

GREENLEAF

"Shame the Devil"

Written By

Lori Crawford

Email: loribeth@preacherskidproductions.com
Twitter: [@loribcrawford](https://twitter.com/loribcrawford)
Instagram: [@loribethcrawford](https://www.instagram.com/loribethcrawford)

GREENLEAF

"Shame the Devil"

PREVIOUSLY ON:

FROM OPRAH.COM:

The original drama series Greenleaf from award-winning writer/producer Craig Wright (Lost, Six Feet Under, Brothers and Sisters) takes viewers into the unscrupulous world of the Greenleaf family and their sprawling Memphis megachurch, where scandalous secrets and lies are as numerous as the faithful. Born of the church, the Greenleaf family love and care for each other, but beneath the surface lies a den of iniquity-greed, adultery, sibling rivalry and conflicting values-that threatens to tear apart the very core of their faith that holds them together.

This episode is set in the week after the season 4 finale before the season 5 premiere.

Bob Whitmore, the CEO of the megachurch empire, Harmony & Hope, has complete control of the Greenleaf's church, Calvary Fellowship World Ministry.

Grace, initially poised to take it on as the senior pastor, stepped down because of her secret son, AJ.

Charity teamed up with Phil to spy on her family so he could become the head pastor at Calvary. He promised to make her Assistant Pastor. Charity gave him a recording of Grace admitting that she lied to the police when AJ was arrested. Phil used that leverage to pressure Grace to step down so he would be chosen as head pastor instead.

However, Bob made a deal with Lady Mae to make her head pastor. When Phil learns this, he makes a deal with Bob: Make him head pastor instead and he'll marry Bob's daughter, Judee. Bob agreed.

Phil delivered the news to the Greenleafs in person. Not only are they all out, the church will be demolished in a week. He also broke up with Charity, whom he'd asked to marry him only the night before, almost in the same breath.

Meanwhile, Jacob is still reeling from the news that Kerissa cheated on him. He wants to put her out the house, but she blackmails him in order to stay. She's found evidence that implicates his parents in the murder of the woman who left the house to the Greenleafs in her will. If Jacob puts her out, she'll have Bishop and Lady Mae thrown in prison.

TEASER

EXT. GREENLEAF MANSION - DAY

ESTABLISHING. Dawn of a NEW DAY. The sun bathes the mansion in glorious light.

INT. DINING ROOM - GREENLEAF MANSION - DAY

LADY MAE finishes up her morning Bible study while the STAFF bustles around her. Setting the table for breakfast.

GRACE comes in, looking for a quick bite. She pauses in surprise at the elaborately set table.

GRACE
G'morning, Mama.
(re: the table)
It's not Sunday.

Lady Mae smiles at her firstborn in greeting. If Grace wasn't frightened before --

LADY MAE
Where are your brother and sister?
I thought it would be lovely to
kick off this fine Lord's day
taking our sustenance together.

GRACE
How can you be so cheerful? We've
lost Calvary. They're demolishing
the building in three days' time --
It's too late, Mama. It's over.

CHARITY shuffles in and plops in a chair. Miserable and heartbroken.

LADY MAE
Lazarus was dead and in his grave
for four days before Jesus showed
up and restored his life. God
doesn't start until it's too late.
So, it seems to me that we are
right on time.

Lady Mae eyes Charity.

LADY MAE

Please tell me that you are not
wasting perfectly good tears on
that scoundrel, Phil DeMars.

JACOB (O.S.)

Do I smell Maricel's famous
homemade biscuits?

JACOB strides in as Charity pleads her case.

CHARITY

But Mama. I loved him. I --

JACOB

Loved? Who? Phil? You didn't even
know him.

GRACE

Jacob. If Charity believes she
loved him, then she loved him.
Let's have a little compassion.

CHARITY

Gigi. I don't need you to speak for
me. I'm the one who's been betrayed
here --

Jacob snorts. As he sits at the table --

JACOB

Betrayed? You don't know the
meaning of betrayed.

All smiles and nothing weighing her down, KERISSA floats in.
Jacob immediately tenses up.

Grace clocks his reaction to his wife's presence.

KERISSA

Good morning, Greenleafs.

She looks around, making it clear that her greeting excludes
Lady Mae.

KERISSA

Jacob, I'm expecting the teacher in-
service to run late today. I need
you to pick up Winkie at the
Johnsons at four.

She puts a hand on his shoulder. He shrinks away, acutely
aware of all the curious eyes watching them.

JACOB
Johnsons at four. Got it.

Kerissa takes issue with his snide tone. She forces him to look her in the eye. She's not playing.

KERISSA
Thank you, sweetheart.

She kisses him. He endures. Secure with the upper hand, Kerissa grabs a biscuit from the table and heads out.

KERISSA
Bye, Greenleafs.

Grace eyes her brother, concerned.

GRACE
What is going on with you and Kerissa? You've both been acting so strange for days now.

JACOB
It's not important, Gigi.

LADY MAE
Yes. There will be plenty of opportunity to untangle whatever scheme Kerissa has hatched later. But for now, our focus - ALL of our focus - needs to be on Calvary.

CHARITY
Calvary is gone, Mama. Why can't you just accept that?

LADY MAE
I will not accept that until the Lord has spoken on the matter. And He has not.

BISHOP (O.S.)
Good morning, Saints.

Bishop, as cheerful as Lady Mae, takes his seat at the table.

GRACE
G'morning, Daddy.

JACOB
(mumbles)
Morning.

CHARITY

What's good about it?

Bishop takes a good look at each of his offspring. His gaze lands on Charity.

BISHOP

It's another day that the Lord has made. Don't you want to rejoice and be glad in it?

CHARITY

No. I want to kick Phil in his shins for making such a fool of me.

Bishop gestures with his phone.

BISHOP

Well, you just may get that chance.

Lady Mae perks up.

LADY MAE

You mean?

BISHOP

Yes. Ted Mason, down at the county's office -- he revoked the demolition permits. Calvary will continue to stand to fight another day. As will we.

LADY MAE

Praise God!

JACOB

So what? Bob will just get new permits and the demolition will resume.

LADY MAE

Yes, but in the meantime, now that we know the extent of Harmony & Hope's treachery, we can do something about it before that happens.

CHARITY

Like what, Mama?

LADY MAE

Oh, baby. Don't you know by now that God does not abide ugly?

LADY MAE (CONT'D)

I challenge you to name a single
person with a soul as hideous as
Bob Whitmore or his lackey, Phil
DeMars. We're going to kick them in
their spiritual shins.

Off Lady Mae's beautiful smile --

GREENLEAF

ACT ONE

EXT. LAKEFRONT DOCK - GREENLEAF ESTATE - DAY

Jacob stares out over the lake. Deep in thought.

Grace joins him.

GRACE

I hate seeing my little brother in pain. How can I help?

JACOB

You can't. We - Kerissa and me - we're just in a rough patch. We'll work it out.

GRACE

It doesn't look like she thinks anything needs working out.

Jacob clams up. Grace leans on the railing next to him. Tries from a new angle.

GRACE

What do you think of Mama's plan to excise Harmony & Hope from Calvary? Showing people who they really are. I don't know about you, but telling the truth shouldn't feel like such a radical act.

JACOB

I guess it all depends upon who that truth will hurt.

GRACE

But that's the hurt before healing. Keeping it inside just lets the poison fester and spread. I'm watching whatever it is eat you alive.

JACOB

No more than I deserve.

GRACE

No.

Grace turns him to face her.

GRACE

It's not. You don't deserve --

JACOB

Kerissa cheated on me, okay! With Fernando Amable.

GRACE

The guy who tricked you into selling your land to Harmony & Hope? Is there no low that these people won't stoop to?

JACOB

It doesn't even matter. I mean, look at all the times I've done this to Kerissa. It's what I deserve.

GRACE

No, Jacob. It's not. That was your past. And one that she would never let you live down. I've heard all the snide comments, the disrespect she throws at you. No. When Mama finds out -- she's gonna put that woman out of this house. Like you should have.

Grace walks away. Jacob hurries to stop her.

JACOB

No. Stop, Gigi. You can't tell Mama. And she can't put her out. I already tried. She won't go.

GRACE

What? Why?

JACOB

If I try it again, she'll put Mama and Daddy in jail.

GRACE

What are you talking about?

JACOB

She found Mrs. Davis' will.

GRACE

The lady who left this house to Mama and Daddy?

JACOB

It was a new version. Signed a month before she was killed. And executed by Uncle Mac.

Grace blanches at the name.

GRACE

Even from the grave he's screwing
with us. You really think Mama and
Daddy had something to do with her
death? It was a break in.

JACOB

You know how these things go, Gigi.
Even the hint of suspicion could
destroy them. I can't do that to them.

GRACE

Shouldn't that be up to them to decide?

After thinking about it for a moment, he finally nods.

GRACE

I'll go with you.

JACOB

No. You've gotta get to Calvary.
The Deacon's meeting will be
starting soon.

GRACE

Are you sure?

JACOB

Go. I'll take care of it.

Grace gives him a big hug.

She heads for the garage while he resolutely strides toward
the house.

EXT. CALVARY FELLOWSHIP WORLD MINISTRY - DAY

ESTABLISHING. Demolition equipment silently surrounds the
beautifully maintained church campus.

INT. GRACE'S CAR - DAY

Parked in the lot, Grace stares at the church her family
built. Dials her phone.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. NEW YORK TIMES - NEWS DESK - DAY

DARIUS NASH edits a story at his desk with a red pen. Distracted, he picks up his ringing phone.

DARIUS

Nash.

GRACE

Mr. Nash.

The sound of her voice captures his full attention. And brings a fond smile.

DARIUS

Pastor Greenleaf.

GRACE

Congratulations on landing the job at the Times. How's New York treating you?

DARIUS

It's no Memphis, that's for sure.

GRACE

No place is.

DARIUS

From what I hear, Memphis is undergoing some -- changes.

GRACE

You keeping tabs on me?

DARIUS

Harmony & Hope is a billion dollar empire. Kinda hard not to.

GRACE

Yeah. We've got a real David and Goliath situation here.

DARIUS

How can I help?

GRACE

Get me everything you can possibly find on H&H. Seeing firsthand how they've operated here -- I can't believe there aren't others out there they've also hurt.

Darius pauses.

DARIUS

Or -- You could come to The Big Apple. Let me show you around. Introduce you to some people. They still haven't forgotten you at 20/20 --

GRACE

That's tempting. I'd love to leave all this behind -- But it's my family. I have to see this through. Know that I've done everything possible to save what my parents spent their entire lives building.

DARIUS

I understand. I do. It's just -- You know Goliath had brothers, right? As big and bad as he was. They spent their lives going after David.

GRACE

Look at you. Dropping the Biblical knowledge. Anything you wanna tell me?

DARIUS

I'm serious, Grace. Bob Whitmore is a formidable opponent. Do not underestimate him.

GRACE

I assure you. We haven't. Besides, you do remember my mother, right? He shouldn't underestimate her.

Darius sighs. Her mind is made up.

DARIUS

I'll send you everything I uncover.

A KNOCK on her window startles her.

Grace holds up a finger, signalling for a nervous KARINE JACKSON to wait.

GRACE

You're the best. I've gotta go.

His voice softens --

DARIUS

It's good to hear from you, Grace.

GRACE

Good to hear your voice, too.

Karine knocks on the window again.

GRACE

I'm being summoned. Talk again soon.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CFWM - DAY

Karine shoots a furtive look around the lot while Grace gets out and locks her car.

KARINE

The Deacons are all assembled.
They're waiting for you in the
conference room.

GRACE

Connie, too?

KARINE

Well -- uh -- She had a bit of car
trouble this morning.

Grace pauses to look directly at Karine's guilty face.
Letting her off the hook with a chuckle --

GRACE

The Lord works in mysterious ways.

KARINE

Amen.

Grace and Karine head for the back door.

INT. TEA ROOM - DAY

Everything in the cozy cafe is dainty and over embellished.
That includes the bougie PATRONS who sip tea and gossip over
scones.

Lady Mae holds court at a table in the center of the room.
She's surrounded by CLARA JACKSON and a few other wealthy
church LADIES who are members of the Bishop's Round Table.

CLARA

Demolished? Lord have mercy. When?

LADY MAE

In just a few days' time.

CLARA

Are you certain?

LADY MAE

That awful Phil DeMars took great pleasure in bringing me the news himself. He enjoyed breaking my heart.

ROUND TABLE LADY 2

What's going to happen to all the pews and the plaques that have been dedicated over the years? Oh, and what about that beautiful stained glass window you had installed in loving memory of Horace, Clara?

She gives Clara's hand a sympathetic squeeze then --

ROUND TABLE LADY 2

What'll become of it all?

LADY MAE

I don't rightly know. I can't imagine Bob Whitmore has any use for it. Or that he'd even want them around -- all those lovely memorials that mean so much to us and nothing to him -- once he turns Calvary into the headquarters for Harmony & Hope and installs his own personal throne.

ROUND TABLE LADY 1

How do we stop him, Mae? Surely you have an idea. Isn't that why you assembled us here on such short notice?

LADY MAE

Well, yes. God may have given me a dream -- But before I write the vision and make it plain, I need to know that you all are with me. After all, it was the notion of my taking the reins of Calvary from Bishop that set folks off on this unfortunate path toward Harmony & Hope in the first place.

ROUND TABLE LADY 2

Out with it, Mae. How do we save Calvary?

CLARA

Of course we're behind you.

Lady Mae takes a moment to look each of them in the eye.

LADY MAE

Good. Because we've got a war ahead. It's going to take all of us, united as one. Just like in Genesis 11, when the people are united, nothing will be withheld from us. Calvary will not be withheld from us.

CLARA

Amen!

EXT. JACOB/KERISSA'S SUITE - GREENLEAF ESTATE - DAY

Jacob stands in the closet and considers all Kerissa's things. Undecided, he pulls out his phone and dials.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. MODEL HOME - DAY

NADINE hammers a For Sale sign into the front lawn. She answers her phone when it BUZZES.

NADINE

Jacob Greenleaf? How may I help?

JACOB

I'm sure you get this all the time, but I'm suffering a bit of seller's remorse.

NADINE

Yes. That is common. People get attached to their property and when it's gone it's --

JACOB

Yes, but is there a way to get it back? Like, if say, the buyer wasn't completely truthful when making the deal? Wouldn't that be grounds to nullify the sale full stop?

NADINE

What are we talking about here, Jacob? The contract is ironclad.

JACOB

Yes, but we never would've sold the land had we known that the buyer was Harmony & Hope.

Nadine frowns in confusion.

NADINE

But you did know. Kerissa assured me that it wasn't a problem.

Floored, Jacob takes a moment.

JACOB

Kerissa knew?

NADINE

Yes. I told her that morning before you signed the papers.

Nadine cringes. Knowing she just stepped in it.

NADINE

I assumed she told you.

Jacob seethes. Barely holds his anger in check at this new betrayal.

JACOB

Thanks, Nadine. Have a blessed day.

He hangs up before she can respond.

INT. JACOB/KERISSA'S SUITE - GREENLEAF MANSION - DAY

Jacob silently fumes. He stares at all Kerissa's clothes surrounding him. It's like the walls are closing in.

In a rage, he yanks down a suitcase and starts stuffing her things in it. Not caring when things rip and tear. He wants this woman out of his life now.

ZORA (O.S.)

Dad? Can I borrow --

So focused on his task, he doesn't hear her. Or see ZORA when she comes in looking for him.

Zora stops in confusion. Tries to make sense of what he's doing.

ZORA

Dad! What's going on?

He finally clocks her presence. But keeps packing. He sweeps a shelf of Kerissa's shoes into a duffel.

JACOB

Your mother is going on a trip.

ZORA

What? What trip?

He keeps packing. Ignoring her. She's getting scared. This is not normal.

ZORA

Daddy? What's going on?

She grasps his arm. He shakes her off.

When she recoils, he regains some control.

JACOB

I'm sorry, baby. Can we -- I'll find you -- later.

He fights tears. Turns away so she can't see them.

Zora hugs him from behind. Jacob breaks completely down. Sobbing. He sinks to the floor.

Zora sits with him. Confused and frightened to see her big, strong Dad crying in her arms and having no idea why.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. OFFICE - GREENLEAF MANSION - DAY

Bishop hovers behind Charity at the desk. She posts her sermon to her SoundCloud account.

CHARITY
And we're done.

BISHOP
That's it?

CHARITY
That's it, Daddy. Now 40 thousand of my followers will have access to my first sermon ever. It's so exciting.

Bishop gives her shoulder a fond pat before closing the Biblical commentaries and dictionaries littering his desk.

BISHOP
It truly is a brave new world. You can reach 40 thousand souls just like that?

CHARITY
Not just like that -- I mean -- I had to build the followers first. Going on tour with Tamala Mann helped with that. Now we wait to see if what I preached about H&H resonates.

Charity's excited eyes are glued to the screen.

Bishop gives her a concerned look. Unenthused --

BISHOP
What you preached. Uh-huh.

He continues putting his study materials away.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CFWM - DAY

CONNIE SYKES, looking a little disheveled, enters the room. She stops short when she sees Grace at the table with the entire Calvary Deacon Board.

Working hard to compose herself --

CONNIE

I thought this was to be a full meeting of the Board. Where are the Harmony & Hope members?

If looks could kill, she'd be dead 11 times over given all the hostile faces turned toward her.

MISTY WILLIAMS glowers --

MISTY

This is the full board. The full Calvary board. The board who now has to scramble to save our church from people who wish to do us harm. People you brought into our midst.

CONNIE

Now wait just a minute. I did what was best for Calvary.

MISTY

What's best for Calvary? Far as we can tell, you didn't even bother to pay tithes on that sweet little kickback you got from H&H.

CONNIE

Kickback? I thought you were better than your father, Grace. To resurrect this tired old lie again --

GRACE

It's the truth, Connie.

Connie scoffs. Goes on the attack.

CONNIE

The truth? What do you know of truth? Having babies out of wedlock and lying about it for 20+ years.

Grace has had enough. She's scary as she gets up in Connie's face. Towers over the older woman.

GRACE

AJ, my son, has done nothing to hurt Calvary, or you, or anyone else in this room. The same cannot be said of you. Bob is going to demolish this church.

GRACE (CONT'D)

To satisfy whatever whim he's had this week, he's going to destroy everything we -- all of us -- have worked so hard to build. And you helped him do it.

Connie, desperate to put some space between her and Grace's wrath, moves toward her seat at the head of the table.

CONNIE

Well. We appreciate your input, Pastor Greenleaf, but as you are not a member, nor a welcomed party to any meetings of this Deacon's Board, I'm inviting you to take your leave.

Head held high and more than a little smug, Connie tries to sit at the table.

The DEACON next to her pushes the chair back in and holds it so she can't sit. She gives him a puzzled look.

MISTY

You misunderstand, Connie. It is you who will be leaving. Not Pastor Grace. You've been removed from your post as the president of this Deacon's Board.

CONNIE

You can't do that.

Misty holds up a copy of the bylaws.

MISTY

Oh, but we can. So take your 30 pieces of silver, them ugly wedge heels of yours and be on your way.

A board member near the door hops up to hold it open. Inviting Connie to leave.

Connie takes one more look around the table. Not an ally in sight. As she heads for the door --

CONNIE

Well. I know when I'm not wanted. But mark my words, you will regret this.

She pauses just outside the door.

CONNIE

And one more thing --

The board member closes it in her face. Retakes his seat.

MISTY

Now. Where were we? Ah yes. The motion is on the table for Pastor Grace to fill our vacant board seat until we can dig ourselves out of this mess. All in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS

Aye.

MISTY

All opposed?

Complete silence.

MISTY

Welcome Pastor Grace.

The member who prevented Connie from sitting, stands to hold the chair for Grace. She sits.

GRACE

First order of business. Which clauses of the bylaws can we leverage in this fight against H&H?

INT. BISHOP'S OFFICE - CFWM - DAY

In the still fully furnished office, BOB WHITMORE slams the phone down on its receiver. He's livid.

PHIL DEMARS, unflappable as usual, sits in front of the desk.

PHIL

Did you find out why demolition has been halted?

BOB

Our permits have been revoked.

PHIL

But everything was in order --

BOB

It was. It's been pulled for a random administrative review. Oh. I don't know how they did it, but this has the stink of the Greenleafs all over it. These people are unbelievable.

He shoves an angry finger at Phil.

BOB

I need you to find out how this happened. Who was responsible. I want a head to roll --

Connie interrupts when she storms in the office.

CONNIE

I've just been ousted from the Deacon's Board.

BOB

What?

CONNIE

Grace. She told them about the payment. But really, we could've gotten past that. What's this about you demolishing the church. That's not what we agreed --

PHIL

You knew things were subject to change as we integrated.

CONNIE

Change, sure. But to destroy this beautiful building? Without a single word to me about it. This is madness.

BOB

I don't answer to you, Connie. This is my church. *Mine!* And I will do with it as I please. And now that you're no longer on the Deacon's Board, you have no status that is of any use to Harmony & Hope.

Stung, Connie can only gape at him. Finally realizing she'd just been the white man's pawn all along. She looks to Phil. He avoids her gaze. She is plum out of allies today.

CONNIE

I'm sorry you feel that way. *Bob.* You don't know the Greenleafs like I do. And you know what? It will be my everlasting pleasure to watch them take you down and stomp you all the way back to hell where you clearly belong.

She pivots on her ugly wedge heel and walks out with as much dignity as she can muster. Slams the door on her way out.

Bob rolls his eyes at her dramatics. Returns his attention to Phil.

BOB

I want my permit reinstated first
thing tomorrow. Every day we delay
costs us thousands of dollars.

Phil stands. Addresses the elephant in the room --

PHIL

You're not the least bit concerned
about the Greenleafs? Already,
they've managed to shut down
demolition and oust the one ally we
had on their Deacon Board.

Bob's eyes take on a malicious glint.

BOB

If they want to get in the dirt
with me, I say, let them. I
guarantee they won't like it there.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - GREENLEAF MANSION - DAY

Charity repeatedly refreshes her SoundCloud sermon page.
People are commenting overwhelming support for Calvary and
reposting like crazy.

Bishop brings in his snack and joins her on the couch.

BISHOP

They say a watched pot never boils.

She shows him her screen.

CHARITY

Not only is it boiling, Daddy,
we're on fire. It's going viral.
And look, I've already gained
another twenty thousand followers.
I'll be in the six digits soon!

Concerned that she's making this about herself --

BISHOP

Ain't God good?

CHARITY
(absently)
All the time.

Grace, looking overwhelmed, comes in.

BISHOP
Hey Gigi. Come take a look at this.
Your sister's going viral.

Grace checks out the screen in passing.

GRACE
(pre-occupied)
That's great, Charity.

Instantly on the defensive --

CHARITY
Thanks for your support, Gigi. If
it wasn't for me, no one outside
our small little circle would know
what Harmony & Hope is doing to us.
How they're scheming and planning
to destroy the only black church in
the H&H family. That's not right.

GRACE
No. I didn't mean --

CHARITY
Then what did you mean?

GRACE
Nothing, Charity. Other than it's
great you got our story out there.
And that it's getting us such good
attention.

Charity rolls her eyes.

CHARITY
Whatever, Gigi.

Grace is done.

GRACE
What have I ever done to you to
earn all this hostility? Ever since
I came back --

CHARITY

That's right. You came back.
Everything was fine while you were
gone. But you just had to come home
and stir up everything. And now
look where we are. Fighting to save
Calvary from complete and total
destruction.

BISHOP

Girls --

GRACE

Are you serious right now? You're
blaming me when you're the one who
literally cast the deciding vote to
fold Calvary into Harmony & Hope?

BISHOP

Now, girls --

CHARITY

I only did that because my husband
decided he was gay and left me
vulnerable to predators like Phil
DeMars --

BISHOP

Girls!

GRACE

Level with us, Daddy. Was it you or
Mama who dropped this child on her
head as a baby?

Charity pops up from the couch. Ready to fight. Grace stands
her ground.

BISHOP

Cut it out!

Lady Mae rushes in.

LADY MAE

What is going on in here? I could
hear the two of you screeching like
banshees all the way in my prayer
closet.

The girls back down.

CHARITY

Nothing, Mama.

GRACE
It's nothing.

Lady Mae looks to James who can only shrug. He's at a loss.

LADY MAE
We are in the fight of our lives
against Harmony & Hope. We cannot
afford to waste precious time and
energy fighting each other.
Understood?

GRACE
Yes, ma'am.

CHARITY
Yes, ma'am.

LADY MAE
Good. Now, Grace. Excellent job,
bringing the deacons back into the
fold. Where are --

Charity huffs and leaves the room.

Lady Mae sends up a prayer --

LADY MAE
Lord, give me the strength --
(to Grace)
Have we heard back from Darius? I
know its a long shot, but I don't
want to leave any stone unturned.

GRACE
Yeah. About that, Mama. He sent
this --

Grace hands Lady Mae her phone. She scrolls and scrolls. And scrolls.

GRACE
There have to be a few thousand
names there. All who have some
grievance against H&H. It'll take
forever to weed through it all.
Separate the sour grapes from the
legitimate claims.

LADY MAE
We'd better get started then.

INT. GATE - GREENLEAF ESTATE - NIGHT

Kerissa drives up to the gate. Enters the entry code.

The gate doesn't open.

Puzzled, she tries again.

Still closed.

She backs the car up to angle her headlights on the guard shack.

It's empty.

KERISSA

Great. Just wonderful.

She shoots off a text to Zora.

INSERT PHONE

Zora: Be right there.

BACK TO SCENE

Kerissa shuts off the engine and gets out to pace while she waits.

She spots some luggage on the side of the driveway. Takes a closer look --

KERISSA

What in the world?

Recognizing them in the light of her cell phone, instant rage.

KERISSA

Jacob!

She dials his number. No answer.

She tries again. No answer.

She's about to redial when she spots Zora walking toward her.

KERISSA

Hey sweetie. There's something wrong with the gate.

ZORA

No. There isn't.

KERISSA

The code isn't working --

ZORA

Mom. Listen to me. I think that you and Daddy need some time apart. Your bags are right there. Just go to a hotel for now.

KERISSA

I'm not going to any hotel. Open this gate, Zora. Right now!

On the verge of tears, Zora sticks to her resolve --

ZORA

No.

KERISSA

What do you mean, "no?" Wait. Are you taking your father's side in this?

ZORA

I'm not taking any sides. I --

KERISSA

So I cheat one time and I get locked out the house? Did he tell you about all the other women he's been with? Or did he conveniently leave that part out. So he could keep looking like a saint. Well, I assure you, Zora. He isn't!

Zora openly cries. Completely horrified.

ZORA

You cheated on Daddy? That's what this is about?

Her quiet questions brings Kerissa up short. Realizing her daughter didn't know --

KERISSA

Oh, baby. I'm sorry. Look. This is between your father and I. Just open the gate.

ZORA

Was it some kind of eye for an eye thing?

KERISSA

No, I --

ZORA

Just go.

Zora wipes at her tears.

KERISSA

Zora. Just let me explain --

Heartbroken, Zora walks away.

Desperate, Kerissa calls after her --

KERISSA

Winkie?

ZORA

He's fine. Now, please. Go.

Devastated, Kerissa bursts into tears. She watches her daughter walk away until she can't see her any longer.

On auto-pilot, Kerissa loads her luggage in her car. She sits behind the wheel and sobs.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. FRONT PORCH - GREENLEAF MANSION - NIGHT

Connie climbs the steps to the front door. After a fortifying breath, she KNOCKS.

Lady Mae opens the door. Shocked to see Connie --

LADY MAE

Now is not a good time, Connie. I have neither the fortitude nor the patience to engage in a spiritual battle with you.

Lady Mae starts to close the door, but Connie stops it.

CONNIE

Good. I mean -- Because that's not why I'm here.

LADY MAE

Why are you here?

CONNIE

I heard that -- well -- that you could use some help. And maybe I could earn a little forgiveness at the same time.

Lady Mae is taken aback by the sincerity in Connie's voice. Gathering her composure --

LADY MAE

The capacity of my forgiveness is always in direction proportion with the depth of your repentance.

CONNIE

I truly am sorry, Mae. I've been the biggest kind of fool. Trusting Bob Whitmore and Phil DeMars.

LADY MAE

They are crafty devils, indeed. And you were not the only one to be led astray by their duplicity. I may forgive you, but trust is going to take a little more time.

CONNIE

I understand.

Lady Mae stands back, opening the door revealing the massive operation going on inside.

Family members, the Deacon Board, the Round Table all have phones plastered to their ears working their way down the list Grace received from Darius.

MARICEL, with a serving tray, threads through the worker bees, keeping them all fed and hydrated.

LADY MAE

In the meantime, let's put those
idle hands of yours to work.

Connie smiles. Steps inside.

INT. PHIL'S OFFICE - CALVARY - DAY

Phil sits at his desk. On the phone.

Red-faced, Bob barges in.

PHIL

I'll call you back.
(to Bob)
What happened?

Bob is so angry, he can barely speak --

BOB

Grace. That's what happened.

PHIL

I don't understand.

BOB

She's stirring up trouble across
all the H&H congregations. Reaching
out to their leadership. Past and
present.

PHIL

Which includes those we've ousted.

BOB

For the good of the congregation.
Look. I don't care how you do it,
but you need to rein in all these
wagging tongues.

PHIL

That's thousands of people. How on earth has she reached them all so quickly?

BOB

Some kind of organized campaign likely. It doesn't matter. I want the gossip contained. Put out the word that anyone who talks to her will have their operating budget slashed by half in the coming year.

Marching orders issued to his good little soldier, Bob turns to leave. As he goes --

BOB

Who do these people think they are?
You all answer to me. Not the other way around.

Phil watches Bob as he slams his way out of the office. Considering.

INT. FAMILY ROOM - GREENLEAF MANSION - NIGHT

Grace sits on the floor, surrounded by stacks of the intel they've gathered on all the Harmony & Hope congregations.

Bishop, Lady Mae, Zora, Jacob and Charity sit nearby.

GRACE

As far as I can tell, Bob's strategy is to keep all the congregations cash poor so they have to go through him to get anything done. He saddles them with red tape so when they finally get through the process, they're so grateful to have gotten anything done at all. Even if it was done on the cheap and may not last. These churches --

She hands a stack of files to Lady Mae.

GRACE

They've all been slogging through the process for various repairs on the building. Water heater. Leaky roofs. Air conditioner.

LADY MAE

The air conditioner is needed in Texas? Lord, it's been hot there this summer. How can they function?

Lady Mae shares the files with Bishop.

GRACE

They can't. They've cancelled services until it cools off. But, there is a solution.

She passes Lady Mae another file.

GRACE

We've got an HVAC contractor in an Oklahoma-based H&H congregation. His daughter just went into remission from leukemia. He's looking for a way to pay it forward. And he's less than 200 miles from the Texas congregation.

BISHOP

Perfect match.

GRACE

I've already reached out to both. The AC is going in tomorrow.

LADY MAE

Praise God!

Grace gestures to the files.

GRACE

We have dozens of those kinds matches here. And that's just what I've managed to get through so far.

Grace hands stacks to Zora, Jacob and Charity.

GRACE

Your idea to meet the needs of all these H&H congregations while going around Bob Whitmore is genius, Mama. He's already built the network. It just needs someone at the helm putting it to use.

LADY MAE

It's not mine. God sent it to me in a dream.

LADY MAE (CONT'D)

Bob built this empire to serve himself, but God will not be mocked. Nor will He ignore the cry of his people. Let's get started.

Charity stands with a heavy sigh.

Lady Mae rolls her eyes in her daughter's direction.

LADY MAE

Yes, Charity? You have something of value to add?

CHARITY

No. Well -- yes. We are literally playing right into Bob and Phil's hands. This doesn't hurt them. If anything, we're about to make them look really good.

JACOB

We're going around Bob, Charity. Have you not been paying attention? All these congregations will know that and rethink their membership with Harmony & Hope. We're starving the beast.

CHARITY

But Phil is just as complicit. He's going to get away with everything. Just like Judee.

BISHOP

Are you more interested in doing God's will or hurting those who've hurt you?

Properly chastened, Charity sits back down.

LADY MAE

Good. Now that we have that foolishness behind us, let's see what we can do about meeting the needs of the people.

OFF CHARITY -- Still seething.

INT. PHIL'S OFFICE - DAY

Frustrated, Phil searches his computer files. He keeps getting an error.

JUDEE WHITMORE pops her head in.

JUDEE

I can't leave you or my father
alone for two minutes without
things just going completely
sideways, now can I?

Phil, not particularly happy to see her, forces a smile.

PHIL

Does Bob know you're back?

JUDEE

Not yet. I thought it only prudent
to say, "hello" to my handsome
fiance first.

She saunters in and gives him a kiss. He endures.

JUDEE

Hello.

PHIL

I'm under the gun here --

JUDEE

I'll say you are. This rebellion
that started here, right under your
cute little nose is spreading. It's
already infected seventy-two other
congregations.

PHIL

I'm doing my best. Remember how you
fired Karine without running it by
anyone first?

JUDEE

She was insubordinate and unhelpful.

PHIL

Well, she password protected all my
files before she left. I can't access
anything. That includes the contacts
I need to do damage control.

Judee perches thoughtfully in a chair across from him.

JUDEE

So what if you don't?

PHIL

Don't what?

JUDEE

Do damage control. This thing is just going to keep spreading. We should cut our losses and get out now while we still can. There are plenty of other churches out there who would welcome us with open arms.

PHIL

But Bob wants this one. It's our job to give it to him.

The computer BEEPS. Flashes a red warning on his screen.

Judee clocks how upset he's getting.

JUDEE

Just call IT. I'm sure they'll be able to undo what little missy did in a jiffy.

PHIL

IT that's still loyal to the Greenleafs? I believe I'll pass.

Sensing a juicy secret, Judee smiles. She heads around the desk to crowd him and look over her shoulder.

JUDEE

Oh. What else ya go on there? Not just contacts I take it.

PHIL

No --

His eyes flick to the door. Lowers his voice.

PHIL

All of Bob's sermons. The books. Including the latest that I haven't quite finished. If the Greenleafs get these files. They'll be able to prove that Bob Whitmore isn't actually *Bob Whitmore*.

And just like that, Judee is as concerned as he is. She pulls out her phone and shoots off a text.

PHIL

What are you doing?

JUDEE

Since you can't use the on-site IT,
we'll just have to fly in someone
from Phoenix.

PHIL

Phoenix, huh?

Her phone BUZZES as the reply comes in. She shows Phil her screen.

JUDEE

See? He'll be here tomorrow. Crisis
averted. Let's get coffee.

Judee pulls a reluctant Phil to his feet and leads him from the office.

INT. HALLWAY - CFWM - DAY

As Phil and Judee walk --

PHIL

You don't think it's a terrible
idea to ask your ex-husband help
your future husband retrieve such
sensitive files? Can he be trusted?

JUDEE

Of course he can, silly. The only
ex we need to worry about is yours.

PHIL

Charity?

JUDEE

Don't tell me you haven't listened
to the little sermon podcasts she's
been posting on SoundCloud.

PHIL

I've been a little busy.

JUDEE

To busy to know the enemy? She and
42 thousand --
(checks her phone)
whoops -- 48 thousand followers are
the ones fanning all these flames
against Harmony & Hope.

She directs his attention outside.

THROUGH THE WINDOW -- PROTESTERS use their bodies to block the demolition equipment. It can't move and no one can get to it.

Judee keeps walking. Like a puppy, Phil hurries to catch up.

PHIL

We can sue for defamation.

JUDEE

Oh, she never mentions us by name.
But only the daft would be unable
to figure it out. She even remixed
my song. It's a little -- ethnic --
but still good. So are her sermons.
I subscribed.

She stops to face him. Suddenly serious.

JUDEE

But we do need it to stop. She's
destroying our brand.

PHIL

If you don't want me to sue --

JUDEE

Bring her back into the H&H family.
These followers could be -- useful --
- when deployed on the right side
of history.

PHIL

Charity is not just going to turn
on her family. Not again. We've
already burned that bridge.

Judee's creepy, vacant smile appears.

JUDEE

You'll figure it out.

Her eyes travel over his body. Linger just below his
waistline for a moment.

JUDEE

You have many tools at your
disposal.

She heads into the coffee cafe, leaving him stunned and
perplexed in her wake.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. FAMILY ROOM - GREENLEAF MANSION - DAY

Nestled in the armchair, a cup of tea at her side, Lady Mae scrolls through Harmony & Hope's social media on her iPad.

On the couch, Grace scrolls through Calvary's mentions.

GRACE

Listen to this, "Pastor Mae Greenleaf and her angels at Calvary are truly God sent. After spending 18 months begging Harmony & Hope for a new water heater, Pastor Greenleaf got it done for us in hours. Installation Monday! God bless Pastor Greenleaf and Calvary Fellowship World Ministries." It's working, Mama.

LADY MAE

God said it would. And His word does not return to Him void.

GRACE

Amen.

LADY MAE

The stories coming to light exposing Harmony & Hope's malfeasance? It just grieves my heart.

Charity shuffles in. Sits next to Grace and commandeers her laptop. Not willing to start a fight, Grace switches to her phone.

CHARITY

What grieves your heart, Mama?

LADY MAE

They under pay their staff. Some of these poor souls don't even make minimum wage. They fire employees for the smallest of infractions. Bob Whitmore is truly a man short on grace and mercy. Why, I have half a mind to take over the whole operation. Not just Calvary.

CHARITY

What's done in the dark sure has a way of coming to light.

GRACE

Pray on it, Mama. Oh my.

The other ladies look Grace's direction curiously.

GRACE

Did you know that Judee suffers from depression?

Charity perks up.

CHARITY

Where did you see that?

LADY MAE

I did not. But I cannot claim to be surprised.

Grace shows where she'd been reading.

GRACE

There. Somebody posted about her undergoing inpatient treatment for and suicidal ideation. If it's true, I can't imagine that all this stress is good for her. If something were to push her over the edge, we'd never even know before it's too late.

Charity searches for "Judee" and "suicide."

LADY MAE

That's why we're letting God take the lead on the matter.

GRACE

There's also the rumor that Bob doesn't even write his own sermons or books.

LADY MAE

Surely that can't be true.

CHARITY

(distracted)
Phil writes them.

Grace and Lady Mae turned shocked looks on Charity.

LADY MAE

Excuse me. Are you repeating rumors
or are you dealing in fact?

Charity finally looks up from the search results.

CHARITY

Phil told me. Ages ago. I told
Daddy. I figured he'd already
mentioned it to you.

LADY MAE

Bishop knows?

Charity shrugs.

LADY MAE

Lord, have mercy. Is there no limit
on this man's deceptions? Not that
I take pride in Harmony & Hope's
slide from grace, but Calvary will
be back in the family before we
know it.

Eyeing her mother, Charity shoots her shot --

CHARITY

With Calvary coming back to the
family, that seems like the perfect
opportunity to promote me to
associate pastor.

LADY MAE

Are we back on this again?

CHARITY

Back -- We've never been off of it,
Mama. You know I want to preach.
And the only reason we've gotten
this far with neutralizing H&H is
because of me. It was my podcast
that stirred up the people. My
followers who got out and picketed
the demolition crew.

Lady Mae slowly rises to her feet.

LADY MAE

Now I hope that it was not your
intention to take the credit that
rightfully belongs to God. I just
know that I have trained up my
children to know better than that.

LADY MAE (CONT'D)

But in case I am mistaken, let me be clear. Those podcasts you seem to be so proud of, were Bishop's words. Even if it was your voice that spoke them. And those followers were planted by God Himself.

Lady Mae pauses to take a calming breath.

LADY MAE

Tomorrow, we will be in for the fight of our lives. Can I count on you to stop grieving the Spirit with your nonsense for 24 hours?

CHARITY

Yes, Mama.

LADY MAE

Thank you. And now, I'm retiring to my prayer closet to prepare for this battle.

Lady Mae sweeps out of the room.

Grace accidentally breathes too loud.

CHARITY

Shut up, Gigi.

She stomps away in the other direction from Lady Mae.

GRACE

I didn't say --

Grace rolls her eyes and returns to her task.

EXT. CALVARY - DAY

ESTABLISHING. The sun bathes the church campus in bright, redeeming light.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CFWM - DAY

Packed to the gills with cars, news vans and satellite trucks.

Hoads of PROTESTORS stand boldly between the demolition equipment and the church.

In the midst of the chaos, Lady Mae leads a procession of Calvary members made up of the Greenleafs, the Deacon's Board, the Round Table and everybody else available around the perimeter of the church.

INT. BISHOP'S OFFICE - DAY

Bob, Phil and Judee have their noses pressed against a window.

BOB

What is this crazy family doing?

PHIL

I believe they're marching around the building seven times.

JUDEE

Like Joshua and Jericho?

PHIL

That's what it looks like to me.

BOB

Well, we've got to get them out of here. The people who came for the final service in this building can't get in.

Judee points out the all the news cameras.

JUDEE

Anything we do to stop them at this point will damage the brand.

BOB

What do you think hiding in here all day will do?

(to Phil)

You got your sermon ready?

PHIL

Of course.

BOB

Let's go.

EXT. FRONT DOOR - CFWM - DAY

Lady Mae leads the group to the church entrance.

LADY MAE
Let the walls of Harmony & Hope
come tumbling down!

USHERS hold the doors open. She leads everyone inside.

INT. TABERNACLE - CFWM - DAY

As Lady Mae enters -

LADY MAE
Charity --

Charity lifts her cordless microphone to sing --

CHARITY
(singing)
*We are soldiers. In the army. We
got to fight, although we have to
cry. We got to hold up the
bloodstained banner. We got to hold
it up until we die.*

The other members join her. The song fills the tabernacle as Charity leads the people in a rock step up the center aisle.

ON BOB -- His head is about to explode watching this orderly intrusion march toward him where he stands on the stage next to Phil.

He signals to Judee to sing.

JUDEE
(singing)
*Welcome to the family of God. Where
everyone is loved as they are.
Where love and peace abide --*

Even with her own mic, her voice is no match for Charity's amazing vocals. Judee tries, but she's quickly drowned out.

ON CHARITY -- Gives her head a "you tried it" flick and makes her way up on the stage to continue leading their battle cry.

CHARITY
(singing)
*We are soldiers. In the army. We
got to fight, although we have to
cry. We got to hold up the
bloodstained banner. We got to hold
it up until we die.*

The people fill in the pews.

ON BOB -- Nudges Phil to take the stage as Charity brings the song to a close.

PHIL
Amen and amen. Thank you, Charity
for that rousing hymn. But you
folks didn't come here to sing. You
came to hear the Word. Amen?

Crickets.

Phil shifts uncomfortably. When a black church goes silent --
He soldiers on --

PHIL
The Word of God reads thus --

LADY MAE
"And I say also unto thee, That
thou art Peter, and upon this rock
I will build my church."

Lady Mae, with her own microphone, joins Phil on the stage.
She looks dead at Bob as she quotes --

LADY MAE
"And the gates of *hell* shall not
prevail against it." That's Matthew
16:18.

CONGREGATION
Amen.

Watching the situation slip further from his control, Bob
rushes the stage. He snatches the microphone from Phil who
doesn't appreciate that at all.

BOB
Yes, yes, yes. Thank you *Lady Mae*.
Isn't she wonderful? And just so
beautiful.

She eyes him with a small smile. Refuses to let him reduce
her to "Lady." She is *Pastor Greenleaf*.

LADY MAE
Yes, I am. And you know what else
is beautiful? All these lovely
faces filling these dusty pews. Oh,
how I have missed you.

The tabernacle fills with applause.

BOB

Yes. It is wonderful to see each of you in this final service that will close out Calvary's distinguished history and move us into the future.

ON BISHOP -- In the pews next to Grace and Jacob, Bishop turns and makes a slicing motion at the A/V room.

BOB

We look forward --

Bob's mic goes silent.

LADY MAE

The future is here, Bob. And it is God who has the final say.

CONGREGATION

Amen!

LADY MAE

There's a lesson to be learned here. For all of us.

As Lady Mae gets going, Bob slinks off to the side.

LADY MAE

While on the outside, it may appear that we've been fighting over a simple building. Mere brick and mortar and glass and wood. Worthless things if the truth be told. But now, take a moment and look at your neighbor.

ON THE PEWS -- The congregants obey.

LADY MAE

That's the church we're fighting for. It's you. Every single one of you was carefully knit together by a God who loves you beyond measure. And you're worth fighting for.

She walks her sermon, points to various people --

LADY MAE

You're worth fighting for. And you. And yes even you --

LADY MAE

No matter how we've erred in the
past or maybe even permitted our
good judgement to take a vacation,
God will provide us a way out.

CONGREGATION

Amen!

LADY MAE

And yet, God has message for you
who persist in your wicked ways.
You who chose to manipulate. To
lie. To scheme. And to set traps
and snares for the people of God.

ON BOB -- Face turning beet red. She doesn't even have to
call him by name.

LADY MAE

He'd like you to recall how Haman
met his end in the book of Esther.
He may have built the gallows to
hang Mordecai. Ultimately, it was
Haman whose neck was stretched on
the gallows of God's justice.

CONGREGATION

Yes!

LADY MAE

But it's not too late. You can turn
back to God. Repent of your wicked
ways. He's the God of second chance.

CONGREGATION

Yes!

LADY MAE

He's the God of a third chance.

ON CONNIE -- she waves a handkerchief in support.

CONNIE

Yes He is!

LADY MAE

He's the God of a tenth chance.

CONGREGATION

Say that!

LADY MAE

Repent. Repent and go in peace.

Lady Mae turns to look squarely at Bob. Leaving no doubt as to whom she's speaking.

All the other eyes swing to the man as well.

He squirms under the scrutiny. Clearly outnumbered, he strides back over to Lady Mae. Reaches in his pocket.

ON BISHOP -- Scared for his wife, he hops up to rush the stage.

ON BOB -- He pulls out a set of keys. Hands them to Lady Mae.

The congregation bursts into applause.

Bob leans close --

BOB

You may have won this public round.
Let's see how you do in a private one.

Unfazed, Lady Mae stares back --

LADY MAE

What is it my grandbabies say? Oh
yes. Bring it.

Bob holds his head up as he strides off the stage and up the center aisle toward the exit.

Judee hurries after him.

Phil follows more slowly. He eyes Lady Mae hatefully as he passes. He just lost another church.

LADY MAE

Bless you as you go.

INT. CONCOURSE - CFWM - DAY

PEOPLE stream out of the tabernacle, energized by the worship.

Lady Mae fields congratulations and well-wishes in one area.

Grace and Jacob greet members in another area.

Bishop chats up folks near the coffee cart.

All the Greenleafs smile the smile of victory. Except --

ON CHARITY -- Alone in the crowd, she studies her family members. They're all back in the bosom of Calvary. She walks away.

INT. PHIL'S OFFICE - CALVARY - DAY

Phil broods at his desk.

Charity peeks her head in.

CHARITY
Knock, knock.

He's really not happy to see her.

PHIL
Well, you Greenleafs got what you wanted. Congratulations.

Charity steps all the way inside. Pulls the door up behind her. It doesn't latch.

CHARITY
I didn't come here for congratulations.

PHIL
Then why did you come?

CHARITY
I don't know --

PHIL
You cost me the last opportunity to ever have a church of my own. You can do better than that.

CHARITY
Well -- what if that's what I'm offering? A spot here at Calvary.

Phil laughs in her face.

PHIL
You can't even get yourself on staff. And they're your family.

Stung, Charity recoils.

INT. HALLWAY - CFWM - DAY

Judee starts to open Phil's office door. Pauses when she hears voices inside.

PHIL (O.S.)
I'm done with weak women who have
daddy issues. It never works out
well for me.

Devastated, Judee closes the door. It takes every ounce of strength she has, but she walks away.

INT. CHARITY'S SUITE - GREENLEAF MANSION - NIGHT

Charity empties a bottle of wine in her glass. Plops down in front of her computer.

CHARITY
Weak women? I'll show you weak women.

She clicks the mouse. Posting her latest podcast.

INT. JUDEE'S CAR - NIGHT

Tears streaming down her face, Judee presses the accelerator to the floor.

Charity's podcast blasts through the car's speakers.

CHARITY (V.O.)
Depression is a mere trick of the
devil. God tells us to "Be anxious
for nothing." Let me say that
again. "Be anxious for nothing."
That's a command. Not a suggestion.

Judee wipes at her face. Sails through a red light.

Cars HONK behind her.

She pays no attention. She's too focused on Charity's voice.

CHARITY (V.O.)
Show me someone who's been
idealizing suicide and I'll show
you a person without faith. Don't
play with suicide, Saints. My
sister killed herself. But she had
a reason. Thanks to Gigi, it's no
secret that my uncle had been
molesting her.

A car pops out in front of Judee. She swerves just in time to miss it. Keeps going.

CHARITY (V.O.)

But when you have everything - a rich daddy, a place in his business empire, a handsome man who is smart and chaste and straight ready to marry you, what can you possibly be depressed about. You should be on your knees thanking God for your good fortune and overflowing blessings.

Judee fumbles with her phone. Narrowly misses a street light as she dials.

Charity slurs as she answers --

CHARITY (O.S.)

'lo.

JUDEE

You are absolutely right, Charity.
I am sooo blessed.

CHARITY (O.S.)

Who this? Judee?

JUDEE

There's so much going well in my life. I have no right to be unhappy.

The speedometer pushes past 80. Creeps up. Faster and faster.

JUDEE

No reason whatsoever.

She drops the phone. Grips the steering wheel with both hands and drives full speed into the concrete dividers of a highway overpass.

Judee closes her eyes.

The car crumples around her on impact.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. CHARITY'S SUITE - NIGHT

Freaked and sobering up real quick, Charity sits up in bed.

CHARITY

Judee? Oh my God, Judee, answer me!

Nothing.

Charity disconnects the open line and dials 9-1-1.

OPERATOR

9-1-1. What's your emergency?

CHARITY

There's been an accident.

OPERATOR

At your location, ma'am? I'm showing you at --

CHARITY

No! She was driving -- I don't know -- She called me -- But I have no idea where she was.

OPERATOR

Ma'am, without a location, there's not much we can do.

CHARITY

Can't you just -- I don't know. Go out and look for her?

OPERATOR

No, ma'am. We --

Frustrated, Charity hangs up. She paces a moment. Grabs her car keys and rushes out.

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT

Kerissa attempts to read in bed. She can't concentrate. Giving up, she grabs her phone. Scrolls through family photos. She misses them so much.

A KNOCK on the door surprises her.

She wipes at a tear and composes herself enough to answer it.

Jacob stands there. Hand raised to knock again.

Cautiously thrilled --

KERISSA
Hi.

JACOB
Hi.

They stare awkwardly at one another for a moment.

JACOB
Can we talk?

KERISSA
Of course.

She steps back so he can enter. Closes the door behind him.

INT. CHARITY'S CAR (DRIVING) - NIGHT

Anxious, Charity scans every street, avenue and boulevard as she drives by.

No Judee.

Her phone RINGS.

She groans when she sees Grace's name pop up on the console.

Answering --

CHARITY
What do you want, Gigi?

GRACE (V.O.)
Where are you?

CHARITY
I was feeling claustrophobic so I went for a drive. Is that okay with you?

GRACE (V.O.)
It's fine -- It's -- Judee Whitmore was in an accident. Mama and Daddy are on their way to the hospital now.

Charity swerves to the curb. Trying to play it cool --

CHARITY
Oh. Which hospital?

GRACE (V.O.)
The one by Calvary.

CHARITY
Okay. Anything else?

GRACE (V.O.)
I'll see you when you get home.

Charity hangs up.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Charity's car does a U-Turn and speeds off the way she came.

INT. WAITING AREA - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

DR. WILLA ARNAZ (40s, plain-faced black woman in surgeon's scrubs) brings Bob and Phil up to speed.

DR. ARNAZ
It's a miracle that she's still
with us. But we need to get her to
the OR immediately. Do we have your
permission?

Bob is too distraught to answer. Phil holds him up.

PHIL
Yes. Do whatever you need to do to
save her.

DR. ARNAZ
Thank you. If you'd like to see her
before we begin, I can take you back.

Bob shakes his head. Stumbles toward a chair and sits heavily.

BOB
I can't. I can't. But you go.

PHIL
Are you sure?

BOB
Go.

Phil nods and follows Dr. Arnaz through the double doors.

Broken, Bob just stares at the floor. Tries to pray --

BOB

Lord, I don't even know where to
begin --

He helplessly hangs his head as words fail.

A hand grasps his.

LADY MAE (O.S.)

Lord, we come before You in the
matchless name of Jesus. We lift up
Bob Whitmore, our dear brother in
Christ --

Lady Mae sits on one side of Bob, while Bishop sits on the
other. He takes Bob's other hand and completes the circle
with Lady Mae while she continues to pray --

LADY MAE

And his daughter, Judee, as she
steps on the battlefield to fight
for her very life.

She squeezes Bishop's hand. The perfect tag team --

BISHOP

We call on you, oh Lord, to be our
healer. Touch the doctor's hands.
Anoint them. Infuse them, sweet
Jehovah Rapha, with Your healing
power. And as we await for news of
Your victory, we thank You for being
Jehovah Shalom, and keeping this
dear father in perfect peace. Amen.

LADY MAE

Amen.

OFF BOB -- Tears streaming down his face and clinging to Lady
Mae and Bishop.

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Charity races toward the entrance. She brushes past two
UNIFORMED OFFICERS trying to enter at the same time. They
allow her to pass.

INT. INFORMATION DESK - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Charity makes a beeline for the unmanned desk. She waves, trying to get the VOLUNTEER'S attention in the room just behind the desk. The volunteer holds up a "wait a minute" finger while the cops stride past and get on the elevator.

INT. WAITING AREA - HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Lady Mae spots the cops heading their way and stands to shield Bob from them. Instant Mama Bear mode.

OFFICER 1
Are you Bob Whitmore?

LADY MAE
I understand that you gentleman
have a job to do, but now is
clearly not the time nor the place.

BOB
It's okay, Mae.

Standing to face the cops --

BOB
I'm Bob Whitmore.

OFFICER 1
We've just come from the scene of
your daughter's accident. We're
hoping you can shed some light on a
mystery.

BOB
What kind of mystery?

OFFICER 1
Is it at all possible that this was
perhaps not an accident? There were
no skid marks or any other
indication that Ms. Whitmore
attempted to stop the car.

Bob deflates.

BOB
Judee has been known to struggle
with depression from time to time.

Charity rushes off the elevator. She stops short when she sees the cops talking with Bob and her parents. Gathering her courage -- and her poker face -- she heads over.

CHARITY
How is she?

LADY MAE
Charity?

CHARITY
Grace told me -- Why are the cops
here? I thought it was an accident.

OFFICER 2
That's what we're trying to
ascertain, ma'am.

Phil, looking more grim than usual, returns to the waiting
room. He pauses a moment, trying to make sense of the
Greenleafs' presence. Joins the group.

BOB
How is she?

PHIL
She coded, but they brought her
back. She's in surgery now.

Bob sits down again.

BOB
I really am Pharaoh.

OFFICER 2
Just one more question. Would any of
you happen to know about a phone call?

BISHOP
A phone call?

OFFICER 2
Someone called 9-1-1. Stating
they'd been on the phone with a
crashed motorist. We're trying to
figure out if Ms. Whitmore was that
someone or if there's someone else
out there who needs help.

CHARITY
Is this person in trouble?

OFFICER 1
Too early to be determined, ma'am.
Though it is a crime if this person
talked Ms. Whitmore into making an
attempt on her own life.

Charity just barely keeps it together.

OFFICER 2

We've taken up enough of your time.
We'll be in touch.

The officers walk away.

Bishop and Lady Mae sit next to Bob again.

LADY MAE

Of all the nerve. Coming in here at
a time like this --

BOB

No, no. It's what I deserve. That
sermon of Grace's? About Pharaoh
losing his own child when he
persecuted the Israelites. It was a
warning. And one I did not heed.

LADY MAE

You haven't lost her yet. God has
the final say.

Charity fidgets, but holds tight to her secret even in the
face of Bob's grief.

BOB

Look at us. If I didn't already
believe there was a God, I would
now. Only a power as great as His
could bring us together like this.

Phil locks eyes with Charity. He knows.

BISHOP

If there were ever a time to let
bygones be bygones, this would most
certainly qualify.

ON CHARITY -- she knows he knows.

LADY MAE

Amen.

OFF the silent battle between Charity and Phil, we --

END EPISODE