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TITLE CARD - LOVE IS A BURNING THING

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

OSCAR, (20), sits alone on a silver metal chair in a dimly lit interrogation room.

His light brown hair hangs over his pale blue eyes. Tears roll down his face.

An ashtray sits in front of him filled with butts.

He wipes the tears off his face with the back of his hand.

The door to the interrogation room opens.

DETECTIVE MAC QUINN, late thirties, walks into the room. He has a Styrofoam cup filled with coffee in his hand. He closes the door behind him.

Oscar looks up at the Detective.

MAC

Would you like some coffee Oscar?

Oscar shakes his head. Mac takes a sip from the cup.

MAC (CONT'D)

Good choice. Tastes like shit.

Mac puts the cup of coffee on the table, then sits down across from Oscar. He pulls out a pack of cigarettes from his front shirt pocket.

MAC (CONT'D)

Would you like a cigarette.

Oscar shakes his head again.

OSCAR

I.....I Have my own.

Oscar pulls out a pack of cigarettes and takes one out. He puts it in his mouth and lights it up with a gold zippo. He lays the pack of smokes and the zippo in the table. He takes a long slow drag.

MAC

What's the last thing you remember?

INT. OSCAR'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLSHBK

Oscar stands in the middle of his bedroom with a horrified look on his face. He slowly backs up.

OSCAR (V.O.)
Finding Shannon's body.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Oscar takes another drag from his cigarette, then ashes it out in the ashtray that sits in front of him. He takes out another cigarette and lights it up.

MAC
Tell me 'bout this morning?

OSCAR
We had sex.

INT. OSCAR'S BEDROOM - MORNING - FLSHBK

Oscar and SHANNON,(19), with dirty blonde hair, emerald green eyes, and the face of an angel, lay next to each other in bed.

OSCAR (V.O.)
I had an audition for some shitty
Saturday morning kids show.

Oscar gets out of bed and picks up a pair a boxer shorts that lay on the floor. He puts them on.

He walks across the room and puts on some pants and a t-shirt.

SHANNON
What are you doing?

OSCAR
I gotta go.

SHANNON
Do you have to?

OSCAR
Yeah.

SHANNON

Wouldn't you rather stay here with me.
I'll make it worth your while.

OSCAR

This job pays. Don't you wanna get outta
here?

SHANNON

I like it here, at least when I'm with
you.

Oscar walks over to Shannon and sits down next to her on
the bed.

OSCAR

I wanna give you more than just this.

SHANNON

I wouldn't care if you had top billing in
a movie, or flipping burgers in some fast
food joint. I'd love you the same.

OSCAR

I know you would. I just want to give
you what you deserve.

Oscar looks away for a moment, then back at Shannon.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

I'll be back around two okay.

Shannon looks disappointed.

SHANNON

Okay.

MAC (V.O.)

What happened next?

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

OSCAR

I went to my audition. I blew it. Then
I came home and found Shannon lying dead
on the bed.

Oscar wipes the tears off his face.

MAC

What time was that?

OSCAR
Four, four thirty.

Mac takes a sip of coffee. He spits it back into the cup with a disgusted look.

MAC
I met my wife in high school you know that. God she was beautiful, my heart literally stopped each time I looked at her. It took me six months to talk to her, can you believe that, six months. So I go up to her and all that came out of my mouth was a bunch of gibberish, I sounded like Porky pig. She laughed and I felt like such a shit. It took me three more months to work myself up to talk to her again, but this time I was prepared. I practiced for those three months, in front of the mirror, in the shower, even to my fucking dog. Then, after those three months I walked up to her and opened my mouth and I did it. I said "hi" with out screwing it up. We've been together almost twenty years now.

OSCAR
Why the hell are you telling me this?

MAC
We're just two guys talking about our women, right?

OSCAR
Yeah, but your story has a happy ending.

MAC
Yeah it dies doesn't it. You must have one?

OSCAR
Have what?

MAC
A happy story, about you and Shannon.

Oscar wipes more tears from his eyes.

OSCAR
I was gonna ask her to marry me.

MAC

Really? That's sweet, so sweet, but now that she's dead that's a little beside the point.

Oscar gets onto his feet in a rage and shoves the table forward.

OSCAR

(shouting)

Go fuck yourself!

Mac gets up and stops movement of the table.

MAC

Calm down Oscar. Lets keep this friendly. Tell me about Isaac.

OSCAR

Who?

MAC

Isaac. Your best friend. The other body in the room.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - FLSHBK

Oscar and Shannon cuddle together on the couch. ISAAC, (19), blonde hair, blue eyes, fair skin, sits in an arm chair beside them with a joint hanging out of his mouth. He takes a hit then passes it to Oscar. He refuses.

OSCAR

I told you I quit that shit.

ISAAC

You're turning into a square you know that?

OSCAR

You know what that stuff does to your sperm count?

ISAAC

Like I care.

OSCAR

So when are you gonna get yourself a woman.

ISAAC

I'm nineteen, if I'm single at forty you can bitch at me all you want.

SHANNON

You two need anything from the fridge?

OSCAR

(jokingly)

Two beers woman.

Shannon leans forward.

SHANNON

You keep talking like that and you won't get anything tonight.

OSCAR

I'll have to go back to the five knuckle shuffle again won't I.

She smiles, then kisses him on the cheek. She gets up and leaves.

Oscar moves closer towards Isaac.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

Isaac I'm gonna do it.

ISAAC

Do what?

OSCAR

I'm gonna ask Shannon to marry me.

ISAAC

Get the hell outta here, you're way to young. I mean you haven't even had any other pussy. You should try some other flavors before you decide to stick with one brand.

OSCAR

I don't wanna try any other flavors.

ISAAC

You're missing out man. There's a lot of high quality trim out there. I was with this one girl last night, and she started to go down on me.....

OSCAR
(interrupting)
I don't wanna hear about it okay. I've loved here since the ninth grade. I fucking lucky, I mean there are people twice my age that don't have that.

ISAAC
Whatever man, just don't say I didn't warn you.

OSCAR
I won't.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Oscar has a dazed look on his face.

MAC
Oscar?

No response.

MAC (CONT'D)
(shouting)
Oscar!

Oscar snaps out of it.

OSCAR
What?

MAC
What time did you get back from the audition?

OSCAR
Like I told you, four, four thirty.

MAC
That's not what you said, you said two.

OSCAR
What are you talking about?

MAC
Two. You told Shannon you'd be home by two. So which is it> two?

INT. OSCAR'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLSHBK

Oscar walks into the bedroom.

MAC (V.O.)

Or four.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Oscar picks up his pack of cigarettes. They're empty.

OSCAR

What the hell happened to my cigarettes?

MAC

You smoked them.

Mac points to the ashtray which is now overflowing.

MAC (CONT'D)

You've been here for hours. Don't you remember anything? You just smoked a whole deck of cigarettes and forget all about it, do you got a little trouble with telling time?

Mac takes out a cigarette and passes it to Oscar then lights it up for him.

MAC (CONT'D)

So once again, what time was it? Two, or four thirty?

Oscar twitches.

OSCAR

Isaac?

MAC

What about Isaac?

INT. OSCAR'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLSHBK

Isaac lays naked on top of Shannon.

OSCAR

You son of a bitch!

Oscar grabs Isaac and throws him up against the wall.

ISAAC
Oscar! What the fuck!

Oscar grabs Isaac by the throat.

OSCAR
I'm gonna squeeze the fucking life outta
you!

ISAAC
You don't understand!

OSCAR
Is she a good flavor?

ISAAC
I love her!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Oscar has another dazed look on his face.

MAC
So Isaac and Shannon were sleeping
together.

OSCAR
Yeah.

INT. OSCAR'S BEDROOM - MORNING - FLSHBK

Isaac's body drops to the ground.

Oscar looks over towards Shannon. He slowly moves
towards her.

SHANNON
(in tears)
Oscar please!

OSCAR
How could you sleep with Isaac. He was
my best fucking friend!

SHANNON
I'm sorry, I'm so sorry.

He gets on the bed. His face only inches from her.

OSCAR
I loved you so much.

SHANNON

I love you to, you have to believe that.

He kisses her on the lips. His hands then wrap around her throat. He squeezes as he continues to kiss her. She GAGS. He chokes and kisses her all at the same time until her body goes limp.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Oscar is in tears.

OSCAR

What did I do?

MAC

I think you know what you did.

Oscar looks up at Mac with a dead stare.

OSCAR

I want a lawyer.

MAC

I think that is a wise decision.

Mac gets up off his chair. He grabs they Styrofoam cup and heads out of the room.

Oscar buries his head in his hands as he starts to WAIL.