The Feast of St. Michael

bу

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FADE IN:

A sets a bowl of blackberries in front of B.

Α

Here.

В

What's this?

Α

As you see. Rubus fruiticosus.

В

It's the 12th of October.

A looks at a cellphone.

Α

Looks that way.

В

So that's it. We're done? Is this supposed to be, like, a poetic way of breaking up?

Α

What!?

В

Michaelmas. Poisoned Blackberry Day. The day of the Devil's Spit.

Α

Are you on crack? What are you talking about?

В

(slower)

Poisoned Blackberry Day.

A stares for a beat, then

Α

You understand that repeating the same bullshit doesn't make it make more sense, right...?

R

Michelmas. The Feast of St.
Michael. The angel who kicked
Lucifer's ass. Bounced him out of
heaven. Lucifer landed in a
blackberry bush. Thorny, right?

Α

I swear to God you're making this up.

В

He's so mad at the blackberry bush, he spits on it. Or stomps on it. Breathes fire. Or maybe pisses. I don't know. Depends on who's telling the story, I guess.

Α

Lucifer.

F

Well, he's the devil by the time he's thrown out of heaven. You know, Satan.

Α

Okay. This is in the Bible?

В

Don't be dumb. Of course not.

Α

Uhmm...

Е

You know what's really happening, right?

Α

I feel like I haven't known for a few minutes now.

F

What this really is, is just some supernatural explanation for why blackberries don't taste so great after September.

Α

Like a 'just so' story.

В

Huh?

Α

Kipling.

В

I never kippled.

Α

Kipling the author. "How the Camel Got His Hump." "How the Leopard Got his Spots." "The Elephant's Child."

В

Never read them.

Α

Just... kids' stories that were supposed to explain the origin of, I don't know, like, a biological trait or a cultural practice.

В

Okay, so we're saying the whole Michelmas thing is the story of "Why Blackberries don't taste good in October."

Α

Right.

В

So what about the bread?

Α

What bread?

В

St. Michael bread.

Α

Now you're just being ornery.

P

Made by the oldest daughter. Without metal implements.

A looks at the bowl of blackberries.

Α

Huh. Maybe I am breaking up with you.

FADE OUT

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