

Striking Choice

By

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1

INT. HOUSE - DAY

1

We see a printer printing many sheets of paper covered with words. The printing finishes and we see a hand grab the papers and staple them together. The hand drops these papers into a briefcase which we see a pair of feet standing next to. The hand drops down reaching for the handles of the briefcase and then we cut to a shot of a folder sitting on the desk. On it in big letters is written: "EVIDENCE". The arm hesitates then releases it's grip on the briefcase and grabs the folder, slipping it into the case with the other documents. The hand then snaps the briefcase shut taking it off screen.

2

INT. HOUSE/BATHROOM - DAY

2

The man tightens a tie and then turns around to grab a blazer. We still do not see his face. He turns back around to face the mirror and puts on the blazer. We move up slowly until we finally see his face. His name is TIM SANDERS.

3

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

3

Tim drives his car into a parking spot and gets out with the briefcase in one hand and a doughnut in the other. He closes the car door and then leans on his car as he finishes the doughnut. A Hummer parks nearby and two men get out. Tim notices them and looks at them suspiciously. One of them starts approaching him.

TIM

Can I help you?

There is no response as the man gets closer. Tim hurries over to his car and tries to open the door but it's locked. He unlocks his car and opens the door, about to get in.

CRIMINAL

Stop!

The man has reached the car now.

CRIMINAL

I just want to talk with you Tim,
nothing more...

TIM

How do you know my name?!

(CONTINUED)

CRIMINAL

Your great uncle, Peter. Do you remember him? He died a few weeks ago. He trusted you a lot Tim. We're looking for someone to become the Capo di tutti capi; the don of the family. Someone who could handle the responsibility. You know a lot about the business Tim. Peter treated you like a son.

TIM

You're right, I knew a lot about the business, but I never got involved, and I'd like to keep it that way.

CRIMINAL #1

Don't say a word of this to anyone. Omertá!

Tim nods and the criminal walks over to the Hummer and it drives away.

CUT TO:

4

EXT. STREET - DAY

4

Tim is walking through the street, when he sees an old friend named: SAM.

SAM

Hey Tim! Is that you?

TIM

Oh hey Sam, haven't seen you in...what? Five years?

SAM

Yeah, it's been awhile. How's life treating you? You must be a big shot lawyer now trying murder cases, right?

TIM

Maybe not quite yet, but this upcoming case will decide everything.

SAM

Why don't we go get some coffee, and catch up.

(CONTINUED)

TIM
Sounds good let's have a chat.

SAM
Excellent let's go.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

5

They sit at a table talking.

SAM
Alright, well I assume your making pretty good money being a lawyer right?

TIM
Relatively so.

SAM
Here's the deal, you seem like a smart guy. I need someone to invest in the company, someone willing to put down at least \$10,000 so we can keep it running.

TIM
You want me to invest in your company?

SAM
It's going to succeed Tim, you heard my pitch, it's a good idea.

TIM
Is it an idea, or is it a company?

SAM
It's a company. We've already rented space, hired workers, but we need that extra push to get it really going. If you give us 10,000 dollars I'll give you 51% of the company.

TIM
It looks like a great company that we could make lots of money on, but I've got a huge court case coming up.

(CONTINUED)

SAM

I heard.

TIM

I'm just not fully willing to put \$10,000 on the table right now.

SAM

Alright I'm not going to try to persuade you any longer

TIM

I'm sure you'll find another investor, it's an excellent idea.

CUT TO:

6

INT. WAIT ROOM - DAY

6

At first we see the briefcase, and then we move up to see Tim sitting alone in a chair. He is reviewing different documents, wearing glasses. A woman gets out of an elevator and sits in the seat across from him. She is KATE.

KATE

Hi Tim. Tim looks up from his papers.

TIM

Oh, hi Kate. I didn't know you were coming to the case.

KATE

Listen, Tim, we need to talk.

TIM

We're talking right now.

KATE

I want you to just put your papers down and take a second to talk to me. Tim slowly lowers his papers and takes off his glasses.

TIM

What is it?

KATE

I know that my uncle is innocent. You do realize that you're trying to convict my uncle.

(CONTINUED)

TIM

After today it's just going to be smooth sailing. This is the biggest case of my life and everyone's convinced that your uncle is the one. Besides, worst case scenario he still only goes to jail for a few months.

KATE

I saw it in his eyes. He was telling me the truth.

TIM

Kate, if I win this case, we can get that house you always wanted.

KATE

I can't believe you're going to prosecute my uncle. There must be at least a shred of proof that he didn't do it.

Tim glances at his briefcase. She sees the movement and grabs it.

KATE

You do have proof don't you?

Tim sighs. She takes out the large folder marked: "EVIDENCE". She flips through it then looks at him incredulously.

TIM

You're right, I guess I'm going to have to give up this case.

DISSOLVE TO:

7

INT. BAR - DAY

7

Tim and his FRIEND sit together. Tim looks a lot older.

TIM

I had the three biggest opportunities of my life that day.

FRIEND

Wow.

(CONTINUED)

TIM

I could've been a big criminal mastermind, or a rich investor, stinking rich. I never even anticipated how big that guy's company was going to become. Or I could've become the big shot lawyer. I'd be doing huge murder cases now, and the pay wouldn't be too bad either.

FRIEND

Hey, I'm sure things turned out all right for you. You've got a nice family, a pretty good job.

TIM

Yeah, well it could've been better.

FRIEND

You shouldn't regret it, you don't know how things would've turned out.

There is a long pause.

TIM

Well I gotta get home, it's getting late.

FRIEND

You going to walk home? It's pouring out there.

TIM

Yeah, I'll be fine. I've got a raincoat and an umbrella.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. BAR - DAY

8

Tim walks out into the pouring rain and opens up his umbrella. There is a flash of lightning and then thunder. Tim continues walking until he's away from the buildings. There is another flash of lightning that hits a tree nearby. The friend has followed him out.

FRIEND

Hey Tim! Come back inside, it's not safe right now!

(CONTINUED)

TIM
I'll be fine!

At that moment we see Tim struck by lightning and he falls over, steam rising off his body.

FRIEND
TIM! Tim! Are you ok!?

The friend runs towards him as fast as he can. We move towards Tim's face, closer and closer, until we only see the eyes. Then suddenly there is a flash of light and his eyes are in:

9

INT. CAR - DAY - TRAVELING

9

Tim opens his eyes and he is now in the Hummer. He sits in the back next to the criminal. There is a driver in the front. Tim is dressed in very heavy clothes and looks much like a criminal mastermind.

TIM
Where am I?

CRIMINAL
You're in your car boss.

TIM
Where are we going?

CRIMINAL
We're going to the warehouse to pick up the boxes.

TIM
I was just hit by lightning!

CRIMINAL
Boss, you feeling ok?

TIM
Why do you keep calling me boss?

CRIMINAL
'Cause you're the Boss,
Administration.

Tim realizes where he is.

TIM
Am I a criminal!?

(CONTINUED)

CRIMINAL

Well that's not the best word to describe us...

TIM

I'm the boss? I'm in charge of the mafia?

CRIMINAL

Yeah, you could say that.

There is a pause and Tim starts smiling. Then he looks scared.

TIM

Have I killed people?

CRIMINAL

Not you, don. Want a smoke?

He offers him a pack of cigarettes.

TIM

I don't smoke.

CRIMINAL

'Course you do, what are you talking about?

DRIVER

We're here!

They get out of the car.

10 EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY 10

They walk up to the warehouse.

11 INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY 11

They walk through the warehouse and then back out the other side.

12 EXT. LOADING DOCK - DAY 12

CRIMINAL

We got a truck coming in a few minutes.

(CONTINUED)

TIM
Are those our guys too?

Tim gestures toward the SWAT Team. The criminal takes out his gun.

SWAT
Freeze.

TIM
Woah, woah, woah! That's not necessary.

CRIMINAL #2
It's an ambush! Get back to the car now!

Tim runs for it.

13 INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY 13

Tim runs down down a hallway and out the door just in time as the SWAT shoots at him.

14 EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY 14

He runs out the front door, it is raining. He is soon surrounded by the SWAT Team.

SWAT (O.S.)
Freeze!

SWAT
Drop your weapons!

TIM
I don't have any weapo-

Tim reaches into his pocket instinctively and pulls out a gun. He widens his eyes as he lifts the gun up.

SWAT
Put the weapon on the ground!

Suddenly Tim is hit by lightning, and the SWAT start shooting at him. Tim hits the ground, burnt, bloody and dead. We move in closer until his face becomes clean again and he opens his eyes to:

15 INT. MANSION - DAY - CONTINUOUS

15

He is now in a jacuzzi in his mansion. He smiles as he realizes where he is. He walks away to explore. He passes a pool table, a conference room, and a large hallway. He walks into a room with an indoor pool and a personal library. He runs into his SECRETARY.

SECRETARY

Hello sir, do you need anything?

TIM

Yeah. How much money do I have?

SECRETARY

Before, or after you bought your private jet?

TIM

So I'm the CEO and owner of this huge company right?

SECRETARY

Well...

TIM

What?

SECRETARY

Sir, you know you were voted off the board.

TIM

What? What do you mean?! Why?

SECRETARY

You know why.

TIM

I forgot.

SECRETARY

Sir, you tried to commit suicide last week. You're suffering from depression.

TIM

What happened?

SECRETARY

You don't remember anything? It must be this new medication you're on. I'll contact your doctor immediately.

(CONTINUED)

She quickly opens a mobile phone and starts dialing.

TIM

Wait wait wait! Do I have any family? Kids?

SECRETARY

Well your ex-wife, but she's taking both of your children full time now- Hello, yes this is his secretary speaking. Yes, I can hold a moment.

TIM

I live alone?

SECRETARY

Yes sir...

TIM

Is there a thunder storm coming in by any chance?

SECRETARY

Yeah, it's storming pretty badly right now-

TIM

Thanks.

SECRETARY

Wait sir, you're not going outside are you?!

16 EXT. GARDEN - DAY

16

Tim runs out the door and into his private garden. He soon is dripping wet and keeps continuously lifting his hands up. Suddenly there is a flash of light above him and he is struck by lightning.

17 EXT. STREET - DAY

17

Tim opens his eyes and is in DC wearing a suit and carrying a briefcase. He smiles.

18 INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

18

He walks in and looks around smugly. His lawyer walks up to him.

LAWYER

Hello Mr. Sanders, how are you.

Tim shakes his hand.

TIM

Am I defending you, or are we suing somebody.

They both laugh.

LAWYER

Actually quite the opposite Mr. Sanders.

TIM

What do you mean?

LAWYER

I'm defending you.

TIM

I'm the lawyer.

LAWYER

Well you were, until they found out you had convicted Robert White even though you had evidence that would have cleared him.

19 INT. COURTROOM - DAY

19

JUDGE

Tim Sanders, you're here for sentencing today. I've reviewed the pre-sentence investigation and I must say I am appalled. After 20 years on the bench I have never seen anyone behave in the way that you did in this case. Therefore I'm sentencing you to 20 years in prison without possibility of parole. It is so ordered.

A gavel comes flying down.

20 INT. COURT HALLWAY - DAY 20

LAWYER
I'm so sorry Tim.

TIM
Is it raining outside!?

LAWYER
Yeah there's a storm coming in.

TIM
Thanks!

Tim runs out of the courtroom.

LAWYER
Tim! Tim?

15.

21 EXT. PARK - DAY 21

He runs through the rain, trips, and falls. On the ground he lifts his hands up to the sky and is struck by lightning.

CUT TO:

22 INT. CAR - DAY 22

He finds himself in his old car and is surprised. He suddenly realizes where he is and gets out of the car.

23 EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY 23

The criminal comes walking towards him. They stop to face him.

TIM
Listen, I'm not interested in taking over the business. Criminals are never really stealing, it's more like borrowing, and one day you're still going to have to give it all back.

The criminal looks confused as Tim passes him and walks away.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

24

Tim sits with Sam drinking coffee.

SAM

Alright, well I assume your making pretty good money being a lawyer right?

TIM

Not really.

SAM

Here's the deal, you seem like a smart guy. I need someone to invest in the company, someone willing to put down at least \$10,000 so we can keep it running.

TIM

Sorry, Sam I'm just not interested. I have to be at court soon. But don't you worry, it is a great idea and you're gonna become really rich and happy. You'll have a nice family and start several other great companies. It just doesn't turn out so well for me. That's why I can't invest.

Sam looks confused. Tim stands and pats him on the shoulder.

25 INT. WAIT ROOM - DAY

25

At first we see the briefcase and then we move up to see Tim sitting alone in a chair. He is reviewing different documents with interest, grinning. Kate gets out of an elevator and sits in the seat across from him.

KATE

Hi Tim.

Tim looks up from his papers.

TIM

Oh, hi Kate.

KATE

Listen, Tim, we need to talk.

(CONTINUED)

TIM

Sure.

Tim lowers his papers and takes off his glasses.

KATE

I know that my uncle is innocent.
You do realize that you're trying
to convict my uncle.

TIM

You're right Kate, you are so
right. We would probably never talk
again if I went through with this.
I have evidence.

Tim holds the evidence folder up.

TIM

It's shocking evidence that will
save your uncle. He didn't do it
Kate.

Tim stands up and walks down the hall. Kate is shocked.

DISSOLVE TO:

27

EXT. BAR - DAY

27

Tim's friend runs up to him. Tim is looking slightly burnt
and steam rises from his body, but otherwise he's fine. He
opens his eyes slowly.

FRIEND

Tim are you alright?!

TIM

Yeah I'm fine, and it's great to be
home!

FRIEND

What d'ya mean? You never left.

TIM

Good, I don't want to.

FRIEND

Are you sure you're ok?

TIM

Yeah let's go inside.