

Wally and Jesus
by **Christopher H. Callahan**

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FADE IN:

Black. WALLY appears in a shaft of light with nothing else around him. He is in his late 20s or early 30s, not too bright, but means well. He speaks like a California beach dude, man. He speaks directly to the camera, unless he's speaking to JESUS. JESUS is off-camera. Only His voice is heard, man.

WALLY

I was 18 when Jesus shot my mom.

JESUS

No I didn't.

WALLY

Yes you did.

JESUS

No I didn't.

WALLY

Dude, I saw you, man.

Pause.

WALLY

I apologize for that interruption.
 Would you mind if I started over?
 Is that all right? Thanks. I
 appreciate it.

WALLY disappears. Black. WALLY appears in a shaft of light with nothing else around him. He is in his late 20s or early 30s, not too bright, but means well. He speaks like a California beach dude, man. He speaks directly to the camera, unless he's speaking to JESUS. JESUS is off-camera. Only His voice is heard, man.

WALLY

I was 18 when Jesus shot my mom.

JESUS

No I didn't.

WALLY

Jesus, Jesus! Would you shut up?

JESUS

I -

WALLY

I mean, here I am -

JESUS

But -

WALLY
- trying to tell these people -

JESUS
Can I -

WALLY
- about how when you -

JESUS
But -

WALLY
PLEASE! Now after all that's
happened, do you think you could
just let me tell my story ONCE?

JESUS sighs.

WALLY
Thank you.

JESUS
You're welcome, my son.

WALLY
Guy thinks just cause he died on a
cross he can go around shooting my
mom.

JESUS
Allegedly.

WALLY
What?

JESUS
Allegedly. You have to say
'allegedly' until it is proven in
court and I am found guilty.

WALLY
Dude! I FUCKIN SAW YOU, DUDE!

JESUS
Allegedly. And watch your
language. Mine are sensitive
ears.

WALLY
I'm sorry.

JESUS
You are forgiven.

WALLY
Can I continue?

JESUS

You may, but you can not.

WALLY

Goddammit.

JESUS

Hello? Did we not just discuss
the vulgarities?

WALLY

Look! You aren't supposed to be
here, anyway! So keep your fat
mouth shut so I can say what I've
got to say!

Pause. WALLY opens his mouth to speak. He may even make a sound or two, but he stops abruptly. He does this a couple of times. He's trying to trick JESUS into interrupting. When he realizes JESUS is not going to interrupt, he begins again.

WALLY

I was 18 when Jesus shot my mom.

WALLY stops, waiting again for JESUS to interrupt. When he realizes JESUS is not going to interrupt, he begins again.

WALLY

I remember it like it was
yesterday.

JUDY appears next to WALLY. They are on a beach.

WALLY

We were walking, looking at the
water.

WALLY and JUDY begin to walk. They are looking at the water.

JUDY

Look at that water.

They walk some more.

WALLY

She was mesmerized by the ocean.
She said that when she died, she
wanted to be cremated and have her
ashes thrown into the water.

JUDY

When I die, I want to be cremated
and have my ashes thrown into the
water.

They walk some more.

WALLY

And that's when Jesus came and
shot my mom.

JESUS runs up to JUDY and shoots her. JUDY dies
immediately. JESUS looks at the gun, then at JUDY, then at
WALLY, then to the camera.

JESUS

Allegedly.

JESUS runs off. JUDY stands up and brushes herself off.

JUDY

Son, if you're going to tell the
story, at least tell it right.

WALLY

Huh?

JUDY

You can't just blurt out that
Jesus shot me. So what if he did?
Why should anybody care?

WALLY

Cause you're my mom!

JUDY

I repeat. So what?

WALLY

Oh, what, now you're against me
too?

JUDY

No, I -

WALLY (CONT.)

It's not enough that everyone else
hates me.

JUDY

Son -

WALLY

But to have my own MOTHER deny me.

JESUS walks up. He's annoyed.

JESUS

Oh for the love of my Father would
you SHUT UP! Bitch bitch bitch.
Whine whine whine. You're makin me
wanna climb back on the cross.

JUDY slaps WALLY upside the head.

JUDY

Don't anger Jesus! Or there'll be
no Christmas for you this year,
young man.

WALLY

But -

JUDY

But nothing. Apologize.
Immediately.

WALLY

But -

JUDY glares at WALLY. It shuts him up.

WALLY

I'm sorry, Jesus.

JESUS

You are forgiven, my son.

JUDY

Good boy. Now would you like to
start your story again?

WALLY

I guess.

JUDY

You guess?

JESUS

Perhaps you need more time?

WALLY

No, I think I'll be all right.

JESUS

All right. Whenever you're ready.

WALLY

I'm ready.

JESUS raises his arms. WALLY appears in a shaft of light with nothing else around him. He is in his late 20s or early 30s, not too bright, but means well. He speaks like a California beach dude, man. He speaks directly to the camera, unless he's speaking to JESUS. JESUS is off-camera. Only His voice is heard, man. WALLY looks around.

WALLY

I feel stupid.

JESUS
If the shoe fits.

WALLY
I'm not wearing any shoes.

JESUS
I rest my case.

WALLY
Why is everybody so mean to me?
What did I do that was so wrong?
I don't understand!

WALLY begins to cry. JUDY enters and goes to him.

JUDY
Honey, why don't you go get
yourself a glass of water.

WALLY
Yeah?

JUDY
Yeah. Right over there.

She points somewhere.

WALLY
OK.

He walks off in the direction of JUDY's point. JUDY looks at the camera.

JUDY
I have a confession to make.
She looks around.

JUDY
No, it's not the right time.
She leaves. JESUS appears instantly. He is annoyed.
Again.

JESUS
I know. I know I know I know. I
know what you're thinking. But
I'm here to tell you, it's A-OK.
This is how it's supposed to be.
Honestly. Would I lie? I mean, I
DID shoot his mom. That part's
true. But, well, I mean, come on.
It's not like I just woke up one
day and thought Hey, I'ma shoot
Wally's mom today. I mean, how
fun is that? That ain't fun.

It's not even giddy. It's one split-second moment in time. I reaped no benefits. I got no excitement whatsoever. I didn't get off. And the way Wally describes it. Really. I've heard Helen Keller give more detailed descriptions than that. Jesus.

WALLY comes back. His spirits are really low, man.

WALLY

Oh, it's you.

JESUS

How are you?

WALLY

Been better. How are you?

JESUS

Your pain gives me pain.

WALLY

I don't believe you.

JESUS

I know. Not a lot of people do.

WALLY

Do people call you a liar?

JESUS

Yes.

WALLY

Do people call you idiot?

JESUS

Yes.

WALLY

Do people call you fuckface?

JESUS

Well, I'm not sure anyone's dared to try that one yet.

WALLY

No, I guess not.

Beat.

WALLY

Hey Jesus?

JESUS

Yeah?

WALLY

Fuckface.

JESUS laughs. WALLY laughs. JUDY enters.

JUDY

How we doin, boys?

WALLY

I think we're ready.

JESUS

You gonna tell it right this time?

WALLY

Yeah, I guess.

JUDY and JESUS smile at each other. They disappear.

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yesterday.

JUDY appears next to WALLY. They are on a beach.

WALLY

We were walking, looking at the
water.

WALLY and JUDY begin to walk. They are looking at the water.

JUDY

Look at that water.

They walk some more.

WALLY

She was mesmerized by the ocean.
She said that when she died, she
wanted to be cremated and have her
ashes thrown into the water.

JUDY

When I die, I want to be cremated
and have my ashes thrown into the
water.

They walk some more. WALLY hesitates.

JUDY

Wally?

WALLY

I don't want to do this.

JUDY

It's all right, honey.

WALLY

No, it's not all right. It's not fair. I don't want to do this. I shouldn't have to do this.

The camera pulls back and we see that JUDY is different. She's sick. Her face is sunken in. Her clothes are too big. She has a scarf over her head.

JUDY

Wally, look at me. I want this. More than anything in the world. I can't go on the way I am now. It's too much. What kind of life would I have? Lying in a bed, breathing through a machine and eating through a tube. That's not what I want. And I would hope that you wouldn't want that for me, either.

WALLY

No. I want you to be here forever. I want you to stay and be here like you've always been here.

JUDY

Well, I promise that I'll keep watching you and cheering for you.

WALLY

You promise?

JUDY

Of course I do.

They hug. WALLY begins to cry. JUDY fights back tears.

JUDY

Why don't you go get yourself a glass of water?

WALLY

Yeah?

JUDY

Yeah. Right over there.

She points somewhere.

WALLY

OK.

He walks off in the direction of JUDY's point. JUDY looks at the camera.

JUDY

I have a confession to make.

She looks around.

JUDY (CONT.)

I don't want to do this, either.
I'm scared to death. No pun
intended.

JESUS walks up to JUDY.

JESUS

It's time.

JUDY smiles. JESUS smiles.

We see WALLY. He takes a sip of his water. A gunshot is heard. WALLY closes his eyes. Pause.

Black. WALLY appears in a shaft of light with nothing else around him.

WALLY

I was 18 when Jesus shot my mom.

FADE OUT.