

INT. GARRISON TAVERN, SNUG BAR - DAY 10

Arthur and Tommy prepare as Brilliant Chang enters. He is early forties and dissipated by a hard life of drugs and alcohol and fame. He is, however, immaculately dressed and is wearing spats (just a few years out of date).

Arthur angles his head, as if half recognising him. Chang nods at the two brothers and speaks with formality...

CHANG

Mr Thomas. Mr Arthur. My name is Brilliant Chang.

Arthur has the identity confirmed...

ARTHUR

Brilliant Chang is dead.

CHANG

Perhaps. I wonder sometimes. Is this heaven? Doesn't smell like heaven. So I would say I have survived.

Tommy also knows the name and reels off the facts...

TOMMY

Brilliant Chang was deported from Deptford prison to Hong Kong in 1927 for dealing cocaine and for manslaughter.

The pub phone begins to ring behind the bar...

ARTHUR

But he died on the way. In a whore house in Rotterdam. It was in the papers.

Chang has an uneasy grip on his body. His movements are loose and he seems almost hollow with thin bones. He stifles a cough as he laughs. (The phone continues to ring)...

CHANG

It was funny. My death. Yes. The London newspapers wanted me dead but then, when they believed I was dead, they wanted me alive again. The truth is there is not much truth written about Brilliant Chang.

TOMMY

Whoever you are, what do you want?

Chang smiles...

CHANG

You should answer the phone Mr Shelby.

A pause. Arthur doesn't need instruction. Micky has appeared behind the bar to get it but Arthur gestures for him to go and takes the call.

ARTHUR

Hello?

9 **INT. BETTING SHOP, FINN'S OFFICE - DAY 10**

9

Finn is on the phone with a gun at his temple. Li is standing beside him.

FINN

Arthur, there's a Chinese woman here and she's got a fucking gun to my head. What the fuck is going on?

10 **INT. GARRISON TAVERN, SNUG BAR - DAY 10**

10

As Arthur reacts, Chang speaks to Tommy as he takes a single cigarette from a top pocket...

CHANG

I sent a woman with a gun to your youngest brother's office...

Tommy looks to Arthur who confirms. Arthur speaks softly into the phone...

ARTHUR

It's ok brother, it's ok, it's under control...

Arthur pulls his gun and points it directly at Chang while still holding the phone.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

You want to die twice, you can die twice.

Chang seems unconcerned.

CHANG

Good. The guns are pointed. Now we are all concentrating. The moment is now pure.

Tommy is utterly unmoved.

TOMMY

Purity is not necessary. Displays are not necessary...

Chang smiles at Tommy...

CHANG

They said Tommy Shelby. Mmmm. That door will need some kicking down.

TOMMY

When you walked through the door, it was open. There is no need to do anything to get my attention. What do you want?

Chang has the cigarette between his lips...

CHANG

Do you have a match Mr Shelby?

Arthur cocks the trigger.

ARTHUR

If my brother dies, you die.

11 **INT. BETTING SHOP, FINN'S OFFICE - DAY 10**

11

Finn is clutching the phone with the gun touching his temple and he hears Arthur speaking...

FINN

I don't want to die Arthur! What the fuck are you talking about?...

12 **INT. GARRISON TAVERN, SNUG BAR - DAY 10**

12

Tommy strikes a match and lights Chang's cigarette, totally calm.

TOMMY

Darby Sabini used to say Brilliant Chang fucked rich women for revenge.

CHANG

I don't even remember Soho. It's like broken glass around my feet.

TOMMY

If you die today, we will bury you face down without your hands so you will go to hell.

CHANG

I don't care about ritual. I am a rationalist Mr Shelby.

TOMMY

Why don't you tell your friend to
put her gun away and we will talk.

Suddenly the loud report of a GUNSHOT from down the phone.
Arthur reacts.

ARTHUR

Fuck!...

Arthur is about to pull the trigger.

TOMMY

Hold your fire Arthur!

Tommy seems certain that Finn is safe. Three seconds tick.
Then we hear Finn down the phone...

FINN (OOV)

Arthur!...

13

INT. BETTING SHOP, FINN'S OFFICE - DAY 10

13

Finn is slowly sagging to his knees, still clutching the
phone. Li is leaving and the door slams. Finn half speaks,
half sobs into the phone...

FINN

Fuck. She fired into the ceiling.
What the fuck is going on Arthur?

14

INT. GARRISON TAVERN, SNUG BAR - DAY 10

14

Arthur hears and puts the phone down. He still has his gun
pointed at Chang.

ARTHUR

Finn's ok.

Arthur comes closer to Chang with the gun pointed...

ARTHUR (CONT'D)

Tell me brother. Yes or no.

Tommy stares at the calm features of Chang. Perhaps he sees a
fellow dead man sitting before him. It seems that somehow
Tommy was expecting this visit. There is a connection between
the two men which Arthur sees. Finally.

TOMMY

At ease brother.

Arthur continues to point the gun. For the first time Chang
looks a little scared.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
I said 'at ease'.

Arthur waits a moment then releases the hammer on his gun. Chang brushes dust from his trousers and dabs spit onto his shoes even though there is no dust and no stain.

CHANG
So. I have now proven to you that I represent serious people.

Chang smiles. Arthur suddenly grabs him from behind and rocks him back on two legs of his chair and hisses close into his ear.

ARTHUR
If Chang is who you are, you worked your way between the legs of fucking Duchesses and Dowagers and pumped half the West End full of snow but you're in fucking Birmingham now...

TOMMY
Leave him Arthur.

Arthur looks to Tommy, a little surprised.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
This visit was not unexpected. And so far no one is hurt.

Arthur takes a moment and then shoves Chang forward. Chang is amused...

CHANG
I think your brother reads the Daily Mail. They hated me the most. I was called 'pollution'.

Arthur patrols around, his blood is up.

ARTHUR
'Serious people' don't send whores to do their work.

Chang takes a moment.

CHANG
The people I represent are called Uncles. They should always be taken seriously. May I take something from my pocket Mr Shelby?

Tommy nods. Arthur now knows that Tommy knows more about this meeting than he has let on. Chang produces a small brown paper bag. He opens it up and pours a pile of yellowish crystals onto the table where the dead linnets once were.

Chang licks his finger and dabs some powder and takes the merest lick. He gestures for Tommy to try but he doesn't respond.

CHANG (CONT'D)

It is the purest Opium that has ever arrived in Europe. No salt, no flour, no lies. Pure truth.

Arthur reacts. Tommy, however, speaks evenly, already ahead...

TOMMY

Off a ship called the Magdalene out of Shanghai.

Chang confirms with a shrug. Tommy speaks half to Arthur, half to Chang...

TOMMY (CONT'D)

It docked at Poplar a week ago. The Stevedores were held at gun point while Chinese men unloaded the cargo by the light of lanterns.

Chang peers at Tommy, hears the poetry in his voice and it amuses him.

CHANG

It was raining. They used white umbrellas...

TOMMY

A foreman at the dock estimated there was seven tons of the stuff.

Arthur reacts to the amount. Tommy opens his notebook and turns the pages, looking for a particular page.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

...I made a note at the time. I made a point of speaking personally with the foreman. I worked out that seven tons of pure opium crystals would be worth approximately...

Tommy finds the page, puts his spectacles on and reads a figure.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

...two million four hundred and fifty thousand pounds. On international markets.

Chang smiles.

CHANG

The big crash. Wall Street. Now we all keep our ears open for opportunities.

TOMMY

Mr Chang, I am a member of parliament. I set time aside each Thursday morning for my constituents. They tell me their problems, I offer them solutions.

He takes off his spectacles.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

If you have a problem, please tell me what it is. And I may be able to help.

Arthur looks deeply uneasy. He switches to Romany.

ARTHUR

Tommy. *(Remember what our dad told us)*.

Tommy responds in English, staring at Chang.

TOMMY

My brother is reminding me that many years ago our father told us not to do business with the Chinese. He was shot dead in a bar in Boston by an Irishman. What is your proposal Mr Chang?

At that moment Arthur sees Finn approaching fast through the marbled pub window.

ARTHUR

Fuck.

Arthur gets to his feet. The door flies open and Finn enters. He pulls his gun as he steps inside...

FINN

What the fuck is going on?

Finn is in a fury and sees Chang. He turns over the table and the Opium scatters. Chang steps back out of his chair. Tommy turns to grab Finn and point his gun upwards as it discharges.

Tommy pushes Finn against the wall and gets into his face.

TOMMY

We are conducting a piece of business...

FINN

She put a gun to my fucking head!

Tommy has Finn restrained. He reaches down and feels the leg of Finn's trousers.

TOMMY

But your trousers are dry. You didn't piss yourself.

Tommy glances at Arthur...

TOMMY (CONT'D)

He didn't piss himself Arthur.

Arthur half smiles. Tommy steps back. Finn is breathing hard. Tommy has taken his gun from him.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

He had a dispute with a lady and he didn't piss himself. You're going to be ok Finn. Arthur says we should put you on the tracks. So it's a good day after all.

Finn looks murder from Tommy to Arthur and then Chang.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

But in future always have your whores searched at the door.

Finn glares at Chang.

FINN

If I see her on the street, I'll cut her. Business or no fucking business.

Finn walks. Arthur, Chang and Tommy are still on their feet. Tommy turns and slaps the bar.

TOMMY

Micky!

Micky appears behind the bar.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Surgery is over. Send the others away.

MICKY

(pointedly)

They already left. When they heard the gun shot.

Tommy gestures at the floorboards.

TOMMY

And sweep this powder up off the floor and put it in a tin.

Tommy grabs his coat.

CHANG

It is a gift Mr Shelby. A gesture of good will.

Tommy turns to Micky.

TOMMY

And throw the tin into the canal.

A pause. Tommy turns to Chang and repeats pointedly.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

The *canal*. That's the idea isn't it Mr Chang?

15

INT. CHARLIE'S YARD, STABLE - DAY 10

15

A door is dragged open and light comes in. The stable is empty and water drips. Charlie is beside Tommy and Tommy steps into the stable and looks up at the ceiling and the walls, inspecting...

After a moment, Chang enters too and sniffs the air.

CHANG

Very damp.

TOMMY

Mr Strong can waterproof the stables and the warehouses if required.

CHANG

How quickly?

Charlie is already deeply concerned...

CHARLIE

Tommy...

Tommy is studying a crack of light in the roof...

TOMMY

Charlie, how quickly could you seal the roof and plaster over the damp in six of your stables?

Charlie has evidently tried to ask the question before and repeats with irritation.

CHARLIE

Tommy. Why are you looking at my stables?

Chang lights a cigarette and Charlie glares at him.

CHANG

Your people can be trusted, yes?

CHARLIE

Tommy, I swear to God, anybody who calls me 'your people' is inviting a shovel across the knees. What do you want with my stables?

TOMMY

Mr Chang. I have your details. I will have an answer for you within twenty four hours.

He turns to Charlie...

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Charlie, get this man a boat to Snow Hill Station.