

FADE IN:

INT. ACKLEY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A tiny bit of light comes through the shower curtains and from the other room. ACKLEY lies in his bed, wide awake.

HOLDEN

Ackley? Y'awake?

ACKLEY

Yeah.

HOLDEN trips over a shoe and almost falls. ACKLEY sits up and leans on his arm. He has a lot of white stuff on his face, for his pimples. He looked sort of spooky in the dark.

HOLDEN

What the hellyya doing, anyway?

ACKLEY

Wuddaya mean what the hell am I doing?  
I was tryna *sleep* before you guys  
started making all that noise. What the  
hell was that fight about, anyhow?

HOLDEN

Where's the light?

HOLDEN is sliding his hand all over the wall, looking for the light switch.

ACKLEY

Wuddaya want the light for?... Right  
next to your hand.

HOLDEN finds the light switch and turns it on. ACKLEY puts his hand up over his eyes. ACKLEY notices the blood all over HOLDEN's face.

ACKLEY

Jesus! What the hell happened to you?

HOLDEN

I had a little goddam tiff with  
Stradlater.

HOLDEN sits down on the floor.

HOLDEN (cont.)

Listen, do you feel like playing a  
little Canasta?

ACKLEY

You're still *bleeding*, for Chrissake.  
You better put something on it.

HOLDEN

It'll stop. Listen. Ya wanna play a  
little Canasta or don'tcha.

ACKLEY

Canasta, for Chrissake. Do you know  
what time it is, by any chance?

HOLDEN

It isn't late. It's only around  
eleven-thirty.

ACKLEY

Only around! Listen. I gotta get up and  
go to *Mass* in the morning, for  
Chrissake. You guys start hollering and  
fighting in the middle of the goddam-  
What the hell was that fight about,  
anyhow?

HOLDEN

It's a long story. I don't wanna bore ya, Ackley. I'm thinking of your welfare.

Beats.

HOLDEN (cont.)

Hey, is it okay if I sleep in Ely's bed tonight? He won't be back till tomorrow night, will he?

ACKLEY

I don't know when the hell he's coming back.

HOLDEN

(annoyed)

What the hell do you mean you don't know when he's coming back? He never comes back till Sunday *night*, does he?

ACKLEY

No, but for chrissake, I can't just tell somebody they can sleep in his goddam *bed* if they want to.

HOLDEN reached up and patted ACKLEY on the shoulder

HOLDEN

You're a real prince, Ackley kid, you know that?

ACKLEY

No, I mean it- I can't just tell somebody they can sleep in-

HOLDEN

You're a real prince. You're a gentleman and a scholar, kid. Do you

happen to have any cigarettes, by any chance?- Say 'no' or I'll drop dead.

ACKLEY

No, I don't as a matter of fact.

Beat.

Listen, what the hell was the fight about?

HOLDEN gets up to the window and looks out.

ACKLEY (cont.)

What the hell was the fight about, anyhow?

HOLDEN

About you.

ACKLEY

About *me*, for Chrissake?

HOLDEN

Yeah. I was defending your goddam honor. Stradlater said you had a lousy personality. I couldn't let him get away with that stuff.

ACKLEY

(excited)

He did? No kidding? He did?

HOLDEN

I'm only kidding

HOLDEN goes over and lies down on ELY's bed.

HOLDEN (cont.)

This room stinks, I can smell your socks from way over here. Don'tcha ever send them to the laundry?

ACKLEY

If you don't like it, you know what you can do.

Beat.

How 'bout turning off the goddam light?

HOLDEN doesn't turn off the light, but stays on ELY's bed thinking about Jane and Stradlater.

HOLDEN

Tell me the story of your fascinating life, Ackley kid.

ACKLEY

How 'bout turning off the goddam light? I gotta get up for Mass in the morning.

HOLDEN gets up and turns off the light then lays back down on Ely's bed.

ACKLEY

What're ya gonna do - sleep in Ely's bed?

HOLDEN

I may. I may not. Don't worry about it.

ACKLEY

I'm not worried about it. Only, I'd hate like hell if Ely came in all of a sudden and found some guy-

HOLDEN

Relax. I'm not gonna sleep here. I wouldn't abuse your goddam hospitality.

Silence. A couple of minutes later, ACKLEY is snoring like mad. HOLDEN tries not to think about Jane and Stradlater, but he fails. STRADLATER is heard from the other room putting away his toiletries and opening his window. A while later STRADLATER turns off his light.

HOLDEN

(whispered)  
Hey, Ackley.

(louder)  
Hey, Ackley!

(yells)  
Hey, Ackley!

ACKLEY

What the hell's the matter with you? I was asleep for Chrissake.

HOLDEN

Listen. What's the routine on joining a monastery? Do you have to be Catholic and all?

ACKLEY

Certainly you have to be Catholic. You bastard, did you wake me just to ask me a dumb ques-

HOLDEN

Aah, go back to sleep. I'm not gonna join one anyway. The kind of luck I have, I'd probably join one with all the wrong kind of monks in it. All stupid bastards. Or just bastards.

ACKLEY sits up.

ACKLEY

Listen, I don't care what you say about me or anything, but if you start making cracks about my goddam religion for Chrissake-

HOLDEN

Relax, nobody's making any cracks about your goddam religion.

HOLDEN gets off ELY'S bed and walks toward the door. He stops on the way and picks up ACKLEY'S hand and gives him a big, phony handshake. ACKLEY pulls his hand away.

ACKLEY

What's the idea?

HOLDEN

No idea. I just wanted to that you for being such a goddam prince, that's all. You're aces, Ackley kid. You know that?

ACKLEY

Wise guy. Someday somebody's gonna bash  
your-

HOLDEN leaves before ACKLEY can finish his sentence. He shuts the door and goes down the corridor.