



THE RIGHTEOUS ONE (Pilot of 4 Episodes)

EPISODE 1 – “In The Beginning”

By J.A. Brown

GENRE: Drama

LOGLINE:

A four-part mini-series chronicling the intersecting stories of a woman suffering from multiple-personality disorder. A gifted foster child. A Police Officer battling alcoholism and a church pastor embroiled in a child molestation case.

SYNOPSIS:

Rebecca Williams had convinced herself that she was living the “perfect” life. After divorcing her cheating husband, an unexpected tragedy of losing her two children causes her world to explode in chaos. The only way she figures out how to cope is by switching into three multiple personalities. Will her disorder keep her in a state of psychosis, or will she bounce back? Moreover, who will she be when she does?

Carlos Davis is a 12-year-old genius living in an abusive home. One evening while being abused by his outraged alcoholic father, Carlos accidentally kills him. Carlos, now with Child Protective Services (CPS) gets another chance at life when his destiny crosses paths with Rebecca Williams.

Lieutenant Katherine Jones is an 18-year highly respected member of the Atlanta Police in charge of the Atlanta Metro Special Victims Unit. She is a no holds barred officer. During a dangerous drug bust, Katherine makes a decision that set her on a course of self-destruction. She must find the will to confront her demons and salvage her career before it's too late.

Pastor Russell Walton is the Senior Pastor of Mega Church "Sweetwater Baptist Church" in Atlanta. One day several young men come forward and reveal that the Pastor was involved with them sexually. Pastor Walton and his wife Margo conspire to hide his involvement and try to salvage the Pastor's reputation. One day a very unexpected reunion causes his past to be exposed, and their lies collide with the truth.

THE RIGHTEOUS ONE - CHAPTER 1 - PILOT - IN THE BEGINNING

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FADE IN:

EXT. COBB COUNTY DETENTION CENTER - DAY

News vans are parked outside the Cobb County Detention Center, where local news reporter SHANICE NANCE (20s), African American, pretty stands in front of a camera crew.

SHANICE NANCE

This is Shanice Nance reporting live from the Cobb County Detention Center. We are just hours away from the trial of Rebecca Williams, the foster parent who made headlines earlier this year when she was charged with child molestation.

Shanice motions toward a crowd of PROTESTERS gathered near the building.

SHANICE NANCE

As you can see by the many protesters on site, Rebecca's case has been a topic of debate across the state, and from everyone's legal perspective, this trial is going to set the precedence for caregivers for years to come.

INT. COBB COUNTY DETENTION CENTER - DAY

REBECCA WILLIAMS (41), African American, medium build is led down a long corridor in shackles and a jumpsuit by two DETENTION OFFICERS. Her head hangs low, and her appearance is disheveled. They approach an open door to an interrogation room and enter.

INT. DETENTION CENTER - INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca takes a seat in the brightly lit room. The Detention Officers close the door and unlock Rebecca's handcuffs.

Rebecca looks around the room, and her leg starts shaking up and down, nervously. The door opens again and Attorney ISAAC LEWIS (44), African American, edgy rugged cool look, walks in and the detention officers depart the room.

ISAAC

Hello, Becca. I just spoke to the nurse: they're going to move you to the infirmary until your trial.

(MORE)

ISAAC (CONT'D)

They said you stopped eating... is that true?

Rebecca wipes her running nose with her sleeve.

ISAAC

Rebecca, you have to eat something, you have to build up your strength for the trial.

Rebecca SNIFFLES and keeps her vision to the side, ignoring Isaac.

ISAAC

I know you're depressed, but I can't defend you if you won't answer me. We're hours away from your trial, so we need to go over your testimony.

Rebecca stays silent.

ISAAC

Hey, don't worry, it's going to be OK, but I need for you to do something for me.

Isaac leans in closer to Rebecca.

ISAAC

Rebecca! I'm talking to you! Why aren't you answering me?! Rebecca!

Rebecca slowly shifts her attention to Isaac. Her eyes are red and teary as she glares at Isaac with an unflinching gaze.

TITLE CARD: CHAPTER ONE: IN THE BEGINNING

INT. COFFEE HOUSE - DAY

SUPER: Six months earlier

Rebecca drinks tea at a table by herself in the cozy little shop, reading the news on her tablet.

BILLY WILLIAMS (45), African American, full facial hair, muscular physic enters and spots Rebecca. He walks over to her. Rebecca acknowledges him.

REBECCA
Thanks for meeting me, Billy.

BILLY
Yeah. So, what's this about?

He slumps down in the chair across from her, making clear he isn't thrilled to be there.

REBECCA
I thought we agreed that I was handling Randy's college choices, so I'm confused as to why you're interfering all of a sudden?

Billy lets out a sarcastic chuckle.

BILLY
Interfering? Are you serious?

REBECCA
I have full custody of the kids, Billy, and I told Randy he could decide where he wanted to go!

BILLY
The scouts from Duke and Alabama contacted me, OK? They asked Randy to come take a look at their schools, and I thought their coaches could work with Randy to better hone his skills. The boy has an arm--

REBECCA
He does, but our son needs to use his head, too. I want him to experience an HBCU as I did. Alabama A&M wants him and we're going to see their school when we get back from our Jamaica trip in two weeks.

Billy shoots Rebecca a disturbing look and shakes his head while rolling his eyes.

BILLY
Jamaica trip? Becca, I'm getting married next weekend! Why would you plan a trip the same time as my wedding?

Rebecca SLAMS down her cup of coffee on the table.

REBECCA

It's not my fault you couldn't wait for the ink to dry on our divorce paper before you decided to remarry! Dammit, Billy! That girl's only 10 years older than Randy!

BILLY

Don't start with this shit again!

REBECCA

I get it: you had your midlife crisis and so you went and got yourself a young one.

BILLY

Why can't you wish me well? Aren't you receiving the child support checks? Don't they come on time?

REBECCA

Fuck you, Billy!

BILLY

You're pathetic, Becca! This isn't about any schools, it's about your need to control everything!

Rebecca grits her teeth and narrows her gaze at Billy.

REBECCA

You know what's pathetic Billy? That you couldn't do something as simple as keeping your dick in your pants.

Billy stands up in aggravation and walks toward the door. He turns to face Rebecca.

BILLY

Goodbye Rebecca, tell the kids I'll call them later.

Billy walks out, leaving Rebecca fuming.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DRESSING ROOM - DAY

In the men's dressing room, RANDY WILLIAMS (17), African American, athletic physic is on his CELL PHONE while he tries on some swimming trunks.

RANDY
I'll miss you too, but we'll only
be gone for two weeks... I'm still
gonna see you tonight. We'll meet
at your sister's house like before?

Randy examines his reflection in the mirror with confidence.
He nods his head with a smile plastered over his face.

RANDY
I know bae... I love you too, bye.

Randy ends the call and continues to try on swimwear.

INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - LATER

Randy walks out of the fitting room and stands in front of
Rebecca with some swim shorts on.

RANDY
Momma, how do these look?

REBECCA
(laughing)
Boy, you look like a skeleton in
shorts!

RANDY
Very funny. Whatever!

REBECCA
Do you have something to wear for
your senior trip?

RANDY
We're just going to the stupid
Aquarium, I don't think I need to
pick out any clothes for that.

REBECCA
Just make sure you dress
appropriately. You know I don't
like your underwear showing.

RANDY
That's the style, Momma, I know you
don't like it, but I have an image
to uphold.

Randy shoots Rebecca a cocky smile and stands tall and proud.

REBECCA

An image to uphold? Boy, please!
Needless to say, no son of mine is
going to be walking around looking
like that, especially when you're
going to Morehouse.

Randy's demeanor shifts from confidence to apprehensive as if
he's afraid to share something with his mother.

RANDY

I got letters from other schools
too, Momma. I don't know if I want
to go there.

REBECCA

I know, baby, but you know I want
you to go to an HBCU.

RANDY

And like always, I do whatever you
say, right?

REBECCA

Son, Momma knows best; Now change
your clothes and let's go.

EXT. MALL PARKING LOT - DAY

Rebecca and Randy proceed through the parking lot, toward
Randy's Dodge Charger.

INT./EXT. DODGE CHARGER - MOMENTS LATER

The Dodge Charger comes to the intersection of PEACHTREE and
PINE. Rebecca screams out.

REBECCA

Watch out, Randy! Watch out!

Randy turns to see what Rebecca is yelling about -- and sees
a SEMI-TRUCK barreling toward them. It slams on its brakes
and skids to a stop -- barely missing them.

The INTERSECTION LIGHT is green for both the semi-truck and
Randy's Dodge Charger.

RANDY

Momma, are you OK?

REBECCA

I'm good, Son, but somebody's going to get killed out here. I'm calling the city when I get home!

Randy shakes his head and they drive off.

PEDESTRIANS who saw the incident are now looking both ways as they cross the street.

INT. REBECCA'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Rebecca is sitting on the couch reading the NEWSPAPER. Randy enters.

RANDY

I'm going to hang out with my friends.

REBECCA

Can you drive Ellah to Jackie's house before you go? They're going to the movies.

Randy slouches his body and lets out a sigh of frustration, which leads to a groan.

RANDY

Come on, Momma, I'm going to miss the start of Atlanta Housewives. Can't Jackie's mom pick her up?

REBECCA

Atlanta Housewives? You and your boys watch Atlanta Housewives?

RANDY

Yeah, the women on there are fine and Kandi's got a big ol' booty.

REBECCA

Oh, Lord! Well, drop her off on the way.

Rebecca yells upstairs.

REBECCA

Ellah, Randy's going to take you to Jackie's house! Come on!

ELLAH (O.S.)

Coming!

ELLAH WILLIAMS (16), African American, gymnast physic runs down the stairs and gives Rebecca a hug.

ELLAH
Bye, Momma.
(to Randy)
Come on, mule face, let's go!

RANDY
I'm coming, Bucky.

ELLAH
Bucky?

RANDY
Have you seen those horse teeth of yours?

Rebecca and Randy laugh.

ELLAH
Very funny!

RANDY
I know.

Randy and Ellah disappear out the front door.

REBECCA
Be careful kids!

INT. DODGE CHARGER - EVENING

Randy and Ellah drive down the street.

ELLAH
Can we stop at the store, so I can get me some candy for the movies?

RANDY
Momma told me to get you to Jackie's house and that's it!

ELLAH
Please, Randy!

Randy sighs and takes a right at the corner and proceeds in the same direction he came from earlier, passing the same faulty intersection light.

When they reach the intersection, Randy looks up and the light seems to be working fine.

ELLAH
Why are you slowing down? What's
wrong with you?

RANDY
I'm just being careful.

Randy pulls up to the dollar store and parks.

INT./EXT. DODGE CHARGER - CONTINUOUS

Ellah returns to the car and Randy drives out of the parking lot. Randy's phone rings. He answers.

RANDY
(on phone)
What's up?

Randy turns the radio down in the car, bringing it to a silence.

RANDY
I have to take my sister to her
friend's house first. I'll be there
in about 15 minutes.

Ellah turns the car radio back on. The music THUMPS loudly through the speakers. Ellah dances in her seat, her seatbelt undone.

Randy's car rolls through the PEACHTREE and PINE intersection -- and once again, all the lights on each side of the intersection traffic light are green.

Just then, Randy's car is violently hit by a truck.

Randy's car flips and Ellah is thrown through the passenger windshield as her body bounces off the road and skids like a rag doll down the street. Her body comes to rest on her back.

The car continues to roll several times, Randy is violently thrown back and forth in his car seat.

Randy hits the steering wheel flinging his body back as the car finally stops on it's rooftop.

He looks over at Ellah's body outside the car and scrambles to unbuckle his seat belt, as gasoline spills in from the gas tank at the rear of the car.

The pedestrians jerk on the car door, but it's no use.

Randy pounds on the window and looks at the pedestrians with fear.

Fire and smoke engulf the cabin and massive flames roar out of the windows, sending the pedestrians running away from the burning car.

INT. REBECCA'S BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Rebecca looks over at the clock -- 2:00 AM is displayed. She picks up the phone and dials a number.

REBECCA

Hi Cassandra, sorry to wake you,
but is Ellah still there?

CASSANDRA (O.S.)

Rebecca, Ellah's not here. I
thought she wasn't coming since she
didn't show up.

REBECCA

What do you mean she didn't show
up? That's impossible, I told Randy
to bring her to your house.

CASSANDRA (O.S.)

Well, honey, she's not here.

REBECCA

Can you please check with Jackie?

INT. CASSANDRA COLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CASSANDRA COLE (44), African American, medium build gets out of bed and hurries out of her room.

INT. INT. JACKIE COLE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cassandra enters the room and shakes her daughter, JACKIE COLE (16), African American, gymnastic physic awake.

CASSANDRA

Jackie, Jackie! Wake up.

Jackie rolls over in the bed and looks up at Cassandra with a moping gaze.

JACKIE

Momma, what's --?

CASSANDRA
Is Ellah in there with you?

JACKIE
No.

Cassandra picks up the phone.

CASSANDRA
Rebecca, Jackie just said--

REBECCA (O.S.)
I heard her. I don't understand:
she wouldn't go anywhere without
telling me.

CASSANDRA
Did you try calling some of her
other friends? Did Randy come back?
Maybe they went somewhere else.

REBECCA (O.S.)
Without telling me? They know
better than that. Thanks,
Cassandra, I'll call you back
later. Let me find out--

INT. REBECCA'S RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The doorbell rings. Rebecca turns on the upper-level light
and heads out of her bedroom.

INT. REBECCA'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Rebecca walks down the stairs to answer the door. She looks
through the peephole and sees two officers, OFFICER BERRY
(30s) and OFFICER THOMAS (30s). Confused, she opens the
door..

REBECCA
Hi, can I help you?

OFFICER BERRY
Yes Ma'am, are you Rebecca
Williams?

REBECCA
Yes.

OFFICER THOMAS
Are you the mother of Randy and
Ellah Williams?

REBECCA

Yes...

OFFICER BERRY

Mrs. Williams, I'm officer Berry and this is Officer Thomas with the Atlanta Police Department, we're sorry to inform you that there's been an accident...

Rebecca recoils. She stands in shock as her eyes show a fearful expression.

REBECCA

Accident? What do you mean, is everything OK? Where are my kids?!

Officer Berry and Officer Thomas exchange a solemn glance.

OFFICER BERRY

Your children -- I'm so sorry to inform you that both of your children have died...

OFFICER THOMAS

We need for you to come with us.

Rebecca stumbles backwards against the door. She holds her breath for a beat before exhaling. She shakes her head "no" with her hand clutched against her chest.

REBECCA

No, no, no! Not my babies, no, not my babies. Dear God, not my babies!

Rebecca crumbles to the floor at the news. She bursts into a deafening sob and wraps her arms around her knees.

Officer Berry consoles her, but the pain and agony are too much as her cries echo throughout the home.

INT. BILLY WILLIAMS RESIDENCE - MORNING

Billy and his fiancée, GINA JOHNSON (27), African American, mixed race, pretty are asleep in their bed. The phone rings and wakes them up. Gina looks over at the caller ID.

GINA

Why is she calling so late?!

Billy answers the phone.

BILLY

Rebecca, why are you calling this late? If you called to argue with me, then--

REBECCA (O.S.)

(crying)

Billy, there's been an accident.

BILLY

What? Why are you crying?

REBECCA (O.S.)

There was an accident, Billy. The children...are...they didn't make it, Billy.

Billy sits up and cries out --

BILLY

No!

INT. WILLIAMS' RESIDENCE - MID MORNING

The doorbell rings and PASTOR RUSSELL WALTON (52), African American, athletic build stands in the doorway. Cassandra greets him.

CASSANDRA

Pastor Walton, please come in.

PASTOR WALTON

Thank you, Sister Cole.

Pastor Walton eyes the very populated room, walks over to Rebecca and sits down next to her. Rebecca has tears running down her face.

PASTOR WALTON

I am so very sorry for your loss. The entire church is here for you. God bless you, Sister Rebecca, and remember God is with you and Billy during these troubled times. Randy was a very special young man and he will be missed and your daughter too.

REBECCA

Thank you, Pastor.

She dabs her wet cheeks with a tissue.

PASTOR WALTON

I'm going to assign a grief counselor to you and Billy. Would that be alright?

REBECCA

That's so kind of you. I've been struggling lately and haven't been myself.

PASTOR WALTON

Sister Rebecca, grief can manifest itself in many different ways. No parent should bury their children, so it's understandable that you wouldn't feel like yourself. Your life has been interrupted in the most terrible of ways. Come, my dear, let us pray together.

Pastor Walton takes Rebecca's hand and begins a prayer.

INT. REBECCA'S RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The doorbell rings. Rebecca begrudgingly answers, revealing Billy on the other side. Rebecca is overwhelmed and pulls Billy close to her and cries on his shoulder.

REBECCA

Thank you for coming over Billy, I just can't believe this is...

Billy eases Rebecca off his shoulder. He looks at her with a solemn, yet aggravated expression.

BILLY

Jesus, Rebecca! Who were you yelling at? We heard you all the way down at the curb?

REBECCA

Who was I yelling at? No one, I was napping. I woke up when you rang the bell.

Walking around the ROSE BUSHES and coming into view is Gina. Her pretty young face and curvy frame is seen. She tilts her HEAD to the side and forward again as her LONG HAIR SWAYS and BOUNCE as she slowly struts towards the FRONT DOOR.

Rebecca's demeanor changes as she MEAN MUGS Gina.

REBECCA
Who is this?

BILLY
Rebecca, this is my fiancée Gina--

GINA
Hi Rebecca, I'm so sorry we're meeting under such unfortunate circumstances.

REBECCA
(yelling)
You have some nerve coming to my house. I don't want your Goddamn condolences, you home-wrecking bitch!

Billy grabs Rebecca's arm.

BILLY
Rebecca! What's gotten into you? Gina was only expressing her sympathy!

REBECCA
I'm sorry, but why would you bring her here after what just happened to my children?

GINA
You mean our children!

Rebecca looks hard at Billy with a snarl.

REBECCA
Excuse me?

GINA
Randy and Ellah were Billy's children too.

REBECCA
Billy knows what I meant. I've been up all night and my head has been hurting and--

Rebecca's thought drifts away. She looks down and backs up again, her demeanor drastically different. She is now TONI.

REBECCA/TONI
Wait a minute, bitch! Aren't you the hoe that broke up Rebecca's family!?

(MORE)

REBECCA/TONI (CONT'D)
 How dare you come into this house
 trying to correct somebody! You
 better hurry and get the fuck out
 of here before I cut yo' ass!

Toni storms off toward the kitchen. Billy follows with a perplexed gaze.

BILLY
 Rebecca! What the hell is your
 problem?!

Toni yells from the kitchen, where silverware is heard rattling around.

REBECCA/TONI
 Nigga! Stop calling me that, you
 know that's not my name!

Billy takes Gina by the wrist and rushes towards the front door.

BILLY
 Come on, Gina. I'm not putting up
 with her crap.

GINA
 You're unstable, Rebecca, and you
 need help!

Toni comes back into the room with a butcher knife.

REBECCA/TONI
 Bitch, you're gonna need some
 fuckin' medical attention in a
 minute!

Toni turns toward Billy wielding the knife at Gina.

REBECCA/TONI
 Don't you ever bring that stuck-up
 bitch back here again or the next
 time she won't make it out of here!

Billy and Gina run out of the house. Toni slams the front door and marches up the stairs.

INT. REBECCA'S RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Toni enters and sits on the bed. Her head goes up and then comes down again. She's Rebecca now. Rebecca notices the knife and drops it on the floor, confused.

INT. BILLY'S MERCEDES - MINUTES LATER

Gina is reeling in the passenger seat while Billy drives away from Rebecca's house.

GINA
That bitch is crazy! I can see why
you left her ass.

BILLY
Rebecca has never acted like that
before. That wasn't my wife.

Gina gives Billy a perturbed glare.

GINA
You mean your ex-wife?

Billy rolls his eyes and shrugs off the comment.

BILLY
You know what I mean, dammit!

GINA
What about our wedding?

BILLY
Our wedding?

GINA
Yes, our wedding, Billy!

BILLY
Are you kidding me? My children are
dead! How insensitive is that?

GINA
We have too much invested in this
wedding.

BILLY
We don't have anything invested. I
have everything invested. This
wedding is costing me over \$30,000
with that damn gown, shoes,
jewelry, makeup, the Goddamn
personnel trainer -- and that
fucking dog whisperer. So don't
talk to me about money, Gina. I'm
burying my children tomorrow and
that's the most important thing to
me -- not you or a GODDAMN WEDDING!

Gina huffs, crosses her arms and look out the window.

EXT. LINWOOD APARTMENTS - LATE AFTERNOON

LT. KATHERINE JONES (31), African American gets out of her patrol vehicle parked in front of the Linwood Apartment complex. She walks into the building.

INT. APARTMENT 17B - LINWOOD APARTMENTS - CONTINUOUS

Lt. Jones enters an apartment and finds SERGEANT BERRA (29), Caucasian, muscular build is talking with another OFFICER. She walks toward them.

LT. JONES
What's going on here, Sergeant?

SERGEANT BERRA
Home invasion. A 6-year-old Hispanic female was sexually assaulted here after school.

LT. JONES
Where is the child now?

SERGEANT BERRA
She's been taken to Grady Hospital for examination.

LT. JONES
Victim's parents?

He points in the next room.

SERGEANT BERRA
Her father is in the Army, but her Grandmother's in there, Lieutenant.

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sergeant Berra and Lt. Jones enter the bedroom, where they see LENA PEREZ (45), Puerto Rican, medium build.

SERGEANT BERRA
Lieutenant, this is Lena Perez, the Grandmother of the little girl.

LT. JONES
Ms. Perez, I know this is a difficult time for you, but I have a couple of questions.