

LA CONFIDENTIAL - BUD MEETS LYNN

EXT. 1736 NOTTINGHAM (LYNN BRACKEN'S) - DAY

Lynn does her best to usher the slightly disheveled Older Gentleman out the door.

OLDER GENTLEMAN

I don't understand, doll, we just got started.

LYNN

I'm sorry, but I'll make it up to you. I promise.

OLDER GENTLEMAN

Gosh, kitten, I don't know...

As he begins to mash up against her...

BUD (O.S.)

Hit the road, gramps.

Bud's standing at the bottom of the stairs. The Older Gentleman strikes a pose. He still thinks he's Alan Ladd.

OLDER GENTLEMAN

Alright. This time I'll go, but next time --

BUD

(flips badge)

L.A.P.D., shitbird. Get the fuck out of here or I'll call your wife to come get you.

Sputtering, the Older Gentleman exchanges a look with Lynn then hurries away, giving Bud a wide berth.

LYNN

I've been expecting you. Pierce called. Told me what happened to Sue.

INT. 1736 NOTTINGHAM (LYNN BRACKEN'S) - DAY

A nice breezy feel. The perfect place to shack up.

LYNN

It's Officer White, isn't it?

Bud nods, eyeballs the place.

LYNN

Can I get you a drink?

BUD

Yeah, plain scotch.

Bud watches her move to the bar. God, she's beautiful.

LYNN

I was friendly with Sue Lefferts,
but we weren't really friends.
You know what I mean?

BUD

Are you sorry she's dead?

LYNN

Of course I am. What kind of
question is that?

She steps back with a scotch for both of them.

BUD

Have you ever heard of Dick
Stensland?

LYNN

No I haven't. Do you know why
Pierce is humoring you?

BUD

You use words like that, you
might make me mad.

LYNN

Yes. But do you know?

BUD

Yeah I know. Patchett's running
whores and judging by his address,
probably something bigger on the
side. He doesn't want any
attention.

LYNN

That's right. Our motives are
selfish, so we're cooperating.

BUD

Why was Susan Lefferts at the
Nite Owl?

LYNN

I don't know. I never heard of
the Nite Owl till today.

BUD

Did Lefferts have a boyfriend?

LYNN

Like I said we were friendly,
not friends.

BUD

How'd she meet Patchett?

LYNN

Pierce meets people. Sue came
on the bus with dreams of
Hollywood. This is how they
turned out. Thanks to Pierce,
we still get to act a little.

BUD

Tell me about Patchett.

LYNN

He's waiting for you to mention
money.

BUD

You want some advice, Miss
Bracken?

LYNN

It's Lynn.

BUD

Miss Bracken, don't ever try to
fucking bribe me or threaten me
or I'll have you and Patchett
in shit up to your ears.

Lynn smiles again. She likes Bud. A beat.

LYNN

I remember you from Christmas
Eve. You have a thing for
helping women, don't you,
Officer White?

BUD

Maybe I'm just fucking curious.

LYNN

You say 'fuck' a lot.

BUD

You fuck for money.

LYNN

There's blood on your shirt. Is
that an integral part of your job?

BUD

Yeah.

LYNN

Do you enjoy it?

BUD

When they deserve it.

LYNN

Did they deserve it today?

BUD

I'm not sure.

LYNN

But you did it anyway.

BUD

Yeah, just like the half dozen
guys you screwed today.

LYNN

(laughs again)

Actually, it was two. You're
different, Officer White. You're
the first man in five years who
didn't tell me I look like
Veronica Lake inside of a minute.

BUD

You look better than Veronica
Lake. Now, Pierce Patchett.

LYNN

He takes a cut of our earnings
and invests it for us. He makes
us quit the life at thirty. He
doesn't let us use narcotics and
he doesn't abuse us. Can your
policeman's mentality grasp
those contradictions?

BUD

He had you cut to look like
Veronica Lake?

LYNN

No. I'm really a brunette, but
the rest is me. And that's all
the news that's fit to print.

Lynn starts toward the door. Bud watches her a moment,
then follows. She takes his glass at the door.

LYNN

It was nice meeting you, Officer.

Out the door, Bud turns back. Blurts:

BUD

Look. I want to see you again.

LYNN

Are you asking me for a date or
an appointment?

BUD

(suddenly unsure)

I don't know.

LYNN

(another smile)

If it's a date I think you'd
better tell me your first name
because I --

BUD

(feeling foolish)

Forget I asked. It was a
mistake.

Lynn watches thoughtfully after Bud as he walks away.
He opens his car door like he's going to tear it off.
A last glance back at Lynn and as he gets in the car...