

1

INT. MOTEL ROOM NIGHT

Bare, even for a motel room. No TV or telephone, just a bed, a desk. A neon signs blinks outside the window.

The door opens. A shadowy masculine figure stands in the doorway. JIMMY staggers through. He sets down the small suitcase.

He slings his overcoat and fedora on the bed. He pulls his white dress shirt open as he drags himself to the bathroom.

ANGLE ON THE BATHROOM

Jimmy splashes water over his face. His eyes are red

ANGLE ON BEDROOM

Jimmy stumbles across the room in a white tank undershirt and slacks. Sits at the desk. Writes.

JIMMY

(V.O.)

You once told me life's got a way of knocking us down when we already think we've hit the floor. I think finally I understand. Looking back maybe I needed pair of binoculars to see the curves up ahead. Maybe that was my problem. I looked too hard at the brush strokes and missed the bigger picture. Either way I'm spelling it out now so you can save a penny later.

2

INT. APARTMENT EVENING

JIMMY

(V.O.)

I came home like any other evening except I had good news.

Jimmy enters the Apartment.

JIMMY

Christine! Guess what happened today?

CHRISTINE, a woman around the same age as Jimmy, shuffles in.

CHRISTINE

Finally got that promotion you been
aimin' for?

JIMMY

Cute sweetheart.

CHRISTINE

Oh, You wanted to surprise me.

JIMMY

Forget it.

CHRISTINE

But we can still celebrate?

JIMMY

What did you have in mind.

CHRISTINE

Why don't you just shake the sand
off those boots while I fix a
drink. Eh, there cowboy.

JIMMY

Whatever you say there ma'am.

He leaves his hat and coat on the rack. Jimmy swaggers into the living area. A fedora hat lays on the couch. He looks back at the coat rack upon which his own hat lies. He picks it up inspecting the inside of it. He fits it over his head.

CHRISTINE

(O.S.)

Nothing for me?

Jimmy removes the hat and spins around to see the woman holding a pair of Martini glasses.

JIMMY

Found it here on the couch. Did
you...?

CHRISTINE

Hey, keep me out of the line up.

She sets the drinks down on a coffee table.

JIMMY

Who-

CHRISTINE

Tony's. Must a left it here when
he was fixin the radiator

JIMMY

Radiator?

CHRISTINE

When I got back from the library,
it was on the fritz so gave him a
call.

Jimmy looks up from the hat to his wife

CHRISTINE (cont'd)

Was I supposed to freeze to death?

She picks up a cigarette off the small dish on the coffee
table.

JIMMY

Could have given me a ring.

CHRISTINE

What do you know about mending
radiators?

JIMMY

With the rent we pay I shouldn't
have to know Jack.

CHRISTINE

I thought this was a celebration.

He lights her cigarette.

JIMMY

Mmm, radiator 's not the only thing
warmin' up.

They sit, picking up their drinks.

FADE

3 INT. APARTMENT MORNING

Jimmy struts into the kitchen. Christine hovers over the
paper with a glass of juice. Jimmy pours himself a cup of
coffee.

JIMMY

Cold in here or do you wanna do
some more celebrating?

She shoots a look. He moseys over to the radiator and puts
his hand to it.

JIMMY

Tony fixed the radiator?

CHRISTINE

Worked fine last night, why?

JIMMY

Warm as your mother's heart.

CHRISTINE

I'll give Tony a ring.

She gets up and picks up the phone

JIMMY

But-

CHRISTINE

Do you even have the tools for a
job like that? Look at those nuts.
You'd need a bigger wrench.

JIMMY

I could get one.

She smiles and dials.

4

INT. APARTMENT EVENING

Christine and Jimmy are both in coats. Christine sits
reading a book. TONY hovers over the radiator. A tool box
sits open next to him on a green stool. Jimmy hovers over
Tony.

CHRISTINE

We appreciate you coming out again.

TONY

Sure.

Tony glances and catches Christine's ankle, he follows her
leg up to the edge of her dress, peaking out from under the
coat. She looks up and catches Tony in a stare. Tony turns
back to his work.

TONY

I mean I'm just surprised that this sucker's been acting up as much as it has. These are usually sturdy as molasses on the fourth of July.

Jimmy throws a glance at his wife who is still engrossed in her magazine.

JIMMY

This antique 'bout ready for the crows?

TONY

Na, she's got quite a bit of steam left in her, just gotta know how to coax it out. But if you work her right, she'll purr like a kitten.

The radiator hisses to life.

5 INT. APARTMENT LATER

CHRISTINE

Thanks again Tony.

TONY

Oh it's always a pleasure Christine.

Christine takes off her coat and hangs it up.

TONY (cont'd)

Wow.

CHRISTINE

Pardon?

TONY

Oh, that dress is real pretty on you... Not that you're not good lookin' other times, it's just you had you're coat on and I...

CHRISTINE

You're sweet Tony.

Jimmy clears his throat, steps in between them and hangs his own coat up.

JIMMY
 Sure we're not going to have any
 more hitches?

TONY
 (Confidently)
 Sure as nine dimes buys a dollar.

JIMMY
 Ten.

TONY
 Huh?

JIMMY
 Ten dimes.

TONY
 Sorry I don't think I have any
 change on me right now.

JIMMY
 (Pulling Tony's hat off the
 coat rack)
 Don't forget your lid. Wouldn't
 want you to have to circle for it.

TONY
 (Smiling at Christine)
 I wouldn't mind.

Jimmy puts his arm around Christine.

JIMMY
 Tony.

TONY
 See ya.

Tony exits.

JIMMY
 Sweet?

CHRISTINE
 What? He is. You could stand to be
 a bit nicer to him.

JIMMY
 With the up and downs he tosses
 you.

CHRISTINE
Hows that?

JIMMY
Like a wolf on the hunt.

CHRISTINE
Jealous.

JIMMY
Of that sap?

CHRISTINE
I kinda like it.

JIMMY
Speaking of predators.

FADE

6 INT. APARTMENT EARLY MORNING

Jimmy rolls out of bed. He stumbles to the radiator. He places his hand on it.

JIMMY
Son of a...

7 INT. APARTMENT EVENING

Jimmy enters. He takes off his hat and coat. Laughing comes from the other room. Christine sits on the couch. Christine puts a cigarette out in an ashtray and picks a fresh one up. Tony sits opposite Christine. His tool box resting open on the green stool.

CHRISTINE
Hey Jimmy.

Jimmy nods in response. Christine tries to light a cigarette.

TONY
Hey Jimmy, I was showin' Christine how to play chess.

Jimmy lights his wife's cigarette. Christine concentrates on the board.

JIMMY
Radiator fixed?

TONY
Yeah, I think I got it this time.

JIMMY
Here.

Jimmy moves a white knight in front of the queen. Jimmy doesn't take his eyes off Tony, who suddenly becomes more aware of Jimmy than ever before.

JIMMY (cont'd)
Protect your queen.

TONY
You know what, I gotta blow, I have a thing I should be getting to.

JIMMY
Wouldn't want you late for your thing.

Tony scrambles to leave under Jimmy's close watch

JIMMY (cont'd)
(V.O.)
There was no question about the score. I hadn't credited Tony with nearly as much as he deserved.

8 MONTAGE

Jimmy sits in a chair staring at the radiator.

JIMMY
(V.O.)
That night I stayed up and watched that radiator. Wouldn't you know, I was as warm as if I had a good woman next to me. As the rain came down outside, I began to plan. It was simple. One look at that old tool box of his, and he would be cooked.

Jimmy sitting at the kitchen table the next morning staring at the stool. Tool box superimposed on stool

Jimmy pulls out a can of paint and repaints the stool the following night.

9 INT. APARTMENT MORNING

Christine relaxes in the kitchen drinking coffee in her bathrobe doing a crossword puzzle. Jimmy B-lines for the radiator.

CHRISTINE
Already checked. Broke again.

JIMMY
That so.

CHRISTINE
He'll be over in about an hour.

JIMMY
Fantastic.

Jimmy pours a cup of coffee.

10 INT. APARTMENT LATER

A doorbell RINGS. Jimmy holds court from the couch while he finishes his coffee.

TONY
(O.S.)
I'm going to try one more thing and then we'll go ahead and get you a new one.

Christine and Tony enter.

JIMMY
Mornin' Tony.

Tony jumps.

TONY
Oh, hey Jimmy, didn't see you sitting there.

JIMMY
Tony you know what? I really like that tool box of yours. I was thinking about getting one myself.

TONY
Oh, thanks Jimmy.

JIMMY
Think I could get a slant?

TONY
The Huff's downstairs got a busted
sink I gotta get to after this.
Maybe another time.

JIMMY
Come on it'll only take a snap.

TONY
Yeah sure, why not.

Jimmy inspects the tool box. There's no green to be found
on it anywhere.

JIMMY
You got any others?

TONY
Naw, just need the one.

JIMMY
Sure?

TONY
Yes.

JIMMY
Excuse me I got a thing in the
other room I gotta check on.

TONY
A thing?

Jimmy charges out of the room bewildered. He clamors into

11 BEDROOM CONTINUOUS

Pulls a lighter and a pack of cigarettes out of his night
stand.

Something catches his attention out of the corner of his
eye. He pulls back the bed spread revealing a spot of green
paint on his wife's side of the bed.

He opens the door to see

12 ANGLE ON HIS WIFE LIGHTING A MATCH
Christine lights Tony's cigarette.

13 INT. MOTEL ROOM NIGHT
Jimmy sits writing his letter.

JIMMY
(V.O.)
She played me like a 10 dollar
fiddle. You never liked her but I
was too stubborn to see why. Guess
the real world was too much for me
to handle.

He pauses lights up a cigarette

JIMMY (cont'd)
If you can find it in your heart to
forgive me, I'll be home on the
14th - Love Jimmy.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END