



THE FALSE MESSIAH S01E05

Change

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EXT. ROAD NEAR THE BEACH - DAY

(house music)

A car tire spinning so fast that the chrome design disappears in the motion.

It's a red convertible moving down a curved road, descending through the intense yellow-green vegetation towards the sea and the horizon.

In the car, two young women.

Veronica (18) with both hands on the steering wheel, focused.

Simone (17) holding the seat, nervous.

SIMONE

You said you knew how to drive.

VERONICA

I said I've done it before.

The car slides to the side, coming dangerously close to the edge of the roadway on Simone's side.

SIMONE

(nervous)

Heeey!

VERONICA

(laughing)

I'm kidding.

SIMONE

Yeah, sure.

The car loses velocity, takes the next curve.

SIMONE

We need to return the car without scratches.

VERONICA

Wait, are we returning the car?

SIMONE

You wanna add theft to our crimes?

Veronica turns to look at Simone, she smiles in complicity.

The car moves from side to side once again.

SIMONE (O.S.)
Eyes on the road!

Veronica's laughter is heard.

The car continues descending towards the beach.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Dazzling shimmers on the surface of the sea, separating the blue of the sea from the blue of the clear sky.

A father and son play with paddles near the sea shore.

No more than a handful of people in the water.

Simone lifts her phone to place it against the sun.

She tries to read the screen.

VERONICA
Any luck?

SIMONE
This phone is a piece of shit, I
can't even see...

The waves break on the shore, filling the space with the calm roar of the waters.

Simone puts the phone down.

VERONICA
So?

SIMONE
Nothing.

VERONICA
How long it's been already?

SIMONE
Five years.

VERONICA
Maybe is time to move on?

SIMONE
Yeah...

Simone wipes sand from her legs.

SIMONE
Just let go and move on.

VERONICA
Something like that.

Simone laughs forcefully.

SIMONE
I have to know why. What happened
to her.

VERONICA
I know Simone.

SIMONE
People say she was crazy all along
but I know better.

Veronica leaves the sea to look at Simone.

SIMONE
It all happened after she enter
this forum.

VERONICA
So you think maybe someone will
answer your question.

SIMONE
Yes.

Veronica settles down to sleep, puts on sunglasses.

VERONICA
Okay, just remember we are at the
beach.

Simone smiles, she gets up from the sand and stretches
looking out to sea.

SIMONE
I know, I didn't escape from juvie
just to cry about the past.

SIMONE (CONT'D)
I'm going in!

VERONICA
You did see the sign, did you?

SIMONE
Which sign?

VERONICA
That one?

Veronica lifts her right foot and points to the side.

There is a warning sign that reads "sea wasps in the water, do not swim."

SIMONE

Oh, that? We don't even know how long it's been there.

VERONICA

Hey, I'm not your mother.

SIMONE

Very funny.

VERONICA

Not intended.

Simone grimaces and runs towards the sea.

VERONICA (O.S.)

I'll be watching you!

Simone doesn't answer, she keeps running towards the sea and when she reaches the waves, she dives into the water.

She keeps swimming, not stopping until being far into the sea.

She comes to surface, stops and catches her breath.

Looking back at the beach, she can barely see Veronica resting in the sands.

From the distance, Veronica raises her hand at Simone.

Simone smiles.

Suddenly, a scream!

Simone looks ahead.

There's a young man moving nervously in the water.

YOUNG MAN

Help! Help please!

Simone hurries to swim to the Young Man, but stops when she gets close to him.

She can see a sea wasp underwater near him.

YOUNG MAN

My leg, I can't move my...

The Young Man sinks into the water.

Simone swims around to approach him away from the sea wasp.

She grabs him by the armpits and tries to lift him up.

SIMONE
Just calm down!

The Young Man doesn't stop moving, Simone can't lift him completely.

He is too heavy.

YOUNG MAN
Please... please...

SIMONE
Damn it!

The young man sinks back down.

From the---

BEACH

Veronica gets up from the ground, she watches Simone in the water.

She realizes.

Back in the---

SEA

Simone struggles to lift the Young Man, every time she lifts him, she herself sinks.

She's getting tired.

SIMONE
Dude, please, stop moving! You're making it...

Simone sinks, she gulps water.

She releases the Young Man to return to the surface.

She manages to catch her breath.

However.

Young Man sinks, he grabs Simone by the shoulders.

SIMONE

Wait!

BEACH

Veronica fails to see Simone in the water.

She runs to the lifeguard stand on the side.

UNDERSEA

Simone has her eyes completely open.

She tries to let go of the Young Man's hands grabbed forcefully on her shoulders.

They both continue to go down.

Her force declining.

A vision.

RAINFOREST - DAY (1502)

A young indigenous man grabs Simone's arm (her skin color is now dark) as a group of armored soldiers pull him towards them.

He screams in despair.

Simone tries to break free from his grab.

SEA

Simone releases the hands from her shoulders, but the hands now grasp her arms tightly.

She looks deep into Young Man's desperate eyes.

A new vision.

AFRICAN SAVANNA (80.000 AD)

Simone, now naked, her skin sunburned. Her arm taken by that of a young man, the claws of a large animal pull him into the pasture.

The young man drags Simone towards the same place.

SEA

Simone's vision fades, her legs barely move anymore.

The hand holding her is still, but has not let go.

The azure blue of the sea is lost in the darkness of the depths.

All black.

Darkness, black hands grab Simone and drag her down.

The hands grab her, her arms, her torso, until they grab her neck and face.

Until she herself disappears completely into the darkness.

Then... silence.

EXT. INFINITE ROAD - DAY

Simone wakes up in the middle of a road that expands between both horizons, backwards and forwards.

To the left and right of the road, wilderness, as vast as the eye can see.

She is confused.

SIMONE

Where...

SIMONE'S MOTHER

Hi, Simone. I was expecting you.

SIMONE

Mom...

In front of Simone is SIMONE'S MOM (49).

SIMONE'S MOTHER

I'm sorry for what happened honey.

SIMONE

What happened?

Simone's mother smiles empathetically.

SIMONE

Don't tell me...

SIMONE'S MOTHER

It's okay, everyone goes through this.

Simone's mother helps her daughter up the floor.

SIMONE

Where are we?

SIMONE'S MOTHER

This is just a place in between, if you continue up the road you'll be in the future...

Simone looks up ahead.

SIMONE'S MOTHER

If you go back, you go the the past. But you can't go back from where you came honey, I'm sorry.

Simone looks back, then turns to her mother.

SIMONE

Mom. I... I wanted to ask you many things.

SIMONE'S MOTHER

Like what?

SIMONE

Like what? I mean... why did you... How could you...

Simone's mother keeps looking at Simone with that empathetic gaze that seems static.

It becomes somewhat sinister in the mid-day shadows.

SIMONE

Mom... are you...

SIMONE (CONT'D)

You're not my mom, are you?

Simone's mother loses her smile.

SIMONE

Who are you?

???

Who? Me?

Simone doesn't answer.

???

I'm you, you're me... my memory.

SIMONE

Your memory?

A slight wind lifts the hair of Simone and the person in front of her.

???
 Oh, time's up. Guess this time it
 wasn't the time for us.

The wind grows in intensity until it raises a curtain of
 sand between Simone and the person in front of her.

SIMONE
 Who are you! Where's my mom!

The person disappears into the sand.

CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

Simone wakes up shocked.

She is lying in bed, connected to machines that monitor her
 vital signs.

SIMONE
 Mom!

VERONICA
 Simone!

Veronica, sitting on an armchair at the side of the bed,
 stands up and embraces Simone effusively.

VERONICA
 (hurting)
 Ouch!

VERONICA
 You're awake!

SIMONE
 Awake? Where are we?

VERONICA
 We're in a hospital dummy! You
 drowned with that guy!

SIMONE
 What!

VERONICA
 Doctors said you were gone for like
 an hour, is a miracle you came
 back.

A nurse enters the room.

NURSE

Miss Simone, I'm so glad you regain consciousness.

Simone smiles at the nurse, somehow still confused about the whole thing.

NURSE

(smiling)

I'm going to do a quick check of your vitals while the doctor gets here, Is that okay?

The nurse approaches the medical devices holding a medical chart in her hands.

VERONICA

Hey, good news, someone replied to your post on that website, can you believe it?

SIMONE

What!?

Veronica pulls Simone's phone out of her sweatshirt pocket.

VERONICA

Here.

Simone picks up the phone, she searches for the browser among the applications and runs it.

The web page loads.

At the top of the screen is written "the wheel of samsara".

"I want to stay in this world/I want to go through the door."

Simone chooses I want to go through the door.

She searches through the forum entries that are displayed, she comes to a specific one.

Her mother's post.

"I WOKE UP from this dream a few days ago, I still can't assimilate it all completely, this life of mine... I always felt it wasn't real, now I know it. Now I don't want to stay here anymore, I want to go to the other side."

Simone scrolls down a number of replies, gets to the last one.

Is her own.

"Mom, why did you leave me?"

Someone has replied to this post.

"The answer at the Messiah's resting place, November 9 at 7:00 pm."

SIMONE
What day is today?

VERONICA
Is the 9th.

SIMONE
9th of what?

VERONICA
November?

SIMONE
I have to go, now!

Simone tries to pull out her IV as she moves to the side of the bed to get off.

The nurse stops her.

NURSE
Excuse me, you can't leave until the doctor examines you, remember you've been in a coma for three days.

SIMONE
But...

NURSE
Also, the police are here, they want to speak with you.

VERONICA
The police?

The nurse walks to the door.

NURSE
I'll let them know you're ready to talk.

The nurse leaves and closes the door.

SIMONE
We have to get out, now!

VERONICA
I know, but... can you walk at
least?

SIMONE
Now, Veronica!

VERONICA
Right, yeez!

Simone removes the IV, covers the blood with her hand.

Veronica helps her off the bed.

Simone grabs Veronica's shoulder and they both walk to the door.

VERONICA
Hang on.

Veronica opens the door carefully and looks out.

In the hallway she can see two policemen talking to the nurse.

VERONICA
They're right there.

Simone leans her head against the wall to hold back the dizziness that overwhelms her.

A vision.

CONCENTRATION CAMP - DAY (1934)

Simone, now with a long black dress deteriorated and surrounded by barbed wire.

In the middle of a row of prisoners.

Some prisoners attack the soldiers, incapacitating them.

Prisoners run to the open gate, escape.

A woman takes Simone's hand, together they run to the exit.

The soldiers shoot at the prisoners who attack them, kill them.

Then they shoot the prisoners who run.

The bullets pass furiously past Simone and the woman she is running beside.

Both manage to cross the fence, they escape.

Back to---

HOSPITAL ROOM

Simone opens her eyes, Veronica's still peaking through the door.

SIMONE

Listen, we'll just gonna walk away,
okay?

VERONICA

Are you nuts, they'll definitely
see us if we go out.

SIMONE

Hey.

Veronica looks at Simone, who looks back straight to her eyes.

SIMONE

We are gonna get out, trust me.

Veronica nods, complying.

HOSPITAL HALLWAY

The door opens slowly.

Simone, leaning on Veronica, both walk out the door and walk in the opposite direction of the policemen and the nurse.

Other people walk down the hallway.

They approach the door to the emergency stairs just beyond.

However.

The nurse sees them.

NURSE

(from afar)

Ladies, ladies!

The cops turn to look, noticing Simone and Veronica running away.

COP
Hey! Stop!

Simone and Veronica make their way to the emergency door and cross to the---

EMERGENCY STAIRS

Where Simone takes a false step and almost falls, but Veronica is able to hold her up.

VERONICA
Now what?

SIMONE
(hurting)
Just keep going...

Veronica holds Simone tightly and they both go downstairs.

On the wall it says 2nd floor.

SIMONE
Thank god...

VERONICA
C'mon, just one more floor.

They keep going down.

The door to the third floor opens, the radio of one of the policemen is heard.

Simone and Veronica reach the 1st floor.

They walk through the door into the---

MAIN CORRIDOR OF THE HOSPITAL

More people pass through the corridor.

They mingle among the people as they continue walking toward the hospital exits and the---

PARKING LOT

Where they encounter a patrol car on the side of the sidewalk.

The policeman inside the vehicle is talking on the radio.

Simone and Veronica manage to move and walk to the side before they are seen.

SIMONE
Where's the car?

VERONICA
No much further, hold on.

People walking past them notice Simone wearing the hospital gown.

SIMONE
Any day now.

VERONICA
Not the besy moment to give me a hard time.

Simone and Veronica arrive at the red convertible, clearly visible among the other cars.

SIMONE
Next time we shouldn't steal the most notorious car.

VERONICA
Yeah, I'll keep it in my thief's journal.

Veronica helps Simone into the passenger seat.

She then runs to the pilot's seat.

Veronica starts the car's engine.

She drives out of the parking lot but accelerates past the police car at full speed.

SIMONE
Why the hell did you do that?

VERONICA
Is this god damn car, it wants to go fast.

SIMONE
He totally see us.

VERONICA
Like we were gonna go unnoticed in a red convertible.

SIMONE
Just speed up okay? We don't have much time.

The time on the car's panel clock shows 18:20 hrs.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMENTARY ENTRANCE - DAY

The red convertible pulls up next to the metal doors.

Simone gets out of the car, Veronica too.

SIMONE

Wait me here, please. I need to do
this alone.

VERONICA

(smiling)
Good luck.

Simone smiles back and walks carefully toward the entrance.

Already feeling better.

She walks through the graves on each side, through the
people mourning in silence, until she reaches the---

MESSIAH'S GRAVE (KATE'S GRAVE)

The place is alone except for one girl kicking the floral
arrangements and offerings, the gifts that people have left
on the grave.

It' s Annie (15).

Simone looks at her at a distance.

TEO

(to simone)
She'll come around.

Simone turns to find TEO (22), a man with a brown
complexion, oriental features and a serious look.

TEO

Hi there, Simone, I'm glad you
came.

SIMONE

So, you're the one that replied to
my message.

TEO

Indeed.

Teo looks at Annie again, Simone too.

Annie kicks one more fower and walks away.

SIMONE
Who is she?

TEO
Kate's sister.

SIMONE
The Kate?

Simone looks at Teo, he nods positively.

SIMONE
And you are?

TEO
A friend.

SIMONE
Of my mom?

TEO
I knew her, yes.

SIMONE
How?

TEO
Some time ago, I created a website,
I think you know the one I'm
talking about.

SIMONE
The wheel of Samsara.

TEO
Yes, your mother was one of the
first users.

SIMONE
And she died for it.

TEO
No Simone, she acted on her own, I
only showed her the truth.

SIMONE
The truth?

TEO
You've seen it too, don't you.

Simone looks away.

TEO
Simone, I think you already know
this...

SIMONE
What?

TEO
This is not your first life.

Simone keeps quiet.

(Flashes of her previous "visions").

TEO
Your mother had a predicament, she
saw many lives of herself, in each
of those lives she caused the death
of her children.

SIMONE
What!?

TEO
Anyway, I don't approve their
methods.

SIMONE
Their?

TEO
Kate's, Thomas, your mother... it
was their idea to escape reality.

TEO (CONT'D)
I don't know what's beyond the
truth, but I know I don't want to
get there abandoning others.

SIMONE
Shut up...

Teo looks at Simone.

SIMONE
I can't... I won't accept this...

TEO
Simone, I can only offer you the
truth.

SIMONE

The truth? Are you telling me my
mother wasn't insane? She abandoned
me willingly?

Teo goes to answer, prefers not to.

SIMONE

Go to hell, and she too...

Simone walks hurriedly away from Teo.

EXT. CEMENTARY ENTRANCE - DAY

Simone walks to the gate, ahead the red convertible.

But.

Next to the car, a police car.

Two policemen question Veronica, visibly frightened.

Simone stops.

She looks to the side, towards the end of the street, the
corner.

She can escape, they haven't seen her.

Simone walks away.

Faster and faster.

Now painfully running to the end of the street.

All previous versions of herself run by her side.

The one in the black dress.

The indigenous one.

The prehistorical one.

And many other versions of herself.

Running, leaving a loved one behind.

Simone loses speed.

She starts to fall behind.

The rest of the Simones continue to move forward, the
distance between them growing.

Simone stops.

FADE TO BLACK.