

Louis and the Mob

The year is 1923, and you are the owner of a bar in Chicago. It is currently illegal to sell alcohol, so people call your bar a “speakeasy.” From the street, you wouldn’t even know it’s a bar. The entrance is just a door with a peephole. Behind the door is a bouncer, and he decides who is allowed to enter. You have to be careful because there is always a chance that the police will raid your bar. The funny thing is that many police officers come and drink at your bar after work.

Tonight is special because an up-and-coming musician named Louis Armstrong is performing at your bar. “Hot jazz” music is the newest, coolest thing, and you are expecting a big crowd.

One hour before the concert, you see Louis talking with two mean-looking guys in trench coats. One guy says, “and make sure we get our cut of the money...or else!”

After the mean-looking men leave, Louis walks up to the bar and asks for a glass of water. You ask him if he’s ok. He says he’s fine, but he hates dealing with those goons from Al Capone’s gang.

You know Louis has faced a lot of discrimination as an African American musician, and you want to help him get justice. It sounds like the two goons from Al Capone’s gang will be back at the end of the concert to take money from Louis. What can you do to help him?

As the owner of the bar, you have many employees that will follow your orders, including the bouncer, the bartender, and the waitresses. Remember, you can’t call the police because you work at an illegal speakeasy.

