LEE

Yer gonna’ get a nice fee fer writin’ the script a’ course.

(AUSTIN stops, stares at LEE, puts glasses and bottle on table, pause)

AUSTIN

I’m writing the script?

LEE

That’s what he said. Said we couldn’t hire a better screenwriter in the whole town.

AUSTIN

But I’m already working on a script. I’ve got my own project. I don’t have time to write two scripts.

LEE

No, he said he was gonna’ drop that other one. (pause)

AUSTIN

What? You mean mine? He’s going to drop mine and do yours instead?

LEE (smiles)

Now look, Austin, it’s jest beginner’s luck ya’ know. I mean I sank a fifty-foot putt for this deal. No hard feelings.

(AUSTIN goes to phone on wall, grabs it, starts dialing)

LEE (CONT’D)

He’s not gonna be in, Austin. Told me he wouldn’t be in‘till late this afternoon.

AUSTIN

(stays on phone, dialing, listens) I can’t believe this. I just can’t believe it. Are you sure he said that? Why would he drop mine?

LEE

That’s what he told me.

AUSTIN

He can’t do that without telling me first. Without talking to me at least. He wouldn’t just make a decision like that without talking to me!

LEE

Well I was kinda surprised myself. But he was real enthusiastic about my story.

(AUSTIN hangs up phone violently, paces)

AUSTIN

What’d he say! Tell me everything he said!

LEE

I been tellin’ ya’!He said he liked the story a whole lot. It was the first authentic Western to come along in a decade.

AUSTIN

He liked that story! Your story?

LEE

Yeah! What’s so surprisin’ about that?

AUSTIN

It’s stupid! It’s the dumbest story I ever heard in my life.

LEE

Hey, hold on! That’s my story yer talkin’ about.

AUSTIN

It’s a bullshit story! It’s idiotic. Two lamebrains chasing each other across Texas! Are you kidding? Who do you think’s going to go see a film like that?

LEE

It’s not a film! It’s a movie. There’s a big difference. That’s somethin’ Saul told me.

AUSTIN

Oh he did, huh?

LEE

Yeah, he said, “In this business we make movies, American movies. Leave the films to the French.”

AUSTIN

So you got real intimate with old Saul huh? He started pouring forth his vast knowledge of Cinema.

LEE

I think he liked me a lot, to tell ya’ the truth. I think he felt I was somebody he could confide in.

AUSTIN

What’d you do, beat him up or something?

LEE

(stands fast)

Hey, I’ve about had it with the insults buddy! You think yer the only one in the brain department here? Yer the only one that can sit around and cook things up? There’s other people got ideas too, ya’ know!

AUSTIN

You must’ve done something. Threatened him or something. Now what’d you do Lee?

LEE

I convinced him!