

DRAG QUEENS OF EMERALIS

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MYSTERIOUS VFX MONTAGE --

FLY THROUGH SPACE AND

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
"Far beyond the reaches of  
objective human experience --

ACTIVE VOLCANOS AND

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
"Further than the eye can see or  
the ear can heed --

SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAIN PEAKS

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
"Lies a realm of mystery, quiet and  
ineffable --

WINDSWEPT PLAINS

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
"It is a place of magic --

WHALES BREECH

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
"Of dreams --

ACRES OF FLOWERS BLOOM

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
"Of fantasy --

END MONTAGE

EXT. WHITE CLOUDS AGAINST BLUE SKY - RAHEA

appears, a beautiful WOMAN IN WHITE and she strolls through  
rolling green hills while ANIMALS and BIRDS of every kind  
roam and soar in a lush, Utopian dream land.

NARRATOR (V.O.)  
"For this is Emeralis!"

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LIBRARY - DAY

At a PODIUM in front of the room, DRAG QUEEN HOT ROCK, 30,  
taps the MICROPHONE --

HOT ROCK  
Testing, testing, did you get that?

30 CHILDREN, 6-14, SCREAM AND STOMP IN PROTEST

CHILDREN  
*Don't stop! What's going on?*

THREE DRAG QUEENS: WINKEN, BLINKEN, and NODULE, 30's, set up  
LIGHTING AND MUSIC EQUIPMENT --

HOT ROCK  
Chill, babes, it's a rehearsal.

ELECTRICAL SPARKS shock WINKEN, who screams and

WINKEN  
*Motherfu --*

holds his WIG as Blinken fumbles with a STUDIO MIXING BOARD

BLINKEN  
You ain't Father Leo, honey.

Hot Rock leans into MIC

HOT ROCK  
Don't call me "honey."

NODULE  
Where is he?

BLINKEN  
Late as usual.

Microphone FEEDBACK SQUEALS

BLINKEN (CONT'D)  
He'd better get here, feedback's  
killing it.

CHILDREN  
*Story! Story! Story!*

Winken screams

WINKEN  
*NURSE OXYGEN!*

EXT. LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - SAME TIME

25 LEFT-WING DEMONSTRATORS wave "READ TO ME" FLAGS and scream and block traffic from Sunset Boulevard to the hospital entrance as --

25 RIGHT-WING "MOTHERS-FOR-LIBERTY" PROTESTORS

yell from the hospital Valet Lane as --

TWO LAPD Squad Cars with SIRENS blaring, LIGHTS flashing split the two groups while

Behind them, a TAXI jerks, skids, and wends its way through --

INT. TAXI - AN EMERALD GREEN WIG

in rear seat guzzles LIQUOR from a flask, then breathes down the neck of

TAXI DRIVER WAYNE

THE WIG  
Don't run anybody over.

WAYNE  
If I don't, your breath will.

PROTESTERS ROCK THE TAXI WHILE THE WIG TOASTS

THE WIG  
Courage, my son.

The Wig gulps, opens a briefcase, hides the flask, and --

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - TAXI

screeches to a stop as CROWDS SHRIEK and HOWL and

INT. TAXI - THE WIG

pays Wayne and Protestors pound the windshield

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - TAXI DOOR OPENS

The Wig's EMERALD-GREEN SPIKED-HEEL emerges and

MIGUEL, a VALET, hustles to assist as

INT. TAXI - WAYNE

steps on GAS PEDAL

WAYNE

Nice day!

TAXI DOOR SLAMS SHUT

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ENTRANCE - WAYNE'S TAXI

burns rubber as The Wig fumbles with purse and briefcase,  
then clomps, stumbles, and sways towards the entrance as --

LLEWELLYN LINCOLN, 36,

a tough, pushy woman with "big hair" who holds a Slurpee,  
grabs The Wig's elbow and --

LLEWELLYN

No, you don't!

-- knocks The Wig backwards, and

CLUMSILY YANKS OPEN THE WIG'S GREEN DRESS

LLEWELLYN (CONT'D)

Oh my God!

A BALLOON ESCAPES AND

Llewellyn SEES underneath the dress, the BLACK CLERGY SHIRT,  
WHITE COLLAR, and slightly slurred GRIN of battle-scarred,  
charismatic face of

FATHER LEO MCWAY, 52, (aka "The Wig")

falls back into Miguel's arms, disheveled wig, glasses, etc.

LLEWELLYN (CONT'D)

Father Leo! Is that you?

Miguel steadies him as

FATHER LEO

Don't tell me, Mothers for Liberty.

Father Leo opens his PURSE and retrieves another BALLOON

LLEWELLYN

What the hell are you doing here?

PROTESTORS #2, #3, #4 enjoin as

LAPD SERGEANT OMAR interrupts as Father Leo BLOWS UP A NEW BALLOON --

SERGEANT OMAR  
Break it up, get back. What's going on?

LLEWELLYN  
This pervert's dressed like this reading trash to the kids.

SERGEANT OMAR  
Yeah, lady, and?

LLEWELLYN  
We want it stopped.

Father Leo STUFFS NEW BALLOON --

FATHER LEO  
I'm late.

SERGEANT OMAR  
I know this man. He's back from the Middle East with a Purple Heart. I doubt if --

LLEWELLYN  
For what, lip sync?

SERGEANT OMAR  
For dodging unmanned drones, lady, and saving more people than you got here.

SHE SEIZES FATHER LEO'S BRIEFCASE

LLEWELLYN  
We heard he's telling some sci-fi story about lost planets, a female god, and, and trees that mate with humans!

FATHER LEO  
You don't know.

LLEWELLYN  
They posted the syllabus online.

FATHER LEO SNATCHES BACK THE BRIEFCASE

FATHER LEO  
 You've banned all the other books.  
 I'm reading a story a twelve year-  
 old up there wrote the way he asked  
 me to read it --

LLEWELLYN  
 Deviate.

FATHER LEO  
 -- in drag.

SHE TOSSES THE SLURPEE AT FATHER LEO

LLEWELLYN  
 Hands off, priest!

LLEWELLYN LUNGES FOR FATHER LEO BUT

SERGEANT OMAR INTERVENES

SERGEANT OMAR  
 Go ahead, lady, give me a reason --

LLEWELLYN  
 You'll be sorry, you'll all be  
 sorry!

FATHER LEO  
 "Put the lime in the coconut!"

LLEWELLYN  
 What? What'd you say?

As Sergeant Omar escorts Father Leo away --

SERGEANT OMAR QUIETLY NOTICES --

EXT. ACROSS SUNSET BOULEVARD - ON A CORNER

A YOUTH, 16, (CZAR) with SUNGLASSES and DODGER BASEBALL CAP  
 looks on as --

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOBBY - SERGEANT OMAR

ignores the Youth and hurries Father Leo inside as

HOSPITAL LIAISON PRESTON trots up

PRESTON  
 Late again!

FATHER LEO  
Monsoonal moisture.

Preston sticks a PEN into Father Leo's LEFT BREAST

PRESTON  
We can't afford these disruptions.

**POP!**

Father Leo yanks the pen from Preston

FATHER LEO  
Like I can afford a handmaiden.

Father Leo signs in as

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - VOLUNTEERS AND CANDY-STRIPERS

scramble to calm 30 RESTLESS CHILDREN who sit on blankets as  
Father Leo enters, walks to the podium as

Blinken stomps up with a "GALAXY GLOBE" as

FATHER LEO BLOWS UP ANOTHER BALLOON

BLINKEN  
We got the "Galaxy Globe" you asked  
for from Hollywood Toys. Where do  
you want it?

FATHER LEO  
Center.

Blinken nods as Winken runs up

WINKEN  
There's trouble with key light,  
Leo, I got split ends.

FATHER LEO  
Circuit breaker again. See what you  
can do.

WINKEN  
We're on it.

Winken darts away as Hot Rock advances on Father Leo

HOT ROCK  
I can't get rid of the feedback in  
the rear left speaker. The music  
won't work with all that hissing.



FATHER LEO  
Kitchen microwaves again?

HOT ROCK  
We've asked.

FATHER LEO  
Ask again.

Hot Rock exits

HOT ROCK  
Priests!

FATHER LEO  
Hissing's the least of our  
problems.

Father Leo scans the room to SEE HIS AUDIENCE as NURSES wheel  
in SIX SPECIAL-NEEDS CHILDREN in hospital beds with I.V.  
Poles, oxygen, etc.

NURSE PRACTIONER ELANA, 26,  
an exceptional beauty, hurries to Father Leo

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Where's John Doe?

NURSE ELANA  
On his way.

FATHER LEO  
We're not starting without him.

DOUBLE DOORS part as TWO NURSE PRACTIONERS wheel in a special  
bed holding a special patient --

JOHN DOE, 12,

trembling, spasmodic, and confined to breathing apparatus,  
oxygen, heart monitor, I.V., and an elaborate mechanical  
device which braces him at a 45 degree angle as

Father Leo is relieved to see him as

JOHN DOE TAPS HIS FINGER EXCITEDLY AGAINST HIS BED FRAME

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Hush! He speaks.

THE CHILDREN POUND THE FLOOR AND CLAP IN UNISON:

CHILDREN  
*Story! Story! Story!*

Nurses adjust the position of John Doe's bed as  
FATHER LEO EXTENDS HIS ARMS LIKE MOSES AT THE RED SEA --

FATHER LEO  
Tech check!

BIG PROTESTS

CHILDREN  
No!

BART  
We had that already.

FATHER LEO  
You have?

HOT ROCK  
We're good, go.

FATHER LEO  
Okay, everybody quiet, now.

AUDIENCE QUIETS AS WINKEN DIMS LIGHTS AND  
BLINKEN IGNITES A FOG MACHINE AS  
HOT ROCK RAMPS UP MUSIC AND  
NODULE NODS, "GO!"

FATHER LEO LEANS INTO MICROPHONE WITH SONOROUS TONES --

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
"Far beyond the reaches of  
objective human experience" --

ASHLEY raises his hand

ASHLEY  
What's "objective?"

FATHER LEO  
Remember yesterday, it means things  
you can see like your blanket.  
Today, we're taking you someplace  
you can't see. "Further than the  
eye can see or the ear can heed."

John Doe's HEART MONITOR BEEPS as

THE "GALAXY GLOBE" LIGHTS UP THE ROOM TO CREATE A "UNIVERSE"

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
 "Further away than the faintest  
 star and deeper than the deepest  
 mountain spring --

Winken flips a "LIGHTNING SWITCH" and Hot Rock pumps THUNDER  
 SOUND EFFECTS AND

THE ROOM LIGHTS UP in Disney-like COLORS as SCREAMS of  
 fright/delight ECHO

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
 "-- lies a realm of mystery, quiet  
 and ineffable."

DOCTOR KAYASHI, 45, EMERGES FROM CURTAIN BEHIND THE PODIUM  
 AND WHISPERS TO FATHER LEO --

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
 Not bad for no-budget.

FATHER LEO  
 This is Hollywood, Doctor. You  
 think I'd bring a dog to the party?

ASHLEY  
 What's "ineffable?"

FATHER LEO  
 Indescribable.

Bart punches Ashley

BART  
 You always talk during movies?

FATHER LEO  
 It's not a movie, Bart. It's your  
 imagination. "Its presence is felt  
 when babies cry, when old people  
 die, and very often at birthdays!"

ASHLEY  
 It's *my* birthday!

BART  
 Nobody cares.

FATHER LEO  
 "It is our only link with  
 immortality --

Blinken fans more FOG into the room

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
 "And we know it as Enchantment.

CHILDREN  
 Wow!

EXT. WHITE CLOUDS AGAINST BLUE SKY - RAHEA

FATHER LEO (V.O)  
 "Here lives a woman of great and  
 mystical powers."

Rahea ponders her surroundings as --

FATHER LEO (V.O) (CONT'D)  
 "Her name is Rahea, a timeless  
 beauty in dazzling white who walks  
 on clouds and, once you look upon  
 her, she melts you with her smile."

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - CHILDREN

ASHLEY  
 I see her!

BART  
 You don't see shit.

FATHER LEO  
 "She rules over vast forests,  
 pastures, waterfalls, a great pond,  
 and animals and birds of every  
 kind, for this is a world of her  
 own creation, a world that she  
 herself has formed -- this is  
 Emeralis."

EXT. CASTLE -DAY

Brilliantly backlit by a RED SUN, PEOPLE of all races, ages,  
 and time, flock to an open Castle doors as

INT. CASTLE HALL - RAHEA

sits on an elaborate Throne attended by 500 of her SUBJECTS  
 of all ages and colors.

HER NECK IS BEJEWELLED WITH AN ASTONISHING NECKLACE MADE OF FIVE GILDED GEMS --

RUBY, WHITE DIAMOND, EMERALD, SAPPHIRE, and BLACK DIAMOND.

RAHEA REMOVES THE NECKLACE, UNCOUPLES THE STONES, AND OFFERS THEM TO --

AMADOR THE OVERSEER,

dressed as an ordinary FARMER in a long coat, OVERALLS, PIPE, FEATHERED HAT, COLORFUL BOOTS, and a WISE, AUTHENTIC GRIN.

RAHEA  
Amador, my son and overseer, you  
will carry on my work.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - ASHLEY

ASHLEY  
What's an overseer?

FATHER LEO  
Remember that Amador "over-saw" and supervised Rahea's lands, the forests, meadows, and plains, and the Great Pond.

INT. CASTLE HALL - RAHEA

PRESENTS THE BRILLIANT WHITE DIAMOND

RAHEA  
Take the White Diamond, a symbol of the air and the winds that blow from the mountaintops. It shall serve the One!

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - GALAXY GLOBE

TURNS THE ROOM BRONZE AS WIND CHIMES ECHO --

FATHER LEO FLAILS HIS ARMS LIKE AN ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR AND

FATHER LEO  
"Then, Rahea presented the Black Diamond saying, "This is the Black Diamond, symbol of the ground we walk on.

CLOMPS THE STAGE

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
 " -- and it shall serve the One!"

INT. CASTLE HALL - RAHEA

PRESENTS THE RUBY AND THE ROOM SPARKLES RED

RAHEA  
 The Ruby is our Sun, the light of  
 the day and the warm but dangerous  
 fire at night, and it shall serve  
 the One.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - GALAXY GLOBE DRAPES THE ROOM IN BLUE

FATHER LEO  
 "She presented him the Sapphire  
 saying, 'This is the symbol of The  
 Great Pond, waterfalls, and rains  
 that nourish us, and it shall serve  
 the One.'"

EXT. CASTLE HALL - DAY

AMADOR THE OVERSEER  
 What is "the One?"

RAHEA PRESENTS EMERALIS, THE MOST BRILLIANT OF ALL

RAHEA  
 Behold, Anima Mundi, Soul of our  
 World!

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - CHILDREN

AWESTRUCK AS THE GLOBE TURNS THE ROOM GREEN

FATHER LEO  
 "And from her hands, she unveils  
 her masterwork."

INT. CASTLE HALL - THE EMERALIS

MAGICALLY GLIMMERS AND LIGHTS UP THE HALL IN GREEN FIRE --

RAHEA  
 The greatest, most powerful -- Life  
 itself. All others will serve it!

WHEN SUDDENLY --

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - LIGHTS OUT!

Hot Rock's MUSIC interrupts and the Galaxy Globe darkens at each corner of the room as

"FLAME THROWER" lights simulate DRAGONS' BREATH while FLICKERING LED lights simulate "EYES"

FATHER LEO  
Remember where we were yesterday?

BART  
The bad witch, Morra, comes in  
spitting fire.

FATHER LEO  
What does Morra want?

ASHLEY  
She wants all of the stones for  
herself because --

BART  
-- she's a raving, harpy bitch!

INT. CASTLE HALL - MORRA

APPEARS WITH FINGERS OF FIRE IN A HAZE OF AMETHYST FOG --

She dominates Rahea as Amador's expression turns sour and

MORRA  
I missed something?

RAHEA  
Morra, daughter! You weren't here,  
so we started without you.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - CHILDREN

shiver as the room turns PURPLE

BART  
I hate her!

FATHER LEO  
Bart, do we really hate anybody?

BART  
Hell, yeah! She wants to burn the  
whole place down.

CHILDREN CHEER as

INT. CASTLE HALL - MORRA'S FINGERS OF FIRE  
grab for EMERALIS --

RAHEA  
*Morra, no!*

MORRA REPELS RAHEA'S COMMAND

RAHEA (CONT'D)  
Emeralis belongs to Amador.

AMADOR SEIZES EMERALIS, BUT  
THE FOUR OTHER STONES DROP INTO MORRA'S HANDS

MORRA  
How foolish of me.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY -

FATHER LEO  
"Blood drips from her eyeballs and  
her nose swells with indignation!"

BART  
You know indignation, Ashley --

Ashley jumps up

ASHLEY  
Yeah, you, assho --

FATHER LEO  
-- *Holy* curses, Batman! Stay in  
your seat!

Ashley plops as --

INT. CASTLE HALL ENTRANCE DOORS - MORRA RAISES HER ARMS

MORRA  
My knights, Lucan and Raven, assist  
with my birthright. The honorable  
Vanguard stands at the gate!



Two armored, DARK KNIGHTS

LUCAN, 35, handsome and of considerable size, and

RAVEN, 33, crouching but cunning and intense, march to Rahea's throne

RAHEA

Why bring threats when I asked for  
a covenant?

MORRA

What good is a covenant when you  
leave me without Emeralis?

Rahea stands --

RAHEA

I have given you powers beyond your  
imagination.

EXT. CASTLE - THE VANGUARD ARMY OF HORSE SOLDIERS

stands by listening

RAHEA (O.S.)

Use them in good faith or you will  
destroy everything within these  
walls and yourselves with it.

INT. CASTLE HALL - MORRA

chuckles --

MORRA

I will use them.

Morra urges Lucan and Raven to bow and

Amador kneels in obeisance as

RAHEA TURNS AWAY --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)

"And as Rahea fades from sight, she  
is heard to say, 'Go with the peace  
of the Emeralis, symbol of all  
life, and when you look upon it,  
may you see me and think of me.'"

AS RAHEA FADES AWAY, FACES OF HER SUBJECTS ARE IN AWE

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - CHILDREN'S FACES

ARE IN AWE AS

opens his flask and SNEAKS A DRINK as

"GALAXY GLOBE" FADES and

WINKEN TURNS LIGHTS UP

ASHLEY

What happens next?

BART

Yeah, talk, lady!

Father Leo hides the flask and side-eyes

JOHN DOE as he taps his ring against his bed rail --

FATHER LEO

"And so it came to pass that Morra  
led Lucan, Raven, and the Vanguard  
out towards the Great Pond to stand  
guard over all the land.

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - AMADOR THE OVERSEER

looks out over the landscape

FATHER LEO (V.O.)

"And with Emeralis around his neck,  
Amador sees to it that all living  
things live in harmony and natural  
balance with the great power that  
has been given to him."

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - FATHER LEO

closes up his notes and

FATHER LEO

That's it for now.

CHILDREN GRUMBLE as

Nurses escort them out and

Elana hovers at John Doe's bed

ELANA  
How are you today, kid?

FATHER LEO MAKES A BEELINE TO JOHN DOE WHO TAPS

FATHER LEO  
Hey, Mark Twain, happy?

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Pretty good? I thought it was  
great!

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Yes, I know, but take credit where  
you can. We don't get much in this  
world. Why were you late?

JOHN DOE FROWNS

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
More tests?

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Well, whatever doctor says, but  
send me more story tonight, okay?

JOHN DOE NODS AND TAPS

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Of course, you're welcome, and if I  
can make a suggestion --

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Raise the stakes, make it scarier.

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Why? Because whatever happened to  
you was worse than any "story" and  
we want the bad people.

JOHN DOE SQUEEZES FATHER LEO'S HAND AS

Elana watches --

ELANA  
If I didn't see with my own eyes --

FATHER LEO  
What?

ELANA  
He talks after all.

FATHER LEO  
He talks. We just have to learn how to listen.

ELANA  
Some story!

Father Leo suspects doubt

FATHER LEO  
You think I'm making it up?

ELANA  
I don't know, Father, are you?

INT. DOCTOR KAYASHI'S OFFICE - DOCTOR KAYASHI  
on PHONE as --

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Forensics? That's hard to believe  
LAPD can't --

FATHER LEO KNOCKS AND ENTERS, KAYASHI ENDS CALL

KAYASHI  
Thanks.

Click!

FATHER LEO  
Why was he late?

KAYASHI  
How's your drinking?

FATHER LEO  
We got 30 kids out there howling  
for his next chapter and you tie  
him up in testing.

KAYASHI  
You're not the doctor and we're  
testing to find out his condition.

FATHER LEO  
He's traumatized, PTSD, shell-  
shocked, call it what you want --

KAYASHI  
There are other possibilities --

FATHER LEO  
Something bad happened, Jiro,  
nobody knows, and he's telling us  
through that story.

KAYASHI  
By Tap Code?

FATHER LEO  
Who knows how he knows it, who  
knows why, but we used it in the  
prison camps of all places. *I* used  
it there and somebody taught him to  
use it here.

KAYASHI  
He's a John Doe, Leo.

A beat

FATHER LEO  
What's that mean?

KAYASHI  
Tests are tests, we don't have  
witnesses, LAPD Forensics got  
nothing, so --

FATHER LEO  
Don't make him late next time. If  
you want to get him out of here,  
his story is his key.

Father Leo walks as Kayashi picks up the phone

KAYASHI  
Gay priest in drag thinks he's  
Freud --

Father Leo re-enters

FATHER LEO  
Who said "gay?" I have vows, Doctor  
Honey.

EXT. MORRA'S ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT FIRES

Morra is flanked by Lucan and Raven. She fingers her FOUR GEMSTONES as Lucan chomps on a leg of FOWL and Raven smokes a PIPE

LUCAN  
What is this Emeralis, really?

RAVEN  
Whatever it is, it is bigger than you.

LUCAN  
Nothing's bigger than me.

RAVEN  
That leg of fowl is bigger than your ignorant mouth.

Lucan grabs Raven with one hand and with the other

LUCAN  
I can stuff it down your beak and you will talk less!

MORRA RISES UP

MORRA  
Enough!

Lucan and Raven cower

MORRA (CONT'D)  
I was ordained as a child to serve my brother and now, as a woman, I serve him still! -- Ascara!

EXT. MORRA'S TENT - ASCARA, 25

A movie-star gorgeous, ravishing, and clever WITCH, throws open a TENT FLAP

ASCARA  
Here!

MORRA (O.S.)  
Bring the box.

ASCARA RETREATS TO THE TENT

EXT. MORRA'S ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT FIRES

RAVEN  
As long as Amador has Emeralis, we  
are doomed.

ASCARA JOINS MORRA WITH AN ORNATE BOX

MORRA  
Open it.

Ascara opens the BOX

THE WHITE DIAMOND, THE SAPPHIRE, THE BLACK DIAMOND, and RUBY

Morra reaches for the White Diamond and the Sapphire

MORRA (CONT'D)  
Doomed, my green-eyed Raven?

RAVEN  
Your bliss is my command.

Morra dangles the two gems above the fire and they bounce and  
tinkle against each other

LUCAN  
Majesty. Raven would grab power  
away from your mother's vision. One  
look, the slightest taste --

Morra fingers the White Diamond and the Sapphire as

WIND BLOWS WITH DISTANT THUNDER

RAVEN  
Lucan is an idiot.

Ascara cowers as DARK CLOUDS hover AND

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
"Morra strikes the two stones  
together full force and lightning  
crackles to the ground -- "

LIGHTNING and THUNDER HURL ASCARA, RAVEN, AND LUCAN DOWN --

LUCAN  
Blast!

Ascara hides her face as

A LIGHTNING BOLT PENETRATES MORRA

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "And Morra is transfigured before  
 them. Her face turns a dreadful  
 shade of purple and her hair blazes  
 with white streaks as -- "

Morra faces Lucan and Raven

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 -- her eyes become a sickening  
 green.

LUCAN  
 What's this?

MORRA GRABS THEIR HANDS AND CHANTS

MORRA  
*Oman beuble ote!*

Lucan pulls away, but Raven holds onto her as

RAVEN  
 Ascara, what's she saying?

ASCARA  
 I don't know it --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "But, as Lucan breaks away in fear,  
 Morra's green eyes turn to the sky  
 and the trolling clouds above as  
 the wind whips through the  
 encampment."

Morra grabs hold of trembling Lucan and Raven and

MORRA  
*Eton gato ivek!*

THUNDERCLAP and

LIGHTING BOLTS PASS THROUGH THEM AND RAVEN'S AND LUCAN'S EYES  
 GLOW GREEN AS

Ascara darts behind a rock

WHITE OUT as

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOBBY - SERGEANT OMAR  
 escorts Doctor Kayashi outside



DOCTOR KAYASHI  
What did you want to show me?

SERGEANT OMAR  
Have you noticed the kid across the street? Good looking kid, about 16, sunglasses, Dodger baseball cap?

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
What kid?

Sergeant Omar looks across the street and --

EXT. SUNSET BOULEVARD CORNER - EMPTY

Protestors gone --

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOBBY - SERGEANT OMAR

SERGEANT OMAR  
He was there a few minutes ago and he's been there ever since Father Leo started that story.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Who is he?

SERGEANT OMAR  
We don't know. We thought you --

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
We're a little busy inside --

SERGEANT OMAR  
I had him followed.

Unconvinced Doctor Kayashi nods

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Any leads we can get, I guess. Why him out of all the other nuts out here?

SERGEANT OMAR  
A hunch.

Sergeant Omar gets into waiting LAPD SUV --

INT. AMADOR'S CABIN - NIGHT

Amador sleeps in a crude bed as THUNDERCLAP startles him awake. He senses what's happened and clutches Emeralis as

EXT. MORRA'S ENCAMPMENT - THUNDER/LIGHTNING SUBSIDE AS

Smoke and fire encircle the camp and

LUCAN HAS NO FACE!

FATHER LEO  
"Lucan is blind --"

Ascara turns to locate others when

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
"-- and Raven is turned into a lime green version of the bird of his namesake so that he cannot be seen in the forest."

LIME GREEN Raven SQUAWKS, and FLAPS onto Morra's shoulder --

MORRA  
My pets: now, we shall seek  
Emeralis together.

ASCARA SLIPS AWAY INTO THE FOREST

EXT. FOREST - MORRA

leads Lucan, his face now covered by a hood, and the now faceless VANGUARD ON HORSEBACK and

MORRA CASTS LIGHTNING BOLTS FROM HER FINGERTIPS

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
"Riding West into the night, they ravaged and raped the land it had been their charge to protect."

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - FATHER LEO

SLAMS HIS BRIEFCASE CLOSED

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS ALTAR - ORDINATION DAY

The Church filled to capacity with all ages, all races,  
young, old, healthy (and not) as Choir chants and

ARCHBISHOP CARLOS VASQUEZ, 60,

blesses SEVEN POSTULANTS who lay prostrate as --

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Congratulations our seven  
postulants and welcome to your new  
lives in the priesthood.

FACES IN THE CROWD absorb the gravity --

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ (CONT'D)  
Your mission is to bring glad  
tidings, proclaim freedom from  
today's cynicism and hate, heal  
wounded minds, bring comfort to the  
heartbroken, and be a voice of hope  
and light in our world. You, new  
shepherds, speak softly, be slow to  
anger, quick to forgive, and guard  
your flock with your life.

Archbishop Vasquez raises his arms in a blessing as Everyone  
bows heads --

INT. ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ'S WILSHIRE BLVD. OFFICE - FATHER LEO,  
Winken (FATHER WINSTON), Blinken (FATHER BRUNO), and Nodule  
(FATHER BUD), DRESSED in CLERICAL COLLARS and OUT OF DRAG,  
sit quietly in rectory chairs while --

Hot Rock, also out of drag, slouches in a corner wearing torn  
jeans, t-shirt. He cradles "Galaxy Globe" while across the  
room --

Llewellyn Lincoln and VERNA LINDSTROM, 35, with bigger HAIR  
and ATTITUDE, face off in PISSED OFF FORCED WHISPERS AS

VERNA REACHES OUT TO CALM LLEWELLYN

VERNA  
You're fidgeting.

LLEWELLYN SLAPS VERNA'S HAND

LLEWELLYN  
Make me wait here with --

VERNA  
Shh, we're in God's office.

LLEWELLYN  
Easy for you, I haven't had a date  
in six husbands.

VERNA  
Whose fault is that?

LLEWELLYN  
I want more action.

VERNA  
Like what?

LLEWELLYN  
A three-way would help.

VERNA  
You're asking me?

LLEWELLYN  
Shut up, you're not listening like  
you never do.

VERNA  
Start with a two-way and work your  
way up.

Scatterbrained Archbishop Vasquez opens the door --

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Damnation, Yolanda! You book  
Eyewitness News for a half hour  
when you know it takes them that  
long to rig their fu-fu-

Archbishop SEES his guests

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ (CONT'D)  
-- FUNny equipment. Hello children,  
sorry, I'm late. --Yolanda?

YOLANDA (O.S.)  
We'll push.

Archbishop Vasquez senses thick air in the room and notices  
Llewellyn and Verna as he sits --

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Everyone having a nice day?

VERNA  
Hardly.

LLEWELLYN  
We're here to complain.

FATHER LEO  
Eminence --

Archbishop waves off Father Leo and looks to Llewellyn

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
I was briefed. You don't want to  
read to the children anymore.

LLEWELLYN  
*Huh?*

VERNA  
What?

FATHER LEO  
Archbishop, this is Llewellyn  
Lincoln and Verna Linseed.

VERNA  
Lindstom.

FATHER LEO  
They're not happy with --

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Yes well, the Archdiocese is in the  
red already this year. Is it money?

VERNA  
It's not about money.

LLEWELLYN  
It's about drag queens.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
And?

A beat

VERNA  
Why do you keep looking at us?  
We're not the drag queens! They  
are!

FATHER LEO  
You remember me, Archbishop, Father  
Leo from Hollywood?

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
The Jesuit.

LLEWELLYN  
Tell him what they call you in that  
green wig.

FATHER LEO  
"Emerald Sissy," Eminence.

VERNA  
That should clue you.

FATHER LEO  
Our team is Father Winston from  
Ventura, Father Bruno from  
Capistrano, Father Bud from Solana  
Beach, volunteers all.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Who's the dude with the globe?

FATHER LEO  
That's Hot Rock, our musician.

HOT ROCK  
I'm not holy.

LLEWELLYN  
We want you to do something about  
these perverts reading to our kids.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Like what?

LLEWELLYN  
Excommunicate them.

Archbishop Vasquez considers

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Who's Father Winston?

FATHER WINSTON  
Here, Eminence, Ventura.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
And Capistrano?

FATHER BRUNO  
Franciscan.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
And Father Bud?

FATHER LEO  
Solano Beach.

FATHER BUD  
Surfer.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
That settles it.

VERNA  
What?

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Out of my bishopric.

LLEWELLYN  
What about Emerald Sissy?

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
He's Jesuit.

FATHER LEO  
We answer to a higher authority.  
Didn't you see "The Exorcist?"

LLEWELLYN AND VERNA JUMP UP IN INDIGNATION

LLEWELLYN  
So, it's okay these perverts turn  
our kids into non-binary freaks?

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
I have no opinion because I have no  
authority.

LLEWELLYN  
We'll get authority. We'll go to  
the police!

VERNA  
The Pope!

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Are we done?

INT. ARCHBISHOP'S OFFICE - LLEWELLYN AND VERNA STORM OUT  
as distracted Yolanda offers a HOLY CARD --

YOLANDA (O.S.)  
Follow-up?

LLEWELLYN  
Take a flying --

DOOR SLAMS

YOLANDA  
Onward Christian Soldiers.

EXT. ARCHDIOCESE WILSHIRE OFFICES COURTYARD - FATHER LEO  
and Archbishop Vasquez stroll through GARDENS

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
"Emerald Sissy!" That's funny.

FATHER LEO  
Sorry, Eminence --

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
How did all this get started?

FATHER LEO  
We have John Doe at Children's.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
Children's Hospital? Best in the  
world. Who is he?

FATHER LEO  
12, bedridden, on oxygen, can't or  
won't speak, but he knows Tap Code  
which somebody taught him.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
The what?

FATHER LEO  
Based on a square using a five-by-  
five grid of letters representing  
the Latin alphabet, except K which  
is a C. May I show you?

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
I'll Google it.

FATHER LEO  
He taps his story to me by phone  
through his doctor's office, I  
write it out by night, and tell it  
to the kids after.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
He learned at 12?



FATHER LEO  
We're trying to figure that out.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
And the drag business?

FATHER LEO  
His want. The others heard about it  
and --

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
In that case, Father, you don't  
need my approval, if you catch my  
meaning.

Father Leo kisses Archbishop's RING

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ (CONT'D)  
Keep me in the loop, not by text or  
email, and no voice mails.

INT. FATHER LEO'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Father Leo, OUT OF DRAG, types on his computer while  
listening to TAP CODE on HEADPHONES UNTIL

FAINT TAPPING ON DOOR (O.S.), then KNOCKING!

Father Leo drops headphones, and opens the door as  
FATHER JOSEPH NENE ODU, 39, AFRICAN PRIEST, enters

FATHER JOSEPH NENE ODU  
Have you seen outside?

FATHER LEO JUMPS UP AND DARTS TO THE WINDOW

FATHER LEO  
I've been working --

EXT. VIEW FROM APARTMENT WINDOW - PROTESTORS  
swarm with ANGRY SIGNAGE and FOUL LANGUAGE

INT. FATHER LEO'S APARTMENT - FATHER ODU  
pants, sweats, and weaves his HANDS

FATHER JOSEPH NENE ODU  
You have to get the hell out, Leo.  
We can't afford your publicity.  
(MORE)

FATHER JOSEPH NENE ODU (CONT'D)  
 Parishioners barely afford their  
 rents, the young ones sleep at  
 Covenant House across the street,  
 we have more bills than we can pay,  
 and you are not helping! *Not*  
*helping!*

Father Leo grabs Father Joseph by the SHOULDERS

FATHER LEO  
 Joseph! Take it easy, calm down.  
 Let me think.

EXT. VIEW FROM APARTMENT WINDOW - FATHER LEO

rushes to see Protestors yell angry slurs --

FATHER ODU (O.S.)  
 I'm sorry, Leo. Can't Blessed  
 Sacrament help you on Sunset  
 Boulevard? They're Jesuit.

FATHER LEO  
 Too many hookers.

INT. ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH - FATHER LEO (OUT OF DRAG)

kneels in a PEW before an UNASSUMING ALTAR IN A POOR  
 NEIGHBORHOOD while he holds PAGES OF JOHN DOE'S STORY --

FATHER LEO  
 Lord, Look! Help me out now to not  
 give up. Nobody in their right  
 mind, believer or not, would take  
 on this one, but my vows put me  
 here and here I am. Could you,  
 please, just this once after all  
 we've been through, *give a few*  
*pointers?*

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - FIRES BLAZE

AN ENORMOUS TREE SCARRED FROM LIGHTING WITH AN EXPOSED ROOT

FATHER LEO (V.O)  
 "And when things were at their  
 darkest as Morra and her Vanguard  
 wasted their way West, terrifying  
 all living things in their way,  
 something unexpected occurred.

The ROOT BREATHES, TWISTS, CONTORTS, AND COMES TO LIFE

FATHER LEO (V.O.)

"The forces under Morra had given  
accidental birth to a new form of  
life, itself not wicked, just very  
low --

WHISTLE RISES FROM THE DIRT, a burly half-animal, half-tree,  
semi-human BEING with hands like roots and a beard of DRIED  
LEAVES --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)

-- known as Whistle."

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - GALAXY GLOBE LIGHTS

FLARE AS CHILDREN LISTEN

ASHLEY

If he's called Whistle, does he  
whistle?

FATHER LEO

A gap in his front teeth makes him  
whistle when he speaks.

BART

I bet he spits. People with gaps in  
their front teeth tend to spit.

Bart grins, showing a GAP in his front TEETH

FATHER LEO

You know that for sure, Bart?

ASHLEY

He spits on me.

EXT. FOREST - NIGHT - WHISTLE

turns about, stretches, looks around, and SPITS --

WHISTLE

Where's Twigs? Twigses?

From behind, a figure similar to Whistle emerges

TWIGS, cute, but a young, goofy root, SEES FOREST FIRES!

TWIGS

Fire! Twigs hates fire! Help!

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "And Whistle had a little brother  
 called Twigs, and while they always  
 argued as brothers do, they knew  
 they had only each other to rely  
 on."

WHISTLE AND TWIGS RUN AROUND, BUMP INTO EACH OTHER, AND  
 SCREAM AS --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "And when they saw Morra's fires,  
 they uprooted themselves and fled."

WHISTLE AND TWIGS RUN FOR THEIR LIVES AS  
 MORRA AND THE VANGUARD THUNDER PAST

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "And well they should for it was on  
 that fateful night that Morra  
 burned every other tree and bush in  
 the West End to the ground, for  
 this was the beginning of the  
 coming of Darkness."

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - HOT ROCK

grinds big, suspenseful MUSIC and everything goes DARK as  
 Doctor Kayashi startles Father Leo --

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
 Leo?

FATHER LEO  
 I can't talk now.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
 Meet me in his room asap.

BART  
 What's going on? Hurry up.

Father Leo sneaks a drink from his flask, closes the  
 briefcase, and --

FATHER LEO  
 "And miraculously, under all those  
 dark clouds, there is about that  
 time a silver lining --

Hot Rock fades in "optimistic" MUSIC as --

EXT. AMADOR THE OVERSEER'S CABIN - DAY

Cabin door opens, Amador emerges wearing his feathered hat as EMERALIS hangs from his neck. Lovingly, he cradles a pet SKUNK and as he puts it down:

AMADOR THE OVERSEER  
Off you go now, Rosie. Go out there  
and get yourself something good to  
eat. Go on.

Amador takes out a hand-carved pipe, lights up, and happily continues away talking (sometimes unintelligibly) to various trees and bushes as he passes by.

EXT. FOREST - DAY - WHISTLE AND TWIGS

spy on Amador --

TWIGS  
Is that him?

WHISTLE  
Doofuss! Acorn scum! It's him.

WIGS  
Stealing Emeralis not good quest.

Whistle BONKS Twigs

WHISTLE  
You'll change your tune when Morra  
aims a lightning bolt at you.

TWIGS  
Lightnings?

WHISTLE  
Emeralis protects us. Go!

Whistle shoves Twigs away and Twigs stalks

EXT. FOREST STREAM - AMADOR

lumbers to the stream, removes his hat and coat, then  
splashes his face as Twigs dives in and swims until --

EXT. UNDERWATER FOREST STREAM - TWIGS

swims underneath Amador

POV -- Twigs SEES Emeralis hangs at Amador's neck and  
TWIGS PLUCKS EMERALIS WHICH CAUSES

EXT. FOREST STREAM - AMADOR

plunges into the water and Twigs and AMADOR fight until  
Amador gags and Twigs SNAPS the Emeralis from AMADOR's neck.

As Amador succumbs, Twigs holds up Emeralis for Whistle to  
SEE, but Amador rebounds and tackles Twigs and they struggle  
again. After a moment, Twigs manages to squirm out of  
Amador's hold and

TWIGS RUNS OFF WITH EMERALIS

INT. FOREST GULLY - WHISTLE

holds up Emeralis and admires it while Twigs, dripping wet,  
pants like a frazzled dog --

WHISTLE  
More than I imagined.

TWIGS  
Give it back, it's mine.

WHISTLE  
Go away! What's wrong with you?

TWIGS  
I stole it.

WHISTLE  
If it wasn't for my idea, you'd be  
squirming in that East End hole we  
grew up in.

TWIGS  
Your idea, Twigs' Emeralis!

TWIGS YANKS EMERALIS AWAY FROM WHISTLE

WHISTLE  
No!

Whistle scrambles up to chase Twigs, but --

TWIGS  
Ha, ha, Whistle too fat!

SUDDENLY, TWIGS BRAKES IN HIS TRACKS WHEN HE SEES

EXT. RAVINE AND CLIFF - TWIGS

teeters on the edge of an 800' drop:

TWIGS

Uh-oh.

Whistle grabs Twigs and

WHISTLE

Rootless, annoying, ungrateful  
blight!

pins Twigs between himself and the cliff --

TWIGS

Get away from me!

WHISTLE

Who takes care of Twigs? Who feeds  
Twigs? Who waters Twigs?

TWIGS

Stop or Twigs go with Emeralis.

Whistle lurches for Emeralis and --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)

"But in his greed, Whistle  
accidentally knocks Emeralis out of  
Twigs' grasp and --

Emeralis DROPS into the ravine:

WHISTLE/TWIGS

***No!***

EMERALIS FALLS AND FALLS

FATHER LEO (V.O.)

"-- Thus, Emeralis becomes  
hopelessly lost and it remains lost  
long, long after."

HOSPITAL AUDIENCE (O.S.)

***No!***

INT. JOHN DOE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - JOHN DOE

grins as Kayashi and Father Leo approach his bed

DOCTOR KAYASHI

Hi kid, good day today?

FATHER LEO WRAPS HIS HAND AROUND THE BED RAILING LISTENING AS  
JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO  
He says, "Awesome!"

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Father Leo and I want to help you.

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO  
He says, "You help now."

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
We want to know more about you --

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO  
"Sleep."

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
If only you would --

JOHN DOE TAPS

FATHER LEO  
He says, "Put the lime in the  
coconut!"

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
The what?

FATHER LEO URGES KAYASHI OUT AND INTO

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - FATHER LEO AND HAYASHI  
whisper outside --

FATHER LEO  
It's called "Coconut Song," Harry  
Nilsson, 1971. The kid knows it  
from some family argument. Whatever  
the song means, to him it means,  
"stick it!"

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Take our guesthouse, Father. You  
need a place. We don't have guests  
and the pool separates you from the  
house. We'll work together.



Father Leo waffles --

DOCTOR KAYASHI (CONT'D)  
Well?

FATHER LEO  
Not right now.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Failed writer, alcoholic, *hero!*  
What difference does it make?  
You're his chaplain, not his  
therapist.

FATHER LEO  
He's incoherent.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
You fill in the blanks?

FATHER LEO  
For you, it's medical. For me, it's  
story.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Do what you can, and by the way,  
our friendly LAPD Sergeant Omar did  
some checking on his own.

KAYASHI OFFERS FATHER LEO KEYS

DOCTOR KAYASHI (CONT'D)  
He thinks John Doe has a friend or  
relative, maybe a brother.

EXT. FARMHOUSE WITH FOREST IN DISTANCE - DAY

Recalcitrant SEAN, 12,

sits on a swing under an OAK TREE, daydreaming as --

Big Brother ERIC, 14

spurs a HORSE around a CORRAL --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
"And Emeralis is lost until two  
brothers figure in its fate."

Eric urges his HORSE out of the corral and over to Sean --

ERIC  
 Hey, Sean, lazy man, you gonna  
 daydream all day?

No reply --

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 I'm not doing your chores again.

No reply --

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 I'll take you riding when you're  
 done.

Eric points to the forest, but Sean is quiet, so Eric rides  
 off --

THEN, AS SEAN KICKS DIRT, HE SEES --

A BRILLIANT FLASH OF GREEN LIGHT BURSTS FROM THE FOREST

Eric does NOT see the green flash, but he SEES Sean's  
 curiosity as Sean jumps off the swing and watches as

SEAN RUNS INTO THE FOREST

ERIC (CONT'D)  
 Where are you going? Stop! You know  
 what Mom said!

EXT. FOREST - SEAN

enters and looks for the source of the light as a heavy mist  
 covers the ground as he SEES--

EMERALIS HANGS FROM A DECAYING LOG BY A STREAM

ERIC (O.S.)  
*SEAN! Mom said don't go in there  
 alone!*

EXT. FOREST STREAM - SEAN

takes Emeralis, holds it into SUNLIGHT, and is bedazzled, but  
 confused by its BEAUTY --

SEAN  
 Wow!

SUDDENLY, SEAN SEES RAHEA APPEAR BEHIND EMERALIS, SHE SEES  
 HIM, AND SMILES

SEAN (CONT'D)  
Who are you?

RAHEA TURNS AWAY

SEAN (CONT'D)  
Wait!

Sean leaps across the stream and follows

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - SEAN

stops to catch his breath. He holds Emeralis up to the sun again and SEES RAHEA

SEAN  
Stop, I was looking for you.

RAHEA  
And I look for you.

Rahea fades away again and Sean pockets Emeralis, runs up a slight hill to follow, but trips over a LOG and tumbles headfirst at the feet of --

TWIGS  
*Ah-yello!*

SEAN  
Who are you?

Sudden, earthshaking BOOMS (O.S.)

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - HOT ROCK

pounds a MAKESHIFT KETTLE DRUM

FATHER LEO  
"Suddenly, a great booming sound is heard like the sound of a giant tree walking, if trees could walk!"

EXT. FOREST - TWIGS

jumps into ERIC's arms --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
"Twigs freaks at the sound because he knows."

WHISTLE  
What's this?

Sean drops Twigs as Whistle grabs him by the NECK --

WHISTLE (CONT'D)  
State your business!

SEAN  
I was in my swing when I saw a, a  
woman --

WHISTLE  
Woman?

SEAN  
A beautiful woman.

A young woman's GIGGLE (O.S.) as

ROSETTE, 14, captivating and coquettish, disappears behind a  
tree.

WHISTLE  
That's no woman, that's Rosette.

Whistle turns to Rosette --

WHISTLE (CONT'D)  
Food, girl! My daughter.

Rosette giggles

WHISTLE (CONT'D)  
Now, go away. Busy, very busy.

SEAN  
Why?

WHISTLE  
Something you couldn't know about.  
A trinket, a bauble, useless to  
everybody but me.

SEAN  
If it's useless, why do you want it  
so bad?

TWIGS  
Boy smart.

WHISTLE  
In the family long times since  
Morra's burning of the West.

SEAN  
Morra?

EXT. FOREST SUNSET - ERIC

goads his horse across rolling hills --

ERIC  
Sean! Hey, Sean! Where are you?

EXT. FOREST - MORRA AND LUCAN

gallop up and SEE Eric --

LUCAN  
He found it here.

MORRA  
Why didn't you stay with him?

She snuggles Raven --

MORRA (CONT'D)  
Find him!

Raven squawks and flies off as

MORRA (CONT'D)  
The rest of you, bring him to me.  
You can't kill him while he has it,  
just get him.

ERIC (O.S.)  
Hey, Sean?

ERIC RIDES TO WITHIN A FEW YARDS, BUT DOESN'T SEE MORRA

MORRA  
Who's this?

MORRA TAKES HOLD OF THE BLACK DIAMOND

MORRA (CONT'D)  
Mighty talisman, give us a little  
crack in the world.

As Eric rides, Morra chants --

MORRA (CONT'D)  
*Omanis!*

the Earth rolls and quakes and --

MORRA (CONT'D)  
*Statare fosto tallit!*

A CREVASSE OPENS UP IN ERIC'S PATH

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "And Morra's spell over the Earth  
 splits the land --

Eric SEES the crevasse, pulls back on his reins, and just as  
 they are about to plunge in,

ERIC'S HORSE BRAKES AND TOSSES ERIC OVER ITS HEAD

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 " -- and the horse throws Eric into  
 Morra's trap."

EXT. FOREST - SEAN

jumps into Twig's arms as the Earth shakes --

SEAN  
 What's that sound?

WHISTLE  
 That -- is Morra!

INT. AMADOR'S CABIN - AMADOR

reacts to the quake, looks outside

AMADOR THE OVERSEER  
 You have come at last!

EXT. AMADOR'S CABIN - AMADOR THE OVERSEER

hurries outside holding an elaborate, rolled blanket. He  
 rolls it out to reveal AN ORNATE, OAK BOW with SILVER  
 ENCASING at either end and --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "And Amador The Overseer prepares  
 for what he knows is coming."

-- takes out a set of DIAMOND TIPPED ARROWS

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "He arms himself with a magical bow  
 and diamond-tipped arrows."

Awkwardly, as if the bow is too powerful for him, Amador aims an arrow up into the sky and, trembling, releases it.

EXT. SKY - THE ARROW

soars skyward in a dazzling display of color and light:

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
 "In a signal to Morra, Amador's  
 arrow explodes in the sky for all  
 to see, terrifying animals, trees,  
 critters, and everything in  
 between!"

THUNDER

EXT. FOREST - WHISTLE, TWIGS, ROSETTE, AND SEAN

quiver in fear as dark CLOUDS move in --

WHISTLE  
 Whistle smells war.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - FATHER LEO

closes his script.

FATHER LEO  
 That's it for now.

CHILDREN PROTEST as Father Leo discovers his FLASK IS EMPTY --

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
 Shit!

EXT. DR. KAYASHI'S HOLLYWOOD HILLS POOL - EVENING

Doctor Kayashi climbs out as Father Leo, out of drag and dressed in clerical shirt and collar, sits in a lounge chair in front of a FULL BAR and GUEST HOUSE. He takes drink of SCOTCH just as

MRS. KAYASHI, 39, delivers HORS D'OEUVRES

MRS. KAYASHI  
 We're glad you took our invitation,  
 Father.

Kayashi dries off --

FATHER LEO  
I am as well.

MRS. KAYASHI  
Dinner soon.

Mrs. Kayashi exits and --

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Don't get too complacent, Leo.

FATHER LEO  
Never.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
We're in trouble. Mothers-For-Liberty is suing the hospital about the drag thing.

FATHER LEO  
The comedy trips on itself.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
You have a contact at Covenant House?

FATHER LEO  
Why?

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Sergeant Omar thinks John Doe's brother or friend hangs out there.

FATHER LEO  
If LAPD knows something, let him --

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Leo, he wants to help --

FATHER LEO  
Covenant House is sanctuary!

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
What's that mean to anybody when so much money's at stake? Hungry?

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Whistle grabs Rosette --

WHISTLE  
Feed me!



As Whistle drags Rosette away, Sean takes Emeralis from his pocket and shows Twigs --

SEAN  
Is this what you're looking for?

Twigs SEES and GAWKS

TWIGS  
No! Bad luck! Everybody want  
Emeralis! Too risky.

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
"For as birdbrained as he is, Twigs  
has changed his mind. He is now  
smart enough to know that what  
everybody else wants, he doesn't."

EXT. SKY - RAVEN

SPOTS EMERALIS

EXT. FOREST - SEAN

scrambles up a hill, drops to his knees and looks in all  
directions until suddenly he SEES over his shoulder --

TWO GLOVED HANDS GRAB HIM

EXT. AMADOR'S CABIN - SUNSET

Hot Rock's HORRIFIC SOUND EFFECTS (O.S.)

AMADOR THE OVERSEER  
Yes, I hear you!

Amador shoves his feathered hat down, grabs his bow and  
arrows and --

EXT. FOREST - SEAN

jumps away from Lucan and drops to the ground as

EXT. SKY - SUNSET

Raven swoops through the clouds SQUAWKING

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - MORRA

alerts to Raven --

MORRA  
Come to Momma!

EXT. FOREST - DARK CLOUDS HOVER

Sean runs lost until he is stopped by A POISONOUS SNAKE --

VOICES (O.S)  
"Who's got Emeralis? Boy has  
Emeralis! We know he has it and we  
want it."

SNAKE coils and displays its TONGUE as SEAN SEES MORRA'S FACE  
IN THE SNAKE'S EYES. The Snake strikes and he jumps away when

THE SNAKE MORPHS INTO LUCAN AND

Lucan's horse rears up violently with A LOUD RUMBLING SOUND  
and Lucan grabs Sean up onto the horse and carries him away --

INT. FATHER ODU'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Father Leo sits across from Father Odu --

FATHER ODU  
Absolutely not. You cannot go in  
there. You know this.

FATHER LEO  
What if it's life or death --

FATHER ODU  
They are all life or death, Leo.  
Some because no education, some  
addicts, some trafficked, suicidal,  
some wrong skin color.

FATHER LEO  
If you could rescue one --?

FATHER ODU  
Sanctuary is Sanctuary! Not you,  
not parents, not police, not even  
God.

EXT. FOREST - STORM - AMADOR

struggles through overgrown brush and high grass, chomping on his pipe as --

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - MORRA AND LUCAN

lead the Vanguard away with Sean astride and screaming when they are joined by THIRD, FOURTH, FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH, EIGHTH RIDERS and then many more.

MORRA  
To the castle!

EXT. FOREST - AMADOR

arms his bow and fires an ARROW as

Hot Rock's SOUND EFFECTS (O.S.) continue as Amador's ARROW strikes First Rider and

RIDER #1 EXPLODES INTO A FLASH OF GREEN LIGHT

AMADOR THE OVERSEER  
Ah-ha! Gotcha!

With repeated ARROWS, AMADOR's beard magically changes from white, to gray, to black as Amador fires more and Vanguard Riders #4, #5, #6 explode and drop in WHITE-HOT BLAZES --

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST - LUCAN

clutches Sean as he rides and --

EXT. FOREST - AMADOR

scans the trees --

AMADOR THE OVERSEER  
Show yourself.

With Sean in his grip, Lucan gallops into a clearing and Lucan spurs his horse and the horse takes off towards Amador as Amador raises his LAST ARROW and releases it --

THE ARROW PLUNGES INTO LUCAN'S NECK AND

SEAN DROPS TO THE GROUND

Lucan yanks the arrow out and charges at Amador, but Amador dodges, but as Lucan passes

LUCAN THRUSTS THE ARROW INTO AMADOR'S SHOULDER

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - LIGHTS FLASH AND

CHILDREN

*No!*

EXT. FOREST - AMADOR

struggles to stand as Morra appears

MORRA

Where is my Emeralis?

AMADOR THE OVERSEER

Your Emeralis?

MORRA

Of course it is mine, old fool.  
What do you know?

AMADOR THE OVERSEER

You hunger for power over  
everything you would destroy.

MORRA

Where is it?

AMADOR THE OVERSEER

If I knew and gave it to you, what  
then?

Morra tosses her SCEPTER at him and it EXPLODES

FATHER LEO (V.O)

"And in a mighty anger which she  
never knew how to control, Morra  
hurls her scepter at Amador which  
flashes in a violent burst of green  
fire and smoke --

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - WINKEN AND BLINKEN'S DRAGONS

breathe LED simulated fire and fog into the room while  
CHILDREN SCREAM --

FATHER LEO

"As she rode away and Amador  
falters, his beard color changes  
from black, to gray, to white and  
once again, he is an old man."

EXT. FOREST - AMADOR

VFX: Amador's beard color changes to WHITE as he struggles to stand as he SEES Sean laying face down in brush. He rushes to his side while blood seeps through his fingers. He turns Sean over and listens for a heartbeat, then he takes him into his arms and carries him into --

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - AMADOR

lays unconscious Sean down and as he does so, he SEES  
Emeralis --

AMADOR

Unlucky boy, how did you come by  
this?

Ascara peers out from behind a tree and watches as Amador places Emeralis over Sean's heart and SEES --

AMADOR (CONT'D)

Anima Mundi, Soul of our World,  
restore life unto this boy!

A BRIGHT LIGHT EMANATES FROM AMADOR'S FINGERS AND RADIATES SO  
THAT SEAN IS LIT FROM INSIDE AND

AMADOR LOOKS UP INTO THE SKY, HIS EYES GLOW GREEN AND

SEAN BREATHES and opens his eyes --

SEAN LOOKS UP AT AMADOR AS AMADOR WRAPS SEAN'S FINGERS AROUND  
EMERALIS --

SEAN

No, don't. I don't want it. You  
take it.

Amador pushes Emeralis back --

AMADOR

Keep this close. It's the one thing  
she wants and as long as you have  
it, she is powerless.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - GALAXY GLOBE LIGHTS

flare and flash as

FATHER LEO

"Suddenly, the sky went black with clouds, Amador collapsed on the ground, and Sean was taken by the enemy!"

Crowd protests

CHILDREN

No!

FATHER LEO

And that's all for now.

INT. HOSPITAL BLOOD DRAW - LATER

Nurse Elana draws blood from Father Leo's ARM --

FATHER LEO

I know you're innocent, Elana, but by chance, have you seen my flask?

NURSE ELANA

If I did, do you think I'd give it to you?

FATHER LEO

We're all in this together --

NURSE ELANA

Doctor Kayashi assigned me to the kid *and* to you. He says if your lipids don't improve --

FATHER LEO

Lipids? As in "*Day of the Lipids*," the movie?

NURSE ELANA

-- if your liver fats don't resolve, one won't be around to help the other.

FATHER LEO

Amazing they make movies about liver fats.

NURSE ELANA

Quit drinking, Father. No alcohol!

FATHER LEO  
Quit lipids? I wouldn't think of  
it.

NURSE ELANA  
Do you want to help him or not?

FATHER LEO  
Yes, as soon as you find me that  
flask.

EXT. RAVINE - ERIC

wakes at the bottom of a ravine, muddied and beaten --

FATHER LEO (V.O.)  
"But, the boy's life wasn't over.  
For Eric, his brother, was alive  
and Eric knew what he must do! Both  
of their lives would never be the  
same."

FROM BEHIND A TREE, ASCARA PEEKS OUT

EXT. INTERSECTION WESTERN & FOUNTAIN, HOLLYWOOD, CA - NIGHT

Under "Western Ave" street sign and dressed in full drag,  
Father Leo struts beside Father Joseph Nene Odu, also in full  
drag, in HEELS and colorful BOAS --

FATHER ODU  
I'm going to Hell.

FATHER LEO  
This was your idea.

FATHER ODU  
Yes, because you can't be out here  
alone! Where did you get these  
itchy balloons?

FATHER LEO  
Dollar Store.

FATHER ODU  
We look like Tony Curtis and Jack  
Lemmon in *SOME LIKE IT HOT*.

FATHER LEO  
I look like Tony Curtis. You look  
like Namibia Ru Paul.

FATHER ODU  
Have you got the fake contract?

FATHER LEO  
Here.

From the shadows, THREE TEENAGE HOODS: JOAQUIN, OSCAR, AND RAUL rush them:

JOAQUIN  
Hey, girls --

OSCAR  
Who's this?

RAUL pops a SWITCHBLADE

RAUL  
Ladies of the night.

OSCAR  
How much, babies?

JOAQUIN  
Let's see those dresses, girls!

Joaquin picks at Father Leo's wig as

JOAQUIN (CONT'D)  
Baby sister would love it.

Oscar throws Father Leo against a chain link fence

OSCAR  
Sales girls work Sunset.

JOAQUIN  
Not down here on Western!

RAUL  
I want that wig!

Raul and Joaquin make sultry moves as Oscar grabs Father Leo's PURSE

FATHER ODU  
*Oscar!*

OSCAR STUNNED

OSCAR  
Huh?

Father Odu grabs the PURSE back --



FATHER ODU  
I baptized you.

Oscar chokes --

OSCAR  
Father Joe?

JOAQUIN  
"Oscar?"

RAUL  
His name's "Rodeo!"

JOAQUIN  
He "Putta" now!

A GUN FIRES!

TIDWELL (O.S.)  
Q' lastima!

PORTLY SECURITY GUARD, CARLOS TIDWELL, 50, RUSHES THEM

TIDWELL (CONT'D)  
The hell?

JOAQUIN  
We just policing, Tiddy.

TIDWELL  
You about as police as  
Joker. I'm Covenant House Security  
and nobody else, not you, not them,  
not anybody got a gun but me.

Tidwell FIRES AGAIN!

HOODS SCATTER AS LEO AND ODU SHIVER AT THE FENCE AND TIDWELL  
APPROACHES --

TIDWELL (CONT'D)  
Ladies, ladies, you got any idea  
where you at?

INT. COVENANT HOUSE LOBBY - TIDWELL

chortles as he pours COFFEES, a little too intrigued --

TIDWELL  
Nice threads. Where'd they come  
from?

FATHER ODU  
Ask him, he's the shopper.

FATHER LEO  
"Big and Tall Revivals," North  
Hollywood. *The* place for Size 13s.

Tidwell nods

TIDWELL  
I got the most amazing "Hello  
Dolly" costume there last  
Halloween.

FATHER LEO  
Costume?

FATHER ODU  
If I may, we have a contract here --

TIDWELL  
Me and my hubby went as "Broadway-  
Bad-Girls." He went as "Auntie  
Mame" since he's svelter than me --

Father Leo opens FAKE CONTRACT

TIDWELL (CONT'D)  
I went as "Hello Dolly!"

Tidwell reaches for a DESK CALENDAR

FATHER ODU  
We've come to --

Tidwell SCOWLS --

TIDWELL  
Caca putas, girls. This month's  
schedules say "no outside  
entertainers," not now, not ever!  
So's, you telling me truth or are  
you lyin' sacks of sh-- ?

ENTRANCE DOOR SWINGS OPEN AND CORPULENT ZELDA TIDWELL, 22,  
INTRUDES HOLDING A MINIATURE BLACK POODLE and a PIZZA

ZELDA  
Daddy?

TIDWELL  
Hi, honey. Meet Zelda, my baby  
girl.

FATHER ODU

Hallo.

ZELDA

Hallo --

Zelda scowls

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Daddy, who are they?

FATHER LEO

We're entertainers.

ZELDA

Since when. We don't have --

Father Odu reaches to pet the DOG, DOG SNARLS

FATHER ODU

Look, Leo, he's so cute, but the head is quite small for the body. Is that part of the breed?

ZELDA

Stop it. What do you want?

TIDWELL

Well, "cabeza" is the Spanish word for "head," so we were going to call him "Cabesito," but we thought it was inappropriate for two gay guys to have a dog named "Little Head."

ZELDA DROPS THE DOG ON TIDWELL'S LAP

ZELDA

Stop it! What are you doing here?

ZELDA (CONT'D)

Covenant House is a safe house --

FATHER LEO

We know.

ZELDA

Nobody gets in unless you're a minor with issues.

FATHER ODU

We know.

ZELDA

How do we know who you're not  
police, DEA, or drug dealers?

FATHER LEO

You don't.

ZELDA

Nobody comes in here off the street  
at seven o'clock at night unless  
they're in trouble. Daddy, do  
something.

TIDWELL

We had some things in common.

ZELDA

Not "Hello Dolly."

FATHER LEO REVEALS HIS CLERICAL COLLAR

FATHER LEO

I'm Father Leo McWay, Jesuit  
priest.

FATHER ODU

Father Joseph Nene Odu, O.M.I.  
Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

FATHER LEO

I read at Children's Hospital.

FATHER ODU

I'm his pastor, pro tem.

TIDWELL

Hey, you're the one on the News!

ZELDA

Who cares, Daddy? What do you want?

FATHER LEO

We think one of the kids in my care  
might have a brother here.

FATHER ODU

We think he crashes here at night  
and we want to get a message to  
him.

ZELDA

No way.

TIDWELL

Depends.

ZELDA

What "depends?" No way can you get a message to anybody!

FATHER LEO

Do you have a P.A. and a mic?

ZELDA

No. No talking, no visits, nothing. Covenant House is sanctuary.

FATHER LEO

What if it's code?

INT. COVENANT HOUSE GAME ROOM AND BEDS - NIGHT

The room is full of TEENAGERS of all colors, shapes, and sizes. Some play video games while others watch TV. Some wrestle while and some sit alone while they play Chess, Rummikube, Poker, etc.

INT. COVENANT HOUSE LOBBY - TIDWELL

speaks into an old-fashioned microphone:

TIDWELL

Everyone, listen a minute. Quiet, *tranquilo, bebes!*

INT. COVENANT HOUSE GAME ROOM AND BEDS - EVERYONE

quiets as Tidwell ANNOUNCES --

TIDWELL (O.S.)

We got somebody out here wants to send a message to somebody in there who may or may not be with us tonight, so listen up, *aviso!*

INT. COVENANT HOUSE LOBBY - TIDWELL

hands Father Leo the MICROPHONE and Father Leo leans in --

FATHER LEO

"Brudder bought a coconut, he bought it for a dime --"

A beat as --

INT. COVENANT HOUSE GAME ROOM, GYM, AND BEDS - EVERYONE  
listens, giggles --

COVENANT GUEST #1  
What?

COVENANT GUEST #2  
Que!

FATHER LEO (O.S.)  
"His brudder had anudder one --"

Guest #1 throws popcorn at the speakers as --

FATHER LEO (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
"He paid it for de lime!"

Suddenly, an unkempt, angry, handsome, even aristocratic  
CZAR, 16,

IN BOXING GLOVES, SUNGLASSES, AND DODGER BASEBALL CAP, POUNDS  
A PUNCHING BAG AND PERKS --

FATHER LEO (O.S) (CONT'D)  
"He put de lime in de coconut, he  
drank 'em both up."

CZAR SCREAMS, CHARGES THE EXIT DOOR

INT. COVENANT HOUSE LOBBY - FATHER ODU  
grabs the MIC from Father Leo

FATHER ODU  
Give me that! This how you say it --

Father Odu adds JAMAICAN ACCENT --

FATHER ODU (CONT'D)  
"His brudder had anudder one he  
paid it for de lime."

INT. COVENANT HOUSE GAME ROOM - EVERYONE  
rubbernecks as Czar throws open Exit Door --

INT. COVENANT HOUSE LOBBY - CZAR

bolts in startling Leo, Odu, Tidwell, and Zelda --

CZAR  
Stop, stop it!

Father Leo drops the mic

TIDWELL  
Czar!

ZELDA  
Close that door!

CZAR  
I can't take it!

Czar slams the door, scans the lobby, EYES WILD --

ZELDA  
Not him, the nutcase?

Tidwell goes for Czar and --

TIDWELL  
Nobody's gonna hurt you.

CZAR ATTACKS AND KNOCKS TIDWELL DOWN

CZAR  
Don't ever play that!

CZAR TURNS ON LEO AND ODU

CZAR (CONT'D)  
Nobody plays that!

FROM BEHIND, ZELDA GRABS CZAR IN A STRANGLE HOLD

ZELDA  
Chill, Buster Brown!

CZAR SWINGS AT HER, BUT MISSES

CZAR  
You said this a safe house!

ZELDA  
You came out on your own, Czar.

FATHER LEO THROWS OFF HIS WIG, SHOW HIS COLLAR, AND SUBDUES  
CZAR AS CZAR HOWLS --

CZAR

*I came because the song!*

FATHER LEO

I'm not a hitter, kid, but Jesuits  
go for corporal punishment on  
demand *in extremis!*

CZAR

Have another lawsuit, Church.

FATHER LEO

What's your name?

ZELDA

Watch out, he's a lefty.

CZAR STRIKES FATHER LEO, BUT MISSES and **POP!**

Father Leo's LEFT BREAST deflates

CZAR

What the --?

FATHER LEO

*Name!*

CZAR

Czar.

FATHER LEO

Dumbass street tag.

ZELDA

His name's Eric.

Father Leo alerts

TIDWELL

"Eric Merton" or "Morton" or  
something. LAPD still working on  
it, but the photo I.D. matches.

CZAR'S FISTS FLY

CZAR

Get off me, bitches.

FATHER ODU

Do you have a brother?

CZAR

I got nothing!



FATHER LEO

There was an accident. He may be dying. We can't get information out of him and his mother's --

CZAR

A raving-career-harpy-shrew-bitch.

FATHER LEO

He has a story, we put pieces together, but --

CZAR

It's him. His stories take him out of her feral cat-zoo chaos.

FATHER ODU

Help us.

CZAR HYPERVENTILATES, THEN CALMS

CZAR

He's "Sean Jackson Merton," 'cuz that's what psychotic mom named him after first perverted pop split who I hope died grim.

FATHER LEO

What's "Put the lime in the coconut?"

CZAR

Shut up about that!

FATHER ODU

Leo, that's enough.

Father Leo wrestles Czar against the wall and Czar calms

CZAR

Our first dad worked for a record label. Every time he and dragon mom argued which was a lot, he'd play "Put the lime in the coconut" full blast, slam doors, and go get drunk.

FATHER LEO

How often?

CZAR

Every night, three or four times on weekends. It's in my head, that song's my earworm.

(MORE)

CZAR (CONT'D)

I got no family now, no mom, no  
dads, and there were plenty, and I  
get left with that.

Czar scowls, shuns Father Leo, and pounds on the Exit Door --

THE DOOR OPENS AND ERIC FLEES AS

Father Leo's RIGHT BREAST BALLOON **POPS** --

FATHER ODU

Leo, forget Dollar Store.

INT. JOHN DOE HOSPITAL ROOM - JOHN DOE

sleeps as Kayashi and Father Leo peek in and Elana SEES them

NURSE ELANA

He taps for you.

FATHER LEO

You know Tap Code?

NURSE ELANA

L-E-O is an easy one.

DOCTOR KAYASHI

How is he?

Father Leo takes John Doe's hand and TAPS, but NO RESPONSE  
while Kayashi hangs his head --

DOCTOR KAYASHI (CONT'D)

Leo, Mothers-For-Liberty's on the  
News again, Upstairs is on my ass  
to get him out of here, and it's  
not helping that you're living at  
my house. I'm an enabler now.

NURSE ELANA

Who's going to fix this kid?

SOMEONE KNOCKS (O.S.)

CZAR

'Scuse me --

They turn to SEE

CZAR (CONT'D)

Can I come in?

Minus sunglasses, but still wearing the DODGER CAP, hesitant, even bashful CZAR STEPS IN

Father Leo instantly SEES HIM

NURSE ELANA  
Who are you?

Struck by Elana's allure, Czar mangles his PAPER PASS and offers it up and

ELANA ACKNOWLEDGES

NURSE ELANA (CONT'D)  
You're Eric?

CZAR  
If it gets me in.

Czar goes to John Doe's bedside, takes hold of his right hand, and

Father Leo watches as

CZAR TAPS ONTO JOHN DOE'S PALM

FATHER LEO  
You taught him Tap Code?

Agitated BEEPS emit from HEART MONITOR --

John Doe's EYES OPEN and HE SEES CZAR

JOHN DOE BEAMS WITH JOY AS CZAR LEANS IN AND WHISPERS TO HIM, THEIR HANDS CLASP, TAP, AND SQUEEZE as

Father Leo interrupts --

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Who is he? What's he saying?

CZAR  
His name is Sean! He's my little brother and what do you think he says, Church? He says, "Save me."

FATHER LEO  
You used Tap Code growing up?

CZAR  
It's the only way we had to talk to each other in that pigsty.

Hayashi turns away and

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
We'll figure it out, Leo.

Kayashi bolts --

FATHER LEO  
Come with me.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - FATHER LEO

narrates --

FATHER LEO  
"There are two things in life that  
grow you fast into destiny: Love  
and War. War was coming to Emeralis  
one way or another and one brother  
was forced to follow another one  
into it."

EXT. FOREST - ERIC

WAKES AND MARVELS AT HOW HIS BODY AND CLOTHES HAVE MATURED --

FATHER LEO (V.O)  
"-- and in that one fateful night,  
Eric wakes up as a young adult and  
Rahea is waiting."

RAHEA APPEARS AND STANDS NEXT TO A MAGNIFICENT WHITE STALLION  
(IKON), SADDLED AND GRAZING --

ERIC  
Who are you?

RAHEA  
We need you.

ERIC  
Where is my brother?

RAHEA  
With the enemy.

ERIC  
What enemy? This is a forest.

IKON SNORTS

RAHEA  
This is Ikon -- for your quest.

ERIC  
What quest? I just want my brother.

RAHEA  
Our world is interrupted, my  
overseer is gone and your brother  
with him. You are our only hope.  
Ikon will guide you.

RAHEA VANISHES and THE STALLION STANDS READY

ERIC approaches and runs his hand along its neck and  
discovers a sheathed SWORD and SHIELD attached to the SADDLE

ERIC MOUNTS UP

ERIC  
Good Ikon. Take me --

IKON SPRINTS AWAY TO

EXT. AMADOR'S HILLSIDE GRAVESITE - ERIC

SEES THE GRAVESTONE "AMADOR THE OVERSEER." He kneels and  
finds the MAGIC BOW AND DIAMOND-TIPPED ARROWS

ERIC  
Where are you, little brother?

INT. MORRA'S DUNGEON - NIGHT

A LOCK is unlatched and UNSEEN HANDS PRY OPEN the PRISON DOOR  
TO

UNDERNOURISHED SEAN SLEEPS IN A STRAW BED as

MORRA AND LUCAN ENTER WITH TORCHES

MORRA  
What is your name?

SEAN  
I have no name.

MORRA  
Who is your mother?

SEAN  
No mother.

MORRA  
Who is your father?

SEAN  
No father.

MORRA LEANS INTO HIM

MORRA  
You are free to go, little one --

SEAN  
Not free.

MORRA  
-- just give me Emeralis.

Sean recoils

SEAN  
Amador said "No."

MORRA  
That old fool? Why listen to him?

SEAN  
He saved my life.

MORRA  
Your life is worth what I say it's worth.

INT. JOHN DOE'S HOSPITAL ROOM - CZAR AND FATHER LEO

WHISPER by SLEEPING JOHN DOE (SEAN) as Elana stands by --

FATHER LEO  
All we know is, there was a police chase. The car he was in crashed, the driver bolted and left him in the back seat.

CZAR  
Llewellyn.

FATHER LEO  
I know that name.

CZAR  
Heard of Mothers-For-Liberty?

Father Leo gets it

FATHER LEO  
Your mother did this?

CZAR  
It wasn't her car. It never is.

FATHER LEO  
Will you tell LAPD?

CZAR  
Why? She'd kill him first, then me.

FATHER LEO EYES CZAR

FATHER LEO  
Look at me.

RELUCTANT CZAR TAKES HIS TIME, BUT LOOKS --

FATHER LEO (CONT'D)  
Forget her.

CZAR  
How? How can I save him or anybody  
from this stupid, fucking, useless  
world?

FATHER LEO  
Not too loud, you don't know what  
he hears --

CZAR REGARDS SEAN AS FATHER LEO EXITS WHEN  
ELANA TOUCHES HIS HAND --

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Eric kneels by a brook sipping --

ASCARA (O.S.)  
Hola!

Startled ERIC stands to see Ascara the Witch, sits on a LOG  
just behind him. He grabs for his SWORD, but flirtatious  
Ascara presents it to him:

ASCARA (CONT'D)  
Lose something?

ERIC  
Who are you?

ASCARA  
My card.

ASCARA OFFERS A SCROLL, ERIC UNROLLS IT and reads --

ERIC  
"Ascara: Sorceress, Necromancer,  
and Weird Sister." Have we met?

ASCARA  
I saw when you were trying to save  
your brother and your horse threw  
you.

ERIC  
You knew him?

ASCARA  
Everybody knows everybody in the  
forest. We're not the same as you.  
We're mostly friendly, but we kill  
each other to survive, not for  
power. Except Morra.

ERIC  
Who's Morra?

ASCARA  
You'd better get up to speed. She's  
got your brother. You'll rescue  
him, kill her, and I'll help.

ERIC  
No, thanks, I ride alone.

Eric mounts Ikon, who rears up, but

WITH A FLICK of ASCARA'S FINGER, IKON TOSSES ERIC AND

ASCARA  
I know the territory, you don't. I  
know the enemy, you don't. I can do  
anything you can do except cook,  
but I have a wand.

Ascara reveals a WAND which glitters in sunlight

ERIC  
Can you keep up?

ASCARA  
Keep up? Meet Combustible.

ERIC SEES A SWAYBACK HORSE

ERIC  
Him?



ASCARA  
The greatest horse that ever lived!

Ascara mounts Combustible --

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - HOT ROCK

squeezes a balloon and a FART SOUND is HEARD.

Kids squeal --

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL KITCHEN - CZAR

squirms as he eats LUNCH and watches other FOOD AND BEVERAGE  
EMPLOYEES serve and clean while Father Leo and Elana sit  
across AS HE SIDE-EYES ELANA --

ELANA  
Catalytic converters?

CZAR  
Our Mom hot-wires cars and steals  
catalytic converters in the middle  
of the night. She drives them off  
and a whole crew helps, but I'm the  
one who cuts.

FATHER LEO  
You're not part of that now,  
though.

CZAR  
I was until I heard about Sean. I  
knew it was her. She was working  
and she forgot him in the back seat  
because she's messed up. I know it,  
I know it, but I'm tired of  
running.

EXT. FOREST - ERIC

accuses Ascara --

ERIC  
You were her slave?

ASCARA  
Servant! I left Morra for good when  
I saw where she was going with all  
that power.

ERIC  
A witch with a conscience.

ASCARA  
Yes! I'm tired of the chase. When I saw Sean had Emeralis and she would do anything to get it, I knew she was wrong.

RAHEA APPEARS, BUT ONLY IN HALF-RESOLUTION

ERIC  
Rahea!

RAHEA  
I'm dying and my forest with me.  
You must hurry.

RAHEA FADES AND

Eric turns to Ascara

ASCARA  
What are you waiting for?

Ascara kicks Combustible who rears up, and bolts away. Eric slaps reins across Ikon and charges after --

INT. HOSPITAL CONFERENCE ROOM - DOCTOR KAYASHI  
sits before NINE HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVES

EXECUTIVE BOLD  
We can't keep this kid in ICU indefinitely.

EXECUTIVE JANKS  
Too many wait-listed.

EXECUTIVE BONES  
The queue.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
He's a miracle kid with a great story that's entertaining the whole hospital and somehow, he's trying to tell us what he's gone through --

EXECUTIVE GRAY  
We make miracles every day.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Why not let people see this one?

EXECUTIVE BOLD  
Uninsured and under suspicion by  
LAPD?

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Only John Doe knows and he's  
telling us through his --

EXECUTIVE GRAY  
We want financial security.

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
We're non-profit.

EXECUTIVE BLACK  
You have a home in the hills?

Kayashi sweats as

EXT. FOREST - ROSETTE

stirs a CAULDRON of HOT SOUP --

ROSETTE  
Morra did this to you, Daddy, I'll  
never forgive her!

She takes a LADLE, scoops, and carefully walks it over to a  
TREE STUMP. She pours the SOUP into a large HOLE in the  
middle of the stump and

Whistle SCREAMS (O.S.)

ROSETTE (CONT'D)  
Oh no! Did I miss?

Rosette goes for more soup as Eric and Ascara ride up --

ROSETTE (CONT'D)  
What? Who are you?

ASCARA  
Whistle's daughter. Remember, part  
tree, part animal, part mineral --

ERIC  
Don't confuse me. We're looking for  
my brother, Sean, about 12 years-  
old.

ROSETTE  
Oh, the last one to see Uncle Twigs  
alive.

ERIC dismounts

ERIC  
What happened?

ROSETTE  
Twigs was kidnapped seconds before  
Lucan grabbed him. First, they took  
him --

ERIC LOOKS DOWN INTO THE STUMP

ROSETTE (CONT'D)  
-- then Morra cast a spell and  
jammed Daddy into this tree stump.  
I have to feed him through his  
hole.

INT. TREE STUMP - ERIC

echoes --

ERIC  
Hello, *hello, hello* --

WHISTLE (O.S.)  
*Hello? Hello? Hello?* --

EXT. FOREST - ROSETTE

pleads --

ROSETTE  
Morra thought Daddy had it.

ERIC  
Had what?

ASCARA  
Emeralis!

ROSETTE  
Of course, he couldn't have it  
because your brother has it and  
even though Daddy tried to get it  
and couldn't get it, out of  
revenge, she stuck him here.

ASCARA DISMOUNTS, WIELDS HER WAND AND

ASCARA  
Stand back.

Ascara raises her arms --

ASCARA (CONT'D)  
I stand between pillars of justice  
and a filthy, termite-laden, slimy,  
dead stump of a man. Therefore,  
obey my command: *Aman hertai desalt  
overbum!*"

THE GROUND RUMBLES, WIND HOWLS, AND TIMBER CRACKS

Rosette jumps into Eric's arms, as

LIGHTNING STRIKES THE STUMP

Eric and Rosette fall back and

WHISTLE APPEARS SITTING ON THE STUMP

ROSETTE  
Daddy!

WHISTLE  
You were expecting Frodo?

ROSETTE  
Daddy look, they're rescuing us.

ERIC  
We're rescuing my brother, nobody  
else.

With effort, Whistle stands and hobbles to Eric

WHISTLE  
I'm an old root, I care none about  
me, but my Rosette? She feeds me.

Eric regards Ascara

ASCARA  
I don't make decisions, cookie, I  
just cast the spells.

Eric mounts Ikon

ERIC  
Can you keep up?

WHISTLE  
Silly question. Can we, Rosette?

Eric and Ascara mount up and ride off as Whistle snags  
Rosette --

WHISTLE (CONT'D)  
 You behave, girl, understand? The  
 minute he rescues the kid, I'll  
 grab Emeralis for us.

ROSETTE SMACKS HIM

WHISTLE (CONT'D)  
 What'd you do that for?

ROSETTE  
 You ruin my life.

INT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL LOBBY - UPS DRIVER

hauls in an enormous CARDBOARD BOX to RECEPTION DESK as  
 Hospital Liaison Preston runs up --

DELIVERY DRIVER  
 Sign here.

Preston signs, Driver exits, and grabs hold of the box, turns  
 to CURIOUS RECEPTIONIST --

PRESTON  
 Surprise for Father Leo -- drones  
 for story hour, compliments of,  
 well, we wanted to make up for  
 popping his balloons.

Preston scampers away with the box --

EXT. BURNT LANDSCAPE AND CABIN - DAY

SMOKE RISES from recently charred trees and shrubs as Eric  
 and Ascara ride up to a dilapidated CABIN where

VAGABOND, 70, sits in a ROCKING CHAIR smoking a pipe on an  
 ASHEN PORCH

VAGABOND  
 Howdy.

ASCARA  
 Don't speak to him.

ERIC  
 This place yours?

VAGABOND  
 Is now.

ERIC  
What happened?

VAGABOND  
Controlled burn.

ERIC  
But, nothing's left.

ASCARA  
Eric?

VAGABOND  
Climate change.

Vagabond offers the PIPE to Eric --

VAGABOND (CONT'D)  
Smoke?

ASCARA  
*Eric!*

Eric dismounts

EXT. CLEARING - WHISTLE AND ROSETTE

peek out from behind a BURNING TREE TRUNK --

WHISTLE  
Stay low.

ROSETTE  
Stop telling me what to do.

SNARKY ROSETTE SNIFFS, THEN SCRUTINIZES THE TREE TRUNK

ROSETTE (CONT'D)  
Anyone you know?

EXT. BURNT LANDSCAPE - ERIC

takes the PIPE and as he does so --

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - CZAR

steps to Sean's bedside --

FATHER LEO

"And as Eric reaches for the pipe --

Hot Rock cues MUSIC!

Lights flash, the room DARKENS, SOUND EFFECTS BUZZ as

15 DRONES TAKE OFF AND ENCIRCLE THE CEILING

Children CACKLE and DUCK as Drones SWOOP and Sean's and Czar's eyes POP OPEN WITH DELIGHT as Preston applauds from the door jamb --

PRESTON

O, yay!

FATHER LEO HANDS OFF THE MIC TO WINKEN (FATHER WINSTON)

WINKEN

"Ha-ha-ha, my children! Didn't listen to your parents, did you? When they told you 'don't go in to the forest,' what did you do?"

EXT. BURNT LANDSCAPE - VAGABOND

morphs into WINKEN'S DRAGON and RISES FROM ASHES --

VAGABOND

*Ha-ha-ha-ha!*

Terrified Eric and Ascara, then Whistle and Rosette duck as

WINKEN'S DRAGON BREATHES FIRE

Rosette screams as Ascara attacks Eric --

ASCARA

I told you not to talk to it.

WINKEN (O.S.)

"You went in anyway. You never listen, do you, little fools? Now, bow down before me! I'm your boss now! *Ha-ha-ha-ha!*"

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - CHILDREN

DODGE AS DRONES SWARM --

CZAR

Cool!



CZAR SQUEEZES SEAN'S HAND

EXT. BURNT LANDSCAPE - ERIC

DEFLECTS FIRE WITH HIS SHIELD AND

WHITE OUT as --

CLICK!

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - DOCTOR KAYASHI

FLIPS THE LIGHT SWITCH "ON!"

CHILDREN

Hey!

ASHLEY

What's going on?

BART

Who turned on the lights?

ASHLEY

Turn it off!

BLINKEN DROPS DRONE CONTROLS, HOT ROCK TURNS OFF SOUND  
EFFECTS AND DRONES DESCEND INTO THE CROWD --

Czar SEES Sean's HEART MONITOR RACES

DOCTOR KAYASHI

Shut it down.

Sean hears, then tugs on Czar's sleeve --

DOCTOR KAYASHI (CONT'D)

That's it. We've taken enough time  
with this little faker.

FATHER LEO

Faker?

DOCTOR KAYASHI

Poor, mute John Doe and you,  
reckless priest! The behavior, the  
drama, characters? We've run every  
test in the hospital and there's  
only one explanation!

FATHER LEO

*Jiro, no!*

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Shut it down now or I'll doubt your  
intentions from the start.

SOMETHING PHYSICAL COMES OVER FATHER LEO. HE BACKS AWAY FROM  
THE PODIUM, HANDS HIS STORY NOTES TO FATHER BUD AND --

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY CORNER - FATHER LEO  
COLLAPSES IN A CHAIR

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - NURSE ELANA  
RUNS TO HIM --

ELENA  
Father Leo!

BUSTLING SOUNDS (O.S.)

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY CORNER - KAYASHI  
RUSHES TO FATHER LEO, PLACES HIS HAND ON HIS CHEST AND

**POP!**

Father Leo's LEFT BREAST BALLOON DEFLATES AS Kayashi repels  
and ALL EYES IN THE LIBRARY on him as --

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
Don't blame me.

ELANA  
Doctor!

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
I didn't do it --

SILENCE IS DEAFENING AS

DOCTOR KAYASHI (CONT'D)  
-- he did it to himself. You know  
he drinks.

ELANA  
Doctor, remember your place!

Kayashi has a CRISIS of CONSCIENCE and turns to Everyone

DOCTOR KAYASHI  
He'll be all right. Forget what I  
said. Somebody take over.

Elana removes Father Leo's WIG

FATHER LEO  
Elana, don't move me. Let me hear.

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - CHILDREN SQUIRM

BART  
*Dragons! Dragons!*

ASHLEY  
Come on, Dragons!

ELANA OFFERS FATHER LEO'S WIG TO CZAR AND  
SWITCHES LIGHTS OFF --

CZAR DOFFS THE DODGER CAP AND PLOPS ON FATHER LEO'S WIG

Father Bud shoves the STORY NOTES into Czar's hands and Czar  
leans into the MIC as Winken, Blinken, and Nodule take their  
places.

BASHFUL AND AWKWARD, CZAR FINDS HIS VOICE --

CZAR  
"Morra's castle is within reach!

HUGE APPLAUSE AS

CZAR (CONT'D)  
"It's a monstrous, uninviting, and  
hazardous palace of petrified wood  
made of the very trees that she  
herself has burned to the ground."

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE - NIGHT

TORCHES burn on either side of Morra's Castle Gate and belch  
BLACK SMOKE

CZAR (V.O.)  
"But first, they plan."

IRON GATE is raised and VANGUARD RIDERS stand by

EXT. FOREST ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT - ERIC AND ASCARA

sit by a fire as personal CHEMISTRY becomes clear while Whistle and Rosette sleep nearby.

ASCARA

When Morra sent the darkness,  
disorder followed. It was father  
against son, spider against beetle,  
Maple vs. Oak, Orchid v. Cactus --

ERIC

I get it, and you stood by and let  
it happen.

ASCARA

We believed in her even when we  
knew she was wrong. That's magic.

ERIC

We?

ASCARA

We are all connected: you, me,  
Morra, Whistle, you, me --

ERIC

You said "you, me" twice.

With a special GLINT, Ascara GRINS --

ASCARA

You, me?

ERIC

If Whistle is her father, who was  
her mother?

ASCARA

We lost her in a logjam. We have to  
find a weak spot. Tell me about  
you.

Eric shrugs

ERIC

I ride horses, you could say I'm  
athletic. I like boxing.

ASCARA

Boxing?

Eric stands and shuffles around her --

ERIC

Like this: first, you make a fist,  
then you kind of dance around to  
take your opponent off guard and --

He bounces around Ascara --

ERIC (CONT'D)

-- you stand on the balls of your  
feet for balance. Then, you eyeball  
your opponent and don't take your  
eyes off them, so that you  
hypnotize them.

ASCARA

Like magic.

ERIC

You see their every move and then  
you throw a punch like this.

Eric punches the air

ERIC (CONT'D)

A straight line from your fist to  
their face.

ASCARA

Wow. Nice.

ERIC

I tried to teach my brother once,  
but it was lunchtime.

ASCARA

It's okay, honey. You have a sword  
now.

WINGS FLAP (O.S.)

ERIC

Shh! What's that?

ASCARA

*Raven!*

ASCARA WAVES HER ARMS

ASCARA (CONT'D)

Shoo, sapsucker!

ERIC JUMPS UP TO MIMIC ASCARA

ERIC  
You want it, Raven? Follow us,  
we'll get Emeralis for you and lay  
it at your feet!

ASCARA  
Stop, don't say anything.

ERIC  
Let her have it if she wants it.

ASCARA  
She wants it to destroy it.

ERIC  
What?

ASCARA  
Emeralis unites and guides the  
other gemstones. Without Emeralis,  
she can make all the chaos she  
wants with the other four and she  
has, but Emeralis balances them. As  
long as it's in your brother's  
hands, our world is safe.

ERIC  
Anima mundi?

ASCARA  
Soul of our World. Keep it safe.

EXT. CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - SERGEANT OMAR AND SECURITY GUARDS

confront a PARADE of Protestors with signs reading **"STOP THE  
DRAG!" "DRAG QUEENS DROP DEAD!"** and **"DRAG YOURSELF TO HELL!"**

Llewellyn Lincoln and Verna Lindstom share a SLURPEE as they  
approach Sergeant Omar --

VERNA  
Out of the way, Blue!

SERGEANT OMAR  
Come on, ladies, not again.

LLEWELLYN  
You can't stop us today.

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE - NIGHT

Vanguard Riders stand by as GUARDS patrol the battlements

EXT. FOREST - ERIC, ASCARA, ROSETTE AND WHISTLE

SEE what they're up against

WHISTLE

In there? We're going in there?

ERIC

You want to rescue your brother, I  
want to get mine!

EXT. FOREST - ROSETTE

grabs hold of Ascara

ROSETTE

I'll be the pigeon.

WHISTLE

What? Absolutely not --

ASCARA

Can you ride?

ROSETTE

Can I ride!

ASCARA

Good. You know what to do.

ROSETTE MOUNTS UP ON COMBUSTIBLE

WHISTLE

Stop her, no!

ASCARA

Whistle, we need everyone for the  
plan to work.

Rosette spurs Combustible, Combustible rears up, whinnies,  
and rides off --

WHISTLE

If anything happens to her, who  
will feed me?

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE - ROSETTE

GALLOPS COMBUSTIBLE TOWARDS THE GATE

INT. MORRA'S CASTLE - ROSETTE

LURES THE VANGUARD AND

THE GATE RISES AS

Raven flies into --

INT. MORRA'S BEDROOM - RAVEN

PLOPS onto Morra's shoulder

MORRA  
What's this, my love?

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE GATE - VANGUARD RIDERS

chase Rosette and vacate the grounds as Rosette and  
Combustible turn and head away into the forest while --

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE GATE - TWO GATEKEEPERS

close the gate and

MORRA SEES THE EMPTY COURTYARD

MORRA (O.S.)  
What's this? Leave us unprotected?

ANGRY COMMOTION (O.S.)

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - A MOB OF PROTESTORS

PRESS, CAMERAS, and STAFF converge as Llewellyn Lincoln and  
Verna Lindstrom push their way through the hall pursued by  
THREE HOSPITAL SECURITY GUARDS WHILE

SERGEANT OMAR, FATHER ODU, AND PRESTON SCRAMBLE TO SLOW THEM

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - ELANA

rushes Sean's bed, but Czar steps away from the podium and  
stops her --

CZAR  
Don't move him.



ELANA  
Czar, it's happened before and it's  
not safe.

THREE NURSES AIDES clamp onto Sean's bed

ELANA (CONT'D)  
You don't know what's coming.

CZAR  
Whatever it is, let them see this.

SEAN STRUGGLES TO SIT UP TO LISTEN AS CZAR RETURNS TO PODIUM

CZAR (CONT'D)  
"And as the Vanguard leaves Morra's  
castle, Eric, Whistle, and Ascara  
dart in!"

FATHER LEO STRUGGLES TO LISTEN AS

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE GATE - GATEKEEPER #1

draws his sword and Eric fires an ARROW --

BOOM! THE GATEKEEPER BURSTS IN COLOR AND LIGHT

ASCARA  
Wow! I want one of those.

INT. MORRA'S BEDROOM - TWO HOUSEMAIDS

attend Morra and as LIGHT flashes from outside and Morra's  
eyes flare green. She shoves the Housemaids away as Raven  
squawks on her shoulder --

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE GATE - WHISTLE

whispers to Eric --

WHISTLE  
Haven't you got anything less  
flashy?

ERIC  
Follow Ascara. Hurry.

INT. MORRA'S DUNGEON HALLWAY - TWO GUARDS

play Poker and grumble as

INT. MORRA'S DUNGEON HALLWAY (ANOTHER ANGLE)- ASCARA  
 leads Eric and Whistle until  
 TWIGS CRIES OUT

TWIGS (O.S.)  
 Help the baby! The baby is here!

WHISTLE HEARS

WHISTLE  
 It's him! He's in there!

Ascara points her WAND at the lock and  
 CRACKLE and POOF! THE LOCK OPENS AND --

INT. TWIGS' CELL - TWIGS

hangs by his feet as Whistle hurries in followed by Ascara  
 and Eric --

WHISTLE  
 Oh Twigs, what have they done to  
 you, Pooch?

Whistle uprights Twigs and Ascara's wand unlocks the  
 HANDCUFFS and Twigs drops into Whistle's arms

TWIGS  
 What took you so long? Baby almost  
 dies.

WHISTLE  
 Oh, Pooch, you knew we'd come.

ERIC  
 Why do you call him "Pooch," he's  
 not a dog.

WHISTLE  
 Have you ever slept with him?

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - LLEWELLYN AND VERNA AND

Mothers-For-Liberty" PROTESTORS bombard the library and SEE  
 Sean's bed by the door --

LLEWELLYN  
 Stop right there. Leave that kid  
 where he is.

BOOS, HISSES

LLEWELLYN (CONT'D)  
You're being recorded.

VERNA  
Who's in charge here?

SERGEANT OMAR INTERCEDES

SERGEANT OMAR  
Ladies, please. -- Everyone, it's okay.

LLEWELLYN  
It's not "okay." A pedophile priest, perv story, and these poor, unsuspecting innocents. Where's that guy?

Verna SEES

Father Leo crumpled up on the chair

VERNA  
Here he is. Caught 'em red handed.  
Happy birthday, Llewellyn!

ASHLEY  
It's my birthday!

LLEWELLYN  
Shut up.

BART  
Don't talk to him like that!

LLEWELLYN  
Thanks, Verna. The best b-day present anybody could get.  
Archbishop or no archbishop --

CHILDREN  
*Story! Story! Story!*

Children BOO/HISS as Llewellyn turns on them

LLEWELLYN  
*Quiet, rugrats! Adults in the room!*

CHILDREN  
*Story! Story! Story!*

Hot Rock blows up another BALLOON and FART SOUND and LAUGHTER  
AS

Llewellyn SEES --

CZAR

Hi Mom!

LLEWELLYN

Eric? Where the hell have you  
been? What are you doing here and  
take off that ridiculous wig.

Sergeant Omar and Father Odu push past to --

CZAR

I came to see what you did to my  
brother.

LLEWELLYN

Me? What? What are you --?

CZAR

This!

Czar points to Sean and

Llewellyn focuses to SEE

LLEWELLYN

Oh. Well, there he is. Good. He's  
where he should be. I didn't do  
nothing. You tell them what  
happened --

CZAR

Sit down and shut your meat hole  
while I finish his story.

VERNA

Don't talk to your mother like  
that.

CZAR

She's not our mother.

VERNA

What?

Llewellyn shrugs

LLEWELLYN

Adoptees.

Verna wonders!

CZAR  
Mom? Sit down, shut up.

A beat as --

CHILDREN applaud and --

CHILDREN  
*Story! Story! Story!*

Sergeant Omar slides TWO FOLDING CHAIRS at them and

Llewellyn and Verna sit as

Mothers-For-Liberty's" CAMERAMAN grumbles while

CZAR RETURNS TO THE PODIUM, STRAIGHTENS HIS WIG, AND PICKS UP  
WHERE HE LEFT OFF --

CZAR  
"Yes, Twigs is safe, but --"

LLEWELLYN  
Twigs? Who the hell is --

CHILDREN  
*SHUT UP!*

INT. MORRA'S DUNGEON HALLWAY - TWO GUARDS

hear commotion in the hallway as

INT. TWIGS' CELL - ERIC, ASCARA, AND WHISTLE

hustle Twigs away, but

INT. MORRA'S DUNGEON HALLWAY- TWO GUARDS

rush Eric --

FIRST PRISON GUARD  
There he is!

SECOND PRISON GUARD  
Get him!

FROM BEHIND, WHISTLE GRABS BOTH GUARDS, KNOCKS THEIR HEADS  
TOGETHER, AND THE GUARDS FALL SEMI-CONSCIOUS --

ERIC  
Finally, he helps.

Eric grabs hold of First Prison Guard

ERIC (CONT'D)  
Where is the prisoner called Sean?

First Prison Guard nods drunkenly

FIRST PRISON GUARD  
Closet. Morra's special closet.

First Prison Guard drops as --

ASCARA  
I know.

INT. MORRA'S THRONE ROOM - MORRA

holds court surrounded by Lucan and 20 PALACE GUARDS --

MORRA  
Klutzes! Fumblers! Butterfingers!  
This is the protection I pay for?  
Emeralis has been here within these  
walls too long! Go, slime! Subdue  
them. Do what you want with the  
others, but I want that parasite  
with Emeralis around his neck dead  
at my knees before midnight.

Lucan and Palace Guards scramble as Morra urges Raven from  
her shoulder onto her hand --

MORRA (CONT'D)  
Come here, my love, Raven.

Raven walks down her shoulder, her arm, and onto the back of  
her hand --

MORRA (CONT'D)  
Where were you and your all-seeing  
eyes?

RAVEN GULPS

RAVEN  
Caw?

MORRA  
Why do I pamper you?

RAVEN

*Caw?*

MORRA

Why do I indulge you?

RAVEN

*Caw?*

MORRA

Why do I feed you?

Morra's eyes glow green as she SQUEEZES Raven's NECK --

"CAW! CAW!" ECHOES across

EXT. MORRA'S COURTYARD - ASCARA

peeks out from shadows and Eric, Whistle, and Twigs look on as she scans Morra's Throne Room --

ASCARA

Follow me and don't make a sound.

INT. MORRA'S THRONE ROOM - ASCARA

sneaks in and SEES --

MORRA PLACES DEAD RAVEN INTO A SHOEBOX,

ASCARA GASPS and MORRA HEARS HER AND SEES --

MORRA

Well, what a surprise.  
What are you doing here?

ASCARA

I missed you.

MORRA

How sweet.

As Morra approaches, Ascara's tone sharpens

ASCARA

Stand back, witch.

ASCARA TAKES ON ERIC'S BOXING STANCE AND BOUNCES AROUND MORRA ON THE BALLS OF HER FEET, MAKES A FIST, AND PUNCHES THE AIR --

ASCARA (CONT'D)  
Come on, my liege. Give me all you got!

MORRA  
What's the matter with you, wench?  
Are you having a fit?

MORRA FLINCHES AND

ASCARA LET'S GO WITH A SOLID RIGHT PUNCH TO MORRA'S JAW  
*WHAM!*

The SHOEBOX with dead RAVEN goes flying, MORRA COLLAPSES --

ASCARA GRABS MORRA'S FOUR GEMSTONES AS

Eric, Whistle, and Twigs run up and SEE the GEMSTONES in Ascara's hands --

ERIC  
Nice.

ASCARA  
Nice teacher. Let's get your brother.

As they exit, THEY TRAMPLE MORRA --

INT. MORRA'S SPECIAL CLOSET CORRIDOR- ASCARA

leads Eric, Whistle, and Twigs down the Torchlit Corridor and Eric looks into FIRST CLOSET --

ERIC  
What is this place?

ASCARA  
Morra's private dungeon. I've heard, but this is the first I've seen it.

ERIC  
What's in this one?

Ascara takes hold of the DOOR LOCK and DOOR LOCK drops to the floor --

ASCARA  
Nobody's been here in a while.

Ascara pushes, the door scrapes against the floor and --



INT. SEAN'S PRISON CELL - ERIC

SEES incapacitated Sean chained to a BED OF STRAW --

ERIC  
Sean, wake up. It's me, Eric.

ASCARA  
Oh, my goodness.

ERIC  
It's my fault he's here.

ERIC FINDS AND FINGERS EMERALIS

ERIC (CONT'D)  
Is this it?

ASCARA  
It is.

ERIC  
It can save his life?

ASCARA  
It worked before.

ERIC  
He deserves a second chance.

ASCARA  
Nobody deserves a second chance.  
You don't know its power.

Emeralis GLOWS AND

ERIC PLACES EMERALIS ON SEAN'S CHEST AND

Momentarily, an EMERALD GLEAM flickers and radiates within Sean.

Ascara shoves Eric aside --

ASCARA (CONT'D)  
Anima mundi, Soul of Our World,  
restore life to this boy!

Ascara stands away while

Eric, Whistle, and Twigs look on as Sean squirms, struggles, then opens his eyes and

SEAN BREATHES

SEAN  
Where am I?

ERIC  
We came to take you home.

Sean tests the feeling in his feet --

SEAN  
Who's we --?

ERIC  
They brought me to you.

ASCARA  
C'mon go, kid.

Ascara aims her wand at Sean's CHAINS and  
CRACKLE AND WHOOSH! CHAINS DROP

INT. MORRA'S SPECIAL CLOSET CORRIDOR - ASCARA  
leads Eric, Sean, Whistle, and Twigs out of the cell as  
LUCAN AND 20 VANGUARD STAND AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR --

LUCAN  
Not so fast!

Whistle blocks Ascara

WHISTLE  
Back, back! Morra's not in power  
now, Ascara got the stones. She's  
got four of them and the kid got  
Emeralis.

LUCAN RAISES AN AXE --

LUCAN  
Is that so?

WHISTLE  
And I'll make a deal with you for  
everything.

TWIGS  
And me.

LUCAN  
No deals.

ERIC  
Whistle?

ERIC alerts and Whistle thrusts up his hands --

WHISTLE  
See? No weapons.

Lucan and Guards stand ready as Whistle shuffles towards them

WHISTLE (CONT'D)  
I'll get the stones, we'll share  
the power.

LUCAN RAISES THE AXE AND HURLS IT AT WHISTLE

THE AXE TUMBLES THROUGH THE AIR AND

CHONK!

LUCAN'S AXE SPLITS WHISTLE'S FOREHEAD AND

Whistle stumbles backwards as Eric, Sean, Ascara, and Twigs  
cringe --

TWIGS  
Ouch!

BLEEDING PROFUSELY, WHISTLE SWAYS AND PLOPS AGAINST THE WALL,  
THEN SLOWLY, BELLIGERENTLY --

WHISTLE RECOVERS, UPRIGHTS HIMSELF, AND STOMPS TOWARD LUCAN --

ERIC  
What the --?

SEAN  
He's part tree.

ERIC  
That's blood!

ASCARA  
It's not blood, it's sap.

LUCAN AND GUARDS CHARGE

ASCARA (CONT'D)  
Run!

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - LLEWELLYN

SWITCHES ON OVERHEAD LIGHTS --

LLEWELLYN  
Exactly why we ban books!

CHILDREN PROTEST AS CZAR TURNS ON LLEWELLYN

CZAR  
What do you want to talk about Mom?  
Cars?

LLEWELLYN  
No talk, this is over.

CZAR  
You hot-wire cars to steal  
catalytic converters.

LLEWELLYN  
Shut your mouth.

CZAR  
You did this to him. He was in the  
car, that last one you stole and  
wrecked. But, since you were drunk  
or high on something, you forgot  
him in the back seat.

Llewellyn quakes as Verna studies her --

VERNA  
You did?

LLEWELLYN  
Liar!

VERNA  
That's not very Christian.

LLEWELLYN  
Shut up, bitch.

Czar turns to Sergeant Omar --

CZAR  
Got any cold catalytic converter  
cases, Officer? Stolen cars?

SERGEANT OMAR  
What do you think?

CZAR  
Happy birthday, Mom. I'm  
State's Evidence.

WITH INCREDIBLE DIFFICULTY, SEAN SITS UP, COUGHS --

SEAN

Me -- too!

EVERYONE AND DOCTOR KAYASHI, ELANA, FATHER ODU, PRESTON SEE --  
FATHER LEO HAS HEARD AND RESPONDS IN HIS CHAIR

FATHER LEO

Sean!

SEAN STAMMERS

SEAN

Mommy forgot me.

Elana offers him WATER as Llewellyn backs away --

FATHER LEO

You left him.

LLEWELLYN

Oh, no.

CZAR

Like a dog in a hot car.

LLEWELLYN

He knew I'd come back.

SEAN SHAKES HIS HEAD, LAYS BACK AS

EVERYONE EYEBALLS LLEWELLYN WHO BREAKS DOWN

LLEWELLYN (CONT'D)

Just like all the men in my life!  
Useless, dirtbag coward-slime  
balls. You don't know what they did  
to me. I didn't make the money they  
made, how could I, I am woman!

SERGEANT OMAR GRABS LLEWELLYN BY THE ELBOW AS

SERGEANT OMAR

Make my day, lady.

Llewellyn resists, but --

VERNA

Did you really do that?

CHILDREN

*Story! Story! Story!*

SERGEANT OMAR PAUSES WHEN --

CHILDREN (CONT'D)  
*Story! Story! Story!*

SEAN SEES --

FATHER LEO STANDS AND HOBBLER TO THE PODIUM

SEAN  
 Look!

HUGE APPLAUSE as Elana, Kayashi, Father Odu, Sergeant Omar, Preston, and Children respond except --

VERNA TWIRLS LLEWELLYN AROUND --

VERNA  
*Hey! I'm an adoptee. My kids are adoptees! I'm a stepmother of four and we've been fighting a "bad stepmother" image every since Cinderella, so back off you ignorant witch!*

VERNA SLAPS LLEWELLYN AND

APPLAUSE AS --

CZAR SHRUGS

CZAR  
 Welcome to my life.

CZAR OFFERS FATHER LEO HIS WIG AND STORY NOTES --

FATHER LEO  
 Now, where were we?

EXT. FOREST - ASCARA

sprints to the top of --

EXT. HILLTOP - ASCARA

reaches into her POCKETS, but she can't locate --

ASCARA  
 Eric, where are the stones?

EXT. FOREST - ERIC, ERIC, WHISTLE AND TWIGS

hustle up behind her --

ASCARA  
The four elementary stones I took  
from Morra. They're gone!

Whistle (Axe-in-head) CACKLES

WHISTLE  
Ha-ha-ha-ha!

WHISTLE REVEALS THE WHITE DIAMOND, RUBY, SAPPHIRE, AND BLACK  
DIAMOND --

TWIGS  
Pickpocket!

WHISTLE  
Chill, doofuss. Here they are and  
there you are and you're not going  
to get them now. All I need is  
Emeralis.

Sean clutches Emeralis as Whistle creeps towards him, then --

WHISTLE (CONT'D)  
You won't get away this time.

Twigs ducks, Ascara screams, and Eric blocks Whistle as  
ROSETTE GALLOPS IN ON COMBUSTIBLE

ROSETTE  
Daddy!

WHISTLE  
Rosette!

ROSETTE  
I divert the whole Vanguard so you  
could get in there! What's going on  
and why is that axe in your head?

WHISTLE  
I want those stones.

ROSETTE  
Oh, Daddy, you don't know what to  
do with them.

TWIGS  
He don't.

WHISTLE  
I'll rule the forest.

ROSETTE  
Please, you can't even rule me,  
plus who's going to listen to a guy  
with an axe in his head.

TWIGS SEIZES THE STONES FROM WHISTLE --

TWIGS  
And don't call me doofuss!

HANDS OVER THE FOUR STONES TO ASCARA

ASCARA  
Thank you, Twigs.

TWIGS  
I make good Overseer.

ASCARA  
Some other time. Sean and Eric, do  
as I say -- take Combustible and  
Ikon and go.

ERIC  
What about you?

ASCARA  
Whatever happens, kid, I'm happy to  
have been of service.

Ascara turns away and Eric reaches for her, but --

ERIC  
No!

EXT. HILLTOP - ASCARA

gazes down upon Morra's Castle, opens her arms and raises the  
FOUR STONES --

ASCARA  
*Absoluto Vindex, absoluto olrock!*

WIND BEGINS AND --

EXT. SEA CLIFFS - STORM SURGE

Violent WAVES crash as



EXT. MORRA'S BATTLEMENT - MORRA

struts across the battlement

MORRA

Ascara!

Her eyes glow GREEN as

EXT. HILLTOP - ASCARA CHANTS

ASCARA

*Mortu vinek! Erten Olrik!*

THUNDER, LIGHTNING and TORRENTIAL RAIN begins as --

EXT. MORRA'S COURTYARD - LUCAN AND THE VANGUARD

are frightened and confused as horses whinny and kick --

EXT. MORRA'S BATTLEMENT - MORRA

raises her arms --

MORRA

Ascara, little fool! Think you  
could lick me with a simple right  
hook? *Hahaha!*

EXT. CLOUDS PART - RED SUN

EXT. MORRA'S BATTLEMENT - RED SUN

beams down onto Morra and Morra hides her eyes as

EXT. HILLTOP - ASCARA

CHANTS THROUGH THE STORM

ASCARA

*Baltar videk, ofer olrox!*

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE - EARTHQUAKE

rattles castle walls as panicked SCREAMS, THUNDER, AND  
LIGHTNING CONTINUE

EXT. FOREST - TWIGS

jumps into Whistle's lap, Eric shields Sean, and Rosette as Combustible and Ikon rear up --

EXT. HILLTOP - STORM

ASCARA

*Oh, righteous powers of Rahea, our  
Mother, rain justice upon your  
children, and deliver us into your  
sublime embrace.*

EXT. MORRA'S BATTLEMENT - MORRA'S EYES

roll up to the sky and she holds her arms against her body as  
HER BODY VIOLENTLY JERKS IN AN UP AND DOWN MOTION --

EXT. HILLTOP - ASCARA

ASCARA

*Die, bad witch!*

EXT. MORRA'S BATTLEMENT - MORRA

coughs up GREEN PUSS and her face distorts as --

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE - EARTHQUAKE

SHATTERS AND CRUMBLES THE WALLS --

EXT. MORRA'S BATTLEMENT - MORRA

FALLS WITH HER BALCONY IN A TITANIC EXPLOSION WHICH CRUSHES  
LUCAN, THE VANGUARD, AND EVERY LIVING VILLAIN IN SIGHT --

EXT. HILLTOP - DUST CLEARS

A BLUE-WHITE LIGHT SURROUNDS ASCARA AND SHE IS ABSORBED

EXT. FOREST - ERIC, SEAN, WHISTLE, TWIGS, AND ROSETTE

emerge from BRUSH to SEE --

EXT. MORRA'S CASTLE - COLLAPSES IN FIRE AND SMOKE

EXT. FOREST - RAHEA APPEARS

ROSETTE

Look!

DRESSED ALL IN WHITE, RAHEA WALKS TOWARDS THEM AS IF ON A CLOUD --

TWIGS

Pretty lady.

WHISTLE

Hey lady, what do you want from us?  
What's to become of us?

RAHEA

Sean knows.

SEAN OFFERS EMERALIS UP --

SEAN

Not me. I can't keep it.

RAHEA

If not you, who then who will be my  
Overseer?

INT. HOSPITAL LIBRARY - FATHER LEO

CLOSES THE STORY NOTES, FALTERS, AND

DOCTOR KAYASHI RUSHES TO STEADY HIM --

DOCTOR KAYASHI

Leo, easy.

FATHER LEO

That's where he left it.

LLEWELLYN

Stupid, stupid, stupid! Exactly why  
we're here.

Verna pivots to Llewellyn

VERNA

We were until we found out about  
you. I think Mothers-For-Liberty  
needs a new chairman!

SERGEANT OMAR  
So, you're an accomplice?

VERNA  
Me? No, wait --

Sergeant Omar escorts Llewellyn and Verna out --

SERGEANT OMAR  
Tell it in the car, lady.

FATHER LEO SMIRKS, THEN LEANS ON KAYASHI

FATHER LEO  
Let me see him.

CZAR AND ELANA ASSIST FATHER LEO TO SEAN'S BEDSIDE AND  
AS SEAN SEES FATHER LEO, HE REACHES UP --

SEAN  
Father Leo --

Father Leo leans over the bed rails

FATHER LEO  
Kid, you don't have to tap anymore,  
to anybody.

Sean takes Father Leo's hand

SEAN  
*-- thank you for saving my life!*

FATHER LEO  
Back at you, kid.

INT. OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS - FATHER LEO'S FUNERAL - DAY

CHURCH is jammed with people of all colors and faiths who surround Father Leo's CASKET on the altar including Czar, Sean (in a wheelchair), Elana, Doctor Kayashi, Officer Tidwell, Zelda, and Tidwell's husband, ARMANDO, 45, Father Odu, the Hoods from the street, Preston, Wayne the cab driver, Sergeant Omar, and Hospital Executives, Yolanda, Archbishop's assistant, and Miguel, the valet.

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ  
My friends, in my 40 year career,  
no one has challenged my beliefs so  
well as Father Leo McWay.

(MORE)

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ (CONT'D)  
Undaunted by changing times and the  
work that needs to be done in spite  
of it, he and his vows walked all  
over us. We look to him today for  
his courage, daring, and his care  
for a little boy.

CZAR PUTS HIS ARM AROUND SEAN

ARCHBISHOP VASQUEZ (CONT'D)  
But alas, instead of my tribute,  
let me ask his friend, Father  
Joseph Nene Odu, to give remarks.

Archbishop Vasquez steps away and Father Odu steps up --

FATHER ODU  
Thank you, Archbishop. My friend,  
Father Leo, would not approve of  
long winded speeches in his honor --

Archbishop Vasquez hangs his head

FATHER ODU (CONT'D)  
--instead, let me read you  
something from a hand-carved plaque  
that Father Leo picked up at a  
garage sale in our neighborhood  
which he asked me to dedicate to  
Sean and Eric.

Father Odu holds up a WOODEN, HAND-CARVED PLAQUE

FATHER ODU (CONT'D)  
Both Father Leo and I have searched  
the internet to discover the  
author, but with no luck. So for  
now, let's call it "Anonymous." The  
quote is quite simple and in  
keeping with Sean's love of story  
and Father Leo's love of Sean.

Sean's EYES light up as Father Odu reads --

FATHER ODU (CONT'D)  
"From the land of Never, Never,  
with Peter we will fly, to the land  
of Oz where Dorothy sings beneath a  
rainbow sky, on to Hobbiton and  
Bilbo just in time for cakes and  
tea, then with Alice through the  
looking glass to see what we shall  
see.

SEAN SQUEEZES CZAR'S HAND --

FATHER ODU (CONT'D)  
"How precious are these things  
we've seen, those friends we've  
made, the dreams we dream. They are  
in our hearts forever, just close  
your eyes and see. We'll not forget  
them ever, never ever, you and  
me."\*

FINAL AUDIENCE REVEALS --

ASCARA, AMADOR THE OVERSEER, MORRA, LUCAN, RAVEN, THE  
VANGUARD, MORRA'S HOUSEMAIDS, TWIGS, WHISTLE (AXE-IN-HEAD)  
and

RAHEA

The End of DRAG QUEENS OF EMERALIS

(\*NOTE: The quote is Anonymous)