

Firefly Casting

REAL STEEL 'Max' – Scene 1 p. 22-24

The Story – set some time in the future:

MAX is in a really tough spot. He hasn't seen his dad, Charlie, in years. He knows his dad was a pretty good boxer, but human man-to-man boxing is now illegal and only Robot Boxing is allowed. Charlie now spends most of his time on the road, living out of his truck, trying to find boxing matches for his out-of-date robot. It's a pretty tough life for his dad and he hasn't had much luck along the way.

Though Max has grown up with his mother, his mom recently died and now he has nowhere to live and no one to take care of him. His rich aunt and uncle want to adopt him but the law says they can't do that without Charlie's permission.

When they all meet up in family court, Charlie is almost ready to give up his son for good when he hears the boy's uncle talk about a trip to Italy they have planned for the summer – The uncle sounds like he'd be just as happy not to be dragging his young nephew along. This gives Charlie an idea...

Because he's desperate for cash, Charlie makes a deal with the uncle: He'll take Max off their hands for the summer in exchange for *fifty - thousand* dollars and then he'll return Max to them when they get back from Italy.

Audition Scene 1:

Max's aunt and uncle have left, and Max is now with his dad for the first time in years – a guy he's never seen since he was a little boy. All Max has are some clothes and a small collection of toy butterflies, including a special red one he got from his mom.

As Scene 1 begins, Charlie now has to face the son he left, and Max is forced to deal with the dad who abandoned him years ago.

'MAX'

REAL STEE

1-20-10

29

(CONTINUED)

10-23-2009

22.

29

CHARLIE can't help but stare at the sad little BUTTERFLY and feel bad for the motherless boy...

AUNT HELEN

So you'll have him in New York by August 27th?

CHARLIE clocks MARVIN sitting in the car...nods...

CHARLIE

That's the deal.

HELEN nods and gets back in MARVIN's car.

As the car pulls off, the late afternoon sun backlights what's been left behind...MAX KENTON, our 11 year old boy.

MAX stands in the low slant of dim alley light with an old green Army duffel bag at his feet.

Father and son stare at each other like gunfighters in the old west. CHARLIE has his first pangs of humanity as he looks at the son he never knew, this is hard...

START

CHARLIE

I'm Charlie.

MAX stares at CHARLIE against the grim backdrop of the warehouse and thinks, "How did it come to this?"

CHARLIE

Well, uh, it's been a long time because, um.. I'm your-

MAX

You screwed me.

CHARLIE is thrown by the rough remark.

CHARLIE

Nice mouth.

MAX

Do you know where they're going?

CHARLIE

Italy?

MAX

Does this look like Italy?

CHARLIE

Relax kid, you got a whole life of fine living ahead of you.

(CONTINUED)

REL-66298

'MAX'
SC. 1
Pg. 1

2/8

MAX

I'm not spending the next coupla' months with you.

CHARLIE

You bet your ass you're not.

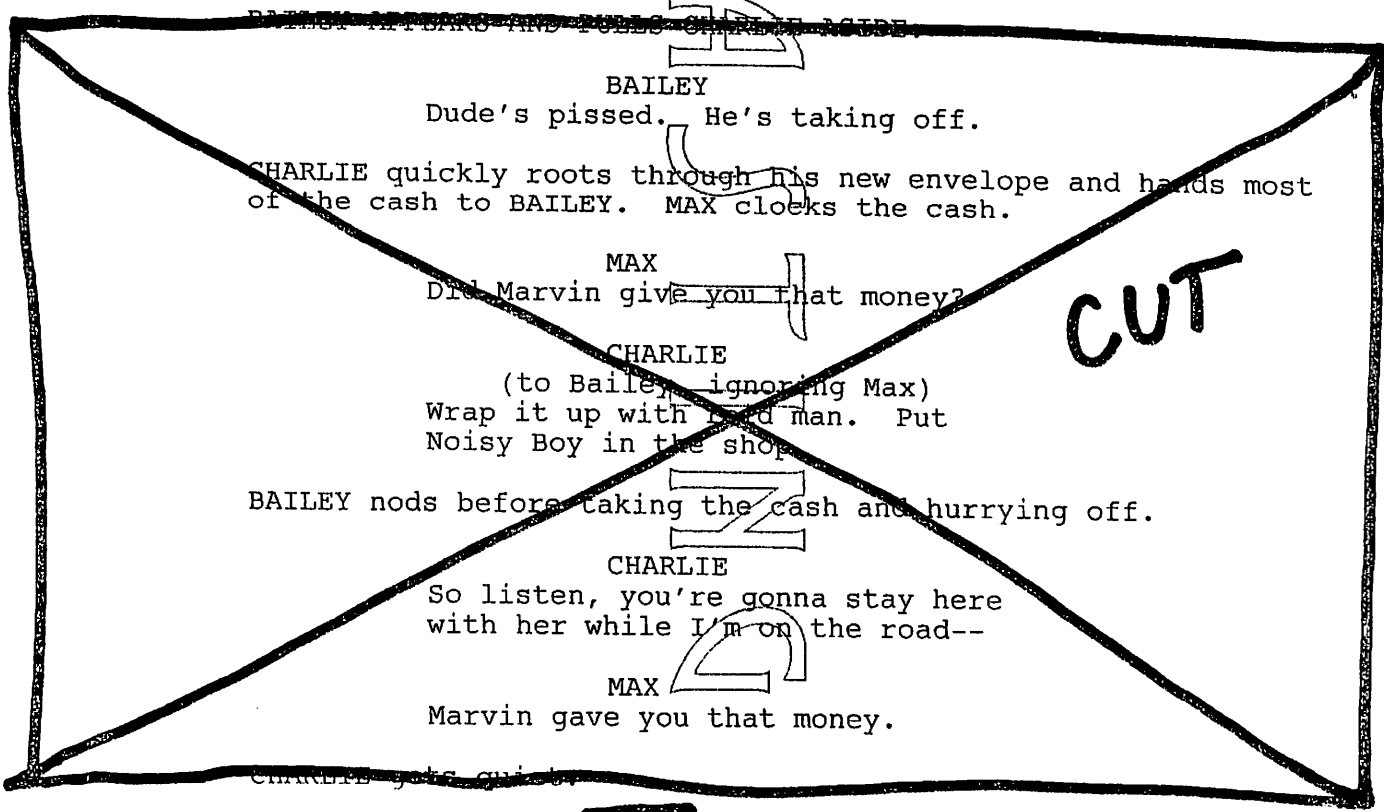
MAX

I'm not spending one night here.

CHARLIE

Right again, Junior.
(it's quiet)
Is that your concern? Cuz' it shouldn't be. I already found someone that will take you. I'm way ahead of you kid.

SC. 1
Pg. 2



BAILEY

Dude's pissed. He's taking off.

CHARLIE quickly roots through his new envelope and hands most of the cash to BAILEY. MAX clocks the cash.

MAX

Did Marvin give you that money?

CHARLIE

(to Bailey, ignoring Max)
Wrap it up with the man. Put Noisy Boy in the shop.

BAILEY nods before taking the cash and hurrying off.

CHARLIE

So listen, you're gonna stay here with her while I'm on the road--

MAX

Marvin gave you that money.

MAX

How much did he give you? Huh?

CHARLIE

Lower your voice.

MAX

Tell me! I wanna know!

(CONTINUED)

SC. 1
Pg. 3

CHARLIE

This is the wrong approach kid.

MAX

I SHOULD CALL THE COPS!
I deserve to know!

CHARLIE

50 thousand, okay? He gave me 50 thousand dollars for 8 weeks and then you're all hers. Will you shut up now?

It's quiet as MAX is putting all the pieces together.

MAX

You sold me.

CHARLIE's silence is damning as MAX is starting to crack.

CHARLIE

It sounds worse than it is.

MAX

Really? Explain to me how it could be worse than... you sold me?

CHARLIE

That's not--

MAX

Give me half the money and I'm outta here.

CHARLIE

Where you gonna go?

MAX

Sweet of you to be concerned..just give me the money, I'll be fine.

CHARLIE

I told your aunt I'd make sure you got to NY at the end of the summer.

MAX

Now you're concerned for Aunt Helen?

(finally explodes)

YOU SOLD ME FOR 50 GRAND! YOU OWE ME HALF!

CHARLIE

I AIN'T GOT TIT!

STOP

(CONTINUED)