Billy

By

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INT. BEDSIT - DAY


A BED

flush against a wall - on it, rocking gently, BILLY (22). Happy, he taps his fingers like he’s praying.

By the door - RASH (26), chaotically searches for ...

    RASH
    Billy! Stop.

    BILLY
    Wha’ you lost?

    RASH
    Haven’t lost anything.

Rash looks across to Billy -

    RASH (CONT)
    Have you moved anything?

Billy shakes his head, wildly.

    RASH (CONT)
    Touched anything?

And with a big wide grin, the thrashing head says "no".

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Billy and Rash.

Rash searches his pockets, draws out a crumpled currency note.

Billy rocks heel to toe, flicks his wrist here and there, inches from his face.

Rash faces Billy, trying to drag his attention.

    RASH
    Wait here. Do you understand?

Frantic nodding.

Rash heads to the store. Billy follows.
INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Owner’s a rotund Asian – points to the exit the minute he lays eyes on Billy.

OWNER
C’mon. You know the drill.

Rash grabs a loaf of bread and a bottle of milk – slaps them on the counter – the owner’s seeing Billy out – a woman’s behind the counter – Rash pushes the money to her ...

RASH
The rest tomorrow?

She shakes her head, resigned.

WOMAN
Pay.

Owner’s escorting Billy out – Rash’s following him up – to the owner ...

RASH
Tomorrow ... ?

OWNER
How many tomorrows are there?

RASH
I promise.

OWNER
Always promise.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Rash’s guiding Billy out. Owner’s coming too.

OWNER (CONT’D)
Never pay.

INT. BEDSIT - DAY

At a table crowded with books, magazines, clutter – Rash and Billy eat. Billy’s happy as larry. Rash frowns.

WEIGHING SCALES

Billy reads eight stone.

BATHROOM
Rash scrubs Billy in the bathtub as Billy flicks water.

INSERT: Gas Bill: "$50.00"

Rash screw it up, chucks it on the floor.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Like a Private Eye’s place.

Billy sits opposite DOG, (55).

    DOG
    And whatcha’ wunt the cash fo’?

    RASH
    Enterprise.

    DOG
    Enterprise?

    RASH
    New idea --

    DOG
    Like the star ship?

    RASH
    Business. New ideas. New ... blue sky ... thinking.

    DOG
    Wuz the business?

    RASH
    It’s ...

    DOG
    You got a business, don’cha?

Rash nods.

    RASH
    Absolutely.

A beat.

    DOG
    An’ it’s --
RASH
Selling.

DOG
Not that I give a hoot.

Billy gives a real slow nod.

DOG (CONT’D)
Rate’s fifty.

RASH
It’s ... ?

DOG
Percent. Fifty.

RASH
That’s ... fine.

DOG
A day.

INT. BEDSIT – DAY
Billy and Rash at the table.
Rash has got the money in his hand.

RASH
I was hoping --

Billy rocks back and forth – happy as ever.
Rash tucks the money away.

INT. GROCERY STORE – DAY
Bread and milk on the counter – an Asian lady shakes her head – Rash in front of her – pleading.
Owner’s pushing Billy out.

RASH
(quietly)
Tomorrow.

The woman looks toward Billy, shakes her head some more.
RASH (CONT)
I’ve got to feed him.

He moves away from the counter – backing up, the bread and milk to his chest. A hand reaches out – one on the bread, one on the milk, and --

OWNER
No more tomorrow.

Rash clutches tighter.

INT. BEDSIT – DAY

Billy and Rash, at the table – they eat.

INT. OFFICE – DAY

Dog’s looking pissed. Rash opposite him.

DOG
You can give it back, but the rate applies.

Rash is taken aback.

RASH
I haven’t had it a day.

DOG
Rate applies from the moment you take it, ’till twenty fo’ hours later.

Painful.

DOG
You want to give it back go head, boy. With fifty pu’cent on top. ’s the agreement. You ’greed to it.

RASH
I ain’t got ...

DOG
Ain’t got ain’t in the ’greement.

A long beat.
RASH
(eyes closed)
Shhhh --

DOG
-- it?

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY
Rash and Billy outside the store - near the door.

The Owner’s the other side - guilty look on his face as he slides the lock across the door - won’t look at Rash - pulls the ‘CLOSED’ sign up.

Billy rocks to and fro - big fat grin on his face.

EXT. STREET - DAY
Rash and Billy look up to an first floor office.

   RASH
   Remember what I said Billy?

Billy nods frantic.

   RASH
   What did I say?

INT. OFFICE - DAY
Billy’s sat opposite Dog. Dog looks gob-smacked.

Billy’s never been happier.

   DOG
   Wut in hell ju jus’ say?

And Billy’s off - rocking like there’s no tomorrow.

EXT. STREET - DAY
Rash’s looking frantic. Bangs on a door. Looks up to the first floor office.
INT. BEDSIT - DAY

Rash - still frantic, on a phone.

    RASH
    (to phone)
    Where is he? What have you done
    with him?

EXT. DERELICT CAR-PARK - DAY

Rash looks around - anxious.

At a distance, a car pulls into view.

    CAR

Billy and Dog in the rear seats.

    RASH

turns to check the car. He watches it halt - Dog exits and ambles toward Billy.

    RASH
    Give him back. I’m begging you.

Dog halts, observes his surrounding, spits on the ground.

    DOG
    Don’t know I can rightly do that.

    RASH
    He’s all I’ve got.

    DOG
    After what you done to him.

    RASH
    What I --

    DOG
    What yu’ send him up fo’?

Rash runs his hands through his hair.

    RASH
    I can get the money.

    DOG
    Well it ain’t about the cash now,
    ain’t it?
RASH
He needs me. I’m his only family.

DOG
He got a clean place now. Food, ’n good clothes. Lookin’ after him like you ain’t.

RASH
And what’s he doing? All day?

DOG
Working out a bit here ’n there.

RASH
Working?

DOG
Cleaning this ’n --

RASH
Like a slave?

DOG
Man’s gotta have some occupation – keep his mind right.

RASH
He’s my brother.

DOG
I wouldn’t treat a dog like you treat him. Whatcha’ think? We wuz gonna give you a beatin’? So you sent him ’nstead.

Dog looks back at the car – Billy grinning like a maniac.

RASH
It wasn’t --

DOG
So what you send him up fo’?

RASH
I can get your money. I promise. I’ll do anything.

DOG
Kid’s happy a’ Larry.
RASH
He always is.

DOG
Holding on to him f’ now.

RASH
You can’t -- keep him?

DOG
Well that’s what I’m gonna do. Should treat yu’ brother with a little mo’ respect.

Dog begins to turn toward the car.

RASH
Dog!

DOG
Ain’t about the cash no more.

Dog turns his head to Rash.

DOG
He’s a good kid ’n deserves better than you give him.

RASH
Dog!

DOG
See y’round.

FADE OUT: