

A dog eats dog world

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FADE IN:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

A dilapidated wooden church lost in a desolate countryside.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The confessional and some benches are pulled over. The altar is collapsed in the middle, and leaves are swept away by the draft.

Wind whistles through the broken stained glass windows.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

A TV is on. An ANCHORMAN'S VOICE comments flash inserts of different events throughout the world: riots, fire, war, famine, overcrowded streets where people sleep everywhere.

ANCHORMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

Following yesterday's riots in Boston, the President declared cities overpopulation had reached its peak last month, and with the infertility of the soil in most parts of the country because of the ozone hole, he insisted people should move to the Middle West.

The hand of an old man stands a remote control on a table.

ANCHORMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

The President declared that 2023 will be the year of deliverance. After the worldwide vegetarian terrorists attacks, most of the cloning machines will be functional again and able to produce enough animal food to feed the whole population.

A noise can be heard O.S.

The hand with the remote control turns the TV off.

The hand belongs to a PRIEST. He's a small, fat, little man in his early 60's. His black robe is worn and dirty.

The same sound can be heard again.

The priest frowns. He puts the remote control on the table and steps out.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The priest enters the body of the church and notices a glowing coming from the shadow in a corner by the front door.

By the statue of a saint with a broken head, a YOUNG MAN is roasting something on a stick.

As the priest approaches, he realizes the young man is roasting a small dog.

The young man keeps on "cooking," not aware of the old man's presence.

The priest coughs.

The young man jumps with surprise.

PRIEST

We do have a kitchen in this church.

YOUNG MAN

Sorry. Thought the place was empty.

PRIEST

People forsook that holy place a long time ago. No one believes in God any more.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

The young man eats the roasted animal in a plate and sits at a kitchen table facing the priest.

PRIEST

You shouldn't eat those animals.

YOUNG MAN

That's the first meat I've tasted  
for months.

PRIEST

You shouldn't, that's all.

YOUNG MAN

Are you preaching to me?

PRIEST

Well, I could tell you that all  
creatures, great or small, are  
God's creations.

YOUNG MAN

This is delicious anyway. Want  
some?

PRIEST

No thanks.

YOUNG MAN

Ain't you starving?  
(he sizes him up)  
I can't believe how fat you still  
are.

PRIEST

Lost one size off my belt.

YOUNG MAN

(chuckling)

Oh yeah. Still eating Christ's  
body every Sunday? It'd feed your  
body and your soul.

PRIEST

I must admit, I used to, yes.  
But, like I told you, no one  
comes in this church any more.

YOUNG MAN

How do you manage to survive  
then?

PRIEST

Still have some frozen  
genetically modified fruits and  
vegetables. And the bishop's  
supplies me enough to feed my  
body. About my soul, my prayers  
are enough.

YOUNG MAN

Is there still a God? Why did He  
want all this?

PRIEST

It's man's craziness, not God's.

The young man is now eating the dog's head. The priest  
cannot help grinning.

PRIEST

Those animals are disease  
carriers.

YOUNG MAN

Dying starving or of disease,  
what's the difference? At least,  
I'd have died eating meat. We all  
have to die one day. Don't we?  
I've heard in China, people kill  
people to eat each other.

PRIEST

That's nonsense. Man can't be  
that foolish.

YOUNG MAN

I could kill a man to eat him.

PRIEST

Why were you eating a dog then?

YOUNG MAN

Because I'm a coward?

The priest shakes his head.

PRIEST

No. Because you're a good man. A poor but a good man.

YOUNG MAN

I could have eaten you.

PRIEST

(with a smile)

You could have.

The young man finishes eating and sweeps his mouth with his sleeve. He gets up.

YOUNG MAN

Guess I have to go now. I feel better.

PRIEST

Are you sure you don't want to stay for a while? The bishop's sent me a new supply, really delicious, based on some Amazonian plant.

He takes a knife by the sink.

YOUNG MAN

I'm fed up of eating grass.

(Showing the plate)

He managed to survive. Why can't I?

PRIEST

You can't compare yourself to a dog?

YOUNG MAN

We live in a dog-eat-dog world, don't we?

The priest grins a sad smile as the young man steps out of the kitchen.

He takes the remote control and switches the TV on.

The same news carries on.

The priest sighs and opens another cupboard. It's filled with food boxes. He takes one of them and puts it on the table. He opens it with the knife.

On the box, it reads:

SOYLENT GREEN

FADE OUT: