

SCENE SIX

Billy enters a pool of light, representing the bank counter. He removes the headphones, pushes stop on the walkman, the music stops.)

(pause)

Billy: (Charming.) Excuse me? Miss? I was just wondering if you could help me...Thanks. (He smiles)  
Well see, I just went up to one of your machines out there eh, the one at this end? Ya. They're great those things aren't they? - they sure speed up the whole process - I hardly ever come inside any more. Oh my name is Tom by the way, Tom Richards... and you are...(reading name-tag)...Ms..Amore...Amore - what is that Italian? It's nice. (He smiles again.)  
Anyway - I go up to the machine, just now, and I put in my card, and I go to withdraw some money from my account - for some groceries - and I punch in 60 dollars - and this is the amazing part - the machine - believe it - didn't give me 60 - (laughs, looks around, whispers) It gave me six hundred. Ya, 600 - I know, I can't believe it either, I wouldn't've believed it if I didn't have it - ya look (takes money and receipt from pocket). See?  
Yes...it is a lot of money.

(beat)

The receipt? Ya, right here. For 60. I guess it just added a zero or something - I know (laughs) - think if I'd tried to get a hundred - or more!  
Ya... well I thought of it. Well actually - this happened about 10 minutes ago. I walked around a bit. I was kind of in shock - it was like being at one of those machines - ya know - those betting machines? with the handle? Slot Machines! Right - like standing at a slot machine and Bing Bing Bing - 3 cherries - and I hit the jackpot - ya! and the twenties come flying out - like I'm in Las Vegas - ever been to Vegas? No? Oh it's great - ya, I know, I thought so too, but it's not - it's crazy - a really way-out-there kind of place, but fun, ya know? Ya...  
Well as I said I thought of just walking, walking away with it all... God it's hot in here? (He unzips his jacket, opens it.)  
'Cause I'll tell ya...I could really use that money right now. Well I'm not working, ya I just got laid off. Me? Oh, I'm a teacher - ya - high school, and I guess there's a lot of phys. ed.

Billy: teachers right now - I just came in one day, and they told me they didn't need me any more - just like that. But you must be pretty secure here eh? your job? No? But banks are always making money. (laughing) - well not if they keep giving it away like this! Anyway I really need the money, but I thought about it, and I thought No - no I couldn't do that - 'cause what if the people that work here, have to make up the difference at the end of the day - and I wouldn't want to do that to you. No. And I'm Catholic too. Oh, are you? (smiles) Well then you know what I mean... And well, my mom's not well right now, and I'm trying to take care of her and that eh? and - she's got bad kidneys - ya real bad... and she's waiting for a transplant, but they haven't been able to find a match yet - so I... I - (He stops.)

Shit.

(beat)

Sorry.

(beat)

No, I'm all right. (He does not cry.)

I just...it just...ever have the feeling that the bottom just dropped out? Of everything? I get it once in a while - more often lately - where I'm just going along, everything's fine, and then - it just (dropping gesture) - goes - drops away - and I kind of lose it - lose everything... (beat) My life.

(beat)

Ya see I'm kind of sick myself. Well that's the weird part, because I'm not really - yet - so I feel sort of marked or something - like I've got a secret - but hell, everybody has a secret or two eh? But mine's bad...

(beat)

Amore - there's a song about that isn't there? Ya... What's your first name? Alma. That's beautiful. D'you know what that means in Spanish? Hope. (mouths the name Alma) That's lovely....

Jeez I'm sorry for taking up so much of your time here, going on about all my stuff. You seem like a really good person Alma - I come in to tell you about my

Billy: little adventure with the machine, and you get the whole shootin'... I'd like to ask you - I was wondering if you'd like to go out with me sometime...

(beat)

Oh. Well, no. I didn't think you would.

(He backs away a step.)

Well... I guess I should be going now.  
It's hot in here with this jacket on. (He removes it.)  
Thanks for helping me...  
No I'm O.K...

Dick: (From the car) And you give her the money.

Billy: Ya. I'm sure. (He backs away another step, looks around. He is struggling with what to do.)

Dick: Give her the money.

Billy: I'll call you sometime.....here.

(beat) (He turns to leave.)

Dick: Give her the money.

(pause. He stops. He turns back to her, smiling.)

Billy: I guess I should give you this. (He holds out the money to her, walking towards her as the lights fade to black.)