

Reality

By

Viktor Boos

INT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

SOCERESS rushes along the hallway. The supervisor is on the lookout for workers. He glances in each room, which he passes. Finally he finds someone. The WORKER chisels with his jackhammer into a wall. The noise makes it hardly to speak.

SOCERESS
Have you seen McCoy?

WORKER
Yes I'm Okay!

Soceress shakes his head turns around and gets out of the building site.

EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

Soceress approaches his car. He sees CHARLIE, who digs a hole into the ground.

SOCERESS
Charlie. Have you seen McCoy?

CHARLIE
Not yet.

INT. CAR - DAY

While STEVE MCCOY rides his car he whistles a tune and uses his fingers as drumsticks on the steering wheel. His breakfast, Cheeseburger with fries, rests in his lap. His lips shine because of the fatty fast food. The sauce drops from his unshaved chin and messes up his already dirty boiler suit.

EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

Soceress opens his car door. His cell phone rings.

SOCERESS
Charlie. If he shows up. Tell him
to wait for me after work.

Charlie lifts his hand and shakes his head yes. Soceress answers the phone call while he gets in his car. He starts the engine and drives away.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Steve arrives. Socceress leaves the parking lot.

INT. CAR - DAY

Steve ducks his head to avoid being seen by his supervisor. But Socceress is too busy arguing anyway on his cell phone. Steve slurps loudly while drinking his soft drink through the straw. The carbonated drink causes a belch.

EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

Steve approaches Charlie. Charlie stops digging.

STEVE

Hey dude.

CHARLIE

Hi man. You're late again.

STEVE

I know. But there was a car accident and I couldn't get through the city.

CHARLIE

Socceress was here.

STEVE

Yeah. I saw him in the car.

CHARLIE

He was looking for you.

STEVE

Me?

CHARLIE

Yes. He seemed pretty pissed off. I don't know if it's because of you.

STEVE

What did he want?

CHARLIE

I don't know. He said that you should wait after work for him.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE
He wants to talk to you.

STEVE
Ok. Thanks man.

CHARLIE
Good luck.

STEVE
By the way. How's your wife?

CHARLIE
She's great.

Charlie draws a huge imaginary belly with his hands.

CHARLIE
Huge!

STEVE
When is it coming?

CHARLIE
The doctor said, it could be any day.

STEVE
Good luck with that.

CHARLIE
Thanks. You know how it's like.

STEVE
Yes. Lovely. Give her my regards.

CHARLIE
Okay.

Steve turns around and goes to the building site.

INT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

Steve starts his routine. He lays insulated pipes. Fixes the pipes with hammer, nails and punched tape. Chisels holes for pipes. Cuts Styrofoam for underfloor heating. Tapes the Styrofoam together. Lays underfloor heating pipes and staples them to the Styrofoam. Drills holes in walls. Cuts pipes. And sweeps the builder's rubble.

EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

Soceress arrives earlier than expected. He steps out of his car.

SOCERESS

Charlie. He's not here, is he?

CHARLIE

He's inside.

Soceress goes over to the building site.

INT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

Steve stops sweeping but starts coughing. He goes out to breathe some fresh air.

EXT. BUILDING SITE - DAY

He sees Soceress coming. Soceress holds a white envelope in his hand. Steve goes straight in his direction. They meet in the middle, in front of a company car. The company's name "BOOS", decorates the blue car with big white letters.

STEVE

Ah, is it my well-earned money?

SOCERESS

Where have you been?

STEVE

I was sick yesterday. And today there was car accident and I couldn't get through the-

Soceress interrupts Steve

SOCERESS

New day new lie.

SOCERESS

There you go, two hundred.

Soceress holds a cigarette in his right hand and the envelope in his left.

STEVE

Tw.. Two hundred? Where is the rest?

(CONTINUED)

SOCERESS

That's all. There is no rest.

STEVE

What?

SOCERESS

What what?

Soceress drops the cigarette and stubs it out.

STEVE

Don't forget about my kids. They have to eat... and... and I have to dress them, too.

Counting energetic with his fingers.

STEVE

How I'm supposed to do that with two hundred bucks?

SOCERESS

Sorry partner, none of my business.

STEVE

That's unfair man. You're evil. You know?

SOCERESS

Listen buddy. You're supposed to work 40 hours a week. Instead, you work one day and the other day you hang out somewhere else. Therefore I'm not giving you the full-

Steve interrupts Soceress.

STEVE

But my kids.

Soceress passes the money to Steve.

SOCERESS

Take it or leave it. It's your choice.

Steve points his forefinger at Soceress' face.

STEVE

You know what... Soceress?
Fuck you!

Soceress holds his hand at his ear and turns the head a little.

SOCERESS

What was that? What the fuck was that?

SOCERESS

I'm the last goddamn person on earth, who still tolerates you. And you're talking like this? You know what? Get the fuck out of here! You ungrateful scumbag. You're fired.

Steve rams Soceress very hard against the company car. Soceress drops the envelope. Steve spits on the floor, a gesture of masculinity like, "I'm bigger and better than you and I don't need you," but at the same moment he sees the white envelope on the ground. He kneels down and picks it up.

Steve gives Soceress a dirty smile. He waves, using the envelope, fresh air in his face.

STEVE

I'm fired? Fine by me, dick head.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

Steve goes to his car. His anger makes him curse (unintelligible). He kicks a can on the street. He gets to his car, sticks the key in and opens it. He goes back to the trunk.

Trunk POV

Trunk opens. Steve leans over and reaches for something.

He picks a bottle of beer out of the trunk. He draws his folding rule like a cowboy does with his Peacemaker, opens the bottle, twists his folding rule between his fingers and slides it back in his side-pocket. He downs the beer. He takes a big swing and throws the empty bottle as far as he can. It shatters on the ground into innumerable pieces. He scratches his designer stubble and takes a final look at the building site, far in the distance.

STEVE

That prick will get what he deserves, that's for sure!

He enters his ride, starts the engine, and drives away.

INT. CAR - DAY

Steve listens to the radio and puts the volume up to 21. He is brooding something, from time to time he knits his brow. His eyes are wide open. He doesn't blink and stares dull on the road.

RADIO LOUIS (O.S.)
Hello and welcome to (spelling)
"WOO", the best Hip-Hop Radio
station in the entire world. The
song you've just heard was the new
Hit-Single from Noemi-Alexandra.
And now listen to the weather
forecast presented by my lovely
colleague J-Ann.

Absolutely nothing attracts his attention. He approaches a junction. In the last second he realizes that the traffic lights have already turned red.

STEVE
Shit!

He stops at the red light with a sudden break.

RADIO J-ANN (O.S.)
Thank you Louis. Today's weather is
just amazing, we-

EXT. STREETS - DAY

ROBBER POV
Rapid movements show us the ground and his running feet.

The man runs quickly along the street. He approaches Steve's car. Black gloves reach for the door they open it and the man jumps inside.

INT. CAR - DAY

The robber, black suit, red necktie, masked jumps in the rear seats of Steve's car. He carries a bag and a gun in his hands. Steve, full of thrill, turns his head to look what happens at the back. He watches right in the barrel of a 9mm-Pistol.

J-ANN (O.S.)
-It's the best swimming pool
weather. At temperatures up to 40
degree. Don't forget to drink
enough water, to avoid dehydration.

(CONTINUED)

ROBBER

Drive and turn off that fucking
bitch!

In Steve's total nervousness, he tries to do all at the same time. He reaches for the radio and steps on the gas pedal. The engine roars like a hungry bear. He almost hits a PEDESTRIAN who is crossing the street. The pedestrian is, fortunately, able to jump out of the way. The car speeds along.

PEDESTRIAN

Oh, shit! Are you crazy? Asshole.

ROBBER

What the fu-.

The pedestrian's shouting attracts the attention of a group of people on the sidewalk.

INT. CAR - DAY

ROBBER

You've almost run that man over! Am
I in the wrong getaway car or is
this the signal, to pull the
trigger?

Steve is totally losing control. He is shocked and nervous about the situation.

STEVE

(watching the rear-view
mirror)

No no. Please. I have kids.

ROBBER

Yeah, yeah, shut the fuck up and
watch the road.

The robber looks out of the rear window, if something unscheduled happens.

STEVE

Please Mister. What do you want?

ROBBER

I want you to shut up and drive.

STEVE

B.. But where to?

(CONTINUED)

ROBBER
Just drive.

They both manage to glance at the rear-view mirror at the same time. The robber unmask himself.

STEVE
Oh shit. No!

STEVE
You're gonna shoot me, aren't you?

ROBBER
Why should I?

STEVE
Because I saw your face.

ROBBER
So what? I'm not bringing out the dead.

STEVE
I could go to the police.

ROBBER
But you won't.

STEVE
Why not?

ROBBER
Believe me. You won't!

STEVE
Ah... Is this kind of, "If I tell anyone, I will die"-situation, 'cause you know where I live?

The robber smiles.

ROBBER
Sort of.

STEVE
But I could go to the police. And tell them, that they should put me into a witness-protection program.

ROBBER
You watch too much T.V.

STEVE
Actually, I don't.

Both are silent for a while. Steve concentrates on the road and the robber takes a look around.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Steve turns the car into a narrow street. An elderly woman watches out of the window. Two boys play with a ball three girls are skipping. A police car passes by.

INT. CAR - DAY

The robber ducks his head a little. He follows the police car with his eyes and turns his head. In that moment Steve takes a glance back, at the gun and the bag.

ROBBER
Problems?

STEVE
No. No.

STEVE
How much did you get?

ROBBER
The less you know, the healthier it is.

STEVE
Was it a one man job? Or do you got help?

ROBBER
I work alone.

STEVE
Can I get trouble?

ROBBER
With what?

STEVE
The law!

STEVE
The police could think, I helped you.

(CONTINUED)

ROBBER
Are you kidding? You're my fucking
hostage. Unless I tell them
something different. Don't you
watch T.V.?

ROBBER
Ah I forgot. You don't!

ROBBER
But... how your kids coming along,
then?

STEVE
What kids?

ROBBER
Your kids!

Steve remembers what he told the gangster. Nervously he
reaches for his hair and curls it.

STEVE
Ah, yes my kids...

ROBBER
You lied, didn't you?

The gangster cocks his gun puts it at Steve's back of the
head. Steve bows his head a little.

STEVE
It's not a good idea to shoot me at
that speed! If the car gets out of
control you get killed, too.

The robber watches at the speedometer and then outside.

ROBBER
Hmm, convinced!

He lowers his gun.

ROBBER
Must be your lucky day. Otherwise
you would now reign in hell or
serve in heaven!

STEVE
There is no heaven or hell.

ROBBER
What was that?

STEVE
Oh, I said, there is whether hell
nor heaven.

ROBBER
Any facts smart ass?

STEVE
It's just a pipe dream.

Robber widens his eyes. He turns his head a little to hear Steve better.

STEVE
Where do all the animals go? Hell
or heaven? Are they good or evil?

ROBBER
My robber sense is tingling. You're
going to tell me, aren't you?

STEVE
A whale plays with his prey before
he kills it. Is this sadist
"created"-

Steve does the quotation marks with his index and middle fingers.

STEVE
-by the almighty god going to hell?

ROBBER
Is it a rhetorical question?

STEVE
Animals just behave. Humans are
responsible for their actions,
aren't they?

Robber nods his head yes.

STEVE
It's common that humanity thinks
heaven is a reward for good and
hell a punishment for bad people.
Animals live by their instincts.
It's nature. Only mankind is able
to create hell or heaven.

Robber nods and starts to clap.

ROBBER
Great speech, Mr. Philosopher!

ROBBER
If I kill you. I wouldn't even go
to hell?

Steve laughs.

STEVE
Nope. Not in my world!

The robber sighs.

ROBBER
Crazy motherfucker!

STEVE
Thanks, and the same to you.

ROBBER
Watch it!

He lifts his gun, so Steve is able to see it in the
rear-view mirror.

STEVE
Sorry.

Steve is silent, albeit just for a second.

STEVE
How many banks did you rob?

ROBBER
None of your business.

STEVE
Have you ever got locked up?

ROBBER
Are you writing a book?

STEVE
Yes. It's called: "How I shared my
time with a robber." The next
number one bestseller.

ROBBER
Do you ever shut up?

EXT. STREETS - DAY

The city skyline looks amazing by the bird's-eye view. We catch Steve's car with the eagle eye.

INT. CAR - DAY

Steve moves his eyes rapidly. He knocks a little tune with his hands on the steering wheel. He glances at the rear-view mirror and turns his head a little. He chews his lips. His restlessness makes him do it.

STEVE

Is the gun real?

ROBBER

Eh... What do you want?

Steve laughs a little and looks slit-eyed in the rear-view mirror. The robber takes a look at Steve and also smiles. It's getting dark outside. Steve turns the headlight on.

With no advanced warning Steve suddenly reaches for the glove compartment. The robber cocks the gun.

ROBBER

Eh eh eh, what are you doing? Put the hands on the steering wheel!

STEVE

Easy. Easy. I'm just reaching for a handkerchief. No reason to blow my brains out.

ROBBER

Maybe you got a gun!

STEVE

I can tell you. There is no gun.

STEVE

And if there would be. You could kill me before I can even point it at you.

ROBBER

Like you said. It's to risky at that speed.

ROBBER

What do you need a handkerchief for?

(CONTINUED)

STEVE
To clean my nose.

ROBBER
Wait. I can help you out.

The robber reaches in his jacket pocket.

ROBBER
There you go.

He gives Steve a handkerchief. Steve's not satisfied and squeezes his lips.

STEVE
Thanks.

Steve wipes his nose. But it sounds like he doesn't need to. Steve gives the robber a spurned smile at the rear-view mirror. The robber lowers his weapon but still points it in Steve's direction.

EXT. NEAR FOREST - DUSK

A bird sits on the tree. Something scares him and it flies away. Steve's car turns into the forest path.

INT. CAR - DUSK

ROBBER
What are you doing?

STEVE
What do you think? I have to take a piss!

ROBBER
Did you ask for permission.

STEVE
Oh, pardon me. Do I have permission to empty my bladder your highness?

Steve stops the car. He turns the key and kills the engine. The robber rises his gun at Steve's head.

ROBBER
Remember the bullets are faster than you.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Yeah. Yeah. Of course they are!

EXT. NEAR FOREST - DUSK

Steve and the robber get out of the car. Steve stretches himself first, then he walks a few steps and stops. He spreads his legs to prepare for his intention and unzips his jeans. The robber steps close behind him and puts the gun at the back of Steve's head.

EXT. MULTI-LEVEL PARKING LOT - DUSK

A big, black Van parks on the top of the Multi-Level Parking Lot. On the car-roof is a big antenna. The van moves a little, voices and laughter come from the interior.

INT. VAN - DUSK

Two MEN in leisure clothes, mid thirties, sit on cardboard boxes. In front of them are small monitors, High-Tech equipment and other T.V. stuff. Both wearing big headphones. The corpulent one eats a candy bar. The other trains his wrist.

OLNAN

What'd you say? Do you think she'd do it?

VADDI

I don't know, she's not that type of woman. If you know what I mean.

OLNAN

Maybe I should just ask her?

VADDI

But you probably get- oh crap, he left his bag in the car.

OLNAN

(full mouth)

Perhaps I have a chance, if-

VADDI

Look, his mike doesn't work.

Vaddi tips with his finger at his headphones.

(CONTINUED)

OLNAN

Switch to his Left-Pocket-Camera
and go to frequency 50 kilohertz.

VADDI

Okay.

VADDI

Hmm?! Nothing changes. Weird.

Olnan gives the monitor a little punch and corrects the position of it.

Unexpectedly they hear gunshots over their headphones. Olnan gets a fright and drops the rest of the candy bar.

VADDI

What was that?

OLNAN

Gunshots!

Olnan picks up his candy bar and stuffs it nervously in his mouth.

VADDI

Yeah I know but it's impossible.
His gun isn't loaded, goddammit!

They look horrified with big eyes at each other. The mouth and lips of Olnan is full of chocolate and he's still chewing.

VADDI

Gimme the mike. I go on air.

OLNAN

Are you crazy?

VADDI(ON AIR)

Hello out there. To all viewers of the show. My name is Vaddi Fernich and we are live on the set of "Hidden-Traps", the famous TV-Show. We are sorry to interrupt this program. Unfortunately the show takes an unexpected course. We heard real gunshots-

INT. LIVING ROOM - DUSK

An old LADY sits on a couch and knits a blue pullover. Her small dog rests next to her. She watches the show Hidden-Traps.

THIN MAN(ON AIR)

-We think that either our Show-Master Tansley Curbick or the candidate is wounded or maybe dead. Please stay put for more information.

OLD LADY

What a pity! The show was funnier in the old times. Nowadays everything has to be violent. Don't you agree, Scippy?

She turns the T.V. off and continues knitting.

EXT. NEAR FOREST - DUSK

The trunk of Steve's car closes. We hear a few footsteps. The drivers door gets shut. The car drives very fast away. A silhouette drives the car.

INT. CAR - DUSK

The silhouette turns into Steve's shape. He rides the car and smiles.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DUSK

He drives into a trailer park region, near the airport. Nobody is around.

INT. CAR - DUSK

He grabs the robber's bag from the back seat. Exits the car and goes straight to his trailer.

EXT. TRAILER PARK - DUSK

A plane flies by the noise makes him knit his eyebrows. He lifts his head and glances at it. He goes to his trailer. A stray dog crosses his path. The dog stops and glances at Steve. Steve stops and glances back. It's like watching in a mirror. Steve shakes his head.

He whistles a song and goes along to his trailer, which is small, old and dirty. A red 114-graffiti number is written on the trailer.

INT. TRAILER - DUSK

There is not much room inside. There is barely enough space for one person. No children's clothes, no toys. Only his dirty laundry on the floor. Erotic-none-nude wallpapers decorate the gloomy walls.

STEVE

(to one of the pin-up girls)

Honey, I'm home. I got promoted.

While he says that he grabs the Pin-up-girl's breast. He sits down. His eyes shine bright in great expectation. He opens the bag. His face turns into disbelief.

STEVE

Fuck!

DISSOLVE TO BLACK:

OVER BLACK:

POLICE RADIO(V.O.)

All units, all units. Suspect Steve McCoy, male is wanted for murder. He's armed and dangerous. Over and out.

THE END