

Dark Fables
"How They Met"

written by

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EXT. MARKET - NIGHT

RAE walks fast between the wooden stalls. Her footsteps echo. A small figure in patches of orange light.

She's young, bundled up in slightly worn-out, ill-fitting clothes and concerned... Looks back over her shoulder.

Sound behind her. She ducks suddenly under a broken stall. Crouches. Waits, tense.

INT. TOWN SQUARE - NIGHT

Addison, older, a big man but in shape, uses one hand to jump over a market stall.

Runs forward, head moving from side to side. Scanning ahead. On the hunt.

CROSSCUT - EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

Rae slips around a corner, glancing back again. Hands out of her pockets now so she can move faster.

Addison jogs up some steps. Snaps round a corner, hand out like a knife. Faint jangle of jewellery and charms he wears.

Rae rattles a rusty gate - winces at the noise it makes. Takes a moment, then pushes it open - more noise.

She kicks over some junk on the other side... Then sets off away from it, gate still swinging ajar.

Addison, part way down a narrow street, stops himself suddenly. Grins a nasty grin.

Turns round. Runs back through a broken gate he came through.

Rae running now, intent, no wasted movement.

Addison, breathing hard, sprinting.

ADDISON
I'll catch ya, you
little snot!

EXT. SMALL INDUSTRIAL YARD - NIGHT

Jumping to slide down a sloped roof, Rae stumbles from the impact. Straight up again, looking around.

No where to hide, she races straight for the yard's door.

But in busts GANG MEMBER #1, arms out to grab her.

Rae skids, starts backing up.

RAE
I didn't see nothin! Won't say
nothin.

GANG MEMBER #2 clatters down the roof she came down.
To stay away from them both, she heads to a corner.

RAE
Swear! Cross me heart & hope
to...

Struggling GANG MEMBER #3 flops over the top of the wall by
Rae. Lands on their feet but bent over.

RAE
...SEE YA!

She runs at them. Foot up on to the wall. Then on to the
Gang Member's back.

Grabs the wall. Over it in a flash.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Dropping down, Rae whooping with delight.

RAE
LOOSSERRRS!

She lands. And is grabbed and thrown to the ground. Two
uniformed POLICE OFFICERS stand over her.

EXT. BRIDGE STAIRS - NIGHT

Addison yanks himself up the stairs, as fast as he can.

A flight ahead, a young woman, TARA. Runs awkwardly, like
her body doesn't work.

She looks terrible, ill, grey veins on her face.

TARA
Go away! I'll do it, I will DO
IT!

ADDISON
Don't be stupid!

Pounds on up the stairs.

EXT. BRIDGE - NIGHT

Tara, out of breath, comes up out along the bridge. Spins round and round. It's deserted.

On her neck, a bulbous grey slug, suckered on like a leech.

Echoing noise of Addison getting closer. With a twitch, Tara is pulled over to the other side of the bridge.

Addison up the last stair, onto the bridge too.

Tara trying to clamber up the other side - going to throw herself off.

Before she can get there, Addison grabs her ankle. Pulls her back down, hard.

ADDISON

What you doing? Fall'd kill her!

Wide eyes, Tara looks up at him, terrified and confused.

TARA

What-please, help me, I don't understand-

ADDISON

Yeah, yeah, give me a sec...

CREATURE

Don't you do it, Addison!

A scratchy, screechy voice. Tara looks like she's going into shock.

Addison takes that in, then suddenly grabs her head. Pushes it roughly to the side.

Addison uses his other hand to open up a scratched, pink hand mirror. He angles it, so it shows the slug creature to him.

ADDISON

H'kay...

Slips the mirror away - mutters under his breath. Tattoos on his hand alight, he raises it up above his head.

CREATURE

Let me keep her, I'll tell you-

Addison slaps his hand down - onto the spot on her neck.

The creature and Tara's yells of pain mingle together with a flash of light.

Addison, on the ground, slightly dazed with the echos ringing around - looks to see Tara running off as fast as she can.

Sobbing with relief, pawing at her neck. Already looks healthier.

ADDISON
(sarcasm)
You're welcome!

Lifts up his hand - gripping the slug. It writhes, thin tendrils curling and then stabbing at Addison's arm. But not breaking the skin.

His speech starts the same as before - not a recognisable language - muttering, crazy talk. Halfway through, translates to English.

ADDISON
...knock that off, you're not
infecting me.

CREATURE
Sure - you look weak
Addison,
everyone says you're
past it!

ADDISON
Nah, I've just been
staying up
late. Fit as a fiddle,
me, you've
no chance.

CREATURE
Let me go or I'll suck
the life out
of you...

ADDISON
Nah, incantations on me - and my
sins ain't for you.

Shakes his other arm, rattles his charms.

CREATURE
So, what, you want to
know things?

ADDISON
What you got?

CREATURE
You're looking for a
Carigorn Gem.

ADDISON
 You know where it is?
 You, a
 nasty snot lump with a
 voice?

CREATURE
 Well, no...

Addison looks at it.

CREATURE (CONT'D)
 But I know where a Renyadine
 hunts.
 Bound to turn up in
 that monster's
 pit sooner or later,
 you see. You
 go tackle that, leave
 me...

ADDISON
 I can do both.

Walks a couple of steps along the bridge. To a grey box,
 cables for the lights strung along it disappear inside.

CREATURE
 NO! Just let me find
 another to
 ride, let me go! I'll tell you
 where to find it!

It's panicking now, shrieking!

ADDISON
 Don't care.

Ripping the cable free, sparks everywhere he jabs it hard
 into the body of the thing.

ADDISON
 ALAKUNA KEMMA DE NATRA!

Leech bursts into flames, almost white light, like a flare
 let off on a battlefield.

Burning itself out in Addison's hand - no sign it hurts him.
 Until it's over and he lets the crisped remains & cable drop.

He slumps to the ground - hands out, just about stops it
 being a fall.

Breathing deep, blood from his nose to his top lip.

ADDISON (CONT'D)
 Okay, quick rest, then that
 gem...

INT. POLICE STATION CANTEEN - DAY

With her head on a crappy plastic table, Rae looks completely asleep.

Police Officer who gripped her walks up, boots the table from underneath!

Freaking Rae awake.

RAE

Arhh!

POLICE

OFFICER
Breakfast.

Rae peers at the sad little cup.

RAE

Really? You can get nice takeout coffees...

Officer half unwraps a thick baguette.

POLICE

OFFICER

Want me to put you in a cell, make it official? You'll get fed. Coffee will still suck though.

Rae pushes the cup away, crosses her arms, shrugs.

POLICE OFFICER

So be helpful this time. Be a witness.

A pause. Officer finishes unwrapping the baguette.

RAE

What if I didn't see anything?
What if I was just visiting some friends?

POLICE OFFICER

Who are criminals. Again.

RAE

Allegedly.

Police officer ignores this.

POLICE OFFICER

Then you'll be charged.

RAE

With what?

POLICE OFFICER
You were found, during a
warranted search of a known gang
location. I'll charge you as
such.

Points the baguette at her.

Rae stares at it for moment, then grins.

RAE
So you've got nothing? Aww, I
bet this had an 'Operation' code
name and everything! You'll have
paid overtime and promised the
governor a real result and now
you are screwed!

A little embarrassed, the police officer hurriedly puts the
sandwich down.

POLICE OFFICER
We don't comment on open cases.
You just need to think about what
this means for you-

RAE
Means I get something.

POLICE OFFICER
You what?

RAE
You let me go-

POLICE OFFICER
(interrupting)
I'm not making a deal-

RAE
(interrupting)
You are. You let me go after you
go through every incident report
to find the last trace of Billy.

A pause.

POLICE OFFICER
That's what you were doing there?
Looking for your little lamb, eh?
You do try and look after that
lad, Rae, but he wanders off...

RAE
You go find me something,
anything, about where he was
recently.

POLICE OFFICER
How recently?

RAE
Last 6 days.

POLICE OFFICER
6 days. Rae, if something was going to happen to him... it already has.

RAE
I need to find him.

POLICE OFFICER
And if I can turn something up?

RAE
I'll remember exactly where it is those skeever's hid their stash.

Police officer, considering - move to go.

RAE
And gimme your sandwich.

Reluctantly, the Police Officer pushes it across the table to a smugly smiling Rae.

EXT. HIGH STREET - EVENING

Rae tramps along a high street, towards an isolated bar.

BILLY (V.O.)
(on the phone)
Billy here. I'll get back to ya when I've got any credit, alright?

RAE (V.O.)
It's me, Billy, it's Rae - you haven't answered, no-one's seen you, I'm worried... call back...

Up to the bar doors...

...as two BOUNCERS carry Addison out...

ADDISON
I was just asking a question!

She turns to watch as he's push-thrown to the pavement.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Leaning over the bar, Rae holds out her phone. A photo of BILLY on it, sweet-looking young lad.

RAE

You gotta remember...

BARWORKER pushes it away.

BARWORKER

Think, think I saw him. But I don't remember when - no chance.

RAE

There is a chance, you're it! You're my chance to find me friend.

BARWORKER

Look, unless your ordering a drink, don't keep mouthing at me, okay?

Hefting a box of postmix, walks into a back room.

INT. STOCKROOM - NIGHT

Thumps the postmix box down onto a pile of boxes, freestanding in the middle of the room.

That box is knocked down with a wet smash, as Addison suddenly bear hugs them from behind. Barely a sound and Addison clamps a hand over their mouth.

ADDISON

Right, sunshine! Let's chat...

Bundles the Barworker forward, shoves them down, face into the boxes. Twists their arm right up behind their back.

ADDISON

Try and call the bouncers again, I twist your whole head off. Get me?

BARWORKER

Lemme up!

Rae pokes her head around the door.

RAE

You can't hide in here-

Stops, takes in the scene, astonished.

Addison freezes - then tries to look as threatening a possible.

BARWORKER

Help!

ADDISON

(to Rae)

You gonna be a problem, tiny?

RAE

Get me a question answered too,
tons of fun.

Addison glowers at her. Uses his free hand to twist the Barworker's ear; who yells.

ADDISON

Talk about people hanging around,
trying to get anyone in here to
come home with them.

BARWORKER

People come here on the pull!
Loads of them.

ADDISON

Not like that, something
different. Think about what
sticks out...

His thumb over the Barworker's eye. Could easily jab it in.

BARWORKER

I can't! Leggo of me-

ADDISON

Yes, you can, you little-

RAE

Look, when did you see me mate?

Crouched the other side of the boxes, she shoves her phone into the Barworkers face.

ADDISON

Hey, wait yer turn.

RAE

Come on!

Barworker's eyes widen, as Addison yells - concentrates on the phone right in front of their nose. Recognition.

ADDISON

I'm telling you to wait!

RAE

You're getting nowhere.

ADDISON

Not done yet!

Barworker, in realisation, slaps their one free hand into the side of the boxes. Ignored by Addison and Rae.

RAE

Give 'em a sec to think!

Addison yanks the barworker's arm harder and higher.

BARWORKER

Ahh, stop!

ADDISON

Tell me who was here!

RAE

Remember - Billy? This guy?

BARWORKER

I DO!

Shout cuts through their noise. Quiet for a moment.

BARWORKER

Your friend, him! He was here, two nights ago! I remember because he went off with some greasy creep who was annoying all night, going on about some big house party!

Rae and Addison lean it over the Barworker, together.

ADDISON & RAE

Where?

EXT. HIGH STREET - NIGHT

Rae and Addison, both looking satisfied with themselves, come out of the Bar entrance.

BARWORKER

(V.O.)

Said it was the corner one of that shitty Portnoy estate.

RAE

I think it's that way. Up the hill.

Addison grins at her. Then shoves her down and sprints off the way she pointed.

Rae slowly stands. Looks pleased.

RAE

(to herself)

Idiot.

Heads off. In the opposite direction to Addison.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

Going downhill, Rae trying to keep up a jog rather a walk.

There are streetlights but it's dark and quiet, a hedged in road leading out of the town.

She hears a rustle.

Almost stops, then shakes her head, carries on.

Another rustle.

Rae looks between each of the hedges and without slowing, grabs at a stick from the hedgerow. More than a twig, less than a club.

She eyes it, then the rustle comes again. Sustained this time.

She eyes a break in the hedge just ahead, by a gate.

RAE

Not in the mood for this-

Addison, leaping out of a break, screaming:

ADDISON

ARRRGHHHH!

Rae swings at him, instantly.

Seeing it, Addison ducks underneath. Only caught a glancing blow on the back.

ADDISON

Easy!

Hands up, grinning.

Rae recovers her balance - she put everything into the swing.

RAE

You dick!

ADDISON

Ah, your face, totally worth it.
Serves you right, you told me a lie.

RAE

You shoved me down to get a head start!

ADDISON

After you lied.

(MORE)

ADDISON (CONT'D)
Should have worked out sooner -
when you didn't follow - it was
the wrong way. Took a while to
catch you up.

Rae considers this.

RAE
How long did it take you-

ADDISON
(INTERRUPTING)
Anyway, never mind that, a truce?
We are both going to the same
place, for roughly the same
reason, so okay?

RAE
What terms?

ADDISON
You what?

RAE
Exactly what is this truce?

ADDISON
Erm, no hitting each other? No
tricking each other about which
way to go and definitely no
messing up the other's approach.
Okay?

Rae considers.

RAE
Alright. Nobhead.

Puts out her hand. Addison takes it.

ADDISON
Scruffbag.

They start walking along the road again. A moment of
silence.

RAE
Got money for a taxi?

ADDISON
Nope.

Back to silence.

EXT. PORTNOY NEWBUILD ESTATE - NIGHT

Addison and Rae crouch behind a set of parked cars at the end of a new build estate.

ADDISON
Gonna be that one.

RAE
Yeah.

ADDISON
What? Why'd you agree?

RAE
No car, the bins are over-flowing
and every light is on. Sticks
out like an under-cover copper.

Every other house on the street has at least one car in the drive, only 1 or 2 rooms lit up and the wheelie bins neatly lined up.

ADDISON
Huh. Also the fencing. Barbed
and shit, that is to keep
something more than an annoying
dog in.

RAE
So he's kidnapping people.

ADDISON
Wouldn't surprise me. But he's
prepared to go hang out in bars
to do it, so maybe he'll just
open the door...

OVER THIS: ringing of a doorbell.

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT (POV)

Doorbell continues to ring. From the perspective of whoever is inside, coming through a door and down the hallway.

Checking a phone for the time.

A human hand, in fingerless leather gloves, reaches out for the door lock.

Moving in right in to the peephole. Through it...

There stands Rae. Trying to look as innocent and dumb as possible.

CARLOS
What?

RAE
Heard there was a party?

CARLOS
Not tonight.

RAE
Ah, I've come all this way...
folk said it were great.

The point of view moves around, trying to take in as much as possible. See if it's a trap.

EXT. PORTNOY HOUSE - NIGHT

Out of sight, Addison leans against the side wall, between the porch and the window.

CARLOS
(through the door)
It's over, just er, some friends
staying now...

ADDISON
(hissing)
Use your lady charms or
something...

Rae's face at that suggestion.

RAE
My mate Billy stayed? I've got
some money for him, something I
owed him.

Addison makes a face at this.

But after a pause, the door cracks open. No chain on it.

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT (POV)

Pulling open the door.

CARLOS
You got it with you?

Rae leaps at the door, shoving it with both hands. Carlos hands grip the edge, he's got the leverage.

But then Addison roars around the edge of the porch like a bull, slamming into the door.

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Carlos is a sweaty 80's throwback, once good looking but now

strung out, thin and weak looking.

Addison's shove tosses Carlos back down the hallway, arse over head.

But he comes up in a set crouch, stopping Addison's next rush - the element of surprise immediately gone.

As his hair flicks back, it glows and lights, fired from within. It becomes like a lion's mane, down the shoulders, into thin lines of fiery hair on the outside of his sleeves.

RAE

What the-?

ADDISON

Okay, so you got a little power-up from someone... I'm guessing you ain't the boss.

CARLOS

I don't like the killing but I'll do it.

ADDISON

So what, we just turn around and leave, you say nothing, that it?

Carlos shrugs.

ADDISON

You're an idiot.

Comes in, bouncing on the balls of his feet. A quick one, two that Carlos just avoids.

But that leads him open to a knee in the side from Addison, who follows up by gripping him round the neck.

As they struggle, Rae skips past behind and bounds up the stairs.

ADDISON

Thanks for the help!

Carlos punches him in the face - Addison feels it.

Kicks out, right in Carlos's chest. Sends him staggering back through the doorway into the living room.

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE UPSTAIRS - NIGHT

Rae tries a couple of doors, they are locked. Sounds of the fight below.

She tries one that's not locked.

INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

It's dark but not clean, bare... and with restraints on each corner of the empty bed.

Rae stares at it for a moment. Dread on her face.

Runs back out.

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Stares at the bedrooms - picks one and starts to work on the lock with a set of picks she pulls out of a pocket.

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Addison and Carlos wrestling in the middle of the room. Sparks fly from any point Carlos grabs Addison.

Addison grimaces, it hurts but not enough.

CARLOS

What the-?

Addison slides an elbow inside Carlos' hold, breaks it. Hammers him with head/body shots.

Carlos down to his knees.

ADDISON

You're a delivery service, so
who's doing the ordering?
Where'd you take them?

CARLOS

Get stuffed!

INT. BEDROOM 2 - NIGHT

Rae stands at the end of another bed, hand still on her door handle. Lock pick dangling.

Stares at the bed - strapped into it, terrified, is a young lad. Only in underwear, arms pocked with needle marks. Eyes wide.

Rae moves up, yanks off the lad's gag.

VICTIM

Oh, shit, please, please I don't
want to go....

Rae grips his hair, just to get his attention.

RAE

Go where?

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

SMASH - as Addison and Carlos go through the dinner table. Take-away wrappers flying in the air around them, some lighting on fire from Carlos's power.

Carlos comes up on top - but takes the time to try and summon some kind of fireball into his hand before plunging it down at Addison.

The air is sucked into his hand, the lit papers in the air turning to ash...

And Addison powers his hand right into Carlos's balls.

CARLOS
Oooooohhh.....

The fireball disappears in a twinkle, the air rushing back to fill the room. In the quiet, unnoticed, the bang of a door.

Slowly, Carlos is toppled off Addison.

Addison struggles up.

Heaving from Carlos on the floor, as Addison stands over him.

ADDISON
There, there, lad, don't throw
up, it won't help none. Easy.

Carlos knees buckle. Gently, Addison puts him into the recovery position.

ADDISON
Okay, you'll be shitting blood
for a couple of days. Right. Now
I need you to give me that
address. Or I'm going to take
that fire power of yours and
shove it up your arse to meet
your lungs.

CARLOS
Without her power, I'll die...

Addison grins. Not a nice grin.

ADDISON
Sure that's what she told you.
But I doubt it's true - no
creature has had that much juice
in a long, long time. But if
this is about living forever,
there's only one question...

Leans right in, suddenly not jovial at all.

ADDISON
Do you believe I'll kill you over
this?

A moment - Carlos nods his head in frantic belief.

CARLOS
But it's too late...

He fishes out a phone. Addison snatches it.

ADDISON
Warned your boss? When?

CARLOS
Soon as she rang the doorbell.
But, but, the address is in
there-

Addison picks up a large piece of the broken table and before
Carlos can react, smashes it over his head.

Knocks Carlos out, with a nasty noise and a little blood.

ADDISON
(yelling)
Hey, shortie!

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE HALLWAY - NIGHT

Coming out, Addison yells and looks up the stairs

ADDISON
Hey, come on-

Stops.

At the top of the stairs, struggling down, the VICTIM Rae
found and another. Supporting each other.

ADDISON
Great. More wounded puppies.
She's already gone, huh?

Terrified of this wild looking man, the Victims just nod.

In the distance, sirens.

ADDISON
And of course she called the
police.

A moment. Sirens getting closer.

Addison bursts back the way he came.

INT. PORTNOY HOUSE LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

At full speed, he comes through the room...

...treads on Carlos, who shrieks...

...and jumps through the window.

Smashes out into the back garden.

EXT. MANOR HOUSE - NIGHT

Block of a big old house, a turret and jutting wings - but it looks abandoned, graffitied and boarded up.

Rae staring up at it from the drive. Takes a deep breath, trying to recover from the run here.

EXT. HIGH STREET - NIGHT

Addison, running along a street - real fast, but he's seriously out of breath - he's hurting.

And he's not really sure where he's going. Turns himself around and around.

Lost.

Runs off in another direction - almost at random.

EXT. MANOR HOUSE - NIGHT

Rae crouched by the door, picking at the lock; twisting the torsion wrench until.... there is.... a sudden....

click.

INT. MANOR HALL - NIGHT

Darkness. Long hall, wooden floors, windows that let in only a little street light.

Rae crouches by the door, controlling her breathing. Looks around.

RAE

(whispering)

Billy... you better appear, right now!

REYNARDINE (O.S.)

Oh, do you want to see the lovely lad? I can show you...

Rae's frightened face.

REYNARDINE

Here!

One after another, the rooms big lights glow on. An almost empty space, a couple of pieces of once expensive furniture, table and chair with a half-eaten meal on it.

Rae stands from her crouch, eyes shifting around.

Standing in the middle, poised and posed, the REYNARDINE - the smooth and handsome person from Billy's photo. Like s/he's wearing a smoking jacket, even if he's not.

REYNARDINE

Well, my pretty creature, I'm glad to meet you here... Carlos was right - if you catch one streetrat with a loyal enough friend... you get another free!

Taking in her situation, Rae face sets, determined.

RAE

Where is it, I need to see?

Reynardine points, casual, limp wrist, to the corner.

Rae turns - and stuffs her hand into her mouth to stifle the cry. Tears in her eyes.

In the corner, BILLY'S desiccated body, ripped to shreds as if he was eaten by a hungry pack of wolves. Hair matches, the remains of the clothes but they are shredded and covered in blood.

A little sob escapes Rae as she shuffles towards the body. His ruined coat by the side, bag open and contents spilled out by it.

RAE

Oh, Billy, I'm so sorry, I didn't know it'd be like this... I'm sorry...

REYNARDINE

Now, now, don't be sad - human bodies are just vessels, weak forms... that should be used for entertainment in every possible way, before the end.

Rae's grief moving into rage during this little speech.

She springs at the Reynardine...

Who's suddenly gripping her arms, moving faster than she can see. It's face has changed, no longer human, like a half-fox now, the nose a snub and cheek edges feathering out like fur.

REYNARDINE

And you'll be even more fun than
your friend, I think.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Propping himself up on a wall, Addison gulps air in front of a door.

ADDISON

(to himself)

Okay.... deep breath and...

Kicks at the door. It doesn't break. Depressed sigh.

Kicks again.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Door flies open from Addison's kick.

ADDISON

Hand it over and don't get...

It's an empty kitchen.

ADDISON

Huh.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Rae, smashed to the floor, wind knocked out of her. Reynardine's standing over her, inhuman.

CRASH!!! The door smashes, Addison shoving through it.

ADDISON

Okay, hand it over and no one
gets hurt.

Surprised into stillness, Reynardine stares back at this. Rae watches too, getting back to her feet.

From his back, unstraps his curved blade.

Reynardine shoves Rae back, she stumbles, landing on Billy's things.

ADDISON

Lass, stay out the way - I'll deal with this thing.

Addison leaps forward with a swing.

ADDISON

Gae on, yer bastard!

Reynardine slides out of the way, inhumanly fast. Addison is fast and powerful - if he does land one, it's going to hurt.

Rae takes this in as the Reynardine slashes in, jabbing and ducking - rapid fire blows. She then starts scrabbling at Billy's bag, tossing things aside, stuffing jewellery into her pocket - then finds a wicked little knife.

As the Reynardine kicks Addison's legs out from under him - Rae leaps in, stabbing at the Reynardine - she's not good at violence.

Flashing out the way, the Reynardine just smacks her across the face in one move.

Addison takes advantage to get up and gets one good blow in - then it's back to the same stuff, Addison soaking up punishment and just keeping on going at the Reynardine.

Shaking herself, Rae looks around again from where she's landed. Spots up an old forgotten fire-extinguisher under a couple of pieces of junk.

She picks it up, checking it's weight. Smiles an evil little smile. Pulls the pin and steps forwards...

...As Addison swings at Reynardine, who steps aside and lets him miss...

...Rae empties the CO2 over it, the gas freezing the monster, creaking and crackling, frosting over its skin.

Addison, surprised too, pausing. As the gas runs out, tilts his head - sees the Reynardine can't move.

ADDISON

Give it.

Rae hands him the extinguisher. Base first, he pulls it back two handed and rams it up into the Reynardine's chin.

Smashed, the face explodes, pieces shattering and scattering. Spraying backwards, skittering along the floor as Addison just lets the dented extinguisher fall from his hand.

Rae looks around - and in the corner, a little way from his body's remains, Billy's ghost stands - smiles at her.

RAE

I'm sorry, I was scared...

Addison looking at her - she's obviously not talking to him, just staring into the corner. Tears in her eyes.

RAE

But you can go now... be at peace.

ADDISON

What?

Rae glances back to him - bright light blazes on the side of her face as Billy departs.

She looks back.

RAE

Bye Billy.

Only the corpse in the corner now, as Addison looks over.

ADDISON

Yeah, bye fella. Okay. Pub?

INT. PUB - DAY

Mundane deserted saloon - only just time that alcohol can be served, too early for most people.

ADDISON

Anywhere fine?

He's cheerily calling across to the bored looking BARMAN - waving his compact mirror in his hand. Barman, a youth in braces, collarless shirt and tweed pants, shrugs at him.

ADDISON

Good. Take your time, my friend here needs a moment.

Snaps shut the compact.

Looks to Rae - she's ashen grey, in some kind of shock. Just walking straight forward until he pulls out a chair, puts a hand on her shoulder to almost shove her into it.

ADDISON

You should have a drink, though you look too young to know it.

Pushes his flask into her hand.

It trembles, but Rae stares at it - seems to come back from where ever she went.

Puts her other hand onto it, stills the shake as she puts it down.

RAE
What was it?

ADDISON
No idea. Why were you there,
what'd you take?

RAE
I was getting my
friend's- ...how'd you know I
took something?

ADDISON
You look like a thief.

Plucks his flask back. Unscrews the lid.

ADDISON
So I'll buy it off you.

RAE
What?

ADDISON
Whatever you took. Necklace
wasn't it, cheap gem on the end -
in your right pocket?

Instinctively, Rae shoves her hand into the pocket - Addison
grins, satisfied at the confirmation.

ADDISON
Yeah, that. Come on, what do you
want for it?

RAE
It... killed... my friend! Ripped
him apart...

ADDISON
I believe you. No one else will.
So what can you do? Survive,
right?

Takes a swig of the flask - watching her over it.

RAE
Fuck you. Tell me what it was!

ADDISON
Reynardine - glamour creature,
lures people in to kill 'em.
Collects the shiny things they've
got too. That necklace is no use
to you, just a bad reminder -
give the money to charity if you
like.

RAE

Charities for people who are
killed by monsters, are there?

ADDISON

Don't go looking for more people
like us, love, don't do that.
You didn't die today - take that,
don't go looking for a messy end
like your friend.

Stare between them - Rae doesn't budge. So he shifts himself
closer, seems to become friendlier.

ADDISON

Look, you helped and you had a
real shitty time there... but I
didn't come to rescue you. I'd
have let him eat you if I had to
- I came from the gem. Now I
doubt you had any real clue about
it but I'll offer you a fair
price...

Puts a hand on Rae's arm, the one still half over her pocket.

ADDISON

Or I can cut me losses, disappear
from your life and leave you to
get yourself dead. I don't think
your mate would want that to be
the outcome, do you?

Rae seems conflicted.

ADDISON

What was his name?

Gentle voice, as he eases her hand up. Rae doesn't seem to
notice, lost in memory.

RAE

Billy. It was Billy. Change your
surnames a lot, you know...

But he's lifted her hand enough and in a flash, pulled out
the exposed necklace chain, catching it up in his hand.

Stealing it from her!

ADDISON

Not really. Now, thank fuck. See
you love, do not follow me.

Stepping out of his chair as he talks, almost a whistle on
his lips.

Rae twisted in her chair, seeming to just watch him leave.

But as he whips the chain around his fingers, shortening it with each turn, into his hand smacks something much heavier than it should be...

He stops walking. Looks at his hand.

Neatly through the chain, like it was always there is a small conker. A conker. Definitely not a gem.

ADDISON

How'd you do that?

Rae suddenly breaks into a massive grin, taking the piss.

Holds up her forefinger and thumb - little gem there.

RAE

I could take the fillings out yer teeth, you wouldn't know.

He stares at her - back to the conker.

ADDISON

These aren't even in season!
What, you carry it around 'just in case'?

He's talking too loud. Glances at Barman. Who is reading, seemingly oblivious to them

RAE

Kinda. So what's this gem,
what's it do, why'd you want it?
And why'd we come here?

Overly dignified, Addison walks back to the table.

ADDISON

Pardon?

RAE

We went passed two other open pubs, three breakfast cafes - you came here. You want the gem for something here.

Addison looks at her as he sits - really appraising her now.

ADDISON

I find you... annoying.

RAE

You know stuff I don't. I'm sticking this out till that's not true anymore.

Addison leans back in his chair, looks away. He's stuck and knows it - and doesn't like it.

ADDISON

All right, bratty - really, I don't care about that gem.

Holds up his hand to stop her interrupting.

ADDISON

But I know someone - hell, something, that does want it. Wants it bad. So I was going to trade it.

Rae looks at the gem, at him. Deciding this is the truth. Back to the gem, then over her shoulder to the Barman.

RAE

Is it him?

That does interest Addison - he leans forwards again.

ADDISON

No, why?

Rae looks back at him - takes a internal breath, decides to go all in.

RAE

Because I can see he ain't right. Isn't human.

Rae and Addison looking across the pub.

Barman's holding the book upside down, pretending. Webbed ridging out from his skin, grey and greasy, edges disappearing into his clothes, which seem sticky with a goo.

That reflected image in Addison's mirror, taken out once again. Snapped shut with a loud click.

ADDISON

And you don't need the mirrors...
Damn.

RAE

You do?

ADDISON

Thought everyone did. Hmmm.

RAE

So what is it he wants?

ADDISON

Oh, it's not him, he's just the doorkeeper. Client is, well, underground.

RAE

So is there a secret password, a magic word? Bribe this guy?

ADDISON

Really not gonna shake you, am I?

They cross to the bar, Addison back in fighting mode, Rae right behind him.

RAE

Don't even try.

As they reach the bar, Addison pulls up the flap to let them through. Barman drops his book, moves in the way.

Addison just snaps a punch straight into his face. Barman goes backwards, out cold.

ADDISON

Ah, fuck it. You'll probably die soon enough. In fact, ladies first.

Gestures for her to go through the door behind the bar - marked "No Admittance"... with eldritch runes all around the words.

BLACK