

+-----+
| 151: It was placed upon skids of wood and hide, to be drawn |
| away behind the horses. Nothing was cast aside, for the |
| People do not waste what is given by the Spirit over all. |
| |
| When he saw that the younger men labored well, Takoda turned |
| from them. He rode his horse up the slope, going alone, |
| until he came above the clouds. |
| |
| There the hill stood apart, rising like an island. Beneath |
| it lay a great sea of white, and all around was a circle of |
| other hills, holding that sea within them. It was a thing |
| seldom seen, and it was beautiful. Takoda looked upon it, |
| and his heart was moved. He spoke no word aloud, but within |
| himself he gave a name to that place. He called it the |
| Island in the Sky. |
| |
| After a time the herd came again out of the mist to feed |
| upon the grass of the high place. They were watchful, yet |
| they did not run. It was as if they knew the hunters had |
| taken what they would take, and would not trouble the rest. |
| |
| But as Takoda lifted his eyes to the highest place of that |
| hill, he saw that he was not alone. Nor were the animals |
| alone. Something was there. A white man-shape sat upon the |
| ground. It was a smooth figure with no eyes, nor mouth, nor |
| ears. And it was not white like the men from the east who |
| are called whites, but white like the purest snow. Its body |
| was smooth, and it had no eyes, no mouth, and no ears. It |
| was like a form made, but not finished. |
+-----+

+-----+
| 152: And in its hand it held a dark rod. This it put forth, |
| as a man gives a gift. Takoda came down from his horse. He |
| did not go quickly. He walked with care, and with respect, |
| for he did not know what spirit he beheld. When he had come |
| near, he reached out his hand and took hold of the rod. The |
| figure did not move. It did not resist him. Takoda stood |
| with the thing in his hand. |
| |
| He turned it, and as he did so, there came from it a flame. |
| But it was not as other fire. It was black, and it made a |
| low sound, like the hiss of something that lives. The flame |
| was as a hollow place, the size of a man's head, and it |
| seemed to swallow the air. Then Takoda saw this strange fire |
| might cut the very earth itself. He set it to the ground, |
| and it opened the hard stone as though it were soft. |
| |
| After a little while the dark flame grew less, and drew back |
| into itself, and was gone, as if it had a will. Then the arm |
| of the white figure went down again to its side. It made no |
| other motion. It did not turn nor give any sign of life. |
| Takoda stood alone upon the height, holding the thing that |
| had been given to him. And the figure remained as it was, |
| and he never saw it move again. |
| |
| After a time the companions of Takoda came up to the high |
| place. They saw the white man-shape, and they saw Takoda |
| standing near it, with his horse beside him. In their sight |
| Takoda lifted a great stone and set it down close by the |
| figure. Then the others came forward and did the same. |
+-----+

+-----+
| 153: They gathered many stones and placed them one upon |
| another, as men make a lodge, but this was of rock. |
| |
| They worked in silence and with care, for they believed the |
| place to be holy by what had been shown to them. When the |
| work was finished, they stepped back to look. The white |
| shape was no longer seen. It was covered over, and a mound |
| stood there, a cairn raised with purpose. And the men said |
| among themselves that it was fitting, for they believed |
| Wakan Tanka had made himself known to them upon that height, |
| and the hunt had been blessed. So they left it there, as a |
| lodge set apart. |
| |
| But Takoda alone knew what else had been given. The dark |
| gift he kept hidden within his clothing, and he spoke of it |
| to no man. |
+-----+

When the People made their feast from the slain cow, the horns fastened with thongs of leather. Then one of the wives of Chief Tatanka came forward and set those horns upon his shoulder, as if he himself had gone out from his lodge. Then the Chief spoke, saying, "There are five tellings of how this animal was taken."

Takoda, the best hunter among the People, did not answer at once. He turned his face aside and sent forth a ring of smoke into the air.

Then the Chief spoke again, and his words were sharp. "Speak now of the hunt, Who Hunts as a Woman."

+-----+	At this Takoda's eyes came back
154: Angel Academy season	quickly, as if he had been
2 episode 1, September 1,	struck. He said, "We followed
1960:	the herd into the hollow where
	the waters smoke and the air
Cold Open EXT. CHARRED	is thick. I could not see
GROUND - DAY Embers glow red	even those who rode with me.
across the scorched ground,	The herd led us to a lone
smoking beneath the massive	height, and each man went up
bulk of the HUSK OF AYOT.	by himself. There the clouds
The central structure rests	were broken, and we took the
heavily on five gimbaled	animal."
thrusters. A hatch drops	
open on the underside.	And the one called Plenty
SAR LAILAH drops to the	Lice added to Takoda's tale,
ashen ground. Her attendant,	saying, "The Great Spirit then
BODEA, hands down heavy	came forth from the cloud and
canvas bags of comestibles	blessed the hunt."
and a light, narrow	
WATERCRAFT. Bodea leaps down	At this the Chief looked at
to join her.	Takoda with hard eyes. "You
+-----+	have taught your hunters to
Speak false words with ease."	Then Plenty Lice said, "Wakan
Tanka had the form of a man, but he was white as snow. He sat	
upon the top of the mountain."	

And those who had gone with Takoda made sounds of agreement. They had seen the white figure, though not the thing that had been given to Takoda. But the Chief did not soften his heart. He said, "And what did you do when you saw this man of snow, you who speak falsely?"

+-----+		And Takoda said, "We built a
155:	LAILAH	lodge of stones for the Great
	We need to get much	Spirit, that we might honor him
	further away. You	for blessing the hunt."
	are valiant, Bodea,	
	but I doubt you	Then Tatanka drew forth his
	should wish to be	knife and came near. He cut
	burned.	lightly across the cheek, so
		that the blood came but a
	Bodea nods. Grabbing the	little. He did not strike
	ropes, the two Shalemites	deeper, for he knew the true
	drag the watercraft and	worth of the man before him,
	their supplies away from the	who held hunger back from the
	ship.	People. Then he spoke and gave
		a name, saying, "You shall be
	EXT. LAKE EDGE - CONTINUOUS	called Hole in the Cheek."
	They reach the lapping water	
	of a dark lake. Behind them,	Then Takoda put his hand to his
	a deafening ROAR shatters	face and went away from the
	the silence. The Husk's five	fire with a steady step. Chief
	motors ignite, bathing the	Tatanka laughed, but no other
	jan and wan in a harsh	man joined him. Takoda's wife
	orange light. Piloted by the	Yuha rose also and followed
	unseen Ayot, the colossal	after him, leaving the circle
	vessel slowly lifts into the	of light.
	night sky, leaving Lailah	
	and Bodea alone in its fiery	In their lodge she sat near him
	wake. FADE OUT.	and washed the wound, and bound
+-----+		it so the blood would cease.
While she did this, the son of Takoda, who was called Shy Bear,		
spoke and said, "Father, did you truly see the Great Spirit?"		

+-----+ Takoda looked upon the boy, but
| 156: Director's Note: Since | he remained silent until Yuha
| there is only one line of | had finished her work and the
| dialogue, the actors and the | wound was closed.
| camera must do the heavy |
| lifting here. The physical | Shy Bear smiled and his eyes
| strain of dragging the | took on a knowing look. "I
| watercraft and lingering | understand father! You spoke
| shots of the glowing embers | so only to trouble Sad Heart
| should naturally stretch | Bull!"
| the opening scene to the |
| 90-second target without | And Takoda said, "Yuha, that
| feeling rushed. | which we spoke of before, now
+-----+ is the time."

Yuha showed that she understood, and she brought forth a pouch of leather with many colors, and things to place them upon the skin. Yuha began to mark the face of her son Shy Bear with care.

Then Takoda rose and brought out a garment that was set apart. It was made from the skins of the bison, and it was adorned with feathers and many beads. Takoda held it with purpose.

Shy Bear turned his head to look upon what lay in his father's hands, and in that turning the paint was marred. Then his mother grew troubled and said, "Stand and be still, my son."

Takoda placed the garment upon the boy and made it fast, while Yuha finished her work. When all was set in its place, Takoda spoke. "You will have no answers from me," he said. Then he put the boy's own bow into his hands. "I will give you no meat."

+-----+ Yuha stepped back from her son
| 157: ACT I EXT. BLUE VEIL | when she was quite finished,
| FALLS - DAY (MONTAGE) SERIES | and she looked upon him in
| OF SHOTS: Location shooting | silence.
| captures the treacherous |
| journey. Lailah and Bodea | Takoda said, "Until this day, I
| abandon a battered raft at | have only lent to you the name
| the roaring lip of BLUE VEIL | Shy Bear." Then he opened the
| FALLS. Below the cataract, | door of the lodge, and the
| they fashion a new raft from | night stood outside. "Go now,"
| dark timber. They plunge | he said, "into the darkness,
| through violent, white-water | you who have no name. Take your
| rapids. The river calms, | food for yourself, if you are
| carrying them into a stark, | able. And if you are not?" He
| stony desert. Ponderous, | made a small motion with his
| ox-like beasts graze the | shoulders. "Perhaps, in your
| banks. Local farmers stare | hunger, Wakan Tanka will send
| in silent awe as the raft | you a vision."
| drifts past. |

+-----+ At these words the face of the
boy was full of wonder and fear, for he had not looked for such
a thing. Shy Bear looked upon his father's face, and then his
gaze followed the arm and the hand that pointed outward into the
night. At last he understood, and he bowed his head. But he saw
also his mother, and he knew her heart was not easy. She did
what was required, for the thing had a form that must be kept,
yet her spirit was troubled. Still, she spoke the words that are
spoken: "The boy goes out from us. The man will return." And Shy
Bear heard her, and he feared that the shadow upon her face was
not only sorrow, but the knowing that sometimes came to her
before a thing was fulfilled.

+-----+	
158: LAILAH (V.O.,	Shy Bear did not speak again.
measured, regal)	He went out into the night.
From the roaring of	
Blue Veil Falls,	There was no moon, and the
and running the	darkness lay heavy upon the
unrunnable rapids,	land. Young Shy Bear walked
we were borne into	upon the prairie and stumbled
the deserts of	often, yet he did not turn
Kemen. We sought	back. He climbed the rim of the
that which Ayat	hollow of the smoking waters
commanded the House	and looked behind him. The
of my father to	fires of the Kuwapi people were
seek, yet we found	far away, shining like red
only withering heat.	stars upon the earth.
CC: EXT. KEMEN DESERT -	When the night was deep, he
DAY (MONTAGE) The sun beats	came to the first rising of
down relentlessly. Lailah	the mountain which his father
and Bodea sit on the raft,	named the Island in the Sky. He
exhausted, wiping sweat from	climbed it slowly, placing his
their brows.	feet with care, lest he fall
+-----+	in the darkness. And he came
to the top as the night was ending.	

When the light of morning came, the boy sat down so that his shadow fell upon the stones his father had raised. He did not move. He watched as the sun climbed slowly, and the shadow drew back little by little, until at last it no longer touched the cairn. Then, as the day went on, the shadow of the stones reached toward him in its turn.

+-----+	When the sun went down, Shy
159: LAILAH (V.O.	Bear had seen no vision from
begins when they	Wakan Tanka. A wind came up,
arrive pier side and	and it was strong. When the
depart their raft)	light was gone, the cold
For a full season	entered into him. Then he
we sojourned in the	gathered the dry brush that
city of Sessai.	grew upon that high place. With
Thence overland unto	the edge of a stone he cut
Murzi Bog, and the	it, and with the same he made
war-torn Isle of	a spark and kindled a fire.
Danya. We took ship	But the flame did not stand
to Medon. Yet in	steady. It bent this way and
all these lands, no	that, and the smoke went in
answer was found.	many directions, as if it did
	not choose one path. The boy
EXT. TANNEDI MARKET - DAY	watched this, and he took it
The montage ends. We fade	for a sign. He believed he
in on a bustling, crowded	was called to remain upon that
marketplace. Stalls overflow	place, and to pass the night
with green produce and	within the lodge of stones that
vibrant silks. Lailah and	his father had made for the
Bodea, cloaked and weary,	Great Spirit.
walk the narrow, dusty	
thoroughfare. The heat is	So he went to the cairn and
visible, shimmering in the	drew away some of the rocks,
air. Bodea stops, leaning	making an opening. Then he bent
against a stone archway,	low and went inside. And there,
fanning herself.	in the dimness, he saw the
+-----+	white form of a man, just as
his father said, though Chief Sad Heart Bull did not believe.	

+-----+		The boy was hungry, and the
160:	BODEA	hunger pressed hard upon him.
	I realized something	But the night had come, and it
	today, Your Highness.	was too dark to seek the small
	I was born and dwell	runners of the grass. The fire
	in what the humans	he had made gave little warmth,
	of Earth call the	yet he was glad for the stones
	"hot place" where the	that kept the wind from him.
	land wraps around to	
	become the sky, and	Within the cairn there was not
	the sun is really a	room for him to lie at ease, so
	lake of fire the size	he lay upon his side and curled
	of a province. But	around the white man-shape. He
	even so, this must be	took care not to touch it, for
	the hottest place in	he did not know its power.
	the hot place.	
		In the middle of the night he
	Lailah stops, her posture	was awakened by the sound of
	remaining rigidly upright	many feet running together. He
	despite the oppressive heat.	rose and went out. He saw that
+-----+		his fire had gone low, and only
		the coals were left. But the wind had carried living embers down
		the slope, and from these a fire had begun in the brush and came
		to encircle the small mountain. The small creatures of the land
		fled before it, running over the height.

The boy saw them and he knew he might take one and have meat. But the fire did not wait, and each moment brought danger nearer. At first Shy Bear went down toward the fire, that he might have light to see his way. Then he turned and moved toward the west, seeking a place where he might pass beyond the flames.

+-----+	But the boy could go no
161: LAILAH	farther. Before him the earth
Bodea, I have taken	was broken, and there was a
unto myself a	deep cut in the land. He heard
certain philosophy	water moving over stones far
of necessity. If	below where it passed around
the weather of	the mountain. The darkness lay
Kemen cannot be	thick there, and he could not
altered, then there	see how to cross.
is no wisdom in	
lamentation.	Behind him the fire grew, and
	it spread to the north, closing
Lailah pauses, wiping a bead	that way. The wind drove it,
of sweat from her neck.	and the flames were many. Then
	the boy looked down into the
LAILAH (CONT'D)	chasm. He saw a small light,
Nevertheless, this	very bright, like the strongest
brings me little	star. It moved along the side
comfort. Nor yet	of the slope, rising and
ease.	falling, as if it ran. At times
+-----+	+ it went north, and at times
it went south, yet always it climbed higher, and it moved very	
quickly.	

Soon the light came up to the rim. Shy Bear saw that it was worn upon the head of a person, and that person was taller than he. Then a voice was heard, and it was the voice of a woman who spoke in his own tongue, as one who had always known it. She said, "Follow me, and you will live."

The woman turned, and she went back the way she had come.

+-----+		The boy followed after her. He
162:	BODEA	did so to live, for he thought
	Sessai, Murzi Bog,	of the water below, and how he
	Danya, Medon... and	might lie within it when the
	now Tannedi. Are we	fire came down.
	chasing a phantom,	
	Princess?	The path before them was clear,
		though the ground was rough. At
	LAILAH	times the young woman looked
	We are chasing	back to see if he still came
	Ayat's charge. You	behind her. As they went, the
	know her command to	sound of the water grew less.
	my father king of	This seemed strange to the boy,
	Shalem: We seek a man	for they were drawing nearer.
	that feels himself	When at last they came to the
	estranged within this	creek, it no longer ran. It
	world. He must hunger	stood in small pools, one above
	for another world	another, like steps of water
	which is the true	leading upward to a low opening
	source of all that is	in a wall of dark stone. Then
	here perceived. Until	the young woman bent herself
	such a man is found,	and went within that place,
	our journey does not	passing through the water
	end.	wearing knee high boots.
+-----+		

The boy did not delay, but followed after her. Inside there was a pool, and a narrow ledge of stone ringed the waters. The light that she bore upon her head filled the cave, so that he could see clearly, and he looked upon her. She was like a woman of the Kuwapi, yet taller than any he had seen. She did not seem very much older than he.

+-----+	The light resting upon her brow
163: Bodea sighs, stepping	pierced the eye, and it shone
aside for a passing merchant	steadily, and he did not know
	how it came.
BODEA	
Yet I wonder, where	The young woman placed her hand
on the Gudrun Road	upon her chest and spoke a
does one find a wor-	name. "Cassiel," she said. Then
shipful infidel?	she looked upon him, and it was
	plain she waited for his name
Suddenly, a SHOUT rings out	in return. The boy did not wish
over the din of the market.	to seem foolish before her, so
Lailah and Bodea both turn.	he answered, "My father once
Precisely where the road	gave me the name Shy Bear, but
divides lies a rather large	he has taken it back, and now I
shop filled with stone idols	have no name."
and objects associated with	
worship. Within the shop TWO	Yet this seemed to pleased her,
MEN are locked in a loud,	for now she understood the path
bitter dispute. The older	he had been set upon. He had
one is dressed in a merchant	gone out to seek a vision and
man's finery. The younger	would not be called back soon.
appears a bit ragged, and	Among his people it would be
dusty from the field, but he	said that the boy tarried, and
is fiercely defiant.	they would not go at once to
+-----+	seek him.

Then the young woman named Cassiel took from her head the light she bore and cast it into the water. It sank, and its brightness faded as it went down. Yet the water did not grow dark. Instead it began to dimly glow, as if something within it had awakened.

+-----+	After this Cassiel went down
164: Lailah narrows her eyes	into the pool. She turned
and steps closer to the shop	herself and passed beneath the
to listen.	surface, and he saw her no
	more.
FADE OUT. (End of Act I)	
	The boy waited. He thought she
The travel montage will	must come up again, for all
eat up about three to	who live must breathe. But she
four minutes of highly	did not return. Then the water
visual storytelling, backed	began to move. It rose and
by music. The discussion of	spread, and it went beyond
the heat and the quest will	the place where it had stood
take about three minutes of	before. Shy Bear knew he was
measured, deliberate acting,	kept from the fire in that
leaving a solid one minute	cave, yet still he was not
buffer for the argument to	safe. The air was growing thin,
escalate before cutting to	and what he needed to live was
the sponsor.	being taken from him. So he did
+-----+	not wait longer. He chose, and
he went after Cassiel, passing down into the unknown.	

When Shy Bear came again to the air, there was much light about him, more than in the place from which he had come. Many hands reached down to him, and they lifted him from the water, for his garments were heavy and drew him under.

Then he stood upon a place made smooth with worked wood, set all around a wide pool. At the outer edge there were many small lodges, and beyond these there grew a forest, green and full of Life.

+-----+	He looked upward, and the sky
165: Act II will be	was not as he had known it.
our longest block (8:30	It held many soft colors, and
runtime). This act must hook	the sun had a shape that was
the audience immediately	strange to his eyes. Yet the
after the GenMat commercial	air was cool, and the wet
break. We need to open with	garments upon him brought a
our focus entirely on the	chill into his body, so that he
dispute between the two men.	began to tremble.
INT. TERAH'S SHOP -	Cassiel also was wet, yet she
CONTINUOUS We follow the	did not seem troubled. She took
shouting into a small, dimly	Shy Bear by the hand and led
lit shop off the market.	him into one of the lodges near
Racks of wooden idols and	the water. There she closed
totems cover the walls.	the entrance behind them, that
TERAH (60s, shop owner)	they might not be seen in such
stands behind a worktable,	a state. Then, without shame,
chisel in hand. His son,	as one who does not think in
AVRAM (30s, nomadic garb),	such ways, she removed the wet
paces fiercely before him.	garments from him, and from
+-----+	herself, that they might be
free of the cold.	

Cassiel opened the door once, and the wet garments of the boy were given out to those who waited. When she moved, Shy Bear saw that her limbs were strong and well-formed, as of one who runs often and far.

Then she took a narrow band, marked with signs he did not know, and set it against his body in many places, measuring him.

+-----+		After this she spoke through
166:	AVRAM	the door in words he could not
	Father, thou cuttest	understand. Within the lodge
	down the cedars which	there were already garments
	Ayot planted! Avyah	laid out, dry and folded with
	sent rain to water	care. They were of green and of
	them. Imran made the	dark purple, mingled together.
	Lake of Fire to shine	These Cassiel put on.
	upon them.	
		When she had finished, another
	Avram grabs a piece of scrap	set of such garments was given
	wood from the floor, holding	through the door. These were
	it up.	smaller, made to fit the boy.
		Seeing what was meant, and
	AVRAM (CONT'D)	taking courage from her, he
	Thou growest cold,	clothed himself in them. Then
	and with a portion	Shy Bear looked upon what he
	of thy firewood thou	wore, and he saw that there was
	raisest a blaze to	thought in it. The colors were
	warm thyself and bake	as the forest, and the shapes
	thy bread. Yet with	broke the form of the body. A
	the remainder, thou	man or woman so dressed, with
	carvest an image	face and hands suitably marked,
	of the dragon, and	might pass unseen among the
	bowest thyself before	trees.
	it! Azul!	
+-----+		Then Shy Bear looked again
		toward the water, and he saw another woman standing there. She
		was clothed in gold and white. She spoke, and her voice carried
		clearly. "Welcome to you, Shy Bear of the Kuwapi. I am called
		Gabriela. All that you see here is the lodge of Wakan Tanka."

+-----+	Shy Bear knew he was called
167: Avram slams the wood	to answer, and he said, "Why
onto the table.	have I come to this place,
	Gabriela?" The woman said,
AVRAM (CONT'D)	"Here my daughter Cassiel shall
Thou givest adoration	teach you the speech of the
unto the one god who	white-skinned people, if you
had no part in the	are willing to learn. When you
provision of the wood	return home, you may teach your
itself! Why Azul?	own people this tongue."
Because he is thy	
god. And wherefore is	But hearing this Shy Bear was
he thy god? Because	troubled. "If I return speaking
he was the god of thy	as the whites speak the People
father Karnebo. So	will be afraid. They will beat
praise be unto Azul,	me, and perhaps they will kill
and contempt upon the	me. They will say I am Coyote
others!	come in the shape of a man." So
	he said, and he did not hide
Avram drops to one knee,	his fear.
mocking Terah's posture of	
prayer.	But Gabriela answered him, and
+-----+	her voice was steady. "Do not
let your heart be troubled by these things, Shy Bear. Wakan	
Tanka has already placed into the hands of your father that	
which will keep you from harm. For now he keeps it hidden and	
safe, but when you return he will use this gift to rise up and	
become chief among your people."	

Shy Bear listened, yet he did not set aside his doubt. He asked Gabriela, "Why must these things come to pass?"

+-----+		She said, "There is a time
168:	AVRAM (CONT'D)	drawing near. In three winters,
	Thou bowest thyself	a band of white wanderers will
	before this image	meet the Kuwapi. These people
	and criest, 'Azul,	are strong in their will. Some
	deliver me from this	say they are proud, and do
	cold season.' Yet it	not easily turn from their own
	entereth not into thy	ways. They look upon the people
	mind that this deaf	of the grass as children who do
	and dumb block, which	not know the path. But you are
	thine own hands have	much more than they think. You
	carved, is a vain	will show this not by receiving
	thing.	their tongue from them, but by
		taking it for yourself. They do
	Terah sets his chisel down	not believe they have anything
	and points to a small	to learn from you. Yet it has
	carving on a shelf.	been set down that you shall
+-----+		teach. For Wakan Tanka has
		ordained that these people, and my house, and your own, shall
		come together and live as one people, in peace."

Shy Bear had seen many things that were beyond his knowing, and now his heart was drawn to that other world. He desired to remain, and to look upon many more wonders. But the thought of his father Takoda and of his mother, Yuha was stronger in him. So he turned again to Gabriela and said, "I will return. I will do as you have said, and teach the People the speech of the whites."

Gabriela was pleased, and she smiled. "It is good," she said. "You shall no longer be called Shy Bear."

+-----+		"Now you shall be called
169:	TERAH	Jashen. When you have learned,
	Behold there the	and when you go again to your
	image of Amathlai.	people, this shall be your name
	Thinkest thou that I	as a man."
	take it to be truly	
	thy mother?	The boy heard this, and he
		said, "If I remain here long,
Avram holds his peace,		my father and my mother will
answering not a word.		think me to be dead."
	TERAH (CONT'D)	Gabriela answered him, "Do not
	These images do no	let your thoughts dwell on
	more than direct the	that. However long you stay in
	heart and mind along	this place, when you return it
	paths of devotion.	will seem to them that only a
		short time has passed, not more
The chime of the shop door		than the turning of one moon.
interrupts them. LAILAH and		In time you will understand how
BODEA enter.		this is done, and you will see
+-----+		that it is not really magic."

But Shy Bear said, "To me it would always be strong magic, Gabriela."

Then she said, "When my people teach, that which is called strong magic becomes weak, and that which is called weak magic is no longer fit to be called magic at all."

Yet after a span of only a few days Shy Bear witnessed a thing he could only call very great magic. A large pile of broken timber appeared in a nearby meadow where before there was none.

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+-----+
| +-----+
| | 170: The father and son | Angel Academy season x epi- |
| | fall into a tense silence | sode xx, month day, year: |
| | as the strangers slowly | A kinswoman of Cassiel was |
| | walk the perimeter of the | present on the field, wearing |
| | room, examining the racks | a raiment of red feathers be- |
| | of idols. After one full | neath a long white tunic with |
| | circuit Bodea draws forth | many pockets. Cassiel told |
| | a heavy satchel. Slowly | Jashen that her name was Raph- |
| | she begins to lay forth | ael and she was accounted as a |
| | gold tiles, a staggering | great healer. With her stood a |
| | fortune set openly for | white youth named Samael, who |
| | anyone in the street to | was perhaps only two years |
| | see. Terah and Avram look | older than Jashen, but he was |
| | upon this in shock. With- | much larger of frame. Jashen |
| | in moments shadows darken | thought he would dread to meet |
| | the doorway. | him as an enemy of his people. |
| | |
| | FIVE MEN OF VIOLENCE with | At the bidding of Raphael, the |
| | swords drawn cross the | white youth drew near to a big |
| | threshold. | pile of broken timber that lay |
| | | Samael approached the great |
| | LEADER | pile of broken timber that |
| | Stand away from the | lay in the meadow. Raphael |
| | gold, both of you! | said, "Samael, do take great |
| +-----+ care. Marcus is still alive |
| under this debris, but he is severely injured. Jashen under- |
| stood little of this, but he saw Cassiel draw near as well, |
| looking diligently within but careful not to shift any of |
| the beams. |
+-----+

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+-----+
| 171: Cassiel said, "Same thing as last time, Cuz, the three |
| men who were about to lose arms or legs are here as well." |
| |
| "I will tend to all four," said Raphael. "Providence |
| smiles on these soldiers today. I can preserve the limbs the |
| ishim doctors were preparing to saw away." |
| |
| Samael knelt beside the fallen timber and began to clear it |
| away. He moved the great beams with such ease that Jashen |
| could scarcely believe their weight. At last he lifted a |
| heavy length of wood, and beneath it lay a man whose face |
| was pale and drawn with pain. |
| |
| Then she said to the young man, "You did well, Samael. You |
| were not here on the previous loop, so Gabriela cut through |
| to him with Sha'ar ha-Ruah, and not a few timbers shifted, |
| and Marcus suffered immeasurably more." |
| |
| When the way was clear Raphael drew near and examined him |
| quickly, by sight and touch. "Do not be afraid, Marcus. A |
| splinter has pierced your kidney, and your leg is broken. |
| You cannot feel it because the beam is compressing the nerve |
| but that will change when we lift it. It will pain you |
| considerably, to my great sorrow, but I see no way to avoid |
| it." |
| |
| Marcus tried to answer Raphael, but he could do no more than |
| gasp. She nodded. Samael took hold of the timber. Again he |
| lifted it without any apparent effort, and the massive beam |
| rose from the man's broken leg. |
+-----+

+-----+
| 172: And his countenance was fixed with the astonishment |
| thereof; and being overcome, he did lose all sense, and he |
| knew no more. |
| |
| When Lange finally revived, he found himself lying in a bed |
| within a remarkably well-appointed house of glass, stone, |
| and fine wood. He was nursed with great care by strangers, |
| who urged him to remain at rest long after he felt he had |
| recovered sufficient strength to rise. Out of gratitude, |
| Lange obeyed his caretakers, though he could not banish |
| thoughts of his congregation. He knew the brethren must be |
| troubled by the sudden disappearance of their deacon in the |
| midst of the battle. |
| |
| A woman clad in green approached his bed, introducing |
| herself as Cassiel Haivri, the sister of Ariel, whom Marcus |
| had invited to speak to his congregation before the battle. |
| "Are you well, Marcus?" she asked. |
| |
| "I am fully recovered," he answered, "yet I would feel |
| better if permitted to rise." |
| |
| "Please do, Deacon Lange," she replied. "I wish to introduce |
| you to a fellow who arrived in the same manner as you did, |
| though under the threat of fire rather than battle." |
| |
| Lange asked, "Where is this place?" |
| |
| "It will be easier to show you than to tell you," Cassiel |
| answered. "Come and see." |
+-----+

+-----+
| 173: She led him outside, where he observed a young man |
| seated beside a large pool surrounded by a dark wooden deck. |
| Marcus guessed the youth was of the same race as the |
| original inhabitants of the continent. As he approached, |
| Marcus realized with some surprise that the pain in his back |
| and fractured leg had almost entirely subsided. Given the |
| severe injury he had sustained during the bombardment this |
| rapid recovery was extraordinary. |
| |
| "Marcus Lange," Cassiel said, "I would like you to meet this |
| young man. Among his people he is called Shy Bear, though |
| the name of his manhood which he shall take hereafter is |
| Jashen. He has not yet learned much English, but I am |
| working to remedy that." |
| |
| Cassiel smiled and took a seat beside the young man, |
| gesturing for Lange to do the same. He complied somewhat |
| reluctantly; having been confined to bed for so long he |
| would have preferred to remain standing. |
| |
| "I asked that he be present so you might know him by sight," |
| Cassiel explained. "In a time to come, God willing, you |
| shall meet again." |
| |
| Lange studied the youth to commit his features to memory, |
| but his attention was quickly arrested by the heavens behind |
| the pair. He observed drifting clouds, but the firmament |
| beyond them was a stationary expanse of muted colors. He |
| realized with profound disorientation that he was looking at |
| land masses suspended in the sky. |
+-----+

+-----+
| 174: Above them, the sun hung directly overhead. It |
| was irregular in shape, like a giant gloved hand, and |
| slowly waxing in brilliance, yet it remained entirely |
| fixed in its position. Confronted with these astronomical |
| impossibilities, he asked once more, "Where are we?" |
| |
| "This place is called Kemen," Cassiel replied. "But there is |
| no measure of distance, nor any heading, by which it can be |
| placed in relation to the places you know." |
| |
| "Then have I passed on?" Lange asked in full wonder. |
| |
| "No, Marcus," she answered. "You are safe, as are your |
| people in the other world. The invading army is presently |
| retreating across the river, and the United States forces |
| will soon also vacate your lands. My sister will return your |
| livestock, just as she promised in her letter." |
| |
| Cassiel smiled gently. Reaching beneath her chair, she |
| produced a roll of canvas and placed it in his hands. "This |
| map will guide you and your people to a place where you can |
| make a new home. "Jashen will be waiting for you there, and, |
| it is much to be hoped, I will be there together with him." |
| A sly grin escaped her. "That will be up to Jashen, really." |
| |
| Lange unrolled Cassiel's canvas for inspection. It depicted |
| rivers, forests, and elevations, yet it was devoid of names |
| or boundary lines. But he discerned the location of their |
| designated settlement was deep in the American West. "It is |
| a considerable distance." |
+-----+

+-----+
| 175: "It is indeed as far as you can go by river and by |
| rail, and yet further on foot. The Haivri family maintains a |
| small holding near the terminus of the rail line where my |
| grandmother Lailah will wait for you. She will provision |
| your company for the final leg of the journey." |
| |
| She leaned in close and drew her finger along one broken |
| line of countless disconnected oxbow lakes that spanned the |
| plains for hundreds of miles to the Missouri. "I bid you to |
| proceed to the very source of this seasonal river, where |
| your people may dwell in peace alongside the Kuwapi." |
| |
| Hearing that name, Shy Bear looked up in recognition and |
| offered Lange a smile. |
| |
| "But I must caution you, Marcus Lange," Cassiel continued, |
| "that some among your own congregation will judge you |
| unsound of mind when you recount your brief stay in this |
| place, and how swiftly Raphael restored your body." |
| |
| "Then I shall entreat the Lord to select servants more |
| worthy, that His will might be accomplished," Lange |
| answered. |
| |
| "There is no call for that," Cassiel countered. "The |
| brethren of the Lord of Hosts Fellowship are very much like |
| those who first loved Lord Yeshua when he walked in your |
| world. However, the territory designated for your settlement |
| would only bring a slow starvation if the water marked upon |
| that map proved to be a mere mirage." |
+-----+

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+-----+
| 176: "Then God invites us to proceed by faith," Lange |
| observed. |
| |
| "Yes indeed," Cassiel answered. "Even at the slow pace of |
| oxen and wagons. However, Ariel will travel with you, should |
| you receive her. So too may any who hear of what you have |
| seen, come to believe, and elect to make the journey. As it |
| has been from the very beginning, El Elyon, God Most High, |
| seeks earnest students, not thralls." |
| |
| She paused, looking directly at him. "And you, Marcus, are |
| not excepted from the liberty of this choice. Do you freely |
| choose to take up a new life in the West?" |
| |
| Lange did not hesitate. "I do," he replied. "It shall be as |
| you have spoken." |
| |
| And Shy Bear, a youth raised among the nomadic tribes of the |
| Great Plains, observed how pleased Cassiel had become by |
| Lange's response, despite understanding so very little of |
| the exchange himself. Rising to his feet, he approached |
| Lange with his hands held open in a gesture of peace and |
| said in farewell, " Marcus Lange, hello." |
+-----+

```

In the days that followed Cassiel sang to Jashen the Song of Remembrance, which she had written down upon many skins. She recited it before him again and again in the speech she was teaching him. But once Jashen stopped her, for something in his mind would not rest. He said, "Were you truly that running girl?"

+-----+	For though he had seen many
177: Lailah faces them, with	strange things, still it was
her posture perfectly calm.	hard for him to believe that
	she could run swifter than the
LAILAH	pronghorn of the plains.
Suppose we do not?	
	Cassiel said to him that he
With a sudden, mechanical	should bring his bow. Then she
shift, Lailah's cloak falls	took him by the hand and led
away. BLACK-FEATHERED WINGS	him out from the place of the
unfurl from her back,	water, and through the trees,
stretching across the	until they came to a wide and
cramped shop. The thieves	level ground. There she went
flinch, but the Leader grips	apart from him, standing many
his sword tighter.	paces away. Then she spoke in
+-----+	the tongue she was teaching
him. "Shoot an arrow at me."	

At this the boy cried out in protest, for he thought she made sport of him and wasted his time.

But she answered him again, saying, "I speak truly. Do your best. Try to strike me down."

So he set an arrow to the string. Yet he did not aim to kill her, but sent it a little above her.

Then Cassiel moved. Her body sprang as if it had been released from a cord. She ran backward across the open ground, and her speed was greater than that of the arrow in its flight. The shaft fell to the earth and did her no harm. And she did not stop.

+-----+	Even as she ran, she turned,
178: LEADER	and passed into the trees at
Then we will take	the far edge of the clearing.
thy heads, and have	In a moment she was gone from
the gold also.	sight. And the boy stood where
Immortal thou mayest	he was, filled with wonder at
account thyself, yet	what he had seen.
if thy head be	
severed, thou shalt	In a glade among the trees,
die even as any wan.	Cassiel came upon her mother
	Gabriela, who sat upon a fallen
Lailah's eyes narrow. By a	log. With her was another young
motion of perception deeper	man of the Kuwapi, and Gabriela
than conscious thought, she	spoke his name, calling him
identifies the Leader. From	Wiiya Wiiya, which was Coyote
her side, Lailah draws her	Cub in Jashen's tongue.
weapon: Sha'ar ha-Ruah, the	
Windgate.	Cassiel had run swiftly, and
+-----+	now the hunger came upon her.

The young man named Coyote Cub raised his hands, and two small loaves flew into his hands. They were still warm, and he gave them to her. She looked off to the far end of the glade and saw the source of the bread, an angel she did not know was prancing around a stone oven like a hen cackling over her eggs.

Cassiel ate eagerly. As she did so, she said to him, "Whoever you are, you have the making of one who will be dear to me, as a close companion." The young man named Coyote Cub smiled and answered in a light way, "I hope it shall be so, mother. It would trouble my heart if it were not."

At this Cassiel paused, and she looked upon him with surprise.

+-----+ "Mother?" she made query. "It
| 179: [DIRECTOR'S VFX NOTE: | is as he says," answered
| The weapon is a burning | Gabriela, and there was knowing
| torch, but via high-contrast | in her voice. "Before this day
| optical printing, the flame | you could speak in jest, as men
| is held out as a matte. | often do, and say you were not
| The result is a roaring, | certain you had any children.
| absolute BLACK FLAME that | But now you see such words
| seems to consume the dust | are not yours to speak." And
| and light around it.] | she nodded in the direction of
| | the woman who was baking the
| Lailah thrusts the black | bread as though to suggest that
| flame forward. She smites | she, too, was one of Cassiel's
| the Leader once. A | future offspring.
| wide aperture is carved |
| completely through the midst | Cassiel considered this, and
| of his body. He collapses as | she said, "I know exactly what
| the camera dollies closely | you have set in motion here,
| on Lailah, leaving the worst | dear mother, and I do not turn
| of the carnage unseen. But | from it. I can think upon a
| even she looks momentarily | lifetime spent with Jashen, and
| astonished at the uncontained | it does not displease me. Yet I
| power of the weapon. | believe he does not hold me in
+-----+ his thoughts in the same way."

Gabriela said, "That is why you are set near to one another, and time is given. What is to grow will grow."

"It is not as I hoped," said Cassiel. "We have come as far as the council of rulers in the Song of Remembrance, yet Jashen grows more distant from me, not nearer."

+-----+ Gabriela answered her, "His
| 180: A SECOND MAN lunges. | spirit is as one who is carried
| Lailah sweeps the Windgate | in deep water. From the moment
| down upon his head, and | he followed you, he has not
| again the camera tracks away | stood upon ground that he
| judiciously, leaving only | knows. "He depends upon us for
| the collapse of his lifeless | his food, his clothing, even
| body to be seen. | the path of his return. So he
| | does not feel as a man among
| A THIRD MAN strikes, his | his own people, who walk by
| blade meeting the black | their own will."
| fire. The flame consumes his |
| sword down to the hilt, | Then Coyote Cub spoke and said,
| eating the metal as though | "It is the same with Remiel, as
| accepting it into its own | I see it now. And I remember
| substance. The thief stares | well how it was when I first
| at his empty hilt in terror. | came into this place."
| He drops it, turns, and |
| flees into the market. | Cassiel said, "But I went to
| The remaining two thieves | Earth and brought him forth.
| follow, scattering into the | How different can Kemen be?"
| crowd. |

+-----+ Gabriela looked upon her and
said, "You were there only for a short time, and in the dark.
You did not see that world as it truly is. It is far greater
than this one. And the land does not rise up to hide the stars."

+-----+
| Angel Academy season x episode xx, month day, year: |
| Gold-winged Gabriela Haivri, younger daughter of Uriel and |
| Lailah, was the second of the Begotten. |
+-----+

+-----+
| 181: With the assistance of the elohim Gabriela can invoke a |
| portal, an Einstein-Rosen bridge between two points in |
| space-time. Yet neither she nor any fermions can pass |
| between the two endpoints, only light and phonons (sound). |
| Essentially she can stand in Havilah and project an image of |
| herself in New York. She can speak before His Holiness the |
| Pope without actually traveling to Rome. It's a form |
| of telepresence. In a sense, she can perform a similar |
| communications role that Dory provides for all the angels, |
| but the recipients could be a crowd of ordinary humans. |
| |
| The information travels both ways. Gabriela can eavesdrop |
| on any conversation in Kemen or Earth, but not without |
| revealing herself in the process. Yet a hostile crowd cannot |
| seize her, a prison cell cannot hold her. She can listen to |
| any conversation, but not without the awareness of the other |
| party. She can hear what people are saying but they get to |
| see her hearing it. So she cannot rely on force, only |
| communication. |
| |
| By necessity Gabriela has grown patient, articulate, and |
| attentive. Yet she was also set to a quieter labor, for she |
| gave counsel in matters of marriage and household peace, |
| even between her own daughter Cassiel and Jashen Shy Bear. |
| Gabriela was sought by women who found no child within them, |
| among whom were Sarah and Elizabeth, and Maryam of Nazareth, |
| who had known no man. It is said also that she spoke with |
| Yosef of Nazareth concerning these matters, and set his mind |
| at ease regarding Maryam, daughter of Yoachim and Anna, lest |
| he cast away his intent in haste. |
+-----+

+-----+
| 182: Gabriela conducted a marriage counseling session for a |
| bickering couple in Havilah who also happened to be kinfolk. |
| The fellow was her grandson Coyote Cub Shybear, son of |
| Cassiel. The bride was her niece Remiel Zinter-Shybear, |
| daughter of her sister Ariel. |
| |
| Coyote Cub, it seemed, had acquired the habit of following a |
| scent. Remiel knew everything. Of course she knew. She knew |
| before he even decided to act on the impulse. That was part |
| of the problem. She didn't call him out on it beforehand, so |
| he took that as permission. |
| |
| In a flashback Gabriela related what happened when Joseph |
| discovered Mary's pregnancy and prepared to call off the |
| wedding. Gabriela intervened in that case too, sitting both |
| of them down in a dusty Nazareth workshop for a blunt |
| lecture on the "facts of divine life." |
| |
| Gabriela offered Mary of Nazareth a soul-binding contract |
| and explained the benefits of the Theotokos appointment |
| while Mary asked sharp questions about the non-disclosure |
| stipulation. Gabriela assured her that while the "Way" did |
| involve a lot of walking, the retirement plan in the |
| afterlife was top-tier. She added that Joseph's carpentry |
| skills would soon be secondary to providing celestial |
| security on a contract basis. |
| |
| Joseph just wanted to know if he was still the father of |
| record. Gabriela told him, "Frankly, 'Heavenly Father' is |
| more of a title than anything biological." |
+-----+

+-----+
| 183: Mary went ahead and signed the contract. |
| |
| Father Kendall walks out looking as if he has been |
| physically struck by lightning, clutching a massive Latin |
| missal to his chest. |
| |
| "My friends, the writers of Angel Academy have ventured far |
| beyond poetic license and deep into the territory of |
| theological insolvency!" |
| |
| He sets the book down with a heavy THUD. |
| |
| "The Annunciation! The most sacred, tender moment of our |
| faith! The Fiat of the Blessed Virgin: 'Behold the handmaid |
| of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word'. |
| They turned into a corporate contract negotiation over |
| non-disclosure agreements and afterlife retirement packages! |
| |
| He glares at live Camera 1, his voice trembling with |
| rhetorical zeal. |
| |
| "And Saint Joseph! The terror of demons! The pillar of |
| families! Reduced to a nervous tradesman asking if his name |
| will still be on the municipal tax rolls, only for the |
| Archangel to tell him that 'Heavenly Father' is merely an |
| administrative honorific?! St. Thomas Aquinas would weep! |
| Mary did not ask for a pension, my friends, she surrendered |
| to Divine Will!" |
| |
| He catches his breath, smoothing his cassock. |
+-----+

+-----+
 | 184: "Credo, if you ever ask me about the 'retirement |
 | package' of an altar boy, I will remind you that virtue is |
 | its own reward, and so is polishing the communion rail! |
 | Maranatha!" |
 +-----+

In her lodge Yuha wept in a quiet way, and many days passed thus. Takoda sat near her and spoke what comfort he could, yet there was little a man could say. At last she spoke, and her voice was worn. "Almost a full moon has gone since we saw our son. Has this going out for a vision ever been so long?"

+-----+ Takoda answered her plainly.
 | Lailah lowers Sha'ar ha- | "When I went out, it was ten
 | Ruah. The black flame was | nights, and no more."
 | still licking noisily at the |
 | air. Lailah does not pursue | When Yuha heard this, her grief
 | them. Instead she turns her | came upon her without measure,
 | gaze back to Avram. The | and she could not hold it back.
 | hissing black ball of flame | Takoda sat with her and endured
 | dissipates. The bodies of | it, hoping she would not set
 | the two thieves lie in the | her sorrow against him, though
 | shop, motionless. | he knew she might. In his heart
 | | he knew there had been no
 | FADE OUT. (End of Act II) | other path. The Kuwapi were
 | | already cast out from among the
 | Act III. BODEA steps | Oglala Lakota. If he had denied
 | carefully around the | his son this trial, his spirit
 | carnage, and her expression | would have grown bitter against
 | is unreadable. | his own father, as he would be
 +-----+ despised by the other boys.

+-----+		After a time Yuha grew more
185:	BODEA	still, though the sorrow
	Last year in Shalem,	remained in her. She said, "The
	the order of	last thing our son saw was that
	things was reversed	even his mother's heart was as
	somewhat; for we were	stone."
	they that overawed	
	the customers, and	Takoda answered, "A heart of
	took unto ourselves	stone is part of what must be
	their gold.	done. There must be a cutting
		away. This has always been the
	Lailah allows her black	way among the People." So he
	wings to fold away beneath	spoke, though the words did not
	her cloak (spring-loaded	ease her.
	props, filmed in reverse).	
		Now Takoda remembered how his
	LAILAH	son called the chief Sad Heart
	I think I made	Bull in mockery, and he could
	common cause with the	not wholly deny the truth of
	Fallen Angels only	it.
	that I might draw	
	the attention of my	For Tatanka laid daily burdens
	father. For he seemed	upon him, small and great,
	much preoccupied at	until even Takoda's patience
	the time.	was strained near to breaking.

+-----+

This day was no different.

Without warning, Tatanka entered the lodge of Takoda and Yuha. He did not wait for invitation. He pointed at Takoda and spoke in anger. "You have brought no meat into this camp for a full moon, Hole-in-Cheek."

+-----+		After a time Yuha grew more
186:	BODEA	still, though the sorrow
	Last year in Shalem,	remained in her. She said, "The
	the order of	last thing our son saw was that
	things was reversed	even his mother's heart was as
	somewhat; for we were	stone."
	they that overawed	
	the customers, and	Takoda answered, "A heart of
	took unto ourselves	stone is part of what must be
	their gold.	done. There must be a cutting
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	Lailah allows her black	way among the People." So he
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+-----+ Takoda answered him with an	
187: BODEA	icy calm the chief's intrusion
Then verily the	did not merit. "The fire still
design hath greatly	burns to the south. It has
succeeded. For His	driven the herds away."
Majesty hath taken	
notice, and behold,	"Then go around the fire," said
here are we both.	Tatanka, "or I will name you
	Hole-in-Neck."
TERAH, who is trembling	
uncontrollably, collapses	Takoda said, "It will take two
to his knees. He presses	days to reach where the animals
his face to the floor,	now are, then another day to
believing he is in the	take them, and prepare them.
presence of two of his	Then two days to return. By
carved demigods made flesh.	then the meat will spoil."
AVRAM remains standing. He	"The nights are cold," Tatanka
looks down at his groveling	said. "It will not spoil. I am
father, his face twisting	weary of dried meat. Go."
into a countenance of	
profound disappointment with	Before he left, Tatanka's eyes
his father.	passed over Yuha, and lingered.
+-----+ She saw it. Without a word she	
drew the blanket of bison hair closer about her.	

When Tatanka departed, Takoda went alone to where his belongings were kept. From a hidden place he brought forth the thing he had shown to no living person, not even Yuha. He set it in his raiment that it could not be seen. This he did quietly, for he knew that while he was away nothing would restrain Tatanka from entering any lodge and taking what he wished.

+-----+	Then Takoda and his hunters
188: AVRAM even steps a	made ready. They saddled their
bit closer to Lailah despite	horses and gathered what
having seen what she	remained of the dried meat
could do. He offers no	belonging to the People, for
fearful obeisance. Sar	their stores were now small.
Lailah watches him. Avram's	Takoda mounted his own horse,
defiance all by itself	Kaleetan, and for a moment he
confirms his worth beyond	considered how it was that
all doubt. She nods to the	the horse had been given a
Hashmal Bodea.	true name, while his own son
	had been sent into the night
BODEA (Regal, echoing)	without one.
In the name of El	
Elyon, God Most High,	The burning grasslands lay far
Lord of Heaven and	off, even when seen from the
Earth, I bid thee	height of the Island in the
go forth from thy	Sky. Yet Takoda led the band
father's kin, and	south toward that place, that
dwell in the other	they might look upon the hurt
world. Upon Earth	on the Earth. And they also
shall God make of	sought to see if their cairn
thee a great nation,	raised for Wakan Tanka had been
and multiply thy	disturbed.
bounty beyond all	
measure. Thy name	They crossed the line where the
shall become great	grass was yet black and dead,
among men.	as though the land itself had
+-----+	been struck. Then they climbed
once more to the Island in the Sky. When they reached the	
summit, they saw that all had been burned. The stone and earth	
were darkened as by great fire.	

+-----+		And there, upon the high place,
189: And Lailah steps		Takoda saw his son. Shy Bear
forward, taking up the		was alive, and he was moving
second portion of the		among the stones, setting them
recitation.		back into their place.
		Takoda saw that Shy Bear still
LAILAH		wore the garments his mother
God shall bless them		had made for him, but they were
that bless thee,		changed in a way that was not
and curse them that		of the Kuwapi. They were fitted
curse thee. Mortal		close, and covered with many
men and women in		beads of bright color, worked
every place and in		with great skill, though not by
time yet to come		the hands of the People. Still,
shall receive great		there was something in them
blessings through		that answered to the old ways.
thee. These are the		
words of the Lord of		Beside him stood one like a
all the Earth.		young woman of their own kind,
		yet she stood taller than any
Lailah stops within arms		among them, even more than the
reach of Avram.		tallest men, and the people of
		the plains are not small.
LAILAH (CONT'D)		
What sayest thou unto		Before the cairn was closed
all these things,		again, Takoda saw within it the
Avram son of Terah?		
+-----+		white form, still seated as
		before, unmoving, as if it had never known breath. And upon that
		blackened summit there walked a single bison, newly arrived from
		Kemen. It moved slowly over the burned ground as if searching
		for some green thing that might yet remain.

+-----+	Takoda looked long upon the
190: Avram looks directly	face of his son. It seemed to
into the searching dark eyes	him the boy had grown beyond
of the princess. He does not	the time he had been gone,
blink.	as if more days had passed
	for him than for those who
AVRAM (Firmly)	remained. This was a strange
Nay.	thing. But the sight of him
	overcame all thought. Takoda
And a heavy silence fills	forgot his harsh words, and the
the shop. It takes a	taking away of the name, and
long moment for the sheer	the sending out into the night.
audacity of the word to	
register with Lailah.	"Shy Bear!" he cried, and went
	forward to embrace him.
LAILAH	
Knowest thou who I	Yet Jashen did not receive
am?	him so. He stood firm, and
	stayed his father where he was,
AVRAM	no less than a single pace
Thy face is known	away. "You forget yourself, my
unto many, Your	father," he said. "I am no
Highness. Though my	longer called Shy Bear. The
father, I think,	name of my manhood is Jashen. I
hath never beheld	have come back, and I bring
the daughter of Kar	with me my wife, Cassiel."
Melchizedek.	
+-----+	Takoda appraised the woman anew
in the light of his son's revelation.	

Jashen spoke further and said, "Wakan Tanka has commanded that we return to the People and dwell among them for a time."

+-----+		Then Jashen's wife stepped
191:	LAILAH	forward. Cassiel bowed her head
	Well spoken, Avram.	to Jashen's father with respect
	Traveling with me is	and continued to speak in the
	Hash Bodea. Together	tongue of the People. "I greet
	we have crossed the	you, Takoda," she said. "My
	breadth of Kemen,	mother, Gabriela Haivri, bears
	over land and water,	hope in her heart that the
	and even through the	Kuwapi shall ever dwell near
	air, seeking such a	this place, and that it may
	man as thou art. Thus	be well with them. Yet there
	was I commanded by my	shall be much going and coming
	father, for God Most	between this place and his
	High spake unto the	lodge in the other world."
	king face to face.	
		So she spoke, but there was
	Avram nods respectfully. He	disquiet among the hunters. And
	reaches down, taking Terah	Takoda also found fault with
	by the arms, and gently	Cassiel's words. He said, "The
	lifts his trembling father	People must follow the herds
	to his feet.	or we will perish. I cannot
+-----+		believe Wakan Tanka would have
		us remain here and dig our own graves in this place."

But Jashen answered him, and his voice was steady. "In the lodge of Wakan Tanka it has been sworn that the Kuwapi shall live and grow strong. Do I not speak truly, father, when I say the favor of the Great Spirit has already been given to you in secret?"

And by these words Takoda knew his son spoke of the hidden gift, the rod with a consuming black flame he had shown to no one, not even his own wife, and all doubt left him.

+-----+		Before they came near to the
192:	AVRAM	camp, word had already gone
	I admire thy desire	among the People that the
	to do well in the	hunters returned sooner than
	eyes of thy father,	was looked for. Many feared
	Princess. And I wish	they would bring no meat, and
	thee well therein.	that the fire had cut them off
	But my own father is	from the herds.
	infirm of body. He	
	earneth not enough to	So the women went out to meet
	sustain himself and	them, and Yuha was among them.
	my mother.	When she saw her son, her heart
		broke open with joy, and she
	Avram makes a brief hand	forgot all restraint. She cried
	signal toward the street.	out his childhood name again
		and again, "Shy Bear! Shy
	AVRAM (CONT'D)	Bear!" and ran to him and
	As I love mine own	took him in her arms.
	life, I can in nowise	
	turn aside from my	He held her, and then spoke
	father for all the	softly to her. "Jashen,
	days that he is a	my mother. I am now called
	wayfarer in Kemen.	Jashen."
+-----+		

But she did not hear him at first. Her hands moved over him, touching his face and his shoulders, as if to know that he was flesh and not a spirit.

Then he took her hands gently and drew a little away, that she might look upon him fully. And he showed her how the work she made was now changed, and how the hands of the Sarim had added to her beadwork, making it into something new.

+-----+	Then Yuha's eyes were drawn
193: A SERVANT enters the	to Cassiel, who was clothed in
shop, leading TWO LIVING	garments like those of Jashen,
LAMBS.	shaped and fitted with great
	skill.
AVRAM (CONT'D) (To Terah)	
One for slaughter	Jashen spoke and said, "My
and meat. The other	mother, this is my wife,
for sale, that thou	Cassiel, who is held in honor
might purchase the	among her people."
necessities of life	
until the next	Then Cassiel bowed her head and
season, when I come	spoke. "I greet you, Yuha,
up from the open	mother of my husband. In the
range.	lodge of my family there was no
	day in which Jashen did not
Terah, still shaken, accepts	speak of you and of Takoda
the leads.	with a love that could not
	be hidden. And in time, even
TERAH (Whispering)	the love he bore for me could
Thank you, my son.	no longer be concealed, though
+-----+	long he sought to keep it
so!"	

The return of the hunters was a great thing. Greater still was the return of the boy who had gone out, now come back as a man called Jashen after the passing of one moon. And greater than these was that he brought with him a wife, tall beyond any woman of the camp.

Yet Chief Tatanka gave little thought to these matters. When the People gathered to share their meal, his mind turned elsewhere.

+-----+	He looked for the horns of the
194: Lailah nods in full	bison, that they might be set
understanding. She gestures	among his regalia, as had been
to Bodea, and the two	done before.
travelers from Shalem begin	
to restow the tiles of gold	When he did not see them, he
into their leather purses.	spoke no word of thanks for
Lailah refuses to speak	the meat that had come in one
another word of persuasion,	day instead of many. Instead
taking great care not to	his thoughts were troubled. The
tread upon the fortress of	absence of the horns grew in
human dignity Avram has	his mind, and took the place of
asserted. With the gold	all other things. His anger
packed, Lailah and Bodea	rose until at last he spoke
exit the shop, disappearing	openly, accusing Takoda of
into the dusty throng of the	keeping back the head of the
Tannedi market.	animal for himself.
EXT. TANNEDI MARKET -	Tatanka, already filled with
CONTINUOUS The camera pulls	anger, became more consumed by
high above the bustling	it when Takoda did not answer.
market, leaving Avram and	He drew forth his knife again.
Terah behind.	It was a blade of steel such
+-----+	as the whites carry. He said
he had taken it in battle, though many among the People spoke	
otherwise, saying it had come to him by chance from the effects	
of the dead.	

He held it out and cried, "This will make your tongue speak, Hole-in-Heart!" Then he went toward Takoda, thinking the man would turn away as he had done before. But Takoda did not move. He stood where he was, without fear.

+-----+	Takoda believed that the favor
195: LAILAH (V.O.)	of Wakan Tanka was upon him.
I left him there in	And this caused Tatanka to
the heat of Kemen.	falter. For a moment the chief
And in all my	hesitated, and in that moment
journeys across the	his standing among the People
length and breadth of	lessened. He knew it, and it
that world, I found	troubled him.
no man at all who was	
remotely like unto	Then Takoda moved, but not in
Avram.	haste. He reached within his
	garments and brought forth the
FADE OUT	thing that had been given to
+-----+	him.

Tatanka's anger broke loose, and he rushed forward to strike. Yet he did not come within reach. Upon the Island in the Sky, in the sight of the other hunters, and his son, and the wife of his son, Takoda had taken only the head of the bison, offering it to Wakan Tanka, that it should not be turned to false honor. But here, before all the Kuwapi, he did not stay his hand.

The dark flame moved. It passed over Tatanka from head to foot, and when it was gone, nothing of him remained, not even his moccasins. Even the very ground stood as it had been. Then a great stillness fell upon the People. Fear took hold of them, and they looked upon Takoda as upon someone they did not know.

The hunters who had ridden with Takoda had seen the power of Sha'ar ha-Ruah, and Cassiel knew it well as the weapon of her grandmother Lailah, and Jashen had been forewarned, but the others among the Kuwapi people had not known of it.

+-----+ To them it was a thing beyond
| 196: Angel Academy season x | telling. Even Yuha felt that
| episode xx, month day, year: | fear in her heart. Yet she came
| In 1866 Chief Takoda and his | and stood beside Takoda, though
| wife Yuha ride toward the | her spirit trembled.
| sprawling grasslands. Along |
| the way, Takoda recounts | At Takoda's left stood his
| the legend of a mysterious | son, Jashen, clothed in the
| figure named Ptaysanwee. | fine garments that had been
| Some nineteen generations | made with great care in the
| ago there was a pandemic | other world. And above them all
| among the bison that made | stood Cassiel Haivri, tall and
| the herds extinct on the | unafraid.
| Great Plains and threatened |
| to make the people who | Then Takoda spoke, and his
| hunted them extinct as | voice carried over the People.
| well. The bison populations | "I have sent the Chief to
| had collapsed due to a | stand before Wakan Tanka," he
| species-specific pathogen. | said, and none there doubted
| But in Kemen Ptaysanwee | his words. "I will lead the
| located genetically viable | People now."
| specimens that had been |
| taken to that world | He stood with his arms crossed,
| centuries prior and she | and the Dark Gift rested in his
| reintroduced a number of | hand. Then it came to pass that
| them to Earth. | the hunters and warriors began
+-----+ to kneel, one after another.
They opened their hands before him, showing that they held no
weapon.

After them the women came also, the wives, and those whose
husbands were gone, and the young women not yet taken.

+-----+ They bowed themselves before
| 197: As Raphael explains | Takoda, and before those who
| in a voice-over, Ptaysanwee | stood with him. And so all the
| didn't just save the | People gave themselves over to
| species, she restored the | his rule.
| endangered ecosystem, which |
| had cascading good effects | Then Takoda spoke again, giving
| on grasslands, predators, | his first command as chief.
| and human societies alike. | "In the morning we will
| The introduction of the | strike the lodges and go south.
| seven Pipe Ceremonies | We will dwell at the Island
| commemorated this ecological | in the Sky, near the place
| salvation, aligning human | where Wakan Tanka made himself
| ritual with ecological | known to us, and where Shy Bear
| stewardship. Symbolically, | returned as the man Jashen."
| this encoded a sustainable |
| relationship with the land | So it came to be that the
| and the herd. In effect, | Kuwapi, the Following Ones, who
| Ptaysanwee's seven new | had long followed the herds
| rituals combined biological | across the wide plains, ceased
| restoration with sacred | from their wandering. Of all
| observance. Ptaysanwee's | the peoples of that land, they
| action was an intervention | alone chose this path of their
| without violence, an imprint | own will. They set themselves
| on human and non-human | to remain in one place, and to
| systems that could persist | wait.
| for centuries. |

+-----+ No longer did the Kuwapi
hunters pursue animals when they grazed far from the camp of the
People, for at times the Sarim of the House of Haivri, close kin
of Cassiel, sent beasts from Kemen to the valley of smoking
waters.

There did the herd graze and thrive, and animals were taken only at need. So the People abode until the coming of Marcus Lange.

+-----+
| 198: Even centuries later it was still remembered how |
| Ptaysanwee wore raiment of white leather, and the Lakota |
| people had always called her White Buffalo Calf Woman. |
| |
| At a newly erected barbed wire fence, Takoda and Yuha met |
| two women waiting for them on the prairie, and one of them |
| they knew well: it was Ariel Haivri-Lange, who came with |
| the migration of Stiffnecks a year before. Ariel greeted |
| them warmly, and introduced her sister Raphael Haivri. |
| |
| Close at hand a small bison herd stood trapped. One animal |
| was bleeding badly where it was tangled in the vicious |
| new iron wire that was proliferating across the plains. |
| Takoda unlimbered Sha'ar ha-Ruah and used its power to |
| slice this wire. Then Raphael stepped forward, healing the |
| beast's torn flesh almost at once, with a mere touch. |
| |
| Ariel led the herd through the breach to freedom. Then she |
| turned to Takoda and produced a sacred pipe. Only then did |
| Takoda really take notice that she wore a bleached leather |
| long coat. In an instant of quiet revelation, Takoda under- |
| stood: Ariel herself was the White Buffalo Calf Woman! |
| |
| She confirmed it but her eyes were heavy with sorrow. Her |
| sister could heal flesh, but Ariel warned them House Haivri |
| could not halt the plague of barbed wire that was rapidly |
| and steadily closing the wild grazing lands of the West. |
+-----+

+-----+ Remiel had no idea where she
| 199: And it came to pass | was, but it seemed to be,
| that in the back of his | simultaneously, an ultramodern
| father's shop Avram beheld | medical clinic and a shabby
| a stone image of the Red | prison. The doctors and nurses
| Dragon cast down upon its | who attended her used four
| face. And the base thereof | quick punches on a square,
| remained upon a lower shelf; | sixteen-digit keypad to get
| but the head, striking | back out. Yet in odd places,
| against the stone floor, | nails protruded through the
| had broken, and fragments | walls, as though some teenage
| thereof were scattered. And | boys had slapped the place
| Avram said, "Behold, father, | together after school from
| Azul boweth himself unto | scrap lumber. The overhead
| thee!" | lights cast a hard, even
+-----+ glare over the clean medical
equipment, but the walls were rough plywood, with splintered
edges and seams that didn't quite meet.

There were no windows, but she could hear construction outside:
the ring of hammers, the rasp of saws, men calling to one
another. The noise ceased only at night.

After months of captivity, she began to hear a strange shout
inside her head. It was silent, yet somehow unmistakably Dory's
voice. The professors at the Academy called such abilities
Mercies. Dr. Mikaela had kept a perfectly straight face when
she'd explained that the things Superman could do in the comics,
X-ray vision, freezing breath, and the like, would be called
Mercies. Remiel had always been skeptical that Mercies were
real, at least until her own ability to glimpse moments in the
future began to gel.

+-----+ Now, free to converse on
 | 200: And Terah groaned | Doryphone, she was a little
 | within himself for vexation | hurt that her cousin had never
 | when he beheld the fallen | mentioned her talent before,
 | image, and he went about | and she said so. Your power to
 | to set it upright with his | use Doryphone comes in with
 | own strength. But Avram said | your wings. And you, well, we
 | unto him, "Father, forbear. | raced a year ahead of you,
 | Thou art an aged master of | remember?
 | stone and canst no longer |
 | move as once thou didst." | Indeed. When Remiel allowed
 | And Avram bent his knees, | herself to be captured in
 | and took hold upon the | New Mexico, Dory already had
 | dragon, and lifted it again | her beautiful blue wings, but
 | unto its place upon the | Remiel had only stubs. Now
 | shelf. | they were nothing but stubs
 +-----+ again. Somewhere, probably
 in Washington, D.C., Senior Asset Trochmann had Remiel's
 silver-feathered wings pinned up in a trophy case.

When Dory started chiming in, it took some back-and-forth
 before Remy convinced herself she wasn't cracking up from the
 isolation. The conversation really was a mercy. Without Dory's
 calming voice close at hand, Remiel would have despaired months
 ago. Dory's advice never wavered: "You need to talk to whoever
 is in charge of this clown show."

So, after five months, Remiel went on strike and offered her
 captors no cooperation whatsoever. She said nothing and just sat
 in the clinic all day, doing nothing.

There were two ways of killing time available to her now.