



Humphrey Bogart  
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Peter Lorre & Bogart



Peter Lorre courtesy of  
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Ingrid Buerzman &  
Bogart

## Le Snarky Libertarian

## Episode 2:



photo by Anna Rhodes

Casablanca, it's an old black and white, but it's one of the most iconic and most parodied films EVER. The film depicts the attempt of many European refugees to escape the horror of the beginning of the Nazi regime and WWII to the freedom of America, via Casablanca, in French Morocco, in North Africa. Casablanca, however, is a tangled web of power and deceitful relationships, and is not as easy to escape as they had hoped, especially with Germans swarming and patrolling the streets.

Humphrey Bogart plays Rick-an American expatriate jaded and hardened to a fine, calloused edge of grouch. He has the power to help refugees out of Casablanca to the promise land, but it comes at a hefty price and as Bogey says, "I don't stick my neck out for nobody."

Early in the film we are introduced to Peter Lorre, who is looking to Bogey boy to escape Casablanca and the Nazis. Now, why is Peter Lorre in this film since he usually plays a horror

sidekick? I am certain that is floating about in your head... But, the Nazis storm into the club to arrest Lorre who asks to cash in his poker winnings before they take him to prison ...[Face palm] and they let him. Okay, seriously movie? THESE are our villains? Obvious ploy of escape is OBVIOUS. Oh sure, we're tyrannical Fascists but we're not monsters. We only slaughtered fifty million Jews, but you go on ahead and get your money; we wouldn't dream of depriving you of five hundred clams you won in a rigged game. [Laughs between gritted teeth] REALLY MOVIE?! If the REAL Nazis were this stupid, then it's no wonder they lost the war.

[Sighs] Lorre fakes out the Nazis, and dashes for the door-darting through it and securing it momentarily behind him before the soldiers break through, see him running down the external street and shoot him. So, the second most recognizable character in the film, Lorre, was killed off in the first half of the film? [Sneers while breathing heavy]

Then the Capt. Louis Renault, chief of police, played by Claude Rains, approaches Bogart, who is supposed to be the hero, but is more like a selfish, self-loathing profiteer who won't help a guy escape the Nazis.

Congratulations, Bogey Boy! Now the chief of police, Renault, [Chuckles] looks like the guy who played the Pink Panther. But the Inspector Clouseau clone is for realz-realz my favorite character in this pseudo-noir flick.

Renault plays it both sides: aiding Nazis by turning in freedom fighters who are staunchly in opposition to da Fuehrer...and this is where the double agent falls flat. Rains is not shy about giving the proverbial bird behind the Reich's back and dolling out golden tickets to Uncle Sam's Magical Mystery Tour of Freedom, but firmly barks when von Nazi Commandant says 'Bark'.

So, Bogey (being the True Neutral gitbag that he is) and Rains are...friends?

Shortly thereafter, Ingrid Bergman dulls her way into the club along with her plot convenience of a husband Victor Laszlo (Paul Henreid). Laszlo will be played by a 2x4 for this film, since Henreid's acting is...wooden.

[Crickets] Disgruntled Audience Member #357: You suck! For surrious though, Henreid is to Casablanca as an accelerator is to a Volvo: he serves to move the plot along, but has very little to actually do with it besides be really, reeeeeeeally dull, which brings me to... Ms. Dull and the 2x4 walk into the club...Geez, this is sounding like the opening to a Rodney Dangerfield joke. What's next, finishing it up with 'No respect. No respect at all.'?

Sam, literally the only black guy in the movie (wish I were making that up), is giving the club just a hint more class than it would ordinarily have-what with Nazis, angry Frenchmen and freedom fighters cluttering it up as Dull and the stiff take a seat at a table. Bergman takes

notice of Bogey and asks the waiter to behest Sam to play her and Bogey's song (As Time Goes By) from years before. Sam doesn't want to (Bogey explicitly telling him to never play it) but he does anyway while Bergman waxes nostalgic.

Suddenly Bogey! Yes, the mood killer of the movie comes by and asks Sam to stop playing while Rains is looking on from the nearby bar. So, Bogey and Laszlo, the 2x4 have a heart to heart. Boardo the Barbarian begging Bogey for a pass out of Casablanca...

Wait...This seems familiar. [Rewinds to the exact same scenario with Peter Lorre] DUDE! He's not gonna give you the pass! All he's gonna do is tell you to knob off and then the Nazis are gonna shoot you; there ain't enough pathos for us to care about your plight, so just go ahead and shoot him Reich boys.

So, [Sighs] Laszlo is a freedom fighter. Kinda like Robin Hood, only instead of stealing from the rich to give to the poor, he fights Nazis. Lazlo wants to get he and Lisa out of Casablanca, because (oh yeah) that whole he being a rebel kinda thing. However, Laszlo's Billy Idol kinda put him in the cross-hairs of death...in the midnight hour, but instead of crying more, more, more Lazlo, Ilsa is falling in love... again with Rick (Bogey).

Now, if this were remade... Coming this Summer: Jason Statham is...Laszlo! With Al Pacino as Rick and January Jones as Ilsa. You're welcome, Hollywood.