

Ransom Reward
by
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INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Frantic banging on the front door.

JONA, 30, tall and handsome. Dressed in shorts and a T-shirt approaches it, rubbing his eyes with the back of his hand.

JONA
What the hell is wrong with you?

Another man's voice calls out from the other side of the door.

BEN
Just let me in quick. Come on,
hurry up.

JONA
Where's your key?

The door flings open and BEN, 25, good looking, tall and skinny spills inside.

He's carrying STEVEN, 75, glasses and grey hair, his arms slung over him and dragging him behind.

Ben and Steven both hit the floor.

BEN
Help me, get him inside.

Jona's mouth hangs open, takes a couple of steps back away from them.

JONA
Ben, who is he?

BEN
Just help me.

Ben struggles to lift Steven up from the floor.

JONA
Who is he?

BEN
Get him in the house.

Jona doesn't move from where he is.

Ben gives up trying to lift Steven up, instead now drags him along the floor behind him. Slams the front door shut.

JONA

What the fuck is this? What have you done this time? Seriously, I can't believe you. Where does this even rank? Who is he?

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - BEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ben has Steven by the arms while Jona has a hold of his legs. Together they carry him inside and move over to the bed. They drop him down.

Both out of breath.

Jona takes a couple of steps back. Ben pulls back the covers and drapes them over Steven.

Jona points at him, snarling.

JONA

He can't stay here, you need to sort this out.

BEN

I just want to let him sleep, it's no problem.

JONA

I don't care what you want, get rid of him.

Ben moves away from the bed and over to the door.

BEN

If you want him out you can do it on your own, I'm not touching him.

JONA

Who is he?

BEN

A big fat lump of cash, and it's now laying in my bed.

JONA

What?

BEN

To get a better life you have to be willing to do anything. I'm willing.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - BEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Ben grabs Jona by the arm, shoves the bedroom door closed and tries to pull Jona down the staircase with him.

Jona is much stronger, resist and refuses the budge.

JONA
Have you lost your mind?

BEN
Everything is going to be OK?

JONA
I'm not even sure if he's still breathing, are you?

BEN
It'll be fine.

JONA
None of this is normal Ben.

Ben tries again to pull Jona down the staircase with him.

Jona continues to resist, won't let Ben move him.

BEN
Come on.

JONA
Tell me, what I want to know, otherwise I'm not moving.

Jona snaps his arm free from Ben, crossing his arms in front of his chest, defiant.

Ben steps up to him, nose to nose almost touching.

BEN
It's always been the same with us, there never been any trust. That's why we've never been a proper family. Not once, not ever have you had any faith in me.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ben spreads Steven's jacket across the kitchen table. Jona comes in behind him and still has his arms folded in front of his chest.

From the jacket Ben finds a wallet and a mobile phone.

JONA
What are you doing?

BEN

What does it look like.

Ben opens the wallet, there's bank cards but only a small amount of cash, he grips onto it, looks back at Jona with a frown.

JONA

Put it back.

BEN

It's barely anything.

Ben puts the money away into his own pocket.

JONA

You're kidding me?

BEN

I thought there would be a lot more.

Ben takes out some of the bank cards for a closer look.

Jona moves over to him.

JONA

I can't let you do this, it's wrong, and it's not you.

Ben continues to search through the wallet, finds an identity card. He shows it to Jona.

BEN

I'm going to help him, at the end of the day, that's what I want to do.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - BEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Steven is fast asleep, breathing deep.

Jona and Ben stand shoulder to shoulder at the open door and watch him, whispered voices.

Jona takes out his phone, goes to dial in some numbers, but Ben reaches down and stops him.

BEN

Who are you calling?

JONA

He needs an ambulance, and we need to let the police know he's here, before someone else does.

BEN

No.

Ben tries to take the phone from Jona but he isn't strong enough.

JONA

Hey, I want to help him too, we need to get him out of here there's nothing else we can do.

Ben hits the phone out of his hand, falls to the floor with a bang.

BEN

I said no.

JONA

Then how else are you going to help him?

BEN

You have to let me make decisions once and while. Why isn't it enough that I'm telling you that I know what I'm doing. All I'm asking is that you help me.

JONA

You really know what you're doing?

BEN

Yes.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Ben's at the table, lines up all of the cards removed from the wallet, he has Steven's phone in his hand. He finds a number and calls.

Jona sits down on the other side of table and watches him.

JONA

Well if I'm not allowed to use my phone who are you calling?

Ben ignores him, his call is answered.

BEN

No, this isn't your dad, but I have him and he's fine. He's sleeping. I want money and you want your dad. You give me what I want and I'll give you what you want. Stay by your phone.

Ben hangs up.

Jona's mouth hangs open, horrified.

JONA
No fucking way.

Ben keeps a tight hold of the phone in his hand as he leans back in his chair.

BEN
Relax.

JONA
You can use him as a ransom.

BEN
I saved his life. I found him on the street like that. He would have died if I had left him where he was, and believe me I could have left him where he was easy.

JONA
You have no idea of the mess you're making for yourself do you?

BEN
I saved him, I want something for that, but I'm not going to get anything unless I ask for it.

Jona rolls his eyes, unimpressed.

JONA
What a plan.

BEN
I did something for him, made sure he didn't die. I should be paid for it, it's only fair.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

A gently knocking on the front door, Jona and Ben head towards it.

BEN
Get rid of her.

JONA
No.

Ben tries to grab onto Jona and pull him to a stop, but Jona simply pushes him to the side.

BEN

Don't let her in, just tell her
to go someplace else.

JONA

She lives here, I'm not doing
that, no way.

Ben stops, Jona continues to move towards the front door.

BEN

You're ruining everything, I
really need you Jona. Why are you
doing this? I need you.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - BEN'S BEDROOM - DAY

CHELSEA, 27, beautiful, long legs and long hair along with
Jona and Ben are all gathered at the open door, all three
staring in at Steven who's slowly waking up, groggy.

CHELSEA

OK I want in, this is my house
too. What's going on, who is he?

BEN

You two don't need to worry about
that.

CHELSEA

So you don't know?

JONA

I can't get a straight answer out
of him.

CHELSEA

Well, that's stupid. If you don't
know who he is why are you
keeping him here?

BEN

I know. And that's all that
matters.

CHELSEA

So why not tell us?

BEN

You don't need to know.

CHELSEA

Are you crazy?

BEN

You can leave, if you want to?

JONA

We need to get rid of him, he shouldn't be here.

Chelsea points a Steven.

CHELSEA

Well, he's waking up. So I'll just ask him myself, the big secret will be out then.

Ben aggressively pushes his way past Chelsea and Jona storming into the bedroom he moves to the side of the bed.

CHELSEA (CONT'D)

(To Jona)

What's he doing now?

JONA

I don't know.

Ben grabs a hold of Steven, Steven's eyes snap open and in reply Ben punches Steven as hard as he can in the side of the head.

He needs three hits one after another, before he's able to knock Steven out cold again.

Steven's eyes roll into the back of his head and he collapses back down into the bed, his whole body becoming limp.

JONA (CONT'D)

What the fuck did you do that for?

CHELSEA

What the hell Ben?

JONA

Are you insane?

CHELSEA

Who is he?

Ben turns back to face them, he's hurt his hand.

BEN

The less you know the better, you've just got to trust me.

CHELSEA

How can we trust you, you crazy little shit.

BEN

He's a billionaire. This man,
he's one of the richest men in
the world. I pulled him out of a
car wreck. We can all be rich,
we've just got to be brave.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Chelsea, Ben and Jona are all around the table with
Steven's phone in the middle, their eyes all locked onto
it.

CHELSEA

A billionaire with a flip phone?

BEN

Have you see the clothes Bill
Gates wears?

The phone rings, all three become tense.

Ben goes for it but Jona slaps his hand away.

JONA

Wait.

BEN

What?

JONA

It's not too late to back out of
this.

BEN

I'm going to get what I want,
nothing less.

Chelsea looks across at Jona.

JONA

This will be for the ransom he's
asked for.

CHELSEA

Ransom, what the fuck?

Ben snatches up the phone and answers with a smile.

BEN

Hello.

Chelsea leaps up onto the table, she rips the phone from
Ben and throws it against the wall on the other side of the
room, the screen shatters, breaks.

Ben jumps out of his chair, runs over to the phone, he picks it up but it's broken.

BEN (CONT'D)

What the fuck did you do that for?

CHELSEA

Don't you see, it'll be all of us, we'll all go to prison.

BEN

You dumb bitch, you've ruined everything.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Ben pulls open a drawer, finds and pulls out a large knife.

Ben waves it at Chelsea and Jona.

BEN

Just stay where you are, just sit.

JONA

Put it down.

CHELSEA

You really have lost your mind.

BEN

You're not taking this from me, I won't let you.

JONA

Put the knife away before I really get angry.

BEN

Just stay where you are, you're both going to start listening to me, whether you want to or not.

JONA

I've had enough of this.

Jona stands up from his chair and lunges himself at Ben, tries to take the knife from him.

Ben slashes the blade across Jona's chest, cutting him deep.

He pushes Jona back towards the table, hurt, bleeding and in shock Jona sits back down in his chair.

Ben points the now blood soaked knife at Chelsea and she sit back down too.

Ben, breathing heavily switches back and forth between Chelsea and Jona.

BEN

Finally, now you're going to listen and do as you're told.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Jona, pale faced gently presses two fingers against the deep cut across the width of his chest, still bleeding his clothes are soaked.

He looks to Ben, tears streaming down his face.

JONA

Please.

(Shows Ben the blood on his fingers)

I won't get the bleeding to stop like this.

Ben glances over at him, he's on the floor squeezing the smashed phone back together again.

Chelsea yells out to him.

CHELSEA

He needs help, you can't just leave him like this. He's your own brother for Christ sake.

Ben manages to get the phone to turn on, its screen lights up, smiles, happy.

Jona tries to stand up with Chelsea helping him.

Ben gets back up to his feet.

BEN

Sit down.

Jona ignores him, moves away from his chair.

Ben sprints over, he slaps Chelsea with the back of his hand, putting her back down before again slashing at Jona cutting his arm and cutting it deep. More blood sprays out and Jona collapses back down into his chair.

CHELSEA
You're fucking sick.

Ben holds the top of the blade to Chelsea's throat and she instantly falls silent.

Ben grabs Jona by the chin, Jona is struggling with the pain and the blood loss.

BEN
Stay down, stay where you are, I swear I'll kill you if I have to.

Jona breaks down, sobbing.

JONA
Don't do this. Please, just stop. Don't do this, please, this isn't you. This right now this isn't the man I know you are.

BEN
It's too late, I can't stop and I wouldn't even if I could. Soon I'll have all the money I'll ever need. I'm going to change my life and you could have too, all you had to be was brave, but you couldn't do it.

CUT TO:

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Chelsea has her arms around Jona, who rests against her, barely able to keep his eyes open.

Ben stands in the open doorway with the now fixed again and working phone in his hand.

CHELSEA
I need to get him to a hospital, I mean look at him and you're the one who's done this.

BEN
Everything is going to be fine, you just need to relax.

CHELSEA
No, I'm getting him to a hospital.

BEN
No, you're not.

CHELSEA

Yes, I am.

Chelsea gets out of her seat.

BEN

Get back get down.

CHELSEA

No.

Ben charges at her and Chelsea charges at him too.

They clash, bashing into each other in the middle of the floor.

Ben tries to stab at her but misses, Chelsea sinks her teeth into his hand drawing blood and forcing him to drop the knife.

They fight. Chelsea hits and scratches at his face, wild.

Ben grabs onto her and throws her to the floor, follows this up with a kick to her stomach and head.

Jona is hurt with blood still oozing out of his wounds but he fights to get himself up to his feet. Watching as Ben continues to kick at Chelsea, she curls herself up into a ball trying to protect herself.

JONA

Ben stop, just stop it, please.
End this.

Steven appears in the doorway, he sees the madness in front of him, looks down at the floor and sees the blood soaked knife. He picks it up.

Steven still hurt himself staggers over to Ben and stabs the knife into the back of him. Ben collapses to the floor. Steven leaves the knife sticking inside of him.

Steven continues to stagger forwards, he shoves Jona to the floor, Jona falls backwards hitting his head off the seat of a chair, which knocks him out cold.

Steven now moves to Chelsea, she slowly uncurls herself from her defensive ball, looks up at him with shock and horror.

STEVEN

Do you know who I am?

She shakes her head.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Chelsea helps Steven over toward the front door, once there Steven opens it to two large men in suits and holding onto guns.

They get their guns ready and move to enter but Steven stops them.

STEVEN

No, enough has been done here. No one else needs to die.

The gunmen put their weapons away and take Steven from Chelsea.

Steven reaches into the pocket of one of the gunmen and hands over a small amount of cash, gives it to Chelsea.

STEVEN (CONT'D)

That's for you. For your help.

INT. BEN AND JONA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Chelsea enters, sees the blood, Ben and Jona on the floor neither of them is moving.

As tears steam down Chelsea's face, she look down at the money given to her from Steven, it's hardly anything at all.

Chelsea collapses down to the floor, landing on her knees.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END