

INT. RESTAURANT - LATE AFTERNOON

James is sitting at a table, waiting for his girlfriend who he plans to propose to. He notices Arthur approaching from across the restaurant, grinning, with two glasses of champagne in his hands.

James jumps up from his chair, angrily stuffing the Ring Case into his pocket, and approaches Arthur.

JAMES
(fierce)
No! Not here! Not today! Get out!

Arthur extends his arms, inviting.

ARTHUR
James! Good to see you!

Arthur offers James a glass, James only stares at Arthur.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Now, now - today's a special day,
James, please! Have a drink.

JAMES
What're you doing here, Arthur?

ARTHUR
I've come with a little, uh -

Arthur looks around furtively at the other customers and begins walking to James' table. He turns, and gestures.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Would you mind if we sat down?

James looks around the restaurant at the other diners. He walks slowly to the table and takes his seat, eyes on Arthur, unblinking.

Arthur SLIDES one glass of champagne across the table to James.

ARTHUR (CONT'D)
Enjoying retirement?

JAMES
Here with a job?

Arthur nods.

Heartland (P)

JAMES (CONT'D)
I'll save you some time - I'm out.
I told you, I'm done. Moving on.

Arthur considers James for a moment.

ARTHUR
And how does Nicholas feel about
this decision?

James looks away, solemn.

JAMES
Wouldn't actually know.

ARTHUR
Trouble in paradise?

JAMES
I'm fine, Arthur.

ARTHUR
James, you can deny what you are
for as long as you want. But you
can't move on from this. This is
what you are - what I raised you to
be -

James leans in close to Arthur.

JAMES
You raised me as a gun for hire!
I'm not going to kill anyone else!

Arthur leans in as well.

ARTHUR
These new morals of yours are
childish, James! They'll only drag
you down! I'm offering you the
chance to soar!

James stands up, pointing to the door of the restaurant.

JAMES
Goodbye, Arthur.

Arthur stands slowly, accepting defeat.

ARTHUR
My best to my future daughter-in-
law. Kate's lovely.

Arthur leaves.