

ROOM 3

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - NIGHT

A few cars dot the parking spaces along the strip of rooms. The motel itself sits at the bottom of a small valley, mountains and forest on all sides. Some of the neon lights in the roadside sign and the sign on the building are burned out.

A MAN IN WHITE (53) and two women walk toward the hotel from the road. The man is wearing a white suit and the women wear modest white dresses.

INT. TRINITY MOTEL - ROOM 6 - NIGHT

The room is lit only by a dim lamp on a nightstand beside the only bed. In the bed, under the sheets, are a man and woman who are naked and out of breath.

DANIEL (34) has a baby-face with the well-trimmed haircut of a businessman and a thin physique. A wedding band hugs his left ring finger. On his face, he wears an expression of confusion, like a child lost in the woods.

Next to him, is MISTI DAWN (30) looks at home in a bar environment: multi-colored highlights in her hair, smoky eyes, and glossy, red lips. Her hoop earrings are removed, on the dresser.

DANIEL

Did you go to school for that?

Misti giggles.

MISTI

You mean "that?"

Daniel chuckles and shifts a bit.

DANIEL

Ha, no! The spirit, medium thing.  
Do they have schools for that?

MISTI

Sort of! Mainly, you're born with the gift to commune with the other side, but there are online classes and mentorships to help you.

DANIEL

I see. Do meetings ever go wrong?  
Like a spirit's pissed and wants  
their niece to hear all about it?

MISTI

Not really. For the most--

A series of inhuman CRASHES and SCREAMS come from outside the room. The lamp on the nightstand flickers a bit, but stays lit. The mini-fridge hums and gurgles. Everything inside the room and on the outside seem to be still and fine.

Daniel's and Misti's wide-open eyes are glued to the door.

DANIEL

What do you make of that?

Misti's expression makes a slow shift from bewilderment to concern.

MISTI

Something's not right here, babe.  
We should see what's the matter.

EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - ROOM 3 - NIGHT

Misti and Daniel step out of their room and look around. Misti wears a hoodie and sweats, no shoes. Daniel wears his untucked dress shirt, dress pants, and untied dress shoes.

At Room 3, the door is open. Lights flicker within the room and a thin cloud of smoke pours out into the night. Misti and Daniel inch closer.

BENNY (49) dashes out of the room and bumps into Misti and Daniel. His black Confederate flag T-shirt is soaked with sweat and blood. His face is wrinkly, unshaven, and dirty. His thinning hair hasn't been washed in days.

MISTI

Are you okay?

BENNY

There's three people who just left.  
I need to find them.

MISTI

Should we call 9-1-1?

BENNY

No! That's okay. I just need to  
find them.

DANIEL

What happened?

BENNY

They came to our room and tried to rob us and killed my friend.

Misti glances inside the room and sees a limp body on a bed covered in large sores that ooze pus. Beer cans, hard liquor bottles, syringes, and a myriad of food wrappers clutter up the place.

ERNEST (43) sits on the floor at the foot of the opposite bed, with a blank stare on his face. His neck is covered in blood, with the same pus-sores on the left side of his face.

ADDIE (89) moans from the back of the room, near the bathroom. Misti rushes into the room before Benny blocks her with his arm.

BENNY

No, ma'am! Ernest can look after her. She's fine, just a little scared. We need to find these people!

MISTI

Are they okay, though?

BENNY

He will be, sure. He just got a little scratch. We need to go find those other folks first, though.

DANIEL

Are you sure? Those sores don't look too good. What are those?

BENNY

Nothing. He's fine. Let's go! We really need to get them people.

MISTI

Do they have guns?

BENNY

I don't think so.

DANIEL

Then how did they kill him? Why didn't you fight back?

BENNY

Long story.

DANIEL

I think we should call the cops...

Benny resigns and reaches for his hip and pulls out a Colt .45. Daniel and Misti freeze before Benny turns the handgrip toward them.

BENNY

One of you good with a gun?

Misti is horrified. Daniel takes the gun without hesitation, checks the safety, releases the clip, inspects it, then reloads it and tucks it into his waistband.

DANIEL

What do they look like?

Misti is astounded.

MISTI

Just like that, you're ready to go hunting?

DANIEL

Sure. It's loaded. Nine bullets, three targets.

BENNY

They're in white. One man, two women. Hard to miss.

Misti glances at the gun.

MISTI

Let's hope we don't miss!

BENNY

You two check around the office and I'll check down on the other side.

Daniel nods. He and Misti head toward the office. Benny walks toward the opposite, unlit end of the motel.

INT. TRINITY MOTEL - ROOM 3 - NIGHT

Ernest surveys the empty room and checks a few of the liquor bottles and beer cans near him. They're all empty. He stands up and makes his way over to the mini-fridge. He grabs the last beer and lights a cigarette.

EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - TREELINE - NIGHT

Benny is at the unlit end of the motel, farthest from the office. He motions to the treeline. The trio in white emerge from the darkness.

MAN IN WHITE

We're ready for the other ones.

Benny is speechless.

BENNY

Both of them.

MAN IN WHITE

You signed a binding contract and expect your payment in full. In order to receive it, we must complete our business with no interruptions.

BENNY

No interruptions, you got it.

EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - OFFICE - NIGHT

Misti and Daniel search the far side of the dark, unoccupied office for the three in white. Daniel does the most searching, Misti is distracted.

MISTI

I'm really worried about that old woman.

DANIEL

Yeah.

MISTI

Don't you think that guy was a little strange?

DANIEL

Yeah...but I have his gun. What's he gonna do?

MISTI

And all that noise? I'm kinda scared because I'm not getting anything. I just wish I knew what that meant. We should go back.

DANIEL

You don't think we should find those people first?

MISTI

For all we know, that guy's just wanting to get us out back and take care of us.

Daniel starts back for Room 3, with Misti behind him.

INT. TRINITY MOTEL - ROOM 3 - NIGHT

Ernest finishes his beer and sits on the bed, near the corpse. The woman is still crying. Ernest talks to her from the bed.

ERNEST

Granny, it'll be okay! They got your daddy, but Uncle Ernie's here.

Addie's moans grow louder. Ernest becomes desperate and turns to the corpse on the bed behind him.

ERNEST

Adam...it all finally caught up with ya, bud.

Ernest grabs his shoulder and cries, but the tears are of the alligator variety.

Misti and Daniel enter the room. Misti goes straight for Addie. Daniel stands beside Ernest, but keeps his distance.

DANIEL

What happened?

Ernest shrugs.

ERNEST

These people that we knew were mad at my brother, Adam. They were supposed to pick up some money, but he stiffed 'em and they killed him.

Misti puts her arm around Addie and cradles her head.

DANIEL

Why didn't they kill you? How'd they kill your brother?

ERNEST

I don't know why they didn't want me. The man just touched him and all of a sudden, he grewed those things on his skin and died.

The series of noises heard before sound off again, this time from behind the motel. Daniel puts his hand on the handgrip of the gun and keeps it there. Misti holds Addie closer to her.

DANIEL

Misti?

She looks at him. He looks at Ernest.

DANIEL

Are you able?

Ernest shakes his head "no." Daniel looks back to Misti.

MISTI

Someone should stay here with her.

ERNEST

Aww, no! She'll be fine with me.

MISTI

I know, but you need to rest.

DANIEL

I'll be back in a bit, hopefully.

Daniel leaves and heads back toward the office. Moments later, the three in white step in the doorway. The two women remain outside on the doorstep. The man enters and walks straight toward Misti and Addie.

EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - NIGHT

Daniel uses the flashlight on his cellphone to light his way. Soon, he comes up on Benny.

BENNY

Did you find them?

DANIEL

No.

BENNY

Where's the girl that was with you?



DANIEL

She's back in the room looking  
after the woman.

Benny's concerned.

BENNY

That's not good. We should get  
back. These people are rough,  
buddy. They might get her if she's  
in there.

DANIEL

How rough?

BENNY

We've dealt with them before on a  
smaller job. They don't seem to be  
from this world. I don't mean  
aliens...like ghosts or angels or  
demons with bodies.

DANIEL

Ghosts? I haven't believed in  
ghosts since I was a kid.

BENNY

I never have, myself. Then I met  
these folks...I'm not sure what to  
believe. We should do what we can.

The two jog around the corner, back to the front of the  
motel.

INT. TRINITY MOTEL - ROOM 3 - NIGHT

The Man in White looks Misti in the eye.

MAN IN WHITE

This one bears the curse of her  
son's sin.

ERNEST

She's innocent, though! This was  
all Adam's idea and he's paid for  
it! Why does she have to suffer?

MAN IN WHITE

It's the law.

ERNEST

What law? This is against every law  
there is!

## MAN IN WHITE

Please understand that your brother deceived and betrayed us. According to our law, we have been greatly dishonored. Justice awaits.

The man places his hand on the Addie's cheek. She starts to whimper, but then fades fast into an eternal slumber. Ernest stares at the corpse, tears form in his eyes. Misti is horrified at the lifeless body in her arms.

Misti explodes.

## MISTI

Why would you do that?

## MAN IN WHITE

Dear lady, please do not try to understand our ways.

The man, without emotion or hesitation, turns away from the baby and starts for the door. As he walks by Ernest, he touches Ernest's cheek, killing him. He exits the room and the three, the man and his two companions, return to the treeline.

## EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - ROOM 3 - NIGHT

Daniel and Benny come to the door. Daniel sees the two bodies on the bed and Misti with the limp body in her arms. He rushes to her. She fights back tears. Benny slips away back to the treeline.

## MISTI

Those people came here and just touched her.

Her tears are unleashed.

## MISTI

These people aren't human. They're spirit and I'm blindsided. I should've seen this coming and got her out of here.

Daniel clears off the bed without bodies on it and pulls off the comforter. He takes Addie's body, lays it on the white sheets, and folds her arms across her stomach, wrapping the white sheet around her. He walks over to Misti and holds her.

## DANIEL

It's okay. I think we're all out of our element here.

EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - TREELINE - NIGHT

Benny approaches the three in white.

BENNY

It's done. When can I expect my payment?

MAN IN WHITE

Oh, we're not finished yet. Who was the other woman?

BENNY

Someone from another room. They had nothing to do with this!

MAN IN WHITE

They? How many are there?

BENNY

Her and her boyfriend.

The man looks to his female companions. They both nod to him.

MAN IN WHITE

Take us to them.

INT. TRINITY MOTEL - ROOM 3 - NIGHT

Benny leads the Man in White to the room, who enters. Benny steps outside the room, with the women. The man walks over to the bed and looks at Addie.

MAN IN WHITE

She's in a better place, you know?

MISTI

You're sure about that?

MAN IN WHITE

Of course, I am. She's been spared from the suffering of this world.

MISTI

Suffering that you caused!

MAN IN WHITE

Come now, you're lucky we've spared you.

Benny is shocked.

BENNY

What? You're sparing them?

MAN IN WHITE

Yes.

BENNY

I thought you--

MAN IN WHITE

Oh, they've dishonored us, too.  
You, most of all. But rather than  
punish you with death, we've  
decided to punish you with life.

Benny is speechless.

BENNY

What did these two do?

MAN IN WHITE

Isn't it obvious? They're having an  
affair, hurting people they've been  
charged to love and cherish.

Misti and Daniel peer at each other.

BENNY

What about me? What did I do?

MAN IN WHITE

You've betrayed your friends and  
caused their deaths. And you wanted  
to add these two to the count. All  
of it for money.

The man pulls a checkbook out of an inner pocket and presents  
it to Benny.

MAN IN WHITE

Here's your payment. A blank  
checkbook. You'll never run out of  
checks and you can have anything  
you want for as long as you want.  
On us. But will it all be worth the  
price you paid for it?

The man approaches Misti and Daniel.

MAN IN WHITE

Your families no longer know you.  
Anyone who stood to be hurt by your  
"fling" has no memory of you.

You're free to stay together, start a family, and continue your searches for "happiness," but this is your new life. Enjoy.

The man heads for the door. He stops, then goes back to Daniel and motions for the gun. Daniel hands it over, then the man gives it back to Benny.

MAN IN WHITE

You might need this to survive with that checkbook!

Benny takes it and stares at it in his hand. The man exits the room. Misti and Daniel return to their room, but with distance between them. Benny doesn't move.

EXT. TRINITY MOTEL - NIGHT

The three in white walk back out to the road and disappear into the night air.

FADE OUT.

THE END