

THE PAYOFF

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INT. POOL HALL - EARLY MORNING

Four people stand around a pool table in the otherwise empty pool hall.

MILES (30s, fitted clothes, cool and confident) lines up a shot with intense focus.

DAN (20S, jeans, loose shirt) paces on the other side of the table.

DAN
Where do we go from here?

MILES
You can start by getting out of my eye line. It's distracting.

Dan quickly moves to the end of the table. He can't stand still.

Miles shoots, sinks a ball in the corner pocket.

DAN
Man, how can you be so cool? Look at my hands.

He holds his shaking hands out. ELLA (40s, leather pants, loose blouse) gives him a disapproving look.

ELLA
Chill out. It's over.

DAN
Fuck that. What's the next job?

FREDDY (30s, t-shirt, ripped jeans) finishes a text message on his phone and puts it away.

FREDDY
What next job?

DAN
Come on, you got more lined up.

FREDDY
Two million not enough for you?

Dan hungrily looks at the unzipped bag full of money sitting atop the next pool table.

DAN
Half a mil each. We can do better.

MILES

I don't know about that.

Miles takes aim again. Ella leans on the edge of the table, cleavage on display. Miles tries to shoot but misses.

ELLA

Did I distract you?

MILES

Frequently. How about we get that drink and celebrate properly?

ELLA

I don't drink.

She takes a sip of her beer as Dan quickly aims, shoots, and misses.

DAN

Fuck!

FREDDY

You know who owns that racetrack. We got away with it, but get sloppy and you'll get yourself killed.

MILES

Sloppy like those uniforms?

DAN

Hunter green, forest green, what the fuck, green is fucking green.

ELLA

Jesus. Is it always like this after a heist?

FREDDY

Remember, deposits under ten grand, no large cash purchases for at least a month.

Dan nods absently, already dreaming of big things.

FREDDY

That just leaves splitting the money.

All eyes turn to the bag. Ella walks over to it, runs her fingers across the stacks of bills.

ELLA

Funny, in all the planning I never thought about having to leave here with half a million in cash. My purse isn't big enough.

Freddy tosses her a backpack.

DAN

Mine's in my car.

Miles checks his phone.

MILES

Freddy, why don't you escort him? Make sure he doesn't wander off until we're done here.

FREDDY

Why don't you?

MILES

(to Ella)

Because I'd like to try my luck at that drink again.

Dan stops on the way to the exit.

DAN

You coming or what?

Freddy reluctantly gets up and follows him out.

Ella looks down at the money, lost in thought.

ELLA

Maybe I could do another job.

MILES

You getting a taste for it?

ELLA

No, I just need the money. But I don't want to work with Dan again.

MILES

You won't have to. Or with Freddy.

Ella turns to face him.

ELLA

So it would be just you and me? I must be the luckiest girl in the whole wide world.

MILES

Ha ha. What if I said you could
walk out of here with all of it?

ELLA

All of what?

Miles nods to the bag of money.

EXT. ALLEY - MORNING

Dan and Freddy walk briskly to a car parked in the alley. Dan
opens the trunk.

FREDDY

Hurry it up. I don't trust that
cocky prick.

MAN (O.S.)

Funny, he said the same about you.

Freddy turns just as a MAN (40s, heavy jacket, gloves) shoots
him dead. Dan barely has time to turn around before he's shot
too.

The Man turns and walks away.

INT. POOL HALL - MORNING

Ella turns from the money to Miles.

ELLA

Are you serious?

MILES

They're not coming back. Go ahead,
it's yours.

Ella studies his face, looking for the angle.

MILES

Truth is, I was recruiting for
something bigger. Dan was going to
wind up dead or caught, and Freddy
was already trying to double-cross
us. I just beat him to it.

ELLA

But it was Freddy's job.

MILES

Was it, though?

ELLA
So, what, they're--

Miles's look is all the answer she needs.

ELLA
What about me?

MILES
You're good, but you aren't cut out
for this. And unlike the rest of
us, you really do need the money.

ELLA
How--
(beat)
So you're just going to give the
money to me?

MILES
I'm hoping you'll say yes to that
drink.

Miles holds a beer out to her. Hesitantly, Ella accepts it.
They cheers and drink.

After another moment, Ella makes up her mind. She leans
closer, her full attention on him now.

ELLA
All right. So where do we go from
here?

Miles flashes her a smile full of potential.