

Foodfellas

By

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OVER BLACK

This film is based on a true story.

1

INT. UNKNOWN

1

Music plays through a small radio.

A mysterious figure arms itself with an assortment of weapons. The radio begins picking up static.

FREEZEFRAME:

THE KING (V.O.)

As far back as I can remember, I've wanted to run a fast food restaurant.

2

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

2

The radio static turns into hamburgers sizzling on a greasy grill. KING (27) skillfully flips them all in a matter of seconds. He expertly places the meat patties onto burger buns, adds the fixins, then places the top buns on. He places it atop a counter and rings a bell.

THE KING

Order up.

THE KING (V.O)

The year was 1974. I had just opened my first burger joint. I liked it. I was good at it. And I was starting to get a reputation.

The phone rings.

THE KING

Thank you for calling...yep, that's what they call me... Sorry bub, we don't do deliveries--For who?

He looks around to make sure no one is looking. King scribbles down an address.

THE KING

I'll be right there.

He hangs up the phone, and looks stunned.

3 EXT. RON'S BACKYARD - DAY

3

The King nervously walks through the crowded backyard of a well-to-do home, holding a to-go bag from his restaurant.

People are drinking and conversing around a swimming pool, having a grand old time. King feels out of place in his burger-joint apron.

The King passes a cute redhead girl with freckles and braids walking in the opposite direction. She smiles at him. He cranes his neck around to watch her go.

RON (74), a menacing clown in yellow and red, sits with girls in bikinis next to the pool. He uses a razor blade to add salt to some french fries.

MR. HAM and BROTHER GRIMM, Ron's henchmen, look at The King.

The King walks towards Ron.

THE KING (V.O)

Ron the Don they called him. He was the big mac, the man everyone loved and feared. He was the most well known and successful fast food distributor in the world. No one could compete with him. He brought home the bacon by the quarter pound. And he wanted to meet me.

Ron turns his attention to King.

4 INT. RON'S OFFICE - DAY

4

A spacious and elegantly designed office. One giant desk engulfs the room. King's to-go bag sits opened on the desk.

Ron delicately takes big, gluttonous bites from King's hamburger.

King watches nervously from the other side of the desk.

Ron swallows. He takes a bite of fries, then spits them out. He wipes his face with a napkin.

RON

So you're the one they call the King of Burgers. What does that make me, huh? ... Well?

King appears intimidated.

(CONTINUED)

RON

You're burgers are good, I'll give you that. Your fries could use some work.

Ron takes out a briefcase, lights a cigar, and leans back in his chair.

RON

I got a question for you, what would you rather eat? Breast, leg, wing. Makes you think of body parts. But what does the word nugget make you think of?

He opens the briefcase and a glowing gold light illuminates. The King is in awe.

RON

GOLD. Once we introduce these, they'll be eating out of our hands.

Reveal the briefcase with a four-piece chicken nugget meal inside.

KING

Why are you telling me all this? Aren't I your competition.

RON

We don't need to be competitors, King. I can franchise your business. Locations all over the country. Even in Mexico. All you have to do is be with me, do you understand?

Ron holds out his hand. The King shakes his hand.

MONTAGE:

5

INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY

5

People hungrily wait in line, pushing and shoving.

THE KING (V.O)

And just like that, I became his wingman. We started coming up with all sorts of concoctions.

6 INT. KITCHEN - DAY 6

Shots of each of the new burgers they have created.

THE KING (V.O.)

The Stopper with double cheese. The Big Stack covered in special sauce. Senior quadruple Bacon Burger. The Superior Double Deep Fried Crispy Steak Hamburger with Triple Cheese. It went on and on and the people loved every bite of it, they couldn't get enough. And neither could we.

7 INT. FANCY CLUB - NIGHT 7

TITLECARD: 1975

King, Ron, Mr. Ham and Brother Grimm count money as they eat french fries. Ham and Grimm's guns are on the table.

THE KING (V.O.)

The money came pouring in like an extra large double diet soda.

8 EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY 8

TITLECARD: 1977

THE KING (V.O.)

No one could touch us. We were living the dream.

Ron, King, Mr. Ham and Brother Grimm walk in slow motion.

9 INT. FANCY CLUB - NIGHT 9

TITLECARD: 1980

Ron, The King, Mr. Ham, Brother Grimm sit around the table all laughing.

RON

And that's why we called her the "dairy queen."

Everyone laughs. Ron makes a "big breast" gesture.

(CONTINUED)

THE KING  
You're a funny guy.

RON  
Funny how?

THE KING  
Just...you're funny.

RON  
Let me understand this, but I'm  
funny how? Because I'm a clown, I  
amuse you?

There is silence.

They exchange looks. Ron cracks a smile. They all laugh. Ron  
reprises the "big breast" gesture.

Wendy arrives at the King's side. She lays a hand on his  
shoulder. He takes her hand, and she bends down to kiss him.

THE KING (V.O.)  
I even got the girl.

10 ARCHIVAL FOOTAGE OF BURGER JOINTS 10  
TITLECARD: 1983

THE KING (V.O.)  
Everyone wanted a slice. Everywhere  
people started their own chains,  
Zack-in-the-box, FCK, Pizza Hat,  
Taco Shell--the list was endless,  
but they all moved through us. And  
if they didn't...

11 EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY 11  
TITLECARD: 1984

BOOM. Brother Grimm and Mr. Ham shoot an old man in a white  
suit that matches his facial hair.

12 EXT. LOVELY COURTYARD - DAY 12  
TITLECARD: 1981

King and Wendy kiss on their wedding day, before a PRIEST  
and RON, the best man. FLASHBULB the happy couple.

13 INT. FAST FOOD RESTAURANT - DAY 13

TITLECARD: 1985

Show heavier customers begging for more food.

THE KING (V.O)  
But soon it seemed we'd bitten off  
more than we could chew.

14 NEWS REPORTS 14

News reports blaming Restaurants for overweight people.

THE KING (V.O)  
Our demand was as big as our  
customers. Before long, the media  
was blaming us for thousands of  
deaths. Heart disease, diabetes,  
obesity. We became the scapegoats.

15 INT. KING'S ROOM - NIGHT 15

King sitting in his room watching the news report. He smokes  
a cigarette. He puts it out in an ashtray that transitions  
to an ash tray at...

16 FANCY CLUB - NIGHT 16

King taps cigarette ash into the ash tray. He is sitting  
alone at the club.

THE KING (V.O)  
But no matter how bad the food got,  
they always came back for more. And  
after all, the customer is always  
right.

Fade out.

17 INT. RON'S LIVING ROOM 17

TITLE CARD: 1987

The King sits on Ron's couch alone. Waiting. He grabs a FOOD  
magazine on the table and flips through the pages. There's a  
picture of Ron and Reagan that reads: "AMERICAN RON"

Ron walks into the room and greets The King opens his arms  
wide.

(CONTINUED)

RON

King.

King hugs him.

THE KING

It's been too long.

18 INT. RON'S BILLIARD ROOM - DAY

18

Ron breaks the triangle of billiard balls, and the two begin playing a game of Pool.

RON

Fry?

KING

No thanks.

RON

So how are things, how's Wendy?

THE KING

Actually, she's got a bun in the oven.

RON

Oh King. I'm so happy for you.  
Kids. That's great. I always hoped  
I'd have little nuggets of my own.

THE KING

You got time.

RON

No... my destiny is in burgers. But  
I'm glad to have you as a looking  
glass into what could have been.  
King, the business is ready for a  
change. Big stuff.

THE KING

What do you have in mind?

Ron smiles, and takes out a dinner platter, opens it up to reveal a tiny burger, tiny fries, tiny drink.

RON

A new line of products. We'll call  
them: kids meals. Smaller portions,  
more sugar, and best yet-

Ron throws a small plastic toy over to The King.

(CONTINUED)

RON  
-a toy inside.

THE KING  
You wanna sell to kids?

RON  
I want it to be a family  
restaurant.

THE KING  
What are you trying to do, get them  
hooked early?

RON  
It's not just about getting them  
hooked early. It's about breeding a  
whole new generation that never  
learns the difference between fast  
food and real food.

THE KING  
That's not what I got into this  
for.

RON  
Come on, King. When did you start  
caring about those fat little  
pricks?

KING  
You've really gone off the deep  
end.

Ron slams his hand down, but reigns in his temper. He slides  
the fries closer to King.

RON  
Hey, let's just have a happy meal,  
alright? It's not like you'll be  
doing anything much different than  
before. We'll make a fortune. We  
can be billionaires.

THE KING  
You ask me to make the portions  
larger, I do it. You ask me to use  
pink filler to save on meat, fine.  
But this... you're asking me to  
poison children. No way.

(CONTINUED)

RON

Okay. Have it your way. You know what this means.

The King walks out the door, leaving Ron alone at his billiards table.

19 INT. KING'S ROOM-NIGHT

19

King lies in bed awake, unable to sleep. A very pregnant Wendy lays fast asleep beside him.

He turns back over and sees the kid's toy sitting on his bedside table, staring him straight in the eyes.

RON (V.O.)

It's about breeding a whole new generation that never learns the difference between fast food and real food.

Thoughts run through his mind.

He finishes writing a letter, folds it into an envelope, and places a wad of cash inside. He folds it and places it in the night table drawer.

He sits down on the bed, lays a hand on her pregnant belly, and kisses her on the cheek.

20 INT. KING'S OFFICE-NIGHT

20

The King eats french fries to fire himself up.

He arms himself with an assortment of weapons.

THE KING (V.O.)

I knew I was on my own. I was just a small fry fighting an entire order.

21 EXT. RON'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

21

King sneaks into Ron's backyard.

Mr. Ham and Brother Grimm stand near the pool.

- 22 INT. RON'S OFFICE - NIGHT 22  
Ron watches TV.
- 23 EXT. RON'S HOUSE - NIGHT 23  
The King swiftly moves closer and closer to the henchmen,  
who are holding guns.  
Mr. Ham and Brother Grimm make small talk.  
The King points a gun towards them.  
He shoots Grimm, who falls into the pool.  
Mr. Ham returns fire at King. They exchange fire.
- 24 INT. RON'S OFFICE - NIGHT 24  
Ron hears GUNSHOTS. He switches the TV to a security camera  
feed from his backyard.
- 25 EXT. RON'S HOUSE - NIGHT 25  
Brother Grimm lays dead in the pool.  
Mr. Ham is hit, he falls to the ground.  
The King runs past him and into Ron's home.
- 26 INT. RON'S HOUSE - NIGHT 26  
It's quiet. The King gingerly steps through the house.  
KING  
RON!!!  
Silence. Suddenly, Ron springs from one end of the room and  
fires his shotgun. BOOM.  
The King is shot in the arm. Ron steps out and cocks his  
shotgun.  
King scrambles behind the cover of some furniture, breathing  
heavily and bleeding severely. He returns fire. Ron gets  
behind cover.

(CONTINUED)

RON

After all these years, this is the thanks I get? You were a nobody until I took you in. I made you!

KING

What am I supposed to do, let my kid grow up in a world where the food is poison?

Ron fires his shotgun. The furniture King is hiding behind shakes from the impact of a shotgun shell.

RON

You owe me. Everything you have I gave you. Your house, your money... Wendy.

King grows emotional at the mention of Wendy's name. King pops out from cover and fires at Ron. He hits him below the shoulder. Ron is so coked up he doesn't even feel it.

Ron gives a hardy laugh.

RON

Give me more! I'm lovin it!

Ron fires his shotgun again. He misses, but blasts through an artistic arrangement of french fries.

Ron jumps down and steps something. Distracted, he looks down at it. A kid's meal toy.

Seizing the opportunity, King springs from hiding and fires three shots into Ron's chest. Ron falls behind some furniture.

He takes a moment to realize what he's done. He slowly walks over to Ron to make sure he's dead.

CLOSEUP on Ron's face. He appears dead.

Silent as a cat, Mr. Ham approaches from behind, holding up a pistol.

BANG. He shoots King in the center of the back. His own blood sprays onto Ron, who he was watching so closely.

CUTAWAY: To King's bedroom, the letter King left on the night table, while Wendy sleeps soundly.

RETURN TO SCENE

King grabs hold of the exit wound in his chest.

(CONTINUED)

He slumps to the ground, next to Ron. He breathes heavily as he bleeds out.

Mr. Ham walks out of the room, leaving the King and Ron next to each other.

FADE TO:

27

FAST FOOD RESTAURANT

27

The chaos of the bloody living room transitions to a fast food tray sitting in an austere burger joint. Two chicken nuggets sit upon ketchup smears in the exact same position on the screen as King and Ron's corpses lying atop pools of blood.

A child's arm reaches in and takes the chicken nugget that was King's body.

As CREDITS ROLL, we see archival footage from vintage fast-food ads, focusing on children happily eating fast food.