

THE DEVIL IN DISGUISE
(A Short Story)

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INT. PURGATORY - DAY

Date: December 31st 1999

A HUGE open spaced room.

The whole room is split into two colors. One half of the room is pure WHITE, not a mark of dirt upon it. The other half is a BLACK.

A thin YELLOW line is painted directly down the centre of the room, separating the two halves into colors.

In the center of the room sits a five foot long TABLE. One half black, the other white covering both sections of the room. A chair resides at either end.

Sat upon the chairs are two people. In the black side sits a woman (DEVIL). She only looks about 21, very pretty, auburn colored hair, a black leather jacket, jeans and T-shirt.

Sat facing the woman is a man (GOD). He looks same age of 21, handsome good looks, white hair, stubble around his facial hair, white jacket, shirt and trousers.

They sit at either end, facing each other.

Both leaning back in their large chairs, suitable for kings and queens, stretching up several inches above their heads.

In front of them both, a glass goblet sits, each filled with liquid. For the woman, red wine, for the man, white wine.

GOD

It has been a long time since we sat and talked at the same table.

DEVIL

Too long. The last time was when we discussed your plans.

GOD

As I recall, we agreed that for the past hundred years I would take control?

DEVIL

We did. It has been interesting watching you at work.

GOD

I work with only the tools I have
been given to me.

God takes a drink from his goblet. He places it back down on
the table.

DEVIL

The tools that I left you a hundred
years ago, are not the same that
you are now handing back to me?

GOD

What can I say? I like to play
with my puppets.

DEVIL

Is that what you call them?

GOD

Yes. I control everything that
goes on below. I pull the strings
and they dance to my tune.

DEVIL

And you have lead them on a merry
dance. May I list some of your
accomplishments?

GOD

You may.

Before she continues, she picks up her drink and takes a sip
of red wine. She places the goblet back down upon the table.

Appearing in her hands out of nowhere, a large THICK book
appears, OPENED wide. She reads from inside.

DEVIL

Let me see, we have had many wars,
millions of lives lost. Countries
fighting against each other.

GOD

That is true. I thought you would
like that.

DEVIL

We have seen destruction, hungers,
murders, rapes, cities destroyed.
In your time in power you have
taken billions of lives, mostly in
a way associated with myself.

GOD

You will agree, we must cleanse the world occasionally for new life that arises. I give you credit for all the destructions though, that was just the right thing to do.

He smiles towards her, a sense of appreciation of his work upon his face.

The book disappears from her hands.

DEVIL

But even then, in my time in power, I have never caused such devastation as to what you have created in the past hundred years?

GOD

Thank you.

DEVIL

That was not aimed as a compliment.

GOD

I know. But I am sure even you are impressed with my work.

DEVIL

Impressed. Maybe. And yet, through all this carnage, through all these years, these puppets still support you.

GOD

What can I say? Faith is impossible to break. I could threaten to bring the end of the world, and these puppets would pray for me to save them, never you.

DEVIL

And yet, they still look down upon me as being the evil of us both?

GOD

Evil with a capital D.

He smiles at the joke he makes with the name.

DEVIL

All these souls, the ones who have passed through here where we now sit.

GOD

Ah, the home between our own homes.
Our residence for the summer so to
speak.

DEVIL

All these souls who have crossed
through, yet still they wish to
travel to Heaven not Hell even
though they know the truth.

GOD

No matter what you do, they will
always worship me. Death to many
of them is their saviour. Some
even die just in the hope of
meeting me.

The woman takes another drink from her goblet.

DEVIL

Strange. But if they only knew the
truth.

GOD

The truth is what I make them
believe in. My belief is their
strength.

DEVIL

That Heaven is Hell, and Hell is
Heaven?

GOD

What else can I say? Heaven is the
new Hell. Everyone, including the
worst of the worst can't wait to
join me in my kingdom.

DEVIL

All these billions of lives, most
believing still in someone who is
responsible for some of the most
biggest atrocities in the history
of this world.

GOD

And like you say, they still
worship me. I am the Devil in
disguise some may say.

DEVIL

They pray to you, they kill each other believing in that is what you want from them?

The man smiles.

GOD

Evil comes in all different packages. You know that. You can sit there and speak these words. In truth, you are no different.

DEVIL

Maybe, but in my time in charge, I have never caused so much chaos and loss of life as to what you have done. It seems I care about them, maybe more than you?

GOD

Possibly so. Since the beginning of time though, I have given them one thing that you have not.

DEVIL

And what is that?

The woman is inquisitive.

GOD

Hope. Hope that the world can be a better place further down the line.

DEVIL

And yet in reality, the world always gets worse. More deaths, more destructions. Yet you seem to not care?

GOD

Why should I?

DEVIL

And you would be willing to sacrifice everyone for your own enjoyment?

GOD

I would. I created them all, and therefore it is up to me to do with them what I wish. I own their lives.

DEVIL

Man, woman or child. It doesn't matter who you hurt does it? You never really lift a finger to help them?

GOD

They all fade away in the end. Some sooner than others, that is the way we play this game.

A clock fades into view on the wall, half covering each color background.

It counts down the last minute to the new millennium.

DEVIL

Well time is almost upon us. Soon it will be my turn to take control.

GOD

Yes it will be. It will be nice to sit back and relax, watching what you try to do with them all.

DEVIL

One day. Humanity will open their eyes and see the truth. The truth that while I may be considered the evilest of us both, in truth you are the one who causes them more pain.

GOD

They will remain blind to the truth, until they stop believing. And I shall never make them stop believing in me.

They both rise from their seats.

Raising their goblets to each other, toasting one another they drink the final drops of wine.

They place them back on the table.

They both step to one side of the table.

They walk towards each other. They cross paths and walk on.

The woman steps over to the white side. Her clothes ALTER to a white flowing dress, her hair turns white.

The man walks to the black side. His clothes ALTER to a ripped black leather jacket, torn jeans. His hair turns a flame red.

They stop about ten feet away from each other.

They turn and look at each other.

GOD (CONT'D)

Here we stand then. Have fun
playing with my puppets. I will
see you in another hundred years my
sister.

DEVIL

And unlike your recent work,
Humanity will have a future under
me with less pain, my dear brother.

They both turn facing away.

They walk off, both FADING into the walls and disappearing.

The clock hits midnight.

The clock changes as it hits 12.00.00.

The numbers flicker, and then starts a countdown to a new showing.

Years, months, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds remaining for the balance of power to swing once more.

The room fades away into obscurity.

THE END.....?