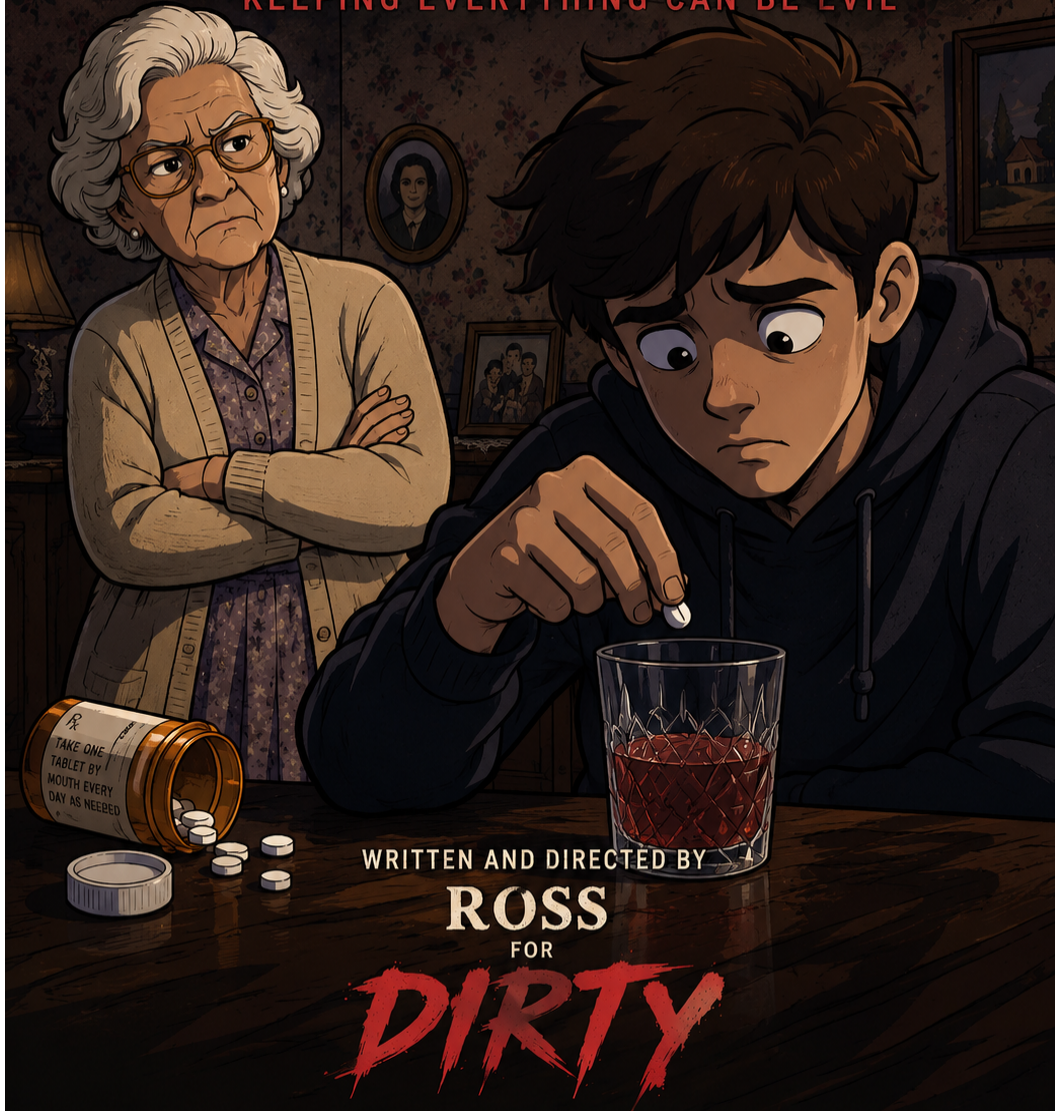


THE REVOLUTION
PRESENTS

ENTHIEL

KEEPING EVERYTHING CAN BE EVIL



WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

ROSS
FOR

DIRTY

INT. MESSINGER HOME - MORNING

ETHEL MESSINGER 60's 70s, is dusting the living room. She seems as if she has a lot on her mind

ARTHUR MESSINGER 60's 70's, emerges from the bedroom heading towards the front door. Without making eye contact, he offers Ethel a dry greeting.

ARTHUR

(dry)
Morning.

ETHEL

Good morning. Where are you off to?

ARTHUR

Out.

ETHEL

Well I realize that...but I asked where?

Arthur stops in his tracks, frustration covers his face.

ARTHUR

(frustrated)
I am going out for a walk. Why is it that you have to know every detail of what I am doing?

ETHEL

It was just a question.

ARTHUR

More like a prelude to a nag.

Arthur turns to continue his trek out of the door when Ethel has one last set of words.

ETHEL

(sly)
Maybe I just wanted to know if you were going to see her again.

The comment freezes Arthur in his tracks. He turns back to Ethel.

ARTHUR

You can't let it go can you? ***I made a mistake.***

ETHEL

It was more than a mistake. ***You were seeing her for months.***

ARTHUR

Have you ever wondered about the root of that?

ETHEL

You're a man. **That is what you do.**

ARTHUR

You are the reason I connected with Barbara. You and **only you.**

ETHEL

Oh that is your ego and it is totally bull.

ARTHUR

It is fact. Living with you for the last three years has been hell. Your nagging has increased to a fever pitch and it drives me insane.

ETHEL

And so the normal thing to do is to go and sleep with the BIMBO next door?

ARTHUR

Normal or not I did it. Being with Barbara gave me something I wasn't getting at home. A calm space that I **OH SO** needed. Your over protective ways have burned me out.

ETHEL

It was my overprotective ways that triggered the medical team to find out about your illness. You would be six feet under had they not caught the cancer in its early stages.

ARTHUR

What difference does it make? Doctor's have given me two years. It's a wrap either way.

ETHEL

Two years is a long time. Anything could happen. Things can change. Medicine can improve. The point is, had they not caught it at its early stages, you would be living in a world of suffering right now.

Arthur takes a moment before sarcastically clapping. He then turns and for the third time, continues his trek towards the exit.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

(earnest)

So I have to ask again, are you going to see her?

Arthur stops before continuing his exit.

Ethel takes a deep breath. She is frustrated and doesn't know what to do. She picks up her cell phone and begins dialing. Someone picks up on the other end.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Dauthen Cates I need answers and I need them quick. Did you find out what business my husband has with his lawyer? You told me you were familiar with his secretary...well that is not good enough. I NEED ANSWERS. After the conversation I just had I am sure he is leaving me. Please get on it. Goodbye.

Ethel disconnects the call. She stands still and attempts to decompress.

The door opens and in walks her grandson CAMERON and his girlfriend GWENDOLYN

ETHEL (CONT'D)

Cameron, You came at the right time. good morning Gwendolyn.

GWENDOLYN

Good morning Ms. Ethel.

ETHEL

Can you give cameron and I a few moments alone? I need to talk to him about something.

GWENDOLYN

Oh sure. I'll go wait in his room.

ETHEL

Thank you.

Gwendolyn exits into the backrooms.

CAMERON
(concerned)
What is it grandma?

ETHEL
The thing that we discussed. **We need to make it happen.**

CAMERON
You can't be serious about that?

ETHEL
I am extremely serious Cameron. **We are about to lose everything.**

CAMERON
I think you're overreacting.

ETHEL
Do you think I am a fool? Do you think I was born yesterday? Your grandfather is in love with another woman. He wants to die in peace next to someone who won't fuss over him. **In other words someone who doesn't give a damn about him.**

CAMERON
(passionate)
Grandma if that is what he wants then you have to let him go.

ETHEL
This is not about what I want or what he wants..this is about Barbara Jean Gunsmore ending up with his fortune. We are the ones that took care of your grandfather for a lifetime. We had his back and made his life comfortable. The fact that he is considering leaving me for her is despicable.

CAMERON
But you don't know if that is the case.

ETHEL
I trust my intuition. Besides I told you that I found an AI generated appointment in his phone with Busch and Lombardi. They are the top Divorce attorneys in California. A firm with a reputation for being vicious when it comes to the monetary end of a divorce.

(MORE)

ETHEL (CONT'D)

Cameron I need you to somehow drop the pills into Barbara's drink and I need you to make that happen immediately.

Cameron takes a few steps away in thought. Then...

CAMERON

I can't do that.

ETHEL

Its not going to kill her Cameron.

CAMERON

Might as well....Crumulus pills will render her paralyzed.

Ethel takes a few steps away from Cameron

ETHEL

Well its certainly better than death.

CAMERON

Grandma how can you be so cruel and unemotional about what you are asking me to do?

ETHEL

Barbara brought this on her self when she knowingly slept with a married man.

Ethel moves in to Cameron.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

This is to protect **you** more than anyone. The empire is your legacy and for you to lose it to some gold digging....

Ethel is hit with a bout of dizziness. Cameron makes sure she doesn't fall. Ethel is quick to recover.

ETHEL (CONT'D)

You need to do as I say. figure out a way to get those pills into Barbara's drink. If you don't, then i will have no choice but to stop funding Donovan's medical fees.

Cameron is stunned.

CAMERON

What?

ETHEL
 (feigning regret)
 Yes...I Can no longer afford to keep
 paying If I lose everything.

CAMERON
 (emotional)
 My dad is your son. How can you blackmail
 me with his life?

ETHEL
 (matter of fact)
 He is a vegetable. I only agreed to pay
 and keep him alive because of you.

CAMERON
 Not because of me. The doctor's said
 there was a possibility for recovery.

ETHEL
 A slim possibility.

CAMERON
 (rising anger)
 If there is even 1/2 a percent of a
 possibility, we hold on to that.

ETHEL
 (aggressive)
 Then help me keep my marriage. **Utilize
 the pills Cameron.**

Ethel has another Dizziness bout. This time Cameron
 doesn't try to assist.

ETHEL (CONT'D)
 I need to go for a walk. I need some air.
 Do as I say. It's the only way.

Ethel walks out of the door.

Cameron is stunned. He paces the floor a few rounds
 before noticing Gwendolyn standing at the edge of the
 room looking stunned.

CAMERON
 Gwendolyn...how long have you been
 standing there?

GWENDOLYN
 (shocked)
 I heard everything. **What in the entire
 hell????**

What's to come:

Ethel becomes more Desperate

We meet Barbara

Gwendolyn takes a stand

And chaos rises to a fever pitch among the Messinger family