



R A Z O R

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
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SYNOPSIS

In the Armenian folk tale of the *Mardagayle*, women are punished for their deadly sins by being cursed to assume the form of a wolf for seven years. The condemned girl is visited by a spirit in the shroud of a wolf skin, who commands the girl to wear the skin, thus becoming a beast herself. While in wolf form, she acquires an insatiable desire for human flesh, and devours each of her own children. When morning arrives, she reverts back into a human to suffer the damage she created.

Razor reimagines this folk tale with the story of a young Russian immigrant girl in New England at the turn of the 20th century. Rather than being cursed to be a Madagayle, this girl invokes the spirit herself to pursue her own carnality without fear of invoking the Devil. She has no consciousness of guilt, so does not suffer as the women do in the Armenian folk tale. The young priest she seduces, without an animistic spirit of his own, is consumed with guilt. He confesses his sexual encounter to the girl's father, and persuades him to believe she is every image of the Devil conceivable by the mind's eye.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I wanted to tell this story without having a clear protagonist or antagonist. I come from a religiously divided family, half being secular and the other half very devout. It was interesting to me to be able to convey a story of sin and evil with no such qualitative assumptions about the characters themselves. We see the psychological perspectives of the two main characters - the priest and the girl - with no dialogue, often overlapping with one another and with conflicting viewpoints. They become an antagonistic force to each other but not necessarily the audience.

