THE WAY DOWN

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

A damp and dimly lighted alleyway, trash and dumpsters line the walls. The city is asleep, the only sounds are that of muffled bars and nightclubs.

Abruptly - a WOMAN'S HAND touches the brick wall. BONNIE (mid 20's) looking back in a terrified state. Her slim blue dress is ripped and dirty. Bending over to remove her high heeled shoes, she panics and fumbles around.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

A shadowed figure moves swiftly down the sidewalk, enclosing fast on the alleyway.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Bonnie tossing her shoes aside and quickly runs down the alleyway. Looking ahead, there is nowhere to go. She looks around for another route, but nothing. She cunningly lays next to a dumpster and conceals her body with cardboard and trash layering the ground.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Appearing at the entrance of the alleyway, the shadowed figure pauses for a brief second.

SHADOWED FIGURE You're only making this worse!

The shadowed figure makes its way down the wet alleyway, looking for any trace of Bonnie's existence. Moving a piece of newspaper concealing her face, Bonnie looks across the alleyway revealing-

JIM (30's) average build and height, shoveling his way through all the trash on the ground.

JIM I'm going to find you, and when I do...

Looking in Bonnie's general direction.

JIM (CONT'D) (making a had gesture from his genital to mouth) I'm going to cut you from lip to lip.

Jim walks out of Bonnie's view. The quick and irrational thought of escaping crosses Bonnie's mind. She leaps up out of the trash pile and bolts back towards the city street. Taking only a few short strides, Jim is upon her. He grabs her arm and forces her down onto the grungy, damp pavement.

Wasting no time, Jim straddles Bonnie's thin and fragile body. Masking her fearful screams for help with his hand, Jim reaches behind him and pulls out a knife.

> JIM (CONT'D) Shh, shh, shh, Everything is going to be just fine. It's time to finally have some real fun.

Jim extends the rip in Bonnie's dress showing her breasts, scanning over her body he takes in all her unaltered beauty. He slowly slides the blade down her torso and in between her thighs, swaying the blade back and forth mimicking a sadistic form of foreplay. Nicking Bonnie's skin a small drop of blood slides down the blade.

> JIM (CONT'D) (licking the blade clean) So, so, sweet.

BONNIE (muffled under Jim's palm) Why are you doing this to me? Please let me go, please!

JIM I have this uncontrollable rage coursing through my veins, and pounding in my head. The only thing I can do is unleash my pain onto others. I gain no real pleasure in doing this, just relief. When I hurt, this is my pain reliever.

Before finishing his last few words, Jim raises his knife and strikes Bonnie in the belly. He continues to rake the blade all the way up to her rib cage.

JIM (CONT'D) Thank you!

CONTINUED:

Gurgling on her own blood, Bonnie's eyes slowly fade. Jim grabs her dress and wipes the knife clean. Standing up, he makes his way back to the city street.

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

Walking on the deserted sidewalk, Jim slowly fades into the distance.

FADE TO BLACK.

BEGIN CREDITS-

Names slowly fade in and out over missing women posters.

FADE IN:

INT. JIM'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - MORNING

Carol (30's) a silky bathrobe loosely drapes over her stunning nude silhouette. She leans against the kitchen counter supping out of a coffee cup.

Jim walks in and sites down at the kitchen table.

CAROL (walking towards Jim) Good Morning.

She bends over and kisses Jim.

CAROL (CONT'D) How did everything go last night? I noticed you got home rather late.

JIM I stopped for the usual drink. Got one of the thunderous migraines, and had to take care of that.

CAROL Oh, must have been a killer one.

JIM This one did take a bit longer to control. CAROL I absolutely hate those complicated ones.

Jim check the time on his silver pocket watch, and quickly snags his jacket off the chair.

JIM Shit, I'm late. Gotta run, Love ya!

CAROL (excited) Hurry home, don't forget we have that double date tonight. Going to be a crazy fun time.

INT. JIM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Jim sitting at his desk, mountainous stacks of papers make it barely visible. Jim looks around and see's nothing but clutter. Pulling out his pocket watch and checking the time, he stands up and heads out the door.

INT. LOCAL PUB - NIGHT

Sitting alone at a dimly lit bar table, Jim sips on a whiskey. He glances towards the bar and notices a woman, GWEN (20's), is checking him out. Jim shoots her a smile and takes another sip from his glass. She returns the gesture.

GWEN What's a good-looking man like yourself sitting over here all alone?

JIM Long day at work, just having a quick drink.

GWEN Let me buy your next one, whiskey I assume.

JIM Any other night I would, but I have a prior engagement I can't be late for. I should be going.

Gwen places her hand on Jim's back, rubbing it back and forth.

GWEN I insist, you can't stop at one, and it's still early, who knows maybe you could end up having some fun. JIM OK, you want to have some fun, I know just the place. Jim grabs Gwen by the hand and leads her outside the pub. EXT. PUB - NIGHT They make there way down the street and turn the corner out of view. EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT The same alleyway as the previous night. The pavement is dry, and no sign exists, of Bonnie's dreaded despair. GWEN Why are we going this way? It's dark and creepy. JIM Just a short cut, Leads right to a place we can have some fun. Reaching into his pocket, Jim pulls out his pocket watch. It reads- 9:54 PM GWEN Alright, better be worth it. Gwen quickly notices the alleyway leads nowhere. GWEN (CONT'D) Wait just a second, this doesn't go anywhere. Where are you taking me? Jim grabs Gwen and begins kissing her. She struggles and doesn't want a single ounce of it. JIM Thought you wanted to have some fun?

GWEN

What kind of girl do you think I am? Fun in my book means going to a better place or party. Not a deserted alley for a quickie.

Jim slips in for another kiss, but Gwen denies him. Jim grabs her and pulls her in closer.

JIM Come on, loosen up a bit, just spread those legs.

GWEN (pushing Jim back) I will not! I'm out of here!

JIM (walking behind Gwen) Please don't make me angry, bad things happen when I'm angry.

Jim grabs Gwen and whips her to the ground. Gwen fearing for her life, she grabs a pistol out of her purse and points it directly at Jim.

GWEN

Stop you asshole! I will shot you!

Jim's adrenaline rush calls her bluff and he continues towards her. Gwen pulls the trigger and Jim falls to ground right in front of her. Holding his chest in pain, Jim slowly blacks out.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. HELL BUS - NIGHT

Jim awakes to find himself lost, not knowing where he is or how her got here. Looking around the interior of the bus is black, the windows are barred, and there is a stench in the air. After a few short breaths that of death and burning flesh inflame Jim's senses.

> JIM Where the fuck am I?

Jim attempts to look out the window, but it's too dark to make out anything. The temperature inside the bus in quickly rising. Jim loosens his tie and wipes the sweat on his forehead. Out of nowhereA man appears with dark slicked back hair, wearing blue jeans and a white shirt. Dark sunglasses conceal his eyes.

> JIM (CONT'D) (startled) Who the fuck are you?

LEVIATHAN I'm not known by many, but my name is Leviathan Melvilli, but for times sake you can call me Levi.

Still looking around, Jim try's to figure out what is going on.

JIM

Well Levi, I hope have some answers for me. How did I get here, and where in the hell is this going?

Levi chuckles at Jim's question's.

LEVIATHAN

Funny you should phrase it that way. All your questions will be answered soon enough, but first, do you remember what happened to you?

JIM I was fucking shot by some crazy bitch!

LEVIATHAN In terms of crazy, what happened the night before?

Jim reaches and wipes the sweat off his forehead. Jim is hesitant to answer.

LEVIATHAN (CONT'D) Maybe I can brings things to light on this subject. Does the name Bonnie ring any bells?

JIM Sure does, we meet at a bar, had some fun, and it ended.

LEVIATHAN That's everything? Do you remember anything else?

Jim shakes his head.

JIM No, not really.

LEVIATHAN This should spark up some of those memories!

Leviathan leans forward and touches Jim on the head. Memories begin to flash before Jim's eyes.

FLASHBACK

INT. LOCAL PUB - NIGHT

-Bonnie approaches Jim.

-Laughing as she places her hand on Jim's leg.

INT. PUB - BATHROOM - NIGHT

-Jim stares coldly into a mirror, an empty pill bottle lays in the sink.

-Bonnie enters and makes a move on Jim.

EXT. LOCAL PUB - NIGHT

-Bonnie runs out of the pub, dress is dirty and ripped.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

-Bonnie running, trying to escape.

-Jim tossing Bonnie to the ground.

-Jim slicing her dress.

-Jim licking the knife blade.

-Bonnie lying on the pavement in a pool of blood.

END FLASHBACK

Jim's eyes snap open and gasps for air.

JIM

What the fuck! How did you do that?

Sweat is pooling at Jim's hairline and raining down Jim's face.

LEVIATHAN

Not important, but do you remember now?

JIM

I killed her, so what! Are you a cop or something?

LEVIATHAN

I guess you are too incompetent to understand the importance of coming clean.

JIM Now why would I confess everything to you? I don't even know who the fuck you are!

Leviathan shakes his head in disappointment.

LEVIATHAN

You still don't fully understand. Your are dead, diseased, gone, you with me so far? I told you my name, now my profession; I'm a gatekeeper, the ferryman, I manage purgatory, and take souls to their destined resting place.

Jim now showing concern, doesn't know to take this guy serious or not.

LEVIATHAN (CONT'D) Your current ticket is a one way to Hell. You are scheduled to burn and suffer for eternity, by the hands of the dark lord.

JIM So confess my sins and come clean, ask for forgiveness, and I can be saved? Isn't that how it works?

LEVIATHAN (Laughing hysterically) If it where only that easy. (MORE)

CONTINUED:

LEVIATHAN (CONT'D) There wouldn't be a need for the underworld.

JIM Well I have to try, there has to be a way!

LEVIATHAN

A slim chance for anyone I'm afraid. But you must to far more than just beg!

JIM Name it! I will do anything!

LEVIATHAN

You must also endure every single ounce of pain you caused all those beautiful innocents. Everything you ever did, will be done onto you!

JIM That's it? I'm already dead, how much worse can it get.

Leviathan grins from ear to ear, excited for what's in store for Jim.

LEVIATHAN Let cleansing begin.

The deathly screams of Jim's victims get louder and louder causing pain to Jim's ears. A strange feeling consumes Jim's body. Keeling over in his seat, he moans in agony. Tears fall from his eye's and blood begins to drip from his nose.

He begins choking and more and more blood is forced from his lips. With one excruciating gasp of pain setting Jim erect, blood pours out of Jim's chest resembling that of a thousand wounds.

He turns over and grabs the bars on the window. Wounds begin to form underneath his shirt, as if he is being lashed by a whip. Painful screams are exhausted between every excruciating blow.

Falling to his knees, he begins to gag and is unable to breath as more and more blood is streaming out of his mouth. Upon lifting his head, his eyes are blackened. Falling to the floor, he begins cringing as if he is being shit stomped by a group of people. Becoming still blood puddles the floor. Jim is exhausted and unable to move or lift his head.

JIM I made it. Why am I still here?

LEVIATHAN Sorry to disappoint, but it takes time and always doesn't work out.

Jim regaining some of his composure, gains just enough strength to get to his knees. Spreading his arms he begins to pray.

JIM

I have never done this in my entire life. Please have mercy and forgive me for all the wrong I have done. Please give me a chance to be cleansed, for I have sinned and have done terrible things. Do not toss me aside and banish me forever. Restore my soul and I am willing to obey you.

Leviathan shakes his head in total disbelief. The bus begins to get brighter and brighter, white light pours through the window making it hard for Jim to see anything.

JIM (CONT'D)

I am here for the taking. I swear I will follow in your footsteps, and be forever your loyal servant.

FADE TO WHITE.

FADE IN-

EXT. BEAUTIFUL GARDEN - DAY

As Jim slowly comes to, all that can be seen is green grass and flowers. In the distance the peaceful sound of chirping birds is heard. Fresh clean air fills Jim's lungs with every breath.

> JIM I can't believe it. It really worked, I'm saved.

Jim jumps to his feet and looks down at himself. He has fresh cloths and looks better than he has in years. Happier than ever, Jim looks up and around.

> JIM (CONT'D) Thank you! Thank you!

Jim reaches in his pants and pulls out his pocket watch. It doesn't tick and the hands have not moved from 9:45 PM.

JIM (CONT'D) Broke? This watch has never stopped working.

Jim now a little worried, winds up the watch but nothing. He begins to tap on the glass and see if it will budge, but still nothing. Out of nowhere-

LEVIATHAN Nice, isn't it?

JIM What are you doing here? I am in heaven right?

LEVIATHAN What do you think?

JIM

Yes! I feel great, better than I have in my whole entire life. My head is clear, no more pain, no more pain.

LEVIATHAN

That's great, I really feel for you. You showed some amazing courage back there. Not many people will do that.

Leviathan walking closer to Jim.

LEVIATHAN (CONT'D) But I have some bad news.

JIM

Bad news?

LEVIATHAN

I do remember telling you that what you did doesn't always work. Well this is one of those cases. Just as Leviathan finishes the light turns to darkness. The place where Jim stood, is nasty. Bubbling ooze spews out of mangled rocks beneath his feet. He is back in his rugged clothes and feels nothing but shame and pain.

JIM No! This can't be happening...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END.