

A beat.

FADE IN:

1

Sunshine. City's worker ants streaming towards us - making their way to offices and shops;

A moment. City life. Then;

Pick out one figure, someone less ordinary; someone who doesn't fit.

Late thirties, sexy, walks along - surrounded by worker ants, inscrutable.

He sees huge bill board advertising lipstick - giant pair of red pursed lips with the slogan Never give a sucker an even break .

1

2

, a businessman in his mid forties, his suit and jewellery oozing money, sits at table with business colleague. Colleague signs credit card slip for bill.

Colleague stands and puts £25 cash tip on tray. They shake hands and colleague leaves. Once his colleague is out of sight, WILLIAMS checks he's not being watched then sneakily reaches over and takes £20 note from tip.

This is seen by avuncular looking at nearby table.

2

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3

4

4

Smart polished shoes - pan up expecting to see city gent, instead it's a rather scruffy man in his early fifties, but looking much older, careworn... Walking along row of shops with heavy shopping bag..

No-one pays him any attention, a face in the crowd.

5

5

WILLIAMS sits at bar, something falls to his feet, he leans down and picks up a classy cigarette lighter.

As he straightens up, he finds himself looking at ALBERT sitting on next stool. ALBERT smiles as he takes lighter back, offers to buy WILLIAMS a drink.

As ALBERT turns to order drinks, he looks into camera through mirror behind bar and touches his nose.

6

6

Been a long night, five poker players in various states of sweaty, smoke stained disarray, battle weary. Pan around table to babyface small stack of chips left, he looks at player opposite; waits for him to make his play.

- 8 CONTINUED: 8
Legs. . . . Egged on by his pals, the smarmiest of the city guys stands, God's gift. . . blocking her way - she bumps into him.
- 9 _____ 9
Slightly in front of camera is beautifully manicured hand, long red nails;
SLOW MO as it glides under jacket, across freshly pressed shirt, and into blackness of inside jacket pocket.
FADE TO BLACK.
FADE IN: AS;
Slender fore and middle fingers pull wallet out of blackness and into sunshine. .
- 10 _____ 10
STACIE smiles at smarmy city guy who looks delighted at the collision, before she carries on her way to door. He grins inanely at his mates. . . . As STACIE reaches door, she puts wallet inside magazine.
- 11 _____ 11
DANNY BLUE comes out of side door in alleyway, daylight hits him. Followed closely by the memory of his losses.
He heads out of alley into street. Potless.
- 12 _____ 12
MICKEY sits in back of black cab, he takes slip of paper from pocket, checks it as cab stops;
They are parked at end of Mews, MICKEY looks through cab window.
A woman appears [his wife RACHEL], he smiles. . . she's carrying bags to her car which is parked outside her house.

13

13

MICKEY gets out of cab, walks towards RACHEL; Sensing someone behind her, she turns; Sees MICKEY, her face lights up.

She runs to him, they embrace, he strokes her hair, all his senses, taking every part of her in.

14

14

MICKEY still sitting in cab watching RACHEL load her car;

A man appears, coming out of house behind her.

MICKEY leans back, the couple kiss, then get into car.

MICKEY looks down at slip of paper, screws it up and throws

as he looks to see ASH MORGAN fill his windscreen, hovering slightly above at grotesque angle - blood spurts from ASH's mouth hitting screen just in front of driver.

Back to speed as ASH's body crashes on to bonnet, then rolls off into road. Businessman horrified.

18

18

ASH lays seemingly unconscious in a heap in front of car, blood seeping from mouth, his shopping scattered everywhere, a crowd gathers.

The driver gets out, sees him; Distraught...

19

19

Pick up MICKEY as he gets out of cab and pays driver, he sees crowd gathered around front of BMW - driver being comforted;

20

20

ASH laying in road, eyes closed, driver looking on horrified, crowd gathered, chaos, a man switches off mobile beside ASH.

MICKEY moves to front of crowd, looks down at ASH.

ASH groans, coming round;

Take ASH's POV as he slowly opens eyes; MICKEY looking down at him; MICKEY smiles.

ASH's eyes open wide. He jumps to his feet;

ASH

MICKEY!

The crowd look on in absolute bewilderment as ASH embraces MICKEY.

21

21

FAT GUY sits on edge of bed, STACIE strokes his cheek. As he reaches out to her, she glides away. He starts to unbutton his shirt watching her legs as she walks across room.

She picks up a small black leather case and returns to the bed. She clicks catches and opens case.

Sex toys, including furry handcuffs...

STACIE licks her lips, FAT GUY grins.

22

22

MARTIN DEPALMA drives to security gate, stops.

He shows his pass; The gates open, he drives in;

23

23

Small bar, dimly lit, quiet. BARMAN EDDIE cleaning bar.

MICKEY sits with ASH MORGAN; ASH smokes;

ASH

...it's the only game in town.
If they're not eating a burger or
fiddling with the CD player,
they're on the phone...
No-one watches the road anymore...
(a beat)
So what about you...How was it?

MICKEY

A new experience.
(a beat)
One I don't care to repeat.

ASH

Amen to that.

A moment, ASH lights new cigarette from old one;

ASH (cont'd)

So what now Mick?

MICKEY

D'you remember Rocky Marciano?

(CONTINUED)

ASH

The only heavyweight champion to retire undefeated.

MICKEY

Forty nine fights.

ASH

Last one against Archie Moore. Knocked him out in the ninth.

MICKEY

You think that bugged him?

ASH

What?

MICKEY

That it was forty nine and not fifty?

ASH

Never thought about it.

MICKEY

Fifty sounds like you picked the number. That it was planned, a matter of choice. Forty nine sounds like he didn't have another fight left in him. Fifty made him "the man", forty nine made him a pussy.

ASH

You're calling Rocky Marciano a pussy?

MICKEY

A manner of speech to make a point.

ASH

Which is?

MICKEY

I feel like I'm stuck on forty nine...

ASH studies him. Realises;

ASH

They'll be watching you.

MICKEY

One last score.

A beat. ASH fights it, but is intrigued;

ASH
Long or short?

MICKEY
Long.

ASH reacts;

ASH
No one works the long con anymore
Mick...

MICKEY
They don't because they can't.
(a beat)
One last time, then it's over.
I retire on my terms, not because
I've been beat.
(a beat)
I can't do it without you.

ASH
That's emotional blackmail.

MICKEY
I've known you ten years, that buys
me a lot of abuse.

ASH
(wry smile)
I'd forgotten.

MICKEY
What?

ASH
You.

MICKEY grins;

MICKEY
So what else you got planned that's
so great?

A beat, ASH breaks into smile;

ASH
When do we start?

MICKEY
(wry smile;)
Already have. Albert's got a mark.
(a beat)
But... First things first... Can you
fix a hotel?

ASH
Can Pavarotti sing?

MICKEY
(Looks down at attire)
And I could use a change of
clothes...

Expiry date?
(pause)

DEPALMA shrugs.

No.

DEPALMA

32

32

Large suite. Boxes and carrier bags, new clothes everywhere.

ASH sits in armchair on telephone smoking;

MICKEY now immaculately dressed in sharp suit, tie and sits at table finishing game of "Patience" - he scoops up cards and shuffles with stunning dexterity.

Knock on door; ASH stands;

Freeze frame;

HODGES (V.O.)
Ashley Morgan.

33

33

DEPALMA sits amongst six detectives as HODGES uses wall-chart with photographs to do her briefing;

HODGES points to photograph of ASH outside filling station.

HODGES
... colloquially known as "Ash" or
"Three Socks".

DETECTIVE #1
Three socks?

HODGES
He got the name in prison...
After his first visit to the shower
block.
(a beat, sniggers;)
He's a fixer, whatever you want,
Ash Morgan will find it. He got a
skull fracture in a bar room brawl
ten years go, uses it to work the
flop...

34

34

Slow-mo sequence of Ash being hit by cars.

35

35

HODGES standing in front of ASH's photo;

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

HODGES

Bounces over a car, goes to hospital, x-ray shows the fracture, insurance company pays out...

36

36

ASH opens the door to reveal ALBERT STROLLER. They embrace. Freeze frame on ALBERT.

HODGES (V.O.)

Albert Stroller.

37

37

ALBERT placing chips on roulette table, watching wheel spin with same unnatural intensity.

HODGES (V.O.)

Habitual gambler. Gee gees, casinos, card games... Albert plays them all.

38

38

HODGES pointing to photograph of ALBERT.

HODGES

He's the roper. Finds the marks, sucks them in and introduces them to the mob. Usually plays the part of ex-serviceman or retired banker... In reality he was a shoe salesman in the American Mid-West. Legend has it, when his store was closed down and the staff made redundant, he conned the company out of sixty thousand dollars and shared it amongst his co-workers. Fled to England in the seventies, but by then he'd got the taste and hasn't looked back since. His first point of contact.

(a beat)

The insideman.

39

39

MICKEY greets ALBERT, they embrace. Freeze frame on MICKEY.

(CONTINUED)

HODGES (V.O.)

Michael Stone... Also known as "Mickey Bricks". He's in a class all his own, a long con player. He's had every fraud office in the country jumping through hoops for years, never been convicted. It's a matter of personal pride to every fraud investigator in the country to be the one who nails him.

HODGES points to photograph of MICKEY standing in doorway of Eddie's bar wearing tux...

HODGES

Just finished his first spell in prison for an unrelated crime. He served two years. Rumours are this is his last score, we miss him this time, it's game over.

HODGES moves to photograph of PETER WILLIAMS.

HODGES (cont'd)

We think this is their next mark.

ALBERT has set up his own briefing board on wall of room. He stands in front of photograph of PETER WILLIAMS;

ALBERT

Peter Reginald Williams. Started a pharmaceutical business in the early eighties, first wife Sara was old money... He used her family's connections in the government to get research contracts.

ASH

Where's the in?

ALBERT

He's greedy.

ALBERT' s POV as WILLIAMS' colleague puts cash tip on table for waiter, once he' s gone, WILLIAMS looks around and picks it up.

ALBERT watches.

ALBERT points to series of stills;

WILLIAMS shaking hands with politician. Leaving his office. Big society wedding. Over this;

ALBERT

....it seems his shares have taken a tumble like everyone else' s and he' s struggling to keep his new young wife in the style to which she' s become accustomed.

MICKEY stands, stares deep into the photograph of WILLIAMS, getting his measure;

HODGES taps MICKEY' s photograph;

HODGES

45 CONTINUED:

45

ASH
That's marks for you.

MICKEY
Anythi ng el se?

ALBERT
One more thi ng. . .

46

46

WILLIAMS stands at bar with group and two pretty young women.

WILLIAMS gi vi ng i t l arge, orderi ng champagne.

ALBERT watchi ng i n b. g;

ALBERT (V.O.)
He's a sucker for a pretty face,
spends money to impress...The
shorter the skirt the looser he
gets...

47

47

MICKEY, ASH and ALBERT.

MICKEY
Time to get an edge.

48

48

STACIE turni ng heads as she walks out of hotel to fi nd MICKEY
l eani ng agai nst bl ack cab.

She sees hi m;

STACIE
Mi ckey!

They embrace, then part...she strokes hi s cheek tenderly;

She steps back sl ightl y and slaps hi m across the face;

MICKEY
Di d I mi ss somethi ng?

STACIE
One phone call i n two years.

(CONTINUED)

MICKEY

You know I hate queueing.
(a beat, grins;)
Got the crew together...

STACIE

Everyone?

MICKEY nods. STACIE smiles broadly;

MICKEY takes out mobile, hits button, a beat.

MICKEY

Albert? We're set.
(a beat)
Bring him in.

MICKEY opens cab door, STACIE gets in, he rubs his cheek,
follows her;

ALBERT and PETER WILLIAMS at dinner table, the waiter stands
beside table as ALBERT puts cash on top of bill.

WILLIAMS

Don't give him a tip Tony...
(glare at waiter;)
The service was shite...

ALBERT hands waiter tray, he smiles and walks away;

As they get up, ALBERT notices something under the table, he
bends down and picks up wallet. He offers it to WILLIAMS;

ALBERT

You've dropped your wallet...

WILLIAMS

It's not mine.

WILLIAMS produces his own.

ALBERT opens up wallet, stuffed with cash. The two men
exchange a look. He then takes out business card;

ALBERT

Mark Hamilton, MRH Investments.

WILLIAMS

What d'you say? Finders keepers?

ALBERT
(Laughs and slaps Williams
on back)
You are a card.

ALBERT walks away.

ALBERT (cont'd)
Let's see if he's staying at the
hotel.

WILLIAMS eventually follows ALBERT to MAITRE D's desk, but is
clearly peeved at not being taken seriously....

ALBERT (cont'd)
(to maitre d';)
Excuse me. We found this in the
restaurant.

The MAITRE D' looks at card, then wallet stuffed with cash.

MAITRE D'
I'll see Mr Hamilton gets it sir.

WILLIAMS watches as MAITRE D' looks at cash bursting from
wallet.

WILLIAMS
I don't think so...
(takes wallet off maitre
d';)
Just tell us which room he's in.

ALBERT smiles to himself;

DEPALMA and HODGES sit at table in front of P.C monitor as
photograph is being downloaded.

It's STACIE meeting with MICKEY outside hotel.

DEPALMA
So who's she?

HODGES
Stacie Monroe. She was married to
short con artist Jake Henry... they
worked the badger mostly, did well
too. Then Jake took all their
savings and ran for the hills five
years ago.

DEPALMA
So much for honour amongst thieves.

HODGES

Not to mention your wedding vows.

(a beat)

Word is, she and Stone had a thing once...before she hooked up with Jake and before he met his wife.

(a beat)

Not just a pretty face, she's sharp...maybe even in Stone's league...

(a beat)

Word is, she'd retired...

DEPALMA

So why the change of heart?

MICKEY, stands in front of the mirror.

STACIE enters, turns him round and fixes his tie;

STACIE

I always liked you in a shirt and tie.

MICKEY smiles.

A moment, having finished tie, STACIE goes to sit on edge of bath.

STACIE (cont'd)

I heard Rachel is shacked up with her new guy.

MICKEY

Hey, don't hold back on my account.

STACIE

She doesn't deserve you, never did...

(a beat)

A man does what he does, if she'd wanted normal she should have married her dentist.

MICKEY

(Looks at her in mirror;)
Finished?

A moment between them.

STACIE

the one you should have hit with the baseball bat.

A wry smile from MICKEY;

MICKEY
Thanks. I'll remember that tip
for my next relationship...

STACIE
Did you go and see her?

Take MICKEY's reaction, remembering the scene in the news.

MICKEY
Is this leading somewhere?

STACIE
You can't kid a kidder...

MICKEY
You think I want her back?

STACIE
Do you?

MICKEY kisses her on forehead and leaves, not wanting to
continue conversation.

STACIE watches him go; Thoughtful.

53

53

DANNY sits at bar with deck of cards; .

EDDIE the barman, walks to DANNY, picks up his empty glass, holds it up;

DANNY nods.

DANNY takes Queen from deck and two other cards...

As EDDIE puts drink in front of him, DANNY sets up three card monte on bar, mixing cards with lightning speed...

EDDIE
(wearily;)
Three fifty.

DANNY
I'll give you two shots.

EDDIE
Yeah right... Three fifty.

DANNY takes out note and puts on bar.

DANNY
Come on Eddie... Pick anyway.

EDDIE can't resist it;

Points to first - wrong. Second - wrong. DANNY turns over remaining card - Queen.

EDDIE shakes head and walks to till, DANNY starts shuffling three cards again;

DANNY (cont'd)
Go again.

EDDIE
Shouldn't you be somewhere Danny?

DANNY
Tell you what, I'll make it easy for you...

Takes Queen, folds down one corner, puts it back with other two on bar, mixes them up; Drains glass;

DANNY (cont'd)
Choose.

EDDIE
Danny...

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

No money, buy me a drink if you're wrong...

EDDIE looks at card, stares at fold in card, a beat, he points at it;

DANNY turns it over - wrong. Turns over card beside it - Queen.

DANNY grins and pushes empty glass towards EDDIE;

EDDIE

(picks up glass)
You're a very sick person.

DANNY

I'm just naturally gifted.

EDDIE fixes DANNY's drink;

EDDIE

You heard Mickey Bricks is out?

DANNY looks up, sudden interest.

DANNY

He played the long con, right?

EDDIE

Top of the food chain.

DANNY

You think he could teach me anything?

EDDIE

What do I know?... All you guys freak me out...
But they say he's the best.

Take DANNY's reaction - stung.

DANNY

Yeah? Then how come he's been pissing in a bucket for two years..?

EDDIE

Story I heard was he found out his wife was cheating... Took a baseball bat to the guy.

DANNY

Doesn't sound very bright.

EDDIE
Guy does something dumb, five gets
you ten there's a woman there
somewhere...

DANNY
(a beat, then dismissive;)
No-one plays the long con anymore.

EDDIE
(leans in;)
Maybe that's because no-one knows
how...

EDDIE sees new arrival enter, looks at DANNY, sensing his
intrigue, but also knowing he's too proud to ask;

EDDIE (cont'd)
He's booked in the London Park
Hotel.

DANNY shrugs - so what? - EDDIE walks away to serve new
arrival.

With EDDIE not watching, DANNY's expression changes -
thoughtful now.

54

54

STACIE hands ALBERT and WILLIAMS a drink before leaving room,
WILLIAMS watches her walk away, taking in her legs and behind
lustfully...

MICKEY turns to ALBERT and WILLIAMS.

MICKEY
(raises glass)
Here's to you, gentlemen. I didn't
think there were any honest men
left in the world.

ALBERT
One or two.

MICKEY
(raises glass)
To honest men.

ALBERT and WILLIAMS raise glasses, sip drinks.

MICKEY picks up wallet;

MICKEY (cont'd)
You must let me thank you properly.

WILLIAMS sits forward, eager, but ALBERT raises a hand.

ALBERT
We wouldn't hear of it.

MICKEY
You know... I j ust mi ght.
(a beat)
I have a suggesti on.
(MORE)

54 CONTINUED:

54

MICKEY (cont'd)
Something that will leave honour
intact but satisfy my need to thank
you properly.

ALBERT draws breath, about to refuse again, but this time
WILLIAMS gets in first.

WILLIAMS
What did you have in mind?

Then;

MICKEY
(pats briefcase beside
him;)
A business associate has asked me
to make a small investment for him
tomorrow. If you'll allow me, I'll
put... say... five hundred pounds in
for you?

A beat. WILLIAMS reacts at prospect of getting £500 for
nothing.

MICKEY (cont'd)
I'll take the five hundred back,
you just keep the profit. It's
cost me nothing but at least I'll
feel happier knowing I've done
something.

CUT TO:

WILLIAMS
Sounds very generous...

CUT TO:

Back to normal;

MICKEY
Good. Leave me your card I'll
contact you in a few days.

ALBERT and WILLIAMS stand.

MICKEY (cont'd)
(offers hand)
And thank you again.

They both shake hands with MICKEY and walk to door, WILLIAMS
glancing back at briefcase as he takes business card from
pocket...

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAMS

MICKEY, ASH and ALBERT sit at table.

ALBERT

This guy moves in high circles,
it'll take something special to
impress him.

MICKEY

Then that's what he'll get.
(slaps ASH on back)
As soon as Ash starts working his
magic...

STACIE enters, sits on arm of ALBERT's chair.

STACIE

60 CONTINUED:

60

ASH taps on keys, roller drawer opens. He takes out cash then dabs three blobs of superglue on bottom of roller drawer before it closes again.

HODGES (V.O.)

They'll go out and try and raise what they need with short cons.

61

61

MICKEY stands in doorway, takes blue valet jacket from carrier bag and puts it on.

HODGES (V.O.)

They'll need a car, top of the range, not too flash, but something that oozes class....

A Jag pulls up outside hotel, couple take case from boot.

As porter takes cases, MICKEY steps forward and smiles at driver.

The driver hands him the keys and a twenty pound note before walking into hotel.

MICKEY glances at twenty pound note, before getting into car, passing Hotel Car Park sign and driving away.

62

62

Businessman taps on keys, drawer doesn't open, he tries again. It still doesn't open, he presses cancel and retrieves his card, walking away.

HODGES (V.O.)

God help anyone who runs into them today...

63

63*

64 _____ 64 *
Empty briefcase, MICKEY places cash in, then ASH enters and does the same.
STACIE sits beside it with calculator, taps in figures, turns it round to show MICKEY.

65 _____ 65
DANNY sitting staring at drink.

66 _____ 66
Briefcase, STACIE beside it as ALBERT hands her money, he kisses her hand.
She smiles, taps into calculator;

67 _____ 67
Man taps on keys, drawer doesn't open.

68 _____ 68
Man comes out of building with brass "Inland Revenue" plaque, walking in front of him is gorgeous woman in mini skirt and high heels, he enjoys the view. She stumbles on heels. Tax man and ALBERT both reach her at the same time. STACIE passes tax man's wallet to ALBERT, who walks away as STACIE thanks tax man for his help.

69 _____ 69
Policeman taps on keys. Drawer doesn't open.

70 _____ 70
Briefcase, filling up nicely; STACIE counting;

71 _____ 71
ASH approaches machine, puts in card, taps on keys. Drawer doesn't open.

72

72

STACIE puts last of cash into briefcase, MICKEY, ASH and ALBERT sit exhausted.

MICKEY
Enough?

STACIE
(Looks at ASH)
What about this place?

ASH
Sorted.

STACIE
(taps final figure in
calculator, checks;)
Then it's enough.

MICKEY picks up phone;

73

73

WILLIAMS and ALBERT sit at table;

WILLIAMS looks STACIE up and down as she walks over to join them; She talks to them briefly, they get up and follow her out.

Go to corner table, man reading newspaper. He puts paper down. It's DANNY;

74

74

A brown envelope is thrown on table in front of ALBERT and WILLIAMS.

MICKEY
As promised gentlemen, I invested
your five hundred pounds, this is
your profit.

WILLIAMS picks up envelope, opens it - it's stuffed with cash.

He looks at MICKEY; STACIE nearby;

MICKEY (cont'd)
I hope you're not disappointed.

(CONTINUED)

ALBERT

(Looking in envelope)

There must be a thousand pounds in there.

MICKEY

One thousand nine hundred and fifty to be precise.

WILLIAMS

That's quite a return.

MICKEY

I've had worse.

ALBERT

Made quite a killing yourself I'll wager.

MICKEY

(wry smile)

So shoot me.

ALBERT

Forgive me for prying, but I get the feeling there was little or no risk with this particular investment...

MICKEY

No risk at all.

(a beat)

Right, gentlemen... If you'll excuse me I have a meeting...

ALBERT

Wait. I mean, can't we do this again?

WILLIAMS and MICKEY look at him in unison.

MICKEY

Again?

WILLIAMS

Mr Hamilton's been more than generous Tony...

A look between MICKEY and ALBERT, not the response they wanted.

WILLIAMS (cont'd)

(offers hand to MICKEY)

Thank you.

MICKEY reluctantly offers hand - Take reactions from group, it's going wrong...

Knock on door, STACIE glances at MICKEY then walks to open it;

ALBERT

(trying to retrieve situation;)

I'm sure he wouldn't mind...

MICKEY

Well...

Before MICKEY can finish his sentence; he looks up to see DANNY pushing past STACIE and striding towards him, hand outstretched.

DANNY

Mr Hamilton. I want to shake you by the hand.

Nervous glances all round; DANNY shakes MICKEY's hand enthusiastically;

DANNY (cont'd)

You're a very great man and I'm sorry I doubted you. You know when I gave you my money I even considered the possibility you could be...

(a beat)

No. I can't say it...

MICKEY

Please. Get it off your chest.

DANNY

Well... I thought you could have been a con man.

ALBERT glances sideways and nervously at WILLIAMS;

DANNY (cont'd)

That I may never see you or my money again...

(a beat)

I can't believe I said that.

MICKEY

(quietly amused;)

I'm not sure I can either.

DANNY

Then BANG!

WILLIAMS jumps;

DANNY (cont'd)

A four hundred per cent return, just like you said... Shit. I need a drink... D'you mind?

He walks to drinks cabinet, pours himself a drink.

MICKEY composes himself;

MICKEY
(to ALBERT and WILLIAMS)
Sorry gentlemen, this is... Mr
Redford... a client of mine. Mr
Redford, this is Tony Monroe and
Peter Williams.

DANNY
Pleased to meet you.
(a beat, then to MICKEY)
Right... I'm ready to go again and
this time, I want to go bigger...

MICKEY
Please, I don't think this is...

DANNY
(cuts in;)
No I mean it, I'm ready.

MICKEY
(to STACIE)
Helen, maybe you'd like to show
Tony and Peter out?

STACIE steps forward.

WILLIAMS
No wait... I mean there is
another deal up for grabs, well I'd
like to hear about it.
(looks at ALBERT)
Tony?

ALBERT
Absolutely.

MICKEY glances at DANNY who has his back to WILLIAMS. DANNY
grins;

MICKEY is at doorway, showing WILLIAMS and ALBERT out;
WILLIAMS shakes MICKEY's hand.

MICKEY
My car will pick you up in the
morning.

And he watches as they walk away along corridor.

MICKEY closes door and walks back into room, DANNY stands in
centre of room.

75 CONTINUED:

75

DANNY
(full of himself;)
Now I'm no expert, but I'd say that
went like a dream.

MICKEY unleashes ferocious right hook from nowhere,
connecting with DANNY's chin, almost lifting him off his feet
and knocking him backwards over sofa.

A beat.

DANNY (cont'd)
(O/S from behind sofa)
So am I in?

MICKEY
You're in.

MICKEY walks through to bedroom and closes door.

DANNY appears from behind sofa, grinning at STACIE.

76

76

STACIE sits sipping coffee, guy on next stool but one, with
security badge clipped to top pocket.

STACIE puts cigarette to lips, she leans forward to guy and
smiles.

Guy takes cigarette lighter from bar, leans over to light her
cigarette. When he straightens up - his security badge has
gone.

77

77

ASH putting finishing touches to fake security badges;
In the background, STACIE waits; DANNY watches her intently.

78

78

DEPALMA and HODGES watch from parked car as MICKEY, STACIE
and DANNY enter office building.

79

79

MICKEY, STACIE and DANNY walk through reception area wearing
security badges.

(CONTINUED)

84

84

Outer office; ASH starts unloading equipment, small T.V Monitor amongst it; STACIE takes video camera from bag and hands it to ASH.

MICKEY walks through to large inner office, looks around, very affluent - perfect.

ASH points out to DANNY things that identify the office as belonging to Alan Moss - family photos, desk name plate etc, DANNY puts them in drawer, then replaces them with new photos, name plate etc that ASH hands him from case...

DANNY misses a leather bound calculator on desk, with "Alan" embossed. A disapproving look from ASH.

ASH then picks up T.V Monitor from trolley and sets it up on desk, plugging in etc, as MICKEY puts up wooden plaque with clocks with names of major cities underneath.

ASH looks around room for one last check, then looks at MICKEY, brushing shoulders of his jacket and straightening his tie.

MICKEY checks watch.

MICKEY
(to ASH)
Go.

ASH takes chauffeur's cap from bag.

85

85 *

86

86 *

DANNY and STACIE in foyer. They exchange a look before DANNY walks to reception desk. An officious looking receptionist.

DANNY
How you doing?

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

86

RECEPTIONIST looks at him, unglving; DANNY looks at box of VISITOR passes behind desk.

DANNY (cont'd)
Just waiting for some new clients.

RECEPTIONIST still unresponsive, going about her business.

A moment;

DANNY (cont'd)
Dwarf goes to see the doctor, only he's waiting for hours, he goes to the reception desk and complains, but the receptionist says... "Can you be a little patient"?

The RECEPTIONIST looks at him like he's something she's trodden in, he glances at STACIE whose expression screams get a move on...

DANNY (cont'd)
patient...

Still nothing.

DANNY (cont'd)
Listen, I'm supposed to meet these guys... trouble is, I'm busting for a pee.
(a beat)
If they come before I get back, do me a favour and send them up will you? Pete Williams and Tony Monroe. They're here to see Mr Hamilton 1205...

RECEPTIONIST
I'll check the list...

DANNY
Er, I'm not sure they're on there...

87

87

DEPALMA and HODGES watch as Jag pulls up - WILLIAMS and ALBERT get out and walk inside.

88

88

STACIE glares at DANNY. She looks to see ALBERT and WILLIAMS enter.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY sees them too. RECEPTIONIST checking list.

RECEPTIONIST
If they're not on the list I'll
have to check... Isn't 1205 Mr
Moss's office...?

DANNY sees ALBERT and WILLIAMS approaching desk, STACIE
glaring at him;

DANNY looks down, sees Mills & Boon romantic novel tucked
under paperwork on desk.

DANNY
I lied!

RECEPTIONIST
What?

With ALBERT and WILLIAMS almost at desk, DANNY grabs
astonished receptionist by arms of chair and pushes her
backwards on wheels.

DANNY
Do you believe in love at first
sight?

STACIE steps behind desk just as ALBERT and WILLIAMS get to
there.

STACIE
Gentlemen, Mr Hamilton's expecting
you...

She takes two VISITOR passes from box.

STACIE (cont'd)
I'll take you up.

As STACIE leads ALBERT and WILLIAMS to lifts, she glances at
DANNY leaning over receptionist still pinned to chair.
WILLIAMS looks around his surroundings - impressed;

Go to DANNY; Receptionist open mouthed, pinned to chair.

DANNY
Do you know what it's like, having
to watch you sitting there every
day...?
(she opens mouth to speak)
No! Don't say anything...
You're right, I shouldn't be doing
this.
(angrily;)
I've got no right to expect you
might feel the same way...
(MORE)

88 CONTINUED:

88

DANNY (cont'd)
(softly;)
But please don't think badly of
me... Would you blame a moth drawn
too close to a flame...?

He lifts her hand, kisses it gently, turning head slightly to
watch STACIE, ALBERT and WILLIAMS getting into lift;

DANNY (cont'd)
Forgive me.

He lets her go. She's still open mouthed, but as he walks
away, she smiles; adjusts her hair;

89

89*

90

90*

MICKEY sits behind desk, STACIE shows ALBERT and WILLIAMS in
to inner office.

MICKEY
Gentlemen, come in... Take a seat.
(to STACIE;)
Thank you Helen.

DANNY enters hurriedly.

DANNY
Er, sorry I'm late guys, I ran into
an old friend...

DANNY smacks STACIE on bum. STACIE smiles through gritted
teeth. Noticed by MICKEY.

DANNY sits and grins at WILLIAMS and ALBERT.

MICKEY
(smiles broadly at
WILLIAMS and ALBERT;)
Gentlemen. Welcome to the land of
plenty...

91

91

DEPALMA and HODGES sit in car parked opposite office block,
HODGES on phone and taking notes.

(CONTINUED)

HODGES
Okay, got it.

She turns off phone;

HODGES (cont'd)
We've got a positive ID. He's a
short con artist called Danny Blue.

DEPALMA
Any history?

HODGES
We know he played a con three
months ago, south of the river...
But the mark withdrew his complaint
and CPS wouldn't prosecute without
his evidence.

DEPALMA
Why did he pull out?

HODGES
The mark bet his life savings in a
horse racing scam, but his wife
didn't know anything about it.
I suppose he wanted to keep it that
way.

DEPALMA
Hard to explain over breakfast I
guess.

HODGES
Must be true what they say...
There's one born every minute.

She looks back at office building;

92

92

WILLIAMS listens intently to MICKEY as STACIE enters with
tray of coffee.

MICKEY
What I'm about to show you may be
foolproof, but it's also illegal.
There's no victim, but it's against
the law.
(a beat)
Would you like me to continue?

A moment. On WILLIAMS; Then;

Even STACIE's coffee tray is frozen in mid-air, WILLIAMS frozen too.

MICKEY, DANNY, ALBERT and STACIE walk round to gather on edge of desk facing camera.

ASH enters in chauffeur suit and stands with them.

They face camera, almost like family photo shoot....

MICKEY (cont'd)
(to camera.)
You see...The first rule of the
con...

STACIE
You can't cheat an honest man.

DANNY
Never been done.

ALBERT
Can't happen.

ASH
Impossible.

MICKEY
The only way this thing works is if
you want something for nothing.

ASH
So what do we do?

STACIE
Give you nothing for something...

MICKEY
(in WILLIAMS' ear;)
You're a grand up so far.

DANNY
Good time to walk away.

MICKEY
But he can't.

ALBERT
Because he's greedy.

ASH
So what do we do?

STACIE

MICKEY
But he's got one last chance...

They move to surround WILLIAMS.

ASH
We've told him it's illegal.

DANNY
(to WILLIAMS)
You could lose everything.

MICKEY
(to WILLIAMS)
Career, wife, home...

ALBERT
(to WILLIAMS)
Go to prison.

ASH
(to WILLIAMS)
Get out while you can.

STACIE
(to WILLIAMS)
Do the smart thing.

Everyone takes their original places, ASH leaves, DANNY and ALBERT sit either side of WILLIAMS, MICKEY sits behind desk, STACIE holds on to tray.

Resume action.

WILLIAMS
Hey... Law's are made to be broken...

MICKEY glances at camera.

A beat.

MICKEY
(watches STACIE put coffee tray on desk)
Go tell Peterson I want those breakdowns by lunchtime.

STACIE nods and leaves;

MICKEY (cont'd)
Okay.
(he turns to WILLIAMS)
(MORE)

MICKEY (cont'd)

Share transactions from New York and Tokyo are relayed to the City of London by computer... Or more precisely...

MICKEY turns T.V Monitor on desk towards WILLIAMS, ALBERT and DANNY.

MICKEY (cont'd)

Our computer.

Footage on screen is that shot by STACIE earlier with video camera - Banks of computers;

STACIE enters frame and talks to technician.

MICKEY (cont'd)

Now when the multi-nationals publish their annual reports, there is a flurry of activity... If a company has done well, their shares attract buyers and the price jumps.

(a beat)

What we've managed to do, is to delay those transactions in the system just long enough to assess them and put our own order to buy in before them.

WILLIAMS

So you buy, the share prices will go up?

MICKEY

Exactly.

A beat.

WILLIAMS

But any delay would be noticed, surely?

MICKEY

Not when it's less than nine tenths of a second.

WILLIAMS

You can do all this in less than a second?

MICKEY

(nods at monitor)

Our main frame can make three million calculations in that time.

WILLIAMS studies monitor.

DANNY

It's that easy?

MICKEY

I never said it was easy, I said it works.

ALBERT

So what's in it for you?

MICKEY

I take 25% of your profit.

WILLIAMS

Twenty five per cent?

MICKEY

Non-negotiable.

DANNY

But the profit is guaranteed right?

MICKEY

Set in stone. No profit, I don't get paid.

A beat.

MICKEY (cont'd)

In three days, the oil company Vestron are releasing their annual report, it's expected to be good, but their share price is stagnant while everyone waits for confirmation. Once it's out, every major broker will be crawling all over those shares. No-one will bat an eye-lid at a big investment. The plan is to buy half a million pounds worth of shares.

(a beat)

I have two investors already in place at 100,000 each, there are three places left.

WILLIAMS

A hundred thousand?

DANNY

Okay, I'm in.

WILLIAMS

I'm not sure I can raise that kind of money.

MICKEY

One more thing.

(a beat)

I don't want to leave any paper trails... The money has to be in cash.

WILLIAMS

CASH?

MICKEY

Problem?

WILLIAMS

(aware everyone looking at him)

Er, no... I suppose not...

DANNY stands, offers hand;

DANNY

I just want to thank you for the opportunity.

MICKEY stands, shakes DANNY's hand; ALBERT does the same. WILLIAMS last...

EDDIE behind bar. ASH, STACIE, ALBERT and DANNY with drinks.

A moment, ALBERT sees something, STACIE follows his line of vision to see RACHEL enter;

STACIE looks at ALBERT and ASH, then puts glass down; walks across bar to join RACHEL.

RACHEL

Stacie.

STACIE

You sound surprised to see me.

RACHEL

On reflection... no.

(a beat)

I was looking for Mickey.

STACIE

He's not here.

RACHEL

So I see.

(a beat)

(MORE)

RACHEL (cont'd)

Maybe you could tell him I called by, we need to talk.

STACIE

Talk?

RACHEL

It won't take long...

(a beat)

I wouldn't want to get in the way of anything...

STACIE

Don't worry, you won't.

RACHEL

So you'll get him to call me?

STACIE

Mickey's his own man.

RACHEL

But you'll tell him?

STACIE

The moment I see him.

RACHEL forces smile; glances at others, turns and leaves.

STACIE joins the others, picks up her glass as MICKEY comes out of washroom. He joins them at bar, picks up glass, he looks around him, everyone subdued.

MICKEY

Problem?

A look between ALBERT and STACIE;

STACIE

No problem.

MICKEY

Good.

MICKEY turns and walks out, ALBERT glances at STACIE; they all follow MICKEY out.

Establisher.

ALBERT and ASH laughing, sticking cards to foreheads. DANNY sidles up to STACIE as she fixes a drink.

95 CONTINUED:

95

DANNY
How you doi ng?

(CONTINUED)

DANNY smirks;

MICKEY (cont'd)
You find that funny?

DANNY
Hell no, the whole family thing
works for me.

MICKEY
You're a short con artist
Danny... Emptying peoples wage
packets on a Friday night... I don't
expect you to understand.

DANNY
Educate me.

MICKEY
(turns away)
Buy a book.

DANNY
Who are you angry at Mick?

MICKEY
Me? I'm just naturally tetchy.

DANNY
Can I make a criticism?

MICKEY
Be surprised if you didn't.

DANNY
A hundred grand... I think you could
take this guy for more...

MICKEY
That's the bit you don't
get... It's not just about the
money.

DANNY
Since when?

MICKEY
Since always... You don't get that,
you don't get anything...

MICKEY (cont'd)

Worked, ate, slept... Paid his taxes
on time, towed the line.

MICKEY looks down at the street, an elderly man with
briefcase trudging home after a hard day at the office.

MICKEY (cont'd)

The only dream he had was retiring
at sixty.

(a beat)

Dropped dead in the Post Office
three days before his sixtieth
birthday. He was paying his phone
bill.

DANNY

I'm sorry.

MICKEY watches elderly man disappear from view.

MICKEY

Me too.

A beat. DANNY starts to go back inside, stops;

DANNY

Listen. I haven't had time to
thank you properly...

MICKEY

For what?

DANNY

Letting me in.

MICKEY

I seem to remember you invited
yourself.

DANNY

(wry smile)

So I did.

(a beat)

You didn't have to let me stay
though.

A beat.

MICKEY

You wanna learn?

(he looks down at lights
of city, cars, people
making their way home)

You want to be regular people, go
do that, they're crying out for
volunteers down there...

(a beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED:

97

MICKEY (cont' d)

Have your li fe run by bosses, bank
managers and poli ti ci ans.

If you want to be a gri fter. . . .

(MORE)

(CONTI NUED)

Don't have anything in your life
you can't walk away from in a
second. Lovers, friends..even your
Mother...

DANNY
What about your wife?

MICKEY glares at him;

DANNY (cont'd)
I heard what happened.

MICKEY
(glances at orange juice)
That was someone else.

MICKEY looks away again.

MICKEY (cont'd)
Bad calls have a habit of coming
back to haunt you.

DANNY
Guess you loved her right?

MICKEY
She wanted me to be something I
wasn't, I wanted to please her.
Recipe for disaster.

DANNY
So if you were still together...
Could you have walked away from
?

MICKEY looks away, choosing not to answer;

DANNY looks through window at others;

97 CONTINUED: 97

MICKEY (cont'd)
(a beat)
Go home, get some sleep.

MICKEY turns away to look over city again.

A beat, then DANNY goes back inside.

OUT on MICKEY.

98 _____ 98

DANNY comes out of lift.

As he goes to walk towards exit, two figures step forward and stand blocking his way, it's HODGES and DEPALMA.

99 _____ 99

MICKEY and ALBERT sit at table playing draw poker.

On other side of the room, STACIE puts real bank notes on top of wads of paper.

ALBERT
The kid did well today.

MICKEY
(dealing)
Yeah.

ALBERT
Reminds me of you.
(a beat)
Worryingly.

MICKEY smiles;

MICKEY
So how did you find him?

ALBERT
Am I that transparent?

MICKEY
You taught me well.

ALBERT
(wry smile)
I'd heard about him, he's good and wants to be the best. Sound familiar?
(a beat)
I had Eddie point him in your direction.

(CONTINUED)

MICKEY

Hell, I'm all but done anyway...

ALBERT

(a beat)

You going to miss it?

MICKEY

We're all trying to get out
Albert... You would too if you knew
what else to do.

A wry smile from ALBERT, knowing this is true;

ALBERT

Three. (cards)
You didn't answer the question.

MICKEY

(grins;)

Maybe I want to take up fishing...

ALBERT

You did normal remember? Cost you
two years of your life.
And made you a pain in the arse.

MICKEY

(Laughs;)

I see the old Stroller charm hasn't
lost any of it's edge.

(a beat)

Dealer takes one. (cards)

The door opens. ASH enters, carrying a melon, and walks
through into the bathroom.

ALBERT

Rachel came into Eddie's today.

MICKEY looks at him;

ALBERT (cont'd)

Stacie didn't mention it?

MICKEY

No.

ALBERT

She wants to talk.

MICKEY

I'm sure she does...

ALBERT

And?

(CONTINUED)

MICKEY

It can keep.

ALBERT smiles and lays his hand on table, a full house, take MICKEY's reaction.

ALBERT

You know what I love about roulette? That glorious thirty seconds while the wheel's still spinning...

A moment between them; As ALBERT deals a new hand, MICKEY turns and looks at STACIE, she catches his eye and smiles;

DANNY sits at interview desk. A P.C stands at door.

DEPALMA and HODGES sit opposite him, file on table;

DEPALMA

Christopher Rawlings...

No response from DANNY;

DEPALMA (cont'd)

The horse racing scam?

Still no response from DANNY.

DEPALMA (cont'd)

His wife found out he'd lost their life savings...

(a beat)

He's ready to press charges.

DANNY looks away.

HODGES

You ever been to prison Danny?

DANNY looks at tape machine;

DANNY

Shouldn't you be taping this?

DEPALMA

That's plan B.

DEPALMA opens file and takes out surveillance photographs; MICKEY, DANNY, ALBERT, STACIE, ASH and PETER WILLIAMS placing them on desk in front of DANNY.

A beat, DANNY studies photos.

DEPALMA (cont' d)

Wanna hear Plan A?

DANNY

Surprise me.

DEPALMA

We've already got enough to send everyone down, no way round that... But bearing in mind who the mark is, the powers that be would rather not have a lengthy trial, they think the details might be... Embarrassing.

(a beat)

So what they need is a watertight case, so overwhelming, everyone pleads guilty. We'll rush the sentencing through and the whole thing blows over..

DANNY

Sounds like you've got it all worked out.

DEPALMA

We have. Now we know you came into the game late... So, you get a lifeline.

DANNY

Which is?

DEPALMA

Just do what you've been doing.

(a beat)

After the arrests, we take you to a safe house, you make a statement. Once the rest of the team know we've got your evidence, they'll know there's no point in doing anything else but pleading guilty.

(a beat)

In return, you walk away into the sunset.

DANNY

And if I don't?

DEPALMA

(putting photographs back into file;)

Like I said, you go down with the rest of them and we'll add the Rawlings job for good measure...

HODGES

All you have to do is go back,
pretend we never had this
conversation.

DANNY

So what's to stop me going back
there and warning them off?

DEPALMA

Nothing.

(a beat)

Mickey and the others are going to
prison whatever you do....
The only choice you have to make...
Is whether you go with them or not.

HODGES

Be smart Danny....Look after number
one.

OUT on DANNY.

102 CONTINUED: 102

Sudden activity, ALBERT puts on jacket, takes his briefcase.
STACIE tidies things away; Puts second briefcase behind door.
Everything set;

CUT TO:

102A _____ 102A

MULLENS unlocks gun case, hands DEPALMA and HODGES guns.
DEPALMA signs form.

CUT TO:

102B _____ 102B

Everyone in position, there's a knock at door.
MICKEY nods at STACIE, she goes to open it.
WILLIAMS enters with briefcase, sees ALBERT sitting with
briefcase on lap. ASH enters behind him.

MICKEY
You're late.

WILLIAMS
I'm sorry, I....

MICKEY
(cuts in;)
It doesn't matter, no time... Let's
get this done.

103 _____ 103

DANNY staring at coffee. A moment. A decision;
He gets up and hurries from bar;

104 _____ 104

DEPALMA and his team enter hotel lobby, one of them shows
warrant card to Manager at desk, others make their way to
lifts.

DANNY enters, sees police; Heads for stairs without them
seeing him;

WILLIAMS

I thought we were doing this together.

MICKEY

If there's a problem we can just call the whole thing off.

All eyes on WILLIAMS - he's not sure.

Knock on door - STACIE shoots MICKEY a glance and opens it, a breathless DANNY enters.

MICKEY (cont'd)

Here he is...

DANNY looks at MICKEY, obviously something important to say... - MICKEY shakes his head,

STACIE picks up briefcase, hands it to DANNY.

MICKEY looks at WILLIAMS as he opens his case, full of CASH. MICKEY takes it.

DANNY

MICKEY...

The door slams open - DEPALMA and his team hit the room, DEPALMA and HODGES with hand guns out;

DEPALMA

Armed police! Everybody stay exactly where you are!

HODGES

(to MICKEY)

Put the case down!

Everyone backs away. A look between DANNY and MICKEY.

WILLIAMS

What the hell is going on?

HODGES

Okay, everyone sit... Hands on heads.

DEPALMA

(to WILLIAMS)

I'm afraid you've been caught up in a confidence trick sir.

WILLIAMS

A what?

DEPALMA

These men have been planning to
swindle you out of your money...

WILLIAMS

There must be some mistake...

WILLIAMS, speechless, watches as a P.C takes cases of cash;

MICKEY, STACIE, ALBERT and DANNY sit, hands on head.

ALBERT sits alone at table.

DEPALMA looks at others; Then turns to DANNY;

DEPALMA

Alright Danny, you can go.

MICKEY, STACIE, ALBERT and ASH turn to look at DANNY.

DANNY looks at MICKEY who glares at him;

ALBERT

Judas.

DANNY

Mickey... It's not how it looks...

STACIE slaps DANNY full in face. HODGES steps forward;

As he does so, MICKEY jumps to feet and takes hand gun from
Hodge's belt holster, pointing it at DANNY.

Quick as a flash, DEPALMA takes out his gun and points it at
MICKEY.

DEPALMA

Don't do it Michael.

MICKEY

(to DANNY)

Final lesson, Danny.

A moment;

DEPALMA

I'll do it! I mean it!

MICKEY fires his gun, the bullet splintering glass framed
picture on wall behind DANNY.

A split second later, ; WILLIAMS
horri fied, STACIE calls out, DANNY moves forward;

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED:

105

On MICKEY, his forehead explodes, then another explosion at back of his head from bullet exit, blood spurts on wall behind him.

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED:

105

MICKEY slumps to floor. STACIE screams;

DANNY

No!

WILLIAMS

Oh my God...

DEPALMA

(to HODGES)

Get him out of here!

WILLIAMS is led away as DANNY rushes to MICKEY.

DANNY turns and lurches at DEPALMA;

DANNY

You bastard!

DEPALMA pistol whips him, he falls to floor unconscious;

FADE IN:

106

106

An extremely nervous WILLIAMS sits in front of HODGES and Detective #1.

HODGES

We need a statement.

WILLIAMS

I've got my position to think of.

HODGES

We understand that sir.

WILLIAMS

Just give me my money and I'll go.

HODGES

We can't do that, it's evidence...

WILLIAMS

Then sod the money, just let me out of here...

(he leans forward, hisses at HODGES)

I can't be implicated in something like this, it would ruin me.

(CONTINUED)

HODGES

If we have enough evidence we can get guilty pleas, it won't go to court.

WILLIAMS

Am I under arrest?

HODGES

We need your statement...

WILLIAMS

(strong;)

Am I under arrest?

HODGES

(reluctantly)

No sir...

WILLIAMS stands, heads to door, a P.C blocks his way.

WILLIAMS

Get out of my way!

The P.C looks at HODGES who reluctantly nods;

WILLIAMS has gone.

HODGES

Let's hope the boss can do his stuff...

DANNY on floor where he fell, slowly coming round;

DEPALMA sits in armchair. A coffee table between them with A4 pad and pen.

DANNY opens eyes, sits up slowly, rubs head, sees DEPALMA as he sits in chair.

DEPALMA

Sorry about the head...

A beat.

DANNY

You killed him.

DEPALMA

I saved your life Danny.

A moment.

DEPALMA (cont'd)
Everyone's in custody. We'll get you checked out on the way to the station.

He pushes A4 pad and pen towards him;

DEPALMA (cont'd)
First. Time to keep your end of the bargain...

DANNY looks at pad and pen;

DEPALMA (cont'd)
Be sure not to miss anything out.

DANNY
I'm not a grass.

DEPALMA
Be smart Danny, all you can do now is lose.

DANNY
(stands;)
Then I lose, but I'd rather that than hook up with a murdering scumbag like you...

DEPALMA
Stone fired a gun at you.

DANNY
He thought I'd betrayed him.

DEPALMA
You do this, or I'll see you get five years.

DEPALMA pushes pad and pen towards him again.

DEPALMA (cont'd)
Last chance.

A beat. DANNY picks up pad and pen - throws it at DEPALMA.

DANNY
Go screw yourself.

DEPALMA stands, walks to interior door and opens it;

DEPALMA
Okay, he's all yours...

DANNY braces himself - but suddenly DEPALMA breaks into huge grin;

107 CONTINUED:

107

ALBERT, ASH and STACIE enter room, all smiles... Embracing
DANNY, STACIE kisses him;

Take DANNY's reaction, complete bewilderment.

DANNY

What?

(CONTINUED)

ALBERT
I knew you were okay kid...

DANNY
I don't...

He looks at grinning DEPALMA.

108

108

HODGES sitting at her desk. The phone rings, she answers. A
beat as she listens:

HODGES
(outraged, into phone)
What do you mean, they've gone?
Who signed them out?

She slams the phone down and runs out.

109

109

DEPALMA grinning.

DANNY surrounded by STACIE, ALBERT and ASH.

A beat, MICKBERT and ASH.

112

112

DEPALMA in doorway ushering last of detectives out, he closes door. Looks at MICKY on floor. He opens his eyes and grins.

113 _____ 113

MICKEY in front of DANNY, he pats DANNY's cheek, swings briefcase on to table.

Clicks catches.

114 _____ 114

HODGES runs into evidence room, takes down three briefcases from shelf, frantically opening them...all three stuffed with paper...

Paper everywhere as she rummages through cases. Close on her, the realisation she's been had.

115 _____ 115

MICKEY lifts lid, briefcase full of cash. Everyone laughing, picking up money....

STACIE pops champagne;

116 _____ 116

MULLENS screaming into phone, an agitated HODGES standing by fax machine.

Fax machine purrs into life, a copy of MARTIN DEPALMA's Photo I.D comes through, with his name clearly on it.

A fat guy with moustache.

117 _____ 117

Fat guy with moustache, naked and handcuffed to bed where STACIE left him.

He has one of those novelty baseball caps with two cans on each side, straws leading to mouth. He takes drink.

118 _____ 118

Open on STACIE laughing, then DANNY shaking hands with DEPALMA.

MICKEY
Danny Blue...Neil Cooper.
(to DANNY)
This man defines the term con

NEIL
I'm just passing through, glad I
could help.

DANNY
(to MICKEY)
But you shot at me.

MICKEY
(grins;)
I missed, remember?

DANNY looks around the room taking it all in;

DANNY
So we're home free?

MULLENS and HODGES look at file, photos of crew etc.

NEIL (V.O., CONT'D)
Unless the police would like to go
to court and explain how the
investigation was led by one of the
accused...

HODGES rubbing face, defeated. MULLENS face clouds, then
puts file through the paper shredder.

DANNY looks at MICKEY, who beams, then turns away in complete
incredulity at the audacity...He looks back at ALBERT,
STACIE and NEIL....All four laugh uproariously;

ASH pats DANNY on back.

ASH
It's all in the detail kid.

ALBERT
(picks up champagne glass)
A toast!

Everyone turns to look at ALBERT;

120 CONTINUED:

120

ASH
(proudly;)
To Mickey Bricks' last score.
(a beat)
The end of an era.

A sudden melancholy hits room, smiles fade...

A moment;

(CONTINUED)

MICKEY
(raises glass)
You know the sweetest con of all?
(a beat)
To con another grifter.
(Looks at ALBERT)
Someone who should know better...

All bemused, then;

ASH
(realising)
You're not retiring!

MICKEY
Had to say something to get you
all together...

A moment, they stare at MICKEY... is he serious? A twinkle
in his eye...

It sinks in; Chaos again... Laughter, hugs... MICKEY looks
around the room, loving the people in it;

DANNY sidles up to MICKEY;

DANNY
It's not always about the money is
it Mick?

MICKEY
Here endeth the first lesson.

ASH grabs handful of cash from case and throws it up in air,
it rains down on scene like confetti....

START END MUSIC
AND FADE OUT;

DANNY's hands do a fancy shuffle with deck of cards, then
take three cards out, a Queen and two others;

He then turns them face down and shuffles around at speed.

Box moves down - a second appears above it. DANNY looks up
to camera - MICKEY, ALBERT, ASH and STACIE standing behind
him;

DANNY
(grin)
Choose.

120A CONTINUED:

120A

Hold on three cards through credits;

END CREDITS.

DANNY's hand enters frame, turns over Queen.

*

DANNY (cont'd)
(into camera, smiling)
You lose.

*

*

*

FADE TO BLACK.