

CAT IN THE SACK

Written by

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SIXTH DRAFT

FADE IN:

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

JORDAN MCKAY, 25, waits in a warehouse, pacing in a circle. It's dark, as a light shines overhead. A DUFFLE BAG sits in the middle of the floor.

There is the sound of FOOTSTEPS.

BARON STANLEY, 52, walks up wearing a business suit. He looks sophisticated.

Jordan looks intensely, as the bag rests between them.

JORDAN

Where in the hell have you been?  
I've been waiting nearly a half  
hour?

Baron looks at his watch.

BARON

Just move closer to the light, so I  
can get a better look.

Jordan stands forward.

JORDAN

Did you bring it?

Baron opens his jacket, revealing his gun. He closes it.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Look, Carlini has given explicit  
instructions --

BARON

(looks around)  
Do you see him? The only thing you  
need to be concerned about is how  
you want to come out of this.  
(pause)  
Now, back up.

Baron reaches into his jacket and pulls out playing cards. He takes them out of the package. He starts opening it.

BARON (CONT'D)

Carlini's certainly full of  
surprises.

JORDAN  
What the hell is that suppose mean?

BARON  
That your feet should be incased in  
cement, sunk at the bottom of the  
Hudson River.

JORDAN  
It wasn't me who fucked up the  
exchange.

BARON  
No? Maybe it was the whore that you  
kept as company. What's her name?  
(pause)  
Virginia?

JORDAN  
(defensive)  
Vanessa. She was an escort.

BARON  
(intense)  
She was property.  
(pause)  
Property that specialized in making  
men mellow -- more worldly.

Jordan moves closer.

BARON (CONT'D)  
Terrible things happen when fucking  
girls with insatiable coke habits.

Baron holds onto five cards, as he puts the remaining cards  
back into his jacket.

BARON (CONT'D)  
In this game, a person's luck lies  
in the deck from which every card  
is dealt.

Baron holds out the cards.

BARON (CONT'D)  
The King signifies strength, with  
the Queen representing elegance.  
(pause)  
The Jack is nobility, and the Ace  
is pure dominance.  
(pause)  
But, that unused card, The Joker?  
It's the seal of a person's fate.  
(MORE)

BARON (CONT'D)

A fate that rests in this dealer's hand.

Baron holds out the cards, faced down. Jordan takes one. Baron takes from the top and pulls out a Jack of Spades. Jordan shows his card, a King of Spades. Baron smiles.

BARON (CONT'D)

Luck's certainly on your side.

Baron takes out a bundle of cash and tosses it at Jordan as he catches it. Baron picks up the duffle bag and turns away.

JORDAN

Leaving so abruptly?

Baron stops walking, turning around.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Being raised by a German mother gives one a cultural perspective. One day, she gave me a package but as I was preparing to leave, she would shout, "*Katz im Sack!*" That's German for cat in the sack.

BARON

(irritated)

What's your point?

JORDAN

You just received something without verifying it's content. You've completely ignored it's value.

(pause)

A value that Mr. Carlini holds dear.

Baron gets more irritated.

EXT. LAKE HOUSE - BALCONY - FLASHBACK - DAY

A woman, CHERYL CARLINI, 45, stands out on a balcony, with the view of lake houses in the background. Baron walks up.

JORDAN (V.O.)

A housewife is probably the most loneliest of people. But, being married to the mob boss does have complications.

Baron turns her around. They kiss.

INT. LAKE HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK - DAY

Cheryl rushes in the living room from the balcony, as CARLINI, 55, stands at the living room doorway.

He is puzzled as Baron enters, straightening his tie.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Jordan stands before Baron.

JORDAN

Could loyalty be of any lesser value?

Baron bends down, placing the bag in front of him. He is hesitant to open it. Jordan pulls out his CELL PHONE. He activates a VOICE MESSAGE.

CARLINI (O.S.)

*I'm so disappointed. Do you know how disheartening it is in finding out that my only blood brother, for whom I've entrusted all my life would stoop so low in taking my precious gift?*

*(pause)*

*Another man's wife is NOT a commodity that one is in the luxury of sharing. Unfortunately, that trust has been violate. May it be exactly what you both deserve.*

Jordan reaches for a gun, that rests behind his back.

Baron opens up the bag, CHERYL'S HEAD rest inside. Her eyes are open. All the blood is drained.

Baron is shocked as he leans back. He reaches for his gun, the sound of a GUN HAMMER is heard.

Jordan pushes the gun barrel to the back of Baron's head.

Baron tosses his gun away.

BARON

*(angry)*

You mother-fucker! It doesn't end here.

JORDAN

(laughs)

Do you think this has something  
only to do with fucking Carlini's  
wife?

Jordan pulls out a playing card from his shirt.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

When ten million dollars of cocaine  
comes up missing and a person so  
elegantly leaves behind their  
calling card -- Well, hardly the  
ideal memento for a whore's final  
payment.

(pause)

Vanessa was my precious gift. Her  
life you so discriminatively took.  
And now the decision is left in  
this dealer's hand.

Baron gets more nervous, as a GUN SHOT sound echoes in the  
warehouse. Baron leans forward as Jordan has his gun raised  
in the air. Jordan puts it away. He bends down over Baron.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

You've got twenty-four hours. If I  
were you, I'd make best of the  
time you've got left.

Jordan stands and tosses the card on the ground. It's a  
Joker. He walks away.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

The cat's out of the bag.

Jordan leaves. Baron sits on his knees, extremely pissed.

FADE TO BLACK