

NOWHERE MAN

A Full Length Play Without Intermission

## CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

HARVEY -- in his thirties. He is a sizable man who moves in an awkward manner. He is simple but not retarded. He is a person of good heart, but confused by the world around him. He is devoted to Leon who has always been his protector.

LEON -- also in his thirties. Leon fancies himself a ladies' man and tries to be stylish but his taste is less than GQ. He is an autodidact who thinks he is more knowledgeable than the majority of people. He has never fit in with society and considers that their fault, not his. He has always been there for Harvey and often goes beyond the norm in protecting Harvey.

NICKY --seventeen or eighteen, she is a lost soul who distracts herself with partying and sex. All of that is just cover for the emptiness she has in her life. She has accidentally stumbled upon Harvey and Leon and finds herself trapped in a difficult situation.

**Casting can be of any race or any mix of races.**

## SETTING:

The action of the play takes place on the rooftop of an older urban building. The rooftop is bordered by a ledge about knee-high.

There is the typical small structure on the roof with an inward opening door that allows access to the roof. At the moment, it is held partway open by a hunk of cinder block.

There are various pieces of the necessary building equipment i.e. air-conditioning unit, water tank, various antennae and a cell phone tower on the roof.

Upstage, buildings rise several stories higher than this one.

The atmosphere is very urban. It could be any medium to large city.

## SYNOPSIS:

“And none will hear the postman’s knock  
Without a quickening of the heart.  
For who can bear to feel himself forgotten?”  
W.H. Auden

But there are those who are forgotten or never known. In an attempt to make certain that his best friend, Harvey, escapes that fate, Leon has chosen a way to make him famous before he dies. When the world does not acknowledge one’s existence only desperate choices can attract their attention.

## SCENE ONE

AT THE RISE:

The sun is just beginning to peek over the downstage buildings as the day slowly creeps into existence casting their shadows across the rooftop. The day is cloudy. The normal sounds of city life rise from below.

On the rooftop, a man in his early thirties sits nervously on the edge of a collapsible plastic lounge chair. His name is HARVEY. He is unkempt, but not shabby. His clothes are worn but not tattered or soiled. When he moves, his movements are awkward like someone uncertain of himself... he is in fact somewhat simple.

Harvey is anxious. He paces the rooftop and periodically goes to the door and sticks his head into the stairwell and listens. He is waiting for someone to arrive. He crosses and looks down towards the street hoping to see the person he awaits.

HARVEY

(Calling to the street.)

Leon... Leon, are you down there?

He waits, but there is no response.

HARVEY (CONT)

Darn you, Leon.

Then he returns to the door. Even though it is already open, he opens it further and resets the cinder block to hold it.

He returns to the lounge and sits. He fidgets nervously for a moment or two, then is back on his feet. He crosses to the ledge down stage. He leans out over it and strains to see a bank clock down the street.

HARVEY (CONT)

Ten to six. He's late. Darn you, Leon.

Harvey returns to the lounge chair and sits. He tries to be patient, but can't quite manage it. His hands are on his knees and tapping out some tune that he indistinctly hums. Finally, he can't take it any more. He gets up and trudges back to the ledge. He leans over to read the clock again.

HARVEY (CONT)

Five to six. He's not coming.

Harvey leans over the ledge to see in each direction searching for his friend. He leans dangerously far over the ledge.

From the doorway, LEON enters unseen by Harvey. Leon is about the same age as Harvey, but more neatly attired. It is obvious that his appearance is important to him. He presents himself with a certain sense of confidence... maybe even arrogance. Leon carries two six packs of beer. He quietly sets them down.

HARVEY (CONT)

(calling)

Leon... Leon... Leon... Leon... Leon...

Leon creeps up on Harvey. He hesitates a moment, then gooses him. Harvey startled jumps and almost falls over the ledge. Leon grabs him by the pants and laughs.

HARVEY (CONT.)

Not funny, Leon.

LEON

You almost fell off the roof.

HARVEY

You would feel very bad if I fell.

LEON

True, but then you'd be a big splattered jelly donut of a man.

HARVEY

You said five thirty, Leon. It's not five thirty.

LEON

Don't start with the incensed wife routine.

HARVEY

You're always late, Leon.

LEON

Drop it.

HARVEY

Where's the stuff? You forgot the stuff, didn't you?

LEON

I did not forget the stuff. See...

Leon picks up the beer.

HARVEY

The other stuff.

LEON

I couldn't carry it all. I left it on the stairs. Give me a hand.

Leon starts towards the door. Harvey follows.

HARVEY

We should have come together that way I wouldn't worry and I could help you carry the stuff.

LEON

That wasn't the plan, Harvey. The plan was you arrive at the location while it's still dark, and make sure nobody's on the roof. And you have accomplished that task very well. The chair's a nice touch.

HARVEY

That was already here.

LEON

Then, step two of the plan was I come later with the stuff and here I am.

HARVEY

Not later. You didn't say 'later'. You said five thirty.

LEON

Perhaps I should have said five thirty-ish to avoid any confusion. I'm sorry. Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima fucking culpa. Are we going to get the stuff or would you prefer to continue with your petulant reproach?

HARVEY

Don't try and confuse me with big words, Leon. I was worried. I thought you weren't coming.

LEON

Why wouldn't I come? This whole plan was my idea.

HARVEY

I don't know. I was worried that maybe we weren't friends anymore.

LEON

We've been friends since we were twelve. Why would I stop now?

HARVEY

Because I'm sick. Maybe you don't like sick people.

LEON

How many times do I have to tell you that you're not sick.

HARVEY

The doctor thinks I'm sick. He said that I have...

(whispers the word)

...cancer.

LEON

That's not sick. That's cancer. Cancer is a natural part of your body's genetic structure. Everybody has cancer but in some people it's dormant and in others it's temporarily active then it goes back to sleep. Lots of people get cancer and they're fine. They live a long normal life.

HARVEY

Like who?

LEON

Like uh...

(searching)

Like John Wayne. You always liked John Wayne movies, right?

HARVEY

Yeah.

LEON

Well, he had cancer for a long, long time but he was still a tough guy.

HARVEY

But his cancer killed him.

LEON

After a long, long time. Okay? Let's get the stuff.

Leon starts to the door followed by Harvey.

HARVEY

If I'm okay then how come the doctor said we'd have to do some more tests. That sounds serious.

LEON

Who you going to believe? Some doctor in a government clinic raking in our tax dollars or your oldest friend?

HARVEY

We don't pay taxes.

LEON

Not the point. I'm your friend. He's a stranger. That's the point.

HARVEY

But he's a doctor.

LEON

You know what they call the stupidest guy to graduate from medical school?

HARVEY

No.

LEON

Doctor.

HARVEY

That's true, Leon. I never thought of that.

LEON

Just listen to me, okay? Help me get the stuff.

They move towards the door.

HARVEY

You look nice today. How come you're all dressed up?

LEON

It's a big day. I thought I should look nice. Might be television cameras or photographers.

Harvey leans in and sniffs Leon.

LEON (CONT)

What are you doing? Get off me.

HARVEY

You were with a girl, weren't you?

LEON

She was a woman.

HARVEY

That's why you were late.

LEON

I'm not late. You going to help me?

HARVEY

A schedule is a schedule.

LEON

Yeah, yeah, yeah...

SFX: A distant sound of rolling thunder.

LEON (CONT)

Sounds like it might rain on somebody's parade.

Leon pushes Harvey through the doorway then starts to follow.



Leon stumbles over the cinder block knocking it from the door. The door starts to close, but Harvey quickly grabs it.

HARVEY

Did you not see the hunk of brick?

LEON

If I saw it, I wouldn't have tripped over it.

HARVEY

And why do you think it's there?

LEON

You are not actually quizzing me as to why a brick is holding a door open, are you? I mean, this is not one of the world's more difficult conundrums.

HARVEY

(Prompting him to answer)

So...?

LEON

So the door doesn't slam shut. Okay, you happy?

HARVEY

And...?

LEON

(At his wit's end.)

This is promising to be a long damn day.

HARVEY

I'm waiting.

Explaining as if to a child. Using his hands as puppets and different cartoonish voices for each hand.

LEON

(Right Hand)

Hey, Dodo, I wonder what would happen if the door slammed shut while we are on the roof?

(Left Hand)

Golly, Doofus, we'd be trapped on the roof maybe forever.

LEON (CONT)

(Right Hand)

On no, I'm scared, Dodo.

(Left Hand)

You don't have to worry, Doofus, because if the door slammed shut, we would have been on the inside where...

(Directing this at Harvey)

...you just push the handle and the door opens.

HARVEY

(Smiling)

I like when you do the puppets, Leon.

LEON

You are one of the strangest human beings I have ever encountered. Do you know that?

HARVEY

Don't call me that, Leon. I don't like it when you say that. And when I tell somebody that I will be somewhere at a certain time, I'm there.

LEON

Whoopee! Give me a hand.

HARVEY

Aren't you going to help?

LEON

This is a clean shirt. I don't want to get sweaty.

HARVEY

You carried it here and you didn't get sweaty.

LEON

I pushed it in a grocery cart. You gonna get the rest of the stuff before some lowlife steals it?

HARVEY

Don't get mad, Leon.

Harvey returns down the stairwell. Leon goes to the ledge and scouts out the street below. He picks up a pebble and tosses it towards a 'target' in the street.

LEON

Perfect.

Harvey enters carrying what appears to be a large bag for athletic equipment.

HARVEY

Where should I put it?

LEON

By the chair.

HARVEY

Should we get ready?

LEON

Let me catch my breath. I just got here.

HARVEY

(A slightly superior attitude.)

That's because you were late.

LEON

I'm going to ignore that. What time is it?

Harvey crosses again to the downstage ledge and starts to lean out so that he can read the clock at the end of the street. He thinks better of this and places his hand over his butt so Leon can't goose him again.

LEON (CONT)

What are you doing?

HARVEY

Goose me once, shame on you. Goose me twice...

LEON

I get it. I get it. What time is it?

HARVEY

Six eleven... or twelve.

LEON

Too soon.

Leon settles into the lounge chair.

HARVEY

Why?

LEON

The parade doesn't start until nine.

HARVEY

We can still get ready.

LEON

And after we get ready, what are we going to do?

HARVEY

Wait?

LEON

Exactly. So why would we start the job, then wait, then restart the job. This way we reduce the workload to two tasks... waiting and working. Got it?

HARVEY

First we wait then we work.

SFX: More distant thunder.

HARVEY (CONT)

You think it's going to rain?

LEON

Maybe. Doesn't really matter. We just hang out and wait for the action to start.

There is a long silence finally Harvey can't take it anymore.

HARVEY

What do you want to do until then?

LEON

I don't know, Harvey. What do you want to do?

(A beat)

Get it?

HARVEY

Get what?

LEON

(Repeating in the same intonation)

I don't know, Harvey. What do you want to do?

HARVEY

I don't get it.

LEON

It's from an old movie, *Marty*. Nineteen fifty-five. Written by Paddy Chayefsky and starring the late Ernest Borgnine. Only he wasn't late then. It's a love story about two ugly shy lonely people who find each other. Marty and his buddy, Angie are always hanging out together because they can't find a girl and they don't really fit in with the crowd. Marty always asks Angie, "What do you want to do tonight?" and he answers, "I don't know, Marty, what do you want to do?"

HARVEY

Kind of like us, huh?

LEON

How so?

HARVEY

We don't fit in with the crowd and we never have anything to do.

LEON

But we are not ugly.

HARVEY

And you're not shy.

LEON

Bingo!

HARVEY

You know a lot of stuff, Leon. Movies and words and... and lots of stuff. You should go on that TV show.

LEON

What show?

HARVEY

With the mustache guy.

LEON

There's a lot of mustache guy shows.

HARVEY

You know with the big board with all the answers and stuff.

LEON

Jeopardy?

HARVEY

Yeah. Jeopardy. With the mustache guy.

LEON

I don't think he has a mustache anymore.

HARVEY

Maybe. But you should go on that show.

LEON

Nah.

HARVEY

Why not? You could make a lot of money.

LEON

On account of the buzzer.

HARVEY

What's wrong with the buzzer?

LEON

Nothing's wrong with the buzzer. It's just that my mind doesn't work like that, you know?

HARVEY

No.

LEON

On the show, they hit you with a question and if you buzz in first, you get to answer the question.

HARVEY

Oh right, the buzzer...

LEON

My head doesn't work that way. For me it's like things arrive spontaneously and I act on them. If I have to push a buzzer that's all I'm going to be thinking about... push the buzzer, push the buzzer. Besides if some geek is beating me to the buzzer all night, I'm going to get pissed off and smack him up the side of the head.

HARVEY

So what happens?

LEON

What do you mean?

HARVEY

To the ugly people.

LEON

It's a movie. What do you think happens? They fall in love with two ugly girls.

HARVEY

That's nice that two ugly people find somebody. How come we never found somebody?

LEON

Just meant to be that way.

HARVEY

It would be nice to have someone.

LEON

You got someone. You got me.

HARVEY

I know... But we aren't in love. We're friends. It would be nice to have a girl.

LEON

Sometimes.

HARVEY

Unless she makes you late for your appointment.

LEON

How much longer you going to keep beating that dead horse?

HARVEY

I think I made my point.

LEON

You think?

Leon rises from the lounge chair and removes his shirt. He drapes it over the back of the lounge. He then removes his pants. He is wearing a pair of leopard print bikini underpants.

LEON (CONT)

It's starting to get sticky. Must be humidity from that storm.

HARVEY

I don't think you should take your pants off, Leon.

LEON

Why not?

HARVEY

'Cause all your stuff is kind of poking out.

LEON

If we were on a beach, you wouldn't be saying anything.

HARVEY

We don't go to the beach because you're afraid of seagulls.

LEON

I am not afraid of seagulls. I simply respect their domain and find beach-going to be nothing other than another example of man's arrogant incursion into nature.

HARVEY

(laughing at the story)

You're afraid. When that seagull pooped on your head one time, you screamed like a little girl. You were funny.

Harvey demonstrates the moment as he remembers it.

HARVEY (CONT)

You were funny.

LEON

Fine. I stipulate to your moment of merriment. Now can we drop it?



Leon settles in enjoying the morning. Harvey sits impatiently uncertain as to what he should do. After a few moments of silence...

HARVEY

You want to prepare the stuff?

LEON

What time is it?

Harvey peers over the downstage ledge. Leon sneaks up and gooses him.

HARVEY

Hey...!

LEON

Couldn't resist. What's the time?

HARVEY

Almost seven.

LEON

I'll wait.

Leon returns to the chair and settles in.

HARVEY

You're making me nervous. I think we should prepare everything.

LEON

Be my guest.

Harvey picks up the equipment bag. He opens the case and removes a disassembled high caliber semi-automatic rifle and a scope.

HARVEY

Wow!

LEON

You know how to put that together?

HARVEY

I'll figure it out.

Harvey sits on the roof and begins to fiddle with the various parts trying to discover how they fit together. He in many ways resembles a child playing with an unfamiliar toy.

HARVEY (CONT)

Where'd you get it the rifle, Leon?

LEON

This is America, Harvey. Break into a couple of houses and you're guaranteed to come up with at least one gun.

HARVEY

You stole it?

LEON

Do you think that's what the police are going to focus on?

HARVEY

I guess not. You want a beer?

LEON

At six o'clock in the morning?

HARVEY

I'm nervous.

LEON

About what?

HARVEY

About what we're doing. Some people might think what we're doing is bad.

LEON

And for 'some people', they would be correct. We are not 'some people'. We are the aggrieved. The injured. That means we have a moral obligation to address that wrong.

HARVEY

You're confusing me, Leon.

LEON

Remember in the Bible how it says "...an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth." That's what we're doing. Taking our rightful vengeance.

HARVEY

But Jesus said to turn the other cheek.

LEON

You've been listening to that priest again, haven't you?

HARVEY

He was a nice man.

LEON

Let me ask you this... what does the priest say happens to people who break God's laws?

HARVEY

God sends them to hell.

LEON

Exactly... you piss off God, you're gonna get your ass burned. In other words... "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."

(points to the sky)

Wait for the thunder.

There is no thunder.

LEON (CONT)

Nothing.

HARVEY

The Bible can be very confusing.

LEON

Probably written by lawyers.

HARVEY

So you think this is a good thing we're doing?

LEON

Simply put, we are removing from this planet someone who the average person would agree does not deserve to be among the living.

HARVEY

He's a bad man, isn't he, Leon.

LEON

That he is, Harvey. He has hurt many people and yet because he is rich and powerful, he is considered an important man. That is what is known as hypocrisy.

HARVEY

Okay, I trust you, Leon.

LEON

You don't have to trust me. Think it out. Let me ask you a question.

HARVEY

(Chuckling)

Do I have to push the buzzer?

LEON

That's funny. The question is: When you have departed this life will people remember Harvey Boland?

HARVEY

(Mimes buzzer)

BZZZZZ!

LEON

(As a game show host)

Harvey...

HARVEY

What is 'No'?

LEON

That is correct. Nobody will remember you because you are one of the billions of anonymous people living on this planet who will be forgotten, while that dirt bag reaps the rewards of his venality. But I am about to change that and make you famous and send him off to do some teeth gnashing. Give me a beer.

Harvey lays the rifle on the ground. He takes two cans of beer and hands one to Leon. They pop them open. Leon raises his can in a toast.

LEON (CONT)

To your fame.

HARVEY

Fame.

LEON

How's that rifle coming?

The rifle is still in separate parts.

HARVEY

I think you're missing some pieces.

Leon sighs deeply and sits up. He takes the rifle from Harvey and looks around.

LEON

Where are the bullets?

HARVEY

I didn't see any bullets.

LEON

There's a metal box about this big. It has the clips with the bullets in it.

HARVEY

Oh, I think forgot that.

Harvey races back to the stairwell and retrieves the ammo case. As he races back in, he trips over the cinder block and the door slams shut.

HARVEY (CONT)

Oh, oh...

Leon makes the puppet hands again.

LEON

(Right Hand)

I think we've got a big problem, Dodo.

(Left Hand)

We sure do, Doofus.

Harvey yanks on the door, but it is definitely locked, trapping him and Leon on the roof. Leon doesn't seem all that perturbed.

HARVEY

I ruined our whole plan, didn't I?

LEON

What do you mean?

HARVEY

You said after we shoot the bad man, we have to escape and then the police would look for us and it would be on television and I'd be famous.

LEON

True.

HARVEY

Now we can't escape and I won't be famous. What are we going to do?

LEON

My initial thought is that we're going to die on this roof. But there might be something more positive that hasn't occurred to me yet. We have time. I'll think of something.

HARVEY

I am stupid, aren't I, Leon?

Leon sits up.

LEON

What? Come here.

Harvey shakes his head 'No' in embarrassment.

LEON (CONT)

(gently)

Come on.

Harvey, head down, crosses to Leon. Leon stands up and takes Harvey's face in his hands.

LEON (CONT)

You're my friend. Always have been. Always will be. Shit happens. Forget about it.

Leon gives Harvey a gentle slap on the cheek. Harvey smiles.

HARVEY

Thanks, Leon.

LEON

Give me the rifle.

Harvey hands the rifle to Leon who quickly snaps the scope in place, takes a clip from the ammo box and slams it home.

LEON (CONT)

Ta-da...! Locked and loaded. And Mr. Martin Buchanan can kiss our collective butts.

Leon hands the rifle to Harvey who starts swinging it to and fro. Leon ducks...

LEON (CONT)

Hey, hey, hey... That thing's loaded. Someone could get hurt and that someone is me.

Leon takes the rifle away from Harvey and removes the clip and makes certain there is no bullet in the chamber.

SFX: A very loud clap of thunder distracts Leon and Harvey as the door opens and NICKY, a young woman about 17 rushes in and lets the door slam shut. Leon hides the rifle behind his back.

HARVEY

(Warning)

The door...!

NICKY

(startled)

Jesus..!

Leon quickly hides the rifle near the lounge and drapes the equipment bag over it.

NICKY (CONT)

Crap. I almost peed my pants.

Harvey races to the door and tries to pull it open, but it won't move. Harvey steps towards Nicky.

HARVEY

You shouldn't have let the door close.

NICKY

Stay away from me. You scared the shit out of me.

HARVEY

The door is locked. We can't get out.

NICKY

Stay away... okay?

Harvey stops where he is.

LEON

It's all right. Nobody's going to hurt you.

Nicky notices Leon is in his briefs.

NICKY

Hey, I don't know what you guys are doing up here, but it's none of my business.

HARVEY

You can't be here. You'll ruin our plan. She'll ruin our plan, Leon.

NICKY

What plan?

LEON

Calm down, Harvey. Everything is okay.

NICKY

(referring to Harvey)

What's he talking about?

LEON

Nothing. No big deal. All right?

NICKY

Look if you guys need your privacy, I'll just stay over there.

Nicky indicates an area behind the air-conditioning equipment.

LEON

Everybody calm down. There is no significant problem. If I can ask... why are you up here?

NICKY

Yeah, you can ask. The answer is it's none of your business.



HARVEY

What'll we do, Leon? She can't stay here.

LEON

For the moment, that is beyond our control.

NICKY

I gotta pee.

She crosses behind the air conditioning equipment.

HARVEY

What do we do, Leon? What if she tells people that we're up here? What if she tells a policeman? Then our plan will be all ruined.

LEON

At the moment, she won't be telling anybody.

Leon uses this time to more thoroughly hide the rifle and put his trousers on.

HARVEY

This is a problem, Leon.

LEON

It's definitely a fly in the ointment. Our plan is going to take a little readjustment.

HARVEY

Maybe we should do this another day.

LEON

When is the parade?

HARVEY

Today. So there won't be a parade on another day but we could go to his office or something.

LEON

Too complicated. This is our best chance. Give me a few minutes. I'll figure something out.

HARVEY

Hurry. She'll be finished peeing soon.

Harvey looks over towards Nicky then quickly covers his eyes.

HARVEY (CONT)

Oh, sorry.

NICKY (O.S.)

I don't suppose you have any toilet paper?

LEON

Nope nary a quilted sheet.

(to Harvey)

You keep her busy when she comes back so I have time to think.

HARVEY

Okay. I'll just talk to her or something... maybe she'd like a beer. If we get her drunk, maybe she'll fall asleep like you do.

LEON

Harvey... Let me work on it, okay? You just be charming.

Leon crosses to a different section of the roof.

HARVEY

Oh boy... Here she comes. Here she comes.

Nicky returns arranging her skirt.

NICKY

So did you guys figure out what to do about this?

HARVEY

(panic)

What do you mean? We weren't talking about anything.

NICKY

About getting off the roof. It's going to rain soon and I'm not exactly dressed for that.

HARVEY

Oh that... yeah... uh... Leon is thinking.

Nicky strolls to the ledge and looks down at the street. She is clearly trying to see something or somebody. Harvey goes to her.

HARVEY (CONT)

You shouldn't be there. People might see you.

Nicky leans over the ledge, then jumps back.

NICKY

Shit...

She ducks down behind the ledge. Harvey not knowing what to do, ducks down with her.

HARVEY

What... what happened?

NICKY

Just somebody I don't want to see... or have him see me.

Harvey sneaks a peek.

HARVEY

Is it the girl walking five dogs?

NICKY

No.

HARVEY

Elroy the halfie?

NICKY

Just get down.

HARVEY

Oh wait... I'll bet it's the man with a purse. He looks angry.

NICKY

My purse... shit, I forgot my purse.

HARVEY

Maybe he's looking for you to give it back.

NICKY

That's not what he's looking to give me. Oh crap my phone's in there.

HARVEY

Why do you need your phone?

NICKY

To get us off this goddamn roof before he finds me.

HARVEY

You use a lot of bad words. Leon says that's the sign of an uneducated mind.

NICKY

Who's Leon?

HARVEY

(indicating)

My friend. You won't need your phone. Leon is thinking how to fix this problem.

NICKY

Is that guy still down there?

Harvey eases himself up and sneaks a peek.

HARVEY

Yeah.

Leon crosses to them.

LEON

Why don't you two get away from that ledge. What are you looking at anyway?

HARVEY

There's a man with Nicky's purse. She thinks he's looking for her and she doesn't want him to find her.

Leon carefully looks to the street.

LEON

Boyfriend...?

NICKY

No.

LEON

Looks like an angry boyfriend to me.

NICKY

He's just a guy I met at a party last night.

LEON

Why's he so angry?

NICKY

Because I got away from him. Look, I don't want to go into it. The guy's an asshole who wanted more than I was willing to give... okay?

LEON

And you thought it would be a good idea to hide on the roof of this building.

NICKY

I thought it would be a good idea to get out of his apartment before he woke up.

LEON

Why didn't you leave when he fell asleep?

NICKY

I couldn't.

LEON

Listening...

NICKY

He had me tied up in his bathroom... All right...? Satisfied...?

LEON

You really know how to pick 'em, don't you?

NICKY

I was high.

LEON

You are really a gem. Surprised some guy hasn't snatched you up.

NICKY

Kiss my ass.

HARVEY

Does he want to hurt you?

NICKY

Yeah... probably.

HARVEY

We won't let him. Will we, Leon?

LEON

Just get away from the ledge, okay?

HARVEY

Okay.

Nicky gets to her feet, looks briefly at the street and crosses away from the ledge. Harvey crawls away.

LEON

What are you doing?

HARVEY

So he doesn't see me.

LEON

Whatever... Why don't you two go have a beer or something while I figure this out.

Leon crosses to the other end of the roof.

HARVEY

How about a beer?

NICKY

Why not.

Nicky sits on the lounge chair.

NICKY (CONT)

So you're Harvey and he's Leon, right?

HARVEY

Right. And you're... I don't know your name.

NICKY

Nicky.

HARVEY

Let me know when you want another beer, okay?

A long awkward pause as Harvey works out the conversation possibilities, then...

Are you married? HARVEY (CONT)

Me? No. NICKY

How come you're all by yourself? HARVEY

Pretty much the story of my life. NICKY

But you have a boyfriend. HARVEY

Nope. NICKY

Yes, you do. HARVEY

No. I don't. NICKY

What about the guy with your purse? HARVEY

Definitely not a boyfriend. He was just some jerk I met at a party. I don't even remember his name. NICKY

That's kind of sad. HARVEY

Yeah, I guess. NICKY

(beat)  
Can I have another beer?

Sure. All you want. HARVEY

Harvey gets a second beer and opens it for her.

NICKY

Thanks.

(takes a big sip)

What about you?

HARVEY

What do you mean?

NICKY

I mean like... I don't know... Tell me about yourself?

HARVEY

Okay. My name is Harvey Boland. I'm thirty-three years old. I'm originally from West Virginia. I weigh two hundred and seventeen pounds. I went to Our Lady of Perpetual Sorrows grade school and I have cancer.

NICKY

Oh... I'm so sorry.

HARVEY

Leon says I'll be okay.

NICKY

Yeah, yeah I'm sure you'll be fine. There are lots of healthy people with cancer.

HARVEY

That's what Leon says, but it's nice to hear a second opinion.

NICKY

You're a very sweet guy you know that?

HARVEY

I am?

NICKY

Yeah, you're a gentleman. Most of the guys I meet are just clods looking to get me into bed.

HARVEY

Like you, Leon.

LEON

Excuse me?

HARVEY

Sorry, Leon, I didn't mean it in a bad way, but you do sleep with a lot of different women.



LEON

All of whom are consenting adults. Moving on. So, Nicky, tell us about you.

NICKY

Nothing to tell.

LEON

I'm sure there must be something interesting. Where are you from? What do you do?

NICKY

I'm from somewhere else. I'm a waitress. And the rest is none of your business.

LEON

Fine by me. Enjoy the beer. Try not to choke on it.

HARVEY

That's not very nice.

NICKY

Sorry, Harvey. I just get a bad vibe from your buddy.

HARVEY

Don't worry. Leon is a very nice person. We've been pals for a long time.

NICKY

I'll take your word for it. So if you guys aren't up here getting it on, what are you doing?

HARVEY

Just... nothing...

NICKY

Oh wait, I know what it is? The parade.

HARVEY

Leon, she knows about the parade.

LEON

Of course, she knows. Everybody knows about the parade.

NICKY

Is that it? Trying to get a good look at the parade?

HARVEY

(trying to sound casual)

Yeah. I love parades and so does Leon, so we came up here to see the parade. Do you like parades?

Sometimes.  
NICKY

Do you like clowns?  
HARVEY

They're all right. Why?  
NICKY

I think there are clowns in the parade.  
HARVEY

They're never really funny.  
NICKY

I don't like them. They give me diarrhea.  
HARVEY

NICKY  
(a moment to take this in)  
How can a clown give you diarrhea?

HARVEY  
Because they look at me with those creepy eyes and it gives me a stomach ache and then I get diarrhea.

NICKY  
You are a very interesting man.

HARVEY  
Thanks.

LEON  
Okay enough 'getting to know you'. What time is it?

Harvey trudges back down to the ledge and leans out to see the clock.

SFX: A long roll of thunder.

NICKY  
(looking at the sky)  
This really sucks.

HARVEY

It's seven something but I can't see the minute hand because there's a pigeon blocking my view.

LEON

Are people starting to gather?

HARVEY

Not really.

LEON

What's that mean 'not really'? Is that no or yes?

HARVEY

No. There's nobody.

LEON

(Surprised)

Are you sure?

Leon crosses down to join Harvey. He looks up and down the street.

LEON (CONT)

That's strange. You'd think people would be showing up.

HARVEY

Maybe they're afraid of the rain.

LEON

Still there should be some people. The parade starts at nine.

NICKY

Tonight.

LEON

What?

NICKY

The parade is at night.

LEON

Who the hell makes a parade in the dark?

NICKY

It's called the 'Parade of Lights'. You can't do a 'Parade of Lights' during the day.

LEON

(To Harvey)

Did you know this?

HARVEY

That it's called the 'Parade of Lights'? Yeah. Then after they have fireworks over there near the river.

LEON

Did you not think that this information might have been pertinent to our plan?

HARVEY

You made the plan, Leon, remember because you said I didn't have a plan-making kind of brain.

LEON

And I asked you where would be a perfect place for this plan and you said... the parade. You didn't say the 'Parade of Lights'. You just said the parade.

NICKY

What plan? I thought you guys just wanted to see the parade.

LEON

I'm talking to Harvey, okay?

NICKY

You can still see the parade. You just have to wait until nine at night. It'll probably be prettier with all the lights. Unless it's pouring rain.

LEON

Christ, can't you get anything right?

HARVEY

(Taking a stance)

When I tell somebody I'll be somewhere at a certain time, I always get that right.

LEON

Do not start with that time shit again, Harvey.

HARVEY

I don't like it when you treat me like a fool, Leon. Apologize.

LEON

For what?

HARVEY

For being a bully.

LEON

How long have we known each other, Harvey?

HARVEY

A long time.

LEON

Since we were twelve. And in all those years, have I ever not been a bully?

HARVEY

No.

LEON

'Bully' is what I do. Now I know for a lot of people being labeled a 'bully' might be considered pejorative. But that's only because they don't understand the concept. Plus there are good bullies and bad bullies. The bad bullies pick on the weak and stupid. The good bullies are the guardians of the health of society. Like the President and the bully pulpit. We good bullies protect the innocents who aren't able to take care of themselves and weed out the dregs of humanity whose value to society is questionable.

NICKY

What if somebody doesn't want to be protected?

LEON

That's the point. The weak and stupid don't know they can't take care of themselves so people take advantage of them and walk all over them. They need good bullies to protect them from the bad bullies otherwise they just become losers.

HARVEY

Do you think I'm a loser, Leon?

LEON

No, because I saved you from that fate.

HARVEY

What do you mean?

LEON

Who did I always stand by? Who did I always protect when people called him a dumb ox?

HARVEY

Me.

LEON

And when your math teacher, Mr. Fergus, called you an imbecile in front of the class, who bound him with duct tape, stuffed him in a barrel and rolled him down Durbin's Hill?

HARVEY

You did. You got in a lot of trouble for that.

LEON

What trouble? I got kicked out of school. Best thing that ever happened to me. Who needs a school when the library is full of books.

HARVEY

And you did that for me, right?

LEON

Right. So I may be a bully, but I'm your bully. I was never mean to you, was I?

HARVEY

You were just now.

LEON

You know, Harvey, when two people have been through as much crap together as we have we're allowed sometimes to slip up, so if I in anyway upset you, I sincerely apologize.

HARVEY

Thank you.

LEON

Silly wabbit.

Harvey chuckles.

HARVEY

What should we do till then, Leon?

LEON

Do whatever you want. I'm taking a nap.

Leon rousts Nicky from the lounge.

LEON (CONT)

Get up.

He picks it up and carries it over near all the building equipment so that he can be in the shade. He settles onto the lounge to sleep.

NICKY

(To Harvey)

Trouble in paradise?

HARVEY

No. Leon just gets cranky when things don't work out his way.

NICKY

Yeah, well that's the way the cookie crumbles.

Harvey and Nicky are left in an awkward situation. Harvey pushes the ammo box to Nicky

HARVEY

You can sit if you want.

NICKY

Thanks. What about you?

HARVEY

I'm okay. I'll sit on the floor.

Harvey laughs at this as he sits.

NICKY

What's so funny?

HARVEY

I said I'll sit on the floor, but I'm really sitting on the roof.

NICKY

Hey, that is funny.

They sit silently. Nicky checks out her nails. Harvey sneaks peeks as he checks out Nicky.

What? NICKY (CONT)

Huh? HARVEY

How come you're staring at me? NICKY

'Cause you're pretty. HARVEY

Thanks. NICKY

(Quickly)  
But I'm not trying to get you into bed like those other guys. HARVEY

(teasing)  
Well, maybe you should. NICKY

(Shyly)  
Nah. HARVEY

Have you ever been with a woman? NICKY

(He can't say it.)  
You mean...? HARVEY

Had sex. NICKY

(Shyly)  
Yeah. HARVEY

You have a girlfriend? NICKY



HARVEY

(Shyly)

No.

NICKY

So who did you have sex with? Oh, maybe it wasn't a woman.

HARVEY

No, it was a woman. Leon gets me a girl every year for my birthday.

NICKY

Really?

HARVEY

Yeah. Since we were sixteen.

NICKY

And now you're thirty-three so you've had sex with...

(Doing the math)

...seventeen women.

HARVEY

No. I was in jail for two years and then Leon was in jail for four years so we missed those birthdays.

NICKY

Still, thirteen women is nothing to sneeze at.

HARVEY

It wasn't thirteen women. A lot of times it was the same woman, Mrs. Warren. She was a friend of Leon's mother. We had sex nine times, then she died. Not from the sex, she was hit by a Ferris wheel.

NICKY

She got killed by a Ferris wheel?

HARVEY

Yeah. She was a carnie and one day she got drunk and walked into the Ferris wheel when it was moving. After that it was different girls for a while.

NICKY

Wow, I've never known anyone who was killed by a Ferris wheel.

HARVEY

Yeah, it was sad and it ruined the school picnic for all the kids.

NICKY

You're a very unusual man, Harvey. I'm glad I got trapped on the roof with you.

HARVEY

Thanks. You want another beer?

NICKY

(Teasing)

Are you trying to take advantage of me?

HARVEY

(Shyly)

Nah. My birthday's not for two months.

They both crack up laughing over this.

LEON

(From the lounge chair)

Hold it down. I'm trying to sleep here.

HARVEY

Sorry, Leon.

Harvey pops a beer and passes it to Nicky.

NICKY

Thanks.

They drink silently for a few minutes.

NICKY (CONT)

Tell me about your cancer. If you want to. I mean I don't want to pry or anything.

HARVEY

(Indicates belly area.)

It's down here.

NICKY

In your stomach?

HARVEY

I don't think so.

NICKY

Your colon?

HARVEY

Maybe.

(Whispering)

Some times I poop blood.

NICKY

Does it hurt?

HARVEY

Sometimes but Leon gives me a shot and then it's okay for a while.

NICKY

Did the doctor give you a prognosis?

HARVEY

What's that?

NICKY

Like if you'll be okay or... not.

Looks to be certain that Leon can't hear, then whispers

HARVEY

I didn't tell Leon, but the doctor thinks I might die.

NICKY

Oh God, I'm so sorry. Why didn't you tell Leon?

HARVEY

Because he'll worry. Leon doesn't like problems he can't solve. It makes him crazy and I don't want to upset him.

NICKY

I'm really sorry, Harvey.

(pause)

Are you afraid to die?

HARVEY

I don't think so. Leon and I have talked about what happens after you die and it sounds okay. But I don't like being sick.

NICKY

What do you think happens after you die?

HARVEY

You just go someplace new and start your life all over... only this time it will be better.

NICKY  
Kind of a reincarnation?

HARVEY  
Maybe. I don't know.  
(pause)  
Are you?

NICKY  
What?

HARVEY  
Afraid to die.

Nicky takes a long time to think this over and turns her head away from Harvey avoiding eye contact. Harvey understands that there is something she isn't saying.

HARVEY (CONT)  
What is it? Are you sick, too?

NICKY  
No.  
(After a moment she decides to tell her story.)  
Two years ago, I tried to kill myself.

HARVEY  
Why?

NICKY  
Stupid reasons - a guy, my parents, my job, money, my dead cat... all the usual stuff.

HARVEY  
How come you're not dead?

NICKY  
Dumb luck. I cut my wrists but I didn't think that was going to work so I drove out to Wilton Lake to drown myself, but I couldn't do it.

HARVEY  
Because you wanted to live?

NICKY  
No. Because the damn lake was frozen over.

Harvey chuckles then catches himself.

HARVEY

Sorry.

NICKY

That's okay. It was pretty lame. Anyway I walked out on the frozen lake trying to find a weak spot where I could break through the ice but some guys ice fishing saw me and saw the blood on my clothes and called an ambulance. So here I am. How's that for a loser? I can't even commit suicide correctly.

HARVEY

I'm glad you're here, Nicky.

NICKY

Yeah. I think I am, too.

She smiles at Harvey. They hold the eye contact. There is a tension that just might be released by a kiss... but Nicky breaks the eye contact.

NICKY (CONT)

I have to pee again.

HARVEY

Me, too. It's all the beer.

They both rise.

NICKY

Why don't you go first it'll be quicker?

HARVEY

Okay.

Working to unzip his fly, Harvey makes his way back behind the air conditioning equipment.

SFX: a slight sound of thunder. Seems to be moving on.

Nicky wanders around the roof, looking over the ledge, at the adjoining buildings. She crosses back up to where the lounge previously was and then she sees it.

Cautiously, Nicky crosses up to where Leon has stashed the rifle. She looks at it without touching it. Then she looks down towards the ledge and back to the rifle.

NICKY

Holy shit...!

Nicky bends down and touches the rifle, then takes it in her hands and stands holding it across her body.

Harvey returns, zipping up his pants. He sees Nicky with the rifle. She turns towards him with it. Harvey raises his hands.

HARVEY

(Afraid)

Leon...!

Leon wakes suddenly. He sees Nicky with the rifle and Harvey with his hands in the air.

LEON

Oh, crap. We should have tossed the bitch off the roof.

Nicky points the rifle at Leon. Leon calmly walks up to her.

LEON (CONT)

Give me the rifle.

NICKY

Stay away from me.

LEON

(angrily)

Give me the damn rifle.

Leon lunges towards her. She pulls the trigger but nothing happens. Leon grabs the barrel of the rifle and takes it away from her.

Leon grabs her by the arm. She struggles with him and pulls herself free. Leon raises the rifle as if to strike her with it. Harvey gets between them.

HARVEY

Don't hurt her, Leon.

LEON

Whose side are you on?

HARVEY

Yours, Leon, but she didn't do anything wrong.

Leon and Harvey face off nose-to-nose for a tense moment, then Leon angrily turns away.

NICKY

You're going to kill people.

LEON

No, we're waiting for a herd of antelope to bound across the rooftop so we can gather meat for the winter. Yeah, there's going to be killing.

NICKY

Why?

LEON

Because certain people deserve to die.

NICKY

And you get to decide who they are?

Leon moves in so he is close up to Nicky's face.

LEON

Are you actually judging me? Maybe you should look at your own failings first.

Nicky slaps Leon's face. He grabs her and throws her to the ground. Harvey crosses over and grabs Leon.

HARVEY

Don't, Leon...

As Leon wrestles to get free. Nicky runs to the ledge and leans over.

NICKY

HELP! CALL THE POLICE! HELP!

Leon breaks free and grabs Nicky from behind and is pulling her from the ledge.

NICKY

You can't kill somebody. You don't have the right to kill somebody. It's insane. You're insane.

LEON

What you don't understand is that to get through life everybody has to figure out their own logic of the universe. There is no one answer that's correct. No one size fits all. The only correct way is the way that works for you. The people who are truly insane -- they never figured that out. They just blindly follow the rules.

HARVEY

It's okay, Nicky. He's doing it for me.

NICKY

Why? Harvey, for God's sake...

HARVEY

Because he doesn't want me to die another unknown person. He wants to make me famous.

NICKY

This doesn't make sense, Harvey? You're a good person. Don't do this.

HARVEY

All my life, I've been the stupid guy, the idiot. Nobody ever gave me any respect or love. Except Leon.

NICKY

Killing people won't change that.

HARVEY

Yes, it will. Leon says that I don't deserve to die just another invisible, unimportant, forgotten person. And he's right. After I'm gone, I want people to know that Harvey Boland was here.

NICKY

Is this the way you want to be remembered? As a killer...

HARVEY

I just want to be remembered.



NICKY

(to Leon )

This is idiotic. It makes no sense.

LEON

It makes sense to me. It makes sense to Harvey. As far as we're concerned, it's completely logical. We're trading the life of a shit heel for the life of a good, but forgotten man.

HARVEY

I want them to remember, Nicky.

NICKY

But you can't kill people for that.

LEON

Those " people" you are so concerned about are the same people who look away anytime somebody asking for money approaches or turn their heads when they see a house of cardboard boxes or a pile of blankets under a bridge. They are the same people who look right through me and Harvey and the rest like us because we aren't them, worse we're a reminder of who they might become if their luck fails them. We don't exist for them because we are uncomfortable for them. So, yes, if somebody has to die so one man, this one man will not be forgotten, then they will die.

NICKY

You can't do this. There are innocent...

LEON

Yeah, there are innocent people down there and they won't get hurt. You know why? Because we're better than that. We have our own morality. So we aren't killing "people." We're killing one person that no one will miss. In fact, if they're honest about it, most people will celebrate this guy's death.

NICKY

No matter how bad this person is you don't get to decide to kill him.

LEON

You don't want to kill the guy who attacked you last night?

NICKY

That's not the same thing. And no... I'd like him to die, but I'm not going to kill him.

LEON

There are those who do and those who are done to.

Leon slams the clip into the rifle and shoots the bolt. He points the rifle at Nicky.

LEON (CONT)

I didn't count on you showing up, but now that you're here, I think it just might be fortuitous.

HARVEY

Don't hurt her, Leon. She's nice.

LEON

I'm not going to hurt her, Harvey. The universe has given us a gift... a witness to testify to your fame. Lucky for you, I'm going to keep you around so you can tell everybody how Harvey became a hero.

Leon urges Nicky back towards the building equipment.

NICKY

Go to hell, Leon.

LEON

To quote Mr. Mark Twain... "Heaven for climate. Hell for society." And to quote me... shut your annoying trap.

Leon pushes Nicky to a seated position

LEON (CONT)

Sit. Harvey...

HARVEY

Yes, Leon.

LEON

You're so in love with her, watch her, make sure she doesn't try that shit again.  
(to Nicky)

Because if you do... witness or not... There's still time to toss your sorry ass off the roof.

NICKY

Don't you think that might screw up your plan if I were to land on some sweet old lady down there?

LEON

Who said anything about down there? I think you're small enough to fit into one of those air conditioning fans. Make yourselves comfortable. We've got a little time to kill.

A FLASH of lightning. SFX: a very loud lap of thunder.

LIGHTS OUT.

END OF SCENE ONE

SCENE TWO

LIGHTS UP ON:

It is evening now. The sky has darkened and lights are on in the windows of neighboring buildings. The wind has picked up a little. The normal sounds of the city rise from the streets. A STREET MUSICIAN plays saxophone somewhere below.

Leon seated on the lounge chair is cleaning the rifle. The rifle is unloaded. The clip is near Leon's foot. Harvey is nervously cracking his knuckles. Nicky is leaning on the door as if she could will it open. She steps back and runs at the door and hits it hard trying to budge it. From her reaction, it's clear that she hurt herself.

LEON

Smart move. You do know that door opens in, don't you?

NICKY

Bite me.

LEON

I'm beginning to understand why you're single. Hey, Harvey, do you still think having a girlfriend is a good thing?

HARVEY

Be nice, Leon.

Leon crosses to the ledge to have a look. Harvey wanders over to Nicky.

HARVEY (CONT)

Are you okay?

NICKY

No. No, I'm not okay. He's crazy.

HARVEY

Leon won't hurt you, Nicky. You don't have to worry.

NICKY

"He won't hurt me"? He's planning to kill somebody. Does that strike you as a person who "won't hurt me"? He's a psycho.

HARVEY

Are you mad at me, Nicky?

NICKY

I just want you to think this through. Consider what killing somebody means.

HARVEY

What does it mean?

NICKY

Look... have you ever killed anything?

HARVEY

Spiders. I kill spiders.

NICKY

How about an animal... a mouse, a rat, a pigeon... anything like that. Have you ever killed an animal?

HARVEY

A rat. I smashed his head with a rock. But rats are dirty and can make you sick.

NICKY

And how did you feel after you killed that rat?

HARVEY

I don't know.

NICKY

Did it make you happy?

HARVEY

No. A little sad.

NICKY

Exactly. And that was just a rat. How do you think you'll feel if you kill a person?

HARVEY

It's not just any person. That would be terrible. We're only going to kill a bad man.

NICKY

Who?

HARVEY

Me. I'm going to kill him. That's how I'll be famous.

NICKY

I mean, who is the man you're going to kill?

Leon wanders back and hears this.

HARVEY

He's the big marshal.

NICKY

A cop? That's even crazier.

LEON

Grand marshal, not big marshal. I gotta pee.

Leon starts to head behind the equipment then has a second thought. He returns and grabs Nicky by the arm and begins to drag her with him.

NICKY

Let go of me.

LEON

I'm not leaving you out here while I pee.

Harvey takes Nicky away from Leon.

HARVEY

It's okay, Leon, I'll watch her.

LEON

Keep her away from the ledge. Got it?

HARVEY

Got it.

Leon leaves.

HARVEY

Maybe you should sit down so I can watch you.

NICKY

Sure.

Nicky sits.

NICKY (CONT)

Come sit with me.

Harvey sits next to her.

NICKY (CONT)

Tell me about this guy you're going to kill.

HARVEY

Like what?

NICKY

His name. Is he married? Does he have children?

HARVEY

His name is Buchanan. I don't know the other stuff.

NICKY

What if he has a family waiting for him to come home? Did you think of that?

HARVEY

No.

(beat)

He hurts people.

NICKY

How?

HARVEY

He steals their money and sometimes they lose their homes because of him.

NICKY

He's a banker?

HARVEY

I think so. He works at a bank.

NICKY

If he's so bad why would they make him Grand Marshal?

HARVEY

Because he's rich and important. He gives a lot of money to politicians. So people are afraid of him because he can make bad things happen.

SFX: rolling thunder

NICKY

Did he steal your money?

HARVEY

We don't have any money. But he stole the house from Leon's mother. He tricked her to do something, then she couldn't pay and he took her house away from her.

NICKY

I'm sorry. That sucks.

HARVEY

And she died and Leon says it was because her life was ruined.

NICKY

But what did he do to you?

HARVEY

He hurt Leon's mother.

NICKY

Okay, look, that's a terrible thing, but you don't have to kill him. We can go to the newspapers and tell them the story. I'll go with you. Maybe they'll start some kind of investigation or something. I saw this guy on the TV news who does that kind of thing. He goes after the bad guys and gets them in trouble with the police. Do you want to do that? Go with me to the newspapers?

HARVEY

They don't listen to people like us. Leon says that if you're not a big success in life then everybody thinks it must be because you're stupid. Leon's not stupid, but they think he's a loser.

NICKY

I don't think you're stupid, Harvey. That's why I want you to think about what you're going to do. You know it's not a good thing.

Harvey wanders away. Nicky follows.

HARVEY

Can we talk about something else?

NICKY

This is important, Harvey.

HARVEY

Please...

NICKY

Okay, okay... I just want you to think about this. You don't have to listen to Leon.

HARVEY

Leon's my friend. He takes care of me. He always takes care of me.

NICKY

(looking for something)

Okay... If he always takes care of you then how come you were in jail?

HARVEY

Huh?

NICKY

You told me that you were in jail for two years, but you didn't tell me why?

Leon returns.

LEON

You know that's really none of your business.

NICKY

I wasn't talking to you.

LEON

Go ahead, Harvey. Tell her your touching story.

Leon climbs up on the equipment to check out the scene below.

HARVEY

Because me and Leon did something bad.

NICKY

How bad?



HARVEY

I was working in a little grocery store and I was always making mistakes so my boss, Mr. Choi, told everybody in the store that I was an idiot and he fired me.

HARVEY (CONT)

I told Leon and we went back to the store and knocked over all the shelves and broke all the windows and Mr. Choi called the police. We couldn't pay for the damages so I went to jail for two years.

NICKY

How come Leon went to jail for four years but you only two.

HARVEY

On account of he stuck the policeman's head in a bucket of little fishes.

LEON

They were squid.

HARVEY

Yeah, squid. The policeman almost drown but Leon pulled him out in time.

(Laughs at the memory.)

The policeman had little fishes stuck in his nose and his mouth and his hair.

LEON

They were squid.

HARVEY

Yeah, squid. He had squid everywhere. It was funny.

NICKY

Did you like being in jail?

HARVEY

No. Nobody likes being in jail. That's why you're in jail because it's a terrible place.

NICKY

(gently)

Harvey, think about what you're doing. You'll end up in jail again only this time they won't let you out... ever.

Harvey seems to consider this for a moment. Leon crosses down to them and pulls Harvey to his feet.

LEON

All right, enough story-telling. Harvey, go check on the street.

Leon pulls Nicky to her feet.

LEON (CONT)

And you keep your ass out of the way.

Nicky pulls loose and pushes Leon away from her with a force he wasn't expecting.

NICKY

Don't you ever touch me again, asshole!

Nicky crosses up to the door and halfheartedly tries again to pull it open. She leans against it miserable.

SFX: Thunder clap.

LEON

(to Harvey)

Well...?

HARVEY

There are lots of people now, Leon. Some of them have chairs and some of them are sitting on blankets. There's a guy selling ice cream. We should have brought ice cream. And there's a guy selling balloons. No, it's a fat lady. She kind of looks like a balloon. Everybody is pretty excited.

LEON

Can you still see the time?

HARVEY

Yeah, the clock is illuminated. I like that word.

LEON

So what time is it?

HARVEY

Seven forty-three.

LEON

Getting close.

Nicky turns from the door, thinking she might have found an answer.

NICKY

Harvey... Are there kids?

HARVEY

Oh yeah. Lots of kids.

NICKY

And did those kids treat you badly?

HARVEY

Kids? No, kids are usually nice... the little ones anyway.

LEON

(trying to cut this off)

Okay, get away from the ledge. I don't want anybody to see you.

NICKY

What are you afraid of, Leon? That he might figure it out. So what about the kids, Harvey? What if they get hurt?

HARVEY

There are kids, Leon. We didn't think about the kids.

LEON

We're just going to shoot one person. That's the plan. One person.

NICKY

So you're an expert shot?

LEON

I could hit you from here.

HARVEY

I don't want to shoot any kids, Leon.

LEON

We're not going to shoot the kids. Just the asshole Grand Marshal... nobody else, okay?

HARVEY

(uncertain)

Okay...

NICKY

Harvey...?

HARVEY

It's okay Nicky. We're not going to hurt any kids.

NICKY

But what if you do? What if one of your bullets bounces off something and hits a kid?

HARVEY

Leon...?

LEON

We'll do our best not to let that happen.

NICKY

And if it does?

LEON

Then it was meant to be. That's the way the world works. You don't get to write your own schedule. It's basic quantum physics. The world is constantly splitting into billions of parallel universes so everything that is, is and at the same time everything that isn't, isn't. It's written in the universe when each and every one of us will die but you'll also be alive in another universe so death is no big deal.

NICKY

So it's written in the universe that anybody you kill tonight was destined to die today?

LEON

Exactly.

NICKY

And it's written in the universe that you are the person to end their lives?

LEON

No. It's written that Harvey will end their lives. You and me... we're just existential observers.

NICKY

You're full of shit.

HARVEY

Don't say that, Nicky. Leon knows a lot of stuff. He's a very intelligent man.

LEON

People make too much of living and dying. It's just one lap of an infinite marathon.

NICKY

So if I grab that rifle and shoot you...?

LEON

I'll be off to a new adventure.

NICKY

And if there's nothing after death?

LEON

Then I won't know and I won't care. What I do know is in this life if you're on the wrong team, life is a shit hole.

HARVEY

Can we talk about something else? This is making me sad and tonight is supposed to be a happy time for me.

Lightning flash followed quickly by...SFX: loud thunder

LEON

That storm is getting close. They better start the parade soon.

Leon returns to cleaning the rifle. Nicky crosses to the ledge and looks out at the gathering crowd.

LEON (CONT)

Get away from the ledge.

Nicky flips him off, but walks back away from the ledge. Harvey crosses to her.

HARVEY

It'll be okay, Nicky. You'll see.

NICKY

You sure you want to do this, Harvey?

HARVEY

I think so. Leon says I'll be famous.

NICKY

But is it a good kind of famous?

Leon watches but doesn't interfere.

HARVEY

Famous is famous. People will remember me forever. You want a beer, Nicky?

SFX: strong thunder.

Harvey takes two beers. He pops one for Nicky and takes it to her. He opens one for himself.

NICKY

That's not true, Harvey. Even famous people are forgotten eventually.

HARVEY

Sure baseball players and singers and actors, but not famous like I'll be famous. Everybody remembers who shot Kennedy and Lincoln and Jesus... well he wasn't shot but the same thing. And they'll remember me because every year when they have this parade, they'll talk about me in the papers and on TV.

NICKY

But it's wrong to kill people, Harvey. Even bad people. Do you understand that?

HARVEY

You're wrong, Nicky, because the government kills bad people. So why shouldn't we?

NICKY

That's different because the good people told the government it's okay for them to kill bad people. Nobody told you that it's okay.

HARVEY

Leon did.

NICKY

I can't explain. You just have to understand that it's wrong. You don't want to do this no matter what Leon said.

HARVEY

(holds his head in pain)

You're confusing me, Nicky. This is going to help make me famous so nobody forgets me. Don't worry. Leon thought the whole thing out and he's very smart.

NICKY

(Touching his arm.)

I don't want you to get hurt, Harvey.

Leon sees this moment of affection and interrupts them by joining them.

LEON

You two keep this up you're going to have to get a room.

HARVEY

We were just talking, Leon.

NICKY

What are you afraid of, Leon. Does it make you nervous that Harvey might listen to someone besides you?

Nicky walks away.

HARVEY

You won't hurt her, will you? We're not going to shoot Nicky, right?

LEON

That's up to her. The only thing that's important right now is making sure that you're famous, okay? You need to concentrate.

HARVEY

Okay.

NICKY

You're insane. You know that? He's insane, Harvey.

Leon crosses back to Nicky.

SFX: Wind and thunder pick up causing them to almost yell to be heard.

LEON

I'm insane? If you ran into Harvey on the street, would you smile and say hello?

HARVEY

Leave her alone, Leon.

LEON

Fuck, no. You'd ignore him just like those bastards down there. Maybe you should be the first to die.

Leon grabs Nicky and drags her towards the ledge.

NICKY

Get away from me...!

She is kicking and screaming but he manages to manhandle her into place.

HARVEY

Stop it. Stop it. Stop it.

Harvey cries out in pain. He falls to his knees holding his belly.

HARVEY (CONT)

It hurts again, Leon.

Harvey is bent over with the anguish. He is crying from the agony. Leon releases Nicky and goes to Harvey.

LEON

Okay, buddy, hang on. I'll take care of it.

Leon takes from his canvas sack a vial, and an unopened syringe. Harvey continues to wail in pain. Nicky goes to him and holds him.

NICKY

It's going to be okay, Harvey. Leon is going to help you.

Leon fills the syringe from the vial. He clears the needle.

NICKY (CONT)

Hurry, Leon.

Leon crosses to Harvey. Holding the syringe in his teeth. He uses a length of rubber tubing to tie off Harvey's arm. He injects Harvey with the syringe, then withdraws it and releases the rubber tubing.



LEON

It's going to be okay now, big guy. It's going to be okay.

Harvey's wails turn into whimpering. He relaxes into Nicky's arms. Leon spreads out the canvas sack for a pillow.

LEON (CONT)

Lay him down here.

Nicky gently lays Harvey on the ground. He is peaceful now and in a dream state. Leon puts the equipment back in the sack. The syringe he tosses behind the building equipment. Nicky takes Leon aside out of Harvey's hearing.

NICKY

Can I talk to you?

LEON

I'm listening.

NICKY

Don't do this to him.

LEON

I thought it was all the 'innocent' people in the street you were worried about now it's Harvey. You need to make up your mind, girl.

NICKY

If you make him do this, you know what will happen to him.

LEON

How long have you known Harvey? Twelve hours maybe? I've known him twenty-one years. So who do you think is best positioned to know what he needs?

NICKY

That's your whole thing, isn't it? To make him think that without you he can't possibly take care of himself.

LEON

Harvey doesn't need me. It took us a while to get to that point, but we got there.

NICKY

All right... all right... Think about this. Will killing that guy really make him famous? Or will he just be another lunatic with a gun? Then he'll be forgotten again. Just like you. Just like me. Nobody is going to remember us when we're gone. So what? You're not going to make him famous, Leon. You know that.

LEON

Do you really think that's why I'm doing this?

NICKY

Harvey said...

LEON

Harvey said what I told him because he needed a reason that he could understand.

NICKY

Then why...?

LEON

Do you see him there? That's what his life is. Do you want to see that every day? I don't and neither does he. I don't know how much longer he has. Yes, I know that he's dying I'm not stupid. And he's not afraid to die. We've talked about it. We've talked about the big adventure. That is the sweetest, kindest man, you will ever know. I'm doing this so he will go to prison.

NICKY

Why...?

LEON

Look at him. He's in pain. He's suffering. I can't continue to take care of him. He needs to be in a hospital with doctors, but there's no way I can do that.

NICKY

But can't you get some kind of government insurance or something?

LEON

And have him end up in some cheap ass charity hospital? No. In prison, he'll get the care he needs. They have no choice. It's in the constitution. "...no cruel or unusual punishment..." The courts have ruled that prisoners have to get good medical care. That's why I'm doing this. Or would you prefer that he returns to our shitty little apartment where Harvey will die from his cancer and then he will join the ranks of people who never existed for any of those people down there. He'll go from being that person you ignored because he was different to the person you have forgotten -- no, worse the person you never bothered to know, the invisible man. Is that what you want?

NICKY

No. That's not what I want. There has to be a better way.

LEON

Let me know when you find it.

NICKY

Do you really want him to die in a prison? Maybe he'd prefer to die in his own bed with you taking care of him?

LEON

I'd prefer that he die without pain and believing that he won't be forgotten. This is the only way.

The sound of parade music is heard in the distance it is in contrast to the sound of the building storm. Leon goes to the ledge to check things out. After a moment, Nicky goes to him.

NICKY

You can still accomplish the same thing -- getting Harvey sent to prison -- just shoot in the air or something. They'll lock him up for that. You don't have to kill this guy.

LEON

That part's for me.

NICKY

Harvey told me what this guy did to your mother and he's an asshole but... just think about it.

LEON

I have thought about it. I've thought about it for three years.

NICKY

How about one of those charity homes?

LEON

I tried getting him into one of those church run places, but they didn't want him. Why? Because we don't have money.

Harvey moans in pain. Leon looks at him then back to Nicky.

LEON (CONT)

No. A plan's a plan.

HARVEY

Leon...

Leon crosses to Harvey.

LEON

I'm here, pal.

HARVEY

I still hurt. Can I have another shot?

LEON

I don't have anything more, Harvey. I'm sorry. But don't worry, we're going to get you taken care of real soon, okay?

HARVEY

It hurts.

LEON

(frustrated)

I know. I know.

Nicky kneels and cradles Harvey's head against her body. Leon crosses down the ledge. He seems to be caught up in thought. Harvey opens his eyes and smiles.

HARVEY

I'm sorry, Nicky.

NICKY

It's okay.

HARVEY

I was a big baby.

NICKY

It's okay. I'm here.

HARVEY

Yeah.

(Pause)

You have pretty eyes.

NICKY

That's because they're looking at you.

HARVEY

That's cheesy.

NICKY

Yeah, I know.

After a moment, she leans in and kisses him.

HARVEY

That was nice.

(Pause)

Maybe someday after I'm famous, we can go to a movie or something sometime?

NICKY

I'd like that.

HARVEY

This is kind of like that movie, Marty.

NICKY

What do you mean? I don't know that movie.

HARVEY

In that movie, two ugly, shy, lonely people fall in love. Only you aren't ugly.

NICKY

Or shy.

HARVEY

It's nice to be kissed by someone. Would you kiss me again, Nicky?

She kisses him again. The parade music is growing louder and closer.

LEON

It's almost time, Harvey. You ready to be famous?

HARVEY

I think so, Leon.

Harvey tries to get to his feet. He is a little groggy and unsteady. Nicky helps Harvey to his feet. He makes his way down to the ledge.

Nicky stays behind. She doesn't want to see what's about to happen. Leon slams the clip into the rifle then offers the rifle to Harvey.

LEON

This is it, pal. You're about to be famous.

From here on, the thunder, lightning and wind are building and almost continuous.

Harvey hesitates, then cautiously takes the rifle from Leon. Harvey holds the rifle at his side not sure of what to do.

HARVEY

Should I shoot now, Leon?

LEON

No, not yet just a few more minutes.

The parade is growing closer, the music is getting louder, the cheers are becoming more intense.

LEON (CONT)

Okay, get ready.

Nicky grabs the lounge chair and starts to the ledge. She intends to toss it into the crowd below. Leon sees her.

LEON

Stop!

Leon grabs her and tries to hold her back. Nicky struggles but maintain control of the chair. Harvey drops the rifle on the roof and goes to them. He grabs Leon trying to pull him away from Nicky.

HARVEY

Leave her alone, Leon.

Harvey's intervention is enough to get Nicky free of Leon. She quickly tosses the chair over the ledge. She follows to the ledge and looks over.

Shit...

NICKY

Leon looks over the ledge.

HARVEY

Did the chair hit anybody, Leon? Did it hit any kids?

LEON

The chair is on the balcony below. It didn't get to the street.

Nicky leans out over the ledge.

NICKY

HELP! HELP! POLICE...!

Leon wrestles her away from the ledge. Nicky struggles.

HARVEY

Stop, Leon...

Parade music grows in intensity in contrast to the storm, it makes for a freaky ambiance. Leon and Nicky struggle. Leon pins Nicky to the ground and holds her there against her struggle.

LEON

Get the rifle, Harvey. You have to shoot.

HARVEY

Nicky...?

NICKY

Don't do it, Harvey.

Leon puts his hand over her mouth.

LEON

Now, Harvey... do it now!

Harvey picks up the rifle and starts to raise it to shoot, but the sounds of children cheering pierces through the other sounds. He lowers the rifle.

HARVEY

I hear kids, Leon.

LEON

Don't think about them. Just think about your target. Do you see him?

Harvey looks to the street.

HARVEY

He's sitting in a big chair.

LEON

Okay... look through the scope...

Harvey does as instructed.

LEON (CONT)

Can you see him in the scope?

HARVEY

I see him, Leon.

LEON

Good. Good. Now gently pull the trigger.

Harvey concentrates on looking through the scope. He pulls the trigger -- there is no bang.

HARVEY

It didn't work, Leon.

LEON

You didn't put a bullet in the chamber. Pull the metal thing on the side.

Harvey looks over the rifle then...

HARVEY

This thing...?

LEON

Yes. Now pull it back and let go.

Harvey does as instructed.

LEON (CONT)

Good. Now get him in your scope.



Harvey repoints the rifle.

LEON (CONT)

Can you see him?

HARVEY

I see him. He's waving at everybody.

LEON

Pull the trigger.

Leon raises Harvey's hands holding the rifle. Harvey's hands are shaking.

HARVEY

I can't stop my hands from shaking, Leon.

LEON

Forget the shaking. Time to be famous.

Harvey raises the rifle to the firing position. It shakes in his frightened hands.

LEON (CONT)

Come on, shoot.

Harvey tries to steady the rifle, but he can't do it.

LEON (CONT)

Harvey, pull the damn trigger before they move on.

SFX: enormous clap of thunder

HARVEY

(Lowering the rifle)

I can't do it, Leon. I can't shoot him. Maybe I can be famous a different way.

LEON

How, Harvey? How are you going to be famous?

HARVEY

I don't know. But you're smart, Leon, you'll think of a way because you always help me.

LEON

(disconsolate)

Harvey... you've got to do this.

HARVEY

No. No. I won't hurt anybody, Leon. It's okay if I'm forgotten. I won't hurt anybody.

Nicky bites Leon's hand and escapes from under him. She races to Harvey grabs the rifle. She fires a shot into the air.

LEON

No...

Leon attempts to take the rifle from Nicky. Nicky protects the rifle from Leon and fires a second shot. Below screams of panic are heard mixed with the parade music becoming discordant as it falls apart. The storm is raging!

NICKY

It's over, Leon. It's over.

LEON

I promised Harvey he'd be famous. I always keep my promises.

Leon wrestles Nicky towards the ledge. He is attempting to push her off the roof.

LEON (CONT)

I should have done this from the start.

HARVEY

Leon, no... I don't care if I'm forgotten. Don't hurt her.

LEON

I promised you. I promised you, Harvey.

Harvey grabs Nicky trying to pull her back to safety. In the process, Leon manages to get the rifle from her. Harvey pulls Nicky away and they fall to the ground. Leon stands on the ledge watching them. Harvey is holding Nicky in his arms.

HARVEY

Stop, Leon.

LEON

Looks like you got a girl, Harvey.

HARVEY

Leon...

LEON

You know who always gets the girl, Harvey? Heroes...

Leon shoots the bolt on the rifle.

HARVEY

Please, Leon...

LEON

Be a hero, Harvey. Be a hero.

Leon points the rifle towards the street.

HARVEY

Stop, Leon...

Harvey grabs Leon just as he fires a shot causing the shot to go wild. Leon turns on Harvey and pushes him away. People below are screaming. Leon turns back to the street and sights in on his target. Nicky rushes him and attempts to take the rifle. Leon grabs her by the hair and pulls her over the edge dangerously close to falling. Harvey charges and grabs Nicky and in pulling her away, pushes Leon off balance. Leon loses his balance for a moment then regains it. Awkwardly, he turns to Harvey. Leon is smiling.

LEON

Hero... You're a hero...

Rifle in hand, Leon leans back and lets himself fall from the roof. Harvey races to the edge...

HARVEY

Nooooooooooooooooooooo....!

Harvey starts to climb on the ledge. Nicky pulls him back. Harvey is in tears of grief.

HARVEY (CONT)

Why'd he do that, Nicky? Why'd he do that? I killed Leon. I didn't mean to. I didn't want him to hurt the children. I didn't want him to hurt you.

Nicky holds Harvey.

NICKY

You were right, Harvey. What you did was right.

HARVEY

No, I killed Leon.

NICKY

But you saved the children. Leon was right. You're a hero.

HARVEY

I don't want Leon to be dead. Everybody will know I killed my best friend.

NICKY

It's the only thing you could do. You didn't want to hurt anybody... not the people, not the children, not Leon...

HARVEY

He made me mad. He tried to hurt you. I won't let him hurt you, Nicky.

NICKY

I know, Harvey. I know...

HARVEY

I killed him.

NICKY

Because he was going to shoot the children. He knew you wouldn't hurt the children. He said it to me... "sweetest, kindest man you'll ever know." He wanted you to be a hero. He made sure you would be a hero. Nobody forgets a hero.

Harvey crawls painfully calls down to the street.

HARVEY

I love you, Leon.

Harvey breaks down. Nicky crosses to him. She sits and holds Harvey in her arms. The sound of a police helicopter arriving and the down wash of the rotor blades blows across the roof top. The bright beam from the chopper's searchlight glares down on them. Only the helicopter searchlight illuminates Nicky and Harvey.

There is a final clap of intense thunder, then...

BLACKOUT.

END OF THE PLAY