

SON OF MAN



Written by

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Based on, The Antichrist

EXT. CULT'S RANCH OPEN FIELD - NIGHT

RAÚL (45), a Mexican bearded man, long black hair and corpulent body, takes his last breath of life, lying on the grass with his eyes wide open.

He nervously scans his surroundings without being able to focus his attention on anything.

Spurting blood so as not to choke.

Surrounded by the darkness of the night.

His crystalline fearful eyes shining against the silver glow of the cold moon. His left outline illuminated by the flames of the far bonfire.

One last sigh. Raul is dead.

JOHN (33), white Italian looking man, prominent shin and hard features, has been starring at him intently.

DEVAN (O.S.)
Hey, Rookie!

DEVAN (38), lizard looking fellow, with long blonde worn out hair, walks towards John, who doesn't answer.

Gets to his side.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
You knew him?

JOHN
No.

DEVAN
Then, why are you looking at him?

John doesn't answer, keeps his focus on Raúl.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
So, you've never seen one before,
have you.

JOHN
One?

DEVAN
A dead one.

John nods negatively.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
You should've seen THE RAM, that
one really suffered.

JOHN
Is not that.

DEVAN
What?

JOHN
Suffering.

DEVAN
Then...

JOHN
I wanted to know what it feels
like.
(beat)
To die.

DEVAN
And?

JOHN
I'm disappointed.

Devan looks at John, puzzled. Then, he gazes at Raúl's
corpse, barely visible in the night.

DEVAN
Poor bastard, at least he could
have tried to evade THE RAMMING.
(beat)
We wasted a good sacrifice.

Devan spits on the grass.

JOHN
What happens now?

DEVAN
Candidates are fucked for tonight,
guess it wasn't their time.

John looks up.

JOHN
Fate, uh?

Into the FULL MOON setting upon them.

A moment of silence, then---

DEVAN
Okay, Let's go. They're waiting for
us.

Devan walks away from John, but---

JOHN
I saw something.

Devan turns to face him.

DEVAN
What do you mean?

JOHN
Before, by the fire. Just before
the ram went mad.

DEVAN
What the fuck are you talking
about?

JOHN
I was listening to the leader, you
know, he was giving the speech
about the brotherhood.
(beat)
I looked beyond the flames of the
bonfire, into the night in the back-
--

(BRIEF FLASHBACK)

A shot of the FLAMES OF THE BONFIRE, moving calmly in the
night. Beyond the shine of fire and the smoke, deep into the
DARKNESS beyond.

The silhouette of someone, of something.

(END OF FLASHBACK) back to---

OPEN FIELD

Devan stares in silence, he takes in John's frightened gaze.

DEVAN
What.
(beat)
What was it?

JOHN
I've seen it once before. The day
after I got "inducted" into the
cult.

DEVAN
(smiling)
Yeah. I remember the day we went
for you. Real fight you gave us.

JOHN
You kidnapped me.

DEVAN
Yeah, that's the drill, isn't it?
(beat)
We fucking saved you, gave you
purpose, a family.

JOHN
And I'm grateful to the
BROTHERHOOD.

DEVAN
Yeah, you should be.
(beat)
Now let's go back before they send
for us.

Devan walks away again, while John takes a last look at Raúl.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
Leave your boyfriend behind
cutiepie! Let's go!

John turns around now, he steps up to catch up with Devan.

As they walk, they both pass right by the side of a HUGE DEAD
RAM, bloodied and lying on its right side.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
What a waste.

They keep walking.

JOHN
Hey, I wanted to ask.

DEVAN
What?

JOHN
Why rams?

DEVAN
Da fuck should I know, I'm not into
that BLACK MAGIC shit.

JOHN

You don't believe in it?

DEVAN

No, I don't believe in it, I know for a fact it's real. It's just beyond me.

JOHN

Got it.

A cold breeze howls through the high grass, making darkness unravel under the mute night sky.

John feels it in his bones, he comforts himself by rubbing his arms.

DEVAN

You know the leader talks about The HAND OF GOD, right? The imposed fate of mankind, the already written book of history, right?

JOHN

Uhm.

As they walk, John and Devan now enter the INNER ROAD of the ranch. In the far end of it, A single lightbulb illuminates the entrance of a HUGE SHED.

DEVAN

Before I got here, with the brotherhood, I had a rough path.
(beat)
Classic tale, nowhere to go, no prospects or plans.

John looks at Devan now.

DEVAN (CONT'D)

There was something else.

JOHN

What?

DEVAN

It was this thing, like a sign from above or something like that.

JOHN

What was it?

DEVAN

My watch.

JOHN

Watch?

DEVAN

Yeah, I used to look at it, right?

(beat)

And every time I did, I'd find the same thing.

JOHN

What?

DEVAN

Repeated numbers.

JOHN

What do you mean?

DEVAN

Are you dumb or what. Repeated numbers! Like they all were the same.

(beat)

It started with 3:33 am. I remember many nights I would stumble upon this number.

(beat)

I thought it had to mean something. It couldn't be just a coincidence, right?

JOHN

Right.

DEVAN

I was so convinced someone was talking to me, guiding me.

JOHN

And?

DEVAN

It never worked, or better put, things got worse every time.

(beat)

Maybe fate wasn't for me to get better.

(beat)

We're not part of GOD's plan, us.

Devan kicks a stone from the dirt road, angry.

Discharging.

JOHN
Where did you get that watch from?

DEVAN
(uninterested)
It was a gift.

Suddenly, the big doors of the shed open. From the inside, a WHITE VAN comes out, front lights illuminating the road and the two men talking.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
Careful

Devan pushes John to the side, they leave space for the van to pass.

John looks to the inside of the van as it passes by his side, he can see people inside, most of them with BAGS COVERING THEIR HEADS.

One of them gets his face covered as the van passes.

JOHN
Has this ever happen before?

DEVAN
No.
(beat)
Don't worry about it, THE LEADER
knows what to do.

John and Devan get to the large doors at the shed entrance, they go---

INSIDE THE SHED

Where they are welcomed by a round of barking from the DOGS locked in the cages on both sides of the inner corridor.

They're all ROTTWEILER dogs.

John and Devan keep walking across the room.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
Wanna hear another strange thing?

JOHN
Yeah, sure.

DEVAN
You know why these dogs are in the
entrance?

JOHN
I heard it was for protection.

DEVAN
Something like that. Supposedly,
when OUR SAVIOR arrives, these dogs
will be the first to know.

JOHN
I wish they would stop barking all
the time.

As John and Devan keep walking towards the other side of the
room, the dogs stop barking.

DEVAN
Hey, wish granted.

JOHN
Seems so.

Devan turns to face John with menacing eyes.

DEVAN
You're not our savior, are you?

John keeps quiet, doesn't know how to respond to that.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
Just kidding man, relax.

Devan gets to the small door in the end of the room.

KNOCK, KNOCK!

He knocks on the door, someone opens from the other side.
It's CARL (42), black bald man with a face that indicates a
lot of experience, cold inexpressive eyes on him.

CARL
Forgot the hour of the meeting?

DEVAN
You know how things are, Carl.

CARL
Yeah, whatever.
(now looking at John)
Come inside, both.

John and Devan come inside the---

SECONDARY ROOM

Where they follow Carl through a place filled with WOODEN CRATES. Other CULT MEMBERS are opening some of the boxes and taking out MILITARY WEAPONRY from inside them.

John looks at them, receiving serious, menacing eyes in return.

People mostly murmuring to themselves.

CARL

(to devan)

So Devan, what the hell happened at the induction? I heard you guys fucked it up.

DEVAN

Us? Fuck off. The damn ram went nuts. Had to put it down.

CARL

And one of the candidates died?

DEVAN

(nodding)

You know what THE LEADER says, if they can be killed, they're not "THE ONE".

(to John)

Right, John?

JOHN

(distracted by looking at the people around)

Yeah, sure.

CARL

John... I haven't seen you before.

(beat)

You're new, right?

DEVAN

Won his wings a few days ago, sold out his girlfriend to do so, didn't you, John.

JOHN

She's not my girlfriend.

Devan laughs at this.

DEVAN

Stone cold fellow this one.

JOHN
I did what I had to do.

CARL
Good, I like that.
(beat)
Keep that in mind now, John.

John goes for Carl's gaze, he sees the faint mockery smile he gives before the three of them enter the---

CEREMONIAL AREA

The place is dark, scarce illumination coming from moonlight entering through little square windows in the top of the walls.

Looks like the INTERIOR OF A CHURCH.

Rows of long BENCH SEATS surrounded by gothic style pillars, bathed in gold.

At both sides, surrounding the area, there's wooden antique style furniture.

Religious decoration all around, yet most of the paintings portray deformed figures, strange and scary looking.

FIRE and ASH.

John and Devan follow Carl through the central aisle. In front of them, at the MAIN STAGE, there's a GROUP OF CULT MEMBERS talking around a table.

The table is illuminated by the only source of light in the place, coming from a COLD-LIGHT FLUORESCENT TUBE.

SARA (36), a skinny woman with curly brown hair, there's a particular beauty about her, crosses Devan's path.

SARA
Fucking Devan, what took you so long?

DEVAN
Relax honey, I had to deal with the situation outside.

CARL
You heard?

SARA
(nodding but keeping eyes
on devan)
The leader just told us.

Carl walks to the other side of the table, while Devan stays by Sara's side.

John stays behind Devan, barely illuminated by the light above.

As he sees up, beyond the table and to the back of the place, he can see a person looking back at him, standing in the threshold of HUGE METAL GATES.

It's THE LEADER, a man dressed in red robe, with a drama mask (desperation) covering his face and a crown of thorns on his forehead.

Barely illuminated.

As John crosses eyes with THE LEADER---

A vision occurs.

MATCH CUT TO:

EXT. BONFIRE FIELD - NIGHT (MINUTES BEFORE)

(Ominous music plays, no diegetic audio)

John is staring beyond the flames and into the deep night beyond.

There's someone there, a dark figure.

At the same time, THE LEADER raises his hands, giving his speech to "NEW CANDIDATES", all of them tied up around the fire.

Meanwhile, other CULT MEMBERS surround them with rifles on their hands.

But John is focused on that STRANGE ANTHROPOMORPHIC FIGURE, barely visible beyond the fire.

Staring at him from the starless night.

John blinks.

The figure is no longer there.

He gazes around, sees nothing, while a sudden wind moves the flames, now dancing violently. Fire explodes, sending sparks all around.

The ram gets caught in the roaring of the flames, it rumbles nervously, pushing the ROPE tied to its neck and the cult member holding it.

A new explosion in the fire causes the ram to lose control, runs uncontrolled, tossing the cult member to the floor.

Releasing the ROPE. The ram keeps running nervously.

BAM!

Runs over one of the CANDIDATES in its desperate escape.

Someone yells, "stop him!"

A SHOTGUN FIRE is heard, the ram falls dead near Devan.

Silence.

Near the bonfire, THE LEADER puts his hands down. He turns and now faces John.

Others notice this, they turn as well. All looking at John now.

THE LEADER'S POV

John looks confused, doesn't understand why everyone's looking at him.

He moves his head nervously, but restrained.

The DARK FIGURE is now behind him...

(CRINGY SOUND FX!)

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. CHURCH LIKE PLACE INSIDE THE SHED - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Standing in the threshold, THE LEADER nods faintly and goes beyond the METAL GATES, which then close loudly.

DEVAN
(to john)
Hey, pay attention.

John walks a bit closer to the light.

As TEAM LEADER (52), a portly white man wearing a military cap and a wide blond mustache, is speaking, John looks at the table surface.

In there he sees SCHEMATICS of a big house, looks like a fortress. There are drawings on the schematics.

TEAM LEADER
We're dividing forces into two groups for the assault.

TEAM LEADER points to the far right of the schematics.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
Sniper will assume his position first, his mission is to take down both of the police men outside of the embassy.

TEAM LEADER now points to the EMBASSY ENTRANCE on the schematics.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
After two successful shots, he'll confirm deaths. Then, our MARTYR will move to the entrance.
(beat)
His objective, to call for guards attention to him.

TEAM LEADER now points to the two back corners of the EMBASSY.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
At the same time, Team A will gain positions on the two rear towers of the building, their objective is to take out the guards and immediately move into the front end towers.

TEAM LEADER comes back to the EMBASSY entrance.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
To allow this to happen, our martyr must detonate the explosives at the entrance, incapacitating the first line of resistance and allowing TEAM B to approach.

Now, TEAM LEADER points to the far left side of the SCHEMATICS.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
Upon hearing the detonation, TEAM B
will charge into the embassy
entrance, engaging the guards
there, allowing TEAM A's surprise
attack from the back.

(beat)
Thus, allowing us to gain the upper
hand and control the building.

TEAM LEADER now raises his eyes and gazes everyone in the
table.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
Understood?

CARL
I'm in, sir.

SARA
Sounds good enough for me.

DEVAN
I'm no strategy expert, fuck should
I know.
(looks at john)
What you say, John?

JOHN
Who's the martyr?

TEAM LEADER smiles.

TEAM LEADER
Smart.

Delays the answer.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
As you may imagine, some of our
team members are needed because of
their technical skills. And of
course, I can't be the one since
I'm running the whole operation.

DEVAN
I don't like where this is going.

SARA
That's cause you're a coward,
always been.

DEVAN
 Fuck you, Sara.
 (beat)
 So, the whole reason to call us was
 /to...

CARL
 /We're all martyrs, Devan. That's
 the deal.

TEAM LEADER
 Yes, Carl. This is our pledge, to
 give our lives for the future of
 this world.

DEVAN
 Don't fuckin' act so self-righteous
 with me, I'm one of the oldest.

SARA
 Yet here you are, complaining.

TEAM LEADER
 I understand. No matter how much we
 love our cause, how blindly we
 follow this path of light, dying is
 no joke.

TEAM LEADER takes out his pistol, it is an old western
 looking REVOLVER. He takes out the CYLINDER and tosses all
 the BULLETS on the table.

Takes one.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
 (pointing the bullet at devan)
 You believe in fate?

He puts the bullet in the cylinder, loads the gun.

BAM!

Puts it on the table.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
 Or are you like us, FREE MEN.

All members around the table are now looking at that
 revolver.

Sara goes first.

SARA
 Oh I'm free. You can bet on that.

She grabs the revolver and points it to the ground.

DEVAN

Sara...

SARA

That's why we're here, right?

(looks at devan, he looks
back in fear)

No need to have second thoughts.

She pulls the trigger!

No shot. Leaves it back on the table. She sighs.

TEAM LEADER

I see.

Carl comes to the table now.

CARL

Oh girl, you're one crazy bitch, I
give you that.

He takes the gun.

CARL (CONT'D)

There's no other way, uh?

TEAM LEADER

Do not fear the path Carl, embrace
it. You think today is your
glorious day?

CARL

I'm okay either way.

Carl presses the trigger. Nothing happens.

CARL (CONT'D)

Guess not today.

As Carl gets back to his previous position, TEAM LEADER now
faces Devan.

DEVAN

Shit...

Devan walks up to the table, looks at the gun, clearly
nervous.

TEAM LEADER

Ready to earn your golden wings, my
friend?

DEVAN
Don't fucking joke with me.

He takes the revolver, looks at it.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
I choose my own fate, right?

Unexpectedly, Devan throws the gun at John, who catches it mid air, no hesitation.

DEVAN (CONT'D)
(kinda backfiring cause of
John's response)
Your turn, John.

JOHN
You sure about it?

DEVAN
(menacingly)
Yeah, you have a problem with that?

JOHN
(readying the revolver)
Okay.

John puts his finger in the trigger, raises the gun.

Raises it towards Devan.

DEVAN
What the fuck are you doing!? Hey!

SARA

CARL
(laughing)
Rookie's got balls!

JOHN
It's your turn Devan, whether you
like it or not.

DEVAN
Put the gun down, now!

JOHN
You want to change your fate by
changing mine.
(beat)
All right. But you see, I can do
the same.

DEVAN
Put it down!

Devan moves to stop John.

TEAM LEADER

STOP!

Devan stops on his tracks.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)

He's right. I want to see how this plays out.

DEVAN

You think this is a fucking game?
I'm not gonna---

CARL

He's right, you changed the outcome first by skipping your turn. You're free to do so, we know.

SARA

But so does he. I get it now.

TEAM LEADER

Yes.

(to devan)

You see, history has already been written. No matter the outcome, it's already been decided. This is our prison.

SARA

Only the CHOSEN ONE can change it.

JOHN

(still looking at devan)

That's right.

DEVAN

Okay, I get it. Maybe I'm the chosen one.

TEAM LEADER

You're here, aren't you? THE LEADER choose you for a reason.

(beat)

A candidate.

DEVAN

Yeah, maybe I am! C'mon, shoot me!

(beat)

I'm not gonna die.

As Devan juggles the gun in his hands, TEAM LEADER takes a look at John, still standing just outside the light on top of the table.

CARL (CONT'D)

Well?

DEVAN

What? You want me to point it at you?

SARA

Fuckin' take the shot Devan, let's get over this.

CARL

Hey, I'm next.

JOHN

Weren't you happy either way?

Carl looks back at John, kinda annoyed by his statement.

TEAM LEADER

Take the shot, we don't have all night.

DEVAN

I know, I know.

(beat)

Fuck!

Devan moves the hand fast and presses the trigger.

BANG!

The bullet pierces the wooden floor, leaves a hollow mark.

Everyone's quiet for a while.

Until---

TEAM LEADER

Okay, let's meet outside. Carl, Sara, you're on team A.

(beat)

John, you're on team B.

TEAM LEADER goes around the table and now faces Devan.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)

(taking his shoulder)

So as you, our glorious MARTYR.

TEAM LEADER walks past Carl and Sara, into the aisle, looks straight into John's eyes as he passes.

TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
See you outside.

TEAM LEADER leaves the place. Sara walks up to Devan.

SARA
Dev...

DEVAN
Go.

She sighs, walks away, looking pissed at John as she walks by his side.

CARL
See you outside, bud.

Carl pats Devan on the shoulder and walks away, reaches John on his way out.

CARL (CONT'D)
Let's go, John.

John nods, but---

DEVAN
Wait!

John looks at Devan.

JOHN
What?

DEVAN
I...

JOHN
Yes, you. You choose this, remember? 3:33.

DEVAN
3:33?

JOHN
Maybe you should have listened.

As John walks away, Devan raises his wrist and looks at his WATCH. The time is 3:33 AM.

He's shocked.

Looking away from the watch, Devan now faces the HUGE METAL GATES behind the table.

He can read the inscription in the metal, it says:

"Lasciate ogne speranza, voi ch'intrate"

("Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.")

FADE TO BLACK.