

HAIL MARY SAMPLE

Written by

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INT. EXORCIST ROOM - DAY

The exorcist room is a stark room full of religious paraphernalia. The overall feel of the room is that of a surgical room. A metal bed with straps is at the center of the room. Items harkening to Catholic, Hindu, Islamic, Judaic, and Buddhist faiths are organized on various tabletops around the perimeter of the room.

The room is silent. The proverbial calm before the storm. After the room has been silent for a solid ten seconds, a chaotic entrance of characters bursts into the room.

SIMON, a man in his twenties, has an imposing presence. He is large, muscular and short fused. He wears a tee shirt and jeans with combat boots.

HELEN, a woman in her twenties. Attractive and soft, Helen is the last person you would imagine doing criminal activity. She wears a put together outfit with matching purse.

MURPHY, a man in his early twenties. Murphy is small frames, rounded shouldered young man with a nervous disposition. He wears a hoodie and jeans with tennis shoes.

JAMES, a man in his late twenties. James is a calm and calculating man. He wears a sports coat over a shirt with tie and jeans with expensive shoes.

MARY, a woman in her twenties/thirties. She is wearing a sleeveless top and short skirt. She is a bartender in an upscale bar and looks the part.

SIMON is carrying MARY, who is kicking and screaming. HELEN and MURPHY are following close behind. Helen rushes to one of the tables and grabs a bottle of holy water. Murphy grabs an old bible and begins flipping through the pages frantically. JAMES walks in avoiding the antics of his friends.

MARY

Please! Let me go! Please! Help
me! Help!

Simon slams her on the table and with help from Helen
he straps her to the table. Mary is panicked and
confused.

SIMON

Shut up! Shut up! You're not
getting away! There's nowhere
for you to run, demon!

Simon circles the table checking the straps.

MARY

Demon? What are you talking
about! Please let me go!

Mary struggles against the restraints.

Murphy reading from a bible. He holds his hand in
front of him as if to make the sign of the cross.

MURPHY

Exorciso te, omnis spirtus
immundi...

Mary looks at Murphy in disbelief.

MARY

Oh my God... what are you
doing?

Murphy is shocked. He stops his prayer.

MURPHY

She just said God...

Helen and Simon are confused. Murphy looks to them
for guidance.

SIMON

It's a trick...

Murphy walks over to Simon.

MURPHY

I heard it!

James approaches slowly approaches and then retreats. He moves like a tiger in a cage. He has a predatory look on his face as he stares at Mary.

SIMON

It was god with a lower case
"g"...

MARY

It was God... capital "G" God!

Murphy throws up his arms in defeat.

MURPHY

She said it again!

Helen steps forward with a bottle of holy water. She prays as she starts throwing holy water on Mary.

MARY

What are you doing?

Mary's thrashing has hiked her skirt revealing a hint of her panties. James tries to stare without anyone noticing.

Helen is shaking the holy water all over Mary. She looks at the holy water.

HELEN

Holy water is not working...

Mary is in near hysterics.

James has to move to get another look at Mary's legs.

Mary notices James for a split second and he quickly recovers and looks the other way.

MARY

Do you really think I'm a
demon? I'm not... I am not a
demon... I swear. I don't know
what you are trying to do...

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

I... I'll drink that holy
water... Please... let me go.

Murphy goes to Simon.

MURPHY

She's willing to drink holy
water...

Helen is unsure of how to proceed.

HELEN

Should I... I mean... what
should I do?

Murphy looks at Mary and then to Helen.

MURPHY

Let her drink it.

SIMON

It won't prove anything.

MURPHY

If she doesn't burn, it means
she's not a demon.

Helen looks to Simon and Murphy. She looks down at
Mary who is pleading with her eyes.

HELEN

Here...

She pours the water into Mary's mouth. Murphy watches
carefully.

MURPHY

She drank it, Simon... she
drank the holy water...

Simon advances menacingly onto Murphy.

SIMON

It's a trick! I'm, telling
you... She's a demon.

Helen comes to Murphy's side.

HELEN

A demon can't drink holy
water...

MURPHY

A demon isn't going to call out
to God!

Simon turns away in frustration.

Helen and Murphy share a worried glance at one
another.

James steps forward.

JAMES

A demon can't do those things,
that is true... But the devil
can.

Mary looks at James in disbelief.

MARY

What?

James has everyone's attention. He leans against the
table letting his fingers brush against Mary's thigh.

HELEN

What are you saying? You think
she's Lucifer?

James soaks in Mary's body. He hovers over her as if
he is at a banquet.

JAMES

The great satan. The prince of
darkness.

MURPHY

But... she's a girl...

HELEN

Woman.

James rolls his eyes.

JAMES

Do you think it matters to the
devil what gender it is?

Mary chimes in to get Helen and Murphy back on her
side.

MARY

I'm not the devil!

Murphy is skeptical. He looks closely at Mary. He
shakes his head.

MURPHY

The devil can't drink holy
water...

James sighs and shakes his head. He speaks
deliberately with a solid base of knowledge.

JAMES

Nothing is holy in the presence
of the devil. No tools we can
wield will harm the devil.

Murphy is confused.

James strokes Mary's arms.

MURPHY

So if the devil is too powerful
for us... How do we fight him?
Her? It...

JAMES

We would need a divine
weapon... something beyond the
scope of mankind to create or
possess.

James slides his hand along the table as he gets
close to Mary's face. He examines her closely.

MURPHY

What about calling out to God?
The devil cannot utter the word
God.

HELEN

I think you mean the name of
God.

MARY

Jehovah, Yaweh, Jesus,
Mohammed, Buddha, Vishnu,
Flying Spaghetti Monster!

Helen and Murphy look at her slack jawed.

James pinches the bridge of his nose and breaths a
sigh of vague disgust.

JAMES

The devil was once God's most
beloved creation. In memory of
a time when God so loved him...
her, the devil can call out to
God. In sorrow and rage.

Mary feels a sense of violation from James. He is too
close and too familiar with her.

MARY

You're crazy! You are all
crazy! There's no such thing as
demons. There's no such thing
as the devil...

Simon rushes past the others and smacks Mary.

SIMON

Shut up!

James stands upright and steps back.

Helen jumps at this act of violence and stands
between Mary and Simon

HELEN

Simon!

Helen's protective nature quells Simon's rage.

SIMON

What?

Helen speaks in shock.

HELEN

You can't hit her!

Simon is taken aback. He tries to argue his case.

SIMON

She's a fucking demon. I can
hit a goddamn demon.

Murphy steps up to Simon's side.

MURPHY

We're not sure what she is.

Simon wheels around and focuses on Murphy, who cowers
from him.

SIMON

I'm sure. We followed the
signs. It lead us right to her.

Helen and Murphy pause to think about this.

MURPHY

We did follow the signs.

Helen shakes her head.

HELEN

I don't understand.

MARY

What signs?

Simon's rage is now focused on Mary.

SIMON

Your kind are done for here,
bitch. We know how to find you.

MARY

What are you talking about?

Helen leans in to Mary speaking calmly.

HELEN

We've been shown how to find
demons.

MARY

Shown? By whom?

Helen hesitates. She looks around to the others and
then answers.

HELEN

Father Michael.

James lunges in.

JAMES

Does his name scare you?

MARY

All of you scare me.

SIMON

Good.

Murphy walks away from the table.

MURPHY

I don't know. If shes not a
demon then we're all
kidnappers...

Simon walks over to Murphy and turns him around.

SIMON

Where's your faith?

Helen steps away from the table. She is shaken.

HELEN

We've never done this without
Father Michael...

James makes his way to the end of the table.

SIMON

You saw the signs yourself!

MARY

What the hell are these signs.

Simon walks to smack her again.

SIMON

I said shut...

Helen stops him.

HELEN

Stop it...

Simon shrinks from Helen.

Helen turns to Mary.

HELEN (CONT'D)

The signs are marks of a
demonic presence.

Mary is concerned.

MARY

And you think I have these
marks.

HELEN

(Nodding.)

We followed the signs.

Murphy turns and addresses the group.

MURPHY

Maybe we were wrong... maybe we
were tricked... misled...

MARY

Yes! Maybe you were misled.

Mary and Murphy stare at one another a moment.

MURPHY

Simon... this doesn't feel like
the other times.

James takes command of the room.

JAMES

Because this isn't like the
other times! She's more
powerful than the one's we've
encountered before.

MARY

I don't know what you are
talking about.

SIMON

Don't lie to us!

Simon advances toward Mary only to be intercepted by
Helen.

HELEN

She might not know, Simon...
You know full well that demons
can hide inside people, actual
people.

Mary pleads with Helen.

MARY

I drank the holy water... If
the demon were inside...

Simon tries again to get past Helen.

SIMON

James says that the devil can
make the water unholy.

Helen maintains her position between Simon and Mary.

His aggression is put to rest with Helen's hand on his chest.

HELEN
I don't know... That's just a theory.

Murphy begins to pace.

MURPHY
Maybe we should call Father Mike.

Simon shakes his head in protestation.

SIMON
We not going to do that.

MARY
No! Call him... he can clear this up.

SIMON
Shut up...

Simon pushes Helen aside only to have Murphy step in.

MURPHY
Simon...

SIMON
You too!

Helen sees that this is out of control.

HELEN
I'm calling Father Michael.

Simon steps toward Helen.

SIMON
We don't need him!

Murphy tries to stand tall against Simon.

MURPHY
Yeah... we do.

Helen grabs her cell phone.

James walks toward Mary. He is looking at her carefully.

Out of the corner of his eye he sees someone lying on the floor. He looks over and sees JENNIFER, a young woman, crying in the corner.

James slowly walks toward Jennifer.

He squints his eyes in doubt of wwhat they are seeing. He looks at the others in the room who don't seem to see her at all.

He draws closer.

He breaths heavily as he looks at her. He is fearful of what he sees.

He trembles as he whispers.

JAMES

Jennifer?

She turns her face to him. Her face is distorted, twisted and horrifying. James tumbles backward.

SIMON

James?

Simon rushes to James.

James flails at Simon as Simon tries to lift James to his feet.

James sees that it is Simon and swings around. He looks back to where Jennifer had been, but she is gone.

SIMON (CONT'D)

James... are you all right?

James tries to shake the vision.

JAMES

I thought I saw... I... it was nothing... I think we should call Mike.

Helen dials and holds the phone to her ear.

HELEN

Father Michael? Yes. We need some help. No. No. It's... We saw the signs. We... no... she's here... The signs... yes... but... but... We... We didn't... We followed... Yes, Father... Yes... Of course. Good-bye.

Helen hangs up the phone. She is shaken.

HELEN (CONT'D)

He's on his way.

Everyone freezes for a moment.

SIMON

He's mad?

Helen closes her eyes.

HELEN

Yes.

Murphy breaks into his pacing again.

MURPHY

We shouldn't have done this without him...

Simon rubs his head in frustration.

SIMON

The signs...

Helen sheepishly shakes her head.

HELEN

He says we aren't qualified...

Simon's aggression is building up inside him.

SIMON
That's bullshit!

HELEN
He says we can misinterpret the signs!

Simon is at a tipping point.

SIMON
Bullshit... We are not misinterpreting a damn thing!

James has newfound venom after his experience with Jennifer.

JAMES
We didn't make a mistake! She's hell spawn!

MARY
No! I'm not... I don't know why you are doing this!

HELEN
We need proof.

JAMES
What?

HELEN
If your theory is that she is the devil himself, you have to find a passage... or an indication...

MURPHY
Yeah... yeah... let's hit the books...

JAMES
You want us to read her to death?

HELEN

I want to know for certain what we are dealing with here. If she is the devil... if there is some kind of document that lets us test... or figure it out...

MURPHY

We have the most extensive library in the world on this subject right here!

JAMES

So if we find this test... proof... you'll let us do what must be done?

Helen nervously nods her head.

SIMON

All right... Let's do this.

CUT TO:

RESEARCH MONTAGE - DAY

Simon is pulling books out of a large trunk as Murphy drags another trunk from a storage room.

CUT TO:

RESEARCH MONTAGE - DAY

Helen is pouring over ancient texts while James is consulting an ornate Bible.

FADE TO:

RESEARCH MONTAGE - DAY

Murphy is taking notes on a yellow pad of paper.

FADE TO:

RESEARCH MONTAGE - DAY

Simon is looking at a scroll with the drawing of an intricate dagger on it. He traces his fingers over the words written on the scroll.

FADE TO:

RESEARCH MONTAGE - DAY

James is looking at a drawing of the devil.

FADE TO:

RESEARCH MONTAGE - DAY

Helen is looking at a drawing of an angel.

FADE TO:

RESEARCH MONTAGE - DAY

Murphy is reading a manuscript when he finds something and calls everyone to him.

MURPHY

I got something!

HELEN

What is it?

MURPHY

It's from the suppressed manuscripts that were found with the Dead Sea Scrolls.

JAMES

Is it an account of the devil on earth?

Murphy flips the pages back and forth. He studies the margins.

MURPHY

I think so, I can only read the German and Latin here in the margin. There are languages all over this scroll... I guess everyone took turns trying to translate it.

JAMES

What does it say?

Murphy nods in comprehension of a passage.

MURPHY

It's a story about a fallen angel... I think.

JAMES

A demon?

MURPHY

From the looks of it. See here, a divine spirit corrupted by... one of the deadly sins. I'm guessing... uh... yeah... I'm going to say pride.

JAMES

You can't tell?

MURPHY

It's a reference to one of the deadly sins... but there are so many versions of the order of the sins, variations on what the sins actually are... I'm guessing it's pride.

JAMES

Fine... what does it say?

MURPHY

Here... it says the holy men were helpless. They had no power over this spirit.

(MORE)

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Holy water would not burn it,
holy words would not... not
sure.. defeat, maybe?

JAMES

So she can evade the tests.

HELEN

I don't know... I actually
found a different passage...

JAMES

And what does yours say?

HELEN

That holy words hold no power
in the mouths of the unworthy.
Holy weapons hold no power in
the hands of the unclean.

SIMON

Are you suggesting we don't
have what it takes?

HELEN

I am saying that even in
Biblical times there was such a
thing as user error.

JAMES

Either way... both of these
points seem to point to her
being a demon.

Helen turns and looks at Mary.

MARY

What does that mean?

SIMON

Means we have to try harder.

MARY

What? Why? Why are you doing
this?

HELEN

It's what we do. We find the fallen. And we send them back to hell.

MARY

The fallen?

HELEN

The angels who fought against the throne...

Mary laughs in despair.

MARY

And... you think I'm...

Mary begins to cry.

Simon walks over and gags Mary.

SIMON

No one is going to hear you screaming. Understand? You aren't the first demon we've brought here.

MURPHY

I still don't know about this, guys... Maybe she's possessed... Possessed by something powerful...

Mary cries quietly.

SIMON

Possessions don't leave the signs.

JAMES

Only demons who have taken up residence in our world create the kind of havoc that we track.