

Scene 4

Police Station

An officer stands by two recently arrested hookers. Deloris runs on and starts talking to the cop. Officer Eddie Souther is at his desk, listening.

DELORIS

Help me! I just saw somebody kill somebody!

COP

Who killed who?

DELORIS

Ernie. Ernie Williams got killed.

EDDIE

Ernie Williams got killed?

DELORIS

Yeah.

COP

He was our best informant.

DELORIS

Informant?

EDDIE

I bet Curtis Jackson killed him.

DELORIS

Yeah.

EDDIE

Damnit.

(He hits the desk)

Ow!

DELORIS

(Looking at Eddie)

Wait a minute.

EDDIE

What?

DELORIS

I know you.

EDDIE

Well I know you too, Doris Carter.

DELORIS

It's Deloris Van Cartier now. As in Cartier's.

(Beat)

I do know you—high school!

EDDIE

Yeah, that was me.

DELORIS

You had a crush on me.

EDDIE

Yeah, that was me.

DELORIS

I'd come around and you'd get so nervous...you'd start to sweat.

EDDIE

No, that wasn't me.

DELORIS

I called you Sweaty Eddie!

EDDIE

Look I'd appreciate it if you didn't...

HOOKER

Sweaty Eddie! How ya doin' Sweaty Eddie?

EDDIE

ARGH!

COP

(To hookers)

Come on, let's go girls. Let's move it.

(They start to exit. Before he exits:)

I'll be right back. Sweaty Eddie.

(He exits laughing)

EDDIE

That's not my name.

DELORIS

Sweaty Eddie. Damn.

EDDIE

Look Doris.

DELORIS

Deloris.

EDDIE

Curtis Jackson needs to be put away. We've been working on this case for over a year. We got a lotta hidden film on him and you're not safe. If you saw Ernie get killed, you need protection and there's no protection like the Philadelphia police department.

(He sits on the edge of his desk, falls, and gets back up.)

We need to hide you.

DELORIS

You can't hide me, how you gonna hide me...how you gonna hide this?

EDDIE

Here's a picture of the last guy who talked. Or what's left of him. Look.

(He hands Deloris the picture)

DELORIS

Oh my God. You gotta help me.

EDDIE

Then you gotta be our witness.

DELORIS

No way.

EDDIE

Deloris, Curtis will kill you. We need you testify so we can put him away.

DELORIS

But what's gonna happen to me?

EDDIE

We need a place he'd never think to look. And we gotta disguise you.

DELORIS

You mean I gotta go incognito?

(She puts on her sunglasses)

EDDIE

Wait a minute.

DELORIS

What?

EDDIE

I got the perfect place. Let's go.

#3a - *The Perfect Place*

Hurry up. We gotta move.

(As they exit, she notices he is not wearing a gun)

DELORIS

But what about your gun?

EDDIE

Guns make me nervous.

DELORIS

Well, ain't this my lucky day. Got a man who wants to kill me and a cop without a gun. Goody goody.

(Deloris leaves her blue coat on the chair. She exits. As Eddie exits behind her, he wipes his brow with a handkerchief. As the door closes, we hear church bells)