

Game Night

By

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INT. BASEMENT

Five gangsters are centered around a card table. Each of their elbows is touching, obscuring what it is they're playing. Each of them have guns hanging from holsters. Occasionally they all stop what they're doing to take a drag of a cigarette or a sip of beer. They look around at each other for a while.

ANTONIO

What are you waiting for?

SALVATOR

C'mon Vinny.

Vinny glances around suspiciously.

VINNY

I don't know...

MARIO

Just go already.

SALVATOR

Look at this guy!

ANTONIO

We've been waitin' all day here!

Vinny glances around once more.

VINNY

Alright.

Vinny holds up a "Scattegories" card.

VINNY

Okay, for country I put Puerto Rico.

SALVATOR

What? That's not a country, that's a territory.

VINNY

Are you sure?

ROBERTO

It's true Vin.

VINNY

Alright... if you say so. What's a territory anyway?

ROBERTO

Well, if something is a territory,
it's like a state, but while the
people are U.S. citizens, they
aren't represented in Congress.

VINNY

Well that doesn't seem right.

ROBERTO

The whole thing is very
complicated.

ANTONIO

Look, can we just play?

SALVATOR

Alright, I'm next, for famous
people I put Pope.

ANTONIO

What? C'mon, you kiddin' me here?

SALVATOR

What, you tellin' me the Pope ain't
famous?

ANTONIO

No, your problem is you're not
specific enough, you can't just say
Pope, that's just a title, and you
especially can't just say Pope and
then not give the name of the Pope
you're referring to. You at least
have to say Pope John Paul II or
something.

SALVATOR

I want a ruling on this one, what
do you guys think?

MARIO

I say you're right Antonio, you
can't just say "Pope," that's a job
is what that is.

VINNY

Well I say Sal's right, don't
matter who the Pope is, he's always
famous.

SALVATOR

Okay Roberto, it's down to you.

Roberto puffs on his cigar, thinking for a moment.

ROBERTO

I'm going to have to go with Sal on this one.

SALVATOR

Yes!

ANTONIO

What?

ROBERTO

At the end of the say, it's like Vinny said, whoever the Pope is, he's bound to be famous.

ANTONIO

Get outta here.

SALVATOR

Sorry Antonio, the ruling has been made.

ANTONIO

Okay fine, it's my turn anyway. For famous person I put Pasteur.

Beat.

VINNY

Who's that?

SALVATOR

Yeah, I've never heard of him before.

MARIO

Yeah Tony, who is this guy.

ANTONIO

Pasteur, like Louis Pasteur.

MARIO

Is he like, some French dude?

ANTONIO

What, are you serious? Yes he's some French dude, he's the French dude who invented pasteurization. You know, like for milk and stuff.

VINNY
Never heard of him.

ANTONIO
Well that's a surprise, genius boy
over here has never heard of him.

VINNY
You heard about this guy Robby?

Roberto nods.

ROBERTO
It's true.

MARIO
Well what do you think then, do we
count it?

Roberto takes another long drag of his cigar.

ROBERTO
Can't give it to you Tony.

ANTONIO
What? C'mon! This freackin' moron
over here gets "Pope," which is a
freackin' title, and you're not
going to give me an actual
historical figure?

ROBERTO
You weren't supposed to think of a
historical figure, you were
supposed to think of somebody
famous. Pope's famous. Louis
Pasteur? Nah.

Antonio stands up.

ANTONIO
I don't believe you people!

VINNY
Hey, wow, don't throw a fit just to
get your way.

ANTONIO
You say one more thing Vinny, I
swear I'll pump you full a metal.

VINNY

Calm down Tony, it's just a game,
you win some, you lose some.

Antonio takes out his gun and points it at Vinny. All the men erupt in exclamation at the same time.

MARIO

Hey, oh, what's goin' on here!

SALVATOR

Hey, easy there slick!

VINNY

Wow, hey, what do you think you're doin'?

ANTONIO

Just a game, huh, just a game?

ROBERTO

Tony, Tony, put down the gun.

ANTONIO

No, I'm sick of this! You're all freackin' morons at this game! And you're all cheaters too!

ROBERTO

Tony please, you always do this, don't get upset.

ANTONIO

Hey, I wanted to play Pictionary, or Scrabble, I didn't want to play this stupid game in the first place!

ROBERTO

Tony, remember what happened to Jimmy Two-Face?

Antonio is silent for a moment.

ANTONIO

(embarrassed)

Yeah.

ROBERTO

He couldn't play fair either. Remember what happened to him? Beat.

ANTONIO

Yeah.

ROBERTO

One minute, he's just cheatin' at Monopoly, but the next, he's goin' straight to jail in real life. You see what I'm sayin'? How we play games reveals a lot about our character.

ANTONIO

I understand.

ROBERTO

Good, now sit down and let Mario take his turn.

Antonio sits down.

MARIO

Thanks Roberto, now for famous people I put Pauly D, from "Jersey Shore."

ANTONIO

You gotta be kiddin' me.