

A M B I T I O N O F L O V E

a noir in five rounds

By

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AMBITION OF LOVE

Round I: "Ambition Vs Pride"

1 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT (N1) 1

BRUNO, thirties, a gargantuan ex-boxer with frightening features, walks on his knees, rolling a NEW 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 by the base of a large wood DESK and two OFFICE CHAIRS, reaching all the way across the room.

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

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

Bruno looks at the carpeted floor, pleased. A buzzer by the front door in the hallway sounds.

2 INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER (N1) 2

Bruno approaches the CLOSED OFFICE DOOR.

BRUNO (V.O.)

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

FOOTSTEPS approach outside. 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.

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Not everyone's so lucky.

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?

3 INT. OFFICE - A MOMENT LATER (N1) 3

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

Bruno, did he have my money on him?

Bruno shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

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. He glances at Love, her eyes on Charlie.

CHARLIE

(gestures to Bruno)

Tell me, Franklin, 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. 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, watching him intently 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. But he knows his place. He had to let ambition go. And that's admirable.

FRANKLIN

Why're you wasting my time on this?

CHARLIE

Because I want you to comprehend how even a man like Bruno, even *he*, is smarter than you.

Franklin's grin drops. His civility depleting.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

FRANKLIN

This visit was a favor.

CHARLIE

Ambition isn't the key to outlasting people, Franklin.

FRANKLIN

I put our bad blood behind us.

CHARLIE

I didn't.

With that, Bruno grabs Franklin in 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.

Bruno throws Franklin down on the new carpet. He punches Franklin in the face. He reaches behind his back and pulls a GUN from his waistband.

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Like Franklin confusing it with arrogance.

Franklin rises to his knees.

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)

I know. It's no big deal.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (3)

3

BRUNO (V.O.)

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

Love looks at Bruno, gazing intently with a wicked grin as
he rolls Franklin's body up in the carpet.

Bruno notes the look, and off the dread on his face, we --

SMASH TO BLACK:

TO BE CONTINUED...

AMBITION OF LOVE

Round II: "Ambition Vs Might"

1 EXT. GYM - DAY (D2) 1 *

ESTABLISHING SHOT: An old gym. *

Bruno's gravel and broken glass voice speaks 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.

2 INT. GYM - DAY (D2) 2 *

Love stands in the entryway. OFF SCREEN we hear the sounds
of fists hitting a punching bag. *

BRUNO (V.O.)
But love is bad news. I tried burying
it deep 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, working out at the punching bag. *

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Still it finds me.

He shares a silent look with Love, cautious 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 punch the bag. *

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

He nods. Love gestures to the empty boxing ring nearby. *

LOVE (CONT'D)
Can't be easy being here, with the thing
you love right over your shoulder,
knowing you can't have it.

Bruno hits the bag harder. Not engaging. *

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

LOVE (CONT'D)
(stepping closer)
You're a tortured soul, Bruno, but you're
not the only one.

He finally looks at her between his punches, 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 hits, trying to tune her out. *

LOVE (CONT'D)
But Charlie'd have you killed.
(leans in, whispering)
So what if we do him in first?

Bruno stops punching. 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, with a
fortune tucked in a bank and me as sole
beneficiary if he dies.

Love moves in closer, 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. 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 as she moves right 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.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2) 2

BRUNO (V.O.)
Even 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.

3 EXT. GYM - CONTINUOUS (D2) 3 *

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

4 INT. PARKED CAR - CONTINUOUS (D2) 4 *

MO, thirties, a squirrely anxiety-ridden insomniac, sits
agitated in the driver's seat, watching Love and Bruno. A
voice creeps up 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 Bruno the Bulldog?
(off another nod from Mo)
So where is this Charlie's office? *

MO
Third and Broadway, Lou. *

LOU
That's where you took my brother
yesterday?

MO
(nods) *
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.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

MO (CONT'D)

We'll go there next.

*

LOU

Nah, I can find it.

Lou pulls something from his pocket. We can't see what it is yet. Mo doesn't notice, his gaze still on Love and Bruno.

*

*

MO

We gotta go after 'em together, Lou.
You and me. Franklin'd do the same if
it was --

*

*

*

Lou pulls a stretch of WIRE around Mo's neck, cinching it tight, gagging him.

*

*

Mo struggles, swinging his arms in futility. With a brazen smile on Lou's face and a mad glint in his eyes, we --

*

*

SMASH TO BLACK

To Be Continued...

AMBITION OF LOVE

Round III: "Ambition Vs Family"

1 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT (N3) 1

ESTABLISHING SHOT: Charlie's office building. *

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.

WE PULL BACK across the alley to reveal -- *

2 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - ALLEYWAY - NIGHT (N3) 2 *

LOU, standing in the shadows, intently watching Charlie's office building. *

LOU (V.O.)
For days now I'm afflicted with this migraine in the base of my skull.

Two day stubble. A cigarette in his hands. An empty pack of Lucky's at his feet. He's been here awhile. *

LOU (V.O.) (CONT'D)
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. *

3 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT (N3) 3

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's doesn't feel right.

Love looks up from the desk.

LOVE'S POV: BRUNO stands by the window, 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 resignation.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

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 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)

What's the matter, Bruno?

LOVE

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

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.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

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 wariness, eyes wide now in conflict.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Let's go.

4 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER (N3)

4 *

LOU'S POV: Across the alley, Charlie exits the office building with Bruno and Love trailing behind.

*

Lou smiles, gleeful now. Tossing his cigarette aside.

*

5 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS (N3)

5

Love pulls Bruno aside while Charlie continues walking.

*

LOVE

(whispering)

You were supposed to do it upstairs.
What're you waiting for?

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

Charlie looks back at Bruno and Love, impatient.

*

CHARLIE

What're you two doing? Shake the molasses and hoof it.

*

*

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

LOVE

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

6 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS (N3) 6 *

Lou quietly crosses the alleyway, a BASEBALL BAT gripped tight in his hand. *

7 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS (N3) 7

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 -- ?

He snaps Charlie's neck. Killing him. Charlie's body slumps. Bruno hefts him up over his shoulder.

8 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS (N3) 8 *

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

LOU (V.O.)

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

9 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - CONTINUOUS (N3) 9

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.

10 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS (N3) 10 *

Lou ducks back across the alleyway, watching Love and Bruno disappear inside the building. A grin plasters his face. *

LOU (V.O.)

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

SMASH TO BLACK:

To Be Continued...

AMBITION OF LOVE

Round IV: "Love Conquers All"

Part I

1 INT. OFFICE - DAWN (D4) 1

ANGLE ON BRUNO, sitting at the desk. A silent beast, motionless. Shafts of morning light through the window blinds cast lines across his face.

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.) (CONT'D)
My father punished me for her murder every day. Now I punished him in return.

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

LOVE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
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.

2 INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER (D4) 2

ANGLE ON the door, as Bruno opens it to reveal --

LOU, swinging his BASEBALL BAT into Bruno's face. Bruno drops. The massive behemoth has fallen.

3 INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (D4) 3

Love turns to see Bruno crawling into the office from the hallway, wounded. Lou brings the bat down on his head again.

LOU
Bruno The Bulldog!

LOVE
No!

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

LOVE (CONT'D)
Bruno! Wake up!

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

LOU

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

Lou kneels over Bruno, opposite Love. 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 cracks 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:

FADE UP ON:

*

4 INT. LOU'S CAR - DAWN (D4) 4

Love stirs awake, woozy, finding herself in the passenger seat of Lou's parked car. Lou is behind the wheel. Checking the time on Charlie's pocket watch. *

LOVE
Where are we? *

LOU
Awaiting the opening hour of the expanding financial empire. *

LOVE
...come again? *

LOU
(holding up the bank documents)
A fortune written on a piece of paper doesn't have the same tangible quality as a pile of cash, you know?
(adding)
Especially when it's not in my name.

LOVE'S POV: A BANK stands prominently across the street. *

LOVE
You took me 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 puts his arm around the passenger seat, leaning uncomfortably close to Love. *

LOU
Yeah? What's everyone's true motivation? *

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.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

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

(left for dead)

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.) (CONT'D)

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

ANGLE ON the mirror, as a FIGURE appears in the reflection.

*

LOVE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

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

Love 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.

5 EXT. BANK - CONTINUOUS (D4)

5 *

Bruno marches forward. Dried blood around his bruised
forehead. BASEBALL BAT gripped in his hand. Determined to
save Love.

*

*

*

SMASH TO BLACK:

To Be Concluded...

AMBITION OF LOVE

Round V: "Love Conquers All"

Part II

1 EXT. BANK - DAWN (D4) 1 *

VARIOUS SHOTS on BRUNO approaching LOU'S CAR. His shuffling feet. His hand gripping the BASEBALL BAT. His face, marred by a cut and bruise, and dried blood gracing his jaw line. *

Bruno's gravel and broken glass voice speaks 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.

2 INT. LOU'S CAR - DAWN (D4) 2

LOU sees Bruno approach. Stunned. Impressed even. He quickly reaches beneath his seat and pulls out a KNIFE. *

LOU

(to Love)

Come here. *

He lunges at LOVE. She shields her face with her arms. *

BRUNO (V.O.)

The strength of my heart.

The driver's side door OPENS. Bruno reaches in and grabs hold of Lou, pulling him from the car. *

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

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

He swings the bat, bringing it down on Lou's knee. Lou screams in pain. *

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

But I keep fighting.

Bruno gets in the driver's seat to check on Love. He notes the cut on her face from Lou's blade, the blood on her cheek. *

LOVE

...thank you, Bruno...

She smiles up at him. He smiles in return.

BRUNO (V.O.)

Smiles to see me. Happiness to see me.

Love leans forward to kiss Bruno, stopping when -- *

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2

Lou struggles to his feet just outside the car, scrambling off and turning into an alleyway. *

LOVE
(re: Lou)
Kill him.

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

3 EXT. ALLEYWAY - MOMENTS LATER (D4) 3 *

Lou staggers to a stop. Finding himself in a dead end. He turns around to see Bruno blocking off any hope of escape. *

Lou falls to the ground, winded, clutching his leg in pain. *

LOU
Heya, Bulldog... guessing you wanna finish me off... *

Bruno steps forward. Closing in. 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 cut down her dad for years. She tried it with my brother.

Bruno considers Lou's words, confused, questioning them... *

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

Enraged by the allegation against Love, not believing it, Bruno grabs Lou and throws him against the wall of the alley. *

Lou regards Bruno, too weak and powerless to defend himself.

LOU (CONT'D)
Take a beating and keep on fighting.

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

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Strangling him. 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, seeing something...

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

...a shadow of death.

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

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

Behind him stands Love, with Lou's gun clutched in her hand, aiming at Bruno's skull. The BANK DOCUMENTS to Charlie's fortune are in her other hand.

*
*
*

Love pulls the trigger. A BLOOD CLOUD bursts 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 over 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.

LOVE (CONT'D)

...but it wasn't.

She pulls the trigger, blasting another shot into Bruno.

*

Love heads off down the alleyway, her heels CLACKING against the ground, WE STAY ON BRUNO...

*

He lies motionless. Lifeless. Until -- his arm JOLTS UPRIGHT. His eyes open. He props himself up. Blood gushes from the back of his head and down the back of his shirt.

He looks around. His eyes fluttering.

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

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

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.

*

BRUNO (V.O.)

Again ambition gives me everything.

ANGLE ON Love, unaware that Bruno is alive. She wears the coldest of expressions, accented with the slightest curl of a smile.

*

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Again ambition takes it all away.

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

BRUNO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

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