

CLOISTER F*CKED

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A NOTE ABOUT DIRECT ADDRESS

Both of our heroes will speak directly to God (aka the audience), but they will do this in very different ways.

Sister Frances will address God in an aerial shot, up to the sky. She regards God as mortal to immortal, an ant to a giant.

Sister Maggie will address God at eye level. She regards God as an equal, a confidant.

TONE:

God created man in his image.

In this show, Woman creates God in hers.

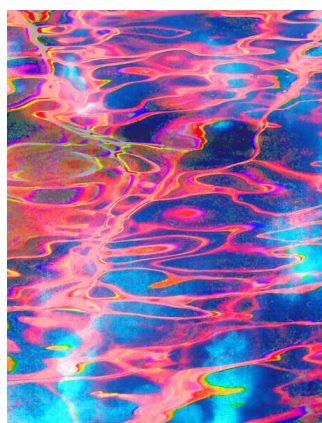
Every character with a relationship to God has the potential to address God.

All addresses to God share a common visual language.

A neon, iridescent light accompanies a sound cue.

Time suspends and no one around them can hear.

Momentarily, reality fades away.



ACT ONE

EXT. FRANKLIN AVE. SUBWAY STOP, BROOKLYN - 6AM

MUSIC CUE: Driving electric music.

MAGGIE (30), in all black and heavy boots, carries a hiker's backpack and a duffel. She emerges to the chaotic sounds of NY and crosses the street. A taxi turns, almost hitting her. Maggie slams down on the hood-

MAGGIE
NOT TODAY SATAN!

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. FRANCES'S BEDROOM, MOTHERHOUSE - 6AM

SISTER FRANCES (29), in a nun's veil and pastel cardigan, makes her bed. The space is cramped but tidy. Her cross-stitched pillow says: "Life is fragile. Handle with prayer." She kisses two fingers before tenderly touching her crucifix.

INT. GRAND MASTER BODEGA - MORNING

AAHAD (60s), a Middle-Eastern immigrant and poet at heart, brews coffee, greets customers and plays chess with his nephew RAHIM (30s), first generation, spirited and sensitive. Maggie approaches the counter stocked with foreign treats.

AAHAD
Wow! Strong girl, big backpack!
(Maggie smiles)
What can I do you for?

MAGGIE
Iced coffee, black. A banana and
three loosies please. Oh, and-
where are your tampons?

AAHAD
I'm sorry. Delivery's this
afternoon. Come back, I'll save you
some and you can try our world
famous baklava.

Maggie nods appreciatively and notices Rahim staring at her. He smiles flirtatiously, then grabs her cigarettes.

RAHIM

Ya know miss...smoking kills.

MAGGIE

Well, bad habits are hard to break.

Aahad hands her an iced coffee and banana. Maggie puts \$10 on the counter and before she leaves-

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Thanks. Oh and um-
(to Rahim)
Rook to f5.

Aahad and Rahim look at the chess board. Nice move.
Rahim's POV: he watches Maggie exit. She gives her banana to a HOMELESS GUY before rubbing his dog's belly.

INT. LIVING ROOM, "MOTHERHOUSE" - MORNING

An apartment full of mismatched furniture adorned with lace doilies. Sr. Frances brews a large pot of coffee on a countertop littered with prescriptions, prune juice, and Miralax. She's a young sister living amongst older ladies.

SISTER MARY ANETTE SHILOH aka "SMASH" (60s), a no-nonsense mother figure, enters in a robe.

SMASH

Today's the big day-

Frances nods, crossing out today's date on the calendar.

FRANCES

We finally get our unicorn!

SISTER JOYCE (500 years old), Oaxacan, an impish glint in her eye, buzzes in on her mobility scooter in a bra and slacks.

JOYCE

(SHOUTING to Frances)
ARE YOU EXCITED??

Frances adjusts Joyce's hearing aid, pouring coffee for all-

FRANCES

I'm Christmas morning excited!!!

She makes the sign of the cross. With prayer hands, she **looks up in an aerial shot and speaks directly to God. The camera is high above, but intimate. Everything behind her suspends and blurs. A neon light and sound cue:**

FRANCES (CONT'D)
 (up to God)
 All my prayers are being answered.
 But of course, you always provide.
 'Ask and you shall receive' right?

EXT. ND BUILDING - MORNING

Maggie catches her reflection in a laundromat window opposite-

MAGGIE
 Oh! Dang.

She bends down then pops up in frame: wearing a nun's veil!
 Maggie's a nun too! She steadies herself, but decides she
 needs a cigarette. She strikes a match. The doors fly open-

FRANCES
 Sister Margaret! Our new unicorn!

REVEAL: A beautiful but shabby, Brooklyn church: Our Lady of
 Perpetual Help. Frances barrels toward Maggie for a hug.

MAGGIE
 Did you just call me a-

Upon impact, a startled Maggie drops the lit match.

FRANCES
 -Sisters under 60 are so rare!
 Sorry I'm a hugger.
 (Maggie smiles warmly)
 I'm Sister Frances Louise Xavier
 Wells. But you can call me Frances.

MAGGIE
 Maggie. And- the church is on fire.

FRANCES
 (sung like Alicia Keys)
 "This church is on fire"

This chick's a lot. Maggie points to the smoking planter.

FRANCES (CONT'D)
 Omigosh- an actual fire!

Frances tries blowing the flames, only making matters worse-

FRANCES (CONT'D)	MAGGIE
(losing it)	(calmly)
Ahhh! WE NEED TO CALL 911-	I got it, hang on --

Maggie throws iced coffee on the bush. It fizzes out. Then, **Maggie turns and speaks to God, straight on, directly to camera. Everything behind her suspends and blurs. She, too, has her own neon light and sound cue:**

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 (direct to God)
**A burning bush on my first
 day...you shouldn't have.**

SMASH TO MAIN TITLES: Cloister F*cked

INT. CHURCH NAVE - MORNING

Maggie is led through the church, adorned with male icons: Crucifix, stained glass apostles, the Pope in a big frame. Frances waves to volunteers polishing pews, sweeping floors.

MAGGIE
 (kidding)
 Hope you're not sprucing up the
 place on my behalf.

FRANCES
 (smiling)
 You've come on a busy day.

MAGGIE
 Well, put me in, coach! I'm eager
 to start my ministry.

FRANCES
 (passion of a Belieber)
 Actually...Bishop Suarez is coming!
 I'm so excited. He knows Pope
 Francis and they're both very
 committed to combating the climate
 crisis, which...I am too. I tend to
 the prayer garden and if things go
 well, I'm hoping Father Quinn will
 ask the Bishop to bless it.

MAGGIE
 You kinda crushin' on this bishop?
 (Frances blushes)
 JK. We'll get that garden blessed.

Frances remembers herself and explains-

FRANCES
 The point is, Our Lady needs a
 total restoration. Fr.
 (MORE)

FRANCES (CONT'D)

Quinn says if we impress the Bishop this weekend, he'll bring in big donors to help us finance it.

As they approach the altar, almost in unison, they bend one knee and make the sign of the cross.

Maggie touches the marble, taking it all in. Big. Beautiful. Soft candlelight. Full of history, joy and pain.

MAGGIE

It's beautiful. Being in a church always reminds me that we're just a small part of something so big.

FRANCES

Me too. Exactly.

A moment of genuine connection. Maggie sits down, in the chair on the altar reserved for the priest, to take it all in.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

Oh! People don't usually sit in the priest's chair.

MAGGIE

I know. Shame. It's the best view in the house.

(then)

Hey - you gotta tampon? It's Shark Week, if you know what I mean, and there is BLOOD IN THE WATER!

(pointing to a crucifix)

He knows what I'm talkin' bout.

Frances is utterly shocked.

FRANCES

Oh. Um, I...do not.

INT. LADIES' BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Retro pink tile. Maggie pulls the lever on a tampon machine-

FRANCES

Oh, it's broken.

MAGGIE

(sarcastically)

You'd think this place was run by dudes.

FRANCES

It doesn't come up much. The other sisters are...too old. Obviously. The motherhouse provides these-

Frances hands Maggie a large, winged maxi-pad from her tote.

MAGGIE

With all due respect sister, if I have to sit in a diaper, it'll be a thinner one of my own making.

Maggie grabs paper towels, disappearing into a stall. Light sounds of peeing. Frances looks dejected and uncomfortable.

MAGGIE O.S.

So what's on the docket this weekend?

FRANCES

Tomorrow, when the Bishop arrives Fr. Quinn will charm him in a private, closed door meeting. Then, we have a beautiful garden luncheon-

MAGGIE O.S.

Sheesh. When're these guys gonna realize that they gotta stop with the secret meetings?

FRANCES

It's probably just to talk about money...for the restoration-

MAGGIE O.S.

Forget cosmetic fixes. You need cash for vital programs to serve the community. In my interview with Sr. Mary Annette Shiloh-

FRANCES

We all call her SMASH.

MAGGIE

Love that. We talked about the need for more community programming. So I've been thinking, what about Black Lives Matter and LGBTQIA+ ministry, a group for domestic violence, mental health, A.A., N.A., S.L.A.W.

FRANCES

SLAW?

Flush! Maggie exits the stall to the sink.

MAGGIE

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous.
 (Frances gulps)
 I'm excited to be in Brooklyn,
 where we can support the
 vulnerable. The marginalized.

FRANCES

Right. Well, at the moment Fr.
 Quinn's focused on restoring the
 church to its original splendor. He
 says a beautiful church will draw
 people back.

MAGGIE

That's not what'll bring 'em back-

FRANCES

He's a bit of a traditionalist...

MAGGIE

Sure. I mean, the convent in
 Vermont where I started my training
 was traditional, but the sisters
 there were super progressive. The
 bros in charge have had their
 chance. Now it's up to us to make
 the changes the church needs to
 thrive. And where better to do that
 than the city that never sleeps?

FRANCES

(overwhelmed)
 Wow. Okay. Love the enthusiasm.
 (moving on)
 We've got a lot to do. Today we'll
 set up for tomorrow's big luncheon.
 And I haven't even mentioned...
 (geeking out)
 Sunday we'll assist *the bishop* with
 mass! I just know if we wow him,
 he'll give Quinn the money to
 really fix this place up.

As they leave, Maggie bangs on the tampon machine.

MAGGIE

We have the power to fix things
 too. We're gonna fix that.

INT. CHURCH HALLWAYS - MORNING

Frances leads them through the church's underground maze. Her phone rings, she silences it, beyond curious about this unconventional nun.

FRANCES

So, did you always know you wanted
to be a nun?

MAGGIE

(evasive)
Nope. Not really.

FRANCES

Wow! I've known since I was like,
ten. What made you decide?

MAGGIE

Pump the brakes, Anderson Cooper. I
already did my interview.

Before Frances can reply she bumps into LAURIE coming around the corner. A 30 year old Lenny Kravitz, Laurie is the church organist. His sheet music and vape pen fly.

FRANCES

I'm sorry!! Oh no, sorry. Sorry!

LAURIE

It's all good, little sister.

Maggie eyes the sheet music: Lizzo's "Good as Hell".

MAGGIE

I love this song!

FRANCES

I love this song!

LAURIE

I do my hair toss, Check my nails-

MAGGIE

Baby how you feelin'?
Feeling good as hell!

FRANCES

Baby how you feelin'?
Feeling good as hea-ven.

Maggie laughs at Frances's lyric change, endeared to her.

LAURIE

Was that an official audition for
the choir? Cuz, I'm not mad at it.

MAGGIE

Is this for mass?!

LAURIE
 Nah. A little side project.
 (then)
 So, you're a...scorpio?

MAGGIE
 How'd you-

LAURIE
 (sizing up the girls)
 My gift. A scorpio and a virgo...
 fiery match.
 (Frances is elated)
 I'm Laurie and I'm late. But time's
 a construct- this moment was
 ordained.

He nabs his vape pen and saunters off in a cloud of smoke.

FRANCES
 (whispered)
 He plays the organ so beautifully,
 but...I think he's an atheist.

A shiver runs down her spine, Maggie can't help but laugh.

MAGGIE
 It's not contagious!

FRANCES
 (smiling)
 Come on. We've gotta grab chairs-

EXT. PRAYER GARDEN - LATER

They walk with chairs towards a rag-tag team setting up.
 SMASH organizes the tables, DEACON DANIEL (40), Filipino
 divinity scholar and bank manager, works on a PA system and
 Sr. Joyce untangles a rat's nest of string lights.

FRANCES
 This is Sister Maggie, everyone!

They crowd Maggie with the enthusiasm of *Queer Eye's* Fab 5.

SMASH/DANIEL/JOYCE
 Welcome!/ You're here!/ HELLO!

FRANCES
 Maggie, you already know Sr. Mary
 Annette Shiloh-

SMASH slams Maggie into a big, warm bosom-y hug.

FRANCES (CONT'D)
 (whispered to Maggie)
 That's why we call her SMASH.

JOYCE
 (trying to be quiet)
 She seems sweet, I know, but she
 can be a real battle-axe.

SMASH
 Just because I asked you to follow
 the speed limit on your scooter!?
 This is Sr. Joyce.

JOYCE
 (winking at Maggie)
 Retired. But still raisin' hell.

She toots her horn. Frances jumps in.

FRANCES
 And Daniel, our Deacon.

Deacon Daniel gives Maggie a firm two-handed handshake.

MAGGIE
 The freakin' deacon-

DANIEL
 (sung)
 -baby we about to have us some fun.

MAGGIE	DANIEL (CONT'D)
Oh, wait, isn't that R. Kelly?	Yeah, as soon as I started, I knew it was wrong.

Frances brings over a plate of donuts. Maggie takes one-

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 Nice. It's good to meet you all.
 I'm eager to get to work.

SMASH
 Great, cuz these tables won't set
 themselves.

Maggie reacts. That isn't what she meant. But they launch in.

SMASH (CONT'D)
 Frances, my angel, a vase on every
 round-top. Monica's bringing a
 centerpiece but I want these tables
 sparkling with the holy spirit.

FRANCES
 (giddy to Daniel)
 Did you hear that, Daniel?

JOYCE
 Monica is coming by...OooooOooo-

DANIEL
 (good-natured, to Maggie)
 The irony of a bunch of nuns Tinder-
 ing my life is insane, but I guess
 that comes with being the only one
 of us who can date.

<p>SMASH They're a perfect match! SO adorable together.</p>	<p>JOYCE Monica can't get enough of this hunk, can you blame her?</p>
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MAGGIE
 (joining)
 Here's hoping she's a Virgin Mary
 in the streets and a Mary Magdalene
 in the sheets. Right, Daniel?

Record scratch. The nuns are shocked. Daniel's at a loss.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 (backtracking)
 Or, ya know, whatever you're into.

Daniel is flustered, but Maggie's words land on him.

SMASH
 (taken aback)
 Let's focus shall we-

SMASH Pac-Mans around, back seat driving everyone. Maggie
 helps with the flowers, they look terrible. SMASH notices.

SMASH (CONT'D)
 We've gotta impress His Excellency,
 the bishop, 'cuz Lord knows-
 (sign of the cross)
 We need him to bring the big donors
 to the table if we're gonna pull
 off this restoration project.

MAGGIE
 Will any of that scratch make its
 way into the programming budget?
 Cuz I've been thinking-

SMASH
 All in due time.

Maggie's coming in hotter than expected. They're interrupted by a huge flower arrangement which teeters, obscuring MONICA (30s), always in a hairband.

MONICA
(from behind the flowers)
Hello?! Anybody there?

SMASH, Joyce and Frances all jump up.

NUNS
For us?/ Gorgeous!/Dahlias! Ooo!

They shove a beet-red Daniel toward her.

JOYCE
Daniel will help you. Won't he?

MONICA
(smitten, to Daniel)
You're too cute- I MEAN KIND!

The nuns coo, Daniel's mortified. Monica hurries out, passing FR. QUINN (60s), charming, handsome, and politically savvy.

QUINN
Oop, careful there honey.

MONICA
Oh father, thank you again for helping my meemaw.

QUINN
Any time, kiddo. Thank her for the pierogies.

He winks playfully. Monica exits. The clergy fawn over Quinn.

CLERGY
Father!/ Welcome!/How are you?

The church bell thuds. It sounds terrible.

QUINN
Damn that thing. Guess we'll need to fix that too.
(noticing Maggie, warm)
Ah you must be our new novice, Sister Margaret.

MAGGIE
(smiles, shaking hands)
Please, call me Maggie.

QUINN

Firm handshake. Your vows are this year, right? You're in good company, we've all been through it.

Maggie is about to respond but Quinn barrels on.

QUINN (CONT'D)

And this'll really be a baptism of fire cuz we've got a huge problem:
(with gravitas)
I've just been informed that the bishop is lactose intolerant-

SMASH

(rising panic)
The cheese plate. The sandwiches!
The cannolis!!

QUINN

Frances my dear, I keep getting an answering machine so I need you to go change the order in person. Look that kid, Sal dead in the eyes and spell out: NO CHEESE.

FRANCES

Of course, father! And...could I buy a few more bud vases? Maybe our floral arrangements could show the bishop what our little garden can aspire to.

QUINN

(handing her cash)
Great idea. Yes.

Joyce sneakily swigs from a flask, winking at Maggie-

JOYCE

(sotto, to Maggie)
Nothing wrong with getting all hopped up on the blood of Christ.

MAGGIE

Speaking of the blood of Christ-Father, I heard about your "closed door" meeting to "fix the church", so I wanted to point out the broken tampon machine in the ladies' room.

Everyone looks at her.

QUINN

Another thing to scrap in the remodel.

MAGGIE

Oh, that's not what I meant-

QUINN

It's looking great out here, the table cloths, the flowers- Wow, you ladies are amazing.

Unseen, Maggie rolls her eyes. SMASH smiles proudly. Joyce snores loudly. Quinn grimaces at Joyce. Maggie smirks.

QUINN (CONT'D)

Daniel, I'd love to get your thoughts on my homily.

DANIEL

Of course, father.

QUINN

Let's get out of their hair and grab a pint at McSorley's.

(to the sisters)

Keep up the good work, squad!

Quinn saunters out. **Maggie looks directly to God.**

MAGGIE

(direct to God)

Looks like the church isn't the only thing we're gonna need to bring into the 21st century.

INT. WALK N' TALK THRU THE CHURCH - EARLY AFTERNOON

The girls book it down the hallway.

MAGGIE

Quinn's kinda old school, huh?
What's his vision for Our Lady?

FRANCES

...Survival? He's very beloved-

She's interrupted by a FaceTime call.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

Sorry, it's my sister! One sec-

ELLIE (19), the spitting image of Frances in a hat, on screen-

ELLIE
 (static)
 Dress...isn't...nee...talk...you...

FRANCES
 Ellie, I'm gonna find a dress. I
 just- I haven't had time, okay?

Ellie's face freezes and then cuts out.

FRANCES (CONT'D)
 Bad reception on my folks' farm-

MAGGIE
 What do you need a dress for?

FRANCES
 My sister's *finally* graduating high
 school. Which has been tough. But
 she's headed to college this fall!
 And she wants me to wear something
 "cool" to her grad party cuz she
 thinks I dress like an old lady.

Maggie eyes Frances's grandma-chic get-up: cardigan, starched
 dress, sensible shoes and perfect veil.

MAGGIE
 Maybe I can help you with that.

FRANCES
 Really? I would love that.
(up to God, truly excited)
Thank YOU!!!

They smile at each other.

INT. CHURCH VESTIBULE - DAY

The sisters pass a young woman in a pew, KAT (19), a sporty,
 international student trying to cover up that she's crying.

MAGGIE
 Are you alright?

KAT
 Yea. I wanted to try the "New to
 NY" group, but I guess it's been
 cancelled this week.

FRANCES
 Oh! We moved it for an event.

MAGGIE
You're new to the city?

KAT
Yeah. I'm here studying from Seoul.

MAGGIE
I'm Maggie. This is Frances. I'm new too. You must be homesick.

KAT
Kat...yeah, very. I'm also just...
having boy trouble-
(gestures to their veils)
You wouldn't understand.

MAGGIE
Well, we've both got the same
boyfriend-

Kat and Frances laugh.

KAT
That must be difficult.

MAGGIE
Only on Sundays.

Kat laughs again. Frances smiles at Maggie, whose sense of humor comforts Kat. Kat's phone rings. She silences it.

KAT
I should probably go.

-But she clearly wants to stay.

FRANCES
You don't have to. You're always
welcome here.

Maggie smiles at Frances, whose openheartedness calms Kat.

MAGGIE
(pointing to sweatshirt)
Do you run track?

KAT
(nodding yes)
Running's therapeutic for me- time
to be alone with my thoughts.

MAGGIE
Probably a good distraction from
boy trouble too, huh?
(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(Kat nods again)

We're here if you want to talk
about it...

KAT

(decides to open up)

...Brett, my boyfriend...He's super
intense and can be really hard on
me, yelling and- It's gotten to the
point where I feel...I dunno...

MAGGIE

(sensing something)

Scared?

Kat looks at her sharply. Her phone rings, she silences it.

KAT

He's just trying to push me to do
my best and I love him. But he gets
jealous and has a temper-

(shrinking into herself)

He's my cousin's friend and sort of
the only person I know in New York.

MAGGIE

Do you want to leave him?

KAT

(frantic)

I didn't say that.

FRANCES

(calming)

What can we do to help?

KAT

I don't know-

FRANCES

What if we light a candle to the
Blessed Virgin Mary?

Kat's unsure, but Maggie encourages her towards the candles-

MAGGIE

It's a good place to start. She's
the baddest mother in the joint:
The BVM's always got our back.

Kat smiles, despite herself. They cross to an alcove. As
Frances lights a votive, Maggie watches as Kat starts to cry.
Then, Kat's phone rings again. She jumps up in a panic, but
silences it. Maggie clocks a bruise on her wrist.

KAT
That's him again, I have to go!

MAGGIE
Wait, Kat-

KAT
He'll be mad. I really need to go.

Maggie follows her to the door but Kat's soon out of sight.

MAGGIE
(at the door, worried)
That dude is bad news.

Inside Frances kneels down calmly with her candle-

FRANCES
Let's pray for her-

MAGGIE
(direct to God)
**No offense boss, but sometimes
thoughts and prayers don't cut it.
I'll take this one.**
(interrupting Frances)
-Get off your knees. We've gotta go
help that girl.

Maggie exits the church, determined. Frances looks after her,
startled. Now what?

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. GOURMET ITALIAN DELICATESSEN - DAY

Maggie pleads with Frances as they wait in line.

MAGGIE

-But I'm telling you we need to find Kat and let her know we're concerned. Tell her we're here for her. We can share local support groups or hotlines, maybe therapy-

FRANCES

That's not what she asked for.

MAGGIE

That's what she needs.

FRANCES

(warmly)

Sometimes, caring for others means sitting with them in their pain. Listening with love.

MAGGIE

That's not enough. If you see something, say something - right?

FRANCES

What I saw was a young woman who was homesick and sad. There's no quick fix for that. Today, we've got to focus on our duties and correct the order for the bishop.

MAGGIE

Why can't Quinn set the table and scrape cheese off the bishop's sandwich? That girl needs us.

Frances takes a deep breath. Maggie, frustrated, assesses the long line.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I'm getting us outta this logjam.

(direct to God)

Forgive me, for I am about to sin.

Maggie speaks to the line with prayer hands-

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

My children, we're on an urgent mission for-

(she points to the sky)

-And humbly ask your forgiveness as we cut the line.

She barges to the counter. Frances follows, embarrassed.

SAL

Maria von Trapp, what'll it be?

FRANCES

(apologetically)

-Sorry, Sal. I've gotta change an order for tomorrow...to non-dairy. NO CHEESE!

SAL

We need 48 hours for changes-

FRANCES

(pointedly)

It's for the bishop.

He kisses his crucifix chain.

COUNTER GUY

Just this once. But, put in a word for me with the big guy, will ya?

He winks. Frances nods, pleased. Maggie catches TWO GIGGLING TEENS taking a not-so-subtle picture of the nuns.

MAGGIE

(cheekily to the girls)

Tag me in your pic.

The girls stop giggling, Maggie smiles and as they exit-

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

What's our Insta handle?

FRANCES

We don't have one.

MAGGIE

Damn. We need one. Come on, if I don't hit up the bodega stat, I'm gonna spring a leak.

INT. GRAND MASTER BODEGA - DAY

Maggie types on her phone, as they stroll through the aisles.

MAGGIE

If Our Lady wants to be relevant we
need to start meeting people where
they are: online. Frances, smile!

Frances does a peace sign, Maggie snaps a picture then types.

FRANCES

We should probably ask permission
before creating a-
(off Maggie's post)
Oh! Wow! You just did it- Okay.
@OurLadyBK's first post.

MAGGIE

Now we need followers, so people
know where to find us. In case they
need help. Like Kat.
(then)
Didn't you think her story was so
alarming?

FRANCES

Young love is complicated...I've
heard. But God *will* show her the
best path forward. God provides.

MAGGIE

But what if her boyfriend is
abusive? Did you see how scared she
was when he kept calling?

FRANCES

(taken aback)
Abusive? That seems extreme.

Maggie clenches her fists again.

MAGGIE

-Did you see the bruise on her arm?

FRANCES

No. I didn't.

MAGGIE

What if things escalate?

FRANCES

(rationalizing)
The bruise could be from anything-

MAGGIE

Even if it's just a possibility, I couldn't sleep at night knowing we could've helped. Could you?

FRANCES

I don't think that's happening. And she knows where we are.

(quick pivot)

Didn't you need...

Frances points to the tampons behind the counter too shy to say the word. Maggie, unembarrassed, approaches Rahim at the counter. He does a double-take, seeing Maggie in her veil.

RAHIM

Oh. Woah. You're a nun.

MAGGIE

Oh. Woah. I am?

He smiles a little. Frances jumps in.

FRANCES

Technically she's a novice until she takes her vows. But we'll make a nun of her yet.

MAGGIE

(pointing)

I'd like those tampons please.

Frances gulps. Rahim smirks, he likes her confidence.

RAHIM

Usually I take a girl out first before I'm grabbing her tampons. That'll be \$16.99.

He passes the tampons, Maggie's jaw drops.

MAGGIE

Holy pink tax Batman! Those New York prices are no joke.

AAHAD

(weighing in)

We meet the customer demand. Organic, cotton, ethically sourced. Only the best for our ladies.

MAGGIE

(to Frances)

...I may need that pad after all.

Frances nods, supportively. Rahim's eyes linger on Maggie. In walks DELORES (10), a young, Black entrepreneur in a Girl Scouts Uniform and professional blazer.

DELORES

Aahad! I've got another cookie-related business opportunity for ya-

RAHIM

Sorry Delores, we already bought 10 boxes!

AAHAD

Why do they call them THIN Mints?! Look at this belly!

DELORES

Sr. Frances, new nun- whaddya say?

FRANCES

Sorry Delores, we can't. We took a vow of poverty, remember?

Delores is baffled by this.

DELORES

You ladies gotta make some schmoney. How's a girl 'sposed to make it out here when women aren't even supporting women?

FRANCES

We support you spiritually, Dee.
(then proudly)
This is my new friend, Sr. Maggie.

MAGGIE

Are you on Instagram? I'm looking for our first follower.

DELORES

(laughs and rolls eyes)
Okay boomer.

MAGGIE

(offended)
Boomer?! Um, we're not-

DELORES

(sizing them up)
Are you on TikTok?

They're not. They look to Delores, exposed but intrigued.

CUT TO:

TikTok of the nuns dancing to "Savage" by Megan Thee Stallion. They body roll and booty pop. Delores death-drops.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Maggie and Frances laugh, out of breath from dancing.

MAGGIE
(pointing)
Don't we need extra vases?

REVERSE REVEAL: THE BROOKLYN FLEA.

EXT. BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET - DAY

Frances places the last vase in her box. Passers-by stare, but the girls ignore it. Maggie eyes some vintage dresses.

MAGGIE
Hey, your sister's party. The dress. What's the vibe?

FRANCES
Well, my brothers are all in the military and I'm...*you know*. It's a lot of L.L.Bean. But Ellie's more of a free spirit. So...she wants us all to wear "cool" outfits.

MAGGIE
Ah! Okay- I can work with that-

Frances looks at her watch.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
(playfully)
Just give me 15 minutes...

Maggie picks up a jumpsuit. Upbeat music. Frances relents.

CUT TO:

A Nun-tage! They try on clothes. Pinafores! Power suits! 80s pumps! Head wear! Frances never removes her veil.

INT. DRESSING ROOM/EXT. DRESSING ROOM.

Frances is changing in a dressing room. Maggie sits outside, decked out in a gold lamé number and Elton John sunglasses.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THEM:

FRANCES
What's *your* family like?

MAGGIE
 (guardrails up)
 Single mom. Only child. You know
 the drill.

FRANCES
 How did you choose religious life?

MAGGIE
 (defensive)
 Um...religious life chose me.

FRANCES
 Me too! My favorite teacher, Sr.
 Claudette, was amazing. So
 dedicated and compassionate and I
 just knew!
 (then)
 When was the moment *you knew?*

Maggie's not going there, she changes the subject.

MAGGIE
 (with enthusiasm)
 -Hey! How's it goin in there gurl?
 I wanna see that dress!

Frances emerges from the dressing room, feeling shy. She
 takes off her veil for the first time.

FRANCES
 Is it cool? Or no?

It's cute and she clearly loves the dress.

MAGGIE
 It's perfect on you.

Frances grins and off the girls connecting -

NYC SUBWAY - EVENING

The sisters ride the crowded subway with their purchases.

FRANCES
 That was so fun. Thanks for your
 help.

MAGGIE
 (earnest)
 I'm here to help. Or at least try.
 (MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I mean, people aren't exactly flocking to the Catholic church. Understandably.

FRANCES

(defensive)

...Our doors are always open.

MAGGIE

Plenty of people don't feel that way. The church has slammed a lot of doors and caused a lot of pain.

A woman, eavesdropping on their conversation, nods her head.

SUBWAY LADY

(under her breath)

Amen.

Frances takes that in. A Beat.

FRANCES

(hushed to Maggie)

I think one of the most beautiful things about being Catholic is that we believe in forgiveness, in second chances.

MAGGIE

Me too.

FRANCES

Nobody is past hope. Even the church itself.

MAGGIE

Forgiveness is beautiful. But it needs to be earned. We have to bring people back. With inclusivity and without judgment. Especially young people...

(then)

...like Kat.

FRANCES

...Ok, if we were going to talk to her-

MAGGIE

(beaming)

Yes! Ok.

FRANCES

-We'd need a plan.

CONDUCTOR V.O.
Stand clear of the closing doors
please.

MAGGIE
Woman, I have a plan: She runs
track, right? It's when she's
"alone with her thoughts." So,
we'll talk to her privately-

As the sisters exit onto the platform, Frances's phone rings.
She holds up a finger -

FRANCES
It's my sister again, hang on.
(answering)
Ellie- I got a dress!...Wait. Okay,
calm down. Where are you? What?!

Frances, shocked, drops her dress to the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANCES'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A blue-haired Ellie sits on Frances's bed. Laurie beside her.

FRANCES
Ellie! What's going on?! Why are
you here? With blue hair?!

ELLIE
(manic)
I don't wanna go to college, so I
flew out here. Please let me stay?

Frances's eyes are saucers. This is a BIG PROBLEM.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. FRANCES'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Drumsticks hang from Ellie's exploded backpack. Maggie and Laurie stand by while an anxious Frances launches in-

FRANCES
(nervous)
How did you get in here?

LAURIE
(awkwardly to Frances)
It looked like she was trying to
break in from the fire escape-

FRANCES
(to Ellie)
You came up the fire escape?!

ELLIE
The front door was locked, Frankie!

	MAGGIE	LAURIE
Frankie?!		Frankie?!

FRANCES
(frazzled)
ONLY MY FAMILY CALLS ME THAT!

Frances spots a tattoo creeping out from Ellie's sleeve.

FRANCES (CONT'D)
Ohmygosh! What is *that*?

ELLIE
Calm down. It's tiny.

Maggie grins at Frances riled up. Chill Laurie is uneasy-

LAURIE
I've, uh, never been in a nun's
room before. Very. Clean. But looks
like my work here is done. Deuces.

Laurie goes to exit out the fire-escape, Maggie redirects-

MAGGIE
-Why don't I show you out the door?

LAURIE
 (relieved for guidance)
 Chill. Chill.

Maggie exits with Laurie.

FRANCES
 Our whole family's gone to college.
 What do you mean you're not going?

ELLIE
 It's *community* college! You guys
 all left home. I wanna get out too.

FRANCES
 (flustered)
 Don't quit! You always do this.

ELLIE
 That's not true.
 (off Frances's "really?")
 Okay- but...this feels different. I
 don't want to "study drumming", I
 wanna *be* a drummer.

FRANCES
 Ellie, you've worked so hard. Mom
 and Dad are so proud of what you-

ELLIE
 A Catholic guilt trip? Really?

Maggie returns.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
 I'm ready for my life to start now.

FRANCES
 It can. At college. You'll regret
 it, if you don't at least try.

ELLIE
 I'm telling you I won't.

Ellie sees Maggie react, impressed. She turns to her-

ELLIE (CONT'D)
 What do you think?

MAGGIE
 Sounds like you're having a strong
 gut feeling. I get that.

Ellie looks to Frances, vindicated. Frances is pissed. Maggie puts her hands up, she didn't mean to interfere.

FRANCES
(to Ellie)
Your gut feelings are often wrong.

ELLIE
I just need some space to think.
Can I please crash here while I do?

FRANCES
(distressed)
We're not supposed to house anyone-

Maggie looks directly to God.

MAGGIE
(direct to God)
She's not gonna "No-Room-At-The-Inn" her own sister is she?

ELLIE
You're not gonna "No-Room-At-The-Inn" your own sister are you?

MAGGIE
(direct to God)
Hey - that was my line.

Frances quietly fumes but, what can she do...

FRANCES
Fine! You can stay here for ONE
NIGHT ONLY. On the floor.

Yes! ELLIE Shush! FRANCES (CONT'D)

Ellie's thrilled. Frances is annoyed but grounds herself-

FRANCES (CONT'D)
(to Ellie)
You have to stay out of sight. The
bishop is coming tomorrow.

Ellie nods, trying to look trustworthy.

EXT. PRAYER GARDEN ESTABLISHING - NIGHT INTO MORNING.

The sun rises through looming grey clouds over the set up for lunch. It looks like a high-end event, until a pigeon lands and shits down a stained glass window.

INT. LIVING ROOM, MOTHERHOUSE - MORNING

SMASH, Maggie and Frances pinball around the space.

SMASH

They're saying it's going to rain
this afternoon! We have to move
everything.

FRANCES

Maybe it will hold?

MAGGIE

Everything's already set up!

SMASH

It's not worth the risk. The
luncheon will be in the gymtorium.

Joyce buzzes in wearing a bra and a water-proofed bucket hat.

JOYCE

ME DUELEN LAS TETAS. HERMANAS, IT'S
DEFINITELY GONNA RAIN.

Frances adjusts Joyce's hearing aids and Maggie launches in-

MAGGIE

Then we should get the catering
NOW, so we can be back to help.

SMASH

Great! Good thinking.

The sisters hightail it out.

EXT. GOURMET ITALIAN DELICATESSEN - DAY

The girls are ladened with comically large bags that are
stacked with trays of food. An only in NY kind of haul.

FRANCES

Subway's this way.

MAGGIE

Let's walk. It's only one stop.
Come on, we're strong.

CUT TO:

EXT. RUNNING TRACK - LATER

Maggie points through a chain link fence.

MAGGIE

Oh! Heeeeey! Isn't that Kat?

Realizing where Maggie has led them, Frances turns to her --

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(backpedaling)

Ok, I found her practice schedule-

FRANCES

We've gotta get back! The luncheon!

MAGGIE

I have it all worked out. We have time.

FRANCES

Maggie...I don't know about this.

MAGGIE

Look- she's alone and safe. We'll just offer our support and let her know we're here to help. Trust me- she'll be happy to see us.

EXT. RUNNING TRACK - MORNING

Maggie and Frances approach Kat, who is warming up. She reacts. Clearly not happy to see them.

KAT

What are you doing here?

MAGGIE

I felt like we got interrupted yesterday and I was worried. I wanted you to know-

KAT

(panicked, whispered)

Now is really not a good time.

FRANCES

Okay. We should go anyway-

MAGGIE

(to Kat)

-I get that. You're practicing. But it feels important to tell you-

BRETT (O.S.)

Kat, get your head in the game!

The sisters turn to see Brett, emerge from the bleachers. They're shocked. This was not the plan.

MAGGIE

(sotto, to Kat)

That's your boyfriend? What's he doing here?

KAT

I forgot my water bottle-

BRETT

(approaching them)

-So I brought it for her. Sorry, who are you?

(to Kat)

Do you know them?

Kat thinks for a beat, then-

KAT

(with conviction)

No. I don't.

Shock registers on Maggie and Frances's faces.

MAGGIE

Um-

BRETT

Look lady, we don't have any money. And we don't want to be saved.

MAGGIE

That's actually not-

(pivoting, to Kat)

Ya know, we were hoping we could speak to you *privately*...

(improvising)

...about the New to NY program.

BRETT

No. She has a meet coming up and needs to focus. Come on, Kat.

He grabs Kat by her bruised wrist. Kat winces. Maggie sees this and instinctively tries to unarm Kat-

MAGGIE

BRETT (CONT'D)

Hey-

What the hell?!

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(getting in Brett's face)

Let go of her-

BRETT
BACK OFF YOU CRAZY BITCH!

Maggie winds up to deck him. Frances rushes in to restrain her, the food drops in the dirt. A stern looking SECURITY GUARD approaches.

SECURITY GUARD
What the hell is going on?!

BRETT
(turning the blame)
These weirdos came out of nowhere.
We were in the middle of practice-

SECURITY GUARD
Then get back to it.

Brett and Kat cross to the track. Maggie's still red-hot.

FRANCES
(frazzled)
Um, sir, we're actually nuns-

SECURITY GUARD
(sarcastically)
Of course you are. Do you have
passes to be on campus?
(they shake their heads)
You're on private property,
disturbing the students. You need
to follow me.

Maggie and Frances are incredulous.

SECURITY GUARD (CONT'D)
NOW.

They collect their disheveled lunch items and follow him. Frances looks back to see Brett shouting at/coaching Kat from the bleachers.

Off Frances's deep worry and disappointment-

SFX: Crack. Thunder.

The skies open up. It starts to pour.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The Bishop's big arrival. An entourage leads him to Quinn's office. He takes in the shabbiness of the aging church.

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - DAY - LATER

Their closed door meeting-

BISHOP SUAREZ

Well, you're right. It definitely needs an update. But...our benefactor wants to be certain that their donation will ensure the church's future here in Brooklyn.

QUINN

Absolutely. The future is bright and-

We spot SMASH in the door, wide-eyed and gesturing wildly to the phone. An embarrassed Quinn excuses himself.

INT. ADMIN OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

QUINN

(into the phone)
Yes. They are really nuns.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. SECURITY OFFICE - DAY

SECURITY GUARD

I had to check. We've got a very enthusiastic drama department here.

Frances and Maggie sit anxiously, opposite the Security Guard. He hands the phone to Frances, her face falls. We overhear-

QUINN V.O.

(into the phone)
I don't want an explanation. The luncheon starts soon, get back here now.

FRANCES
We'll get a cab-

Click. Lightning brightens the room.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - LATER

The girls hail a cab but a TECH START UP BRO intercepts them and steals the ride.

MAGGIE
FOR REAL DUDE?!

She throws a wet sandwich after the car. So much for Maggie's plan. They decide to sprint through the rain, lunch jostling-

SFX: Thud. The broken church bell strikes twelve.

Frances stiffens - it's noon. Shit. **She looks to God.**

FRANCES
(up to God)
Why. Have. You. Forsaken. Me.

INT. CHURCH HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Festive parishioners kiss the Bishop's ring, awaiting the luncheon-

QUINN
(hopeful, to Bishop)
We've got quite a feast in store
for you, Excellency.

The bishop smiles. The doors open. Quinn's face falls-

CUT TO:

INT. GYMITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

The new set up is higgledy piggedy. String lights frown from an old basketball hoop. The buffet table is bare. SMASH, Joyce and Daniel look frazzled and out of breath.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

The sisters arrive too late and hold out rain-soaked food to Quinn who looms at the top of the steps with an umbrella.

QUINN

(furious)

We were trying to impress the bishop with a gourmet garden luncheon, but instead Sr. Mary Annette had to order *vegan pizzas* to the *gymtorium*!

MAGGIE

Ew.

Frances shoots Maggie a sharp look- bite your tongue!

QUINN

I was counting on you! Do you know how this looks?!

At the bottom of the stairs, the sisters nod obediently.

FRANCES

...bad.

QUINN

Exactly! Very, very bad.

(then, quiet)

Frances, this is so unlike you. I am just so...disappointed.

He exits. They're left in the rain, Frances's lip quivers.

FRANCES

I knew we shouldn't go-

MAGGIE

-Kat needed our help!

FRANCES

She didn't ask for our help. You were like a bulldozer back there!

MAGGIE

I'm sorry, I can't just sit on my hands while other people suffer!

Frances is highly offended.

FRANCES

You're too busy inserting yourself into everyone else's business. Kat! Ellie! Me!!

MAGGIE

I'M TRYING TO HELP PEOPLE!

FRANCES

You're trying to fix problems that aren't yours to fix!

MAGGIE

Well, you're more obsessed with kissing the ring than doing the real boots-on-the-ground work!

FRANCES

What!?

MAGGIE

You care more about what everyone else thinks than helping people.

FRANCES

(enraged)

You know, you are just like Kat's boyfriend, taking up space, not able to relinquish control.

MAGGIE

How dare you-

FRANCES

Look in the mirror before pointing your finger at other people.

MAGGIE

...You know what, forget it. I don't care what you think of me. I care about being of service. I thought I could do that here, but clearly this parish isn't a good fit.

(then)

Maybe I should leave.

FRANCES

I wish you would.

Maggie looks gutted. Her pain hardens to anger and off that-

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. FRANCES'S BEDROOM - DAY

On the bed is a note: "Went out to explore with L. Back soon. xE". Frances grabs her phone, texts Ellie: "Where are you?!?"
Angry, Frances sits on her bed and looks up to God.

FRANCES

(up to God)

I don't just sit on my hands while
 other people suffer! I do what I'm
 told and have faith that things
 will work themselves out...that's
 not wrong!

(then, vulnerable)

Is it?

Ellie texts: "At Ink Factory." Frances screams into her pillow.

EXT. PRAYER GARDEN - DAY

It's finally stopped raining. Maggie is still worked up, pacing and smoking. She turns **to the camera, abruptly.**

MAGGIE

(direct to God)

A bulldozer?!

She accidentally kicks over a small statue.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Shit!

(then to God, realizing)

Mea culpa.

(she fixes the statue.)

**I can't just abandon someone who's
 in trouble. I know what that feels
 like and...I won't do it. I can't.**

She gets up - and is startled to find SMASH standing there.

SMASH

I come in peace.

Maggie feels caught and tries to put her cigarette out, but-

SMASH (CONT'D)

Can I have a drag?

Her eyes widen. SMASH takes a long, professional drag.

SMASH (CONT'D)

I just have one puff a year.
That'll do me for another 365.
Enjoying our garden?

MAGGIE

It has...lots of potential.

SMASH

That's Frances. She believes with
patience and prayer, it will grow.

MAGGIE

Patience has never been my virtue.
The whole lunch thing was my fault.
Not hers.

SMASH

Oh, I know that.

Maggie smiles a little.

MAGGIE

I'm sorry. I feel like a screw up.

SMASH

(smiling at Maggie)
Takes one to know one.

MAGGIE

You?

SMASH

Oh yeah, I got in all kinds of
trouble. But look kid, even Jesus
made mistakes. When I feel lost, I
remind myself: "Action is an
antidote to despair".

MAGGIE

Corinthians?

SMASH

Joan Baez.

Maggie smiles. SMASH takes another puff on the cigarette.

SMASH (CONT'D)

Seems like there's more going on
than just the lunch?

MAGGIE

Yea...I'm not sure this parish is for me.

SMASH

Huh. What happened to that tough girl full of big ideas I met in our interview? The sisters in Vermont said you were someone who wouldn't back down. Someone who attacks problems head on. Even to the point of being a pain in the ass.

MAGGIE

And you still wanted me?

SMASH

That's why I wanted you. We need you. We just need you to get the sandwiches here on time too.

Maggie smiles a little.

SMASH (CONT'D)

You told me you wanted to fix things. So do that, but remember: The Catholic Church thinks in centuries. Not days.

Maggie takes this in. It resonates. A beat, then she nods.

MAGGIE

You're right. Thanks sister.

And with that, she leaves. On SMASH, one last drag...

EXT. INK FACTORY - EVENING

We are on a young nun's back as she approaches an old time-y tattoo parlor. Maggie?

REVERSE REVEAL: Frances gives her ID to a bouncer outside. She looks overcome by fear.

INT. INK FACTORY - EARLY EVENING

It's actually a hazy bar. Onstage, Laurie plays bass with a band. Ellie sits. She's LIT and enamored.

ELLIE

(tipsy, to Frances)

Lol! A nun walks into a bar!

(MORE)

ELLIE (CONT'D)

How cool is this place? Laurie invited me- it used to be a tattoo parlor!

FRANCES

(flatly)

No kidding.

(whispered)

How did you get in? You're not 21.

ELLIE

I'm not. But Kaylyn Connors of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin is.

Ellie flashes her fake ID. The crowd applauds for Laurie.

FRANCES

(sniffing Ellie)

You smell like pot-

Ellie laughs, caught.

ELLIE

Laurie says that cannabis is God-made. It has healing properties.

FRANCES

Ellie, I don't want to have to worry about you-

ELLIE

Then don't. I'm just having fun.

FRANCES

Are you *trying* to blow up your life?

ELLIE

I'm trying to *LIVE* my life.

Frances appeals to her sister.

FRANCES

Ellie, you worked so hard to get into college. I know it wasn't easy for you, but you did it. And everyone is so proud-

ELLIE

Why do you care so much what everyone else thinks? Jeez. I know you took a vow of obedience, but can't you think for yourself?

FRANCES

I do.

ELLIE

You did whatever Mom and Dad said,
now you do whatever the church says-

Ouch. This hits Frances.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

-I don't want to live my life
pleasing everyone else. When
something feels right, I want to
rush in and do it...

(This hits Frances too)

And I know what you're gonna say-

FRANCES

I think you're really brave.

ELLIE

(shocked)

Whoa, wasn't expecting that-

FRANCES

-And drunk. But you're right. It's
not easy trying to step out. But
sometimes you have to.

Ellie nods, surprised and pleased.

FRANCES (CONT'D)

Whaddya say? Can I take you home?

ELLIE

(mocking)

Isn't that "against the rules"?

Frances smiles. Ellie tries to stand but stumbles, drunker
than she knew. Frances steadies her. Ellie waves to Laurie.

INT. FRANCES'S ROOM

Frances tucks a very drunk and sleepy Ellie into bed.

FRANCES

Don't leave okay?

ELLIE

Mmmmmhfff...

INT. LADIES' BATHROOM - NIGHT

Maggie pulls the lever, and a tampon pops out of the machine.
Frances enters.

FRANCES
(searching)
Maggie?
(shocked to see tampon)
Whoa! See? God provides.

MAGGIE
God didn't provide these, I did.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. GRAND MASTER BODEGA - EARLIER THAT EVENING

Maggie and Rahim in an electric chess match. Delores and some
REGULARS watch. It's silent and tense. They lock eyes.

MAGGIE
(smugly moving her piece)
Checkmate.

Rahim's shocked and defeated. Delores high-fives Maggie.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Pay up!

Rahim smiles, reluctantly handing her the box of tampons.

END FLASHBACK:

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
SMASH reminded me that there are
things I *can* fix. Like this. But
it's not my job to fix everything,
like you said. I know I over
stepped with Kat-

FRANCES
Your heart was in the right place.
It was brave to step up to help
someone in need-
(then)
-But only Kat can fix her problems.
Some things are out of our hands.

Maggie softens.

MAGGIE

That's hard for me.

(then)

I'm sorry I got you in trouble. I told them it was my fault-

FRANCES

(smiling)

I'm sure they knew. But it's okay.

(then)

Sometimes I'm too comfortable leaving things in God's hands. I don't want to be complacent. I wanna be brave, like you.

Frances smiles. Maggie takes a deep breath, pivoting-

MAGGIE

You asked when I was called...

FRANCES

It's ok. You don't need to tell me.

MAGGIE

I want to.

(beat)

It's personal. To me. What Kat's going through.

Frances nods with support, leans on the sink to listen. Maggie starts to open up. Finally.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I used to date a guy like that. He was super controlling. And then he got...violent.

Frances is shocked.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I forgave him at first. I mean, I loved him. Like Kat does.

(then)

But then it happened again and again. He made me believe that I deserved it, I wasn't enough. But, one night my feet led me to the church. And for the first time in a long time, I felt safe. I could hear myself think. And I felt like I belonged to something.

(then)

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I made a bargain with God - Help me fix my garbage life and I'll devote the rest of it to you. God led me home. I packed a bag. And I left. And with that came an overwhelming sense of...peace.

FRANCES

...God does provide.

Maggie softens, connecting with Frances in a new way.

MAGGIE

Faith showed me I am enough. I can help myself. And maybe even, other people too.

FRANCES

You know, maybe if you told Kat your story, she'd understand where you were coming from.

MAGGIE

I already did.

FRANCES

What? How?

MAGGIE

I DM'd her on Instagram. Which is probably what I should have done in the first place. She can decide what the next step is.

Frances smiles, lovingly.

EXT. CHURCH DUMPSTERS - MORNING

The sun rises as a thick rat scurries out of a dumpster with a wet slice of vegan pizza. Another gorgeous day in Brooklyn.

INT. OUR LADY CHURCH VESTIBULE - MORNING

Parishioners arrive. Fr. Quinn and Bishop Suarez glad-hand. Maggie and Frances prepare for the processional.

FRANCES

Have you heard from her?

MAGGIE

Not yet. But I'm praying on it.

QUINN
 (approaching them)
 Remember what we practiced?

The girls rehearse aloud what Quinn made them practice earlier. Their collection baskets are perfectly synchronized.

SISTERS
 (with arm gestures)
 Pass, and pull, and wait, and walk.

QUINN
 (pleased)
 I'm counting on you two today.

The girls nod, in earnest.

INT. OUR LADY VESTIBULE - MORNING

The pews are full. Maggie and Frances hold collection baskets. Daniel has the Eucharistic gifts. Maggie's phone dings. Quinn reacts. Organ music. The processional begins.

Frances eyes the text: "It's Kat. I read your message... Can we talk?" Maggie responds: "Absolutely. Can you meet up later?" Three dots loom. Kat texts: "I'm alone now. Before my meet this afternoon."

MAGGIE
 (rushed whisper)
 We need to stay here. I know.

FRANCES
 (whispered)
 No, let's go. She asked us. Quinn can scrape the cheese on this one.

Maggie beams. They hand their collection baskets to Daniel.

MAGGIE
 (whispered)
 Cover for us.

Daniel is flustered. The girls go to exit- passing Joyce.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 Hey, Hot Wheels, we need a ride-

Joyce smiles, the girls jump on the scooter. Quinn notices just as they zip away. Off his anger-

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. UNIVERSITY DORM - MORNING

Kat is outside, waiting for them as they pull up. Joyce stays on the scooter. Before the sisters approach-

MAGGIE
(to Frances)
You sure you wanna come too?

FRANCES
All for one.

The sisters approach Kat together.

MAGGIE
Hey. I'm glad you reached out.

KAT
(suspicious)
-When I got your message, I... Did that really happen to you?

Maggie nods. Kat takes it in. Silence between them. Then-

MAGGIE
I'm so sorry about yesterday-

KAT
(hurt)
...I feel like...I confided in you and you just barged in.

MAGGIE
It was wrong. I just wanted to share some things that helped me. But I totally overstepped-

KAT
(nods, then)
It wasn't cool of me to say I didn't know you either.

MAGGIE
It's okay.
(then)
I used to believe it was all my fault. But talking to people really helped me.

KAT
Yea... I, um....

She stops herself. Her eyes well up. Something electric between them-

MAGGIE
(softly)
I know.

Kat looks at Maggie, grateful to be understood.

KAT
Thanks for coming.

MAGGIE
Always. And if you ever decide some resources could be helpful or if you just want someone to listen, I want you to know that you're not alone. We're here for you.

Kat nods.

FRANCES
Plus, the New to NY group, will be back next week--

MAGGIE
I'll be there. I'm a newbie!
(Kat smiles)
And we're rolling out some new programs too, keep an eye on our Insta.

FRANCES
We are?
(off a look from Maggie)
Oh, yeah. We are. Cool.

MAGGIE
Keep in touch, Kat. You know where to find us if you ever need us.

KAT
...Thanks.

She hesitates, but then gives the sisters a big hug before she exits back into her dorm.

FRANCES
I know that's not exactly what you wanted.

MAGGIE

Nah. It's ok. Building trust takes time. Now she knows we're here for her whenever she's ready. And she stood up for herself. That's a start.

Frances smiles, Maggie is hopeful. Then, they remember-

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

We really screwed Daniel with the collection.

FRANCES

We need to go deal with that-

VOICE O.S.

You two again?

The Security Guard starts walking towards them.

MAGGIE

Oh shoot, Joyce rev it up!

FRANCES

We're sorry officer!!

SECURITY GUARD

Hey!

They jump on the scooter. Students laugh as the Security Guard runs them off campus.

JOYCE

(to Security)

Catch me if you can, Piggy!

Frances holds tight to Maggie-

MAGGIE

(to Frances)

Fr. Quinn's gonna kill us.

FRANCES

(to God)

Guide and protect us!

INT. OUR LADY CHURCH VESTIBULE - MORNING

Daniel's over his skis running between the altar and the pews. He struggles to maneuver the collection and prepare the gifts simultaneously, failing at both. The Bishop looks confounded. Quinn deflates. The baskets are nearly empty.

EXT. BROOKLYN STREETS - LATER

Joyce is absolutely flying. Veils flap in the breeze.

FRANCES
SMASH wasn't kidding about you
breaking the speed limit.

JOYCE
(deadpans)
Corazon, they don't call me Formula
Nun for nothin'.

She comes to a screeching halt, in a cloud of dust.

FRANCES
Hey Dee- Thanks for meeting us!

REVERSE REVEAL: Delores with an army of Girl Scouts.

DELORES
We'd never pass up a cookie-related
business opportunity. Plus, they
stan nun TikTok.

Frances and Maggie are flattered. Maggie hops off to help the Girl Scouts pull their wagons full of cookies. Delores rides on the scooter with her hands up like a roller coaster. Frances speaks into her phone.

FRANCES
Ellie? Are you with Laurie?

INT. OUR LADY SACRISTY - DAY

After mass, Quinn and the Bishop alone. Quinn is defensive.

BISHOP SUAREZ
(disappointed)
I thought you had more nuns here.
That mass was incredibly chaotic-

Maggie and Frances rush in, loud and out of breath.

MAGGIE
Father, sorry we're late!

FRANCES
Excellency, we can explain!

The Bishop eyes Quinn pointedly.

FR. QUINN
(through gritted teeth)
Sisters, now's not the time.

Maggie eyes Frances who's putty in the presence of her crush.

MAGGIE
(stepping in)
Father, Your Excellency-

FRANCES
(to Maggie)
I got it.
(bravely, to the Bishop)
I know we left you in the lurch
today but- We've prepared a
surprise for you. Would you join us
in the garden?

Quinn's taken aback by her new moxie. The Bishop's intrigued.

CUT TO:

EXT. PRAYER GARDEN - MOMENTS LATER

Rag tag, but merry decor. Older parishioners on the grass chat with the college-aged band, choir members and their friends who have come to see the gig. All indulge in cookies from Girl Scout Troupe 364's cookie stall.

QUINN
How did you get all these people-?

MAGGIE
(brandishing her phone)
The power of social media. And Girl
Scout Cookies.

The girls know the collection was light. Joyce holds a basket for any "after church" donations. Maggie nods to Laurie-

LAURIE
(On bass, to the choir)
Five, six, se-ven-
(sung)
I do my hair toss check my nails,
baby how you feelin'?

CHOIR
Feelin' good as heaven!

Ellie wails on drums and the music swells with ebullient joy.

Delores leads some light choreography. Parishioners dance. The sisters rope SMASH and Joyce into the moves. Quinn is overwhelmed by it all. Daniel films it on his phone.

INSERT: TIKTOK VIDEO OF THE WHOLE CHURCH DANCING TO LIZZO.
 It's hilarious. And full. Happy chaos. The money pours in.
 Afterwards, the sisters approach Quinn and the Bishop.

QUINN
 (running interference)
 Excellency, I'm so sorry-

BISHOP SUAREZ
 Are you kidding? This is what I've
 been talking about. A church worthy
 of renovation. I'll call that
 donor.

QUINN
 He won't regret it!

BISHOP SUAREZ
She definitely won't!
 (the sisters beam)
 The future of the church is right
 here. Look at this youthful energy.

Quinn's at a loss. Frances is emboldened now.

FRANCES
 (to the Bishop)
 We know this weekend wasn't
 perfect, but we're focused on
 what's really important-

QUINN
 -the restoration.

MAGGIE
 -our community.

FRANCES
 -And our little patch of Earth.
 Would you join me bishop, in
 blessing the garden?

Maggie smiles, Frances is learning to step out. Yas bish!

BISHOP SUAREZ
 (pleased)
 Absolutely. I would be honored.
 Gosh, these cookies are excellent!

Bishop exits toward the flower beds, laden with Samoas. Quinn
 looks to the sisters-

MAGGIE
 You're welcome.

QUINN
 (clenched jaw)
 We will speak later.

The sisters nod solemnly, he exits. Frances exhales. She smiles to Maggie and follows the Bishop.

EXT. GAZEBO, PRAYER GARDEN - LATER

The prayer garden clears out. Monica lingers with our Catholic yentas, SMASH and Joyce, who strain their necks looking for Daniel. He hides, seeking refuge with Maggie-

MAGGIE
 Thanks for covering, we owe you.

DANIEL
 (referring to the event)
 This certainly made up for it.
 (then)
 How did everything go?

MAGGIE
 (thinking)
 Small steps. But good.

Then- SMASH spots him and tries to wave him over. Daniel looks beyond embarrassed. Maggie notices.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
 (cheeky)
 Want me to tell them we're dating?

Daniel laughs, grateful. He decides to open up-

DANIEL
 Sister, I'm not interested in women.

Maggie smiles, honored to have Daniel's trust.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 I haven't told them yet because...
 I dunno, it's complicated

MAGGIE
 Hey. You don't have to explain it to me.

Daniel smiles.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(cheeky)

Look, even the Pope's finally coming around, so I think anyone who's not can suck it.

Daniel laughs. SMASH is still trying to get his attention.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(supportively)

Quick, make a run for it. I can cover.

He smiles, grateful and as he exits, hands her the collection basket - full of cash. Maggie's thrilled! Delores exits the party with an empty wagon and a handful of cash, too.

DELORES

(waving to Maggie)

Excellent assist, my sister.

Maggie salutes her as she leaves. Maggie looks down at the basket of money. A touch of the devil in her. She gets a sneaky idea.

EXT. PRAYER GARDEN - LATER

Maggie approaches Frances, who points to a small bud peeking out of the soil.

FRANCES

(ecstatic)

I knew it! With our powers combined-

MAGGIE

(warm, but skeptical)

You guys *just* blessed it! The rain probably deserves more credit.

Frances smiles, and **looks up to God-**

FRANCES

(up to God)

But who made it rain?

Maggie smiles, then sees Quinn. She tugs at Frances,

MAGGIE

Come on.

They wander over.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Father, here's some money we raised
in lieu of the collection at mass.

She proudly hands the basket of cash to Quinn. He counts it.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

You know, I have lots of new
programming ideas we could
implement-

FR. QUINN

(pocketing the money)

-Thank you sister. I think you've
had enough ideas for today.

Quinn exits.

MAGGIE

Oh, I'm just getting started.

Maggie goes to speak again, but stops herself. Frances
smiles at Maggie, who is learning to relinquish control.

EXT. CHURCH STEPS - LATER

Ellie packs up a drum kit, finishing a phone call. Maggie and
Frances approach.

ELLIE

(to Frances)

I've decided to stay. Permanently.

(off Frances's reaction)

College isn't for me right now.

FRANCES

New York's a huge commitment Ellie.

MAGGIE

Preach.

FRANCES

Have you even told Mom and Dad?

ELLIE

It wasn't their favorite idea, but
I told them we'll figure it out.

FRANCES

We?! You will figure it out. You'll
need to find a job, an apartment-

ELLIE

I'm on it- Laurie's band just asked me to do another gig! So...between that and busking in the subway, I'm sure I'll be able to get by.

Frances balks at Ellie's naiveté. Then, Laurie approaches.

LAURIE

We're gonna go grab a drink.

ELLIE

(winking to Frances)
So...don't wait up!

Laurie flashes 2 peace signs. They leave.

FRANCES

(calling after them)
Be safe!

MAGGIE

(teasing Frances)
Atheism isn't contagious, but I know other things that are....

Frances punches Maggie, sibling style.

FRANCES

(horrified)
Ew!!! That's my little sister!

INT. QUINN'S OFFICE - EVENING

Quinn sits behind a stately desk. SMASH looks out the window.

QUINN

(seriously)
That Sr. Margaret seems...feisty.
Are you sure you can handle her?

SMASH

Of course.

QUINN

Good. We don't want her barreling through, trying to change everything.

SMASH

Exactly.

SMASH stares out the window as a mischievous smile creeps across her face.

INT. MAGGIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Maggie sits on her bed, then pulls a wad of cash out of her pocket. The other half of the collection basket.

She takes an envelope and writes on the outside: New Programs. She puts the money inside and kisses the envelope. **She looks directly to God.**

MAGGIE
 (defensively to God)
What?
 (then)
Ask forgiveness, not permission right?

FRANCES O.S.
 Maggie! Come on-

Maggie jumps. She slides the cash under her bed and exits.

INT. GRAND MASTER BODEGA - NIGHT

Maggie and Frances eat baklava. Frances sports her new dress.

AAHAD
 What's the verdict? Michelin star?

FRANCES
 Best baklava in Brooklyn.

MAGGIE
 10/10. Would def recommend.

AAHAD
 You must Yelp me! I'm 5 stars. The reviews really help.

Maggie grabs her wallet but Aahad waves her off.

AAHAD (CONT'D)
 I hear we have a young Bobby Fisher in our midst. Bobby Sister!

Rahim shakes his head still raw from the defeat.

AAHAD (CONT'D)
 Next time you will play the real grandmaster: Me!

Frances goes at the cake, chatting with Aahad. Maggie crosses to Rahim, who's carrying a crate of beer or whatever makes him look incredibly strong. He smiles and speaks softly-

RAHIM
(flirtatiously)
Want a rematch? Maybe over dinner?

Maggie smirks and points to her veil.

MAGGIE
I'm a nun remember?

RAHIM
(cheeky)
I thought you weren't...yet?

Maggie's at a loss for words. It's clear she's tempted.

RAHIM (CONT'D)
Look, I won't tell my sheik, if you don't tell...whoever your guy is.

MAGGIE
My guy is God. He already knows.

RAHIM
If you believe in God, then we have the same religion.

Maggie stands mouth agape. **She looks directly to God.**

MAGGIE
(direct to God)
Nice move. Definitely tempting. But it's gonna take more than that.

She steadies herself and turns back to Rahim.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Maybe some other time.

Frances approaches Maggie and they link arms, heading for the door. Maggie looks back at Rahim - it's electric. Maggie whispers to Frances. The deli door dings as they laugh and walk into the noisy Brooklyn night.

Schlemiel! Schlimazel! We're doing it our way.

END OF EPISODE