

*an excerpt from*

# **THE CIVILIANS' THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY**

*written by Steven Cosson and Jim Lewis<sup>i</sup>*

*music and lyrics by Michael Friedman*

---

## **Act Two, Scene Two: Revelations**

*Revolution House of Prayer (RHOP) revival.*

### **SONG: DOUBTING THOMAS**

THE DEVIL HAS A MAP  
AND THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN HIDE YOU  
AND YOUR SCARS WILL REVEAL ALL THE SECRETS YOU TRY TO KEEP HIDDEN

YOUR BODY IS A TRAP  
THERE IS A TICKING BOMB INSIDE YOU  
CAN YOU FREE YOURSELF FROM THE THINGS YOU KNOW ARE FORBIDDEN

WHEN THE DEVIL SEES YOUR WOUNDS  
AND HE TEMPTS YOU IN THE DARK  
IF YOU FOLLOW HIM HE SAYS  
HE'LL NEVER EXPOSE YOU  
CAUSE HE KNOWS YOU

SO ARE YOU READY  
ARE YOU READY TO SAY

LET THERE BE NOTHING HIDDEN IN MY LIFE  
I DON'T WANT ANY SECRETS IN MY LIFE  
LET THERE BE NO DARKNESS IN MY LIFE

### **RHOP LEADER**

Ok, first off I want to welcome those of you who are coming to RHOP for your first revival. We're gonna worship here for a bit and then we'll be ready to go to the cave. Okay second thing is we've got some visitors here from New York City. They've come back just to see what we do so welcome them. Okay. Let's get started. We say to any demonic stronghold in anyone's life right now you must break... you must break... in Jesus name you cannot remain you cannot control in Jesus name we declare freedom. Ok. (*Gesturing to the mic*) Okay come up, anyone come up. Holy holy holy.

### **RHOP MEMBER**

Lord God we ask that you bring light to this city. Lord God we welcome your revelations. We are listening Lord God we are waiting for your direction. We praise you Lord God. (*speaking in tongues/prayer language*) Avvon d- Nih- Oo' mal-choota-oo khai- tush-al-mein! Amen Lord God.

RHOP LEADER

(*to everyone*) I'm feeling God urging us to a place of understanding that in order to light this city he's giving me a picture ooh-aah he's giving me a picture of a city and it's night and all of a sudden you can just see just quadrants of the city and lights are coming on in the homes and the streetlights are coming on there had been a blackout and it's just all of a sudden the lights are coming on.

*Online sound. Projection: Haggard Accused and a chat icon indicating that we've jumped Outside the revival into the Haggard story unfolding online.*

ONLINE CHATTER

Oh My God! One week before the election, and this is delivered in a nicely ribboned holiday gift box. Looks like Ted Haggard is a closet case and a meth queen to boot! Apparently he's been getting it on with this Denver hooker named Mike Jones and scoring speed. In the words of Whitney Houston: Merry Crystal-meth-mas! Check this out:

*Actors switch out of their RHOP characters and play a reporter interviewing Ted Haggard in the driveway outside of Haggard's home.*

REPORTER

Pastor Haggard have you had a relationship with –

TED HAGGARD

I have not.

REPORTER

Any kind of gay relationship –

TED HAGGARD

I, I've never had a gay relationship with anybody and uh I, I'm steady with my wife. I'm faithful to my wife.

REPORTER

What about the accusations you tried to buy meth?

TED HAGGARD

I have never done drugs, ever. Not even in high school.

REPORTER

Uh. So you don't know Mike Jones?

TED HAGGARD

No, I do not know Mike Jones.

*Back at the revival.*

RHOP MEMBER

*(praying with someone at the revival)* Lord God don't hold back this man is strong give him all you got. Give it to him he can take it.

RHOP LEADER

I have a picture for you. When the flesh dies there's this amazing release and that's what God wants for you now. He wants you die in the flesh so you can feel that freedom. He wants that for you right now. So just let go and fall back fall back fall back into his arms.

*Back to the news. This time a reporter is interviewing Ted who has stopped his car. Gayle Haggard sits in the passenger seat.*

HAGGARD

So, I've put myself on an extended... What do we call it—suspension of my senior pastor's role. I resigned as President from the National Association of Evangelicals because both of those roles are based on trust. And right now my trust is questionable. And so...

REPORTER

The voice expert that is in Denver that was hired by KUSA has...

HAGGARD

Yes.

REPORTER

...matched now 18 of the words left on the voicemail message.

HAGGARD

Yes. I did call him. I did call him.

REPORTER

And what did you call him about?

HAGGARD

I called him to buy some meth but I threw it away.

REPORTER

So you now admit you know Mike Jones?

HAGGARD

Uh—I went to him for—I went there for a massage. So—OK, we're late for our appointment. So—but thank you for your work.

---

<sup>i</sup> From interviews conducted by Emily Ackerman, Marsha Stephanie Blake, Brad Heberlee, Stephen Plunkett, Alison Weller and the authors.