

THE IMP AND THE CRUST

SAMPLE

Written by

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Based on, "The Imp and the Crust" by Leo Tolstoy

Address
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SAMPLE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CORN FIELD - MORNING 1

The birds CHIRP as the sun rises. Crickets SING on flowers and butterflies jump from one petal to the next.

A CABIN gets lit by the sun on a green field a top a hill. A HORSE stands in its stable, an old WELL next to it.

Behind the cabin, down the hill, a small VILLAGE.

2 INT. CABIN MUD ROOM - SAME TIME 2

ADAM (male, old) sits by the back door. He puts his shoes on while his wife RACHEL (white hair) stands behind him, holding his JACKET and a loaf of BREAD.

When she hands Adam the food and his jacket, he gives her a kiss, before exiting.

3 EXT. CORN FIELD 3

Adam walks down the back steps, the wooden boards CREAKING. He stops at the edge of his corn field.

He kneels, shoving the loaf of BREAD into his JACKET. He covers it up, setting it down on the floor.

4 INT. STABLES - MOMENTS LATER 4

Adam lets his HORSE free, grabbing his PLOW and leading the HORSE to the empty corn field.

5 EXT. CORN FIELD - MOMENTS LATER 5

Adam connects all the rope of his PLOW onto the HORSE. Then, the horse walks down the field.

Adam follows behind it. The dirt gets pulled up and shoved aside in straight vertical lines, removing clods in the soil.

6 EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME 6

Behind him, hiding in the bushes of the cabin, an IMP (horned, male, red eyes.)

The Imp stares out into the corn field, before shifting its gaze to the covered up BREAD.

The Imp grins maliciously.

7 EXT. CABIN - AFTERNOON 7

The sun rises until it's at its highest point in the sky.

8 EXT. CORN FIELD - AFTERNOON 8

Adam leads his HORSE back to the stables, locking it up. He walks over to his JACKET that hasn't moved from it's original spot.

He opens the JACKET up, only to find--

The BREAD is missing.

Adam looks around, before standing with the JACKET in hand. He shakes it, flipping in around.

ADAM

Eh? That's strange...

Adam looks around again.

ADAM (CONT'D)

I'm the only one out here. My wife didn't take it, did she?

He looks back at the JACKET, smiling.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Well, whoever took it, I hope you aren't hungry anymore.

Adam throws the JACKET over his shoulder, walking back to the cabin. He walks up the steps and enters through the back door.

Once he's gone, the Imp GROWLS. He has the BREAD in his hands, tossing it aside angrily.

Black fog secretes from the Imp's body, and he slowly disappears.

For a couple of seconds, we bask in the peaceful sounds of nature.

9 INT. HELL'S HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 9

The Imp walks down a grimy and dark hallway. On either side of him, CELLS filled with the damned. They reach for him, SCREAMING and CRYING.

The Imp ignores them, coming up to a red DOOR. He pauses, before entering.

10 INT. DEVIL'S THRONE ROOM - CONTINUOUS 10

The DEVIL (horned, tall, red skin) sits on his throne, looking bored.

As the Imp enters, he straightens in his posture.

DEVIL

About time you've come back. How was the mission?

IMP

It failed, Master. I tried to get him to sin by taking away his bread. I expected him to start cursing, but instead, he hoped I wasn't hungry anymore.

The Imp GROWLS, clenching his fists.

IMP (CONT'D)

I don't get humans like him, Master! Some of them are just too pure!

DEVIL

No human is completely pure. They're my father's creation for crying out loud, I would know. You only failed because you're not good enough.

IMP

I--

DEVIL

You're trying to piss me off, aren't you? What kind of report is this?

IMP

No, never Master--

The Devil leans forward in his THRONE, eyes thinning.

DEVIL
Then get your butt back up there,
and do your job properly.

IMP
Yes sir, of course!

The Imp turns to leave.

DEVIL
I'll give you three years.

The Imp freezes, turning back around.

DEVIL (CONT'D)
If you haven't succeeded then, I'll
have you ducked in holy water. Am I
clear?

The Imp flinches.

IMP
(scared)
Yes, I understand. Three years.

The Devil smiles sweetly.

DEVIL
Three years.

11 EXT. CORN FIELD - DAY 11

Adam is back to plowing the empty fields with his HORSE
taking the lead.

12 EXT. CABIN - SAME TIME 12

The Imp peeks around the corner of the cabin, watching Adam
with a frown.

He turns to lean against the cabin out of sight, thinking.

Then, with a smile, the Imp closes his eyes. Black fog
secretes from his body again. Once it dissipates, in its
place is--

A human. The Imp has changed himself to look as human as
possible. The only signifier of him being "dead" is his
unnaturally pale skin.

After another moment, the Imp turns and walks out of its hiding place. It comes up the corn field just as Adam turns around to PLOW the opposite way.

Adam looks up, stopping in shock at the sight of another person.

ADAM

Oh! Good day, I didn't hear you walk up! Do you need help with something?

The Imp stares, eyes unnaturally wide, but smiling nicely.

IMP

Hello, good day. I'm new to the village down the hill.

He turns to point at the VILLAGE.

IMP (CONT'D)

I've come with my wife, and I'm looking for work.

Adam pauses, frowning.

ADAM

I'm sure there's people down in the village looking for helpers. Why did you come all this way?

IMP

I've asked everyone already! Some of the villagers told me they've had a bunch of people coming to stay. They don't have any work for me.

ADAM

Oh... I didn't know that. That's great for the village, then.

IMP

You don't speak to anyone who lives there?

Adam blushes.

ADAM

Oh, no, not a lot. I only go down there for drinks. Rest of the time, I stay here with my wife.

IMP
Sounds peaceful. Do you need
another hand to help out?

Adam looks around his corn field that stretches long and far.
He pats away the sweat from his forehead, SIGHING.

ADAM
(pause)
Yes, actually. Help would be great.

The Imp smiles excitedly.

IMP
Tell me what to do, boss!

ADAM
Oh, well, you can start with
finishing the plow. We can switch
back and forth. Though, I'm worried
about your skin. There's not a
cloud in the sky, and you're
really... really pale.

IMP
Ah, don't worry about that. I tan
easily.

The two continue to chatter as the Imp takes over the ropes
for the PLOW, leading the HORSE along.

IMP (CONT'D)
You know, I have a lot experience
working in fields.

ADAM
Really?

IMP
I've worked in them for so long, I
can tell what the year will be
like!

ADAM
What do you mean?

IMP
I think next year, you should plant
these seeds in a marshy place. It's
going to be a really dry season.

ADAM
(pause)
Hm... I don't know... uh...

IMP
Oh, call me Jacob!

ADAM
Jacob. I don't know if I should
trust you.

IMP
Why not?

ADAM
I've just met you. And my corn
fields are my pride and joy. I
would hate to have them be ruined--

IMP
Just trust me this one time. If I'm
wrong, send me off. I'll never
bother you again.

Adam doesn't reply, and continues to walk with the Imp.

13 EXT. MARSHY CORN FIELD - DAY 13

The Imp walks down the marsh fields, planting SEEDS into the soil with Adam behind him. The Imp plants one SEED, leaving the next 12 inches blank, before planting another. Adam takes up that missing spot, planting his own SEEDS. The two work in tandem together.

The sun rises, sets, and rises again.

The Imp and Adam rejoice together as they look upon their tall and healthy stocks of CORN.

14 EXT. VILLAGE - SAME TIME 14

Some villagers huddle together, frowning. They stare at their dead corn fields, some of them looking frightened while they sweat under the dry sun.

15 EXT. MARSHY CORN FIELDS 15

ADAM
Jacob, this is fantastic! All this
beautiful corn! I've never had such
a healthy field!

IMP
I told you to trust me, didn't I?

ADAM

And that was the best decision I've ever made! My wife is going to be so excited. I mean, there's so much corn, I don't know what to do with it all!

IMP

I have one way we could use it.

16 EXT. CABIN - DAY

16

The two stand over a large BUCKET, filling it with water before adding the kernelled CORN they picked.

Time passes, and the CORN sprouts.

The Imp strains the water until only the sprouted CORN is left. They then work together to grind the CORN into mash before setting it out to dry.

17 INT. CABIN KITCHEN - DAY

17

They add yeast and sugar into the mash before pouring it in a copper STILL. The Imp starts the fire, and places the STILL on top of it.

The two step back.

IMP

Now, we wait.

ADAM

It's sad that I never thought of making moonshine with my grain.

The Imp's eyes twinkle, smiling mischievously.

IMP

This will be the best moonshine you've ever had.

ADAM

I believe you! I've got to tell my wife! We'll be having some guests over to try it out!

IMP

Sounds like fun.

Adam runs out of the kitchen to get his wife, the Imp's smile falling. He turns back to the STILL, eyes thinning.