

The gas station encounter.

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EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

A small, rundown gas station stands alone in the middle of a deserted highway. The sun beats down on the asphalt, creating waves of heat. A middle-aged MAN, in a grease-stained uniform, wipes his brow as he waits for customers.

INT. GAS STATION SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The MAN watches the slow-moving digital clock above the counter, the numbers ticking away, 12:00 PM. He lets out a sigh of relief, expecting a quiet day.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The distant ROAR of motorcycle engines grows louder. A GANG OF BIKERS appears on the horizon, riding towards the gas station. The LEADER, a burly man with a thick beard, is at the front.

INT. GAS STATION SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The Man watches nervously as the bikers pull up in front of the gas pumps.

LEADER

Quite a hot day, huh?

MAN

(nervously)

Yes, it is. Can I help you?

LEADER

(smirking)

You might want to put on some sunscreen. You look like you're burning up.

The Man attempts a weak smile, his tension palpable.

LEADER (CONT'D)

(raising an eyebrow)

You're not going to offer us a drink or something? You're supposed to be in the customer service business, right?

The Man quickly points to a fridge with ice-cold drinks and offers them to the bikers. They grab them, laughing and joking around.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The bikers gather around a picnic table next to the gas station, cracking open drinks and relaxing.

INT. GAS STATION SHOP - CONTINUOUS

The Man keeps a close eye on the bikers. He knows there's more to their visit.

LEADER

Hey, buddy, why don't you join us?

MAN

(stuttering)

I don't know sir, I am working.

LEADER

If you don't come, we may have a problem here.

The leader grabs the Man by his shoulders and stares at him with an "I will kill you" look in his eyes. The Man reluctantly joins the bikers at the table.

LEADER (CONT'D)

You know, we heard something interesting about you. A little fight last night?

MAN

(nervous)

I don't know what you're talking about.

LEADER

(grinning)

It would be easy if you'd just apologize.

The Man hesitates, looking around at the intimidating bikers.

MAN

(sighing)

I'm sorry if there was any trouble last night. Sorry we can all be friends here.

The leader starts to laugh, and for a moment, the Man thinks the situation might not end in trouble. But suddenly, the leader's laughter turns into a chilling, macabre laugh.

The leader stops laughing and retains the evil look he had moments ago. He proceeds to hit the Man from behind, causing him to kneel on the ground. The Man looks up from below, overwhelmed by the leader's dominance.

LEADER

You and I will never be friends.

He says it with a cold and somber whisper in the Man's ear.

LEADER (CONT'D)

Look to your right. Do you recognize anyone?

The Man turns to see the Man, whom he fought with last night, sitting there. The Man has a bruised eye and looks beaten, but he yells at the Man.

RECRUIT

You damn fool. You're going to pay for what you've done. You have no idea who you messed with.

The leader kicks the Man in the face, making him fall to the ground.

MAN

(Crying)

Please, please don't hurt me. I swear I didn't know

The leader signals the recruit to take his revenge and orders him to set fire to the gas station.

The recruit grabs gasoline containers and starts spreading fuel everywhere. In the background, the gang's laughter can be heard. When the recruit finishes, he approaches the leader. The leader pulls out a gun and points it at the Man's head.

MAN (CONT'D)

Please don't kill me.

The Man, overwhelmed by fear, wets himself, and the motorcyclists mock him. Then, a gunshot breaks the gang laughter. The sound momentarily stuns everyone. Suddenly, a massive explosion happens, revealing that the leader shot the gasoline.

EXT. GAS STATION - CONTINUOUS

The deafening explosion reverberates through the desert, sending plumes of thick, black smoke into the sky. The fireball engulfs the gas station, turning it into a fiery inferno. The Man is knocked to the ground by the shockwave, barely escaping the flames.

Amid the chaos, the Man scrambles to his feet, his ears ringing, and his vision blurred. He stumbles away from the burning wreckage, desperately seeking cover behind a nearby rock.

The leader and his gang of bikers, caught off guard by the explosion, watch in disbelief as their motorcycles and the gas station are devoured by flames. The leader's cold, sinister demeanor turns into one of shock and anger.

LEADER

(roaring)

What the hell just happened?!

The bikers rush to extinguish the flames on their motorcycles, using jackets and whatever they can find. The leader's gaze narrows on the Man, who managed to survive.

INT. GAS STATION SHOP - CONTINUOUS

Amid the chaos, the recruit who had been tasked with setting the fire is nowhere to be found. The interior of the gas station shop is now a smoky, charred mess, with shattered windows and debris scattered everywhere.

The Man, still in shock, searches for a way out, coughing from the thick smoke that fills the air. He realizes that he needs to find a way to escape before the bikers regroup.

EXT. DESERT - CONTINUOUS

The Man stumbles through the desert, coughing and wheezing, his clothes and face smeared with soot. He looks back at the burning remains of the gas station, a mixture of relief and dread washing over him. He knows he's not safe yet.

After what seems like an eternity, the Man comes across a dilapidated, abandoned shack in the distance. Desperation drives him toward it, hoping to find shelter and maybe a phone to call for help.

INT. ABANDONED SHACK - CONTINUOUS

The interior of the shack is dusty and neglected, with old, weathered furniture and cobwebs hanging from the ceiling. The Man, still trembling and in shock, checks for any signs of life. It appears to be empty.

He manages to find a landline phone and dials 911. His voice is shaky as he recounts the terrifying encounter with the biker gang and the explosion at the gas station. The dispatcher assures him that help is on the way.

EXT. DESERT - ABANDONED SHACK - CONTINUOUS

The Man exits the shack, glancing back at the distant smoke rising from the destroyed gas station. He can hear sirens approaching in the distance.

As the wailing sirens grow closer, the Man reflects on the day's events. He knows that he's witnessed something both horrifying and inexplicable. Who were those bikers, and why did they go to such lengths? He shudders, realizing that his life will never be the same.

FADE OUT.