

FIRE.

By Nadine.

FADE IN

DAY

Sign "Welcome To Orlando"

Shot of scenery, river and apartments.

EXT. FIRE STATION

INT. FIRE STATION

Fire alarm is going off. Men and women are rushing and putting on their jackets and loading up the fire trucks with equipment.

LEROY

Your last day, Benny.

You don't have to do this, there's plenty of us.

BENNY

No, I've been dedicated to this job for 7 years, my last day...

I'm not gonna just go home.

LEROY

Alright...well, let's go partner.

Leroy and Benny get into a fire truck and drive off.

EXT. STREET. TAKEOUT STORE

Man and Benny arrive outside a burning takeout store.

TAKEOUT STORE OWNER

They destroyed my business, my livelihood,
Those Vegans...they were causing me trouble the other
Day.

LEROY

The police will be here soon, sir.
You need to tell it to them.

BENNY

The other unit says that everyone got out okay...his wife,
His kids, the dog.

The Takeout Store Owner's family are standing by another fire truck talking to a fireman.

LEROY

Okay, great. Let's put this fire out.

Leroy, Benny and more firemen get their equipment and run into the burning store.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. TAKEOUT STORE.

LEROY

The guy is insured, so he should be okay.

BENNY

Yeah.

DISSOLVE TO
INT. FIRE STATION - NIGHT

LEROY

So, Benny, you wanna go get a drink?

BENNY

Nah thanks, Leroy.
That's so cliché (laughs).

LEROY

Really?

BENNY

Yeah, I mean, after work...getting a drink at the local bar?
How more cliché can that be, man.

Fire Alarm goes off.

BENNY

I guess we *both* won't be going for that drink
After all, Lee.

Leroy chuckles.

Everyone is rushing, running and loading up their fire trucks.

TANNOY

Fire at Oceanside Brickwell Apartments.

CUT TO

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX

Fire Trucks arrive. Firemen are getting out of the trucks with all of the gear.

A man is screaming and half hanging out of a high balcony.

FIREMAN

(shouts to desperate man) SIR, HOLD ON, WE ARE COMING
TO GET YOU.

SMOKE and FLAMES burst out of a few random apartment windows.

FIREMAN 2

There are a few entrances that we are able to get into.
Everyone, make sure that you have your radios.

The Firefighters rush into the building.

Benny is walking into the building, walking up the stairs, smoke and more and more smoke,
Flames appear.

BENNY

HELLO? IS THERE ANYONE HERE?

CUT TO

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX

Some people are standing outside the apartment complex with an ambulance and paramedics.

A male paramedic is treating a woman's (Ruby) superficial burn on her arm.

RUBY

I'm glad at least no animals were harmed...
Pets are not allowed in these apartments.

PARAMEDIC
Ma'am, try and keep still, please.

CUT TO
INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX
Firefighters scramble, fall over, struggle in and out of the entire apartment complex,
They rescue some people, and some have died from the deadly fire.

CUT TO
EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX
People are being treated by the paramedics, police are on the scene as well as the Firefighters.

RUBY
Hey, you want my number?
After all we've been through together, it would make sense.

PARAMEDIC
Ma'am...no thank you.

RUBY
Ruby.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Come on...let me give you my number.

PARAMEDIC
I'm flattered, Ruby, but the answer is still no.

RUBY
Oh come on, why not?

PARAMEDIC
I don't date the people who I treat...
If I were to date you, I would be taking advantage.

Ruby smiles.

RUBY
Well, a real gentleman (slightly sarcastic).

RUBY
I've lost my home, but I'm not gonna miss this place.

PARAMEDIC
No family, no friends here?

RUBY
Oh, I've got family and friends, but they don't live in
This silly complex, they don't live in this fake town.

RUBY (CONT'D)
You see...this place, this *complex*...these

people

Live for the materialism...gotta show off the
Expensive apartment, right? gotta have all the
Right things.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Some of them may even say that they live here
For the view...but...please...you can get a
Beautiful view literally living on a mountain.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Maybe this fire will be a wake-up call for them.

Paramedic looks confused and shocked.

RUBY

I was careful to choose a certain type of
Apartment complex,
No animals allowed, because I love animals...
People on the other hand...well (chuckles).

PARAMEDIC

Ruby, are you trying to say something here...
Arson is a criminal...

Ruby interrupts.

RUBY

I didn't say *Arson* and I'm not admitting to
anything!....We're just having a conversation.

Paramedic looks worried.

RUBY

Have a nice night, now.

Ruby begins to walk away.

PARAMEDIC

Ruby, stay right there.

Ruby continues to casually walk away.
Paramedic turns around and is looking for someone.
He sees a police officer.

PARAMEDIC
OFFICER, OVER HERE, I...

Paramedic turns back around, and Ruby is gone.

FADE TO BLACK.