

BEDEVILED!

Live from the Calhoun Senior High School Memorial Auditorium, it's the annual talent show. ADAM RICHARDS, 19, gains confidence when his magic act makes the crowd go crazy!

That's until he realizes a masked girl behind him is doing a striptease! Then a masked, bare-buttred youth moons the audience. The cruel practical joke crushes Adam when he sees the stripper backstage is DEVON KIMBERLY, 18, the girl of his dreams... taking off with the boy of his nightmares, handsome and obnoxiously grinning BRAD DUGAN, 20.

PRINCIPAL WARREN fumes, but Adam says he doesn't know the identity of the stripper and bare-assed youth. Then alone near the dressing rooms, *SLAM!* — Adam's pinned by Brad's football buddies HAL and GUS, both 19. Brad pushes Adam's face to Devon's cleavage, threatens there's no way Adam should ever even think of looking at Devon.

Outside the school, Adam's friends JEFF SANDLER, 19, and DENZEL LAMAR, 19, see Adam turn to Jell-O with an appreciative word from the gorgeous Devon passing by. Jeff thinks Adam needs professional help. Adam agrees.

Down a grungy street, into the scary back room of a mysterious Old Magic Shoppe, Adam looks through paraphernalia, severed limbs... He's jolted by the appearance of the macabre OLD OWNER, then explains he's in love with this girl, but... Adam gloomily gestures he could never have her. With weird dusty jars containing disgusting ingredients for aphrodisiac potions... the Old Owner offers the smelly pubic hair of a cat in heat, under "P" for pussy... And under "N" for nuts... dried bull testicles.

The reluctant Adam is about to leave, thinking himself stupid to believe in spells and potions, but he turns back when the Old Man confides that the power of mystical domination does exist. There's an old book, the *Diabolus Maleficus*... Its author came from the Nether World of the Undead. One of the last surviving copies of the Book was stolen from a Vatican vault by a notorious 19th century demonologist, Vladimir Konstantinovskiy... He also mysteriously vanished.

No mortal could resist the powers contained in the Book... Now, hey, that's the kind of book Adam would just love to get his hands on. But the macabre Magic Shoppe Owner warns that no man ever harnessed the Book's deadly power and lived. Careful what path you choose... Play with fire, you get *burnt*.

Adam hits the library computer room. After endless research and hacking obscure sites, he makes a connection: A Konstantinovskiy gargoyle family crest was made for a "Constantine" buried in Calverton, a town 500 miles away!

Adam gets the reluctant Jeff and Denzel to drive with him, convincing them the road to Calverton is packed with gorgeous girls hitching to that new Calverton School of Design. Later, Adam's old Chevy drops off an enormous breasted female trucker who almost squashed Jeff in the car.

They drive for hours till Adam's old Chevy lights up the dilapidated arch of Calverton's Paradise Lawn Cemetery. With flashlights piercing the spookiness, the three buddies nervously crack jokes... suddenly face one hell of an ugly horned gargoyle, the one on Konstantinovsky's family crest, here on the door of a creepy crypt. Unseen thingies crawl and slither in eerie shadows...

Inside the crypt, the three friends slowly approach an ornate gothic coffin... From a small hole in the coffin, a string leads to a mounted brass handbell. Long ago these bells were for the use of people mistakenly thought dead and buried alive...

The bell suddenly "ding-a-lings", makes the guys jump out of their skins! Just a mouse. Adam creaks open the heavy coffin lid... And there's the Diabolus Maleficus Book... on the chest of Vladimir Konstantinovsky's corpse, mummified in Victorian clothes. But his hand clutching the Book still looks alive...

Adam hesitates, remembers the Magic Shoppe Owner's warnings, then he impulsively grabs the Book. The friends don't notice that the corpse's hand ages immediately... But when the corpse's torso rises, the boys race out of the tomb!

Adam sneaks back into his home at four-thirty in the morning. His dad is stern, but Adam explains that he and his buddies went to dig up an old friend, and hey, isn't it his dad who's always saying never to forget old friends? His dad double takes in mid-reprimand, "Right. And don't you forget that." Then alone in his room, Adam is stumped by the Diabolus Maleficus Book. It's written in Latin.

Adam researches, gathers paraphernalia for an occult power ceremony. In a montage, he comes out of a junk store with a rusty gong... dumps black candles on his bed... takes a wooden salad bowl from the kitchen... a hunting knife from the garage... a double-handled golf trophy from his father's den... Next, he needs a "wooden phallus?"

Adam comes back into his room grasping the short wooden handle of a rubber-ball sink plunger. He eyes a "Get Your Rocks Off" poster of Devon in sexy rock climbing gear, looks from poster to plunger, and... What the hell, he might as well try it. But the rubber ball suddenly SUCKS in all his manhood! His mom silently stops in her tracks, gasps at Adam crazily gyrating his hips as he tries to remove the plunger with erratic pulls. She discreetly closes the door in embarrassment. She's got to talk to his father about this.

Adam pops the plunger, then with the hunting knife whittles a phallus out of the wooden handle. He then looks up from his list, puzzled — "The head of a goat?" So okay, he gets a live goat from Guido's Meat Market but doesn't have the heart to cut its throat in his garage. The goat shelters unseen under the front bumper of his dad's car...

His dad comes into Adam's room to have a dad-son talk about personal... stimulation. Well you know, his dad says as a kid he also tried different, um... Then he points to the plunger and asks Adam, "Did you wash that, first?"

But then Adam's dad warningly waves the plunger when he sees all that black magic paraphernalia on the makeshift altar. He's at the end of the line with all this unnatural hocus pocus stuff. Adam says it's for his humanities project, the myth of rituals. His dad and mother have to leave for a hardware convention in Miami now, or they'll miss their flight. Adam asks if he can have the plunger back.

Alone again, Adam calls a slaughterhouse out of the Yellow Pages, but says "Never mind" when he sees that his dad's car hurriedly driven out to the airport left Manny the goat lifeless across the driveway.

That night in his room, Adam in a black robe performs his magic ceremony before his altar set with a black and blood-red pentagram. With incantations from the Diabolus Maleficus Book, he invokes demons and desires. Then drinking goat blood from his father's golf trophy, he gags, almost throws up. He raises the severed goat's head, and with a Latin incantation, forces himself to kiss its tongue-protruding mouth.

Adam's hunched shadow looks horned, demonic. The window blows open, but only his black cat Houdini leaps in. Nothing else. Depressed like it's all a crock of shit, Adam throws himself on his bed, longingly eyeing the poster of gorgeous Devon on the wall.

He falls into a sleep so deep he's unaware of the rising thunder and *moans*... Houdini the cat bolts away. Wind blows through his room, every extinguished candle mysteriously reignites! The goat head eyes glow red. Then a full body shadow levitates from Adam's sleeping body, strikes the goat with the "wooden phallus".

Devon's poster animates, lustfully gestures to the sleeping Adam. His body fades away... reappearing to make passionate love in Devon's own bed. Just as smoky candles set off his smoke *alarm*, Adam pants awake in his bedroom... In her bed, Devon wakes clutching a gold neck chain she doesn't realize is Adam's.

When prudish art teacher MISS VAN BUREN fails Adam for not being unable to stop his hand from sketching Devon in an erotic pose, Brad smirks. Adam tells him to "Get lost." Brad walks away zombie-like and does get lost. Adam doesn't realize he has powers...

When Adam angrily mutters "that uptight spinster Van Buren shouldn't be allowed to teach art." Her bed suddenly tilts and she's sucked into a slimy pit where reptilian creatures bite and claw her — She desperately grabs at two wall lamps over her bed, but their red-hot wires snake around, burn her wrists and hands!

In Schmecker's Rock Climbing Gym the next day, Adam nervously approaches to talk to Devon. Brad's crony Gus pulls down Adam's gym shorts from behind, leaves Adam standing bare-assed in front of the woman of his dreams. Everyone in the gym bursts out laughing at Adam's humiliation.

Then Adam sees the laughing Gus throw Jeff off the climbing wall. Jeff's safety rope stops him in time. Gus climbs to throw the struggling Denzel off the wall. Now Adam angrily mutters that Gus should "cut it out and be booted off the wall."

Then Gus is horrified, can't stop his own hand from cutting his safety rope! His laces painfully tighten, then his boots turn into eye-bulging monsters biting his ankles! He yells, crazily contorts. Everyone thinks he's putting on an acrobatic wall-climbing show, until Jeff splashes water on a half-aware Adam to get him to check out Gus' antics. Gus' boots return to normal. He drops the bottom six feet to applause.

In the high school gym, Adam encourages basketball player KENNY BARNES nervous about impressing a visiting Harvard coach. Kenny twists his knee. But Adam says not

to worry, he'll be great. Kenny suddenly plays basketball like an amazing superstar and impresses the coach!

Later Adam gives Kenny a thumbs up and says, "Man, your slam dunk is *deadly!*" Then alone in the gym, Kenny slam dunks a ball and victoriously hangs from the hoop rim. The basketball net writhes into a snakelike creature and chokes Kenny. His eyes and tongue horribly protrude in a compressed mask of silent terror —

Meanwhile from the steamy boys' shower, Adam dreamily thinking of Devon in the girls' shower fades and reappears in the steam of the girls' shower to erotically soap Devon... A jet of cold water from a tough kid snaps Adam back. He is criticized for using a feminine bar of soap. Adam stares at it in confusion. In the girls' shower, Devon stares at a man's rope soap she doesn't know is Adam's.

Next morning, the egotistical Brad's about to drive his van into the last school parking spot when it is suddenly taken by Adam's old Chevy. Adam grins and walks away. Brad fumes, hot-wires the old Chevy, rams it into the back of Principal Warren's brand-new Subaru.

Principal Warren charges over to his bashed car. Adam says there's no way he's taking the rap for this one — Suddenly Principal Warren can't stop himself from hitting Adam with hip hop rapping like "You flyin' outta school, fool! Trip de walk to de doh', HO!" Adam tries to understand, "In... English?"

Principal Warren snaps out of it, all business as usual. Adam wrecked his car, the Principal is going to wreck Adam's school shenanigans. Adam loses parking privileges, is suspended for a week, and must pay for all the damages.

Adam parks his pathetically busted Chevy into his driveway. He angrily says the Principal is the one who "oughta be wrecked!"

Principal Warren drives his damaged Subaru into the garage of his suburban home... His seatbelt turns into a deadly rattlesnake as ordinary garden tools turn into attacking creatures! Warren desperately tries to back out, but the garage door has assumed the head of a Tyrannosaurus Rex who's monstrous teeth crush the roof of his car, his lifeless face pushed into the steering wheel horn. His horrified wife only sees the car's been crushed by the garage door.

At the Greasy Spoon hang out, Brad and his insensitive burping buddies Hal and Gus make the friendly waitress Mary cry because of her acne. Adam angrily mutters to Brad he's a "stupid jerk-off." Brad starts jerking off under the table. Devon's finally had it with Brad blaming whatever drugs he's been taking to bulk up for football for his personality change. She storms off. Brad's two embarrassed buddies struggle to haul the humping Brad out of the diner.

On the way to the washroom, Devon is touched by Adam's sensitivity as she sees him being decent trying to raise Mary's spirits despite his own problems. Adam tells Mary her complexion will clear up before she knows it.

Getting back to his seat, Adam's surprised by Devon actually asking him to dance with her! He's overwhelmed, dying to kiss her, sees his own gold chain around her neck.

She found it in her bed, can't believe it's his. When he asks if she found rope soap in the girls' shower room, she finds him scary and runs off. Adam's about to pursue her, but —

Adam sees Mary's acne has cleared. Adam gets it now! That Diabolus Maleficus Book really works. What he says comes true. But Adam is unaware the Evil Power always gets its due in horrible ways. Catching up to Devon out on the street, he doesn't see in the diner kitchen that Mary's so ecstatic to see her acne's gone, the unattended oil fryer explodes and destroys her face.

Adam tries to convince Devon not to be afraid of him, explains he did a magic ceremony with a Book called the Diabolus Maleficus... for her. Now every time he thinks of something, it happens. Adam tries to be romantically eloquent, makes a rose appear, but Devon says that's just one of his staged magic tricks. He tosses the rose and they don't see it turn into an ugly worm-like creature that kills an adorable little pet dog.

To Devon's astonishment and his, Adam transforms an overpass into a night sky of sparkling shooting stars, glimmering galaxies with romantic music! But when they turn a corner, the sky clouds up and the music rises to an unbearable dissonance that shatters the windshield of a car that explosively crashes, killing two young lovers in a parked car.

Adam asks Devon where she'd like to be, wherever her heart desires. He takes her hands, the young couple shimmers... They suddenly reappear in an elegant honeymoon suite of the Plaza Hotel with champagne and a spectacular balcony view of the glittery Manhattan skyline. Devon wears a sheer nightie in all her sensual glory.

Adam and the woman of his dreams finally make passionate love together! But their ecstasy is suddenly disrupted by the sound of a key in the door. Harry, a middle-aged man, comes in with his attractive wife laughing tipsily. Everyone freezes. Harry grabs a coat rack stand, wants to know what the hell Adam and Devon are doing in the room — wearing the new robe and negligee that belong to Harry and his wife!

Adam says it's all a mistake, that Harry should just back off... As Adam and Devon fade, they don't see the terror-stricken Harry unable to stop backing away. His wife desperately tries to stop him, but they back over the balcony railing, plunging 29 stories screaming!

Back in the town park, Adam and Devon scream with laughter for getting away in the nick of time. They're suddenly lit by the headlights of a patrol car. Adam holds Devon's hand. The cop rubs his eyes as the two almost naked teenagers shimmer away.

After dropping off Devon, Adam rematerializes in his own house, breathlessly picks up the phone. His mom's been calling all night. What's going on? Adam says he's been with Jeff who's sleeping over... Jeff appears in midair, literally sleeping over Adam!

Jeff wakes, realizes he's floating in Adam's living room and screams. Adam calms his mom, says it's the TV, tells Jeff, "Go to sleep." Jeff falls asleep, but so does Adam's mom on the other end of the line!

Adam wakes his mom, assures her nothing strange is happening, just Jeff bugging him. Jeff begins throwing handfuls of ugly black bugs at him. Adam tells Jeff he's dreaming,

that he's got to return to his own bedroom. Jeff fades away... Pheeew, Adam realizes he's really got to watch out what he's saying.

Next morning, Adam's surprised that Devon rings his doorbell. He asks, "You skipped school to come make passionate love to me?" She smiles dreamily, "Whatever you say...!" Their discarded clothes trail to the sofa where they make out, hot and sensual.

In a lively rock montage, they spend the day together having fun. On a shopping spree, Adam makes Devon appear in a scanty bathing suit in a mall. She wants it off? He's only too happy to oblige, leaving her nude in public. They're seen by the patrol cop from the night before, now off-duty — Both Adam and Devon shimmer away. The cop takes a bottle of booze out of his bag of groceries, and fighting an uncontrollable force, smashes the bottle into his face, turning it into a gory mess.

Adam and Devon fade in and out of a movie theater where the projectionist ends up grappling with uncoiling film that binds him like a mummy.

Adam and Devon eat in a mall snack bar, fade away before getting the bill. Nearby, a young woman opens her mouth to bite into a hot dog. A horrible mutation wriggles out of her bun and crawls down her gagging throat.

Adam says he loves Devon, that he can give her anything she wants in the world. Okay, she always wanted to be rich. It doesn't work right away. They guess she's got to be specific. So she asks for \$1,256,000.00.

When Devon drives back to her home, it's burned down, her family taken out in body bags. Her neighbor tries to console her. Then she's horrified to hear she's the beneficiary of insurance policies that total \$1,256,000.00!

At the Greasy Spoon, Adam hears that... the oil burner exploded in poor Mary's face... while the school must be jinxed... Van Buren can't teach summer school because her hands were burnt... Principal Warren was crushed to death by a garage door... and in the gym, Kenny Barns' body was found grossly hung from the basketball net. All this evil hits Adam like a ton of bricks.

Meanwhile hating that Adam's been going out with Devon, Brad secretly slips a vial of drugs into Adam's milkshake. It maximizes Adam's paranoia. He sees everyone as scary distortions. Brad smirks, but Adam snarls, "Go to hell!" Rumbling, the foundation cracks, smoke and flames rise from an inferno and a gap suddenly swallows Brad!

The floor returns to normal, but Brad is gone. Stunned customers stare in disbelief. Adam's veins throb horribly. Jeff and Denzel offer to help, but he tears away. "You want to hurt me?" He smiles evilly, "You will just hurt yourselves..."

Jeff and Denzel who've always been one-upping each other with good-humored barbs, suddenly rage. Jeff grabs a dispenser, squeezes hot mustard up Denzel's nose! Denzel roars, yanks out a rotisserie barbecue chicken spit and rams it through Jeff's chest!

Adam's paranoia escalates with nightmarish visions — The diner explodes with violence! With magnified reactions, enraged teenagers, waitresses, even the short order cook

waving a meat cleaver, viciously attack one another. Bottles, glasses, chairs fly, dishes smash on heads, food trays are used as shields, couples fight with knives and forks —

Devon races in, shocked at all the horror, screams at Adam that his power is evil, that he killed her family! She didn't want the money like that! She wants him to bring her family back. He's got to stop what he's doing!

But Adam's too far gone in his terrified paranoia, sees her threatening him with claws — He defensively reacts with "Go away! Drop dead!"

She's horrified, realizes what that means coming from Adam. He understands also, but too late — An overwhelming Evil Power forcefully pulls her away. Adam shouts out, "No — Come back!" But it's *Brad* who comes back, his charred cadaver propelled on a gusher of bubbling lava which turns the Greasy Spoon into a raging inferno!

Adam staggers out of the burning Greasy Spoon, stumbles over Devon's body. He's so sorry for everything, wants to bring her back to life. He carries her corpse away to his house, places her body before the altar in his bedroom, then hurriedly consults the Diabolus Maleficus Book... But no mortal can revive the dead.

The phone rings. An airport official is sorry to advise Adam his parents' flight crashed with no survivors. Adam realizes he was responsible, since he didn't want his parents to find out about his situation. The Evil Power fulfilled his wish by killing them. But Adam didn't want it that way! He hurls the Book aside, vowing he won't be used by it anymore.

Adam's suddenly confronted by the mummified corpse of Nicholas Constantine who has come back for the Book! Adam figures there's only one way he can stop all this. One ultimate act. He races out —

Constantine's cadaver stops at the sight of Devon's body sprawled before the altar. He sees her like the beautiful 19th century woman he had loved. His lips quiver as he gently strokes her flowing hair. In a soulful hush he utters "Rebecca".

Meanwhile, Adam tries to kill himself with his father's hunting rifle. The back of his head blows off. But he's still alive! Adam runs, in front of a speeding truck that *slams* him into the air to be impaled on a branch of a neighbor's tree. He falls to the ground, the branch still protruding through his chest. He doesn't die!

Clutching the Book, Constantine's cadaver lurches toward him. "There is only one place for the disciples of Satan to spend eternity... the grave." Adam insists he's not evil — But Constantine emphasizes Adam chose his way. He must go with him to his crypt.

Devastated, tears streaming down his face, with nowhere else to turn, Adam looks up into the sky and wails, "Oh God... Please help me. All I wanted was Devon — I wish I had never heard about that damn Book!"

A burst of thunder... A flash of lightning strikes Adam, then... Shazam! Adam is back in the Olde Magic Shoppe, wondering if he's stupid to believe in spells and potions. He steps out just before the old Shoppe Owner has a chance to tell him all about the Diabolus Maleficus Book.

Up the rundown street, a red convertible Miata does a U-turn, driven by Devon looking for Adam. He doesn't have his car since he was grounded after the magic show. Devon's really sorry about doing that strip... She's dumping Brad who's such a jerk. Actually, she's intrigued by the way Adam did his magic. She was wondering... could he use an assistant, maybe teach her stuff?

Adam hops into the passenger seat. They drive off down the sunny street, Adam smiling like he's in seventh heaven while listening to Devon!

The End. Or is it?... That night, in the abandoned Paradise Lawn Cemetery, closing in to the crypt of Nicholas Constantine, we hear only the wind... the faint clang of a bell... and the whispered... "Rebecca..."

...And that's where our next story begins.

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