

Exodus

By

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FADE IN:

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

CU to MS on BENNY GIMBLE (28), a well-spoken and clean-cut muscular man, sitting backwards on a chair, smoking.

BENNY

Now, it's not a nigger's fault it's a nigger. You can't blame it for bein' put on this earth just like anything else. Birth, death, cycle's all the same. But nigger's is a curious thing. It's got *aspirations*.

REVERSE SHOT of STEPHEN, an African immigrant. He is tied and gagged in another chair, bleeding, sweating, crying.

BENNY (cont'd)

You had aspirations, didn't you, spade? Thought a white woman and a white-spade baby would raise you up, more than you are. Well we're gonna raise you up.

A noose appears around Stephen's neck.

BENNY (cont'd)

Pull.

Stephen is lifted into the air, chair and all. He thrashes. Benny watches.

MIKE (O.S.)

You want him to die now?

BENNY

(thinks)

No.

Stephen plummets to the floor.

BENNY (cont'd)

That's a relatively common death. And I traded my time at the gym for this today.

Benny strolls around the basement, revealing landscaping equipment; a pile of landscape rock is nearby. Benny smiles, and picks up a handful of rock.

(CONTINUED)

BENNY (cont'd)
I was a hell of a pitcher in
college.

Benny walks over to Stephen's screaming figure. He leans down and wipes sweat from Stephen's forehead.

BENNY (cont'd)
Just gotta find my strike zone.

He makes the sign of the cross on Stephen's forehead. He then takes several steps back, and begins throwing stones.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Benny and Mike are lifting Stephen's rolled up corpse into the back of a station wagon.

MIKE
You coming?

BENNY
Not tonight, I'm scheduled for
tomorrow morning. I still have
finishing touches to work on.

MIKE
I look forward to it.

BENNY
Goodnight.

Benny walks away as Mike leaves in the station wagon.

EXT. CHURCH - MORNING

A crowd is leaving through the large wooden cathedral doors. The camera moves through faces, landing on the doorway, where Benny is framed in preacher's garb, including collar. He is greeting several parishoners. Mike comes up behind him.

BENNY
Good morning, Michael.

MIKE
Hell of a sermon, Father. I knew
it'd be a good one.

(CONTINUED)

BENNY

"Thou shalt show them the way where
they must walk, and the work that
they must do." Exodus.

MIKE

Amen.

Mike leaves. Benny walks back into the church.

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Benny walks up the main aisle as GABRIEL, a non-descript
man, approaches him.

GABRIEL

Do you have a moment, Father?

BENNY

(smiling)

Of course.

GABRIEL

I was hoping for confession.

BENNY

Yes, just over here.

They walk to the confessional together and enter.

INT. CONFESSIONAL - MORNING

GABRIEL

I always wanted to know something,
Father. When do priests confess?

BENNY

Interesting question, but this time
is about you. What is your name?

GABRIEL

I am called Gabriel.

BENNY

A blessed name.

GABRIEL

I'm aware. Benjamin is, as well.

(CONTINUED)

BENNY
(recognition)
What?

GABRIEL
I come from another blessed
one. Stephen. He came to me last
night.

BENNY
What are you talki-

GABRIEL
This is a time for silence,
Benjamin.

BENNY
Who the hell-

GABRIEL
Wrong one. And I said silence.

Benny is unable to talk. He tries to talk and yell, but there is only silence emitted.

GABRIEL
You were only correct in one facet
of your tirade. You cannot blame
anyone for being who they are from
birth. But at death, a person is
wholly responsible for their life.

Benny is cowering.

GABRIEL (cont'd)
Confess, Benjamin.

Benny screams silently.

GABRIEL
Of course, no tongue. Pity.

Gabriel steps out of the confessional. Benny tries to follow, but the door won't budge. He yells silently.

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Flames begin to lick around the confessional.

GABRIEL
Amen.

Gabriel leaves the church. The confessional burns. END