

ROBBERY

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INT. BANK MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

We open on a corner office in a small bank. The nameplate on the desk says "WALLACE, bank manager". WALLACE (Early 40's, very proper, muscular, wearing a fitting suit) is dealing with a customer. The customer, SOPHIA (early 30's, seems chatty, wearing a red overcoat), has just finished opening a savings account for her child. The child, MOE (8, messy hair, baggy clothes), is sitting next to her, being fidgety.

As they chat, we can clearly see that Sophia and Wallace are into each other. Smiling, being unnecessarily touchy. Moe makes faces at this behavior.

WALLACE

So...dinner same time as last week?

Sophia smiles. Suddenly, we hear screaming from outside the office.

INT. BANK LOBBY - DAY

There is chaos in the lobby. The two other customers in the building and three other workers are either on the ground or have their hands raised. A security worker is laying in the corner with zip-ties and rope fastened around his arms, legs, and mouth.

His holster is empty and the camera pans over to the center of the lobby floor where it appears he dropped his gun. We see a man, HADI (medium height and build, loud voice), pick it up. He's wearing a ski mask, a turquoise puffer jacket, jeans, and timberland boots.

HADI

I don't think you're gonna be needing this.

Hadi chucks the gun into a waste-bin full of empty water cones and coffee cups. Another man in a ski mask, AYMEN (tall, slim, even louder voice) stands up next to Hadi. He's wearing what appears to be a thrifted sweater and white air forces. They're holding large duffel bags.

AYMEN

Alright everyone! As you can probably already friggin tell, this is a friggin robbery. Now, look! We don't want any trouble or any of you sweetiepies to get hurt. We're professionals and we're going to be In-and-Out!

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HADI
Like the fast food chain

AYMEN
Like the friggin fast food chain!

HADI
And if we find out that one of you
shmucks has the audacity to
contact police, try to run away,
or do anything stupid...

Hadi and Aymen pull out two large semi-automatics from their bags.

HADI
...I promise you, what happens
next will be your fault.

A young male employee screams. Hadi immediately points the gun at them.

HADI
Don't be doing that. I'm not a fan
of that.

The employee faints.

HADI
Hmm. That's fine. I can live with
that.

AYMEN
Alright, alright, alright. As you
can clearly see both exits of the
bank have been barricaded.

Camera quickly pans to a set of doors tightly fastened with a chain and a lock.

AYMEN
We will open these doors after we
conduct our business. Now, who
among you are lucky enough to be
on shift as this bank's manager on
this exquisite afternoon?

Wallace steps up from behind Sophia and Moe.

WALLACE
That would be me, gentlemen.

HADI
You look like Idris Elba.

WALLACE
Wha..What?

HADI
Do you get that a lot? You probably do. You handsome devil.

WALLACE
Uh, no..I don't know. Maybe. Yes. I guess a few times, yes.

HADI
Yeah, spit it out. You don't need to be overly humble with us. We're chill.

AYMEN
Hella chill. In fact, so chill, we're gonna let you go about your day after you direct us to this bank's safe.

WALLACE
I can't do that for you, gentlemen. Rather, I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to leave.

Aymen and Hadi look at him. Then look at each other. Then they burst out laughing. They're on the floor. They're rolling around. We see shots of the other customers and employees looking in bewilderment. Moe seems entertained. Aymen and Hadi stand up and immediately stop laughing.

HADI
Okay, that was awesome. You're good-looking and funny. But, respectfully, you're going to take us to that safe.

Hadi raises up his gun.

WALLACE
Fine. Follow me, I just insist you don't hurt the customers or my employees.

AYMEN
Sounds pretty good. Looks like we have ourselves a deal!

Hadi grabs Sophia and Moe while Aymen holds a gun to their heads.

AYMEN

But these two chicken nuggets will be coming with us. To make sure you don't do anything stupid. You know, like insurance!

Wallace, terrified, leads the robbers and their newfound hostages behind the counter. He takes out a giant set of keys and starts typing a code on a giant door.

INT. SAFE LOCKER - DAY

Wallace opens up the safe. He frustratingly motions with his hand at the open safe, as if to say "it's all yours."

HADI

Thank you, uh...

Hadi squints to read Wallace's name tag.

HADI

Thank you, Wallace.

AYMEN

You should name your dog Gromit.

HADI

Listen, Wallace. You're going to go back to your desk. Wait for us to finish. When we're done we'll let everyone go. It'll be like nothing happened.

AYMEN

BUT if you try something, and I mean anything...

Aymen pokes Sophia's cheek with his gun. Tears are falling down her face as she tries to breathe properly.

WALLACE

I understand. Just...just don't hurt her. Or the kid.

HADI

Word, that's what's up. See you later, Wallace.

Wallace exits the room. Aymen and Hadi start putting money into duffel bags.

AYMEN

Hadi, did you understand my
Wallace and Gromit joke?

HADI

Huh?

AYMEN

Oh, nothing. It's just I made a
pretty clever reference earlier.
Wanted to make sure you understood
it.

HADI

Oh...okay.

Aymen and Hadi continue filling their bag but Hadi is going noticeably slower than Aymen. Moe is watching intently, he doesn't appear too rattled by the situation. Sophia is holding on to him tightly, as she continues to quietly cry.

HADI

Aymen, can you tell the sun is
about to set from within a cave? A
pitch black cave in which no light
can peak through?

AYMEN

I mean I don't see how you could.

HADI

So when do you sleep? What is
night and day?

AYMEN

Well, Hadi, does it really matter?
You sleep when you do and you wake
when you do and the sun rising and
setting has nothing to friggin do
with it.

Sophia is whispering something to Moe.

SOPHIA

Shh, shh. It's going to be okay.
It's going to be okay.

Hadi looks over at Moe.

HADI

Are you okay, kid?

SOPHIA

Don't you DARE talk to him?

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HADI

What's your name, young man?

MOE

Moe.

HADI

Moe? That's a nice name. Moe. Hey, listen, Moe. If you're thirsty or hungry let me know, okay?

MOE

I'm a little thirsty.

SOPHIA

Moe, do not speak to him!

Hadi reaches into his duffel bag and pulls out a Capri Sun. Moe smiles and grabs it. He looks at it and frowns.

MOE

Um, do you have strawberry-kiwi?

Hadi reaches back into his bag. He pulls out another pouch, this time it's strawberry-kiwi.

HADI

You're a man of good taste.

He hands the kid the drink. Moe pokes a hole in it with the yellow straw and starts sucking it loudly. Sophia snatches it away from him but he already drank almost all of it.

SOPHIA

Moe, what is the matter with you?
Why did you drink that?

Moe burps.

HADI

You want a snack? I have Rice Krispie treats.

MOE

Yes!

AYMEN

Hadi, I appreciate the amazing hospitality you're providing to the hostage but what I would appreciate more is a little assistance with this whole burglary situation.

Hadi goes back to slowly putting money in the duffel bags. He again stops after a while.

HADI
Aymen, we need to talk.

AYMEN
(while bagging)
Fine, Hadi. You're right. Your boxers and briefs have not been disappearing. I've been wearing them because mine friggin ripped and I haven't had time to purchase new ones. Happy?

HADI
What? No. Huh? That's not even what I wanted to talk about.

AYMEN
Oh, my bad. Continue.

HADI
You've been wearing my underwear?

AYMEN
I don't remember. Continue.

MOE
That's crazy

HADI
(sighing)
Aymen, I'm done. This is my last job.

Aymen stops bagging up the money and looks at him.

AYMEN
Now what are you talking about? I mean, where is this coming from?

HADI
I've been thinking about this and I just can't do it anymore.

AYMEN
But we've been pretty good at it. We have, you know, we got that chemistry.

HADI
So you're going to do anything you're good at?

(MORE)

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HADI (CONT'D)

You become expertly skilled at, I don't know, shooting heroin, you're going to do it?

AYMEN

Maybe?

HADI

You become expertly skilled at square dancing, you're going to do it?

AYMEN

Fuck no.

HADI

See? I came on this one final job because I think we need the money, to pay for mom's care. But I don't know how long I can lie to her about where this money comes from. I don't know how many times I can visit her hospital bed and lie to her. And live like this. And leave her and continue to live like this.

AYMEN

Hadi, we're not bad people.

HADI

What does that mean, Aymen? You can try to convince that Wallace guy, heck, you can try to convince God that your intentions are pure. But me? I can't even convince myself. Because I know that mom could be healthy and we would still do this. It stopped being about her a long time ago. You love the thrill, the excess money, the goddamn ski masks. I know because I love it, too. And that sickens me.

Aymen's eyes get watery behind the mask as he looks at his brother.

AYMEN

I always did it for mom.

HADI

Did you?

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EXT. SUPERMARKET PARKING LOT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A woman (tall, in her 30's, confident) is pushing a cart full of groceries. She is followed by two young boys. One taller and slimmer and one shorter and chubby. The taller boy points at a twenty dollar bill rolling away on the ground. He grabs it.

YOUNG AYMEN

Mama, mama. Look what me and Hadi found! It's for you!

The mom turns around and looks at her children.

MOM

Aymen. You know better than to pick up someone else's money. It's not yours. And it's not yours to give to me.

YOUNG AYMEN

But Mama it was on the ground, no one was taking it.

MOM

That's not the point. If you want your money to be blessed it must come from your hard work.

She bends down and caresses Aymen's cheek.

MOM

Sweetie, thank you for thinking of giving it to me. But what matters to me is not this...

She flicks the bill Aymen is gripping in his hand.

MOM

It's this...

She boops Aymen's nose.

MOM

It's who you become. Not some 20 dollars. And think about the example you are setting for Hadi. Now you and him go back inside and tell the worker that you found some money in the parking lot. Okay?

Young Aymen and Hadi head back towards the store. As Hadi approaches the greeter at the front Aymen stops him. He puts a finger up to his lips and says "Shhh" and then pockets the 20 dollar bill.

INT. DIMLY LIT HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM - DAY (FLASHBACK)

We see a doctor talking to a couple of older teenagers. We can't hear what he's saying but they look upset and he tries to comfort them as he explains. After a pat on their shoulders, he gets up and leaves. We see the two teenagers. It's Aymen and Hadi and they're staring at the floor.

TEENAGE AYMEN

Cancer.

TEENAGE HADI

Yea.

TEENAGE AYMEN

Those times when she would look sick, this whole time it was...

TEENAGE HADI

Yea.

TEENAGE AYMEN

So, you came back home and she was already passed out? You mean you don't know how long she...

TEENAGE HADI

I called 911 and then you. She was already out when I got home.

TEENAGE AYMEN

Jeez, I'm sorry, Hadi, I don't know what to say. How are we going to pay for her treatment? How much is it?

TEENAGE HADI

They said 50k, maybe 100k if she lives longer.

TEENAGE AYMEN

How are we getting that much friggin money?

TEENAGE HADI

I don't know, bro, I don't know.

TEENAGE AYMEN

Do you think it still makes sense? You going to college with all this happening? I mean, we need to do something you and I. And Mom might not even be here for when you graduate so what's the point?

Hadi looks at him, tears streaming down his face.

TEENAGE HADI

What do I do? What should I do,
Aymen?

INT. SAFE LOCKER - DAY (PRESENT)

AYMEN

Hadi, you're right. I haven't been
a good son, but I've been a
friggin shitty brother.

Hadi and Aymen look at each other in silence. Money is sprawled everywhere. Hadi's bag is pretty much empty. Aymen's nearly full.

SOPHIA

Erm...awkwarddd.

Aymen, Hadi, and Moe look at her in disgust.

HADI

What's the matter with you.

MOE

They were having a moment, Mom.

SOPHIA

Sorry.

Aymen turns to back to Hadi.

AYMEN

We're done.

Aymen looks at the bills in the bag and on the floor.

AYMEN

Mom would not want any of this.

Hadi embraces Aymen. They hold each other tight as they sniffle to hold back tears. Moe gets up and hugs them as well. Hadi laughs and hugs him back.

MOE

Would you guys actually hurt us?

Moe looks at their weapons. Hadi looks at him and then the gun. He takes out the magazine and shows an empty clip. Moe looks up at him.

HADI

The guns have no bullets. They're empty. We've never actually bought bullets. We're not the best people but we haven't hurt anyone yet.

Moe smiles. Hadi pats his head and hands him a Rice Krispie treat. While this happens Sophia has taken out her phone and is texting someone while hiding her device from Aymen and Hadi. We see a close up of her phone. We see she's texting Wallace. "THE GUNS ARE A BLUFF. NO BULLETS. DO SOMETHING." She hits send.

INT. BANK MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY

Wallace reads the text. He gets up from his office and walks through the lobby. The camera slowly follows him from behind.

He looks over at the waste bin. He sees the security guard's gun.

He heads over and picks it up with a shaky hand. As he approaches the safe room, we see him get even more nervous. He holds the gun ahead of him but it's shaking.

The other people in the bank watch him. He wipes sweat from his forehead, takes a shaky breath, and walks into the safe room.

Hadi sees him.

HADI

Woa-

Wallace shoots Hadi straight in the chest. Hadi falls backwards.

Aymen shouts and rushes over to Hadi who is unresponsive.

MOE

Hey!

Moe joins Aymen alongside Hadi. Wallace points the gun at Aymen.

MOE

No!

Moe runs into Wallace, knocking him out of the room.

Aymen hears cop sirens and looks up. He takes off his mask. His face is white and wet with tears. Someone called the police. Aymen looks at Sophia. She drops her phone, she is shaking.

Aymen gets up and sprints for the door, past Moe and Wallace. Past Hadi's body.

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He fumbles with the key to unlock.

He finally gets it to open and rushes out.

From the inside of the bank, through the door, we see him sprinting away. He only gets maybe ten yards before four police officers tackle him.

END