

"The Hostage"

By

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an adaptation of a short play by the same name

INT.CAR TRUNK-DAY

It's pitch black inside a car trunk and two men can be heard arguing out side, they are LENNY and VINCE.

LENNY

(o.s.)

You ready to be a millionaire?

VINCE

(o.s.)

Just get on with it.

The trunk opens, and we see the two of them. LENNY is a big lummoX of a guy, wearing a blue flower delivery uniform, and Vince is of average build, balding, and wearing a short sleeve shirt with a cheap clip on tie.

Lenny is grinning ear to ear, while Vince goes from mortified to furious in just seconds, as Lenny looks to him for reassurance Vince sucker punches him, and he goes down like a sack of potatoes.

Begin Title

THE HOSTAGE

End Title

INT.OFFICE-DAY

Vince is sitting at a cubicle amongst many in an off white data center building. He types at the computer, his face void of any meaningful expression.

While typing he eyes his stapler until he can no longer resist, opens it and brings it to his forehead, when a cellphone rings, interrupting him from his stapled fate.

He looks at the caller ID which reads "Lenny". He rolls his eyes before answering.

VINCE

(into phone)

Hey, I'm at work man. I can't talk.

What? ok calm down calm down, let me see.

He stands up and looks over the sea of cubicles, everyone as bored in this dismal wasteland as him.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE
(into phone)
Alright yeah, see you in five.

EXT.CITY STREET-DAY

Vince is standing in a line to a hot dog vendor, he is glancing at his watch and looks out for Lenny's car. Soon he gets to the front of the line to a nice quaint hot dog vendor, who's cart reads JULIE'S CHILI, DOGS, AND CHILI DOGS.

The woman behind the cart is JULIE, she is beautiful with an infectious smile, that she gives to Vince while taking his order.

JULIE
The usual, Vince?

VINCE
extra relish today,thanks.

She makes him a loaded hot dog, as Lenny's car pulls up. He pays her and she hands him the dog.

He turns to leave, before she stops him.

JULIE
wait! here take some extra napkins.

VINCE
oh thanks.

Vince laughs nervously and glances back at her. His face is flush with infatuation as she helps another customer.

EXT.STATE PARK-DAY

Lenny's car is driving down a long road leading into a state park.

VINCE
(v.o.)
Why are we going all the way out here?

LENNY
(v.o.)
Trust me on this one bro. We're gonna be set for life.

EXT.STATE PARK PARKING LOT-DAY

The car parks in a parking lot overlooking a hill and a river, and the two step out of the car arguing. They are too busy to notice Lenny parked in a handicap spot.

They walk over to the trunk and Vince looks fed up with him.

VINCE

Jesus, can you tell me what it is now?

LENNY

You ready to be a millionaire?

VINCE

Just get on with it.

INT.CAR TRUNK-DAY

Same scene as in the beginning, except the trunk is already open, and then Vince punches Lenny.

EXT.STATE PARK PARKING LOT-DAY

Vince is at the bottom of the hill next to the parking lot. He is pacing back and forth while Lenny leaves the car and heads toward him.

Lenny gets down there, and Vince looks ready to hit him again.

LENNY

Now,Vince Look. I know this seems bad but

VINCE

Are you out of your mind? You must be, this is the dumbest thing you've done in your life, and considering how long I've known you,and how many stupid things you do everyday I'm amazed.You have literally done the dumbest thing you could possibly be capable of doing.

LENNY

No, we're going to be rich. Trust me I've had it planned out for over a month. They have millions, we can be any body we want to be.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

You're out of your damn mind.

Vince walks away from him, infuriated still. He gets to the edge of the lake, and puts his hands in his pockets, he pulls out one of the napkins from Julie's Hot dog stand, and stares at it. He turns back and heads toward him.

VINCE

Alright, what's the plan?

EXT.STATE PARK PARKING LOT-DAY

The two of them are waiting by the car. Vince looks less furious now and more exasperated.

VINCE

Alright, you got a phone?

LENNY

(pulls out cell phone)

Yeah, here it is.

VINCE

Where'd you get it?

LENNY

Fat Mike sold it to me.

VINCE

Fat Mike? FAT MIKE? Fat Mike's a pickpocket!

LENNY

So?

VINCE

So, that phone is probably hot.

LENNY

We kidnapped an old man and were about to ransom him. Dealing in stolen merchandise is pretty much a step backwards for us.

VINCE

no no no no, WE did not kidnap anyone, there is no we, I left work early, from a job I've had barely a month, because you said there was a job, too great to resist you said. I didn't kidnap anyone. You know

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VINCE (cont'd)
what forget it, what are you going
to say?

Lenny pulls out a piece of paper and clears his throat.

LENNY
(in a weird phony voice)
We've got your uncle. If you ever
want to see him again...

VINCE
Wait a minute, wait a minute. What
the hell are you doing with your
voice?

LENNY
Im disguising it so no one will
recognize it.

VINCE
Who are you Frank Sinatra? Your
voice isn't recognizable.

LENNY
What?

VINCE
Nobody knows you!

A car drives by them and they try to act casual. Once it
passes they get in the car.

INT. CAR-DAY

The two of them sit in the car, and the noise of an old man
yelling can be heard, presumably from the trunk. Vince looks
really uncomfortable.

LENNY
You seem to forget that I worked
for that family.

VINCE
You delivered flowers there, once.

LENNY
I still think I should change it.

VINCE
Be my guest, just pick another
voice.

(CONTINUED)

LENNY

Why?

VINCE

Because you sound like a moron and we need to be taken seriously, what are the demands?

LENNY

One million dollars in small, non-sequential bills. We'll call them once and then call tomorrow to explain the plan.

VINCE

What plan?

LENNY

I think we should run whoever is going to deliver the money all over town before they leave it in the trash bin.

VINCE

Why?

LENNY

So we know they're not being followed.

a beat.

VINCE

You saw Dirty Harry again last night, didn't you?

LENNY

Well...

VINCE

Well nothing. We're not running anyone anywhere. Just have them drop the money at noon. the trash is picked up by the city at 12:30/ we'll get it then. Just tell them we'll be watching.

LENNY

That's so boring.

VINCE

(screaming)

Make the call!

(CONTINUED)

Lenny pulls out the cellphone and dials the number.

LENNY
It's ringing.

LENNY
(into phone)
Hello. I think you've been
expecting our call. We have your
uncle...

LENNY
(into phone)
Hello, Hello?

LENNY
They hung up.

VINCE
What do you mean they hung up?

LENNY
They answered the phone and there
was a lot of noise.

VINCE
Reception up here sucks, let's walk
down the hill.

the two of them get out of the car and walk down the hill.

EXT.STATE PARK-DAY

They are down at the riverbank, and Vince takes the phone
from Lenny.

VINCE
I'll take care of it.

Vince dials the number and waits impatiently.

VINCE
(into phone)
Hello... I said hello!

VINCE
(into phone)
You might be able to hear me better
if you turned the stereo down.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE
(into phone)
It's a live band? Well tell them to
take ten.

VINCE
(into phone)
Now, we have your uncle and if
you...

VINCE
(into phone)
I mean we're the ones who kidnapped
them.

VINCE
(into phone)
Hold on.

VINCE
I told them we kidnapped their
uncle and they said "Thank you."
What is going on? You talk to them.

Vince hands Lenny the phone.

LENNY
(into phone)
Hello. Im not sure you heard us
right. We said that we kidnapped
your uncle.

LENNY
(into phone)
Stop thanking us.

LENNY
(into phone)
If you want to see him alive then
you'll give us one million
dollars...

LENNY
(into phone)
Can you stop laughing?

Vince snatches the phone from Lenny.

VINCE
Give me that!

(CONTINUED)

VINCE

(into phone)

Maybe you don't get what we're saying. We have your uncle. If you ever want to see him alive again, you'll...

VINCE

(into phone)

What do you mean you don't want to see him alive again?

VINCE

(into phone)

You people are pretty sick. We'll call you back.

Vince hangs up and shakes his head.

LENNY

What did he say?

VINCE

They said hes a mean, nasty man, but they're all still in his will. so they don't want him back.

LENNY

This isn't good. What are we going to do?

VINCE

I don't know.

LENNY

Christ.

VINCE

What?

LENNY

We have to kill him.

VINCE

Jesus, I can't do it. I refuse.

LENNY

I've never killed anyone, I don't know what to do.

VINCE

And I have? I didn't kidnap him, so this is all on you.

Lenny looks ready to argue again, but Vince looks like he would accept any reason to sock him, so he nervously heads up the hill and Vince follows.

EXT.STATE PARK PARKING LOT-DAY

Vince waits near the trunk while Lenny rummages through the car and comes out with a plastic ice scraper.

VINCE

What the hell is that for?

LENNY

Well, you know. To get it over with.

VINCE

How on earth do you plan on killing him with that?

LENNY

I'll just hit him over the head with it a bunch.

VINCE

That'll take an hour at least, Jesus Christ you are so stupid. Why do I continue to let you ruin my life, I've had a steady job for almost a month now, and things were looking up, but of course I had to be dumb enough to be an accomplice in a kidnapping where the family doesn't want him back!

Shouts from the uncle can be heard from the trunk, Vince pounds his fist on it repeatedly.

VINCE

Shut up old man! Shut up, shut up shut up!

Vince pauses as an epiphany strikes him. He grabs the phone and runs down the hill, Lenny chasing him.

EXT.STATE PARK-DAY

They get to the river bank and a wide grin is on Vincent's face as he dials the phone.

(CONTINUED)

VINCE
I have an idea.

VINCE
(into phone)
Hello, its us again.

VINCE
(into phone)
Nice to hear you, too. Look we have
your uncle.

VINCE
(into phone)
Wait! If we don't get one million
dollars by four o clock, he'll be
back at your front door by four o
five.

VINCE
(into phone)
Now, don't panic. We'll give you
time to get the money. Alright,
small bills. I'll call you back.

Vince closes the phone and him and Lenny hug and dance for
joy until...

LENNY
Hey isn't that our car?

They turn around to see their car on the bed of a tow truck
that's driving off.

They run up the hill after it.

FADE OUT