

PASTOR

By Tommie Green

EXT. CHURCH. NIGHT.

An older, unkempt homeless MAN in a hoodie slowly approaches. He bangs on the door with dirty hands. DEACON, a man in his 60's, answers the door.

DEACON

May I help you?

MAN

Pastor.

DEACON

May I leave a take a message?

The Man's eyes glow bright red. Deacon's eyes glow red.

DEACON

Come right in.

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE. NIGHT

PASTOR, a man in his 30's, wears a nice suit as he sits and reads the bible. MAN enters. Pastor looks up.

PASTOR

May I help you?

MAN

It's time to collect.

Man's eyes glow bright red.

CUT TO Superimposition: "PASTOR"

INT. CHURCH. DAY

The CONGREGATION SINGS gospel music. Afterwards, Deacon speaks on the alter.

DEACON

Amen! The time has come for the Lord's word. But first I would like to say thank you. I have been the pastor of this church for over twenty years and it has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. But over the past decade, as many of you know, I have not been in the best health. During those times when I was down and out, my son, Kevin has been with us. Through hell and back, Kevin has always come through for us

DEACON (CONT)

like a guardian angel to save this church! I trust Kevin with my life and when my time inevitably comes, I want you all to take a good look at your next pastor. Stand on your feet and give a big round of applause for my son, our next anointed prophet, pastor Kevin L. Luscious!

Congregation stands and APPLAUDS. Pastor approaches the alter.

PASTOR

Thank you, thank you! Glory and praise to God. Everyone have a seat. Lord, we do not operate in fear of poverty, but we ask you to bless us with the spirit of wealth & prosperity, amen! As the ushers pass the offering baskets, I'd like to begin with a few announcements. The new season of our web-series 'Real Pastors of Detroit' is a hit, now streaming online. We are also still saving for distribution of our debut album from our company, Gospel Entertainment LLC! Very soon we will be able to spread the word of God to the entire world with our own musical productions. This provides jobs to our community and highlights the talented individuals of this church

Congregation APPLAUDS.

PASTOR (CONT)

For those of you who are new, we have just signed one of the most talented singers in the world and she's sitting right here amongst us as a member of this very church. My lovely daughter, Justina.

JUSTINA, an 18-year-old African-American woman, approaches the alter and SINGS 'Amazing Grace'. Cameramen record.

INT. RECORD COMPANY OFFICE.

A RECORD EXECUTIVE watches the video of Justina singing online. It has millions of views. The Record Executive looks impressed. His eyes flash red. He picks up his phone and dials a number.

INT. CHURCH.

The Pastor says goodbye to the Congregation as they leave the church.

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE.

Pastor enters where Justina awaits, she looks at a picture of her and her parents.

PASTOR

Hey, baby. You did an amazing job today! Your mother would be so proud.

JUSTINA

Thank you, Daddy.

PASTOR

We're going to have the money to distributre your album in no time, I can feel it in my spirit!

JUSTINA

Maybe even sooner.

PASTOR

What do you mean?

JUSTINA

I just got a call from an executive at Master Records.

PASTOR

What did they say?

JUSTINA

They offered me six million dollars to sign a contract.

Pastor sits.

PASTOR

Wow, Justina. That's a lot of money to promote God's word!

JUSTINA

That's the thing... I won't be promoting God's word.

PASTOR

Let me guess, they want you to sell your soul to promote their agenda?

Justina looks down.

PASTOR

Well you told them that you're already signed right?

JUSTINA

Yes, but they're willing to make us an offer.

PASTOR

I'm sorry Justina, but I think that this is a bad idea. We've already invested so much time and energy to get to where we are today. What does it prophet a man to gain the world but lose their soul?

JUSTINA

Don't try to act like you aren't in this for the money too, Dad! You're always talking about wealth this and prosperity that, well now we finally have the opportunity. Music is my passion, I'm old enough to make my own decisions and I think that mom would agree. Maybe you should focus more on God instead of me. They'll be getting in contact with you shortly.

PASTOR

Justina!

Justina exits. Pastor sits back and puts his head in his hands.

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE. NIGHT

PASTOR sits and stares at the bible while he drinks a glass of alcohol in low lighting. MAN enters. Pastor looks up.

PASTOR

May I help you?

MAN

You don't recognize me? I come by your request, Kevin Luscious.

A spiritual current goes through Pastor's body and disorients him.

PASTOR

Who sent you?

MAN (MASTER)

I am the spirit of wealth and prosperity, sent by Master.

PASTOR

Master? Is this about Justina?

MASTER

Master will provide you with all of the wealth and prosperity that this world has to offer. But first, it's time to collect.

PASTOR

Collect? Sorry, but we are not interested. Tell your master there is no way that my daughter would ever work with the likes of you!

MASTER

Are you sure about that?

Master's eyes glow red. Pastor is disoriented. Master turns into Pastor's father, Deacon.

PASTOR

Dad?

DEACON

What are you doing, Kevin? Isn't this what you and Melissa have always dreamed of?

PASTOR

No. I mean... I don't know!

DEACON

Sign the contract son. Sign the contract!

Deacon's eyes turn red as he rushes towards Pastor. Pastor reaches for his gun, aims it at Deacon and shoots.

INT. PASTOR'S BEDROOM. NIGHT

Pastor awakens sweaty from a nightmare.

CUT TO Super Imposition: "1 Year later"

INT. THEATRE. NIGHT

Justina accepts an award at an awards show.

INT. CHURCH. DAY

Pastor speaks at the alter to the congregation.

PASTOR

Hello, church. You know, lately people have been approaching, congratulating me. Saying 'Oh Pastor, you must be so proud and excited for your daughter, she finally made it in the entertainment business. She's such a big success! Yes, but that depends on what your definition of success is. As long as my daughter is happy, so am I.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETARY. DAY

Pastor and Justina stand in all black above a tombstone that reads 'Kevin Luscious Sr.' They hold each other.

PASTOR (V.O.) (CONT)

But when the Lord giveth, he taketh away. To anyone dealing with the pain of losing a loved one, I can relate. It's going on two years since I've last seen my father. Not a day goes by where it doesn't hurt. But I do not operate in the spirit of fear!

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE. NIGHT

Pastor reads the bible. His cell PHONE rings. He answers. It's Justina.

PASTOR

Hey, baby, how are you?

INT. STAGE. NIGHT

Justina is on the stage during sound check. Intercut as needed.

JUSTINA

Hey, Dad? I'm fine, just busy on tour. How are you?

PASTOR

I'm okay. I haven't seen you in a while, except for on TV. You look happy. Are you happy?

JUSTINA

That's how the industry wants us to look. They don't suppress my passion for music.

PASTOR

Well, it's just a job, look at it that way. When your contract's over, maybe you can come back to the bright side. I pray for you every day, Justina.

JUSTINA

Dad, I have a question.

PASTOR

What's that?

Justina reads an online article titled: 'Justina's grandfather sacrificed for record deal.'

JUSTINA

It's just a stupid rumor that I heard.

A spiritual current goes through Pastor's body and disorients him.

PASTOR

(Dicomboulated)

Don't believe everything that you hear ok? The devil is a liar!

JUSTINA

Dad, are you ok? Have you started drinking again?

Pastor hangs up the phone. Master enters.

MASTER

You calling me a liar? But you're the one lying to yourself.

PASTOR

What are you doing here?

MASTER

Don't worry. Your daughter and your father are in good hands, thanks to you, Kevin.

PASTOR

What do you mean thanks to me?

Master turns into PASTOR (CLONE), a replica of himself. Pastor falls back into his chair.

PASTOR (CLONE)
You mean, you don't remember, Kevin?

BEGIN FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. CHURCH. NIGHT

Deacon walks towards Pastor's office and looks in where he sees Pastor talking to himself.

PASTOR
Tell your master there is no way that my daughter would work with the likes of you!

DEACON
Son, are you alright? Who are you talking to?

PASTOR
No. I mean... I don't know!

DEACON
Put the drink down son, talk to me.

Deacon approaches Pastor. Pastor reaches for his gun and shoots Deacon.

DEACON
Why, Kevin?!

END FLASHBACK SEQUENCE

INT. CHURCH - OFFICE. NIGHT

Pastor talks to Pastor (Clone).

PASTOR (CLONE)
You killed your father, for fame and riches.

PASTOR
That's not true!

PASTOR (CLONE)
Stop lying to yourself! Don't worry, all of the dirty work has been taken care of. Relax and enjoy wealth and prosperity.

PASTOR

I didn't do anything. You did!

PASTOR (CLONE)

I am you! I am your desire, the Greed that has overcome you. You created me but you don't have the power to rebuke me. Master owns us now.

PASTOR

Never, my desire is to spread the word of God! I rebuke you, evil spirit!

Pastor throws his glass of alcohol at Pastor (Clone). Pastor (Clone) disappears, the glass smashes against the wall. Pastor falls to his knees and sobs.

EXT. RIVER. DAY

Pastor walks alongside the riverbed in contemplation. He stops, sits and breathes deeply as he looks off into the distance. He closes his eyes to meditate.

PASTOR

Dear Lord, please forgive me for all of my sins as I forgive those who have sinned against me. Thank you for blessing me with yet another day of precious life. I pray that you please protect me and my loved ones in the armor of your word so that no weapon formed against us shall prosper.

VOICE (V.O.)

Kevin, I will deliver you.

Pastor hears a voice but doesn't see anyone. He looks around.

PASTOR

God, is that you?

VOICE (V.O.)

I am who I am.

PASTOR

Yahweh?

THE END