

Later Gator
by
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EXT. TENNESSEE ROAD - DAY

Police sirens blare.

INT. MUSCLE CAR

Police lights pulse angrily in the rearview mirror.

RANDY sweats as he pumps the gas pedal, glancing back again at the police cars.

He looks over at MARY BETH in the passenger's seat. She manages a smile while she applies pressure to her bleeding shoulder.

RANDY
We're gonna make it.

Their car shakes as police car rams them from behind.

Despite her bleeding wound, MARY BETH gets indignant.

MARY BETH
Can they do that?

RANDY
They did it.

MARY BETH
Hitting a car like that is dangerous.

RANDY
Honey, I don't think they care.

MARY BETH ponders this for a second.

MARY BETH
We have to think outside of the box.

MARY BETH looks around. Her eyes seize on the bag of money at her feet. She reaches down into the bag.

RANDY
What are you doing?

MARY BETH
Buying us some time.

MARY BETH gets a handful of loose bills, and throws them out the window.

The bills get caught by the wind and spread through the air like giant pieces of confetti.

The police car begins to swerve.

RANDY kind of shrugs, grudgingly acknowledging that MARY BETH's plan worked.

The cars speed down the back roads, swerving and taking turns at really high speeds.

RANDY and MARY BETH's car begins to pull away from the cops.

RANDY jerks his car into a cul de sac, hops out and pulls a rope hanging from a nearby tree. A huge jumble of branches falls down in front of the car, obscuring it from view.

The police cars speed past.

EXT. PATH TO RIVER - DAY

RANDY helps MARY BETH down a dirt path. She stumbles as she holds on to her bleeding shoulder. RANDY carries the bag of money in his free hand.

RANDY
Hold on, honey. Hold on.

The path swells to the top of a hill. When RANDY and MARY BETH get to the path's apex, they look down the other side of the hill to see an old houseboat floating in the water.

MARY BETH
What is that?

RANDY
Our getaway boat.

MARY BETH
I'm not getting on that.

RANDY
Come on, honey. That's all we've got. They're gonna find the car any minute.

MARY BETH
Its barely floating.

RANDY
It'll do. Now get on or get left.

EXT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

RANDY steps on the desk of the boat and looks around, he turns his head and calls back to the bank.

RANDY
Come on, honey. Its not that bad.

MARY BETH tentatively steps onto the boat. Randy removes the rope tethering the boat to the shore, letting it drift into the water.

INT. HOUSEBOAT - DAY

The houseboat is an big pile of neglect. The floors are stained and the curtains have patches of mildew on them. RANDY heads to the front of the boat, starting the engine.

MARY BETH sulks in the corner, not liking this at all.

MARY BETH
Tell your cousin we threw his share
of the money out the window. When
he said he'd let us use his
houseboat, he made it sound like
a... I dunno... something fancy.

RANDY turns away from the steering of the boat, tired of her complaining.

RANDY
Honey, this will get us where we
need to get to. Besides, it isn't
that bad. It doesn't leak. It has a
good solid floor.

RANDY stomps on the floor for emphasis. His foot goes straight through the floor and into the water beneath it.

A huge chunk of the floor breaks off and falls into the water, revealing two alligators.

MARY BETH screams. RANDY scrambles to pull his leg out of the water.

Sensing movement, the alligator lunges for RANDY. RANDY starts kicking back as he falls on his ass, backing away from the hole into the floor.

The alligators begin to crawl into the boat from the hole in the floor.

MARY BETH and RANDY run in two completely different directions. She rushes out the back of the boat, while RANDY scrambles into the front of the boat.

The alligators go for RANDY. While kicking at them, he backs up into the throttle of the boat. The low rumble of the boat engine gets louder as the boat begins to pull away from the shore.

MARY BETH gets to the back of the boat, and looks back inside. One of the alligators begins to viciously chew on a screaming RANDY.

The other alligator stands between her and the bag money.

MARY BETH steps onto the back desk of the boat, looking for a way out. She looks up at the canopy over the deck.

MARY BETH tries to pull herself to the top of the boat, but screams in pain whenever she moves her wounded arm. She just works through the pain and pulls herself on top of the boat.

She flops onto the roof of the boat holding her arm. The roof buckles slightly under her weight. MARY BETH remains perfectly still.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

The moon shines down on MARY BETH as she opens her eyes. The sound of frogs and crickets fill the air. MARY BETH begins to breathe heavily as it all comes back to her.

MARY BETH groans in pain as she tries to sit up. The roof buckles a little under her weight. She looks around.

The houseboat is in the middle of a river, slowly drifting downstream. The engine has long since run out of gas. MARY BETH begins to scoot towards the front of the boat. She lowers herself in front of the front window of the houseboat and looks in.

There blood on the boat controls shines in the moonlight, but there is no sign of RANDY's body. The hole in the center of the boat shines with dark water. The alligators cannot be seen. MARY BETH sees the bag of money in the back of the boat on one of the seats.

MARY BETH tries to jump back up to the top of the boat. She can't get herself high up enough and jumps again. Her foot slips and she begins to scramble for a hand hold on the boat. She steadies herself, but just barely.

MARY BETH takes a few deep breaths and then begins to work her way around the side of the boat on the ledge. There are only a few inches for her feet, so she moves inches at a time.

MARY BETH makes her way past the first window. Then the second. As she moves towards the back of the boat, she reaches out for the metal bar supporting the canopy of the boat.

This shift in weight causes her foot to slip.

She catches the foot on one of the flotation devices on the side of the boat. She scrambles to regain her balance and get back to clinging to the side of the boat.

She pulls herself to the back desk and is just about to flop into it when she sees two alligators resting back there.

MARY BETH screams.

The alligators don't react to the noise.

MARY BETH holds herself against the boat, breathing loudly. She looks around and sees the flotation device by her foot. MARY BETH leans down, picks up the flotation device, and secures the accompanying rescue line to it.

MARY BETH throws the flotation device on a line, lasso style straight at one of the two alligators. It hits the alligator in the head.

MARY BETH

I hate you! I hate you! I hate you!

The alligator snaps at the flotation device, but MARY BETH pulls it away. She throws it again. The alligator grunts and begins to slither away. MARY BETH redoubles her effort, yo-yoing the flotation device at the alligator. It goes inside the houseboat and into the watery hole in the floor.

The second alligator snaps at the flotation device and catches it in its mouth. MARY BETH gasps in frustration as she tries to pull the flotation device out of the gator's mouth.

The obscene tug-of-war ends with MARY BETH falling backwards into the water with a splash.

The alligator, in reaction to the noise, slithers into the black water boat hole.

MARY BETH struggles to get to the mini-ladder in the back of the boat.

She hefts herself out of the water and onto the back deck. She looks around, unable to see any alligators. She goes into the room and grabs the bag of money, clutching it to her chest.

A high powered beam of light shines through the window. A voice on a bullhorn blares out.

OFFICER
Anyone in there?

MARY BETH clutches the bag of money and walks out onto the back deck.

The beam of light latches on to her and follows her movement. She looks really haggard, with blood and grime all over her.

OFFICER (CONT'D)
Are you ok, ma'am? We had reports
of someone screaming.

MARY BETH begins to laugh a weary, worn out laugh as she relaxes.

THE END