

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Well, since I just finished watching a Rick Dalton fucking film festival, I think I know who you are. Put it there.

RICK DALTON

Well, it's my pleasure, Mr. Schwartz. And thank you for taking an interest.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Schwarz, not Schwartz.

RICK DALTON

Ah, goddamn it to hell. I'm sorry about that. My pleasure Mr. Schwarz.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Call me Marvin.

RICK DALTON

Marvin, call me Rick.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Rick. Is that your son? (indicates Cliff)

RICK DALTON

My son? No, that's my stunt double, Cliff Booth.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Good to meet you.

RICK DALTON

We've worked together since the last two seasons of "Bounty Law". Yeah, my car's in the shop, so he gave me a ride.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Well, sounds like a good friend.

CLIFF BOOTH

I try.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

(Leading Rick away)

I want to send you greetings from my wife, Mary Alice Schwarz.

RICK DALTON

Oh, well, that's nice. (Marvin is pushing in Rick's chair) Thanks a lot.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

We had a Rick Dalton double feature in our screening room last night.

RICK DALTON

Oh, well, that's both flattering and embarrassing. What'd you see?

MARVIN SCHWARZ

35 millimeter prints of "Tanner " and "The Fourteen Fists of McCluskey."

RICK DALTON

I hope the Rick Dalton double feature wasn't too painful for you and . . . and the missus.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Oh no. "Painful." Stop. What are you saying? Mary Alice loves Westerns. Our whole courtship we watched Westerns. And we thoroughly enjoyed "Tanner."

RICK DALTON

Oh, that's nice.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

It's really good. And anyway, she goes to bed. I open up a box of Havanas. I light up. I pour myself a Cognac. And I watch "The Fourteen Fists of McCluskey." What a picture. What a picture.

RICK DALTON

Good picture, yeah.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

That is so much fun. All the shooting. Blata blata blata blata blat. I love that stuff. You know, the killing.

RICK DALTON

A lot of killing. Lot of killing.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

That's you operating the flamethrower, isn't it?

RICK DALTON

Oh, you bet your sweet ass it was. Yeah.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

It was you?

RICK DALTON

Yeah. And let me tell you that's one shit-fuck crazy weapon, you do not want to be on the wrong side of. Boy, oh, boy. You know, I practiced with that dragon three hours a day for two weeks. Not just because I wanted to look good in the picture, but because I was shit-scared of the damn thing, to be honest.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

So I came to the office early today and I watched two episodes of Bounty Law on 16mm. Then a couple of jokers over in archival sent over a kinescope of a little treat featuring you. So you've been doing guest shots on episodic TV shows the last couple of years.

RICK DALTON

Yeah. Yeah. I'm doing a pilot for CBS right now. It's called "Lancer." I play the heavy. Did a Ron Ely "Tarzan". I did a "Land of the Giants." "Green Hornet." I did that show, uh, "Bingo Martin" with that kid Scott Brown. And I got a "FBI" that airs this Sunday.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

You always play the bad guy on these shows?

RICK DALTON

Yeah. Yeah.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

So, and they have a fight scene at the end of them?

RICK DALTON

Well, not, not "Land of the Giants" or "FBI," but the rest, yeah.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

And you lose in the fight?

RICK DALTON

Yeah, of course, I'm the heavy.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

Oh, that's an old trick pulled by the networks. Now, you take "Bingo Martin" for example. So, you got a new guy like Scott Brown. You wanna build up his bona fides, right. So you hire a guy from a canceled show to play the heavy. Then, at the end of the show, when they fight, it's hero besting heavy. But, what the audience sees is Bingo Martin whipping Jake Cahill's ass. You see? Then next week, it's Ron Ely. Next week, it's Bob Conrad, wearing his tight pants and kicking your ass. Now, in another couple of years, playing a punching bag, to every swinging dick new to the network, That's gonna have a psychological effect on how the audience perceives you.

RICK DALTON

Right.

MARVIN SCHWARZ

So, Rick, who's gonna kick the shit out of you next week? "Mannix?" "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.?" "The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.?" How about Batman and Robin? Ping! Pow! Choom! Zoom! Down goes you. Down goes your career as a leading man. Or do you go to Rome and star in Westerns and win fucking fights?