

A Hint of Equality

Written By

Jacob Joyner

FADE IN:

EXT FOREST DAY

ROBERT, a man in his mid twenties wearing a snug black suit and gripping a black briefcase, is sprinting through the woods at an uneasy pace.

Robert sprints until he reaches a clearing in the dense forest. He immediately slides to his knees and frantically rips open the briefcase. Robert begins shoving bills into his coat.

He frantically empties the briefcase until suddenly a loud CLICK is heard from behind him. DENNIS, a middle aged, heavy set, southern man in a bright orange hunting vest, is pointing a shotgun directly at Robert.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT LIVING ROOM NIGHT / INT KITCHEN NIGHT (2007)

Two Years Earlier

The news is on in the living room of a suburban home. They're covering the current economic recession. Robert sits on the recliner watching the news story until his attention wanes. He disregards the story and continues flipping through the channels. TIFFANY, Robert's wife who is in her late twenties, peaks her head out from the kitchen.

TIFFANY

We're ready.

ROBERT

Okay!

Robert shuts off the TV. As Robert walks into the kitchen, Tiffany has her back turned and is clearly upset.

ROBERT

Mmmm smells delic- (Robert notices Tiffany) What's wrong?

Robert knows why Tiffany is crying but halfway refuses to believe the reason.

ROBERT

It will all work out.

TIFFANY

You think? Two months late and your still lounging around like we're

(MORE)

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

rich?

ROBERT

It starts here Tiff. John down at the plant told me they may be looking for new help soon.

TIFFANY

Okay, I'm sorry. The stress is just getting to me. But something good has got to happen to us.

ROBERT

It will. I promise.

TIFFANY

If you promise.

Robert and Tiffany hug as dinner is steaming on the table.

CUT TO:

EXT PARKING LOT DAY / INT BANK DAY

Robert is walking down the sidewalk in a snug black suit with a briefcase in hand. He is headed to the bank at the end of the road. Robert is approached by a HOMELESS MAN, in his late 50's wearing tattered clothing.

HOMELESS MAN

Spare any change mister?

ROBERT

You'll get change soon enough.

Robert walks past the homeless man and enters the bank. He heads straight to the first open teller. ASHLEY, a bubbly young woman in her early twenties greets Robert with a warm, naive smile.

ASHLEY

Hi Sir!

ROBERT

Hi.

ASHLEY

How can I help you today?

ROBERT

You see I actually have an issue that needs to be resolved immediately.

ASHLEY

It would be my pleasure to help you sir!

ROBERT

Great! I first need to open a new bank account.

ASHLEY

Excellent, we will just need to see proof of-

Robert takes a note out of his pocket and slides it across the desk.

ROBERT

With these provisions please.

ASHLEY

Provisions?

Ashley picks up the note and reads what's written.

"I have a gun hidden in my pocket. I will not hesitate to shoot if any noise or alert is made. Withdraw 50,000 dollars and put it into the briefcase. I WILL NOT HESITATE TO OPEN FIRE. THIS IS A ROBBERY.

Robert slides the briefcase across the counter.

ASHLEY

But, why?

ROBERT

For us all.

CUT TO:

EXT FOREST DAY

Dennis and Robert are in a situation. Robert has been caught transferring money from the briefcase to his pockets.

DENNIS

Looks like I caught a big one today.

ROBERT

This doesn't concern you.

DENNIS

I'm now makin' this my concern.

(MORE)

DENNIS (CONT'D)

Where'd you come across dem bills?

BOOM, Dennis fires his gun into the sky. Robert recoils with fear and rolls onto his back now looking directly into the barrel of Dennis' shotgun.

DENNIS

You ain't gonna hear it next time.

ROBERT

I'll die before I hand this money to someone who doesn't need it.

DENNIS

Hate to break it to ya. But looks like you don't need that cash either bo.

Dennis begins to move closer to Robert. Robert grips the briefcase and slowly tries to move away from Dennis.

ROBERT

You will regret this.

DENNIS

Put the money back in the suitcase and hand it over.

Dennis moves closer and mounts the barrel of the shotgun on Robert's head. Robert expects a quick death but suddenly the sound of someone running is heard in the distance.

OFFICER WALSH

POLICE! PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPON! I REPEAT, PUT YOUR WEAPON DOWN NOW!

OFFICER WALSH, a mid thirty year old police officer, has reached the altercation.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT BEDROOM DUSK

Robert is walking down the sidewalk to his house. He walks to the front of the house and finds Tiffany sitting on the steps of the house.

TIFFANY

Where have you been?

ROBERT

Me and a couple of the boys were-

TIFFANY
It happened today.

Tiffany throws a paper on the ground. Robert picks up the paper and realizes it's a foreclosure on their home.

ROBERT
I didn't-

TIFFANY
The bank has taken our house Rob.
And look what you're doing about
it.

ROBERT
But it said we had-
I will fight this. I won't let this
just happen-

TIFFANY
Its already happened! Ever since
you lost that job you haven't been
able to slump out of it!

ROBERT
I know I've just been trying to-

TIFFANY
Trying to what!? You've known for
months my job couldn't get close to
what we needed for this.

Robert and Tiffany both take a breath and try to hold themselves together. Robert looks at the padlock on the door.

ROBERT
I'm going to do whatever it takes
to get the money. Whatever it
takes.

Robert and Tiffany walk down the sidewalk to look for a place to sleep.

CUT TO:

EXT BANK DAY

Robert exits the bank at a brisk but natural pace with his briefcase in hand. His stress level is slowly increasing as the clock ticks on his getaway.

SWOOSH the door of the bank slams open as Officer Walsh

rushes out of the bank and frantically looks around.

Robert quickly takes off on foot racing towards the woods behind the bank.

OFFICER WALSH
Police! Stop! 10-64, I'm in pursuit
(into radio).

Robert sprints into the woods as Officer Walsh quickly follows him.

CUT TO:

EXT WOODS DAY

Dennis, Officer Walsh and Robert find themselves in a mexican standoff. The police officer inches closer to the other two men.

OFFICER WALSH
I REPEAT! PUT THE WEAPON DOWN AND
PUT YOUR HANDS UP.

The hunter quickly puts his gun down and puts his hands into the air.

OFFICER WALSH
Officer Walsh requesting backup at
Hawthorne Nature Reserve.

DENNIS
Sir, I just was apprehending this-

ROBERT
Officer! Please help!

DENNIS
SHUT UP! (to Robert) We're just
having a little dispute that needs
settlin'.

OFFICER WALSH
I know what's happening here. Both
of you are under arrest.

Officer Walsh inches forward.

DENNIS
It's not what it looks like. I
would never try to take this poor
man's money.

Dennis stares down at the money and back at the police officer. His body language and tone of voice still indicates his intention of taking the money.

DENNIS

Sir, I was just minding my own business-

OFFICER WALSH

Save it for downtown!

Officer Walsh is now within feet of the men. Dennis looks directly into the eyes of a terrified Robert.

DENNIS

It ain't happenin' like this.

Dennis suddenly turns and attempts to run away. The cop recoils and shoots Dennis in the leg before getting far.

Robert immediately sprints into the distance as Dennis is shot. Officer Walsh opens fire on Robert but misses. The officer stays with the now wounded Dennis.

OFFICER WALSH

10-79 requesting an ambulance.
Shots fired.

CUT TO:

EXT CITY DUSK - NIGHT

Robert runs out of the woods into a downtown area. He runs through the allies and streets until he reaches a door. Robert opens the door and walks into a run down squatter's apartment.

The apartment is covered in news clippings of various demonstrations and riots happening across the world. Tiffany is sitting in the corner reading a book by candlelight.

TIFFANY

My hero, back safe again.

ROBERT

Onto the next one.

Tiffany takes out a map and crosses off the bank Robert has just heisted.

TIFFANY
South Hills is next.

Robert puts down the briefcase, counts the money and stores it in a suitcase with countless bills of currency. He takes a handful, counts out \$10,000 and puts it in an envelope marked "John."

ROBERT
We can discuss it tomorrow. I'm crashing.

TIFFANY
Wait for me.

Tiffany shuts her book and heads over to the makeshift mattress her and Robert sleep on. Robert takes a deep breath and turns out the light.

EXT CITY MORNING

Robert walks out of his house the next day. He walks through the bustling city until he reaches a homeless shelter. He enters the shelter and walks back into the kitchen.

JOHN
Robert! How ya doin'? Lookin' little glum.

ROBERT
It was a rough yesterday John.

JOHN
Eh, all that matters is that your here now.

Robert hands John the envelope. The men smile at each other.

JOHN
We're going to initiate change. One envelope at a time.

ROBERT
I try to tell myself that John. But you know , you and I are really only two people. Real change has to come from inside. We may only be the catalyst for the storm that's coming.

The two men stare at each other and begin laughing. Robert walks back out into the shelter and see's the homeless man he refused to help earlier. Robert hugs the homeless man to

a reaction of confusion. Robert walks back out into the city.

Fade Out.