

NOT RACHEL

Screenplay by

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LOGLINE

The ghost of Dave's ex-girlfriend offers him a chance to go to Heaven if he sacrifices his life to resuscitate her, but Dave doesn't want to admit his guilt and might end up in Purgatory or Hell instead.

SYNOPSIS

Dave stumbles drunk into his apartment and is astonished to encounter his ex-girlfriend Rachel waiting there. When he questions her she denies being Rachel and reveals that Rachel is dead, killed by Dave himself. This 'Rachel doppelganger' offers him three choices: sacrifice his life in order to resuscitate the real Rachel and this way gain access to Heaven; deny his guilt but also his love for Rachel and live a life without any feelings until death takes him to Purgatory; or admit the blame for Rachel's death whom he loved dearly, but be consumed by guilt and led to commit violence which will eventually take him to Hell.

INT. LIVING ROOM - STORMY NIGHT

DAVE (35) stumbles drunk into the dark room. He hits the light switch several times but the electricity is out.

LIGHTNING STRIKES.

In that split second that the room is lit, Dave notices a DARK FIGURE with the corner of his eye. In full darkness, he proceeds to the bar, collects a bottle of liqueur, and when he's about to strike the intruder, this one flicks on a lamp.

DAVE

Rach?

RACHEL (25), wearing a mini red dress, sits atop a desk in a sexy position. She waves at him.

DAVE (CONT'D)

What the hell? What are you doing here? How did you get in?

RACHEL

I let myself in.

DAVE

Ok... (Lays down the bottle) You freaked me out 'dollface'. Why are you here? Why are you sitting in the dark?

RACHEL

Because that's where you left me.

DAVE

All right, weirdo. Are you gonna make me kick your fat ass out? I'm tired as fuck, but don't you doubt it, I'll punch you in the face and drag you out by the hair.

RACHEL

You're not tired, you're drunk. You're shit faced.

DAVE

Oh yeah?

RACHEL

Come here baby, I want to talk to you. I have a secret to tell you.

Rachel tries to touch Dave's face, but he grabs her wrist.

DAVE

It's three in the freaking morning,
I'm going to sleep. I mean, you're
welcome to hangout, I don't know
what the fuck you're doing here
after all you did. But I'm going to
sleep. All right 'lady'?

RACHEL

That's not all right, I was waiting
for you, honey.

Rachel pulls her skirt up a little revealing her thighs.

DAVE

Good night Rachel.

LIGHTNING STRIKES.

The lights flicker and the electricity seems to be back,
although the new lighting has a somber atmosphere. The
apartment, now lit, reveals itself to be small, disheveled
and with bottles, glasses and clothes scattered around.

RACHEL

It's not going to be a good night
Dave. And I'm not Rachel. And
you're not going anywhere.

Dave shows his middle finger.

DAVE

Good night, 'Not Rachel'.

Dave tries to open the door of his bedroom but it's locked.
He bangs on the door.

RACHEL

Have a seat. Would you like some
water? Would you like another
drink?

DAVE

Listen you whore. Do you want me to
fuck you? Because if I do, you're
not gonna like it.

RACHEL

Oh, I'm gonna love it. But we need
to have a drink first, I'm not that
easy.

DAVE

Ha! Little Rach, darling, I didn't know you had it in you. Is there where you hid my key? Up in your asshole? (Laughs)

RACHEL

(Laughs) I like you Dave. I've always liked you. But I told you already, I'm not Rachel. Rachel is dead. You killed her, don't you remember?

Dave is silent.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

You do. I know you do. You can feel it. How do you feel Dave?

DAVE

I feel like I want to kill you. That's how I feel.

RACHEL

Well you did that already! Well, not me though. You killed Rachel. You drugged her, you abused her and when she tried to get away from you-

Dave feels sick.

DAVE

Shut up. Just shut up, ok? Give me my key.

Rachel looks in the mirror.

RACHEL

You thought... How could a girl like this possibly be with a guy like you. You knew it wouldn't last. She was too young and beautiful. Eventually she would be back on her track and leave you behind. Isn't that true, Dave? That's why you got her addicted to drugs. Because you're jealous and you never really loved her... Dave?

Dave is speechless.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Do you remember now?

DAVE

Rach- How- What's going?

RACHEL

How many times do I have to tell you that I'm not Rachel-

DAVE

Shut up! How the fuck are you here?

RACHEL

I came back to haunt you. Booo.

Dave grabs a bottle and threatens her.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

(Laughs) I'm kidding! I'm not a ghost, silly. I'm your best friend.

DAVE

No, you died. You're dead.

RACHEL

Rachel is dead, yes.

DAVE

But I didn't kill you.

RACHEL

No? So tell me, what happened then? Are you gonna hit me with that? Is that what you do, Dave? You hurt other people? And kill them too?

DAVE

I didn't kill anybody.

RACHEL

Are you sure? No... You wouldn't be here if you were. So tell me, right at that moment, when everything went down hill. (Laughs). Literally... Did you know what could happen if you let her drive in that state? Drunk and in rage right after you'd abused her? Deep down you wanted her to die. And as she stumbled drunk into the car, you said...

DAVE & RACHEL

Have a safe trip.

Dave lowers the bottle.

RACHEL

(Laughs) You're funny Dave. You're so deep and shallow all at the same time. Do you ever mean what you say?

Rachel mocks him by imitating his voice.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Life is a shit show! It's drinking that makes us wise and sober! I jerk off at the face of pain.

She quits mocking him.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Sorry, I actually agree we shouldn't take life so seriously. It's like a ride in a roller coaster. You can hold on real tight and wish the whole time for it to be over. Or you can just let go and enjoy the ride, because you have bars that keep you safe. But you Dave, you drank a pack of beers and ate an entire burrito just before your ride so you could puke on everyone. (Laughs) Still you're trapped. Restrained by the bars that hold you back. But I'm here to help you set yourself free.

Dave is about to drink straight from the bottle.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Wait, don't do that. Let me make us a drink.

Rachel approaches, but he takes a step back.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Don't be afraid. Everything's ok. Just give me the bottle. The sooner you calm down, the sooner I can explain to you what's going on.

Dave concedes the bottle.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Sit down. Relax.

Rachel moves to the bar to prepare the drinks.

DAVE
Who are you?

RACHEL
I'm you. The other side of your
consciousness. The part you keep
locked under the drugs and the
booze.

She brings two whiskies. They sit on the couch and make a
toast.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
To you Dave.

DAVE
To me.

They drink.

RACHEL
Good isn't it? Straight from
'Purgatory'.

DAVE
Excellent. Is Purgatory where you
come from, Mrs. Ghost?

RACHEL
Nope, Purgatory is where you can go
if you want to. That door you were
trying to open before? Will
eventually take you there. But you
must really want it, otherwise the
door is just gonna stay shut. Would
you like me to explain?

DAVE
I need to drink much more than this
to go to bed with you.

Rachel goes to the door.

RACHEL
If you go through this door...

The door to the bedroom is suddenly illuminated by a PURPLE
LIGHT.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
...Then things will be back to how
they used to be. Rachel will be
dead, yes, but not because of you.
In fact, there will be no guilt.
(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

After all, it's not your fault she chose to be around you and allowed herself to be dragged down by you. It's not your fault that you feel no love or any other feeling at all, Dave. So if you want, you can go back, and you can cheat, and you can steal, and you can fuck with everyone's lives, and I promise you your conscience will be wiped clean of remorse. And when there is no remorse there's no acknowledgement of sin, and because of that, when you finally die, you'll go to Purgatory, where you can do everything that you love the most.

DAVE

What are you saying? Are you saying that I'm...

RACHEL

Dead? No, you're still alive, don't worry about that. What you should worry about is choosing. So, how did you like Purgatory?

DAVE

Sounds promising... I don't know.

RACHEL

Indeed. Well, I must warn you though that, the same way you can drink, rape, kill and all that, you also get raped in Purgatory yourself, and take a lot severe beatings. But eventually all your sins will be repented and at that point you will ascend to the Heavens. So, that's good, huh?

DAVE

As long as those damn angels have this good whisky up there.

RACHEL

They have other stuff. But if that time actually comes I'm pretty sure you'll be sick and done with this 'good whisky'.

DAVE

Do I have any other choice?

RACHEL
Of course you do!

Rachel goes over to the front door which is suddenly illuminated by a RED LIGHT.

RACHEL (CONT'D)
This door you came from. You know where it leads to? Also back to this life... This apartment, partying, drinking... And Rachel will be dead, but this time her memory will haunt you forever. Remorse and regret will consume you and when you die you will go to Hell.

DAVE
HmMMM. Humhum, good...

RACHEL
Yes, yes... Hell, the place where you die over and over, burned, stabbed, shot, tortured... And you're always suffering... You see? Remorse leads to self pity, and depression, and anger, and to sin... And killing, and suicide, and rage-

DAVE
Fuck off! God. Demon. Shut up!

RACHEL
Do you regret what you did?

DAVE
No. It wasn't my fault.

RACHEL
It has never been your fault, Dave. You're but a 'tool' of no choice of your own.

DAVE
No. I do make my own choices.

RACHEL
But are they the right choices? Or do you wish things had been different?

DAVE

Listen, if I could bring her back, I would. The bitch didn't deserve to die.

RACHEL

There is no 'deserve', Dave. Death is just part of it. Do you deserve to be born? Do you deserve to exist? Do you deserve to be alive?

DAVE

Yes. I deserve to be alive, just like everybody else. I'm important. I'm the most important motherfucker in the world. If I don't care of myself, who will?

Rachel guides Dave to the mirror.

RACHEL

(Showing Dave his reflection)

Indeed. You are the center of the universe. To you, everything has ever revolved around you. It's the other people who are the problem. They do you wrong everyday, right? But do they ever say they're sorry?

DAVE

You got a big mouth, I give you that. But since I don't think I can get hard for you tonight baby, maybe you want to try swallowing me up to the balls?

RACHEL

(Laughs) Thank you. That's very flattering. Although, a little bit concerning. Has that been happening to you frequently?

DAVE

Only when I remember your face in front of me.

RACHEL

Would you like to know where she is?

DAVE

Not particularly.

RACHEL

She's in Purgatory. She's agonizing, you see? Repenting from one's sins is not like going to Heaven... She's being raped, and doing the raping too. And drinking the 'good whisky'.

DAVE

Well, I had nothing to do with it.

RACHEL

Maybe you have, maybe you haven't. Whatever makes you happy, Dave. Yet, you can still be the hero of the story if you want to. But there's one thing that is required for one to become a hero. And that is 'the sacrifice'. You must choose another rather than yourself. You must die so you can be reborn in Heaven. Is that who you are Dave? The hero? If you go through that door-

DAVE

That's the bathroom.

RACHEL

If you go through that door...

The door to the bathroom is suddenly illuminated by a BLUE LIGHT.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

...Rachel will be saved and you'll take her place in death. You'll abdicate life, recognize your guilt and beg for forgiveness. So you see? You can bring her back after all. But will you, Dave?

DAVE

No. Why should I give my life for hers? She betrayed me. She cheated on me. And I know people, if you do it once you'll do it again. She ruined it. She hurt me. And I don't allow anybody to hurt me.

RACHEL

You're trying to escape from your feelings and even from having feelings.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Regret is a horrible thing so you try to keep yourself busy and drink. But with death is different. It will keep coming back to haunt you unless you make your peace with it. It defines who you are. Who are you Dave?

DAVE

I'm the bad guy.

RACHEL

So it was your fault?

DAVE

No. She was a slut. She broke my heart.

RACHEL

Ok. Did you tie her up inside the car and pushed her down the hill?

DAVE

No.

RACHEL

She decided by herself to enter the car and drive away. Right? That was all her. She betrayed you. She felt regret and now she's dead. People can be very stupid Dave, but you don't have to be.

DAVE

She wasn't herself... And I wasn't myself either.

RACHEL

Then who were you?

DAVE

I was possessed

RACHEL

By whom?

DAVE

By you!

RACHEL

I am a part of you Dave. I'm the part of you that will never go away, so I really think you should befriend me.

(MORE)

RACHEL (CONT'D)
Because I'm always going to be
there for you. I'm your best
friend.

DAVE
Then what should I do?

RACHEL
Whatever makes you happy.

DAVE
Pfff...

LIGHTNING STRIKES.

RACHEL
Listen, right now you're driving
your car through this
thunderstorm...

INT/EXT. MOVING CAR - STORMY NIGHT

Dave nearly falls asleep at the wheel.

RACHEL (V.O.)
You're very drunk and in your heart
you have that same feeling you had
that night with Rachel. You knew
what could happen to you when you
got in the car, and part of you
wishes to crash and end it all
today. You fell asleep at the
wheel, and here we are...

Dave falls asleep.

INT. LIVING ROOM - STORMY NIGHT

RACHEL
Every hour in this place is only
one second outside in the real
world. But how many more seconds
until you crash, Dave?

DAVE
And if I crash?

RACHEL
Straight to Hell, of course.

The Hell Door lights up it's RED LIGHT.

DAVE

Nice... So many good options. Let me think about it.

The LIGHT of ALL THREE DOORS go on and off repeatedly.

RACHEL

Tic-toc, tic-toc, tic-toc. Careful, not choosing is also a choice. If you take too long you'll go to Hell just the same.

Dave points at the bottle of whisky.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Oh yeah. Sure

Rachel is about to pour but Dave snatches it from her hand and drinks straight from the bottle.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Choose happiness. Choose yourself. Who are you Dave?

Dave approaches the Hell Door. All other lights go off.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

You like to suffer? You enjoy self pity? You're full of hate and jealousy? If you just wait you'll go straight to Hell, where you can have all of that and live eternity to it's fullest.

Dave moves away from the Hell Door and it's RED LIGHT FADES. He goes over to the Purgatory Door which GLOWS PURPLE.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Although it is funny how the people you love the most are also the ones who hurt you the most... Just forget her Dave, she betrayed you. You should go live your life free of guilt and be the person you were meant to be.

Dave can't decide. Rachel takes the bottle away from him. They look deep into each other's eyes. The PURPLE GLOW FADES and the BLUE LIGHT from the Heaven Door lights up. Rachel guides Dave by the hand.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

I'll take you to her. Trust me.

At this moment the scenery around them transforms.

EXT. OPEN FIELD - STORMY NIGHT

Dave is confused. He turns to one side and sees a FIGURE at a distance. He approaches and realizes it's Rachel, wearing a blue dress and a jacket with a hood. She turns to him.

RACHEL

Dave?

Rachel runs to his embrace.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Where were you? I was so worried about you.

DAVE

Rach?

RACHEL

Yes, honey?

DAVE

Is it really you?

RACHEL

Yes, it's me my love. It's me. I missed you so much. Did you miss me?

DAVE

Yes.

RACHEL

I love you. Did you know that?

Dave's expression grows sober.

RACHEL (CONT'D)

Do you love me?

DAVE

Yes... I loved you... So much...

RACHEL

Then kiss me. Kiss me, my love.

DAVE

But you're not her.

RACHEL

What?

DAVE
Rachel is dead. I killed her.

RACHEL
No, honey. It's me. I'm alive. I'm
right here with you.

DAVE
No...

RACHEL
Save me, baby. Please.

DAVE
I'm sorry. It was my fault. But I
can't save you.

Dave moves his hands towards her neck and strangles her.

DAVE (CONT'D)
The Devil was once an angel, right?
And like him, I would fall. I must
do what makes me happy.

He strangles her to her death.

DAVE (CONT'D)
I'm sorry for what I did to you. I
betrayed you and ruined us both.
I'm sorry I never told you that I
loved you. That's my biggest
regret.

The scenery around them transforms once again.

INT. LIVING ROOM - STORMY NIGHT

Rachel is dead on the floor. The THREE DOORS are LIT. Dave
collects a bottle of whisky and takes a long sip. He moves to
the Hell Door and turns the knob, but it's locked.

DAVE
What the fuck? Is this a joke?
(Forces knob) Just let me in
already, I don't need to wait any
longer. Let me go back so I can
crash my car and leave this world
for good. Let me in! I killed her!
I know what I did. I got revenge. I
killed her because I was jealous
and I would do it again. Let me in!

The RED LIGHT DISSIPATES and he can't go in. Dave looks over at the Purgatory Door which is still lit.

DAVE (CONT'D)

All right. That's fine by me.
Purgatory should be enough
suffering.

Dave tries to open the Purgatory Door but it's also locked.

DAVE (CONT'D)

So what is it then, huh? You're
just gonna make me wait? I see...
This is how it begins. The
beginning of my eternal agony. No
problem. I can wait. I can wait for
as long as you want me to.

The PURPLE LIGHT DISSIPATES. Only the BLUE LIGHT of the Heaven Door is still on. Dave eyes it with suspicion. He approaches it, turns the knob and it opens. But he doesn't go in. He looks at Rachel's dead body on the floor and takes a step away.

Dave sits on the couch with his bottle of whisky and drinks. He takes deep breaths to recompose himself, looks at the time on his watch and closes his eyes.

FADE TO RED:

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END