

Little Firestarter (Bellus Excerpt)

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While this project is collaborative, this sample is written and edited entirely by Amalie Kae.

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Setting and Context:

Modern day, London. Most of the world's leading corporations and businesses are led by only a handful of powerful, elitist families. One such family is the Maizen family.

Danek Maizen is the heir to his family's business empire. A shielded, impersonal upbringing in extreme pressure and constant high-stakes politics has left Danek a violent and unstable man.

Aster - who sees Danek for his incredible political and financial value - is from a lesser family. As an opportunity to get closer to Danek presents itself, he jumps on it, despite the extreme risk the volatile Maizen comes with.

Soon, Aster finds himself very involved with the powerful family. And it would seem Danek isn't the only one to worry about.

Genre / tags: Drama. Modern. Dialogue.

LITTLE FIRESTARTER

Aster shows up for dinner at Danek's place. He knocks on the front door and hears a deep-voiced "come in!" from inside.

Entering the place, he notices neatly packed suitcases in the hallway.

A young girl's voice (Danika) can be heard from somewhere.

DANIKA

But Danek, I don't want to go!

DANEK

I know you don't, but you promised. Remember? And a promise is the most important thing.

DANIKA

No! Promises are stupid! And I hate going to that place, there's nothing to do and everybody treats me like I'm super weird!

Daneeeeek! I just want to stay here and watch movies and listen to music and hang out with you instead.

DANEK

I know, little firefly. I want that too. But if you do well, we can do all of that again very soon. Right?

Danek walks around the corner, into the hall. He carries his dark-haired sister - a girl of just 9 or 10 years old - like she is still just a tiny kid, weighing nothing.

As soon as she is in proper view, Danika looks up at Aster with big, bright, curious eyes

DANIKA

Danek, who is the pretty man?

DANEK (Mouthing)

Her driver's late.

ASTER

Hello, young lady. I'm Aster. One of your brother's friends.

DANIKA (Blushing)

Hello Mistar!

Danek sets her down, squatting down and taking her hands in his.

DANEK

Now, you be *extra* careful around Aster, alright?

DANIKA

Why?

DANEK

Because he is really snoopy. You know all those extra special secrets our family has?

He wants those secrets *real* bad. So bad that he allows me to do all sorts of things with him, just to try and get them.

Danika giggles shyly in that way kids do when they don't really understand.

DANEK

And sometimes he almost tricks me, and gets some of them.

DANIKA

Because he's pretty, so you get distracted?

DANEK

That's right! And because he's *reeeeally* smart. But luckily you're even smarter. Aren't you?

DANIKA

Yes! Definitely!

Danika turns to Aster, hands on her hips, super determined.

DANIKA

Sorry Mister, but you can't have our secrets!

*The driver finally arrives and announces himself.
Danika's smile fades in an instant.*

DANEK

Just one moment, please. She'll be there shortly.

DRIVER

Of course, Mr Maizen. Take all the time you need.

Tears swell up in the girl's eyes.

DANIKA

Why?! Why do I have to go?! I don't want to! No!

DANEK

Danika, you know why.

I know it's awful. Having to pretend that you're someone you're not. Having to talk with all those old, stupid doctors.

DANIKA

Not just pretend! They want me to change. Forever! They make me feel like I'm some kind of little monster.

I have no friends there. I'm just a thing! A thing that's all broken and wrong.

DANEK

Don't ever say that. Hey.

Danek takes an ornate, steel zippo lighter out of a pocket. He opens it, and hands it to her with the open flame.

Danika takes it, totally fascinated, staring at it like she just got the best Christmas present in the entire world.

DANEK

Now, you listen to me, Dani...

That thing in you, that makes you special? That makes you unique, like no one else? No one will ever take it away.

Just like they won't take my special thing away from me. I promise you that. And what is a promise?

DANIKA

...The most important thing.

DANEK

It's just that... sometimes, you have to hide yourself away for a bit, to get what you want.

Now, what do I always say?

DANIKA

You don't need to give up what you want. You just need to learn how to get away with it.

DANEK

That's right. And you didn't get away with it, did you? So now you have to learn your lesson.

DANIKA

... To never do it again?

DANEK

To never get *caught* again.

Danek gently takes his lighter back, pocketing it.

DANEK

Now, what do you need to say to the doctors, to get out of this?

DANIKA

That I'm a good girl, and that I won't ever ever do it again. Ever.

DANEK

That's right. That's your lie. Remember it. But don't you believe it for a single second.

...Now, you go and you make *them* believe it.

DANIKA

And then I can come back and visit?

DANEK

Any time you want, little fire-starter. Any time.