

The Devil made me do it.

written by

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Open on a stage. No people are there. It just has a table and chairs in the centre and a large box, or stool on the left.

The devil has a tape recorder / electronic Dictaphone / Mobile with some lines recorded on it for the end.

The stage is dark and lights when the Devil walks onstage. It is fully lit, no clever lighting required here.

Enter stage right a man / woman dressed in red, wearing a pair of horns. This is the Devil. The Devil is extravagant and over the top, think a naff game show host.

They walk to the middle of the stage and face the audience.

They reach to their head, remove the horns and take a bow.

They stand straight, look at the horns

DEVIL

They're symbolic.

(Pause for a few
seconds)

No wait, wrong way around.

They put their head into their hands, lift back up and look forwards

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Right okay. Sorry about that. I
am just not used to talking to
you guys and gals. Well not like
this anyway. So I am the Devil.
Lucifer, Satan blah blah blah.

(pause)

You. Get. The. Point.

They move to the left and sit on the box/stool

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So, the horns

They hold the horns out

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Symbolic, like I said. These are
so you do not forget who I am.
Sooooooo, I am here to clear my
name. I have something of a image
problem

Enter stage right. A woman (Mary) she enters and sits at the table.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

This is Mary, Say hello Mary

Mary looks at the audience as she sits there, she looks at a point in the distance as if she is in a trance. She answers in a monotone voice.

MARY

Hello

Once she has answered she turns to face the centre of the table.

DEVIL (RECORDED LINE ON PHONE / ETC)

I Lie, I cheat, I am not a good person well angel. Duh. These are known facts. I would say I was not proud of them but frankly I am.

A second person, this time a man (John) enters from the right. Like Mary he sits at the table and like Mary he is in a trance like state and his voice is monotone.

DEVIL

Say 'I like cucumbers' John

John faces the audience and in his trance / monotone

JOHN

I like cucumbers

John returns to staring at the centre of the table

The devil counts of the list next on their fingers.

DEVIL

Lust, gluttony, greed, anger, fraud, violence and heresy. I dare say one or all of you have at some time committed one or more of these. Don't worry I am not here for you

(pause)

Tonight.

A third person enters. Another man (David) he joins Mary and John

DEVIL (CONT'D)

This is David. Tonight I am going to introduce you to four people. You have met three the last is yet to come. All four of them been accused of murder and each one has been sentenced for said murder. They all used my name in vain and tried to use the excuse "The Devil made me do it"

The forth and final person enters the stage it is (Debbie) she walks to the table and sits

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Finally, this is Debbie. So one person you have been introduced to really was made to kill by yours truly. That one will be the only one standing at the end of this night. I like to play this game occasionally, to teach people about who and what I am. It plays out time and time again, each time with the same outcome.

The Devil walks over to the table, and pats each on in turn on the shoulder. As he/she does so they say "forget" for each person

DEVIL (CONT'D)

It is a form of torture you see. I make them relive this time and time again. Play along yourself, if you can guess who the devil made do it, then trust me I'll remember.

The Devil winks at the audience

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Yes yes, I can see that. If you change your mind, I'll remember. I can see... you see?

The Devil spins 360 back to the audience.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Right, lets us play the Devils demonic demon routlette

The Devil walks to the table, and taps David on the head.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Righiho David. Dum dum dum.....
How did you kill people

David answers he is defiant in his attitude

DAVID

I never killed anyone! I am
innocent

DEVIL

Now look, your guilt it not in
doubt. Play the game or I feed
you to

DAVID

I didn't kill anyone!

The Devil turns to the audience they put their hand in front
of their mouth, hiding what they are saying from the table.
They still speak loud enough for anyone to hear it.

DEVIL

This is David, he strangled
people

DAVID

Listen to m.....

David is cut off, suddenly he cant speak. His mouth moves but
nothing leaves it. Suddenly he clasps his hands to his throat
as if he is trying to pull an invisible force from his
throat. He is being strangled by something, he dies in front
of us slumping on the table.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Well good news and bad news
David. I didn't make you kill
anyone, thats the good news. Bad
news is you're dead.... again

(pause)

Onwards and upwards! Next we have
the delightful Mary

The Devil taps mary on the head

DEVIL

Mary Mary Mary Mary, are you
guilty?

Mary replies with indiffernce

MARY

Sure, I killed them, I'd do it
again too

The Devil looks at her, examining her closely

DEVIL

Ohhhh, I like Mary, Mary is my
fave. Now tell em Mary what did
you do!

Mary looks at the Devil smiles, then looks at the audience

MARY

I caught my husband and his lover
in bed, so I stabbed them

DEVIL

Don't talk yourself down dear!
You stabbed them thirty three
times! You go girl! Soooooooo
here is the question, did I make
you do it?!

MARY

Nope, I enjoyed every second and
it was all me!

DEVIL

Ahhhh, is it a double bluff?
Remember I lie! I lie so well I
could go into politics! By the
way, you know that thing that
they did? Yeah you know the one?
That wasn't me either

MARY

So are you going to kill me too?

The Devil laughs a huge fake laugh, bubbling from their belly

DEVIL

No dear, for one you're already
dead. Two you answered my
questions. Nexxxxxxxxxxxt! JOHN!
You are under the spot!

John is quite blunt, just straight answers

JOHN

Go to hell

DEVIL

Been there, you should see my
tripadvisor review, it's.....
wait for it..... wait for it....
its hot! Mwuhahahahahahaha. So
Johnny are you a Torrence or a
Baptist?

JOHN

Oh I am no baptist. I did it
sure.

DEVIL

Annnnnnd did I make you? Answer
honestly, I can tell when you
lie!

JOHN

Would a sane person have done
what I did?

The Devil sighs and looks at John

DEVIL

Sweetheart if I was looking for
sane then we'd all be screwed.
Just answer. I am getting bored
already

JOHN

Yes, yes you did. Once day I woke
up and I had this vision

John stops abruptly, the Devil zips across their own mouth
and nods at john, Johns mouth is clasped shut

DEVIL

Okay okay. Sorry I can hear the
calls from hell it is my round.
Lets wrap this up. The game show
theory, Anyone know it?

(pause)

It breaks down like this, and you
can try this at home kids, at the
moment were you to guess with
three here you have a 33.3%
chance of being correct, yes?
Come on keep up this is basic
maths. So you pick on who you
think is the winner! Don't worry
I'll pick for you.

The Devil does eeny meeny miny-Mo over the heads, its set up he lands on Debbie, The Devil has to land on her for this to work mathematically, I suppose if the Devil is getting any laughs it could be cheated, it is the Devil after all.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Sooooo, now we have Debbie as the choice. We are left with two. As the game show host, see game show theory I shall remove from the two left one of the incorrect choices.

The Devil looks at John, then looks at Mary, then looks back to John. Devil pulls his hand up and makes a gun shape with it like a child would do, points it at one then the other. Finally settling on John the devil says bang and John acts shot and then slumps on the table

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Two left, remember we picked Debbie as our choice! So Debbie tell us what you did!

Debbie is nervous, we can hear it in her voice. Like someone who is being interviewed but they know they are good for the job. The butterflies take over

DEBBIE

I poisoned my in laws for the inheritance

DEVIL

Tell me Debbie, tell me now..... did they deserve it?

DEBBIE

Yes, yes they hated me and once they had died my hunband ran of with another woman!

DEVIL

Awww, Karma is a bitch. I knew a girl called Karma once.... Sorry I get distracted. So did I make you do it Debbie. Did I speak to you from the depths of hell and say "Hey how about knocking em off and getting the money"

DEBBIE

No.... well I, I, I don't know.
How would I. I don't remember. If
you did I didn't know you did...
is that how you work?

DEVIL

No dear I outsource that, haven't
you heard of Pazuzu?

The Devil looks out over the audience

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Okily pokily, so here we have the
final two. One no and one, well
one... maybe? Broken? Ouija board
in human form? Urgh. So Maths.

The Devil points at the two left

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So we picked Debbie, that was
33%. Game theory says we should
now change our pick. You see it
says this. If we change, we now
actually have a 50/50 of being
correct so our odds are better. I
know, I know. I didn't believe it
either. So I did what ever Devil
should do and I tested it a few
thousand times with souls,
chucking them into the Inferno.
Do you know what? Around 61% of
the time changing was a better
choice.

The Devil counts on their fingers, the scratch their head a
little, then look at the fingers again.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Nope, still don't get it. Anyway,
it is true, google it. So Two
left, by changing our choice to
Mary we have a 61% chance of
being correct. Sooooo it is the
final moment, here we go. Drum
roll

The Devil turns to Debbie and smiles at her

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Sorry dearie

The Devil mimics a throat cut and Debbie acts out having her throat cut, she slumps on the table.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So Mary, here we are. Good double bluff dear!

MARY

So I win?

DEVIL

No you're also full of crap

The Devil mimics stabbing someone repeatedly making "Psycho" noises. Mary gets stabbed and slumped on the table.

The Devil turns to face the audience. This he/she delivers deadly seriously.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Now, tonight we have learnt game theory, and one other important lesson, a moral one.

The Devil removes the tape recorder / phone / Dictaphone from their pocket, they press a button and their voice plays from it.

"I Lie, I cheat, I am not a good person well angel. Duh. These are known facts."

Plays out to the audience

DEVIL (CONT'D)

However what I don't do is make you kill, or any of the other stuff you do to each other. You have free will. That is all on you people

The Devil Exits.

FIN.