

DAEGAN FOX MANNS
IN
"THE BIG EIGHTEEN"

FADE IN:

INT. DETECTIVE AGENCY - NOON

A dim smokey office. Sun peers through closed blinds shedding a mysterious light on the room. Behind a desk with his feet up is DAEGAN FOX MANNS. Detective by day. Asleep by night. The top of his face is hidden by his black fedora, his slightly scruffy chin and smirk are just visible in the darkness of the office. A lit cigar hangs from his lip.

Daegan Fox Manns reaches into his desk and pulls out a small book. He begins to write.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

(V.O)

December 1st, 1998. Today started off like any other. Woke up 5:15am. Took my morning deuce, consistency was regular, like a warm scoop of ice cream out the ass. After I flushed I got dressed and headed to the office.

The sound of a door creaking is heard. Daegan looks up from his journal and stops writing. The voice over continues.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

She walked into my office smoothly, as if she was floating, obviously she wasn't, that's impossible. But it was as if she was.

We cut to the bottom of the door. Two jet black shoes appear and begin to walk. We slowly move up revealing smooth shiny legs.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

She had the kind of legs with... elbows for knees...

More of our mystery woman is now seen, her elbow knees are still in view, but just barley. Her chest and thighs are covered with a blood red dress that cuts off at her upper shoulder.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Her dress was red, blood red. Her arms, they were smooth, shaved...

(MORE)

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)
 no, waxed, the kind of arms that
 had knees.. for elbows.. What the
 hell kind of demon women is this?

The mystery women is now in full view. Her face is pretty and structured. Her dark black hair falls gracefully on her shoulders. This is JOANNA SKYE.

JOANNA SKYE
 I see you've noticed my..
 condition... I was in a car
 accident when I was little, they
 had to replace my elbows with my
 knee caps, and my knee caps with my
 elbows.

Daegan Fox Manns remains silent for a beat. He is a man of few words, it adds to his mystique.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS
 (V.O)
 Her voice, it was smooth, like
 almond milk being poured into a
 bowl of honey nut cheerios. She had
 a structured face that could have
 been sculpted by Donatello, or any
 one of the ninja turtles for that
 matter. I would be lying if I said
 I wasn't attracted to her. The way
 she looked at me made me want to
 see what she looked like down on
 both... elbows.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)
 Whats your name doll?

JOANNA SKYE
 I'm Joanna, Joanna Skye.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS
 Daegan Fox Manns, pleasure.

JOANNA SKYE
 That's a hell of name.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS
 You're DAMN right it is. What can I
 do for you Joanna Skye?

JOANNA SKYE
 It's my brother, he's been missing
 for a week. I'm worried sick.
 (MORE)

JOANNA SKYE (CONT'D)

I hear you're the best in the business. Could you help me find him?

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Your brother huh? Well if anyone can find him it's Daegan Fox Mannns. I'm the best in the whole damn business doll. I'll even help you free of charge, pretty things like you shouldn't have to pay.

JOANNA SKYE

Oh no, I must pay, I insist.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Seven hundred up front, then an extra five hundred for every day I'm on the case.

Joanna is taken aback by the abruptness of this.

JOANNA SKYE

Fine, seven hundred.

Joanna reaches into her purse and pulls out cold hard cash, she places a roll of bills on Daegan Fox Mannns' desk. He brings them up to his face and examines them for a beat.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Take a seat.

Joanna takes a wooden chair from the corner of the room and moves it in front of Daegan Fox Mannns' desk. She sits.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)

Start from the top.

Daegan Fox Mannns pulls a notebook from his shirt pocket and begins taking notes.

JOANNA SKYE

Well it's my brother, Luke, Luke Gerhard Jackson..

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

(Interrupting)

That's a hell of a name.

JOANNA SKYE

Yes.. well, anyways, I haven't seen him since last Thursday, he said he was going out, and would be back for pizza night on Friday.

(MORE)

JOANNA SKYE (CONT'D)

Then Friday came and went. This was odd, but I thought he would explain himself on Saturday. But then, he didn't come. No phone call, no telegram, no Luke Gerhard.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Was Luke Gerhard usually gone for days at a time?

JOANNA SKYE

It wasn't uncommon no. But he would never miss pizza night, he never has before. It's a tradition. It was odd.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Odd indeed doll, odd indeed. Was Luke hanging around any suspicious characters?

JOANNA SKYE

Nothing out of the ordinary.. although I did overhear him whispering about a meeting with something called "The Big Eighteen" last Wednesday.

This makes Daegan Fox Manns jump in his seat, and stop taking notes.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Did you just say the Big Eighteen?

JOANNA SKYE

Yes, have you heard of them?

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Heard of them? Dollface, if Luke Gerhard was messing around with the Big Eighteen it ain't likely I can help you. If Luke Gerhard was messing with the Big Eighteen and went missing, well, let's just say, he'd be lucky to be dead.

JOANNA SKYE

Who are these people?

Daegan Fox Manns picks up a folded map from his desk. He unfolds it. Then slides it towards Joanna.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

Look, our city is split into 18 districts. Each member of the Big Eighteen runs all the crime and filth in their respective districts. Anything evil goes down in your district, you can bet your bottom dollar the Big Eighteen is behind it. They usually work independtley, but a few times a year they meet in secret, and discuss all their unjust actions.

JOANNA SKYE

A crime syndicate behind all evil? If you know about them why haven't you told the police?

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

The police? They've bought the police, they've bought the whole damn city. Believe me honey if I could shut down the Big Eighteen I would. You shut down the Big Eighteen you shut down crime. But then I'd be out of a job.

JOANNA SKYE

Okay fine, but who are the members? Maybe I've overheard Luke Gerhard talking about them.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

The Big Eighteen is constantly changing, crime lords get shot, people die all time. But last I heard, the roster goes a little something like this..

As Daegan Fox Manns says this the office fades to black.

INT. MEETING ROOM

In a musky and dirty room, we see a large wooden table with eighteen darkened figures around it, they sit on large red chairs.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

(V.O)

First off, we have Johnson "The Florist" Johnson, head of district one.

We swing around the table and focus on one darkened figure at the head. He is lit by a spotlight. JOHNSON "The Florist" JOHNSON, he's a dark haired, handsome Italian man. He wears a black suit over a dark purple shirt. A plethora of chest hair explodes from the top of the unbuttoned shirt. In his lapel is a single red rose.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Next, Pauline Serpentine, one foxy mama if you ask me.

The camera swings to the right revealing PAULINE SERPENTINE. A beautiful blonde haired, blued eyed woman. She wears a black dress that reveals a healthy amount of cleavage. On her right breast there's a tattoo of a viper.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

District three is run by non other than Jenga Jones, rumor has it he's never lost a game of Jenga.

Swing again to the right revealing JENGA JONES. A short Asian man with a comb over and large frame glasses. He sits with his hands together in front of his face, deadlocked in a staring contest with the camera.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Fourth, and maybe the most menacing of all, David.

The familiar swing of the camera reveals our next member, DAVID. The scariest looking man you could ever imagine. Bald. Evil eyebrows. Dead eyes. Thick mustache. He has a tattoo over each eyebrow, one reads "Muerte" the other "Gatitos".

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Next on our list, Grandpa Rogers.

GRANDPA ROGERS is revealed. An friendly looking old man wearing a wool sweater.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Now next is the district in which we currently reside. Tony "Big Tony" Mozzarella Tony Tony Tony Cheddar Tony. Or Big Tony for short.

The camera swings. BIG TONY. Big is an understatement, the shot is only wide enough to capture the torso of a large man in a suit.

JOANNA SKYE
(V.O)
Hold it...

As Joanna speaks we cut abruptly back to

INT. DETECTIVE AGENCY - CONTINUOUS

Joanna and Daegan Fox Manns are in the same positions as when we left them.

JOANNA SKYE
I recognize that name. Big Tony was definitely the one Luke was getting involved with.

Daegan Fox Manns stares at Joanna for a beat.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS
Okay but there's still twelve more members to get through.

JOANNA SKYE
But, I'm sure Big Tony is the one. Why don't you head on over to my place? You can look through Luke's things for any clues to where he might be. I live by the old quick mart. House number 237.

Joanna gets up from her seat. She makes towards the door before she turns around.

JOANNA SKYE (CONT'D)
You need a ride?

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS
No that's okay baby, I got wheels.

Joanna exits.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

A garage door opens slowly. The sexy purr of a sports car is heard. A jet black Ferrari pulls out of the garage and rips down the alley way into the street.

After a few seconds, Daegan Fox Manns emerges from the garage riding a bright red bicycle. He follows the same path down the alley onto the street.

We are set on Daegan Fox Manns' face as the city slows moves around him. The city is a New York type, offices stretch to the sky, people dressed in suits flow in and out of the doors like a well oiled machine. Daegan Fox Manns is not distracted by what he is passing, he instead is focused on what's ahead, and he's deep in thought.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

(V.O)

I hadn't had a case this serious in a long time. Nor one quite this beautiful, I can't get that Joanna Skye out of my head. She's certainly something else. Maybe at her place I can introduce her to my big eighteen, if you catch my drift. My penis isn't eighteen inches, but I think the metaphor tracks just fine..

Daegan Fox Manns has exited the busier part of the city and now starts to pass through a less wealthy residential area. There are small run down houses and stores, less people on the roads.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

This isn't the neighborhood I pictured a girl like that living in. Some one so beautiful shouldn't live in a place so dreary. I hope her brother is still alive. It's a slim chance. The Big Eighteen is dangerous, deadly. I can't shake the feeling that there's something larger at play here.

Daegan Fox Manns passes the Quick Mart Joanna mentioned. He slows his bike down to a stop. He tries to get off the bike but his trench coat is stuck on the seat. Daegan Fox Manns falls and hits the ground, he clumsily reaches for the seat to untangle himself. This goes on for a few seconds until Daegan Fox Manns is free. He walks towards house 237 and knocks. Joanna answers the door.

JOANNA SKYE

What the hell took you so long?
I've been waiting for forty-five minutes!

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Justice takes time doll face. Don't rush me. Now, let me in, every second we waste is another second we could have been finding your brother.

Joanna looks at Daegan Fox Manns with bewilderment for a beat, then welcomes him in.

INT. JOANNA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Joanna's house is small but quaint. Tasteful art hangs on the walls. The furniture is just out of style, but it fits the rest of the house.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Nice place. Where does Luke Gerhard spend the majority of his time?

JOANNA SKYE

In the library, right this way.

Joanna walks down a hall and Daegan Fox Manns follows.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

(V.O)

Place was nice, nothing special, the art was more expensive than someone who lives in this neighborhood should be able to afford. But, maybe Joanna splurges every once and a while. Get a load of her ass, now that's the the kind of pillow I could take a nap on.

INT. LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

The library has a completely different feel from the rest of the house. It isn't overly large, bookshelves cover all four of the square walls. There's a fire place on one end and a desk on the other. The desk is covered in old files and papers. Adjacent to it is a large old fashioned globe.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Perfect, I'll get to work, but first, I'll take a scotch so old that it can tell it's grandchildren about how it flew in the great war.

JOANNA SKYE

I don't know about scotch, but we have some beers in the fridge.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Beer? I ain't no cheap one horse floozy. If you don't mind I'll help myself to brothers collection.

JOANNA SKYE

What are talking about? My brother doesn't have..

Daegan Fox Manns walks over to the globe, he spins it in a full circle slowly, then taps the top three times. The top half of the globe flips open revealing assorted bottles of expensive booze and two crystal glasses.

JOANNA SKYE (CONT'D)

A collection.

Daegan Fox Manns shoots Joanna a sly look.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

It seems there's a lot you might not know about your brother. Now, you look tired, go run yourself a bath, let me work my magic, I'll let you know if I find anything.

Joanna lingers for a moment, she and Daegan Fox Manns share a look filled with enough sexual tension that you could cut off a slice and share it with a glass of red wine. She turns and exits the library.

Daegan Fox Manns watches her leave. He stares at the empty doorway for a beat. He turns to the globe and pours himself a drink. He sips it, and starts to look around.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

A library, art, a fancy globe bar. Something doesn't add up. These are all staples of an expensive home and a wealthy family. Joanna isn't telling me something. Well if I know anything about libraries, it's that one of these books is the key to a secret room.

Daegan Fox Manns walks around the library, he studies the books on the shelf.

Every once and a while he'll stop, pull the top corner of a book down, and wait to see if a secret room reveals itself. This goes on for a few seconds until Daegan Fox Manns stops at a large hardcover book.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

The Encyclopedia of the Exquisite
Volume XVII. I wonder.

Daegan Fox Manns pulls the corner of the book down slowly. Nothing happens.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Damn, if it's not this book, this
might not be as easy as I thought.

The Encyclopedia of the Exquisite XVII remains at an angle. It begins to tip downwards. It falls off the shelf hitting the floor with a loud bang. On impact, the book opens. Daegan Fox Manns examines it.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Hold on a hot second.

Daegan Fox Manns reaches down and picks up the encyclopedia. There's a small black notebook embedded in its pages. He removes the notebook.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

It appeared as if someone had cut a
hole in this book to hide a smaller
book.

Daegan Fox Manns opens to the first page of the notebook.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

There's a message. "To Luke
Gerhard, a little black book for
all your little black secrets."
Interesting. Luke Gerhard went
through quite a bit of trouble to
hide this little gem. It's clear he
didn't want Joanna to find it.

Daegan Fox Manns begins to flip through the other pages in the notebook.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

The pages didn't make any sense. Nothing but random words on some. Random letters and numbers on others. One was just full of drawings of male genitalia. The last entry had the word "Opposite" on the top of the page. It then read "The Cat's Fragrant Gloveprint - Midnight." But what could that mean..

Daegan Fox Manns stands in silence for a beat.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

I wonder... The opposite...

Daegan Fox Manns begins to write madly in the notebook, scratching things out periodically. This goes on for a few seconds.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

That's it, that has to be it. "The Dog's Smelly Shoeprint - Noon." The opposite of every word, it was a code. That Gerhard was clever. But not clever enough for ol' Daegan Fox Manns. It's time to tell Joanna, I think I know where to find her brother.

INT. JOANNA'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A small bathroom, Joanna lies in a bubble bath. Candles are lit all around her. Her head peeks out from the bubbles. The bathroom is small. Across from the tub there is a sink, mirror, and small window to the outside. An oak tree is seen through it.

Daegan Fox Manns suddenly bursts through the door. Joanna jumps. Her arms fold over her chest. She looks at him with shock.

JOANNA SKYE

What the hell do you think you're doing?

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

Drop the act baby doll. I know you want me, you don't think I see the way you look at me? Now, I found a lead on your brother. The Dog's Smelly Footprint, the old crime pub. But before I check that out, I have a standing appointment to meet with what's in between those pretty legs.

Daegan Fox Manns begins to undo his tie and shirt. Joanna doesn't say anything but does nothing to stop him. We slowly move away from the tub and focus on the oak tree through the window. We see Daegan Fox Manns' clothes hit the ground, and the sound of someone entering the tub is heard. We zoom in on the tree and fade to black.

INT. JOANNA'S BATHROOM - LATER

Joanna is still in the tub, her soapy breasts and head are out of the water, she looks satisfied and is smoking a cigar. Daegan Fox Manns is standing beside the tub with his back towards us. He is putting on his blazer.

Through the window there is a black car parked in front of the oak tree. A man in black is leaning on the hood of the car.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

(V.O)

I noticed the man in black while Joanna and I were making love. I didn't want to alarm her so I kept to myself, he might be a nobody, but he might not be.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

I'll be in touch Joanna. I've got a case to solve.

Joanna takes a slow drag of her cigar. Daegan Fox Manns exits the bathroom.

EXT. OUTSIDE JOANNA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Daegan Fox Manns exits the house. The man in black is in the corner of the shot, he is wearing a long black trench coat over a suit and tie. He is a decent looking man with a large scar on his left cheek. He watches Daegan Fox Manns, and slowly gets into his car.

Daegan Fox Manns sees this and begins to walk towards him.

The man in black hurriedly opens his car door.

Daegan Fox Manns begins to move quicker and quicker towards him.

The man in black enters his car and turns on the engine he starts to drive away.

Daegan Fox Manns is now in a full sprint towards the vehicle he chases it down the street for a few seconds then stops. The car drives off down the road, the license plate is clear and reads BIG R 2NY.

Daegan Fox Manns walks back towards Joanna's house and gets on his bike.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

(V.O)

It appears our friend in black did have something to do with Joanna why else would he be so quick to leave when he saw me? Shame I couldn't catch up to him. I was able to get a good look at his face, big scar left cheek. And that license plate "BIG R 2NY" Might be one of Big Tony's guys, but who can know for sure. "The Big Eighteen" could be on to me. I better be on the lookout for my scarred friend from now on.

Daegan Fox Manns is now on his bike and riding it away from the house he passes out of the residential area and back into town.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

I better head to the Dog's Smelly Shoeprint. An old bar not to far from here. Word is, this is where all the criminals in this district go to enjoy a drink and some good conversation. I'll check with the bartender and see if hes spotted Luke Gerhard hanging around in the last few days.

Daegan Fox Manns pulls up in front of an old bar. A blinking, not fully operational neon side reads. "The Dog's Smelly Shoeprint"

Daegan Fox Manns gets off his bike. Puts on the kick stand. Straightens his jacket. Begins to walk towards the bar.

INT. THE DOG'S SMELLY SHOEPRINT - CONTINUOUS

A dimly lit bar. Slow detective jazz sneaks into the air like a whisper. Neon signs and posters of pin up girls line the walls. A painting of a dog wearings shoes with stink lines is the brightest poster on display.

The booths are full of shady looking men mumbling to each other in codes a detective like Daegan Fox Manns couldn't possibly understand.

The criminals in the booths eye Daegan Fox Manns as he makes his way towards the front of the bar. He sticks out like a sore thumb, it is evident he does not belong here.

Daegan pulls up a stool and rests his elbows on the bar.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

Bartender!

A short Italian man walks in front of Daegan Fox Manns. He has a blazer over a deep v-neck that reveals just a touch of chest hair. His eyes are beady and darting around the bar, they don't focus on anything for more than a few seconds. His black hair is greased to his head.

BARTENDER

You don't belong here detective.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

Look slick, I just need to ask a few questions then I'll be on my way. Play it straight and this'll be painless. Get freaky with me and there will be consequences.

BARTENDER

I don't have to answer your questions, I don't have to talk to anybody who doesn't order a drink.

The Bartender begins to walk away.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

Dammit you've forced my hand, I'll have a milk, and you'd better make it skim.

The Bartender grabs a glass from under the bar. Walks to the taps, and fills the pint with skim milk. He places it in front of Daegan Fox Manns.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)

Much obliged slick, now what have you heard about a Gerhard character, Luke Gerhard to be precise.

The bartender looks around the bar suspiciously.

BARTENDER

Gerhard huh? Maybe I know him, maybe I don't. Might need something to refresh my memory.

Daegan Fox Manns leans in over the bar close to the Bartenders ear.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Look man I'll suck your dick if that's what it takes, just make it quick.

The Bartender shoots back and looks at Daegan Fox Manns disgustingly.

BARTENDER

No, what the hell is your problem you sick freak. I'm talking cash. Cold hard dough. A crisp fifty ought to do the trick.

Daegan Fox Manns' face grows cold.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Look, we can do this the less friendly way if you are so inclined too slick. I'll give you one more chance to tell me what you know.

BARTENDER

This comin from the guy who wants to suck my dick? Whatcha gonna do detective? Every guy in here hates cops, one bad step and you'll have every gun in this place pointed at your thick skull.

Daegan Fox Manns grins, pulls his hat down over his eyes. Suddenly he reaches up and grabs the bartender by his hair, slamming his head on the bar. He jumps up onto the bar reaches onto the shelf and grabs a bottle of liquor.

He pulls a revolver from his coat pocket and points it at The Bartender who is now rubbing a goose egg on his head.

As this happens, the other patrons in the bar all remove their own guns and point them at Daegan Fox Manns. The music comes to an abrupt stop.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

Every one be cool. In my hand here
I hold the 1778 Cobra Scotch, the
only one left in existence. There's
a real damn snake in here.

Daegan Fox Manns slowly moves the aim of his gun from The Bartender to the bottle in his hand. An array of gasps are muttered from the criminals in the bar.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

Anyone tries any funky business and
the bottle goes bye bye. I know how
you criminals hate to waste good
liquor.

BARTENDER

You son of a bitch. Alright
everyone be cool, put your weapons
away. The detective and I need to
have a conversation.

The bar patrons return to their drinks. The bars atmosphere returns to normal.

BARTENDER (CONT'D)

Luke Gerhard has been here plenty
in the last few days. He's been
gettin real friendly with Bigger
Tony.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

You mean Big Tony?

BARTENDER

Nah, Big Tony's dead. His nephew
Bigger Tony took over the operation
a few weeks ago.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

(V.O)

That explains the license plate BIG
R 2NY.

BARTENDER

Anyways, word is the Big Eighteen has been meeting a lot lately, discussin their henchman. They all tryin to lock in their second in command for the henchman games. Gerhard got awful friendly with Bigger Tony, he was probly hopin to be put in the number two slot.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

When are the henchman games?

BARTENDER

Couple days, you're in luck though, the Big Eighteen meets today, they're finalizing their list of henchman. I hear the twist this year was, the candidates had to stay in a cage for a week. No outside contact.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

(V.O)

The explains why he's been missing.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)

Where's the meeting and when?

BARTENDER

Look, I'm probly putin my ass on the line even tellin you this, but dammit you've earned my respect. Out in the alley beside the bar there's a brick wall. If you look close enough you'll find a brick with a smiley face carved into it. Tap the left eye once and the right eye twice. It'll open a secret door, follow the door down and you'll find a room. The room where The Big Eighteen conducts their meetins in this district.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Thanks slick, you're doin the right thing.

Daegan Fox Manns takes a shiny silver coin and flips it onto the bar. He gets up and exits.

BARTENDER

This is a fukin quarter? You call this a tip? Dirty detective asshole.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

Daegan Fox Manns walks around the bar to the alley. A black car pulls up. Daegan Fox Manns ducks into the alley without noticing the vehicle. A man in black with a scar on his left cheek exits the car, then follows Daegan Fox Manns into the alley.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

Daegan Fox Manns searches the brick wall meticulously. He stops and sees a small crude drawing of a smiley face. Daegan Fox Manns breaths in deep.

At the end of the alley stands the man in black. He continues to go unnoticed. He makes no advances but leans on the alley wall.

Daegan Fox Manns taps the left eye once, and the right eye twice and waits. He waits for a beat more. Nothing happens.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

(V.O)

The damned bartender played me like a old violin. And to think I gave him my last shiny quarter. Back to square one.

Daegan Fox Manns looks up the alley to see the man in black. The man in black approaches Daegan Fox Manns, he enters into the light revealing his scarred face.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

You're back? What the hell do you want?

THE MAN IN BLACK

Joanna Skye's a Dirty Whore.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

Hey don't you dare talk about my lady like that. I'd made love to that women. Hot passionate love.

THE MAN IN BLACK

No. You don't understand. She's one of Bigger Tony's Dirty Whores.

(MORE)

THE MAN IN BLACK (CONT'D)

She has sex for money, and she's damn good at it too.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

What in the sweet lords name are you talking about?

The man in black scoffs and turns away.

THE MAN IN BLACK

Don't worry about it chief, she's finished anyways.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Don't you dare walk away from Daegan Fox Manns.

The man in black continues to walk away. Daegan Fox Manns leaps forward and with a swift roundhouse kick sends the man in black flying into the wall. Daegan Fox Manns picks the man in black up and tosses him into a trash can. The man in blacks nose starts to bleed as Daegan Fox Manns picks him up by the collar.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS (CONT'D)

You'd better start talking punk.

THE MAN IN BLACK

It's already done asshole. When Joanna didn't show up to work for three days Bigger Tony sent me to go check it out. When I told him that you'd been hired as her body guard..

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Body guard? I ain't no body guard pal. I'm a detective.

THE MAN IN BLACK

Well Bigger Tony didn't know that. He sent me back over to end it, which was must easier when she was all alone.

Daegan Fox Manns drops the man in black and turns away, shocked.

THE MAN IN BLACK (CONT'D)

It's to late detective you lost.

Daegan Fox Manns turns back, stares at the man in black. Then quickly knocks him out with a punch to the head.

Daegan Fox Manns exits the alley.

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE THE BAR - CONTINUOUS

Daegan Fox Manns walks down the street, leaving his bike behind. He walks with his head down. Pondering the funny and strange things in life.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS

(V.O)

Dammit Joanna. It's my fault she got wrapped up in all this. Why'd I have to make love to her? What was I thinking. Now she's dead. The Big Eighteen wins again. Life is funny, you think you're getting close to a breakthrough then it turns out you've just been walking in circles, you end up right back where you started. It's all a damned joke. I heard a joke once. Man walks down an alley at night. A beautiful woman in a mask approaches him. They don't make eye contact. "Feeling lonely?" The woman asks. "How much for one night?" Says the man. The woman whispers in his ear, they make love in the dark that night. In the morning light the man realizes something. The dirty whore whom he just made love too was non other than his sister. Who had been missing for six days. Gasps. Everyone laughs. Curtains close. Well the dirty whore is dead. And her brother is still missing. How ironic.

Daegan Fox Manns looks around he recognizes the neighborhood. He's standing right in front of Joanna's house.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)

(V.O)

Joanna's house. I must have walked all the way here. Fate is a cruel mistress indeed.

Daegan Fox Manns walks up to the door of Joanna's house and enters.

INT. JOANNA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Inside Joanna's house we see Joanna sitting on her couch drinking coffee reading a book. Very much alive. She looks at Daegan Fox Manns.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Joanna? You're alive?! Thank the almighty savior!

JOANNA SKYE

Of course I'm alive? Why wouldn't I be?

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

The man in black with the scar said he finished you off. He said you were one of Bigger Tony's Dirty Whores?

JOANNA SKYE

They did finish me off. He came in here, fired me. Porked me. Then left.

DAEGAN FOX MANNNS

Wait.. You made love to that man? After he fired you?

JOANNA SKYE

He's a paying costumer. This is what I do, how do you think I afford this place?

From the distance a voice is heard calling out.

VOICE

Joanna who's here?

Into the room walks a tall stunning Adonis of a man. Brown wavy hair. Blue eyes. A bulge in his pants that would make women weep. This is who our hero has been searching for. This is LUKE GERHARD JACKSON.

LUKE GERHARD JACKSON

Oh, hello, you must be Detective Daegan Fox Manns. I've heard so much about you, Thank you for taking care my dear sister as I was..away on business for a few days. There were no available phones so I couldn't call you see, but I'm all okay.

DAEGAN FOX MANN'S
 Business huh? What kind of
 business?

Daegan Fox Manns and Luke Gerhard Jackson share a look that says Daegan Fox Manns knows more the Luke Gerhard Jackson thought.

LUKE GERHARD JACKSON
 Just business, I work so hard I
 feel like a henchman.

Luke Gerhard Jackson and Joanna share a laugh.

DAEGAN FOX MANN'S
 Well, some cases just solve
 themselves. I'd better be going
 then. Joanna, take care of
 yourself, don't hesitate to contact
 me if you need anything.

Daegan Fox Manns turns to exit.

LUKE GERHARD JACKSON
 I'll walk you out.

The two men exit.

EXT. OUTSIDE JOANNA'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The two men now stand in at the doorway away from Joanna.

DAEGAN FOX MANN'S
 I know who you're connected too
 Luke Gerhard. Don't you think for a
 second I'm not watching you close.
 Tricking your poor sister like
 that. You both work for the same
 scum for gods sake.

LUKE GERHARD JACKSON
 I'm keeping her safe detective. It
 would break her heart if she new
 her baby brother was one of the
 most notorious henchman in this
 rotten city. We're keeping a close
 eye on you detective, The Big
 Eighteen is aware. Ever so aware.

Daegan Fox Manns walks down the steps and away from the house without another word.

LUKE GERHARD JACKSON (CONT'D)
Until next time Mr. Manns.

Daegan Fox Manns turns around slow. He points one finger at Luke Gerhard Jackson and says with enough gusto to blow over a skyscraper.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS
That's DAEGAN FOX MANNS to you
buster brown.

The two men share another look. Then Luke Gerhard Jackson returns into his house. Daegan Fox Manns starts his trek back into the streets. The slow jazzy singing of a saxophone fills the air.

DAEGAN FOX MANNS (CONT'D)
(V.O)
You're going down The Big Eighteen.
Daegan Fox Manns will not rest
until this city can sleep soundly.

We watch from behind as our hero slowly trots along into the sunset. One step closer to The Big Eighteen and one step closer to our hearts.

FADE TO BLACK.