

Flesh on the Grill

Horriſying Tales From The Dead I

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Charlie was sick and tired of cooking at his Uncle Sam's Diner because all that was on the menu was the same bland stuff that has been on the list for over twenty years at the Diner. Charlie knew he could do better than his uncle ever could. Charlie decided he had enough money saved up to open his little Diner in town.

The following morning, he was going to tell his Uncle Sam today would be his last day to work at the Diner. Charlie broke the news to his Uncle Sam, but Sam was hurt Charlie wanted to leave the family business.

Sam said, „Charlie, why do you want to leave, haven't we paid you well and gave you all the free meals and a nice place to stay?“

Charlie answered, „Please don't make this difficult for us both I'm not happy here anymore. I feel that it's time for me to move on—besides I'm a man now, and I need to take care of myself and start my Diner. I hope you understand uncle.“

Sam replied, „Yes, I do understand. I just wanted to believe you would work at the Diner the rest of your life as I have but sometimes leaving the family business is for the best. When you open your new Diner Charlie, could I please come by and see what wonderful things you have done?“

„Sure, Uncle Sam, you'll be the first person I call.“

Then Sam comes over and gives him a big hug and says, „Okay, Charlie, you take good care of yourself and don't forget to call me when the Diner is built.“

„Don't worry Uncle Sam, you'll love my new Diner, now tell everyone it's been a pleasure working here. Now, I've got to get to the bank and take out a small loan to cover some of the construction costs for the new Diner,“ said Charlie.

„Charlie, why don't you let me give you the money you need to cover the remaining construction costs?“ said Uncle Sam.

„No, I appreciate your kindness, but I need to do this all alone just like you did when you started your Diner,“ replied Charlie.

„Well alright, we'll be talking, Charlie soon,“ said Uncle Sam.

Charlie's Diner was up and running ready to give his Uncle Sam's Diner a run for their money. In reality, Charlie's Diner was a flop compared to his Uncle Sam's Diner, because he didn't know anything about how to bring in customers. Charlie was working long hours to keep the place afloat. Charlie started getting depressed and drinking more than he should.

One night when all of his customers were gone, Charlie sat down at one of the tables eating a ham sandwich because that's all he could afford since his Diner was losing so much money. Charlie could barely pay his rent on time, and there was no extra money to spend on himself. Charlie went back in the kitchen to make a fresh batch of chili for the next day since that was one of his best dishes, but that wasn't saying much.

As Charlie was stirring his chili, he paused for a moment thinking as hard as he could to think of some way to drum up more business and bring Uncle Sam's diner customers to his place instead.

Then a man entered his Diner dressed in a black trench coat with a black hat and dark glasses. Charlie said to the stranger, „Can't you see we're closed for the night?“

The stranger responded, „That's not why I'm here. I am here because I want to make a deal with you.“

Charlie said, „Is this some joke or something?“

„This is no joke!“ said the stranger.

„Okay, what kind of a deal could you possibly want to make with me because I'm not selling the Diner? I need a way to bring in more customers; that's all!“ said Charlie.

„If you are quiet for a moment, I'll tell you what I'm offering,“ said the stranger. „Number one, I don't want to buy you out, what I have to offer you will bring in more customers than you could dream about,“ said the stranger.

„Okay, I'm listening,“ said Charlie.

The stranger said, „Here's the deal, Chili is your specialty, so why not make it irresistible and what about mouth-watering steaks and chicken to die for?“

„Wait for a second stranger, how did you know chili is my specialty,“ said Charlie.

The stranger said, „I did a little research before I stopped by your Diner.“

The stranger said, „This may sound morbid to you, but I'm telling you if you do as I say you will have more money than you ever dreamed. When you come back in the morning open the freezer, and there will be a note from me telling you how to prepare the meat and once you have done this and marinate the meat by the directions the customers will flood your Diner. How's that sound?“ Charlie.

Charlie said, „There has to be a catch, so tell me right now what the catch is.“

„The catch, Charlie, is simple. I want you to sign over your soul to me by signing this contract. If you don't sign this contract, I will burn down your Diner and you along with it. You have five minutes to think it over,“ said the stranger.

Charlie responded, „Come on, this is a joke.“

„Just to prove to you this is no joke see that chair over there,“ said the stranger. The stranger blew fire from his mouth, and the chair turned to ash. The stranger put on his glasses and said: „I believe your 5 minutes is up.“

„Okay, stranger, you drive a hard bargain, I'll sign my soul over to you,“ laughed, Charlie.

As Charlie was signing his name on the dotted line, the stranger touched Charlie's hand, and when the stranger raised his hand off of Charlie's hand, the number 666 appeared on his hand. When Charlie looked up, the stranger vanished into thin air. Then the stranger's voice echoed throughout the Diner saying, „Remember our deal—you break it, you die!“

The next morning Charlie did as the stranger told him and opened the freezer and there was the note on the meat hook. Charlie took the note off the hook and read it, and the stranger said, „Look behind you on the meat hook there is a rack of meat and the meat tenderizer in the refrigerator behind the counter. Once you use all of this meat, you'll have to replenish the stock in the freezer.“ Charlie cut off enough meat to make some chili and steaks for tonight's menu.

Charlie said to himself, „I hope this does the trick and brings in the customers by the truckload.“

Charlie had no idea the meat he was cutting on was human, not an animal, and the meat tenderizer was a mixture of human blood and special herbs the stranger in black concocted. Charlie fired up the grill in the kitchen. Then let the meat set in the tenderizer for about an hour according to the directions. Charlie placed the meat on the grill, and the aroma poured through the exhaust pipe to the outside air. Cars were pulling into Charlie's Diner like it was the only restaurant in town. Charlie couldn't believe what he was seeing and said to himself, „The stranger was right cars—would be pouring into my Diner by the truckload,“ said Charlie.

Charlie was becoming overwhelmed by the customers and needed more help so he called some of his friends to see if they could help him out of a jam and before

he knew it Charlie's Diner was fully staffed and the money was coming in at such a fast pace he could barely fit it in the cash register. Charlie was smiling ear to ear, and one of the customers asked Charlie, „Where did you get this meat—it's so tender and whatever you use for marinating, I want your recipe? Did you think about bottling the tenderizer and selling it in stores? I believe you've got the best meat tenderizer in the state and maybe in the whole united states. I know a friend that may be able to market your meat tenderizer.“

Charlie was so excited that he could go to the bank and pay off his loan and quit eating ham sandwiches. Everything at Charlie's Diner was going well until he opened the freezer and noticed he used up all the meat and tenderizer the stranger in black left in the refrigerator was empty. Charlie said, „What am I going to do now if I don't get some fresh meat and tenderizer?“

A few hours later and a lot of pacing back and forth at the Diner, the stranger in black appeared at one of Charlie's tables. Charlie came over to the stranger in black and said: „How did you get in here I didn't see you enter through the door of my Diner.“

„Charlie, that's not important right now, how are things going?“ asked the stranger. „Are all the customers pouring into your Diner like I said they would?“ asked the stranger.

„Well, yes, and I can't thank you enough kind, sir. But I have a major problem on my hands. I've run out of the meat and tenderizer you brought me to get my business off the ground.“ said Charlie. „Could you please help me out and I won't bother you anymore—that's a promise?“ said, Charlie.

„Charlie why don't you have a seat and I will let you in on a little secret and when I tell you this secret you can't back out because you have signed over your soul and I own you!“ said the stranger in an angry voice.

Charlie nervously sat down. „Okay, tell me your secret,“ asked Charlie nervously.

„Now that I've got your attention the meat in the freezer you were cutting on was not wild meat, it was human. The meat tenderizer was human blood mixed with special herbs I concocted. Before you get up and try to run out of the store or call the Police, I will have you thrown on your grill and watch you cook alive. When you're, body is done cooking, I'll cut pieces of flesh from your body and dip it in my special steak sauce that is irresistible and eat it!“ said the stranger in black.

Charlie responded to the stranger in black, „Are you some kind of sick pervert? Because I've never killed anyone in my entire life and you expect me to believe this is alright. Well, you might as well throw me on my grill and cook me because I think you're bluffing.“

Charlie jumped out of his seat and made a b-line towards the door. Then he climbed in his car while the stranger in black was laughing. Charlie was shaking like a leaf because he thought this stranger was psychotic and may cause harm to him. Charlie was right because this stranger in black was none other than the Devil. Charlie frantically turned the key in the ignition but no response.

The stranger in black approached Charlie's car busted out the driver's side window and grabbed Charlie by the throat and yanked him out of his vehicle throwing him to the ground, saying „If you're not convinced about how serious I am then maybe this will convince you.“ The stranger said, „I think the grill is on,

but there's one thing missing, and I believe that is meat. I wonder where I can find some fresh meat, oh I know where you Charlie."

Charlie cried out, "Not me!"

Then before Charlie could say another word, his body was lying on the grill burning. The stranger in black said, "Well, do you believe me now?"

"Yes, please give me one more chance. I'll do anything you ask," cried Charlie.

"One more thing before you go, I'm the Devil—Ha! Ha! Ha!"

The Devil raised Charlie off of the grill and told Charlie "if you want to keep your Diner and your life you better get to work. The next time you see me I won't be so forgiving, and when I put you on the grill you won't be coming off, and I will be dipping your flesh in my steak sauce enjoying every bite while you are screaming for me to stop and give you another chance."

The next morning Charlie started placing ads in the local newspaper to hire more cooks and waitresses. Charlie had no problem finding help because his Diner was the talk of the town but for anyone that answered Charlie's ads would be their last. Charlie would give his applicants a tour of his Diner then as they were filling out the application Charlie would come up from behind and knock them unconscious and give them a lethal injection of poison.

After Charlie's first kill, he said: "This isn't as hard as I thought it would be."

But after a while just like all killers you're bound to slip up. As the body count was getting a little bit too high, the Police were starting to pay Charlie frequent visits to his Diner, but it wasn't for food it was about his applicants coming up missing without a trace. Charlie was also running out of excuses for the Police where his missing employees were.

Customers started complaining about their food tasting funny. Because Charlie was giving lethal doses of poison to his victims, there were traces of poison on their flesh, which caused the flesh that was cooked to taste funny. The truckload of customers that used to fill up Charlie's parking lot was starting to diminish day by day. It wasn't long until Charlie was back where he began broke and desperate.

As Charlie was getting ready to lock up for the day, the Devil decided to visit Charlie. "Charlie it looks like things are going south for you, but if you need my help, I'm here to help you out for the last time," said the Devil.

Charlie nervously said, "Really!"

"Yes, Charlie, I think I've seen enough of what you can do so I've decided to live up to my end of the bargain," said the Devil.

"What are you talking about, Devil?" asked, Charlie.

"How quickly do we forget, let's see, I do believe you signed your soul over to me, and now I'm ready to collect, and by the way, Charlie, did you forget to turn the grill off?" said the Devil.

"No, it's not on, I turned it off myself just a few minutes ago," said Charlie.

"It, kind of smells like you left some fresh flesh on the grill, Charlie," laughed the Devil.

"No, you must be mistaking," said Charlie nervously.

"Well, I think we should both go over to the grill and see if I'm telling the truth," said the Devil.

„Why don't you check it out for yourself, I think I left something in my car, and I'll just go get it, and I won't be long,“ said Charlie as he was shaking nervously.

As Charlie raced towards the door to make a run for it the door locked and he shouted „Please let me out! I've done nothing wrong; Please let me out!“ as Charlie was shaking like a leaf.

„I don't think you're going anywhere, the only place you're going to is on the grill. You know something, Charlie. I don't think I've tried your great cooking, and I think now is a good time,“ laughed the Devil.

The Devil picked Charlie's skinny body up and threw him back on the grill for the last time. As Charlie lay there on the flaming grill screaming and pleading for his life as he was slipping in and out of consciousness, the Devil was pouring meat tenderizer on Charlie's body preparing his body for a tasty meal. The Devil started hacking pieces of Charlie's body off and cutting his flesh into smaller pieces dipping it into the Devil's steak sauce while laughing and calling Charlie a stupid fool.

„Charlie, did you think I wouldn't come back to get your soul and destroy you; I'm the Devil.“

The next morning Charlie's Diner was on fire because the Devil turned the grill to the highest setting and blew fire from his mouth causing the Diner to explode and leave charred remains of wood and Charlie's body on the ground. After careful investigation by the Police and fire department, they discovered skeletal remains on Charlie's grill. The skeletal remains were taken in for analysis. The results came back stating the remains belonged to Charlie, but they weren't sure why his body wound up on the grill.

The Police report stated that the grill must have had a gas leak and Charlie's lungs were filled up with carbon monoxide which resulted in Charlie's death and his body just fell onto the grill. The coroner's report stated that Charlie's death was an accident, and there would be no further investigation into the matter of Charlie's death. All the missing applicants that went missing without a trace just went up in flames with Charlie on the grill.

