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| Gangsters Never Die |
| By Seb Archer |
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| Charlie |
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FADE IN

**1918**

EXT. WOODS-DAY

A 10 year old Edward Green and his older brother, 16 year old Sonny Jr, run through a trail in the woods with their fishing rods.

ED

Last one there has to untie the boat and push it off shore!

Ed starts running.

SONNY

Okay.

Sonny starts sprinting after Ed and quickly passes him.

Ed pushes harder and starts to run faster. His face goes red and he starts grunting from the physical exertion.

SONNY

It looks like I’m going to win pal!

Suddenly Sonny starts to slow down and he starts panting. Finally he stops and rests against a tree, dramatically panting.

ED

Ha-ha!

Eddy passes him and Sonny looks up and smiles, making it obvious that he is letting him win on purpose. He walks after Ed.

ED (Cont.)

I’m going to win! Yes!

Ed makes it to the boat and starts jumping up and down excitedly. Finally Sonny catches up, once again breathing heavily.

SONNY

You’ve gotten faster. Wow.

ED

And you got six years on me. You’re getting old Sonny.

SONNY

No, I think you’ve just been practicing haven’t you?

ED

Of course I have. What do you think I am? A loser?

SONNY

Yeah I do.

Ed shoves Sonny and Sonny lightly shoves him back.

SONNY (Cont.)

Get in.

Ed does as Sonny says, grabbing both boy’s fishing rods.

Sonny unties the boat and pushes it off and then hops in.

CUT TO

EXT. LAKE-DAY

Sonny rows the boat as Ed holds his fishing rod in the water.

ED

I’ve been thinkin.

SONNY

You can do that?

ED

Shut up.

SONNY

What have you been thinking?

ED

President Wilson ain’t doin that great of a job-

SONNY

Isn’t.

ED

Wilson isn’t doing that great of a job. I could do a much better job than him.

SONNY

You think so?

ED

Yeah. I would change the whole world completely. There would be no crime in my country, that’s for sure.

SONNY

Are you saying you want to be president?

ED

Yeah, can’t you see it?

SONNY

Edward Green, the 29th president of the United States of America.

Sonny thinks for a moment.

SONNY (Cont.)

I guess I can.

ED

What do you want to be?

SONNY

I would like to be like L. Frank Baum.

ED

Huh? Who’s that?

SONNY

The writer of The Wizard of Oz. I want to create stories.

ED

Who’d want to do that? That’s boring.

SONNY

Not to me.

Sonny pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

ED

Mom told you to stop smoking.

SONNY

So? You’re not going to tell are you?

Ed looks down at his hands.

ED

No.

A few second pause of silence.

SONNY

Remember this always. Loyalty is the strongest and most valuable trait a person could have.

Another pause of silence before suddenly the boys hear a girl screaming for help.

SONNY (Cont.)

You hear that?

ED

Yeah. It’s sounds like the girl is in trouble doesn’t it?

Sonny paddles the boat toward the direction the noise is coming from.

ED (Cont.)

What are you doing Sonny?! (beat) We’re not going over there are we?

No response.

ED (Cont.)

Sonny?! (beat) Shouldn’t we go home and get Dad?

SONNY

That could take too long. (beat) We need to go check it out.

Sonny rows the boat over to shore where the noise is coming from deeper in the woods. He gets out and ties the boat. Ed stays in the boat.

SONNY (cont.)

Are you coming?

Ed shakes his head. He is clearly scared.

ED

We should get Dad.

SONNY

Wait here then.

We follow Sonny into the woods where in a clearing he can spy on a couple of guys and a girl, one is raping her as the other holds her down. They are about Sonny’s age. The one who is holding her has a knife.

BOY 1

Hold her tighter, Johnny. (beat) You like that you whore?

JOHNNY

She’s squirmy like a worm. (beat) Imma cut you if you ain’t stop moving about, ya hear?

Sonny picks up a rock and whips it at the boy on top of the girl before running in with a tree branch and knocking Johnny in the head with it.

He then helps the girl up.

SONNY

Run! Get out of here and go home!

The girl runs through the woods. Suddenly the boy is up and walking toward Sonny. Sonny backs up.

BOY 1

Who do ya think you are?

SONNY

Why do you guys have to do that to her?

BOY 1

She’s only a whore.

SONNY

Listen, I’ll just leave and you guys can go do whatever you want.

BOY 1

No fuckin way.

Sonny turns around to run and he runs right into Johnny’s knife which stabs him in the stomach.

BOY 1

Fuck! You stabbed him!

JOHNNY

I didn’t mean to!

BOY 1

Let’s get out of here!

Both boys run through the woods as Sonny gets up and struggles to walk back the way to the boat. He finally makes it to the shore and Ed and the boat are gone.

He collapses.

CUT TO

INT. GREEN RESIDENCE-DAY

Sonny Green Senior, the boys’ father sits listening to the radio. Patricia, their mother is fixing a hole in some pants on the couch beside his chair and a little girl plays with a couple of dolls on the floor.

Eddy bursts in to the house, he is frantic.

ED

Mom! Dad!

Patricia stands up.

PATRICIA

Eddy, what’s wrong?

SONNY SR

Where’s your brother?

ED

I think he’s in trouble! He’s still across the lake!

PATRICIA

Trouble?!

SONNY SR

Calm down and tell me what happened.

ED

We heard some girl screaming for help and so he went to help. There were two other boys and I think they hurt him.

SONNY SR

Hurt him? How?

ED

It sounded like they stabbed him.

There is a moment of shocked silence.

SONNY SR

Where were you? Why didn’t you help him?

ED

I-uh…

PATRICIA

Sonny! That doesn’t matter, you need to go help your son.

Patricia hugs Ed as he cries into her stomach. Sonny Sr gets up and leaves the house.

CUT TO

**1928**

INT. HOUSE-EVENING

Ed is reading a plaque that sits on top of a fireplace. The plaque reads: “Great American Citizen Award…Received by Sonny Green JR for his heroic actions.” Ed holds his coat over one arm and his hat in the other hand.

Someone puts a hand on his shoulder and he turns around.

SONNY

You came!

Sonny hugs Ed and Ed awkwardly hugs back.

ED

I said I would didn’t I?

SONNY

And Eddy always sticks to his word. Did you know that Henry?

Sonny’s four year old son runs up and jumps into his arms.

SONNY (Cont.)

Your uncle is a very reliable man.

ED

When are mom and dad coming?

SONNY

In a half hour or so. You want a glass of milk?

ED

No I’m fine, thanks.

SONNY

Let me take your things.

ED

I can do it.

Ed hangs up his coat and hat on the hanger in the front hall.

SONNY

Henry was just telling us about how he wants to be like Eddie Cantor when he’s older.

Sonny’s wife Mary comes into the living room wearing an apron and oven mitts.

MARY

He just loves the radio.

SONNY

Just like grandpa.

Sonny puts Henry down.

SONNY (Cont.)

Go play buddy.

CUT TO

INT. SONNY’S KITCHEN-EVENING

Mary, Henry, Sonny, Ed and the Green parents sit around the dinner table eating.

PATRICIA

Mary this sure is delicious. You ought to give me the recipe.

MARY

Oh thank you. But it’s far from my best.

PATRICIA

Sonny, is she telling the truth?

SONNY

Everything she cooks tastes splendid to me.

Patricia laughs and Mary puts her hand on Sonny’s and smiles.

SONNY SR

So where’s your wife Edward?

PATRICIA

Oh come now Sonny, leave him be.

SONNY

How is your job going Ed?

SONNY SR

No doubt still patrolling the streets.

Ed glares at his father and then looks at Sonny.

ED

I’ve actually applied to be a prohibition agent. I have a seminar tomorrow.

SONNY

Uh oh Mary, better hide the whiskey!

Everyone laughs.

SONNY (Cont.)

No but really Ed, that sounds like a great idea for you. (beat) Your skills are suited for better things than just patrolling the streets.

PATRICIA

How about you Sonny? The company still going strong?

SONNY

As strong as ever. Just brought in two more trucks last week and we’ve started to move automobile parts which means big bucks.

MARY

He’s been stressing out all week with paperwork. You should see him, he smokes like a chimney.

PATRICIA

Aw come on Sonny, isn’t it about time to quit?

SONNY

Yes, I know mom.

CUT TO

EXT. SONNY’S FRONT PORCH-NIGHT

Mary and the Green parents stand in the driveway. Ed stands behind them.

MARY

Thank you for coming.

PATRICIA

No, thank you Mary. It was a delightful evening.

SONNY SR

Junior is a lucky man to have you.

Sonny comes outside and joins them in the driveway.

SONNY

Henry is in bed sleeping. (beat) He loves it when I read to him before bedtime.

PATRICIA

He’s going to be just like his papa.

Ed walks up to his mom and hugs her, kissing her on the cheek. She kisses him back.

ED

Bye mom, have a good night.

PATRICIA

Good luck tomorrow Eddy.

SONNY SR

He’s going to need it.

Ed stares at him for a second.

ED

I’ll be seeing you around.

Ed leaves the driveway and sits down on the porch.

He watches Sonny and Mary saying their goodbyes to the parents, who then take off in their car.

Sonny and Mary come up to the front porch.

MARY

I’m sleepy. I better hit the hay.

ED

Have a good night, Mary. Thanks for dinner.

MARY

Anytime Ed. Good night.

Mary and Sonny kiss and Mary goes inside. Sonny sits beside Ed and pulls out a cigarette. Sonny holds out his opened cigarette case to Ed. It is gold with his initials on it.

Ed

I still don’t smoke and I never will.

SONNY

You were always the smarter one. (beat) I have a suspicion these things are slowly killing me.

ED

I’ve never been smarter than you.

They sit in silence for a few moments.

ED (Cont.)

People need protection on the streets.

SONNY

Don’t let dad get to you. I have no clue why he’s so hard on you.

ED

Because you were always the better one.

SONNY

Don’t say-

ED

Oh come on! They live in a house you bought, drive a car that you bought. (beat) Dad never knew what hard work was when he was younger, and now he never will.

SONNY

They raised us and gave us food and shelter. We will both be forever in debt to them for that.

Silence for another few moments.

ED

You visit Anna at all?

SONNY

No. I can’t bring myself to see her like that. You still go every weekend?

ED

Of course I do.

SONNY

What’s that supposed to mean?

ED

She’s our sister, Sonny.

SONNY

Not anymore. She’s just a shell of Anna. It’s eerie seeing her like that.

Sonny takes a long drag off his smoke. His hand is shaking noticeably.

SONNY (Cont.)

She used to be such a happy, beautiful spirit.

ED

That’s rather selfish.

SONNY

What?

ED

She’s family when she’s all sunshine and smiles but now when she’s having a rough time you can’t even stand the sight of her.

Sonny looks at Ed for a moment and then looks down and takes another drag of a cigarette.

SONNY

I guess it is pretty selfish of me.

Ed sits looking at his brother in surprise for a few seconds before standing up and putting on his hat.

ED

It’s been swell but I better get going. I have to prepare for my seminar tomorrow.

SONNY

Have a good night, Agent Green.

Sonny stands up and they shake hands.

CUT TO

INT. ED’S HOUSE-NIGHT

Ed is on the floor of his bedroom doing push-ups. Everything in his room is completely tidy and in order.

ED

Fifty…

Ed stands up and walks over to his desk where there is a to do list. He crosses push-ups off of the list and looks at the next item.

INTERCUT

INT. SONNY’S LIVINGROOM-NIGHT

Sonny sits at his kitchen table writing on a typewriter. Beside it, is a bottle of whiskey, which he picks up and takes a large swig of.

He sits there and reads over the paper. Angrily he grabs the paper and crumples it up and throws it in the garbage. He takes another drink of the whiskey before pulling out a cigarette, lighting it and then starting on another page.

INTERCUT

INT.ED’S LIVINGROOM

Ed carefully irons his suit. He finishes and turns off the iron and unplugs it. He then goes to his list and crosses off “iron clothes”.

He then puts the iron away and hangs up his suit carefully.

INTERCUT

EXT. STREET-NIGHT

A car pulls up next to a place called the 21 Club and Sonny gets out of the car and walks inside.

Inside a bunch of men in suits smoking cigars sit around a poker table set up in the middle of a bar. A few other men sit drinking at the bar.

A man gets angry and throws his cards down.

ANGRY MAN

God damn it! He always wins. He’s cheating.

DEALER

Calm down Bob, he ain’t cheatin.

The man who won is dark haired and dressed the nicest out of everyone. He stands up and tucks his hands into his back pockets, which pulls back his coat revealing a pistol in his waistband.

JACK DIAMOND

You know what they call me Bob?

BOB

I didn’t mean any disrespect sir.

JACK DIAMOND

No? (beat) They call me Gentleman Jack. Did you know that?

BOB

Y-yes.

JACK DIAMOND

Of course you didn’t Bob. But a gentleman never cheats, does he? I believe in a fair playing field. (beat) That’s what I love about New York! So when someone comes into my club, and calls me a cheater it breaks my heart. And-

Jack stops when he finally sees Sonny standing there.

JACK DIAMOND

Sonny! (beat) \*to his pals at the table\* This guy just loves losin money, don’t he?

Jack forgets about Bob and walks up to Sonny and they shake hands. Behind them, the other two men who were seated at the poker table grab Bob and throw him out of the club through the backdoor. These two men are Paul and Vincenzo.

INTERCUT

INT. ED’S BEDROOM-NIGHT

Ed sits at his desk making a new list for tomorrow. He then finishes the list and turns off the light.

He gets into bed and shuts his eyes. He tries rolling over into a new position. After a few moments, he rolls onto his back and opens his eyes. He stares at the ceiling.

CUT TO

INT. 21 CLUB-NIGHT

Sonny sits around the poker table with Jack Diamond, Vincenzo and Paul.

They are on the river card of the board in a game of Texas Hold Em. Sonny pushes all of his chips in.

SONNY

Reraise you all in.

VINCENZO

Fold.

Paul considers it and then also slams his cards down.

PAUL

I fold.

Diamond equals Sonny’s chips and smiles.

DIAMOND

Call. Let’s see em.

Sonny throws down two kings, with one on the board and two aces. There are three three spades on the board leaving the possibility of a flush open, which a full house would beat anyways.

SONNY

Full house, kings full of aces.

DIAMOND

You know why I love ya Sonny?

SONNY

Because I’m the only man who can beat you?

Diamond laughs. Sonny cringes.

DIAMOND

Cause you give me so much money.

SONNY

Aces full of kings?

Diamond throws down his cards revealing that he has the two aces, giving him quads. Diamond grabs all of his winnings.

Sonny slams his fist down on the table and then leans back in his chair, taking deep breaths. He leans forward and downs the rest of his glass of whiskey.

He takes more money out of his pocket and slams it on the table.

SONNY

Give me another hundred’s worth.

Diamond looks at it and then back at Sonny.

DIAMOND

I’d love to keep milkin ya dry pal but I like you too much. Give up and go home.

SONNY

It’s my money and I can do what I want. Play one more round.

PAUL

Listen to him Sonny. You’re gonna go bankrupt if you keep this game up.

SONNY

Who asked you? (beat) Play me, Jack. Just me and you.

Diamond considers.

DIAMOND

I never turn down a challenge. (beat) But let’s raise the stakes. It’s a 500 dollar game and if I win ya owe me the money in a week. If you win, you get a free 500 in your pocket.

SONNY

That’s not what I call free but fine. You playing me then?

Diamond grins.

DIAMOND

Let the games begin!

CUT TO

Diamond and Sonny hold their two cards.

We see that Sonny holds a 7, deuce…considered the worst hand in the game.

Diamond has an Ace, ten. He has paired up on the board with a ten, but also out there is a king, jack and nine. Two of them are suited in hearts. Sonny has nothing.

DIAMOND

Check.

Sonny sits there and considers. He pushes chips into the center of the table.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

How much?

SONNY

One hundred dollars.

Diamond thinks about this and then grins.

DIAMOND

Bit of an overbet don’t ya think? (beat) I’ll call.

The next card comes up, it is a 3 of hearts, leaving three hearts on the board.

DIAMOND

I’ll bet 50.

SONNY

I’ll raise another 50.

DIAMOND

I’ll reraise another 100.

SONNY

All in.

Diamond stops and cringes. He stares at Sonny. He only has a pair of tens top kicker and there is a flush draw and possible straight draw on the board. Plus two pairs that top his.

DIAMOND

Let’s take a second and think about this shall we? (beat) You checked the flop in position, and then bet on the turn after I checked, most likely hoping to steal the pot. Then when I called, you had to do damage control. (beat) But you still thought there was a chance of representing a good hand so when I bet, you raised and then reraised me all in. (beat) A very good bluff but you have fuckin nothing. Call.

Diamond calls and Sonny leans back in his chair defeated.

SONNY

You got it.

Diamond laughs.

CUT TO

INT.SONNY’S HOUSE-EARLY MORNING

Sonny staggers in, looking defeated. He staggers over and sits down in his living room and leans back. He rubs a hand through his hair.

SONNY

Please God, help me.

He pulls out a cigarette and lights it.

HENRY (Off cam)

Daddy?

Sonny looks over and sees Henry in his pajamas. Sonny puts out his cigarette in the ashtray and opens up his arms.

SONNY

Hey kiddo, what are you doing up?

HENRY

You woke me up, daddy.

SONNY

Oh did I? I apologize.

HENRY

Where were you?

Sonny sits and thinks for a moment.

SONNY

Working.

HENRY

You’re always working.

SONNY

That’s so I can give you and your mommy everything you guys want.

HENRY

Daddy, can you read to me?

SONNY

Sure thing, kiddo.

CUT TO

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Ed and ten other men each sit in a room in the police station. Standing in front of them is Chief Waldo Koertig.

KOERTIG

Let me start off by congratulating you men for becoming official prohibition agents. This means that any possibility of having fun you once had is a fleeting idea. You have now entered the most dedicated and strict regiment of policing there has ever been. If you like playing games, having a good time or even smiling, this is not the place for you and you might as well leave right now. (beat) Try not to celebrate too much.

The men shuffle around and murmur.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

And that is another thing. From now on anything that spews from your filthy mouths is restricted to only the topic of alcohol and the thugs that profit from it.

All of the men shut up. Koertig turns around to the chalkboard and writes the name Arnold Rothstein. He then faces the men again.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

This is a name that all of you know and you all know that he was just recently murdered which means our efforts are now being diverted to another man.

Koertig once again turns around to the chalkboard and writes Jack Diamond

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Jack “Legs” Diamond, also known as Gentleman Jack, just recently migrated to New York from Philadelphia in the past year and has been a heap of trouble ever since. This man is a barrel of nicknames and has also earned the title of “The Clay Pigeon” for his legacy of being hard to kill. But we will be referring to him as the least flattering of his nicknames, Legs.

Koertig then writes another name on the chalkboard, Dutch Schultz.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Arthur Flegenheimer, better known as Dutch Schultz, has ruffled Diamond’s jimmies by moving his business into Manhattan which has started a war between the two gangs. This is where we swoop in.

Koertig turns back to the men.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

There will be a lot of heat between these two, which means a lot of murders, a lot of mistakes and a lot of evidence which we can use to start dismantling the criminal underground piece by piece. (beat) But first a warning to the wise; I’ve lost a lot of good men to temptation, but there is an old African proverb that I’d like to cite. (beat) Where there is no shame, there is no honor. Take this however you may.

Koertig turns around and writes this on the chalkboard.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Wear your character on your sleeve, stand strong and always remember your purpose. We’re not here to make the criminal’s life worse, we’re here to make the citizen’s better. Dismissed.

All of the men get up and leave aside from Ed.

Ed walks up to Koertig.

ED

Hello sir, my name is Edward Green.

Koertig turns and shakes Ed’s hand.

KOERTIG

Don’t you mean Agent Edward Green?

ED

Yes, that is what I meant sir.

KOERTIG

What do you want Agent Green?

ED

I wanted to say that that was a wonderful speech.

KOERTIG

Thank you Agent Green. I’ll write that you said that in my diary tonight before I get into bed and cuddle with my teddy bear.

ED

When do we get assigned to our tasks?

KOERTIG

I don’t want to hear you ask that again, agent. You will get briefed tomorrow, but an agent is always on duty. (beat) Remember that.

ED

Sorry sir. Is there anything I can do to prepare for the job?

KOERTIG

Go home, fill your bathtub with ice cold water, get naked and then see how long you can sit in it. (beat) Keep practicing until you can do it with a smile.

ED

I thought we weren’t supposed to smile sir?

KOERTIG

Stop taking things so literally, agent. That’s how men are deceived.

CUT TO

INT. ASYLUM-EVENING

Ed walks down the halls of a rundown insane asylum being accompanied by a nurse. Patients wander the halls. One patient is sitting on the floor brushing at the head of a bald baby doll. Ed is holding a book in his hand.

ED

You let these people just roam around wherever?

NURSE

It’s good for them to get some exercise. If they’re cooped up all day, they get naughty.

ED

Couldn’t that be dangerous?

NURSE

They are constantly being watched. Don’t worry Mr. Green, our hospital has some of the best security in the city.

ED

I find that doubtful.

They walk the rest of the way to the end of the hall in silence. Finally they get to the last room in the hallway.

NURSE

Here she is.

They open the door and Anna sits and stares absently out the window. Her room is small and plain.

NURSE

Good evening Anna. Your older brother is here to see you.

The nurse leaves Ed and Ed walks into the room. He bends over and kisses Anna on the cheek before sitting on her bed. Ed shifts around and then smiles at his sister.

ED

Not very comfy is it? I can see how someone might go loony in here.

Anna doesn’t respond, she just continues to stare out the window.

ED (Cont.)

Big news. I am now Agent Edward Green. I was promoted to the prohibition unit today.

Still no response.

ED (Cont.)

That means that I get to help take out the bad guys. (beat) I’m very excited.

Anna raises her hand and Ed’s eyes go wide, but she only scratches her head before putting her hand back down.

ED (Cont.)

Wouldn’t you like to come home sometime? Sleep on a nice bed, eat nice food. I have a bedroom that no one is using and I put a lot of your old things in there.

No answer.

ED (Cont.)

Anna, wouldn’t you like that?

Ed pauses hoping for a reply, but still nothing.

ED (Cont.)

Please talk to me. I just want to hear your voice. It’s been two years Anna.

Ed sighs in resignation. He picks up the book.

ED (Cont.)

I brought the Wizard of Oz. Remember when Sonny used to read that to you before bed every night? I hoped you might enjoy me reading some of it to you now.

Ed opens the book and starts to read but Anna covers her ears and starts groaning.

He looks at his sister and stops reading. He closes the book and stands up.

ED (Cont.)

I’m sorry.(beat) I will see you next week.

Ed exits the room, flustered.

CUT TO

EXT. ROAD-NIGHT

Two men hide off road, surrounded by the woods. These two men are Dutch Schultz and Joey Noe.

DUTCH

How much longer?

NOE

Shoulda been here by now. Why?

DUTCH

I don’t fuckin like animals.

Noe looks around.

NOE

We ain’t seen one animal.

DUTCH

But it’s the wilderness. There’s the possibility.

NOE

What kind of animals you afraid of?

DUTCH

I ain’t afraid of shit, I just don’t like em.

NOE

What kind of animals don’t you like?

DUTCH

Bears mostly.

NOE

We’re armed with machine guns, Dutch. If a bear tries fuckin with us, we blast it’s fuckin face off.

The road lights up.

NOE

Here they come now.

DUTCH

Thank Christ.

Dutch and Noe pull machine guns from under their overcoats and walk into the middle of the road.

The truck comes toward them and they shoot out the tires. The truck screeches to a halt.

Two men get out of the truck and run into the woods. Dutch and Noe shoot down one of them.

DUTCH

Stop or we’ll fuckin kill ya too!

The other man stops.

NOE

Come over here with your hands behind ya head!

DUTCH

One sudden movement and we will shoot ya down like a dog, just like your friend.

The man walks over.

DUTCH (Cont.)

Get down on your knees.

The man does so.

MAN

Please don’t kill me. I got family.

Noe laughs and grabs Dutch’s face.

NOE

Look at this dirty mug, does it look like he cares?

DUTCH

Get the fuck off my face. \*Noe lets go and Dutch looks back at the man\* Go check the back of the truck. I’ll watch this scum.

Noe walks around to the back of the truck and opens it. He climbs in it and looks at the crates filling the truck. He shoots one and liquid pours out. He bends over and tastes it.

NOE

Whiskey.

DUTCH

Start takin it outta the truck.

NOE

That’s a lotta work. Why don’t you do it?

DUTCH

I’ll help ya in a damn second.

MAN

Please, I’ll tell you anything!

Dutch stares at the man at his feet.

DUTCH

Who you work for? Diamond?

MAN

Yes.

DUTCH

And when is the next shipment comin through?

MAN

In a couple of days.

DUTCH

Where’s the rest of the trucks?

MAN

This is just a sample. The real shipment is the next one.

Dutch takes this into consideration.

DUTCH

What’s your name?

MAN

John.

DUTCH

Well John, my name is Dutch Schultz and my partner here is Joey Noe. You may have heard of us.

JOHN

Oh please God.

The man starts to cry.

DUTCH

Hey Joey!

NOE

Yeah?

DUTCH

It appears our friend John here has heard of us.

NOE

Of course he has.

DUTCH

He wants us to let him live. Should we?

NOE

That’s not really our style, Schultzy.

Dutch nuzzles the side of John’s head with his gun, who is now crying.

DUTCH

You hear that Johnny? It’s not really our style.

DJOHN

Please, I’ll do anything! Please let me live, I’ll work for you. I’ll give you guys the scoop!

NOE

You’re not really helpin much with these crates Schultz.

Dutch looks in Noe’s direction, frustrated. He then looks back at John.

DUTCH

Lucky for you Johnny boy, I’m feeling generous.

Dutch shoots John once in the head and then walks to the back of the truck and starts to help Noe with the crates.

NOE

It’s about time.

CUT TO

INT.SONNY’S KITCHEN-MORNING

Sonny and Mary sit at the kitchen table, each drinking a cup of coffee. Sonny looks rough and hungover.

MARY

Eddy called last night. He got the promotion.

SONNY

That’s great. It’s a good job for him.

MARY

I think so. Although he’s not the friendliest soul, is he?

SONNY

That’s why it’s a good job for him, hon.

MARY

Yeah I guess.

They sit in silence for a few moments.

MARY (Cont.)

Sonny?

SONNY

Yes dear.

MARY

Why do you go out every night?

Sonny stops the mug of coffee to his lips for a second, and then takes a sip and puts the mug back down.

SONNY

We’ve been over this.

MARY

Well it’s just-it’s been a lot more frequent lately.

SONNY

Well there’s big things happening for the company.

MARY

Well you just don’t seem yourself.

SONNY

Well this, well that. Well do you not like your home? Your car? Everything I buy for you?! Well do you? Huh? Well?!

Sonny slams his coffee mug down and it shatters. Mary sits there in shock.

MARY

See! I’ve never seen you act out that way! What’s gotten into you?!

SONNY

I have to go talk to Cohlburg about finances. See if everything is running smoothly. Goodbye.

Sonny walks toward the door, grabbing his hat and coat.

MARY

Sonny, I love you.

Sonny stops by the door and sighs, he then looks up at Mary.

SONNY

I love you too, hon. (beat) I’m sorry.

He exits the house.

CUT TO

INT. COHLBURG’S OFFICE-DAY

Cohlburg sits behind his desk, chewing on a toothpick. Sonny sits across from him.

SONNY

One day you’re going to swallow that and choke to death.

COHLBURG

So my wife tells me.

Cohlburg looks at some papers.

COHLBURG (Cont.)

I can’t say it’s looking good, Sonny. We’re going into the new year and it looks like we’re going into it without much money.

Sonny sighs.

SONNY

Now the good news.

COHLBURG

There isn’t any. (beat) I don’t know what you’ve been taking out the money for, and I’m not going to ask. But you should stop.

SONNY

How much is in there now?

COHLBURG

A hundred.

Sonny sits forward in his chair, shocked.

SONNY

How can that be possible?!

COHLBURG

That’s something only you know.

SONNY

I need it. Today.

COHLBURG

As your financial advisor, I must advise you that that is a very bad idea.

SONNY

It’s my money and I need it.

COHLBURG

Are you in some kind of trouble? If you are, I could try my best to help-

SONNY

I need the money.

COHLBURG

If you take this out, you’re screwed Sonny.

SONNY

Tell me something I don’t know.

Cohlburg sighs and shakes his head. He turns around and opens a safe and pulls out the money. He reluctantly hands it to Sonny who then stands up to leave.

COHLBURG

You know this means you no longer have enough money to pay for my services.

Sonny stops for a second.

SONNY

It’s been a pleasure doing business with you.

Sonny leaves.

CUT TO

EXT. STREET-DAY

Ed and his new partner, Honstein, drive around the city in a car.

HONSTEIN

Chez LeBlanche’s? Is this one of those fancy French restaurants?

ED

I guess so.

HONSTEIN

I knew them frogs were sneaky.

ED

Everyone is sneaky nowadays, Honstein. Even Jews.

HONSTEIN

Yeah, well they’re still frogs.

ED

It doesn’t matter where they’re from, it only matters where they’re getting their booze from.

HONSTEIN

How do we know if this informant is even tellin the truth?

ED

We don’t.

They pull into Chez LeBlanche’s and exit the vehicle.

ED (Cont.)

Let me do the talking.

They enter the restaurant.

A hostess greets them with a French accent.

HOSTESS

Hello, gentlemen. Comment ca va?

HONSTEIN

What did you say?

ED

Good afternoon, m’am.

Ed pulls out his badge and Honstein does the same.

ED (Cont.)

We’re with the prohibition division of the police department. My name is Agent Green and this is my partner Agent Honstein. (beat) Is there an owner we could talk to?

The hostess looks momentarily worried.

HOSTESS

Oui, let me go find him for you.

ED

Yes m’am.

The hostess leaves to the kitchen.

ED (Cont.)

\*To Honstein\* Go around back and wait.

HONSTEIN

Why?

ED

Someone might try to run.

HONSTEIN

I think you’re just embarrassed by me. (beat) The Amazing Agent Green and his little Jew sidekick Honstein-

ED

No. You just look like you can run faster. Go.

Honstein shakes his head and leaves through the front.

While Ed is waiting, he walks to a table that has yet to be cleared. He picks up a glass.

WAITER

Excuse me, what are you doing?

Ed pauses.

ED

Just want to get an idea of the menu.

The waiter grabs Ed’s arm.

WAITER

Well that hardly seems the appropriate way to go about doing so.

Ed looks at the waiter.

ED

I’d suggest you fuck off before I have you arrested for touching an officer of the law.

The waiter reluctantly lets go. Ed puts the cup up to his nose and sniffs. He winces.

MAN (Off camera)

Can I help you?

Ed turns around and the hostess has come back with the owner.

ED

Are you the owner?

MAN

Oui, I am monsieur Claire at your service.

ED

Do you mind if I look around?

CLAIRE

Do you have a warrant?

ED

Don’t need one. The only reason why I’m talking to you is because I’m hoping you will make this easier for the both of us. (beat) Your cooperation would not go unnoticed.

CLAIRE

I would love to help you officer, but I have no clue what you’re talking about.

Ed sighs and starts to walk toward the back, and quickly Claire scrambles in front of him.

CLAIRE

Excuse me, where do you think you’re going?

ED

I just want to take a look at this room here. That lead to some kind of basement?

CLAIRE

That’s none of your business.

ED

Actually, it is.

Ed shoves the owner aside and walks toward the door. The owner slimes his way in between the door and Ed.

CLAIRE

Hey listen. How about we work something out?

ED

I’m listening.

CLAIRE

We’ll give you a cut of the profits, just cut us some slack.

Ed stands and considers this for a moment. Suddenly, Ed punches Claire in the face and throws him out of the way. The hostess screams in shock and the patrons at the restaurant stand up nervously.

Ed opens the door and walks into the basement. He comes upon numerous crates. He uses his blade to cut open a crate. Inside is alcohol.

He then walks back upstairs and grabs the disgruntled Mr. Claire.

CLAIRE

You bastard!

Ed then puts handcuffs around his wrists.

ED

You are under arrest for the possession and sale of alcohol.

Ed picks up and drags Mr. Claire out the front of the restaurant while all of the patrons stand in shock.

After Ed and Claire leave, Honstein comes in through the back of the door.

HONTEIN

Nobody tried runnin.

Honstein surveys the restaurant as the stunned patrons stare at him and then quickly leaves through the front door.

CUT TO

INT. 21 CLUB-NIGHT

Sonny walks into the club and Jack Diamond sits at a table seated with Vincenzo and Paul.

DIAMOND

How the fuck did they know about the truck?

Sonny stays where he is, unnoticed by the men due to the intensity of the conversation.

PAUL

Who knows.

DIAMOND

Gee thanks Mr. Helpful. (beat) Go fuck yourself with a reply like that.

Diamond takes off his hat and runs a hand through his hair. He gets up and puts a record on the phonograph. Vincenzo starts to talk and Diamond shushes him.

The music starts to play and Diamond just stands in front of the phonograph listening to the music. He sways to the rythmn

Sonny comes and sits with the other two men. He looks at the other two men and Paul just shakes his head and rolls his eyes.

Diamond shuts the music off and then turns around.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

Okay here’s the-

He notices Sonny and smiles.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

Sonny! How nice of you to join us. Please tell me you have my money.

SONNY

I have some of it.

Diamond shakes his head.

DIAMOND

Tsk, tsk. Not a good time to be telling me that.

Sonny pulls out the hundred dollars and puts it on the table.

SONNY

There’s a hundred.

DIAMOND

Where’s the other four? (beat) Or do you have troubles counting?

SONNY

I’ll get it to you.

DIAMOND

I just lost six hundred dollars’ worth of whiskey, and you’re telling me you’ll get it to me.

SONNY

I will.

Diamond sits down and shuffles through a deck of cards. He does a shuffling trick here and there.

DIAMOND

I have no idea how this happened.

Diamond looks at the other two men.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

You guys aren’t snitchin on Jacky now are ya?

VINCENZO

How could you say that to us?

DIAMOND

I don’t know Vinny, just like I don’t know how my truck is on the side of the road shot up and my fucking whiskey is destroyed!

Sonny sits thinking, waiting for Diamond to calm back down.

SONNY

What if I made up the debt in another way?

DIAMOND

Kill Dutch Schultz and Joey Noe for me. That’s my only offer.

SONNY

I have a whole company of trucks. Did you forget about that?

Diamond looks up at him and raises an eyebrow.

DIAMOND

Go on.

SONNY

How about I let you use my trucks to move your booze?

Diamond thinks about it and then looks at his two men. He smiles.

DIAMOND

There’s one problem solved.

Diamond stands up and pours himself and Sonny a drink.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

Now I just have a fleet of trucks to get into Atlantic City that are delayed because I have no clue what is going on.

Diamond returns to the table with the drinks.

SONNY

Well they did it once right? That means they’ll probably be waiting to do it again, but maybe even bigger this time. Maybe they’re going to take out all of your trucks-

DIAMOND

Yes, you imbecile. That is why the trucks are delayed.

SONNY

I wasn’t finished. I have an idea on how you can move the product and get back at them at the same time.

Diamond sits there listening. Sonny waits for a response but Diamond just silently gestures for him to continue.

SONNY (Cont.)

It might mean your old trucks being destroyed.

Once again Diamond gestures him to keep going.

SONNY (Cont.)

Send a couple of trucks down the same route but hide a bunch of men in the back. When they pull it over, your men get out and kill them. Once the road is clear, send the rest of the trucks through. As simple as that.

Diamond smiles and then stands up and ruffles Sonny’s hair.

DIAMOND

This guys a clever one. Paul and Vin, go gather up all of the firepower you can.

The two men get up and leave.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

Bring your trucks to the old factory near the railroad crossing at eleven pm tomorrow night. I will need six.

SONNY

Tomorrow night’s Christmas Eve.

Diamond shrugs and then walks back to the jukebox turning it on, leaving Sonny on his own in silence.

CUT TO

EXT. ROAD-NIGHT

Dutch Schultz and Joey Noe wait in the trees again but this time with six more men.

NOE

If these guys are dumb enough to try it again….

The truck lights fill the road.

NOE (Cont.)

And they are.

The truck stops a little bit down the road.

DUTCH

What are they doing?

NOE

How the fuck do I know?

They watch the truck as the driver gets out and takes a piss off the side of the road.

DUTCH

I’m not gettin a good feeling about this.

NOE

What’re you on about? Alls he’s doin is pissin.

DUTCH

There’s only one truck.

Dutch watches the driver for a few moments.

DUTCH (Cont.)

You men go check it out. Find out where the rest of the trucks are.

The rest of the men walk up to the truck and one of them pulls their gun on the driver.

From a distance you see men pour out of the back of the truck, all armed with guns of their own.

They make quick work of Schultz’s men, shooting them down as the driver jumps back into the truck.

DUTCH (Cont.)

We shoulda known they weren’t that stupid.

NOE

Fuck, what now?

DUTCH

We sit and watch. What else can we do?

They retreat into the woods and hide as Diamond’s men clean up the bodies and put them in the back of the truck. After, they run down the road out of sight.

After a few moments, the rest of the trucks pull up behind the original truck and they all drive down the road past Dutch and Noe.

When they pass out of sight, Dutch and Noe walk onto the road. Dutch throws his hat down in a fit of rage as Noe stands scratching his head with the barrel of his gun.

**January 3rd, 1929**

CUT TO

INT. POLICE STATION-DAY

Ed, Honstein and the rest of the agents sit in their chairs as Koertig stands in front of them.

KOERTIG

First things first, I’d like to praise you men for the progresses that have been made in the past year. Because of your work, we have managed to shut down five speakeasies. I am proud to call you agents. (beat) Give yourself a pat on the back and have a glass of milk to celebrate when you leave. (beat) See, you can have fun.

The men smile but no one moves or says anything.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

You learn quickly. Now let’s get to work.

Koertig turns and writes 92nd avenue on the chalkboard. He turns back to the men.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Thanks to the work of Agent Green and Agent Honstein we’ve gotten a scoop on Diamond’s whereabouts tomorrow night. There is a well frequented burlesque house located on 92nd avenue and no, we are not going to watch women dance away their dignity. (beat) Word is that Diamond is meeting some new associates to test out a new brand of liquor.

He turns back to the chalkboard and writes 22 hours.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

At around 22 hundred hours we will meet here and then make our way to the bottom of the avenue. We will then send three men in through each entrance.

Koertig draws a square and puts a circle on the front, the back and the left side.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Three through the back, three through the front and three through the entrance to the cellar where we assume the liquor will be. This is a raid, agents. We will be there to make arrests, but if necessary, use deadly force. It’s time for the fun stuff.

Koertig turns back to the men and eyes them seriously.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Dismissed.

The men leave except for Ed. Koertig sees this.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Some people never change. (beat) What is it, Green?

ED

I want to take the cellar entrance, sir.

KOERTIG

And why is that?

ED

I want to be the one to take down Diamond, sir.

KOERTIG

So you want to be the big hero?

ED

I’m not looking to be a hero, sir. I’m looking to be the big bad wolf.

KOERTIG

Don’t talk like that, you sound like a terrorist. (beat) You can take any entrance you want. You’ve earned it.

ED

Thank you, sir. Make sure to kiss your teddy tomorrow morning because I suspect things to get ugly tomorrow night.

Koertig stares at Ed for a moment and then smiles. Ed smiles back and then exits the room.

CUT TO

INT. SONNY’S HOUSE-NIGHT

Sonny stumbles into his house. The living room is dark and he turns on the light.

Sitting there waiting for him is Mary.

SONNY

Mary? What are you doing up?

Sonny pulls out his cigarette case, and lights up a smoke.

MARY

Where were you? (beat) No more lies, Sonny.

Sonny takes a drag of his cigarette and considers this.

SONNY

I’m where I always am.

MARY

How can you just stand there and lie to my face so easily?

Mary stands up and pulls out a half empty bottle of whiskey from beside the couch and walks it over to Sonny.

Sonny looks disturbed for a moment. He looks Mary straight in the eyes.

SONNY

Where did you find that?

MARY

You’re going to try and tell me you don’t know?

SONNY

I was at-

MARY

I can smell it on your breath! Do you think I’m stupid?!

Sonny tries to grab the bottle but Mary pulls it back and walks into the kitchen. Sonny follows her

SONNY

Mary….

She opens up the bottle and starts pouring it down the sink.

SONNY (Cont.)

Don’t do that.

Sonny grabs her shoulders and pulls her back.

MARY

You need help Sonny!

SONNY

I don’t need anyone’s help. I’m fine.

MARY

Please, I can help you. Just let me know how.

SONNY

I told you I don’t need help, now give me that.

Sonny reaches for the bottle as Mary struggles free and she drops the bottle and it smashes on the floor.

SONNY (Cont.)

Look what you fucking did now!

MARY

Good.

Sonny turns to Mary and slaps her across the face. She stands there looking shocked, tears fill her eyes. Sonny’s mouth drops in mutual shock. He looks at his hand.

HENRY

Mom?

Sonny and Mary look and Henry is standing in the entrance to kitchen, looking scared. Mary looks back at Sonny and whispers.

MARY

What happened to you?

She leaves the kitchen grabbing Henry’s hand. She grabs a couple of suitcases from her bedroom that were already packed and then goes to leave with Henry.

HENRY

What’s daddy doing?

They leave out of the front door. Sonny is still standing in the kitchen, staring at his hand in a mixture of shock and confusion. Suddenly he moves and goes outside to catch Mary and Henry in the driveway.

SONNY

Mary, don’t go.

Mary turns on the car and Sonny goes up to the window.

SONNY (Cont.)

Please don’t go. I’m sorry.

She backs out of the driveway and Sonny chases the car into the road.

SONNY (Cont.)

Henry! Tell mommy to stop the car.

Henry is crying in the backseat of the car as they drive off into the night, leaving Sonny in the middle of the road. He staggers back and sits on the curb, rubbing his hand through his hair. After a few moments he stands up and starts to walk back into his house. He sees his neighbors standing on their front step, watching the events.

SONNY (Cont.)

Enjoying the show?

He trips going up the stairs to the porch but regains his balance. He goes back into his house and paces around the living room for a few seconds. He then sits down and runs a hand through his hair. He pulls out a smoke and lights it. After another few seconds he stands up and looks under the couch. He pulls out a bottle of alcohol.

CUT TO

INT.ED’S HOUSE-MORNING

Ed is in the living room doing push-ups. There is a knock on the door.

He looks confused and looks at his watch. He stands up and opens it. Sonny stands there, looking pretty rough.

ED

What are you doing here?

SONNY

Is that any kind of way to greet your brother?

ED

I’m just surprised to see you, is all.

SONNY

Are you going to invite me in?

ED

Come in.

Ed and Sonny enter the house.

ED (Cont.)

You’re not looking too well.

SONNY

I’m not feeling too well.

They are silent for a few seconds.

ED

Do you want a drink?

SONNY

No thanks. (beat) What are you doing today?

ED

I have to go to work soon.

SONNY

Take down some of the bad guys.

ED

That’s what I do.

SONNY

You always said you wanted to make the world a better place. Now you’re actually doing it.

Ed nods thanks at Sonny. They are once again silent, until…

SONNY (Cont.)

Mary left with Henry.

Ed looks at Sonny, surprised. He struggles with what to say.

ED

Why?

SONNY

I haven’t been treating her right.

Ed stares at Sonny, confused.

ED

You’ve never treated anyone badly in your life.

SONNY

Goes to show you how little people know about each other.

They stare at each other for a few seconds.

ED

Was it because you were working too much?

SONNY

I guess you could say that.

Sonny stands up.

SONNY (Cont.)

Anyways, I was in the area and just popped by to say hello quickly. Can I use your bathroom before I go?

ED

Yeah but you don’t have to leave.

SONNY

No, no it’s fine.

Sonny leaves the living room and walks to the bathroom. But as he walks, he passes by Ed’s bedroom and sees one of Ed’s lists sitting on the desk. He looks at it and shakes his head and smiles.

He takes a step and then stops. He turns back and quickly goes into Ed’s room. He picks up the list and reads the contents. He smiles again.

He then flips it around. On the back he sees “92nd Avenue 22 hundred hours” written down.

Sonny considers this, and then his mouth drops a bit when he comes to the realization.

CUT TO

INT. ED’S CAR-NIGHT

Honstein and Ed sit on 92nd Avenue in the car. A little bit up the street the burlesque house has the lights on and music is playing from inside. Honstein nervously fidgets with his gun.

ED

Can you stop that? You’re going to blast your own balls off.

HONSTEIN

Aren’t you nervous?

ED

I’m anxious.

Silence for a few seconds.

HONSTEIN

We go in through the cellar entrance right?

ED

Yes. You knew that already.

HONSTEIN

I’m just tryin to talk off my nerves a bit ya know? (beat) What time is it?

ED

Ten to.

HONSTEIN

Oh Jesus.

ED

You’re a Jew Honstein, don’t be talking about Jesus.

There is a knock on the window. It is Koertig and Ed rolls down his window.

KOERTIG

You men ready?

ED

More ready than I’ll ever be, sir.

HONSTEIN

No, sir.

KOERTIG

No need to be scared when you have Green with you. (beat) Alright let’s get set up.

The two men exit the car and follow Koertig up the street to behind the burlesque house where there are nine other agents waiting.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Do all of you remember your positions?

All of the men nod and say “yes sir”.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Okay it’s five to. Let’s get in position. Everyone be careful and only shoot if it is absolutely necessary. Our main objective is to arrest Diamond. Enter the house at exactly 22 hundred hours. (beat) Let’s fuck up some bad guys.

All of the men disperse.

Ed, Honstein and a third agent stand by the cellar entrance. Ed looks at his watch.

Honstein prays as Ed looks at him and shakes his head.

INTERCUT

To the side of the house where Koertig and two other agents are waiting. Koertig has a cigarette in his mouth and takes a drag, exhaling the smoke upwards into the sky. The other two men with him look nervous.

KOERTIG

There’s nothing like the calm before the storm.

INTERCUT

Back to Ed and Honstein, Ed looks at his watch again.

ED

Thirty seconds.

HONSTEIN

Oh shit, oh shit.

ED

Breathe, Honstein.

INTERCUT

Koertig looks at his watch and takes the last drag of his cigarette. He stomps it out.

KOERTIG

Go!

They bust through the front door into the house. They run into the main dancing area and there is no one in there. They walk up to the record player which is playing on its own.

From outside you can hear gunshots.

KOERTIG (Cont.)

Shit, it’s an ambush!

Suddenly gunfire bursts through the windows and walls of the house. Koertig gets caught by three bullets sending him to the floor. One of the other agents who was with him gets caught in the head, while the other one ducks under cover.

INTERCUT

Ed and Honstein hear the gunshots above from downstairs.

HONSTEIN

What the fuck?!

ED

Sounds like an ambush.

Ed walks back up the cellar stairs and back outside with his rifle poised. He sees two men in the woods and walks toward them firing his rifle. They fire off a couple of shots at him, all of them missing. Ed ignores this and just calmly walks toward them firing off a few shots.

The men run off.

Ed quickly hurries back inside.

ED

Go upstairs!

HONSTEIN

Are you serious?

Ed brushes past Honstein and goes upstairs.

He surveys the wreckage. The agent who is under cover looks up at him.

AGENT

It was a fuckin ambush, they got the chief.

Ed sees Koertig lying on the floor, bleeding.

ED

Shit!

He bends over, and takes off his coat covering Koertig’s wounds. Blood spittles from Koertig’s mouth who looks up at him.

KOERTIG

Don’t bother.

ED

What?

KOERTIG

I’m a dead man.

ED

Don’t say that, chief.

KOERTIG

Listen. (beat) You lead these men and you take down Diamond.

ED

Koer-

KOERTIG

Wear your character on your sleeve, stand strong and always remember your purpose.

Ed stands up and looks at the surviving agents.

ED

Somebody get help. Honstein!

HONSTEIN

They got the rest of them outside. Everyone’s dead. Fuck!

ED

Keep calm. (beat) We need to get help for the chief.

HONSTEIN

I don’t think that will be necessary.

Ed looks back at Koertig who has died. Ed rubs a hand through his own hair and sits down on the floor.

ED (Cont.)

How the fuck did they know, huh? How?!

CUT TO

**1 WEEK LATER**

INT. LIEUTENANT’S OFFICE-DAY

Ed sits across from a stern looking man in a uniform decorated by medals. This is Lieutenant Sparks.

SPARKS

I have to admit that your records are pretty good.

Sparks looks up at Ed.

ED

Thank you, sir.

SPARKS

You have got a lot done in only the past two years. You’re a good agent.

ED

That means a lot, sir.

SPARKS

Koertig wrote a very glowing report for you.

Ed leans forward.

ED

He did?

SPARKS

Yes. Consider yourself lucky that such a great man took a liking to you. (beat) I don’t see what he saw, but his word means a lot around here.

Ed stares at Sparks and Sparks stares back.

ED

And?

SPARKS

You’re the new chief of the division, Green.

Ed leans back and stares at Sparks in disbelief.

ED

Oh my god, thank you sir!

SPARKS

Don’t thank me, Green. Thank Koertig. (beat) Make him proud.

Ed stands up and extends his hand to Sparks, who after some consideration shakes it.

ED

Thank you sir! I will make both of you proud. Diamond is done.

SPARKS

I’ll hold you to that, Green.

Sparks stands up also and both walk into the police department’s usual meeting place. All of the other agents stand and mingle and when Sparks walks in they all quiet down.

SPARKS (Cont.)

Take your seats.

Everybody does so.

SPARKS (Cont.)

I have an important announcement. (beat) Sadly, a week ago we lost one of the best leaders the police department has ever seen. Waldo Koertig was a man of the law by every definition and an outstanding role model for honor. May he rest in peace. We should also not forget the agents that died bravely alongside him. A memorial is being put up out front of the station to remember their courage and may they rest in peace as well.

The agents bow their heads and they all say “amen”.

SPARKS (Cont.)

This means that the division calls for a leader, and Koertig called for Agent Edward Green. I’m sure after working with Green it will come to you as no surprise that he is your new chief. Congratulations Chief Green. (beat) Would you like to say a few words?

Edward Green comes into the center of attention, in front of the seated Agents.

ED

Thank you, Lieutenant Sparks. (beat) And thank all of you for helping clean up the streets of New York. As Koertig once said: it’s not about making the criminal’s life worse, it’s about making the citizen’s life better. And that’s why he was such a great officer. He understood what duty and honor truly meant: that it is always an officer’s duty, no matter what, to stay true to the laws of the land and the citizens who live among them. (beat) I have some pretty big shoes to fill, but I will try my best. It should now be our goal to honor Koertig as he honored us. Jack Diamond is now our number one target and we must put this menace behind bars. Thank you. (beat) You’re dismissed.

All of the other agents clap and Honstein surprises Ed by jumping up and giving him a hug.

Ed smiles and yells over the noise:

ED (Cont.)

Try not to get too excited!

CUT TO

INT. PARENT’S HOUSE-EVENING

Sonny, Ed, Patricia and Sonny Sr sit around a table eating dinner.

PATRICIA

Where did you say Mary and Henry are again?

SONNY

They just went to stay with her mother for the week.

Ed stares down Sonny, who quickly glances back at him.

SONNY SR

Haven’t they already had enough vacations this year?

SONNY

I guess not. (beat) Did you guys hear?

PATRICIA

What’s that, sweetie?

SONNY

Ed was promoted to chief of the prohibition division.

PATRICIA

That’s wonderful Ed! Congratulations!

SONNY SR

What does that mean?

SONNY

It means he leads the whole division.

ED

Not the whole division.

SONNY SR

Huh. (beat) Ain’t prohibition kind of a stupid law anyways?

ED

It doesn’t matter what my opinion is on it. It only matters that it is a law and it is my duty to enforce it.

PATRICIA

Exactly hon.

SONNY SR

Still a waste of time if you ask me.

ED

I didn’t ask you, did I?

Ed and his father glare at each other.

SONNY SR

You better watch your tone with me, boy.

SONNY

Is that wildman Diamond your main target?

ED

One of them.

SONNY

He’s sure an odd character. (beat) I’ve been reading a lot about him in the newspaper.

ED

He’s a murderer at best. He killed one of the best leaders the department’s ever known.

Sonny looks down at his plate and throws his fork down, unable to eat.

SONNY

That’s a shame. (beat) But at least you get to be leader now, right?

ED

I never looked at it that way. (beat) It’s a pretty horrible way to look at it, actually.

SONNY SR

You shouldn’t have wasted your time. (beat) You shoulda become an accountant or somethin. You’ve got the demeanor of a Jew.

Sonny looks at his father in shock. And Ed stands up.

Patricia stands up too.

PATRICIA

Thank you so much for coming to dinner you two.

SONNY

Thanks for having us.

Ed stares down his father.

ED

I’m surprised I was even invited.

He storms out and Sonny follows him. Ed gets into his car and Sonny gets into the passenger seat.

ED

What are you doing?

SONNY

I’m coming with you.

ED

I don’t even know where I’m going.

SONNY

Doesn’t matter.

Ed looks at Sonny.

ED

I just need to be alone, okay?

SONNY

You’re always alone Eddy. Let’s spend some time together like the good old times. (beat) Remember?

ED

There’s a lot I don’t remember.

SONNY

Hey, come on. Don’t be like that.

Ed sits and considers. He finally starts the car and Sonny smiles and pats him on the back.

CUT TO

INT. ED’S CAR-DUSK

They are driving down a road surrounded by wilderness.

SONNY

We have been driving a long time. (beat) Where are we going?

ED

You’ll see.

Finally Ed pulls over and gets out of the car. Sonny follows him.

Ed walks towards the woods and pulls apart some trees and branches revealing a path. He starts to walk down it. Sonny follows him.

SONNY

Where are we going?

ED

You’re telling me you don’t remember?

SONNY

Remember what?

They continue to walk through the path before they finally reach a clearing that opens up onto the lake. On the shore is an old, withered boat.

SONNY (Cont.)

Oh Jesus Eddy.

ED

Do you remember now?

SONNY

I forgot about this place.

ED

I never forgot.

Sonny takes out his cigarette case and offers one to Ed.

ED (Cont.)

No.

Sonny lights his cigarette.

SONNY

Why did you bring me here?

Ed stares out into the dark lake.

ED

I don’t know. (beat) You wanted to go somewhere.

SONNY

Jesus. Anywhere but here. I forgot this place for a reason.

ED

It’s funny how things work like that.

SONNY

Work like what?

ED

You forgot it and I didn’t.

SONNY

I guess so. (beat) We had some good times didn’t we?

Ed looks at Sonny.

ED

We did.

Sonny smiles.

SONNY

Remember when dad got that new hat? And he absolutely loved the damn thing? (beat) Despite the fact that he’d never wear it he liked it too much.

Ed smiles.

ED

Yeah and every night before bed we would always tie it to the cow’s head.

SONNY

Doris. (beat) And then he’d wake up and go to let the cows out and then all you would hear was dad hollering across the whole state of New York-

ED

Doris you dumb cow! Take that fuckin hat off your head!

They both laugh. Sonny finishes his cigarette.

Both stare out into the lake.

CUT TO

**1930**

INT.WAREHOUSE-NIGHT

A man sits tied to a chair and is badly beaten. This is Grover Parks. Jack Diamond and Paul stand in a corner of the room, out of hearing distance of Parks.

PAUL

I think he could be tellin the truth.

DIAMOND

Men like us, we rule by fear. (beat) We want people to fear our names.

PAUL

What if the guy who hired him is somethin different? (beat) Maybe he doesn’t give out his name because he’s paranoid of getting arrested?

DIAMOND

This guy is working for Schultz. (beat) I know it. He’s just afraid of ratting him out.

Diamond walks back over to Parks.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

Do you know who I am?

Parks nods his head.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

Who am I?

PARKS

G-g-gentleman Jack.

DIAMOND

Bingo! (beat) What’s your name pal?

PARKS

J-J-John. (beat) Smith.

Diamond punches Parks in the face and Parks whimpers. Paul pulls out his gun and keeps it aimed on Parks.

DIAMOND

That has to be the worst fake name I’ve ever heard.

PARKS

Grover Parks! My name’s Grover Parks! Don’t shoot! (beat) I have family.

DIAMOND

I’m glad you told us that. (beat) I have no qualms with hurting a lying man’s family. I can’t stand being lied to, can I Pauly?

PAUL

He gets very worked up about it.

DIAMOND

Now I know you’re afraid of the man you’re working for. (beat) But you should be even more afraid of me. What’s his fucking name?

Grover doesn’t say anything. Diamond pulls out his knife and sticks it into Grover’s knee. Grover screams in agony. Diamond slowly starts twisting it.

DIAMOND (Cont.)

If you tell us who you are working for, I promise to let you go. (beat) I am a man of my word, aren’t I Pauly?

PAUL

He never breaks a promise.

CUT TO

EXT. HOSPITAL-NIGHT

A car speeds into the parking lot and Grover Parks is thrown out of it before the car barely even slows down. He is a bloody mess. The car then speeds off.

CUT TO

INT.HOSPITAL-MORNING

Ed and Honstein sit around Grover Parks’ hospital bed, where he has been cared to.

ED

Do you know the names of the men who did this to you?

Parks is silent and Ed sighs.

ED (Cont.)

We can offer you and your family protection. (beat) No charge other than information. We can have them moved safely today. (beat) A lot of dangerous men will be looking for them.

PARKS

Jack Diamond.(beat) And the other he kept calling Paul.

ED

And do you know why they did this to you?

Parks is silent, after a few seconds he shakes his head.

ED (Cont.)

If you help us, you can’t get in trouble. (beat) You won’t get arrested no matter what you were doing.

PARKS

I was a truck driver, moving alcohol for Dutch Schultz. (beat) I needed the money for my family. Me and my wife have four children and we have another one on the way.

ED

It’s okay, Mr. Parks. (beat) It is not my job to judge. Did you tell them you worked for Schultz?

PARKS

Yes.

Ed looks at Honstein.

ED

You know what that means?

HONSTEIN

Yeah. (beat) It means war.

CUT TO

INT. CLOTHING STORE-DAY

Jack Diamond is surveying some suits, a couple of women in the store eye him.

WOMAN

Are you Gentleman Jack?

Diamond looks at her and puts his most charming smile on.

DIAMOND

I sure am. Who wants to know?

WOMAN

My name is Diane. (beat) Me and my friend see you in the news all of the time.

DIAMOND

Do you? What would two beautiful ladies such as you and your friend be doing cooped up inside, reading the news?

The women blush.

Suddenly the door opens and Ed, Honstein and a couple of other agents come in. Ed grabs Diamond and punches him in the face, sending him to the ground. The women scream.

Ed rolls him over and puts handcuffs over his wrists.

ED

You’re under arrest for kidnapping, torture and suspicion of the sale and distribution of alcohol. (beat) We got you now, you fuck.

DIAMOND

I’m not crazy about the brown suit either but that’s no reason to arrest me. (beat) Don’t worry ladies, I’ll be right back. You can try on some dresses for me- (beat) Or take them off.

ED

Shut the fuck up.

Ed picks Diamond up and takes him out of the store. As they leave Diamond winks at the other agents.

DIAMOND

Congratulations fellas.

CUT TO

EXT.TRUCKING WAREHOUSE-DAY

Sonny and Vincenzo walk along the numerous trucks being filled with crates of alcohol.

SONNY

Me and Pauly will take care of it. (beat) Diamond wants you to take care of this shipment.

VINCENZO

Jesus Christ. (beat) I can’t believe they got Diamond.

SONNY

They haven’t gotten him yet. (beat) You know Jack.

VINCENZO

Yeah, you’re right. (beat) I just gotta bad feeling.

SONNY

The only thing you need to worry about is this shipment.

VINCENZO

I need a cigarette.

Sonny pulls out his cigarette case and hands it to Vincenzo who takes it.

VINCENZO

Are you sure?

SONNY

I only gotta few left anyways. (beat) Those things will be the death of me.

CUT TO

INT. COURT ROOM

Jack Diamond sits at the defendants’ table, looking cool and collected. Behind him sit a group of people that fill all of the benches in the court room. Many of them hold signs supporting Diamond, many of them female.

Paul walks to his side and whispers in his ear.

PAUL

We took care of the jury. (beat) It should go our way.

DIAMOND

It should?

PAUL

It will.

Paul goes back to his seat as the jury walks in and fills their seats.

JUDGE

Will the jury please rise and give their verdict?

A member of the jury stands up with a sheet of paper and reads it.

JURY

The jury finds the defendant not guilty.

Many of the crowd members cheer and in the back we see Ed angrily storm out of the court room followed by Honstein. Diamond grins slyly.

CUT TO

EXT. COURT HOUSE

Ed and Honstein walk to their car, and Ed kicks out one of the tail lights.

ED

I can’t believe it!

HONSTEIN

Calm down-

ED

I just can’t fucking believe it!

He punches a dent into the hood of the car.

HONSTEIN

Hey come on, what did the car ever do to you?

ED

Now is not the time for jokes.

HONSTEIN

I’m just trying to make light of a bad situation.

ED

This is not a situation that you make light of, Honstein. No, this is a very bad situation. (beat) You realized that we just got fucked don’t you?

HONSTEIN

I realize. (beat) But we’ll come back and get him even worse.

ED

We’re going to have to do a lot more than just arrest him then.

HONSTEIN

Watch what you say, sir.

ED

Fuck diplomacy; fight fire with fire and go for the throat. (beat) I’m tired of this shit.

CUT TO

EXT. ROAD-AFTERNOON

A man is driving one of Sonny’s trucks with Vincenzo sitting beside him. Vincenzo lights up a smoke and throws Sonny’s cigarette case onto the floor.

DRIVER

A 500 pound, sixty year old woman who has been lying in her bed sweating for five days straight because she can’t move.

VINCENZO

Jesus, you have a sick imagination.

DRIVER

And on the first day she lost a ham and swiss sandwich somewhere in the bed. (beat) It could even be on her somewhere.

VINCENZO

I don’t think I can even answer that one. Christ.

DRIVER

Come on, everyone has their price.

VINCENZO

What about you? How much would you fuck her for?

DRIVER

Ten grand probably. (beat) But I get the sandwich too.

The driver laughs at his own joke.

VINCENZO

Ten grand?!

DRIVER

What, you don’t think that’s enough?

VINCENZO

No way. My minimum would be about forty grand.

DRIVER

How about thirty nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety nine dollars?

VINCENZO

What’s the matter with you? (beat) I guess so.

DRIVER

Thirty nine thousand-

Machine gun fire rattles the windshield and the driver and Vincenzo are riddled with bullets.

A man comes to the side of the truck and opens the door to be greeted by Vincenzo’s pistol shooting him three times in the chest. The man jerks backward and into a ditch at the side of the road.

Vincenzo leans his head back, blood coming out of his mouth. He is struggling to breathe.

Dutch Schultz then whips around to the open passenger side and Vincenzo attempts to raise his gun but Dutch elbows him in the face and he drops it. Dutch points his gun at Vincenzo’s head.

VINCENZO

You don’t…(beat) You don’t know who you’re fucking with.

Dutch considers this.

DUTCH

It appears I’m fucking with a dead man.

Dutch is about to pull the trigger but stops.

DUTCH (Cont.)

I have to know. (beat) How are you so fuckin stupid to keeping sending these trucks?

Vincenzo spits blood and Dutch shrugs.

Dutch pulls the trigger, killing Vincenzo. He then turns to the rest of his men (a group substantially smaller than the last one he had). They are standing next to a commonplace delivery truck.

DUTCH

Alright, move the shipment! (beat) And make it quick, the next truck should be coming by at any moment.

CUT TO

INT. ASYLUM-AFTERNOON

Ed once again sits on Anna’s bed, and she sits in her usual chair by the window.

ED

I came so close to getting him and I let him slip through my fingers. (beat) I don’t know what to do.

He rubs a hand over his face and sighs.

ED (Cont.)

I’ve always believed in going by the book but I don’t think I can get him that way. (beat) There is no code, no rules…only violence. (beat) They killed Koertig. They kill each other. They kill innocent men and women. The way to win this game is to always keep your finger on the trigger, and keep shooting. (beat) If they want to play that way, let them fucking play.

They sit in silence for a few minutes. Ed has zoned out, staring angrily at nothing but the door. He has a wild look in his eyes.

ANNA

Sonny?

Ed sits staring for a moment and then shakes his head. He looks at Anna, his mouth hanging open. He stands up, excited.

ED

Anna! (beat) Did you say something?!

ANNA

(beat) Sonny?

Ed stops in his tracks, staring at his sister. His mouth slowly closes and he staggers a bit, holding onto the bed frame to keep himself standing. His eyes fill up with tears, but none actually drop.

ED

Nope. No Sonny.

He leaves the room.

CUT TO

INT. MOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

Diamond rolls off of a pretty woman and lays next to her in the bed. Both are breathing heavily.

The woman rolls a finger lightly along Diamond’s chest.

WOMAN

That was excellent, honey.

Diamond smiles and then quickly stands up. There are several scars covering his upper body.

WOMAN (Cont.)

Where are you going?

DIAMOND

I have to take a piss.

Diamond disappears into the bathroom and we can hear him pissing. He flushes the toilet and walks out, he pulls out a smoke and lights it.

WOMAN

Where did you get those scars?

DIAMOND

They’re reminders.

WOMAN

Reminders of what?

DIAMOND

Not to fuck with ole Jacky boy, because I don’t die and everyone else does.

WOMAN

Can you smoke outside? I can’t stand the smell.

Diamond turns and stares at the woman.

DIAMOND

Don’t ever tell me what to do. (beat) But since you’re a good fucker, I’ll go outside. Keep that thing wet for me.

He puts on his pants.

The camera follows Diamond to the outside of his room and he leaves the door open a crack.

WOMAN (Off Cam)

Why don’t you have a house?

DIAMOND

A house is only a bigger target.

Diamond continues to smoke. A car slowly drives into the parking lot of the motel and turns so it is parallel with Diamond. Diamond’s eyes go wide and he turns to run into the room, but not fast enough. A bullet rips through his shoulder and another goes into his back. He falls down in the door as the woman screams.

Diamond rolls onto his back pulling a pistol from his pants and shoots at the car. He hits the passenger window and blood sprays against the broken glass. The car speeds off.

Diamond leans back and goes unconscious.

CUT TO

INT.ASYLUM-MORNING

Sonny walks down the hallways with an orderly. He looks nervous.

SONNY

She still doesn’t talk?

ORDERLY

Hasn’t talked for years.

SONNY

And have you guys figured out what’s wrong with her yet?

ORDERLY

Severe post-traumatic stress. (beat) When was the last time you visited her?

SONNY

Not for a while, I guess. (beat) I’ve been busy.

ORDERLY

One should never be too busy for family, Mr. Green. (beat) Okay, here’s her room.

SONNY

Thank you.

The orderly leaves Sonny standing by the door. He takes a deep breath and waits a few seconds. Finally he enters the room.

Anna is sitting in her usual spot by the window.

SONNY

Anna.

She doesn’t look at him or respond.

SONNY (Cont.)

Anna, it’s Sonny.

She makes a quick glance at him and he quickly walks over and kneels next to her. He takes one of her hands in his.

SONNY (Cont.)

Hey, I’m sorry it’s been so long. (beat) I own a truck company and have a wife and a young boy. Been busy.

Sonny smiles.

SONNY (Cont.)

I’ll bring them by to meet you sometime. (beat) I’ll start visiting more often.

She doesn’t reply, instead she continues to stare out the window. Sonny’s smile falters and he stands up and goes and sits on her bed.

SONNY (Cont.)

Why don’t you talk? (beat) Come on, it’s me Sonny.

Silence.

SONNY (Cont.)

Remember all of the good times we had together? (beat, still silence) I guess you don’t.(beat) I should have been there for you. I should have protected you.

Sonny starts to cry and he puts his face into his hands.

SONNY (Cont.)

Oh God, you were raped and tortured because of me. (beat) God needed to expose me for the horrible person I am, and he hurt you to do it.

Sonny stands up and kneels at Anna’s feet, he holds onto her waist and puts his head in her waist.

SONNY (Cont.)

I fucked up. (beat) I`ve fucked up so much. I`ve become just like the men who did it. (beat) I am a disgrace, a fraud…a thug.

He looks up at Anna.

SONNY (Cont.)

I don`t deserve your forgiveness. (beat) I don`t deserve your pity or your love. (beat) But I need you to know one thing. (beat) If I could, I would have died so that wouldn`t have happened to you. I would have traded my life. (beat) Even though I`m bad at showing it, I love you. (beat) I wish it were me and not you.

ANNA

Sonny?

Sonny looks up at Anna, his eyes gleaming with tears.

SONNY

Yes it’s Sonny. (beat) It’s me.

ANNA

Sonny?

SONNY

Yes, it’s me. What is it Anna?

ANNA

Can you read me the Wizard of Oz?

Sonny looks confused and lets go of Anna.

SONNY

I didn’t bring it. (beat) I’m sorry Anna, I don’t have it.

ANNA

But you brought it last time.

SONNY

No, that…that must have been Edward.

ANNA

Oh.

Sonny stands up, looking confused. He slowly backs up toward the door.

SONNY

I’m sorry.

He goes to leave, but then stops for a second and looks back.

SONNY (Cont.)

I’m sorry.

He leaves.

CUT TO

EXT.ROAD-MORNING

Ed and Honstein walk down the road towards a line of three abandoned trucks on the road. An officer approaches them.

OFFICER

Three trucks.

ED

I’m going to take an educated guess, and say they were Diamond’s.

OFFICER

You’re a very educated man, Chief Green.

ED

And Dutch Schultz is the culprit.

HONSTEIN

We can’t know that for sure.

ED

Yes we can. (beat) And tell me Honstein, what the fuck does it matter?

HONSTEIN

What do you mean?

ED

What are we going to do about this? Nothing. (beat) These thugs run the country, the government and half of the police force. Nothing’s going to come of it.

HONSTEIN

Hey, come on Chief. (beat) Just check out the trucks.

Ed walks away from the two men and goes to the open door of the passenger side of the first truck. He looks at the dead body there.

ED

That’s Vincenzo isn’t it?

HONSTEIN

Vincenzo?

ED

Jack’s most loyal lap dog.

HONSTEIN

That’s pretty important ain’t it?

ED

I don’t think so. (beat) He was most likely just along for the ride on this shipment because Diamond was in court. (beat) Precautionary damage control.

Ed bends over because he sees something gold sticking out from under the seat. He picks up the gold cigarette case and is about to look at it but another officer walks up and taps him on the shoulder. He turns to the officer and puts the case in his pocket.

OFFICER

Did you guys hear?

HONSTEIN

What?

ED

This better be important, officer.

OFFICER

You tell me if Diamond being shot last night is important or not.

HONSTEIN

What?!

ED

Is he dead?

OFFICER

Nope, supposedly he’ll live. (beat) He’s recovering now.

HONSTEIN

The guy never dies, does he?

ED

Get some of the other agents to deal with this. (beat) Honstein, let’s go. We have to pay someone a visit.

CUT TO

INT. HOSPITAL-DAY

Diamond lies in a hospital bed, listening to a baseball game on the radio. He looks to be in good condition. There is a nurse stirring a cup of tea for him.

Ed and Honstein enter. Ed takes out his badge and looks at the nurse.

ED

Leave.

NURSE

But-

ED

Leave or be arrested for obstruction.

The nurse leaves.

DIAMOND

You should learn to be more polite.

Diamond winks and Ed leans over the bed and grabs his throat, starting to choke him.

ED

Listen to me fucker-

Honstein grabs Ed.

HONSTEIN

Ed-

Ed pushes him off to the ground and then pulls out his gun and puts it under Diamond’s chin.

ED

You think you’re invincible?

Ed pushes the gun further into Diamond’s jaw.

ED (Cont.)

Huh?!

DIAMOND (gasping for breath)

I can’t answer when you’re choking me.

ED

Listen to me you piece of shit. None of these other idiots have been able to kill you, but I can and I will. Bribes won’t help you escape me. (beat) I’ll get you.

HONSTEIN

Come on Chief, let him go.

Honstein grabs Ed’s arm and Ed lets go. He puts his gun away.

DIAMOND

You think I haven’t come across hot shot cops like you before? (beat) You’re a dime a dozen, thinking you’re heroes and cowboys. Cowboys have no place here, Chief. (beat) They`re a fart in a windstorm.

HONSTEIN

Let’s go Eddy.

ED

I’m not afraid of you. (beat) The justice system has no idea what justice is, but I do.

DIAMOND

You’ll never get rid of me, Eddy. You can kill me, you can arrest me but someone like me will always be waiting to take my place. (beat) Gangsters never die.

CUT TO

EXT. HOSPITAL-DAY

Honstein and Ed stand outside of the hospital. Honstein looks stressed and Ed appears to be deep in thought.

HONSTEIN

Jesus, I need a smoke.

ED

You smoke?

HONSTEIN

I need to start.

Ed thinks for a second and then pulls the cigarette case from the truck out of his pocket. He opens it and offers it to Honstein.

HONSTEIN (Cont.)

I didn’t know you smoked.

ED

I found this in the truck. (beat) I didn’t even notice that I grabbed it.

Honstein takes one.

HONSTEIN

Shit, do you have a lighter?

ED

No.

Honstein shakes his head and throws the cigarette away.

HONSTEIN

Probably for the best anyways.

Honstein looks at the case in Ed’s hand.

HONSTEIN (Cont.)

Let me see that.

Ed hands it to Honstein and examines it.

HONSTEIN (Cont.)

Huh.

ED

What?

HONSTEIN

There’s initials on this. (beat) Could be helpful.

ED

What are they?

HONSTEIN

S.G.

Ed’s eyes widen and he looks at Honstein.

ED

What did you say?

HONSTEIN

S.G. (beat) What? You know who that is?

ED

Let me see that.

Honstein hands it to Ed who examines it. After a second he stops, looking stunned. He puts it in his pocket. He tries walking but almost falls over. Honstein catches him and helps him stand.

HONSTEIN

What is it? (beat) Are you feelin okay?

ED

Let’s go back to the station. (beat) Call a meeting. We’re going to do another raid.

HONSTEIN

What? Where?

ED

The 21 Club.

CUT TO

INT. SONNY’S HOUSE-AFTERNOON

Sonny sits in his son Henry’s room, playing with his toys. He has a bottle of whiskey in his hand and he consistently takes swigs from it.

He stands up and staggers from the room and into the living room, where empty bottles flood the floor and table. He looks at a picture on the end table next to the couch.

It is of him, Mary and Henry. All of them look happy.

Sonny fumbles the picture and accidentally drops it. It cracks on the floor. He clumsily falls to his knees and picks it up.

SONNY

No…no.

He looks at it and it’s cracked.

He stands it back on the end-table and looks at it.

Sonny suddenly stands up and throws the whiskey bottle at the wall, it smashes and whiskey flies everywhere.

SONNY (Cont.)

Fuck!

He stands there, panting before sitting down on the couch and grabbing a cigarette from the table. Smoking, he sits there tilting his head backward.

Sonny then averts his attention to the gun on the table infront of him. He stares at it before picking it up and checking the bullets. He takes all but one bullet out and then spins the chamber.

Sonny puts it to his head and then closes his eyes. He slowly squeezes the trigger and screams before the gun clicks.

He opens his eyes and starts panting. He looks at the gun in horror before dropping it.

Sonny stands up and walks over to the phone. He dials a number.

SONNY

Hello? (beat) It’s Sonny. Is Mary there?

He waits.

SONNY (Cont.)

Please let me talk to her. (beat) Just once.

Once again he waits.

SONNY (Cont.)

Tell her I want help, I truly-

He is clearly interrupted.

SONNY (Cont.)

At least let me talk to Henry, please. (beat) Hello? Hello?

He slams the phone down and then collapses against the wall and starts to cry.

CUT TO

INT.POLICE STATION-EVENING

Ed sits in front of the men, looking mentally disturbed. The men seem nervous and fidgety just seeing him.

ED

As you all know, Diamond is in the hospital recovering from being shot by Schultz and his men. He will survive. For now. (beat) As per usual we don’t have enough admissible evidence to arrest Schultz and even if we did, we all know that he’d get off anyways. (beat) Just like Diamond. (beat) You see, we do not live in a system of men, we live in a jungle full of animals and all of this time we’ve been playing the bottom of the food chain. (beat) I say that’s enough. We are the law and the purpose of the law is the execution of justice.(beat) These thugs have killed many great men, including Koertig and what do we do about it? (beat) Nothing. I know that Koertig said ‘where there is no shame, there is no honor’, so tell me how we can fight men who have no shame, with honor? (beat) Koertig whispered two things in my ear before he died. He whispered ‘lead these men and take down Diamond’ and finally, ‘wear your character on your sleeve, stand strong and always remember your purpose’. (beat) I say our purpose is to fight crime, so let’s not be pushed around any longer, let’s fight. (beat) Diamond will be out of the hospital tomorrow, and he will go to the 21 Club to regroup with his crew. We are going to go in there and you all have only one order-(beat) Kill em all.

CUT TO

INT. ED’S BATHROOM-MORNING

Ed shaves his face, staring into the mirror. His eyes are tinged red from lack of sleep. He cuts himself, and his cheek starts to bleed. He rubs it and looks at it.

He then rubs his hands together, rubbing the blood into his hands.

INTERCUT

INT. SONNY’S KITCHEN-MORNING

Sonny sits at his kitchen table, staring down at a couple slices of toast and fried eggs. He looks sick, and is unshaven, his clothes are filthy and his eyes are also red, but not from lack of sleep, from a hangover.

Suddenly he flips the plate off the table onto the floor. He pours himself a drink from a bottle of whiskey and lights a cigarette.

INTERCUT

ED’S BATHROOM

Ed is still in the bathroom. He puts his gun strap over his shoulder and connects it behind his back. He takes the gun from the holster and checks the chamber. Satisfied he puts the chamber back in and points the gun at the mirror.

After a few seconds he holsters it again.

He goes back into his room and grabs a list from his desk.

He puts a checkmark beside ‘check gun’.

INTERCUT

INT. GARAGE-MORNING

Pan through a huge garage, where men take out crates from the back of trucks, stacking them.

Pan all the way to an office in the back where Dutch Schultz and Joey Noe sit smoking cigars and counting money.

Noe laughs gleefully as Schultz smiles in response.

INTERCUT

EXT. HOSPITAL-MORNING

Diamond leaving the hospital dressed in a fancy suit. As he leaves the hospital, he looks up at the sun and all of the people walking by on the street. He smiles and then pulls out a cigarette.

INTERCUT

ED’S LIVINGROOM

Ed is now fully dressed, coat and all.

He stands in the middle of his living room and looks around him. He takes a few deep breaths and then takes his hat from the rack by the door and leaves the house.

INTERCUT

SONNY’S LIVINGROOM

Sonny walks into his living room, bottle of whiskey still in his hand. He looks at the mantle above his fireplace at his Great American Citizen plaque. He grabs it and then walks out front of his house.

EXT. SONNY’S HOUSE-MORNING

He throws the plaque in the garbage outside of his house and then sits on the front step, taking a swig from the bottle of whiskey.

Sonny looks up into the morning sky. There are 4 or 5 crows and he watches them, his face completely devoid of expression.

CUT TO

EXT. 21 CLUB-NIGHT

CUT TO

INT. 21 CLUB

Paul, Sonny and the rest of Diamond’s men fill the club. A few of the tables have cards and chips on them, but no one actually plays any games. A few men sip on drinks, including Sonny.

HENCHMAN

Diamond abandoned ship?

PAUL

He didn’t abandon ship. (beat) I don’t know what he’s thinkin exactly, but he told me he was going to Albany for a while and was going to try and get somethin started there.

SONNY

What the fuck about us? What are we supposed to do?

The rest of the men grunt agreement.

PAUL

I don’t know. (beat) He told me that me, you and Vinny are supposed to try and keep things runnin as smoothly as possible until he gets in touch.

SONNY

As smoothly as possible? (beat) You do realize he’s never coming back right? Between the police and Schultz’s crew, we’re getting fucked in both holes.

Paul shrugs.

PAUL

Not to mention Vinny got killed.

SONNY

What?

PAUL

Yup. (beat) Schultz got ‘im, that poor bastard.

SONNY

Jesus.

Sonny looks around at the rest of the men and then looks at Pauly.

SONNY (Cont.)

Could I talk to you outside for a second?

Paul stands up and so does Sonny. They leave the club.

EXT. 21 CLUB-NIGHT

SONNY (Cont.)

This shit is unsalvageable Pauly.

PAUL

What does that mean?

SONNY

It means there’s nothing we can do anymore but fuck ourselves.

PAUL

It will be tough but we’ll manage.

SONNY

No. (beat) We will either end up dead or in prison. Those are our only two options.

PAUL

What are you trying to say?

SONNY

That we divide the rest of our money between us and the men and lay low for a little while until everything blows over. (beat) Let Schultz dig his own grave.

Paul considers this.

SONNY (Cont.)

I’m out for good though. (beat) I can’t do it anymore.

Paul looks at him.

PAUL

This isn’t something you can just get out of, Sonny. (beat) Once you’re in it, you’re in it for good.

SONNY

We’ll see about that.

He turns and re-enters the club.

After a few seconds, so does Pauly.

CUT TO

INT. POLICE STATION

Ed, Honstein and the rest of the agents hand each other guns. A few of the men have shotguns.

They all check the ammo in the guns, before each grabbing extra clips.

ED

This isn’t a run of the mill raid gentlemen. (beat) This is a battle. Stock up on ammo, because we’re going in guns blazing. (beat) If anyone dies today, it isn’t going to be the law.

All of the agents appear to be ready.

ED (Cont.)

Alright let’s head out. (beat) Remember, on my signal.

The men file out of the room and into the street.

CUT TO

EXT. STATION PARKING LOT-NIGHT

All of the agents get in their car and take turns pulling out of the lot after Ed and Honstein.

CUT TO

EXT. 21 CLUB-NIGHT

The agents have parked their cars a little up the street and now they all walk toward the club together, guns ready.

ED (whispering)

Wait.

Ed walks to the side of the club and looks into the window. He counts the number of men inside and then walks back to the agent.

ED (Cont.)

There’s about twelve men. (beat)All of them are armed.(beat) We will catch them off-guard. I will head in through the back after you guys charge the front. (beat) Thirty seconds until entry. Honstein keep the time. Good luck.

Ed heads around the back, leaving the rest of the agents out front.

He looks through a window in the back and sees Sonny and Paul counting money in a back office. He stands there staring in shock and dismay.

He stops looking and leans back against the wall, looking at his pistol.

He takes a deep breath and then looks back in on Sonny and Paul.

INTERCUT

The agents all charge in through the front of the 21 Club, guns blazing.

INT. 21 CLUB

The agents make quick work of half of the men. Some of the men pull out their own weapons. One of them shoots at Honstein, who quickly ducks and the bullet hits the man behind him. Honstein quickly dispatches the shooter.

A couple of the other agents go down before Paul bursts through a door with a shotgun and takes out another two.

Paul is quickly dispatches by several bullets, but pulls off one last shot before collapsing, taking out one more agent.

INTERCUT

EXT. 21 CLUB-NIGHT

Ed is still standing outside, squeezing his gun tightly and breathing heavily. Tears run down his cheeks.

Suddenly the back door opens, and Sonny walks out.

Both men freeze, staring at each other.

A smile slowly lights up Sonny’s face, but Ed stares angrily back at him. He takes off the safety of his gun.

The smile fades from Sonny’s face.

SONNY

Eddy?

ED

How could you Sonny? (beat) How could you?

SONNY

I’m sorry. (beat) For everything.

Sonny falls to his knees, his hands in the air.

SONNY (Cont.)

Do it. (beat) It’s okay.

Ed raises his gun, his hands shaking and tears streaming down his face and Sonny closes his eyes before Ed’s bullet tears a hole through his cheek, right under his eye. Sonny collapses to the ground.

Ed falls to his knees and starts hitting Sonny’s dead body.

ED

Fuck you!

He repeats this over and over for a few seconds before standing up and walking into the club, his gun raised. His hands are shaking and he struggles to walk straight.

INT. 21 CLUB

He enters the club where the agents have finished off the men. Honstein who is clearly distressed and trying to help one of the downed agents, looks up at Ed.

HONSTEIN

Diamond wasn’t here.

Ed stares at Honstein, looking like he is about to vomit.

HONSTEIN (Cont.)

Chief?

Ed turns around and quickly staggers out back and starts to vomit onto the ground.

CUT TO

ALBANY

INT. HOTEL ROOM-NIGHT

Diamond is sleeping in bed with a woman. Both are fast asleep when the door bursts open. Diamond quickly sits up and two men in trench coats are aiming tommy guns at him.

DIAMOND

I think you may be in the wrong room, fellas.

MAN

We warned you not to come to Albany, Diamond.

The men pull the triggers on their gun and Diamond is riddled with bullets as his body jerks around and blood sprays everywhere.

The girl rolls out of bed and screams on the floor, covered in Diamond’s blood.

The two men leave.

CUT TO

NEW YORK

INT. LIEUTENANT’S OFFICE

Ed walks in and puts his badge and gun on Sparks’ table. Sparks stares at him shocked, and Ed just nods and then leaves.

CUT TO

EXT. FUNERAL-DAY

Mary, Henry and the Green parents stand around Sonny’s casket, all of them cry (aside from Sonny’s dad, who stands there somberly) as it is lowered down into the ground.

Mary falls to her knees crying, and Sonny’s mother takes Henry’s hand and tries to speak soothing words to both of them.

Pan back and we see Ed in his car, watching the funeral from a distance. He looks down, unable to watch the events of the funeral any longer.

He then looks up and drives off, not looking back at the funeral.

CUT TO

INT. SPEAKEASY-NIGHT

A bartender takes some money from a man, and then hands him a bag over the counter. The man turns to leave when Dutch Schultz storms in with a tommy gun.

MAN

Who the fuck are you?

SCHULTZ

My name is Dutch Schultz. (beat) Who the fuck are you?

Schultz shoots down the man, who drops his bag. The bartender quickly reaches for a weapon under the counter but Dutch has his gun aimed at him.

SCHULTZ

Uh-uh. (beat) Make one more move and shit blood pal.

BARTENDER

What the fuck do you want?

SCHULTZ

I’m here to simply give you a friendly notice that Dutch Schultz and Joey Noe run this area now.

INT. ASYLUM

Ed is in Anna’s room and she is sitting looking out the window. He puts a picture of Ed, Sonny, Anna and their parents on the window sill in front of her before putting a hand on her shoulder, kissing her cheek and then leaving.

CUT TO

1933

INT. ED’S LIVINGROOM-EVENING

Ed finishes doing his push-ups and then checks it off his list.

INTERCUT

Ed finishes cooking his own dinner and then sits on his couch alone, listening to the radio.

RADIO ANNOUNCER

Breaking news flash! (beat) Today it was announced that prohibition has come to an end and that alcohol is legal to both sell and distribute once again. (beat) So saddle up folks and hit the bars tonight because we’re on the brink of one of the biggest parties New York City has ever seen!

Ed turns off the radio, obviously perturbed.

He sits there stunned for a few seconds before standing up and throwing out the rest of his dinner.

He then walks into his bedroom and stares at a frame on his wall. In the frame are newspaper clippings announcing his achievements as an agent. Beside that is a medal he got for his duties.

He stares at it before taking it off the wall and tucking it away in his closet.

He closes his closet and then gets into his single bed, alone.

Ed stares up at the ceiling.

INTERCUT

FLASHBACK

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM

Ed and Honstein stand in Diamond’s hospital room where Diamond is lying in bed.

ED

I’m not afraid of you. (beat) The justice system has no idea what justice is, but I do.

DIAMOND

You’ll never get rid of me, Eddy. You can kill me, you can arrest me but someone like me will always be waiting to take my place. (beat) Gangsters never die.

INTERCUT

Ed lying in his bed again, staring at the ceiling.

He whispers one sentence…

ED

Gangsters never die.

He closes his eyes.

FADE OUT

THE END