

BILLY, BABY

By

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FADE IN:

INT. BATHROOM-EARLY EVENING

We open on an extreme closeup of an eye fluttering in a mirror and the sound of running water. Someone is attempting to attach a fake eyelash. The lash sticks, and with the flutter of the eye, as if to test it, the eye retreats from the mirror...

We draw back to reveal SHEENA, mid 20's, with hair that's been doused with hairspray one too many times. She's pretty, but more for her intensity than porcelain skin or convention.

In the bathroom, we see shaving cream, razors, cologne. The muted oranges, greens, and burgundies of labels and wall-paint indicate a 70's aesthetic.

SHEENA

Fuckin' thing...

Sheena leans back into the mirror and continues to struggle with the eyelash.

There's a creaking sound of a door opening somewhere in the apartment. Sheena doesn't break her concentration as she calls out.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Hey, baby!

We hear a faint voice call back, but between the running water and the separation between the two voices, it's not clear.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

I can't hear you! I-...

Sheena stops as she gets the eyelash to stick. She leans back from the mirror, careful to not disturb it as she takes herself in.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Billy! If you wanna talk you gotta-

BILLY, late 20's, enters the bathroom. Billy has a manic energy that comes with busy days and no sleep. Everything about him says mundanity from his ill-fitting suit, to his box-toed dress shoes, to the bad combover that's coming undone. He's not quite pitiful, but borderline pathetic.

Sheena is leaning back into the mirror when Billy enters, and barely regards him.

Billy's flustered, sweaty, a little out of breath.

BILLY

Hey, sorry. I couldn't hear you from in there.

Billy shuts off the water, the rushing sound that's been fueling the miscommunication between them cuts to a drip.

SHEENA

These new lashes...they-...

Sheena takes another moment with the lash as it's come undone again, before giving up and peeling it off.

She comes away from the mirror and turns to Billy, annoyed.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

I thought you said you were gunna be off early tonight? You know we gotta leave soon.

BILLY

I didn't think I had to close.

SHEENA

Well, I don't wanna run into anybody while we're there. So we gotta go.

BILLY

Sheena...I wanna ta-

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Why are you so sweaty?

BILLY

I was trying to get back here in time and then I-I heard you calling when I got in and thought something might of...-like you know-...happened.

Sheena finds this a little funny but also endearing. She moves closer to Billy.

SHEENA

You thought somethin' mighta happened to me?

She puts her arms around him. Billy nods.

BILLY  
 (a little bashful)  
 Yeah, I mean...I don't know. I  
 couldn't hear or see you-so I didn't  
 know what was going on.

Sheena smiles. She kisses him. Billy relaxes a little.

SHEENA  
 You don't gotta worry about me Billy.

BILLY  
 Sometimes I feel like I do.

They separate slightly.

SHEENA  
 All you gotta worry about, is us  
 getting out that front door.

BILLY  
 Yeah, I know.

Sheena draws back a little further and takes in his  
 appearance.

SHEENA  
 This what you're wearin'?

BILLY  
 Is that what you're wearing?

Sheena glances down at her jeans and halter top.

SHEENA  
 No. I just thought maybe you'd wanna  
 wear something different for this.

Billy is a little taken aback.

BILLY  
 Something different?...I mean-I  
 don't...

SHEENA  
 I mean somethin' you haven't been  
 sellin' cars in all day. I know how  
 you're out there in the sun all day.  
 Runnin' around and everything-and I

just thought maybe you'd wanna wear  
somethin' fresh for this.

Billy starts to retort. Sheena cuts him off again.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

-But you can do whatever you wanna do.  
I just wanna have this workout is all.

Beat.

Sheena smiles again. Decides to kiss Billy. This again, is a momentary respite for his nerves and Billy is lost in the embrace for a moment.

SHEENA

(kindly reminding)

We gotta go, Billy.

BILLY

I think I gotta go close the door.  
Left it open after I heard you callin.

SHEENA

You're like a regular John Wayne or  
somethin'.

BILLY

You tangle with me, I'll have your  
hide.

SHEENA

That's right, baby.

Billy backs out of the room, feeling a little tough,  
validated.

As soon as he turns, Sheena's eyes fall right back onto the mirror where she gives herself a last inspection. She plumps her hair and exits.

INT. BILLY'S BEDROOM-EVENING: CONTINUOUS

Sheena enters Billy's bedroom.

Billy's bedroom is in the first stages of being taken over by female belongings.

There's an open suitcase on the floor which appears to have vomited the contents of a woman's wardrobe from it. The suitcase is in a state of staying, not going. Each shirt and

pant leg rooting it's place and Sheena's presence in the room.

Sheena enters and goes to the suitcase. She rifles through it. She holds up a shirt, thinks about it, ditches it for another.

Billy enters with a briefcase and a suit jacket over his arm. He gives Sheena a haphazard look as he sets down his things.

Billy looks at Sheena as she inspects her shirt. Then, he makes the decision to say something that brings the same nervous energy, but it's more out of excitement. As if hoping...

He starts to undue his tie.

BILLY

So...I was thinking. When we get there, you're gunna leave the car running right?...-When I go in and get her.

Sheena turns from the suitcase.

SHEENA

No Billy. I'm gunna shut the car off and throw away the keys.

(new thought)

- Did you get the food? The one with the tuna? It's the only one she likes.

BILLY

...Ah-

SHEENA

Billy! What is Puddles supposed to eat when we bring her back here, huh? God knows what that big fuckin' idiot's been feedin' her since I left.

BILLY

I'm-...-we can get her something after.

(finding a solution)

-Bring her some milk or something.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

It's too hot to have milk just sittin' in the car...-You're buying that food now either way.

BILLY  
Yeah...Okay.

Sheena decides on a shirt and begins to button it as Billy continues to remove his own.

SHEENA  
(muttering)  
Maybe I *should* tell Roy you're comin'.  
...Have him knock some sense into you.

BILLY  
What are you sayin'?

SHEENA (CONT'D)  
What'a talkin' about?

BILLY  
About-

SHEENA  
-About Roy?

BILLY  
Yeah, Roy...What? You think...you think he can knock me around like he did you? Because I-

Sheena dismisses Billy with a laugh of exasperation.

SHEENA (CONT'D)  
Billy. It's not about Roy. It's about gettin' that damn cat for me. 'Cause otherwise, he's gunna wind up killin' it and I'm not lettin' that happen.

Billy doesn't respond. Sheena stops buttoning her shirt. Billy remains standing, considering Sheena with a calculating look, jaw working.

SHEENA  
Why are you worrying about Roy anyway?  
You gettin' nerves or somethin'?

BILLY  
No. But I've been thinking about all the...-scenarios. And if I'm in there, and you're outside...What's keepin' me from meetin' Roy and things going south. And then you're outside. I'll deal with it.-but I'm thinking th-

Sheena starts to button her shirt again. Exhales in annoyance.

SHEENA

(Dismissive)

Billy...It sounds like you're getting nerves or somethin'.

BILLY

I'm not gettin' nerves about it. What if-

SHEENA

-Did you talk to your sister? The nun. Sister...-sister. Did she bring you some divine intervention or something? I'd get if she did or whatever-. I mean, I'd just want you to tell me so we know what were workin' with as far as teams here.

BILLY

I didn't talk to my sister. And she was never...-No, I'm just trying to think about-

SHEENA

-I'd get it if you are havin' second thoughts or somethin'. But-

BILLY

Sheena-

SHEENA

-I just thought you wanted to do it is all.

BILLY

She-

SHEENA

-Always talkin' about how every day is this and that. That you wish you could actually do something to-

Sheena stops mid-sentence. Billy has left the room.

Sheena waits, curious as to where Billy's gone. There's the sound of things being moved around.

Billy reappears carrying a dirty rag, it's lumpy, and has a



dead weight to it.

Sheena looks at it expectantly. Billy pauses for a beat as he looks at Sheena as she waits expectantly and curious. Billy unwraps the rag from the object it to reveal a REVOLVER.

It's large, and it's size speaks for its danger as it rests in Billy's hand.

There's a long pause as Sheena looks between the gun and Billy, back to the gun, then back to Billy.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

(Laughing, almost scoffing)

Billy. What are ya doing with that?

BILLY

The night we met. That night after Roy gave you those bruises..-at that bar way downtown. Remember the first thing you said to me that night?

Billy waits for an acknowledgement.

SHEENA

Billy...I mean, we were drinkin'... I don't really-...

BILLY

-Remember what you said? You pulled up your suitcase. I didn't know what you were doing there looking like that. But then you sat next to me. And you remember what you said?

Sheena looks at Billy, uncertain, but curious.

BILLY

You said, 'I ain't never gunna let that fuck get away with doin' this to me or anyone else again.' That's what you said...That's what I'm doin'.

Sheena considers Billy.

There's a moment of silence as he waits for her response, eager.

SHEENA

Pssht. Billy. I was drinkin'.-You were too. Put that thing away. You're bein'

stupid.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Look. If I run into anyone while I'm in there.

(he gestures to the gun)

-and if something's gunna happen outside with you...well, I'll get the cat and then come out and deal with it for you.

SHEENA

Billy. You're acting stupid.

BILLY

I'm not.

SHEENA

Yes. You are Billy. If you go in there, and start waving that thing around, you're gunna make this a lot bigger than you want it to be. This ain't even your trouble to deal with.

BILLY

But Sheena. It's just like you said. This is how we go from surviving to living. The world will keep taking and beating us down unless we do something. This is how we do that.

SHEENA

What I said-...I-...I'm not gunna sit outside and wait for the sound of you killin' someone. Because you won't even know how or why before it's too late. I don't know why I was sayin' that type of stuff. I was drinkin' and-

Sheena loses her sentence as she appears to have lost Billy.

Billy is focused on the gun, bringing it up and pointing it, then back down again, rehearsing pointing it at the wall, steady.

BILLY

(To himself)

...I know why...

Sheena looks at him, confused, and fear now etching itself on her face as she watches Billy.

He pinches one eye shut and looks down the barrel.

BILLY

I got a plan, Sheena...Get into the kitchen just like you said. And if I see Roy or *anyone else!*-I'm going to tell them exactly what to do. I'm gunna say 'Don't take a fucking step.' And if they take...One step.

Billy remains in his imagination, still pointing the gun at the wall, imagining an enemy.

SHEENA

Billy!

Billy snaps out of his fantasy. He turns back to Sheena.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

Okay. Billy.

Sheena attempts to collect herself

I don't know what kinda...-delusions you've worked up, but that thing ain't gunna do nothin' but ruin this. All you gotta do is go in. Get the damn cat. And walk out. I'll have the car runnin.' And if somebody's there-Guess what you do? You just gotta walk a little faster...Okay, baby?

Billy looks at her. He doesn't drop the gun. He doesn't do anything. He just looks at her. This drives Sheena over the edge. She yells as a mother might at a kid who just won't listen.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

You're not bringing that fucking gun Billy. This is simple. And you're fuckin' it up!

Long beat.

BILLY

I-

SHEENA

No.

Betrayed and in disbelief, Billy considers Sheena for a moment.

BILLY

I'm was trying to do something good here.

SHEENA

(nodding to the gun)

Not with that.

BILLY

I...-We-were doing just like you said.

SHEENA

We still are. But Billy...

Sheena tries to move towards Billy, thinking she's regained his attention.

Billy turns square to Sheena. She stops. There's another long beat. Billy's eyes no longer show the admiration he previously had for Sheena. He looks at her, now seeming to be putting something together.

BILLY (CONT'D)

What are you sayin' Sheena? We wanted this. It's right in front of us...waiting.

SHEENA

Billy, baby...

BILLY

But it's not about that anymore is it. You've already forgotten what it's like to be nothing. That it? Because I haven't...

Sheena begins to retort but Billy cuts her off. His emotions start to burst from him as he continues to speak.

BILLY (CONT'D)

-And so if I mess this up, you can hang me out to dry. You can pick and choose what you want. There's a million of me in this world. But there's just one of you, Sheena...That

us, Sheena? A million to one?

Billy is sheer emotion. Manic, unstable, in love, and heartbroken.

He looks at Sheena, his face churning as he appears to struggle to make a decision. Then...

Billy raises the gun to Sheena. His hand shakes dangerously.

SHEENA

Okay-Billy. I'll tell ya baby. But you gotta put that gun down. I can't think when you got that gun pointed at me like that.

BILLY

You know I wanted to do it right. To be that person for you. Live like I was somebody. Like I could be something to you. And now...

SHEENA

You do. You...-are. But Billy.

Billy grips the gun tighter and Sheena freezes. There's a moment of stillness as they look at each other.

BILLY

You gotta promise me...

(beat)

Promise me. Promise me that there won't be another night at a bar way downtown. Where some fool like me will fall for you in a sentence. Promise me I'm not just another guy. That I'm not just another fool to you.

A beat.

SHEENA

You know me, Billy. I'm doing this for us. Baby. Look at me.

She searches for Billy's eyes with her own as they race from the gun to her and back to the gun. His hand shakes.

SHEENA (CONT'D)

-You don't got nothin' to worry about with me.

BILLY

I need you!-...to promise. Promise me.  
No games.

Sheena attempts to control her fear as the gun shakes in her face. Billy sweating, volatile. She looks him in the eyes.

Beat.

Then she speaks...

SHEENA

I...I promise, baby. It's you. And me.

After another moment, Billy resigns and lowers the gun. He approaches her and Sheena reacts in a half step back as he approaches. Then, very subtly, she catches herself and stands still as he reaches her.

He brings his face to hers and kisses her. They break apart and Billy touches grasps her face and check in his hands. He speaks to hear as he caresses her face.

BILLY

I had to know. You see that, don't you...But you know I had to see...It's us now, baby. Things'll be different now. Just like you said.

Billy smiles with renewed excitement on his pale and sweaty face. Sheena is able to force a smile and quickly covers the effort by kissing him again.

They break apart from the kiss and Billy brings her into his arms.

On one side, Billy hugs Sheena, grasping her tightly. The gun gripped in his hand, rests on her lower back. On the other side, Sheena's face falls from the smile and her eyes scream.

Her body is still, incased in Billy's frame, locked in his embrace and by her own promise.

FADE TO BLACK: