

GET SHORTY

by

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BLACK

MAN'S VOICE

Looks fuckin' cold out there.

EXT. VESUVIO'S RESTAURANT - MIAMI DAY

It is cold. People walk by hugging themselves, pulling up their collars, etc.

INT. VESUVIO'S RESTAURANT - SAME TIME

CHILI PALMER, late thirties, sits in a booth with TOMMY CARLO, a low level mob type. Chili smokes a cigarette, stares out the window at the people on the street.

TOMMY

Guy on the radio said it's gonna get down to thirty-four.

Chili watches a woman on the sidewalk pause to tighten the scarf around her neck. She looks in the window, sees Chili looking out.

TOMMY

Thirty-four - that's freezing, for Christ sake.

(then)

Yo, Chili, you're spacin'.

Chili turns and studies Tommy a moment, then...

CHILI

They're closing the Granview. You know, theater down on Biscayne?

TOMMY

Yeah, the guy owes Momo a few G's.

CHILI

What I'm thinkin' is maybe Momo could buy it.

Tommy looks at him.

CHILI

Momo could buy it, I could run it for him. Show some Cagney films.

TOMMY

What's Momo gonna want with an old place, shows old movies people don't care about no more. Outside of maybe turnin' it into a porno house, I don't think he's gonna give much of a fuck. And you already got a job.

Chili looks back out the window again.

CHILI

Yeah.

We hear LAUGHTER OFF SCREEN and then FOCUS on the window so that Chili can now see a GROUP OF MEN reflected there, sitting at a table nearby. We hear MORE LAUGHTER and now Chili turns and looks over at...

RAY "BONES" BARBONI

Mob guy: tall, loud suit with lots of jewelry. As he gets up from the table, the other men around the table follow his lead as he finishes up some jokes.

MOB GUY

... so the guy says, I'm not the tailor,
I'm the undertaker.

The men laugh again, more out of respect than appreciation. Ray Bones turns, sees...

Chili and Tommy sitting in their booth. Tommy, sucking on a toothpick, waves.

TOMMY

Ray. How you doing?

RAY BONES

Okay, Tommy. You?

TOMMY

Okay.

Bones focuses on Chili, waits for acknowledgement. But Chili turns back to the window. Always the peacemaker, Tommy smiles at Bones again...

TOMMY

You believe this weather, Ray? Miami
Beach, for Christ's sake.

RAY BONES

(ignoring him)

Chili Palmer.

(smiles)

Chilly outside. Chili inside. It's a
regular fuckin' chili-fest. Hey, waiter -
give Mr. Chili Pepper a big fuckin' bowl
of chili!

Again the men all laugh respectfully at Ray Bone's stupid joke. Chili smiles the best he can at the idiot...

CHILI

Good to see you, Ray.

He turns back to the window, watches Ray Bones in the reflection, still cracking up as he and his men head for the front of the restaurant. Tommy looks at Chili for a moment, then stands up...

TOMMY

You done starin' out the window, I'll see
you back at the office.

Chili nods, but still doesn't turn from the window. He merely
watches in the glass as Tommy turns up his collar and steps out
into the cold Miami day.

TOMMY

Jesus. It's freezin'!

Chili then puts out the cigarette, nods to the waiter who comes
over with the check.

INT. RESTAURANT COATROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

From inside the tiny room. A couple of ratty rain coats and an old
flight jacket hang to one side in immediate foreground as Chili
steps into the doorway and freezes. He looks o.s. and whistles...

CHILI

Hey.

A moment later the MANAGER, an old Italian guy in a black suit,
joins him in the doorway.

CHILI

What happened to my coat?

The Manager peers into the room...

MANAGER

It's not one of these?

CHILI

You see a black leather jacket, fingertip
length, like the one Pacino wore in
Serpico? You don't, you owe me three
seventy-nine.

MANAGER

Maybe you don't see my sign?

The manager points to a sign on the wall: "WE CANNOT BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST ARTICLES"

CHILI

Look, I didn't come down to sunny Florida
to freeze my ass. You follow me? You get
the coat back or you give me the three
seventy-nine my ex-wife paid for it at
Alexander's.

The Manager looks OFF SCREEN, and begins speaking in Italian.
Chili reacts as we hear the name RAY BARBONI mentioned a couple of
times.

MANAGER

Explain to him how Mr. Barboni borrow the coat.

A WAITER joins Chili and the Manager in the doorway.

CHILI

Ray Bones took my coat? Just now?

WAITER

He didn't take it. He borrow it. See, someone took his coat, you know...

(indicates flight jacket)

... leave this old one. So Mr. Barboni, he put on this other coat that fit him pretty good.

CHILI

You mean my coat.

WAITER

He was wearing it, you know, to go home. He wasn't gonna keep it.

CHILI

My car keys were in that coat.

MANAGER

We call you a taxi.

CHILI

Lemme get this straight. You aren't responsible for any lost articles like an expensive coat of mine, but you're gonna find Ray Bones' coat or get him a new one? Is that what you're telling me?

MANAGER

Mr. Barboni is a good customer.
(making sure to add)
Works for Jimmy Capp.

CHILI

I know who he works for. Where's your phone.

INT. TOMMY CARLO'S CAR - DAY

Tommy drives. Chili stares straight ahead, rubs his hands together, tries to stay warm...

TOMMY

You sure it was Ray Bones took the coat?

CHILI

That's what the guy said.

TOMMY
(nervous now)
Tomorrow, I see on the TV weather, it's
gonna be nice and warm. You won't need the
coat.

Chili points out the window.

CHILI
This is it.

EXT. VICTOR HOTEL - DAY

As Tommy pulls up out front.

INT. CAR - SAME TIME

Tommy looks up at the hotel as Chili takes a pair of leather
gloves from top of the dash, opens the door.

Tommy looks over at him.

TOMMY
Hey, Chili.
(Chili pauses)
Get your coat, but don't piss the guy off,
okay? It could get complicated and we'd
have to call Momo to straighten it out.
Then Momo gets pissed for wasting his time
and we don't need that.

CHILI
Don't worry about it. I won't say any more
than I have to, if that.

EXT. STAIRS - DAY

Chili pulls on the gloves as he goes up the stairs to the third
floor.

EXT. DOOR - DAY

As Chili knocks on the door three times. He waits, pulls the
right-hand glove on tight, so that when RAY BONES opens the door,
Chili nails him. One punch. No need to throw the left.

RAY BONES
Jesus... Oh, God...

Chili then steps over him into the room and grabs his coat from a
chair. He looks over at Ray Bones bent over, blood running from
his nose and mouth, blood all over his hands, his shirt.

RAY BONES
Fuck, man...

Chili walks out. Doesn't say one word to Ray Bones.

EXT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

A warmer day. The sun is shining. All is quiet.

INT. BARBER SHOP - SAME TIME

The place is empty except for FRED and ED, the two old barbers sitting in the chairs, reading newspapers.

ED

You been there, haven't you?

INT. BARBER SHOP BACKROOM - SAME TIME

A room Tommy and Chili use as an office. Chili sits at the desk making entries in the collection book. We can hear the two old barbers talking OFF SCREEN...

FRED (O.S.)

Paris? Yeah, I been there plenty times.
It's right offa Seventy-nine.

ED (O.S.)

Hell it is. It's on Sixty-eight. Seventeen
miles from Lexington.

FRED (O.S.)

What're you talking about, Paris,
Kentucky, or Paris, Tennessee?

Silence. No answer to the question. Chili look up from the collection book, listens a moment to nothing.

He opens the desk drawer and pulls out a .38. He aims the gun at the open doorway...

OVER CHILI'S SHOULDER

As Ray Bones, a bandage on his nose, appears in the back hall, then the doorway to the office, his face showing surprise to see a gun aimed at him...

Ray Bones begins firing the big Colt auto in his hand, maybe before he's ready, the gun making an awful racket, when Chili pulls the trigger, shooting Ray Bones along the top of his head, creasing him from hairline to crown.

Chili calmly gets to his feet. Aims once more - probably lower this time - but doesn't fire as Ray Bones grabs his head and stumbles out of there.

RAY BONES (O.S.)

Somebody call 9 fucking 11.

EXT. MIAMI HARBOR - DAY

Ray Bones, a bandage on his head now as well as his nose, sits on a cigarette boat with his boss, JIMMY CAP and two bikini clad BABES, both of whom rub lotion on Jimmy.

JIMMY

Whatta you want me to do Ray? Go to war over a fuckin coat? You're lucky the guy didn't kill you. The coat was a Christmas present for Christ's sake.

RAY BONES

You gotta do somethin', Jimmy. This man's got no respect for us.

JIMMY

He's got no respect for you, and I don't gotta do shit. Chili Palmer don't work for me, he works for Momo up in Brooklyn. So as long as Momo's around, nothing happens to Chili Palmer. You understand?

As an angry Ray Bones sits back, we...

FADE TO BLACK

EXT. BROOKLYN STREET - NIGHT

We TILT DOWN to REVEAL a dark Brooklyn street as a black Cadillac pulls to a stop in front of an older building.

VOICE

Momo. We're here.

Two big guys, BODYGUARDS, get out of the car. One of them opens the back door for a huge man, MOMO, who gets out of the car and looks up at the dark building...

MOMO

You check this place out good? If I'm going up alone, I don't want no surprises.

BODYGUARD

I checked it out, boss.

INT. BROOKLYN TENEMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Momo eyes the bodyguards - both nervous - then starts up the steps. We follow Momo as he enters the building, goes up the dark stairwell... up one flight... we're behind him the whole time...

When he gets to the top floor, Momo pauses to catch his breath, before moving on down the hall to a door. Momo knocks.

VOICE

Yeah?

MOMO

It's Momo.

VOICE

Come in.

Momo slowly opens the door... when, suddenly, the apartment is FLOODED WITH LIGHT so that we see a room full of PEOPLE, a banner on the back wall reading "HAPPY SIXTY-FIFTH, MOMO!"

EVERYONE

Surprise!

Silence as Momo drops to his knees, gurgles something we can't understand and falls over. Suddenly a dozen faces are looking down on us as we then...

CUT TO:

EXT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

A beautiful day in Miami.

CHILI (V.O.)

So what're you tellin' me, you're never gonna go to sleep again?

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Chili and Tommy each sit in a barber chair, reading the newspaper while Fred and Ed sit nearby playing checkers.

TOMMY

No, I said I'm never goin' to bed. There's a difference. See, the article says most people die in their beds. I figure long as I stay outta bed, I'm safe.

CHILI

That's the dumbest thing I ever heard. Where do you sleep?

TOMMY

In an armchair. Or I go to a coffee shop, sleep there. Sit in a booth, pull my hat down.

A car pulls up. Chili's no longer listening to Tommy, but now watching as Ray Bones and a BLACK GUY get out of the car.

TOMMY

How many people you hear ever die in a coffee shop?

Tommy looks over as Ray Bones - smaller bandage on the top of his head - and his man enter the shop.

RAY BONES

You cut straight hair in this place, or just fags?

CHILI

Hey, Bones, looks like you're gonna have a nice scar up there. Maybe these guys can fit you with a rug, cover it up for ya.

Ray Bones eyes Chili, then nods to Fred and Ed.

RAY BONES

Why don't you geezers take your game over to the park.

The two guys leave as the Black Guy steps up to Chili...

BLACK GUY

This man is the man, you understand what I'm saying? He's Mr. Bones, you speak to him from now on.

Chili exchanges a look with Tommy, watches as 'Mr. Bones' goes down the hall into the back office, then turns to the black guy...

CHILI

You can do better'n him.

BLACK GUY

Not these days. Not less you can talk Spanish.

Ray Bones comes out with the collection book open, looking at all of the names of who owes what.

RAY BONES

You got a miss. Leo Devoe. Guy's six weeks over.

CHILI

He died.

RAY BONES

How'd you know he died, he tell you?

Ray Bones checks his man to get some appreciation, but the guy's too busy looking at the hair rinses and shit on the counter.

CHILI

Yeah, he told me.

RAY BONES

Personally?

CHILI

Yeah, Ray, he personally told me he got killed in that Get Away Airlines' jet went down last month.

RAY BONES

What Get Away jet?

CHILI

It was in the Herald.

RAY BONES

Yeah, well, maybe the guy took out flight insurance. Check with the wife.

CHILI

Hey, it's your book now. You want to check it out, go ahead. He's got a dry cleaning business out on Federal Highway.

Tommy gives Chili a look as the Black Guy comes over to Chili, stands next to him. Ray Bones steps over to Chili...

RAY BONES

Momo's dead. Which means anything was his now belongs to Jimmy Capp, including you.

Tommy watches as the Black Guy picks up a pair of scissors, runs his hand along the edge...

RAY BONES

Which also means when I speak, I'm speakin' for Jimmy. So e.g. as of now, you start affording me the proper respect.

CHILI

'E.g.' means 'for example', Ray. I think what you wanna say is 'i.e.'

RAY BONES

Bullshit. E.g. is short for 'ergo'.

CHILI

Ask your man here.

Ray Bones looks at the Black Guy.

BLACK GUY

Best a my knowledge, e.g. means 'for example.'

RAY BONES

E.g., i.e., fuck you. The point is, I say jump, you say okay. Okay?

TOMMY

(for Chili)

Yeah, Ray. Okay.

Ray Bones then nods to his man who grabs Chili, holds the point of the scissors to Chili's throat...

RAY BONES

You owe me the dry cleaner's fifteen grand plus the juice which is what another, uhh...

CHILI

Twenty seven hundred.

RAY BONES

Exactly. You either get it from the wife or out of your own pocket, I don't give a fuck. You don't ever hand me a book with a miss in it.

Ray throws the book at Chili and walks out, his man right behind him. Chili looks over at Tommy.

TOMMY

I told you not to -

CHILI

Don't say a fuckin' word.

EXT. FAY DEVOE'S BACKYARD - DUSK

Where Chili sits with FAY DEVOE - thirties, attractive, in a sundress - on her patio. They each have a drink...

FAY

I hate the dry cleaning business. I hate being inside all day, around all those machines.

CHILI

Must be hot.

FAY

You have no idea how hot it is.

She looks at him. Touches her drink to the side of her face. Chili finishes his drink, sets it down.

CHILI

I was wondering, Fay, if Leo had any life insurance.

FAY

I don't know of any.

They sit there in silence a moment. Fay reaches over, puts a hand on his leg...

FAY

I trust you, Chili. I think you're a decent type of man, even if you are a crook.

CHILI

Thank you Fay.

She finally looks at Chili...

FAY

I wish he really was dead, the son of a bitch.

EXT. LAS VEGAS - NIGHT

The strip. Mesas Casino.

CUT TO:

CLOSE UP OF PHOTOGRAPH

Leo Devoe. Standing with Fay at Epcot Center.

DICK (V.O.)

That's him all right.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL...

INT. DICK ALLEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A sign on the door reads "DICK ALLEN, CUSTOMER RELATIONS." A bank of video monitors show the floor of the casino. Chili sits across the desk from DICK ALLEN - lots of jewelry, a giant NEON COWGIRL out the window behind him.

DICK

Called himself Larry DeMille. Hit on every showgirl in town. Would tell 'em he was the 'Martinizing King of Miami'. What a moron.

He returns the snapshot to Chili.

DICK

Anyway, you want this guy, he's in L.A. We put him on a flight after he spanked one of my cocktail girls in the Keno room.

CHILI

Leo spanked a waitress?

DICK

Apparently, way it went, he invited her to come to Santa Anita to play the ponies with him. She told him what to do with that and he gave her one on the tush. My guess, he's by his lonesome at the track right now.

Chili nods.

DICK

Hey, Chil? Since you're goin' out to L.A. anyway.

CHILI
What've you got?

DICK
Guy owes us a hundred and fifty grand,
sixty days over; a movie producer.

CHILI
Movie producer? Yeah, why not.

As Dick Allen reaches for a pad of paper, we hear THE SOUND OF AN
AIRPLANE OVER...

EXT. LAX RENTAL CAR LOT - NIGHT

It's raining as we TILT DOWN from a LANDING AIRPLANE to a National
Car Rental BUS arriving next to a tan MINIVAN. Chili eyes the car
a moment, then turns to the driver.

CHILI
What is this?

ATTENDANT
An Oldsmobile Silhouette.

CHILI
I reserved a Cadillac.

ATTENDANT
Yeah, well, this one's the Cadillac of
minivans.

CHILI
You're kidding me, right?

ATTENDANT
Hey, you want La Tierra Rent-A-Car just
over there, but I think all they got are
Rabbit convertibles.

Chili gives the driver a look then gets out of the bus, standing
there in the rain, his seat getting wet, nowhere to go. He turns
and stares at the minivan...

EXT. KAREN FLORES' HOUSE - NIGHT

All the lights are out, save the BLUE GLOW of a television coming
from one of the downstairs rooms...

WOMAN'S VOICE
(loud whisper)
Harry?

INT. KAREN FLORES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

As KAREN FLORES, pretty, endowed, sits up in bed wearing a Lakers T-shirt, nothing else. She looks at the big shape lying under the covers beside her.

KAREN

Harry.

The shape deesn't move. She shakes it.

KAREN

Harry, God damn it, somebody's downstairs.

The shape stirs, rolls over, and we see HARRY ZIMM, balding, overweight; a movie producer. He sits up.

HARRY

What's wrong?

KAREN

Be quiet and listen.

HARRY

I don't hear anything.

We hear VOICES downstairs.

KAREN

Shhh - there.

And now LAUGHTER...

HARRY

Sounds like the television.

She looks at him...

KAREN

When I came upstairs, you stayed to finish your drink. I told you to turn off the TV when you were through.

(an afterthought)

Come to think of it, I also told you you could sleep in the maid's room.

HARRY

Yeah, well I turned off the set. I used the remote control thing and laid it on the floor. You know what could've happened? The dog came in and stepped on it, turned the TV back on.

KAREN

I don't have a dog.

HARRY

You don't? What happened to Muff?

KAREN

Harry, are you going down, or you want me to?

He grunts, gets out of bed. Starts looking around the room for his clothes. Harry looks out the window...

HARRY

Anyone skim the pool? It needs it.

KAREN

Harry -

HARRY

I'm going.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

The MONOTONE VOICES become louder and more distinct as Harry moves down the curved staircase in his shirt and boxer shorts. One of the voices is familiar...

We can see this is a nice place as Harry crosses the entry hall to a doorway, the FLICKERING LIGHT of the television emitting from inside the room.

Harry listens at the door. Yeah, it's David Letterman.

INT. KAREN'S STUDY - SAME TIME

Harry moves into the glow of the big Sony, the rest of the room dark. On the tube, Dave is interviewing actor Martin Weir when suddenly the screen goes black and the desk lamp comes on. Harry jumps...

HARRY

Jesus Christ!

Chili leans into the light, keeps his tone quiet, controlled.

CHILI

Harry Zimm, how you doing? I'm Chili Palmer.

Harry presses a hand against his chest.

HARRY

Jesus, if I have a heart attack, I hope you know what to do.

CHILI

Where you been, Harry?

Harry lets his hand slide down over his belly, taking his time, wanting to show that he has it together now.

HARRY

Have we met? I don't recall.

CHILI

We just did. I told you my name's Chili
Palmer.

Harry stares back, trying to figure out who this guy is.

HARRY

You're in pictures, right?

Chili smiles. Doesn't say anything.

HARRY

Did you stop to think what if I had a
heart attack?

CHILI

You look okay to me, Harry. Come over here
and sit down. Tell me what you been up to.

Harry takes one of the canvas director's chairs by the desk. He
looks at a bottle of Dewars sitting there, runs a hand through his
hair, thinks about a drink...

CHILI

Harry, look at me.

Harry brings his hand down.

HARRY

I'm looking at you.

CHILI

I want you to keep looking right here,
okay?

HARRY

That's what I'm doing.

CHILI

You know Dick Allen, Mesa's Casino?

HARRY

Dick Allen's a very dear friend of mine.
How far you want to go with this?

CHILI

We're there, Harry. You signed markers for
a hundred and a half, you're over sixty
days past due and you haven't told anybody
what the problem is.

Harry looks at Chili.

HARRY

Jesus Christ, what're you, a collector for
a fucking casino? You come in here, walk
in the house in the middle of the fucking
night? I thought you were an actor,
auditioning, for Christ's sake.

Chili nods, almost smiles...

CHILI

Is that right? That's interesting. You thought I was acting, huh?

Harry pushes out of the chair, looks down at Chili.

HARRY

We'll see about this...

Harry grabs the phone, punches the '0'.

HARRY

Operator, how do I get Las Vegas Information?

CHILI

Harry, lemme give you some advice.

Chili leans forward, hangs up the phone with his index finger, casually reaches for the receiver...

CHILI

You don't want to act like a hard-on, you're standing there in your undies. You know what I'm saying? What you want to do is sit down and talk to me.

Harry sits down. Chili hangs up the phone.

CHILI

A marker's like a check, Harry.

HARRY

I know what a marker is.

CHILI

They don't want to deposit yours and have it bounce. That annoys them. So your dear friend Dick Allen's been calling, leaving messages on your machine, but you never get back to him. I happen to be in Vegas on another matter, and Dick asks me as a favor would I look you up. I follow you over here, see you in the window with this woman, looks a lot like that actress Karen Flores, was in Grotesque, except she's not blond anymore...

Harry's gaze moves to the bottle of scotch on the desk...

CHILI

You're not looking at me, Harry.

HARRY

Why do I have to keep looking at you?

CHILI

I want you to.

HARRY

You gonna get rough now, threaten me? I make good by tomorrow or get my legs broken?

CHILI

Come on, Harry - Mesas? The worst they might do is get a judgment against you, uttering a bad check. I can't imagine you want that to happen, man in your position.

HARRY

Fuckin' basketball game.

Harry reaches for the bottle of scotch and pours himself drink.

HARRY

Tell Dick Allen I'll cover the markers in the next sixty days at the most. He doesn't like it, that's his problem. The prick.

Harry starts to take another drink, looks at Chili, not moving.

HARRY

So, you want me to call you a cab?

Chili shakes his head, keeps staring at Harry, but with a different expression now, more thoughtful, curious.

CHILI

You make movies, huh?

HARRY

I produce feature motion pictures, no TV. You mentioned Grotesque, that happened to be Grotesque Part II that Karen Flores was in. She starred in all three of my Slime Creatures releases you might have seen.

Chili nods, leans forward on the desk.

CHILI

I think I got an idea for a movie.

INT. KAREN FLORES' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Karen is sitting up in bed, listening. We hear the muffled sounds of Chili and Harry talking downstairs. She gets out of bed...

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Chili and Harry's conversation gets louder as Karen descends the stairs. She peers into the study, but they're not in there...

INT. KITCHEN - SAME TIME

Chili sits with Harry at a butcher block table, a bottle of Dewars and a couple of glasses now between them.

CHILI

Yeah, Leo wore these little plaid hats -
Miami, middle of the summer, this guy
thinks no one's gonna notice he's balding,
he wears a fuckin' hat.

Harry looks up past Chili, smiles.

HARRY

Karen?

Chili turns around and sees her standing in the doorway now, her arms folded across that chest, the Lakers T-shirt coming down just past her crotch.

HARRY

Karen, say hello to Chili Palmer. Chili,
this is Karen Flores.

CHILI

Karen, it's a pleasure. How you doing?

KAREN

How did you get in the house?

HARRY

He's telling me an idea for a movie. It's
not bad so far.

(motions with his
glass)

Sit down, have a drink.

(to Chili)

Tell Karen, let's see what she thinks.

KAREN

Maybe you didn't hear me.

CHILI

The door from the patio, in back.

KAREN

You broke in?

CHILI

No, it was open. It wasn't locked.

KAREN

What if it was?

Chili doesn't say anything, just watches her, likes the way she's handling it.

HARRY

You want to hear this idea? It's about a dry cleaner who scams an airline out of three hundred grand. Go on, tell her.

CHILI

You just did.

HARRY

I mean, the way you told it to me. Start at the beginning, we see how the story line develops.

Chili looks at Karen. She leans in the doorway.

CHILI

Well, basically, this guy owes a shylock fifteen thousand, plus he's a few weeks behind on the vig, the interest you have to pay.

KAREN

I know what a vig is.

HARRY

It's the kind of situation, you don't pay, you get your legs broken.

CHILI

Or the guy thinks he could get 'em broken. You have to understand the loan shark's in business the same as anybody else. He isn't in it to hurt people. He's in it to make money.

EXT. LEO DEVOE'S HOUSE - DAY

As we see Chili talking to Fay on the front porch.

CHILI (V.O.)

But the dry cleaner, we'll call him Leo, he's scared, doesn't know any better, so he takes off -

INT. KAREN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

As Harry jumps in...

HARRY

That's Miami. He's going to Vegas. He's got a few bucks and he's thinking it's his only chance.

INT. AIRPLANE - DAY

We see a fidgety LEO DEVOE, a little guy in a crummy suit and a little green hat sitting there in coach, looking around.

CHILI (V.O.)

Leo gets on a plane, ready to go, but the plane sits there at the gate, doesn't move.

Behind Leo sits a BRAT with his MOM and DAD. The parents are trying to entertain the kid with the G.I. Joes, other stuff they've brought along, but the kid spots Leo's hat as Leo looks up to listen to an announcement...

CHILI (V.O.)

They announce over the PA there's some kind of mechanical problem, they'll be there maybe an hour, but keep your seats in case they get it fixed sooner.

Leo gets really uncomfortable now...

CHILI (V.O.)

The guy's nervous, in no shape to just sit there, sweat it out. So he gets off the plane...

As Leo gets up from his seat, the kid knocks off Leo's little green hat, and we...

CUT TO:

INT. MIAMI AIRPORT COCKTAIL LOUNGE - DAY

As Leo downs a drink, looks around for the waitress...

CHILI (V.O.)

Goes in the cocktail lounge and starts throwing 'em down, one after the other.

He 's motioning to her for another, when we see a PLANE taxi past the window in the b.g...

CHILI (V.O.)

When the plane pulls away from the gate.

INT. KAREN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

As Harry interrupts.

HARRY

Without him. The guy's so out of it he doesn't even know it's gone.

CHILI

That's right. As a matter of fact...

INT. COCKTAIL LOUNGE - DAY

A shit-faced Leo struggles to keep his head up as he watches the waitress look out the window and gasp...

CHILI (V.O.)
He's still in the lounge when a plane
blows up on the runway...

We see a BIG FIREBALL in the b.g. as Leo's head hits the table.

INT. KAREN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

As Chili lights a cigarette.

CHILI
So when the guy finds out it was his
flight, he can't believe it. If he'd
stayed on that plane, he'd be dead. Right
then he knows his luck has changed. If
everybody thinks he's dead he won't have
to pay back the fifteen or what he owes on
the vig, four and a half a week.

Chili offers the pack to Karen. Karen doesn't move.

KAREN
The interest is four hundred and fifty
dollars a week on fifteen thousand?

CHILI
That's right. Three percent.

KAREN
But a week. That's a hundred and fifty
percent a year.

CHILI
A hundred and fifty-six. Some'll charge
you more'n that, go as high as six for
five on a short-term loan. So three a
week's not too bad.

KAREN
A real bargain.

She shakes her head, keeps her arms folded. Chili watches her,
likes the way she's giving it to him.

HARRY
Keep going.

CHILI
Well, since Leo's name was on the
passenger list...

INT. AIRPORT HANGER - DAY

As an FFA OFFICIAL leads Fay, a black veil over her face, amongst
tables full of charred items...

CHILI (V.O.)

They bring his wife out to the airport where they're going through personal effects, whatever wasn't burned up. Leo's bags were on the plane, so the wife tells 'em what to look for, things only she would know about.

FAY REACTS as the FFA guy points to a LITTLE GREEN HAT on one of the tables. She grabs it, clutches it to her chest, pretends to faint.

INT. KAREN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

As Karen finds herself listening, despite herself.

CHILI

A couple days ago by, people from the airliner come to see his wife, tell her how sorry they are and all that their plane exploded and offer her a settlement, the amount based on what he would've earned operating the dry cleaner's the rest of his life. Leo had some kind of trouble with his kidneys, so they were giving him about ten years.

KAREN

How much is the wife offered?

Chili starts to speak, but Harry cuts him off.

HARRY

Three hundred grand, and they take it, money in hand, babe. The guy has his wife cash the check and he takes off for Las Vegas with the dough. Gets there, he's supposed to call her, tell her when to come out. But she never hears from him again.

Meanwhile, the guy's hot, runs the three hundred up to half a million...

CHILI

He comes to L.A. & & . .

Harry raises his hand to stop Chili. He's rolling, turns to Karen now...

HARRY

It drives the guy nuts, he's winning but can't tell anybody who he is. You show in a back story his motivation, his desire to be famous, you know, pal around with celebrities, the headliners doing the big rooms. Now he's got the dough to buy his way in, mix with celebs and he can't resist...

Harry then turns back to Chili.

HARRY

So he comes to L.A...

CHILI

I don't know about his wanting to meet celebrities, that's something new. But, yeah, he comes to L.A. Then after that, I don't know what happens.

Chili looks at Karen. Patient. Not moving.

HARRY

That's it? That's your movie?

CHILI

I said I had an idea, that's all.

HARRY

That's half a movie, with holes in it. Maybe forty minutes of screen time. You don't even have a girl, a female lead, and on top of that, there's no one to sympathize with, you don't have a good guy.

CHILI

The shylock's the good guy.

HARRY

The shylock? He's barely mentioned. And it's not believable the wife would get a settlement that fast.

KAREN

Harry doesn't realize it's a true story.

They both look at her now.

KAREN

That Miami flight that went down, it was on the news every day for about a week. Harry must've been busy.

HARRY

That's where you got the idea?

CHILI

Part of it, yeah.

HARRY

Wait a minute, you're not the guy, are you? The dry cleaner?

CHILI

You mean, Leo?

HARRY

You wouldn't be talking to me if you were.

CHILI

I'm not the guy, Harry.

HARRY

But you work for the casino?

CHILI

I'm out here looking for Leo. I just looked you up as a favor to your dear friend, Dick Allen.

HARRY

So you don't work for the casino?

KAREN

Harry, for God's sake...

They both look at her.

KAREN

He's the shylock.

She's staring at Chili again. Harry turns to him.

HARRY

Is that right, that's what you do for a living?

CHILI

What I did till recently.
(looking at Karen)
After I get done here I'll think about what I'm gonna do next.

KAREN

With your experience, you could always become an agent. Right, Harry?

HARRY

Yeah, that's what we need. More agents.

KAREN

Well. I got an audition tomorrow.

HARRY

No problem. You go on off to bed.

Karen looks at the two of them sitting there. Not about to move.

KAREN

What I'm saying, Harry, is I want you and your new buddy to get out of my house.

HARRY

Oh, yeah, sure.

CHILI

Nice meeting you, Karen.

She just looks at him, turns and walks out. Chili watches her go. Harry watches Chili, pours the last of the scotch into Chili's glass...

HARRY
I imagine in your line of work, there were times you had to get rough, you know, say one of your customers stopped paying.

CHILI
They always paid.

Harry nods, thinks a moment, then...

HARRY
You pack a gun?

CHILI
Not really.

HARRY
What does that mean?

CHILI
Maybe a few times I have.

HARRY
Ever shot anybody.

CHILI
Once.

HARRY
Really? You ever been arrested?

CHILI
I've been picked up a couple times. Loan sharking. Racketeering. But I was never convicted. I'm clean.

HARRY
Racketeering, that covers a lot of ground, doesn't it?

Chili looks at him.

CHILI
Why don't you get to the point, Harry? You want me to do something for you.

EXT. FAY DEVOE'S HOUSE - MORNING

As a Cadillac Eldorado pulls up out front and Ray Bones and his man get out, check out the neighborhood...

RAY BONES
Hi, I'm Ray, a friend of Chili Palmer's.

INT. FAY DEVOE'S HOUSE - MORNING

Fay watches as Ray Bones and his man go through her things.

RAY BONES

Have your spoken to Mr. Palmer since your husband... you know, blew up?

FAY

Maybe once or twice.

RAY BONES

(coming over)

What was it you talked about?

FAY

Oh, nothing really? This and that.

Ray Bones hits Fay Devoe in the face. She drops to her knees and cries out. Ray Bones crouches down in front of her, puts a hand in her hair.

RAY BONES

Fay...

(pulls her head up)

Fay.

She looks at him. Afraid now, her nose is bleeding. Ray Bones smiles at her, strokes her hair.

RAY BONES

Fay, I want us to be friends. And friends don't hit each other, 'less they have to.

(she nods)

So whatta you say we start all over and you tell me exactly what the fuck is goin' on?

EXT. SUNSET BOULEVARD - MORNING

As we BOOM DOWN from a massive billboard for the movie Bonaparte starring Martin Weir as Napoleon and begin tracking with Harry's eight-year-old, battered Mercedes...

INT. HARRY'S CAR - SAME TIME

Harry drives, all the while gesturing with a lit cigarette.

HARRY

These guys, my investors, they run a limo service, came to me originally, put money in a few of my pictures and did okay, they're happy. So they come in on another deal - this was back a few months ago when I was planning what would be my next picture, about this band of killer circus freaks that travel around the country leaving bodies in their wake. The characters, there's this seven-hundred-pound fat lady who has a way of seducing guys, gets them in her trailer -

CHILI

Harry, look at me.

Harry looks at him. Chili takes away his cigarette.

CHILI

You're trying to tell me how you fucked up without sounding stupid, and that's hard to do. Let's just get to where you're at, okay? You blew the two hundred grand the limo guys gave you in Vegas on a basketball game and you haven't told 'em about it. Why not?

HARRY

Because they're not the type of guys would take it with any degree of understanding or restraint. The first thing they'd do is break my legs.

CHILI

You got that on the brain, Harry. If you're so scared of 'em why'd you take their money to Vegas to begin with?

HARRY

Because I need half a million to buy a script.

CHILI

For a movie?

HARRY

A blockbuster. But quality. No mutants or maniacs. This one's gonna be my "Driving Miss Daisy".

CHILI

What's it called?

HARRY

"Mr. Lovejoy".

CHILI

"Mr. Lovejoy"? That's the title?

HARRY

It's not bad when you know what it's about.

Harry pulls to the curb, faces Chili...

HARRY

Murray Saffrin, guy who wrote it, did all my Grotesque pictures, had it in a drawer for twenty years. He shows it to me one day, tells me he's got a star interested, would I produce it.

CHILI

Who's the star?

Harry points across the street to the Cafe Med where we see a RED FERRARI convertible parked out the front. We see MARTIN WEIR and a WOMAN with jet-black hair sitting at a table...

HARRY

Two time academy award nominee, Martin Weir.

CHILI

Martin Weir. He played the mob guy that turned snitch in "The Cyclone".

HARRY

One of his best parts.

CHILI

No, his best part was the cripple gay guy that climbed Mt. Whitney.

HARRY

"Ride the Clouds". Good picture.

They watch Martin and the girl a moment...

CHILI

She looks familiar.

HARRY

She's a rock star. Every day, same time, they come down here and have breakfast. He has the egg white omelette; she has the banana pancakes. He sits facing west so he can see his billboard. She faces east so she has an excuse to wear the shades.

Harry pulls out, starts driving again...

HARRY

Anyway, Murray has this shrink, who also happens to be Martin's personal trainer's shrink. Murray gives the shrink the script and the shrink gives it to Martin's trainer who reads it to Martin while they work out, and Martin flips. Loves it.

CHILI

So what's the problem?

HARRY

The problem is Murray. He and a few other blocked screenwriters went river rafting down the Kern a few weeks ago. Murray never made it back.

CHILI

He drown?

HARRY

Heart attack. Apparently they brought a couple hookers along.

Chili nods, looks up at an ANGELYNE billboard...

HARRY

Doris, Murray's widow, finds out about this Martin Weir thing and says since Murray and I never had any written contract, she wants five hundred grand for the script.

CHILI

So you're thinking what if I was to put you next to my dry cleaner. Ask him if he wants to invest his money in a movie.

HARRY

That, or I'm thinking what if some tragic accident were to befall the widow Saffrin -

CHILI

I'm not gonna pop her, Harry.

HARRY

Just a thought.

CHILI

But I could talk to the limo guys. Tell 'em to leave you alone for a while. Make the point in a way they'd understand it.

HARRY

You don't even know these guys.

CHILI

Harry, I probably know 'em better than you do.

HARRY

What do you get out of this?

CHILI

Let's see how we get along.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

BO CATLETT, black, tall, put together in a tan outfit: suit, shirt, tie, lies on the hood of a BLACK STRETCH LIMO, his back against the windshield, reading Daily Variety, a headline proclaiming "BONAPARTE STANDS TALL AT THE B.O." We hear the sound of an AIRPLANE and he checks his watch.

He casually folds the newspaper as a 747 screams past directly overhead and we...

PULL BACK TO REVEAL...

LAX - DAY

As Bo Catlett pounds twice on the fender...

BO CATLETT
That's us.

INT. SOVEREIGN TERMINAL - DAY

Bo Catlett walks through the terminal. We hear the arrival of the Miami flight announced over the PA as Catlett stops at one of the gates.

We see a plane pulling into the gate through the glass as Bo Catlett checks out the other people waiting to greet the flight...

Like, for example, the YOUNG DUDE in jeans and a wool shirt hanging out.

Bo Catlett studies him a moment, then sits down in one of the chairs. He looks over at...

A BIG MAN, bearded, wearing a loud Hawaiian shirt, and carrying a three-year-old GIRL in his arms. The girl licks an ice-cream, spilling some on Daddy's shirt...

Bo Catlett looks over as disembarking PASSENGERS start coming through the gate. As a LATINO MAN gets off the plane and glances around. He looks uncomfortable in the loose-fitting suit, like a migrant dressed for Saturday night.

The Latino Man lays his TICKET ENVELOPE on top of the trash container near the gateway...

INSERT - TICKET ENVELOPE

The name "Y. PORTILLO" printed on the outside. The big man with the little girl picks up the ticket and walks away.

As the Latino Man heads straight for Bo Catlett.

BO CATLETT

Don't say nothing to me. Sit down and act like you're waiting for somebody supposed to meet you.

LATINO MAN

The fock you taking about...

Hitting the word hard, like Tony Montana in "Scarface".

LATINO MAN

They nobody know me here, man. Give me the focking money.

BO CATLETT

Sit down. Now be looking. Man over to your right in the blue wool shirt hanging out... the other way, derecho...

Bo Catlett hunches over to rest his arms on his thighs, so that the Latino Man is now between him and the dude in the wool shirt.

BO CATLETT

That's a federal officer, most likely DEA. He moves his leg look for the bulge. You savvy bulge? That's his backup piece... Hey. Try it without looking right at him if you can.

The Latino Man, trying to be cool about it, checks out the dude in the wool shirt. Sure enough, there's a bulge down near the guy's ankle.

BO CATLETT

What's your name?

LATINO MAN

(nervous now)

Yayo. Portillo.

BO CATLETT

Alright, Yayo, you know he's there, now forget about him. Now I'm gonna get up. Soon as I'm gone, you sit down in this same seat I'm in. You feel something under your ass it's the key to a locker where your half a million is. Along with some product we're returning.

Nervous now, Yayo is staring at the guy with the wool shirt.

YAYO

You suppose to give me the focking money yourself.

Bo Catlett gets up, adjusts his suit jacket, smoothing the long roll lapel.

BO CATLETT

Try to be cool Yahoo. I told you where it is. Do it how I told you and have a safe trip home. Or as you all say, vaya con Dios, motherfucker.

Bo Catlett walks off, leaving Yayo sitting there, confused now, not quite sure what to do.

CLOSE ON HAND HOLDING TICKET ENVELOPE

The name "Y. PORTILLO" written on the jacket.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL...

BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

Where the Big Man in the Hawaiian shirt waits by the carousel. His LITTLE GIRL HOLDS THE TICKET ENVELOPE. The man grabs a case from the carousel and walks to the door. He tears the baggage claim stub from the envelope and hands it to the SECURITY GUARD.

EXT. BAGGAGE CLAIM - DAY

As the Big Man and the little girl walk to the black stretch parked at the curb, RONNIE WINGATE, an aging surfer in a suede jacket and running shoes, holds the door open for them.

RONNIE

Like fucking clockwork, eh Bear?

BEAR / BIG MAN

Don't cuss in front of Farrah.

The Bear hands the case to Bo Catlett who sits in the back of the limo...

GIRL

Hi, Bo.

BO CATLETT

How you doing, sweetie?

As Ronnie gets in back with Bo Catlett, The Bear puts his daughter in a toddler seat up front, then gets behind the wheel.

GIRL

Here we go!

EXT. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Two stories, part of a block of white store fronts on Sunset near La Cienega.

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Light filters through venetian blinds, illuminating a desk stacked with folders, magazines, scripts, papers, unopened mail, hotel ashtrays, a brass lamp, a clock and two telephones.

HARRY

I once asked this literary agent what type of writing brought the most money and the agent says, 'Ransom notes.'

Chili stands looking over some of the old photographs as Harry goes through the mess on the desk. There are some of Karen, Harry with a much younger, blonde Karen. Harry with giant bugs, Harry shaking hands with mutants and maniacs, and so on.

HARRY

Here it is... "Mr. Lovejoy".

Harry hands a script to Chili. Chili examines the cover, the first time he's ever held a movie script. He opens it to the middle...

CHILI

Lovejoy sits behind the wheel, watching the bar across the street, getting his video camera ready for action...

(looks up)

What's he doing? Following a guy?

HARRY

Read it. It's a grabber.

Chili looks out the window as we see a long black stretch limo pull up to the curb down on the street...

CHILI

Hey, Harry? I think your investors are here.

EXT. HARRY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

As the Bear opens the door for Bo Catlett and Ronnie...

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

As Harry moves away from the window.

HARRY

Jesus...

Chili tosses the script on the desk, moves between a pair of fat red leather chairs.

CHILI

All right, Harry, make sure the limo guys sit here, not over on the sofa.

Harry is tugging the string to lower the blinds behind the desk.

CHILI

No leave 'em up, we want the light in their eyes. I'll be at the desk... but don't introduce me, let it go, just start talking. You're gonna be here, behind 'em when they sit down.

HARRY

They'll be looking at you. They don't know who you are.

CHILI

That's right, they're wondering, who's this guy? You don't tell 'em. Understand, Harry? Do not tell 'em who I am.

Harry glances off as we hear RONNIE SINGING down the hall.

RONNIE (O.S.)

In the year 2525... if man is still alive...

HARRY

So what do I say to them?

CHILI

You don't say any more'n you have to. You say, 'Well, I'm glad you assholes stopped by, so I can set you straight.'

HARRY

You're kidding, right?

RONNIE (O.S.)

If woman can survive...

CHILI

You tell 'em the movie's been postponed. Say, till next year, if you want. But don't tell 'em why or what you're doing. Understand, Harry? You don't tell 'em anything about Mr. Lovejoy.

And the door opens. Chili sits behind the desk, watching the two of them come into the office. Ronnie singing...

RONNIE

They may find...

He looks about the office... at the old photographs...

RONNIE

Harry, what year is it, man? We enter a time warp? I feel like I'm back in Hollywood of yesteryear.

Harry waves them right into the two cracked red leather chairs facing the desk. Chili watches as Catlett comes first. Sitting down, he nods to Chili who ignores him.

HARRY

Have a seat... right over here...

Ronnie sits down in the chair and hooks one leg over the arm, swings it up and down, his motor running on some chemical. He too stares at Chili.

HARRY

This is my associate, Chili Palmer, who'll be working with me.

Harry already forgetting his instructions. Chili can't believe it. The limo guys nod to Chili and Chili nods back, trying to catch Harry's eye.

HARRY

I want to make sure there's no misunderstanding here. Despite rumors you might have heard, your investment in Freaks is as sound as the day you signed your participation agreement.

Ronnie has his face raised to the ceiling.

RONNIE

I can hear you, but where the fuck are you, man?

BO CATLETT

(looking at Chili)

What I been wondering is where's he been.

RONNIE

Yeah, where've you been? We haven't heard from you lately.

Harry comes around to stand at one side of the desk, his back to the window...

HARRY

I've been off scouting locations. Interviewing actors in New York.

Chili's gaze moves from Ronnie the fool to Bo Catlett the dude, the man composed, elbows on the chair arms, his hands steepled in front of him.

HARRY

The main thing I want to tell you, the start date for Freaks is being pushed back a little, a few months.

Ronnie stops bouncing his leg.

RONNIE

A few months?

HARRY

Maybe longer. We need prep time.

RONNIE

Hey, Harry? Bullshit. We have an agreement with you, man.

HARRY

We're gonna make the picture. I've just got another project to do first, that's all. One I promised this guy years ago.

Chili shakes his head, he can't believe he's hearing this. Ronnie sits up straight.

RONNIE

I want to see your books, Harry. Show me where it is, a two with five zeroes after it in black and white, man. I want to see your books and your bank statements.

CHILI

Hey, Ronnie? Look at me.

BOOM. Ronnie looks over. So does Bo Catlett for that matter.

CHILI

You have a piece of a movie, that's all. You don't have a piece of Harry. He told you we're doing another movie first. And that's the way it's gonna be.

RONNIE

Excuse me. But who the fuck are you?

CHILI

I'm the one telling you how it is. That's not too hard to figure out, is it?

Ronnie turns to Bo Catlett, the man not having moved or changed his expression the last few minutes.

RONNIE

Cat?

Bo Catlett takes his time, gives it some thought. He looks at Harry...

BO CATLETT

What's this movie you're doing first?

CHILI

Harry, let me answer that.

Catlett looks at Chili again.

CHILI

But first I want to know who I'm talking to. Am I talking to you, or am I talking to him?

BO CATLETT
(beat, smiles)
You can talk to me.

CHILI
That's what I thought. So let me put it
this way

Now it's between them. The guy studies Chili, thinks about whether or not to make a move, when Harry steps in, reaches over the desk and picks up a script...

HARRY
This is the project, "Mr. Lovejoy". I'm
not trying to pull anything on you guys.
This is it, right here.

Chili looks at Harry, wonders if there's a way to shut him up without punching him in the mouth.

RONNIE
"Mr. Loveboy"? What is it, Harry, a porno
flick?

He reaches for the script. Harry backs away, holds the script to his chest. Bo Catlett notices this.

HARRY
It's nothing. It's fluff. Nothing you'd be
interested in.

Bo Catlett eyes him a beat, then pushes out of his chair...

BO CATLETT
Harry, you think we go to see your movies?
I've seen better film on teeth. Makes no
difference to me which one our money's in.
So how 'bout you take our twenty points
out of "Freaks" and put 'em in this other
one, "Mr. Loverboy".

HARRY
I can't do it.

BO CATLETT
You positive about that?

HARRY
It's a different kind of deal.

Bo Catlett nods, gets up.

BO CATLETT
Okay. Then be good enough to hand us our
money back, or you think about us coming
in on this new one.

RONNIE
By Friday, man, or you're fuckin' dead as
disco.

Ronnie opens his coat so that Harry can see a gun tucked in his belt...

RONNIE
You hear me?

Bo Catlett gives Ronnie a look.

BO CATLETT
Take your time, Harry.
(closes Ronnie's
jacket)
We're not animals. Are we, Ronnie?

Bo Catlett glances once more at Chili then follows Ronnie out the door. Harry stares at the door a moment, senses Chili staring at him...

HARRY
What?

CHILI
I don't know, maybe I wasn't clear. But I thought... I told you to keep your mouth shut.

HARRY
I had to tell 'em something.

CHILI
Never say anything unless you have to.

Chili shakes his head as Harry sits down in one of the chairs, fumbles for his cigarettes.

CHILI
You tell me you want these guys off your back. Next thing I know, you're saying yeah, maybe they can have a piece of Mr. Lovejoy. I couldn't believe my fuckin' ears.

HARRY
I said I'd think about it. What does that mean? In this town, nothing.

CHILI
That's the difference between you and me, Harry. I say what I mean. I want something from someone, I ask 'em straight out. I want Martin Weir, I go get Martin Weir. I don't fuck around with his trainer's shrink.

HARRY
His shrink's trainer.

Chili looks at Harry.

CHILI
Take me back to my car.

EXT. LAX - DAY

As a plane touches down on the runway...

INT. SOVEREIGN TERMINAL - SAME TIME

Yayo, now soaked with sweat, is still here. He stands watching a row of lockers. He stares at one of them...

CLOSE ON LOCKER

The number C-18. We PUSH IN...

YAYO

Starts to move for it... then looks off at...

A MAN IN A SUIT

As we quickly TILT DOWN to the guy's ankle, looks like a bulge there. We then...

WHIP PAN TO...

A WOMAN

Dressed casually in slacks and a blouse. We TILT DOWN to her ankle, hmmm, is that a bulge? We...

WHIP PAN TO...

A TENNIS SHOE

Tapping to some unheard rhythm and what looks like a bulge near the ankle. We TILT UP this time to reveal a LITTLE KID, listening to a walkman.

YAYO

Obviously losing it now, rubs his eyes and quickly walks off to a row of payphones...

EXT. KAREN FLORES' HOUSE - DAY

Chili's minivan is parked outfront.

TOMMY (V.O.)
Where you been? I been callin' all over
for you...

INT KAREN'S HOUSE - THE STUDY - SAME TIME

Chili sits at the desk on the phone.

TOMMY
(phone)
Ray Bones is looking for you. He's got
some kinda bug up his ass, can't sit
still.

INT. BARBER SHOP - DAY

Tommy on the phone.

TOMMY
I hate to say I told you, but I did. I
told you don't start nothing with him that
time.

INTERCUTTING TOMMY & CHILI

CHILI
You said don't say nothing and I didn't.

TOMMY
No, you just broke his fuckin' nose
instead.

CHILI
You gonna start that again? You're just
like him, all you got room for in your
brain is one fuckin' thing.

TOMMY
All I know is he came by the barber shop,
all fuckin' undone, wanting to know where
you were staying in Vegas. I told him I
don't know. I still don't.

CHILI
How'd he know I was in Vegas? You tell
him?

TOMMY
He already knew it.

CHILI
Yeah, well, I'm in L.A. now.

TOMMY
Whatta you doing out there?

CHILI

I'm going into the movie business.

TOMMY

What're you talking about? You wanna be a movie star?

CHILI

I'm thinking about producing.

TOMMY

How you gonna do that? You don't know shit about making movies.

CHILI

I don't think the producer has to do much, outside of maybe knowing a writer.

TOMMY

Hey, Chil? I think you're fulla shit.

INT. KAREN'S ENTRY WAY - SAME TIME

As Karen, dressed as a B-movie queen, press kit under one arm, steps inside, freezes as she hears...

CHILI (O.S.)

... call me soon as you know when Ray's coming out.

INT. STUDY - SAME TIME

Chili is scribbling something on a piece of paper as Karen comes into the room. Chili looks up at her as he hangs up, smiles at her.

CHILI

Hey... Karen. How ya' doin'?

KAREN

What're you doing here?

CHILI

I wanted to come by, apologize for coming into your house like I did last night.

KAREN

Lemme get this straight, you broke in again to apologize for breaking in before?

CHILI

No, no... you let the patio door open. You gotta stop doin' that, all the nice things you got around here.

KAREN

Yeah, well make sure you lock it on the way out.

CHILI

Rough day on the set?

KAREN

I spent all day crawling out of a grave.
The costumer kept bitching 'cause I was
ripping my nylons -

CHILI

Ripped nylons work. Makes the shot more
real.

KAREN

(regarding him)

... That's what we finally decided.

CHILI

Like in "Bride of the Mutant", when you
played the whole end with that torn top.

She looks at him.

KAREN

You saw that one?

CHILI

Yeah. When you turn to the camera to tell
the alien mother that her time on earth is
finished... when you give us all that
look, Joan Crawford wishes on her best day
she had that much presence. Not even in
"Mildred Pierce" - which by the way was a
better book than a movie - did Crawford
even touch the intensity you had in that
look.

KAREN

(beat)

Yeah... that was a good scene. I mean, for
a horror movie.

CHILI

For any movie.

KAREN

I know I'm better than what I've been
doing the last ten years, walking around
in a tank top and fuck-me pumps, waiting
till it's time to scream.

CHILI

Man, can you scream.

KAREN

Yeah. It's a real gift.

(beat)

I'm just saying it'd be nice, one time in
my career to get the chance to say one
great line. You know, like in that Bette
Davis picture, "Cabin in the..."

CHILI

"Cotton".

KAREN

Yeah, you know when Bette comes up to the guy on the porch, gives him a flirty look and says, 'I'd kiss you, but...'

CHILI / KAREN

'I just washed my hair.'

KAREN

Yeah.

CHILI

That is a great line.

Chili looks at her.

CHILI

How come you stopped making movies with Harry?

KAREN

I married Martin. That was a full-time job.

CHILI

You read Harry's new one? He says it's the best thing he's ever read.

KAREN

He must mean after "Slime Creature 3".

CHILI

That why Harry came over last night? See if you could help him get Martin in his movie?

KAREN

Harry's dreaming of a forty-million-dollar production he'll never get off the ground with a star he'll never sign. With or without my help.

CHILI

Harry told me Martin loves it, he flipped.

KAREN

Yeah, well Martin is known for his flipping. He flips over a script, and when the time comes to make a deal, he flips out.

CHILI

Tell you what, I'll stop by Harry's office and pick up a copy for you.

KAREN

Don't go out of your way.

They consider each other a moment... until Chili finally checks his watch.

CHILI
Well, I gotta have a talk with Leo, my runaway dry cleaner.

KAREN
Right. See how your story ends.

CHILI
Yeah. Right.
(then)
Listen, "Touch of Evil"'s phying near my hotel. You wanna go check it out? Watch Charlton Heston play a Mexican?

Karen looks caught, doesn't answer right away.

CHILI
Maybe some other time.

He turns to go, then turns back to her...

CHILI
'He tried to make love to me and I shot him.'
(then)
Another great Bette Davis line.

Karen looks at him. Surprised. He smiles at her.

CHILI
See you around.

EXT. BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL - NIGHT

Leo Devoe, dressed in a sporty plaid ensemble, complete with little matching hat gets out of a cab, and walks to the front entrance. He tips the doorman, gives him a grin.

DOORMAN
Evening, sir.

LEO
And a good evening to you, too, sir.

INT. HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

As Leo the high-rolling dry cleaner bounces down the hall, unlocks his door...

INT. LEO'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Dark. Leo enters, heads for the bottle of Chivas on the desk. Has one straight out of the bottle, ahhh, before pulling a fat wad of

cash out of his jacket, tossing it on the desk like it's change from the cab fare.

He then takes off the jacket, unbuttons the shirt, reaches for the Chivas again, when we hear...

CHILI (O. S.)

Look at me, Leo.

Crash. Something glass hits the floor. Probably the Chivas bottle as Leo nearly has a fucking coronary...

Leo looks over as Chili turns on the light behind him. But what catches Leo's eye is the BRIEFCASE sitting on the couch beside Chili.

CHILI

I wouldn't think you're that dumb, leave over three hundred grand in the closet, underneath the extra blanket, but I guess you are.

LEO

I didn't know where else to keep it.

(then)

Where would you?

CHILI

You're here a while, what's wrong with a bank?

LEO

They report it to the IRS.

CHILI

You don't open an account, Leo, you put it in a safe deposit box. Dip in whenever you want.

Leo nods in his sporty hat and undershirt, thinking it over, what to do the next time he scams an airline.

CHILI

You've been losing.

LEO

I'm up twelve grand today.

CHILI

From when? You left Vegas with four-fifty?

LEO

Who told you that?

CHILI

Now you're down to three-ten in the case. You must've cooled off quite a bit since you got here.

CHILI

I won't do that. Take your stuff or hurt you. You have three-ten in the case, right? I'm gonna take the three hundred you scammed off the airline, but the rest of it, the ten grand? I'm gonna borrow that and pay you back sometime.

Leo's squinting at him now...

LEO

You take all my money, but you're borrowing part of it?

CHILI

At eighteen percent, okay? And don't ask me no more fuckin' questions. I'm leaving.

He picks up the briefcase as he rises from the sofa and Leo gets out of his chair.

LEO

But you won't know where I am. I don't even know where I'll be.

CHILI

I'll find you, Leo...

Chili reaches for the door, opens it and looks back at Leo...

CHILI

You leave a trail like a fuckin' caterpillar.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

As Chili starts for the elevator. Leo steps into his doorway...

LEO

Wait a minute. What's this eighteen-percent-a-year shit? You want to borrow ten, the vig's three bills a week. Fifteen for the vig plus the ten, that's twenty-five big ones you go a whole year, buddy! You hear me?

Chili stops, turns around. As he starts back, he sees Leo's scared look just before he slams the door shut.

Chili shakes his head, starts back for the elevator.

EXT. GRIFFITH PARK - NIGHT

Chili drives a dark road up into the park. He rounds a corner, and we see an explosion of light up ahead as we come upon...

A MOVIE SET

Chili pulls in behind a row of trailers. He gets out of the car and heads for the set where Harry is now looking up at the sky and yelling at someone...

HARRY

How's anyone gonna see anything from way up there?

CHILI

Hey, Harry.

HARRY

Yeah, Chili. Hi.
(looking up)
You're fifty feet in the air!

The DIRECTOR - early twenties, dressed like a frat boy - sits on a crane about fifty feet above the set...

DIRECTOR

Harry. I'm gonna boom down real fast, get a subjective p-o-v.

CHILI

Listen, I talked to Karen. She's gonna think about helping you out.

HARRY

Yeah, but whose point of view?

DIRECTOR

Whatta you mean, whose point of view; The audience's point of view.

HARRY

Get down here. I wanna talk to you. Come on... right now...
(to Chili)
She's gonna talk to Martin?

CHILI

She's thinking about it. I just need the key to your office. I just told her I'd pick up a script.

Harry tosses Chili a key-ring.

HARRY

It's the red one. Take it off the ring.

Chili sits down in one of the director's chairs that sits off to one side. He starts to take the key off the ring...

VOICE

Your name Vicky Vespa?

Chili looks up at a bored-looking ACTRESS standing there in a blood-soaked nightie.

CHILI

Excuse me?

ACTRESS

I asked you, is your name Vicky Vespa?

CHILI

No.

ACTRESS

Then get the fuck outta my chair.

Chili sits forward, sees her name printed on the back. He gets up. As she sits down, we see an ICE PICK sticking out the other side of her head. Chili sits back down next to her in the chair with HARRY ZIMM on the back.

HARRY

(to the director)

What're you doing? I thought I told you to get down here?

The kid nods to the camera operator who lowers the crane as we BOOM WAY UP...

HARRY

All these camera moves and weird angles and shit are gonna distance us from the emotion of the scene.

DIRECTOR

What 'emotion'? Girl just got stabbed in the ear with an ice pick.

HARRY

She's scared! Fear is an emotion!

(then)

Look, kid, if you remember anything from your time working with Harry Zimm, let it be the three key words to filmmaking.

The kid fiddles with the crane controls.

DIRECTOR

Yeah? What three words, Harry?

HARRY

Pick 'n' Save.

DIRECTOR

Hm?

HARRY

You heard me, Pick 'n' Save.

Harry turns so the rest of the crew can hear him...

HARRY

Now I'm gonna tell you a little story, happened to me years ago when I was so broke I had to go to the Pick 'n' Save over on Vine to buy a lousy candybar for my dinner.

Chili watches the crew stop what they're doing and listen.

HARRY

I'm standing in line waiting to pay my two bits when I overhear this lady, call her Mildred, talking to the cashier about a movie.

The Director gives a look to his assistant like 'Jesus, you believe this shit?'

HARRY

So Mildred says to the cashier, 'I saw the new Streisand picture.'

(gets into it the way
Mildred did)

'God, I just love it at the end when she brushed Robert Redford's hair off his forehead the way she did when they were together, and the way they gave each other this look that said they still loved each other, but knew they couldn't be together. That look was so... romantic.'

DIRECTOR

That's great, Harry. So what's the -

HARRY

What she did not say was, 'I just loved the way the director moved the camera so much it made me fuckin' seasick.' All she cared about was that look. All she remembered was that look. And why do we remember things in movies? Because we can see them.

Harry's right in the guy's face now...

HARRY

So... keep this fuckin' camera down here on the ground and shoot this scene, so we can see what the fuck is goin' on, before I get someone over sixteen to fuckin' shoot it for you!

Harry walks over to Chili, sees Chili sitting there. Chili tosses Harry his key ring.

CHILI

Here's your keys, Harry.

HARRY

Get the fuck outta my chair.

EXT. HARRY ZIMM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

As Chili pulls out front, gets out of the minivan, he looks up, sees a light on in Harry's office.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Chili walks down the hallway, dark except for a light on at the end of the hall...

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Bo Catlett, reading glasses, script open in front of him, looks up from Harry's desk as Chili steps into the office.

BO CATLETT

This ain't bad, you know it? This Mr. Lovejoy. Needs a better ending but yeah, I can see why Harry wants to do it.

Chili says nothing, sits down in one of the red leather chairs.

BO CATLETT

You understand I knew Harry was lying, saying this wasn't any good, but holding on to it, man, like you have to break his fingers to get it from him.

CHILI

That's funny, I was just wondering what I was gonna break of yours to get it away from you.

Bo Catlett smiles at him, doesn't give up the script.

BO CATLETT

I'm just explaining to you what I'm doing here. Case you think I come to rob the place, rip off any of this dusty old shit the man has.

CHILI

I'd never make you as a burglar, not in that outfit.

Bo Catlett sits back in the chair a moment, watches Chili light a cigarette...

BO CATLETT

Harry called you his associate, but what does that mean? I never heard your name or read it in Variety or The Reporter or anyplace.

CHILI

It's what he said, I'm his associate.

BO CATLETT

You must bring something heavy to the deal.

CHILI

That's right, me.

Bo Catlett picks up a piece of paper off the desk...

BO CATLETT

Says here you're getting Martin Weir for the part of Lovejoy.

CHILI

Yeah, we're getting Martin.

BO CATLETT

No shit, come on. How you gonna do that?

CHILI

I put a gun right here...

(touches the side of his head)

... and I tell him, 'Sign the paper Marty or your fuckin' dead.' Like that.

BO CATLETT

I wonder, would that work?

(then)

You know who I see for Al Roxy? Harvey Keitel. The man could do it in his sleep.

CHILI

Harvey Keitel. Yeah. Maybe. He was pretty good in the movie "Fingers".

BO CATLETT

I missed that one. Or, hey, you know who else? Morgan Freeman. You know Morgan?

CHILI

Yeah, Morgan Freeman. But he's a colored guy.

BO CATLETT

So what? Where's it say in this script he's white? Color is what the part needs, man, somebody to do it has some style. The way it is now, Ronnie could do it, play himself, some cracked out asshole.

(then)

So whatta you think of the script?

Bo watches as Chili picks up a copy of the script, begins flipping through it.

CHILI

Title's the first thing's got to go. And the guy's name. I mean, even this writer's name, Murray Saffrin is better than "Lovejoy".

BO CATLETT

I'm with you on that. And don't you think it needs a good female part? Increase the romance angle.

Chili flips through the script, sees a name...

CHILI

There's Ilona.

BO CATLETT

What about her?

CHILI

Get something going there.

BO CATLETT

With Ilona? You know how old Ilona is?

CHILI

She's... young.

BO CATLETT

Young? She's fuckin' nine-years-old, same age as Lovejoy's kid. Bernie. One she calls Bernard. Have you read the script?

CHILI

Yeah, I read it. I was just thinking you could make her older. We might even be able to get Karen Flores.

BO CATLETT

Who?

CHILI

She's been out of movies a few years, but she's good. Real good.

Bo Catlett studies Chili a moment, smiles...

BO CATLETT

You know what I'm thinkin'?

(leans forward)

You wanna make the girl older. I don't like the ending. We could do that, you and me, sit down and write the script over where it needs it.

Chili fips through the script a moment...

CHILI

You know how to write one of these?

BO CATLETT

There's nothin' to know. You have an idea, you write down what you wanna say. Then you get somebody to add in the commas and shit where they belong, if you aren't positive yourself. Maybe fix up the spelling where you have some tricky words... although I've seen scripts where I know words weren't spelled right and there was hardly any commas in it at all. So I don't think it's too important. Anyway, you come to the last page you write in 'Fade out' and that's the end, you're done.

CHILI

That's all there is to it, huh?

BO CATLETT

That's all.

Chili sits forward, stabs out his cigarette, exhales into Bo Catlett's face...

CHILI

Then what do I need you for?

Bo Catlett starts for the door.

BO CATLETT

I really think I can be of service on this one.

CHILI

Yeah, well, we need a ride somewhere, we'll let you know.

EXT. NUART THEATER - NIGHT

As Karen walks up to the box office. A Touch of Evil on the marquis.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Not so full. Chili sits in the middle, watching the final scene as Orson Welles gets blown away, falls into the oily river. He can't take his eyes off the screen...

Karen comes in, starts up the aisle, looking for Chili. She spots him, just as he mouths the dialogue along with Marlene Dietrich...

MARLENE DIETRICH (O.S.)

He was some kind of man.

Karen smiles, decides to wait a moment. Chili, lost in the movie... keeps mouthing the dialogue.

MARLENE DIETRICH (O.S.)

What does it matter what you say about people?

MORT MILLS (O.S.)

Good-bye, Tanya.

MARLENE DIETRICH

Adios.

As Tanya/Marlene Dietrich resumes her slow walk away, Karen sits down at the end of the row. People start getting up to leave. Chili turns to a GUY a few seats away from him...

CHILI

Wow, huh?

The guy gives Chili a look, puts his arm around his DATE, and quickly starts up the aisle so that Chili can now see Karen sitting there at the end of the row...

CHILI

You been here the whole time?

KAREN

I just caught the end.

She gets up, they start up the aisle together...

CHILI

You know, Welles didn't even wanna do that one. Some studio made him do it. He owed 'em one and all his own movies lost money.

(walking out now)

But, hey, sometimes that's when you do your best work, you got a gun to your head...

EXT. NUART - NIGHT

As Karen and Chili exit the theater, stand there a moment.

CHILI

I got you a copy of the script.

KAREN

I already read it. Harry left a copy at the house.

CHILI

What do you think?

She starts walking.

KAREN

I think it's not horrible.

CHILI

I don't like the title. Or the main guy's name.

KAREN

Then you've read it?

CHILI

Not yet.

KAREN

You and Harry'll make a great team.

(then)

I'm gonna make a deal with him.

CHILI

There a part in it for you?

KAREN

I don't want to act in it, I want to produce it with Harry. Especially if I help him get Martin.

CHILI

Sounds fair.

KAREN

What do you get out of it?

He stops, looks at her.

CHILI

That why you came over here, to ask me that?

KAREN

I want to know.

CHILI

Why does anyone want to be in movies?

KAREN

Yesterday, you were a loan shark.

He starts walking again...

CHILI

I was never much into it. All that bullshit having to do with respect. It's bad enough having to treat those guys like they're your heroes, having to smile when they make some stupid remark they think's real funny.

KAREN

And you think the movie business is any different?

CHILI

Yeah well... I like movies. I figure if I help Harry make one, I'll find out what you have to do outside of have an idea and raise the money. That doesn't sound too hard. I was in the money business and I get ideas all the time.

They stop at her car.

KAREN

I'm talking to Martin tomorrow morning. I told Harry I'd meet you and him at Abiquiu afterward.

(opens her door)

This might work, you never know.

He stands there, watching her drive away.

EXT. HARRY'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Just above Franklin in the Hollywood Hills. A realtor might call it Chandleresque. We call it old and cheap.

INT. HARRY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Continuing on the old and cheap theme. Harry stands behind the wet bar pouring himself a strong one. He looks at himself in the smoke-tinted mirror squares, downs the drink in one and pours himself another.

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

Harry looks at the door.

HARRY

Who is it?

WOMAN'S VOICE

Me.

HARRY

(lower)

Fuck.

WOMAN'S VOICE

I heard that.

Harry moves to the door and opens it to reveal DORIS SAFFRIN - fiftyish, fur coat, hair up so that we can see the nifty necklare. She leans in the doorway...

HARRY

Hello, Doris.

DORIS

Harry Zimm. You look like a wet kiss.

And she plants one on him. Walks into the apartment. Looking good for her age. Hell, for any age.

DORIS
Well, aren't you gonna offer me whatever
it is you taste like?

HARRY
Come on in.

Doris goes to the window. Harry goes to the bar, pours them each a drink...

DORIS
What a spectacular view.

HARRY
Yeah, lovely. Last night I watched two
guys carjack a Camero down on the corner
of Argyle there.
(hands her the drink)
What do you want, Doris?

She drinks, never taking her eyes off him.

DORIS
I miss Murray, Harry.

HARRY
Yeah, me too. He was a helluva good
writer. And I would know. I discovered
him. Made him what he was.

DORIS
What he was, was a hack, couldn't get a
job writing for anybody but you.
(off Harry)
I'm being honest. He was a lousy writer,
but he was a good husband. I just didn't
know it until too late.

Harry finishes his drink, pours himself another...

HARRY
Yeah, well, twenty-twenty hindsight and
all that.

Harry takes a big, noisy pull off his drink as she moves to the bar...

DORIS
I hate being alone. The house is so quiet.
So lonely. It needs...
(studies him)
A man's touch.

And with that, she opens up the fur coat to reveal that she's wearing nothing but a garter belt and high heels.

HARRY

Nice garter.

She sets her drink down, moves in, wraps her arms around his neck...

HARRY

I'm not sure how I feel about this, Doris.

DORIS

(reaching down)

You seem to feel fine about it.

HARRY

I mean morally. Murray was my friend.

DORIS

Murray's dead.

She kisses him... Harry pulls back...

HARRY

So this means you've reconsidered our deal on Mr. Lovejoy?

DORIS

No. But now that you mention it, I did talk to a handsome executive at Paramount the other day... who just happened to get his hands on the script.

HARRY

Yeah, what'd he have to say?

DORIS

He said if Martin's interested, I could get a half a million for it easy. But don't worry, Harry, I'm still giving you until Friday.

HARRY

How honorable of you.

Now she backs away, gives him a hurt look.

DORIS

Harry. If you want me to go, just say the word.

Harry looks at her a moment, decides...

HARRY

What the hell...

... And pulls her as close as we then...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS HOME - NIGHT

We hear laughter, rock and roll as a NUDE WOMAN dives into a blue-lit swimming pool and swims the length...

We then TILT UP to a HOUSE ON STILTS above this one and see the lone figure of Bo Catlett standing on his deck.

EXT. BO CATLETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The shimmering yellow grid of the city in the background, Bo Catlett, barefoot, bathrobe, leans on the rail of his deck, watching the folks frolic twelve stories down.

YAYO (V.O.)

Listen to me, man, I don't wan' no focking key. I wan' the money.

EXT. BO CATLETT'S DECK - NIGHT

Bo Catlett looks inside where Yayo paces back and forth. The Bear reclines on a chaise lounge.

BO CATLETT

Hey, Yayo? You gonna smoke, get the hell off my seventy-bucks-a-yard carpet.

Yayo steps out on to the deck...

BO CATLETT

I told you where the money is. All you gotta do is go get it.

YAYO

No. I'll tell you something

BO CATLETT

That's all you know, huh? Wait here a minute, Yayo, I be back directly.

Yayo leans against the railing, cuts a 'now that's the way you get things done' look at the Bear. He lights a cigarette, looks OFF SCREEN and freezes...

YAYO

The fock you doing with that?

Bo Catlett holds a big .45 out in front of him...

BO CATLETT

I'm taking you out, Yahoo.

.... and shoots Yayo in the chest, the gun going off loud, the round knocking the little Latin man back against the railing.

BO CATLETT

Dead focking center, man.

Yayo, a stupid look on his face, stumbles backwards, over the railing. The Bear reaches for him, but it's too late...

EXT. HOUSE DOWN BELOW - SAME TIME

The group down here is too stoned to notice the little Colombian who falls from the deck high above like a sack of dirt, then slides partway down the slope.

EXT. BO CATLETT'S DECK - SAME TIME

The bear looks over at Bo Catlett... who now calmly stares down at the motionless form of Yayo.

BO CATLETT

Shit, now someone's gotta climb down there and get him.

BEAR

You didn't have to shoot him, Bo. We coulda just beat him up some.

BO CATLETT

You see that? The way the man just went right over?

Bo Catlett takes a sip of his drink, looks at the railing.

BO CATLETT

Maybe we can get Chili Palmer up here. You fix my railing to give way like they do in the movies. Then I invite the man out here, have a look at my view. Get him to lean over the railing, see all the naked people down there... a tragic accident, officer...

Bear looks at him.

BEAR

Cat, that's the lamest idea I've ever heard.

BO CATLETT

Yeah, well, I'm bored, Bear. I wanna make movies.

Bear looks at him.

BO CATLETT

I mean, what's the point of living in L.A. if you're not in the movie business?

Bo Catlett leans on the railing, looks down at Yayo again.

BO CATLETT

And I mean high up in it.

(turns to Bear)

That's why Harry's gonna make Mr. Lovejoy
with me, not Chili Palmer.

BEAR

Mr. Lovejoy? That's cute, Bo.

BO CATLETT

Doesn't matter what it's called, Harry's
got Martin Weir and it's gonna be big.

BEAR

They all sound big at the talking stage.

EXT. MARTIN WEIR'S HOUSE - MORNING

Karen pulls into the driveway in a convertible BMW. As she
checks her make-up in the REARVIEW MIRROR, we see Chili pull up
behind her in his rented minivan. She turns around, frowns, and
quickly gets out of her car.

He gets out of the van... holds up a Star Map...

CHILI

This thing's actually accurate. I bought
it for ten bucks from a kid in a lawn
chair on Sunset...

KAREN

You were supposed to wait for me with
Harry at the restaurant.

Chili points to a star on the map...

CHILI

See, here it is... Martin Weir's house...
right across the street from George
Hamilton.

VOICE

Chili, Jesus!

They both look to the front door where a tall, skinny WOMAN with
wild, jet black hair stands.

WOMAN

It is you...

She comes bounding down the steps, runs over and gives him a
hug... Karen can't believe what she sees.

CHILI

Nicole?

WOMAN

It's Nicki now. I don't believe this.

CHILI

Me neither.
(to Karen)
We know each other.

Karen smiles: 'How 'bout that.' Then looks at Nicki.

KAREN

Hello, Nicki.

NICKI

Karen. Shit. I didn't see you there. How
are you?

Karen starts to answer, but Nicki's already hustling Chili
inside...

INT. MARTIN WEIR'S HOUSE - DAY

White everything. Way off in the background, a view on to the huge
backyard. A pool man cleans the pool. A gardener blows the leaves.

Martin's extensive photography collection lines the walls. Chili
steps inside, checks some of them out: most of the photographs are
of Martin.

NICKI

Martin will be out in a minute.
(to Karen)
Chili was the only one at Momo's didn't
hit on me.

KAREN

What a gentleman.

NICKI

You like my hair?
(reaches up, touches
it)
Black like this?

CHILI

It's nice. Especially under your arms.

Somehow this makes Karen feel better.

NICKI

Martin won't let me shave. I guess I fill
some need. Brings him back to the sixties
or something.

Karen turns as we hear a TOILET FLUSH somewhere OFF SCREEN.

NICKI

(looks OFF SCREEN)
Speak of the devil...

Chili follows her gaze and we see...

MARTIN

As he comes down the stairs, checking the front of his trousers. He and Karen spot each other. Both look uncomfortable for a fraction of a second, then Martin hurries over to her...

MARTIN

Karen. Wow. Look at you...

KAREN

Hello, Martin.

He hugs her and hangs on, leaving Nicki and Chili standing there like idiots.

MARTIN

Mmmmm. You smell terrific.
(to Nicki)
She always smelled so good.

NICKI

(thrilled)

Neat.

(then)

Martin, this is Chili Palmer.

MARTIN

Chili is it?

CHILI

Yesh, a pleasure, Martin.

NICKI

Chili's a gangster. Ran a club I used to play at for another gangster back in Miami. How is Momo these days anyway?

CHILI

Dead.

Karen fights a smile. Nicki nods solemnly...

NICKI

Bummer.

(then)

Well, I'll let you all get to your movie talk. Chili, make sure you say good-bye before you leave.

CUT TO:

A PORTRAIT OF MARTIN WEIR

Done in cracked oils, the whole bit.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL...

MARTIN'S LIVING ROOM

Martin, Karen and Chili all sit on white couches. Martin is checking out Karen, nodding...

MARTIN

I'm sitting here, I'm looking at you and I'm having these flashes. You know, flashbacks, of memories.

(touches her hair)

Of us.

KAREN

Really.

MARTIN

Yeah and I'm wondering, how did it go wrong? How did it all... slip away?

KAREN

'It' didn't slip away, Martin, you did... when you went off to fuck Nicki in the middle of my birthday party.

Martin brings his hand back, nods, lost in thought...

MARTIN

Yeah. That was a good party.

CHILI

You know, Marty, you were good in The Cyclone.

MARTIN

Martin. It was a beautiful role. All I had to do was find the character's center, the stem I'd used to wind him up and he'd play, man, he'd play.

Karen looks like she wants to throw up.

CHILI

Well, you had it down cold. Watching you in the movie, if I didn't know better I'd have to believe you were a made guy and not acting. Even the fink part. I never met a fink and I hope to God I never do, but how you did it must be the way finks act.

MARTIN

A few weeks before shooting, I went back to Bensonhurst, just to listen to you guys. See, I'm Italian, but I grew up in Tarzana. So I wanted to pick up your rhythms of speech.

CHILI

We talk different?

MARTIN

It's more like your attitude. Your tone, your speech patterns demonstrate a certain confidence in yourselves, in your opinions, your indifference to conventional views.

CHILI

You mean like we don't give a shit.

MARTIN

Yeah. Kinda. Anyway, once I have the authentic sounds of speech, the rhythms, man, the patois, I can actually begin to think the way those guys do, get inside their heads.

Chili exchanges a look with Karen who sits back now. Ready to give up.

CHILI

Okay, I'm one of those guys you mentioned. I'm actually one of 'em. What am I thinking?
Martin looks at Chili...

MARTIN

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying an actual metamorphosis takes place. That wouldn't be acting.

Karen looks at Martin, shakes her head.

CHILI

So you don't know what I'm thinking.

MARTIN

No, I don't. Though I have to say I'm curious.

CHILI

So you want to know.

MARTIN

If you'd like to tell me, yeah.

CHILI

I'm thinking of a movie.

MARTIN

One of mine?

CHILI

One we're producing.

MARTIN

With what? Wiseguy money?

Martin cracks himself up. Karen and Chili crack up with him, Karen leaning into Chili...

KAREN

Maybe this was a bad idea.

But Chili keeps looking at Martin.

CHILI

Martin, I'm not connected to those people anymore. Not since I walked out of a loan-shark Operation in Miami.

MARTIN

What happened? The pressure got to you?

CHILI

Pressure? I'm the one applied the pressure.

Chili sits back. Karen is starting to enjoy Chili's handling of Martin...

CHILI

You're an actor, you like to pretend. Imagine you're the shylock. A guy owes you fifteen grand and he skips, leaves town. What do you do?

Chili watches as the movie star hunches over, narrows his shoulders. For a few moments he holds his hands together in front of him, getting a shifty look in his eyes. Karen shakes her head...

KAREN

Oh, for Christ's sake -

MARTIN

I know. I'm doing Shylock instead of a shylock. Okay, what's my motivation? The acquisition of money. To collect. Inflict pain if I have to.

Karen watches as Martin stares at Chili, his expression gradually becoming deadpan, sleepy...

MARTIN

Guy owes me fifteen large and takes off, I go after him. The fuck you think I do?

CHILI

Martin, look at me.

MARTIN

I'm looking at you.

So is Karen, for that matter.

CHILI

No, I want you to look at me the way I'm looking at you. Put it in your eyes, 'You're mine, asshole,' without saying it.

MARTIN

Like this?

CHILI

What you're telling me, you're tired? You
wanna go to bed?

MARTIN

Wait. How about this?

CHILI

Now you're squinting like you need
glasses.

Karen looks away now, fighting a smile.

CHILI

Look at me. I'm thinking, You're mine. I
fuckin' own you. What I'm not doing is
feeling anything about it one way or the
other. You understand? You're not a person
to me, you're a name in my collection
book, a guy owes me money, that's all.

Martin nods, gives Chili a nice dead-eyed look. Karen is
thoroughly enjoying Chili's manipulation of Martin.

MARTIN

How about this?

CHILI

That's not bad.

MARTIN

That's what I think of you, asshole.
Nothing.

CHILI

I believe it.

MARTIN

I turn it on when I confront the guy.

CHILI

Yeah, but you haven't found him yet.
(then)
The guy took off for Las Vegas.

MARTIN

How do I know that?

Karen looks at Chili as he sits back...

CHILI

The guy's wife tells you...

INT. ABIQUIU RESTAURANT - DAY

Two floors, the upstairs with a railing overlooking the bar. Harry, a drink in front of him, sits in a big corner booth upstairs. He checks his watch...

VOICE

Harry, how you doing?

Harry looks up to see Bo Catlett, dressed up as usual, standing there with the Bear, wearing a Hawaiian shirt.

HARRY

Bo. I'm great. Listen, I'm expecting some people -

BO CATLETT

You must be makin' some big deals, doin' lunch in a place like this?

HARRY

I'm working on a few things.

BO CATLETT

Yeah, I hear you bagged Martin Weir for Mr. Lovejoy.

HARRY

Boy, this town. Word gets around, doesn't it?

Harry chuckles, takes a sip of his drink.

BO CATLETT

Chili Palmer told me.

Harry's smile goes away.

BO CATLETT

Last night. When he called me over to your office to talk about it.

HARRY

Chili Palmer showed you my script?

BO CATLETT

Yeah, I was wondering why he should do that.

INT. MARTIN WEIR'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Martin is leaning forward... Hooked...

MARTIN

The wife sues the airline.
(nods)
This is a gutsy babe.

CHILI
Good-looking, too.
(turns to look at her)
Like Karen.

Chili smiles at her. Martin leans forward.

MARTIN
So when do I meet up with the husband and
give him the look?

CHILI
It's not that simple. You have to be
careful. There's another guy that comes
along, a hard-on you owe some money to. A
mob guy. Wants to take you out anyway, on
account of a past situation.

MARTIN
Okay. I'm listening.

Chili stops; he doesn't know what else to say. Martin waits, then
looks at him a moment...

CHILI
At that point, basically, that has to be
it.

MARTIN
You're not going to tell me the rest?

KAREN
Well actually, Martin the movie we came to
talk about is Mr. Lovejoy.

CHILI
Yeah. We understand you read the script
and like it... a lot.

MARTIN
Refresh my memory...

INT. ABIQUIU - SAME TIME

Harry drains his drink. Bo Catlett exchanges a look with the Bear,
then...

BO CATLETT
Listen, Harry, how would you like to get
your hands on five hundred grand? You pay
me back at your convenience, no interest.

HARRY
You serious?

BO CATLETT
All I want in return is to work on the
movie with you. Fact I already got some
ideas on how to fix it up.

Bo Catlett signals the waiter...

BO CATLETT

How 'bout another one for Mr. Zimm. A double.

HARRY

You're gonna just give me five hundred grand?

BO CATLETT

We'll talk about that, Harry. But first I gotta know, how'd you hook up with Chili Palmer.

EXT. MARTIN WEIR'S HOUSE - DAY

Karen, Martin, and Chili walk out to the driveway.

MARTIN

Lemme talk to Buddy, set up a meeting.

CHILI

Buddy?

KAREN

Lufkin. His... agent.

MARTIN

Yeah, Karen knows him.

KAREN

But you are interested?

MARTIN

I'm intrigued, yeah. You know what might help you, take a look at the Cylone again, the way a visual fabric is maintained even while the metaphor plays on different levels. Hey -

(nods to minivan)

This your ride, Chili?

Chili follows Martin over to the minivan, opens the door for him.

MARTIN

Very nice...

CHILI

Yeah, I like it, I'm high up, I can see everything, you know? It's the Cadillac of minivans.

MARTIN

What's that?

CHILI

Compass.

MARTIN

Wow.

(then)

Mind if I take it for a spin?

INT. ABIQUIU RESTAURANT - DAY

Bo Catlett and Harry are laughing as Harry, very drunk now finishes another drink...

BO CATLETT

He was watching Letterman, huh? Sneaky, that Chili Palmer.

(signals the waiter, then)

So, he ever find this dry cleaner, the one with all that money on him?

HARRY

Leo, I don't know.

Bo Catlett and the Bear look at each other.

BO CATLETT

I bet he did and he ain't givin' you a penny of it, help you out. Not the way I am.

Harry looks at Bo, can't believe what's happening to his life, thinks a moment, then...

HARRY

Assuming I go along with this, when can I have the five hundred?

BO CATLETT

Whenever you want it. The money's in hundred dollar bills inside one of those jock bags, you know? In a locker at the airport, waiting to be picked up.

HARRY

The airport.

BO CATLETT

It was waiting out there on another deal, one that didn't go through; one you don't want to know about.

Harry shakes his head, looks around the restaurant. Bo and the Bear exchange looks, then...

HARRY

I don't know.

BO CATLETT

It's not the kind of thing you do.

Another glance at the Bear, then...

BO CATLETT

That's why I was thinking you could send your boy Chili Palmer. He gets busted or hit on the head you aren't out nothing.

And with that, Bo Catlett calmly slides an ORANGE KEY across the table to Harry. Harry stares at it. It has the number C-18 printed on the flat orange part.

HARRY

C-18.

BO CATLETT

That's the magic number.

BEAR

Cat...

And they all look...

DOWNSTAIRS

As Chili and Karen enter the restaurant. Chili checks out the bar, sees they aren't there, then looks up at the railing... keeps his eyes up there as he says...

CHILI

Wait here.

Chili moves to the staircase, now sees the Bear in his Hawaiian shirt standing a few steps from the top.

Chili gets within three steps of the guy and stops, but doesn't look up, keeps his eyes fixed on the man's gut.

BO CATLETT

I'd like you to meet my associate, the Bear. Movie stuntman and champion weightlifter, as you might've noticed. Picks up and throws out things I don't want.

Chili doesn't move, keeps his eyes on the man's crotch.

BEAR

We think you ought to turn around and go back to Miami.

Chili slowly moves his gaze up through hibiscus until he's looking at the man's bearded face...

CHILI

So you're a stuntman. Are you any good?

The Bear grins and turns his head to the side, as if too modest to answer and will let Bo Catlett speak for him.

This makes the next move easier... the guy not even looking as Chili grabs a handful of his crotch, steps aside and yanks him off the fucking stairs.

The Bear yells out of pain and fear as the beefy guy rolls all the way down the stairs to land on the main floor, a few feet away from where Karen now stands.

Chili keeps watching until he sees the guy move, then looks up at Bo Catlett who's now coming down...

CHILI

Not bad for a guy his size.

Chili continues up the stairs to where Bo Catlett stands beside the table. Chili unbuttons his coat...

CHILI

I'll make you a deal. If you can get out of here before I take my coat off, I won't clean the floor with you, get your little costume all messed up.

Karen watches now as Bo Catlett puts a hand in his coat pocket, steps right up to Chili...

BO CATLETT

You don't know me. You only think you do.

Bo walks past Chili, goes down the stairs. Chili watches as Bo Catlett helps the Bear get to his feet. They leave the restaurant, the Bear looking over his shoulder at Chili.

Even Karen is looking at him differently now as they slide into the booth with a now shocked, rapidly sobering Harry.

CHILI

Rough business this movie business. I may have to go back to loan sharking for a rest.

Harry doesn't say anything. Karen looks at him.

KAREN

Harry, what're you still doing with those guys?

HARRY

He happens to be loaning me five hundred grand, no strings, I write any kind of agreement I want.

CHILI

Is he giving you a check or cash?

HARRY

Cash. It happens to be waiting right at this moment in a locker at the airport.

KAREN

A locker at the airport? Jesus Christ, Harry. Tell me you're not really that stupid.

CHILI

The guy's setting you up. You pulled out of their Freaks deal so he's paying you back.

HARRY

Oh, is that right? I'm being set up? Then how come Catlett said I should send you out to get it, since you haven't done a fucking thing for me since you got into this... except showing Bo Catlett my script?

Chili looks at Karen, smiles, shakes his head...

CHILI

Okay, Harry, I'm wrong. You're not the one he's setting up.

HARRY

I mean, at least Bo's invested in three of my movies.

KAREN

Harry, we spoke with Martin.

HARRY

'We?'

KAREN

Chili and me.

Harry looks at the two of them, differently now...

HARRY

Really.

CHILI

Yeah, he wants us to talk to Buddy, set up a meeting.

HARRY

A meeting with who? You and Karen?

KAREN

Harry -

HARRY

Man's in town two days, thinks he's David O. fucking Selznick.

Karen and Chili look at each other as Harry finishes his drink.

HARRY

So how 'bout it, Mr. Selznick, do I make my deal with Bo? Or you gonna finally help me out, have a word with your dry cleaner when you find him.

CHILI

I found him.

Harry looks at him.

CHILI

Forget about Leo's money, Harry.

HARRY

You have it?

CHILI

Harry, if I gave you Leo's money you'd have Ray Bones all over your ass and then you'd be in a whole new kinda trouble.

HARRY

Who?

CHILI

Ray Barboni. Guy from Miami, owns Leo now that Momo died.

HARRY

Who the fuck is Momo? Jesus, these fucking names...

CHILI

Tell you what, Harry, tomorrow morning, when the airport's crowded, I'll go check it out. If I don't see a problem, I'll pick up the money...

KAREN

I wouldn't get my hopes up, Harry.

Harry thinks a moment, lays the key on the table, but keeps his hand on it.

HARRY

Maybe I oughta talk to this Ray Bones character myself. See if he wants to invest in my movie.

CHILI

Don't waste your time, Harry. The guy's not much of a movie fan. Now c'mon, gimme the key.

Harry finally lifts his hand.

EXT. HARRY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

A light on upstairs...

HARRY (V.O.)
Bones. B-O-N-E-S.

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Harry sits at his desk, the phone cradled to his ear, a half-empty bottle of scotch in front of him.

OPERATOR
(phone)
I show a 'Dem Bones Barbecue' in Dade County, but that's all.

HARRY
Oh. Wait a minute. That's not his real name. It's uh... uh... yeah - try Barboni. B-a-r-b-o-n-i.

INT. RAY BONES' APARTMENT - NIGHT

We start CLOSE ON A TELEPHONE... The PHONE RINGS and we BOOM UP to reveal a CLOSED DOOR across the room...

INT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Ray Bones nests on the can, humming off key, reading Weir'D Tales, Martin Weir's autobiography. He looks up, listens to the PHONE RING.

BONES
Fuck.

The phone KEEPS RINGING. Bones thinks about it a moment, then tosses the book aside...

BONES
Fuck fuck fuck fuck...

INT. FRONT ROOM - SAME TIME

As Bones bursts out of the john and grabs the phone.

BONES
What?

INTERCUTTING HARRY & RAY BONES

Phone to his ear, Harry downs another drink, sits up.

HARRY
Ray Barboni?

BONES

Who is this?

HARRY

Are you the guy they called Ray Bones?

BONES

Depends. Who's this?

HARRY

Who is this? I'm the one telling you the way it is, okay, asshole? That's who I am. Now you want your three hundred grand or don't you?

BONES

What three hundred grand?

HARRY

The three hundred grand a guy named Leo Devoe scammed off an airline. The three hundred grand Chili Palmer now has in his possession.

Okay. This gets Bones' attention.

HARRY

Hello? You there?

BONES

Yeah, I'm here. I just don't like the anonymous crap. It means your either chickenshit or not for real.

HARRY

Yeah? Well, trust me. I'm very for real.

BONES

Okay. So who are you?

HARRY

I work for Harry Zimm, alright?

BONES

Who?

HARRY

Harry Zimm. The man happens to be a major Hollywood player.

BONES

Never heard of him.

HARRY

Maybe that's because you've never been out've fuckin' Miami, dipshit. Maybe it's time you got on a plane, flew out to L.A. and took a meeting with Mr. Zimm.

Bones sits down, trying to put this together...

BONES

So, what, this Zimm guy asking for some kinda finders fee, that what we're talking about here?

HARRY

Hey, Zimm doesn't ask for dick. Zimm tells you the way it is... or else.

BONES

Or else what?

HARRY

Or else use your fucking imagination.

Harry hangs up at the other end. Bones stares at the phone.

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

He sits there a moment, also staring at the phone.

HARRY

Motherfucker.

He then realizes his hands are shaking, grabs the bottle and pours the rest of the scotch down his throat.

EXT. LAX - SOVEREIGN TERMINAL - MORNING

Busy. Travelers moving along the sidewalk. Here comes Chili... he enters the terminal and we...

INT. SOVEREIGN TERMINAL - DAY

CUT TO:

A ROW OF LOCKERS

All with keys sticking out of them except one. We push in on that one... C-18.

CHILI

Stands between rows of lockers on either side of him. He studies them a moment longer, then looks up at the ARRIVALS MONITOR. He starts writing something on a CARD as we push past him... pushing in on #83 from NEWARK...

INT. AIRPORT GIFT SHOP - DAY

As Chili buys an L.A. LAKERS T-SHIRT and a BLACK CANVAS ATHLETIC BAG. He pauses to check out the magazine rack, Martin Weir is on the cover of everything including his hardback autobiography "WEIR'D TALES". He grabs a copy...

Chili puts the book and the T-shirt inside the athletic bag, puts that inside the papergift shop bag, and then looks around...

A SCRUFFY LOOKING KID

Eighteen or so, checking out the skin magazines as Chili comes up behind him.

CHILI
You want to make five bucks, take you two minutes?

The kid looks at him, but doesn't answer.

CHILI
You go over to those lockers over there and put this in C-17.

The kid still doesn't say anything.

CHILI
It's a surprise for my wife. But you have to do it quick, okay? While she's in the can.

That sounds like it makes sense, so the kid nods...

KID
Yeah, okay.

Chili gives him the paper bag with his purchases, a five dollar bill and three quarters. He watches as...

The kid walks over to the row of lockers... puts the quarters into C-17, opens it, puts the stuff inside, pulls the key and then walks back over to Chili, and hands him the key...

CHILI
Thanks.

EXT. AIRPORT - DAY

As a plane touches down...

INT. SOVEREIGN TERMINAL - DAY

As Chili watches the last few passengers come off the plane. He watches them come through the gate until he's standing there by himself.

Okay, he turns and walks down the aisle now to the bank of lockers three high where C-18 is just about in the middle.

He looks both ways, takes his time until a group of people pass behind, giving him a screen, giving him just time enough to open C-17, grab the black athletic bag, and close the locker.

Chili gets about ten yards down the aisle, heading for daylight, when a BLACK GUY IN A SUIT comes towards him and stops right in his path...

BLACK GUY/CURTIS

Excuse me, sir...

Now there's a BIG GUY IN A PLAID WOOL SHIRT next to him, the same guy we saw when Bo Catlett was here. And Christ, ANOTHER GUY now, this one down the aisle, talking on his hand radio. The Black Guy has his I.D. folder open...

BLACK GUY/CURTIS

Curtis. Drug Enforcement. These are Agents Dunbar and Morgan, would you come with us, please?

CHILI

What's wrong? What's this about?

Agent Curtis turns and starts off:

DUNBAR

Let's follow him and behave ourselves.
What do you say?

As Chili walks off with the D.E.A. guys we see...

RAY BONES

Coming out one of the gates. He looks at a GUY holding a square piece of cardboard that reads "MR. BARBONE".

GUY

Mr. Barbone? Welcome to L.A. I'm Bobby,
your driver. You have a good flight?

RAY BONES

(starts walking)

I hope you drive better than you fucking
spell, jackoff. My name's Barboni, not
Bar-bone.

As Ray Bones then walks off, we see coming out a different gate...

THREE COLOMBIANS

All in dark suits. Two big guys in sunglasses flanking one smaller, older guy...

BIG GUY

You want to go to the hotel first, Mr.
Escobar?

MR. ESCOBAR

I want to get my focking money.

INT. SMALL AIRPORT OFFICE - DAY

Chili stands there while Curtis opens Chili's wallet and looks at the driver's license while Dunbar in the plaid shirt pulls the Lakers T-shirt out of the athletic bag, feels around inside. The agents glance at each other without giving any kind of sign.

CURTIS
You live in Miami?

CHILI
That's right.

CURTIS
What're you doing in Los Angeles?

CHILI
I'm in the movie business.

CURTIS
You're an investor, is that it?

CHILI
I'm a producer.

CURTIS
You have a card in here?

CHILI
Not yet. I just started.

Chili watches Curtis pick up the note with the Newark Flight number and arrival time written on it.

CHILI
I'd appreciate your telling me what this is about.

MORGAN
I got a John Doe warrant here. I can strip-search you if I want.

CURTIS
Pat him down.

MORGAN
Why don't I strip-search him.

CURTIS
Pat him down.

The big guy puts Chili against the wall.

MORGAN
Spread your legs.

CURTIS
What're you doing at the airport?

CHILI

I was supposed to meet my wife, but she wasn't on the flight.

DUNBAR

Why, you live in Miami, was your wife coming from Newark?

CHILI

We had a fight and she left me, went back to Brooklyn. I asked her to come out here, you know, thinking with a change of scenery maybe we could get back together, and she said okay, but evidently she changed her mind.

CURTIS

Your wife a Lakers fan?

CHILI

I am. I'm a fan of everything that's L.A. I love it out here.

He looks over his shoulder to give the guy a smile. Curtis doesn't return it.

CURTIS

You can go.

Chili moves to the table to collect his things. Curtis watches him then...

CURTIS

By the way, you recall the number of the locker you used?

CHILI

It was C... I don't know, sixteen or seventeen, one of those. Why? You looking for anyway, a bomb or something?

CURTIS

Something shouldn't be there.

CHILI

Why don't you get the attendant to open all the lockers and take a look. Maybe you'll find it.

CURTIS

That's the idea. I'll think about it.

CHILI

That's what I'd do.

(looks right at Curtis)

Make sure I got the right guy next time.

CURTIS

Get him out've here.

EXT. FREEWAY - DAY

The usual L.A. traffic. A black caddy in the middle of it.

INT. CADDY - SAME TIME

As Ray Bones looks out a tinted window at the freeway.

BOBBY

You ever wanta go to the beach, here's the freeway you take we're coming to.

RAY BONES

I live in Miami and you want to show me a fuckin' beach? The sun ever come out here, or you have this smog all the time?

BOBBY

They say the smog's the reason we have such beautiful sunsets.

RAY BONES

That's what they say, huh? What a buncha fuckin' bullshit.

EXT. AIRPORT PARKING STRUCTURE - DAY

Chili glances about, makes sure no one's around, then pulls the key for the 'right' locker out from a crack in the pavement, near the stairwell. He then goes up the stairs to

EXT. AIRPORT PARKING STRUCTURE - DAY

ANOTHER LEVEL

Where the Bear, in his trademark Hamaiian shirt is standing beside Chili's car. He straightens up as Chili exits the stairwell and walks up to him.

CHILI

I don't know how I could've missed you with that shirt on. It's the same as the other one you had only the hibiscus are a different color. Right?

BEAR

So you didn't have the key with you.

CHILI

You think I'd be standing here? You set somebody up and you want it to work, it has to be a surprise. Can you remember that?

BEAR

You spotted them, huh?

Chili looks at him, the guy's either dumb or making conversation.

CHILI

What, did you see it work in some movie
you got beat up in?

BEAR

I have to ask you for that key.

CHILI

What, the setup didn't work so you want
the key back?

BEAR

Catlett says if you don't open the locker
the deal's off.

CHILI

You serious? This is how you guys do
business? I can't believe you aren't dead.

The Bear keeps staring, but doesn't say anything.

CHILI

Look, there's no fuckin' way I'm gonna
give you the key, outside of you point a
gun at my head. Then we might have
something to talk about. Now step away
from the car.

BEAR

I don't need a gun. Where is it? If it
isn't on you, it's around here someplace.

Chili shakes his head, tired of this, but still feeling a little
sorry for the guy. He looks off in a kind of thoughtful way, turns
to the Bear again and kicks him in the left knee, hard.

The Bear stumbles, hunching over. Chili grabs him by the hair with
both hands, pulls his head down and brings his own knee up into
the guy's face. This straightens him and now Chili hits him high
in the belly as hard as he can, right under the rib cage.

The Bear sucks air with his mouth open trying to breathe, helpless
now and in pain. Chili takes him by the arm...

CHILI

Lie down on your back. Come on, if you
want to breathe.

He gets the Bear down on the concrete, straddles his midsection
and reaches down to lift him up by the waist of his pants.

CHILI

Take deep breaths through your mouth and
let it out slow... that's it, like that.

The Bear starts to breathe okay again. He checks his teeth now,
feeling his nose...

CHILI
Hey, Bear, look at me.

The Bear looks at him.

CHILI
Tell your boss I don't ever want to see
him again. He made a deal with Harry and a
deal's a deal.

The Bear nods, dosing and opening his eyes.

CHILI
What're you hanging around with a guy like
that for? You were in the movies, right? A
stuntman? What's he ever done he can talk
about? You feel okay?

BEAR
Not too bad.

CHILI
How 'bout when you went down the stairs?

The Bear touches his thigh...

BEAR
I think I pulled my quadriceps.

CHILI
So... how many movies you been in?

BEAR
About sixty.

CHILI
No shit? What're some of 'em?

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Harry is passed out with his head on the blotter when we hear
someone POUND ON THE DOOR. He jerks upright.

VOICE
Harry Zimm?

HARRY
What - who is it...?

Harry, his hair a mess from sleeping on it, looks up at the door
as it opens to reveal Ray Bones standing there.

RAY BONES
The dipshit who's never been out've Miami.

Harry wakes up quick, nearly wets himself as Bones then casually
steps into the office.

HARRY

Mr. Barboni. Well. This is surprise...

Scrambling now to play it the way Chili taught him, Harry quickly gestures to the red leather chair across the desk.

HARRY

Please. Have a seat. Right here in this chair right here...

As Ray Bones sits down, Harry moves to the blinds and opens them. Problem is, the sun's setting, so there's no glare at all. Ray indicates the nice red sunset...

BONES

They say the fuckin' smog's the reason you have such beautiful sunsets.

Harry just smiles, sits down at the desk, things already not going too well, about to get worse...

INT. WINGATE MOTORS OFFICE - SAME TIME

The walls are covered with posters of Porsches and Ferraris, the kind you can buy at the carwash with severely titted chicks sprawled on the hoods. Bo Catlett is behind a big wooden desk on the phone.

BO CATLETT

Whatta you mean, he faked them out?

EXT. AIRPORT PAYPHONE - DAY

The Bear, sort of half doubled over...

BEAR

He knew it was a set up. He was ready for it.

INTERCUTTING BO CATLETT & THE BEAR

BO CATLETT

So where's the money?

BEAR

I guess still in the locker.

BO CATLETT

You guess? You mean you don't know?

BEAR

I mean I don't care.

Bo Catlett looks into the outer office as a car pulls into the garage. Three dark-shaded gentlemen step out of the car.

BO CATLETT
Bear, I'm going to call you later.

INT. WINGATE MOTORS OFFICE - DAY

Bo Catlett hangs up, gets to his feet as the men all look into the office now.

BO CATLETT
Mr. Escobar. What a surprise. Welcome to L.A.

We can now see that one of the Latinos is older, the other two, younger, are his bodyguards. MR. ESCOBAR, the older, meaner one... steps into the office...

ESCOBAR
Where is my nephew?

BO CATLETT
Your who?

ESCOBAR
Yayo. Where is he?

Bo Catlett stiffens... Uh oh.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

As the two back doors of a limo slum shut. There's half dozen other limos wedged in here.

INT. LIMO - SAME TIME

Bo Catlett sits in the back, wedged in between the two bodyguards, neither of whom has removed his shades. He faces Escobar on the opposite seat.

ESCOBAR
He's my sister's kid. No papa. Not too bright. Personally, I think he's a retard. I only gave him the job as a favor for my sister, you understand?

BO CATLETT
Sure. Family. I know how that goes.

ESCOBAR
He comes up here with our product. He suppose to come home with five hundred thousand dollars. He never shows up. Meanwhile, my sister's going crazy calling me all the time worried about him. Me, I just wanna know what happened to my focking money.

BO CATLETT

Well, I don't know. I gave the man his money, sent him on his way.

ESCOBAR

You gave him the money?

BO CATLETT

I gave him a key to a locker that had the money in it.

ESCOBAR

Now why would you do that? Put the money in a locker?

BO CATLETT

Because there were a zillion DEA guys hanging around the terminal.

ESCOBAR

(flat)

A zillion, huh? That's a lot.

Escobar studies him a moment. Bo Catlett shrugs.

BO CATLETT

Maybe your nephew panicked, took off.

ESCOBAR

Where's your partner, the jumpy one? Why isn't he here?

BO CATLETT

He's around someplace.

ESCOBAR

I hear he's around Palm Springs. Dealing our product. Product we sold to you for five hundred thousand dollars.

(then)

Why do you keep talking to me bullshit? I think maybe I have Ramon and Ceasar staple your tongue to your chin. What do you think?

Bo Catlett barely glances at the bodyguards, smiles the gleamy smile to the Latin guy in front of him...

BO CATLETT

You know, you speak very good English, Mr. Escobar.

ESCOBAR

I went to UC San Diego.

(then)

We're gonna spend the weekend at the Universal Sheraton. We're gonna take the tour. See the shark. Check out the Miami Vice Action Spectacular. After, we'll come here, get our money.

One of the bodyguards says 'Your nephew' in Spanish.

ESCOBAR

Oh, yeah, and Yayo, too.

INT. RONNIE WINGATE'S PORSCHE - DAY

As Ronnie zigzags in and out of traffic, giving people the 'look' as he passes... on the carphone.

RONNIE

His fucking nephew?

INT. WINGATE MOTORS - SAME TIME

Bo Catlett on the phone...

BO CATLETT

You get to town, you go straight to the bank, raid the limo account.

INTERCUTTING RONNIE & BO CATLETT

RONNIE

I'm already in town, but it don't matter. We got dick in the bank. We dumped it all in Harry's movie.

BO CATLETT

What I'm sayin' is the man wants his money and he wants it now.

INT. HARRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Ray Bones impatiently listening to Harry...

HARRY

I'm talking about you, Ray Barboni, owning a piece of a major motion picture. How big a piece is up to you. What I'm saying, you could invest part of the three hundred Palmer owes you or you could invest all of it. It's entirely up to you...

Bones leans forward...

BONES

Where's Leo Devoe? Where's Chili Palmer? Where's my fuckin' money?

HARRY

Ray. Look at me.

Uh-oh... Ray's heard that one before...

BONES

What?

HARRY

Look at me, Ray.

BONES

You say look at you?

HARRY

That's correct. Look at me.

Bones shakes his head, stands up...

BONES

I tell you what...

And in one fast move, Ray Bones grabs the phone off the desk and slams it into Harry Zimm's surprised face...

BONES

Fuckin look at that, asshole...

Bones then yanks the phone out of the wall and throws it down at Harry...

BONES

And have a peek at that...

Ray Bones pulls a pair of black leather gloves from his pocket and steps around the desk... begins kicking the living shit out of Harry Zimm...

BONES

You know, Harry, this is the exact fucking thing I needed after the fucking plane flight. My ass fell asleep...

(kick)

... seven times. I need a little fucking...

(kick)

... exercise.

Harry tries to push himself to his feet, but Ray Bones stomps on Harry's hands... breaking them... and Harry falls back down... Bones crouches down...

BONES

You got a big problem, Harry.

Bones grabs him by the hair, picks him up and throws him arross the room into the wall of pictures, many of them coming off their hooks and falling on top of Harry.

BONES

Hey, Harry... Harry. Don't you pass out on me. Look up here...

Harry, a crumpled heap, looks up and we see his bloody pummeled face as Ray Bones quickly crosses the room. He steps on Harry's neck with his shoe, pinning him to the floor...

BONES
Where's my money?

Harry can't speak; his jaw is broken. He looks sad lying there pinned beneath Ray Bones' shoe, wondering how it all went so wrong.

Bones pulls a 9mm from his coat pocket and aims it down at Harry's face...

BONES
Harry. I'm gonna ask you one more time,
then I'm gonna shoot you, you don't tell
me what I wanna know...

Harry just makes a noise. Bones aims the gun at him.

BONES
Where's my money?

VOICE
Your money?

Ray Bones looks over as Ronnie Wingate strolls into the office... Harry actually looks glad to see him.

RONNIE
Who the fuck are you?

BONES
Ray Barboni. From Miami.

RONNIE
What, like that's supposed to mean
something to me?

Ronnie then puts a cigarette in his mouth, eyes Bones. Harry tries to follow what's happening from the floor.

RONNIE
The man you're steppin' on belongs to me
and my partner.

BONES
He owes me money.

RONNIE
Get in line, bro.

BONES
I don't like waiting.

RONNIE
Tough shit, bro. This ain't Miami. You
want something, talk to me.

BONES

Hey, fuckball, I don't need your permission. L.A.'s an open city.

Ronnie opens his jacket so that Ray Bones can see the .357 Ronnie's got tucked into his belt.

RONNIE

Yeah, well, I just closed it.

Bones looks at the gun, looks up at Ronnie standing there, hands on his hips, holding his jacket open. Bones raises his own gun...

BONES

You a quick draw... 'bro?' You better be, your piece stuck way down in your belt like that.

RONNIE

Whatta you got there... some kinda pop nine, the fuckin' Fiat of guns, always jammin' at the wrong time.

Okay. Bones thinks about that. His confidence a little shaken. They stand there a moment. Harry raises his hand, makes a gurgling noise as...

Ronnie goes for his gun.

BOOM. BOOM. BOOM. Harry closes his eyes as Ray Bones shoots Ronnie over and over, knocking the guy backwards until he hits the door, and slumps to the floor.

Ray Bones stares at Ronnie a moment, then comes out of his trance, looks down... quickly steps back...

BONES

Don't you puke on my shoes, Harry.

Harry rolls over on to his side. Ray Bones deep in thought now, picks the telephone up off the floor, sets it back down on the desk, then looks at Ronnie again.

BONES

Harry. I need you to do me a favor...

Harry rolls over and looks up at Ray Bones.

BONES

I need you to take this gun and put a pill in the bro over there for me.

Harry looks at the dead Ronnie Wingate, slumped up against the door, staring vacantly back at him.

BONES

I know what you're thinking, 'Why the fuck would I shoot him? He's already dead.'

Ray Bones crouches down beside him. Harry winces as Ray puts the gun in Harry's broken hand.

BONES

But see, the cops got these tests, tell them whether or not a person fired a gun. And I was never here.

Harry looks pleadingly at Ray Bones.

BONES

You understand, Harry? I was never here. You say I was, and I'm gonna come back here throw you out that fuckin' window.

Harry looks at the gun, feebly aims it at Bones. Bones frowns, pushes the gun away...

BONES

C'mon, knock it off, Harry. We don't have a lotta time here...

Harry looks up at Ronnie, raises the gun...

EXT. KAREN'S BACKYARD - DUSK

Beer in hand, Chili sits in a chaise longue by the pool. Karen watches him a moment from the doorway...

KAREN

Not a worry in the world.

He looks over...

CHILI

Your pool needs skimming.

She comes over, sits down.

KAREN

That was Martin. He wants to have lunch tomorrow. That is, if you can make it.

CHILI

Depends, who pays?

KAREN

Definitely not Martin. Movie stars never pick up the check. They have no idea what things cost. Most of them don't know their zip code and a lot don't even know their own phone number.

Chili looks at Karen a moment.

CHILI

How'd you meet Martin anyway?

KAREN

Not unlike the way Nicki met him. Except it was a wrap party. Why?

CHILI

I don't know, I'm just havin' some trouble seeing you two together.

KAREN

You don't like Martin much, do you?

CHILI

Oh, I like him. I just think he's... short. I mean, he's a good actor and all, but I'm wondering what it was exactly you saw in Marty.

KAREN

For starters, Marty wasn't Martin back then.

Feeling him staring, she keeps her eyes on the sunset, and tries to change the subject...

KAREN

So what about your story. You thought of a title yet?

CHILI

How 'bout Get Shorty? Except that isn't a movie. That's real life.

KAREN

How 'bout Chili's Hollywood Adventure.

CHILI

That's a different story. I'm still working on that one, you know, getting the visual fabric just right.

(then)

Although I've added to it.

He looks at her, puts his drink down.

KAREN

Yeah?

CHILI

Yeah. There's a girl in it now.

KAREN

Really.

And he leans over and kisses her.

INT. KAREN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Karen and Chili lie in bed together. She looks at him...

KAREN

I think you could be an actor. I know you're acting sometimes, but you don't show it.

CHILI

You thought I was faking?

KAREN

No. I don't mean that. I just meant in general.

CHILI

Oh.

The're both quiet a moment. Then...

CHILI

You don't mean a movie star? More like a character actor?

KAREN

Whichever. Let's talk about it tomorrow.

But Chili can't stop thinking about this now...

CHILI

I mean I could see myself in movies Robert De Niro had been in. Or I could maybe do an Al Pacino movie, play a hard-on. But I couldn't see myself in ones, like say the one where the three guys get stuck with a baby. They don't know how to take care of it and you see these big grown-up assholes acting cute -

KAREN

Hey, Chili? Look at me.

She leans over and kisses him. Is still kissing him when the PHONE RINGS. They ignore it, let things heat up as we hear the ANSWERING MACHINE pick up OFF SCREEN...

KAREN (V.O.)

I'm not in right now. Leave a message at the beep...

A BEEP, followed by...

DORIS (V.O.)

Hi, Karen. It's Doris. Listen, doll, you might wanna come by Cedars tonight and visit Harry. He's in the emergency room...

Chili and Karen both jerk upright.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - SAME TIME

As Doris leads Karen and Chili towards the triage area.

DORIS

I stopped by his office to see if he wanted to take me to Le Dome for dinner when I saw Harry and this other man lying on the floor.

Doris smiles as two UNIFORMED COPS walk past.

DORIS

Goodnight, Todd. Night, Louis.

Karen and Chili exchange a look as they follow her into...

THE TRIAGE AREA

Where Harry lies in bed in a pain-killer stupor. Both of his eyes are black. His face is swollen and purple.

KAREN

Harry... My God...

CHILI

What happened?

He raises a bandaged hand and waves feebly...

DORIS

He can't talk. He's full of Demerol.

Harry tries to pull away as she runs a hand through his hair.

CHILI

Who'd he shoot?

DORIS

According to Todd - Sergeant Randall - a man named Ronnie came by Harry's office to collect on a debt. He got rough and Harry shot him.

CHILI

You shot one of the limo guys?

Harry gives Chili a sad look. We then hear...

VOICE

Hello, hello...

They all look over as a RESIDENT walks over trailed by several MED STUDENTS.

RESIDENT

(enthusiastic)

Okay... here we go. Looks like Mr. Zimm here's got a broken jaw and some neck trauma to go with those fractured hands...

Doris winks at one of the young med students as the resident then turns to her, Karen, Chili.

RESIDENT

Excuse me, folks...

They step back as the Resident pulls the curtain shut, blocking their view of Harry.

KAREN

Hey, Harry, listen, Martin wanted to meet us tomorrow at the Ivy for lunch. I'd cancel, but Martin's going to Cannes next week, so I think maybe Chili and I should still go.

We hear HARRY GRUNT from behind the curtain, then...

RESIDENT (O.S.)

Okay, who wants to take a crack at wiring Mr. Zimm's jaw?

Chili and Karen look at each other as we then...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BO'S DECK - MORNING

A PHOTOGRAPH OF HARRY ZIMM

Standing beside some giant mutant maggot or something. We begin PULLING BACK... now we can read a headline above the photograph, "PRODUCER INVOLVED IN SHOOTING".

BO CATLETT (V.O.)

Motherfucker...

As Bo Catlett sits on his deck reading the newspaper. From inside, we hear the front door open and a moment later, the Bear steps out on to the deck, with Farrah, his little girl.

BO CATLETT

Motherfucker...

Bo Catlett looks over as Bear CLEARS HIS THROAT, indicates Farrah...

BO CATLETT

Hey, Bear. I been calling you, man. Where you been?

FARRAH

Hi Bo.

BO CATLETT

Hey, Farrah. Hah you, little honey bunny. You wipe your feet, for you come in here? Keep Uncle Bo's carpet nice and white.

BEAR

You see the paper?

BO CATLETT

I seen it, but I don't believe it. Says Harry shot Ronnie five times. Four to the chest and one through his foot.

BEAR

His foot. Jeez, poor Ronnie...

BO CATLETT

Yeah, I'm really gonna miss him.

Bo throws the paper aside.

BO CATLETT

Listen, tonight, later on, I got one for you doesn't involve any heavy work. I want you to go have a look around Chili Palmer's hotel room.

BEAR

I can't. I got to take Farrah to Satan's place down in Costa Mesa.

BO CATLETT

Who?

BEAR

Her mother. Not that it matters because I don't work for you no more. I quit. I just wanted to come by, tell you to your face so there's no misunderstanding.

BO CATLETT

Whoa... This is the man used to jump offa high buildings?

BEAR

Into air bags. There's no cushion under what you're doing. I'm out of it, Cat. I'm done.

BO CATLETT

Bear. The Colombians are in L.A. Seems they all upset about their money. That ain't enough, as a bonus, it turns out the yoyo was Escobar's nephew.

BEAR

That's your problem. You shouldn't've smoked the guy.

Bo Catlett looks at the Bear, then smiles at Farrah...

BO CATLETT

Come here, honey bunny, come sit with your Uncle Bo. He hates being alone.

Bear watches uncomfortably as Farrah sits down with Bo. Bo looks up at the Bear...

BO CATLETT

Fact, he hates it so much, if he takes a fall, he ain't gonna fall by himself.

Bo Catlett keeps his mouth close to her ear...

BO CATLETT

He's gonna plea-deal his way out. Give up this ace stunt man now one of the West Coast dope kings, if they go easy on the Cat.

BEAR

Come here, Farrah...

Bo Catlett holds on to her, looks up at the Bear.

BO CATLETT

I heard in the Federal joints they let you spend an extra five minutes at the glass with your Daddy on Father's Day.

BEAR

Farrah. Come here.

Farrah slips off the couch, walks over to the Bear...

BEAR

After this one, I'm out, Cat, you understand? This is the last time we talk to each other.

BO CATLETT

Remember Harry's story about the dry cleaner Palmer was after? Guy who stole the three hundred grand from the airline?

BEAR

What about him?

BO CATLETT

I was thinking tonight you could go have a look around Palmer's hotel room while I go check out Karen Flores' place. See if he hasn't stashed it somewhere.

BEAR

(beat)

And if we don't happen to find it under Palmer's mattress or inside Karen Flores' undie drawer? What then?

BO CATLETT

Just do what I told you and meet me back here at midnight.

And he winks at Farrah.

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - DAY

Chili's minivan is parked out front.

VOICE (V.O.)
Sunset Marquis.

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

Chili, dressed in his suit, on the phone.

CHILI
This is Mr. Palmer. I have any messages.

HOTEL OPERATOR
(phone)
A Tommy Carlo called. He said to tell you
that a Mr. Barboni was on his way to Los
Angeles and that you should...
(clears throat)
... get the fuck out of there.

CHILI
When was this?

OPERATOR
Two nights ago.

Chili hangs up as Karen comes into the room wearing a black suit,
no blouse underneath, putting on an earring.

CHILI
Wow. Nice earrings.

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - DAY

As Karen and Chili walk out to the minivan...

CHILI
What kinda food they serve at this Ivy
place anyway?

KAREN
Continental, but it doesn't matter. Martin
won't order from the menu.

He opens the door for her...

CHILI
Why not?

KAREN
Because a movie star can never order
straight from the menu. They have to think
of something they have to have that isn't
on the menu.

EXT. THE IVY - DAY

As the valet drives off with Chili's minivan, a CAB pulls up and Harry - his hands bandaged, his neck in a massive brace - gets out...

KAREN

Harry, what're you doing? You're supposed to be in the hospital.

CHILI

Yeah, Harry, you look like you belong in one of your horror movies.

Harry waves them off points to himself as he mumbles through his wired jaw...

HARRY

... my project...

He then pushes past them and limps up the steps. The hubub on the patio quiets as the three of them then walk up to the Maitre D'.

INT. THE IVY - DAY

MAITRE D'

Mr. Zimm. Nice to see you.

Harry looks at him, not used to being greeted like this.

MAITRE D'

Right this way.

All eyes are on Harry as they're led to a table. Karen sits down, looks about at all of the gawking diners...

KAREN

You're a celebrity, Harry. You shoulda shot someone a long time ago.

Chili watches Harry try to shake a cigarette out of the pack. Chili reaches over and helps him out.

CHILI

Tell me, Harry, what'd you think of Ray Bones as a person?

Harry goes stiff, looks at Chili as he lights one for himself...

CHILI

Only a guy like Bones would mess you up like this, break your hands for no reason. He shoot Ronnie, too?

Harry looks at Karen, quickly looks away.

CHILI

Thing I don't get, Harry, is why'd you go
and do a thing like talking to Ray Bones.
You don't need guys like him or Bo
Catlett.

Harry looks at Chili now.

CHILI

I been here a while now and far as I can
tell you're the only person in town
actually making a movie instead of just
talking about it.

Before Harry can answer, we hear a murmur and Chili and Karen look
across the patio to the street, where...

EXT. THE IVY - DAY

Martin Weir gets out of a NEW MINIVAN, exactly like Chili's
rental.

INT. THE IVY - DAY

WE PAN WITH Martin as he stops off to say hello to people sticking
their hands out at him to greet him, laugh at his stupid jokes...

MARTIN

Chill. Harry.

Chili nods as Martin smiles, leans down and kisses Karen.

MARTIN

Hi, sweetface. You look great. And mmmmm,
you smell good, too.

KAREN

Thanks.

Martin sits down and fans the air in front of him.

MARTIN

Would you guys mind terribly not smoking?

Chili takes another drag, blows it out past Martin. Harry stabs
his out, doing the best he can with two broken hands.

MARTIN

So. Harry. I hear you had quite an
experience.

Harry grunts.

MARTIN

Well, I'm glad you're okay. And you know
what else?

Harry watches Karen and Chili a moment longer, turns to Martin...

MARTIN

I'm glad you rejected me ten years ago when I auditioned for Eddie Solomon, the pedophile clown in Birthday Boy. Had I gotten the part. I might've gotten typecast.

Martin smiles at his own joke, looks up as the Maitre D' approaches. Harry turns back to Chili and Karen.

MARTIN

You all ready to order? I kind've have another thing after this...

Chili watches anticipatngly as Martin studies the menu for maybe a second, returns it to the waiter...

MARTIN

You know, I feel like an omelette. You think I could have a cheese omelette with shallots, but with the shallots only slightly browned...

Karen and Chili exchange looks, pick up their menus.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE IVY - DAY

They've finished lunch. Chili shares a bowl of ice cream with Karen. Harry sips cognac through one of those tiny cocktail straws...

MARTIN

I think the romance angle in your story is critically important, that isn't simply a jump in the sack for either of them. These two become deeply in love.

Harry looks up... mumbles through his wired jaw...

HARRY

Which two?

MARTIN

(ignoring him)

Once their lives are in danger and you have the mob guy coming after them, it not only heightens the tension, it adds a wistful element to their love.

HARRY

Mob guy?

Harry touches his jaw. It hurts to speak.

MARTIN

I have to consider, I mean, as the mob guy, this is another man's wife I'm sleeping with.

KAREN

And after all, you have such morals.

Harry looks to Karen for help here...

HARRY

Mob guy?

Martin looks at his watch.

MARTIN

I have to run. But what I hope to see, they begin to have misgivings about wanting the money. It becomes their moral dilemma and they try to rationalize keeping it, but in the end they can't. Can they?

HARRY

What money?

MARTIN

(bewildered)

The three hundred large. What other money is there?

(then)

I should keep quiet, I know, till I've read the script, but I've got a feeling about this one. I'm that shylock.

HARRY

Shylock?

Harry winces in pain. Martin turns to him...

MARTIN

Look at me, Harry.

Harry's already looking at him.

MARTIN

Whatta you think, Chili?

CHILI

That's not bad. I think you got it down.

Harry turns to Chili, and back to Martin again. Just now getting it...

MARTIN

Really, it scares me how well I know him.
I could do this one tomorrow, no further
preparation.

(to Karen)

Bye darlin'... you really should think
about acting again. I mean, maybe we could
even do something together.

Now Harry looks at Karen who forces a smile at Martin.

KAREN

I'll give it some heavy thought.

EXT. KAREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

No lights on. Chili's minivan out front.

KAREN (V.O.)

Chili. Wake up.

INT. KAREN'S BEDROOM - SAME TIME

Karen sits up in bed. Chili lies asleep beside her. She nudges
him...

KAREN

Wake up. Someone's downstairs.

Chili sits up on his elbows, listens. We can hear the TV.

KAREN

It's Harry. Downstairs.

Chili sits up on his elbows, listens.

CHILI

You sure?

KAREN

He's doing the same thing you did to him,
playing Letterman on TV.

CHILI

It's not Dave. It's a movie.

KAREN

Are you going down?

CHILI

I don't know.

KAREN

(getting up)

You're as bad as Harry...

CHILI

I'll go. I'll go.

He gets up, pulls on his pants and the Lakers T-shirt he bought at the airport.

CHILI
Hey, Karen, you have a gun? Any kind would be fine.

She shakes her head. He listens to the TV, then...

CHILI
I think it's "Rio Bravo".

INT. KAREN'S STUDY - SAME TIME

The big-screen TV on loud, the big .45 in his lap. This time it's a movie, a western, not David Letterman that's on. John Wayne and Dean Martin shooting bad guys as Chili steps into the doorway and looks around; the room is empty now. Chili moves to the television and turns the volume down...

He 's about to walk out when the dark shape of Bo Catlett steps into the doorway and startles him...

BO CATLETT
I need the money.

CHILI
What money?

BO CATLETT
The three hundred grand you got from a little dry cleaner named Leo.

CHILI
Lemme see if I got this right, you break into Karen Flores' house, ask me for three hundred grand, doesn't even belong to you?

INT. KAREN'S HOUSE - HALLWAY

As Karen comes down the stairs, she can see Bo Catlett standing in the doorway bathed in the flickering light.

BO CATLETT (O.S.)
Give it to me, I'll be on my way.

INT. KAREN'S STUDY - SAME TIME

As Chili shakes his head at Bo Catlett...

CHILI
I can't believe the way you guys do business out here. I can't believe how fucked up your organization is.

BO CATLETT
Tell you what...

Bo Catlett raises the .45...

BO CATLETT

How 'bout I give you to three, then I
organize your fuckin' brains all over the
wall back there. One...

CHILI

What, you gonna shoot me now, Bo?

BO CATLETT

In just a second. Two...

CHILI

I don't believe this.

BO CATLETT

Three.

Bo Catlett is about to fire... when we hear a SCREAM. Not just any
scream, but a completely professional one that fills the house and
is all over Bo Catlett so that he starts firing before he's ready,
giving Chili time to dive out of the way as...

Bo Catlett begins firing all over the room... keeps on firing
until without thinking he blows out the TV and the room goes dark
and the scream stops. Then...

CHILI (V.O.)

Karen? You okay?

BO CATLETT (V.O.)

She can't talk right now.

We hear movement, then the lump goes on and we see Chili standing
beside the desk looking to the doorway where Bo Catlett now has
his hand over Karen's mouth. She struggles, but Bo hangs on to
her...

BO CATLETT

That's a nice scream, lady. You oughta be
in movies.

CHILI

Alright, Bo. You can have the money... but
it's not here. I have to go get it.

BO CATLETT

Okay. Fine. The meantime, I'll just hang
on to her for safe keeping.

Chili and Karen are looking at each other now.

BO CATLETT

You know Laurel Canyon?

CHILI

I'll find it.

BO CATLETT
I'm at 8150 Wonderland Avenue. It's right
off Laurel.

CHILI
(looking at Karen)
Gimme an hour.

EXT. BO CATLETT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

As Bo Catlett pulls up, drags Karen out of the car.

INT. BO CATLETT'S HOUSE - SAME TIME

The Bear gets up off the couch as Bo Catlett shoves Karen
inside...

BO CATLETT
You get the money?

BEAR
No. What's this?

BO CATLETT
Plan B. Here ya go, honey...

He shoves Karen into the bathroom and shuts the door...

BO CATLETT
Make yourself comfortable.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

As Karen shuts the door on him. She listens a moment.

BO CATLETT
We gonna make a little trade.

She spots a copy of Martin's hardback Weir'D Tales by the toilet.

KAREN
For Christ sake...

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME

Bo Catlett goes over to the stereo.

BEAR
Trade for what?

BO CATLETT
The money. Fuck. I gotta think...

We hear Marvin Gaye OVER...

BEAR
Jesus, Bo, what're you doing?

Karen sticks her head out the door...

KAREN
He doesn't know what the fuck he's doing.

Bo Catlett points the gun at her face...

BO CATLETT
Shut up.

She closes the door.

BEAR
So you kidnapped her?

Karen opens the door again...

KAREN
That's a fucking federal offense, asshole!

BEAR / BO CATLETT
Shut up!

Again she shuts the door.

BEAR
You get life for kidnapping.

BO CATLETT
Calm down, Bear...

BEAR
Calm down? We're going away for life and you tell me to calm down?

He taps Bo's gun...

BEAR
(ranting)
Hell, why not just shoot her? Why not shoot everybody. Fuckin' shoot me. Shoot the fuckin' president?

BO CATLETT
Don't fade on me now, Bear. Not unless you wanna hold Farrah on your lap in a room fulla felons.

The two men stare at each as we hear...

INT. HOUSE - SAME TIME

CHILI
So this's one of those houses you see way up hanging over the cliff.

They both look over at Chili, standing in the doorway, lighting a cigarette.

CHILI
Where's Karen?

BO CATLETT
(nods to the closed
door)
In the can. That the money?

Chili opens Leo's bag so that Bo can see the money.

CHILI
Lemme see her.

Bo Catlett shrugs, walks over and opens the bathroom door. Karen stands there with her arms folded across her chest.

CHILI
You okay?

KAREN
Guy's got a fucking pink toilet, for
Christ's sake.

BO CATLETT
She's great. Gimme the money.

CHILI
First you and me gotta get a couple things
straight.

Chili walks to the doorway leading out to the deck and turns around. He eyes Bo Catlett a moment, then...

CHILI
I've been shot at before - once by
accident, twice on purpose. I'm still here
and I'm gonna be here as long as I want.
That means you're gonna have to be
somewhere else, not anywhere near me or
Harry or Karen.

Chili sets the duffle bag down in front of him.

CHILI
Here's your money. Take it and leave the
movie business to the rest of us, know
what we're doing. C'mon Karen...

They turn to leave, we hear a LOUD CLICK as Bo raises the gun, takes a step towards them...

BO CATLETT
You broke in my house and I have a witness
to it.

CHILI
What?

Chili looks at the Bear. The Bear won't look at him.

BO CATLETT

Only this time, no John Wayne and Dean Martin shooting the bad guys in El Dorado.

CHILI

It was Rio Bravo. Robert Mitchum was the drunk in El Dorado, Dean Martin in Rio Bravo, practically the same part. John Wayne, he also did the same thing in both. He played John Wayne.

BO CATLETT

Man, I can't wait for you to be dead.

CHILI

Bear, you're not really gonna -

The Bear hooks one to Chili's face. Chili drops to his knees.

BEAR

That's for the stairs.

The Bear kicks him, sending Chili back into the living room at Karen's feet.

BEAR

Ever fallen down stairs before? It really hurts...

KAREN

Hey -

Karen moves to help Chili. Bo raises the gun...

BO CATLETT

You wanna go first, honey? That's fine with me.

Bear picks up Chili...

BO CATLETT

Get him off my carpet, you gonna make him bleed like that.

The Bear knees Chili in the gut, then shoves him out on to the balcony. Bo Catlett follows them out there...

BO CATLETT

Like I say, 'I warned him, officer, but he kept coming at me...'

The Bear follows Chili out, hits him again.

BEAR

And that's for the airport.

BO CATLETT
Hey, he should have a weapon, a knife or something.

BEAR
We'll get it later.

And the Bear hits Chili again...

BO CATLETT
Okay, Bear... that's enough.

But the Bear can't stop, keeps hitting Chili. Bo moves up to the Bear...

BO CATLETT
Hey, Bear... enough!

The Bear looks at Bo Catlett...

BO CATLETT
You keep hittin' him like that, he ain't gonna look like he broke in anymore, he gonna look like someone beat him up and then shot him.

BEAR
You're right.

And then the Bear, holding on to the back of Chili's shirt, shoves him towards Bo Catlett, who takes a step back, and grabs the rail behind behind him, and drops the gun as he gets a funny look on his face as... THE RAIL BREAKS AWAY...

BO CATLETT
Fuck...

He flails a moment, grabbing at spare, but then quickly grabs on to Chili...

CHILI
Hey -

The Bear tries to pull Chili back, but ends up holding a handful of Chili's shirt as both Chili and Bo Catlett go over the rail together and drop from sight...

KAREN
Chili!

EXT. FROM THE HOUSE BELOW - LOOKING UP AT BO CATLETT'S HOUSE

As a body falls... too dark to see who...

EXT. BO CATLETT'S DECK - SAME TIME

As Karen spots THE GUN on the deck as two hands appar on the edge and the Bear rushes forward...

CHILI

You bet.

KAREN

You don't act like it?

CHILI

I was scared then, not now. How long you want me to be scared?

She looks off, shakes her head...

CHILI

I'll be right back.

KAREN

(shakes her head)

Go get your stuff.

INT. CHILI'S ROOM - NIGHT

As Chili enters, takes off his suitcoat, drapes it over a chair. He takes his suitcase out of the closet, throws it on the bed, and freezes as...

RAY BONES

Extending the 9mm at Chili, comes out of the bathroom.

CHILI

You don't need that. You want to sit down and talk, it's fine with me. Get this straightened out.

Bones steps further into the room as Chili turns his back on Bones, walks to the sofa and sits down.

CHILI

How'd you get in here?

BONES

I told them I was you. I acted stupid and they believed me.

CHILI

So what brings you to L.A., Bones?

BONES

Don't insult me. Get up and turn around.

Chili gets to his feet. Bones motions with the gun and he turns to face the painting over the sofa. Bones comes over and lifts his wallet from his back pocket.

BONES

You're the dumbest fucking guy I ever met in my life. Let's see what's in your pockets.

His face still to the wall, Chili shoves his hands in and pulls the side pockets out. Bones turns away.

BONES
What you should've done was told me about
Leo Devoe as soon as you found out.

Chili looks over his shoulder to see Bones pulling his suitcoat from the back of the chair...

CHILI
Why would I do that?

BONES
'Cause the guy's a customer now, stupid.
His ass belongs to me.

Bones lays the pistol on the counter, holds the suitcoat with one hand and feels through it with the other expression changes, his eyes open wider.

BONES
What have we here?

His hand comes out of the suitcoat with the LOCKER KEY. Chili sits down on the sofa again; he can't believe how easy this is gonna be...

CHILI
Give me my cigarettes. They're in the
inside pocket.

Bones throws him the coat.

BONES
Help yourself.

Bones then holds up the key to look at it.

BONES
C-one-eight.

Frowning now. Putting on a show.

BONES
I wonder what this's for, a locker? Yeah,
but where is it?

Chili sits back to smoke his cigarette, lets it happen.

CHILI
I checked the bag at the airport, when I
came.

BONES
Yeah? Which terminal?

CHILI
(beat)
Sovereign.

BONES

You found Leo, didn't you? Took the poor asshole's money and put it in a locker, ready to go.

(looks at him)

Why haven't you left?

CHILI

I like it here.

Chili shrugs. Bones eyes the key a moment, then...

BONES

Look, there's no reason you and I shouldn't get along. Forget all the bullshit from before - I don't even remember how it started. You took a swing at me over some fuckin' thing, whatever it was - forget it. You owe me some money, right? Forget that too. But, you don't say a fuckin' word about this to anybody. It's strictly between you and me, right?

CHILI

Whatever you want, Ray.

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS HOTEL - NIGHT

As Ray Bones gets into a cab...

WOMAN (V.O.)

Drug Enforcement Agency.

INT. CHILI'S HOTEL ROOM - LATER

Chili is on the telephone.

CHILI

I wanna speak to the agent in charge.

WOMAN

(phone)

What is this in regard to?

CHILI

A locker out at the airport, full of money.

Chili waits. Then...

MAN'S VOICE

(phone)

Who's speaking please?

CHILI

I can't tell you. It's an anonymous call.

MAN

(phone)

Are you the same anonymous asshole called
the other day?

CHILI

No, this is a different one. Have you
looked in that locker, C-one-eight?

There's a pause on the line.

MAN

You're helping us out. I'd like to know
who this is.

CHILI

I bet you would. You want to chat or you
want me to tell you who to look for? The
guy's on his way out there right now.

MAN

You know there's a reward for information
that leads to a conviction. That's why I
have to know who this is.

CHILI

I'll get my reward in heaven. The guy you
want has a bullet scar in his head and is
wearing gray shoes. You can't miss him.

EXT. SUNSET MARQUIS - NIGHT

As Chili follows the bellboy out of the hotel. He tips the guy,
then gets in the car with Karen.

KAREN

What took you so long?

CHILI

Couldn't find my toothbrush.

He kisses her, then starts the car.

EXT. SOVEREIGN TERMINAL - LAX - NIGHT

As Bones, seen only from the back now, gets out of the cab, enters
the terminal.

INT. SOVEREIGN TERMINAL - SAME TIME

As Ray Bones, still seen only from the back casually strolls
through the terminal, playing with the LOCKER KEY in his hand.

Ray walks right up to C-18 and inserts the key, turns it, and
opens the locker to reveal a BLACK ATHLETIC BAG sitting inside...
Chuckling, he then reaches inside...

... then stiffens as we hear a CLICK as a RED LASER DOT hits him in the temple...

VOICE

Look at me, Boots.

Bones turns his head and we see that it's not the Ray Bones we know, but... an ACTOR, a tough-looking guy with a scary face...

WE PULL BACK FURTHER TO REVEAL...

MARTIN WEIR

Standing there with the biggest fucking gun with laser scope we've ever seen. A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN with the biggest - well, you get the idea - is standing next to him... She screams...

WOMAN

Watch it, Steve!

Bullets and blood fly as the tough guy pulls a gun from the locker and begins firing wildly at Martin and the Woman and Hare Khrishna's and anybody else who happens to be in the vicinity...

Martin, the tough guy only two feet away, calmly aims his gun and pulls the trigger, but nothing happens. He shakes the gun...

MARTIN

Dammit... not again...

DIRECTOR

Cut!

PULL BACK FARTHER TO REVEAL...

A SOUNDSTAGE

Set up like the airport terminal. Martin throws a fit about the malfunctioning prop as The Bear walks up to him.

BEAR

Martin, maybe you should dive or roll out of the way or something...

HARRY

Alright, let's wrap! We'll pick it up tomorrow!

As Karen crosses the soundstage, we track along the backs of a row of director's chairs with the names... "MARTIN WEIR"... "HARRY ZIMM"... "KAREN FLORES" and... "CHILI PALMER". Chili stands chatting with BUDDY LAFKIN.

BUDDY

But Martin already told me he loves it.

CHILI

Look, I don't know, Buddy, I don't think
Martin's right for this new one.

BUDDY

Why the hell not?

CHILI

He's too short.

EXT. SOUNDSTAGE - DUSK

As Karen, Chili, Harry, Martin, and Buddy all exit the soundstage.
Karen and Chili get into Chili's minivan.

As they pull out, we see the name "C. Palmer" painted in the
space.

We then CRANE UP AND BACK as Harry, Martin, and Buddy each get
into their own minivans... and we then...

FADE OUT

THE END