

Till Death Do Us Part

Written by

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"Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned"
William Congreve

INT. MRS. COX'S HOUSE - DAY

WILLIAM BROWN (61), serious and exhausted, sits on a chair by a coffee table. He wears a BADGE that says "DET. BROWN - Private Investigator". In front of him, MRS. COX (71), kind looking and warm. She serves two cups of tea.

WILLIAM

So I am looking for a key, ma'am?

MRS. COX

Yes, my skeleton key. I miss it dearly, I got it in Mexico celebrating Día de los Muertos.

William takes a sip of the tea and leans forward.

WILLIAM

Do you have any idea of where you might have lost it?

MRS. COX

Oh I know where it is, it is in Cinnamon Hills Retirement Home.

William shrugs, surprised, and puts the tea down.

WILLIAM

So you know where the key is. Why did you call me?

MRS. COX

I don't know who took it. You see, two old friends reside in that hospice, Bob Orchard and John Benson. We go way back. I know one of them took the key, but not sure which one, or why.

William SIGHS. Mrs. Cox smiles.

WILLIAM

I see. You know this is an expensive service, correct?

MRS. COX

Yes, please, detective. I will pay handsomely for the return of my key.

William nods and stands up.

WILLIAM

In that case, off I go. Thank you for the tea, Mrs. Cox. I'll be sure to bring you your key back.

Mrs. Cox brings her hands together and smiles again.

EXT. CINNAMON HILLS ROAD - DAY

William drives through a rural road. He looks at the sky.

He parks outside of an old-looking building that reads "CINNAMON HILLS RETIREMENT HOME".

He opens his glove box and an old newspaper drops to the floor. In the front page, a picture of a young William wearing a police badge next to a YOUNG MAN, in handcuffs. It reads

"GENE ROBERTSON TO DO LIFE IN PRISON"

William GROANS and leaves it in the passenger seat. He grabs a box of cigarettes and leaves the car.

INT. CINNAMON HILLS RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

William enters the reception, where JACKIE (23), young and always smiling, greets him. William does not wear his detective badge.

WILLIAM

Hi, my name is William Brown, I'm here to see Bob Orchard and John Benson.

JACKIE

Sure, no problem. How do you know Bob and Johnny?

William smiles.

WILLIAM

Friends of the family.

JACKIE

Very well, thank you for coming. I'll take you to Bob first, if you will follow me, please.

She leaves the reception and leads William into a hall.

INT. CINNAMON HILLS RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

They stop in front of a room. Jackie grabs the door knob.

JACKIE

Bobby is not in the best state of
mind, if you know what I mean.

William nods. Jackie opens the door and lets William in.

INT. BOB'S ROOM - DAY

William enters the room. BOB (85) sits on his bed and
contemplates at the window.

WILLIAM

Mr. Orchard.

Bob does not respond.

WILLIAM

Bob

Bob turns around and looks at him.

BOB

Hi, I'm Bob. Who are you?

William gets closer and sits on a chair in front of Bob.

WILLIAM

I'm William, a friend of Mrs. Cox.

Bob wonders and smiles.

BOB

I'm sorry, I don't know any Mrs. Cox.
It's a funny name though.

William smiles.

WILLIAM

It is. Have you seen any special keys
lately?

William looks around the room while he waits for an answer.

BOB

Keys? No, no. They don't let me have
keys. I had keys before, you know?

William SIGHS, not a lot to work with here. He stands up.

WILLIAM

Well, it was a pleasure, Mr. Orchard.

As he turns to the door, he notices a wooden box on a table. It has a big 'A' written on top of it, and it's decorated with skulls from "Día de los Muertos". A lock keeps it closed.

WILLIAM

That's a peculiar box.

Bob looks at the box and smiles.

BOB

It was a gift to me by the love of my life...

He goes back to looking at the window.

BOB

Angie. I miss her every day. I left her when she was pregnant, you know? I was a dumb kid back then, worst mistake of my life.

He turns back towards William again.

BOB

I'm sorry, who are you?

William smiles and opens the door.

WILLIAM

Have a good day sir.

Bob nods and William leaves the room.

INT. CINNAMON HILLS RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

William finds Jackie outside.

JACKIE

Mr. Benson lives right in front.

William walks to the door in front of him.

INT. JOHN'S ROOM - DAY

JOHN BENSON (79), serious and older than he looks, sits on a

chair at a desk. He turns around when he hears William come in.

JOHN

Who are you supposed to be?

WILLIAM

Good afternoon, sir. I'm William Brown, an acquaintance of Mrs. Cox.

John turns around back to the desk.

JOHN

I don't know any Mrs. Cox, goodbye.

William looks around. Photos of a young John Benson wearing a police uniform are hung on the wall.

WILLIAM

You were in the force, sir?

JOHN

50 years. You?

WILLIAM

Yes sir, just retired.

John turns back to him again.

JOHN

And why on earth would you do that?

William exhales.

WILLIAM

There was this kid, Gene, back in the nineties. He got in some trouble, had to put him away, for life.

JOHN

Was he guilty?

WILLIAM

Yep, but he didn't know better. It still haunts me that it was me that had to do it.

John SIGHS.

JOHN

I understand, son. I'm sorry I can't

help you with Mrs. Cox or whoever sent you here.

William turns around, disappointed. He looks one last time at the pictures and sees a black key on top of the desk. The head of the key has the shape of a skull.

WILLIAM

I'm sorry sir, where did you get that key?

JOHN

It was given to me by a woman I should have married long ago. Angie. She had this kid, and I got scared to death with the prospect of being a father.

WILLIAM

Angie?

William scratches his head.

WILLIAM

Mr. Orchard mentioned her too. He had a box very similar to the key, closed by a lock.

John grabs the key and stands up hastily.

JOHN

That decrepit asshole.

John sprints to the door and William follows him.

INT. CINNAMON HILLS RETIREMENT HOME - DAY

John crosses the hallway and passes Jackie. He goes to Bob's door. He KNOCKS on it.

JOHN

Bob! Bob! Give me back my box!

He opens the door and goes inside.

JACKIE

What's up with them?

WILLIAM

Bob has a box and John has the key to it. A woman named Angie gave the key to --

JACKIE

Angie? Angie Robertson? She's a friend of both of them, she brought them a couple of gifts last week.

William's mind clicks.

WILLIAM

Robertson?

He looks inside the room with a dreadful expression. He jumps inside it.

INT. BOB'S ROOM - DAY

John holds the wooden box in one hand, the key in the other.

JOHN

Why did you steal this box from me?!

BOB

I didn't steal --

JOHN

Liar! Old decrepit liar!

John inserts the key in the lock. William enters the room.

WILLIAM

Don't open it! DON'T OPEN IT!

John turns the key. The box explodes with a loud BOOM.

INT. WILLIAM'S CAR - DAY

Fire comes out of windows in the retirement house. On the passenger seat, the old newspaper reads

"GENE ROBERTSON TO DO LIFE IN PRISON"

INT. PRISON - DAY

ANGELICA ROBERTSON, previously known as MRS. COX, enters a visitation room. GENE ROBERTSON (55), big guy, sits in front of her, on the other side of the window.

ANGELICA

I did it, baby, I did it.

Gene looks at her, scared.

GENE

Mom, what did you do?

ANGELICA

I got rid of all those who wronged us.
Now we are free.

Angelica smiles.

THE END