

SANITARIUM

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

A flood light shines onto a sign in front of the building and reads: "WAYNE COUNTY PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL".

The building is dark, except for a few lights inside.

Drifting toward the entrance.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSE'S STATION - NIGHT

A couple male ORDERLIES in their thirties sit in front of some monitors and eat lunch.

Muscles buldge out from BRIAN'S uniform. He wears a large silver cross around his neck.

STAN, at his side, is much thinner.

One monitor has their attention.

ON SCREEN

EMILY, a slender woman in her twenties, holds onto her head as she rocks back and forth on her bed.

BRIAN

She's having another one of her headaches.

STAN

It's a damned shame.

BRIAN

Yeah. I know.

STAN

A waste of good pussy.

Brian gives him a dirty look.

BRIAN

You're an asshole. You know that?

Brian gets up from his seat.

BRIAN

I'll take care of it. You stay right there.

HER ROOM

A pink florescent number 21 drops from the clock on the wall...

...and is absorbed into the darkness on the floor.

More florescent numbers in a rainbow of colors dive from the clock. They follow the same path: 22...

23...

24...

A sliver of light enters through a window.

The light leads to Emily. Emily wears a crown of thorns on her head. She sits on her bed, rocks back and forth, and holds on to her head.

Blood streaks down her face from puncture wounds in her forehead. She looks up to the Heavens. The dark circles under her eyes make it look like she hasn't slept in days... Weeks. She weeps.

EMILY

I want to be good. I promise I do.
It's just... Why? Why have you
forgotten me?

DEMON FACES balloon out of the walls. They LAUGH at her.

DEMON

I want to be good. I promise I do.

She covers her eyes.

EMILY

Go away!

A Demon freezes directly in front of her.

DEMON

There's no God or Holy place!

In an act of defiance, she uncovers her eyes, stares him down.

EMILY

Yes there is! My father told me --

DEMON
 (interrupting)
 -- Told you? Told you what? You
 killed your father, you sick,
 little twit. Don't you remember?

He LAUGHS.

EMILY
 No! No! No! No! I didn't kill my
 father!

She points at him.

EMILY
 You did!

He disappears back into the wall.

A conversation in WHISPERS, somewhere in the room.

Emily appears worried. Her gaze ricochets here and there over every inch of the room, looking for the voices.

Two short DEMONS stand in the corner whispering back and forth to each other.

Emily stretches to hear what they say.

They take notice. One bends toward her.

DEMON
 Boo!

Her SCREAM makes them belly LAUGH.

She crawls away from them on her bed. All the way to the corner of her bed... in the corner of her room. She crouches there in a ball.

One demon gives the other a shove toward her.

DEMON
 Go ahead. Send her to Hell.

He cheers him on, chants.

DEMON
 Send her to Hell! Send her to Hell!

The demon wobbles toward her.

Emily folds her hands in prayer.

EMILY

Please God, help me. Save me.

The door swings open. Emily shields her eyes from the bright, blinding light that has entered her room. Brian stands in the doorway. The light is coming from his cross.

BRIAN

Emily.

EMILY

Father?

He takes a step forward, and locates her.

BRIAN

There you are.

He goes toward her with a hypodermic needle in his hand.

She watches a pair of man's hands reach toward her, and remove the crown of thorns from her head.

BRIAN

This should help you sleep.

Emily looks up, and sees JESUS before her.

EMILY

I knew you didn't forget me. I knew you would come. You do love me. Don't you?

Brian looks up to the monitor.

NURSE'S STATION

Stan watches the monitor intently.

STAN

Well Brian, seems like that says it all. You're a phoney!

ON THE MONITOR

Brian looks directly at him for a split second, then turns back to Emily.

BRIAN

I'll be back to check on you tomorrow.

Brian watches Emily scan the room.

BRIAN
Everything is going to be all
right.

She gives Brian a nod.

EMILY
Yes. All right.

BACK TO SCENE

Stan looks upset.

STAN
So on the outside mister up tight,
phoney, professional appears to
care about his patients well being,
yet on the inside all he really
wants is her all to himself.

He looks at the

MONITOR

Emily pulls back her covers...

EMILY
Now I lay me down to sleep.

And gets into bed.

BACK TO SCENE

Brian makes it back. He sits down.

STAN
So did you tuck her in?

BRIAN
She's resting.

STAN
I'd like to tuck her in. Just one
time.

Brian grabs Stan's arm, becomes very serious. Stan looks at
him like he's nuts.

BRIAN
You leave her alone.

STAN

Hey!

BRIAN

Stay away from her, Stan! You hear me?

STAN

Yeah...

BRIAN

What? I didn't hear you.

STAN

Yeah. Okay. I will!

Brian looks back at the monitors.

Stan rubs his arm.

STAN

That's gonna leave a bruise.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSE'S STATION - DAY

Brian and Stan rise from their seats as TWO more ORDERLIES come to relieve them.

ORDERLY

How was your night?

BRIAN

A little rough, but everything worked out just fine.

STAN

(mumbling)

I bet it did.

Brian turns toward him.

BRIAN

Walk you out?

Stan flinches, caught off guard.

STAN

Ahh... You go ahead and go. I gotta' run to the can first.

BRIAN

All right. See you tonight.

STAN
See you tonight.

Stan watches him leave.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMILY'S ROOM - DAY

Sunlight shines in through the window onto Emily's bed. She wakes. Has a look around, and smiles happily.

There's a KNOCK at her door.

The door opens slowly. Stan enters with a tray of food.

STAN
Good morning Emily.

EMILY
Good morning.

STAN
I brought breakfast.

Emily gets out of bed.

Stan watches her twirl around the room like a ballroom dancer. He's completely amused.

EMILY
(singing)
Good morning to you. Good morning
to you.

He sets her tray down on a nearby table, then turns back toward her.

STAN
You seem chipper. And you float
around just like a little bird.

EMILY
It's a beautiful day! It's a
wonderful day! I had a visit from
Jesus last night!

Stan smiles, he likes that.

STAN
A visit from Jesus you say?

EMILY

Oh yes! He told me that from now on
everything is going to be all
right.

STAN

He did? Well all right!

Stan grabs a hold of her arm, and pulls her close.

EMILY

You're hurting me!

STAN

I'm your Jesus now, baby.

She struggles to get loose.

Odd. The clock on the wall is stripped of its numbers. Just a
round disk now.

TICK. TICK. TICK. TOCK. TOCK. TOCK.

Stan forces a kiss on Emily's mouth.

She pushes him away.

The white ball that once was a clock drops to the floor. It
GROWS... Transforms into a round, roly polly, red devil. He
opens his mouth and swallows Emily whole, then BURPS.

The devil is gone. Emily stands in his place. Stan gives her a
dirty look.

STAN

That was disgusting.

He grabs her again. Forces her onto the bed, and hops on top
of her. He kisses her. She doesn't move, just stares into his
eyes eerily.

EMILY

There's no God or Holy place.

STAN

Huh?

Stan takes notice of Emily's strangeness.

EXT. HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - DAY

Brian opens his car door and is about to get in when...

Stan's SCREAMS get his attention.

BRIAN

Son of a...

Brian bolts toward the entrance.

INT. HOSPITAL - EMILY'S ROOM - DAY

Stan backs to the door. He holds onto his neck.

STAN

You bit me! You bitch!

Blood flows from the hole in his neck, out between his fingers.

Emily stands up in a trance with blood smeared around her mouth. She stares straight at him.

EMILY

There's no God or Holy place.

STAN

Fuck you!

She comes after him.

Stan runs for the door. He's almost there when she jumps on him, and knocks him to the floor.

He struggles to get away.

Brian and the two orderlies pull them apart.

Emily SCREAMS crazily like a wild animal.

An orderly gives her a shot. She collapses.

Brian helps Stan out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL - NURSE'S STATION - NIGHT

Brian looks at the monitors. He gives each screen the once over.

BRIAN

This place can really get to you if
you let it.

TOM, another orderly in his thirties sits next to him. He nods
his head in agreement.

BRIAN

Some of the patients seem like
there's nothing wrong with em'. But
they'll remind you soon enough why
they're here.

TOM

I think I can handle it.

BRIAN

Funny. That's exactly what the last
guy said. I don't think you're as
cocky as he was though.

Brian points out a monitor.

BRIAN

Take this one for instance.

MONITOR

Emily sits on her bed. She holds onto her head, and rocks back
and forth.

BACK TO SCENE

Brian has his attention. They both look at the screen.

BRIAN

The preacher's daughter. She's
convinced that she's the Devil.

Brian looks at Tom for his reaction.

BRIAN

Killed her father.

Tom's eyes widen.

TOM

Maybe she is the Devil.

BRIAN

She's delusional.

TOM
She's georgeous.

Brian gives Tom a blank stare.

BRIAN
Look. She's a sick kid whose mind
is somewhere in the next dimension,
and we're here to care for her.
Nothing more. Nothing less.

TOM
I know. I was just sayin' if it
were under different
circumstances...

Brian tunes him out, and focuses on the monitor.

BRIAN
Looks like she's having another one
of her headaches. I'll let you take
care of it. That is if you think
you can still handle it.

Tom rises from his seat.

TOM
Sure.

BRIAN
Remember, I'm just a scream away.

Tom gives him a strange look, and walks off.

BRIAN
Sometimes there's no God or Holy
place.

Brian turns to watch the monitor.

FADE OUT.