

1 INT. SCONE HALL

PASTOR

It's now time for our closing psalm

Liturgical Minister Elijah is singing.

ELIJAH

The responsorial psalm is this: My heart beats with the breath of the Lord...or the Higher Spirit, who I believe in. He, or she, or a mixture of gender or absent of gender there of, is my shining light, or darkness which is perceived as light. After me everyone!

CHURCH

(clumsily)

My heart beats with the breath of the Lord...or the Higher Spirit, who I believe in. He, or she, or a mixture of gender or absent of gender there of, is my shining light, or darkness which is perceived as light.

FX: pastor coughs at the podium

PASTOR

Thank you for the psalm Elijah. What a glorious Sunday it is. Tomorrow is going to be a big day for the Society of the Children Of the Natural Earth. Our new secretary starts tomorrow...

FX: timid clapping

PASTOR

Yes, we are excited. I know it's been tough since we found out that our last receptionist Sharon was embezzling money from the church.

FX: MMMmmmmhmmm

PASTOR

So if you see our new receptionist, please give her a SCONE hello! We want to welcome her to the community like we welcome EVERYONE: with a wide open hug.

## 2 INT. SCONE RECTORY

Pastor Sophie and Liturgical Minister Elijah are together in the foyer.

PASTOR

Elijah, I'm a bit nervous about this new secretary

ELIJAH

Why? Do you think she'll steal 50,000 thousand dollars, two boxes of church wine, three silver candle holders, office supplies and all of our Starbucks brand bags of coffee?

PASTOR

No, I'm nervous because we don't know her!

ELIJAH

We met her in the interview.

PASTOR

Yeah, but like...what's her dreams? what's her favorite color?

ELIJAH

Well asking her what her favorite color is should be easy...

FX: door opens with the welcome jingle chime

CAROL ANN

Oh good morning everyone...how's your Monday going?

PASTOR

Good morning Carol Ann, a blessed day for us. The new secretary should be here soon.

CAROL ANN

Oh no, I didn't get her a drink from Starbucks.

ELIJAH

It's okay, next time you go for a coffee run we'll make sure you get her order.

CAROL ANN  
 Pastor, here's your carmel vanilla  
 coconut blueberry latte with two extra  
 shots and free-range corn milk.

PASTOR  
 Thank you Carol Ann.

CAROL ANN  
 Elijah, here's your iced green tea  
 with raspberry infusion as well as  
 your side of lemongrass.

ELIJAH  
 Thank you Carol Ann.

CAROL ANN  
 Where's Jonathan? I have his mocha  
 right here...

PASTOR  
 Jonathan! JONATHAN! JONATHAN!

FX: footsteps come from down the hall.

JONATHAN  
 What is it Pastor?

PASTOR  
 Carol Ann got us coffee.

CAROL ANN  
 Here you go child...

FX: sips

JONATHAN  
 Carol Ann...this is a chocolate mocha.  
 I told you I wanted a white mocha.

CAROL ANN  
 Well, I must have gotten confused, I'm  
 so sorry.

JONATHAN  
 Carol Ann I don't get confused when  
 you go on one of your long rants about  
 the 1930s or about your husband  
 Patrick.

CAROL ANN

You're very right Jonathan, I'll remember next time.

JONATHAN

Sometimes I wonder why we send you and your walker on these Starbucks trips...you don't even own a car.

CAROL ANN

Thankfully Starbucks is only a half mile from the bus stop.

FX: door opens with the welcome jingle chime

PASTOR

Oh it's our new secretary!

ELIJAH

No, it's just two random people. Hi, how can we help you.

RANDOM PERSON 1

Hi, we're here to get some baked goods.

PASTOR

Oh we're not a bakery. We're SCONE

RANDOM PERSON 2

Oh, well sorry for calling you a bakery. We were hoping we could get two cinnamon rolls here at the bakery- I mean SCONE.

ELIJAH

No, what Pastor Jamie means is that we don't cook baked goods. Well, we do, but that's usually a Friday night activity.

RANDOM PERSON 1

Well do you have leftover cinnamon rolls?

JONATHAN

Bitch she just told you this is not a bakery, oker?

RANDOM PERSON 2

But the sign says SCONE...

PASTOR  
SCONE stands for the Society of  
Children OF the Natural Earth

RANDOM PERSON 1  
Wouldn't that make it SOCOTNE?

ELIJAH  
'SCONE' makes it easier to add into  
fun festive songs. Can you rhyme  
anything with SOCOTNE?

RANDOM PERSON 1  
So just to confirm, there are no baked  
goods here.

RANDOM PERSON 2  
But this building used to be a bakery.

PASTOR  
Yes this building used to be COOKIES.

RANDOM PERSON 2  
OHH so you only sell scones now.

RANDOM PERSON 1  
Well, I'll have a scone...

ELIJAH  
No, we don't sell scones! Or cookies  
or crepes or whatever sweet tooth  
goodies you want. We're a Non  
Denominational Parish.

RANDOM PERSON 2  
You turned this old bakery into a  
church?

PASTOR  
No, the old church next to this bakery  
is the church. This is the rectory.

RANDOM PERSON 1  
Okay, I think we got it. But do you  
know where we can get scones?

CAROL ANN  
Well that reminds me of a story about  
when I was a little girl and made  
scones...

FX: door opens with the welcome jingle chime

ELIJAH

Carol Ann, you scared those two away.  
We were just about to bring them  
aboard as two new members of SCONE!

CAROL ANN

Oh I'm so sorry, I'll just go continue  
working on lifting those heavy boxes  
out of the attic and into the  
basement...

FX: shuffling sounds which fade out.

PASTOR

We give her the easiest tasks and she  
can't keep up...

ELIJAH

It's hard working with church  
volunteers sometimes...

FX: door opens with the welcome jingle chime

PASTOR

Ah, Liv! Welcome to your first day!

LIV

(unexcitedly)  
I'm excited guys.

ELIJAH

Let's go talk about your duties and  
then give you a tour of the place.

PASTOR

Right here is the foyer. That's going  
to be your desk. Next to Jonathan's.

JONATHAN

Hey girl.

ELIJAH

Jonathan is our part time employee.  
He's in school for queer studies and  
marketing.

LIV

Oh dope, do you want to like do  
marketing and buisness for some LGBT

center or something?

JONATHAN

I guess. But my dream job honestly is to be a sugar baby.

PASTOR

Jonathan is a homosexual and runs our LGBT group here at the parish.

JONATHAN

Pastor, don't say homosexual. It sounds like your some stuffy scientist who wants to dissect me. Funny enough I just got dissected last night...

PASTOR

Moving on, we have my office right here, and Elijah's office down here...the break room, the bathroom, the meeting room, the conference room and the collaboration space...

LIV

What's the difference between the meeting room, conference room and collaboration space?

ELIJAH

Ideally the meeting room would be used for duos. The conference room usually involves at least three people. Collaboration space is for informal gatherings.

PASTOR

Part of your job will be managing these three rooms.

LIV

Well that shouldn't be hard given there's like five employees who work here.

PASTOR

All our parishoners have access to signing up for those rooms. We also have over fifty clubs.

LIV

Fifty clubs for a church?

ELIJAH

Of course! We have bible club, bible class, Torah club, Q'uran studies, Hindu club, Buddishm meditation society, Pagan Association, Contemporary Religion club...

PASTOR

Then we have our more fun clubs, like our Book Club, SCONE Oldies Club aka our Old Person Society also known as Scondies, Teen Club, Coven Club, Warlocks Club...

LIV

You guys have a coven and warlocks club?

ELIJAH

They're two separate clubs based on gender unfortunately. We're not sexist but it seems like the history of magic is sexist.

PASTOR

Most of these clubs have set meeting times, so you won't have to worry about too many reschedules.

FX: heavy lifting sounds

ELIJAH

We also have our Church's volunteer Carol Ann. She's very old, like 90 or something. We try and give her very easy tasks. But we have to be patient with her because of her age.

PASTOR

CAROL ANN! How are those boxes coming along?

CAROL ANN

(breathy  
)

Not...too...bad...I...should be...finished...by the...afternoon...

ELIJAH

Well take a quick break and meet our new receptionist, Liv.

CAROL ANN

So....good to....meet you.

LIV

Do you need help these boxes look heavy.

PASTOR

It's okay Liv. It's important that Carol Ann handles the projects alone.

CAROL ANN

Yes...the...church...keeps me...young...

ELIJAH

Let's go over to the church, the choir is actually practicing...

LIV

At nine o'clock on a Monday?

PASTOR

We have some dedicated pipes in this parish!

ELIJAH

But the pipes in our upstairs bathroom aren't as dedicated

PASTOR

By the way Carol Ann, please check out the pipes upstairs.

FX: door opens with the welcome jingle chime

LIV

So besides scheduling meetings and doing like basic secretary things, what else do you guys need me to do?

ELIJAH

Well there's a lot of little stuff but we'll get there when it happens.

LIV

That's a bit vague.

PASTOR

Well at a non denominational church/parish/congregation/temple,

there's no predicting what's going on.

LIV

What's the mission of SCONE?

ELIJAH

No judgement.

LIV

That's the mission?

PASTOR

Yes, we don't judge around here.

LIV

What if one of your parishioners  
killed someone?

ELIJAH

Was it self-defense?

PASTOR

Or maybe it was an accident

LIV

No it was on purpose.

ELIJAH

Did they have no choice?

PASTOR

Was it a mercy killing?

LIV

No, your parishioner murdered someone  
for pleasure.

ELIJAH

Well, let's hope he wouldn't do that.

PASTOR

Yeah this hypothetical couldn't  
possibly happen. The members of SCONE  
are honestly too sweet to murder  
someone.

LIV

So there would be no judgement on this  
parishioner who murdered someone?

ELIJAH

I mean if we judged them then that means we broke our mission of no judgment...

PASTOR

The only thing we kill around here is kill boredom!

FX: Church door opens

PASTOR

Here is the church space...we have Sunday mass at 10am and noon. We also have Monday, Wednesday and Friday mini-masses at 7pm.

ELIJAH

Oh, our choir is already gathered for practice. Let me introduce you to everyone. CHOIR! This is our new receptionist, Liv

CHOIR

Hello Liv!

ELIJAH

This is Marcy, she's the head choir liason. I mean, I run the choir but she-

MARCY

Charmed to meet you Olivia.

LIV

I go by Liv.

MARCY

Fun fact, I was in the band Marcy Playground. The band was actually named after me.

LIV

Isn't that the one-hit wonder band with the song 'Sex and Candy'

MARCY

Yes.

LIV

What did you do? The tambourine?

MARCY

I was the second lead singer.

LIV

I didn't know the band actually had a second lead singer.

PASTOR

Neither did we. But she's credited on wikipaida as being the second lead singer...

LIV

Can't anyone edit wikipedia?

ELIJAH

We also have Elizabeth, Margaret, Barbara, Katherine, Pippy, Agnes, Dorothea, Evelyn, Lillith and our two dudes: James and Garfield. Oh and don't forget our rising star, 10-year old Annabelle.

ANNABELLE

Hi there miss!

LIV

Shouldn't she be in school?

ELIJAH

Annabelle is actually homeschooled on Mondays and Wednesdays.

LIV

How does that work out if she's homeschooled two days of the week?

MARCY

(loud whispering)

Annabelle is treated like she's made out of gold, but lemme tell you she can barely hit B7.

LIV

Isn't that like wayyyy above the normal singing range.

MARCY

If she's all that and a slice of my delicious recipe for angel cake, then why can't she sing a B7?

LIV  
Can you sing a B7?

MARCY  
Back in the day I could!

LIV  
Back when you were a "member" of Marcy  
Playground?

MARCY  
Ah ah ah! Founding Member.

ANNABELLE  
Marcy's what we call my 'rival'.

MARCY  
More like a nemesis.

fx; keys

ELIJAH  
Barbara, how many times do I have to  
tell you not set the tone with  
dramatic music!

3 INT. SCONE RECTORY

Fx: Jingle out, jingle in to set up a new scene.

LIV  
Uh huh...

Fx: someone is on the phone and Liv is talking to them.

LIV  
You're thinking of the old bakery that  
used to be here, Cookies... mmm. No,  
we're SCONE. No...we don't sell  
scones. We're a non-denominational  
church.....uh huh. Ahhh. okay. Yup,  
no problem.

Fx: Liv puts down the phone

LIV  
This is the fourth phone call today  
that I've gotten about a to-go order  
of Cookies...

JONATHAN  
 (chewing on gum  
 )  
 Yeah this place used to be a bakery.

LIV  
 I know, but hasn't SCONE been here for  
 like a year now?

Fx: Jonathan pops the gum

JONATHAN  
 I dunno.

LIV  
 (sighs  
 )  
 Alright...well anyway, how do you deal  
 with Elijah and Pastor Sophie? They  
 seem very peppy but very...

JONATHAN  
 Stupid? Dumb?

LIV  
 I was gonna go with vapid, but yeah,  
 stupid and dumb.

JONATHAN  
 They mean well but in an effort to  
 please everyone things get off the  
 rails.

LIV  
 Maybe it would help if the church had  
 more of a mission or purpose.

JONATHAN  
 The mission is 'no judging'. Creating  
 a purpose would be judging those that  
 don't agree with the purpose.

LIV  
 Whatever, this is just a paycheck for  
 me.

Fx: steps approaching

CAROL ANN  
 (breathy)  
 Alright...I think...I got all the

boxes...

JONATHAN

Oh wow, you finished quicker than I thought you would! Great you can start the next project.

CAROL ANN

Well I thought...I could take a break.

JONATHAN

A break? What are you, a volunteer?

CAROL ANN

I am a volunteer.

JONATHAN

Alright, well then take a break sassypants...

Fx: Elijah humming a song.

ELIJAH

Liv, would you like to come to mass tonight?

LIV

Oh no, I'm good.

ELIJAH

Are you sure? We are going to debut a new psalm.

JONATHAN

(sarcastically  
)

So exciting.

LIV

Well I'm actually an atheist.

Fx: record scratching

CAROL ANN

I'm sorry everyone, I was trying to put on some music during my break.

ELIJAH

Break? Why are you taking a break? There's so much work to do!

CAROL ANN

Well Jonathan told me I could take a break...

ELIJAH

Jonathan, stop bossing Carol Ann around. It's rude and not your job. And Carol Ann, there's plenty of canned goods that need to be placed in boxes for the food drive.

JONATHAN

Yeah, Carol Ann get to work.

ELIJAH

Go help Carol Ann and stop reading that gay magazine.

JONATHAN

Did you just call my magazine 'gay'?

ELIJAH

No, it's called Gay Magazine!

JONATHAN

HMPH.

Fx: storming footsteps.

ELIJAH

Athiest? Liv...I'm shocked. You don't beleive in God? Or Allah? Jehovah? The almighty? A creator? A deity? A set of demigods? A lord? A maker? An All Knowing energy? A universal life force? A spiritual king or queen? A Divine Being? A-

LIV

Well in my experiences no, I don't believe in anything.

ELIJAH

But-

LIV

But, no judgment, right?

ELIJAH

(sputters for a second  
)

I---uh---well---a--a--a.

LIV

And since this is a non-denominational church, it doesn't matter what I believe, right?

ELIJAH

Well, I mean, I guess but everyone in SCONE believes in something. Being an atheist...

Fx: door opens, footsteps

PASTOR

Did someone say atheist?

ELIJAH

I...I just found out some sad news.

PASTOR

Oh no...did a hot celebrity come out as an atheist?

ELIJAH

No...Liv did.

PASTOR

You're an atheist? You don't believe in God? A series of gods and goddesses? A tree that created all of us? A holy father or mother? Two energies devoid of gender? A totem royalty in the sky? A prime mover? A master and maker and a party shaker? A-

LIV

Yeah I don't think there's anything.

PASTOR

Liv, I'm shocked. We believe in something.

ELIJAH

I...I don't know what to say.

LIV  
Well the mission here is no judgment.

ELIJAH  
Yeah but-

LIV  
No judgment!

PASTOR  
Well...

LIV  
No judgment.

ELIJAH  
However-

LIV  
NO judgment.

Brief moment of silence.

PASTOR  
Will you excuse us?

FX: hurried footsteps, the phone rings

LIV  
This is SCONE how can I help you?  
...no, we don't sell scones.

FX: a door opens and then slams closed.

PASTOR  
Elijah, she's an athiest.

ELIJAH  
What are we going to do? We can't  
judge her or fire her!

PASTOR  
We'll just have to convert her.

ELIJAH  
How will we do that?

PASTOR  
I think I have a book for this  
occasion...let's see, let's see...AH!  
Here it is: Converting Non-Believers

to The Religion of Your Choice.

ELIJAH

Pastor, this book looks scary. It says this is the number one book for cult leaders on the front.

PASTOR

Well when I originally read it, the book didn't have that sticker.

4 INT. SCONE RECTORY

Fx: jingle out, jingle in.

LIV

Yeah, there's a bakery down the street...it's really good check that out.

FX: Liv puts down the phone

PASTOR

(in the distance  
)

O-M-G, LIV hurry!

ELIJAH

(in the distance  
)

LIV, come quick!

FX: running sounds and breathing sounds as Liv moves to the conference room

LIV

(slightly breathy  
)

What's going on?

PASTOR

Carol Ann has fallen over!

LIV

Oh my gosh, she's sprawled out like a fish out of water! Is she responsive?

ELIJAH

No I don't think so.

PASTOR  
We're going to have to pray to God.  
ALL OF US.

LIV  
We need to call 911.

ELIJAH  
I think if we pray and maybe even  
sing, Carol Ann will come back to  
life.

PASTOR  
We're not gonna sing, we're just going  
to pray.

ELIJAH  
Well I brought my keyboard so I think  
we have time for a quick song...

LIV  
(screaming)  
No, we need to call 911!!

PASTOR  
Liv, no. We need to pray to God. We  
need your help to pray to God right  
now.

Fx: Liv presses three buttons on the phone

911 OPERATOR  
911 what's your emergency.

LIV  
Please hurry, a ninety year old woman  
has collapsed and she's not  
responsive.

911 OPERATOR  
oh my lord, where are y'all located?

LIV  
2027 Cedar Road!

911 OPERATOR  
The old Cookie bakery?

LIV  
Yes!

ELIJAH  
 (whispering  
 )

This might have been a mistake, let's  
 call this off.

PASTOR  
 If this gets her to pray, then it's  
 worth it.

911 OPERATOR  
 Well hold onto your baking gloves, I  
 have an ambulance two minutes away!

LIV  
 Great, thank you!

Fx: Liv drops the call

LIV  
 They'll be here in two minutes

PASTOR  
 Perfect, let's pray together in the  
 meantime.

LIV  
 Well I think we should clear the  
 hallway of all the food donations that  
 Carol Ann was stacking up with  
 Jonathan...wait a minute.

PASTOR  
 Good, wait a minute and let's grasp  
 hands.

LIV  
 If Carol Ann was in the hallway  
 stacking canned goods with Jonathan  
 then how come she fell allllll the way  
 back here in the conference room?

ELIJAH  
 I think she was sitting down for a  
 quick break.

LIV  
 Jonathan doesn't give her breaks.

ELIJAH  
 Did I say break? I think I meant

'quake'. Like the medical trauma caused her body to shake like an earthquake and made her tumble into the conference room.

LIV

She tumbled twenty feet down the hallway? And where is Jonathan?

PASTOR

I...

LIV

Oh my gosh. Is this a set up? To get me to pray with you guys?

ELIJAH

I don't like confrontation. It's hard for me to talk when I'm accused. So I'll just sing it.

fx: piano note echoes into the room.

ELIJAH

(sings  
)

\*yes\*

LIV

Carol Ann, are you alright?

CAROL ANN

Is it time to get up?

PASTOR

(sighs)

Yes, the jig is up Carol Ann.

CAROL ANN

I'm very tired, I might just lay down for another minute...

5 EXT. SCONE RECTORY

fx: ambulance driving away

PASTOR

Bye guys, thanks for stopping by!

ELIJAH

We're very lucky they bought the idea

that Carol Ann had a momentary seizure.

LIV

You two! How could you do that to me?

PASTOR

Well we were just trying to incite some faith into you.

LIV

Listen, I can't work here if you two are just going to judge me for being an atheist.

ELIJAH

We aren't judging you!

LIV

It feels like you've been judging me all day. And if this is gonna keep up, then I'll have to turn my papers in.

PASTOR

Liv, we're sorry. We got caught up trying to help you that we realized we weren't helping you at all.

ELIJAH

Part of the reason we opened this church was because we ran into so many people who got judged because their faith and life didn't fit a cookie cutter.

PASTOR

We care about all our parishioners and especially our hard working staff. We're not going to be perfect off the bat...but please don't leave Liv.

ELIJAH

You're already better than our last secretary Sharon.

PASTOR

Well she stole 50k and a bunch of stuff so the bar is low.

LIV

No, I don't think I can do this,

I...I'm out of here.

fx; footsteps, Elijah and the Pastor gasp slightly.

fx; car beep and door opens.

JONATHAN

Liv, what are you doing?

LIV

I quit, Elijah and the Pastor are just being too intense. They made me think Carol Ann had died just so they could get me to pray.

JONATHAN

That sounds like them alright. I get you're frustrated, but they're good people.

LIV

What was good about that?

JONATHAN

Well, not what they did. But...I dunno. They really care about the people at SCONE. We're all a bunch of rejects. And even if they sometimes mess it up, Elijah and the Pastor would do anything for even the weakest member of SCONE.

LIV

Still, I don't think I can work here.

JONATHAN

I mean it's only the first day. You kind of have to get used to the dysfunction.

LIV

And I'm so broke...I can't really afford to not get a paycheck next week.

JONATHAN

So what do you say? Try it until you at least have another job lined up.

fx; sigh, car locks

LIV  
Fine, I'll stay on.

fx; jingle

ELIJAH  
Do we have to put up a new job  
posting?

PASTOR  
I couldn't tell if she quit or if she  
just wanted to get out of here. Maybe  
there was an emergency.

fx; door opens

ELIJAH  
Liv!

LIV  
I'm staying on for now.

PASTOR  
What convinced you?

JONATHAN  
I did, you should give me a damn  
raise.

ELIJAH  
Unfortunately we can't do a  
raise...but how about we go celebrate  
Liv's first day with a treat!

PASTOR  
Yes! Jonathan go get Carol Ann and  
we'll go down the street to Cupcakes.

Fx: door opens

LIV  
If this is just the first day, I  
wonder what other adventures are going  
to happen here at the Society of the  
Children Of the Earth.

PASTOR  
True, we got so much planned for the  
upcoming months!

Fx: door opens

PASTOR

Jonathan, Carol Ann! We were going to get some treats down the street. A little impromptu staff party. Are you guys in?

JONATHAN

Does a gay club play house music?

CAROL ANN

Yes, let's take a trip.

ELIJAH

Here's the keys for the church shuttle. Carol Ann can drive.

CAROL ANN

I haven't had a license since the Regan administration...

PASTOR

You're so funny Carol Ann...

Fx: end jingle, theme song and credits.