

For the Love of a Devil

Synopsis

After nearly five years of marriage, Geoff fears that the next fifty years will be more of the same, even after a “good” year with Heather, his wife. The year before, Heather had an affair with the outreach minister and the church kicked her out. Geoff is uncertain how he can survive another fifty years of not knowing if Heather is the most sincere when she says she loves him or when she talks about looking for another man. He is determined to take it one day at a time. If he can make it through one more day they will celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary at the best restaurant in town.

On the day of their anniversary, Geoff returns home from school, where he is an English teacher, with a handful of flowers and a goofy looking stuffed gorilla. He knows that the gorilla is just the kind of thing Heather will love. He discovers their three children, the oldest of which is four, alone in the house. He listens to the answering machine and hears Heather’s voice telling him that she is leaving him and the children for another man.

The other man is married to Mrs. Miller, one of the wealthiest women in the area. She knows how to pull her man back when he gets out of line. Geoff receives a call from Mrs. Miller and meets with her to talk. She tells him that she has hired a private investigator that has evidence that her husband and Heather are together. She informs Geoff that she is going to take her husband’s toys away and force him to end the relationship with Heather. She also provides Geoff with the address of the apartment where Heather is staying, with the warning that Heather won’t go home to Geoff. Geoff ignores this warning and visits Heather anyway. When she does not agree to go home, Geoff visits the office at the apartment complex and pays her rent, knowing that her lover will no longer be paying it and desiring to provide for her in any way he can.

During the months that follow, Geoff continues to find ways to care for Heather, even though she rejects Geoff’s help and seeks shelter with another lover. One of the things Geoff does is give things to her lover to give to her. When she leaves her lover to return to work for her grandmother, Regina, who operates an escort service, Geoff begins paying Regina, not knowing whether the money will reach Heather or not. Heather learns of what Geoff has been doing and on their sixth wedding anniversary, Geoff and Heather spend the evening together, watching the river. She refuses to go home with him, but he has hope that she will in time.

As the weeks pass, Geoff continues his attempts to persuade Heather to return home. He notices that Heather is growing thin and tired. He detests the smell of other men’s cologne that is constantly on her. Then one evening, while grading papers, he learns that Heather’s father has been killed after being released from prison. He rushes over to Regina’s house and one of Regina’s girls tells him a fantastic story. Regina is on the way to Arnold to sell Heather.

Geoff is about to give up. Slavery isn’t supposed to exist, but his wife has been sold into it. He has no way of finding her and no way of getting her out. It is easier not to try, but then Sara, a student and fellow church member who has shown concern for Geoff throughout this ordeal, hands him a box with \$15,000 cash in it. He knows it is the money she intended to use to buy a car, but she has written a note that says, “Go buy her back.” While Geoff is certain this money will not be enough, he takes action that will lead him

to that goal. He visits Dan, a former student who is involved in the dark world that has swallowed Heather.

With Dan's help, Geoff finds Heather's body in a rundown neighborhood in the St. Louis area. The only reason he is certain it is hers is that he can see a scar on her foot. Fearing she is dead, he rushes into the room and checks to see if there is still breathe in her urine soaked body. He buys her back, takes her home and cleans her up.

Heather wakes the next morning, unsure of where she is. The room is clean, the bed is comfortable and clean clothes have been laid out for her. She sees that she has a choice between running away and finding freedom or finding out who has bought her. She doesn't have the strength to run away. When she learns what happened the night before, she is delighted to learn that Geoff bought her and she is safe at home in the protective arms of her husband.