

DEVIL BE WITH ME

By

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An Original Short

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FADE IN:

EXT. RED LODGE - NIGHT

Definitely no five-star motel.

Dingy cars occupy every available parking spot. Yet no lights are on.

VACANCY in broad neon lighting flickers on and off upon a rusty old sign barely held together.

INT. ROOM 6 - NIGHT

A motel room. More like a hobo's nest, in truth.

The carcass of ABBY, a youthful 26, lies upon a bloodstained bed, host to ragged sheets.

Bone charms dangle like wind-chimes around the bed. Gently sway in the breeze.

The SOUND of a shotgun cock snaps from O.S.

INT. ROOM 6 - BATHROOM - NIGHT

A shattered mirror hosts the webbed reflection of -- GEOFF, a disheveled 29 -- he places both hands on the sink.

He gazes at himself in the mirror. Closes his eyes.

GEOFF

Lord be with me on this night of
dark.

Reaches into his shirt, pulls out a St. Michael cross.

GEOFF

May the tears of light shred out
this mark.

Places the cross into the watery sink, takes a breath.

GEOFF

Banish thee unto Hell. Let no demon
find her shell.

Sets the cross on his hand. Flesh sizzles like bacon. He lets out a harrowing YELL.

INT. ROOM 6 - NIGHT

Geoff sits on a chair at the foot of the bed. Stares at the body of Abby.

He reaches down, pulls up a sawn-off shotgun. Contemplates as he rises.

GEOFF
I will make this right.

EXT. RED LODGE - NIGHT

The neon light finally stops working.

Geoff shoves a rucksack into a trunk, slams it shut and looks around.

An eerie wind rolls by, causes a shiver to run up his spine.

TOM (V.O)
I have what you need.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Geoff's car speeds down a lonely stretch of gravel, flanked either side by a dark forest.

GEOFF (V.O)
Where are you?

TOM (V.O)
Not safe to tell. Follow the GPS coordinates.

A wolf HOWLS in the distance.

GEOFF (V.O)
Growing weary, Tom?

TOM (V.O)
Cautious.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Smack bang in the middle of the woods.

Geoff steps out of his car, eyeballs the lonely cabin. Slams the door shut.

He walks across the shingle, which crunches beneath his feet.

A SHOTGUN cocks, asserts itself to the back of his head.

TOM (O.S)
You know the drill.

Hands Geoff a flask.

GEOFF
You don't trust me?

A beat.

GEOFF
Fine.

Geoff takes the flask. Uncaps it. Guzzles some liquid down.

A beat.

GEOFF
Happy now?

TOM, a disgruntled and grizzly 38, steps from the shadows. Rips the flask from Geoff's hand.

TOM
You know me.

Takes a drink.

Geoff turns to greet him, nods at the shotgun.

Tom lowers the shotgun, sets it down on a tree stump.

GEOFF
You got it?

TOM
You know this stuff is dangerous.
Even to the likes of you.

GEOFF
I can handle it.

TOM
(snickers)
It killed, Don.

GEOFF
I'm not, Don.

Geoff extends his hand, impatient.

Tom sighs, shakes his head. Reaches into his pocket and removes a very small black bottle.

TOM
A drop more than needed will kill
you.

Geoff snatches the bottle, removes the cork and downs the whole thing.

Tom looks on, shocked.

GEOFF
If I don't make it back, Red Lodge,
Room Six.

TOM
God be with you, man.

GEOFF
Burn --

TOM
I know what to do, kid.

Geoff nods.

TOM
Grab me a beer, yeah? I'm sure I'll
be there soon.

Tom reluctantly heads off to his rusty old PICKUP.

Geoff enters the cabin.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Decrepit, seen better days, cobwebs everywhere.

Geoff sits on the foot of a three-legged, book-propped bed.
Sets the shotgun down on his lap, looks skyward.

GEOFF
Guide me.

Lays down, shotgun perched, body nimble.

GEOFF
I'm coming.

Closes his eyes.

CUT TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK:

Harrowing SCREAMS penetrate the silence.

ABBY (V.O)
You can't save everyone, Geoff.

GEOFF (V.O)
But I can save you.

FADE IN:

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Geoff wakes up. Slowly rises. Looks around cautiously.

He grabs his shotgun and heads out.

EXT. HELL - NIGHT

Distant vistas of streaming lava and volcanoes.

Cages travel along intestine-lined monorails, filled to the brim with HUMAN souls.

Geoff steps out of the cabin, approaches a ridge.

A cage lowers into a pit of lava. Lava explodes like a shaken up coke bottle being opened.

Geoff watches as a WINGED DEMON of fire soars across the molten skies.

He cocks the shotgun. Ferocity and determination etched on his face.

EXT. HELL - LUCIFER'S TOWER - NIGHT

Fiery boulders crash into a ravine from the volcano above a DEMONIC scraper.

Geoff approaches the large iron doors.

A DEMON spots him, this thing is at least 10 feet tall, and bears charred wings.

The Demon drops down, summons a demonic razor-edged sword.

DEMON
Human. Fall in line.

Geoff blasts the Demon into ashen rocks, continues his approach to the tower.

FEMALE SOUL (O.S)
Help us! Help us!

As a cage lowers into a lava pit.

Geoff passes an intestine wall, HUMAN souls reach out from within.

MALE SOUL
Help. Someone! Help me!

Another wing-clipped Demon emerges from shadows, slashes its mighty sword.

Geoff ducks the blow, shoots the Demon's head, which splits like an egg causing lava to spill out.

Geoff stops at the large doors, surveys his surroundings.

Black smoke drifts down from above, swirls around Geoff like a tornado.

LUCIFER (V.O)
You are not dead nor living. How
did you pass the threshold?

GEOFF
I am here for, Abby.

The black smoke wafts to the door, forms the shadowy figure of the FALLEN ANGEL with charred wings, LUCIFER.

LUCIFER
Souls cannot escape this slumber.

GEOFF
I offer a trade.

Lucifer's lip curls, reveals sharp-pointed teeth.

LUCIFER
What do you bargain, human?

GEOFF
My soul for hers.

Lucifer hovers over to Geoff, circles around him like a tiger stalking its prey.

LUCIFER
Your soul is tarnished by the blood
of thousands. Hers is pure.

Geoff smirks.

LUCIFER
No.

GEOFF
What makes you think you have a
choice?

Lucifer's eyes turn jet black, and locked on Geoff.

LUCIFER
We shall see, son of Michael.

Lucifer disappears and the black smoke wafts up the tower.

Geoff cocks the shotgun, kicks the doors through.

INT. LUCIFER'S TOWER - NIGHT

Decapitated human heads rest on pikes, intestines make for extremely gory tapestries.

Geoff ascends the winding staircase.

HIGHER

Geoff crosses a narrow precipice, sliding his feet across to safe ground.

EVEN HIGHER

Rotating blades glide down the center of a staircase, wide enough to cover all of the steps.

Geoff plans his movement, plots a course.

He ducks the blade, and crouched, maneuvers up the steps taking each one carefully.

THE TOP

Geoff eyeballs two large engraved doors bearing LUCIFER being cast from Heaven by MICHAEL.

He cocks his shotgun, kicks the door, dust falls. Kicks again. The doors open.

INT. LUCIFER'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Red tapestries caked in dried blood dangle from bone-made walls, place looks like a prison or cage.

Geoff slowly makes his way in. Stops dead.

Wind from outside blows a four-post bed's curtains, which reveal --

LUCIFER, a demonic yet chiseled 30, thrusting the hell out of Abby, who now bears horns in her skull.

Geoff is mortified, cocks the shotgun and shoots.

Lucifer snaps his gaze on Geoff, holds up his hand and the tiny fragments of shotgun shell stop midair.

Lucifer chuckles, flicks his fingers, causing the fragments to drop to the ground, CLINK, CLINK, CLANK.

LUCIFER
Isn't this a surprise.

Geoff cocks the shotgun again.

LUCIFER
Ah, ah, ah...

Lucifer waves his hand.

The shotgun leaps from Geoff's grip and slams against the wall.

LUCIFER
This is no place for violence.

Smokes out and returns in front of Geoff, whom steps back.

LUCIFER

This is a place of worship, son of Michael.

Lucifer grabs Geoff by the throat, hoists him high.

Abby, like a snake, curls up on the bed and watches with a wicked grin on her face.

Lucifer examines Geoff's complexion, seems disheartened.

LUCIFER

I expected more from my own kin.

Throws Geoff to the ground, watches him squirm.

LUCIFER

Then again, Michael never was all that convincing.

Summons a demonic sword, stomps on Geoff's back.

LUCIFER

You must have known how this would end.

GEOFF

Killing me won't stop me getting her out.

Lucifer grins.

LUCIFER

No. But after a few goes on the Rack, she will be the last thing on your mind.

Plunges the sword, but greets a Heavenly blade.

Lucifer locks eyes with -- MICHAEL, an angelic and handsome 32, who wears archangel wings, which are more bony than fluffy.

LUCIFER

Brother.

Michael grinds Lucifer's sword away from Geoff's back.

The two circle one another. Geoff right in the middle.

LUCIFER

I thought father forbade you to step foot in this realm?

MICHAEL

His wishes are intact. But I could not allow my son to fall. No matter the price I must pay for disobeying the order.

Lucifer cackles.

LUCIFER

Look at you. At last questioning. Feels good, does it not?

MICHAEL

I give you fair warning, brother. I have no orders here. Allow my children to leave, or perish.

Lucifer twirls the sword in hand, not backing down.

LUCIFER

You never did learn, did you? I don't take orders anymore. Least of all from you.

Lucifer and Michael clash swords in heavy combat, they match blow for blow, perfectly synchronized with one another.

Geoff struggles over to Abby, grabs her hand, but she shoves him into the wall.

GEOFF

Abby, it's me...

Abby's fingernails grow, as sharp as daggers.

LUCIFER

Be mindful, brother. This is not the Astral Plane.

Lucifer thrusts his hand forward, sending Michael into the wall, which cracks and spits.

LUCIFER

This is my domain. There is no common ground here.

Abby scratches Geoff across the chest, ripping both shirt and flesh, drawing blood.

Geoff steps back, ducks her slash and grabs the shotgun.

He aims, but she is gone.

Lucifer brings the wall down on Michael, rubble covers him.

Lucifer grins, turns around to greet a shotgun blast, that rips through his chest.

LUCIFER
That tickled.

Abby slashes off Geoff's hand.

Geoff looks at his hand in horror as blood spews out all over the place.

Lucifer stabs Geoff through the chest, twists the sword with malice upon his face.

LUCIFER
You fall, I rise.

Lucifer yanks the sword out, licks the blood off the blade.

Abby hugs him from the side, running her sharp nails down his ripped and cracked torso.

Michael explodes out of the rubble, looking more pissed off than a heavenly angel should.

MICHAEL
No.

Lucifer slashes off Michael's hand with a swift blow.

Light pours out of Michael's stub as he backs into the wall.

Lucifer and Abby step toward Michael, whom looks at them both in disgust.

LUCIFER
Watch as the blood of your heir
rides the wave, brother. Watch, as
I ascend.

Geoff's blood runs down the cracks in the floor, drizzles out of the gap in the wall.

EXT. HELL - THE FOUNTAIN OF FIRE - NIGHT

Geoff's blood, like a waterfall, cascades down into the molten lava, turning it red.

A large gate lights up crimson, veins of red ride up and around it, forming the Tree of Knowledge.

Hellspawn hatch from eggs.

Winged Demons soar toward the gate as blinding light pours through the opening.

INT. LUCIFER'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

Lucifer's lip curls as he sticks his tongue, which turns into a snake's tongue, down Abby's throat.

Michael regrows his hand, his sword floats into his grip and he swings.

Lucifer blocks.

The two lock eyes, if looks could kill, both would be dead.

LUCIFER
You will watch your precious Earth
burn in Hellfire.

Abby steps back, watches intently.

LUCIFER
My kin shall ride across the barren
wastes and destroy all that you
hold most dear. There is no
stopping it now.

Michael breaks the clash, slashes Lucifer across the gut, causing organs to spill out.

Lucifer grips his gut, chuckles.

LUCIFER
You cannot kill me.

His wound heals.

GEOFF (O.S)
No.

Lucifer looks over his shoulder, furrows his brow in anger.

Geoff, angelic like, stands with risen angel wings, sword in hand.

GEOFF
But I can.

Geoff slashes Lucifer's arm off and plunges the sword through his chest, twists the blade.

Lucifer drops to his knees, grips the blade, which burns him.

LUCIFER

This is not possible. I killed you.

Geoff rips the sword from Lucifer's chest.

GEOFF

And he brought me back.

LUCIFER

(realization)

Father...

Geoff decapitates Lucifer.

Lucifer's body turns to an ash pile on the floor, gentle cinders float up on the wind.

Geoff and Michael exchange looks.

ABBY (O.S)

Geoff?

Geoff looks at his sister.

She is back to normal, no horns, no lengthy fingernails, perfectly human.

They embrace in a sibling way.

The tower quivers, rocks fall from the ceiling, a large crack rides through the ground.

MICHAEL

You must leave.

GEOFF

But the Demons.

MICHAEL

We can't stop them now. The gate is open. Hell rises.

Michael sheathes his sword, summons a dagger and cuts his wrist.

He spreads his own blood on the wall, creating some sort of HEX symbol with Angelic symbols.

GEOFF

We have to stop them. If they rise, Earth boils.

MICHAEL
There is no time.

Michael slams his palm onto the symbol.

The wall splits open, creates a void of dark and light,
swirling rays of black and gold.

MICHAEL
Return to Earth.

ABBY
Father...

MICHAEL
There is no time for debate. Rally
your allies. Tell them of the storm
that approaches. Be ready.

Geoff and Abby nod coherently.

MICHAEL
We shall meet again.

Geoff and Abby step into the void, and become swallowed by
the dark and light.

The wall seals shut.

Michael turns his gaze on the ashes, hangs his head in
shame.

MICHAEL
Damn you, brother.

Michael disappears.

The ashes blow out of the gap in the wall.

EXT. HELL - NIGHT

Hell implodes.

Rivers bubble and explode, sending lava flying all over the
place.

The intestine lines collapse, drop the cages of souls into
the boiling lava.

Demons, Hellspawn, Winged, approach the Hell Gate...

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Geoff jolts awake, surveys his surroundings, and grabs his shotgun with haste.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

Tom, leans against his pickup, having a cigarette.

Geoff hurriedly approaches.

TOM
Where's the fire?

GEOFF
It's rising.

Tom realizes, discards the cigarette.

LATER

Tom's Pickup follows Geoff's car closely as they abandon the woodland.

EXT. RED LODGE - NIGHT

The car park is abandoned, yet all the lights are on.

Geoff's car comes to a screeching halt, he soon gets out, follows hastily by Tom.

INT. ROOM 6 - NIGHT

Abby sits at the table, perplexed and astonished as she examines her hands.

Geoff and Tom burst into the room.

Abby and Geoff embrace again, this time it's more hurried.

Geoff heads off to the far side, grabs a rucksack, fills it with guns and ammo.

Abby and Tom hug in a daughter-father way.

TOM
You okay, kiddo?

ABBY
Feel like Hell.

TOM
What was it like?

Geoff shoves a rucksack into Tom's chest.

GEOFF
Another time. We need to leave.
Now.

EXT. RED LODGE - NIGHT

Tom chucks the rucksack in Geoff's car.

Abby leans on the car, looks up at the sky, which bears a rather eerie red tone.

Geoff hands Abby a St. Michael necklace.

GEOFF
You'll need this.

She puts it on.

TOM
Good hunting, kids.

Tom approaches his pickup.

GEOFF
Wait. We need you.

TOM
So do the others. I'll head back to
Kansas, call a few friends. We'll
need backup.

GEOFF
All right. Stay in touch.

TOM
Stay safe, kid.

Geoff and Tom shake hands.

Tom gets into his pickup, drives away.

Geoff and Abby turn their gaze upon the distant city of Los Angeles.

The city blackens block-by-block.

GEOFF
You ready?

ABBY
For the Apocalypse?

GEOFF
This isn't the end, sis. We'll get
through this.

ABBY
What makes you so sure?

Geoff acknowledges the sky, then looks at Abby.

ABBY
Faith, huh?

GEOFF
Have a little. We might need it.

Geoff opens the driver's side door.

ABBY
Promise me something.

GEOFF
Name it.

ABBY
If anything happens. Don't come
looking for me again.

GEOFF
We stick together. Always.

ABBY
Promise me, Geoff.

A beat.

Geoff hesitantly nods.

ABBY
Where to?

GEOFF
Where else?

EXT. LOS ANGELES APPROACH - NIGHT

Geoff's car hurtles toward -- THE CITY OF ANGELS...

From the side of the road steps an ARMORED INDIVIDUAL.
Charred wings drape down its back.

Its hand clenches...

CUT TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK:

SUPER: DEVIL BE WITH ME

LUCIFER (V.O)
The End Begins...

An EVIL LAUGH echoes in the blackness...