

Dating with a Demon

Show Bible

Bernadette M. Martinez

Dating with a Demon

Natalia Marshall is your average 20-something looking for love. Her work schedule and a global pandemic have her feeling trapped in her space, so she turns to video dates to try and find THE ONE. Unfortunately, her recently renovated apartment in a 100-year-old building came with Dransik, a low-level demon that has been bound to her apartment and decided to claim her as his human companion. And Dransik does not like the idea of Natalia giving attention to anyone but him and tries to sabotage every conversation she has.

It tracks a woman having video dates during the pandemic. She's met people online on a dating app or maybe in an online RPG like Roll 20. They've never met in real life but are going through the stages of that initial dating period virtually. We would watch her and the latest interest in somewhat tentative get-to-know-you chat where the suitor is still hesitant to bring stuff up.

Like the fact that a demonic voice is insulting them and causing minor poltergeist activity in frame behind her.

The woman has a type of low-level demon bound to her apartment. Not an incredibly malevolent entity (that they know of), but rather like a mischievous child. It has kind of "claimed" its human (the way dachshunds do) and doesn't like the idea of anyone else taking away from their time and attention. As it's bound to the location, it's been loving the pandemic and having their little bag of flesh around to talk to near constantly.

So, while Natalia and her flavor of the week are trying to flirt and get to know each other, there is writing appearing on the walls behind her, things floating through the air, voices mocking their hair, clothing, and speech, and maybe even a brief jump scare where it appears right in front of the camera for a second while screeching at whoever she is talking to.

Recurring Characters

Natalia Marshal

Age: 29

Identity: Biracial, pansexual

Looks: Attractive but plain. She is not a woman who has taken the time to learn how to create Instagram-ready makeup looks and she doesn't follow the latest fashion trends. She is the "real every-woman" that people complain aren't ever seen onscreen.

Job: Natalia serves as the marketing and communications department for a small game store. She handles advertising, event promotion, the store social media accounts, the website, and the occasional vendor who wants to get their game in the store. She's used to being regarded as a "fake gamer girl" by some of the more neanderthalic patrons and industry "professionals" she has to deal with.

Hobbies/Interests: As an avid reader and board game and TTRPG enthusiast, she spends a lot of her time at book clubs, comic book socials, and gaming events. Well, she did until Plague 2020 arrived. She's an ambivert who loves being around people until she doesn't and likes to go out as much as she enjoys staying home with a movie and her journal. While she is able to work from home and has managed to help the store stay afloat with online events, she craves the face-to-face human interaction she used to get.

Goals: Professionally, she wants to create her own TTRPG game and eventually open her own consulting agency specifically for analog games and mom-n-pop shops. Personally, she wants to find the love of her life and get married (though she won't really admit that to anyone).

Flaws: Impatient, camera-shy, arrogant, a bit of a know-it-all

Latisha Jones

Natalia's best friend and the only other person who knows about Dransik. She actually likes him and keeps trying to get him to annihilate people for her.

Age: 29

Identity: Biracial, bisexual

Looks: The trendsetter of any friend group. She is always in on the latest fads, can master the look of any other vlogger, and is extremely eye-catching. She's the woman who people notice first and that often results in her friends being called "Latisha's friend" instead of by their name.

Job: Latisha runs a podcast centered on being true to yourself while relishing in the latest celebrity and local gossip. Most of her income is from sponsored videos and ad revenue. She also edits for others on the side.

Hobbies/Interests: She is into the obvious things for her chosen career (fashion, makeup, pop culture), but also is a huge history nerd. She can tell you stories about the origins of most of the older buildings in their town—including the legends behind Natalia's building. She is always up for a ghost story and is working on a second channel to document the mysterious past of their city—she just needs to find the right spin for her brand.

Goals: Latisha wants to be picked up by E! to be able to hobnob with the rich and famous so she can use a larger platform to encourage and support the larger LGBTQ+ community and bring people together, even if it's over the appalling nature of someone's shoes on the red carpet.

Flaws: She can be a bit tunnel visioned. Once she decides she is after something, she is so persistent that it can cost her friends, relationships, and occasionally, the goal she's after.

Dransik

A low-level demon that was sent to our plane of existence in 1720 to do recon in preparation for a demonic invasion. While exploring a source of power to aid The Overlord's plan, Dransik comes across Sylvia Moonstone. She imprisons him in a huge oak tree. While Dransik cannot escape the tree, he is free to roam within and around it from the depths of the roots to the tops of the highest branches. Eventually, the tree is eventually cut down and used as flooring for an industrial building named the Lunastar. Dransik is now free to roam a third-floor section of the building, terrifying workers and making deals with the less-discerning of them to keep himself fed. Eventually, the building is given landmark status for the architecture and renovated as apartments in the "historic district" for those who can afford it. Generally, they rent for high prices because of the location and status, except for apartment 305, which encompasses most of Dransik's area. For some reason, no one can keep tenants in there. They either run away or seem to disappear off the face of the earth.

Age: 500-ish

Identity: Demon of the Third Order, Scout Patrol

Looks: Jet black with eyes that change from white to red when he wants to intimidate someone. He generally appears small, only about 2 feet tall with horns and a tail. His true form is just over 6 feet tall with bat-like wings that span about 7 feet when extended, large 1-foot corkscrew horns (resembling those of a markhor) protruding from the front of his skull, and a 3-foot tail ending in a spear-tip with jagged edges on either side.

Job: As part of the Third Order Scout Patrol, Dransik's primary job is to locate new sources of power for the demonic armies. The Third Order is led by a power-mad beast known as The Overlord who is dead set on launching an attack on the surface dwellers to enslave them to do his bidding.

Hobbies/Interests: Dransik isn't interested in taking over the world. He is happy to cause a little chaos and collect a few souls to keep himself fed. In fact, over the three centuries he's been trapped, he's actually grown to like the little flesh sacks on the surface. They're a great source of entertainment and when he gets hungry, he can generally get one to give up their soul without too much work on his part since most he's encountered are so easily manipulated. Over the years in the Lunastar Building, he's watched technology evolve and seen what he considers the best, worst, and most mediocre that humanity has to offer.

Goals: Dransik is perfectly happy to remain in apartment 305 with Natalia...provided he can talk her into relinquishing her soul and joining him as a demon.

Flaws: Dransik is very possessive of anything he considers his, as all demons are. According to the rest of his kind, his biggest flaw is his attachment to the flesh sacks and being stupid enough to allow himself to be imprisoned.

The Overlord

Age: 2,000

Identity: Leader of the Third Order, a demonic extremist group that wants all demons, devils, and beasts to rise up and claim the surface as their own.

Looks: Standing 12 feet tall with a 13-foot wingspan, The Overlord is terrifying. He has a pair of almost regal-looking horns that extend two feet from his skull.

Job: Officially, he is a middle-manager tasked with an order of demon lackies who are to collect souls from the surface. Unofficially, he leads his (sometimes unwilling) troops to

Hobbies/Interests: Domination of the human plane of existence, developing new devices of pain and torture, and planting seeds of malevolence among surface dwellers and demonic plane-dwellers alike.

Goals: Domination of the human plane of existence, which he believes will earn him a higher position in the underworld.

Flaws: Exceptionally power-mad, even for a demon, overzealous in his desire to take over the surface, scared of anything a deep shade of aquamarine (he has hazy snippets of drowning back in his human life).

Sylvia Moonstone

Age: 325

Identity: Witch

Looks: Sylvia doesn't look a day over 25. Her eyes are sharp and knowledgeable, cunning in a non-predatory way. She is both polished and eccentric, able to blend her love of bright, bold colors with an authority of power that is unquestionable.

Job: Sylvia runs a "new age" shop that caters to the casual interest and the desires of the desperate. If you share The Gift, you will know her as the regional Supreme and know not to cross one of the oldest witches in the land. Her shop is housed in her Lunastar building.

Hobbies/Interests: She cannot get enough of celebrity gossip! She is a subscriber to Latisha's podcast and finds her insights to be a bit otherworldly. She suspects she may have a latent gift but is worried she's gone too long without guidance to embrace and use it covertly. She also enjoys hiking and laments the loss of so many of the trees in the area. While she loves the many stories architecture tells (and she can remember most of them herself), she misses the abundant nature of the area and longs to be near it again.

Goals: Sylvia is aware of The Overlord's plan and determined that her network of covens will thwart his attempts. She knows that as long as she is able to keep Dransik contained, he will not proceed. She can only speculate as to why, but

Flaws: Very cautious and even more prideful. Some of the younger members of her extended coven see her caution as weakness and have called for her removal. She has opened a challenge to anyone who thinks they can best her to come and try. So far, none have accepted.

Mrs. Lawson

Old woman that looks like she was there when Dransik was first imprisoned 300 years ago. Which she was, as this is Sylvia in a powerful glamour. Every 50 years or so, Sylvia takes on a new persona to “sell” the building to on paper. This ensures it stays under her control and allows her a secret way to learn information about both her tenants and the larger world they inhabit.

Age: 68

Identity: Widow, having lost poor Mr. Lawson back in the 1992 while he was shipped out to the Bosnian War.

Looks: She looks old. She is slightly hunched, and her hair is a silvery white broken up by chunks of vibrant purple that her granddaughter, Sylvia, talked her into.

Job: Landlord of the Lunastar building

Hobbies/Interests: Mrs. Lawson is a very cheerful woman, always eager to help. She loves to share stories of a bygone era with anyone who will listen. She used to do needlepoint until the arthritis in her hands made it too difficult. Now she enjoys a good afternoon watching her stories with her cat, Xelox, a jet-black beauty whose eyes seem to see right into your soul.

Goals: She is determined to finish that crossword puzzle...if she can only remember where she put it....

Flaws: She tends to forget the names of her tenants and refers to most of them as “Bobbie-Jo” after her favorite dog when she was a child.

The Potential Soulmates

Joshua Nolan

Age: 30

Identity: White male that vies himself as an alpha-nerd/jock and thinks he's very special because of it.

Looks: Conventionally attractive with an athletic build and tousled hair (because he's too lazy to do anything else with it). He can generally be seen in a polo and jeans bragging about his Rayban sunglasses (they're vintage from the 90's).

Job: Professional dog walker and house sitter. With the pandemic, he's had to branch out and take a job at a local supermarket to make ends meet. He's very proud of his work to help those in need of shopping.

Personality: Joshua thinks very highly of himself and all that he does. He is never one to allow a chance to praise himself or his ideas pass. He loves animals and thinks most people could learn a thing or 12 from the loyalty and obedience of a well-trained dog. He considers himself a nice guy and genuinely wants to help those around him. It just goes unappreciated a lot. He is also a huge Cubs fan since he grew up in Wrigleyville on the north side of Chicago.