

SUMMER GONE

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Where the fuck did he go thought Angel. Her boyfriend Tom had left her four days before. He promised to return the same day. Now it's four fucking days. He's got all my money she laments, or not, it's really his money. Is he even coming back? Is Tom his real name? Is he Asian? He WAS her boyfriend, right? Oh fuck, how did it come to this. Eight years gone by. This place is a dump. The building is ready to collapse. The tenants are mostly hookers and addicts along with Westerners who stayed too long and now they're broke. Angel is broke too. She would turn tricks but none of the tenants have any money. The dealer down the hall is too creepy to fuck, for the moment at least. But maybe in a week or so... At least Angel's apartment is on the lower floor. Rent is coming due in a few days. Fuck, too many things to think about.

Angel lays back on the couch and picks up the opium pipe off the floor. Her memory is getting worse. What the fuck was Tom giving her. It was too hot, too many bugs, the furniture didn't match. Why was she even here? She hadn't bathed in days. Her clothes were dirty. Didn't matter. The sink was full of dishes. The place was filthy. Didn't matter. Her head throbs. Have to focus. Her right hand shakes as she grasps the lighter. She raises her head and presses the long glass pipe up against her rib cage for balance. Finally the pipe was lit. Oh yea, that's it. She inhales as deeply as she can. She lays her head back down. What was she thinking about? Oh yea. Her sisters, her mother and dad. Her pervert brother, Dave. Angel was going to do so much. All her good intentions. But, some wounds don't heal. Some scars never fade. Angel wasn't old enough to realize that at the time but now she does. But it didn't matter anymore. Nothing mattered. How old was she now? Have to think. What's that noise? Was that Tom, no, dammit. Someone is knocking at the back door. Oh no, it's the landlord, now what. Angel gets up and opens the door.

ANGEL

Hello Mrs. Ling.

MRS. LING

Hello Angel, I'm so sorry for you.

ANGEL
What do you mean?

MRS. LING
(Talking sarcastically) Tom is
gone. Don't you know? It's on TV.

ANGEL
No, what's on TV?

MRS. LING
(Threatening) He got arrested this
morning, for DRUGS. You better make
sure there's nothing here. I bet
the cops will show up today.

ANGEL
No I swear, there's...

Knocking at front door;

COP (YELLING THROUGH DOOR)
Open up!

Mrs. Ling opens the back door and comes in and quickly walks
to the front door and opens it.

MRS. LING
Hello.

COP
Do you live here?

MRS. LING

No, I'm the owner. (She points to Angel) this is Angel, she lives here.

COP

Open the door. (Mrs. Ling quickly opens the door) I have to search. Are you Tom's girlfriend, he says as he looks at Angel?

ANGEL

Yes, is he OK?

COP

He's in jail, you better come with me.

MRS. LING

What's this, (as she picks up the opium pipe and looks at Angel) your evicted.

COP

I'll take that. Let's go. (He grabs angels arm and pulls her out the door.

The cop walks angel out to a waiting truck and helps her inside. The cop follows her in and sits down next to her. He handcuffs her and then raps his knuckles on the cab. The driver starts the truck and they make their way to the police headquarters. As they pull up to the headquarters, the cop motions to the prison next door. That's where you'll sleep tonight he says with a laugh. He helps her off the truck and into the headquarters. It's a old, scary looking colonial building. He walks Angel past the lobby and down a dingy hallway. The walls are covered with two hundred years worth of grime and dirt. He stops in front of a door. He opens it and pushes Angel in. The room is small, only a desk and two chairs. Sit down he says. Angel is still handcuffed so she uses her foot to pull the chair out.

After she sits down, the cop steps out of the room and closes the door. He pulls out a cell phone and dials. "Yea, I've got her" he says into the phone. "Just like he said". "OK, I'll see you in three hours, make sure you bring the money". The cop opens the door and tells Angel to get up. He walks her back out into the hallway and to the women's section where he hands her off to a woman in uniform. She is the matron and is nice to Angel initially but her mood darkens when she finds out Angel is arrested for drugs. The matron points out the waiting room and tells Angel to go in and sit. Wait, the cop says. He pulls Angel close and takes off her handcuffs. Now, go sit down. The cop and matron walk into a office that overlooks the prisoner waiting room where Angel is seated.

MATRON

How much?

COP

\$600.00

MATRON

That's it?!

COP

She's a junkie. She's not worth that much.

MATRON

What about her boyfriend?

COP

I told him we would split even.

MATRON

Are you kidding?

COP

Don't worry, I'll get rid of him
after I get the money. I'll take
him down by the water.

MATRON

Well, pay me now then.

COP

No, wait till I get back.

MATRON

NO, I WANT IT NOW!

COP

Then give me a blow job first.

MATRON

Fuck you, there's too many people
around, you asshole. Get out of
here. (She grabs his groin) You
better bring me my money or I'll
cut your dick off.

Cop walks out.

MATRON (CONT'D)

(Calls Angel to the counter) How
old are you?

ANGEL

Seventeen.

MATRON

I'll have to have you transferred then.

ANGEL

Where?

MATRON

The juvenile center.

Angel hopes that by lying about her age, she will get released. The matron walks Angel to a different part of the headquarters. She directs Angel to a large room. She tells her to bathe. Most of the inmates look like worn out hookers. But they are very young, late teens. Opium will do that. The girls are old beyond their years. They eye Angel over. Some want to fight her, others to bed her. One even makes a pass at Angel.

The matron is lying. She knows Angel is leaving. She goes through the routine to keep Angel off guard. She offers Angel clothes to wear. She brings her food to eat. Poor Angel, the matron has spiked her food with a sedative. After the meal, the matron takes her back to the reception area. The cop that brought her in is there. He tells Angel it's her lucky day. She will not spend the night in the jail next door after all. He tells her that he will take her to juvenile center and will bring her back to headquarters the next day for a court hearing. As they walk out of the headquarters, Angel begins to feel funny. The cop notices and takes hold of her and puts her into the back seat of a car. It's not a police car. Angel falls asleep. He gets in besides her. From the front passenger seat Angels boyfriend Tom turns to look back.

TOM

What do you think? Is she worth some money or what?

COP

Yea, we can work something out.

The driver of the car doesn't talk. He drives outside of the city. They finally arrive at a dock where an old container ship is loading. He puts the car in park. They get out of the car. The cop pulls Angel out. She's out cold. The driver motions to several of the crew on board the ship. They come running over. They pick up Angel by her arms and legs and walk back to the ship. "Well, how bout some money?" Tom says. Sure, replies the driver. He pulls out several hundred dollar bills and passes them to Tom. He pulls out several more hundred dollar bills and gives them to the cop. The cop doesn't say anything but turns and walks to the car. Tom follows. Tom and the cop get in the car and pull the doors closed. Can you give me a ride back to my apartment, Tom says. Sure replies the cop. He knows he's lying. He's going to drive a few hundred yards and then stop. He'll get out and ask Tom to help with something in the trunk. Then he'll put a bullet in Tom's skull and then dump him into the water.

As the cop is about to turn the ignition key, the driver yells to them. "Wait" he says. He hurries over to the driver side and asks the cop if he could do him a favor. The cop says sure, what? The driver pulls a gun with a silencer attached out of his jacket. He reaches into the window and fires one shot at Tom's head. The blood splatters and squirts out of Tom's head onto the cop. Before the cop can react the driver steps back and fires once at him at well. The driver steps to the side to avoid the blood splatter. He looks around. No one else around. He strolls casually towards the ship. He throws his gun into the water. He climbs the gang plank and is quickly aboard. The ship begins to pull away from the dock. Angel is down below in a large room. It's filled up with girls in varying stages of consciousness. By the time Angel and the other girls are fully awake the ship is out at sea. The hatch is locked. The only air is from a small window. After several hours the hatch door makes a squeaking noise as it's opened. An Asian woman appears. She's middle aged.

MIA

My name is Mia.(She says
forcefully.

(MORE)

MIA (CONT'D)

She points and waves her index finger around.) All of you are fucked. You belong to us now. You work for us. Everything you have belongs to us. If you make any trouble, you die. Then you get thrown overboard and no one will ever know you lived. If you want to live, you better do what we tell you.

A man walks in behind Mia. He walks among the girls. He's a predator. He doesn't hide that. My name is Vlad, he says. You girls work for me now. I'm easy to get along with as long as you do what I tell you. Vlad walks amongst the girls and gropes them. If they flinch he slaps them. He gets to Angel and asks her name. He grabs her cheeks and looks into her eyes and then pulls up her arms to check for marks. Junkie, he says with much disdain. Another girl begins to cry. Vlad lunges at her and slaps her repeatedly until she falls to the floor. Then he mounts her and penetrates her for several minutes. Finally he gets up and pulls up his pants. He steps back and smirks. He walks out of the room followed by Mia. The hatch closes and locks. The girls are in near hysterics. Angel kneels down to console the girl that Vlad just got up from. The girl is crying. What's your name, Angel asks. Sunee, she replies.

ANGEL

How did you get here?

SUNEE

I was walking home from school. A police man pulled up in a car and made me get in. He drove to this boat and two men came out of the boat and dragged me in here.

ANGEL

Were you a virgin?

SUNEE

Yes (She begins to cry again as
Angel holds her.)

More faces come out of the darkness. What are we going to do
says one. I'm scared says another.

ANGEL

We have to stay calm. We have to
find out where their taking us. I
have to think. I think they gave me
something at the police station. I
don't remember anything. I have to
close my eyes for a while. I'm
sorry Sunee.

Angel walks to a cot and lays down. She quickly falls asleep.
Whatever the jail matron gave her, it's still working. Angel
dreams of her previous life. Eight years gone by. In her
dreams at least, she's free, but she still has to remember.
Like a bad movie that never ends, she drifts back to her days
as a stripper. Maria, her former room mate likes to visit
Angel while she sleeps.

MARIA

What's up bitch. Did you miss me?

ANGEL

Why should I?

MARIA

Because I loved you, you cunt.

ANGEL

Your mean, your weird, all those things you did. The men you hurt...

MARIA

They wanted it. They paid for it.

ANGEL

But you killed them.

MARIA

Not all of them.

ANGEL

What about Sandy?

MARIA

That was an accident. Same as Bruno, remember? Anyway, don't change the subject. I loved you and you left me for that twerp.

ANGEL

No I didn't, he just gave me a ride. That was the last time I saw Bradley. And Bruno was an asshole and you know it.

MARIA

I know, I'll keep him away. Don't worry honey, I got your back.

ANGEL

I don't suppose you can help me out now or can you.

MARIA

Sure , These creeps are taking you to a whore house in Manila. Mia is the one that's really in charge. If you take care of her, everyone else will disappear. After that your going to have a bigger problem.

ANGEL

What do you mean?

MARIA

Beware of Scott. You have to help the other girls. They'll need your help.

ANGEL

How?

MARIA

You'll find out. I have to go now. We'll talk later.

SUNEE

Hey, wake up.

ANGEL

What is it?

SUNEE

I'm scared. I think their outside the door. I think their coming in again.

ANGEL

Alright, sit next to me.

SUNEE

OK, what's your name? You already know mine.

ANGEL

Angel.

There is a noise from the other side of the hatch. The door makes a creaking sound as it opens. It's Vlad and the nameless driver of the car that brought Angel. They walk among the girls. Before they can get to Sunee, Angel intercepts them. She steps out in front of Sunee and reaches her hands out to Vlad's waist. She lets her fingers move lower towards his groin. Vlad smiles and turns to the other man, this one he says. Vlad grabs Angel's arm and walks her out of the room with the other man following. Vlad closes the hatch while the other man locks it. They walk the hallway to the mess hall where most of the crew is waiting. They're horny and drunk. Angel will do just fine they think as Vlad walks her into the room. The men are excited which is evident by their erections sticking out. The stale smell of alcohol and body odor permeates the room. It will take all of Angel's stamina to keep from gagging. There's fourteen of them, groping and pinching her nipples. The sailors are too dumb and drunk to know what they want. Angel kneels down in front of one and feels through his pants. He's hard and ready to come. She strokes him through his pants while she unzips him. Before she can even pull his dick out, he has come already. He's ready to pass out so she goes through the motions to make it look like she is sucking him off. That was easy. Only thirteen more to go.

Two other sailors approach her while she is still on her knees. They pull at her top and pants. She quickly removes both as she has no other clothes and doesn't want them torn. She is naked. They pull her up and lay her over a stool. One pulls out his dick and pulls her head close. The other penetrates her from behind. Luckily they are as drunk as the first and come fairly quick. Now there's eleven left. Another sailor, bigger than the rest grabs Angel and sits down on a chair. He pulls her head down to his groin.

Vlad leaves the mess and takes another girl out of the room and brings her into the mess hall. He leaves Sunee behind. He likes her. He'll keep her for himself. Now there's less work for Angel.

The sailors see the other girl and get rowdier and louder. Mia comes into the mess hall. She has a look of apathy mixed with scorn across her face. She can get good money for these girls. She hates to see them working for nothing but she has to keep the crew happy.

Finally Angel and the girl near the end of the line of sailors. But the sailors want more. Some of them are getting hard again and want more. Mia steps up and produces a blackjack. She swings it at several of the more aggressive sailors. She makes contact. The blackjack hurts. Mia is yelling and swinging the blackjack. She has to get the men out of the mess hall and back to work. Vlad is smoking a cigarette. Mia says something to him. He jumps up and puts out his cigarette. He quickly helps herd the sailors out of the mess hall. It's quiet. Mia gives Angel a once over. She can tell that Angel is a pro. Maybe Mia can make some serious money this time. She tells Vlad to take the girls back to the hold. He complies. He grabs both girls by the arm and pulls them out of the mess hall and into the hall way. Angel is able to grab her clothes on the way out at least. Vlad walks them down the hall back to the hold. He opens the hatch and pushes them in. He quickly walks up to Sunee who is sitting on a cot. He grabs her by the arm and drags her out of the room and closes the hatch.

Suddenly there is screaming from the hallway outside the hatch. It's Sunee. This time she decides to fight back. She kicks Vlad and scratches him repeatedly. Vlad struggles to put Sunee on the floor. She kicks him in the groin, hard. He rolls off of her. Sunee stands up and runs but, no where to go. No matter. Anything is better than the room filled with fear. She makes it out on to the deck. Nothing but ocean surrounds the ship. Suddenly she is set upon by two of the crew. They are still drunk, and hard. They still want more. Sunee is able to get away. The sailors are strong but clumsy from drink. Sunee starts to climb up a ladder to the upper deck. She loses her balance and falls many feet to the deck. She hits her head hard and is knocked unconscious. Vlad appears on deck. He's still in pain from Sunee's kick. Vlad grabs Sunee and lifts her up to the railing. He pushes her overboard. Sunee sinks beneath the waves. She never wakes. Her nightmare is over.

A shot rings out. Vlad staggers and try's to grab the railing but collapses to the deck. Mia steps forward. The gun in her hand is still smoking. The blood squirts out from the back of Vlad's head. He is trying to stand.

The driver steps up and grabs Vlad. He pulls Vlad up to the railing and pushes him overboard. Vlad struggles in the water trying to stay afloat but he finally slips beneath the surface. The sailors on deck are scared sober. Word spreads quickly. Mia won't have any more problems from the crew. The sailors use a water hose to wash the blood off the deck. Now it's as if Sunee and Vlad were never on board to begin with.

Angel and the other girls are quiet. They can tell something has happened but they're not sure what. There is a commotion outside the hatch. The girls are expecting the hatch to creak open but it doesn't. The voices fade and then silence. The sailors are on edge. They don't want any trouble. Only two more days to Manila. The girls are scared, hungry and thirsty. There is a toilet and sink but no drinking water. Angel wishes she could get the come taste out of her mouth. She could use a cigarette. The girls are getting weaker and are in too much shock to socialize. They sit or lay on the floor or on the cots and stare off into space. Finally the hatch door creaks open. Two of the sailors come in with a box of sandwiches and several six packs of water. Mia stands in the hallway outside the hatch door. She has a cold, dark look about her. The sailors are on their best behavior. They walk back out into the hallway and close the hatch. The girls dive at the sandwiches and water. Angel washes her mouth out and then eats a sandwich. Eating makes her want to use the toilet. Now she's tired. She lays down on the cot and drifts off to sleep. Now she can't sleep. The food in her stomach and the rolling ship make her ill. She stumbles to the toilet and kneels down. She throws up the sandwich she ate. This just sucks more and more. Where the hell are they going to anyway. Are they really going to Manila or was she imagining that. She lays back down on the cot and drifts off to sleep.

Back in time to Bruno.

Bruno, that asshole. He's the reason Angel is here. He promised to take care of her. After he threw Jesus overboard, he started asking lots of questions about Angel's past. He could sense Angel's apprehension about getting caught. After they arrived at the yacht, Bruno offered Angel a job in a Bangkok strip club that he owned. She didn't want to. She had plans. To help her mother, her sisters. She was going to buy a house for all of them. She tried to explain it to Bruno.

BRUNO

Don't worry. It's only for a few months. I promise you'll make lots of money and then you can come back. I know a lawyer. I'll call him and ask if he can help. He's the best lawyer in Miami. As soon as we get back.

ANGEL

What do you mean. Aren't we going back to Miami?

BRUNO

Only if you want to get caught and sent back up north. After what happened tonight, we should both get out of town for a while.

ANGEL

How are we going to get to Bangkok from here?

BRUNO

Don't worry. I can get us a ride on a private jet.

ANGEL

Where?

BRUNO

Havana.

ANGEL

CUBA?

BRUNO

Yea, why?

ANGEL
Isn't that illegal?

BRUNO
Only if you tell. Don't worry, I'll
take care of you. Why don't you go
below and take a nap. I'll wake you
when we get to Havana.

What else could she do. She hadn't saved any money like she thought she would. All the cash she had was going up her nose. Maybe a change of scenery would help. She would have to have Bruno call someone to go to the motel where she stayed and collect her stuff. She tried to sleep but visions of Maria keep coming to her. Finally she did doze off but Maria came to see her in a dream.

ANGEL
What the fuck?

MARIA
Miss me?

ANGEL
Are you kidding? Are you even real?

MARIA
Does it matter?

ANGEL
I suppose not. What do you want?

MARIA
You, of course.

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