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For Lack of A Soul

by
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PLOT: SIMON, A SOUL COLLECTOR NEEDS TO COLLECT ONE MORE SOUL TO ONCE AGAIN BECOME HUMAN. HE TAKES A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN A HOSPITALIZED WOMAN NAMED EVE.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

Eve Belfrey - wife of Joseph

Joseph Belfrey - husband of Eve

Simon - a soul collector

Timothy - a fellow soul collector

HOSPITAL HALLWAY

The footage is a panned view of a busy ER and the busy hallways of the hospital. Next comes a view of a particular room number. Lastly we are bedside with a man watching over a woman in a hospital bed.

JOSEPH

(wakes up from a nap while sitting in a chair at bedside)
 Girl, I think you just set a world record for naps. My limit is 5 hours. You've been doing your thing the past 8 days. That's way too much beauty sleep, not that you need it. You're gorgeous even when you're resting. I just wish (he stops and fights back his tears) I just wish you'd open your eyes and tell me I'm talking too loud or that I need to shave or (he stutters) something. If I'm this way after 8 days, can you imagine (he stops)

NURSE

(There's a knock at the door. A nurse enters) Hello, are you Mr. Belfry?

JOSEPH

Yes!

NURSE

It's time for us to give her a bath. It won't take long.

(Joseph nods, gets up, and touches Eve's arm as he leaves the room)

JOSEPH

I'll be right back!

(Joseph walks down the hall to get something to drink)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

(Unable to put his money in the machine, he leans against it)
 Lord, I love this woman with every inch of my being. Tell me what I can do to save her life. The doctors are giving her a couple more days. (he takes a big breath) If she dies, I die.

SIMON

A life for a life. (Joseph turns to the sound of the voice)
 Are you truly willing to do that, (a slight pause) Joseph?

JOSEPH

How do you know my name?

SIMON

That's not the most pressing issue . . . now is it? (he extends his hand) My name is Simon, and I'm what you would call a soul collector.

JOSEPH

A what? Look man, my wife is in a coma with possibly 2 days to live, and you wanna come at me with jokes? (he points his finger at Simon) This is not the time to mess with me.

SIMON

I'm aware of your situation and think that you may wanna go somewhere a little more private. People are gonna wonder why you're talking to yourself.

JOSEPH

Huh? (he looks around to see people turn away)

SIMON

They can't see or hear me, (he leans over to whisper in his ear) but you're a man with a dying wife in a hospital hallway talking to himself. Get out of the limelight before you find yourself sedated and strapped in.

(Joseph walks up the hallway and into a bathroom. He checks the stalls to make sure no one is there.)

JOSEPH

How did (shaking his head) . . . Are there more like you? I mean . . .

SIMON

Yes, and no I'm not the devil or the Grim Reaper.

JOSEPH

So why do you kill people and collect their souls?

SIMON

First of all, (pointing his finger at Joseph) I don't kill anybody. A person's soul never dies. They all start out innocent, and are influenced by the changing times. Ultimately, a person's soul becomes either good or evil. That's where individuals like me come in. We sweep up society's mess by taking an evil soul and combining it with a good one. The good soul isn't damaged or anything. The evil soul is suppressed. If the good soul remains good until judgement day, both souls are saved. But this is not a perfect system. Like many of your sports recruiters, we make busts. You either save two or lose two.

JOSEPH

Then, why can't you guys fix the world and bring peace to every nation?

SIMON

(he laughs) And I thought you were gonna hit me with a question that wasn't so cliché. Look, world peace is not gonna happen until the big guy comes back, and no, I don't know when that's gonna be. I don't get all the memos. For every good soul there's about 20 evil ones. That's why groups of people have to work so hard to make change. They're always gonna be outnumbered. People mean it when they say there's a killer in all of us, and evil will always hold the trump card.

JOSEPH

What do I have to do to save my wife?

SIMON

Agree to give up your soul so that she can live by shaking my hand.

JOSEPH

Why, I'm not evil.

SIMON

No, your soul is award winning. (he pauses) The well is a little dry these days. You and your wife are good people. I know she'll stay on the right path and in doing so protect an already golden soul.

JOSEPH

So that's it?

SIMON

Yeah, that's it.

JOSEPH

When will I know?

SIMON

In two days. (Simon extends his hand. Joseph shakes it)

FADE TO BLACK.

THE HALLWAY OF THE HOSPITAL

Simon stares out of the window. Someone approaches.

TIMOTHY

(clapping his hands) Bravo, bravo, bravo Just when I thought you couldn't sink any lower . . .

SIMON

(looking out of the window) Timothy, don't you ever tire from being the good little shepherd boy? I did what I had to do.

TIMOTHY

(looking at Simon) Only you could believe that lie. You did this for yourself to become human again and for what reason I don't know.

SIMON

(he begins to glare out of the window again) It's been 60 years since I started collecting, taking the soul of someone wasting his or her life and giving it to someone who's good soul needed a bit of healing and in turn healing both.

TIMOTHY

But that's not what you're doing.

SIMON

I want my life back.

TIMOTHY

You know that's impossible. (pause) You've lot sight of what we're really here to do.

SIMON

And what's that?

TIMOTHY

Save souls (pause) not to collect them for our own personal gain. She has someone, and you know the rules. She has to accept.

SIMON

(looking at Timothy) I know.

FADE TO BLACK.

HOSPITAL HALLWAY

(Eve's spirit is walking down the hall. She's looks around and wonders how she got there. Simon approaches.)

SIMON

Hello, my name is Simon. Are you lost?

EVE

I don't know. (looking confused) I don't know how I got here.

SIMON

(pointing at the elevator) The elevator.

EVE

What?

SIMON

You were flown in and brought up to this floor on the elevator. You're in a coma, and your husband and your body are in there (he points to the room door).

EVE

(laughs) Stop playing (her grin goes away when she notices the seriousness of Simon's expression).

SIMON

You have two days before you die unless you agree to the terms that your husband and I have put into place.

EVE

What terms? Joseph made a decision without talking to me?

SIMON

Actually, he's been talking a lot, but you've been a bit tight lipped for the past nine days.

EVE

9 days? (shaking her head) Hold up, what is going on?

SIMON

You will die tomorrow because of the injuries you sustained in your accident.

EVE

(With her eyes wide she can hear the crash and flinches; the sound of the ambulance is so close it startles her; she can hear her husband telling her that things will be okay)

I don't believe you.

SIMON

(he point to the door) See for yourself.

(They enter the room and see Joseph sleeping and Eve in her bed.)

FADE TO BLACK.

(Simon and Eve are sitting down together. She begins to speak.)

EVE

The boy just came from out of nowhere.

SIMON

I know. You thought you could miss him and not be hurt.

EVE

What did my husband do?

SIMON

(long pause) He offered his soul to save you.

EVE

I don't want it.

SIMON

He loved you enough to do it. Why not?

EVE

Because the value of his soul is no less than mine, and if he dies, I die.

(Simon gets up and takes a few steps.)

EVE (CONT'D)

What's wrong?

SIMON

He said pretty much the same thing about you.

EVE

He completes me, and life without him is story that can never be finished. He is my reason for living and the only man I will ever lean on.

(Simon sighs and reaches into his pocket. He pulls out a penny. He turns to Eve and flips here a penny.)

EVE (CONT'D)

(catching the penny) What's this?

SIMON

60 years ago I was involved in an accident. While on my death bed, a soul collector named Timothy gave me a choice. He told me that I could give up my soul or become a collector and do my part in an effort to save souls. I lost my way, but you helped me get back on track. When you become a collector, you are given a single penny that holds the essence of your soul. I'm giving you mine.

(he hands it to her)

SIMON (CONT'D)

Never could get that thing to land on heads.

EVE

I don't know what to say.

SIMON

Don't say anything. Just shake my hand, and the new deal will be made. (he extends his hand)

EVE

(she extends hers but suddenly stops) Wait, what will happen to you?

SIMON

Believe it or not but I've never done this before. Right now you waking up and recovering is the only thing that matters to me.

EVE

Thank you, Simon.

SIMON

I can think of no one who deserves it more. Shake my hand and flip the penny

(They shake hands. Simon disappears. She flips the penny. She disappears. It lands on heads.

FADE TO BLACK.