

[MUSIC]

ANNOUNCER

Rusty Quill presents a new audio drama, *The Pit Below Paradise*.
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ANNOUNCER

Dorian chose to lead his people to Paradise from a very young age.

DORIAN

One day, she says, someone important will come along, someone who will change the world ... Our saviour. And that's when I, a plucky little five-year-old, leapt up and shouted, "Look no further!" Within the week, our leader Mr. Ned Ziliak himself, declared the time of prophecy was nigh.

PAULETTE

Thank you, everyone. It is the eve of a monumental occasion, and we're honoured to host you all one last time.

ANNOUNCER

But a carefully planned life – and death– are thrown into chaos.

NED

Oh, my friends. Your love means something else to me. And I... I will have to ask your faith and forgiveness.
We will not be able to hold the ceremony tomorrow.

Dorian

No! (...) So what the ceremony is cancelled?!

Paulette

You're going to go to college, just as we told the world you would.
You must blend in.

DORIAN

You want me to actually... go? Out there? On my own?

ANNOUNCER

Join us on the Pit Below Paradise, a coming of age drama about a messiah on a collision course with the wider world.

WILL

Will. Hi. Thanks for cleaning.

DORIAN

Will! What an inspiring name... You look... dedicated. t-to... lifting things. Is that a normal thing to say? Oh no.

WILL

It's just me.

YOUNG RUTH

I've seen you. Head down all day, walking alone. Maybe I want a friend, too...

DORIAN

(SIGHS)

Oh boy, I have a ton to teach you both about personal discovery. You'll benefit so much when you know how to properly take care of yourselves.

ANNOUNCER

Can faith survive long enough to save a broken world?

DORIAN

It is easiest to condemn temptation after you've given in, but still haven't gotten what you wanted.

RUTH

Listen to Dad. Follow orders. Survive.

WILL

I don't know why, but she's clearly pushing me away. I'm not gonna keep pushing back.

DORIAN

I have other things to focus on. My church. Remember, I told you about it?

NED

You're changing, Dori. I'd hoped you'd prove resilient, like you promised.

WILL

And when I fill over your coffin, I'll get the last word: "You were kind to me. But it wasn't enough to save either of us."

RUTH

I don't know... What would you do? If I did do something?

DORIAN

I'm not hurting anyone!

ANNOUNCER

Or will broken friends manage to save Dorian?

WILL

When you get the chance to run, you take it. When someone wants to run, you don't get in their way.

LONDON

It was, like, chemical, something I couldn't even handle, and that's how I knew it was right. Euphoria.

DORIAN

That's a dangerous word.

Young Ruth

"We are the Trees. Our dark and leafy glade——"

Will

"——Dark and leafy glade Bands the bright earth with——"

Will + Ruth

"——softer mysteries."

DORIAN

...No. No, I have a better idea. Kiss me!

RUTH

If you can't, I will!

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