

By

Colton Duke

Story by: Jamall McMillan & Tina Christine

The Book of Hosea

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Film & Television Division of
MS Visual Enterprises LLC

envzproductions@gmail.com

Sap and Josiah talk with Lee. Rue walks across the floor and joins them.

START The doors open. TJ and one of his buddies stroll in on their phones, talking to their social media followers. They make their way to the group.

TJ:
(to group)
Ya'll are blowing up. Got some fans wanting to chip in a few bucks.

Lee shakes their hands.

LEE:
I can't thank you men enough.

ATHLETE:
No need sir. We love doing this kinda thing. And we've been blessed to be able to.

LEE:
Well thank you anyway. I believe we had a real good day here as well. Now if you will excuse me, I'm still on the clock.

Everyone chuckles as Lee steps out of the gym.

ATHLETE:
Sap. Josiah. I gotta thank you guys for having us out. TJ, take it easy bro. I gotta dip out, got practice.

They all thank him and dap him up.

TJ:
J I don't know if your misses told you yet, but I invited ya'll for dinner tomorrow.

JOSIAH:
Nope first I'm hearing of it. Thanks bro.

Rue holds Josiah's arm and grins. She is back to shy mode.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SAP:

Dang a couple hours together and I'm already being replaced.

JOSIAH:

Nah actually him and Rue are BFF. They went to school together.

SAP:

Oh that's right. Can't believe I never put that together. That's cool.

TJ:

Imma give you two my number before I jet outta here.

JOSIAH:

Ah crap my phone's charging in the office. Just give it to her. I'll get it from her and shoot you a text later.

TJ:

Bet. Imma do that then head out. Thanks for having me fellas. Had a blast. And keep in touch. It's nice to have some normal real people around for once.

STOP They all exchange goodbyes and part ways. TJ lingers for a quick minute to exchange numbers with Rue.

(CONTINUED)

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RUE:
Yeah. I'll ask him tomorrow.

JOSIAH:
Cool.

She sends the message then gets up. Josiah turns the vacuum on again and sticks the hose to the back of her thigh. She squeals. Now it is on.

23 EXT. RESTUARANT/ROOFTOP PATIO - DAY

23

START

Rue and TJ sit opposite one another out on the fancy patio, the sun at their backs, glistening off the buildings in the distance. Their glasses are full and the conversation fuller.

RUE:
You can't still be bitter about that.

TJ:
She broke my leg. Unforgivable.

RUE:
It was not all her fault. I remember it like yesterday.

TJ:
Me too. I was headed to third. I jumped to dodge. She pegged me in the no go zone. Hello concrete.

RUE:
Maybe you just had pansy bones. Shoulda drank more milk.

TJ:
Oh yeah that was it. Hehe.

The WAITER, 30s, pops up out of nowhere, cutting off their banter.

WAITER:
Do you need more time with the menu?

RUE:
Oh hey. Umm yeah I think I'm ready.
TJ?

TJ:
Yeah I'm good. You wanna go ahead?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUE:
Order.

TJ:
Order.

WAITER:
Fine choices. May I take your menus?

RUE:
Uhh-

TJ:
We're gonna hold on to one my guy. The
bro-in-law couldn't make it. She's
gonna get him something to take home.

RUE:
(mouths)
Oh my gosh.

WAITER:
Sounds great. We'll have your food out
shortly. And I'll be right back with
some refills.

RUE:
Thank you.

The waiter leaves them.

TJ:
My man earning that tip today.

Rue gazes at him with big eyes and a surprised smile.

RUE:
Your sister?

TJ:
That weird? It's the easiest out. I
don't need some wannabe blogger
posting I'm on a date on they IG
story. Nobody believes the truth.

RUE:
Ah, that makes me sad. I haven't even
thought about that. Like, I mean I
know you, like the, you. You know what
I mean.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But like strangers, they just know the football player right?

TJ:
Yeah. Yeah you right.

RUE:
What's that like? Just, how do you deal with it?

TJ:
Heh feel like I'm in an interview. You the blogger?

RUE:
Oh sorry.

TJ:
Nah, it is crazy though. And gets annoying. I can't even joke around and be sarcastic without some journalist being like TJ believes this, TJ is a right wing nut. It's wild man.

Rue bursts out laughing.

RUE:
I'm so sorry.

TJ:
I love it though for real.

RUE:
Are you serious?

TJ:
Yeah. People are stupid. You gotta mess with em. I know who I am, they can't hurt my feelings.

RUE:
Lord. Told you I knew you. You haven't changed in the slightest.

They carry on giggling like children. Rue not realizing reaches across and gently rubs her hand across his arm. TJ does notice and warmly smiles without drawing her attention. He then sits back and swigs his drink.

TJ:
I'm the Nightmare baby. Imma do me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RUE:

You're too much is what you are.

STOP Their banter is suddenly cut off by the waiter with refills. As he fills their glass the old friends grin and make innocent eyes at one another.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSIAH:
(eyes on plate)
For our situation.
(looks at her)
That I can't take you away for a few
days.

Her eyes start to water.

RUE:
It's not all on you.

She takes a breath to calm herself. Her tears fail to form.

RUE:
Let's not talk about it here okay?
We'll be alright. We can't ruin this
yummy food we rarely have.

She smirks. He brightens up.

JOSIAH:
True that.
(looks around)
We're not getting refills are we?

They start cracking up, causing the OLD COUPLE next to them
to pass them a look.

He looks around for the waiter. She checks her phone.

TJ TEXT:
Yooooo! What up?

She contemplates texting back for a split second, but puts
the phone down and just stares at it.

44 EXT. ATLANTA FALCONS TRAINING FACILITY/PARKING LOT - SAME 44

START Travis and a couple of LINEMEN walk to their cars. They chat
it up before heading out, when they hear YELLING AT THE

SECURITY GATE.

JOSIAH IS BARRELING TOWARD A SECURITY GUARD that frantically
waves their arms and yells at him. He is not checking up. The
guard realizes as much and bolts out of harms way. Josiah
shoots through the gate. He immediately locates his target
and heads straight toward TJ.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Travis and his pals take a second to figure it all out. They begin scrambling behind a lineman's souped up truck. TJ takes a peek. Upon seeing the vehicle headed for his own he snaps...

TJ:

Oh hell no!

He steps out and starts screaming, commanding the driver to stop. He even throws his duffle at the vehicle.

Josiah cracks up at Travis's lunacy. He SLAMS on the breaks, sliding to a halt short of TJ and his car, just as planned. He then slings the door open and hops out. Travis goes silent. For a second.

TJ:

Oh wow! Shoulda knew it'd be this fool. What's up cuz? You get jealous? You need a lil' taste of the Nightmare too? Ask ya girl, it's sweet, yet spicy.

The linemen start stepping in. TJ holds them off. Josiah marches right up to him and POPS HIM IN THE MOUTH. Travis, while stunned, takes it like a champ. He does spit out some blood.

TJ:

Aight. You good now? We square?

The big fellas surround him. SIRENS begin in the distance.

Josiah, eerily calm, stares his enemy down.

TJ:

Don't be stupid homie.

Josiah looks away, almost ashamed. He starts backing away then turns to his car and gets in. The sirens grow closer. He just sits there.

STOP

(CONTINUED)