

Reefer Madness

Bill looks nervously at the make-out scene on the couch. He offers an ordinary tobacco cigarette to Blanche, seated next to him.

BLANCHE (uninterested)

No thank you. Bill lights the tobacco cigarette. Mae enters into living room with tray of ready-rolled reefers.

MAE

Well, here they are.

BLANCHE (perks)

Oh, thanks!

Blanche enthusiastically reaches for a reefer across Bill's bewildered face.

RALPH (seated across the room)

Oh Mae, don't forget me!

MAE (sourly)

I never forget you.

Mae hands Ralph a reefer. Bill puffs on an ordinary tobacco cigarette.

BLANCHE (taking Bill's cigarette, handing him a reefer)

Oh dear, if you want a good smoke, try one of these!

Agnes puffs on her reefer, and smiles as if greatly enjoying it.

BLANCHE (to Bill, who isn't smoking a reefer)

I thought you were a sport! (strikes a match, lights her reefer) Of course, if you're afraid...

Bill warily eyes the marihuana cigarette, and - as if to prove he isn't afraid - puts it in his mouth.

BLANCHE (happily)

That's better! That's more like it! (lights Bill's reefer)

I know you'll like it, really you will. Just take a puff of it.

Bill takes a puff as Ralph laughs maniacally, reefer in hand.

12. EXT. - IN FRONT OF BOSS'S OFFICE - DAY

Boss's office is on a city street. Mary's car - a convertible with the top down - driven by Jimmy pulls up, and Jack gets out.

JACK

Just be a minute, kid.

JIMMY (anxiously)

Hey Jack, give me a cigarette before you go, will you?

Jack warily gives him a reefer. Jimmy lights up while Jack enters the boss's office.

13. INT. - INSIDE BOSS'S OFFICE - DAY

Boss is totaling something on a large and noisy hand-cranked adding machine.

Hello Jack.

BOSS

Hi Boss.

JACK

How's business?

BOSS

Getting better every day. Those kids sure go for it.

JACK

Swell.

BOSS

Had to run over for couple more cartons. Ran short today.

JACK (counts money)

Uh huh.

BOSS

Jack places some money on Boss's desk.

Johnny - that's ten gross for Jack Perry. Who? Pete Daley? All right, send him in. (to Jack) It's all right, stay where you are.

BOSS (on the intercom)

Jack opens door for Pete, who enters.

I want to talk to you.

PETE (to Boss)

All right, go ahead. Jack's OK. What's the beef?

BOSS (nods)

Listen, you never heard no beef when I had to sell that rotten gin.

PETE

You're after the dough aren't ya?

BOSS (putting away the money)

Yeah, well I don't need dough that bad. (disgusted) Taking two-bit pieces from kids!

PETE

There are millions of two-bit pieces just beggin' to be taken. Don't be a dope.

BOSS

I'm just DOPE enough to draw the line selling hop to kids!

PETE

All right, Pete. You know what my policy has always been. If you boys are not satisfied, I'm always glad to have 'em retire... Retire, "permanently". So long.

BOSS (in mock-conciliation)

Pete slowly leaves, but at the door, turns to Boss.

I only wish you had a couple of kids, so I could--

PETE

BOSS

Get out! (to Jack) All right Jack, pick up your stuff and get out of here, it ought to be ready by now.

JACK

Ok, Boss.

Boss resumes cranking his adding machine as Jack leaves.

14. EXT. - IN FRONT OF BOSS'S OFFICE - DAY

Jimmy, in the driver's seat, starts the car as Jack approaches. Jimmy drunkenly tosses his lit marihuana cigarette butt to the street.

JIMMY (exhaling reefer smoke, slurring words)

Let's go Jack, I'm red hot!

JACK

Better be careful how you drive, or the first thing you know, you'll be ice cold. Jimmy appears to pooh pooh the idea. The car starts back to Mae's apartment, speeding through a 1930's Los Angeles.

JACK

Take it easy, kid!

JACK

Slow down - you'll kill somebody!

Jimmy speeds on, running through a stop signal, striking down an upright citizen of the town. Jimmy doesn't slow down or stop for the elderly man who is left lying in the street. Concerned onlookers gather around the critically injured man, as the hit-and-run drivers keep going.

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