

By

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The Book of Hosea

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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.

60 INT. CHURCH - DAY

60

START

The soulful sounds of the Blues echo through the old timely,
little church. The sunlight beams through the stain glass
windows serving as the only light.

An old man, PREACHER late 60s, grooves to the tunes while
vacuuming in the choir loft. Man can move for his age. He is
so caught up he fails to notice the... ..door swinging open
and Josiah sneaking in. Josiah starts down the isle. He
glances at the old man yet his main focus is the floor. He
stops. He hesitates. He glances at Preacher. He starts to

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turn around. He hesitates again. He shuts his eyes, shakes his head, breathes hard, and ultimately slips in a pew. He sits straight up, looks to the heavens, and relaxes. He focuses his attention on Preacher. After just a couple of seconds of entertainment, Josiah cannot help but smile.

When Preacher finally cuts off the vacuum he looks up to see that he is not alone, nearly tumbling backwards.

PREACHER:
Oh Lord Almighty.

He gets a hold of himself, lowers his blood pressure, then makes his way down to meet his guest.

PREACHER:
Wooo boy, you bout made me go on an
meet the Master. Next time just
holler.

Josiah stands as he approaches.

JOSIAH:
Didn't wanna bother ya.

PREACHER:
Aw naw brother I'm just piddlin'. Son
it's good to see ya.
(they embrace)
We've missed ya round here.

JOSIAH:
Yeah.

There is a brief silence between them. Preacher looks to be thinking about his next few words. He settles on...

PREACHER:
Well you here now. And that's a
blessin'.

JOSIAH:
Thank you Preacher. I uhh, just... I-

PREACHER:
Come on back brother, get us a coffee.
Sit down.

STOP

(CONTINUED)