

Stop and Frisk

by

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FADE IN.

INT. BODEGA - DAY

Business is slow. BODEGA STORE WORKER is hard at work, ringing up the items a CUSTOMER just placed on the counter.

BODEGA WORKER

\$4.63.

Customer PROTESTS.

CUSTOMER

\$4.63?!

BODEGA WORKER

That's right.

CUSTOMER

\$4.63 for a pack of donuts and a 20 oz. soda? That can't be right. How much is the soda?

BODEGA WORKER

\$2.50.

CUSTOMER

What?! A week ago it was just \$1.50. I came in here for a soda a week ago, and it wasn't no \$2.50!

The entrance door to the bodega swings open, and a MOB of TEENAGERS fresh out of school storm in to ransack the place. They SCRAMBLE to stuff as much junk they can grab off the shelves and stuff them down their pockets and backpacks.

BODEGA WORKER

Hey, get the hell out of my store, you little bastards!

Bodega worker comes out from behind the counter and TRIPS over the shelves the kids collectively toppled over.

PUNK KID

We out, Ya'll!

The little high school thieves FILE out of the store with arms CLUTCHING goodies to their chests.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BODEGA - CONTINUOUS

With smiles on their stupid young faces, the kids run off with their stolen goods in different directions.

INT. BODEGA - CONTINUOUS

The customer who was just complaining to the bodega worker about being overpriced for his items LIFTS the shelf off the bodega worker and helps him to his feet.

CUSTOMER

Look, man, I don't appreciate the price gauging going on in your store, but what those kids did to your store wasn't right. I'm sorry about what just happened. You'll get through this.

The customer exits the store, leaving the bodega owner alone to lick his wounds.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

JULIO'S MOTHER, is watching dishes when the land line phone starts to ring. She rinses her hand from soap and dries her hand before answering the phone.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Hello?

Julio's mother waits for a response and gets a RECORDED MESSAGE.

RECORDED MESSAGE

This is your local CVS pharmacy calling to let you know that your prescription medication is now ready for pick-up.

Julio's mother hangs up.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JULIO, seated at the dinner table, trying to watch a webinar on his laptop, but gets distracted by a news story about STOP and FRISK on television.

Julio's mother enters and interrupts.

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JULIO'S MOTHER

Julio, that was the pharmacy on the phone. My medication is ready for pick up.

Julio can't take his eyes off the set but acknowledges his mother.

JULIO

Yeah, ok, Ma, I'll go in a minute. I just want to hear this.

JULIO'S MOTHER

What are they talking about?

JULIO

They're talking about whether or not the Stop and Frisk policy should be reinstated.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Are they going to reinstate stop & frisk?

JULIO

I don't know. Nothing's been decided yet.

JULIO'S MOTHER

I hope they do. All these knuckleheads have proven ever since they abolished the Stop & Frisk policy under Michael Bloomberg is that they need policies like a Stop & Frisk to keep them in line. They haven't learned a damn thing.

JULIO

Well, let me know what they've decided on. I'm going to the pharmacy.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Okay, baby. Be careful.

With the help of the street lights posted outside of his apartment building, Julio looks out the window for any rats that may be out and about and sees none.

JULIO

I'll be right back.

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CONTINUED: (2)

Julio makes his way towards the front door and stops to ask his mother one last thing before he leaves.

JULIO

Oh, are those batteries in pantry  
any good?

Julio's mother answers but doesn't take her eyes off the screen.

JULIO'S MOTHER

No, they're dead.

JULIO

I can dump them in the incinerator  
for you on my way out the  
building.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Fine by me.

Julio makes his way to the kitchen.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Julio goes into the pantry and stuffs SEVEN dead DOUBLE A batteries in his pants pocket just in case.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Julio is walking down the block, minding his own business when a PATROL CAR pulls up to the curb beside him. OFFICER DUGAN and OFFICER GRANT step out of their vehicle and order Julio to stay where he is.

OFFICER DUGAN

HOLD IT! Don't you move!

Julio is startled but does what the officer says.

JULIO

I'm not moving. What's going on?!

OFFICER DUGAN

We'll ask the questions, alright?

JULIO

Yeah, alright.

OFFICER DUGAN

What's your name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIO

Julio.

OFFICER GRANT stands by and observes.

OFFICER DUGAN

Julio what?

JULIO

Julio Ruiz.

OFFICER DUGAN

And where are you coming from, Julio?

JULIO

My house. I'm on my way to the pharmacy to pick up my mom's medication.

OFFICER DUGAN

My name is Officer Dugan. This is my partner, Officer Grant. You know anything about the corner store that was ransacked early today? You fit the description of one of the kids at the scene, and that's why we stopped you.

JULIO

Well, I don't know anything about that.

OFFICER GRANT

Where were you at 2:40 PM?

JULIO

(annoyed)

Not in any store.

OFFICER DUGAN

I'm just going to pat you down. Come over to the car and empty your pockets.

Julio obeys Officer Dugan and walks over to the patrol car.

OFFICER DUGAN

Just empty out your pockets and put everything on the hood of my car.

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CONTINUED: (2)

Julio is slow to place the contents in his pockets on the hood of the patrol car, making Officer Dugan nervous.

OFFICER DUGAN

What's the problem? What do you have there, a gun, marijuana?

JULIO

No, no gun. It's just kind of embarrassing...

Julio places his cell phone, the money his mother gave him to pay for the medication, and seven double A batteries on the hood of the patrol car.

OFFICER GRANT

What's with the batteries?

JULIO

It's okay, Officer, they're all dead.

OFFICER DUGAN

Who walks around with a bunch of dead batteries in their pocket?

Julio looks over Officer Dugan's shoulder and sees a RAT the size of a house cat scurrying across the street and down a storm drain.

JULIO

Look at that big ass rat! What else am I supposed to pelt them with?

Officer Dugan asks Julio to clarify his statement.

OFFICER DUGAN

That's what the batteries are for, to throw them at the rats when you see them?

JULIO

Hell yeah. You can see they're running rampant.

Officer Dugan and Officer Grant crack up laughing. Then they both look over their shoulders and see MORE RATS emerging from the storm drain.

OFFICER DUGAN

Oh shit!

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CONTINUED: (3)

Officer Dugan takes the batteries he just confiscated from Julio and tries to hit the rats.

JULIO

Let me help.

Julio takes a battery and joins Officer Dugan and his partner in trying to PELT the rats to death.

OFFICER DUGAN

I'm out!

JULIO

I'm out, too.

Julio, and the two officer's can only watch as the rats manage to escape back down the storm drain.

OFFICER DUGAN

(panting)

Let's keep this between us, okay, Julio?

JULIO

Your secret's safe with me, officer.

OFFICER DUGAN

I'm serious. Not one word about this to anyone, okay?

JULIO

Hey, do you think I want my friends knowing that I walk around with dead batteries in my pocket for rat pelting?

OFFICER DUGAN

No, I suppose not. Okay, just take your phone, your money, and get out of here.

Officer Dugan cuts Julio loose but not before giving him his business card.

OFFICER DUGAN

Before you go, here's my card.

Julio takes officer Dugan's card but doesn't look at it.

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CONTINUED: (4)

OFFICER DUGAN

If you ever need anything, give me  
a call. I'll do what I can to help  
out.

Officer Dugan and Officer Grant get back in the patrol  
car and pull away from the curb. Julio stands there and  
watches as the patrol car drives down the street. Julio  
pockets Officer Dugan's card and waits until the patrol  
car is no longer in view before getting on his phone to  
dial up his friend, MIGUEL.

MIGUEL (V.O.)

Hello?

JULIO

Miguel, it's me, Julio. Listen, I  
was sworn to secrecy, but you're  
never going to believe what just  
happened...

FADE OUT.