

SACRED SIPS

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FADE IN

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

TANYA JAHARI(18, bubbly, innocent, bright) dressed in business casual clothing that's slightly too big for her, quietly tip toes towards the door.

MURRISA(23, stoner, too chill) is on top of her boyfriend SAL(23) underneath a blanket on the couch. She looks up when Tanya nears the door.

MURRISA

By the way I need you to move out.

TANYA

What?

MURRISA

Yeah, by the end of the day.

TANYA

Why?

MURRISA

Sal's brother Joe needs a place to stay and he's like really hot so you know...

TANYA

Murrisa! I just paid rent! I haven't gotten a job yet and you're kicking me out?

MURRISA

Yeah, it's been a good run.

TANYA

It's been four days!.

MURRISA

Okay bye! I'll miss you and your stuff will be outside the door. K?

Tanya walks out the door.

EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

In a big office park, a cute coffee shop called SACRED SIPS, with a banner above saying HELP APPRECIATED stands in front of a giant white cubed building. The banner has a man in a bishops hat finger gunning the camera.

Outside of the shop, Tanya takes a deep breath and walks in.

INT. SACRED SIPS - DAY

The coffee shop is bustling. The tables are all filled with different groups of people. Everyone in the coffee shop wears religious gowns. There are two doors behind the counter, one labeled CHILD ROOM and the other STORAGE.

Tanya peers around concerned, she walks up to the counter. SISTER SHAUNA(23, pious, passionate) waits for her behind the counter.

SISTER SHAUNA  
Oh hello! You must be Tanya.

TANYA  
Yes? That's me!

SISTER SHAUNA  
We're just so excited! Let's go  
grab a seat shall we?

Sister Shauna gestures to a full table of people who upon noticing her gestures immediately vacate the table. Sister Shauna smiles unnaturally. Tanya politely smiles, concerned.

They walk over to the table.

SISTER SHAUNA (CONT'D)  
So tell me a little bit about  
yourself?

TANYA  
Well, I just started college..

Sister Shauna takes out a notepad which has the face of the man from the banner outside on every page. She continues smiling and nodding to Tanya while taking notes.

TANYA (CONT'D)  
I just moved to the area and I've  
been looking for a job here and  
this seems like a really good place  
to work.

Someone from another table in a robe smirks and gives her a thumbs up.

SISTER SHAUNA  
Oh amazing. It sounds like you have  
such a bright future ahead of you!  
Prophet Gabe would find you a hoot!

TANYA  
Who's prophet Gabe.

SISTER SHAUNA  
Well gosh golly, oh my Gabe. He's  
just about the greatest man alive!

TANYA  
Oh, that's...cool. Is he like the  
owner or something?

Sister Shauna fake laughs.

SISTER SHAUNA  
You're funny.

Clanging sounds come from the back room. PROPHET GABE (30,  
stoner, sheer aura of charisma) dressed in a Party City Jesus  
Christ costume with a giant bishop hat on his head walks in  
from the door labeled STORAGE.

GAGE  
Just go ahead and finish the ritual  
without me!

Gabe walks over to the table.

GABE  
Well who do we have here.

Sister Shauna plays with her hair.

SISTER SHAUNA  
Oh you know, Gabe! It's me Sister  
Shauna. Your most devout follower.

Gabe looks disgusted.

GABE  
No, her.

Gabe points at Tanya.

TANYA  
I'm Tanya.

GABE  
(sultry)  
Hey.

TANYA  
Hi!

GABE

You can go Sister Shauna, I'll continue this interview.

SISTER SHAUNA

What? Are you sure? You can trust me with this I promise.

Gabe puts up his hand. Sister Shauna sighs, she moves from her seat and Gabe slides in.

He smiles as Sister Shauna walks to the storage room.

GABE

So, what's a girl like you doing in coffee shop like this?

TANYA

Answering the help wanted poster?

GABE

You mean help appreciated.

TANYA

I guess?

GABE

Please, wanted is just so aggressive you know? I just would really appreciate some *help* here.

TANYA

Well, I'd love to provide the help that this business needs!

Tanya smiles, Gabe looks around, checking for people watching.

GABE

(whispering)

No, no, no, no, NOO. You don't want to work here!

TANYA

What?

GABE

(whispering)

You don't get what's happening. I lost a Fantasy Football tournament.

TANYA

What does that have to do with a barista position?

GABE

(aggressive whispering)  
Just listen! Don't pick your  
players based on how hot they are,  
'cause you could be dared to join a  
Discord server called Cult Creators  
and then you might just have to  
start one in order to stay a  
member.

TANYA

Why are you telling me this?

GABE

(aggressive whispering)  
I need you to get me out of here.

TANYA

I don't understand, is this part of  
the interview? If so, this seems  
like a fun work environment.

Gabe stares.

GABE

(loudly whispering)  
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!

Gabe collects himself.

GABE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, you know that "ritual"  
that was happening back there? It  
was actually the birth of another  
of my offspring, Gabe Junior the  
8th. I'm just a little overwhelmed  
here.

TANYA

Oh my god, you're serious?

GABE

Around here, there is no God, only  
Gabe.

The whole coffee shop turns toward them.

EVERYONE

All hail Gabe! Our lord and Savior.

GABE

Please, everyone no need.  
(whispering)  
You see what I mean.

(MORE)

GABE (CONT'D)  
It's just too much. I can't keep  
paying for all the Robucks.

TANYA  
So, speaking of paying, what's the  
pay like?

GABE  
There is no job!

TANYA  
What?

GABE  
I just needed you to get me out of  
here. Away from *them*.

TANYA  
Who?

GABE  
My wives.

TANYA  
Wives?

GABE  
All 15 of them.

Gabe looks around the room, then he points to Sister Shauna.

GABE (CONT'D)  
Ugh, Ugly. Definitely not her  
though. I'd never be that  
desperate.

One wife, DEANDRA(45, firm, powerful) walks over to Gabe.

DEANDRA  
Hey Gabe. You seem a little tense.

Deandra massages his shoulders.

GABE  
(strained)  
Oh, okay that's the spot.

Gabe tries to get her hands off his back, but she firmly  
holds on.

DEANDRA  
And who are you deary?

TANYA

Hi, I'm Tanya!

DEANDRA

Oh, wonderful. I'm Deandra the first of Gabe's wives. We all love Sacred Sips. Don't we? Really, it's a great environment we have a pool, a tiki bar, a full gym and a home theater.

TANYA

Whoa.

DEANDRA

You'd be surprised what we could do for you.

TANYA

Well, I'm a great barista so you'd be surprised what I can do for you!

DEANDRA

Oh you're funny, did we have a position open?

Deandra looks around the room. No one speaks.

DEANDRA (CONT'D)

Well now we do! And you're hired!

GABE

NO, OH MY GOD! NOT AGAIN!

Deandra digs her nails into his back.

DEANDRA

Don't worry about him, he knows his place.

GABE

No!

DEANDRA

Gabe, darling, why don't you go spend your ten minutes in the Child Room. Okay?

GABE

Deandra you can't control me...I'm the leader!

Gabe, nervously, gets up.

GABE (CONT'D)  
I'm leaving!

Deandra's expression changes, her smile drops. Everyone goes silent and Gabe's face goes white.

GABE (CONT'D)  
You know what? I'm just acting  
crazy! You know me! Okay I'm gonna  
go see the children.

DEANDRA  
Good boy.

Gabe turns around and looks at Tanya, he's both angry and sad.

TANYA  
Bye Gabe!

Gabe waves and opens the door to CHILD ROOM.

GABE  
Okay kids, who's got the iPad? It's  
my turn for Dress to Impress.

Door to CHILD ROOM closes.

DEANDRA  
By the way, there is one condition  
for this job. You have to live on  
the premises, just as a way to get  
closer to your barista  
responsibilities and guess what?  
It's free!

TANYA  
Really! That's great! Thanks so  
much.

Deandra smiles and everyone walks to STORAGE ROOM.

DEANDRA  
Let me show you to your new life.

FADE OUT.