

17

CONTINUED: (2)

17

~~MONICA (CONT'D)~~~~He likes to draw, too. Can I see?~~~~She moves closer, trying to get near that gun - then Richie moves the gun. He looks up at her. He shows her the pages.~~~~INSERT PAGES - A gutted female human body - the head hasn't been drawn yet, but there's plenty of gooey entrails. Monica flips through page after page of bloody murder, mixed with Aztec/Mesoamerican symbolism. Reminds us of Tanner's books.~~~~It gets more gruesome the more she flips through. Shaken, she hands back the sketchbook.~~~~MONICA (CONT'D)~~~~You have a gift.~~

18

INT. BIG KAHUNA BURGER - DAY

18

Seth and Vanessa slink out of the men's room, re-arranging their clothes. An old HOMELESS GUY glares at them, apparently waiting his turn.

They quick-slide into a booth. Seth remains amped, nervous - checking around.

VANESSA

START I didn't think you were ever gonna show.

SETH

We got a little waylaid. Listen -

VANESSA

We shouldn't even be sitting here. You're all over the news. If you're gonna order something -

SETH

In a second. Vanessa -

VANESSA

Where's Richie? He out in the car?

SETH

Just listen to me. The plan's changed.

VANESSA

Changed? Plans don't change. Isn't that what you always say? No matter what, we stick to the plan. Meet up here, cross together. That's how we designed it.

(CONTINUED)

Pg 1+10

FDTD

Seth collects himself.

SETH

What I failed to mention is that sometimes plans get better.

VANESSA

What could be better than you and me on a beach in Cancún?

SETH

You being alive, for one. Any cops find us, they will shoot on sight, which means that if you're in sight of me, you'll get shot, too. I can't risk that, Vanessa.

Seth slides the folded bearer bonds out of his jacket. Before he can even show them to her -

VANESSA

What is that?

SETH

Well, it might look like a couple of folded pieces of paper, but it's really a bulletproof vest.

He opens them up and puts them on the table in front of her.

SETH (CONT'D)

That's a little over four million in bearer bonds. You are going to take this back to Warren Pritchard at K.C. Financial and he is going to convert it for you and wash it all nice and clean. After that, you'll be set. You're not gonna have to worry about anything.

She is completely thrown. She begins to tear up.

VANESSA

For me? All of this?

SETH

Every dime. He's not even gonna take a fee. I'll cover that.

She picks them up. He hangs on her response.

VANESSA

Baby, this is - Wow. Wow... Feels like Vegas up in here! I can hear the bells dingin'.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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VANESSA (CONT'D)

I feel like one of those obese ladies sliding quarters into a big ol' plastic cup. Just me and my fat ass, swallowin' up a chair.

Her happiness is infectious.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Do you remember our honeymoon? That time I won at Keno - at Keno - in the Bellagio? You remember that? It was like four in the morning. I'll never forget it 'cause there was this call girl who took the table next to us. She'd just come down from doing her business upstairs and she ordered - I'll never forget this - she ordered a short stack of buttermilks and a black coffee. You remember what you said?

SETH

I don't.

VANESSA

You said, "I guess that's what the whores eat."

(off his look)

I remember thinking to myself, how must that feel? How's it feel for her to walk into a cafeteria and know that everyone knows she sleeps with people for money? How's it feel when everyone in the room knows you're a whore. I guess I know now.

SETH

Vanessa.

VANESSA

I am not a whore - or your bitch. You know what I am, Seth? I am your partner. And do you know what partners do? They make plans and they honor those plans and they stick to them.

SETH

Baby -

VANESSA

Did you forget that I cased that bank for three weeks?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VANESSA (CONT'D)

That I knew every teller's schedule up and down? That I knew they'd be loading the ATM when you pushed your way in? It is not my fault you and your brother are the most wanted fugitives in the world right now. That's on you.

SETH

It is. Which is why you have to let us cross alone.

VANESSA

I baked a carrot cake for you every year -- with real cream cheese frosting. Lit candles and blew them out for you. And what about all those conjugal visits? Every inmate in that boneyard was jealous of you. They could hear us through the Goddamned walls. Don't tell me they couldn't.

SETH

Wouldn't dare.

VANESSA

Five years, Seth. Five years. You think all that time I was waiting for money? I was waitin' for you. I love you.

END

Seth is caught.

19

~~INT. DEW DROP INN - GECKO ROOM - BEDROOM - DAY~~

19

~~Richie continues to draw. He puts the gun in his lap. The VOICES in his head become LOUDER. ANCRIER. Monica sees that blood is smearing on the page from his duct-taped wound.~~

~~Monica also eyes the gun. Alone beside him. New strategy.~~

~~MONICA~~

~~You really should clean that up. I mean properly. I got some experience with that kinda thing.
(nothing)~~

~~My kids get scrapes all the time.~~

~~RICHIE~~

~~This ain't a scrape!~~

He struggles with the pain - and the voices. Monica clams up, but then Richie feels like shit for yelling. He closes the sketchpad and eyes her. He makes up his mind.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

24

Jacob tips the glass to him, swallows the Scotch.

25

INT. BIG KAHUNA BURGER - BOOTH - DAY

25

Seth and Vanessa. In the booth. Bearer bonds between them.

START

SETH

It's better if we're not together.
Just trust me.

VANESSA

So maybe I fly out to this place.
What's it called again?

SETH

El Rey.

VANESSA

Maybe I fly out there and meet you.

SETH

I don't know that it's got an
airport. 'Sides, I'm gonna need
some time to keep an eye on Richie.

VANESSA

As long as Richie's happy. I mean,
let's face it. He is the reason we
got divorced. I could never
compete with him.

Seth fires a look.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Okay, that's not fair. But you
gotta understand something, baby -
you walk out, you're walking out on
us. We pulled a job that netted
thirty mill. That's no small
thing. You know what we could do
with that money? We could get that
bar you always wanted in the Keys.

SETH

That place? That place woulda
never worked anyway.

VANESSA

Hell it wouldn't. It's still
there. I checked.

SETH

You checked?

(CONTINUED)

Sof 10

VANESSA

All they want is a million-five.

(re: bearer bonds)

We could use this right here, go down there tomorrow, snap it up.

We'd be pouring *cuba libres* and *maï tais* by Friday.

SETH

I could never do that to him.

VANESSA

Do what? Give him twenty-six million dollars? Baby, Richie is damn well smart enough to get across the Border.

True.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

Let him keep the money and get on with his life. Then you and me, we can have all the men's room sex we ever want because guess what - we are gonna own one.

Seth shifts. Boxed in.

SETH

He needs my help.

VANESSA

He always needs your help. Unless it's somehow worse this time. Is it?

A beat.

SETH

There's a reason Richie was always so good at workin' it out. Thirty-six jobs we pulled. Nobody could touch us.

VANESSA

He's an egghead.

SETH

No. It's because of the old man - he kept Richie on his toes. Made him think. And it started real early. First, it was just Richie sneaking his little brother past sleeping Pops, just so we could watch cartoons.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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SETH (CONT'D)

Then, the old man would get hammered. And his mind would start to work. He was a pretty good box man himself. He'd try and figure out ways to fuck with us. Me, especially. Old man had it out for me. I drove him nuts.

VANESSA

That part I get.

SETH

Do you see me laughing here?

(off her look)

Richie figured out ways to outsmart him, mess him up. Keep him away from me. Until one night he didn't need to anymore. The old man fell asleep on the couch. Lit cigarette in his hand. Fire burned down the whole house. Smoke got to me, and I was out. Gone. If Richie hadn't pulled me outta there...

Seth pulls up his sleeve to show flame tattoo on his forearm.

SETH (CONT'D)

Why do you think I got this ink?

She is taken aback.

VANESSA

You told me you got drunk in New Orleans.

SETH

Richie made me swear to never talk about it.

VANESSA

He saved your life. Now you gotta save his.

That's right.

VANESSA (CONT'D)

What if he can't be saved?

SETH

I just gotta get him to *El Rey*. He'll be fine down there.

VANESSA

Seth. I had him checked out.

(CONTINUED)

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SETH

You what?

VANESSA

My neighbor, Patty. She's an RN at the looney bin out in Devore. I had her over for dinner when Richie was hanging around. She talked to him, gave him a once-over. She said he's got dissociative identity something-or-another. She thinks he's hearing voices.

Seth tries to contain his anger.

SETH

I am gonna get up now, get myself and my brother a burger. You have a nice life.

VANESSA

Seth -

SETH

He's not crazy.

END

INT. DEW DROP INN - GECKO ROOM - BEDROOM - DAY

Richie stares at Monica.

RICHIE

You called me Richard.

MONICA

I didn't say anything.

RICHIE

Who are you? Who are you really?

MONICA

I don't know what you're talking about -

Richie grabs a strip of towel and starts tying her to the bed. She struggles, so he gets on top of her. Deliberate.

MONICA (CONT'D)

Please. I don't know what you want!

RICHIE

You're playing some kinda game with me. Trying to play a trick on me. You don't think I hear you inside my head, gordita?

(CONTINUED)

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ACT FIVE

37 INT. BIG KAHUNA BURGER - DAY

37

Seth is back in line to get his burger. It's longer now. He makes it to the front. Kahuna Klerk is there.

He digs for his cash, but - a SMASH and CRASH outside. Seth looks THROUGH THE WINDOW - Vanessa is taking a crowbar to his car! He runs out -

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VANESSA SC. 3

38

EXT. BIG KAHUNA BURGER - CONTINUOUS

38

Seth rushes up to Vanessa.

START

VANESSA

Maybe if I start acting like a crazy loon, you'll give a shit.

SETH

Vanessa. Vanessa-

CRAAAACK! There goes the windshield.

VANESSA

You bastard. You were never gonna take me with you. It was always just you and Richie.

She rears back again, but Seth charges and GRABS her. They end up romantically - if not passionately - entwined. He grabs for the crowbar. They struggle -

VANESSA (CONT'D)

You can't charm your way out of this. You love him so much, why don't you go fuck your brother.

He forces the crowbar free, then PUSHES her away, enraged.

SETH

I'm all he's got, why can't you understand that?! I'm all he's got.

VANESSA

Seth -

SETH

Just go. Go see Pritchard and get your four million, okay? Just... please.

VANESSA

We could have been good together.

SETH

We were together. And it wasn't good.

END

She is crushed. Seth goes, and we STAY with him, seeing the truth in his eyes. He does love her. He forces himself to keep walking, returning to the Big Kahuna, and -