

FRIENDS (excerpt) by Nils Osmar

- Colby and Stevie are con artists, drug dealers... low-rent grifters.

- Stevie went out a few hours ago to sell some drugs, ended up meeting Mikey at the airport ... Mikey was looking lost, and rich... Stevie invited him over to get high and buy some drugs (but with an ulterior motive) ... charmed him into coming along.

- Colby thinks Stevie's a loser. Stevie's determined to impress her.

Note: Any character can be any gender.

INT: COLBY'S APARTMENT, NIGHT

Colby sits alone at a grungy table studying a map of a bank vault. There's a loud knocking at the door. She folds the map, looks toward the door in concern.

STEVIE (from hallway)

Colby? You in there? Open up, damn it!

COLBY

Stevie?

STEVIE

C'mon, it's raining. Open the door!

COLBY

Keep your pants on.

Colby goes to a cabinet, gets a small handgun, buzzes the door open. Stevie enters, arm around MIKEY. Both are a little high. Colby swings the gun up, targeting them both. Door swings shut behind them.

MIKEY

Whoah! Dude. (to Stevie) That's a gun, man. She's --

STEVIE

(laughing)

It's okay. She's always clowning. Colby, this is -- ah -- what was your name again?

MIKEY

Mikey. Mikey Ryan. (extends hand to Colby) It's good to meet you.

COLBY

Whatever.

She slips the gun in her belt, goes back to the table. Mikey looks around, notices drugs and gun paraphernalia in the room.

MIKEY

This is cool. "Bad guys. Good guys." I love it. (laughs) Ah, Stevie, mind if I use your, ah --

STEVIE

(gestures vaguely)

In the back. By the washing machine.

MIKEY

Cool, man. Thanks.

Mikey exits. Stevie sits down, near Colby, pulls out a joint.

COLBY

So who's the mark? And what are you doing here, Stevie?

STEVIE

I made a sale. Fifty grams. Then I met this idiot. He's worth money, baby. More than *you've* ever seen. He's a --

Mikey re-enters, zipping up... looks slightly nervous now, coming down off his high.

MIKEY

This is great. I love this place. So listen. I should be going. (to Colby) See, my dad was supposed to meet me. Out at the airport. I mean he is a Senator. He has a private jet, and everything. But he, ah ...

Colby glances at Stevie, who stands casually, blocking Mikey's exit.

STEVIE

There's no hurry. Like we're all buddies, right? You can stay here as long as you want.

Colby lifts her gun, aims it playfully at Mikey.

COLBY

That's what friends are for.