

Peanuts On The Dollar

by

Joseph Arnone

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Cast of Characters

CHESTER:

19

FRAY:

21

Place
Park

Time
Night

2.

Setting: The play takes place outside in a park near a building wall that represents the bathrooms. It's a brown brick building and serves as the backdrop for the play. A orange overhead light is dimly lit and casts a slight illuminance on the action. Stage lift is a closed door, locked, with a sign above that reads Men's. Graffiti is plastered all over the atmosphere. It's eerily quiet.

At Rise: The play opens up with Chester and Fray already standing in front of the building wall. Lights slowly rise on them as if catching up to what's already been going on.

CHESTER: It feels good.

FRAY: Alright.

CHESTER: Heavy.

FRAY: Keep ya balanced.

CHESTER: Yeah.

FRAY: Don't look so scared mate.

CHESTER: Am I?

FRAY: Shaking like a leaf inside, eh?

CHESTER: (laughs)

FRAY: You know, you do this thing, there ain't no comin' back from it, yeah? Life as you know it gets changed.

CHESTER: I want my life to change, is why I'm doin' it.

FRAY: Glad you come to me for the piece but bro, this game you about to enter might not be right.

CHESTER: I can't back out now Fray.

FRAY: Why not?

CHESTER: They'll fucking abuse me mate.

FRAY: Who? Victor and his cronies?

CHESTER: The whole bloody town.

FRAY: Ain't no one care about you anyway. Not like you're even special.

CHESTER: What you think I oughta do, give up my one and only chance at making it?

FRAY: Nah, I ain't sayin' that.

CHESTER: What you sayin' then?

FRAY: Maybe I am sayin' it. Ain't nobody else gonna say it to ya, so...

CHESTER: Why you sayin' anything bro?

FRAY: Why you think?

CHESTER: All of a sudden you got a conscience? You go to church or something? Huh? You wanna be the Pope Fuckin' Fray?

FRAY: I ain't no bloody fucking priest mate.

CHESTER: So shut your fat mouth.

FRAY: You won't handle it.

CHESTER: Won't handle what Fray?

FRAY: Afterwards.

CHESTER: What.

FRAY: After you put a hole in someone.

CHESTER: Let me worry about that.

FRAY: Are you?

CHESTER: Am I, what?

FRAY: You worryin' 'bout it?

CHESTER: You know what I'm worryin' 'bout? Feeding my mom's. Taking care of my mom's. Yeah? Who's gonna pay for her medicine? Who? You? How she gonna make that surgery she needs? Eh? I gotta see her scream in pain each night? I got a mother who I'm takin' care of like I'm her father. Wanna get her what she needs. I'm gonna GET HER what she needs man. I don't fuckin' care about it! Takin' her outta this hell and into a new apartment with stainless steel appliances. You know those big steel refrigerators and them marble kitchen countertops with the backsplash? No more roaches that come to sleep with you at night. I want big windows so our house is filled with light, lots of light with a view of the ocean, so my mom can go to the beach and laugh with the dolphins and get tan whenever she wants. I want her to smile and be free without a care in the world because she knows her son's got her back. So yeah man, I gotta do a few things to make that happen and if that's the risk I gotta take then I'm taking it man. What choice do I got?? Keep working at the shoe store for peanuts on the dollar? That ain't no life. This shit needs to change and I'm a change it.

FRAY: But you workin' for Victor?

CHESTER: And? So? I'm gonna get paid.

FRAY: You always said you were gonna stay clear of Victor.

CHESTER: I just fucking told you my mom's is dying!

FRAY: You gonna be trapped forever bro. There ain't no sunny beachside. You paving yourself in a circle.

CHESTER: No man.

FRAY: I'm tellin' you something bro. You do this thing, yeah, you gonna get paid, paid more money you ever saw in your life, but then you are owned forever like a dog on a leash. You're gonna get walked whichever direction you get tugged towards and they ain't nothin' you ever gonna do about it.

CHESTER: At least I'll send my mom's away.

FRAY: Ches, man, this ain't the life! You ain't gonna be rich or else why is Victor still in the same neighborhood as we is? If he was so big time. He's a chump.

CHESTER: I already said I'd do it.

FRAY: Yo, you don't gotta do shit.

CHESTER: Why you say you'd help me? Why'd you give me this gun?

FRAY: So I could talk to you, man.

CHESTER: Since when you tryin' to spit wisdom?

FRAY: It ain't wisdom, just common sense.

CHESTER: I don't do this thing Fray, they gonna make life harder than it already is for me.

FRAY: Small price to pay versus taking someone's life and being haunted about it for the rest of your own. That shit ain't in you. It never was. You can't kill someone g, that ain't who you are.

CHESTER: I don't know how else to help my moms.

FRAY: We could do some shit together. Just enough to get things better.

CHESTER: Like what?

FRAY: We start robbing houses.

CHESTER: You serious?

FRAY: You ain't the only one who wants out.

CHESTER: We gonna start climbing walls and chimneys and shit?

FRAY: If we have to. We don't hurt nobody and we cash in. Jewelry, money, whatever valubales we can get.

CHESTER: I ain't never thought about that before.

FRAY: Listen...I been doin' this shit by myself. I did three homes already up in the hills.

CHESTER: Yeah?

FRAY: I'm laying low right now but in another month...come with me this time, it's a big house, one of them mansions, been watching it and nobody lives there. It's always empty. Probably some rich dudes property investment man. We take it.

CHESTER: Ain't them homes got alarms and heavy security and shit?

FRAY: I know all about that from that security job I got fired from. Remember?

CHESTER: Oh yeah, yeah, yeah.

FRAY: I learned all about the camera installations, where the wires run, everything.

CHESTER: You know how to turn that shit off?

FRAY: Everything. You come with me man, we partner up and we grow. Better than working for Victor. And listen, we keep a low profile, tell no one, I mean nobody...never...we go out into the field, get what we need, stash it and in like a year or so, we can start movin' it out for cash and that's when we bounce, that's when you quit your shoestore job and I quit working at Carvel but we gotta do things slowly, patiently so nothing's obvious. Yo, I already got fifteen g's stacked up in merchandise. All at a secret place. Just stay outta trouble man, keep doin' what you do and I'll show you the whole thing. We can make more together than apart.

CHESTER: Why'd you never tell me about this sooner?

FRAY: It's my own thing, but you're about to get in too deep and I can't see my boy go down that way.

CHESTER: Shit. I gotta think about all this. Crazy.

FRAY: We'll do good with this I got goin' on. Just you and me.

CHESTER: I'm supposed to take care of that guy this Tuesday.

FRAY: Hell no.

CHESTER: What I gonna tell Vic?

FRAY: Tell him you're out.

CHESTER: Ahh man, I'm gonna get fucked up, like hospital fucked up. I gave him my word.

FRAY: Think of your moms man. Wounds turn into scars, let that shit heal.

CHESTER: What if he kill me?

FRAY: He ain't gonna kill you cause you ain't done nothin' but change yo mind.

CHESTER: Nah man, it ain't goin' down like that.

FRAY: Yo you ain't no pussy man.

CHESTER: I know, I know.

FRAY: Fuck him. You get fucked up, so what? That's how this shit goes, it's worth it in the aftermath. Few months from now, you'll be looking back thanking me.

CHESTER: Shit.

FRAY: That's what I'm sayin' fam.

CHESTER: Here.

CHESTER hands FRAY back the gun.

FRAY quickly puts it under his shirt.

FRAY: You get past Victor, that's all you need to do. Whatever he does do to you, when he be doin' it, think a your moms and how she wouldn't want you to be killin' nobody.

CHESTER: Thanks man. I gotta go think, my mind is whack right now but I'm with you.

FRAY: Arrright man. We're gonna do this.

CHESTER: Yeah, yeah...got no choice, gotta do something.

END OF PLAY