

Forgiveness is a Luxury

By Robert may

ACT I

INT. TEK AND JAMIE'S BEDROOM - 2200 HRS

Lightning strikes loud, illuminating the bedroom. Rain falls with ill intent on the roof of the container house. A couple lays on the larger-than-king-size bed. TEK (Terrance Eurgine Kane), 25, is awake while his fiancée lays on his chest. JAMIE, 28, is snoring softly. Tek brushes the hair from her face and moves her hair, getting out of bed.

He presses a button on the wall and a mechanical cover slides over the skylight above them. Jamie stirs and rolls over and looks at Tek.

JAMIE

You're awake.

TEK

I am.

(Sits and gently caresses
her cheek)

I couldn't sleep. I see you're
wearing the shirt I got you.

JAMIE

Yep!

(Pulls at her shirt and
smiles.)

(She rolls over so her
back is to him and
snuggles close)

It's just so soft...

TEK

I figured you'd like it. It's
cashmere.

(He kisses her neck, her
Tree of life tattoo is
visible)

TEK (CONT'D)

The tattoo looks good.

JAMIE

I'm glad you approve. It would suck
to get a tattoo to match yours and
have you hate it.

TEK

I love it.

JAMIE

Tell me again. I like to hear what it's about.

(rolls over to face him)

TEK

(smiles and kisses her forehead)

Ok... According to my Dad, my great great grand praents were from the rainforest. Great Grand Dad was all about the spirits of the forest and navigating the forest, hunting and foraging. Great Great Grand Mom was about the medicine the forest could provide and the respecting the forest as a living thing. Dad said they told him that the Tree of Life was like a gateway to the spirit world. As a tree dies and lives again, so do we. We live a spirits; guides with wisdom and knowledge. This tree is our connection.

JAMIE

Your sister has it?

TEK

Yeah. And so did my brother.

JAMIE

You never told me how he died. We've been together for 3 years and you never talk about it.]

TEK

It's not a story I like to share.
(rolls over and sits up)

JAMIE

(wraps her arms around his chest)

Okay, I'm sorry. It's ok.

They sit in silence for a min. The rain sounds loud on the skylight above. He looks up.

NARRATOR

The rain reminds me.

TEK

It was a flash flood...
Dad would take us to the rainforest every summer. Learn our roots.

(MORE)

TEK (CONT'D)

When I was 16, my last year in education, Tony and Tina came. My sister. We got caught in a big storm. There was a flash flood. Tina got swept away and I dove in. Tony tried to stop me. I lost control and got swept away. Tony was a strong swimmer. He jumped in and saved us both. Tina got out first. Tony insisted I go next. A big wave hit him and threw him into a rock. Dad grabbed as and pulled us to safety. We all watched his body...just...go.

JAMIE

(wipes a tear from her eyes)

I'm so sorry, Terrance.
Why did you want me to get it?

NARRATOR

I want to tell her it was to remember me when this life takes me; when I meet the end of a gun I can't fight. I want to.

TEK

I just want you to have it.
(kisses her)
I'll be in my office.

INT. TEK'S OFFICE - 3 AM

Tek flips on the light. The office is large, about the size of a large Manhattan studio. Paintings on easels sit on one side of the room. On the other side is his desk, a laptop and a few notebooks sitting atop. Pictures hang on the wall behind his chair. Images of him and people in the company toasting to good times and photos of Tek shaking hands with powerful individuals while wearing some sort of affectation.

Tek sits down at his desk and sighs, rubbing his eyes. He opens a drawer and withdraws a fifth of whiskey and a shot glass. He pours himself a double shot and drinks it down.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

Many nights, I come in here to clear my thoughts. No one knows I paint. Other than Jamie. No one knows that side. Only the man that operates in the darkness. Only the beast.

Tek opens the laptop and touches the fingerprint sensor. His computer blips. Images and text pop up and disappear on the screen. Then, a command line messaging system becomes visible.

At the top right of the screen, a tiny bell icon flashes.

TEK

Hm. Job.

He taps on the icon and a message comes up on the screen.

COMPUTER SCREEN

"ENTER AUTHENTICATION CODE: TERRANCE KANE 15"

TEK

(typing and whispering to himself)

Auth code 15, 'Charlie-one-three-eight-echo-delta-seven'

ANGLE ON LAPTOP SCREEN

A message comes up on the screen.
 "Mr Kane, Mrs De Jesus needs to be dealt with. It seems she's been stealing from us following her husbands untimely demise two years ago. Her location will be sent to you. Call for clean up by 0500 HRS."

A button is blinking below the message that says "confirm." He taps on it and the message disappears and the screen displays "Deleted."

NARRATOR (O.S.)

Demise. I was his demise. Beatrice De Jesus is Chance's cousin. Her husband beat her and her son, Francisco, ruthlessly. He was met with all the retribution I could dole out. I killed Antonio De Jesus with extreme prejudice. And now I have to kill her, too. Auth fifteen -- the code for an in house kill. A hit on the upper management. Not used very often.

Tek picks up a locket that hangs from his lamp. He opens it. Inside is a picture of a brunette with green eyes, wearing a golden dress. On her lap was her son, a young man, barely six years old. Tek stares at the locket. It's a gold pendant hanging on a paracord necklace.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Beatrice. I saved her son that night. Antonio was kicking the shit out of both of them when I got there. He'd found out about us...about me. Chance told me to kill him and then cut ties. I wasn't to see them again. I guess it was time to keep my promise.

Tek walks to a small fridge in the corner and retrieves a vial.

INT. HALLWAY

Tek steps out of his office door. He's wearing a maroon shirt, white tie, under a long black leather trench coat. He checks his pistol and puts it in his holster under his arm. He puts the vial in his pocket. He pulls his knife from a drawer and puts in its sheath in the small of his back.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

Ashes to ashes.

Fade Out

INT. LARGE VILLA BATHROOM - 0100 HRS

A woman lays in a freestanding tub, her feet dangling over the edge. She's leaning her head back into the hands of a young man wearing a red, plush bathrobe. TYLER, 21 is singing "My Funny Valentine" while washing the woman's hair. BEATRICE, 35, is singing along while she lays in the tub, enjoying the scalp massage. Candles cover the counters and windowsills.

TYLER

Why do you like this song so much?

BEATRICE

A person that meant very much to me
used to sing it to me on my bad
days.

TYLER

Should I be jealous?
(He kissees her on the
forehead)

BEATRICE

No, you don't anything to worry about.

(She shows a sexy smile)

TYLER

Well, good. I'd-

The dog barks from the bedroom. Two short barks and then silence.

Beatrice looks out the window and looks back at her toy for the night, hiding concern.

BEATRICE

Tell, you what sweetie. I'm going to go have a smoke on the balcony.

You get in and I'll join you.

(She gets out of the tub and kisses him deeply)

INT. LARGE VILLA MASTER BEDROOM BALCONY

Beatrice stands naked, leaning on the balcony railing and smoking a joint. She breathes out slowly and watches the smoke float up into the crisp night air. She's not shivering, though she didn't dry off. She looks, simply, unbothered.

A beagle runs up to her from the corner of the balcony where stands a large plant with large leaves. She pets him and turn her gaze back to the view of the city.

BEATRICE

The city really is pretty at night.

BEATRICE (CONT'D)

(Still looking over the city)

We talked about this once - on our final vacation together.

TEK

Morocco. Five years ago.

(Tek steps out of the shadows)

Ranger remembers his signal for me. I didn't even have to tell him to bark.

BEATRICE

He remembers you. You were his favorite person.

TEK

It's good to see you, Bea. You look good.

She turns and glances at him, then back to the cityscape.

BEATRICE

How's whats-her-name?

TEK

You know her name.

BEATRICE

I take it you're still together.

TEK

We are.

Beatrice pauses and stares at him. Her eyes glance at the double doors to the bedroom.

BEATRICE

Do you have to kill him? He's a nice boy.

TEK

He'll find your body. He'd have to be dealt with.

She smiled softly and walked ahead of him into the bedroom.

INT. LARGE VILLA BEDROOM 0100 HRS

They walk into the bedroom. The walls are painted a shade of faded pink. The king-size bed is covered with red blankets and pillows. Beatrice walks toward to the bed and crawls under the covers.

Tek walks into the bathroom. Beatrice winces at the sound of two silenced gunshots. Tek walks back in and sets his gun on a dresser.

BEATRICE

Did he see it coming?

TEK

No.

Tek sits on the bed next to her and they sit in silence for a moment, looking into each other's eyes. Tek removes the vial from his inside pocket.

TEK (CONT'D)

Ready?

BEATRICE

You remembered the way I wanted
this to happen.

TEK

Yes, I did.

He gives her the vial and she drinks it down. She drinks
water from the glass on the nightstand and swishes it around
her mouth.

BEATRICE

I'm ready.

He kisses her like he'd been waiting to for his whole life.
They make love until she falls limp. He stands up and wipes a
tear from his eye.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

She told me this day would come.
And she told me this is how she
wanted it to go down. I was to be
the last person she'd ever be with.
Her last and final thought.

Tek puts on his clothes and wipes a tear from his eye. He
puts his gun back in its place and takes out his phone,
pressing a button.

TEK

Clean up at my location. Two
spills.

He puts his phone in his pocket and looks at Beatrice. She
looks as if she's in a peaceful slumber. He stares for a
moment.

He quietly sings a few bars of "My Funny Valentine," turns,
and walks out of the room.

NARRATOR (O.S.)

Ashes to Ashes

Fade Out

INT. TEK AND JAMIE'S BEDROOM - 0800 HRS

Jamie is sitting in front of the vanity mirror across the room from the bed in which Tek is soundly sleeping. She's brushing her hair and singing "My Funny Valentine."

She doesn't notice Tek open his eyes and slowly sit up - she keeps singing. Tek closes his eyes and lets out a slow, silent exhale. He starts to sing with her in harmony. She looks at his reflection in the mirror and smiles. She stops singing.

JAMIE

You were gone when I got up to go to the bathroom this morning.

TEK

I had a gig.

JAMIE

The kind of gig you won't talk about or the kind you can't talk about?

TEK

Can't.

JAMIE

(Turns to face him)
Was it horrible?

TEK

(Smiles softly)
Nothing I can't handle, doll.

JAMIE

(Gets up, runs over and jumps on him)
(She kisses him)
I'm glad.

NARRATOR

She knows my face. She knows I'm not okay. I can see it in her eyes. I know her face, too.

TEK

What are you doing today?

They stand up and head into the bathroom.

INT. BEDROOM EN SUITE

Jamie picks up a toothbrush and prepares to brush her teeth.
Tek removes his shirt and turns on the shower.

JAMIE

I have a couple appointments today.
But most of the day, I took off.

TEK

(steps into the shower)
Why?

JAMIE

(spits toothpaste into
thes ink and rinses her
mouth)
It's your birthday, Silly. Today is
for you. We'll do whatever you want
today.

TEK

Well, if THAT'S what we're doing,
I have a request.

JAMIE

(smiles and rolls her
eyes)
I meant activities and such.

TEK

(peaks his head out of the
shower)
So did I.

JAMIE

(rolls her eyes and begins
to wash her face.)

TEK

Come here.

JAMIE

No.

TEK

C'mon, please. I just want a kiss.

JAMIE

You'll pull me in!

TEK

(feigns incredulity)
What kind of an asshole do you
think I am?

JAMIE

(Walks close to the shower
slowly and leans her head
toward him, keeping the
rest of her body away)
Ok kiss me.

TEK

(laughs)
You're too far away.

JAMIE

I would, but I don't want to get
wet!

TEK

(Opens the door to the
shower and sprays her
with the spray nozzle)
See? No excuse.

JAMIE

(rolls her eyes an takes
off her robe)
Fine.
(gets in)

Fade out