

THE EYES ARE THE WINDOWS TO THE MIND

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WNPL December

Prompt - Patricia Mitchell: A sin eater, while freeing sinners from the blemishes on their souls, ends up with a collection of all the sins of a whole town.

A Harlem Tenement, 1973. Mrs. Regina Moore, a stocky 42 year old black woman stands in a dimly lit dining area with her daughter Sophie, 18 (a drug addict.) as a grey-haired man with a horrible limp (Leviticus) sits them down.

LEVITICUS

Keep thine eyes and wits about thee and whatever thou hearest or see, seal it in secret. For what lies within these walls will make a hot mess of your mind and stir every sense senseless.

The Deaconess, a large Black woman in her forties, dressed in shades and a black, mink coat that hangs off her shoulder sits on a makeshift couch that was once a church pew. Blind, she chews bits of a braille Bible in order to read it with her tongue.

SOPHIE

When am I going to get my hit! I NEED MY HIT!

LEVITICUS

Shhhh. Hush your child. This a sacred place.

THE DEACONESS

What's this you bring me Levi? What's this stench disturbing my study?

LEVITICUS

Reverend Harper sent us two scoops of trouble. This woman's daughter got a crack demon in her...they need you to eat it.

THE DEACONESS

Revelations. That's the third this year. Must be leak in hell when demons that big roam Earth. How slutty is this one?

LEVITICUS

Slutty enough. The mother's here too ma'am. She's a Mrs. Moore.

THE DEACONESS

Figures: I smell collard greens and chicken flour. You were cookin' dinner weren't you Mrs. Moore?

MRS. MOORE

Yes, I was....makin' supper when my baby went to thrashin' again. Started singing in a low voice...

THE DEACONESS

All demons were once angels – they all sing. Your daughter's demon was no doubt excited about the blood from the chicken. Best clean your hands. Leviticus give her a towel and light me a smoke.

He does. The Deaconess walks over to Mrs. Moore.

You believe in prayer, Mrs. Moore?

MRS. MOORE

Yes ma'am. I'm Christian.

THE DEACONESS

Good. This will try your faith.

SOPHIE

Momma, I thought you was getting' me some dope. This woman ain't no pusher.

THE DEACONESS

Demon from hell fire and damnation, this be the Deaconess. I know you've heard of me in hell. Some say I stay on the tongue of Lucifer when he curses. I demand thee, raise from the body of this Sophie Moore. Otherwise, I'm going in. All three hundred pounds of me. Going in swinging. Sword and shield. Fist and fur coat. To feast.

The Deaconess takes a vile of holy water from her coat and pours it down Sophie's throat. The girl tries to bite but The Deaconess punches her across the face.

SOPHIE (*weeping*)

...I just wanted a hit. I didn't mean nobody no harm. I just....oh
Jesus....(*she giggles. Her voice becomes sinister.*) Hannah Saint Mark.
How I've missed you.

THE DEACONESS

We've met before. Lovely. I love reunions.

SOPHIE

We've met twice actually. We went toe to toe four hours the last time you
tried to expel me. I won.

THE DEACONESS

Simeon. Must be my lucky day.

SOPHIE

She worships me. This Sophie Moore. She likes the way I take away her
blues. I am in love Hannah. And I ain't never coming out of this body. This
Sophie thinks I'm her god. She makes me feel real.

*The Deaconess takes a bag of salt from her fur
coat and creates a circle around Sophie with it.*

THE DEACONESS (*singing*)

HE'S A WONDER IN MY SOUL....HE'S A WONDER...

SOPHIE

Your old bag of tricks won't cast me from my church. I've made a home
here.

*The Deaconess rolls up her fur coat sleeves
and takes out a rosary. She wraps the
beads around her fist like brass knuckles
and spits on them.*

THE DEACONESS

In the name of the Father, the Son and the ghost. I commit thee demon
back to the four corners of hell. God be my sword and buckler. OUT!

*The Deaconess places her hands on Sophie
and burns light onto the girls chest. Sophie
screams.*

THE DEACONESS

Now Leviticus! Open a window. The beast is almost loose.

SOPHIE & SIMEON

NO! I won't go. I won't go alone. I'll take her with me! *(she coughs and laughs)* She's mine. She's praisin my name.

A scream. Simeon, a beautiful winged seraph leaps out of Sophie's mouth and tries to crawl inside Mrs. Moore's ear. Mrs. Moore rolls on the ground. The Deaconess takes off her shades and lights fade to blue. The Demon is revealed.

THE DEACONESS

Now, you in my house. On my turf and the rules have changed.

The Deaconess drops her fur coat and unsheathes a large sword strapped to her back.

Leviticus. You like dark meat or white meat.

Simeon rises in fear. The Deaconess grabs the spirit and eats it. Another demon is damned inside her body. The act of eating this sin, this devil is painful. All watch in horror. Then The Deaconess sing...

THE DEACONESS

(singing)

HE'S A WONDER IN MY SOUL
HE'S A WONDER IN MY SOUL
BLESS HIS NAME...

END OF PLAY