

"Braddock Loman" 7/13/15

ON THE POSTER -- BRADDOCK LOMAN and the actress ISABELLE YATES, soldier and Army nurse, are wrapped in a tight clench.

I  
START →

Tom works his way through the mass of people until he finds the man of the hour: BRADDOCK LOMAN (mid-20s), pretty boy actor, posing for photos, answering questions from the press. \*

BRADDOCK

Who do I wanna work with most? Easy. Lauren Bacall. That scene with her and Bogie in "To Have and Have Not"? Wow. No wonder he left his wife. How'd it go again --

TOM (O.S.)

You know how to whistle, don't you? You just put your lips together and blow.

Braddock turns, lights up when he sees Tom. To the press...

BRADDOCK

I swear, this guy knows every line to every movie ever made.

POP. POP. Flashbulbs go off. A REPORTER calls out to Tom...

REPORTER

~~Shame Isabelle isn't here. Most actresses wouldn't miss their own premiere if their life depended on it.~~

TOM

~~Yeah, well, Isabelle's not most actresses...~~

Tom glances up at actress ISABELLE YATES on the banner poster.

TOM (CONT'D)

~~She's serving her country on a USO tour, entertaining the troops we still have overseas.~~

(arm around Braddock)

Now, if you people have everything you need, I'm gonna steal my leading man away from you.

Tom leads Braddock away, to the periphery of the premiere.

BRADDOCK

Where we going, Tom?

Paradise Pictures  
Pilot

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(CONTINUED)

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TOM  
Somewhere to talk in private.

Braddock stops.

BRADDOCK  
Let's just talk in the theater.

TOM  
That's not private enough, Braddock.

Tom grips his elbow. There's so much noise and activity at the premiere that no one notices as Tom leads Braddock to --

3

EXT. QUIET BACK ALLEY BEHIND GRAUMAN'S - MOMENTS LATER

3

Tom pulls Braddock back here. Dark and quiet. They can hear the noise of the premiere, but they are worlds away right now.

TOM  
When I found you, you were shining other men's shoes for a living.

BRADDOCK  
Jesus, is this about me skipping out of work a little early today?

TOM  
You cost me money, Braddock. Wasn't the first time... wasn't even the fifth time. You shooting up again?

BRADDOCK  
No.

\*  
\*

Tom grabs Braddock's arm, yanks up the sleeve of his jacket and shirt. Finds TRACK MARKS in the crease of his elbow.

\*  
\*

BRADDOCK (CONT'D)  
It was nothing, I was blowing off steam. Gimme a break --

Braddock cuts himself off as ABERDEEN APPEARS IN THE ALLEY.

BRADDOCK (CONT'D)  
What's he doing here?

TOM  
You know why Ray's here.

A beat. Braddock appraises the situation, then to Tom...

(CONTINUED)

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BRADDOCK

No way you're doing this now... not at the premiere.

TOM

The way you've been carrying on lately isn't acceptable. You're paid a lot of money to do a job. And I expect you to do it.

BRADDOCK

No. This is bullshit. If you're trying to scare me, it's not gonna work.

Braddock tries to walk away, but Aberdeen grabs his arm and PUNCHES Braddock in the stomach. Dropping him to his knees.

BRADDOCK (CONT'D)

Motherfucker.

(grim smile)

Stayed away from my face, though, didn't you?

(climbs to his feet)

Okay. You made your point. Now, if you don't mind, I'm gonna get back to the big show.

\*  
\*

TOM

Hold on a sec. Something I want you to read first.

Tom steps toward Braddock, and hands him a PIECE OF PAPER.

BRADDOCK

What the hell's this?

TOM

A press release about the terrible accident you had tonight. Right after you smiled for the cameras and gave your quotes to the press, you took a walk to Sycamore, to look at your first apartment in Hollywood. It was a dump, but it was the place it all started for you. You got so caught up in the memories you weren't paying attention. Wandered into traffic. Got blindsided by a car. You're lucky to be alive, Braddock.

Tom pauses to light a cigarette. And then he continues...

(CONTINUED) 3/6

TOM (CONT'D)

Now, it says there you broke your arm. But I'll do you a favor and let you decide... right or left?

A moment. Braddock TRIES TO RUN, but Aberdeen GRABS HIM AND SLAMS HIM to the ground. Braddock cries out in pain and fear.

BRADDOCK

Tom, please, I'm sorry...

TOM

Fuck up his face as much as you want, Ray.

**STOP**

Braddock tries to crawl backwards. But Aberdeen hauls him to his feet and PUNCHES him, only this time in the jaw. Braddock immediately crumples. Aberdeen then KICKS Braddock several times in the stomach and chest. Braddock's SCREAMING OUT in pain, but the NOISE OF THE PREMIERE drowns out all of it.

Tom drops his cigarette to the pavement and stamps it out. And then he glances up at the moonlit HOLLYWOODLAND SIGN, glowing in the dark night. A beat. Then Tom makes his way back to the premiere. A BLACK-AND-GRAY CARD fills the screen:

"PARADISE PICTURES"

END OF TEASER

YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

And I thought, if they wanna change all these things, is it really me they wanted in the first place?

LUCIANA

But you're still here...

YOUNG WOMAN

I am. Because it is still me. Because they can change everything. But what's inside... that will always be mine.

Luciana thinks about that. Then looks over at the Woman...

LUCIANA

You must not have liked what they did to your hair.

YOUNG WOMAN

Oh, because of the scarf? It's fine, I guess. Honestly, I'm still not used to it. What do you think?

She pulls off her scarf, revealing CURLY PEROXIDE BLONDE HAIR.

LUCIANA

I think it's... gorgeous. By the way, I'm Luciana.

YOUNG WOMAN

I'm Norma Jeane. And thank you. \*

They shake, and then NORMA JEANE glances down at her watch. \*

NORMA JEANE \*

I should get going. Good luck, Luciana. Remember, just because you bought a ticket home... doesn't mean you need to use it.

Norma Jeane walks away. Luciana watches her go. Off this... \*

Tom's standing off by himself, smoking a cigarette, drinking a glass of whiskey. A quiet moment, interrupted by...

BRADDOCK (O.S.)

I can't believe you went with Charlie Sanders for "Heart of Darkness." Over me?

**II**  
**START**

47

Tom turns, sees Braddock Loman standing there. Bruised face. Left arm's in a sling. There's a faraway look in his eyes.

TOM

What do you want, Braddock?

BRADDOCK

Usually you're the one delivering news. But not today. Today it's me.

TOM

You can tell me later.

BRADDOCK

No, I think I'm gonna tell you now. I can't do that shitty western. What's it called, "Six Shooter"?

TOM

You're under contract, Braddock. I own you, and you'll do what I tell you to do.

BRADDOCK

Actually, Tom, I broke that contract. I'm working for Columbia Pictures now.

Tom stamps out his cigarette. Walks closer to Braddock.

TOM

You still have a drug problem, don't you? Because that's the only thing that would explain your fucking stupidity right now --

BRADDOCK

I'm stupid? I just signed with a bigger studio for more money, and Cohn's putting me in Rita Hayworth's next movie. The real Rita Hayworth, by the way, not some cheap hooker.

TOM

Braddock, you don't want to make this kind of mistake. Not with me.

BRADDOCK

You don't get it, Tom, do you? You're the one who made the mistake.

Braddock walks away. Tom's going to go after him, but --

STOP

(CONTINUED)

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