

coffee

A short screenplay
by
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TRAIN STATION - INT. DAY

We see a Man standing near the phones in Kings Cross Train Station.

He is dressed in a dark suit, wearing sunglasses and carrying a black brief case. The Man seems tense and edgy.

We go to a close up as he looks at his watch. The watch reads 3PM.

The Man heads towards the stairs.

TROPICANA. ENTRANCE - INT. DAY.

We cut to a cappuccino machine. Someone is frothing up the milk in a stainless steel jug.

We pan up to see one of the STAFF concentrating on his work.

We cut to the door as the Man from Scene 1, enters. He stands at the door and looks around nervously. He looks at his watch 3.05pm.

He looks around again. He wipes the sweat from his forehead.

Suddenly Phil appears behind him. He's dressed in jeans, T.-shirt, baseball cap and also sunglasses. He has a photo box tucked under his arm.

He taps the man on the shoulder.

PHIL
Lionel. Are you Lionel ?

The Man turns. Phil puts out his hand.

PHIL
I'm Phil. Tony sent me. I've got the stuff.

He holds up the box. The Man grabs his arms.

MAN
Keep your voice down.

PHIL
Sure. Sensitive huh ?

The Man looks at him.

MAN
We should sit down.

PHIL

Sure. You get the table and I'll order the coffees. Cappuccino ?

MAN

Coffee will not be necessary.

PHIL

Hey, that's what you think ?

The Man moves off to a table over near the glass. Phil calls to the Staff behind the counter.

PHIL

Hey Pete. One cap. I'm over near the door.

TROPICANA. TABLE. - INT. DAY.

The Man sits at a table, briefcase in front of him. He looks around, anxiously. Phil comes over to the table.

PHIL

Hey. My favourite table.

MAN

Why do we meet here ? This is not good.
Too many people.

PHIL

Hey Lionel, don't sweat it. You'll blend right in.

The Man grabs Phil's arm.

MAN

No names. We're you not told - no names.

PHIL

Tony - Sorry, T., neglected to mention that. What's up ? Scared you'll get recognised.

The Man looks around, worried. Phil looks around too. The Man looks at Phil. Phil smiles. The Man releases his grip.

PHIL

So L, what do you reckon ? Foccacia with salami or tuna ?

MAN

You seem to think this is a joke. This is no joke.

PHIL

Hey look, T., just asked me to drop off some photos, so I'm dropping them off ? Is there a problem ?

MAN

Some photos. Ha.

PHIL

Yeah. Some photos.

MAN

It is not usual.

PHIL

Hey listen, L. Let me give you a piece of advice. You gotta lighten up. You'll never get any work if you're so tense. Freaks the casting ladies out.

MAN

You think you are funny.

PHIL

I have my moments. Actually, just between you and me, I do a bit of stand up. Harold Park, Comedy Store - you know ? Get paid too.

MAN

Comedy Store ?

PHIL

Yeah, the Comedy Store. Where you been L ? Lithuania.

The Man looks at Phil. Pause. The Staff member arrives with the coffee.

PHIL

Thanks Pete. And I'll get a foccacia with tuna, tomato, cheese and lettuce. You sure you don't want anything L ?

The Man keeps his head down. He shakes his head. The Staff member looks at him. Phil shrugs. The Staff member walks away.

PHIL

Listen L, chill out. You're acting like you're wanted for murder or something.

The Man looks at him again. Pause. Phil shifts uneasily.

MAN

We do the exchange now.

PHIL

Sure. You want to see them ? You look a bit different. Less up top. Almost didn't recognise you.

Phil starts to open the box. The Man slams his hand on to it.

MAN

Are you insane ?

PHIL

I don't think that's my problem.

The Man removes his hand.

PHIL

Suit yourself.

The Man holds the bag.

MAN

Ready.

PHIL

Ready for what ?

MAN

1, 2, 3.

The Man pushes the case across the table. Pause. Phil looks at the case.

PHIL

Oh right. I get it.

Phil pushes the photos across the table.

MAN

1. 2. 3.

The Man releases the case and grabs the box. He pulls it towards him.

Phil pulls it back towards him. The Man looks at Phil.

The Man pulls the box again. Phil pulls it back once more. He smiles.

MAN

What are you doing ?

PHIL

What does it look like ?

MAN

Release the merchandise.

PHIL

Whatever you say.

Phil releases the box suddenly. The Man springs backwards. He nearly falls over.

PHIL

Hey L. Where do you come from mate ? Are you sort of from Poland. Some weird experimental theatre troupe.

MAN

That is not important.

The Man clutches the box to his chest. He stands.

PHIL

You off ?

MAN

Tell your friend we will not be dealing with him again.

The Man exits.

PHIL

Hey don't worry L. I don't think you'll be needing too many more shots in a hurry. Fruit loop.

Phil hums The Twilight Zone theme to himself. Suddenly he notices the case.

PHIL

Hey. You forgot your case.

Phil grabs the bag and stands. He runs out on to the street.

As he exits another Man enters the cafe. He is also wearing jeans, a T-shirt, baseball cap and sunglasses. Under his arm he has a small package wrapped in brown paper. He looks around nervously.

STREET OUTSIDE TROPICANA - EXT. DAY.

Phil has stopped outside the Fire Station. He looks around. No sign of the Man.

He looks at the briefcase. He pulls it up and opens it.

We cut to the contents The briefcase is crammed full of wads of one hundred dollar notes. We see Phil's face awestruck.

Phil closes the briefcase. He sticks out his arm.

PHIL

Taxi.

A passing taxi pulls in. Phil gets in to the back.

PHIL

Airport thanks.

BACK STREET, KINGS CROSS - EXT. DAY.

We see the Man walking along a back street towards a parked car.

He gets into the front seat.

CAR - INT. DAY.

Inside the car a hand appears over the seat. The Man gives the hand the box. The Man is relieved.

Suddenly a hand holding the box taps him on the shoulder. He turns and takes the box. The Man looks confused. He puts the box on his lap and opens it.

We cut to the inside of the box a glossy ten by eight of an ACTOR.

The Man's face drops in shock. He takes off his sunglasses. We see he is virtually a spitting double of the actor. The Man swallows. He has begun to sweat.

We hear the unmistakable cocking of a gun. We freeze on the Man's face.

TROPICANA - INT/DAY.

At the Tropicana Phil's coffee and foccacia sit untouched. Also at the table, waiting nervously is the Man with the brown paper package.

He looks at his watch.

AIRPORT - EXT/DAY

At the airport we watch as a Qantas jet takes off, destination unknown.
End.