

(Name of Project)

by  
(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by  
(Names of Subsequent Writers,  
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by  
(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)  
Address  
Phone Number

EXT. SCHOOL - DAY.

School bells ring as students leave their classrooms. All students are dressed similarly in trendy clothes. Jack Strong, a high school student around the age of 16 is among the students. He walks alone and proceeds with the theme "Flight to Sinai" as he makes his way home.

JACK STRONG  
"Flight to Sinai"

Jack comes upon his families house, a very tidy and manicured home, like the others around it.

JACK STRONG (CONT'D)  
Finishes "Flight to Sinai" upon walking into the door.

INT. STRONG HOME/DINING ROOM-NIGHT.

The family sits around a table, elegantly prepared with food and complemented by candlelight and a flower arrangement in the center. We first see the family bowing their heads as Robert Strong leads the family in grace. Robert Strong is Jack's father, he in his 50's, and is dressed conservatively. Jack's mother, Hope Strong, is dressed just as conservatively.

ROBERT STRONG  
Blessed Jesus: Thank you for this food of which we are about to receive. Bless us and keep us from harm in this new city. Guide and direct this family from anything and everything you, mighty Lord, would look down upon. Amen

JACK AND HOPE (TOGETHER)  
Amen.

The family proceeds to put food on their plates.

ROBERT STRONG  
So did everyone have a nice day?

Jack and Hope nod.

ROBERT STRONG (CONT'D)  
And Jack. Tell your mother and I about what you did in school today?

JACK STRONG  
Uh, well, we talked a lot about the seventies. Like Watergate, and stuff.

ROBERT STRONG  
Not one of our countries proudest  
moments. Was it dear?

Hope agrees nonverbally.

JACK STRONG  
We, uh, also learned about Harvy Milk  
today too. (pauses) And the Castro  
district.

Robert and Hope go silent for a very long time. Hope is looking down at her food as Jack stares at the wall, waiting for a reply. Robert's voice goes into a deep whisper.

ROBERT STRONG  
I knew this city would bring about  
unfavorable topics into this household.  
Not to mention our lives. Jack,  
understand this, there is no other place,  
none, more involved with sin. You are to  
never go there. This city is a cesspool  
of darkness.

JACK STRONG  
But-

ROBERT STRONG  
Sings "City of Darkness."

Jack Stands interrupting.

JACK STRONG  
Dad! Stop.

Robert and Hope look shocked.

JACK STRONG (CONT'D)  
Dad...Mom... What if I don't like women?  
(pauses) I think I'm gay.

Hope drops her fork which rings loudly as it hits the plate as Robert's expression quickly goes from shock to silent, dark, disapproving, rage.

EXT. GRACE CATHEDRAL - DAY

The day is mild, yet sunny. Grace Cathedral is an iconic symbol of man's devotion to faith, basking in the sunlight.

JACK STRONG (V.O.)

Things at home, just weren't the same. Needless to say, it was uncomfortable being around mom and dad. I never thought anyone could look so forward to going to school. Eventually I heard them whispering that maybe the best solution was to send me away.

INT. GRACE CATHEDRAL - DAY

The church is near empty, minus the lone boy sitting in the third row looking up at a cross with Jesus hanging on it. There are candles lit behind him at the front of the room, some newly lit, others enjoying their last few moments. He looks around him and then closes his eyes in prayer.

JACK STRONG (V.O.)

They spoke of summer "camps", for people like me. People who have parents that think they are sick and can be cured. I don't believe that I'm sick. And I don't believe He would either.

Jack looks up at Jesus again.

JACK STRONG (CONT'D)

Give me a sign.

SOPHIE

Hey Jack.

Startled, Jack turns around to see his classmate and best friend Sophie. She, like him, is 16 and is dressed conservatively. He smiles at her then gets off his knees and sits on the bench. Sophie sits beside him.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Any luck?

JACK STRONG

With?

SOPHIE

I don't know. I'm really not sure what to even say. This is new for me too. (pause) How are you parents doing?

JACK STRONG

Same. I don't even like being home anymore.

(MORE)

JACK STRONG (CONT'D)

It's like they hate me now because of something I have no choice about.

SOPHIE

We all can make the choices. It's just how we decide to act on them that drive the present forward. What do you think He would want to see from us?

She sings "The Man He Wants to See."

When the song ends the two stand together. Jack looks slightly more confident as Sophie is smiling, happy with herself. She takes his hand in hers.

INT. JACK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jack is sitting at his computer desk in his room, a very tidy space. There are no clothes on the floor, his bed is made. Touches of a housewife are all around him. He is typing at his computer and has only his desk light lit.

JACK STRONG (V.O.)

Even though Sophie and I agreed to take a step in the direction of trying to correct the problem, I felt more alone than ever. It started to feel as though now I had no one who would listen. And certainly no one who would just let me be me. I decided to keep a journal in the form of a blog, online. Aside from playing the guitar, writing was my only therapy. And as strange as it sounds, it made me feel better. But what became even more odd was when I found out it was actually being read. A man from the *New York Times* had taken an interest in my story and thought it might make an interesting item for the paper. I didn't really care, it was kinda cool. Maybe there were other people out there reading it, who could relate.

EXT. BAPTIST CHURCH - DAY

It is another nice day as Jack sits alone on some side stairs to the First Baptist Church. He is holding his guitar and softly playing Christian music.

JACK STRONG (V.O.)

Through everything that has happened, not coming home until later became routine. Not that my parents seemed to mind. I think they just don't know what to do with me. Lately they stopped whispering about the gay "fix-em" camps, and started attending meetings here at our families' church with the minister. All discussing which of these Christian homosexuality recovery centers would be best for their little problem child. I told Sophie I would go, and intend to keep that promise. But ever since writing that blog, and finding that it was interesting enough to be considered news, I've just, felt...different. Perhaps I just needed someone to tell me that what I'm feeling, deep down, Isn't all that bad.

JOSEPH

Jack?

Jack looks up to see Joseph, a 15 year old boy smiling back at him. Joseph has an air about him that Jack isn't used to and a confidence in himself that Jack does not have.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Jack Strong?

JACK STRONG

Y-yeah?

Joseph throws out a hand for Jack to shake.

JOSEPH

I'm Joseph.

JACK STRONG

Nice to meet you.

JOSEPH

So, I was just inside there and overheard your parents with the priest. Looks like we could be bunk buddies.

JACK STRONG

What? What do you mean?

Joseph sits down next to him.

JOSEPH

Well, my parents are in there, and your parents are in there too. And all four of them are talking about where to send their misguided sons. So, we might end up at the same place.

JACK STRONG

Oh. Cool.

JOSEPH

I overheard them mention your name, and you know what? I read your article.

This catches Jacks attention.

JACK STRONG

Really?

JOSEPH

I don't think there is much reason to be so sad with your situation. I mean, think of it this way, what would He want of us?

Joseph nods towards a statue in the nearby garden of Jesus.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

I've been reading. And I just can't seem to find a solid reason to believe that God would put us on the planet to feel this way.

JACK STRONG

What do you mean?

JOSEPH

Well, why would He want us to have to suffer so much with this internal struggle. To hate who we are because some MAN wrote down that it is wrong. How do we really even know God said that anyways? I even think all the anti-gay talk contradicts the other things written. Like, isn't God's word that he loves all his children? I think He loves each of us. And not because of who we fall in love with. But because we are compassionate, faithful, human beings.

A car pulls up and a woman rolls down the passenger window.

JOSEPH'S MOTHER

Joseph, honey. We're leaving.

JOSEPH

Well, Jack. Maybe I'll see you around.

Joseph runs to the car and hops in. Jack sits there for a long time watching him drive off. After a moment, he picks up his guitar and begins playing the same song he was playing earlier, but with a slightly more upbeat rhythm.

EXT. STRONG HOME - MORNING

Jack is walking with Hope to the car. He has a few small suitcases and puts them in the trunk of the car. She sits in the front passenger seat.

JACK STRONG (V.O.)

Under different circumstances, it might feel weird leaving home. But it hasn't felt like home for a few weeks now. Ever since summer began, I've tried every outlet to get away from my parents. It has even been hard being around Sophie. She doesn't seem to notice how hard this is on me. During most of the time we have hung out since she originally convinced me to go to camp, she seems...different. Like since she's "helped me" she wants to be even closer to me. Only she doesn't see it just makes me want to be even further away. I don't know what I'll do, or how this will all end. But one thing that I can't help remembering what that kid, Joseph, said to me.

Jack gets in the car. He and his mom sit silently. Hope, a woman of few words finally has time to say what she's feeling without the input from her husband.

HOPE STRONG

I'm going to miss you.

Jack is kind of surprised by this.

JACK STRONG

Uh, oh. (Pause) Yeah. I mean, yeah I'll miss you too.

HOPE STRONG

I hope you understand that your father  
and I both love you. Very much.

There is silence.

HOPE STRONG (CONT'D)

We have always wanted what is best for  
you. If you ever feel in question about  
anything, look to God. What would He  
really want of us?

Robert Strong comes out of the front door and locks it  
behind him and starts walking to the car.

HOPE STRONG (CONT'D)

Whatever you choose, know that it could  
not change how much I love you.

She reaches between the door and the seat and takes his  
hand. Gives it a slight squeeze and lets go when Robert  
opens the door. They begin to drive away.

JACK STRONG

"Flight to Sinai-Reprise"