

NARRATOR

All towns die, just as empires come to an end and civilizations eventually cease to exist. The town of Midnight was in its twilight hours when I arrived.

CUT TO BLACK

TITLE: High Midnight

6 EXT. GRAN'S COTTAGE - DUSK

6

START HERE

The Mayor makes it as far as he can and reposes on a bench outside a scarlet painted building with no sign. He watches the fiery ball of the sun go down in the low hills that surround Midnight. Before he can catch his breath, the inhabitant of the building peaks out. The door startles the Mayor from his sunset trance.

MAYOR

Good god, Gran. You gave me a fright.

GRAN, 60s, round as a house with grey and black hair, opens the front door, sticks her head outside, and exits upon recognition of her porch guest.

GRAN

That's hardly what it needed from what I can tell.

Without inhibition, she leans over exposing a large bosom. She touches his cheek and forehead. He bats her hand away.

MAYOR

Oh, I am alright. Besides you've got no cure for a bad heart.

GRAN

You think? I have worked wonders with bruised and broken ones.

She sits next to him.

MAYOR

For a price of course.

GRAN

You wouldn't pay to be well again?

MAYOR
(sighs)
I would sell my soul.

He does not want to think of it anymore.

MAYOR
The last stage left yesterday.

GRAN
It did.

MAYOR
You weren't on it.

GRAN
That is very observant, Mister Mayor.
If I was, you'd be sitting next to a
phantom, a spirit version of myself.

He eyes her giant breasts.

MAYOR
I believe you are in your physical
form.

GRAN
(wistful)
My girls took the stage.

MAYOR
So you will have to service them all
on your own?

GRAN
Twenty-three men. I've done more
before.

MAYOR
Twenty-six.

GRAN
With the pastor, yes. That might be
his desire.

MAYOR
You are right. He wouldn't allow it.

GRAN
And you... half a screw would do you
in for good.

He knows it's true but won't fess up to it.

MAYOR
So twenty-four?

GRAN
Samuel.

MAYOR
Sam... Bardog?

GRAN
He has a given name.

MAYOR
I can't remember the last time anyone
used it.

GRAN
Can you remember ever seeing him with
a woman?

The Mayor chews on this question.

GRAN
He has been here as long as I.

MAYOR
Twenty-three it is. Come pay day, Gran
Madame will be open for purchase.

GRAN
Some fantasy has purchased your good
sense. The last pay was two months
past.

MAYOR
Has it been two months?

She has no need to answer because he knows it has. The
politician turns back to the sun. It completes its descent.

MAYOR
This is my favorite time.

GRAN
How I wish I could share your
sentiment.

MAYOR
The sun laid to rest. It means we have

made it through another day.

GRAN

It was always the beginning of mine.

Just then, they see the wagon drive into town. It drives past a few buildings and stops not far from the saloon.

GRAN

Some sorry soul must have gone the wrong way.

MAYOR

It's a long way to come by mistake.

GRAN

My eyes are as good as your ticker. What's it read?

MAYOR

He sells some kind of elixir.

GRAN

Won't sell a lick here. He's a hell of a lot sorrier than I thought.

MAYOR

Gran, go have a look. Say hello and see what he's all about.

She does not want to.

GRAN

The old whore. Our welcoming committee.

MAYOR

I would but he might leave before I get down the street.

GRAN

(getting up)

There was a time when you wouldn't have even sat by me.

He cracks the old politician's smile.

MAYOR

The freedom of failure.

He clears his throat and spits out more snot. Gran's wide

STOP