

NOT RACHEL

Screenplay by

Rodrigo Baumgartner Ayres
917-331-7899
rodrigo@directorayres.com

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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 RACHEL (25) sitting on the top of the desk.

DAVE

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

RACHEL

I let myself in.

DAVE

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

RACHEL

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.

RACHEL

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

DAVE

Oh yeah?

RACHEL

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

Rachel 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'?

RACHEL

That's not all right, I was waiting for you, Dave.

Rachel pulls her skirt up a little revealing her thighs.

DAVE
Good night Rachel.

Rachel flicks a lamp on. The light reveal her features. Dave can clearly recognize his ex-girlfriend.

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.

RACHEL
Have a seat. Here, would you like
some water?

Rachel walks around the desk and sits on the chair. Rachel pours a glass of water.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Would you like another drink?

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.

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)

RACHEL
(Laughs) I like you Dave. I have
always liked you. But I told you
already, I am not Rach.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Rach is dead. You killed her, don't
you remember?

Dave is silent.

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.

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?

RACHEL
You know who I am. I am your best
friend.

DAVE
No, you died. You are dead.

RACHEL
Rachel is dead, yes.

DAVE
But I didn't kill you.

RACHEL
No? So tell me Dave, what happened
then?

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

Rachel stands.

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)

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)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 & RACHEL

Have a safe trip.

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?

Rachel mocks Dave by imitating his voice.

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.

RACHEL

I agree! We shouldn't take life so seriously. It's like a ride in a roller coaster. You can 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's just as 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.

RACHEL

Great, I'll take one too.

Dave sits next to Rachel. She pours a drink to herself and they make a toast.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
To you Dave.

DAVE
To me.

They drink.

RACHEL
Good isn't it? Straight from
'Purgatory'.

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

RACHEL
Nope, Purgatory 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.

Rachel sips on her whisky.

DAVE
Hurry up, please?

RACHEL
If you go through that door...

The door to the bedroom is suddenly illuminated by a purple light.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
...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 cheat, and you
can steal, and you can even kill,
and I promise you, your conscience
will be wiped clean of remorse.

(MORE)

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 Purgatory, where you can do everything that you love the most.

DAVE

All right, that sounds promising.

RACHEL

Indeed. Well, you do get raped here and there in Purgatory, take on some severe beatings. But eventually all your sins will 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.

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?

RACHEL

The door you came from?

The front door is suddenly illuminated by a red light.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

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

Hmmmm. Humhum, good...

RACHEL

Yes, yes... Hell, the place where you die over and over, burned, stabbed, shot, tortured... and you are always suffering... You see? Remorse leads to self pity, and depression, and anger, and to sin... and killing, and suicide, and...

DAVE

Fuck off God. Demon. Shut up.

RACHEL

You get the picture, I am sorry.

DAVE

It wasn't my fault you know? I mean-

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.

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.

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?

RACHEL

Indeed. You are the center of the universe.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

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.

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.

RACHEL

Would you like to know where she is?

DAVE

Not particularly.

RACHEL

She is in Purgatory. 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.

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.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Is that who you are Dave? The hero?
If you go through THAT door-

DAVE
That's the bathroom.

RACHEL
If you go through that door...

The door to the bathroom is suddenly illuminated by a blue light.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
...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.

RACHEL
You are trying to escape from your
feelings and even from having
feelings. Regret is a horrible
thing so you try to keep yourself
busy, and you drink. But with death
is different. It will keep coming
back to haunt you unless you make
your peace with it. It defines who
you are. Who are you Dave?

DAVE
I am the bad guy.

RACHEL
So it was your fault?

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

RACHEL

Ok. Did you tie her up inside the car and pushed her down the hill?

DAVE

No.

RACHEL

She decided by herself to enter the car and drive away. Right? That was all her. She betrayed you. 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.

RACHEL

Then who were you?

DAVE

I was possessed

RACHEL

By whom?

DAVE

By you!

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?

RACHEL

Whatever makes you happy.

DAVE

Pfff...

Lights flash. We hear the loud noise of a thunder strike.

RACHEL

Listen, right now you are driving your car through this thunderstorm.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

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?

RACHEL

Straight to Hell, of course.

DAVE

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

Dave sits and ponders.

We hear a clock ticking.

A whole hour passes, and another.

RACHEL

Tic-toc, tic-toc, tic-toc.

Dave points at the bottle of whisky.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. Sure

Rachel is about to pour some whisky but Dave snatches it from her hand and drinks straight from the bottle.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Choose happiness. Choose yourself. Who are you Dave?

Dave stares at one door then another.

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.

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!

Rachel stands and makes Dave stop by grabbing his hand. They look deep into each other's eyes.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Save her. Be a hero. Ask for forgiveness. 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 Rachel. Instead, Dave strangles her to her death. Dave grabs a bottle of whisky and heads towards the door he came from -the red door- back to life, forever haunted by the memory of Rachel.

THE END