

The Salton Sea - Jimmy & Danny

INT. CINDER BLOCK BAR - DAY

Empty except for Danny and Jimmy in a back booth. Danny slides an envelope over to Jimmy.

JIMMY

What's this?

DANNY

Ten thousand dollars. Everything I could spare.

(beat)

It's for you.

JIMMY

But why? You only owe me five. And that's not till after we close the deal tonight.

DANNY

You aren't coming with me.

Jimmy looks hurt.

DANNY (cont'd)

I need you to do me a favor instead.

JIMMY

Okay

DANNY

Wait till I tell you what it is.

JIMMY

It don't matter. I'll do it. And you sure as hell don't have to pay me.

Jimmy slides the money back over.

DANNY

Why?

JIMMY

You're my best friend, man. I'd do anything for you.

Danny smiles, genuinely touched.

DANNY

Jimmy, look, there's something I have to tell you.

JIMMY
Hey, check it out...

Jimmy rolls his sleeve up, revealing a tattoo.

DANNY
What the hell is that?

ON THE TATTOO: CRUDLEY DRAWN FACE.

JIMMY
(Proudly)
It's you! I didn't have a picture or
nothin' so I had to describe you to
the guy. Not bad though, huh?

Jimmy sits there, admiring the tattoo.

Danny stares at Jimmy with pity.

DANNY (cont'd)
I really have to tell you something.
It's important.

JIMMY
What?

DANNY
I'm not a tweaker.
(beat)
I don't use drugs. I never had.

Danny is deadpan. Jimmy starts laughing

DANNY (cont'd)
I'm not joking.

Jimmy keeps laughing. Danny staring, deadpan, Jimmy slowly stops
laughing.

JIMMY
But...I've seen you.

DANNY
When? When did you ever see me use?

JIMMY
This isn't like that Queen Elizabeth
question, is it?

DANNY
You ever notice how I always showed

up, in the middle of a binge? Left before it was over? How I sneak away for cap-naps? How when the crank came around to me, I always said I'd just done one?

Jimmy slack-jawed.

DANNY (cont'd)

You asked me how I always keep my shit together. Well, that's how.

JIMMY

No one ever noticed?

DANNY

Are you kidding me? A bunch of amped-out tweakers? It was easy.

Jimmy is agitated and confused.

JIMMY

But... why? Why would you pretend?

DANNY

I can't tell you.

JIMMY

You don't trust me?

DANNY

I don't trust anybody.

JIMMY

And you want me to do you some big favor?

DANNY (cont'd)

It's cool. I understand
Danny gets up to leave.

JIMMY

Wait

(beat)

If you don't trust me, why did you tell me that stuff about not using drugs?

DANNY

Because I don't want to see you end up like Kujo and those other losers.

(beat)

I thought that maybe if you knew that I didn't use, you might see it in yourself to go clear.

EXT. BACK OF CINDERBLOCK BAR- DAY (LATER)

Jimmy and Danny squinting in the mid-morning sun. They stand face-to-face.

DANNY
You mad at me, Jimmy?

Jimmy shrugs.

JIMMY
I don't know... a little. I wish you would have let me in on it from the beginning.

DANNY
I'm sorry. I couldn't.

Danny taps Jimmy's arm.

DANNY
You know you can get that tattoo removed, don't you.

Jimmy rubs his arm where the tattoo is.

JIMMY
Nah... I want to keep it.
(beat)
Maybe I can use it for like, inspiration ...you know...like when I detox?

DANNY
Good for you Jimmy.

Danny takes the envelope from his pocket.

DANNY
I really want you to take this.

Danny tries to give Jimmy the envelope. Jimmy pushes it away.

JIMMY
Wouldn't be a favor if you were paying me. I'll just take my five when the deal is done.

DANNY
You're a good man. Jimmy the Finn.