**Matchheads**

List of Characters

**CHAIM:** Protagonist, Waste Monger. 20 years old. Blind in one eye, farsighted in the other.

**ZIPPO:** Waste Monger, Around the same age as Chaim.

**CLIPPER:** Waste Monger, Around the same age as Chaim.

**COLIBRI:** Warden of the Pit. Mid 40’s.

**EXCLAIMER:** No character is gendered. It is not important in context of the story or the message. Therefore it should not effect casting.
Lights dimly rise. 3 people sit in chairs facing the screen, on the wall in front of them a projection fills every inch of it. The projection image shows an announcer in front of a camera, reading off of a script in a strict manner. The participants have various reactions to this video. There are two massive carts upstage, one blue, one dark green.

ANNOUNCER
The most essential step to governing- is absolute compliance from its people. Those who ignore this step must be subjected to labor. This labor is the foundation to our society, as fair repayment for futile mistakes. The Monging Assembly has solved the total of our financial disparity. It has since resulted in the minimization of crime, heightened morale of citizens. And most importantly the further compliance that has flourished this country for generations in counting. The prosperity of your neighbor is as important as your own. Work hard, knowing that your labor is a necessary stepping stone into the future of humanity. The fulfillment of the greater good is built off of the back of the individual. Remember a sentence is not life, but it is the essence of our livelihood.

The image slowly fades out, as a nationalistic anthem raises in the background. Before the music can play out, a light switch flips on. The 3 people, all in their early 20's, dressed in illy fitting coveralls turn to face the opposite side of the stage. Recently entered, Colibri strolls in, dragging a baton on the ground behind him, smacking the legs of the chairs they sit in. He does not stop until he reaches the front.

COLIBRI
Stand for role call. Case Number 571.

ZIPPO
That would be me…

COLIBRI
Government name?

ZIPPO
If I had one, I'd tell you.

COLIBRI
Fine by me, I’d rather call you a number.

ZIPPO
My preferred name is Zippo.

COLIBRI
Have a seat, 571. NEXT! Case Number 112!

CLIPPER
Yes, Warden! At your service.
Eager to sift through trash?

Eager to fulfill my sentence and repair the damage I've done to society.

Sounds like it. State your full government name.

Clarence Bollendratch.

Clarence Bollendratch. Feels ugly even rolling off the tongue. What else are you called?

Sometimes my friends call me Clipper because…

We’ll stick with that, for now. Have a seat.

*Colibri diverts his attention away and walks slowly and knowingly to the last person. He lingers uncomfortably close to them.*

And that leaves… Case Number 999. What are you called?

Chaim Fioletowe.

I noticed you had some trouble getting to your seat earlier. You were tripping over your own feet.

Lost my balance.

Hm. No… that’s not the case. I’m the Warden, look me in the eye when I speak to you.

*Chaim struggles to do this, trying to turn and adjust their head accordingly. After a few moments, Colibri has caught on.*

Are you farsighted, blind or just a drunk?

Blind in one eye, farsighted in the other.

Shame, you’d probably last longer down here if you were just a drunk. Sit.
Colibri moves to the front of the room again.

COLIBRI
If you're shaking already- there's no need. The Waste monging pit is hard work. But it's 3045 and this day and age is a zoo. We all should be accustomed to hard work by now. My name is Colibri, and welcome to the graveyard shift. You’ll answer to me from now on, until you’ve served your sentence and are deserving to receive pay for your labor again. Arrive on time every single day, if you don’t, my baton is going to show you what your own blood tastes like. If one of your fellow mongers skips a day of work, expect to never see or hear from them again. Every now and then, something valuable may pop out the piles of shit you’ll soon be swimming through. It goes into my hand the second after it lands in yours. That’s my only rule. And you’d better follow it- because I will do full body searches every morning before you walk out of here.

Colibri walks out of the room and there is a brief pause. The three look around waiting for something to happen.

ZIPPO
Hey, I’ve got a Rolex up my ass. You want me to bend over cough for you too?

Muttered laughter comes from the others. A rumbling grows louder and louder. A massive cart rolls onto the stage, the group is startled. Chaim and Clipper leap out of the way, the cart mows their chairs down. Zippo is the one who acts and stops the cart before it can get to them. There is a pause and the group examines it.

CHAIM
A cart full of garbage. Of course.

CLIPPER
God, just the smell of that is going to kill me!

Colibri strolls back on, laughing.

COLIBRI
That’s happened to somebody before, Clipper. If you don’t get used to it, you’ll wish it would kill you. By 9 am, you’re going to have 15 of these carts sorted, cleaned and put away. Chaim, if you’re colorblind too- recyclables are blue, garbage is green. Colibri motions to which is which. You finish one cart, there's always another waiting.
I’ll be in my office. But I’ll surprise you whenever I feel like checking in. Now get to work.

_Colibri strolls off stage, the three turn and look at each other. Clipper immediately follows instruction._

**CLIPPER**

C’mon you heard them. Let's get to it.

**ZIPPO**

What’d you do to land yourself here anyway? Way too clean cut to be a monger.

**CLIPPER**

You don’t know jack shit about me.

**ZIPPO**

I can see it on your face that you think you’re too good to be here. What I suspect about you, is that you’re a yuppie little brat who got sent to the pit because they made one too many selfish mistakes. Ones that mommy and daddy couldn’t pay their way out of. Explains why you're so- Yes, Warden! Dying from the stench would be my patriotic duty, Warden! Tell me if I'm getting warmer.

_Clipper is silent and ashamed. Zippo turns their attention to Chaim._

**ZIPPO**

What are you staring at?

**CLIPPER**

They aren’t staring, they can’t see shit.

**CHAIM**

I can see well enough! Have for 20 years. Just because I have a visual impairment doesn’t mean I'm stupid.

**ZIPPO**

If you're not tripping over me, I’ve got no problem.

**CLIPPER**

Same here. You know, it might help you to be a little more respectful to the Warden.

**ZIPPO**

I treat people the way they treat me.

**CLIPPER**

It’s common for Wardens to give special treatment to the ones they like, is all i’m saying. Breaks, water, food, those kinds of things.

**CHAIM**

That’s supposed to be special? You think criminals don’t deserve to be treated like people unless they're kissing somebody’s ass?
CLIPPER
Look, the government provides us with everything we need. And all they ask is that you comply. You act like an animal, then yes, you deserve to be treated like one.

CHAIM
What planet are you from?

ZIPPO
No, don’t answer that. Instead, why don’t you tell us what life is like on your side of the megalopolitan. I’m sure it’s very different from ours. Where do you get your food from?

CLIPPER
A man delivers it to us. Every other Monday. We only get as much as they say we do.

CHAIM
You’ve never waited for hours in a ration line? Ever? Only to get to the front for them to tell you there's nothing left?

CLIPPER
No, that’s only because transporting food takes longer than-

ZIPPO
That's bullshit and you know it.

CLIPPER
Have you ever waited in a ration line?

ZIPPO
I wasn’t ever lucky enough to get the chance to.

CHAIM
You’re an orphan.

ZIPPO
Can’t get rations unless you belong to a household that accounts for you. Only way to eat where I'm from is to steal it or barter.

CLIPPER
Barter?

ZIPPO
Trade. In the barter district, where all the mongers live, that's the only way you survive.

CLIPPER
What do you barter?

ZIPPO
Anything you can burn to stay warm, clothes, whatever's useful. And if all you’ve got is your body then…there's always somebody willing to accept that.

CLIPPER
I feel sick.
You and everybody else. You never answered my question, why are you here?

CLIPPER
Don’t feel comfortable sharing.

ZIPPO
Right, of course. Alright, I’ll tell you my reason. Got caught betting at a dog fighting ring. Police busted in the second I won the whole pot. Ironic, isn’t it?

CLIPPER
I’d call it idiotic.

ZIPPO
Shutup, you little yuppie bitch. Believe me, I’m smart, I just never got the chance to study! Hell if I’d gotten past primary, I'd be the Chief Counsellor by just twenty!

Chaim, who has already started working during the past exchange, turns around.

CHAIM
Then put that big brain to use and start working!

ZIPPO
Why? Do you need a seeing eye dog?

CHAIM
I need to get out of here on time. Some of us have families to take care of.

ZIPPO
Well, I pity the fools that rely on you.

CHAIM
So do I. Please, just c’mon. Garbage isn’t gonna sort itself if you keep staring at it long enough.

The two go to join Chaim. There is a long silence while they begin working.

CLIPPER
One good thing about this work, my mother will never have to see me do it.

ZIPPO
She’s dead?

CLIPPER
No, she’s just a fucking yuppie, remember?

ZIPPO
If the nightly champagne and sweets don’t kill her then the sight of this will. I’d like to invite her down here. Let her see how the other half lives. Well…not just the other half now.

CHAIM
Sort of makes me happy to see a yuppie down here. Maybe one of us will make it up there next.

    ZIPPO
Easier to climb down than up, I've tried. Even applied as a secretary once. Boss called me a fraud when I told him I could read. How about that!

    CHAIM
If it’s any consolation, you don’t strike me as the office type anyway.

    ZIPPO
That’s my problem, I'm the dog ring type. You could be a secretary.

    CHAIM
Very funny.

    ZIPPO
What type are you then? You’re the hardest to read of all of us!

    CHAIM
I am…the type who gets caught lying to the ration officer. My grandmother has been sick, ever since I could remember. Got worse last month. I thought maybe if I could get her a little extra food then…

    ZIPPO
I’m sorry.

    CHAIM
You’re not.

    ZIPPO
Hand to heart, I am. At least one of us has somebody to sign their life away for. Mostly sorry it’s not me.

    CHAIM
It’s not life. 30 years will go by fast if I don’t think about it.

    CLIPPER
That’s the sentence they gave you? Did you explain to them-

    CHAIM
Yes, even as they beat me. Then they beat me till I couldn't open my mouth to explain. They do the same to you?

    CLIPPER
No. I fell asleep in the back of the cop car. When I woke up my father was there to pick me up until I had to go to court the next day.

    CHAIM
Luxurious.

    ZIPPO
I’ve got 35. Nobody deserves to work for 35 years over a dog fight. Sometimes I think, maybe it’s not doing the wrong thing that pisses them off. It’s to see us win, that
they won’t have. I won that pot fair and square, and they took from me just as I was about to walk home with it.

CHAIM
I wouldn’t wish 35 down here on the Chief Counselor.

ZIPPO
I would.

At this moment, Zippo reaches down into the cart, and begins pulling at something buried. They finally rip it loose and reveal a ragged old backpack. They begin opening it and pull out a handful of books.

CLIPPER
Did you find something nice? Let me see.

ZIPPO
This is strange. They’re books. At least shaped like them.

CLIPPER
Just lines of little bumps.

CHAIM
That’s braille. It’s a book, it’s just written in the language of touch.

ZIPPO
Alphabet of the blind…that makes sense.

Zippo walks over and hands the book to Chaim.

ZIPPO
I could use your help with this then.

CHAIM
You think we’ll get in trouble?

CLIPPER
Put it back. It looks like contraband. There’s a reason the government bans books.

ZIPPO
Maybe it’s just the instructions for baking a cake. We won’t know until Chaim tells us. Just humor me.

CLIPPER
Colibris has been gone for a while, he might walk in.

CHAIM
You can watch the door for us. It’s not everyday I get to read a book, not everyday anybody gets to.

CLIPPER
They’ll break your legs for even looking at it.
ZIPPO
I’ve got nothing to lose. Watch the door, Chaim?

CHAIM
The title is, hmm- “The Power of The Powerless”. Give me a minute to read more.

CLIPPER
I’ll never understand why you people try to fix the trouble you’re in by making it worse.

ZIPPO
Without just a bit of satisfaction a person can die of hunger.

CLIPPER
Dead people have no use for satisfaction.

CHAIM
I’ve never read anything like this in my entire life. It’s some kind of political essay.

CLIPPER
And it’s banned for certain.

ZIPPO
I just got an idea. What if we do turn it in? There's gotta be some kind of reward for finding banned material.

CLIPPER
I like that idea better than reading it out loud for the warden to hear.

CHAIM
Zippo, what kind of award could we get? For turning in a book? It’s not worth it.

ZIPPO
It’s not like anyone else can read it. No way you can take it home, they’ll find it the second they start the search on you.

CLIPPER
Didn’t they say full body searches are mandatory? Besides, I’m quite happy with my life, despite this part of it. Even now I wouldn’t do anything to jeopardize it.

CHAIM
Maybe there's something in here that they’ve been hiding from us our entire lives. One of many I’m guessing.

ZIPPO
If it’s racy enough I bet we could get two favors from Colibri.

CLIPPER
I told you they do favors, I just didn’t think it’d come this easy. Give it here.

Chaim pulls back.

CHAIM
In exchange for a meal? Or worse, or your own comfort. Listen to what this writer says- “They must live within a lie. It is enough for them to have accepted their life with and in it. Individuals confirm the system, make the system, *are* the system.”

**ZIPPO**

I don’t know what any of that is supposed to mean. I’m tired, I’m hungry. And I’m tired of being hungry. I’d give up a stack of paper no matter how important, to feel anything other than aching. I thought at least you could understand.

**CHAIM**

Rid yourself of hunger today and it’ll be back tomorrow.

**CLIPPER**

It’s two against one it sounds like.

**CHAIM**

No, please. Try to understand, you turn this into Colibri you’re giving them permission to keep you where you are. They may be closing the door, but you’re the one who’s locking it. Giving them something that could mean everything, in exchange for something that means nothing to them.

**ZIPPO**

How is some book going to get me off the streets? It just looks like currency to me. That I'm going to spend on a warm meal.

**CHAIM**

You’re right about one thing. This book is valuable, not in the physical sense, no. But stand back and look at the bigger picture, I'm holding something people have been searching for.

**CLIPPER**

I’m not searching for anything. Life doesn’t wear a mask, it shows you exactly what it wants you to see. You feel exactly what it wants you to feel. For example, if I find my leg broken and mouth wide open screaming in pain- it’s because I just got with a baton.

**ZIPPO**

I’ve seen more of life than I care to. At least the worst of it.

**CHAIM**

Proof that our suffering isn’t justified by our shortcomings. Criminals deserve punishment. We also deserve to live a life secure. We may need bread, but also need flowers, and books, and all the things that help you live a life instead of surviving it. To find something to sustain us other than what they feed us. What’s unnatural about that?

**ZIPPO**

It’s just unfair, for you to take away an opportunity from us so you can dream about, what? Revolution? To live you have to first survive. Everyday I wake up, knowing it might be my last. The orphan is the only one who truly knows that.
CHAIM
Your complete absence of hope is the very reason we need revolution. You said it yourself. Nobody deserves 35 for a dog fight, or a lie, or whatever Clipper did.

CLIPPER
Who will lead this revolution you’re talking about? A half blind 20 year old with a life sentence to work in a pit?

CHAIM
If we put these words together correctly, the people might just be tripping over each other to lead us to emancipation.

ZIPPO
I’m trying to wrap my head around it. I buried the hope of any change too long ago. When I was still a kid I had decided that this was the life set for me. Revolution is something I was comfortable with never seeing in my lifetime. Now you’re making me think there may just be the possibility of it.

CHAIM
I have the perfect idea of how to start it. Can I tell you?

ZIPPO
Even speaking it out loud would be treason.

CHAIM
That word is a joke. As far as I’m concerned, the state is the people it serves. When the state is as brutal as this one, committing treason would be doing it a favor.

ZIPPO
I don’t like how this makes me feel. I don’t trust myself with something so delicate. Somebody else should help you start the revolution.

CHAIM
Too late. You’re the one with the responsibility to. Both of you. Because it found you first.

ZIPPO
Okay. There, let’s go.

CHAIM
I knew you wanted to.

CLIPPER
Don’t think you two will be saying that when you’re publicly executed.

CHAIM
How fitting.

CLIPPER
What is?

CHASEM walks and throws the book into Clippets chest.
CHAIM
Then just take it. I don’t want it anymore.

CLIPPER
You giving this to me…it doesn’t make sense.

CHAIM
It’s custom for you to get what you want, isn’t it? We can have just a little but not more than you. Where you come from, the people you pass everyday, the ones with the lavish dinner parties you’ve been to. You show us nothing less of cruelty, and yet are surprised to see us compete with you. As if you didn’t start it?

CLIPPER
I’ve never done any such thing. Why would I apologize about the life I didn’t choose to be born into?

CHAIM
Oh, I see. Because, if there was any choosing that could be done, you would choose a life in this.

CLIPPER
Well, I won’t be forced to feel guilty.

CHAIM
Well then, go and turn it into Colibri. Since you’re so afraid of joining us, you’re going to turn us in anyway. Better make our execution come sooner than later.

ZIPPO
Since you’d like to turn me in right after I decided to agree to this. In that case, you’d be turning us in after getting a severe beating from me.

CHAIM
If they execute me, so be it. This may be the point of no return. Nobodys had the freedom to say it out loud, but we’ve all been waiting for a moment like this. One with proof that nothing can justify our suffering. I want my body how it comes, I want my mind how it comes. One day, I want to live in a world worth redeeming. Your comfort will always come at the expense of somebody smaller. The world is built around the fact that you will always have the power to make me pay you tenfold what you deserve. And if you can go on living, knowing that after this, then you really do deserve your sentence.

Chaim walks away from him and begins to start working again. After a while, Zippo does the same thing. Continuing on as if nothing has happened. They wait for Clipper to make the next move.

CLIPPER
I pissed on a statue of the Chief Counselor. Uh the predecessor, at his memorial.
They all begin laughing. Knowing there has been an alliance made.

ZIPPO
Why would you do a thing like that?

CLIPPER
I was drunk. I had to go.

CHAIM
Nothing to be ashamed of. It’s only natural.

CLIPPER
Mom and Dad will just have to get over it.

ZIPPO
Rough few days for a yuppie. Their kid breaks the law twice in one week.

CLIPPER
Necessary sacrifices. I don’t suppose either of you two have a real plan?

CHAIM
Correct. What are the odds we find a ballpoint pen in one of these bins?

ZIPPO
One that works? Not likely. I bet if we put our heads together we can find something.

The group runs to the bin and begins to sift through it, they start to pull out other things that may help. Another backpack turns up, then a pencil pouch.

CHAIM
My grandmother told me, before the Monging revolution, when they decided the law would be decreed, they rounded up university rebels, scholars and executed all of them. Took all of their books and belongings and threw them in a landfill. That was a long time ago, but it’s the only explanation I can think of for finding anything like this.

ZIPPO
They probably thought nobody would ever find the books again. Should’ve burned them instead. I bet you more of them will turn up.

CLIPPER
My mother always has on the Counselor Telethon, and the other day I heard them say that the landfills are about 70 years old. Backed up from before then.

CHAIM
We could probably make a system out of this, right? I guarantee if there are more books from the universities they won’t be far behind. The timeline matches up.

ZIPPO
There’s notebooks in this backpack. Empty ones too. With pencils.

CHAIM
I know what we can do, I’ll read out the braille, then you can write it down in the notebook.

    ZIPPO
What good will that do? Either way, we can’t get it out of here.

    CHAIM
We could trade something with Colibri.

    ZIPPO
You really think he’d let us take it out? He’s an officer of the state, there’s no way he’ll let us smuggle this out, not after one glance at it.

    CLIPPER
Most officers are crooked anyway. Believe me, my fathers one. Nobody in the upper class cares about the values of the state, as long as it’s benefiting them they’re happy. I guarantee if we give Colibri something valuable enough in exchange, he’ll let us take whatever we want.

    CHAIM
Fair point. Now, who has something most worth trading?

    ZIPPO
One of these bins?

    CLIPPER
I doubt there will be anything of use in there. But, for now, you can take this.

    Clipper pulls down their coverals to reveal a solid gold chain.

    CHAIM
You didn’t have to do that. Thank you, really.

    CLIPPER
Don’t thank me, I was going to give it to Colibri for a break everyday halfway through the shift. Now that seems like such a miniscule reward for such a high price.

    ZIPPO
You finally seem to understand what we’re talking about. Might be the first yuppie ever to.

    CLIPPER
There’s got to be one first for everything. It’s funny, before tonight, I thought that the world was an imperfect constant. Where the people could just accept that there were hardships, but also had to accept that the solutions were out of our hands. Now I know that's not true.

    CHAIM
A human's condition is always up to himself.

    ZIPPO
The poor have the *unprivilege* of having to change their condition. The rich are born with an incredible ability to do nothing. To think about nothing.

**CLIPPER**
I know, I know you’re right. I won’t lie and say I haven’t enjoyed the privileges of being upper class. Had no idea they’d catch up to me. I’ve never paid for anything in my life, and perhaps now it’s time I start doing so.

**CHAIM**
Well then, I say we take one of those notebooks, copy it down someplace where we can give it to other people, so they can read it and pass it around.

**ZIPPO**
How can we be sure nobody burns it or turns it in?

**CHAIM**
I’m guessing we’ll have to keep track of it.

**ZIPPO**
What? Like visiting people with it? Traveling around with it all the time?

**CHAIM**
Nobody ever cares about anything first. If they see it’s worthy of owning, they’ll listen.

**CLIPPER**
To more important matters, how much do we have to do with the stuff, anyway?

**CHAIM**
What do you mean?

**CLIPPER**
How many codes in the constitution are we breaking?

**ZIPPO**
At least 20. I’ve studied it.

**CLIPPER**
You’re such a law expert, tell us the sentence for breaking 20 codes.

**ZIPPO**
Public execution?

**CHAIM**
I believe that's the *best* case scenario.

**ZIPPO**
I’d thank god if I got just public execution for that.

**CLIPPER**
Maybe we’ll never get caught.

**CHAIM**
Yes.

**ZIPPO**
Well, we’ve agreed to it anyway. And you’ve gotten my hopes up. I never get my hopes up.

   CHAIM

Alright.

   Silence encapsulates the stage. Silently, Chaim picks up the braille copy with the notebook and a pen and takes Zippo by the hand.

   CHAIM

You two, take turns. One works, one writes.

   CLIPPER

Fair enough, then. I’ll work first.

   They begin to do this. Chaim and Zippo talk in low whispers as they write on. There is a moment of them beginning to do it. One so long it keeps the audience in suspense. Colibri busts threw the door of the pit.

   COLIBRI

Hands up. Stand in a line.

   The three stand, after dropping the book and the notebook. They do as Colibri says.

   COLIBRI

You know, the pits always seem to push out some of the most valuable things in the megalopolitan. I find it absolutely insane they appoint you people to find them. And then appoint me to watch you. It must mean that I am destined to be a very rich person. And the funny thing is, they don’t even realize the value here. I don’t think either of you did until today. To be fair, who would ever suspect the garbage to have the deepest well of jewelry, materials, clothing, and documents… anywhere. I don’t care what comes out of it. The only thing I do care about is what it costs. It’s your first day, so I wouldn’t expect you three to know that, I can hear every word you say.

   ZIPPO

So are you going to do away with us?

   COLIBRI

I haven’t decided.

   ZIPPO

So why bust in now?

   COLIBRI

Because I'm interested in what they have…
Colibri points to Clipper. Who in return takes the necklace from their neck and holds it out.

CLIPPER
Is this worth leaving with that?

Colibri moves over to the book they are working on. He examines the pages and begins to read them. The other hand holds the braille version. As he reads from the regular writing he laughs a bit, shows genuine interest and deep thought.

CHAIM
We know it’s contraband. We know the consequences of releasing it. We know you’ll punish us, we don’t care.

COLIBRI
The two of you also feel this way?

Clipper and Zippo nod in agreement.

COLIBRI
Even the yuppie?

CLIPPER
I’m not a yuppie anymore. Not after tonight.

COLIBRI
Yes, I supposed this would make you something worse. Worse than a monger or criminal too. You’re all traitors.

CHAIM
Traitor to who?

COLIBRI
The Chief Counselor of course.

ZIPPO
Good. He may actually leave his estate at the sign of this.

COLIBRI
That outcome is debatable but you three will all be executed. Soon and swiftly.

CHAIM
Unless?

COLIBRI
What makes you think I'm going to help you three?

CHAIM
We’re still standing here.
C O L I B R I
Yes, you are.
CHAIM
Why?
C O L I B R I
Because I’d like to be a part of this.
Z I P P O
You want to help start a revolution?
C O L I B R I
Not without monetary reward.
CHAIM
Revolutionaries don’t get rewarded with money. Sorry.
C O L I B R I
Then how do you expect to get out of here without a scratch?
CHAIM
The necklace.
C O L I B R I
Maybe tonight. But what about all the other ones?
CHAIM
Tell us how you plan to be paid.
C O L I B R I
You make copies, you charge for them, then pay me a percent of it.
CHAIM
It may take a while to get people to read it. Nobody with plenty of money is going to want to read a manifesto about how the system is fucked.
C O L I B R I
I do have a kind heart deep down. I’ll give you a month.
Z I P P O
I don’t understand you. Why are you giving us so much grace?
C O L I B R I
Because, I’m stupid enough to work for the system, but smart enough to know I don’t mean anything to it. I went to officer school for 6 years. Lived in a barrack, fought my peers, my instructors, got beat on every single day, brainwashed every single day. It was hell ten times over. You get your assignment when you graduate. Imagine being assigned the title- Waste Warden. The King of Shit. That basically equals the King of Nothing. Less than that. 6 years of service and teaching, and punishment in return. If all I’m worth is garbage then I’m very well going to make the most of it.
CHAIM
You were never against us from the beginning?
C O L I B R I
Hard to say. I was but I wasn’t. Not as much against you, as I’m for myself. If it’s fuck the counselor in the name of myself then so be it. And if a revolution is coming then i’m going to be positive i’m on the winning side.

ZIPPO
I knew a revolution was coming.

COLIBRI
Exactly. That’s why I hate you so much.

ZIPPO
Then you’ve got every reason.

COLIBRI
We have an agreement then? You three produce the script, I just make money off of it?

The three exchange looks of agreement.

CHAIM
Yes. We’ll shake on it.

Chaim approaches Colibri and they shake on it.

COLIBRI
Like a box of matches it’ll be. One catches fire and soon enough the others will too.

CHAIM
That’s our plan, anyway.

COLIBRI
I’ll keep this, then. See you in 7 hours. Good luck you three, don’t let it be in vain.

Colibri pockets the necklace. Then proceeds to exit offstage. Chaim turns to the rest of them.

CHAIM
Thank you all. For listening to me. For forgetting all of the evil noise around us and realizing what truly needs to be done. Because once this is on the street, it’ll never leave it. It will become a plague worse than COVID or anything before.

CLIPPER
It will infect everyone.

ZIPPO
I’ll happily fall ill. As long as it’s into revolution.

CHAIM
Me too. Now, let’s get to work.
The three fall back into their task. Clipper sorting trash, and the other two quietly copying the braille onto the page. The curtain falls. The End.