

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. GIBSON'S CAFE - FULL SHOT - BRONSON AND TATE - DAY 20

Bronson pulls his bike into a parking space in front of the cafe. Then, he and Tate dismount and enter the cafe.

(NOTE: The cafe is the small, roadside type, a bit weather-worn.)

INT. GIBSON'S CAFE - FULL SHOT - DAY 21

as Bronson and Tate enter. The cafe has a counter and several tables. A few customers are seated at the tables, having breakfast. One COUPLE gives Tate a hard look as he and Bronson take seats at the counter. HANK GIBSON, owner of the cafe, is behind the counter. Hank is a good-natured, middle-aged man, with a pleasant face and an easy smile.

MED. SHOT - BRONSON AND TATE 22

Tate's manner is cool and we are aware he is a bit ill-at-ease. Bronson, however, totally unaware of Tate's discomfort, takes a menu off the counter and begins to look it over as Hank approaches.

HANK (smiles)

Good morning!

BRONSON (looking up
from menu)

Good morning.

HANK

You boys don't live in these parts,
do you?

Tate gives Hank a look.

BRONSON (shakes his head)

No. Just passing through.

HANK

Heading towards Phoenix?

Tate gives Hank another look.

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CONT'D
(2)

BRONSON

Uh huh.

HANK (to Tate)

You like soul food?

Tate gives Hank a cold stare.

TATE

Beg your pardon?

HANK

Do you like soul food?

TATE (hard)

Ya, do you serve it here?

Hank reacts, then replies, a bit nervously:

HANK

No!

TATE

Then, why'd you ask?

HANK (uneasily)

There's a soul food cafe in El
Mirage...I just thought it might
be more to your liking.

Bronson regards Tate briefly, then states:

BRONSON

Easy, Tate. The man's just trying
to be helpful.

(beat)

Isn't that right, mister?

HANK (nods)

Yes! That's right.

TATE (to Bronson)

The man's tryin' to run a shuck on me.

(to Hank)

Do you recommend this soul joint in
El Mirage to all your customers?

HANK (shakes his head)
No. Just the...

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CONT'D
(3)

TATE (cutting in)
Black ones?

Hank nods. Then Bronson, in an effort to pacify Tate,
states:

BRONSON (trying to head
it off)
Bacon, eggs and coffee.

HANK (getting the point)
Yes, sir.
(to Tate)
And you, sir?

TATE (tight)
I'll have the same.

Hank enters into the kitchen.

BRONSON
Ease up, Tate.

TATE
Don't do that, man!

Bronson reacts...taken off guard.

(BRONSON)
(What do you mean?)

TATE
Don't try to back me off when a dude
is runnin' a shuck on me.

Bronson regards Tate for a moment, then questions:

BRONSON
Don't you ever relax...?

TATE (shakes his head)
Uh uh!

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Bronson's reaction.

CUT TO:

EXT. HARVEY STATION - FULL SHOT - BUSTER - DAY

23

as he pushes Tate's hog from the garage to the gas pumps.
Momentarily, Bronson and Tate ride into the station.

TATE (climbing off
Bronson's bike)
Did you get her fixed?

Buster gives Tate a smile, kicks the hog over with one
easy kick, then revs the engine a couple of times.

BUSTER (proudly)
I told you I could fix 'er!

Bronson dismounts and approaches Tate and Buster.

BRONSON
You sure did.

TATE
What's the damage?

BUSTER (confused)
Damage?

TATE
How much do I owe you?

BUSTER
Oh!
(calls out)
Pa? Pa!

ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING PETE

24

as he steps out of the station office and approaches.

BUSTER
He...
(indicates Tate)
...wants to know what he owes.

PETE
I got the bill right here.

Pete takes the bill from his shirt pocket and hands it
to Tate. The black man takes a look at the bill and
reacts, big.

TATE

Man, you must be jivin'! This
ain't my bill!

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CONT'D
(2)

PETE

That's what it comes to.

TATE

What did you do? Overhaul my hog?

PETE

Nope. Replaced the fuel pump...and
a little something for Buster.

BRONSON (to Tate)

How much is it?

Tate hands Bronson the bill. Bronson takes a look at the
bill and also reacts big.

BRONSON

A little something for Buster?

Pete smiles sweetly at Bronson and nods.

TATE

Man, you're crazy if you think I'm
going to pay eighty-seven dollars
for a fuel pump.

PETE

That's up to you, boy. But you
don't get your motorcycle till you
pay me eighty-seven dollars...and
in cash.

BRONSON

Look, Mister...This bill is way out
of line.

PETE

Once Pete Harvey gives a price...
he don't come down.

TATE

I ain't gonna pay it.

PETE

Suit yourself. But that cycle don't
leave here till you do.

Bronson regards Pete, then Tate. Realizing neither man is going to give in, Bronson takes Tate by the arm and walks him off to the side.

24
CONT'D
(3)

MED. SHOT - BRONSON AND TATE

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Bronson regards Tate briefly, then confidentially questions:

BRONSON

What are you going to do?

TATE (shakes his head)

I sure ain't gonna pay him no eighty-seven dollars.

BRONSON

I don't think you've got any choice.

Tate reflects for a moment...his spirits low.

BRONSON

How much money you got?

Tate regards Bronson for a beat, then reluctantly states:

TATE

About fifty bucks.

Bronson reflects for a beat.

BRONSON

You got any way of getting the balance?

TATE

I got a brother in Phoenix. He's good for it.

Bronson reflects pensively for a moment.

BRONSON

You sure he's good for it?

Tate nods. Bronson takes thirty-seven dollars from his wallet and hands it to Tate. Tate regards the money, then Bronson.

BRONSON (continuing)

Take it. Just make sure I get it
back when we reach Phoenix.

25
CONT'D
(2)

Tate reluctantly takes the money, stating:

TATE

Don't worry, you'll get it back.

NEW ANGLE

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Tate strolls over to Pete, fishes fifty dollars out of
his wallet and hands the money to the old codger,
stating:

TATE

Here!

PETE

Thanks, boy. It was a pleasure
doing business with you.

Tate starts to say something to Pete, changes his mind,
turns and strolls over to his hog and mounts. He kicks
the hog over, revs the engine a couple of times, turns
on his radio, then takes off.

Bronson regards the Harveys for a moment, his face speak-
ing volumes. Then, he strolls over to his bike, kicks it
over and takes off after Tate.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO