

What Have I Done Pt. 3

As Dan Stein walked out of the hospital and into a hot Mexico City, he immediately was greeted by the presence of a masked man in a gray suit. Dan recognized the mask very well as it belonged to one of the men he oversaw - Ultimo Muerte II. Muerte stood between his vehicle and Dan, with his hands crossed over his belt line. Dan stopped several feet short of Ultimo Muerte II.

I hear you're coming from a family reunion of sorts, Mr. Stein.

Dan sighs, putting his hands on his hips. Dan looks exasperated as he nods to Muerte.

Word travels fast around this city. Especially when you're dealing with the people I deal with.

And just who are those people, "Muerte"? The people that my cousin just said blew a man's brains out in front of her?

Muerte chuckles to himself, looking at the ground for a moment. It was a question Dan wasn't expecting an answer to and one that Muerte wasn't going to give the time of day.

Our relationship has been strained in the past, Mr. Stein. I hope the fortunate return of your cousin doesn't strain it any further. In fact, maybe our relationship can...improve?

Dan chuckles to himself.

What are you asking for, Muerte? You want me to treat you like one of the guys after this? After what I just saw in there? We're just going to go back to New York City and be cordial to each other?

Yes.

He speaks plainly. Ultimo Muerte II stares at Dan.

It's a gift from the gods that your cousin was returned to you whole. You shouldn't anger those very same gods, no? I'm not asking for anything more than cordiality. Don't hold me back because you think I'm involved in your cousin's disappearance. No more 'making my life a living Hell'. Not anymore.

Dan looks back behind him, thinking about Pandora in the hospital room, beginning her rehabilitation. Stein sighs, dejected.

Dan nods. Ultimo Muerte II claps his hands together, then puts them into his pants pockets.

Wonderful. I don't expect to be given anything I do not deserve. Just as I do not expect you to put me against someone you feel does not deserve me.

Stein smirks, raising his hands. Ultimo Muerte II does not sigh, but cuts Stein off from speaking.

You do not believe in Ultimo Muerte?

Your sense of self-worth is astounding.

Your lack of understanding the situation is astounding. What do you think comes of me if I fail in the SHOOT Project? Where is

your cousin's friend again, Mr. Stein?

The words linger in the air. Ultimo Muerte II looks down at his watch, clasping his hands together.

Adios, Mr. Stein. Again, my congratulations and sincere joy is shared in the return of your dear cousin.

Ultimo Muerte II snaps his fingers and a driver appears out of the car. The driver hurries over to Ultimo Muerte II's door and opens it for him. Dan watches the man sit down in the seat, and sighs to himself.