

UNTITLED SCREENPLAY

by

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Waking the Demon
by
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We open on a classic Satanic pentagram carved into a stone floor. A pure white crystal falls onto it and smashes into tiny pieces. A few seconds pass, then the pentagram bursts into flame, a cloud of black smoke rises, and from it emerges a massive horned demon called AGOTH (pronounced ag-oth). He is seven feet tall, ripples with muscle, and is dressed in what, for the 17th century, was probably a very chic and expensive suit. This is definitely no mindless demon - this is Mephistopholes ready for a night on the town. His voice is heavily processed to be deep and menacing and otherworldly, while still understandable.

AGOTH

Mua ha ha ha! At last, I am free!
For four hundred years I rotted in
that accursed crystal, but now I,
Agoth the Corrupter, am once more
free to roam the earthly realm and
spread my evil across the face of
all of Christendom! To whom do I
owe this dark blessing?

EDMUNDS (V.O)

IT IS I!

CUT TO :

VICTOR EDMUNDS, a tall, elegant man dressed in a modern suit, a wizard's cap, and standing in a smaller version of the pentagram. He brandishes an impressive wizard's staff, which he holds between him and Agoth like a shield.

EDMUNDS

Yes, foul demon! It is I, master
sorcerer Victor Edmunds, who has
freed you, and it is I with whom
you must bargain lest I cast you
back into Hell!

AGOTH peers down at EDMUNDS appraisingly, eyes narrow.

AGOTH

Name your price, wizard.

EDMUNDS

All in due time. But first, I need
to know what I am bargaining for.
Tell me of your powers.

AGOTH

Very well, but I hope you are
comfortable, because they are many.

EDMUNDS

So you say.

AGOTH

For one, I can creep into the bedroom of an innocent maiden, come to her in the form of a dream, and seduce her unto fleshly pleasures!

EDMUNDS

So you can give a woman a wet dream? That's hardly impressive. Nothing wrong with a good erotic dream. What else can you do?

AGOTH

(slightly taken aback)

Well, I can fill a chaste maiden's heart with lustful flames, causing them to seek congress with a man who is not her husband and never will be... And she knows it!

EDMUNDS

Pre-marital sex? Is that the best you can do? Everybody does it these days. It's far more unusual for them to wait. Anything else?

AGOTH

Well... I can fill their minds with thoughts of committing acts of slavish lust upon their own persons... Yes, women too can indulge in the solitary vice!

EDMUNDS

Masturbation? Is that it? Masturbation is considered natural and normal now. Women share tips with each other on how to do it best. Surely a mighty and intelligent demon like yourself can do better than that.

AGOTH

Well... I can... Look, are you seriously telling me that the women of the world all behave as wanton strumpets and cheap harlots now?

EDMUNDS

By your standards, yes.

AGOTH

Astonishing. I mean.... Good, good. That means my lord Satan has tempted the so-called pious and righteous into giving in to their true bestial natures!

EDMUNDS

If you say so. So is that all of your powers? Because I must say, I am not impressed.

AGOTH

Curse thy tongue, impudent wizard, that it may cease mocking!

EDMUNDS

Back to Hell it is, then...

AGOTH

I mean... Let us not act in haste, mighty sorcerer. My powers are manifold. We have, as yet, listed but the tiniest of fractions of all the ways in which I can tempt the souls of humanity into sin.

EDMUNDS

Very well. You may continue. Do you have anything that works on men?

AGOTH

But of course, my friend. For example, I can tempt men into dark halls wherein they can lose their family's fortunes, and their day's wages as well, in games of chance, thus sending whole families to the poorhouse to live in squalor...

EDMUNDS

They are called casinos, and they are everywhere now. The men you speak of (and women too) are known as gambling addicts and they have meetings where they get together and cry. Plus, every store has lottery tickets and scratch off games. Tempting people into gambling is not much of a power.

AGOTH

Ah, but what of the Demon Rum, who breaks homes and beggars families by tempting men to ignore their work and family and spend their hours in the alehouse instead?

EDMUNDS

Alcohol has been legal for over one hundred years. Men like the ones you describe are called alcoholics and they also get together at meetings and cry.

AGOTH

But surely the Church...

EDMUNDS

The Catholic Church has very little say in the matter. The state is completely secular these days. Churches are mostly just places where people get together on their holy day to compare clothing.

AGOTH

Churches? Their holy day? Are you saying the heathens have turned this modern world into Babylon?

EDMUNDS

And then some. Do you have a problem with that?

AGOTH

(clearly a little shaken)

Of course not! I... I am well pleased that the forces of Lucifer the Morning Star have triumphed over the hypocritical sheep of the Christ in this era! I was just... surprised. That's all.

EDMUNDS

Whatever. I believe you were trying to justify your continued existence on the earthly plane?

AGOTH

Well what of foul Tobacco? This evil weed from beyond the edge of civilization actually causes men to deliberately draw smoke into their lungs and does things most foul to the lungs and heart of those...

EDMUNDS

Oh, we know all about the ill effects of tobacco on the body now.

AGOTH

Ah! Well then, I can tempt men to...

EDMUNDS

But we let people buy it any way.

AGOTH

Satan's Mirkin, this new era... Ah!

Agoth smiles devilishly.

AGOTH

(clearly thinking he is
about to be victorious)

Ah, but I have one last power to list, dire master, that should prove my worth to you. Surely, a learned man as yourself that there are some men, scarcely whispered about in decent company, who bear lusts not just for God's natural consort's womanly embrace, but for acts most hideous and unnatural with their own gender. I, and only I, can inspire this foul confusion, and lead men into...

EDMUNDS

Gay sex? That's the best you can do? Gay sex? Good grief, man, homosexuality isn't considered wrong at all in the modern world. The civilized world even allows men to marry men, and women to marry women. It's not a big deal.

AGOTH

But surely that flies in the face of all that is natural and holy..

EDMUNDS

Natural? Holy? My word, Agoth... Have I actually managed to shock a demon? You should be happy that the modern world was so... evil.

AGOTH

Evil? This time beggars the very word. What evil is there in tempting people to do that which is already allowed? Tell me, is there no violation of the flesh that is not as yet permitted?

EDMUNDS

Can you name some examples?

AGOTH

Um.... Congress with animals?

EDMUNDS

That's still not permitted.

AGOTH

Good. That was never my department anyhow. Some things are too weird even for me. Beating one's slaves far too harshly?

EDMUNDS

Both the beating and the slavery
are strictly forbidden now.

AGOTH

Ah. Good. Lust towards chil-

EDMUNDS

We are very, VERY against that now.
Moreso than in your era, in fact.

AGOTH

For that, I am grateful. Well,
sorceror, you win. I have no more
powers to offer. Please send me
back to Hell. If what you say of
this modern era is true, I think I
would rather be there.

EDMUNDS

Very well, demon. I accept your
surrender. But I will not send you
back to Hell, not until you have
talked to some of your friends.

A group of what are obviously demons awkwardly dressed in
modern day clothing file in.

AGOTH

My horns, it's Gleibel, the Demon
of Labourer Unrest!

Gleibel is short and slight - the Little Guy - but has an
aura of righteous fury about him, and a fanatic gleam in his
eyes, like he's itching to spark a riot.

GLEIBEL

Power to the people, Agoth.

AGOTH

And what are you doing here,
Hornrick, Demon of the Merchant's
Greed for Gold?

Hornrick is enormously fat, with a huge grinning mouth and a
very hungry, shifty look in his eyes.

HORNRICK

Heard you were coming through and
thought I should be here.

AGOTH

And what of you, Frontroot, Demon
of Usury and Moneylending?

Frontroot is tall, elegant, with a patrician look to him,
and a constant but insincere smile on his face. Like the
spider smiling as it invites the fly into its parlor.

FRONTROOT

The same as you, old friend. All of us here have been through the same thing you're going through.

AGOTH

You mean, you have all awakened to a world that no longer considered what you do to be a sin?

All the demons nod.

EDMUNDS

You see, Agoth, I summoned you here not to use your powers, but to help you. Sin has changed a lot since you entered that crystal, and in the modern world, it makes no sense to keep a demon trapped in order to protect the world from temptation into that which is no longer a sin.

HORNRICK

That's why Vic here keeps summoning demons like us. We've all been through exactly what you have just been through, and now we are here to support you.

GLEIBEL

Vic is nice enough to give us a place to live while we get used to this era, and he says we are free to stay as long as we like.

Edmunds nods happily.

FRONTROOT

So come with us now, old friend. We have nice bedrooms, cable with all the channels, and even food we can eat. It's not quite as "spicy" as what we used to eat down in Hell, but I think you'll enjoy.

AGOTH

And that's it? I just live a human's life with you? But I am Agoth, a Lord of Hell! Thousands of demons used to scream my name in terror every time I looked their way! Why would I want to be a mere human being in this modern world?

FRONTROOT

Because we have unlimited Internet pornography. In full color!

All the demons nod enthusiastically.

EDMUNDS

So what's it going to be, Agoth? Do
I send you back to Hell, or do you
stay here on Earth with us?

Agoth scowls in thought for a long moment. But then breaks
into a big tooth grin.

AGOTH

What the fornication. Thousands of
demons screaming your name in
terror is highly overrated. I guess
I will stay.

Edmunds and the demons all cheer, slap Agoth on the back,
and begin to file out of the room.

AGOTH

I have one question to ask, my
mast, er, my benefactor.

EDMUNDS

Ask away, Agoth.

AGOTH

Will we be attending meetings
where we cry?

EDMUNDS

(laughing)

Only if you want them, Agoth. Only
if you want them.

Agoth turns to Frontroot as they are leaving the room.

AGOTH

Now tell me more of this...
pornography.

The two leave, Frontroot turning off the light as they go,
and the door closes. Then all is black.

THE END