

DEVIL'S DELIGHT

Written by

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OVER BLACK:

RUPERT (V.O.)

After I was kicked out of God's
supposedly "great" kingdom, I
walked among you humans.

MONTAGE OF EVERDAY LIFE

People walking on a busy sidewalk, riots, protests, and
street fights.

RUPERT

All this time, I haven't magically
planted crazy ideas in your head,
even though I get blamed for that
all the time. I haven't forced you
to do anything you didn't already
want to do. If you want to fuck
that guy at the bar...

A MAN and WOMAN holding bottles of beer and grinding their
hips together in a nightclub.

...go for it.

The Woman, scowling and pregnant.

An OFFICE WORKER getting chewed out by a SUPERVISOR.

You want to shove a stapler up your
boss' ass...

Office Worker grinning in the back of a squad car.

...have at it.

A Ku Klux Klan rally on the steps of a courthouse.

I always get the short end of the
stick, and all the blame that comes
with it, but that's not me. None of
that is me. That's you!

LITTLE GIRL being bullied on a playground by a group of KIDS.

That's human nature. And who
created humans and nature? God. NOT
ME.

People entering a church for a Sunday sermon.

I am happy to give people what they truly desire. Whatever happens after that has nothing to do with me. Those are all of **his** laws for the world **he** created. All I ask in return for me helping you is that you help me in my time of need.

People at a party dancing, smoking, drinking, popping pills, and making out.

This is how I have built my army of followers. This is how I will climb the ladder and get justice for what was once done to me. I've been down here a long time and I've learned a lot and I'm going to use everything I know to get what's rightfully mine. I am...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Three adults are in the LIVING ROOM laughing, drinking, and eating snacks. There is a DARK-HAIRED MAN, a BLONDE MAN, and a THIN WOMAN Suddenly the BLONDE MAN looks out the window, as if he saw or heard something coming from that direction.

RUPERT (V.O.)
...the keeper of your sins.

THIN WOMAN
What's wrong, Rupert?

RUPERT
Nothing. Just have to be somewhere.
I need to get going.

Rupert stands and puts his glass on the coffee table.

DARK-HAIRED MAN
Come on! Just a couple more hours.

RUPERT
Some other time, Jim. I gotta hit
it. I'll catch up with you guys
later.

They both sigh as Rupert walks toward the front door.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - SMALL BEDROOM - NIGHT

A LITTLE GIRL is kneeling beside her bed, elbows barely able to reach the top of the mattress. Her dress is torn and stained. Her hair is disheveled and matted. There is a nightlight on the wall near the door. She looks tired and scared.

LITTLE GIRL
(whispers)
Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray
to Lord my soul to keep, and if I
should die before I wake, I pray to
Lord my soul to take. At the end of
this long day, please God keep
mommy and daddy away. Please, God,
please.

When she hears the front door open and close, she quickly climbs under her comforter, turns away from the bedroom door, and closes her eyes.

LITTLE GIRL (CONT'D)
(sotto voce)
...please, God, please...please,
God, please...

The shadows from two pairs of feet darken the sunlight coming from under her bedroom door, floorboards in the hallway CREAK. She begins trembling and squeezes her eyes shut tighter.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - FRONT WALKWAY

Rupert closes the front door behind him and starts to walk down the stairs. The LITTLE GIRL'S MUFFLED SCREAM is heard from inside the house. Rupert grins and walks to his SUV.

RUPERT
It's more fun south of Heaven.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

Rupert is driving through a downtown area in a city, lots of tall buildings and people walking around or lined up in front of restaurants or clubs. He's glancing around as if he is looking for someone. He sees the PERSON walking down the street on his right, and pulls the car over. He rolls the passenger side window down.

RUPERT

Get in.

The Young Man stops and turns toward Rupert's car. He seems mildly irritated as he gets inside the vehicle.

RUPERT (CONT'D)

How are we doing?

PERSON

According to your wishes. All firstborns. Abortions, stillbirths, SIDS, etc. Whatever I come up with in the moment.

RUPERT

What a devastating report. Good to hear.

PERSON

Is there more you wish of me?

RUPERT

No. Just stay vigilant. I don't need any angels bent on revenge getting in my way. I'm so close now. Everything is coming together and don't need any fuckups. They'll realize who they are at birth and it's just a matter of time before they come after me for killing them in the first place.

PERSON

I still find it baffling how you managed to kill so many angels, let alone one. They're supposed to be impossible to murder.

RUPERT

It's not the easiest thing in the world. You could knock a few off for me while you're working. Make my job a little easier.

(MORE)

RUPERT (CONT'D)

You're Death, after all, it should be simple for you.

DEATH

You know my power doesn't work on angels. And you, unfortunately.

Rupert glares at Death.

RUPERT

I'll ignore that for your sake. Angels are not immortal. But you have to decapitate them, with their own celestial weapon, at the exact moment that they transform from an angel into a human or an animal. Not the other way around.

DEATH

Sounds...complicated. Is whatever you're planning really worth all the trouble?

RUPERT

Of course it is. As long as I can keep the reborn angels at bay until I'm ready to put the rest of the plan in motion, I'll be fine.

Death doesn't respond immediately, just stares out the passenger side window at the cityscape.

DEATH

Or you could stop killing angels. Then revenge isn't an issue.

Rupert grips the steering wheel tighter. He's agitated by the Death's response.

RUPERT

You must want me to destroy you, is that it? Don't want to be Death any more?

DEATH

(apathetic)
My eternal punishment is to be commanded by you. And, indeed, what a terrible fate it is.

Rupert is furious and pulls over next to an alley.

RUPERT
Dismissed.

Death casually gets out of the car and starts walking down the alley. Rupert glares at Death's back and pulls off to head home.

EXT. VICTORIAN STYLE HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

BRUNETTE WOMAN, late 20s, calmly walks out the front door to the end of the driveway until she hits the sidewalk. She takes it a few steps over to the walkway of the RANCH STYLE HOUSE next to hers, walks up to the front door and knocks on it. Rupert answers the door.

EXT. RUPERT'S HOUSE - DAY

RUPERT
(surprised)

Lisa! How's it goin' neighbor?

LISA
Hey, Rupert! Thank you again for repainting the front porch last week, it looks wonderful!

RUPERT
Anything for you! Something else I can help you with or is this a social call?

Lisa smiles and looks sheepish.

LISA
Well, I'll admit, I have an ulterior motive, but I hope someone like you won't mind.

RUPERT
Shoot.

Rupert steps back to allow her to enter his home. It's tidy, but sparingly furnished, as if he just moved in. He motions for Lisa to take a seat on the loveseat in his living room and he sits in an armchair of a completely different style and color across from her.

LISA

Well, there's a client of mine at Golden Acres and she just lost her son and daughter-in-law to a car accident.

Lisa looks like she's about to cry for a moment, but pulls herself together to continue.

LISA (CONT'D)

Her grandson, Duke, is an orphan now. He's about fourteen and he's been struggling at school.

Rupert gives a sympathetic nod. Lisa sighs and looks hesitant.

LISA (CONT'D)

I know this is a lot to ask, and I'll understand if you say you won't do it. I just...I had to at least try.

RUPERT

(soothing)
Hey, hey, hey. It's all right. I'll help however I can. You know that. Just tell me, Lisa.

Lisa a takes a deep breath.

LISA

He needs someone to sit with him during his parent-teacher conference regarding some...language he's been using in the classroom. I would go myself, but I honestly think he needs a male presence there if at all possible.
(increasingly flustered)
All Mrs. Mason wants you to do is report back to her whatever happens and what the teacher is specifically complaining about. She can't walk well and she's on oxygen, but the teacher says she can't get away to visit her at Golden Acres so we need somebody who can-

RUPERT

Lisa! Lisa, Lisa...

Rupert gets up and sits down beside her on the couch. He smiles kindly. Lisa starts to calm down, but still looks a little guilty.

RUPERT (CONT'D)
 Will you relax? I told you I'd help. It's okay. Just tell me when to be where.

Lisa smiles and nods.

LISA
 Yes. Okay. Thank you, Rupert. I know, I'm being silly about this.

RUPERT
 (grinning)
 You really are.

They both laugh as he takes her hands in his and pats them reassuringly. Lisa looks relieved.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Rupert pulls up in his SUV with DUKE in the passenger seat. They get out and walk up to the school's entrance. DUKE is about fourteen years old, mixed race, and looks irritated. Rupert lets Duke lead the way.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Duke walks through the door of the front office, not bothering to hold the door open for Rupert who is following close behind him. Rupert looks angry, but calms himself before opening the door and walking through it. Inside there is an ELDERLY MAN at a desk with an 'ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT' sign on it. He looks up smiling, but his face falls when he see Duke.

DUKE
 I'm here to see Mrs. Oshido.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
 Yeah, I know. She's down the hall, last office on the left. Good day to you, sir.

The Administrative Assistant nods to Rupert who waves and follows Duke to Mrs. Oshido's office.

INT. MRS. OSHIDO'S OFFICE - DAY

Mrs. Oshido is well-dressed, sitting behind a large, wood desk. There are several degrees and certificates on the wall. There are three chairs in front of her desk and she motions for Duke and Rupert to sit down.

MRS. OSHIDO

Glad you could make it, Duke. Who is this?

Duke remains silent, still angry-looking, avoiding eye contact with either Mrs. Oshido or Rupert. Rupert sighs.

RUPERT

I'm Rupert, ma'am. Just a friend helping out in a bad situation. I'm supposed to report back to grandma what your grievances are with the kid. Though that's becoming pretty evident.

MRS. OSHIDO

Well, Rupert, I'm glad you can see that. Duke's grades have been dropping and he's been found wandering the hallways in the middle of class on multiple occasions. He'll ask to use the restroom and just won't come back.

Mrs. Oshido sits up straight and looks at Duke, who is still looking around the room.

MRS. OSHIDO (CONT'D)

We're not insensitive to the...loss. And staying at the group home until he finds a foster placement is...not ideal. But he has to get back into his studies or he's going to get held back. That, of course, will just make things even more difficult for him. His grandmother as well. I can't imagine how stressful all of this is for her.

RUPERT

Okay, so, he needs to stay inside his classrooms, maybe get some tutoring for the things he's failing. Anything else?

MRS. OSHIDO

Yes, actually. Consistent use of various kinds of profanity, as well as the n-word, is making his other teachers, me, and his classmates uncomfortable.

Mrs. Oshido looks irritated as she turns to address Duke.

MRS. OSHIDO (CONT'D)

Do you realize how ignorant you sound when you use words like that? And all this profanity makes you sound like you've never read a book.

Duke looks at the ground now. Rupert stares at him intensely. Not just waiting for Duke to respond to her, but seeming to be in a trance. Duke's head suddenly snaps up and he stands, stepping up to Mrs. Oshido's desk. She crosses her arms and stares back at him.

MRS. OSHIDO (CONT'D)

Something to say, Mr. Jamison?

Rupert is leaning forward in his seat now, the muscles in his neck straining, unblinking, breathing harder. Mrs. Oshido and Duke don't seem to notice.

DUKE

(calm and serious)
That you suck dicks on the side for crack money.

Mrs. Oshido is stunned and appalled. Rupert is smiling now.

DUKE (CONT'D)

I'll call my friends whatever I want, I'll say whatever the fuck I like, and there ain't shit you gonna do about it, bitch. Do I sound ignorant enough yet, you fucking whore?

Rupert stands, grabs Duke's arm and rushes him from the room.