

PIANO PLAYER - SIDES

Sarah reaches the bottom of the staircase as Travers disappears at the top. She wants to cry out.

PIANO PLAYER  
Lady, you hauntin' that man.

The PIANO PLAYER sits nearby, with his feet up on the keys. Sarah looks down from the stairs at him and when she does, he takes his bowler's hat off. His eyes squint and something changes in his expression.

PIANO PLAYER  
Pardon me, ma'am. I mistook you for another.

She rushes down the steps to his side.

SARAH  
The woman? With red hair.

PIANO PLAYER  
You could be sisters.

He spits into a spittoon by his other side.

PIANO PLAYER  
Pardon me, ma'am.

SARAH  
Anabelle?

PIANO PLAYER  
Never did catch her name. She come in with her man, couple nights in a row, drinkin' and dancin'. Saw 'em pack up and leave the hotel two mornins ago. Could be three. Hard to tell time round here.

Beat.

PIANO PLAYER  
Your fightin' man was here last night askin' bout her just like you. He hadn't left since. Been drinkin' and fuckin'-

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

PIANO PLAYER

Pardon me, ma'am. He hadn't left  
that room much since. Only to play  
cards and get 'nother bottle.

Sarah drifts off, her mind pieces it together, her heart  
still worried for Travers.

PIANO PLAYER

Lord, can't make no sense of it.

He breaks her concentration.

PIANO PLAYER

Two red-haired women. One angel  
and... one devil. Man, makes a fool  
of himself over one he ain't never  
seen. And he don't pay no mind to  
the one's right in front of him.

She can't make sense of it either.

PIANO PLAYER

You're no stranger to places like  
these, ain't you?

She shakes her head no, that old guilt returned.

PIANO PLAYER

I sees it. It's in dere deep but I  
sees it dere.

He can see that it hurts her.

PIANO PLAYER

I play you a song, missy. You could  
use one.