

COMMONALITY

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

CEDRIC (29, tall, stylish) struts down the street in a very fine suit, elaborate sunglasses and jewelry. He stops to check himself out in the tinted windows of a luxury car.

INT. BAR - DAY

CHRISSI (20s, black-haired, greedy) sits at a table with her girlfriend JULIA (20s, well-dressed, clever). Chrissi looks out the window at Cedric.

CHRISSI

Wait, Jules. Check this guy out.

Julia looks over.

JULIA

Oh, don't you start up with that again. Remember how much trouble it got you in the last time?

CHRISSI

Yeah, and remember how I got myself out of it?

JULIA

You mean how I got you out of it.

CHRISSI

Okay, you know what? I'm a grown woman. I can take care of myself.

JULIA

Since when?

Cedric enters the bar.

CHRISSI

Okay, whatever, shut up.

Cedric eyes the two of them as he heads to the bar and sits.

JULIA

Alright, go ahead. Go make a fool out of yourself.

Julia stands up, adjusts her hair, pulls down her top and approaches Cedric.

CHRISSI
Hey, lover. Never seen you in here
before.

CEDRIC
Yeah, and how are you so sure about
that? You come in here a lot?

CHRISSI
Enough to know a pretty new face
when I see one. Name's Chrissi.
What do they call you?

CEDRIC
Cedric.

Chrissi holds out her hand. Cedric takes it.

CHRISSI
Nice to meet you, Cedric. How about
you buy me a drink?

CEDRIC
Why would I do that?

CHRISSI
Because I-- Excuse me?

CEDRIC
You walked over to me. Why don't
you buy me a drink?

CHRISSI
Aren't you the modern man? Alright,
I'll bite. What are you having?

The BARTENDER walks over.

CEDRIC
(to bartender)
Lagavulin Sixteen, double, neat.

Chrissi is unable to stop the bartender before the drink is
poured, so she just sits down next to Cedric.

CHRISSI
Big spender, huh?

CEDRIC
Aren't you getting anything?

CHRISSE
No, I'm alright.

CEDRIC
Well, you have to get something,
right? I mean, we are in a bar.

CHRISSE
Yeah, okay. Um, I'll just have a
light beer. Draft!

BARTENDER
Sure thing.

CEDRIC
Guess you got to watch that figure.

CHRISSE
I'd rather you watch it.

CEDRIC
I'm... what does that mean?

CHRISSE
Uh, so, Cedric, what do you do?

CEDRIC
You know, I--

The phone rings.

CEDRIC
Hold that thought.
(looks at phone)
Actually, this is really important.
I need to take this right now.
(answers phone)
Hey. What's happening? Oh, yeah, I
got that.

Julia walks over to the bar while Chrissi eavesdrops. They
speak silently with each other.

JULIA
How's it going?

CHRISSE
Shh. Just pretend we're talking.

JULIA
We are talking.

CEDRIC

(to PHONE)

No, I sent that in yesterday.
Listen, this is a lot of money
we're talking about here. Yes,
that's what I said. I don't know,
figure it out.

CHRISSI

Alright, I seriously can't tell if
this guy's a big shot or just an
asshole.

JULIA

Can't he be both?

CHRISSI

He made me buy him a drink, but now
he's chewing someone out for losing
a bunch of money.

JULIA

What is wrong with you?

CHRISSI

This is really confusing!

JULIA

Maybe you could just ask him.

CHRISSI

You can't just ask people about
money. There's an art to all of
this.

JULIA

What's it like in your head? Is it
magical in there?

CHRISSI

What's it like in your...Shut up!

CEDRIC

(to PHONE)

How about I come down first thing
tomorrow to settle it.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

DOM (30s, ripped, intense) smokes as he cooks shirtless.

DOM
Yeah, you come right the fuck down
here and 'settle it.' I'll be
waiting.

Dom picks up a GUN from the countertop and waves it around for emphasis.

DOM
And bring my fucking money this
time!

Dom hangs up the phone and tosses it and the gun back onto the counter, then resumes cooking.

DOM
Little bitch.

INT. BAR - DAY

CEDRIC
(to PHONE)
Alright, great. Absolutely. I'll
see you then.

Cedric hangs up the phone and sips his whiskey.

CHRISSI
What was all that about?

CEDRIC
It was a work thing. Most people
just can't handle money like I can.

CHRISSI
Is that what you do?

CEDRIC
You can say it's sort of my
specialty. It's what I know best in
life. I mean, a lot of people think
it's really just gambling, but
there's a system to it most can't
see like I can.

JULIA
And how long have you been at it?

CEDRIC

As long as I can remember. It's sort of the family business. Dad got me into it when I was in high school and I haven't looked back since. Hey, I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name.

JULIA

Julia. I'm a friend of Chrissi's.

They shake hands.

CEDRIC

You want me to buy you a drink, too?

JULIA

I guess you do throw it around, huh? No, I just wanted to say bye. I got to get back to work. Some of us actually want to make something of ourselves.

CHRISSI

Yeah, whatever. See you around.

Julia leaves the bar.

CEDRIC

You two don't seem to get along too well.

CHRISSI

Julia's my best friend. She just thinks she knows what's best for me better than I do.

CEDRIC

Yeah? And what is it that you want?

CHRISSI

Right now, I want to go the bathroom.

(stands up)

But feel free to join me. Just give it a minute so no one notices.

Cedric watches Chrissi walk away. The Bartender walks over.

BARTENDER

Are you serious, man?

CEDRIC

What? It's just a piece of ass.

BARTENDER

That girl is dangerous. She's in here a lot pulling the same carp with guys like you.

CEDRIC

What, is she, like... not clean?

BARTENDER

Sh-- what? No. Look, she does this to every guy who rolls in here flashing his cash around.

CEDRIC

What are you talking about? I haven't even taken out my wallet.

BARTENDER

You... yeah, you haven't. What's with that?

CEDRIC

All I know is, this hot girl comes over to me, thinking I'm some big shot, buys me a drink, then calls me over to the bathroom for some private entertainment. I'd be stupid to turn that down.

BARTENDER

You'd be stupid not to. So, wait, you're not rich?

CEDRIC

Hell no. That was my bookie on the phone. I got to get two-hundred dollars together somehow by tomorrow morning or I'm dead.

BARTENDER

Yeah, but, you had to know she was trying to play you. Right? I mean, you're not an idiot, right? Are... are you an idiot?

CEDRIC

Yeah, I knew.

BARTENDER

So... you lied to her.

CEDRIC

I never lied about anything. If tonight is my last night on Earth, I'm making it count.

BARTENDER

That... you know what, I don't care. Do whatever.

CEDRIC

That's the plan.

Cedric grins as he gets up and heads to the bathroom.

BARTENDER

What a couple of assholes.

CUSTOMER

Are you really going to let them do that in there?

BARTENDER

Mind your god damn business!

Cedric rounds the corner and knocks on the bathroom door.

CEDRIC

Hey, uh...

Cedric pushes the door open.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Chrissi sits on the sink.

CHRISSI

What took you so long?

Cedric heads inside and approaches Chrissi.

CEDRIC

Like you said. Didn't want to make it look obvious.

Cedric tries to kiss Chrissi. She hops off the sink.

CHRISSI

What are you, crazy? Not out here.

Chrissi opens a stall door and heads inside.

CHRISSI
I'm not going to wait in here
forever.

Cedric follows her in. He closes and locks the door.

EXT. BAR - DAY

CUSTOMER
How long do you think they're going
to be?

BARTENDER
What did I say?

CUSTOMER
Listen, I'm just asking here.

BARTENDER
What are you, some kind of pervert?

CUSTOMER
I got to take a piss!

BARTENDER
Hold it.

CUSTOMER
This place is fucking weird.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

The stall door unlocks. Cedric walks out as he zips up.

CEDRIC
That was real nice, baby.

Chrissi follows him out as she adjusts her underwear.

CHRISSI
(flat)
Yeah, tell me about it.

Cedric grins at the mirror as he smooths back his hair.

CHRISSI
So you ready to roll out of here?

Cedric checks the time on his phone.

CEDRIC
Yeah, it's about that time. Come
on.

CHRISSI
You go first. I'll meet you
outside.

Cedric exits the bathroom.

INT. BAR - DAY

Cedric heads to the door.

 BARTENDER
Hey, you still have to pay for
those drinks.

 CEDRIC
The lady's got them.

EXT. BAR - DAY

Cedric steps onto the sidewalk and takes out his phone.

INT. BAR - DAY

Chrissie tries to casually walk through the bar.

 CHRISSI
Where...

 BARTENDER
(motioning)
Outside.

 CHRISSI
Yeah. Of course. Thanks.

 BARTENDER
And here's the bill.

Chrissis glances it over and puts the money on the counter,
then heads out. The bartender holds the meager bills up.

 BARTENDER
I hate this fucking place.

 CUSTOMER
Can I get some service over here?

 BARTENDER
Oh, my god, shut your face!

EXT. BAR - DAY

CEDRIC
(into phone)
Look, I got to go. We'll meet
tomorrow and go over everything.

Chrissi walks up to Cedric as he hangs up the phone and presses up against him.

CHRISSI
So. Where are you taking me?

CEDRIC
You'll see.

CHRISSI
Oh, is it a surprise?

Chrissi caresses the expensive car's glimmering handle.

CEDRIC
You're definitely going to be
surprised.

CHRISSI
Well?

CEDRIC
Here it comes.

The PUBLIC BUS pulls up. Cedric boards. Chrissi runs after.

CHRISSI
Hang on. That's not your car?

CEDRIC
The Aston? I can't afford an Aston.
Lady, I got bills to pay. I can't
be messing around with that kind of
thing.

CHRISSI
What.

Chrissi looks out of the bus as the doors close and seal her inside. The bus drives away.

END