)

Answer that now. Put it on intercom please.

ALTAR BOY

Yes, your holiness.

The altar boy walks to desk and hits the intercom. Cardinal Ira comes on screen.

CARDINAL IRA

Where is Magnus!

ALTAR BOY

He is preparing for confession, your holiness.

CARDINAL IRA

Get him.

ALTAR BOY

Yes holi...

CARDINAL IRA

Now!

The altar boy turns and runs and retreats to Bishop Magnus.

ALTAR BOY

Your holiness, Cardinal Ira requests to see you immediately, he is waiting online.

Bishop Magnus turns and huffs loudly, calms himself before he replies.

BISHOP MAGNUS
Thank you, Andy. Meet me at the
confessional; this should not take
too long.

The Bishop turns and enters the office.

BISHOP MAGNUS (CONT'D)
Holiness.

CARDINAL IRA
Your Church needs you to make a
cooperate decision. Under the 9th
commandment subsection 15.c article
12, because of a mix up in the life
record sort last Thursday at
central processing, you are going
to show a, sort of, false positive
today.

BISHOP MAGNUS
I will bring it to your attention
immediately.

CARDINAL IRA
No! You will ignore it!

BISHOP MAGNUS
I don't understand?

CARDINAL IRA
You don't have to understand, this
falls under The Blind Faith act of
115 GR. So just be aware, we would
like to keep this quite. Do you
understand?

BISHOP MAGNUS
Your holiness, I am sure I can just
draw from the archive to show the
proper DNA match.

CARDINAL IRA
No! Just ignore it or I will have
the IRS crucify you! Do you
understand!

Bishop Magnus just stands shaking his head slow and confused.

CARDINAL IRA (CONT'D)
Do! You! Understand!

Bishop Magnus looks to the sky as for guidance then answers.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Yes.

The screen goes blank.

INT. CONFESSIONALS - DAY

As the incessant ALARM PLAYS ITS DRONING MELODY, lines form at the confessionals throughout the incorporated Americo countries for the DNA refresh. The shuffling of weary feet is all that is heard at Resource and Welfare Facility 4499, as an altar boy makes sure that the miners stay orderly. Carefully avoiding any physical contact with the miners, he gives each of them a mild diuretic to take to induce urination. Too weary from work and too exhausted to complain, they all get in line, among them Maria and Leo.

Bishop Magnus shows up in a smudged white robe and sits on the confessional monitoring throne. The miners start to walk single-file into the confessional, while mumbling a phrase, "Forgive me father, for I have sinned" over and over and drink their diuretic. Leo enters the confessional first.

LEO

My only sin is thinking that it is
I who would father the savior.

The confessional light turns green on the Bishop's control panel. The green light reflects on the Bishop's robe giving him an alien hue.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Leo, there is no savior. Go in
peace.

Maria enters the confessional and urinates into the bowl. An alarm sounds and the red light flash on and off in Bishop Magnus's cabinet. Bishop Magnus looks at the light and bows his head. Waiting in line, the miners can see the reflection of the flashing light against the Bishops plain white robe and they start to talk.

JACK

It is true?

ROGER

Maria is carrying the messiah?

Bishop Magnus exits the confessional booth and is SWARMED by the dump miners.

SARAH

Is it true?

BISHOP MAGNUS
Ah, well, ah, excuse me.

ROGER
It is true? Is he coming?

INT. BISHOP MAGNUS'S OFFICE -DAY

Bishop Magnus fights his way through the crowd and returns to his office and contacts the Cardinals immediately.

BISHOP MAGNUS
Get me Cardinal Invidia. I have important news.

CARDINAL INVIDIA
Did you do as requested?

BISHOP MAGNUS
I couldn't.

CARDINAL INVIDIA
Why not?

BISHOP MAGNUS
According to the report, a dump miner is carrying the heir to the Reaganship.

CARDINAL INVIDIA
We told you to ignore that.

BISHOP MAGNUS
I can't ignore that, what is going on here?

CARDINAL INVIDIA
Stop asking such stupid questions, we don't answer to you! That information must be squelched! Do you understand!

BISHOP MAGNUS
I will not lie for The Church in the name of the party! I will not commit a cardinal sin so The Church can become more corrupt. I will not do it!

CARDINAL INVIDIA
Do not take that tone, The Church needs you; we must not let this information out.

BISHOP MAGNUS

It is already out. When the alarm went off, it just confirmed what the flock had already known.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

Father Templar is on his way to take care of this matter. He will be able to sweep up this mess. Now go and isolate that miner, and when Father Templar arrives, turn her over to him immediately.

BISHOP MAGNUS

What will happen to her?

CARDINAL INVIDIA

That is not of your concern. Now follow orders and do your job or you will be bunking with Leo, do you understand?

BISHOP MAGNUS

Yes, I understand.

Bishop Magnus looks out the window of his office and sees that the miners are starting to FIGHT WITH THE GAURDS.

EXT. DUMPS COMPOUND - DAY

Magnus quickly exits and tries to calm the situation down.

BISHOP MAGNUS

Please! Stop! Stop this!

Bishop Magnus catches the attention of the miners and they all turn to him.

SARAH

The alarm went off. The alarm indicated that Maria is the heir to the Reagan's throne.

BISHOP MAGNUS

No, not Maria.

Bishop Magnus lowers head and regains his composure.

JACK

Then why did the alarm sound!

Bishop Magnus hangs his hand in shame for what he is about to do. He swallows slowly, he knows what he has to do, he knows what is right.

BISHOP MAGNUS
Maria's child is the heir. She is
carrying the future Reagan of
Americo.

Leo looks at Maria. His eyes get very wide and teary.

LEO
You were touched by God!

Maria just stands there shocked. Suddenly, a THUNDEROUS ROAR is heard from the vicinity of the facility gate. Barreling through the dust cloud and engine smoke, Father Templar enters the gates of the camp riding an issued motorcycle. Several other Priests on similar motorcycles follow him. They tear through the crowd, nearly knocking over anyone in their path. The miners part quickly as not to get run over. Alerted by the commotion, facility guards rush to the scene.

Father Templar pulls his motorcycle into the middle of the crowd and stops next to Bishop Magnus.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Do they know?

BISHOP MAGNUS
Yes.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Which one is it?

BISHOP MAGNUS
I cannot tell you.

FATHER TEMPLAR
You do not have a choice. I have
seen her face.

BISHOP MAGNUS
I will not let you take that girl.
I am sure that there is a logical
explanation for this.

FATHER TEMPLAR
That is not my decision to make.
Nor is it yours. I am here to carry
out the will of The Church and
Americo; now comply or it will be
considered treason.

BISHOP MAGNUS
I will not comply.

With the calm of a lion spotting its prey, Father Templar COOLLY AND COLDLY PULLS OUT A GUN, points it at Bishop Magnus, and shoots; the Bishop staggers, falls to the ground and dies. The miners and guards are stunned at what they had just witnessed. Threatening them with his gun, Father Templar addresses the crowd.

FATHER TEMPLAR
Which of you believe they are
carrying the heir to the
Reaganship?

No one answers.

FATHER TEMPLAR (CONT'D)
If I do not get an answer there
will be a purification of this
entire camp. I am giving you to the
count of 5. (Instructs the other
Priests.) Men, un-holster your side
arms. As ordered. One.

The crowd stands stunned; the Priests un-holster their pistols and point them to the crowd of miners and facility guards.

FATHER TEMPLAR (CONT'D)
Two.

Leo looks at Maria, bends over, and picks up a sharp rock from the ground, without anyone noticing. THEN WITH ALL HIS MIGHT, LEO HURLS THE ROCK AT FATHER TEMPLAR.

FATHER TEMPLAR (CONT'D)
Thr...

THWOMP! The rock hits the Father Templar in the head, causing him to drop his weapon and stumble to one knee. In a frenzy, the miners take this opportunity and a ROIT BREAKS OUT. An ALARM is sounded from one of the towers. The miners know that this means more guards will be arriving shortly, with more firepower. This stirs their already-heightened emotions and provokes a bigger MELEE.

During the confusion, several dump miners take the opportunity to disarm some of the guards. The miners then turn their newfound weapons against the other guards and Priests and start to fire. Knowing that they are outnumbered, the guards flee for their life, some of them shot in the back while trying to seek cover. The Priests create a barricade with their motorcycles around Father Templar to protect him.

Father Templar, his head covered in blood and still trying to recover from the initial shock caused by the rock thrown at him, looks up to see the blurred image of a man staring at him. It is Leo. Total chaos breaks out in the camp courtyard. Pulling himself up, Father Templar regains his control and stands. Templar screams amidst the havoc.

FATHER TEMPLAR (CONT'D)

I want the woman that caused this!
I want her now! I do not want to
hear another sound unless it is
from someone pointing her out!

LEO

You will never have her! You are
powerless against the will of God.

The crowd cheers in agreement with Leo's remarks. Father Templar raises his gun and points it at Leo, who stands defiantly and tries to stare down Father Templar. Father Templar takes AIM AND FIRES. Leo drops to his knees, eyes still glaring in protest, hits the ground and dies. Maria screams in horror and falls next to him crying. For a few moments that seem like an eternity, the stunned and shocked miners are paralyzed to move. Father Templar raises his gun again.

FATHER TEMPLAR

I ask again, where is the woman I
seek!

Aimlessly pointing his gun at the crowd, Father Templar SHOOTS dump miner Roger, with that he drops to the ground screaming in pain, it is not a fatal shot. Realizing all-too-well that Father Templar and the other Priests will carry out their orders, the miners, except Maria, try to flee for their lives running in every direction, bumping into each other, SCREAMING.

Maria is still on the ground; whipped left and right by the stampede of miners trying to get away. Maria, trying desperately to hold on to the lifeless body of Leo, is beaten and falls victim to the insanity that is going on around her. Grief stricken and mournful at the death of Leo, she is totally oblivious to the upheaval that is happening around her. In the end, Maria is knocked one too many times and fades out, and lies lifeless on the ground beside Leo.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The sparsely decorated room is bathed in pure white light from arched glass-pane windows, as the sun's rays filter through the sheer curtains.

With the gentlest of warm breeze, the curtains' gossamer shadows gently dance on the veined marble floor. The room's vaulted high ceiling, with its ornate crown moldings and wall corbels flanking the windows, at once gives the space a feeling of openness and comfort.

A large sculptural wall frieze depicting the coronation of the seven Cardinals grace the wall directly above a four-poster bed. By its side, a mahogany side table displays a crystal vase with one single red rose. Swaths of fabric curl like ribbons from the top of the bedposts to the bed itself, softly floating on the satin sheets. Here is where we find a sleeping Maria. No longer the unkempt and disheveled dump miner, she has been bathed, her skin cleaned and her hair washed and groomed. Sighing perhaps in a dream while she sleeps, we see an almost new woman in her prime, with glowing tawny skin and silken ebony hair.

Maria slowly awakens from a deep, restful slumber. As she regains consciousness, she is both startled and pleasantly surprised to feel the satin sheets enveloping her. She reaches behind her head and gently squeezes the soft pillows she rests on. She scrunches a lock of her hair and breathes in its clean fragrance, like a child first discovering the bouquet of wildflowers. She spreads her arms out and, underneath the quilted sleeves of a thick robe, notices that they are clean and that her nails have been trimmed.

Maria looks around the room and sees a nun in a traditional habit, wearing a black veil over a soft crown band, a white wimple, a long black tunic and scapular. Sitting in a cane-back chair, the nun puts down the book she is reading when she notices that Maria is awake.

NUN II

Oh, you are awake. I will get the Cardinals. They are very anxious to see you.

The nun leaves the room and Maria slowly regains her faculties. Maria rubs the clean new clothing she is wearing and smells the sheets of the bed. She explores every object around her; she has never had clean clothing in her life. Slowly, she looks around the room like a child about to be discovered for doing something bad. She reaches out to the bedside table, carefully takes the rose from the vase, and savors its sweet fragrant smell. The Cardinals enter the room quickly with Father Templar following them. Frightened once again upon recognizing him, Maria recoils at Father Templar's sight and drops the rose to the ground.

CARDINAL ACEDIA
Do not be afraid. We would never
harm the mother of our newest
Reagan.

MARIA (POINTING AT TEMPLAR)
What is he doing here?

CARDINAL INVIDIA
He is your personal servant of God.
Aren't you so lucky? We don't all
get a personal servant who would
die for us.

FATHER TEMPLAR (BOWS SLIGHTLY IN
RESPECT)
I am here to serve my Reagan.

Maria stares in STUNNED SILENCE and, realizing that she is
the only woman in a roomful of strange-looking and strangely
attired men, attempts to hide behind the bed sheets and
pillows.

MARIA
Where am I?

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
You are where the mother of our
future Reagan Walker should be
after such a horrible ordeal.

Cardinal Luxuria sits on the bed next to Maria and slowly
parts the hair from her frightened face.

CARDINAL LUXURIA
You need your rest; if you feel
uncomfortable here, you can sleep
in my room tonight, just until the
shock of all this wears off.

Maria pulls away from him, all the Cardinals laugh.

CARDINAL ACEDIA
Oh, poor dear, you must be
exhausted, the horrors you must
have seen, the horrors.

CARDINAL INVIDIA (TO CARDINAL LUXURIA)
Get away from the girl!

CARDINAL IRA (TO MARIA)
You rest now.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA (SCREAMS OUT THE
DOOR)

Nurse! Get in here now!

The nun runs back into the room.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

Maria, this is your nurse. (To the
nun.) Cater to her every whim. If
she is cold, get her a blanket. If
she is hot, get rid of the blanket.
Do you understand?

NUN II

Yes, your holiness.

CARDINAL IRA

Father Templar, stand watch outside
and protect the mother of our
glorious Reagan. Protect her and do
not let anyone in. Do you
understand?

FATHER TEMPLAR

Completely.

CARDINAL LUXURIA (TO MARIA)

We will be back for you tonight.

The Cardinals and Father Templar leave the room, the nun
looks at Maria.

NUN II

Can I get you anything, Maria?

MARIA

Some water, please.

The nun walks across the room to a console table with a
pitcher of water and two glasses resting on a silver tray.
She fills one glass with water and brings it back to Maria.
Puzzled and not knowing how to react, Maria looks at the
glass.

MARIA (CONT'D)

What is this?

NUN II

Water.

MARIA

It does not look like water.

Maria lifts the glass to her nose and smells it.

MARIA (CONT'D)
It does not smell like water.

NUN II
I assure you, it is water.

To satisfy Maria's curiosity and disbelief, the nun pours some water into the other glass and drinks it in front of Maria.

NUN II (CONT'D)
Water.

Maria straightens herself on the bed, sits upright, takes the glass from the nun and lifts the glass to her lips. She drinks some of the water, slowly at first. But when she discovers its fresh, clean taste, she drinks it in gulps until the glass is empty.

NUN II (CONT'D)
Slow down, Maria, don't drink so fast.

MARIA (WIPING HER WET LIPS WITH THE
BACK OF HER HAND)
May I have some more?

NUN II
Of course you can.

Maria extends her glass out with both hands and the nun retrieves the pitcher and refills Maria's glass. Maria drinks the water slower this time but still drinks it all.

NUN II (CONT'D)
Would you like another glass?

MARIA
No, I am fine, thank you.

NUN II
Would you like me to read to you?

MARIA (SETTLING BACK IN BED)
No, thank you.

The nun brings the cane-back chair closer to the side of the bed, sits next to Maria, picks up book, and starts to read silently. Maria piles the pillows around her, lies back in bed and, pulling the soft satin sheets to cover her, slowly melts back to sleep.

INT. CARDINALS' RECEIVING ROOM -DAY

Maria enters the Cardinal's receiving room just behind the balcony. She smells of light perfume and wears new clothing. A long, flowing veil with hues of gold, silver, and bronze wraps around her head and trails her footsteps. Underneath, she wears a dark tunic that seems to envelope her in shrouds of velvet. On her neck, she wears a necklace with a gleaming pendant, symbol of the Reagan. All the cardinals gather around her as she walks towards the balcony, each cardinal trying to convince Maria why it is so important to keep the politics of Americo and The Church way they are.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

It is our job as the lawmakers of Americo to make sure that all get the opportunity to be a positive member of society without disturbing the natural balance of selection.

MARIA

But how can that be achieved?

CARDINAL INVIDIA

We need to do this by control. No one should have more than another, unless he has earned it by inheritance or birthright. This is not an easy task to achieve. The best way to achieve this is to collect all that is valuable and distribute it fairly.

MARIA

What is considered fair?

CARDINAL IRA

By making sure no person has more than they have a right to by their standing in Americo.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

By making sure that every person knows his or her place.

MARIA

But this has proven not to work.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

That is not true! Our system works better than any other in history, and has worked well since its conception. I must say that this is mostly due to my efforts.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

Our efforts.

MARIA

But I have seen what your efforts have done. You use people to better the lives of only a few while justifying it by living an extreme life. People die working to better their life, knowing that they will never achieve their dreams, hoping that someday things will get better.

CARDINAL GULA

Those who live those lives have chosen that life.

CARDINAL IRA

If you allow everyone to have the same then, those that have had it will want it again. If those individuals never have the opportunity to achieve sins of the flesh, then they will not want them in the future and remain pure.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

Wanting is the only true sin.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

If you remove the want, you remove the sin.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA (CONT'D)

Life without want is life without sin.

MARIA (LOOKING SOMEWHAT CONFUSED)

I do not know what to think.

CARDINAL GULA

So it is up to you to travel the path that god has in placed in front of your feet. If you follow your destiny, the citizens of Americo will follow.

Maria pauses and thinks to herself with a pained look. What the Cardinals are saying does not make any sense to her. She knows what life is like in the dumps and she now knows what life is like for the privileged.

CARDINAL ACEDIA

Do you want to take away all hope?

MARIA

Oh goodness, no.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Then you must do what you know needs to be done.

CARDINAL LUXURIA

Your responsibilities start today. You must address the citizens of Americo, denounce your old life and tell your people that you will carry the burden of social order.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

Maria walks out to the balcony, as THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE CHEER. Maria is not used to such attention; she looks at the Cardinals who stand by her side with their back to the crowd.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

You must address your public. They serve you and await you.

Maria looks down at the audience from the balcony, takes a deep breath, and tries to speak with confidence.

MARIA

I do not know why I have been chosen to hold this position, but I will do what I believe is best for all. Many have nothing to eat and starve while few indulge and get fat, and that is wrong.

Maria looks down at her feet; obviously shaken, and turns away from the balcony.

CARDINAL IRA

You must continue, but think before you speak. Think!

MARIA

I can't.

INT. RECEIVING ROOM - DAY

She turns and runs back into the receiving room, Cardinal Ira trying to control his temper follows.

CARDINAL IRA

You must!

MARIA

But I can't, there is no way that I can save them all.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Maria, then you will need to save yourself and in doing so, you will save them.

Cardinal Superbia leaves Maria alone in the receiving room. Outside, she can hear the deafening cheers of the crowd, SHOUTING HER NAME IN RESONATING BRAVADO.

Turning towards the balcony, she catches a glimpse of her reflection on a life-sized gilded mirror by the balcony door. How strange this seems to her now, whereas days ago she was unkempt and raggedly dressed in frays and tatters. Whereas days ago, all she heard was the sound of anger and despair around her.

EXT. BALCONY - DAY

Moments later Maria walks back to the balcony and looks at the crowd. A tear comes to her eye as she speaks.

MARIA

I will do my best to serve you. Life is not a choice, it is something we are forced into and must accept. I will do what I can to stop the corruption in the mines. I will do what I can. We must take every opportunity to make all our lives better.

Maria pauses and looks at the Cardinals. They all give her an approving nod.

MARIA (CONT'D)

No one person should be able to put themselves as better than the next and no person should stand before another as his god.

(MORE)

MARIA (CONT'D)

If we don't work together to make things better, things will surely remain the same.

Maria starts to cry, turns and runs back through the balcony doors. SHE FALLS TO THE FLOOR SOBBING. The Cardinals rush over to help her up.

INT. RECIEVING ROOM REAGAN MANSION - DAY

CARDINAL ACEDIA

You must not push yourself too hard.

CARDINAL GULA

Maybe something to eat will make you feel better, tonight we will have a feast in your honor.

MARIA

I would like that.

CARDINAL INVIDIA

Can I get you some wine to calm your nerves? It is very delicious.

MARIA

I cannot have wine. I am with child.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA

Of course; then we will find something you can enjoy.

CARDINAL AVARITIA

Is there anyone other than the right people you would like to share your food with?

Maria thinks to herself, the people she knew or cared for are now dead. She is carrying the child whose destiny is to rule Americo; this was a larger responsibility than she thought would ever happen. She would have to do what she knew was right.

CARDINAL INVIDIA (ASKS MARIA AGAIN)

My dear? Is there anyone other than us?

Maria pauses, then looks back towards the audience behind her. She then turns and surveys the pristine palace that she now calls home. Maria looks at the Cardinals, thinks and then answers.

MARIA
Yes, I will make a list.

CARDINAL SUPERBIA
And we are on that list, of course?

Maria pauses and smiles as she is now totally awake and fully aware of her position in Americo.

MARIA
We will see.

The end.