

HEAT

At a table. Headlights stream by to and from the airport: business people, families going on vacations, people living normal lives who have never used guns to kill people, never experienced physical violence, some who have never been stolen from and never steal. Surrounded on all sides by this flow of normalcy:

HANNA

Seven years in San Quentin. In the hole for three. McNeil before that.

NEIL

Yeah.

HANNA

Was McNeil as tough as they say?

NEIL

You looking to become a penologist?

HANNA

You looking to go back? I chased some crews, the guys were lookin' to fuck up and get busted back.

NEIL

You must have worked some dipshit crews.

HANNA

I worked all kinds.

NEIL

(pause)

You see me doing thrill-seeker liquor store holdups with a "Born to Lose" tattoo on my chest?

HANNA

No, I do not.

NEIL

Right. And I... I am never going back.

The adversarial intensity is eye-to-eye.

HANNA

Then don't take down scores.

NEIL

I do what I do best. I take scores. You do what you do best trying to stop guys like me.
(shrugs)

HANNA

You never wanted a normal-type life?

NEIL

What the fuck is that? Barbecues and ballgames?

HANNA

That's part of it.

NEIL

That's nice. That your life?

HANNA

No. My wife spends half her time on the couch. My stepdaughter's got problems 'cause her real father's a world class asshole. And every moment I got, I'm chasing guys like you.

NEIL

A man told me once: you want to make moves? Don't keep anything in your life you're not willing to walk out on in 30 seconds flat if you feel the heat around the corner.
(pause)

So if you're chasing me and you
gotta move when I move, how do
you expect to keep a family?

HANNA

What are you, a monk?

NEIL

No.

(pause)

I got a woman.

HANNA

What do you tell her?

NEIL

She thinks I sell swimming pools.

HANNA

And if you spot me around the
corner. You gonna walk out on
her? Leave her flat? Like that?
Not even say goodbye?

NEIL

That's the discipline.

HANNA

What you're left with is pretty
empty.

NEIL

Yeah?

(beat)

Then maybe you and me, we should
both go do somethin' else, pal.

HANNA

I don't know how to do anything
else.

NEIL

(the shared confession)

...neither do I.

HANNA

And I don't much want to.

NEIL

Neither do I.

Both of these guys look at each other and recognize the mutuality of their condition. Hanna's light laughter:

HANNA

We're sitting here like a coupla regular fellas. You do what you do. I do what I gotta do. What happens if I am there and I got to put you away?

(pause)

I won't like it. But, if it's between you and some poor bastard whose wife you're going to make into a widow, brother, you are gonna go down. 'Cause you don't have to be there. You coulda gone and been a... a mailman.

NEIL

There's a flip side to that coin. What if you got me boxed in and I gotta put you down?

(beat)

'Cause no matter what, you will not get in my way.

(beat)

But now that we been face to face, I would not feel good about that. But I won't hesitate.

Not for one second.

HANNA

(smiles)
Maybe it'll happen that way. Or
who knows ...

NEIL

...maybe we'll never see each
other again.

They look at each other for a moment. Neil's wry smile.

HANNA

(to waitress)
Can we have the bill.