

Gorgon, Boogie Beast

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In a cooking area early on a weekday morning.

BOTIS is straightening the pots and knives.

ABRAXAS walks in, drops his bag and takes off his furs.

BOTIS

Abraxas! Back so soon?

ABRAXAS

Simmering Succubus. You wouldn't believe the night I've had.

BOTIS

Uh oh. Where's Gorgon?

ABRAXAS

I told him to bring in the vermin and empty the pus pots.

(beat)

And I'm thinking of having him skin the four year old hanging in the basement.

BOTIS

Great Ghouls. What happened?

ABRAXAS heaves a sigh and sits at the table

ABRAXAS

You know Botis, I looked forward to the day I could terrorize children with our spawn. I was going to teach him how to lurk under the bed and rustle in the closet. Maybe even add some low moaning until the little humans cried.

(beat)

Ah, the joy of it brings blood to my orbs.

BOTIS

I remember how majestic Krampus was on your first night. You gave that one child nightmares for weeks.

They look at each other, smile and hold hands.

ABRAXAS

What's up with young ones these days? Back when I was first spooking, I couldn't wait to leave home and haunt children's dreams. But Gorgon? He could care less.

BOTIS

Gorgon has always been a little sensitive, but he'll grow out of it soon enough.

ABRAXAS

Thank goodness for Furfur. He'll hold up the family dishonor.

BOTIS

Furfur ate all his baby fingers tonight without me having to bribe him. I was so satisfied, I told him he could hide behind the trees outside and frighten dogs until sun up.

ABRAXAS

Our little hell raiser.

BOTIS

We are so cursed.

ABRAXAS

But Gorgon. What are we going to do with Gorgon? We were in the middle of menacing seven year old twins tonight and he plugs in the ear bobs on their little machine and starts dancing.

BOTIS

Braying Banshees, no!

ABRAXAS

It gets worse. He finally focused and we had them whimpering under their blankets. I moved in, reached up from under a bed and started tickling one of them. Oh, the shrieks were delicious.

ABRAXAS closes his eyes, smiles, then looks at BOTIS

And then what does he do? He yells out 'Don't worry kids, we won't hurt you'.

BOTIS

Sweet searing Satan, I don't believe it.

ABRAXAS

Believe it Botis. First time I've had to skulk out of an assignment without at least making a kid pee the bed. I'm so ashamed.

BOTIS

We need to punish him. We need to get his attention. Skinning a child is almost a treat. We need something more serious.

In walks GORGON wiping at his hands.

GORGON

Hey Rents. What's kicking?

ABRAXAS

Certainly not the kid in the basement Gorgon.

BOTIS and ABRAXAS look at each other and growl

BOTIS

Gorgon, we need to talk.

GORGON

Yeah, yeah. I figured a 'talk' was coming.

GORGON sits at the table.

Okay, hit me.

BOTIS and ABRAXAS reach over and hit GORGON.

GORGON

Good Lord!

BOTIS

You watch your mouth.

GORGON

Okay, okay, fuck!

BOTIS

That's more like it. Now, listen up.

ABRAXAS

Gorgon, you're a monster from a long noble line of monstrosities.

BOTIS

You have a tradition to carry on.

ABRAXAS

A tradition passed down from Zagan to Balam, shit, from Lucifer himself.

GORGON

I know, I know. It's just that...

ABRAXAS

What? It's just what?

GORGON

It's just that terrorizing is your thing.

(Beat)

It's not my ambition.

BOTIS

Your ambition? What do you mean? You're a demon. Petrifying children is what you do. It's what we do. What we've always done.

GORGON

It's just not in me to spend each night of my being stuck under some little kid's bed or in their closet trying to make them scream and shit themselves. It's not who I am.

ABRAXAS

Not who you are? Not who you are? I've never heard such drivel in my existence.

BOTIS

Now, Gorgon, maybe it'll take a little getting used to. But soon you'll find satisfaction in reducing a child to a blubbery blob of meat.

(beat)

Or at least killing a misbehaving youngster for dinner. Either or.

ABRAXAS

There's nothing like the first taste of a little child you've slaughtered ...or the echo of a night time of screeching in your head as you come back each morning.

GORGON

You keep telling me this stuff, but I don't want to spend my nights in children's bedrooms. And humans taste like chicken. Blech.

(beat)

I want more for myself.

BOTIS

More. You want more.

GORGON

Yeah, more. I want my time here to mean something.

BOTIS

I never thought I'd live to see the day that an offspring of mine would say such things.

ABRAXAS

What more can it mean than eternal damnation and going to hell someday? What more can you hope for?

GORGON

I'd tell you, but you wouldn't understand.

(Beat)

There's no way you can.

ABRAXAS

Try us. What is it you want to do?

GORGON

I want to boogie.

ABRAXAS

Boogey? Of course, that's what you're meant to do.

BOTIS

Diabolical Devils! You're a boogeyman for crying out loud. Boogying is what you do.

GORGON

No, no. You don't understand. I don't mean boogey like a boogeyman.

Gorgon gets up and starts to dance around.

I mean boogie down. You know, dancing.

BOTIS

Dancing? Gorgon, you're the spawn of two demons. You have green skin, warts and blood red hair. Where in the world are you going to dance?

GORGON

Think about it. Anywhere I want.

(beat)

Is it so wrong?

ABRAXAS

Gorgon, you are my first little larvae. I thought you'd want to follow in my paw prints. I don't know what to say to you.

BOTIS

Well, I do. You need to drop this nonsense and go out every night and punish little children. Then you'll see the beauty in being a demon. Why little Furfur is out there right now doing his best to make dogs howl.

(beat)

Dancing. I've never heard such gobbledygook. And to think it's coming out of the jaws of my own suckling.

GORGON

I won't terrorize and you can't make me.

ABRAXAS

While you're under our roof, you will do as we say young fiend.

GORGON

I can't. I just can't.

(beat)

Give me a chance. Please. Have you ever tried to dance?

ABRAXAS

What are we savages?

(beat)

Well, skip that question. We danced at our joining and at your formation. Of course we've danced.

BOTIS

I used to call Abraxas the Dancing Demon of Demogorgon. In fact, we took your name from that.

GORGON

See? It's in my body fluid. Why can't you let me be what I want to be?

ABRAXAS

A dancing demon. I'll be the laughing stock of the domain.

GORGON

I'll change my name. No one has to know.

BOTIS

Slithering Serpents Abraxas. He is serious.

ABRAXAS

Damn you to hell Gorgon.

GORGON

Thanks! So, does that mean I can dance? No more night time lurking?

ABRAXAS and BOTIS look at each other and growl

ABRAXAS

I'll give you 100 years to try it out. If you can't make a go of it after that, you'll come back and follow our species rituals. Deal?

GORGON

Deal. I'm so ungrateful.

BOTIS

Awww, I hate you both so much.

*BOTIS gives a group hug to GORGON and
ABRAXAS. They all growl together*

Black out.