

Tribal-Episode 4: A Trip ©



The colorful buildings appear dreamlike in the streetlights and encroaching fog.

10 INT. TANGO RESTAURANT/BAR, BUENOS AIRES - LATER

The crowd has thinned out. Bill sits alone at the end of the bar, drinking a coffee and eating a flan. The bartender ba approaches.

BARTENDER BA

Can I get you anything else?

BILL

No I'm OK.

BARTENDER BA

Your friends leave? What about Pilar?

BILL

They all went down to Otto's. I told them if I don't show up in an hour that means I went home. Which I believe I will do shortly.

The bartender nods and moves on to other customers. Bill focuses on his coffee and flan. A few seconds later, a MAN in a black leather jacket, 40s, who had been lurking in the background walks up and sits next to Bill who doesn't pay attention to him. The bartender walks over.

LEATHER MAN

Johnny Walker on the rocks.

Bill gives pause, recognizing the voice, but doesn't make eye contact.

BILL (V.O.)

The voices in the night I could deal with. I had meds and booze for that. This voice was equally nightmarish but no amount of pills could make it go away.

As the bartender fetches the drink, Bill sighs.

BILL

I'm not liking what I'm hearing.

LEATHER MAN

Only this voice is real. How have you been?

BILL

How about I close my eyes and you just disappear? For old time sake?

LEATHER MAN

No can do, buddy. You know the drill.

BILL

Enough is enough. How about a break?

LEATHER MAN

How about we take a walk?

11 EXT. CAMINITO & RIACHUELO, BUENOS AIRES - NIGHT

The two men stroll silently through the street toward the river. It is very late and not many people are about. The colorful buildings appear dreamlike in the streetlights and encroaching fog. Bill smokes and Leather Man follows a couple paces behind. When they reach the river, Bill throws in his butt, pulls up his collar against the night chill and blankly stares into the water.

LEATHER MAN

How are you doing?

BILL

OK, the new meds seem to help.

LEATHER MAN

No, I mean how's work? How's that woman...what's her name?

BILL

Pilar. She's alright. We're both lost souls.

LEATHER MAN

Well, if you have each other, you're not lost then, are you?

BILL

I guess. Will you get to the point?

Leather Man pulls out a pack of cigarettes and gives one to Bill, lighting him up but not taking one himself.

LEATHER MAN

We need you again.

BILL

So soon?

LEATHER MAN

It's been almost a year.

BILL

What is it this time?

Leather Man hands Bill an envelope.

LEATHER MAN

Here's your tickets. When you get to your destination you'll be contacted with the all the details.

BILL

Where to?

LEATHER MAN

Iquitos.

BILL

Iquitos? Are you shitting me? Wait...where's that again?

LEATHER MAN

Peru, on the upper Amazon. You fly out next Friday from Ezeiza. We've arranged for you to get all your shots before then...typhoid, yellow fever, typhus...

BILL

Jesus Christ, I can't believe you're sending me into the goddamn jungle.

LEATHER MAN

There, there, it's not all that bad. And I can guarantee you won't actually be getting into the jungle itself.

BILL

Still...and what excuse do I use at work this time?

LEATHER MAN

You need to visit your ailing mother in Caracas.

BILL

We used that last time.

LEATHER MAN

Yeah but she got better, remember? Last time she broke her hip. Now she has to have gall bladder surgery.

BILL

Never mind she died seven years ago.

LEATHER MAN

They don't know that.

BILL
And in New York!

LEATHER MAN
They don't KNOW that!

BILL
And what if I refuse?

LEATHER MAN
Don't start.

BILL
No really, what if I just say 'Take
a hike'?

LEATHER MAN
Don't even go there.

BILL
Take a hike.

He turns and starts walking away.

LEATHER MAN
Your daughter would be more
reasonable, I'm sure.

Bill whips around in a frenzy, grabbing Leather Man in a
choke hold.

BILL
Why are you bringing my daughter
into this?

The sudden hard barrel of a pistol pressing against his ribs
makes Bill loosen his grip but not let go entirely.

LEATHER MAN
I really do apologize. I was just
trying to bring you back to Earth.
Let me rephrase. You said those
meds were helping, right? What if
those meds were to become unavailable?

Bill lets go.

BILL
Don't tell me you have every
pharmacist in the country under your
thumb?

LEATHER MAN
 (fixing his shirt)
 You're in the computer my friend.
 Welcome to the modern age.

The first pale streak of dawn appears as Bill dejectedly sits down on a bench and dejectedly watches boats moving down the river.

BILL
 And what if I just jump out a window?

LEATHER MAN
 That's your prerogative.

BILL
 My prerogative.

LEATHER MAN
 Better start packing.

12 EXT. FLASHBACK 2: CARACAS - OUTSIDE SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Guillermo, now a young teenager, is waiting outside the fence. After a few moments Elena comes walking out with a couple friends. They're all laughing but when Elena spots Guillermo she gets serious.

GUILLERMO
 Elena! Hey!

ELENA
 Hello.

GUILLERMO
 Do you have a minute?

Elena looks a little annoyed.

GUILLERMO
 Come on, just a minute.

Elena looks at her friends and rolls her eyes a little.

ELENA
 See you guys later.

Her friends walk off giggling.

ELENA
 What is it?

GUILLERMO

Hey, I was wondering if you had a date yet for the dance next Friday?

She rolls her eyes again, slightly, and looks uncomfortable.

ELENA

I don't know.

GUILLERMO

What do you mean you don't know?

ELENA

I mean I don't think I want to go.

GUILLERMO

Why not?

ELENA

I don't know. Dances are kind of silly.

GUILLERMO

What? It'll be fun. Come on.

ELENA

No Guillermo, I don't think so.

GUILLERMO

Why not? Is it me?

ELENA

No, it's not you. I'm just not interested in going that's all.

GUILLERMO

You sure?

ELENA

Yeah, sorry. Listen I have to go.

GUILLERMO

OK...see you around.

ELENA

See you.

13 EXT. FLASHBACK 2: CARACAS - OUTSIDE SCHOOL - EVENING

It's a couple weeks later and Guillermo is standing behind a big tree, hiding. He's watching kids going into the school to the dance. He's waiting and waiting and seems about to leave when he spies Elena, in a pretty dress, walking alone toward the school. She pauses and looks around. Guillermo

moves a little as though he's going to approach her, but then Elena smiles and waves to someone. It's CARLOS, the local wise ass.

CARLOS

Hey there, you're looking good!

ELENA

Thank you.

A few more kids show up and they converse a little. Suddenly, a stray dog shows up next to Guillermo. He tries to shoo him away but he won't budge so he kicks him which causes the dog to start barking and grabbing Guillermo's pants cuff. The commotion catches Elena's attention. She sees him as he ducks back behind the tree.

CARLOS

Come on Elena, what's the matter?
Who is that?

ELENA

I don't know.

As the kids walk through the gate Elena looks back towards Guillermo who watches through the branches. She visibly feels bad that she was discovered and that she has hurt Guillermo.