

1 **The Day Hondo Found That Rare Bottle of Wine at Sullivan’s Tap &**
 2 **Eating Establishment**

3 An original audio play by Mike Murphy

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8 **FX A DOOR OPENS TO:**

10 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS: SMALL CROWD CHATTING,**
 11 **DRINKING, AND LAUGHING. MAYBE SOME**
 12 **LIGHT PIANO MUSIC**

14 **FX APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS UP AND OUT**

16 HANK (APPROACHING) Welcome, friend, to Sullivan’s Tap
 17 & Eatin’ Establishment. The name’s Hank, and I’m the
 18 host here. Are you a visitor to our fair city?. . . Well,
 19 have a seat. How’s this one?

21 **FX A WOODEN CHAIR IS PULLED OUT**

23 HANK Be comfortable. (PAUSE) May I guess that you want to
 24 hear *the story*? (PAUSE) (CHUCKLES) I thought so.
 25 Yes, Sully got a *lot* of press on that. He’s a shrewd
 26 businessman, that one. He played it for all it was worth.
 27 It brought in a lot of thirsty people. (PAUSE) Name your
 28 poison. (PAUSE) Not to worry: at Sully’s, new
 29 customers always get a free first drink. (PAUSE) Well, I
 30 *know* you’re new here. I *never* forget a face. That’s part
 31 of the reason I’ve had this job for almost twenty years. A
 32 lesser memory would cost Sully a fortune. (PAUSE) A
 33 Guinness, huh? Good choice. I’ll be right back with your
 34 brew. Bein’ a Tuesday night, it’s kinda slow, so I can tell
 35 you the whole story. You’re in for a treat cuz I’ve kissed
 36 the ever-lovin’ Blarney Stone tonight.

38 **FX OUT**

40 **MUSIC BRIDGE**

41

42 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS, AS BEFORE**

43

44 **FX APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS UP AND OUT**

45

46 HANK (APPROACHING) Here you are: one Guinness, fresh
47 from the tap.

48

49 **FX THE GLASS IS PLACED ON THE TABLE**

50

51 HANK Do you mind if I sit with ya?. . . Thanks. These dogs of
52 mine are gettin' *old*.

53

54 **FX HE PULLS OUT A CHAIR AND SITS**

55

56 HANK Ah, *much* better. (PAUSE) Now, where were we? Oh,
57 yes. You wanted to hear about the big day. Well,
58 fortunately for you, most of the main players are here
59 tonight. (PAUSE) The big guy behind the bar, the one in
60 the vest – that's Sully himself. No doubt you saw his
61 picture in the papers or on the idiot box. The guy with the
62 curly red hair on the corner stool – that's Hondo. It was
63 he who discovered the thing in the first place. And that
64 skinny guy with the gray hair in the other corner, *that's*
65 Patrick Muldoon. (PAUSE) Where to begin? I've told
66 this story so many times, but I'm always wonderin' if I
67 can tell it better. (LONGISH PAUSE) Beer nuts?. . . No?
68 OK. (SIGHS) Well, it was back in February it was, not
69 too long before good, old St. Patrick's Day. Sully had
70 hired Hondo to get rid of some empty, crumblin',
71 wooden wine racks down in the basement so he – Sully,
72 that is – could use the space for storage in anticipation of
73 the big holiday. Well, it was around 5:00 p.m. when
74 Hondo, who was gettin' set to knock off for the day,
75 came up carryin' . . . the bottle *itself*.

76

77 **SCENE FADE OUT**

78

79 **SCENE FADE IN**

80

81 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS, SIMILAR TO BEFORE**
82

83 **FX A DOOR CLICKS SHUT**
84

85 HONDO It's quitting time, Sully.
86

87 SULLY So it is. Where has the day gone? (PAUSE) How about a
88 pint for the road, Hondo? On the house.
89

90 HONDO I don't mind if I do. That's thirsty work I'm doing down
91 in your basement.
92

93 SULLY I'm sure it is, and I'm grateful, old friend.
94

95 HONDO Let's see if you're still grateful when you get my bill.
96

97 **FX THE GLASS IS PLACED ON THE BAR**
98

99 SULLY (CHUCKLES) Here ya are.
100

101 HONDO Ah, come to papa! (HE DRINKS AND SMACKS HIS
102 LIPS) Nectar of the gods, that is.
103

104 SULLY Did you run into any trouble downstairs?
105

106 HONDO A few splinters maybe. Nothing I can't handle. (PAUSE)
107 Will you be wanting the old wood from those racks?
108

109 SULLY No. I was gonna toss it out. Why?
110

111 HONDO I was thinking I'd bring it home for my wood stove. It
112 should burn nicely.
113

114 SULLY It's all yours.
115

116 HONDO How old are those wine racks down there?
117

118 SULLY I'm not sure. Pretty old. I don't know how some of them
119 are still standing.
120

121 HONDO A few of them are so old that they fell apart when I
122 breathed on them.
123

124 SULLY With your breath, I don't wonder.
125

126 HONDO (CHUCKLES) Good one. (PAUSE) How long has this
127 place been a pub?
128

129 SULLY No one really knows. Before it was Sully's, it was
130 O'Brien's, and before that, it was Finnegan's. I know
131 those wine racks were down there in Ian O'Brien's time
132 because I used to work for him. In all my years tending
133 bar, I don't think I ever got anything out of that wine
134 cellar.
135

136 HONDO Then this belongs to you.
137

138 **FX** **A CLUNK AS HE PLACES A WINE BOTTLE ON**
139 **THE BAR**
140

141 SULLY A bottle of wine? Where'd you find this?
142

143 HONDO It was in one of the racks. It kind of flipped up in the air
144 when I started pulling the wood apart. I caught it just
145 before it hit the floor. Would have made *quite* a mess.
146

147 SULLY Thanks, Hondo. Let's see what we have here. (BLOWS
148 SOME DUST AWAY) (FUMBLING WITH THE
149 PRONUNCIATION) La Caprice Ordo. 1779.
150

151 HONDO Put on your glasses.
152

153 SULLY Alright. . . *Hmmm. 1779.*
154

155 HONDO That wine is more than *two hundred* years old.
156

157 SULLY *Wow!* You know some people have said that there's been
158 a pub on this spot since the time of the American
159 Revolution. I guess they're right. (PAUSE) I wonder how
160 this bottle went unnoticed for so long.

161
 162 HONDO It had kinda slipped down between the racks. I'd wager
 163 that no one has seen it for years. (PAUSE) Well, it's
 164 found now, and she's all yours. A lucky catch, that was.
 165
 166 **FX APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS UP AND OUT**
 167
 168 KAYE (APPROACHING) Excuse me, Mr. Sullivan. Did you
 169 say that you have a bottle of wine that is over two
 170 hundred years old?
 171
 172 SULLY That's right. Hondo found it down in the wine cellar.
 173
 174 KAYE (EAGERLY) You have a wine cellar?
 175
 176 SULLY It's empty – has been for years. Hondo has been tearing
 177 down the racks for me.
 178
 179 KAYE Is it suitably cool in this wine cellar, Mr. Hondo?
 180
 181 HONDO (CHUCKLES) Hondo's the *first* name. The last name's
 182 MacGruder.
 183
 184 KAYE My apologies, sir. (PAUSE) Is the wine cellar cool?
 185
 186 HONDO Yeah. There's a little nip to it. Why?
 187
 188 KAYE Marvelous! Wine keeps much better in suitable
 189 temperatures. (PAUSE) Forgive me. I have forgotten my
 190 manners: My name is Reginald Kaye. Perhaps you've
 191 heard of me. I am a noted oenophile.
 192
 193 SULLY (LONGISH PAUSE) You mean you don't believe in
 194 God?
 195
 196 KAYE (CHUCKLES) Very witty, Mr. Sullivan. Very witty
 197 indeed. (PAUSE) No, an oenophile is a connoisseur of
 198 fine wines. Might I see the bottle please?
 199
 200 SULLY Sure. Here you are.

201
202 KAYE Thank you. (LONGISH PAUSE) Ah, yes. It is *quite*
203 authentic. What a rare find! Most genuine.
204
205 HONDO That's good to know.
206
207 KAYE Notice the crescent moon on the label. That was the
208 symbol of this vineyard. (PAUSE) The bottle *and* the
209 cork appear to be completely intact – even after two
210 centuries. Marvelous! *Marvelous!*
211
212 SULLY Glad you like it.
213
214 KAYE Point of fact: The ink used on the label is actually made
215 from grape residue. The owners of this vineyard let
216 *nothing* go to waste.
217
218 SULLY Are they still around?
219
220 KAYE Alas, no. They closed in the mid-1800s. Quite a loss to
221 the wine world.
222
223 HONDO The name sounds French.
224
225 KAYE It is.
226
227 HONDO How did it get here?
228
229 KAYE I heard you mention the longevity of this building as a
230 pub – perhaps all the way back to the American
231 Revolution. The bottle dates from approximately that
232 time. The French *did* assist the early Americans during
233 our war with England. I can only assume this wine came
234 over from France during that time. (LONGISH PAUSE)
235 The contents of this bottle must be *ambrosia!*
236
237 SULLY You're welcome to some, Mr. Kaye. I was going to chill
238 it in the fridge for a bit. Then Hondo and I were gonna
239 have a snort.
240

241 KAYE (AGHAST) Please no! One does not *snort* two hundred-
242 year-old wine.
243

244 SULLY One doesn't?
245

246 KAYE No. It is meant to be *savored*. First, its bouquet must be
247 inhaled through the nostrils and appreciated to heighten
248 the senses.
249

250 HONDO You ain't one of those wine lovers who goes around
251 swishing the stuff in their mouths and then spitting it out,
252 are ya?
253

254 KAYE I have been known to do that on occasion.
255

256 HONDO That always seemed like such a waste to me.
257

258 KAYE Certainly not. The appreciation of a fine vintage is a skill
259 that must be honed.
260

261 SULLY Spitting is a skill?
262

263 KAYE Mr. Sullivan, might I convince you to part with that
264 bottle?
265

266 SULLY You want it?
267

268 KAYE Indeed I do. I'll give you a thousand dollars for it.
269

270 SULLY (ASTONISHED) A thousand bucks? For *one* bottle?
271

272 KAYE If there are more down in the wine cellar, I will happily
273 purchase them as well.
274

275 SULLY Hondo?
276

277 HONDO No. Just this one. I didn't see any others.
278

279 KAYE What do you say, sir? I'll write you a check right here. If
280 you prefer cash, my bank is down the street.

281
 282 SULLY Are you sure of this? A thousand bucks for one bottle of
 283 wine?
 284
 285 KAYE Most certain.
 286
 287 SULLY You've got a –
 288
 289 **FX APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS UP AND OUT**
 290
 291 WILSON (APPROACHING) *Two* thousand dollars!
 292
 293 HONDO Two grand???
 294
 295 KAYE (UPSET) Wilson, I should have known you'd try to
 296 squelch my moment of glory.
 297
 298 WILSON And it's a good thing I did! If the wine club's bowling
 299 league didn't have its biweekly bowl-a-rama down the
 300 street, I may not have stepped into this establishment to
 301 quench my thirst before heading home.
 302
 303 SULLY (SURPRISED) You *bowl*?
 304
 305 KAYE We both do. We well-off folks like to mingle with those
 306 beneath us *sometimes*.
 307
 308 SULLY (SARCASTICALLY) How magnanimous of you.
 309
 310 KAYE (PROUDLY) Quite.
 311
 312 WILSON To think, Kaye, that you were going to cheat this humble
 313 barkeep of such a rare bottle for a mere thousand dollars.
 314 Shame!
 315
 316 SULLY Were you trying to cheat old Sully?
 317
 318 KAYE Certainly not!
 319
 320 WILSON Lamont Wilson, at your service, Mr. Sullivan.

321
322 SULLY Hiya. This is Hondo. He found the bottle.
323
324 HONDO How ya doin'?'
325
326 WILSON Charmed. (PAUSE) May I see the bottle?
327
328 SULLY Sure.
329
330 KAYE I've already looked it over and pronounced it sound,
331 Wilson.
332
333 WILSON And since when do I or anyone in the Wine League of
334 New England trust your judgment?
335
336 KAYE (ANGRILY) You dirty –
337
338 WILSON My offer stands, sir. Two thousand dollars.
339
340 SULLY For one –
341
342 KAYE *Three* thousand.
343
344 WILSON Four thousand.
345
346 KAYE Five thousand dollars!
347
348 SULLY Whoa! Hold on here, gents. It's not that I don't
349 appreciate the offers. I do! But this is getting out of hand.
350
351 WILSON Six thousand dollars!
352
353 HONDO What is up with you two? You obviously know each
354 other. Aren't you friends?
355
356 KAYE Friends? *Bah!*
357
358 WILSON Perhaps briefly in our boyhood years, but not now.
359
360 KAYE There are no friendships in the world of wine.

361
362 SULLY That's too bad.
363
364 WILSON If you must know, Reginald and I have always been
365 rivals in the field of wine appreciation. At one time, his
366 reputation was stellar. . . unparalleled.
367
368 KAYE (SURPRISED) At one time?
369
370 WILSON But since the cabernet incident of 2008. . . well,
371 (CHUCKLES) need I go on?
372
373 SULLY There are rival wine drinkers?
374
375 KAYE We are not merely wine *drinkers*, Mr. Sullivan. We
376 appreciate all things wine. The firm spring of some
377 unpicked grapes ripening in the morning sun. The slow
378 application of the label onto the bottle. The first whiff of
379 the pleasure that awaits the palate once the cork is so
380 delicately withdrawn. All of these things and more make
381 the senses sing out for joy in remembrance of that first
382 day of creation when God Himself made the grape.
383
384 SULLY That was on the first day?
385
386 KAYE *I* believe so. (PAUSE) My bid is now seven thousand
387 dollars.
388
389 SULLY Guys, I need you both to cool your jets for a minute.
390
391 WILSON I beg your pardon?
392
393 SULLY I need you two to calm down. Take a breather. (PAUSE)
394 Couldn't you two *share* this bottle?
395
396 WILSON Absolutely not!
397
398 KAYE Perish the thought!
399
400 WILSON The very idea that I should lower myself to. . .

401
402 KAYE That is *impossible*.
403
404 SULLY Being a gentleman, I just thought I'd ask. (PAUSE) So
405 this little bottle is a very important *object d'art*, huh?
406
407 KAYE Most assuredly so. Why would we be bidding such
408 figures if it were not?
409
410 WILSON Eight thousand dollars!
411
412 HONDO Holy cow, Sully!
413
414 SULLY Gentlemen, if this is such a worthy thing, I need to
415 *promote* it before I sell it.
416
417 KAYE I don't understand.
418
419 SULLY I'll bet that some of the local news people would love to
420 hear the story of the two hundred-year-old bottle of wine
421 that was found at Sully's Tap.
422
423 HONDO *Good* thinking, Sul.
424
425 WILSON Please don't.
426
427 SULLY Why not? It'll be good publicity for the joint. It's not
428 every day something like this happens. It'll bring in
429 thirsty mouths.
430
431 KAYE But publicity will also bring out other, *less reputable*
432 bidders.
433
434 WILSON Precisely.
435
436 HONDO He's got a point.
437
438 SULLY I hadn't thought of that. (PAUSE) Tell you what, I give
439 you my word that I won't sell this bottle to anyone else if
440 you two do what I say.

441
442 KAYE You promise?
443
444 HONDO Sully's word is his bond. You can take that to the bank.
445
446 WILSON How long will you need for this publicity campaign?
447
448 SULLY I would think a week, maybe two.
449
450 WILSON *Two weeks?*
451
452 SULLY I'll keep the bottle safe for you.
453
454 KAYE Could it be put back in the wine cellar from whence it
455 came?
456
457 SULLY Sure.
458
459 WILSON Under guard?
460
461 HONDO *Guard?* Are you kidding?
462
463 WILSON The publicity campaign is bound to bring some undesired
464 attention to the bottle.
465
466 SULLY Don't you get your feathers ruffled, Mr. Wilson. Aside
467 from a few bar fights after some football games that
468 didn't turn out the way some of my patrons wanted them
469 to, Sully's has *never* had any problems, and we're not
470 about to start. I can deal with anything the publicity sends
471 my way.
472
473 WILSON Very well. I trust your business acumen, of course.
474
475 KAYE Likewise.
476
477 SULLY There's only *one* problem I see.
478
479 WILSON (UPSET) Problem?
480

481 KAYE (UPSET) What. . . what problem?
482
483 SULLY The way you two have been throwing around the bucks,
484 it's clear to me that you're gonna keep one-upping each
485 other so you can own this bottle.
486
487 WILSON You can count on me for a thousand dollars more than
488 whatever this *charlatan* bids.
489
490 KAYE (UPSET) Charlatan? I will *always* outbid Wilson, Mr.
491 Sullivan. I urge you to choose me for this delightful
492 vintage. I *did* approach you about it first, after all.
493
494 SULLY See what I mean? You two used to be *friends*.
495
496 KAYE We were young and foolish. We're more mature now.
497
498 WILSON Our palates are much more discriminating, as are our
499 tastes with whom our time is spent.
500
501 SULLY There's going to have to be some *other* component to this
502 sale – more than just the money – so I can make my
503 decision.
504
505 WILSON What are you suggesting?
506
507 SULLY I'm not sure yet. I'll let you know when I am.
508
509 **SCENE FADE OUT**
510
511 **SCENE FADE IN**
512
513 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS, AS BEFORE**
514
515 HANK The publicity brought in *a lot* of new customers. Things
516 have, of course, quieted down some now. On weekend
517 nights, this joint is *hoppin'*! You can hardly muscle your
518 way to the bar. Sully was very pleased with all the good
519 press one little bottle of wine had brought him. But, as
520 the day neared for the sale to either Mr. Kaye or Mr.

521 Wilson, I noticed Sully growin' . . . *agitated*. If the sale
 522 was strictly for money, those two would one-up each
 523 other until the cows came home. No, Sully had to have
 524 some other ingredient to the sale. . . somethin' that would
 525 help him make a definite decision in favor of one of those
 526 two guys. (LONGISH PAUSE) The last piece of the
 527 puzzle came to him one night when Patrick Muldoon –
 528 that very same man sittin' right over there sippin' his
 529 Guinness – came in and sat down on a stool. He was
 530 lookin' a little down in the mouth.

531

532 **SCENE** **FADE OUT**

533

534 **SCENE** **FADE IN**

535

536 **FX UNDER** **BAR SOUNDS, AS BEFORE**

537

538 SULLY What's up, Pat?

539

540 MULDOON (DEPRESSED) Oh, you don't want to know.

541

542 SULLY Sure I do. Why would I have asked?

543

544 MULDOON (PAUSE) Well. . .

545

546 SULLY It's part of the creed.

547

548 MULDOON What creed?

549

550 SULLY The bartenders' creed. We're supposed to serve drinks
 551 and lend an ear. We're kind of like psychiatrists with
 552 liquor licenses.

553

554 MULDOON They're the best kind.

555

556 SULLY If I didn't listen to customers' problems – especially
 557 *loyal* customers like you – they'd throw me out of the
 558 union.

559

560 **FX** **THE BEER IS PLACED ON THE BAR**

561
562 SULLY There. I've served you your brew. Now what's up?
563
564 MULDOON (LONGISH PAUSE) I got canned today.
565
566 SULLY Geez, I'm sorry to hear that. You've been working there
567 for a long time.
568
569 MULDOON Fifteen years.
570
571 SULLY That drink's on the house.
572
573 MULDOON Thanks, Sully. (PAUSE) I'm gonna have to find
574 something soon. My girl's college expenses aren't gonna
575 wait. I can't pay for that school with my good looks,
576 that's for darn sure.
577
578 SULLY You know, old friend – in case I haven't told you lately –
579 I've always admired the way you picked yourself up after
580 your dear wife passed on. *Strength!* That's what it is.
581
582 MULDOON I didn't have much of a choice, what with my girl. Did I
583 want to curl up into a ball and cry for a long, long time?
584 Sure I did, but my Joanie was depending on me. I
585 couldn't let her down.
586
587 SULLY She's lucky to have a dad who's so devoted. I don't
588 know if I could do what you've done if my Cheryl passed
589 on.
590
591 MULDOON It's not like I had a choice. You'd be surprised what you
592 can do if you have to.
593
594 **SCENE FADE OUT**
595
596 **SCENE FADE IN**
597
598 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS, AS BEFORE**
599

600 HANK And so, with that conversation, Sully seized on the
601 second half of the sale. He knew what the two wine
602 lovers would need to do in addition to forkin' over the
603 greenbacks. At the end of the two-week publicity
604 campaign, he called Mr. Kaye and Mr. Wilson to his
605 office at the bar and laid out the conditions.
606

607 **SCENE** **FADE OUT**
608

609 **SCENE** **FADE IN**
610

611 KAYE That doesn't seem reasonable, Mr. Sullivan.
612

613 WILSON I find myself forced to agree with Mr. Kaye. Shouldn't
614 we just be able to bid and bid until one of us drops out?
615

616 SULLY No. This bottle of wine the two of you want so badly is
617 *my* possession. I can set any price on it I please. If I told
618 you that the bottle would go to whoever did the best
619 chicken imitation, you'd be obliged to do that.
620

621 KAYE Of course we would.
622

623 SULLY Well, what I'm asking is much simpler.
624

625 WILSON I don't know about this.
626

627 KAYE You're free to drop out, Mr. Wilson. Both of you are. I'm
628 ignoring other offers because of the promise I made to
629 the two of you two weeks back. If I choose to, I'll pour
630 the wine down the drain right in front of your eyes. That
631 should get rid of that pesky clog.
632

633 WILSON (URGENTLY) Don't do that!
634

635 KAYE (UPSET) *Sacrilege!* You wouldn't?
636

637 SULLY Wouldn't I?
638

639 KAYE He'd do it.

640
641 WILSON Agreed.
642
643 SULLY Well?
644
645 WILSON But I don't even know who Patrick Muldoon *is*.
646
647 SULLY That's part of the plan. I don't want him to know who
648 you two are. I don't want him to know I've sent you.
649
650 KAYE This is a rather *bizarre* condition. You have to admit that.
651
652 SULLY (TAUNTING) Mr. Wine, meet Mr. Drain.
653
654 WILSON Don't *anger* him, Kaye, you idiot!
655
656 KAYE (QUICKLY) I'm sorry. *Very* sorry.
657
658 SULLY (LONGISH PAUSE) Apology accepted. So you agree to
659 the terms of sale?
660
661 **SCENE FADE OUT**
662
663 **SCENE FADE IN**
664
665 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS, AS BEFORE**
666
667 HANK And so it was agreed: the wine would be sold to the man
668 who offered the better bid *and* did the best thing to
669 improve the life of sorrowful Patrick Muldoon. . . Yes,
670 that's him right there. . . How's that?. . . He's doin' better
671 now. You still OK with that drink?. . . Peanuts?. . . OK.
672 They're right there, if you want them. (PAUSE) Alrighty
673 then. Let's be gettin' back to the story. (PAUSE) It was a
674 few days later that a very confused Patrick Muldoon
675 bellied up to the bar.
676
677 **SCENE FADE OUT**
678
679 **SCENE FADE IN**

680

681 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS, AS BEFORE**

682

683 SULLY Guinness, Pat?

684

685 MULDOON (DISTRACTED) Please.

686

687 SULLY If you don't mind my asking, friend, are you feeling
688 well?

689

690 MULDOON I'm fine, Sully. Thanks. Just. . . *confused*.

691

692 SULLY Here ya are.

693

694 **FX A BEER IS PLACED ON THE BAR**

695

696 SULLY That should be good for whatever ails ya. It always
697 works for me.

698

699 MULDOON Thank you.

700

701 SULLY What's confusing you? Tell me.

702

703 MULDOON (AFTER DRINKING) I've had some. . . *mysterious*
704 things happen lately.

705

706 SULLY Bad things?

707

708 MULDOON Oh no. Very good things, as a matter of fact.

709

710 SULLY Then that's OK.

711

712 MULDOON Good, but confusing: Someone paid Joanie's tuition for
713 me. Just stepped off the elevator at her college, pulled out
714 a wad of bills that could choke a horse, and paid every
715 dime. Didn't give his name; just paid and left.

716

717 SULLY You don't say?

718

719 MULDOON And somebody sent me a *mess* of groceries. Good stuff,
720 not the store brands I'd get. I won't need to go near the
721 market for *months*. Then yesterday, a guy plowed my
722 driveway. He said *someone* had paid for it.
723

724 SULLY It sounds like you have a secret admirer. Can't you just
725 be grateful and accept what's happened?
726

727 MULDOON Don't get me wrong. I *am* grateful and accepting. It's just
728 my. . . my *pride*.
729

730 SULLY I had forgotten what a prideful man you are.
731

732 MULDOON It's always been tough for me to accept charity from
733 anyone – even a pal like you. You remember back when
734 my dear wife passed? Do you recall what you wanted to
735 do for me?
736

737 SULLY I wanted to give you some dough until you got back on
738 your feet.
739

740 MULDOON That's right, and I turned you down.
741

742 SULLY That you did.
743

744 MULDOON And that was as low as I've ever been. I'm low now, but
745 not so much.
746

747 **FX UNDER TWO APPROACHING SETS OF FOOTSTEPS**
748

749 SULLY (SOTTO VOCE) I didn't think of that.
750

751 MULDOON What was that?
752

753 **FX FOOTSTEPS OUT**
754

755 KAYE Good evening, Mr. Sullivan.
756

757 WILSON It's the big day, isn't it?
758

759 MULDOON What are they talking about?
760
761 SULLY Pat, I'd like you to meet Mr. Kaye and Mr. Wilson – your
762 benefactors.
763
764 KAYE Pleased to finally meet you, Mr. Muldoon.
765
766 WILSON Charmed, sir.
767
768 MULDOON You paid for Joanie at the college?
769
770 WILSON Guilty as charged.
771
772 MULDOON And the groceries?
773
774 KAYE That was my doing.
775
776 MULDOON The snowplow?
777
778 WILSON Me again. I have always abhorred manual labor, and I
779 understand that your back is rather delicate.
780
781 KAYE Have you received the fruit baskets yet?
782
783 MULDOON Baskets?
784
785 KAYE Maybe when you get home?
786
787 MULDOON (CONFUSED) Wh. . . why?
788
789 KAYE Mr. Sullivan?
790
791 SULLY (SIGHS) I'm afraid it's my doing, Pat. My. . . fault.
792
793 WILSON I'd hardly call this a *fault*.
794
795 MULDOON You, Sully? Why?
796
797 SULLY You heard about the bottle of wine?
798

799 MULDOON Of course.
800

801 SULLY Well, both of these guys want to buy it, and the offers
802 were flying fast and furious. I knew they'd just keep one-
803 upping each other unless I added an extra condition to the
804 sale. When you came in after being canned, I figured that
805 doing something good for you should be the other half of
806 the equation.
807

808 MULDOON So, gentlemen, all these good things you did for me: the
809 tuition, the groceries, the snowplow. . .
810

811 KAYE Don't forget the fruit baskets!
812

813 MULDOON All of this was so you could buy that bottle of wine?
814

815 KAYE Precisely.
816

817 WILSON Very true.
818

819 SULLY I'm sorry, Pat. I forgot about your pride. I. . . I thought I
820 was doing a good thing.
821

822 MULDOON (SIGHS) Don't worry about it, old friend. Your heart was
823 in the right place.
824

825 WILSON So, Mr. Sullivan, is this ordeal now at an end?
826

827 SULLY It is.
828

829 WILSON Then I bid ten thousand dollars for the bottle of La
830 Caprice Ordo.
831

832 SULLY *Sold!*
833

834 WILSON Splendid!
835

836 KAYE I object! You didn't give me time to counterbid. I offer –
837

838 SULLY No more bidding! Ten thousand bucks has been bid and
839 accepted.
840

841 WILSON Too bad, Reginald. I'll think *momentarily* of you when I
842 partake of this excellent vintage.
843

844 KAYE This is unfair!
845

846 WILSON Enough of your bellyaching. Mr. Sullivan has made his
847 decision. Bravo, sir. (PAUSE) Will you accept a personal
848 check for ten thousand dollars?
849

850 SULLY *Five* thousand.
851

852 WILSON (CONFUSED) But *ten* thousand was my accepted bid.
853

854 SULLY And that's what I'll get: Five thousand from you and five
855 thousand from Mr. Kaye.
856

857 WILSON *What?*
858

859 SULLY I'm selling you each *half* of the bottle.
860

861 WILSON But my bid was for the *entire* bottle.
862

863 SULLY I know that, and half of your bid – which is what I'm
864 accepting – will get you *half* the bottle.
865

866 KAYE What's going on here?
867

868 SULLY It was Pat who gave me the idea.
869

870 MULDOON *Me?* What did I do?
871

872 SULLY You called me "old friend." Then it hit me that these two
873 wine lovers need to be friends again, and I can think of
874 no better way for that to happen than over that old bottle.
875

876 WILSON Unfair!
877

878 KAYE I must protest!
879
880 WILSON You doth protest too much, Kaye.
881
882 SULLY See, this is what I mean. You were friends once. Why be
883 like this now?
884
885 WILSON We've already explained that to you.
886
887 KAYE I refuse to feign friendship with this troglodyte for half a
888 bottle of that wine!
889
890 WILSON Likewise.
891
892 SULLY OK then. I've had other offers. . . and *higher* offers.
893
894 WILSON You wouldn't?
895
896 SULLY Watch me.
897
898 KAYE But your promise to sell only to us. . .
899
900 SULLY Was valid *if* you obeyed my terms – which you're not
901 doing.
902
903 KAYE This isn't fair!
904
905 SULLY That's my offer, and it is *my* wine. Each of you can have
906 half of the bottle for five thousand dollars. Take it or
907 leave it.
908
909 KAYE (QUICKLY) I'll take it.
910
911 WILSON (EAGERLY) Me too.
912
913 SULLY Good. Once your checks have cleared and you've proven
914 to me that you're friends again, the wine is yours. You
915 can work out a place to enjoy it together. Maybe right
916 here?
917

918 WILSON When will that be?
919
920 SULLY You're both in here pretty often. I'll be watching you. I'll
921 know when you're *really* friends and can share the bottle.
922 (PAUSE) Don't try any funny stuff. I have a very good
923 B.S. detector.
924
925 KAYE I'm. . . not sure I know how to be friends with. . . *him*.
926
927 MULDOON You could take a page from Sully's and my book. We've
928 been pals for years.
929
930 WILSON I don't know if such a relationship is possible.
931
932 SULLY If you want the wine, it'd better be.
933
934 KAYE I suppose we could be. . . *civil*.
935
936 SULLY That would be a start.
937
938 MULDOON Why don't you do something friends do together?
939
940 KAYE Like what?
941
942 MULDOON Go to the game together. The Patriots are –
943
944 WILSON Sports? Perish the thought!
945
946 SULLY The symphony?
947
948 KAYE Now *that's* a possibility.
949
950 WILSON But *I* choose the performance.
951
952 KAYE We'll *both* choose. (LONGISH PAUSE) What will
953 happen to the wine until we're. . .
954
955 MULDOON Pals?
956
957 KAYE (GULPS) Precisely.

958
959 SULLY I'll keep it down in the wine cellar. It will be safe and
960 well chilled.
961
962 KAYE (ALARMED) But with the work that Mr. Hondo is doing
963 down –
964
965 SULLY I'll make sure he knows about it. The bottle will come to
966 no harm. (PAUSE) Shouldn't you two *friends* be going?
967
968 **SCENE FADE OUT**
969
970 **SCENE FADE IN**
971
972 **FX UNDER BAR SOUNDS, AS BEFORE**
973
974 HANK And that brings us to the present. . . No, Kaye and
975 Wilson are still tryin' to learn how to be friends. I guess
976 some people take longer than others. (PAUSE) How's
977 that?. . . The bottle is safe and sound in what's left of the
978 wine cellar, just waitin' to be drunk. Hondo's all finished
979 down there, and Sully has moved in his stock in
980 preparation for St. Patrick's Day. The wine will be ready
981 for those two guys as soon as Sully deems them friends.
982 (PAUSE) So, that's the story. (LONGISH PAUSE)
983 Would you like some fruit? Muldoon sent over those
984 baskets Kaye sent him. You should see all the fruit!
985 We're *lousy* with it.
986
987 **SCENE FADE OUT**
988
989 **CLOSING CREDITS HERE**