

UNHOLY SWAP

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FADE IN

EXT. MT PURGATORY - DAY

MT Purgatory -- an exact copy of the Mount Everest -- seen from its foot.

EXT. MT PURGATORY - NEAR TOP - DAY

SUPER: "MT Purgatory with its Seven Sins to be punished."

Just under "Earthly Paradise" -- THREE ENTITIES

GOD -- mild and gentle; SATAN -- wild and mental; KATE BUSH(age 19) in her nightgown -- serene and sensual --

KATE BUSH

(wakes up)

Ehh... where am I? What am I doing here? I'm freezing!

GOD

It seems you're not quite in Heaven and not quite in Hell. And on the question what am I doing here?...

(looks at Satan)

Hell, what are we doing here?!

Satan shivers.

SATAN

It's cold out here, so let me come straight to the point: let's make a deal.

GOD

The contents of this deal --please?

SATAN

Let's switch places.

God points at Satan and then back at himself.

GOD

You mean me playing you and you playing me?

He lets it sink in.

GOD
Oh Hell!

SATAN
Yesss.

GOD
Why?

SATAN
We're going to 'test' mankind and
ourselves a bit more. The question
being: can we really change people?

GOD
What are the precise rules?

Kate has had enough of it. She crumbles to her knees and
then stands erect.

SATAN
The rules are --

KATE BUSH
STOP, please tell me why I'm here?

GOD
Yes, why is she here?

Satan looks surprised.

SATAN
Because she can end our quarrel
once and for all.

GOD
How?

SATAN
She wrote a song --

KATE BUSH
Yes, normally that's what
singer-songwriters do.

While Satan makes a holy gesture --

SATAN
I mean you wrote a song called
"Deal with God" -- so I feel a bit
offended. It should be: "A deal
with the Devil".

KATE BUSH

I was trying to say that a man and a woman, like the Devil and God, can't understand each other because we are a man and a woman...

CUT TO:

INT. MODERN LIVING ROOM - DAY

A man throws his book "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus" at a woman, while she throws her book "Men are from Venus, women are from Mars" at him.

KATE BUSH (V.O.)

... If we could actually swap each others roles,...

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. MT PURGATORY - NEAR TOP

Kate Bush with emphasis --

KATE BUSH

... if we could actually be in each others place for a while, I think we'd both be very surprised!

(laughs)

I think it would lead to a greater understanding and --

SATAN

A greater understanding... I doubt that. It's more like a bigger challenge.

(beat)

The challenge being God burning in Hell trying to convert the all time biggest monster to an obedient cheap.

(beat)

And me staying in a luxury hotel. Me in 'Seven Heaven', converting a Saint into a sinner.

God points at Kate Bush.

GOD

I guess we both agree that she will be the judge in this contest. Agreed?

SATAN
Agreed! Now you're talking.

A pause.

GOD
And the stakes?

SATAN
The loser will forever be the obedient right hand of the winner.

KATE BUSH
And what happens with me after I played judge in this contest? Can I go home then?

SATAN
If you judge well, yes.

KATE BUSH
How long can it take? I'm in!

GOD
Fine then. So Kate, can you give me the monster, the Saint, and the challenges?

A pause. Kate Bush makes up the challenges. After she's finished --

KATE BUSH
Read my mind so you can sky write a mental projection of the challenges.

GOD
Done. Look!

SUPER:

"GOD-HELL:
Hitler to lovingly run an orphanage consisting of Jews."

SUPER:

"SATAN-HEAVEN:
Mother Teresa cursing."

SATAN
OK, let's do this!

Kate Bush pushes her stopwatch button.

KATE BUSH

Go!

God and Satan leap to Hell and Heaven.

HELL

God tries to convince Hitler.

GOD

Make peace with the orphans. Is
that so hard to do?

HITLER

Must I make them rule the world?

GOD

You don't need to, their parents
already rule supreme!

HITLER

That sounds racist.

GOD

(proud)
You're learning.

God leaps back to Purgatory.

GOD (CONT'D)

Time?!

KATE BUSH

(pushes stopwatch button)
Your time is 2 minutes 33 seconds.

HEAVEN - SAME

Satan interrogates Mother Teresa.

SATAN

I heard you had an affair with the
Pope. You met him at his private
pool when he was bud naked.

MOTHER TERESA

I only have one love, God almighty.

SATAN

You're good not falling into my
trap of you saying -- eh -- you
know -- eh -- so what's the word
again?

MOTHER TERESA

God damn!

SATAN

Thanks, that's all I need to know.

Satan leaps back to Purgatory.

SATAN (CONT'D)

Time?!

KATE BUSH

(pushes stopwatch again)

It's 2 minutes 41 seconds.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)

God wins this contest!

SATAN

But that's impossible!

(beat; depressed)

I want a rematch.

GOD

As always.

SATAN

I have to go to Base Camp, drink a beer or two. Kate, I would like you to join us before you go home.

KATE BUSH

OK, but only if you let me finish my story --

No response. They put on their climbing gear; shoes, crampons and oxygen masks.

As part of a rope group -- with Satan in front, God in the middle and Kate Bush at the back -- they decent through moderately angled snow slopes.

Kate Bush abruptly halts a few meters above the MESSNER STEP; a 12 m rock wall at 8,760 M.

With an euphoric look on her face she throws away her oxygen mask and sits down to enjoy the view.

KATE BUSH

Where was I? O yes -- a greater understanding.

(beat)

We were told that if we kept the title "Deal with God" that it

(MORE)

KATE BUSH (cont'd)
 wouldn't be played in the religious
 countries and that generally we
 might get it blacked purely because
 it had 'God' in the title... That's
 why I called the song "Running up
 that hill".

God gazes at the top of the mountain.

GOD
 It's not a hill but a mountain. And
 we're not going up, but down. We're
 not running either; lack of oxygen
 you know. Get up before we all die
 here.

KATE BUSH
 So why do you both keep running
 around the bush then? Talk to me.
 What do I get out of this, except
 my life?

GOD
 You'll --

SATAN
 I will be your agent and make the
 deals with your record company.

Kate Bush steps up close to Satan and looks him straight
 into the eyes.

KATE BUSH
 Can I write my own songs?

SATAN
 Yes.

KATE BUSH
 Hmmm -- no deal! May I ask you a
 real favor?

GOD
 Don't do that, in return he'll take
 your soul.

Kate Bush takes another look at Satan.

KATE BUSH
 He can't do that, he still owes me
 a real favor.

She turns to God.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)
 I judged his little contest you
 know. That should count for
 something.

SATAN
 What do you want?

KATE BUSH
 We all seem to love the number
 seven, so let me save seven souls.

SATAN
 Pfff... why not.

Step by step they decent the MESSNER STEP secured by the
 fixed ropes. They pass REINHOLD who hangs beside them on an
 old rope. He's frozen cold but his eyes still wander around.

Satan Points at Reinhold --

SATAN
 Some don't even make it past the
 first step.

After mastering the Messner Step an extremely exposed
 knife-edge ridge leads them to the SOUTH SUMMIT (8,750 M.).

SUPER: "Terrace 7 - Lust"

Satan points at a pool filled with lava.

SATAN
 Here they are smothered in fire and
 brimstone. How do you want to save
 someone without burning your hands?

KATE BUSH
 Why don't they burn to ashes?

SATAN
 Because they have to feel pain
 until God and I decide if their
 soul goes to Heaven or Hell.

KATE BUSH
 (to God; pointing at a girl)
 Please pull that LITTLE GIRL out of
 the pool?

God pulls her out.

LITTLE GIRL
Thanks mam.

KATE BUSH
Why did those men throw a sweet
little girl like you into the fire?

LITTLE GIRL
They think I'm naughty.

KATE BUSH
Are you?

LITTLE GIRL
I'm not sure mam.

A pause.

KATE BUSH
What is your name?

LITTLE GIRL
ANGEL, but they call me Case 39.

KATE BUSH
Why?

ANGEL
I killed 39 people including my
parents. I have to kill people I
like. Can't stop myself. Don't get
me wrong, I love them.

KATE BUSH
I'm going to look for some real
nice parents that will give you a
chance to redeem yourself.

ANGEL
(smiles sardonically)
That would be fine mam.

It gets dark when they continue their way down the mountain.
Angel -- still burning -- lights the way from behind.

Descending down a ridge, the group faces a series of
imposing rock steps that forces them into waist-deep snow,
to arrive at the THE BALCONY (8,400 M.).

SUPER: "Terrace 6 - Gluttony"

People are force-fed rats, toads, and snakes. When they see the illustrious group walk up to them, they all start to shout: "Pick me" - "Pick me".

Kate Bush can't choose what soul to save until she hears a manly voice:

FUCKING HELL, I told them the meat should be well done.

KATE BUSH
Is that really you?

Kate Bush focuses her eyes on a naked man wearing an apron. It's GORDON RAMSEY.

GORDON RAMSEY
I don't know what you mean with "really" Kate, but the food really sucks here.

KATE BUSH
Leave the rat, I want you to cook for us at Base Camp. Join us!

After (12 hours) descending through moderately angled snow slopes the group reaches THE SOUTH COL (7,920 M.).

SUPER: "Terrace 5 - Greed"

Several enormous cauldrons with oil are placed throughout the Terrace. People are boiled alive in oil.

We can hear -- above all other cries and pleas for help -- DONALD TRUMP who cries out:

DONALD TRUMP
(to God; Satan; Kate Bush)
Give me some of my money so I can buy myself out of here?

Satan points at a cauldron.

SATAN
Bear in mind that it's the most luxurious boiling oil that money can buy, but it's still boiling.

DONALD TRUMP
(looks at Kate Bush)
Please get me out of here? I'm a rich man. I can give you half my fortune!

KATE BUSH
 Don't be so greedy. Be happy with
 what you have. I hate materialistic
 people...

While making a holy gesture --

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)
 Be rich in body and soul.

DONALD TRUMP
 How can I be rich when I can't
 spend my money; that's kind of
 difficult in here, don't you think.

KATE BUSH
 (to God)
 Do you have any money?

GOD
 No, don't need to.

KATE BUSH
 (to Satan)
 And You?

Satan pulls out his trouser pockets --

SATAN
 No, do you have any idea what it
 costs bribing politicians?

KATE BUSH
 (to Donald Trump)
 You're a very lucky man -- you can
 buy us dinner.

DONALD TRUMP
 Do they accept a credit card?

SATAN
 Sure, we're almost in Hell.

They scramble over a section of inter layered marble,
 phyllite, and semischist, which requires about 100 meters of
 rope for traversing it.

Continuing over an anvil shaped rib of black rock. Fixed
 ropes assist the climbers in scrambling over this snow
 covered rock band to arrive at a SMALL LEDGE (7,470 M.).

SUPER: "Terrace 4 - Sloth"

PARIS HILTON stands on the edge of a snake pit.

PARIS HILTON
 (to Kate Bush)
 Please save me?!

KATE BUSH
 Why ask me? I'm not God.

PARIS HILTON
 (harsh voice)
 Rumor goes fast here. Word is that
 you want to save seven souls.

KATE BUSH
 Yes, that's my plan.
 (beat)
 Are you a mind reader?

Paris Hilton pulls her dumbest grimace --

PARIS HILTON
 No, not me but someone else.

KATE BUSH
 Who?

PARIS HILTON
 For God sake, are you stupid? You
 'Lazy brains'. You're good for
 nothing!

KATE BUSH
 Yes, that about summons it up --

Kate Bush pushes the girl over the edge.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)
 (into the pit)
 -- I mean why you're here!

Satan also has a glimpse.

SATAN
 And down it goes, where it ends
 nobody knows.

The group descends the Lhotse face on fixed ropes down to
 ADVANCED BASE CAMP (6,500 M).

SUPER: "Terrace 3 - Anger"

Inhabitants, hundred of them, lie next to each other. Beside
 them a pile of limbs.

SATAN

Anger, it's what keeps me
alive. The reason why those fucked
up bastards are crying like babies.

DZJENGIS KHAN

Give me back my limbs my lady.

KATE BUSH

With what army do you want to
attach your arms and legs to your
body? That's if you can even find
your own limbs.

DZJENGIS KHAN

You're mocking me, are you mocking
me. I'm gonna rip you apart!

KATE BUSH

Yes dear, that sounds really
convincing!

Through a small passageway they reach a glacial valley that
they cross reasonably fast to arrive at CAMP 1 (6,065 M).
Just above an icefall:

SUPER: "Terrace 2 - Envy"

Kate Bush looks at a lake where people try to keep their
heads above the water. Some hold on to floating pieces of
ice.

HERMANN GÖRING sits on an ice floe. While he combs his hair
with his fingers he looks at his reflection on the ice.

KATE BUSH

(to the condemned)

Who thinks he/she is better,
smarter and more attractive than
everyone else?

Hermann Göring raises his hand.

KATE BUSH (CONT'D)

You seem to be staying at the wrong
level, you lucky man.

Through crevasses and shifting blocks of ice they reach the
middle of the KHUMBU ICEFALL.

SUPER: "Terrace 1 - Pride"

Kate Bush walks up to Cher who is to be broken on the wheel.
Cher sings:

CHER

If I could turn back time, if I
could find a way, I'd --

KATE BUSH

Do you want to be saved?

CHER

Yes, but not by you. I hate your
music.

KATE BUSH

But I can bring you into my
'sensual world'. A world full of
stars.

Cher's face turns red.

CHER

Go to Hell, you witch!

KATE BUSH

Where's the handle on this
apparatus? Ah yes, I see --

CHER

Ahhhhhh!!

KATE BUSH

Still don't want to come into my
sensual world?

The group walks the last stretch down the mountain --
passing Ante Purgatory holding the "Excommunicate" who
behave like condemned; the "Lethargic" looking drowsy and
sluggish; the "Un-Absolved" looking guilty and the
"Negligent Rulers", acting like they don't care -- to arrive
at --

BASE CAMP

where hordes of famous people wait to be brought to their
destination level.

They're scared of the SCREAMS that come FROM ABOVE.

KATE BUSH
 Poor folks, they still don't really
 know what awaits them.

SATAN
 But you know?

Kate Bush with a face that starts to lack confidence --

KATE BUSH
 Meaning?

SATAN
 You will join them now.

KATE BUSH
 But I just walked down this
Godforsaken mountain.

A short MONTAGE of sins that are punished with a voice over
 of Satan who says --

SATAN (V.O.)
 Yes, isn't it ironic.

BACK TO SCENE

KATE BUSH
 Why do you do this to me?

SATAN
 You brought this on yourself. You
 killed two souls.

Fighting for her life now --

KATE BUSH
 I did not kill them. I only got
 them out of their misery. So in
 away I did save them.

SATAN
 No, you killed them.
 (beat)
 You saved an eleven years old mass
 murdering child, a self proclaimed
 ubermensch camping at the wrong
 level, a food poisoner and the man
 who's going to pay for the food
 with a false credit card... You go
 straight on to the wheel.

KATE BUSH

God just won the contest and now
you're nothing more than his
obedient right hand. If I ask for
it God will forgive my sins.

God looks puzzled.

GOD

Eh...y --

SATAN

Normally yes, but not this time.
You forget about Pride, meaning: the
excessive belief in one's own
abilities, that interferes with the
individual's recognition of the
grace of God.

(points at God)

So where's his grace now?!

KATE BUSH

Please help?!

GOD

I'm sorry, can't help you anymore.

KATE BUSH

(turns to Satan)

God damn, you're good.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END