

ACT IScene 1

A rusted, metal door stands center stage, its thin red coat of paint already worn down. SPOTLIGHT: SAM (20s), in baggy clothing. He has classic, all American good looks. His eyes are tired.

SAM

I haven't known true fear. Not until I saw his eyes, they were their own hellish galaxies. They left me cold. They left me scared, and uncertain. They left me all but dead at his feet. You're raised from birth to be strong in the face of danger, but you're never raised to have to face the truest evil ever known.

ENTER: ELLIOT and CAREY, both in similar trashy clothes. Elliot (30s), is fresh faced yet worn. He bears a certain optimism. CAREY (30s), is young, cynical, yet spritely. They both snap Sam out of his monologue.

CAREY

And he's in his own world again. Typical.

SAM

Sorry, sorry.

CAREY

Nothin' like those pre-undercover jitters to get you zoning out.

ELLIOT

Oh come off it Carey you were praying in the car.

CAREY

Hey I've got every right to practice my religion on the job. Keeps me safe after all.

ELLIOT

Keeps you from pissing yourself.

They all LAUGH, there's an air of camaraderie between them all. They've been friends for a long time.

CAREY

I'm gonna radio out one last time, make sure they know we're here.

Carey EXITS.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

What's the time?

ELLIOT

(checking watch)

We've got a few.

SAM

Hey, I'm really sorry about --

ELLIOT

Don't be sorry, it's okay.

SAM

(Scattered)

I know I just --

ELLIOT

Please don't tear yourself up about it, Sam. I understand.

They PAUSE. Sam is shaking, Elliot looks at him.

ELLIOT

Nervous?

SAM

How could I not be?

ELLIOT

We've all got first times.

SAM

Yeah but you and Carey, you're both so experienced with all this stuff, I feel like I'm completely out of my league and inexperienced and --

(BEAT)

Geez I haven't felt like this since I was thirteen.

They both LAUGH. They both LAUGH.

ELLIOT

Just breathe, Sam. If you're ever in danger, you won't be in it alone. You'll have me, and as much as it *totally* sucks you'll have Carey too. We both love you, and we're both here for you.

SAM

Thanks, El.

Carey ENTERS.

CAREY

(LAUGHING)

Get a room already you two.

ELLIOT

(hitting CAREY)

Oh shut up!

Sam awkwardly SHRUGS the comment off.

SAM

When's he expecting us?

CAREY

Right about now.

ELLIOT

Then let's do it.

(turning to Sam)

Ready?

SAM

Let's hope so.

They all stand in front of the door, their backs to the audience.

ELLIOT

I love you, guys.

CAREY

Me too.

Sam looks like he'll say something, but he just bows his head. Carey and Elliot enter the door, Sam holds it open, then turns out to the AUDIENCE one last time.

SAM

For gods sake, we were only kids. We were just boys.

BLACKOUT

*PROJECT: Opening titles as The First Cut is the Deepest by P.P. Arnold plays.*Scene 2*Two chairs are on the side of the stage, a makeshift CAR. Sam is driving with Elliot in the passengers seat, they're both in police uniforms. They are both LAUGHING.*

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I'm sorry no that's just not true!

ELLIOT

Honest to god it happened.

SAM

There's no way!

ELLIOT

Every time I visit my dad he's just blaring some of the most hardcore rap I've ever heard.

SAM

Your dad?

ELLIOT

Swear on his life.

SAM

The feeble old man?

ELLIOT

He loves the stuff! Wu Tang's his favorite.

SAM

That's insane.

ELLIOT

He knows every word, it makes thanksgiving interesting.

SAM

My dad can probably recite the entirety of Gypsy word for word.

ELLIOT

That sounds like the worst thing I've ever heard.

SAM

He loves his Merman. Of course he can listen to Ethel Merman all day long but the second I want to be her --

Sam AWKWARDLY LAUGHS this off. Sam AWKWARDLY LAUGHS this off.

ELLIOT

Well your father is an interesting man.

SAM

That he is.

The radio CRACKLES. The radio CRACKLES.

(CONTINUED)

RADIO

11-81 on Hansel.

SAM

10-4, on our way.

*They start to drive faster. An AWKWARD
SILENCE. They start to drive faster. An AWKWARD
SILENCE.*

ELLIOT

You okay?

SAM

Huh? Yeah, yeah, I'm good. Sorry I've just been out of it today, I didn't get much sleep, I had a really weird dream.

ELLIOT

What was it?

SAM

Well like, you ever have those dreams -- where it feels like somethings after you? Like somethings right around the corner, and you're just barely one step ahead of it?

ELLIOT

Sometimes.

SAM

It was like that, but -- like in those dreams you never have any reason to be scared. Nothing's ever chasing you actually, you just feel this -- this unjustified paranoia you can't shake.

ELLIOT

Sure.

SAM

I can't explain it but I just felt like this huge mass was right behind me. It was like this huge looming statue trying to catch me and crush me.

ELLIOT

Did it get you?

SAM

I don't know. I woke up before it got the chance.

After a CONTEMPLATIVE BEAT.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIOT

Well one time I had a dream that my waist was sinking into a pond, and when I woke up I had pissed the bed.

SAM

How long ago was this?

ELLIOT

Last week.

They both look at each other and LAUGH. LIGHTS DOWN. They both look at each other and LAUGH. LIGHTS DOWN.

LIGHTS UP. Carey and his partner BRYCE are in a similar car on the opposite side of the stage. They drive in silence for a few moments.

BRYCE

Can we stop by some place for food?

CAREY

Yeah sure once were off the clock.

BRYCE

Oh come on man, I'm starving.

CAREY

Did you eat breakfast?

BRYCE

I had a smoothie.

CAREY

Okay so you can eat a real breakfast tomorrow and we won't have this problem.

BRYCE

There's a mini mart literally two minutes from here.

CAREY

And in those two minutes we could miss a stabbing, or a robbery, school shooting, arson, hit and run --

BRYCE

Oh come on man.

CAREY

I'm just bustin' your chops man we'll stop right here.

BRYCE

Thank you so much.

(CONTINUED)

CAREY

Let's just pray nothing goes wrong while we're gone.

BRYCE

You know there's a reason other policemen are on patrol.

CAREY

Technically there are other police "officers" on patrol because there are a number of women on the force.

BRYCE

Oh you know what I meant.

CAREY

Yeah.

BRYCE

I don't get why everyone's so eager to change the names of that stuff. I'm all for women in the workplace but I grew up saying "Policeman" and I can't shake that now. It's so dumb.

CAREY

Well you can have fun telling that to the chief.

BRYCE

Oh ha-ha.

CAREY

Just go get your food.

BRYCE

You're a god-sent.

Bryce EXITS. Carey looks down, contemplating what Bryce just said. LIGHTS DOWN.

Scene 3:

CHIEF JESSICA MARONE stands in spotlight at a bulletin board, center stage. The board has intricate lines of yarn connecting various pictures.

CHIEF

We have no secondary or tertiary suspects. We have one lead who is most likely lying to us. We have no possible motives. The only description of the scene was as follows. The lighting was dim, the smoke and haze was thick. The room pulsed with a neon glow that emphasized each drum beat. The screams, blood curdling, of a woman were heard by the red door at the right of

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHIEF (cont'd)

the club. No one knows of what or why, but we know who was at the helm of them.

She points to a barely visible portrait of a DISTURBED MAN on the board.

CHIEF

Calvin Durant. Mr. Durant has been operating in this club for what we believe to be four years now. He was seen leaving the red door three minutes after the scream. This is the only evidence against him, and it's all we need for a complete search mission. The team has already been selected for a forced, possibly violent entry.

Sam steps into an adjacent spotlight.

SAM

How long has Durant been a possible threat?

CHIEF

The man's an enigma. We tried to search for past misdemeanors but no results.

Carey steps into the same spotlight.

CAREY

When was he last spotted?

CHIEF

The last picture was dated back to March, three years ago.

CAREY

And on what charges?

CHIEF

We've had our eye on him for months now and from what we gather he's a dangerous character.

CAREY

He could just be antisocial.

SAM

Well there was the scream.

CHIEF

Exactly. Suspicious activity.

CAREY

Still is this really enough to forcibly enter?

(CONTINUED)

CHIEF

If you would rather enter peacefully you may be my guest.

Elliot enters into the same spotlight.

ELLIOT

Lay off it, Carey.

CAREY

I'm just trying to make sure we're actually being just here.

CHIEF

If he's as dangerous as he seems, then this will be more than just.

Bryce steps into the spotlight.

BRYCE

Who's on the team going in?

CHIEF

We've got Kodine, Chandler, and Robbins.

BRYCE

You can't be serious.

CHIEF

They're the most qualified for this type of operation.

BRYCE

Is there an extra spot at least?!

CHIEF

Bryce, sit down.

BRYCE

You just gotta give me some kind of chance!

ELLIOT

Bryce you've had plenary of chances.

CAREY

(affectionately but stern)
Yeah just sit down.

BRYCE

I can't just sit down forever!

CHIEF

But you will do it now!

(CONTINUED)

A long silence.

CHIEF

Gentlemen, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you for your time.

BRYCE

When is this taking place?

CHIEF

Tomorrow night. Now please, return to your stations.

LIGHTS DOWN.

Scene 4

LIGHTS UP. Sam is on a bed stage right. He wakes up, and makes his way over to the door. He STOPS, HEARS SOMETHING. He TURNS to the AUDIENCE, excited.

SAM

Ever since high school, I always kept my head up, looking forward to the day when all the pain, all the misery, and torment, would finally begin to pay off. I spent every day wondering when things were finally going to turn in my favor. It's mornings like these where I realize how lucky I am to be tolerated. It's mornings like this, when I can wake up, and hear my special someone already awake, cooking bacon for me.

ELLIOT ENTERS holding a plate of bacon.

ELLIOT

Well look who's up! Finally.

SAM

Oh come one you know I'm a late sleeper.

ELLIOT

And I'm an early riser.

SAM

And I like when you cook me breakfast.

ELLIOT

Match made in heaven!

Elliot moves in to KISS Sam, but Sam pulls away, winking, and taking a piece of bacon.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIOT

How is it this time? The consistency more on par with your standards?

SAM

Not too crispy, not too chewy.

ELLIOT

Better than last time?

SAM

(mockingly)
We don't discuss *last time*.

ELLIOT

It wasn't that bad!

SAM

The neighbors thought we burned to death.

ELLIOT

Oh please our neighbors are so old they can't even tell their cat is dead.

SAM

The cat that you hit?

ELLIOT

Now *that* is irrelevant.

Sam lays back down on the bed, eating his bacon.

SAM

Do we have to go to work today?

ELLIOT

Well it is a Tuesday, so yes.

SAM

No but I mean do we like *have* to?!

ELLIOT

You might not but I would like to keep my job.

SAM

Tell them I have a migraine.

ELLIOT

That doesn't work for police officers.

SAM

Tell them I have Ebola.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIOT

Alright time to get up.

Elliot leans down to try and pull Sam out of bed.

SAM

No, stop it.

They're both LAUGHING. Elliot looks Sam in the face, and KISSES him on the nose.

ELLIOT

Come on, love, get dressed.

Sam STOPS LAUGHING, he CLEARS HIS THROAT, awkward. He starts to get up, Elliot realizes he said something wrong.

SAM

Which car are you taking today?

ELLIOT

We could just take the same car for a change.

SAM

No, that would be too suspicious.

ELLIOT

We would just be carpooling!

SAM

I don't want to risk anybody finding out, we would lose are jobs and --

He PAUSES.

ELLIOT

And?

SAM

Not -- nothing. I have to get changed.

Sam EXITS

Elliot THINKS, looking down, ANNOYED and ASHAMED. LIGHTS DOWN.

LIGHTS UP, Carey and his WIFE ANGELICA are in their kitchen stage right. Carey is getting changed.

CAREY

And you are taking the kids to school correct?

ANGELICA

Yes!

CAREY

Okay, good. Anything going on tonight?

ANGELICA

I'm meeting with Mrs. Oaglebee to discuss renovations for the church.

CAREY

Oh, good!

Carey walks across the room to a toaster, and takes out the toast. He's still getting changed.

CAREY

And I packed their lunches last night so they'll be good to go.

Carey brings the toast over to his wife, then STOPS HIMSELF.

CAREY

Right! Strawberry jam.

Carey walks back over to the cupboard and begins to spread jam on the toast.

ANGELICA

You know, I can make breakfast myself.

CAREY

But why would I bother you to do that when you've got so much on your plate?

He gives her the toast. She SMILES, lovingly.

ANGELICA

Thank you.

CAREY

My pleasure.

ANGELICA

We should vacation sometime.

CAREY

I agree! Where to?

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

We could go to a beach somewhere, some kind of resort.

CAREY

Once my schedule frees up a little bit I'll look around for something!

ANGELICA

I'll start looking for a sitter today!

CAREY

Oh, you don't want the kids to come with us?

She stands up, face to face with him.

ANGELICA

I figured this could be some time for us!

CAREY

Are you sure? It would have to be pretty short, I don't want the kids to be alone for long.

ANGELICA

Anytime at all would be enough for me.

They KISS.

CAREY

I have to get going, I love you so much.

ANGELICA

I love you too! Have a good day!

CAREY

You too!

Carey EXITS. LIGHTS DOWN.

Scene 5

*Lights come up on Carey and Bryce in an office.
Bryce is packing up a desk*

BRYCE

Reassigned. I ask for a little confidence, and I get reassigned.

CAREY

You're lucky you didn't get *Fired*.

BRYCE

I haven't gotten respect around here since day 1! All I ask is that I, a highly trained police officer, am trusted to do my job.

(CONTINUED)

CAREY

And you might get that, if you didn't jump head first into situations before considering your limitations.

BRYCE

I just want to show everyone that I'm not a screw-up. Just want a chance to feel like I mean something.

CAREY

And you can do that. But not when people's lives are at stake.

BRYCE

Oh, yet another philosophy lesson from Carey! Tell me again how getting everything you want without effort makes you an authority on right and wrong?

CAREY

Watch it...

BRYCE

(Regretful)

I'm sorry. But you can't understand what it's like to have all your chances thrown back into your face.

CAREY

I'm not thrilled about this either. With you gone, I'm getting stuck with Elliot Willis and his new man servant.

BRYCE

(Laughs)

Ha, yeah those two are weird. Never seen two dudes be that close in such a short amount a time. I'd call 'em strange.

CAREY

Yeah, well I'd call 'em fa-

Carey stops himself. Bryce looks somewhat disappointingly at Carey.

Er, never mind. Look, I'll see you later. I'm gonna head home

BRYCE

Yeah.

Carey exits. Bryce finishes packing up. He gets up to leave when his radio goes off. At first it's static with a couple of recognizable words.

(CONTINUED)

RADIO

This is... Chandler... Kodine...dead...blood
bath...send help...

*Bryce picks up his radio and tunes it to find the
right frequency.*

BRYCE

3-57, this is Bryce. Please repeat.

RADIO

This is detectives Kodine and Chandler. The Cartel has
opened fire on us! Robbins is dead! They saw his badge!
All units available please send help!

BRYCE

Bryce here. I'm on my way!

He runs off. Lights fade out.

Scene 6

*Inside the lieutenant's office. Elliot and Sam
enter. Lieutenant is sitting at his desk.*

LIEUTENANT

Ah, the fresh meat and the old scraps. Good to see you
too were able to get my message

SAM

Yes, Sir.

LIEUTENANT

Tell me, Davidson, how are you liking being a
detective?

SAM

Well, I can certainly say it's nice not to have to
dress like a milkman.

*Sam and Elliot both laugh. Lieutenant is
unphased. Sam and Elliot both laugh. Lieutenant is
unphased.*

LIEUTENANT

Willis, how is the chief's young prodigy progressing?

ELLIOT

Ah, he sucks as a detective, but I never seen a guy run
faster to get me coffee!

They both laugh again. They both laugh again.

(CONTINUED)

LIEUTENANT

This is exactly why I didn't want you two working together! What with your lack of experience and your inability to take things seriously. What do you two plan to do when you're dealing with dangerous criminals and you can't stop laughing?

They both pause. Elliot and Sam look at each other. They both pause. Elliot and Sam look at each other.

ELLIOT

Get them in on the joke

They both break into hysterical laughter. The lieutenant. Is visibly getting madder. They both break into hysterical laughter. The lieutenant. Is visibly getting madder.

LIEUTENANT

That's why I'm assigning you two a new partner

He motions off stage. Carey enters. He motions off stage. Carey enters.

LIEUTENANT

I've been told you two know detective Carey James. He's gonna keep you two in line.

Sam and Elliot walk around Carey inspecting him. Sam and Elliot walk around Carey inspecting him.

ELLIOT

So Elliot and Samstello become the Three Stooges.

SAM

But the question is, will this guy be a Curly, or a Shemp?

CAREY

What are you two talking about?

Carey and Sam look at each other, disappointed
Carey and Sam look at each other, disappointed

Shemp.

LIEUTENANT

Show a little respect! James is a Graduate of honors from the academy, earned multiple commendations for his excellence in police work...

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Bet his mom's so proud!

The lieutenant starts shouting The lieutenant starts shouting

LIEUTENANT

You two better shape up or you won't be partners anymore!

Their smiles fade quickly. They now have a very serious tone. Their smiles fade quickly. They now have a very serious tone.

ELLIOT

Right. No problem.

LIEUTENANT

Glad we could come to an agreement. Now, you'll start work on the drug crime ring surrounding the city next week. Your assignments will be posted daily. For now I suggest you get to know each other.

Lights fade out.

Scene 7

The three cops are entering a bar. Elliot and Sam are continuing a conversation. Carey is following behind

SAM

Hello, ladies and gentlemen!

ELLIOT

Prepare to see the amazing feet, Elliot and Sam (and Carey) prepare to drink more than ever before!

SAM

They risk their jobs, their dignity, perhaps even their lives to escape the horrible reality that is their existence!

CAREY

Is this really what I'm gonna have to deal with working with you two? Do you ever shut up?

ELLIOT

Hey, come on now. If we shut up, this golden voice would be wasted.

Points to Sam

(CONTINUED)

ELLIOT

(Singing)

And would I do anything at all!

SAM

Yes I would do anything at all!

BOTH

I would do anything at all, but I won't do that!

CAREY

Wonderful, now could we please take something seriously for a change?

SAM

Fine. What is it, Carey

CAREY

We're gonna be working together, but let me make it clear: I am not your friend. I am not here for your entertainment. I am here to do my job and that's it.

ELLIOT

Not our friend? But we already made you a commemorative sweater!

The two erupt in laughter

CAREY

(Shouting)

Is this how you get your kicks? You take potential for good cops

points to Sam

And ruin it? If your little comedy act continues, you could get him killed.

SAM

I can handle myself, thanks.

ELLIOT

Yeah, Carey. He's a good kid.

CAREY

I know. That's why I don't want you filling his head with your lack of responsibility...among other things...

Elliot's smile fades. He looks angry now.

ELLIOT

What is that supposed to mean?

(CONTINUED)

CAREY

You know exactly what I mean.

ELLIOT

Do I? Mind explaining?

CAREY

I know about you. What you do. You say you're a good man, but you're nothing more than a dirty, blasphemous-

Elliot raises a fist. Sam comes in between them.

SAM

Guys, come on. We don't need to be like this. We have disagreements, sure. But we have to work together. Let's just have a drink, please.

Elliot puts his fist down.

CAREY

I'm...sorry. That was out of line.

ELLIOT

It's alright.

SAM

See? Now, let's do what we we're born to do! Bartender-

*Lights fade for a short time. Then come back up.
The boys are now a little tipsy.*

ELLIOT

Last time I seen a guy run that fast was when a Cuban drug Lord was caught with 50 kilos of cocaine!

All three laugh. Carey takes a drink.

CAREY

Ah man. That's great. You guys are alright.

ELLIOT

Not bad yourself, Carey.

SAM

See, this is how it's done. A couple of guys having a few drinks together. Nothing better.

ELLIOT

Yeah. Hey, guys, I gotta go. I'll see you guys tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Yeah, me too. See ya, CAREY.

CAREY

See ya!

Sam and Elliot begin to walk off stage together.

ELLIOT

Carey's not a bad a guy, when he's not telling you how wrong you are.

SAM

(Laughs)

Yeah. He's something. I'm gonna head home. You good?

ELLIOT

Yeah, but I'd be even better if we could-

SAM

No!

Sam realizes how loud he was. Luckily, no one notices. He continues in a whisper

Not tonight, okay? Could you just head back to your apartment tonight?

ELLIOT

I haven't been there in months! Come on, why are you being like this.

SAM

I-It's Carey, alright?

ELLIOT

Carey?

SAM

Now that we're working together, he could find out...easy.

ELLIOT

Your point? We've worked with other people before, you were never worried about them.

SAM

He's different. Other guys probably wouldn't say anything to command. But you know how he is...

ELLIOT

(Laughs)

Oh, come on! You're getting scared over nothing! He would never find out. Let's just go.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

We're walking a thin line as it is. I just don't want to risk it, okay?

Elliot is clearly upset, but he understands. He pats Sam on the shoulder.

ELLIOT

Okay. I'll see you tomorrow.

He begins to leave

SAM

Wait...

Elliot stops. Sam hesitates. Elliot looks expectant.

Have a good night.

ELLIOT

(Chuckles)

One of these days, Sam. You'll say it.

He exits. Sam stays for a few seconds, sighs. then exits. Carey remains. Then, his radio goes off.

CAREY

This is detective James, go ahead.

CHEIF

(Through the radio)

James, it's the chief.

CAREY

Oh, good evening ma'am. I'm happy to report my new partners and I are-

CHEIF

That's not what I called about. Listen, there was a problem at the night club. We had to send in backup. None of the detectives survived. The backup...he's here but...

CAREY

Who was dumb enough to run into the night club alone?

CHEIF

...You're not gonna like it...

Lights fade out.

Scene 8

Carey and the chief are sitting at a small table. Bryce is sitting at another table on the other side of the stage, shivering. We cannot see his face because he has a shock blanket over his head.

CAREY

How did he get back?

CHIEF

He crawled into the station a few hours ago. We tried talking to him, but he's delusional, screaming nonsense. We don't know what to do, but we figured you might be able to get through to him.

At this point, Elliot and Sam rush in.

ELLIOT

We got your message. What's going on?

CHIEF

It's detective Bryce. He's just returned from the Nightclub.

SAM

Nightclub? I thought he wasn't supposed to go there?

CHIEF

He wasn't, but the three who went in were compromised. He went in to see if he could get them out, but... well...something happened in there. He's lucky to be alive

ELLIOT

Okay, but what does that have to do with us.

CHIEF

You three are the closest to Bryce. No one has been able to get through to him. We've been trying for hours, but he doesn't even seem to know we're here. We thought that maybe you guys could get through to him.

ELLIOT

Alright, let's give it shot.

The three walk over to the table where Bryce is sitting.

CAREY

Bryce, it's us. Can you hear me?

Bryce is hysterical.

(CONTINUED)

BRYCE

Chicago PD! Put your hands where I can see them.

SAM

No, Bryce, it's us. Carey, Elliot, and Sam. Do you know where you are?

BRYCE

You're under arrest for possession of an illegal substance and the second degree murder of a Chicago Police Officer!

CAREY

This isn't working.

ELLIOT

Maybe we need to get to the point

(In a stern voice)

Bryce, what did you see in the Night Club?

Bryce then appears to somewhat snap into reality.

BRYCE

Blood! Blood everywhere! No, please don't kill me!
Robbins, dead! No, please stop! Koddine, dead! What are you gonna do to me? Chandler, dead! The boiler room!
The boiler room! The boiler room...

CAREY

Bryce, what's in the boiler room?

BRYCE

Don't tell Carey! Don't tell Carey! Don't..Carey!
Don't...

He passes out.

ELLIOT

This isn't good.

CAREY

Let's go tell the Chief.

They return to the chief's desk.

ELLIOT

I'm sorry, ma'am. We don't have anything.

CHIEF

(Sighs)

I was afraid of that. In that case...

The lieutenant enters

(CONTINUED)

LIEUTENANT

You wanted to see me, Chief?

CHIEF

Ah, yes. Lieutenant, I need you to brief these three for an undercover mission into the Durant Night Club.

ELLIOT, SAM, AND CAREY

What?

LIEUTENANT

Chief, these three are not ready for that kind of work.

CHIEF

That decision is not up to you. You will do as I say.

LIEUTENANT

But Willis has no ability to take anything seriously! Davidson is so inexperienced!

CHIEF

Well, since our three best were just killed by the criminals, we're low on options. Besides, Carey has been making progress with both of them. They're ready.

SAM

Chief, why are we going in there again at all?

ELLIOT

Yeah, we have evidence that these criminals are dangerous, why aren't we sending in the S.W.A.T team?

CHIEF

There's evidence of hostages in the building. Our first priority is to get them out.

CAREY

But the Lieutenant may be right, Chief. These two aren't ready.

CHIEF

So you're saying you haven't been able to get them in shape? You haven't done your job?

CAREY

Well...

CHIEF

That's what I thought.

Turns to the lieutenant

I expect them briefed and ready by Tuesday next week.

(CONTINUED)

LIEUTENANT

(Reluctantly)

Yes, ma'am.

Lights down.

Scene 9

*Back in the bar from before. The three detectives
are now very drunk, singing a song*

ELLIOT, SAM, AND CAREY

(Sung)

And to the Brothers we lost before,

We raise our glasses High!

And for tomorrow, we're filled with sorrow,

Just me and you and I!

And when we fight the gallant fight,

We raise 'em to the sky!

For 'til the end, we will defend,

Just me and you and I!

And if lose our lives today,

On angel wings we'll fly!

Like you, my brother, there is no other,

Just me and you and I!

CAREY

Oh, man! Tomorrows the big day! Off to adventure!

He falls over. All three laugh.

ELLIOT

Oh man, Carey! I think you've had a few too many!

Carey gets up.

CAREY

No! I just...

He falls down again. They all laugh.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

Aw man. You guys are the best friends I got!

Angelica enters

ANGELICA

Carey! What's going on? Why didn't you come home?

CAREY

Hey, baby! Sorry, we just went out for a few and, well...

SAM

A few turned into two six-packs of Steele Reserve!

ANGELICA

I've been worried sick! You could've been dead!

CAREY

Honey, I could be dead anyday

The three laugh

ANGELICA

This is funny to you? The fact that you could leave your wife and two kids on their own any day, and you decide to spend your time getting wasted with these two idiots!

SAM

Ma'am! We prefer the term "Good Decision Making Impaired!"

Elliot and Sam both laugh. Carey Chuckles.

ANGELICA

We are gonna have a discussion about this when we get home.

Carey is now getting angry

CAREY

Well, then. Why don't we have a discussion about all those "church meetings" you've been having?

This strikes a chord with Angelica, but she tries to hide it

ANGELICA

What's that supposed to mean?

CAREY

Don't play dumb with me! I know exactly where you've been going!

ANGELICA

I have no idea what you're talking about!

CAREY

Bryan! Does that name mean anything to you?

ANGELICA

I...I..

CAREY

Let's talk about you going to his house every night, doing God knows what! You want to talk about responsibility towards the kids? You have no right!

ANGELICA

You're a monster!

Angelica storms off

SAM

Carey, I...

CAREY

Ah, don't worry about it, bud. We've been through this before.

ELLIOT

Really?

CAREY

Yeah, she gets like that. All you need to worry about is tomorrow. I want to see you guys bright and early. Get a good rest tonight, you're gonna need it. I'm gonna go deal with her now. See ya tomorrow morning!

Carey exits. Elliot and Sam look at each other, shrug, and continue singing

ELLIOT AND SAM

We know not if we'll make it back

Or if we both should die!

But matters not, we always got

Just me...

They slow down and get closer
And you...

(CONTINUED)

They kiss

ELLIOT

I love you...

Sam quickly escapes his grasp

SAM

No! Not now! Not here!

ELLIOT

Wha-What?

SAM

I'm not ready! Not ready for this! God! God!

He runs out

ELLIOT

Sam! Sam!

Lights out.

Scene 10

Back in the original room with the rusty metal door. Spotlight on Sam. Elliot and Carey are there but frozen.

SAM

It's not like I didn't want to say it back. But I wasn't sure if I could say it back. And even if I did, would it mean anything? Everybody has their little excursions, but, to commit to something like that? What comes next? Living together? Marriage? Not that I don't want that but...I would also like to one day speak to my dad again...my dad. I guess it all comes back to him. The day I told him, I thought I would never sleep in my bed again. The way he screamed...If he saw us now...would he accept me?

Lights come up on Carey and Elliot.

CAREY

Hello, Earth to Sam!

ELLIOT

Come on, now. We gotta get moving.

SAM

Sorry, lost again.

(CONTINUED)

CAREY

Save it, we've got limited time, here. We'll go in one by one. I'll go first, Elliot come in five minutes after me, Sam five minutes after him. Are we ready?

ELLIOT AND SAM

Hell yeah!

CAREY

Alright, here we go

he goes through the door, exits

ELLIOT

Off into the brave blue yonder, that one.

SAM

Yep. Hey

Puts hand on Elliot's soldier

About last...

ELLIOT

Forget it, Sam. We both had too many, I over stepped my boundaries. I should be the one apologizing.

SAM

No, I over reacted. I'm sorry I just...this is all new and...

ELLIOT

Hey, this isn't easy for anyone, especially the way your dad treated you.

SAM

How did you-

ELLIOT

It's not hard to tell. The way you never talk about him in detail, all your memories are from before the age of thirteen. Not uncommon, given the way our dads were raised.

SAM

Well, yeah. "No queers or sissies in our house!"

ELLIOT

(Laughs)

Yeah. Look, maybe we should stop this for a little while. After we're done with this job, we'll sit down and talk about what we want to do.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

You're probably right, as usual.

ELLIOT

Guilty as charged.

SAM

But I feel like there's something I've keeping from you. Something I've wanted to share with you, but I don't even know what it is. Does that make me crazy?

ELLIOT

Completely Mental.

They both laugh. Elliot looks at his watch.
Well, that's my cue. I'll see you in about five minutes.

SAM

(In a Shakespeare tone)
Fair thee well, time weathered Companion!

ELLIOT

Yea, verily!

Elliot exits. Sam waits a few seconds
...I love you too...

Black out.

ACT 2Scene 11

Now inside the Night Club, the three detectives enter into an office like room. There are a few goons around the room, one standing in front of a desk looking important.

CAREY

Now remember, be cool. Make yourself sound tough.

ELLIOT

You're tearing me apart, Lisa!

CAREY

Really? That's what you went for? The Room? Tommy Wiseau?

ELLIOT

Oh. crap! I meant to be James Dean.

CAREY

Right. Let's just go.

They walk into the office

CAREY

(In New York Accent)

Hey, uh, how you doing.

The guy at the desk stands up straight

HEAD THUG

Who are you?

CAREY

Eh, we're from 5th street gang. Heard you guys was in need of some new muscle.

HEAD THUG

I don't know what you're talking about! This is a private club!

CAREY

Hey, c'mon. We're just a few guys trying to make a living. Can't we talk this out?

HEAD THUG

Get out now, or we will be forced to shoot you!

(CONTINUED)

CAREY

Couldn't we talk to your boss? I'm sure he'll know what we're talking about.

HEAD THUG

He does not want to see anyone right now! You have five seconds to-

CALVIN

Daniel!

Enter Calvin Durant, wearing a leisure suit. He speaks with a subtle Hispanic accent.

What did I here you say?

HEAD THUG

I...I was just telling these idiots here to clear out-

CALVIN

No, no. About me wanting to see anyone.

HEAD THUG

Oh. I-

CALVIN

Did I tell you that I didn't want to see anyone right now?

HEAD THUG

Well, no. But I figured with what happened last week...

CALVIN

You figured? You assumed what I wanted without asking me?

HEAD THUG

I...I'm sorry.

CALVIN

No, no. I understand.

He grabs the head thug.

Who the hell do you think you are, thinking you know what I want!?

HEAD THUG

Please! Please Mr. Durant, don't hurt me!

CALVIN

And now you're telling me how to do my job? You worthless, stupid, incompetent-

He looks up and sees the three detectives. He releases the head thug.

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN

You will not speak out of line again.

HEAD THUG

No sir, I won't!

CALVIN

I know you will. I'm going to make sure of it.

turns to a thug

Take him to the boiler room.

HEAD THUG

What? No! No! Mr. Durant, not there!

CALVIN

You must learn, Daniel. When the child acts out, you must use the paddle.

HEAD THUG

Please, Mr. Durant! I know I was wrong! Don't send me there!

Two thugs grab him

I was trying to protect you! Keep you safe!

CALVIN

And look where it got you.

The thugs carry him out, still screaming

Turns to the three, smiles

Sorry about that. Just can't get good help these days, no? What can I do for you boys?

CAREY

Er, we're here to work. We heard you needed some more hands.

CALVIN

Of Course! Been waiting for you for a few days now! Cops came in two weeks ago. We had to shoot them all. Very messy. Got blood all over my shoes, see? Real Bison leather, too! Hope we won't have that problem again with you three.

ELLIOT

No, sir.

CALVIN

Glad to hear it! Can't have any more messes around here.

(CONTINUED)

SAM
We pride our selves on cleanliness!

Elliot elbows Sam in the ribs.

CALVIN
...right. Look, only one rule around here. Listen to me
and you'll be fine. Disobey, and it's the boiler room.

SAM
What's in the boiler room?

CALVIN
(Chuckles)
Let's hope you never have to find out.
Black out.

Scene 12

*The three detectives are now alone. Carey and Sam
are loading their guns. Elliot is sitting down.*

SAM
Well, that went better than expected!

ELLIOT
Yeah...
*Something is clearly bothering him. He appears
distant.*

CAREY
Don't be so sure just yet. We're not finished.

SAM
Right. Back to business.

CAREY
I'm gonna go scout around, look for vantage points.
Tactical positions, try to get an idea of a plan. You
two stay here, try not to break anything.

SAM
Your confidence in us is awe inspiring.

Carey leaves

SAM
Man, what a jerk he can be!

(CONTINUED)

ELLIOT

Right, right.

SAM

Hey, are you alright?

ELLIOT

Yeah...yeah. Just...

SAM

Just, what?

ELLIOT

I...

SAM

Come on, El. Spit it out.

Elliot is now slightly hostile.

ELLIOT

Would you stop acting like everything's fine? What do you know?

SAM

What the hell that supposed to mean?

ELLIOT

I mean someone who's been a detective for less than a month shouldn't be out on assignments this dangerous.

SAM

Two hours ago you were saying that I was ready.

ELLIOT

Yeah, well, that was before...

SAM

Before, what?

Elliot is now shouting

ELLIOT

Before I realized how much danger I put you in! Before I saw how poorly I trained you! Before I realized what kind of messed up that guy is!

SAM

(Laughs)

Come on, El! Everything will be-

ELLIOT

No, Sam! It won't be! This is real now. We're in a life or death situation, and you can't even stay focused, all because of me! I should've gone against the chief! I should've argued! You shouldn't be on this mission right now!

SAM

Elliot, please! You're freaking out over nothing! I'll be fine!

ELLIOT

But what if you're not! What if I get you killed! Or worse, you turn out like Bryce! It's all on me! All my fault! I-

SAM

You think I wanted to go on this mission? You think that with my lack of experience, I wanted to go rushing into a dangerous fortress and get turned into a mental health case? I begged the chief to let me off, pleaded with her! But she wouldn't budge. She said I needed this, and that I was ready. I still don't think that I am, but I'm okay with it now, because I know that you're by my side. I trust you, Elliot. I feel safe because I know that you're not far.

Elliot let's out a long sigh.

ELLIOT

I just couldn't live with myself...if I lost you...

Sam gets closer to Elliot.

SAM

You shouldn't have to worry about losing me. Not now, not ever.

He grabs Elliot, and they kiss for a long time until Carey walks in. They let go of each other. Carey is speechless

CAREY

I...

SAM

(Terrified)

Carey, it's not what you think!

Carey stares blankly, then becomes filled with a blind fury

(CONTINUED)

CAREY

You!

Points at Elliot

I knew it! You just couldn't resist, could you! You had to mess him up! Fill his head with your indecency!

SAM

He didn't...

ELLIOT

Would you stop with this? I know we don't agree on this, but I'm entitled to my own life!

CAREY

Not when it interferes with police business! An in office relationship, and to think one like this!

ELLIOT

What difference does it make what kind of relationship it is?

CAREY

Makes a difference when I know I'm working with two...two...

ELLIOT

Two What!?

Carey explodes

CAREY

Two Faggots!

A sudden hush falls over the group. Sam looks shocked, Elliot is livid.

ELLIOT

What did you just call me?

CAREY

You heard me! A great, big, sinful faggot! And his matching side kick!

ELLIOT

Least I don't have some whore wife who can't seem to keep herself away from other men's beds!

Carey attacks Elliot. Punches are thrown while Sam tries to break them up. They stop when a guard enters the room. And shouts for their attention.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD

Boss wants to see you.

They all look at each other, terrified. Blackout.

Scene 13

Three detectives enter the stage. Calvin is sitting at a desk on the opposite edge of the stage.

CAREY

You wanted to see us, sir?

CALVIN

Ah, my new favorite people! Good to see you can be timely. I hate being kept waiting.

ELLIOT

No sir. We live to serve, aim to please.

CALVIN

Perfect! Then you should be happy to hear that I have a special assignment for you three.

SAM

What did you have in mind?

CALVIN

Well.

He motions for them to come in closer

I believe there are cops among our ranks. Somebody is giving them information on our operations. Now, I have no idea who it is, but it has to be someone within my inner circle. I figured you three were best fit.

CAREY

What did you have in mind?

CALVIN

Well, you three are new. I was thinking you could try to get to know the other guys while giving me information that you might find out.

ELLIOT

That sounds reasonable.

CALVIN

Yes! I pride myself on deviousness. And let me tell you, I do not envy our rat when we find him. Last time we had a cop in here, well, heh heh, cover your eyes when we find him.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

(Nervous)

Yes sir...

*Blackout*Scene 14*The Lieutenant and Chief are sitting around the Chief's desk.*

LIEUTENANT

I'm telling you, sending them in there was a mistake.

CHIEF

Maybe, but we had no other option.

LIEUTENANT

We could've waited, or hired a PI, or...

CHIEF

I put my trust in them, and unless you have a better idea, so should you.

The phone on the Chief's desk rings. She puts it on speaker.

CHIEF

Chief Jackson, Chicago PD.

CAREY

Chief, this is Carey here to report in.

CHIEF

Ah, detective James. We were just discussing your operation. How is everything going?

CAREY

Well, the case is proceeding as planned...

CHIEF

Ah, good! So you've been able to get those two in shape. I'm proud of you!

CAREY

Yes, but there's another problem.

LIEUTENANT

Oh, really?

CHIEF

What is it now?

(CONTINUED)

CAREY

Well, it appears that Willis and Davidson have...perhaps I should put it...I mean to say..

CHIEF

Out with it, Carey.

CAREY

Elliot and Sam appear to be... very close.

CHIEF

I don't see what the problem with that is.

CAREY

No, you misunderstand me. I mean to say that they are... their relationship is not merely...professional.

CHIEF

...Oh. Oh! Oh my god!

LIEUTENANT

Very interesting...very very interesting.

CHIEF

Well, this won't do.

CAREY

I agree. Something needs to be done.

CHIEF

Yes. However, we'll deal with this after this case is complete.

LIEUTENANT

Ehr, Chief. May I suggest instead...

CAREY

Their immediate termination from the force and this case.

CHIEF

Detective, you don't seriously expect me to do that?

CAREY

I absolutely do! Their relationship is compromising the mission.

CHIEF

If the mission is going fine, then I don't see how that could be true.

(CONTINUED)

LIEUTENANT

Hold on now, Chief. Carey may have a point. We can't let this kind of behavior continue.

CHIEF

Our priority right now to is to complete this mission. We still have hostages in the nightclub.

CAREY

We can't put the lives of hostages in hands of two detectives who can't keep their hands off of each other.

CHIEF

I agree, but right now we have no choice. Trust me, there will consequences.

CAREY

Fine. What do you want me to do right now?

CHIEF

Continue as expected. Make sure the other two keep their hands off each other.

CAREY

(Sighs)

Roger that. James out.

Click from the phone.

LIEUTENANT

Well, what did I tell you?

CHIEF

Kelsey, please. How could I have foreseen this?

LIEUTENANT

I'm just saying. A relationship between officers. And one like that...

CHIEF

I'm just as uncomfortable as you. But we can't make hasty decisions. This is a slippery slope.

LIEUTENANT

Seems simple to me. Dismiss them both immediately.

CHIEF

That wouldn't look good to the public. We have to consider the way people think nowadays.

(CONTINUED)

LIEUTENANT

Chief, we need to act quickly. Delaying this could be the last mistake this department makes.

Chief is now visibly angry

CHIEF

You're outta line here, Kelsey! Do you think I'm okay with this... this... disgrace? Two men...like that... Ugh! But this is a high risk situation. We can't make the wrong decision. Now would you please, for once, remember who the superior officer is here?

Lieutenant appears shocked at this out burst

LIEUTENANT

Well. Let's hope you're right.

She exits.

CHIEF

I have to be. I can't afford to be wrong.

Blackout.

Scene 15

Back in Calvin's office. Carey is standing over the desk where Calvin is sitting.

CALVIN

You're sure about it? Absolutely sure?

CAREY

No doubt, it has to be them.

CALVIN

Strange, since they came from your gang...

CAREY

(Stutters)

Er, yeah. Weird.

CALVIN

(Looking offstage.)

Well, alright. Let's hear what they have to say for themselves.

Elliot and Sam enter.

SAM

You wanted to see us, boss?

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN

Ah, yes. Elliot and Sam. I need a word with you two.

ELLIOT

What about?

CALVIN

Well, it appears our culprit, or culprits, have been found.

SAM

Good news! Who was it?

CALVIN

Oh, just a couple of idiots claiming to be from fifth street gang.

Their eyes widen. They look terrified.

ELLIOT

What ever Carey's been telling you it's not true.

CALVIN

Oh, but I'm afraid it is.

Armed guards enter. They point their guns at the two.

SAM

He's a liar! Liar!

CALVIN

Oh, my dear boy. I know.

CAREY

What?

CALVIN

Do you know one of the first things I installed when I took over this place was? Wireless call interceptor. Seems strange how a criminal would be making calls to the Police Chief's office.

CAREY

I...

CALVIN

(Angry)

Shut up. Did you think I wouldn't know? That I didn't have this whole place bugged? You foolish, hopeless...

He looks as though he is about to hit him, but he retracts

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN (cont'd)

Who am I kidding. Why even bother? Physical pain is nothing. Nothing compared to what you're about to go through. Take them away. You.

He points to Elliot

You stay here. We'll have much to discuss when I get back. Be a good little boy and do as your told. Follow...

Points gun

...and I won't hesitate.

They begin to move off stage.

CALVIN

Well, Sam, I guess your question will be answered after all.

Turns to a thug

Call Frank in the basement. Tell him to get the boiler room ready.

Black out.

Scene 16

The boiler room. Stage is completely black. Illuminated by spotlight are the characters being brought in by the guards. They are thrown on opposite sides of the stage.

CALVIN

You know, I really was hoping you wouldn't have to see what was in here. I hoped you would be promising new material. People I could trust my business with. But now... Oh! How unthinking of me! I haven't given you a proper welcome. *Ahem* Welcome, Ladies and Gentlemen, to the boiler room!

The guards cheer.

Do you remember your friend? What was his name... Bryan? Brick?

SAM

Bryce...

CALVIN

That's the one! Remember him? He got to test drive the boiler room as well. I think he was happy with the results.

The thugs and Calvin laugh.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CALVIN (cont'd)

Wanna know how I do it? This room is hooked up to a ventilation system pumping 250 cubic feet of gaseous hallucinogenic drug residue a minute. Not good for the old noggin, I hear. Makes you see some crazy things. Allegedly, your greatest fears. Your friend Bryce was in here for 2 minutes. Let's see how you boys do with 30.

Motions for guards to leave.

Meanwhile, I'll tend to your friend. Can't keep him waiting.

Exits. Carey and Sam are on opposite sides of the stage. Spotlight goes onto Sam.

SAM

Why? Why does it have to be like this? Everyone's going to die. Because of me. Because I can't be...

He sits in silence.

For god's sake, is it so much to ask to be normal!? To feel the way other people do! To think the way they think! Why do I have to be like this! It's like dad said...

Sam's father, Peter, enters the stage. He is wearing 1950's style dad clothes.

PETER

You dirty rotten little fairy! Who the hell do you think you are?

SAM

Dad?

PETER

Your mother told me what the principal caught you doing. To think... my son... my own flesh and blood! Caught kissing another boy!

SAM

Dad, please! We were just...

PETER

I don't care what you were just! That will not be tolerated in this house! I do my best...do my best to raise a fine young man. I give everything I have so you can be a good man... now this. I can't even look at you now.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I'm your son!

PETER

No... no you're not. I have no son!

He raises his hand like he's about to slap Sam, but it appears a force is holding his hand back. He struggles to free it. Sam, who cowered when the hand was first rose, is coming to a realization.

SAM

Yeah. You're right. You have no son. That day you kicked me out... When I was 13. 13 years old! You have no son. Threatening my mother if she ever tried to look for me. You have no son. But you had one. You lost him. You through him away. For years I thought it was me. I thought I did this to me. I thought what I was was wrong. Because of you. Your abuse conditioned me to hate myself. But you can't hurt me anymore. You're not real...

Peter starts backing up, a somewhat intimidated look on his face.

You pushed me out of your life. So I'm pushing you out of my head. You're not welcome here.

He pushes Peter

Do you hear me? GET OUT!

Peter looks defeated, then exits. Sam pauses, then collapses. Lights fade. Then up on Carey one the other side of the stage.

CAREY

Oh god.

Angelica enters the stage. She has a suitcase.

ANGELICA

Morning, sunshine.

CAREY

He said my worst Nightmare. This is much worse.

ANGELICA

Are you all ready to go?

CAREY

Go?

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

Yes, go. As in, leave.

CAREY

Go where?

ANGELICA

What? How could be so silly? We've been planning this vacation for weeks!

CAREY

Vacation.

Has a moment of remembrance

You really think I would want to go on vacation with you? After what you did?

ANGELICA

I... don't understand.

CAREY

Oh, right. You just forgot about that night in the bar?

ANGELICA

Carey, I'm sorry. I don't recall a bar or anything like that.

CAREY

You... you were cheating on me! That was it! Some guy... Bryan! All those church meetings!

ANGELICA

(Gasps)

Carey! How could you say that!

CAREY

I know it happened, Angelica. I saw it! With my own eyes!

ANGELICA

To say such things... about your own wife

She breaks into tears

CAREY

I...

He looks uncomfortable.

CAREY

It really never happened?

(CONTINUED)

ANGELICA

Of course not!

CAREY

I'm...sorry. I don't know why I thought...

She is smiling again.

ANGELICA

Shh. It doesn't matter. All that matters now is we have a week away. A week away to clear our heads...

CAREY

Right. That sounds good to me!

ANGELICA

Alright. If we're ready to go...

CAREY

What about the kids?

ANGELICA

What about them?

CAREY

Aren't they coming?

ANGELICA

Of course not! I sent them to Nancy for the week.

CAREY

Oh...

ANGELICA

What is it?

CAREY

I thought that they would come.

ANGELICA

But this is supposed to be our time away.

CAREY

I know, but...

ANGELICA

Carey can we please? Just this once?

CAREY

Fine...

ANGELICA

God damn it Carey! I try so hard to make you happy, but you just push me away!

CAREY

And that's the problem! Angelica, you don't have to do all these things to make me happy. All I want is for you to be by my side when I need you.

ANGELICA

But I do all these nice things...

CAREY

And I appreciate that! But I feel like you do those because you feel you need to, not because you want to.

ANGELICA

What do you mean?

CAREY

I don't know. A couple that sticks together through thick and thin. Makes each other really happy without effort. Enjoys each other's company no matter what.

ANGELICA

C'mon Carey. What relationship is like that?

Carey looks to the other side of the stage where Sam was. It's still dark so we can't see him.

CAREY

I could think of one...

ANGELICA

Whatever, Carey! You don't make any sense ever. It's just like Bryan...

CAREY

What did you say?

ANGELICA

I... didn't say anything.

CAREY

No, you said something about Bryan.

ANGELICA

What..who?

CAREY

Bryan, the guy you "didn't" sleep with.

ANGELICA

Carey, could we just get going?

CAREY

You did sleep with him! I knew it! How could you lie to me? How could...

has moment of realization.

Because this isn't real. You're not here right now. My worst nightmare. Telling you the truth. Admitting I was wrong about Sam and Elliot. Going against everything I know and believe. Damn straight my worst nightmare.

Turns to her

I'm sorry, Angie. I'm sorry I felt this way. That I drove you away. I wish we could've made it work.

ANGELICA

How are you gonna tell her? For real, I mean.

CAREY

I'm not sure. Hell, maybe I won't get to. But if I do, I won't run away from it. It'll be tough, but it has to be done.

Angelica looks for a moment like she wants to say something, then exits.

CAREY

Dear god. I could've killed the only real friends I've ever had.

Just then, Sam enters. Carey looks at him for a second, then breaks down on his knees into tears.
I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry!

SAM

Carey, I...

CAREY

I could've killed you! For such a stupid reason! I'm such a monster!

SAM

Carey, please...

CAREY

I'm such a bigot! Why would I...

SAM

Will you stop please?

Carey stops crying

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAM (cont'd)

What you did was stupid, yes. Terrible. But we can't change that now. What we can do is get out of here. I found the door and was able to get it unlocked. Want to know how you can make it up to me? Get up, help me find some weapons, find Elliot, and get the hell out of here!

CAREY

I...right. Let's...let's do that.

SAM

Good. Glad we could come to an agreement.

Carey gets up.

CAREY

Sam...

SAM

What?

CAREY

I friggin hate my wife.

They both laugh

Black out.

Scene 17

*Back at Calvin's office. Elliot is on the floor.
Calvin is standing over him with a knife.*

CALVIN

Does it really have to be this cliché? I ask you "one last time" and then you say "go to hell" and then I hit you again? Could you just tell me where your back up is and how many are coming in?

ELLIOT

Fine. They're hiding out... up in your ass.

CALVIN

(Sighs)

Highly original.

He kicks Elliot in his stomach.

You really are a tough one. I'll give you that. Haven't seen a tough guy like you in a while. Missed the difficulty in dealing with them. Shame, really. You'd make excellent crooks.

(CONTINUED)

Calvin's phone rings. He picks it up

CALVIN

What?...WHAT!? Escaped! You... just stay there. I'll be right down.

hangs up

Gotta deal with something. You stay here, and think about how much you value your life. Then we'll talk again.

He leaves. From the other side of the stage, Sam and Carey enter. They have guns.

CAREY

I think this is it.

SAM

Alright. I'll work on getting him out, you find the hostages and get out of here. Go to HQ down the street. Get the chief. Tell her we need every cop we can get.

CAREY

Right.

He begins to leave.

Sam...

SAM

Yeah?

CAREY

After this is done, I think I'll resign.

SAM

What? Why would you do that?

CAREY

Are you serious? I jeopardized my friends lives and the mission. I'm lucky I'm not getting court marshaled.

SAM

Carey, I hate that you did those things. I do. But it doesn't matter. You're the best cop in the city. We need you. If you can find those hostages and get help, it'll all be good.

CAREY

...thanks, Sam. I don't deserve this.

SAM

There have been a million wrong doings today. One should be forgiven.

(CONTINUED)

Carey exits. Sam walks up to the door to the office.

SAM

And for you, our lucky contestant. Can you guess what's behind door number 1?

ELLIOT

So, my liver may be shattered and you're making jokes.

SAM

Ah, yes. Your jokes always come at the greatest time.

ELLIOT

I agree. Can you get it unlocked?

SAM

Doesn't look hard.

Begins picking the lock.

ELLIOT

Where's Carey?

SAM

Off to find the hostages and get help.

ELLIOT

Didn't feel like stabbing you in the back first?

SAM

C'mon now. No attitude to have towards a friend.

ELLIOT

You're right. Good thing he's not our friend.

SAM

We'll discuss it later. Right now he's helping us quite a bit.

ELLIOT

Whatever.

Sam gets the door open. They stare at each other for a second, then embrace.

SAM

I was scared!

ELLIOT

I know, me too.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

This is distracting us from the mission

ELLIOT

I don't care. I really don't.

They release.

SAM

Okay. We need find Durant. By now, he'll probably be downstairs, looking for us.

ELLIOT

Right. We need to keep him there til Carey gets here. Then we take place.

SAM

Yup.

Cocks gun

Hey.

ELLIOT

Yeah?

SAM

You ready to kick some ass?

ELLIOT

Born ready, Sam.

Cocks gun.

Born ready.

Black out.

Scene 18

Calvin is standing with some guards

CALVIN

What do you mean you can't find them!?

GUARD

I'm... sorry sir. As soon as we got the call about the boiler room, we rushed right over. They must have gotten out then.

CALVIN

Shit! What do we do now? No cops, no hostages. Shit.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD

Should set up a perimeter, sir?

CALVIN

Indeed. Let me make this clear: I want them alive. I want to kill them myself. You will severely punished unless they *Walk* through that door.

Just then, Sam and Elliot walk on stage with guns
Well, looks like no one gets punished.

ELLIOT

Glad to hear it. Enough people have died because of you.

CALVIN

Oh, I'm just getting started, Mr. Willis. Let's see how much you laugh with a bullet in your mouth.

ELLIOT

Sorry, don't feel like testing that theory today.

CALVIN

And what makes you think you have a choice? There are 5 of us and 2 of you. Do the math, professor. You're screwed.

Just then, the Chief, Lieutenant, and Carey enter, brandishing guns.

CHIEF

Freeze, you son of a bitch! You're under arrest for more crimes than I can count!

ELLIOT

Good to see ya, Carey.

CAREY

Good to see you too. Sorry about the whole...

ELLIOT

Water under the bridge, friend.

SAM

I'll be your bridge, o'er troubled...

ELLIOT

Not now.

SAM

Never a bad time for Simon and Garfunkel.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIOT
Trufe

CHIEF
C'mon Durant. It's over

Calvin is unresponsive.

LIEUTENANT
Let's go Durant.

CALVIN
You did this to yourselves, you know.

ELLIOT
I hardly believe that.

CALVIN
No, man. Nobody else had to get hurt. I never touched those hostages. I didn't kill people because I wanted to.

CAREY
What ever, Durant. It's over now. You lost.

Lieutenant and Chief reach for Durant. He suddenly leaps forward and stabs Elliot in the heart.

SAM
No!

Elliot collapses. Calvin is grabbed. They drag him off stage. He is laughing hysterically.

CALVIN
Now that. I enjoyed that!

Carey rushes over to Elliot. He stares for a moment, makes a cross sign, then gets on his radio.

CAREY
This is James. Officer down. Durant Night club. Stab wounds to the heart...

He is walking off stage. Sam is holding Elliot.

SAM
El. El, c'mon. Please...

Elliot sturs.

ELLIOT

Hey there, Ethel.

SAM

Hey, ya old dirty bastard.

ELLIOT

I was thinking...what car...should we take tomorrow?

SAM

Oh, Elliot.

He pulls him close

I'm so sorry, El! I'm so sorry!

ELLIOT

Ah, well...bound to happen sometime...knew that from day one...

SAM

No, Elliot. You're gonna be okay. I'm gonna get you out and... and...

Elliot raises his finger to Sam's lips.

ELLIOT

Shhhh. I...want to look at you...remember your face. How I would describe it...

They stare at each other

Beautiful.

He dies. Sam bursts into tears.

SAM

No! Elliot, please! Please Elliot! I...I love you...so much...

Carey and two cops enter. Carey has a bible. The two cops pick up Elliot and carry him off stage. Carey begins to read as he walks with them.

CAREY

Today, we mourn the loss of a fellow officer. An officer who, in the line of duty, made the ultimate sacrifice for his fellow men.

Fade to Black.

Scene 19

Sam is in a bed. Carey enters.

CAREY

Morning, sleeping beauty.

SAM

Well, you certainly got the beauty part right.

CAREY

How are you feeling?

SAM

Doctor says I should be ready to go back to work next week.

CAREY

Glad to hear it, cause I got news.

SAM

Hmm. What could that be?

CAREY

Well, with Jackson's retirement, they're looking for a new head detective...

SAM

Oh, that's great, Carey! You'll be great!

CAREY

I didn't say I was going to take the position...

SAM

Well then why...

Sudden realization

You're not saying...

CAREY

I talked it over with the Chief, she agrees. Your ability to take charge showed greatly in the Durant night club. You're ready for the job.

SAM

But, my lack of experience...

CAREY

Is nothing compared to you skill. Trust me. I wouldn't do this if I didn't believe in you.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I... don't know how to thank you.

CAREY

Don't. I figured I owe you...after...

SAM

Carey, stop. Let it go. We can't change it now.

CAREY

And that's the problem! I can't go back and fix it! I can't stop myself from selling you guys out! I...

SAM

Carey! Please!

*Carey looks like he's coming back to reality.
Something is bothering him.*

CAREY

Sorry... other things on my mind too.

SAM

Right.

Awkward silence
How are the proceedings going?

CAREY

Not too bad. Looks like I get weekends. Better than nothing, I guess.

SAM

I'm sorry you have to go through this.

CAREY

Ah. Bound to happen.

A nurse pokes in.

NURSE

Mr. Davis, you have a visitor.

In walks Peter. He is sheepish and slow.

CAREY

Right...I'll...outside.

He ghastly exits.

PETER

Hello, Sam.

(CONTINUED)

Sam says nothing. He doesn't even look at his father.

Heard you were in quite a scrap...flew from Indiana last night... wanted to drop in.

Sam still says nothing.

Heard that one who got killed in there...you were...well...with him. What was his name?

Sam looks up for a second. Then looks back down. Suddenly, Peter breaks down and begins crying.

PETER

Sam... I can't expect you to forgive me. That wouldn't be logical. What I did was, quite possibly, the worst thing I have ever or will ever do. But I didn't come to say I'm sorry. I came to say that I'm proud of you. My son. Police chief of Chicago. I couldn't ask for better.

Sam is still unresponsive.

But if you don't want to talk...I can't expect you to. All I'll say is this: I'm sorry Sam.

Sniffles

I'm more sorry than I've ever been. And if you could find it in your heart to forgive me

Sniffles with a small sob

then you'd be just about the greatest man I ever saw.

He begins to leave

SAM

Elliot.

PETER

What's that?

SAM

His name. Elliot.

PETER

Right...Did you...love him?

SAM

More than you could imagine. He was what I could never be. He made me feel...invincible.

Gets up and walks to edge of stage.

The way I felt, after you kicked me out. I felt like there was something wrong with me. Like I had done this to myself. But he showed me. He made me proud of who I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SAM (cont'd)

am. And now...he never heard me say it. That I loved him. All he wanted was for me to say it. Just to know it had all been worth it. That I was comfortable with who I was. Enough to admit that I loved another man. Now all I do is sit at home, thinking...what would his face have been like? If he heard me say it? Guess I'll never know now. Since god felt it necessary to take him from me. Right when I was ready!

He collapses into Peter's arms sobbing.
I miss him so much!

Blackout.