

Reading Between the Lines

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INT. IRIS' OFFICE - DAY

Iris Knight, 20s, a casually dressed private investigator in a t-shirt and jeans, walks into her office. The only professional attire that she is wearing is a suit jacket and her NECKLACE BADGE.

Much like the her badge, the door of Iris's office has her name and the name of the firm Rzym Investigations.

Iris sits on her desk and takes out a LETTER OPENER from a drawer. She uses it to open the LETTER in her hand from the Federal Bureau of Investigations. She reads the contents of the letter.

IRIS
Rejected again...

Iris tosses the letter to the side and lets it fall to the floor. She runs her hand through her hair and begins to work on some papers.

TOM
My, what a letter.

Iris jumps in her seat when she finds TOM, 30s, a generic-looking man in a suit, reading the letter she just tossed. The one feature that stands out is his eyes. The color of his iris is a moonlight gray.

IRIS
How did you get into my office?

TOM
Oh, my apologies for frightening you. Your door was open, and the madam in the front told me to walk in.

IRIS
Oh, sorry, I was lost in my thoughts. Please sit.

Tom takes a seat in front of Iris's desk.

IRIS (cont'd)
First off, I am investigator Knight. How can I help Mr...

TOM
Boudreaux. Tom Boudreaux.

Suddenly, a BUSINESS CARD appears between Tom's fingertips, and he hands it to Iris.

TOM (cont'd)

I am looking for a debtor of mine that has spontaneously vanished.

IRIS

A missing debtor? Why me? I only do surveillance. The best I can do is find your debtor's history.

TOM

Oh, I know his history. I desire him to be located and brought to me. We must talk.

IRIS

Again, I don't specialize in finding missing personal. You'll have to-

TOM

Well, what if I sweeten this conversation.

Tom places Iris's rejection letter on the table and then pushes it towards her.

TOM (cont'd)

From this letter, I can formulate a simple hypothesis. You still dream of being that Sherlock Holmes and studying puzzling murder cases. Am I right?

Tom grins from ear to ear.

TOM (cont'd)

I can give this to you only if you do this job.

Iris gets up from her chair and walks over to the door. She then opens it.

IRIS

Your bribes won't work with me. I know your type. You need to--

Iris blinks, and she finds herself back in her chair.

TOM

My, what a letter.

Iris stares at Tom, who is rereading her rejection letter. Iris's eyes dart around.

IRIS
What just happened?

TOM
Oh, my apologies for frightening you.
The door--

IRIS
Yes, it was open. We just did this.

Tom smiles and sits back in the seat in front of Iris's desk.

TOM
So my dear, do we have a deal?

IRIS
No!

TOM
Knight, don't you want run with the big boys? Society doesn't even understand what you are. They don't know if you are a detective or an overpraised bond agent. Don't you want to fulfill that dream from your childhood?

IRIS
Leave! Now!

Iris stands back up and tries to grab Tom, but she finds herself back in her seat. Her breathing quickens, and she looks at Tom, who is once again rereading the letter.

IRIS (cont'd)
What is this!

TOM
My dear, my sweet Knight. We can do this all day, but I don't like repeating myself. Find my debtor Sam Davids.

Tom puts his hand forward.

Iris stares at Tom's hand for a moment before she reluctantly shakes it.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Iris walks through the doors and meets the FRONT DESK WOMAN, 20s, half-asleep, chewing gum with her mouth open while watching television.

IRIS
Hello ma'am, I am Private
Investigator Knight.

Iris takes out her BADGE and shows it to the woman.

IRIS (cont'd)
I've heard that a Sam Davids was
staying here. I'm trying to locate
him.

FRONT DESK WOMAN
Well, I don't know, knock on his door
or something. He's in room three.

IRIS
So he has been here?

FRONT DESK WOMAN
Yeah, the only person who is staying
in this shit hole.

IRIS
May I have the key to his room? Just
in case--

FRONT DESK WOMAN
Ya got a warrant?

IRIS
Well, I--

FRONT DESK WOMAN
Ain't letting you have it without a
warrant. Privacy and junk. Now go
before I call some real cops or
something.

The woman continues to watch the television while she shoos Knight away with her hand.

Iris balls her fist and grits her teeth from the last comment. She then storms outside.

EXT. HOTEL - DAY

Iris is smoking a CIGARETTE and looking down.

TOM
I see you've already given up. And
over a little comment like that?

Iris jolts in her spot when she finds Tom next to her.

IRIS
Are you following me?

TOM
Are you really going to let that
woman say those remarks? Goodness,
child, you're a detective.

IRIS
She's right. I don't have a warrant.

TOM
That's not what's got you sulking
like a dog in the rain. Look...

The hotel doors open by themselves. Iris and Tom peek
inside. The lady at the front desk is gone.

TOM (cont'd)
The keys are for the taking. Just hop
back and grab'em.

IRIS
What! No, I can't do that. I'll get
the warrant. That is what a true
detective would do.

TOM
And meddle with the brainless sloths
known as bureaucrats! My dear, no
need to waste time. You're an
investigator of justice! Why don't
you go and get the key?

Iris looks at Tom and glances back at the empty desk. She
stares as if a million thoughts are bouncing through her
brain.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

Iris then stomps forward, hops over the counter, and grabs
the key. She darts out the lobby of the hotel.

INT. HOTEL ROOM THREE - DAY

Iris enters the hotel room, and it is a mess with clothes, papers, and books scattered around.

Iris begins to search through the trash until she finds a letter. It reveals the address of Sam's house.

IRIS

Bingo.

Iris exits the room.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Iris is taken aback at the size of Sam's home. It looks like a small modern palace. She walks to the front door and finds that the door is left open. Iris walks inside.

INT. SAM'S LIVING ROOM- NIGHT

The condition of the house is the same as Sam's hotel room. There is a tower of books scattered about, and trash litter the floor.

Iris picks up one of the ancient BOOKS. She opens it and reads the title.

IRIS

The Grand Grimoire. 1845. What is this?

When she finds the stairs, she can see a faint CANDLELIGHT glow atop the stairs.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT.

The candlelight leaks through the cracks of a barely closed door. Iris walks up to the door and peaks through the gap.

INT. SAM'S STUDY ROOM - NIGHT

Behind the door, SAM DAVIDS, 20s, is kneeling on a pentagram with candles surrounding him. His clothes look like he has been wearing them for days.

He raises his hands over his head.

SAM

Solo nomine vero te voco.

The FLAMES from the candles grow bigger. The EMBERS from the candles stop in the air and begin to move towards Sam. A DARK AURA surrounds Sam. The aura absorbs the embers.

SAM (cont'd)
Homo qui legit inter verba! Break
this damn pact!

The candles die out, and everything goes back to normal.

SAM (cont'd)
No! Someone disturbs the ritual!

Sam turns his head towards the door.

Iris slowly opens the door.

IRIS
Davids--

SAM
Who are you! Get out of my home!

IRIS
I am Detective Knight.

Sam looks at Iris's necklace badge.

SAM
You're not a detective! You're a
P.I.! Not a real cop! Get out!

IRIS
Sam. Tom wants to--

SAM
Tom! No! NO!

Sam picks up a CANDLE and throws it at Iris.

Iris manages to block the candle, but she is thrown to the ground after Sam pushes her. Sam darts down the stairs.

Iris gets up and chases him.

INT. SAM'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Sam rams through the pile of books to get to the front door. However, Iris tackles him as he is about to open the door.

Sam tries to push her off, but Iris grabs both his arms, and she pins him. Sam tries to wiggle out to escape.

IRIS

Sam! Calm down! Tom wants to discuss your contract!

SAM

No! I have done nothing! Let me go! You can't arrest me you fucking wannabe cop!

The last sentence angers Iris more. She picks up Sam and slams him against the wall.

IRIS

I've had enough of this crazy shit! You're going to talk to Tom! Got it?

A horrified Sam stares into Iris's eyes. Her eyes change from a brown to a gray, and then turn back to normal.

SAM

Your eyes look like his. My god.

Sam whimpers a bit and nods to Iris.

SAM (cont'd)

Take me to him.

INT. FRONT LOBBY OF RZYM INVESTIGATION - NIGHT

Iris and Sam enter the building. It is empty, and no lights are on. The only lights illuminating the lobby are the moonlight that seeps through the skylight.

IRIS

Where is everyone?

TOM

They went home early for tonight, my dear Knight.

Tom exits from the shadows and stands in front of the two.

TOM (cont'd)

Hello Miss Knight. It seems you have succeeded in my task. Sam. It's a pleasure.

SAM

Fuck you.

TOM

Goodness child. You didn't even blink.

(MORE)

TOM (cont'd)
 Is my contract that scary to you?
 Well, my boy, You don't have to worry
 any longer.

Out of thin air, a SCROLL appears and lands in Tom's hand.
 Tom unravels the paper.

TOM (cont'd)
 Sam Davids. You must pay your debts.

Sam laughs.

SAM
 You forget. The contract is finished
 once the three wishes are fulfilled
 and--

TOM
 And we stand together in Rome.

Tom walks to Iris. He reaches for her badge necklace and
 rips it off her neck. He then shows it to Sam.

Tom waves his hand over the badge, and it shows the
 translation of Ryzm: Rome.

TOM (cont'd)
 Who would have guessed?

SAM
 What? No! Rome isn't here. You and
 that phony cop tricked me!

The scroll in Tom's other hand burns into ashes.

TOM
 I gave you the riches you wished for.
 Here, in Rome, our contract is
 fulfilled.

SAM
 No! Wait! You forget again! A
 spectator must agree on the terms.
 That is why the detective is here,
 right? Right!

Sam looks at Iris.

SAM (cont'd)
 Please don't agree! Please! I'll
 repay you!

IRIS
 Phony cop?

Iris is trying to suppress her rage.

IRIS (cont'd)
I am a REAL detective. Sam ...

Iris walks over to Tom and stands next to him.

IRIS
You should have paid your debts.

SAM
No! No, Please!

Sam tries to run out the door, but Tom appears in front of him.

TOM
Sam Davids.

Tom grabs Sam's head.

TOM (cont'd)
Your soul is mine.

Sam screams as the life is sucked out of him. He begins to age rapidly. He shrivels up until he is nothing but dust. The only thing left of Sam is his skull in Tom's hand.

Tom turns to Iris and smiles.

TOM (cont'd)
Knight! Thank you! A thousand thank
yous. Oh! Before I forget...

Tom digs through his pocket and hands Iris a letter. On the envelope is the seal of Federal bureau of Investigations. Next to the seal it says, "Letter of Acceptance".

TOM (cont'd)
You work mighty fast. I should hire
Investigators for my future
endeavors.

Tom walks past knight and whistles. He tosses Sam's skull into the air and catches it. He leaves through the front door.

INT. IRIS'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

It is a month later, and Iris is now in a new office. She now has an F.B.I jacket on and is happily reviewing a case. Her phone rings, and she looks at the caller's name.

It is Tom.

Iris answers her phone.

IRIS
Mr. Boudreaux.

A sinister smile appears on Iris's face, and she looks at the CAMERA. The color of her eyes is now gray.

IRIS (cont'd)
How can I be of service?