

ROCKY (Adrian and Rocky first date)

ROCKY

Ya see, I was 15 when I started fightin' --
Yeah, like I was saying on the way over here, fighting use to be tops
with me, but not no more.
All I wanted to prove was I weren't
no bum -- That I had the stuff, y'know to
make a good pro.

ADRIAN

And you never got the chance?

ROCKY

Hey, I ain't cryin'... I still fight a little.
Kinda like a hobby. I'll tell ya wha,t
the trouble is, ya see, is that I'm southpaw.

ADRIAN

What's a Southpaw?

ROCKY

A Southpaw means you're lefthanded.
A Southpaw throws you're timing off.
Other guys it throws their timing off,
Makes them look awkward --Nobody wants to look awkward. (pause)
You know where the word "southpaw" came from? I'll tell ya. A long time
ago, there was this guy, maybe a couple hundred years ago,
he was fighting in the....I think it was around Philadelphia.
And his arm...he was left handed. His arm was facing towards New Jersey.
You see? And that's south. So naturally they called him "south paw"
You see? Southpaw, South Jersey, South Camden. **Southpaw**. You know what I mean? I don't
know, things probably worked out for the best, don't ya think?

ADRIAN

But you never had a chance though because you're left handed, huh?

ROCKY

That's absolutely true, ya know. Here look here.
I carry pictures of all my fights. (*opens his wallet*)
That's me fightin' Baby Crenshaw --
Baby was about the size of an airplane,
an' I broke both my hands on his face --

I lost that fight, but that's a nice picture,
don't ya think? See how that works there?
Real nice, I think

ADRIAN

Yes. Nice.

ROCKY

You see, I ain't too graceful, y'know -- I
don't move well, but I can really swat. I can really hit
hard, but I'm a southpaw
an' nobody wants to fight a southpaw --
You know what I mean? So, you havin' a good time?

Adrian nods and is very nervous...

ROCKY

Y'know how I got started in fighting?

ADRIAN

No.

ROCKY

Yeah – well my Father, My ol' man, he was never too
smart. He says to me – he says “You weren't born
with much of brain so you better start using your
body.” So, I became a fighter.

For the first time, Adrian laughs.

ROCKY

(continuing)

Why you laughing?

ADRIAN

(still laughing) My mother she said the opposite thing.

ROCKY

What did she say, the opposite?

ADRIAN

She said, 'You weren't born with
much of a body so you'd better develop
your brain.'

ROCKY

Did she say that?

ADRIAN

Can I ask you a question?

ROCKY

Absolutely.

ADRIAN

Why do you want to fight?

ROCKY

Cause I can't sing or dance. Yo!

ADRIAN

(laughs but gets shy almost immediately)

ROCKY

You know some people are very shy by nature.

ADRIAN

I suppose.

ROCKY

I say you're very shy by nature, you know?

ADRIAN

I suppose.

ROCKY

You know some people think that being shy is a disease, but it don't bother me none.

ADRIAN

It doesn't bother me either.

ROCKY

So, why'd I bother bringin' it
up? 'Cause I'm dumb, that's why...
Y'know, I think we make a real sharp
coupla coconuts -- I'm dumb an' you're
shy. Whattaya think?

ADRIAN

...I don't understand why anybody would want to be a

fighter.

ROCKY

Ya gotta be a moron to wanna
be a fighter, you know what I mean? It's a racket where ya'
almost guaranteed to end up a bum.

ADRIAN

I don't think you're a bum.

ROCKY

Well...I'm at least half a bum.
Wanna know the worst thing about fighting? It's the mornin' after.

ADRIAN

Morning after?

ROCKY

Yeah, the morning after a fight, ya' nothin' but
Like a large wound, you know what I mean? Sometimes I
Got pains all over me. ya' hair hurts...
Ya' eyes hurt, your face is all busted up.
Your hands are swollen. I feel like
callin' a taxi to take me from the
bed to the bathroom... Wanna know something?
64 fights an' I ain't never been knocked out. Not once.
I had guys pounding on me, punching me, head butting me, whack, whack...
Never been knocked out. That's very rare. I'm very proud of that.

ADRIAN

Why do you do it if it hurts?

ROCKY

Why you think?

ADRIAN

(pause)

'Cause you can't sing or dance?

ROCKY

Yeah something like that.
Hey, you wanna come inside?

ADRIAN

No, I gotta go.

ROCKY

Hey I got some animals. I got these very rare animals inside.
Come on in.

ADRIAN

No, I gotta go.

ROCKY

I gotta go, too, to the bathroom. Come on.

(ROCKY goes in. Leaves door open, after long Pause ADRIAN enters)

END SCENE

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