

The Devil made me do it

written by

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R 0.2

This is pretty simple stuff with minimal prop work and set dressing. Lighting can be extravagant but it can also be a simple one spot job. The story is driven by dialogue and the rest is somewhat irrelevant.

The Devil is meant to be charismatic and a joker. They play to the crowd and could ad lib if needed to build up a good rapport with the audience. It takes someone who can think on the fly if needed. Everything they need is scripted, but it *could* be better if some things changed night by night.

The Devil can be anyone, personally I feel it would be better to have a female in the role just because everyone thinks of a male, but it doesn't matter in the slightest. They just have to be able to bounce off the audience and have a wicked smile. A cheesy eighties game show host type of character.

Props Needed.

Tape Recorder / Dictaphone / Mobile phone - The Devil records a message on the device

"I Lie, I cheat and I am not a good person. Well I am a Angel, duh. These are known facts"

The line is delivered in the stage play early on so the recording has to be delivered the same way.

One table and four chairs.

A large box or stool that the Devil can sit upon

Cast / Dress.

The Devil

Wears as much red as possible and the corniest, hammiest pair of devil horns. You know the type you see at hen dos or Halloween. Light up ones, even better!

Mary (50s)

John (60s)

David (70s)

Debbie (80s)

None of these particularly matter. It is not that they are unimportant it is just they can be anything. In a perfect world they would be wearing clothes that correspond to the era they are from, in brackets, however that is only so they can indicate they are out of *place/time*.

The stage is dark, light(s) come on and we see the table with four chairs. A box/stool on the left of the stage.

The Devil enters from the right, they walk to the centre of the stage and face the audience. They reach for their head without taking their eyes from the audience and remove the horns as you would a hat. They take a bow, once more never losing eye contact and then stand up straight.

They look at the horns in their hands, smile and then look back to the audience.

DEVIL

They're symbolic

(Pause for a second)

Sorry, got that wrong. Give me a moment.

The Devil puts their head into their hands, gives their face a rub, maybe run their hands through their hair and then lifts their head back up.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

That's better. Okay where was I.

(short pause)

Right, I am not used to talking to you guys and gals. Well not like this anyway. I do it all the time downstairs. So I am the Devil, Satan, Lucifer blahdy blah blah.

The Devil looks over the audience

DEVIL (CONT'D)

You. Get. The. Point.

The Devil moves to the left of the stage and sits upon the stool/box. They face the audience.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So, the horns.

They hold the horns out and show them to everyone

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Symbolic, as I said. These are here so you never forget who I am. You shouldn't forget me, I am me after all, but to play it safe I have these.

The Devil places the horns on their head, if they light up then they light them.

They point to the horns

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Awesome ain't they!

(pause)

So I have something of an image problem. We tonight are going to resolve that.

Mary enters the stage from the right. She walks straight to the table and sits at it. Staring out into the distance.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So let us begin. This is Mary.
Say Hello Mary.

Mary looks at the audience as if she is in a trance, staring through everyone rather than looking at them. If there is a centre aisle maybe they can look there.

MARY

(emotionless)

Hello

Once she has answered she reverts to looking at what she was looking at before

DEVIL

(The start of this is the line that is recorded on the phone/dictaphone etc.)

I Lie, I cheat and I am not a good person. Well I am a Angel, duh. These are known facts. I would say I am not proud of them but I am. To be frank I am wonderful.

John enters from the right, he too sits at the table just staring away.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Say, I like cucumbers John

John like Mary faces the audience emotionless

JOHN

(emotionless)

I like cucumbers

Once the line is delivered he returns his stare to nothingness.

The Devil starts counting down on their fingers as the deliver.

DEVIL

Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Anger,
Fraud, Violence and Heresy. I
dare say most of you have at some
point committed one or more of
these.

The Devil looks over the audience, looking at nobody in particular. They point at someone anyone.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Yes, I know all about it. Don't
worry I am not here for any of
you tonight. I'll see you soon
enough.

David enters from the right, sits like the other two.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

This here is David. Tonight we
meet four people. You've already
met three. All four of them
committed a murder or two. Each
one has been sentenced and now
they live with me. For my
pleasure

(pause)

It sounds dirty when I say it
like that.

(pause)

Anyway, they all used my name as
a defence.

The Devil uses their fingers to make quote signs in the air

DEVIL (CONT'D)

"The Devil made me do it"

Debbie enters from the left and sits at the table.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Finally, this is Debbie. Right only one person kills on my command, so to speak. That one will be the only one standing at the end of the evening.

The Devil looks over the four at the table, then turns their attention back to the audience.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

I like to play this game sometimes. Get them to confess, then finish them off. Then rewind and do it all again. Never gets boring! Even though it always ends the same way. What can I say, I love my work!

The Devil walks to the table, walking around Ti tapping each on the shoulder. As they tap they say "Forget"

DEVIL (CONT'D)

It is a form of torture. I make them forget, then I make them remember. Reliving it time and time again. Like listening to that one song over and over, it should get dull but it doesn't. Play along yourself, see if you can guess who the devil influenced. If you get it right, I'll remember.

(pause)

Trust me, I'll remember. Rightio let us play the devils demonic roulette.

The Devil walks to the table and stands behind David. They tap David on the shoulder.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Okily Pokily Dave, How many people did ya kill?

David answers, he now had emotion. Freed from the trance he speaks up

DAVID

I didn't kill anyone! I am
innocent

The Devil looks at the audience they cover the side of their mouth as if to hide what they are saying from the table. They say it loud enough for everyone to hear

DEVIL

David killed people, he strangled
them

David stays seated but turns to face the Devil.

DAVID

Look, I didn't kill or murder
any.....

David stops half way through, cut off. He sits for half a second then he puts his hands to his throat in a panic. He is being strangled by an invisible presence on stage, we see him struggling then he slumps to the table, head down dead.

DEVIL

Plus point, we now know it wasn't
Dave. Minus point Dave is dead.
Plus point, we get to do this all
again tomorrow!

(pause)

Onwards and upwards. Next we have
Mary. Mary, Mary, Mary McMary...
Are you guilty.

As they say "Guilty" they tap Mary on the head.

Mary Replies with indifference, like this is bored. Been here, done that, got the crappy t-shirt.

MARY

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

The Devil looks her over

DEVIL

Ohhhhhhhhhhh, I like Mary. I've
gotta be honest she is my fave!
So Mary, what did you do?

MARY

I walked in, caught my husband
and that trollop screwing so I
stabbed them.

DEVIL

Aww dear Mary you should not talk
yourself down like that. You
stabbed them thirty three times.
Each, that is sixty six stabbys
in total. It is quite impressive.
I usually get fed up before I've
got to double digits.

(pause)

Soooooooooooooooooooo, here is the
question. Did I make you do it?

MARY

Nope, it was all me. Enjoyed
every second and I would do it
again.

DEVIL

Ohhhh, now could I be double
bluffing here? If I made her kill
then I could make her lie about
it! I lie so well I could go into
politics!

The Devil stops for a second, they hold out their arms as if
displaying a sign

DEVIL (CONT'D)

We send three... yeah, lets not
go there. Nothing to do with me
that one. You're on your own.

MARY

So, are you going to kill me?

The Devil lets out a huge bubbling "Mwuhahahahaha" laugh,
straight from the belly.

DEVIL

Nah, you did what I asked and
answered my questions. Besides
you're already dead, so what's
the point. Nexxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxt! We
have John, Johnny john john. You
are under the spot.

John is very blunt, short sharp answers.

JOHN

Go to hell.

DEVIL

Been there, you should see my
tripadvisor review,
its.....

(Pause)

Wait for it

(pause again)

Its Hot! Mwuhahahahahahahahah. So
John are you a Torrence or a
Baptist?

JOHN

I'm no baptist, sure I did it. I
killed em all.

DEVIL

And, did I make you do it? Honest
answers only please.

JOHN

Would a normal person have done
what I did?

The Devil sigh and looks at John

DEVIL

Sweetie, if I were looking for
normal I'd be upstairs. You know
in the boring harpy place. Just
answer the damn question

JOHN

Yes, yes you did. I woke one
morning and I saw you, I had a
vision of you and hell.

The Devil pulls a imaginary zipper over their mouth, as they
do so John struggles to speak, he tries to open his mouth but
cant.

DEVIL

Honestly I don't get a moment to
myself. They are calling me from
hell, it is my round apparently.
So let's wrap this up. Right how
can we do this

Things take a faster pace at this point, not overly fast, but
quicker.

The Devil rubs their chin as if thinking

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Game theory, anyone know it?

(pause)

Right it goes like this. You can try this at home, goes right over my head but apparently it works. Once again, nothing to do with me. So three people at the table gives you a 33.3% chance of picking the right person, one in three. Keep up at the back, this is simple stuff. So you pick who you think is the correct one. Don't worry I'll pick for you, you can trust me.

The Devil winks at the audience.

The Devil eeny meeny miney moes over the three remaining. They have to start in the right place to land on Debbie, yeah it is a cheat, but it is also the devil.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So, Debbie. Right as the game show host I shall remove one of the incorrect choices that are left.

The Devil looks over at John and Mary. They look at both of them alternating between them. Then they raise their fingers in a gun shape, pointing it at one or the other. Finally they settle on John and pulls the imaginary trigger. John slumps to the table. It'd be cool to have a real bang sound effect for the imaginary gun firing if possible.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So, two left. Remember we picked Debbie as our choice. Debbie did you do it?

Debbie is nervous, we can hear it in her voice. Like someone at their first interview she stumbles over the words, she knows what she wants to say it is just nerves.

DEBBIE

I poisoned my in laws for the inheritance.

DEVIL

Did they deserve it? I bet very few here would blame you for killing the in laws, they've all thought about it

DEBBIE

They deserved it all right, when they died my husband took off with another woman, so I saw none of the money.

DEVIL

Hah! Karma, Karma is a bitch
(thinking)
I knew a girl called Karma once...

(pause)

Sorry, reminiscing. So did I make you do it Debbie, Did the devil fly into ya mind and make ya kill people? Did I say "Knock em off and take the dough?"

DEBBIE

No, Well. I... I don't know. Would I know if you had? Isn't that how you work?

DEVIL

No dear, I outsourced that yonks ago, haven't you heard of Pazuzu? Captain Howdy?

(short pause)

Two left, one says they had free will and did it themselves, the other says... well I am not sure what Debbie says, but yeah so lets say Debbie thinks I made her do it. Right maths

The Devil rolls their eyes

DEVIL (CONT'D)

We had a one in three chance at the start. Debbie, John or Mary. John has gone. Sooo now it is fifty fifty. Game theory says you should always change your choice. I didn't believe it either but after chucking a few million souls into the inferno to test it it works. It only bleedin worked! You end up with around a 61% chance of being correct if you switch.

The devil holds up their hand and starts counting on fingers, they then scratch their head

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Nope, still don't get it. It is true though, google it, bing it, yahoo it is you are from the nineties. So changing our choice to Mary gives us a 61% chance of being correct. Drum roll please, are we right? Is Mary the one who was controlled by yours truly.

The Devil turns and looks at Debbie

DEVIL (CONT'D)

Sorry Dearie, it's been fun

The Devil mimics a throat cut and Debbie slumps on the table

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So Mary, here we are. Great double bluffing!

MARY

So I win, You made me do it?

DEVIL

No, you're also full of crap.

The Devil makes a knifing gesture, mimicking the sound from psycho as they do so. Mary gets stabbed and slumps. All four are "dead"

The Devil turns to the audience, this time deadly serious. No joking around.

DEVIL (CONT'D)

So what have we learnt. Two lessons. One is game theory, the other is a moral one.

The Devil pulls the dictaphone / mobile / whatever and presses play.

DEVIL - RECORDING

"I Lie, I cheat and I am not a good person. Well I am a Angel, duh. These are known facts"

It plays out to the audience

DEVIL

I do all those things, but I don't make you kill each other. Why would I, you do that just fine on your own. You have free will, own your mistakes people.

The Devil exits stage left.

FIN