

The Circle of Socialites

The Fox

This story is about a man named Robert, or 'Buddy' as his friends would call him. He's going to learn an important life lesson... The meaning of his motto. He's tried to move on from every chapter in his life when it didn't go his way. Tonight he will come to embrace the consequences for the game he himself started.

This story begins and will end on a dark, back-road heading out of the city. Robert's driving away from a horrible mess he created. Tonight wasn't the first time he's killed someone before but it was different. He had absolutely no time to cover it up or hide the evidence. It wasn't planned, as soon as he did it he saw headlights in the distance behind and they were approaching quick. The original plan was for him to meet Cheeks and the gang back at the hideout but now that he holds the briefcase he wanted to run away and keep it for himself. He was going to flee somewhere he didn't know anyone and no one knew him. He wanted to be so far away that he would be awake when everyone who was looking for him would be sleeping. Somewhere remote like a cabin in Alaska, a yacht on the ocean, or even a jungle deep in the heart of Africa either way you get the picture; he wanted to fully isolate himself from everything he's ever known.

Robert has no family. His parents died when he was young and for many years it was just him and his older brother left. They would change foster parents almost on a monthly basis so he never really had proper parental guidance throughout his childhood. One day they decided to make it on their own and ran away. At first they drifted around sleeping under bridges or inside abandoned buildings and ate by asking people for change. They were homeless for about a month before a nice older woman named Glynis saw them sleeping behind a grocery store and offered to buy them breakfast. While in conversation she found their story captivating and offered her guest room to them until they got on their feet.

Glynis had been alone for a long time, she's the widow of an architect who died when a building he created collapsed during the grand opening party. It ended up being the contractor's fault and she won a large settlement which was much more than she would ever need. With her wealth and influence, they both enrolled into business school. As the years passed Robert and his brother Ronnie started drifting apart and turned into two different people. Robert didn't care about his grades anymore and barely made it through where his brother excelled in all his classes and graduated with honours. Glynis was never rude to Robert but he was always angry towards her. I don't think he ever got over the fact that his parents were gone he just tried to forget and move on (which if you haven't caught on became his life's motto).

Everything in his life's been about trying to move on, presently he's trying to move on from a big chapter in his life. He dedicated six and a half years to this plan and to him it couldn't have went more smooth. In the breifcase he has enough money to do anything he's ever wanted to do, but to him nothing will amount to the pound of flesh he's alreadyliterally given to get here.

When Ronnie went missing Glynis blamed him for his disappearance and kicked him out, suddenly Robert he was out-casted again. This time he didn't have his big brother and was alone for the first time. He wasn't a child anymore so people never gave the same sympathy to him as before so food was harder to come by. He found a pretty nice abandoned house one night and squatted quietly for a few weeks, He didn't see a single person not even neighbors, so he figured it was cool to illegally moved in. A couple years had passed and he thought he had himself a home until the police woke him up one night and brought him in. He wasn't there for long because they felt pity for him, gave him a warm meal and released him.

A few nights later he was hungry and desperate to eat so he went for a walk to find food. It started to pour during his journey but it didn't stop his search for something to fill his belly with. He didn't find anything to eat that night and was soaked from head to toe. He found shelter in a bus stop, that tiny glass box was like heaven to him because hecould dry off. He couldn't sleep, all hecould do was think of his life and how messed up it was. He thought of his parents and even though he didn't know what happened, he blamed them for leaving the night they died. Everything could have been so different if they were still around. He blamed his brother for disappearing which made Glynis kick him out, then when he thought of her he started cursing her out too. He was now screaming and kicking the floor like a toddler throwing a tantrum. This went on for a while until he thought of the perfect solution. It was the ultimate plan to escape his current situation and literally every problem in his life faded and was replaced with excitement because it would also give him revenge on the only person alive, he could blame his unhappiness on.

He let his facial hair grow to further distort his appearance and as soon as he looked different he went back to where Glynis lived. He knew she was getting too old to keep a solid memory of people and when she didn't recognize him he thought he'd won the jackpot. He posed as her financial advisor and told her there had been a complication with her records and she was going to have to pay some major fines if she didn't update her information quickly. She gave him everything he needed to access and drain all of her accounts, he took his new fortune and left town forever.

Buddy never saw Glynis or that city again, he started completely new. He now had a sizable amount of money. He moved to a little town near the Canadian/American border and became popular and an elite among the hidden social scene. He was invited to every party and gained many influential and powerful friends because of it. He was forced to grow up quickly and took advice from many of them acquiring a knowledge on how to turn a fortune into a dynasty. They helped him invest enough money in different accounts that he never had to actually work a

job... Like ever. He started a couple legitimate businesses to launder his money but the majority of his income came from the more frowned upon illegal markets.

He hasn't felt bad for any of the bad things he's done, he feels no remorse for the people he robbed or even killed. Does that make him a horrible person? Yes, but he doesn't think so. He's all alone in a cruel world. Every night while trying to go to sleep he wondered if his parents or his brother were watching him from heaven, and what they thought about him if they were.

The only thing he has left of his brother is the memories of their childhood. His favorite memory was movie night. He still periodically watches a certain movie that him and his brother watched religiously as kids just to bring him back to when their parents were alive. He misses him and would give all his money to see him again but you'd never hear him admit it out loud.

The years went by and it got easier to move on from his past but karma came back at him in smaller ways. First he lost his hair, and since he partied with little exercise he developed a chub that's never gone away. He has had enough money to do anything he's ever wanted to do except the one thing he wishes he could do... Stupid as it sounds he wishes he could grow long luscious hair and let it flow in the wind... It's the small things in life that you never appreciate until you can't do it anymore. He gets so angry if someone calls him cue ball, Mr. Clean, or any other bald names. He remembered how his brother never had a problem growing his hair and always liked it long. It seemed no matter how many times he cut it off the hair would grow longer than Roberts. Buddy became the clean-cut brother and Ronnie the shaggy one, it also helped them inherit their nicknames.

Robert had assembled himself a nice foothold in the Courthouse and in City Hall, he was becoming a very influential person himself quickly. He coined himself a nickname in the financial district and it caught on quickly, he called himself the Stocktor (I know... Cheesy right? Basically he helped fix their stocks so you can guess how he came up with that name).

He had many clients who hired him to manage their money, he'd drop them into stocks that pretty much didn't exist so he could invest them somewhere else he knew would pay off drastically. He'd give them back a small percentage and keep the remainder, it was a lot of profit that came from nowhere... Basically free money to him and it kept coming in. This went on for a couple years un-noticed and he started getting greedy and tried to expand the business. It was harder than he thought and Robert ended up bidding against a former friend and mentor for some new clients (in this business that's a declaration of war). They became enemies and a feud had begun between the two. They were both powerful people so mutual friends were starting to divide between them 'picking a side'. Robert lost a lot of friends and clients and suddenly many strings in his puppet show disappeared, creating a huge dent in his profits hurting his reputation.

This was the time in his life when he first met Adam. He was a police officer and not the kind that wanted to 'save the world' or 'stop the bad guys', he was as corrupt as they come and wanted power. They became fast friends and he helped Robert find things to pin on his new found 'enemies', one by one they all found the inside of a jail cell.

This was also the time he started using the nickname Buddy. With Adam's help he was able to pick them off one at a time like a game of chess and in no time he had the majority of the market in his pocket again, which meant the power. Adam was his new business manager and the enforcer. He was smart, sadistic, and tough in the manner to which he did business. It seemed people didn't want to say no to him or his gang of thugs.

Buddy and Adam were the perfect team and together took over the entire city. Every business had them insuring and protecting them, every politician spoke with them before council meetings, and almost every cop at their command, it wasn't long until the power started to get to Roberts head. He wanted even more money than he already had and devised a plan to trim the percentages on the profits coming in and reverting them to a secret account to accumulate for a rainy day, he was taking pretty much a 65-35 split instead of 50-50. Adam knew a little more than he hoped for and invited Robert out to celebrate one night. They were all having drinks at the hideout owned by a man named Alexandr, or Durk as he's called... Anyways Adam invited him upstairs claiming he had a surprise but he had to be blindfolded first. He walked right into a nasty trap.

Adam told Robert that Durk went downstairs to prepare and made casual conversation to ease the awkwardness. He asked how the Forsythe job went. Buddy was taken back by his inquiry but replied that it went off without a hitch. Adam chuckled and replied "Great". He challenged Robert to see if he could guess the name of three of the new guns they ordered with the blindfold on. If he could correctly identify all three he'd get to keep the whole share of the job, if not, he'd face a sacrifice and lose it all. One thing Robert cannot turn down is a good gamble, plus he thinks of himself as a gun expert so he couldn't turn down this opportunity. If only he knew he couldn't guess this kind of gun.

He grabbed the first gun and squeezed the handle as to try and determine what model it was and contemplating for a minute before asking "Can I pull it?". They said yes so he pointed the gun straight forward and pulled the trigger. It didn't have bullets loaded so there was only a clicking sound heard. "I believe it's an Astra Constable Sport .22... Am I right?" Adam was surprised and impressed that he got it right and handed him the second gun. He grabbed it got a good feel and pointed forward again and fired. "This one is rare... Oh my, this is tricky". He fired a few more times before replying "Is this a Spectre?... Alchemy Spectre .45? If so well done these are rare, at least I don't see them very often. Come on challenge me, give me something harder please". Robert was feeling giddy with excitement that he was showing off his gun skills. He grabbed the third weapon and was surprised by the interesting shape and weight of it. He swore it was a .44 Magnum but it was way too heavy so he was lost. When he aimed forward and fired the pistol the result was nothing like what he had imagined. There was no click... Just pain in his hand; it felt like he shot himself. He dropped the gun and took his blindfold off, he saw the amount of blood he was losing and realized his finger was missing... Cut right off. Adam's goons jumped on him and held him down while another one pushed a cigarette lighter onto the wound (If you don't know what that does it solders it and closes the wound so it'd stop bleeding).

Adam informed him that they knew what he did and was taking the whole share anyway as repayment and if he ever cut them short again he was a dead man. When Robert was allowed to leave he left a different person. He didn't know whether he wanted to go after them or pretend like this never happened but he took the smarter of the two and let it slide. He grew even more ruthless and money hungry than before. He wanted to rob the entire city and everyone in it. Then he would just move on yet again this time to a place farther away and start over. He asked everyone to stop calling him Robert, or Buddy and made them call him by his childhood name of Fox.

Fox was cunning, and deceitful; more than Robert could ever be. He perfected that 'politicians' smile whenever he was in public because he had a plan. He 'infiltrated' the media by making friends with a man named Hector, he was the owner of the biggest television network in the area. This gave him front row access to manipulate the media and tell whatever stories he wanted and if that wasn't enough power, he started dating a journalist named Rebecca who worked as an editor for the paper. He was now in control of the news, the police, and the politicians who run the city. He gave himself a hero reputation by arranging a donation from himself to the network and to the city.

Fox went on a spree of emptying almost all of his clients accounts. He believed that no one would be the wiser until he was long gone. They had been nearly successful with only two 'jobs' left when he ran into his first major problem. A local business owner stumbled upon his plan and confronted him during a dinner out in a very public restaurant. He sat down in front of him and placed a file on the table. When Fox opened it he saw a picture of both Adam and himself placed on top of a stack of photos. They were leaving a place called Kenjamin's with a lawyer named William Baxter. That picture was sort of meaningless but strategically placed to get his attention. He had pictures of Robert inside his office after he would have normally been closed. It was him sifting through a filing cabinet looking through files. The man laid a piece of paper on the table with a list of all the files that were tampered with.

He told Fox that he didn't want to do this but he owes a loan shark a lot of money because of a long addiction to gambling. He went on about how he lost a lot of money on a sure bet so his wife then left him and his company is going under. Fox told him he had better make his point quick and grabbed his fork. He looked him right in the eye and told him if he wasn't gone by the time his date was out of the bathroom that it was going in his eye. The man must have believed him because he got to the point. He said he knew Fox was setting up something huge and wanted a piece of the action. Fox being a very good liar, had him believing that he was now part of a team and gave up the files before he left.

He immediately worked out a plan to eliminate him, he even went looking for a hitman because his regular guy was blasted away the month before by some old blind man. Adam convinced him to use him rather than kill him and came up with a plan where the evidence he had would actually look like something more of a good deed. They got a hold of William and had some paperwork made up things were now going smoothly.

Buddy sent Adam and two of his best goons back to the man's office to plant the incriminating evidence. Now if this guy wanted to try and get back at them he would actually make it look like he's exposing a plot he devised. When they were doing this Buddy was meeting him for coffee to discuss what the plan was, this also made sure that he didn't take pictures of Adam doing the replacement. This man was smarter than Fox had thought because he told him he knew Adam was a cop and that William was a mob, or gang related lawyer. He put two and two together and knew they had a corrupt ring of power going on and was going to expose it if he didn't get a cut.

Buddy didn't know this man knew Adam was a cop this changed everything. He really thought this whole operation was going to come crashing down but he underestimated the ingenuity of Adam. He came up with a solution and it would only cost them a small chunk of the profits and since they were going to steal it back anyways it was a perfect idea. Robert started a charity and his first donation was to the police force and that would explain why he was with a lawyer and cop in the picture.

Fox practically owned the media he started plastering the donation everywhere and things were back to normal and no police officers would investigate him considering his generosity. There was only one job left and it was the most important, it took the most planning. They were to meet daily and nightly for intense strategizing. When Fox arrived he realized they had another large problem. Alexandr informed him they had kidnapped someone else during the file replacements.

Robert looked at the guy lying on the bed, he didn't yell but definitely raised his voice in protest. Their plans were for five people and five people only, he asked what they wanted to do about a sixth. He explained how this guy caught them replacing the files but they couldn't kill him because that would ruin the entire plan so they brought him here. Adam thought it was a good idea to use this guy in their plans so that someone can go down for the whole thing when they leave town...He was an accountant. The plan sounded good to Buddy but he didn't understand it so Adam explained.

"His name is Brian and he works as an accountant for the same guy who had those pictures of us" Adam said to Fox but he still didn't understand so he pulled over the chalkboard and laid the whole plan out to him. The plan was for Brian to look almost exactly like Fox since he's the only one in the plan who will leave before the cops come and kill him. They'd have a new patsy. He thought this was a brilliant plan and asked Adam to have it done by tomorrow and left.

He sat in his car and had hundreds of things running through his mind and for once in his life he started to feel bad for all the people that he'd done wrong to. He thought about Glynis and wondered what happened to her. He then started thinking about his parents and if they would be proud of him, of the successful man he thought he was.

He was so deep in thought he hadn't left the driveway for several minutes. When he pulled out he wasn't quite with reality yet and still fully in a trance of thoughts and memories. While driving he fully lost himself in tears when he drove past someone talking on a phone that reminded himself of his brother. He figured the world was trying to send him a message that he needs to straighten out. He stared at the man for a moment wondering what happened to his brother and how he never got to even say goodbye. He remembered the last thing he ever said to him and it wasn't good... He wishes he could take it back and say he loved him but anyone would do the same in this kind of situation.

Buddy did what he did every time he started to think about his past, he went and got a bottle of rum and drank himself to sleep. When he woke up he had one mission and that was to get all of the money he could and in a couple days go start a new life somewhere else. He went back to the hideout to see how their transformation was going and Brian actually looked like Fox, his hair was pretty well bald and they even copied the tattoo of the fox from his neck but the colours of the beach ball were different, but it didn't matter. One of Adams goons named Roger laughed as he pointed to the missing finger and said "The Fingutine has had some fun this weekend" Fox noticed his other hand and asked what the burns were for. Adam replied that it was Alexandr's idea, for some reason he didn't like this guy and wanted to be the one to kill him but since he can't figure some pain would do.

Robert's job today was to get to know Rose, practice getting shot by Roger, and memorize the lines that he would say on camera to frame Brian. He spent the whole day with them and got shot about a hundred times by Rog until they had it mastered. Alexandr showed up with a woman and asked if Rog and Fox could leave for a minute so they could 'discuss something' and they knew what that meant so they went and grabbed a drink.

He drank himself into a state where the whole night was a blur and he couldn't remember anything, he woke up on a couch at the hideout feeling like crap. It was the day of the last account transfer, the day the Robinson account became active, and the day all the work he's been doing for six and a half years would pay off. He woke up a bit late and almost forgot to wear the turtleneck as planned to cover his tattoo.

When Fox arrived to the final business and saw Brian outside talking to a police officer he got scared that he ratted them out but the cop left. The first thing he did inside was go to the vault room and grab a small file that had a bunch of account numbers on it and handed it to Rose who was playing the cashier.

He waited several minutes until he received a text from Adam saying "Go Time". Once in the hallway he saw that Brian had his gun drawn he made his way into the main room slowly but not in sight of any cameras. Alexandr gave him the okay that the cameras were off for real and he nodded. The real Fox walked towards Brian who was the imposter Fox and both had their pistols in their left hands due to the matching missing right index fingers but Buddy had gloves on so Brian wouldn't notice.

Rose said those beautiful words he'd been dying to hear which was that the Robinson account has been activated and the money had been wired. Fox knew this was where he gets shot and sure enough he saw Rog coming and shot him. He lied on the ground for a while listening to the whole thing play out. All he could think about was that the second he exits the front door he would be free and never have to rob anyone ever again. He listened as everyone in that room got shot and died except the six people in the plans. Once he heard Adam talking and gave the code word he knew everything was done and it was time for him to grab the evidence and get it out of the building.

Fox being the sadistic person he is, had a lot of fun squishing the hope out of Brian's voice when he thought he was getting out of there alive, once he saw Robert's finger and matching tattoo he knew what was up. Since he thought Brian was about to be shot to death he gave him the bow of death he saw on a crappy martial arts commercial and left in a hurry. Outside of the building he walked to the car looking down both sides of the road curious but worried and wondering where he was going to go first. He didn't want to split this money with anyone and thought they were stupid to let him walk out with the briefcase.

There was still a few things he needed to do first before this part of his story could be closed and sometimes people don't see the mystery of how the big picture works. Tonight Robert, Buddy, Fox, or whatever you call him will learn a life lesson that he never saw coming.

He made his way to the hideout to clean anything that can link him to any of the account's, he also took any information they had on where the money was being sent. He grabbed everything except one important thing that will come back to haunt him later. When he left he was feeling pretty good because he had accomplished a huge feat by pulling this thing off. He had the briefcase and now that he's changed the account numbers on the chalkboard and computers there was no way they were ever going to find him, or the money ever again.

He was driving for about twenty minutes before he noticed a grey Escalade behind him and thought it might have been following him, after two lefts then a right it was clear it was. He was so nervous he took a back road and kicked it into high gear and sure enough so did the car behind him. He put the pedal to the floor like he was racing for pink slips but the car behind him was easily keeping pace, so he started to slow down and pulled over. He thought it was a cop but hoped it wasn't Adam or one of his buddies realizing he's jumped town. He grabbed the gun and took a last minute check of the car for any evidence. He didn't see anyone get out of the car so after about thirty seconds Fox stepped up and got out. He was walking towards the vehicle with the gun rested just behind his leg, step by step he waited for someone to open the door but he couldn't see beyond the blinding headlights. When he approached the door he realized no one was in the car and that's when he heard "do not move" come from right behind him. Fox wasn't afraid to die so he slowly turned around and saw a dark shadow with a pistol pointed right at him but he couldn't see who it was. He told Fox that it was foolish what he did to him and now was going to pay for it. Robert was confused, he had no idea what this person was talking about and fully turned around saying "Adam?".

The man panicked and shot Buddy in his leg and almost like in a western movie or something he shot back while falling down and hit the man in the chest. It took a minute for an injured Fox to regain his footing and make his way over to the other figure laying on the ground. He grabbed his gun and wallet and opened it and saw the man's name was Frederick Kennedy. As soon as Fox realized who it was he put two bullets right in his head. He went to start cleaning it up when he noticed a car coming in the distance and it was approaching fast so he knew they would pass in less than a minute or two.

He shoved the body into the driver's seat with no effort to hide anything and ran to his car and took off. He knew his blood was all over the body and in a moment of panic also left his gun on the ground near the car. He was going to get caught for this one so he just wanted to drive away from his problems and try to move on and forget. He couldn't believe he got away from the heist successfully but now was wanted for murder; now he really did have to leave the country. Unfortunately for him Karma and fate were working together that night and his car ran out of gas just at the point where the headlights of Freddy's Escalade were disappearing out of sight but visible none the less. For a brief second he felt at ease because the car drove around the Escalade like it didn't notice a dead guy but they were going really fast so there was still a feeling of caution for Fox. He could see that the car was beaten up and had one headlight kind of flickering, cops have nice cars so he didn't think it was a cop anymore. So his plan was to pretend he was pulled over too until they passed then he was going to walk back and clean up the mess.

He reached for the radio and turned on his favorite station then reaching for the glove box he was instantly thrown into the air and the whole car went tumbling across the road. After the two cars stopped rolling he snapped back to reality and noticed he was badly hurt and tried to get out of the vehicle but could barely move. He could only crawl away from the two intertwined piles of metal and plastic, that were two vehicles a moment before. He looked in the distance and could see the slight twinkle of Fred's headlights, he then heard the sound of footsteps behind him. When Robert turned around to look he could only see a shadow pointing a gun at him again.

Just as he put his head down in disbelief they both heard a really loud bang and suddenly the area where the Escalade would have been was covered in fire. It looked like it was reaching into the sky like a giant fist of flames. He didn't want to stop looking but still had no idea who was standing behind him so Fox shouted "I don't deserve to live anyways go ahead take all of it" He began to curse at the figure when the man lowered his gun and walked towards the nearly dead Fox and said "didn't think you'd see me again did you Robert?"

Fox was speechless.