

SMASH UP

by

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INT. MAZDA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - RAINY DAY - 4PM ISH

MAZDA sits behind a desk in a corner. CHITO has the run of the living room as he postures.

MAZDA  
What is it with you?

CHITO  
Fine, sweet lips.

MAZDA  
You're coming up short.

CHITO  
It's hard out there.

MAZDA  
It's harder in here. You know who I have to deal with... (Mazda eyes him) If you don't start coming around a bit more often and with more meat on the bone, it's gonna come down hard on both of us. Got it?

CHITO  
I know the rules.

MAZDA  
I wonder.

CHITO  
Trying to live simply.

MAZDA  
Ain't nothing simple sunshine.

CHITO  
I'm serious. I know I can't fly straight but I'm trying to at least get from point a to point b. Nothing I do seems to be working out.

MAZDA  
Look, if you make your due on time and make it to the end, you are free to go. No one will care what you do from there.

CHITO  
Can't you talk to him?

MAZDA  
And say what?

CHITO  
Talk to him...

Chito and Mazda share an eye stare.

MAZDA  
A deal's a deal, you know that.

CHITO  
I don't think I can get through.

MAZDA  
You best not be thinking what I  
think you're thinking cause if  
you're thinking that than you best  
stop thinking it.

CHITO  
I can think whatever I want. Ain't  
no harm in that.

MAZDA  
No harm till you get yourself  
smashed up.

CHITO  
I'm already smashed up. My whole  
damn life is one great smash up.

MAZDA  
You know I hate you but I like ya.  
The only reason you're still here.

CHITO  
Well, I appreciate it. Don't think  
I don't.

MAZDA  
Then when you come here, come  
prepared.

CHITO  
But if I don't bring something on  
a regular basis I'm screwed. I  
rather bring something than  
nothing. Hell, you even told me  
that.

MAZDA  
That's if you're jammed up. Tired  
of making up excuses for you.

(MORE)

MAZDA (CONT'D)

I can't keep covering you. You will go long before me, just know that.

CHITO

I know for chrissakes. I don't need more threats. I have enough of them already.

MAZDA

I don't give a care what else you got running around loose in your life, if you still want to be here you best do right.

CHITO

I don't want to be here, that's my issue.

MAZDA

Lay claim to it elsewhere, I ain't your therapist. What's wrong with you men lately? All going around feeling sorry for yourselves. Ain't one day where I don't catch one of you moping around tearing up in a corner like a lonesome harry. When I was growing up my Daddy was tough as nails. He'd give anyone a whippin' drop of a hat and not think twice about it. Men today are all hesitation. You're all hesitating and walking on your tippy toes. Society needs more lions, fierce angry predators. We're living in soft times where talk is talk and action never comes of it.

CHITO

I sure as hell ain't never shed no tear in front of you that's for sure.

MAZDA

But you're always complaining and lethargic like an old couch, just brrrrrrruuhhhh each time I see you.

Chito starts clapping his hands together and then looks at his palms.

CHITO  
Still gettin' flies in this place.

MAZDA  
I like when I hear them buzzing.  
Breaks up my day and doesn't make  
me feel as alone.

CHITO  
I have things lined up. I'm not  
out there moaning all day feeling  
sorry for myself like you imagine.

MAZDA  
Not just you, most all fellas who  
come up here.

CHITO  
Yeah, well, I ain't one of them  
saps a shit you talking about. I  
have plans. A few plans. I have a  
few different things all going on  
at once cause I'm a diversifier.

MAZDA  
A who?

CHITO  
I'm somebody who multitasks.

MAZDA  
Chito you can barely talk let  
alone walk.

CHITO  
Well you ain't know school  
teacher.

MAZDA  
I'm in the school of life sonny,  
that's all the schooling I need.

CHITO  
Make sure you take me out of the  
wolf pack. I'm a lone wolf. Make  
my own way. Once a few of my  
MANeuvers (says the word man to be  
sarcastic) works out, I'll be  
walking high and way gone.

MAZDA  
Where you going to?

CHITO  
In a land far far away...

MAZDA  
Good luck.

CHITO  
You'll see.

MAZDA  
I'm sure I will.

CHITO  
Don't mock me!

MAZDA  
I ain't mocking you, darling.

CHITO  
I want you to believe me.

MAZDA  
I do.

CHITO  
I don't know if I believe you.

MAZDA  
Who cares what I think?

CHITO  
I don't like anybody not believing something when I say it. If I say I'm a do something, then I'm a do something.

Pause.

A life of bad luck and poor timing...always looking for one leg up and then I be alright. Just one inch man. That's all a brother ever needs...one single inch.

MAZDA  
Hey, can I ask you something stupid?

CHITO  
Why, certainly.

MAZDA  
What in the world ever happen to that gum business you had? Didn't you have some sort of gum ball business?

CHITO  
It was a gum ball machine.

MAZDA

What's that?

CHITO

You know when you put change in the machine and out comes a gum ball that you can chew.

MAZDA

Where'd that go?

CHITO

No where. A local boy got caught up with it. He lived down near Bennie's Deli and would buy up loads of gum balls cause he was into some sort of sculpture making thing, I don't know, he was on the news---

MAZDA

Oh! Robbie! I remember that boy.

CHITO

Yeah, he was using my gum balls to make gum sculptures he called it.

MAZDA

Oh my, oh my!

CHITO

Yeah. That was the boy who died. They found him dead...choked out on my gum...things closed down after that.

MAZDA

I ain't never put two and two together. I never would have asked...I heard you was in business is the only reason I asked but I didn't know.

CHITO

I had other businesses but none worth bragging about. Things was good for a minute there, especially after being on the news. I was being branded for free! But things ended abruptly soon after that.

MAZDA

You ain't never done nothing else since?

CHITO

I have. You have to. Nothings ever perked up since, really.

MAZDA

I get you.

CHITO

Yeah...I'm only hoping something comes around to set me out of my own skin and into the world again. Anyway, I better quit while Im ahead seeing as you gonna label me and all.

MAZDA

No, you ain't like them other boys. I didn't mean what I say.

CHITO

Truth is, I am. But maybe one day I won't be anymore. That's what I'm hoping for.

MAZDA

It will happen. Can't lose hope. We're all wanting something to happen. What do we got without thinking better?

CHITO

Right. (beat) I'll try to be back here next week as discussed.

MAZDA

Alright...well, listen, if you need more time in between, like, maybe you can come once every two weeks consistently, instead of once a week sporadically...would that help?

Chito stares at Mazda.

CHITO

...Give my regards.

MAZDA

...Will do.

Chito exits.