

Great dialog from *Out of the Past* (RKO, 1947)

Directed by Jacques Tourneur

Cast:

Robert Mitchum - Jeff Bailey/Jeff Markham

Jane Greer - Kathie Moffat

Kirk Douglas - Whit Sterling

Rhonda Fleming - Meta Carson

Virginia Huston - Ann Miller

Paul Valentine - Joe Staphanos

Ken Niles - Leonard Eels

[Kathie is playing roulette]

Jeff Bailey: That's not the way to win.

Kathie Moffat: Is there a way to win?

Jeff Bailey: There's a way to lose more slowly.

Whit Sterling: Joe couldn't find a prayer in the Bible.

Leonard Eels: All women are wonders, because they reduce all men to the obvious.

Meta Carson: So do martinis.

Jeff Bailey: How big a chump can you get to be? I was finding out.

Jeff Bailey: I sell gasoline, I make a small profit. With that I buy groceries. The grocer makes a profit. We call it earning a living. You may have heard of it somewhere.

Whit Sterling: My feelings? About ten years ago, I hid them somewhere and haven't been able to find them.

Jeff Bailey: You can never help anything, can you? You're like a leaf that the wind blows from one gutter to another.

Kathie Moffat: Don't you see you've only me to make deals with now?

Jeff Bailey: Build my gallows high, baby.

Ann Miller: She can't be all bad. No one is.

Jeff Bailey: Well, she comes the closest.

Kathie Moffat: I didn't know what I was doing. I, I didn't know anything except how much I hated him. But I didn't take anything. I didn't, Jeff. Don't you believe me?

Jeff Bailey: Baby, I don't care.

Jeff Bailey: [answering the door] Well, the last guy in the world...

Whit Sterling: I hate surprises myself. You wanna just shut the door and forget it?

Whit Sterling: You just sit and stay inside yourself. You wait for me to talk. I like that.

Jeff Bailey: I never found out much listening to myself.

Jeff Bailey: Why me?

Whit Sterling: Well, I know a lot of smart guys, and a few honest ones. And you're both.

Whit Sterling: [extending a pack as Jeff Bailey enters a room] Cigarette?

Jeff Bailey: [holding up his hand] Smoking.

Kathie Moffat: Can't you even feel sorry for me?

Jeff Bailey: I'm not going to try.

Kathie Moffat: Jeff...

Jeff Bailey: Just get out, will you? I have to sleep in this room.

Kathie Moffat: Oh, Jeff, I don't want to die!

Jeff Bailey: Neither do I, baby, but if I have to, I'm gonna die last.

Jeff Bailey: I didn't know you were so little.

Kathie Moffat: I'm taller than Napoleon.

Jeff Bailey: You're prettier, too.

[Petey and Jeff watch Meta walking away]

Petey: Nice!

Jeff Bailey: Awfully cold around the heart.

Jeff Bailey: You say to yourself, "How hot can it get?" Then, in Acapulco, you find out.

Jack Fisher: You know, a dame with a rod is like a guy with a knitting needle.

Jeff Bailey: You know, maybe I was wrong and luck is like love. You have to go all the way to find it.

Ann Miller: You do to keep it.

Jeff Bailey: It was the bottom of the barrel, and I was scraping it.

Kathie Moffat: I think we deserve a break.

Jeff Bailey: We deserve each other.

Kathie Moffat: Oh Jeff, you ought to have killed me for what I did a moment ago.

Jeff Bailey: [dryly] There's time.

Jeff Bailey: [allowing one slap but blocking a second] That evens us. Now fold your hands or I'll fold 'em for you!

Joe Stephanos: I often wondered what happened to him. Then one day I'm breezing through here, and there's his name up on a sign.

Marny, diner owner: It's a small world.

Joe Stephanos: Yeah. Or a big sign.

Marny, diner owner: Two things I can smell inside a hundred feet: a burnin' hamburger and a romance.

Jim 'Jimmy': You got a customer.

Marny, diner owner: [to Joe] What'll ya have?

Joe Stephanos: [not bothering to take the cigarette out of his mouth] Coffee.

Marny, diner owner: Nothing else?

Joe Stephanos: Cream.

Leonard Eels: Your uh... cousin is a very charming young lady.

Jeff Bailey: No he isn't. His name is Norman, and he's a bookmaker in Cleveland, Ohio.

Whit Sterling: You're gonna take the rap and play along. You're gonna make every exact move I tell you. If you don't, I'll kill you. And I'll promise you one thing: it won't be quick. I'll break you first. You won't be able to answer a telephone or open a door without thinking, 'This is it.' And it when it comes, it still won't be quick. And it won't be pretty. You can take your choice.

Meta Carson: You are an idiot.

Jeff Bailey: So's he.

Meta Carson: You think so?

Jeff Bailey: Why not? He's in love with you.

Kathie Moffat: There's a cantina down the street called Pablo's. It's nice and quiet. The man there plays American music for a dollar. Sip bourbon and shut your eyes... it's like a little place on 44th Street. I sometimes go there.

Jeff Bailey: I never saw her in the daytime. We seemed to live by night. What was left of the day went away like a pack of cigarettes you smoked. I didn't know where she lived. I never followed her. All I ever had to go on was a place and time to see her again. I don't know what we were waiting for. Maybe we thought the world would end.

Ann Miller: They say the day you die your name is written on a cloud.

Jeff Bailey: Now, do you wanna talk business, or do you wanna play house...?

Kathie Moffat: I'm sorry he didn't die.

Jeff Bailey: Give him time.

Jeff Bailey: Let's go down to the bar. We can cool off while we try to impress each other.

Kathie Moffat: Did you miss me?

Jeff Bailey: No more than I would my eyes.

Jeff Bailey: Very difficult girl.

Jose Rodriguez: Is there one who is **not** so, Señor?

Jeff Bailey: Nothing in the world is any good unless you can share it.