

HIGH LIFE

SCREENPLAY BY LEE MacDOUGALL

INT. INSIDE THE CAR - DAY

A pissed-off Dick sits at the wheel, Bug fumes in the front passenger seat, and a very relaxed Billy is seated behind Bug. He listens to his walkman with earphones, checking out the street.

Dick turns and squints through some sidewalk trees across the street at the bank. The music continues.

INT. INSIDE THE BANK - DAY

There are people lined up to use the bank machines; an OUT OF ORDER sign is pasted on one.

Donnie, pressed up against one of the ATMs, withdraws money, and tries to hide his many wallets. A line of angry people glare at him, as he keeps using different cards. A bead of sweat rolls down his temple.

INT. INSIDE THE CAR - DAY

Dick smokes. Billy looks around. Bug groans and slides down in his seat. He adjusts the bag of guns at his feet.

Dick's door flies open, and Donnie squeezes into the back seat. Billy turns off his music, and removes the earphones. The music ends. Donnie is sweating and excited.

DICK

D'you get it?

DONNIE

Well ya, but I had a fuck of a time in there.

The next three lines happen simultaneously.

BILLY

BUG

DICK

Whatta ya mean? I knew somp'en would fuck up. What happened?

DONNIE

No nothin' fucked up,
(Laughing) I was just
thinkin' what if the cards
that I got - the people had
no money, an' I'd be pushin'
Withdraw like a freak,
an' the machine'd be goin'
No, No -

DICK

(turning around)
Are you speeding you asshole?
I told you - no shit until
after the job.

Bug turns in his seat and glares at Donnie.

DONNIE

No - I'm just buzzin' -

DICK

(Impatient.)
Give the money and the
receipt to Billy.

DONNIE

Oh ya, I got that, I got
a whole whack of 'em here -

Receipts and cards and money spill from Donnie's pockets.

DONNIE

Here it is -(*The receipt.*)
an' I got two four six eighty
bucks extra Dick -

DICK

You can keep that -

BUG

No way -

DICK

for your trouble.

BUG

He should split it.

DONNIE

Oh ya, ya I was gonna -

Donnie gives one of the bills to Dick, throws one at Bug,

DICK

(to Bug)

Asshole. Quit thinkin'
small time,

Donnie gives one to Billy, who is busy counting the money,

BUG

I just wanna make sure I
get somethin' -

and pockets one himself.

DICK

Oh you'll get somethin'
pinhead -

They talk over each other as they get heated.

BUG

My fuckin' share -

DICK

you'll get ten to twelve!

BILLY

(sarcastically)

Maybe he can get a little
pony for his farm.

Bug snaps around in his seat to go for Billy. Dick grabs him.

DICK

BUG! (Then quietly.)
Don't you dare fuck this up.

Bug stares down Billy, who glares back at him. They are almost
nose to nose, scowling intensely at each other.

Billy lifts the bundle of money, and smiles.

BILLY

Six hundred.

Bug turns slowly, and slumps in his seat. He sulks.

BUG

I think we should split it.

DICK

What?

BUG

The six hundred!

The next four speeches happen at the same time.

DICK

Split it? Jesus Fucking Christ -
The plan is fine. An' if you
weren't so fuckin' stupid yes
stupid maybe we would've had
this kind of - just get in that
fucking bank!

BUG

Yes split it because this plan
is fuckin' fucked - Stupid?
You callin' me stupid with
this shit - I'll kill you I'm
gonna Kill you (to Billy)

BILLY

No way are we splitting this
shitty bit of cash - the plan
is not fine as long as this
cocksucker who shoulda been
dead a long time ago - (To Bug)

DONNIE

No if Dick says Billy takes
the money - just stop your
screamin' - Give it a chance
to work! Aaaaaahhhhhhhh!

Dick grabs Bug and Donnie and shakes them while:

DICK

Shut Up! SHUT UP! Everybody
just shut the fuck up!

They all stop. There is a moment's silence.

DICK

Now I don't care what you
assholes think of this plan -
you can walk away right now.
We have the money, the guns,
and I'll finish the fucker
myself.

Dick waits to see if anyone makes a move.

DICK

But if you stay, I don't
want to hear a word -

BUG

Just -

DICK

Not a fuckin' SOUND about
this not working, or this
guy doesn't like me, or
who's the stupidest - (Beat.)
This job is so simple, so
beautiful - and you three
stooges are gonna fuck it
up - 'cause you don't have
any faith - in yourselves -
or in me. So let me assure
you; it's going to work. And
you deserve it. And so do I.

They sit in sullen silence.

DICK

Now. Is anybody out?

No one moves.

DICK

Okay. Billy?

Billy looks at him in the mirror.

DICK

You know what to do?

BILLY

Ya. I'm gonna give her
540. (Beat.) 'Cause the
60 is mine.

Beat. Dick thinks. Bug looks at him. Donnie counts in his head.

BUG

What?