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
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