

INT. NIGHTCLUB BAR - NIGHT

Julius sits at the bar. The room is crowded, but it feels like Julius is sitting alone. Another shot of whiskey.

Jimmy comes through the front door and stops. He comes over and sits on the available stool beside him.

From a BOOTH in the corner, seemingly cloaked in darkness, sits a WOMAN. All we can see clearly is the short tight red skirt she wears and her long legs.

She seems to be watching Jimmy and Julius.

JIMMY

I thought I would find you here.

He pats his friend on his shoulder. The bartender turns to Jimmy.

BARTENDER

Can I get you anything?

JIMMY

Water would be good.

The bartender nods and serves him a glass of water.

JULIUS

If you need anything stronger, I'm paying.

JIMMY

I'm good with water.

JULIUS

You don't wear places like this very well.

JIMMY

I go where the Lord bids me. It's not always a comfortable place.

JULIUS

The Lord told you to come here?

JIMMY

I know where you're headed, Julius. You have a choice.

JULIUS

A choice between life and death?

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JIMMY

Not the way you're thinking about it.

JULIUS

Look, I am happy this God thing works for you. But I have tried it, okay. It's not for me.

JIMMY

You sat in the back of the church for forty-five minutes.

JULIUS

Your God needs more time than that?

JIMMY

He needs you Julius. Your testimony is going to save millions.

JULIUS

How can I save anyone, when I can't even save myself?

JIMMY

God sees beyond--

JULIUS

Jimmy! I don't believe in God. Okay? I am sick and tired of all this. I want it to end.

JIMMY

Okay, Julius, I get it. Will you do one more thing for me and then I won't bug you anymore?

JULIUS

Anything for some peace and quiet.

Jimmy ruefully smiles.

JIMMY

Father Brown wants you to stop by for a talk. Nothing serious, just wants to touch base with you.

Julius smiles.

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JULIUS

He's taking the last shot, huh.
He's your closer?

JIMMY

No, Julius, God is the closer.

Julius laughs and then is serious, tormented.

JULIUS

It hurts too much. I don't want to
live anymore.

He downs his last shot and stumbles out of the room.

JIMMY

Once we are conceived in this
world, we can never return to
being nonexistent my friend.

Jimmy drinks his water and gets up to leave.

The woman sitting in the booth goes back to drinking.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT - PRESENT DAY

Julius steps out of the church as the THUNDER becomes
louder in the distance.

INT. ANGEL ARMS APARTMENT - MORNING

Julius lies on the bed with one hand over his eyes and
the other clutching his chest. He breathes lightly as if
asleep--alone with his nightmares, alone with his past.

A thick cloud of darkness seeps through every available
crack, filling the room. Out of the darkness voices--
voices that belong to ancient faceless, formless
creatures that patrol this earth seeking souls to devour.
The creatures start to materialize around Julius' bed.

One demon, ULTIMATE stands out above the rest. He's huge
and his dark body is covered in scales as thick as a
shield. His yellow eyes survey the room, his lizard like
teeth snarling at the still figure in bed. He walks
closer...

ULTIMATE

Did God really say He would not
give you more than you can bear?

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Another demon, ECHO, speaks in loud whispers.

ECHO

He lied to you.

ULTIMATE

Did He really say He would supply
all your needs, according to His
riches in glory.

ECHO

More lies.

Julius stirs, his hand falls away from his eyes.

ULTIMATE

Did God really say He would be
with You always?

ECHO

Lies.

ULTIMATE

Your destiny has always been in
your own hands.

ECHO

Choose.

ULTIMATE

Did you really think He would come
and save you?

ECHO

Empty promises.

ULTIMATE

Silence the pain and you will have
peace. Deny Him. Resist Him.
Sleep!

Julius slowly sits up in bed, weak and confused. His face is red and swollen from crying. He looks around the room, but cannot see the thickening darkness, or the figures swirling around him with claws stuck in his brain. He turns his eyes out the window searching for a glimmer of hope.

The sky is littered with colors as the sun creeps over the mountains, painting a picture of a reality unknown to Julius. He stares at it as the sun reflects in his eyes.

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ULTIMATE

Sleep...and time will be no more.

The room is now filled with black fog and it spreads across the window blocking the sun. The blackness stretches to the full length of the room. It pours through the walls. Julius lies in the bed. His eyes close one last time.

A new form appears. A leader that stands above Ultimate, more fierce than all others. His name is DIABLO. He peers at the motionless body of Julius. Black puffs of smoke leaves his nostrils.

DIABLO

Take him.

Ultimate pulls a large SPEAR from the darkness and plunges it deep into Julius' soul. His eyes snap open, a scream leaves his mouth. He writhes and squirms in pain.

Chains come out of the darkness and wrap around Julius' body. It is pulled tightly and cuts into his flesh.

The floor and walls of the room begin to shake. Julius fights against the chains that bind him. The demons hold him in place, LAUGHING and pointing.

The floor RIPS apart and everything in the room falls through.

JULIUS

Help me!

EXT. ANGEL ARMS APARTMENT - SAME

The homeless man, the Tall Old Man, rolls over, knocking empty liquor bottles aside.

Above him, the dark cloudy sky starts to swirl and thunder. He looks up and goes back to sleep.

The remaining prostitutes hurry away.

INT. JIMMY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Jimmy awakens with a start, sits up, and takes a breath.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Father Brown kneels and PRAYS at the altar.

INT. CHURCH - DAY - LATER

Jimmy hurries in, kneels next to Father Brown and they pray together.

When they have finished, they look at each other.

JIMMY

I don't know if I am strong
enough.

FATHER BROWN

Hopefully your faith is strong
enough. It is out of our hands.
You know what you must do.

Jimmy nods and leaves the church.

INT. DARK BOTTOMLESS HOLE - FOREVER

Julius is FALLING with pieces of the building falling with him. The demons float along with their torn wings outstretched. They pull on the chain and take turns tormenting Julius with their spears.

The pieces begin to DISINTEGRATE from a great heat. The demons release the chain; they return to the surface.

A violent and hot wind blows up from below SCORCHING Julius clothes and parts of his flesh. He SCREAMS in pain. Below is an orange, yellowish, reddish glow. It grows brighter and wider by the second. Julius' clothes are SINGED off his body.

INT. LIMITLESS CAVERN - FOREVER

Julius falls out of a wide hole into a cavern and plunges into a lake of burning lava. It is like burning mud and quicksand. He is sucked in and engulfed by its torrents, filling his mouth, nose, ears and eyes. His eyes burn but he can still see. His ears fall off, but he can still hear. His mouth is melted away but he can still SCREAM.