

# ***AMBITION OF LOVE***

a noir in five rounds

Written by

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Screenplay For A Short Film

TITLE CARD "ROUND I - AMBITION VS PRIDE"

1

**INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM - NIGHT**

1

BRUNO, thirties, a gargantuan ex-boxer with frightening features, walks on his knees, rolling a large CARPET out across the floor.

A voice like gravel and broken glass speaks from his soul:

BRUNO (V.O.)

Ambition gave me everything. Then took it all away. And I'm fine with that.

The carpet rolls passed the DOOR to an ADJOINING OFFICE, reaching all the way to the FRONT DOOR of the waiting room. Bruno looks down at the carpeted floor, pleased.

BRUNO (V.O.)

Cause it can make you great, but in my experience, mostly it just puts you six feet under.

A BUZZER on the wall by the front door sounds. Bruno pushes it, signaling his responding BUZZ.

BRUNO (V.O.)

So I guess I got lucky. Ambition never got me six under.

FOOTSTEPS approach in the hall.

BRUNO (V.O.)

Not everyone's so lucky.

Bruno opens the door to reveal --

FRANKLIN, thirties, sharp and well-groomed, grinning with an energetic, youthful arrogance in spite of his average height. He looks up at Bruno, like David to Goliath.

FRANKLIN

Jesus. What're you supposed to be?

Bruno gestures for Franklin to lift his arms. Franklin does.

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

(as Bruno pats him down,  
smug)

Bodyguard, huh? Charlie worried someone's gonna kill him?

2 INT. ADJOINING OFFICE - A MOMENT LATER

2

Bruno enters, guiding Franklin inside.

CHARLIE, late sixties, sits behind a DESK directly opposite the door. Dignified yet aging, Charlie possesses a distempered air, never more apparent than now, as he glares at Franklin, clearly not happy to see him.

Franklin cranes his neck to see --

LOVE, mid-twenties, standing in the corner. She's attractive, with dark hair and a demure sense of menace to her presence.

He gives her the once over, liking what he sees.

FRANKLIN

Hello, Love. Been awhile.

Love gives him a silent, cold gaze. Franklin turns to Charlie --

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

Why's everyone on your payroll a mute?

LOVE

I'm not on his payroll.

CHARLIE

Why are you back in town, Franklin?

FRANKLIN

Because, Charlie, you're retiring.

CHARLIE

And you're angling to take my place?

FRANKLIN

It's not easy getting ahead these days.  
Gotta go after any weak spot I can.

CHARLIE

I said I'd kill you if I saw you again.

FRANKLIN

(laughs, unconcerned)  
If I didn't pay back what I owed.

CHARLIE

(to Bruno)  
Did he have my money on him?

Bruno shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

FRANKLIN

Listen to me, Charlie...

Franklin takes a seat opposite Charlie's desk as he continues --

FRANKLIN (CONT'D)

...I wanna make things even. I do. In two weeks I got a crew hitting a bank on the east side --

CHARLIE

East side is my side.

FRANKLIN

Was your side. Now, we pull the job, you get a cut, and you and I are square.

Charlie mulls it over a beat. Franklin glances at Bruno, stoic as a statue. Bruno glances at Love, her eyes on Charlie.

CHARLIE

Tell me, Franklin, do you think ambition is the key to outlasting people?

FRANKLIN

Sure.

Charlie

(gestures to Bruno)

Do you know what Bruno here used to do before he came to work for me?

FRANKLIN

Some kinda rock crusher or a forklift.

CHARLIE

He was a boxer. Bruno the Bulldog. Super heavyweight. Amateur, but every bit as ambitious as you or me. No one ever took him down.

ANGLE ON Bruno, straight on. WE SLOWLY SHIFT to his profile, revealing Love, her eyes now watching him as Charlie continues --

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

But Bruno took too many hits to the head. Nearly died. Now he doesn't talk so much or understand so well. He had to let ambition go. But he's smart. He knows his place. That's admirable.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

FRANKLIN

Why're you wasting my time on this?

CHARLIE

I want you to comprehend how even a man like Bruno, even he, will outlast you.

Franklin's grin drops. His civility depleting.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Now I did say I'd kill you if I saw you again. Didn't I?

FRANKLIN

If I didn't pay back what I owed.

Charlie chortles, aggravating Franklin.

CHARLIE

You really thought you'd waltz in, planning a heist on my turf, saying you're gonna take over?

FRANKLIN

This visit was a favor to make things even. I put our bad blood behind us.

CHARLIE

I didn't.

Charlie nods to Bruno.

Bruno grabs Franklin with his mammoth hands and HEAVES HIM UP from the chair.

Franklin flails. Kicking his chair over. Trying to get free. But it's no use. He's a rag doll in Bruno's grip.

BRUNO (V.O.)

Ambition is dangerous when you confuse it with other things.

3 INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

3

Bruno hauls Franklin into the waiting room. Throws him down onto the carpeted floor. Then opens his DESK DRAWER and pulls out a Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum.

BRUNO (V.O.)

Like Franklin confusing it with arrogance.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Franklin rises to his knees. Pleading --

FRANKLIN

Charlie--!

BANG!

Bruno shoots Franklin in the head. Blood SPLATTERS across the carpet. Franklin's body slumps dead to the floor.

Charlie gets up from his desk and walks to Love.

BRUNO (V.O.)

And Charlie confusing it with pride.

CHARLIE

Sorry you saw that, Love. He had it coming for what he'd done to you.

LOVE

(unphased by the violence)

I know.

BRUNO (V.O.)

But the most dangerous, most fatal, is getting confused with love.

Love looks at Bruno, gazing intently with a wicked grin. Bruno notes the look, and off the dread on his face, we --

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ROUND I

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 3

**TITLE CARD "ROUND II - AMBITION VS MIGHT"**

4 **EXT. GYM - NIGHT** 4

ESTABLISHING SHOT: An old gym. The lights are on. Plenty of activity inside.

ROARING THUNDER heralds a coming storm as WE HEAR --

Bruno's gravel and broken glass voice speak from his soul:

BRUNO (V.O.)  
I believe in love. I believe in it at  
first sight. I believe in its power.  
Cause I'm its victim.

LOVE approaches from up the street and enters the gym.

5 **INT. GYM - NIGHT** 5

Love stands in the entryway, watching everyone, searching for someone. OFF SCREEN we hear the sounds of sparring. Weights clanging against equipment. Various conversations.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
But love is bad news. I tried burying it  
in my soul. Never expressed or shared it.  
Never embraced its happiness.

Love spots the person she's looking for and moves further into the gym. WE MOVE WITH HER, revealing --

BRUNO, getting up from an old bench press.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
Still it finds me.

He shares a silent look with Love, wary of her; then --

LOVE  
I read about you and your fights. You  
really owned the ring in your prime.

He doesn't respond, hoping she'll just go away as he proceeds to add more weights to the bar bell.

LOVE (CONT'D)  
Doctors say it'd only take one more hit  
to the head and you'd die?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

He nods. Love gestures to the boxing ring nearby.

LOVE (CONT'D)

Can't be easy being here. The thing you  
love right over your shoulder, knowing  
you can't have it.

Bruno lays down on the bench press and begins another set.

LOVE (CONT'D)

(stepping closer, growing  
vulnerable)

You're a tortured soul, Bruno, but you're  
not the only one.

He looks at her between reps, listening...

LOVE (CONT'D)

My heart cinches in my chest every time I  
see you. You feel it, too. I've known for  
some time.

He amps up the speed of his repetitions, trying not to engage.

LOVE (CONT'D)

I know I want you. And you want me. But  
Charlie'd have you killed.  
(leans in, intimately)  
So what if we do him in first?

Bruno finishes his set and sits up. Panting, as much from the  
workout as from the plan Love is laying on him.

LOVE (CONT'D)

Charlie's retiring, so no one'll miss  
him. And no one knows he's been skimming  
off the higher ups for years. He's got a  
fortune tucked in a clean account, with  
me as sole beneficiary if he dies.

Love sits beside Bruno on the bench, continuing --

LOVE (CONT'D)

I'll get access to his account. Then you  
do to him... what you do.

Bruno shakes his head and stands, moving towards the exit. Love  
trails him, defensive now, her emotions cracking.

LOVE (CONT'D)

You're wondering where my loyalty is?  
It's with you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



5 CONTINUED:

5

LOVE (CONT'D)

I'm in love with you, you oaf. Why should we give up our happiness for his pride?

Bruno stops just inside the gym entrance. Love knows she's getting through. She moves in front of him, close.

LOVE (CONT'D)

So what do you say? Will you throw in with me?

He looks at her, with a silent turmoil from within betrayed only by his eyes.

BRUNO (V.O.)

With all my strength, I can't resist going along for the ride. Not with her. And she knows it.

LOVE

(smiles)

I'll take that as a yes.

BRUNO (V.O.)

Whatever comes, it's worth it.

6 **EXT. GYM - CONTINUOUS**

6

Love and Bruno stand in the gym entryway, intimately close to one another. WE PULL BACK to reveal the lit HEADLIGHTS of a PARKED ROLLS-ROYCE across the street.

7 **INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - CONTINUOUS**

7

MO, forties, a squirrely anxiety-ridden insomniac, sits in the driver's seat, watching Love and Bruno. He sweats fear, scared by the person sitting in the seat behind him --

LOU (O.S.)

So that's Love.

Mo nods, and WE PAN AROUND HIM to reveal in the back seat --

LOU, thirties, Franklin's twin brother. He glares out at Love and Bruno, his face contorted in an unhinged grimace.

LOU (CONT'D)

(knows the name,  
impressed)

And that's really the Bruno the Bulldog?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

LOU (CONT'D)  
(off another nod from Mo)  
So where's Charlie's office?

MO  
Third and Grand, Lou. Third and Grand.

LOU  
That's where you took my brother  
yesterday?

MO  
Yeah. Then he came out in the big guy's  
arms, wrapped up in a carpet.

Lou looks back out the window at Bruno. Vengeance boiling.

MO (CONT'D)  
You want me to take you there, Lou?

LOU  
Nah, I can find it.

Lou reaches over Mo's head with a WIRE GARROTE, cinching it  
tight around Mo's throat.

Mo struggles, swinging and kicking. He hits the radio dial,  
AMPING UP the volume on the stereo.

As the blood seeps from Mo's neck, we --

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ROUND II

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 7

**TITLE CARD "ROUND III - AMBITION VS FAMILY"**

8 **EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT** 8

ESTABLISHING SHOT: Charlie's office building. Charlie's WHITE LINCOLN COUPE is parked directly out front. WE PULL BACK, down the street, to reveal a second PARKED CAR --

THE ROLLS-ROYCE. Newly acquired by Lou.

A voice coated in vengeful wrath speaks up from Lou's soul:

LOU (V.O.)

The phantom pain of a twin is a real thing. I learned that when my brother was killed.

9 **INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - CONTINUOUS** 9

LOU sits in the driver's seat, eyes fixated on the building.

LOU (V.O.)

For days now I'm afflicted with this migraine. Twenty-four seven in the base of my skull.

Two day stubble on his face. A burnt-down cigarette in his hand. Crumpled packs of Lucky's on the dash. He's been here awhile.

LOU (V.O.)

But my pain is only a fraction of what my brother felt, and all I can do to ease the torment is execute the people that took his life. Which I aim to do.

CUT TO:

10 **INT. ADJOINING OFFICE - NIGHT** 10

CHARLIE sits at his desk, staring down at various BANK DOCUMENTS, a pen gripped hesitantly between his fingers.

LOVE stands by, waiting anxiously for him to sign his name.

CHARLIE

Something doesn't feel right.

Love looks up from the desk and out into the waiting room.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

LOVE'S POV: BRUNO stands in the doorway to the office waiting room, at attention. An expression of unease in his eyes.

LOVE  
(to Charlie)  
You're only second guessing cause you  
can't swallow your pride and move on with  
your life.

Charlie nods with disgruntled resignation.

LOVE (CONT'D)  
Just be proud you got a life to move on  
with, rather than being dead at the hands  
of an up-and-comer.

CHARLIE  
You saw what I do to up-and-comers.

LOVE  
More will try. So sign the papers.  
It's the retirement plan you saved for.  
(seeing that he's still  
hesitant)  
You were all set to withdraw the money  
before Franklin made you feel ancient.

CHARLIE  
I'm not ancient.

LOVE  
(teasing now)  
No, you're well beyond that.

Charlie laughs, a beat, then finally giving in. He signs the documents and hands them to Love.

CHARLIE  
You too. Where it says daughter.

Bruno's ears perk up at the word 'daughter'. He watches Love sign the papers, an expression of confusion on his face.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
(noting the shift in  
Bruno)  
What's the matter, Bruno?

LOVE  
He didn't know you were my father. He  
thought we were lovers.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

As she finishes signing, a look of malicious intent overtakes Love's face.

LOVE (CONT'D)

Which is what you wanted people to think.  
Isn't it?

CHARLIE

Excuse me -- ?

LOVE

I'd hear what you'd tell people. How  
you'd boast.

CHARLIE

Stop it, Love.

LOVE

You kept me close, not because you loved  
me, but because it looked good to have a  
young piece of tail.

CHARLIE

(snapping)

Enough! I kept you close for your  
protection. My secrecy was for your  
protection. No more.

He stands, angry, gathering the bank documents in an ENVELOPE.

Love nods to Bruno, impassioned, ready to end Charlie's life.  
But Bruno returns her look with deliberation, eyes wide now in  
conflict.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

CUT TO:

11 INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - MOMENTS LATER

11

LOU'S POV: WE SEE through the car window, up the street, Charlie  
exiting the office building with Bruno and Love trailing behind.

Lou reaches behind the passenger seat and pulls out a WOODEN  
BASEBALL BAT.

12      **EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS**      12

Charlie approaches his white Lincoln Coupe. Love pulls Bruno aside.

                                         LOVE (whispering)  
                                         You were supposed to do it upstairs.  
                                         What're you waiting for?

Bruno looks at Charlie, hesitant, unsure what to do.

Charlie pulls on the handle of the Lincoln's passenger side door. It's locked.

                                         CHARLIE  
                                         Bruno, shake the molasses and get the  
                                         door.

Love puts her hands on Bruno's chest, lovingly, imploringly.

                                         LOVE  
                                         Him being my father changes nothing. It's  
                                         still about you and me.

13      **INT. ROLLS-ROYCE - CONTINUOUS**      13

Lou quietly opens his car door, slowly taking a step out to the street, the baseball bat gripped tight in his hand.

14      **EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS**      14

Bruno looks in Love's eyes; then, caving to her persuasion, he moves towards Charlie.

Charlie turns to see Bruno walking up to him, the grim look on his face sending a chill through Charlie's spine.

                                         Charlie  
                                         Bruno -- ?

CRUNCH!

Bruno snaps Charlie's neck. Killing him instantly. Charlie's body slumps. Bruno shoulders the weight. Hefting Charlie up in his arms.

15      **EXT. ROLLS-ROYCE - CONTINUOUS**      15

Lou freezes in his spot, astounded, watching Bruno carry Charlie's body towards the office building.

LOU (V.O.)

I wonder what the phantom pain must be like for a daughter...

16      **EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS**      16

Bruno walks up to Love. A mixture of shock and excitement contort her face. He reaches his hand out. She hesitates, as the death of her father washes over her.

LOU (V.O.)

...after she has her own father killed.

Finally, Love runs to Bruno and takes his hand.

17      **EXT. ROLLS-ROYCE - CONTINUOUS**      17

Lou ducks behind his car, watching Love and Bruno disappear back inside the building. A grin plasters his face.

LOU (V.O.)

I'll ask her before I cut out her heart.

CUT TO BLACK:

END OF ROUND III

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

TITLE CARD "ROUND IV - LOVE CONQUERS ALL: PART I"

18 INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAWN

18

ANGLE ON BRUNO, sitting at the desk. A silent beast, motionless. Shafts of morning light through the window blinds cast lines across his face. He stares blankly to the floor nearby, where WE SEE Charlie's dead body wrapped in a carpet.

Love's cold and unapologetic voice speaks up from her soul:

LOVE (V.O.)

Punishment's been a part of me since I was born, when I took my mother's life in the delivery room.

ANGLE ON the desk, the BANK DOCUMENTS from Charlie's retirement plan rest beside the ENVELOPE.

LOVE (V.O.)

My father punished me for her murder every day. Now I punished him in return.

ANGLE ON LOVE, in the adjoining office, putting on her coat and sliding gloves into her pocket as she looks at Bruno.

LOVE (V.O.)

Makes me wonder if my soul's just dark, or if I ever had one to begin with.

There's a KNOCK at the door. Bruno stands to get it.

ANGLE ON the door. Bruno opens it to reveal --

LOU

Swinging his BASEBALL BAT into Bruno's face. Bruno drops. The behemoth down for the count.

LOU

Bruno The Bulldog!

LOVE

No!

Love runs to Bruno, frightened. Lou watches, amped, enjoying.

LOVE (CONT'D)

Bruno! Wake up!

(CONTINUED)



LOU

You know, I loved this guy? No one got him down in the ring. Took a beating and just kept on fighting.

Lou crouches down to gaze at Bruno. Bruno lays still, eyes open, blank, blood dripping from a gash over his eye.

LOU (CONT'D)

He retired when doctors said one more blow to the head'd leave him a vegetable.

(then, turns to Love)

But he kinda already was a vegetable, wasn't he?

Love gets a good look at Lou for the first time, shocked --

LOVE

Franklin -- ? You're dead.

LOU

No, Franklin was my brother. This is a revenge thing.

He grips the base of the bat and --

CRACK!

He hits Love in the temple. She falls beside Bruno, unconscious.

Lou taps Bruno on the chest. Bruno's eyes focus on him.

LOU (CONT'D)

Bulldog, I'm gonna take a bit of a tangent here, so speak up if I'm wrong, but I figure Love coaxed you into killing her father, you know, "for love". But considering she's a manipulative trollop, I'm betting something else was involved, too. Like money. How about it?

Lou looks in Bruno's eyes, checking for a response. Nothing.

LOU (CONT'D)

Good talking, Bruno.

He smacks Bruno across the cheek. Bruno's head slumps over to face Love. He looks at her, dazed, blood dripping across his forehead. He grits his jaw, a rage boiling as we --

FADE OUT:

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

OVER BLACK:

The roar of a car engine.

FADE UP ON:

19 **INT. ROLLS-ROYCE (MOVING) - DAWN**

19

Love stirs awake, woozy, finding herself in the passenger seat of the Rolls-Royce.

Lou is at the wheel. Pedal to the metal.

LOVE

Where're you taking me?

LOU

To deal with modern technology.

Love

...what?

LOU

It's really ruined the way things used to be.

(holding up the bank documents)

A fortune written on a piece of paper doesn't have the same visceral quality as a bag full of cash, you know?

(adding)

Especially when it's not in my name.

LOVE

We're going to a bank?

Lou gives a patronizing nod. Love gives a condescending laugh.

LOU

What's so funny?

LOVE

Money exposes everyone's true motivation.

LOU

Yeah? What's everyone's true motivation?

(CONTINUED)

LOVE

Money. You said you were out for revenge. And now you want cash.

LOU

Don't get your hopes up, Love. I'm still gonna cut your heart out.

Love's smile fades, frightened by Lou's vicious intensity.

LOU (CONT'D)

And you can count on burning in Hell. My brother told me what you tried to get him to do. Guess your pitch actually worked on Bruno.

LOVE

What'd you do with Bruno?

LOU

He'd stopped moving by the time I dragged you out.

ANGLE ON Love, as the death of Bruno settles on her...

LOVE (V.O.)

I told Bruno I was out for his love. He found the losing end of that deal.

Love studies her reflection in the SIDE VIEW MIRROR.

LOVE (V.O.)

If that man loved me for my soul, his death must be proof I never had a soul.

ANGLE ON the side view mirror, as the WHITE LINCOLN COUPE appears amid the traffic in the reflection.

Love sits up in her seat.

LOVE (V.O.)

Unless Bruno's love doesn't die. And he somehow proves everyone wrong.

She turns in her seat, looking out the rear window, smiling.

LOU

What're you looking at?

LOVE

Trouble for you, knight in shining armor for me.



22 CONTINUED: 22

**TITLE CARD "ROUND V - LOVE CONQUERS ALL: PART II"**

23 **EXT. FREEWAY - DAWN** 23

A HIGH SPEED CHASE underway. VARIOUS SHOTS of the Lincoln Coupe pursuing the erratic path of Lou's car. They weave. They swerve.

Bruno's gravel and broken glass voice rises up from his soul:

BRUNO (V.O.)

People underestimate me. It's how I  
always won in the ring. My opponents  
underestimate my will. Underestimate the  
toughness of my skin. Of my bones.

CUT TO BLACK:

BRUNO (V.O.)

The strength of my heart.

The EXPLOSIVE IMPACT of a car accident FILLS OUR EARS, followed by the unending blare of a CAR HORN.

FADE UP ON:

24 **EXT. VACANT LOT - DAWN** 24

The Lincoln Coupe is PARKED. OFF SCREEN the blaring car horn continues to sound.

BRUNO (V.O.)

People always think my engine's gonna run  
out. Sometimes even I think so.

The front door to the Coupe opens and BRUNO steps out, labored, shuffling in pain, in rough shape after taking a baseball bat to the head.

BRUNO (V.O.)

But I keep fighting.

The car horn grows louder as Bruno walks across the lot to --

The Rolls-Royce, SMASHED against a lamp post, smoke wafting from the engine. Bruno opens the passenger door.

LOVE is inside, barely conscious, bloody. Bruno pulls her out of the car and carries her from the wreck, laying her safely on the ground.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

LOVE  
...thank you, Bruno...

She smiles up at him, still dazed. He smiles in return.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
Smiles to see me. Happiness to see me.

The blaring horn STOPS, drawing Bruno and Love's attention to Lou's car.

LOVE  
(re: Lou)  
Kill him.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
Love has given me back my ambition.  
Love is making me feel worthwhile again.

ANGLE ON Lou's driver's side door. Bruno pulls it open.

LOU sits behind the wheel, barely alive, trying to get his bearings, his face cut up, his clothes blood streaked.

LOU  
(weak)  
Heya, Bulldog... guessing you wanna  
finish me off...

Bruno grabs Lou by the shirt collar. Lou puts his hands up.

LOU (CONT'D)  
Wait. Wait, hear me out first. Okay? Love  
used you.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
But love is also making me vulnerable.

LOU  
(Bruno stops, listening)  
She'd been looking to put her dad six  
feet under for years. She tried it with  
my brother.

Bruno considers Lou's words, confused, questioning everything.

LOU (CONT'D)  
He said no, so she got you instead.  
Your love for her was a means to an end.  
Get it? You're just her hatchet man.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Lou coughs up blood and grimaces in pain. His thoughts drifting, he looks down at his hands and around the seat.

LOU (CONT'D)

My gun... Where's my gun...?

Enraged by the allegation against Love, not believing it, Bruno pulls Lou from the car.

He wraps his fingers around Lou's throat and hefts him up, holding him off the ground by the neck.

Bruno squeezes. Strangling Lou. Lou pulls at Bruno's hands. He kicks at Bruno's legs. All to no avail.

BRUNO (V.O.)

Love is a darkness hovering over me...

Lou's legs begin to twitch -- then finally come to a stop.

Bruno releases his grasp and Lou falls, crumpling to the ground. Dead. Bruno looks at him, suddenly seeing something...

BRUNO (V.O.)

...a shadow of death.

BRUNO'S POV: Beside Lou's corpse, a LONG SHADOW cast across the pavement.

ANGLE ON Bruno, looking up as he realizes what the shadow is --

Behind him stands Love, with Lou's Beretta M1934 clutched in her gloved hand, aimed at Bruno's skull. She pulls the trigger.

BANG!

A BLOOD CLOUD bursts out from behind Bruno's head. He drops to his knees and slumps over.

LOVE

Sorry, Bruno. If it means anything.

She steps over Bruno's body and crouches down to Lou.

LOVE (CONT'D)

You did stir something in me. For a minute I thought it was something good...

She puts the gun in Lou's hand, curling Lou's dead finger around the trigger and aiming at Bruno.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

LOVE (CONT'D)  
 ...but it wasn't.

BANG!

She blasts another shot into Bruno's head.

Love then goes to Lou's car. Reaches inside. Pulls out the BANK DOCUMENTS to Charlie's fortune.

As she heads off to the Lincoln Coupe, WE LINGER ON BRUNO...

He lies motionless. Lifeless. Until --

Bruno's arm JOLTS UPRIGHT. His eyes open. He props himself up. Blood gushes from the back of his head, down his shirt.

He looks around. His eyes fluttering.

BRUNO'S POV: Blurriness. Nothing's in focus. Just shapes.

Bruno reaches around, his hands moving over Lou's dead body, settling on the gun. Bruno takes the gun and turns in the direction of Love's footsteps.

BRUNO'S POV: The blurred image of a figure walks away. Moving towards the shape of the Lincoln Coupe.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
 Again ambition gives me everything.

ANGLE ON Love, almost at the Lincoln. Unaware of Bruno. She wears the coldest of expressions, accented with the slightest curl of a smile.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
 Again ambition takes it all away.

ANGLE ON Bruno, crawling across the ground on his belly towards Love. He slows to a stop. Beginning to lose final consciousness. At death's door. He extends the hand with the gun.

BRUNO (V.O.)  
 Again I'm fine with that. Because my  
 ambition is love.

BRUNO'S POV: The gun shoots. The blurred figure in the distance flails and drops. Bruno's sight FADES OUT, then BACK IN; and then finally, we --

FADE TO BLACK.

**THE END**