

The Spark Plug

by

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EXT. SUBURBAN NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

Phil (40s) nervously approaches the driveway of his neighbor, Zed. Zed (30s) is working on his car engine. AC/DC blasts from the radio.

PHIL
Hey neighbor!

ZED
(shouting over music)
What?

PHIL
HEY NEIGHBOR!

Zed turns down the volume.

ZED
Oh hey...

PHIL
Phil.

ZED
Phil, right. Want a beer?

PHIL
Oh, no thanks. Well... what you drinking?

ZED
Keystone.

PHIL
Ah. No, no thanks. (BEAT.) So what are you working on, Zed?

ZED
Trying to get my baby hummin'.
Cruise on down to the shore later
if I can. Ladies love the T-bird.

PHIL
Mm hmm. (Beat.) Nice day, though,
isn't it?

ZED
...Sure.

PHIL
I mean, I got up early before the
sun got too high, got that lawn
mower going, you know?

ZED

Mmm hmm. Yeah well, I got up at the crack of noon. Had a late shift last night at the Taco Shack.

PHIL

That's right... the new job.

ZED

A job's a job I guess. Sucks workin' for the man, though. You wouldn't believe some of the jerks I have to deal with there.

PHIL

I can't imagine.

ZED

And then to have to hoof it back in the dark? Forget that. Nope, T-bird's been sittin' here in the driveway for too long.

Zed grunts as he turns his socket wrench.

ZED (CONT'D)

Man, that's really on there.

PHIL

Nice to have a day off, though, right? Get some stuff done around the house? I know all week long, I look forward to the time I can spend in the yard.

ZED

Dammit!

PHIL

What?

ZED

Gonna need a new spark plug.

PHIL

Oh. (Beat.) Yup, nothing as satisfying as a freshly cut lawn. I even like the gentle sound of a running lawn mower, just doing what it was made to do. Almost a zen thing -- I put on my gloves, tighten my belt, and just pushhhh... In an hour or two, it's done! Time just flies by.

ZED
Maybe I've got a spare plug. Here,
hold my beer?

Phil takes Zed's beer reluctantly. Zed steps into his garage.

PHIL
Some might say good lawns make for
good neighbors.

ZED (O.S.)
Sure thing, man. Congrats on that
great lawn. You could win awards.
Aha!

Zed comes back with another spark plug.

PHIL
What I mean to say, is... That is,
I couldn't help but notice... the
length of YOUR grass...

ZED
Awesome. It'll fit! I gotta thank
you Bill --

PHIL
Phil.

ZED
I might not have thought of
pulling the plug out of my lawn
mower if you hadn't mentioned it.

He turns the key in the ignition and the T-bird revs loudly.

ZED (CONT'D)
Oh, listen to that baby purr.

He takes his beer back. Finishes it off.

ZED (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Thanks again, buddy. I'm off to
the shore!

Zed pulls out and drives away.

Phil sighs. He turns and walks back home.