

Losers Lounge

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19 th Draft 04-18-03

FADE IN

1 EXT. PASSIONVILLE ILLINOIS, 1948 -- EVENING 1

1948, Passionville Illinois South of Chicago near the Indiana Illinois border.

Passionville is a small rundown town, there are old buildings, the town square is almost dark. There is not much life in the town no people on the streets. Many of the old buildings are empty. One building with an old sign that reads 'Lisa Losers Lounge'.

CUT TO:

2 INT. JOEY'S OFFICE -- MOMENTS LATER 2
(REGINA CORNELIUS, JOEY FERDINANDO)

IN THE SAME BUILDING AS THE LOUNGE IS A SEPARATE DOOR THAT LEADS TO STEPS THAT LEAD TO A DARK HALLWAY. DOWN THE HALLWAY ANOTHER DOOR WITH A SIGN THAT READS 'JOEY FERDINANDO PRIVATE EYE'. INSIDE IS A OFFICE APARTMENT WHERE JOEY IS IMPATIENTLY LISTENING TO A YOUNG ATTRACTIVE WOMAN TALK.

REGINA CORNELIUS
Thank you for seeing me Mr.
Ferdinando.
(office camera)

Joey is behind his old broken down desk. He rolls his eyes.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Just call me Joey.
(sight- on camera)
What can I do for you?
(off camera)

CUT TO:

3 INT. JOEY'S OFFICE 3
(JOEY FERDINANDO, REGINA CORNELIUS)

Joey's office is very sparse. Besides his old desk and two chairs there is a couch that doubles as his bed.

Beside the couch is a small end table with a light and an old radio. The walls are old, dusty and dirty. There is an old poster hanging on the wall. A few books and old magazines are scattered about, some opened on the tables. There is a small kitchen table and an old refrigerator and a small stove. Joey looks bored. A young woman is on the other side of the desk talking.

REGINA CORNELIUS

Look I believe my husband, you know, Erwin the lawyer down at City hall is cheating on me. I didn't want to believe he would do such a thing. I asked him about it the other night and he denies he is doing anything wrong. Please Joey you have got to help me.

Joey picks up his pen writes something down on his pad of paper.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Look lady how do you know he is cheating. You know he is a big lawyer down at City Hall and I am sure from time to time he must work late or maybe he goes out to have some drinks with all the boys. You know those judges expect the lawyers to pickup the tab when they are out drinking with them. I have never seen a judge pay for a drink.

Regina is getting fidgety as she moves her body around trying not to get angry at Joey.

REGINA CORNELIUS

I just know. I mean if you were a woman you would understand what I am talking about. Please won't you help me?

Joey lays his pen and paper down looks up at the ceiling, shakes his head a little and looks the Woman in the eye.

JOEY FERDINANDO

OK look lady I'll take your case. I charge twenty dollars a day plus expenses. I need a one hundred dollar retainer.

Regina looks somewhat shocked.

REGINA CORNELIUS

Look Joey I don't have any money.
(MORE)

REGINA CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
 I mean if I did, I would give it to
 you.
 (softly)

Regina stands up and moves to the side of the desk closer
 to Joey.

REGINA CORNELIUS (CONT'D)
 My husband cut off my allowance. I
 have nothing!

She Opens her purse it is empty.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Why did he stop your allowance?
 What did you do?
 (Firmly)

REGINA CORNELIUS
 Nothing! I swear. I don't know why
 the old bast- I mean I don't know.
 (pause)
 Maybe it was because I asked him if
 he was having an affair.

Joey looks like he is getting upset.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Look Lady a guy like your husband
 doesn't just cut off allowances for
 a dame like you.
 (looking her over)
 If you don't tell me what really
 happen then there is no way I can
 take your case. Understand?

The Woman leans against Joey's desk. She looks around as if
 she is searching for an answer. She runs her hands through
 her hair. She looks down at the floor.

REGINA CORNELIUS
 He caught me.
 (softly)

JOEY FERDINANDO
 What? Caught you doing what?

Regina raises her head looks Joey in the eye. She is very
 animated with her hands.

REGINA CORNELIUS
 Well I was in my nightgown when the
 milkman came to collect. It was
 cold outside so I ask him to come
 into the house.
 (MORE)

REGINA CORNELIUS (CONT'D)

He told me how attractive I looked and that he thought I looked like Katharine Hepburn. Well one thing led to another and then, well the next thing I knew we were naked on the sofa and my husband walked in.

(brief pause)

But I know he was cheating on me first.

She shrugs her shoulder back, tilts her head.

REGINA CORNELIUS (CONT'D)

You know it's not my fault that men are attracted to me, I know what they want, I can tell by the way they look at me. But I swear that's the first time anything like that happen, I mean I am a married woman, I don't know why I let the milkman seduce me. Maybe he hypnotize me or something. Joey you've got to believe me.

(Pleading)

Please you must help me. I'll do anything. I mean anything.

(seductively)

She moves closer to Joey slowly removing her blouse and letting it drop to the floor. She grabs Joey's hand and places it just below her breast. She cresses and kisses Joey genially biting his ear. Her face is full of desire and lust.

Regina walks Joey over to his couch. The reflection of the shadow is on the wall as she undresses herself and then removes Joey's clothes.

DISSOLVE TO:

4 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- LATER THAT NIGHT
(GINGER, LISA LOSERS, SPEEDY, SERGEANT MONDAY)

4

Moving through the old doors of Lisa Losers Lounge. It is almost dark in the bar. Someone is playing the one arm bandit there are a few other customers setting at tables drinking and talking. The floors are dirty as are the walls. A jar of pickled eggs is on the bar with a label five cents each. A large sign reads 'Ask about today's pull-tab. \$50.00 winner every day.' A couple of guys are drinking beer talking with a scantily clad waitress, Ginger. Behind the bar is a woman, Lisa Losers, who is trying to read the paper when she is not drawing drinks. There is an election poster behind the bar to Reelect Mayor Paxton with his picture on it. Old Pinup

posters also hang on the wall with a couple of Navy posters. A guy, Speedy, is setting at the bar talking to Lisa who is trying to read the paper, she is not listening.

SPEEDY

You know baby you would really like it out west, man the weather is great none of this cold shit. When I was traveling with the band, man those were the days, I always loved the West Coast. Hell, I would still be playing if it wasn't for the Redneck down in Memphis. So did I ever tell you about that?

Lisa continues to read the paper.

LISA LOSERS

About a thousand Times Speedy. Why don't you play something now? I don't want the customers to get bored and leave!

SPEEDY

In a minute doll. I am thinking about splitting, this time I mean it, you'll see, you know maybe I'll jump up to New York. Man can you dig me in New York City, yeah, that's where all the action is, I mean even if I can't play because I lost my union card, You know I can act, maybe get a part in some Broadway Play or do something on Radio.

Lisa ignore's Speedy's question. Finally Speedy gets the point and gets up and goes to another table and starts talking to someone else. A man, Sergeant Frank Monday, in his early thirties comes inside the bar wearing a cheap wrinkled suit. He surveys the bar like a scout looking for the enemy. Ginger sees Sergeant Monday and approaches him.

GINGER

Frankie, where have you been for so long?

Sergeant Monday smiles and puts his arm around Ginger.

SERGEANT MONDAY

I've been busy. Me and the Captain work hard, it ain't easy keeping up with all the crooks.

GINGER

I guess it's hard work counting all that money. But I heard your wife has you on a short leash these days.

SERGEANT MONDAY

Baby, you know I wear the pants in my house. So did you miss me?

Ginger looks up at Sergeant Monday.

GINGER

Well Frankie there's not that much to miss!

(Playfully)

So did you come in to talk or get a free beer or what?

Sergeant Monday looks at Ginger lustfully and then looks at the back room. He gently pushes Ginger. The two go into the backroom. Speedy plays something on the piano.

FADE OUT:

5 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- LATER 5
(JOEY FERDINANDO, LISA LOSERS, MARIANA WALKER, GINGER)

Joey enters the bar he is wearing his trench coat he looks around the bar and goes over to where Lisa is still reading the paper.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Have you seen Razor?

Lisa looks up at Joey.

LISA LOSERS

No he has not been in yet today. Where have you been all day? I saw Regina that Lawyer's wife going up to your office earlier.
(inquisitively)

Joey starts to walk toward an empty table.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Look Lisa you know me, I've been working. It's a hard job but someone has to do it.
(Jokingly)

LISA LOSERS

You should be a little bit more choosy about who you do it do.

JOEY FERDINANDO

OK. How about a beer, and not all foam.

Razor arrives and sets down with Joey giving him some pictures. Lisa brings them both a small beer.

A young woman, Mariana Walker, enters the bar, she looks haggard and hungry, not frightened but worried. Her presence radiates sexuality. She approaches Lisa.

MARIANA WALKER

Hi, Are you the owner?

Lisa looks the young girl over.

LISA LOSERS

Look kid are you old enough to be in here?

Mariana hands Lisa a fake ID. Lisa looks at it, looks at Mariana. Lisa shakes her head a little.

LISA LOSERS (CONT'D)

Well it says you're old enough so I guess if you want to you can have a beer.

Mariana takes the fake ID back from Lisa.

MARIANA WALKER

No I was wanting a job.

(pause)

I am a real hard worker. I can do anything, cook, waitress, you name it and I can do it. Fred told me to ask you about a job.

(Almost pleading with Lisa)

Lisa takes a deep breath and looks down.

LISA LOSERS

Look, lets see its Mariana, you know we get a lot of rough lonely guys in here and well with someone like you, they are going to, you know, ask you out and well, if you turn them all down, all the time, they will take their business elsewhere.

(brief pause)

Do you know what I mean?

For a moment Mariana has a puzzled look on her face, then she understands what Lisa is saying.

MARIANA WALKER

Well I like dating guys and having fun, I mean there are some guys that I don't want to go out with, you know guys that are real mean. But yeah I would go out with some of them.

(MORE)

MARIANA WALKER (CONT'D)

(Looking at the people
in the bar)

But I am not a whore, I don't have
to do that. Do I?

LISA LOSERS

That's up to you. But with your
looks, anyway, You work weekends and
on Mondays when Ginger is off. If
that works out maybe later on I can
give you more hours. Can you start
now?

MARIANA WALKER

Sure.

Ginger returns from the back room with a bored look on her
face. Sergeant Frank Monday returns smiling like he swallowed
the cat. Sergeant Frank Monday spots Joey and Razor at a
table.

CUT TO:

6 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- CONTINUOUS 6
(SERGEANT MONDAY, RAZOR _, JOEY FERDINANDO)

Sergeant Frank Monday walks over to Joey's table. Joey looks
up into Sergeant Monday's eyes. Razor looks down and avoids
looking directly at Sergeant Monday.

SERGEANT MONDAY

Look what the cat dragged in !
(Pause)

Sergeant Monday walks closer to Joey's table.

SERGEANT MONDAY (CONT'D)

I just wondered how you peeping Toms
like hiding around watching other
people do it. That's a strange way
to get your rocks!
(disgustingly)

And Razor what do you know about
Jimmy passing some bad paper?

RAZOR _

Sergeant, I don't know nothing, I
ain't seen Jimmy in weeks.

Razor looks up at Joey who slowly gets up out of his chair.
Sergeant Monday looks Joey in the eyes and takes a step closer
to him.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Frankie

(pause)

Why are you always picking on Razor?

SERGEANT MONDAY

That's Sergeant Monday to you! And remember Joey, I wear the badge around here, so I wouldn't try anything if I were you.

Sergeant Frank Monday turns around.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Don't worry Frankie, now's not the time or the place. But someday you're gonna get what's coming to you!

Sergeant Monday walks away. Joey sets back down.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- CONTINUOUS (GINGER, LISA LOSERS)

7

Lisa is in the front of the bar with Mariana. Lisa motions over for Ginger. Ginger walks over to Lisa.

LISA LOSERS

Ginger this is Mariana. She is starting to work here today can you take Mariana to the backroom and find some sexy clothes that she can wear?

Ginger looks over Mariana.

GINGER

We're taking em kind of young aren't we? Sure. Come with me honey.

Ginger and Mariana walk toward the backroom.

DISSOLVE TO:

8 INT. THE BACKROOM -- CONTINUOUS (GINGER, MARIANA WALKER)

8

In the backroom is an old small bed, a chair off to one side, there is a small table with a radio on it, next to the table is a closet. Mariana looks at the room and the messed up bed remembering seeing Ginger and Sergeant Monday coming from the room. Mariana is staring at the bed.

GINGER

Honey look, what's your name?

MARIANA WALKER

Mariana.

GINGER

Mariana, look back during the War this was a real whorehouse. The backroom went back about twenty or thirty feet. Lets see there were about eight rooms. And honey those sailors from the Base would all come here. The girls were clean and we were a hell of a lot cheaper than those girls in Chicago.

(Watching Mariana's reaction)

You know I started working here in 44 and I was the favorite girl here. All the boys would tip me good, maybe one or two dollars over the ten we would charge. This wasn't some cheap three dollar whorehouse like on the South Side, No sir we had lots of big shots from Chicago come down here, honey I even did an assistant to the Governor in 45, god was he an ass hole. But Sweetie, you know sometime I miss those days. But well the Mayor told Lisa she had to close down the house, you know after he was elected and had been in office for a while. Except for Frank, I mean Sergeant Monday and Captain Morgan MacPhearson we are not allowed to screw any customers back here.

(pause)

GINGER (CONT'D)

And listen if the Captain or the Sergeant ever want anything from you, you give it to them, That's the way Lisa pay's off the heat. The Captain and the Sergeant are on the take, they shake down everyone, some people think they even shake down the Mayor! But if you pickup a trick you can take em to your apartment. Honey where do you live at?

MARIANA WALKER

Over on 18th Avenue in the Catacombs. Do you know the place?

Ginger is looking for some clothes for Mariana and hands Mariana a blouse.

GINGER

Yeah, I lived there for a couple years, hell I think everyone has lived there one time or another. Fred the Sup is OK he keeps out all the crazy people, just don't have a real loud party especially in the summer. And as long as you got your rent money he will most likely leave you alone. You met Fred haven't you?

Mariana looks down at the floor and blushes just a little.

MARIANA WALKER

Yes I met him.

(Softy)

So as long as I pay my rent he

GINGER

Yeah I see you met Fred,

(laughing)

Look honey just start paying your rent and maybe once in awhile you know every other month or so go see him. And look don't feel bad, beside Fred is a good guy, if you ever need anything he will help you out and he won't make you feel like you got to spread em.

(pausing)

Here this skirt should fit. Try it on.

Mariana moves out of the light to change. She looks very sexy in the outfit.

MARIANA WALKER

So Lisa was , a you know-

GINGER

No she ran the place. She was the Mayor's girl back then. She and the Mayor go back a ways. You know about the kid?

MARIANA WALKER

No.

GINGER

Well she has a son, lets see he is 19 now. He is in College at Champain - Urbana. Next year he will graduate, he'll be an Engineer. Most folks believe he is the Mayors boy and that the Mayor is paying for him to go to school.

MARIANA WALKER

What do you know about the guy in the trench coat.

GINGER

Honey that's Joey and he is way out of your league, that is until you marry some rich guy and want to get his money.

Mariana looks confused.

GINGER (CONT'D)

You see Joey is a private detective, and those gold diggers, you know the frustrated housewives, well they hire Joey to catch their cheating husbands and honey you know all husbands cheat, believe me I know.

Mariana is brushing her outfit off.

MARIANA WALKER

Has he always been a private Eye?

GINGER

No, he was a cop for a couple of years here in Passionville until last August and oh yeah he was a cop in Chicago but I heard he was kicked off the force. Also Joey tried to enlist after Pearl Harbor but the Army wouldn't take him. I'm not sure why.

(a brief pause)

Look if you want a job here you need to get hopping.

Mariana turns around as if she is modeling.

MARIANA WALKER

How do I look?

GINGER

Not that bad for some green kid.

But Ginger looks a little envious at the younger Mariana.

Mariana is ready to start to work and walks back into the bar.

DISSOLVE TO:

9 INT. JOE'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON TWO WEEKS LATER
 (JOEY FERDINANDO, MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON)

9

Joey is setting at his desk office drinking a cup of coffee and reading a book. Someone knocks on the door.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Its open.
 (yelling)

The door opens and a man older than Joey who is well dressed enters the office.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)

Mayor, what do I owe the honor of your visit? I'm fresh out of money for a campaign contribution.
 (jokeless)

The Mayor stands in front of the desk.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Yes good morning, wait you seem to always be a sleep in the morning so it must be late afternoon, anyway how are things going?

JOEY FERDINANDO

Come on Mayor you know I never sleep at night Remember I use to work the night shift that's when the crooks are out.

(pause)

You want to know how things are going? Things aren't too bad. But I am sure you didn't come down here to check out my health.

The Mayor looks Joey in the eyes.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Look Joey, you have got to drop the lawyer case. Erwin is a big political contributor and I don't want to stir anything up. I think you know what I mean.

(a brief pause)

I'll see to it that Erwin comes and thank you personally. Here read this.

The Mayor hands Joey a piece of paper.

JOEY FERDINANDO
All shit a statement from the milkman.
(reading the statement)
So what does the lawyer want?

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
You tell her he is not cheating on
her. He will start giving her the
allowance again, just get her calmed
down at least for a few months. OK

Joey sets the paper down on his desk.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Sure.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Thanks.

The Mayor gets up and leaves. Joey looks up at the ceiling
rolling his eyes exhales a big breath and shakes his head
no, wondering where his next client will come from.

DISSOLVE TO:

10 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- LATER THAT NIGHT 10
(SPEEDY, MARIANA WALKER, CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON, GINGER,
JOEY FERDINANDO, LISA LOSERS, RAZOR)

Speedy and Mariana are at the front of the Bar talking.

SPEEDY
Baby you know last night was great.
I mean it. You inspire me.

Mariana looks a little concerned.

MARIANA WALKER
Look Speedy I enjoyed last night,
but I don't want it to get too
serious. You are a nice guy.

Joey is finishing a beer Razor has gotten up and gone over
to the bar. Captain Morgan MacPhearson enters the bar and
Speedy moves to another table. The Captain looks at Joey, he
glares at him.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
Get the hell out of this bar now!
(Shouting)

The Captain takes a few steps toward Joey. Razor holds out his hand trying to stop the Captain. The Captain grabs Razor and pushes him to the side. Joey ignores him and continues to drink his beer. Lisa runs over to the Captain who appears to be a little drunk. She is trying to calm him down. Mariana goes over to Ginger.

MARIANA WALKER

What's going on? Who is that?

GINGER

That's Captain Morgan MacPhearson, remember I mentioned he would be visiting the Bar, he always wants me. Anyway about seven months ago when Joey was on the police force the Captain comes home early and he catches Joey in bed with his wife.

Mariana looks very surprised.

MARIANA WALKER

What happen?

GINGER

Well Joey hightailed it out of there. But later the Captain planted some stolen merchandise in Joey's apartment and Joey was kicked off the force. Even the Mayor couldn't help him. Did I tell you Joey and the Mayor are tight, I think Joey has something on the Mayor. Well the Mayor did help Joey get his Private Detective license.

Lisa finally gets the Captain calmed down. The Captain points at Mariana and ask Lisa about her. The Captain wants to take her to the back room but Lisa is concern that the Captain is a little drunk and upset at seeing Joey and might hurt Mariana. Ginger comes over to them as if offering herself to the Captain. The Captain pushes her away and motions for Mariana to come with him to the backroom. Mariana obliges and they go into the backroom. Joey gets up to leave and stops to speak to Lisa.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Do you want me to stay?

Lisa looks around then looks at Joey.

LISA LOSERS

No I think you should leave. Everything is OK. He won't hurt her. Everything will be fine.

Joey motions OK and walks out the door.

CUT TO:

11 INT. THE BACKROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

11

The door leading to the backroom just passed the bar has a large frosted glass on it. Mariana is taking off her clothes with the Captain looking lustfully at her. She only has her bra and panties on as the Captain lunges at her. The camera pulls back passed the door to watch the silhouette of the Captain ripping off the rest of her clothes and pushing her to the bed. People in the bar are going about as if nothing is happening as the camera moves out.

FADE OUT:

12 INT. THE BACKROOM -- LATER
(CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON, MARIANA WALKER)

12

Captain Morgan MacPhearson is finishing putting his clothes on. The Radio is playing. Mariana is dressed and is straightening out herself.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
That was all right kid you did good.
So kid what's your name?

Mariana looks up at the Captain.

MARIANA WALKER
Mariana Walker I'm from Kansas City.

The Captain looks like he is trying to remember something.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
So did you know a Evan Walker that
was a Road builder?

Mariana seems very surprised.

MARIANA WALKER
Yes, he was my father. He is dead.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
What happened?

MARIANA WALKER
He was killed in a car accident.
He was drunk, it was after I ran
away from home.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
Why did you run away from home?

MARIANA WALKER
 When he came home from the war he
 was different, he hurt me.

The Captain moves away from Mariana.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
 Did he beat you?

MARIANA WALKER
 No, not that. You know he used me.
 (sadly)

Mariana stops talking. She looks down at the floor. She almost sheds a tear. The Captain storms out of the backroom and out of the bar without saying a word to anyone. He has a very stern look on his face.

FADE OUT:

13 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- LATER THAT NIGHT 13
 (SPEEDY, LISA LOSERS)

The bar is closing. Mariana is leaving with Speedy. She has her arms around him. They are both laughing.

LISA LOSERS
 You guys be careful it is going to
 be a very cold night.

Slowly all the lights in the bar are turned off and Lisa leaves the bar.

FADE OUT:

14 INT. JOE'S OFFICE -- AFTERNOON A FEW DAYS LATER 14
 (JOEY FERDINANDO, REGINA CORNELIUS, RAZOR _)

It's afternoon, Joey is talking to the lawyer's wife who is seated at his desk.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Look Regina like I was telling you I
 followed your husband for the last
 two weeks, and he is not cheating on
 you.

Regina looks disappointed.

REGINA CORNELIUS
 Joey, that's hard to believe.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I know. There is more. I talked to him the other day. But you need to read this.

Joey hands her the paper the Mayor gave him.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)

As you see it's a notarized statement from the milkman saying you seduced him.

Regina throws the paper down on Joey's desk and starts to get up.

REGINA CORNELIUS

That no good cheating bastard can't get away with this.

Joey grabs her arm before she is able to get out of his reach.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Look sit down I said there is more.

Regina sets down grudgingly.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)

Your husband is going to start giving you your allowance again, just like before. But if he hears of you fooling around again he will divorce you and with this statement you won't get a damn thing. Now I think he is being generous. He could divorce you now and you would be out on the streets, so my advice is to accept his offer.

Regina is starting to cry a little. Joey gets up and goes over to her. He hands her a Kleenex.

REGINA CORNELIUS

What am I going to do?

(pause)

I mean didn't what happen with us mean anything to you?

(Pleading)

I thought you were on my side!

(angry)

Joey moves back and takes a deep breath.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Look Lady, what happen meant one hundred dollars that I didn't collect.

(MORE)

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)

Hell as much as you enjoyed yourself you should have paid me. Let me tell you something you ain't that great in bed, I've had better.

REGINA CORNELIUS

That's a terrible thing to say to me. I saw the lust in your eyes, you wanted me the moment that you saw me. Come on Joey you want me now don't you? I can tell.

She moves her hand over top Joey's crouch and starts to unzip his pants as she gently bites his ear. Joey pushes her away and moves back.

JOEY FERDINANDO

This time no dice , didn't you hear what I said. If he catches you again it's all over. So you need to be a good girl.

(a brief pause)

Or at least don't get caught.

Regina gets up and leaves, Joey walks her to the door. Joey comes back and sets at his desk. Razor comes into the office.

RAZOR _

So how did it go? She looks upset boss. We got any more clients?

Joey shrugs his shoulders, and rolls his eyes.

JOEY FERDINANDO

As far as that dame goes, don't bet on a long marriage.

(a long sigh)

I don't know Razor. You know I wish I could get out of this racket. I'd rather be a cop on the beat trying to catch crooks. I enjoyed trying to outsmart them, it's like a game of poker, it's twenty percent luck and eighty percents smarts.

RAZOR _

Well I'm kind of glad you ain't a cop no more boss, you know too many of my buddies are on the shady side of things. But if you hadn't help me out I'd probably be in Joliet now doing 15 to life.

Joey gets up and motions for Razor to come along

JOEY FERDINANDO

Let's go get a drink.

They head out the door.

FADE OUT:

15 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- LATER THAT EVENING 15
(SPEEDY, MARIANA WALKER, RICH, JOEY FERDINANDO, LISA LOSERS,
GINGER)

Joey and Razor are in the bar having a drink. Speedy is setting at a table and Mariana is standing there they both look upset.

MARIANA WALKER

I don't understand why you take all those pills. You're always taking them! Sometimes you act like a crazy person .

Speedy stands up.

SPEEDY

Yeah I don't know why you have to go screw every man that walks in the bar.

(angrily)

MARIANA WALKER

Look Speedy I told you not to get too serious and for the record I don't screw every man that walks into the bar. You're just pissed that I went out with this guy last night. But you were so out of it that you didn't even notice that I was here. You need to grow up! I've got to get back to work.

Mariana is working and brings a new guy a drink, Rich.

RICH

So what's your baby?

Mariana is trying to be nice but she is annoyed.

MARIANA WALKER

Mariana.

Rich is touching Mariana arm giving her the once over.

RICH

So you had a fight with your
boyfriend? So what time to get get
off work? How would you like to go
out with a real man?

Rich is touching Mariana as she tries to move back.

MARIANA WALKER

Look, just drink your drink. I've
got work now!

Rich grabs at Mariana and Mariana tries to get him to behave
but he is persistent.

RICH

Come on baby I got just what you
need! You know you want it.

He tries to wrestle her to the floor. Joey jumps up and
decks Rich with a right hand. Mariana is a little shaken up.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Are you OK?

Mariana dust herself off.

MARIANA WALKER

Yeah I am fine. Thank you. I

Mariana starts to cry.

MARIANA WALKER (CONT'D)

Why do they treat me this way? Why?

Lisa comes over and looks at Rich still on the floor who is
just regaining consciousness.

LISA LOSERS

Mariana, why don't you go home, take
the rest of the night off. Come on
back to work tomorrow.

MARIANA WALKER

Ok.
(crying a little)

JOEY FERDINANDO

Do you want me to walk you home?

Mariana doesn't answer she just takes his arm and they leave
the Lounge.

Ginger is very upset when she sees Joey leave with Mariana.

FADE OUT:

16 INT. IN THE HALLWAY OF MARIANA'S APARTMENT -- LATER 16
(MARIANA WALKER, JOEY FERDINANDO)

Mariana and Joey are in the hallway of her apartment.

MARIANA WALKER
Would you like to come in for some
coffee?

(inviting)

JOEY FERDINANDO
Sure

They enter Mariana's small apartment.

DISSOLVE TO:

17 INT. MARIANA' APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS 17
(JOEY FERDINANDO, MARIANA WALKER)

The apartment is almost bare except for a bed and a small table with a hot plate and one chair and a small dresser by the bed with a 5 by 7 picture on top of it. Joey looks around the apartment as he sits down in on the bed. He looks at the picture. It is of a man and a very young girl.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Is that you in the picture?

Mariana looks up at the picture and then back at Joey.

MARIANA WALKER
Yes, that's me when I was nine years
old. That's my father Evan. That's
the way I try to remember him.

Mariana sits down on the bed beside Joey.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Did he die during the war?

Mariana lowers her head.

MARIANA WALKER
No he was killed in a car accident
last year. He was in the army but
he was injured and discharged. The
accident was after I ran away from
home.
(sadly)

JOEY FERDINANDO
Where are you from Mariana?

MARIANA WALKER

Kansas City. I keep the picture because that's the way I want to remember him. I was thirteen when he was discharged, I had been living with my aunt and uncle. My Mother was in a mental Hospital. She had a break down when he went into the army.

Mariana gets up picks up the picture looks at it and takes it back to the chair and sits down.

JOEY FERDINANDO

What happen to you after father when he returned?

Mariana looks down at the table.

MARIANA WALKER

He would drink a lot. One night he had been drinking and he ask me to come sleep with him. Then he started to touch me, and,
 (pausing taking a
 deep breath)
 Well you know he used me, sexually.

Joey looks her in the eye. She is almost ready to cry.

JOEY FERDINANDO

That's OK I get the picture.

Mariana hold's out her hand like she is stopping Joey.

MARIANA WALKER

I felt terrible I believed it was my fault. He kept on doing that to me. When I was fourteen he made me quit school. We were having a hard time making it living off his disability payments. I did laundry for people. Right before my fifteenth birthday I got pregnant. He took me to someone to take care of it. Something went wrong and I ended up in the hospital for two weeks. They told me I could never have children. After that he left me alone for awhile. Then he started again. I ran away from home before my eighteenth birthday, first to St Louis where this church took me in and found a place for me to live, but before long the man in the house where I was staying, well he with started in on me, you know sex,

(MORE)

MARIANA WALKER (CONT'D)
 so I left there and came here. Joey
 why did this happen to me.
 (crying)

Mariana hugs Joey she is still crying. Joey kisses her forehead. Mariana hugs him harder. Then he kisses her on the mouth. She rubs her hand in his hair and they continue to kiss. She looks up at Joey.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 You know you got a bum rap but you've
 got to keep on going. What's up
 with you and Speedy?

MARIANA WALKER
 Oh, I like Speedy, I mean he's OK
 you know, but well it's just Physical.

Joey nods his head. He stares at Mariana and starts kissing her with passion. They kiss passionately for awhile.

MARIANA WALKER (CONT'D)
 Please Joey stay with me tonight.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 I don't know if I should, I want to,
 but look, I don't want you to think
 of me like all the rest.

MARIANA WALKER
 How could I.. Please stay with me.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Mariana, I won't let anyone hurt you
 again.

Joey kisses her again and he hugs her.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

18 INT. MARIANA' APARTMENT -- LATER ABOUT 3:30 AM

18

Mariana is asleep in her bed. As the Camera pulls back we see she is alone. It is dark in her room with the light only showing on her face. Something falls to the floor. Mariana moves her head but doesn't wake-up. A silhouette of a person who slowly puts his hand around Mariana's neck. Mariana wakes and tries to scream but the person uses their arm to block her mouth. She struggles and kicks, kicking off most of the sheets from her naked body. The person grunts as he applies more pressure to her neck. Finally there is no movement. She is dead. The person removes their hands and stares at her for a moment. He surveys the room, starts to leave, stops

and grabs the picture of Mariana and her father that Mariana had on her dresser, then he leaves.

DISSOLVE TO:

19 INT. JOE'S OFFICE -- LATER 3:45 AM

19

Joey comes into his office-apartment door. He looks very confused, maybe angry. He looks at his hands and shakes his head no. He pours himself a tall drink of whiskey and gulps it down. He throws the glass to the floor and puts his head between his hands, shaking his head.

DISSOLVE TO:

20 EXT. JOE'S OFFICE -- MORNING 10:30 AM
(JASON CAMPBELL, JOEY FERDINANDO, SERGEANT MONDAY, CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON)

20

Joey is asleep on his couch when with a thunderous noise two men bust into his office. It's Sergeant Monday and Jason Campbell a uniformed police officer. The Sergeant has his gun drawn. Joey wakes up and is mad.

JOEY FERDINANDO

What's the big idea.

SERGEANT MONDAY

Put your hands up. Where is your piece?

Joey slowly raises his hand and points with his finger to the table. Jason gets Joey's gun.

SERGEANT MONDAY (CONT'D)

Go tell the Captain it's OK to come in.

Jason leaves the room.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Why didn't you knock?

Sergeant Monday is looking at the stuff on Joey's desk.

SERGEANT MONDAY

I did knock and someone said come in. Where were you last night?

Joey slowly lowers his hands as he puts his trousers on.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I can't remember, that was too long ago.

(sarcastically)

Sergeant Monday pushes Joey back into the couch and slugs him in the face.

SERGEANT MONDAY

You better cooperate with us, you're in big trouble.

Captain MacPhearson and Jason Campbell come into the room. The Captain looks around the room and looks at Joey who is rubbing his chin where Sergeant Monday hit him.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Sergeant, let's not ruff him up too much.

(pause)

Save some for me.

Joey looks around the room as he slowly sets up.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON (CONT'D)

Look Joey we know you went to Mariana's house last night and you didn't get back here until almost 4:00 AM. Is that right.

JOEY FERDINANDO

So what, last time I looked that's not a crime.

Joey gets back up off the couch looking at the Captain.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

So how was she when you left.

Joey looks a little confused by the question.

JOEY FERDINANDO

She was asleep.

The Captain moves closer to Joey, almost face to face.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Well someone made sure she didn't wake up this morning.

Joey shakes his head in disbelief.

JOEY FERDINANDO

What do you mean?

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
She is dead, she was strangled last
night.

The Captain turns to Jason Campbell.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON (CONT'D)
Cuff him!

Joey tries to move back as Sergeant Monday grabs him.

JOEY FERDINANDO
You don't have anything on me! Look
Captain this is going too far all
because of your wife!

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
This has nothing to do with her.
You're suppose to be a smart cop.
What would you do if someone was the
last known person to talk to a dead
man?

Joey doesn't reply.

SERGEANT MONDAY
Answer the Captain!

Joey looks around the room.

JOEY FERDINANDO
I would question any suspect. But I
didn't kill her. You know me, I
couldn't do something like that.
(emotional)

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
Maybe not, but your coming down to
headquarters for questioning.

The Captain and Sergeant Monday leave the room. They turn
to look at Joey then each other.

SERGEANT MONDAY
I guess you were right Captain.

The two leave the room

JASON CAMPBELL
Joey I'm sorry but orders are orders.

Joey is cuffed and they leave his office.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

21 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM -- LATER THAT NIGHT 21
 (CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON, JOEY FERDINANDO, JASON CAMPBELL,
 SERGEANT MONDAY, MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON)

In a small room with a light hanging from the ceiling above a small table, Joey is setting; Captain MacPhearson and Sergeant Monday are standing moving about. The room is dark except for the light from the ceiling.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
 OK go over what happen one more time.

Joey looks tired. He takes a deep breath and exhales.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Look Captain how many times do I
 need to tell you what happened.

Jason Campbell a uniformed police officer enters the room with a piece of paper. He hands it to the Captain who reads it and moves his head up and down a little. He hands the piece of paper to Sergeant Monday. Sergeant Monday reads the notes looks at the Captain and then at Joey. Sergeant Monday hands the piece of paper back to the Captain.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
 OK you claim you left Walker's
 apartment at about 3:15 AM is that
 correct?

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Yes, I told you that a hundred times.

The Captain throws the paper down beside Joey. Joey picks up the paper and reads it. It is the corner's report.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)
 Hum, The corner's report. It says
 the time of death is sometime between
 2:30- 3:30 AM,
 (Pause as if thinking)
 So maybe the killer was in the room
 about the time that I left.

The Captain grabs the paper from Joey. Just then the Mayor bursts into the room.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 What the hell is going on here? !
 (Loudly demanding)

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
That girl at

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
I know! Look Captain you damn well
better have some evidence against
Joey, Understand? Good god man you
can't question someone for eight
hours straight! Now leave us alone
for a few minutes!

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
I'm afraid I can't do that Sir.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Captain do you want me to call the
Chief. Now get the hell out of here.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
You know, I know more about Joey
than you think. I know what happen
in the past. It makes me sick to
think what he has done. This time
things have gotten out of hand and
Mayor you can't protect him.

The Captain and Sergeant Monday reluctantly leave the room.
The Mayor sits down and looks Joey in the face.

JOEY FERDINANDO
I did not kill Mariana the police
are wasting time interrogating me.
They should be looking for the real
killer. I'm Not positive I think I
may have an idea of who did it.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Look Joey you had better find the
killer fast. The Captain is a loose
cannon. You and I don't need this
kind of scrutiny we have too much to
loose.

Joey shakes his head in agreement. The Mayor opens the door
and the Captain and Sergeant Monday return to the room.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON (CONT'D)
Release him now!

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
But your Honor, he

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Now!

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
OK you are free to leave, but
understand you are our number one
suspect. I am calling the Prosecutor
and requesting that he convene a
Grand Jury to Investigate this
terrible murder. If they indite
you, even the Mayor won't be able
to help you then.

The Captain and Sergeant Monday leave the room slamming the
door. Joey gets up as the Mayor opens the door for him.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Look you don't have much time. Tell
me what you know.

Joey looks up at the Mayor.

JOEY FERDINANDO
I was with her last night, I left
her apartment at about 3:15. The
coroner's report said she was killed
between 2:30 and 3:30. So the killer
may been there before I left. There
was a fight at the bar last night.
This guy was getting ruff with Mariana
so I decked him. I don't know who
he is but maybe he followed us and
killed her.

The Mayor nods his head as he and Joey slowly move to the
door.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
What about the girl. She was just a
kid. Every time you get messed up
with some young kid you get yourself
in trouble. This time at least she
was 18 and not a Judge's daughter.

Joey looks upset.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Look don't preach to me now. Mariana
had a hard life. She was abused by
her father The girl deserved better
than this.
(pause)
I'm exhausted I haven't had anything
to eat all day. I'm going over to
Lisa's.

They both leave the Interrogation room.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

22 INT. CITY HALL -- MOMENTS LATER 22
(RAZOR _, JOEY FERDINANDO, MARTHA, ERWIN CORNELIUS)

Joey walks down the hallway at City Hall, the hallway is dark and dirty. There is no one in the hallway. Joey sees Razor and walks toward him. Joey leans against the wall as Razor comes closer. Razor looks worried.

RAZOR _
Are you OK boss?

The two walk down the hallway.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Yes I am fine, do you know who the bum was that I decked out the night before in the bar?

RAZOR _
No boss I never seen him before.
(a brief pause)
Boss the Captain's got the word on the street that you're the killer. I think some people believe you did it.

Just then Erwin Cornelius, the Lawyer comes around the corner with a young woman with him. Erwin, who had not heard about Joey, is happy to see Joey.

ERWIN CORNELIUS
Joey,
(Shakes hands with
Joey)
This is Martha, my uh, my assistant.

Joey looks at her like he knows better.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Madam

MARTHA
Pleased to meet you Joey. You know I heard all about you.
(Looking Joey over
from head to toe)

ERWIN CORNELIUS
I want to thank you for helping me out, uh, with my wife's case. Here. Take this for your trouble. In a couple of months I am going to dump my two-timing wife.
(MORE)

ERWIN CORNELIUS (CONT'D)

I just need to get some money transferred first. Right now, she believes she won't get any money. But when she finds out she can, I know she will go after me. My plan is to go after the little cunt first. You really helped me out. I appreciate it.

The Lawyer hands Joey five twenty dollar bills.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Thank you, uh good luck with everything.

ERWIN CORNELIUS

Joey you look like beat, like you could use some rest.

Erwin and Martha leave. Joey turns to Razor.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I guess the word hadn't reached our lawyer friend.

Joey hands two twenties to Razor.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)

Here take this it could be a while before I get another case or any money.

Razor looks at the money and hands one of the twenties back to Joey.

RAZOR _

Boss I think you need this more than I do.

Joey takes the money.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Thanks, let's get over and see Lisa, maybe she knows who the jerk was last night.

RAZOR _

Boss, I was talking to Jason, you know the flatfoot. And me told me that the Prosecutor is convening a Grand Jury tomorrow for five days to look into the murder.

(MORE)

RAZOR _ (CONT'D)

(Looking around to
make sure is listening
to them)

He told me he would keep his eyes
and ears open.

Joey nods his head and they both start to leave. Joey is very tired As they are leaving City Hall Jason Campbell, a uniformed police officer stops them. The police officer looks around to make sure no one sees him. Joey turns to Razor as they are walking out.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Look Razor, I don't have a lot of
time to catch the real murder.

Razor nods his head as the two walk down the hallway.

CUT TO:

23 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- LATER THAT EVENING
(LISA LOSERS, JOEY FERDINANDO)

23

The bar is almost empty. Lisa is working alone. She runs up to Joey.

LISA LOSERS

Are you OK?
(caring)

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yes do you know ,

Lisa does not let him finish, first looking around to be sure no one can hear her.

LISA LOSERS

Joey I don't know how to say this
but I suspect that Ginger may have
had something to do with Mariana's
murder. Ginger was real mad when
you left with Mariana last night and
I believe she was the one who told
the police that you left with Mariana.

Joey looks surprised.

JOEY FERDINANDO

But Mariana was strangled!

LISA LOSERS

Joey you know Ginger is almost as
strong as a guy.

(MORE)

LISA LOSERS (CONT'D)

Remember all the men she has belted when they tried to hit up on her and she wasn't interested?

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yeah, I remember. Where is she.

LISA LOSERS

That's the strange part, she sent word that she would not be in today and she almost never skips work.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Lisa who was the bum last night?

Joey looks tired. They all take a chair at a table up front.

LISA LOSERS

I don't know much about him. I think his name is Rich and that he was either just passing through or would be leaving town soon.

Joey is exhausted after being interrogated all day and into the night.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Have you seen Speedy?

LISA LOSERS

Yeah, he came around lunch time he was all shaken up. He found her body early this morning. He has been popping pills ever since then. He looks about three steps from death. I sent him over to Kathy's place to get some rest.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Lisa do you think you could rustle up something for me to eat.

Lisa looks at Joey and shakes her head yes.

LISA LOSERS

Joey I'll fix a sandwich for you but you look tired go up to your room and get some sleep and Razor and I will try to find out about the guy, beside Ginger won't be back at work tomorrow evening.

Joey looks at the clock it is almost eleven thirty. He nods his head OK. Lisa leaves the table.

Lisa returns with a sandwich and a small beer. Joey eats some of the sandwich and takes a big gulp of the beer. He stands up and turns to Razor.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Razor wake me up before 9:30
tomorrow.

Joey walks out of the bar. Razor goes over to where Lisa is standing. They have a concerned look on their face.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

24 INT. BACK IN JOEY'S APARTMENT -- DAY 11:30 AM
(JOEY FERDINANDO, RAZOR _, SPEEDY)

24

Razor is waking Joey up.

JOEY FERDINANDO
What time is it?

RAZOR _
It's 11:30 boss but don't get mad I've been out working. I went to Ginger's apartment and she wasn't there but I ran into her neighbor who works the second shift at the printing plant. This guy had to work overtime the night of the murder and he came home at about 4:00 AM and he saw Ginger coming into the apartment building then. And yeah boss Rich was some kind of salesman who should be back in town before the week is over.

Joey is putting his clothes on as Razor was talking.

JOEY FERDINANDO
I wonder if Ginger was the person who killed Mariana? I never figured she would do something like that. You know she wasn't a bad kid as far as dames go.

Razor looks like he is thinking of a reply.

RAZOR _
You're right boss but you know them dames when they get all worked up they can, well god help their victim.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Come on Razor let's get over to the lounge and catch Ginger.

RAZOR _

She ain't there boss, Lisa told me she would be back in by six o'clock. And boss Speedy is leaving town tonight. He is catching the 7:15 for DC. He is down stairs do you want to talk to him.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yeah, tell him to come here.

Razor goes to the door and yells.

RAZOR _

Come on the boss wants to talk to you.

Joey and Razor sit down on the couch after Joey pulls a chair for Speedy to sit in. Speedy comes into the room. His eyes are bloodshot he looks sick.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Sit down Speedy. You look terrible!

SPEEDY

Yeah man I feel worse than I look. Look no offense but you didn't do it did you?

JOEY FERDINANDO

No Speedy
(Pause)
Where is your suitcase? Razor tells me your leaving town.

SPEEDY

It's on my back man, I hocked everything I had, to get a train ticket to DC.

Speedy starts shaking he rubs his face.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Speedy you look like you could use a drink?

Joey reaches under the couch for his bottle. He hands it to Speedy.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)

Just take a big shot don't drink it all!

Speedy takes the bottle from Joey and takes a slug. Coughs and hands the bottle back to Joey.

SPEEDY

Thanks man, I had to sell all my shit, it's kind of ruff.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Speedy, I'm trying to find out who killed Mariana what do you remember about that night.

Speedy becomes upset he almost starts to cry.

SPEEDY

I don't know man, she was a real nice kid.

(pause)

I kind of remember us having a big fight at the bar, after that things are real fussy.

RAZOR _

Boss, he went over to Laraine's place about an hour after you left the bar.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Damn Speedy, Laraine is almost old enough to be your mother!

SPEEDY

I think she had some shit, you know me man I do anything to get some dope. But I don't remember going there.

RAZOR _

Boss he left Laraine's at about 8:00 AM went over to Mariana's apartment, he discovered the body.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Is that true?

SPEEDY

I don't know man. I remember talking to Sergeant Monday and I knew she was dead. I was real broken up.

RAZOR _

Boss I checked it out he didn't leave Laraine's until 8:00 AM.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Speedy, do you remember what Sergeant Monday ask you and was the Captain there?

SPEEDY

I remember a little, they knew where I was I mean I remember them saying that I was at Laraine's last night. They ask me if you went home with Mariana, I told them I couldn't remember. The Captain got real mad, he told me to get the hell out of Passionville fast if I knew what was good for me. He ask Sergeant Monday something about Ginger, but I couldn't hear everything that they said. Then the Captain pushed me down on the floor and kicked me, he told Sergeant Monday something, I don't know. Man, that's all I remember, I swear.

Joey looks in his pocket and hands Speedy some small bills.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Use this for food. Understand. So who do you know in DC?

Speedy takes the money and gets up.

SPEEDY

Thank's man, I know this cat there, he's cool, you know what I mean, and maybe I can get straight. Joey, you catch that SOB that killed her!

Speedy leaves. Joey looks around the room shakes his head.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Razor are you hungry?

RAZOR _

You know me boss I can eat anytime.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Good let's go up to the The Gerst House to get something to eat, time we get back Ginger should be at work. I could use a good German meal now, something to really fill me up. No other word on the Rich character?

RAZOR _

No boss, he won't be back in town for a few more days.

The two leave Joey's office.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

25 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- EVENING 25
(GINGER, LISA LOSERS, JOEY FERDINANDO, RAZOR _)

Just inside the doorway of the bar, Joey turns his head.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Razor go see if you find Tommy, he
stills owes me thirty bucks!

Joey enter the lounge. Lisa is talking to Ginger who stares at Joey in an angry sort of way. A couple of customers also look at Joey with disbelief on their face. Joey go over to Lisa and Ginger. Ginger turns away but Lisa grabs her.

LISA LOSERS
Ginger you need to talk to Joey.

Ginger looks at Joey and Lisa. She is getting mad.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Ginger lets go into the backroom I
want to ask you some questions.

GINGER
I don't screw murders!
(loud)

JOEY FERDINANDO
You don't have to worry neither do
I!

Ginger stares at Joey.

GINGER
What the hell is that supposed to
mean?

They both stare at each other for a few moments until Ginger snaps her head back and walks toward the backroom. Lisa watches as they go to the back room. She shakes her head as if she is sick, then looks down.

CUT TO:

26 INT. THE BACKROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 26
(GINGER, JOEY FERDINANDO, RAZOR _)

Joey and Ginger are in the backroom. Both are standing.

Ginger is walking around circling Joey.

GINGER

You know the Captain told me.

(pause)

So why did you kill her? Wouldn't she give you a blow job?

JOEY FERDINANDO

I didn't kill her, but I think that maybe you did.

(angrily)

GINGER

You're crazy! Why would I kill the little slut?

JOEY FERDINANDO

So where were you the night of the murder and the next day?

GINGER

None of your damn business. You ain't no cop any more.

(angrily)

JOEY FERDINANDO

I just made it my business. Where were you?

(pushy)

GINGER

Look I got no reason to kill her, none! You were the one who was with her last.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Well maybe you were jealous of Mariana, she was younger than you, all the regulars were hitting up on her, and maybe you were jealous that I took Mariana home.

GINGER

Fuck You!

Ginger turns to leave, Joey grabs her, Ginger starts to knee him but stops. Joey lets her go.

Ginger doesn't say anything for a few moments. Ginger almost breaks down looking everywhere but into Joey's eyes.

GINGER (CONT'D)

You are right I was jealous of her She was young, and pretty. She was everything I used to be.

(MORE)

GINGER (CONT'D)

And yes, I was angry that you took her home, because,
 (pausing)
 You never took me home. Why didn't you ever want to be with me?
 (crying)

JOEY FERDINANDO

Look Ginger, I am no good, I mean anytime I get involved with a woman bad things end up happening to her. Sometimes a lot worse than what happened to Mariana. I hate myself after I get real close to a woman. I know I shouldn't. You can thank your lucky stars we never got together.

GINGER

Well, you mean it? I don't know...

JOEY FERDINANDO

Hey, you're still a terrific dame, all right?

GINGER

Thanks, Joey.

JOEY FERDINANDO

But listen, I still need to know where you were when Mariana was murdered.

Ginger takes a deep breath and dries up the last of her tears with a Kleenex.

GINGER

I was with the Mayor the night of the murder. The Mayor has a trick apartment and sent word to me to meet him there. I went there and we decided to go into the city the next day. The Mayor wanted to get me something nice. So I went back to my apartment at about 4:00 AM to clean up and we caught the 6:00 AM for Chicago and I didn't get back to my apartment until about 10:30 PM last night. Please don't tell Lisa.

Joey shakes his head.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Oh Ginger, I mean how, well it's none of my business.

Ginger is stopping crying.

GINGER

Joey I am sorry about what I said.
Can I ask you a question?

Joey believes her. Beside the mayor will backup her story.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Sure.

GINGER

Have you ever been married?

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yes, I was just a Kid, 19. I had just started working on the Chicago police force, night beat. Kim had just turned 17. She was like a dream, long dark hair, dark complexioned, very thin, very hot blooded. Well the truth is she became bored because I was working the night shift. The marriage didn't last a year. She left me for some two bit clown, you know some rough looking big guy. I haven't seen her since,

GINGER

Did you try to look her up?

JOEY FERDINANDO

No I believe she moved somewhere South, maybe Nashville, but I am not sure.

(pause)

I guess that just leaves Rich as a suspect in the murder.

(as if thinking out loud)

What do you know about Rich.

Ginger wipes the last of her tears off.

GINGER

Nothing much. Did Lisa tell you about Mariana's uncle?

Joey looks surprised

JOEY FERDINANDO

What?

GINGER

Well Lisa told me that the morning after the murder, this guy comes in
(MORE)

GINGER (CONT'D)

and asks for Mariana. Lisa ask who he was and he says he was her uncle who also lives in Kansas City. Lisa tells him she was found dead and Lisa told me there was no expression on his face, no shock, no grief, he just said 'oh well' and left I believe she said he was staying in Chicago. Don't you think that's strange?

JOEY FERDINANDO

Hum, Ginger what did The Captain say to you?

Ginger looks up at Joey.

GINGER

He said that he thought you did it, that you were upset about not having any clients and that she must have said something that set you off. He told me there was no sign of a forced entry and that you were the last person to see her alive. He told me he had witnesses of you entering and leaving the apartment.

JOEY FERDINANDO

But he still has no good motive, I mean you know me, and I am not a hot head, well maybe I am just a little, but it takes a lot to set me off.

Razor shouts through the door.

RAZOR _

Look boss I am sorry but Lisa just told me about the uncle. And a cop told Lisa the uncle would be down to the City hall tonight to fill out some paper work as the next of kin.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Thanks Razor, I'll get down there, do you know what he looks like.

RAZOR _

Yeah boss. Want me to go with you?

JOEY FERDINANDO

No, you get down to Carl's, he knows every drifter that comes into down. I'll Catch you later.

RAZOR _

Ok boss.

They all leave the backroom. Joey puts his arms around Ginger and she looks up at him and understands what he is trying to say with his actions.

CUT TO:

27 INT. CITY HALL -- LATER
(JOEY FERDINANDO, TOM WALKER, JASON CAMPBELL)

27

Joey are walking down a dark corridor. No one is there. Joey see a shadow. An older man is walking down the hallway. Joey goes up to the stranger.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Are you Tom Walker.

TOM WALKER

Who wants to know?

They both stop walking.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I'm Joey Ferdinando, I knew Mariana.

TOM WALKER

So you're the one who killed her.
(nonchalant)

JOEY FERDINANDO

No, I didn't kill her, but I have some ideas of who may have. You don't seem all that broken up about her death. Where were you the night she was killed.

TOM WALKER

Look I don't have to tell you a damn thing. You ain't no cop. I don't care about the little slut. She got what was coming to her!

(pause)

But if you really care where I was, I was on an overnight train here to see her to get her to sign some papers.

JOEY FERDINANDO

So you didn't like Mariana.

TOM WALKER

No, its because of her that my brother is dead. You want to know what happen, you really want to know?

(pausing)

You see when Evan, my brother, came home from the war he couldn't get a job because of the war injury. Well she was 13 years old but acted like she was 17 years old, she was dating all kinds of men, lots older then she was. Well one night when she was about 15 my brother had been out drinking and when he came home she seduced him. The next day Evan felt terrible, then a little later he found out she was pregnant. Well he took care of it, and for a few months she calmed down. Then it started up again. She would stay out all night with all kinds of men. Evan told her she had to stop and she told him she would tell everyone he raped her. He got mad and struck her. The next day she ran away. A few days later Evan was drinking, he came over to see me and told me what had happened. On his way back home he was in a car accident and killed. She was just a bad girl , I mean she was a slut, believe me I know. That's all I got to say. Understand?

JOEY FERDINANDO

Wait a minute, she stayed with you while your brother was away during the war, isn't that right.

TOM WALKER

I don't have anything else to say.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yeah I bet I know what kind of uncle you were.

Tom pushes Joey away and walks away. Joey is mad.

Jason Campbell, a police officer comes up and looks around to make sure no one sees him

JASON CAMPBELL

Look Joey it looks like the Grand Jury will have their report in two days and things are not looking good for you.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Thanks for the information. Don't worry about me.

Jason leaves.

CUT TO:

28 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- AFTERNOON THE NEXT DAY 28
(SERGEANT MONDAY, RAZOR _)

Razor is at a table alone. Sergeant Monday comes over to his table and sits down.

SERGEANT MONDAY

Well it looks like your boy will be taking a long vacation, and it couldn't have happen to a nicer guy. Now no one will be able to keep the heat off you. You know Razor your free ride is over, its time to start paying rent, if you get my drift. So tomorrow night have one hundred bucks, that's for me and the Captain to split. WE know you run some numbers and do a little book, I hear from time to time you fence some ice, so one hundred dollars a month ain't going to hurt you none.

RAZOR _

Look Sergeant I ain't got that kind of money, I stopped fencing when I moved from the city, and I do good to clear twenty dollars a week on the numbers, you know my rent is thirty bucks a month, you know, give me a break?

SERGEANT MONDAY

Look I ain't asking! I am telling! The Captain wanted to charge you more but I told him you were just a washed up hood. But you better have that one hundred dollars tomorrow, you know your eye sight ain't too good and I sure would hate to hear about you falling down a couple of flights of stairs, it will be night soon ,so you better hightail it out of here and get the money. Understand?

Razor stands up.

RAZOR _

Please Sergeant Monday, I'm begging you, Ain't no way I can get that kind of money. I would be hard pressed to pay you fifty bucks a month. Please can you help me out?

SERGEANT MONDAY

No! I don't give a shit about your personal problems. You better have the hundred bucks tomorrow night.

Sergeant Monday pushes Razor aside and storms out of the bar with Razor almost in tears.

CUT TO:

29 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- LATER THAT NIGHT
(GINGER, JOEY FERDINANDO, LISA LOSERS)

29

(JOEY FERDINANDO, LISA LOSERS, GINGER)

Joey enters the bar and goes over to where Lisa is at.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Lisa have you seen Razor, he was suppose to meet me in my office an hour ago.

LISA LOSERS

Let's go set down over here I have some news.

Joey and Lisa sit at a table close to the bar Lisa has a beer for Joey.

LISA LOSERS (CONT'D)

Razor came in earlier and Sergeant Monday talked to him and Razor was real upset anyway he told me he didn't think he could watch you go through all this. He looked bombed out. He said something about going to see a cousin in Detroit and that he was leaving right away. He hit me up for twenty dollars, told me he would send me the money once he was settled.

Joey shrugs his shoulder and takes a drink of his beer.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Oh well, He'll be back, or get into real trouble there.

LISA LOSERS

You know you never told me how you hooked up with him.

JOEY FERDINANDO

It's a long story.

LISA LOSERS

Well I got time.

Joey takes another drink.

JOEY FERDINANDO

It was back in 1940. I was a detective in Chicago. I worked the night beat. Well Razor was this two bit hood, you know he had been around forever. He did a little book, numbers, fenced some hot ice. When he was just a little kid he worked for Big Al. Well Razor had been to Joliet so often I believe they had a special cell for him. Well Razor was working for me, you know under cover.

LISA LOSERS

What?

JOEY FERDINANDO

Let's just say that he owed me a favor. Well there was this gang of hoods down on the South side and they were fencing all kinds of hot stuff. I thought the Ward Boss was the ring leader and I was closing in on the gang with Razor's help. Then damn if Razor didn't get busted by some other cop with some hot ice. He was on probation and I knew that they would send him away for a long time. He got bailed out and well we faked his death.

LISA LOSERS

What!

JOEY FERDINANDO

It was not a big deal, I found an unidentified body at the morgue, took it and put it in an old jalopy and set it a fire. I got some people to say Razor was in the car. He moved to Passionville after that and laid low for awhile, you remember Benny's Garage down on 4th avenue? Well Razor worked for him.

LISA LOSERS

God Joey no wonder you were canned
for the force in Chicago.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I wasn't canned. Listen Lisa do you
believe Mariana was truthful?

Lisa seems taken back.

LISA LOSERS

Why?

JOEY FERDINANDO

I just wondered what you thought.

LISA LOSERS

I don't know. I suspected she might
color things, but I just don't know.
(pause)

You know I'll be glad when I can
leave this place. My boy will
graduate from college at Champaign-
Urbana next year. I want him to
make something of himself and get
away from all the drunks, pimps and
whores.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I know what you mean. You have been
a true friend and I'll miss you when
you leave. I know you are proud of
your boy and this is no place for a
good kid to be.

Just then Ginger runs into the door.

GINGER

Rich is down the street !

Joey jumps up and runs out the door.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. SOMEWHERE IN PASSIONVILLE -- MOMENTS LATER
(RICH, JOEY FERDINANDO)

30

Joey is running down the street he sees Rich.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Stop !

Rich sees that it is Joey and takes off running. Joey pursues
him.

Rich runs down the street into the alley staying ahead of Joey. Joey is slowly gaining on Rich as the chase continues pass run down buildings. Joey is almost even with Rich. Joey reaches out and grabs at Rich and both men fall to the ground.

Joey jumps up as Rich slowly gets off the ground setting with a frighten look on his face.

RICH
Look mister don't hurt me anymore
(pleads.)

Joey looks confused.

JOEY FERDINANDO
What are you talking about?

RICH
You remember back in the bar when you decked me out because I was picking on your girl. Please don't hurt me.

Joey shakes his head and lowers his arms.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Ok, look what happen after I left. after I left with the girl where did you go?

RICH
I am not sure where I went, all I know is I woke up back in my room at about 2:00 AM and I was sick as a dog. I have never been that sick before. The people at the hotel I was staying at had to call a doctor for me.

Joey realizes that Rich was not the one who killed Mariana and helps Rich up.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Look I am sorry that I scared you, but Mariana, you know the girl, was murdered that night.

Rich becomes upset.

RICH
That's terrible who killed her?

JOEY FERDINANDO
Well I am the number one suspect according to the police.
(quietly)

Rich is taken back by what Joey said.

RICH
Did you kill her?
(politely)

JOEY FERDINANDO
No but I have got to find the real
killer and I don't have a lot of
time and I am running out of suspects.

The two men stand there for a moment then Rich leaves and Joey is left alone looking dejected as he looks this way and then the other way as he slowly walks back to the bar.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

31 INT. BACK IN JOEY'S APARTMENT -- EARLY NIGHT THE NEXT DAY 31
(JOEY FERDINANDO, MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON)

Joey is asleep on his couch he is turning and tossing. It is very dark and the sound of the door to his office opens and someone enters walking toward Joey. The shadow of the person's hand moves to Joey's body. Joey is shaken and wakes up surprised. Joey grabs the mayor arm and then turns on the light beside the bed. It is the Mayor.

Joey gets up and looks at the Mayor.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Gush no one ever knocks before they
come into my office and wake me up.
(upset)

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
I didn't know you would sleep all
day.

Joey starts dressing.

JOEY FERDINANDO
I was up all night trying to figure
out what to do next.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Yeah I talked to Lisa and know
that you are at a dead end.
(MORE)

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON (CONT'D)

I am not sure what is going on with the Grand Jury but even if they indict you I don't believe that a jury would find you guilty.

(pause)

But I would like to avoid a trial because, is no telling what else they might dig up.

Joey shakes his head in agreement.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Well you've got as much on me as I have on you. So no I don't want anything else to come out. So what are my odds of being indicted?

The Mayor looks at Joey.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Six and One pick um. I wouldn't want to lay any money either way!

JOEY FERDINANDO

That bad.

The Mayor is leaving when he turns and looks at Joey.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

I hear that the Captain may want to conduct another interview with you.

JOEY FERDINANDO

That's great just what I need is the Captain hounding me again.

The Mayor leaves Joey's office.

CUT TO:

32 INT. INSIDE LISA LOSERS LOUNGE -- EVENING (GINGER, LISA LOSERS, JOEY FERDINANDO, SERGEANT MONDAY)

32

Joey sits down at talks to Lisa.

LISA LOSERS

You don't look to good. Are you OK.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I've got to give my disposition at Caption's office. I don't know.

(despondent)

Ginger comes up to them.

GINGER

Joey, I am getting out of this rat hole, no offence Lisa.

LISA LOSERS

None taken.

GINGER

I have a cousin back in Boston who can get me a job at the big college there. I am leaving tomorrow. Joey I hope everything works out for you. You know I ran away from home when I was sixteen, don't know why I came here, guess I was afraid of the big city but in 1932 things were bad all over there was no work, I saw men steal bread just to feed there family, the only thing I had going for me was my looks, you know the kind of look that guys turn there head for. Everybody wanted me, at first I believed all the lies they would tell me, but they were just lies, after they got what they wanted they forgot about me, you know until they got horny again. So when I understood what the score was, well I played along. I hope I can change when I move, I hope I can find someone I can love who will respect me, oh well. You know Lisa you should close the bar and move to Boston with me.

LISA LOSERS

Ginger my son has one more year in college so I will have to stay put for a while.

JOEY FERDINANDO

You know if everyone keeps leaving Passionville I will become the last person living here.

Joey puts a coin in the one arm bandit and is a big winner.

LISA LOSERS

Joey it looks like your luck is about to change.

Joey shakes his head.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I don't know, the Chinese believe that good fortune is always followed by very bad luck.

Joey just smiles as he puts the coins in his pocket.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)

Ok, hold on a minute. I guess I had better get on over to the Captain's office. Ginger lots Of luck. I know you can make it.

GINGER

Thanks Joey. See you around.

Joey hugs Ginger and gives her a kiss on the forehead. He turns to leave.

LISA LOSERS

Joey, are you coming back here when you are done.

Joey pauses for a moment.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Sure, I'll see you later.

Joey turns and takes one look around the bar and with a sad look on his face as he looks at Lisa and Ginger. Joey turns and leaves the bar.

CUT TO:

33 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE -- LATER 33
(CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON, MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON, JOEY FERDINANDO)

Captain Morgan MacPhearson's office is small the Captain has some football trophies from school and some other memorabilia in his office. Joey takes a seat. The Captain enters the room with a court stenographer behind him. Just as the Captain is about to close the door the Mayor enters the room.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Why are you here Mayor, are you Joey's lawyer?

The mayor just ignores the Captain for a moment and sits down.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Look Captain, I want to be sure you tell the Grand Jury everything that Joey says.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Mayor I got no reason to lie to the Grand Jury?

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

The way this case has gone makes no sense to me. I have never heard of a Grand Jury being convened two days after a murder. You have no clues, no motive, for all we know a drifter could have killed her, or someone from her passed. All I know is the Grand Jury is expected to issue their report tomorrow and beside the prosecutor you are the only one directing the Grand Jury, and given your history with Joey that troubles me. Now you could get a Judge to order me out and I would obey that order, but I would like to stay while you question Joey.

The Captain thinks for a moment.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Hell I don't care, just stay quite. Ok Joey, this is Nancy Summers, court stenographer, she will take whatever you say and then repeat it to the Grand Jury.

Joey nods his head OK.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON (CONT'D)

Identify yourself and tell what you know about the night of the murder.

Joey looks around the room.

JOEY FERDINANDO

I am Joey Ferdinando, I live at 137 5th Ave South in Passionville , apartment 217. I was in Lisa Losers Lounge when someone who had too much to drink tried to push Mariana to the floor and I decked the guy out. Mariana was upset so Lisa told her to take the rest of the evening off. I walked her home and we went to her room for some coffee. I left at about 3:15 AM and Mariana was asleep. That was the

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Did you and Mariana have sex before you left her apartment?

Joey tries not to answer the question by looking at the Mayor then looking up at the ceiling.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yes.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Did she consent to having sex with you.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yes.

(pause)

I got up from the bed at about 3:00 and dressed and left her apartment at about 3:15 AM.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Ok that's all I need.

The court stenographer starts to close her notebook.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Hold on. Captain I would like to ask Joey a couple of questions for the record. And I trust his remarks will also be conveyed to the Grand Jury.

The Captain looks mad but shakes his head OK.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Keep it brief.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Joey did you kill Mariana? Remember your answer is the same as if your were under oath.

JOEY FERDINANDO

No.

The Mayor turns and looks at the Captain, he walks around the room.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Joey, what can you tell us about Mariana.

JOEY FERDINANDO

She was a troubled young lady. She had been abused as a child. Men used her. She was confused, lost.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Joey do you have any idea who killed her?

JOEY FERDINANDO

No, but it may have been someone trying to get even, to settle a score. I believe the killer was in the room before I left or saw me leave. The killer left no clues. None! That tells me the killer was either very lucky or or knew what he was doing.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Joey What did you do after you left her apartment?

JOEY FERDINANDO

I went back to my apartment and went to bed.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Joey what was your frame on mind when you returned to your apartment? I understand The Captain has someone who heard you throw a glass to the floor.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Yes I threw a glass down on the floor. I was upset that I had allowed myself to get close to Mariana, you know emotionally close. You know somehow I blame myself, I didn't kill her but I feel responsible for her murder.

The Captain is very mad.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Ok that's enough questions.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Thank you Joey.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON

Joey wait here until I return.

The Captain and the stenographer leave the Captain's office

JOEY FERDINANDO

Mayor why didn't the Captain just have me testify in person before the Grand Jury.

The Mayor thinks for a moment.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

I believe the Captain and the Prosecutor felt they can control the Grand Jury if no one else speaks to them.

Joey nods his head.

JOEY FERDINANDO

How long will we have to wait?

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

It could be an hour or so, I don't know. Just relax. Look if they indite you you will be placed in jail. I doubt the judge will let you out on bail. I'll do what I can, my people are already working on this. We will at least get you in a private cell. But I won't lie to you its going to be rough. It could be four to six months before a trial. I'm bringing in someone from the city to defend you. Joey none of this is cheap, my guess is you will work the rest of your life just paying for your defense attorney.

JOEY FERDINANDO

After everything I have been through I can't believe I am facing six months in Jail for something I didn't do. Hell they could find me guilty and send me to the chair. Mayor that's not right, you know, with the Captain out there shaking down everyone and everything else that goes on, you know what I mean. It just not right!

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

Look Joey, get a hold of yourself. I am doing everything I can. Most people in my shoes would have left you standing alone with no help. You don't know what it cost me to get all the information that the Captain has and plans to use against you.

(pause)

It wasn't chump change, I can tell you that.

JOEY FERDINANDO

Look I appreciate your help, I really do. But I don't know if I can survive six months in the Captain's jail.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON

I understand.

Joey just looks down at the floor for a moment, then he gets up and walks about the office.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

34 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE -- LATER 34
(MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON, JOEY FERDINANDO, CAPTAIN MORGAN
MACPHEARSON)

Joey is pacing in the small office. The Mayor is trying in vain to calm him down.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
For gods sake Joey stop pacing, you
will wear your shoe's out.

JOEY FERDINANDO
You're not the one who will be locked
up for six months.

Joey continues walking around the small office. Finally he goes to the other side of the Captain's desk. He notices a small old picture on the desk. It is a picture of the Captain and two other men taken many years ago. Joey picks up the picture looks at it and sets it down and he walks back around the desk.

JOEY FERDINANDO (CONT'D)
I don't know Mayor, I just can't
believe there were no clues, no real
suspects. I was thinking maybe a
drifter may have killed her but
whoever it was had to be in the room
while I was still there or saw me
leave. Why didn't he just kill both
of us? It makes no

Joey stops in his tracks, goes back and picks up the picture, bringing it close to his face to see the detail. He stares at the picture.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Joey what's up?

JOEY FERDINANDO
Hold on a minute!
(holding out his other
hand!)
Mayor who are these people with the
Captain?

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 Oh well that's the Captain back when
 he was a railroad detective. It was
 taken in Kansas City. The one guy
 on the Captain's left saved his life,
 I forget how.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 That guy is Evan Walker, Mariana's
 father. So the Captain knew him,
 hum.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 Are you sure?

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Yes, there was a picture in Mariana's
 apartment of Evan Walker and Mariana
 when she was a kid , she told me he
 was her father.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 Look Joey I know every piece of stuff
 that came out of her apartment and
 there was no picture, none!

Joey looks the Mayor in the eyes.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Well Mayor we just found the killer!

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 Wait a minute

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Listen the Captain killed Mariana,
 he had to.

The Door opens it is Captain Morgan MacPhearson.

CUT TO:

35 INT. CAPTAIN'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS 35
 (CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON, JOEY FERDINANDO, MAYOR HERMANN
 PAXTON, SERGEANT MONDAY, JASON CAMPBELL)

Captain Morgan MacPhearson enters his office and stares at
 Joey holding the picture.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
 Put the picture back on my desk.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 You Killed Mariana!

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
What the hell are you talking about!

The Captain locks his door as he moves closer to the Mayor.

JOEY FERDINANDO
Mariana's father saved your life.
I don't

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
Your full of shit.

JOEY FERDINANDO
No that's Mariana's father.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
You can't prove that.

JOEY FERDINANDO
You must not know about Mariana's
uncle being in town. I can have him
here in an hour.

The Captain draws his gun.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
You'll both be dead and gone by
then.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
You're crazy! Put your gun away.
You'll never get away with this.

CAPTAIN MORGAN MACPHEARSON
Yes I will Mayor, I'll say Joey
grabbed my gun when I returned and
that you tried to stop him, you were
killed before I got the gun from
Joey. During the struggle the gun
discharged and killed Joey. No one
will question me.

Joey throws the picture at the Captain and lunges at him
both men fall behind the Captain's desk. A shot is fired.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
Joey are you OK?

Slowly Joey gets up and shakes his head he is OK. Sergeant
Monday is banging on the door shouting.

SERGEANT MONDAY
Open the door! What the hell is
going on? Captain are you OK?

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 Look Joey keep quite let me do the
 talking understand.

Sergeant Monday pushes the door open. His gun is drawn.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON (CONT'D)
 Hold up Sergeant, the Captain just
 killed himself.

SERGEANT MONDAY
 What!

Sergeant Monday looks at the Mayor and Joey and goes over to
 see the Captain's body on the floor.

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 The Captain killed himself Joey tried
 to stop him but he couldn't.

SERGEANT MONDAY
 What? That's smart, real smart.
 Almost too smart but not smart enough
 I don't believe you!

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 It happen just like I said. The
 Captain has not been himself since
 his wife left him and the stress of
 the job was just too much.
 (pause)
 You know the Chief will appoint a
 replacement for the Captain right
 away.

Sergeant Monday puts his gun away. Jason Campbell, a
 uniformed police officer rushes into the room with his gun
 drawn. He looks the room over and goes to see the Captain's
 body on the floor.

JASON CAMPBELL
 What Happen.

No one speaks. The Mayor looks at the Sergeant who looks
 back at the desk and Joey.

SERGEANT MONDAY
 The Captain killed himself. The
 Mayor call out for help but by the
 time I got into the room it was too
 late, Joey couldn't get the gun from
 the Captain's hand. Go get someone
 to take the body to the morgue.

Jason looks at the Sergeant and the Mayor and leaves the
 room. The Sergeant stares at Joey for a moment then turns
 to the Mayor.

SERGEANT MONDAY (CONT'D)
 We need to clean the room up now and
 I need to talk to the grand jury.

The three men slowly leave the room.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. A DARK EMPTY STREET -- LATER
 (JOEY FERDINANDO, MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON)

36

Joey and the Mayor are walking down a dark empty Hallway.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Mayor why didn't you tell Sergeant
 Monday that it was the Captain who
 killed Mariana?

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 Forget about Mariana, I don't need
 an expanded Grand Jury investigation.
 Now that the Captain is dead I can
 work out some deal with the
 Prosecutor. The current Grand Jury
 will not charge you but you will
 need to leave town at once and never
 return. Sergeant Monday will not
 make any trouble and I can manage
 all the rest. Do you understand?

Joey looks at the mayor and shakes his head.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 Look Mayor, that poor girl was abused
 and used the Captain killed her.
 there won't any justice unless we
 tell the world he kill her!

MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON
 Look Joey maybe she was abused and
 was a victim or maybe she was as
 much to blame for her own fate, all
 I know is you got to leave, forget
 about this place and forget about
 the girl, there is nothing else I
 can do.

Joey looks to the ground.

JOEY FERDINANDO
 I understand.
 (softly)

The Mayor holds out a wad of money, after a moment Joey takes
 the money and walks into the dark.

CUT TO:

37 INT. AN EMPTY ROOM -- EPILOGUE OF STORY AFTERNOON 37
(TOM WALKER)

Tom Walker laying in a bed. The Epilogue reads 'Tom Walker died of cancer in 1950'.

DISSOLVE TO:

38 INT. RICH'S OFFICE EPILOGUE OF STORY -- AFTERNOON 38
(RICH)

Rich is behind a desk. The Epilogue reads 'In 1954 Rich was appointed Street Commissioner of Chicago'.

DISSOLVE TO:

39 INT. SERGEANT MONDAY'S OFFICE EPILOGUE OF STORY -- AFTERNOON 39

Sergeant Monday walking down the corridor. The Epilogue reads 'Sergeant Monday was elected to the Illinois State Legislature in 1952'.

DISSOLVE TO:

40 EXT. A STREET- EPILOGUE OF STORY -- AFTERNOON 40
(SPEEDY)

Speedy talking to some people on the street. The Epilogue reads 'Speedy became clean and sober and got a job as an announcer at a radio station in Terre Haute Indiana in 1952'.

DISSOLVE TO:

41 EXT. A DARK EMPTY STREET EPILOGUE OF STORY-- AFTERNOON 41

Razor lying on the ground. The Epilogue reads 'Razor was found dead believed to be foul play in Detroit in 1950'.

DISSOLVE TO:

42 EXT. A PARK BENCH EPILOGUE OF STORY -- AFTERNOON 42
(GINGER)

Ginger reading a book. The Epilogue reads 'Ginger married a widowed man with two teenage girls in Boston in 1950'.

DISSOLVE TO:

43 EXT. A BACK YARD EPILOGUE OF STORY -- AFTERNOON 43

Lisa looking up at the sky. The Epilogue reads 'Lisa moved to San Francisco to live with her son in 1950'.

DISSOLVE TO:

44 INT. A CAMPAIGN STOP EPILOGUE OF STORY -- AFTERNOON 44
(MAYOR HERMANN PAXTON)

Mayor Hermann Paxton campaigning. The Epilogue reads 'in 1952 the Mayor was convicted of bribery and Income tax evasion and sentenced to 10 years in Federal Prison. The day after his conviction he was reelected Mayor with 68% of the vote. He served 13 months in prison and moved to Central Florida'.

DISSOLVE TO:

45 EXT. A GRAVE YARD EPILOGUE OF STORY -- AFTERNOON 45
(JOEY FERDINANDO, MARIANA WALKER)

A side view of Joey Ferdinando walking in a dark miss. The Epilogue reads 'No one is sure what became of Joey. But rumor has it that in 1957 he was running guns to Castro before the Cuban Revolution.'

Joey lays a flower on a grave, the grave stone reads.
'Humans, they blossom before they are sixteen and begin to rot after they are seventeen. Mariana Walker born Kansas City Missouri June 8 1930. Murdered by Society died April 2 1948 Passionville Illinois'.

The end

Credits