

LAUNDROMAT
By Alejandra Valera
Excerpt

1.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT TIME - Laundromat exterior - WS

A WOMAN is seen walking across the interior of an old laundromat. Empty rolling baskets are strewn about. Camera slides right to reveal a BOY standing outside the laundromat.

BOY

What it is that makes us human?
What defines who we are? Is it
your family? Job? Religion? Or
something simpler than all that?
What sets us apart from the beasts
of the night that could destroy you
and not give it a second thought?
Could it also be the same thing
that saves you?

Boy walks off scene.

2.

INTERIOR LAUNDROMAT

CU of clothes being put into a dryer by the woman. Camera pans right as we see a MAN doing his laundry at the far end of the laundromat. The boy enters from camera right. His laundry already at the table.

No one else is around, not even an employee. The boy and man seem to have an acquaintance going, as if they are regulars who see each other on their routine laundry trips.

The camera slowly closes in on the two as the man begins pulling clothes from a duffle bag and putting it into the washer. The boy is playing with a collapsing robot toy.

BOY

How many times have I told you to separate your lights from your darks?

MAN

(wryly)

It's faster this way.

BOY

Fast schmast, man! Since when do you try to get out of here fast?

The man coughs nervously as he looks around the laundromat. The camera focuses on the woman who stands at a counter. She is reading THE ART OF WAR.

The boy smiles in her direction and nods toward the man, who then throws a pair of socks at him.

MAN

Shut up.

BOY

What?

(pauses a beat,
continues playing
with his toy)

Look, all I'm saying is the only thing that separates man from the animals is his ability to do laundry the way nature intended.

The man looks at the boy and nods. The boy mimics shooting the robot it with a finger gun.

CUT TO:

Camera zooms in on clothes tumbling in the dryer.