WHAT STARTS WORSE, ENDS BETTER

Written by

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EXT. STREET - MORNING

MAT, (25), good looking, confident and cool.

He stands on a busy sidewalk, leans against a parked car and drinks a coffee.

An attractive girl passes Mat. They make eye contact.

Mat tips his coffee too soon and the hot coffee runs down his face and clothes.

MAT

Shit.

The girl laughs and continues walking.

Mat wipes his chin and pulls out his cell.

INT. CAR - MORNING

ADAM, (25), not unattractive, average build. He sits in the driving seat of a messy car. He stars out the window.

His cell rings. He jumps.

Mat’s calling. Adam answers.

ADAM

Mat, what is it?

INTERCUT between Adam and Mat.

MAT

Somebody’s happy toady.

ADAM

I’m trying to stake out his house.

MAT

You’re going to lose your mind.

ADAM

Somebody has to watch him. You were supposed to watch him last night.

MAT

Calm your shit, Adam. I was there.

ADAM

But you didn’t see anything.
MAT
His fat ass wasn’t mobile.

ADAM
So what does that tell you?

MAT
That he’s not cheating on his ridiculously hot wife and this whole case is a waste of our fucking time.

ADAM
Well. This is where the professional detective-me, over shines the amateur detective-you.

MAT
If you say so.

ADAM
It tells me he knows something is up and he’s laying low until the heat is off.

MAT
The heat is off? What the fuck, Adam. We’re private detectives not the fucking FBI. Stop being so serious.

ADAM
Being serious is our job. We need these cases.

A pretty girl jogs by Mat.

MAT
Hey, how’s it going?

She smiles at Mat.

ADAM
What?

Mat’s distracted.

MAT
What?

ADAM
Who were you talking to?

MAT
Nobody.

ADAM
It was a girl, wasn’t it.
MAT
I don’t think so.

ADAM
That’s your problem. You’re obsessed.

MAT
One of us has to be.

ADAM
But not with our clients.

MAT
It’s a form of investigation. It makes us money.

ADAM
We haven’t made money in months because of you, even the Johnsons refused to pay us.

MAT
How was I supposed to know that misleading little bitch was a guy?

A passing man looks at Mat in disgust.

ADAM
The overzealous arm hair and body odor wasn’t enough for you?

MAT
She’s hot, or he was hot—fuck.

ADAM
That’s why you’re the amateur detective.

MAT
Nobody told me he or she had a fucking sex exchange.

ADAM
Change.

MAT
God damn it. We said we weren’t going to talk about this again.

ADAM
Kinda wish you didn’t call me now, huh?

MAT
I’m trying to help us out here. I sleep with these women—
ADAM
Our clients.

MAT
With these clients, their paranoid husbands call you to find out who their cheating-ass wives have been sleeping with. It’s a win, win, win.

ADAM
And what happens when the husbands catch up to you?

MAT
That won’t happen.

ADAM
Whatever, can I go now?

MAT
What is this?

Adam is about to speak but hesitates.

MAT (CONT’D)
I know what this is about. It’s the anniversary, isn’t it?

ADAM
Don’t be fucking stupid.

MAT
You need to forget about her.

ADAM
It’s been four years since I last saw her.

MAT
Fucking Christ. She’s been to college now, she isn’t that sweet, little princess you once knew.

ADAM
I never told her how I felt. Things might have been different for us.

MAT
You were friends since kindergarten, you helped her pick her hair style, pick her shoes, all that gay shit. That’s a friendship.

ADAM
But I knew her better than anybody.
MAT
She loved you like a brother, she didn’t want to see you naked.

ADAM
Then why hasn’t she spoken to me since she left?

MAT
She’s knee deep in--

ADAM
Shut up. You wouldn’t understand.

MAT
I’ve got some news about her. I wasn’t going to tell you.

ADAM
Is it the truth?

Adam takes a sip from a soda can.

MAT
She moved back into town this week.

Adam spits out the soda in excitement.

ADAM
And you weren't going to fucking tell me. Why?

MAT
With her dick-piece boyfriend she met in New York. That’s why.

ADAM
Fuck. What’s he like?

MAT
I heard he’s handsome, has great hair, a lot of money--

ADAM
You’re an asshole.

MAT
Kinda wish you didn’t answer the phone right now, huh?

Adam notices something across the street.

An obese man unlocks his car door.

ADAM
Holy shit. I see him, he’s out.
MAT
What?

ADAM
His fat ass is on the move.

MAT
Oh fuck.

They hang up.

Mat throws his coffee in the air.

Adam does his seat belt and fumbles trying to put the key in the ignition.

The car door opens. Mat gets in.

The fat man pulls his car out of the drive and heads down the street.

Adam and Mat follow.

INT. CAR - DAY

Adam and Mat are parked across the street from a Pizza restaurant.

They both stare in amazement out the window.

They watch the fat man inside the pizza restaurant.

He sits alone and finishes a large pizza.

ADAM
This is incredible.

MAT
How many's that?

ADAM
I've lost count.

MAT
He's going for it, those fuckers aren't mediums.

The fat man inhales the last slice.

MAT (CONT'D)
Holy shit.

The waiter places another massive pizza in front of the fat man.

ADAM
No way.
MAT
How does this fat pig get two chicks at the same time?

ADAM
He has a sparkling personality.

MAT
Or he’s got a massive--

ADAM
Wallet, probably.

Adam starts the engine.

MAT
Where are you going? We’re gotta watch this shit.

ADAM
We’ll pick it up tomorrow, he’s been here all day, and I wanna go home.

MAT
Okay, but go to the store first.

ADAM
Fine.

MAT
It’s a good job actually. If he ate another pizza, I’d fucking sleep with him.

ADAM
You’ve had worse.

Mat isn’t impressed.

INT. STORE - DAY

Adam and Mat walk down a pharmaceutical aisle.

Mat studies a list, he carries a shopping basket containing some products.

ADAM
Shall we do something tonight?

MAT
I was going to have a quiet night. Watch some movies, have a night to myself. Hence the shit I'm buying. Why? What’s up?
ADAM
I don’t wanna spend another night watching romantic comedies by myself.

MAT
Those movies suck.

JANE, (25), an attractive blonde, enters the aisle. Mat stops.

MAT (CONT’D)
Holy Jesus, fuck me in the ass. Don’t move.

He stops Adam from walking.

ADAM
What’s wrong?

Adam spots Jane.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Mat, don’t do it.

MAT
I’m fucking doing it.

Mat breaths rapidly.

MAT (CONT’D)
I’m doing it.

ADAM
This is going to begin badly and end worse.

MAT
I don’t care. Hold this.

Adam takes the basket. Mat heads for Jane.

ADAM
You’re the man.

MAT
I’m the man.

Jane studies products from the shelves. Adam watches on.

MAT (CONT’D)
Sara, isn’t it?

JANE
No. Jane.
MAT
Jane, you don’t want that stuff. I bought some last month, it gave me the worst case of diarrhea.

Mat laughs. Jane doesn’t.

JANE
Excuse me?

MAT
This is really weird. I know you from some where. Do you come here often?

Adam’s in disbelief. He turns around.

ADAM
Shit.

He freezes.

EMMA, (25), slim, red hair, very pretty. She scans the shelves and moves toward Adam.

Adam stares. She’s only feet away.

Adam panics and grabs a box of tampons. He pretends to read the packaging.

He panics and grabs a box of tampons from the shelf, he reads the box.

Emma sees Adam.

EMMA
Adam?

He pretends not to recognise her.

ADAM
Yeah?

EMMA
It’s me. Emma.

He pretends to think.

ADAM
Emma Lawrence?

EMMA
Yes.

ADAM
Wow. No way.

They have an unconvincing hug.
EMMA
How’s it going?

ADAM
Great, Things are going great. I haven’t seen you in about four years. Today actually.

Adam realizes he’s being too forward.

ADAM (CONT’D)
I think.

EMMA
Yeah I just moved back.

ADAM
Nice. What’s your next move?

EMMA
Well I’ve been offered an internship at the bank. So, I guess I’ll have to do that.

She’s underwhelmed.

ADAM
Really? I never thought you’d end up in a bank.

EMMA
Neither did I.

ADAM
So things working out, great education, great boyfriend, great job--

EMMA
Whoa, no. No boyfriend.

Adam holds back his excitement.

ADAM
What? I heard you were in a serious relationship.

EMMA
I was, but he turned out to be a bit of a jerk.

ADAM
Why? What’d he do?

EMMA
Long story short, he didn’t want to commit.
ADAM
Lengthen, just a little.

EMMA
Okay. He was content living off his parents’ income. He didn't want to lead his own life so he couldn’t understand why I was trying to lead mine. So he ended it. Just like that. Four years.

Emma breaks eye contact.

ADAM
Well he’s an idiot. His loss.

EMMA
Thank you.

ADAM
So it’s defiantly over?

EMMA
Yeah. I’m pretty sure.

ADAM
Good. I mean, good for you.

EMMA
What about you? You must have a girlfriend by now.

ADAM
No. No girlfriends.

EMMA
So what’s with the tampons?

ADAM
What?

Adam realizes what he’s holding.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Oh shit. There not anything. Just wondered, er-- how they worked.

Emma laughs. Adam places the tampons back on the shelf.

She sees his basket, reaches in and grabs some KY-Jelly and Trojan Condoms.

EMMA
Adam?

ADAM
No, they’re not mine. I wouldn’t. I'd never--
EMMA
So whose are they?

ADAM
They’re my partner’s. He’s a little acentric.

Emma’s surprised.

EMMA
Oh, I’m sorry. I didn’t realize you were gay,

ADAM
What? No. Fuck no. I’m not gay. Not that there’s anything wrong with being a homosexual.

Emma smiles.

ADAM (CONT’D)
They’re my colleague’s. He’s back there.

They look at Mat. Jane slaps Mat across the face.

EMMA
Yeah, I remember him. What do you guys do?

ADAM
We--

EMMA
You don’t still do that private detective thing like when you were a kids, do you?

ADAM
Fuck off.

Emma is taken back.

ADAM (CONT’D)
No. Of course not. That was just a hobby.

EMMA
So what do you do?

Adam panics.

ADAM
Uh, well we work for.

He searches for an idea.
ADAM (CONT’D)
We get paid for what we do by...

A police officer walks past. Adam keeps looking.
A security guard stands in sight. Adam keeps looking.

ADAM (CONT’D)
The FBI?

EMMA
You work for the FBI?

ADAM
Yes. Trainee detective, if you’d believe that.

EMMA
Doesn’t it take like a number of years of education and experience to become a detective?

ADAM
Normally, yeah. But we helped them crack a big case and they offered us a head start in a special detectives’ division.

Emma trusts Adam.

EMMA
I guess your hobby paid off.

ADAM
Yeah. Something like that.

EMMA
I’m glad you’re doing well, Adam.

Emma checks her watch.

EMMA (CONT’D)
Oh shit. I’ve got to get going.

ADAM
Oh. It was good seeing you.

EMMA
You too. I’ll see you around.

Emma heads out of the aisle.

ADAM
Hey, Emma.

She stops and turns to Adam.
EMMA
Yeah?

ADAM
What are you doing tonight?

EMMA
I’m going to Rocos with a few friends. You should go, it’s pretty good there.

ADAM
Really? That’s weird. I was going there tonight anyway.

EMMA
See you tonight then.

Emma smiles and walks out of the aisle.

ADAM
Tonight.

Adam sprints to Mat. The girl is gone.

Mat smiles. He reads a piece of paper.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Mat. Mat.

Adam reaches Mat. The paper has a cell number on it.

ADAM (CONT’D)
You got her number?

MAT
Sure.

ADAM
She slapped you in the face.

MAT
Yeah?

Adam’s confused.

ADAM
Guess who I just fucking saw.

MAT
Batman?

ADAM
Emma, the girl of my fucking dreams, Lawrence.
MAT
What? No fucking way, that’s awesome. Oh man I’m sorry. Did her boyfriend have a strong jaw?

ADAM
They broke up.

MAT
That’s a shame.

ADAM
A real fucking shame.

INT. STORE - CHECKOUT - DAY
Mat unloads his basket at the checkout.

Adam’s excited.

ADAM
She asked me to go to Rocos tonight. For drinks.

MAT
No she fucking didn’t.

ADAM
Okay, she didn’t actually say come to Rocos with me. But she’s going there tonight.

MAT
Then go.

ADAM
I can’t do this alone. I need you there, Mat.

MAT
I don’t know. I’ve got a night planned.

The cashier, (45), overweight, scans painkillers and viagra.

ADAM
Please, I can’t do this without you. Her friends will be there.

MAT
Then that’s where we’re going.

ADAM
And you’ll walk me through your shit?
The cashier listens to their conversation. She scans trogon condoms and laxatives.

Mat catches the cashier listening.

MAT
I will treat your penis as if it were my own.

Mat smiles to the cashier.

ADAM
Yes. I love you so much.

Adam innocently smiles to the cashier.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DUSK

Adam and Mat walk to the car.

ADAM
This is it. I’m going to finally tell her how I feel.

MAT
The FBI. What the fuck were you thinking?

ADAM
I don’t know, I panicked.

MAT
This will begin bad, and end a lot fucking worse.

They get in the car and pull away.

A black Sudan with blacked out windows follows them.

EXT. ROCOS - NIGHT

Adam and Mat arrive at Rocos, a lively bar/nightclub.

MAT
You ready for this?

ADAM
I’m just going to be polite, honest and finally tell her how I feel. What about you?

MAT
I’m just here to have fun.
INT. ROCOS - NIGHT

The bar is packed with customers. The atmosphere is explosive. The MUSIC is turned up loud.

A large crowd dance on the dance floor. A few gather around the bar.

Adam and Mat are stunned.

There’s plenty of pretty girls on the dance floor.

    ADAM
    Holy--

    MAT
    Shit. This is--

    ADAM
    Terrifying--

    MAT
    Exciting--

    ADAM
    Horrific--

    MAT
    Heaven.

Mat heads for the dancing girls. Adam pulls him back.

    ADAM
    Hey, keep a low profile this time.
    Don’t forget our rule.

    MAT
    Will you calm your shit and shut the fuck up. I’ve got this.

Mat disappears into the dancing crowd. Adam goes to the bar.

AT THE BAR

The BARTENDER, (30), bald, body builder physique. Adam notions him to come over.

    ADAM
    Can I get a beer please?

The music is too loud for the bartender to hear.

    BARTENDER
    Can I help you, sir?

    ADAM
    One beer please. Thanks.
BARTENDER
The restroom is over there, sir.

ADAM
For fuck sake. One of those.

Adam points to the beers in the fridge.
The bartender’s confused, he stares at Adam.
Adam’s frustration grows.

ADAM (CONT’D)
A fucking beer you fucking steroid junkie dunce--
The music level drops.
The bartender’s pissed.

BARTENDER
You wanna say that again?

ADAM
I’m so sorry. I couldn’t-- those are nice pecs.

It’s tense.
The bartender breaks his stare and steps away.
Adam breathes a sigh of relief and turns around.
Emma’s standing right behind him. She’s wearing some trendy jeans and a T-shirt. She looks very cute.

EMMA
Adam.

Adam jumps.

ADAM
Shit. Hey.

Emma laughs and hugs Adam.
Adam saviors the moment.

EMMA
You made it.

ADAM
I did. I always come here on Saturdays so it’s no big deal.

EMMA
But it’s Friday.
ADAM
Are you sure?

EMMA
Pretty sure.

ADAM
You look beautiful by the way.

EMMA
No. Shut up.

ADAM
You look very pretty, but also sexy. But not in a slutty way, no you look very intellectual meets sexy, sassy, but this is me making myself look an idiot.

Emma laughs.

EMMA
Thank you, Adam.

ADAM
Do you miss New York?

EMMA
I miss the city, but it’s nice coming home and seeing my family and old friends. How they’ve changed in the last four years. I lost contact with everybody.

ADAM
Not just me then.

EMMA
You never tried to contact me. I was waiting for you. I assumed you didn’t want to talk to me.

ADAM
What? Why wouldn’t I?

EMMA
I don’t know. It wasn’t easy leaving, you were--

Emma pauses and thinks for a second.

EMMA (CONT’D)
My best friend.

ADAM
Believe me, I can relate to losing somebody close.
EMMA
I’m not sure you do, I really liked you, Adam.

ADAM
I can.

EMMA
I didn’t think you’d be happy about me leaving.

ADAM
Don’t say that. You needed to go. You had to. But I’m glad you’re back.

Emma smiles thankfully to Adam. They make prolonged eye contact.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Emma, I came here to tell you something.

EMMA
Go ahead.

Adam hesitates.

ADAM
I don’t w--

The bartender shoves a bottle of beer between their faces.

BARTENDER (O.S.)
That will be six bucks.

INT. ROCOS TOILET - NIGHT
A man pees at the urinal.
Mat comes out of a cubical wearing only a T-shirt and his underwear.
He stands next to the man and pees.
The man glances at Mat.

MAT
Hey, man. Great night, huh?
The man panics and shoots his face back to the wall.
Mat finishes, washes his hands and opens the cubical door.
A half naked sexy girl pulls him in and SLAMS the door.
INT. ROCOS - NIGHT
Adam and Emma talk at the bar.

EMMA
How’s working for the FBI?

Adam tries to brush off the question.

ADAM
I'm only a trainee, so it's not as good as it sounds. What about--

EMMA
No, it is. You’re doing well for yourself. I mean, look at Patrick.

ADAM
Your boyfriend?

EMMA
Ex boyfriend. He hasn’t tried for a real job since high school.

Adam chokes on his beer.

EMMA (CONT’D)
I asked him if this is what he really wants to do with his life.

ADAM
What’d he say?

EMMA
That we could live off his mom and dad’s income.

ADAM
What a dick.

EMMA
It’s a shame. I’m going to miss the mind blowing sex.

Adam’s shocked. He doesn’t know how to react.

EMMA (CONT’D)
I’m joking.

ADAM
Oh, ha-ha, funny.

EMMA
But he was a great lover.

Adam can’t tell if Emma’s joking or not.
ADAM
I’m going to assume you’re joking.

Emma gives Adam a cheeky smile.

ADAM (CONT’D)
I really missed you, Emma.

EMMA
I missed you, too.

ADAM
So as I was saying, I lied—

Adam’s interrupted by the crowd CHEERING.

Emma’s distracted.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Oh, come on.

The crowd gather around Mat who plays the “TIME CRISES 2” arcade machine.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Shit.

Emma and Adam join the crowd. Adam steps up to the machine.

ADAM (CONT’D)
What the fuck are you doing? Get down.

MAT
I’m showing these assholes how to play this game.

ADAM
Mat, everybody is watching.

MAT
Exactly. Let them fucking watch. Here, take this.

Mat hands Adam the other gun and hits the two player button.

Adam stares at the gun, he’s absorbed by it’s aura.

He plays the game without looking. He shoots the enemies perfectly while talking to Mat.

ADAM
Mat, this isn't the time. Stop.
Before somebody recognizes us.

MAT
Let’s finish this stage, then we’ll disappear.
Adam sighs and turns to the screen.

In unison Adam and Mat shoot every enemies on screen, perfectly.

    MAT (CONT’D)
    Top left.

Mat shoots an approaching enemy on the screen.

    ADAM
    Got it.

They clear the stage.

The crowd CHEER.

    ADAM (CONT’D)
    Right, come on--

An ANGRY MAN, (40), short, fat and far too sweaty. He shouts from the crowd.

    ANGRY MAN
    Hey, dip-shit.

    ADAM
    Shit.

Adam and Mat turn to the Angry man.

He points at Adam, with fury in his eyes.

    ANGRY MAN
    It’s you. You’re the fucking guy.

    ADAM
    No, it’s not me. I’m not anybody.

    ANGRY MAN
    You’re the petty amateur detective who ratted me out to my wife for sixty bucks.

    MAT
    Sixty-five.

Another MAN, (35), tall and round shouts from the crowd.

    MAN
    Yeah that is the guy. Just a few weeks ago. She took my dog because of you.

    ADAM
    Well, maybe you shouldn't have banged her sister.
Adam sees Emma in the crowd, she looks disappointed and hurt. She heads for the exit.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Emma, wait.

The angry man sees Mat. Now he looks enraged.

ANGRY MAN
And you’re the piece of shit who was sleeping with her.

MAN
And my fucking sister in law.

The men move through the crowd.

MAT
Adam.

ADAM
Emma.

MAT
Adam.

ADAM
Mat.

The man steps up to the machine, grabs Mat and puts him in a choke hold.

MAT
Fucking do something.

Adam grabs the plastic gun and aims at the man.

MAT (CONT’D)
What the fuck are you doing?

Adam realizes, he strikes the man across the face with it. The man drops to the floor. Mat’s impressed.

Adam’s a little impressed with himself.

MAT (CONT’D)
Alright, Adam. That’s what I’m fucking talking about.

ADAM
Right?

A chair SHATTERS on Mat’s back.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Mat.
A fist hits Adam in the face.
The whole bar turns into a mass brawl, the bartender gets involved.
Adam has lost Mat in the brawl.
Punches, bottles and everything not tied down is being thrown.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Mat? Mat?

Someone tackles Adam out of the crowd and onto the floor. It’s Mat.

ADAM (CONT’D)
What the fuck?

MAT
Shit dude, I’m so sorry, I didn’t see you.

ADAM
You jumped on me.

Mat gets off Adam.

MAT
Come on.

He helps Adam up and they run toward the exit.
Adam bumps into Emma. Mat keeps going.

ADAM
Emma.

EMMA
Why would you lie to me?

ADAM
I tried to tell you the truth.

EMMA
It isn’t hard, Adam.

ADAM
Emma, please. I’ve got so much I need to say to you--

Emma starts walking past him.

ADAM (CONT’D)
I love you.

She stops.
ADAM (CONT’D)
I love you.

EMMA
How dare you?

Emma’s eyes fill up, and she runs out.

Adam stares into space. He’s distraught.

A bottle smashes on the wall right behind Adam’s head, he leaves in a hurry.

GUNNER and REAR,(40), tall and bulky wear matching suits and sun glasses. They watch from a nearby table.

A drunk bystander standing between them.

RANDOM GUY
You two look ridiculous.

The man laughs.

Gunner and Rear look at each other.

Rear slams the Random guy’s head onto the table, he falls to the floor.

INT. CAR - MORNING

Adam and Mat are parked outside the fat man’s house.

They’re beaten up and wearing the same clothes from last night.

Mat sleeps. Adam stares out the window.

A passing car wakes Mat.

MAT
What’s this?

ADAM
Morning.

Mat’s confused and in pain.

MAT
What the fuck happened?

Adam hands Mat a cheese burger.

ADAM
You did.

MAT
Did we sleep here all night?
ADAM
Half the people in Rocos know where we live, and the other half wanted us dead. I thought it would be best.

Mat takes a bite of the burger.

MAT
I like Rocos. We should go there every Saturday.

ADAM
It was Friday.

MAT
I made it with a girl.

ADAM
I’m happy for you. Oh, and thank you for destroying my chance with Emma.

MAT
What fucking chance?

ADAM
We had a moment last night. I felt it, and I know she did, too.

MAT
She didn’t feel anything.

ADAM
She did.

MAT
No, I don’t think so.

ADAM
I know she did.

MAT
Maybe.

ADAM
She fucking felt it.

MAT
If the moment was so magical, why didn’t you tell her you love her?

ADAM
I was going to tell her about my job, and if she didn’t hate me for it, I was going to.
MAT
Then why didn’t you? It isn’t hard.

ADAM
Because you got in a fight and she found out before I could fucking explain anything. And now she thinks I’m a fucking liar who just wanted to fuck her. I’m never getting another chance with her.

Mat puts his burger down.

MAT
Dude, it was my fault, and I'm sorry. We’ll get you another shot with this bitch.

ADAM
Thanks for trying to be supportive. But it’s still your fault.

MAT
Let’s go home.

ADAM
Yeah.

Adam starts the engine.

MAT
Now the heat is off.

ADAM
Fuck off.

EXT. URBAN STREET - MORNING

Adam’s car pulls out and heads down the street.

The black Sudan pulls out from behind a parked car and follows them.

INT. CAR - DAY - (TRAVELING)

Adam drives down a quiet road.

MAT
What’s the plan?

ADAM
We go home, shower, change, we find out where Emma is and you help me find a way to confess my love. How’s that for an execution?
Mat laughs.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Why are you laughing? If I can at least tell her how I feel.

MAT
Talking hypothetically, let’s say you did have a moment with was her last night.

ADAM
It happened.

MAT
What makes you think she’ll want to see with somebody like you? She’s a ten, and you’re pushing a four.

ADAM
No, she isn't superficial like the girls you spend your time with.

Adam sees something in the rearview mirror, he continues driving.

MAT
Hey, those bitches are not superficial. They’re just misguided. Which makes them easy prey.

ADAM
Do you hear yourself sometimes?

MAT
That’s my life’s motto.

ADAM
And you’re happy living your life this way?

MAT
How long have you known me? And have I ever been an emotional wreck like you are right now?

ADAM
No, but--

MAT
Because I don’t get emotionally involved like you do. In and out. Repeatedly.
ADAM
When you have the realization of how shallow your life is, don’t crawl to me.

Adam checks the rear view mirror and looks behind him.

MAT
I’m happy. I’m ecstatic right now.

ADAM
Mat.

MAT
You wanna know why? Watch this video.

Mat holds his cell phone up to Adam.

ADAM
Mat.

MAT
T Italian girl from a few cases back.

The video distracts Adam.

ADAM
You slept with her? She was fucking beautiful. Mat, fucking shut up. Look at that car behind us.

MAT
What? Why?

Mat looks in the mirrors.

MAT (CONT’D)
All I see is traffic.

ADAM
You wanna know what I see?

MAT
No, but the professional detective will no doubt tell me.

ADAM
I see a black Sudan that’s been following us for the past half hour.

Mat checks the mirrors again.

MAT
Adam, it’s a straight fucking road.
ADAM
No. It’s defiantly following us.

MAT
You’re getting too stressed, you need to loosen up.

ADAM
Loosen up?

MAT
This whole Emma thing’s got you worked up.

Adam swerves round a sharp corner at speed.

They’re on a quiet road.

MAT (CONT’D)
What the fuck was that?

The Sudan turns the corner.

ADAM
See. I fucking told you.

MAT
Okay. So somebody’s following us. What do we do?

ADAM
Don’t ask me, I was hoping they’d keep going.

MAT
Awesome. Now they know that we know they’re fucking following us.

ADAM
What difference does that make?

MAT
You make one false move and you’ll initiate a full on fucking car chase.

ADAM
What should I do?

MAT
I don’t know. We usually do the following, we’re not the followed.

ADAM
Why don’t I just drive to the nearest police station?
MAT
That's actually a good idea. They never do that in the movies.

ADAM
And it's only a few blocks over.

A small hole appears in the windshield.

ADAM (CONT'D)
What was that?

MAT
Was that you?

Another hole appears.

ADAM
Is somebody throwing rocks at us?

They look behind. A man's arm fires a silenced pistol out the window of the Sudan.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Holy shit. Are they shooting at us?

MAT
Well he's not taking a fucking Polaroid.

The rear view mirror is shot off. Adam and Mat SCREAM.

MAT (CONT'D)
What the fuck? Go, fucking go.

Adam floors it.

ADAM
What do I do? Where do I go?

The black Sudan continues to fire on the car.

MAT
I don't know. Do something.

He gently swerves the car left and right.

MAT (CONT'D)
What the fuck are you doing?

ADAM
I've never been fucking shot at before, okay?

Adam continues to speed. They continue to shoot.
ADAM (CONT’D)
I’m going to die with Emma hating me, and it’s all your fault. I love her, man.

MAT
Oh just let them kill me.

The windshield SHATTERS, it’s impossible to see through it.

ADAM
I can’t see. I can’t fucking see.
Mat, do something.

Mat grabs a T-shirt and wraps his hands.
He pushes against the windshield. His hands go through it.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Mat, hurry.

Mat tries to remove his hands, they’re stuck.

MAT
Oh shit.

ADAM
Get your hands out of the fucking windshield.

MAT
I can’t.

ADAM
What do you mean you can’t?

MAT
They’re stuck.

The black Sudan pulls up beside them and rams them off the road and into a small parking lot.

ADAM
I can’t see.

Adam slows the car.

MAT
Don’t slow down, speed up.

ADAM
Where, Mat? It’s a parking lot.

The stops perfectly in a parking space. The Sudan blocks them in.

MAT
This is it. This is how we die.
Gunner and Rear walk to the car.

Rear stands on Adam’s side and Gunner stands on Mat’s.

Rear taps on the glass with his gun. Adam unwinds the window slightly.

    ADAM
    Hey.
    
    REAR
    All the way.
    
    ADAM
    Okay.

Adam fully unwinds the window.

    REAR
    Why were you running?
    
    ADAM
    You were shooting at us.

Gunner opens Mat’s door. Mat still has his hands in the windshield.

    MAT
    How’s it going?
    
    GUNNER
    Let me see your hands.
    
    MAT
    If you just step a few feet that way, you will.

Gunner and Rear look at each other.

    REAR
    Gunner.
    
    GUNNER
    Rear.
    
    REAR
    Does that sound like wise cracking to you?
    
    GUNNER
    Yes it does, Rear.
    
    REAR
    We don’t like wise crackers do we, Gunner.
    
    GUNNER
    No we don’t.
REAR
We don’t.

ADAM
We’re not cracking wise.

MAT
Wait, wait, wait. Let me just clarify. Your name is Gunner?

ADAM
And your name is Rear?

GUNNER
That’s correct.

REAR
That’s right.

MAT
Gunner. Rear.

ADAM
Those are your names?

Gunner and Rear share looks.

They strike Adam and Mat on the head with their guns, knocking them both out.

INT. SPA – DAY – (DREAM)
Mat wakes tied to a chair.
They’re in a spa’s treatment room.
Mat looks down and sees he has no hands, just bloody stumps.
He SCREAMS.

INT. SPA – DAY
Mat SCREAMS awake. He and Adam have a black sack over their heads.

Gunner and Rear stand behind them.

A circular curtain hides the center of the room.

ADAM
Mat, what’s happening?

MAT
My hands. Shit, I can’t see.

Rear slaps Mat across the head and removes the sack.
Gunner removes Adam’s sack.

**ADAM**
Are you okay?

Mat feels his hands.

**MAT**
Yeah I’m good. Thank God.

A man’s VOICE.

**VOICE (O.S.)**
It’s a little too early to be thanking almighty, my friend.

Adam and Mat are unsure of the source.

**MAT**
Gunner, you say something?

**VOICE (O.S.)**
It was me.

**ADAM**
Rear?

**VOICE (O.S.)**
No you idiot-- Ar fuck it.

The centre room curtain opens.

**DALTON**, the fat man they’ve been following lays in a mud bath.

**ADAM**
You’re--

**DALTON**
Dalton Acknabonzhar.

**ADAM**
Come again?

**MAT**
Acne-boner?

**DALTON**
Dalton Ack-na-bon-zhar. The z is silent.

Adam and Mat aren’t sure.

**DALTON (CONT’D)**
It’s Ackna--

**MAT**
Pizza guy. Let’s just land on that.
ADAM
What it is this about? And who are you really?

DALTON
I’m the biggest narcotics distributor and money launderer on the east side of the west coast.

MAT
That doesn’t make sense.

DALTON
It makes perfect sense.

ADAM
It can’t be the east side of the west coast. You’re either the west or the east.

DALTON
This is the east.

MAT
We’re on the west coast.

ADAM
Yeah, if you said the west side of the east coast, then that would make sense-- Actually, isn’t that the same thing?

MAT
If he would have said--

DALTON
Shut up. I am whoever the fuck I say I am, okay?

ADAM
Okay.

MAT
Okay.

Dalton climbs out of the mud bath, he finds it hard.

He wears some very tight speedos. The mud covers him from he neck down.

He grabs a towel and cleans away the mud. He stands in front of the boys.

DALTON (CONT’D)
Gunner. Rear.

Adam and Mat snigger.

DALTON (CONT’D)
Well done. You’ve done me well.
Well done.
Dalton drops the dirty towel and uses a new one.

DALTON (CONT’D)
Now, boys--

MAT
Could you or one of the blues brothers please tell us what the fuck we’re doing here?

DALTON
You two little punk rockers have been following me for the past week. I’ve been watching you watch me, watch you, but you didn’t see me watching.

MAT
Where were ya there, Adam?

DALTON
Your looking for something. A promotion? A chance to kiss-ass your director?

ADAM
What?

DALTON
I’m sorry, but I just can’t allow it. I’ve got too many big shits being taken right now.

MAT
What the fuck are you talking about?

Dalton smiles, he grabs another towel and puts one leg up on a chair.

Adam and Mat are disgusted.

DALTON
I’ll admit, you came pretty close. I thought I had control over all of the investigations on-going in the city.

ADAM
We’re not with the police--

DALTON
Ar. Ar. Ar. You’ve been following me all week, you’ve watched me work--

ADAM
We haven’t seen anything.
MAT
You were grazing.

DALTON
Let’s just cut to the cheese--

ADAM
Chase.

DALTON
Are you working for the FBI? KGB? MI6?

MAT
Are you serious?

ADAM
We do not work for the FBI, I can honestly say that.

MAT
(To Adam)
Wasn’t hard, was it?

DALTON
You better start talking.

ADAM
We’re private detectives. Your wife hired us. This is just one huge mix up. Check my pockets, I have proof.

Dalton notions for Rear to check.

Dalton cleans just above his waist.

MAT
Can you stop that? I’m finding it strangely erotic.

Rear pulls out a wallet and from it a business card, and gives it to Dalton.

Dalton studies the card.

ADAM
See. It’s our business card.

DALTON
This doesn’t prove anything.

ADAM
Do we look like federal agents?

DALTON
So why have you been following me?
ADAM
Your wife thinks you’re having an affair. Of all things.

DALTON
An affair?

ADAM
Yes, and that’s it, that’s the truth.

Dalton LAUGHS. Gunner and Rear LAUGH with him.

Dalton stops, Gunner and Rear abruptly stop.

DALTON
You’re shitting me?

ADAM
No.

DALTON
She thinks I have another women. What is she crazy?

MAT
That’s what I said.

DALTON
It’s her who’s been sleeping around.

Adam looks at Mat, who looks guilty.

DALTON (CONT’D)
This is so fucking embarrassing. Gunner, rear, what the fuck? I’m sorry about those two.

Gunner and Rear lower their heads.

MAT
Shame on you, Gunner.

ADAM
Does this mean we’re free to go?

DALTON
Of course. And to think I had your pretty girlfriend kidnapped as leverage.

Mat is angry.

MAT
What the fuck. You better not have hurt them.
DALTON
Bring her in.

ONLY THERE TO DIE, (36), male, tall and thin, enters the room.

He wheels in a chair with Emma tied to it.

MAT
Oh.

Adam is angry.

ADAM
Emma.

DALTON
It’s okay, calm down.

Only there to die removes Emma’s gag.

EMMA
Get off me.

She sees Adam.

ADAM
Untie her. Let her go.

DALTON
There’s no reason to get all worked up. Just a misunderstanding.

EMMA
Adam, what have you got me into?

ADAM
It’s okay, Emma. There’s just been a mix up. I’m going to get you out of this.

Only there to die talks to Dalton.

ONLY THERE TO DIE (CONT’D)
I’ve just got off the phone with the Petrelis, and the scheduled deal for tonight is go.

Dalton sighs, he notions to Gunner, who then hands him his gun.

ONLY THERE TO DIE (CONT’D)
You’ll need to deliver the money to the diner tonight. Oh and one more thing, the Xaviers are--

Dalton shoots only there to die in the head. He falls into the mud bath and sinks to the bottom.
MAT
What the fuck?

ADAM
Oh my--

EMMA
God.

ADAM
You killed him.

DALTON
He’s taking a dirt nap.

A quiet moment.

DALTON (CONT’D)
That’s funny.

MAT
Yeah, his smile’s pretty big on the fucking ceiling.

Dalton aims his gun at Mat. Mat laughs.

MAT (CONT’D)
It’s funny. It’s so fucking funny. Ha-ha.

DALTON
Well this is a shame. I really was going to let you three go.

MAT
Was? You still are, right?

DALTON
I’m sorry, it’s too late. You know too much. This is a big deal for me and I can’t have any fuck-ups.

ADAM
But we don’t know anything.

DALTON
You know enough.

Dalton takes aim on Emma, she looks to Adam.

ADAM
Point the gun at me, not her. You look at me.

GUNNER
Sir. If I may make a suggestion.
DALTON
Shoot, gunner.

MAT
Choice of words.

Gunner whispers into Dalton’s ear.

Dalton smiles and gives Gunner his gun.

ADAM
Thank God.

DALTON
Gunner may have just saved your sinful lives.

MAT
Thanks Gunner, you’re not all that bad.

Dalton puts on a robe.

EMMA
Finally.

ADAM
Why aren’t you going to kill us?

MAT
Will you shut thefuck up?

DALTON
You know too much about the drop to let you go. So instead, you will make the drop.

ADAM
You can’t be serious.

MAT
No way.

DALTON
Or I kill your girl.

Dalton aims at Emma.

ADAM
Okay. Okay.

EMMA
I’m not his girl.

ADAM
Emma, not the place.
EMMA
We’ve spoken twice in four years, and you lied to me.

ADAM
Emma, did you feel something last night? I have to know.

DALTON
Enough with the young love shit. Pick up the package from this address.

Dalton writes on a piece of paper.

DALTON (CONT’D)
And call this number when you have it. That’s if you want to see this pretty piece alive again.

Dalton puts the paper in Adam pocket.

DALTON (CONT’D)
If I don’t hear from you by dusk, or you attempt to go to the authorities, she’s a dead man.

Dalton notions to Gunner and Rear.

MAT
You mean a dead women--

ADAM
Don’t you hurt her--

Gunner and Rear knock Adam and Mat out simultaneously.

INT. CAR - DAY

Adam and Mat are unconscious in the car. Adam is in the driver’s seat, Mat is in the passenger seat.

Adam awakes.

ADAM
Mat, wake up.

MAT
What?

Adam checks around, he puts the key in the ignition and takes a moment.

MAT (CONT’D)
Did that shit really just happen?

ADAM
Pretty sure.
MAT
Oh good.

ADAM
Mat, the pizza guy has Emma. Shit.

MAT
You wanna go to the movies?

ADAM
Mat, this is serious. He’ll kill her if we don’t do what he wants.

MAT
What did it he want?

ADAM
Shit.

Adam finds the piece of paper.

ADAM (CONT’D)
We’re gotta pick up a package at this address.

MAT
Let’s just go to the police.

ADAM
If he doesn’t have people in the police, he defiantly has people following us. We’ve got to do this.

MAT
Okay then, so we take him on, me and you. Yeah, we can take him, fuck the police.

ADAM
What? There’s no dealing with, no taking him on. We do what he wants and we get Emma back, that’s the execution.

MAT
And you think he’ll just hand her over when we’re all done being his bitches?

ADAM
Yes.

Adam reverses.

MAT
Ain’t you forgetting something?
Mat gestures to the shattered windshield.

    ADAM
    For fuck sake.

Adam unbuckles his seat belt and gets out.

INT. CAR - DAY

Adam and Mat are parked on a suburban street. The car has no windshield.

They stare at the house.

It’s a nice area, the grass is green. Children play in the gardens.

    MAT
    Are you sure we’re at the right place?

    ADAM
    It’s the address he gave me.

    MAT
    A little too nice to be involved in this shit.

    ADAM
    Yeah.

They stare intently.

A little girl, (7), BANGS on the window, inches from their faces. Adam and Mat both SCREAM.

The little girl LAUGHS and waves playfully.

They’re both frozen with a look of terror on their face.

The girl happily runs away.

A moment passes.

    MAT
    Fucking bitch.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Adam and Mat reach the door of the house.

    ADAM
    It’s your turn.
MAT
I ain’t knocking, it’s your fucking girlfriend.

ADAM
Such a child.

Adam nearly knocks on the door, he’s stopped by a STRONG MANLY VOICE through a speaker above the door.

STRONG MANLY VOICE (O.S.)
Stop. What do you want?

ADAM
We’ve been sent by Dalton to pick up a package.

STRONG MANLY VOICE (O.S.)
Dalton, who?

ADAM
Shit. What was his name?

MAT
Boner something? He’s a heart attack waiting to happen.

STRONG MANLY VOICE (O.S.)
You’re not the usual suspects.

ADAM
Plans were kind of changed at the last minute. Would you just let us in please?

STRONG MANLY VOICE (O.S.)
What’s the password?

MAT
Open the fucking door.

STRONG MANLY VOICE (O.S.)
Good enough.

Bolts UNLOCK on the inside.

The door swings open.

GREG, (22), thin, spotty, wears glasses greets them.

GREG
Hey dudes. Follow me.

Greg sounds like a nerd. Adam and Mat are surprised.
INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Adam and Mat follow Greg into the living room.

It’s full of computers, printers and heavy-duty machinery.

Two identical briefcases sit on a table, one full of fake cash and the other with a makeshift bomb.

GREG
Welcome.

ADAM
I'm Sorry, I didn’t catch your name?

GREG
It’s Greg.

MAT
That’s it?

GREG
Yeah, and that over there is James.

JAMES, (22), just as nerdy as Greg. He works on machinery.

MAT
James and Greg--

GREG
No, no. Greg and James.

MAT
What sort of nerd-ass names are those for drug dealers.

GREG
Whoa, no, we’re not dealers. No, we’re the brains behind the ignorant brutes. Well, I guess that means you two.

ADAM
This wasn’t really our career choice.

MAT
Yeah, fuck you, Greg.

ADAM
So if you’re not dealers, what are you?

GREG
Let’s say, a production company, if you will.
ADAM
A production company for what?

GREG
Bombs and counterfeit cash mainly, but we’ve only just been established. Plenty of room for growth. We’re open to the city and its needs.

JAMES
The state.

GREG
He’s right.

ADAM
There must be hundreds of you people.

GREG
Ar, well, we’ve got something the others don’t.

MAT
Acne?

GREG
We’ve been working on a counterfeit product that is, well, it’s better than the real thing.

MAT
Yeah, good luck with that. Where’s the package?

Greg thinks.

GREG
Oh.

Adam jumps.

GREG (CONT’D)
You’re jiving the good shit today.

ADAM
The good shit?

GREG
The good shit.

Greg leads them to the table and shows off the money briefcase.
GREG (CONT’D)
This beautiful little gift right here.

MAT
Holy fuck.

ADAM
That’s a lot of money.

GREG
These babies are cleaner than the real thing. This is our first batch of the new brand it’s worth a fuck-load of money, so be careful.

ADAM
Money for money?

GREG
Where the money is.

Adam sees the bomb.

ADAM
And what the hell is that?

GREG
It’s a cake.

ADAM
Do you have to keep them in matching cases?

GREG
One blows shit up, the other buys a shit load of shit. It’s simple. Once closed, the bomb arms, once opened, boom.

MAT
Sweet, sounds like my sort of case.

Greg enters Mat’s personnel space.

GREG
You seem like a bit of a bad-ass.

MAT
I try to be.

GREG
You ever smoked the vermin?

MAT
What?
You cook any fools?

Dude, get the fuck away from me.

Greg backs off.

So is this everything? Can we go now?

You’re good to go--

BANG on the door.

A man’s VOICE on the speaker.

Greg, time to open up.

Oh no.

Greg panics.

Oh shit.

James crams himself into a storage unit.

What’s going on?

Greg?

It’s the Xaviers.

Open the door, you creepy looking mother fucker.

Who the are the Xaviers?

Greg hides his papers.

The Xavier group is this city’s most notoriously dangerous gang.

What the hell do they want?
Long story short, I sold them some chalk. Told them it was coke.

So their beef is with you, we’ll be totally fine.

One.

The Xaviers have a long history with Dalton, full of conflict. They won’t be happy about you working for him.

Fuck.

Two.

Hide. Go hide in the kitchen.

Adam and Mat panic, they open the nearest door and rush inside.

Greg moves toward the hallway.

I’m coming, bro. I’m coming.

Adam and Mat are awkwardly squashed into a closet.

They whisper.

We’re in a fucking closet.

This is so exciting.

Exciting? We’re hiding from fucking gang leaders in a fucking closet.

Fuck yeah.
GREG (O.S.)
So, Brandon, what can I do for you?

Adam and Mat listen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

BRANDON, (34), African American, muscular and strong. Three similar looking men stand with him.

BRANDON
Don’t give me that bullshit. You know exactly why I’m here, you sold me talcum fucking powder.

GREG
I don’t know what you’re talking about.

BRANDON
Greg.

GREG
I just pass on what I get from my own dealer.

BRANDON
Don’t fucking lie to me--

Brandon notices the two briefcases and stands by them.

BRANDON (CONT’D)
You got anything to tell me?

INT. CLOSET - CONTINUOUS

ADAM
That little nerd is going to rat on us.

Mat’s in pain.

ADAM (CONT’D)
What the matter?

MAT
It’s my legs, they’ve gone.

ADAM
Where they gone?

Mat slants to one side. Adam tries to grab him.
INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

GREG
No. I have no secrets.

Adam and Mat BURST out of the closet and sprawl onto the floor.

Brandon and his men draw firearms and take aim.

Adam and Mat put their hands up.

BRANDON
Who the fuck are you?

Brandon aims at Greg.

BRANDON (CONT’D)
No secrets?

GREG
They’re on a job for Dalton. I had nothing to do with it.

BRANDON
Damn it.

He aims at Adam and Mat.

BRANDON (CONT’D)
Get up.

ADAM
Er--

BRANDON
Stand the fuck up.

Adam jumps up. Mat tries to stand but falls.

MAT
I can’t.

BRANDON
What’s his problem?

ADAM
He can’t feel his legs. I’m sorry.

Greg closes the money case. Brandon closes the bomb case.

BRANDON
So you’re working for Dalton?

ADAM
Well, kinda.
BRANDON
Where’s the drop off?

ADAM
We don’t know yet, he said call him when we get the package. It’s our first day.

BRANDON
I will shoot you.

MAT
It’s something to do with the Petrelis. That’s all we know.

BRANDON
The Petrelis. Mother fucker.

Brandon holsters his weapon, so do his men.
Mat stands finding balancing hard.

BRANDON (CONT’D)
Get your shit and get out.

Adam squeezes past Brandon and grabs the case with the money.

BRANDON (CONT’D)
No no, it’s the other one.

ADAM
Oh, okay thanks.

Adam takes the case with the bomb and heads for the exit.
Mat limps with him.

MAT
I have the worst case of pins and needles right now.

ADAM
Shut up.

EXT. HOUSE - DUSK
Adam and Mat come out of the house and head for the car.

MAT
What now?

INT. LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME
Brandon opens the case of money. Greg stands on the spot.
Adam’s VOICE on the speaker.
ADAM (O.S.)
Let’s just get away from these
crazy bastards and take this shit
to the diner.

Brandon smiles.

GREG
What are you going to do?

BRANDON
The Xaviers are going to end the
Petreli’s reign, along side that
fat son of a bitch.

Brandon LAUGHS.

James opens the cupboard door, peeps out, and goes back into
hiding. Everybody saw it.

EXT. CAR - DUSK

Mat sits on the hood, and drinks a beer.

Adam hangs up his cell and sits beside him.

Mat hands him a beer.

ADAM
Thanks.

MAT
What’s the story?

ADAM
I told him about the Xaviers.

MAT
And?

ADAM
He was pissed, but he gave me an
address. All we gotta do is make
the change--

MAT
Exchange.

ADAM
And Emma will be safe, I’ll get to
tell her the truth, and we carry on
with our shitty lives. How’s that
for an execution?

MAT
Let’s rock. This is going to begin
bad--
ADAM
And end a lot fucking worse.

INT. SPA – DUSK
Dalton wears a suit and tie.
Emma is tied to the chair.
Gunner and Rear stand in exactly the same place.

DALTON
Gunner. Rear. I can’t risk those, titie sucking Xaviers messing with this deal. This will open a whole new branch of business for us.

GUNNER
What do you suggest, sir?

DALTON
We overlook the deal. But be discreet.

REAR
Good plan, sir.

EMMA
Could I get a glass of water?

Rear flips.

REAR
Quiet bitch.

EXT. DINER – NIGHT
The diner sits in the middle of nowhere.
Adam and Mat pull up outside and step out of the car.
They wear smart clothes and sunglasses.
Mat carries the briefcase.
They reach the door.

ADAM
You ready for this?

MAT
Let’s crack this case.

ADAM
What?
INT. DINER - NIGHT

Adam and Mat enter the diner.

Customers eat and drink. The CHATTER tandems with the jukebox.

Adam and Mat walk past Dalton, who wears a football shirt. Several empty plates lay on his table.

They sit at a table against the window.

Gunner and Rear sit on the table next to Dalton. They wear black suits with a baseball cap.

Mat hides the briefcase under the table.

They takes off their sunglasses.

ADAM
I can’t see fucking anything.

AMY, (23), red hair, thin, attractive, wears a name tag.

AMY
May I take your order?

Adam doesn’t look up.

ADAM
No thanks.

Mat stumbles over his words.

MAT
Er, yeah. Adam?

Adam looks up, he’s momentarily stunned by Amy’s beauty.

ADAM
Oh my God.

AMY
I’m sorry?

MAT
How are you? Amy.

AMY
I’m cool.

MAT
Cool.

AMY
And how are you?
Mat. My name’s Mat.

Amy is as attracted to Mat as he is to her.

Amy (CONT’D)
I haven’t seen you here before.

Mat.

I, er--

Adam
It’s our fist time.

Mat
Yeah.

Amy
You should come more often. It’s pretty exciting on Saturdays.

Mat
You should come here more often.

Amy
I work here.

Adam’s surprised with Mat’s nerves.

Amy (CONT’D)
So what can I get you both?

Adam
Just some coffee, Amy. Thanks.

Amy
Okay, I’ll be right back.

Mat
Okay.

Amy smiles to them both, but more so Mat.

Mat (CONT’D)
Holy fuck. Did you see how beautiful she was?

Adam
I saw, very intimidating.

Mat
I couldn’t think of what to say. I’m sweating. I think it’s happening, my revelation.
ADAM

Oh God.

PETRELI, (40), skinny and tall, enters the diner. Along with his BODY GUARD, (45), trim, muscular, carries a briefcase.

ADAM (CONT’D)

Oh God.

Mat waves them down.

They sit at the table.

MAT

Evening.

Mat tries to put his sunglasses on but Adam knocks them out of his hands.

ADAM

Petreli, isn’t it?

Petreli leans forward.

PETRELI

Keep the noise down.

MAT

It’s pretty loud in here.

PETRELI

Did Dalton send you?

ADAM

He did.

PETRELI

You got my case?

MAT

Adam.

ADAM

What?

MAT

Get the fucking case.

Adam puts the case on the table.

Petreli places his case on the table and opens it. It’s full of used bank notes.

Adam and Mat are shocked.

MAT (CONT’D)

Fuck me in the face.
Petreli shuts the lid.

PETRELI
Six million in used dollars, for the three million in supreme counterfeit. That was the deal.

MAT
Six million dollars?

PETRELI
Keep the fucking noise down.

DALTON’S TABLE
Dalton anxiously watches from afar. He notions for Gunner and Rear to ready their weapons, which they do.

ADAM AND MAT’S TABLE
Adam unlocks the case and slowly lifts the lid. Adam sees the bomb though the gap and slams the lid.

MAT
What is it?

PETRELI
Open the case.

MAT
What’s going on?

PETRELI
Open the case or I’ll blow your fucking head off.

Adam stands and notions for Mat to leave.

DALTON’S TABLE

DALTON
What in Lucifer’s inferno are they doing--

He shoves a sausage in his mouth cutting off his speech.

ADAM AND MAT’S TABLE
Adam whispers into Mat’s ear.

MAT
Well, it was nice doing business with you gentlemen.

They stand and leave the table.
Petreli and his Body Guard also stand. They hold pistols under their coats.

MAT (CONT’D)
Whoa.

PETRELI
Sit down.

ADAM
Look, just take your case and let us go.

Amy comes to the table, she holds a coffee pot.

AMY
I've got your coffee--

She sees the guns.

AMY (CONT’D)
Mat?

Brandon steps in, he holds a sub-machine gun.

BRANDON
Holster your guns.

Petreli and his Body Guard holster their weapons.

BODY GUARD
What sort of deal is this?

PETRELI
And who the hell are you?

MAT
He’s with the Xaviers.

PETRELI
Dalton set me up.

Brandon grabs the case with the real money inside.

Dalton stands, he holds a shotgun.

DALTON
Don’t fucking move.

The whole diner stops.

BRANDON
Dalton?

PETRELI
Dalton?
MAT
Dalton?

ADAM
You guys didn’t see him?

MAT
You didn’t see him.

DALTON
What are you doing here, Brandon? I warned you what would happen.

BRANDON
You really want to do this here?

ADAM
No he doesn’t. Don’t do it.

MAT
Do it.

Dalton COCKS his shotgun--

One half of the diner’s customers stand holding an array of firearms. They aim at Dalton.

BRANDON
You thought the rest of the Xaviers wouldn’t back me up this time?

DALTON
No. I didn't underestimate their ignorance.

Brandon LAUGHS.

BRANDON
Let me guess, you’ve got the men in black here somewhere?

DALTON
They’re all I need to flush you parasites.

Gunner and Rear stand and take aim, releasing Emma, she runs to Adam.

ADAM
Emma.

EMMA
Adam. Thank God.

They hug.
BRANDON
You think you stand a chance with those fucking prats?

DALTON
Of course.

PETRELI
No, Dalton, you don’t. And neither do the Xaviers.

Petreli CLICKS his fingers.

The other half of the diner’s customers stand, all holding firearms.

PETRELI (CONT’D)
You didn’t think I would do this alone, did you, Dalton?

Everybody stares at everybody, but nobody moves.

The Xaviers to the right, the Petrelis to the left, Dalton, Gunner and Rear in the middle.

BRANDON
Who’s going to make the first move?

Adam and Mat make eye contact.

Mat winks to Adam.

ADAM
No, don’t.

Mat knocks the pot of coffee out of Amy’s hands.

The hot coffee lands in the Body Guard’s groin. He SCREAMS in pain.

The three gangs erupts in GUNFIRE.

Adam, Emma, Mat and Amy run and hide behind the serving counter.

BEHIND THE COUNTER

They take cover behind the counter.

Gunfire rains within the diner.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Why the fuck did you do that?

MAT
They were going to shoot us. I saved us.
ADAM
Saved us, you’re going to fucking kill us.

MAT
You’re the one who brought the fucking bomb. Amy, are you okay?

AMY
Yeah, thanks to you.

Amy hold onto Mat. Mat’ confused with the feelings he’s experiencing.

ADAM
Emma, I’m so fucking sorry for getting you into this. And I’m sorry for lying to you about--

EMMA
Adam, this isn’t the time for an explanation.

ADAM
No, you have to know the truth--

EMMA
Adam, I know, It’s okay. I feel the same way.

ADAM
You do?

EMMA
Emma kisses Adam.

They’re interrupted by gunfire.

DINER
The Petrelis take cover to the right behind tables, chairs, bins, anything they can. The same for the Xaviers on the left.

Dalton, Gunner and Rear have retreated to the front of the diner and take cover behind some tables.

Dalton eats french fries off the floor while he shoots.

Gunner and Rear shoot symmetrically, taking out a number of gang members.

Petreli shoots Rear in the chest, he falls to the floor.

GUNNER
No.

Gunner holds Rear, forgetting about the gunfire.
GUNNER (CONT’D)
You’re okay.

Rear is dying.

REAR
Is it bad?

Gunner lifts his hand, blood erupts from under it.

GUNNER
It’s not that bad.

Gunner tears up.

REAR
Gunner, look after Dalton for me.

GUNNER
Don’t say that. You’re going to be fine. Please.

REAR
I love you, brother.

GUNNER
Don’t, don’t, Rear, Rear, no. Please.

Rear dies in Gunner’s arms.

GUNNER (CONT’D)
Rear? Rear?

Gunner cries for a second, he grabs Rear’s gun.

He steps over the table and walks into the firing line, he heads for Petreli. Dalton watches in horror.

DALTON
What are you doing?

Gunner shoots both pistols killing numerous gang members.

He runs out of bullets and throws both guns at somebody’s head, knocking them out.

Gunner manually takes down another gang member.

He chops somebody in the throat, they choke to death.

Petreli shoots Gunner twice before Gunner grabs him.

Gunner chokes Petreli to death. Petreli dies, Gunner falls to his knees and dies.
BEHIND THE COUNTER

Mat hands Adam a gun.

MAT
Here.

ADAM
What the fuck?

MAT
I figured we might need them.

ADAM
When?

MAT
Now.

ADAM
You had those this whole time, and you’re giving it to me now?

MAT
Do you want the gun or not?

Adam takes the gun.

ADAM
We can’t just shoot people.

Mat loads his pistol.

MAT
I don’t know if you’ve noticed, Adam, but they’re shooting at us.

ADAM
We’re not killing anybody--

Bullet holes appear all around them through the counter.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Fuck this.

They stand.

DINER

Adam and Mat emerge from behind the counter.

The same as when they were playing “Time Crises 2”, anybody who fires unto them, they incapacitate.

Somebody to the left lines up a shot.

ADAM (CONT’D)
Top left.
Got it.

Adam shoots the guy in the neck.

Reload.

**BEHIND THE COUNTER**

They reload.

**MAT (CONT’D)**

Did you see that shit? We were awesome.

**ADAM**

Let’s do it again.

A gang member sneaks around the side of the counter.

**MAT**

You ready?

**ADAM**

Yeah. You ready?

**MAT**

Yeah. Yeah.

**ADAM**

Yeah.

**MAT**

Yeah--

**EMMA**

Guys.

Emma takes the gun from Adam and shoots the gang member in the chest, he dies.

Adam and Mat are impressed.

**MAT**

That is so hot.

**ADAM**

That was pretty sexy.

The GUNFIRE draws quiet.

**DINER**

Adam, Mat, Emma and Amy come out from behind the counter.

Blood, weapons and bodies are everywhere.
AMY
Jesus.

MAT
Chris.

ADAM
I think we should--

EMMA
Go.

EXT. DINER - NIGHT
They walk to the car.
Amy and Mat hold each other a few yards behind Adam and Emma.

EMMA
Adam--

ADAM
Did you mean it?

They stop walking, they look into each others eyes.

INT. DINER - SAME TIME
A bloodied briefcase lays on the floor.
Dalton’s wounded, he places his hand on the case, Brandon, also wounded places his hand on the case.

They flip a lock each.

EXT. DINER - SAME TIME

EMMA
I’ve always lo---

The diner EXPLODES.

DAWN
Police squad cars surround the diner. Firefighters blast water onto the flames.
Adam and Mat are being interviewed by an FBI agent.
Amy and Emma lean against Adam’s car.

AGENT
And that’s all you’ve got for me?
ADAM
Yes, sir.

MAT
That’s everything.

AGENT
You boys did a good job. We’ve been trying to take down these three gangs for over ten years.

ADAM
We didn’t really do anything--

MAT
Ass kicking, I think it’s called.

AGENT
How would you like to be entered into our training programme? With an impressive head start of course.

Adam and Mat look at each other.

ADAM
No thanks. There’s a lot of cheating assholes in this city.

MAT
In the state.

AGENT
Suit yourselves.

Adam and Mat rejoin the girls.

EMMA
So you don’t want to work for the FBI?

ADAM
Do I need to?

Emma smiles and kisses Adam.

Mat is already kissing Amy, a little more passionately.

MAT
Who wants breakfast?

ADAM
You drive.

Adam and Emma get in the back and kiss. Mat and Amy get in the front. They drive away.

FADE OUT.