

Split

By

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Logline: Emma Bulmer must
battle to save her husband
Edward from eternal damnation
in a bowling match with the
devil.

FADE IN:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - DAY

Two tourists, EMMA and EDWARD BULMER enter a bowling alley with their luggage. Edward, wearing a Hawaiian shirt, the tourist uniform, walks up to the CLERK.

EDWARD

Excuse me. Is this where we swim with the dolphins?

CLERK

No.

EMMA

I told you that taxi driver looked suspicious. I'm calling another.

EDWARD

Man alive. Is the dolphin place nearby?

The clerk doesn't bother to respond this time.

EMMA

Look, honey. They have Galaga.

EDWARD

It says in the guide book dolphins have been known to rape a man. Is this true?

The clerk just walks away.

EMMA

Not very talkative, is he?

A BOWLER drifts by, lost in his own world. Emma tries to get his attention.

EMMA

Sir, we're looking for the Marine Kingdom. Can you tell me how to get there?

LILITH (O.S.)

I have good news and bad news.

LILITH, a cherry-red siren with pale skin, speaks from the corner.

(CONTINUED)

LILITH

Good news, there's a tour bus,
stops by here on the hour.

EDWARD

What's the bad news?

LILITH

You're stuck in this hellhole for
the next hour.

EMMA

That is unfortunate.

EDWARD

Maybe we can grab a bite while we
wait. What would you recommend?

Lilith gestures toward the counter. The clerk looks up from behind a pizza box, his face a hot mess of sauce and pepperoni.

EMMA

I'll hold out for the Dolphin Bits
at Marine Kingdom, thank you very
much.

LILITH

Of course, you are stranded in a
bowling alley. What do you say to a
friendly game, to pass the time?

EDWARD

You sure about that, little lady? I
am a regional bowling champion in
Dubuque.

LILITH

So I've heard. Bulmer, isn't it?

EDWARD

You hear that, Emma? I'm famous.

Edward gestures to Lilith, ladies first.

EDWARD

Lead the way.

Edward, Emma, and Lilith take a lane and start a three-way game. The frames fly by, and Edward finishes with a game-winning throw. Strike!

(CONTINUED)

LILITH
Impressive. Seems your reputation
is well-deserved.

EDWARD
They don't call me 'The King of
Dubuque' for nothing.

Emma, seated on a nearby bench, rolls her eyes. She glances
over her shoulder at the clerk and catches him elatedly
sniffing the inside of a bowling shoe.

LILITH
Beaten by the 'King of Dubuque.'
Oh, my injured pride. Any chance I
could talk you into a rematch?

EDWARD
Appreciate the hospitality, Miss
Lilith, but we really need to catch
that tour bus.

LILITH
Afraid I'll win?

EDWARD
Not likely.

LILITH
Care to make a wager?

EDWARD
I couldn't take-

LILITH
If you lose, I get your eternal
soul.

Edward does a double-take. She's joking, right?

EDWARD
All right. And what do I get if I
win?

Lilith leans in close and whispers in his ear.

LILITH
Whatever your heart desires.

EDWARD
No upstanding Dubuque man could
turn that offer down. You, my dear,
are on.

EMMA
(scolding)
Edward!

Montage of bowling shots. Edward struggles, while Lilith bowls a perfect game. Marks appear on the digital scorecard.

Emma watches the game with rapt attention.

The montage ends with Lilith's strike in the 10th frame.

EDWARD
Man alive. You're not from Milford,
are you?

LILITH
I've beaten you, Edward
Bulmer. And we bargained, your
soul is now mine.

EMMA
I knew something like this was
going to happen. We should've gone
to Adventureland.

EDWARD
You played a good game, I'll give
you that, but I can't just give you
my soul. Hell, I wouldn't even know
how. I can give you fifty bucks.
I've got traveler's cheques.

Lilith smiles, ignoring his offer. She edges toward him, ready to collect what is hers. The bowling alley takes on a dark, ominous feel.

Emma steps between them, annoyed. The spell is broken.

EMMA
Look here, Missy. I am ready to be
done with this godforsaken armpit
of a bowling alley. What's it gonna
take to get fathead's soul back?

LILITH
Care to make a wager?

EMMA
(sarcastic)
Lemme guess. I win, I get whatever
my heart desires. You win, you get
my eternal soul? I got that right?

Lilith nods, put off by Emma's nonchalance.

(CONTINUED)

EMMA

Lady, you are on.
(to Edward)
Edward, get me my ball.

Edward, subservient, rushes to their bags. He unzips Emma's bag and produces an ETHEREAL BOWLING BALL. The ball glows with its own otherworldly light.

Emma picks up her ball and strides toward the lane. Lilith, sensing she's been duped, steps in front of Emma.

LILITH

Maybe we could alter our wager-

EMMA

Get thee behind me. Bitch.

Emma and Lilith go head to head, matching strike for strike. They get to the 10th frame, and Lilith is sweating bullets. Strike, strike, then... nine pins. She leaves one standing.

Emma steps forward, her confidence wavering. Lilith senses Emma's hesitation and pounces.

LILITH

Edward may be cute, but he's no prize. If you were to walk away now, I'd settle for his soul to cover the wager. You could be on your way to Marine Kingdom and your precious dolphins.

Emma rolls a strike.

LILITH

Think about it, Emma. You'd be your own woman. After Marine Kingdom, you could visit Adventureland, maybe even The Great Wall of Cheese.

Emma rolls another strike. One ball left.

LILITH

You can't beat me, you filthy, white trash, uneducated backwoods yokel. You're nothing compared to me. Nothing.

Emma releases the ball.

Lilith's eyes follow the ball, angry.

(CONTINUED)

Edward's eyes follow the ball, hopeful.

The clerk's eyes follow the ball, enraptured. He raises another shoe and distractedly takes a whiff.

Emma's eyes follow the ball, confident.

Strike.

Emma turns to Lilith, triumphant.

EMMA

Now, about my reward....

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - LATER

A new pair of TOURISTS enter the bowling alley. They stride past the counter where Edward is furiously polishing a pair of bowling shoes.

TOURIST

Excuse me, but when is the next bus to Marine Kingdom.

Emma, dressed in Lilith's red dress, turns to answer them. Lilith stands behind Emma, dressed in Emma's gaudy tourist garb, polishing Emma's ball.

EMMA

I'm afraid you're stuck here for a while. Can I interest you two in a friendly game?

CUT TO BLACK