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"The Son of The Highest, 2.0" (Pilot)

Created and Written By

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FADE IN:

EXT. LA PAZ BLVD (LA PAZ, NEVADA) - NIGHT

North of Las Vegas. One of those Blink-and-You-Will-Miss-It towns which harken to the Old West.

A CARGO VAN, "Three Wise Guys Pizza" LOGO on its sides, is PARKED, hazard lights ON, BOXED-IN by NHP UNITS.

PATROLMEN try to DEAL with JOSÉ SALOMÓN (20s; affable), his in-laws AÑA (50s; warm) and JOAQUÍN NATÁN (50s; grump), and José's father SANTIAGO SALOMÓN (50s; courtly) as OTHER PATROLMEN set up a perimeter and keep PEOPLE, most in Halloween garb, at a respectable distance.

INSERT: INT. THREE WISE GUYS PIZZA VAN (PARKED) - BACK SEAT - CONTINUOUS

JÉANNE LE BAPTISTE (30s; solemn) attends to MARÍA NATÁN-SALOMÓN (20s; sober), who is in TRANSITIONAL LABOR. No time to get to the hospital -- the baby is coming now!

BACK TO SCENE

Suddenly, a BEAM OF PURE WHITE LIGHT HITS THE VAN FROM ABOVE. Everyone looks up in reaction, astonished, as the light now OVERTAKES THEM.

SCREEN GOES WHITE. FADE UP INTO:

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE BEGINS:

INT. SALOMÓN APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAWN

Modest. José SNORES in bed. Alarm clock on his end table: 6:00AM. On it are also photos of him and María:

-- in Kindergarten, arms wrapped around each other.

-- he in his Cub Scout uniform; she in her Brownie uniform. His sash is clean; hers is loaded with badges.

-- she holds the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Fair 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy for her water recycling project; he holds a participation ribbon for his moldy bread, ahem, "project".

-- he is the Court Jester to her Junior Prom Queen.

-- he, Aña, Joaquín, Santiago, and José's mother RAQUEL (30s; sweet) flank High School Valedictorian María.

-- University graduate María holds her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering - Water Resources Tract, flanked by José, Aña, Joaquín, Santiago, and an ILL Raquel; a scarf covers her bald head.

Alarm clock RINGS. He SWATS it OFF the table.

EXT. THREE WISE GUYS PIZZA - SERVICE ENTRANCE - LATER

Clock on wall: 10:00AM. In a "slack·en·i·tis (catch it)" t-shirt, José approaches BALTHAZAR (30s; driven), CASPAR, and MELCHIOR GIUDIA (30s; irascible), and a MECHANIC (40s; simple). They are gathered around the opened hood of a Three Wise Guys Pizza cargo van. Melchior notices him.

MELCHIOR  
(Brooklyn accent)  
Señor Slacker. How kind of you to grace  
us with your presence.

BALTHAZAR  
(Brooklyn accent)  
What did you do to this thing?! It won't  
start!

José grins, grabs the keys from the Mechanic, CLOSES the hood, walks to the driver's side, BANGS on the fender, OPENS the door, gets in, STARTS it, backs out, drives off.

CASPAR  
(Brooklyn accent)  
I knew there was an "explanation".

INT. AÑA AND JOAQUÍN'S HAVANA CAFÉ - LATER

Flag of Cuba and the Star of David on a wall.

Save for Aña, Joaquín, María, and regular MRS. GILBERT (70s; prim), it is as empty as the cobwebbed food canteens on the shelves. María refills the coffee cup of an ELDERLY GENTLEMAN (80s; stately) at the counter.

ELDERLY GENTLEMAN  
So... y'all from Cuba?

The mere mention of "Cuba" gets Joaquín agitated. Aña turns to the Elderly Gentleman.

AÑA  
(Cuban accent)  
Don't get him started.

José enters. Joaquín looks at him with disdain.

JOAQUÍN  
(Cuban accent)  
When are you going to grow up? Get a  
real job? Take responsibility? Stop  
mooching off of your poor father? If  
(reads the t-shirt)  
"slack-en-i-tis" was a religion, you  
would be its patron saint!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AÑA  
Not now, Joaquín.

JOAQUÍN  
Yes, Aña, now! If not now, when?!

JOSÉ  
*Y un muy buenos días para tú, Papí!*

José kisses Aña on the cheek, comes to María. She returns the carafe to the coffee maker, fetches her purse, opens it, comes to him with a paper. He smiles.

JOSÉ (CONT'D)  
Your certification.  
(over-the-top)  
Today, the Clark County Water Reclamation District. Tomorrow, the world. No bowel movement will be safe.

She SMACKS him. He laughs.

MRS. GILBERT  
Why are you laughing, young man? What María is doing ought to be commended.

MARÍA  
Pay no attention to José, Mrs. Gilbert.  
He's just being his stupid, silly self.

She SMACKS him again. He laughs. Suddenly, María gives a CRY as she grabs her stomach and doubles-over.

JOSÉ  
María!

Aña and Joaquín race to María as José guides her to a chair. The Elderly Gentleman also comes to María as Mrs. Gilbert OPENS her purse, produces her mobile.

MRS. GILBERT  
I'm calling nine-one-one!

José signals Mrs. Gilbert to "stop".

JOSÉ  
No, I can take her to the hospital.

María signals José to "stop".

MARÍA  
I don't need to go to the hospital.

She then hurls forward. Guess what happens next.

INT. LA PAZ COMMUNITY CLINIC - EMERGENCY - LATER

Threadbare. María, José, Aña, Joaquín, Mrs. Gilbert, and the Elderly Gentleman sit together. GABRIEL TIĀNSHÎ (20s; eager), in a lab coat, now approaches María.

TIĀNSHÎ

Miss Natán? I am Doctor Gabriel Tiānshî,  
one of the resident interns.

(happily)

Allow me be the first to congratulate  
you. You are going to have a baby.

He expects everyone to react with joy. They don't.

MARÍA/AÑA/JOAQUÍN/JOSÉ

What?!

Joaquín jumps to his feet, goes to José, grabs him by the collar, and LIFTS him up.

JOAQUÍN

You good-for-nothing piece of --

He SLAMS José into the nearest wall as everyone races to them, including Tiānshî.

MARÍA/AÑA

No!

Joaquín turns to María as José STRUGGLES to break free.

JOAQUÍN

Who is the father?! Tell me!

MARÍA

(shock)

There is no father! There must be a  
mistake!

Aña turns to María.

AÑA

What do you mean "there must be a  
mistake"?! You don't think they don't  
know when somebody is pregnant?!

JOSÉ

I know what happened.

Everyone turns to José, still PINNED to the wall.

JOSÉ (CONT'D)

She got knocked-up by this drunken  
lesbian doctor whose brother is the man  
she is secretly in love with!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Everyone stares at him, mortified.

JOSÉ (CONT'D)  
(frustrated)  
Didn't anybody else watch "*Jane the Virgin*"?!

Everyone continues to stares at him, mortified.

EXT./EST. NATÁN APARTMENT BUILDING - EVENING

Has seen better days. OVER the now-CLOSED café is the APARTMENT the Natán family calls home.

INT. NATÁN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Modest. María, with Aña, holds a pregnancy test: positive.

AÑA  
How many more tests are you going to  
take?! You're pregnant!  
(freaked)  
You're pregnant, you're pregnant, you're  
pregnant!

Watching "*I LOVE LUCY*" ON TV, an equally-miffed Joaquín turns to Aña.

JOAQUÍN  
Now you know how I felt when you --

He and Aña freeze, both having the same "¡Dios mío!" epiphany. He gets up, walks over, takes María by the shoulders gently, sits her down. He and Aña take a deep breath, nervous.

AÑA  
This is going to sound crazy.

JOAQUÍN  
You are not going to believe it.

María looks at her parents, bracing herself.

INSERT: INT. NATÁN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY (2001)

DIFFERENT from the apartment the family lives in now.

"*I LOVE LUCY*" ON the TV. A PREGNANT and depressed Aña enters from the KITCHEN as she mixes batter in a bowl. Suddenly, LUCILLE BALL BREAKS "the 4<sup>th</sup> wall", then gives her a warm smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCILLE BALL (ON TV)  
Annie, rejoice! The Lord has heard your prayers! The Holy Spirit has come upon you and has conceived in your womb María, The Immaculate Conception, Two-Point-Oh, the Mother of Our Lord and Savior, The Son of The Highest, Two-Point-Oh!

Aña DROPS the bowl in shock.

INSERT: INT. LAW OFFICE - WAITING ROOM - DAY (2001)

Cut-rate. Stenciled ON the opened door: "David de Belén, Attorney-at-Law".

"I LOVE LUCY" ON TV. DESI ARNAZ, having broken "the 4<sup>th</sup> wall", has just delivered to the now-flummoxed Joaquín the same news Lucille has delivered to Aña.

DESI ARNAZ (ON TV)  
You and Aña are descended directly from Natán, *el hijo de David y Betsabé*, hence, you are *los primas de Nuestro Señor y Salvador, El Hijo de La Más Alta, Uno-Coma-Cero!*

JOAQUÍN  
So... there is no *camarero borracho*?

Desi gives him a look of utter disbelief.

BACK TO SCENE

María is stunned as Aña and Joaquín try as much to convince themselves as they try to convince her.

AÑA  
It was so... crazy. We thought we were, as the young people say, "trippin'".

JOAQUÍN  
In my heart, I knew... your mother, she never did no funny business.

AÑA  
And... we gave you such a sheltered upbringing.

JOAQUÍN  
And... the only boy we ever let get near you was  
(contempt)  
*El Santo Patrón de Slack-en-i-tis!*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

María can't help but giggle at the reference to José.

As all three try to process this, Aña turns to him.

AÑA  
(disbelief)  
A drunken busboy?!

He shrugs, chagrined. Aña shakes her head.

EXT./EST. SALOMÓN APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Also has seen better days.

INT. SALOMÓN APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

José and Santiago eat dinner as the 1960 film "OCEAN'S 11" PLAYS ON TV. José is in despair, the reality of María's pregnancy having sunk in. Santiago is also stunned.

José produces a wedding ring box, puts it on the table, pushes it to Santiago, who pushes it back.

SANTIAGO  
(Salvadoran accent)  
Your mother gave it to you. To give one  
day to a girl who is worthy.

José shakes his head, about to cry. Then...

MAN'S VOICE  
Joe Solomon?

They share a look: "Did you hear that?".

MAN'S VOICE (CONT'D)  
Yeah. You heard me, brother.

They turn to the TV. FRANK SINATRA - inside the Sands Hotel safe - looks AT them, having just broken "the 4<sup>th</sup> wall".

He points AT a shocked Santiago, whom, in turn, points AT an equally-shocked José.

Frank now pulls a paper from his jacket, unfolds it, reads:

FRANK SINATRA (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
"Joseph, fear not to take Mary unto thee  
as thine wife, for that which is conceived  
in her is of The Holy Ghost. And she  
shall bring forth a Son and thou shalt  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

FRANK SINATRA (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
call His Name 'Jesus', for He shall save  
His People from their sins. He shall be  
great and shall be called 'The Son of The  
Highest, Two-Point-Oh' and the Lord God  
shall give unto Him the throne of His  
Father David and He shall reign over the  
House of Joachim forever and His Kingdom,  
there shall be no end".

José and Santiago don't know how to react. Finally...

JOSÉ  
So... there's no drunken lesbian doctor?

Santiago and Frank each give him a look, then...

FRANK SINATRA (ON TV)  
Look, doofus! You and your pop are the  
direct descendants of David and  
Bathsheba's kid Solomon, therefore, the  
cousins of Our Lord and Savior, The Son  
of The Highest, One-Point-Oh.

JOSÉ/SANTIAGO  
(surprised)  
Oh.

FRANK SINATRA (ON TV)  
And of all the twenty-somethings in all  
the world, you and Mary are the only ones  
crazy enough to be saving yourselves for  
marriage.

SANTIAGO  
(really surprised)  
Oh!

EXT./EST. THE LITTLE CHAPEL - DAY

A La Paz institution. And twice as tacky.

INT. THE LITTLE CHAPEL - CONTINUOUS

An ELVIS IMPERSONATOR sets up as Aña and Joaquín watch, not  
happy. Santiago enters, walks up to them.

SANTIAGO  
You know José has obtained permission  
from the Most Reverend to marry María at  
Saint Joan of Arc on Friday!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Joaquín has officially gone off the deep end.

JOAQUÍN  
Bad enough she had given her heart to  
that *perdedor*, no way "José" is she  
marrying in  
(blasphemy)  
a church!

Santiago spreads his arms, indicating where they are.

SANTIAGO  
But this is acceptable?!  
(long beat;  
an epiphany)  
You just insulted my faith! And my son!

JOAQUÍN  
Ah! Insulting them is impossible!

She gets in-between them before they really go at.

AÑA  
Stop it!

After a long beat, she turns to Joaquín.

AÑA (CONT'D)  
Do I wish He had chosen an ambitious,  
Orthodox, *hombre Cubano con cojones* for  
María? Claro. But it is what it is.  
(beat)  
José is a good boy she has known all her  
life. He loves her, she loves him, and  
it is not for you or for me or for Rabbi  
Rafalín or for this Most Reverend or for  
anyone else to bless their union. Only  
for Hashem.

Joaquín nods, reluctantly. She now turns to Santiago.

AÑA (CONT'D)  
(chagrined)  
Besides, we cannot afford a proper  
ceremony.

SANTIAGO  
I have money.

JOAQUÍN  
You are the only honest car salesman in  
America. How can you have money?

Santiago shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Balthazar, Caspar, and Melchior Giudìa now enter, approach them with four mini pizza boxes.

MELCHIOR  
Hey, how are ya? Melchior Giudìa. My brothers, Balthazar and Caspar. Owners of Three Wise Guys Pizza.

Melchior shakes everyone's hand as Caspar and Balthazar dole out the pizzas.

MELCHIOR (CONT'D)  
We were named after the Three Wise Men, ergo, "Three Wise Guys Pizza".

"Elvis" opens his fried peanut butter/banana pizza.

"ELVIS"  
Thank you. Thank you very much.

"Elvis" chows down as the others hold their boxes, unsure how to react. Finally...

SANTIAGO  
Are you José's employers?

CASPAR  
Guilty as charged.  
(beat)  
Are you his *Papí*?

SANTIAGO  
Guilty as charged.  
(beat)  
Santiago Salomón.

JOAQUÍN  
Joaquín Natán. My wife, Aña. Father and mother of the bride.

Everyone shakes hands, then smile/nod awkwardly.

BALTHAZAR  
So, uh, where are you from?

JOAQUÍN  
We are from Cuba.

AÑA  
Don't get him started.

SANTIAGO  
My late wife and myself, we came from El Salvador.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MELCHIOR  
We're from Bensonhurst.

The brothers strike a pose.

BALTHAZAR/CASPAR/MELCHIOR  
Brooklyn!

Again, everyone smiles and nods politely.

SANTIAGO  
José did not inform me he had informed  
you of the wedding.

BALTHAZAR  
No, he didn't tell us nothin'.

The brothers now take a quick look around, hesitant.

CASPAR  
This is gonna sound nuts. You just  
ain't gonna believe it.

They look at them: "Try us". The brothers take a breath.

INSERT: TV SCREEN (INT. GIUDÌA CONDO - DEN - NIGHT)

"THE GODFATHER" PLAYS. MARLON BRANDO looks STRAIGHT AHEAD.

MARLON BRANDO (ON TV)  
"And she shall bring forth a *Figlio* and  
she shall name Him '*Gesù*'. He shall be  
great and shall be called '*Il Figlio di  
Il Più Alto, Due-Virgola-Zero*' and *Il  
Signore Dio* shall give unto Him *Il Trono  
di Suo Padre Davide* and He shall reign  
over *Il Casa di Gioacchino* forever and  
*Nel Suo Regno*, there shall be no end.

He points to his left.

MARLON BRANDO (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
And you

He points to his center.

MARLON BRANDO (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
and you

He points to his right.

MARLON BRANDO (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
and you shall be His Godfathers".

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE BROTHERS

sit on a cushy couch, staring at the TV, dumbfounded.

BACK TO SCENE

Aña, Joaquín, Santiago, and "Elvis" are just as dumbfounded, albeit, for different reasons.

INT. LA PAZ COMMUNITY CLINIC - WAITING ROOM - DAY

José and María sit together. Their wedding rings GLOW.

MARÍA

José... I'm scared.

JOSÉ

You're scared? I have to grow up. Get a real job. Take responsibility. Stop mooching off of my poor father. You're scared? I'm terrified!

She BURSTS into tears. He takes her hand, now realizing that this is about way-more than him.

MAN'S VOICE

Fear not, María.

They look at each other, at the other PATIENTS, then at the TV above them. Sure enough, ON the TV, GOD as "The Most Interesting Man in the World", is SPEAKING TO them.

José DROPS to his knees. María remains seated. Both fold their hands in prayer.

As some patients - who ONLY SEE THE DOS EQUIS COMMERCIAL - react, others produce their mobiles and RECORD them while LAUGHING and making SNIDE REMARKS.

GOD (ON TV) (CONT'D)

He will heal the afflicted and feed the hungry and give hope and comfort to those without, for He shall become... a pizza delivery driver.

José laughs. María shoots José a scornful look.

GOD (ON TV) (CONT'D)

Sorry. Couldn't resist.

God now SPEAKS in ARAMAIC as SUBTITLES APPEAR BEFORE them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOD (ON TV) (CONT'D)  
 María and José, I say again unto you:  
 "fear not". He shall love you as you  
 shall love Him. He shall be great and  
 He shall be called "The Son of The  
 Highest, Two-Point-Oh" and I shall give  
 unto Him the throne of His Father David  
 and He shall reign over the House of  
 Joachim forever and His Kingdom, there  
 shall be no end. And all authority in  
 heaven and on earth I shall give unto Him  
 and all rulers shall serve and obey Him  
 and He shall vanquish the Tempter and He  
 shall bind all humanity and He shall  
 teach the world  
 (SINGS "I'd Like to Teach  
 the World to Sing")  
 "to sing in perfect harmony. I'd like  
 to buy the world a Coke and keep it  
 company..."

END SUBTITLES

God TRAILS OFF as a NURSE approaches, perplexed.

NURSE  
 Uh... Mr. and Mrs. Salomón?

José and María look at her, sheepish.

INT: JÉANNE LE BAPTISTE'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

Photos of newborns, Mercy Ships work, signed photo of John Wayne with a MAN, and a flag of St. Lucia adorn two walls.

José is gobsmacked by the degrees on a third wall:

- Boston Latin School, Valedictorian
- Harvard College, Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology, Summa Cum Laude
- Harvard University Medical School, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology, Summa Cum Laude
- Residency Completion Certificate in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Massachusetts General Hospital
- Certificate, American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Medical License, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Medical License, State of Nevada

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He turns to J  anne as she examines Mar  a, who is on a gurney, attended by the Nurse.

JOS    
How did a brain like you wind up in a dump like this? I mean, no offense, but Harvard-this and Harvard-that?

J  ANNE  
(Saint Lucian Creole accent)  
My father. He wished for me to be of service. And he loved the Old West.

She half-turns, points AT the photo of John Wayne.

J  ANNE (CONT'D)  
That is him with John Wayne.

He is genuinely floored. She finishes the exam.

J  ANNE (CONT'D)  
I believe that I can predict with great certainty when you will deliver.

JOS  /MAR  A  
(hopeful)  
Christmas?

J  ANNE  
No, you are much more further along. You will deliver at the end of October.

JOS  /MAR  A  
(stunned)  
Halloween?

J  anne nods, then a strange feeling comes over her.

LATER

She examines a specimen under an old inverted microscope, and is shocked by what she sees.

INT: HALLWAY - DAY

Holding a paper, J  anne stands at an open door: "Luqa Sakib, Director, OB/GYN" ON its nameplate. She KNOCKS.

SAKIB (O.S.)  
(Jordanian accent)  
Enter.

She enters the OFFICE of LUQA SAKIB (60s; calm), who is at his desk doing paperwork. He looks up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

                  SAKIB (CONT'D)  
Doctor Le Baptiste.  
                  (beat)  
There are only two people who have ever  
intimidated me: my chemistry professor  
at Yarmouk, and you. Harvard-this and  
Harvard-that.

They chuckle.

                  JÉANNE  
Doctor, I need your counsel.

He reads the paper, then looks at her, baffled.

INT: EXAM ROOM - DAY

José and a NURSE watch Sakib prepare to insert a needle into  
María's uterus as Tiānshî mans an ultrasound machine.

                  SAKIB  
I wish to draw a second sample to test  
for chromosomal abnormalities. This is  
routine. No cause for alarm.

INT. UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA (LAS VEGAS) - LABORATORY - DAY

Sakib examines the specimen under a state-of-the-art  
inverted microscope, and is shocked by the results.

INT. LA PAZ COMMUNITY CLINIC - SAKIB'S OFFICE - DAY

Joined by Jéanne, Sakib consults with an anxious José and  
María, who sit before him. As he SPEAKS, José divides his  
attention between Jéanne and Sakib.

                  JOSÉ  
It's gonna sound crazy. You're not gonna  
believe it.

They look at him: "Try us". José takes a deep breath.

                  JOSÉ (CONT'D)  
                  (quickly)  
Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz told María's  
mom and pop that she's the Immaculate  
Conception, Two-Point-Oh, and Frank  
Sinatra told me and my pop that María's  
pregnant with The Second Coming of Jesús.  
                  (beat)  
Two-Point-Oh.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

Sakib and J  anne look at each other, then at them.

SAKIB  
(non-pulsed)  
Well... that would explain it.

INT: MAIN LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

Jos   and Mar  a leave as quickly as they can.

MAR  A  
Do you think they believe us?

JOS    
I don't believe us!

INT: MARK GIORDANO'S OFFICE - DAY

Threadbare as the clinic CEO MARK GIORDANO (50s; stressed) presides over. Sakib and J  anne meet with him.

SAKIB  
Doctor Le Baptiste ran the first CVS here. I ran the second at UNLV. The results were identical: a normal, perfectly healthy fetus with just twenty-three chromosomes.

GIORDANO  
And when were you planning on sharing this with the rest of the class?

SAKIB  
We were hoping to keep it quiet. The last thing the mother needs right now is attention.

J  anne fidgets.

J  ANNE  
My mother wishes for me to inform her of the moment the baby "pops out" so he can mend the crick in her neck.

Sakib looks at her: "You're kidding?". She shrugs.

J  ANNE (CONT'D)  
I had to tell somebody!

After a pause, Sakib raises his hand, conceding.

SAKIB  
I told my priest. He nearly fell out of the confessional.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She chuckles.

SAKIB (CONT'D)  
And I told my wife, who promptly told her  
jack-hole of a son.

GIORDANO  
And Jack-Hole-of-a-Son has blabbed it all  
over cyberspace.

SAKIB  
Damien knows if he posts "The Second  
Coming is coming", his fellow God-haters  
will crucify him.

Giordano does a double-take.

GIORDANO  
"The Second Coming"? As in Jesus?  
(floored)  
Holy Moly!  
(long beat)  
And who are our lucky contestants?

JÉANNE  
María and José Salomón.

GIORDANO  
"Mary and Joseph". Of course.

SAKIB  
Well who were you expecting, Mark? Bert  
and Ernie?

She cracks up in spite of herself as Giordano raises his  
hands: "I am not going there!".

EXT. GIUDÌA CONDO - PATIO - NIGHT

Poster for Giudìa's Pizzeria (Brooklyn!) hangs on a wall.

Baby Shower, Giudìa-style: María is surrounded by a pram, a  
crib, a car seat, a ricer, a carrier, a monitor, bottles,  
blankets, toys, and clothes.

Balthazar tosses dough as Caspar shovels a pizza into a  
wood-burning brick oven. Melchior hands her an envelope.

MELCHIOR  
Last but not least, the Godfathers' gift  
to you.

She opens it, removes a card, reads.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARÍA

Two years of diaper service!

She, her GIRLFRIENDS, Aña, and Mrs. Gilbert are delighted.

MELCHIOR

I bet you The Son of The Highest, One-  
Point-Oh never had diaper service.

The ladies turn to María and Aña, baffled. María and Aña gesture at them: "It's nothing".

Caspar serves yet another fresh-from-the-wood-burning-brick-oven pizza. The ladies can not grab a slice fast enough. They eat/react with delight.

MELCHIOR (CONT'D)

I bet you The Son of The Highest, One-  
Point-Oh never had pizza like this.

The ladies turn to María and Ana again, baffled. María and Aña gesture at them: "It's nothing".

MELCHIOR (CONT'D)

I bet you ladies are saying to yourselves  
right now: This is the best pizza I have  
ever eaten in my whole life. Am I right?

The ladies nod enthusiastically.

MELCHIOR (CONT'D)

And I bet you ladies are also saying to  
yourselves right now: Why don't the  
Giudìa brothers go down to Vegas and  
*spacchiamo* at the International Pizza  
Challenge?

None of them are, but they nod, going along.

CASPAR

I'll tell you why! It's because those  
*frodi* make you use a stainless-steel gas

He hooks his fingers in "air quotes".

CASPAR (CONT'D)

"oven"! And it ain't even natural gas!  
It's propane!

Balthazar points at the ladies to emphasize the point.

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CONTINUED:

BALTHAZAR

Those Naples goombahs, they think they know pizza?! They know *merda*! Real *scrocchiarella* is made the way *Bisnonno* Giudì made it: *pomodori Roma, farro piccolo, lievito di birra, zucchero, oilo d'olivia Viterbo, formaggio mozzarovi, sale marino Corneto*, baked in an oven made with bricks of clay from *Latium Vetus* and fueled by *rovere Italiano*! Accept no substitutes!

The ladies nod dutifully, more than a bit unnerved, as the brothers nod emphatically.

EXT./EST. CLARK COUNTY WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT [CCWRD] - MOAPA VALLEY TREATMENT FACILITY (OVERTON, NV) - DAY

The District's newest water treatment facility.

EXT: TREATMENT POND - DAY

A SUPERVISOR watches María draw a water sample. A queasy feeling then comes over her. Guess what happens next.

INT. FAMILY DOLLAR (OVERTON, NV) - LATER

Walmart mini-me. A depressed María browses the baby aisle. She then sees something AHEAD of her which throws her for a loop: José WORKING a floor-buffing machine.

MARÍA

José? What are you doing here?

He sees her/smiles, turns the buffer OFF as she walks over.

JOSÉ

I am growing up. I am taking responsibility. And I am going to find us a place to live. No more mooching off of my poor father.

(beat)

What are you doing here?

MARÍA

I have been placed on leave. For some reason, the CCWRD doesn't want people vomiting into their treatment ponds.

JOSÉ

And the bowel movements breathe a huge sigh of relief.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She SMACKS him. He laughs.

The Mechanic who worked on the Three Wise Guys Pizza van now enters with his FAMILY. He sees María.

MECHANIC  
(Greek accent;  
overwhelmed)  
*Theotokos, Dío-Simío-Mía! The One who  
gives life to Messía, Dío-Simío-Mía!*

They race over, drop to their knees before her, and PRAY IN GREEK. María looks down at them, stunned, then at an equally-stunned José.

INT. LA PAZ COMMUNITY CLINIC - SAKIB'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sakib finishes paperwork, checks his social media on his mobile. His eyes then bug out, enraged.

SAKIB  
Damien!

EXT. LA PAZ COMMUNITY CLINIC - ENTRANCE - DAY

Dozens of MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN have gathered; most carry religious items. NEWS VANS are set up in the PARKING LOT. Each REPORTER stands before his/her respective camera.

REPORTER #1  
Sources at La Paz Community Clinic confirm to Eyewitness News that doctors are treating a Clark County Water Reclamation District engineering intern, whom, they believe, is pregnant with The Second Coming of Christ.  
(snide)  
Apparently, an event which occurs once every two-thousand years.

REPORTER #2  
LPCC CEO Mark Giordano issued a statement denying that a CCWRD intern is a patient. He also countered claims of a Second Coming by noting that humans are born with forty-six chromosomes. Were God to "father" a baby, that baby would have just twenty-three chromosomes.  
(snark)  
And a baby with just twenty-three chromosomes is, well, inconceivable.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

REPORTER #3 holds up his mobile: a VIDEO of José and María praying to the TV in Jeanne's waiting room.

REPORTER #3  
Meanwhile, a video of an unidentified couple in the waiting room of LPCC obstetrician Jeanne Le Baptiste praying to "The Most Interesting Man in the World" has gone viral. Make of that what you will.

INT. LA PAZ COMMUNITY CLINIC - BOARDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Giordano stares-down his peeved BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

TRUSTEE #1  
"Kudos", Mark. "Worked" like a charm.

TRUSTEE #2 PLAYS the José and María VIDEO ON his mobile.

TRUSTEE #2  
Newsflash! This is a hospital, not a goddamn tent revival!  
(beat)  
Now, you go out there and tell those demented fundies to go to Hell!

Long pause. Giordano remains calm.

GIORDANO  
Carla. Ross. Why are you here?

They look at him, puzzled, as do the others.

GIORDANO (CONT'D)  
Seriously, why are you here? Is it because sitting on this board gives you all the feels? It sure as hell isn't because you give a damn!  
(long beat)  
You think we're here due to a bunch of happy coincidences? A Big Bang? Fine. Last I checked, it was a free country.

He points out the window AT the people outside.

GIORDANO (CONT'D)  
But they believe. And I believe. No, I know. Every single day - through my doctors, my nurses, my specialists, my staff - I watch God perform miracles. Every single day. You don't want to be a part of that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He points at the open door.

GIORDANO (CONT'D)  
It's a free country.  
(long beat)  
Now, if you will excuse me, I have a  
"goddamn tent revival" to run.

He leaves, leaving them flabbergasted.

INT. AÑA AND JOAQUÍN'S HAVANA CAFÉ - EARLY MORNING

The struggling eatery now has more BUSINESS than it can handle! Even Santiago, Mrs. Gillespie, and the Elderly Gentleman are waiting on CUSTOMERS. Joaquín packs the food canteens, gives them to waiting DELIVERY MEN.

TAYLOR BARNUM (20s; sleazy) hounds Aña as she moves from table to table.

BARNUM  
What we are prepared to offer would make  
Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk, and Bill Gates  
wet their pants and cry for their mommies!

AÑA  
I know not what of you speak.

BARNUM  
Mrs. Natán, you can deny it all you want.  
Your husband can deny it all he wants.  
Your daughter can deny it all she wants.  
And when the baby starts talking, he can  
deny it all he wants. But there is no  
denying it!

She stops, turns to him.

AÑA  
Mr. Barnum, Our Savior came to redeem  
the world, not to profit by it. And His  
Riches are far-greater than any of those  
gentlemen could ever hope to accumulate.

As she turns away, the Elderly Gentleman plops a Bible into the now-stunned Barnum's hands.

MONTAGE: JOSÉ AND MARÍA GO APARTMENT-HUNTING

-- INT. THREE WISE GUYS PIZZA - EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - MORNING

José eats a candy bar as he reads the classifieds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- INT. NATÁN APATMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

María eats an egg-bean-avocado-cheese burrito and drinks a protein shake as she surfs the net on her laptop.

-- INT. CONDO - DAY

A MANAGER shows José and María around. His ASSISTANT then enters, shows him the VIDEO of José and María ON his tablet. The Manager looks at them, shakes his head: "Sorry".

-- EXT. BUNGALOW COMPLEX - DAY

"For Rent" sign on the lawn. The OWNER (60s) is happy to welcome José and María until her DAUGHTER (40s) walks up to her, pointing AT María. The Owner then yanks the "For Rent" sign out of the ground.

-- EXT. VICTORIAN HOUSE - DAY

Precise. "Studio for Rent" sign on the lawn. As José and María walk to the house, the front door OPENS. Barnum and Trustee #2 step out, repulsed by the very-sight of them.

END MONTAGE

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SALOMÓN APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A spent José watches TV with Santiago, pets their CAT.

SANTIAGO

We could not find housing after your mother and I were married. Do you know where we had to live?

José shakes his head.

SANTIAGO (CONT'D)

At my employ. Do you know where I employed?

Again, José shakes his head.

SANTIAGO (CONT'D)

Club Campestre Cuscatlán in San Salvador. Do you know what I was employed as?

Once again, José shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

SANTIAGO (CONT'D)  
A diver. It was my task to find the  
balls the rich men hit into the water.  
(beat)  
Do you know why we came here?

One more time, José shakes his head.

SANTIAGO (CONT'D)  
As Nevada is a desert, we assumed they  
had no goddamn golf!

Phone RINGS. Santiago picks up.

SANTIAGO (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)  
Hello?

After a beat, a SCREAM comes OVER the line. Father and son  
look at each other: it can mean only one thing.

EXT. AÑA AND JOAQUÍN'S BUILDING - MINUTES LATER

Aña and Joaquín come down the side staircase. Aña carries a  
travel bag, blanket, and pillows. Joaquín carries María.

A Three Wise Guys Pizza cargo van pulls up; José and  
Santiago get out. José pulls the sliding door OPEN, leans  
in, puts the folding rear seat UP as Santiago helps Aña.

The men lay María on the rear seat then help Aña climb in as  
everyone TALKS OVER EACH OTHER.

INT. THREE WISE GUYS CARGO VAN (MOVING) - MINUTES LATER

José sees Joaquín and Santiago in his rear view mirror  
FOLLOWING him in Joaquín's CAR.

María, covered with the blanket and propped up by the  
pillows, SCREAMS as Aña tries to COMFORT her. A freaked-out  
José hands Aña his mobile.

INT. LE BAPTISTE APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Modest. A DOG slobbers all over Jeanne as she speaks to Aña  
ON the phone.

JÉANNE (ON PHONE)  
Have Mr. Salomón pull over and stop.  
(long beat)  
Now, Mrs. Natán, listen to me very  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JÉANNE (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)  
carefully. Instruct Mrs. Salomón to  
take short breaths. When she feels a  
contraction, she is to push gently. Do  
not attempt to force the baby out,  
whatever you do. Do you understand?

AÑA (OVER PHONE)  
Yes, Doctor!

JÉANNE (ON PHONE)  
Good. I am on my way.

She presses the switch hook button, releases it, dials.

JÉANNE (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)  
Mrs. Salomón has entered transitional  
labor. Please notify maternity.

She hangs up as her twins AMÉLIE and ÉMILE (6), in Halloween  
costumes, RACE IN, trailed by her mother ÉLISABETH LE  
BAPTISTE (50s; impish).

AMÉLIE/ÉMILE  
*Mère! Mère! Est-ce le Bébé Jésus, Deux-  
Virgule-Zéro?!*

JÉANNE  
*Oui, mon chéris.*

The twins race into the adjoining OFFICE, excited.

ÉLISABETH  
(Saint Lucian Creole accent)  
*Alléluia! He come to fix my neck!*

JÉANNE  
Stop it!

Élisabeth chuckles as the twins race back in with Jeanne's  
medical bag. She takes it.

JÉANNE (CONT'D)  
You and *Mémère* go tricks-or-treats. I  
will return as soon as I am able. *Je  
t'adore, mon chéris.*

AMÉLIE/ÉMILE  
*Je t'adore, Mère.*

She hugs/kisses them, pets the dog, kisses Élisabeth on the  
cheek, heads for the door. Élisabeth calls after her:

ÉLISABETH  
Make *Père* and The Duke proud!

EXT. LAS PAZ BLVD - MINUTES LATER

LOOKIE-LOOS have created something even more-rare in La Paz than a Second Coming: a TRAFFIC JAM.

Jéanne pulls her car over, PARKS, puts its hazard lights ON. She gets out, grabs her bag, CLOSES/LOCKS the car doors.

A NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY PATROLMAN approaches on horseback. She shows him the LPCC ID tag around her neck.

JÉANNE

Jéanne Le Baptiste, La Paz Community.

She sees the cargo van O.S., then points AHEAD of her.

JÉANNE (CONT'D)

The woman in that van is my patient!

MINUTES LATER

Patrolman #1 has the horse GALLOP NORTH. Jéanne sits behind him, holds onto his jacket for dear life.

MINUTES LATER

The Three Wise Guys Pizza cargo van is PARKED, hazard lights ON, BOXED-IN by NEVADA HIGHWAY PATROL UNITS. PATROLMEN try to DEAL with Aña, Joaquín, and Santiago as OTHER PATROLMEN set up a perimeter, keeping PEOPLE, most in Halloween garb, at a respectable distance.

Jéanne and Patrolman #1 arrive. He dismounts, helps her down. She THANKS him, pats the horse, runs to the van. She shows her ID to PATROLMAN #2, standing at the van. He moves aside. She crawls into the back seat.

INT. THREE WISE GUYS PIZZA VAN - BACK SEAT - MOMENTS LATER

José, more-woozy by the moment, holds María's hand. Both are beyond-relieved to see Jéanne.

JÉANNE

You are doing wonderfully, Mrs. Salomón.

MARÍA

It hurts! It hurts so much!

JÉANNE

I have twins. I know.

The women share a chuckle. Jéanne OPENS her bag, removes a DELIVERY SET, puts goggles then a headset on, turns ON the headset light, then folds over the blanket to get a good look. She lays a pad under María, cleans her hands with

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Purell, then puts on latex gloves.

JÉANNE (CONT'D)  
Mr. and Mrs. Salomón, as you Americans  
say, we are going to go old school.

She fills a syringe, "Novocaine" on the vial. She swabs  
María's rear with a prep pad, injects one cheek, refills the  
syringe, then injects the other cheek.

Patrolman #2 looks in via the driver window.

PATROLMAN #2  
Anything we can do to help, Doctor?

Jéanne motions with her head at José.

JÉANNE  
You may wish to tend to Mr. Salomón.

He OPENS the opposite sliding door, then ASSURES José as he  
removes him gently.

Jéanne grabs a pair of episiotomy scissors, notices María  
panic in reaction.

JÉANNE (CONT'D)  
Just a small incision to allow the baby  
to pass.

María nods. Jéanne PERFORMS the episiotomy. Pause.

JÉANNE (CONT'D)  
Now, Mrs. Salomón... push.

María strains/YELLS as Jéanne grabs the Wrigley's forceps.

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE ENDS

EXT. LA PAZ BLVD - MINUTES LATER

Patrolman #1 is back on the horse. He watches the van with  
Patrolman #2. Suddenly... a BEAM OF PURE WHITE LIGHT HITS  
THE VAN FROM ABOVE.

The horse BUCKS. The men try to CALM the horse as they and  
everyone else watch the van, astonished. Finally...

PATROLMAN #2  
Tell me that's coming from Burning Man.

PATROLMAN #1  
Uh... I don't think so.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE BEAM

Goes UP... through the clouds... through the troposphere...  
through the stratosphere... through the mesosphere... into  
the immaculate vortex of...

HEAVEN

where God - still as "The Most Interesting Man in the World"  
- and a few ANGELS look THROUGH THE BEAM, watching Jéanne  
DELIVER the BABY.

The Supreme Being gives a slow smile: It's all good.

FADE OUT.

END