

CLUSHIRE

Written by

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INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

KICKING at the door.

A frightened and pale ZACH (early 20s) sits against the wall across from the door, snout peaking from his nose.

LUKAS (O.S.)
Zachary, open up.

JAKOB (O.S.)
Isn't it Zacharia?

Kicking continues over muffled MUSIC coming from the party.

LUKAS (22) -- serious, lanky -- kicks the door open.

JAKOB (23), chill with medium build, leans against the wall in the hall, watching.

Zach cowers as Lukas walks over.

LUKAS
What are doing in here, buddy?

Lukas grabs Zach and forces him into the hall.

Jakob steps aside and Zach slams against the wall. He raises his arms in a pitying mix of pleading and self-defense.

ZACH
(stutter)
Hey, guys. What's going on?

Jakob straightens up.

JAKOB
(sigh)
Zach, you know what's going on.

Lukas extends the crowbar in his hand and points it at Zach menacingly.

LUKAS
You been ignoring Max's calls.

ZACH
(stammering)
I've been busy. Just haven't found time to call him back, that's all.

LUKAS
Call him, don't call him -- really,
it's none of my business but, for
me, it's a personal thing. I had
plans tonight.

JAKOB
No, you didn't.

Lukas presses crowbar against Zach's forehead.

Jakob steps between Lukas and Zach.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
Alright, I think he gets it.

Lukas steps away and drops crowbar.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
Max trusted you to hold some stuff.
Trusted you. You wanted in,
remember?

Zach looks down in disappointment.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
You're two days behind on payment.
Max usually has us show up the next
day, but he's been busy.

Jakob looks at Lukas for acknowledgement.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
He's adding an extra ten percent.

ZACH
Ten percent?

JAKOB
And giving you until the end of the
week.

LUKAS
Consider yourself lucky.

ZACH
(hesitant)
I don't know if I'll have it.

JAKOB
I didn't hear that.

Jakob rubs Zach's shoulder and smiles.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
You're okay man, nothing's
happening tonight.

ZACH
Why'd you bring the crowbar?

Jakob turns around and glances at Lukas. He faces Zach and waves a hand dismissively.

JAKOB
He was just tryin' to scare you.

ZACH
(chuckles)
It's definitely effective.

Zach calms down.

LUKAS
And if you don't have it...

Lukas pulls out a glock.

LUKAS (CONT'D)
You'll probably see something like
this.

Jakob backs up.

JAKOB
Woh, Lukas, *calmado*.

Lukas points pistol at Zach's jaw.

Only music and PEOPLE chatting from the living room is heard.

LUKAS
(laughs)
Don't worry.

Lukas lowers the pistol.

LUKAS (CONT'D)
It's not even loaded.

A PARTY GOER notices the weapon.

PARTY GOER
Gun!

Jakob, Lukas and Zach look over to the crowd.

The gun goes off.

Zach falls to the floor holding near his crotch and screams in agony.

Jakob and Lukas glance at each other and run off.

The house erupts in panic with the sounds of screaming and footsteps hurrying away, a stampede of collegiate bacchanalians escaping in a frenzy.

Zach continues yelling, his hands bloodied from trying to hold together his wounded crotch.

CUT TO BLACK.

OVER BLACK.

JESSICA (O.S.)
Okay, so what's the rundown on her?

ECHOES of bowling PINS being knocked down can heard.

MAX (O.S.)
You really just want to get right to it.

JESSICA (O.S.)
Of course, let's go.

MAX (O.S.)
Honestly, I'm not quite sure.

JESSICA (O.S.)
Meaning?

INT. BOWLING ALLEY, OUTSIDE JESSICA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

HANA (18), a curious and petite young lady stands outside the office, seen through the office window by JESSICA (50's), a seemingly careful and stern woman, and MAX (29), a lean and guarded man in a business suit. Hana watches as people bowl.

MAX (O.C.)
I just met 'er yesterday. Spoke on the phone a couple weeks ago.

JESSICA (O.C.)
You have me hiring a stranger.

Hana eyes the bowlers, a slight smile on her face.

MAX (O.C.)
 She's not a stranger. She's my
 cousin...twice removed, mother's
 side.

JESSICA (O.C.)
 So she's Jewish too.

MAX (O.C.)
 Wouldn't bring her if she wasn't.

Jakob sits at the furthest lane. He looks over at Hana from
 the lane. He sits across Lukas and ZAVHYN.

Hana and Jakob lock eyes and smile to one another before Hana
 diverts her eyes out of nervousness.

INT. JESSICA'S OFFICE

Jessica sits at her desk, arms resting on the desk. Max
 sitting across from her, legs crossed as he leans back on the
 chair.

MAX
 You hear what Jakob and Lukas did?

JESSICA
 Yes. Now I'm getting calls from
 Zach's father. He wants them
 punished.

MAX
 Punished?
 (laughs)
 Like kids?

JESSICA
 Not in the way you punish a kid,
 no.

MAX
 I'll talk to 'em.

JESSICA
 Back to the girl. Is that all you
 have to tell me?

MAX
 She's from the same bumble-fuck
 town my parents are rotting in. She
 got a scholarship and just needs a
 job 'till she graduates. Can you do
 that?

Jessica sighs with a stern expression.

JESSICA
If she fucks up it's on you.

Max grins.

MAX
Of course!
So, how's business going?

Jessica shrugs.

JESSICA
It's a bowling alley. How great can
it get?

MAX
Enough to keep you in business, I
hope.

JESSICA
Mhm.

Max smirks.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
How'd everything go with Tommy?

MAX
It went. They enjoyed the
renovations. Should attract the
right crowd. I have to head over to
Pelekai's Diner and see Luis.

Jessica nods.

JESSICA
About time.

Max looks out the window.

MAX
Can I bring her in?

JESSICA
Hold on, I have more things I want
to talk about.

MAX
Like?

JESSICA
Family.

Max SIGHS.

MAX
(annoyed)
Jessica...

JESSICA
If you don't wanna keep hearing it,
try listening for a change.

Max throws his head back, exasperated.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
Your mom's worried about you. You
don't call. You don't text. You
kill every carrier pigeon you see.

MAX
Jessica, I'm grateful for
everything you've done for me.
(sigh)
I know you're close with my parents
and I respect that but when it
comes to my relationship with them,
let me handle it. Please?

Jessica shrugs.

JESSICA
Your mother was the one who asked
me to get through to you. I've done
my part, my hands are clean.

Jessica holds her hands up in the air.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
None of my business.

MAX
(exaggerated tone)
Business, that's a great idea. Why
don't we keep our conversations
limited to exactly that.

JESSICA
Me taking in your cousin is
business-related?

MAX
She's not really my cousin.

Jessica looks out the window, at Hana waiting.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'm just lending a hand, which is
why I came in the first place. Now,
can I bring her in?

Jessica gestures Max to the door.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Jakob turns to AUBREY (19), a gleeful girl, sweeping up the floor beside him.

JAKOB
Hey, Aubrey.

AUBREY
Yeah?

He nods towards the office.

JAKOB
Who's that?

Aubrey stops sweeping and follows his gaze. She watches through Jessica's office window as Hana is handed her new uniform shirt.

AUBREY
Jess mentioned a new girl coming.
(shrugs)
Guessing that's her.

Lukas gives Jakob a look.

JAKOB
(to Aubrey)
Could you invite her over here?

LUKAS
I don't feel like meeting new
people right now.

JAKOB
That's why it's a good idea, you
need to brush up on your social
skills anyway after last night.

Jakob looks at Aubrey.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
Aubrey?

Hana steps out of Jessica's office with Max behind her.

MAX
I'll be out in a sec.

HANA
Okay.

Zavhyn smirks at Jakob.

ZAVHYN
I'll go.

Zavhyn struts over to Hana.

Max closes the office door, leaving Hana outside the office. Hana looks down at the shirt in her hand and grins as Zavhyn approaches.

ZAVHYN (CONT'D)
Hey!

Hana jumps, startled.

ZAVHYN (CONT'D)
(grinning)
You must be the new hire!

HANA
(Shyly)
Yeah. Hana.

Zavhyn eyes Hana up and down.

ZAVHYN
Zav.

HANA
Nice to meet you.

ZAVHYN
When'd you move here?

HANA
Couple days now. How'd you know I'm not from around here?

ZAVHYN
All the natives knew well enough to leave.

INT. JESSICA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Max looks through the blinds at Hana talking to Zavhyn.

Jessica eyes Max.

JESSICA
She'll be fine.

Max looks at Jessica pointedly.

MAX
I don't need her being involved in
anything she doesn't need to be
involved in.

JESSICA
She looks like she has a good head
on her shoulders.

MAX
With those idiots, I wouldn't know.
Keep her out of trouble.

INT. OUTSIDE JESSICA'S OFFICE

Zavhyn looks over at Jakob and Lukas.

ZAVHYN
Want to meet some people? I have
some friends here.

Aubrey gestures over to a lane.

HANA
Uhh.

ZAVHYN
They're pretty cool, once you get
used to their shit.

The two chuckle.

ZAVHYN (CONT'D)
Maybe they'll invite you to the
part tonight.

Hana grins.

ZAVHYN (CONT'D)
But you don't seem like the party
type.

HANA
(grinning)
That rhymed.

ZAVHYN

Okay?

HANA

I like parties. I go to them all the time.

Zavhyn slowly nods.

HANA (CONT'D)

But, it's been so long since I had a drink, I'm probably a light weight now.

Zavhyn slowly nods.

HANA (CONT'D)

I'll see if Max has anything planned and I'll let you know.

Max exits the office and looks at Hana and Zavhyn.

MAX

Hey...

Zavhyn takes a step back.

MAX (CONT'D)

You start tomorrow morning. I'll give you a ride until you get used to how the trains run. After that, you're on your own.
Good?

Hana nods.

HANA

Sounds good.

MAX

Head to the car. I'll be there in a bit.

INT. BOWLING ALLEY

Zavhyn drops next to Lukas.

LUKAS

What happened? She too cool to hang with us?

ZAVHYN
I don't know. That weird guy came
out the office.

JAKOB
Who, Max.

ZAVHYN
Yeah. He's her cousin or something.

Jakob and Lukas look at one another with confusion.

LUKAS
Fuckin' with me.

Jakob notices Max getting closer.

JAKOB
Boss man coming.

Lukas and Jakob stand.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
What's up, Max.

MAX
You two.

Jakob perks up.

MAX (CONT'D)
Zach's father's pissed.

Max looks at Zavhyn briefly.

MAX (CONT'D)
(to Lukas and Jakob)
You should go pay Zach a visit.

LUKAS
What?

MAX
Go right after you talk to Jessica.

LUKAS
He was threatening us.

MAX
Do you want to sit and debate this
with me? We can test whether the
outcome will change.

Jakob raises an arm at Lukas.

MAX (CONT'D)
He's at Rockford Memorial.

Max walks off.

LUKAS
(low voiced)
Good talk.

JAKOB
Watch it.

Jakob watches until Max walks out of sight.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
Have to be careful how you talk
with him. You know he doesn't play.

LUKAS
And why ain't you have my back.

JAKOB
I do.

LUKAS
But you didn't say shit.

Lukas angrily steps away from the lanes.

LUKAS (CONT'D)
Let's get this shit over with wit'
Jessica.

Jakob looks at Zavhyn and Aubrey with slight embarrassment
then walks off.

CUT TO:

INT. ELEVATOR - LATER

Hana and Max stand in silence, Max tapping away at his phone.

HANA
Can I ask something?

MAX
Sure.

HANA
What's your family like?

MAX
(shrugging)
Ordinary.

Hana starts fidgeting.

MAX (CONT'D)
Yours?

HANA
You know how my mom is. Dad takes
getting used to. Mom's family
didn't approve at first because
he's not Jewish--

MAX
I know.

Hana notices a flickering light above her.

HANA
Are you still Jewish?

MAX
What?

HANA
Do you still practice?

Max tucks his phone away.

MAX
Not exactly.

Hana falls quiet, squirming in the silence.

HANA
Sometimes I wonder are we still
Jewish if we don't practice...
Who's Zach?

MAX
No one.

Hana is ready to ask another question but the elevator doors
open. Max holds his arm out.

MAX (CONT'D)
After you.

CUT TO:

INT. HANA'S APARTMENT

Hana enters the apartment. Max follows behind her. Her place is small and cozy. Boxes and luggage pile up in the living room area.

MAX

Making yourself at home?

HANA

So far. There's a neighbor down the hall, Frank. He offered to cook for me as a welcome gift and said if I need anything he'll be there.

Max looks out into the hall.

MAX

I see.

HANA

Thank you again for getting me this space...and the job. I--

MAX

Don't mention it.

HANA

I'm grateful though. You're helping me out and I don't know, you know. Coming here, not knowing anyone.

MAX

I said don't mention it.

(clears throat)

Get some rest. Be ready by seven. I don't like waiting.

Max begins to leave. Hana nods.

HANA

Right.

Max steps into the hall and looks back at Hana.

MAX

Oh, and be careful with those people at the alley. Probably shouldn't talk with them.

HANA

But you talk to them.

MAX
I just work with them. They're not responsible people. And your parents expect me to take care of you. My parents do to.

Hana and Max stare at one another. Max looks down the hall.

MAX (CONT'D)
Well, good night.

HANA
Goodnight.

She closes the door behind Max and looks at her apartment, smiling with optimism.

CUT TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY - MORNING

Aubrey and Hana stand behind the counter.

Hana watches an elderly couple bowl.

AUBREY
You nervous?

HANA
Oh. I am a little.

AUBREY
It's not rocket science, sweetheart.
Just stay here, hand out bowling shoes. Process payments. Easy.

HANA
Sounds simple enough.

AUBREY
Just be careful because a lot of these teenage fuckers will try to get over on you.

HANA
Yes, ma'am.

AUBREY
Don't call me ma'am. That's weird.

Zavhyn rushes over.

ZAVHYN
Hey, new girl.

AUBREY
Her name is Hana.

Zavhyn grins at Hana.

ZAVHYN
You two seen Jake?

AUBREY
They just went out, why?

ZAVHYN
Ugh, I wanted to use his car.

Zavhyn looks around.

ZAVHYN (CONT'D)
Is Jess going to be here all day?

Hana just stares at Zavhyn.

Two kids run up and place their shoes on the counter, then hustle off.

Zavhyn leans on the counter and smirks at Hana.

ZAVHYN (CONT'D)
So you always wanted to work at a bowling alley?

HANA
No, just doing this while I go to Ylario.

ZAVHYN
So, you're a nerd?

AUBREY
No, she's just not as dumb as you.

Aubrey grabs the second pair of shoes and sprays them.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Now let us focus on work. Why aren't you at work?

Zavhyn faces the bowling lanes and rests her arms on the counter.

ZAVHYN
I quit. They kept making me close.

Zavhyn turns to the counter.

ZAVHYN (CONT'D)
Now I can see the new girl more.

Zavhyn winks at Hana.

AUBREY
Can you go? I have to teach Hana
the ropes, or Jess will kill me.

ZAVHYN
New girl tonight.

AUBREY
Hana. Her name is Hana.
(aggressively)
You have to stick up for yourself.

Hana clears her throat. Everyone is silent for a moment.

ZAVHYN
So, you trynna go tonight?

AUBREY
Where?

ZAVHYN
Told her 'bout the party tonight.

Aubrey gives Zavhyn a stern look then turns away.

HANA
I lied about going to a party
before.

ZAVHYN
Yeah, I could tell.

Aubrey places the shoes into a shoe box. Hana looks at
Aubrey.

AUBREY
You won't be missing anything,
Hana. Don't worry-

HANA
I'll go. I probably won't know
anyone though.

ZAVHYN
I'll take care of you.

AUBREY

Be gone.

Aubrey waves Zavhyn away.

Zavhyn rolls her eyes at Aubrey and walks away.

HANA

Are you not going?

AUBREY

Uhh...yeah, actually, I am.

HANA

I can go. I have an outfit I haven't tried.

AUBREY

I mean, it's not going to be all that. Just people drinking and acting stupid.

HANA

(shrugging)

I want to act stupid.

Aubrey laughs and nods.

AUBREY

Will Max approve of this?

HANA

(chuckles)

He's my cousin not my dad.

Aubrey raises a brow.

AUBREY

Okay, fine. We can ride together.

Hana smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. PELEKAI'S DINER BATHROOM

Max snorts a line of cocaine. He stands up straight, looks in the mirror and rubs his nose.

The PHONE rings.

Max answers.

MAX

Yeah.

JESSICA (O.S.)

(over the phone)

I have something for Tommy. Need you to take it today.

MAX

What? Why today? I'm dealing with Luis. Something you wanted dealt with.

Max fixes his tie, smirking at himself in the mirror.

JESSICA (O.S.)

Well, hurry up with that, then get going. Please and thank you.

Max puts the phone into his pocket, sighing.

MAX

(under his breath)

Lazy fucks.

Max shakes his head.

MAX (CONT'D)

Fuck.

Max exits.

INT. BACK OF PELEKAI'S DINER

Max confidently walks through the diner, people stepping aside for him as he reaches a door at the back.

EXT. BEHIND PELEKAI'S DINER

Max sticks a cigar into his mouth and lights it. He walks to four men who were waiting for him, including Luis, whom is not as well dressed.

Max stares intently at Luis's bloodied face. Luis looks down.

Max gestures and two of the other men push down on Luis's shoulders, causing him to drop to his knees.

The FOURTH MAN walks away.

LUIS
(crying)
Max...
(sniffles)
You look great. How are ya?

Max raises his cigar into the air and examines it with disgust.

MAX
Shit.
(looks To Luis)
I haven't smoked in awhile. Thought
it'd be cool to do it in
this...moment. But, this is gross.

Max tosses the cigar. He looks up at the sky and takes in the sun, eyes closing for a second.

MAX (CONT'D)
How long we known each other?

Max looks at Luis.

LUIS
(stuttering)
I don't know. Couple years.

MAX
How many times have I been cordial
with you? Professional? Friendly,
even?

The fourth man returns with a bat.

LUIS
Max--

MAX
Then you steal from me.

LUIS
I wasn't trying to--

MAX
You stole from Jessica.

Max crouches down to Luis.

MAX (CONT'D)
Remember your insurance idea? I got
you an accountant to help with the
restaurant. I even got 'em to make
sure the numbers looked...good.
(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

Got nothing from it. Was all for you. I did that. And how do you repay me?

LUIS

Max.

MAX

That's the joke, isn't it? You don't. All for naught. A, uh...

Max trails off and looks around, smiling.

MAX (CONT'D)

A dine and dash, if you will. Get it?

(chuckles)

I saw that new car up front. It's nice.

Luis shakes his head.

MAX (CONT'D)

I heard you were looking at new houses. Over on the east side.

LUIS

Max, I can give you the money.

MAX

It's pretty fancy over there.

LUIS

Just--

MAX

Ope. Not done.

Max raises a finger at Luis then rubs his chin, doing a deep inhale.

MAX (CONT'D)

At this point, it's not about the money, Luis.

Max brushes off lint on his arm.

MAX (CONT'D)

You betrayed me. I supported you and you betrayed me.

Max starts pacing.

MAX (CONT'D)
You went to those fucking beaners.

Max shakes his head.

MAX (CONT'D)
Because they were...what, cheaper?

LUIS
They were trying to--

MAX
If you had an issue with them, you
should have come to me.

LUIS
I know, but they know where my baby
moms lives.

MAX
Is it because you're cousins with
them or something? Are ya'll like
all from the same village?

LUIS
I'm not.

MAX
It isn't even about that.
(calmly)
I forgive you for that. Actually.

Luis looks up to Max, hope in his eyes.

MAX (CONT'D)
It's this.

Max gestures behind Luis.

Detective MORRIS walks to Max.

MAX (CONT'D)
Luis, I'd like you to meet
Detective Morris. He's gotten word
that you've been cooperating with a
few of his colleagues.

Luis starts beathing heavy.

MAX (CONT'D)
Is this true?

Luis looks down.

LUIS
They only were asking about the
insurance stuff. I told them what
was on the report--

Max shakes his head, clicking his tongue in disappointment.

MAX
You fucking idiot.

LUIS
I didn't tell them anything about
you though! I told them small
stuff. I ain't say no names, or
nothing like that.

Max pulls Luis's hair.

MAX
(calm tone)
What did you tell them?

LUIS
Nothing. Gave them the run around,
that's all.

Max looks to Morris.

MORRIS
They know about the insurance fraud
like he said...

Max's eyes widen at Luis

MORRIS (CONT'D)
And...the bowling alley is a place
of interest, the diners...not your
name but names that could connect
it to you. Including Jess.

Max steps away from Luis. Luis starts breathing heavy.

Max scratches his eyebrow.

LUIS
Max, listen.

MAX
(calmly)
Shut up.

LUIS
I was just thinking about my kids.

MAX

Fuck your goddamn kids. Fuck their
whore-ass mother.

Max pulls on his collar and breathes slowly.

MAX (CONT'D)

I should go over with my friends
and take turns with that fucking
bitch. She probably wouldn't even
complain.

LUIS

(crying)

Please, Max. Don't hurt my babies.

Max steps away from Luis, nostrils flaring.

MAX

I'm hurt, that you would think I
would touch kids. They're innocent.
Yours are anyway.

Max looks to the man with the bat.

MAX (CONT'D)

But the whore isn't.

The man with the bat walks from behind Luis, bat raised.

MAX (CONT'D)

Neither are you.

The man prepares to swing as he steps beside Luis.

Luis looks to the man and gasps.

Before a word can be let out the bat impacts Luis's forehead
and Luis drops.

The man starts slamming the bat at Luis.

Max looks at Morris.

MAX (CONT'D)

Anything that can come back?

MORRIS

Doubtful, for now. I wouldn't say
it's a must to lawyer up but it
doesn't hurt to be cautious.

MAX

Who was he talking to?

MORRIS
I can't tell you that.

MAX
The fuck you mean you can't tell me?

MORRIS
There's a line. I still have people to look out for.

MAX
(steps to Morris)
There is no line. You're a pig who moves to whichever side pays more. There is no fucking line.

Morris stares in max's eyes, speechless.

MAX (CONT'D)
Find out who he's been talking to.

Morris walks away.

The sounds of metal hitting is still heard.

CUT TO:

INT. ROCKFORD MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - NOON

Zach lies on the bed, his leg bandaged. Lukas and Jakob walk into the room. Lukas is holding flowers.

Zach gives a stern look.

ZACH
How'd you guys get in here?

JAKOB
We said we were your cousins. We're not here about Max, though.

Jakob looks at Lukas.

Lukas sets the flowers down on Zach.

LUKAS
Here.

ZACH
You came to give me flowers?

JAKOB

Uh, not just that. I don't know why he wanted to get some.

LUKAS

I thought it'd be funny.

Lukas gulps.

LUKAS (CONT'D)

Sorry man, there. I said it.

ZACH

You're here to give an apology?

LUKAS

Yes, and I said it.

(to Jakob)

We visited, let's go.

Jakob is disappointed.

ZACH

That was shit.

LUKAS

Fuck you.

ZACH

Fuck you!

And fuck you for letting him shoot me.

JAKOB

What was I supposed to do, jump in between y'all?

LUKAS

Don't listen to dickless.

ZACH

At least I was born with one.

LUKAS

I could fuck you up right now.

NURSE walks in.

NURSE

What's all the noise guys?

Jakob stands.

JAKOB
We were just visiting a friend.

ZACH
They snuck in here.

NURSE
You two should go.

JAKOB
We wanted to come and apologize.

LUKAS
You didn't apologize.

JAKOB
For Lukas to apologize.

LUKAS
What'd you tell the cops?

ZACH
How you know I spoke to the cops?

JAKOB
Everyone has to when they're shot.

NURSE
Were you two there when this happened?

ZACH
I told them some assholes at the party just got rowdy.

Lukas and Jakob look at each other.

ZACH (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I told them I didn't know their names.

Jakob sighs.

LUKAS
I don't believe him.

ZACH
What?

NURSE
I'm going to call security.

JAKOB
We're leaving.

Lukas walks to the bedside.

LUKAS
Fuck that, what'd you really tell them.

JAKOB
Lukas, he said he didn't say anything.

ZACH
I didn't say nothing.

LUKAS
He has no reason to protect us.

JAKOB
What? He's cool with Max.

LUKAS
Not anymore.

NURSE
I'm calling the police.

JAKOB
Ma'am.

Jakob watches the nurse scurry off.

JAKOB (CONT'D)
What's wrong with you?

LUKAS
(to Zach)
What. Did. You. Say?

ZACH
I didn't tell them anything.

JAKOB
Lukas, let's go.

Lukas locks eyes with Zach.

LUKAS
Fucker.

Jakob and Lukas head out.

ZACH
Tell Max I said hi.

CUT TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY, OUTSIDE JESSICA'S OFFICE

Max walks to Jessica's door and spots Hana talking to a customer.

Hana looks at Max and waves. Max waves back.

INT. JESSICA'S OFFICE

Jessica is pouring a glass of vodka. There is a knock at the door.

JESSICA
Come in.

Max enters.

MAX
Hey.

JESSICA
Got everything figured out?

MAX
Mostly. Morris is checking to see
if there's any info about me.

Jessica stares at Max.

MAX (CONT'D)
They have your name. Just nothing
to connect you, at the moment.

JESSICA
Of course.

Jessica drinks from her glass and pulls a drawer open.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
(tossing a manila envelope
on desk)
Here.

MAX
(grabbing the thick
envelope)
For Tommy?

Max weighs envelope in hand.

MAX (CONT'D)
This is heavy.
(hyperbolic)
I don't ever see this much at once.

JESSICA
Yeah, well Tommy doesn't have fuck
ups under him.

MAX
I'm having them check up on Zach.
Jakob will make sure Lukas doesn't
do anything stupid.

JESSICA
Don't think he can help it.

MAX
When do I get Tommy envelopes?

JESSICA
You're close.

Jessica takes another swig.

MAX
I been giving up sleep to prove
myself.

JESSICA
(resting glass)
That's not enough.

MAX
What, tenure is a thing too?

JESSICA
Knowing someone's been devoted to
you for so long *does* help.

Max sighs.

JESSICA (CONT'D)
What can I say? I get jealous
easily.

Max straightens up.

MAX
(mildly bothered)
Good thing I don't get bothered
easily.

Jessica raises an eyebrow.

JESSICA
(smiling)
Drop this off, then get back to me.

Max stands up.

CUT TO:

INT. BOWLING ALLEY COUNTER - AFTERNOON

Jakob and Lukas begrudgingly strut pass the counter, upset.

Aubrey and Hana lean on the counter from the other side.

AUBREY
Hey guys, what's going on?

Jakob ignores them and keeps walking.

LUKAS
Just visited a friend.

Hana notices Max hurry out the building.

AUBREY
Ya'll still going to the party
tonight?

Lukas pauses, looks at Hana for a second then turns to
Aubrey.

LUKAS
Uh, maybe.

AUBREY
Hana's going.

LUKAS
Really? You didn't seem to be the
party type.

HANA
(shrugs)
We should always try new things
right.

LUKAS
(smirking)
Okay.

Lukas starts laughing.

LUKAS (CONT'D)
See ya'll tonight.

Lukas smiles at Hana.

LUKAS (CONT'D)
Aubrey, is Zav coming?

AUBREY
Yeah...she should be around here.

Lukas looks around, then walks off.

LUKAS
All good, see you in a bit.

Hana watches Lukas catch up to Jakob at the furthest lane.

HANA
What do they do?

Aubrey looks over to Jakob and Lukas.

AUBREY
They work for Max.

HANA
Really?

AUBREY
Yeah.

HANA
What does Max do?

Aubrey stops what she's doing and looks at Hana.

AUBREY
Uhh, you never asked?

Hana shakes her head.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Well...he's partnered with Jessica
on some stuff, but you should ask
him if you want more details.

Aubrey walks from around the counter.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
I'm going to check the lockers,
make sure no one's trying to steal
anything.

CUT TO:

INT. TONY'S AUTO SHOP GARAGE - AFTERNOON

Max walks through the loud garage, envelope in hand.
MECHANICS acknowledging his presence.

MECHANIC
Max, what's going on?

Max nods to the mechanic and steps around a CAR. Max bumps
into MECHANIC 2.

MAX
Oh, didn't see you there.

MECHANIC 2
No worries, Max. Tommy's waiting
for ya.

MAX
I'd hope so.

Max reaches the other side of the shop and opens a door.

INT. SHOP

Max closes the door behind him and looks at the associate,
ANNA, behind the counter.

MAX
Tommy?

ANNA
Yeah...

Anna points behind her.

ANNA (CONT'D)
He's in with Tony.

Max smiles and hops over the counter, startling Anna.

MAX
Thanks.

Max walks over to the door and enters the office.

INT. TONY'S OFFICE

TONY and TOMMY sit across from each other at a table, BROCK standing against the wall near the window, his broad stature creating a shadow over the table.

Max waves the envelope as he enters.

TOMMY
Maxipad. How's it going.

MAX
Still calling me that I see.

TOMMY
Come take a seat.

Max walks over to the table.

MAX
How's the family, Brock?

BROCK
They're well. When are you starting yours?

MAX
Well...
(chuckles)
Just haven't found the one yet.

TONY
Always good to see you, Maximus.

Max takes a seat at the table.

MAX
Just Max is fine. Same for you Tom.

TOMMY
Tommy.

Max smirks and tosses the envelope in front of Tommy.

MAX
From Jessica. She says thanks.

Tommy gleefully opens the envelope and peaks in.

TOMMY
Lovely.

Max focuses on Tommy's grin.

MAX
(sigh)
Bet it looks good.

Tommy drops the envelope on the table.

TOMMY
It does.

TONY
So, Max, how's ops over on your
side?

Max fixes his blazer.

MAX
I, uh, was wondering, on the way
over.

Max eyes Tony, then looks at Tommy.

MAX (CONT'D)
If there's any, like, work, you
need help with?

TOMMY
(confused)
What do you mean?

MAX
My load is getting a bit...light,
and I want to put some more work
in. Show my value.

Tony nods.

TONY
I've always liked your hustle.

MAX
(to Tony)
I can help you with the shop.

TOMMY
I already have the shop.

MAX
I can help you with helping him.

Tommy laughs.

TOMMY
I hear you have enough with those
two fucks at the bowling range.

MAX
Bowling alley.

TONY
I was looking at opening a spot up
on the east side. Maybe pull in
bigger checks at a time--

TOMMY
No, you already said that was me.

MAX
I'm just looking to get more on my
end, you know. Like you.

Tommy relaxes his body.

MAX (CONT'D)
Jessica seems to really respect
you, and as you can see, the city
is expanding, and there will be
more opportunities.

Tony nods and grins.

MAX (CONT'D)
For all of us.

TOMMY
You want to show your value.

MAX
Yes. I don't want to take anything
away from you--

TOMMY
You couldn't.

Max pauses.

MAX
Just want to partner up.

TOMMY
I've been doing just fine for
awhile.

Max points at the envelope.

MAX
I want to see stuff like that.

Max smirks. Tommy and Tony chuckle.

TOMMY
(nodding)
I understand.

Tommy looks at Tony. Tony shrugs.

TOMMY (CONT'D)
I already have men looking over
things.
(clears throat)
But I'll keep you in mind.

MAX
What about the deli. It's bringin'
in the least.

TOMMY
How do you know?

MAX
I check the numbers. Make sure
everything, everywhere, is good.

TOMMY
Like a teacher's pet.

Tommy chuckles.

MAX
No, like someone who's just trying
to learn how things go.

TOMMY
You expect Jess'll move you up
after this.

MAX
I di'n't get this far just to say
I've come this far.

TOMMY
I'll think about it.

MAX
I can even set up a plan.

TOMMY
I said I'd think about it.

Everyone sits in silence. Brock looks away to avoid feeling
much more of the tension.

Max stands up.

MAX
Well, I should head back.

Max extends his arm to Tony.

TONY
(shakings Max's hand)
Leaving so soon.

MAX
Work's never over.

Max shakes Tommy's hand and walks out.

TONY
He's just trying keep up with the
old heads.

TOMMY
Well he needs to slow down.

TONY
Give him some work. Not like he can
take anything from ya. He's got
like a block, and only four people
under him.

TOMMY
Yeah, but he's close to Jess. Too
close for my comfort. Can't let him
telling all our secrets right.

Tommy chuckles and drinks his whiskey.

CUT TO BLACK.

INT. HANA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Hana looks at her full body mirror and analyzes her outfit,
music playing in the background.

There's a knock at the door. Hana straightens her posture and
gulps.

HANA
Coming!

Hana hurries to the door and opens it.

Aubrey and Zavhyn celebrate seeing Hana. Hana smiles.

AUBREY AND ZAVHYN
Heeey.

AUBREY

Ready?

Hana nods.

HANA

Mhm.

CUT TO:

INT. PARTY

INT. BACK LANE

Jakob flirts with a woman as Lukas stares blankly at the bowling lanes.

JAKOB

Yo, *Lukas*, you good? She said she can bring some friends to the party tonight.

LUKAS

That's cool.

Jakob and the young woman laugh.

JAKOB

He's been out of it for awhile. Our boss's been down his neck recently because he got someone hurt on the job.

Lukas looks towards Jessica's office, his leg starting to shake.

WOMAN

Oh no...are They okay?

JAKOB

Of course. Just a minor leg injury.

Lukas spots Max entering the bowling alley with his phone pressed to his ear, walking toward the restrooms at the back.

JAKOB (CONT'D)

We visited him today to check up on him. Got him flowers and everything.

WOMAN
Aww, that's so sweet.

LUKAS
I'll be right back.

Jakob waves at Lukas.

JAKOB
Don't stray too far. We work in a couple hours.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM

Max enters, phone in hand.

Hana exits the stall and expresses relief.

MAX
What's going on?

Aubrey points to Zavhyn before crawling over to her body.

Max walks over and examines the situation.

AUBREY
We're so sorry, I know we're not supposed to be doing this here.

Max looks at Hana.

MAX
Did you know about this?

HANA
No. Not until she brought me in here.

Max sighs.

MAX
Alright. Who is this anyway?

AUBREY
Her name's Zavhyn.

Lukas enters. Everyone turns to Lukas.

Aubrey steps out of Lukas's view, into the stall. Max notices this.

LUKAS
What's going on?

Max eyes Hana, who looks back and shows some fear. Lukas walks over.

Max, Hana and Aubrey step away from Zavhyn for Lukas to see.

MAX
You didn't know about this?

LUKAS
Uh...
(turns to Max)
No. I'm just finding this out.
(looks to Aubrey)
They should know better than to
take the stuff in here. Jessica's
rules.

MAX
That conversation is for another
time. We need to get her out of
here, to a hospital.

Max steps pass Lukas to pick Zavhyn up. Lukas eyes Hana before turning.

Max cradles Zavhyn into his arms.

MAX (CONT'D)
(grunting)
We'll go out the back...

Hana rushes over to the door.

MAX (CONT'D)
Less people will see, and we'll
just say she's not feeling well.

Hana opens the door, allowing Max to pass through. Aubrey rushes behind, then Lukas.

Lukas and Hana lock eyes before Lukas exits.

EXT. BEHIND BOWLING ALLEY

Max gently lays Zavhyn into the back seat of Lukas's car.

LUKAS
Why do I have to take her?

MAX
Because I said.

Max stretches and closes the car door.

MAX (CONT'D)
It's your fault this happened.

LUKAS
How's it my fault?

MAX
We'll talk about this later. I'll
let Jakob know what's up. You make
sure she's okay.

LUKAS
We have a party going on tonight.

MAX
Well that's not happening.

LUKAS
It's work.

MAX
Jakob can do fine all by himself.

Aubrey, arms folded, takes a step towards the car.

AUBREY
I want to go with.

Lukas and Max turn their heads to Aubrey.

AUBREY (CONT'D)
Just to make sure she's okay.

Hana is silent.

MAX
(nodding)
Alright, go with him.

Max turns to Hana.

MAX (CONT'D)
You okay?

Hana is frozen.

MAX (CONT'D)
Hana.

Hana escapes her daze, looking up to Max. She nods.

MAX (CONT'D)
Alright...
(to Lukas)
Get going.

LUKAS
You're really having Lukas go
alone?

MAX
(impatient)
Go.

Lukas eyes Max walking back into the establishment, Hana following, then looks at Aubrey.

LUKAS
(irritated)
Well come on, let's go.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK LANE

Hana leans against the seats. Max and Jakob sitting.

MAX
We already talked about them not to
take while on the premises.

JAKOB
I know, I'm sure she knew that.

MAX
Then how'd this shit happen?

JAKOB
I've never known a junkie to be
patient.

Max glances at Hana.

MAX
(sigh)
Everything is fine. She should be
fine. We'll have to talk about this
when Lukas is back. Until then...

Max looks at Hana, then back to Jakob.

MAX (CONT'D)
Jessica doesn't know about this.

Max waits for nods from Hana and Jakob.

JAKOB
I don't even remember giving her
anything today.

Max and Hana lock eyes.

MAX
(to Hana)
I'm going to take you back. I'll
tell Jess you're feeling sick.

Max stands up.

MAX (CONT'D)
I'll be back in a bit. You're going
to this party alone tonight.

JAKOB
Uh, okay.

MAX
Can you handle it?

JAKOB
(smirks)
Yeah, I got this.

MAX
Cool.

Max pats Jakob's shoulder.

MAX (CONT'D)
(grinning)
I know you do.

Max walks off.

MAX (CONT'D)
Let's get out of here Hana.

Hana looks at Jakob.

HANA
I'll see you tomorrow?

Jakob looks up at Hana and smiles.

JAKOB
Yeah. For sure.

Hana smiles and walks off. Jakob watching.

CUT TO:

EXT. HANA'S APARTMENT BUILDING

Max's car pulls up in front and parks on the curb.

INT. MAX'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Max looks over at Hana.

MAX
Take the rest of the day off. Get
some rest, and we can discuss
tomorrow. And, uh, let's not
discuss this outside of the people
involved, alright?

Hana nods.

MAX (CONT'D)
Let's avoid mentioning it at all
until our next official chat.

Hana nods.

MAX (CONT'D)
You sure you're gonna be okay?

HANA
I think so. Have you dealt with
something like that before?

MAX
More times than I'd like.

HANA
Did you know what Lukas and Jakob
were doing?

Max looks out his window for a moment before turning to Hana.

MAX
Let's talk about this later.
(smiles)
Alright?

Hana nods.

MAX (CONT'D)
Do you trust me?

Hana nods.

MAX (CONT'D)
Then trust that I'll take care of
this. The less you know, the
better.
Now, go get some rest.

Hana, still looking at Max uneasy, gets out of the car and
walks into the building. Max watches her.

THE END.