

**AFTERWORLD**

*Episode 15: "Revelations"*

FADE IN:

BEGIN TITLE SEQUENCE...

We hear NARRATION over BLACK.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)  
My name is Russell Shoemaker. I was  
an advertising executive.

CLOSE ON SHOE'S FACE (before "The Fall") looking clean-cut,  
and wide-eyed. Sexy, iconic TECHNOLOGY IMAGES -- computer,  
cell phones, etc. -- drift through the frame like visions of  
sugarplums dancing in Shoe's head.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I sold technology to the world.  
Back when there was technology...  
and people to sell it to.

As the tech images EVAPORATE AND VANISH, we see Shoe's face  
undergo a TIME LAPSE aging transformation, through several  
"looks" (long hair, beard, etc.) until he becomes the iconic  
hero of the future. HERO SHOEMAKER speaks now to the camera:

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
This is my story...

Shoe's face/head darkens and MORPHS INTO THE EARTH (as seen  
from near-orbit) with its panoply of TWINKLING LIGHTS. Shoe's  
voice now returns to narration:

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
How I survived life after "The Fall."

The twinkling lights suddenly BLINK OUT as the planet is  
overtaken by some unseen global blackout. A beat, then the  
dark planet is backlit/eclipsed by a BRILLIANT LIGHT that  
SEARS A HOLE in the center of the black orb...

We rapidly PULL BACK to see that this fiery "doughnut" shape  
has become the "O" in the show's title -- "AFTERWORLD."

END TITLE SEQUENCE.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON SHOE'S JOURNAL -- flipping open to a new handwritten entry with the title: "Revelations"

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Myths arise from events that challenge  
our perceptions of reality.

ON SHOE, the sun setting behind him as he peers apprehensively into the distance. The GROUND SHAKES ominously beneath him.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
This was never more true than in the  
early years after "The Fall."

REVEAL - EDWARD warily picks up his SCYTHE.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
The world had become fractured into  
isolated communities. Many of them  
built around a belief system, a myth  
to help them understand our new reality.

Shoe stands atop a rock, trying to get a better look at what's coming...

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
I'd seen it before -- in New York,  
with "The Pack" -- where people's  
fears inflated the truth into  
something larger than life.

SHOE'S POV - A CLOUD OF DUST rises on the horizon.  
Accompanied by the furious POUNDING OF HORSE HOOVES --

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
That day in Pennsylvania I saw it again...

OVER EDWARD'S SHOULDER as he steels himself for battle:

EDWARD (V.O.)  
The Four Horsemen... run!

A SHRILL HORN, heralds the arrival of an unseen force...

Shoe hesitates, doesn't want to leave injured Edward behind.  
But the man turns with fire in his eyes and shouts on camera:

EDWARD (CONT'D)  
I SAID RUN!

Shoe starts backing up as long SHADOWS approach. Images of  
FIGURES ON HORSEBACK. The sounds of horses NEIGHING.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)  
Delondre wasn't the only one who  
believed the events of "The Fall"  
were foretold in the Bible. The  
prevailing wisdom back then was that  
the End Times were unfolding.

In among the rows of corn, Shoe runs... the galloping SHADOWS  
gaining on him...

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Still, I clung to my belief in a  
rational world...

Out of breath, Shoe stops for a second --

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...even when there was overwhelming  
evidence to the contrary.

CLOSE ON Shoe, peeking down one of the rows to see --

A SILHOUETTED HORSEMAN, draped in a black cloak. Maybe it's  
the angle or the lighting, but this figure looks superhuman.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
It had been years since I read the  
Bible. But the image of the Four  
Horsemen of the Apocalypse was  
ingrained in my mind.

GRAPHIC ELEMENTS: Classical depictions of the Four Horsemen  
of the Apocalypse. Terrifying, iconic.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
At Sunday School in Colorado Springs,  
they embraced the Book of Revelations.

FLASHBACK TO: A YOUNG RUSS (about 8) walks down an aisle of  
a church. He can't help but look up at --

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Always saw it as a tale of moral  
redemption, meant to inspire good  
behavior through hope...

-- A STATUE of Christ on the cross.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
...and fear.

ON YOUNG RUSS sitting in a pew, terrified, other children  
around him. Before them is a MINISTER, preaching ferociously:

MINISTER (V.O.)  
For if you fail Him, you will burn  
in the fires of hell forever!

CLOSE ON SHOE, back in the corn field, that same look of terror in his now-older eyes. SFX: The minister's rhythmic sermon becomes the POUNDING of horse hooves.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.)

As I got older I stopped taking those words literally. But as I stood in that corn field, my rational mind was tested.

ON THE HORSEMAN as he slowly trots forward, an imposing figure. His face is covered by a white, featureless MASK that stares implacably at Shoe.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And in that moment... I had my own revelations.

ON SHOE, instinctively running away down a row of corn.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

All the issues I'd been dealing with since New York -- dependency, priorities, trust -- Eli's words suddenly took on new meaning...

But as Shoe nears the end of the row...

A SECOND HORSEMAN BLOCKS HIS PATH! This horseman is wearing the identical cloak and mask (but a different color) as the first horsemen.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I was becoming self-sufficient. My priorities were sound. And I had knowledge -- of classified memos and EMPs -- that could enlighten people.

Shoe runs another direction...

But his path is once again cut off by a THIRD HORSEMAN! As the horse REARS UP, Shoe stumbles back out of frame...

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But I had to trust the universe -- that there was a larger plan for me.

INSERT SHOT: Shoe's head striking the ground hard.

FIND SHOE lying on his back, looking dazed, feeling his head. As he squints up into the sun to see...

POV - SHOE: A FOURTH HORSEMAN tossing a NET over Shoe... occluding his vision in a dark web.

SHOEMAKER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

A new myth was being written in  
Pennsylvania and, like it or not, I  
was about to be cast as the villain.

As Shoe's vision wanes WE HEAR what sounds like CHURCH ORGAN  
MUSIC. Some kind of dirge-like hymnal...

CLOSE ON Shoe's journal as it slams shut.

FADE TO BLACK: