

A BAG FULL OF LOOT

Screenplay by
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FADE IN:

INT. DARK INTEROGATION ROOM

Two authoritative men looking very unhappy are questioning a lone MAN sitting in a chair at a small table with a bright light shining in his face. The Man's t-shirt reads, "There is no try. There is do or do not!"

COP #1

We're not going to ask you this again! We have 9 dead bodies and the only link we can find between them is you!

COP #2

Just tell us what's going on and maybe we can help you.

THE MAN

I'm only going to say this one more time. I haven't killed anyone. I just want to find my bag. And if you don't help me your going to have a lot more dead people on your hands.

At that moment the door to the small room opens and a lady enters the room. She's younger than the two cops but they defer to her.

JENNINGS

Why don't you have an identity? No fingerprint record, no file in any of the databases, no military record. You must be working for some pretty powerful people?

THE MAN

Like I told dumb and dumber here, I don't work for anyone. I'm just traveling and someone stole my bag.

COP #1

Bullshit! We've got 9 bodies that say otherwise.

FLASH / INSERT

9 dead faces flash across the screen.

CUT TO:

INT. COP SHOP LOBBY

As The Man is walking through the police station, a Witness starts pointing at him excitedly.

THE MAN (V.O.)

I walked in here of my own free will to make a complaint about my bag being stolen and I end up the focus of a murder investigation?

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

COP #1

Keep it up wise guy. We got you cold. Your prints at a murder crime scene...

THE MAN

You're so commercial. You should play a cop on T.V. but if you're the finest this city has to offer...

Cop #1 lunges for The Man but his partner and Jennings restrain him. The Man doesn't even flinch.

JENNINGS

That's enough. I'll take it from here gentlemen.

Jennings waits for the two cops to get what she means and leave the room. The Man eyes them with a 'see ya' look in his eyes.

Once the two cops have left the room, Jennings starts on him.

JENNINGS

You seem like a nice enough guy, why not make this whole thing easier on you and me and just tell me what happened.

THE MAN

I've been telling those two morons what happened for the last 6 hours. I need to get out of here and get my bag back. That's my story.

JENNINGS

Then start by telling me how you
lost your bag in the first
place, how you got here at all.

The Man ponders going over the story again. Jennings watches as he decides what to do. There is something in their eyes speaking to one another. Or it could be her high beams. He decides to tell her his story either way.

THE MAN

Your names Jennings right?

Jennings nods affirmative.

JENNINGS

DETECTIVE JENNINGS!

THE MAN

I hitched a ride into town three
days ago Detective...

FLASHBACK / MONTAGE

Fast paced montage of the action the man is describing of how he got to the point where his bag was stolen. He leaves out key details of the story that are seen by the audience but unknown to the cops for now.

EXT. OPEN ROAD

We see a convertible in the distance coming towards legs and shoes we see standing on the side of the road. As the camera moves up to reveal The Man, the bag is seen for the first time. It is a plain red backpack with a single large yellow smiley face prominently shown. The car stops for the hitchhiker and the young female driver smiles seductively as The Man jumps into the car.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)

...I got picked up by a friendly
girl in a convertible...

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - LATER

The man reaches into the bag, pulls out his wallet, and throws a large amount of money on her night table as she sleeps half naked in the bed. He then tucks some money into his pants pocket and puts the wallet back into the bag.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)

She was really friendly. I think
her name was Lee or Leah,

something like that... Find her.
She's definitely not dead.

The girl in the bed rolls over.

EXT. THE CITY

The man is looking out at the cityscape unfolding before him.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)
Anyway, I'm here in the city
doin the touristy thing...

Quick cuts to described action. The bag is always featured in the action.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)
...Meeting people, drinking some
beer, checking out the sights,
just getting the lay of the
land, trying to figure out my
next move...

EXT. NIGHT - DOWNTOWN

The scenes change to the downtown slums, the crack heads and the homeless people in the streets at night.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)
That's when I started to see the
problems...

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Jennings interest has been peaked.

JENNINGS
What problems?

THE MAN
All our problems...

CUT TO:

EXT. NIGHT - DOWNTOWN

The man is paying for some homeless people's food at an all night greasy spoon. He keeps reaching into his bag and coming out with more and more money in his wallet that seems to never go empty.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)
We all have needs, but we feed
our wants first.

EXT. NIGHT - ALLEYWAY

The man is walking past an alleyway when he sees a homeless man sitting alone in the alley crying. He places a concerned hand on the bum's shoulder and opens the bag with the other hand.

THE MAN

I have something for you in my bag.

As the bag opens, the bum looks at it intently as it emits a soft green glow from inside. The man reaches into the bag and pulls out a wad of bills he gives to the homeless man.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)

The only thing I want is to feed the need.

The smile and change of expression on the bum's face as he hugs the man warms the heart.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Jennings is intrigued by the story, but she's too good at her job to be suckered by a con man.

JENNINGS

So you're out there helping the homeless and one of them stole your bag? Is that it? All your money was in the bag and you got pissed. You were desperate...

THE MAN

You asked me to tell you what happened. Do you really want to hear my story or are you just gonna try and make one up for me too?

JENNINGS

By all means, finish your story.

EXT. DAY - DOWNTOWN

The man is walking downtown again when he sees someone in need. As he sets the bag down beside him and goes about talking to the person, others are watching. These others are the first two of the nine dead faces flashed again.

THE MAN (V.O.)

I was up early that day. I was walking after just having

breakfast when I stopped to talk
to someone...

When The Man touches the person's shoulder and then takes
some money out of the bag, the onlookers take the opening to
run over and steal the bag.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)
The next thing I know two punks
grabbed my bag and took off
running, so I chased them.

THE CHASE IS ON!

Legs running in the middle of the street. The man is not
about to let his bag get away from him. He is in full on
pursuit mode running full tilt after the robbers. They see
him running them down and one pulls out a small handgun and
starts shooting. The bullets don't deter the man from chasing
them. He is going to get his bag back. Dodging the bullets he
dives behind cars and buildings to take cover but keeps
chasing them. The man runs past The Witness like an Olympic
athlete, but the robbers know the area too well and he knows
nothing about where he's going. They lose him and he is out
of breath and outraged at the theft of his bag. What can he
do now? All this feeling and emotion are written on his face
as he stops running and scans the area for any sign. CAMERA
CIRCLES INTO CU.

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN

The two punks crouch down and are about to search the bag.

THE MAN (V.O.)
I lost them in the crowd on the
street...

As the bag is opened, the light shines in their faces, and
looks of sheer amazement come over them.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)
...but I know they didn't get too
far because not long after that
they were lying in the middle of
the street dead, and my bag was
nowhere to be found.

The boy's bodies are laid out in the street with bullet holes
in them and cars crashed around them. The man looks at them
from in amongst the crowd that has gathered.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Jennings finds this hard to believe.

JENNINGS

Are you saying that bad karma
killed these boys?

THE MAN

Call it what you want. I didn't
kill them and I don't know who
did. But I think I know what
they drove...

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN

As he's looking around still in the crowd surrounding the first two dead bodies, he spots his bag smiling at him from in the back window of a car driving away from the scene.

The chase is on again. The man is running after the car. They aren't trying to lose him, but they are in a car and he's on foot. He jumps into a cab, but the traffic picks up and the cabbie loses sight of the car. Good thing he got their license plate number on his camera phone.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Jennings has taken her jacket off and made herself more comfortable. She sips her tea as the man continues to tell his tale.

THE MAN

I had to act fast, so I called
in a favour from an old friend
and got the address of that car..

CUT TO:

EXT. CRACK HOUSE

The car is outside in the driveway. The man is careful as he goes to the door.

THE MAN (V.O.)

I got lucky and found the car at
the registered address. When I
knocked on the door and it was
open, I was hoping not to find
what I knew I was going to find..

Inside the house are three dead bodies. The faces of these three victims flash across the screen. 5 of 9 bodies found.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Jennings stands and walks behind the man.

JENNINGS

You expect me to believe that you just happened to stumble onto 5 dead bodies all in one day?

THE MAN

Actually I've seen 8 bodies so far, you have all of them in your morgue plus another one I haven't seen yet, and there's going to be more if I don't find my bag.

JENNINGS

So how do the other four bodies come into play in this tale of yours?

CUT TO:

EXT. DOWNTOWN

The bag is smiling at the audience from the back of a gangbanger waiting for someone anxiously on a street corner. His partner exits a corner store with some provisions for them to eat. A jeep pulls up and they jump in the open back seat.

THE MAN (V.O.)

I was almost ready to call the cops as a last resort cause I didn't know what to do anymore...

CUT TO:

EXT. CRACK HOUSE

The man is down the street from the crack house sitting on a bus bench.

THE MAN (V.O.CONT)

...And the next thing I know, a jeep drives up and stops right in front of me...

The jeep stops in front of the bus bench. The bag is smiling at him from the back of the gangbanger. When he sees it he

smiles to himself at the situation. It's as though the bag is saying 'here I am, I'm okay'.

The gangbangers are admiring their handiwork from earlier in the crack house. The one with the bag on his back is recounting the story for his friends over ice cream, chocolate bars and 40's of beer.

BANGER #1

I asked homie if he had my money. They got scared and started going for shit. He reached in this bag like he was gonna do something so I popped 'em and his boys.

The man walks up from behind the jeep during this storytelling.

THE MAN

Nice bag! Where'd you get that?

The banger looks at The Man like he's crazy.

BANGER #1

You got a problem cracker?

THE MAN

I think that's my bag you're wearing.

The bangers get insulted and start to rise up. Banger #1 pulls out his gun and puts it to The Mans head.

BANGER #1

This ain't your bag and this ain't your gun, but the bullet can be yours at no extra cost motherfucker.

The Man is cool under pressure.

THE MAN

I don't want any trouble. I just need my bag back. Some white guys stole it from me earlier today...

BANGER #1

Then you should be looking on the other side of town.

The gangbangers all start to laugh. Banger #1 takes the gun from The Mans head and they drive away. The man chases them until they take the highway entrance. He stops once they are too far to continue, again so close.

Banger #1 opens the bag and the light shines in his face.

As The Man is looking into the distance watching his bag get further and further away, he hears a loud screech and crash sound coming from the direction the jeep drove off in.

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Jennings is interested now.

THE MAN

The jeep crashed and went off the highway into a forested area thirty feet below. Three of them were dead.

JENNINGS

The other one died in the hospital last night. He's our ninth body.

THE MAN

When I got there he was already gone. I wasn't sure what happened to him. Did he have my bag with him?

JENNINGS

I'm not sure. His effects should be in the morgues lockup until the next of kin claims them.

INT. MORGUE LOCKUP

Jennings walks up to the lockup window and talks to the person behind the desk.

JENNINGS

Do you have the effects for the DOA from last night?

The person checks a file.

CLERK

Nope. They were checked out a couple hours ago.

He hands Jennings the file.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM

Jennings opens the door to the interrogation room she left the man alone in.

JENNINGS

Let's go!

CUT TO:

INT. JENNINGS CAR

Jennings and the man are driving in her car.

JENNINGS

I think your bag was with the
DOA that came in last night. His
effects were checked out by dumb
and dumber when I sent them out
of the room. What does your bag
look like exactly?

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL DRINKING HOLE

The two detectives sit at the bar with the man's bag.

COP #1

Open it up. Let's see if our
friend's wallets in there like
he said.

Cop #2 begins to open the bag. The light begins to shine from
within the bag. Both men's faces are etched with
anticipation. When he opens the bag and finally looks inside,
Cop #2 can't believe his eyes. Cop #1 wants to see inside the
bag now.

COP #1

What's in it!?

Cop #2 closes the bag and looks around to make sure no one is
watching them. He gets up to leave and motions for cop #1 to
follow him.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNINGS CAR

Jennings angrily closes her cell phone.

JENNINGS

Neither of them is answering
their phones!

THE MAN

You had my bag all along... Just
don't try to blame me when your
boys end up like the rest of
them.

JENNINGS

What does that mean?

THE MAN

They signed out my bag from the morgue at 7:45, it's 10:30 now...
If their not dead already,
they'll be dead in the next 15
minutes if we don't find them.

CUT TO:

INT. BAR RESTROOM

The cops are in the empty restroom. Cop #2 starts to show cop #1 what's in the bag.

COP #2

It's full of money!

COP #1

Let me see.

As cop #1 looks into the light of the bag, he is shocked into silence. He begins to dump the contents of the bag on the counter top. When he thinks the bag is empty, he sets it down and cop #2 starts to count what's there. Cop #1 looks into the bag again and can't believe his eyes. He reaches his hand into the bag and slowly pulls out more money. He dumps the bag again until it seems empty. He sets it down again and reaches inside, and again he pulls out more bills.

CUT TO:

INT. JENNINGS CAR

Jennings is on her cell phone as she drives.

JENNINGS

Thanks. I owe you one.

She closes her phone and turns to the man.

JENNINGS (CONT)

I know where they are. And they
were still alive five minutes
ago!

CUT TO:

INT. DRINKING HOLE

As Jennings and The Man enter the bar we hear a gunshot go off. Cop #1 exits the restroom waving his gun and holding the bag. Jennings pulls out her gun. Everyone in the bar scatters out.

JENNINGS

Steve, what are you doing? Put

the gun down.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTROOM

Cop #2 is shot dead on the floor with money everywhere.

CUT TO:

INT. DRINKING HOLE

Cop #1 waves his gun from side to side.

COP #1
I'm walking out of here.

THE MAN
Not with my bag your not.

Cop #1 points his gun at The Man.

COP #1
I'm especially walking out of
here with this bag.

JENNINGS
What's in the bag?

The question hangs for a moment while the characters eye each other. The Man never takes his eye off Cop #1.

THE MAN
My wallet's in the bag.

COP #1
Get out of my way or I'll put a
bullet in your face.

THE MAN
Shouldn't you be pointing the
gun at the other person with a
gun? Not the guy with his dick
in his hand.

Jennings looks at The Man like 'thanks'. Cop #1 starts to wave the gun between them now, trying to decide who the more dangerous person is. The Man looks like he's about to cause some damage if he gets an opening.

JENNINGS
Put the gun down Steve. We can
work this out. If you shoot him,
there's nothing I can do for you.

COP #1
With this bag I don't need your
help or anybody else's.

Cop #1 moves the gun from The Man to point it at Jennings. The Man is about to make his move when a gunshot is fired. Cop #1 is hit and spun around. Cop #2 is on the ground half inside the restroom door, now fully dead with his gun in his hand.

The Man goes for Cop #1 who throws the bag into the air. Jennings gets the bag as The Man grabs Cop #1's gun from him and pops him with it. Just to make sure he's dead.

Jennings has the bag now and is backing up from The Man. The Man holds the gun on Jennings.

THE MAN

Jennings, just give me the bag.

JENNINGS

What is it about this bag that makes people go crazy?

The Man is preparing to shoot her against his better judgment. He doesn't want to kill her but will if necessary.

THE MAN

My wallet is all that's in the bag. Just give it to me and this will all be over.

JENNINGS

I have to see for myself.

THE MAN

Jennings! Don't do it!

As she begins to open the bag, The Man is close to shooting her but stops, lowers the gun and allows her to open the bag for herself.

The glowing light shines in her face. She reaches into the bag.

The Man slowly begins to raise the gun.

As she's pulling out her hand, we expect to see a wad of cash in her hand.

His resolve has been steeled. He's going to kill her now because he thinks she has been corrupted like the rest of the people who come into contact with his bag.

She finally pulls her hand from the bag and is holding his wallet.

The relief on his face is mixed with disbelief.

Jennings walks over to The Man with his wallet in one hand and the bag in the other. He lowers the gun and stares at her.

As she approaches, she throws the wallet back into the bag and holds it up to him.

JENNINGS

Is this what you've been
searching for?

THE MAN

My whole life.

He reaches for her not the bag. He pulls her into him and they kiss.

FADE OUT: