

THE DEVIL ALL THE TIME

Arvin & The Preacher

Note: For online classes, end the scene at the first gunshot.

INT. CHURCH - DAY

The PREACHER sits in a pew reading the Bible. ARVIN enters through the back of the church. When the Preacher isn't looking, Arvin raises his GUN and aims it straight at The Preacher. A tense beat until... Arvin finally lowers it.

ARVIN

Excuse me. Excuse me. Preacher? Got time for a sinner? I've been doing wrong, and I wanna get right by the Lord.

PREACHER

Well, that's what I'm here for.

ARVIN

I've done lustful acts.

PREACHER

Yeah. That could be a big problem. Especially for the young people. Go on, tell me about it.

ARVIN

I got me a pretty wife at home. One that'll do pretty much anything I ask. But I treat her real bad.

PREACHER

Well, when you say anything, what do you mean?

ARVIN

Just what I said. Sometimes she'll be going down on me with... well, you know, her mouth. Heck, I get so excited I start forcing it.

PREACHER

She ever puke on you? They got a little trigger, back there in their throat.

ARVIN

Yeah, well, that ain't my problem.

PREACHER

Well, what's the problem then, son?

ARVIN

This guy I work with has got himself a daughter. Real young thing, just started high school.

(MORE)

ARVIN (CONT'D)

One day I got this girl in my truck, and I drove her out into the sticks, and I had my way with her.

PREACHER

Did she put up a fight?

ARVIN

No. But, you see, the problem is... is once I'd had a taste, I just couldn't get enough. I kept taking that girl there any chance I got. So I'd strip her clothes off. But I'd make her pray before we got started.

PREACHER

Why don't you take that hat off, boy.

ARVIN

Sometimes I'd even keep her panties. Now, I'd just sniff 'em as she rode off on her bike. And then I'd go home to that whore of a wife of mine and make her bake me a cake like I was celebrating.

PREACHER

What in the hell is this?

Arvin aims his gun.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

You've been spying on me, boy?

ARVIN

I've been watching your every move for the last couple weeks. You can't get enough of that Reaster girl, can you? Is that how you did my Lenora too?

PREACHER

So... Mrs. Russell's boy? All right. Don't do anything you'll regret, son. Why don't you put the gun down, and we can talk all about it.

ARVIN

Go ahead and talk.

PREACHER

It wasn't my fault. And Lenora was just like this, this Reaster girl. She wouldn't let me be. But I want you to know that I, I pray for that girl's soul every night.

ARVIN

Do you pray for her baby's soul too?

PREACHER

Look, I didn't have nothing to do with that. She came to me saying she got that way from a boy --

ARVIN

-- Don't fuckin' lie to me!

PREACHER

Lies! The lies? The lies are hers. She got it in her head that I was the father. That I was gonna take care of everything.

Arvin cocks the gun.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

God dammit, boy! Listen to me! I ain't gonna take the blame for no bastard child! It would ruin me, man. You can understand that, can't you? Hell! Listen to me, boy. She was delusional. She was crazy. You see?

ARVIN

No, she was just lonely.

PREACHER

No, man.

GUNSHOT. The Preacher falls to the ground.

PREACHER (CONT'D)

Please, God! Please, God!

Arvin approaches. Shoots TWICE MORE. Checks that The Preacher is dead. Looks around for bullet shells.

ARVIN

Fuck. Fuck! Shit. Shit.

He sits for a beat. Then leaves.