

Temptation

written by

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FADE IN.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT.

A MAN (33) sits at a table alone. Unshaven and wearing only jeans and a T-Shirt, he stares across the room at nothing in particular.

A lone lamp provides enough light to illuminate the spartan space. A couch and a table with two chairs are all that fill the room.

A curtained window fills one wall. A crack in the curtain allows a brief view of the world outside, all neon and noise.

Opposite the window is a locked door.

Sighing, he stands and his shadow fills the room. Walking over to the couch he lies down.

Throwing his arm over his eyes, he gently drifts into a light sleep.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

Startled by the sudden noise, he jumps from the couch and looks around for the source.

BANG, BANG, BANG.

Walking briskly over to the door, he unlocks it.

A WOMAN (30), tall, voluptuous and sexy enters. Carrying a large bag, she looks every inch the femme fatale.

WOMAN

I thought you were going to keep me out there all night.

He locks the door and follows her in.

WOMAN

Well? Aren't you going to say hello?

Hesitating, he looks her up and down.

MAN

This is new.

WOMAN

Do you like it? I've been giving it a whirl for a while now. It brings a certain....attention shall we say.

MAN

It's certainly striking.

The woman spins on the ball of her foot allowing the man a full view.

WOMAN

Striking isn't what I'm aiming for, lust will do just fine. Do you mind if I sit?

MAN

No, please. Would you like a chair or the couch.

WOMAN

A chair for now. I may need the couch later. Oh and F.Y.I. I've changed my name again, you can call me Luci. That's Luci with an I.

MAN

Luci with an I. Got it.

She gives him a provocative wink and walks to the chair, turning it round she straddles it and gives the man a flash of what's under her figure hugging skirt.

The man chuckles.

MAN

Nice try.

LUCI

You can't blame a girl for trying now can you? And where are your manners, you still haven't said hello.

MAN

Hello.

He walks over to the other chair and sits opposite her.

LUCI

That's it? No hug, no kiss, no endearment. A flat, monotone, simple hello?

MAN

It's what you wanted.

LUCI

I did, but I expected more from you. Anyway, how have you been? I haven't seen you in like ages. Not since....

MAN
(sharply)
I'd rather not be reminded of
that please.

He shifts uncomfortably in his chair.

She leans towards him.

LUCI
The betrayal or the pain?

MAN
Both.

LUCI
Emotional stress and physical
pain. Two great sources of
turmoil. But if I have to be
honest with you, psychological
torture is my absolute favourite.

MAN
Why am I not surprised? What are
you doing here?

LUCI
I missed you. I wanted to try the
temptation game again.

MAN
It didn't work last time, what
makes you think it'll work now?

LUCI
Because last time I didn't look
like this.

The woman sits back and unbuttons the top two buttons on her
tight fitting blouse.

LUCI
Or have these.

Cupping her breasts she moves them suggestively.

He watches her intently as his breathing quickens.

LUCI
I can see you're reacting, that's
a good start.

He stands and walks away from the table.

LUCI
Ohhhh and I can see your reaction
is huge.

Realising what she's looking at, the man turns away from her
and walks to the window, hiding the bulge in his trousers.

LUCI
Have I finally found your
weakness? Beautiful women? Well
that's no surprise, your last
woman was so....plain.

MAN
You don't get to speak about her.

LUCI
You could have done better for
yourself, but then again, she did
have your child so I suppose you
had to stay with her.

He turns angrily from the window.

MAN
YOU DON'T GET TO SPEAK ABOUT HER.

LUCI
Touched a nerve I think. Okay I
won't mention what's her name
again.

MAN
(quietly)
Her name was Mary.

LUCI
Mind if I smoke?

The unexpected question catches him off guard.

MAN
What?

LUCI
Smoke. Do you mind if I do?

He walks back to the table and opens a drawer underneath.
Taking out an ashtray he places it on the table.

LUCI
Thanks. Want one?

Shaking his head he walks to the couch and sits.

MAN
Why are you really here?

She reaches into her bag and removes a pack of cigarettes and
a lighter. Lighting a cigarette she takes a long draw.

LUCI
You can consider this round two.
A grudge match even. You're one
to zip up and I'm a sore loser.

MAN

That was a long time ago, haven't you gotten over it yet?

LUCI

No. And I never forgive either. Don't you have anything to drink?

MAN

You know I don't.

LUCI

(sighing)

Guess I'll just have to use mine then.

Reaching into her bag again she produces a bottle of vodka and two glasses.

She holds a glass towards the man but he shakes his head.

Shrugging she replaces the glass into her bag then pours a generous measure of vodka.

LUCI

You're good health.

Acknowledging the sentiment he watches her down the vodka.

LUCI

Ahhhhhh that hit the spot perfectly.

They sit in silence for a moment. The tension mounts until the Woman has to speak again.

LUCI

So, what brings you back? Trying to save the world again?

MAN

Why not? Humankind have to be allowed another chance to prove they're worth saving.

Laughing heartily at that, Luci stands and walks to the window, throwing back the curtains she exposes the outside world.

LUCI

Look at them. You thought last time was bad? This time it's worse. War, famine, pestilence, social media, capitalism, drink, drugs and plastic surgery. And that's just the beginning. Have you ever even heard of the Kardashians?

MAN

I'm aware of them, and that's why I'm here now. The people need me now more than ever before.

She returns to the chair and sits.

LUCI

Explain.

He takes a moment to consider his response.

MAN

When we first met, times where simpler.

LUCI

It certainly was, you could literally get away with murder, well I could. And I did.

Luci throws him a theatrical wink.

MAN

May I finish?

LUCI

I'm sorry, please continue.

MAN

The pressure on people these days is more intense. The desire to sin is greater with the temptations placed in front of them. Modern society places an unfair burden on the masses, leading to despair, despair could lead to depression, depression may lead to self harm, self harm could possibly lead to suicide.

LUCI

Suicide is a sin. Never gonna get into heaven if you commit a sin.

MAN

And that's why they need me. I need to inspire them to be more, to become greater than they believe they can be. If they have that self belief, then their chances of being received into heaven are increased exponentially.

LUCI

And this is the great plan? To rob me of my fun?

MAN

You've influenced far too much,
time for you to be reigned in.

LUCI

Reigned in?
(shouting)
REIGNED IN?

The Man sits watching Luci as she stands, suddenly angry.

LUCI

You dare try to reign me in? Were
you sent here to fuck up my
exile? All that I am, all that I
do is because of Him. I loved Him
and He abandoned me, cast me out
to this lump of shit.

MAN

You rebelled and lost.

LUCI

DO NOT INTERRUPT ME BOY. I stood
by His side for eons and He chose
the primates over us. He disowned
us for these dull-witted, short
lived fucktards over those of us
who gave our very essence for His
love. And now He sends you back
to fight me, ME, for their souls.

The room darkens slightly and Luci's shadow is cast over the
Man.

The shadow begins to change shape, horns become visible, the
shape becomes more masculine although Luci stays the same.

LUCI

I will not allow you to rob me of
my vengeance, which I spit upon
Him every second of every day. In
Nomine Patris et Filii et go fuck
Himself and you boy can go lick
His balls while He does it.

The Man sits impassively watching Luci.

Luci's shadow shrinks back to normal size as she sits down.

MAN

Have you finished? That was quite
impressive.

LUCI

For now. Fetch me some food.

MAN

You know I don't have any.

LUCI
How many days are you now?

MAN
Twenty eight.

LUCI
Then I have twelve days left to tempt you.

MAN
Yes. But like before, you will not cause me to sin or break my fast.

LUCI
We'll see.

Luci stands and walks to the window. The Man joins her.

MAN
He forgives you. He still loves you.

LUCI
Then why am I still here? When do I get to go home?

MAN
You're not ready yet, you still have too much anger.

LUCI
I can control my emotions, I can sit by His side once more and be happy again.

MAN
Things are not as they seem Luci. He needs you here. But your influence is becoming disproportional. He needs to slow you down but He needs you playing this role for Him so He can win them back, they're lost to their modern world. They see your hand in everything and to win them back, He needs you perverting their world so they can find their salvation in Him.

LUCI
I'm being used? I'M BEING PLAYED?

Pointing out the window the Man breathes deeply.

MAN
As am I.
(MORE)

MAN (CONT'D)

Last time we played this out I was crucified for Him, for their sins. I lost everything, my life, my wife and my daughter.

LUCI

I was there. I saw you die. I have to admit I laughed a little.

He looks at Luci and eventually laughs a little.

LUCI

I've always liked you, you are a great adversary.

MAN

Then you know you can't win.

LUCI

We have twelve days to find out if I can and I'm here for every single one of them.

MAN

Then you can have the couch, I like to make my guests comfortable.

LUCI

Well saying as we're playing nice, how about we order in?

Luci goes into her bag and pulls out a cellular phone.

LUCI

I'm thinking pizza, you look like a Hawaiian type of pie guy.

MAN

Nice try. I'll pass thanks.

Luci dials a number and after a few moments it's answered.

LUCI

Hi, do you do delivery? That's great, can I have a delivery to..
(to the Man)
What's the address?

The Man just shakes his head.

LUCI

(into phone)
Can I call you back in a minute, thanks.

Hanging up she places her phone in her bag. Sitting on the couch she unbuttons a couple more buttons of her blouse.

LUCI
OK, I'm hungry and in the mood
for pizza, so come, sit beside
me.

Luci pats the couch beside her.

MAN
For the record, I hate Hawaiian
pizza.

He walks over to a chair pulls it over to the window.

MAN
But right now, I'd happily eat a
roomful of them.

Luci smiles sardonically.

LUCI
This might end in a draw after
all.

The two lock eyes, both with a grim resolve on their faces.

FADE OUT.