

NOT RACHEL

Screenplay by

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INT. LIVING ROOM - STORMY NIGHT

DAVE (35) is soaked wet as he stumbles drunk into the living room of his small, poorly kept apartment. There is a thunderstorm raging outside. Lightning strikes and Dave sees a ghost sitting on the top of the desk.

DAVE

Rach? What the hell? What are you doing here, how did you get in?

WOMAN

I let myself in.

DAVE

Ok... You freaked me out 'dollface'. Why are you here? Why are you sitting in the dark?

WOMAN

Because that's where you left me.

DAVE

All right, weirdo. Are you gonna make me kick your fat ass out? I'm tired as fuck, but don't you doubt it, I'm gonna punch you in the face and drag you out by the hair.

WOMAN

You are not tired, you are drunk. You are shit faced.

DAVE

Oh yeah?

WOMAN

Come here Dave, I want to talk to you. I have a secret to tell you.

The Woman tries to touch Dave's face, he pulls away.

DAVE

It's three in the freaking morning, I am going to sleep. I mean, you are welcome to hangout, I don't know what the fuck you are doing here after all you did. But I'm going to sleep. All right 'lady'?

WOMAN

That's not all right, I was waiting for you, Dave.

The woman pulls her skirt up a little revealing her thighs.

DAVE  
Good night Rachel.

The woman flicks a lamp on. The light reveal her features. Dave can clearly recognize his ex-girlfriend RACHEL (25).

RACHEL  
It's not going to be a good night Dave. And I am not Rachel. And you are not going anywhere.

Dave shows his middle finger.

DAVE  
Good night, 'Not Rachel'.

Dave tries to open the door of his bedroom but it's locked. Dave bangs on the door.

NOT RACHEL  
Have a seat. Here, would you like some water?

Not Rachel walks around the desk and sits on the chair. Not Rachel pours a glass of water.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Would you like another drink?

Not Rachel pours a glass of whisky.

DAVE  
Listen you whore. Do you want me to fuck you? Because if I do, you are not gonna like it.

NOT RACHEL  
Oh, I'm gonna love it. But we need to have a drink first, I'm not that easy.

DAVE  
Ha! Little Rach, darling, I didn't know you had it in you. Is there where you hid the key? Up in your asshole? (Laughs)

NOT RACHEL  
(Laughs) I like you Dave. I have always liked you. But I told you already, I am not Rach.

(MORE)

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 Rach is dead. You killed her, don't  
 you remember?

Dave is silent.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
 You do. I know you do. You can feel  
 it. How do you feel Dave?

DAVE  
 Yeah, I feel like I want to kill  
 you. That's how I feel.

NOT RACHEL  
 Well you did that already! Well,  
 not me though. You killed Rachel.  
 You drugged her, you abused her and  
 when she tried to get away from  
 you, you killed her.

Dave feels sick.

DAVE  
 Who the fuck are you?

NOT RACHEL  
 You know who I am. I am your best  
 friend.

DAVE  
 No, you died. You are dead.

NOT RACHEL  
 Rachel is dead, yes.

DAVE  
 But I didn't kill you.

NOT RACHEL  
 No? So tell me Dave, what happened  
 then?

DAVE  
 Shut up. Just shut up, ok? Give me  
 my key.

Not Rachel stands.

NOT RACHEL  
 You thought: how could a girl like  
 this possibly be with a guy like  
 you. I mean, you knew it wouldn't  
 last.

(MORE)

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)

She was too young and beautiful,  
and it was all youth exuberance.  
Eventually she would be back on her  
track and leave you behind. Isn't  
that true, Dave?

(Beat)

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)

You didn't love her. You didn't  
even like her. You were just  
jealous that she had a better life  
than you. That she was born in a  
better place, that she didn't  
suffer like you did...

DAVE

You're wrong.

NOT RACHEL

Unlike you, Rach, she was going  
places. So you had to make sure  
that she stayed exactly where she  
was. That's how you killed her. You  
poisoned her mind with your malice  
and intoxicated her body with  
alcohol and drugs.

DAVE

But I didn't kill her.

NOT RACHEL

Are you sure Dave? No, you are not.  
You wouldn't be here if you were.  
So tell me, right at that moment,  
did you know what could happen?

DAVE

I was not myself.

NOT RACHEL

Oh, but you were. That's how you  
have always been Dave. High and  
wasted.

DAVE

No. She betrayed me. She was a  
whore.

NOT RACHEL

And that's why you punished her. You KNEW what could happen if you let her go into that car, drunk and in rage right after you had abused her. Deep down you wanted her to die, because she deserved it, and it wouldn't be your fault... (Beat) And as she stumbled drunk into the car, you said:

DAVE & NOT RACHEL

Have a safe trip.

NOT RACHEL

(Laughs) You are funny Dave. You are so deep and so shallow all at the same time. Do you ever mean what you say?

Not Rachel mocks Dave by imitating his voice.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)

Life is a shit show! It's drinking that makes us wise and sober! I jerk off at the face of pain.

DAVE

I always mean what I say.

NOT RACHEL

I agree! We shouldn't take life so seriously. It's like a ride in a roller coaster. You can either be afraid and hold on real tight and wish the whole time for it to be over. Or you can let go of your hands and 'enjoy the ride', but that too is safe, you have bars that hold you in place. But you Dave, you drank a pack of beers and ate an entire burrito just before your ride just so that you could puke all over everybody. (Laughs) Still you are trapped, restrained by the bars that hold you. But I am here to help you set yourself free.

DAVE

God damn it, all right, I'll take the drink.

NOT RACHEL

Great, I'll take one too.

Dave sits next to Not Rachel. She pours a drink to herself and they make a toast.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)

To you Dave.

DAVE

To me.

They drink.

NOT RACHEL

Good isn't it? Straight from  
'Limbo'.

DAVE

Excellent. Is Limbo where you come  
from, Mrs. Ghost?

NOT RACHEL

Nope, Limbo is where you can go if  
you want to. That door you were  
trying to open before? Will  
eventually take you there. But you  
must really want it, otherwise the  
door will just stay shut. Let me  
explain it to you.

Not Rachel sips on her whisky.

DAVE

Hurry up, please?

NOT RACHEL

If you go through that door, then  
things will be back how they used  
to be. Rach will be dead, yes, but  
not because of you. In fact, there  
will be no guilt. After all, it's  
not your fault Rach chose to be  
around you and allowed you to drag  
herself down with you. It's not  
your fault that you are who you  
are. So if you want, you can go  
back, and you can gamble, and you  
can cheat, and you can steal, and  
you can even kill, and I promise  
you, your conscience will be wiped  
clean of remorse.

(MORE)

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)

And when there is no remorse there is no acknowledgement of the sin, and because of that, when you finally die, you will go to 'Limbo': the edge of Hell, where you can do everything that you love the most.

DAVE

All right, that sounds promising.

NOT RACHEL

Indeed. Well, you do get raped here and there in Limbo, take on some severe beatings. But eventually all your sins might be repented. And at that point you will ascend to Havens. So, that's good huh?

DAVE

As long as those damn angels have this good whisky up there too.

NOT RACHEL

They have other stuff. But when that time comes I'm pretty sure you will be all sick and done with this 'good whisky'.

DAVE

I really doubt that. All right, this is getting interesting. What does THAT door do?

NOT RACHEL

The door you just came from? It also leads you back to your life: this apartment, and drinking and... Rach will be dead, but her memory will haunt you this time, forever. Remorse and regret will consume you and when you die you will go to Hell.

DAVE

Hmmmm. Humhum, good...

NOT RACHEL

Yes, yes... Hell, the place where you die over and over, burned, stabbed, shot, tortured... and you are always suffering... You see?

(MORE)



NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Remorse leads to self pity, and  
depression, and anger, and to  
sin... and killing, and suicide,  
and...

DAVE  
Fuck off God. Demon. Shut up.

NOT RACHEL  
You get the picture, I am sorry.

DAVE  
It wasn't my fault you know? I mean-

NOT RACHEL  
It has never been your fault Dave.  
You are but a 'tool' of no choice  
of your own.

DAVE  
No, I mean, I do make my own  
choices.

NOT RACHEL  
But are they the right choices? Or  
do you wish things had been  
different?

DAVE  
Listen, if I could bring her back,  
I would. The bitch didn't deserve  
to die.

NOT RACHEL  
There is no 'deserve', Dave. Death  
is just part of it. Do you deserve  
to be born? Do you deserve to  
exist? Do you deserve to be alive?

DAVE  
Yes. I deserve to be alive, just  
like everybody else. I am  
important. I am the most important  
motherfucker in the world. If I  
don't care about me, who will?

NOT RACHEL  
Indeed. You are the center of the  
universe. To you, everything has  
ever revolved around you. It's the  
other people is the problem. They  
do you wrong everyday, right? But  
do they ever say they're sorry?

DAVE

You got a big mouth, I give you that. But since I don't think I can get hard for you tonight baby, maybe you want to try swallowing me up to the balls?

Dave stands and grabs his balls.

NOT RACHEL

(Laughs) Thank you. That's very flattering. Although, a little bit concerning. Has that been happening to you frequently?

DAVE

Only when I remember your face in front of me.

NOT RACHEL

Would you like to know where she is?

DAVE

Not particularly.

NOT RACHEL

She is in Limbo. She's agonizing, you know? Repenting from one's sins is not like going to Heavens... She is being raped, and raping too. And drinking the 'good whisky'.

(Laughs)

DAVE

Well, I had nothing to do with it.

NOT RACHEL

Maybe you had, maybe you hadn't. Whatever makes you happy Dave. Yet, you can still be the hero of the story if you want to. But there is one thing that is required for one to become a hero. And that is 'the sacrifice'. You must choose another instead of yourself. You must die so you can be reborn in Heavens. Is that who you are Dave? The hero? If you go through THAT door-

DAVE

That's the bathroom.

NOT RACHEL

If you go through that door, Rachel will be saved and you will take her place in death. You will abdicate life, recognize your guilt and beg for forgiveness. So you see? You can bring her back after all. But will you, Dave?

Dave gulps down his entire whisky.

DAVE

No. Why should I give up my own life for her? She betrayed me. She cheated on me. And I know people, if you do it once you will do it again. She ruined it. She hurt me. And I don't allow anybody to hurt me.

NOT RACHEL

You are trying to escape from your feelings. You are trying to escape from even having feelings. Regret is a horrible thing so you are trying to keep yourself busy, and you drink. But with death is different. It keeps coming back to haunt you and it will keep coming back until you make your peace with it. It defines who you are. Who are you Dave?

DAVE

I am the bad guy.

NOT RACHEL

So it was your fault?

DAVE

No. She was a slut. She broke my heart.

NOT RACHEL

Ok. Did you tie her up inside the car and pushed her down the hill?

DAVE

No.

NOT RACHEL

She decided by herself to enter the car and drive away. Right? That was all her. She betrayed you.

(MORE)

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)

She felt regret and now she is dead. People can be very stupid Dave, but you don't have to be.

DAVE

She wasn't herself. And I wasn't myself either.

NOT RACHEL

Then who were you?

DAVE

I was possessed

NOT RACHEL

By whom?

DAVE

By you!

NOT RACHEL

I am a part of you Dave. I am the part of you that will never go away. So I think you should befriend me. Because I am always going to be there for you. I am your best friend.

DAVE

Then what should I do?

NOT RACHEL

Whatever makes you happy.

DAVE

Pfff...

NOT RACHEL

Listen, right now you are driving your car through this thunderstorm. You are very drunk and in your heart you have that same feeling you had on that day with Rachel. You knew what could happen to you when you got in the car, and a part of you wishes for it to happen. You fell asleep on the wheel. And here we are. Every hour in this place is only one second outside in the real world. But how many more seconds until you crash, Dave?

DAVE

And if I crash?

NOT RACHEL  
Straight to Hell, of course.

DAVE  
Nice... So many good options. Let  
me think about it.

Dave sits and ponders.

A whole hour passes, and another.

NOT RACHEL  
Tic-toc, tic-toc, tic-toc.

Dave points at the bottle of whisky.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Oh yeah. Sure

Not Rachel is about to pour some whisky but Dave snatches it  
from her hand and drinks straight from the bottle.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Choose happiness. Choose yourself.  
Who are you Dave?

Dave stares at one door then another.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
You like to suffer Dave. You enjoy  
self pity, you are full of hate and  
jealousy. If you just wait you will  
go straight to Hell where you can  
have all of that and live eternity  
to it's fullest.

Dave paces around the room.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Although it is funny how the people  
you love the most are also the ones  
who hurt you the most... Just  
forget her Dave, she betrayed you.  
You should go live your life free  
of guilt and be who you were meant  
to be!

Not Rachel stands and makes Dave stop by grabbing his hand.  
They look deep into each other's eyes.

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)  
Save her. Be a hero. Ask for  
forgiveness.

(MORE)

## NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)

Give her a chance to be that person  
you didn't allow her to be.

(Beat)

## DAVE

I am sorry. It was my fault. But I  
can't save you. The Devil was once  
an angel, right? And like him, I  
would fall. I must do what makes me  
happy. I am sorry for what I did to  
you. I betrayed you and ruined us  
both. I am sorry I never told you I  
loved you. That's my biggest  
regret.

For a second Dave is about to kiss Not Rachel. Instead, Dave  
plants a kiss on her forehead, takes another sip of whisky  
and heads towards the door he came from, back to life,  
forever haunted by the memory of Rachel.

THE END