

**DRIVE**

An Original Screenplay  
by  
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**EXCERPT:**

INT. MANNY'S -- DAY

Shadowy place. Smoke. Two billiard tables.

Willie plays eight-ball with Pelletier, the man who invited them there.

Willie's co-workers sit at a table nearby. Willie takes a drink from his frosty mug of root beer and sets it on the table.

Pelletier racks the balls. Willie's break is weak. The balls don't disperse much.

PELLETIER

You don't play this game much?

WILLIE

I don't have time for leisure.

PELLETIER

All your aspirations are  
professional, Monsieur Tischler?

WILLIE

I plan to form my own construction  
company. A family company. When my  
sons are old enough they will work for  
me.

PELLETIER

And how are you going to do that  
without any capital?

Pelletier takes his shot, blasts the cue ball into the cluster, scatters balls in every direction. Sinks a stripe. Lines up his next shot.

WILLIE

I am saving. Slowly.

Pelletier sinks another ball.

PELLETIER

Wouldn't it be better to save rapidly?

Pelletier sinks another shot.

WILLIE

What do you propose?

Pelletier misses a shot.

PELLETIER

How much money do you currently earn?

Willie takes a shot and misses.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

Per month.

WILLIE

About forty.

PELLETIER

And how many hours do you work in a week?

WILLIE

As many as the owner tells me to work.

Pelletier sinks a ball.

PELLETIER

Without increasing your pay.

WILLIE

I work until the job is finished.

PELLETIER

And then you come home in the evening  
and do more work for Monsieur Stein.  
The work is never finished, is it  
Willie?

Pelletier sinks a fifth ball. More green space on the table.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

You're exhausting yourself. You're  
barely getting ahead. And you don't  
have any time for your family.

Pelletier misses his next shot.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

The Brotherhood will negotiate a twenty percent pay increase, a forty hour work week, and guaranteed leave time.

Willie looks at his work mates.

LOU

Suppose one of your boys got sick?

WILLIE

That's why Helene is at home.

PELLETIER

One of these days, if you don't give her the attention she desires, she might not be at home alone.

Willie is angered. He walks toward Pelletier as if he wants to whack him over the head with his cue. Scowls at him.

He thinks better of it and composes himself.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

It's your shot.

Willie studies the table. He hasn't sunk a single ball.

WILLIE

With every handout a man accepts, he surrenders a little power. And before he knows it, he's being controlled by a tyrant. How do I know that tyrant isn't you, Herr Pelletier?

Willie lines up a shot and misses.

PELLETIER

Labor unions are not evil. They are part of the give and take of free enterprise.

WILLIE

Give and take, you say? The boss will take my position. Fire me. He could find someone to replace me in one hour.

PELLETIER

Someone with your talents, Willie?  
No, he couldn't. Especially if all of  
you unite. Together, the Brotherhood  
reduces the tyranny you fear.

Pelletier sinks another shot.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

We make the work environment better  
for employers too. Full membership in  
the Brotherhood requires a man to pass  
a licensing exam.

Willie looks at his work mates again.

WILLIE

I suppose all of you are planning to  
join?

LOU

We're not joining unless you do. It's  
all of us, or none of us. You're the  
foreman, Willie.

PELLETIER

Despots arise in all political  
climates. Ideologies mean nothing.  
Conservative, liberal, doesn't  
matter.

Pelletier sinks his seventh ball.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

Let me tell you something else. Money  
is an ideology unto itself. It is not  
real. Not a tangible thing like men  
want to believe. Rich men stay rich  
as long as the majority are in debt.

He lines up his final shot.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

Tyrants prey on the vulnerable,  
Willie. The poor and the uneducated.  
Eliminate poverty, educate your  
citizens, and in a democratic republic  
like the United States you won't have  
voters stupid enough to give power to  
tyrants.

Pelletier sinks the eight ball.

PELLETIER (CONT'D)

One more thing. If a corrupt man  
happens to steal his way into office,  
the Congress has the Constitutional  
power to impeach him and fire him.