

IRISH BROTHERHOOD

Written by

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FADE IN:

EXT. MIAMI SKYLINE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. TRAIN WAGON - NIGHT

MICKEY and MACK O'BRIEN, Irish immigrant brothers in their early thirties, sit opposite each other in a booth. A plastic bottle of water is on the table. They are engaged in a conversation.

MICKEY

How much money do we have left?

MACK

Me or you?

MICKEY

I'm not kidding around.

MACK

Fifty-eight dollars to our name.

MICKEY

I hope it lasts until we find some work.

MACK

Do you have any leads?

MICKEY

An Irish place in Little Haiti Trini told me about.

MACK  
What does your gut tell you?

MICKEY  
I miss home.

MACK  
You want to go back to Ireland?

MICKEY  
I miss my wife and daughter.

MACK  
She's going to be five soon.

MICKEY  
I won't be there.

MACK  
I'll always be here for you.

MICKEY  
I know that.

MACK  
You need to get back to Ireland.

MICKEY  
We'll find some way together.

AILEEN, pretty, early twenties, looks in the direction of the two brothers. She is sitting in a booth by herself.

Mack takes a sip of water as he looks back at Aileen and smiles.

Four street thugs enter the wagon car through one of the pass-through doors.

Mickey looks at the thugs. He motions to Mack.

MICKEY (CONT'D)  
Watch my back with these guys.

MACK  
Looks like trouble.

One of the thugs approaches Aileen.

The other three thugs stand in the aisle blocking Mickey and Mack's view.

THUG  
Where you from pretty girl?

Aileen looks at him but doesn't utter a word. The thug moves his hand toward her hair and just as he reaches her head she kicks him from under the table. The thug falls down and the other three thugs move in on Aileen.

Mickey and Mack jump up. They rush to help Aileen.

Both Mickey and Mack kick and punch all four thugs.

Aileen is up, also fighting.

A brawl is going on in the train wagon.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

The train is slowing down as it reaches the final stop.

PIERRE CHEVALIER, black, twenty-two years old, an Olympic Heavyweight Gold Medalist, is waiting for the train to arrive.

He notices the fighting going on through one of the large windows.

INT./EXT. TRAIN WAGON - NIGHT

Two thugs have Mickey in a head lock and wrapped between their arms and legs.

Mack and Aileen are fighting the other two thugs.

The train stops. The doors open.

Pierre jumps in the train wagon, drops his backpack and quickly punches the two thugs that have Mickey grappled. As Pierre punches the two men, out of his coat pocket a chrome lighter drops to the floor and gets kicked out of the train wagon and onto the concrete platform outside.

Pierre knocks out both thugs. Mickey is free. Pierre doesn't notice he lost the lighter.

Pierre turns to the other two thugs and threatens them with a closed fist. They put their arms down and stop fighting.

The brawl is over.

Mickey, Mack and Aileen exit the train wagon together.

Pierre grabs his backpack and sits down.

Before the three new friends can thank the stranger for helping them in the fight the train doors close.

The train departs.

All four thugs nurse their bruises.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

Mickey, Mack and Aileen walk away from the departing train.

Mickey notices something on the floor. He bends down to pick it up. It is Pierre's chrome lighter. He looks at it carefully and notices an engraving. He puts it away in his pocket.

Mickey looks in the direction of the departing train then turns to Aileen.

They introduce themselves as the train departs.

AILEEN

Who was that guy?

MACK

Which one?

AILEEN

The one who helped us.

MICKEY

I don't know but I'm glad he helped.

AILEEN

He packs one heck of a punch.

MICKEY

Must be a boxer.

MACK

(to Mickey)

Let's be gentlemen.

MICKEY

(to Aileen)

I apologize for being rude. My name is Mickey O'Brien and this is my younger brother Mack.

AILEEN

Irish?

MACK  
(to Aileen)  
Direct from Ireland.

AILEEN  
I like the accent and the chivalry.  
Pleased to meet you both.

MACK  
Where are you from?

AILEEN  
South Boston.

MACK  
Are you Irish?

AILEEN  
(to Mack)  
My grandparents were born there.

MICKEY  
What are you doing in Miami?

AILEEN  
I'm looking for work.

MACK  
We are too.

MICKEY  
You fight like a man.

AILEEN  
I grew up with three older  
brothers.

MACK  
Did they rough you up?

AILEEN  
I beat them up.

MACK  
I believe it.

AILEEN  
You guys are great.

MACK  
Can we help you in any other way?

AILEEN  
I'm sure I'll think of something.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - DAY

In the distance, the train speeds away farther from the station.

All three walk toward the main entrance of the station and continue their conversation.

AILEEN  
This is where I depart.

MACK  
Where are you headed?

AILEEN  
South Beach. Looking for work,  
remember.

MACK  
What kind of work?

AILEEN  
Modeling.

MACK  
Haven't I seen you in a...

MICKEY  
(Interrupts)  
We have to get going.

AILEEN  
Where are you guys going?

MICKEY  
The Double Dimes.

AILEEN  
What's that?

MICKEY  
An Irish Pub.

AILEEN  
Will I see you guys again?

MACK  
I hope so.

Aileen turns to leave. Mack has one more question.

MACK (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

AILEEN  
Aileen.

MACK  
Just Aileen?

AILEEN  
Aileen Bell.

MACK  
Nice to meet you Aileen Bell.

Aileen jumps into a waiting car. Mickey and Mack watch her pull away. As she is leaving she looks back and smiles at Mack.

MACK (CONT'D)  
I knew she liked me.

MICKEY  
How do you know that?

MACK  
I know things about people.

MICKEY  
How well do you know me?

MACK  
I'd say pretty well.

MICKEY  
What am I thinking now?

MACK  
We're walking.

MICKEY  
Let's go.

MACK  
How long of a walk to Little Haiti?

MICKEY  
Not sure.

The two brothers start walking. JEAN-PAUL, a Haitian taxi driver in his sixties, pulls up driving his taxi.

JEAN-PAUL  
Do you guys need a taxi?

MICKEY  
Can't afford it.

MACK  
(to Jean-Paul)  
No thanks we'll walk.

MICKEY  
Are you Haitian?

JEAN-PAUL  
From Port-au-Prince. How do you  
know?

MICKEY  
I spent some time working in Haiti.

JEAN-PAUL  
What do you think about Haiti?

MICKEY  
Great people. Except Baby Doc.

JEAN-PAUL  
Don't get me started.

MICKEY  
What about Baby Doc?

JEAN-PAUL  
Damn Baby Doc!

MICKEY  
Yeah.

JEAN-PAUL  
Where are you guys going?

MICKEY  
Little Haiti. The Double Dimes  
Irish Pub.

JEAN-PAUL  
There's nothing going on there  
right now.

MICKEY  
We're looking for work.

JEAN-PAUL  
It's close to my house.

MICKEY  
Are you going that way?

JEAN-PAUL  
Ten bucks and I'll introduce you to  
the manager.

MICKEY  
You got it.

JEAN-PAUL  
Get in.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Mickey and Mack get into the back seat of the taxi.

Jean-Paul drives away.

He looks in the rear view mirror and silently utters the  
words.

JEAN-PAUL  
Damn Baby Doc.

The conversation continues.

MACK  
Who's Baby Doc?

MICKEY  
He used to be a ruthless dictator  
in Haiti. He's dead now.

JEAN-PAUL  
Terrible dictator.

MACK  
(to Mickey)  
Who killed him?

JEAN-PAUL  
It was the Tonton Macoute.

MICKEY  
Haitian Special Forces.

JEAN-PAUL  
Overthrew his regime.

MICKEY  
Did you lose any loved ones in the  
big earthquake?

JEAN-PAUL  
Most of my friends and some of my  
family that were still there.

MACK  
That's tough on the soul.

MICKEY  
How are you getting by?

JEAN-PAUL  
I haven't lost the will to fight  
on.

EXT. OCEAN DRIVE - DAY

Aileen has a big smile as she looks at all the beauty and contrast of the coconut palms against the clear blue sky and the facades of the Art Deco buildings.

She looks in the direction of a photographer taking pictures of a young model next to a classic car.

She says aloud to herself.

AILEEN  
This is my chance.

EXT. FRUIT STAND - DAY

Jean-Paul pulls up to a street corner vendor in Little Haiti. Two Haitian men play chess on a makeshift table.

Jean-Paul gets out of the taxi and walks over to the stand. He approaches HARMONICA LOU, a tall thin black Haitian man in his seventies playing a harmonica. Lou stops playing the harmonica to talk to Jean-Paul.

INT. TAXI - DAY

Mickey and Mack continue their conversation.

MICKEY  
That was a tough fight.

MACK  
Do you miss boxing?

MICKEY  
Sometimes. I miss my family life  
more.

MACK

Too bad we had to leave Boston. I miss home.

MICKEY

Ireland?

MACK

South Boston.

MICKEY

We weren't there long enough to miss it.

MACK

As a boy, I always dreamed of life in America.

MICKEY

We had to get out of there. Too many problems. No chance at a good life.

MACK

Plus the mob.

MICKEY

Trini told me about this place in Little Haiti and maybe we can get lucky there.

MACK

Irish mob place?

MICKEY

Not really.

MACK

What do you mean not really?

MICKEY

It used to be Irish mob connected but now it's owned by an ex-heavyweight that had mob ties.

MACK

Had?

MICKEY

Trini told me there's a boxing ring set-up and a small studio above might be available.

MACK

Mob ties. I don't know about that.

MICKEY

Let's see it and if you don't get a good feel we'll keep looking.

Jean-Paul gets in his taxi and drives away.

JEAN-PAUL

(to Mickey)

Do you like boxing?

MICKEY

I used to.

JEAN-PAUL

What do you mean?

MICKEY

Too much corruption now. Why do you ask?

JEAN-PAUL

The Double Dimes has a boxing ring and you're built like a heavyweight. They host fights on Friday nights.

MICKEY

I almost turned pro.

JEAN-PAUL

What happened?

MACK

(to Jean-Paul)

He doesn't talk about it.

Jean-Paul points to a light green building next to a large empty lot.

JEAN-PAUL

That's The Double Dimes.

MICKEY

Ten dollars, my friend.

JEAN-PAUL

Ten dollars was the deal. You want an introduction at The Double Dimes?

MICKEY

No thanks, we'll handle it. Thanks  
for the ride.

JEAN-PAUL

Anytime.

EXT. DOUBLE DIMES - DAY

Mickey and Mack look at the worn down facade and at all the  
stickers and graffiti everywhere.

A homemade paper help wanted sign is posted on the door.

Mickey takes down the sign. He opens the door for Mack.

The brothers enter The Double Dimes.

INT. DOUBLE DIMES - DAY

The Double Dimes has an eight ball table, dart boards, a harp  
over the horseshoe shaped bar, a fireplace with bookshelves  
on either side and a classic wall piano next to it.

The centerpiece is a full-sized boxing ring surrounded by  
tables and chairs. Pictures of famous boxers adorn the wall  
in the back.

The place is empty except for CONOR, the manager, who is  
brushing the lint off the eight ball table.

He addresses the brothers.

CONOR

How can I help you fellows?

MICKEY

Morning.

Mickey lifts up the help wanted paper sign he pulled from the  
door and shows it to Conor.

CONOR

All right. When can you start?

MICKEY

Right away. I'm Mickey and this is  
my brother Mack. He needs work too.

CONOR

We can use both of you.

MACK

We're also looking for a place to stay.

CONOR

There is a furnished studio upstairs. It's not much to look at.

MICKEY

We'll take it.

CONOR

Let me show you the studio. Show up at the bar at seven sharp tonight.

MICKEY

You won't be disappointed.

CONOR

I know that. You guys Irish?

MICKEY

We were born and raised in Ireland.

CONOR

If you don't mind a bar fight once in a while, you'll do fine here. And I don't mean a fight in the ring.

MACK

We can hold our own.

CONOR

I'm sure you can.

MICKEY

See you at seven tonight.

CONOR

Mickey, you're built like a heavyweight. Any experience in the ring?

MICKEY

Some. Almost turned pro.

CONOR

What happened?

MACK

(to Conor)

He doesn't talk about it.

CONOR  
Grab your bags let me show you  
upstairs.

EXT. TRAIN STATION - NIGHT

The train is slowly approaching the final stop.

A group of people are standing on the platform waiting to board.

The train comes to a complete stop. The doors open.

Pierre steps out.

He carefully looks around the concrete platform. He then walks toward the main entrance of the train station.

Jean-Paul is sitting on a bench near his taxi. Pierre walks up to him.

PIERRE  
My friend Jean-Paul. How are you  
making out?

JEAN-PAUL  
Slow day.

PIERRE  
Sorry I can't help you right now.

JEAN-PAUL  
I'll manage.

PIERRE  
Any pointers for me today?

JEAN-PAUL  
Not for free.

PIERRE  
(laughs)  
You're a good man Jean-Paul.

JEAN-PAUL  
Where are you headed?

PIERRE  
The Double Dimes. Friday night  
fights.

JEAN-PAUL  
Need a ride?

PIERRE  
I have my bicycle locked up over  
there.

JEAN-PAUL  
I almost forgot.

PIERRE  
Good to see you my friend.

JEAN-PAUL  
Keep your guard up.

PIERRE  
Always.

INT. DOUBLE DIMES - NIGHT

A clock on the wall reads six forty-five. Mickey and Mack  
walk down the stairs that lead from the studio apartment to  
the main bar.

Lou is sitting at the bar reading a book.

Mack approaches him.

MACK  
Don't you have a fruit stand near  
here?

LOU  
Pretty good observation Irishman.

MACK  
You know me?

LOU  
I saw you and your brother in the  
back of Jean-Paul's taxi this  
morning.

MACK  
How do you know I'm Irish?

LOU  
Little Haiti is a tight-knit  
community.

MICKEY  
What are you reading?

LOU  
You like poetry?

MICKEY

Joyce?

LOU

Reading poetry by John Ahearn.

MICKEY

Never heard of him.

LOU

Local writer.

MICKEY

Which one are you reading?

LOU

A sonnet about Billy the Kid.

MICKEY

The fighter or the gunslinger?

LOU

You'll soon find out that around here everything is about fighters.

MICKEY

My type of place.

EXT. DOUBLE DIMES - NIGHT

Pierre ties his bicycle to a street sign and walks over to the front door. The door is pushed open from the inside by Conor. They almost bump into each other.

CONOR

Pierre, almost knocked you out.

PIERRE

Sorry sir.

CONOR

How long are you going to keep calling me sir?

PIERRE

Sorry. It's out of respect.

CONOR

The respect is mutual.

PIERRE

Thank you.

CONOR  
Going to watch the fights tonight?

PIERRE  
That's what I'm here for.

CONOR  
When are you going to get back in  
the ring?

PIERRE  
I need to get ranked.

CONOR  
What do you need?

PIERRE  
A sparring partner and a trainer.

CONOR  
Give me a few minutes. There is  
someone I would like you to meet.

INT. DOUBLE DIMES - NIGHT

The door opens. Pierre and Conor walk in. They approach Mickey, Mack and Lou who are all sharing a laugh.

CONOR  
Mickey, let me introduce you to  
someone.

MICKEY  
(to Pierre)  
Don't we know each other?

PIERRE  
The train station this morning.

MICKEY  
The big fight.

LOU  
Told you boys. It's all about  
fighting around here.

MICKEY  
You left before we could thank you.

PIERRE  
I didn't want to miss my train.

MICKEY

My name is Mickey and this is Mack.

PIERRE

Nice to formally meet you guys. Are you guys brothers?

MACK

How did you know?

PIERRE

There is a strong family resemblance. Both of you are good fighters too. I was watching your skills from the platform.

MICKEY

Thanks for getting involved. Those thugs had us in a bind.

PIERRE

They had you outnumbered two to one.

CONOR

That's what I want you guys to talk about.

MICKEY

Fighting?

CONOR

Pierre needs a sparring partner so he can get ranked.

PIERRE

(to Conor)

This is the guy?

CONOR

You need a sparring partner so here's your new sparring partner.

PIERRE

(to Mickey)

Do you have any experience in the ring?

MICKEY

Tape up.

LOU  
(to Pierre)  
He's got the size and build and no  
one is tougher than the Irish.

CONOR  
(to Lou)  
I bet you a cold beer Mickey can  
hold his own.

LOU  
Against the French Fist? You're on.

Mickey and Pierre wrap their hands with boxing tape, put on head gear and gloves and get ready to spar. Mickey gets in the ring first as Pierre gets last minute pointers from Lou.

#### INSIDE RING

Pierre gets into the ring.

The men touch gloves to show respect and begin to dance around each other. A couple of fast punches are thrown by Mickey - nothing that hits Pierre.

Pierre fires back. A strong left jab hits Mickey - he gets pushed back against the ropes. Both men continue to get a feel of each other in the ring.

#### RINGSIDE

A small crowd gathers around the ring.

Conor yells instructions to Mickey.

CONOR  
Watch out for his left jab.

LOU  
(yelling to Pierre)  
Force him against the ropes.

#### INSIDE RING

Mickey throws a strong right punch that knocks Pierre down. Pierre sits on the canvas looking at Mickey. Pierre smiles at Mickey and Mickey smiles back.

Mickey walks over to Pierre and helps him up. Both men touch gloves again. They both walk over to the ropes.