

Billy

By

Simon Colligan

[simon@colliganweb.co.uk](mailto:simon@colliganweb.co.uk)

INT. BEDSIT - DAY

A dilapidated room, in mid-light. Belongings scattered in a ramshackle fashion.

A BED

flush against a wall - on it, rocking gently, BILLY (22). Happy, he taps his fingers like he's praying.

By the door - RASH (26), chaotically searches for ...

RASH  
Billy! Stop.

BILLY  
Wha' you lost?

RASH  
Haven't lost anything.

Rash looks across to Billy -

RASH (CONT)  
Have you moved anything?

Billy shakes his head, wildly.

RASH (CONT)  
Touched anything?

And with a big wide grin, the thrashing head says "no".

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Billy and Rash.

Rash searches his pockets, draws out a crumpled currency note.

Billy rocks heel to toe, flicks his wrist here and there, inches from his face.

Rash faces Billy, trying to drag his attention.

RASH  
Wait here. Do you understand?

Frantic nodding.

Rash heads to the store. Billy follows.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Owner's a rotund Asian - points to the exit the minute he lays eyes on Billy.

OWNER

C'mon. You know the drill.

Rash grabs a loaf of bread and a bottle of milk - slaps them on the counter - the owner's seeing Billy out - a woman's behind the counter - Rash pushes the money to her ...

RASH

The rest tomorrow?

She shakes her head, resigned.

WOMAN

Pay.

Owner's escorting Billy out - Rash's following him up - to the owner ...

RASH

Tomorrow ... ?

OWNER

How many tomorrows are there?

RASH

I promise.

OWNER

Always promise.

EXT. GROCERY STORE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Rash's guiding Billy out. Owner's coming too.

OWNER (CONT'D)

Never pay.

INT. BEDSIT - DAY

At a table crowded with books, magazines, clutter - Rash and Billy eat. Billy's happy as Larry. Rash frowns.

WEIGHING SCALES

Billy reads eight stone.

BATHROOM

Rash scrubs Billy in the bathtub as Billy flicks water.

INSERT: Gas Bill: "\$50.00"

Rash screw it up, chucks it on the floor.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Like a Private Eye's place.

Billy sits opposite DOG, (55).

DOG  
And whatcha' wunt the cash fo'?

RASH  
Enterprise.

DOG  
Enterprise?

RASH  
New idea --

DOG  
Like the star ship?

RASH  
Business. New ideas. New ... blue  
sky ... thinking.

DOG  
Wuz the business?

RASH  
It's ...

DOG  
You got a business, don'cha?

Rash nods.

RASH  
Absolutely.

A beat.

DOG  
An' it's --

RASH  
Selling.

DOG  
Not that I give a hoot.

Billy gives a real slow nod.

DOG (CONT'D)  
Rate's fifty.

RASH  
It's ... ?

DOG  
Percent. Fifty.

RASH  
That's ... fine.

DOG  
A day.

INT. BEDSIT - DAY

Billy and Rash at the table.

Rash has got the money in his hand.

RASH  
I was hoping --

Billy rocks back and forth - happy as ever.

Rash tucks the money away.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Bread and milk on the counter - an Asian lady shakes her head - Rash in front of her - pleading.

Owner's pushing Billy out.

RASH  
(quietly)  
Tomorrow.

The woman looks toward Billy, shakes her head some more.

RASH (CONT)  
I've got to feed him.

He moves away from the counter - backing up, the bread and milk to his chest. A hand reaches out - one on the bread, one on the milk, and --

OWNER  
No more tomorrow.

Rash clutches tighter.

INT. BEDSIT - DAY

Billy and Rash, at the table - they eat.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Dog's looking pissed. Rash opposite him.

DOG  
You can give it back, but the rate applies.

Rash is taken aback.

RASH  
I haven't had it a day.

DOG  
Rate applies from the moment you take it, 'till twenty fo' hours later.

Painful.

DOG  
You want to give it back go head, boy. With fifty pu'cent on top. 's the agreement. You 'greed to it.

RASH  
I ain't got ...

DOG  
Ain't got ain't in the 'greement.

A long beat.

RASH  
(eyes closed)  
Shhhh --

DOG  
-- it?

EXT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Rash and Billy outside the store - near the door.

The Owner's the other side - guilty look on his face as he slides the lock across the door - won't look at Rash - pulls the 'CLOSED' sign up.

Billy rocks to and fro - big fat grin on his face.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Rash and Billy look up to an first floor office.

RASH  
Remember what I said Billy?

Billy nods frantic.

RASH  
What did I say?

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Billy's sat opposite Dog. Dog looks gob-smacked.

Billy's never been happier.

DOG  
Wut in hell ju jus' say?

And Billy's off - rocking like there's no tomorrow.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Rash's looking frantic. Bangs on a door. Looks up to the first floor office.

INT. BEDSIT - DAY

Rash - still frantic, on a phone.

RASH  
 (to phone)  
 Where is he? What have you done  
 with him?

EXT. DERELICT CAR-PARK - DAY

Rash looks around - anxious.

At a distance, a car pulls into view.

CAR

Billy and Dog in the rear seats.

RASH

turns to check the car. He watches it halt - Dog exits and  
 ambles toward Billy.

RASH  
 Give him back. I'm begging you.

Dog halts, observes his surrounding, spits on the ground.

DOG  
 Don't know I can rightly do that.

RASH  
 He's all I've got.

DOG  
 After what you done to him.

RASH  
 What I --

DOG  
 What yu' send him up fo'?

Rash runs his hands through his hair.

RASH  
 I can get the money.

DOG  
 Well it ain't about the cash now,  
 ain't it?

RASH

He needs me. I'm his only family.

DOG

He got a clean place now. Food, 'n good clothes. Lookin' after him like you ain't.

RASH

And what's he doing? All day?

DOG

Working out a bit here 'n there.

RASH

Working?

DOG

Cleaning this 'n --

RASH

Like a slave?

DOG

Man's gotta have some occupation - keep his mind right.

RASH

He's my brother.

DOG

I wouldn't treat a dog like you treat him. Whatcha' think? We wuz gonna give you a beatin'? So you sent him 'nstead.

Dog looks back at the car - Billy grinning like a maniac.

RASH

It wasn't --

DOG

So what you send him up fo'?

RASH

I can get your money. I promise. I'll do anything.

DOG

Kid's happy a' Larry.

RASH  
He always is.

DOG  
Holding on to him f' now.

RASH  
You can't -- keep him?

DOG  
Well that's what I'm gonna do.  
Should treat yu' brother with a  
little mo' respect.

Dog begins to turn toward the car.

RASH  
Dog!

DOG  
Ain't about the cash no more.

Dog turns his head to Rash.

DOG  
He's a good kid 'n deserves better  
than you give him.

RASH  
Dog!

DOG  
See y'round.

FADE OUT: