

FOOLS WALK

EPISODE 1: RESTITUTION

Written by

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WHITE

Three figures are starkly illuminated in a fierce, bright light - silhouettes.

Their shadows stretch out behind them, with wings that contract, shrinking down to nothing until normal 'human' outlines are visible just before the light fades and goes BLACK

INT. SITTING ROOM

The darkness recedes, revealing a sitting room.

The room has two shabby armchairs, a standard lamp, a sofa and dining table. An old TV sits on a tatty table beside an electric heater, attached to one wall.

A mantelpiece over the heater holds a single picture; cheap, touristy representation of the Virgin Mary in a plastic, gilt frame with faded gold writing. Above it is an old 70's style clock on the wall.

The light in the room is dim, filtering in through half open curtains.

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL (O.S.)
You have played your games, tricked
and scammed.
(beat)
But you went too far.

His voice is deep and melodious. On one of the armchairs, SUE (early 20's, plump) appears suddenly; eyes and mouth open, she does not move, even to breath.

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You mocked me.

GARY appears (early 20's, fine sandy hair, mid-height, average build), likewise frozen on the sofa.

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And in mocking me, you mock *Him*.

TERRY appears on the other chair (20's, dark hair, tall and skinny).

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And that will not be tolerated.

Suddenly, in unison, they take a deep breath - waking up.

They sit up and look around, disorientated.

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)
(voice receding)
Sue, Gary and Terry - You have
sealed your fate.

They stare at each other, in horror.

SUE
(quietly)
I don't think he appreciated our
joke.

INT. SITTING ROOM - NIGHT

The three sit in the same positions, in the now dark room.

Sue reaches out and turns on the lamp beside her,
illuminating the room.

TERRY
What... what happens now?

SUE
(firmly)
He'll be back soon.

Gary fidgets.

GARY
(whispers)
You said that hours ago!

They sit still, trying to look composed.

Outside, someone shouts and there's the sound of running
footsteps, and they all jump or whimper, staring towards the
door.

SUE
(firmly)
We just need to wait, he'll be
back.

INT. SITTING ROOM - MORNING

Light filters through the curtains, revealing them all in
their same seats.

Gary is asleep, gently snoring, while Sue has her hands
gripped between her legs. Terry fidgets.

TERRY
(hisses)
Sue?

She glares at him, then jumps up and runs from the room. There's the sound of doors opening and closing, which wakes Gary.

GARY

Huh?

He sits up, takes in the room, then shrinks back into his seat.

GARY (CONT'D)

(moans)

We're still here!

Terry nods, glum.

TERRY

He means it this time.

There's the sound of a toilet flushing, then footsteps, and then Sue steps into the room, looking shaken.

SUE

You do *not* want to know what just happened.

Gary whimpers, then gets up.

GARY

I think I'm about to find out.

He too runs from the room as Terry's stomach rumbles - loudly.

TERRY

(indignant)

I... I think I'm hungry!

Sue walks back to her seat and flops down, burying her head in her hands.

SUE

(desperately)

He'll be back, he's just teaching us a lesson.

Terry rises, hands on his hips.

TERRY

It was your stupid idea...

She glares up at him, her face setting.

SUE

You took it too far! You always take things too far.

She stands too, squaring up to him as Gary enters the room, standing between them, mouth turned down in distaste.

GARY
That was disgusting.

They ignore him, both furious - breathing deeply.

GARY (CONT'D)
What are we going to do?

They both turn on him.

SUE
(shouts)
He'll be back! He wouldn't leave us here, he couldn't.

TERRY
He won't! He's left us, this is our punishment.

Gary's eyes well up and he bites his fist.

GARY
We've been expelled from Heaven!

He throws himself down on the sofa, pulling a cushion over his head, and sobs.

Sue pushes Terry, hard, forcing him back.

SUE
It's your fault!

He steps back with surprised outrage, pushing her back.

TERRY
No, it's your fault!

She exhales, sharply, pushing him harder.

SUE
You added the snakes! You know he hates snakes...

Terry stumbles back, then rushes her, pushing her backwards so she tumbles into the chair.

TERRY
You told us to do it!

Gary whimpers, peers over the top of the cushion, then hides his face again. Sue meanwhile grabs Terry's legs, pushing him to the floor, jumping on top.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Oomph

She raises her fist and they start flailing (ineffectively) and punching each other. Gary peers up again, looking to the mantel piece, then hides again.

GARY
(wails)
Mary keeps looking at me!

Terry rolls, getting on top, and sees the picture over the fireplace. The eyes move to stare at him and he gasps.

Distracted, he doesn't block a punch from Sue, which throws him onto the floor as Sue triumphantly rises, ready to hit him again.

TERRY
(urgently)
Stop it! Mary's looking.

Sue sneers, then also sees the picture and starts when she catches its eye, quickly lowering her hands.

Gary peers out again, and they see the writing vanish, to be replaced by swirling script:

'MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT, A HIGHWAY'

They wait, expectantly, all staring at the picture - Sue furtively dabbing her split lip.

The clock ticks loudly.

They exchange a glance and Sue gets to her feet, offering a hand to Terry, who takes it after a moment.

She nods to Gary, meaningfully, and he jumps up to stand beside them - cushion still clasped in front of him.

They face the picture in a semi-circle - waiting. They each compose their faces in 'pious' expressions.

The clock ticks.

Gary shuffles, earning him a glare from Sue.

SUE
(solemn)
We are repentant before you, ready
to come home.

The writing clears again, replaced with a new message:

THOU MUST REDEEM THYSELVES

Gary gasps, gripping his cushion tighter, while Sue and Terry look puzzled.

SUE (CONT'D)
 We erred, foolishly, but will we
 are sorry.

TERRY
 (nodding)
 We won't do it again.

The writing clears, new writing appearing:

YOU MUST BE A LIGHT IN THE WORLD, HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT.

They stare at it blankly, and the Virgin Mary rolls her eyes.
 More text appears underneath:

TO REGAIN YOUR PLACE IN HEAVEN.

They inhale sharply as they read this.

TERRY (CONT'D)
 (shocked)
 What?

Gary sinks slowly back into his seat.

GARY
 I want to go home!

She opens and closes her mouth, before turning away in
 disgust.

SUE
 He can't do this! He can't just...

She waves her arms.

SUE (CONT'D)
 Evict us! He's gone way too far
 this time, and all over some silly
 prank!

Terry shakes his head.

TERRY
 And I thought he had a sense of
 humour! He's worse than Michael.

GARY
 But what are we going to do?

Sue huffs, clearly furious.

SUE
 We'll... we'll just go and deliver
 some prophecies, stop people doing
 bad things.. I dunno, help someone.

They both look at her.

SUE (CONT'D)
I don't bloody know! Just, well,
we'll do something angelic and
he'll take us back!

EXT. HIGH STREET

They stand at the corner of a high street, watching people walk by - most people determined, walking with a purpose.

One WOMAN barges into them, without pausing, rushing on.

An overweight MAN rounds the corner, head down, treading hard on Terry's toes.

TERRY
Ouch!

The man walks, without pausing.

SUE
As I suspected, they can't see us.
Sue steps out into the flow of people, the others following.

SUE (CONT'D)
Come on, let's find a needy person.
People barge by them, rushing about their business, and they are knocked from side to side. Gary grabs Terry's arm, clinging on.

GARY
There are so *many* of them!

A group of youths saunter down the middle of the pavement, and people instinctively move out of their way.

A middle aged woman, head down, doesn't notice them in time and one youth steps forward - blocking her path and staring her down.

She looks up, startled, and quickly rushes onto the road to get out of their way.

The trio step into a shop doorway to let them pass.

Their trousers cling precariously to their bottoms, hanging below well their hips - forcing them to waddle to keep them up.

GARY (CONT'D)
They're not very nice!

Terry snickers.

TERRY
If we still had our powers, we
could help gravity with those
trousers...

Sue frowns (puzzled) for a moment, before looking at the group, then slowly grinning.

SUE
They *really* want to come down.

Terry waves his fingers, and the leader's trousers slip off his bottom, neatly sliding to his ankles to reveal trendy boxers.

They turn to each other and giggle.

LEADER
Wha-the-?

The youths stop, shocked, then turn to the ex-angels, expressions angry.

Gary looks back at them and his mouth drops open in horror.

GARY
Er, guys?

Still chortling, Sue and Terry look up as the group starts towards them.

LEADER
(furious)
You laughing at me?

He leans down to pick up his trousers, while the others walk - threateningly - towards them.

All around, people on the street abruptly about turn, or cross the road to avoid trouble.

SUE
What! Can you see us?

She looks back at the others.

SUE (CONT'D)
Can they see us?

The group nears them, crunching fists together - getting ready to fight.

SUE (CONT'D)
They can see us!

They back away and Terry quickly waves his fingers again, causing the other trousers to drop to their ankles.

The youths stumble, one falling flat on his face, while they turn and run.

EXT. LONDON STREET

The road has a DLR train station on one side, and a HOMELESS PERSON sits huddled on a cardboard box in front of it with a home made sign reading: HOMELESS AND HUNGRY

Otherwise it is empty.

The trio turn a corner and enter the road; shoulders slumped, heads down.

Gary walks behind, hands shoved into his pockets. They all wear light jumpers, slowly getting soaked by a fine drizzle.

Terry glances at Gary, then nudges Sue before dropping back.

TERRY

Gary?

GARY

(miserable)

Leave me alone.

Sue stops, glancing at Terry, before stepping up to take Gary's arm.

SUE

I'm sorry Gary...

He pulls away from her.

GARY

No you're not! You do it again and again.

TERRY

They deserved it, Gary.

He glares at Terry.

GARY

You just like causing trouble! How many times were we warned?

Terry and Sue glance at each, then look away, shuffling uncomfortably.

Sue looks up at the homeless person, then sets her shoulders.

SUE

You're right Gary.

She stuffs her hands in her pockets and approaches him.

SUE (CONT'D)
We shouldn't have done that. We
must make reparation.

She pulls out notes (money) and hands them to the man, who
can't believe his luck.

SUE (CONT'D)
Here, get something to eat.

He grabs the money, before she can change her mind.

HOMELESS PERSON
Cheers, luv!

He jumps up and scurries off, looking once over his shoulder
at her, while she turns back to the others, smiling
triumphantly.

SUE
See? We have to be like *him*.

Terry's mouth drops open.

TERRY
How are we going to get food now?

Sue's face drops, while Gary sniffs loudly, before wiping his
nose on his sleeve, and then walks off.