

Gratuity Not Included

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EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT

1

JUDE, late 40s and professional stands alone in front of a hotel. He turns as ROSIE, mid 60s and elegantly dressed steps out.

JUDE

I'm sorry about the delay, Miss. Your car should be here any minute.

ENGINE ROAR. A Lexus pulls up with music playing. Rosie walks over to it. Vince, late 20s and mischievous, steps out. He holds the door open.

Vince nods and Rosie gets in the car. Vince continues to hold the door. Rosie looks at Vince.

VINCE

Sorry Miss, I'm new here.

ROSIE

I can tell.

Vince closes the door. Rosie shakes her head and turns up the heat. Vince stays next to the door. Rosie opens the center console. She shuffles through and rolls down her window.

ROSIE (CONT'D)

Where's my money?

VINCE

I'm sorry?

ROSIE

You went through my car.

VINCE

I didn't touch anything.

Jude comes over from the valet podium and moves between Vince and Rosie.

JUDE

I'm sorry, ma'am. I can assure you my partner didn't touch your belongings.

Rosie scoffs and rolls up her window. She drives off.

VINCE

We appreciate your generosity!

Vince and Jude return to the VALET PODIUM.

JUDE

You did it again.

Vince breaks into a smile and takes a \$20 bill from his pocket. He waves it around.

JUDE

Keep doing that and you won't last long.

VINCE

Come on, we deserve it.

Vince puts the cash back into his pocket. He reaches into the podium and pulls out a small lockbox. Vince holds it up and shakes it.

VINCE

How many tips do we have in here again?

Jude reaches out and grabs the lockbox. He holds it close to his chest.

JUDE

So we're not being tipped. It doesn't mean you should steal.

Jude puts the lockbox back in the podium.

VINCE

They don't need the money.

JUDE

But I need this job.

VINCE

You barely make a living. The \$30 in there you split it with other valets.

JUDE

You're not Robin Hood.

VINCE

They won't fire me over one complaint.

JUDE

They'd fire both of us. There's plenty of replacements.

VINCE

Then how come you've been here so long?

JUDE

I don't have another choice.

ENGINE ROAR. Jude straightens and fixes his uniform. Vince smiles. An AUDI pulls in and Vince runs over.

MARK, mid 40s and preoccupied, pushes the door open and Vince jumps aside. Mark on his phone, steps out and Vince offers him a ticket.

VINCE

Welcome to The Antlers...

Mark grabs the ticket from Vince and moves towards Jude.

MARK

(into phone)

Yeah, I'm here. I'll be up in a minute.

JUDE

Hello sir, would you like to set a time to...

MARK

Thirty minutes.

Mark enters the hotel. Jude looks back over to Vince. Vince is in the Audi. He rummages through the console.

JUDE

Really?

Vince stops ransacking the car. Jude moves over to the side of the Audi. Vince rolls down the passenger window and holds up a wallet.

JUDE

No.

Vince opens the wallet and whistles.

VINCE

Now that's the tip we deserve.

Vince looks at Jude and the two lock eyes. Jude attempts to grab the wallet through the window but Vince pulls back.

JUDE
Please give it.

Jude tries the passenger door handle. It's locked. Vince smiles at him. Jude tries the door handle a few more times.

JUDE (CONT'D)
Vince, trust me. You don't know what you're doing.

Jude looks at Vince and Vince looks away.

VINCE
I'm doing what I need to do. And so should you.

Vince accelerates and Jude gets out of the way. Jude watches the car disappear.

EXT. HOTEL - SOME TIME LATER

2

Jude stands alone at the valet podium shivering. He looks at the warm inside of the hotel and at the lockbox. Vince comes around the hotel's corner and makes his way toward Jude.

Jude makes room and Vince puts the Audi keys away. The two stand in silence.

VINCE
I left it, the wallet.

Jude ignores him.

VINCE (CONT'D)
Turns out he was an organ donor.

JUDE
Stop messing around. Did you put it back?

VINCE
I did.

JUDE
Good.

Jude takes a deep breath.

JUDE (CONT'D)

An entire decade was stolen from me.
For one small mistake.

VINCE

I don't steal anything that matters.

JUDE

It's not about what you steal. Once
you're labeled a thief, you're a
prisoner for the rest of your life.

Jude looks away and takes a deep breath. BEEP! BEEP! BEEP!
Marks alarm goes off. Jude stops the alarm. Vince grabs the
Audi keys and tosses them at Jude.

VINCE

Get a feel for something you'll never
own.

Jude stares at Vince and Vince turns his back. Jude runs off
and Vince stands alone.

EXT. HOTEL - A FEW MINUTES LATER

3

The hotel doors open and Vince turns around. Mark walks out.
He checks his watch and looks at Vince.

MARK

Where's my car.

VINCE

You're early.

MARK

It should be here early.

Mark checks his watch again as the Audi comes up to the
hotel. Mark walks over to the car and Jude steps out. Jude
holds the door open.

JUDE

Here you are, sir.

MARK

At least one valet knows what he's
doing.

Mark enters the car. He grabs his wallet from the center

console and opens it.

MARK
Where's my money?

JUDE
Sir?

MARK
I had at least three hundred dollars
in here.

JUDE
I don't know, sir.

MARK
Oh really?

Mark gets out of the car and approaches Jude.

JUDE
I would never look through your car,
sir.

Mark scoffs and looks around. His eyes land on Vince.

MARK
You.

Mark moves to the valet podium. Vince takes a step back.

VINCE
I didn't take your money.

MARK
Don't lie to me.

The two stare for a moment. Mark looks at both the valets. He walks toward the hotel entrance.

MARK (CONT'D)
Manager!

Jude runs over to Vince. He points his finger into Vince's chest.

JUDE
You said you put it back.

VINCE
I did. I swear.

JUDE
Why'd you take it?

VINCE
He's lying!

JUDE
I can't believe you.

Jude turns his back to Vince and looks at the entrance of the hotel.

VINCE
We'll be fine, we just have to vouch
for each other.

Jude spins around to face Vince.

JUDE
They have no reason to believe either
of us. An ex-con and a newbie?

Jude pauses for a moment.

JUDE (CONT'D)
There's nowhere else I can go. But
you, you should run. Start again
somewhere else.

VINCE
Come on, Jude. I didn't take it.

Jude looks at Vince who avoids his gaze.

The doors to the hotel open. Mark and THE MANAGER, mid 40s and professional, come outside. Vince sees them and takes off.

MARK
He's running! Get my money back!

Jude watches Vince round the hotel corner.

JUDE
He's long gone.

The manager puts his hand on Mark's back.

MANAGER
I'm terribly sorry about all of this,
sir. Please come back inside so we can

sort this out.

The manager and Mark return inside.

Jude watches them go and walks over to the valet podium. He opens the lockbox, looks around and places Mark's money inside. Jude closes the box and looks out at the city.

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CREDITS