The Purifier

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INT. MANOR - NIGHT

A posh party in full swing - live piano music flowing, WEALTHY GUESTS socializing in a huge bright ball room. LAWRENCE HANNAN, the host, (70's) paces among the guests. He walks by TESHA MULHOLLAND (20's).

LAWRENCE

Tesha, darling. How's the evening?

TESHA

Lovely, thank you, professor.

Lawrence smiles and walks onward.

He nods at another woman, SILVIA CONTI (30's), sitting in a chair with her legs crossed, dangling her expensive shoe. Sipping her red wine she observes the party with some distant interest.

Lawrence passes by without saying a word. She doesn't mind.

Lawrence walks on and barely manages not to bump into a seemingly mesmerized CHARMING CAVALIER.

CHARMING CAVALIER

Lovely party.

LAWRENCE

I'm so glad you like it, sir. Have we met before?

CHARMING CAVALIER

I don't think so. Robert asked me to accompany him to this party.

LAWRENCE

Ah...I see. Sir Robert told me he had a new, eh, friend.

CHARMING CAVALIER

Oh, no, no, no, don't get me wrong. I'm not that kind of partner. In fact, I was charmed by that lovely woman over there. What's her name?

Charming Cavalier points at Tesha.

LAWRENCE

Oh, this is my dear friend Tesha Mulholland. May I introduce you?

Tesha smiles at Charming Cavalier. He smiles back.

CONTINUED: 2.

CHARMING CAVALIER

Oh, thank you, I will handle it.

LAWRENCE

All right. Say, where is Sir Robert?

CHARMING CAVALIER

The man decided to leave early.

Charming Cavalier heads towards Tesha.

Lawrence's hand begins to tremble as he watches Tesha smile.

He rapidly dashes to Silvia. She watches Charming Cavalier in the back, sparks of interest in her eyes.

LAWRENCE

Silvia, please, tell me Michael came here today and left early?

SILVIA

He didn't come.

Charming Cavalier takes Tesha's hand in his, bows down and kisses it; so gentle, so nice.

LAWRENCE

Silvia, please...

SILVIA

No.

LAWRENCE

You want me to fall on my knees?

SILVIA

She is my sister.

Lawrence falls on his knees before Silvia. She turns away, presses up her lips.

LAWRENCE

Help me, please, I beg you. She's only an innocent girl, Silvia!

Charming Cavalier heads towards the back rooms, holding Tesha's hand in his. She follows, enthralled.

Silvia stares at them, clenches her teeth.

Lawrence watches laughing Tesha disappear behind the door. He turns back to Silvia. She finishes her wine and raises her eyes at him.

CONTINUED: 3.

SILVIA

A bottle of Chteau Latour Pauillac, nineteen-ninety. You got it?

She puts the glass on the floor, stands up and takes her freaking expensive shoes off. She hands them to Lawrence and bends forward to his ear.

SILVIA

(whispers)

Ruin them and I'll drain your fucking little soul out.

LAWRENCE

Thank you, thank you.

SILVIA

Party's over. Make sure everyone understands this.

INT. STUDY - NIGHT

Charming Cavalier presses Tesha to the wall. He kisses her hand, goes up, kissing her arm, her neck.

She throws back her head and moans.

The kisses get shorter and rougher as Charming Cavalier gets closer to Tesha's lips.

He leeches into them. Tesha raises her clenched hands, but they fall mid-air. She gets paler with every passing moment.

The last thing Tesha sees before passing out is --

-- a kitchen knife approaching Charming Cavalier's throat.

Silvia easily catches Tesha with one hand and carefully lowers her to the floor, pressing the knife to Charming Cavalier's throat. The thing is, he's not there anymore...

...there is only PANDORA VARGO (30's), a woman in a dress.

SILVIA

This house is under my protection. This woman is under my protection.

PANDORA

A knife? What did you become, Silvia?

Pandora makes a step back and rushes out of the room. Silvia throws the knife aside and looks at Tesha.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Tesha lies on the huge bed, sleeping. Silvia sits besides her, lightly stroking Tesha's hair.

Lawrence fidgets in the chair besides, with a blend of fear and relief on his face. They speak in hushed tones.

SILVIA

Not much we can do. Watch her closely, she might stop breathing.

LAWRENCE

My God, Silvia, thank you.

SILVIA

Thank you, my ass. That bitch will come after me. Make it two bottles, you got it? Add some good cognac.

LAWRENCE

You have a problem with alcohol.

SILVIA

I'm not an alcoholic, I'm a connoisseur, you got it?

Silvia walks up to the window, takes a cigarette out and leans her elbows on the window ledge.

SILVIA

You got a lighter?

LAWRENCE

Eh, no.

Silvia ignites the cigarette with the edge of her finger. She notices Pandora walking back and forth outside.

LAWRENCE

Do you... eh... do that as well?

SILVIA

We drain souls only when we need powers for witchcraft. I had my last before we met.

Pandora, having realized that Silvia sees her, backs away from the manor.

SILVIA

Look at her. She's afraid of me.

CONTINUED: 5.

LAWRENCE

I hope she'll like it at your place.

SILVIA

Sorry, what?

LAWRENCE

What? She can't stay here. Even I can't stay here anymore.

SILVIA

Oh, that. Don't worry, charming, that little brat won't touch you.

LAWRENCE

Too much risk.

SILVIA

Well, take her with you, wherever it is you're going. I don't care about people, you know that.

LAWRENCE

Yeah, what if that witch will come hunting after Tesha? I won't be able to protect her.

SILVIA

Man, you've got to be kidding me.

LAWRENCE

(worried)

Hey, I think she stopped breathing.

Silvia quickly throws the cigarette butt out of the window.

She rushes to the bed and takes Tesha's wrist in her hand.

A beat.

SILVIA

Idiot.

LAWRENCE

I don't care about people, my ass. You care about us more than we care about ourselves.

SILVIA

You're ridiculous.

CONTINUED: 6.

LAWRENCE

Silvia, you know you have to take her with you. Your home is the safest place in the world. After all, you become responsible for what you have tamed.

SILVIA

(to herself)

Responsible.

Tesha makes a deep breath and opens her eyes. She absent-mindedly observes the room.

SILVIA

All right. Hey, look at me: two bottles of cognac now. You got it?

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Tesha looks out in the window as Silvia drives the car through the city streets.

TESHA

Thank you.

SILVIA

Don't thank me. You don't know what you've got yourself into yet.

**TESHA** 

What... what even happened to me?

SILVIA

You don't remember?

TESHA

No...

SILVIA

Be glad. Trust me, love, this is the case where you are better off not knowing.

Silvia slows the car down as they approach a red light.

TESHA

Listen, I don't want to intrude. I can take of my...

CONTINUED: 7.

SILVIA

Not tonight, love. Not for the next three nights as well, by the way.

Silvia glances at the full moon outside.

She draws a cigarette out of a pack with her teeth, as --

CREEK, BOOM! The cigarette falls out of Silvia's mouth as the car shakes from an impact.

Silvia, her mouth still opened, looks in the back mirror and sees another car crushed into hers.

SILVIA

(quietly)

Okay, okay...

She starts to frantically look for something, checks under the seat, opens the glove compartment, finds a small folded piece of paper, takes it out and makes a deep breath.

SILVIA

(reading)

Jesus Christ our Savior, in your...

ANGRY MAN (O.S.)

Hey, you bitch...

SILVIA

...in your mercy we...

ANGRY MAN (O.S.)

...where did you buy the license...

SILVIA

...in your mercy we... oh fuck it!

She throws the piece of paper away and jumps out of the car.

SILVIA (O.S.)

Come 'er, asshole, you wanna tell me something? Come 'er!

INT. COUNTRY HOUSE - NIGHT

Silvia opens the door and turns on the light. A preposterous thing is that there is not a single sign of a TV set.

She walks in; Tesha follows. She looks at predator-like Silvia with admiration.

CONTINUED: 8.

**TESHA** 

Er, nice house.

SILVIA

It's not big, but I don't need much. I don't have guests too often, if you know what I mean.

Tesha looks at the dried up blood on Silvia's knuckles that she tries to hide behind her back.

TESHA

Yeah, I think I know.

MOMENTS LATER

Silvia and Tesha sit on the couch, drinking wine.

SILVIA

A doctor, eh. I used to work as a doctor. Got hired on Monday, got fired on Friday kind of thing.

**TESHA** 

What did you do? Kicked the shit out of your boss?

SILVIA

He's not the kind of guy you want to mess with. And yet, I dared to disagree with his work ethics.

**TESHA** 

Work ethics?

Silvia stares at the fire in the fireplace. The flames shiver as sounds of flapping wings are heard approaching.

SILVIA

I did the only thing I wasn't supposed to do.

KNOCK. KNOCK. Those are very, very confident knocks.

Silvia starts breathing heavily.

SILVIA

Go to the bedroom, love and don't try to negotiate. It will end bad. It always does.

Tesha hurries out of the living room.

CONTINUED: 9.

Silvia shivers and drags her feet to the door. She opens it and moves to the side without looking at the guest.

A horse NEIGHS outside.

He enters, bowing down a bit, so that his horns wouldn't brush against the lintel. Dressed in black armor that seems to absorb the light, SATAN slowly paces into the living room and stops before the fireplace.

SATAN

Come, darling. Stand with me before the fire one more time. I think there is a confession to be made.

Silvia shuts the door.

SILVIA

What would my master want to know?

SATAN

Was it worth it?

SILVIA

I did no harm to Pandora, master.

SATAN

That girl is only human, Silvia. She is not worth it.

Silvia is silent. Satan draws his black sword.

SATAN

On your knees, then, witch.

Silvia lowers to her knees.

SATAN

I won't go away without a witch. In my grace, I give you this last chance. Get back to your sisters.

Silvia closes her eyes, serene.

Satan raises his sword, as --

TESHA (O.S.)

Were you looking for me?

Satan and Silvia turn their heads to see Tesha, standing with her bare feet on the white rug.

CONTINUED: 10.

SILVIA

Go away, girl. He's powerless unless you fall to his temptations.

SATAN

A girl has her own mind, Silvia. Let her decide for herself.

Satan sheaths his sword.

**TESHA** 

Do you want to kill me?

SATAN

(smiles)

Perhaps. Are you afraid?

**TESHA** 

I want you to take my soul, my master. I want to be a witch.

SILVIA

Love, you don't know what you're asking for...

SATAN

Silvia, please, we are talking.

SILVIA

I won't let you...

Satan raises his arm --

An uncanny force throws Silvia out of the house, busting the window.

Satan offers his hand to Tesha and smiles.

EXT. COUNTRY HOUSE - NIGHT

ROBED HORSEMEN surround Silvia as she tries to get up.

Satan walks out of the house, leading Tesha. His black armor begins to move, transforming into flexible black wings. He grabs Tesha with both hands and leaps up, flapping his wings in the moonlight.

Robed Horsemen follow Satan on ground as he flies away, Tesha in his hands. Silvia helplessly watches them fly away.