

The Angel

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EXT. SKY - NIGHT

Rush of air.

MARIO (15) dares a look past black wings that surround him.

Beneath, Fifty stories down, the city lights rush by.

Mario rests against his savior, an ANGEL. Black, tattered, wings flap with a large gust of air.

The city fly by, miles in a second.

Mario closes his eyes, desperate to keep them close.

INT. PURGATORY

Mario stands with eyes closed.

To his back a long line of streetlights illuminating a long hallway.

The Angel speaks, his voice almost a whisper.

ANGEL (O.S.)

Open them.

Mario does not comply.

ANGEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

I said...Open them.

Mario shakes, his boot bouncing against his other foot, which is absent a shoe.

MARIO

Am I dead?

ANGEL (O.S.)

Open your eyes.

The Angel towers over the shivering Mario.

ANGEL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Shall I help you?

The Angel's hands touch Mario's forehead, wiping sweat away. Mario fidgets from his touch.

MARIO

I'm burning up.

The Angel looks at his hands. They are human, but pale close to what a corpse's hands would resemble. Spindly fingers like spider legs.

Mario opens his eyes.

Before him, the Angel spreads his wings, one torn like they had been plucked. The other wing spreads tall with few feathers remaining.

The Angel leans down. His face was shaped like the blade of an axe and his eyes rounded the corners - all seven of them.

ANGEL

Are you afraid?

Mario's gaze shifts hastily to anywhere but direct eyesight of the Angel.

Around him is darkness, broken by a pale stream of lights past the Angel leading deep into the pitch black void.

Mario stares down at his feet. Focused on the foot without a shoe.

A GUNSHOT destroys the silence.

Mario takes off down the line. He bypasses the Angel.

The Angel shrinks in the distance.

Above Mario's head, the lights pour down from a line of streetlights.

VOICE (O.S.)

Worthless. Desperate. Fucking
coward.

The voices pour in from all sides. Mario stops mid jog. He stares down seeing a snub pistol deep in his grasp.

Mario's hair sways with a gust of wind. He steps back, coughing from the stench.

Mario takes a step back, beneath his bare foot - a skull looks up at him.

MARIO

The f--

Mario falls into the dark, reaching out.

The Angel grabs his hand just in time.

ANGEL

You fall or walk.

Mario looks down seeing that he stood on a landslide of bones.

Deep down, bones shift revealing something hidden in the bones. Its long claw reaches up.

Mario's face freezes in shock.

The Angel pulls him up. The claw stops by the light, burning. A nasty reaction.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

You walk--

The Angel points down the line. At the edge of the light is a flower, a dandelion.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

--or fall.

Mario catches his breath. He pulls up the gun and points it at the Angel.

MARIO

Let me go. This ain't my gun, but--

ANGEL

Walk or fall.

The Angel takes a seat. He lets out a large yawn.

Mario pushes the barrel closer.

MARIO

Take me home. Now.

The Angel leers up.

ANGEL

Boy with gun is no killer.

MARIO

I am.

ANGEL

Maybe. Walk or fall.

Behind Mario, the lights start to creep closer. The darkness encroaching.

MARIO

Take me home, man. I want to go home.

ANGEL

Walk or--

The claw reaches out from the darkness.

ANGEL (CONT'D)
 --fall. Bring me my flower and move
 on.

The claw just behind Mario's ankle. Ready to pull him to
 the feeding ground.

MARIO
 Flower? Do you see this gun? Take
 me home or you die.

The Angel yawns.

MARIO (CONT'D)
 Take me to my mom, dick.

Mario falls. The claw pulls Mario to the ground.

Mario turns with the gun and lets off a few rounds, but it
 does nothing.

Mario lets out a howl, but it does nothing to stop whats
 coming.

The Angel grabs the Mario's hand.

The light reaches back out - burning the claw. A loud howl
 of pain sounds and the claw retreats.

Mario cowers in the middle of the light.

ANGEL
 Walk or fall.

MARIO
 T-Then I go home?

ANGEL
 You move on.

Mario starts to sob.

MARIO
 Wasn't suppose to have the gun. I
 have to tell my mom. I have to...
 What is that thing?

The Angel points down the line.

ANGEL
 Walk or--

MARIO
 Shut up.

Mario looks at the flower basking in the light.

MARIO (CONT'D)
You want a stupid flower? Why not
grab it yourself?

The Angel lets out another yawn.

Mario scowls.

MARIO (CONT'D)
Fuck you. This isn't fair. I have
a life.

ANGEL
Not any more. Walk...or fall.

Mario peers at the flower.

MARIO
I bring it and you...

The Angel nods.

Mario stops. Voices pounding to life around him.

VOICES (V.O.)
Help! I don't fucking have a gun.
I want to live. Please.

Mario itches at his hand. His feet move ahead carefully.

In the distance out of Mario's view is a blinking red light.

Mario walks.

Crimson pours on a figure.

Another step, light pulses.

Mario looks to the light.

Basking in the light is Mario, the snub in his hand. He
presses it to his head.

BANG. The gun goes off turning off the crimson and returning
to the black.

Mario itches at his hand. The bit of skin he rubs at, begins
to bleed.

Mario retches letting out a howl of pain.

MARIO
Fucking Christmas.

He stifles another sob. The flower is only a few paces away.

Mario reaches the flower within a few carefully placed steps. He stands shocked to see a corpse hand gripping the stem of the dandelion.

Mario leans down and pulls at it.

It doesn't budge. However, the hand has begun to surface an arm.

Another tug and a shoulder can be seen.

Mario pulls with all his might. Soon, RAVI (24) forms from the hand.

The man stands, his cheeks sullen and eyes sunken in.

MARIO (CONT'D)

Ravi? I...

Ravi's eyes form and they open with fury. He reaches out strangling Mario with the Dandelion still in his grasp.

Mario fumbles back, close to the darkness. Ravi staring down at him with all the anger he can muster, strangling him.

RAVI

Fucking coward.

START FLASHBACK

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Ravi chokes Mario. The two basking in streetlight.

RAVI

Fucking coward. Can't use the damn gun on a little girl.

Judith (30's) cowers on the ground, sobbing.

Mario pulls up the snub and it goes off.

Ravi stops, blood forming on his stomach.

RAVI (CONT'D)

You...shot me...

Ravi falls to the ground. His nails dig into Mario's hand before he collapses.

Back of Mario's hand bleeds.

Mario tosses the gun. He watches Ravi die, its painful.

Ravi's body stops moving with a sudden death spasm.

MARIO

I'm...so sorry. I-I didn't m-mean
to--

BANG.

Judith stands with the snub in her hand.

JUDITH

I'm not leaving my kids.

Mario stumbles back with a bullet in his gut. He peers up at the streetlight as it blinks and turns off.

END FLASHBACK

Mario stares into the darkness.

A Screech sounds.

RAVI

Kill me! I'll get you for it.

MARIO

I'm sorry.

In the dark, skulls and bones tumble down the landslide. It is coming.

Mario reaches up, fighting. He pushes at Ravi, but he is too weak.

RAVI

Kill me, not so easy without a gun,
huh? Punk bitch.

Ravi eyes bulge.

The Angel grabs the back of his skull and lifts him from Mario.

Mario gets back up.

The angel tosses Ravi to the side like a child.

Ravi sits in the dark.

RAVI (CONT'D)

I'm not going, not without fucking
your skull.

The Angel winks.

Ravi lets out a scream as he disappears into the dark.

MARIO

Thank you.

ANGEL

Thank you.

The Angel holds up the Dandelion.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Flower I could never forget.

MARIO

Now wha--

Mario reels over.

MARIO (CONT'D)

Jesus Christ!

ANGEL

Payment received.

The Angel walks to the dark. Before him a beacon of light leads up like a stairwell.

Mario's skull cracks, the agony unbearable. He stands up sweating profusely, trembling violently.

MARIO

Please...No...I...don't...

Mario stares up at the angel rising up. His body no longer that of the abomination he saw before. The Angel is now a child, dressed in tattered clothes from a time long gone.

He clutches tightly to the flower in his hand.

ANGEL

Remember it anywhere.

Mario curses the Angel, his hands growing into spindly fingers. He reaches out as wings rip from his back.

MARIO

No...

Mario, now the Angel looks into the dark - alone.

JUDITH (O.S.)

H-Hello...

Mario turns, his new form now solidified. He stands with vibrant black wings.

Judith cowers on the ground, sobbing.

MARIO

Walk...or fall.

A smile crawls across his axe shaped skull.

Judith stares at him, her lip quivering.

FADE OUT: