

UNDER THE BANNER OF HEAVEN

EPISODE 101 "When
God was Love" by
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Based on the book by
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FOR FX
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ACT ONE

Lafferty Story / The Investigation / LDS History

EXT. PYRE'S HOME / AMERICAN FORK, UTAH - EVENING (1984)

In a PRAIRIE DRESS COSTUME, quietly singing "PIONEER CHILDREN," CAROLINE, nearly 8, rides a pink STREAMER adorned BIKE in the middle of a street alongside a plain clothed BIKE RIDING GIRL. No helmets, no fear of cars-- it's 1984 in this quaint neighborhood south of Salt Lake.

CAROLINE

"Pioneer children sang as they walked and walked and walked. They washed at streams and worked and played, Sundays they camped and read and prayed..."

In her own PIONEER COSTUME, Caroline's twin, ANNIE, runs circles around a SAPLING in front of a simple home. Annie isn't nearly as dainty as her sister. She shouts out:

ANNIE

Lasso me! Lasso me!

ON: INVESTIGATOR JEB PYRE, clean-cut, 39, (looks younger thanks to LDS clean living) in his garage, greasy hands, a LAWNMOWER half disassembled. OLD 3RD PLACE HIGH SCHOOL RODEO TROPHIES live on a tool cluttered shelf. A DUSTY SADDLE hangs from rafters. He smiles at Annie's call.

JUMP TO: *Pyre steps out of his garage tying a LENGTH OF ROPE into a LASSO. Annie breaks into SQUEALS.*

PYRE

Totem pole, Annie!

Annie goes stiff like a totem pole. He spins his lasso, then WOOSH! He tosses the loop above her head, but it just misses. She HOWLS, running around again, victorious! Pyre reels in his lasso and begins spinning it again.

PYRE (CONT'D)

Totem pole!

Annie runs back, freezes. A PHONE RINGS INSIDE. Pyre ignores it. WOOSH! He tosses his lasso again and it comes down over her head! She SQUEALS! He reels in his catch and tickles her! Caroline abandons her bike, runs over.

CAROLINE

Totem pole! Totem pole!

Now she freezes like a pole. Pyre loosens his rope from Annie, but before he can lasso Caroline, the front door opens. Pyre's wife, REBECCA, 38, sticks her head out.

REBECCA

Phone.

PYRE

One sec.

REBECCA

It's the station...

It's Cop Wife code for "it's important." He heads inside.

INT. PYRE'S HOME - LATER

An ode to '80s LDS families, this home is warm, pastel--
 PORTRAIT STUDIO PHOTOS, a CROSS STITCH whispers: FAMILIES
 ARE FOREVER, and a PRINT OF A PAINTING OF YOUNG JOSEPH
 SMITH KNEELING IN A SHAFT OF LIGHT. Pyre is on a CALL.
 Becca chases her twins, trying to get them ready for bed.

ANNIE

What about the fireworks?!

REBECCA

We're saying our prayers now.

ANNIE

Dad? Why do you have to go to work?

Pyre lifts a finger. Caroline dances in in PINK PAJAMAS!

REBECCA

Annie! Out of the costume. Into PJs.

INT. PYRE'S HOME / PARENTS' BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Pyre pulls on a GUN and quickly conceals it with his
 POLICE JACKET. But Becca has caught it all. And now she
 can plainly see his nerves. That's rare.

PYRE

Where's mom?

REBECCA

Asleep? Do you want me to...

Caroline zips in, kneels at the foot of the bed.
 Shouldering concern, Pyre steps out of the room.

INT. PYRE'S HOME / MOTHER'S ROOM - SECONDS LATER

Pyre steps in. PYRE'S MOTHER (JOSIE), 79, is just waking up (despite the hour) brushing out her long silver hair.

PYRE

Mom? Are you coming for prayer?

Surprised, she checks the SIMPLE WATCH on her dresser.

PYRE'S MOTHER

We still have an hour, Jeb.

PYRE

I've been called in. We're doing it now.

He offers her a hand. She takes it. It seems he has to walk on eggshells with her. But why?

INT. PYRE'S HOME / PARENTS' BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Pyre enters with his mom. She kneels at her spot next to the bed. Becca kneels at her bedside, Pyre at his. Annie darts in and kneels beside her sister. They all fold their arms, bow heads, and just before Pyre starts--

CAROLINE

Can I do it tonight?!

PYRE

Okay, but--

CAROLINE

Our dear Heavenly Father...

INT. PYRE'S HOME - DUSK / MINUTES LATER

Becca looks out a FRONT WINDOW to Pyre pulling his POLICE CAR slowly out of the driveway and down the block...until he thinks he's out of sight. She just catches his POLICE LIGHTS flicker on as he accelerates away.

CAROLINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...please bless the missionaries serving around the world, and our Prophet, President Kimball...

INT. PYRE'S POLICE CAR - SAME TIME

Every home has an AMERICAN FLAG out today. Pyre turns out of his neighborhood onto a COUNTRY ROAD: few lights, no

homes, just his *FLASHING BLUES* on *FIELDS*. For a devout Mormon, history lives in every stone here. Pyre is just such a Mormon. As he drives, *WE SEE* what he envisages:

EXT. THE HILL CUMORAH / NY - DAY / FLASHES (1820)

1820s *BOOTS* step into dark *WOODS*. ON: JOSEPH SMITH, 15, wide-eyed, fair, afraid of what he'll find here. AND LIKE THE PRINT IN PYRE'S HOME, he kneels in a SHAFT OF LIGHT.

CAROLINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 ...and bless Grandma, and keep
 Grandpa in Heaven from being lonely--

INT. PYRE'S HOME / PARENTS' BEDROOM - THE PRAYER CONT'D

PYRE'S MOTHER
 He's on the potty, Caroline.

Becca quickly takes Josie's hand to keep this from escalating. Annie peeks, trying hard not to laugh. It's clear such outbursts are far too commonplace these days.

PYRE
 Mom? "Heaven" is our new code word for the potty, okay? Keep going, Caroline.

CAROLINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 And...and thank you for helping Dad fix my bike, and for this Pioneer Day...

INT. PYRE'S POLICE CAR (PIONEER TRAIL) - CONT'D (1984)

Alone, Pyre smiles at the recent memory, but his eyes brim with pain's tears. *FIREWORKS* light the horizon. He looks up. Passing a "DAYS OF 47" *PIONEER DAY BILLBOARD* with a *MAN ACTING AS BRIGHAM YOUNG*, *WE HEAR AND SEE*:

EXT. UTAH PIONEER TRAIL - DUSK / A FLASH (1847)

One of countless *WAGONS* in a *WAGON TRAIN* navigates this road. ON: a bearded *BRIGHAM YOUNG*, 46, up front, looking quite ill. His *WEARY FAMILY* is with him, a *WIFE* beside him, all gaunt. They've been on a long, deadly journey.

BRIGHAM YOUNG
 Fear not, for those whose bodies are
 unable to survive this test...

INT. PYRE'S HOME / PARENTS' BEDROOM - THE PRAYER CONT'D

As Caroline prays, Pyre peeks at his mom who wears worry. She has dementia, and this night's decline weighs on him.

BRIGHAM YOUNG

...they will be made whole again, body
and mind, in the Celestial Kingdom.

INT. PYRE'S POLICE CAR - CONT'D

Comforted by Brigham's words, Pyre wipes a tear from his eye before it can fall. He turns into a neighborhood. A handful of new, MODEST HOMES live beneath the endless sky and mountains. Pyre's LIGHTS dance across AMERICAN FLAGS and KIDS' TOYS in yards. He pulls to a stop in front of a tiny TWO BEDROOM DUPLEX, COP CARS already out front.

CAROLINE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

--and Heavenly Father, for our
birthday, can I have an easy bake
oven and can Annie get roller skates--

INT. PYRE'S HOME / PARENTS' BEDROOM - THE PRAYER CONT'D

PYRE

Caroline. Enough. I'll finish up.

(Caroline nods)

And Heavenly Father, we ask that
our hearts might be guided that we
might be an instrument in thy hands
to fix whatever we find broken. And
to look after our family while I'm
away. For they are my love and my
life, for time and all eternity. In
the name of Jesus Christ...Amen.

EXT. A TWO-BEDROOM BRICK HOME - DUSK (CONT'D)

Getting out of his car, Pyre is greeted by the evening song of CRICKETS. He sees a distraught YOUNG ROOKIE COP (MORRIS) sitting on the front step, head in his hands.

INT. A SMALL TWO-BEDROOM BRICK HOME - DUSK CONT'D (1984)

Pyre carefully steps inside. A TV blares a BASEBALL GAME. He pulls a SIMPLE CROSS PEN from a pocket and uses it to lift a PHONE CORD. It's been cut. On the floor beneath it is a broken off WOMAN'S FINGERNAIL. He steels himself, then steps deeper into the darkened home. As a kitchen

comes into view, he stops. He sees the edge of a *LINOLEUM FLOOR*, on it: a *LARGE, DARK, EXPANDING POOL OF BLOOD*.

PYRE

Dear Heavenly Father...

EXT. A TWO-BEDROOM HOME - MINUTES LATER

Pyre steps back out, processing the incomprehensible, disturbed. He sits down next to the Rookie. A beat, then:

PYRE

I need you to get up. Get me a print kit and the video camera, and record every corner in there.

MORRIS (ROOKIE)

I don't think I can go back in.

PYRE

Gather yourself. For their sake.

Now something chilling catches Pyre's attention: ALLEN Lafferty, a boy-of-a-man at 24, steps out of a *SMALL HOME* across the street. Dazed, he crosses toward the crime scene, passing under a *STREETLIGHT*. We see: *BLOOD* on his *HANDS, FACE, KNEES*. A *COUPLE* steps out of the home Allen just left. They seem deeply rattled. Pyre stands.

PYRE (CONT'D)

Stop right there! Hands in the air!

Officers reach for *GUNS*, and Allen's hands freely ease skyward. *REVEAL: TEARS* streak the *BLOOD* on his cheek.

TITLE CARD: "**UNDER THE BANNER OF HEAVEN**"

TITLE CARD: "**INSPIRED BY ACTUAL EVENTS**"

INT. PYRE'S POLICE CAR - AN HOUR LATER

Pyre drives in silence, considering *ALL HE'S JUST SEEN*:

INT. A SMALL TWO-BEDROOM BRICK HOME - FLASHES / INTERCUT

As a *POLAROID CAMERA* snaps photos, *WE SEE* the evidence: a *BROKEN OFF FINGERNAIL*, *BLOOD* on the back of the front door, a torn down *CURTAIN*, a *CUT PHONE LINE*, a *CUT VACUUM CORD*, and a haunting *SINGLE BLOODY HANDPRINT* on a *DOOR*.

INT. UTAH POLICE STATION / FRONT DESK - MINUTES LATER

Pyre has just returned to his station. It's remarkably small. It employs only 20 cops, 6 on shift at a time. Pyre already has the only DESK COP'S full attention.

DESK COP

He's covered in blood and was hiding in a neighbor's house? But no confession yet?

PYRE

His phone line was cut. Says he was using the neighbors' to call 911.

The Desk Cop clearly thinks it's a lie. Pyre doesn't disagree. Pyre puts BRENDA'S DRIVERS LICENSE down.

PYRE (CONT'D)

Find me next of kin of the deceased.

A sturdy, Southern Paiute officer, BILL TABA, 50s, steps in and down a hall with a CARDBOARD BOX. Unshaven, his LONG HAIR pulled up into a bun, he's not one bit LDS. He steps into his office. The Desk Cop holds up ALLEN'S ID.

DESK COP

He's a Lafferty? As in THE Laffertys?

PYRE

Even blessed families cast shadows.

WE FOLLOW Pyre down a hall to Taba. Taba is at his desk examining CRIME SCENE POLAROIDS. Though Taba is older and more experienced, Pyre (white, LDS) is the senior cop in this relatively new pairing. It's a bit uncomfortable.

PYRE (CONT'D)

The female was 24, the child was 15 months. The suspect's from a big LDS family. As in: "highly regarded"...So, we uh, find a motive, turn it into a confession and put this behind us, huh? And uh...I'll take the lead. Mormon to Mormon...Need a minute?

Taba nods, unwraps a piece of GUM, pops it in his mouth, and keeps turning Polaroids, focused, disquieted.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Pyre turns the BLINDS on a WINDOW to the hall so he can't see out, but cops in the hall can still see in. He looks

to Allen, seated at a TABLE, CUFFED. In LDS fashion, Pyre offers Allen a smile, but gets none in return. He removes Allen's CUFFS, sits, and twists his CROSS PEN open. Taba finally steps in, closes the door. Pyre goes LDS polite:

PYRE

Allen, this is my partner,
Detective Taba. I need to ask you
some more questions. That okay?
(Allen is determinedly silent)
All righty. When's the last time you
saw your wife and daughter? Alive?

ALLEN

I...I didn't do this.

PYRE

You've shared that. Now, can you
tell me when you saw them last?

ALLEN

Before the sun came up. Today.

PYRE

What time was that?

ALLEN

5:30. AM. When I left for work.

PYRE

And, what kind of work do you do?

ALLEN

Construction. Tiling.

PYRE

Great. Can I give your boss a
ring? To get the time confirmed?

ALLEN

I...I'm my own boss.

TABA

You could make this real simple.

Allen glances up at Taba--noting his scruff, long hair,
dark skin. He's no Mormon. Pyre subtly warns Taba off.
Taba thinks it's about his gum chewing, so he grudgingly
wraps it in paper from his pad and tosses it away.

PYRE

That's all right, Allen. People work
alone. Where was this job of yours?

ALLEN

Up I-15 to Sandy. Don't remember the address. I, I can't think right now. Can I change my clothes? Please?

ON: his BLOOD-SOAKED CLOTHES. Pyre and Taba share a look.

PYRE

Not yet. Brother Lafferty...Did you have a fight with your wife today?

ALLEN

I told you. I didn't do this.

PYRE

Fine. Do you have any idea who did?

Allen gets quiet, thoughtful. Losing patience, Taba is about to interject. Allen senses it, looks up, and surprisingly...begins to address Taba, not Pyre.

ALLEN

Find my family, sir. My brothers. Their wives 'n kids. Please, sir...

TABA

Why do I need to find them?

ALLEN

They could be in trouble too...

(silence; letting him talk)

Over the past year or so, men, peculiar men, were taken with my family. I don't know where they came from. I never did meet 'em. But I saw them. With long, unkept beards--

PYRE

Vagrants?

Allen darkens, angry. He doesn't want to speak with Pyre.

TABA

You know how often the old "vagrants killed my wife" story pans out, son?

ALLEN

Not vagrants. Like BIBLE or BOOK OF MORMON prophets: Moses, Mormon, Abinadi. Find my brothers. Please.

Allen is now cracking apart inside. It's a convincing performance if he's guilty. A KNOCK. Taba opens the door a crack. It's the Desk Cop. Taba lifts a brow.

DESK COP
State crime lab's here.

Taba looks to Pyre. Pyre nods.

INT. UTAH POLICE STATION / HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pyre and Taba watch through the blinds as LAB TECHS help Allen undress. His BLOODY CLOTHES go into EVIDENCE BAGS.

DESK COP
The only number he knew by heart
was for his brother Ron. The
eldest. But no one's picking up.

TABA
It's well past Mormon bedtime.

PYRE
We'd still pick up. Especially
after 10PM. I went to the same
ward as their family for a time.
Ron's not the kind to let his
phone ring. Get an address and get
officers to his home. Same goes
for the rest of his family.

The Desk Cop splits. Pyre turns his attention back to the window: inside, a TECH clips Allen's FINGERNAILS, Allen's hands trembling just above pieces of COLLECTION PAPER.

TABA
We're not buying his "bearded
strangers" story, are we?

PYRE
No...But, he seemed genuinely
afraid for the rest of his family.

TABA
Sure. To get our eyes off of him.
When a wife shows up dead, who's
always suspect number one? The
husband. Why? Because it's always
him, and we both Goddamn know it.

PYRE
Language, please.

TABA
Right. Everything I've seen plays to
guilt. And no offense to secret LDS
handshakes but looked to me like he
(MORE)

TABA (CONT'D) prefers
my company to "Mormon to Mormon."
Give me 10 minutes alone with him
and I'll get a confession.

Pyre considers this, then nods.

INT. UTAH POLICE STATION / HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Pyre watches/listens through the hallway window as Taba
sits opposite Allen--who's now in a BROWN JUMPSUIT.

TABA

Did you see your brother Ron today?
Your eldest brother, correct?

ALLEN

I...I haven't seen him in a long
time. Why? Did you find him?

TABA

Nope. He's not answering his
phone. I can send officers to his
home. If you share his address.

ALLEN

I think he moved since I saw him last.

Taba leans in, seemingly friendly...but setting a trap.

TABA

Listen, I was married to a beautiful
woman once too. Broke my heart wide
open when she left me. Some nights, I
wanted to wring her neck for all the
pain she caused me. Was your wife
seeing someone else? Or...were you? My
partner's not here. Your bishop's not
here. Just us guys. We can talk...

ALLEN

Are you LDS, sir? A Mormon?

TABA

Nope. Never was. That a problem?

ALLEN

(thinks; then quietly)
If you want to find who's responsible
for this...look to them.

TABA

Who?

ALLEN

The Mormons.

It's a shocking statement from a LDS boy from one of the best LDS families in town. ON: Pyre hears this, winces.

TABA

Weren't you and your wife LDS?

ALLEN

We were. She was still. Seven days a week. Worthy Temple goers. We were as good as they come...

Pyre's gaze softens, as if now between present and past:

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. LDS CHURCH / UTAH - A SUNDAY (1977)

YEARS EARLIER. Pyre is sitting in a PEW with Becca and their BABY GIRLS, a leather-bound BOOK OF MORMON in hand, passages underlined, his name embossed: JEBEDIAH PYRE.

ON: the patriarch of Allen's family, WATSON SR., 50s, uses ALLEN'S YOUNG SHOULDER and the warm hand of his wife CLAUDINE, 50s, to reach the aisle of this jammed service.

ON: RON, 30s, tall, impossibly handsome, with his lovely wife, DIANNA, 30s, and their YOUNG KIDS in a pew. Ron watches his Dad bear old knees as he grips the LECTERN.

WATSON SR.

(to the congregation)

My sweetheart says folks might start to wonder if I don't take my turn up here, and bare my testimony. So, Heavenly Father, blame her for this.

Pyre laughs. Most here do. Watson is a real charmer.

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

I know with every fiber of my being that God lives. He watches over us. And that Jesus Christ obeyed the will of his Father to die and atone for our sins.

(a devilish grin)

Now if only our own boys were as obedient to their fathers!

LAUGHTER! ON: Ron as Dianna takes his hand. ON: DAN, 30s, the next eldest, bright eyed, unruly hair, grinning next

to his effervescent wife MATILDA 30s, and TWO GIRLS, 4 and 5. ON: TIM (wild eyed) and JUNIOR (slow), both 20's. ON: middle brother, MARK, 30s, clean cut, straight-laced. Mark puts an arm around Allen--the youngest of the lot.

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

In the War, I made less than \$70 a month cutting hair. When I returned, I used every penny to build a chiropractic practice, to build our home, pay for the boys' missions. In return, all I've hoped for is what Heavenly Father promises: that we be together. Here, and in the life beyond. That our family. Be. Eternal.

(pushing back emotion)

You know my eldest. Best missionary Florida ever met. Baptized more young ladies there than anyone ever. Even brought one back with him to prove it!

This is actually a dig--dating on a mission is against the rules. Some LAUGHTER. Dianna's hand stays on Ron's.

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

Now, I admire Ronnie for going his own way, building up his own "kingdom". Free agency we call it!

(hold's Ron's gaze; then) But I also know beyond a shadow of doubt that Joseph Smith, our founder and prophet, restored the one true and living church on the face of the Earth, and he wasn't his father's eldest! Dan, Mark, Tim, Junior, heck, maybe even you Allen, if Ronnie's too busy building up his own fortune, one of you might end up our family's "chosen one!"

(LAUGHTER; then sincere)

I know we can all achieve the full measure of our creation in this life, and God will bless those efforts. As long as we obey the Holy Spirit and not become servants to our own selfish desires. This I know, and pray, in the name of our savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Pyre looks to the Lafferty family with admiration, if not awe: a handsome, strong, admirable lot...and sandwiched in the middle of them all is Allen: a baby amongst men.

RETURN TO 1984:

INT. POLICE STATION / HALLWAY - CONT'D (1984)

Loosened from memory, Pyre looks back up to Allen.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Allen and Taba look up as Pyre enters, a bit surprised by his sudden return. To Allen, pointed:

PYRE

"Thou shalt love thy wife with all thy heart, and shalt cleave unto her and none else." Doctrine and Covenants 42:22. Allen, did you love your wife with all your heart?

ALLEN

Yes.

PYRE

Did you kneel together in the temple and make covenants to each other?

(Allen looks down)

Did she come to know your family? In church? These are simple questions.

Allen doesn't answer any. This is a trespass for a good Mormon. Pyre moves to go. Allen stops him:

ALLEN

Yes! I knelt with her in the temple. I brought her to church with my family. But you look at these as signs of innocence, and they AREN'T.

PYRE

Have you lost your testimony?

ALLEN

I'd rather speak with your partner.

PYRE

Did you break your covenants? So she threatened to leave you?

ALLEN

It's not that simple.

PYRE

Did she turn away from the gospel too?

ALLEN

NO! The opposite! She came here, to Utah, the perfect Mormon girl from Idaho, searching to build "Zion."

Allen's anger turns to grief as he prepares to talk to the detectives about his "perfect," young LDS wife...

BRENDA (PRE-LAP) (V.O.)

(singing "The Rose")

"Some say love it is a river,
That drowns the tender reed.

FLASH BACK TO:

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM / TWIN FALLS, IDAHO - DAY (1981)

A BANNER above a stage: "MISS TWIN FALLS, IDAHO." BRENDA, 17, is up to bat in a stunning CHIFFON DRESS singing "THE ROSE" with spunk and skill before a packed audience (and one at a time to FOUR YOUNG MALE ADMIRERS--each certain he's her one and only). With her irrepressible smile, golden curls, and knowing eyes, she's a heavenly vision. Her family is there too: four SISTERS (8-15), a BROTHER, 6, her mom, LAREA, and her jolly Bishop dad, JIM.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

"Some say love it is a razor,
that leaves your soul to bleed.
Some say love it is a hunger,
an endless aching need.
I say love it is a flower..."

A true talent, we can't help but fall for her. More self-assured than any woman we've met thus far, she tortures her many MALE ADMIRERS. She knows what God gave her, and isn't afraid to use it. BRENDA'S SISTER, 11, takes note.

INT. FAMILY STATION WAGON / IDAHO HIGHWAY - LATER

Brenda's family is jammed in as they drive this majestic highway. Brenda is sandwiched between siblings in the back, eyes closed, praying. Something is wrong. She opens her eye to find her 11-year-old sister staring at her.

BRENDA'S SISTER

(whispers)

Pros-ti-tute.

BRENDA

Mom! Sharon called me a prostitute!

LAREA

Do you even know what that means?

The sister shakes her head "no" (a lie). Satisfied with this humiliation, Brenda gathers herself and shares:

BRENDA

It's a good thing I didn't win. As runner up, I still get \$450. That's only 50 less than the winner, and I don't have to stay in Twin Falls for grocery store openings like she does. I'm a free woman.

JIM

Good for you, honey.

BRENDA

And if I'm going to give myself the best chance of getting on TV, I need to be in a real city.

JIM

Princess, New York and Chicago aren't half as nice as in the movies say. Be patient. The Lord has a divine plan for all of His daughters.

BRENDA

Of course His plan isn't for me to move to Chicago or New York with all the rats and Democrats and crazies. I'll go to a big city with values. Salt Lake City.

JIM

Once you've finished school.

BRENDA

I think our savior would much prefer me to finish school at BYU. They have a far better communications program. Unless you'd rather me be barefoot and pregnant in Idaho my whole life?

JIM

I can't even imagine you like that. How 'bout we think on it and pray on it and make sure this isn't a real big reaction to a tough little day.

BRENDA

Every time I have an idea, it's too much, or too far, or...You let Betty
(MORE)

BRENDA (CONT'D)
 go to Argentina on her mission! Salt
 Lake isn't half as crazy as South
 America and I'm twice as tough as
 Betty and you know it! I am going to
 Salt Lake City. I am going to
 Brigham Young University. And I am
 going to be on Television!

She's right. She is tough. And he does know it.

LAREA
 Oh my heck! Who let one go?!

Someone farted. No one takes credit. Their Mom rolls down
 her window and WIND BLASTS IN, destroying Brenda's
 perfect hair. Brenda bears it, resolute.

EXT. TEMPLE SQUARE / SALT LAKE CITY - DAY / MONTAGE

MONTHS LATER: Brenda steps into TEMPLE SQUARE, soon
 surrounded by LDS STATUES, the MORMON TABERNACLE, and the
 SALT LAKE TEMPLE--ANGEL MORONI atop its highest spire. In
 the spirit of Mary Tyler Moore, she nearly throws her hat
 in the air as she turns to take it all in. She's made it
 to the heart of Mormondum. The big city. "Zion."

ALLEN (V.O.) (PRE-LAP)
Now I'm afraid. That I'm responsible.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTERROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

Allen's body quakes. ON: the BLOOD still on his HANDS.

PYRE
Responsible for?

ALLEN
Reeling her in, keeping her in it.

PYRE
"Reeling her in" how? To what?

As Allen continues, we--

FLASHBACK TO 1982:

EXT. UTAH HIGHWAY UP TO AN LDS CHURCH - DAY (1982)

A MOTORCYCLE WHEEL goes ROUND AND ROUND. A HELMETED MAN
 in LEATHER drives a winding road to a lovely LDS church.

INT. LDS CHURCH / UTAH SINGLES WARD - SAME TIME

Brenda is in the PEWS with countless other BYU STUDENTS, all singing from HYMN BOOKS. She hears the MOTORCYCLE ROAR outside and pays it her best righteous indignation.

Seconds later, the MAN IN LEATHER enters and takes off his helmet. It's Allen. His blonde hair and tan suggest LA not LDS. Like several others, Brenda looks back.

Allen sits at the back, stumbling when his knee hits the HYMN BOOK HOLDER. Brenda sees it. He covers by quickly opening a HYMN BOOK. Searching for the proper page, he looks up and makes the briefest eye contact with Brenda. Verse by verse, and page by page, Allen and Brenda catch each other looking, consternation turning to curiosity.

Allen makes a move. He slips up to the pew behind Brenda. She pretends not to notice. He tugs at the bottom of her hair! She tries not to react. He does it again! Nothing. He tugs harder! Finally, she turns and glares. He smiles.

ALLEN

Next Sunday, I'd appreciate it if you could sit a little closer to me.

BRENDA

Be quiet.

ALLEN

You're the new one here.

She surveys SHADOWS OF LDS GARMENTS under his clothes to see if he's a good LDS boy. But if one weren't LDS they'd think she was sizing up his body. They'd be half right.

BRENDA

Do you even go to school here?

ALLEN

No. My folks' ward is just a buncha old farts. Since I got back from my mission, well, that's not much fun.

(she turns away)

You like Thai food? I went on my mission to Thailand. Next to Cambodia and Vietnam. Know where they are?

BRENDA

If you're after a dumb blonde, you're barking up the wrong tree.

ALLEN

Are you always so serious?
 (she turns back, glares)
 I was just thinking it'd be nice to
 introduce you to their cuisine. If
 that's not being too forward, Sister--

SOMEONE "SHUSHES." Brenda snaps forward. Unaccustomed to being chastised, she's fuming now. Allen leans back in his pew, giving up. A beat later, she turns back.

BRENDA

Sister Wright. Brenda Wright.

Allen is so different here and now: charming, sexy. Now he's caught himself a marlin. OFF his smitten smile. OFF Brenda, feeling a hefty dose of love at first sight--

PYRE (PRE-LAP)

*So your only regret on a night like
 this is that you kept your wife
 active in her faith? In our Church?*

RETURN TO 1984:

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

ALLEN

*You think you know your history,
 the gospel, the truth? You don't.
 My regret is that I didn't drive
 her out of "Zion." To save her
 from "our" people. The church. To
 get her far away from here.*

Allen shows the remaining BLOOD on his hands. Pyre is startled, if not angered, by Allen's anti-LDS certitude.

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. UTAH POLICE STATION / HALLWAY - SAME NIGHT (1984)

Nerves frayed, Pyre looks through FINGERPRINT EVIDENCE.

TABA

Four prints. All partials. Could be one person, could be more. Salt Lake's lab will know by morning.

Pyre flips to a BLOODY HANDPRINT in the center of a door.

PYRE

I wanna know who pushed open a nursery door to do what they did to that baby girl. If it's Allen, we charge him, get him to Draper and in front of a firing squad.

TABA

Losing your love for "Elder Infanticide" so soon...sir?

Pyre lifts a brow. The Desk Cop enters with a PRINT-OUT.

DESK COP

I've only found two numbers for five brothers and one's out of service. The other just rings. The suspect was right. Ron's last known address is empty. I called the realtor. It's been up for sale nearly a year. Says it's nothing unusual. Slow market.

TABA

You've got the victim's father here too. Want me to notify him?

PYRE

Let's locate the rest of his family first, so I know what all the right questions are. It's a small town, guys. Get everyone out looking.

INT. UTAH POLICE STATION / PYRE'S HOME - LATER / INTERCUT

Pyre is on a PHONE, whispering, vulnerable with Rebecca.

REBECCA

She's getting worse so quickly now. She had another nightmare. Took an hour to

(MORE)

REBECCA (CONT'D)

calm her down. Annie had a thousand questions, but...it might be time--

PYRE

I don't want my mom in a care home.

REBECCA

No. I'll take care of her. But the doctor suggested medications. A year ago now...

PYRE

I really can't have this conversation right now. I don't want her on any--

REBECCA

I know. I'm sorry. Hey. The girls' party tomorrow? Do you still think...

PYRE

Yes. I'll make the cake. And I'll be there. But...do you remember the Laffertys? Dad's a chiropractor. His son, Ron, with Lafferty construction--

REBECCA

Sure. Ron and Dianna.

PYRE

Right. We have two deceased. Not Dianna. The youngest boy's family.

REBECCA

Oh no. Are you at the ER now?

PYRE

No. It wasn't an accident. You uh, you don't happen to have any of the Lafferty's addresses do you?

REBECCA

I used to have Dianna's number...

PYRE

I need addresses. Maybe the middle son? Mark? Was in church leadership.

REBECCA

I can check old church directories.

PYRE

And lock the doors, okay? I love you.

REBECCA

I will. Okay. I love you too.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - LATER

Pyre and Taba are back with Allen, his eyes on the table.

PYRE

No forced entry. No items of value taken. Just invading Old Testament "prophets?" If you're innocent, give us a name. An affair. A grudge. Anyone who had their eyes on her.

Allen looks to Taba. Taba nods. Allen's distrust isn't a familiar position for Pyre to be in. It eats at Pyre.

ALLEN

Everyone. They all wanted her--to find fault in her, or for her to save them, or both at once...and from the very first minute anyone met her--

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. WASATCH MOUNTAINS - SAME TIME

VROOOM! A motorcycle blasts through LOFTY MOUNTAIN ROADS, Allen driving, Brenda behind him. When she lifts her arms to "fly," he speeds up. She holds on tighter, and LAUGHS!

EXT. LAFFERTY HOME - LATER / DUSK

Allen cuts his motor and coasts up a driveway leading to a BACK YARD under the WASATCH MOUNTAINS. MUSIC plays. Some dance, some set TEN LONG TABLES for this family cook out. Brenda gets off of Allen's bike to survey the scene, noting how nervous Allen is. This gets her nerves going.

ALLEN

*Lemme get the bike out of the way.
My Dad can't stand it.*

In the distance, she sees an OLDER COUPLE heading her way with nearly a DOZEN CHILDREN in tow.

BRENDA

Wait! Don't leave me.

ALLEN

You're fine. Just, less is more when it comes to talking.

BRENDA

What do you mean?

Too late! The couple arrives. It's Watson, Claudine, and DOZENS OF GRANDKIDS, all gazing up at this new addition.

ALLEN

Mom. Dad. This is Brenda...Wright.

WATSON SR.

It is a pleasure to meet you. Took Allen long enough to get up the nerve!

BRENDA

The "nerve?"

CLAUDINE

He's never brought a girl home before.

BRENDA

Really?!

ALLEN

The one and only.

WATSON SR.

This is my wife, Claudine. I'm Watson. Do you mind if I call you by your first name, Sister Wright?

BRENDA

Please! I've heard so much about you.

CLAUDINE

All the way up in Idaho?

BRENDA

And from Allen.

WATSON SR.

Gossip is the devil's playground.

Claudine laughs, but she's sizing Brenda up. Allen smiles but it's all nerves. Allen looks up to see who else is here: Ron and Dianna are dancing with their kids, Junior is placing CHAIRS around tables. But when Allen bring his attention back to Brenda, she's already in hot water!

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

Well I heard you left college up in Idaho with no degree to speak of.

BRENDA

I thought we weren't going to indulge in gossip, sir!

(he grins, "fair point")

President Kimball said, "Stand ye in

(MORE)

BRENDA (CONT'D)

holy places," and there was nothing holy about holding girls' hair back while they threw up at my old school. BYU is a far better fit for someone who wants to live Gospel standards.

Allen's folks react, surprised by her spunk, but charmed.

TIM

How high can yer standards be if you're hangin' around with the runt?!

Heads turn to Tim (the wiry, wild-eyed son from church) with his WIFE and KIDS now. Allen laughs. Tim musses his little brother's hair, then examines Allen's motorcycle.

CLAUDINE

These are more of our boys: Tim, Junior, Mark. Mark! Come say hello!

Mark approaches, the clean-cut brother from church, with a DAUGHTER, 6. Now Tim remembers to introduce his brood!

TIM

Shoot! My wife, Lisa, our boys: Jacob, Jared, Joseph, Tim Jr., and the joy of my life, Jennifer. Say hi, Jenny!

JENNY

Hi, Jenny!

BRENDA

Good one, Jenny! And great to meet you Jacob, Jared, Joseph and Junior.

She's meeting people right and left, and acing it! But when she looks up to Junior, he just stares. Is he shy, odd, or was he dropped on his head as a child? Breaking the odd moment, Mark arrives. He's sweet and charming.

MARK

You! You are even prettier than Allen said, and boy did he say and say! I'm Mark. This is my daughter, Anne.

BRENDA

Oh gosh! Hi! Hi! Is that everybody?!

TIM

Nope! It's a regular Lafferty factory around here. I can't even keep up.

WATSON SR.

Timothy...You have a barbecue to mind.

Tim tips his head and goes, tail between his legs now.

BRENDA

Hey, "Timothy?!" I'll just be here
with the runt of the bunch 'til
you're all done cooking my dinner.

Tim laughs and goes. She isn't like other LDS girls!

WATSON SR.

Are all of Idaho's girls like you?

BRENDA

Oh. No, sir. The rest are sweet, soft
spoken, and properly lovely, sir.

WATSON SR.

You're plenty lovely. Time for dinner.

Watson takes his wife's hand and leads her off. Mark tips his head and goes. But most of the kids stay with Brenda.

BRENDA

Am I doing okay?

ALLEN

Yeah. Yes. I'll be right back.

But she's overwhelmed. He walks his bike back to a SHED leaving her surrounded by CHILDREN staring up at her.

BRENDA

Are you all just gonna stare at me
like I'm some kinda space alien?

Pretty much. So she looks up--finding Ron teaching a daughter to dance. He's so dashing. Ron looks over! Makes eye contact! And they share a smile that lasts too long.

PYRE (PRE-LAP)

How could you know that?

RETURN TO:

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

ALLEN

*Everyone found Ron attractive. And,
early on, we talked about
everything. But it wasn't just Ron
who couldn't keep his eyes off her.*

FLASHBACK CONT'D:

EXT. LAFFERTY HOUSE - THE SAME NIGHT / CONT'D (1982)

XCU: on a LADY BUG in someone's hair. The TIP OF A FINGER dips into frame and it crawls onto it. The finger moves in front of a face. REVEAL: it's Brenda's, in the same spot we left her, looking Ron's way. She recoils. REVEAL: Allen's bright-eyed older brother, Dan, holding the bug.

DAN

She was making a home in your hair.

BRENDA

(busted?)

Oh gosh! I'm sorry.

DAN

No! She's good luck. Thank you for bringing her to meet us, Brenda.

Gentle and bright, Dan blows the bug away. ON: Matilda holding a PITCHER OF LEMONADE. She lets out a BURST OF LAUGHTER, and offers a glass--IN HER SCOTTISH ACCENT:

MATILDA

I brought you lemonade! Unless you don't fancy lemonade. Oh gosh, I forgot to even ask!

DAN

This is my wife, Matilda and our girls.

MATILDA

I'm Matilda! He's Dan! And these are our girls! MY girls. OUR girls now.

Brenda bends down to Matilda's GIRLS (11, 12), but they seem very shy, a bit too shy for their age perhaps.

BRENDA

Hi! Allen told me you were born in Scotland! I'd love to go someday.

They hide behind their Mom.

DAN

Rains everyday, but apart from that it's a great place for sunbathing. Can I ask you a question?

BRENDA

Well...why not?

MATILDA

Oh gosh!

DAN

Do you all abide by the Word of Wisdom at BYU now days? Cause I've met some BYU girls, and I'm not sure how obedient to Heavenly Father they were when the professors weren't looking.

BRENDA

Of course we don't drink or smoke or have coffee or anything horrible like that. I'm sure that's all you mean.

MATILDA

Don't be too sure. He's a right queerhawk!...a pervert.

DAN

I just meant Pepsi Cola. All that sugar and caffeine, it'll kill a cute little BYU thing like you real quick. What's important is natural energy. Fresh lawn clippings. Extract it down to a juice and it's like drinking Heavenly Father's love.

BRENDA

I can't tell if you're kidding!

MATILDA

Me neither! But I drink it all the same. Turns me pee green.

Dan smiles. Brenda laughs! She adores this pair!

INT. THE LAFFERTY HOME - SAME TIME

Allen and Mark are carrying several CHAIRS each...when something catches Allen's eye. Dianna has just opened the FRONT DOOR, startled to find a sweaty, ELDERLY MAN, 80s, with a ratty BEARD and CANE waiting on the other side.

ELDERLY MAN

Sister Lafferty?...They came for me. Please. Will you help me?

But this isn't Dianna's home to welcome him into. Allen nearly heads over to help her, but before he can:

DIANNA

Oh gosh. Just...come in. Come in.

Allen worries, but he keeps moving.

EXT. LAFFERTY HOUSE / BACKYARD - MOMENTS LATER

Allen returns to Brenda (two CHAIRS in hand). She's still giggling with Dan and Matilda.

ALLEN

Hey. I got us great chairs. Ready?

Brenda looks up, sees ADULTS finding seats at the LONG TABLES under the towering tree. Countless children are at SATELLITE TABLES. Outright flirting now, Dan takes Brenda's hand and PULLS HER AWAY WITH HIM. It's amusing!

DAN

Sometimes we split couples up so we can all get to know each other better.

ALLEN

No, Dan.

DAN

She can sit with me. Matilda will sit with you. Problem solved!

ON: Ron, at a distance, eyeing Brenda, who's now being towed away by Dan. When Dianna finds Ron, he whispers in her ear. She looks up, and hustles over to Brenda.

DIANNA

Brenda! Hello! I'm Ron's wife.
Dianna. We saved places for you
two next to us. Do you mind, Dan?

Dianna takes Brenda's hand like they've been sisters for ages. Then, cheerful and steadfast, Dianna whispers in Brenda's ear as she pulls her away. Brenda LAUGHS, then smiles Dan's way. Dan gives a playful frown in return.

JUMP TO: As Brenda and Allen take their seats, Allen's eye lands on a DISTANT TABLEAU: Watson is now standing above the Elderly Man. The man is trying to kneel down to pray, but Watson won't allow it. It's very odd.

ON: Brenda, one seat away from Ron, Dianna between them. Like the other boys, Ron loves her good looks. Unlike the rest, he receives bashful glances from her. Dianna sees this. So, in Ron fashion, he has a bit of fun with it:

RON

Welcome to Utah, Miss Potato-head.

BRENDA

Excuse me?

RON

You're from Idaho, right?

BRENDA

Are you poking fun of me? You'd be surprised how much math and science goes into a good potato, mister.

RON

If you say so!

BRENDA

I do say so! But for your information, I'm not going into soil science like my VERY smart father. I'm going into television.

RON

So you're an actress?

BRENDA

Oh gosh no. I read the news. Well, I'd like to read the news. One day. Until I start a family...of course.

DIANNA

Ignore him. He just does construction.

ALLEN

(eager to brag)

Ron owns one of the best construction companies in Utah. He's building 4-plexes now, and he's on the City Council, and he's 1st counselor in his bishopric! Hey Ron, did you know Brenda's potato-head Dad's a Bishop!

RON

Is that right?!

BRENDA

Well he's not on any city council and doesn't build 4-plexes. How do you make time for all of that and your family?

RON

We'll have plenty of time later. Eternity lasts forever you know?

BRENDA

Oh gosh! You sound just like my dad!

They laugh. Some awkwardly. In LDS-land, comparing a man to your dad is a sexy compliment. But now Ron's spotted

what Allen did: their dad, bothered by the Elderly Man. Dianna now sees the trouble her invitation is causing.

RON

Will you excuse me for a minute?

Dianna makes an "I'm sorry" face. He pats her hand and goes. She smiles, then leans in and whispers to Brenda:

DIANNA

Cute, right? When he proposed, he promised me a dream home. I was 19. I just thought he was the sweetest boy I'd ever met. I never thought he'd actually build us one! But he did. So, I have the oldest. You grab the youngest and we'll compare notes.

Dianna and Brenda giggle. They are kindred spirits. But Brenda still can't take her eyes off of Ron--who's now having a quiet, heated debate with his father.

MATILDA

I hear you met our Allen in church!
(Brenda is startled)
Oh, sorry! I hate when I do that! I met me Dan in church too. When he was on his mission in Scotland.

BRENDA

I didn't think you were allowed to marry your missionary.

Allen nearly chokes on his water. Dianna laughs.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

What?!

Brenda looks back to Dianna and then out to Ron, putting it together: they met on his mission!

BRENDA (CONT'D)

NO!

MATILDA

See?! Me and Dan did no such thing. Me girls have a different daddy. Dan gave me a second shot at life. Saved me from all me shame.

ALLEN

No shame in being divorced if you divorced a Catholic, Matilda!

Matilda swats him and quickly refills LEMONADE GLASSES.

BRENDA

I'm happy you found each other there.

MATILDA

In Scotland?! No. Dan fancied me sister there. They used to have "camp outs" all night long in our farm's big field...if you know what I mean.

BRENDA

Oh.

MATILDA

No! I shouldn't have said that. Who knows what went on in that field. Prayers! Lots of prayers! Dan, he's just the most gentle soul. All done!

Their glasses all filled, Matilda splits. That was odd!

DIANNA

You're the star tonight. She's excited.

As the rest BUTTER BREAD, Brenda furtively looks to Ron again. Now she sees something worrisome: Watson knocks on Ron's forehead with a fist, as if calling him an "idiot", then points back toward Dianna, who misses it all.

Before Brenda can say anything, Claudine enters to GRAND APPLAUSE holding up a GIANT ROAST. And seconds later, Ron returns, as if nothing at all transpired with his father.

A few more seconds and Watson arrives...with the Elderly Man, who takes the seat beside him. Some seem bothered that this man has been given such an esteemed position.

WATSON SR.

Don't you all look a dream! But, as much as we'd all love to make a late night of it, we cannot. We have been called to service...for our Brother.

The old Man absorbs "brother" with gratitude, but this feels dire. Brenda is curious. Watson puts a hand on him.

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

Brother Alder was like a father to me as a boy. Yes, we've had our differences. Earthly, heavenly. But now he's come asking for forgiveness, and deliverance. I told him forgiveness isn't ours to give, but

(MORE)

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

deliverance, well, we are Laffertys.
(laughter)

With no family left to call on he's
come to us. His fields are filled
with stones and must be ready for
planting by Monday or he'll lose his
land to the Federal Government for
lack of use. Saints may disagree, but
when attacked by outsiders do we
allow our brothers to be eaten alive?

(stern)

Of course not. Because the Lord's
elect must never let anyone take
what's rightfully ours again.

MARK

Sir? Two days for all of his land?

WATSON SR.

No. One day. As we do not labor on
Sundays. All of it done by tomorrow.

Many faces turn south. No one dares question him again.

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

There's a reason families 50 miles
around have heard the Lafferty name.
Because together we can do anything.
Mark...you will say the blessing.

Everyone folds their arms, bows their heads, and closes
their eyes to pray. Brenda is in awe of the Laffertys.

MARK

Our dear Heavenly Father, we thank
thee for this beautiful evening and
for giving us the opportunity to serve
our fellow man in his hour of need....

As Mark prays, Brenda opens her eyes to peek. She looks
to Allen (she adores him) then to Dan and Matilda (she
nearly smiles). Then she looks to Ron...and lingers.

Feeling eyes, she looks up. Watson sends a rather
paternal smile. She knows she'd be wise to shut her eyes
like a good LDS girl now, and so, she does.

ON: Allen, his own eyes peeking. He saw all of it.

ALLEN (PRE-LAP)

*My father caught it first. That she
didn't see the rules like he did. As
unbending. And he judged her for that.*

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

PYRE

If peeking during prayer is a violation, every Mormon kid there is is in a heck of a lot of trouble.

ALLEN

And she'd agree. She considered herself as faithful as they come. And maybe in Idaho, in her family, she was, but in ours, in Utah...

PYRE

(a fresh trap)

How would you have preferred her?

ALLEN

(easily evades)

My opinions didn't get us here. You tell me. LDS women are taught to be obedient. Serve their husband. Obey. But that wasn't her. Did that make her worthy of this? And my baby girl?

PYRE

Are you asking my opinion?

Fighting back emotion, Allen nods.

PYRE (CONT'D)

Most certainly not.

ALLEN

Then you might not be as good a Mormon as you think. My father, catching that cut corner, it was a warning sign...That if the bones of our forefathers ever worked their way out of this desert's floor, they'd come for her first.

OFF Pyre, disturbed...and like Taba, hungry for more.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. THE LAFFERTY HOME / STUDY - THE COOKOUT NIGHT (1982)

Brenda checks her WATCH, and eases up from where she's been laying on the floor, alongside other UNMARRIED GIRLS on makeshift BLANKET BEDS. But just before the door, she freezes. A WIDE EYED GIRL has caught her sneaking out.

BRENDA

I'm just...getting some water.

OFF the girl's slightly deranged, skeptical glare:

INT. THE LAFFERTY HOME / KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Brenda sneaks in. The room is empty. She's thrown. Then a HAND pulls her into a WALK IN PANTRY! She nearly screams! But Allen spins her so they're lip to lip. She laughs! They make out! She pulls at his LDS GARMENTS, flashes of breasts, thighs. For Mormons it's far more forbidden than prayer peeking. In this home it's dangerous. In whispers:

ALLEN

Are you sure?

BRENDA

I....No. Not yet.

ALLEN

Brenda...I think I love you.

BRENDA

Nice try, Bozo.

ALLEN

I mean it...I love you.

BRENDA

Oh Gosh. I, I think I love you too.

He, holds her. Then resisting desire, steps back a touch.

BRENDA (CONT'D)

What about...oral?

ALLEN

"Oral is moral?"

She shrugs. And they go for it.

EXT. THE NEIGHBOR'S VAST FIELD / UTAH - DAYBREAK

The LAFFERTY MEN AND BOYS chug WATER from GLASSES the women keep refilling. Brenda is helping the women refill. And as Allen quotes SCRIPTURE, his brothers keep a close eye: the way Allen looks at Brenda, his nerves, his guilt. Are they figuring out what he did last night?

ALLEN

"When the brethren show a unity of purpose, our labor, our toil and anxiety are diminished. Our yoke is made easy and our burden light..."

RON

Drink up! More! More! It's hot out here!

When he's satisfied the boys and men can't drink more:

RON (CONT'D)

Enough! Now nobody pees 'til we've cleared the entire field! Not a soul!

They're stunned. So is Brenda. How is that even possible?

EXT. THE NEIGHBOR'S VAST FIELD / UTAH - MONTAGE

In the DRIVER SEAT of a BIG TRACTOR, a BOY's feet dangle above the PEDALS. Ron jams a WOOD BLOCK over the GAS PEDAL, puts it in DRIVE and it STARTS TO MOVE! The boy is terrified! Allen musses his hair. He and Ron jump down.

ALLEN

Just keep her straight!

The LAFFERTY MEN all run behind the tractor digging up MASSIVE ROCKS and throwing them up onto the TRACTOR'S TRAILER. The GRANDCHILDREN follow the grown ups' lead.

Soon, the boy driving the tractor is headed for a FENCE at the end of the field! Just before he hits it, Allen jumps in, and turns it 180°, sending it the other way!

ON: Dan, mesmerized by a SNAKE that's been cut in half.

RON

Come on, Dan, keep up!

Dan CHARGES, SCREAMING, and faster than them all, digs up A HUGE ROCK and tosses it way up onto the TRACTOR BED!

ON: Brenda with a WATER PITCHER, wowed by the show, but antsy. She looks to the wives' soft smiles, waiting to

serve their men, and she charges into the field, digging up ROCKS AS BIG AS DAN'S! Tossing them onto the tractor!

Ron sees this and LAUGHS. Dan sees her and HOWLS! Brenda HOWLS back! They're loving it! But Allen worries--will his father approve of a young woman this strong-willed?

ON: Watson at a remove, watching, not so amused. It seems Allen has real reason for concern. Still, all together, as a family, they are a field clearing dynamo machine.

EXT. FENCE LINE / THE NEIGHBOR'S VAST FIELD - LATER

The boys are lined up, fidgeting from overfilled bladders as they finally relieve themselves in streams of joy and achievement. Dan aims his onto Allen's SHOE! Allen screams and runs! The kids go into hysterics!

A muddy Brenda looks to the end of the field: Watson Sr. gazes up at a MOUNTAIN OF ROCKS. The Elderly Man kneels before it. They've saved his farm. Brenda is so proud.

EXT. NEIGHBOR'S FARM / UTAH - LATER

Allen and his brothers gobble down WHITE BREAD SANDWICHES the women have made the boys and men...as Watson speaks.

WATSON SR.

I am so proud of my family.

Ron dips his head. He's the day's architect, but knows better than to show pride. Watson takes his wife's hand.

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

Now I feel I can share our news.
Your mother and I have been called
by the Prophet on a senior mission.
We've never left you all, or our
business unattended, let alone for
two years. And, unattended property
can grow busy with stones, boys.

He looks to Ron. Does "property" mean Dianna? Brenda sees this. Then Watson looks to Allen! He means Brenda too?!

WATSON SR. (CONT'D) Our

property must be vigilantly
maintained. And, with challenging
economic conditions, it's not an ideal
time. Someone must stand in my shoes
while we're away. So, I prayed for
wisdom, and the Holy Spirit answered.

He surveys his sons, all of them hoping to be chosen. He passes behind Ron. Dan and Ron make eye contact, but Watson keeps going. He passes Mark and Tim, rounding the circle. Finally, he puts a hand on Dan's back. It's a shock to everyone. Including Dan, Claudine, Ron...

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

Daniel has never been accused of being singularly focused on anything.

(some laughter)

But he's graduated from chiropractic school now. And so, he is my eldest son to follow in my footsteps. We will put our faith in him to head our family and business in my absence. Mark, you'll be Dan's right hand.

MARK

Yes, sir.

WATSON SR.

Junior, Tim, I expect our home to be in better condition than how I leave it: the roof, driveway. And Allen, looks to me like you have your hands quite full. You keep working on that.

He indicates Brenda. LAUGHTER. Brenda forces a smile.

WATSON SR. (CONT'D)

Dan, you'll say the prayer.

Watson has completely ignored Ron, his eldest and most successful son. Ron stands in stunned silence. Allen and Brenda see Dianna put her hand in his. Matilda squeezes Dan's. It seems Dan is overwhelmed, and unable to pray.

MATILDA

Sir? Sir?! Are you sure about this?

WATSON SR.

I am certain. Dan! The prayer.

DAN

(a look to Matilda; then)

Our, our dear Heavenly Father...we thank thee...for having faith in me, for choosing me...and, and we ask for thy spirit to be with me while mother and father are away...

As Dan stumbles, Brenda opens her eyes again, this time catching Ron walking away, Claudine watching him go. Brenda is very observant. She can feel the hurt here.

ALLEN (V.O.)

But as much as they couldn't take their eyes off her, she had hers on us.

INT. A RAMSHACKLE BARN - MINUTES LATER

The sound of families loading into cars. Claudine is knelt with Ron. His father has hurt him in a way that suggests old wounds. She takes his fists gently.

CLAUDINE

You are the fulfillment of Heavenly Father's promise: that he would send "ONE MIGHTY AND STRONG" to set things in order. Well He sent me SIX mighty and strong, but you are my "ONE." You will lead our family one day. Don't let your father sway you from that righteous calling.

He looks up into her eyes. This brings him some comfort, but it brings us (and Pyre) a bit of a chill. *THE SOUND OF A KNOCK ON A DOOR, AND WE--*

SMASH RETURN TO:

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

Pyre turns to the sound of someone KNOCKING ON THE DOOR. The Desk Cop opens it, sticks his head in.

DESK COP

Sir, your wife...gave me an address.

PYRE

Whose?

The Desk Cop looks to Allen. Pyre nods for him to say it.

DESK COP

Mark Lafferty, sir.

Pyre and Taba look to Allen for a reaction.

ALLEN

May your Heavenly Father be with you.

This feels like a warning, not an offering of care.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT (1984)

POLICE CARS arrive at a home with distant neighbors. Taba gets out of one, approaches the front door, knocks. No one answers. But he can hear A FIRE ALARM HOWLING inside.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - SAME TIME

Now alone with Pyre, Allen is loath to share more.

PYRE

When did you leave the church?

ALLEN

Year or so ago.

PYRE

That when you stopped seeing your family? Your brothers?

(Allen nods)

Were there fights about it?

ALLEN

I just stopped going.

Pyre considers, then, investigating character more than culpability--for himself more than his investigation:

PYRE

Do you ever miss The Church?

ALLEN

(looks up; a beat)

Yes.

PYRE

What do you miss?

ALLEN

What we learned as boys. Our larger Mormon family. How we had each others' backs. But mostly, I miss the days when I believed our God was love.

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

BOOM! COPS bust in the FRONT DOOR. SMOKE IS POURING IN through an open BACK DOOR. COPS pull GUNS and search.

POLICE OFFICERS

Is anyone in here?! Hello?!

Taba enters, GUN out. He pauses at a PHOTO OF MARK (clean-cut Lafferty brother) with his WIFE and SIX KIDS, all in MATCHING DENIM. He picks it up and steps to the back door--where he finds the SMOLDERING REMAINS OF A BONFIRE in the backyard, remnants of BOOKS and PAPERS in its ash.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

Allen is now quoting someone for Pyre.

ALLEN

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God and it shall be given him."
And when he asked about his salvation--

Pyre's doesn't mind this familiar LDS story, so WE HEAR/SEE HOW PYRE IMAGINES IT--through the STARTLINGLY SERENE VOICE of a 15-YEAR-OLD:

15-YEAR-OLD / JOSEPH (V.O.)

--I found great clashes of sentiment.
How was I to know who was right or wrong? And so, following these words from the Epistle of James--

EXT. THE HILL CUMORAH / FOREST - DAY / MONTAGE (1820S)

Like Pyre's car ride vision: JOSEPH SMITH, 15, steps into the woods, anxious. A SHAFT OF LIGHT breaks through the FOREST CANOPY illuminating him. He kneels...and looks up.

JOSEPH SMITH (V.O.)

--I "asked of God..." And two personages whose brightness defy description stood above me. One pointed to the other and said "This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him."

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - CONT'D / SMASH INTERCUT (1984)

Taba finds a partly open GUN CABINET. He uses a PEN to open it. Besides STRAY BULLETS, it's been emptied.

EXT. A GARDEN / PALMYRA, NY - DAY (1820S)

Now we find Joseph, 16, in the grass, sharing this story with a very pretty EMMA, 16. He's sincere, charismatic. As he speaks, he gently strokes her dark, braided hair.

JOSEPH SMITH (CONT'D)

So I asked: "which church is true?" And the Lord said "None." But I received a promise, that the *fullness* of His Gospel would be made known to me. And peace filled me for days. And then...

EMMA SMITH

Trust me. Tell me.

JOSEPH SMITH

On a night not long ago, a light filled my room--a messenger, who told me God has a work for me. That there's a book buried in the ground, written upon golden plates, and that the fullness of His Gospel is inscribed there.

(a gentle moment)

But, this angel said I will not find the plates until I am married, Emma. So...I asked for His wisdom again.

He looks into her eyes, this is his marriage proposal. It would seem a great deal of pressure, but there's an innocence to it all, and she's absolutely taken with him.

ALLEN (V.O.)

And again, he was given wisdom. The Holy Spirit told him to marry Emma. That with her LOVE, with LOVE, God would share his most sacred truths.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

ALLEN (CONT'D)

That is The Church I miss.

(off Pyre's gentle nod)

But that's not where our history ends. You know about Mountain Meadows? 1859? What Major Carlton found when he went looking for the Fancher Wagon Train? What Brigham Young ordered done to innocent "Gentiles" in the name of God?

EXT. MOUNTAIN MEADOWS, UTAH - HIGH NOON / A FLASH (1859)

CIVIL WAR ERA BOOTS stride into a meadow. They belong to MAJOR CARLTON, a weathered 45. One would imagine his view is serene, but his expression warns it's anything but.

SMASH BACK TO:

INT. POLICE STATION / INTEROGATION ROOM - CONT'D (1984)

PYRE

No more stories.

ALLEN

Ask your Bishop then. But he probably doesn't know either. They've hidden our truth with their "secret combinations." If you still believe your God is love, then you don't really know who you are, "Brother."

INT. MARK'S HOUSE / KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Searching the house, Taba lifts the lid of a trash can, digs into it, and pulls out a rotting CHICKEN CARCASS.

INT. MARK'S HOUSE / POLICE STATION - LATER / INTERCUT

Taba is on MARK'S HOME PHONE. Pyre is on his DESK PHONE, toying with his TINY PRINT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON PRAYING.

TABA

Just checking. Good Mormons don't leave for Disneyland with a fire in the back yard and food rotting in their kitchen trash, do they?

PYRE

No. How long before forensics knows who all's blood was on Allen?

TABA

A day at least. Why?

PYRE

This is starting to feel bigger than a domestic to me, Bill.

TABA

Don't complicate things before we have more evidence...sir. I'll dust for prints, see if the kid was in here.

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

As COPS dust for prints Taba considers the PRINT OUT with phone numbers. He unwraps a fresh piece of gum, picks up Mark's phone, dials, waits.

TABA

Mr. Wright?...This is Detective Taba from American Fork, Utah. I'm sorry to have to notify you of this...

EXT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Pyre steps out with a head of steam to confront Taba who has just parked his CRUISER, fresh back from Mark's home.

PYRE

I just got off a call with Kimberly, Idaho police. Did you notify the victim's father without my go ahead?!

TABA

I thought it time we start following a normal order of operations--

PYRE

I was waiting until I had every question at the ready so we didn't have to call him twice! I asked you to knock on doors, find me Laffertys--

TABA

There are ten new Laffertys at every split in their damn family tree.

PYRE

Welcome to Mormondum! You're not in Vegas anymore! I'm in charge here. And right now, we have four handprints, only one suspect in custody, and--

TABA

Four partials. I could make four partials with one hand. So could he.

PYRE

But it's A LOT easier with four hands.

TABA

Sure. But we've only got 18 officers, and most've never seen a dead body. So before I waste one more on wake-up calls in a town that's asleep by 9, I thought it wise to talk to one actual source. And guess what: you're welcome.

(hands Pyre a phone number)

Call her daddy back if you need to hear it for yourself, but he says your boy in there hit his daughter.

That lands hard on Pyre.

INT. POLICE STATION / INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Together again, Taba and Pyre press Allen much harder.

PYRE

Your father-in-law told us Brenda took her big sister out for ice-cream a few months back. Said she was afraid of you...because you beat on her. So who should I believe? Her Bishop dad? Or you and your tales of romance?

ALLEN

No. I did not "beat on her." We got in one fight. Once. And I'm not...I'm not the first man who wasn't well-liked by his father-in-law...Isaac Hale!

(Pyre is confused)

Emma's father called Joseph a fraud, who robbed starving men of their last dimes by promising them buried treasure. When Joseph asked Emma to marry him, Isaac said that just by asking, Joseph had shamed his family--

TABA

Sounds like Pops was a bright bulb.

ALLEN

--if Joseph had put her father's opinion above God's, would you have your "one-true-church?" When I met my wife, I was a believer. So I refused to let her father's opinion sway me. That doesn't make me a killer.

TABA

Cutting the cord off your vacuum cleaner, tying it around your wife's neck before slicing her throat and beheading your own 15-month-old daughter, DOES, you piece of shit.

That stops Allen cold. He's shaken. Pyre throws Taba the requisite "watch your language" look, but he doesn't mean it this time. Now Pyre makes a move--to bait Allen:

PYRE

In the few instances we've had an actual, innocent man sitting where you are, they've been jumping up and

(MORE)

PYRE (CONT'D)

down naming people. Instead you say you're worried for your brothers? Who couldn't keep their eyes off her? Your father, who thought she was no good? If I were you, I'd rather kill that kind of family than find them safe and sound...Did you harm your brothers tonight too, Allen?

ALLEN

No! I told you! I stopped talking to them. I barely saw them. But...I worry she was still in contact. And the last time I saw them, they were... vulnerable: to invasion, and influence. So I'll say it until you hear me: men, with long beards, corrupted my family. "Destroying angels." And every second you waste staring at me, your Holy Spirit is out there telling more "Men of God" to spill blood.

(pointed, to Pyre)

If you still believe, pray to God like Joseph taught you. Ask him for wisdom.

Taba is skeptical. But Allen's passion lands on Pyre.

INT. POLICE STATION / PYRE'S DESK - MINUTES LATER

Pyre is in his office. Alone. He looks to the MARKED UP PHOTOS. A VACCUM wrapped in plastic. BLOODY CARPET REMNANTS. Then, he gets down on his knees, and prays.

PYRE

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to you seeking wisdom...

He goes quiet, the prayer now in his head.

Taba steps in, taken aback by the scene before him. He tries to sneak out, but Pyre's eyes open, and meet his.

TABA

Sorry. I was just...I'm putting out the APB for Mark and his family. Do I put one out for bearded vagrants too?

A long, thoughtful beat...and Pyre nods.

CUT TO BLACK:

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. POLICE STATION / TABA'S OFFICE - LATE NIGHT (1984)

Pyre looks into the BOX Taba carried in earlier. In it are the kind of ROLLER SKATES that attach to kids' shoes.

TABA

My kids outgrew them. Thought maybe yours could use 'em...

Could a warmth be possible here? Pyre examines a skate.

PYRE

Now I just need an easy bake oven and their prayers are answered.

TABA

*So I'm 50% their "dear Heavenly Father?"
(Pyre actually laughs)
Autopsies are scheduled for 9AM.
Prints and blood should be in then too. Keep pushing the kid, or wait?*

PYRE

...Out in Florida, Henry Lee Lucas claimed he killed 60 people once he started telling the truth. All satanic ritual slaughter--

TABA

Where'd you go on your mission?

PYRE

Denver.

TABA

Maybe Denver gets a stray satanist, but Salt Lake City's suburbs?

PYRE

Two years ago, Arthur Bishop lured five boys away from their families here in Utah, tortured and killed them. And up where my folks' farm is, someone kidnapped a girl, left her body in a stream. Week later, someone left black roses on her grave and a letter with an inverted cross. Devil worship, Satanic Panic, whatever you call it...He's playing with my head in there. And he's already admitted he's gone apostate--

TABA

If a lack of LDS faith gets a man convicted, there're a lotta folks headed to Draper Prison. Me included.

PYRE (considers;
then)

Leaving the faith would've created a lot of grief in his family. I can only imagine the pressure to return. The fights. Not the kind of family that would've let a sheep stray too far. Public perceptions...the Laffertys are like Utah Kennedys.

TABA

Good thing I voted for Nixon.

PYRE

What if he killed his whole family? Then he walked across the street to place the call to let someone know his deed was done? They wanna be caught, don't they? The attention, the credit. Sociopath handbook 101.

TABA

And we haven't even charged him. He could up and walk out of here right now. And when the Chief gets back--

PYRE

Chief's not due back from Yellowstone for another week.

TABA

If the kid's family is as popular as you say, when the Chief, the DA, the mayor, or the press get wind of this, they're all gonna demand details--

PYRE

The neighbors have all agreed not to speak with the press.

TABA

Charge him. We don't want zero suspects in custody. You don't need panic in a town this small.

Pyre looks to the EVIDENCE PILE, pulls out a PHOTO ALBUM, flips to a picture of BRENDA AND HER LITTLE BABY ERICA. They're beautiful in it. AS WE PUSH IN ON THE PHOTO, A PHONE RINGS. Taba picks up, listens. His eyes widen.

TABA (CONT'D)

Put him through.

INT. MOTEL CHECK IN - POLICE STATION - LATER / INTERCUT

A sleepy MOTEL MANAGER is on his PHONE. WE SEE what he does out front: the shape of a BEARDED MAN pulling a LONG BAG from the back of a STATION WAGON.

MOTEL MANAGER

I'm looking at him now. In my lot.

TABA

He has a beard?

MOTEL MANAGER

Like the scanner's APB said. And black up and down his arms and hands. Got a bad feeling the second he rang my buzzer after hours.

OFF Taba's eyes meeting Pyre's. They've got a lead.

EXT. MOTEL / OUTSIDE SALT LAKE CITY - PRE-DAWN

A POLICE CRUISER quietly turns a corner onto a main road in a secluded area. It kills its LIGHTS as it approaches an old motel. All but one hotel room window is darkened.

Two more POLICE CARS follow, LIGHTS ON, NO SIRENS. Pyre and Taba quietly get out first. Using hand signals to communicate, we only hear the snaps of loosening GUNS.

CLANG! An officer accidentally hits a wall mounted FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Seconds later, the light in Room 10 goes off. Now they can be sure someone is in there.

Flanked by cops, guns ready, Pyre KNOCKS on ROOM 10's door. Then again, HARDER. Nothing. He signals he's going around back. ONE COP follows Pyre. We stay with Taba, who knocks again. A LIGHT INSIDE TURNS ON. Hearts race.

A woman answers the door, her eyes ringed in red as if she's been crying. It's Mark Lafferty's Wife. Taba doesn't recognize her. But he is surprised that such a traditional LDS woman just answered.

TABA

Sorry to disturb you...Is uh, is it just you here, ma'am?

MARK'S WIFE

And my kids. Is something the matter?

TABA

No husband?

MARK'S WIFE

He's out of town. For work...We had a problem at home. An electrical problem.

But Taba is now focused past her. Her many children are still awake, exhausted. One IS KNELT IN PRAYER. Taba looks to their BACK WINDOW. It's open. He shouts:

TABA

Out the back! Go! Go! Go!

COPS swarm past her, into the room and out the window--

EXT. WOODS IN BACK OF MOTEL - CONTINUOUS

--where they find Pyre drawing his GUN as he approaches a COLLAPSED FENCE. Beyond it are DENSE, INKY-BLACK WOODS. As the officers approach these woods, Pyre and the CAMERA FOLLOW, and once again, we enter Pyre's thoughts--

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. A HUMBLE NEW ENGLAND CABIN - DUSK (1820S)

EMMA sneaks out of her home, her FATHER inside, unaware. She makes a beeline for DARKENED WOODS. WE FOLLOW HER INTO THEM, faster, faster. As her terror mounts, we--

MATCH CUT BACK TO:

EXT. THE WOODS BEHIND THE MOTEL / UTAH - PRE-DAWN (1984)

--the camera follows Pyre and the officers into the woods GUNS DRAWN, FLASHLIGHTS ON. We mostly hear breathing. It's too difficult to see much. Then, Pyre spots a shape in the distance: an animal, or a man, small or kneeling.

PYRE

I've got something! Over here!

OTHER OFFICERS rush to him, GUNS searching for a target.

PYRE (CONT'D)

Don't move! Hands on your head!
Who are you?! Answer me!

No movement. *FLASHLIGHT'S BEAMS* hit the figure square in the face. (Not so different from Joseph Smith's shaft of light in the forest). It's a man, his beard unkempt, just as Allen described. He's knelt in prayer (like Joseph in the woods 160 years ago). But instead of responding, he defiantly keeps praying as if the cops aren't there.

Taba races up to the scene, and his face changes--perhaps Allen's claims of "bearded men" weren't evasions.

TABA

State your name or I'll kick the living shit out of you.

Pyre doesn't mind this curse word, not right now. The Bearded Man finally turns his head...and we just recognize that it's a weathered, red-eyed, bearded Mark.

MARK

Mark...Mark Lafferty.

OFF Pyre: this is not the Mark he knew. This night is quickly growing even darker and more complicated.

INT. *PYRE'S HOME - LATER THAT NIGHT*

Pyre steps inside, then into his kitchen, and pauses. Something's caught his eye: a heavenly white *BAPTISMAL DRESS* with the name *CAROLINE* sewn into its tag. Near it, a *SEWING MACHINE* with a *SECOND DRESS* still engaged in it, the name *ANNIE* on its tag. His mom steps in behind him.

PYRE'S MOTHER

Jeb?...Where has the sun gone.

PYRE

(spins a quick lie)
It's...just behind the clouds I guess.

That eases her. She sits behind the sewing machine.

PYRE'S MOTHER

Nothing is right. Even the sun is broken now. It's all so broken.

PYRE

Mom? You taught me that the broken parts in this life are heaven's tests for the next. That in heaven, things'll be perfect again. Our bodies, and...we'll be surrounded by our whole family. All ten of your kids. Sixty grandkids. And dad. For all eternity.

PYRE'S MOTHER

He's gone isn't he. Your dad? He died?

PYRE

Yes. Almost...about ten years ago now.

PYRE'S MOTHER

*Right. Jeb, I want to be there with him.
I want to go now. And be with him. Where
things are right again...Please?*

*She squeezes his hand. Though it's a difficult thing to
hear from his own mom, that she wants to die, it's also a
lovely, increasingly rare, lucid mother/son moment.*

INT. PYRE'S HOME / A SMALL OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

*At a BOOKSHELF, his thoughts heavy, Pyre pulls down the
BOUND, EMBOSSED, BOOK OF MORMON we saw him with in
church. He considers it, then places it in his BRIEFCASE.*

INT. PYRE'S HOME / TWINS' ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

*Pyre quietly steps into his twins' room, a HALL LIGHT
revealing their forms under sheets. He smooths Caroline's
hair. She doesn't stir. He does the same with Annie. She
wakes, and slowly focuses on her Dad.*

PYRE

Happy Birthday, Sweetie.

ANNIE

Is it our birthday now?

PYRE

*Started two hours ago. I came home
because I wanted to be the first
person to see you as an 8-year-old.*

ANNIE

I'm a grown up now.

PYRE

Just a baptism away.

ANNIE

Will you baptize me?

PYRE

Of course. And really soon.

She sends him a smile, but can't keep her eyes open.

Rebecca steps into the door, relieved to see him, loving that he came home for this. But when he looks back her way, she can tell something is far from right.

EXT. MOTEL / OUTSIDE OF SALT LAKE CITY - SAME TIME

Mark's wife and kids are being placed in a VAN by Taba and OTHER COPS. But Taba is distracted by a RUSTED TRUCK parked up the road--the SILHOUETTE OF A DRIVER watching the police activity. When Taba focuses on it, the driver pulls away. It sends a chill. He makes a note in his PAD.

INT. INVESTIGATOR PYRE'S HOME / SHOWER - MINUTES LATER

Pyre is in a shower, struggling to clear his head. Becca is undressing, revealing SACRED LDS GARMENTS. She folds them with care before joining him in the water. And as she wraps her arms around him, it triggers a vision--

MATCH TO:

EXT. WASATCH MOUNTAINS - EVENING / A FLASH (1982)

A VISION, A REPEAT: Brenda's arms wrap around Allen on the back of his motorcycle, they seem deeply in love--

MATCH TO:

EXT. A WOODED TRAIL - LATE NIGHT / A FLASH (1820S)

Emma's arms wrap around a man in the same way. REVEAL: She's on a HORSE, holding Joseph as they rush to elope.

INT. PYRE'S HOME / SHOWER - NIGHT / CONT'D (1984)

*PYRE (PRE-LAP) What
if this case, what if it isn't
just a husband whose heart
turned against his wife...*

Again, WE SEE what Pyre is pondering, processing:

EXT. THE HILL CUMORAH / NY - DAY (1820S)

Dressed in black, Emma turns her back as Joseph pries up a LARGE STONE with a SHOVEL in search of GOLDEN PLATES.

JOSEPH (V.O.)
 "For behold, I have refined thee,
 I have chosen thee--

INT. A SMALL HOME - NIGHT (1820S)

Joseph places a SEER STONE into an UPTURNED HAT. REVEAL:
 a glow from under a linen shrouded box (golden plates).

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
 --in the furnace of affliction."

Emma records these words. REVEAL: the book's title page:
The Book of Mormon. He looks to her, love in his eyes.

INT. PYRE'S HOME / SHOWER - NIGHT / CONT'D (1984)

PYRE
 ...and what if it's not some
 outside evil, some outside force
 that's found its way here...

INT. BRENDA & ALLEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT / A FLASH (1984)

A VISION, a suspicion: from behind, a BEARDED MAN pushes
 open the NURSERY DOOR leaving a PARTIAL BLOODY HANDPRINT.

EXT. MOUNTAIN MEADOWS, UTAH - HIGH NOON (1859)

WE SEE MAJOR CARLTON AGAIN. The story Pyre didn't want to
 hear. This time, we REVEAL HIS POV: HUMAN HAIR tangled in
 bushes, BONES OF HORSES, CATTLE, and finally: the
 SKELETAL REMAINS of an ADULT holding a BABY'S SKELETON.

RETURN TO 1984:

INT. PYRE'S HOME / SHOWER - NIGHT / CONT'D (1984)

PYRE
 ...what if tonight is the first
 edge of a bone, finally working its
 way out of our own desert's floor?

OFF Pyre's fear, and Becca's deepening concern for him.

CUT TO BLACK

END EPISODE ONE