

# ***Before The Night Blows Cold***

*by*

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Cast of Characters

AZUMI : 20's

BILLY : 20's

Place

Azumi's apartment

Time

Early morning hours

2.

Setting: The play takes place inside Azumi's large but shitty apartment designed like an abandoned warehouse.

At Rise: The play opens up with Billy standing outside in the rain, hoping Azumi will answer her door.

Billy stands at front side door alleyway entrance to Azumi's apartment.

The door cracks open partially.

AZUMI: What do you want?

BILLY: Azumi, holy shit, thank God you answered.

AZUMI: What's going on?

BILLY: I got some heat on me.

AZUMI slams door.

BILLY: Wait! Please! Let me talk to you for a second.

AZUMI speaks from behind the door.

AZUMI: I don't want to see your face ever again, Billy.

BILLY: Shit I know, you're right but there's a lot of shit going down and I need you for just one small favor, I need you to, to hide me, just for tonight. Azumi, you don't understand-

AZUMI: I do understand!

BILLY: You're the only person I can depend on, I have no one else...AZUMI!!

AZUMI: You don't have me, either.

BILLY: I know that's not true, don't bullshit me...

AZUMI opens the door a crack.

AZUMI: NO, you are bullshitting me. I've given you thousands and you haven't had the decency not only to pay me back but to also never bring it up to me once. You disappeared right after! Am I trash to you, bitch?

BILLY: But you know I'm good for it.

AZUMI: It's been three months, bitch.

BILLY: Please, let me just tell you what's going on with me-

AZUMI: It doesn't matter what's going on with you, Billy! I don't have any money you can borrow.

BILLY: What about your brother? Your brother can lend it to you and-

AZUMI: My brother will kill you.

BILLY: Aren't you down with me anymore?

AZUMI: You only come to me when you need money. That's all it's about now, just using Azumi!

BILLY: That's not true. You know how I feel about you.

AZUMI: Liar! Don't stand there with some serious look in your eye and lie to my damn face!

BILLY: Azumi, you want to do this shit right now?! I'm hanging on by a thread over here!! I can't-

AZUMI slams door.

...Az...Azumi...grrrrr...(forced calm) honey tea listen...damn it! ...Honey, listen, okay, it's been a long three months...I've been screwed every which way possible. I had your money weeks ago but as you may have discovered, I got a gambling problem, alright? Big fat bastard Tony somehow found out that I had a stash and I owed his dumbass money and he pressed me for it and took the whole thing. Didn't leave me shit! I didn't wanna face you until I had what I owed you, alright?

...I been trying ever since to raise the cash back and I've come close a few times, but...tonight I thought I finally had it but as always I have no luck and it's worse cause I took off at some card game, took some lumps but barely got away and now I have all kinds of people after me...I'm in so much shit I can't even stand straight up in it, baby...you're all I think about...day and night...your skin, your lips... sometimes I think about you so hard I can smell you and it drives me crazy...last freaking thing I wanna do is bring you into any of this but I got no one, no one, not a living soul who even cares an inch. I'm a scumbag and I know it and I wanted to try...one last...I'm sorry, I'm going, I...

BILLY walks off.

AZUMI opens the door.

AZUMI: I hate your guts.

BILLY: I hate my guts, too. Least we hate the same guy, right?

AZUMI: Why do you do this to me?

BILLY: I just went on a whole rant about it.

AZUMI: It's all true?

BILLY: It's worse than that but I figured I'd give you the "stuck on the other side of the door" version.

AZUMI: Not funny.

BILLY: Not trying to be funny.

AZUMI: Why is your face so bad?

BILLY: I told ya I got the shit kicked out of me but escaped. You have no idea. I have some glass stuck in my side here...

BILLY lifts his shirt to reveal a sharp piece of glass sticking in his side.

AZUMI shrieks.

Need help pulling it out.

AZUMI: How did you---

BILLY: I dove through a second floor window, landed on a pile of garbage pails and got away, but the glass caught me in my side.

AZUMI: Come inside.

AZUMI widens the gap of the door.

BILLY enters her apartment.

BILLY: Place hasn't changed, but, (pointing) what happened to the couch I bought you?

AZUMI: I set it on fire.

BILLY: Jesus.

AZUMI: Now it looks like an art piece.

BILLY inspects couch.

BILLY: It really does. Yeah...ha, ha!

AZUMI: Shut up.

BILLY: Sorry.

AZUMI: Take off your shirt.

BILLY takes off his shirt.

AZUMI goes into another room.

BILLY: Do you have some of my clothes and shit still here or did you burn those, too?

AZUMI: I burned everything.

BILLY: Holy shit. Is that an Asian thing or---

AZUMI comes out of the room carrying a clean towel and first aid kit.

AZUMI: Are you being racist?

BILLY: No, of course not, I--

AZUMI: I burnt your fucking couch, your clothes, whatever I could find of you Billy cause I hate your fucking guts. Get it? You are inside my apartment now because you are a pathetic excuse for a man and for some stupid reason I take pity on you.

BILLY: Thanks.

AZUMI: Let me see your wound.

AZUMI inspects the glass in BILLY's side.

Put this towel in your mouth. Bite down hard on it. Ready?

BILLY: Nhmm-hmmm.

AZUMI pulls the glass out from BILLY.  
Blood squirts out.

BILLY screams wildly.

AZUMI applies antiseptic to BILLY'S open wound.

BILLY wails some more.

AZUMI: Should have told you to lay down. Lay down.

BILLY lays down on the floor.

Alright. Relax. The glass is all out. I'm cleaning the wound and going to stitch.

BILLY: Fuck! Give me some alcohol or something. I need to drink something before you...

AZUMI grabs whiskey from her mini bar.

She takes a long chug before handing it over to BILLY.

BILLY chugs whiskey down ferociously.

BILLY: Gimme a sec. Let some of this shit take effect before you...

AZUMI: I could stitch or I could burn it.

BILLY: Burn it?

AZUMI: To seal your wound.

BILLY: How you gonna burn it?

AZUMI nods to her fireplace

AZUMI: Fire dragon.

AZUMI grabs a fire poker shaped and designed  
as a dragon.

Your choice.

BILLY: I'll take the heat.

AZUMI: Really?

BILLY guzzles down more whiskey.

BILLY: Cauterize me. Ha, ha. You could always say you branded me  
like the cheap pig that I am.

AZUMI heats up the fire poker in the fire.

AZUMI: Poor some alcohol on your wound.

BILLY pours whiskey on his wound and cringes.

BILLY drinks down more whiskey.

It's heating.

BILLY lays down flat on his back on the  
floor.

BILLY: I'm sorry for everything I done to you baby. You've no idea  
the shit life I been living. I just wanna get back on track, I wanna  
be with you, I want a good fucking life for once, you know...always  
in a mess...I'm gonna get you back every penny I owe you, I swear to  
God on my life I'm not gonna die before paying you back every dime.

AZUMI: Talk is cheap.

BILLY: Yeah...always said I'd be more than what I was raised to be,  
but I guess, I don't know....(he drinks)...my destiny...right?

AZUMI takes out the fire poker.

AZUMI walks to BILLY and kneels beside him.

She takes whiskey and pours more of it on his wound. She places the towel in his mouth.

BILLY closes his eyes and nods.

AZUMI comes down with the fire dragon and cauterizes BILLY's skin shut.

BILLY screams in agony and doesn't stop until he passes out from the pain.

AZUMI stares at him lovingly. She caresses his hair and kisses him.

**END OF PLAY**