

DEMONS HAVE HORNS

Written by

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INT. DARK & DANK DEMONIC CAVE - DAY

A large cavernous room deep beneath the surface of the earth. Cold walls. The omnipresent DRIP of water. Maybe a bat or two. You know, classic cave stuff.

However, unlike classic caves, this scene is surprisingly well decorated. Antique furniture full of books and dusty tombs adorn the room. A rug sits in the center.

Dim candles provide a surprising amount of light. Demonic runes adorn the walls. If you look close enough, you'll see the Hot Topic price tags still attached to them.

In the center of the room is FATHER MAGNUS (40s), an intelligent man who's been wronged by society so many times it's become kind of an inside joke to continue wronging him. A local custom, if you will.

He draws a STRANGE AND DEMONIC SYMBOL on the ground. BROTHER CHORD (30s), a man who has been mistaken for Magnus' shadow more often than not, leans over Magnus' shoulder, peering at the rune.

BROTHER JERRY (20s), who's just happy to be there, stands in the corner, looking around and smiling.

Finally, after a moment, BROTHER APOLLO (30s), whose defining attribute is that he's, in fact, the fourth one, bursts into the room. He lands in the center of the room and catches his breath.

MAGNUS

Well?

Apollo holds up a finger.

APOLLO

I -- the -- found -- ran...

MAGNUS

Spit it out, Brother Apollo.

CHORD

Yeah! Spit it out, Brother Apollo!

Magnus flinches at the sudden noise.

MAGNUS

Right. Did you bring the sacrificial dagger?

APOLLO

Well, about that. I couldn't find a dagger, per se, but I did find this rather sharp stick.

He produces a GNARLED AND POINTY STICK.

MAGNUS

A stick?

APOLLO

A sharp stick.

MAGNUS

From outside?

APOLLO

Yes.

MAGNUS

That's revolting.

APOLLO

I like it. It's got a nice weight to it.

MAGNUS

You expect me to summon a great and all-powerful demon with a dirty stick.

CHORD

I don't know boss, it looks pretty sharp to me.

APOLLO

See? It's perfect! Do you see how sharp it looks.

MAGNUS

I KNOW -- I know it looks sharp, but the sharpness isn't the issue. We aren't just summoning a demon, brothers. We are trying to earn its respect. So please, show some class.

He motions to Apollo.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Throw the stick away and get me a kitchen knife.

Apollo salutes and runs off.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
 Brother Chord. How is the --  
 sacrifice? Is he prepared?

He motions to Jerry. Jerry waves.

JERRY  
 Hi! Happy to be here!

CHORD  
 Oh, he's ready boss...

MAGNUS  
 It's Father...

CHORD  
 Watch this. Brother Jerry. Would  
 you come over here for a second?

JERRY  
 Hi, brother! Father. Looking very  
 menacing today, my lord.

CHORD  
 How's your blood feeling, Jerry?

JERRY  
 Oh, I'm brimming with it! Do you  
 need some? I've got plenty to go  
 around, just got to get it out of  
 my body somehow. You got something  
 sharp?

MAGNUS  
 That won't be required. Not yet, at  
 least.

JERRY  
 Well, if you need me, I'm here to  
 serve. Just -- just happy to be  
 here.

A beat.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
 With the guys...

After an awkward silence, Apollo reenters the room. He still  
 has the stick. He is also holding a dull-looking butter  
 knife.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
 Apollo! Good to see you, buddy!  
 Nice looking stick! Awfully sharp.

APOLLO  
Someone gets it!

MAGNUS  
Did you bring the knife?

Apollo hands the knife to Magnus.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
This is a butter knife. How am I  
going to --

He throws the knife on the ground.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Give me that stick.

Apollo hands him the stick. Magnus stares at it for a second  
before smashing it over his knee.

APOLLO  
Nooooo!

Apollo dives to the ground and cradles the stick like a lost  
son.

MAGNUS  
Alright. Change of plans. Let's  
perform the ritual without the  
sacrifice. Places brothers.

Apollo and Chord position themselves on the sides of the  
DEMONIC RUNE. Jerry goes to lie in the center.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Actually, Brother Jerry. We have a  
new position for you. You may go  
stand next to Brother Apollo.

Jerry heads over. Once in position, Magnus produces a book.  
He opens to a page and begins reading.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Oh! Heed my call, great demon  
Borghast! We seek the power of your  
Demonic Wishing Orb.

APOLLO  
BOSS!

MAGNUS  
WHAT! I mean -- Yes, Brother  
Apollo?

APOLLO  
What's the Demonic Wishing Orb?

CHORD  
It's an artifact that every great demon possesses. They say it gives the holder infinite power!

MAGNUS  
Yes, that's right. Now no more interuptions. Please accept our gracious sacrifice of -- this sharp stick. I will now speak the words of power, and with that, your summoning will be complete!

Chord is starting to shake with excitement. Apollo starts looking around nervously.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
DEMONIA!

Jerry sits beaming. The room starts glowing ominously.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
MORTUS!

The stick starts shaking and lifts into the air.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
ALAKAZAM!

Suddenly, everything goes quiet, and the stick falls to the ground. The group looks confused.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
Did I have the wrong intonation?

JERRY  
That sounded great to me...

And the room explodes in fire. Apollo dives for cover. Magnus begins maniacally laughing. Chord awkwardly starts laughing along with Magnus. Jerry seems unfazed.

And then the room completely fills with light.

INT. DARK & DANK DEMONIC CAVE - NIGHT

BORGHAST  
Hey. Hey buddy! Wake up.

Our once nice-looking room has been destroyed. The rug is singed, and some of the antique furniture is on fire. The cult members are unconscious on the ground.

Oh, and a hulking demonic figure named BORGHAST is standing over Magnus' body.

Magnus starts to blink awake.

BORGHAST (CONT'D)

There you go, buddy. Easy does it.  
You okay, man?

MAGNUS

Yes, I'm all right.

BORGHAST

You need something to drink? I can  
get you some water?

MAGNUS

No, that's quite all right. Thank  
you, though.

Magnus... There's a demon in front of you.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

The Demon!

All the other cult members wake up. Chord scrambles to his feet and approaches Magnus. Borghast looks over his shoulder.

BORGHAST

Where?!

MAGNUS

Where? What do you mean "where?"

BORGHAST

Don't do that to me, man. I have a  
condition. You can not scare me  
like that.

CHORD

Boss! The orb!

MAGNUS

Right. Oh, great and powerful  
demon! I have a request for you.

Silence. Apollo and Jerry get to their feet and make their way over to the group.

More silence.

BORGHAST  
(To Apollo)  
I think he's talking to you.

MAGNUS  
No, I'm talking to -- Borghast, is  
it?

BORGHAST  
Yep.

MAGNUS  
Why do you think you're here?

BORGHAST  
I was out hunting for puffball  
mushrooms to make some vegetarian  
steaks for my girlfriend and her  
parents, when I heard an explosion  
come from this cave. I ran inside  
to check it out and found you guys  
in here, passed out.

MAGNUS  
Right... And you don't happen to  
have a Demonic Wishing Orb with  
you?

BORGHAST  
What's with you guys and demons?  
It's starting to weird me out.

MANGUS  
What do you mean? Why wouldn't we  
be talking about demons?

BORGHAST  
Because demons don't exist.

A moment of silence.

CHORD  
But, Mr. Borghast. You're a demon.

Another moment.

BORGHAST  
Are you talking to me? Or him?

He points to Jerry, who waves.

MAGNUS  
Group huddle.

Magnus pulls aside the cultists into a tight huddle.

CHORD

What's wrong with Mr. Borghast,  
boss?

MAGNUS

He seems to have some sort of  
blockage in his psyche, preventing  
him from understanding what he  
truly is.

APOLLO

What are we going to do?

JERRY

Don't worry, I'm sure Father will  
think of something.

MAGNUS

Of course. Brother Apollo, fetch me  
a chalkboard. I have an idea.

INT. DARK & DANK DEMONIC CAVE - DAY

The cave, which is much less on fire, is now set up like a  
classroom. A large chalkboard is in the center of the room.  
Magnus is positioned where a teacher would stand.

It's been six hours. The candles in the room are now low.

The other cult members and Borghast sit on the floor, criss-  
Apollo-apple sauce.

Chord is writing notes, and Apollo tries to copy from him.  
Chord defensively hides his work.

Jerry whispers something to Borghast. The two chuckle.

MAGNUS

Ahem!

The group stands to attention.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

Yes. As I was saying.

He points to a chalkboard. A CRUDE DRAWING OF BORGHAST is on  
the board. Next to it is an equal sign, and after that the  
word "DEMON."

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
 Demons of legend possess what  
 attributes on their heads?

CHORD  
 Horns! It's Horns, sir!

MAGNUS  
 Very good, Chord!

Chord makes a face at Apollo.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
 And what does Borghast possess on  
 his head?

Silence in the room. Eventually, Apollo hesitantly raises his  
 hand.

APOLLO  
 Is it -- horns, sir?

MAGNUS  
 Yes!

Magnus circles the head of the Borghast drawing.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)  
 In summary, you have demon hands,  
 demon hooves, demon horns, a  
 demon's strength, among many many  
 other repetitious and excruciating  
 details. You, after six hours of  
 basic observations, Borghast are in  
 fact, without a doubt, a demon. Now  
 can I please have my fucking orb.

BORGHAST  
 But demons aren't real.

MAGNUS  
 AND YET HERE YOU ARE. ORB. NOW.

Borghast starts to look concerned. The world around him  
 waves. Demons aren't real, yet he's a demon. These two facts  
 battle in his brain.

BORGHAST  
 I'm a demon.

He looks at his hands. Magnus looks excited.

BORGHAST (CONT'D)  
And demons aren't real. So, I must  
not exist.

MAGNUS  
What the actual fuck did you just  
say?

BORGHAST  
Holy shit -- I need to sit down.

Borghast stumbles through the room and leans against the  
wall. He puts his head in his hands and sits.

BORGHAST (CONT'D)  
I don't know what's real anymore.  
Is any of this even real? Is this  
all a simulation? Are we all actors  
on a stage, dancing for the  
enjoyment for some unseen audience.  
I don't know if I can do this guys.

He starts rocking. Magnus kicks the wall. Hard. He hurts his  
toe before falling to his knees.

MAGNUS  
I can't do this. All I wanted was  
an orb of supreme power and  
destruction. What did I do to  
deserve this?

CHORD  
Boss! Are you alright?

MAGNUS  
WHAT DO YOU THINK, BROTHER CHORD?

CHORD  
I think you look pretty sad.

MAGNUS  
Yes. I guess you're right.

Jerry sees the pain in his best friends heart and pushes  
towards the demon. He puts a reassuring hand on the demons  
shoulder.

JERRY  
Hey, B-Dog. You feeling all good?

BORGHAST  
No, J-Man. I'm a demon and I don't  
fucking exist. I'm far from fucking  
all good.

When his anger flares, fires form around the room.

JERRY

Easy there, big guy. What do you need right now?

BORGHAST

What do I need?

JERRY

Yeah, like what will help you feel -  
- real. Times like these, I like to try things that apply to the five senses. Something physical. Something real to help me feel grounded. A smell. A touch. A taste?

Borghast perks up. The rest of the group is staring at what's happening as if a man was trying to give a therapy lesson to a demon.

BORGHAST

I could go for some chips. You have the cheesy triangle ones?

JERRY

No, but we can get some for you. Would that help you feel more real?

Borghast nods sullenly.

JERRY (CONT'D)

All right B-Dog. Let's get you some chips! Magnus do we have chips?

MAGNUS

No.

JERRY

Can you get some?

INT. A NEARBY GAS STATION - DAY

The gas station is normal, with various things for sale scattered around the store. Magnus and Chord wait in line with a BAG OF CHIPS.

The robed figures stick out like a sore thumb.

The chips slowly slide down the conveyor belt towards the check out.

Save for the background Muzak, the scene is completely silent.

CASHIER  
You find everything you need?

INT. DARK & DANK DEMONIC CAVE - DAY

Magnus bursts into the room. He throws the chips at Borghast.

MAGNUS  
There. Feel better yet? Can we talk about the orb?

BORGHAST  
Yeah! Of course... Oh. These are the wrong ones. Can you get the blue ones?

INT. A NEARBY GAS STATION - DAY

Same as before, save for the fact a BLUE BAG OF CHIPS slowly moves down the conveyer.

CASHIER  
Hey! You guys look familiar. Were you here before?

INT. DARK & DANK DEMONIC CAVE - DAY

Magnus, once again, bursts in and hurls the chips at Borghast.

MAGNUS  
CHIPS! ORB! NOW!

Borghast pulls out a chip and eats it. He smiles immediately.

BORGHAST  
I am real! These are really fucking good.

MAGNUS  
The orb. Do you have the Demonic Wishing Orb, oh *GREAT* and *POWERFUL* DEMON?

BORGHAST  
DEMON? Where?

Magnus loses it. He starts destroying anything in sight. The rest of the brothers cower in fear.

BORGHAST (CONT'D)

Nah I'm just messing with you. I found this cool rock in my pocket while you were gone and thought this might be what you were talking about.

He produces a SHINING ORB. He tosses it to Magnus.

BORGHAST (CONT'D)

Thanks for the chips and the pep talk boys. I should bounce. It's been fun. Later J-Man.

Jerry waves to him. And, just like before, the room is engulfed in flame. All the cultists pass out.

INT. DARK & DANK DEMONIC CAVE - NIGHT

A little scorched again, the cult members start to come to. Magnus pats himself down and produces the shining orb. He smiles at it.

MAGNUS

I have it. After dealing with so many idiots, I finally have it! The Demonic Wishing Orb! With this, I can rule the city... No. I could rule the world!  
MUHAHAHAha...hahaha...ha...ha.

He moves the orb around in his hand. It's light and plastic.

MAGNUS (CONT'D)

It's fake, isn't it.

Chord, Apollo, and Jerry approach Magnus. Magnus gets on the ground in the fetal position. The group tries to comfort him.

CHORD

But, it looks like the Demonic Wishing Orb. So it must be real!

APOLLO

That's what you told Borghast!

JERRY

Yeah, and B-Dog wouldn't give you a fake orb like that. It's gotta be real.

As we hear those lines, we see the outside of the cave, where Borghast is listening intently. He laughs and takes flight with massive demon wings, tearing into the night sky.

Fade to Black