

Exit, Pursued By A Harpy
by
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FADE IN:

INT. A HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

In the dark kitchen of a rural halfway house for mental patients, a woman named VERGIL fetches a water bottle. A young man named MATT enters, puts his arms around her.

MATT

Vergil.

VERGIL

Matt! What are you doing?

MATT

Come on. You know how I feel about you, Vergil.

She shoves him away.

VERGIL

Matt. You got to hold it together.

MATT

Fuck, that hurts. I like you, you like me...

VERGIL

Matt. Please. We've come so far. We got you out of the hospital, you've been doing so good...

MATT

Meds make me foggy. Feel lonely.

VERGIL

Please. I can't keep covering for you.

MATT

I thought when Davey left, it would just be you and me.

VERGIL

I can't believe you just said that. Davey's in trouble.

MATT

Don't you love me?

VERGIL

Matt. I love everybody in this house. I love you, I love Lupe, I love Melanie --

He pulls jars out of the fridge and smashes them.

He storms out. Vergil freezes as voices begin to speak inside her head, one male and one female.

VOICES

Stupid!
Stupid!
Waste of space!
Why the hell are you even here?

VERGIL

Oh shut up for Christ sake!

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE -- DAY

ADAM, a large detective, goes upstairs to the top floor of the halfway house, and meets MEL, a therapist in her 30s.

ADAM

So how long have you been doing this?

MEL

As a therapist, or as a patient? When I was 17 I was a pill popper. Then the psych ward, therapy. Went back to school, now I'm a therapist.

ADAM

So what's the job?

MEL

We have a patient, Davey, heart and soul of this halfway house. He ran off, the other patients go nuts, county's asking questions. He kept talking about seeing this girl Jenny, hospital downtown.

ADAM

I'm working pro bono again?

Vergil enters. Remember: these patients never "act crazy" or kooky. Vergil struggles with focus, with communication, and with hallucinations.

But she's aware of her disease, a fighter, smart, deadpan humor. She's not cute, and she's not a clown.

VERGIL
Dude. Problem. Egg problem.

MEL
Egg problem.

VERGIL
I forgot. How did I forget to cook an egg? It's a stupid egg!

MEL
Why are you dressed like that?

VERGIL
(mimicking)
Why are you dressed like that? Felt like it. Did I do it wrong? Here --

She takes off pants.

MEL
So we're cleaning up today?

VERGIL
Forgot! I told you!

MEL
This is Adam.

VERGIL
New friend. Stranger in the house.

She looks at him hard, shakes his hand firmly.

VERGIL (CONT'D)
He's real. Real as a heart attack.

ADAM
I'm Adam. I'm a detective.

Mel winces.

VERGIL
He's a cop! Where's your gun?
Assume the position!

She searches him very thoroughly. She goes round the room straightening things, pacing, grimacing, fiddling with her hands.

MEL

Are you taking the pills? I can't let you go out like this. Sit and calm down.

She sits but rocks in her chair, mimicking Mel.

VERGIL

Calm down! I'm a detective. Detector the destructor...No gun, no gun.

MEL

Vergil? Look at me. Deep breath. He's here to help. He's here about Davey.

VERGIL

Davey, Davey... You know where he is!

ADAM

No.

Vergil throws pants at Mel, runs to a bedroom.

MEL

Seriously - I had this talk with her, I prepared her, she was okay.

ADAM

It's okay.

MEL

She has her coping tools, and then no warning, she slides away. I'm too young to be this exhausted... As a girl Vergil was a cook, fantastic. She slid into schizophrenia. Her family abandoned her, they were worn out. Her friends ran off, got arrested.

ADAM

Arrested that girl?

MEL

She was walking down the middle of Main Street, painting the yellow lines pink. Right now her family is me and her therapy group. That's it.

ADAM

So, multiple personalities...?

MEL

Different illness. Schizophrenia, you hallucinate, you have problems talking and thinking. She forgets, loses focus, so school was hard.

ADAM

So she's not working now?

MEL

When she gets overloaded, she can forget even the simple things: I have to remind her to take a shower, wear a coat. She tried to kill herself, cops saved her.

ADAM

Was that recent?

MEL

She's better now. She hears voices but they don't throw her for a loop. She wants to get better, she's great with the other patients. She's more independent than she seems, she could raise a family with help - this was just an episode.

ADAM

So she's going to get well?

MEL

No. It's progressive. When she goes off the pills, she has episodes - each time pulls her further away from reality. And the fight is exhausting her.

ADAM

So what was tonight?

MEL

Stress sets her off. Over-stimulation. Caffeine is a no-no - see the Coke cans?

Vergil comes back down with a blanket round her shoulders, nervous, no eye contact.

VERGIL

Count to ten and ten again. No gun.
Sorry. Had a little Vergil Moment
there. I don't have pants on.
Sorry, sweetie.

ADAM

So you're back now.

Remembering him, she becomes nervous, looks down.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You're okay?

VERGIL

Yes.

ADAM

So how long have you known Davey?

VERGIL

Yes.

ADAM

Vergil? You know Davey well?

VERGIL

Yes, he came to the hospital with -
(to Mel)
Dude, where are the eggs?

ADAM

Vergil?

VERGIL

(rapid)

Davey, well he came to us in a blustery December on twenty-ninth with all the decorations out and it had to be below freezing and he overdosed on some horrendous cocktail of amphetamine and other narcotics and his whole family is out to exterminate him and he had to wear one of those gowns and no pants for a week and they diagnosed him with post tyrannic stress and bipole disorder and DOWN off the speed and he gurgitated twice and I love that boy so much and so do the rest of us and he really flowered in the therapeutic sessions and I know him better than anyone in the world and when he is here I do so so so so much better and now he left and if we hurry -
 (confused; to Mel)
 Dude, eggs?

ADAM

So you know him well?

VERGIL

Huh? Sorry. Trying. Yes. How would I not know him? He came in in December! Octo, novem, decem, tenth month of the year!

ADAM

December?

VERGIL

After Halloween. Is it cold outside? Sorry. Focus. You scared me.

ADAM

So where did Davey go?

VERGIL

He loves animals. ...Sorry, you asked -

ADAM

Where did Davey go?

VERGIL

Let's go, then! Get Davey!

ADAM

Where?

VERGIL

Duh. We should hire, ya know, a detective!...I'm screwing with you, man. Night like this, I come and I go. Sorry. Come on, I'll cook you a little dinner. You like em poached? Got a wicked sauce...Mel? Nothing on Matt or Davey?

MEL

Nothing. Hospitals, police, nada.

VERGIL

How could I lose two whole people into thin air? Davey tried to kill himself, we gotta get him back!

MEL

It's not your fault. You trying to save the whole world again?

VERGIL

I was taking care of them! It was working!

She puts a broom in the doorway.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Broom in the door, demons no more.

INT. DOWNSTAIRS AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

They go downstairs to a living room where the men live; a handful of men are in robes. They are NOT foggy zombies although their manner of speaking is a bit flat. LEO and WAYNE are conspiracy theorists; PETE aggressive, MARK passive; TIM is the new kid. They see the gigantic Adam approach.

PETE

Cheese and crackers. He's a cop.

ADAM

Not for a while.

PETE

Likely story.

MEL

We had a little excitement last week. Let's take a look at what happened.

PETE

Well, Leo said he is God's messenger, known around the world, he has powers...

MARK

We both think we're god, we can't both be right.

PETE

You're right, it's stupid. ...Cause clearly it's me, not you.

MEL

We've all heard some cool conspiracy theories, what was your favorite?

MARK

My wife was cheating on me.

PETE

My wife was replaced by a clone.

MARK

My cat talks, and he's really pissed about the dry cat food.

PETE

Jewish bankers.

MARK

Hitler.

PETE

Hitler AND Elvis.

MARK

Aliens. Hey, Leo, this conspiracy stuff is your line, isn't it?

At the end of the therapy circle, watching the TV with one eye each, are Leo and Wayne.

LEO

Government got this plan, FEMA
education camps, take our guns,
martial law, death panels, foreign
troops, terrorists cross our
border, declaring war on Christmas,
we gonna have Islamic law.

WAYNE

Homosexuals causing hurricanes,
recruiting our kids, giving us all
AIDS..

LEO

Get kids when they're young, teach
em communism, evolution and global
warming and the holocaust and
vaccination..

WAYNE

Black folks don't just want to
vote, they want to abort all the
white babies.

LEO

All those damn homeless people.

MEL

Hey Leo. I was homeless. So was he.

LEO

Doctor Who is Satan. It's
witchcraft.

(to Adam)

Hey, this is the therapy room. You
think we're here to entertain you?

WAYNE

That girl Vergil is possessed.

VERGIL

(entering with a tinfoil
box)

I'm not possessed, I just hear
voices. Here's your tinfoil hat,
sweetie.

LEO

Very funny.

VERGIL

(to Pete)

Look, Old Finnegan, Here Comes
Everybody. Me and all my voices.

PETE

Dude!

VERGIL

Enter, left, riding a unicorn...
Leo, you accused your Mom of
putting a microchip in your head.
Don't you want visitors?

LEO

My wife is divorcing me. Can't
blame her. Been rough on her.

VERGIL

Aw, sweetie. I'm going to find
Davey.

MARK

You mean on the outside?

VERGIL

That's where people escape to. All
the way to the big city.

MARK

We do better when Vergil's here!

MEL

I know. But Vergil knows Davey, he
trusts her, she's ready for the
street. You guys chill out for a
little.

PETE

I want to go too! Road trip!

A new, young patient, Tim, enters, with bruises.

MEL

What happened to your head? Let me
see.

TIM

Mel, you have to keep me on track.
I can't go back to the hospital.

MEL

Well, we're gonna try.

TIM

Graduation day. They moved me from
the juvenile ward to the adult
hospital.

MARK

Never been there, looks like a prison.

TIM

I wish. In jail, got dopers who just want to go home, they're guarded by big beefy mothers with tasers. In the hospital you have rapists and murderers, and it's a hospital, all they have guarding them is a bunch of nurses and orderlies making ten bucks an hour. Patients are hitting each other with chairs. Those nurses have black eyes and stitches every day, just breaking up the fights.

MEL

He's right, I worked there last year. Got a busted arm and a broken nose.

TIM

Wow. They let you work there? You? You got balls of steel.

MEL

Thank you. Pills, stay on your pills. Hear that, Vergil? You want to go to big girl hospital, get your nose busted by some crack whore? Take your pills!

(to Tim)

You gotta hang in there with me. It can take weeks for the pills to settle in, that's why you can't stop.

Mel pulls Adam aside.

ADAM

Are you okay living with all these guys?

MEL

You think these guys are all Hannibal Lecter, right? Schizophrenics are almost never violent. I'd be in more danger at a frat party. Some of them have jobs.

ADAM

They can work?

MEL

Most of them can, but they have trouble getting hired. Employers don't want to be bothered. They can usually live out in the world once they get help. ...I'm nervous about this. Vergil tried to kill herself when Davey left.

ADAM

Okay.

MEL

When she gets wobbly, she forgets to eat and to pee. I know you old cops eat junk food, but she needs to eat healthy and walk. No drinking, no drugs, no smoking.

ADAM

Alright.

MEL

Most important. Don't let her out of your sight. She can wander off, she has enough function to move quick.

ADAM

So you're okay with this?

MEL

No. But Davey may try to kill himself again. That's why Vergil wants to go - she can't sit still knowing he's gone. Another thing. Three years now, they tried to close this place, these guys be homeless. We lose Matt and Davey, we look bad. Faster you find that boy, the better.

ADAM

So her name is really Vergil?

MEL

Her real name is Heather. She hates it. She read Dante's Inferno when she was younger. Now she's Vergil. She wants to lead the lost souls out of hell.

Vergil approaches them.

VERGIL

You should pick a new name too.
What kind of name is that? MEL.
Like the fat guy on a bowling team.
You should be Juliet, Goneril,
Portia, Cleopatra.

ADAM

So this isn't a medical -

MEL

It's a halfway house for people who
don't need nurses and guards 24/7.
We keep the men and women separate
except in therapy, the main flaw in
my plan is Vergil. Keeps jumping
the fence.

VERGIL

Dude, the guys respond to me. I
leave for a week and they all fall
apart.

(waggles her body)

Gotta remind our boys in green what
they're fighting for.

MEL

Okay, sweetie. Adam here is in
charge.

VERGIL

(salutes him)

Totally in charge...I'm an adult,
dude.

MEL

Vergil!...No drugs, no Cokes, not
while you're away from me. It's not
vacation.

VERGIL

Aw, man.

MEL

You're gonna get stressed. No scary
TV. Stay with Adam, stay on your
drugs.

VERGIL

They makes me all mushy, and the
voices go away. Lonely.

MEL

Every time you go off em you slip away even more. One day you won't come back. Give em hugs. Got your magic crystal?

Vergil reaches into her shirt and pulls out a faux crystal on a faux silver chain.

VERGIL

No fear.

She goes to grab a bag.

MEL

You heard what she said about my name? Juliet, Cleopatra? They're all women who committed suicide. It's on her mind all the time. She thinks she's going to find Davey dead out there.

In a room with bizarre writing on the walls, Vergil draws a Norse protection symbol, a wheel with eight spokes, each with three slashes halfway out, and a three-prong trident at the end of each.

VERGIL

This will keep em safe when I'm gone. Let's see if Davey's at the hospital. Jenny was there, one of our patients.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

Adam sees a bearded man, HOGUE, in front of a pickup. He and Vergil walk to Adam's car.

ADAM

Somebody hanging around your house?

VERGIL

I'm worried. Bunch of times, one of our guys disappears, they never come back.

ADAM

Relax. We're gonna cover this whole town. The whole ball of wax.

VERGIL

Ball of wax?

ADAM
The whole nine yards.

VERGIL
Nine -

ADAM
The whole shooting match.

VERGIL
Shooting -

She is confused and alarmed.

EXT. SMALL SHOP - DAY

Vergil grimacing, twitching, pacing. Picks up cupcakes and opens them. Adam and a CLERK watch.

VERGIL
Put down the cupcakes.

ADAM
It's okay, we'll buy em. Have a seat.

She sits next to her "groceries", and rocks.

VERGIL
Okay we got Slim Jims, Flaming Hot Cheetos, and malted milk balls.

ADAM
Hungry?

VERGIL
It's not for me. Three bucks for bottled water? Our water has hydrogen AND oxygen.

ADAM
Just get a soda.

VERGIL
No no no no no. You don't want to be stuck in a car with me and caffeine.

CLERK
Is she okay?

VERGIL
 (gets up, rehearsing to
 herself)
 I would like to make these
 purchases please. Purchases please.
 (to the clerk; no eye
 contact)
 I would like to make purchases
 please. ...Um, are you guys hiring?

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Adam and Vergil are in a hall near Admissions.

ADAM
 Admissions said she's not here.

VERGIL
 Adam! Back here.

They go back down the hall and find a wall covered with art drawn by patients. One drawing depicts the same protection symbol Vergil drew in the halfway house. Vergil pulls it off the wall.

VERGIL (CONT'D)
 This is Jenny. She was here.

They take the picture to the Admissions NURSE.

VERGIL (CONT'D)
 Who drew the pictures on the wall?

NURSE
 Patients in the psych ward,
 therapy.

VERGIL
 Jenny did this!

NURSE
 (her face falls)
 I remember her. She ran off a month ago. Then a Jane Doe in the ER. It's her. ...Keep the picture if you want.

VERGIL
 Did she have any visitors?

NURSE
 Guy named Carl. He was looking for Jenny and for someone named David.

VERGIL

Oh no. We're going to the county jail.

EXT. HOSPITAL PARKING LOT -- DAY

In the lot, they see the guy who was standing outside the halfway house, Hogue, again with his truck.

VERGIL

Want some Cheetos? They were for Jenny.

They turn a corner onto a city street, and Vergil is seeing flashing lights, colors, shapes.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Wow, that was fast. Take my hand. Please.

ADAM

Are you alright?

VERGIL

Seeing things. Scary when I'm outside.

She sees a BOY.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

You see the boy?

ADAM

What boy?

VERGIL

I can't always trust what I see.

She sees Jesus walking a dog.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

So you don't see the dog.

ADAM

No.

VERGIL

Or the guy holding him?

ADAM

Who?

VERGIL

He wrote the Bible. He died four times.

ADAM

Not just stress. You're off your meds.

VERGIL

Boy, this got out of control fast.

ADAM

We can stop. Go back home.

VERGIL

No. Usually I hear things before I

-

She begins to hear RUMBLING, RUSTLING, BITS OF MUSIC, SIRENS, DOG'S FOOTSTEPS.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Okay, need to stop.

She begins to hear breathing, mumbling, gibberish and begins walking again, faster.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

And here we go. The cocktail party.

She hears whispers, fragmented words, laughter.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

(resigned)

Here Comes Everybody.

VOICES

Heather Heather Heather Heather ...

VERGIL

I'm not Heather, I'm Vergil! Left on a crack.

She steps carefully on the cracks in the sidewalk.

VOICES

We told her over and over.

She's Heather.

Stupid girl.

Stupid girl.

Waste of space.

Just end it all.

VERGIL
Just piss off! Right on a crack.

VOICES
Just end it all.
End it all.

VERGIL
Okay, sorry, I'm listening. Left on
a crack. I'm trying, you're trying.

VOICES
We're trying.
Scary guy?
Has a gun.

VERGIL
Right on a crack. If you guys are
gonna yammer in my ears, tell me
where to find Davey.

VOICES
Davey!
We miss Davey.
You need to go find him.
You haven't talked to us for days.

VERGIL
Stress can bring them out.
Sometimes if I'm nice to them,
they're nice to me. They help me
and steer me.

ADAM
Sometimes they tell you to kill
yourself.

VERGIL
This morning they told me to kill
you.

ADAM
Oh.

VERGIL
Now it's like a radio show, the
most fucked up cocktail party you
ever heard --

She drops off mid-sentence.

ADAM
Vergil? You sort of sailed off
there.

VERGIL

Sometimes everybody shouts at once,
like the floor of the stock
exchange. Try falling asleep with
all that shouting.

ADAM

Must be annoying.

VERGIL

But when they go, I miss them.
Don't you have them?

ADAM

No. Never.

VERGIL

(takes his hand)
Oh, Adam.

VOICES

Hey, still here.
Still here.

VERGIL

I know, you're always where I am.
(she hops)
Augh, two rights in a row.

ADAM

We gotta go back, start over?

VERGIL

That's OCD. I'm schizophrenic. Try
to keep up. Sorry, it's the stress.
In a week Davey could be dead and
the rest of us could be
homeless...Distraction. Tell me
about you. Mel said you got canned.

ADAM

I had a partner who went downtown
every night and beat the shit out
of the homeless with his baton. I
complained to the brass and they
tossed me out. That's how I met
Mel. My partner put one of her
patients in the hospital.

VERGIL

Who was it?

ADAM

That guy Nick.

VERGIL
You know Nicky!

ADAM
The local cops hate my guts.
They're not gonna help find Davey.
...So who do they sound like? The
voices?

VERGIL
My parents. Before they left me.
Forever young. When I was seventeen
they put me in a hospital,
November. They got tired of me
ruining Christmas. They like to
entertain. Next year they put me in
again, and just never came back for
me.

ADAM
They ever visit?

VERGIL
(points to her head)
Only in here. They chased me away,
but now they come with me and
protect me.

VOICES
Run.
He's a cop.
Run!

She runs.

ADAM
Dammit!

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

Mel's therapy session. One catatonic patient ignores the
session and watches TV nearby.

MEL
Morning, how are all my
minions?...You notice Matt
disappeared this morning.

MARK
Is he okay?

MEL

He pushed Vergil into a closet and groped her. Then he broke the treadmill.

PETE

I'll kill him.

MEL

Relax, he's gone. Don't touch the produce, boys, leave Vergil alone.

PETE

And you. And the women upstairs.

MEL

Next, the television.

Cacophony ensues.

MEL (CONT'D)

You guys insist on Fox News every night, but some folks want something different.

MARK

Spongebob.

LEO

What's he watching now, over there?

MEL

Internet cats. Calms him down.

PETE

Vergil had this system for picking the shows, it was awesome. No fights.

A young Latina, Lupe, enters.

MEL

As you know, we keep the women upstairs, men down here. The girls asked to come down, mix things up. You all know Lupe.

WAYNE

Ola.

MEL

Put on a robe. Stop leaving your porn all over.

MARK

I saw a girl with a dragon tattoo.
I want one of those!

MEL

Whose turn is it in the kitchen?
Dishes, trash, laundry? College
degree, I'm not your maid. Next,
Scruffles.

LEO

For Christ sake. He's imaginary!

MARK

He's my cat.

LEO

Time for an intervention!

MEL

You can keep your imaginary cat,
but you can't leave him real food
or we'll have real rats again.
Roaches. Health department puts us
on the street.

MARK

The voices said.

MEL

What's our rule?

MARK

You can listen to the voices...

LEO AND WAYNE

But don't do what they say!

MEL

Mark, don't forget, got Doctor
Gupta.

MARK

I hate that guy, I was just there!
And my name is Urgulanilla.
Tomorrow it will be
Urgulanillanilla.

MEL

I can't fit that on my clipboard.
Next, the writing room. Write
smaller or we run out of space, I
gotta repaint. Okay, girls, line up
for the pills!

PETE

Haldol Risperdol sis boom bah!
Olanzapine and Clozapine rah rah
rah!

WAYNE

Got my shot, I'm good for two
weeks.

MARK

Lucky ducky.

MEL

You still gotta do therapy, without
it you turn into jello. Hey,
sweetie, the doctor finally said
yes.

PETE

No more Haldol?

MEL

Nope.

PETE

Damn right. The twitching and
blinking, drives me nuts. So what
am I on?

MEL

Risperdol.

PETE

Again? Gives me raging priapism.

TIM

I just got Risperdol, what's
priapism?

PETE

Get a hard-on like railroad steel,
lasts all night. And nowhere to go
with it.

TIM

Wow. How do you pee?

PETE

Okay, I'm taking it, here comes
Mister Johnson, Mel, stand back!

She does, smiling. Standing far apart, they reach their arms
toward each other to hand off the pill. He makes a big show
of swallowing the pill.

PETE (CONT'D)
Here it comes!

MEL
Don't be a clown.

PETE
You should be flattered...

MEL
Ready for yours?

Tim glances down at his groin and Mel laughs.

TIM
One pill makes you larger...

PETE
Mel.
(approaching her quietly)
Yesterday. I'm sorry.

MEL
So you remember, then?

PETE
Wish I didn't.

MEL
You pushed Mark down and tried to
run. You're not ready to go to your
family.

PETE
You mean they're not ready.

MEL
Neither are you.

PETE
You got me off the ledge. So...I know
I'm not supposed to touch you or
anything...

She hugs him, hard.

MEL
We came so far, sweetie. Don't blow
it.

PETE
State's gonna kick us out?

MEL

Don't you worry.

PETE

Davey and Vergil held us together. Vergil's always trying to save the world. Now they're gone. The guys are stressed, they get all woolly bully.

MEL

I really believe Davey's okay.

PETE

Tried to kill himself.

MEL

Just don't. Don't get them spun up either.

The patients watch TV.

MARK

Aw, cute dog. Do dogs hear voices too?

WAYNE

Bacon.

MARK

Fire hydrant.

TIM

Chase the car.

PETE

Oooh, look at that bitch!

TV news story about a terrorist attack.

MARK

Each morning I turn on the TV and see what the normal people are up to. Makes me feel better about myself.

LEO

Should we tell Tim?

TIM

About what?

LEO
Davey. And that truck. There's a
spy in front of our house. Looking
for Davey.

TIM
Davey?

LEO
Government been looking for him. So
he ran away. So now we got spies
out there. Guy's got a gun, too.

TIM
What's this, your voices?

LEO
No you dumbshit. Look outside.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE HALFWAY HOUSE -- DAY

Hogue is outside, in the pickup truck.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE -- DAY

Continuation. Mel is with the girl.

MEL
Lupe? It's done. They found a
family.

LUPE
That was fast. Baby's healthy?

MEL
Yells and eats and poops and
sleeps.

LUPE
They have other kids?

MEL
Lupe, I can't talk to you about the
adoption. But she's safe now.

LUPE
(extremely mixed emotions)
Good.

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Adam panics. Takes a minute to search for Vergil. He rounds a corner, sees her on a playground.

ADAM
Vergil!

VERGIL
Who are you -

ADAM
Adam. The detective. Jesus!

VERGIL
The cop.

INT. ADAM'S CAR -- DAY

Continuation. In the car Adam catches his breath. Opens a soda and begins to drive.

ADAM
Scared the shit out of me...So
you're Vergil from the Inferno.

VERGIL
Before it all went kerblooey, I
read like an addict. Dante,
Melville. Now it's hard to
concentrate that long, I read bits
of Shakespeare. Try to watch
movies.

ADAM
Shakespeare? Scary stuff. King
Lear, everybody dies.

VERGIL
Hey, spoiler alert! Lear was off
his meds - Mel could have fixed
him. Macbeth is freaky. Eye of
newt. Newt is a sacalander. Looks
like a geico gecko. 15 minutes can
save you 15 minutes of-

She stops, confused. He drinks.

ADAM
Shakespeare. Who was your favorite?

VERGIL

Isn't it obvious? Richard III! On the battlefield he hears the voices of the people he killed, he flips out, gets his ass killed. Score one for schizophrenia!

ADAM

Can you recite any?

VERGIL

Here's some Shakespeare for you. There once was a girl from Nantucket--

He laughs, chokes, pulls over.

ADAM

You're trying to kill me.

VERGIL

I'm here all week, try the veal!

He's still coughing. Driving resumes. She notices cracks in two windows.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

What's up with the windows?

ADAM

Bullet holes. Had a difference of opinion.

VERGIL

Look out for the penis truck.

ADAM

Penis truck?

VERGIL

Big ass pickup, Confederate flag, gun rack. Look at the size of that thing! My doctor would call that compensation.

ADAM

Looks like a real cowboy.

VERGIL

(macho voice)

Saddle up, pardner, gotta do a roundup over the dry goods, pick up my wife's tampons and Haagen-Dazs. Yee haw. ...You drive like a cop.

ADAM

Bad habits die hard. You like to cook?

VERGIL

Yeah. Made good money.

ADAM

All that craziness in a restaurant kitchen? During a dinner rush?

VERGIL

Oh hell no, I'd flip out. I do the fancy stuff the other cooks can't, in the morning. Is Davey coming Monday? Sorry...

ADAM

You cook.

VERGIL

The fancy sauces, the soups, the pastry - you have to be a scientist to make good pastry. Hey, how about some tunes?

ADAM

My stuff might be a little intense.

VERGIL

Pink pink pink. What's a Pink Floyd?

ADAM

Well, that song is all about death, and it's just a lot of yelling. There's another one - no, that would really be trouble. There was a guy in their band, he flipped out -

VERGIL

In the head?

ADAM

Yeah. They wrote this long song, with saxophones and guitar solos and singing girls, all to say goodbye, because he couldn't play anymore. Heard voices.

VERGIL

That's beautiful. Sexy saxophones. What's this one?

An obscene rap song is on; she is laughing.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

I don't give a fuck fuck fuck fuck
fuck fuck! I'm inappropriate!

She tunes the radio and finds static.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Oh, thank God.

ADAM

It's static.

VERGIL

Static. My voices are gone. Take
that, you stupid quackers! Quack
quack.

She turns it off.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Don't want to be mean.

VOICES

And here she is playing with the
radio.
Static.
Hssssss...
Stay off the pills.
Mel wants to kill us off.
They're out to get us.
Plotting against you.
You lost Davey.
Running off to play with other
girls.
Listen to Mummy and Daddy.
Kill the cop.
And then yourself.
Worthless baggage.
Stupid.

She turns on the static and her eyes get watery.

VERGIL

It's exhausting. It's bad when I'm
stressed. It's worse when I'm
alone.

ADAM

I'm right here.

VERGIL

In the hospital, I saw what it looks like when you totally lose it. I could lose my grip on everything. But I need the voices. When I'm on drugs they go away, I'm alone, I don't exist. Get sleepy, my muscles stiffen up like a corpse. When the voices are back, the world glows, I feel happy. And Davey - I can't find him, but my voices can.

She turns off the radio.

VOICES

Stupid!
Stupid!
Static!
Static!

She moans and puts her arms over her head.

INT. DAY ROOM IN A MENTAL WARD -- NIGHT

A nasty, under-funded mental ward. A young man, DAVEY, sits in a corner. He hears clear voices in his head, and a blurrier voice from someone in the ward. He's having a surreal night, off his meds.

VOICES

The downtown ward.
Downtown.
Mean doctors.
Tell them what they want to hear.
But don't tell them your name.
They're coming.

The blurry voice comes into focus. David is being berated by a LARGE MAN.

LARGE MAN

What do you mean, don't say my name? Davey?

DAVEY

Don't.

LARGE MAN

Ravey Davey.

DAVEY

Please don't. They'll find me.

LARGE MAN

Davey. He's a spy. He's a cop.

DAVEY

My family. They're looking for me.

LARGE MAN

Paranoid in the mental ward, what a shock. Not likely. This guy's a cop

-

The larger man picks up a chair and swings it. Davey manages to block it with his arm.

LARGE MAN (CONT'D)

He's a cop!

Chaos in the ward. Two female NURSES tackle the large man; one gets an elbow in the face for her trouble. The other nurse stabs the man with a needle; he shivers, gasps and goes still.

FIRST NURSE

Good job with the Seda-give, sweetie. Oh, man, my nose.

SECOND NURSE

It just healed from last time.

David is on the floor, grabbing the syringe. The nurse grabs him.

FIRST NURSE

Hey, lay off the needle!

DAVEY

I just want to die, man.

FIRST NURSE

Hey babe, you don't want to die. How long have you been off your meds?

DAVEY

Don't remember. Risperdal, didn't work.

VOICES

The family is coming.
The family is coming.
They sent a cop.
Run!
They sent a cop!

David wriggles free. A COP enters.

FIRST NURSE

Officer, perfect timing, kid almost got his clock cleaned. Again. Davey?

COP

This is the guy? Son, I need you to come to the morgue with me.

DAVEY

What?

COP

I need to identify a body, we can't find the family. They said you might know the girl.

DAVEY

(panic)

Girl? No. It's not Vergil, is it?

COP

And that's why we need you, kid. We think we know who did it, he could make a run for it. We're in a hurry.

FIRST NURSE

Let me splint up your arm first.

DAVEY

I'm fine, it's just really sore. Let's go. Come on, Vergil, don't do this...

INT. MORGUE -- NIGHT

The cop and a tech take David to a storage room.

VOICES

Dead people.
This is the place for dead people.
Run!

DAVEY

Vergil can't be dead. It's just not

-

A drawer is opened. It's a young girl, but it's not Vergil.

DAVEY (CONT'D)

It's not Vergil, it's Jenny. That's impossible. We got her a place to live.

COP

Wait, this is Vergil's friend? This is Jenny Sax?

DAVEY

Yes. It's Jenny. Dammit! We got her out!

COP

(on radio)

Okay, let the captain know, put out the BOLO. Can you help us tell the family?

DAVEY

Seriously? Dude, I'm hanging on by my fingernails here.

COP

We could really use your -

DAVEY

Am I under arrest?

COP

What?

DAVEY

How do I get out of here?

COP

Kid, seriously, get back on your meds...Fine, front desk is that way.

VOICES

House full of cops.
Cops and doctors.
Cops and Doctors.
Run, Davey!
Run!

Davey runs. The cop answers his radio.

COP

Yeah, the kid Davey, he left....What do you mean, I was supposed to bring him in?

(MORE)

COP (CONT'D)

He was just supposed to look at the body....That is one messed-up family.

INT. FAST FOOD PLACE - DAY

Adam is grabbing a soda; another private detective, TAYLOR, walks in.

ADAM

Taylor. Highlight of my day. ...Not looking for another fight.

TAYLOR

Adam.

ADAM

You beat the brutality rap. What a relief.

TAYLOR

Still got fired. You know how hard it is to get fired? I'm a private operator now, just like you.

ADAM

Is this the big speech, this town ain't big enough for the both of us?

TAYLOR

I'm looking for a girl named Vergil, and a guy named Davey.

ADAM

(conceals his alarm)
Two for one.

TAYLOR

They both stayed at that halfway house. You know that girl Mel, right?

ADAM

So what's the case, the girl or the guy?

TAYLOR

My business.

ADAM

Is that so?

TAYLOR
Family wants to find em.

ADAM
Can't help you.

EXT. OUTSIDE A CAR -- NIGHT

Adam on the phone with Mel.

MEL
Adam, thank God. Is she okay?

ADAM
Well, it's been an adventure.

MEL
What happened?

ADAM
She sees things, hears things. Ran
off three times, I had to remind
her who I am. She's talking sorta
backwards like Yoda. She's totally
off her pills.

MEL
Dammit! Bring her back in.

ADAM
It's okay, she calmed down. She
really wants to find that kid.

MEL
I'm not comfortable with this.

ADAM
The radio helped. She says her
voices were singing along to I Am
The Walrus.

MEL
What?

ADAM
I thought I was going to be better
at this. My sister in law is
bipolar, she can do four big mood
swings a year.

MEL

Vergil could go through four big swings at breakfast. You better buckle up.

ADAM

We may need to visit one of your little buddies at the county jail.

MEL

No, you can't -

ADAM

One of your patients is there. Vergil was pretty insistent.

MEL

Be careful. Don't take Main Street to the jail, it runs by her old hospital, she's terrified of that place.

ADAM

Fine, I'll take the freeway around it. You sound a little rocky.

MEL

I got three inmates in the bush, county is up in my grill. Be a big help if you can bring Davey and Vergil home. And that guy Matt - he's new to all this, that's when a lot of em commit suicide.

ADAM

No word on that Matt guy either?

MEL

Police released him, he ran off. The guys here - with Davey and Vergil gone, they're getting stressed out and loopy.

He hangs up and gets in the car.

INT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Continuation.

ADAM

Matt's gone.

VERGIL
 (distraught)
 Don't drink the Drano, Matt.

They drive off and see road repair signs.

ADAM
 Okay, got no choice. Main Street.

They take a surface street and see a big scary-looking building.

VERGIL
 You lied! It's the hospital!

EXT. HOSPITAL GROUNDS - NIGHT

Continuation. Vergil throws the door open, runs across the grounds. Adam follows.

ADAM
 Vergil -

VERGIL
 My name is Heather!

Adam loses her and circles the grounds.

A GROUNDSKEEPER approaches Vergil; Vergil puts her arms over her head.

VERGIL (CONT'D)
 No no no no.

GROUNDSKEEPER
 Heather. You're coming back to us!

VERGIL
 No, I'm going back to Mel! Stay away!

GROUNDSKEEPER
 Alright. Who are you? Where's Mel?

ADAM
 (approaching)
 Field trip.

GROUNDSKEEPER
 Heather, you on your medication?

ADAM

You're having an episode. What do I do? Mel said if you flip out, I have to take you back. We shouldn't be here.

VERGIL

I need to find Davey!

ADAM

Then you need to hold it together.

Still refusing to look at the groundskeeper.

VERGIL

Trying!

ADAM

Vergil, I'll get you chips at the shop.

VERGIL

Lots and lots?

ADAM

I'm sorry we came this way, the freeway was closed.

VERGIL

I wasn't scared, the voices were. When I go into the hospital, they disappear.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE -- NIGHT

A debate on God. The scene goes very quickly.

LEO

So who is God again?
(demonic voice)
Come, answer my questions three.

WAYNE

God is the one who makes me want to do good things.

LEO

(shakes his head)
Conscience.

WAYNE

God makes me feel good.

LEO
Orgasm.

WAYNE
God makes good things happen.

LEO
Luck.

WAYNE
God is Karma.

LEO
Still luck.

WAYNE
God made the universe.

LEO
Which is 99 percent dead.

WAYNE
God rules our world.

LEO
Goldman Sachs.

WAYNE
God rules my life.

LEO
Heroin.

WAYNE
God gives us our morality.

LEO
Genocide good, bacon bad.

WAYNE
God answers my prayers.

LEO
And this is the life you asked for?

WAYNE
God watches over everything.

LEO
And does nothing about it.

WAYNE
God thinks every life is precious.

LEO
Million kids die from disease each
year.

WAYNE
God makes the food grow.

LEO
Rain and cow shit.

WAYNE
God loves the believers.

LEO
He burns down a church every day.

WAYNE
God created heaven and hell.

LEO
Empty space up there, rock down
there.

WAYNE
God will live forever.

LEO
His universe dies in a billion
years.

WAYNE
God created man in his image.

LEO
Kind of sad, isn't it?

WAYNE
God is merciful.

LEO
He condemns babies to burn in
hellfire.

WAYNE
God is infallible.

LEO
He creates men and animals, right
away he regrets making them, kills
the men AND all the animals in a
flood. Never mind! ...Come on, you
guys, tell me who God is, we all
hear him in our heads!

WAYNE

Jesus is our savior, born of the virgin!

PETE

Virgin Mary gave Jesus six brothers and sisters. What if they all had super powers like Jesus? Mary raising seven kids who could all do magic. Maybe God's plan was for all seven kids to be messiahs, marching across Israel, fighting evil and solving crimes?

WAYNE

(opens Bible)

Let's try Bible study so this isn't a total waste. God proclaimed the animals you can't eat. The skink, the hyrax and the hoopoe. The skink is an ugly lizard with a blue tongue.

LEO

Don't eat the skink.

WAYNE

The hyrax is a giant rat, off the menu. A hoopoe is a really stupid looking bird, looks like an orange pencil at one end and a zebra at the other; it hollers "Hoopoe Hoopoe!" all the live-long day. Everybody pray with me!

ALL

Hoopoe! Hoopoe! Hoopoe!

Mel is investigating the racket in a sleep shirt and disastrous hair.

MEL

WHAT IN THE HELL.

WAYNE

Leviticus. Don't eat the hoopoe.

MEL

WHAT IN THE - tell me tomorrow.

INT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Adam and Vergil driving through town.

VERGIL
Pull over. Here.

ADAM
Why?

VERGIL
The park. I need to stop.

She grabs her blanket and runs into the park.

EXT. A CITY PARK - NIGHT

Continuation.

ADAM
Hey, wait!

He's lost her again. She spreads the blanket, sits, stares at the grass for a full minute.

VOICES
We're in Phoenix Park. Fo-nicks.
Phoenix phoenix phoenix phoenix...
Calm down. Calm. Calm. Shh...

VERGIL
Beautiful tree. Wind in the leaves.

VOICES
Hissss...

VERGIL
Yes, the wind. Little shop on the corner. Used to work there. Need a job.

VOICES
It's dark.
All locked up.

VERGIL
Hope you like the park, we could all be sleeping here next week. We're okay now?

VOICE
Okay okay okay okay okay...

VERGIL
It's okay, we're not in the hospital.

VOICE

He took us to the hospital.

VERGIL

It was a mistake.

VOICES

He's a cop.

He has a gun, he's gonna kill us.

VERGIL

There's no gun.

VOICES

He's in that car.

With the crazy music.

VERGIL

Tomorrow we find Davey...

VOICES

Davey Davey Davey Davey ...

VERGIL

We're calm. We're together. All for one.

VOICES

All for one.

VERGIL

We're just sitting...

She sits. Adam approaches, she stands. Whispers.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Sorry. Lost you again. Your name is

-

ADAM

Adam.

VERGIL

Don't rock the boat. Please. Sit.

He sits. She lays her head in his lap.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Thank you for bringing me here.

ADAM

So you remember me?

VERGIL
Memory comes and goes.

ADAM
Must drive you nuts. Sorry.

VERGIL
It's a blessing. If I remembered
all the terrible things, I'd fold
up like a concertina. ...Tonight is a
magical night.

ADAM
So...Vergil? You know it's a man's
name?

VERGIL
Vergil led Dante through the nine
pits of hell. Just like I'm leading
you through Crazy Town. Just like I
help the guys at the house.

ADAM
Dante's Inferno.

VERGIL
It was Good Friday. The day God
died. Dante lost in a wood, beset
by a lion and a leopard and a wolf.
Seeking the path to salvation, the
sun behind the mountain. Vergil
took him by the hand. The lowest
pit of hell was the land of Dite,
guarded by fallen angels.

ADAM
You're not going there. The pit of
hell.

VERGIL
The suicides go there. They are
turned into bushes and devoured by
Harpies.

ADAM
Harpies?

VERGIL
(she gradually begins to
cry)
Giant birds with the faces of
girls.
Poor Dante, and Vergil, haunted by
those visions.

(MORE)

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Here the repellent harpies make
 their nests,
 Who drove the Trojans from the
 Strophades
 With dire announcements of the
 coming woe.
 Murderous and cruel as the wind.
 They have broad wings, with talons
 like knives,
 Clawed feet and swollen, feathered
 bellies
 But all you see is a woman's face;
 They cry their lamentations in the
 eerie trees
 For the suicides, the torments of
 the damned.

ADAM

You didn't kill yourself.

VERGIL

I tried. I still want to die.

ADAM

No you don't.

VERGIL

I can't take it anymore.

He waits. She takes a deep breath.

ADAM

You can't be doing that. You've got
 to save the world first.

VERGIL

(smiles)

I know, right? Delusions of
 grandeur, coming to a theater near
 you.

ADAM

You're Vergil. You know hell like
 the back of your hand. You go
 there, just find your way out
 again. So which part of hell do the
 schizophrenics go to?

VERGIL

I go to heaven, but my demons go to
 hell. Goodbye to my voices forever.

ADAM

Would you go to hell, just to be
with your voices?

VERGIL

You're talking like a
schizophrenic. Everyone else is so
sane and logical. Seems to me,
their logic is all about getting
what they want, a million rats
fighting over a piece of cheese. I
have attenuated the surly bonds of
logic.

ADAM

So now I'm starting to sound like
you?

VERGIL

Your brain is a light bulb. Mine is
fireworks, they explode and they
die, but it's beautiful. And then
an empty sky, and stars. You're
earthbound. Learn to close your
eyes and fly. Not while you're
driving.

ADAM

So where do you really think we go
when we die? Where is Jenny?

VERGIL

I don't know. But one thing is for
certain. Wherever Jenny went,
someday we'll all be there. No
matter what we do, we all go to the
same place. All together again.

ADAM

Even your parents?

VERGIL

Even them...Riddle time! What has
ten fingers, ten toes, and a little
boy following her all night long?

She sees the boy across the park.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Who are you?

BOY

You know. David.

VERGIL
Davey, please tell me you're alive.

EXT. IN FRONT OF A SMALL, BEAT-UP HOUSE - DAY
Vergil and Adam on the hunt for clues.

VERGIL
Jenny and Davey used to stay here.

A tired WOMAN opens the door.

WOMAN
I remember you.

VERGIL
Good!

WOMAN
You're one of those halfway people.

VERGIL
No. I'm like, a whole, complete
person.

WOMAN
Things went sideways for Jenny and
Davey once she went to that house.
Don't have nothing to say to you.

VERGIL
We just want -

WOMAN
Said the same to that other fella.

VERGIL
Other -

WOMAN
Guy with the pickup and the
shotgun.

ADAM
Shotgun.

WOMAN
You all clear out.

INT. THE CAR - DAY

Adam and Vergil driving through woods to a city.

VERGIL

We're never gonna find him.

ADAM

Sure we will. And when we do,
you're going to totally lose your
shit.

VERGIL

Oh yeah. Nutter butter. Three
hankies to the wind...I guess we go
to that jail after all. ...Your
engine light is on.

ADAM

You know cars?

VERGIL

Dude, I have a driver's license. I
hear voices, I don't let em drive.
We have a patient who's a truck
driver.

ADAM

So he drives all day?

VERGIL

I can do anything. I cook with
knives. Well, one or two jobs I
should steer clear of. Airline
pilot. Stock car racing. Folks out
there think I should be allowed to
buy a gun.

ADAM

Just what we need. Fog.

VERGIL

A froggy day in Londontown. Let's
play road sign!

(she reads the road)

City limit one mile, road narrow,
hill, divided highway, ooh sloppery
when wet, side road left, Y
intersection, why not intersection,
cattle crossing, hey we're in town!
Ped xing, don't hit a ped! One way,
road work, Spruce Street, railroad
crossing, yield, no turns, dead end

--

(ominous)

Weight limit ten tons.

ADAM

No more cheeseburgers for you.

VERGIL

Farley's Funeral Homes, bring your
corpses...Woah! Speed limit 25
enforced from aircraft! Dude...

ADAM

They don't really do that.

VERGIL

God, look at that phone pole, pull
over!

EXT. CITY STREET -- DAY

Continuation. Vergil jumps out. Reads the pole.

VERGIL

No parking 10 PM to 1 AM Monday
street cleaning no parking 6 PM to
8 AM nightly 2 hour parking 8 AM to
6 PM daily vehicles with district
number 64 permits exempted no
parking passenger loading only 630
AM to 9 AM and 130 PM to 4 PM 5
minute limit school days. If an
alien landed here and saw that,
he'd seriously take out a ray gun,
kill us all.

COPS pull up.

COP

Hey, can't you read the sign?

VERGIL

(grabs the cop and
whispers)

Well I just did! Where is district
64 and what's going on there?

Another cop approaches.

SECOND COP

Hey! Don't touch, away from the
unit!

VERGIL

He's got a gun, he's got a gun!
Exit, pursued by a bear!

She runs down the sidewalk, confused, then turns around and finds Adam.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Did you call the police on me?

COP

Is she high?

ADAM

Just the opposite. She's off her meds.

COP

She almost ran into traffic.

VERGIL

Yeah, you guys take good care of us. Cop car, found on the road dead. Sad.

SECOND COP

Hey, it's Adam. Aren't you leaving town?

ADAM

Who told you that?

COP

Good advice. It's not the place for you.

VERGIL

How about me? ...Leave him alone.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

The dayroom.

MEL

No, you don't have a picture of Barack Obama on the grassy knoll in Dallas in November 63, he was only two years old!

LEO

I don't believe you, how old was he
--

MEL

Two years, 3 months, 18 days, he was in diapers. In Honolulu.

LEO

You have the exact number -

MEL

You think this is the first time I've gotten this question? Some schizophrenic you are. Give me your best shot: Marilyn, the moon landings...

LEO

Buzzkill.

MEL

I made mac and cheese, sweetie.

LEO

You da man.

MEL

What higher praise. That's about as good as my cooking gets.

LEO

We need Vergil back.

MEL

I know.

LEO

How old was Hillary Clinton in 1963?

MEL

Just turned 16.

LEO

Aha! J'accuse!

MEL

Dude, I don't care if you believe Kennedy lived and then went to the moon on Apollo 11. Plenty of sane people believe insane stuff.

LEO

Like when they're in love.

MEL

Touche! I care about impulse control, take the pills, get a job. Then you can tell the world about the Trilateral Commission.

(MORE)

MEL (CONT'D)

You'll have a great career on the internet.

A female MANAGER from the county council enters.

MANAGER

Your neighbors called the county. They don't want you here. The police are pissed off too. Three of your patients ran off, they're on the city streets.

MEL

Vergil is looking for Davey, and Matt, we have no idea -

MANAGER

All these empty beds, the county was talking about combining facilities.

MEL

Combining with who?

MANAGER

There's a halfway house for convicts.

MEL

You want to bring in guys just got out of prison, put them in here with Lupe and the other girls? All the girls will run away, end up on the streets.

MANAGER

Or they could shut you down, save money.

MEL

What the hell do I do?

MANAGER

Get these boys back home in their beds. And you're going to be seeing more of me here. Council's orders.

MEL

I got two guys going for job interviews.

MANAGER

Good. That will help.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

The dayroom.

LEO

Man, another night with the Bible?

WAYNE

(waves Bible)

This is our book, it's all schizophrenics. Adam hears a snake telling him to eat an apple. Abraham's voices tell him to stab his son! Noah's voices say put a million animals inside a boat. Balaam hears a donkey warning him that an angel wants to kill him.

LEO

Talking donkey.

WAYNE

Moses gets the Jews lost in the desert, and he runs, climbs a hill. His voices say you can eat locusts but not vultures, you can sell your daughter into slavery but no tattoos. If you conquer a town, rape the young girls and kill the rest. How is this guy not a schizophrenic?

MARK

Like Jeremiah.

WAYNE

No. Jeremiah was bipolar... Jesus heard voices. I bring fire to the earth, I fought with the devil. He was a kid, ran off for days so he could argue about God with strangers. He told riddles that made no sense. He went in the streets to insult people, he trashed the temple, told his friends to drink his blood. Jesus told his friends his magic would protect them, they all got killed.

[Obviously we can dial back this religion stuff if it freaks anybody out.]

PETE

Got you beat. Book of Revelation.
John sees stars and blood fall from
the sky and fill the ocean, killer
locusts, a million lion-headed
horsemen, seven-headed dragons, a
lake of fire. Now that's a
hallucination, my friends.

LEO

I need to up my game.

WAYNE

Jesus comes back on Sunday as
cookies. And we eat him. Our church
serves a nice Chianti. Don't you
want to go to heaven?

LEO

Do nothing all day but praise God
24/7, no drinking, no sex, no
conversation, no cable, just praise
praise praise forever...Can I go to
hell instead?

MARK

So Jesus isn't the hero? Or God?

WAYNE

Hell no! Jehovah told his men to
kill and rape. Smiting them with
diseases, broken promises. All
Satan did was teach a girl in a
garden to reach out for knowledge.
Satan was the hero, Jehovah was
just jealous.

MEL

(entering)

Dude, when you go to court next
month, downplay the fact that you
love Satan.

WAYNE

Yeah. Good strategy.

EXT. ADAM'S CAR -- NIGHT

ADAM

Okay, let's take a crack at a
restaurant, can you handle that?

VERGIL

Hmm...?

ADAM

Come on, get your game face on.

She pulls lipstick out of her purse and draws lines under her eyes like a football player.

VERGIL

Game face. Omahaaaaa set hut hut!
...Crap. Rear view mirror. You see
them?

ADAM

See who?

VERGIL

People following us.

ADAM

What, in a car?

VERGIL

On foot.

ADAM

We're doing forty.

VERGIL

People with no faces. Dammit, not
now! Where are we going?

ADAM

The restaurant! We were just
talking about -- we can get burgers
to go, eat in the car.

VERGIL

No, I can do this.

EXT. OUTSIDE A RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Continuation. Adam parks and they get out. She takes his hand.

VERGIL

This is how I know you're real.

ADAM

Well, I know I'm real.

VERGIL

Of course you SAY that. Your face
is all distorted. But I feel your
hand. Look!

A couple exits the restaurant; we see them as she does, faces
distorting. She stands in front of them, blocking their way
but not looking at them.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Right.

And she musters the courage to look at them.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Hello, sir.
(handshake)
Nice to meet you.

OLD MAN

And you too, young lady.

VERGIL

Maam. A pleasure.
(handshake)

OLD MAN

Wish my daughters were as polite as
you.

VERGIL

They're real. ...Their faces. God.

She turns and sees the boy who isn't really there.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Adam, careful, the little boy?

ADAM

The...what?

VERGIL

Hold the door for Davey!

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Continuation. Adam holds the door; we see her vision of a
little boy smiling at her. As they enter, Adam speaks to an
entering patron.

ADAM

Uh, sir, could you hold this door
open?

Puzzled man holds the door for the invisible boy.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Thanks.

Vergil looks at mirror, sees her face distort. She looks down nervously as a HOSTESS approaches.

VERGIL

What's your name?

HOSTESS

Brittany.

Vergil shakes her hand vigorously.

VERGIL

She's real. Totally real.

HOSTESS

Well, I sure am.

ADAM

Table for two.

VERGIL

Adam, what are you, crazy? Could we have one of those big booths?

HOSTESS

Sure.

VERGIL

And five place settings?

HOSTESS

Got more folks coming?

VERGIL

In a manner of speaking.

ADAM

Vergil -

VERGIL

There's you, me, the little boy,
and, you know, cocktail party -

She makes a "voices" gesture, twirling a finger upward in the air.

ADAM

There's five of us, but three of us
are pretty lousy tippers. Sorry.

HOSTESS

Table of five, you need to wait a bit.

Hands Vergil a call vibrator.

VERGIL

Um, what's this?

HOSTESS

When we're ready, I'll call you.
It's a vibrator.

Hostess leaves. Vergil is agog. The little boy sits on a bench, wagging his legs.

VERGIL

Adam. I'm here two minutes, girl gives me a vibrator! What kind of place --

ADAM

It's just a thing they use to - just give it here.

VERGIL

No, she gave it to me! Did you take me to some sort of skanky club?

ADAM

They probably got a kids menu.

VERGIL

Crayons! Davey!

INT. RESTAURANT BOOTH -- NIGHT

Adam, Vergil and the boy at their booth.

VERGIL

Davey, sit still! Adam, on this one, you're wrong. Butter is a condiment.

ADAM

Condiments are like salt and pepper...

VERGIL

And butter. You use it for flavor. Someday I'll show you a lemon clarify.

ADAM

Lemon clarify? Was the lemon hard
to understand? Does it talk to you?

A woman at the next table, STACEY, is on a date, but now
she's listening to Vergil. Her date, BRENT, is irked.

VERGIL

Dude. Clarified butter. You heat
butter in a pan, it splits into
three layers. Butter in the middle,
a bunch of nasty solids rise to the
top, more solids on the bottom. You
throw out the solids and keep the
butter. Liquid gold.

ADAM

Okay.

VERGIL

The lemon, three layers again.
Outside is the zest. The middle is
nasty, the rind. Inside is the
juice. Keep the zest and the juice,
mix in the butter, add spices.
Lemon clarify. You put in on fish.
You can put it on meat but only at
the end so it doesn't burn.
And...what?

ADAM

Vergil.

VERGIL

What?

ADAM

I can understand you. Completely.

He pulls out reading glasses.

VERGIL

Got your cheaters?

Waitress is reeling off the specials and salad dressings and
beers for Adam. But Vergil can't follow her because...

VOICES

Whey solid and milk protein
concentrate.
Sodium phosphate and calcium
phosphate.
Lactic acid and sorbic acid.
(MORE)

VOICES (CONT'D)

Sodium caseinate and sodium alginate.
Apocarotenol and hydrogenated oil.
Polysorbate 80 and soy lecithin.
Maltodextrin and enzymes.
Artificial yellow 6 and yellow 5.
Dextrose and corn syrup solids.

VERGIL

Sorry, you said - crap. Adam, just pick something for me? - What do you have without caffeine?

BOY

I want chicken nuggets.

VERGIL

They don't have nuggets!

BOY

I want nuggets and fries!

VERGIL

They don't have nuggets!

WAITRESS

We do have chicken tenders.

ADAM

Perfect.

Waitress leaves.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Tomorrow is the jail, gonna be rough. Just take a mental vacation for tonight.

Next, their food has arrived. Vergil opens the salt shaker and pours salt into her hand; she sprinkles salt all around the edge of the table.

VERGIL

Keeps the bad mojo away.

Next, they eat. She balances a fork on a salt shaker, and balances a French fry on the fork.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Acceleration due to gravity is
thirty two feet per second per
second per second per second per
second ... if I had thirty two feet
I'd go pretty quick too...as the
optimal attack angle approaches
forty five degrees...

She launches the French fry into Adam's face.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

(loudly)

Inform your chatelaine, I have
breached your walls. I'm a
physician physicist. I got my
bachelor's degree with I was three,
my master at four, my mixtress at
five, my philosopher at six. Been
kinda quiet since then.

ADAM

So this is quiet?

BOY

Find the fire.

VERGIL

Find the fire?

BOY

Find the fire.

VERGIL

Find the fire.

BOY

And the blue box!

VERGIL

Blue box?

BOY

Of course, Buford has the blue box!

VERGIL

What would Buford do with a blue
box?

BOY

Remember to go pee.

VERGIL

All that mineral water, need to
find the thunderbox -

ADAM

What?

VERGIL

The throne room. The casa de pepe.

They both rise. The man at the next table stands. He knows Adam.

BRENT

Adam.

ADAM

Lieutenant.

BRENT

No need for that, it's plain old Brent now. You're off the force. But you're still in my town. And apparently you're dating one of Mel's circus freaks.

ADAM

I beg your pardon?

BRENT

You think you could ask her to turn it down notch? I'm on a date here, and I'm listening to her hoppity-skipping from the cognitive dissonance straight to the Crazy. It's distracting.

VERGIL

(returning, pushing Brent
back)

Do I make you uncomfortable? Circus freak.

(quiet but firm)

My head tells me to do things, just like you. I get emotional and confused and lost, and sometimes I don't make sense. Just like you. The worst mental illness in the world is treating people like shit. There's a pill for schizophrenia, there's no pill for being an asshole. I said that out loud. Dang!

BRENT

I'm trying to have a nice date...

He falls silent as the massive Adam walks over, slowly takes off his glasses. And just looks at him.

ADAM

Thanks to you, I'm not a cop anymore.

Stacey meets Vergil near the bandstand. Vergil panics, looks at her shoes.

STACEY

Hey, up here, kid.

VERGIL

I am so so so sorry.

STACEY

It's okay. I'm thanking you.

VERGIL

What?

STACEY

All night I'm trying to decide whether Lieutenant Dan is getting lucky tonight. I figure, the way he treats you, he'll be treating me that way in a year.

VERGIL

You still got an itch needs scratching.

STACEY

The night is young and the bar is full.

VERGIL

Can I be your wingman?

STACEY

You take care of that guy of yours.

VERGIL

He's not my - he's a friend.

STACEY

Stacey.

VERGIL

Vergil.

STACEY

Cute name.

Handshake.

VERGIL

Totally real.

STACEY

So you really know butter?

VERGIL

Huh?

STACEY

My father owns this place. Our prep cook just got pregnant, moved to Ohio.

VERGIL

Follow me.

She marches to the kitchen; Stacey runs behind.

INT. KITCHEN -- NIGHT

STACEY

Oh shit.

VERGIL

Incoming!

COOK

Who are you?

VERGIL

Perfect timing, you got a sole meuniere. The fish is already dead, you don't have to kill it again, get it off the heat. Where are your knives?

(examining a knife)

When was the last time you had your knives sharpened? No wonder your prep work looks like cole slaw. Where's your fillet knife?

COOK

What's a fillet knife -

VERGIL

Get a real fillet knife! I know knives. Trust me.

(MORE)

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Okay, this one will have to do.
Gimme that fish before you ruin it.

She fillets the fish perfectly, lifts out the skeleton in one piece, lays it on the counter. The cooks are stunned.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Jazz hands!
(licks her finger)
Dude, seriously? Salted butter?

COOK

Sorry.

STACEY

How come you're not working
somewhere?

VERGIL

Nuthouse. Slashed my wrists. Knife
just like this one. But sharpened
properly.

STACEY

Are you on meds?

VERGIL

You think this circus act is me
when I'm medicated?

STACEY

Come find me when you're on your
pills.

INT. RESTAURANT -- NIGHT

Vergil runs back outside where a MUSICIAN walks onstage,
tunes a guitar, rests his bourbon on an amp. Vergil runs to
him. Looks down, takes a deep breath, then looks up.

VERGIL

You hear voices, I can tell.

MUSICIAN

Beg pardon?

VERGIL

You hear voices?

MUSICIAN

I hear music.

VERGIL

You hear it in your head? Even when there's really no music?

MUSICIAN

All the time. Sometimes it's annoying. Three hours of "Hello Goodbye".

VERGIL

But you don't hear voices?

MUSICIAN

Only when I'm drunk.

She bursts into over-the-top laughter.

MUSICIAN (CONT'D)

Always seems like I'm funnier when people are drunk.

VERGIL

So this is what you drink --

She grabs his bourbon and drinks it. Recoils.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Jesus H. Christ. You drink this? You are crazy crazy crazy.

Adam has come over.

ADAM

Babe...Sorry, man. She's off her meds.

She's suddenly furious.

VERGIL

Off my meds? Why don't you tell the world? Is this a joke to you? Would you make fun of me if I had a tumor?

ADAM

Vergil.

VERGIL

Oh, crap, I did it again. ...Adam, I just boned a sole meuniere, it was awesome!

ADAM

You boned a - what?

VERGIL

It's a fish, I took the bones
out!...

ADAM

Sorry, you must be busy...

MUSICIAN

No sweat.

VERGIL

You gonna play?

MUSICIAN

Sure am.

VERGIL

Can I sing with you?

MUSICIAN

Why don't you let me sing?

VERGIL

Know any silly songs? I could use
one.

MUSICIAN

Sure do.

VERGIL

Hey, nice axe.

ADAM

Like I said, a medication issue -

VERGIL

I'm right here! I'm schizophrenic,
I'm not deaf. I hate when people do
that.

They go to their table.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

I'm like a crazy grenade. Can't
make friends. You look at people,
see what they want, what they're
thinking. I'm lost. I tell people
about the voices - people are nosy,
gossipy, mean. Girls my age already
had their hearts broke a dozen
times. I see a guy, I like him, he
likes me, no clue what comes next.
Can't read the signs.

(MORE)

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Know what's worse than the seventh circle of hell?

ADAM

What?

VERGIL

Being alone. Dying alone.

EXT. PARKING LOT -- NIGHT

In the parking lot, three goth girls are smoking. Their hair, tattoos and piercings are spectacular. Ditto their Saturday-night looking-for-trouble wardrobe. Vergil stops abruptly.

VERGIL

Dude!

ADAM

Yeah.

VERGIL

Dude! Real or not real?

ADAM

(innocent)

What are you talking about?

She looks up and he's smiling.

VERGIL

Asshole!

ADAM

Yes, I see em too. See if you were on your meds you'd know for sure.

VERGIL

Asshole!

(to the goths)

Cool hair, dude...

(to Adam)

I haven't been taking my pills.

ADAM

No kidding.

VERGIL

Crap, is it that obvious?

ADAM

This whole week has been like a trip to Coney Island on acid. Today was amazing and terrifying.

VERGIL

I call that Monday. ...It is amazing.

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE -- NIGHT

Lupe, Pete, Mark and Tim are watching TV. Mel hears a commotion and comes downstairs.

MEL

What are you guys doing? It's dawn!

LUPE

We sleep with the vampires. Had a fight over the last bottle of water. Vergil had a whole system for figuring out -

MEL

Water, I forgot.

PETE

It's mine!

WAYNE

Possession is nine tenths of the law.

PETE

Awesome movie was on TV, Mel. We all watched it, and it was like the same movie but told four different ways.

MEL

You mean Rashomon? Why are you guys watching Japanese movies in the dark?

MARK

Rashomon? No. It had a girl named Dorothy, and a wizard.

MEL

Wizard -- so you said four different -

TIM

We've been arguing about it all night. Obviously the story was about flying. A dog flying in a bicycle, a house in the air, an old lady flying in a rocker, a man flying in a boat, a girl in white flying in a bubble, a girl flying with a monkey, a witch on a broom, a man in a balloon, the girl could have flown in her shoes if she had only believed.

MEL

Sounds KINDA like the Wizard of Oz

-

LUPE

It wasn't about flying, it was all colors and light. A man with a crystal cooks a hot dog, then the old lady took the crystal and it said the girl had to die. The old lady with the chicks turned the house brown but outside the door it was all color, a yellow street and red shoes and a green city with a blue horse and big black letters in the sky.

MEL

Surrender -

PETE

Surrender Dorothy! Ha! She saw it too!

TIM

Come on, schizo babies, this was like a home movie, all crazy people. Old lady on the roof throwing fireballs. A girl fell from a star and into a field of magic poppies. A man nailed on the cross went both ways and was attacked by the apple tree. A man was frozen cause he couldn't love anybody. A cat jumped out a window. A crazy man said it's sad to have a heart and it doesn't matter how much you're loved. But nobody believed him.

MARK

Well, of course not. And the old lady, appeared in a puff of green smoke and then disappeared in a cloud of steam.

MEL

Tomorrow we go back to Spongebob.

TIM

I want to watch that movie Saturday.

MEL

The Exorcist? Girl hears a demon in her head telling her to kill, so she goes and kills somebody? You want to show that to a room full of schizophrenics?

TIM

Scary movies are a joke. They're one tenth as bad as my real nightmares.

MARK

That last one made me think of Vergil. Girl out there lost in the poppies, just wants to come home.

LEO

Got to wonder about her family. How could you not want Vergil every day?

MARK

We're her family.

LUPE

Where do you think Davey ran to?

LEO

Secret mission for the government.

WAYNE

Enforcer for the opium Tong.

LUPE

Radio City, he's a Rockette.

WAYNE

Running sheep in Idaho.

LEO
I don't think Idaho exists.

WAYNE
It's on all the maps.

LEO
Likely story. Have you ever seen
Idaho?

Mel pulls Lupe aside. Pete follows, take's Lupe's hand.

MEL
You know the rule, fraternizing
with the enemy?

LUPE
We're adults, we don't need
permission.

MEL
Swell, a romance. Can you manage
yourself, let alone him?

PETE
You sound like you're afraid.

MEL
If you break up, will you go into a
tailspin? Will he? Will everyone
take sides? Will one of you have to
leave, or can we all still be
friends?

LUPE
I don't know.

MEL
Lupe has 45 brothers and cousins
who will want to kill you.

PETE
I'm sure, she's sure. She's heard
all my stories, I know all her
demons by their first names.

MEL
You both stay on your meds like
your lives depend on it.

LUPE
Vergil said the same thing.

MEL

She knew?

LUPE

When do we get her back?

MEL

Soon I hope. I never realized how much she did here. I'm on total sleep dep.

INT. MOTEL LOBBY -- NIGHT

Adam and Vergil are walking into the lobby.

ADAM

This is all I can afford, you're not getting any mints on your pillow.

Vergil looks out the window, sees a police car, and closes the curtain. RECEPTIONIST enters.

RECEPTIONIST

How you folks doing?

ADAM

You have a room with a disk player?

RECEPTIONIST

A movie?

ADAM

It's not that kind of movie.

RECEPTIONIST

It's not any of my business.

VERGIL

It's Spongebob. I picked it out.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Adam opens the room, carrying a bag of popcorn.

ADAM

Popcorn. Go pee before you go to bed.

VERGIL

Right! Thanks!

She tears off her shirt and pants.

ADAM

You don't have to take off all your
clothes every time you - never
mind.

INT. MOTEL BATHROOM -- NIGHT

She is on the john.

ADAM

Take a shower in there.

VOICES

And here she goes.
Her shirt's on the floor.
Her pants are on the bed.
Her underwear is in the sink.
Like a bomb went off.
What is she doing?
Stupid.
Stupid.

VERGIL

I'm just peeing here! GIVE IT A
REST!

She rinses her undies in the sink and showers.

VOICES

Naked as a jaybird.
Jaybird.
Squeaky clean.
Pink like a baby's bottom.
You lost them.
Lost Matt.
Lost Davey.
Not worth a nickel, that girl.

VERGIL

OH FOR CHRIST SAKE.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Vergil emerges wearing a towel, unnerved.

VERGIL

Hey, that's a remote!

She grabs the remote and begins to take it apart.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

People use the TV to watch me, put
ideas in my head, read my mind,
control me - fix that easy enough.

ADAM

No no no no! Don't break the
remote! Don't you want to watch
Spongebob?

VERGIL

Spongebob! I'm just a little out
there, north by northwest. I can
tell a Dominique from a handsaw.

Next, a cooking show is on. She's eating popcorn and watching
like it's a football game.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

They gave you a cooking show??
You're adding salt too early, that
sauce is reducing! Booooo!

ADAM

Hold it down -

VERGIL

Onion salt?...Okay, veering away
from Escoffier with a variation on
veloute and reducing the stock,
wine, and - what do you think?
Cream or butter?

ADAM

Huh?

VERGIL

Think like a Frenchman, butter
every time - and there she blows,
butter! Gimme a B, gimme a U -

ADAM

Hooray for our side! Ready for a
movie?

VERGIL

You need to help me this time.

ADAM

It's just Spongebob.

VERGIL
Can't watch while I listen, can't
listen while I watch. Need you to
explain.

ADAM
We can just go to sleep.

VERGIL
I'm like a vampire, too early to
sleep.

INT. BATHROOM -- NIGHT

He goes to the bathroom to pee. She sneaks in.

ADAM
What the -

VERGIL
I forgot to wring out my
underwackers.

ADAM
What the hell do you - nothing.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

Back in the room. She looks over at him.

VERGIL
God bless Tiny Tim.

ADAM
It's cold in there.

She kisses him on the bed. Twice.

ADAM (CONT'D)
I think Mel would be really mad at
us. I'm not going to take advantage
of you.

VERGIL
Hey. I'm an adult. I'm not an
invalid. I can decide for myself.
You're not gonna break my heart.
I'm tough. I have to deal with this
crap every day. And you get me.

ADAM

I like you. I don't get you. I pretended to get you when you made me play Ob La Di Ob La Da 14 times in a row.

She begins to sing the la las.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Please don't. Gonna slash my wrists.

VERGIL

Oh Adam, no, no...

ADAM

...Crap, I didn't mean literally -

VERGIL

Scary.

ADAM

Joke.

VERGIL

Scary joke. You like me.

ADAM

Go figure. But I work for you. I'm finding your friend. You're the boss.

VERGIL

The boss. Can we wash clothes tomorrow?

ADAM

Hey, check this out. A girl needs a good cry once in a while.

Turns on a TV movie.

VERGIL

Wow. Is that what you want to watch? Chick flick?

(sings)

Y-M-C-A.

ADAM

I'm totally comfortable in my sexuality.

Continuation: they watch a tragic romance along the lines of Titanic; Vergil is streaming tears.

ADAM (CONT'D)

You sure you're okay?

VERGIL

This is awesome! Here, slide over.
Oh no, Girl Cooties!...You were so cool in that restaurant. You stood up for me.

ADAM

What?

VERGIL

You don't care whether I'm normal. My parents act like I'm dead. They gave up; they were embarrassed. That's the whole world, school, cops, my boss...People don't care if I'm well or if I'm happy, they want me to put on the act. They care about their lives, their friends.

ADAM

I don't care if you act normal. I care if you get lost, slide away forever.

VERGIL

I think you're magic. Leo believes in conspiracies, Wayne believes in God, I believe in magic. ...Look, a lady bug. Means lucky in love. I'll name her Amantis. Loving. Amo amas amat, I love, you love, he loves. Amabo I will love.

ADAM

And what does love even mean?

VERGIL

Love means to save the world. It saved me. Mel. Davey. You maybe. Tell me one thing in the world that love can't fix.

ADAM

Your singing.

They sleep. Vergil thrashes her arms. Wakes.

VERGIL

Mark. MARK!... Who the fuck are you?

ADAM
Vergil, it's me -

VERGIL
What the fuck --

ADAM
It's me. Adam.

VERGIL
(grabbing her shirt hem)
Last night, we didn't -

ADAM
No we didn't. We watched TV.

VERGIL
Adam. The cop.

ADAM
No, I'm not a - never mind. How
come you're wearing my shirt?

VERGIL
I was cold. You're Adam. Where are
we -

ADAM
A motel. We're looking for Davey.

VERGIL
Davey! Did I wake you?

ADAM
You kinda punched me. You thought I
was attacking some guy named Mark?

VERGIL
Welcome to my world. All day I
worry about the guys in the house.
At night I get to watch them die in
my dreams.

ADAM
Try and get some sleep anyway. Try
not to dream about punching people.

INT. MOTEL ROOM -- DAY

Adam wakes up, sees Vergil is gone.

EXT. CITY STREET -- DAY

Adam runs to the strip mall in his bare feet.

ADAM
Vergil. Vergil! Heather!

He sees Vergil wearing only a shirt, beaming.

VERGIL
I found it! All by myself!

ADAM
You scared the shit out of me.

VERGIL
Crack the sky. Lighten up, McGruff.
It's a washer-mat, let's wash
clothes!

ADAM
Why aren't you wearing pants?

VERGIL
Duh. I have to wash them. Wake up
and think, Adam.

He goes to get his clothes; she follows.

VERGIL (CONT'D)
Knock knock.

ADAM
Who's there?

VERGIL
Knock knock.

ADAM
Who's there?

Long silence; he turns around.

VERGIL
What?

ADAM
Who's there?

She looks at him as though he's crazy.

INT. LAUNDROMAT -- DAY

They sit in a laundromat; she wears his shirt and little else. She watches the laundry.

VERGIL
Around and around and around.

It stops.

VERGIL (CONT'D)
Aw. Show's over.

He begins dumping their clothes into a dryer. A young man, PAUL, approaches Vergil.

PAUL
Hi. It's terrible when you wait til
the last minute to do laundry, huh?

VERGIL
Huh?

PAUL
Your pants in the wash?

She nods.

PAUL (CONT'D)
I'm Paul.

VERGIL
Heather. Vergil.

PAUL
Heather Vergil?

She is afraid and freezes over, a blank dull look on her face as she stares at the floor.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Have a nice day.

EXT. A STREET - NIGHT

Davey is half-asleep in a doorway.

VOICES
White power.
White power!
White pride!
White genocide!

A handful of SKINHEADS arrives.

FIRST SKINHEAD

White power -- Man. Another one.

SECOND SKINHEAD

Time to do a little pest control.

FIRST SKINHEAD

Every weekend we run you homeless
guys out of town.

SECOND SKINHEAD

Hey, get up!

The skinheads grab Davey and begin shoving him around. But because they are on a street and not an alley, cops see them. Davey looks at a skinhead, thinks, and grabs a can of beer out of the skinhead's hand. As the police approach, Davey goes up to one of the cops, black, and hollers.

DAVEY

White power! White power!

...and throws his beer can down the street.

SECOND SKINHEAD

What the -

FIRST SKINHEAD

That guy, he's not with us.

COP

Okay, girls, assume the position.

SECOND SKINHEAD

You guys are county? Dammit.

Davey and one the skinheads share the back seat of a police car, the skinhead holding his coat. The other skinheads are shoved into other units. The cops stand in the street to compare notes.

FIRST SKINHEAD

Dude, you don't just up and join
the team. We don't know you, you're
not one of us.

DAVEY

I am today. People are looking for
me. Safer in jail.

FIRST SKINHEAD

All you had to do was point the
finger at me, and you could be out.
You could be home.

DAVEY

And that's why. My family is
hunting me.

FIRST SKINHEAD

What are you, nuts? You'd rather go
to the county joint? It's not like
the city jail. I'm serious, kid.

DAVEY

Trust me.

The skinhead passes a coat.

FIRST SKINHEAD

Here, put this on. Might keep you
from getting raped the first day.

DAVEY

Sieg Heil.

FIRST SKINHEAD

Don't push it.

INT. CATERERIA IN THE COUNTY JAIL - DAY

Davey sits nervously with the skinheads and White Power
people; across the way, the BLACK INMATES watch them. One of
the blacks is wearing the skinhead's coat. The first skinhead
brings his lunch tray to where Davey is sitting.

BLACK INMATE

Hey, that white boy. That's Wavey
Davey.

SECOND BLACK INMATE

That's him?

BLACK INMATE

Cops looking for him all over.
Cops, detectives, like he's John
Dillinger.

FIRST SKINHEAD

One way out of this.

DAVEY

Huh?

FIRST SKINHEAD

You covered for me, and I love a party.

The skinhead goes and picks a fight with the black inmate. In no time, a race riot. Davey gets whacked pretty hard and goes down. GUARDS yank the two teams apart.

GUARD

Got five going to solitary.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - DAY

Guards manhandle Davey, two skinheads and some black inmates down a hall to solitary.

FIRST SKINHEAD

Don't worry, they're not going to find you now.

DAVEY

You da man.

FIRST SKINHEAD

Next time you get us all thrown in the box, let me finish lunch first. Salisbury steak, I was this close.

GUARD

Both of you, knock it off.

Davey smiles. They throw him in solitary.

INT. COUNTY JAIL - DAY

Adam and Vergil wait to be let into the visiting area.

ADAM

So you've been off the meds for weeks? You know it's gonna scramble your brain?

VERGIL

(rapid fire, like the legal disclaimer in a radio ad)

This drug may increase the chance of heart attack or stroke which can lead to death.

(MORE)

VERGIL (CONT'D)

This increases the chance of serious allergic reactions or digestive problems such as bleeding and ulcers and may cause death. Get help right away if you've had swelling of the throat or trouble breathing, which causes death.

(more intense)

This drug could turn water into blood, cause frogs to rain from the sky, and gnats, lice, flies, cattle disease, boils, thunder, hail, locusts, eternal night, and the death of your firstborn. I am that I am.

(as a smarmy ad actress)

At last, a drug that can give me peace of mind!...

ADAM

Okay, I tried.

VERGIL

You need to stop ejaculating advice in my face. It's annoying.

ADAM

So who's Carl? The guy in jail?

VERGIL

He chased his trouble and strife wife and punched her in the Hampstead Heath teeth and dragged her by the Barnet Fair hair and wanted her loaf of bread dead. So he's back in the hammer and nail.

They head toward the metal detectors.

ADAM

You're ready? It's intense...

VERGIL

(terrified, looking down)

Let's get going.

Alarm sounds. GUARD stands.

GUARD

Okay, hold up. What's this?

VERGIL

It's my magic knife.

GUARD

This is my magic confiscation box.
This is a jail!

ADAM

Sorry, she didn't know, she's -

GUARD

What else you got, a magic gun?

Adam and Vergil are thoroughly searched. Vergil's Slim Jims go in the box.

VERGIL

Those are for Carl.

GUARD

I don't have to let you in here at all.

VERGIL

Please.

GUARD

Move your ass, visitor hour's almost over. Stay away from the other prisoners, so they don't jump you.

(to Adam)

You keep an eye out.

INT. JAIL VISITING ROOM -- DAY

Adam and Vergil enter; a scary thug named CARL awaits.

VERGIL

Carl. You still pissed at me? I tried to get some Slim Jims through, but -

CARL

Slim Jims. You brought a cop - this asshole arrested me!

GUARD

Carl, don't make me pull you out again.

CARL

Traded my Haldol for heroin, got into a fight with this bitch, and here I am.

VERGIL
You heard about Jenny?

CARL
Yeah.

VERGIL
Need Davey. Please, let him be
alive.

CARL
Last I saw, he was on the street.

VERGIL
Oh, no.

CARL
You should find Buford.

VERGIL
Buford? ...Take my hand.

Carl does. The guard, suspicious, wanders over.

VOICES
Fire.
Fire.

VERGIL
Fire.

ADAM
What?

VERGIL
Fire!

GUARD
Fire?? What the --

VERGIL
Come on, Adam, let's get out of
here.

ADAM
Where are we going?

VERGIL
Fire.

ADAM
What?

VERGIL

Fire. I haven't figured it out yet.
Come on, you clowns, give me a
clue!

VOICES

Stupid.
So stupid.
Fire.
Fire.

Adam and Vergil leave. Carl looks to the dayroom and sees
Davey there.

CARL

Davey, what the hell - Vergil!

And he looks frantically at the door.

EXT. JAIL PARKING LOT -- DAY

Adam and Vergil see Hogue in the jail lot.

VERGIL

I'm scared. Let's go. Fire.

ADAM

What?

VERGIL

Blue box.

ADAM

Vergil, you lost me.

VERGIL

Get in, and drive down the main
drag -

They get in the car.

INT. ADAM'S CAR - NIGHT

Continuation.

ADAM

What the -

VERGIL

Back toward that hospital!

ADAM
Where to?

VERGIL
Blue box!

ADAM
Blue box?

VERGIL
Fire!

ADAM
Fire? What??

VERGIL
That's all I got. But that's where
we're going. Jesus. No, turn here!

ADAM
Where?

VERGIL
Behind the hospital!

VOICES
Fire.
Blue box.

VERGIL
Blue box. Keep going, back behind
the trucks. Oh my God. Fire thing.
That's it! Fire!

She sees a hydrant next to a blue dumpster.

VERGIL (CONT'D)
Blue box! Fire hydrant!

Laying against the dumpster is a old black homeless man,
BUFORD. Vergil screams with delight.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Continuation. Vergil leaps out of the car.

VERGIL
Buford! ...Here's a soda. Isn't it
bad for you? The voices?

BUFORD
My voices do come back. The
government, you see.
(MORE)

BUFORD (CONT'D)

They dying to put me behind bars.
Beat me up on the street, throw me
in jail. They all out to get me.

VERGIL

Course the police are out to get
you. You're a scary looking black
guy. Whole point of a cop is to
protect white people from you.

BUFORD

Vergil, cops keep hollering at me,
saying I'm on drugs. If I was on my
drugs I wouldn't be out here. Go
home.

VERGIL

I brought you your malted milk
balls. I came here for Davey.

BUFORD

When Davey was arrested, he had a
lawyer named Hogue. There's your
answer.

ADAM

(arriving)

Oh Lord. Isaac Hogue? The Six
Shooter?

BUFORD

Yep. Got Davey out of jail both
times.

VERGIL

So let's talk to him.

ADAM

Not me.

VERGIL

Adam!

ADAM

Last time I saw Isaac Hogue, I was
a witness for the state, he was
defense. He lost. Went out to the
parking lot, shot out the windows
of my car. We don't exchange
Christmas cards.

BUFORD

Vergil. Tell you a secret. I get to
be fifty, my voices disappear.

(MORE)

BUFORD (CONT'D)

So I got no voices, but meantime
all the years off my meds messed up
my head for good. Look at him over
there, he's worse than me.
Recognize him?

VERGIL

Oh God. Nicky? We had him at the
house months ago. We can take him
to the house, get him -

ADAM

Vergil.

VERGIL

We had him fixed.

ADAM

Vergil!

VERGIL

I fixed this one!

ADAM

Let it go.

VERGIL

Dammit!

BUFORD

Nick doesn't recognize you. Ten
years on, you be out here like
Nick, and I'm gonna whup your ass,
don't think I won't! You want
voices yapping in your ears like
those old guys on the Muppets? The
doctors gonna tell you -

VERGIL

Doctors don't know shit. All the
shrinkers know how to do is drug
you stupid.

BUFORD

This time they may be onto
something. When you tried to kill
yourself -

VERGIL

Which time?

BUFORD

It was the voices, wasn't it?...Go
home.

Adam and Vergil leave. Buford curls up in a quiet spot. David arrives.

DAVEY

Yo Bufe, scored some Twizzlers.

He shakes Buford but Buford is asleep.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Adam and Vergil sit in front of fries, while the musician packs his gear.

ADAM

I'm no doctor, but there are two things to try. Get closer to your family.

VERGIL

Fuck them.

ADAM

Your family at the halfway house.

VERGIL

Yeah, mayor of Crazy Town.

ADAM

You really are. Those guys love you.

VERGIL

They're guys. They love my ass, my rack.

ADAM

Mel said they're lost when you're gone. She said you're even better in therapy than she is.

VERGIL

Oh bullshit, she never said that.

ADAM

Swear to God. You need a real family, not that radio show in your skull. Like you said, love can do anything. It will make you feel alive. Fireworks.

VERGIL

I still think they like my ass.

ADAM

It's a nice ass, but it doesn't have magical superpowers.

VERGIL

A lot you know. What's the other thing?

MUSICIAN

This is my old iPod. Got all the noises and voices you want. You listen to music every day, Soon you'll be hearing music, not voices.

VERGIL

You think?

MUSICIAN

Give it a try.

ADAM

You want to end up like Mel, or like Buford?

VERGIL

You think I could do what Mel does, at the house?

ADAM

Mel says you already do.

VERGIL

The voices were different last night. Last night it was Mel. Screaming at me.

ADAM

So three voices now?

VERGIL

I wish. When it gets bad like now, it's the whole fucking von Trapp family all at once. Call Mel, have her call in a new subscription for me. And then take me to find this Isaac Hogue.

ADAM

You know Mel's gonna give you shit about the pills, right?

VERGIL

Oh, yeah, I'm gonna get the full
Hattie McDaniel.

(does Mammy)

Miss Vergil, I done tol ya and tol
ya, got to take yo pills...Just kill
me now.

EXT. A FARM ROAD - DAY

Adam and Vergil drive up a country road toward a hilltop farm. Kids play in the distance. Suddenly a truck they've been seeing for days rumbles across the road in front of them. The man gets out with a shotgun. Dogs hop out as well. It's Hogue.

VERGIL

Penis truck!

HOGUE

Both of you. Out.

The dogs wander over, wary but not growling.

ADAM

Isaac?? Grew a beard?

HOGUE

You're that cop.

VERGIL

No. Not anymore.

HOGUE

And who are you?

VERGIL

Vergil.

HOGUE

Jesus Christ, you of all people,
you brought the cops here?

VERGIL

He's not a cop!

HOGUE

Yeah, we'll see. You go up to the
house. Mister Po-Po can sit here
with the dogs.

Atop the hill, Vergil finds Davey. Crying.

VERGIL
You're alive! Alive!

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE - NIGHT

The room with the writing on the walls gets new scrutiny from Leo, Wayne and Lupe. They read.

LEO
This is Joe, a regular Joe, Joe the
Joker. You see me every day, same
and same and same, placid and
pacific, the water smooth as glass.

WAYNE
Except for a ripple, and another
and another. Bubble and trouble,
worry and worry. Hard knocks from
rocks, rocks ripple water. I look
at the shore, I see the ones who
love me.

LUPE
And it all goes blurry as something
pulls me under. And I become
something new. I stop breathing, my
blood goes cold. I grow new rows of
teeth, I am a killer. I smell your
blood a mile away and I hate you.
No one is safe.

LEO
I can't stop swimming, I don't know
where I'm going or what is pulling
me there. The people on the shore
are running away. I don't
understand them, or they me. Icy
rage boils in me and the waters are
churning.

WAYNE
I spiral down as deep as the water
goes
I will never see the shore again.

LUPE
It's a suicide note. That's Matt.
He's gone. Who is going to tell
Vergil?

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

Rain. Adam sits in his car, the dogs watching him. The lawyer comes down and calls off the dogs. Adam gets out and follows him to the house.

INT. FARM KITCHEN - DAY

Adam and Hogue find Vergil and the real David.

HOGUE

Adam, this is David.

ADAM

I was beginning to think you were one of Vergil's hallucinations.

HOGUE

I'm Davey's lawyer. Took Vergil a while to persuade me to let you come up the hill. I assumed you were working for the other team. Davey's family.

ADAM

Explains the shotgun, I suppose.

HOGUE

Davey is in a pickle. He inherited his father's estate, and his family wants to put him in a mental hospital forever, so they can take over the family business.

ADAM

Wow.

HOGUE

Right now, Davey's treatment team is all selected by his family. In this state, they can give him a non compos mentis, stick him in a hospital even if he's not dangerous. You know it can be harder to break out of a hospital than a prison?

DAVEY

My folks told em, use the strictest rules they could. No contact, rewards, punishments. Mostly punishments.

HOGUE

He looks bad in court. Assault, possession, the suicide attempt. The court wants a guardian, and they're listening to the family. With him in the hospital, the family controls the money, they control him. Indefinitely.

DAVEY

I just wanted a life, a job, friends, see a ball game.

ADAM

So how did he get out?

HOGUE

The hospital got crowded and they asked the family to let Davey try a halfway house. Davey skipped out of the house, slept with the homeless for a few days, got beat up. Finally he tracked me down, asking for a scheme to set him free.

ADAM

Is that even possible?

HOGUE

Long shot. Mel, the therapist, would have to agree to be the head of Davey's new treatment team. Team needs a lawyer, that's me, a social worker, an MD and a drug counselor. But we need someone to give him food and a roof. The guardian. It can't be me or Mel, so he can't live in that halfway house. I was wondering about...you.

ADAM

How would that work?

HOGUE

You need to keep him off the junk and on his meds. Keep him out of jail, safe at home. And it would help if he got a job. The state would inspect your home. When Vergil told me about you, it was like finding a lottery ticket.

ADAM

Huh?

HOGUE

First off, you handled Vergil for a week with no meds. You deserve a freakin medal. You did that, you can handle Davey.

ADAM

And second?

HOGUE

You're the cop who got his stupid ass fired for protecting that black kid. Which is not so hot for you, but I can go into court and tell em you're honest. A dozen times in court I wanted to pump you full of bullets, but not once did you lie.

ADAM

So you're not gonna shoot out my windows again. How long would this be?

HOGUE

Until we can prove his competence. Could be a month, could be a year.

ADAM

Do you snore?

DAVEY

How would I know?

ADAM

Vergil snores. Talks to her voices all night long.

VERGIL

Dude!...I can help with Davey too!

DAVEY

Baby, you need to go back to the halfway house. Those guys need you.

VERGIL

So do you!

HOGUE

Vergil, you need your meds too. I may need you to testify in court.

VERGIL

They'd let me testify?

HOGUE

Maybe. We have to convince the court we can get Davey through this. You do a good job with the judge, that could make the difference between Davey free and Davey locked up in a hospital.

VERGIL

No pressure. Baby, the paranoid stories you were telling us, cops, nurses strapping you down, the punishments - that was all true?

(to Adam)

You really do deserve a medal.

INT. HOGUE'S PLACE -- NIGHT

Taylor arrives and hands a legal document to Hogue; a sheriff's deputy stands behind them.

TAYLOR

Mister Hogue?

HOGUE

Davey, I'm sorry, we have to do this the hard way. Your mother gets temporary custody.

DAVEY

You said you could help -

HOGUE

It's only until the hearing.

DAVEY

Vergil, help me!

VERGIL

Adam!

HOGUE

They got the paperwork. We just have to beat em in court.

VERGIL

Davey, come here. Hugs! We're coming for you.

Hugs.

DAVEY

Promise?

ADAM
Trust me, kid, she dragged me
through every alley in town to find
you.

Davey's virago of a MOTHER enters and simply takes his hand.
He's terrified.

VERGIL
(enraged)
Now you listen -

DAVEY
Vergil. Don't make it any worse.

HOGUE
Vergil, they WANT you to go off and
pull a nutty. It strengthens their
case. See? She came here
deliberately. Didn't you?...Don't
give them the satisfaction.

INT. A JUDGE'S OFFICE - DAY

A JUDGE hosts an informal meeting at a table, with Davey,
Mel, Vergil, Hogue and Adam on one side, Davey's parents and
lawyer on the other.

JUDGE
Keep going, sweetie, you're doing
fine. Tell me about the day you met
Davey.

VERGIL
(refusing to look at him)
I met him at a party. Wrong part of
town. I was naked and drunk. He
kissed me once, put his coat over
me, and called Mel to get me out of
there. He's the heart and soul of
our house. And he ran away.

JUDGE
And you're on your pills.

VERGIL
For a month now. He's on his,
promise!

HOGUE

Davey's actually more functional than Vergil -talking to her can be like running a dictionary through a blender.

VERGIL

Thanks a lot.

JUDGE

(to Adam)

And you say you can take care of this boy? What the hell is a Boy Scout like you doing in a town like this?

DAVEY'S MOTHER

I want my boy. Why are we listening to this girl? Heard about you. Spend your life living in your own imagination.

HOGUE

Do you know what "i" is?

DAVEY'S MOTHER

You mean I am?

HOGUE

No, "i". It's a number which lives only in the imagination. Square root of negative 1. No such number exists in the universe.

DAVEY'S MOTHER

What in the world...

HOGUE

"I" is imaginary, but scientists have to have it, to build anything. They need the "i" for electrical engineering, signal analysis, quantum mechanics, and formulas for space-time in general relativity. None of that would be possible without a number that exists only in our heads. Without the imaginary world, not only is there no art and music, there's no science.

JUDGE

Well, I'll be talking to the doctor next. Davey, can you manage on the outside, while I write my decision?

DAVEY'S MOTHER

We can put him up with no trouble.

VERGIL

I've been listening to you talk about your son. When he was in the hospital, how often did you visit him?

Adam has put a restraining hand on her arm which she angrily flicks away.

DAVEY'S MOTHER

Beg your pardon?

VERGIL

(her eyes focus on the mother)

The hospital allows visitors, phone calls. How often?...Okay, here's another. What's his favorite TV show? What does he eat when he's watching his TV show? What's the first thing you do when Davey has a night terror?...Here's an easy one, and we all know the answer. How often did you check in with Davey at the halfway house? We got a phone. ...I don't suppose people bother to talk to the Christmas turkey before, you know, they eat him.

JUDGE

All right. You'll all be notified.

INT. RESTAURANT KITCHEN -- DAY

Stacey is in the kitchen; Davey learns prep work from Vergil; Tim runs a dishwasher.

STACEY

So you got it now?

VERGIL

Okay, what's the no-no list again?

DAVEY AND TIM

No alcohol, no caffeine, no drugs.

VERGIL

And?

DAVEY AND TIM

Stay on the meds.

VERGIL

Let me know if you start feeling
goofy. Still got all your fingers?
Sweetie, your diced onions are a
thing of beauty, get ready to
saute, we're making mirepoix for
the stock. Remember all those
bones!

DAVEY

You're not gonna out all us nutter
butters on the same shift?

TIM

No no no no!

Vergil goes to the fridge. Stacey leaves.

VERGIL

Dammit, who put the Gruyere in the
fridge! It turns to cement!

She stabs it with a knife.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Whosoever shall remove this blade
from this stone shall become King
of England! ...Seriously, next guy
does this gets liver and squash for
lunch. Davey, I made chicken you
can take home to Adam - be nice,
don't steal his food!...I can't
believe you're here with me!

She starts to cry and hugs him. Suddenly the voices ambush
her.

VOICES

Stupid girl.
Stupid.
Static.
Just end it all.
That's what that knife is for.

Vergil walks over to her boombox.

VERGIL

So you're back. How about a little
Led Zeppelin, Scarecrow? Loud
enough for ya?

She cranks it up and begins yowling along.

INT. RESSTAURANT DINING AREA -- DAY

Continuation. In the dining area Stacey, doing payroll, hears Vergil's SINGING and laughs. The musician helps her count money.

STACEY

You weren't kidding. Her singing is really terrible.

MUSICIAN

Oh God, hasn't that poor girl delivered the baby yet?

STACEY

Check it out. Vergil rewrote our whole menu. She started off in French nouvel, just to show off, and how she's playing around with Tuscany.

MUSICIAN

Any good?

STACEY

I put on five pounds. She starts messing with desserts again, I'm doomed.

We follow Stacey back to the kitchen.

VERGIL

And the Grammy goes to...

STACEY

Your singing is still terrible.

VERGIL

It sounds AWESOME in my head. When we do our grand reopening, put a rose and a lilac at the hostess desk. Good mojo. Keeps the voices away.

STACEY

The voices.

VERGIL

Back here, good luck, we sprinkle thyme, rosemary and sage...

STACEY

Like the song.

VERGIL

Huh? ...Then we use my magic knife to cut an apple in two, the seeds make a pentagram. And then an incense candle.

MANAGER

(entering)

Candle? Yeah, gonna tell you about the fire code. You guys being good?

VERGIL

(grabs bone, goes Cockney)

Roasting bones. This one here is me old Mum.

INT. CELLAR OF A COMMUNITY CENTER - DAY

Mel and her halfway-house crew do therapy.

MEL

State inspector this week. They're deciding whether we stay open. Everybody be on your best behavior.

LEO

I call bullshit. She's a social worker, she's heard every lie in the book. We put on an act, she'll see through it in a minute. We're tired of being told to act normal, just to make other people feel better. Let your freak flag fly.

MEL

Just don't overdo it.

LEO

When do we get our old hall back?

MEL

County forced us to fix the pipes. Wiped out my budget. Be back home in few days.

PETE

Well I want my bed back.

WAYNE

My bed, you mean.

They stand up.

PETE

I've been listening to your
bullshit all week, it's a grand mal
seizure of -

They're shoving. Vergil, county manager enter.

VERGIL

Hey! You, right here! You over
there!

PETE

It's not my seat.

VERGIL

It is now! Sit down!

They sit. Mel comes up behind Vergil but Vergil raises a
finger to silence her. She owns the room.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

What did I say about the beds?
Leave you alone for a week, told
you to be good for Mel. Did you do
that? You want me to take TV away?
Pete, with the pushing and the
shoving. What did we say about
that?

PETE

Sorry.

WAYNE

Vergil, we have no beds downstairs.

VERGIL

Pete can sleep in my bed.

PETE

Dream come true.

VERGIL

Lupe, can I sleep with you Friday
night?

LUPE

Buy me some flowers, a nice dinner..

VERGIL

Don't be a tool. ...Mel, we lost
Nicky.

MEL

But you got Davey back.

Davey enters. Silence.

PETE

Who the fuck is that guy?

TIM

Don't recognize him.

LEO

He works for the government.

WAYNE

I think it's Satan.

MARK

We should kill him.

DAVEY

Mark, you can't even kill spiders.

LUPE

Baby! Gonna fuckin' kill you, man.

Big hug. And everyone cheers and makes a ruckus.

LEO

Yo, Vergil! Lunchtime!

WAYNE

Sweetie, you gotta save us!

PETE

Mel has been trying to kill us all!

TIM

Brussels sprouts!

MEL

They were on sale.

MARK

She made us fruitcake!

MEL

You are what you eat, you know.

LEO

And then she tried to bake a cake.

WAYNE

It was like a manhole cover.

MEL

Okay, I plead guilty on the cake.

PETE

Make us pizza! Make us a cake!

ADAM

Can't any of these guys cook?

VERGIL

There were a couple of incidents.
Got a talking-to from the fire
department.

She pulls Leo aside.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

Hey Leo. I saw a sign on Main
Street. Speed limit 25. Enforced
from aircraft.

LEO

Aircraft?

VERGIL

Aircraft, man. They're watching you
right now, from the sky!

LEO

The government. Hey, Wayne, come
here -

He runs off.

LUPE

Loca loca. I missed our midnight
talks. I could have used you last
week.

VERGIL

Huh?

LUPE

Pete proposed. In front of
everybody.

VERGIL

Marriage? God.

LUPE

He read a poem. It's really really
bad.

VERGIL

Man, leave you guys alone for two weeks...

LUPE

You hold us together.

VERGIL

Yeah. Cause I'm steady as a rock.

MANAGER

I spent all night with the council. You can keep your house for another year.

Cheers.

MEL

And then what?

MANAGER

I have no clue.

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

The halfway-house crew charges the counter while Adam sits and watches.

VERGIL

Okay, everybody stick with your buddy. If Tim runs off to look at the fountain again, hit him with something hard.

LEO

I want a Big Mac. Hold the bread.

MARK

This isn't McDonalds. What do you mean, hold the bread?

WAYNE

I want a rib eye.

MARK

I want abalone with macadamia saffron truffle champagne sauce.

VERGIL

What?

MARK

Garnished with Beluga.

TIM
I want ketchup.

LUPE
Look at that whirly thing - is that
where you make the milkshakes?

WAYNE
Can I cook my own burger?

LEO
That's a camera. They're watching
us.

MARK
Can you break a million dollar
bill?

The girl at the counter looks at them, jaw open. Vergil sees
Adam sitting at a table, laughing.

VERGIL
We'll have eight of the Number
Five. All the same.

PETE
Aw, man...

VERGIL
Grab your cups, get your drinks,
don't make a mess.

Vergil and Davey walk over to Adam.

DAVEY
I told you they were all wired up.

VERGIL
That's not schizophrenia. They like
to mess with people's heads. It's
like living with the Marx Brothers.

Hogue enters with paperwork; Stacey follows.

HOGUE
Your boss went to bat for you in
the judge's chambers. You won, kid!

The other inmates run over to hear the news. Vergil loses it,
hugs Stacey.

VERGIL
Yes, this is me totally losing my
shit. Best boss ever!

INT. HALFWAY HOUSE - DAY

The patients return from a shopping trip.

MEL

Okay, everybody put away your stuff.

TIM

It's awesome, spending my own money. Schizophrenic with a Pink Floyd T-shirt - isn't that a bit obvious? ...Great to have our own home.

MARK

Tell me about it. I was in foster care til I turned 18, they dumped me on the street. Then jail, hospital, jail, hospital. Dude, I can't believe you spent real money on those.

Pete is arranging five figurines on a table. The other house members watch, mesmerized.

PETE

Back in the middle ages, king of France, Charles, went nuts. Schizophrenic. He told folks he was made of glass, refused to take a bath, didn't know his own kids, attacked his own men. Later his grandson became King of England, he went nuts too. Schizophrenic. Two crazy kings, England and France fought a war for a hundred years. Then the whole war changed because of a tiny girl who was, wait for it --

LEO

Schizophrenic?

PETE

This little girl could barely write her own name, she was standing in a field, and saw...angels. They were so beautiful, that she cried. Her voices told her to take over the French army and declare war on the English.

VERGIL

The army??

PETE

She was twelve, she had never seen a battle, she'd never seen a sword. Joan of Arc, patron saint of schizophrenics. The new French king, the son, saw the same insanity in her eyes that he saw in his father. And he listened. And then she took over, just by being stubborn.

VERGIL

Took over the army??

PETE

She won battle after battle. She scooted through enemy lines dressed like a man; English archers shot her in the neck, shot her in the leg, cannonball hit her in the helmet, knocked her on her ass. When they captured her, she jumped from a window, 70 feet high, cause her voices told her she would survive --

VERGIL

And she survived?

PETE

Had more bumps and bruises than a rodeo clown. Then the crazy English king caught her, tied her to a pole, set her on fire. She was nineteen. The French were furious, they fought like crazy men, and they won. And they became a nation. ...So here she is, and here are her voices. Saint Margaret, Saint Catherine, and Saint Michael.

WAYNE

Michael isn't a saint. He's an angel.

MARK

That's what he told me too. So when do we set her on fire?

MEL

We don't!

LEO

So, a whole war run by crazy people?

PETE

All wars are run by crazy people.

MARK

And what's that statue?

VERGIL

A harpy. They devour the people who commit suicide. It's a warning.

INT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Vergil takes Adam's hand; he doesn't object.

VERGIL

I'm so embarrassed you had to spend two weeks with Crazy Vergil.

ADAM

It was fun. Exhausting. And now I have my English-to-Vergil dictionary, I'm starting to get you.

VERGIL

Cool.

ADAM

Even when you're on the pills, you're still a little nutty.

VERGIL

Someday I'll be rich, and they'll call me eccentric...It's called being alive. We all think things, feel things, why is it rude to say em out loud? We hold it all in until we drink ourselves to death or have heart attacks. What if each of us said "I love you" to someone, all in one day? Even a stranger, or a cop? A billion people, all in the same day?

ADAM

What if?

VERGIL

I'm tired. Put your arm around me.
Ah, taking off the shoes...

They sit. She suddenly smacks him on the head.

VERGIL (CONT'D)

There's an ice cream store here!
Why didn't you tell me!

She runs, barefoot.

ADAM

Oh crap. Don't you want your shoes,
or money, or - man...

She finds the store, rows of ice cream buckets.

VERGIL

Holy crap, what do I do? Look at
all those colors! I love you, man!

The vendor can't help smiling back.

FADE OUT.

THE END.