

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

MALE (V.O.):

VOWS

MEMORY FLASH - CHURCH - DAY

A BRIDE and GROOM engage in a long, passionate kiss before a cheering CROWD. When they eventually unlock lips they turn and head down the aisle, revealing to be the young couple, JOSIAH and RUE.

BACK TO APARTMENT

As the now apparent voice of Josiah continues, a photo of the intimate tonsil hockey sits among a slew of WEDDING PICS. One in particular being of the lovers sharing pieces of cake.

MEMORY FLASH - FELLOWSHIP HALL - DAY

JOSIAH (V.O.):

VOWS

Josiah takes a bite of cake his, now, wife feeds him as he meticulously approaches her mouth with a piece. As she begins to bite down he SHOVES it in causing it to crumble all over her. The crowd roars. She SNATCHES UP another piece and CRASHES it into his face. They both burst into laughter.

BACK TO APARTMENT

RUES voice takes over. The last wedding picture of the bunch is of the couple standing on the church steps, facing their guests.

RUE (V.O.):

VOWS

(CONTINUED)

JESSE:

K.

JOSIAH:

Cool. Cool.

Before Jesse gets to the door it opens. An old woman, GRAN 60s, in a sweater and sweat pants stands in the doorway, a Virginia Slim burns slow between her long, boney fingers. Kid scoots past her inside. She side eyes him then sizes up Josiah before grumbling...

GRAN:

Who's that? Who are you!?

JOSIAH:

Uum, Josiah ma'am. I work at the Youth Center. We talked when you signed him up.

GRAN:

Oh yeah yeah yeah. Thank you for bringing him home.

She takes a slow drag off her cig.

JOSIAH:

Is his mother home?

GRAN:

Na, she's supposed to get to come home next week.

He understands.

JOSIAH:

Well, it was good seeing you ma'am. Tell Jesse I'll see him tomorrow.

GRA:

You got it.

She takes another puff as she watches him leave.

18 INT. JOSIAH'S APARTMENT/FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

18

Josiah comes dragging through the door. It is a choir dropping the keys in the bowl. He hears laughing in another room. He does not seem too excited about it.

(CONTINUED)

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rue sits with IMANI, 30s, a plain Jane, a bit on the heavyside but carries her weight well. They bask in one another's company, giggling like school girls.

Josiah lumbers in and takes a seat by his wife.

JOSIAH:

Hey Imani.

IMANI:

Hey Josiah. You good?

(he nods)

Look like you ready for bed. And I'm not picking on you right now, you look exhausted.

JOSIAH:

Oh I know I do. Coulda said I was ready for the grave and I wouldn't take it the wrong way.

She chuckles. He smirks then rolls his head toward his wife, and with lazy eyes...

JOSIAH:

What's up?

RUE:

(unfazed)

She's right. You need to go to sleep.

JOSIAH:

Yeeeah.

(gets up)

We still got a lot to do tomorrow. Need to head in early.

IMANI:

Them kids wearing you out?

RUE:

They're having a fund raiser this weekend. Him and Sap got some players he still knows supposed to come. My man's rubbin' elbows with celebrities.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

IMANI:

Girl whaaat, that's crazy. Am I invited? Might meet me a husband.

RUE:

Ooo girl!

JOSIAH:

Yeah come on. Tell some folks about it. Just not your evil twin.

No sooner than he gets the words out, a young female, TINA late 20s, struts in the room with a small plate of food. She looks ready for the club, with her press on nails, overpriced hair, and makeup caked on her face. Too bad it is Wednesday.

TINA:

Oh hey Jo Jo.

JOSIAH:

Oh hey saiTina.

TINA:

What's that boo?

JOSIAH:

(rolls eyes)

It was nice seeing you ladies. Sorry to kill the vibe but Imma call it a night.

IMANI:

What a shame.

RUE:

(gives him a cheek kiss)

Goodnight sweetie.

JOSIAH:

Night.

TINA:

(mouthful)

Goodnight Jo Jo.

He gives Tina a huge sarcastic grin on his way out.

(CONTINUED)

JOSIAH:

WHAT'S THAT? I CAN'T REALLY HEAR

YOU.

He turns his back. She leans in and pokes him in the ribs with the broom. He whips back around and starts going at her with the hose, sucking up her clothes and sticking it to her skin.

JOSIAH:

Woman.

She laughs her head off. He gives her a break. She tries to gather herself but is startled by something. She reaches down behind her and pulls up her phone. Looks at it. Types something.

RUE:

Hey! HEY!

He cuts off the machine.

RUE:

TJ said he has to cancel dinner tonight. Can we do lunch tomorrow?

JOSIAH:

I gotta be at the center.

RUE:

Oh, dang, really?

JOSIAH:

Yeah. But it's no biggie. You go ahead. Catch up. Just bring back some left overs. He is paying right? Get me everything.

RUE:

You dumb.
(begins texting)
You sure?

JOSIAH:

Yeah yeah. I'll catch him another time. Or we could have him come over one night.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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.

(CONTINUED)

JOSIAH:

TJ.

RUE:

You know I don't keep up with sports.

JOSIAH:

You don't support the man on the field? That's kinda sad. It's not my team but I was even rooting for him. Could be cause he bought me something but bias aside. He had a solid game.

RUE:

I'm proud of him. If you knew how he grew up. It's amazing. But I didn't really even watch the games when I was a cheerleader.

JOSIAH:

You're so weird.

She just shrugs and continues to eat. He waits for more conversation. Nothing.

JOSIAH:

Miss work yet?

RUE:

(sarcastic)

Yeah. Can't wait for tomorrow. I need an actual vacation. Or a million dollars.

JOSIAH:

Yeah. We could disappear.

They chuckle but his joy fades fast.

JOSIAH:

I'm sorry Rues.

He looks at his plate.

RUE:

(stops eating)

For what?

Her phone dings. She shuts it off.

(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.

(CONTINUED)

JESSE:

HA!

Imani warmly smiles at Josiah.

JOSIAH:

Yeah he's pretty cool I guess.

IMANI:

We'll let you two get back to your
fun. It's good to see you out J. Stay
up.

Josiah smirks and nods.

JOSIAH:

I'll see you around Imani.

They hug once more and part ways. As they pass Josiah's and
Imani's friends acknowledge each other.

(CONTINUED)

TJ:

Y'ALL JUST GONNA KEEP ASKIN' THE
SAME STUPID QUESTIONS! WE PUT OUR
LIVES ON THE LINE ERR WEEK FOR YOU
NERDS! YOU AND NEM FAT COUCH QBS

LOVE TO TALK! If he'd do this! He should do that!

He steps out from behind the podium and to the edge of the
stage. He looks ready to jump down as he goes in...

(CONTINUED)

TJ:

WHEN THEY AIN'T NEVA EVEN SNIFFED A
FIELD! I'M LOSING MONEY!! YOU GET
THAT!? IF YA'LL SO DESPERATE FOR AN
UPDATE, HERE'S YOU SISSIES AN
UPDATE!

Before he gives it to the media a CLEAN CUT GUY, 40s, in a
suit steps in and grabs Travis with an assist from... TINA.
They have to drag him off stage.

JOSIAH (O.S.):

Hold up.

He pauses the video on Tina. BACK ON SCENE

Josiah looks at the phone in mad confusion. Sap observes his
reaction in silence.