

Stop and Frisk

by

Roberto Negrón

860 Columbus Avenue #2G
New York, NY 10025
347-963-0249
nailbiter94@gmail.com

FADE IN.

INT. BODEGA - DAY

Business is slow. BODEGA STORE WORKER is hard at work, ringing up the items a CUSTOMER just placed on the counter.

BODEGA WORKER
\$4.25.

Customer PROTESTS.

CUSTOMER
\$4.25?!

BODEGA WORKER
That's right.

CUSTOMER
\$4.63 for a pack of donuts and a
20 oz soda? That can't be right.
How much is the soda?

BODEGA WORKER
\$2.50.

CUSTOMER
What?! A week ago it was just
\$1.50. I came in here for a soda
a week ago, and it wasn't no
\$2.50!

The entrance door to the bodega swings open, and a mob of teenagers fresh out of school storm in to ransack the place. They SCRAMBLE to stuff as much junk they can grab off the shelves and stuff them down their pockets and backpacks.

BODEGA WORKER
Hey, get the hell out of my store,
you little bastards!

Bodega worker comes out from behind the counter and TRIPS over the shelves the kids collectively toppled over.

PUNK KID
We out, Ya'll!

The little high school thieves file out of the store with arms clutching goodies to their chests.

EXT. OUTSIDE THE BODEGA - CONTINUOUS

With smiles on their stupid young faces, the kids run off with their stolen goods in different directions.

INT. BODEGA - CONTINUOUS

The customer who was just complaining to the bodega worker about being overpriced for his items lifts the shelf off the bodega worker and helps him to his feet.

CUSTOMER

Look, man, I don't appreciate the price gauging going on in your store, but what those kids did to your store wasn't right. I'm sorry about what just happened. You'll get through this.

The customer exits the store, leaving the bodega owner alone to lick his wounds.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

JULIO'S MOTHER, is watching dishes when the land line phone starts to ring. She rinses her hand from soap and dries her hand before answering the phone.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Hello?

Julio's mother waits for a response and gets a RECORDED MESSAGE.

RECORDED MESSAGE

This is your local CVS pharmacy calling to let you know that your prescription medication is now ready for pick-up.

Julio's mother hangs up.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

JULIO, seated at the dinner table, trying to watch a webinar on his laptop, but gets distracted by a news story about stop and frisk on television.

Julio's mother enters and interrupts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIO'S MOTHER

Julio, that was the pharmacy on the phone. My medication is ready for pick up.

Julio can't take his eyes off the set but acknowledges his mother.

JULIO

Yeah, OK, Ma, I'll go in a minute. I just want to hear this.

JULIO'S MOTHER

What are they talking about?

JULIO

They're talking about whether or not the Stop and Frisk policy should be reinstated.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Are they going to reinstate stop & frisk?

JULIO

I don't know. Nothing's been decided yet.

JULIO'S MOTHER

I hope they do. All these knuckleheads have proven ever since they abolished the Stop & Frisk policy under Michael Bloomberg is that they need policies like a Stop & Frisk to keep them in line. They haven't learned a damn thing.

JULIO

Well, let me know what they've decided on. I'm going to the pharmacy.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Okay, baby. Be careful.

Julio looks out the window to see how dark it is outside.

JULIO

I'll be right back.

Julio makes his way towards the front door and stops to ask his mother one last thing before he leaves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JULIO

Oh, are those batteries in pantry
any good?

Julio's mother answers but doesn't take her eyes off the
screen.

JULIO'S MOTHER

No, they're dead.

JULIO

I can dump them in the incinerator
for you on my way out the
building.

JULIO'S MOTHER

Fine by me.

Julio makes his way to the kitchen.

INT. JULIO'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Julio goes into the pantry and stuffs SEVEN dead double A
batteries that he gets out of the pantry in his pants
pocket.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Julio is just walking down the block, minding his own
business like he always does when a squad car pulls up to
the curb beside him. Two officers step out of their
patrol car and order Julio to stay where he is.

POLICE OFFICER

HOLD IT! Don't you move!

Julio is startled but does what the officer says.

JULIO

I'm not moving. What's going on?!

POLICE OFFICER

We'll ask the questions, alright?

JULIO

Yeah, alright.

POLICE OFFICER

What's your name?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIO

Julio.

The OFFICER'S PARTNER stands by and observes.

POLICE OFFICER

Julio what?

JULIO

Julio Ruiz.

POLICE OFFICER

And where are you coming from,
Julio?

JULIO

My house. I'm on my way to the
pharmacy to pick up my mom's
medication.

POLICE OFFICER

You know anything about the bodega
that was robbed early today? You
fit the description of one of the
kids that was at the scene, and
that's why we stopped you.

JULIO

Well, I don't know anything about
that.

POLICE OFFICER

I'm just going to pat you down.
Come over to the car and empty
your pockets.

Julio obeys the officer and walks over the patrol car.

POLICE OFFICER

Just empty out your pockets and
put everything on the hood of my
car.

Julio is slow to place the contents in his pockets on the
hood of the patrol car, making the officer nervous.

POLICE OFFICER

What's the problem? What do you
have there, a gun, marijuana?

JULIO

No, no gun. It's just kind of
embarrassing...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Julio places the money his mother gave him to pay for the medication and seven double A batteries on the hood of the patrol car.

POLICE OFFICER
What's with the batteries?

JULIO
It's okay, Officer, they're all dead.

POLICE OFFICER
Who walks around with a bunch of dead batteries in their pocket?

Julio looks over the officer's shoulder and sees a huge RAT scurrying across the street and down a storm drain.

JULIO
Look at that big ass rat! What else am I supposed to pelt them with?

The Police Officer asks Julio to clarify his statement.

POLICE OFFICER
That's what the batteries are for, to throw them at the rats when you see them?

JULIO
Hell yeah. You can see they're running rampant.

Both the police officer and his partner crack up laughing. Then they both look over their shoulders and see more giant rats emerging from the storm drain.

POLICE OFFICER
Oh shit!

The officer takes the batteries he just confiscated from Julio and tries to hit the rats.

JULIO
Let me help.

Julio takes a battery and joins the officer and his partner in trying to pelt the rats to death.

POLICE OFFICER
I'm out!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JULIO

I'm out, too.

Julio, and the two officer's can only watch as the rats manage to escape back down the storm drain.

POLICE OFFICER

You're alright, Julio. You're free to go. I can tell you're one of the good ones. We were just doing our job, making sure.

Police officer cuts Julio loose but not before giving him his business card.

POLICE OFFICER

Before you go, here's my card.

Julio takes the officer's card but doesn't look at it.

POLICE OFFICER

If you ever need anything, give me a call. I'll do what I can to help out.

The police officer gets back in the patrol car with his partner and pull away from the curb. Julio stands there and watches as the patrol car drives down the street. Julio stops himself from tearing the police officer's card in half and pockets the card before continuing on his errand.

FADE OUT.