

"Good Cop, Bad Cop"

by

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FADE IN:

INT. PURGATORY

RICK (34) is sitting at a four legged unvarnished table in a dimly lit room, stationed in the center with no windows but a one-way mirror and a door. There's a table lamp, an ashtray and a empty cup on the table.

GOD is grilling Rick trying to extract answers while the DEVIL stands back.

GOD

I know you did it you little bastard.

DEVIL

Was there any need for that? Com'on.

GOD

Listen you little shit. If I find out you did it. You're finished, you hear me? You fuck.

DEVIL

Now now, watch the language God.

The Devil picks up his empty cup, giving it a little shake.

DEVIL

You okay? Want a cup of coffee or something?

RICK

A little shocked, but yeah. Coffee, black.

The Devil goes back to pick up the empty cup on the table.

GOD

Look at you two. Best buddies. You make me sick.

DEVIL

Ignore him. He's a little cranky.

RICK

How come?

DEVIL

He's not allowed to read your mind.

RICK

Really?

DEVIL  
Privacy Act. The lawyers are  
good in hell.

RICK  
Again, really?

DEVIL  
Well, not that good.

The Devil speaks to God, patting him on his shoulder with his free hand.

DEVIL  
Come on, lets leave him. Let him  
have a few moments to himself.

God speaks to Rick.

GOD  
We're not finished here. When I  
return, I want you to take that  
back, and own up to your sins.

Rick looks towards the mirror, away from God's gaze.

GOD  
You hear me you fuck?

God goes to punch Rick in the ribs, only for him to recoil away.

GOD  
Thought so.

God spits at Rick's feet. He wipes his mouth on his white robe before turning around to follow the Devil.

The door SLAMS shut.

Rick cowers away from the emitting light. The lamps presence has started to dominate the space that Rick has occupied. Sweat running down the sides of his head, he wipes away using the back of his forearm.

Rick turns to the mirror.

RICK  
Hey guys. Can you turn the main  
light on instead?

EXT. PURGATORY

God is looking into the room, smiles and speaks to one of his assistants LUKE.

GOD  
Luke, turn the heating up.

LUKE (OS)

Yes my lord.

Luke carelessly stands momentarily.

God turns to shout at Luke.

GOD

Now!

Luke scurries off.

INT. PURGATORY

Rick rests his head in his hands.

God and the Devil re-enter. God is carrying a file while the Devil returns with two cups of black coffee.

God sits down at the table, setting the closed file down on the table.

GOD

Well?

RICK

The answer is still the same. As I said before I'll say again. In the words of Matthew 21:29 "He answered and said: I will not; but afterward he repented, and went".

God reaches across the table to slap Rick with the back of his forehand.

GOD

Take that back you fuck. I've had enough of you repenting bastards. You're soiling my good name.

DEVIL

I almost had the little rascal-

The Devil puts his thumb and index finger an inch apart.

DEVIL

I was this close.

Rick speaks to God.

RICK

Stubborn in your old age, aren't you.

God punches Rick in the ribs. He recoils in pain. Spitting out blood.

God turns to the Devil.

GOD  
Will you just take him already!

DEVIL  
No, he's too good.

GOD  
Jesus Christ!

JESUS  
Yes?

GOD  
What's your opinion?

JESUS  
Ah, ah-

GOD  
Stop your stuttering.

JESUS  
Dad?

GOD  
Go to your room.

JESUS  
But daddd.

GOD  
No buts! Clean that mess up, now  
go.

Jesus hangs his head as he leaves the room, dragging his feet along the ground.

DEVIL  
May I step in?

GOD  
It's not going to work. He's not  
getting in. Go ahead.

The Devil turns to speak to Rick, as God flips through the file on the table.

DEVIL  
Before I start. Your work on Jane.

RICK  
What of it?

DEVIL  
Very impressive.

RICK

Thanks.

GOD

Who's Jane? What work?

RICK

I was drunk and upset.

GOD

What?

RICK

I've repented, remember.

DEVIL

From the day Rick...

The Devil holds up is fingers to highlight-

DEVIL

REPENTED. Rick has been a standup guy. From that day fourth, he's started a family, contributed to charity, got involved with the community. And he's never looked back. What do you think Adolf?

Adolf grins a fist into the palm of his free hand.

ADOLF

Just give me five minutes alone with him. I'll turn him, and before you know it. He'll be spitting obscenities at you.

DEVIL

Well I'm not convinced. He's got a heart of gold this kid.

GOD

I highly doubt that.

God sets the file lying on the table. He spins the file to face Rick and points to a photo by stabbing it with his index finger.

GOD

Do you recognize the young lady in the photo?

RICK

Can't tell. The picture's blurry.

GOD

That's Sandra. The reason you went to prison for. How many other Sandra's were there? Just own up, you've killed others I suspected, right?

RICK

I don't know what you're talking about.

DEVIL

Look this is going nowhere.

GOD

What do you suggest?

DEVIL

A deal.

GOD

What kind of deal?

DEVIL

You keep him for six months. If you feel he's not a changed man. Then I'll take him. Deal?

GOD

I don't know. I remember what happen the last time you tricked me.

DEVIL

It's either that or I'll get my lawyers to enforce a deal.

GOD

Fucking lawyers. Are you kidding me?

DEVIL

Adolf, ring my lawyer.

Adolf brings out a phone, and is about to press the speed dial key.

GOD

Wait wait. I concede. My lawyers will only say that I'm infringing his rights. I hate lawyers.

DEVIL

Deal?

GOD

Deal.

The Devil goes to shake hands with God. He holds his left hand behind his back, whilst crossing his fingers.

RICK

Great news.

Rick goes to shake hands with the Devil.

DEVIL

Congratulations.

GOD

Since you're joining us for at least six months. I have only one request you adhere to.

RICK

What's that?

GOD

Don't speak to Sandra. She's still pissed off.

FADE OUT.