

The Dark Place

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FADE IN

EXT. CHAIN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

ROBERT, mid-twenties, pulls into the parking lot on a fully customized Harley, with Sacred Heart Jesus airbrushed on the fuel tank.

He takes off his helmet. Nice looking guy, slight five o'clock shadow and collar length hair that dangles a bit over his worn leather jacket.

As he walks, he unzips the jacket. A solid black shirt and bright, white collar reveal the nature of his profession.

INT. CHAIN RESTAURANT

Robert presses through the crowded bar area to find his brother, JAMES, early thirties. He's stocky and has the same gentle eyes as Robert.

He sits alone in a booth and sips from a frosty mug of brew.

Robert slides in the other side.

ROBERT

Hey, bro.

JAMES

How's my baby holdin' up?

ROBERT

Still has that little rattle in second gear...

Robert casually picks up a menu.

JAMES

Always did. How'd it go today, savin' the troubled youth of America?

ROBERT

Good. Demetrious got a ninety four on his English test.

JAMES

That's good for him, ain't it?

Robert nods and steals a sip of his brother's beer.

WENDY, a perky, waitress, sees this act of larceny and approaches the table.

WENDY

I saw that, dude! Let me get you
your own beer!

She notices the white collar and amends her statement.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(a beat) or wine, then, maybe?

ROBERT

What ever he's having is fine.
Thanks.

Robert spins his drink coaster like a top while James studies his map like it was the Magna Carta.

A tribe of attractive twenty somethings walk towards James and Robert. They are MACY (22), GAVIN (26) and BRIE (21). Gavin and Brie hold hands while Macy appears to scope out the joint.

MACY

Negatory, Ops one...Possible target
acquired by the...

She spots Robert.

MACY (CONT'D)

OH-EM-GEE! How TOTALLY cool is
this!

ROBERT

Hey, Macy. Brie.

Brie smiles awkwardly and squeezes Gavin's hand.

GAVIN

Hello! I'm Gavin White...

He extends his hand. Robert shakes. James doesn't.

ROBERT

Robert Clark, and this is my
brother James.

JAMES

Yo.

GAVIN

Oh, well, cool. Brie has told me so much about you-it's nice to have a face to put with the name.

Macy has moved on to chat up a handsome PATRON at the bar.

BRIE

We should find Macy before she gets into trouble.

GAVIN

Nice to meet both of ya'll.

ROBERT

She's a special girl, Gavin. You be good to her.

Gavin kisses Brie on the cheek and smiles. Brie frowns as they walk away from the table.

JAMES

Awkward.

Robert nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)

So...you DID do her, didn't you? I mean before the whole "finding a higher calling" thing?

Robert frowns.

ROBERT

It may take a while to sink into your Neanderthaloid brain, but, believe it or not, there are more important things than sex.

JAMES

Like...?

ROBERT

Faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. Love that is refined by sacrifice, love that surpasses even what one holds most sacred. That, my brother, is love.

JAMES

I liked you better before. You were a hell of a lot more fun.

EXT. ST. CATHERINE'S RECTORY - NIGHT

A tall, brick building behind the main sanctuary of St. Cathy's Church. It's covered with vines and draped with history.

Robert rides up on his bike and parks in between two black Caddies.

Jones, a orange/white striped tabby cat, rushes to greet him.

He rubs against Robert's leg as he approaches the door.

ROBERT

Hey, Mister Jones. I hope you had a better night than I did.

Robert opens the door and the cat darts in.

INT. ROB'S ROOM

Plain walls, with the exception of a framed picture of Pope John Paul the Second. He's got a dresser, a mattress dropped on an antique brass bed frame and an eighties style CD Boom Box.

Rob enters, still brushing his teeth. He's well-built underneath the priestly vestments and wears a white, Stay in School type t shirt and sweatpants.

Rob sits on the side of his bed.

Jones circles around his feet. He wants up.

Rob complies with a few scratches behind his ears. The cat purrs as he lifts him up, looking at him eye to eye.

ROBERT

What do you think, Jonesy? Am I nuts? Am I really doing the right thing...I mean, it's the right thing, but is it really the right thing for me? Seeing Brie tonight...I don't know. She seems happy though, and in the end, I guess that is all that matters.

Jones gives a kiss on the nose. Robert smiles.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Thanks, boy. Through hell or high
water, it's always been you, hasn't
it?

Rob leaves the kitty on the bed and flips off the lights.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Night, cat.

INT. ROB'S ROOM - LATER

Rob sleeps soundly. He sprawls over the single mattress,
battling Jones for every scrap of real estate.

Jones stirs, stretches and perks his ears.

He hurries towards the window and scratches at it, like there
was a cat nip mouse on the other side of the glass.

A soft, white glow filters through the window and illuminates
Jones and the rest of Robert's room.

INT. THE DARK PLACE - NIGHT

Robert's bed sits in what appears to be a massive, cavernous
space. A single light source hovers above the bed.

Jones is curled up snugly next to Robert.

Robert shift, tosses off his blanket and puts his feet on the
floor.

ROBERT
Wha?

Robert shakes himself awake.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
What in the world? Must be a
dream...should have passed on those
fajitas...Yeah.

Jones stirs, stretches and meows.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Jones? What is this?

Robert stomps on the floor. It has a metallic ring to it, a
far cry from the aged wooden floors in the rectory.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 Oh, this can not possibly be
 happening.

The cat jumps from the bed.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 Jones...Where are you going? Wait!

A small light shines over a bowl of white liquid, which Jones
 appears to thoroughly enjoy.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 (Calling out loudly) Hello? Is
 there anyone there? Could someone
 PLEASE have the common courtesy to
 tell me what the hell is going on
 here! Hello!

Jones purrs against his leg. He picks up the kitty.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 Is this a hallucination? Maybe a
 relapse? I did do that stuff in
 college, maybe this is a payback...

Another small light appears in the distance. Robert walks
 towards it.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
 Move towards the light, I guess.

In the blackness, a small light hovers above a small table,
 on which is set the most delectable bowl of fruits that
 Robert has ever seen.

Jones becomes agitated, and Robert puts him down. He licks
 his paw by Robert's feet.

Rob picks an apple from the bowl, examines it, and rubs it on
 his t shirt. He's just about to take a bite when...

Jones meows and saunters off.

Robert walks towards the cat and soon stands in front of
 MAYA, (19) the most gorgeous woman he's ever seen.

She wears a short, camisole like dress that appears to be
 metallic, yet is semi-transparent.

Her brown hair appears to have been woven from the purest
 silk, her blue eyes vicious and absolutely intense.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Women...Why did it have to be
women?

Rob takes a deep breath, closes his eyes and exhales.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Hello. My name is Robert, and that
is my cat, Jones. Are you in any
danger? Do you need help in any
way?

Maya smiles and picks up Jones. He purrs as she tickles his
tummy.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Careful. Sometimes he doesn't like
that...Although he doesn't seem to
have any fear of you, not that any
one would...

MAYA
Maya. Mate Maya.

Maya puts the cat down and stares into Robert's eyes.

ROBERT
Maya? Is that your name, Maya?

She walks towards him, and he back pedals.

MAYA
Maya. Mate Maya.

ROBERT
About that...I can't mate Maya!

He backs into the table with fruit. It spills all over the
floor.

She reaches towards his crotch, smiles and nods.

MAYA
Mate Maya.

Maya wraps her arms around him, but Robert pushes her off.

ROBERT

I said no, damn it! I can't! It has nothing to do with you...it's...hell, if I had met you six months ago we'd be having a very different conversation...I'm sorry, Maya.

Maya's eyes fill with tears as Robert walks away.

MAYA

No...Mate Maya?

Maya falls to her knees and weeps.

MAYA (CONT'D)

(Screaming)

MATE MAYA! MATE MAYA!

Robert looks back at the woman, her head in her hands as she weeps.

ROBERT

I'm sorry...It's just...business.

As suddenly as she came, she is gone. The sound of her weeping abruptly stops.

Robert finds his way back to his bed.

He sits on the side and sighs.

Jones strides over. He sits by his feet, his tail moving wildly.

Robert reaches down to pat him, but Jones backs off and hisses. He extends his claws and rips at Robert's hand, drawing blood.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

What got into you?

The cat hisses.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

What?! What the hell am I supposed to do? I took a vow, damn it, and that's that! End of conversation! It's Black and white, right and wrong, yes and know, just the way I like it!!

Robert leans back.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
That's it, isn't it? Maybe it's not
supposed to be all about me after
all...

MAYA (O.S.)
Aieeeeeee!

Jones jumps and runs into the darkness. Robert follows.

ROBERT
MAYA! Where are you! Come Back,
Maya! Please, God, if anything
happens to her, please!

Standing on his back legs, Jones appears to have found the
wall.

MAYA (O.S.)
Nooooooo! Nooooooo!

Robert picks up the fallen fruit table and swings it at the
wall with all his might.

ROBERT
Maya! Come on, open up, you
bastards!

The table hits the black wall with a metallic twang, like a
gong. He pulls back for one more hit...the table shatters.

The wall reverberates with sound. Then nothing. Just a dark,
terrible silence.

Robert throws down the table leg and sits on the floor. Jones
slides up beside him...

Robert closes his eyes, tears rolling down his cheeks.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Christ. What the hell did I do?

Suddenly, in the darkness, the sound of rushing water is
heard, followed by Maya coughing.

Both Robert and Jones run towards the sound.

Maya sits in a puddle of liquid. She's soaking wet and wears
wrapping around her limbs, like a mummy but with movement of
her arms and legs. She coughs.

Robert rushes over and cradles the young woman in his arms.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Oh, thank God. I...

Maya, though still coughing, smiles.

Jones appears, carrying Robert's blanket in his mouth.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
Thank you. Good kitty.

Gently and lovingly, Robert wraps Maya with the blanket. He notices an apple nearby that had rolled away from the table.

He offers her a bite, of which she accepts. Robert laughs a bit at the irony, then takes a bite himself.

ROBERT (CONT'D)
I WILL mate Maya.

Maya smiles as they embrace in a passionate kiss.

INT. THE DARK PLACE

Robert, Maya and Jones lie in the bed, the humans covered in sheets.

Maya rests her head on Robert's chest as Robert gazes upward.

ROBERT
I think I would like to know where
we are, though.

Maya raises her head and claps her hands.

The ceiling, the dark place, gradually gives way to stars and the glory of the universe.

EXT. THE UNIVERSE - NIGHT

A massive star ship moves through space

EXT. MAYA'S PALACE - MORNING

The suns shine brightly outside of the foyer. Bird like animals sing and chirp in the green bushes.

Robert, dressed in a metallic robe, stretches and takes a deep breath.

ROBERT
How's my little ladies?

Maya, nursing a beautiful baby, joins him at his side.

MAYA
Just wonderful, thank you. Aren't
you glad they didn't have to re-
freeze me?

ROBERT
You will never let me live that
down, will you?

Maya smiles.

MAYA
Not in hundred thousand years.

Robert laughs and pulls Maya and the baby as close to his
heart as possible.

Maya and Robert share a romantic kiss.

Jones, walking beside a hot little Persian, strides past,
followed by several fluffy orange kittens.

FADE TO WHITE