

## SMALL TIME CROOKS

Ray enters carrying a box of chocolates. Frenchy is watching TV

RAY

Hey, Frenchy. I'm home.

FRENCHY

Who's that?

RAY

Who's that? It's the pope! I always wanted to see your apartment,

FRENCHY

Shh.

RAY

Who comes home every night? Me.

FRENCHY

I'm watching princess Diana.

RAY

Not again. For God's sakes. How many times you gonna do that?.

FRENCHY

Look at those clothes.

RAY

I told you time and again. She got all that stuff discount. You think those kings and queens buy all that stuff retail? It's a known fact. Here, I got you some chocolates.

FRENCHY

Chocolates?

RAY

You heard of chocolates? These are chocolates. I got you chocolates.

FRENCHY

How come?

RAY

What do you mean, ``How come''? These are from Belgium. They're handmade by Belgiumites.

FRENCHY

Tell it to the marines. You're up to something. You get caught hitting on a waitress?

RAY

In 25 years of marriage, have I ever hit on anyone but you?

FRENCHY

I don't buy it Ray. You got a scheme. You got a scheme!

RAY

Alright, forget it! Get me dinner. They're not for you. I got you nothing. Just get me dinner.

FRENCHY

Fine.

RAY

I want my dinner right now, and hurry up. Before you make dinner, I gotta talk to you about something.

FRENCHY

What did I tell you? Here comes the commercial.

RAY

Frenchy, I need our 6,000 bucks.

FRENCHY

What?

RAY

I gotta have our six G's.

FRENCHY

That's our whole savings.

RAY

Don't get dramatic about it.

FRENCHY

C'mon Ray, six G's. That's all we got, right?

RAY

I got a brilliant idea. I'm gonna make us rich.

FRENCHY

How you gonna make us rich? Rob a bank?

RAY

How'd you know that? How'd you guess that?

FRENCHY

What?

RAY

First shot out of the box, you got it.

FRENCHY

Is that why Tommy Beal's coming over? And Denny?

RAY

What would you say if I told you that you were married to a very brilliant man?

FRENCHY

I'd say I'd have to be a bigamist.

RAY

This is foolproof.

FRENCHY

You told me you were finished with that life.

RAY

I've been finished. But look at me. I kick around from stupid little job to job. You like the way we're living?

FRENCHY

It beats your former residence. You think I like spending our anniversary staring at you through glass, talking over a phone?

RAY

Frenchy, you stood by me. Granted, you stood by me.

FRENCHY

Two years in the joint I waited for you. And what did I get for it?

RAY

You got Belgian chocolates. What's wrong with that? God, I've got an idea and this is so incredible. But we need seed money for this plan. We need 18,000 bucks. Denny's kickin' in six, Tommy's kickin' in six, and I gotta put in my six.

FRENCHY

Where are those bums gonna get that kind of stake?

RAY

They're not bums. Maybe they didn't go to Harvard.

FRENCHY

Harvard? They never completed kindergarten cause they were drafted.

RAY

You're such a snob, Frenchy. For God's sakes! Denny's not stupid just cause he drives a truck.

FRENCHY

No, he's stupid because he has a low I.Q. Come on, out of the way.

RAY

Oh, I'd like to just flatten you once.

FRENCHY

Oh, yeah.

RAY

Tommy's got street smarts.

FRENCHY

He is street smart. His brain's got potholes.

RAY

You with the wisecracks! She's got an answer for everything.

FRENCHY

Forget it! I'm not spending our last few bucks.

RAY

Frenchy, I gotta have that money.

FRENCHY

For a heist? Pass. Maybe if you needed a quadruple bypass.

RAY

This is a brilliant thing! Frenchy, I don't get your 'agreeance' on this, I count to three there's gonna be trouble.

FRENCHY

You can count to 53! You won't get it. I did a lot of nails for that money, and it's all we got.

RAY

That's what you want to do all your life? Nails?

FRENCHY

Take a hike, okay.

RAY

Frenchy, I'm telling you, I'm countin'.

FRENCHY

Oh, yeah?

RAY

If I lose it Frenchy, you're gone.

FRENCHY

Oh, I'm quaking in my panty hose.

RAY

Frenchy, give me the money.

FRENCHY

I wouldn't invest our six thou if you had a legit idea, much less something that's gonna land the three of you jerks back in the stir.

RAY

Frenchy, that money's mine.

FRENCHY

It's mine, I earned it, and I'm saving it for an emergency.

RAY

But I'm your husband.

FRENCHY

Oh, take a hike.

RAY

Frenchy, I'm gonna get violent!

FRENCHY

Please! With your hernia?

RAY

That's it. I can't do it. Let the bank lay there. Let someone else do it. I gotta get some air. I'm going up on the roof.

FRENCHY

Don't jump! You're too valuable as a dishwasher.

RAY

Ah, knock it off!

FRENCHY

All right, tell me your idea.

RAY

I told you my idea. You shot it down.

FRENCHY

You gonna tell me, or are you gonna have a tantrum?

RAY

For God's sakes! For some reason you're always shooting down my dreams.

FRENCHY

Because you get the kind of dreams people get after putting opium in their brownies.

RAY

Can I for one minute tell you about this bank?

FRENCHY

You're not a bank robber, Ray. You got a two-year mandatory vacation that proved that.

RAY

What I'm not is a stick-up man. That's all we proved. When I hit that bank that time we were inexperienced. The whole group of us put on rubber masks. They were all Ronald Reagan masks. It was confusing. I didn't know who was who.

FRENCHY

You're lucky your lawyer knew the judge.

RAY

Can I please tell you my idea, Frenchy? I noticed a few weeks ago, a couple of doors down from the bank, there's a pizza joint that folded. A little hole in the wall. And it's for rent, Frenchy. It's for rent. And then it hits me. And, believe me, I'm no genius.

FRENCHY

You don't have to sell me.

RAY

What I figure is, we take the pizza joint, we tunnel under, we come up under the vault of the bank. I know the layout 'cause I used to know a guard. I got diagrams! We clean out the vault. We go to Florida.

FRENCHY

Ray, we're poor but we're happy, ain't we?

RAY

We're not happy. You're always complaining. Are you happy doing other people's cuticles? Is that the way you want to spend your life?

FRENCHY

My mother told me. She said, "Don't get involved with a guy from the rackets."

RAY

What's wrong with you? We had dreams. I don't know what's gotten into you. Did we not have dreams when I first met you?

FRENCHY

Yeah.

RAY

Yes, granted, I was in the rackets. I was running numbers. You were an exotic dancer. We fell in love, your parents didn't approve. I tried to go legit. I couldn't make a go at the pet cemetery. What do you want me to do? But Frenchy, this pizza place is just waiting for us.

FRENCHY

It's gonna look suspicious, a group of guys drilling in an empty store.

RAY

That's where you come in. You front the place.

FRENCHY

What?

RAY

You front it. You make pizzas.

FRENCHY

With what? I can't cook pizzas.

RAY

Cook cookies! What's the difference? Or tell fortunes. You look like a gypsy. Or make it a travel agency. You work there and we'll tunnel under into the bank.

FRENCHY

God.

RAY

Frenchy, come here, come here. See this? See how beautiful this is?

FRENCHY

Yeah.

RAY

See what you're seeing out there? It's not just New Jersey. When we first met, there was a sunset just like this. Remember that?

FRENCHY

Yeah, in New Jersey. But in Columbia there was an earthquake.