

Roll The Dice

Screenplay By

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*"When you feel like tellin a feller to go to the devil - tell him to go to Chicago - it'll anser every purpose, and is perhaps, a leetle more expensive." - Mark Twain*

**FADE IN:**

**EXT. LOS ANGELES VIADUCT-NIGHT**

SUPER: 1948

ED (V.O.)  
 Sometimes, the devil comes as the  
 person you desire the most. That  
 was days ago. Now, here I am.

A man stands at the edge of the viaduct, and stares down at a woman, lying dead. Her eyes look back at his. ED, 25. A struggling salesman living on every cent that he has.

Ed wipes his forehead with the palm of his hand --

ED  
 (sob)  
 -- I'm sorry!

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-MORNING**

SUPER: FIVE DAYS EARLIER

The sound of an **Atlas Obscura clock** sounds off --

Ed opens his eyes -- and sits up -- He brushes his hands through his hair --

ED  
 (grunt)

Ed stands up -- and steps towards the **dresser mirror** -- He leans forward -- and points his finger at himself --

ED (CONT'D)  
 -- Your life begins today!

CUT TO:

**EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD-MORNING**

A **newspaper** lays on the front lawn. The Headline in big and bold letters. It reads: **Darling Killer claims his third!**

Ed steps towards the front door and knocks. A young black woman opens the door. MAID, early 20s.

MAID

Hello?

ED

Good morning, ma'am. Can I have a moment of your time?

MADAM (O.S.)

Who is that!

MAID

(nods)

ED

Thank you for your time.

Ed turns away from the door -- and steps off of the porch -- He wipes his forehead with his *handkerchief*.

Door to door, Ed knocks on every door on the street --

CUT TO:

**INT. BAR-AFTERNOON**

Ed drops his whole hand into a *small bucket* of *ice* --

ED

-- Ahh!

A young woman stands behind the bar table. MARGIE, 30. A bartender. A sweet but demanding woman of respect. Self-driven and boss orientated.

Margie sets a *shot glass* down on the table --

Ed stares at Margie --

ED (CONT'D)

-- Has anyone told you how strikingly beautiful you are today?

MARGIE

Every time you come in here.

ED

Have you considered my proposal?

MARGIE

Yes, and no -- I can't.

ED  
I guess I got to keep trying.

MARGIE  
I guess.

A young boy steps towards the bar table and sets a stack of **fliers** down. FLIER BOY, early teens.

MARGIE (CONT'D)  
I thought I told you that you  
couldn't be in here.

FLIER BOY  
I know! I'm just dropping these  
off. Can I at least get a pop?

Margie pops the **bottle cap** off -- and hands the **bottle** to  
Flier Boy --

MARGIE  
-- Now get out of here!

Flier Boy steps out of the bar --

Ed grabs a flier -- and looks at the cute blonde girl --  
Margie snatches it out of his hands --

MARGIE (CONT'D)  
-- Hey!

ED  
-- I'll catch you later.

Ed stands up -- and steps towards the door --

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-STUDIO APARTMENT-AFTERNOON**

Ed steps towards the front door of his apartment. His hand on  
the doorknob.

An older woman in a **pink robe**, steps out of the apartment  
across the way. LANDLORD, early 50s.

LANDLORD  
Rent?

ED  
It's coming.

LANDLORD  
 You've been saying that for the  
 past week. Ducking and dodging me,  
 huh?

ED  
 No.

LANDLORD  
 The rent is due.

ED  
 You'll get it tomorrow.

LANDLORD  
 Five o'clock.

Ed opens the door -- and steps in -- The door shuts --

LANDLORD (CONT'D)  
 (laugh)

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Ed lays on the bed and stares at the ceiling. An idea floats  
 around in his mind about the flier he saw. He sits up --

ED  
 -- Huh!

CUT TO:

**EXT. DICE CLUB-NIGHT**

Ed steps towards the door to the dice club -- He stops and  
 looks at the door.

ED  
 -- Here goes nothing!

Ed pulls the door open -- and steps in --

CUT TO:

**INT. DINING AREA-DICE CLUB-NIGHT**

Ed steps towards the table booths --

WAITRESS, early 20s.

WAITRESS

Welcome to the Dice Club, sir! Do you want me to help you to a booth?

ED

No thank you, ma'am.

WAITRESS

As you wish.

The Waitress steps away from Ed.

Ed sits at a small **roundtable** --

A man steps into the dining area and sits two tables away from Ed's. KRIS, 25. Police officer. An arrogant man that feels like he's untouchable.

Ed looks at Kris --

ED

-- Officer.

Kris looks at Ed --

KRIS

-- Ed. Still trying to sell that wonder tonic of yours?

ED

You can say that. Are you still picking up every damsel in distress?

KRIS

More than you.

ANNOUNCER

(into microphone)

Gentleman! For your viewing pleasure, hold onto your dice and welcome the queen of bets. The desirable and mysterious, Diana Dice!!!

From behind a **red curtain**, a woman with a **red boa scarf**. DIANA DICE, early 20s. A stripper. A flirtatious and enticing woman.

Diana steps towards the stage.

GENTLEMAN #1 and #2. Early 20s.

Ed stares deeply at Diana as she makes her way towards Gentleman #1 and #2.

ED (V.O.)

Seeing her, it was like a dream. No one else mattered at that moment.

Diana lifts her leg onto Gentleman #2's lap -- and tosses her boa scarf -- She leans close to his face -- and looks at Kris.

Diana steps towards Kris -- and wraps her arms around Kris's shoulder's -- She leans her mouth towards his -- and looks at Ed -- She steps towards Ed -- and gets down on her knees -- Diana crawls towards him -- She lays her hands on his lap -- and kisses his lips -- Ed closes his eyes --

GENTLEMAN

(applause)

Ed opens his eyes -- and sees that Diana has disappeared -- He looks around -- and sees her walking towards the dressing room. Diana looks back at Ed --

DIANA

(giggle)

Diana opens the door -- and steps in -- The door slams shut -  
-

Ed jumps at the sound of the door slamming.

The Waitress steps towards Ed --

WAITRESS

-- Drink?

ED

A shot of **Rum**, please?

WAITRESS

Gotcha!

The Waitress steps towards the bar table --

Ed rubs his hands over his forehead -- His eyes on the door to the dressing room --

The Waitress steps in front of him --

WAITRESS (CONT'D)

Sir!!



ED  
Ahh!!!

WAITRESS  
What!

ED  
Nothing!

The Waitress sets the shot glass down --

WAITRESS  
Five.

Ed reaches into his pants pocket -- and pulls out a few dollar bills -- He sets them down --

WAITRESS (CONT'D)  
Huh!

ED  
Sorry, it's all I got.

The Waitress collects all the money -- and steps away --

Ed takes the shot of rum --

Kris steps towards the Waitress -- He leans his mouth towards her ear --

WAITRESS  
(laugh)

ED (V.O.)  
It comes easy for him. He can have any girl he wants.

The Waitress grabs a hold of Kris's hand -- and pulls him towards the dressing room door --

ED (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
See!

CUT TO:

**EXT. ALLEY-NIGHT**

Ed steps out of the dice club -- He fixes his coat -- and steps past a couple, making out --

WAITRESS  
(moan)

KRIS

Uh!

Ed looks at Kris --

ED

-- Geez! Get a room you two.

KRIS

(wave)

Ed steps out of the alley --

CUT TO:

**EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD-MORNING**

Ed's eyes are closed --

ED

-- God, let this be it, please?

Ed raises his arm to the front door -- and knocks --

The door opens --

HOUSEWIFE, early 20s.

HOUSEWIFE

Hello?

ED

Hello, ma'am? I'm --

HOUSEWIFE

-- Oh -- You're one of those  
salesmen, aren't you ---- The Housewife pushes the door closed -- Ed grabs the door  
--

ED

Ma'am, if I could have a moment of  
your time and trust me, it's worth  
it.

The Housewife pulls the door open --

HOUSEWIFE

-- Please, come in.

Ed grabs his **briefcase** from the floor of the porch --

HOUSEWIFE (CONT'D)  
 -- Would you like some coffee?

ED  
 That would be great, ma'am.

CUT TO:

**EXT. STUDIO APARTMENT-AFTERNOON**

A big smile on his face, Ed steps towards the studio apartment building.

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-STUDIO APARTMENT-AFTERNOON**

Ed counts the money out -- and places it into the palm of the Landlord's hand --

ED  
 -- There it is! Paid in full.

LANDLORD  
 I'm impressed.

ED  
 Thanks.

Ed steps towards his apartment door -- and pushes it open --

ED (CONT'D)  
 -- I'll see you then.

Ed steps in -- and shuts the door --

LANDLORD  
 (laugh)

CUT TO:

**INT. GROCERY STORE-EVENING**

Ed walks around the **produce isle**. He grabs an **apple** from the **bucket** -- Ed rubs the apple on his jacket -- and takes a bite --

Margie steps towards the **lettuce** -- She looks at Ed --

MARGIE

-- Ed?

Ed looks at Margie --

ED

Margie!

MARGIE

You're looking different.

ED

Is that a good thing?

MARGIE

It is. We should have dinner together sometime.

ED

Friday?

MARGIE

Why not. My place.

ED

Sure.

Margie steps away --

Ed looks up at the ceiling -- and puts his hands together like he's praying --

ED (CONT'D)

-- Thank you.

MOTHER, early 30s.

BOY, eight-years-old.

BOY

What's he doing mommy?

MOTHER

He's just a crazy man, honey.

The Mother and the Boy walk away --

Ed steps out of the produce isle -- and steps towards the exit door --

CUT TO:

**EXT. DICE CLUB-NIGHT**

Ed steps towards the doors to the club -- He looks at the sign -- and reaches for the doorknob.

CUT TO:

**INT. DINING AREA-DICE CLUB-NIGHT**

Ed sits down --

The Waitress stops at Ed's table --

WAITRESS

-- What can I get for you tonight?

ED

Can I get another shot of rum?

WAITRESS

As you wish, sir.

The Waitress steps away --

ANNOUNCER

(into microphone)

Gentleman! Put your cash together,  
and don't be cheap this time! Make  
your praise for the lovely, Diana  
Dice!!

A **spotlight** shines on the stage. Diana steps out. A **blue boa scarf** wrapped around her neck. The piano plays.

Kris steps into the dining area --

Diana crawls off the stage -- and makes her way towards Kris -- She slides her hands up to his waist -- and pulls herself up -- Her eyes on his -- Diana leans her face towards his -- and lays a kiss on his lips --

GENTLEMAN

(applause)

CUT TO:

**EXT. ALLEY-NIGHT**

Ed steps outside -- The door slams shut --

KRIS

-- Hey!

ED

Kris. You always stick around the alley, and creep on the girls.

KRIS

No, the lady of the club is coming to me my friend.

ED

I guess it's that tempting bad odor that you call cologne.

KRIS

This lady loves it.

ED

It'll pass and then she'll look at you. Her thoughts will wonder why she's on top of you.

KRIS

Jealous much.

ED

No. I just feel sorry for you.

The exit door opens -- and Diana walks past Ed -- She looks at Ed --

DIANA

-- Good night.

Diana steps towards Kris -- and grabs a hold of his hand -- Kris and Diana step away --

KRIS

-- Have a good night, Ed.

ED

(shakes head)

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Ed lays in bed, and stares at the ceiling. His arms folded underneath his head. He closes his eyes --

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)**

The bedroom is lit with *candles*. Diana sits on top of Kris. Going up and down --

DIANA  
(moan)

Kris grabs a hold of her back -- and grabs her from behind her neck -- He pulls her head down to his -- Her eyes change to *snake eyes* --

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-MORNING (END DREAM SEQUENCE)**

Ed opens his eyes -- and looks around the bedroom. He sits up --

ED  
(grunt)

Ed looks out the window --

ED (CONT'D)  
-- Another day, another dollar.  
Huh, God.

Ed stands up --

CUT TO:

**EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD-MORNING**

Ed knocks on every front door of the suburban neighborhood.

The doors open --

ED  
-- Good morning, ma'am! Could I  
have a second of your time.

Ed walks down the sidewalk -- and counts the stack of cash in his hands -- Ed looks up at the sky --

ED (CONT'D)  
-- Thank you, God!

CUT TO:

**INT. BAR-EVENING**

Kris sits at the bar table. His eyes drowsy.

Margie steps towards kris --

MARGIE

-- Can I get you something else,  
hone?

Kris looks at Margie --

KRIS

-- Huh?

MARGIE

Do you want another drink?

KRIS

No thanks.

Ed steps into the bar -- and sits across from Margie --

ED

-- How long has he been here?

MARGIE

About an hour.

Ed looks at Kris.

Kris looks at Ed --

KRIS

-- What are you looking at?

ED

A tired man.

KRIS

I'm not tired -- I'm just drained.

ED

Isn't that why you go there, to  
pick up women.

KRIS

Hey, you do the same thing.

Ed looks at Margie --

ED

-- Can I get a shot of rum, Margie?



MARGIE  
Sure thing.

Kris stands up --

KRIS  
-- Thanks again --

-- Kris drops a five-dollar bill down on the bar table -- and steps out of the bar --

MARGIE  
-- So, what's your thought on lasagna?

KRIS (O.S.)  
Love it!

Ed looks at Margie.

MARGIE  
Love it.

Margie steps towards the bottle of rum --

MARGIE (CONT'D)  
-- I'll get you your rum now.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Kris lays in the bed. He stares off into space while Diana goes up -- and down --

DIANA  
-- Um-Humm, baby --

-- Diana looks up at the ceiling --

DIANA (CONT'D)  
(moan)

CUT TO:

**INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT**

Kris sits on the toilet. He straps a **rubber band** around his arm --

KRIS  
(sob)

DIANA (O.S.)  
Are you coming out tonight baby!!

The bathroom door opens.

Diana steps into the bathroom.

Kris sits on the toilet. His eyes open, and cloudy.

DIANA (CONT'D)  
(laugh)

Diana turns around -- and walks out of the bathroom --

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Ed buttons up his white collared shirt -- and puts on his jacket --

ED  
-- You look great.

Ed grabs his keys from the top of the dresser -- and steps out of the bedroom --

CUT TO:

**INT. HALLWAY-MARGIE'S STUDIO APARTMENT-NIGHT**

Ed knocks on Margie's front door --

The front door opens -- Margie steps out --

MARGIE  
-- Hi?

Ed looks up from the floor -- and he can't take his eyes off the way she looks in the red dress she is wearing.

ED  
Wow!

Margie looks down at the dress --

MARGIE  
-- What?

ED  
You look great is all.

MARGIE  
Thanks. Come in.

Ed steps in past Margie --

CUT TO:

**INT. LIVING ROOM-NIGHT**

Ed looks around the living room --

ED  
Nice place you got here.

MARGIE  
Thanks.

Margie steps towards the kitchen --

MARGIE (CONT'D)  
-- I hope you're hungry.

ED  
Starved.

MARGIE  
Have a seat.

Ed sits at the table.

Margie opens the oven door --

Ed looks at her bottom and looks away --

MARGIE (CONT'D)  
-- Can I get you something to  
drink? I have some chilled **iced tea**  
or **lemonade**.

ED  
Iced tea is fine --

-- Margie turns around --

MARGIE  
Ed?

ED  
Yeah?

MARGIE  
Is something wrong?

Margie sets the pan down on the table --

Ed stands up -- and steps towards her -- He kisses her --

Margie kisses him back --

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT**

Ed lays on top of Margie. He caresses her cheek --

MARGIE  
(laugh)

ED  
Was I that terrible?

MARGIE  
No, baby, you were just right.

ED  
I'm glad I won you over.

Ed grabs a **pillow** from above Margie's head --

ED (CONT'D)  
-- I'll never forget you --

-- Ed presses the pillow against Margie's face --

MARGIE  
(muffles)

Margie kicks her feet --

ED  
-- Good night, darling --

-- Margie stops kicking --

Ed buttons up his shirt -- and puts on his jacket -- He lifts the pillow up -- and sets it down -- He closes her eyes with the ends of his fingertips --

ED (CONT'D)  
-- You were the best of them all.

Ed turns around -- and steps past the dinner table --

CUT TO:

**EXT. LOS ANGELES VIADUCT-NIGHT**

Ed walks across the viaduct bridge. He steps towards the edge  
 -- He looks up at the **stars** in the **sky** --

Diana appears behind Ed --

DIANA  
 -- Beautiful, isn't it?

Ed jumps out of his skin, feeling like his heart jumped into  
 his throat.

Diana steps towards the ledge of the bridge --

DIANA (CONT'D)  
 -- The billions of stars in the  
 sky. How can God create all these  
 beautiful things and watch one of  
 them fall.

Ed stares into Diana's eyes.

DIANA (CONT'D)  
 What, you act like you don't know  
 what to do now. It never stopped  
 you before. Weak little Eddie,  
 playing by himself, or with.

A snare in Ed's face -- Ed grabs Diana from the bottom of her  
 dress -- and pulls her upwards -- He pushes her over the  
 ledge -- Diana falls down to the bottom of the **water canal** --

DIANA (CONT'D)  
 (scream)

Ed looks down at Diana. He grabs a hold of his head. Ashamed  
 and alone for all the things he has done. Ed climbs onto the  
 ledge --

Ed wipes his forehead with the palm of his hand --

ED  
 (sob)  
 -- I'm sorry!

Ed jumps off --

CUT TO:

**EXT. LOS ANGELES WATER CANAL-NIGHT**

At the bottom of the water canal, Ed lays next to Diana.

ED  
(blinks)

Diana's eyes stare up at the sky --

DIANA  
(laugh)

Diana looks at Ed. She sits up -- Diana stands up --

ED  
-- How?

DIANA  
You were never really alive. You see, after you got caught with a woman, she turned out to be married. Her husband shot you while you were about to run.

CUT TO:

**INT. BEDROOM-AFTERNOON-FLASHBACK**

Ed puts a bottle of his *chloroform* tonic on the nightstand. He stands over a passed-out Housewife and begins to pull her shirt off --

DIANA (V.O.)  
You had ways of knocking the ladies out!  
(laugh)

HUSBAND, early 30s.

The Husband fires a shot from a *double barrel shotgun* --

Ed stares up at the ceiling.

DIANA (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Just in the nick of time, right before you could take her as your next victim. Her husband takes his right to bear arms. You were dead this whole time. I just put on a great play!

CUT TO:

**INT. BATHROOM-NIGHT**

Kris sits on the toilet, dead.

DIANA (V.O.)

And Kris, your cop friend. He was easy. He drained himself of all his humanity. Girl after girl, and then he met me. I only tempted him; I didn't make him do anything.

**EXT. LOS ANGELES WATER CANAL--BACK TO PRESENT**

Diana crouches down to Ed --

DIANA

-- Nick of time! I should write that one down before someone steals it.

ED

Who are you?

DIANA

No clue, huh? The stars?

Diana grabs his hand -- and pulls him away --

Her face changes into a man's. His face sparkles like diamonds --

DIANA (CONT'D)

I have so many names. Get the picture now!

Diana's face changes back to hers -- She grabs his hand --

ED

(scream)

Diana pulls him away into the shadows. Vanishing.

**FADE OUT:**

**THE END**