

# Dirt Nap

A Not-So-Wise Guy Comedy by,  
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"When I was a kid I used to pray every night for a new bicycle. Then I realized that the Lord doesn't work that way so I stole one and asked Him to forgive me." – Emo Philips

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## Dirt Nap

Characters: (In order of appearance: 6 roles; 4M and 2F)

Levi Burnett: An “archeologist.” A man with a big plan and bigger problems. Early 30s.

Alex Reynolds: Levi’s best friend. Hired help. Doesn’t like being hired help. Late 20s.

“Mucky” Joe Salvino: Wise guy. Tries his best but it usually turns out worse. Early 60s.

Leo “Rat Bastard” Gallo: Wise guy. See above character description. Late 60s.

Jimmy Vino: Mob boss. Wise in the traditions from the old country. Late 70s.

Beth Harrison: Alex’s fiancée. Wishes for the best but fears for the worst. Late 20s.

Jessie Ryan: A young reporter. Puts up with a lot but also dishes out her own. Late 20s.

Setting: The desert in and around Las Vegas, Nevada and various locales around Trenton, New Jersey.

Time: August 1998

### Act One/Scene One

Scene One: The mission

*(At rise, LEVI is sitting alone on a park bench reading a newspaper. He’s dressed in full Indiana Jones attire. After a few moments, ALEX enters the stage and approaches LEVI.)*

LEVI

Good news.

ALEX

You’re adopted.

LEVI

No. *(A beat)* And just how would that be good news?

ALEX

It would be for me. I hate my parents.

LEVI

No you don’t. They hate you.

ALEX *(Tearing up)*

I know they do!

LEVI

Stop it.

ALEX (*Gasps*)

Did they say something to you about me?

LEVI

They tell me something about you every day.

ALEX

Really? Like what?

LEVI

Ah, it varies... but usually something along the lines of “Don’t give him our new address!”

ALEX

What ‘bout their unlisted phone number?

LEVI

I told you it varies.

ALEX

Are you lying to protect my feelings?

LEVI

You know I would never do that.

ALEX

Thanks, buddy.

LEVI

Now then, that’s not the good news.

ALEX

You’re—

LEVI

Would you quit trying to guess it?

ALEX

Just one more try.

LEVI (*Sighs*)

Fine.

ALEX

You’re—

LEVI

No.

ALEX

You didn't let me finish!

LEVI

I heard enough, but that's not the good news. You could never guess the good news if I gave you a hundred guesses.

ALEX

What about a hundred and one?

LEVI

Plus eight billion.

*(A beat)*

ALEX

I hate math.

LEVI

And it hates you right back.

ALEX

I figured as much. *(A long pause)* Equation scum suckers.

LEVI

You're an idiot.

ALEX

Thanks.

LEVI

Not a compliment.

ALEX

I thought you were being sarcastic.

LEVI

Idiots often get that wrong.

ALEX

Being an idiot gets me sympathy sex.

LEVI

Not with me it doesn't!

ALEX

That's just 'cause you haven't seen me in my yoga pants yet.

LEVI

I can think of two things wrong with that statement.

ALEX

They're leather, but ironically, they still breathe.

LEVI

Okay, three. *(A beat)* Nonetheless, the good news is... I've figured it out.

ALEX

FINALLY! *(A beat)* Figured what out?

LEVI

I think I've finally found our first adventure.

ALEX *(Scoffs)*

What are you talking about? We've already had plenty of adventures.

LEVI

Give me a break. We've found a couple of lost dogs. I wouldn't exactly call those adventures.

ALEX

We found my car keys once.

LEVI

Again. Not an Indiana Jonesesque adventure.

ALEX

So, what? You think they publish stories about lost treasures and hidden artifacts in the newspaper? *(A beat)* Or is our local rag of a paper the actual artifact you're talkin' about?

LEVI

No. And believe it or not, the local newspaper is still in circulation.

ALEX *(Scoffs)*

Yeah. Today. But it's not like they're gonna start to publish stories about lost treasures and hidden artifacts in *The Daily Fishwrapper*.

LEVI

They just did.

*(LEVI tosses ALEX the newspaper. It lands in his lap with a THUD. ALEX picks up and reads the newspaper and suddenly bursts out laughing.)*

LEVI

What's so funny?

ALEX

That Marmaduke cracks me up.

LEVI

Not that, genius. Right here.

*(LEVI grabs the paper and points to an article. ALEX reads it silently.)*

ALEX

Oh, no.

LEVI

Oh, yes.

ALEX

Vegas?

LEVI

Vegas.

ALEX

To dig up bodies?

LEVI *(Sighs)*

No. *(A beat)* To excavate a burial ground.

ALEX

Is that what the kids are callin' it these days?

LEVI

It's a real adventure.

ALEX

We could get arrested.

LEVI

It's an Indy-inspired adventure!

ALEX

I'll say it again. We could get arrested.

LEVI

I'll say it again. It's a real adventure.

ALEX

Hell, Levi. We could even get whacked by the mob or something.

LEVI

Give me a break. It's the new Vegas.

ALEX

What does that mean?

LEVI

There's no mob in the new Vegas. The new Vegas is run by Disney.

ALEX

Yeah, but it's Michaleno Mouse.

LEVI

It's not like that.

ALEX

You've never even been to Vegas!

LEVI

Neither have you.

ALEX

But I've seen enough mob movies to know this is a bad idea.

LEVI (*Sighs*)

We're not gonna get whacked.

ALEX

You prefer snubbed? Or rubbed out? How 'bout swims with the fishes.

LEVI

Vegas is a desert. No fish in the desert. (*A beat*) 'Cept sushi.

ALEX

That makes me feel so much better.

LEVI  
Good.

ALEX  
I was kidding.

LEVI  
No mobster will even care what we're doing.

ALEX  
Michaleno Mouse will.

LEVI  
This is gonna be such a huge archeological dig.

ALEX  
The bodies ain't even barely that old yet.

LEVI  
So?

ALEX  
So it's not like they're exactly dinosaurs yet, Levi.

LEVI  
They are in their own right.

ALEX (*Sighs*)  
If you think digging up the bodies of the mobsters who helped build Vegas is a good idea, then you've got—

LEVI  
Look at the article again, dude. (*LEVI reads*) Experts estimate that there could be as many as five to 6,000 bodies buried in and around the Las Vegas desert.

ALEX  
You wanna find all 6,000 of them?

LEVI (*Shrugs*)  
I'll settle for three.

ALEX  
You're nuts.

LEVI



It'll make the papers.

ALEX  
Just what mobsters like. Press.

LEVI  
That doesn't matter.

ALEX  
What, you don't think mobsters get the papers? (*A beat*) Get the papers...

LEVI  
Stop worrying about the mob.

ALEX  
That's precisely what they tell you right before they whack you.

LEVI  
There will be no whacking.

ALEX  
Riiiiiggghhhttt... 'Cause it's not like the mob ever holds a grudge or anything...

LEVI  
The mob won't care about some old bodies being dug up.

ALEX  
All the mob cares about is that some old bodies aren't dug up!

LEVI  
They won't be able to touch us, we'll be famous.

ALEX  
Just like Jimmy Hoffa.

LEVI  
It won't be like that.

ALEX  
You prefer Kennedy?

LEVI  
I prefer Levi Burnett.

ALEX  
You're not Indiana Jones.

*(A long pause)*

LEVI

Why you gotta go and say something that cruel?

ALEX

The truth hurts.

LEVI

No it doesn't. That's just something people say to try and spice it up because the truth is dull.

ALEX

So, does that means you no longer wanna be Indiana Jones?

LEVI

I never said I was Indiana Jones.

ALEX

Not since you've been in therapy.

LEVI

Exactly.

ALEX

But you still live your life like him.

LEVI *(Scoffs)*

Who doesn't?

ALEX

I don't want to do this.

LEVI

Too bad, 'cause you are.

ALEX

No I'm... oh, no, you're not gonna bring that up, are ya?

LEVI

If that's what it takes.

ALEX

But that was just a drunken promise.

LEVI

So what?

ALEX

So they don't count.

LEVI

Tell that to your fiancée.

ALEX

Don't you dare tell Beth!

LEVI

You said you'd do anything I asked you to.

ALEX

I did not.

LEVI

I can play you the tape.

ALEX (*Gasps*)

You recorded it?!

LEVI

Well, duh. I knew you wouldn't remember your promise, so I'm glad I recorded the whole thing.

ALEX

I hate Jaegermester.

LEVI

You didn't that night. You wanna know what else you did?

ALEX

Oh, God no.

LEVI

You wore women's panties.

ALEX

I said I didn't want to know!

LEVI

You said they were your mom's.

ALEX  
Okay, please stop.

LEVI  
But Beth said they were hers.

ALEX  
I'm serious. Please stop.

LEVI  
And then she took them off of you.

ALEX (*Gasps*)  
In front of you?!

LEVI  
In front of everyone!

ALEX  
Who's everyone?

LEVI  
My church group.

ALEX  
Oh, God.

LEVI  
That's what they said.

ALEX  
Okay, please. No more. I'm gonna throw up.

LEVI  
They said that too. (*A beat*) So... you don't want to hear what happened after you went outside?

ALEX (*Gasps*)  
Was I naked?

LEVI  
Oh, yeah. (*A beat*) And the donkey really seemed—

ALEX  
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! (*A beat*) You win. I'll go to Vegas with you.

LEVI

I knew you would.

ALEX

You're a real scum sucker yourself, sometimes, you know that, right?

LEVI

Nope. I'm just an archeologist doing my job.

ALEX

Nope. You're just an unemployed student with a fanatical love for whips and fedoras.

LEVI

Same thing.

ALEX

How's that?

LEVI

Who says I'm not an archeologist?

ALEX

Me!

LEVI

Besides you.

ALEX

I'm not following.

LEVI

Who claims to be an archeologist who isn't one?

ALEX

YOU!

LEVI (*Sighs*)

Besides me. I mean, it's not something anyone would pretend to be.

ALEX

Except you.

LEVI

Exactly. Hence... I'm an archeologist just doing my job.

ALEX  
Who's your boss?

LEVI  
I'm self-employed.

ALEX  
You're delusional.

LEVI  
I'm gonna be bigger than Harrison Ford.

ALEX (*Scoffs*)  
In the Witness Protection Program.

LEVI  
You are way too worried about the mob.

ALEX  
Tell that to the 6,000 bodies in the desert!

LEVI  
The mob today is not the mob that built Vegas.

ALEX  
Yeah, but they are their sons and daughters.

LEVI  
They're all too busy tryin' to run things their way to worry about chasing us and the ghosts of their ancestors all across the desert.

ALEX  
You really think we've got nothing to worry about?

LEVI  
Have you ever heard of a mobster with nothing to do?

*(A long silence)*

ALEX  
I guess not. No.

LEVI  
Exactly. They're all too busy to worry about the likes of us. The only mobsters we would even possibly have to worry about are the ones with nothing better to do. Now let's pack.

*(LEVI and ALEX stand up and start to exit the stage as the lights slowly fade. After a few moments, the lights rise again and MUCKY JOE and LEO RAT BASTARD are sitting on the bench staring out at the audience. They are dressed in wrinkled suits and look bored out of their minds, as if they have nothing to do. There should be a long silence before dialogue is even spoken.)*

LEO *(Sighs)*

We got nothing to do.

MUCKY

Sure we do. We sit here.

LEO

Sitting here is nothing to do.

MUCKY

Wrong. Sitting is something.

LEO

Well, it ain't much.

MUCKY

But it's our something to do.

LEO

This is stupid.

MUCKY

You're stupid.

LEO

You wanna start in with me, again, Mucky?

MUCKY

Yeah.

LEO

I hate you.

MUCKY

I hate you too. All the other sidekicks I could've got paired up with and I got stuck with you.

LEO

I feel the same exact way about you.

MUCKY

Fingers Mulligan would have been better than you.

LEO

Fingers is dead.

MUCKY

That's 'cause he was a moron.

LEO

He *was* stupid.

MUCKY

He was an idiot and I'm saying I still would have rather had that 'short bus' as my sidekick than you.

LEO

You're my sidekick.

MUCKY

No, you're mine.

LEO

Says who?

MUCKY

Says everyone.

LEO

You're a liar.

MUCKY

Just think about how they introduce us. This is Mucky Joe Salvino AND Leo "Rat Bastard" Gallo. I'm always first and you're the sidenote after.

LEO

You're a sidenote.

MUCKY

No, you are.

LEO

I'd take Mickey "No Teeth" Malone over you as my sidekick.

MUCKY



Really? You'd take that freakin' gummy-wonder over me?

LEO

In a heartbeat, you chatty, mumble-mouthed—

MUCKY

I'd take "Fast Women" Duncan over you.

LEO

I'd take Jimmie "One Leg" Sullivan over you.

MUCKY

One leg? Really? That's harsh.

LEO

He and his one leg could probably kick your—

MUCKY

I'd take Daisy Green over you.

LEO

Oh, no you didn't.

MUCKY

Oh, yeah I did.

LEO

You'd take Daisy over me? You mean it?

MUCKY

Yup.

LEO

Well, then... I'd take Cindy Salvino over you.

MUCKY

Okay, that's it.

*(MUCKY stands up and pulls out his gun and points it at LEO.)*

LEO *(Sighs)*

Give me that.

*(LEO takes the gun away from MUCKY.)*

MUCKY

Give me my gun back.

LEO

No.

MUCKY

Yes, you Rat Bastard, give me my gun back.

LEO

Not until you learn how to use it.

MUCKY

I've killed fifteen men. I think I know how to use a gun.

LEO

I killed 'em all, remember?

MUCKY

Well, I helped.

LEO

You found them. I did the actual killings though.

MUCKY

I still know how to use a gun, now give it back to me, Rat Bastard.

LEO

And have you wave it in my face again, I don't think so. And stop callin' me that.

MUCKY

You said you'd rather partner up with my five-year-old niece, what was I supposed to do? Let that fly?

LEO

Yeah, Mucky. That's exactly what you're supposed to do. That's what you always do and that's what you always should do. You know you can't act like a tough guy with me. I see right through that.

MUCKY (*Faux-Sincere*)

Okay, you're right. I'm sorry. Now may I please have my gun back?

LEO

Are you gonna point it at me again?

MUCKY

No.

LEO  
You promise?

MUCKY  
Yeah. I promise.

LEO  
You swear on the soul of your mother?

MUCKY  
Why you gotta bring my mother into this?

LEO  
'Cause it's better than yet another one of your empty promises.

MUCKY  
Fine, I swear on the soul of my mother.

LEO  
Man, you are pathetic.

*(LEO hands MUCKY back his gun. MUCKY puts the gun back in the back of his pants.)*

MUCKY  
Freak you.

LEO *(Sighs)*  
Why are we still doing that?

MUCKY  
Doing what?

LEO  
Saying freak instead of fu—

MUCKY  
SHHHHH!

LEO  
Why?

MUCKY  
You know why.

LEO

I know I do but I still wanna hear you say it.

MUCKY

Because Jimmy told us that we misuse profanity and are not allowed to use it anymore.

LEO

Yeah, well, I don't see Jimmy around so all I can say is fu—

JIMMY (*Offstage*)

Boys.

LEO (*Gasps*)

Jimmy?!

*(Both MUCKY and LEO look offstage in time to see JIMMY enter the stage and start to approach them.)*

MUCKY (*Whispering to LEO*)

You were saying?

LEO (*Whispering back*)

Shut up.

MUCKY

No, seriously, you were in the middle of saying something before you were interrupt—

LEO

I will strangle you in your sleep.

MUCKY

HA! You've been threatenin' that for years.

*(JIMMY approaches.)*

JIMMY

Boys.

LEO AND MUCKY

Yeah, boss?

JIMMY

What's the word?

LEO

Nothing.

MUCKY

Not a peep.

JIMMY

Nothing whatsoever?

LEO

Whatever.

JIMMY

Hmmm... well, keep your ears open nonetheless.

LEO

Always, boss. Always.

JIMMY

Something is up with them. I can feel it.

LEO

Then it must be true.

JIMMY

Are you makin' fun of me?

LEO

What?! No, of course not!

MUCKY

I think he was a little bit, boss.

LEO

Shut up, Mucky. I was not makin' fun of you, boss. I was saying that—

JIMMY

Why? 'Cause I said I feel it?

LEO

No boss. I was not—

JIMMY

I'll have you know a lot of people say stuff like that.

LEO

I know and I think—

JIMMY

But I can't say it, why? 'Cause I'm a mob boss and mob bosses can't have a little ESP.

LEO

No boss, I think you do have ESP. Every time you've ever said you feel something, that something has come true. And I was sayin' it must be true exactly because you're always right about these things.

JIMMY

Well, I wasn't right about Little Italy.

*(MUCKY and LEO both groan then sigh in unison.)*

LEO

Well, no, but who could have honestly guessed Little Italy?

MUCKY

I did.

LEO

YOU LIAR! YOU DID NOT!

*(A beat)*

JIMMY

Did you really?

MUCKY

No, boss, I just like messin' with Rat Bastard.

LEO

It's gonna come back to bite you, mark my words.

MUCKY

And Rat Bastard likes threatenin' me. It's this weird little game we've got goin'.

JIMMY

I see.

*(A long pause)*

JIMMY *(Cont'd)*

Well, just keep your eyes and your ears open boys. The Ferrelli Gang is just waitin' for us to slip up so they can pounce. I swear, things with these young thugs just ain't the same. Sometimes I feel like we're the only ones left with a dignified sense of tradition.

LEO

I know what you mean, boss.

JIMMY

Why wouldn't you, Leo? It's not like what I said was some big riddle or something.

LEO

No, boss, I know, I just meant—

JIMMY

I swear, sometimes you just don't think before you talk.

MUCKY

I've told him that before, boss.

JIMMY

I'm not wrong, am I?

MUCKY

No, boss, you're not wrong.

LEO

It's just a figure of speech.

JIMMY

What is?

LEO

I know what you mean. It's just a figure of speech. I was just trying to sympathize with you, boss. That's all.

JIMMY

You know, Leo... sometimes you really are a Rat Bastard. I mean, honestly...

*(JIMMY starts to exit. MUCKY and LEO watch him leave.)*

MUCKY

See you later, boss!

*(JIMMY exits the stage.)*

LEO

I am going to kill you.

MUCKY

Boy, if I had a nickel.

LEO

Wait and see.

MUCKY

I always do, Leo. I always do.

LEO

You just can't help trying to make me look foolish in front of Jimmy, can you?

MUCKY

I can't help it. It's just so easy to do.

*(A long silence)*

LEO *(Cont'd)*

Geez. How long you suppose we gotta stay out here?

MUCKY

'Till we hear something I guess.

LEO

That could take months.

MUCKY

Well, what else we got to do?

LEO *(Sighs)*

Nothing.

MUCKY

That's right. We got nothing else to do.

*(Both men let out audible sighs as the lights slowly fade. End of Act One/Scene One.)*

## Act One/Scene Two

Scene Two: Vegas baby.

*(At rise, LEVI, ALEX, and BETH are standing around large piles of dirt. They each have a shovel in their hands. The bright, neon lights of Vegas loom over and across the background of the stage.)*

BETH



You know Alex, when you told me we were going to Vegas... this is not what I had in mind.

ALEX

I told you Levi and I were going to Vegas, you added the we.

BETH

So you're saying you don't want me here?

ALEX

No, that's not what—

BETH

You want me to leave?

ALEX

Babe, no, I—

BETH

You hate me don't you?

ALEX

Babe, I love you more than I ever thought I could possibly love someone.

BETH

You're just saying that.

ALEX

No I'm not.

BETH

This can't be what you both were plannin' on doing in Vegas before I entered the picture though, right?

ALEX

Look at the way Levi's dressed, babe. Of course this is what he wanted.

BETH

This isn't just some trick to make me go back to the hotel so you two can go off on your bachelor's retreat is it?

LEVI (*Almost to himself*)

This is not a trick. I want to do this.

BETH

Why?

*(LEVI pulls the newspaper article out of his pocket and hands it to BETH. She bursts out laughing.)*

LEVI  
What's so funny?

BETH  
Marmaduke.

LEVI *(Sighs)*  
Not that. *(He points.)* This.

BETH  
You came to Vegas to dig up dead mobster skeletons?

LEVI  
Exactly.

BETH  
Why?

ALEX  
To get famous...

LEVI *(Sighs)*  
No, that's not why.

ALEX  
It's not?

LEVI  
Of course not. I think it'll be a significant archeological find.

BETH  
Dead mobsters?

LEVI  
Sure. The mob built Vegas. And I'm sure there was an argument or two, so I'm bettin' there are all kinds of bodies buried in and around this city. The mob is not exactly known for their patience.

ALEX  
Saying something like that makes me feel all warm and fuzzy inside.

BETH

And you want to dig them all up?

LEVI

Well, I want to dig up at least one.

ALEX

Which one?

LEVI

Which one?

ALEX

Yeah.

BETH

Does that matter?

ALEX

It might for the mobsters who'll surely be chasing us pretty soon. If Levi does find some mob guy's skeleton, might win us a stay of execution if the mob today hated the guy we find when he was alive back then too.

*(ALEX and BETH turn to LEVI.)*

LEVI *(Sighs)*

Well, hopefully I get to find... *(At a loss)* Sticky... Fingers.... Bob.

ALEX

Oh, I always hated that guy.

LEVI

Of course, you did.

BETH

Why would you want to dig up the mobsters who built this city in the first place, Levi?

ALEX

Because he wants to be like Indiana Jones.

LEVI

No. I told you both... Because I think it would be a significant archeological find.

ALEX

Significant enough to get in the papers.

LEVI (*Sighs*)

Getting famous just goes with the territory. It's not the goal but it is the inevitable. (*A beat*) That is... if, in fact, we actually do find one.

ALEX

Yeah, and don't get whacked in the process.

LEVI

Alex is obsessed with the mob.

BETH

Can't imagine why.

ALEX

Thank you.

LEVI

You two are one in the same. The mob is not interested in the likes of us.

BETH

They will be if you find a body.

LEVI

I seriously doubt it.

*(JESSIE immediately enters the stage and approaches the three others.)*

JESSIE

Hi there. My name is Jessie Ryan. I'm a reporter with the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

ALEX (*Sighs*)

And here we go.

*(Quick blackout. A few moments of silence and then the lights slowly rise with MUCKY and LEO standing around the various piles of dirt.)*

LEO

I can't believe Jimmy sent us out here.

MUCKY

Gotta be 140 degrees out here.

LEO

No kidding.

MUCKY

At least.

LEO

Yeah, it's hot. But anyways, like I was—

MUCKY

Hot? Florida is hot. This is ungodly.

LEO

But regardless, I think Jimmy is—

MUCKY

This is like desert hot.

LEO

It is a desert.

MUCKY

That's why I said it.

LEO

No, you said it's like desert hot.

MUCKY

Same thing.

LEO

No, it's not. You said it's like and I said it is. It's not the same—oh, dang it! Why do I let you get me into these stupid arguments in the first place?

MUCKY

Because you like them.

LEO

I hate them.

MUCKY

No, you like them a little bit.

LEO

Hate them with a passion.

MUCKY

I'm saying, like subliminally... underneath, you like them a little bit.

LEO

No I don't.

MUCKY

It's underneath.

LEO

No it's not. I hate them above, underneath, around, whatever... I hate every single little bit about them.

MUCKY

It's tiny. Almost microscopic.

LEO

No.

MUCKY

It's gotta be.

LEO

But it's not.

MUCKY

It's gotta be.

LEO

Why?

MUCKY

'Cause you keep doing it!

LEO

No, I—son of a—

MUCKY

You walked into that one.

LEO

I hate you.

MUCKY

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Anyway... what was Jimmy thinking?!

LEO

I know!

MUCKY

I mean... who cares about some dead bodies been gone for forty some odd years...

LEO

I know!

MUCKY

He must somehow think this is keeping up our respect for tradition or something.

LEO

I know!

MUCKY

Besides, they haven't even found any yet. They might never.

LEO

Exactly my point.

MUCKY

But nonetheless, we're supposed to come out here, find them, and then what?

LEO

This is what I was tryin' to tell you when you were goin' on about the heat.

*(A beat)*

MUCKY

Boy, it is hot here though.

LEO

Forget the heat, let's concentrate on the mission at hand.

MUCKY

Fine, but first, just agree that it's hot.

LEO

Okay, fine, it's hot.

MUCKY

Say it with feeling.

LEO

I'm gonna throw you through a wall.

MUCKY

Yeah, say it just like that.

LEO  
It is really hot.

MUCKY  
Thank you.

LEO  
Now then...

MUCKY  
Now then we're screwed.

LEO  
What?

MUCKY  
What have we got to work with? It was an article in a newspaper.

LEO  
And?

MUCKY  
And newspapers ain't TV. And they ain't that whole World Wide Web thing they got goin' on now. Heck, they didn't even run a photo in the paper.

LEO  
Bet that's the first smart thing they did.

MUCKY  
I don't know, I think this idea is pretty ingenious.

LEO  
If you don't mind gettin' rubbed out by the mob that is.

MUCKY  
You think they knew we'd be coming?

LEO  
You'd have to be a real dunce not to.

MUCKY  
How do you mean?



LEO

Mucky, it's the freakin' mob. Since when is the mob gonna start takin' a thing like this lyin' down?

MUCKY

Well, apparently the mob's taking it lyin' down all around us!

LEO

That's not funny.

MUCKY

Fine, but you still think sendin' us out here was stupid, right?

LEO

I'll never say anything Jimmy does is stupid.

MUCKY

What about that time he stapled a ferret to his head?

LEO

I said he was drunk then, not stupid.

MUCKY

What about that time he shaved his whole body 'cause he thought the Feds were wiretappin' his chest hair?

LEO

I might have said delusional, but I never said... stupid.

MUCKY

What about Little Italy?

*(A pause)*

LEO

You've made your point. *(A beat)* But what's your point?

MUCKY

My point is you think sendin' us out here was not the best decision in the world, right?

LEO

Granted, but these bozos still should have seen us coming.

MUCKY

But are we even supposed to kill them?

LEO

I dunno. Jimmy wasn't specific on that one. He just said find them.

MUCKY

Find them and then what?

LEO

Call Jimmy I suppose.

MUCKY

I don't care what you say or don't say... this is stupid.

LEO

I agree.

MUCKY

But you said—

LEO

I didn't call it stupid.

MUCKY

But you agreed with me when I called it—

LEO

That's different.

MUCKY

No it's not!

LEO

To me it is.

MUCKY

But that doesn't make any—

LEO

Trust me. To me it makes sense.

MUCKY

Then you're an idiot.

LEO

Hey!

MUCKY

I'm serious.

LEO

Look, just because I agree with you doesn't mean—

MUCKY

YES IT DOES!

LEO

No, it means I—

MUCKY

It means the same thing.

LEO

But I didn't *say* it.

MUCKY

So that means everything is okay?

LEO

Yes.

MUCKY

Hence, you're an idiot.

LEO

But I didn't say Jimmy was stupid.

MUCKY

Neither did I.

LEO

You might as well have.

MUCKY

I think I'm the only one of us who's making any sense.

LEO

I feel the same way.

MUCKY

What?

LEO

I feel—

MUCKY

Like I'm the only one making any sense?

LEO

No, that I'm the only one making any sense.

*(A beat)*

MUCKY

This is stupid.

LEO

You said that already.

MUCKY

And you agreed with me.

LEO

So now that we got that settled, what are we gonna do?

MUCKY

Well... we got their names, right?

LEO

Right.

MUCKY

So why don't we scour the hotels and try to find them.

LEO

Hotels in Vegas? That's like searching pot dens in Amsterdam.

MUCKY

You got a better idea, Rat Bastard?

LEO

Okay, Mucky, I've told you before and this time I mean it, stop calling me that.

MUCKY

But that's your name as much as Mucky's mine.

LEO

That's my nickname when I'm mired up in the mob. When it's just you and me you can call me Leo.

MUCKY

And you can call me Joe.

LEO

No one's called you Joe since the fifth grade.

MUCKY

If you can keep callin' me Mucky, why can't I keep callin' you Rat Bastard?

LEO

Because Mucky just rolls off the tongue while Rat Bastard doesn't.

MUCKY

It rolls off mine.

LEO

No it doesn't, now please.

MUCKY

So unfair.

LEO

So's being out here in the first place.

MUCKY

Agreed.

*(A long silence)*

MUCKY *(Cont'd)*

Come on, we got lots of hotels to scour.

LEO

Good point.

*(MUCKY and LEO start to exit. Just at the last minute, LEO stops MUCKY with his hand.)*

LEO

Wait a minute.

MUCKY

You got gas?

LEO

What?!

MUCKY

Nothing. It was just a guess as to why you were stopping?

LEO

Well, that's a terrible first guess.

MUCKY

I almost went with the runs.

LEO

Another terrible guess. *(A beat)* No, genius, I got an idea.

MUCKY

That was my third guess.

LEO

Instead of hotels, we should go to the paper and grill that reporter.

MUCKY

You just think of that?

LEO

Yeah. Why?

MUCKY

Nothing... it's just that it's a great idea.

LEO

And it's not like me to have them, right?

MUCKY

I didn't say that.

LEO

But you thought it.

MUCKY

No, I was just gonna say that now I no longer think of you as being as stupid as Jimmy.

LEO

You're buryin' yourself in your own grave, you know that, right?

MUCKY

You think he can hear me all the way out here?

LEO

I think you're takin' the chance that he can't. I'll take the chance that he can.

MUCKY

Spoken like a true coward.

LEO

Spoken like a man without a death wish.

MUCKY

And yet you DID agree with me.

LEO

That's different.

MUCKY

Keep tellin' yourself that.

LEO

I will. It's the thing that'll keep me alive.

MUCKY

I beg to differ. I think it'll be the reason you're killed too.

LEO

I thought you thought he couldn't hear us all the way out here?

MUCKY

But if he can and we're killed, then I would have been wrong. And right at the same time.

LEO

You're the moron.

MUCKY

I said you were an idiot not a moron.

LEO

You're both.

MUCKY

And you're a—

LEO

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Whatever, this is stupid, let's just go to the newspaper.

*(A long pause)*

LEO *(Cont'd)*

What?

MUCKY

You just said this was stupid.

LEO

No I didn't.

MUCKY

Yes you did.

LEO

No I didn't.

MUCKY

I swear you did.

LEO

You're just hearing things. Now let's get moving.

MUCKY

But—

LEO

No time for arguments. We actually have something to do for a change.

MUCKY

But—

LEO

Alright, fine. You stay here and argue with yourself, I'll be at the paper.

*(A beat. LEO starts to exit.)*

MUCKY

I'm not hearing things.



LEO  
What?

MUCKY  
Nothing.

*(MUCKY starts to follow LEO offstage as the lights slowly fade. After a few moments, the lights rise again and LEVI, ALEX and BETH are standing amongst the dirt piles once again. The three shovels lie in a pile by one of the mounds of dirt.)*

ALEX  
What makes you think here is gonna be any different?

LEVI  
Because now we're near the old Vegas. I honestly don't know what I was thinkin' startin' near The Strip. The Strip is New Vegas. Freemont Street is old Vegas. Old Vegas is where all the bodies are buried.

ALEX  
Smart thinkin'.

LEVI  
Thanks.

ALEX  
I was being sarcastic.

LEVI  
I don't care.

ALEX  
You have no idea what you're doing and you know it.

LEVI  
Neither does Indiana Jones.

ALEX  
What are you talking about?! He always knows what he's doing!

LEVI  
He never does.

ALEX  
Always. It's just that things get in his way and he deals with them.

LEVI

Well, things have gotten in my way and I'm dealin' with them too.

BETH

While this conversation is fascinating and everything, shouldn't we be—

LEVI

You're right, you're right. Back to work.

*(LEVI picks his shovel back up and is about to dig into the stage when JESSIE runs onto the stage.)*

JESSIE

Oh, thank God I found you again.

LEVI

Oh, hi, Miss Ryan. You here for another interview?

JESSIE

No, I'm here to warn you.

LEVI

Warn me of what?

ALEX

Oh, God, like you don't know. Come on Beth, let's get out of here, get our stuff from the hotel and maybe we can get at least have a head start.

JESSIE

You can't go back to the hotel. That's where I told them you were staying.

ALEX

Thanks a lot!

JESSIE

I'm sorry but I had to tell them something, I thought they were going to kill me!

ALEX

So tell them we're stayin' at the MGM.

JESSIE

But you're not.

ALEX

EXACTLY!

JESSIE

And then they come back to the paper and—

ALEX

You're not at the paper any longer.

JESSIE

Oh, that's good.

ALEX

I know. I mean, honestly, it's like you've never run from the mob before.

JESSIE

You have?

ALEX

No, but that doesn't mean I'm not prepared for this sort of thing.

LEVI

And yet you're still here.

ALEX

Good point. Come on, Beth.

BETH

You wanna go now?

ALEX

You don't?

BETH

I dunno. For the first time this whole trip, I'm actually a little excited.

ALEX

You don't want to be excited in this way.

BETH

You gonna show me excitement another way?

ALEX

Now is not the time.

BETH

You say that every night.

ALEX

Please, babe, not now.

BETH

You say that too.

ALEX

Alright fine, you wanna stay here and get whacked, by all means, but I'm leaving.

LEVI

I think it's a good idea.

ALEX

Oh, look who decided to chime in, Mr. "We-don't-have-to-worry-about-the-mob."

LEVI

Okay, I'm sorry about that. They've turned out to be a lot more persistent than I thought they would, so it's a good idea that you and Beth leave before they get here.

ALEX

What about you?

LEVI

I'm staying.

ALEX

Are you high?

LEVI

No.

ALEX

Are you drunk?

LEVI

No.

ALEX

Do you have a death wish?

LEVI

I'm perfectly fine, Alex.

ALEX

No you're not. We've actually got the mob after us now, Levi. Things are not fine!

LEVI

I'll be fine here. I'll find my own way back to—

ALEX

Stop, stop, stop! You're not staying here, you're comin' with us now before you get shot.

LEVI

I'm not gonna get shot.

ALEX

Yes you are. And HOW COME YOU'RE SO CALM ABOUT THIS?!

LEVI

Because I'll be fine. I know it and you're just gonna have to trust me.

ALEX

I TRUSTED YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE! THAT'S THE WHOLE PROBLEM! NOW COME ON AND—

BETH

Alex. Please.

ALEX

WHAT?!

BETH

Can't you see that nothing you say is gonna make him change his mind?

ALEX

BUT—

BETH

He's set in his ways. He's more stubborn than you sometimes. Now you can stay here and argue with him until we all get shot or you and I can hit the road now, before they get any closer.

ALEX

But... but... but...

BETH

There's no point.

ALEX

I just don't understand.

*(A long pause)*

JESSIE  
He wants to find a body.

*(Another long pause)*

ALEX  
Is that it?

LEVI  
No, of course not.

ALEX  
Really?

LEVI  
Nah, that's it.

ALEX  
Levi? The big adventure is over. You've actually got the mob after you now. Don't you think that's a bigger fish to fry than still keepin' on this stupid, immature quest of yours?

*(A long pause)*

LEVI  
No.

ALEX  
Well, that's why you're gonna get yourself killed.

LEVI  
I don't think so.

ALEX  
Levi, you're my best friend and I love you like a brother, but on this one... you are dead wrong. Emphasis on the dead.

LEVI  
I don't think so.

ALEX  
What makes you so sure?

LEVI  
I'm a good salesman. I can reason with them.

ALEX

They're the mob! You can't reason with the mob!

LEVI

Why not?

ALEX

'Cause they're the mob!

LEVI

Everything will be fine.

ALEX

Nothing will be fine. You're out of your mind.

LEVI

No, I'm just a man on a mission and you're never gonna convince me to change my mind so you might as well just leave on your own... now!

ALEX

But—

BETH

He's stubborn, Alex, just admit it and move on.

ALEX

But—

BETH

Fine. Suit yourself. You can stay here and argue till you're blue in the face but I'm leavin'. Take care of yourself, Levi.

LEVI

I'll try.

*(BETH turns and exits quickly. ALEX watches her go and then turns back to LEVI.)*

ALEX

Nothing I say really matters to you does it?

LEVI

Of course it does.

ALEX

Oh, good.

LEVI

But nothing you say is gonna make me change my mind.

ALEX

But—

LEVI

Sorry, Alex, but you can't win this one.

ALEX

And I hate to break it to you, but neither can you.

LEVI

We'll see.

ALEX

Uh-huh. Fine.

*(ALEX turns to leave. MUCKY and LEO enter the stage at that exact moment.)*

ALEX

Oh, no.

LEVI

See what you get because you stayed to argue with me for too long?

ALEX

Now is not the time for I told you so.

LEVI

Now is the perfect time for I told you so.

JESSIE *(Whispering)*

That's them.

ALEX

Stop the presses.

LEVI

Thanks Ms. Ryan.

JESSIE

Please, it's Jessie.



LEVI

Oh, okay. Then please call me Levi, Jessie.

JESSIE

I already do.

LEVI

Oh, okay. Thanks.

ALEX

I'm gonna be sick.

MUCKY

So am I.

LEO

Me too.

LEVI

Oh come on, was I that cheesy?

ALEX

Yes.

JESSIE

I thought you were sweet.

LEVI

Thanks. *(To the others)* SEE?!

MUCKY

She's just being nice.

LEO

Oh, yeah, totally.

LEVI

Really?

LEO

Oh, without a doubt.

MUCKY

You'd have to be blind not to see that.

LEVI  
Really. *(To JESSIE:)* Is this true?

JESSIE  
Of course not.

*(A beat)*

LEVI  
Thanks.

JESSIE  
No problem.

*(A beat)*

MUCKY  
Oh, she's good.

LEO  
She's real good.

ALEX  
She should be an actress she's so good.

LEO  
I'm touched.

MUCKY  
I'm weepy.

JESSIE  
I'm serious.

MUCKY  
He must mean a lot to you then.

JESSIE  
No, he's just a nice guy, that's all.

MUCKY  
That's sweet.

ALEX  
Adorable.

LEO (*Sighs*)

Alright, I've seen enough. GET 'EM!

JESSIE

AGGGGGGGGGGGHHHHHHHHHHH!

*(LEO grabs ALEX as MUCKY charges at LEVI. JESSIE turns to run. Quick blackout. End of Act One/Scene Two. End of Act One.)*