SUPERNATURAL

Episode #918

"Meta Fiction"

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CASTIEL GABRIEL GADREEL METATRON MISHA COLLINS RICHARD SPEIGHT JR. TAHMOH PENIKETT CURTIS ARMSTRONG

BUXOM LASS HANNAH IAN INGRID

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TEASER

FADE IN:

BLACK. And then... the opening of "Fanfare-Rondeau" by Jean-Joseph Mouret (public domain) carries us into...

1 INT. DEN - NIGHT

1

A roaring fire. Hardwood floors. Craftsman-style shelves line every wall, all of them stuffed with books. A thick, oak desk is covered with books as well. PAN ACROSS the desk and we take in the titles: The Iliad. Hamlet. Alice in Wonderland. Slaughterhouse Five. Tex. The Stand. The Art of Dramatic Writing. Save the Cat.

And then: a small stack of the Supernatural books by Carver Edlund. What? They're classics, too.

Finally, our PAN ends on a Hermes 3000 Typewriter. Unseen hands pound the keys.

CLOSE ON THE TYPEWRITER: the page is formatted like a screenplay. CASTIEL: What if I fail again?

PULL BACK TO REVEAL...

METATRON is on the keys.

He's wearing a Hefner style smoking jacket. A glass of bourbon nearby. He pounds out a few more words and then stops. He looks up. Directly at the CAMERA.

At us.

For a moment, he gives us a surprised, "I didn't see you there look" on his face. But then he smiles, leans on his desk and addresses the CAMERA.

METATRON

What makes a story work? The plot? The characters? The text? The subtext? And who gives it meaning? The writer?

(he points to camera)
Or you?

He takes a sip of his bourbon.

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CONTINUED: 1

1

METATRON Tonight, I thought I'd tell you a

story... and let you decide.

SMASH TO TITLES...

...except this time, halfway through the title card, there's STATIC. The image drops out and is replaced by a new TITLE CARD that's simply one word:

METATRON

BLACKOUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. MEN OF LETTERS - BATHROOM - DAY (DAY 1)

CLOSE ON DEAN WINCHESTER

2

3

His head under the shower. He looks exhausted. A weariness in his eyes that we haven't seen in a long time. Steam rises, filling the FRAME. DISSOLVE TO:

A HAND wipes steam off a mirror and we find Dean, in his robe now, hair tussled, towel around his neck. He checks his reflection in the mirror. Doesn't like what he sees. He heaves a heavy sigh and looks down. His eyes land on...

The Mark of Cain.

It sits innocently on his forearm. But something about it looks menacing. He runs his fingers over it. Dean looks back up at himself. Coldness in his eyes now. Darkness.

INT. MEN OF LETTERS - CROW'S NEST - DAY

3

SAM WINCHESTER paces by the map table. The map is marked up with POST-ITs. He's got a cell phone to his ear.

> SAM (INTO PHONE) Alright, thanks Carlos. I appreciate it. You come across any more Demon activity, call us, okay?

Sam hangs up. He places another Post-It on the board, this time in Michigan. He writes, "HIGHLAND, MI" on it.

Sam opens his personal phone book, dragging his finger down the page. He finds a number and is about to dial when Dean enters (dressed, shirtsleeves rolled up).

SAM

Hey.

Dean looks at the map.

DEAN

Anything?

SAM

Dozen Demon related cases. People without souls acting out, but...

DEAN

... no sign of Abaddon.

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3 CONTINUED:

Sam shakes his head. Nope.

SAM

She's disappeared.

DEAN

Just gotta keep digging.

Dean studies the map. Sam studies his brother. Worried.

SAM

You okay?

DEAN

What? Yeah. I'm fine.

Dean feels Sam's stare. He unconsciously rolls down his sleeve... covering the Mark of Cain up.

DEAN

Let's work.

Dean pulls out his own phone, grabs the phone book from Sam and dials a number from the page.

DEAN (INTO PHONE)

Nina. Dean Winchester. Wait-don't hang up. I need your help on something. We're looking for...

Dean's voice drifts away as we PUSH IN on Sam, who still looks worried about Dean...

INT. WAREHOUSE #1 - HALLWAY - DAY 4

4

Derelict. Pulled wires. Mildew stains. Whatever this was, it ain't pretty now. We hear an ANGELIC TONE. Beautiful. Haunting. Suddenly, a shadow moves across the floor. PAN UP to reveal the shadow belongs to...

CASTIEL.

He moves down a cramped hall FILLED with trash. As he squeezes through the detritus, the TONE gets louder. His coat catches on a piece of stray wire, TEARING the inside lining. He looks down at it. And that's when he sees:

Blood on the floor.

We can make out the shape of two bloody hand prints. Hands that were dragged away, creating a nasty smear across the cement floor.

Cass follows the trail of blood, which leads around the corner and into--

INT. WAREHOUSE #1 - BACK ROOM - DAY 5

5

It's filled with DEAD ANGELS. Bodies everywhere. Broken winged SCORCH MARKS on the floor, the walls, the ceiling.

It was a slaughter.

Cass takes it all in, his face knotted with pain and loss. What the hell happened here? As if answering him, he spots something on the wall: a SYMBOL. A blue light pulsating from within. Hand painted, it's different than Enochian symbols we've seen before. Something older about it. Primal.

And it's the source of the TONE.

Cass moves closer, as if drawn to it. He pulls out his phone. Snaps a photo of the SYMBOL. Just after he does, the TONE emanating from the SYMBOL fades, as does its light, flaring out like dying blue embers.

He runs his hand along the SYMBOL. Distracted, Cass fails to notice a FIGURE rise behind him. The figure quietly moves closer to Cass... pulls an ANGEL BLADE. Just as the unseen figure is about to stab Cass...

...he whips around, dodging his assailant's blow. The Angel Blade just misses him, and the figure collapses in a heap. Cass pulls the figure over to find: a bloody and battered ANGEL. HANNAH (30s, lovely). Her right eye SWOLLEN shut.

HANNAH

Please... please don't hurt me.

Cass looks at her, sympathy in his eyes.

CASTIEL

I'm not going to hurt you.

He holds up his hands. Peace. She looks at him, weary.

CASTIEL

Here...

He reaches down. She flinches. He tenderly eases her up.

CASTIEL

What's your name?

HANNAH

Hannah.

CASTIEL

What happened here, Hannah?

She draws a weakened hand up and points up... at the SYMBOL. Cass looks at it, then back to her.

CASTIEL

I heard it, too. What was it?

HANNAH

I don't know. It sounded... familiar. It sounded like Heaven. It's been so... strange down here. I followed the tone and found so many of my brothers and sisters had as well. It felt safe here.

(then)

And then... then the doors slammed shut. And a strange Angel arrived. He said he worked for the new God.

This lands on Cass.

CASTIEL

Metatron.

HANNAH

He made us an offer: join Metatron, bow to him, fight for him. And those that did would one day be allowed to return to Heaven.

CASTIEL

Return to Heaven?

HANNAH

I didn't believe him, either. But he said he would take us home. Some Angels joined him. My friends and I refused. And...

CASTIEL

I'm sorry for your loss. For all of our loss.

He reaches down and cups her cheek. A FLASH OF LIGHT and then... ANOTHER ANGLE reveals he HEALED her wounds. She blinks away the pain, finally gets a good look at Cass.

HANNAH

You're Castiel, aren't you?

Cass nods. Guilty as charged, your honor.

6

CONTINUED: (2)

HANNAH

You took a stand against Bartholomew. Are you going to help us? Lead us against Metatron?

Cass stands. Doesn't like the sound of what she's asking.

CASTIEL

I'm no leader.

HANNAH

But--

CASTIEL

I'm no leader, Hannah. But I will find Metatron and make him pay.

HANNAH

Let me help you. Let us help you.

CASTIEL

You're safer away from me. Now: what was the name of the Angel who attacked you?

PUSH IN ON Hannah, just as she's about to answer we SMASH TO:

INT. MEN OF LETTERS - CROW'S NEST - DAY

6

Dean hangs up a cell phone. Sam looks at him, anything? Dean shakes his head. Nope. Then: his phone VIBRATES. He checks the ID, it says: CASTIEL. He answers the call.

DEAN (INTO PHONE)

Cass? The hell you been, man--Wait. Slow down. What!?

Dean listens a long beat. He raises his eyebrows. A "Holy Shit" look on his face. Sam looks at him: what?

TIME CUT TO:

7 INT. MEN OF LETTERS - CROW'S NEST - MOMENTS LATER

7

The phone is now on the table. On speaker. Sam has the same "Holy Shit" look on his face that Dean had a moment ago.

SAM

Gadreel. Gadreel is working for
Metatron? For how long?

INTERCUT AS NEEDED WITH THE FOLLOWING SCENE:

INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - DAY - INTERCUT

8

Cass enters, talking on his phone. This is where he's been holed up. Lore books on the bed. He closes the door, revealing a HUNTER'S WALL on the back of it: a US Map marked up with ANGELIC CASES.

CASTIEL

I don't know.

DEAN

So Metatron made Gadreel kill Kevin?

CASTIEL

It would explain a lot-- and there's been no new prophets, which is something Metatron could have fixed to his advantage.

DEAN

Gadreel said Angels could return to Heaven. How? Thought there was no way to reverse the spell.

SAM

Said <u>Crowley</u>. Look, let's just find Gadreel and beat some answers out of him.

Cass looks at his cell phone.

CASTIEL

Here's something to start on that: I'm sending you a photo of the symbol that drew all the Angels in.

He pulls up the photo of the SYMBOL on his phone. Sends it to the boys.

Sam pulls it up on his laptop.

SAM

Got it.

CASTIEL

It's acting as some kind of Angel Siren. Some kind if spell. The ingredients used to create it were very odd. Griffin Feathers, Bones of a Fairy.

(shakes his head)
I've never seen it before.

CONTINUED:

SAM

Me neither. Lemme see what I can find.

Sam digs into his laptop.

Castiel paces in his room. He looks at a mini fridge, labeled "Honor Bar."

CASTIEL

What is Honorable about a miniature bar in a motel room?

DEAN

Everything.

Cass makes a face. Doesn't like Dean's answer.

CASTIEL

How are you, Dean?

Sam looks up: curious about that as well...

DEAN

I'm fine, Cass. How about you?

CASTIEL

I miss my wings. Life on the road... smells.

Dean smiles. Sam points to his laptop.

SAM

Hey: got a match. Not from lore-but from Police Records.

CLOSE ON SAM'S LAPTOP: we see CRIME SCENE PHOTOS [different from earlier]. Dead bodies. Burnt Angel Wings. And on the wall of the crime scenes: the SYMBOL.

SAM

That symbol you found was spotted at a handful of crime scenes -- all multiple homicides.

Cass heads over to his Hunter's Wall.

CASTIEL

Where were these crime scenes?

Utah: Baker, Hill Valley--

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8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

Cass spots the cities on the map on his Hunter's Wall.

CASTIEL

And I'm in Bishop's Falls, Utah.

He drags his finger up the map.

CASTITEL

Gadreel is heading North.

DEAN

So, what's the next big town?

CASTIEL

There's two-- could be Auburn or Ogden.

DEAN

Alright, you take Auburn, we'll take Ogden. Meet in the middle.

We stay on Cass as he hangs up. He grabs a few lore books. Suddenly, the lights in the room FLICKER. Odd. He looks around. Nothing. Then goes back to packing.

Meanwhile, Sam and Dean pack up as well.

DEAN

Didn't we work a case in Ogden?

SAM

Uh, I think so. Yeah. Witch sitch, right?

DEAN

There was that kid in town that helped us, wasn't there?

SAM

We should give him a call, see if he's still in business. What was his name again?

9 EXT. IAN'S HERBAL REMEDIES - DAY

9

A tiny store on a small town Main Street. A CAR pulls up outside. A FIGURE gets out of the car, we follow him into--

10 INT. IAN'S HERBAL REMEDIES - DAY

10

Candles. Stuff. Oh, let's be honest: this is a place to buy weed. The unseen FIGURE heads in to find IAN (20s, stoner) re-stocking some glass items. Okay, fine: they're bongs.

(CONTINUED)

FIGURE

Good afternoon.

IAN

It's afternoon?

FIGURE

I wonder if I may procure from you the Feathers of a Griffin.

Ian stiffens a moment. Almost sober. Almost. He turns around to see the figure is none other than: GADREEL.

IAN

Uh, I got some off the menu items, but this ain't Diagon Alley.

GADREEL

I saw the Hunter Signs on the door, young man. You have what I seek.

Ian stands. He looks around. Sees the coast is clear.

IAN

Griffin Feathers, huh? Not exactly looking to trip the light fantastic, are we?

GADREEL

Not exactly.

Ian moves behind the counter.

IAN

Lemme check the stash.

Gadreel looks down at the counter. Finds a tablet-style device. Ian sees him looking.

IAN

Help yourself. That's my library.

Gadreel picks it up, touching the screen.

IAN

Got over 200 books on there. Mostly True Crime, stuff, y'know? It's crime? But it's true.

GADREEL

Humans never cease to amaze me.

CONTINUED: (2)

IAN

(humans?)

Excuse me?

Gadreel sets the tablet down, playing through his mistake.

GADREEL

I'm curious: do you also have any Fairy Bones-- it does not matter what realm they were from.

IAN

Griffins and Fairies... the Hell you hunting, man?

GADREEL

Family.

Ian makes a face at this second strange remark. He pushes past it, and grabs a plastic bin labeled, FEATHERS.

IAN

Okay, let's see what we have here.

He heads back around the counter. PAN DOWN to reveal next to Ian's stash: his cell phone. It vibrates as a call comes in. The CALLER ID reads: WINCHESTERS... the phone rings and rings... unanswered.

11 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - DAY

11

Packed, Cass moves toward the door when... the lights FLICKER again. The room goes dark (the curtains are drawn) and then: the TV pops on. We HEAR, um, well, we hear PORN MUSIC. The screen is RED. A title appears: "Casa Erotica 14".

12 INT. CASA EROTICA - BOUDOIR - FOREVER NIGHT - INTERCUT 12

A BUXOM LASS lies on a bed. Business suit. Glasses. Hair done up in a bun. She types into an iPad, on a Twitter style page, "tweeting" her thoughts as she says them, "hashtags" and all.

BUXOM LASS (V.O.)

Sometimes you need a break from the hustle and bustle of the city life. Hashtag: AMIRITE? Sometimes you need... Hashtag: Casa Erotica.

There's a KNOCK on the door. She gets up to answer it.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

CONTINUED:

Cass looks at the TV, makes a face.

CASTIEL

That's inappropriate.

He turns off the TV. But it won't turn off. He tries again and again: nada. Finally he shakes his head and walks away.

MALE VOICE FROM THE TV (O.S.)

Hello. Hello? Hola?

Cass looks back at the TV. The Buxom Lass has answered the door. And we now see a familiar face on the screen:

GABRIEL.

That's right: The Trickster. The Archangel. The guy who's been dead since Season Five. He's in the movie, porn-stache and all. Except, unlike we've seen him before: he looks beaten up. Gabriel locks eyes with Cass. Smiles and winks.

GABRIEL

Remember me, bucko?

CASTIEL

Gabriel?

GABRIEL

I'm gonna take that as a yes.

Gabriel SNAPS his fingers...

ON CASS... we DOLLY OVER and behind him we now see that Gabriel is in the Motel Room!

PUSH IN on Gabriel as he dramatically removes his porn-stache and says:

GABRIEL

I need your help, brother.

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

13 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - NIGHT 13

Picking up right where we were, Cass and Gabriel.

CASTIEL

But... you're dead.

GABRIEL

Please: you can't take the trick out of The Trickster.

CASTIEL

So, I assume you faked your own death?

GABRIEL

And I assume you haven't been let into Mensa while I've been gone.

CASTIEL

Where have you been?

GABRIEL

Hither with a side of yon. (off Cass's look) I was hiding, Captain Side Eyes. In the safest place in the universe: Heaven.

Cass looks down, as he realizes what this means...

GABRIEL

But then you and the other two Stooges had to ruin Christmas, didn't you? And I Fell "A" over "T" with the rest of the stiffs.

CASTIEL

I'm sorry.

GABRIEL

Oh, cry me a river. Look: I dropped. I hid. I finally watched Downton Abbey. Then your BFF Metatron sent his minions after me. He thinks since I'm an Archangel that I've got extra juice.

CASTIEL

That you're a threat.

GABRIEL

And wouldn't that be nice? But I got hurt by The Fall, too. Used most of my juice to get back into porn.

(beat)

That came out wrong.

(beat)

So did that. Anyway: I been on the run. Then a few weeks ago, someone started playing my song.

CASTIEL

The Angel Siren.

GABRIEL

No: The Horn of Gabriel. One of Dad's old party favors that I never got around to playing with. Metatron dug it up and started blowing.

CASTIEL

Why did you follow it?

GABRIEL

Being beached on this Island of Misfit toys has taught me there's safety in numbers. But it turns out Metatron was using it to trap Angels, not unite them.

CASTIEL

It wasn't Metatron. It was his second in command: Gadreel.

GABRIEL

Gadreel? That old chestnut? Wow. Metatron can pick em, can't he?

CASTIEL

How did you find me?

GABRIEL

I was gonna bail once I saw the International House of Burnt Pancakes, but then I felt a disturbance in The Force. Which turned out to be you.

CASTIEL

What do you want from me?

GABRIEL

Your help, cupcake. I'm getting the band back together. We're going on the Kill Metatron Tour-- (points to himself)
--and you're looking at their new front man.

14 EXT. IAN'S HERBAL REMEDIES - NIGHT

14

The Impala pulls up outside. Sam exits, on the phone.

SAM

Still no answer.

DEAN

Sam.

Dean points at the store. Lights are off. But the OPEN sign is still on the front door. They exchange a look. Not good.

15 INT. IAN'S HERBAL REMEDIES - NIGHT

15

The door opens. Sam and Dean enter. Guns drawn. They sweep through the store. Sam moves through the aisles, Dean checks the back. Dean looks at Sam. He shakes his head. Nothing.

Dean picks up the plastic bin labeled FEATHERS.

DEAN

You'll never guess what's missing.

He holds up the box: empty. Sam shakes his head. He checks a janitor closet, opening the door and JUMPSCARE as Ian's DEAD BODY drops to the ground. His eyes are BURNT, just like Kevin Tran's eyes (too soon?).

SAM

Dammit.

DEAN

Alright, we gotta find Gadreel before he lights up the Bat Signal.

SAM

Hey.

Sam points up at: a SECURITY CAMERA. The camera is right behind the counter, facing the store front. Sam heads over to it while Dean covers Ian with a 100% organic hemp blanket. Sam follows the camera's cable down to a laptop.

CONTINUED:

SAM

Alright, let's see what we can see.

He unlocks the security camera footage. Sam FAST FORWARDS. People walk by outside. And then, we see a car pull up. Sam slows the video down as GADREEL exits the car. Sam points at the car's plates.

SAM

I'll run the plates, check all the local traffic cameras, see if he's still in town.

DEAN

Awesome. We grab that dick, get him to flip on his boss.

SAM

Sounds like a plan. So how do we grab Gadreel?

Off Dean... a "good question" look on his face--

16 INT. CASS'S CAR - PMP - NIGHT 16

Cass and Gabriel drive. Cass has his phone to his ear.

DEAN (IN PHONE)

It's Dean. You know what to do.

CASTIEL (INTO PHONE)

Dean, it's me--

GABRIEL

Whoa: hands free much? Gimme that. (he grabs the phone) What's up, dummies? Remember me? The guy who died for your sins?
No, the other one. Thanks for the flowers and condolences. Really meant a lot to the fam. Any old how: me and your boy toy here are headed to your top secret domicile. Call to discuss. Oh, and if you find Gadreel, give him an extra stab from us.

(he hangs up the phone, tossing it)

Those kookie kids.

CASTIEL

You've been back for months. What have you seen out there?

GABRIEL

After all the fire and rain? Well, you know, sunny days I was pretty sure would never end. Oh, and total, nigh Biblical chaos. Crowley and Aba-douche duking it out? Good times. And then there's our peeps, scattered like confetti.

CASTIEL

There has been a lot of ... confusion.

GABRIEL

Ya think? Most Angels aren't like us, Castiel: they can't handle the whole Free Will thing. They're sheep. Drones. But us? We're different. We're rebels. One with a cause. One without.

CASTIEL

I'm just a soldier.

GABRIEL

Bitch, please. You've been God more often than Dad has.

CASTIEL

And look how that worked out.

GABRIEL

Well, you can be a soldier all you want. I'm gonna need as many as I can find.

CASTIEL

Why are you doing this Gabriel?

Gabriel looks out the window. Sad. Sincere.

GABRIEL

I got off the bench and took my shot. Sure, I saved Huey and Duey from my big brother.

As he describes this, we FLASH TO GABRIEL in previous episodes, mostly drawing from Episode 519, "Hammer of the Gods." We see Gabriel confront Lucifer while Sam and Dean escape. And then we see Gabriel get KILLED.

GABRIEL

But then... I did what I always do: I hid. I ran. I've always run. From Dad. From my family. I don't want to run anymore.

CASTIEL

What's changed?

GABRIEL

Me, you silly rabbit. Tricks are for kids.

(shakes his head) Base jumping out of Heaven sans parachute and landing face first into this spinning pile of guano? Bit of an eye opener. I want to do what I was meant to do: lead.

People forget Dad had a plan for me, too, y'know.

Gabriel is totally sincere. And Cass? Is totally relieved.

CASTIEL

Well, I'm glad. We need a leader. And I'm happy that it's you.

GABRIEL

We could do it together.

Cass shakes his head. No.

CASTIEL

I'm right where I belong.

Gabriel smiles. Cass looks back at the road. Gabriel's smile fades. He looks... frustrated. He shakes it off.

GABRIEL

Little low on gas, aren't we?

Cass looks down. Surprised.

CASTIEL

I thought I'd filled it up. I'll make a stop.

17 INT. GAS N' SIP - NIGHT 17

Cass and Gabriel enter. Gabriel takes in all the snacks.

GABRIEL

Oh: smell that cancer. Delicious.

Cass heads to the counter. There's nobody there. Strange. Suddenly, CAR LIGHTS flash across the store. Gabriel looks outside. Turns white...

GABRIEL

Um... remember the Minions of Metatron I mentioned?

Cass looks out the window. A group of menacing ANGELS have just pulled up in a Truck. They're trapped!

EXT. WAREHOUSE #2 - NIGHT 18

18

CLOSE ON: Gadreel's LICENCE PLATE. PAN UP to reveal a warehouse. A door to the warehouse opens, and Gadreel exits. He heads to his car. Inside, a box of ingredients for the spell. He looks down the street ... and freezes as he sees:

The front of the Impala sticking out of an alley.

Gadreel quietly closes the trunk. Quickly covers the car with a tarp, then heads toward the alley.

19 EXT. ALLEY BY WAREHOUSE - NIGHT 19

Low lit. Empty save Sam, scoping out the alley. PULL FOCUS to reveal Gadreel skulking into the alley. Sam turns around-just as Gadreel disappears into the shadows. Sam turns back around. He takes out his phone. Dials.

SAM

Cass. It's Sam. Again. Call us back -- we need your help.

We MOVE IN on him from Gadreel's POV. Closer. Closer.

FROM ABOVE: we see Gadreel. Angel Blade in hands now! Just before he attacks, we PULL BACK to reveal this angle is from DEAN'S POV: he's up in a fire escape. He smiles. Then lights his lighter, tossing it down below and--

FWOOSH! Holy Fire IGNITES in the alley, surrounding Gadreel!

Sam turns, face to face with the Angel who kidnapped his body...

SAM

Remember me?

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

20 INT. GAS N' SIP - NIGHT 20

Cass and Gabriel barricade the door. But Gabriel stops.

GABRIEL

It's not gonna hold.

CASTIEL

I know.

(then)

So we fight.

GABRIEL

No. <u>I</u> fight.

(off his look)

I lied before. I never watched Downton Abbey. I was just trying to fit in. Oh... and I do have some Angel juice left. I can hold these jerkstores off long enough.

CASTIEL

Long enough for what?

GABRIEL

For you to get out of here.

CASTIEL

I'm not leaving you.

GABRIEL

Yes. You are. Those guys will cut you to ribbons, but I can stall them while you amscray.

(then)

And you can take my place.

CASTIEL

What?

GABRIEL

The Angels need a leader. And it has to be someone like us. Someone different.

Cass opens his mouth to protest, but stops. Not sure how to argue this point anymore.

GABRIEL

I know you don't want this burden, Castiel. Neither do I.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A beat. And then: a familiar line from the Teaser.

CASTIEL

What if I fail again?

GABRIEL

You won't.

(shrugs)

You can't.

Cass nods. Makes his decision: he's in.

CASTIEL

Thank you.

GABRIEL

Shut up.

Gabriel softens, though, and a moment passes between them. Cass turns to leave out the back, his coat catching on an aisle. He stops as he looks down inside his coat.

The tear on his coat liner from the warehouse is gone.

Like it was never there. Cass runs his hands along the lining, in disbelief. What. The. Fuck?

GABRIEL

Haven't got all day, hotpants.

It all dawns on Castiel. He looks at Gabriel.

CASTIEL

Was any of this real?

Gabriel looks at him. What?

GABRIEL

The hell are you talking about?

SMASH! One of the windows crashes open. A MINION steps inside. Angel Blades in each hand.

GABRIEL

Cass: go.

Cass shakes his head. He's not leaving.

GABRIEL

So, what: we both die here?

CASTIEL

No. You're already dead.

CONTINUED: (2)

And with that said, Cass STABS Gabriel with his Angel Blade. And... nothing happens. Gabriel frowns. Busted.

GABRIEL

Well. Paint me yellow and call me a cab.

Gabriel SNAPS his fingers. In an instant, <u>all the Minions</u> <u>disappear</u>.

GABRIEL

What gave it all away?

CASTIEL

My coat was torn earlier today.

He opens the jacket. It's perfect.

GABRIEL

Crap. I hate continuity errors.

CASTIEL

So none of this is real. And I'm guessing I'm no longer in the Motel.

GABRIEL

Ding ding.

SMASH TO:

21 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - DAY - FLASHBACK

21

20

We're back in Act One. We see the tail end of Cass and the boys' goodbye, but just from Cass's point of view.

CASTIEL (INTO PHONE)

There's two-- could be Auburn or Ogden.

DEAN (IN PHONE)

Alright, you take Auburn, we'll take Ogden. Meet in the middle.

Cass hangs up. He starts to pack up and then...

...the lights FLICKER. But this time, when the lights come back on: JUMPSCARE as we see two FEMALE ANGELS in the room now! INGRID and MOIRA. Ingrid rears back with the blunt end of an Angel Blade-- and just as she WHACKS Cass, we SMASH BACK TO:

22 INT. GAS N' SIP - NIGHT - PRESENT 22

Gabriel shrugs.

GABRIEL

Look, here's the thing: none of this was real. But all of it was true.

CASTIEL

Whose truth? Yours? Or Metatron's?

Gabriel nods. Busted again.

GABRIEL

Hear him out, wouldja? He's just trying to help you.

CASTIEL

How?

Gabriel shrugs. Beats me.

GABRIEL

Sorry, I didn't read the whole script. Just skimmed for my parts. (then)

It was good to see you, old bean. Say hi to Step Dad for me.

He holds up his hand, about to snap his fingers--

CASTIEL

Wait. Are you really still dead?

Gabriel gives him a mischievous grin. He winks. Then SNAPS his fingers and we SMASH TO:

2.3 INT. DEN - NIGHT 23

CLOSE ON CASS: he wakes up, as if from a dream. He's bound. Gagged. DOLLY AROUND HIM to reveal... we're back where we started in the Den. The music. The books. The typing. The Metatron. But this time when he stops typing and looks up, it's not to CAMERA. It's to look at Castiel.

METATRON

What makes a story work? The plot? The characters? The text? The subtext? And who gives it meaning? The writer?

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

METATRON (CONT'D)

(he points to Cass)

Or you?

He takes a sip of his bourbon.

METATRON

Tonight, I thought I'd tell you a story... and let you decide.

Metatron stands. He walks over to a record player near his desk and stops the music.

METATRON

That was the plan anyway.

He heads over and removes Cass's gag. He opens Cass's coat, sees the ripped fabric that gave his ruse away. He pulls one of the loose strings, unwinding thread.

METATRON

But I guess this is where my story failed. This was 'the curious incident, 'eh, Inspector Gregory?

Cass looks at Metatron, confused.

CASTIEL

Who?

Metatron throws up his hands: really?

METATRON

Inspector Gregory? Sherlock Holmes? Silver Blaze?

(still nothing from Cass) You've been around since scaly things crawled out of the muck: would it have killed you to have picked up a book? Watch a movie?

Metatron sighs. He reaches over, touches Castiel's forehead.

METATRON

Here. I know it's a bit of a retcon, but it's going to make this conversation a whole lot easier.

Castiel JOLTS back in his seat, gritting his teeth.

METATRON

I just gave you every book, movie and TV show I've consumed over the last couple of millennia. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

METATRON (CONT'D)

(then)

Now do you understand that "the universe is made of stories, not atoms?"

Cass makes a face... and then 'recalls...'

CASTIEL

I understand that that's a quote... from Muriel Rukeyser.

Metatron holds his hands out, tah-dah.

METATRON

It can be taught. Here's some more lessons: first rule of Writing Club? Steal from the best. Second rule? Every hero needs a villain.

He crosses back over to his stack of pages. Pats them.

METATRON

I was going to write you a book, but: too many words. So, I went for a script. I tried to show ya... now I'm just gonna tell ya.

CASTIEL

What are you talking about?

METATRON

Hannah. And her sisters? I set all that up. Told Gadreel to slaughter those not willing to join my army: but leave one alive. (then)

One to tell the tale.

CASTIEL

Is it true? Can you bring Angels back to Heaven?

METATRON

Sorry: no spoilers. And you keep missing the point. You're supposed to lead the Angels.

CASTIEL

I'm not a leader, Metatron.

METATRON

Apparently. So, I did my homework.

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CONTINUED: (3) 23

23

He holds up one of the Supernatural books, Tall Tales.

METATRON

The Winchester Gospels. Pulpy stuff.

He tosses the book into the fire.

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METATRON

They did give me an idea, though. You needed to be taught a lesson. And nobody teaches a lesson like good old Gabriel. A.K.A. The Trickster. You guys are family, there's rich history there.

(points to the typewriter)

So: I started typing.

CASTIEL

You did all this to make me into a hero?

METATRON

(laughs)

That's priceless. Uh: no. You're not the hero of this mess-terpiece. You're the Villain.

(then)

I'm the Hero.

INT. WAREHOUSE #2 - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT 24

24

Dean wards the windows. Gadreel is now bound with ANGELIC HANDCUFFS, every inch of them covered in ENOCHIAN SYMBOLS. He glares at Sam.

GADREEL

If this is like looking into a fun house mirror for me... I cannot imagine what it is like for you.

SAM

The man you're... wearing... did you trick him, too?

GADREEL

He volunteered. Same as you.

Sam shakes his head. Stands up and turns away.

SAM

How long have you been working for Metatron?

CONTINUED:

GADREEL

I will not talk. And you cannot make me. I have <u>been</u> you, Sam Winchester. Your insides reek of shame and weakness.

SAM

Yeah? How weak is this?

Sam flips the Blade in his hands, uses the handle to BATTER Gadreel across the head. Gadreel SCREAMS in pain. Dean sees this, heads over. Sam is about to bludgeon Gadreel again--

DEAN

Sam. Sam!

Sam looks up at his brother. Clearly in a dark place. Dean holds up his hands. Sam slowly lowers the Blade. He pulls Sam away, and the two sidebar.

Look, he's not gonna crack fast.

SAM

I know. Maybe we could hack him, like you and Crowley hacked me.

DEAN

Only one who could do that is Crowley, and I'm in no mood to call that dickbag. We need Cass.

SAM

Any word from him?

Dean shakes his head. No. He pulls out his smart phone.

DEAN

I just tried him again. I got no missed calls, no texts. Nothing. So, I turned on his phone's GPS. He's still in the town where he called us.

He shows him an image of a map on his phone: blinking light in the town of Bishops Falls, Utah.

SAM

The Hell?

DEAN

I dunno. But you gotta go get him.

CONTINUED: (2)

SAM

What?

DEAN

You're too close to this, Sammy.

SAM

And you're not?

DEAN

We're not at this five minutes and you go all Liam Neeson on his ass? I got this.

Sam shakes his head. Pissed. But going. He hands Dean the Angel Blade, then heads out the door, shooting Gadreel one last look. The door closes.

GADREEL

So. He acts tough, and you show kindness. Is that how this works?

Dean heads over to Gadreel. Darkness in his eyes. He rolls up his shirtsleeves, revealing the Mark of Cain.

DEAN

Nope. I don't really care if you talk. You're gonna pay for what you did to Sam. And Kevin.

Off Gadreel, wishing now that Sam had never left.

25 INT. DEN - NIGHT 25

Metatron paces in front of Cass.

CASTIEL

You want me to lead my brothers and sisters against you? Why?

METATRON

Because it's much easier to kill a herd.

This lands on Castiel. Metatron sits down.

METATRON

Do you know why I didn't kill you after I took your Grace?

Cass doesn't answer.

METATRON

I <u>like</u> you. Truly. You were the only one among God's little wind-up toys that had any spunk. I wanted Pinocchio to be a real boy. I left you as a human, because I hoped you could live happily ever after.

(then)

But you screwed that up, too. And now you've left me no choice. You want back on the board, fine, but you're gonna follow my script.

CASTIEL

Based on your assessment, that doesn't sound like me.

METATRON

Lead the dumb, disenfranchised rebellious Angels against me, Castiel. They'll follow you. And they'll all die. But I'll keep a seat warm for you up top. You'll be saved.

CASTIEL

No.

METATRON

You're gonna make me do the hard pitch, aren't you? (shakes his head: fine) How's that stolen Grace inside you working out?

Castiel makes a face. Huh?

CASTIEL

It's... fine.

METATRON

No. It's not. And you know it. It's not yours. It's going to burn out. It's going to burn you out.

This lands on Cass. News to him. News to us too. Bad news.

METATRON

But... you work for scale in my last picture show, be Jonah Hill to my Scorcese? I'll give you an endless supply of replaceable batteries. Deal?

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CONTINUED: (2)

25

25

Cass reels from this new information, but finally sets his jaw. Shakes his head: No.

METATRON

Stubborn <u>and</u> stupid. You really did go all human on me, didn't you, Pinocchio?

Suddenly, the door opens and Ingrid, who we saw back in the Motel, enters.

INGRID

I'm sorry to interrupt your... writing session, sir. But something's happened.

METATRON

What's wrong?

INGRID

It's Gadreel...

SMASH CUT TO:

26 INT. WAREHOUSE #2 - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

26

Gadreel. Screaming. Why? Dean is dragging the Angel Blade along Gadreel's arm, CUTTING HIM. Ouch. Dean pulls the Blade away. Gadreel catches his breath.

DEAN

Word around the campfire is you let the Snake into The Garden. You ruined it all for humanity.

Gadreel shakes his head. Means it:

GADREEL

I set them free. I <u>loved</u> humanity.

His sincerity stops Dean. But just for a second.

DEAN

Got a funny way of showing it, asshat. Look: tell me about this way back into Heaven crap and I'll end this quick. Otherwise? You're gonna rot in those chains. Forever.

This seems to land on Gadreel. Dean turns to leave, but Gadreel rallies.

CONTINUED:

26

GADREEL

All your talk. All your bluster. You think you are invincible. The two of you against the world right?

DEAN

Damn straight.

GADREEL

You really think Sam would do anything for you.

DEAN

I know it.

GADREEL

I have been in your brother's body, Dean. Felt the ache in his heart. In his bones. In his soul. He would not trade his life for yours.

DEAN

Yeah, thanks for the re-run, pal. Sam's told me all that crap. And far worse.

GADREEL

Really? He told you he has always felt that way? That he thinks you are just a scared little boy who cannot be on his own cause Daddy never loved him enough?

DEAN

Shut up.

GADREEL

And he is right, isn't he? Right to think you are a coward. A sad, clingy, needy--

Dean PUNCHES Gadreel.

DEAN

Shut. Up.

GADREEL

--pathetic bottom feeder who cannot even take care of himself. Who would rather drag everyone through the mud than be alone? Who would let everyone around him die--

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26 CONTINUED: (2)

26

Dean rears back with the Angel Blade -- about to end it all. Gadreel simply closes his eyes. And in that moment Dean sees that Gadreel looks: relieved. It stops Dean. He catches his breath. Slowly lowers the Blade. Gadreel opens his eyes.

GADREEL

No. No. Do it. Do it! Kill me!

DEAN

That's what you want. Isn't it? That's what this little show is all about?

Gadreel hangs his head. Caught.

DEAN

You're not afraid of dying. You're afraid of being chained in here forever.

Gadreel looks away. Can't answer.

DEAN

Well rot, you sonovabitch.

Dean walks out of the room, leaving Gadreel to simmer.

27 INT. WAREHOUSE #2 - BATHROOM - NIGHT

27

Dean enters. He sets the Blade down. His hand is SHAKING.

28 EXT. CRAPPY MOTEL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

28

Sam pulls up. He checks his phone-- Cass's cell phone is nearby. He heads out of the car, gun subtly at his side. He makes his way over to--

29 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - NIGHT

29

The door opens. Sam cautiously enters. He sweeps the room. Empty. He spots the Hunter Wall. And then spots... Cass's Cell Phone. Shit.

He picks it up: there's a half dozen missed calls from "DEAN". He turns around and JUMPSCARE as...

METATRON is now standing in the room. Sam draws his gun.

METATRON

Easy, tiger. I'm here to trade. You have something of mine.

He gestures at the room, Cass's room.

CONTINUED:

29

METATRON

And I have something of yours.

Sam realizes what this means.

METATRON

Bring him here tomorrow morning. If not, Castiel dies. No come backs this time.

SAM

An even trade?

METATRON

I am an entity of my word.

And like that, Metatron DISAPPEARS. Sam grabs his phone. Dials. It rings. And rings. And rings.

30 INT. WAREHOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT 30

Dean washes face in the bathroom. As he did in the opening scene of Act One, he checks his reflection in the mirror. Once again doesn't like what he sees. He shakes his head and looks away. His eyes land on...

The Mark of Cain.

Dean's face darkens. He grabs the Angel Blade. And his hand stops shaking. He heads back out to Gadreel. We PAN DOWN to reveal... Dean's cell phone. It rings. And rings. And...

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

31 INT. WAREHOUSE #2 - MAIN ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

31

We drift through the empty space. No sign of Dean. No sign of Gadreel. A tense beat as we wonder what the hell is going on... and then Sam enters.

SAM

Dean? Dean!?

Sam looks over... we see the chair Gadreel was in, tipped over. Oh shit... But then Sam, and we, breathe a sigh of relief as we spot Gadreel a few feet away, still in chains, badly beaten up. Sitting in the shadows, his knuckles bloody: Dean. Sam crosses over to him. Worried.

SAM

Dean. Are you okay?

DEAN

You gotta stop asking me that.

SAM

I called, why didn't you--

DEAN

He won't talk.

SAM

I... I know.

DEAN

He wanted to die, Sam. And I was gonna kill him. I was. But... I stopped... I...

Dean unconsciously rubs the Mark on his forearm. Sam notices, but... bigger fish:

SAM

Dean: Metatron has Cass. He's offering up a trade. Gadreel for Cass. No questions asked.

This lands on Dean. He shakes his head.

DEAN

We can't trust Metatron.

SAM

Of course not.

SAM

But... this is the first time where we're gonna know where Metatron is going to be. Let's take Gadreel to the meet. Make the exchange. And then trap Metatron.

Off Dean, rallying, we--

32 EXT. CRAPPY MOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

32

The Impala is parked out front of the motel. Sam and Dean lean on the hood. Waiting. No sign of Gadreel. Or Metatron. Sam checks his watch.

SAM

He's late.

DEAN

Or he's not gonna show.

METATRON (O.C.)

Of course I'm gonna show.

They turn to see Metatron. He points behind them and the boys see a CAR pull into the lot. Ingrid and Moira step out of the car. They pull Castiel out of the back seat.

METATRON

I just wanted to wait until you guys had finished setting up your little trap for me.

He takes two steps forward. Raises an eyebrow.

METATRON

(points down)

Have I hit my mark?

Dean and Sam exchange a look: WTF?

METATRON

Well, go on. I'm waiting.

Dean pulls out his lighter. Tosses it like he did before. FWOOSH! A ring of Holy Fire erupts around Metatron.

Metatron makes a face, as if wincing in pain, his eyes shut. But then... one eye pops open. Then the other. He cracks a smile. He holds his hands over the fire. Warming them.

METATRON

Either of you bring S'mores? Holy Fire always gives them a delightful minty after taste. (winks)

Make a wish, kids.

Metatron BLOWS the fire out. He walks over to the Impala. The boys pull their Angel Blades.

METATRON

No thanks.

He waves his hand and the Blades go flying out of their hands! Metatron heads over to the back of the Impala.

METATRON

May I?

Dean and Sam lunge at him, but Metatron flicks his hand: and the boys are THROWN BACK against another car. Pinned.

Metatron pops the trunk. Inside? Gadreel. Cuffed. The top and bottom of the trunk are WARDED.

METATRON

Buh-bye.

He waves his hand. The warding DISAPPEARS and the handcuffs fall off Gadreel's wrists. Metatron helps Gadreel out.

METATRON

Well, a deal is a deal.

Gadreel heads over to Ingrid and Moira. They load Gadreel into the backseat, then release Castiel. Cass heads over to the boys. Ingrid and Moira drive off with Gadreel.

DEAN

Why are you doing this?

Metatron walks over to Dean. Gets right into his face.

METATRON

Because I can. And you, and your brother, and your fine feathered friend, and all the little secrets you have tucked away in your little bunker can't stop me. But I'm gonna enjoy watching you try. It's gonna be a helluva show. (then)

Sleep tight.

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CONTINUED: (2) 32

32

He turns to Castiel.

METATRON

See? At least the boys know how to play along. See you around, Castiel. Never forget: I gave you a chance.

Metatron waves and then... $\underline{\text{he's gone}}$. Off the People's Choice Award Winning Bromantic Trio, we—

BLACKOUT.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

33 EXT. CRAPPY MOTEL - PARKING LOT - DAY

33

Sam, Dean and Cass stand by the Impala, processing what just happened. Because seriously:

What the hell just happened?

CASTIEL

Metatron is trying to play God.

SAM

Play God? He erased Angel Warding. He friggin' blew out Holy Fire. He

A beat as this lands on everyone.

How the hell are we supposed to stop this guy?

CASTIEL

We'll find a way.

DEAN

How?

Castiel glowers. Angry.

CASTIEL

I don't know. But we will. We always do.

Sam and Dean exchange a look. Okay, then...

DEAN

Alright, what if there is a Stairway to Heaven? We find it, we get the drop on Metatron.

SAM

Sneak into the Death Star? Take out the Emperor?

CASTIEL

I'm not sure what a battle station in space has to do with this, but if taking out the Emperor means taking out Metatron, then I'm on board.

CONTINUED:

DEAN

Dean and Sam exchange a look. Um, waitasec.

Did you just... did you just understand what Death Star means?

CASTITEL

Yes. But I still don't understand what it has to do with Heaven.

Dean and Sam give a small nod. Still the same old Cass.

SAM

Half the distance, I guess.

Dean eyes Cass though, worried.

DEAN

You sure you're alright?

CASTIEL

Are <u>you</u>?

Cass looks at Dean, a concerned look in his eyes.

CASTIEL

Something is different about you.

DEAN

What? I'm okay.

Dean turns to leave but Cass catches his forearm. He pulls up Dean's sleeve, spotting the Mark of Cain.

CASTIEL

What have you done?

DEAN

(pulls his arm free) It's just a means to an end.

CASTIEL

Dean--

DEAN

You find a way back to Heaven? Drop a dime. Meantime, I got a Knight to kill.

Dean walks off to the Impala, leaving Cass and Sam together.

SAM

I'm worried about him.

CONTINUED: (2)

CASTIEL

I am, too. I knew Cain and Abel. I liked Cain better before he got the Mark.

We haven't been able to find anything about it in the lore.

CASTIEL

I'll see if I can find anything.

SAM

Thanks Cass. Be careful out there.

CASTIEL

You too. Keep an eye on him, Sam.

Sam nods. He then heads over to the Impala. Dean fires up the car and heads out of the parking lot, leaving Cass alone.

34 INT. DEN - NIGHT 34

Ingrid leads Gadreel in to see Metatron, who's back at his typewriter. All of Gadreel's wounds are now healed.

GADREEL

Thank you, Ingrid.

INGRID

Do you need anything else, sir?

Metatron shakes his head, no. Ingrid leaves.

METATRON

Is the door secure?

GADREEL

Yes. The way home is safe.

Metatron sighs. Relieved.

METATRON

Thank you, Gadreel.

Gadreel points at Metatron's screenplay.

GADREEL

How did your "play" turn out?

METATRON

Didn't quite work as I'd planned. But that... is why we re-write. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

METATRON (CONT'D)

That was God's problem, you know. He published the first draft. You just gotta keep at it until all your ducks are in a row.

Gadreel nods, turns to leave, but stops.

GADREEL

Was the Winchesters grabbing me part of your plan?

Metatron hesitates. For just a moment.

METATRON

That was a surprise. But hey, what writer doesn't love a good twist?

Gadreel nods. Not so sure.

METATRON

My job is to set up interesting characters and see where they take me. One of the by-products of having well drawn characters is that they may surprise you. But I know something they don't know: the ending.

This lands on Gadreel, not sure he likes the sound of this.

GADREEL

How I get there doesn't matter. As long as everyone plays their part.

Gadreel nods, then exits. Metatron goes over to his records, leafs through the collection. He puts a record on the player. The second the needle hits the vinyl we CUT TO:

35 INT. IMPALA - PMP - NIGHT 35

Frankie Valli and the Four Season's version of "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore" serenades the rest of the episode.

Dean stares out the window. Not sure what the hell is happening to him.

Sam looks at Dean. Worried. Not sure what the hell is happening to his brother. He looks out the window as well.

They ride in moody silence, all we hear is the song.

Cass enters. He closes the door. Looks at his Hunter's Wall. A beat. Then he angrily RIPS it off the door. A beat. And then he takes off his jacket. He rolls up his sleeves. In a series of CUTS, he works on the door-- but we don't see what he's doing to it.

37 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT

37

Cass sits on the bed. Sewing up the tear in his jacket.

38 INT. CRAPPY MOTEL - MORNING (DAY 3)

38

Cass sits on the bed. Waiting. Jacket fixed and back on. He looks up. At the door. And we reveal that he's replaced his Hunter's Wall with...

THE HORN OF GABRIEL.

We don't hear the Angelic Tone, we just hear the song. Cass stands up. Heads over to the symbol. And just as the song kicks into the first chorus, Cass opens the door to reveal...

The Parking Lot outside is <u>filled with ANGELS</u>. At the head of the group: Hannah. She smiles at Cass. At her leader.

Cass heads out to join his flock. His army.

39 INT. DEN - MORNING

39

Where we find Metatron typing away. We see the above text on his page: Cass heads out to join his flock. His army. We watch as he adds: God watched over them. Smiling at all His good works...

A twisted smile breaks across Metatron's face.

He hits return and finishes with: TO BE CONTINUED...

As the first chorus of the song ends, Metatron WHIPS the typewriter carriage return over, slamming us to--

BLACKOUT.

TO BE CONTINUED ...