

The Most Holy Place

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Draft 1

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JAY

What?

Kesi scribbles something on the napkin before putting it in Jay's hand.

KESI

I can give you my number while I'm working.

Jay starts to answer, her face pleasantly surprised but Kesi is called over by a group on the other side of the bar. She smiles apologetically and closes Jay's fist around the napkin, tapping it.

KESI (cont'd)

Call me sometime.

Jay smiles and nods, hopping off the barstool. As she gets back to the table, the lights go down as the opening notes of "Dark Horse" by Katy Perry play from the speakers. A figure in an Egyptian Queen costume struts forward into the spotlight, it's Lionel. Jay and Lila share an excited look.

JAY

(whispering)

Let's go Lady Lion!

LIONEL

(lipsyncing)

I knew you were, you were gonna come to me

Lila raises her hand in a silent cheer as Lionel begins to gyrate his hips while performing complicated hand choreography. He pulls a chair from the side of the stage and slides his leg up the back sexily.

Spinning the chair around, Lionel sits down in the chair and dances with his hands and legs. As the music builds, he stands up and tosses the chair away.

LIONEL (cont'd)

Are you ready for, ready for! A perfect storm, perfect storm?

Sashaying to the front of the stage, Lionel performs more hand choreography. He lowers himself down to the ground seductively, clawing his hands at the crowd.

LIONEL (cont'd)

'Cause once you're mine, once you're mine!

As Lionel lays out at front of the stage, he blows a kiss toward the bar. Jay looks over to the bar and sees Keith standing watching Lionel with a proud look on his formerly serious face. He catches the kiss and holds it close to his heart.

LIONEL (cont'd)
There's no going back!

Jay sees Kesi watching watching Keith and Lionel with a soft expression on her face. Jay looks thoughtful before shaking her head and refocusing on the stage.

INT. UPLIFT CHURCH - SANCTUARY - DAY

The sanctuary is quiet and still. Jay sits in the pews on the ground floor, somewhat close to the front of the church.

Its large size and towering stained glass windows dwarf Jay, who sits lost in thought.

JAY
I'm just trying to figure out how You
feel about this.
(beat)
I asked for a sign and I thought I
got one, but is it real or just
something I made up in my head?

Jay pauses and shakes her head.

JAY (cont'd)
I just don't know how to
differentiate between things that I
crave so deeply and the things that
You have for me.

Jay stops as tears well up in her eyes, she swallows and clears her throat.

JAY (cont'd)
I know You want me to be happy but
sometimes it feels like the things
You want me to do will ruin that
happiness, and I don't know which way
is right! I feel like I don't know
anything!

Jay's eyes overflow with tears and she shakes silently with the effort of keeping her sobs inside. She wipes at tears on her face but they are quickly replaced by new ones.

JAY (cont'd)
I just want You to tell me what's
right! Just talk to me!

Jay slumps back in her chair, suddenly exhausted. She leans her head back, looking at the stained glass window depicting Jesus on the cross at the the front of the church.

Suddenly, the quiet of the sanctuary is pierced by the sound of a door SLAMMING shut. Connor walks down the aisle with a smile on his face.

CONNOR
Well, as I live and breathe, I never
thought I'd see you here this early.

Jay scrambles to wipe her face and smile as he stops in front of her but her face is red and her smile is wobbly. He kneels down in front of her.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Woah there, what's going on? Here let
me give you a napkin or something!

Connor digs through his pockets, eventually coming up with a crumpled napkin. He hands it to her.

JAY
Thanks.

CONNOR
Sorry it's all messed up, its
leftover from my burrito. Hopefully
there's no hot sauce on there or else
you'll be crying for a completely
different reason.

They both laugh awkwardly. Connor stands up and comes to sit beside Jay. The two young adults sit looking at the stained glass window for a few moments before Connor clears his throat.

CONNOR (cont'd)
So do you wanna like, talk about it?

Jay shakes her head.

JAY
It's hard to explain, I don't wanna
burden you.

Connor reaches out and touches her leg, smiling.

CONNOR

That's what friends are for right?
And besides, maybe you just need a
different point of view on things.

Jay sighs and nods, he's not gonna let her out of this. She shifts uncomfortably.

JAY

Well, uh, there's this... person

CONNOR

Mhm?

JAY

I really like them... this person.
But, uh, it's hard because if I were
to show my interest in this person...
my life would have to change a bit?

Connor nods encouragingly and Jay shifts again. She clenches her hand into a fist and looks down at it before continuing.

JAY (cont'd)

I just, I've been praying about it
for awhile and I don't know what to
do! Is God calling me to change my
life so drastically or is that a
warning sign? I like them a lot and I
see a potential for things to go
somewhere but I'm scared of making
the wrong decision.

Connor and Jay sit in silence as the information sinks in. He smiles slightly as he puts the pieces together, clearly think Jay is talking about him. He pulls out his phone and turns to her, still smiling.

CONNOR

My dad and Miles and I, are reading
through Song of Solomon together and,
I don't know, I just feel really
called to read this verse to you.

Connor scrolls through his phone for a few seconds before landing on the right verse. He clears his throat softly.

CONNOR (cont'd)

Place me like a seal over your heart,
like a seal on your arm; for love is
as strong as death, its jealousy
unyielding as the grave. It burns
like blazing fire, like a mighty
flame.

Connor looks up to Jay and smiles. Jay smiles back, confused. She has no idea what's going on.

CONNOR (cont'd)

Many waters cannot quench love;
rivers cannot sweep it away. If one
were to give all the wealth of one's
house for love, it would be utterly
scorned.

(beat)

I think what this verse is saying is
that, love is a strong force in the
world and it can survive any
complications if you commit to it
with your heart and your actions.

Jay nods, deep in thought. She looks up and smiles a real smile at Connor.

JAY

Thanks Connor! This has been...
unexpectedly helpful.

CONNOR

You're welcome, I think? Anyways do
you wanna get-

JAY

I'm gonna head to the bathroom and
clean myself up before everyone else
gets in okay?

With that, Jay stands up and heads toward the back of the church.

EXT. BUTLER METRO PARK - DAY

Jay sits nervously on a park bench, a picnic blanket rolled up beside her with a few pillows. She checks her phone and scrolls to Instagram, where she sees pictures from the youth group kids' accounts chronicling their journey to a retreat with the praise band.

Jay breathes a sigh of relief, she can now focus on the other thing she's nervous about. She fiddles with her outfit and watches the crowd around her, craning her neck to try and catch sight of a familiar figure.

Finally, Kesi appears on the walkway, a picnic basket in hand. She waves. Jay smiles and waves back, standing up from the bench.

