

# The Devil's Library Episode 5 – “Rosemary's Baby”

Leraje

Welcome to another episode of the Devil's Library. And, um, this time with... Pike stop it!

Lithos

Right.

Leraje

I'm leaving that one in because I can't be bothered to see it again. But Pike's laughing, deliberately trying to put me off. I feel. Um, this month we, uh. We sort of, like, made a group decision. We were going to talk about something spooky because it's as close to Halloween as we can possibly swing it for this episode.

So we are talking about the Ira Levin novel, Rosemary's Baby. And with me tonight, I have Ligeia.

Ligeia:

Hail Satan.

Leraje:

Pike.

Pike:

Hail Satan.

Leraje

And, uh, Lithos.

Lithos

Hail Satan.

Leraje

Surely you all mean Hail Adrian.

Lithos

Oh, yes, don't start with that.

Ligeia

Or Andrew or Susan or Jennifer, whatever.

Pike

Uh.

Lithos

Oh, my God.

Pike

We will not call him Adrian.

Lithos

No, I mean Gordon Bennett. I hope the Devil's Child has a better name than that.

Ligeia

Ah.

Leraje

All I can think of is Adrian Mole. Whenever I hear that name, I just.

Lithos  
Thought of the Young Ones.

Leraje  
Oh, God. Yeah.

Lithos  
You bastards.

Leraje  
Right, so, uh, who wants to give a kind of, like, summation of the novel?

Pike  
Okay. Uh, Rosemary and Guy moved to an old apartment in New York. It's old and nice. Unlike the new builds, however, the house has a terrible history. Uh, there were women, uh, eating children and all kinds, but they don't mind that. Um, these are modern times, the 60s. And then Rosemary falls pregnant.

They have been hanging out with their neighbours who are old and make bad food, but otherwise seem okay. However, things turn dark as Rosemary is going to give birth to Adrian, the son, um, of Satan.

Lithos  
Satan. Devil.

Leraje  
What did we all think of the book overall? I'm not asking you for Pitchforks. It's a bit early for that.

Ligeia  
Yeah.

Leraje  
But, uh, generally, what did we think?

Pike  
I think what Lithos said is correct. It reads like a script.

Ligeia  
Yes. For first half at least. I think, like, closing to the end, it was getting better. The writing style. I don't understand how it was so different. Like the beginning of the book, the ending, it. To me, it felt like it's not written by the same person. I'm sorry.

Lithos  
I would agree with that. Yes.

Ligeia  
Right. Yeah, it's a little weird.

Lithos  
I found, um, the beginning very clumsy, very clumsily written. Then it picked up pace, and I. To be quite honest, I found the last scene where she goes in and finds the baby. I found that involuntarily comical and not always in a good way. Um, it was very unevenly written. I found it was almost like.

Kind of like, you know, uh, when he started out, he was he was just picking up how to Write a Book and then he got into it and then in the end he went, ah, uh, it. We'll just do a scene where all the Satanists have a black crib and then describe the devil child in.

In what can only be. It was hilarious. I found the description of the baby and you know, oh, look at his little horns, his little claws. It's like, what the

fuck? You just ruined the whole build up by making it. Sorry, that's just my take.

Pike

But he's got a little tail.

Lithos

Yes, little tail.

Leraje

It's very cute. Yeah. I think I mentioned to all of you at one, uh, point or another, I seem to remember reading an interview an extremely long time ago or an article or something that said that he started writing it as a stage play and then, uh, it later turned into writing. He later changed it to kind of like a novel.

Which might explain why it started off, uh, in that kind of very stilted kind of way.

Ligeia

Well, basically, I guess we can do spoilers today because we. This story has been here for ages and ages. So at least if people have seen the movie, the book follows. I mean, the movie follows the book almost to, like every comma. And full stop, there are a few little, tiny, tiny details.

I would say that I enjoyed more reading than looking at. Because you can spend more time in those moments if you, if you prefer. But I couldn't unsee the movie and the faces. So, like, you know, I was always picturing those actors reading it. Yeah, right. Once you see it, you can't. Like, then I, I feel sorry for us because I prefer to make up my own, you know, images.

And you can't go back once you've seen it.

Leraje

Yeah, I, um, mean, we did all watch the movie together as well, didn't we?

Ligeia

So that was my idea. Maybe it wasn't clever when I look at it now because we were going to read it, but I mean, it is what it is. We can, we can compare these two.

Leraje

Yeah.

Ligeia

I don't know. Like, like movie. I think the movie was good even though it was made by Polanski. Questionable. A horrible person. So I feel, I feel bad saying I like the movie because I really don't like him. Um, but yeah, I think he followed the book really well.

Leraje

It was a very, very faithful adaptation of the book. Certainly. I do think it's one of those very, very rare cases where if you've watched the movie, you almost don't need to read the book.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Leraje

And vice versa.

Lithos

Yeah. I think that that did Yeah, I found that it was very hard to imagine the characters as anyone else then. Um, John Cassavetes and Mia Farrow. Um, and

yeah, it's. I mean the script writer for the movie must have had the easiest job for any script writer. Just like, here you go, I've written the script.

There you go. Roman.

Ligeia

Yes. The interesting thing is for me to. I mean the, the names in the book are, um, the names, you know, the same as in the film. But how funny it is that the Roman guy, it's not such a common name, is it? In English? Roman. I don't know any, any English person.

Leraje

I don't think it's very, it's certainly not very fashionable now, but I think, I think it's rea.. or used to be reasonably common in America at one point really.

Ligeia

But like, you know, Roman Polanski and this guy's name was also Roman. Like I don't know how it happened because the book existed before the movie. So it was just something I was thinking about. Like, is it.

Leraje

Yeah.

Ligeia

Is it just random? I don't know. I don't know.

Leraje

I think Ira had some fun with his character names.

Ligeia

Oh, I want to get there. I want to get there. A guy, the guy called Guy. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. So. And uh, the surname is Wood. Woodhouse. Right, Woodhouse. So I was thinking what a name. Guy Woodhouse. And also his, like his role in this whole story, he thought he is getting into something important in his life and he's playing this huge role and you know what I mean, he's, he actually was in this Faustian contract and selling, selling his uh, his own, um, wife.

Her body. And he's. No, he's like her child to a group of people. Witches, Satanist, whatever. For the fame, for success or the promise of being an actor for sake. An actor. And he sells. Like how long did it take for him to actually agree with this? I can't even, I can't with this guy.

Okay. But I was thinking at the end, is he actually going to get what he thought or are, ah, they just going to ignore him now and he's gonna be burned? Not really, like, you know what I mean? Because the name suggests like Guy as an effigy and Woodhouse, they both can just burn.

So.

Lithos

Oh, I thought Rosemary's probably going to put the knife to good use. You know, she did the last, her last interaction with him was, was spitting in his face, I believe.

Ligeia

Oh, finally, girl.

Lithos

Yeah, absolutely. That's what I thought all the way through. He was an Absolute dick.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Pike

Everyone else in that room have killed people. So if she's joining up, uh, you know, as a mother of Satan.

Lithos

True. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Start with, start with the sacrifice. Sacrifice. The sexist. Yeah, I mean, it was part of, part of what I took from the novel was, and I don't know if this was his intention was the fact that the, the woman, the main protagonist, the woman was disregarded by men, by the medical profession, by her husband, by everyone going, oh, don't worry, dear, that pain is quite normal.

Oh, uh, don't, don't fuss yourself. Don't think about that, you silly girl, kind of thing.

Ligeia

And don't read books.

Lithos

And don't read books. Absolutely. No, you don't want to read books.

Pike

What do you think is Guy's absolute worst moment where he comes across as the biggest?

Leraje

Uh, I think probably raping his wife is probably up there.

Lithos

Yeah. Yep.

Ligeia

Drugging her, raping her, telling her, oh, it was the time of the month and you want a baby.

Lithos

So sorry I scratched you up a bit, but you know, I've got a hangnail, so.

Ligeia

Bitch, do you want the baby or not?

Lithos

Uh, yeah, yeah, it was, that was, that was not good. I mean, and, and after that he was. There's this one here I made a note of. It was about. She's worried about, um, Dr. Saperstein has seen other women only once a month, but, uh, several times. And he goes, well, I don't know, ask him.

Guy said, maybe you're more fun to examine than she was. It's like, what the fuck?

Pike

Yeah, I wrote that down because I thought that's absolutely worse. That's worse than rape almost.

Ligeia

Yeah, yeah, that's mental rape.

Leraje

Yeah. I think there was a lot of times you could.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Leraje

Listen to the things that Guy was saying and think you genuinely don't give a flying about your wife at all. No, you literally don't care about her on a human level. I get that he's an actor and was supposed to be kind of like portrayed as very self centred and all that, but God, he was just the worst.

Ligeia  
The worst.

Lithos  
Yeah, yeah, absolutely, you know, abusive in every which way, sort of. Not, not so much at first, but after he got on with the neighbours, like you said earlier, Ligeia, how long did it take him to go, oh, yeah, okay, I'm gonna let my wife be raped by Satan and, you know, drug her up first and, uh, just so I can get a good part in the play.

Pike  
What a swell idea.

Lithos  
Yes, what a swell idea.

Leraje  
I would have liked him to write about that conversation. The conversation that he and Roman must have had.

Lithos  
Yes.

Leraje  
Just to sort of like, how could you possibly broach the subject of.

Ligeia  
Yeah, that's a good point, by the way.

Leraje  
We're Satanists. And not, like, atheistic Satanists. We actually believe in the actual devil. And, um, yeah, we'd like to use, uh, your wife as an incubator, if that's all right. And Guy just goes, yeah, sure, no worries. What do I get out of it?

Ligeia  
Yeah.

Lithos  
Are you. Are you gonna turn my competitor blind? Yeah. Yeah, we can do that.

Ligeia  
Yeah. Yeah. And remember that moment in the movie where, uh, Rosemary told him that Hutch wants to see her next day? And he was like, oh, I really need to get some ice cream right now. And I was like, oh, you are dead, Hutch. You are so dead. So there is no hesitation.

It's just like, oh, all these obstacles, we just need to get rid of them. What is wrong with you people? Yeah, that one is blind. This one is going to go into coma and then die.

Pike  
Oh, but wait, he gets moments where he looks serious, like something is weighing on his mind for about five minutes before he's fine again. Each time when someone gets hurt.

Ligeia  
Oh, yes.

Leraje

Yeah. Oh, no, someone's hurt. Could it be me? No, it's fine.

Ligeia

It's for the greater good, you know, it's, uh, for everybody. It's for Satan, basically. Yeah.

Lithos

Yeah.

Ligeia

But what did you. What did you guys think about at the beginning? There is this moment where Rosemary meets the other girl, Terry.

Lithos

Yeah.

Ligeia

And she's living with these two weirdos. Cassavetes is the name of the neighbours.

Pike

Yeah.

Ligeia

And it seems like she was supposed to be the first vessel.

Pike

So.

Ligeia

So how did you. How did you understand what happened with her? Like, did they just not like her anymore? Was Rosemary more suitable because she was. I don't know. I don't want to go into this, but she was blonde and blue eyed.

Pike

And, oh, uh, she was a catholic.

Ligeia

Uh, yeah. From a good, like, environment. And this first girl was a girl from the street. And she was on drugs before. And what was that the reason? Do you think they got rid of her or she did something because they suggested what they did? I don't know what I'm thinking.

Lithos

Something Roman says towards the end. I'm gonna try and find it here.

Ligeia

Okay. Because I kept thinking of her. Poor girl.

Leraje

I couldn't make up my mind whether it was they did their spooky magic on her and she chucked herself out the window or whether she, Ah, Chose to do it. I could, I couldn't make up my mind exactly.

Ligeia

Like maybe. Maybe she just couldn't live with it.

Leraje

I think I'm right in saying they don't actually. Uh, Roman doesn't approach Guy until after Terry.

Ligeia

Yeah. I think that's. Jumps out the window after she, after she dies. Everything is like really speedy going towards Rosemary and her body.

Pike

Maybe they've, you know, uh, because with Rosemary, they and Guy, they had to be a little bit careful. You know, they're moving there from wherever. Rosemary is a lapsed Catholic. It's a bit sensitive. But Terry, uh, was a drug addict. You know, she lived on the streets. Maybe they, they broached the subject directly with her.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Pike

Maybe, you know, maybe, maybe you should get impregnated by Satan and bear his child. And then she, uh, you know, might have refused or, you know, you know, just. Yeah. Chucked herself out the window because she didn't want it anymore.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Lithos

Here's the bit where, where Rosemary's gone in and Minnie says, he chose you out of all the world, Rosemary. Out of all the women in the whole world, he chose you. He brought you and Guy to your apartment there. He made that foolish. What's her name, Terry, made her get all scared and silly.

So we had to change our plans. So that sounds like the plan was her. And then she got scared and jumped out the window and silly.

Ligeia

Oh my goodness. Such a fuss about something so small.

Pike

Did you have any niggling questions after you read the book? Were there any moments where you thought, oh, they haven't quite resolved that?

Leraje

I can't remember any.

Lithos

I only found some of the casual racial stereotypes difficult to bear. And the one that really sort of really struck me at the end was when they all get together and Rosemary comes in and finds the baby. Everyone there is named apart from one person who is referred to as a Japanese, who proceeds to take photos and says, hair Satan.

And I thought, Jesus, uh, man, come on. I know it's the 60s, but that is an absolutely lazy racial. It's like, reminded me of 70s sitcoms, you know, it's like, oh, here comes a Japanese guy. He's got a camera and he can't pronounce his L's.

Ligeia

Yeah, yeah.

Leraje

I don't think any of the non White, affluent WASPy Americans were named at all.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Leraje

Wasn't there a scene where Rosemary went down to like a laundry room and there was some women there?

Lithos

There were some black women there who. And then there was the lift attendant who was Black and kept smiling. And I thought, uh, okay. Right, okay. So you're doing the plantation humour there. No, I. I don't understand. I thought it was.

Pike

He was named, though.

Lithos

Oh, he does have a name. Oh, that. That's good.

Pike

Which none of us remember.

Lithos

No, none of us remember. But even for the time, I thought some of. Some of the dubious racial stereotypes were awful.

Ligeia

Yeah. In that. Yeah.

Lithos

Bad.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Lithos

Especially having. Having read, you know, Ursula Kay Le Guin that was written, uh, around the same time and managed to quite easily do the whole thing without any kind of racism in it. You don't have to do that. And I did not like that part of the, um, book.

Ligeia

Yeah, that's true. Before I forget the question I have Pike. How did you guys understand that moment where you remember Rosemary was in a lot of pain? She was really struggling physically. And then when she finally decided, okay, I'm going to see Dr. Hill, and she's talking to Guy, it stops. Yes. I am not sure what I'm thinking about that.

How and why? What do you guys think? Why did it happen and it didn't.

Pike

Come back and she stopped eating raw meat and changed her diet to normal food.

Ligeia

I'm confused with that moment.

Lithos

Yeah. Because it is like you're going, what? Did the Satan baby suddenly know she was going to go to.

Pike

Yeah.

Lithos

Or another obstetrician. How. I mean, essentially, there's so much crap in this story that you kind of got overlooked. You know, made up stuff that you kind of.

Ligeia

I feel like this moment is supposed to be understood in some way. And, um, it's. I'm missing it. No, I think. No.

Lithos

Yeah. I don't understand why either.

Leraje

I didn't attribute any particular significance to it.

Pike

Okay.

Leraje

Then I thought it, you know, it had to stop sometime. It just happened to.

Ligeia

But it's weird, you know, I. I was pregnant twice, and it just. It doesn't stop like that.

Lithos

No. And you know, why? If. If she is going to give birth to the future of Satan kind, why would she be made to suffer through.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Lithos

Uh, a lot of her pregnancy, and then it suddenly end when she goes, I'm gonna see it. Yeah. I just.

Ligeia

Two days later. Or what? Like, okay, it could just be that. No, exactly that same moment that she's telling him. I'm seeing Dr. Hill on Monday. Oh, I don't feel the pain anymore. I was like, oh, how fortunate.

Lithos

Yes.

Ligeia

Maybe it was only in your head, Rosemary.

Pike

Maybe Adrian was poking her with the horns and then was like, oh, shit. Not Dr. Hill.

Lithos

Yes.

Leraje

I will Retract my horns.

Ligeia

Exactly.

Pike

And clothes.

Ligeia

Yes. And his little tail. Oh, I'm gonna be good to mama. Okay, so you also didn't have the answer for this. Good. I really felt like I am. I'm not m getting it.

Lithos

I've got a feeling. Didn't she mention the baby started moving shortly after that? When the pain stopped? You could feel the baby moving? Because it was definitely a mention of. Oh, she could feel the baby moving.

Ligeia  
She didn't.

Lithos  
And I think that was around the same time the pain stopped.

Ligeia  
Chronological order of that, I can't remember. But in real life, the movement actually hurt, so, uh. Well. Well, I did not birth Satan, so what do I fucking know?

Pike  
As far as you know.

Leraje  
Luckily, Bohema is not part of this podcast team.

Ligeia  
Oh, I will. I will talk to her.

Pike  
Wouldn't that be cute? I had another. Another moment that, uh, puzzled me. Well, it probably was just not deemed important, but I was so curious. When Rosemary first goes into the apartment of the Casavettes, the. You know, she sees the absence of the paintings, the marks where the paintings have been removed from the walls, and that is revealed in the end what the paintings were.

They sound very exciting.

Ligeia  
Yeah.

Pike  
Um, but then also, the doors are locked, so she sees a couple of the rooms. She sees the living room, but then. And then I think they never quite explain what was behind the doors. There's a linen cupboard and a bedroom when she comes through at the end. But, uh, I understand they're all sitting in the same living room where she's used to seeing them.

Right?

Lithos  
Yeah. In the end, when she goes through, she finds a way through to their apartment through the linen cupboard. She. Again, she mentions that several of the doors were locked, but the pictures were up. Basically, they were, like, burning churches and naked cavorting people and whatever else.

Ligeia  
Um, maybe one of the rooms is her little botanical garden for the herbs, the stinky, smelly stuff.

Pike  
Oh, that's in the kitchen.

Lithos  
Yeah, it's in the kitchen.

Ligeia  
Yeah. I was joking. I don't know. I don't know.

Pike  
I was hoping there would be some kind of a big reveal to that.

Ligeia

Right. That's true. Yeah. Again, maybe they forgot.

Leraje

You know, I just think it was supposed to indicate that they had secrets. I don't think it was.

Lithos

Yeah, maybe. Maybe that. Maybe they're also subletting to other demon folk. Um, you don't know. You know, this one's Astaroth. This one.

Ligeia

Pazuzu.

Lithos

Yeah, Pazuzu's in there. Um, don't be bothering him. He's, um.

Ligeia

Yes, Separated from each other.

Leraje

He's got an appointment in Georgetown, Washington in about 10 years time.

Lithos

Yes. There's, there's also the fact that, oh, this, you know, even early on, even before the sort of bits about Satanism, there's, there's chanting and flute playing and you know, immediately that's suspicious and I'm thinking, well, no, that's probably Buddhists. Um, because flute playing, Flute playing and chanting. No. Yeah, clarinet, something like that.

But it sounds more Buddhist than Satanist.

Leraje

Yeah.

Lithos

Ah. Having lived in a student house with Buddhists in there, there was a lot of chanting.

Pike

Mhm. But Satanists also tend to chant, at least in films.

Lithos

In films, yeah. But in real life I haven't really witnessed any chanting.

Ligeia

It's our secret chants. Don't tell everybody.

Pike

Oh, maybe we should do some.

Ligeia

Oh yeah, we do every day. Don't you?

Pike

Something in, you know, fake Latin.

Leraje

Um, so what did you think about the fact that Rosemary was called? Rosemary?

Ligeia

Oh, it's a Mary. Mary, yeah. Uh, Mary and roses, I think. No, it's like uh, one of the symbols for Mary. It's a rose.

Leraje

There's also the nice little tie in with, um, Minnie keeping a herb garden. Is she growing her own Rosemary?

Ligeia

M. Oh, right. Oh, actually, how many of you actually googled that? Uh, tanis root doesn't exist, does it? I know, I was looking for it.

Pike

You had told me already, so I knew not to look for it. But I did look to see what peds were. Did you know what peds were?

Ligeia

Peds?

Pike

Peds. There's point where, at the point where Rosemary is putting on her peds and.

Ligeia

P, E, D S. Yeah.

Pike

What the hell is that? And I looked it up and that's what in the 60s they called, um, you know the song no Show Socks.

Ligeia

Oh.

Pike

Um, that's when they were first apparently, uh, first sold.

Leraje

Right.

Pike

And then very wisely people dropped that name over time.

Leraje

That is an unfortunate name, isn't it?

Pike

Yeah.

Ligeia

I don't know what it's called now.

Pike

Nowadays pets are performance enhancing drugs. A random fact that you didn't.

Ligeia

Hi. Uh, I didn't know any of that.

Leraje

She was kind of on a performance enhancing drug for a while. Oh yeah, she stopped drinking it every morning.

Pike

In general. There was so much food and drink in there.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Pike

I was tracking it for a while and then eventually I had just had to give up. There was so much. And it was also 60s, very 60s.

Ligeia

Right. And also, was she still drinking? She already knew. Oh yeah, yeah, she was right.

Leraje

Yeah, yeah.

Ligeia

I forgot what it was the drink. But she.

Lithos

She.

Ligeia

Yes.

Pike

Sherry, vodka blushes, uh, Gin Slynks.

Ligeia

Oh. Why, I was not happy to see that, really.

Lithos

I mean, girl, it was the 60s, you know. I mean, yeah, I mean, it's lucky she wasn't smoking as well, but hey, ho, her obstetrician shot of with two morphine shots or some shots before she gave birth as well. So baby Satan's gonna come out just fine.

Pike

Well, that's. That's how you end up with a bab. That way, you know, Plaza.

Lithos

Yes.

Ligeia

And those weird eyes.

Leraje

But nobody stopped smoking around her. Uh, uh, still smoking. Hutch carried on smoking his bloody pipe.

Pike

There is a point where Guy walks in with a block of Pall Malls.

Leraje

Yeah.

Lithos

Yes. There you go, love. That'll help. Yeah.

Ligeia

Oh, yeah. No books. But this is good for you.

Lithos

Tanis, by the way. Yeah, it is made up. Um, there is also a. A podcast called Tanis Podcast, which is, um, a Pacific Northwest kind of creepy horror, uh, story, found audio footage type thing. Um, very good, by the way. Just. That's what Tanis reminded me of. And whether they used Tanis as a basis for that.

This is Tanis with one N.

Pike

That was our ad break.

Lithos

Yes. It was always happy to. To. To advertise for free. Um, excellent podcasts out there, specifically horror ones. And yeah, Tanis is. Is very good. It's, um, mystery pseudo documentary podcast published by Pacific Northwest Stories.

Leraje

I'll give it a listen and we'll put it in the show notes as well. So it was. It was the 60s. It was a book written in the 60s. And it was. It was around about the time that kind of like what they used to call women's lib was kind of like becoming sort, uh, of like, mainstream idea.

There's a school of thought that says this book is kind of like a bit of a dig at women's, uh, lib. Uh, or maybe almost an anti dig. I mean, the men in it are pretty much shits.

Lithos

Oh, yeah, yeah.

Pike

Except for Hutch. Hutch is all right.

Lithos

Yeah. I wouldn't see it as a dig at women's lib. I think it's more like the way I saw it is more like, well, women are treated appallingly, and it's still okay to treat them appallingly.

Pike

What I thought it was a dig at was, um, that whole movement for returning to a natural living.

Ligeia

Which is.

Pike

Very relevant today as well.

Ligeia

Absolutely. But it was sort of, uh, suggesting the change of the world, the mindset and the politics. If you have noticed, there was this moment with The Pope is God dead or something like that.

Leraje

That was, that was Time Mag-.

Ligeia

Yeah, Time, yeah.

Leraje

I think that was an actual Time magazine cover. And um, uh, the Pope did visit America when the book was set.

Ligeia

But I think Minnie was talking something about Pope and she didn't like it. Uh, Rosemary didn't like it even though she was not like really practising but still she said something in a way like, oh, I was raised Christian and this feels wrong to me because it's still a Pope so please don't talk like that.

And I felt like this is not just randomly here. So I think it was really that time when it was changing or they were trying, they were like daring this idea. Like I liked it.

Lithos

The issue. I'm gonna find the article here where Levin, Ira Levin, who is um, self proclaimed Jewish atheist, said in 2002, I feel guilty that Rosemary's baby led to the Exorcist and the Omen. A whole generation has been exposed, has more belief in Satan. I don't believe in Satan and I feel like the strong fundamentalism we have would not be as strong if there hadn't been so many of these books.

Of course I didn't send back any of the royalty checks. I've got to give them 10 out of 10 for that comment. But yeah, fair enough. You know, if it was something about, and it's part of the subtext he intended was that woman's voice is disregarded in many ways, then he could have picked something better than some shonky devil baby in a black crib.

As a result, I didn't see, I just didn't get what the book was about and why he had to make it about the devil baby. Uh, it just didn't hang together for me. I don't know if that makes any sense.

Pike

I really liked that last scene. I liked it the best of until that why it's there. It's because until that last moment you can sort of think that Rosemary is just imagining the whole thing. You know, the, her hormones are going crazy because she's, you know, pregnant and it's, it's normal. And then there is that tension where she goes with a knife and it really builds it up for you.

And then I, I just thought it was, I, I was very happy with that last scene. I thought this is exactly the sort of thing that by that point you don't think that's what she's going to walk into. This might be some kind of a murder cult. They might be crazy, but you don't think there's going to be like a black crib with an upside down crucifix for the baby to, you know, to.

To look at.

Ligeia

And, uh, but also from the beginning, at the beginning, Rosemary was really childish. She was in her 20, like 24, 5, 26. Right. She wasn't like a teenager, but she was talking and acting really childish. And as, uh, this was progressing, she was finally getting some of her power. I don't want to say bad, because I guess this was her first time in her life that she was actually trying to think for herself.

And because she felt really, really something was wrong around her. She was. She started to question things for the first time. She started questioning the neighbours, the drinks, how she felt the pain, and eventually Guy and the doctors. She actually understood it before it happened, like, okay, I can't trust these people. So she was not stupid, but the way she was meant to be behaving was silly at the beginning.

So for me, Satan actually brought her to her own power and her brain.

Lithos

Ah, she gave birth to the questioner. Uh, and she became the questioner. Uh, very good. I like that.

Ligeia

She's the fucking queen. And everybody's gonna shut up, Especially Laura Louise.

Pike

Fuck Laura Louise.

Lithos

Fuck. Ah, her. And fuck Guy. Fuck that Guy.

Leraje

Fuck all the guys.

Ligeia  
Fuck them.

Lithos  
He did write a sequel to it, didn't he? Um, but just. Just to see what. What happened in the. In the next few days to Guy. How many sort of appendages.

Ligeia  
Nobody cares what happens to Guy.

Pike  
There is a sequel.

Lithos  
Yeah, there is. Yeah. He wrote it.

Ligeia  
I don't know.

Lithos  
I think it's. When, uh. Have you read it? No, no, no. Neither have I.

Ligeia  
That's what I'm saying. Nobody's interested. Because it's Guy.

Leraje  
Yeah.

Lithos  
Yes, exactly. It was written quite a while later and it was, you know, by this time Adrian or Alan or whatever the. His name is, presumably being that m. The son of Satan, would. Would have picked himself a better Satanym.

Leraje  
And, uh, let's hope so, because Adrian sucks.

Lithos  
Yes, absolutely.

Leraje  
Sorry, for any Adrian's listening. We don't mean you.

Ligeia  
No, no, but it's just a bad.

Pike  
Name for the son of Satan.

Ligeia  
Yeah, it's a little bit meh.

Lithos  
Well, it was, um. What did she call him in the end? Adrian? Andrew. Andrew. John.

Leraje  
Yes.

Lithos  
Andy. Andy.

Ligeia

I don't know.

Pike

An even worse name for a son of Satan.

Ligeia

Yeah.

Leraje

Two very biblical names. Andrew and John.

Ligeia

Yeah, that is true.

Lithos

Yeah, true.

Ligeia

It's almost angelic. Like it doesn't have the pazuzu, you know? Yeah, it Needs to stink a little bit, you know, it has to be a little dirty. Oh, a little dirty.

Lithos

There's something sulphurous to the name. Yes, yes. There's nothing sulphurous at all to. To Andrew John or Adrian Stephen.

Ligeia

It sounds like a.

Lithos

They sound like middle managers.

Ligeia

Oh, right.

Lithos

Andrew John Woodhouse. Um, who's chief financial officer, uh, of, uh.

Ligeia

Yes, it's a good name for, like, a normal person, but, like, come on, people died for you before you were even born. Have a name.

Leraje

Yeah. You know, your mom could have been someone who looked vaguely like a famous American actress, maybe.

Ligeia

Yeah. With a pixie. What was it? What did she call it? Who did it without Sassoon? She also got that. That hairstyle, and that was very, like, out of everything. And I think that was her becoming herself. Like, oh, I'm gonna just do it.

Lithos

Yes. And Guy's reaction to that. Oh, my God, what have you done to yourself? Did you pay someone for that kind of thing?

Ligeia

She could do whatever. She was beautiful.

Pike

Anyway, in the film, they make it so that everyone's dissing her haircut. I think Hutch says something mean, but in the book it's just Guy.

Leraje

Yeah.

Lithos

But, uh, what I would say is that I think they could have picked a better actor than Mia Farrow. I think she did play. She. She did play it. I don't like the way she played it. Um, I think she played it too sort of submissive. And she comes across as less submissive and more strong willed in the book.

Leraje

To me, I think you get the benefit of her kind of like inner monologue in the book, more than you possibly could in the. In the movie.

Lithos

Yeah, true.

Leraje

Because although it was a very faithful adaptation, there were moments that simply, you know, couldn't be filmed.

Lithos

I'm, um, not dissing Mia Farrow as an actor. I'm just saying.

Pike

We'll cut that bit out. Don't worry.

Ligeia

But I think I've read this somewhere that, uh, Polanski wanted his wife to play this role. What was her name? Sharon.

Lithos

Oh, Sharon Tate. Yeah. Yeah. Who was murdered by Manson.

Ligeia

Well, this was before she was murdered.

Lithos

It obviously m. Well, yes.

Ligeia

Sorry. My dark humour. Just leave it. Okay. But it didn't fly with.

Leraje

What's that smell? Oh, Sharon's on set.

Lithos

Oh.

Ligeia

That is rude.

Leraje

Sorry.

Pike

You people are the worst. Yes.

Ligeia

And you are still here.

Lithos

Yes. Uh, just to make it clear what. What Charles Manson did was very, very wrong. We have no affinity with him or his philosophy.

Leraje

Did he claim to be a Satanist? I don't really know. Much about that.

Lithos

No, he didn't. Um. No, he would just. Just a cult leader and it was kind of like a hippie love, kind of in the sense of, I'm, um, I am a hippie and I want to shag loads of hippie chicks, kind of.

Leraje

Yeah, right.

Ligeia

Nothing new.

Leraje

Guy would have loved it there.

Ligeia

Oh, yeah. I was trying to imagine the movie with her, but I have never. I don't think I've ever seen any movie where she played. So it's just there, like.

Leraje

No, I don't think I have either.

Ligeia

I don't know. I don't know. I like Mia. I don't know. I. I understand. I understand what you were saying, but like, I have seen this movie so many times, and it's just her face there. She's so beautiful. She's so cute. Adorable, tiny. And like, I love that for her how she. At the end.

It's in the book. It's better than in the. In the movie, it's just like really short moment of her face, like, okay, I'm gonna, you know, take this child and take care of him. But in the book, I felt like she really was angry and she's gonna them all up and I. I love that image with her, with her beautiful, tiny, petite face, like, oh, yes, girl, you can do this.

Lithos

Yeah, that's what I mean. Uh, that's out in the film. I think the. The early bits, which. Where she was playing the sort of dutiful wife to her, uh, uh, actor husband. She played those bits really well. I just felt the end bit where she becomes more hard ass in. In the book, in my mind anyway, than.

Than she was portrayed in the film. Um, you know that the. The absolute fury that comes through in the last scene, um, in the book didn't quite come across in the film.

Ligeia

No, it didn't. I don't know why. I don't know why they chose this because ended up in a way, like, open end. I was not happy with the ending in the movie.

Leraje

I would put that more down to Polanski than Mia Farrow's ability to.

Lithos

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Pike

Leave her alone.

Lithos

Yeah, I'm sorry, I'm not. Yes. Okay.

Pike

Do we want to do some pitchforks?

Leraje  
Yeah, let's do some pitchforks.

Lithos  
Oh, yeah, let's do pitchforks.

Ligeia  
Do we base this on just a book or.

Pike  
Book.

Lithos  
Just a book. Yeah, just a book.

Leraje  
All right, Lithos?

Lithos  
Okay. After having given really strong ones this time, I'm. I can. I'm gonna give it a three and a half.

Pike  
I am rendered speechless.

Leraje  
Just hold up the amount of fingers then.

Pike  
For the benefit of a listener, I am holding up six fingers.

Leraje  
Six fingers, not two. In Lithos's direction. Uh.

Ligeia  
I am going to be very generous and I will give it a seven because it's a. It's an iconic story.

Leraje  
I will also give it a seven. I think it's. It is a classic.

Ligeia  
Yeah.

Leraje  
And it's, um, got good bits in it, but I don't think overall it really hangs together and it. And I don't think it's aged very well.

Ligeia  
That's very true. Very true.

Pike  
I will also give it a seven. Fine.

Leraje  
You should.

Lithos  
If you're gonna do that, you should at least each give it a six so that you have 666. And then you can. You can disregard my three, three and a half, because I just didn't like it that much. Hey, ho. I do apologise.

Pike  
Anyway.

Leraje  
Yeah, okay.

Lithos  
Um, I'm glad I read it.

Leraje  
Yeah. I think it's one of those books that people should read because it is a classic. And like he said in that interview piece you read out, it kind of, like, did inform a whole kind of, like, subgenre of horror fiction. Yep. Uh, so it's. It's worthwhile.

Ligeia  
Yeah. And I'm happy we did read it because I was putting it, like, aside. Okay. I have seen the movie.

Pike  
What's.

Ligeia  
What's. What's about the book. But now I can tell. I've read it, so you should, too.

Pike  
Wow. Those are bad reasons. I'm sorry.

Ligeia  
I know.

Pike  
Also.

Leraje  
Look, we're trying to make the best out of it.

Ligeia  
It's a short book.

Leraje  
I think we might have spoilt ourselves by starting off with things like *Haunting of Hill House* and, um, *Left Hand of Darkness*.

Pike  
I think by watching the film, if I didn't know the story, it would be very different.

Lithos  
Had it. Had it not been that I'd, uh, written. Uh, I'd written. I'd written. I'd read. I'd read *Catriona Ward* and *Ursula K. Le Guin* just before this one. I would have given it a better score. I mean, that's kind of like. They both set a really high bar.

Leraje  
All right, and so next up is *Ligeia's Choice*. Do you want to tell us what you've chosen for our next read?

Ligeia  
Yes. So the next book we are going to read, uh, I think none of you have read, Am I right? Okay.

Pike  
Yes.

Ligeia

I was hoping this day will come that I will find a book. You did not read. Okay, so it is a, uh, book called Carrion Crow by Heather Parry. Very gothic.

Lithos

You've sold me on it already.

Ligeia

I am in the middle of the book.

Pike

It must be popular because my library had four copies on backorder.

Lithos

Wow.

Ligeia

It's a very nice autumn read. I can't tell you why. It's not about autumn, but it's very gothic. Like feminine gothic.

Leraje

Yeah.

Ligeia

Read books. Read and come back.

Pike

Hail Adrian.

Ligeia

Yay.

Lithos

Oh, sorry. Hair Adrian.

Ligeia

Hey.

Leraje

Hail A.J. Woodhouse, accountants and partners.

Pike

Yeah, this is degenerating fast.

Leraje

Right. Okay, it's time for us to wrap up and we'll see you next time. I've been, uh. Leraje. Hail Satan.

Pike

I'm Pike. Hail Satan.

Ligeia

I'm Ligeia. Hail Satan.

Lithos

And I'm Lithos. Hail Satan.