

THE VENUS HEIST

by

Alex Mann

(c) 2017 Like MC Hammer said, you can't touch this.

FADE IN:

EXT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

Despite the name, this is very much Earth, present day. The building's artwork, however, is quite cosmic: Stars. Planets. Moons. Aliens.

A SHADOWY FIGURE

inches her way into the building, carrying a burlap sack and a Bowie knife.

INT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT

The Shadowy Figure sprints to the middle of the room, panicking the customers. The Shadowy Figure -- We'll call her ROBBER from now on -- comes into the light. She's wearing black clothes and a ski mask.

The Robber raises her knife. She speaks, her voice electronically disguised.

ROBBER

Hand it over! All of it!

The customers panic and gasp.

The Robber inches toward a female BANK TELLER, swinging the knife at her.

BANK TELLER

Put that thing away, ma'am.

ROBBER

Come on, I ain't got all night, hot cakes!

DARK CORNER

A WOMAN'S eye witnesses the heist; the rest of her is obscured by deep, inky shadows. She gasps.

BACK TO SCENE

The Robber takes the final stack of bills on the counter and throws it into the bag.

POOF! A cloud of smoke and she's gone.

DARK CORNER

The other Woman -- We'll call her WITNESS from now on -- gasps again. Her eyes shift around the room.

EXT. OFFICE OF RIKKI WESSON, P.I. - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

Heavy rain. THUNDER.

An unseen woman inches toward the door. She hesitates, sighs. Her hand graces the doorknob.

HER EYE

looks familiar -- It's the Witness. She turns the knob and inches it open, causing it to CREAK.

INT. OFFICE OF RIKKI WESSON, P.I. - NIGHT

The Witness enters the dimly-lit room, finally exposed from head to toe. Her name is AMY SWAN -- 29, beautiful, with a Greta Garbo face.

Venetian blinds cast a shadow on the room.

Napping in a chair behind a desk is DETECTIVE RIKKI WESSON. If Bogart were a woman, he'd be Rikki Wesson -- long pointy nose, jet-black hair, piercing eyes, gruff voice.

Amy, FOOTSTEPS QUIET, taps Rikki to wake her up.

AMY

Detective Wesson? Detective Wesson?

She wakes up.

RIKKI

Huh, what?

She stretches, letting out a huge, long yawn.

RIKKI

Who the hell are you?

Amy extends her arm.

AMY

Amy. Amy Swan.

No handshake. Amy awkwardly lowers her arm, chuckling nervously. She clears her throat.

RIKKI

What brings you here?

AMY

The Venus heist. I know who did it.

RIKKI

What Venus heist?

AMY

You don't watch the news, do you?

Rikki grabs her newspaper and reads it, seemingly disinterested in Amy's discussion.

RIKKI

And put newsstands out of business?
I don't even have a damn cell
phone. What am I, a Millennial?

AMY

Have you at least heard of the
Venus National Bank?

RIKKI

Only banks I've ever heard of are
on Earth, sweetie.

Amy SLAMS the paper down on the desk, eyes cold and hard.
She glares at Rikki.

AMY

You. Slimy. Bitch.

A flash of lightning. THUNDER.

RIKKI

Okay, okay. What's the poop?

Amy takes a deep breath.

AMY

She's a very good friend of mine,
but I know who robbed Venus last
night.

INT. OFFICE OF RIKKI WESSON, P.I. - NIGHT

No storms tonight. IVY MURDOCH, 30, a modern-day Marlene
Dietrich meets Jennifer Lawrence, walks into Rikki's office.

Rikki sits at her desk, reading about the heist in the
latest paper. Ivy clears her throat.

RIKKI

What's your story?

IVY

The Venus heist, two nights ago.

RIKKI

I'm already on it.

IVY

I've got a name.

Rikki puts down the paper, folding her hands.

RIKKI

What's your name?

IVY

My name? Ivy Murdoch.

She extends her arm, shaking hands with Rikki. They exchange
slight smiles. Rikki jots down Ivy's name on a notepad.

RIKKI

And... Your other name?

Ivy grins maliciously.

IVY

Amy Swan.

RIKKI

No kidding! Ain't that a coincidence.

IVY

You mean...?

Rikki nods.

IVY

Amy Swan is bad news. She'll eat you alive. Used to be a good friend of mine.

RIKKI

What'd she do?

IVY

Love triangle.

Rikki grabs the newspaper and resumes reading.

RIKKI

Tell me something I don't know.

IVY

Are you even listening to me?

RIKKI

When's the last time you saw this Amy Swan?

IVY

The Venus heist. When did you see her last?

RIKKI

This morning.

Ivy, visibly alarmed, confiscates the paper.

RIKKI

Hey!

IVY

Did she say where she was going?

RIKKI

Hamilton Bank. Says her suspect might be planning another heist.

IVY

Shit, we gotta move. Now!

EXT. HAMILTON BANK - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

The alarm rings.

INT. HAMILTON BANK - NIGHT

A familiar scene. The Robber waves her Bowie knife in the air and cackles.

ROBBER

Back in black!

CLASSICAL MUSIC plays over the speakers.

The customers panic and cower. The Robber goes to a BANK TELLER (HAMILTON BANK TELLER) and taunts her with the knife. She flinches at the Robber's weapon.

HAMILTON BANK TELLER

I'll call the police.

ROBBER

Hand it over, hot cakes!

HAMILTON BANK TELLER

Take off that mask and turn yourself in.

The Robber wags her knife.

ROBBER

Where's the fun in that?

The Robber graces her knife across the Bank Teller's neck. The Teller panics and whimpers. SLIT! THUD. The Teller drops to the ground, dead.

The Robber looks around the room. Everybody panics.

ROBBER

All of it!

EXT. HAMILTON BANK - NIGHT

Ivy and Rikki race into the building. An INTENSE HEARTBEAT drowns out the sound. BA-DUMP! BA-DUMP! BA-DUMP! BA-DUMP!

INT. HAMILTON BANK - NIGHT

BA-DUMP! BA-DUMP! BA-DUMP! BA-DUMP! Ivy falls to her knees, sobbing hysterically.

IVY

No! No!

The Robber is gone. The room is completely empty...

DARK CORNER

Except for a woman in the shadows. Only her eye can be seen. Very similar to Amy earlier.

She spots Ivy and Rikki, gasping. And before you know it, she's gone.

BACK TO SCENE

Rikki spots the woman disappearing into the shadows.

RIKKI

Hey! Come back here!

Ivy jumps off the ground, wiping her tears.

IVY

What?

RIKKI

Somebody in that corner.

IVY

Where?

A knowing look crosses Ivy's glowering face.

IVY

Her.

INT. OFFICE OF RIKKI WESSON, P.I. - NIGHT

The lightning, THUNDER, and rain are back.

Rikki eats a bowl of Cheerio's at her desk. Amy enters.

AMY

Hey, Rikki. Remember me?

RIKKI

Amy, Ivy came in last night.

AMY

I know.

RIKKI

She implicated you.

Amy's eyes widen.

AMY

She what? I should've known. Listen, I saw the Hamilton heist last night.

RIKKI

Isn't Venus your bank?

AMY

Ivy's a serial robber. Venus wasn't the first. But it might be the last.

Rikki sips a spoonful of milk from her bowl.

RIKKI

What self-respecting criminal returns to the scene of the crime?

AMY

A lot of 'em, actually. Is there any more cereal left? I didn't have time to eat much.

RIKKI

It's in the back.

Amy heads to the closet.

RIKKI

What makes you think Ivy's returning to Venus?

Amy grabs a box of Froot Loops, and milk from the fridge.

AMY

Hamilton was the last bank in town. Nowhere left to go but Venus again.

RIKKI

When do you think she's planning it?

AMY

I don't know.

INT. OFFICE OF RIKKI WESSON, P.I. - NIGHT

No storms. Ivy sits across from Rikki's desk.

IVY

Amy's a serial robber. Venus wasn't the first. But it might be the last.

RIKKI

When do you think she's planning it?

AMY

Midnight. The bank's just across the street from McDonald's. She'll be hungry.

Rikki looks at her watch -- 8 p.m.

RIKKI

We've got four hours to pull this off. You better be right about this.

INT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT

Ivy and Rikki enter the building, catching their breath. Ivy carries a backpack. Rikki lets out a hacking cough.

Customers are going about their business. A BANK TELLER (VENUS BANK TELLER #2) notices Ivy and Rikki.

VENUS BANK TELLER #2

Can I help you with anything?

RIKKI

There's gonna be a rob--

A clock outside strikes twelve. Ivy stands erect. She looks at her watch to confirm the time. She coughs.

INTERCUT - INT. OFFICE OF RIKKI WESSON, P.I. - NIGHT

Amy races into the room, panicking.

AMY

Rikki! Rikki! I know what time she--

Nobody's there.

INTERCUT

Ivy coughs again.

IVY

I, uh, have to use the restroom.

INTERCUT

Amy races out of the room.

INTERCUT

Rikki grabs Ivy's arm, restraining her.

RIKKI

No, you don't.

A black device falls out of Ivy's backpack. Rikki picks it up to see what it is. A VOICE CHANGER.

Ivy reaches into her pocket and pulls out her Bowie knife, pointing it at Rikki, glaring at the detective. Ivy confiscates the voice changer and uses it.

IVY
 (disguised voice)
 You knew.

Rikki panics, cowers.

RIKKI
 Never trust a woman named Ivy.

IVY
 (normal voice)
 In my backpack should be a burlap.
 Grab it.

Rikki does so, reluctantly.

A female SECURITY GUARD takes a step forward.

SECURITY GUARD
 Excuse me, ma'am!

Ivy points the knife at her.

IVY
 Ah, ah, ah. Follow the routine and
 nobody gets hurt.

EXT. DOWNTOWN - NIGHT

Amy races her way toward the bank.

INT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT

Rikki, knife pointed behind her back, reluctantly opens the burlap sack and goes up to the Bank Teller, nodding.

VENUS BANK TELLER #2
 All of it?

IVY
 You got it, sister.

EXT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT

Finally at her destination, Amy, breathing heavily, sprints into the building.

INT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT

Amy draws a .38 Magnum and points it at Ivy.

AMY
 Freeze, you slimy bitch!

Rikki kicks Ivy in the crotch and confiscates her knife. She turns it in to the Security Guard.

Rikki reaches into her trenchcoat, pulling out handcuffs. She then promptly cuffs Ivy. Amy rushes over.

SECURITY GUARD
Hey, you can't arrest her!

RIKKI
Citizen's arrest.

AMY
You'd rather she kill us all?

The Security Guard backs away.

SECURITY GUARD
Fine, you win.

RIKKI
Now, if you'd kindly call the
police.

SECURITY GUARD
Will do, ma'am.

BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: One month later

FADE IN:

EXT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT

A dark figure enters the building.

INT. VENUS NATIONAL BANK - NIGHT

Amy puts a ski mask on and disguises her voice. She opens up
a burlap sack and raises a Bowie knife in the air.

AMY
Hand it over! All of it!

Her voice echoes.

FADE OUT.

THE END