

STAR CROSS

Written by

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FADE IN:

1

INT. WILL'S HOUSE: BEDROOM - DAY

1

WILL DAWES (20's) slender, wearing dress clothes, sits at his desk with his hands clasped. Peacefully praying.

HOWARD (O.S.)
Hurry up! We'll be late!

The peace is interrupted by his father's yell. Will opens his eyes, holding back his annoyance.

He closes his eyes to finish the prayer.

HOWARD (O.S.) (CONT'D)
You hear me? Let's go!

The question sounds more like a demand.

Will snaps back from his desk, grabs his Bible, and heads out.

1A

INT. WILL'S HOUSE: DINING ROOM - DAY

1A

HOWARD DAWES (50's) places piles of folded clothes in a cardboard box with the label VIETNAM VETS.

Will enters frame, putting his book bag over his shoulder.

Howard looks at him.

HOWARD
Where's your jacket?

WILL
In the car.

Howard shakes his head in disappointment.

He carries the cardboard box over to Will.

HOWARD
The usual place. VFW on Rowland. Then
come to the church right after.

WILL
I know.

HOWARD
You remember you have orientation
tomorrow?

WILL
Yeah, Dad. You don't need to tell me.

Howard warmly smiles at his son, putting his hand on his shoulder.

HOWARD
I'm so proud of you.
(pointing up)
Him, especially.

Will smiles and nods.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
It's your big week. May God Bless you
son.

WILL
God bless you.

Will walks off frame with the box.

1B

EXT. WILL'S HOUSE - DAY

1B

Camera follows Will towards his car.

He places the box on the hood and reaches for his keys.

A woman on the phone walks past, she waves.

LILIA
Hi Will!

It's Will's neighbor LILIA.

WILL
Hey!

He smiles and waves, then carries on bringing the box to his car.

Through the porch glass, Howard suspiciously glares down Lilia.

2

INT. CHURCH - DAY

2

Will stands up and walks towards his father. He hands his father a pitcher filled with water.

Howard nods and turns to a young woman (20 yrs old) on her knees. She is in prayer formation and her head is bent over a bowl of water.

Will sits back on his chair and observes.

HOWARD
Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord
and Savior and to live by him alone? Do
you accept to atone for your sins?

YOUNG WOMAN
I do.

Howard pours the water on the girl's head over the bowl. She makes a sign of the cross.

She stands up. Howard wipes her face with a towel. The girl opens her eyes, still catching her breath.

HOWARD
Then you are forever reborn in the eyes
of the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit.

The girl smiles.

YOUNG WOMAN

Thank you. Thank you, Father.

Will sighs and palms his face.

3

INT. WILL'S: DINING ROOM - NIGHT

3

Will and Howard at the dinner table.

Howard notices Will hasn't said a word.

HOWARD

Something on your mind?

WILL

No, it's just been a lot to take in lately.

HOWARD

You need to have faith.

WILL

Yeah, I know that Dad. It's just sometimes I question things.

Howard furrows his eyebrows.

HOWARD

How so?

WILL

I mean, like... do you believe everything you say at church? Every word?

HOWARD

Well, His Word is our salvation. It's our duty to deliver His word. You know this.

(scoffs)

Everyone needs to be saved. They'd be damned, otherwise. Like the O'Sheas. Like your mother.

WILL

You're right. I get it. I was just curious.

Howard sighs in disappointment. Will squirms in his seat preparing to be preached to again.

HOWARD

We've become too comfortable these days. It's angering him. Just be grateful for this opportunity.

Howard leans in towards Will, sincerity on his face.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

One day, when I'm no longer here, you'll be the one standing at the altar.

Will is unsure, but nods in agreement anyway.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

Also, maybe do some shopping before hand.
You need to look proper.

4 **INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE: BEDROOM - NIGHT**

4

Will tosses and turns in bed. He can't sleep. He stares at the ceiling. A wave of stiffness prompts him to touch himself. He quietly moans, hoping to climax. Then looks at the cross on the wall, and decides not to go through with it.

There's the light of a fire flickering through his window. And someone's voice outside.

Will gets up from the bed, and looks out the window onto his neighbors yard. He sees a girl outside performing a ritual with four candles, crystals forming a circle and other natural elements on a small table.

5 **EXT. LILIA'S BACKYARD - NIGHT**

5

LILIA O'SHEA lifts a candle to the smoldering fire pit and lights it.

LILIA

By our power, Brigid, restore their will.

She places the candle on the small table in formation with other candles and crystals.

She takes a seat in front of the table and bows her head.

LILIA (CONT'D)

Sun by day and stars by night, let our
darkest thoughts be put to flight. Bless
your daughter, all sons and daughters, at
all cost. Our hearts mended. Our tears
washed.

6 **EXT. CHURCH: STREET CORNER - DAY**

6

Will drives by the church. He spots his neighbor standing idly on the sidewalk. Waiting for something and listening to music.

He combs his hair back and decides to pull up to her at the curb. He opens the window and she takes notice.

LILIA

(in a subtle Irish accent)

Oh, hi Will! What are you doing here?

WILL

Hi, Lilia. Just some shopping.

LILIA

Me too! As you can see.

Will glances on the road behind him then turns back to Lilia.

WILL

You waiting for the bus?

LILIA
It's taking forever! My mom would drive
me, but she's sick.

He ponders his next move.

WILL
I could drop you off on the way home.

LILIA
That'll be such a relief! Thank you!

Will nods.

She opens the door and gets in the passenger seat.

7 INT. CAR - DAY

7

Will and Lilia are driving through the suburban streets. It's a quiet ride.

WILL
(Clears throat)
I'm sorry about your mom, by the way.
I'll make sure to pray for her.

LILIA
That's very kind. Thanks.

WILL
What does she have if you don't mind me
asking?

LILIA
Pneumonia. She's on life support. I left
my museum internship to support her.

WILL
That's rough, but you're really awesome
for doing what you can.

Lilia smiles and turns to the window. Will glances at Lilia who's
wandering off a bit.

WILL (CONT'D)
Besides that, what are you doing these
days?

LILIA
I'm doing poetry.

WILL
That's funny. I actually do poetry as
well. I mean, when I'm not at church.

LILIA
Ah, so that's why you're always dressed
like a Mormon.

WILL
(defensive)
No, I'm not a Mormon.

LILIA
It's a joke!

WILL
Well, it's not funny. I'm practicing to
be a pastor.

LILIA
You don't seem too thrilled about it.

BEAT.

WILL
So, who's your favorite poet?

LILIA
Kyoshi Takahama. You heard of him?

WILL
No. I should check him out.

LILIA
I recommend it. And you?

WILL
Henry Rollins.

LILIA
Henry Rollins?

WILL
The singer of Black Flag. Turns out he's
a poet too.

LILIA
(Flattening lips and nodding)
Hmm, I should look into him. His music
too.

Another silence. Will's tapping the wheel with his fingers. Lilia looks
around before looking at him, smiling. Will scoffs.

WILL
Maybe when my dad's at work, I could read
you something. If you aren't busy.

Lilia nods.

LILIA
What's it like serving at the church
these days?

WILL
(shrugs and sighs)
Like serving a wall sometimes. Most days,
it's like he's not even there.

Lilia nods somberly.

Will pulls up in front of his and Lilia's houses.

WILL (CONT'D)
Here we are.

Will is about to open the car door until Lilia says something.

LILIA
Have you ever had your palms read?

WILL
(confused)
Palms read?

Will looks bewildered. She sees this and grabs his hand anyway.

LILIA
It'll be quick.

She examines his palm.

WILL
Uhh, what are you doing?

Lilia shushes him softly. She slides her finger across each line on Will's palm. He gets a little aroused, but snaps out of it.

WILL (CONT'D)
(clears throat)
Not to be weird. But I saw you last night.

Lilia gets a little startled and stops soothing his hand. She scoffs.

LILIA
Huh. You did, did ya?

WILL
Yeah. I wasn't trying to, y'know, stalk you or anything. I was just...

Lilia raises an eyebrow with a suspicious smirk.

WILL (CONT'D)
What you were doing looked interesting.

Lilia nods.

LILIA
I was casting. Praying, if you will. It helps me feel closer to the divine.

She takes out a pen from her bag. Will almost pulls his hand back, but he lets Lilia continue holding it. He wants to trust her.

LILIA (CONT'D)
Would you like to know a secret?

Lilia writes her number on Will's palm. Will's unsure what to think, but he's curious.

Lilia puts a purple capsule in Will's palm.

LILIA (CONT'D)
This will help you reconnect.

Will looks at Lilia and starts chuckling.

WILL
(chuckling)
Are you serious?

LILIA
Yes. I should know.

WILL
(sarcastically)
Well, you seem to know everything.
Thanks, but I don't need a pill to feel
closer to God.

LILIA
It can help. It helps me when I need it.
(opens car door)
Anyway, give me a ring sometime. I'd like
to hear your work.

Will gives her a smile. And she exits the car.

He steps out and watches her walk off, he laughs to himself walking to
his front door.

8 INT. WILL'S HOUSE: BEDROOM - DAY

8

Will walks into his room and tosses Lilia's capsule into the trash can.

He dresses himself in front of a mirror, wearing a white dress shirt
with black dress pants. Looking like a Mormon. He puts a cross around
his neck. He leans his forehead against the mirror and sighs.

He looks at his hand, which has Lilia's number. He sits at his desk and
sees the Bible. He looks back and forth. He sucks on his teeth and
stands.

He goes back to the trash can.

8A INT. LILIA'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - DAY

8A

Lilia's reading a Kyoshi Takahama book on her chair and her phone
rings.

She picks up.

WILL
Nothing's happening.

LILIA
Excuse me?

WILL
(mocking)
The thing you gave me. It's useless.

LILIA
That was quick. I didn't think you were
keen. I'd come over before it kicks in,
if I were you.

WILL
What? No, I have an orientation.

LILIA
Sure, but not at the church. You'll have
to miss this one.

WILL
I can't do that. That's stupid.

LILIA
As is taking that pill before consulting
with me first.

WILL
Ha, whatever you say.

LILIA
My front door's open. Come over soon.

She hangs up.

8B **INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE: BEDROOM - DAY**

8B

Will stands in his room unsure what to do. He's deciding between going
to orientation or Lilia's.

Curiosity prevails.

8C **INT. LILIA'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - DAY**

8C

Will's shadow slowly walks in. Lilia's sitting on the couch. She has
some folk ambient music playing in the background.

LILIA
How do you feel?

Will looks around Lilia's living room.

WILL
This room looks...interesting.

LILIA
It's a sacred space. My church, if you
will.

He sits on the couch across from Lilia.

WILL
Sure. The thing you gave me doesn't work,
but I brought my journal to read.

Lilia has a sly smile.

LILIA
(taking out her journal)
Me too. Maybe if you keep your mind open
long enough, you can keep up.

Will chuckles and shakes his head.

Lilia opens her book.

LILIA (CONT'D)
Shall we?

WILL
I'll go first.

Lilia gestures for him to present.

WILL (CONT'D)
It's called "The Unknown"

LILIA
Ohh! So mysterious, William! By that I mean cliched.

WILL
Shut up! It's a work in progress.

Will clears his throat and reads his poem.

LILIA
That is beautiful. Tragic, in a way. It feels personal for something "undone".

WILL
Thanks. Your turn.

LILIA
I don't know if it's worth the time.

WILL
C'mon. I'm sure it's great.

LILIA
I don't know.
(sees Will playfully praying)
Fine. If you insist.

Lilia looks at Will with a sly smirk like she's waiting for something to happen. She slowly picks out a page in her journal.

Lilia reads a poem, that ominously resembles a Pagan chant. Will claps. Lilia playfully bows.

WILL
That was actually very good.

LILIA
Thanks. It's supposed to be a haiku.

The room falls silent. Lilia looks at his bag.

LILIA (CONT'D)
What's that other book in there?

WILL
My Bible.

LILIA
Ah, a classic. Can I see?

Will is unsure, but decides to hand it to her. Lilia opens it up and reads a verse. Galatians 5:15.

LILIA (CONT'D)

There's some really remarkable verses in here. It's fascinating, despite my school of thought.

WILL

Of course, it's the word of God.

Lilia nods. Will notices Lilia's pagan necklace.

WILL (CONT'D)

Can I ask you something, Lilia?

LILIA

Of course.

WILL

Do you believe in hell at all?

LILIA

Hmm. Not really. I believe in many things. Gods. Their whims. Wisdoms. But not that. Neither a heaven.

WILL

(suspicious)

Gods?

LILIA

Mmhmm.

(closes Bible)

The thing is, despite it's hardships, living becomes a bit easier once we release ourselves from this tightrope of fear. It takes a leap of faith.

WILL

Hm. Never thought of it that way.

The room falls silent again. Will is gazing quietly at the ritual table in front of him with crystals.

Lilia silently observes Will, then stands and leaves the room.

Will notices the crystals and table pulsating, and realizes something's wrong.

Lilia reenters the room burning sage. Will is startled.

Lilia tries to console him, but he is completely zoned out.

WILL (CONT'D)

What the...?!

LILIA

(faint)

You need to let go.

WILL

This is...You tricked me!

LILIA

Shh...It's okay. It'll be over soon.

Will's on a completely different plane. His eyes close. Everything around him becomes dark, dimly lit, shimmering, distorted.

He opens his eyes and sits up. He finds himself sitting on a seat inside a dark church. The air of the church riddled with candles and dried leaves leading up to the altar filled with lotus flowers.

At the altar, he sees a ghostly feminine figure calling to him with a veil over her face.

Hesitant, Will gets up and goes up to the altar. He sees her holding a pitcher of water. She gestures him to kneel in front of a bowl of water.

He prays as the spirit pours the water on his head. The spirit gestures him to rise. She dries his face with her hands.

SPIRIT

Breathe.

Will takes a deep breath. He closes his eyes.

8D INT. LILIA'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - MORNING

8D

Will wakes up on the couch with the sunrise shining through the window. The world looks and feels different, in a way he hasn't seen it before. He grabs his bag and heads home.

10 INT. WILL'S HOUSE: DINING ROOM - MORNING

10

Howard looks at his son with a grin as he eats. Will focuses on his food with a little smirk. He focuses back on his food.

Will raises his head temporarily before playing with his food. Howard focuses at his food.

HOWARD

I didn't want to wake you since I knew it was long. Seemed longer than usual.

Will shrugs.

WILL

Yeh, just a little tired, is all.

HOWARD

How was it? You look more cheered than usually.

WILL

(confused)

I'm sorry, what was longer than usual?

Howard raises eyebrows. Will ponders and gasps.

WILL (CONT'D)

Oh right, the orientation!

(scoffs)

Duh! I mean...what can I say? It was great! Yeah! Amazing learning experience!

Howard cuts his steak with a bit of a smirk.

HOWARD

(Impressed)

That's great to hear! Seems like you enjoyed yourself.

WILL

Yeah, I really did! Sincerely!

(sighs and shrugs)

If it's a way to spread His Word, why wouldn't that be fulfilling? Especially helping others.

Howard scoffs with a soft smile on his face while eating. Silence fills the room. Will ponders quickly on what else to say.

WILL (CONT'D)

And the shelter...how did it go?

HOWARD

Going strong! We've raised enough to get each of them a home. The clothes are sufficed. It's better than last month!

WILL

(smiling)

That's awesome! You should be proud!

HOWARD

I am. I'm really impressed with your efforts. Sounds like that event's done you some good!

Will nods with a smile.

WILL

You could say that.

HOWARD

You're doing well.

Will says nothing but nods.

He takes his knife and fork to cut the potatoes.

HOWARD (CONT'D)

I've gotta get to VFW for extra paperwork. So, you have time for yourself to prepare for the study tonight.

WILL

Are you sure, dad?

HOWARD

I am. Make sure you're there at 5.

WILL

I'll be there.

Howard smiles.

Will feels optimistic. He glances down at his hand where Lilia placed her number. It's washed off.

His father approaches and kisses Will on the temple before leaving the room.

14

INT. CHURCH: SANCTUARY - EVENING

14

Howard is speaking amongst his small congregation.

Will walks into the dimly lit sanctuary. He sees his father at the altar with the four members ready to study the Bible. Howard turns and stands up from his chair.

HOWARD
(opens arms)
Here he is! Man of the hour!

Howard chuckles and embraces his son. Will hugs him back. They disconnect.

WILL
Hopefully I'm not late. Had to run some errands.

HOWARD
No, we're just discussing the topic for our next sermon, led by you. Come. Join us.

WILL
I will.

Howard sits back on his chair.

Will opens his satchel and takes out his poetry book instead of his Bible, realizing he left it at Lilia's place. He looks around, hoping no one notices. He shrugs it and puts it back.

He walks to the altar.

HOWARD
Now about Paul the Apostle, I'm quite fascinated with his part in the New Testament...

Will's offered an empty seat and gladly sits.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
His redemption speaks truth to power of how we are blinded. But when we trust in God, we set ourselves free. Rightfully.

The congregation nods, as well as Will, agreeing. Some were writing in their journals.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
It could be scary, mostly because we think of righteousness as a prison. But there is a verse about that in Galatians.
(turns to Will)
Will, please, if you could.

Will gets a little nervous but puts up a smile. He looks at the congregation around him. He faces his father, still waiting.

WILL
Yeah, well, In Galatians...

Will tries to wing it as well as he can.

HOWARD
Open to the verse.

The door of the church opens behind him. He turns. It's Lilia rushing in with his Bible in her hand.

LILIA
Sorry Will, this was left at my house!

Will comes down from the altar and retrieves the book from her. Making eye contact, he gives her a nod. Lilia nods back. She then looks at Howard.

LILIA (CONT'D)
Mr. Dawes. I didn't mean to interrupt!
I'm sorry!

Howard sharply looks at Will.

WILL
Dad, let me explain...

HOWARD
(Irritation rising)
What is this?

The church falls silent.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
Why is she here holding your Bible!?

Will tries to find words.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
Were you with "her" this whole time?!
(pointing at Lilia)
This witch?!

Will tenses in anger, wanting to defend Lilia, but doesn't. Lilia becomes pale and her eyes water. She looks back at Howard who is fuming red.

LILIA
Mr. Dawes, I just -

HOWARD
I don't wanna see or hear you! Get the
hell out of here! GET OUT!

Lilia gets startled and looks at Will. He looks at her eyes wide then looks away. She exits the church.

Howard glares at Will. He sits down and the Bible study resumes, but Will isn't totally present. He can't believe what just happened.

15 **INT. WILL'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - DAY**

15

The next day, Will sits in his living room with a recently bought ankle monitor strapped to his ankle. He looks dead inside. Howard puts on his work jacket and gives Will a glare.

HOWARD

You're a disgrace! You put me to shame!
Put yourself to shame!

He leaves the living room. The door is heard SHUT. Will proceeds to write lines on an empty notebook. *"I will be ordained in his eyes."*

Time passes, Will's phone vibrates. It's Lilia. He ignores it. He continues to read his Bible. It vibrates again. He turns it off.

The doorbell rings. He looks through the peephole and see's it's Lilia. He's annoyed and leaves to another room.

15A **INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE: BACKROOM - DAY**

15A

Will's in the backroom when someone knocks on the glass door.

It's Lilia. She sees him.

They look at each through the glass door for a few moments, until Lilia takes the initiative and pushes the door open. Lilia's sad smile comes.

LILIA

Hi.

WILL

Hey.

LILIA

How are you?

Will shrugs in silence before looking back at her.

Lilia looks around a bit. She scratches the back of her head. She looks back at Will. He shrugs.

WILL

What's up?

LILIA

(sighs)

Look, about last night...I am so sorry. I just...

Will silently listens.

LILIA (CONT'D)

...I shouldn't have made you take that pill. I just thought...I was helping.

Will shakes his head.

WILL

(jaded)

It's fine.

(MORE)

WILL (CONT'D)

(sighs)

It's not your fault. I'm sorry too.

Lilia gives a somber smile. She gets distracted. She looks back at him.

LILIA

I also came to tell you about this poetry event happening tonight. I forgot to say yesterday. If you're still interested.

WILL

(pauses)

Not sure. I think I'm just out of it today. With everything that's happened.

Lilia nods somberly. But she takes notice of Will's ankle monitor, which he hides.

WILL (CONT'D)

It's nothing.

Lilia looks up at him in distraught, raising an eyebrow. Will sighs and unveils himself half way. She looks down at the monitor.

WILL (CONT'D)

Okay. So...

Lilia is taken aback.

LILIA

So you're under house arrest now?!

WILL

It's fine! Not the first time he's punished me. He's just getting more creative, I guess.

LILIA

But that's extreme! Insane even!

WILL

It's fine, really.

LILIA

Are you sure?

Will's face turns dead serious.

LILIA (CONT'D)

(beat)

I mean if you say so.

WILL

Yeah. I do.

LILIA

But what are you gonna do about this?

Will pauses.

WILL

Something I should've done a long time ago.

Lilia nods and looks around a bit.

LILIA
Alright. I guess I'll see you around,
Will. Take care. Please.

Will nods with a little grin.

WILL
You too. I'll see you.

Will closes the door and goes back to the living room.

15B INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - DAY

15B

He opens his Bible and reads Galatians 3: 10-13; *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole'."*

Will grabs a big knife out the kitchen and returns to the living room.

He puts the knife on the coffee table and sits back in the couch, waiting.

16 INT. WILLIAM'S HOUSE: LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

16

We hear the keys from Will's father unlocking the front door. He steps in and Will stands silently in front of him.

He's holding a torn ankle monitor and tosses it on the floor in front of Howard.

HOWARD
What are you doing?

WILL
I'm resigning.

HOWARD
Resigning? What are you talking about?

WILL
Becoming a pastor, it's not for me. It's not my life. I'm out.

HOWARD
Just like that?

Will nods. Howard pauses, his breathing speeds up. He slams his bag on the ground.

HOWARD (CONT'D)
(scoffs)
It's bad enough you were seeing that bitch when I told you not to. You lied to me! You disobeyed me! Now, you turn away from what God wants for you?! Ungrateful is what you are!

WILL
Ha! Really?! I'm ungrateful?!

HOWARD

You might as well live with her! You clearly aren't happy here! There's a devil in you that needs to be exorcised.

WILL

Goddammit, just shut up! It's not about what he wants! It's about what you want! But it's never good enough! I'm done with it! I mean I'm your son! Not one of your soldiers in Vietnam!

Will just hit a nerve.

HOWARD

Don't you dare. After all the shit I've done for you. And this is how you thank me? Going out with that witch girl?!

Will shakes his head in disgust at the insulting question.

WILL

Fuck you! Who are you to judge her? Huh? She's kind. Humble. I can't say that about you.

Howard is on the verge of bursting out, but resists the impulse.

There's a silence. He picks up the ankle monitor off the floor and stretches it out with both hands, glaring at Will.

There's an air of uncertainty and tension. Until Will makes a move towards the door.

HOWARD

Where do you think you're going?!

Howard blocks Will.

WILL

Get off of me.

Will storms towards the back door.

HOWARD

That bitch will ruin you! You hear me?!

Howard stands dumbfounded. He rushes to the closet in the backroom and grabs his gun from the case.

17

EXT. THEATER - NIGHT

17

Lilia stands outside the event, arms crossed. Alone, sad and concerned. Will hasn't shown up yet. She checks her phone, when a familiar voice is heard approaching.

LILIA

(surprised)

Will, you're...I didn't think you'd come.

WILL
Lilia, I'm sorry.
(sighs)
Look, my dad-

LILIA
Is everything okay?

Will looks visibly stressed out.

WILL
It's totally fucked.

LILIA
(crosses her arms)
Because of me? Right?

WILL
No. He's just an asshole, but forget it.
I just want to spend time with you. For
real this time.

LILIA
(with a smile)
So it has everything to do with me...

Will laughs and looks down at the poetry book in her hands. His face
changes. He grits his teeth, looking like he wants to punch a wall.

Still, he composes himself. But Lilia feels tension.

LILIA (CONT'D)
We don't have to go.

WILL
No! I want to. It's just...

Lilia sees a bench and insists Will to sit with her. They both sit on
the bench.

18 **EXT. THEATER PARKING LOT - NIGHT**

18

Howard pulls up on the other side of the curb. He's tense seeing them
together and breathes angrily. The gun is on the passenger seat.

He zones in on Lilia talking with his son.

19 **EXT. THEATER - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT**

19

Will is tense. But he sighs it off when he takes a look at Lilia.

LILIA
(beat)
I thought you wouldn't want to see me
again.

Will is confused.

WILL
Why?

LILIA
(Beat. Looks at Will)
For what I did. To you and your dad.

WILL
No. You did nothing wrong! It's just...

Lilia looks concerned. Will exhales in frustration.

WILL (CONT'D)
I know he wants what's best! But...he
doesn't get it!

LILIA
I'm sure he does.

WILL
(scoffs)
How? You're psychic too?

LILIA
Don't be dumb! He loves you! He wouldn't
have done what he did, otherwise.

WILL
I mean...even after he...

She shakes her head.

Will tenses up again. Lilia grabs one of Will's hands and examines his palm. She looks back at him. He doesn't acknowledge her. Lilia narrows her eyebrows, releasing his hand.

WILL (CONT'D)
I still should've done something.

LILIA
You're not obliged to defend me, Will.

There is silence.

WILL
I thought about what you said last time.
About being on this tightrope.

Lilia nods and ponders.

WILL (CONT'D)
I never realize how long I've been there.
I was scared of taking that leap, not
knowing what's below.

LILIA
Yet, you took it. That could be scary
sometimes. The world is scary.

She hesitantly puts her hand on his shoulder.

LILIA (CONT'D)
But you're really brave for that.

Will finds it in his heart to smile. They hold hands.

WILL
I learned from the best.

She smiles back. They let go.

Lilia looks up at the stars.

LILIA
You know, there isn't anything wrong
about being on that tightrope, really.

Will looks at Lilia. He's a little confused.

LILIA (CONT'D)
Just don't feel pressured to live on it.
You could just step off...trust the
stars. They're the ones that know.

WILL
Know what?

LILIA
Which end we'll land on. Until then...in
the dark and light, we can stand and live
right. Not by others. By ourselves. By
the divine.

Will nods.

20

INT. HOWARD'S CAR - NIGHT

20

Howard is zoned in on Lilia. This is the moment.

He grabs the gun from the seat and opens the door.

Will and Lilia have a long embrace.

Howard pauses. He sits watching waiting for an opportunity to save
Will. Then it hits him what he's doing.

Tears well up in his eyes and he's close to breaking down.

He lets go of his murderous intentions.

After a moment he takes another look at them still embracing and a
smile forms through his sadness.

He puts the gun down and writes a text on his phone.

21

EXT. THEATER - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

21

Will and Lilia stand up from the bench Will's phone vibrates. He stops
to check his phone. He sees a text.

After taking it all in, he closes eyes, then texts back. He sighs with
a smile of relief. He turns to the parking lot, only to see nothing.

Will and Lilia look at each other and embrace. They face one another.

WILL
So, you ready?

LILIA
Yeah. Let's go.

They walk together through the theater doors.

22

INT. HOWARD'S CAR - NIGHT

22

Howard smiling watches them walk in.

He starts the ignition and drives off.

CUT TO:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. - Proverbs 3:5-6

CUT TO TITLE:

"Star Cross"