

CARDS

Written by

Daniel Taylor

&

Cleave Redford-Lane

INT. PUB - NIGHT

TOM. KARLA and LUCIUS sit around a table at the back of the pub drinking.

KARLA smiles and looks around.

TOM

Good atmosphere here

LUCIUS

Leave it out Tom. I know you didn't bring us here for the *atmosphere*. So cut the small talk and get to the meat and gravy!

KARLA

Aw come on Lucius. We know you missed us. Doesn't hurt to show some feelings every once in a while.

TOM

You're like family to us, Lucius. We don't just think of you as a pawn. We're in this together... Unfortunately.

LUCIUS

I know that Tom. But then you two aren't at death's door are ya? I'm not wasting what precious time I have left with small talk.

KARLA

You're in remission Lucius. If the cancer doesn't come back--

LUCIUS

-- Doesn't matter Karla! What does the law mean to a dead person? I'm not going back... Hell, I've got nothing to go back for. If I'm a dead man anyway then I'm going out on my feet, not laying on my back in a fucking hospital!

TOM

I'll drink to that!

KARLA

Me too.

They CLINK GLASSES and drink up.

TOM
This ain't the place to discuss
business, let's go.

LUCIUS
Oh you're playing my song now, Tom.

They chuckle at this.

CLOSE ON: They all put their glasses down on the table.

INT. A ROOM SOMEWHERE - NIGHT

TOM slams a file down on the table.

TOM
Right. Our new client has given us
a target. Darius Kray. Cold hearted
bastard. Got to the top, but had to
stomp on a lot of people to get
there. Put many, many good people
out of jobs.

LUCIUS
Says here that he loves to play
poker.

TOM
I was just getting to that part!
Always fast-forwarding. Time hasn't
got you yet old man.

KARLA
No wonder, you finished game of
thrones that fast. This guy looks
like a lemon.

TOM
Don't let appearances fool you,
this lemon's sweeter than most.

KARLA
Lemon's ain't sweet?

TOM huffs at this comment. Takes a beat and:

TOM
Runs his company like Stalin and he
owns most of the city. Anyone's bet
as to how far his power reaches and
how many people he's got in his
pocket. So we've gotta play this
one safe.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

He may have more cash than he needs
but he's counts every penny --
can't just bust into his house and
take his money.

LUCIUS

He holds private poker games every
week. I say we get into one, find
some proper rich idiots to join in
and snatch his money from right
under his nose.

TOM

Great minds think alike. Karla d'yu
reckon you can procure some of your
dear old mum and dad's cash to
stake us?

KARLA

Using one rich asshole's money to
take away another rich asshole's
money?

(A giant grin)

Count me in. I can hack their
account no problem, but if we're
gunna pull this off we'll need a
few useful idiots to keep our cover

TOM

Alright then, let's scout.

LUCIUS picks up a newspaper.

EXT. STREET - DAY

TOM follows a businessman down the street. He goes into a
cafe.

INT. CAFE - DAY

TOM approaches a businessman. He talks to a businessman and
starts to look bored then leaves.

EXT. PARK - DAY

TOM sits next to a businessman on a bench and talks to him.
They shake hands and nod heads.

INT. ROOM - NIGHT

KARLA is playing candy crush while waiting

KARLA
So how did you boys do?

TOM
I think I got one.

LUCIUS
Think?

KARLA
I got three guys.

TOM LUCIUS
Three?! Three?!

TOM
How?

KARLA puts a lollipop in her mouth and smiles.

TOM (CONT'D)
You didn't?

KARLA
COURSE NOT!

Karla points at a news story article on her phone which reads: *'drunken playboy billionaire burn down house'*.

EXT. DARIUS' HOUSE - DAY

LUCIUS wipes the window of DARIUS' house outside of his office and listens into his phone conversation.

DARIUS
(Into phone)
Prepare my private room for this evening. We're gonna have some interesting players tonight.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. ROOM - DAY

KARLA puts on stiletto shoes. TOM does up his cuffs. LUCIUS does up his tie.

EXT. CASINO - NIGHT

TOM, KARLA and LUCIUS walk up to the casino. TOM examines his suit.

TOM
(Feeling the suit)
This feels expensive... Armani?

KARLA
Brinni.

TOM
Who the fuck is Brinni?

KARLA
If you don't know them, you're too poor to ask the question mate.

TOM
(Examining the dress)
How the other half lives.

LUCIUS
Stay focussed for God sake.

INT. CASINO - NIGHT

TOM, KARLA and LUCIUS Get patted down by security guards as they walk in. They sit down at the poker table separate to each other.

DARIUS walks around the corner. We start on his shoes then PAN UP for dramatic reveal of his face.

TOM, KARLA and LUCIUS react to their target as he walks to the table and sits down.

A SERIES OF SHOTS:

The DEALER deals cards to all the players.

REVEAL the hands of different players.

Different player's perspectives of the game from around the table.

LUCIUS (V.O.)

Stay in the game but don't make them feel like you have the upper hand... Let them feel confident, drop a few hands... then go in for the kill and take the lot. Remember DARIUS knows what he's doing. If he thinks he's being played he'll sniff it out in a heartbeat. So use the other players as buffers.

One of the players starts to get the upper hand. This player has replaced one of KARLA'S chosen idiots.

The chips begin to shift away from TOM, KARLA and LUCIUS.

KARLA (V.O.)

Shit! Who is this guy? He's playing all of us!

This PLAYER'S pile of chips gets higher and higher.

The players around him seem to keep folding over and over. This guy is winning everything. Even KARLA and LUCIUS can't get away from it.

Only TOM, the PLAYER and DARIUS remain in the game.