

Lighters and Cigarettes

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

A handsome, male leans against the wall with an unlit cigarette in his hand. A scar runs down his neck. The man wears a hat and a trench coat.

JOAQUIN puts the cigarette to his lips and continues to stare down the dark street.

The door of the bar swings open and DANIEL, a strong, aggressive man, with a buzz cut is shoved into the street. The BOUNCER growls at him.

BOUNCER

Get out of here.

Daniel laughs while Joaquin takes out his golden lighter from his pocket. He lights his cigarette and continues to lean against the wall. Daniel joins him.

Daniel reaches into his pocket and pulls out a cigarette.

DANIEL

You got a lighter?

Joaquin removes his golden lighter from his pocket and hands it to Daniel.

DANIEL

What? You're not gonna light it for me?

Joaquin brings the lighter towards his pocket, but Daniel gestures for it.

DANIEL

Just give it here.

Daniel takes the lighter and lights his cigarette himself.

DANIEL

I like this.

He flicks the lighter on and off.

DANIEL

So you get kicked out too- they're pussies- had me outnumbered or I would have fought them. You wanna go back over there and tell them what's up?

Joaquin motions for his lighter.

DANIEL  
You don't want to go back in?  
You're just gonna take it like a  
bitch?

Daniel flicks the golden lighter on and off. Back and forth,  
back and forth.

DANIEL  
There's only two type of people in  
this world- Dictators and dick  
takers- what are you?

Joaquin ignores him and takes another drag from his  
cigarette.

Daniel tosses his cigarette into the ground and continues to  
hold the lighter in his hand. He walks into the street.

DANIEL  
Guess this is mine now.

Joaquin takes a step forward as Daniel enters a cab. Joaquin  
stares after him into the dark night.

EXT. STREET CORNER - DAY

Daniel lights his cigarette with the golden lighter.  
Suddenly, a car pulls up to the corner.

INT. CAR - DAY

SIRIUS, a rugged, bearded man with long hair turns to Daniel  
and smiles. To his right, KAL: a skinny, black man with  
short hair nods at Daniel.

They drive away.

SIRIUS  
No fuck ups now-

DANIEL  
How could I fuck this up?

KAL  
Try to keep that mouth of yours  
from saying too much.

DANIEL  
Fuck you.

Sirius glares at both of them.

SIRIUS

Are you two infants? This isn't a game- don't be stupid- don't be careless.

(to Daniel)

It's just another pick up, right?

Daniel nods.

DANIEL

Yeah, yeah, I got it.

Daniel pulls out his lighter and flicks it on and off. From the lighter's perspective, the guns on the waist of both Kal and Sirius are visible.

DANIEL

See you guys in a bit.

KAL

Just go already.

Daniel walks to the house and knocks on the door. The door opens and Daniel enters.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

A skinny long haired young woman, MARY, smiles at Daniel. The house has a small living room with a couch towards the middle in front of a TV. The living room transitions into the dining room.

MARY

Hey, sweetheart, I'm glad you came by. C'mon sit down- I'll get a sample. You want a drink?

DANIEL

No, I'm fine.

Daniel sits down on the couch and plays with the lighter some more. He sets it down on the small coffee table that is between the TV and the couch.

MARY(O.S)

I have a new batch called Lambs bread, can't say that I know what the name means, but it's really great. All the way from California...Gotta charge you more though baby, but it's worth it.

Mary returns with a rolled joint in her mouth.

DANIEL  
That was quick-

MARY  
You got a light?

Daniel grabs the golden lighter and brings it to Mary's mouth.

MARY  
Where did you get that, my-

Mary takes her drag and breathes out smoke through her nose.

MARY  
My-

DANIEL  
I don't think I can actually smoke with you... kinda busy. Can you just get my-

MARY  
When have you been too for a free smoke? You must have something big planned.

Daniel gets tense. Mary laughs.

MARY  
I'm joking, I'll get your usual.

Daniel nods while Mary walks into the back room. He sets the lighter down on the coffee table and sends a quick text.

Mary returns with a bag of drugs.

MARY  
Ok, sweetheart, you owe me-

KNOCK, KNOCK.

STU  
One second... have you met my boyfriend? You'll love his-

Mary opens the door and Karl and Sirius stand in front of her. They have masks on and their guns are drawn.

Mary SCREAMS and raises her hands up.

SIRUS  
Sit down and shut up!

Mary sits next to Daniel.

MARY  
Please, I don't have-

KARL  
Shut the fuck up. Where's the  
money?

A beat.

Karl steps forward and presses the gun to her head.

MARY  
In the backroom.

KARL  
Let's get it then.

SIRIUS  
(to Daniel)  
Don't move.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONT'D

The Golden lighter remains standing on the coffee table. It stares down the long hallway towards the backroom. A TUSSELE is audible.

Suddenly, Mary runs down the hallway, but slips and lands hard on her head.

Daniel gets up and walks towards her while Sirius and Karl exit the backroom.

KARL  
Shit.

SIRIUS  
(to Daniel)  
Well?

Daniel leans over Stu's body and checks his pulse.

DANIEL  
Think she's knocked out.

KARL  
Shit, let's bounce.

DANIEL  
We got the money?

Sirius nods.

SIRIUS  
Stupid broad...made it easier on us  
I guess.

They pass her body and walk out the door. The Golden lighter remains standing on the coffee table.

INT./ EXT. STU'S HOUSE - DAY

Joaquin leans against his car. He has his phone to his ear.

He gets the voicemail.

JOAQUIN  
Don't make me come inside.

He checks his watch and stares off into the distance. He pulls out his phone and dials and gets the voicemail again.

JOAQUIN  
(softly)  
You want to go in front of the  
judge again?

He hangs up the phone and walks to the house door. He brings the keys to the door and notices it's open.

Joaquin tentatively steps inside. He scans the room and sees Mary face down in the hallway. Joaquin rushes to her side and checks her pulse.

A small hint of relief is noticeable on Joaquin's face as he scans the house. He walks towards the backroom.

Joaquin returns and scans the living room. There standing on the coffee table is his golden lighter. He examines it and flicks it on and off.

He pulls out a cigarette as he sits down to light it.

CUT TO:

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Joaquin leans against the wall of the bar and has just lighted his cigarette.

Karl, Daniel, and Sirius barrel out of the bar. They LAUGH and YELL back at people inside.

Daniel sees Joaquin and nudges his friends.

DANIEL

You're out here again- he spends more time outside the bar than in.

Joaquin ignores Daniel.

DANIEL

You a mute?

SIRIUS

Alright, let's go.

They enter their car and drive away while Joaquin takes another drag.

CUT TO:

INT./EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joaquin's face is illuminated by his golden lighter. He watches Karl, Daniel, and Sirius enter the house.

He exits his car and leans against it while he finishes his cigarette. He drops the cigarette to the ground and crushes it.

Joaquin walks towards the house and hears the gunshots of a movie.

INT./EXT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Joaquin KNOCKS on the door.

After several moments, Karl opens the door and frowns. In one smooth motion, Joaquin removes his gun and shoots Karl once in the chest.

He steps over his body and inside the house.

SIRIUS (O.S)  
Who was that?

The house is a mess. It is littered with beer bottles, and pizza boxes. Sirius sits on the couch with his laptop on his lap. He has his headphones on and is focused on the porno.

Joaquin stands behind Sirius and hears the leakage of the video. The girl's moans get progressively louder until...

BAM. Sirius crumples over.

Joaquin walks up the stairs and looks around.

Two doors stand to his left and two stand to his right at the end of the hall. Joaquin walks to the end of the hall and opens the door.

INT. BATHROOM- CONT'D

Joaquin's reflection comes off the white wall. He closes the door.

He walks towards the next door and opens it.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Daniel lies in his bed while a FEMALE stands to Joaquin's left next to the closet. She SCREAMS while Daniel stares at him with a puzzled expression.

DANIEL  
Woah. What the fuck? You a fuckin'  
stalker?

Joaquin just stares at the two of them and smiles. He reaches into his pocket and takes out his pack of cigarettes. He tosses a cigarette to Daniel and lights his own.

The golden lighter in full view.

DANIEL  
Sirius! Kal!

A beat.

Joaquin takes out a handkerchief and wipes off the blood on the nose of his pistol.

DANIEL

Fuck man! You want her? Take her!  
You want money here...

Daniel ruffles through his pockets and tosses money in Joaquin's direction.

Joaquin puts his gun back on his belt.

DANIEL

Alright, alright, so just take it.  
Take the money.

Joaquin smiles.

JOAQUIN

Don't insult me, take the cigarette  
I gave you.

Daniel reaches for the cigarette that is on the bed.

DANIEL

What do you want?

Joaquin glares at him. Daniel puts the cigarette to his lips.

Joaquin reaches towards his waist and the female SCREAMS. He holds the golden lighter in his hand and leans over to light Daniel's cigarette.

Daniel and Joaquin are within whisper of each other. Daniel leans back and takes a drag. In acknowledgment, he smiles at Joaquin.

DANIEL

I like to take things. I guess  
your-

Daniel reaches to his left and grabs a small revolver. BAM. Joaquin shoots Daniel, who slumps off the bed to the ground.

The Female SCREAMS.

Joaquin walks to the other side of the bed to get a look at Daniel. He crouches over to see if he is dead.

JOAQUIN

You talked too much.

As Joaquin stands back up, he notices a silver object to the right of Daniel. He crouches back down and grabs a silver lighter.

Joaquin MUTTERS to himself and flicks the lighter on and off.

He rises and stares at the shuddering female.

FEMALE

Please, please, please, please, I'm not like them. I swear- he just, please let me go.

JOAQUIN

One's enough for everybody, you understand? Don't be a taker.

Joaquin tosses the silver lighter at her and it bounces on the bed.

He takes out his own lighter and lights his cigarette.

FEMALE

Yeah, yeah, of course, one's enough, I know that.

Joaquin smiles and takes a long drag.

FADE OUT.