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FADE IN:

INT. RENNER HOUSE - NIGHT

In his bedroom MICHAEL RENNER (30s) is bleary eyed as he pulls on his mail person uniform. He moves delicately to the door trying not to disturb NATALIE RENNER (30s).

Out on the landing he pauses for a moment after carefully closing the bedroom door. He steps very lightly along the landing. The door he is going past has a "Castle Stables - Princesses Only" sign.

As he steps to one side of the landing the floor board creaks loudly and Michael cringes. Moments later the door opens and PEGGY RENNER (5) comes out.

PEGGY

Hey Daddy. Let's have breakfast.

MICHAEL

Peggy monster, it's not time for yer breakfast for a long time. Back to bed with yer.

PEGGY

Aww. But you're up.

MICHAEL

I'm up for another dull day at work. Peggy if yer go back to bed I'll stop in on my route n' have breakfast with you. OK?

PEGGY

OK Daddy.

Michael kisses Peggy on the head and she goes back to bed as he makes his way downstairs and out of the house.

EXT. POST OFFICE - NIGHT

Michael drives quickly up to the Post Office, glances at his watch, and hustles inside.

INT. POST OFFICE, SORTING AREA - CONTINUOUS

One of the packages is wrapped in yellow plastic and addressed to "Dr. Henry Stimson".

Hurriedly sorting the mail BESSIE SMITH (50s, brusky and officious) is both relieved and irritated at seeing Michael.

BESSIE
Afternoon Michael!

MICHAEL
Thanks Bessie. Am I ready to go?

BESSIE
You almost are. It's a busy one.
Packages all over town and so much
mail you'll be needing your owl!

MICHAEL
Ethelbert's hardly an owl but
she'll be happy yer called her one.

BESSIE
Right! Let's load you up.

INT. POST OFFICE, LOADING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Michael and Bessie put the last items into the mail truck.

BESSIE
Oh yes, by the way, there's a
package in there for old Doctor
Stimson. He's just back from
hospital so check in on him while
you're there.

MICHAEL
No problem. He's so old n' rickety
I don't s'pose I'll notice if he's
unwell.

Michael climbs into the truck.

BESSIE
You might notice this time. Mrs
Danielson told me it was radiation
poisoning that sent him to the
hospital.

MICHAEL
Woah! Radiation poisoning? Hah, I
knew he was up to crazy stuff.

Next to the truck's formal identification number in big red
letters it says "ETHELBERT".

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Hey Ethelbert. How yer feeling
today?

BESSIE
You're a nut!

Michael strokes the dashboard tenderly.

MICHAEL
Don't listen to meany. You're a
special mail truck, yes yer are.
You ready for a big day?

He starts the engine.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
OK! Let's go.

EXT. STIMSON HOUSE - NIGHT

The mailbox is labeled "DR STIMSON" and a sign says "VISITORS
UNWELCOME!".

A cable repair truck pulls up close to the house and LAWSON
and FARRELL quietly exit the truck. They approach the door,
bore through the locks, and go quickly inside.

EXT. HATCHTOWN PA - DAWN

Michael and Ethelbert make their way around the town. Michael
hustles at each stop and battles the traffic.

He delivers several packages and the back of Ethelbert begins
to empty out.

I/E. DANIELSON HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Michael drives up, dashes to the back of Ethelbert and
pauses.

MICHAEL
Woo, Mrs Danielson's busy on eBay
again!

He picks up and carries a precarious stack of packages
unsteadily up the path. MRS DANIELSON (60s) sees him coming
and opens the door.

MRS DANIELSON
Morning Michael. Ooh, be careful
there dear. Do mind my plants!

MICHAEL
Will do Mrs Danielson.

Michael is headed straight for a low potted plant on the path. Just short of it he stealthily sidesteps.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
The usual place?

MRS DANIELSON
Yes thank you dear. How's that
darling Peggy? You know she gets
more and more darling every time I
see her. All she needs is a darling
brother or sister to play with,
don't you think?

Michael puts the stack of parcels on a sideboard in the hall.

MICHAEL
Er yeah I guess you're right. Must
run. Bye then!

EXT. RENNER HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Michael pulls Ethelbert into the driveway of their house and climbs into the back to check what he has left. He flicks intently through a stack of letters when a loud toy horn sounds immediately behind him.

MICHAEL
Arrah!

Springing up he pulls over a basket full of packages sending them flying around the truck.

Peggy sheepishly holds a horn.

PEGGY
Breakfast's ready!

Seeing Michael annoyed she helps with picking up the packages.

INT. RENNER HOUSE, KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Michael has the last bite of his bagel and springs up from the table. Peggy eats and Natalie tidies up.

NATALIE

Get a move on Peggy, you have to dress for dancing.

PEGGY

Dancing! I'm done!

Peggy leaps down and starts twirling around.

PEGGY (CONT'D)

Daddy, can you come watch me dancing?

MICHAEL

Sorry monster beast. It's gonna take me all morning t' finish up work. Bye-Bye.

Michael kisses Peggy on the head and kisses Natalie on his way out of the door.

EXT. RENNER HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Michael dashes into Ethelbert and drives away. Tucked under a hedge is the yellow plastic wrapped package for Dr. Stimson.

EXT. HATCHTOWN PA - DAY

Michael and Ethelbert continue around the town delivering the mail. Ethelbert is almost empty.

I/E. STIMSON HOUSE - DAY

A little out of town on a country road Ethelbert pulls up to Doctor Stimson's house. Michael shakes his head and grins at "VISITORS UNWELCOME!".

The cable repair truck is in the woods out of sight behind the house.

Michael goes into the back of Ethelbert and looks all around.

MICHAEL

Where'd it go? It's bright yellow, how d' yer lose a bright yellow package?!

Lawson's gloved hand pulls back a curtain in the front of the house enough to watch Ethelbert.

Michael gives up looking. He climbs into the driver's seat with one final look around. He engages reverse but then shakes his head, goes back into neutral, and climbs out.

Michael approaches the door and rings the doorbell. No one answers.

The curtain is moved by a gloved hand holding a gun.

Michael is concerned. He rings the doorbell again.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Doctor Stimson! You in? Doctor
 Stimson! Are yer OK?!

DR. HENRY STIMSON (70s) hands and feet tied in a lounge chair with tape across his mouth shakes his head vigorously.

STIMSON
 (muffled)
 No! Run!

Farrell quickly holds a cushion in front of Stimson's face.

Outside Michael turns to leave but hearing noise from inside he comes back to the door again.

MICHAEL
 Doctor Stimson! We have a package
 for yer!

Lawson moves purposefully to the door.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 But, I'm sorry but I don't have it
 with me.

Lawson stops with his hand on the door handle.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 I know where it is, well kind of...
 I'm thinking it never made it into
 the truck at the Post Office. Oh
 and maybe Mrs Danielson got it. She
 gets lots of packages.

Inside the house Farrell has Stimson's address book and flicks it to "D". "Danielson, Agatha" has and a Hatchtown address. Farrell gives a thumbs up.

Outside Michael pauses and looks closely at the door lock which has a bore hole through it.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 (quietly to himself)
 Oh and it could be at my house,
 cause of trouble-maker Peggy.

Inside Lawson hears what Michael says, is agitated, and waves Farrell over. He signals they are going out the door and starts to count down with his fingers from five.

Michael stares closely at the door and pushes it open revealing a startled Lawson still with two fingers up.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 What the!

Lawson drags Michael into the house but Michael charges him and knocks his gun away. They smash into the wall and tussle. Michael gets the better of it and looks to have things under control.

Michael sees the frantically gesticulating Stimson.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 It's OK Doctor Stimson. What's
 that?

Too late Michael realizes there is another assailant and Farrell strikes him. Michael turns to see a gun pointed at him and stops resisting.

I/E. STIMSON HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Michael's hands and feet are tied and he is sitting against a wall. Lawson goes through Michael's wallet including pictures.

LAWSON
 Ahh Peggy I presume.

Michael realizes that they heard him talking about his house.

MICHAEL
 It's not there! I'm sure it's not!

LAWSON
 121 Briar Road, that looks like
 your address, yes?
 (to Farrell)
 Stay here and keep an eye on these
 two. I'm going to check out the
 sights. If they give you any
 trouble shoot them.

Lawson heads out and drives off in the cable truck.

I/E. STIMSON HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Stimson looks desperately towards Michael. Farrell watches them. Stimson starts to nod slowly and purposefully at Michael.

FARRELL

What are you doing?! Stop that! I'm going to shoot you. We don't need you!

Stimson breathes deeply, his eyes become calm, and then he closes them for a moment's reflection.

Stimson springs up from his chair.

FARRELL (CONT'D)

Sit down now!

Still tied up Stimson charges at Farrell. Michael stands up against the wall. Farrell shoots Stimson three times but Stimson charges him anyway knocking the gun up and forcing Farrell against the wall.

Michael arrives just as Farrell succeeds in pushing the badly injured Stimson to one side and strikes Farrell on the temple with a paper weight.

Farrell goes down under repeated blows from Michael.

Michael frees his hands and feet and goes over to free Stimson who is gasping and bleeding badly.

MICHAEL

Doctor Stimson! I can get yer to hospital!

STIMSON

No no it's too late. Please, you must go after the package. These men are bomb makers. The package has my notes in it. Don't let them have my notes...

Stimson gasps his last breath.

MICHAEL

Doctor Stimson! Doctor!

Michael looks at the blood all over his hands and goes into shock for a few moments.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Peggy, Natalie,..., Bessie, Mrs
 Danielson!

He picks up Farrell's gun, dashes outside, and climbs into
 Ethelbert.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Where's the package?

EXT. HATCHTOWN, RENNER CAR - DAY

Natalie drives through the town with Peggy in the back
 wearing her dance costume.

NATALIE
 You're being quiet back there.

PEGGY
 I'm looking at the present.

NATALIE
 What present?

PEGGY
 The yellow one.

Peggy holds the package.

I/E. DANIELSON HOUSE - DAY

Mrs Danielson has opened a package in her kitchen and picks
 out a CD to play. She steps out of her back door, drink in
 hand, and sits down outside enjoying her garden.

Lawson parks his truck, checks his gun, and gets out a short
 length of rope.

Mrs Danielson takes a drink and taps her foot to the music.

Lawson at the front door is briefly unsure what to do. He
 peers through the window and sees the packages before ringing
 the doorbell.

Mrs Danielson takes a drink and doesn't hear the doorbell.

Lawson enters the unlocked front door.

Mrs Danielson hears something.

MRS DANIELSON
 That cat!

Lawson checks the packages in the hall, moves quickly through the house, and goes upstairs.

Mrs Danielson enters the kitchen and tops up her drink.

Lawson searches upstairs, finds nothing, and goes back to the stairs.

Mrs Danielson goes outside.

Lawson strides into the kitchen and sees Mrs Danielson outside sitting down. Purposefully he approaches the door but is distracted by packages. He checks them. Stretching the rope between his hands he goes to the door and stops.

Mrs Danielson finishes her drink and gets up.

Lawson backs against the wall inside the door.

Mrs Danielson changes her mind, sits back down, and closes her eyes.

Lawson thinks for a moment, shakes his head, and leaves the house.

I/E. RENNER HOUSE - DAY

Michael drives up in Ethelbert and desperately looks around inside and outside the house. He dials the phone.

MICHAEL

The guys at the Post Office are never gonna believe this.

BESSIE (O.S.)

Hatchtown Post Office.

MICHAEL

Bessie it's me. Listen! There's terrorists after Doctor Stimson's package. You have to check if yer have it.

BESSIE (O.S.)

Michael, I know how to pack a mail truck. Have you lost it?

MICHAEL

Seriously Bessie, call the police. Stimson's dead at his house. We have to find the package! It could be anywhere in town.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I think Mrs Danielson and with you
are most likely.

BESSIE (O.S.)

OK Michael. I'll look and I'll call
the police.

Unable to find the package Michael leaves the house.

EXT. HATCHTOWN ROADS - DAY

Lawson at Mrs Danielson's gets into the cable truck and
reviews a town map.

LAWSON

The mail man's house.

Michael at his house gets into Ethelbert.

MICHAEL

Mrs Danielson!

They both drive a short distance and turn onto opposite ends
of "Main St". Both drive impatiently towards each other. The
lights go red at the town's central junction and the two
trucks stop opposite each other.

The drivers' eyes meet and they are shocked to recognize each
other. Lawson looks down at his map.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

That's him! Oh no he's been to Mrs
Danielson's.

LAWSON

He's been home! Now he's going to
Danielson's.

MICHAEL

The Post Office!

LAWSON

The Post Office!

Lawson screeches out turning into traffic and Michael follows
but the cable truck is faster and pulls away.

MICHAEL

Come on Ethelbert! Bessie's in
trouble!

EXT. BADENSVILLE DANCE STUDIO - DAY

Peggy dances out to their car followed by Natalie.

NATALIE

Yes Peggy you were great, but the others were great too.

PEGGY

But not as great as me!

They climb into the car.

NATALIE

Well maybe. Are you hungry?

PEGGY

Yes!

NATALIE

We'll get some lunch right after we drop that package off at the Post Office.

I/E. POST OFFICE, LOADING AREA - DAY

Michael pulls in. The cable truck is nowhere to be seen. He scans all around and clutches the gun before leaping out. Bessie approaches.

MICHAEL

Is he here? Where is he?

BESSIE

Michael! What are you doing?! Put that down! Is who here?

MICHAEL

The terrorist! Is he here?

BESSIE

Michael! Listen to me! This isn't funny. The police just called and they didn't find anything at Stimson's. Mrs Danielson says she's fine. The police don't think it's funny either.

MICHAEL

How could they miss two dead... There's more of 'em! They're all over town.

BESSIE

Please Michael if you settle down I can probably get the police to understand your problem. Please Michael.

MICHAEL

But I'm sure I saw...

BESSIE

Michael let's sit down. The police will be here soon.

Michael is uneasy but he sits down and Bessie takes the gun and puts it on a shelf.

INT. POST OFFICE, LOADING AREA - DAY

Michael is shell shocked sitting down shaking his head as a police car with unimpressed police men in it drives away.

MICHAEL

I know it's unbelievable, but I was so sure.

BESSIE

It's OK Michael. You're not the first person to have a breakdown. It's OK.

Natalie drives in with Peggy in the back seat.

PEGGY

Daddy! Daddy! Look what we've got. I found it under the hedge.

Peggy gets out of the car holding the yellow package.

LAWSON

I'll take that! Nobody move!

Lawson steps out from the back with his gun raised.

PEGGY

This package belongs to the U.S. Mail, you can't have it!

MICHAEL

Give it to him Peggy. Give it to him monster. It's OK.

Peggy reluctantly hands the package over to Lawson who checks it and speaks into a radio.

LAWSON

I have the package. Come get me.
 (to everyone)
 Get together over there. Anyone who
 comes out before I'm gone gets
 shot!

They gather in the corner and Michael hugs Peggy and Natalie.

MICHAEL

It's gonna be OK. It's gonna be OK.

The sound of a helicopter grows louder.

I/E. POST OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The helicopter comes in to land down the street outside the
 loading area. Lawson hurries outside.

MICHAEL

Stay down behind the loading ramp!

BESSIE

Michael you'll be shot!

MICHAEL

I have to try! Love yer all!

PEGGY

You get him Daddy!

MICHAEL

Thanks monster.

Michael runs to Ethelbert and jumps in the back door leaving
 it open. He leaps into the driver's seat.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

It's down to you Ethelbert.

Lawson reaches the helicopter and starts to climb in.

Ethelbert screeches out of the Post Office and turns towards
 the helicopter.

Lawson is terrified and shoots at Michael.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You're the truck Ethelbert! You the
 truck!

Michael ducks down out of site in his seat.

The pilot tries to get off the ground quickly but Ethelbert crashes into the body of the helicopter tipping the rotor blades into the truck. The helicopter and Ethelbert smash to pieces and explode.

Huddled down behind the concrete loading ramp the group in the Post Office are safe. They look out at the destruction and can hear approaching police sirens.

PEGGY
Daddy! Daddy!

Peggy breaks from the others and runs outside followed by Natalie and Bessie.

NATALIE
Peggy come back! Oh Michael!

Burning wreckage is all over the street.

BESSIE
What was he doing? He could never have survived that.

MICHAEL
Yes I'd never have survived that...

Michael is on the grass behind a hedge at the roadside with minor injuries.

PEGGY
Daddy!

NATALIE
Michael!

MICHAEL
And that's why I jumped out the back. Come here!

Peggy, Natalie and Michael hug.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
So Bessie, do yer believe me now?

BESSIE
I'll never doubt you again Michael.
Never doubt you again.

PEGGY
Daddy. Is being a mail man like this everyday?

THE END.