

EXT. ALLEY-NIGHT

KNUCKLES TONY and his main-man ROCK-HEAD pound JERRY, a frail businessman. The rain PITTER-PATS on their heads.

Tony, a wise-guy in his thirties, ashes his cigarette into a puddle stained with blood. Jerry flies over the puddle into trash-cans, which SKID, like scattering bowling pins.

Rock-head holds him down and puts a pistol to his head.

A cigarette lighter CLINKS open. Tony lights a new smoke.

Tony kneels eye-to-eye with the wounded man. He takes Jerry's wedding ring along with a picture of his kids. Soul sucking sound HOWLS through the alley.

Tony:

Don't say a word. Shut-up. Shut-up! I'm not going to kill you. Today! Lucky-son of a bitch. I'm feeling charitable. I'm going to let you live till Friday. Friday! Have my money! You understand? I can't have this hanging over my head. I'm getting married you little shit.

Back-door to his club. A single light illuminates the door in otherwise darkness. Tony places a hand on to the door and flicks his smoke.

EXT. SIDEWALK-NIGHT

Rock-Head kicks Jerry's ass. He slams him on to the sidewalk.

Astonished onlookers GASP.

Rock-Head:

What?

Jerry spits up blood. A painful moment before standing.

INT. TONY'S CLUB-NIGHT

Tony lights a cigarette and settles into a dimly lit booth. Dragging intently. He is deep in thought.

He pulls Jerry's stolen ring from his pocket and rolls it between his fingers.

A long drag before extinguishing the smoke.

He takes Gina's engagement ring from his breast pocket, fondling the jewelry with bland emotion.

He places both pieces on to the table. The booth light turns the shiny gold into a kaleidoscope of color.

FLASHBACK. INT. ANTHONY'S PLACE-DAY

A coffee shop full of black and white photos. Tony as a young man strolls through staring.

He steps in front of an old photo. A beautiful Italian girl sits portrait style. A giant wedding ring decorates her finger.

A hand taps Tony's shoulder. He turns to see--

His mother, PRISCILLA. Streaks of gray through her hair. She smiles warmly.

Priscilla holds up the same wedding ring from photo. She gives it to her son before smacking him upside his head.

Priscilla:
Don't give it to the wrong girl stupid!

RESUME PRESENT.

Tony places Gina's engagement band back into his coat pocket. He snaps his fingers for a drink.

Rock-Head approaches Tony with THREE GORGEOUS GIRLS. A blond, a brunette, and a red-head.

Tony:
I'm getting married. I can't believe it.
Let's celebrate. Get me a drink
beautiful.

The blonde turns with one sexy motion.

She lean over the bar, revealing her cleavage to the bartender.

Rock-Head:
Should I check on Gina? Ashley's
parties can get wild.

The brunette and redhead settle into booth with Tony. He places his arms around both of them.

Tony:
(sarcastically)
I trust Gina and respect her privacy.

Rock-Head turns to leave.

Tony:

Wait a minute. Drop by Ashley's party.
Give Gina this. I still love her. We're
just having fun.

He tosses her engagement ring like a trinket.

Rock-Head fumbles not to drop it.

The blonde places Tony's drink on the table. He gives her Jerry's wedding ring like a tip.

A little grossed out, she tosses it into the ashtray.

Tony:

I was feeling charitable.

Tony tips his glass. When he lowers it, the ladies have undressed.

EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE-DAWN

Two inseparable bros, ALLEN and TOM, fumble for their car keys. They are drunk, stoned, and happy. They have partied all night and are in a world of their own.

Allen:

Now, now, friends don't let friends
drink drunk.

Tom:

Who are you to tell me not to drink?
You're drunk.

A cab screeches to a halt.

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE-MORNING

GINA keeps an eye on them from behind the curtains. The drunks turn to the window. "Call me," she says with her thumb and pinkie. Obviously she called the cab.

EXT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE-MORNING

Allen throws his arm around Tom.

Allen:
I love that girl.

Rock-Head barrels between them.

Tom:
Hey!

Rock-Head:
Now I'm Gina's errand boy. Get out of
my way!

He peels off and nearly hits a couple.

INT. ASHLEY'S HOUSE-MORNING

A table covered with cups, glasses, and empty bottles. Gina's engagement ring decorates the clutter.

Gina is in her mid-twenties. Very pretty, but not astonishing. The subtle beauty of a shy person with confidence enough to show it to the world.

ASHLEY holds her hand. A deep intimacy between them. They are obviously best-friends. Although the mood is somber, Ashley's personality denotes a constant pursuit of fun.

Gina:

I can't do this.

Ashley:

I know.

Gina:

Tony's not the guy he used to be. We used to have such a good time together.

Ashley:

Tony was never that cool Gina.

Gina:

What should I do?

Ashley:

Just bounce.

Gina:

Are you serious?

Ashley:

Let me help.

Ashley takes the ring.

Ashley:
I'm going to hold on to this until you're
thinking straight. Now get the hell out
of here. Like now. Go! Save yourself
before you drown in marriage. (beat)
What are you waiting for?

EXT. SIDEWALK-MORNING

ELLIOT on the steps to his apartment. He is in his late twenties but
already somber around the eyes.

He stretches and takes a quiet walk to the bus stop down the street.

A newspaper stand. WIND BLOWS by and seems to WHISPER. Elliot
takes a moment's pause to smell the morning air.

Three quarters DROP into the vendor.

Elliot opens his paper. Looking over his shoulder, Marco and Maria giggle.

Headline reads: "Homeless Overwhelm City."