

# The Last Cigarette

by Marco Devetak

INT. A PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S OFFICE

We can see a hand holding a burning cigarette.

MAN (v.o.)

In my job every cigarette might be the last cigarette.

A man sits behind a desk in an office. We can see the back of the chair, the man's head leading on one side and his left hand holding a burning cigarette that sticks from the left side of the chair.

MAN (v.o.)

People kept telling me that smoking would have killed me.

We can see a gun that pointed toward the man's head.

MAN (v.o.)

Well, it didn't.

A gun SHOT.

MAN (v.o.)

On cigarette 883 I was dead.

Title: The Last Cigarette

INT. PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S OFFICE

The Man fires a cigarette.

MAN (v.o.)

I am a private detective...well I was.

He sits behind a desk and starts to play with cards.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

On my 882 cigarette I was thinking. I was thinking and I was playing cards. What I didn't know was that I was playing with death.

I wish I had a good hand.

Let's have a look at what I had instead.

Fade Out

Title: The King of Clubs

Fade In

The detective turns a card and we can see it is the King of Clubs.

INT. BOSS' ENTERTAINMENT ROOM

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

The King of Clubs. He was 'il capo di tutti I capi'. The boss of bosses. He was running the business in the city. Illegally. He owned the city. I met him on my 876 cigarette. He hired me because he wanted me to keep an eye on his girl. She was supposed to make an exchange of diamonds with a well known thief. I was supposed to secretly follow her, make sure that the exchange was done without problems and that the girl returned safe to the boss. Easy job, well paid. I accepted the job and I left.

The Boss passes to the detective a bag with money and a photograph. The detective takes the bag and puts the photograph inside his coat. Then he puts out the cigarette in an ashtray and shakes the hand with the boss. Then he leaves. The detective exits from the entertainment boss's room. And fires another cigarette and smiles.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

On cigarette 877 I had a new plan in mind.

Fade out

Title: The Queen of Hearts

Fade In

INT. DETECTIVE'S OFFICE

He sits behind the desk and play cards. He turns another card, we can see it is the Queen of hearts.

INT. OLD BAR

The detective sits on a chair close to the pub counter. On the table there is a glass with some liquor inside and ice.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

I met her for the first time in the old bar.

The doors of the pub opens. We can see the feet wearing shoes with high heels that walk inside the pub and goes toward the pub counter. The detective looks at her.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

I wasn't expecting her to show up in a place like this. I thought 'Luckily she does not know who I am'.

The girl turns toward the detective.

THE GIRL

You are the detective, aren't you?

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

How did she know? She kept smiling and looking at me. God she was beautiful. But I knew the rule. You don't fool around with your boss's girl.

Fade out

Fade In

INT. BEDROOM

The detective fires another cigarette while he is laying on a bed.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

On cigarette 879 I broke the rules.

We can see that he is laying in a bed with the girl.

INT. OLD BAR

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

On cigarette 880 I was taking her out for a drink. She told me everything about the boss. She had a plan. She wanted to betrayed him take the diamonds and leave the city with me. That sounded good for me. I had a new plan.

Fade Out

Title: The Jack of Spade

Fade In

INT. PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S OFFICE

He sits behind the desk. He turns another card. We can see it is the Jack of Spade.

INT. OLD BAR

The detective sits in front of a guy. They talk, smoke, drink and play cards.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

I smoked my cigarette number one with him. He was my best friend. He had a dirty job and we both didn't believe in justice. We were the same.

On cigarette 881 I was telling him about the boss's job and about the girl.

Fade Out

Fade In

INT. PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S OFFICE

He sits behind the desk and look at the three cards on the table (King, Queen and Jack).

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)  
Now let's talk about the game.

Fade Out

Fade In

EXT. CITY STREET – AFTERNOON

We can see the girl's feet in shoes with high heels walking on the street.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

The plan was simple. She had a bag with the boss's money. Inside the bar she would see a man with a similar bag with the diamonds inside. They would sit close to each other and before they were about to leave, they would have exchanged the bags. We agreed she would make the exchange and then the following day we would leave the city with the diamonds and the money.

The girl, carrying a bag, enters in the old pub and sits close to another man. This man has a similar bag. The girl puts her bag close the man's bag. After a few moments the man stands up, takes the girl's bag and goes away. Then he exits from the old bar.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE OLD BAR - AFTERNOON

We can see now that the man that sat near the girl is actually the Jack, the detective's best friend.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

It couldn't be easier. Unfortunately for her, as I said, I had a new plan.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

My best friend knew the diamond thief and offered himself for the exchange. So he would have taken the bag with the money and left the bag with the diamonds for the girl. Obviously the diamonds in my best friend's bag were fake. He would have left the bar with the money and the original diamonds and then he was supposed to meet me at my office.

Fade Out

Title: The Ace of Diamonds

Fade In

INT. PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S OFFICE

The detective sits behind the desk. On the table there are the three cards. He turns a card and we can see it is an Ace of Diamonds.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

On cigarette 882 I was thinking. I was thinking and I was playing cards.  
Another cigarette and I would be dead. I was the betrayer but I ended up being betrayed.  
I was the Ace. The highest or the lowest card in every game.  
In this game I was the lowest.

The detective put out the cigarette in the ashtray. He turns with his chair and then, after a few moment he fires another cigarette and starts to smoke.

PRIVATE DETECTIVE (v.o.)

You don't fool around with the boss's girl. I shouldn't have broken the rules. While I was waiting for my best friend that I was pretty sure that a hit man was on his way to my office with the order to kill me. You don't fool around with the boss's girl.

On cigarette 883 I was dead.

We can see a gun that points to the detective's head. A gun shot. The cigarette falls from the detective's hand to the floor. A shoes with a high heel steps on it in order to put it out. And then leaves.

FADE OUT

Credits

