**WORKING TITLE: Angelus Custos**

**By Stephan Domingo | Batch 26 | Aug 19, 2020**

We start with Mikhail, a condescending and meddlesome guardian angel, looking down his on his sleeping human, Gabo. Mikhail uses his powers to suddenly activate Gabo’s phone alarm, causing Gabo to frantically wake up early for his job interview.

Gabo and Mikhail are actually twins, but Mikhail passed away soon after being born. That’s why the council of angels immediately assigned Mikhail to Gabo. Mikhail isn’t the most responsible guardian angel. He is straight-up chaotic good. When the Handbook of Angels was given to him, he didn’t even bother reading it. Heaven doesn’t forbid physically appearing to humans, but it is discouraged because it may interfere with free will. However, Mikhail manifests himself to Gabo every single day. A guardian angel’s goal is to be promoted to a higher rank, but Mikhail just doesn’t have that drive.

On the other hand, Gabo is a geeky, nerdy fresh grad. This young man is straight-up lawful good. He follows ALL the rules and laws of the world. Gabo is annoyed by Mikhail’s constant nagging. But even if Mikhail is annoying, he constantly protects Gabo as well. Especially from the sly attacks of Gabo’s tempter - a demon named Daemon.

Throughout their childhood, the brothers get into moral conflicts. When Gabo was 3, he always ate his veggies even if Mikhail said he didn’t have to. When Gabo was 10, he didn’t play around when he got circumcised. He just stayed at home even if Mikhail said he could still play wrestling on the bed. When Gabo was 17, he was a gentleman to Catherine, his prom date. When they danced, he made sure there was room for the Holy Spirit. Then Gabo took Catherine straight home even if Mikhail said it was okay to lean in for an innocent kiss. Gabo and Catherine continue to have unrequited love.

At the present day, Gabo is facing pressure to provide for his family. His dad just got laid off while his mom is a housewife. Gabo’s by the book personality turns off most of his would-be employers in the field of mass media. Mikhail condescendingly gives advice, saying Gabo should let loose a bit more. His former prom date but still not girlfriend, Catherine, echoes the same sentiments after they have lunch together.

Gabo shrugs this advice off. Gabo gets rejected after several interviews and eventually goes into a “downward spiral.” He starts drinking (only two bottles), gets a tattoo (a small, minimalist sad face), and begins to (awkwardly) flirt with other girls.

Mikhail continues to intervene at every “act of rebellion.” The angel brings up the fact that Gabo’s been *torpe* all these years. This strikes a nerve with Gabo and he finally snaps at Mikhail. Gabo then wrestles with his guardian angel on the side of the street.

Suddenly, darkness followed by hellfire and brimstone envelopes the other side of the street. Daemon seizes the opportunity to tempt Gabo offering him a life of sure “financial stability” (as an online troll) and “love” (with many women) in exchange for his eternal allegiance to him.

Caught between this battle of heaven and hell, Gabo makes HIS will known. He commands both his Guardian Angel and Demon to leave him alone, so that he can think things through.

For the first time in his life, Gabo’s mind is blank - a state of moral neutrality. With his mind at ease, Gabo aces an interview. He even asks Catherine out on a date. They finally make out. A start-up advertising agency decides to take him in. Gabo cheerfully tells the news to his parents, informing them that he can now finally help with household expenses.

Mikhail watches from afar in heaven. At the Seraphim’s Spinning Class, he has a chat with Rafaello, a higher-ranking Archangel. This leads to Mikhail realizing he might’ve been meddling too much in his younger brother’s affairs.

Before Gabo starts work, he goes on a surfing trip with Catherine to celebrate. Unfortunately, a freak surfing accident leaves Gabo bloody and unconscious on the beach. As Mikhail is about to swoop down to revive his dying brother, a bright light from above beckons the angel. The council of Seraphims, Cherubims, and Ophanims informs Mikhail that his mission is done and that he will now be promoted to Associate Archangel. Mikhail pleads with the council telling them that he firmly believes that his current mission isn’t done - he can’t let his earthly parents lose another child.

After some call transfers to and fro God’s main office, the council says that the Lord’s Will has been changed accordingly. The council informs Mikhail to make haste, as they don’t have control of life and death - that’s the role of another angel.

Mikhail swoops down to the hospital where Gabo is being treated and confronts Azrael, the just but benevolent Angel of Death. Azrael brings up the Guardian Angel Handbook which states that in order for a life and death decision to be overturned amongst angels, a decision by combat must take place.

The two fight all throughout heaven, purgatory, earth, and hell’s gates. We even see Daemon cheering against Mikhail. At first, Mikhail’s low-level powers are no match for the Azrael, but Mikhail’s intensive knowledge of Marvel and Street Fighter helps him imagine powers. The match ends in a draw. The Angel of Death, having deemed Mikhail’s cause as worthy, gives way to the Guardian Angel.

Gabo then wakes up in a limbo-like dream sequence. Mikhail shares the news that he was offered a promotion. But he had to postpone that to save Gabo. Gabo also makes his own revelation. Daemon had talked to him in an earlier dream. Gabo said he declined the demon’s offer and he started praying the Our Father when the demon wouldn’t let him go.

Mikhail says a new angel will be taking over his position, but it is likely this angel won’t physically appear to Gabo. The two brothers say goodbye to each other. The touch of an angel revives Gabo and he finally wakes up in the hospital, surrounded by Catherine and his worried parents. He is saddened when he realizes he can no longer see Mikhail.

As he recovers in the hospital and gets ready to go home, his mother points out his tattoo. Gabo realizes his sad smiley tattoo has changed: it’s now an angel that looks like Mikhail.