

The Magick in the Machine

by

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By threat of mortal spell
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FADE IN:

INT. SYBILL'S BEDROOM - EVENING

SYBILL (70s) arranges candles at a dressing table. Doilies and liquid-filled bottles everywhere.

She's dressed in a blue satin gown too low-cut for her age, and HUMS an ancient LULLABY.

Sybill glances in the mirror. Frowns.

SLAM. The door CRASHES open in the next room. Young VOICES GIGGLE outside.

INT. SYBILL'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

TODD (20s) stumbles in the dark, a BEAUTIFUL GIRL (CANDI, 20s) at his side.

He's pale and scrawny in a rock t-shirt. Tribal tats on his neck. Every inch of him screams "junkie."

Candi's too drunk to care. Todd pulls out a silver necklace, and drapes it over her head.

TODD

Babe, that looks soooo good.

Candi looks around. Lace curtains. More doilies. China dolls stare at her from the bookcase.

CANDI

You collect dolls? That's creepy.

TODD

Nah. It's just my grand-ma's stuff.

CANDI

You live with her? Ew.

Todd nibbles on her neck.

CANDI

She's not here now. Is she?

TODD

What kinda freak do you think I am?

CANDI
 One that would like this.
 (kisses him)
 And this...

She snakes a hand into his jeans. They fall onto a plastic covered couch, locked in a heated embrace.

MOMENTS LATER

Sybill sneaks from the bedroom. Half-naked bodies writhe on the couch. Candi's on top, her back to her.

CANDI
 Oooooo, Todd!

TODD
 Call me Garreth. That's my club name...

CANDI
 That feels so good!

TODD
 Wait'll you feel what comes next...

Candi squirms with pleasure. Todd locks eyes with Sybill over her shoulder.

He caresses Candi's neck. Grabs the silver necklace in front.

CLOSE-UP: Sharp edges on each side of the chain.

He pulls and TWISTS. Blood JETS from Candi's neck. Todd looks up at Sybill and smiles.

SYBILL
 I told you the plastic would come in handy...

LATER

Smoke from candles fill the room, arranged in abstract patterns. Candi lies on the dining room table. The dolls surround her, placed in chairs.

Todd slashes Candi's wrists, and pours it into a silver chalice. Blood from her neck DRIPS into a pot on the floor.

Todd hands the cup to Sybill. She takes a sip.

SYBILL
 So. What was this one's name?

TODD

Candi.

SYBILL

I'm guessing she wasn't the intellectual type. Looks like you enjoyed her, nonetheless. Did you fuck before you brought her home?

TODD

Why would I, when I have you..?

Sybill stands up and walks away - her back to Todd.

SYBILL

You called me your *grandmother*.

TODD

I gotta explain the decorations somehow.

SYBILL

And what's this about calling you Garreth?

TODD

It's my Goth name. It sounds cool.

Sybill turns around. She's young. Ravishing. Beautiful. Todd can't tear his eyes away.

TODD

You look bewitching in blue...

INT. SYBILL'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Sunshine peeks through a lace curtain. Todd and Sybill's clothes litter the floor.

The two lie in bed. The sheets look like they've been through a war. Hair spills across Sybill's face. She arches a leg in the air.

SYBILL

We should do that more often.

She stops. Sees papery skin. Varicose veins.

She jumps from the bed, hair still covering her face. She races to the mirror and GASPS.

Todd sneaks up behind her and cups a breast.

TODD
Ready for a second round?

SYBILL
No!

Sybill pushes him away. Todd grabs her waist.

TODD
Come on. You know you like it hard.

The hair WHIPS from her face. It's aged overnight; just the way she was before. Todd's face falls.

TODD
What the fuck? It lasted a month before...

SYBILL
I - I don't know! Are you sure her blood was pure?
(accusatory)
Did you pick her up at that dive on 4th? Where your dirty friends hang out?

TODD
(pouts)
No. I did exactly what you said. I found her at Starbucks, okay?

SYBILL
Well, something went wrong!

TODD
Maybe you're - just getting old.

He grabs a vial of liquid off her dresser. Pulls on his pants, and takes a sip.

SYBILL
What are you doing?!?

TODD
Looks like I got some time to kill.

LATER

Todd surfs porn on a laptop, a glazed look in his eye. Sybill pouts at the door.

SYBILL
Are you even going to help take out the trash?

TODD

Later. She won't go bad for at least a day.

SYBILL

You're useless. I should find someone new.

TODD

Good luck finding a distributor for your "herbs"...

(grins)

Besides, you like the fringe benefits.

A look of revulsion on Sybill's face.

SYBILL

I'm worried. The spells are less potent, every time. I think my body's wearing out.

TODD

(distracted)

A few centuries, right? Not that bad.

SYBILL

We drained her dry. It wasn't enough!

TODD

So? Transfer to a *new* body. I'll pick one out tomorrow night...

SYBILL

We can't. That spell's too complicated. Do it wrong, and it'll rot - with me inside!

Todd doesn't look up. Too busy with a "naughty nurses" video.

SYBILL

Must you watch that tripe?

TODD

When you look like *that* I do.

SYBILL

(disgusted)

You 'modern' people and your technology! Your toys grant you so much power! You can go anywhere.

SYBILL (CONT'D)

Do anything. And you use it for
abominations like that!

LATER

Candi lies on the table, stiff and pale. A little green.

Sybill struggles to wrap her in a garbage bag. Candi's
manicured feet stick out the open end.

Sybill pulls her off the table. THUNK.

Candi's head wedges against the end table. Sybill yanks it
free with a CRACK. She drags the bag towards the kitchen...

She spots her reflection in a mirror and SHUDDERS. Looks like
she's aged five more years.

She glances at Todd, still watching porn. It's Japanese
school girls now.

SYBILL

(mutters)

Go anywhere. Do anything?

Slowly, she starts to smile...

INT. SYBILL'S LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Todd's laptop sits on the dining room table.

The garbage bag's visible in the kitchen. Candi's been packed
away. A trail of blood trickles out one ripped end.

Todd pulls wires out of a drawer. Sybill strips them and
twists copper ends into points.

TODD

You can't switch bodies. But you're
sure *this* is gonna work?

SYBILL

Inanimate objects offer... less
resistance. This is easier, my pet.

TODD

(pouts)

"My Pet." What do I get outta it?
After all I done for you...

Sybill dangles a vial of liquid in his face.

SYBILL
I'll put a spell on this. It'll
never run dry again, for as long as
you're alive.

He grabs it from her hand.

TODD
HELL yeah!
(beat)
'Course, I'll miss you lots. My
love...

Sybill looks unconvinced.

SYBILL
Who'd you order from, anyway?

TODD
The new Thai place, down the block.

SYBILL
Good! They have extra young ones
there. We'll need pure energy.

TODD
Yeah. It's pretty tasty, too...

The doorbell RINGS. Sybill perks up.

SYBILL
Right on time.

MOMENTS LATER

A TEENAGER stands in the doorway, takeout bags in his hands.

DELIVERY BOY
Apt. #2F, Large Pad Thai?

Todd slips behind him, and closes the door. Sybill lunges
towards the shocked teen's face.

LATER

The boy lies spread-eagle on the table, stripped to his
waist. Wires are jammed in his wrists. The cords lead to
ports on Todd's laptop.

Sybill scrawls a bloody symbol across the boy's chest and
CHANTS. She looks even older now - features sagging visibly.

SYBILL

Demons, transfer my soul into this vessel. Render it unto me, and make it mine!

The boy TWITCHES. Blood gushes from his mouth and eyes.

Sybill places both hands on his chest, and arches her back. Dark reflections crawl across the laptop screen.

SYBILL

I feel it. It's working!

TODD

What about the potion? Don't leave me unpaid, you bitch!

He reaches across, to pull the plug. Sybill SLAPS the potion bottle into his hand.

SYBILL

That's "witch" to you...

Todd CHUGS from the vial. It fills back up instantly. His eyes glaze over. Sybill looks drunk on power, too.

SYBILL

Oh, I'm coming...

Her gaze slips to Todd.

SYBILL

I wish I could say it'd been a pleasure.

TODD

(slurred)

Yeah. Sure. See you around.

HEAVY SMOKE fills the air. Sybill vaporizes in a shower of SPARKS... They fall like faerie dust on the PC.

Sybill's face re-forms on-screen - young and more beautiful than before.

Her LAUGH echoes through tinny speakers... A shocked Todd stares at her.

TODD

Holy shit. It worked. How do you feel?

SYBILL

Energized. And - free!

TODD
 Damn, you look good. You sure you
 can't stay awhile?

Sybill smiles strangely; her face bathed in electric light.

SYBILL
 You've helped me along these past
 few years. So, I should be honest
 with you, Todd.

TODD
 Garreth.

SYBILL
 Okay. *Garreth*. I know you fucked
 Candi. Women's intuition. Plus, I
 used a seer spell. I don't like
 being lied to.

Todd takes another drink and shrugs.

TODD
 Oh well.

SYBILL
 How do *you* feel?

TODD
 Kinda light headed. This is *strong*
 shit.

SYBILL
 It's also poisoned. I don't like
 leaving loose ends behind.

TODD
 But you said -

SYBILL
 That it would last as long as you
 live. Which is coming soon to an
 end...

Todd staggers towards the screen. He stumbles into the
 delivery boy's leg, and almost falls.

Sybill LAUGHS. Her image enlarges, and flares hellish red.

Todd drops into a chair. He drools and stares at the screen.

SYBILL
 Goodbye, *Garreth*. Maybe I'll see
 you in Hell. Someday.

Todd TAPS an Icon. A program boots rapidly.

SYBILL

(sarcastic)

Planning to twit one of your
hussies before you die?

TODD

No. I just turned on McAfee. And
that's "twitter" by the way.

SYBILL

What..?

A vortex SWIRLS on-screen. Sybill's image starts to break
apart. She SCREAMS.

SYBILL

What's happening?!?

TODD

You're a virus. I'm wiping you out
of the system, before you multiply.

Sybill HOWLS. The screen goes black, followed by the "blue
screen of death." Blood drips out the side vents.

TODD

(smiles weakly)

Old ladies. Don't know shit about
software...

He collapses on the keyboard, dead. Random characters scroll
across the screen.

The delivery boy's blood PATTERS from the table, onto the
floor. A sudden spark from the laptop port. Fire dances down
wires, into the corpse.

The delivery boy's fingers start to twitch. Flesh SIZZLES
from open wrists.

He sits up, and catches his reflection in the hallway mirror.
His bloody face stares back at him.

DELIVERY BOY

Well, at least I'm young again.

He CHUCKLES darkly. Starts to smile. Sybill's soul glows in
his eyes.

FINAL FADE OUT: