

**IGNORE THE CLOCK**

by

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**FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

**INSERT - RESTAURANT MENU**

A menu for LANA'S DINER. A finger traces along its pages. The finger belongs to ALAN HOLLAWAY (50s).

**ALAN**

I'll do the french toast, the sausage, and the hash browns, please.

The menu is dropped down, revealing a man across the table. This is DONNIE SIMS (40s). He has on a disheveled looking suit and sunglasses on top of his head.

**INT. DINER. DAY.**

DONNIE looks over the menu. He sucks his teeth.

**DONNIE**

I'll just take the #2.

They hand the WAITRESS the menus.

**ALAN**

So -- I don't wanna hold you up. I --

DONNIE's eyes widen the slightest bit.

**DONNIE**

-- C'mon it's been how many years? Tell me what's been going with you.

**ALAN**

Well -- I just -- I assume you're a busy guy --

**DONNIE**

Relax -- I got nowhere to be.

**ALAN**

Alright, well --

ALAN taps his fingers on the table.

**DONNIE**

-- Well, you'd probably heard I'm a pretty good car salesman now.

**ALAN**

Probably heard?

**DONNIE**

Yeah, you watch TV don't ya? They  
put all my shit  
(gesturing to face)  
On a commercial that runs every  
ten minutes.

**ALAN**

Yeah, I watch TV. You're a  
celebrity now?

**DONNIE**

No no, not me -- just an honest  
salesman.

The WAITRESS stops at the table and pours coffee in each  
of the cups.

**DONNIE**

Thank you, sweetie.

**ALAN**

Yeah I thought I'd reach out --  
see how you're doing -- it's been  
awhile.

**DONNIE**

Well, I do appreciate -

**ALAN**

See -- I've been thinkin' -- well -  
-

The WAITRESS walks by. DONNIE's hand jumps at her.

**DONNIE**

Hey you guys still do the fifteen  
minutes or less thing don't ya?

**WAITRESS**

Yes sir, we do.

**DONNIE**

Great -- see you in less than  
twelve minutes then.

The WAITRESS walks away uncomfortably. A MAN reading a  
newspaper a couple booths away notices her discomfort.

**ALAN**

Yeah I was just thinkin' -- you  
watch the news right? I don't know  
if you heard --

**DONNIE**

You got the time?

ALAN checks his watch.

**ALAN**

9:04pm.

**DONNIE**

Fuck I'm hungry -- well -- yeah, I heard. Unfortunate -- happens all the time nowadays it seems.

**ALAN**

-- Tt happened fast -- unlucky I guess -- that's what all these fuckin' cops say don't they -- they were doing what they were trained to do -- thought they were armed -- whatever -- it happened fast but --

**DONNIE**

Look man, it's the job -- it ain't easy what you do --

**ALAN**

It ain't an easy job, no -- but neither is knockin' around moonrocks huh? Always been a salesman.

**DONNIE**

(stern)

Well that ain't me anymore.

**ALAN**

I'd say.

A beat of silence. ALAN sips his coffee and DONNIE feels in his pocket. He pulls out a pack of CIGARETTES. He takes one out and puts it in his mouth.

**DONNIE**

Here -- bum one off me.

ALAN shakes his head.

**ALAN**

Nah.

**DONNIE**

Not too many of these diners left  
where you can smoke and eat at the  
same time -- cmon have one.

ALAN laughs.

**ALAN**

I'd love to -- can't -- quit --  
for good -- for Connie --

DONNIE lights the cigarette. He takes a long draw.

**DONNIE**

You're lying -- you're a chain  
smoker still -- I know it.

**ALAN**

No sir -- Connie made me do it --  
thankfully -- You remember Connie  
dont'cha?

**DONNIE**

Of course I remember the lovely  
Connie -- how is she?

**ALAN**

Oh she's fine -- she's alright.  
About to retire herself -- forty  
years teaching math to high school  
kids. Ain't that something? Well  
anyway she said you gotta quit  
smoking you're gonna die before  
you ever get a chance to retire! I  
said shit Darlin' you're right --  
damn near a greater threat to me  
than any other thing I've gotten  
myself into -- ten years  
actually. We're thinkin' Florida --  
close to the beach maybe. We gotta  
get outta here -- all the shit  
going on -- it's time to leave --  
kinda why I asked you here Don --  
I -- I got screwed over Don -- I  
need --

**DONNIE**

Wow. Not many people can do that  
can they?

**ALAN**

What's that? Quit?

DONNIE sips his coffee and ashes his cigarette.

**DONNIE**

Did I ever tell ya my uncle was a pig farmer?

**ALAN**

A pig farmer -- Jesus you really were white trash huh?

**DONNIE**

Fuck you. Did I tell you this one?

**ALAN**

I don't recall.

**DONNIE**

He was a pig farmer. A damn good one -- He won awards and shit -- Awards! For killing our food for us! He was out past exit 30, down the road. Anyways, his farm only had room for one boar -- A boar is the male pig, and they are very territorial and shit -- Every boar has to be the king of his pen -- Otherwise he would kill any of the other males, he was the only one that could do the fuckin' in that pen -- well what did my uncle do with the baby pigs? In order to protect them from being killed by their father, he had to let them grow until they were big enough to where he could harvest their meat for the market. Once they were big enough, my uncle had to take away this young piggy's only threat to the boar --

ALAN leans forward, intently listening to DONNIE.

**DONNIE**

He had to take his knife and cut the nuts off the pig -- both at the same time if he could.

**ALAN**

What the hell does this have to do with me?

**DONNIE**

Well, Detective -- it looks like your wife took the balls clean fuckin' off.

DONNIE laughs.

**ALAN**

Oh -- fuck you.

**DONNIE**

Now old friend -- take the damn cigarette -- I know you ain't quit.

**ALAN**

No sir -- truly done with them -- swear it.

**DONNIE**

You sure? You prolly need one man.

DONNIE shakes the box at him.

**ALAN**

Why you wanna kill me Donnie? I'm done with them. I asked you here because-

**DONNIE**

Alright, alright -- hey can you fill me up?

The WAITRESS walks by to refill the coffee. ALAN takes a deep breath.

**DONNIE**

Thank ya hon. You got about nine more minutes.

**ALAN**

Hey c'mon Don don't bust her balls -- Thank you ma'am.

The WAITRESS walks away.

**DONNIE**

A free meal would be nice -- I ain't gonna let them forget it if it's late too.

**ALAN**

You still a hardass huh?

**DONNIE**

Always have been -- Always will be -- You know that.

ALAN watches DONNIE ash the cigarette with lust. It looks so tasty. DONNIE notices.

**DONNIE**

You ain't quit have you?

**ALAN**

I really have -- I'm done with them.

**DONNIE**

But you want one don't you?

ALAN blanks.

**ALAN**

I...

**DONNIE**

You do want one!

**ALAN**

Yeah, I do.

DONNIE reaches out the box again. ALAN stares at them longingly.

**DONNIE**

C'mon man -- relax. If you really quit, one won't hurt ya -- right?

ALAN stares a little longer. A beat.

**ALAN**

Get that shit out of my face man -- I'm not a smoker anymore.

**DONNIE**

Alright, alright.

DONNIE sips his coffee. ALAN grabs a sugar packet and stirs it into his cup.

**ALAN**

This coffee is shit.

The WAITRESS is within earshot.

**DONNIE**

How's the kids?

**ALAN**

They're fine -- anyways there's a reason I asked you to come --



**DONNIE**

Yeah -- what time is it?

ALAN checks his watch.

**ALAN**

Uhh -- 9:09.

**DONNIE**

Seven more minutes.

**ALAN**

Stop worrying about the time --  
It'll get here before fifteen  
minutes.

A beat. DONNIE takes another sip.

**ALAN**

Let me be straight with you -- I  
need your expertise here -- I need  
your contacts --

**DONNIE**

Hang on man I gotta piss somethin'  
fierce --

**ALAN**

What? Now you gotta?

**DONNIE**

(stern)  
I can't focus on one more word you  
gotta say until I piss --

**ALAN**

Okay -- well -- I'll be here --  
hurry up.

DONNIE ashes his cigarette, stands up, and walks to the bathroom. CAMERA dollies to the table about ten feet from DONNIE and ALAN's table.

Two MEN sit at the table both reading newspapers. One of the men is JAMES (40s). He unfolds his newspaper and looks at the other man NORMAN (40s).

JAMES stands up and follows DONNIE to the restroom.

INT. RESTROOM. THAT MOMENT.

DONNIE enters the restroom and stops at a urinal. He rests his forehead on the wall.

JAMES walks into the restroom and stops at the second urinal.

**DONNIE**

I can't do it man -- I can't -- I --  
- he's an old friend.

**JAMES**

You agreed to this thing. You  
signed the deal.

**INT. DINER. THAT MOMENT.**

INSERT - ALAN's watch.

ALAN's foot taps up and down. He scratches his head.

**INT. RESTROOM. THAT MOMENT.**

**DONNIE**

This isn't how it's supposed to go  
-- I can't -- this isn't -- you  
gotta pick someone else.

**JAMES**

No one else can do it Don. You  
gotta do this for us. It's the  
right thing -- all you gotta do is  
just listen to what you know he  
will say - nod your head a couple  
times -- and then you're off  
selling old Hondas, being a good  
man, raising your family -- we'll  
have all we need.

**INT. DINER. THAT MOMENT.**

ALAN is looking around the diner. He looks at all the  
people there in it. A young COUPLE sharing a milkshake.  
An OLD MAN sitting down alone. Across from him is NORMAN.

NORMAN peeps over his newspaper and looks at him. ALAN  
notices. NORMAN fluffs the paper back up to cover his  
face.

ALAN looks at the cigarettes on the table.

SLOW ZOOM IN FROM ALAN's POV - ALAN grabs the box.

**INT. RESTROOM. THAT MOMENT.**

DONNIE leans his head against the wall.

DONNIE

He's a good man James -- he's down on his luck -- he got fucked over y'know? This ain't right to do to him. He's one of your own kind. You're gonna make it worse on him?

JAMES

I know he's a good man. A good man can still break the law -- he's fixing himself up to do that.

JAMES flushes his urinal.

DONNIE

If I do this -- if I just sit there and listen to him -- you promise there's no trouble for me?

**INT. DINER. THAT MOMENT.**

ALAN studies the box. Looking it all over. The temptation is too strong. He opens it up. He's confused.

**INT. RESTROOM. THAT MOMENT.**

JAMES turns on the faucet of the sink and washes his hands.

JAMES

We gave you our deal -- no trouble for you -- you've done your time and came out a rehabilitated citizen of our society. Now get this done and I promise you -- continued success -- continued success -- all we need is what you know he will say.

DONNIE nods his head and flushes the urinal.

**INT. DINER. THAT MOMENT.**

ALAN's POV - looking at the open box.

There are NO cigarettes in the box. There is a piece of paper rolled up into the same dimensions of a cigarette.

ALAN takes it out and unrolls it.

**NOTE: "I'M WEARING WIRE DON'T SAY SHIT"**

ALAN's eyes widen. From his POV we see DONNIE walking back to the table.

SLOW ZOOM IN ON NORMAN'S EAR - an earpiece that can hear DONNIE's wire.

ALAN shoves the note into the cigarette box and puts it back to where it was.

DONNIE arrives back at the table and sits down.

**DONNIE**

Ah man -- I thought for sure the food would be here by now.

A beat. ALAN can't move. His eyes wide.

**DONNIE**

So you were saying?

ALAN stares at the cigarettes. His eyes still wide and blank.

**DONNIE**

You were saying?

ALAN still not moving his eyes away from the cigarette box. DONNIE notices.

DONNIE turns around and looks at NORMAN, his newspaper fluffed down staring back at him. JAMES slowly turns and looks back at DONNIE.

The WAITRESS walks in carrying all of the breakfast ALAN and DONNIE ordered. DONNIE turns around. She begins placing the food down on the table.

ALAN finally looks up at DONNIE. DONNIE stares back at ALAN.

**WAITRESS**

Can I get anything else for you boys?

FADE TO BLACK.