

POKER NIGHT

By Jeff Dunne

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CHARACTERS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| EASTER BUNNY | Rabbit, floppy ears, impatient. |
| LEPRECHAUN | Short, dressed in green, lucky. |
| ANGEL OF DEATH | Tall, dressed in black, probably thin and skeletal. |

SETTING

Present day in any kind of space sporting a poker table.

SCENE

(It's poker night in some strange corner of the universe where humans aren't permitted. Around a table sit the Easter Bunny, a leprechaun, an empty seat that is being reserved for Elijah, and the Angel of Death.)

EASTER BUNNY

In for twenty.

LEPRECHAUN

See.

(They all turn to stare at the empty chair.)

EASTER BUNNY

Come on, Elijah. You always take forever.

(A stack of chips slides forward. The Easter Bunny examines it.)

He calls.

LEPRECHAUN

That brings it to you, Azrael. What's it going to be?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Fold.

EASTER BUNNY

You always fold!

ANGEL OF DEATH

Until I don't.

(Heavy silence.)

EASTER BUNNY

Right.

LEPRECHAUN

You should be glad he folded. Honestly, when the Angel of Death stays in, you know he's got a winning hand.

I always have a winning hand.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Then why'd you fold?

LEPRECHAUN

It's not time to play it yet.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Enough talk. Deal.

EASTER BUNNY

(The Angel of Death deals cards out.)

Three of spades. Eight of spades. Jack of spades.

ANGEL OF DEATH

(They all turn to stare at the empty seat.)

Elijah, you lead. Elijah? I swear, I don't know why we even invite him to play. Half the time he's not paying attention. Elijah!!

EASTER BUNNY

(There's a knock on the table.)

Finally. *(Knocks his paw on the table.)* I check.

Check.

LEPRECHAUN

Queen of spades, four of spades, nine of spades.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Did you even shuffle the cards?

LEPRECHAUN

Of course I shuffled them.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Not very well.

EASTER BUNNY

I only deal in spades.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Let me see that deck.

LEPRECHAUN

Get your hands off.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Queen of spades leads. I bet another twenty.

EASTER BUNNY

Call.

LEPRECHAUN

(Again, they stare at the empty chair.)

Passover's done, Elijah. Just pay attention here for once.

EASTER BUNNY

I really hate this time of year. All the pressure, you know?

LEPRECHAUN

Tell me about it. You know how many kids think it's funny to point at me and say "You lay eggs!"? They're brats, every single one.

EASTER BUNNY

Oh, lighten up, hoppy. They're just little kids.

LEPRECHAUN

Easy for you to say. No one pulls on your ears and—

EASTER BUNNY

Oh, you want to trade, do you? You think you could handle being a leprechaun for more than about two minutes? Catch the midget! Steal his gold! Let's have *another* drink! Think again, long ears.

LEPRECHAUN

(A stack of chips slides into the middle.)

Finally.

Ten of spades. Eight of spades. King of Spades. The pair of eight of spades leads.

ANGEL OF DEATH

LEPRECHAUN

In for forty.

EASTER BUNNY

Wait a minute, wait a minute. How do you have a pair of eight of spades?

ANGEL OF DEATH

I only deal in spades.

(Beat.)

EASTER BUNNY

Whatever.

LEPRECHAUN

Check.

(There's a knock.)

EASTER BUNNY

Fine, I'll check too.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Ace of spades—

(Suddenly the Easter Bunny grabs for its neck, gasps, and falls over dead.)

Oops. That wasn't supposed to happen.

(The Angel of Death goes over to the Easter Bunny to see what happened. A moment later the Easter Bunny jumps up and shouts...)

EASTER BUNNY

Boo!

ANGEL OF DEATH

Not funny.

EASTER BUNNY

Oh, come on. It was funny.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Not funny.

LEPRECHAUN

It was a little funny.

(They all turn to look at the empty chair. No response.)

EASTER BUNNY

Ahh, what does he know? It was funny.

LEPRECHAUN

Look, as long as we're stopped, can I ask you something, Azreal?

ANGEL OF DEATH

I suppose.

LEPRECHAUN

Did you really kill all those firstborn?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Yes.

LEPRECHAUN

Why?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Because they thought it would be funny to jump out at me and shout 'boo'.

(They all turn to stare at the Easter Bunny.)

EASTER BUNNY

Hey, it was his idea (pointing at the empty chair).

ANGEL OF DEATH

Right.

LEPRECHAUN

No, I'm serious. Did you really kill all of them?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Yes.

LEPRECHAUN

Why?

EASTER BUNNY

Hey, hey, hey. I don't want to hear this kind of stuff. I'm a herbivore. We don't talk about that kind of thing.

LEPRECHAUN

Herbivore my ass. I saw you yesterday, chowing down on a cheeseburger from Fat Eddie's.

EASTER BUNNY

You saw that?

LEPRECHAUN

You bet your fluffy ass I did.

EASTER BUNNY

Look, sometimes you just have to let loose. Besides, it was an Impossible Burger. It might as well be grass.

LEPRECHAUN

Uh huh.

EASTER BUNNY

Just finish dealing.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Another jack of spades, and for the prophet we have...

LEPRECHAUN

But seriously, why?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Oh. Look at that. The Magician.

EASTER BUNNY

How the hell did a tarot card get in the deck?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Oops.

LEPRECHAUN

Why?

EASTER BUNNY

This is poker, not religion class. Go read the bible.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Torah.

EASTER BUNNY

Whatever. What kind of hand is a jack, nine, king, and magician?

LEPRECHAUN

What does it matter? Your hand's crap anyway.

EASTER BUNNY

I could have a flush.

LEPRECHAUN

There are only spades in the deck...

ANGEL OF DEATH

And a magician.

LEPRECHAUN

So I don't think a flush counts for much. I've got a flush and a pair showing. (*Turning to the Angel of Death.*) Look, I'm a leprechaun. I don't do Jewish. Why kill all the firstborn?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Because they didn't listen to the first eight plagues.

EASTER BUNNY

There were ten plagues total.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Actually no. Nine. The locusts was just coincidence. They happened every seven years, but you know how people get distracted in a commotion. And then things get blown out of proportion.

LEPRECHAUN

Wait, wait, wait. There were nine plagues?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Right. In a nutshell, the government was just fucking around, and not doing what was best for the people.

EASTER BUNNY

Is the Magician like a wildcard?

ANGEL OF DEATH

So we sent a warning to tell them to get their act together.

EASTER BUNNY

Because Elijah could be holding a straight.

LEPRECHAUN

A warning? You mean like global warming or something?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Something like that.

LEPRECHAUN

So what happened?

EASTER BUNNY

Seriously, I don't know how to bet against a tarot card.

ANGEL OF DEATH

The rulers just kept ignoring the warnings and acting selfishly.

LEPRECHAUN

Even after a bunch of plagues?

ANGEL OF DEATH

Right.

EASTER BUNNY

I check.

LEPRECHAUN

It's not your bet. I've got a pair of eight of spades.

EASTER BUNNY

So then bet already!

LEPRECHAUN

I check. So what happened?

ANGEL OF DEATH

The plagues kept getting worse.

EASTER BUNNY

Elijah! You're up.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Eventually the rulers came to figure out that we're all part of the same system.

EASTER BUNNY

Elijah!

ANGEL OF DEATH

And isolating yourself in a palace doesn't help if the rest of the world turns to shit.

(There's a knock on the table.)

LEPRECHAUN

He checks.

EASTER BUNNY

I check.

LEPRECHAUN

Well thank goodness that's in the past.

ANGEL OF DEATH

Right.

EASTER BUNNY

We all called. Show your cards, shorty.

LEPRECHAUN

Three eights of spades.

EASTER BUNNY

You lucky son of a... How do you always...

(Leprechaun smiles an "it's me" smile, or otherwise makes a gesture of appreciation to his own luck.)

What does Elijah have?

(Leprechaun peaks at Elijah's hold card.)

LEPRECHAUN

Huh.

EASTER BUNNY

Huh? What's "huh"? What does he have?

LEPRECHAUN

It's another tarot card.

EASTER BUNNY

Well?

(Leprechaun shows the card to the Easter Bunny.)

Oh. *(Turning to the Angel of Death.)* What's that supposed to...

ANGEL OF DEATH

I told you.

(The Angel of Death sweeps up the pot.)

I always have the winning hand.

(Lights out)