

**SQUANDER**

**Edwin Alvarez**

FADE IN:

INT. IN A VAN. MORNING

Looking out from the front seat to the back windows parked across the street from Tompkin SQ.

Someone is moving underneath a pile of clothes next to stacks of empty pizza cardboard boxes. The clothes are overturned. A head peers out and is shaken. The doors are opened. The cardboard boxes are thrown out.

EXT. OUT IN THE STREETS. MORNING

CHASE jumps out of the van and shakes herself off. She is wearing an old leather jacket, cords and combat boots. She searches in her jacket for a while and pulls out a small bottle of whiskey. She gargles and spits. The doors are shut and locked. The boxes are picked up and thrown in a garbage can around the corner. She crosses the street and enters the park. The park is already busy even though it is around nine o'clock.

There's some people stretching on one side and on the other is a group of people practicing Tai chi.

There is a person passed out on a bench.

She reaches the other side of the park and sits on the edge of the top of the bench, boots on the seat. She unties her shoes and loosens her laces. She looks out at the exercisers. Searching through her pockets she begins cleaning them out. She drops flyers on the floor, candy wrappers. She finds some coupons.

Two dogs approach, mutts, and are tugging the owner.

PATRICK

Yo. yo, CHASE up and at 'em, better get them feets a little higher 'cause there smelling good.

CHASE

(scoot back a little and then bends down and roughly

pets the first dog that is jumping at her.  
still petting the dogs)  
Bones, Ole dirty.....  
Gotta smoke?

PATRICK  
Yeah hold on.

Patrick yanks the dogs back hollering their names, and pulls them behind him. He pulls out of his back pocket some lucky strikes and hands one to Chase and put one behind his ear. He then whips out his zippo and lights it keeping his dogs in check. He lights his own.

PATRICK  
Jesse got picked up last night

CHASE  
Up by the pier, right.

PATRICK  
This has to be the eighth time.

CHASE  
Think he'd know by now.

PATRICK  
Best quit your ass peddling...  
Got any of that mouth wash.

(Hands the bottle in her jacket)  
Hungry?

PATRICK  
Yeeah.

Patrick takes a swig and hikes up the dogs. Chase brushes down and heads out the park.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. OUT SIDE A RESTAURANT ON 1ST AVE. MORNING

Patrick ties down his dogs. Chase walks in and goes to the bathroom. The restaurant is called 1st. ave. It has open doors as a patio cafe. Chase is in the bathroom cleaning up. She washes her face and arms, dries up and then puts on some make up. She exits and finds Patrick near the open windows watching his dogs, coffee is already poured.

CHASE  
(clutchy)  
Gimme...

PATRICK  
Coffee snag.

CHASE  
This morning calls for the clutch.

PATRICK  
Can't forget about some tar to add to j  
your fiend... helps ya to remember last  
night.

CHASE  
If you want to.

PATRICK  
Weren't you gonna go head over to the j  
squat?  
Doobie had a session going on. miss it j  
next time.

CHASE  
Shit, what happened was that I was  
waiting around for DUAN, and got carried  
away with a gin game with Trace over at  
D block. The girl can stack. So, after a  
midnight dragon and three games, we  
headed out to look for Duan. But, you  
know this was the second time today.

PATRICK  
You know, he cannot remember?

CHASE  
Nah, it was nothing like that. He

doesn't owe me, it was more like I was supposed to sport him. Earlier we were supposed to meet by Washington SQ. The droogs were there but he wasn't.

PATRICK

Can't say much 'bout that, my boys don't care much for skateboards. They nash on 'em like its kibble. More' than that,

CHASE

Had a 'coupla those last night. After the game, we headed on over to the bridge and a session ourselves.

PATRICK

Yeah, yeah, remembering last night's easy compare to that time when looking out for Ronnie; it took forever. You know how that time was spent.

CHASE

Brew and a curb.

PATRICK

He never showed, so I headed for his pad, went up the stairs, opened his door walked in, looked around, you know his door is the second on the left. Knocked on it and got no answer, bang, bang. No one. Checked the door again and the door was open. I walked in and shit! There was this bitch and all in a small little t. This must be real. This must be real. So trying to get down to business, more than one, I step in and she pulls out a gat on me, shouting "What's the number for 911?" Answering nothing and realizing damn wrong F@#floor, I left hanging between my legs thinking knocked the dumb bitch and helped her memory.

CHASE

A ton a dope won't make me forget that.

RICK  
(walks in and walks over to the table.  
Throws a paper  
down.)

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT.SETTING. THE RESTAURANT. MORNING

A waiter leaves the kitchen goes to the bar and then heads  
over to the table. Breakfast is served.

RICK  
Really hate thinking bout it, but it's  
time to start peddling ass.

PATRICK  
There's hardly any ass on you to pay for  
this meal.

RICK  
Who said anything about that. This is  
pavement pounding.

RICK taps the rolled up newspaper on the  
table. Coffee is  
poured.

RICK  
Who knows, next thing you know, I might  
be throwing these around.

CHASE  
Why not, doesn't pay bad at all, early  
mornings and you could only work on  
Sundays.

RICK  
If its gonna be throwing things around,  
why not pass flyers out for ELISE.

PATRICK

That's not bad at all, its like  
panhandling 'cept your giving stuff  
away. Shit, if it's a party or something  
you might even go for free.

CHASE

Elise also works at all the clubs, so  
she might help you getting a something  
there.

RICK

Know what come to think about it F©  
this,

Rick throws the paper at the dogs out side.

(primping himself up)  
It's time to make a visit.

Rick gets up and starts to leave

RICK

By the way you were right, this ass is  
flat broke.

Patrick throws his bagel out the patio doors at the dogs right after  
Rick leaves.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT.SETTING. IN A RECORD STORE. MORNING

Rick enters a record store. There is some heavy goa trance  
played.

The counter is to the left and there is a goth chick behind  
it helping out a customer.

He walks straight to the records bins. He sorts through some  
records. She cashes out the customer.

CUT

EXT. OUTSIDE THE CAFE. MORNING

Patrick undoes the dogs.

CHASE

So I'm heading off to clean up.

PATRICK

It's time for their thing, Catch you later.

CUT

INT. SETTING. THE RECORD STORE.

After thumbing through various Techno gabber records, Rick pulls out an Alex Empire and hollers at Elise.

RICK

Have you heard this one?

ELISE

It's alright, like any other of his stuff.

RICK

Got any other new releases?  
(pulling stuff from behind the counter.)

ELISE

Over here.  
(getting in her ear);  
Are you still promoting?

RICK

(putting a record in his face)  
Here and there, not much though. There are a  
coupla of things that are coming  
up this  
weekend and next week.  
Let's see there is Souselinger Thursday,

Dmitry Friday, Onionz Saturday,  
Sameer Sunday.

RICK

Do you need any one for any of those days,  
you know to flyer?

ELISE

Not really, but there is this B and D show  
next week.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SETTING. OUTSIDE A SQUAT. LATE MORNING

Chase walks down first ave, and then down to a heading  
towards a squat. Having the key to it she lets herself in  
and goes down a corridor up a makeshift flight of stairs.  
She knocks on a door half painted. There are screams of  
children behind it. A woman unlocks it and opens it  
partially. She is smoking a cigarette. She has dreads.

SUNSHINE

Yo, yo Chase. Come in.

CHASE

YEAH, what's up

SUNSHINE

Not much just watching these guys.

She lets her in and continues languidly smoking.

SUNSHINE

(LOUDLY)

DAMIEN, DARLA! SHUTUP

CHASE

Got any smoke.

SUNSHINE

If you want any of those there on the  
table go right ahead.

CHASE  
It's not gonna mess up your count.

i  
SUNSHINE  
Naw, go right ahead. I gotta check on ‘

SUNSHINE  
the little one.

Sunshine leaves and Chase sits down in front of the table where there is a TV. to the left. DARLA is playing with a doll in front of the T.V. She is pulling out the hairs on the doll.

CHASE starts rolling a joint. She lights it and starts smoking. DARLA throws the doll some feet away from her. Chase picks it up from the floor putting the joint down.

CHASE  
She's all ripped, Darla.  
Do you feed her she's really skinny?

DARLA  
No ..... Silly.

CHASE starts smoking again and looks at the T.V. The cartoon is the ugly duckling (WB). A little duck is walking around a farm asking to all the animals, "ARE YOU MY MOMMA?"

CHASE  
Where's DAMIEN?

DARLA  
Don't know?

CHASE  
I'm gonna go look, don't do any thing.

DARLA  
OKAY.

T.V.  
ARE YOU MY MOMMA

Chase takes a puff and puts the joint down then looks. She goes down a corridor and looks through the rooms on the floor. No Damien. She shouts his name. She goes up a ladder to the next floor, and enters a living room. Here is SUNSHINE and MARK. She is breast-feeding while he is shooting up.

CHASE

Sorry, have you seen Damien.

SUNSHINE

He hasn't came up. I'll be down as soon as we're done.

Chase goes down the stairs and then back through all the rooms, she has gone through before.

CHASE

Have you seen Damien yet?

DARLA

No. HE might be over there.

(pointing to a refrigerator)

There?

DARLA

He hides there sometimes.

CHASE

SHIT.

She takes another hit of pot and opens the refrigerator door. Damien laughs curled up inside.

DAMIEN

Scared you.

Upstairs Sunshine and Mark are making out.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SETTING. THE STREETS. PANHANDLING. AFTERNOON

Chase walks down 1st ave again heading back to the van gets rid of some dirty clothes and changes. She then walks down A and then looks in the park and walks around it.

CUT

Rick walks out of the record store with flyers in his hand, he goes down first ave. He walks down 2nd and runs into VAL who's sitting with DANNY panhandling. It is around noon.

VAL  
Spare change, help the homeless.  
Got any change, help us out.

RICK  
What up.....

VAL  
Dude, you got any thing to spare?

RICK  
Na, Patrick just bought me breakfast.

VAL  
Really, shit. He must be scoring.

RICK  
Who knows. I just got me a gig at a B&D

VAL  
Nah, doing what?

RICK  
Passing these out to naughty business  
men.  
I gotta go downtown. So catch ya later.

VAL  
I'm just gonna stick it here. So you  
can buy me breakfast when you get paid.

Danny is shaking a cup full of change sitting on the sidewalk, Val is hollering again at the people passing. Rick keeps going down the street and walks towards the center of the town. A black town car drives slowly past him and then speeds out of the way.

The camera follows. The man seems to be talking on a cell

phone. The conversation is not heard. The sounds of the streets filter in. The man drives around and sees Val and Danny sitting. He keeps driving. The conversation gets a little louder. The camera is in his car, a woman is talking to him. Her voice is sultry. Rick is to the right of his window on the sidewalk, he looks and then goes on.

CUT

The car parks near a pier. The engine is still running. The woman is talking a bit louder and heavier. Jesse walks over to the car in a few. He rolls down the window.

JESSE  
Dude, looking for a sack?

GUY  
Come back in fifteen, Okay?

JESSE  
Okay.

The woman is speaking louder, slightly moaning.

CUT

Jesse crosses the street away from the parking lot. He enters a corner store. He buys a pack of cigarettes. A bunch of skaters come in. Jesse nods hello and walks out. The skaters disperse and attack the racks. One stays up front looking at the candy rack and then goes up to the counter.

SKATER1  
Hey, Do you carry any phillies?  
(pointing to the counter right next  
to the register)

SKATER 1  
Carry any loco?

OWNER  
How old are you?

SKATER1  
Come on you know me I came here  
yesterday.  
24.

OWNER  
So, you want phillies?

SKATER1  
Yeah

OWNER  
That's six dollars and twenty-five cents.

The owner puts the goods in the bag. They all head out of the store and the break down the street.

CUT

Chase goes behind a bakery and is dumpster diving, She picks up a bag full of bagels. She then lugs that to her van and throws it in.

CUT

The skaters reach the park and are doing tricks and circling around.

CUT

Chase pulls out her low rider bike from the back of the van underneath all the piles, and a little radio. She sets the radio on in-between the handle bars and rides off towards the park. She turns up the music. The Dead Milkmen. She coasts down the street riding low and then rides on in to the park. She cuts out right where the skaters are.

CHASE  
Yo, YO.....

SKATER1  
Fine ass wheels, Chase.  
Looking fine.

SKATER2  
Check this Duan.  
CHECK it.

DUAN

Been on it before, but gotta say this  
rides a lot smoother.

Duan gets on his board rides up to a curb and does a trick.

SKATER2

But yours don't got tunes.

CHASE

Any smokes....

In the background drums can be heard. The  
camera moves in  
the direction of the sound with an occasional  
skater passing  
by. The drums get louder and a rhythm is  
established. The  
camera focuses on a drumming circle near  
by on a bench  
banging it.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. SETTING. THE GARDEN. LATER THAT AFTERNOON

In a neighborhood block garden near the park, everyone is  
sitting down near a shanty. There is shade, and a poker game  
going on underneath it. There are joints being rolled.  
Chase, Duan, and the other skaters are just chilling. The  
veterans are here telling it how it was years ago.

DONNIE

And that was when the streets were ours  
and so was the park.

DUAN

That might of been then but they still  
are ours and no cop can take that from  
us, if they do, you know it, boy.

SKATER2

You know what's up.

SKATER  
(handing a joint to DONNIE)  
Smoke this bitch up.

The joint goes around, the poker game still continues.  
Evenings settling.

DONNIE  
The rainbow gathering is coming up soon.  
It's going to be in Philly not too far  
at all. A bunch of us are going.

DUAN  
Ain't nothing but another hippie love  
fest.  
Right here is where it is at.

DONNIE  
CHASE you're going, right?

CHASE  
Yeah, any chance to get away from it,  
sure man. Just as long as you know,  
people can come up with the gas and  
their own shit.

DONNIE  
It's only a week. There's not much to  
miss around here.

SKATER1  
(clearing his throat)  
Make it last.

The joint gets passed around again, and the poker game  
folds. Donnie gets up and goes to the other side.

SKATER1  
(to Duan soft)  
Let's get that brew.

They get up and head out the garden.

FADEOUT:

EXT. SETTING. THE STREETS. AFTERNOON

Duan and Chase are walking down B st. and are on their way to pick up something to drink. The lot owners drive out of the lot with their low rider. B st. is full of people and a film '0\*0\*0\*

is being shot. The camera crew is rolling and all attention is on the street. CHASE and DUAN are walking not really surprised at all. They reach a corner where the cameras are rolling and there is a cafe restaurant. The patrons are watching the production. They look around and walk in. They see an empty table served. Sitting down, they quickly eat.

CUT

EXT. SETTING. DOWN THE STREET FURTHER. EVENING

DUAN  
Do you got a smoke?

CHASE  
Hold, let me check.

Cleaning out her pockets, she pulls up to someone's stairs and sits down to further check things out. Eventually she pulls out a sack.

DUAN  
Don't worry.....

CHASE  
No bother, this is the stash....

She starts pulling the tobacco out of used cigarette butts, and then pulls out some paper and starts to roll.

CHASE  
You're not going to the rainbow gathering, are you?

DUAN  
There's tons of shit here to do than that Hippie shit. Besides that you're pretty much doing the same out there, just doing it with trees and shit.

CHASE

Don't you want to get away from this for at least a week. The change is everything.

DUAN

A forty a day keeps things the way they are. And that's the way I like it. Not much to worry about besides that.

CHASE

It's that its two weeks from now, and I don't want any shit that will keep me stuck down here. You know, it's hard enough getting you to move around...

DUAN

Well, sheet, you know me. Just get me to brew and the smoke.

CHASE

That's right, and know you better. Besides you still owe Mark money, and I can't keep treating your ass all the time. I bought last brew and I'm buying this one so you know what that means.

DUAN

Shit.

I got cleaned going in on the last

CHASE

That happened last time, and that's how I found out about what you owe, cause Marc didn't want to sell to me because of you. He said you've been owing him for the past month...

DUAN

You know how it is?

CHASE

YEAH, besides, if I keep pulling for you getting out of town in two weeks is going to be painful. There's the punk j

show tonight at C squat, we can go with a score as we usually do or just wander as we always do with that 40.

DUAN  
(moving in closer)  
And you're saying..

CHASE  
(taking the cigarette and then  
outing it out)  
There's the show tonight and it's  
getting late....  
I'm going.

DUAN  
(a little pissed)  
Yeah, that's me same o same.  
I think I'll catch you later.  
Maybe at the show.

CHASE  
Yeah, I know how it is.....

Chase gets up turns around and stars heading back up. She looks back.

CHASE  
Don't forget, in two weeks...  
Two weeks.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. THE PUNK SHOW. NIGHT TIME

A small loft space, really dingy, and not too crowded. There are seats in the corners and center back is the stage. A Four-piece band is playing loudly. The crowd somewhat disinterested is talking over the noise and drinking heavily. Some people up front are slamming into themselves. Chase is in the back drinking her 40 oz.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

EXT. THE STREETS. LATE NIGHT

After having a try at panhandling during the evening Duan, didn't have that much luck. He runs into Jesse.

JESSE  
How's the luck been.

DUAN  
Not bad, things picked up after the dinner rush. Things are quiet now.

JESSE  
At this time most people are making up their minds whether to stay in or go out. Have you seen anyone else out.

DUAN  
Val and Danny left around seven, and that' been pretty much it.

JESSE  
Those two can stick to one spot for hours. They seem to be doing all right. The thing is not let anyone get to you, but after a while it gets to be too much, so you have to get around a bit.

JESSE  
Val has this thing with luck and all, something about warming the sidewalk.

DUAN  
Yeah, she can warm up anything with that cushion.

JESSE  
It doesn't seem like your gonna get much traffic, so how about getting a drink

DUAN

Shoot, there's that show at C squat.

JESSE

We can pick up a brew and then head out.

DUAN

Yeah, sure, but things are going to be tight.

JESSE

Then don't sweat its my treat.

EXT. BAR. NIGHT

A regular corner bar not too sporty, or too swanky. It is a bit dirty. There a few people at the bar, some people in the back are playing pool. The bartender is a dirty blonde, a little older not too ratty.

They each have a pint of beer.

JESSE

Care for a pack of smokes?

DUAN

Your treat right?

JESSE

Don't seat it.  
(to the bartender)  
Marborolo, red.

DUAN

Hear you got stuck yesterday.

JESSE

That? That wasn't anything at all.  
They just booked me on curfew.  
Gave me a place to sleep for the night.

DUAN

So nothing happened?

JESSE

The pigs just needed to fill their

quota, and I just happened to be at the  
wrong place at the wrong time.  
(taking a sip of the pint)  
So things haven't been bad at all.

JESSE

Just a bit' all right. Hasn't been too  
busy, doing enough you know.  
How's Chase been? Isn't she usually  
around.  
She's kind of pissed off at me. Pissed  
that I'm not all interested in that  
rainbow, hippie love thing.

JESSE

You mean the rainbow gathering?  
That's in two weeks. Thought about it  
myself, kinda good to get out of the  
city for while before it completely eats  
you up.

DUAN

It's just too far from now, you know.  
Shit in two weeks who the f@@@ know  
what  
can happen. Who knows if I could even get  
enough together for the weekend.

JESSE

Then you best consider some kind of  
work?

DUAN

Peddling around, for instance?

JESSE

Not if you want too, there are other  
ways.

DUAN

I'm not connected if that's what you  
mean, besides I owe Mark shit.

JESSE

The only other things is getting a  
job...

DUAN

That would make my head crack, might as well live by the rock.

(rolling up his sleeves and lightly flicking his wrist)

There aren't many choices esp., if you already have children to bear. The only connections that I know of are Mark's, and the only job securities are these.

Jesse kicks up his leg and puts his foot on the bar.

FADE OUT:

FADE IN:

INT. THE PUNK SHOW. NIGHT

Chase is pretty much drunk and talking it with the droogs. The music is still going. Rick walks up to chase with a joint.

RICK

Yo, YO Chase, take a bit of this lady.

(shouting over the music)

Get the Job?

CHASE

(shouting)

You know how it is with me, one look and Elise was all over the place, anyway she said she was going to be here. Seen her.

RICK

(taking a hit)

NAH, she hasn't been around. So what's the deal, which club, what show, yeah, yeah.. yeah..

Nothing you'd want to go to, just a B and D show. If you'd like it's next Friday. Should be fun. I'm making sure Elise is coming with if she doesn't show up...

Is Duan around?

CHASE

He's around somewhere, kinda got sick of him having me pay for his habit.

RICK

That's funny, 'cause on the way here he was panhandling in the village.

CHASE

That's new for a change. He's out of practice you know. Probably couldn't stand it for too long.

FADE OUT:

EXT. NEAR THE PIER. LATE NIGHT

There is a horizontal lot before the bike/walk path along side the water before the stretch of the pier looking towards the other boroughs. There is a construction site along side of the pier. There are few people out.

Duan is walking along the path slowly looking out into the lot.

There is a black car with tinted windows before the walk with its engine running. He slowly approaches it. He taps on the window. A window rolls down.

GUY

(on a cell phone, putting it down, softly)  
Jesse, right?

DUAN

His friend....

GUY

Hurry up, get in.

The car backs out of parking and heads down the street.

INT. CAR. NITE

The guy puts down his cell phone and peruses over Duan's face.

GUY  
(demanding)  
I've seen you before, right??

DUAN  
(indifferent)  
Right.

GUY  
So, what happened to Jesse.

DUAN  
He had to go to a show...

The guy is staring at him for a rather long time.

DUAN  
So, what is the deal, here, Are we going  
someplace?

GUY  
It doesn't seem like I know you so we  
can forget about this. Let me drop you  
(opening himself up a little more)  
I think you got me wrong.

GUY  
I just don't want you fucking with me.

DUAN  
Come on this is no big deal, just let me  
know where we're going.

GUY  
(pissed off)  
We're going to park that's where.

DUAN  
You know what fuck this....

The car pulls over to the nearest parking space and parks. Guy is  
upset.

GUY  
Where's Jesse? If I wanted an asshole I  
would F@@@ it., but this is too much.

DUAN  
Chill out dude, this is my first time,  
I'm just getting sketched.  
0\*0\*0\*  
(taking a breath)  
Jesse, what the f@@@!!!

He starts the car up again and drives out again.

GUY  
I'm in insurance so already I have a  
high stress level, so really I don't  
need this.

GUY  
Did Jesse tell you what he does?

DUAN  
(laughing a bit)  
YEAH....

FADE OUT:

INT. VAN. THE NEXT MORNING

There is a pounding on the van doors.  
Chase wakes up from under her laundry and opens the doors.

EXT. BACK OF THE VAN. MORNING

CHASE  
(voice over)  
Where were you?

DUAN  
(voice over)  
Guess what?, the gathering doesn't sound  
too bad.

CHASE  
(voice over)  
Oh, really?

DUAN  
(voice over)

YEAH!

CHASE

(voice over)

Where are your shoes?

DUAN

(Voice over)

I sold them.