

Billion Dollar Beast (excerpt)

Written by
Corey Blue Thomas

Copyright (c) 2024

Draft 2.3

cbthomas.work@gmail.com

system(Scene: Bar night)

MONOLOGUE

You've got this <mc_name>. Crunch time.

You take a fortifying breath before delivering the bad news.

PLAYER

Promise you won't be mad?

CONNOR

Just tell me, <mc_name>. What is it?

PLAYER

I broke up with my ex, I bailed on my apartment lease, quit my office job, and now I work here, at the Neptune Bar.

You open your eyes and see your step-brother staring blankly at you over a cold plate of french fries.

PLAYER (cont'd)

So. What do you think?

CONNOR

(I think...?)

PLAYER

Well, you have to think *something*, Connor.

CONNOR

I think you should tell Mom and Dad.

PLAYER

Oh, Right. Like it's really that simple.

CONNOR

You're the only one making it harder than it really is.

PLAYER

Not true. They loved my ex, and they'd be so disappointed to find out I failed. Again.

CONNOR

How could they be disappointed with you?

(MORE)

CONNOR (cont'd)
Take it from your older brother –
they'd be more understanding than you
think.

PLAYER
Easy for you to say. You're a
millionaire

CONNOR
Money doesn't solve everything you
know.

Connor is the best older step-brother a sister could hope
for, and you know he'd do anything for you, which is why you
decided to break the news to him first.

PLAYER
I'll think about it, but in the
meantime, this stays between you and
me.

CONNOR
My lips are sealed. I'm just glad you
came to me when you did.

Connor is leaving on a business trip and won't be back for a
month. In the meantime, he has asked if you could house sit
his apartment while it's renovated.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Here are the keys, as we agreed. You
just need to make sure the builders
don't trash the place while I'm away.
He slides the keys across the bar,
and you put them in your pocket.

PLAYER
Thanks, Connor.

CONNOR
Don't mention it. What else are big
brothers for? Oh, and... one more
thing.

He leans over the bar.

CONNOR (cont'd)
Stay away from my neighbor, won't
you?

PLAYER
Your neighbor? What's wrong with him?
Is he dangerous?

CONNOR

He's not the kind of guy you should be hanging out with right now. You're going through a lot, and he might try and take advantage of that.

PLAYER

You mean he's a player? Do you really think I'm that gullible?

CONNOR

Don't look at me like that! It's my job to protect you from guys like him.

PLAYER

Okay, fine! I'll stay away from him.

CONNOR

Good. It's for you own good.

He checks his watch and stands up.

CONNOR (cont'd)

Look, I've gotta go. My flight is leaving soon. I'll see you when I get back?

PLAYER

Yep. I'll be... here!

You gesture at the empty bar, and he flashes you a reassuring smile before vanishing out the door with a wave.

EXT. BANK'S TOWER - NIGHT

You finish work late and arrive outside Connor's apartment block in the early hours of the morning.

MONOLOGUE

Connor was always a high achiever, but I had no idea he'd achieved this much since we last spoke.

You pass rows of expensive parked cars and suited valets as you near the entrance, and you can't help but feel like you're intruding.

MONOLOGUE (cont'd)

Calm down, <mc_name>. You have every right to be here...

INT. BANK'S TOWER ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Inside the entrance hall, it's even more lavish, with marbled floors and gold-plated embellishments decorating the walls.

MONOLOGUE

This place is fancy – super fancy. I hope I have the right address.

You get into an elevator and climb to Connor's room.

INT. BANK'S TOWER HALLWAY - NIGHT

You exit the elevator into a long corridor, and Connor's apartment is the first on the left. You walk a short way down the plushly carpeted hall before you draw to a sudden stop. Ahead, your way is immediately blocked by a giant man leaning against Connor's apartment door. His large, sloping shoulders are turned away from to you, and his thick arms rest against the doorframe like fallen trees.

THEO

Connor, buddy, are you in there?

He knocks on the door and sighs, his giant frame shifting nervously.

MONOLOGUE

Holy cow. He's got to be the biggest guy I've ever seen. What could he want my brother for this early in the morning?

You decide to approach him – he seems harmless enough despite his huge size – and the first thing you notice is his smell. It's sharp and fresh, and it zaps you awake in an instant.

MONOLOGUE (cont'd)

This guy smells like a million dollars. He must live in the same building.

You take a dozen steps closer before he finally notices you, and he turns his giant frame to face you.

THEO

Oh, hey. I didn't know anyone else was up here.

THEO (cont'd)
Am I being too loud? I didn't mean to
wake you.

His face lights up with an easy-going smile so that you find
yourself unwittingly smiling back.

THEO (cont'd)
I just need to get into my friend's
apartment. There's a... situation.

PLAYER
Hey. No, you didn't wake me.

THEO
Oh. Then can I help you?

PLAYER
Could you... move?

He glances between you and the door and then studies you for
a moment.

THEO
Wait, you're staying in Connor's
apartment?

PLAYER
Yep... for a while, anyway. Do you
need something?

He blows out his cheeks and runs a hand through his hair.

THEO
Oh, yeah, so about that. I hate to be
the bearer of bad news, and so late
at night, but I think your apartment
has sprung a leak.

PLAYER
A leak? As in, leaking water?

He nods, and the smile vanishes, only to be replaced with a
concerned frown.

THEO
And I'm pretty sure your neighbors
are going to be angry as hell about
it when they wake up. So I suggest
you let me fix it, now.

His face is suddenly serious, and his friendly eyes vanish
under a ridged, shadowed brow.

You eye the giant stranger for a moment, deciding whether to let him into the apartment.

MONOLOGUE

I don't think he's going to murder me in my apartment, and he seems like a nice guy...

THEO

Well then?

His deep voice reassures you, and with a nervous sigh, you open the door and step inside.

INT. BANK'S TOWER APARTMENT - NIGHT

You're instantly struck by the scale of the destruction – from the marbled kitchen, water gushes into the rest of the expensive-looking apartment. Velvet couches, lavish rugs, expensive electronics... all ruined.

MONOLOGUE

Connor is going to be so upset when he finds out that all his things have been destroyed. How has everything already gone wrong? I've only just arrived!

You and the stranger survey the scene together in silence.

PLAYER

This is... bad.

THEO

That's an understatement if I ever heard one.

You glance up at your neighbor, a mountain of muscle towering over you.

PLAYER

You don't understand. I promised Connor I'd look after his apartment while I'm away, and now—

THEO

Woah, slow down. One problem at a time. First, let's fix your leak, and then we'll take a look at the damage. Deal?

You shake his spade-like hand, and you feel reassured by him taking control of the situation.

PLAYER

Deal. Let's fix the leak first.

He smiles down at you and nods toward the kitchen.

THEO

I'm going to take a look – it's not as if I can make it any worse. Hope you don't mind me taking my shirt off? This is going to get wet.

PLAYER

N-no?

He doesn't hesitate to remove his shirt, exposing his toned, muscular body for you to see. You can't remember the last time you saw a colossus so defined, toned, and sexy. Your gaze is drawn to his washboard abs, broad, muscular shoulders, contoured chest, and the deep V plunging below his waistband.

THEO

Do you mind holding this? It isn't cheap.

MONOLOGUE

Oh, god... am I drooling?

You take his shirt but can't seem to look away from him.

MONOLOGUE (cont'd)

Talk about macho man. I didn't know men like this actually existed outside of the movies.

He glances at you and cocks his brow.

THEO

Is something wrong?

PLAYER

Nothing's wrong. Why?

THEO

You mean you weren't staring at me just now?

PLAYER

I wasn't staring at you. I was waiting for you to do something.

(MORE)

PLAYER (cont'd)
 Can you hurry up? It's late, and I'm cold.
 He glances around the wrecked apartment.

THEO
 Oh. Well, in that case, I'll get right on it.

He paddles across to the kitchen, and you can't help but gaze at his sculpted body as he does.

THEO (cont'd)
 I'm not gonna lie – this water is ice cold compared to what I grew up with in Alaska.

MONOLOGUE
 He's from Alaska? Maybe he's not a man but a yeti. He's big enough.

He steps through the water-logged apartment to a cupboard and reaches inside to twist something. You watch as his heavy brow furrow in concentration, and his long, knotted arms pull at something out of sight.

THEO
 There. I've... got it!

His body flexes, and his face hardens, and a moment later, the gushing water slows to a dribble.

THEO (cont'd)
 There. That should do it.

He paddles back over to you and runs a hand through his wet locks.

THEO (cont'd)
 Yours was a real gusher, but lucky for you, I handled it.

PLAYER
 Is that it? How did you fix it so quickly?

THEO
 I work in construction, and I know a trick or two.

THEO (cont'd)
 Whoever was working on your apartment today made a real mess of it.

THEO (cont'd)

I've done all I can do for now.
Anything else will have to wait until
the morning.

MONOLOGUE

He really saved my ass just now. I
should thank him for being a good
neighbor.

PLAYER

Thanks for helping me. If you hadn't
been here, I don't know what I'd have
done.

THEO

No problem! I'm just glad you came
when you did. I thought I'd be
standing outside that door all night.

PLAYER

Not as glad as me.

He laughs, his broad shoulders rising and falling.

THEO

I guess today is your lucky day. And
hey, it's not often that I get to
rescue a damsel in distress.

He gives you an easy-going smile, and you feel yourself
settle.

MONOLOGUE

He really has a way with women.

PLAYER

Well, this is Connor's apartment. I
guess it's usually him you're saving?

THEO

You've no idea. I'll be honest. If it
were Connor here instead of you, I'd
have some serious questions for him.
Like how could he hire such a bunch
of incompetent cowboys.

You both chuckle, and Theo wipes his face dry.

PLAYER

I'll let him know the next time I see
him. Thanks.

THEO

Like I said — don't mention it.

He surveys the apocalyptic scene and sighs.

THEO (cont'd)

I could've fixed it sooner if Connor had been here. Speaking of which...

He runs a hand through his hair and regards you for a moment.

THEO (cont'd)

I didn't ask you before, but how do you know Connor? Are you one of his girlfriends?

PLAYER

What? No!

He laughs, his board shoulders rising and falling.

THEO

Okay, now I'm curious. What's a pretty girl like you doing in a man like Connor's apartment?

PLAYER

'A man like Connor'? What does that mean?

THEO

You mean you don't know?

You shake your head, and he sighs.

THEO (cont'd)

I hate to break it to you, but he's a player. And a ladies' man.

PLAYER

That's funny. He said that same thing about you.

He shrugs and gives you an easy-going grin.

THEO

It takes one to know one. He crosses thick arms over his contoured chest and studies you for a moment. His bulk is so large that you feel like you're gazing up at a mountain's peak.

THEO (cont'd)
So, you're not his girlfriend... Now that you say so, I can see you couldn't be dating him. You're absolutely not his type.

MONOLOGUE
Thank God. My night could've just gotten a lot worse.

PLAYER
I'm glad I'm not. I didn't even know he had a type.
Theo
Yep. Whatever I like, he hates. That's how I know you're not his type.

His gaze lingers on you for a moment longer, and you feel nerves buzz in your chest.

MONOLOGUE
Hang on, is he hitting on me?

However, as soon as the thought crosses your mind, he's moved the conversation on.

THEO
Which makes me think you're his... house sitter?

PLAYER
I'm his sister. And yes, house sitter.

He arches his brows and regards you for a moment.

THEO
You don't bare much of a resemblance.

PLAYER
What does that mean?

THEO
Well, I've never used the adjective 'pretty' to describe Connor before.

He flashes you a heart-melting smile, and you have to pause for a moment.

MONOLOGUE
He's called me pretty twice now... Connor warned me about him, so I'd better stay on my guard.

MONOLOGUE (cont'd)

But then again, I can see why he's good with the girls with a body like that...

PLAYER

You think I'm pretty? What else do you think of me?

His eyes widen in surprise. He clearly wasn't expecting you to bite back.

THEO

Can I say cute, hot, and sexy? Because they're the only words that come to mind right now.

PLAYER

You can...

MONOLOGUE

Woah. Am I really flirting with my neighbor right now?

Underneath your cool exterior, your heart is beating like a steam locomotive. No one has spoken to you like that since your ex broke up with you.

MONOLOGUE (cont'd)

You've got this <mc_name>. You're just flirting with a mountain-sized stranger in your step-brother's apartment...

PLAYER

Thanks for noticing.

THEO

You weren't the only one that was staring when you had the chance.

PLAYER

You were? I didn't notice.

THEO

Well, it was when your back was turned...

MONOLOGUE

He was checking out my ass?

You stop and bite your lip, hard.

MONOLOGUE (cont'd)

What am I thinking? I can't be with anyone right now. Not after my last relationship. I'd just embarrass myself.

I was so boring in bed, that my ex left me for another girl. And if I wasn't enough for him, how could I ever be enough for a man like this? I need to get him out of here and deal with this mess, now.

PLAYER

Thanks for the help again, but I should be getting to sleep soon...

The stranger surveys the apartment, glances at his watch, and yawns.

THEO

Of course. But no one will be able to fix the flood damage until tomorrow morning, and I feel awful leaving you here to sleep in this mess.

He regards you with what seems to you to be hungry eyes.

THEO (cont'd)

I'll tell you what. Why don't you stay upstairs tonight? I have plenty of room.

PLAYER

What? You mean, in your apartment?

THEO

Where else? The roof?

PLAYER

I... that's very generous, but I...

THEO

Look, there's no one else there, so you wouldn't be bothering anyone by staying the night. And you'll be able to return here tomorrow evening, once this is all cleaned up.

MONOLOGUE

Is he seriously asking me back to his apartment right now? Does he really think I'm that easy that I'd just jump into bed with him?

(MORE)

MONOLOGUE (cont'd)

I need to be careful when I reject the mountain man, in case he decides to just carry me back up to his cave.

PLAYER

I'm not that type of girl, thank you very much.

THEO

Got it. Stranger danger. Just trying to help.

He takes one more look around before turning to the door.

THEO (cont'd)

If you're sure, I'll be on my way.

You nod, and he shrugs his broad shoulders.

THEO (cont'd)

In that case, I'll take my shirt and be on my way.

PLAYER

Oh...

You hand him back his shirt, and he pulls it back on.

THEO

Okay, neighbor. If you change your mind, I'm one floor up.

PLAYER

I'll come by if I need anything.

THEO

Goodnight.

PLAYER

Thanks... for everything. Goodnight.

You watch as he leaves and closes the door behind him. Then, you look around your water-logged apartment.

MONOLOGUE

God. What a night!

INT. BAR - DAY

The next morning, you meet Maggie at work. She's your best friend, and you've known her since forever.

There is nothing you can't tell her. She starts the morning by asking you a thousand questions.

MAGGIE

I heard you moved into Connor's apartment. Is it as glamorous as I imagine?

PLAYER

That depends on how much water you imagine there being. We were on the 50th floor, but we may as well have been fifty leagues under the sea.

MAGGIE

'We'? Who's 'we'? Did something happen last night involving you, a man, and an overflowing bathtub?

PLAYER

Kind of. but the apartment was flooded before I got there. Luckily, a neighbor was able to help me fix it.

You tell her what happened the night before, and then you pause before telling her about your neighbor.

PLAYER (cont'd)

He invited me to his apartment.

MAGGIE

He did what?! He must've thought you were easy...

PLAYER

I know, right? Well, I'm not.

MAGGIE

You need to teach him a lesson that he'll not forget soon. If he thinks you're easy, then you're going to have to show him how difficult you can be!