

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

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Based on, If Any

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INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Somerset and Mills sit with a full pitcher of beer. The jukebox plays for the other customers. The walls of the bar are covered with trophies, plaques and other victory symbols.

SOMERSET

You know ... This isn't going to have a happy ending. It's not possible.

MILLS

Hey, man, if we get him, I'll be happy enough.

SOMERSET

No. Stop thinking it's good guys against bad guys.

MILLS

How can you say that? Especially after today?

SOMERSET

Don't focus on things as black and white. There's no winning and losing here.

MILLS

You're the oldest man I know, Somerset.

SOMERSET

You tell me, then ... you walk into an apartment, and a man has beaten his wife to death, or the wife murdered the husband, and you have to wash the blood off their children. You put the killer to jail. Who won?

MILLS

You do your job...

SOMERSET

Who won?!

MILLS

You follow the law as best you can. It's all there.

SOMERSET

If we catch John Doe and he's the devil himself, I mean he is actually Satan, then that might live up to our expectations. But, he's not the devil. He's just a man.

MILLS

Why don't you shut the fuck up for a while? You bitch and complain ... if I thought like you, I would have slit my wrists already.

Somerset sits back, looking at Mills.

MILLS (CONT'D)

You think you're preparing me for the hard times ahead? You think you're toughening me up? Well, you're not! You're quitting, fine ... but I'm staying.

SOMERSET

And you want to be the hero. People don't want a hero. They want to play the lotto, eat hamburgers and watch television.

MILLS

What the fuck is wrong with you? What burnt you out?

SOMERSET

It wasn't one thing, I can tell you that. I just ... I can't live here anymore. I can't live where stupidity is embraced and nurtured as if it were a virtue.

MILLS

Oh, come on. You're no different. You're no better.

SOMERSET

I didn't say I was different, or better. I'm not. Hell, I sympathize. I sympathize completely. Apathy is a solution. I mean it's easier to lose yourself in drugs than it is to cope with life. It's easier to steal what you want than it is to earn it.

(MORE)

SOMERSET (CONT'D)

It's easier to beat a child than it is to raise it. Love costs, takes effort, work.

MILLS

We are talking about people who are mentally ill. We are talking about people who are fucking crazy.

SOMERSET

No. We are talking about everyday life here. You can't afford to be this naive. Ignorance isn't just bliss, it's survival.

MILLS

Fuck off. You should listen to yourself. You say, "the problem with people is they don't care, so I don't care about people." That makes no sense, because you're here. You've been here a long time. So, there's a part of you that knows, even if everything you say it true, none of it matters.

SOMERSET

But you care?

MILLS

Damn right.

SOMERSET

And you're going to make a difference?

MILLS

Whatever. The point is, is that I don't think you're quitting because you believe these things you say. I think you want to believe them cause you're quitting. You want me to agree with you. "Yeah, you're right, Somerset. This is all fucked up, it's a fucking mess. Let's all go live in a fucking log cabin." Well, I won't agree with you. You're giving up, and it makes me sick, because you're the best I've ever seen ... Thanks for the beer.