

(M(H))

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BLOSSOM - #2 Andrew Vachss

BLOSSOM

When do we start looking.

BURKE

I've already started. I'll fill you in tomorrow night.

BLOSSOM

I've told you there's things I could do with you on this.

BURKE

If it's still running when you quit your job, then we'll see.

BLOSSOM

Don't be mad at Virgil. I knew your name wasn't Mitchell Sloane. Sherwood told me.

BURKE

The man opened right up to you, didn't he.

BLOSSOM

Some men do. Why are you in on this?

BURKE

Virgil's my brother.

BLOSSOM

I understand that. But you came to help Lloyd, right.

BURKE

Lloyd's the one needs the help.

BLOSSOM

I know he's been arrested and all, but nobody thinks he did it. Why don't you just go back home.

BURKE

I could never explain it to you. The guy who did this, I was raised with monsters like him. I know why he does it.

BLOSSOM

So you want to stop him before he does it again.

BURKE

No. That's not it. I'm no hero. I told you, I can't explain it.

BLOSSOM

Did Cyndi tell you what I told her about you?

BURKE

To stay away from me?

BLOSSOM

Yes. Did she tell you why?

BURKE

Not exactly.

BLOSSOM

You're a trouble-man, Mr. Burke.

BURKE

Trouble-man. What the hell is that?

BLOSSOM

Men who walk on the edge because they like the way it feels under their feet. Risk-takers.

BURKE

That's not me.

BLOSSOM

Yes it is. Wherever you go there's trouble. Trouble for somebody.

BURKE

Don't worry about it. I won't be around here long.

BLOSSOM

You'll be around here till it gets light anyway. If you came prepared.

BURKE

What do you mean?

BLOSSOM

Something in your wallet. Get it out.

BURKE

What.

BLOSSOM

Jesus, Burke. Don't tell me you don't have any.

BURKE

Any what?

BLOSSOM

Why do you carry that pistol?

BURKE

For protection.

BLOSSOM

Yeah. You wouldn't leave home without it. That the only kind of protection you can think of?

BURKE

Oh.

BLOSSOM

Yeah. Oh. You have any or not?

BURKE

Not.

BLOSSOM

Nice work, boy. You get lucky enough to come along when I'm having an estrogen-fit, then you blow it.

BURKE

Speaking of which...