

QUITE A DELICATE MINUTE

Thriller

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1. SMASH TO

2. INT. THE WHITE ROOM

A MAN IN WHITE CLOTHES abruptly wakes up from a sterile brightly lit white room with no windows or visible doors. The room has a DIGITAL CLOCK on the wall and above it is a SPEAKER. A WOODEN TABLE is in the middle of the room with a black object on top of it..

A MAN (OFF SCREEN)
You're finally awake. Come over
here ALEX.

Alex looks to the other side of the room and sees a MAN IN BLACK CLOTHES sitting calmly with his elbow on his knee. Before Alex can speak the man in the black clothes interrupts him.

MAN IN BLACK CLOTHES
I'm MIKEY. Nice to meet you.
Welcome!

ALEX
Welcome? Welcome where? Where's my
daughter?

MIKEY
She's near by. You can probably
have her soon. So what brings you
here today?

ALEX
Probably? I need to see her, now!

MIKEY
After we're done with the test
we'll let you see her. Time starts
now.

The DIGITAL CLOCK starts counting down from one minute.

SPEAKER
Act quick Alex.

Mikey stands up and walks to the table in the middle of the room. He picks up a PISTOL and shows Alex that it's loaded.

MIKEY
Take it, you don't have much time.
You'll have to shoot somebody.

ALEX
What the fuck is going on?

Mikey forces Alex to take the PISTOL. A DOOR opens and two NAKED MEN, one BLACK, one WHITE with hoods on their heads and their hands chained walk into the room without saying a word.

MIKEY

Choose one of them. You have fourty five seconds. If you don't shoot one we'll end JOANNA's life.

Alex points the gun at Mikey's face.

ALEX

Fuck you. Where's my daughter.

MIKEY

Do what we tell you and we'll give her to you.

ALEX

And what if I shoot you, asshole?

MIKEY

You wouldn't shoot a cop.

Alex lowers the gun and catches his breath.

SPEAKER

Thirty seconds. Pick one target.

Alex glances at the chained naked men standing silently and scoffs.

MIKEY

Think of JOANNA.

ALEX

So you'll just arrest me for murder, huh?

MIKEY

Nope. We don't prosecute these things.

ALEX

How can I trust you?

MIKEY

The clock is ticking.

Alex notices that the clock has 15 seconds left.

MIKEY

Just pick one of them.

Alex hesitates to raise his PISTOL against the naked men. He gets a flashback of Joanna laughing.

MIKEY

Ten.

Alex raises his PISTOL on the white man and then the black man.

SPEAKER

Nine.

MIKEY

Joanna will die if you don't do anything.

SPEAKER

Eight.

Alex places his finger on the trigger. And squeezes it lightly but not enough to fire.

SPEAKER

Seven.

Alex closes his eyes. He puts the gun down and grunts in distress.

SPEAKER

Six.

ALEX

What the fuck even is this.

SPEAKER

Five.

Alex aims at the black man.

SPEAKER

Four.

Alex switches to the white man.

SPEAKER

Three.

Alex switches back to the black man.

SPEAKER

Two.

Alex inhales audibly.

SPEAKER

One.

Alex squeezes the trigger hard and BAM. The gun fires and Alex drops it on the floor. Dead silence.

Alex is lying on the ground restless.

MIKEY (OFF SCREEN)
We'll have the results in just a
second.

A puddle of blood flows onto Alex's clothes, staining them.

SPEAKER
Citizen number three six two four
two six nine. You have been found
guilty of crimes against humanity.
Your punishment is one year in a
re-education camp and you are
indefinitely fired from your job.
Your daughter will be sent to
foster care for the duration of
your punishment. Your name and
picture will be added to the R.H-
list. You will be fined eighty
percent of your net worth.

MIKEY
Let's go.

Two police officers walk in and step over the corpse of the
black man to pick up Alex and put him in handcuffs.

ALEX
I'm sorry. I'll change.

MIKEY
Atta boy. Be better.

All five men walk out at the same time and Mikey closes the
door behind him.

A GUNSHOT is heard faintly in the distance.

CUT TO

Picture of Joanna laughing.

SMASH BLACK