

NECROMANCE

An Immersive Experience

Written by Austin Sky Parker

Draft 2
Revision 2

CHARACTERS

BATES

A Cannibal

JASON

A Cannibal

ASH

A Serial Killer

PENNY

A Vegan

SETTING

A Harlem Apartment

TIME

October 31st, 2019

PROLOGUE

A Bachelor Pad in every sense of the word. Beer bottles litter the furnishings amongst half opened bills. A stain of no discernible origin is present amongst small knick-knacks spattered with blood.

(JASON, a 20-something in a band T-Shirt, sits on a couch. He smokes from a bong while HALLOWEEN FILMS play on the television. After a solid hit, he clears the smoke out of the room before cleaning up some of the beer bottles. He straightens things up before placing a flower on the table in the perfect position. Proud of his work, Jason EXITS to the bedroom.)

ACT 1

Still in the apartment.

(The sound of the key entering the door. Laughter from outside. BATES and ASH, both 20-somethings, both devilishly attractive, ENTER. Jason wears a tux, Ash is dressed seductively Satanic.)

BATES

Let me take your coat.

ASH

Why, thank you.

(She hands him the coat. He proceeds to chuck it into the closet.)

BATES

Welcome.

ASH

Nice place you've got here.

BATES

It's home. The stairs are a bitch.

ASH

It's a good work out. Legs.

BATES

Keeps my ass toned. I could crack a walnut.

ASH

That's... Good to know.

(BEAT.)

BATES

Drinks?

ASH

Yes, whatever you've got.

BATES

Two beers, coming right up.

(Bates turns to grab the

*beers, he cleverly snags a
meat cleaver, keeping it
hidden from sight.)*

BATES (CONT'D)
Tell me about yourself.

ASH
What would you like to know?

BATES
Where are you from?

ASH
A small town: Castle Rock?

BATES
Never heard of it. What do you do?

ASH
I'm part of a collective. We're
focused on world preservation.

BATES
Neat. I'm really trying to break
into stocks.

ASH
How does one break into stocks?

BATES
Buy in. The more you put in, the
more you put out- get out.

ASH
Gotta be rich to get richer.

BATES
Exactly.

ASH
You really want to be a
stockbroker? They're blood suckers.
Coked-out gambling addicts.

BATES
It's a science. Calculated risk and
reward, something I figured you'd
be familiar with.

ASH
Please explain.

BATES

Well, you met me, a stranger, at a bar. Granted, you met a well-dressed, handsome stranger, but a stranger all-the-same. You agree to come back to his place uptown so long as he buys the cab? That's classic risk-reward.

ASH

The risk?

BATES

You don't know me.

ASH

And that would make the reward... Sex with you?

BATES

That's the gamble.

ASH

See. That's where you're wrong, Mr. Bond. The risk is, you picked someone up at a bar, someone you don't know. Someone on Halloween Night. In costume. So even the parts of them you thought you knew, you don't. And you invited that individual into your home. Sounds high risk.

BATES

(Gesturing to himself)

But the reward.

ASH

Sex with you? That's charity.

BATES

A devil and a philanthropist. How self sacrificing.

ASH

You have no idea.

(She pulls him in and they begin kissing. As they kiss, behind Ash's back Bates reveals the cleaver. As the

*kissing continues the weapon
slowly rises, suspense
mounting.)*

(Jason ENTERS)

*(Ash spots him and pulls
away.)*

JASON

Whaddup.

BATES

What're you doing here?

JASON

I live here.

BATES

What're you doing here?

JASON

Oh, I left my costume.

*(He grabs a costume from the
couch.)*

JASON (CONT'D)

What're you supposed to be? John
Travolta?

BATES

I'm 007. It's classy.

JASON

Oookay. Who's your friend?

BATES

This is Ashley--

ASH

(Interrupting)

Ash. Everyone calls me Ash.

JASON

Jason. It was wonderful for you to
stop by, get home safe.

BATES

Actually, Ash was going to be
staying for a while.

JASON

Oh. Funny.

(BEAT.)

Bates. Roommate meeting, please.

(Bates and Jason move to the other side of the room. Jason looks to Ash for some privacy.)

ASH

Oh, um. Is there anywhere I can smoke?

BATES

Fire escape, through my bedroom.

ASH

Thanks.

(EXITS.)

JASON

I thought I told you not to bring home a victim tonight.

BATES

I have no memory of that.

JASON

Well get her out. Penny is coming by tonight before we go to the party and I'm finally ready to pop "the question."

BATES

I want to say "the question" is butt stuff but I'm only 50/50.

JASON

Moving in together! I'm going to ask Penny if we can move in together. I spent all day getting the place spruced up...

(He gestures to the single flower on the table.)

And I'm not going to have Penny walk in on you and some half-eaten bimbo.

BATES

Woah, first of all. Ashley is not a bimbo. She's USDA certified lean meat, so show her some respect. Second, I can't believe you want this girl to move in. You barely know her.

JASON

We've been dating for fourteen months, dude. I've met her parents. She accepts me for who I am.

BATES

You should have eaten her six months ago. That's what we do, we meet people. We take them home. We fucking eat their face.

JASON

But it's her face! How could I eat a face that looks like that?

BATES

You're overly attached.

JASON

She's been really accepting of our lifestyle. She thinks of it as a dietary restriction. She gets it, she can't do dairy.

BATES

Oh, well in that case...

(He slaps Jason.)

BATES (CONT'D)

We fucking EAT PEOPLE, Jason.

JASON

Can you eat her in your room tonight? Quietly?

BATES

I just did sheets, I'm not getting Ashley on them.

JASON

Okay, well. Can you just keep all of her inerds on the inside until after I pop the question and take

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

Penny out? Please?

BATES

Take her out to the party or take her out with a baseball bat?

JASON

I'm serious.

BATES

Fine. Have your stupid Bloody Valentine over tonight. But if Ashley starts getting all lovey-dovey on me I'm biting her hands off, I don't care if Penny is here to watch.

JASON

Fine.

(A moment. They quickly hug.)

BATES

You'reMyBestFriendAndILoveYou

JASON

ILoveYouToo.

(Ash ENTERS as they quickly detach.)

JASON

Roommate meeting adjourned.

ASH

I hope I'm not interrupting.

JASON

Of course not. My girlfriend will be coming by shortly, but then we'll let you crazy kids be.

ASH

A girlfriend, huh? Bates, your friend has the right idea. This place could use a feminine touch.

BATES

There's a little splattered on the wall over there.

(Jason smacks his arm)

JASON
We're getting a tapestry.

ASH
You guys are weird.
I like it.

JASON
I'm gonna throw my costume on.
Don't have too much fun without me.

(Jason exits.)

ASH
He seems nice.

BATES
Jase? Why, he wouldn't hurt a fly.

ASH
Where were we?

BATES
We were getting to the main course.

ASH
Why not pick up where we left off?

BATES
An appetizing idea.

ASH
I don't do marks. You're not a
biter, are you?

BATES
You have no idea.

(He kisses her neck.)

(A knock at the door.)

BATES (CONT'D)
Oh for fuck's sake.

(He opens the door.)

*(PENNY, a 20-something dressed
as "salt" enters.)*

BATES (CONT'D)
Penny. What a pleasant surprise.

PENNY

Bates.

(Spotting Ash:)

Another victim, I see?

ASH

Ash.

BATES

Your boyfriend is getting freshened up.

PENNY

Okay. I can wait.

ASH

Why don't you come have a drink with us?

PENNY

I'm not interrupting?

BATES

Yes.

ASH

Of course not, come. I want to hear all about you. The servant will fetch us our drinks.

BATES

Master of the house.

ASH

Very clever, Master Bates.

(To Penny:)

Sit.

(She does.)

ASH (CONT'D)

So, where'd you meet Jason?

PENNY

Oh, um. I was volunteering with a camp at a lake upstate. He and I were counselors.

BATES

Subtle. Beers?

ASH

And what are your thoughts on this one? I take it you didn't meet at summer camp?

PENNY

Bates and I have an interesting history.

BATES

It's a delectable story.

(Shouting:)

JASON! YOUR DATE IS KILLING THE MOOD.

(To the girls:)

Can I offer anyone a snack? Finger food?

(Jason ENTERS dressed as "Cheddar.")

JASON

Baby!

(He embraces Penny.)

BATES

What the fuck are you wearing?

JASON

It's a couple's costume. Salt and cheddar.

ASH

"...And cheddar?"

JASON

Yeah.

(Gestures to Penny.)

Salt.

(Gestures to himself.)

And Cheddar.

PENNY

Honey...

BATES

That's not a thing.

JASON

Sure it is.

BATES

It's salt and pepper.

JASON

I mean yeah, that's why we're salt and cheddar. We're subverting expectations.

ASH

That's creative.

BATES

That's stupid.

JASON

It's innovative, right baby?

PENNY

...I said salt and pepper. You must have misheard me.

JASON

What?

PENNY

I thought we were going as salt and pepper. But I like your costume!

JASON

But... But... Subverting expectations... And cheese...

PENNY

We're salt and cheddar! It's cute!

BATES

No it's not.

JASON

He's right! I ruined everything.

PENNY

It's just a party, Jason. No one puts that much effort into the costumes anyway.

JASON

It's not just the party. The party doesn't matter. There's a reason I invited you here, a reason why I

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

got the place all fancy.

(They look around at a sloppy apartment.)

(Ash picks up the flower and hands it to Penny.)

ASH

I think he's referring to this.

JASON

Penny, I asked you here because...
Because I wanted to ask you
something...

(He gets on one knee.)

Penny, these fourteen months have
been the best of my life. And I
know a girl like you doesn't have
any reason to stay with a guy like
me, but I was wondering if, maybe,
you would want to take our
relationship to the next level
and... Move in together?
Because I love you and want to
spend every day with you and be
your best friend and your roommate
and your boyfriend. So, what do you
think?

(BEAT.)

PENNY

Of course!

(They embrace.)

BATES

Alright, glad all that is over
with. You two are going to be very
happy. You can share Jason's room.
Don't leave your hair crap in my
bathroom, you'll owe my stylist a
really good explanation if my wave
is off.

JASON

Bates, you don't get it. Penny and
I are moving into a new place
together. We're going to find a new
apartment.

BATES
You're moving out?

JASON
Yes.

BATES
For her?

JASON
I love her.

BATES
She's a boner-killer!

JASON
No she's not! You're the
boner-killer. She's like a
boner-crafter. I thought you would
support my decision!

BATES
You're being stupid! We've got a
great thing going here! You want to
fuck all that up for the person who
knows our secret?

ASH
Secret?

BATES
We shared a hot and heavy summer in
Montauk. Drink your beer and give
us a minute.

JASON
I love her, Bates. I want to wake
up every day and have her next to
me. This apartment is the first
step, but one day it'll be a house
and a family and we'll wake up as
Mr. And Mrs. Jason and Penny Weiss.

BATES
You're taking her last name??

JASON
It's 2019, Bates! Times are
changing and maybe it's time for
you to, too.

(Bates is silent.)

JASON (CONT'D)
Shall we, Salt? We've got a party
to get to.

PENNY

(To Ash:)
It was really nice to meet you. Get
home safe.

ASH
I'll try. Congratulations.

JASON
Think about it, dude. Things can't
stay this way forever.

BATES
Have fun at your party.

JASON
You'reMyBestFriend.

BATES
(Reluctant.)
You'reMyBestFriend.

JASON
See you later.

(Jason and Penny EXIT.)

ASH
They seem nice.

BATES
They're picture-fucking-perfect.
Let's throw on the TV. You like
scary movies?

ASH
Let's not do that. Let's just cut
to the chase. Grab me another beer
and get over here.

BATES
Groovy.

(BATES turns his back but
ignores the beers completely,
instead opting for the
cleaver.)

(Bates approaches with the cleaver raised. He is now directly behind Ash, threateningly close. Ash turns to find him with the cleaver. She looks confused, as does Bates when he clocks Ash is holding a large, threatening syringe.)

ASH

What the fuck are you doing?

BATES

What the fuck are... You doing?

(A long moment.)

BATES (CONT'D)

Are you trying to kill me?

ASH

Yes. Were you planning on killing me?

BATES

Yes. So we were trying to kill...

ASH

Each other. It would appear that way, yes.

BATES

That's sort of ironic.

ASH

Sort of a bait-and-switch.

BATES

Oh, yes that's clever. I see what you did there.

(BEAT.)

BATES (CONT'D)

Were you planning to eat me?

ASH

Ew what? No. Oh my God, were you?

BATES

I invoke the fifth amendment.

ASH

Jesus Christ, you're a cannibal.
That's fucking disgusting. And
explains that weird phrasing you
kept using.

BATES

Where the fuck do you get off? You
were going to plunge a needle full
of Clorox into my neck.

ASH

I'm a calculated killer, not a
Texas hillbilly.

BATES

That's a really rude generalization
of cannibals as a whole. Wait a
minute... All those single guys
they found cut up in their
apartments last year, with the
weird rams and satan heads and shit
painted around them. That wouldn't
happen to be your work, would it?

ASH

They weren't Satanic paintings.
They're ritualistic imagery, not
stock images from your B-Movie
Necronomicon.

BATES

Holy shit, it was! You're the
Manhattan Mangler. The One Night
Stand Surgeon. The Jane Wayne Gacy.

ASH

All of those names are wildly
annoying.

BATES

I mean, I'm kinda entertaining a
celebrity here. You're gonna be
bigger than Manson when they catch
you.

ASH

They won't.

BATES

I don't know. I don't kill for
sport or anything, but you really

(MORE)

BATES (CONT'D)

lack finesse.

ASH

Finesse?! I can't believe I'm having this conversation-- I can't believe I've kissed someone who eats people! That's nauseating.

BATES

I hear you get accustomed to it. I mean, Penny's a vegan so that... That kind of lends itself to some situational hijinx.

ASH

Jason's a cannibal, too?

BATES

I mean, yeah. Until Penny transforms him into an Upper West Side kale zombie.

ASH

I think we're getting off track.

BATES

Right. You want me dead. I want to eat your flesh. Who's gonna go?

ASH

I'm killing you. Clearly. You're fucking evil?

BATES

Careful on that high horse. I kill to eat, you kill for what? Mindless violence?

ASH

I have my reasons.

BATES

Ohhhh so dark and forboding. You must be genuinely misunderstood. Easy, Batman.

ASH

Batman doesn't kill. That's like his whole thing.

BATES

I'm gonna rip your limbs off and make you watch as I devour the

(MORE)

BATES (CONT'D)

lower half of your body.

ASH

I'm gonna rip your face off and sew
it where your ass is.

BATES

I'm going to disembowel you with
your own pitchfork.

ASH

I'm going to hang you from the
rafters with that stupid Sean
Connery bow tie.

BATES

My apartment doesn't have rafters,
it's a rental. Checkmate.

ASH

I'm going to tie your hands behind
your back and pluck off every
fingernail and tooth before
finishing the job with a slow
incision into your eyelid, where
I'll lobotomize you with the razor
blade you trim your pubic hair
with.

BATES

Are you strangely turned on right
now?

ASH

Incredibly.

*(The two lunge at each other
and kiss passionately,
dropping their weapons to the
floor.)*

*(They bump into furniture,
knocking things over. Ripping
each other's clothes off, they
careen into the bedroom.
Slamming the door closed
behind them.)*

END ACT 1

ACT 2

The Apartment. Still.

(The sound of the key entering the door. Laughter from outside. Jason and Penny ENTER.)

PENNY

We could build a little outdoor area on the fire escape for him!

JASON

Yeah! Like with big windows where he could go out and spend the morning.

PENNY

And he could have a scratching post and a little bib and a tiny bell so we'd know where he is.

JASON

And we could name him Church! Short for Winston Churchill, like in *Pet Sematary*!

PENNY

Spooky. I love it. If we ever have a kid you can't name them after the dead kid in that movie though, okay?

JASON

If we ever have a kid their name is gonna be Danger.

PENNY

Their middle name?

JASON

First and middle. They'll be Danger Danger Weiss.

PENNY

Dane or Dana for short?

JASON

Sure. I don't know why you'd want to have a nickname if your real name was Danger but sure. They can be Dane or Dana Danger Weiss.

(Penny grabs Jason's hands.)

PENNY

Perfect. They'll only get bullied
for it a little bit.

*(A moment. Jason stares at
her.)*

PENNY (CONT'D)

What?

JASON

I was just thinking that I love
you.

PENNY

I'm thinking that I love you, too.

JASON

Well look at that.

PENNY

Lucky us.

JASON

You want to smoke some weed?

PENNY

Only if we make out after?

JASON

Deal.

*(Jason races Penny into his
bedroom.)*

*(Meanwhile, Bates ENTERS from
his bedroom in his underwear.
He smokes a cigarette, looking
spent. He stands in the
doorway. Ash, also in her
underwear, approaches behind
Bates from behind and wraps
her arm around his waist.
Bates smiles.)*

BATES

Hello there.

(Bates drops his cigarette in a beer bottle and runs his hand along Ash's arm, allowing her to embrace him from behind. **Suddenly, Ash plunges a syringe into Bates's neck.**)

BATES

Ow. What the...

(Bates staggers away.)

BATES (CONT'D)

What the... What **the fuck did you do to me?**

(Bates collapses face down on the ground.)

(Ash hoists his legs and drags him back into the bedroom on his face.)

(The moment the door closes, Jason REENTERS, grabbing the bong off of the table.)

JASON

Duh.

(Jason EXITS.)

(A moment. Perhaps some interlude music.)

(The door to Bates's bedroom opens. Bates, restrained to a table and adorned with ritualistic cult imagery, is wheeled out by Ash. He is conscious, but drowsy. Along his stomach are crudely drawn surgical site marks. Ash parks him in the living room and retrieves from her purse a small case. She opens them to reveal a collection of surgical instruments including scalpels, knives and other instruments of torture. She carefully studies her pieces, humming a tune, before selecting one and examining its sharpness.)

BATES

What are... What are you gonna do?

ASH

I'm going to cut you open.

BATES

Why?

(Hushing him with the scalpel.)

ASH

Don't ask questions. The only question is...

(She runs the scalpel along his body.)

ASH (CONT'D)

Where to start?

(Singing)

Eeny meenie miny moe, catch a cannibal by his toe, if he hollers, make him choke. Eeny meeny miny...

(She rests the blade at his crotch.)

ASH (CONT'D)

Moe.

BATES

No no no no no no no no, but - but
we had sex.

ASH

And?

BATES

And there was an intimate
connection?

ASH

Maybe for you. I didn't quite reach
my "intimate connection."

BATES

Stop - Ashley, stop!

*(Ash places a cloth in his
mouth.)*

ASH

Ash. My name is Ash. Williams. And
don't make this harder than it is.
Trust me, I've seen what you're
working with. You won't be missing
much.

*(Bates struggles against his
restraints.)*

ASH (CONT'D)

As well, if you manage to achieve
an erection you'll bleed out in
fifteen minutes, not thirty. Do
with that what you will.

(She puts on a mask.)

ASH (CONT'D)

Let's get started, shall we?

*(Jason ENTERS. He stares at
the scene in front of him.)*

JASON

Um... I can come back later.

*(Bates manages to spit the
cloth out.)*

BATES

KILL THIS BITCH!

(Jason lunges at Ash who knocks him down. Bates begins trying to free himself. A fight ensues between Jason and Ash, Ash clearly has the upper hand and is wiping the floor with Jason.)

JASON

Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck.

(Ash has Jason pinned to the ground and is threateningly raising a scalpel above her head. Jason braces for the worst as Bates watches in horror.)

*(Suddenly, Jason's bong is **smashed over the head of Ash**. Everyone turns to find Penny, who had ENTERED unseen, holding the broken neck of the bottle. Ash falls to the ground unconscious.)*

PENNY

You don't think I hurt her, did I?

(Jason gets up and hugs Penny before walking over to Bates to release him from the table.)

JASON

Why the **fuck** were you about to get Apocalypto-style aztec sacrificed, Bates?

(Bates stands.)

BATES

Just- can you just- can you be cool? Alright, should we kill her now and get it over with?

PENNY

No! Why don't we just let her go. Like a bird?

BATES

She told me her full name, she'll
come back and kill us. And you,
too.

*(Bates takes the cuffs that
restrained him and restrains
an unconscious Ash with them.)*

PENNY

Why would she kill me? I don't know
her full name.

BATES

It's Ash Williams.

JASON

God dammit, Bates!

BATES

There. We're all in the same boat.

JASON

Fuck. Okay. Baby, would you go back
into the bedroom? We've got to do
some cannibal stuff out here, okay?

PENNY

Okay.

(She EXITS.)

BATES

I should throw on some pants.

(BEAT.)

And change my underwear.

(BEAT.)

Not in that order.

(He EXITS.)

JASON

Fuck fuck FUCK. This is fucking
Bates' fault, I can't wait to move
out of this fucking place. No more
murder, I can eat raw cow and live
a quiet life on the West side of
town with my girlfriend and my cat
and a weed dealer that delivers.
And a tapestry and I won't have to
worry about him Bates-ing it all up

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

with his suits and his mousse and
his bloody dates. Just a quiet
life.

(Ash begins to come to.)

ASH

Huh... Wha?

JASON

Uh, stay right there, you hear?

ASH

What happened?

JASON

Bates happened. He ruined
everything. Like always.

ASH

Why does my head hurt?

JASON

It's like he always does this!
Like, I have something really
important to me but that takes a
back seat to whatever he wants.
Like I don't matter as long as he's
getting drunk or getting laid or
eating innocent women. It's like,
hello? You say I'm your best
friend, but you treat me like a
doormat.

ASH

Please kill me.

JASON

And he's like, "If you don't like
it, you can leave" but when I do he
gets all butthurt like, "you're
leaving me for her?" Like, yes! I
love her and she treats me better
than you do. We're not nineteen
eating undergrad bio students
anymore, Bates. It's time to grow
up.

ASH

I'll give you anything if you stop
talking.

JASON

And then maybe it's me. Maybe it's my fault because I meet the perfect girl and I want this perfect life, but what have I done to earn it? Smoke weed and jerk off to Rocky Horror? Eat the occasional person? Do I deserve good things, or is Bates my karmic penance?

ASH

God I can't believe I'm... Have you tried talking to Bates about this?

JASON

Why? He doesn't listen. It's Bates's party, we're just lucky to be invited. He's such a dick.

(Bates has ENTERED and stands in the doorway. It's unsure what he's heard.)

BATES

Wow. I didn't know you felt that way.

JASON

I didn't see you there.

BATES

Clearly.

JASON

Look, I was just venting. I don't think you're a -

BATES

Forget it. We can deal with her and then you and your girlfriend can go find your perfect apartment and live your perfect life with your stupid fucking cat. I'll be here, living a better life than you.

JASON

See, that's it. You think you're Jesus Christ because you eat flesh and drink blood, but you're not some gift to the world, Bates. You're just another dickhead like me. But I'm trying to better

(MORE)

JASON (CONT'D)

myself, you seem content being a
fucking monster.

BATES

The world made me a monster. I'm
just trying to fit in.

(BEAT.)

ASH

That sounds pretty fuckin' stupid,
am-I-right?

BATES

You're so much better than me,
right? I'm a monster and you're
"turning over a new leaf," huh?

JASON

I didn't say all that.

BATES

So I assume your girlfriend knows
how you met?

JASON

Stop.

BATES

You told her the truth?

JASON

Shut up, Bates.

BATES

Well I think it's time someone told
her.

*(Bates charges to Jason's
bedroom.)*

JASON

BATES, STOP!

*(Jason follows. The two run
out. Bates reenters, dragging
Penny by the arm. Jason tries
to get to her but Bates holds
him off.)*

BATES

So Jason the Great never told you
about your little chance encounter

(MORE)

BATES (CONT'D)

at the book store?

PENNY

Ow, you're hurting my arm, Bates.

JASON

Penny, don't listen to him. Bates, let her go and we can talk about this.

BATES

Your little *How Harry Met Sally* meet-cute and how you bonded over your love of Chaucer.

JASON

Knock this shit off, Bates.

BATES

Well did he ever tell you how he'd been stalking you for months? Watching you outside that bookstore. Waiting for the right moment to bump into you?

PENNY

What?

BATES

Not to talk about poetry, or take you for coffee at The Bean or to look lovingly into your eyes and talk about your hypothetical kids and your hypothetical house and your hypothetical white picket fence. But to take you home, drain you from a meat hook and eat you.

(BEAT)

BATES (CONT'D)

Go ahead. Ask him.

PENNY

Jason... Is that true?

JASON

I'm sorry.

(Penny takes a moment.)

BATES

See Jason, change all you want.

(MORE)

BATES (CONT'D)

You're still a monster like me. A monster like her...

(He points to Ash.)

And we live off of people like Penny. They're our food. Our victims. Our audience and our jury. So don't act like you're better than me.

JASON

I can't believe you.

BATES

So let's do what we do best, and kill this one. Then we can discuss what to do with your girlfriend.

JASON

You're disgusting.

BATES

I'm right.

ASH

You can't kill me.

BATES

Honey, you're concussed on the floor of our apartment, I don't think you're in the position to be calling shots.

ASH

No, you don't understand. You can't kill me. One of you has to die.

BATES

And why is that?

ASH

I'm not the only one like me. I'm not just a killer. On the 31st of October every year we bring human sacrifices to appease ancient souls and keep a great evil at bay.

JASON

You're kidding me.

BATES

Why should we believe you?

ASH

Look, at my necklace.

*(Jason pulls the necklace off
of her and examines it. It
holds a strange symbol.)*

JASON

That's some serious witchy shit,
dude.

BATES

(Grabbing a scalpel.)
Okay. We need a human sacrifice.
We'll just kill Penny.

PENNY

Hey!

JASON

What the fuck?

ASH

No, to appease the ancient souls it
must be a tarnished individual.
Someone of evil. It must be one of
you.

JASON

Because we're cannibals.

ASH

Because you're men.

JASON

Oh.

BATES

No way. One of us isn't dying to
appease your "old souls" or
whatever. I'm not going down so
humanity can stay afloat. What has
humanity ever done for me?

ASH

Please, you don't understand, If
one of you don't die, everyone will
die.

BATES

Tough. Titty.

ASH

Your selfishness will cost so many lives.

BATES

You should have been a better serial killer then. That's not on me!

JASON

Can y'all shut up?

ASH

Please, we're nearing the end of the night. Someone needs to be sacrificed.

BATES

Jason, if you agree with her so much why don't you be a martyr for billions of people who don't give a fuck about you?

JASON

Because if they want an evil soul I wouldn't want to rob them of the jackpot that you are!

ASH

Please, there isn't much time. The final hour is drawing near.

JASON

If anyone should die, it's you!

BATES

If anyone should die, it's your girlfriend! She's taking you away from me and that's evil enough in my book!

JASON

She's not taking me away from you, I'm leaving because you're an insufferable prick!

ASH

SOMEONE KILL SOMEONE NOW!

(Suddenly, Penny picks up one of Ash's scalpels and, screaming, charges at Bates.)

(He grabs her hand and stares at her, amazed she would try to stab him. There's a moment of silence as Bates lifts his scalpel and quickly slits Penny's throat, sending a geyser of blood from her neck as she gasps and falls to the floor. Jason runs to her.)

PENNY

I... I just wanted to save us.

(PENNY DIES.)

JASON

OH MY GOD.

(He holds her head in his lap. The others stare.)

JASON (CONT'D)

PENNY. PENNY. JESUS CHRIST, WHAT DID YOU DO?

(Jason stands, grabbing the scalpel.)

JASON (CONT'D)

I'LL DO IT. I'LL DO IT, I'LL BE THE SACRIFICE.

ASH

I'm afraid it's too late. The final hour has passed. The great evil is upon us.

JASON

PLEASE... PLEASE...

(He sobs.)

(Bates takes the scalpel out of Jason's hand.)

BATES

Sorry, dude- **[ADLIB A LINE ABOUT PENNY BEING GONE]**.

(Bates walks to the fridge and grabs two more beers. He opens one and hands it to Jason.)

BATES (CONT'D)
 You'reMyBestFriendILoveYou.

(Jason stares, rage in his eyes. He sits on the couch in shock. Bates shrugs and sits next to him. He takes a swig of his beer.)

BATES
 Nothin' to do now but wait.

(He gives Ash a sip of his beer despite her still restrained hands.)

BATES (CONT'D)
 Let's see what the Great Evil has got.

LIGHTS OUT.

(THE TELEVISION TURNS ON. IT'S THE 2020 BALL DROP. ANNOUNCERS WELCOME A NEW YEAR. A SUPERCUT OF 2020 PLAYS. THE RISE OF COVID-19. HUNDREDS DEAD. PROTESTS. RIOTS. THOUSANDS DEAD. POLICE BRUTALITY. PRESIDENTIAL INCOMPETENCE. TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DEAD. THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR PLANET AS WE KNOW IT.)

(THE TV SHUTS OFF. BUT YOU CAN'T TURN OFF THE WORLD WE LIVE IN. WE STAND UP. WE GO OUTSIDE. WE LIVE THE GREAT EVIL.)

END PLAY.