

SCRIPT TITLE

Written by

Name of First Writer

Based on, If Any

Address
Phone Number

"OUT OF SUSPECTS"

By Jennifer Armstrong

FADE IN:

INT. MUSEUM - MORNING

FELIX WEATHERBY (46) curator of the Earthquake Museum uses his keys to unlock the door of the museum and enters. He is tall and gangly with pasty white skin. His eyes have dark circles under them and he can't seem to stop yawning. He walks in the door and turns on the light.

FELIX

(muttering)

Stupid sleeping pills. I knew that doctor was a quack. I think I'm more tired than I was before.

Felix walks over to one of the display cases and flips a switch to light it up. He looks down, gasps, and takes a step back in shock. He is awake now. Leaning back towards the case, he sees an empty space.

FELIX (CONT'D)

It's gone! How can that be? I know it was there yesterday!

Felix looks around the room and his eyes narrow.

FELIX (CONT'D)

So, we have a thief, do we?

ABIGAIL LUX (35) the museum historian walks in for her morning shift. She begins to hang up her coat and purse.

ABIGAIL

Hello, Mr. Weatherby. Sorry I'm late. I...

FELIX

Where is item 2733?

ABIGAIL

What?

FELIX

Item 2733. The pocket knife. It's gone! Where is it?

ABIGAIL

It should be in it's case, Sir. I don't know.

Felix approaches Abigail, pointing his long bonny finger in her face. Abigail, feeling uncomfortable with anyone in her personal space begins to back away.

FELIX

Well, it's not. I know it was here yesterday. Are you sure you didn't remove it for any reason and forget to put it back?

ABIGAIL

No. I finished my inspection of that case weeks ago. Perhaps its out for a cleaning?

Felix backs down and away but isn't convinced. He begins checking all of the windows and doors for signs of a break-in.

FELIX

Someone had to have taken it. It was probably that low life bum that's always loitering around here.

ABIGAIL

Fishsticks? I don't think he would...

FELIX

Wouldn't he? He probably pawned it for a few drinks at the bar. That knife was real silver, ya know!

ABIGAIL

Mr. Weatherby, I really think there is a logical explanation. You are very careful about locking these cases and no one has access except for you and the restoration crew. The knife is probably on rotation for cleaning and polishing.

Felix, unsuccessful at finding any signs of forced entry turns back to Abigail. Hearing her reasoning, the adrenaline leaves his face and he slouches his shoulders.

FELIX

Maybe so. I want you to call the crew first thing and ask them where it is. I'll be in my office.

Felix walks into his office and slams the door.

INT. FELIX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Felix is sitting up in his bed. He opens a bottle on his night stand and takes a single pill. Then he turns off the light and lays down.

INT. MUSEUM - DAY

Felix fumbles with his keys to open the door. He can barely keep his eyes open and moves very slowly. He looks even more tired than he did the day before.

Felix turns on the lights and is immediately stunned when he sees that everything in the front case is gone!

FELIX

What the? No! They will not get away with this!

Abigail walks into the room and sees that Felix is in a panic. He yells before she can say anything.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Abigail!

ABIGAIL

Yes, Mr. Weatherby.

FELIX

I need the names of everyone that has been through this museum in the past two weeks.

ABIGAIL

Well, that's easy, Sir. No one really ever comes to the museum.

FELIX

JUST GIVE ME THE NAMES!

ABIGAIL

Okay, well, it's been you and me, the homeless man, Fishsticks, and Giani.

(MORE)

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

I can't think of anyone else that has been here since that school visit, but that was a couple of months ago.

FELIX

Very well. That will make it much easier.

ABIGAIL

Make what easier, Sir?

FELIX

I want you and the other two in my office at 1pm. Got it?

ABIGAIL

Yes, Sir.

INT. FELIX'S OFFICE - DAY

Felix is standing behind his desk looking wildly at three seated faces in front of him. Abigail, FISHSTICKS, and GIANI.

FELIX

One of you has been stealing from my museum. I have already called the police.

GIANI

You called the police? You're gonna have us arrested?

FELIX

Yes! They said they will be here as soon as they are done "solving all the important crimes".

The three breath a sigh of relief and return their attention back to Felix.

FELIX (CONT'D)

For right now, you should know that your jobs are on the line. Each of you is going to tell me exactly where you were last night, starting with Ms. Abigail.

Abigail looked very nervously around and back at Felix.

ABIGAIL

I... I don't remember, uh... where exactly I was.

FELIX

Oh, really? Well you better start remembering because your paycheck is counting on it. Not to mention your reputation will suffer greatly when I call the Catalina Daily News and tell them that you have been canned for stealing artifacts!

ABIGAIL

Okay, okay! I remember. I was at the salon.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

(sheepishly under her breath)

Having my facial hair waxed.

FELIX

What was that?

ABIGAIL

(assertively with fake confidence)

Having my facial hair waxed. Okay?

Giani and Fishsticks snicker but stop when Felix POUNDS his desk.

FELIX

And what about you Mr. Fishsticks Jones. You're my prime suspect, anyway. Where were you last night? Pawning my artifacts for another glass of wine?

FISHSTICKS

I got a real good alibi.

FELIX

Let's hear it.

FISHSTICKS

I was in the tank. Got picked up yesterday at high noon off the dock. Didn't get out till this morning. You can call the sheriff if ya like.

Felix scowls with disgust at Fishsticks but then turns his attention to Giani.

FELIX

Looks like we have narrowed our search and I have to say, I'm not surprised. You are always snooping around this place, making people think you are looking for clues. What you were really looking for were some valuables. Where are you hiding them?

GIANI

I don't have them. I swear.

FELIX

Well, tell us where you were last night.

GIANI

I don't feel like that is necessary.

ABIGAIL

Just tell him where you were, Giani, so he'll let us go.

Giani takes a deep breath and looks away from the group.

GIANI

I was at ballet lessons.

Everyone, including Felix, cracks up laughing. Fishsticks has tears running down his face. Abigail is doubled over in her chair and Felix mocks him with ballet moves.

GIANI

(CONT'D)

Hey. It helps me with my posture. It's not a big deal. Can I go now?

Felix stops laughing and giving them all one final, disgusted look, he points to his door. They all get up and walk out. Fishsticks and Abigail still laughing.

GIANI

(CONT'D)

All this from the bearded lady and MR. Otis Campbell?

INT. FELIX'S HOME - NIGHT

Felix walks through the door of his home. He looks extremely frustrated and exhausted. He goes through the mail on his counter and then walks back to his room.

INT. FELIX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Felix sits on his bed, removes his shoes and loosens his tie. He walks over to his closet and opens the door. His jaw drops when he sees ALL of the artifacts from the museum piled on the floor. He immediately turns around, looking for the perpetrator. He grabs a nearby baseball bat and begins searching in corners and behind doors throughout his home.

When he finds no one, his expression turns from fearful to determined. He slips his shoes back on, grabs his keys, and heads out the door.

INT. FELIX'S CAR

Felix is a mad man, clutching the wheel with both hands and weaving in and out of traffic. Cars are honking at him as he whizzes past them unfazed.

FELIX
(to himself)
Trying to make a fool of me, are
they? We'll see who has the last
laugh!

INT. ELECTRONICS STORE - NIGHT

Felix looks absolutely crazed as he cases the isles. He walks purposefully to the exact section he needs. There on the shelf is a home security system. He scans to the right of that and sees a commercial grade video surveillance system, puts it in his cart and walks away.

At the check-out counter, the employee rings him up for \$1542.67. Felix, without batting an eye, pulls his credit card out and swipes it.

EMPLOYEE
Would you like to purchase a one
year warranty for an extra six
dollars.

FELIX
(with clenched teeth)
I only need it for one night.

INT. MUSEUM - NIGHT

Felix is on a ladder mounting one of the security cameras. He is smiling slightly all the while. Meanwhile, the hours are ticking away on a clock on the wall and Felix continues to install all of the cameras. When he finally finishes, it is 2 am.

INT. FELIX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Felix can barely hold his eyes open. He pops a sleeping pill from his night stand, turns off the light and lays back. For a moment he stares at the ceiling and smiles.

INT. MUSEUM - MORNING

Felix arrives at the museum. His eyes are bloodshot and there are dark bags hanging practically to his cheeks. His hair is disheveled and his shirt is only half tucked in. It appears he has not slept for days. When he walks in, he immediately sees that the very front display, a roped off area that had previously been showcasing a small beam was now gone.

Felix did not get upset as he had before. This time he turned his head towards one of the new security cameras, saw the blinking red light indicating that it was still on, and smiled.

INT. FELIX'S OFFICE - DAY

Felix is again standing behind his desk in front of Abigail, Fishsticks, and Giani. This time he is not wild with accusation but rather calm and collected. Abigail, Fishsticks, and Giani however, look annoyed to be back in his office.

FELIX

I think at least one of you knows why we are here again today.

FISHSTICKS

I know why. It's cause you're a crazy old goone. And that's comin' from me!

FELIX

I'm going to ignore that for now Mr. Jones. You see, I am here today with more than just a suspicion. I am here today with proof.

(MORE)

FELIX (CONT'D)

That's right, I have caught one of you little criminals red handed and someone is about to pay.

At this, the three of them become a little uneasy. They look at each other and then back at Felix as he wheels a large cart towards them.

Felix uncovers the cart revealing a television and a DVD player. He proceeds to turn everything on and then produces a DVD from his desk drawer. He holds it up for them to see.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Does anyone want to guess what this is?

GIANI

I'm guessing a Paris Hilton joke would be inappropriate right now?

Felix loses his cool for a moment and snarls at Giani but quickly recovers and continues his cool demeanor.

FELIX

This, Giani is a video of all the activity taking place in the museum last night. Which ever one of you that stole the beams from the exhibit will be seen clear as day and we will go together to the police station to turn you in.

Felix slowly puts the DVD in the player, walks back to behind his desk, sits in his chair and uses the remote to press play.

The video starts out fuzzy but becomes crystal clear. For a while there is not activity so Felix fast forwards until they see a dark shadow behind the front entrance door. Felix hits play and leans in excited to see who it is. The other three do the same.

The figure is dark as they enter the room. They are wearing a large coat and walking very slowly. For a moment or two it is still indistinguishable as to who it is, but then the figure moves towards the light. The dark figure hits the light and turns facing the camera revealing their face.

Giani, Abigail, and Fishsticks all drop their jaws. They slowly turn around to face Felix who is staring at the video, his eyes wide, his mouth also ajar.

The figure on the television stares right into the camera. It is Felix, himself. After looking at the camera, he turns towards the main exhibit. He takes down the red rope, grabs one of the beams and heads out the door.

The room is silent. Giani finally reaches and tuns the television off.

FELIX (CONT'D)

(to himself)

I don't believe this. I must have been sleep walking. Those pills. Those pills must have caused me to walk in my sleep. I...

FISHSTICKS

Uh, can we go? Looks like you done solved your mystery.

Felix just stared at the television in disbelief. Abigail put her arm around Fishsticks and turned him toward the door.

ABIGAIL

Yes, lets go and leave Mr. Weatherby to himself for a while.

The three walk out the door together.

GIANI

Do we at least get an apology?

ABIGAIL

Shhh! Just get out of here.

Abigail closes the door behind them.

INT. FELIX'S OFFICE -DAY

Felix is still sitting in his desk starring at the now blank television screen. He is completely calm when he lays his head face down on his desk and falls instantly asleep.

FADE OUT.