

KISSES IN THE WIND

Screenplay by

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FADE IN

INT - DANA QUARLES BATHROOM - MORNING

DANA QUARLES stands in the mirror crying silently. DANA is dressed in wrinkled party attire, with left over make-up running down her face from the night before. The bathroom is small, and very dimly lit. Visible in the mirror is a large painting of Jesus Christ illuminated by a single light. As the camera circles the small enclosure small religious relics are revealed. DANA looks into the mirror, seemingly meeting eyes with Jesus, and closes her eyes.

CUT TO

INT - TEENAGE HOUSE PARTY - LATE NIGHT

A living room full of teenagers dancing to music and talking amongst each other. DANA stands in the middle of a circle dancing and smiling. The teenagers surrounding her have cigarettes in their hands, and a few of them have cups. DANA is dancing freely with neither, and showing obvious signs of fun.

DANA turns around still dancing and smiling and catches eyes with a girl leaning against the wall in the far corner of the room. DANA's dancing begins to slow as she and the girl begin talking through their eyes. DANA begins to move in slow motion against the hyper crowd. DANA pushes through the crowd, with her eyes fixated on the girl in the corner. With each push against the crowd it becomes visibly harder for DANA to get through the crowd.

The crowd seems to get larger, and DANA loses sight of the girl on the wall. DANA stops in her tracks and begins to look frantically around the party. DANA shows a look of defeat as she turns around to head back towards her friends. The camera shows the floor as DANA fights back through the crowd a pair of Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers begin to follow in DANA's footsteps, the camera pans up, and a hand reaches out and grabs DANA's hand.

CUT TO

INT - DANA QUARLES'S BATHROOM - MORNING

DANA shakes her head violently.

FADE OUT

OPENING CREDITS

FADE IN

INT - QUARLES FAMILY HOME - MORNING

DANA is visibly uneasy as she walks cautiously through the corridors of the downstairs of the house. DANA has changed into a long flowered skirt, white blouse, and her hair is up in a bun with no make-up on, just a touch of lip color. Soft Christian music plays, as DANA reaches the end of the hallway where her parents sit. MR. QUARLES sits with his eyes closed nodding to the music, as MRS. QUARLES watches the television intensely as a televangelist preaches quietly. DANA stops and looks into the living room momentarily. Neither MR. or MRS. QUARLES respond to DANA's presence. DANA sighs, and continues to walk into the kitchen.

DANA quickly grabs her jacket, car keys, and Holy Bible from the ottoman by the front door and quickly exits the house.

INT - DANA'S CAR - MORNING

DANA drives cautiously listening to a Christian music station. With her eyes focused on the road, DANA reaches down to turn the radio volume up.

RADIO ANNOUNCER [VO]

Thank you for listening to WCHR the
Christian's Station. (Beat) Now we will have
news read by Elder Cynthia Campbell, and
when we come back we will have our daily
scripture reading.

[MORE]

[CONT]

CYNTHIA [VO]

Good morning saints. (Beat) I do pray that we are all safe, and doing that of God's work this Saturday morning. (Beat) I told you all last week that this week I would have a list of states for you this morning.

DANA's hands begin to grip the steering wheel tightly.

CYNTHIA [VO]

As of yesterday, the following states have not conformed to that of same-sex marriage, and they refuse to recognize it as a legal union. (Beat) Texas, Idaho, Utah.

DANA quickly turns the radio off, and looks out of the driver's side window with tears in her eyes as she approaches a stop sign. DANA begins to drive off as she notices who she believes to be the girl from the wall at the party standing on the corner smiling at her. DANA slams on her breaks causing the cross hanging from her rear view window to fall. Horns sound as DANA looks and notices there is no one on the corner.

DANA continues to drive, seeing the girl from the party at every corner. DANA begins to drive faster. DANA pulls into the parking lot of ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH OF GOD AND CHRIST.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT - ST. MATTHEW'S FOYER - LATE MORNING

DANA walks into the foyer of the church. The walls of the foyer are plastered with posters with the picture of the pastor, REVEREND ELAINE and her book HE, HE, SHE, SHE, NO SAFE PLACE FOR WE. DANA looks at the posters with looks of disgust and walks further into the church. DANA is met by REVEREND ELAINE.

DANA

Reverend Elaine, can we talk?

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REVEREND ELAINE smiles and motions for DANA to follow her. DANA follows REVEREND ELAINE past a series of doors, before stopping at a door that is titled PASTOR'S OFFICE.

REVEREND ELAINE
Should we sit down Dana?

DANA
Well? (Beat) I was wondering if you had time to give me a rapid course in your same sex teachings.

REVEREND ELAINE smiles.

REVEREND ELAINE
Of course, please have a seat.

INT - ST. MATTHEW'S PASTOR'S OFFICE - LATE MORNING

DANA sits uncomfortably in front of a massive desk. The office is filled with bibles, and teaching materials. On REVEREND ELAINE's desk sits ten copies of HE, HE, SHE, SHE, NO SAFE PLACE FOR WE, DANA quickly turns away as REVEREND ELAINE closes the door.

REVEREND ELAINE
Have you read the book Dana?

DANA shakes her head no. REVEREND ELAINE hands her a copy and smiles.

REVEREND ELAINE
On the house.

DANA
Thank you Reverend Elaine. (Beat) I don't want to keep you long, I just want a better understanding of what this means.

DANA holds up the book and points to the title.

[MORE]

[CONT]

REVEREND ELAINE

The easiest way for me to explain it is that there are gay and lesbian couples surrounding us all, and they are popping up at an alarming rate. (Beat) So much so that pretty soon there will be more of them, than of us. (Beat) He, he, and she, she, where will we go to hide and pray for salvation.

DANA

Hide?

REVEREND ELAINE

Yes, Hide. (Beat) We cannot sit around and act as if we condone such grotesque behavior. (Beat) We have to remain separated from the sin, and continue on our path of salvation.

DANA hangs her head, and begins to rub her hands across her bible. REVEREND ELAINE smiles.

REVEREND ELAINE

What is it Dana, a classmate? (Beat) A so-called friend who has decided against the lord, and taken free-will to the level of abomination?

DANA

No. (Beat) Nothing like that, I don't think. (Beat) I just wanted to understand your way of thinking.

REVEREND ELAINE

It's not my way, it's God's way.

DANA

Okay, I want to understand God's way of thinking.

[MORE]

[CONT]

REVEREND ELAINE

I am pleased, that you have come to me on your own to learn the word of our lord and savior Jesus Christ! (Beat) You know I just got back to Salt Lake don't you? (Beat) Yes, Yes. I went on a twelve city tour to promote the book. (Beat) And do you know what I told every city I was in?

DANA shakes her head no.

REVEREND ELAINE

I told them, we need to start with the youth! (Beat) If we teach the children the wrongs of homosexuality it will alter the future and save humanity from the fate that Sodom and Gomorrah unfortunately faced. (Beat) Education goes a long way. (Beat) If you know better you will do better.

DANA

So is it you or God that believes that if you start with youth that it will change the world?

REVEREND ELAINE lets out a heartfelt laugh.

REVEREND ELAINE

That is my own doctrine.

DANA

Okay. (Beat) Well, if I was the youth you were educating, what would you tell me?

REVEREND ELAINE

Considering you are the youth that I am educating, I am going to start with the basic Christian values; (Beat) grace, hope, faith, love, justice, joy, service, and peace. The core of all Christian households. Do you understand how important those core values are?

[MORE]

[CONT]

DANA

Yes, I am very aware of the importance of all eight of those values, but I do not see where in there it says anything about homosexuality.

REVEREND ELAINE

It doesn't, but that is where I choose to start. (Beat) If you are aware of the importance of those values, you can then understand the idea of Family, and the preservation of the family.

DANA

Preservation of family, in the sense of what?

REVEREND ELAINE

The man and woman. (Beat) God made man, before he ever thought of you and I. Man was made to be a ruler and protector of the earth and all that came with it. (Beat) When Adam got lonely God thought of a subordinate to be a companion. A subordinate that could serve as a nurturing partner to that of strength and courage. (Beat) and then God went into Adam's body, and from his rib made a woman, that he so delicately called Eve. (Beat) That was the model, there was no other model, there was no alternate view. (Beat) In the family structure there is a man a woman, and their children. (Beat) The man is there to teach survival skills, and teach the man-child to be a man, and the woman subsequently to teach love and affection, and teach the girls how to be wives.

DANA

I can agree with that, every child needs a mother and a father.

REVEREND ELAINE

Exactly.

[MORE]

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DANA

But what about families that are disrupted with divorce? Do they preserve the idea of family?

REVEREND ELAINE

Divorce is frowned upon, but cannot be compared to that of homosexuality.

DANA

And why is that?

REVEREND ELAINE

Because it simply is not the same. (Beat) A man who leaves his family for whatever reason he may give is still a man. (Beat) Two women who call themselves mothers are depriving a child of that which a true family can give them and the same with two men raising a man-child. (Beat) They raise faggots.

DANA gives off a look of shock, and then begins to write in the book she was given.

DANA

What does the bible say?

REVEREND ELAINE

Open your bible to Leviticus chapter eighteen verse twenty-two. (Beat) and it reads (Beat) Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. (Beat) and now turn over to chapter twenty verse thirteen. (Beat) And it reads (Beat) If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

DANA looks up from the bible.

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DANA

Can you explain what that means today to me?

REVEREND ELAINE gives DANA a look of dissatisfaction.

REVEREND ELAINE

It means the same today as it did when this was written! (Beat) It is not only an abomination to retreat into the arms of a man if you are a man, but it is detestable, and punishable by death! (Beat) It is disgusting and a mockery of what sex was meant to be!

DANA

What was sex meant to be?

REVEREND ELAINE

Sex is not meant to be pleasurable, and thrown around like it some sort of treat! (Beat) Sex is for reproduction! Sex is to populate! (Beat) Homosexuals, with their lust, they go around having sex with each other, and there is no point to it! (Beat) nothing comes from two men having sex, and two women, ha! (Beat) If you can call what they do sex, there is no point! (Beat) It is lustful indulgence!

DANA

Last year in my social studies class, I learned that ancient Greek men used to have sex with young boys to show power. (Beat) Could it be safe to say the reason that the bible only mentions male on male sex is to discourage that sort of behavior, and not the actual act of homosexuality?

REVEREND ELAINE slams her hand on the desk and stands up with anger in her face.

REVEREND ELAINE

Turn your bible to the first Romans and start reading at verse twenty-four!

[MORE]

[CONT]

DANA quickly finds the page in her bible, and reads slowly.

DANA

Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves: (Beat) Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Beat) For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; (Beat) men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was met.

REVEREND ELAINE sits back down.

DANA

Why did I have to read that?

REVEREND ELAINE

Dana, please, you are starting to make me believe you are contesting the word of the Lord. (Beat) Everything you needed is right there.

DANA

What I just read had nothing to do with homosexuality. (Beat) What I just read that men and women shouldn't go around having sex for fun, and it should be meaningful and with someone who deserves it.

REVEREND ELAINE

It reads of that of natural and unnatural lusts.

[MORE]

[CONT]

DANA

Homosexuals do believe their feelings are natural, they don't want to be different; they believe they were born with an innate ability to love those of the same sex.

REVEREND ELAINE stands up.

REVEREND ELAINE

Who told you that?

DANA quickly concedes, and bows her head.

DANA

No one. (Beat) It is just something I read.

REVEREND ELAINE

I see there is more to this conversation than what I thought.

REVEREND ELAINE grabs a VHS from the top of her desk, and walks towards the television.

DANA

What is that?

REVEREND ELAINE

Another tool I use on my tours. (Beat) You got a while?

DANA looks up at the clock which reads noon and then looks back towards the television, which is already playing, and doesn't say a word.

The camera cuts back to the clock which is moving quickly through the hours. The murmuring of bible verses play as the only recognizable words become GAY, SEX, SIN, HOMOSEXUALITY, and PREVENTION. At the end of the montage the clock reads four, and the sound of snow on the television plays.

DANA sits in the chair looking to be in a daze as REVEREND ELAINE uses the remote to turn the television off. The sound of the television going off causes DANA to snap out of her daze, and look at REVEREND ELAINE in horror.

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REVEREND ELAINE

Do you understand now?

DANA

I understand that was a video filled with hate.

REVEREND ELAINE

No, it was a video filled with the truth.
(Beat) God's truth, which we need to recognize for what it is.

DANA

I have to go.

DANA gets up and abruptly leaves the office leaving her bible on the desk.

INT - ST. MATTHEW'S FOYER - AFTERNOON

DANA runs through the foyer and stops abruptly. In front of her is the stained glass door leading to the sanctuary of the church. DANA's eyes swell with tears as she opens the doors to the sanctuary.

INT - ST. MATTHEW'S SANCTUARY - AFTERNOON

DANA enters the sanctuary and falls to her knees. REVEREND ELAINE walks in silently behind her with a smug look of satisfaction.

DANA

Precious Lord. (Beat) I come to you as humbly, and as best as I know how. (Beat) Holy Father, I am conflicted; I am conflicted in sin, and I am conflicted in the teachings set forth by your word. (Beat) My Lord, it is to my understanding that you are a loving God, and a God that is no longer wrathful in his ways. Have I been led astray? (Beat)

[MORE]

[CONT]

DANA

Have I been led to believe that the word that you teach is not the word that you practice? (Beat) Merciful God, I do believe in the word, and I honor it, but it has confused my heart. (Beat) I ask, Lord, that you give me a sign. Any sign, even if it is a whisper in the wind, a sign of your word, and your want for my life, and the life of those around me. (Beat) I know you as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and I know that through you I can learn the truths from the falsities, and be guided on the road to salvation without the damnation of judgment and hate. (Beat) I ask these things in thy name, in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

DANA begins to sob silently and she gets up and turns towards the doors. REVEREND ELAINE disappears before DANA can see her.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

EXT - ST. MATTHEW'S PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

DANA slowly walks towards the car. The atmosphere around her is peaceful, the sun is shining and there is a slight breeze. DANA reaches up and takes her bun down and shakes her hair out in the breeze. DANA reaches down for her keys, as a heavy gust of wind blows the keys out of her hand and they land behind her car. DANA looks around and notices she is the only person in the parking lot, and walks towards the back of the car.

The camera pans down DANA's body showing her feet walking towards the back of the car. The camera remains at her feet as she reaches down to pick up the keys, as DANA reaches down a pair of Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers walk up facing DANA and hands reach down to take the keys from DANA's hand.

[MORE]

[CONT]

The camera pans up the body belonging to the Converse Chuck Taylor's revealing that of the girl from the wall at the party smiling at DANA.

Another gust of wind comes through, DANA begins to smile.

FADE OUT

END