

SONGBIRD

HARLAND

INT. SEWAGE PROCESSING PLANT - NIGHTTIME

We hear MACHINERY WHIRRING in the dark, cavernous warehouse building. As NICO enters, a man can be heard singing opera in the distance.

NICO

Hello?

(No answer)

Hello?

HARLAND

START -> (singing) Maria... Maria...

Harland approaches Nico, singing and laughing - enjoying the echoes.

HARLAND (CONT'D)

It's like La Scala in Milan. You see, in this country, most people think that Puccini is a mushroom.

Harland offers Nico a cigarette.

HARLAND (CONT'D)

You want a smoke?

NICO

No. I don't smoke.

HARLAND

Do you know what I love about smoking?

(no response)

HARLAND (CONT'D)

It's nice to know there's something out there that can still kill you.

Nico stands, increasingly uncomfortable, as Harland laughs, operatically.

HARLAND (CONT'D)

Now, a little bird came flying, landed on my shoulder, whispered in my ear that you need two passes.

NICO

Yeah.

HARLAND

Follow me.

Nico hesitates.

SONGBIRD

HARLAND

HARLAND

Don't worry. I'm just like you... trying to make a living. You're a munie, right? So I assume these passes, they're not for you?

NICO

No. My girl's grandma got sick.

Harland takes out a pad.

HARLAND

Let's start with the girl. Age?

NICO

Twenty-six.

HARLAND

And her full name and social, please?

Nico hesitates.

HARLAND (CONT'D)

I need a name... because I have to program these passes. You with me?

NICO

Sara.

HARLAND

I need her full name. Look. I get it. You gotta be cautious, and you gotta be smart especially these days, you know. I didn't set up this meeting. You did.

NICO

And I'm here wasting my goddamn time.

HARLAND

If you don't trust me, leave.

NICO

No. I'm good.

HARLAND

You know, we're kinda lucky because we're two monies. I give you my word. And I would like to back it up the old-fashioned way. What do you say?

Harland reaches out his hand, to shake. Nico responds and the two shake hands.

HARLAND (CONT'D)

(chuckling) Good. Feels good, doesn't it? Like a childhood memory. A bite out of grandma's cookies.

<- END
2/2