DEMONEXUS

Written by

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INT. BETH’S APARTMENT - NIGHT

BETH, 20s, plain but not ugly, comes through the door and tosses her purse to the side. As she walks, she unbuttons her blouse.

INT. BETH’S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Light pops on. Beth sets her cell phone on the nightstand before sheds her blouse and bra, leaving them on the bed. Unzipping her tight skirt, she enters the bathroom.

Sound of RUNNING WATER.

A moment later, she emerges from the bathroom, tosses aside her skirt and panties and goes back in the bathroom for a shower.

From the closet slips CARL, 40s, fit and handsome. He goes to the bed, grabs her panties, and sniffs.

INT. BETH’S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - 30 MINUTES LATER

Hair in towel, wearing a robe, a gold cross around her neck, Beth leaves the bathroom. She starts to gather her clothes and frowns. Where are her panties?

CARL (O.S.)
Looking for these?

She turns to Carl who stands by the window. He twirls the panties around his finger.

BETH
Who are you, and what are you doing with my panties?

CARL
I think you know who I am.

BETH
I know you’re a sick fuck. Get out. Take those with you.

Carl morphs. Horns grow from his head. His hands turn into claws. His eyes turn red. He literally grows bigger, more menacing. A demon.
CARL
   (voice guttural)
Enjoy pain? When I’m done with you, you’ll crave it.

He takes a step toward her

BETH
Stop! Stop right there! You can’t do that.

CARL
   (laughing)
You’re going to stop me?

She drops the clothes and grabs her phone. He watches as she taps it and talks into the mic.

BETH
Demonexus.

CARL
It won’t do you any good.

BETH
We’ll see.

A hologram appears next to Beth. MINERVA, 50s, dressed like a Greek goddess, armed with a tablet hovers next to Beth.

MINERVA
What is it?

BETH
He broke the law of cross protection.

CARL
I did no such thing.

BETH
   (pointing to the gold cross on her chest)
He can’t get within 10 feet, right

CARL
The second law applies only to crosses wielded in a menacing manner.

BETH
   (to Minerva)
Is that true?
MINERVA
The law is vague. In some cases, if the cross merely touches skin, it’s deemed locus in quo, retaining its protection.

BETH
Hah!

CARL
I don’t think that’s right.
LILITH!

LILITH, 40s, beautiful, in all black, another hologram appears next to Carl.

LILITH
Hello, Minerva.

MINERVA
Lilith, I should have known.

LILITH
What do we have here?

MINERVA
Cross protection and how to apply it.

LILITH
(to Carl)
You violated the second law?

CARL
She wasn’t brandishing.

BETH
I was wearing it.

LILITH
If she wasn’t brandishing--

MINERVA
We have some fog on this one. Brandishing is not strictly required.

LILITH
Let’s not split hairs, was she touching it?

CARL
No.
BETH  
It was in clear sight.

MINERVA  
I’ll refer you to Blackman, volume two, chapter six.

Beth sits on the bed.

LILITH  
That old cite? That was overcome by Agiel V. Francis. I can quote if you like.

MINERVA  
Please, Agiel was negated by Pius V. Ronove which defined the power of crosses in plain sight.

Carl comes over and leans against the wall by Beth.

BETH  
That’s what I said.

MINERVA  
(to Beth)  
Please, let me handle this.

LILITH  
We need to back up.  
(to Carl)  
You had already displayed?

CARL  
Of course, I can’t very well menace without full demon regalia.

LILITH  
(to Minerva)  
That complicates don’t you think?

MINERVA  
How? Displayed or not, the second law applies.

BETH  
(to Carl)  
You get his often?

CARL  
Only with women like you who know something.
BETH
Just a little. That’s why I got the app.

LILITH
I think the cross needs to be blessed to work during full display.

MINERVA
Only if the wearer knows it’s not been blessed. We’re talking good faith here.

LILITH
(to Beth)
Did you think the cross was blessed?

BETH
Why else would I wear it?

CARL
Please, no one goes to the trouble of getting a cross blessed anymore.

LILITH
Carl, please, let us work through this.

CARL
I don’t have all night.

BETH
Me either. I have to go to work tomorrow.

CARL
There will be no tomorrow for you after they settle this.

BETH
You’re going to be banished, hog breath.

MINERVA
Beth, you’re not helping.
(to Lilith)
I do believe that proximity to the neck applies here.

LILITH
That’s the vampire sub-legem. Carl is a class A demon.
MINERVA
Class A? Then ejusdem generis is in play. Beth here is a Category 3 victim.

BETH
Category 3?!

CARL
I had no idea.

LILITH
Carl exhibited bona fide intent.

MINERVA
Ignorantia juris non excusat, ignorantia juris non excusat!

Carl wags a finger at Beth and nods his head toward the door.

INT. BETH’S APARTMENT - MAIN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Carl stops by the front door. Beth some steps behind.

CARL
They’ll argue all night.

BETH
From my point of view, they need to get it right.

CARL
I have a schedule. Know how long I’ve been stalking you?

BETH
That’s not my problem.

He takes a step toward her, and she brandishes her gold cross.

CARL
You learn fast.

BETH
For a category 3?

CARL
If I had known that, I wouldn’t be here.
BETH
3’s aren’t good enough? I like that.

CARL
I don’t think you understand victim hierarchy.

Beth pages through her phone.

BETH
I think I have an app for that.

CARL
Gorgon!

BETH
(to phone)
Portia!

Two holograms appear.

GORGON, 60s, hag, ugly, leering and evil.

PORTIA, 30s, pretty, trustful, smiling.

GORGON
What have we here?

CARL
Please explain victimology to this cat 3.

PORTIA
The quality of mercy is not strained.

BETH
Lower level vics have special protections if I’m not mistaken.

FADE OUT.