

The Antichrist Cometh

by

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Setting

A living room.

Time

The present. Night.

Cast

JOHN - Advertising guru and possible Antichrist, in his late 20s-40s.

LEAH - Wife of JOHN, roughly the same age as him.

DUNCAN - Best friend of JOHN and the same age as him.

HOLLY - Fiancée of DUNCAN, close in age to DUNCAN.

Let him who has understanding reckon the number of the Beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six.

--Revelation 13:18

(The living room has been decorated with style and taste. There is a front door and a doorway leading to a kitchen which we do not need to see. A hallway leads to a bedroom which we do not see. A sofa sits behind a coffee table, with chairs on either side of the table. There is a sideboard with a nice selection of liquors and glasses, and a few candles as well. Perhaps there are a couple of knickknacks or a piece of artwork with vaguely satanic or hellish undertones (e.g., a red lava lamp, an animal skull with horns, etc.). As LEAH tidies up, JOHN enters from the hallway, adjusting his jacket. They are very much in love.)

LEAH

Honey, did you pick up that wine like I asked?

JOHN

Absolutely. I decided to go with a nice little pinot noir from Oregon. It's in the kitchen decanting.

LEAH

Well, how de-lightful.

JOHN

Don't make fun. It's a good wine. It needs to breathe a little.

LEAH

Mmm-hmm. I'm sure that when it's done de-canting it will be absolutely de-lectable.

(JOHN goes to a mirror to check his appearance.)

JOHN

Hey, have I ever told you what my favorite word is?

LEAH

Mmm...no. That's one deep, dark secret you've managed to keep from me.

JOHN

Defenestrate.

LEAH

De-what-a-who?

JOHN

Defenestrate. It means to throw someone out a window.

LEAH

Nice to know there's a word for that.

JOHN

For your information, throwing people out of windows used to be extremely popular. In fact, did you know there were not one, but two Defenestrations of Prague?

(JOHN moves away from the mirror and helps LEAH tidy up.)

LEAH

Do tell.

JOHN

I can't remember what the first one was about, but in the Second Defenestration of Prague, there was some kind of theological dispute which ended with a bunch of Protestants throwing three Catholics out a third story window.

LEAH

That doesn't sound very Christian. Did they die?

JOHN

No, actually they all lived. The Catholics said it was because three angels suddenly appeared and gently lowered the men to the ground. The Protestants said it was because there was a big pile of horse poop beneath the window.

LEAH

I'm guessing the guys flying out the window weren't too picky.

JOHN

I'm guessing that's a good guess.

(goes back to the mirror and sweeps his hands through his hair)

You know, I hate to say it, but I think I'm starting to thin out a little bit up top. I'd better get on that, what do you call it, hair medicine stuff.

LEAH

Rogaine?

JOHN

Yeah. Or something.

LEAH

Why? You don't want to put all those chemicals in your body. Next year they'll be telling you they cause ear tumors or eyeball hair. Besides, I think you'd look kind of sexy with no hair.

JOHN

Right.

LEAH

Maybe grow a little goatee...get an earring...it would be like having a new man to fool around with.

JOHN

You'd like that, wouldn't you?

LEAH

I just might.

JOHN

Why did I marry you again?

LEAH

Because I'm a wicked specimen of the female species and you adore me with every fiber of your being.

(She kisses him and heads for the kitchen.)

JOHN

True.

(giving one last tousle to his hair, then...)

Hon, could you come here a second?

(as she turns)

It looks like...are there some kind of marks on my head? I can't really see.

LEAH

Marks?

JOHN

Yeah. Some kind of discoloration or something?

(She comes back to him.)

LEAH

Let me see.

(He bends down and she searches through his hair.)

LEAH

No, I don't...oh, there they are! They're...little numbers. Six...six...six.

(They pull away from one another.)

JOHN
 Funny.
 What is it really?
 Are the marks raised?

LEAH
 Funny.
 The Mark of the Beast.
 You are the Antichrist.

JOHN
 Will you quit screwing around? Does it look like a melanoma
 or something? Some kind of skin cancer?

(LEAH begins walking away.)

LEAH
 Honey, it's very funny.

JOHN
 Melanomas are funny? They can kill you!

LEAH
 I'm sure you put a lot of time and effort into it. Show
 Duncan when he gets here. He'll get a big kick out of it.
 Although his girlfriend probably won't be too amused. Isn't
 she pretty religious?

JOHN
 What are you talking about?

LEAH
 The three number sixes that you carefully wrote on your
 scalp.

JOHN
 I didn't write any numbers on my scalp!

LEAH
 What did you use? Eyebrow pencil? Sharpie? If you used a
 Sharpie you'll need some rubbing alcohol if you want to get
 them off.

JOHN
 Wait a second. You're telling me I actually have numbers on
 my head?

LEAH
 Yes. I'm telling you that you actually have numbers on your
 head. You have numbers on your head because you put them
 there.

JOHN
 I didn't!

LEAH
 Well, someone did. Someone went to a lot of time and trouble
 to write the numbers 666 on your scalp. Or maybe it's 999.

(MORE)

LEAH (cont'd)

So, either you're the Antichrist or you're the even more terrifying upside-down Antichrist. Now, Duncan and Holly will be here in a few minutes. Can you please help me in the kitchen?

(off his clearly shaken
reaction)

John?

JOHN

How the hell did numbers get on my head?

LEAH

Well, let's look at this logically. The way I see it, there are four possibilities. One, you wrote them on your head. Two, someone else wrote them on your head. Three, they're a very peculiar birthmark. Four, you're the Antichrist.

JOHN

I told you, I didn't do it.

LEAH

Okay, three possibilities.

JOHN

And when is anyone else going to do that? I think I'd notice if someone was scrawling numbers on my head!

LEAH

All right. Two possibilities. Birthmark or Antichrist. And you know what? We can narrow it down to which one it is very easily.

JOHN

We can?

LEAH

Let's just call your Mom. We'll ask her if you had any kind of birthmarks when you were born. Simple.

(She pulls out her phone.)

JOHN

That won't work.

LEAH

Of course it will work. Every mother remembers what her firstborn child looked like. The ears, the eyes, the smell...if you had three numbers on your head when you were born, you can bet she'll remember.

JOHN

But I was born with a full head of hair!

LEAH

Oh, that's right! I remember seeing those photos! You were so cute! Such a little moptop!

JOHN

Yes, I was a little moptop. So, my Mom wouldn't know if I had any birthmarks on my head.

LEAH

Hmm. Well, I guess we'll never know. But what's life without a little mystery?

JOHN

I get the feeling you're not taking this very seriously.

LEAH

And do you know why that is? Because I'm not taking it seriously. You have three marks on your head, roughly in the shape of the number six. Does that mean you're the Antichrist? No. That's a story. It's a story in a book from the Bronze Age where people lived inside whales and had nice chats with talking bushes.

JOHN

But what if it's not just a book of stories? What if I really am the Antichrist?

LEAH

Then you are, sweetie. And you know what? I would still love you just the same.

(comes up and kisses him)

Now, if you could please use your demonic powers of evil to put together a cheese plate, I would really appreciate it.

JOHN

So you don't think it's anything? Seriously.

LEAH

No.

JOHN

It is pretty strange though.

LEAH

Incredibly strange. But have you ever seen a duck-billed platypus? Or a sixty-year-old man with a comb-over? Strange happens. Strange is a big part of nature.

JOHN

You're right. Yeah, I'm sure it's nothing. I'm sorry. I was just freaking out a little bit. I should probably go see a dermatologist though, don't you think?

LEAH

Absolutely! I'll make you an appointment on Monday. Now don't worry about it. Please. Although it might be fun to have the Antichrist around the house.

JOHN

Why?

LEAH

You know, the whole embodiment of evil thing...no morals, no limits...capable of anything in the pure, raw pursuit of total power and ultimate pleasure. Insatiable lust, unquenchable desire...

(They hold hands as they look into one another's eyes.)

JOHN

Honey?

LEAH

Yes, dear?

JOHN

I want to fornicate.

LEAH

Too bad you're not the Antichrist.

JOHN

I know, but let's fornicate anyway.

LEAH

Duncan and Holly will be here in two minutes!

JOHN

I can fornicate in two minutes!

LEAH

I'm well aware of that.

JOHN

Leah...

LEAH

John...

JOHN

I won't be able to focus on the conversation.

LEAH

When have you ever focused on a conversation?

(He pulls her close and nuzzles her neck.)

LEAH

There is something seriously wrong with you...you're a very twisted and sick individual...who needs professional help...

(a small moan escapes her)

Do you want to do it right here?

(Their libidos rocket from zero to one hundred and they kiss one another like ravenous wolves, hands clawing at each other. JOHN pushes LEAH against the wall and she wraps one leg around him just as...the doorbell rings.)

JOHN AND LEAH

Son of a bitch!

(They pull apart, panting. LEAH backs towards the kitchen as JOHN backs towards the front door. They point at one another.)

JOHN

I want to see you later.

LEAH

Oh, you're going to see me later.

JOHN

(reacting to the doorbell ringing again)

Can we pretend we're not home?

LEAH

No! They just drove halfway across the country. Now think happy thoughts about bunnies and puppies and answer the door.

(LEAH goes into the kitchen and JOHN composes himself, then opens the door. DUNCAN and HOLLY enter. DUNCAN is a big man with an almost perpetual smile on his face, an ex-frat boy for whom the party has never stopped. HOLLY is more reserved and nervous at meeting people she doesn't know.)

JOHN

Hey! You made it!

DUNCAN

732 miles in eleven hours and twenty-three minutes!

(he wraps JOHN in a bear hug)

(MORE)

DUNCAN (cont'd)
 God, it's good to see you, buddy!
 (turning to HOLLY)
 Honey, this is, well, what can I say? This is the man.

(JOHN extends his hand to HOLLY and they shake hands.)

JOHN
 Nice to meet you.

DUNCAN
 No, no, no! None of that! Come on.

(DUNCAN wraps JOHN and HOLLY up in a group hug.)

DUNCAN
 Leah? Where's Leah? Leah, get out here!

(LEAH comes out of the kitchen wiping her hands on a towel.)

LEAH
 Duncan! I thought I heard some elephants crashing through the front door.

DUNCAN
 That's me, baby! The circus is in town! Now get your butt over here!

(LEAH goes to the trio and gets enveloped in the hug.)

DUNCAN
 There we go! Jesus, this feels good! Doesn't it? Whoo! Man, I feel like I can breathe! There are so many people you can't breathe with, you know? But here...the air is good. Now let me make some proper introductions.

(The group splits up.)

DUNCAN
 Holly, this is John. College roommate, fraternity brother, and my best friend in the world...and this is Leah, his amazing wife, and guys, this is Holly. She...well, you know we've been going out for almost a year now and, as of last week, she's my fiancée!

(DUNCAN holds HOLLY's left hand up and she proudly displays her engagement ring.)

LEAH
 Congratulations!

JOHN

About time!

DUNCAN

I know, I know, we insurance guys are slow movers, always figuring the odds, but she's the one! Absolutely the one! Well, 95% percent sure, anyway.

HOLLY

Duncan!

DUNCAN

Okay, I'll go 97%.

HOLLY

Thank you!

DUNCAN

So, I wanted you to meet her, and of course, I need to pop the big question.

JOHN

I thought you already popped the big question.

DUNCAN

Not that big question.

(drops to one knee, and clasps
his hands to his heart)

John? Will you be my best man?

JOHN

Hell yeah, I will! You have anyone else as best man and I would arrange an assassination.

(DUNCAN gets to his feet and wraps an
arm around JOHN.)

DUNCAN

And he would do it too! This is the man to do it!

LEAH

We need champagne! I'm getting champagne!

DUNCAN

No, no, you don't have to--

LEAH

Sit down, shut up. I'm getting champagne.

(LEAH disappears into the kitchen as
the trio move further into the living
room.)

JOHN

(to HOLLY)

It's so nice to finally meet you and to hear your great news. But you're sure you want to marry this guy? I could tell you some stories--

HOLLY

Oh, I've heard some of the stories, although I think Duncan makes most of them up.

DUNCAN

What? Me?

HOLLY

Oh, you like to exaggerate.

DUNCAN

I deny that completely! I was an Eagle Scout, you know!

JOHN

Recovering Eagle Scout. I did an intervention when we were in college.

DUNCAN

Did you ever.

(LEAH emerges from the kitchen with a tray bearing a bottle of champagne and four filled glasses.)

LEAH

Champagne!

DUNCAN

Leah, you didn't have to--

LEAH

Shh! Yes, I did have to! You know what you need, Duncan? A woman to tell you what to do.

(HOLLY raises her hand.)

LEAH

We have a volunteer!

(They all take a glass of champagne.)

LEAH

Tell Holly, John. Where would you be without me?

JOHN

Probably either President of the United States or dead in a ditch somewhere.

LEAH

Exactly! Fates you wouldn't wish on anybody. Here we go...

(They all raise their glasses.)

LEAH

To Duncan and Holly.

JOHN

Who's like us?

LEAH

Damn few.

JOHN, LEAH AND DUNCAN

And they're all dead!

(The foursome drink. HOLLY takes a good look around.)

HOLLY

You have a beautiful home.

LEAH

Thank you.

HOLLY

I just love the way it feels so intimate and cozy, but modern at the same time.

JOHN

Well, it works for us.

HOLLY

The Lord has truly blessed you both.

LEAH

I guess so.

(awkward pause, then to HOLLY)

Would you like to see the rest of the house?

HOLLY

Would I? Lead the way!

(LEAH and HOLLY exit down the hallway.
JOHN turns to DUNCAN.)

JOHN

You don't want the home tour?

DUNCAN

I'm good.

JOHN

We've got a...let's see, we've got a bathroom...couple of bedrooms...oh, and a hallway closet that will knock your socks off.

(DUNCAN grabs the bottle of champagne, refills his glass, and tops off JOHN's glass.)

DUNCAN

It sounds amazing.

JOHN

It is amazing. It's got doors.

DUNCAN

Yeah?

JOHN

That open.

DUNCAN

Wow. And close?

JOHN

Mmm-hmm. Or if you want, get this, you can keep them halfway open.

DUNCAN

Now that's just crazy talk.

(They clink glasses and sip their champagne.)

JOHN

So, Holly seems like she's pretty--

DUNCAN

I know, I know! All right? I know.

(JOHN sips his drink again, stifling a laugh.)

DUNCAN

Dude, I swear to God...

JOHN

(holding up his hands)

I'm sorry! I am...no offense. Whatever, you know, tickles your peach.

(DUNCAN glances down the hall, then turns back to JOHN.)

DUNCAN

Listen, I really, really want Holly to like you guys. And I want you to like her too.

JOHN

I do! She's very--

DUNCAN

No, listen. She...okay, you know how some people are really into NASCAR, or cats, or whatever? Well, with Holly, religion is kind of her thing.

JOHN

I'm pretty sure religious people think it's more important than NASCAR.

DUNCAN

You haven't met some of the NASCAR fans I know. But that's not what matters. What matters is that Holly is a wonderful person. She's kind, thoughtful, and she really cares about other people.

JOHN

She's a nurse, right?

DUNCAN

Right! There you go! And she's great with kids!

JOHN

Sounds like you have some future plans.

DUNCAN

We do! We already have names and everything. Alexander, Julius, and Gabriel for boys. Alexis, Isabelle, and...

(LEAH and HOLLY re-enter the room.)

DUNCAN

...honey, what's our girl names again?

HOLLY

Alexis, Isabelle, and Bailey.

DUNCAN

Bailey! Right, I keep forgetting that one.

LEAH

You two are sounding ambitious.

(HOLLY comes up to DUNCAN. He puts his arm around her and kisses her cheek.)

DUNCAN

You bet we are.

LEAH

Well, we don't need to stand here. Sit, sit, sit.

(HOLLY takes the sofa, while JOHN and LEAH take the chairs. DUNCAN starts doing some tai-chi.)

DUNCAN

No sitting for me! Not yet, anyway. I need to align my chakras.

JOHN

So, an eleven hour car ride. That's a chunk.

DUNCAN

Ah, it was nothing. I like driving. We just talked--

HOLLY

(to JOHN)

Mostly about you.

JOHN

That's not good.

DUNCAN

No, it's cool! Really. I was just hitting some of the highlights from our college days.

JOHN

What highlights, specifically?

DUNCAN

The good ones! Well, mostly good ones. I didn't get into any of the...you know...

HOLLY

Any of the what?

DUNCAN

Well, we did some pretty crazy stuff.
(he laughs at a particularly
vivid memory)

Remember when we...? Nah, forget it! I shouldn't go there.

HOLLY

Go where?

(HOLLY looks from DUNCAN to JOHN.)

JOHN

Well, Duncan and I--

DUNCAN

Mostly you.

JOHN

Okay, mostly me. I...college was a little bit boring for me, the classes and everything. So, once in a while--

DUNCAN

Every weekend.

JOHN

Okay, every weekend--

DUNCAN

And the weekends started on Wednesday.

JOHN

Yes, they did. And I would just try to spice things up a little on campus.

HOLLY

Were you really suspended three times by the university?

JOHN

Well...

HOLLY

And Duncan had to bail you out of jail twice?

JOHN

Those were just misunderstandings.

DUNCAN

John had a lot of misunderstandings.

LEAH

He still does.

DUNCAN

I'll bet.

JOHN

No, listen you two. I think you're giving Holly the wrong impression about me.

HOLLY

And were you really banned from every bar on campus?

JOHN

That was actually a good thing! I was a little upset about it at the time, but it worked out.

HOLLY

How did it work out?

JOHN

Well, it gave me time to think. And the university made me go see this school psychiatrist if I didn't want to be expelled, and he pointed out that I seemed to have a problem with authority figures, you know, bouncers, cops, professors. So, I was officially diagnosed with ODD.

HOLLY

What's ODD?

JOHN

Oppositional Defiance Disorder. There's no drug for it, you just have to learn how to manage it.

HOLLY

And you learned how to manage it?

JOHN

Yes, I did. I finally realized it was a lot safer to have other people do the crazy stuff.

DUNCAN

And boy, did they! You know what we used to call him? Svengali. He had this, I don't know what you want to call it, hypnotic power over people. Kind of a Rasputin or Charles Manson deal almost. I mean, he would come up with these insane ideas and then people would actually do them! Whatever he said!

HOLLY

Like what?

DUNCAN

Well, there was this...do you mind if I tell this? The whole initiation thing?

JOHN

Maybe that wouldn't be such a great idea.

HOLLY

I'd like to hear.

LEAH

I think I know this story, but--

DUNCAN

But you probably don't know all the details, right?

JOHN

Duncan--

DUNCAN

You know what, we're all friends, we're going to be friends, I'm just going to tell it.

(MORE)

DUNCAN (cont'd)

This is all ancient history anyway. Nobody died, nobody's in jail...give me another snort of that champagne.

(he drains his glass and LEAH
refills it)

There we go! That's the stuff!

(glancing at JOHN)

Will you relax?

JOHN

I'm plenty relaxed. I'd just rather hear more about your wedding plans.

DUNCAN

Yeah, we'll get to that. So anyway, John and I, we're in this small fraternity, Omega Omega Omega, and the big dogs on campus were the guys in Sigma Nu. Now, it's Rush Week, we both have the same initiation night, and the Sigma Nu guys, they make their pledges pull this chariot down the main drag in only their underwear, with this Amazon dominatrix in black leather going at these guys with a bullwhip. And people are lining the street and cheering and everything, and the Sigma Nu guys, they think they are the Greek gods, you know?

(he sips his champagne)

But then, then it's our turn. So, people start gathering outside our house, even the Sigma Nu guys, because they heard something was going down and it was going to be big. And John, he's nowhere. He took our pledges someplace, no one knows where, and we're waiting for his call. Well, about ten minutes to midnight, we get the call. It's the clock tower. So we come out of our house, this huge crowd is following us and man, my heart is just pounding. And we get to the clock tower, hundreds of people milling around, it's midnight, the bell starts to toll, and we look up and there's our six pledges, five stories up, standing on the edge of the clock tower. And these guys, all of them, are stark naked.

LEAH

Nice.

HOLLY

How is that nice?

DUNCAN

Not only that, they all had these glowing bracelets around their wrists and ankles.

LEAH

That's an artistic touch, honey.

JOHN

I was just trying to add a little color.

DUNCAN

So, it's this incredible sight. These guys are decked out like Christmas trees, the bell is pounding, people are going nuts, and on the last stroke of twelve...they jump. All six guys jump off the clock tower at the same time. And now, they're rocketing towards the ground, these naked, glowing Christmas tree freshmen, and people are screaming and running for their lives, and then boom, just before they hit the ground, all six bounce back up! They were on these black bungee cords that none of us could see! And it's exactly at that moment that John comes out of the bell tower wearing a red tuxedo, and this crowd, this huge crowd goes dead silent, and John takes this big bow and says, "Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in welcoming the newest members of Omega Omega Omega." Well, the crowd goes nuts and the Sigma Nu guys, they just disappeared like they never even existed. And all because of one man.

(he raises his glass to JOHN)

Salut!

(Everyone but HOLLY takes a drink of champagne. DUNCAN sits down next to HOLLY and kisses her cheek.)

HOLLY

Am I missing something? I don't understand how that's a good thing.

JOHN

It was just a bit of theater...trying to create a little magic. I wanted to give people something to talk about.

DUNCAN

Oh, people talked about it. They're probably still talking about it.

HOLLY

But you're not the one jumping off the clock tower. Why would you make other people do that?

JOHN

It's not that I made them do it. I made them want to do it. There's a big difference.

LEAH

Spoken like the Antichrist.

DUNCAN

You got that right!

JOHN

That's not funny.

LEAH

Oh, come on. I'm just joking.

DUNCAN

Hang on. When have you ever said something is not funny?

LEAH

He's a little sensitive on the topic at the moment.

DUNCAN

What topic?

JOHN

Can we just drop this? Tell us about your wedding plans!

HOLLY

Oh! Well, there's this beautiful old church down by--

DUNCAN

Hold that thought, honey. I mean, I want to talk about our wedding plans. I do. But what's the sensitive topic? Is everything okay?

JOHN

Everything's fine.

DUNCAN

That's a little short on details.

JOHN

It's nothing.

DUNCAN

It's obviously something.

JOHN

Okay, listen, what it is, I think I might be...going bald, all right?

(off LEAH's look)

What? That's the truth!

LEAH

John was looking at himself in the mirror before you guys got here. He noticed some marks on his scalp, he had me look at them, and they're kind of in the shape of numbers.

HOLLY

What numbers?

DUNCAN

Six-six-six! What else could it be?

LEAH

Right.

(Long beat.)

HOLLY

Can I say something? I know you guys are just being funny, but that's not something you should joke about.

LEAH

It's no joke.

HOLLY

It has to be!

LEAH

Nope.

(Everyone looks at JOHN.)

JOHN

It's nothing! Just some kind of weird marks, is all. I'm going to the dermatologist next week to get it checked out.

DUNCAN

Seriously? You've got numbers on your head?

JOHN

They're marks. Just some, you know, freckles or age spots or something.

DUNCAN

(getting up)

Let me see.

JOHN

It's nothing!

DUNCAN

I still want to see.

JOHN

Duncan, I don't need you pawing at my head, all right?

HOLLY

Because you're afraid of what he'll see?

JOHN

No! Can we just drop this?

DUNCAN

Let me take a look. Just one look!

HOLLY

Unless you're afraid that--

JOHN

I am not afraid of anything, all right? Jesus! Okay, you want to look? Have a look! Knock yourself out!

(DUNCAN looks to LEAH, who points to a spot on her own head. DUNCAN parts JOHN's hair with his fingers until...)

DUNCAN

Holy shit!

(he backs away from JOHN, then laughs and points at him)

You did that! Son of a bitch, you got me! You have not changed! Oh my God...

HOLLY

Can I see?

(HOLLY bends over JOHN and what she sees causes her whole body to stiffen. She backs away from JOHN, fighting the urge to flee in full bore linear panic.)

DUNCAN

Holly? Honey? It's just a joke!

HOLLY

Can I get some water? I need a drink of water.

(LEAH gets up and takes HOLLY by the elbow.)

LEAH

Come on. I'll get you something.

(LEAH takes HOLLY into the kitchen. DUNCAN turns to JOHN.)

DUNCAN

Dude, what are you thinking? I told you Holly takes that stuff seriously.

JOHN

I know! I didn't--

DUNCAN

It's a great job, whatever you did, but when she comes back in, will you please tell her it's not real?

(HOLLY comes back in at speed, carrying a wet sponge. LEAH trails after her.)

HOLLY

Here we go! Just a little soap and water. We need to get those numbers off your head. I know it's funny, it really is funny...

(her laugh is shrill and
unnatural)

...but it's just not a good thing to joke about.

JOHN

Holly, please don't--

HOLLY

Just hold still. I won't be a second.
(rubbing JOHN's head with the
sponge)

There we go! See, they're coming off! Sure they are. The numbers are coming off. They're...they're not coming off. They're not coming off...

(DUNCAN pulls HOLLY away from JOHN.)

DUNCAN

Honey, settle down. It's a joke, just a bad joke. But that's all it is.

(as HOLLY fights back tears)

It's okay...really. Let's just sit down.

(guiding her to the sofa)

See? Sitting down. Look, I'm sitting down next to you. Everything's fine.

(The quartet all look at one another,
no one knowing what to say.)

JOHN

Holly, I'm really sorry this is upsetting you. It's just some kind of bizarre skin thing.

LEAH

Right! In fact, John was just as freaked out about it before you guys got here.

JOHN

Exactly. So, I'm not the Antichrist. Honest.

HOLLY

The Antichrist is a liar and a deceiver. The Antichrist will tell people he is not the Antichrist.

(Silence falls on the group again until
DUNCAN tries to lighten things up.)

DUNCAN

You know, I think I remember something about the Antichrist from Sunday school. I'm pretty sure he's supposed to arrive on Earth riding a white horse.

JOHN

A white horse?

DUNCAN

I think that's right.

JOHN

Well, there you go!

DUNCAN

There you go what?

JOHN

It's not me! I have never ridden a horse in my life, much less a white horse! I don't even like horses! Holly? You see? It's not me.

HOLLY

Are you sure you've never been on a horse? Not even at a petting zoo?

JOHN

Nope. Never even been to a petting zoo. I never got into the whole, you know, petting zoo scene.

LEAH

Oh well. It was fun living with the Antichrist while it lasted. Anyone for cheese and crackers?

DUNCAN

Sign me up!

(LEAH gets up and heads to the kitchen.
DUNCAN follows her.)

DUNCAN

Let me help you.

(DUNCAN and LEAH exit. JOHN and HOLLY
sit in uneasy silence.)

HOLLY

I'm sorry about the whole liar and deceiver thing. I was talking about the Antichrist.

JOHN

Sure, that makes perfect sense. You ask me who's going to lie and deceive, I'm going to say the Antichrist...or car salesmen!

(JOHN laughs at his own joke as HOLLY forces a smile and nods. DUNCAN and LEAH re-enter with cheese and crackers.)

DUNCAN

You know, I was thinking about that white horse thing.

JOHN

What about it? I have never ridden a horse. Ever.

DUNCAN

Maybe technically, but--

JOHN

No white horse, no Antichrist. Case closed!

HOLLY

(to DUNCAN)

What is it, honey? What are you thinking?

(DUNCAN realizes he shouldn't have opened his mouth, and stalls for time by eating some cheese.)

DUNCAN

Boy, I'll tell you, I think Jarlsberg has got to be my favorite kind of cheese...

HOLLY

Honey? What about--?

DUNCAN

...of the hard cheeses. If you're talking soft cheeses, give me a good Brie any day of the week. Of course, the trick is you have to let it get up to room temperature before you serve it. But that's the beautiful thing about cheese, there's so many kinds. Hard, soft, rind-washed--

HOLLY

Honey?

DUNCAN

--string, blue, cottage...I love me some cheese!

(DUNCAN takes another piece of cheese.)

HOLLY

Dunky? You're thinking about something, I know you are.

(to the others)

He gets the cutest little wrinkle in his forehead when he's thinking.

(MORE)

HOLLY (cont'd)
 (to DUNCAN)
 What is it?

DUNCAN
 (to JOHN)
 Okay, so you've never ridden a horse. But what was the first car you ever owned?

JOHN
 My Mustang.

DUNCAN
 Your white Mustang.

HOLLY
 (standing up and pointing at JOHN)
 IT'S A PROPHECY!!!

(HOLLY drops to her knees in fervent prayer.)

JOHN
 No, it isn't! It isn't! Holly...Duncan, can you stop her from doing that?

DUNCAN
 I'm gonna have to say "no" on that one.

(JOHN tries to approach HOLLY, but she scuttles away on her knees, still praying.)

JOHN
 Holly...Holly listen to me. You're overreacting, okay? I mean, God is omniscient, right? He's all-knowing. So, if He was talking about me in the Bible, why wouldn't He just say that the Antichrist will arrive on Earth driving a Mustang GT350 with dual exhaust and mag wheels?

HOLLY
 It's symbolic! The Bible can't come right out and say something that specific!

JOHN
 Why not?

LEAH
 I'm guessing that peasants in the Middle Ages might have been a little confused by references to mag wheels.

HOLLY
 (getting to her feet)
 Exactly! That's why it's symbolic!

JOHN
(to LEAH)
You're not helping here.

(HOLLY points at JOHN in wide-eyed
horror.)

HOLLY
You are the Antichrist! Oh my God! The end times are upon
us!

JOHN
No, they're not! Really! They're not! Leah, please say
something!

LEAH
Anyone for appetizers?

HOLLY
How can you joke about this?

LEAH
Because it's a joke! John isn't the Antichrist any more than
Duncan is Bigfoot.

HOLLY
He's deceived you! He is the Great Deceiver!

LEAH
John is a lot of things, and I'm not going to argue that all
of those things are good. But he is not the Antichrist.

DUNCAN
Hey! Whoa, whoa, whoa! Okay, time out, people! Now that I
think about it, I might have that wrong.

JOHN
Have what wrong?

DUNCAN
The whole horse thing. I think I got it backwards. It might
be Jesus who comes on the white horse. Holly, do you
remember that part of the Bible?

HOLLY
No. I know it's in The Book of Revelation, but that's not
exactly my favorite part of the Scriptures. I'm really more
of a Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John person.

DUNCAN
(to JOHN and LEAH)
You guys don't happen to have a Bible, do you? We could look
it up.

HOLLY

I have a Bible! It's on my iPad! We can search by key phrases and everything!

(HOLLY pulls an iPad out of her purse and turns it on.)

JOHN

Holly, you don't need to do this.

HOLLY

Oh, yes I do! I need to do this more than I have ever needed to do anything in my entire life.

(As HOLLY accesses the Bible on her iPad, the others look at one another uncertainly.)

JOHN

I've got a good idea! Let's look up Biblical passages about the Apocalypse after we have something to eat and drink. Wouldn't that be nicer?

HOLLY

You're just saying that because you're not ready to reveal yourself as the Antichrist yet!

JOHN

No, I'm saying that because we've got appetizers that will be getting cold.

HOLLY

(talking to her iPad)

Search for "white horse."

(beat)

Yes, it's in Revelation! Here we go! Revelation 6:2. "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." Huh. Well, that's not real specific. That could be anybody.

DUNCAN

No, that has to be Jesus. The good guy is on the white horse. If John had a horse, it would be a big black stallion, you know, a real bad-ass horse, like the Headless Horseman guy. Don't you think?

HOLLY

That does sound right.

LEAH

Yay! And we all lived happily ever after. So, let's hear about this church you're getting married in.

(LEAH grabs a cracker and some cheese.)

HOLLY

Aren't we forgetting something?

JOHN

What?

HOLLY

You have the numbers six-six-six on your head.

(off DUNCAN'S reaction)

Well, I'm sorry, but he does! I mean, okay, I may have overreacted a little.

(to JOHN)

But if you might be the Antichrist, even if there's only a one in a million chance, wouldn't you want to know that?

LEAH

No, he wouldn't.

JOHN

Actually, I kind of would.

LEAH

John!

JOHN

I'm sorry, but I would!

LEAH

Well, when you have a few minutes to spare, go on the Internet and find a "Are You the Antichrist?" quiz.

HOLLY

Maybe the answer is in the Bible.

DUNCAN

Honey, we didn't come here to spend the entire evening reading the Bible.

HOLLY

I'm not saying we should read the whole Bible, silly. But let's look at this logically.

(turning to JOHN)

Your first name is John, so maybe there's something in the Book of John.

JOHN

You think? Like a hidden clue or something?

LEAH

Are you serious?

(turning to DUNCAN)

I'm sorry, Duncan. He can get like this.

DUNCAN

You don't have to tell me. Same with Miss iPad here.

(HOLLY starts tapping at her iPad.)

HOLLY

John and I...we're just intellectually curious, that's all.

JOHN

Damn straight we are. Mind your own beeswax, you two.

HOLLY

Now, when were you born?

JOHN

My birthday? February eighteenth.

HOLLY

John 2:18...here it is! It says...

(She reads it to herself, then looks at JOHN as if he has horns sprouting out of his head.)

JOHN

What?

DUNCAN

Let me see.

(leans over to read the iPad
as HOLLY points at the words)

Whoa.

(HOLLY and DUNCAN both stare at JOHN.
LEAH gets up and reads the iPad over
their shoulders. She looks at JOHN.)

JOHN

Will one of you please stop staring at me and tell me what it says?

LEAH

(reading)

John 2:18. "Little children, these are the end times, and as you have heard, the Antichrist is coming."

DUNCAN

I gotta tell you, that's a helluva coincidence.

LEAH

It definitely is.

HOLLY

It's not a coincidence! It's prophecy!

(JOHN stands up a little shakily. HOLLY points at him.)

HOLLY
The Antichrist walks among us!

DUNCAN
John?

LEAH
Honey?

HOLLY
He's going to smite us!

JOHN
No, no, I'm not going to smite anybody. I'm just going to go check on the appetizers.

(JOHN heads for the kitchen, with LEAH following him.)

DUNCAN
What did I tell you? Things are never dull when my boy John is around.

HOLLY
Is that all you have to say?

DUNCAN
You think they need help with the appetizers?

HOLLY
No!

DUNCAN
Then what?

HOLLY
We have to kill him!

DUNCAN
What?

HOLLY
We have to kill John! Here! Now!

DUNCAN
But he's our best man!

HOLLY
I don't want the Antichrist coming to our wedding!