

REFUSE TO GO DARK

Written by

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Based on, my dreams

MUSIC CONTINUES  
— INTERCUT  
SEQUENCE:

INT. DENVER BAR - NIGHT

Gunner enters — smooth, sharp, polished. But something is off.

He spots Pandora at the bar. Alone. Watching.

GUNNER  
(playful, uneasy)  
So... do I call you "Mom" now?

Jack and Deuce BURST in. Urgent. No time for pleasantries.

DEUCE

Jesus, Gunner – pick up your phone!

JACK

Where the fuck is your head?

Jack SLAPS Gunner lightly on the back of the head.

GUNNER

What's going on?

JACK

Angelo took Frankie.

GUNNER

What do you mean "took"?

The bar door swings open.

ANGELO enters. Cool. Smiling. Like it's a surprise party.

ANGELO

Wow. Full house.

If I'd known it was a reunion...

I'd have dressed sexier. (to bartender) Six shots of Johnnie Walker Blue.

Jack and Deuce's hands hover near their holsters. Pandora freezes.

GUNNER

(tense)

Ang... don't.

ANGELO

(cheerful)

This is where you kneel, Gunner.

Pull out the ring. I'll act surprised. Classic, right?

Everyone stares. Confused. Afraid.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

Come on. We leave for Sydney tonight. Let's do it right.

GUNNER

(sharp)

Angelo – what did you do?

ANGELO

(tiny pout)

You're ruining the moment.

(MORE)

ANGELO (CONT'D)

(beat)

Okay, okay. Fine.

You want the truth?

(quietly, like a  
confession)

I shot him. Frankie. Three times.

He laughed at me. Called me

"Angie." (snaps) So I made him  
quiet.

(beat - then softly)

Ring.

Knee.

Now.

Deuce and Jack clock Gunner. Pandora looking to gain control.

PANDORA

Killer, où est ton chien de garde,  
Crosby ? Tu ne voyages jamais seul.

Killer, where is your guard dog,  
Crosby? You never travel alone.

GUNNER

Crosby was supposed to meet today to  
review/

ANGELO

(with brevity)

Dead. I shot him right after  
Frankie. Can't have witnesses.  
No, Gunner, sweetheart—on one knee.  
Let's confirm the "til death do us  
part" thing.

Deuce and Jack are at the ready to shoot.

GUNNER

Ang, let's just all/

ANGELO

Chicago boys, guns on the bar. I  
won't say it again.

He reaches in his back packet and toss two sets of handcuffs  
to Jack and Deuce.

ANGELO (CONT'D)

I am sure you gym rats are used to  
these.

(MORE)

ANGELO (CONT'D)  
Now cuff yourselves to the bar  
rail. For fuck's sake Gunner get on  
one knee.

Jack and Deuce cuff themselves to the bar. Gunner hands his  
gun to Angelo.

Gunner on one knee looking up at Angelo.

SFX. Gun cocks. CLICK

Angelo has the gun at Gunner's temple.

DEUCE  
Is this what they mean by a shotgun  
wedding?

Jack rolls his eyes.

JACK  
We've crossed the fucking line.

PANDORA  
Angie, such drama.

ANGELO  
Don't call me that name.

PANDORA  
Angie. You really think a bullet  
makes you royalty?

SFX. Juke box in the corner Coin drops. Records plays

AMERICA OS (TIN MAN)  
*Sometime late when things are real  
and people share the gift of gab  
between themselves*

BOOM.

Angelo shoots Pandora in the chest.

Blood blossoms rapidly.

JACK  
You crazy fuck.

ANGELO  
One more word Chicago boy and you  
will join her. (now calmly) So  
Gunner, baby you were about to say  
something? I am all ears.

Gunner trembles slightly.

DEUCE  
(quiet, haunted)  
"That he didn't, didn't already  
have..."

Soft. Broken. Like the magic's gone.

Pandora gurgles and blood slips out of her mouth.

ANGELO  
As she dies she still has to make  
noise. Now Gunner the words? You  
can do it.

Angelo presses the gun firmly into Gunner's head.

GUNNER  
(weakly)  
Ang, will you

ANGELO  
Oh for the love God, take out the  
ring. The ring. (He escalates)  
Give me the ring.  
Give me the moment.  
Say yes, goddammit.

Gunner takes the ring out of his pocket.

GUNNER  
(voice breaking)  
You ruined everything.  
(beat)  
Even the song.

Boom.

Then SFX: Tin Man continues... but warped, slowed, broken

SFX. Lightening Cracks and hits a transformer. WHOMP

All the lights go out. Voices rising.

WHACK. THUMP. A body hits the floor.

One flickering light bulb remains. Swings. Sparks. Then  
darkness.

Somewhere, the last line of "Tin Man" distorts into static.

Then silence.

JACK  
Deuce are you free yet.

DEUCE  
Hold up – almost there. Gunner?  
GUNNER?

The emergency light comes on. Gunner, face down on the floor.

Pandora gasps once. Then still.

JACK  
Where's Angelo?

Jack is free. He checks for a pulse.

JACK (CONT'D)  
I got a pulse.

DEUCE  
(on his cell)  
Yea, 911 we got an emergency. One  
dead. One down.

SFX: *"Nothing I can do a total eclipse of the heart."*

JACK  
(urgent)  
Gunner, breathe.  
(beat)  
Gunner, say something.

Lights flicker. Angelo is gone. Pandora is still.

The ring lies near Pandora's outstretched hand.

Blood seeps toward it. Never quite touches.

Bonnie Tyler howls the final line.

The ring sparkles under red light.

FADE OUT.

EXT. BONDI BEACH SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

ON SCREEN:

TWO MONTHS LATER – BONDI BEACH SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Late afternoon. The waves easily rolling in.

ANGLE ON a single pair of feet walking, barefoot in the sand.

SFX: SIGH

Camera pulls back to Gunner on the beach.

He takes out the ring.

ANGLE ON: See the inscription: **REFUSE TO GO DARK.**

Jack and Deuce walk over. They all stand there a moment looking at the ocean.

Deuce pulls out of a satchel a bottle of champagne and 3 flutes. He hands the bottle to Gunner and the glasses to Jack.

SFX. POP the champagne burst open. Gunner pours for all.

Gunner hands his glass to Jack.

Gunner puts the ring on a chain and slips it around his neck.

He takes back the glass. They All raise in celebration.

GUNNER  
To Frankie. Refuse to go dark.  
Always.

The toast.

Deuce takes out his phone and hits play.

BARRY WHITE "You're first You're The Last" plays

The music builds and the three stand as centurions boldly holding the future.

CUT TO:

INT. MOTEL ROOM THAT NIGHT

11 pm.

Gunner asleep on his back. The ring glistens on his powerful, broad chest.

Deuce asleep. Jack beside him, eyes open. Watching. Planning.

Phone lights up.

ANGLE ON THE MESSAGE



MESSAGE

JACKpot, we found KILLER. Wilton  
Manors, FL.

JACK

(texting)

Be back in a week. Keep your eyes  
on him. If he moves let me know.

Jack thinks. Smiles.

JACK (CONT'D)

(text to Angelo)

Nowhere you can hide.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - WILTON MANORS - MORNING

ON SCREEN:

WILTON MANORS, FL

Sunlight spills through lace curtains. Birds chirp. A kettle  
hisses gently. The radio plays:

RADIO DJ (V.O.)

It's another beautiful day in sunny  
Wilton Manors! Pride parade  
tonight, and temps in the low 80s-

CLICK.

Radio off.

Back of a man in a black T-shirt. Steam rises from the  
kettle.

CAMERA PANS - ANGELO in an A-shirt, his KILLER chain  
gleaming. Calm. At home. Too calm.

From the speaker: -INTO THE WOODS plays softly, dreamlike.

*"He's a very nice Prince... And-? And- It's a very nice ball..."*

Angelo sets down two teacups.

*"And-? And- When I entered they trumpeted"*

CAMERA REVEALS:

CROSBY. Dead. Slumped in a chair. Wearing a fresh black t-shirt. Across the chest: "GUNNER."

*"And-? The Prince-? Oh, the Prince...Yes, the Prince!*

*Well, he's tall? Is that all? Did you dance?*

*Is he charming? They say that he's charming."*

Angelo sits opposite. Adds sugar to his tea. Smiles.

ANGELO  
(softly)  
Guess he's charming after all.

BUZZ.

*"His phone lights up.*

*We did nothing but dance. Yes, and-?*

*And it made a nice change. No, the Prince!*

*Oh, the Prince... Yes, the Prince. He has charm for a Prince, I guess..."*

TEXT — JACK:

Nowhere you can hide.

Angelo doesn't flinch. He sips his tea.

*"And it's all very strange..."*

ANGELO  
(soft)  
Then come find me, baby.

*"I don't know... Oh what I wouldn't give to be in your shoes..."*

SMASH TO BLACK.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE HEART plays as credits roll

ANGELO OS  
Sweetheart, do sit up, Let's enjoy  
the day. For better or worse. In  
sickness and in health. Till death  
do us part.

Angelo laughs.

CREDITS ROLL.

GUNNER OS  
I won't go dark, ever. I won't.

**THE END**