

WAITING FOR ATONEMENT: TREATMENT

(Sample)

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Waiting for Atonement

Logline: After waking up in a secluded waiting room, a young man is confronted by his past sins and given an opportunity to see a glimpse into the fate his reckless lifestyle will bring.

Treatment:

In a small waiting room, EDDIE (25) slouches back on a chair with his eyes shut, asleep ...or unconscious. His eyes slowly open as his head lifts to look around. He springs up out of his chair, like waking from a bad dream. Eyes wide, fist clenched, breathing heavily. He surveys the room.

The waiting room looks like one you would see at a doctors office. A single TV in the room shows a slide show of different "ADJUSTMENT PACKAGES" that the office offers, all presented by photos of "satisfied customers". BROCHURES, with the same type of informative advertising, cover the coffee table in the center of the room.

The only other people in the room are a WOMAN anxiously sitting in a chair, a HELP DESK at the front of the room with a RECEPTIONIST behind the counter and a on each side of her. Both doors are marked as "EXIT", and each has its own GUARD standing in front. The only sound in the room is the TAPPING of the Woman's foot as she sits and bites her finger nails.

The Receptionist makes an announcement over the INTERCOM, thanking everyone for their patience as they wait. Eddie heads to the help desk for information but doesn't get any as the Receptionist tells him that his file hasn't been processed yet. The Guards offer no help as they stoically barricade their assigned doors looking more like statues than humans. Eddie asks the anxious Woman but she is too preoccupied to answer him.

The Receptionist calls the Woman up to the desk. The Woman approaches and is handed some paperwork. The Woman looks down at it and gives a huge sigh of relief. She smiles and thanks the Receptionist. The Guards escort her to the Right Door Exit. The door opens and lets in a BEAMING LIGHT. HEAVENLY MUSIC plays from the other side of the doorway. She enters. The GUARDS quickly slam the door shut. Silence returns to the room.

Eddie stands still, in bewilderment of what is happening. Something catches his eye, it is a FRAMED PAINTING, the only decoration in the room. He walks over to view it. It is a framed picture of "CHRIST IN LIMBO" BY HIERONYMUS BOSCH. Eddie stares at the painting. He winces as he looks at the haunting image.

The Receptionist calls Eddie to the desk. She thanks him for his patience and says that his paperwork as been processed, he just needs to verify it. She hands him a stack of papers and lets him know that it is a list every sin he hasn't atoned for. Shock and fear guides Eddie through the pages of his past actions. Eddie throws the papers back. He storms toward the Right Door to leave but the Guard 1 intervenes. The Receptionist explains that he can't leave that way. Guard 2 opens up the Left Door. Sounds of GROANS and smells of SMOKE and EXHAUST come from the other end of the doorway.

Eddie demands to know what is going on as both Guards lead him toward the Left Door. The Receptionist lifts a remote toward the TV. Click. The TV now shows FOOTAGE of Eddie, driving recklessly while drinking. The Receptionist tells Eddie that he has refused to change his ways and since he doesn't appreciate his life, it is being taken away and to make room for someone else. The Footage of Eddie shows him swerving and crashing into a into a tree.

Eddie pleads and begs for forgiveness but it's too late. The Guards force Eddie through the Left Door into a dark void.

Eddie gasps as he regains his consciousness. He finds himself back in his car which is wrecked and stuck in the tree, confirming that the footage he saw actually happened. The CAR ALARM and RADIO are at full volume. Eddie exits the car, spilling the bottle of liquor he was drinking. SMOKE comes out from the front hood of his car, this is the smoke that filled the room in his vision. He looks at all the damage he has caused. He breaks down and cries.

After letting out some tears he looks ahead of him and sees a LARGE CHURCH with a CROSS out front staring right at him. Condemning him. He reaches for his phone and calls for help. He has been given a chance to look at his fate and an opportunity to change.