

Pizza and Cigarettes

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EXT. PIZZA SHOP. LATE NIGHT

It's nighttime. easter evening. not late but not early. most likely 8-9. monk, a surly but smart man and nils, a meeker but smarter man are both burglars. they both have been in a series of heists for the past six months. specifically: church robberies. they have done 5 so far and tonight they await the 6th and final one. they are 2 of 5. the clan of robbers call themselves the apostles. monk and nils stand outside of Ray's pizza in Harlem. Monk lights a cigarette while Nils eats a giant pepperoni slice and reads a magazine.

NILES

I think 14 by 38.

MONK

Huh?

NILES

14 by 38. That's it.

MONK

(Beat)

That wouldn't be the correct size.

NILES

What? Yes it would.

MONK

No, it would have to be 14 by 28.

NILES

What? No it's not. it's 38. I already looked it up.

MONK

That doesn't make any fucking sense. The point of the measurement is 14 BY 28 feet. It physically can't be by 38. It's not metrically possible.

(CONTINUED)

NILES

That's not the metric system,
idiot.

MONK

You know what I'm fucking saying.

NILES

Well, i think the dimensions of my
pool are fucking sick and i don't
give a damn what you have to say
about it.

MONK

Alright.

NILES

And let me tell you something bub,
you better starts figuring out what
you're gonna do with this money or-

MONK

SHHHHH!

NILES

(whispering)

Or you're gonna get caught. We
gotta spend it quick. That's the
way for people not to see you.

MONK

You're telling me you're gonna
spend seven hundred thousand stolen
dollars without anyone noticing.
Yeah.

NILES

If I do it in cash and spread it
out by state?

MONK

By state?

NILES

Yeah.

MONK

The fuck are you talking about?

NILES

As SOON, as we do the job. I'm going back upstairs to Chessie's and changing and heading to the nearest Hertz and renting a fucking COMPACT NISSAN. The lowest quality so as to not look anymore suspicious than we will be. And then I'm driving through the Midwest and going through my portion. By the time I hit California, I'm clean.

MONK

And broke.

NILES

No I'm not. I'm only spending three hundred fifty K of it, asshole.

MONK

What the fuck are you gonna buy and store in your compact Nissan, across the Midwest that's not gonna seem suspicious?

NILES

I don't know. It'll be small but nice shit. You know, jewelry and nice clothes and shit.

MONK

Okay. So let me get this straight, fuck ass. You. Niles Strauss. You, as soon as we finish the job at this mega church - We are going to run back to Chessie's apartment. There you are going to change into clothes that you have laid out the night before. You are then going to, I'm guessing, call a cab to the airport, yes an airport because this is fucking Manhattan and every single car rental shop here is

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MONK (cont'd)

always empty. You are gonna go to the airport. Doesn't matter which one because all of them WILL take at least an hour to get there. From there. You will IN CASH, pay for a fucking compact Nissan that your seven foot thirty ass will not fit into because you believe that they are not gonna be suspicious due to the size of the car not because you are gonna pay for this, at least five hundred dollar expense in cash. That you just fucking looted. And then you are going to drive through Ohio and Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and so on and so on. And along the way. You are going to shop at jewelry shops and designer clothing stores and spend three hundred fifty thousand dollars worth of shit to keep in your car. And then when you get to CALIFORNIA. You are going to unload all of your jewels and new outfits into your new apartment, that YOU WILL ALSO SOMEHOW PAY IN FUCKING CASH. Right?

Niles reluctantly nods.

MONK

And you truly, wholeheartedly believe that this is the best way to clean the first half of your money.

There is silence. Niles has a bite of pizza. Monk takes a drag from his smoke.

NILES

(reluctantly)

Well, yes.

(CONTINUED)

MONK

Jesus christ.

NILES

What are you gonna do?

MONK

What?

NILES

With your share? My plan is so stupid, so share your expertise.

MONK

It is stupid.

NILES

So?

MONK

(Beat)

I don't know...There's a lot that can be done with that kind of dough you know?

NILES

Yeah

MONK

I'll probably send some to my ma. leave another bit to the kid even though he can't stand me....and the rest? eh i'll probably just leave the country.

NILES

Well that's not really any more solid than my plan.

MONK

Fuck off, Niles.

Beat.

NILES
What's their name?

MONK?
Who?

NILES
You know.

MONK
Joey.

NILES
How old?

MONK
8

NILES
What happened?

MONK
What?

NILES
How'd you get here?

MONK
Fuck' you need to know for?

NILES
I don't.

MONK
Then fucking drop it.

NILES
I don't have kids.

MONK
No shit.

NILES
Always wanted some.

MONK

Why don't you go get some?

NILES

Never got married.

MONK

Well, you don't need to be.

NILES

I know. But, it just never happened.

MONK

You got a lady?

NILES

I had one.

MONK

Yeah?

NILES

Yeah.

Beat.

MONK

Well, what happened to her?

NILES

I don't know. She left one day.

MONK

Shit.

NILES

Woke up one day and came downstairs and she had left.

MONK

That's fucked up.

NILES

Well, ya know.

Silence. Monk looks at his watch.

MONK

We should head up soon.

NILES

You're not gonna tell me what happened?

MONK

What?

NILES

With Joey?

MONK

Jesus Christ.

NILES

You left?

MONK

His mom and I decided I shouldn't be around anymore.

NILES

You both decided or she did?

MONK

What the fuck does it matter, Niles?

NILES

It matters a lot.

MONK

Let's go up.

NILES

I'm here to talk about this.

MONK

Well, I don't want to.

NILES

You should, man. It'll be easier to process.

MONK

Listen. I don't need any kind of
shrink shit out of you. I don't
wanna talk about this. Okay?

NILES

What do you wanna talk about then?

MONK

Who says we gotta fucking talk?
Can't we just sit here? Just sit.
It's okay. We don't have to be
constantly jabbering. Sometimes we
can just sit. And exist. That's it.

NILES

How long till we go up? You said
soon.

MONK

A few more minutes honestly.
Chessie says at 45. We can sit
still a bit more.