

DOUBLE ROULETTE

Written by

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FILM TREATMENT

LOGLINE

While trying to save his wrongfully convicted parents by finding his long lost sister, a taciturn, shy computer genius gets caught up in a world of conspiracy and organized crime and now he has to protect himself and the people he cares about from a psychopathic crime lord, all while dealing with his inept social skills.

SYNOPSIS

Mark is an anti-social computer genius with well-off parents. While he and his parents don't enjoy the healthiest of relationships, he still values his family the most. His worst nightmares come knocking when his parents are arrested and convicted for crimes they didn't commit. After trying everything in his power to prove their innocence with the help of his best friend Tony, who is also a lawyer, his parents inform him the only way he could prove their innocence is to find his sister who has been missing for five years. Mark embarks on a journey to find his long lost sister but after a multitude of unsuccessful attempts to track down her sister he desperately accepts help from a mysterious Mr. Berk. Mr. Berk promises to tell Mark his sister's whereabouts and even hand him with evidence that will prove his parents' innocence. In exchange Mark has to steal The Stylet Directory from Bernard, a banker who is secretly a crime lord for a syndicate known as The Regency. Mark successfully obtains The Stylet Directory but Bernard tracks him down and tortures him so that he gives it back. Mark proves adamant but on seeing the lengths Bernard is willing to go, he almost gives in. A gun battle ensues when Tony tries to rescue Mark and Tony gets blown up by Bernard using an RPG.

CHARACTERS

Mark Masila - A taciturn shy young man. He is a computer whiz and a genius. He's egotistic and thinks of himself better than others. He has a few friends and makes no effort to make any more. He's anti-social and believes attachments are liabilities.

Tony - He is Mark's best friend. He is a lawyer and the youngest senior partner at a distinguished law firm. He represents Mark's parents in court and although he ends up losing the case he believes Mark's parents have been set up and he helps Mark try to find his long lost sister and prove

his parents' innocence.

Sophie - She is Mark's love interest. She is knowledgeable and a little bit loquacious. At first he resents Mark but later on a blind date with Mark set up by Tony, he starts to like him. Her relationship with Mark doesn't stem further because of Mark's inability to form real human connections.

Mr. Johnson Masila - Mark's dad. He is a glorified accountant. He is strict and doesn't tolerate it when he finds out Mark has been hacking. He advocates for Mark to start living his own life and stop depending on his parents like a baby. He has a rocky relationship with Mark but later on declares he is proud of him.

Mrs. Rose Masila - Mark's mom. She is a computer expert. She lauds Mark for his computer skills and even helps him when he's stuck during a hack.

Jackie - Mark's long lost sister. Mark's parents tell him that she is the key to proving their innocence so Mark embarks on a journey to find her.

Mr. Berk - He mysteriously calls Mark and promises to help him find his sister and prove his parents' innocence and all Mark has to do is steal The Stylet Directory for him.

Gordy - A teenage hacker and Mark's friend who he has partnered with in previous hacks.

Bernard - A banker who is secretly a psychopathic crime lord. He is a high ranking member of The Regency better known as The Keeper of The Stylet Directory. He is also a ruthless and heatless killer who tortures and taunts Mark.

Fred - He is Bernard's IT director. He is the one who tracks down Mark and is killed by Bernard when his torturing tactics on Mark fail.

Monica - Bernard's secretary. She helps Mark gain access to Bernard's computer. She resents Bernard for sexually harassing her and threatening her so that she keeps her mouth shut.

BREAKDOWN OF THE ACTS

ACT ONE: Double Roulette opens on Mark in his room hacking. His mom walks in on him. When she sees Mark hacking he rebukes him and Mark defends himself by saying hacking takes place in cyberspace and it's practically harmless. Mark's mom tells him that even though hacking is not as dangerous as organized crime where criminals use guns to attack and hurt people, it's still a crime that'll one day hurt him or even the people he cares about. Mark tries to explain himself to his mom. She then gets intrigued and so she joins in on the hack to oversee what Mark is doing and help him best cover his tracks. They join forces and continue hacking. During a heated family dinner, Mark walks out and heads to a party with his best friend Tony. Mark is disappointed when he finds out that the party is just a boring anniversary party. At the party Mark secludes himself from the other party guests. He meets Sophie but doesn't make a good first impression. When he returns home late in the night, he finds his dad still awake. He apologizes to his dad, who forgives him and tells him he's proud of him for using his computer skills to make the world a better place. The next day at the crack of dawn, Mark's parents are arrested. Tony becomes Mark's parents' lawyer and despite doing his best they are later convicted for money laundering, embezzlement and cyber fraud. Mark's parents then inform him that the only way he can help them prove their innocence is by finding his long lost sister. With the help of Tony, Mark tries to find his sister but to no avail. Act One breaks with Mark depressed over losing his family and greatly disappointed that he isn't able to find the only person who could help his parents.

ACT TWO: Seeing how Mark is depressed, Tony sets him up on blind date with Sophie the girl Mark met at the party. Mark reluctantly agrees to go on the date. He also asks Tony for more help since this is his first date. Mark arrives at the date looking spick and span and sees that Sophie is his blind date. He feels embarrassed and almost turns back. He then gathers his courage and apologizes to her on the misfortunes of their first encounter at her dad's party. The date goes on well but when Sophie asks if they can do it again Mark panics and backs out by trying to explain to Sophie that his life is still quite a mess and he is not ready to commit to a relationship. Sophie is disappointed but she tells Mark this is the best date of her life and wishes him well on trying to fix his life. She also tells him that life is not about bits and bytes and one day he will have to make a real human connection. On his way from the date Mark is arrested for hacking a government database. He spends the night in jail but is released the next day when a fixer he doesn't even know clears his name. The fixer then hands Mark a phone and

tells him to expect a call from his benefactor anytime soon. Mark hesitantly takes the phone. He gets a phone call from a mysterious man called Mr. Berk who claims he can help Mark find his sister and get him evidence that will exonerate his parents. In exchange Mark has to hack into a bank's network and steal for him The Stylet Directory which is a collection of documents belonging to a criminal organization known as The Regency headed by a psychopathic crime lord known as Bernard who is also the bank's manager. Mark agrees to steal The Stylet Directory and seeks the help of Tony, Monica - Bernard 's secretary at the bank and Gordy. Mark successfully hacks the bank and acquires The Stylet Directory. Despite their success, Tony feels like Mark has gone too far this time round and confronts him. Mark confronts him back and accuses him of always being jealous of his gifts and hindering him from finding his sister and helping his family. Mark and Tony have a fallout. Fred manages to track down Mark and kidnaps him. He tortures Mark to find out where he has stashed The Stylet Directory but Mark refuses to comply. Mark now wounded and torn between saving himself and giving up the only thing that can possibly save his parent, find his sister and get to the truth. Fred threatens to track down Tony and Gordy and kill them if Mark doesn't tell him where The Stylet Directory is and who sent him to steal it but Mark still doesn't break. Bernard arrives and kills Fred after seeing how he has drugged Mark and has been torturing him. He then kills Monica in front of Mark to show him what he does to people who cross him.

ACT THREE: On seeing how Bernard is ruthless and psychopathic, Mark gives in and tells him everything and agrees to take him where he stashed The Stylet Directory. Before they could leave, Tony and a group of armed men come to Mark's rescue. A frantic gun battle ensues between the armed men and Bernard's goons. While running away from the crossfire Mark gets shot and on seeing this Tony runs towards him to save him but turns out he was just shot in the arm. Mark starts to bleed out and Tony races towards his car to pull it around and take Mark to the hospital. But before how could start the car Bernard blows up Tony's car with an RPG when Tony is still inside. Mark witnesses Tony's tragic death and he is utterly distraught about it. He remembers what his mom told him; that one day his hacking will hurt someone he cares about. Two weeks later when Mark goes to visit Tony's grave, his sister, Jackie shows up to condole him. They embrace. Jackie then reveals she's the head of The Regency. She gives Mark twelve hours to give back The Stylet Directory or else he would suffer a fate worse than their parents. Mark is confused and his troubles pile up when he realizes Gordy has betrayed him and he has stolen The Stylet Directory for himself.