

*Also this opening
is better with
Brad appearing at
the outset. It is the
main character + should
be so placed. Good
turnout at the end*

The Silver Bridge

News about the disaster was first broadcast just before 5:00. Brad had just entered Gentleman Jim's, where an early Friday evening crowd was listening intently as Jim finished telling a joke.

"...Then death you shall have, but first--CHI CHI!"

The crowd burst into a paroxysm of laughter, wheezing, and coughing. Jim, seeing that the audience was his, waited until everyone regained composure and then repeated the punch line, "but first--CHI CHI!" Immediately there was a second volley of cackles, rasps, and croups; one of the regulars, Gus, shoulders shaking and eyes squinting, howled in submission, "Jeeesus! I'm gonna piss in my pants!" Jim, again sensing an opportune moment, put down the glass he was wiping and, imitating Groucho Marx, raised his eyebrows, tapped an imaginary cigar, and retorted, "You do and I'll tell your mother!" Amid more raucous laughter Gus spun from his stool and hurriedly staggered off in the direction of the men's room.

"What'll it be, my friend?" said a smiling Jim, noticing Brad's arrival at the bar.

"Dry martini"

"You got it," nodded Jim, grabbing a bottle of gin.

"O.K. if I drink it there?" asked Brad, pointing to one of the private booths located against the walls on all sides of the bar.

"Sure," replied Jim, "sit down, relax, I'll have Paula bring it right over to you."