

TELL NO TALES

EXT SWAMP - NIGHT (PRESENT)

Dull green water shines in the light of a FULL MOON. INSECT and FROG CALLS.

Approaching splashing sounds.

Two Men, CASH and HANK, slog through the swamp. The water comes up to their chests. They carry their clothes/shoes over their head.

EXT SWAMP - SAME

Hank can't move. He tries lifting his leg but it is trapped by something below.

Cash keeps going as Hank wrestles to free his foot.

Hank drops his clothes, reaches under the water frantically tugging and pulling.

HANK

Cash, Cash, get back here.

Cash turns.

HANK

Goddamn foot is caught.

Cash starts back to Hank, hears a SIREN, turns away.

HANK

Don't leave me.

Cash ignores him, presses onward.

Hank, angry and desperate.

HANK

Bastard. They get me they get you too.

Cash stops.

HANK

Yeah.

Cash pushes back through the slime to Hank.

HANK

Give me ya hand.

Cash avoids Hank's outstretched hand at the last moment. He slaps his hand on Hank's head and rises up in the air as he shoves Hank's head under the water.

Cash presses down with all his weight as Hank struggles desperately to break free.

Shortly Hank goes limp. Cash gives one last hard shove.

The green water settles over where Hank went under leaving no sign of him.

EXT SWAMP - SAME

Cash dresses on shore. He gets his bearings, listens for sounds before pushing off into the woods.

EXT ROADSIDE - NIGHT

A CAR, lights out, parked off the road under a tree.

A Big MAN, BILLY, kneels by the rear wheel assembling a TIRE-JACK as he anxiously looks about.

CASH

peers from the bushes by the side of the road. He steps out and walks to the car.

Billy drops the tire-jack and throws open the back door of the car. Cash steps in and Billy hops in behind him.

INT CAR - SAME

Behind the wheel, CHARLIE; Cash and Billy in the back.

Charlie turns on the interior Dome Light.

Cash shields his face.

CASH

Snuff that.

The light goes off.

Charlie, a thin, pinched faced, small Man, continues peering through the darkness at Cash.

CHARLIE

Where's Hank?

CASH

Got snagged.

Charlie nods his head several times before turning around.

Billy smiles. Hands Cash a folded-up suit and shirt.

BILLY

Good to see ya, Cash.

CASH

Billy.

EXT CAR - SAME

The Car swerves as it tears into the gravel and rips down the road.

INT CAR - SAME

CHARLIE

We'll make the cabin in an hour.

CASH

I wanna see Sam, Pierre and Skink.

CHARLIE

Yeah, sure but first I figured--

CASH

Don't figure nuthin'.

BILLY

We got Pierre and Skink tagged  
but Sams' been laying low.

Cash grunts.

BILLY

Sam'll turn up. Pierres' checked  
inta a fleabag in Midtown,  
Charlie, head for Midtown.

The car squeals into a U-turn and speeds off.

EXT MIDTOWN SIDE-STREET - NIGHT

Charlie leans against the car, checks out the street crowd  
before opening the back door.

Cash steps from the car, Billy from the other side.

Charlie scoots around the car, hops in behind the 'wheel'.

Cash and Billy enter a small door with the sign "HOTEL" on  
the torn awning above it.

INT HOTEL - SAME

Cash and Billy climb two flights of a narrow, dimly lit  
staircase. At the top they push open another door.

INT LOBBY - SAME

They step into a cramped, again dimly lit, lobby.

Two broken VENDING MACHINES. A drowsy, half-drunk MAN, the  
NIGHT CLERK, watches a tiny TV behind a small countertop.

When Cash speaks the Night Clerk jumps.

CASH  
Pierre Grappe; what room?

The Night Clerk scrutinizes the two men.

NIGHT CLERK  
You fellas cops?

Cash and Billy don't react at all.

The Night Clerk adjusts his glasses and scans the Registry.

NIGHT CLERK  
Grappe, Grappe. Don't see any  
Pierre Grappe. Guess he's not here.

Weak smile.

Billy pulls a GUN from under his coat, levels it at the  
Night Clerk who raises his shaking hands over his head.

CASH  
Guess again. Got an accent and a  
gimpy leg.

The Night Clerk sobering quickly and scared.

NIGHT CLERK  
You might mean..... Mr. King..... 202.

Cash studies the stairs.

CASH  
Fire-escape?

The Night Clerk shakes his head 'no'.

NIGHT CLERK  
You step out the window you  
better be a bird.

He makes an attempt to laugh but quickly drops it.

Cash gives a short smile to the Night Clerk then looks to  
Billy and gestures with his head to the Night Clerk.

CASH

Gimme a minute.

Billy smiles at the Night Clerk.

INT STAIRS - SAME

Cash comes to the top step, moves softly down the hallway noting the numbers on the doors.

He stops outside 202.

INT HALLWAY - SAME

The sharp explosion of TWO GUNSHOTS in the Lobby reverberates off the walls upstairs.

A moment later the door to Room 202 flies open and a MAN, PIERRE GRAPPE limps out and into Cash's arms.

Pierre's eyes go wide in fear.

PIERRE

Merde.

Cash stabs Pierre in the stomach and he doubles over.

Pierre falls to the floor as Cash pushes him off the knife then wipes the blade clean on Pierre's shirt.

INT LOBBY - SAME

Cash steps off the stairs and crosses the Lobby to the outer door. Billy pockets his gun and follows.

As Billy steps away from the counter a pool of BLOOD spreads slowly across on the floor.

EXT CAR - NIGHT

The Car pulls away from the curb and is swallowed up in the Midtown traffic.

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