

WHERE'S BLACKIE?

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. BAR - BOOTH - NIGHT

A down-at-the-heels bar at some point in the past.

There are only two customers: MALLOY (40), a private eye, questions KOKOMO (35), a brassy chorine.

This is not the first time they've gone up against each other.

They are on their third drink.

Malloy smokes.

KOKOMO

Enough of the Blackie questions,  
already.

MALLOY

Cops'll find him.

KOKOMO

He knows every nook and cranny in  
the city.

MALLOY

Bad for you too.

KOKOMO

Whadda ya mean bad for me?

MALLOY

Club owners don't like their girls  
rubbing up against gangsters.

KOKOMO

Charlie's never met Blackie.

MALLOY

I'm just sayin'.

KOKOMO

You been reading too much Mickey  
Spillane.

Malloy blows smoke.

MALLOY

He with you the Saturday the Green  
girl was raped and murdered?

KOKOMO  
Thought you'd never ask.

MALLOY  
The million dollar question.

KOKOMO  
You must see a lotta Robert Mitchum  
pictures.

Malloy says nothing.

He waits for her answer.

KOKOMO (CONT'D)  
We went to the zoo. Blackie loves  
the pandas.

Malloy reaches out and touches Kokomo under an eye.

MALLOY  
Still got some mouse.

KOKOMO  
He gets nasty, what can I say.

MALLOY  
Nasty enough to do Peggy Green?  
(beat)  
You married this guy?

KOKOMO  
He married me.  
(beat)  
For my tits and legs.

MALLOY  
Saturday night?

KOKOMO  
Luigi's at the pier.

MALLOY  
Anybody see you?

KOKOMO  
Whole damn restaurant.

MALLOY  
Anyone in particular?

KOKOMO  
Frankie Romano, I think...

MALLOY  
Frankie's making lanyards up in San  
Quentin now.

Angry at herself for her inaccurate recollection, Kokomo quickly recovers.

KOKOMO  
Dominico seated us. By a window.

MALLOY  
He'll remember a Saturday night  
three weeks ago?

KOKOMO  
Feel my leg.

Malloy reaches under the table.

KOKOMO (CONT'D)  
Like it?

MALLOY  
Smooth as a baby's behind.

KOKOMO  
Never have to shave.

MALLOY  
Nice legs, so?

KOKOMO  
Blackie had legs. Frog legs. Dom'll  
remember that. They'll have the  
check.

MALLOY  
After Luigi's?

KOKOMO  
Back to our apartment.

MALLOY  
Same time as the murder...

Malloy takes a tug at his drink.

MALLOY (CONT'D)  
... not good, no witnesses.

KOKOMO  
I should hire a chaperone?

MALLOY  
What did you do at your apartment?

KOKOMO  
You are a nosy nuisance, Malloy.

MALLOY  
That's what people pay me for.

KOKOMO  
We had sex.

Malloy says nothing.

KOKOMO (CONT'D)  
Three times.

Malloy says nothing.

KOKOMO (CONT'D)  
My bare legs drive Blackie wild.

MALLOY  
No one dropped by the place?

KOKOMO  
To watch Blackie have his way with  
me?

MALLOY  
Just asking. For your sake and  
Blackie's.

KOKOMO  
Say, who's paying you anyway?

MALLOY  
I'll ask the questions.

KOKOMO  
Well, I'm sick of 'em.

MALLOY  
Heard anything from Blackie?

KOKOMO  
Maybe.

MALLOY  
Know where he is?

KOKOMO  
Do I look stupid?

MALLOY

Keep a piece in your place?

Kokomo takes a long sip of her drink.

KOKOMO

Blackie had a .32 Beretta.

MALLOY

Coroner dug two .32 slugs outta the Green girl.

KOKOMO

(rattled)

Maybe it was a .38.

(cries)

Blackie wouldn't hurt a girl.

MALLOY

He's got a laundry list of assaults.

KOKOMO

Yeah and most of 'em had it coming.

MALLOY

Tommy Reagan had it coming he was only nineteen?

KOKOMO

Tommy bent a lotta people the wrong way.

MALLOY

Which way did he bend Blackie?

KOKOMO

Blackie was never formally charged.

MALLOY

Yeah? Nice guy. So why two five year stints in the college?

KOKOMO

That's all in the past. He's square with everyone now.

Kokomo shifts in her seat.

KOKOMO (CONT'D)

Blackie grew up without a father in a tough neighborhood in Chicago.

MALLOY  
You're breakin' my heart.

Malloy finishes his drink.

MALLOY (CONT'D)  
So why the powder?

KOKOMO  
Blackie's no homebody. Sometimes he  
just takes off for a few days.

MALLOY  
Been three weeks now.

KOKOMO  
Maybe he needed a vacation.

MALLOY  
Peggy Green? Peggy Green never  
swatted a fly.

KOKOMO  
Blackie's never once mentioned a  
broad by that name.

MALLOY  
Good looking redhead.

Kokomo shifts in her seat.

KOKOMO  
Sex? Blackie's straight as an  
arrow.

MALLOY  
Every pervert has a first time.

KOKOMO  
When Blackie read about the new  
panda cub dying he cried.

MALLOY  
He cry when he pulverized Morty  
Cohen's cheekbone?

In frustration Kokomo takes one of Malloy's cigarettes from  
his pack on the table.

MALLOY (CONT'D)  
When he ran over Ronnie Palmer's  
foot?

Kokomo lights her cigarette.

KOKOMO  
 You wouldn't recognize tenderness  
 in a mother's caress.

Malloy puts his hand on Kokomo's for a second.

MALLOY  
 (sincere)  
 Kokomo, I want to help you get  
 through this.

KOKOMO  
 No skin off your nose.

MALLOY  
 (sincere)  
 I'm all in with the nose, Kokomo.

Kokomo weighs Malloy's words with growing understanding.

KOKOMO  
 You gettin' at something, Malloy?

MALLOY  
 What I mean is...

Kokomo is suddenly soft.

KOKOMO  
 Malloy, are you saying what I think  
 you're saying?

MALLOY  
 I'm saying that I --

A BIG MAN in a black overcoat and fedora suddenly slides into  
 the booth beside Kokomo.

KOKOMO  
 Blackie!

Blackie snaps his gum.

BIG MAN (BLACKIE)  
 Hi, doll.  
 (re: Malloy)  
 Who's the clown?

MALLOY  
 (smiles)  
 Harry Black. Well I never...

Blackie stops chewing his gum and looks sullenly at Malloy.



BLACKIE  
A wisenheimer, huh?

KOKOMO  
Easy, Blackie.

MALLOY  
Of all the bars in the city you  
could walk into...

BLACKIE  
You gotta lotta nerve, mister.

KOKOMO  
(looking at table)  
Stop it, Blackie!

Malloy gestures with his head.

MALLOY  
That big bartender?

BLACKIE  
What about him?

MALLOY  
He owns this joint.

BLACKIE  
So?

MALLOY  
Daylight hours he's a cop.

Blackie's smirk just misses its usual smugness.

Kokomo regards Malloy with surprise, disbelief.

She smiles for the first time.

Blackie moves his gum uneasily.

His eyes shift. (FREEZE FRAME)

THE END

