

CASTING PEARLS

Written by

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2024

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

SARAH (20), a sad and confused woman sits outside of a church, ending a prayer.

SARAH

Amen.

Unsure of herself, she leaves.

EXT. MOTEL - NIGHT

Sarah shows up to a motel and she takes out her keys to enter a room.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah walks into her motel room exhausted. She throws down her bag and walks to the bathroom.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Sarah walks out of the bathroom in a robe and sits on the bed. She sighs.

Sarah gets off of the bed to kneel on the floor. After she clasps her hands together she prays.

SARAH

Dear God, um. I'm back again. I want you to talk to me but I- I can't hear you and I could really use your help right now or a sign that you're there. Um-

There is a knock at the door.

Sarah clears her throat and readjusts her robe as she stands up and goes to open the door.

At the door is an OLDER MAN (30s).

SARAH (CONT'D)

Hi.

The man, with a sly grin puts an arm around Sarah's waist and pulls her to him.

OLDER MAN

Hello.

As they hug, Sarah has an uncomfortable expression on her face. She smiles when he looks at her. She breaks away from the hug and heads toward the bed. The older man follows her and closes the door behind him.

INT. MOTEL ROOM - DAY

Sarah wakes up and covers her face from the sun peeking in through the window. There's a knock at the door, she groans and pulls the blanket over her face.

There's a louder knock at the door.

SARAH
IN A MINUTE!

Sarah pulls herself out of bed. She's half-dressed and covers herself with her robe. She stops at the used condom on the floor. She kicks it under the bed.

She opens the door to the MOTEL MANAGER (25), young for his job but tries to look professional with a collared shirt.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I wasn't expecting company this morning.

MOTEL MANAGER
Sarah we need to talk.

SARAH
About what. I paid you yesterday.

MOTEL MANAGER
You'll have to hand in your keys at 11.

SARAH
Why? I haven't done anything wrong.

MOTEL MANAGER
I know what you've been up to in this room. I don't want your business here anymore. It's not a good look for the motel.

SARAH
That's my only source of income right now.

The motel manager shrugs his shoulders showing no remorse for Sarah.

SARAH (CONT'D)
I've been paying you for the room,
I basically live here now. I can
give you enough to keep the room
until next week right now. I-

MOTEL MANAGER
I can have the authorities handle
it if you want.

Sarah stares at him. Anger bubbles up inside her.

SARAH
Fine.

The motel manager stands at the door as Sarah storms through
the room packing her bags. She takes off her robe in front of
him to dress herself. He looks away.

She grabs the key off the night stand and slams it on his
chest. He grabs the key and she pushes past him out the door.

INT. BUS - DAY

With tears in her eyes, Sarah stares out the bus window.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

Sarah is the first person in her college classroom. She sits
and stares at the front of the class as her classmates slowly
fill up the classroom.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

ALICE (21) an edgy young woman sits in the seat next to
Sarah. Alice glances at Sarah a few times, trying to observe
her emotions.

ALICE
Hey, Sarah right?

Sarah looks over and hesitates to answer.

SARAH
Yeah, uh sorry, what was your name?

ALICE
I'm a little offended but, it's
Alice.

Sarah nods in acknowledgement and looks forward. Intrigued, Alice leans toward Sarah.

ALICE (CONT'D)
You know, you usually look like you hate your life but today there's a little more despair on your face.

Sarah looks back at Alice with furrowed eyebrows.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Okay didn't mean to upset you, next topic. I'm having a study party.

Alice flashes a big grin at Sarah.

SARAH
A study party?

ALICE
Yeah, we're definitely going to be studying at my house later. That dickhead over there is going.

Alice points to OSCAR (24) a tall, dark, slender man who sits on the other side of the room.

ALICE (CONT'D)
And some other people that don't matter to you. Wanna come?

SARAH
Uh sure I guess, sounds fun.

ALICE
Yes so fun.

Alice sits back in her chair and lets out a chuckle.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

Sarah leaves her class building and walks down the sidewalk. She passes a HOMELESS MAN in his mid twenties.

HOMELESS MAN
Ay! You got a twenty?

Sarah stops and looks at the man with sympathy. She pulls out some cash from her pocket and flips through what she has. She pulls out a five dollar bill.

SARAH

I don't have twenty but I hope this helps.

The homeless man grabs the cash with no exchange of words and walks away.

Sarah sucks her teeth and mutters.

SARAH (CONT'D)

You're welcome.

INT. GAS STATION - DAY

Sarah walks into a gas station. She strolls through the aisles looking thoroughly at the prices.

She picks up a cup of noodles and goes to the coolers for a drink.

Sarah approaches the counter with a half smile. The CASHIER scans the items. Sarah hands her cash.

CASHIER

You're short five cents.

Sarah bites her lip.

SARAH

I don't have five cents.

CASHIER

Can't sell this to you without the rest.

SARAH

You can't just let this one slide?
Do me a favor?

The cashier shakes her head no.

SARAH (CONT'D)

What's that tray of change then?

They both look over at an ashtray filled with change and a burnt out cigarette. The cashier looks back at her with a blank expression.

CASHIER

For charity.

SARAH
Take the drink off I can drink
fucking tap water.

The cashier slides Sarah her change. Sarah slams the counter to grab the change and storms out of the gas station.

EXT. ALICE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Sarah knocks at the front door. Oscar opens the door.

SARAH
Hi, is Alice here?

Oscar's eyes are red and he speaks in a slow mellow tone.

OSCAR
Hey Sarah, I'm so happy you made
it.

SARAH
Thanks, um, where's Alice?

OSCAR
Oh Alice right. I don't know where
she is, somewhere getting high.

SARAH
Okay I should probably go.

Sarah turns to leave but Oscar grabs her arm.

OSCAR
Wait!

Sarah flinches and pulls her arm away.

OSCAR (CONT'D)
Woah, I'm sorry. I was looking
forward to you coming is all.

SARAH
Really?

OSCAR
Yeah... That's why Alice invited
you. For me, I was being a pussy,
couldn't ask you myself.

Sarah looks at him a little longer before caving in.

SARAH
I guess I can stay.

OSCAR

Sick.

INT. ALICE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Oscar leads Sarah into the living room. Sarah sits on the couch.

SARAH

Hey, Oscar?

Oscar looks back at her.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Is there any food here?

OSCAR

Yeah, Alice made some stuff. I'll go get her.

Sarah nods and looks around the house. There are empty beer cans and alcohol bottles sitting around.

Oscar walks up to Sarah with a beer can in his hand.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

You want some?

SARAH

No thank you.

Oscar shrugs and sits close to her on the couch. She shifts slightly away from him.

Alice enters the room with a pan of brownies and three other college students follow close behind her.

ALICE

Hey look guys it's Sarah! Didn't think you'd actually come.

SARAH

Well I said I would so, here I am.

ALICE

Brownie?

Alice holds out the pan of brownies. Sarah grabs one and eats it.

SARAH

Wow these are so good.

ALICE
Yeah well I made them, of course
they're good.

Sarah grabs a couple more brownies and holds them in her hand
to snack on.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Woah, are you going to eat all
those?

SARAH
Oh uh, yeah, is that okay?

Alice scoffs.

ALICE
No yeah that's totally fine, just
didn't think you'd like them.
Anyway...

Alice passes the brownies to the others.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Sarah what was up with you earlier,
I almost felt bad for you.

Sarah pauses. She tries to swallow what was in her mouth but
she still talks with her mouth full.

SARAH
Oh, I just had a bad morning. I
have to remind myself that it's all
apart of God's plan.

Everyone in the room except Oscar start laughing. Alice,
louder than the rest.

ALICE
No way Sarah!

SARAH
What's funny?

ALICE
I didn't think you were like that.

SARAH
Like what?

Oscar interrupts.

OSCAR
Alice, don't.

SARAH

No its fine. I grew up Christian, I lost my way but I'm trying to have faith again. Reconnect.

ALICE

This is hilarious. You actually believe all that? Heaven after death and what not.

SARAH

Yes.

OSCAR

Alice don't start this.

ALICE

Shut the fuck up Oscar.

Oscar throws his hands up and turns away from the group.

ALICE (CONT'D)

(to Sarah)

What is there to believe in? It was God's plan to have me find my parents murdered when I was 4? To put me through hell my entire life because of it?

SARAH

I am so sorry that happened to you but, that wasn't his fault, he gave us free will. That- that's a human that did that to your parents not God. He-

ALICE

Then what's the plan Sarah? If everything is apart of HIS plan than does anyone really have free will?

Sarah looks around at the others. They look at her with disgust.

SARAH

You don't get it, there's more to it than that-

ALICE

No Sarah, YOU don't get it. The only GODS in this world are the politicians that don't give a fuck about anyone and the top 1% that hoards all the wealth in the world. To be a God in this universe is to have power, take advantage of the ones weaker than them. Why would I EVER worship someone like that?

Sarah tries to speak but the words aren't coming out of her mouth.

ALICE (CONT'D)

I HATE Christians, they treated me like I was some freak because I didn't turn to God after what happened. When was the last time you actually heard from "him"? Never, right? God hasn't been able to fix your problems let alone listen to them. Everyday that I've seen you, you've looked miserable and the first time I have an actual conversation with you, I find out you're God fearing. It makes so much sense now, you hate your life and God hasn't been able to help you. Because he isn't real.

OSCAR

That's extreme Alice, you get most of your information online anyways.

ALICE

(To Oscar)

Who cares? Doesn't make it less true.

OSCAR

It kind of does.

Sarah sits on the couch in tears. She stands up with her bag and struggles to stand straight.

SARAH

I'm leaving.

ALICE

Please.

Sarah takes a few steps toward the door and stops.

SARAH
Alice, what was in those brownies.

ALICE
They were edibles.

SARAH
Oh my God.

Sarah rushes out of the house and leaves the door open behind her.

Oscar looks at Alice angry and concerned.

ALICE
Don't look at me I thought she knew.

Alice flicks her arm towards the door.

ALICE (CONT'D)
Bitch left the door open.

Oscar goes to the door but Sarah had ran far out of his sight.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Sarah's vision is blurred as she stumbles across the road. She can hear each thump of her heart beat.

The streets are bare with only cars parked on the side of the road.

Sarah manages to stand up straight until she is struck and hits the ground.

She looks up to see the homeless man with her bag running away.

She groans in pain and manages to roll on her back to breathe. She breaks out sobbing more intensely.

She gets on her hands and knees to help herself stand up. She grabs her head and continues to walk tripping, over every other step.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Sarah stops in front of a house with the lights off and no car in the driveway.

Sarah, unstable, walks up the driveway.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Sarah wiggles the front door knob. She struggles to breath.

SARAH
I need water.

Sarah moves along to the side of the house in search of an entrance. The first window she tries is locked.

The next window she tries to open shifts slightly. Sarah sighs in relief.

SARAH (CONT'D)
Oh thank God.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Sarah opens the window fully and climbs in. She hits the floor with a loud thud. She groans in pain.

SARAH
Fuck.

She manages to slowly stand up right. She limps out of the room.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

In the dark kitchen Sarah bumps into walls and counters on her way to the sink.

She grabs a glass off the counter and fills it with water from the sink. She chugs the water. She finishes and lets out a groan of satisfaction.

ELDERLY MAN (O.S.)
Hey! Who are you!

Sarah jumps and turns to face an ELDERLY MAN holding a bat.

SARAH
I'm sorry I just wanted water, I'm not-

ELDERLY MAN
Get the hell out of my house!

The elderly man approaches Sarah fast. She moves around the kitchen avoiding him.

SARAH
Please sir listen!

ELDERLY MAN
Get out!

He takes a swing at Sarah and misses. Panicking, she frantically feels around the counters and grabs onto the knife block.

The man runs to her while her back is faced toward him.

Sarah quickly turns to face him.

He raises the bat once again but stops mid-way.

Sarah impales the elderly man. He drops the bat to hold his wound and stumbles backwards.

Sarah drops the knife and covers her mouth. She tries to wipe the blood on her hands off on her shirt.

Sarah starts to breath hard and rapidly. She reaches out to help the man that is now on the floor but doesn't know how.

SARAH
Shit, shit, shit!

She paces until she hears a car door slam shut. Without hesitation she runs out of the front door.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Sarah runs out of the front door, running into a teenage girl. Sarah stops for a second and makes eye contact. The girl, frightened, runs into the house.

Sarah turns and walks the other way. Her mouth wide open in disbelief.

The teenage girl screams in horror. Sarah takes off running.

EXT. CHURCH - NIGHT

Sarah stands in front of the church, sweaty and panting.

She drops to her knees, exhausted. She breaks out in tears and clasps her hands together.

SARAH
God, please help me.

Sarah hears gospel music play in her head.

Faint police sirens sound and get louder as they get close.

Sarah drops her head down in acceptance and stands up. Still facing the church, she stands still as cop lights shine on her.