

DEVIL IN
ST LOUIS
-1

EXT. BACK ALLY - NIGHT

MARCO walks out of the back door of a whiskey bar. He stops to see the figure of PERCY WILLIAMS standing in silhouette. Percy walks forward into the light.

MARCO

Well, look here. I thought the devil lived in St. Louis.

PERCY

Hello Marco.

MARCO

Percy.

PERCY

How have you been?

MARCO

I'm alive, aren't I?

PERCY

You certainly look better than I thought you would. A man on the run doesn't usually hold up so well.

MARCO

I got too much living to do.

PERCY

The question is, for how long?

MARCO

Come on, Percy. I stopped running two years ago. No one found me. No one called. Hell, I even got a job. I figured they stopped looking ...stopped caring.

PERCY

You thought wrong, Marco.

MARCO

Okay. So, what, you here to bring me back? Cause that's not going to happen.

PERCY

(laughs)

Come on, Marco. I'm not the guy they're going to send for that.

(CONTINUED)

MARCO

Yeah. That makes sense. So what are you here for?

PERCY

I came by to let you know your little girl ...well, she's not so little anymore...

MARCO

You found her? You've seen Cassie?

Percy hesitates to speak. His head is down.

MARCO

What did you do to her? I swear to God, if you did anything to her, I'll come back and kill every last one of...

PERCY

No, man. It's not what you think. She's fine.

MARCO

Cornelius?

PERCY

He came close. I got to her first. I was supposed to grab her and bring her back to St. Louis, but I couldn't do it.

MARCO

Where is she?

PERCY

She's still in New York.

MARCO

Is she safe?

PERCY

Yeah. I got Cornelius looking for her in Alaska and all over Canada. He's chasing a ghost. Don't worry. No one's going to get her. I promise you that.

MARCO

Okay. What's with the change of heart?

(CONTINUED)

PERCY
Cassie's sick.

MARCO
What do you mean, sick?

PERCY
She's got some kind of bone cancer.

MARCO
Leukemia, her mother had it. Is she going to be alright?

PERCY
They think she has a chance, but they can't find a compatible donor.

MARCO
Bone marrow?

PERCY
Yeah, I figured you'd be her best chance, but you got to get to her now. She's young, but there's a lot of complications.

MARCO
How do I know this isn't some kind of a trap?

PERCY
Marco, come on. If Cornelius knew you were here, you'd be dead already. Hell, if he knew I was standing here just shooting the shit with you, I'd be dead.

MARCO
If I go to New York, will you tell him?

PERCY
This is the deal, Marco. I'll let you go to her. I'll give you a chance to help her ...but that's all I can do. I'll have to let Cornelius know, eventually. You understand?

MARCO
Yeah.

Percy turns and begins to leave into the darkness.

(CONTINUED)

MARCO

Percy.

Percy stops and turns around.

MARCO

Thanks.

PERCY

Don't be thanking me, Marco. I'm
just buying you some time. The
clock's ticking.

Marco stands in the light for a moment, then rushes off.

CUT TO:

END