COMMONALITY

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

CEDRIC (29, tall, stylish) struts down the street in a very fine suit, elaborate sunglasses and jewelry. He stops to check himself out in the tinted windows of a luxury car.

INT. BAR - DAY

CHRISSI (20s, black-haired, greedy) sits at a table with her girlfriend JULIA (20s, well-dressed, clever). Chrissi looks out the window at Cedric.

    CHRISSI
    Wait, Jules. Check this guy out.

Julia looks over.

    JULIA
    Oh, don’t you start up with that again. Remember how much trouble it got you in the last time?

    CHRISSI
    Yeah, and remember how I got myself out of it?

    JULIA
    You mean how I got you out of it.

    CHRISSI
    Okay, you know what? I’m a grown woman. I can take care of myself.

    JULIA
    Since when?

Cedric enters the bar.

    CHRISSI
    Okay, whatever, shut up.

Cedric eyes the two of them as he heads to the bar and sits.

    JULIA
    Alright, go ahead. Go make a fool out of yourself.

Julia stands up, adjusts her hair, pulls down her top and approaches Cedric.
CHRISSI  
Hey, lover. Never seen you in here before.

CEDRIC  
Yeah, and how are you so sure about that? You come in here a lot?

CHRISSI  
Enough to know a pretty new face when I see one. Name’s Chrissi. What do they call you?

CEDRIC  
Cedric.

Chrissi holds out her hand. Cedric takes it.

CHRISSI  
Nice to meet you, Cedric. How about you buy me a drink?

CEDRIC  
Why would I do that?

CHRISSI  
Because I-- Excuse me?

CEDRIC  
You walked over to me. Why don’t you buy me a drink?

CHRISSI  
Aren’t you the modern man? Alright, I’ll bite. What are you having?

The BARTENDER walks over.

CEDRIC  
(to bartender)  
Lagavulin Sixteen, double, neat.

Chrissi is unable to stop the bartender before the drink is poured, so she just sits down next to Cedric.

CHRISSI  
Big spender, huh?

CEDRIC  
Aren’t you getting anything?
CHRISSI
No, I’m alright.

CEDRIC
Well, you have to get something, right? I mean, we are in a bar.

CHRISSI
Yeah, okay. Um, I’ll just have a light beer. Draft!

BARTENDER
Sure thing.

CEDRIC
Guess you got to watch that figure.

CHRISSI
I’d rather you watch it.

CEDRIC
I’m... what does that mean?

CHRISSI
Uh, so, Cedric, what do you do?

CEDRIC
You know, I--

The phone rings.

CEDRIC
Hold that thought.
(looks at phone)
Actually, this is really important.
I need to take this right now.
(answers phone)
Hey. What’s happening? Oh, yeah, I got that.

Julia walks over to the bar while Chrissi eavesdrops. They speak silently with each other.

JULIA
How’s it going?

CHRISSI
Shh. Just pretend we’re talking.

JULIA
We are talking.
CEDRIC
(to PHONE)
No, I sent that in yesterday. Listen, this is a lot of money we’re talking about here. Yes, that’s what I said. I don’t know, figure it out.

CHRISSI
Alright, I seriously can’t tell if this guy’s a big shot or just an asshole.

JULIA
Can’t he be both?

CHRISSI
He made me buy him a drink, but now he’s chewing someone out for losing a bunch of money.

JULIA
What is wrong with you?

CHRISSI
This is really confusing!

JULIA
Maybe you could just ask him.

CHRISSI
You can’t just ask people about money. There’s an art to all of this.

JULIA
What’s it like in your head? Is it magical in there?

CHRISSI
What’s it like in your...Shut up!

CEDRIC
(to PHONE)
How about I come down first thing tomorrow to settle it.
INT. KITCHEN - DAY

DOM (30s, ripped, intense) smokes as he cooks shirtless.

DOM
Yeah, you come right the fuck down here and 'settle it.' I’ll be waiting.

Dom picks up a GUN from the countertop and waves it around for emphasis.

DOM
And bring my fucking money this time!

Dome hangs up the phone and tosses it and the gun back onto the counter, then resumes cooking.

DOM
Little bitch.

INT. BAR - DAY

CEDRIC
(to PHONE)
Alright, great. Absolutely. I’ll see you then.

Cedric hangs up the phone and sips his whiskey.

CHRISSEI
What was all that about?

CEDRIC
It was a work thing. Most people just can’t handle money like I can.

CHRISSEI
Is that what you do?

CEDRIC
You can say it’s sort of my specialty. It’s what I know best in life. I mean, a lot of people think it’s really just gambling, but there’s a system to it most can’t see like I can.

JULIA
And how long have you been at it?
CEDRIC
As long as I can remember. It’s sort of the family business. Dad got me into it when I was in high school and I haven’t looked back since. Hey, I’m sorry, I didn’t catch your name.

JULIA
Julia. I’m a friend of Chrissi’s.

They shake hands.

CEDRIC
You want me to buy you a drink, too?

JULIA
I guess you do throw it around, huh? No, I just wanted to say bye. I got to get back to work. Some of us actually want to make something of ourselves.

CHRISSI
Yeah, whatever. See you around.

Julia leaves the bar.

CEDRIC
You two don’t seem to get along too well.

CHRISSI
Julia’s my best friend. She just thinks she knows what’s best for me better than I do.

CEDRIC
Yeah? And what is it that you want?

CHRISSI
Right now, I want to go the bathroom.
(stands up)
But feel free to join me. Just give it a minute so no one notices.

Cedric watches Chrissi walk away. The Bartender walks over.

BARTENDER
Are you serious, man?
CEDRIC
What? It’s just a piece of ass.

BARTENDER
That girl is dangerous. She’s in here a lot pulling the same carp with guys like you.

CEDRIC
What, is she, like... not clean?

BARTENDER
Sh-- what? No. Look, she does this to every guy who rolls in here flashing his cash around.

CEDRIC
What are you talking about? I haven’t even taken out my wallet.

BARTENDER
You... yeah, you haven’t. What’s with that?

CEDRIC
All I know is, this hot girl comes over to me, thinking I’m some big shot, buys me a drink, then calls me over to the bathroom for some private entertainment. I’d be stupid to turn that down.

BARTENDER
You’d be stupid not to. So, wait, you’re not rich?

CEDRIC
Hell no. That was my bookie on the phone. I got to get two-hundred dollars together somehow by tomorrow morning or I’m dead.

BARTENDER
Yeah, but, you had to know she was trying to play you. Right? I mean, you’re not an idiot, right? Are... are you an idiot?

CEDRIC
Yeah, I knew.
BARTENDER
So... you lied to her.

CEDRIC
I never lied about anything. If tonight is my last night on Earth, I’m making it count.

BARTENDER
That... you know what, I don’t care. Do whatever.

CEDRIC
That’s the plan.

Cedric grins as he gets up and heads to the bathroom.

BARTENDER
What a couple of assholes.

CUSTOMER
Are you really going to let them do that in there?

BARTENDER
Mind your god damn business!

Cedric rounds the corner and knocks on the bathroom door.

CEDRIC
Hey, uh...

Cedric pushes the door open.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Chrissi sits on the sink.

CHRISSI
What took you so long?

Cedric heads inside and approaches Chrissi.

CEDRIC
Like you said. Didn’t want to make it look obvious.

Cedric tries to kiss Chrissi. She hops off the sink.

CHRISSI
What are you, crazy? Not out here.

Chrissi opens a stall door and heads inside.
CHRISI
I’m not going to wait in here forever.

Cedric follows her in. He closes and locks the door.

EXT. BAR - DAY

CUSTOMER
How long do you think they’re going to be?

BARTENDER
What did I say?

CUSTOMER
Listen, I’m just asking here.

BARTENDER
What are you, some kind of pervert?

CUSTOMER
I got to take a piss!

BARTENDER
Hold it.

CUSTOMER
This place is fucking weird.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The stall door unlocks. Cedric walks out as he zips up.

CEDRIC
That was real nice, baby.

Chrissi follows him out as she adjusts her underwear.

CHRISI
(fl) Yeah, tell me about it.

Cedric grins at the mirror as he smooths back his hair.

CHRISI
So you ready to roll out of here?

Cedric checks the time on his phone.

CEDRIC
Yeah, it’s about that time. Come on.
CHRIS
You go first. I’ll meet you outside.

Cedric exits the bathroom.

INT. BAR - DAY

Cedric heads to the door.

BARTENDER
Hey, you still have to pay for those drinks.

CEDRIC
The lady’s got them.

EXT. BAR - DAY

Cedric steps onto the sidewalk and takes out his phone.

INT. BAR - DAY

Chrissie tries to casually walk through the bar.

CHRISI
Where...

BARTENDER
(motioning)
Outside.

CHRISI
Yeah. Of course. Thanks.

BARTENDER
And here’s the bill.

Chrissis glances it over and puts the money on the counter, then heads out. The bartender holds the meager bills up.

BARTENDER
I hate this fucking place.

CUSTOMER
Can I get some service over here?

BARTENDER
Oh, my god, shut your face!
EXT. BAR - DAY

CEDRIC
(into phone)
Look, I got to go. We’ll meet
tomorrow and go over everything.

Chrissi walks up to Cedric as he hangs up the phone and
presses up against him.

CHRISSI
So. Where are you taking me?

CEDRIC
You’ll see.

CHRISSI
Oh, is it a surprise?

Chrissi caresses the expensive car’s glimmering handle.

CEDRIC
You’re definitely going to be surprised.

CHRISSI
Well?

CEDRIC
Here it comes.

The PUBLIC BUS pulls up. Cedric boards. Chrissi runs after.

CHRISSI
Hang on. That’s not your car?

CEDRIC
The Aston? I can’t afford an Aston.
Lady, I got bills to pay. I can’t
be messing around with that kind of
thing.

CHRISSI
What.

Chrissi looks out of the bus as the doors close and seal her
inside. The bus drives away.

END