

THE GAS-MART AMENDMENT

by NICK ZAGONE

CHARACTERS

BRENT, 30's

TASHA, 20's

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(An ARCO AM-PM Mini-Market.)
(BRENT behind the counter, TASHA enters.)

TASHA
Pack of Parliament Lights.

BRENT
That it?

TASHA
Yeah.

BRENT
Six Seventy-Five.

(Tasha gives him exact change down to the penny. She then turns her attention to the stickers for sale.)

TASHA
What's this? The uh... What is the "1st Amendment"?

BRENT
What?

TASHA
That sticker. "I heart the 1st amendment"?

BRENT
You don't know?

TASHA
No, what is it?

BRENT
I... uh... freedom of, something.

TASHA
What?

BRENT
It's a freedom. One of our freedoms. Freedom of speech or something. And if you buy the sticker it means you heart it. I don't know.

TASHA
Oh. Yeah. How much for the 9-11 bear?

BRENT
That? You wanna buy the 9-11 bear?

TASHA
I don't know. I just wanted to see how much it was.

BRENT
I don't think it's for sale. No one ever asked.

TASHA
You have any matches?

BRENT
No. We have lighters.

TASHA
For sale.

BRENT
Yeah.

TASHA
You don't get a free pack of matches any more?

BRENT
No. Not any more. Insurance or something.

TASHA
Bullshit.

BRENT
That's what I was told.

TASHA
Your boss is just cheap.

BRENT
Is that it for ya? Just the smokes?

TASHA
I gotta pay for an "I heart the 1st amendment" sticker
whatever the fuck that is, but you don't have matches.

BRENT
Hey ya know, it's just a job right now. Just a job.

TASHA
Well I don't have a light. Ah shit, I'm gonna need about 10
dollars a gas.

BRENT
Regular?

TASHA
Yeah. Can I just a, light my smoke with this lighter?
(looking at lighter) What is that? Who is that?

BRENT
I don't know.

TASHA
That guy in Pulp Fiction, is that who that is?

BRENT
I don't know. But you can't...

TASHA
Have you seen that? Pulp Fiction?

BRENT
Not all the way through.

TASHA
Me neither. I don't get it.

BRENT
Can't you light your smoke on the push-in lighter in your car?

TASHA
They don't put lighters in cars anymore.

BRENT
There's one in my car.

TASHA
What a '91 Camry? Sure.

BRENT
No.

TASHA
Just kidding. Just kidding.

BRENT
No.

TASHA
How 'bout I show you my tits and I can have this lighter.

BRENT
What?

TASHA
Huh? Deal?

BRENT
No. I can't...

TASHA
I know, I show you my tits and I just light my smoke put the lighter back and run out...

BRENT

No see you can't smoke while filling up your car... you'll...

TASHA

Oh yeah. Well forget the gas, I'll just light my smoke and go...

BRENT

Wait!

TASHA

Is that ok? I'll run right out.

BRENT

Well. Are you gonna show me your tits?

TASHA

No. Not now. That's off that table.

BRENT

W... Why?

TASHA

Well, for one 'cause you gotta camera up there hiding behind fuckin' 9-11 bear.

BRENT

Oh.

TASHA

You forgot about that didn't cha? I didn't.

BRENT

Can you show me your tits outside?

TASHA

Outside?

BRENT

Yeah, we'll, I'll take the lighter outside, you show me your tits and I'll light your smoke and then you can go.

TASHA

There, there's no camera outside?

BRENT

Well, yeah but I know where it shines, ya know, where it shoots.

TASHA

Oh. But there's people outside. Traffic.
Fuck it, I'm lighting my smoke and running out, there's no law against.

BRENT

Wait, wait if you just stand back about three feet, just step back you'll be out of range of the camera.

TASHA
Bullshit.

BRENT
Yeah! No I swear, just step back about 3-4 feet.

TASHA
What about the gas?

BRENT
You said you didn't need the gas. And you can't smoke while filling the, filling the gas, the tank.

TASHA
Look how can I get gas and a light without...

BRENT
Here just take the lighter...

TASHA
I can't get gas and a light in this country without showing my tits is that what you're telling me?

BRENT
Just take the lighter in your hand there, you're not going to get busted for taking the lighter, I won't say anything, we get these things for practically nothing...

TASHA
This one?

BRENT
Yeah, just keep that one, gimme ten bucks, stand back right there and show me your tits.

TASHA
Ten bucks?

BRENT
For the gas!

TASHA
Does it have to be this lighter? Can I have another one? How 'bout this Madonna lookin' one?

BRENT
That's not Madonna, that's Marylin Monroe.

TASHA
Oh.

BRENT
You know who that is...

TASHA
Yeah, I know who that is... Who's this one?

BRENT
I think that's James Dean.

TASHA
Who's that?

BRENT
I don't know, but you can't have that one though, only the one in your hand.

TASHA
Look I'm not going to... if I'm going to show you my tits I'm at least going to get a lighter I like!

BRENT
All right. You can have whatever, whatever one you like if you promise you will show me your tits.

TASHA
You really wanna see my tits.

BRENT
Fuck yeah, I might as well be in prison. This job sucks so much that if you just show me your tits right now life would be so much better.
Look man, you offered.

TASHA
Yeah.

BRENT
Yeah.

TASHA
All right.
Jesus.

BRENT
What's wrong?

TASHA
No I meant Jesus. There's a Jesus lighter. And it's pink.
I'm taking this one.

BRENT
The pink Jesus lighter ok.

TASHA

See, now this is a story see. Someone says what's up with the pink Jesus lighter? And I say yeah, I got that lighter free from the guy down at the am/pm all I had to do was show him my tits. Now where do I stand?

BRENT

Wait. You can't tell anyone about this.

TASHA

A whuh? Hauh!? I got a pink Jesus lighter! Now what am I supposed to say when people see this?! I bought it?

BRENT

Yeah! Yes! You bought it! I don't want every fuckin' chick comin' down here takin' the fuckin' lighters...

TASHA

Listen to you, listen to you!

BRENT

I don't! Well, I do. But, I can't be giving out lighters...

TASHA

You said they aren't worth nothin'...

BRENT

I didn't say that...

TASHA

You said the manager makes a fortune off these!

BRENT

I didn't say that!

TASHA

He does though right? How many lighters you sell since you don't give away matches? Huh? You don't give away matches any more so now everyone has to put their hard earned down for some piece of shit Jesus lighter. My freedoms, what about my freedoms? That stupid sticker is right!

BRENT

You know what? Nevermind. I don't want to see your tits now. Put the lighter back and get out.

TASHA

What?

BRENT

Nope. Gimme the lighter.

TASHA

No! why?

BRENT

You're not doin' it for me now. You ruined the mood.

TASHA

What? Oh but I'm in the mood.

BRENT

Yeah, well I'm not. You know, you gotta do it 'cause you want to do it 'cause you want to turn me on. It's not just for the lighter. No one would do it just for a lighter.

TASHA

Why not?

BRENT

At first you were going to do it just for fun. For nothing. And that was... I don't know, that was... freedom. You didn't care about the cameras or nothin' you were going to burn your smokin' body right here, into my mind, forever, right here, and you didn't care. Now, you're thinkin' about it. Now you're thinkin' about it and it's gone, it's all gone.

TASHA

I'll do it.

BRENT

No.

TASHA

No, I'll do it.

BRENT

Are you gonna do it 'cause you wanna do it?

TASHA

Yeah.

BRENT

'Cause you wanna see my reaction?

TASHA

Yeah.

BRENT

'Cause you wanna please me?

TASHA

And get what I want. I can still do it to get what I want.

BRENT

A pink Jesus lighter?

TASHA

I've always wanted one.

BRENT
Yeah?

TASHA
Yeah. So, you got no matches?

BRENT
Nope. No matches. But I uh, sell lighters.

TASHA
I don't got nooo money for a lighter, but I do have... how
'bout I show you my tits for one.

BRENT
You sure?

TASHA
You want to see them, you been eyeing 'em since I walked in
here. You get what you want, I get what I want.

BRENT
It's the American way.

TASHA
God bless America.

(She steps back behind a rack of chips so the audience can't
see and shows her tits. A good long time.)

BRENT
I love you.

(She puts her shirt down.
He rubs his face then puts his head in his arms on the
counter.

She crosses forward. Touches his head. Pets it.
She takes an "I heart the 1st amendment" sticker.
Puts it on her shirt. Exits.

Fade out.)