

The Antichrist Cometh

by

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Setting

A living room.

Time

The present.

Cast

GREG - A man in his 20s-30s. Husband of KIM.

KIM - A woman in her 20s-30s. Wife of GREG.

(In a typical suburban living room, KIM applies lipstick as she looks in a mirror. GREG enters, adjusting his tie.)

KIM

Honey, did you pick up that Beaujolais Nouveau like I asked?

GREG

Yeah, you bet! It's right on the side table there.

KIM

Are you about ready? Diane said dinner would be around seven.

GREG

Which means eight.

(KIM moves from the mirror and GREG takes her place, checking his tie and hair.)

KIM

I think Marty and Colleen are going to be there. They said they want to hear about our trip to the Caymans. I guess they're thinking about going.

GREG

Do you want to bring our pictures?

KIM

Are you kidding? I don't think we want to inflict the sight of us in bathing suits on anyone.

(GREG looks at himself more closely in the mirror, adjusting his hair this way and that.)

GREG

You know, I hate to say it, but I think I'm starting to thin out a little up top.

KIM

Don't be silly.

GREG

No, I definitely am. I can see...

KIM

And even if you are, so what?

GREG

Hon, could you come here a second?

KIM

What is it?

GREG

There's something...it looks like there's something written on my scalp.

KIM

What?

GREG

Can you see? I can't make it out.

(GREG bends over as KIM examines him.)

KIM

I can't believe that--oh, there it is! You're right! There is something! Why, they're little numbers! 6-6-6!

GREG

Are you sure? You're sure it's not 9-9-9?

KIM

No, it's 6-6-6 all right. The numbers have those little lines under them and everything. Oh my gosh, Hon! You know what that means, don't you? You're the Antichrist!

GREG

The Antichrist?

KIM

Talk about a surprise.

GREG

You're telling me.

(They look at one another, both absorbing this unexpected news.)

KIM

Well. Do you think we should pick up a cheesecake from Beaubien's for the party?

GREG

What?

(KIM resumes getting ready, as if nothing has happened.)

KIM

I'm not sure what Diane has planned for dessert, but it couldn't hurt to have a little back-up.

GREG

Honey, I just found out that I'm the Antichrist! Don't you think that changes our dinner plans slightly?

KIM

Oh, I see what you mean. You want to be late.

GREG

No, I don't want to be late! I just...don't you think...?

KIM

What?

GREG

Well...shouldn't I be doing something?

KIM

Like what?

GREG

I don't know! Something...evil, I guess. I mean, think about it. When you think Antichrist, do you think dinner party?

KIM

Are we including in-laws?

GREG

Maybe this is some kind of mistake. It has to be! Do I seem like the Antichrist to you?

KIM

Well, you can be a little moody.

GREG

I am not moody!

KIM

Don't you think you're being a little moody right now?

GREG

I just found out I'm the Antichrist! I think I'm entitled to be a little bit upset!

KIM

You don't have to raise your voice.

GREG

I'm sorry. It's just...this Antichrist business has me a little wound up, that's all.

KIM

Now that I think about it, I seem to recall something about the Antichrist from Sunday school.

GREG

What?

KIM

Well, I could be wrong, but I think you're supposed to arrive on Earth riding a white horse.

GREG

I am?

KIM

I'm pretty sure.

GREG

Well, then it's not me! I've never ridden a horse! I don't even like horses! Boy, that's a relief!

KIM

Are you sure you've never ridden a horse?

GREG

I'm positive!

KIM

Then maybe...oh! I just remembered something!

GREG

What?

KIM

You're not going to like it.

GREG

What? Tell me!

KIM

What was the very first car that you owned?

GREG

Well, you know that, Hon. It was my Mustang.

KIM

Your white Mustang.

GREG

Huh? Oh, come on!

KIM

A white horse! It's a prophecy!

GREG

No, it isn't!

KIM

It is too!

GREG

Listen, God is all-knowing, right? Well then, why didn't He just say in the Bible that the Antichrist will arrive on Earth driving a Mustang GT350 with dual exhaust and mag wheels?

KIM

It's symbolic! The Bible can't come right out and say something that specific!

GREG

Why not?

KIM

Because...well, look at it this way. Don't you think the peasants in the Middle Ages would have been just a little confused by references to mag wheels?

GREG

Yeah, I suppose you're right. I just wish I had some kind of direction or guidance, or something.

KIM

I know! Why don't we look it up in the Bible right now?

GREG

That's a great idea! Let's do that!

(KIM moves to a bookcase and pulls out a Bible.)

KIM

You'd think your mother would have noticed those numbers on your head when you were a baby. Didn't she ever mention it to you?

(KIM sits on the sofa and leafs through the Bible.)

GREG

No! How could she have known? I was born with a full head of hair!

KIM

Oh, that's right! I remember seeing those pictures! You were so cute! Such a little mop top!

(GREG paces back and forth, too nervous to sit down.)

GREG

Yes, yes, I was a little mop top. Now could we please--

KIM

Oh, right! Okay, here we are! Oh, you know what? I was wrong. It's God who arrives on the white horse, not you.

GREG

Well, I guess that makes sense. He is the good guy, right? But what does it say about me?

KIM

I'm looking! All right, apparently, you are referred to as the "Beast." Well, I can attest to that.

GREG

What do you mean you can attest to that?

KIM

Honey, do you remember our wedding day?

GREG

Of course!

KIM

Well, do you think most newlyweds consummate their marriage in the alley behind the church?

GREG

But, I was just so happy!

KIM

And I love it when you're "happy!" I do! But you have to admit that--

GREG

Okay, fine! Fine! You made your point! What else does it say?

KIM

Well, after you arrive here, your primary goal is to "deceive those who dwell on Earth."

GREG

Now, come on! What is that supposed to mean? Does that sound like me?

KIM

You are in advertising, Honey.

GREG

Oh, right. Damn!

KIM

This is very impressive so far.

GREG

Okay, okay. So I'm the "Beast" and I deceive people. What next?

KIM

Well, it doesn't go into a lot of detail. But apparently at some point you will be opposed by 144,000 people and a lamb.

GREG

A lamb?

KIM

I'm guessing that's symbolic.

GREG

Right.

KIM

And then, an angel is going to pour a bowl of wrath on your throne.

GREG

Ooh, I've got a throne? Really?

KIM

That's what it says.

GREG

Huh! Well, that's not too shabby. Do I get to keep it?

KIM

I don't think so.

GREG

Why not?

KIM

Because then you make war on God and His army of believers with your army of deceived people.

GREG

And? What happens?

KIM

Let's see...oh, here it is. You lose.

GREG

I lose?

KIM

Yep. Sorry, Hon.

GREG

Ah, that's okay. I guess somebody's got to lose, right? I kind of expected it, to tell you the truth. So what happens after that? I learn my lesson and get redeemed or something?

KIM

No. Actually, you're thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with brimstone.

GREG

You're kidding.

KIM

Nope.

GREG

I'm not redeemed?

KIM

Not according to this.

GREG

There's no...happy ending?

KIM

Not for you. Although everyone else seems to make out pretty good.

GREG

Well, that doesn't sound very merciful.

KIM

Actually, if you read through the Bible, God has His merciful days and His not so merciful days.

GREG

Well, in that case, I just don't get it. I don't get the whole deal.

KIM

What?

GREG

Think about it, Honey! Think about what you just told me. If I'm the Antichrist, what's my motivation?

KIM

To do what?

GREG

To do anything! If I know I'm going to lose, and I know I'm going to get thrown into a lake of brimstone, what's my motivation?

KIM

Um...oh! You're evil incarnate!

GREG

Okay, so I'm evil incarnate! But I'm literate, right? I can read a book! If I want to, after a hard day deceiving people, I can sit down and look through the Bible, can't I?

KIM

I'm not sure I see what you're getting at.

GREG

What I'm getting at is this--why should I play along? I know how the story ends, and between you and me, I don't particularly like that ending! Oh, it's all a bed of roses for everyone else, but it's fire and brimstone for me! You see what I mean?

KIM

You know, you might have a point there.

GREG

What kind of idiot do they think I am?

KIM

Honey, the Bible never said you were an idiot.

GREG

You're damned right I'm not an idiot! Well, I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to fix them. I'm going to fix them good.

KIM

Fix who?

GREG

Everybody! God, angels, even that lamb if he's mixed up in this.

KIM

What are you going to do?

GREG

Picture it, Honey! Right now, they're up there...up there waiting. They've got the white horse, the bowls of wrath, the whole kit and caboodle all ready to go. And what are they waiting for? Me. They are waiting for me to make my move.

KIM

That's what it seems like, all right.

GREG

Well now, suppose I don't make that move? Suppose I don't assemble an army of deceived people. Suppose...I just go out to a dinner party with my brilliant and breathtakingly beautiful wife?

KIM

Oh! Oh, that is evil.

GREG

Isn't it? They can just cool their heels for a while! I'm the guy who decides when there's going to be an Apocalypse, and you know what I'm deciding? There ain't going to be one! Not as long as I'm Antichrist! Shall we?

(GREG picks up the bottle of Beaujolais Nouveau and offers his arm to KIM, who takes it. They begin to walk towards the door.)

KIM

Do you think we should tell anyone about this?

GREG

Nah. It might put kind of a damper on the dinner conversation.

KIM

Well, if you don't talk about something, you know that we're going to have to listen to Jerry's golf stories all night.

GREG

I'll tell you what, if he gets on your nerves, just let me know and I'll turn him into a pillar of salt.

KIM

Hon, I think it's God that turns people into pillars of salt.

GREG

Oh yeah? Well, I'll turn him into a pillar of something.

KIM

You'd do that for me?

GREG

Of course. Anything for you, babe.

(They kiss, and GREG takes the opportunity to pinch KIM's behind.)

KIM

Ooh! You are a beast!

GREG

Hey, just wait until you see me after a couple of glasses of Beaujolais. Sodom and Gomorrah, here we come!

KIM

No, we don't.

GREG

Say, what actually happened in Gomorrah, anyway?

(KIM rearranges GREG's hair and gives him a loving little kiss on his forehead.)

KIM

Honey, there are some things you just shouldn't think about.

GREG

Ain't that the truth?

(They both exit on this last line.)

THE END.