

Sketch Writing Packet

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Divine Intervention



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By Brad Grusnick

SUPER - OVER BLACK

VO

This program contains subject
matter and language that may be
disturbing to some viewers. Viewer
discretion is advised.

TITLES for A&E's INTERVENTION

EXT. HOME - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Image of a stone hut in Ancient Judea.

SUPER

33 A.D.

INT. HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

MARY, JOSEPH, MAGGIE, and JEFF sit in a semi-circle. Mary,
Joseph and Maggie are dressed in biblical garb. Jeff wears a
sweater vest and chinos.

JEFF

Is everyone ready? We only have one
shot at this.

MARY

Anything we can do to make sure he
gets the help he needs.

JOSEPH

I tell ya, Mary, if he brings up
that "You're not my real father"
crap again, I am just gonna snap.

MAGGIE

We have to remind him this comes
from a place of love.

JOSEPH

Shut up, whore.

MARY

Joseph!

JOSEPH
We're all thinkin' it!

JESUS enters with a glass of wine. He is clearly drunk.

JESUS
Mary Mags, I thought we were
supposed to meet for some...

He makes a lewd hand gesture, then sees his parents and presses his hands together quickly.

JESUS (CONT'D)
Uh... praying. What's my mom doing
here?

JEFF
Jesus, your family has gathered
here today to tell you how your
drinking has affected them.

JESUS
Who's this guy?

JEFF
I'm Jeff Cordwin and I'm a family
counselor.

JESUS
Wait, are you guys intervening me?

MARY
You just haven't been yourself
since that wedding in Cana.

JESUS
It's not everyday a guy learns he
can change water into wine, Mom.
Speaking of which, I've taken the
liberty of freshening your
beverages.

Jesus takes a big gulp of wine. The family all look at their glasses and give a collective moan, except for Joseph.

JOSEPH
Pretty sure you just turned my wine
into crappier wine.

MARY
You brought wine to this?!

JOSEPH

You want me to talk about feelings
and read this gay letter, I need to
be a little drunk.

JEFF

Ms. Magdelene, would you like to go
first?

Maggie stands.

MAGGIE

(reading)

Jesus, when you drink, you turn
into a different person. All you do
is hang around with your friends
and drink. How can I compete with a
constant flow of liquor and 12
guys?

JESUS

11 guys. We're thinking of kicking
Judas out. You should be talking to
him, Jeff. Dude will do anything
for a handful of silver. An. E.
Thing.

JOSEPH

(bursting)

Are you a gay wino?

MARY

Joseph!

JOSEPH

We're all thinkin' it!

JEFF

Joseph, would you like to read your
letter?

Joseph lets out a heavy sigh and makes a sour face as he
drinks his wine.

JOSEPH

(reading)

Jesus, I feel like... when you
drink it's... aw, screw this! You
drink too much! Who drinks wine
with pancakes? I'm your father and
I say it's time to stop!

JESUS

You're not my real dad!

JOSEPH
(charging at Jesus)
Let's see you walk on water with my
sandal up your ass!

Jeff holds Joseph back. Joseph shakes him off.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
It's fine! I'm fine!

He chugs his wine then shakes the cup at Jesus.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)
Least you can do is get me a
refill.

Jesus does a hand motion to refill the cup. Joseph raises the
cup in cheers and sits back down.

JESUS
Are we almost done here? I've gotta
meet the guys for dinner. Important
stuff.

MARY
What could be more important than
your health?

JESUS
Uh, I dunno, Mom. Maybe being the
savior of all mankind?

JOSEPH
Oh, don't be so goddamn dramatic.

JESUS
Listen you guys, I need this wine.
God talks to me, okay? He tells me
some weird stuff. Apparently I'm
supposed to die tomorrow.

JEFF
If you continue on this path, you
just might. Are you willing to get
treatment?

JESUS
What? Like a weekend in Nazareth?

JEFF
30 days in rehab.

JESUS

I already did 40 in the desert with
the devil. Passed that test.

MARY

You keep saying that! You just went
on a 40 day bender and yelled
proverbs at the dog.

JESUS

Nope. Wrote it down on scroll,
buried it in a cave. 40 days with
the devil. Word of the Lord.

JEFF

Then your family has no choice.

MARY

Jesus, until you decide to enter
treatment, you won't get any more
cash from us and you have to move
out.

JESUS

Fine. I'm dying for your sins.
Keep your money.

MAGGIE

And no more rolls in the manger.

JESUS

What?

MAGGIE

Give up the wine or find someone
else to participate in your donkey
shows.

JESUS

You know it's hot when the donkeys
watch us.

JOSEPH

(suddenly interested)
Are there scrolls of that too?

MARY

Joseph?!

JOSEPH

We're all thinkin' it!

JESUS

But Maggie, I was gonna do this whole thing at dinner tonight with the wine so the guys think they're drinking my blood!

MAGGIE

You'll just have to use something else.

JESUS

C'mon! "Drink this Water for it is my Piss" doesn't have the same ring to it.

MAGGIE

It's either the wine or access to my Garden of Eden.

JEFF

Well, Jesus?

JESUS

FINE! I'll get help.

Jesus takes Maggie's hand and they head for the door.

JEFF

Where are you going?

JESUS

I'm serious about dying tomorrow. Crucifixion. Have you seen what that does to a person? Gonna take a lot of sinning to take that pain away. Let's go, baby.

They exit.

JEFF

I think that went well. See you folks later.

MARY

Wait, where are you going?

JEFF

I have another appointment. Some Lazarus guy down the street thinks he's a zombie. This town is messed up.

INTERVENTION TITLES. BLACKOUT.

Chevy Alibi



CHEVY ALIBI
By Brad Grusnick

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - DAY

A MAN dressed in a suit kisses his WIFE goodbye and walks out his front door. He always speaks directly to CAMERA. He walks up to an SUV.

MAN
I need a car that fits my busy
lifestyle...

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

The inside of the SUV is state-of-the-art. It has a sleek interior and a touch screen entertainment system.

MAN
A car that takes the stress out of
my morning commute....

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

A bunch of KIDS in soccer uniforms pile out of the SUV. The Man waves at them from the driver's seat.

MAN
A car that helps me run all my
errands...

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

The Man drives down the highway. There is a DRIFTER with his thumb out. The Man pulls over and gives the Drifter a lift.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

DRIFTER
Thanks, I've been out there
forever.

MAN
And a car that helps me kill
Drifters for sport.

DRIFTER
Wait, wha--

The Man jabs a syringe into the Drifter's neck with a gloved hand, rendering him unconscious.

MAN

That's why I drive a Chevy Alibi.

EXT. SUV - NIGHT

He peels off.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

The Man drives as he speaks.

MAN

The Chevy Alibi features all the things a busy serial killer might need. Like an active restraint system.

He hits a button on the dash and leather straps surround the Drifter, reclining his seat and moving it to the middle of the SUV's interior.

The Man puts the car in park. CAMERA PANS over the features as he speaks.

MAN (V.O.(CONT'D))

The comfortable seats store with the touch of a button and the vinyl interior serves as a perfect kill room, easy to spray wash. It even comes complete with Ultraviolet Germicidal Radiation lights to get rid of any pesky trace DNA.

The Man has put on a butcher's smock, a la Dexter, and unrolls a set of knives.

MAN (CONT'D)

The in-dash entertainment system lets you set your own playlists, so you can take your time with your victim while listening to Classical, Death Metal, or the audio book of Mein Kampf.

The Drifter struggles as the Man puts the knife to his throat. Just as he is about to slit the Drifter's throat, the image switches to an ANIMATED SEQUENCE showing the blood draining from the body into the frame of the SUV.

MAN (CONT'D)

And the gas-hybrid engine runs partly on hemoglobin, so not only are you saving the environment, you never have to look for a reason to kill again.

EXT. SUV - NIGHT

The Man pushes the limp legs of his victim into the back of the SUV and closes a compartment under the cargo hold, placing a STROLLER on top of it.

MAN

With plenty of cargo space, you can hide a body for days, without mess or odor, letting you dump it in the river on your schedule.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

The SUV pulls into the driveway.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

The Man inputs an address into the screen on the dashboard.

MAN

And the state-of-the-art GPS system resets itself to the destination of your choice, so you never have to explain your whereabouts.

DASH reads: Last Destination - Applebee's on Route 9.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

His wife kisses him and he hugs his YOUNG SON.

MAN

Sorry I'm late. Went out with the boys after work.

WIFE

Honey, I'm sorry, I know you've been in the car all day, but I forgot to pick up milk. Would you mind going to get it?

The Man winks at the CAMERA.

MAN
No problem.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Man exits his house and goes out to the car. A HOMELESS MAN is going through his garbage.

MAN
Hey, buddy, why don't you let me
buy you a sandwich?

HOMELESS MAN
Thanks!

The Homeless Man gets in the car.

MAN
The All-New Chevy Alibi.

The doors to the car lock automatically and the Homeless Man struggles to get out as car fills with TOXIC GAS.

MAN (CONT'D)
Finally, a car for the dark
passenger in all of us.

The Homeless Man feebly struggles against the glass as the Man smiles at the CAMERA.

BLACKOUT.

The Signal



THE SIGNAL
By Brad Grusnick

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

HAROLD sits at a table waiting for his blind date. There are people dining all around him. The WAITER approaches.

WAITER
Would you like to start with some appetizers, sir?

HAROLD
No, um, thank you. I'm just waiting for a blind date.

WAITER
(annoyed)
No problem, I'll just grab you a water.

Harold grabs the Waiter's arm as he's about to leave.

HAROLD
Hold on, uh... this is gonna sound weird, but... my best friend couldn't call me to...

WAITER
You need a way out of the date in case she's a warthog?

HAROLD
Or boring. It's not all about looks.

WAITER
Sure it isn't. Tell you what... I'll have the hostess give you a heads up. Hey Jenny!

The HOSTESS walks over.

WAITER (CONT'D)
This guy's worried about his blind date.

HOSTESS
So you want, like, a signal? If she's an uggo?

WAITER
Or boring.

HOSTESS

Right.

HAROLD

Just a little whistle or something,
so I'm prepared.

HOSTESS

How about a bird noise? I'll do a
crow if she's ugly and a raven if
she's hot.

HAROLD

How will I know the difference?

HOSTESS

(laughing as if it's a
stupid question)

Oh, you'll know.

She goes back to the host stand. The diner next to Harold,
BARRY, chimes in.

BARRY

You went on a blind date without a
backup plan? Taking your life into
your hands, chief.

His wife, CAROL, slaps his hand.

CAROL

Don't be silly. We've been married
10 years and met on a blind date.

BARRY

And you mean to tell me you didn't
have Nancy on speed dial in case I
was a wacko?

CAROL

Good point.

HAROLD

So, what do I do?

(to the Waiter)

Could you say there's a call for me
at the bar?

WAITER

That may have worked 15 years ago,
but with cell phones, it won't fly.

CAROL

We could work out a signal.

BARRY

Sure, like if you say, "I'll have the fish," I'll pretend to start choking.

HAROLD

But what if I want the fish?

WAITER

Trust me, you don't.

Another couple, GLENDA and NORMAN, chime in. Glenda is eating fish.

GLENDA

The fish is bad?

WAITER

No, Miss, yours is fine.

He turns back to Harold and subtly shakes his head, "No, it's not."

NORMAN

You don't want a choking scene. He can't bail from a medical emergency.

HAROLD

Maybe I'm over-thinking this. Her J-Date profile was totally normal.

Both couples laugh at him.

BARRY

People lie on those things all the time. My brother-in-law once dated this chick from the internet. And she had a penis.

HAROLD

Oh God.

CAROL

Sweetie, don't worry about it. Here.

She grabs a glass of wine and sets in down in front of him.

CAROL (CONT'D)

If it's bad, just drop your fork. I'll come by, knock this into your lap. You go to the bathroom to clean up and disappear. Simple.

HAROLD

I just wanna get out of a date, not ruin my suit.

GLENDA

You can't worry about that. This is about survival.

NORMAN

I got it! I'll accuse you of sleeping with my wife. Then challenge you to a fight outside.

HAROLD

I don't wanna fight you!

NORMAN

We won't actually fight. It'll just get you outta here.

HAROLD

What if she follows us?

NORMAN

Can you take a couple pops to the nose?

GLENDA

Norman, you shouldn't hit the boy.

HAROLD

Thank you.

GLENDA

I'll just take him hostage.

HAROLD

What?!

GLENDA

It's easy. I'll have a mental breakdown, grab a fork, put it to your neck and drag you out.

HAROLD

No, stop, all of you! I appreciate the help, but this is ridiculous. It's a date. Not the end of the world. I'll be fine.

The Waiter looks toward the door.

WAITER

I think that's her!

The Waiter runs to one of the tables, looking busy. All of the couples put their heads down, focusing on their food. Everyone is tense.

HAROLD
Wait, hold on! What's the plan?
What's the signal?

DENISE enters and Harold puts on a big fake grin. She looks normal enough.

DENISE
Harold?

HAROLD
Hi.

Harold stands to greet her and bumps the table, knocking a fork to the floor.

HAROLD (CONT'D)
Oh no.

The tension breaks.

Carol grabs the glass of wine and throws it in his face.

Barry clutches his neck and dramatically starts fake choking.

Norman gets out of his chair and knocks Harold out with one punch before storming off.

Unsure of what to do, Glenda grabs Carol and puts a spoon to her neck.

GLEENDA
Nobody move, I'll kill her. I'll do
it!

Glenda and Carol back out of the room. Harold and Barry lie prone on the floor.

Denise just stands there, staring at the carnage. The Waiter calmly walks over to Harold, who is unconscious.

WAITER
Sir, there's a phone call for you
at the bar.

HOSTESS
CA-CAW!

WAITER
(to Denise)
Something to drink?

Blackout.

Fixin' Things



FIXIN' THINGS
By Brad Grusnick

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Two Cheesy Bob Vila-types, DOUG and NIT, stand in a kitchen, fake chit-chatting, when they notice the CAMERA.

DOUG

Hello. Welcome to Fixin' Things.
I'm Doug Spendilfurt, and you all
know my buddy, Nit Mulligan.

NIT

Howdy, Doug.

DOUG

Today, we're going to show you how
to do some simple repairs around
the house with a little known
handyman's helper... caulk.

NIT

I love caulk.

DOUG

I also love caulk, Nit. I can't get
enough caulk. If I had to have one
thing stuck in my toolbox everyday
it would be lots and lots of caulk.

NIT

I know lots of men crave caulk when
nothing else can get the job done.
I like to shove caulk in my kitchen
sink.

They walk over to the sink. The faucet is dripping.

DOUG

The last thing in the world a guy
wants is a drippy nozzle.

NIT

Or a leaky crack.

DOUG

But they're nothing a hardy dose of
caulk can't fix.

Nit grabs the caulk gun.

NIT

First, run your caulk around the edge of the crack, using your caulk to fill all the holes.

DOUG

Once you have your caulk out, use your hands to rub your caulk, stroking your caulk into any crevasse you find.

Doug takes hold of the spigot.

NIT

Now, don't try tugging on your shaft until the caulk is hard.

DOUG

That's right. You'll be left with flimsy caulk, have to pull out your caulk and rub your caulk all over again.

NIT

Nothing plugs up a crack like hard caulk.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Nit and Doug are sitting on the floor, flanking a toilet.

DOUG

Now, for a more uncommon way to use your caulk. On your toilet seat.

NIT

A lot of folks aren't used to caulk in their seat, so you have to make sure you ease your caulk in properly.

DOUG

Take your caulk and slowly edge your caulk along the rim in a zig-zag motion called "teasing".

NIT

As you tease the rim with your caulk, blow the caulk until it's firm.

DOUG

Once the caulk has been teased, you can then ease your seat down gently onto your caulk.

NIT

Then push down until your caulk feels just right.

DOUG

And there you have it, a softer cushion for the pushin' and all it took was a little caulk teasing.

CUT TO:

INT. GARAGE - DAY

Doug and Nit stand at a workbench.

DOUG

Now always be sure to clean your caulk.

NIT

Unkempt caulk can get crusty.

DOUG

Or start to emit an unpleasant odor. And nobody likes smelly caulk.

NIT

Tug on your caulk tip until the tube is empty.

DOUG

Then, stroke the outside of your caulk with a little soap and water.

NIT

A clean caulk is a happy caulk.

DOUG

And remember, we love to hear from our viewers, so let us know what you did with your caulk this week.

NIT

Any e-mail with caulk in it gets me excited.

They share a terrible laugh.

DOUG

Whelp, that's all for Fixin' Things
this week. Join us next week as we
work with Steel Bearings in a
segment called, Diddling the Balls.
Until then, enjoy playing with your
caulks! So Long!

BLACKOUT.

BIO

Brad Grusnick graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre. In addition to his acting focus, he also completed the one-year Undergraduate Playwriting Program. After college he went through The Second City Conservatory and Second City Writing Programs in Chicago and later joined The Fling, a member team at The Playground Improv Theater. As a member of The Fling he helped co-create the stage show and podcast, *Mohansen High School* and the improvised game show, *Win a Date with Joe and Mandy*. In Los Angeles, he studied improv at the Upright Citizen's Brigade.

Brad is a member of the sketch comedy group, Dry Hump Comedy, and has written, animated, and performed in several of their videos and live shows. He has written two screenplays: *Nemesis* and *Dust of Life* (with Matt Yang King), as well as several treatments and pilots. Brad has also written and independently published a series of novels, *The Last Will and Testament of Ernie Politics* and *The Last Dance of Low Seward*; an homage to the noir novels of Chandler and Hammett about a homeless man searching for his best friend's murderer. He is currently on the writing staff of *The World of Steam*, a series of Twilight Zone-like episodes set in a Steampunk universe.

A voiceover actor as well as a writer, he has done commercials for Nintendo, Target, Taco Bell, Subway, Honda, Chevron, Sears, Hallmark, McDonald's and many others. He has also voiced characters for the video games Lego: Jurassic World, The Devil's Third, Infamous: Second Son, Bioshock Infinite, God of War: Ascension, Guardians of Middle Earth, Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim, Resistance: Burning Skies, Crysis, Crackdown 2, and Asura's Wrath.

He is a native of Wausau, Wisconsin, will always call Chicago home, and currently lives in Los Angeles.

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