

Backlash

By

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Over black, we hear knocking on a door.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY ROOM - DAY

We see the front door of a middle-class suburbanite home from the inside. ADAM NILLMAN, early 20's, walks to the door and opens it just enough to see who's outside. We see GREG ORTH, 20's.

GREG
Hey man, you Adam?

ADAM
Yeah, that's me. I take it you're Greg?

GREG
Yep.

ADAM
Come in.

GREG walks into the house. ADAM shuts the door. Greg takes a seat on a near by couch.

Adam takes a seat on the same couch as Greg. There is a coffee table in front of them.

Adam opens a drawer in the coffee table.

CLOSE UP: Inside drawer

There are a couple of magazines in there as well as a handgun and about three or four baggies of cocaine.

Adam pulls out two of the baggies and sets them on the table. He picks one of 'em up.

ADAM
This is Sheila Fever. Nothin' special, but it gets the job done. It's called that cause it's been known to make you feel warm, sorta like a fever. I dunno. I've done a couple of lines of it; I felt fine.

GREG
Yeah, Victor told me it he got one from it.

Adam puts down Shelia and picks up the other one.

(CONTINUED)

ADAM

And this is... actually I don't think it has a name. But for now, I'll call it "Not Shelia". It's far better than Sheila. You don't need more than maybe half a line before you're good.

GREG

Alright, so how much for Sheila?

ADAM

A hundred and seventy a gram.

GREG

Not bad.

Greg reaches in his back pocket and pulls out his wallet. He grabs a couple of bills from inside his wallet and hands them to Adam.

WIDE SHOT: In one uninterrupted shot, we see Adam stand up from the couch and walk to the closet placed behind the couch. He opens the door, pulls out a metal box, and places the money inside the box. He then puts the box back inside the closet and closes the door. He walks back to the couch and sits down in his original spot.

Adam takes out a small, empty baggie and pours some of Shelia Fever in it. During this, we hear the following dialogue.

GREG

Thanks bro.

ADAM

No problem.

GREG

So how long have you known Victor?

ADAM

Not that long, actually. Maybe about a month or so.

GREG

Yeah same.

Adam ties a twisty-tie around the baggie and hands it to Greg.

(CONTINUED)

GREG
Thanks again.

ADAM
You're welcome.

Adam stands up.

ADAM
Well, I'd say our business is done here. Now why don't you leave?

GREG
(surprised)
Wait, don't you wanna hang out some more?

ADAM
I only hang out with people who're my friends. You're not my friend. You're a customer. You've done your part as a customer and I've done my part as a seller. There's no reason for you to stick around. So please, get the fuck outta my house.

GREG
Can I try just one line? You know, just for a sample. To make sure I got my money's worth?

ADAM
I don't give refunds.

GREG
I know. I just haven't had my fix in a couple weeks.

Adam sighs irritably.

ADAM
Fine.

GREG
You got a straw?

ADAM
Use that one right there.

Adam points to a straw lying on the coffee table.

ECU of Greg preparing a line on the glass part of the table. Just as he's about to snort the line, he drops the straw on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

Greg reaches down to pick it up, when a small MIC and MIC RECEIVER drops to the floor.

ADAM
What the fuck is that?

GREG
(oblivious)
What the fuck is what?

Adam picks up the receiver and mic.

ADAM
You piece of shit!

Greg is panicking now.

GREG
(frantically)
Dude, I can explain!

Adam quickly opens a drawer in the coffee table, grabs the handgun in there and SHOOTS Greg in the shoulder.

GREG
(shouting)
What the fuck, man?!

Adam points the gun at the seated Greg's head. He's about to shoot when all of a sudden the door FLIES open.

DETECTIVE BUGERA, 20's, steps in the house and aims his gun at Adam.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
Freeze!

Adam turns his head to see Detective Bugera. Greg proceeds to take this opportunity to knock the gun out of Adam's hand. The gun slides all the way to the other side of the room. Adam curses

Greg gets on the floor and starts crawling to the gun. His hand is still over the wound, trying to stop the bleeding.

Detective Bugera takes a shot at Adam, but Adam ducks and the bullet misses him.

By this point, Greg has reached the gun and turns around to shoot Adam. But Adam has just gone up the stairs to the foyer and out the front door. Detective Bugera chases after him.

Now, Greg is all alone and severely wounded. He takes his cell phone out of his pocket and dials a number. The phone rings a couple times before VICTOR GREEN, 20's, answers.

VICTOR (V.O.)

Hello?

GREG

Victor, the deal went bad!

The camera cuts to VICTOR's end of the line. He's driving.

VICTOR

(surprised)

Shit, really?

GREG

Yeah. The police were involved.

VICTOR

(surprised)

Are you serious?!

GREG

Yeah. And they've kinda busted Adam.

VICTOR

Kinda? What do you mean, kinda?

GREG

Well, the Cop chased Adam out the front door. They're outside right now and I have no idea what the fuck is going on.

VICTOR

Jesus Christ.

GREG

Yeah. So, can you drive over here and possibly take me to a hospital?

VICTOR

Why?

GREG

I was shot.

VICTOR

Who shot you?

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Adam.

VICTOR

Why'd he shoot you?

GREG

He saw the wire.

VICTOR

Wire?

(beat)

How the fuck did the cops bust you?

GREG

I'll explain more when you get here.

The camera's been cutting between the two as they've talked. For the rest of the scene, the camera stays strictly on Greg's end of the line.

VICTOR (V.O.)

Holy shit!

GREG

What?

VICTOR (V.O.)

I see Adam and the cop you were talking about.

Victor hangs up.

GREG

(into phone)

Victor? Victor?

He hangs up his phone.

GREG

(shouting)

Fuck!

He runs out of frame.

FADE TO BLACK

FADE TO:

INT. VICTOR'S ROOM - NIGHT

GREG and VICTOR are both sitting on the same bed. It's clearly on a different day, due to their outfits being different.

Victor is on the phone, while Greg sits with his legs crossed and plays solitaire.

VICTOR

(into phone)

No, show him a couple different types, you know, so he has more of a variety to choose from.

(beat)

Cause he doesn't know what kinds you have.

(beat)

Look, just have 'em--

(beat)

Just have 'em ready by tomorrow, okay?

(beat)

Alright, bye.

Victor hangs up the phone.

GREG

(while playing solitaire)

So, what'd he say?

VICTOR

He said make sure you bring at least three hundred, cause he still has to negotiate the prices.

GREG

Alright.

VICTOR

Good deal.

Greg stops playing solitaire.

GREG

So, what am I supposed to do?

VICTOR

You're gonna go to this address tomorrow at around three o'clock.

He hands Greg a piece of paper with the address written on it.

(CONTINUED)

EXTREME CLOSE UP: Address on paper - 1428 Kelm Street

VICTOR (CONT'D)

He said he's gonna be the only one there, so he'll answer the door. Tell him you're name, I already told him what it is, and he'll let you in. Try not to make small talk, he hates when people do that. He'll pull out a few different types of coke, pick out your favorite and then you leave. Don't ask to snort there, cause he hates that too. Just buy and leave. Got it?

GREG

Yeah. His name's Adam, right?

VICTOR

Correct.

GREG

Okay, sounds simple.

VICTOR

It is, so don't fuck it up.

GREG

Don't worry, I won't.

VICTOR

Good. So, I think that's every thing. Any questions?

GREG

Yeah, do you have the sample that I asked for earlier?

VICTOR

Oh yeah. I almost forgot.

Victor gets up and walks over to his dresser. He opens the top drawer and pulls out a small baggie of coke. He tosses it to Greg. Greg catches it.

VICTOR

Now, any more questions?

Greg chuckles.

GREG

Nope.

(CONTINUED)

VICTOR

Great. Now, get your ass outta here.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The camera is inside an undercover COP car parked across the street from VICTOR's house looking through the windshield at Victor's house.

GREG exits through the front door of Victor's house and walks to his own car parked in Victor's drive way.

EXT. CAR - NIGHT

We see DETECTIVE BUGERA sitting in the driver's seat, by himself. He's watching GREG walk to his car. He takes notes on a pocket-sized notebook.

Detective Bugera gets out of his car and walks up to Greg. Greg notices Detective Bugera when he is only a few feet away from him.

GREG

Hey. Can I help you?

Detective Bugera ignores him and pushes Greg on the hood of his car. He frisks Greg and finds a small baggie of cocaine in his pocket.

He then pulls out his handcuffs and cuffs Greg while reciting the Miranda Rights. While doing that, he lifts Greg off the hood and pulls him out of frame.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

We see GREG sitting at a table in an interrogation room. DETECTIVE BUGERA walks into the room with a cup of coffee and sets it on the table in front of Greg. Detective Bugera remains standing while he talks to Greg.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Hello Mr. Orth. I am Detective Rodney Bugera. I brought you in for questioning. You were found guilty of possession of cocaine when I frisked you. When I arrested you, you were leaving Victor Green's house. And since he's a convicted drug dealer, that would lead me to believe that you got the cocaine from Victor, is that correct?

(CONTINUED)

GREG
(without making eye contact)
Yeah.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
What were you doing at Victor's
house?

GREG
I was picking up the gram of coke
that you found on me.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
And is that all you did while you
were there?

GREG
(still not maintaining eye
contact)
Yeah.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
You're sure?

GREG
Of course I'm sure.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
Look at me.

Greg looks at him.

DETECTIVE BUGERA (CONT'D)
Let me tell you something:

Bugera leans in closer.

DETECTIVE BUGERA (CONT'D)
(hushed tone)
I don't know whether you know this
or not, but if you're withholding
information and I find out later,
then you'll be doin' some time in
prison.
(voice raises)
I'll make goddamn sure of it!
(back to normal voice)
Now, tell me the truth, Greg: Is
that all you did while you were
there?

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Well, we were arranging a drug deal with a guy, Adam. He sells some really high class stuff and I wanted to get some from him.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Was the coke you got tonight from Victor a sample of this high class stuff?

GREG

No, that was just a gram from Guatemala I had ordered a couple weeks ago.

Detective Bugera takes a note on the same small note book he was taking notes on earlier.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Mhm.

GREG

So why didn't you just go into Victor's house and bust him?

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Believe me, I've tried. We never find anything on him. That's why I've been staking out his house. I figure if I can't bust him directly, I'll bust him through one of his customers. And tonight, you were the luck of the draw.

The camera cuts to Greg who is staring at the coffee cup in front of him.

Bugera leans in closer to Greg as the camera pushes in for a C.U. of Bugera.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

How do you feel about wearing a wire?

CUT TO BLACK

FADE TO:

INT. ADAM'S ROOM - NIGHT

ADAM is watching TV, but we don't see what he's watching. We just see the light from the TV change as the images on the screen do.

His phone rings. He answers it.

ADAM

Hello?

(beat)

Oh hey, what's up?

(beat)

Awesome.

(beat)

No, just me, as far as I know.

(beat)

Oh really? What's his name?

Adam picks up a piece of paper and a pen.

EXTREME CLOSE-UP: Adam writing down "Greg" on the paper

ADAM (CONT'D)

Alright. I'll show him the new stuff I just got.

(beat)

Why?

(beat)

I know that, but why can't I just show him then new stuff? That's all anybody's been buying lately.

(beat)

But why--

(beat)

Fine. Make sure he brings about three hundred or so, cause I still have to negotiate the prices.

(beat)

Bye.

Adam hangs up the phone.

INT. VAN - DAY

The undercover van pulls into an empty drive way next door to ADAM'S house. DETECTIVE BUGERA is driving and GREG is in the passenger's seat. Detective Bugera puts the van in "park".

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Okay, so do you remember the plan?

(CONTINUED)

GREG
(nervously)
Yeah.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
Alright, good. So, just make sure
you act completely natural. Don't
give him any signals or anything,
got it?

GREG
I won't.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
Alright.

GREG
So, are there any code words I'm
supposed to say or anything?

Bugera laughs.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
What do ya think this is, Half
Baked?

Greg laughs nervously.

DETECTIVE BUGERA (CONT'D)
You ever see Half Baked?

Greg shakes his head.

GREG
Nah. Dave Chappelle, right?

DETECTIVE BUGERA
Yeah. You should. It's a good
movie.

Greg just kinda nods his head.

GREG
So is there a code word?

DETECTIVE BUGERA
No, I'll know when to come in. I've
done plenty of busts before.

GREG
You are the cop.

Awkward silence.

GREG

So, should I, you know, go to the house?

Greg indicates towards the house.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Oh, right. Yeah. Go.

EXT. VAN - DAY

Greg steps out of the van and shuts the door. He begins walking towards Adam's house when he stops in his tracks.

He turns around and looks back at the van. Detective Bugera is moving from the front seat to the back of the van to get ready to listen in.

Greg looks around to make sure no one's watching. Nobody is. So, he pulls up his shirt and unplugs the microphone from the receiver. He pulls his shirt back down and takes another look around to make sure nobody's watching. Nobody is.

So he continues walking up the Adam's door.

He reaches the front door. On it is a sign taped to it.

CLOSE-UP: "Use door in garage."

He walks around to the garage and goes up to the door.

INT. VAN - DAY

Detective Bugera is placing a pair of headphones over his ears. All he hears is static. So he starts to mess with some of the equipment to see if he can get better reception. Still, he only hears static. He curses.

He goes up the passenger seat's window to see if he can get Greg's attention but when he looks out the window, he sees that Greg is already at the front door and even sees Adam opening it.

Detective Bugera quickly moves to the back of the van to avoid being seen.

EXT. DOOR - DAY

This is a shot we've already seen earlier. In fact, we opened this film with it.

(CONTINUED)

GREG
Hey man, you Adam?

ADAM
Yeah, that's me. I take it you're
Greg?

GREG
Yep.

ADAM
Come in.

Greg walks into Adam's house and Adam shuts the door.

INT. VAN - DAY

DETECTIVE BUGERA looks very nervous now. He starts to sweat and looks anxious.

INT. ADAM'S HOUSE - DAY

Another shot we've already seen. GREG is leaning over to pick up the straw when his mic receiver and mic drop to the floor.

ADAM
What the fuck is that?

GREG
(oblivious)
What the fuck is what?

INT. VAN - DAY

DETECTIVE BUGERA is messing with the equipment, trying to get a signal. Nothing. Just static. He takes off his headphones and messes with the antennas.

Then, suddenly he hears a gun shot that sounds like it came from inside the house. He pulls his gun out, cocks it, and exits the van.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Greg is bleeding from the shot.

GREG
What the fuck man?!

ADAM points the gun at the seated GREG. He's about to shoot when all of a sudden the door flies open. DETECTIVE BUGERA then steps in the house and aims his gun at Adam.

(CONTINUED)

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Freeze!

Adam turns his head to see Bugera. Greg proceeds to take this opportunity to knock the gun out of Adam's hand. The gun slides all the way to the other side of the room. Adam curses.

Greg gets on the floor and starts crawling to the gun. His hand is still over the wound, trying to stop the bleeding.

Detective Bugera takes a shot at Adam, but Adam ducks and the bullet misses him.

Adam runs around the couch and heads towards the front door. Detective Bugera follows him.

Steadicam as Adam runs up the steps to the foyer and...

EXT. HOUSE

...out the front door. DETECTIVE BUGERA chases after him.

We follow them through the front door and out to the front yard. ADAM is by the driveway and Bugera is by the steps that lead to the front door.

Bugera fires a couple of shots at Adam but misses. Adam turns around and starts booking it down the street. Bugera follows him.

EXT. STREET

VICTOR pulls the trigger on his gun but realizes it's empty.

ADAM stops and turns to see why the shooting has stopped.

Bugera clicks the gun a couple more times and looks up. The two make eye contact and then, Bugera throws his gun aside and chases after Adam. They run away from the house.

After a few seconds of running, a car comes driving down the street towards Adam and Bugera. The car slows down as it approaches them.

They slow down as well and look into the windshield.

It's VICTOR. He's talking on a cell phone.

They both stop in their tracks, as does Victor's car.

INT. VICTOR'S CAR

He's still on his phone.

VICTOR
 (into phone)
 I see Adam and the cop you were
 talking about.

He hangs up.

EXT. STREET/VICTOR'S CAR

By this point, ADAM is standing about ten feet away from VICTOR's stationary car. DETECTIVE BUGERA is standing about fifteen feet behind Adam.

Victor gets out of his car.

Adam runs up to Victor.

ADAM
 Dude, you gotta help me, man! That
 fuckin' cop is chasin' after me!

Victor has a gun in his hand that neither we nor Adam noticed and SHOTS Adam in the chest. The camera is behind Adam, so we don't see the impact. Adam drops dead on his back, on the asphalt.

Bugera walks up to Victor.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
 Well this didn't exactly work out
 according to plan.

VICTOR
 No shit.

DETECTIVE BUGERA
 Mind if I have my gun back?

Victor hands him the gun.

DETECTIVE BUGERA (CONT'D)
 Well, I can't thank you enough.
 We've been trying to catch this guy
 for a year.

VICTOR
 Hey, glad I could help.

They both kneel down and look at Adam's dead body.

(CONTINUED)

POV: Dead Adam's POV looking up at Victor and Bugera (a la' Jackie Brown)

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Wow, nice shot. You ever fire a gun before?

VICTOR

Nah, man. I hadn't even held a gun before 'til you gave me that one.

They both stand up simultaneously.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

So we should probably head back to the house cause Greg took a bullet and is probably bleeding pretty bad.

VICTOR

Yeah I know. He just called me.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

Mind if I get a ride back there?

VICTOR

Yeah sure.

Victor gets in the driver's seat and Bugera gets in the passenger's seat.

Victor starts the car and switches gears.

DETECTIVE BUGERA

You think we should probably do something with the body and not just leave it in the street?

VICTOR

Don't see why not.

Victor puts the car back in "park", shuts off the car, and they both get out.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END