

'Trinity' TV Pilot

By

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1 EXT. CHURCH & GRAVEYARD - MIDDAY

A Church, cloaked in clouds. Graves surround the outside, outlining a clear path.

A funeral. Black clothed figures walk from the church to the graveyard in single fashion.

They stand around a grave, looking at their feet. Rain drizzles down, dripping off of sombre umbrellas.

We focus on SCARLET (20s). Her face is unreadable. Her hair blows gently in the wind... her face shadowed by her umbrella.

She looks up at the person in front of her. Stoic. The person looks back - offers a gentle smile. Scarlet bows her head slightly... stares... then... an eerie smile creeps onto her face, growing in intensity. Her eyes look deranged.

The person drops their smile. They are spooked to the core.

2 INT. COMMUNITY HALL - DAY - 1950S

TITLE PAGE - TRINITY

A WOMAN stands on a stage in front of a handful of people, sitting, watching her.

A sign to the side reads TRINITY RETREAT OF REFLECTION.

WOMAN
(soothing voice)
Welcome everyone. This is the 'Trinity
Retreat of Reflection'.

SAME - 1960S
The same woman, now in a conservative
60s dress. She continues the sentence-

WOMAN
I just wanted to start by saying-

SAME - 1970S
WOMAN

-we understand. We are here for you all.

SAME - 1980S
A different WOMAN (early 20s).

WOMAN
-to help guide you through your grief-

SAME - 1990S

WOMAN
-and deliver you to solace, in the
Divine.

SAME - 2000S

WOMAN
-now, let us unify with worship, by-

3 SAME LOCATION - MODERN DAY - MIDDAY

Scarlet standing in the same position... yet she says nothing.

Walks over to the sign that reads 'TRINITY RETREAT OF REFLECTION - PREYER & SEWING SESSION'. She rips the sign down, then looks to the two old ladies that sit, needles in hand, waiting to begin.

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SCARLET
what?

The ladies look at each other, confused.

SCARLET
(scoffs)
fuck off

The old ladies stand, confused and disrespected.

OLD LADY 1
(to herself)
I brought new wool and everything...

3 INT. COMMUNITY HALL - LATER

Scarlet packs the last of some random stuff into a suitcase - posters, books etc... the white robes worn by previous members of the Trinity Church - long before her birth. Runs her fingers over the rough and worn fabric - packs them.

Fumbles onto a particular item attached to a more embellished robe - a cross necklace. The metal chain feels cold and foreign against her fingers as she examines it.

Her face finally shows a hint of emotion... however, she

remains mostly unreadable. The mind wanders...

Hesitates for a moment, coming back to reality. She then takes the cross off the necklace and places the bare chain around her neck. The cross is chucked on the floor, left to disappear as Scarlet leaves.

4 EXT. CHURCH & GRAVEYARD - EVENING

Scarlet is stood looking down at her mothers grave. She wears the embellished robe and looks down, little emotion. Her shadow looms over the tombstone.

Staring for a moment... then she spits on the grave.

SCARLET
bitch

She wanders off, hand in pocket, carrying the suitcase. We don't know where she's going.

EP. 1 - 'LIMBO'

5 EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

SARAH (20s) sits on the bench at a graveyard, tissue in hand. Her eyes are heavy with black circles - her hair a greasy mess. Holds a bunch of BLUEBELLs in her hand... she hasn't noticed they are dead.

Wipes her eyes, getting rid of the single tear that rolls down her cheek.

WENDY (30S) approaches, two cups of tea in hand. Takes a seat next to Sarah, hands her one of the cups. Sarah gives a light smile as a thank you.

They sit in silence for a moment, staring forward.

SARAH
I can't believe it's been a year and I
still feel like absolute shit

WENDY
(sighs)
these feelings don't just go away,
Sarah. It's ok. You are allowed to
feel like this

A beat. They take a sip of their tea.

SARAH
you didn't put any sugar in my tea

WENDY
(under her breath)
crap, sorry

They both chuckle quietly.

A beat. Sarah sits, staring at the grave. A trance like state...

FLASHBACK

6 INT. KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

A WOMAN (mid 40s) sits at the kitchen table. She's hunched over, her face hidden in tangled arms. Her body a lifeless shell.

A bottle of alcohol lays on the table next to her, empty. Whatever was still left in it has now leaked onto the floor, leaving a sticky sheen dancing in the light.

We get closer and closer to this body...

SARAH
mum?

Closer... closer

BACK TO REAL TIME:

Sarah JUMPS as Wendy puts her arm around her. Sarah wipes her eyes again, a few more tears falling.

SARAH
I'm so sorry, I keep going on about it...

WENDY
Don't apologise. I'm still not recovered from the loss of my parents.
I understand.

It goes silent for a moment as they both sit and ponder. Sarah leans her head on Wendy's shoulder, taking in deep breathes.

WENDY
how about you come with me to that

boot camp? I think it would really help you. I've been before, it made me feel a lot better talking to others who were struggling too.

Sarah lifts her head back up and thinks for a moment.

SARAH

I mean... I'm not as devoted as you though. What if I didn't fit in?

WENDY

that's ok, that doesn't matter - it's all about finding peace and healing through God, everything you believe in.

Sarah nods and stares straight ahead, thinking deeply.

SARAH

doesn't sound too bad

Gives Wendy a smile. Wendy smiles back.

7

EXT. REMOTE FARMHOUSE - MORNING - 1 MONTH LATER

Sarah and Wendy park up by a remote farmhouse in a field. The sun is shining - it's a beautiful day. A serene feeling floats in the air.

They get out of the car. Wendy walks to the boot and starts unloading the car. Sarah looks to see-

Scarlet standing outside, chatting to a handful of others. They all wear the white robes, glowing lightly in the sun. Everyone looks happy.

Scarlet makes direct eye contact with Sarah. Sarah feels slightly taken aback - there is something in that stare. It's intensity... almost as if she can sense her depressed mood from the distance.

Scarlet waves over at Sarah and gives her a large, friendly smile. Sarah waves back and smiles lightly.

Scarlet looks down and turns the other way. Her face becomes unreadable.

FLASHBACK:

8 EXT. FIELD - DAY - YEARS AGO

A young Scarlet stands in the middle of a small circle of people. Sheepish, donned in a black robe. Shaking.

MARY (young teen), her sister, stands behind her. Feeble. So nervous she can't look anywhere but at her feet.

Their mother also stands in the middle. A bowl of water is prepared next to her.

MOTHER
You have hurt us all deeply

Everyone stares at Scarlet. Her cheeks turn the same colour as her name.

MOTHER
(at Mary)
and you... I cannot even look at you

A beat.

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MOTHER
The Lord is furious. You have broken 3 of the rules of this doctrine, and for that you will be punished. It is time for you to repent your sins, and to be baptised again as a new believer.

A woman tosses a magazine into a bonfire that is next to them. It burns and melts. Scarlet looks deeply upset.

SCARLET
I'm sorry, I-

MOTHER
never interrupt me

Scarlet is petrified. It feels like the whole Earth goes silent.

MOTHER
come here.

Scarlet approaches, hands trembling. She walks up to the bowl. Leans her head down. Then mother pushes her head in.

She's held under the water. The crowd start chanting. Everything happens so quickly. Mary winces. The crowd cheers. Scarlet squirms under the water. Her mothers stare burns a

whole in the back of her head. The crowd cheer-

BACK TO REAL TIME -

9 INT. FIELD - LATER

The group stand around a bowl of water, Scarlet also in the circle. They all wear their robes.

SCARLET

hello everyone! It's so nice to finally meet you all. Welcome to Trinity Centre of Reflection! If you've been here before, you'll notice that my mother is not here anymore as she unfortunately passed away.

The group coo in unison.

SCARLET

it's ok though, this is a safe space that we will use to make sense of our traumas, no matter how different they may be, through the loving grace of God-

Scarlet gags slightly on that last word. She pats her chest and covers her mouth slightly, a worried expression takes her eyes for a split second. Then an amused smile.

SCARLET

- sorry -

(continues)

how about we start with something easy? Lets all say our names, what we do, and why we are here. It's a bit intimidating I know, but no one is here to judge. We are all here to help each other and find peace through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

(points up to the sky - then a beat)

I'll go first - I'm Scarlet, I run this camp - The Trinity Centre of Reflection - and I would like to work on coming to terms with losing my mother. Next-

Scarlet points to the next person and they begin talking.

Sarah is somewhere else. She stares forward, the feelings of

her grief hitting her like a punch in the face. Too many thoughts race through her mind to think right now.

SCARLET
hello?

Sarah snaps back to reality and looks around. Everyone is staring at her, even Wendy, who gives her an encouraging smile. How embarrassing.

Scarlet looks to her and gives her a light smile, but only with her mouth. Her eyes say something different - deep thinking. She's locked onto Sarah's vulnerability.

SARAH
sorry-

SCARLET
it's okay, take your time

SARAH
(deep breath)
I'm Sarah, I'm a barista and I'm here
because I lost my mum, and... I'm
finding it really hard

Sarah wipes her eyes, trying to stop any tears from falling down. Scarlet keeps locked onto her - her eyes are so intense. She's feeding off of this.

SCARLET
I understand. I am going through the
same thing right now
(a beat)
do you ever wonder why God has to
punish us like this?

Sarah is confused. Looks at Wendy. Wendy gives an encouraging smile. She's heard all this before.

SCARLET
what did we do to deserve this
punishment? I know death is just part
of life, but why do we suffer so
greatly? What sins did we commit to
have this pain pushed upon us? Why
must I feel so guilty?

Everyone looks around, wondering, nodding.

SCARLET

but it's ok. We will get through this, I promise. I promise you healing. All we have to do is atone our sins and the sins of our family. Our Lord will forgive us eventually. I will bring you healing if you just believe.

Scarlet looks at the group and smiles at everyone, especially Sarah. Sarah looks back and smiles, feeling slightly relieved and hopeful. Scarlet stares at Sarah for longer, before...

SCARLET

how about we baptise you first, Sarah?

Sarah looks to Wendy again. Her eyes are excited. She hesitates.

SARAH

(nervous)

sure

SCARLET

come here

She walks to the middle of the circle to meet Scarlet at the bowl.

SCARLET

bend over slightly facing the bowl

Sarah complies.

SCARLET

Sarah - do you want to atone your sins?

SARAH

yes

SCARLET

do you want the Lord to forgive you - and give your mother a comfortable afterlife?

SARAH

yes

SCARLET

will you open up your mind and believe? Follow the rules? Live a more

structured lifestyle? Move with the will of the group?

SARAH
yes

SCARLET
good.
(chuckles under the breath)
then hold your breath

She pushes her head under. The older crowd members start to cheer. The younger ones join in.

Sarah squirms under the water just like Scarlet did. Scarlet holds her there... a light smile on her face...

She lets go. Sarah comes up, gasping, soaked.

Scarlet grabs her cheeks. The crowd cheers in the back - barely audible to Sarah. She feels disorientated.

SCARLET
you're cleansed

Sarah slowly smiles at her. Connected.

10 EXT. OUTSIDE FARMHOUSE - AFTERNOON

The sun begins to set as Scarlet sits outside, strumming on her guitar, making up tunes.

Sarah stands in the doorway, contemplating. She finally goes and sits next to Scarlet, tucking her legs up to her chest. Scarlet continues to strum her guitar.

SCARLET
(singing a line from Bob Dylan's
'Sara', strumming guitar,)
Sara, Sara, so easy to look at, so
hard to define

She looks at Sarah and gives her a cheeky smile. Sarah smiles back, amused.

SARAH
do you really think God is punishing
us?

SCARLET
(sighs)
I do. Our misfortune is so great. Our

mothers didn't die in nice ways, did they? It was an undignified end for them. And we will probably suffer for a long time because of that

SARAH
(taken aback)
how do you know my mum died undignified?

SCARLET
because I know you already, Sarah

She begins to strum on her guitar again.

SCARLET
look - some of these people have been here before, when my mum ran the camp. Like our friend Sue. Yet they come back - they are still suffering greatly from their trauma. The only explanation is God is punishing them, otherwise why are they not able to heal? Well, I'm going to change that. You can trust me.

She looks out onto the misty, orange glowing field. Sarah nods and looks out too. She feels odd. This woman really does seem to know her.

11 INT. CHURCH - EVENING

Scarlet walks into the empty Church, long black coat falling behind. Takes a seat next to the only other person in there.

It's Mary. She looks up at the stained glass window, eyes baggy and tired. She looks as though she hasn't slept for days. They both stare forward, not even acknowledging each other.

MARY
what did you want to say?

SCARLET
I'm going to say that I run the camp now and I'm changing how it works.

MARY
and?

SCARLET
that means you aren't welcome there
anymore

Mary sighs, puts her head down.

MARY
that's ridiculous. Why?

SCARLET
because your interference will ruin it

MARY
you can't kick me out of my own
inheritance

SCARLET
It's mine. I run it. I'm the oldest.
That means I make the rules, and the
rules are you aren't allowed there
anymore

MARY
Scarlet, this isn't fair, what would
mother say?

SCARLET
Mother won't say anything, because
she's dead

Mary looks at Scarlet for the first time, shocked and
disgusted. How could she speak like this?

MARY
mother is looking down at you, she's
probably so ashamed.

SCARLET
(irate)
no. Mother is looking up. Because
mother is in hell

Mary shakes her head at Scarlet, staring at her for a moment,
before looking back forward.

A beat. Mary stands, steps over Scarlet, speed walks towards
the door.

12 EXT. CHURCH & GRAVEYARD - EVENING

Mary stops her speed walk outside to quickly light a

cigarette.

Scarlet has caught up. She grabs Mary's arm and pulls her to face her. Scarlet stands tall over Mary, who appears small and frail in comparison.

SCARLET

I've moved the location anyway so you
don't bother going to the community
centre.

MARY

(trying to shake her off)
just fuck off!

SCARLET

(surprised, amused)
alright, calm down Virgin Mary

Mary scowls at her, pulling harder.

MARY

you are absolutely vile

Scarlet lets her go. Mary speed walks away, Scarlet just stands and watches, a dark figure in the background.

SCARLET

if you try and interfere you know
what'll happen to you

Mary carries on, ignoring her. A small tear falls from her eye as she wanders out of view.

SCARLET

(to herself)
I'll hurt you like I did mother

She turns to look at the Church. It looms over, ominous. The look on her face is unreadable. All we can tell is that she's thinking something... thinking something intense.

THE END