



NEARLY DEPARTED

SIDE QUEST

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Written by

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The Roleplayers

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Based on CHALDEA by

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INT. CHALDEA STUDIOS - INTERVIEW SUITE

ARCHIBALD (in full warlock drag), casually reclines in a comfy chair in front of a CHALDEA STUDIOS LOGO, holding Beatrice.

ARCHIBALD

1 Hello and welcome back to another 1
Gravers Dig adventure. When last
you saw the Nearly Departed we had
just regained our lives. But we
had unfinished business. Recall
with me, just for a moment, back to
when we'd obtained "The Shovel" and
had surprisingly learned Beatrice's
beau had also been in the
sarcophagus, but was now apparently
missing.

CASS pushes rudely into the frame, points his ladle pointedly
at the camera.

CASS

2 Beau in Aimian means sweet heart or 2
lover.

ARCHIBALD

3 Can I do this, please? 3

SAOIRSE and **BAHATI** join the boys.

SAOIRSE

4 His name is Fleche, Fleche 4
Beaumont.

BEATRICE (V.O.)

5 *Non. I prefer his pet name, Hugh.* 5

Bahati strikes a pose with a longbow drawn, arrow notched.

BAHATI

6 We believe he's a bow. 6

Saoirse snatches Beatrice from Archibald.

SAOIRSE

7 They were cursed into weapons. 7

ARCHIBALD

8 (exasperated)
Can we just show the clip, please. 8

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER - FLASHBACK

Tenacious and the Nearly Departed jibber-jabber.

	TENACIOUS	
9	Did you find it? The shovel?	9
	CASS	
10	Was there any doubt?	10
	BEATRICE (V.O.)	
11	<i>Doubt that the sun doth move; Doubt truth to be a liar; But never doubt I love.</i>	11
	TENACIOUS	
12	Haven't found the off switch yet?	12
	ARCHIBALD	
13	She gets paid by the word.	13
	BEATRICE (V.O.)	
14	<i>I am inconsolable.</i>	14
	ARCHIBALD	
15	Her lost beau is a side quest for another time. The primary quest however, highly successful.	15

INT. CHALDEA STUDIOS - INTERVIEW SUITE (BACK TO PRESENT)

	CASS	
16	Is that supposed to be a clever way of saying, we're embarking on a Side Quest.	16

Archibald raises an eye brow.

AND WE CUT TO:

TITLE: THE NEARLY DEPARTED

EXT. PYRAMID BAR - DAY

Our heroes, THE NEARLY DEPARTED, aimlessly loiter outside the Pyramid Bar taking stock of the town.

Bahati plops down next to Saoirse on a bench.

	BAHATI	
17	Anyone else's feet hurt?	17

18 SAOIRSE 18
 Yeah, from kicking so much ass. I
 could use a bath and a pedicure.

19 BAHATI 19
 (dreamy)
 With a mimosa?

20 CASS 20
 And a massage. Back home we had
 this old lady, we called her,
 "Magic Fingers". She was missing
 most her teeth, but boy could she
 work those fingers.

21 ARCHIBALD 21
 I'm only a drink away from a good
 mood.

He turns and ENTERS...

EXT/INT. PYRAMID BAR - MIDDAY

The STONE PORTAL leading into the Temple of Set, now famous
 Gravers Dig drinking establishment remains perpetually, OPEN.

The four Nearly Departed approach the bar.

The busy BARTENDER, JERROLD, (human, male), Perrin expatriate
 slings whiskey, wine, and weed to a diverse clientele.

22 JERROLD 22
 Cute cat. Bold for a priest of
 Bast to come into this place.

23 CASS 23
 No, no. I'm a wizard. Jonee
 Cache. Gibbons is my familiar.

Next to Cass, Bahati sports a set of CAT EARS and a TAIL.

24 GIBBONS (BAHATI) 24
 Meow!

CUT TO:

INT. CHALDEA STUDIOS - INTERVIEW SUITE

Bahati still in cat ears and tail licks her paw seductively
 and then adjusts her radiant beautiful kept hair.

25 BAHATI 25
 I have a special knack for
 shapeshifting. Its true, I was a
 bit of a problem child growing up.
 Drove my parents to distraction.
 (mimics her father)
 26 *"What did I say about coming to* 26
 dinner as a rat."

Bahati points over her shoulder and winks.

27 BAHATI (CONT'D) 27
 When you see this symbol, it means
 I'm shapeshifted.

CUT BACK TO:

PYRAMID BAR

Jerrold sizes up the worse-for-wear, warlock, fighter, wizard
 and his familiar.

28 JERROLD 28
 Back from a hunt?

29 ARCHIBALD 29
 You don't know the half of it.
 (points and then points)
 30 I'll take that keg, over at that 30
 table.

Archibald heads to THAT table.

Jarrold nods to Cass.

31 JERROLD 31
 And you?

32 CASS 32
 I need a wash basin, for my face,
 hands, and maybe foot washing and,
 how about a massage.

33 SAOIRSE 33
 Do you have baths? Oh, and a
 pedicurists please for my feet.

Saoirse MOANS, her eyes rolling back in her skull,
 envisioning a warm luxurious bath.

34 JERROLD 34
 What kind of bar do you think we
 run here?

(MORE)

JERROLD (CONT'D)

You want touchy-feely foot fetish
shit, you need to go to the Vim &
Vigor. Otherwise you can find a
bathhouse on The Green.

BEATRICE (V.O.)

35 A bottle of Latrice 09, please. 35

JERROLD

36 Your familiar has fine taste. 36

CASS

37 Sorry, that's Beatrice, she's-- 37

The bartender stops him with a wave of his hand.

JERROLD

38 Just... take your circus antics 38
 over to your friend, I'll deliver
 your drinks shortly.

MOMENTS LATER

Everyone sits around a table, quiet, decompressing. Slowly
making love to their beverage.

Gibbons the Cat purrs as she laps from a milk bowl.

ARCHIBALD

(to Bahati)

39 You're taking this method acting a 39
 little far.

SAOIRSE

40 This place seems familiar. Before 40
 we died, I think we hung out here.

CASS

41 When we were hunters. 41

ARCHIBALD

42 We were here. Recently. Remember 42
 the mummy in the cellar?

CASS

43 Oh, yeah. 43

SAOIRSE

44 I had hoped when we came back to 44
 life, we'd regain our memories.

Cass slaps himself trying to dislodge memories.

45 CASS I have a severe case of gapolis. 45

Archibald raises his hand, snapping his fingers at the barkeep.

46 ARCHIBALD Good fellow. You have a copy of the Kordavan Informant? 46

47 JERROLD Sorry. Brighthwyna outlawed the K.I. No imperial propaganda allowed. 47

48 ARCHIBALD Damn. I was hoping we could catch up on news and gossip. 48

49 CASS I think we need to investigate Beau-bow, figure out [where he is]. 49

50 ARCHIBALD Bobo? Who? 50

51 BEATRICE (V.O.) *Yes please, find Hugh, my love.* 51

52 ARCHIBALD I thought you said his name was Fleche. 52

53 BEATRICE (V.O.) *Fleche Enzo Valois Hugh Beaumont. But I prefer Hugh.* 53

54 CASS Beatrice, when was the last time you seen or heard from your beau? 54

55 BEATRICE (V.O.) *He was in the sarcophagus.* 55
(whimpers sadly)

56 *But he, he is no longer there.* 56

57 CASS Other gravers might've ventured into the tomb and taken him. 57

58 ARCHIBALD But what about the mummy? Wouldn't they have taken the shovel too? Something doesn't jive. 58

59 SAOIRSE
 The tomb was undisturbed. 59

Gibbons preens her fur, contently purring when suddenly we hear a DISEMBODIED VOICE whisper--

60 DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
 Psst! Hey, kitty, kitty, kitty. 60
 Come here.

Gibbons yowls and hisses wide-eyed, pawing at the air.

61 DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
 Whoa! Retract the claws, darling. 61

Gibbons shifts back into her human form.

62 BAHATI
 Something invisible is spying on 62
 us.

The Nearly Departed jerk into standing position, weapons raised.

63 JERROLD
 Stow those weapons. 63

64 CASS
 It's a fucking ladle, dude. 64

Other patrons glance over but quickly lose interest.

65 BAHATI
 That's right, you've seen weirder 65
 shit.

66 DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
 Play it cool, man. Don't draw 66
 attention to the disembodied voice
 in the corner.

67 ARCHIBALD
 Reveal yourself. 67

68 DISEMBODIED VOICE (V.O.)
 Is it true, you were dead and came 68
 back to life? That's so righteous.

69 SAOIRSE
 Listen, pal. We don't take kindly 69
 to invisible voyeurs listening into
 our business.

82 SPITZ 82
Whoa! Whoa! What's with the
hurtful words. I'm just looking to
do business. Law and order is my
guarantee. Spitz on it?

83 SAOIRSE 83
We still don't know what you want.

84 SPITZ 84
I can help your lovelorn magical
sword find information on her
boyfriend's whereabouts, hmmm?

85 BAHATI 85
Magical sword?

86 SPITZ 86
Please. Since the moment you
passed through the city gates, I've
heard and documented every word you
said.

87 CASS 87
Why you little bastard, I otta, I
otta...
 (looking for backup)

88 CASS 88
Should we kill him? Let's kill
him.

89 SPITZ 89
Better yet, what if I help you find
your sword's beau. Hugh. And in
return, you pay me in information.

90 BEATRICE (V.O.) 90
I appreciate you, Mr. Spitzfire.

We hear a BELL TOLLING repeatedly in the distance.

CUT TO THE BELL:

EXT. GRAVERS DIG - ANNOUNCEMENT TOWER - DAY

A barbaric warrior, KARNA, (human, female), bristling with
weapons and a longbow slung over her shoulder, hammer strikes
a large bell--

BA-WONG!

A HUNT OFFICIAL in silver and black robes faces a large
silent crowd, waiting for the call--

HUNT OFFICIAL

91 The Usurpers are the champions with 91
 22,430 points.

The crowd explodes in raucous cheers as the official hands Karna a bag of casino chips.

RETURN TO:

INT. PYRAMID BAR - AFTERNOON

Our heroes have retreated deeper into the Pyramid great room lounging now by an open firepit.

Spitz relaxes nestled half-hidden in amongst the hot coals.

CASS

(off Spitz)

92 We're playing with fire. 92

ARCHIBALD

93 Let me handle this, I'm used to 93
 dealing with these underworld
 sorts.

(to Spitz)

94 What kind of information are you 94
 looking for, imp?

SPITZ

95 The dead kind. Like, i.e., coming 95
 back from the grave.

BAHATI

96 What possibly could we know about 96
 that?

SPITZ

97 More than your leading on, ain't 97
 that right, Saoirse?

SAOIRSE

98 What? I just mentioned our feet 98
 hurt and we were dead tired.

SPITZ

99 Resurrection requires highfalutin 99
 magic or age of gods mysticism. I
 want to know more.

ARCHIBALD

100 Fine. Let's say we do and we 100
 share. What are you providing in
 return?

101 CASS 101
C'mon, grease our wheels. Slap a
down payment on us. Demonstrate
your willingness to quid pro quo.

102 SPITZ 102
You want a taste of what I have to
offer?

They nod.

Spitz crawls out of the coals, beckons them closer with a
twitchy elongated finger. They huddle clandestine like--

103 SPITZ (CONT'D) 103
There have been a lot of deaths
around Gravers Dig lately.

104 CASS 104
Yeah? What kind of deaths?

105 SPITZ 105
Vampire attacks. Drained victims.
Corpses littered around town.

The Nearly Departed recoil in horror.

106 SAOIRSE 106
W-w-h-aaat!! That's crazy.

107 BAHATI 107
That's a shock to us. Right?

108 ARCHIBALD 108
I wonder how they got here?

109 CASS 109
What's a vampire?

Saoirse wiggles closer, the cognitive gears churning.

110 SAOIRSE 110
Are we feeling like it's a noble
vampire, maybe has a fast moving
butler?

111 SPITZ 111
That's oddly specific.

112 ARCHIBALD 112
What she means is, ancient vampires
usually have crypt guardians with
special powers.

113 SPITZ 113
 What do you know? Sounds like you
 know something about these vampire
 attacks.

114 SAOIRSE 114
 Maybe we'll share information with
 you, once you learn more about
 Beatrice's beau, huh?

115 BEATRICE (V.O.) 115
Find my, beau.

116 SPITZ 116
 Okay, okay. I'll go.

Spitz disappears.

117 CASS 117
 Is he gone, for sure?

They all nervously scan the busy bar.

118 ARCHIBALD 118
 Next time we chat about our past, I
 suggest we find a temple away from
 evil scrying eyes and ears.

119 JERROLD 119
 This pyramid is the only temple in
 town.

Jerrod delivers another round of drinks.

120 SAOIRSE 120
 (off the Bartender's exit)
 We don't feel obligated, to like,
 do anything about this vampire
 thing right?

121 CASS 121
 What we need is plausible
 deniability.

122 BAHATI 122
 We could explain, we were undead.
 Controlled by a witch. I think we
 have a perfectly good explanation
 why we--

123 ARCHIBALD 123
 --did nothing.

124 BAHATI 124
 We let the vampire out, remember?
 With his butler buddy.

125 CASS 125
 Do you remember when invisible
 spies were lurking about?

126 BAHATI 126
 He left.

127 SPITZ (V.O.) 127
 No, I'm still here. Vampire
 let'er'outers.

128 SAOIRSE 128
 We knew you were listening and fed
 you false information.

129 SPITZ 129
 Not buying it. There is a vampire
 loose and you let it out. And it's
 butler.

130 ARCHIBALD 130
 She's a neurotic cat.

131 SAOIRSE 131
 And a familiar. She's not even a
 real person.

132 BAHATI 132
 Meow!

Bahati stretches arms and legs cat-like and then shakes her
 head and then darts off after an invisible mouse.

133 CASS 133
 The cat's out of the bag.

Archibald stands abruptly.

134 ARCHIBALD 134
 Will you please stop hanging about
 like an irritant gnat and find us
 the information on Fleche. Got it?

Archibald storms out of the bar.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Our four Nearly Departed HUDDLE UP just outside of earshot of
 the bar entrance.

135 ARCHIBALD (CONT'D) 135
 That dude is like stepping in dog
 poo, the stench just won't go away.

136 CASS 136
 Where too now? I'd like to see
 what this Vim & Vigor is all about.

137 SAOIRSE 137
 Can we start with a bath first,
 huh? Maybe a fresh set of clothes?

138 BAHATI 138
 Let's find this green place?

139 CASS 139
 I hope Spitzzy can find us.

140 ARCHIBALD 140
 I kinda hope he doesn't

EXT. GRAVES DIG - THE GREEN - EARLY EVENING

Our heroes approach "The Green", an aptly named grass field along the waterfront. Dozens of campsites with tents and makeshift shelters, cook fires, and pack animals galore riddle the place.

141 ARCHIBALD 141
 Is this what it's come to?

142 CASS 142
 At least it's free.

143 BAHATI 143
 Yeah. I'll wager its a cattle yard
 for vampires.

144 SAOIRSE 144
 Let's just find the bathhouses.

Suddenly we hear a voice ring out--

145 GROUPIE (V.O.) 145
Usurpers!

Campers look up as a seething throng of revelers parade onto The Green.

People gather to watch and bellyache, "The Usurpers won the hunt, again?", "I hate those guys", "evil Setite bastards", "always parade around showing off".

A colorful metal clad MA'AT AUTOMATON (with a head of Set) plows through the crowd, clearing a path.

The leader of the Usurpers, KARNA, leads her hunting companions: a WIZARD, ROGUE, and CLERIC. Followed by adoring sycophants.

146 GROUPIE (V.O.)
 22,430 points and still champions. 146

ON SAOIRSE, Beatrice leaps to life wiggling excitedly. She squeals with delight.

147 BEATRICE (V.O.)
 It's... it's... it's Hugh. 147

148 SAOIRSE
 Where? 148

Sensing something amiss, the others gather close.

149 SAOIRSE (CONT'D)
 She hears, Hugh's voice. 149

150 BEATRICE (V.O.)
 He's RIGHT THERE. 150

151 NEARLY DEPARTED
 WHERE! 151

They scan the crowd, eyes darting, they land on--

KARNA, her arm raised with a BOW clenched in her hand.

152 GROUPIE (V.O.)
 The Usurpers have an announcement. 152

The crowd energy remains high.

153 KARNA
 Hitman is dead! 153

THE CROWD IS ROCKED SILENT BY THE NEWS.

154 KARNA (CONT'D)
 A yellow-bellied coward who hid behind his bow. **BUT NOW I HAVE IT!** 154

The entourage sycophants ROAR their approval!

155 BEATRICE (V.O.)
 There he is. Hugh! Hugh! 155

CLOSE ON SAOIRSE as she confronts Karna--

156 SAOIRSE 156
That's not your bow.

Karna shrugs past Saoirse.

157 KARNA 157
Yes it is. It's mine by conquest.

158 BEATRICE (V.O.) 158
Hugh! It's me, Beatrice.

159 HUGH (V.O.) 159
Beatrice?

160 SAOIRSE 160
He's not just a bow, he's a person.

Karna stops, she too suddenly realizing something important.

161 HUGH (V.O.) 161
They have, Beatrice.

Ah-oh! Saoirse attempts to nonchalantly hide Beatrice.

162 BEATRICE (V.O.) 162
We've come for you, Hugh.

163 KARNA 163
Give me the Beatrice sword.

164 SAOIRSE 164
What?

165 (defiant) 165
No. Give me the bow?

Archibald and Cass gently pull Saoirse as the rest of the Usurpers and their entourage press uncomfortably close.

166 ARCHIBALD 166
Saoirse, I think we should go.

The Ma'at automaton heavy frame stomps close.

167 KARNA 167
Yeah, Saoirse. You should go.

EXT. PYRAMID BAR - EVENING APPROACHES

The Ma'at automaton stands guard, its hulking metal frame filling the portal, preventing anyone from entering.

We hear the Usurpers and their entourage celebrating inside.

ACROSS THE THOROUGHFARE, on the edge of a dark alley--
The Nearly Departed watch and consider their options.

168 BEATRICE (V.O.) 168
*What are we waiting for? Go get
him.*

169 SAOIRSE 169
If only it was that easy.

170 BAHATI 170
We need to know more about these,
Usurpers before we go waltzing into
something we'll regret.

171 ARCHIBALD 171
Beatrice, you know anything about
this, Hitman?

172 BEATRICE (V.O.) 172
Non.

173 CASS 173
Let's go to the Vim & Vigor, I do
some of my best thinking surrounded
by houri.

174 SPITZ (V.O.) 174
Psst! I'm back.
(he appears and motions)
175 This way. 175

They retreat deeper into the alley shadows.

176 ARCHIBALD 176
You better not be wasting our time.

177 SPITZ 177
(laughs)
I have the goods and plenty.

178 CASS 178
Spill it Spitz

179 SPITZ 179
I found your bow.

They all sigh and mutter--

180 SPITZ (CONT'D) 180
Don't everyone thank me at once.

	SAOIRSE	
181	We're way ahead of you.	181
	ARCHIBALD	
182	The damn Usurpers across the street have it.	182
	BEATRICE (V.O.)	
183	<i>That, that, that filthy woman is touching my beau.</i>	183
	Cass gently pushes Beatrice aside.	
	CASS	
	(to Spitz)	
184	You got anything else, relevant?	184
	SPITZ	
185	I know where the vampire nest is, where they're originating from.	185
	SAOIRSE	
186	Where?	186
	SPITZ	
187	For that, you need to tell me the name of the vampire you released and his butler. Oh, and the witch.	187
	SAOIRSE	
188	You mean the vampire the witch let out?	188
	SPITZ	
189	We already established, you let him out.	189
	ARCHIBALD	
190	Okay, whatever. Listen. New plan: We'll tell you everything about what we know about the vampires and the witch. But first, you gotta get us the bow.	190
	SPITZ	
191	GET YOU THE BOW?	191
	CASS	
192	Plus, we'll give you information on our resurrection method.	192
	BAHATI	
193	Use your invisibility trick and steal it.	193

Bahati gently caresses his ear.

194 BAHATI (CONT'D) 194
Are you not one of the elite fiends
of hell?

195 SPITZ 195
Yes. YES, of course. Obviously.

196 CASS 196
Imagine what you can do with the
knowledge we give you.

197 SPITZ 197
 (delusions of grandeur)
Master. Lord. King of Hell.

The imp licks his lips excited, eyes wide, slavering--

198 SPITZ (CONT'D) 198
I'll do it.
 (spits a fire loogie)
199 But first... first... warlock. 199
You must swear on your patron's
soul, all you say is true.

Archibald looks uneasy at the others for confirmation.

200 BEATRICE (V.O.) 200
Save my beau, s'il vous plaît.

201 SAOIRSE 201
Do it.

Archibald grips his blood medallion.

202 ARCHIBALD 202
Okay. I swear, on my patron.
Ekaterina Elder Sign, we'll tell
you the name of the witch, the
vampire, the Butler and how we were
resurrected. Good?

Spitz's mouth splits into a wicked diabolic grin.

203 SPITZ 203
I'm gonna hold you to it. Stay
right there.

POOF! He's gone.

204 CASS 204
You realize we made a deal with a
devil.

WIDE ON GRAVERS DIG - DUSK TO NIGHTFALL

Dark clouds blanket the anumian sky. A wolf howls and others answer as dim city lights sprinkle on, as night owls head out on the town.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

The Nearly Departed wait anxiously in the dark, half dozing, angled so they can keep an eye on the Pyramid Bar and the automaton who remains rigid as stone.

BAHATI
 205 Maybe I should turn into a mouse 205
 and go see what's going on in
 there?

THEN, an angry outraged PIERCING SCREAM startles them awake as the Ma'at Automaton moves, revealing--

Furious KARNA and her Usurper companions, exit the bar.

KARNA
 206 **Her name is Saoirse!** 206

Gravers with weapons drawn, flood out of the bar and fan out.

KARNA (CONT'D)
 207 Ten-thousand torts to whoever 207
 returns the bow!

BACK TO THE ALLEY

They retreat against the advancing tide of people searching--presumable for them--pulling back into deeper shadows.

ARCHIBALD
 208 What did that little eff'er do? 208

BAHATI
 209 Maybe we should have told him to be 209
 discreet.

Spitz suddenly appears and hawks a hot loogie.

SPITZ
 210 Hell to the king. 210

He holds up the bow triumphantly.

BEATRICE (V.O.)
 211 *Hugh! My love.* 211

212 HUGH (V.O.)
Beatrice! 212

213 SAOIRSE
 Give him. 213

214 SPITZ
 No. Ah, ah, ah. First the
 information. 214

The sound of people searching intensifies.

215 ARCHIBALD
 Orddu Fab. Vrykolakas. Radarno.
 White lotus. 215

Archibald snatches the bow.

216 SPITZ
 Wait. What? I need more
 information than that? 216

217 ARCHIBALD
 Listen you little shit. I said I'd
 tell you the name of the witch, the
 vampire, the Butler and how we were
 resurrected. That was the deal. 217

Spitz growls.

218 SPITZ
 I stole it once, I can steal it
 back. 218

Archibald with moldering determination gets down to the imps
 level.

219 ARCHIBALD
 You can, but now that I've held it
 I'll just summon it back. 219

220 SPITZ
 You can do that? 220

221 ARCHIBALD
 Yeah, now Ffec off. 221

Cass pulls on Archibald.

222 CASS
 Time to go. 222

MINUTES LATER

The Nearly Departed run in near darkness.

223 SAOIRSE 223
 Where are we going?

224 CASS 224
 To the Vim and Vigor.

THEY EXIT AN ALLEY

They can see lights and hear a barker, exhorting the public.

225 BROTHEL TOUT (V.O.) 225
 Freaks! Live! Dead! Bargains
 galore.

They run towards the light and the--

EXT. THE VIM & VIGOR - CONTINUOUS

For all it's *supposed* Vim & Vigor, the brothel is a rather unremarkable two-story warehouse.

On a balcony, alluring "escorts", male and female dance, advertising tantalizing wares.

In front, a BROTHEL TOUT interacts playfully with the passersby.

226 BROTHEL TOUT 226
 Come in a little closer and I will
 tell you a secret.

Our heroes arrive at the main entrance, sucking wind, hands on hips, teetering on the edge of collapse...

227 CASS 227
 We'll take four tickets. Whatever
 rooms you got. What's the cover
 charge?

228 BEATRICE (V.O.) 228
 Radarno!

They all look--

229 NEARLY DEPARTED 229
 Radarno?

The tout answers with a grin that allows them to see his fangs.

FADE TO BLACK: