

INT. SILKEN WEB - NIGHT

The Silken Web is a large erotic club of elaborate and refined construction. Men and women of all ethnicities dance and party here. It is a veritable den of iniquity. Luke enters through the swinging double doors and is confronted with a slightly different scene. The dancers are now various beings from different cultural myths and legends. Some are anthropomorphic animals, others are beings with many arms and legs. Luke removes his sunglasses and shakes his head before entering into the club proper.

Luke approaches the bartender, a handsome man with long blond hair, and sits down at the bar.

LUKE

Is the Spider around? I need to speak with him.

BARTENDER

And why do you need to talk to him? Just have a drink or something. You look stressed.

LUKE

I'll be less stressed after I talk with Mr. Nancy. Now, please get him.

BARTENDER

I'll make you a drink first. Rum and coke, right?

LUKE

No drinks.

BARTENDER

On the house.

LUKE

Exactly. No drinks. I know you don't take money here.

BARTENDER

Oh, Luke, you're never any fun. I hear you used to be an animal though, wish I could've known you then.

LUKE

Trust me, no you don't.

(CONTINUED)

BARTENDER

Won't you just-

Luke grabs the Bartender by the collar, making sure not to touch his skin.

LUKE

Look, I don't have time for this.  
I've literally gone through hell  
and back today and I need answers  
that only Nancy can give me. You're  
going to get him for me or I'm  
going to send you home, you hear?

BARTENDER

Bastard.

LUKE

Don't I know it. Get him.

The bartender leaves and slams the bar door on his way out. He marches over to the other side of the club and talks to some lithe looking bodyguards before entering into a room off to the side. Luke pulls out the broken compass and looks it over from every inch. A woman approaches him and he looks up. She is dressed in a snake-skin dress that trails down to the floor. She is holding a bottle of good rum and a bottle of Mexican coke on a tray.

SNAKE

Boss Nancy wants you to have this.  
His compliments.

LUKE

I don't want his compliments.

SNAKE

No strings, Exorcist. Just take the  
drink, you'll insult your host.

LUKE

Spider's gonna be more than  
insulted if he doesn't tell me what  
I need to know. Stop stalling and  
get him.

SNAKE

I'll just leave this here then.  
It's nice and cold. I know you like  
it like this.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE

You don't know me woman, now get going. Please.

SNAKE

Well, at least I got a please out of you.

Luke stiffens and glares at the Snake woman.

SNAKE (CONT)

Oh look at your scary eyes. Are you going to do something to me, scary man?

Luke turns away and stuffs the compass back into his pocket.

SNAKE (CONT)

That's what I thought. Now you sit here and think about why you're rude to me. I'll go fetch Nancy.

The Snake puts down the bottle of rum and coke and slithers away. She crosses the room and enters into the same room that the Bartender did.

Luke looks at the bottle of rum hungrily but resists the temptation. He decides to read the outside of the bottle instead while waiting and is interrupted by two very attractive people coming up to him. Both are androgynous and it is nearly impossible to tell their gender, but they are both looking hotly at Luke.

LUKE

Go away.

JANUS

Oh don't be mean.

JANA

You're so mean to us!

LUKE

I don't want to play these games with him, just fetch Anansi and I can go. I'll leave you all to go fuck yourselves into the next life.

The twins sit next to Luke and pour themselves a drink from the rum bottle Luke is holding. They caress his hands and drink the rum slowly, savoring it. They smile at each other and kiss.

(CONTINUED)

JANUS

Won't you come play with us?

JANA

We can really light your fire,  
Exorcist.

JANUS

Just give us a chance.

The twins lean in to kiss Luke and he stands up to avoid it.  
He puts on his sunglasses and sighs.

LUKE

Really, Nancy, this is just  
masturbation at this point.

ANANSI

Ain't nothin' wrong with a little  
tug and poke, Exorcist. You just  
don't like fun.

Luke takes off his glasses again and the Twins have resolved  
into Anansi, a thin, wiry man who is both pretty and  
handsome. He seems to shift between genders as the  
conversation progresses.

LUKE

I don't like being used.

ANANSI

Then you're in the wrong line of  
business. Come, have a drink with  
me. No tricks.

LUKE

I don't believe you.

ANANSI

Good. That's good, you shouldn't  
believe me or anyone else in this  
town. But for now, have a drink.

Luke sighs and acquiesces, pouring some of the gold-colored  
rum from the bottle into two tumblers. They clink their  
glasses together and throw back the drink. Luke drinks it  
all in one go, while Anansi savors it, smiling widely with  
wet lips before swallowing.

ANANSI (CONT)

So, bad man, you must be in  
something nasty to come to me. Why  
don't you call your poor mother eh?  
She must be very lonely.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE

Leave my mama outta this, Nancy,  
she's got not to do with this or  
you.

ANANSI

Oh, and how do you know that, hm? I  
think I might see her bones  
rattling 'round here every now and  
then when Panchatrain's waters get  
high. She's a nice woman, your  
mama, you should visit her more.

LUKE

Not happening.

ANANSI

Ah well, I tried. She misses you,  
ugly, and I promised I'd try.

LUKE

What a nice man you are.

ANANSI

Never in a million years.

As the two banter the atmosphere of the bar changes from  
excited to somber. Anansi chuckles, stands up and goes  
behind the bar. He mixes takes two large spheres of ice and  
drops them in their tumblers. As he sits down the bottle  
decants more of its contents on its own.

LUKE

You get that trick at a party  
store?

ANANSI

Boy, listen, you need to learn to  
have fun once in a while.

LUKE

I'll have fun when I'm back in  
retirement and this business with  
the Nephilim is settled.

ANANSI

Ah... you come to me about the  
Nephilim. Yes yes yes you did. You  
want old Anansi to tug a string for  
you. It ain't worth it boy, it sure  
as shit ain't.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE

Worth it or not, I'm caught in it now.

ANANSI

Sure are good at sticking your nose in places it don't belong, Luke. Some'd call that a fatal condition.

LUKE

I- no damn it. No.

Luke pounds back his tumbler and the ice cracks loudly as he slams it on the counter.

LUKE (CONT'D)

You're not getting me caught up in this, Nancy. I came here to ask you about this girl and you're going to give me some answers.

ANANSI

Oh, big scary black man come in wanting answers. You're gonna get bit you keep coming on this strong. Ain't your woman ever teach you that?

Luke is silent, his fists clench around the glass. The ice cracks and he snarls.

LUKE

Tell me what I want to know, Nancy.

ANANSI

Your girl's in with a bad sort of crowd, Exorcist. She's all wrapped up in ordeals of past and present.

LUKE

Tell me what I want to know!

ANANSI

Her life is forfeit and yours with her if you keep this up, boy. This is bigger than you've ever been. Big players are moving on the board right now.

LUKE

Then they should have stayed out of my city.

(CONTINUED)

ANANSI

You think they got anywhere else to go? Shit, New Orleans is one of the only crossroads left!

Anansi is smiling, enjoying the back and forth. Luke seems to become darker with each passing moment, his features fading into seamless blackness.

LUKE

Stop playing games Anansi, what's after her? Why? Who sent those monsters to my fucking bar?!

ANANSI

You're getting your dick all twisted over some little girl! She must be cute, eh?

LUKE

Shut up.

ANANSI

I hear Nephilim go both ways, Luke. Think she'd like me? Maybe I should say hi.

The ice cracks.

LUKE

I said shut up. Stop playing me, Trickster!

ANANSI

Then stop me!

The two sit and glare at each other. Anansi smiles like an old grandfather and makes a jerking off motion.

The ice breaks. Luke stands up and in an instant his magnum is pulled on Anansi. There is the sound of thousands of guns being pulled as every club goer, dancer, and staff member pulls out guns, swords, spears, any weapon imaginable. All of the Spider's barbs in his web.

ANANSI (CONT'D)

Go ahead. Do it, Exorcist. You never liked stories anyway. Always too busy to relax and think about what could be.

(CONTINUED)

LUKE

Don't make me shoot you, Anansi!  
You're up to some game here!

ANANSI

No shit! You wanna shoot me, then  
shoot me! Get me out of this  
bullshit city that don't remember  
my own name!

Anansi grabs Luke and pulls the gun closer to his head.

ANANSI (CONT'D)

You worry about some girl when the  
big boys be playin and old man  
Nancy is jerking himself off hoping  
someone will tell him how good it  
looks.

Anansi pushes Luke back and sits back down in his chair,  
exhausted.

ANANSI (CONT'D)

We lost, brother. Nobody cares  
about a little clever spider  
anymore. You humans like to cause  
havoc in your own names now. Your  
friend's caught in such a game.

LUKE

Who Anansi? Who's doing it.

ANANSI

I cannot say. It is against my  
nature. But Luke, be careful. I  
meant what I say before: a good  
blowjob and a nap would do you  
good. Just go home and leave this  
alone. The world'll keep on  
spinning even if this goes through.  
Just a little straighter.

LUKE

You know I can't, Campe.

ANANSI

I know boy, I know.

Anansi leans back in his chair and suddenly he appears old,  
very old and small. Like an old tarantula that has gone grey  
and tired.

(CONTINUED)



ANANSI (CONT'D)

Go talk to your mama for me, boy.  
Let an old Spider keep his  
promises.

LUKE

I will. Thank you.

ANANSI

You thank the man that got you  
killed? Fuck man, get some  
perspective.

Anansi laughs and, as Luke puts his sunglasses back on, the Spider reappears as a crowd of people all dancing and grinding on each other. They smile and perform suggestive acts towards Luke.

LUKE

Perspective's all I got. Now I just  
need to figure out what I'm looking  
at.

Luke holsters his weapon and exits the bar, pushing past a waitress and he leaves the bar for good.