

EXT. SIDEWALK UNDER LAMPOST-NIGHT

The camera pans down from the lamppost and we find Daphne gazing up at the night sky. She is dressed all in black as if for a funeral. She sits on a bench and wipes tears away with a handkerchief.

SIMON (V.O.)

That's Daphne. She's waiting for me. I'm so close I could almost touch her. But her eyes are on the cosmos. She's a million miles away. How long will she wait for me?

DAPHNE

Where are you, Simon? I've been waiting forever. I know you're out there. Please come back to me.

SIMON (V.O.)

Wait for me, darling. There's something I need to do first. Or do again. It's all...hazy. Need to be somewhere. With some lowlifes. In a hotel. Which hotel? I'm drifting again...

INT. HOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

Two men dressed in suits, Tyler and Haikuri, wait impatiently. Tyler looks out the window. We see everything from Simon's point of view.

TYLER

There's nobody out there. No cars. No people. No birds. No dogs. It's like the entire world's asleep.

HAIKURI

How many times are you gonna look out the window and repeat yourself?

TYLER

Just thinking out loud, my friend. Hey, man. What time is it?

Tyler sits in his chair again.

HAIKURI

Time for you to get a watch.

TYLER

Very funny, asshole. I told you the clock on the wall stopped. How long have we been here?

HAIKURI

Three hours and change. Are you sure he's coming?

SIMON

Coming? Fellas, I'm already here.

TYLER

Nobody asked you, simple Simon. You were gone long enough. Did you bring the beer?

CU: On Simon's hand holding a six pack of beer.

Simon sets the beer and car keys on the table.

CU: On the keys. They have blood on them.

SIMON

(To himself)

Did I kill somebody with these keys?

(To Tyler and Haikuri)

Yeah. The beer's right here.

Haikuri motions for a can and Simon tosses him one.

HAIKURI

Not a moment too soon, man.

Tyler gets up again and peers out the window at the city below.

TYLER

He's coming, all right, my friends. I've never met him before but my associates tell me that the man from Belfast never misses an exchange.

Haikuri flips through pages of a pocket note pad.

HAIKURI

Belfast? You mean like Ireland-Belfast?

TYLER

(Turns to face him)

Do you know of another one? Look, it's all gonna work out, man. The Yakuza provide the guns and my boys provide the muscle. That's the deal. Short and sweet.

SIMON (V.O.)

What am I doing here? Who are these clowns? What the hell is a Yakuza? Is that like Yatzi?

Laura enters from the door. Tyler momentarily raises his gun towards her but immediately lowers it. She walks toward Tyler and embraces him.

LAURA

I did just like you asked, baby. I saw him. I saw Belfast. He's in the parking lot. He's alone. He's unarmed. I was so scared he'd see me. Hold me, Tyler.

HAIKURI

Another one of your Wilshire corridor floozies, Tyler?

SIMON (V.O.)

Should I high-five this dirtbag or be offended? She's way out of his league.

LAURA

You'd better hold your tongue before you trip over it, Haikuri.

SIMON

I like her.

HAIKURI

How do you know my name? Have we met before?

TYLER

I feel like I'm coming into this movie halfway through. What's the rumpus, Ms., um...

LAURA

No matter how hammered you are, nobody forgets Laura Mulligan.

SIMON

Nice. Do we all get code names?

Everyone gives Simon an annoyed look.

HAIKURI

I wish I was hammered. I'd kill for some Scotch right about now.

EXT. PARK BENCH-NIGHT

DAPHNE

Simon. You need to focus, baby.

She smiles, lights a cigarette, and blows smoke at the camera. The smoke slightly obscures her face.

DAPHNE (CONT'D)
Belfast. He's the one to watch out
for. Don't trust him. Get out of there!

INT. HOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

SIMON
Daphne? Where is Belfast?

Laura suddenly becomes agitated. She snaps her fingers in
front of Simon's face.

LAURA
(To Simon)
You still going on about that Daphne
business? You best forget her, hot
stuff. You've got bigger fish to fry
tonight.
(To Tyler and Haikuri)
Look, if none of you has the coins
to rub together to make sense, I'm
gonna save myself at least. I'll be
in the bathroom until the deal goes
down. Do be careful, my love.

Laura kisses a perplexed Tyler and then hides herself in the
bathroom.

TYLER
I have got to stop wining and dining
dames in Santa Monica.

SIMON
I don't trust this Belfast. It doesn't
feel right, guys.

HAIKURI
(Checks gun clip)
I just want my money. I've worked hard
to broker this deal. Got some blood
on my hands, sure. But I'm not ready
for jail, you feel me?

Tyler wipes his handkerchief under his hat and then puts it
back in his pocket.

TYLER
You're not the only one with blood
on your hands, Haikuri. If it weren't
for the money, you and I aren't even
having this conversation. Do you feel
me?

DAPHNE (V.O.)
Smoke and mirrors, baby.

Simon hears Daphne's voice and looks over his shoulder.

SIMON POV: The door to the bathroom is open. We see Laura whispering to someone behind the door. She moves away from the door.

In the mirror, we see Daphne's reflection. She looks right at Simon and slowly shakes her head 'no' and mouths the word "Run!" Her reflection leaves the mirror frame. A red light begins shining in the bathroom and then the door suddenly slams shut.

SIMON
(To Tyler and Haikuri)
You two sure are touchy-feely
tonight. What gives?

A man in a suit coat and bowler hat, Belfast, steps out of the shadows on the far side of the room. He has a large bag with him. He tosses the bag onto the table, startling both Haikuri and Tyler.

Haikuri draws his gun.

TYLER
Jesus Christ!

BELFAST
Hardly. Nice to see you both again,
gentleman. Have you had time to
consider my offer?

Haikuri holster his gun.

HAIKURI
'Again'? You talk in riddles,
Belfast.

BELFAST
(Laughs)
Aye. I get that a lot. Now, if you'd
like to count the money, I think you'll
find that it's all there, as agreed.

Tyler opens the duffle bag and peers inside and moves his hand around.

SIMON
Why is it always about the money?

HAIKURI
Well? Is it all there?

TYLER
It appears to be, yes.

HAIKURI
(Points gun at Belfast)

Now, if you don't mind, Belfast. We'll be taking our money, your money, and your life. Tyler, now!

SIMON
Tyler, no! He's--

Three shots ring out in quick succession.

CU: on Tyler's face as he raises his gun but soon grimaces in pain.

Laura blows smoke from the end of her gun barrel.

LAURA
Bull's-eye.

The camera pans back to reveal that Haikuri and Tyler have both suffered fatal shots to the chest.

SIMON'S POV: The camera pans down to show blood oozing from his white shirt.

INT. DIVE BAR-NIGHT

Daphne lowers her wine glass and tears slide down her cheeks. She faces the camera while her friends silently converse around the table.

DAPHNE
Oh, Simon, no. Not again, baby. I'm waiting right here. In our favorite diver bar. Just like I told you. Smoke and mirrors. Don't trust Belfast. He's--

Daphne is suddenly silenced by her nearest 'friend,' dressed in Red, who clamps her hand over her mouth, and jerks her backwards further into the booth. The room is enveloped in darkness.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

SIMON (V.O.)
Daphne? Daphne, where did you--? It was him, wasn't it? Oh, Christ. I can't move.

Simon slowly sinks to his knees in pain and then leans back against the wall.

LAURA
Daphne? She can't help you here, chief. You're all alone.

BELFAST

Oh, my naive, impulsive boys. I see that time has not cured you of your lust for blood and glory.

Laura embraces Belfast and kisses his cheek.

BELFAST (CONT'D)

(To Laura)

You played your part beautifully, my dear.

Laura curtsies.

LAURA

Thanks, hot stuff. I mean...boss.

BELFAST

(To Tyler and Haikuri
in a Russian accent)

And as for you fools, I grow tired of the predictable outcome. Perhaps twenty years in this tiny room is more than enough, I think. When next you see me, it will be for the last time.

Belfast laughs long and hard. He snaps his fingers and disappears.

Laura kneels next to Simon and regards him. She leans forward as if to kiss him. Her lips hover above his as she sticks a finger into his wound and licks the blood off inches from his face.

LAURA

(To Simon)

Mmm... You're tasty. I think I'll slice into you first. Until later, lover boy.

She winks at him, stands, and leaves through the door.

DAPHNE (V.O.)

Run, Simon! The window! Now! Go!

Simon staggers to his feet. He goes to the hotel window, opens it, and peers down.

SIMON POV: The window appears to be at least ten stories up.

SIMON

No fucking way!

DAPHNE (V.O.)

Smoke and mirrors, baby. I'll be here to catch you. I'm waiting for you. Trust me. You have to jump. Hurry! Jump now!

Simon climbs out the window and falls.

EXT. PARK-NIGHT

Old Simon falls seemingly from nowhere less than four feet.

Old Simon POV: He looks down at his wound but there is no blood.

A woman is standing by a nearby bark bench under a lamppost. She turns and sees Simon staggering towards her. She stands and stares at him.

OLD DAPHNE

Simon, is that you? Oh my god! It is you!

OLD SIMON

Daphne? What happened? How long was I gone?

Old Simon regards his weathered hands under the light.

Old Daphne pulls him into a hug.

OLD DAPHNE

You were lost but I never gave up. I came here, to our favorite spot by the sea. Every weekend. I've waited so long for you, baby.

OLD SIMON

I don't know where I was but... It was hell. It was... There were these other two fellas stuck there with me.

Old Daphne can see that Old Simon is upset. She pulls him into a kiss.

OLD DAPHNE

It doesn't matter now, dear. You're here. You're home. I'm never letting you go again.

They begin to walk away into the dark and towards the busy street below.

OLD SIMON (V.O.)

There were two of them... Poor bastards.

INT. HOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

Tyler and Haikuri awake up as if from a nap. Their clothes are completely clean. Tyler goes to the window.

TYLER

(Looking out window)
Nobody's out there. No cars. No
people. No birds. No dogs. It's like
the entire world's asleep.

HAIKURI

How many times are you gonna look out
that window and repeat yourself?

TYLER

(Closes his eyes)
To hell with this. I'm gonna bail.
I don't want whatever this Belfast
guy is selling that badly. I'm outta
here. What's the matter, Haikuri? Cat
got your tongue?

As soon as Tyler closes his eyes, in the reflection of the
window, we see Belfast's shadow moving towards the table.
We see the vague shadow of a grotesque gargoyle creature with
wings, claws, and fangs on the wall.

The shadow falls over Haikuri just as he sees it and glances
upward in horror.

CUT TO BLACK.

Haikuri screams in pain.

TYLER (V.O.)

Her teeth! Oh God! Her teeth!