

Eden

By

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ABEL is sitting on his bed, holding his Bible. He leafs through it, then puts it aside and paces for a few moments before kneeling in front of his bed. He clasps his hands together and begins to pray.

ABEL

Heavenly Father.

AMALIA comes into his room and lies down on his bed. ABEL ignores her.

ABEL

Through the obedience of Jesus, who offered His life in the service of all, help me with Your kindness.

AMALIA seems annoyed and sits up to face him. He still doesn't look at her.

ABEL

Despite my promise to honour You and devote my life to teaching others God's love, I have sinned.

AMALIA lifts one leg and dominantly puts her foot against ABEL's shoulder. She pushes him and he falls back onto the floor. He finally looks at her from his prone position. She is smiling.

ABEL

I have not only dishonoured myself with impure thoughts, but the person who was put under my protection as well. I have sinned.

AMALIA stands and puts a foot down on ABEL's stomach, not too hard.

AMALIA

You haven't sinned.

ABEL

I have!

CESAR walks into the room, interacting with ABEL in his own way.

CESAR

1 Corinthian 6:18. Flee from sexual immorality, every other sin is committed outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against himself.

AMALIA pushes down on ABEL's stomach and he tries to endure.

AMALIA

The sexually immoral! You just want to play martyr. I want you and you want me, why concern yourself with all this pointless guilt?

ABEL

I'm polluting you and myself this way. You're better than this, better than me.

CESAR

Matthew 5:28. But I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

AMALIA

I initiated.

ABEL

I encouraged. I knew better. It's all because of me.

AMALIA takes her foot off ABEL and takes a few steps around the room. CESAR helps ABEL stand up.

AMALIA

You're boring me.

ABEL

I would rather bore you than disrespect you. Cesar charged me with watching over you.

ABEL clasps his hands together in prayer. CESAR stands close behind him.

ABEL

Lord, make me strong through the Eucharist. May I put into actin the saving mystery I celebrate in the mass.

CESAR

Galatians 5:16. This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

AMALIA

Perhaps Cesar should have known what would happen by putting me under the care of a wretch like you. Disgraceful.

ABEL

Yes. Protect me with Your love and prepare me for eternal happiness. I beg for Your forgiveness.

CESAR

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that yu should abstain from fornication.

AMALIA

You make me sick.

ABEL

Deliver me from this lechery.

AMALIA slinks off the stage. ABEL crosses himself.

CESAR

John 14:15. If you love me, keep my commandments.

ABEL

Amen.

There is a knock on the door. ABEL jumps, surprised. CESAR leaves. ABEL answers the door. MARIA is there.

ABEL

Oh, Maria. Hello.

MARIA

Hello, Father. Busy?

ABEL

No, not at all. Can I help you?

MARIA

Mr Barbosa asks if you'd come for tea.

ABEL

I'd love to, but I'm not feeling very well. I'm afraid I'll have to decline.

MARIA

That's fine, Father. Somehow, Mr Barbosa seemed to think you might not come, so he sent this.

MARIA produces a small envelope. ABEL takes it apprehensively.

MARIA

It's an invitation to Mr Barbosa's party next week. His Excellency will be there.

ABEL

I see.

MARIA

It's so exciting, Father! They're meant to be dead good! Er, very good.

ABEL

I'm looking forward to it. Thank you for coming by, Maria, and please do extend my apologies to the Barbosas for today.

MARIA

It's fine, Father. It's fine.

They smile at each other. Lights down, end scene.