

Thanks. Guess I need a few extra inches.

**STEVEN**

Glad to help. How's the bird?

**PHILLIP**

Huh?

(realizing)

Oh. Him, yeah... he's at peace.

**STEVEN**

Oh, I'm sorry.

**PHILLIP**

It was for the best. He was suffering.

Steven acknowledges his kindness with a smile.

**STEVEN**

(referring to law book)

Civil law? You know, I'm an attorney.

**PHILLIP**

Really?

**STEVEN**

You suing someone?

**PHILLIP**

I don't know what I'm doing. There's a guy I know- he's in the infirmary now. He's sick- he's real sick... AIDS. I thought maybe I could find a way to get him some help- I mean real help. Not here. I don't know- maybe I could-- I don't even know what I'm looking for...

Steven is intrigued.

**STEVEN**

Does he have a lawyer?

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**PHILLIP**

Yeah.

**STEVEN**

Have him get in touch with the Prisoner Rights Committee. They deal with this all the time- pro bono. I've got the number.

**PHILLIP**

Well thank you, I--

**STEVEN**

My name's Steven Russell.

**PHILLIP**

Pleased to meet you Steven Russell, my name's Phillip Morris.

**STEVEN**

I haven't seen you around Phillip. I'm always in the yard...

**PHILLIP**

I don't go to the yard. You know what happens to blonde haired, blue eyed queers in the yard...

**STEVEN**

It is kind of rough out there.

(then)

You don't look like you belong here Phillip.

**PHILLIP**

I don't.

**STEVEN**

Why are you here?

**PHILLIP**

I rented a car... and kept it too long.

**STEVEN**

Grand theft?

**PHILLIP**

Theft of service.

**STEVEN**

Insurance fraud.

**PHILLIP**

No. Just theft of service.

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**STEVEN**

No.      Me. Insurance fraud.

**PHILLIP**

Damn, we're both in a mess aren't we?

**STEVEN**

Don't seem fair, does it?

**PHILLIP**

No, it don't.

**STEVEN**

You know, I keep finding that life's a little shittier than I thought it was gonna be.

**PHILLIP**

Oh, listen to you, Gloomy Gus. I think you're gonna be just fine, Steven

Russell.

teven takes this to heart.

**STEVEN**

(playful)

I guess I'm inclined to believe you.

**PHILLIP**

Why's that?

**STEVEN**

I met you today, didn't I?

Phillip smiles.

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Steven sits close to Phillip at a table. A large open law text lies between them.

**STEVEN**

(mid-sentence)

...I made the mistake of writing her and saying I was lonely in here. And next thing you know, my ex-wife catches her putting the neighbor's puppy in a box to mail to me.

**PHILLIP**

Ohhhhh, she sounds so sweet...

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**STEVEN**

Oh she's an angel.

(then)

I think I'll be sure to write her back and tell her I'm not lonely anymore...