INT. LIVING ROOM - STORMY NIGHT

DAVE (35) is soaked wet as he stumbles drunk into the living room of his small, poorly kept apartment. There is a thunderstorm raging outside. Lightning strikes and Dave sees a ghost sitting on the top of the desk.

DAVE
Rach? What the hell? What are you doing here, how did you get in?

WOMAN
I let myself in.

DAVE
Ok... You freaked me out 'dollface'. Why are you here? Why are you sitting in the dark?

WOMAN
Because that’s where you left me.

DAVE
All right, weirdo. Are you gonna make me kick your fat ass out? I’m tired as fuck, but don’t you doubt it, I’m gonna punch you in the face and drag you out by the hair.

WOMAN
You are not tired, you are drunk. You are shit faced.

DAVE
Oh yeah?

WOMAN
Come here Dave, I want to talk to you. I have a secret to tell you.

The Woman tries to touch Dave’s face, he pulls away.

DAVE
It’s three in the freaking morning, I am going to sleep. I mean, you are welcome to hangout, I don’t know what the fuck you are doing here after all you did. But I’m going to sleep. All right ‘lady’?

WOMAN
That’s not all right, I was waiting for you, Dave.
The woman pulls her skirt up a little revealing her thighs.

    DAVE
    Good night Rachel.

The woman flicks a lamp on. The light reveal her features. Dave can clearly recognize his ex-girlfriend RACHEL (25).

    RACHEL
    It’s not going to be a good night Dave. And I am not Rachel. And you are not going anywhere.

Dave shows his middle finger.

    DAVE
    Good night, ‘Not Rachel’.

Dave tries to open the door of his bedroom but it’s locked. Dave bangs on the door.

    NOT RACHEL
    Have a seat. Here, would you like some water?

Not Rachel walks around the desk and sits on the chair. Not Rachel pours a glass of water.

    NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
    Would you like another drink?

Not Rachel pours a glass of whisky.

    DAVE
    Listen you whore. Do you want me to fuck you? Because if I do, you are not gonna like it.

    NOT RACHEL
    Oh, I’m gonna love it. But we need to have a drink first, I’m not that easy.

    DAVE
    Ha! Little Rach, darling, I didn’t know you had it in you. Is there where you hid the key? Up in your asshole? (Laughs)

    NOT RACHEL
    (Laughs) I like you Dave. I have always liked you. But I told you already, I am not Rach. (MORE)
NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)
Rach is dead. You killed her, don’t you remember?

Dave is silent.

NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
You do. I know you do. You can feel it. How do you feel Dave?

DAVE
Yeah, I feel like I want to kill you. That’s how I feel.

NOT RACHEL
Well you did that already! Well, not me though. You killed Rachel. You drugged her, you abused her and when she tried to get away from you, you killed her.

Dave feels sick.

DAVE
Who the fuck are you?

NOT RACHEL
You know who I am. I am your best friend.

DAVE
No, you died. You are dead.

NOT RACHEL
Rachel is dead, yes.

DAVE
But I didn’t kill you.

NOT RACHEL
No? So tell me Dave, what happened then?

DAVE
Shut up. Just shut up, ok? Give me my key.

Not Rachel stands.

NOT RACHEL
You thought: how could a girl like this possibly be with a guy like you. I mean, you knew it wouldn’t last.

(MORE)
NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)
She was too young and beautiful, and it was all youth exuberance. Eventually she would be back on her track and leave you behind. Isn’t that true, Dave?

(Beat)

NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)
You didn’t love her. You didn’t even like her. You were just jealous that she had a better life than you. That she was born in a better place, that she didn’t suffer like you did...

DAVE
You’re wrong.

NOT RACHEL
Unlike you, Rach, she was going places. So you had to make sure that she stayed exactly where she was. That’s how you killed her. You poisoned her mind with your malice and intoxicated her body with alcohol and drugs.

DAVE
But I didn’t kill her.

NOT RACHEL
Are you sure Dave? No, you are not. You wouldn’t be here if you were. So tell me, right at that moment, did you know what could happen?

DAVE
I was not myself.

NOT RACHEL
Oh, but you were. That’s how you have always been Dave. High and wasted.

DAVE
No. She betrayed me. She was a whore.
NOT RACHEL
And that’s why you punished her. You KNEW what could happen if you let her go into that car, drunk and in rage right after you had abused her. Deep down you wanted her to die, because she deserved it, and it wouldn’t be your fault... (Beat) And as she stumbled drunk into the car, you said:

DAVE & NOT RACHEL
Have a safe trip.

NOT RACHEL
(Laughs) You are funny Dave. You are so deep and so shallow all at the same time. Do you ever mean what you say?

Not Rachel mocks Dave by imitating his voice.

NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
Life is a shit show! It’s drinking that makes us wise and sober! I jerk off at the face of pain.

DAVE
I always mean what I say.

NOT RACHEL
I agree! We shouldn’t take life so seriously. It’s like a ride in a roller coaster. You can either be afraid and hold on real tight and wish the whole time for it to be over. Or you can let go of your hands and ‘enjoy the ride’, but that too is safe, you have bars that hold you in place. But you Dave, you drank a pack of beers and ate an entire burrito just before your ride just so that you could puke all over everybody. (Laughs) Still you are trapped, restrained by the bars that hold you. But I am here to help you set yourself free.

DAVE
God damn it, all right, I’ll take the drink.

NOT RACHEL
Great, I’ll take one too.
Dave sits next to Not Rachel. She pours a drink to herself and they make a toast.

    NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
    To you Dave.

    DAVE
    To me.

They drink.

    NOT RACHEL
    Good isn’t it? Straight from ‘Limbo’.

    DAVE
    Excellent. Is Limbo where you come from, Mrs. Ghost?

    NOT RACHEL
    Nope, Limbo is where you can go if you want to. That door you were trying to open before? Will eventually take you there. But you must really want it, otherwise the door will just stay shut. Let me explain it to you.

Not Rachel sips on her whisky.

    DAVE
    Hurry up, please?

    NOT RACHEL
    If you go through that door, then things will be back how they used to be. Rach will be dead, yes, but not because of you. In fact, there will be no guilt. After all, it’s not your fault Rach chose to be around you and allowed you to drag herself down with you. It’s not your fault that you are who you are. So if you want, you can go back, and you can gamble, and you can cheat, and you can steal, and you can even kill, and I promise you, your conscience will be wiped clean of remorse.

    (MORE)
NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)
And when there is no remorse there is no acknowledgement of the sin, and because of that, when you finally die, you will go to ‘Limbo’: the edge of Hell, where you can do everything that you love the most.

DAVE
All right, that sounds promising.

NOT RACHEL
Indeed. Well, you do get raped here and there in Limbo, take on some severe beatings. But eventually all your sins might be repented. And at that point you will ascend to Havens. So, that’s good huh?

DAVE
As long as those damn angels have this good whisky up there too.

NOT RACHEL
They have other stuff. But when that time comes I’m pretty sure you will be all sick and done with this ‘good whisky’.

DAVE
I really doubt that. All right, this is getting interesting. What does THAT door do?

NOT RACHEL
The door you just came from? It also leads you back to your life: this apartment, and drinking and... Rach will be dead, but her memory will haunt you this time, forever. Remorse and regret will consume you and when you die you will go to Hell.

DAVE
Hmmm. Humhum, good...

NOT RACHEL
Yes, yes... Hell, the place where you die over and over, burned, stabbed, shot, tortured... and you are always suffering... You see? (MORE)
Remorse leads to self pity, and depression, and anger, and to sin... and killing, and suicide, and...

DAVE
Fuck off God. Demon. Shut up.

NOT RACHEL
You get the picture, I am sorry.

DAVE
It wasn’t my fault you know? I mean-

NOT RACHEL
It has never been your fault Dave. You are but a ‘tool’ of no choice of your own.

DAVE
No, I mean, I do make my own choices.

NOT RACHEL
But are they the right choices? Or do you wish things had been different?

DAVE
Listen, if I could bring her back, I would. The bitch didn’t deserve to die.

NOT RACHEL
There is no ‘deserve’, Dave. Death is just part of it. Do you deserve to be born? Do you deserve to exist? Do you deserve to be alive?

DAVE
Yes. I deserve to be alive, just like everybody else. I am important. I am the most important motherfucker in the world. If I don’t care about me, who will?

NOT RACHEL
Indeed. You are the center of the universe. To you, everything has ever revolved around you. It’s the other people is the problem. They do you wrong everyday, right? But do they ever say they’re sorry?
DAVE
You got a big mouth, I give you that. But since I don’t think I can get hard for you tonight baby, maybe you want to try swallowing me up to the balls?

Dave stands and grabs his balls.

NOT RACHEL
(Laughs) Thank you. That’s very flattering. Although, a little bit concerning. Has that been happening to you frequently?

DAVE
Only when I remember your face in front of me.

NOT RACHEL
Would you like to know where she is?

DAVE
Not particularly.

NOT RACHEL
She is in Limbo. She’s agonizing, you know? Repenting from one’s sins is not like going to Heavens... She is being raped, and raping too. And drinking the ‘good whisky’.
(Laughs)

DAVE
Well, I had nothing to do with it.

NOT RACHEL
Maybe you had, maybe you hadn’t. Whatever makes you happy Dave. Yet, you can still be the hero of the story if you want to. But there is one thing that is required for one to become a hero. And that is ‘the sacrifice’. You must choose another instead of yourself. You must die so you can be reborn in Heavens. Is that who you are Dave? The hero? If you go through THAT door-

DAVE
That’s the bathroom.
NOT RACHEL
If you go through that door, Rachel will be saved and you will take her place in death. You will abdicate life, recognize your guilt and beg for forgiveness. So you see? You can bring her back after all. But will you, Dave?

Dave gulps down his entire whisky.

DAVE
No. Why should I give up my own life for her? She betrayed me. She cheated on me. And I know people, if you do it once you will do it again. She ruined it. She hurt me. And I don’t allow anybody to hurt me.

NOT RACHEL
You are trying to escape from your feelings. You are trying to escape from even having feelings. Regret is a horrible thing so you are trying to keep yourself busy, and you drink. But with death is different. It keeps coming back to haunt you and it will keep coming back until you make your peace with it. It defines who you are. Who are you Dave?

DAVE
I am the bad guy.

NOT RACHEL
So it was your fault?

DAVE
No. She was a slut. She broke my heart.

NOT RACHEL
Ok. Did you tie her up inside the car and pushed her down the hill?

DAVE
No.

NOT RACHEL
She decided by herself to enter the car and drive away. Right? That was all her. She betrayed you.

(MORE)
NOT RACHEL (CONT'D)
She felt regret and now she is dead. People can be very stupid Dave, but you don’t have to be.

DAVE
She wasn’t herself. And I wasn’t myself either.

NOT RACHEL
Then who were you?

DAVE
I was possessed

NOT RACHEL
By whom?

DAVE
By you!

NOT RACHEL
I am a part of you Dave. I am the part of you that will never go away. So I think you should befriend me. Because I am always going to be there for you. I am your best friend.

DAVE
Then what should I do?

NOT RACHEL
Whatever makes you happy.

DAVE
Pfff...

NOT RACHEL
Listen, right now you are driving your car through this thunderstorm. You are very drunk and in your heart you have that same feeling you had on that day with Rachel. You knew what could happen to you when you got in the car, and a part of you wishes for it to happen. You fell asleep on the wheel. And here we are. Every hour in this place is only one second outside in the real world. But how many more seconds until you crash, Dave?

DAVE
And if I crash?
NOT RACHEL
Straight to Hell, of course.

DAVE
Nice... So many good options. Let me think about it.

Dave sits and ponders.

A whole hour passes, and another.

NOT RACHEL
Tic-toc, tic-toc, tic-toc.

Dave points at the bottle of whisky.

NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
Oh yeah. Sure

Not Rachel is about to pour some whisky but Dave snatches it from her hand and drinks straight from the bottle.

NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
Choose happiness. Choose yourself. Who are you Dave?

Dave stares at one door then another.

NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
You like to suffer Dave. You enjoy self pity, you are full of hate and jealousy. If you just wait you will go straight to Hell where you can have all of that and live eternity to it’s fullest.

Dave paces around the room.

NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
Although it is funny how the people you love the most are also the ones who hurt you the most... Just forget her Dave, she betrayed you. You should go live your life free of guilt and be who you were meant to be!

Not Rachel stands and makes Dave stop by grabbing his hand. They look deep into each other’s eyes.

NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
Save her. Be a hero. Ask for forgiveness.

(MORE)
NOT RACHEL (CONT’D)
Give her a chance to be that person you didn’t allow her to be.

(Beat)

DAVE
I am sorry. It was my fault. But I can’t save you. The Devil was once an angel, right? And like him, I would fall. I must do what makes me happy. I am sorry for what I did to you. I betrayed you and ruined us both. I am sorry I never told you I loved you. That’s my biggest regret.

For a second Dave is about to kiss Not Rachel. Instead, Dave plants a kiss on her forehead, takes another sip of whisky and heads towards the door he came from, back to life, forever haunted by the memory of Rachel.

THE END