

Inconvenience

By

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INT. CONVENIENCE SHOP - NIGHT

A BABY sits in a stroller, happily staring up at the man behind the register, MATT, 25, baby-faced and with the affectionate eyes of a father.

MOTHER (O.S.)
Hello? I said whichever fags are
the cheapest, yeah? Hurry up.

Matt snaps his attention to the young MOTHER behind the stroller.

MATT
Yeah, give us a second.

Matt looks through the cigarette shelves as a group of YOUNG TEENAGERS peer through the window beside him. Matt turns to catch the groups gaze, they all flee.

MATT
These for you?

MOTHER
(gesturing to the baby)
Na, they're for her.

MATT
(trying to make a joke)
She got ID?

MOTHER
I've got stuff to do yeah?

Matt sighs and scans the cigarettes, there is an ERROR BEEP.

MATT
(shouting across the shop)
Katie, can you give us a hand?

KATIE, also young, but clearly more capable than Matt, strides over. She takes the CIGARETTES and taps the machine.

KATIE
(to the mother)
Sorry, bloody daft these things,
you just have to cheat it a bit.
(to Matt)
Matt, just go and pull forward.

Matt nods and trudges away from the register, he can still hear the mother as he moves through the shop.

MOTHER
Useless him.

LATER:

Matt kneels behind the BARS of a TROLLEY as he pulls items forward on shelves.

JASON, talkative, happy-go-lucky, late 20s, slides up to Matt with a box of condoms.

JASON
How much are these?

MATT
Five quid.

JASON
And what's your return policy like?

Matt continues to stack the shelves, Jason follows him.

JASON
If I wear the ribbed ones inside out, do *I* get double the pleasure?

Matt still stacks, Jason puts the condoms in his pocket. Matt taps him, faking annoyance.

JASON
Wha'? Come on mate! You'd give a man some bread to feed his starvin' family, but you won't give me johnnies to fuck me starvin' girlfriend?

Matt cracks a smile finally and keeps moving round the shop, stacking.

JASON
There we go, there's a fucking smile, I'll mark it on the calendar... You coming round Danny's tonight then? 'Bout 11?

MATT
Gotta see that lawyer guy in the morning, want a clear head and all that.

Jason's smile drops slightly.

JASON
(false sincerity)
Shit mate. I'm so sorry. I'm here
(MORE)

JASON (cont'd)
for you if you wanna talk or you
just need a hug maybe...

Jason hugs Matt tightly, Matt pushes him off with a laugh.

JASON
Seriously though, how's things?
What's the deal with Lily? Do you
get split weeks or something?

MATT
I get to see her weekends, but
she can't stay at mine. They say
one rented room is "unsuitable".

JASON
Mate, I've seen kids grow up in
the mansions on West Park who've
still ended up in the methadone
line.

Matt pulls forward items on the shelves aggressively.

MATT
It's fine... maybe if I could get
a proper place... or maybe if I
could earn more, or get some
money in the bank or just buy
Lily some new clothes, maybe
that'd prove I'm alright, that
I'm a good Dad... maybe they'd
let me have her... I just need
to do something.

JASON
Mate, you stress way too, we're
still young.

MATT
Yeah, we're all young 'til we're
not.

The pair turn a corner, at the ENTRANCE of the shop is a
MASKED MAN, with a GUN and BACKPACK.

He holds his lips to his fingers, shushing Matt and Jason,
and then GESTURES for them to get on the floor. They do.

The Masked Man advances towards Katie, who has her eyes
closed behind the register, hands up.

MASKED MAN
(reading Katie's badge)
Katie, you don't need to be
scared. All you have to do is let
me empty the safe and it'll all

(MORE)

MASKED MAN (cont'd)
be over. As long as everyone is
calm and friendly, no one will
get hurt. Now first of all, put
your phone on the desk and close
the shutters.

Katie opens her eyes, she puts her PHONE on the desk and
presses a button, the FRONT SHUTTERS of the store rolls
down, but gets STUCK.

She presses the button again - no movement. She smiles at
the Masked Man apologetically.

KATIE
They need a bit of a kick.

The Masked Man slowly backs over to the door, opens it and
kicks the SHUTTERS, they roll all the way down.

MASKED MAN
Okay, go.

The Masked Man leads Katie into the aisle with Matt and
Jason.

MASKED MAN
You two, we're going into the
back and you are going to get
inside the drinks storage. Now,
slide me your phones and move.

Matt and Jason slide their phones. Matt watches as the
Masked Man kneels to pick his up. As he kneels, his
trouser rides up to reveal a YING-YANG tattoo on his
ANKLE.

Matt's face drops.

SOUND - SLAMMING AND LOCKING DOOR

INT. STORAGE CUPBOARD - NIGHT

Matt, Jason and Katie stand in the storage cupboard.

KATIE
This wasn't even my bloody shift.

JASON
That'll teach you to work hard.

Katie looks annoyed at Jason, who sits on some BOXES.

JASON
There's nowt we can do, might as
well have a sit down.

Jason gets a PACKET of CRISPS out of a box and opens them, Katie hits it out of his hands.

KATIE

(to Matt)

If you'd been paying attention instead of pissing about with this dickhead, none of this would have happened.

MATT

(emphasis on "little")

Actually, I've had a little thought, why would anyone rob this little shop? It's little and it's definitely not a little risk.

Jason doesn't pick up on anything.

JASON

He seemed polite enough, I say we just let him get on with his job - working man and all.

Jason reaches down and picks up the CRISPS.

The door wrenches open and the Masked Man stands in the doorway, gun aloft.

MASKED MAN

Alright! One of you two open the fucking safe or I'll... blow your fucking brains out.

The three in the cupboard all freeze, shocked, but Matt isn't scared at all, he raises a hand.

MATT

Yeah, I can do that.

Matt steps out and the door is closed.

INT. BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Matt kneels beside a SAFE, he looks at the CCTV cameras in the corner of the room. The Masked Man puts a gun to Matt's head.

MASKED MAN

(flustered)

Now! Open it, or it's.... or you die! Bitch!

MATT

The cameras don't have sound
Danny.

DANNY, the masked man, flinches.

DANNY

You what?

MATT

Danny, I know it's you.

DANNY

(panicking)

Man I don't know no fucking
Danny, yeah?... Punk!

MATT

Daniel Little. Who else has that
ridiculous ying-yang tattoo.

DANNY

Shit.

Danny lowers the gun.

MATT

Get the gun up for Christ's sake,
the cameras don't have sound, but
they can still see you.

Danny raises the gun.

DANNY

Right, sorry...
(casually)
You alright then?

MATT

No I'm not bloody alright! What
are you doing?

DANNY

We're robbing the shop.

MATT

Really? Are you? I hadn't
noticed. What the fuck are you
and Jason thinking?

DANNY

We worked it out, no one's gonna
suspect that'd we'd take our
mates hostage, it's so stupid
it's perfect!

MATT

Look, you can just leave right now. I'll say you started ranting about guilt or Jesus or something and we can just forget this whole thing.

DANNY

Na mate, we're here now, just do it. We were gonna cut you in.

MATT

I can't... it's... wrong?

DANNY

You think it's gonna matter to these guys, it's a chain-shop lad, they're making a mint every night! Where's the harm?

Matt looks down at the KEYPAD, deliberating.

INT. STORAGE CUPBOARD - NIGHT

Jason sits on some boxes, Katie stands in awkward silence.

JASON

So you're one of those pansexuals?

KATIE

What!?

JASON

Matt told us. I think it's really cool, I love when people just, you know, do what they wanna do... so is it like, a little bit of everything or...

Katie is dumbfounded by the stupidity.

KATIE

I can't believe I'm having this conversation in the middle of a robbery.

JASON

I'm just chatting.

KATIE

Well don't. We just have to sit this out another 20 minutes and then the police will get here.

JASON
What? How would they know?

KATIE
I hit the silent alarm.

INT. BACK ROOM - NIGHT

Matt types in the KEYCODE and opens the safe.

MATT
There isn't a lot in here. But
there's a second safe in the
office. It's got about four days
take in it.

Danny hands Matt his BACKPACK, Matt starts putting the
cash inside.

DANNY
You're an absolute ledge mate.

MATT
And we're putting half of it into
a charity.

DANNY
What!

MATT
You wouldn't even know about the
second safe without me, so it's
only fair.

DANNY
Mate, I am a charity.

Matt gives Danny his BACKPACK.

MATT
Take it or leave it. And hit me
with the gun so it looks like
you're beating the information
out of me.

DANNY
Which part should I hit you with?

MATT
It's a gun mate, I don't think it
matters.

Danny hits Matt with the gun, Matt flinches only slightly,
confusion on his face.

MATT

Please tell me that's not plastic?

DANNY

It's from Poundland?

MATT

Great, at least you're making a decent profit. Hit us again.

Danny hits Matt again, Matt crumples to the floor knocking over a BOX of CRISPS, they spill everywhere.

MATT

Now point it.

Danny points the gun, Matt stands up and turns to face the CCTV camera, hands in the air.

MATT

Okay! Okay! The other safe's in the office!

DANNY

I thought you said there was no sound?

Matt lowers his head, keeping his mouth off camera.

MATT

They can read lips.

DANNY

Shit... uh... Open that fucking safe right now!

MATT

Danny, you're facing away from the camera.

DANNY

Oh, sorry.

Matt sighs and walks towards the door, he looks back at Danny, who is putting the CRISPS back in the BOX.

MATT

What are you doing?

DANNY

The rozzers are gonna come marching in here and it'll be a proper mess for some poor working lad.

MATT

It's a box of crisps mate, it doesn't matter. Now come on, you have to swap me and Katie and get her to open the safe.

DANNY

Why can't you?

MATT

They don't trust me with the code.

DANNY

Can't blame 'em.

INT. STORAGE CUPBOARD - NIGHT

Jason is panicked as he paces.

JASON

I think we should uhm, talk to him? Make sure Matt's okay?

KATIE

No. We stay quiet, wait for the police.

JASON

Na, na, uhm... I really need a piss as well.

KATIE

Piss in the corner.

JASON

(panicking)

I can't, not with you there. I mean, I know you're into everything so...

KATIE

Christ I'm not into that!

JASON

I'm gonna have to get out.

Jason bangs on the door.

JASON

Hey!

Katie grabs his hand.

KATIE

Shut up! If you have to piss yourself to get us out of this, that's a sacrifice I'm willing to make.

The door opens, Danny shoves Matt in and raises his gun.

DANNY

Right! You, fucking come with us or you fucking, eating a... lead bullet. Bitch!

KATIE

Okay! Okay!

JASON

No! Wait!

Danny drags Katie out and SLAMS the door.

JASON

Shit.

Jason recomposes himself and looks at Matt.

JASON

Scary this, isn't it mate?

MATT

Danny Little! Danny fucking Little?

JASON

Oh, did he tell you?

MATT

Na mate, I'm just shouting our friends name at you like it's a new conversation starter. What the fuck were you two thinking?

JASON

Look, since you're with us now, you should know that she pressed the alarm and the rozzers are coming.

MATT

We have an alarm? Shit! Shit! Right, okay, we're gonna have to get Danny out. Do you have like a codeword or something to say when something's gone wrong.

JASON
(realising)
Fuck! Yes! We do! Pineapple.

MATT
What?

Jason bangs on the door.

JASON
Pineapple!

Matt grabs him to stop him.

MATT
Stop! Why the fuck is it
pineapple!

JASON
It's like when you're having sex,
you can't put the safe word as
like "no" or "stop" or "not that
one" cause that might be part of
the shagging, so you pick a weird
word, like pineapple.

MATT
Jason, we're not dogging, this is
a robbery. Why in the world would
we be shouting pineapple at the
robber? What's Katie gonna think?

JASON
Shit. Okay, then we get his
attention and slip it into the
conversation.

MATT
oh? "Hi Mr. Robber, I know you
have a gun pointed at our heads,
but what's your favourite
tropical fruit?"

JASON
Na na, just put it in really
fast, like "please don't
pineapple kill us".

MATT
You're a pineapple bloody idiot.
And why the hell was Danny so
calm at the start and now he's
talking about eating lead?

JASON
We practiced the start bit.

MATT
You practiced?

JASON
Yeah, we dressed up his bedroom
and did a little practice. I was
the checkout lass, got it spot on
actually.

MATT
Great, maybe if this doesn't work
out, you can take it on the West
End.

Matt sighs and starts banging on the door.

MATT
(shouting)
You better not be hurting her!
We'll cooperate, just don't hurt
her!

Matt gestures Jason to help, Jason starts banging.

JASON
Take our lives, but spare the
girl!

Matt gestures "what the hell" to Jason.

JASON
Just don't hurt her!

Danny opens the cupboard.

DANNY
Alright lads, what's up?

Matt looks around behind Danny.

MATT
(whisper)
Where's Katie?

DANNY
I tied her to the table.

MATT
What table?

DANNY
The one in the office?

MATT
The one that's not bolted down?

Danny thinks for a moment and then turns and sees Katie
running for the door.

DANNY

Hey!

INT. BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny sprints after her and grabs hold of her.

KATIE

Let go!

Matt and Jason step out of the storage cupboard and look at each other, panicked.

Danny and Katie struggle further down the room.

JASON

Hey! If you think you're gonna get away with this, you're off your pineapple.

Matt can't help but close his eyes in annoyance.

INT. BACK ROOM - LATER

Danny shuts the storage cupboard door, Katie BANGS on it.

KATIE (O.S.)

Fuck you!

Danny climbs up and knocks the CCTV camera to one side. Matt lets out a sigh, then talks in a hushed voice.

MATT

Okay, the police are coming, they'll be here any second.

DANNY

What? How are--

MATT

-- Danny, shut the fuck up. There isn't time. They'll be looking on the streets for someone running away, but you're not gonna run, you're gonna stay right here.

DANNY

I don't like it so far.

MATT

You stay here and lock us in the storage cupboard and hide in one of the empty crisp boxes. We'll say we heard you run out the door and when everything has calmed

(MORE)

MATT (cont'd)
down, you use this key to sneak
out.

Matt hands Danny a KEY.

JASON
This is the best plan? A box of
crisps.

MATT
You got anything better?

They all looks at each other.

INT. BACK ROOM - LATER

Two POLICEMEN interview Katie, Matt and Jason.

MATT
He was about six foot, sounded...
normal.

KATIE
He was like, really polite, then
really angry.

JASON
Just a proper mental case you
know, probably not even from
around here.

Matt glances very briefly at Jason, annoyed.

MATT
Anyway he just locked us in there
and ran out.

KATIE
Only got the nights takings, not
even a hundred quid.

Jason looks annoyed as Policeman 1 writes his notes.

POLICEMAN 1
Right, well, thank you, I think
that should cover it. We'll put
out a search, if you want to call
your manager and see what he
wants you to do, we're happy to
stay with you for a bit.

KATIE
Thanks.

Policeman 2 sidles up to Katie.

POLICEMAN 2

Hey, sorry to be a bother, but I'm absolutely starving, if we're gonna be hanging around, do you think I could grab a bag of crisps?

Jason and Matt look at each other with panic.

KATIE

It's not really allowed, but... where's the harm?