

Bucket List

Enter: Black screen.

Santa's voice: Let me tell you about a journey long, long ago.

Enter: college dorm. Old Halloween décor mingles with newly placed colored string lights and fake mini pines. Out the window shows a hilly landscape, blanketed by snow and only broken up by a Popeye's. Two greasy men (who likely have never had sex, but claimed that they're incredibly sexually active) sit on a stained futon. Eagerness leaps in their eyes as they palm two tabs of LSD.

Cain: You ready?

Abel: Oh yeah, buddy.

The two take the tabs and rapidly slip into psychosis. The scene slowly starts to warp

Unreliable Narrator #1: Let the Journey begin.

Unreliable Narrator #2: These two friends will journey into a journey that will challenge their friendship and upper arm mass as they journey into... uh..

Unreliable Narrator #1: You don't need to say that directly. I think it's pretty clear based on what's going on that a journey is about to appear.

Unreliable Narrator #2: Well, I want to make sure that the audience understands.

Unreliable Narrator #1: They're not imbeciles.... Right?

Unreliable Narrator #2: I'm not saying that, I'm just saying it's really frustrating when you spend money on a movie and invest time into watching it, and then you don't even understand what's going on. Like have you seen Tennent? I left the theater confused and annoyed.

Unreliable Narrator #1: Well basically, time worked two directions.

Unreliable Narrator #2: No I get that, I just don't really get what the main guy's goal was.

Unreliable Narrator #1: I think Nolan made that pretty clear, he was...

Narrators' voices drowned out by extremely loud twinkling. Scene changes to a bustling coffee shop in New York. A homeless man comes up to a businessman's table, hands outstretched, indicating that he's looking for change. The businessman straightens his newspaper, clearly ignoring the other man. Out of the top left corner of the screen, a shimmer of light twists downward out of the sky and toward the businessman. The shimmer shoots up the businessman's nose and his face contorts for a few seconds, before collapsing. Slowly, he raises his head to reveal a jolly smile. He fishes his wallet

out and hands the homeless man the contents of his wallet, including his state-issued ID. The man then turns and speaks directly into the camera.

Man possessed by Santa: *bright and cheery voice* Ho ho ho! This truly is the most wonderful time of the year! Gather close, boys and girls, because you're about to hear an incredible story of love and friendship!

Voice drops to a serious, warning tone. But be warned, the closer you look, the less you'll see.

Back to the bright voice Good luck, and I hope you find what you're looking for!

Santa reaches out with his left hand and spins the camera counterclockwise. "Middle" by Jimmy Eat World starts playing as a woman stops the camera and begins adjusting her makeup. Background is a movie studio dressing room. Finishes adjustments and spins around to address the camera. Mirror with bulb lights surround it.

Mary Maggie: I bet you're wondering how I got here, huh? Well, let me start from the very beginning.

VCR tape rewind effect plays over the show quickly running through. Scene stops on two men deeply gazing into each other's eyes in a dark museum. Mary Maggie stands in the background, head cocked looking easily at the couple.

Mary Maggie: Wait! A little further.

VCR tape rewind effect plays over the show finishing. A young Mary Maggie huddles over a small fire in the torn remains of future New York. She gazes longingly at the camera.

Mary Maggie: Not all it's panned out to be, huh?

The camera pans to follow a young boy stabbing cockroaches with a long stick, racking them up as if he was planning to roast them over a fire. The boy chases around the bugs, successfully pinning one every few seconds.

Unreliable Narrator #1: In an all too realistic future, murder, hunger, and pain are all this small child knows.

Unreliable Narrator #2: Brutus is an assassin who is going to try to kill this guy that you haven't met yet. You see, Chick-Fil-A overthrew—

Unreliable Narrator #1: What are you doing?

Unreliable Narrator #2: Explaining the plot

Unreliable Narrator #1: Stop! The audience can pick it up.

Unreliable Narrator #2: I'm confused, and I've read through this script like three times. I think a little exposition wouldn't hurt.

Unreliable Narrator #1: Expo dumping during pilots is the biggest turnoff. Let the world develop itself.

Unreliable Narrator #2: **quickly speaking**
Chick-fil-a-took-over-and-killed-Brut's-family-so-now-he-wants-revenge-in-the-past-and-is-gonna-get-in-a-time-machine.

Unreliable Narrator #1: STOP!

Unreliable Narrator #2: Fine I already said it all so it's out there now.

Unreliable Narrator #1: Give me the remote.

Unreliable Narrator #2: Sure, what are you— **muffled squeal and feedback whine**

Scene starts rapidly moving forward. See Brutus slowly grow, gain muscle, has a dark look on his face. Rapidly breaks into high-tech facility, killing many guards and gaining access to the top room. In the room lies a time machine, glowing green. Several long running lights set into the ceiling and floor pulse slowly. The scene slows to regular tempo as Brutus uses the side of his fist to slam the panel. The lights flare, and a shimmering light appears in the machine. Brutus steps in and immediately disappears. All of the lights in the room shut off as if they all simultaneously blew a fuse.

Unreliable Narrator #1: **Coming up to the mic, breathing heavily** There.

Unreliable Narrator #2: **Breathing heavily** Why would you do that!

Unreliable Narrator #1: **Still heavy breathing** Had to—had to be done.

Scene fades to black.

Title Scene: BUCKETLIST

Establishing shot of the outside of a hospital. Opening credits over different parts of the hospital, finally we enter a room where Jesus (not THE Jesus) is lying in a hospital bed. He is alone, there are no flowers in the room or anything. He is writing something on a

list. The list is titled BUCKET LIST. The doorknob jiggles and Jesus looks up hopefully, hoping hopefully that someone will be there to visit him.

Jesus: Mom, I knew you would come at some-

Nurse enters the room and his face falls.

Jesus: Oh.

Nurse: Still sticking around?

Jesus: Looks like it. Maybe this unspecified serious injury won't get the best of me after all!

Nurse: Riiiiiiight. *pauses* You have two weeks to live.

Jesus: I thought maybe something would have changed.

Nurse: I bet.

Jesus: Did it?

Nurse: hm. No.

Jesus: Yknow, I started making this bucket list. Like, stuff I want to do before I die? I'm trying to keep it pretty simple, but there's uh, a lot of things I want to do. I don't know if I'll get to it all in two weeks.

Nurse: I seriously doubt you will. I have to take your temperature. Turnover and lift your legs up.

Jesus: (Slow, sad) okay. (pause) So, (moans) you like your job?

Nurse: I get paid to be here.

Jesus: that's what my nanny used to say. And my mom. You look like her, you-

Nurse: 98.9. That's a good temperature.

Jesus: Yeah, so as I was saying-

He looks up and she is gone. He turns back around to the window, which is now open, with the curtains billowing inward. He turns the other way and brutus is stood right beside his bed. He startles.

Jesus: Woah! Are you a nurse?

Brutus says nothing.

Jesus: You look weirdly familiar. Did you ever work at Chik-fil-a with me?

Brutus lifts up a pillow.

Jesus: No? Ever star in porn?

Brutus brings the pillow toward his face.

Jesus: Were you in 'Pizza man 3: Escape from Alkatraz?' Work at the theatre? Go to the duck park? You just look so familiar.

Brutus begins smothering him, but Jesus keeps talking through the pillow.

Jesus: *muffled* I just know I've seen you around.

Brutus continues trying to smother him and Jesus keeps not stopping talking. Finally, Brutus pulls back the pillow, confused. Jesus smiles at him. Brutus pulls out Jesus's IV and unplugs his life support.

Jesus: What are you doing?! *starts choking, gasping for air* just kidding dude. Where were you in 2011? Did I have kindergarten with you?

Brutus (to himself): He can't die.

Unreliable Narrator #1: He can't die?

Unreliable Narrator #2: He can't die! Why can't he die!

Unreliable Narrator #1: I know why, but I didn't tell you because I knew you would spoil the plot!

Unreliable Narrator #2: Okay, I'll just guess. The show is called bucket list, so I'm guessing its something to do with the bucket list. And its Christmastime, so there has to be some kind of Christmas magic involved. So maybe he can't die till he's completed every item on the list!

Unreliable Narrator #1: How... did you guess that?

Brutus: Did you just say something?

Jesus: Yeah, I was asking if you were at the mall on March 2, 2019, buying an Xbox?

Brutus: No, no, about Christmas magic.

Jesus: Oh! Are you talking about my Christmas magic bucket list?

Brutus: Your bucket list is magic?

Jesus: Well, no. I don't believe in that kind of stuff. I call it that because... I was hoping that... well, shucks, it's stupid. I was hoping that I could finish all the stuff on there before I die. That would be a real miracle. And if I complete it all... then... maybe I would go to heaven.

Unreliable Narrator #1 and 2 in unison: He's not going to heaven.

Brutus: What did you say?

Jesus: I was hoping I could finish all this stuff on my bucket list so I can die in peace.

Brutus (to himself): If I help him complete the list, he will lose his invulnerability and be able to die, so I can assassinate him like I'm supposed to.

Jesus: You'll what now?

Brutus: I said I'll help you.

Jesus: Well, my names Jesus, what's your name stranger?

Brutus: Uhm.... My name is....

Jesus: What?

Brutus: My name is....

Jesus: Who?

Brutus: My name is....

Unreliable Narrator #2: Chicca chicca slim shady

Unreliable Narrator #1: *disbelief* They're actually paying you for this.

Brutus: My name is.... *Internal dialogue: Don't say something suspicious, don't say something suspicious* Judas.

Jesus: Hi Judas! That is a beautiful name. Is that from the bible?

(Incredibly loud twinkling as the shot zooms out into the hallway. The nurse is walking in the hall when a flurry of snow comes through the hall and up her nose and she convulses. Her head snaps up and a twinkle enters her eye)

Nurse possessed by Santa: *Bright cheery voice* And so began a beautiful friendship.

(Santa leaves her body and she slumps to the floor, blood pouring from her nose.)

Unreliable Narrator #1: Wait, did she die? Did the first guy die too?

Unreliable Narrator #2: They cut that part out to save minutes on the show. Watch the bloopers.

Unreliable Narrator #1: Why would I want to watch the bloopers?

Unreliable Narrator #2: Was that rhetorical? Or do you actually want me to answer that.

Cuts back to Judas and Jesus at the park:

Judas: Why are we here

Jesus: I always wanted to do the underdog on the swings. its on my bucket list.

Judas: What's an underdog?

Jesus hops on the swing and starts swaying his legs back and forth, gaining some momentum.

Jesus: Push me really hard and then run under me.

Judas looks skeptical but walks over and starts slowly pushing him.

Judas: Why don't you get your buddies to do this for you?

Jesus: *bashful and deflective* They're in another city right now, filming World War Z.

Judas: Right... *breathes out and looks in the other direction*

Pause in conversation. Judas keeps pushing Jesus slowly and they both mull over the apparent lie.

Jesus: Well, where are **your** friends?

Judas stutters for a moment, trying to come up with a reasonable answer, both for someone who lives in this time period and not the future, and for someone who has friends.

Judas: Dead.

Jesus: Right *smile slowly enters his face* I guess we can be friends then!

Judas: Not likely.

Judas pushes the swing hard, and a look of fear passes over Jesus's face. Jesus's swing goes high in the air and Judas runs under.

Jesus: Woah!! That was incredible! Did that do anything for you?

Judas: *Panting, face completely blank* Is that it? Are we done with the list?

Jesus hops off the swing and pulls his list and a pen out of his pocket.

Jesus: That's a big ol' checkerooni!

Judas allows a cruel smile to flicker across his face and slowly approaches Jesus. He reaches his a thick, knarled hand to wrap around Jesus's throat. Judas begins squeezing slowly and Jesus's eyes bulge and his face turns purple.

Jesus: *strangled gasp* What are you (moans).

Jesus thrashes for a few moments and Judas leans in close to whisper something in Jesus's ear.

Judas: Like I would ever want to be friends with you.

Jesus goes limp and Judas opens his hand to allow the small man to fall to the ground.

Unreliable Narrator #1: And that's how this one en—

Unreliable Narrator #2: He's still alive.

Unreliable Narrator #1: *Shocked* What?

Unreliable Narrator #2: I bet he's not dead.

Unreliable Narrator #1: Well, yeah *spluttering* but don't just—

Unreliable Narrator #2: What? I mean it's pretty obvious. Look he's getting up right now.

Jesus is on his hands and knees and wipes a hand across his mouth. He lifts up his face to reveal eyes full of tears.

Unreliable Narrator #2: Didn't finish the list.

Unreliable Narrator #1: Can you please just let this one play out?

Unreliable Narrator #2: No.

Jesus: You... don't want to be friends?

Judas turns around in shock as Jesus flails away in the distance. As Jesus runs away, Santa has a voiceover.

Santa (voiceover): It seems our two weary travelers have parted ways... but a blizzard stews in the distance, and they may soon find themselves in some trouble.

Out of nowhere, heavy snow starts. Judas remains at the playground, sitting on the swing and planning his next move. Jesus is roaming around the other side of the park.

Jesus: Oh no, a blizzard!

Jesus runs into a cave to take shelter.

The snow comes even faster. Judas realized that he is at serious risk of hypothermia, and tries to get into the bathrooms to take shelter, but they are locked. He sits outside, barely able to move as the snow falls dramatically.

Jesus, in the warm cave, begins to sing:

Tune of *Most Wonderful Time of the Year* by Bing Crosby

Jesus: ♪ I've never had a friend like Judas in my life,
not a buddy or a pal or champ or a lad or a slime or a wife,
and for him to turn on me like that,
Hurts deeper than a knife. ♪

Judas: ♪ I was born to kill and maim,
I swear that Jesus will be lamed,
but these feelings I'm having inside,
make my soul feel fried. ♪

Judas screams in pain in the distance

Jesus:
(spoken) Hark, an angelic moaning in the distance.
♪ Even though our parting was at my insistence,
I can't let my best friend go,
and freeze to death in the winter snow. ♪

Judas:
♪ I am getting frostbitten,
mind's feline not kitten.
Hate to see it go, dastardly snow,
makes me wish I could be killin',
because I am the stories villain. ♪

Narrator #1: What.

Judas:

♪ I want to kill Jesus,
that's my central thesis,
and so he must die.
It's the most wonderful time to kill this guy. ♪

Jesus starts toward the park to find Judas and save him. Judas starts walking toward Jesus to try and kill him, but Judas is clearly suffering severe frostbite and is struggling.

Jesus: ♪ I will save him. ♪

Judas: ♪ I will kill him. ♪

Jesus and Judas in unison: ♪ I must find that man,
that is my plan. ♪

They see each other

Jesus starts running toward Judas in slow motion. Judas runs like he's going to try to kill Jesus. They embrace, with Jesus hugging Judas while Judas is "hugging" him, trying to strangle him.

Jesus: I don't want us to fight. Let's be best friends for life.

Judas: I.... will....

Jesus: (interrupting) Great! Now lets go complete the next 48 items on the bucket list.

Judas: **48!?**

Judas passes out from frostbite and the screen goes grey.

When Judas wakes up, he is on a bearskin carpet in front of a crackling fire. He turns around and Jesus is spooning him. They are both naked.

Jesus: *smiling shyly* Hey soldier. (Glances over his shoulder at the rectal thermometer.) 98.6. Nice. You want a turn?

Judas: (sighs wearily and rubs his eyes) What's the next item on your bucket list?

Fade to black.

Scene returns to the college dorm of Cain and Able. They are also spooning. They slowly get up, a relaxed grin hanging easily on both of their faces. Abel gets up to leave and slowly starts collecting his things. Cain remains on the futon, eyes open and unassuming.

Cain: Woah. Like forreal, man. Wow.

Abel starts buttoning his shirt.

Abel: Same time next week?

Cane: Yeah, absolutely.

Fade to black.

An intricate storybook shows the final page, reading 'The End' and closes with the voiceover.

Voiceover: And so ends the first chapter of our story, dear friends. Will Jesus complete his bucket list so he's able to die? Will Judas continue his mission to kill Jesus and save the timeline? Will Santa continue to possess innocent citizens and use their bodies for his jolly agenda? What is in store for our heroes? We hope to see you soon for many more adventures in the next episode of BUCKET LIST.

Fade to black.

The scene comes up on a teacher reading over the assignment. He sighs and rubs his eyes. He writes a big red D over the page. Then he glances at the picture of his wife and son framed on his desk, and he hesitates. He shakes his head, reaffirming his decision. He lifts the script off his desk, preparing to put it in his satchel, but hesitates and brings it back to his desk. Aw, what the hell. Its christmas. He writes a + on the paper. He looks up and his eye twinkles merrily. Santa flies across the moon.

Fade to black.

While still black, *Fortunate Son* begins playing.

Credits roll.