

HAIL MARY

"Pilot"

Written by  
Brian Gallivan

Based on *Braunschlag*

Created by  
David Schalko

Intrigue  
Exhibit A  
Sony Pictures Television

January 24, 2016

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN CENTER - DAY

We open on a charming little town called Bottom Heights, which is located near the Canadian border and which was a lot more charming five years ago. As we see a festival that's in full swing, we hear the confident Mayor MARY Wolf (30).

MARY (V.O.)

*Welcome to Bottom Heights. And welcome to our Biannual Corduroy Festival. Which takes place twice a month. Not because we don't know what "biannual" means, but because people here think it's that fun.*

Mary makes her way through the festival. Although she's a young, female politician, she's less of a rule-following Amy Poehler and more of a rule-breaking Amy Schumer. She's a charmer though, and we see that everyone in town loves her. She's got the charisma of a young Bill Clinton in a body that young (or old) Bill Clinton would be very drawn to.

MARY (V.O.)

*(upbeat)*

*I'm Mary Wolf, the mayor here.*

We see her smile and wave to the residents of her town, who enthusiastically smile and wave back.

MARY (V.O.)

*My constituents are good people, and pretty easy to please.*

SATISFIED CITIZEN

Thanks for all your hard work!

MARY

Hey, today's not about me, Bill!  
Today's about pants with ridges!

Bill and his wife laugh really hard.

MARY (V.O.)

*See. Good people. All I did was describe the pants we're celebrating, and they're delighted.*

BILL'S WIFE

*(to herself, delighted)*

Pants with ridges.

Mary sees KEVIN from the bank (30s, cute but dorky) waving.

KEVIN

Mayor Wolf! You were supposed to come by the bank! We need to talk!

She darts and weaves through the crowd to avoid him.

MARY (V.O.)

*Our town is going through a bit of a financial crisis right now, and except for Kevin from the bank, the citizens are feeling confident.*

We see more people waving and smiling at her.

MARY (V.O.)

*They believe in me as their leader. Because I am full of confidence and optimism. And most importantly, I am full of (bleeped) shit.*

*(then, sincere)*

*Don't worry. I'm not full of it in the way most politicians are. I just have a gift for telling people what they need to hear to feel good about themselves.*

MARY

*(demonstrates this by calling off to someone)*

*Johnny, I never thought I'd like a corduroy bike short! But you make it work!*

Johnny (40), awkward and a little shy, blushes with pride.

MARY (V.O.)

*I like to give a boost to an underdog, like Johnny. And I have a soft spot for nerdy kids.*

MARY

*(to two nerdy young boys)*

*May the cords be with you!*

*(off their surprised looks)*

*That's right. The theme of this year's festival is *Star Wars*.*

The boys almost explode with nerd joy.

MARY (V.O.)

*It's not the theme, but look how excited they are.*

MARY

(to one of the boys)  
Every ridge on your corduroys is a  
light saber.

NERDY YOUNG BOY #!

Awesome!

MARY

(to the other boy)  
And your ridges are the beautiful  
laugh lines on Carrie Fisher's  
gracefully aging face.

NERDY YOUNG BOY #2

Cool! Good for her!

Mary smiles and turns to HEIDI, who we only see from the  
back. Heidi is setting up jars of homemade jam on a table.

MARY

Heidi, I bet folks are enjoying  
that tasty jam almost as much as  
they're enjoying those freshly-  
trimmed bangs of yours.

HEIDI (O.S.)

I was worried they were too short.

We see Heidi and her bangs, which are disastrously short.

MARY

(believably sells this)  
Too short? What?! Heidi, guys may  
say they're into boobs and asses,  
but you know what they're really  
into? Forehead. And they want a  
lot of it. You nailed it, Heidi.

Heidi beams as Mary walks away.

MARY (V.O.)

*There's nothing Heidi can do about  
her bangs, so why not say good  
things and make her feel better?*

*(a little guilty)*

*It's similar to our town's dire  
economic situation. I don't want  
to worry anyone, so I just keep  
saying to people...*

MARY

(upbeat, to a passing guy)  
We're on the verge of something  
big, Joe!

PASSING GUY

Hope it's coming soon, Mary!

MARY (V.O.)

(feeling terrible)  
*They don't know that the "something  
big" we're on the verge of... is  
financial collapse.*

Mary dodges Kevin from the bank again.

DISSOLVE TO:

Mary crowns Corduroy Queen OLGA (a sour-looking old woman).

MARY

Congrats, Olga! And thanks for  
reminding us that corduroy rompers  
are great at every age.

OLGA

(an old friend, who loves  
giving her shit)  
It wouldn't look good on you.

MARY

(loves giving it back)  
Don't make me strip you naked and  
out-romper you, Olga.

Olga, Mary, and everyone in the crowd burst out laughing.  
Nothing's more fun than Olga and Mary ribbing each other.

MARY (CONT'D)

(into a microphone)  
Look, I want to thank you all for  
being so patient while I fix our  
town. I know I can do it because--  
and many of you have heard this  
story--because my mom died right  
after she gave birth to me.

A lot of people nod solemnly.

MARY (CONT'D)

But her last words were "Tell Mary  
she can do anything." Those words  
made me a very confident woman.  
(smiles)

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

And a bit of a wild teen, but she said I could do anything, right?

The crowd laughs. HENRY (chubby, 35) calls out a question.

HENRY

(too interested)

What kind of stuff did you do? As a teen?

MARY

(friendly teasing)

Henry, don't be a perv.

Everyone laughs again, including Henry.

HENRY

(good-naturedly)

Sorry! I was being a perv.

MARY

(back to her speech)

When my dad was mayor, he made some not-great, unapproved, big-swing investments to try to help our economy, and I said I'd fix that--

CURIOUS WOMAN

How's that all going?

MARY

(nervous, into mic)

We're on the "verge of something big."

Kevin from the bank is in front of Mary now. Mary's trapped but relieved when she hears him say...

KEVIN

I have good news!

MARY

(pulls him on stage)

Kevin from the bank has good news!

Everyone cheers.

KEVIN

(taking the mic)

I thought the town would be officially out of money tomorrow, but I've discovered that we have enough money to last for a whole other week!

(MORE)

KEVIN (CONT'D)  
 (clarifying)  
 And then we'll be out of money.

Mary is shocked and feels horrible. Everyone is stunned.

MARY  
 I thought Kevin had better news--

DISGRUNTLED CITIZEN  
 (panicked, outraged)  
 You haven't fixed anything?!

MARY  
 I encourage you to be open minded--

HEIDI  
 (short bangs, short fuse)  
 You're worse than a Canadian!

A LOT of people agree with this statement, which hurts.

MARY  
 Wow. That is a very low blow.  
 Things are not as bad as you think!  
 You're all so resourceful--

Loose jam flies through the air and lands on Mary's face.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 (trying to roll with it)  
 You can keep selling products like  
 this delicious concord grape jam.

Some liquid lands on her face.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 (rubbing her eye)  
 And our apple cider. Our very  
 acidic cider.

She ducks as something big sails over her head.

MARY (CONT'D)  
 And our masonry. Our dangerous,  
 dangerous masonry.  
 (pops up, confidently)  
 I can fix this!

A worried Mary ducks as things larger than masonry are  
 thrown.

FADE OUT.

**END OF COLD OPEN**

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. THE HOUSE OF MARY'S FATHER (MR. WOLF) - LATER

Mary talks on the phone as she walks up the stairs.

MARY

(into phone)

We have to review what "good news" means, Kevin. No! Do not file for bankruptcy yet. I'll find a solution! I'm at my father's. And "good news," he's on his deathbed.

(sarcastic enthusiasm)

I did use it incorrectly! Great work, Kevin! Teachable moment!

INT. MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

NURSE WANDA (a Wanda Sykes type) updates an emotional Mary.

NURSE WANDA

I'm Wanda, the new nurse. Just a heads up. Painkillers are causing him some delirium. He's good now, but earlier he called me Martin Luther King. I was not flattered.

(shrugs)

But also flattered.

MARY

He called me Nick Nolte the other day. I felt the same way.

NURSE WANDA

(as gently as she can)

I'd say he has about a week left.

MARY

Nick Nolte? Sounds about right.

(then, serious)

No, I know. I know.

Mary sits by MR. WOLF (70, a Christopher Walken type) who was a charming rascal in his day, but who looks very tired now.

MR. WOLF

(groggily excited)

Mary, drugs are fun!

MARY  
 (delighted by him)  
 Yeah, I know! Mom told me I could  
 do anything, remember? And I did!

MR. WOLF  
 (to Wanda, proud)  
 I told you she was accomplished.

Mary holds his hand and they look at each other, both aware  
 that there's not much time left. Mary gets a little teary.

MARY  
 I said I'd restore your good name.  
 But I haven't--

MR. WOLF  
 No. Forget about my name. Focus  
 on the town. I feel awful about  
 what I did, Mary. My dying wish--  
 (interrupts himself)  
 Are dying wishes still a thing?

MARY  
 Yes. They're all the rage with  
 dying people.

MR. WOLF  
 Great! My dying wish is to see  
 Bottom Heights headed in the right  
 direction before I go. Can you  
 make that happen?

MARY  
 (sincerely promises  
 something impossible)  
 I can. I'm gonna make that happen.

NURSE WANDA  
 (very doubtful)  
 You can?

MARY  
 I can. He played the "dying wish"  
 card. That's pretty motivating.

MR. WOLF  
 She'll do it. Oh and one more  
 thing, Mary. Can you pray for me?

MARY  
 (voice a little too high  
 and a little too hopeful)  
 You gettin' sleepy, Dad?

Thankfully for her, he actually is. Wanda sits next to Mary.

NURSE WANDA

I take it you don't pray.

MARY

Don't pray. Don't believe. Don't--  
 (sees Wanda's serious face,  
 shifts to very upbeat)  
 --need to talk about me so much.  
 Tell me about you! Do you pray?!

NURSE WANDA

I do. I come from a long line of  
 people who prayed because we used  
 to be bought and sold. But if you  
 don't need it, that's cool. Good  
 for you.

MARY

And the winner for Best Response to  
 Atheism goes to Nurse Wanda!

NURSE WANDA

Trust me. Believers have more luck  
 than non-believers. But if you're  
 not a sinner, then you'll be fine.

Mary considers this statement as we...

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - LAST WEEK

Mary and DONALD (a depressed Craig Robinson type) have just  
 finished having sex.

DONALD

(gently)  
 I can never leave my wife. She's  
 not a kind person, but still, it  
 would just hurt her too much.

MARY

(also gently)  
 I'd actually like something in  
 writing from you saying you will  
 never leave your wife.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. A DARK ALLEY - A FEW MONTHS AGO

TREMBLAY (a Dan Aykroyd type) shakes Mary's hand.

TREMBLAY  
Congratulations. You're in  
business with the Canadian mafia.

MARY  
You should just say mafia. It  
sounds more threatening.

They both laugh. But Mary's laugh has some worry under it.

BACK TO:

INT. MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM

NURSE WANDA  
So are you a sinner?

MARY  
(looks outside, relieved)  
Oh, look, my brother Christopher!

Mary rushes out of the room. Nurse Wanda follows her.

MR. WOLF  
(opens eyes, sees Wanda)  
Hello, Beyonce.

NURSE WANDA  
That one at least makes sense.

EXT. MR. WOLF'S FRONT LAWN - LATER

Mary and Wanda open the front door and see CHRISTOPHER (mid 30s, a Zach Galifianakis type) coming up the front walk.

CHRISTOPHER  
(matter-of-fact, to Mary)  
You haven't slept. There's a big  
discrepancy in how old your face  
looks and how old you actually are.

MARY  
Don't waste those lines on your  
sister. Save 'em for the "clurb."

CHRISTOPHER  
(serious)  
How's Dad doing?

Mary gives him a sad look. He nods stoically.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)  
(factual)  
I see. He'll be dead soon.

MARY

Okay. I'm getting you some euphemisms for your birthday.

CHRISTOPHER

I know he's dying. But I also know that I've got a taxidermy project that will really cheer him up.

He holds up a family portrait from when their mom was alive.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)

I'm re-creating our family using miniature replicas of wolves.

MARY

Christopher, I am not in that family portrait.

(then)

And I realize that by bringing that up first, it seems like except for that, I'm totally cool with a re-creation of a family portrait using miniature replicas of wolves.

CHRISTOPHER

I'm doing it no matter what. I've already got the skins.

(to Wanda, matter-of-fact)

I'm not just a taxidermist. I also blog extensively debunking fake UFOs. So the real UFO sightings can get the attention they deserve.

NURSE WANDA

Thank you for that?

CHRISTOPHER

No thanks necessary. I love facts.

MARY

Stop flirting, Christopher.

(then, emphatic)

And stop being so factual with dad.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM - YESTERDAY

Christopher sits by his dad's bed.

CHRISTOPHER

(cheerful)

If you're wondering why your skin looks yellow, it can very easily be explained by acute liver failure.

MR. WOLF

(somehow charmed by this)

Fun! Tell me about the kidneys.

BACK TO:

EXT. MR. WOLF'S FRONT LAWN

CHRISTOPHER

She hates when I talk facts because she's a politician who distorts them. Mary, we may be family, but if I find out you've done anything illegal, I will blog about it.

MARY

(nervous, but covering)

As long as you don't reenact it with tiny woodland creatures, I'll be happy.

Wanda heads inside as a car pulls into the driveway. JANICE (30s, a Cecily Strong type) pops out of the passenger seat.

JANICE

Surprise! It's your favorite sister!

MARY

(bleeped)

Fuck.

CHRISTOPHER

(bleeped)

Fuck.

Janice runs towards her siblings as her boyfriend BOBBY (a beautiful, dumb, cocky James Franco type) opens the trunk.

JANICE

Well, my horrible job is over! We've now reached the seventh boss in two years who was so jealous of me that she had to fire me.

Mary and Christopher exchange a look.

JANICE (CONT'D)

But I have a lead on a job where  
I'd be leasing rubber food-storage  
containers to friends and family.

CHRISTOPHER

(simply)  
Scam.

JANICE

(simply)  
Jealous.  
(then, serious)  
Oh, our poor, sweet Daddy. I'm  
sorry I haven't been here. But  
I've been praying hard for him.

MARY

(big smile)  
Oh thanks. We've been wiping his  
butt.

Bobby drops two big suitcases next to Janice.

BOBBY

I'm gonna sit in the car.  
(to Mary)  
Nice to see you, Mrs. Wolf.

MARY

(as he leaves, horrified)  
Does he think I'm your mother?!

CHRISTOPHER

(as he heads inside)  
I told you about your face.

JANICE

Oh, Mary, Bobby and I are so, so in  
love.

Just then, Bobby drives away.

JANICE (CONT'D)

(explains)  
He thinks it's more fun to sit in  
the car when it's moving.  
(then, excited)  
He always comes back though, and  
now he'll be back permanently!  
Bobby and I are moving here!

Janice hugs Mary and screams with joy. Mary just screams.

JANICE (CONT'D)

And now I can really be here to help with Daddy!

MARY

Oh, Janice! What a helpful promise you might keep!

JANICE

I know I used to be flaky--

MARY

You? No way! Anyone can take their grandma out of her nursing home for a day and misplace her.

JANICE

(missing the sarcasm)

I guess you're right. And Grandma did get to write an article about her experiences that day. Plus, that was years ago. I'm 100% reliable now. So what do you need?

MARY

(she does need her)

Well, Wanda has to leave soon. Can you watch Dad for a few hours while I try to save the town?

JANICE

Oh, Mary. Always the drama queen. Of course. I'd love to.

(off Mary's nervous look)

It'll be fine.

Mary nods and opens her car door. Janice opens Mary's passenger side door.

JANICE (CONT'D)

(not kidding)

Oh, right. I'm staying here. Whoops.

Janice heads inside as Mary looks very nervous.

INT. MARY'S CAR - LATER

Mary drives while talking to Kevin on the phone.

MARY

Kevin, you said we had the week. I need that week to find a solution.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

Because once we declare bankruptcy, we lose jobs, and pensions, and tourists! You know what tourists never say? "Hey! We should go to that bankrupt town!"

An annoyed Mary hangs up and turns on the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The town of Full Meadow has seen a huge spike in visitors because a nun at their church appears to have the power to heal people. Money is pouring into the town's economy--

Mary turns off the radio.

MARY (V.O.)

(jealously)

A nun with "superpowers." That's genius. Good for her.

A pile of loose jam splatters across her windshield.

MARY

(yells with a tight smile)

Thank you, Heidi! Looks like a good batch this year!

More jam hits the windshield. As Mary pulls over to deal with it, a family driving by the other way stops.

MOM IN CAR

(from the car, kindly)

What a mess. We're gonna help you!

MARY

Thank you so much!

MOM IN CAR

We're going to see the healing nun!  
We'll ask her to pray for you!

They wave and drive away. Mary looks shocked, then pissed.

MARY

(really loses it)

I don't need prayers! I NEED PAPER TOWELS!

(incredulous)

Who does that? Who prays for someone?!

As she yells, more jam flies into her mouth.

MARY (CONT'D)

Ahhrggg.  
 (swallows)  
 God, that's good.

INT. TAVERN/DISCO - LATER

Mary sits at the bar owned by her friend RUTHIE (a deadpan Maya Rudolph type). Ruthie pours two shots.

RUTHIE

There's a little jam behind your ear. Big date tonight?

MARY

Everyone's gone God crazy! They're all praying, or asking me to, or running off to that nun before they even give me some Bounty paper t's!

RUTHIE

So... no date tonight.

MARY

Ruthie, do you believe in God?

RUTHIE

Yes.

MARY

You do?! Why?! Terrible things happen to you all the time. You haven't had sex with your husband in over a year! You've been run down by a car in a supermarket parking lot. Three times.

RUTHIE

(braggy)  
 Once at a Whole Foods.  
 (then)  
 I believe God judges people by how well they enjoy themselves while he throws crap at them. I'm not having sex with my husband, but I'm in an S&M relationship with God. That's pretty hot.

Donald, co-owner of the bar, enters and plays it cool because his sister Ruthie doesn't know he's sleeping with Mary.

RUTHIE (CONT'D)

For Donald, God's all about guilt.

DONALD  
That's not true.

Mary raises an eyebrow at him.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM - YESTERDAY

Mary and Donald are having sex.

DONALD  
(as he climaxes)  
I'm sorry!

MARY  
Who are you talking to?

DONALD  
Everyone.

BACK TO:

INT. TAVERN/DISCO

DONALD  
Okay. Guilt's involved. But  
mostly it's that life's too hard  
not to believe in God.  
(then, to Mary)  
Also, there's some sort of plasma  
behind your ear.

MARY  
(tries to rub jam off but  
gets a lot in her hair)  
But what if you're not a believer?  
What if you tried, but you can't?  
What if you lost your mom the day  
you were born, and you can't  
believe in a God who would do that?  
(the jam is everywhere now)  
What if the only thing you truly  
believe is you have to solve your  
own problems, and for the first  
time ever, you can't solve them?  
(really choked up)  
And you promised your dad you  
would. Before he...

Mary puts her head down on the bar.

RUTHIE

(sweetly, rubs her back)

Oh, Mary...

(still sweetly)

There's a ton of jam in your hair.

(then, focusing)

Look, I know how much you love your Dad, but no matter what, he thinks you're amazing--

MARY

It's his dying wish.

(off their looks)

It's pretty motivating.

RUTHIE

How much money to fix all this?

MARY

To get us out of bankruptcy, and to pay back the Canadian mafia...

RUTHIE

They should just say mafia.

MARY

I know!

Mary pulls them close and whispers the amount.

RUTHIE

(bleeped)

Jesus fucking Christ.

DONALD

Oh, wow. You need more than belief. You need a miracle.

MARY

(sighs, then, her eyes widening with excitement)

Oh my god! Oh YOUR god! I know how we're going to save this town. WE'RE GOING TO FAKE A MIRACLE!

RUTHIE

(mutters a bleeped...)

Jesus Fucking Christ.

FADE OUT.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. TOWN CENTER - LATER

Mary is parked near Christopher's taxidermy shop. She's glancing furtively at a Virgin Mary statue inside of a Party City bag in her trunk. Suddenly Janice is behind her.

JANICE

What's that?

MARY

(slamming trunk, rattled)  
Nothing. Something. Anything I want it to be. I'm a feminist.

JANICE

It looked like a Party City bag. Oh my god! Are you throwing me a surprise welcome home party?

MARY

(so relieved)  
I can't say. But I'll give you a clue. I am!

Janice dances around in excitement as Mary rolls her eyes and then rushes inside Christopher's shop. Janice follows her.

INT. CHRISTOPHER'S TAXIDERMISTRY SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Christopher helps OLD MAN WENGERT, who has his dog with him.

OLD MAN WENGERT

Rusty and I aren't ready to start the process yet. We're just looking at ideas for fun poses.

CHRISTOPHER

(seeing Mary enter)  
You still haven't slept, Mary. If you were dead, I would stuff you and stretch those wrinkles out.

MARY

As any thoughtful brother would.

JANICE

Christopher! Mary's having a welcome home party for me!

MARY

(too focused on the miracle  
to deal with Janice)

Christopher, I actually came here  
to ask if you'd help Nurse Wanda  
watch Dad tonight?

CHRISTOPHER

(suspicious)

You've been at Dad's every night  
for weeks. What are you up to?

MARY

(setting up her alibi)

I'm not up to anything. I'm just  
going to go to bed early, get some  
rest, and try to look less old.

OLD MAN WENGERT

I think you've always looked great.  
Even when we were in high school.

MARY

Thank you, classmate.

JANICE

So, Mary! I can't wait. Tell me  
about the surprise party!

MARY

(suddenly realizing)

Wait! Janice, what the hell are  
you doing here?! You're supposed  
to be watching dad right now!

JANICE

(makes a fake scared face)

Oh no! Is this how you're going to  
get me there for the surprise?

(laughs, then, remembers)

Oh no.

SMASH TO:

INT. MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM - LATER

They find an eyes-closed, way-too-still Mr. Wolf.

MARY

(heartbroken)

Oh no.

JANICE

You almost got me! Is he gonna pop up as part of the surprise?

MARY

(very loud)

He may never pop up again!

Mr. Wolf pops up suddenly. They all scream.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The siblings close the door behind them.

JANICE

FYI. I only left him to go light a candle for him at church.

MARY

FYI. He could have died. All alone! FYI. I promised him he'd see this town doing well before he dies! FYI. I can't do that if I can't count on you, Janice! FYI. I can't stop saying FYI!

JANICE

Well, I'm sorry if you fail for the first time ever, and you're not Daddy's favorite one time!

MARY

Maybe I'm his favorite because I show up! And because I never lost his mom in a ball pit at McDonalds!

JANICE

She got to write an article about it! Fine! I'll watch Dad tonight!

MARY

Oh wow! Thanks for the one night! Janice, I'm so tired from helping Dad that I look like a contemporary of Old Man Wengert! So I don't need your PRAYERS or CANDLES! I need you to show up and DO SOMETHING, ANYTHING! As long as it's not strolling in asking for a WELCOME HOME PARTY! There's no party, Janice! Because you don't deserve ANYTHING from Party City!

JANICE  
That is a terrible thing to say!

Mary storms out. Janice turns to Christopher.

JANICE (CONT'D)  
Can you believe her?

CHRISTOPHER  
We're not on the same side.

JANICE  
I agree. No one's on her side.

INT. DONALD'S GARAGE - NIGHT

We are close on the statue of the Virgin Mary. "Ave Maria" plays in the background. A teardrop falls from the statue's eye. It's hauntingly beautiful. Then a full on spray of water comes shooting out of her eye. We reveal a drenched Donald, Ruthie, and Mary trying to rig up the statue.

DONALD  
(never too optimistic)  
Is there a plan B?

MARY  
(intense)  
The Virgin will appear tonight.  
This town will become the new  
miracle hot spot. And people will  
say the healing nun is garbage.

RUTHIE  
(gives her a look)  
Do we have to take down a nun?

MARY  
(more intense)  
Garbage!

EXT. THE HILL BEHIND TAVERN/DISCO - LATER

In the darkness, Mary, Ruthie, and Donald are sneaking up to the top of a hill in the woods behind Tavern/Disco. They're carrying the small statue of the Virgin Mary, a microphone, a speaker, and some lights from the disco.

MARY  
When Old Man Wengert does his  
nightly walk with his dog, he'll  
have a good view of where our  
Virgin Mary will be "appearing."  
He'll be a good gullible witness.

DONALD

You know this is a real long shot,  
right?

MARY

(vulnerable)

Yeah. I do. But I have to take  
one last big swing. Plus, maybe my  
Dad will see The Virgin Mary before  
he dies. I think he'd like that.

RUTHIE

That is the sweetest thing I've  
ever heard from someone planning to  
deceive an entire town about a  
sacred being.

INT. MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM - LATER

Nurse Wanda reads as Janice sits by her sleeping father's  
bed. The TV's on, and Janice is a little too interested in a  
commercial for the healing power of guinea pigs.

JANICE

(re: guinea pigs)

Good to remember if I'm ever sick.

Wanda shakes her head.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Old Man Wengert is walking his dog. The dog looks up to the  
hill behind Tavern/Disco and starts barking.

OLD MAN WENGERT

You can bark all you want, but  
we're not getting any prostitutes.

Then he looks to where the dog is looking, and he can't  
believe what he's seeing. There is a beautiful light focused  
on the one and only Virgin Mary. She looks real!

INT. MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

MR. WOLF

(looks out the window)

Mary!

JANICE

Mary's not here Daddy. Just me.

MR. WOLF

(full of joy and wonder)

No! The Virgin Mary! She's here!

NURSE WANDA  
 (sees it too, stunned)  
 Mary? You're in Bottom Heights?  
 Haven't you been through enough?

JANICE  
 (sees it too, typical  
 Janice, very dramatic)  
 I feel... the power.

EXT. TOP OF HILL BEHIND TAVERN/DISCO - CONTINUOUS

Our Mary, hidden behind some bushes, looks down on the town.

MARY  
 Old Man Wengert's watching. Go!

RUTHIE  
 (on mic, sings beautifully)  
 I am here for you and for others!  
 Go proclaim this miracle!

Ruthie starts riffing some angelic sounding notes. Donald harmonizes, and it sounds amazing. There's enough cloud cover that Old Man Wengert's definitely going to buy it. Mary's thrilled, but then suddenly she hears police sirens coming closer, and she sees someone charging up the hill. And it's not Old Man Wengert. It's her brother Christopher!

CHRISTOPHER  
 (as he runs up the hill)  
 Declare yourself!

Mary and Donald scramble to gather equipment. Ruthie tries to grab the Virgin statue, but it's stuck between two rocks.

RUTHIE  
 She's stuck! And there's a big  
 Party City price tag they're all  
 gonna see if we leave her here!

CHRISTOPHER  
 (from even closer)  
 DECLARE YOURSELF!

MARY  
 (panicked, bleeped)  
 HOLY SHIT!

FADE OUT.

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

EXT. BACK SIDE OF HILL BEHIND TAVERN/DISCO - MOMENTS LATER

Mary rushes over to help Ruthie pull on the Virgin statue.

RUTHIE

(praying)

God, please free this plastic--

MARY

Ruthie, if there is a God, he's not going to help in this situation!

(yanks hard, frees it)

Now run, woman!

They all start sprinting down the back side of the hill.

MARY (CONT'D)

What's Christopher doing here?! We don't need any debunkers right now!

RUTHIE

(to Donald)

Our singing was really good. Should we start a brother/sister band? Like the Carpenters?

MARY

Ruthie! Focus!

(then, can't help herself)

And, yes, you should. You sounded amazing.

EXT. TOP OF HILL BEHIND TAVERN/DISCO - CONTINUOUS

On top of the hill, Christopher stands where Mary had been. Old Man Wengert finally reaches the top of the hill.

OLD MAN WENGERT

(overcome)

I saw the Virgin Mary!

He looks to Christopher. Christopher says nothing.

EXT./INT. MARY'S HOUSE - LATER

Mary opens her door to see OFFICER GARY and OFFICER LINCOLN on her front steps with Old Man Wengert and Christopher. Mary's wearing pajamas and maybe playing the groggy, just-woke-up attitude a little too much.

MARY  
 (rubbing her eyes)  
 So sleepy. Me. What's going on?

OFFICER GARY  
 (dubiously)  
 Old Man Wengert claims he saw The  
 Virgin Mary on the hill behind  
 Tavern/Disco.

MARY  
 (acting just as dubious)  
 That sounds TOTALLY crazy.

CHRISTOPHER  
 Mary, wait.

Mary looks nervous.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)  
 It's not crazy. I saw it too.

Mary's relieved but can't tell if he's lying to protect her.

MARY  
 Well, as mayor, it's my duty to  
 alert the press. And, let's see,  
 maybe the Vatican? Yeah, that  
 sounds good. Let's immediately  
 alert the press and the Vatican.

INT. MR. WOLF'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT DAY

A blissed-out looking Janice sits by her father, who looks  
 weak, but at peace. Wanda is on her phone.

NURSE WANDA  
 I could see her. Yes. The Virgin  
 Mary. Of course she looked good!

JANICE  
 (hearing Wanda, inspired)  
 She looked amazing. She was  
 amazing. She makes me want to be  
 amazing. And I'm not just gonna  
 buy candles. Or pray. I'm gonna  
do something!

She grabs her purse and rushes out of the room.

NURSE WANDA  
 (into phone)  
 There's another sister now.  
 Weirder. I'm not kidding.

EXT. TOWN CENTER - LATER

Mary walks with a spring in her step as a van full of old ladies pulls up. They roll down their windows.

LEADER OF THE OLD LADIES  
Excuse me! Do you know where the  
Virgin Mary appeared?

MARY  
Yes! Up on that hill there. Hey,  
how'd you hear about it?

LEADER OF THE OLD LADIES  
It's on all the miracle blogs.  
You're making that nun who heals  
people look pretty rinky-dink!

MARY  
Would you call her "garbage"?

LEADER OF THE OLD LADIES  
(frowns)  
No. She's a nun.

MARY  
Fair enough.

Mary grins big as they leave. Christopher is suddenly there.

CHRISTOPHER  
Last night was pretty crazy, huh?

MARY  
(nervous)  
Oh! Yeah. The craziest.  
(then)  
I'm on my way to meet the  
Investigator from the Vatican.

They stare at each other.

CHRISTOPHER  
I know it wasn't the Virgin Mary.

Mary looks caught.

CHRISTOPHER (CONT'D)  
I can't prove it, but I think...  
(beaming)  
I think it was a UFO.  
(off her shocked look)  
Or an alien. Trying to make  
contact with me.

MARY

Well... both seem reasonable.

CHRISTOPHER

(excitedly explaining)

Right before the "Virgin Mary" appeared, I was working on the wolf replica of mom, and I was really missing her. And I think in an effort to make contact with me, the aliens projected an image of what I needed to see most at that moment.

(big finish)

The mother of all mothers.

MARY

Christopher, I need to tell you--

CHRISTOPHER

I've been feeling so sad about Dad dying. But this gave me hope.

(emotional)

And I really needed some hope.

MARY

(conflicted)

Well, that's... great. I'm glad.

CHRISTOPHER

And you can still tell people it was the Virgin Mary. I know that will be good for the town.

MARY

(surprised)

Isn't that "distorting the facts"?

CHRISTOPHER

Hey, it's the brilliant cover the aliens chose. They did that for a reason. Isn't it comforting to know that the aliens have a plan?

MARY

I get so much comfort from that.

CHRISTOPHER

Oh, I need to show you something!

EXT. CHRISTOPHER'S TAXIDERMY SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

She sees the finished re-creation of their family portrait with the miniature wolves. It's totally weird and adorable.

MARY

You put me next to Mom. Thank you!  
 (looks more closely)  
 You made my wolf face look so old.

CHRISTOPHER

I had to. They're replicas.  
 (then)  
 It may be the chemicals I've been  
 working with, but I want you, me,  
 and Janice to hang out more. And  
 to call ourselves the Wolf Pack.

MARY

It's the chemicals.

EXT. THE CHURCH PARKING LOT - LATER

Mary is waiting at the church. Suddenly she sees Janice  
 running towards her with shopping bags on each arm.

JANICE

Mary! I have such a Virgin Mary  
 buzz! I feel like she looked right  
 at me and said, "Get it, Janice."

MARY

That sounds like her.

JANICE

She's given me the power to do  
 whatever I want! This must be what  
 you feel like all the time!

MARY

Me? Why?

JANICE

You have those words of Mom's.  
 "Tell Mary she can do anything."

Mary has never heard Janice talk about this.

JANICE (CONT'D)

Do you know what Mom's last words  
 to me were? "Janice, we don't eat  
 keys and pennies."

MARY

(feels for Janice, but  
 can't help asking)  
 Were you eating both?

JANICE

The point is I have confidence now.

MARY

(surprised at her warm  
feelings for Janice)

Well, if it ever goes away, we can  
always share our final words from  
Mom. We can pretend she said both  
things to both of us, and our joint  
motto becomes, "I can do anything.  
Except eat keys and pennies."

JANICE

(considers it)

I like it. Because it still allows  
you to do almost everything you  
want to do.

Mary makes a puzzled face. Janice remembers her bags.

JANICE (CONT'D)

I forgot! You said you didn't need  
prayers. You needed me to do  
something! Well, I did! I got  
guinea pigs to heal Daddy! I'll  
let you know what your share is!

She runs off as Mary shakes her head.

INT. INSIDE THE CHURCH - LATER

A crowd (including Kevin, Christopher, Ruthie, Donald, Heidi,  
and Olga the Corduroy Queen) have gathered for the arrival of  
the Investigator from Rome. Kevin pulls Mary aside.

KEVIN

I have good news!

MARY

Based on your track record, I'm  
guessing I have an aggressive  
cancer or the river is poisoned.

KEVIN

LOTS of Tourists are coming! We've  
seen two busses today! We might  
not need to file bankruptcy!

MARY

Yessssss! Now, that's good news,  
Kevin! That's good news! Oh thank  
God! No! Thank no one!

KEVIN

All we need now is to have the miracle approved. By him, I guess.

Mary turns and sees the handsome but irritating INVESTIGATOR MATTEO (think Bobby Cannavale with an Italian accent). He wears a stylish black suit and black shirt instead of the traditional clothes of a priest.

MARY

So where's your collar, Father?

INVESTIGATOR MATTEO

And where's your hoop skirt?

MARY

Excuse me?

INVESTIGATOR MATTEO

(annoyingly smug)

Time moves forward. Fashion too.

MARY

(can't let him win)

Then why do I own four hoop skirts?

They both paste on a smile, but they do not like each other. Still, there seems to be a sexual chemistry between them.

CHRISTOPHER

There seems to be a sexual chemistry between you.

Ruthie laughs hard. Donald, who saw the chemistry, does not.

INVESTIGATOR MATTEO

(laughing, dismissive)

I'm sorry to laugh. It's just... Why would Mary appear in this town?

MARY

Why wouldn't she? She's not super choosy. She gave birth in a barn.

INVESTIGATOR MATTEO

Mayor Wolf, do you know how many mayors say that a miracle has happened in their town? You can't just say it happened. You need evidence of an actual miracle.

Just then, Mr. Wolf, who hasn't been out of bed in months, walks into the church clutching two guinea pigs. A smiling, teary Janice and a bewildered Nurse Wanda follow behind.

CHRISTOPHER  
 (thrilled)  
 What is happening?!

MARY  
 (beyond excited)  
 Dad?!

MR. WOLF  
 These two animals have cured me.  
 They've taken it on themselves. Do  
 you understand? They've sucked the  
 illness out of me. It's a miracle!

Everyone's shocked. A wide-eyed Mary turns to Janice.

JANICE  
 (still stunned)  
 I guess I can do anything.

MARY  
 (really excited)  
 I guess you can!  
 (off Janice's smile)  
 Well, except eat keys and pennies.

Janice laughs, and they rush over to their father and  
 Christopher for a group hug. Mr. Wolf can't stop smiling.

CHRISTOPHER  
 (quietly, to Mary)  
 Wolf Pack.

MARY  
 (smiles and nods, then)  
 Now never say it again.

MARY (V.O.)  
*I faked a miracle. And now some  
crazy stuff has happened. It can't  
 just be the guinea pigs. So I have  
 to consider the possibility that  
 there are greater forces at work in  
 the universe. Forces that make  
real miracles happen. Forces that  
 I might have to start believing in.*

MARY  
 (hugging her dad, bleeped)  
 Holy shit.

FADE OUT.

**END OF ACT THREE**

**TAG**

MARY (V.O.)  
Coming up, on *Hail Mary*.

We see very short snippets of future scenes from the series.

INT. CHURCH

INVESTIGATOR MATTEO  
(to Mary and a healthy Mr.  
Wolf)  
I don't believe either miracle.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DARK ALLEY

TREMBLAY  
Mayor Wolf, I hope you haven't  
forgotten about the Canadian mafia.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTER

MARY  
I need that key. Where is it?!

JANICE  
I swallowed it! I couldn't resist!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TAVERN/DISCO

CHRISTOPHER  
(suspicious as he listens  
to Ruthie and Donald sing  
a Carpenters song)  
I've heard this singing before.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOWN CENTER

HEIDI (O.S.)  
IS THIS WHOLE THING A LIE?!

Mary's face gets splattered with jam.

**END OF SHOW**