

An Eye For an Eye

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. PARK - TRAIL - DAY

A walking trail winds in and out of trees. The full tops block a good deal of the sun, leaving the woods somewhat dark and eerie.

EVE MARTIN (17), an innocence about her, wearing a sun dress and carrying a purse, holds hands with JOEL DENNIS (19), preppy type, nicely dressed.

EVE

My dad is going to be so mad at me.

JOEL

Why? Because you're missing church?

EVE

Not just church, but Easter service.

JOEL

I don't think God cares whether you talk about him in a church or out here.

EVE

God may not care but my dad does. Church used to be so much fun, before he became obsessive. Now I really don't care about going anymore. Does that make me a bad person?

Joel stops Eve and takes her hands into his.

JOEL

No. You couldn't be bad if you tried.

Eve grins shyly at him.

JOEL

Look, I don't really know about this religion stuff. Maybe there's a god, maybe there isn't. But what I do know is that people aren't perfect, including your dad. We have flaws. That's what makes us human.

Eve listens intently to his every word. She's very taken with him.

JOEL

If you have to be perfect your whole life to get into Heaven, then I don't want to go. I'd rather live my life the way I want and suffer the consequences in the end.

EVE

You could sell me a bridge if you wanted. You're that good.

JOEL

I bet I'd make a pretty good minister if I wanted... but no thanks.

A cell phone inside Eve's purse RINGS. She pulls it out and checks the display.

EVE

(into phone)

Hey!

SOPHIA (O.S.)

(filtered)

Eve, your dad keeps calling my house. I think my parents are starting to get suspicious.

EVE

Don't worry. He'll wear himself out.

SOPHIA (O.S.)

(filtered)

Are you sure? I'm in so much trouble if I'm caught covering for you.

EVE

Trust me.

She glances at her watch.

EVE

Easter service has started. That should keep him busy for a while.

SOPHIA (O.S.)

(filtered)

Are you coming back soon?

EVE

Yeah. We're on our way.

SOPHIA (O.S.)  
(filtered)  
Okay but please hurry.

Eve hangs up the phone and drops it into her purse.

EVE  
Sophia. My dad keeps calling to  
check on me. I guess I should get  
over to her house soon before he  
sends the marines after me.

Joel smiles at Eve. She smiles back.

JOEL  
I really can't blame the guy. If  
you were my daughter, I'd be extra  
protective, too.

They come together for a long kiss.

WATCHER'S POV: Behind a tree. We see the back of a man's  
head as he watches the couple several yards from him.

INT. CHURCH - DAY - SAME

An Easter service takes place. WOMEN wear colorful dresses  
and hats. MEN are dressed in suits. CHILDREN are little  
copies of their parents. All listen intently to the MINISTER  
at the podium as he delivers his passionate sermon.

MINISTER  
A young boy asked me the other day,  
"What's so important about Easter?"  
He understood that the Easter Bunny  
would come to bring him a basket of  
candy, and that he would hunt eggs  
with the other children, but this  
young man was bright for his age.

He looks down at the front pew, where two children sit with  
their parents, and smiles fondly.

MINISTER  
He knew there was a bigger meaning  
to this special day, a meaning that  
no one had discussed with him before.  
Today, I want all of the children  
present to know that Easter is about  
much more than the candy and the  
(MORE)

MINISTER (CONT'D)  
eggs. It's about God and Jesus and  
sharing our love for them with  
family...

AD-LIB the minister continuing his sermon about the meaning  
of Easter.

Seated in a back pew, JARVIS MARTIN (40), ex-marine, hard  
core, sits alone, enough room to the outside of the pew for  
another person.

He listens intently to the sermon, eyes lit up like a boy on  
Christmas morning anxious to open his presents. Things don't  
get any better for him.

CLOSE ON the empty seat next to him.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY - LATER

Churchgoers disperse after the service.

In a vacant lot next to the church, three young men: MARK,  
TODD, and DWAYNE skateboard back and forth across the lot.  
They're quite good. Each wears long shorts with tank tops  
and tennis shoes. They laugh and have a great time.

Jarvis stops to the side. His attention goes to the men.  
The look on his face says it all... he disapproves of them.

EXT. PARK - TRAIL - DAY

Joel and Eve are sitting on a bench, kissing heavily,  
oblivious to everything around them.

WATCHER'S POV: The view slowly moves in on the couple.

Three men and one woman in their 20s approach the unsuspecting  
pair. JOHNNY MATTHEWS is a true bad ass with the look you'd  
expect - a few piercings, leather jacket, black hair and  
clothing.

SCOTT PETERS is a poser. He tries to be bad, but it's a  
facade. He's really a good guy.

CHARLIE SIMS is more of a nerd type. He hasn't been able to  
find his niche so he hangs out with the tough crowd just to  
be cool. His attempt to dress "cool" fails to hide his  
geekness.

KATE THOMPSON is more like Johnny. The dark attire, piercings, and bad attitude.

JOHNNY

Well, look what we have here.

Eve pulls back from Joel. Both are a little concerned with the situation but try to remain calm. They stand.

JOEL

Hey, dudes.

SCOTT

Got a smoke?

JOEL

No. Sorry.

JOHNNY

I think you're lyin`.

(to his gang)

What do you think, guys? Should we search him?

Kate eyes Eve's purse.

KATE

Don't forget the girl. That purse looks plenty big to hold some smokes.

Eve clutches her purse closer.

EVE

We really need to go. My dad's waiting for me.

Joel and she turn to leave. Johnny roughly grabs Joel.

JOHNNY

Did I say you could leave?

Kate steps behind Eve and plays with her hair. Even sniffs it.

KATE

I bet you use some fancy, expensive shampoo. Don't you, princess?

Eve looks to Joel for help, but he has his own problems.