

SCARECROW

Walking into Diner

MAX- Can I have two coffees? (*sitting down at counter*)
Wanna go into business?

FRANCIS - Okay. Where?

MAX- Pittsburgh.

FRANCIS - Okay. I gotta make a stop in Detroit first.

MAX - Yeah, well, I gotta go by Denver, see my sister Coley.

Francis - Okay.

MAX - Listen, you got a middle name?

FRANCIS - Why?

MAX - Well, I...I got a little trouble with Francis, you know. I...

FRANCIS - Lionel.

MAX - Lionel.

FRANCIS - Francis Lionel Delbucci.

MAX - Okay, Lionel. From now on, you are "Lion," okay?

FRANCIS - Okay. Sounds good.

MAX - I'm gonna help you out here, young lady. We really want to get our coffee. Freezing our ass off. I'll have some oatmeal. What do you want?

FRANCIS - Some corn flakes with a little milk.

WAITRESS - Oatmeal?

MAX - Yeah, oatmeal. And some scrambled eggs.

WAITRESS - Anything else?

MAX - Bacon. Toast.

FRANCIS - Let me get that cream.

MAX - You got any money?

FRANCIS - Yeah. Some. Not much.

MAX - That's okay, because I got enough to get us started.

FRANCIS - What kind of business?

PULLS PAPPERS OUT OF BRIEFCASE

MAX - Car wash.

FRANCIS - Car wash.

MAX - Yeah. It's nothing fancy, but everything is there, and the best, too. And I got the money to get us rolling. It'll be "Maxy's Car Wash."

FRANCIS - Car wash. Okay.

MAX - For every car, there is dirt.

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FRANCIS - So we're partners. (*REACHES OVER AND GABS THE CEREAL*) I think I get this. All right.

MAX - (*TO WAITRESS.*) This your first day? (*TO FRANCIS.*) Yeah. Partners.

FRANCIS - Great.

MAX - But you gotta work, though.

FRANCIS - Ain't afraid of that.

MAX - All right. Fair and square, all right?

FRANCIS - Sure.

MAX - What, you been drifting?

FRANCIS - Yeah. I've been at sea.

MAX - Yeah?

FRANCIS - Five years. You?

MAX - No, l... I've been in the joint.

FRANCIS - Joint?

MAX - I was in Quentin.

FRANCIS- How long?

MAX - Six years.

FRANCIS - That's a long time.

MAX - Why Detroit?

FRANCIS - I'll show you something. Open that up.

MAX - It's a lamp.

FRANCIS - That's right.

MAX - Guy's carrying around a lamp in a box.

FRANCIS - For my kid.

MAX - Yeah? You got a kid?

FRANCIS - Yeah, in Detroit. I've never seen it, so l don't know if it's a boy or a girl. That's why l got a lamp. I figure a lamp would do fine either way, you know what l mean?

MAX - You never seen the kid, though?

FRANCIS - No. But l send a lot of money to it. All

the money I ever earned, I sent.

MAX - Yeah?

FRANCIS - Wasn't much, but I knew it helped. You got kids?

MAX - No. Listen, you can make a lot of money in the car wash business. Yeah. And you'll do better than you ever have. I got it all down to the percent. I know every penny, inside and out. It's a foolproof enterprise. Absolutely foolproof.

FRANCIS - All right. Let's get started.

MAX - Hey, fella, you got nothing better to do... than listen in on other people's conversations? I gotta tell you something about me. I'm like the meanest son of a bitch alive. You know what I mean? I don't trust anybody. I don't love anybody. And I can tear the ass out of a goddamn elephant, too. We're gonna be partners, okay?

FRANCIS - Okay.

MAX - All right. Come on. Right?

FRANCIS - Right.

MAX - All right. But...you gotta be straight with me, right?

FRANCISE - Sure.

MAX - I mean fair and square. We'll have a real good car wash business. Okay?

FRANCISE - Right.

MAX - Otherwise, I'll break your back.

FRANCISE - Sounds fair.

MAX - Like this.

FRANCISE - Damn. Don't bust my lamp, that's all.

MAX - Yeah. Can I have a bottle of beer and a chocolate doughnut?