



THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT SACRIFICE

By Jeff Dunne

A SMITH SCRIPT

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CHARACTERS

PAUL A kind, gentle soul.
MELISSA A good friend worried about Paul

Note: The director is welcome to change the names and/or genders of the characters as fits their vision and the strengths of the actors.

SETTING

Modern day in a small shed.

SCENE

(Paul is sitting at a table, a set of small planting pots and a pitcher of water in front of him. Also on the table are several piles of finely-grained dust and near each one is a seed. Melissa enters, and approaches him in exasperation.)

MELISSA

There you are! We've been looking all over the place for you!

PAUL

Ta da.

MELISSA

Don't *ta da* me. We've been worried sick about you!

PAUL

We? Who—

MELISSA

Me, Dennis, Alison... Frankie, Grant... We've been driving all over town. How come you aren't answering your phone?

PAUL

It's at home.

MELISSA

Crap lot of good that d—

PAUL

I didn't want any interruptions.

MELISSA

Well, that's the kind of thing you tell people before you drop off the grid for three freakin' days.

PAUL

Sorry. I... I didn't think anyone... Never mind.

MELISSA

Never mind? Never mind!?

PAUL

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to worry you.

MELISSA

Well you did. You worried all of us.

(Melissa stops and looks around, taking in the environment.)

What are you doing out in this old shed anyway? Are you okay?!

PAUL

Yeah, I'm okay. Really. I'm fine. I just needed a little time for a...

(Melissa gives him a "go on" look.)

It's kind of a ritual I've come up with.

MELISSA

Ookay... Is it... okay to ask...

PAUL

Yeah, it's fine, I guess. It's nothing satanic or political.

MELISSA

Thus spake the Department of Redundancy Department. *(Beat.)* So? *(Awaiting a response, then...)* Consider yourself asked.

PAUL

You remember Lynn?

MELISSA

Your friend from work?

PAUL

Ex-friend, but yeah. Her.

(Paul motions to one of the piles of dust.)

MELISSA

Oh my god. Please tell me you didn't—

PAUL

What? No. No, no. Nothing like that. It's not... physically her. It's... *metaphysically* her.