



THE MISANTHROPE

They're not bad...
just evil

Summary and Sample Scene

MEET THE MESATANS



Luke



Salem

SCREENPLAY AWARDS

SoCal Film Festival, 2012--Finalist
Honolulu Film Awards, 2011--Silver Lei Award
Yosemite Film Festival, 2010--Finalist (Top 3)
SoCal Film Market 2010--Finalist (Top 5)



Damien, age 16



Gotha, age 14



Bub, age 10

SUMMARY

LUKE (40's) is a Satanist who desires more than anything to become a High Priest, the highest-ranking position in the Demonic Church. He says it's for the prestige, so his wife **SALEM (40's)** and children will be proud of him and want to follow in his footsteps one day. That doesn't seem likely; son **DAMIEN (16)** got kicked out of his Devil Rock band, daughter **GOTHA (14)** is as contrary as they come and littlest one **BUB'S (10)** most demonic trait is that he's a devout Republican with an obsession for George W. Bush.

But Luke wants to be a High Priest for another reason: only High Priests can summon and enslave real demons. Luke keeps his mother, **GRAMMA (60's)**, locked in her room until she tells him the name of the father who left Luke before he was born. Once he becomes a High Priest, Luke will command a demon to use its evil powers to find Luke's father wherever he is in the world and smite him dead. But Gramma won't tell Luke the name of his father -- although she reassures him the father is among the highest ranking in the Demonic Church, he couldn't care less about Luke's promotion to High Priest. Luke's father is so powerful that angering him would doom Luke. While she assures Luke that knowledge of the identity of his father will give him great power one day, he's not ready to wield it yet. Luke feels she is just protecting his father, who better worry about Luke's wrath someday, not the other way around.

Luke want to become a High Priest at all costs. It causes him to demand his children be perfect Satanists as well -- expectations Damien, Gotha and Bub can't meet. Bub doesn't get Satanism at all but he tries to please his dad. When Luke pleads with his kids to get along better with the town so a Satanic convert can be found (another key ingredient in Luke's ascension to High Priesthood), Bub finds a new best friend for his buddy **JOEY (10)**. Un-Satanic, but the right thing to do. When Bub gives a presentation on why he would make an bad sacrifice, Luke angers. Bub's un-Satanic-ness is going to cost Luke the High Priesthood!

As the night of the High Priest initiation ceremony draws near -- also Bub's 12th birthday -- bad guys **BUTCH (20)** and **WINNIFRED (18)** believe they've raised a demon on their own. But, she's a precocious 8- year-old and cute as a button, because "evil never looks the way you think it's supposed to." The Little Girl **DEMON** helps set the town on fire, which gets pinned on Luke because he has Molotov cocktails in his trunk. Simultaneously, when Luke senses the Demon's presence in Forbenork. he concludes there's a High Priest in town -- one capable of raising a demon -- in Luke's territory. Luke must find this High Priest and eliminate him. Things complicate when the **SHERIFF (40's)** puts Luke in jail and the townspeople want to lynch him for. As a noose is prepared on a gallows, it's up to Salem and the kids to save him.

Satisfied that Forbenork is in flames and Luke is pinned with the blame, Butch and Winnifred try to send the Little Girl Demon back to Hell but fail. The Little Girl Demon admits Butch and Winnifred didn't raise and bind her at all -- she rose to Earth on her own accord with a mission to find Luke McSatan and kill him. The Little Girl Demon just went along with the destruction because it's fun. The only way one can truly control a Demon is to know its name. Butch and Winnifred comply with the Little Girl Demon's mission to kill Luke and his entire family, who have since been captured. The Little Girl Demon appears beside Luke to gloat. Luke begs Gramma one last time to tell Luke the name of his father -- if there's any power in the knowledge, Luke needs it right now.

Gramma tells him, but when Luke says the name of his father out loud, the Little Girl Demon is surprised. How did Luke know her name? Gramma, with her head covered during this whole scene, finally reveals herself. The Demon recognizes her, pleased to see her. Turns out they were lovers years ago. Back then, the Demon was an Incubus, an adult male demon who has sex with mortal women and leaves them afterward. The Little Girl Demon morphs into a Handsome Male Demon as he used to appear. As they reminisce, it's revealed that Gramma was impregnated by the Demon years ago -- and the result was Luke. The Demon is Luke's father, the one Luke has always wanted to become a High Priest for, to summon and bind a demon for, to seek out and kill. But Gramma kept the father's name a secret for yet another reason -- an Incubus who kills its human offspring gains great power. That's why the Demon rose to this plane in the first place, to find Luke -- his only mortal offspring -- and kill him. Word got around Luke was planning to raise and bind a demon to kill his old man and the Demon had to act before Luke could become a High Priest and fulfill his mission.

Once Luke knows the truth, the Demon offers a deal -- he'll spare Luke and his family if Luke helps him harvest the entire town's souls. Luke can save himself, the townspeople who wronged him all die, and the Demon would be so proud of Luke. Isn't that what this is about? Nope. Luke is still pissed at his father, powerful demon or not, for leaving him in the first place. He doesn't care if that's just a demon's nature -- it's also a demon's nature to lie and fall through on promises. Luke knows the Demon's name, and he's going to use it to bind him -- and command her to kill his father -- to kill himself. Wrong. Luke's not a High Priest. Even with the Demon's name, Luke isn't powerful enough. Luke believes he can still do it with help from his family. As he recites the binding incantation, the kids (who couldn't get it right earlier) all chant with him perfectly. It's going to work! Wrong. The Demon laughs at the attempt. Now, he's going to harvest the whole town's souls and kill Luke and his family. too.

Wrong. Bub steps forward. Always seen as the most un-Satanic of the kids, Bub still watches out for his own and he's tired of watching the Demon pick on his father. When the mouse roars, the combined power of the McSatan family is enough for Luke to bind the Demon and command it to destroy itself. At the last second, Luke takes pity and sends it back to Hell with its tail between her legs. All seems well. But wait. It's actually the night of Luke's High Priest initiation ceremony, with the blood sacrifice of Bub. Everyone forgot about it in all the unbridled mayhem. Luke has 15 minutes to get the sacrifice completed before midnight. Salem asks why it's still important -- Luke got what he wanted, he discovered who his father was and was able to destroy him. Why does the High Priest initiation ceremony -- and Bub's sacrifice -- still have to go on? Because. Bub's proven that he'll be the most awesome sacrifice that Satan's ever had. And Luke still NEEDS to be a High Priest. He's wanted to be one his whole life. Maybe at first it was to get back at his father, but now it's for himself. On the altar, Bub tells Luke he's proud of his dad for sticking by his principles and doing what he needs to do to maintain his self-respect. Maybe dying will help Bub make up for being such a crappy son. Luke says that Bub's been an excellent son, and... Luke's proud of him. Satisfied he's finally got his father's approval, he lies back and waits for death. Later, Luke admits Bub made an excellent sacrifice to Satan. When it's revealed that Bub's actually still alive, Luke refers to Bub standing up to the Demon as sacrifice enough for a little kid. He might never become a High Priest, but having his family intact has become more important to him. Luke would rather remain High-Priest-In-Training and keep Bub around.

THE MCSATANS DINNER SCENE

Written by James Tuverson

Some Background: LUKE and SALEM (40's) have three kids, DAMIEN (16), daughter GOTHA (14) and youngest son BUB (10). The family just moved to the tiny town of Forbenork, Oregon and is trying to fit in, despite the fact that 1) Luke looks like Anton Levey and keeps molotov cocktails in his car trunk, 2) Gorgeous Salem looks like a Stepford Wife, who harvested and cooked poisonous mushrooms from her garden earlier, 3) Damien looks like a teenage version of his namesake from "The Omen" 4) Gotha is a gothed-up version of Wednesday from "The Addams Family" and 5) Bub looks like a regular kid except he has an obsession with wearing T-shirts with former president George W. Bush on them.

After a tough day for each of them trying to "fit in", the family gathers to share the evening meal...

INT. MCSATAN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family sits around the table: Luke, Salem, Damien, Gotha and little Bub. A serving dish sits in the center, covered with a silver dome.

Damien reaches out to lift the dome. Luke quickly jabs his fork out and spears Damien's hand.

DAMIEN

Ow!

LUKE

You know the rules. Wait 'til
after we say grace to eat.

Luke claps twice. The lights above the table turn red.

INT. TAYLOR HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sheriff Taylor, still dressed in his khaki uniform, puts a high-powered rifle to his eye.

He looks through the scope out his window, into the window of the house next door... the McSatan's.

SHERIFF TAYLOR

It's happening again. Just like
every night.

Through their dining room window, the lights within the McSatan's home turn red.

ELLEN (40's), fit and pretty while still looking her age, comes close, whispers in the Sheriff's ear.

ELLEN
Put that rifle away, for pete's sake.

SHERIFF TAYLOR
I'm just lookin', not shootin'.

ELLEN
What the McSatans do when their lights turn red like that is none of our business.

SHERIFF TAYLOR
I'm the Sheriff. Everything that happens in this town is my business.

INT. MCSATAN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Bathed in red light, Luke, Salem, Damien, Gotha and Bub each pull out black hoods and place them over their heads.

Each also pulls out a silver necklace with an inverted pentagram from underneath their dark clothes.

Luke says grace quickly, in a get-it-over-with tempo:

LUKE
Father Satan, dismal Lord of
Darkness, curse this food with your
corrupt evil and damn our vile
souls to the depths of infernal
doom. Fuck yeah.

EVERYONE
Fuck yeah.

LUKE
Let's eat.

Salem pulls the silver dome off. A boiled goat's head sits on the serving dish, dead eyes wide in horror. Luke picks up a carving knife and slices portions off the goat's head.

BUB
I get the eyeballs!

DAMIEN
No, I get 'em this time.

GOTHA
Just save me the brainstem.

With his fork, Luke skewers a spotted mushroom. He sniffs it, returns it to the plate and whispers to Bub.

LUKE
Don't eat the mushrooms, pass it on.

Bub turns to Gotha, does the same.

BUB
Don't eat the mushrooms, pass it on.

Gotha leans to Damien.

GOTHA
Try the mushrooms, they're delicious.

Luke has trouble slicing through the goat's skull.

LUKE
Darn it!

SALEM
Luke, watch your language around the kids!

LUKE
Sorry. Devil Double-Dammit Fuck!

SALEM
That's better. We have to set an example.

GOTHA
I wanna go back to Los Angeles.

DAMIEN
Me too. I hate it here.

BUB
Why'd we have to move to Fork-in-Pork, Oregon anyway?

LUKE
It's Forbenork. And we've been over this.
(MORE)

LUKE (CONT'D)

If I'm gonna make High Priest in the Demonic Church, I have to take the territory I've been assigned... no matter how Satan-forsaken it is.

SALEM

All Daddy has to do is convert one person to our faith here...

LUKE

...and offer a blood sacrifice to show my dedication to Satan, and I'm in. No problemo.

BUB

A blood sacrifice? Awesome! What do we get to kill?

DAMIEN

What's the big deal about being a High Priest, anyway?

GOTHA

Yeah. Sounds really gay.

LUKE

It's just the highest honor a Satanist can achieve in the Demonic Church, that's all. I was hoping you could appreciate that a little.

BUB

How about a rabbit? Or a moose! Let's sacrifice an effing moose!

Luke, Salem, Damien and Gotha glance at each other, then dig into their goat parts without another word.

BUB (CONT'D)

Sorry. I meant, a "fucking" moose.

That wasn't it. Salem breaks the awkward silence.

SALEM

Anyone tried the mushrooms? I made them special.

Luke puts down his fork.

LUKE

Look. Try harder to fit in here. Gain people's trust. One of them's a convert and my ticket to the High Priesthood. Just do it!

GOTHA

Everyone hates us. I wanna slice their stomachs open and make them watch their intestines spill on to the floor.

SALEM

That's sweet, Gotha. But no one knows us well enough to hate us... yet!

LUKE

They're not used to people who are different, that's all. Just turn on the infamous McSatan charm.

SALEM

It's Mc-Sah-TAN, dear. Remember?

LUKE

Right, Mc-Sah-TAN. For a while, anyway, 'til people get used to us. We'll just ease them into it.

Luke dabs his mouth with a napkin, checks his watch.

LUKE (CONT'D)

Almost time for black mass.

Everyone quickly rises; Salem gathers plates and glasses.

SALEM

Kids, go drench yourselves with urine. Get really unclean, 'kay?

LUKE

And smear some shit all over Bub, too. Unless... he wants to change his shirt.

Bub glances down at his beloved W., then back up at his dad.

BUB

I'll change.

END OF SCENE

P.S. Bub soon discovers that it is he who will be sacrificed to commemorate Luke's ascension to the High Priesthood, hence the awkward silence when the subject was brought up. Everyone in the family knows about it except Bub... bummer for him.