

TINKER

"All For One And One For All"

Written by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. NORMANDY CROSSING, JUNE 6, 1944 - DAY

A Higgins boat carrying 20 ALLIED SOLDIERS plows through the churning water of the English channel. Near the back sits JONATHAN TINKER, 50, staring soberly at the horizon.

Strangely the sky above the cliffs darkens into a whirling green haze. Out of the murk steps the shadow of a giant hulk of a man or creature, seven feet tall. Tinker's eyes narrow, unsettled by the vision. The creature seems to grow larger.

Suddenly, it lifts into the air a massive sword, illuminated with shining yellow light, which it then points straight in Tinker's direction. Panic overspreads Tinker's face.

CUT TO:

INT. TINKER'S BEDROOM - PRESENT DAY

Tinker sits up in bed, with a startled moan. He slows his breath as he wakes. It was a nightmare.

ACT ONE

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - DAY

200 WORSHIPPERS gather on Sunday morning for a service at Bedford Springs River Of Life church. The congregation - which includes JOSH BAXTER, 12, and his parents BILL and EMILY, and little sister SARAH, 3 - claps as they sing a vibrant song.

PASTOR DAN FERGUSON, 40s, stands in the front row, with his wife PATTY, and two children.

In the back row stands Tinker, also enjoying the music. A woman, ALLENA, 30s, stands ten rows ahead on the other side. She looks back and waves at Tinker, who nods.

Suddenly, a bright luminescence fills the back corner of the church near Tinker. He looks back nearly blinded, and sees KILLIAN, a young, muscular angel, 20s, dressed in simple but elegant pants and pullover shirt, with a sword at his side.

He nods respectfully toward Tinker as he also claps.

Allena also looks back, shielding her eyes. Yet everyone else in the church is oblivious to what has happened. She steps out and walks to the back of the room, and joins Tinker and Killian who walk into a foyer.

ALLENA

Killian, what a surprise. Out for a Sunday stroll?

KILLIAN

Hi Allena. Actually, I've taken up jogging. I've put on a few pounds this last century.

ALLENA

(laughs, points to Tinker)
Do you know Jonathan, our newest member?

KILLIAN

Yes, I know...Jonathan, is it?
Quite well.

Tinker, looks down and shields a smile.

KILLIAN (CONT'D)
 Apparently you don't know...
 Jonathan...as well as I do.
 (to Tinker)
 She doesn't know?

Tinker shakes his head.

ALLENA
 (confused)
 Know what?

KILLIAN
 Allena, this is...Prince
 Catharnoch.

She gasps and looks at Tinker, who shrugs humbly.

But then she cocks her head to the side, her eyes flashing,
 'I don't believe you'.

Suddenly for just the whisk of a second, Tinker transforms
 before her eyes into a majestic, young, muscular angel,
 shining gloriously with light, with a large sword at his
 side, illuminated with a blue glow. Then just as fast, he
 returns to his mild-mannered self.

Allena screams in awe, and falls to her knees.

ALLENA
 Why has one of our greatest
 warriors come to Bedford Springs to
 be with us?

TINKER
 Stand up, Allena. Don't look at me
 any differently than before.

ALLENA
 That's not possible, my lord.

He helps her to her feet.

ALLENA (CONT'D)
 You wouldn't be here unless
 something momentous was about to
 happen.

TINKER
 See that boy who was sitting across
 from you, in the red shirt?

The song has ended, and people are greeting each other. Josh
 turns and shakes a few hands, allowing Allena to see him.

TINKER (CONT'D)

I'm told that young man is going to do some special things a few years from now. I've been sent to keep an eye on him for awhile. And try to keep out of sight if I can. Which is why we didn't tell you at first. And I'm sorry for that. As the head of the Council, you should have known.

KILLIAN

That's why I have come, my lord.

Tinker nods for him to go on.

KILLIAN (CONT'D)

Melchorn has heard you have returned to earth. That you have recovered. He's searching for you.

ALLENA

Melchorn!

TINKER

It'll be a long time before he looks in this direction. Our enemy always thinks Rome. Our Lord chooses Bethlehem.

KILLIAN

It may not be as long as you think. Human media is far more advanced than when you were last here. News of great events spreads fast, and far. If you use your power, and humans speak of it, Melchorn will sniff it out. Michael urges you to let the Council do the heavy lifting while you're here.

TINKER

Which is why the Council should know now that I am here. Tell Michael I'll be careful.

KILLIAN

We'll keep in touch. Good to see you back in action...Jonathan.

He heads toward the door.

KILLIAN (CONT'D)
I'm halfway through my 50 miler
this morning.

TINKER
Ah. It's good to start slow and
work your way up.

Killian smiles and leaves. Allena is still dumbfounded.
Tinker pats her encouragingly on the shoulder, as he looks
back toward Josh, then at Pastor Dan.

TINKER (CONT'D)
Well, shall we get back to work?

ALLENA
I'll summon the Council. What are
you going to do next? How can we
help you?

TINKER
Well, if I'm going to help Josh, I
need to help his pastor first. I
hear he's in trouble.

ALLENA
What kind of trouble?

TINKER
The worst. He's discouraged.

Allena nods and returns to the sanctuary. Tinker pauses at
the door and looks up.

TINKER (CONT'D)
Melchorn? That didn't take long.

INT. PASTOR DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dan walks into a room where his secretary, KAREN, 30s, and
very attractive, is at a computer.

KAREN
G'morning Pastor Dan.

DAN
Hey Karen.

He begins foraging through a stack of mail.

DAN (CONT'D)

I think I'm gonna have to reschedule my morning appointments. I'm just beat.

KAREN

I thought you were looking a little wore out yesterday in church.

DAN

That obvious I wasn't on top my game?

KAREN

Well, no. I didn't mean that. You're always on your game, Pastor.

DAN

The funeral last week for Julie's son just took it out of me.

KAREN

Awful. He was so young.

DAN

It's hard to figure out.

KAREN

Well, I'll be happy to reschedule but -- your ten o'clock got here at nine, and is waiting for you in the sanctuary. Jonathan Tinker.

DAN

Oh. He's a good man. Strange, but good.

KAREN

I can tell him we need to reschedule.

Dan shakes his head.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Well, I'll reschedule the rest. And if there's anything I can do for you, Pastor, just let me know.

She smiles affectionately, maybe a little too affectionately. He nods and heads toward the sanctuary, where he finds Tinker browsing through a church bulletin on the front row.

DAN

Mr. Tinker.

TINKER
Oh, just Jonathan is fine, Pastor Dan.

DAN
(as they shake hands)
Only if you call me Dan.

TINKER
Deal.

DAN
(sitting beside him)
So what can I do for you this fine Monday morning?

TINKER
Well Pastor Dan, Dan, um, I just wanted to come in and let you know what a fine job you're doing and how much I enjoy visiting your church when I can.

He holds up the bulletin.

TINKER (CONT'D)
You're doing very good work here. A lot of special things happening.

DAN
(confused)
Oh, well, thank you. Very nice of you. There's not a particular problem you care to discuss?

Tinker shakes his head.

DAN (CONT'D)
Need prayer for anything?

TINKER
Always need prayer. But no, just mainly wanted to tell you you're bringing a smile to God's face.

DAN
Well, Jonathan, I do believe you're the first person in my ten years of ministry to make an appointment to tell me things are good.

TINKER
Pastors need encouragement too, don't they?

DAN

Yes they do. More than you know.

TINKER

I have people in my family -- guess you could call them shepherds too.

DAN

Oh, well then you *would* know. It's a very different sort of work. Not many understand it.

TINKER

(joking)

Well Pastor, you only work an hour a week.

DAN

Oh if I had a dollar for every time I hear that one.

(beat)

Then you have a stretch like we've been in lately.

TINKER

Heard about the young man.

DAN

(shakes his head)

Twenty-three. Just graduated. Whole life in front of him. And you know what I struggle with?

(stops himself)

Aaa. I don't need to bother you with this.

TINKER

They tell me I'm a good listener, Dan. And like I said, I've heard it *all* over the centuries -- years.

DAN

Sometimes I just hate having to be God's press secretary. And explain his ways to others, when half the time I don't understand them myself.

TINKER

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

DAN

(rubs eyes)

Yeah. From the Lord's lips to my heart. But it's Monday. I'll snap out of it by Sunday. And here you come in having a good day, and I'm doing my best to drag you down.

Tinker laughs tenderly.

TINKER

No. Not at all.

DAN

Would you mind if we share in a little prayer together?

TINKER

I'd like that very much.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CHURCH - DAY

Tinker walks out of the church. But he suddenly stops and looks down to the sidewalk.

He pauses and looks around him to be sure he's alone, then closes his eyes for a second. When he opens them again, everything around him - trees, stone, and sky - all have a greenish tint covering them.

He is seeing the world from the spiritual dimension.

He kneels down on the sidewalk and touches a blotch of black slime, then looks down the sidewalk and sees a line of blotches, like footprints. On the steps behind him leading to the door are two additional spots.

TINKER

I knew I smelled something in there.

He walks back toward the door.

INT. PASTOR DAN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dan walks back in as Karen works at her desk.

KAREN

Appointments all rescheduled for Thursday.

DAN

That's good. Thank you, Karen.
Well, I think I'm going to head
home then.

She pops out of her chair.

KAREN

Here before you go. I used to work
for a chiropractor as a trained
massage therapist. Why don't you
sit down and let me work out some
of that tension.

DAN

Oh that's okay, Karen.

The moment suddenly turns awkward for him.

KAREN

No, really. I insist. I don't have
much to offer my pastor, but I do
have this. Now sit down!

She directs him to take a chair. He squirms a bit but
complies, and before he can resist further, her hands attack
his neck.

KAREN (CONT'D)

There, now isn't that good? Doesn't
the Bible talk about the laying on
of hands?

DAN

Yes it does.

He melts in her hands.

Suddenly the office transitions into the same green-tinted
condition as before.

Several feet away, near the window, appears a small ghoulish
creature, known in the spirit world as an IMP. It's covered
with dark clothing, his arms smeared with black streaks, his
skin giving off bursts of dark light.

Suddenly, Tinker walks in the office, unseen to Dan and Karen
but very obvious to the ghoul. Shards of white light sparkle
off of Tinker's clothing.

TINKER

What are you doing here?

IMP
It's none of your business.

TINKER
Oh, but it is. This is my
territory.

IMP
I've never seen you here before.

TINKER
And you won't again, because you're
leaving now for good.

IMP
You have no power over me. You're
just a --

Tinker looks down for a moment, deciding "if he should or shouldn't". He lifts his head, then glares at the ghoul. Suddenly, an intense burst of light shoots from his fingers. The imp shrieks and jumps through the window.

Tinker steps past Dan and Karen still in massage-mode (and oblivious to what's going on), and looks out the window.

A large body-sized blotch of goo is on the sidewalk where the creature landed. Tinker catches the last glimpse of the imp fleeing out of sight.

He looks back into the office, where Dan is enjoying himself too much.

TINKER
Boundaries, Pastor.

The green-tint of the spirit-dimension vanishes. Dan's face registers sudden alarm.

DAN
(stands)
Thank you, Karen. That's good.
Appreciate it.

Karen notices his concern.

KAREN
Oh, Pastor. I keep forgetting I'm
not at the chiropractor's anymore.
I'm sorry if I overstepped my
bounds.

DAN

It's good to know you have that skill. I'll have you come over and work your magic on my wife sometime. She's still a little dinged up from a car accident last year.

KAREN

(half-smile)

I'd be happy to do that.

Tinker shakes his head and looks back out the window, concern overspreading his face.

EXT. LARGE OUTDOOR GARDEN - DAY

Tinker walks along a beautiful, quiet, flower-strewn path with Allena, in their ordinary earth-attire.

TINKER

It was nothing more than an imp.

ALLENA

But imps report to demons, and before you know it, word will get around.

TINKER

I barely flexed any muscle at all. It'll think I'm nothing but a cherubim on steroids. They'd never suspect --

ALLENA

-- that one of the great seraphim is among us. I don't believe it myself. Nor will the rest of the Council.

They step through a rose-covered lattice doorway into an open lawn surrounded by hedges, and find EIGHT OTHER ANGELS, men and women, in ordinary clothes, seated on benches.

They all rise respectfully.

ALLENA (CONT'D)

My lord. The high council of Bedford Springs. Everyone, this is Prince Catharnoch.

One of them, LAWRENCE, 40s, steps forward slightly.

LAWRENCE

With all respect, sir, might we have some...proof that it is you.

ALLENA

Lawrence! I saw him myself.

LAWRENCE

Believe me, I want to believe.

TINKER

(smiles)

Unless I place my hands in his side.

LAWRENCE

Yes, exactly. If that's weakness, then I am weak.

TINKER

That's often a strength, Lawrence. Good for you. One can't be too careful, especially these days.

(beat)

Have any of you ever held the sword of the seraphim?

GLORIA, 60s, speaks.

GLORIA

It's not in our power to hold such a weapon.

With a flash of light, Tinker suddenly brandishes his golden sword that glows with blue, heavenly light. He places its tip on the ground, and lets the hilt fall into Lawrence's hands.

To Lawrence, it is as unwieldy as Thor's hammer. He comically struggles to keep the sword from falling, let alone being able to lift it.

Tinker steps in, grabs the sword, thrusts it aloft and swings it, before placing it back in its scabbard, where it disappears.

LAWRENCE

(humbly)

It's you.

TAMARA, 40s, speaks.

TAMARA

Then you're healed from the wounds you suffered...fighting him?

TINKER

Not fully. But making a good recovery.

BENJAMIN, 20s, pipes up.

BENJAMIN

He's here to do his rehab.

TINKER

Not quite. And you are...

BENJAMIN

Benjamin.

TINKER

No, Benjamin. This isn't the minor leagues, and as soon as I find my swing, I'll be called up.

Some of them look at each other bewildered.

TINKER (CONT'D)

None of you watch baseball?

TAMARA

Boring.

Tinker rolls his eyes.

TINKER

Well the Lord doesn't think so. He was very tickled when they came up with that game. Anyway, no, I'm not here to practice up, and then get swooped away to the battle somewhere else.

(beat)

The battle is coming here.

He lets that sink in.

ALLENA

Melchorn is looking for the Prince.

A deathly silence falls over the garden.

GLORIA

Melchorn is coming here?

TINKER

Now, now. This is only the second inning. We won't worry about the eighth and ninth innings right now.

More bewilderment.

TINKER (CONT'D)
We don't have to concern ourselves
with Melchorn for awhile.

LAWRENCE
So why have you come?

TINKER
There's a boy we have to keep safe.

EXT. LAWN IN FRONT OF A HOUSE - DAY

A fist smashes into Josh's face, knocking him to the ground.
A foot comes in and kicks him in the stomach.

THREE HIGH SCHOOL PUNKS converge on Josh, yelling and
punching.

PUNK #1
Remember me, punk? Thanks for
getting me suspended!

JOSH
(screaming)
Get off! Stop!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

A rock suddenly flies in and careens off the first boy's head. Then a second hits the back of a second boy.

PUNK #1
Hey stop that!

He turns and sees ANGIE JAMISON, 15, standing by the road. Angie has butched hair, and is clearly trying to tamp down her feminine side.

She hurls a third rock.

ANGIE
Get off him!

The boy charges up to her.

PUNK #1
What are you doing? Leave us alone
bitch. Or is that butch?

He raises a fist but stops. She stands there with her arms down.

ANGIE
Takes a lot of courage to gang up
on a junior higher. And a girl.

PUNK #2
I thought you wanted to be a guy.

PUNK #1
Put up your fists and I'll teach
you to fight like one.

Josh kicks the third boy off once he gets the chance.

JOSH
Jerks. Buzz off.

They run off.

JOSH (CONT'D)
I'm glad you got suspended. You
started it!

PUNK #1
(points back threatening)
We're not done with you, punk.
Watch your back! 'Cuz we'll be
back.

Josh stands up, and look awkwardly at Angie.

JOSH
Hey Angie.

ANGIE
Well aren't you gonna thank me?

JOSH
Thank you?

ANGIE
For coming over and saving your
heinie?

JOSH
I woulda beat 'em off. But thanks.

ANGIE
That's my house.

She points across the road.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
I saw 'em running you down from
behind. You're bleeding. Wanna wash
your face off?

JOSH
Naw. I'm heading over to Scott's
house. I'll do it there.

ANGIE
Can I come?

JOSH
Umm -- we're just hanging out. Him,
Damon and me. Scott's got a
treehouse.

ANGIE
If you don't mind.

JOSH
Umm, sure. But --

ANGIE
What?

JOSH
Could we not tell them --

ANGIE
How I saved you?

JOSH
You didn't save me. But yeah. That.

They start walking.

ANGIE
Well, then I won't save you next
time.

JOSH
You didn't save me this time.

EXT. SCOTT'S TREEHOUSE - DAY

Josh, SCOTT and DAMON, each of them 12, sit on the floor on one side of the treehouse while Angie sits alone on the opposite wall.

The treehouse is not cheaply done. It's spacious and sturdy with a trap door that leads out to a larger limb, from which dangles a tire swing.

The four hold an awkward silence.

ANGIE
So...what do you guys do when
you're up here?

DAMON
(miffed)
We talk about girls.

ANGIE
Girls are strange. I'd rather hang
out with guys. The stuff they do is
more fun. Like football. I'm really
good at football.

SCOTT
We just kinda mess around. Make
stuff up.

ANGIE
Like what?

SCOTT
Like, you know, Star Trek.

Damon gives him the "do not encourage this" look.

DAMON
We don't *play* Star Trek.

SCOTT
Well what do you call it?

ANGIE
That's cool. I always pictured you guys being like the Three Musketeers, 'cuz you're always hanging out together.

JOSH
Who's that?

ANGIE
You never saw any of the movies?

They're clueless.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
I'm reading the book right now.
It's amazing.

Damon continues to scowl.

ANGIE (CONT'D)
The three musketeers are three great sword fighters who protect the French king from the plotting of the evil Cardinal Richelieu. And then a young, courageous sword fighter named D'Artagnan joins them. And their motto is *All for one, and one for all!*

JOSH
That's dumb. What's that mean?

SCOTT
It means whatever happens to one of 'em happens to all of 'em.

ANGIE
If you pick on one of them, you're picking on all of them.

They all look at Josh and his banged-up face.

DAMON
But notice. It's not called the *four* musketeers!

ANGIE

'Cuz becoming a musketeer is hard work. Not just anyone can join. You have to prove your valor first. D'Artagnan has to prove himself worthy by doing something courageous to *save his friends*.

She says the last three words slowly, and looks at Josh who gives her the evil eye.

She spies out a football, then crawls over to get it.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Anybody wanna play football? You can't do two on two without me.

She flies out the door. Damon slams Josh in the arm.

DAMON

Why did you bring her? *Fart-anion*.

JOSH

She just saw me while I was walking here, and tagged along.

DAMON

You have her on your team. And only this time.

MONTAGE - THE FOUR KIDS PLAYING FOOTBALL

-- Josh sends Angie out for a pass, with Damon defending her. He bites as she feints right, then she slashes left for an easy touchdown pass.

-- Angie chases down Scott as he runs, and knocks the ball loose, then recovers it. Damon chews Scott out.

-- Angie, defending Damon, makes a nifty interception, and jukes Scott on the runback for a touchdown.

-- Josh high fives Angie in the endzone.

EXT. SCOTT'S YARD - DAY

Angie heads for home.

ANGIE

Thanks guys. That was a lot of fun.

She disappears around the house while the three boys look on dumbfounded.

SCOTT
What just happened?

DAMON
I hate that chick.

JOSH
(eyes sparkling)
I'm in love.

INT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dan is catatonic in front of the TV, as his wife Patty comes in.

DAN
Kids down?

PATTY
You should go and give 'em a kiss.

DAN
Okay.

She sits by him. He struggles to get up.

DAN (CONT'D)
If I can get up.

PATTY
Need a push?

She pushes on his back.

DAN
Oh, right there. I'll take a little
of that rhomboid action.

She digs in but half-heartedly.

DAN (CONT'D)
Come on. Put some oomph into it.

She presses harder but five seconds in, stops and pats him on the back.

PATTY
There -- oomph.

DAN
That was more oops than oomph.

PATTY
This is the first I've sat all day.
Ain't got no oomph.

Dan starts to head out of the room.

PATTY (CONT'D)
Oh, my sister called earlier today.
She's goin' ahead with her surgery
Friday.

DAN
She still needs you to come for the
weekend?

PATTY
I know there's that concert
Saturday night. Church won't start
rumors if I'm a no-show?

DAN
As long as you take the kids.

PATTY
They'll want to see their cousins
anyway.

DAN
Fine.

He steps into the kitchen, and pauses at the sink for a
drink. He stares at his reflection in the window.

DAN (CONT'D)
(mutters)
You never have enough oomph.

He closes his eyes, holding the cup near his mouth.

INT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The doorbell rings, and Dan, dressed in a different shirt,
opens the door. Karen stands there with a bubbly smile,
wearing a blouse with one too many buttons open.

DAN
(friendly)
Well hi there Karen.

KAREN

I never heard back from you on coming over, so I was in the neighborhood. Thought I'd pop by. You mentioned your wife could use a little massage.

DAN

Oh right. Well Patty's gone for the weekend. Maybe we should make it--

KAREN

Oh that's too bad. Well, how are you doing? As long as I'm here --

DAN

No, I don't think --

KAREN

Strictly professional.

She walks in.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Just what kind of person would I be to hit on the pastor? Here, just sit down on the chair right here. We'll keep the front door open.

She directs him to a nearby chair, and pushes him into it, though he needs no convincing. At once she starts to massage his upper back.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Still way too tight. Oh my goodness, Dan. Breathe and relax. Breathe in. Hold it. Now relax. Breathe out. That's better.

She reaches into her purse.

KAREN (CONT'D)

You know I just happened to have with me some massage oil. Why don't you take off your shirt and --

INT. KITCHEN SINK - NIGHT

Dan opens his eyes with a start, the cup still near his mouth. He's daydreamed it all.

He shakes his head, and empties the cup, then turns and walks toward the bedrooms.

He fails to see (because he can't see) the large evil figure -
- a DEMON -- standing along the kitchen wall, larger than the
imp, but with the same oozing oil streaked on its arms and
face.

The demon smiles.

EXT. SCHOOL MAINTENANCE SHED - DAY

Tinker sits around drinking coffee with his boss, STAN
MILLER, 50, and two co-workers, FRANK STAFFORD, 60, and JEFF
HANSEN, mid-20s, who only speaks in movie lines.

STAN

Tinker and Frank, that water boiler
in the east gym is acting up again.
Can you two take that beast apart
and see what's up?

They nod.

STAN (CONT'D)

Jeff and I will handle the
mulching. Oh and before I forget --

He reaches behind him and pulls out a boxed up cake.

STAN (CONT'D)

Little bird whispered in my ear
that today is Jeff's birthday.
Twenty-six today, ain't it Jeff?

He blushes and nods, as the others applaud and make a ruckus.

FRANK

Twenty-six! Got any words of wisdom
for us?

JEFF

When you die, on your deathbed, you
will receive total consciousness.
So I got that goin' for me.

FRANK

Well there you go!

Allena suddenly appears in the doorway.

STAN

Hello young lady?

ALLENA

I need to see Jonathan.

Tinker looks up.

TINKER
Oh. Allena!

STAN
Here's the man himself.

As Tinker walks over to her, Stan slaps Frank and Jeff's arms, in a teasing "I'm impressed" fashion, pointing toward Tinker.

JEFF
It was beauty that killed the
beast.

Tinker looks back and waves them off.

CONTINUOUS

Tinker and Allena walk away from the garage.

ALLENA
We asked Lawrence to keep an eye on
Pastor Dan. He brought troubling
news this morning.

TINKER
Yes?

ALLENA
The imp you chased off has been
replaced -- by two demons. Lawrence
couldn't get close to the pastor.

TINKER
(sighs)
Then it's as I feared. The pastor's
not just being harassed. They're
coming after him. They see a
vulnerability.

ALLENA
Obviously he's not praying.

TINKER
Don't be harsh on him, Allena. It's
hard to pray when your spirit's
depleted. We need to get others to
pray for him. I'll work on that.
Send Lawrence back with
reinforcements. This might be a
good assignment for Benjamin.

(MORE)

TINKER (CONT'D)

And have him take Gloria along. We need to find out what those demons are up to. I have a feeling it will have something to do with his secretary.

ALLENA

I've never observed any of that weakness in him.

TINKER

You forget your David. *That* weakness is in nearly every man. And if our pastor would fall in that way, the wreckage would be immense. Certainly wouldn't be good for young Joshua.

ALLENA

Of course, you could just do some razzle-dazzle, and the problem would all go away.

TINKER

(smirk)

You better be joking, young lady.

ALLENA

Only partially.

(beat)

At the least, I trust that you'll take over the leadership of the Council.

TINKER

You've never seen battle up close, have you?

ALLENA

I'm ashamed to say, no.

TINKER

There's no shame in that. We don't choose the time and place in which we live.

ALLENA

Oh but there is, my lord. I'm not here in Bedford Springs by accident. I've spent my life accepting assignments that would keep me as far away from danger as possible. I've worked my way up by looking good, not by doing good.

TINKER

Your name means *light*. It seems as if light is coming into your soul as we speak.

ALLENA

The thought of Melchorn coming terrifies me --

TINKER

It should. It's okay to be scared. It's Fear we need to keep at bay. But the courage to face the Melchorns will grow as you overcome lesser threats. Which is why I'll remain only an adviser. And you'll remain the leader of the Council.

INT. BILL AND EMILY BAXTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Emily yells down a hallway.

EMILY

Josh. Supper's ready.

Josh comes out into the dining room, where Tinker is seated at the table with Bill and Sarah, 3.

TINKER

I so appreciate the invitation to dinner.

BILL

It's great to have you over, Jonathan. Your kindness to Josh after what he did to your house meant a lot. To us. And Josh.

Josh guardedly walks into the room, and takes the chair next to Tinker. He shields his bruised face.

TINKER

Hello Josh.

Josh grunts. Suspecting something, Tinker pushes away Josh's fingers from his face, unveiling the welt.

TINKER (CONT'D)

What's this?

JOSH

I dropped the math book on my head while I was studying in bed.

TINKER

Oh I see. Homework is dangerous.

BILL

He tried that one on me yesterday.

TINKER

Where's Josh's brother. Sam?

Emily puts a large casserole dish on the table.

EMILY

Out with his girlfriend. With his senior project done, they're making up for lost time.

Josh and Tinker share a wink and a nod with each other.

EMILY (CONT'D)

Shepherds pie tonight.

TINKER

Lovely.

EMILY

(to Bill)

Honey, would you pray?

Hands get folded and Sarah looks as cute as a bug as she opens and closes her eyes, and looks around.

BILL

Father in heaven, I thank you for my family, for good friends like Mr. Tinker, for your church, for your love, and of course for this food. Use it to strengthen us in your service. Amen.

They begin to pass plates to Emily who dishes out the food.

TINKER

(to Josh)

So your face came into contact with some object or another. It wouldn't by chance be a --

EMILY

-- fist. He was fighting again.

JOSH

I didn't start it. And I didn't even have a chance to throw a punch. Three of them just came out of nowhere.

BILL

I still wanna know who they are. This needs to be reported.

JOSH

They're high schoolers. I don't even know their names.

EMILY

High schoolers! Isn't this bullying, Bill?

BILL

Yes, this is bullying.

JOSH

But it'll just get worse if you do something about it, so just let it go.

EMILY

Let it go? Mr. Tinker --

TINKER

Jonathan.

EMILY

Jonathan. He shouldn't just let this go, should he? What do you think?

TINKER

Well, if there's three of them and one of you, those don't sound like the best odds. You might wanna listen to your parents on this one.

EMILY

Here, here.

Emily tends to Sarah who's playing with her food.

TINKER

Another person I think who needs a lot of prayer these days is your Pastor Dan. He's a real fine man.

BILL

Yes he is.

TINKER

I just get a sense that he's under a whole lot of pressure these days.

EMILY

Oh really?

Tinker grunts and nods as he takes a bite.

EMILY (CONT'D)

He's such a good man. We're lucky to have him. Oh that reminds me Josh. Pastor Dan says he has a football to give you if you want it. Leftover from a garage sale.

JOSH

Cool. That'd be awesome.

EMILY

Said just come by anytime.

TINKER

Pastors carry a lot of cares in their heart that most don't even know about. So I hope you'll take some time to pray for him every day.

BILL

That's a good reminder. I'll do that.

(to Emily)

Shall we do that hon?

EMILY

I'm in.

SARAH

I wanna pray too!

EMILY

Sarah and I are in.

SARAH

Dear Gawd. Please help --

She's pauses with the childlike expectation that the others pay attention and bow their heads. They smile, and comply.

SARAH (CONT'D)
-- Pease help Pastor Dan. I love
him so much. Amen.

They laugh.

BILL
Out of the mouth of babes.

INT. PASTOR DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Karen sits at her desk typing at the computer when the phone rings. She picks up.

KAREN
Bedford Springs Community
Fellowship. This is Karen.
(beat)
Oh hi Patty. No, he's out at a
lunch with some other pastors.
That's probably why he's not
picking up. Can I give him a
message?
(beat)
Remind him to get the oil change.
'Cuz you're away this weekend,
driving up to San Francisco. Got
that. I'll be sure and tell him.
Thanks. You too.

She hangs up.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Well isn't that interesting. Pastor
Dan is all by his lonesome this
weekend.

She rolls it over in her mind, as she resumes her typing.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Interesting.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. GARDEN OF THE COUNCIL - DAY

Tinker with the other nine angels sit in a circle. Lawrence and Benjamin are excited as they tell a story.

BENJAMIN

Here the demon was chasing me out of the church, when suddenly Lawrence came up behind him and POW! It was amazing! He never saw it coming.

TINKER

I thought there were two demons.

They point toward Gloria.

GLORIA

(proudly)

I kept the other one occupied.

ALLENA

Nice job everyone. So what did we find out?

LAWRENCE

The pastor will be alone this weekend. And the secretary knows it.

BENJAMIN

And she's in their grip, all right. She cried all over the pastor's shoulder this afternoon. And he just lapped it up.

GLORIA

That poor girl's so wounded in her soul, she's easy prey for the enemy.

TAMARA

So we have to keep them apart.

Nigel, 50 speaks.

NIGEL

That might be easier said than done. Stephen and I --

He points to Stephen, 30s, next to him.

NIGEL (CONT'D)

-- were watching the perimeter of the town. There's a whole parade of imps and demons coming in.

STEPHEN

It's like a family reunion.

TAMARA

Why is this happening all of a sudden?

TINKER

Oh, it's not all of a sudden. The Enemy plays the long game. Pastor Dan's let himself drift. She's let herself burn. I've seen this movie a thousand times.

LAWRENCE

What if Melchorn knows you're here already? And this is like, you know, the start of the attack.

This draws a collective gasp from the group.

TINKER

Trust me, when Melchorn comes, you'll know it. But it could be his spies poking around.

Audrey, 40s, speaks.

AUDREY

I don't understand.

ALLENA

Prince Catharnoch could clear the town of every demon and imp with a wave of his finger.

AUDREY

Then why don't you?

STEPHEN

Because Melchorn will know for sure it's him.

TINKER

So we have to do this together.

NIGEL

What's the plan?

Tinker looks squarely at Allena to speak.

ALLENA

Umm, I think Friday night is when they attack.

BENJAMIN

Because --

ALLENA

Saturday there's a church event. And on Saturday, the pastor is so focused on getting ready for Sunday, that he'll be virtually untouchable.

Catherine, 40s speaks.

CATHERINE

So we need to protect him during the worst of the attack. It'd be nice to give him a way out.

ALLENA

Provide some sort of diversion.

TINKER

Josh will be at his friend's basketball game Friday night. I think I can arrange for him and his friends to swing by Pastor Dan's house after the game. But the boys will need a fighter escort.

BENJAMIN

Then let's give 'em one!

ALLENA

And the rest of us keep the pastor safe until Josh and his friends arrive.

EXT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Patty and their TWO CHILDREN, 8 and 10, are in the car. Dan leans in and gives Patty a kiss.

DAN
Drive safe. Give me a call when
you're there.

PATTY
Will do. Love you.

DAN
Love you too. Kids --

He makes the "I'm watching you" gesture.

DAN (CONT'D)
-- behave.

They copy the gesture, then he blows them a kiss. They pull
out of the driveway and head out.

Dan walks back inside the house.

The green tint of the spirit dimension appears, and SIX
DEMONS AND IMPS approach the house, encircling it from one
side to the other.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM - DAY

Josh and Scott walk out of the gym at halftime with a stream
of other people. They walk to a food booth where Angie is
working. There's one customer ahead of them.

SCOTT
Now don't ask her out. Don't ask
her over. Just ask for food.

They step up.

ANGIE
Hey guys. How's the game?

JOSH
Damon's shooting bricks. We're
losing big.

ANGIE
Oh dear. What can I get you?

JOSH
M and Ms for me.

SCOTT
Popcorn.

ANGIE
(as she grabs the food)
Whatcha guys doin' after the game?

SCOTT
I'm doin' homework.

JOSH
Yeah. Me too. Homework.

ANGIE
Sounds like fun. Can I do homework
with you?

JOSH
Well, it's --

ANGIE
I get to bring home all the
leftover popcorn. Just sayin'.

Josh and Scott look at each other.

JOSH
Homework and popcorn sorta works.

SCOTT
It helps you think.

JOSH
Sure.

ANGIE
I have to clean everything up
afterwards. But swing by. I'll give
you the popcorn. Then I'll catch up
with you later on.

They pay and walk back to the gym.

SCOTT
Damon's not gonna be happy.

JOSH
He can't say no to free popcorn.
All for one and one for all. Right
Fart-anion?

SCOTT
I'm not Fart-anion. You're Fart-
anion.

INT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Dan sits on his back deck as the sun begins to set, drinking a cup of coffee. His phone is in his hand. He's scrolling through phone numbers. Karen's name and number is on the screen.

Seated around him on chairs are THREE DEMONS, doing all the talking.

DEMON #1

You know you deserve this. Every good man deserves a fling now and then.

DEMON #2

Your wife takes you for granted. You wait for the weekend 'cuz you know that's usually your time for getting close, and what does she do? She takes off. Leaves you high and dry.

DEMON #3

Just have her over for dessert and coffee. Ask her how she's doing. You're just being a good pastor, following up on a hurting soul. Invite her over. No one's watching.

A voice calls out from the side of the house.

ALLENA (O.S.)

And tell me Pastor, what scenario can you come up with where any of this ends well?

Allena appears in the back yard. A FOURTH DEMON stalks her but she keeps it at bay with an uplifted hand which holds a shield of light. With her other hand she points to Dan.

ALLENA (CONT'D)

Come to your senses, Pastor!

DAN'S IMAGINATION

INT. CHURCH SANCTUARY - DAY

Dan stands before his church, looking broken and ashamed. Many in the congregation are weeping. And angry.

DAN

I have broken the trust you placed in me. I have broken the covenant between me and my wife. And broken the heart of the Savior who died for me. There are no words I can say to change any of this. Or excuse any of this. If I could, I would, but it's not possible now. I am so sorry to have brought you to this awful place. I'm sorry it had to come to this.

He struggles to know how to finish, then steps down from the platform and disappears out a side door.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

The three demons on the deck rise up.

DEMON #1

Stop her!

One of the demons waves his hand at Dan, and transports him to another flight of imagination.

DAN'S IMAGINATION

EXT. GORGEOUS POOL - DAY

Dan suns himself beneath a crystal blue sky. Karen's voice calls out above him.

KAREN (O.S.)

Hey Sleepy Head. Got you a drink.

He opens his eyes and sees Karen in a slim bikini, looking amazing. She hands him a tropical-style drink.

DAN

Thanks. Have I told how incredible you look?

KAREN

Just about every hour on the hour. But don't stop for me.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Benjamin and Lawrence walk around the other side of the house.

LAWRENCE

You better stop us first.

They motion at Dan as two demons from the back deck move toward them.

DAN'S IMAGINATION

INT. TINY APARTMENT - DAY

Dan sits alone in a dark, miserable room, with the shades drawn. His hair is disheveled, and his face unshaved.

He looks down at a Christmas card in his hand. It's a picture of Patty with another man, and two college-aged girls. The card reads, "Merry Christmas Daddy. Love Jessica and Samantha."

He drops the card to the floor and sobs.

BACK TO PRESENT

EXT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Dan's phone chimes. He looks down. It's a text from Karen.

ON DAN'S PHONE

"Hi Dan. Thanks for listening yesterday. I'll be over on that side of town in a bit. Mind if I stop by quickly? I have something to give you."

Dan sighs, then smiles, then prepares to text back.

Allena is at a standoff with a larger demon, both with swords drawn, circling each other. Two demons drag Lawrence away from the house. A third has wrestled Benjamin to the ground, and is pulling him away. He yells out.

BENJAMIN

Go for a run, Pastor! Go for a run before the sun sets! You need some exercise!

As Dan looks down at his phone, he tugs at a small layer of fat on his belly and frowns.

DAN

I think it's time for a quick run.

Dan puts down his phone. Benjamin lifts his hands triumphantly as he's being accosted by the demon.

BENJAMIN

Yes!

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Dan jogs along. A few feet behind, Stephen runs as well, shadowing him. Twenty feet behind Stephen, a BLOB OF A DEMON huffs and puffs trying to keep up, soiling the pavement with its gooey sweat.

STEPHEN

Give it up. You're pitiful.

Looks up toward Dan.

STEPHEN (CONT'D)

Hey Dan. Put on some worship music.

As he runs, Dan puts in his ear buds, reaches down to his arm and pulls up a song to play. The demon stops out of breath, its arms on its hands and knees. Stephen laughs and runs after.

EXT. DAN'S DRIVEWAY - DAY

Dan finishes his run and walks up his driveway. But there are now more than TWENTY DEMONS AND IMPS positioned around the house. Stephen runs up, but one of the demons shakes its head at him, and he must stop.

Dan, clueless to it all, walks inside his house.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL - NIGHT

Tinker waits on a bench outside the school with Nigel and Catherine. Nigel points out Josh, Scott and Damon as they leave the building, with three large bags of popcorn in hand.

Tinker's phone rings. He puts it on speaker.

INTERCUT - TINKER/ALLENA

TINKER

Allena, how are things?

ALLENA

We've lost the house.

TINKER

Lost the house?

ALLENA

We were overrun. The place is crawling with imps and demons.

CATHERINE

Gloria just called and said the same thing. Imps everywhere. The secretary has left her house. Probably coming your way.

ALLENA

Sir, I love Jonathan Tinker, but I think we need Prince Catharnoch right now. I know you're trying to lay low but we're going to lose the pastor. They're bringing everything they have against him.

Tinker pulls back his jacket an inch or two, revealing the brightest blue light, just waiting to burst forth. He covers it back up.

TINKER

No. I can't. Melchorn will know for sure then. Call all the others back to you. The boys are on their way.

(MORE)

TINKER (CONT'D)
Hang on as best you can. We'll be
there soon.

He ends the call.

NIGEL
How do you know the boys will go to
his house?

TINKER
I reminded Josh of something this
afternoon. That the pastor has a
gift for him. Not even Melchorn
could dislodge a boy from his
football. But a pod of imps on the
other hand could present a problem.

He points Nigel and Catherine toward the three kids.

TINKER (CONT'D)
Go with them. I'll catch up with
you. Get them to the house safely!

He climbs into his car, parked on the roadside.

CATHERINE
(concerned)
Where are you going?

TINKER
There's another sort of help I can
offer.

They look confused.

TINKER (CONT'D)
Something that eats imps for
dinner.

EXT. SIDEWALK - NIGHT

The three boys walk along after the game.

DAMON
Look. Just because she gives us a
ton of popcorn doesn't mean she's
in. She can be a part of one movie
night. That's it.

JOSH
I think you're scared of her.

DAMON
Why would I be scared of her?

SCOTT
'Cuz she schooled you in football.

DAMON
That's the dumbest thing I ever heard. I wasn't gonna play hard with a girl. I mighta hurt her.

SCOTT
Or touched something.

JOSH
Hey that reminds me. Pastor Dan said he had a football to give me. His house is like a couple blocks over. Mind if we pop over there?

SCOTT
For a free football? Come on.

Suddenly, three high school boys step out of the darkness and block their way. It's the three from before.

PUNK #1
What's the hurry? Remember me? I see you brought friends. So did I.

TWO MORE PUNKS step in behind them.

EXT. PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Karen pulls her car into the driveway and shuts off the lights. She calmly looks into the rear view mirror and plays a bit with her hair -- failing to see the TWO IMPS sitting in the back seat.

She tugs on her blouse then gets out of the car.

CONTINUOUS

Dan pulls open the front door and sees Karen standing there.

DAN
Karen. Hi.

KAREN
Hey Dan. I whipped up some coffee cake for you and Patty.

(MORE)

KAREN (CONT'D)
Just thinking of you with all
you're going through.

DAN
Oh thanks. Actually, Patty's gone
for the weekend.

KAREN
Oh, is she?

DAN
Coffee cake looks good. I'll try
and save some for her. It's still
warm.

KAREN
You should try a piece now.
(beat)
Gotta get it while it's hot.

DAN
Ummm...I'll go get a couple of
spoons so we can enjoy a few bites.

KAREN
Would it be okay if I used your
bathroom?

DAN
(hesitates)
Sure.

They walk in the house. He points her down the hallway, and
heads for the kitchen.

CONTINUOUS

Catherine and Nigel run closer and see the boys surrounded.

CATHERINE
Oh no.

Suddenly out of the darkness appears a mob of EIGHT IMPS who
block their way.

IMP
Where are you going?

NIGEL
Back off.

Nigel tries to push through but is stopped.

IMP

No one gets to the pastor's house tonight.

Nigel moves for his sword.

IMP (CONT'D)

Put it away. You know you're outnumbered.

CONTINUOUS

JOSH

Look. You had your fun. It's over. What do you need to prove? That a high schooler can beat up a junior higher?

SCOTT

Bet Dad's real proud of you for that.

DAMON

(moves forward)

How 'bout me and you go at it?

Damon -- bigger than his friends but still shorter than the punk -- shoves his hands in the punk's chest.

PUNK #1

Bring it on. You ready?

He shoves Damon backwards. Damon eyes his friends and whispers.

DAMON

All for one and one for all?

He flies back at the punk, along with Scott and Josh, who scream out and the melee begins.

CONTINUOUS

Nigel and Catherine hoist high their swords and at once start swinging at the imps, who raise their weapons. As their swords clash, sparks fly into the air.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Dan's in the kitchen fetching silverware, trying to scoot back out. But Karen comes out of the bathroom and plops down on a stool by the center island.

KAREN

I've never worked for a church before. I couldn't of guessed how much is on your plate. It never stops does it?

DAN

It's a different sort of job, that's for sure.

She dishes out a piece of cake, which he accepts.

KAREN

I've only been at this a few months, but I don't think the people appreciate half of what you do.

DAN

Oh, I'm not in it for the accolades.

KAREN

You even said your wife takes you for granted most of the time.

DAN

I shouldn't have said that.

KAREN

A man like you who gives and gives...

She suddenly reaches out and touches the top of his hand, and keeps it there.

KAREN (CONT'D)

-- deserves more than that.

EXT. OUTSIDE PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Allena, Lawrence, Benjamin and Stephen spy out the house from a field across the street. Dan's front yard is covered with imps and demons.

STEPHEN

We can't wait. They've been in the house too long.

BENJAMIN

There's too few of us.

STEPHEN

It's not about winning! It's about doing the right thing. I'd rather do the right thing and lose, than go down without a fight.

LAWRENCE

Maybe our assignment is just to get the pastor to hang on a bit longer.

Allena wrestles with her fears, but then shakes them off.

ALLENA

Then let's help him hang on. Do we spread out or go straight up the gut?

STEPHEN

Straight up the gut. Maybe we can even get into the house.

ALLENA

Let's do it.

They lift up their swords, shout out, and charge across the road. The demons and imps throw up a line but the four make a wedge of light and plow right through it, toward the house.

INT. BILL AND EMILY BAXTER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Bill comes into the living room with a cup of tea which he hands to Emily who is on the couch.

BILL

It's the weirdest thing, but before we watch the movie, I just had the thought that we do what Mr. Tinker asked the other day. And pray for Pastor Dan.

EMILY

You're asking *me* to pray? This might be a first.

BILL

Stop.

He sits by her and takes her hand.

EXT. TINKER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tinker squeals into his driveway, jumps out of his car and flies into his house from the back patio.

TINKER
RASHA! Here boy!

A growl is heard coming up the stairs.

TINKER (CONT'D)
Imps, Rasha. Imps! Hunt for imps.
Fly as fast as you can!

The silhouette of a lion charges out of the basement through the back door with a ferocious roar.

Tinker smiles.

CONTINUOUS

The boys punch, claw, and shove back at the punks as best they can.

Nigel and Catherine, surrounded by imps, fight back furiously.

Josh is on his knees with two of the punks kicking and punching at him. The two boys in the rear are more or less watching.

Suddenly, there's a loud cry and Angie runs and jumps straight upon one of the boys in the rear. She pulls him out of the way and then kicks the other boy directly in the groin. He doubles over.

She then tackles the first punk who is leaning over Josh and begins hitting his face and tearing at his hair.

Simultaneous with her attack, Gloria, Tamara and Audrey appear and begin to swing their swords around Nigel and Catherine, clearing space for them to catch their breath.

Angie's attack has cleared space around the three boys.

JOSH
Run to Pastor Dan's house!

The three friends with Angie bolt and run up a sidestreet as the five punks follow after them.

The five angels break free and run after, with the pod of imps chasing them.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

KAREN

I've always been a believer in taking advantage of opportunities when they come your way. I think we were meant to meet each other, don't you?

Dan looks down trembling. His imagination takes over.

DAN'S IMAGINATION

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dan suddenly rushes over to her and they embrace and kiss.

BACK TO PRESENT

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dan shrugs off the thought. But he's buckling.

KAREN

I've discovered that spontaneous moments like this can be so beautiful. Even if they only happen once. It'll be a memory we'll carry forever.

CONTINUOUS

Allena, Stephen, Benjamin and Lawrence fight and scream their way to the front door, and with one concentrated push, Allena squeezes through into the house.

She sees Karen leaning close to Dan. Allena raises her hand toward them and supernatural light pulses from it.

CONTINUOUS

Dan adjusts his gaze, but seeing Karen's cleavage, he looks up full at her face. And screams.

Sitting before him is the ugliest hag from the scariest stories he ever heard growing up. He recoils and spins away.

KAREN

Dan, what's wrong?

DAN

(looking away)

Get out! Get out now!

Suddenly, they hear the a jumble of voices, and Josh, Damon, Scott and Angie all fly in to his house.

JOSH

Pastor Dan! Pastor Dan! We need your help! We're being chased!

Dan looks around bewildered, but concern and authority quickly wash back into his face. He waves off Karen, who picks up her things and leaves.

CONTINUOUS

The other five angels arrive on the scene and at once, a massive battle lights up the front yard.

Out of nowhere, the sound of a roaring lion rings out over the neighborhood, and Rasha jumps into the mix, with fury and vengeance.

Imps and demons begin running away in all directions.

EXT. OUTSIDE PASTOR DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Tinker drives slowly up to the house and parks on the roadside.

All the demonic powers have fled. The nine angels are clustered together on the front lawn, all sitting down or leaning back, exhausted but exhilarated.

Rasha sprawls out among them.

Tinker steps out and leans over the car. He waves at Allena, and laughs.

END OF ACT FOUR

TAG #1

Tinker is on his riding mower when he sees Josh, Damon and Scott walk by. He pulls up and shuts the mower down.

All three boys have black eyes and bruises.

TINKER
You look like a bad punk band.

Angie runs up from behind.

ANGIE
Hey guys. Wait for me.

She pulls up beside them and Tinker shakes his head. She also has a black eye.

TINKER
And this must be the lead singer.

JOSH
All of us swear that we heard a lion Friday night.

TINKER
A lion in Bedford Springs -- that would be unusual. Probably illegal.

SCOTT
Tell Rasha thanks for us.

TINKER
So is Angie...that was your name?

She nods.

TINKER (CONT'D)
Is Angie part of the group now?

DAMON
(smiles)
Yeah. She's our D'Artagnan.

Tinker looks confused.

JOSH
Three musketeers. You know. All for one and one for all.

TINKER
 Best way to get through life.
 (beat)
 Well, talk to you all later.

They run off. Tinker can hear them throwing "Fart-anion" back and forth to each other.

Allena walks up.

TINKER (CONT'D)
 All for one and one for all.

It's Allena's turn to be confused.

TINKER (CONT'D)
 A lesson the kids just learned.

ALLENA
 Sounds like something we've all
 been learning. Thank you Catharnoch
 for believing in me, when I
 wouldn't.

TINKER
 Ready to face Melchorn?

ALLENA
 (laughs)
 Bring him on!

TINKER
 How's our pastor?

ALLENA
 Quiet. Reflective.

TINKER
 Good. He too will be stronger for
 this in the end.

ALLENA
 It's frightening how close we all
 came to losing though. Is it always
 that way?

Tinker loses himself in a memory.

EXT. NORMANDY CROSSING - DAY

Tinker is back in the boat with the other soldiers. He looks in the distance beyond the beaches and above the cliffs.

Above the din of battle, above the outbursts of light from mortar shells and bullets, a far darker, bigger clash of light takes place, imbedded with the green tint of the spirit dimension, reaching all the way to the heavens.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL - DAY

Tinker returns to himself.

TINKER

Often it is. The Lord likes to keep the outcome on the edge of a dagger.

ALLENA

Why? Why does he do that?

TINKER

(shrugs)
So we don't stop trusting him.

END OF TAG ONE

TAG #2

INT. DARK SINISTER CAVERN - NIGHT

TWO DEMONS enter a cave illuminated only by a large firepot in the center of the room.

Behind it is a large throne where a MASSIVE, WARLIKE CREATURE sits with his back to them - MELCHORN.

They approach the throne trembling.

DEMON #1

My lord, the scouts from Bedford Springs have returned.

MELCHORN

(deep and dark)

Yes.

DEMON #1

The entire battalion we sent was defeated and pushed out. But no one reported any signs of an arch-angels's presence.

MELCHORN

How could they be so easily defeated then?

DEMON #2

The resistance was surprisingly strong. The stench of prayer was everywhere.

The Dark Creature scoffs.

MELCHORN

So we'll continue our search.

The two demons whisper to each other.

VOICE

Is there something else?

DEMON #1

There were scattered reports about -

MELCHORN

About what?

DEMON #2

It was probably nothing.

MELCHORN

About what!!

DEMON #1

There was chatter among a handful of imps that, that, a lion was there. But no one saw it. Just a few growls. Likely nothing with all the noise.

MELCHORN

A lion. And you almost neglected to tell me.

DEMON #1

But lord --

MELCHORN

Go!

They scamper from the hall. The eyes of the creature narrow with evil intent.

MELCHORN (CONT'D)

A lion. The pet of the seraphim.

FADE OUT