

Screenplay

DOWNTOWN CHICAGO, 1948

ANTERO SCARCELLA and ARTHUR CHAPMANN pace down a midnight road smoking and making small talk.

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

I'm telling you I never saw nothing
like it, they threw away that game

ANTERO SCARCELLA laughs to the annoyance of ARTHUR. They enter a bar and turn over the Open sign as they enter. The bar is empty apart from two men at the bar, one of whom is passed out. Two men at the back and a barmaid.

ANTERO SCARCELLA

Micky!

MICHAEL "MICKY" HARTMANN looks up from his drink at ANTERO and ARTHUR. He then turns to the man passed out beside him and gives him a shove.

MICHAEL HARTMANN

Chuckin' out time, go on, get!

The drunken man stumbles to the door and leaves the bar. MICKY gets up from his stool to shake hands with the gentlemen, the barmaid VICKY PRIMROSE walks over with a welcoming smile.

VICKY PRIMROSE

Gentlemen. Can I take your coats,
maybe get you something to drink?
Arthur?

ARTHUR looks her up before clenching his jaw and removing his coat, ANTERO doing the same but looking off elsewhere.

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Whisky on the rocks, and same again
here

VICKY nods and smiles before taking her coats off to the hang and heading round the otherside of the bar to collect drinks. ARTHUR, MICHAEL and ANTERO walk towards the back of the bar where JIMMY "SLIM JIM" PEARS and SAM "KID" CARVELL are sat at a table.

JIMMY PEARS

Hey Chapmann, thought you wouldn't
make it. Whats the matter? Mummy
wouldn't let you out to play? Haha

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ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Shut up Jimmy and deal some cards
will ya?

ARTHUR, Antero and Michael take a seat at the table.

JIMMY PEARS

Ah stick in the mud, mind if the
kid stays? Hes been dealing with us
while we've been waiting.

MICHAEL HARTMANN

Past his bed time aint it?

SAM CARVELL

Well I -

ANTERO SCARCELLA

If the kids got the money, the more
the better I say, deal 'um

JIMMY begins to deal the cards out for a game of poker, as
he reaches CHAPMANN..

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Mmm, can we use the house cards?
Its just..

ANTERO SCARCELLA

What you think we'd swindle ya?

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Its not like that, its just, ya
know, superstition?

JIMMY takes the cards back shaking his head and begins to
deal the house cards. VICKY walks over with the drinks and
house deck, she hands out the drinks with a smile before
JIMMY pulls her onto his lap.

JIMMY PEARS

How about a little sugar with my
drink honey?

VICKY PRIMROSE

I think your sweet enough darlin',
dont you?

Vicky gets up giggling and walks off, Jimmy slaps her on the
behind as she waks off. Jimmy begins to deal, as he deals to
Michael..

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MICHAEL HARTMANN

This time i'll be keeping an eye on
you Slim

JIMMY PEARS

Ahh your just sore from last week,
its really not attractive. Did I
ever tell you the one about the
mother? So this mother is in the
kitchen making dinner for her
family when her daughter walks in.
"Mummy, where do babies come from?"
The mother thinks for a few seconds
and..

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Jimmy..

JIMMY PEARS

..and says, "Well dear, Mommy and
Daddy fall in love and get married.
One night they go into their
bedroom, they kiss and hug, and
have sex." The daughter looks
puzzled so the mother continues,
"That means the daddy puts his
penis in the mommy's vagina. That's
how you get a baby, honey." The
child seems to comprehend. "Oh, I
see, but the other night when I
came into your room you had daddy's
penis in your mouth. What do you
get when you do that?" "Jewelry, my
dear. Jewelry."

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Jesus, if I hear that once more I
swear Jimmy im going to hang you by
your neck tie.

MICHAEL HARTMANN

Why you gotta take it there?

MICHAEL shakes his head as they continue to play poker, SAM
laughs. JIMMY wins the first hand and rakes in the chips
before dealing again. ANTERO is slow to pick up his cards.

ANTERO SCARCELLA

Sorry, sorry. Haven't been sleeping
right these last few nights.

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MICHAEL HARTMANN

Army?

ANTERO SCARCELLA

Rangers.

MICHAEL HARTMANN

Messes with a mans mind, war.

ANTERO SCARCELLA

I just remember the sounds you know, the bombs. A kid, no older than ten. I found him stood over this Jap soldier. Fuck, before I knew it he had the rifle in his hand and.. Well i'll just never forget it.

MICHAEL HARTMANN

Yeah. I used to get the bad dreams too. Lick of something stiff always helps.

ANTERO folds his hand as the lads continue playing

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

It all gets a bit mundane, life, when you know taking a mans life is so easy.

SAM CARVELL

You've killed someone too?

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Kid, I could tell you some stories

JIMMY PEARS

Hey now, come on. The Kids wet behind the ears, maybe this aint the best bedtime story. C'mon.

CHAPMANN gazes at his wrist watch for a moment and then back to the table.

MICHAEL HARTMANN

What you got someone better to be with Chapmann? Someone waiting?

ARTHUR CHAPMANN

Hmm? No, no, just keeping an eye on the time. I fold.

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ARTHUR throws his cards in, quickly followed by MICHAEL. The next card is drawn on the table and is a Jack. JIMMY, ARTHUR and SAM put all their money down.

JIMMY PEARS
Sure about this kid?

SAM nods and they all reveal their cards revealing that SAM has won.

JIMMY PEARS
Well I be a son of a gun, the kid won..

ANTERO SCARCELLA
Look look..

ANTERO draws JIMMY'S cards across the table a bit

JIMMY PEARS
Hey, c'mon

ANTERO SCARCELLA
He was one jack away, hes one Jack
Off!

The guys all start laughing apart from JIMMY who gestures for them to quiet down, drawing in his cards ready to deal again.

JIMMY PEARS
Vicky, chips, two hundred dollars
please

SAM CARVELL
Heh Heh, can't believe it, caught
you jacking off again. You'll never
learn, hey Jim. Haha

MICHAEL and ARTHUR go quiet whilst SAM and ANTERO continue laughing. JIMMY looks confused as he shuffles the deck.

MICHAEL HARTMANN
Wait a minute, wait a minu- just
wait a minute

ARTHUR CHAPMANN
Shut your god damn mouths!

Everyone goes silent and tense, looking around the table at one another, SAM sinks into his chair.

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ARTHUR CHAPMANN
You two know one another?

JIMMY PEARS
What, no no

ARTHUR CHAPMANN
I'll say again, do you know this
kid Jimmy?!

JIMMY PEARS
Now hold on just a second there
Chapmann, I told you, I told you
all this is just some kid.. I-

MICHAEL and ARTHUR both stand up and draw their guns firing on JIMMY who in turn draws his gun and fires back, ANTERO draws his gun at MICHAEL who grabs his arm and pulls him closer and is shot by JIMMY. The room goes quiet and SAM pulls himself up from the floor and surveys the damage, a moan from JIMMY on the floor bleeding out. He fires empty shots in the direction of SAM.

JIMMY PEARS
You fucking Kid, you fucking kid,
your fucking dead I tell you, dead.
You know what you just did? Ha! Do
ya? Im gunna-

SAM leans down and presses the gun barrel to his lips hushing him.

SAM CARVELL
Shhh Shhh Shhh now, dont make a
mess now, it wouldn't make for a
good bedtime story.

SAM stands up and shoots JIMMY dead, he then turns and picks up all the money from the table as VICKY comes over with a large bag to put it all in. The two walk out of the bar together leaving behind them the aftermath.