

THOSE DIRTY MACGUFFINS

Written by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

MUSIC / MONTAGE. Black and white images of a band and its members flash across the screen.

FADE IN:

1

INT. HOUSE, BACK ROOM - DAY

1

Reveal TONY, 50s, playing acoustic guitar and singing sitting a chair, next to coffee table and sofa.

He stops playing, sips a glass of red wine and gazes into space, a wistful look on his face.

There is a KNOCK at the door. Tony smiles, gets up and exits to the hallway.

TONY O.S
(obsequious)
Steve! Mate! You decided to come.
Great!

STEVE O.S
Alright, yeah, it's been a while.

The two men enter. Reveal STEVE, 50s, looks like an ageing muso. Steve glances around the room.

STEVE
So where is it?

TONY
Sorry, where's what?

STEVE
My amplifier.

TONY
No, I wanted to talk about...

STEVE
You borrowed my bass amp and never returned it. That's why you've asked me round yeah? To collect it?

TONY
No, it's more important than that.

STEVE
Well that's pretty important to me.

Tony sits down and takes a drink from his glass. Steve looks irked, and nods expectantly at the wine glass.

STEVE (CONT'D)
You drinking alone?

Tony looks at his wine glass, then exits to the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

TONY O.S

I was just playing one of our old
tunes. Still got it man.

Steve looks unimpressed. He sits down on the sofa and checks
his phone.

STEVE

So yeah my bass amp.

Tony returns with three glasses and places them on the table.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I'm pretty sure you've got it.

Tony is about to speak but there is another KNOCK at the
door. Tony he nods towards the door and goes to answer it.
Beat. Steve looks impatient and pours himself some wine.

TONY O.S

(obsequious)

Daz! Mate! Great to see you.

The two men enter. Reveal DAZ, 40s, looks like a muso. He
sees Steve who gives him a perfunctory nod.

STEVE

Alright Daz.

Tony and Daz sit down. Tony pours wine into the glasses.

DAZ

Watcha... so has he erm, given you
the money yet?

Tony looks up at Daz.

STEVE

What money?

DAZ

From the last gig we did together,
at the Sutton Arms.

TONY

All in good time guys.

STEVE

(To Daz)

I thought that was a freebie.

DAZ

No bruv, it was a door split and it
was packed that DAY. We're owed two
hundred quid. Aren't we Tony.

Steve pours Daz a glass of wine. Tony checks the amount.

DAZ (CONT'D)

This is weird, meeting up, you know, after what happened...

Tony and Steve look at Daz sips some wine and raises his eyebrows. Tony smiles.

TONY

So we're just waiting for Gayle, She's going to be late.

STEVE

Course she is. Piano player. Diva.

DAZ

Yep, very high maintenance.

There is a knowing, awkward silence between the men.

TONY

Look guys, I... I really want...

STEVE

To give my amp back?

TONY

No! No I would really love to..

DAZ

To cough up the dough you owe us.

TONY

Look, it's better than that.

Steve and Daz look at Tony expectantly.

TONY (CONT'D)

I want to put the band back together.

Steve and Daz look at each other then back at Tony.

STEVE

You said we were shit.

TONY

Hmm, I was a bit emotional.

DAZ

You said I couldn't keep time.

TONY

I was quick to judge.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

(to Daz)

I don't know about you Daz but I've moved on.

TONY

Guys, let's face it, we were great.

STEVE

We were bang average.

TONY

Come on man! It was the best time of our lives. The MacGuffins rocked.

DAZ

Those Dirty MacGuffins you mean.

TONY

Yeah, sure, Those Dirty MacGuffins.

STEVE

What did that even mean?

TONY

It was such a cool name. Different. Everyone is, The *This* or, The *That* or, The *Other*. (smiles, reflects) We had something though, yeah?

DAZ

Yeah, too much time on our hands.

STEVE

We were young and foolish... well younger.

TONY

Happy days though eh? Fond memories.

DAZ

It was extra cash in the evenings.

TONY

We were on the cusp of something.

STEVE

Yeah, killing each other.

DAZ

True, we couldn't bear to be in the same room by the end.

TONY

It wasn't that bad... was it?

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

It was twelve years ago...

TONY

But it feels like yesterday.

DAZ

Time has not been kind.

TONY

It wouldn't take us long to learn the songs again.

DAZ

Anyway, nice diversionary tactic Tone. I came here to get my money.

TONY

Come on guys, see the bigger picture. Fifty quid each now...

STEVE

So you do owe us money?

TONY

...or two grand a gig. That's what we could earn.

DAZ

Rip off merchant!

TONY

...I met this booker who said...

STEVE

And you've still got my amp.

TONY

Well, this hasn't gone to plan.

There is another KNOCK at the door. Tony's enthusiasm is waning as he gets up to answer. Beat.

TONY O.S

Gayle. Great to see you.

GAYLE, 40s, enters with a GIRL, 11, they are dressed similarly and remain standing near the doorway.

There is tension in the room, all three men cannot make eye contact. Tony sits back down.

GAYLE

Well Tony, thank you for having the maturity to finally get us all together.

TONY

Life's too short.

GAYLE

Especially when you're left on your own to cope.

Gayle pulls the girl closer to her and scans the men at the table.

GAYLE (CONT'D)

Particularly when people ignore calls, change address without telling me. Yes, life feels very short and very tiresome.

All three men cringe and squirm. Tony smiles at the girl.

TONY

Speaking of short. (Gestures to the girl) Who's this?

GAYLE

That's what we're here to find out.

She opens her bag and places three little plastic specimen tubes on the coffee table. They all look at each other.

C.U on tubes, they are medical DNA cheek swabs.

GAYLE (CONT'D)

I need a swab from each of you.

TONY

What for?

GAYLE

Paternity test.

The men look at the girl, then at each other, then back at Gayle.

GIRL

Those dirty MacGuffins.

CUT TO BLACK:

END CREDITS.