

BILLY

Start

EXT. BILLY'S HOUSE - DAY

53

Theo, holding his backpack, approaches a dilapidated rectangular brown brick house.

1/6

He looks at the "419" displayed on the door frame, then knocks on the creaky screen door.

No answer. He knocks again -

BILLY (OS)

WHAT!

Theo, confused, calls out through the ripped screen barrier.

THEO

Uh, my name is Theo Fulton, I'm a friend of Luke's. Luke Hanson.

BILLY (OS)

FUCK!

Theo can hear Billy chaotically scrambling through the house - things falling, furniture moving, and soon BILLY, 58, rugged with a scraggly beard, comes to the door.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Who'd you say you were?

THEO

Theo. A friend of Luke's...

(then)

You're Billy?

Billy takes a long look at Theo.

BILLY

You the kid out in LA? The one he used to produce?

Theo nods.

Billy scratches his beard, thinking...he then gestures for Theo to come in, and Theo hesitantly opens the screen door.

54

INT. BILLY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

54

The house is a mess. Pizza boxes. Magazines. Unpaid bills.

But hidden amongst the wreckage, Theo notices photos of a younger Billy with a woman and a four-year-old girl.

BILLY

2.

2/6

BILLY
(re: the mess)
The maid's out this week,
apologies.

Billy cleans some magazines off a chair at the kitchen table,
then motions for Theo to sit.

BILLY (CONT'D)
So Lukey off'd himself, huh?

Theo is taken aback by Billy's bluntness.

BILLY (CONT'D)
(sincere)
Lucky bastard.

THEO
How did you know Luke?

BILLY
Just the local scene. Saw him
around once or twice.

Theo has a feeling that Billy is withholding information.

THEO
I didn't see you at the wake?

BILLY
I don't go to shit like that.

Theo is struggling to put two-and-two together...

THEO
So, are you a musician?

BILLY
Not anymore.

THEO
How come?

BILLY
Look man, I got a lot going on, so
what are you here for?

Theo, a bit scattered, reaches into his backpack and pulls
out the box.

THEO
Luke left this for me. It's all of
our old demos and songs.

BILLY

3.

Theo slides the box to Billy. Billy thumbs through the contents.

THEO (CONT'D)

3/6

And inside, there was a letter he wrote that had your name and address on it.

(then)

So I don't know...were you two planning on -

Billy chuckles and shoves the box back towards Theo.

BILLY

That motherfucker.

THEO

What?

BILLY

(to himself)

Fuckin' with me from the grave.

(then, to Theo)

Alright, it was nice to meet you.

Billy stands up and signals for Theo to leave.

THEO

Wait -

Theo picks up the box.

BILLY

I'm sorry about your friend.

THEO

But Luke obviously wanted us to meet -

BILLY

And we met and had a lovely conversation.

Billy leads Theo onto -

54A

EXT. BILLY'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MORNING

54A

THEO

Shouldn't we talk about -

BILLY

4.

4/6

BILLY

Look, I don't know who the fuck you are - I don't care what your dead friend wanted us to talk about or not - I'm fucking busy.

(then)

Don't come back.

Billy slams the door shut on Theo. **Stop**

Start

EXT. BILLY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

108

Theo and Billy sit by a crackling fire pit, drinking a couple of beers.

THEO

That solo was something else, man.

Billy, preoccupied, chuckles.

BILLY

I was a bit rusty...

Billy adjusts the kindling in the fire pit with his foot, while Theo shakes his head in disbelief.

THEO

Wish I could be that rusty.

Billy forces a smile, then takes a swig of beer, his countenance darkening...

BILLY

I broke my rule for you.

Theo furrows his brow.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Twenty-five years ago I promised myself I'd never make another song.

Theo sits with that for a moment, then -

THEO

What changed?

BILLY

That thing you said to me...about how doing the songs couldn't fix things with Luke, but it could maybe get you closer to making things a little bit more right.

Theo nods, remembering.

BILLY (CONT'D)

We had just gotten back from touring in Europe. And my wife was wiped from all the travel, so I told her to go out of town with her friends for a few days to relax - that me and the babysitter would handle things with our daughter, Kaylee.

(then)

That week, me and the band had to finish up some stuff for our second album, and one day, the babysitter drove Kaylee down to the studio to say hi.

(then)

But when she got there, Kaylee started throwing these tantrums - I mean, she was four - so I told the babysitter to take her back to the house. That I'd be home soon. And Kaylee said, "No, daddy. I want you to take me home."

(then)

But I couldn't...I had work to do.

Billy looks off, filled with regret.

BILLY (CONT'D)

And on their drive back, a car ran a red, and that was it.

THEO

(overwhelmed with sadness)

I'm so sorry, Billy.

BILLY

I don't know how, but my wife was able to forgive me...but I -

Billy wipes his face and looks away from the fire.

BILLY (CONT'D)

I tried...to fix things...but no matter what I did, I couldn't.

(then)

Not even a little bit.

(then)

And after awhile, I packed up all my shit and moved down here.

BILLY

Blue Rev. (mm/dd/yy)

6.

THEO
Why Winston?

6/6

BILLY
First ever tour with my band we
came through here...and I don't
know, something about this little
town stuck with me...thought it
might be a good spot to hide out
for a minute.

THEO
How'd you meet Luke?

BILLY
Opera House. Couple years back.
(then)
He'd come in by himself, and one
day we just got to talking...about
LA. I told him some stuff about the
band - how I wasn't doing music
anymore...
(then)
And that's when you came up...how
you stopped making music, too.

Theo takes that in, a flurry of emotions moving through him.

THEO
Did he tell you what happened?

Billy takes a long look at Theo, then nods, a sadness in his
gaze.

BILLY
But man, if he could've seen you
today? Poor kid might've been able
to cut himself some slack...maybe
just a little bit.

Theo takes a sip and looks off into the night, bittersweet.

*

Stop