

ASH & BONE

Written by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. INCINERATION PLANT - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

DEAN COLVIN sits at an operator's chair, using a joystick to control a large crane-claw-device.

In front of him is a vast storage area, though it's almost empty of industrial waste.

MONITORS to his left show surveillance camera feeds of the trash sifting down onto moving grates that carry it to the incinerator itself. Other feeds show the parking lot of the facility.

Dean manipulates the controls to scoop up some garbage and dump it closer to the incinerator intake grate.

This is basically a giant version of the arcade "claw game". And like the claw game, no one wins.

Dean's phone, set besides him at his station, BUZZES.

He checks it.

"BILLY" is calling. Dean lets it go to voicemail. When it does we note the time - 1:45AM.

Dean notices a WHITE VAN pull into the parking lot on the surveillance feed.

He quickly pockets his phone and exits.

EXT. INCINERATION PLANT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Dean shuffles out to the parking lot. His brand-new-looking pickup truck and the white van are the only vehicles in it.

MOODY BLUES whispers out of the van's stereo system before it shuts off.

ROLAND KING, the driver of the white van, steps out, NODS to Dean and circles around to the side of the van to open the sliding door.

It shifts aside, revealing...

THREE BODY BAGS piled up inside the van.

The only other item inside the van is a GUITAR CASE.

Roland has a TATOO on his neck that Dean peaks at, and quickly looks away from.

It's a TOMBSTONE, with Roland's name, and these dates inscribed on it:

12.18.76-2.22.12

In other words, going by the gravestone on his neck tattoo, Roland died seven years ago.

Without a word to each other, Dean and Roland work together to move the body bags out of the van.

INT. INCINERATION PLANT - DUMP - NIGHT

They take the body bags to the edge of the dump site where we saw Dean moving waste prior with the claw.

It's meant to hold literal TONS of waste. But because it's almost empty, now it's a huge expanse, like standing on the edge of a cliff.

Dean and Roland methodically heave-ho the body bags into the dump. They land with a soft THUD far down below.

When that's done, Roland hands Dean a white envelope. Dean opens it and leafs through the cash.

SIX GRAND in HUNDREDS.

Roland walks away without saying a word.

INT. INCINERATION PLANT - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Dean returns to his operator's seat and uses the giant claw to scoop up the bodies.

The claw is too big to take them solo, and on the first attempt they wriggle out and fall.

Dean has to bunch them with other trash and try again to move them closer to the incinerator grate.

He checks on yet another monitor as they go directly into the incinerator and start the process of burning up.

INT. INCINERATION FACILITY - BOTTOM ASH CACHE - NIGHT

Dean uses a hand SCOOP to collect some ASH into an urn.

He can't know for sure, given the mixture of general waste and human corpses, if he's getting the entirety of the bodies' ashes, but he's likely getting most of it.

INT. DEAN'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Dean climbs into his pristine pickup truck and sets the urn between his legs.

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

Dean drives down a rural road, passing a nearby landfill, which is practically OVERFLOWING with trash.

He GIVES THE LANDFILL THE FINGER and keeps driving.

EXT. CUYAHOGA RIVER - NIGHT

Dean traipses down to the bank of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River and SCATTERS THE ASHES from the urn.

He takes the urn back with him to the truck.

He'll need it again later.

EXT. DEAN'S HOME - NIGHT

Dean pulls his truck into the driveway of a little one-story house in East Cleveland.

There's another vehicle in the driveway, a beat-down blue SUV.

As Dean parks, his half-brother **BILLY RUSKIN** unfurls himself from the driver's seat of the SUV. Billy is six-foot-seven.

Billy flashes Dean an easy grin, as Dean descends from the truck.

DEAN

Is there a number?

BILLY

I can't just show up and say hi?

DEAN

Sure, you can. But you can do that during the day.

BILLY
Okay.

DEAN
Okay, like yes?

BILLY
Yes. You know it makes me want to--

DEAN
--I know. Just tell me.

BILLY
I need two grand.

DEAN
Fine. It's done.

BILLY
That's it?

DEAN
Yeah. You coming in?

BILLY
Sure.

INT. DEAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Billy leads the way into the kitchen, and automatically lets Dean's old Bassett hound, ROSIE, out the backdoor into the backyard.

Dean follows Rosie into the backyard while Billy fixes himself a drink in the kitchen.

EXT. DEAN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Dean kneels down to get to eye level with Rosie, who sniffs him and licks his face.

He raises her long ears, checking them for wax buildup.

DEAN
We'll have to get the q-tip later,
girl.

BILLY (O.S.)
I'm sorry.

Billy steps out behind Dean, into the backyard.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Really.

DEAN

I know.

BILLY

Maybe it'd be easier on everyone if I wasn't around, you know?

Dean snaps his head around to look at Billy.

DEAN

What kind of thing to say is that?

BILLY

Nothing. Sorry.

DEAN

Why would you say that?

BILLY

Forget it. You're right. Stupid thing to say.

DEAN

("I love you")

If that's some kind of suicidal thing, man, I've spent way too much money bailing you out for you to do that to me.

BILLY

("I love you too")

I wouldn't do that to you.

DEAN

Then why did you say that?

BILLY

Just, because I'm an asshole, alright? You need more explanation than that?

DEAN

Something else going on?

BILLY

No.

DEAN

You sure?

BILLY

Just had a lot fall on me at once.
That ER bill for Wes went into
collections. Risa needs braces. Liv
got laid off.

DEAN

When?

Billy wanders over to Rosie and rubs her butt, which make her
sprawl out on the grass and roll around.

Without preamble, Billy gets down and rolls right around with
Rosie, mimicking her.

DEAN (CONT'D)

I haven't picked up, man. There's
shit out here.

BILLY

Good. I'll fit right in.

INT. INCINERATION PLANT - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

Dean's back at his operator's seat in the control room.
There's nothing to do tonight but wait.

He keeps checking the monitors, and eventually the WHITE VAN
appears.

EXT. INCINERATION PLANT - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Dean greets Roland in the parking lot as usual.

Roland shuts off the van and the moody blues along with it,
and gets out.

ROLAND

Couldn't fit in the bag.

Roland pulls open the side door.

There's only one body bag tonight.

But this one's *different*.

Roland's cut a hole in the bottom. Two STEEL-TOED WORK BOOTS
stick through the hole, wrapped in plastic.

Dean reacts, subtly, to the sight.

ROLAND (CONT'D)
Something wrong?

DEAN
No.

ROLAND
Need to get moving.

Dean helps Roland carry the bag in.

INT. INCINERATION PLANT - DUMP - NIGHT

Dean stops prior to the ledge.

DEAN
I can take it from here if you're
in a rush.

ROLAND
Thanks.

Roland gives Dean another white envelope. Two grand in cash,
for just the one body.

Roland leaves.

Dean waits until he's certain Roland's gone.

He kneels down by the bag.

Dean UNZIPS the body bag...

...Billy's big dead face stares back at him from it.

END OF TEASER