CROSSROADS

Written by
Anthony Cawood

Copyright (c) 2024 anthony@anthonycawood.co.uk

EXT. BACKWOODS CROSSROADS - NIGHT

Two figures stand at the intersection bathed in the light cast by a full moon, one is very tall, one not so much.

There's no getting away from it, the taller figure is SATAN, the cliched version, red skin, cloven hoof, horns, tail, the full works.

The other is ANDI (13), skater chick chic, hoody up, grinning at the demonic presence in front of her.

SATAN

Come again.

ANDI

That's how it works right, my soul for --

SATAN

I am the Lord of Flies, so oddly enough I'm aware of how the eternal trade works.

ANDT

So we have a deal?

Satan scans his surroundings, definitely a crossroads. He shakes his head.

SATAN

I mean, I quess.

ANDT

Sweet!

Andi fist pumps.

Satan is incredulous.

SATAN

Are you sure you wouldn't rather just forget about this and go home for milk and cookies, save your soul?

Andi shakes her head.

Satan tries a different tack.

SATAN (cont'd)

Won't your parents be missing you?

ANDI

Snuck out.

SATAN

Of course you did.

Andi approaches closer.

ANDI

No, I just need to beat Benjy and get his game hack.

SATAN

Normally people want wealth, power, fame. One fellow, what was his name... Johnson, wanted to play the blues better than --

ANDI

No! Just Pokemon, beat Benjy just this once.

Satan is not used to being interrupted, flames appear on his skin and he seems to grow wider and taller.

SATAN

Do you know what the word trivial means?!?

Andi shakes her head again, but can sense it's not good.

ANDT

You said we had a deal.

The flames disappear.

Satan sighs.

SATAN

And we do.

He waves his hands in the air, tracing an intricate pattern that sends sparks flying into the night.

A parchment scroll appears in mid air, along with a gothic looking writing quill dripping blood.

ANDT

Awesome!

SATAN

Jesus!

Satan scowls.

SATAN (cont'd)

Now you've made me invoke his name!

He makes the sign of the cross, elongated and clearly upside down.

SATAN (cont'd)

It is not awesome, you little shit, it is your immortal soul.

Andi shrugs.

ANDI

Yeah, but Benjy's face will be lit.

Satan's shoulders slump, this is beneath him, but he's backed into a corner.

SATAN

Very well.

He unrolls the scroll and points with a sharp claw.

SATAN (cont'd)

Sign here.

Andi grabs the quill and scrawls her name,

Andí Garríson

Smiles and drops the quill.

ANDI

Is that it?

Satan nods.

SATAN

Yes, I now possess your immortal soul and you will join me in Hell at the end of your mortal life.

ANDI

Benjy is never gonna believe this.

SATAN

Of that I have no doubt.

Andi turns and scampers off into the darkness.

Satan watches her go and shakes his head some more.

EXT. BACKWOODS CROSSROADS - NEXT NIGHT

Andi stands in position again, this time with a smart-phone in hand.

The moon is no longer full but there's still enough light to see a small puff of smoke before Satan materializes.

Satan glances around and then stares at Andi, anger building in his face, flames already starting to erupt on his skin.

SATAN

You dare summon me again!

Andi smirks.

SATAN (cont'd)

I already possess your soul --

ANDI

I beat Benjy.

SATAN

I knew that as soon as you signed. That's how the deal works.

Andi's smile widens.

ANDI

So I got his hack too.

SATAN

Look kid, I know you are a kid, but I genuinely think you may have made the biggest mistake of your life, well maybe the second biggest.

Andi ignores the Prince of Hell and continues.

ANDT

It allows him, well now me I guess...

She presses a button on her phone, the unmistakable sound of a digital camera shutter follows.

ANDI (cont'd)

To make our own Pokemon and put them in the game.

SATAN

Fascinating.

ANDI

Wanna see?

Andi holds up her phone, Pokemon user interface on screen.

In the bottom corner a thumbnail image of Satan.

Satan frowns.

SATAN

What are you --

Andi presses another on-screen button and moves her phone up in front of Satan.

Satan's thumbnail pulses as it matches with the real one.

SATAN (cont'd)

Your little toy game is of no concern to me for I am Deceiver of Worlds.

He doesn't sound totally convinced.

Andi presses the screen again and a red and white ball appears.

SATAN (cont'd)

What's that?

ANDI

It's a Poke ball.

Andi flicks her wrist.

On screen the Poke Ball arcs towards Satan.

Bounces off him.

Both look surprised.

Satan recovers quickest.

SATAN

Of course it has no power over me, I am the Angel of the Abyss.

Andi loads up and throws another ball.

It bounces again, but did Satan just flicker on screen and off?

SATAN (cont'd)

Enough, I will take your soul now as punishment for such insolence.

Andi, no longer grinning, throws the ball again.

BULLSEYE.

The Poke ball flashes, sparkles fill the screen and the ball bounces to the bottom of the screen.

Satan is gone.

The Poke ball pulses, a little red light flashing, game still deciding if it has captured the target.

ANDI

C'mon, c'mon.

The red light turns white and a mini explosion of yellow stars appear.

ANDI (cont'd)

Gotcha!

Andi's face is smugness personified.

ANDI (cont'd)

Benjy is just gonna flip.

And off she trots, phone held aloft in celebration.

Inside the phone, tiny claws scratch at the glass.

Andi doesn't notice.

Is that a crack?

The scratching redoubles, and Satan gets his horns into the action like a very angry ram.

Definitely a crack now.

FADE OUT

THE END