

'Cripple Robbers'

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EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

At the entrance of a large, but long since forgotten Warehouse three men slowly approach each other. Cautious, none of these men knows one another.

The warehouse is gutted, signs of it being used by drug addicts and the homeless as a place to sleep.

LOGAN, 29, in a wheelchair pushes himself along the uneven rocky ground. He gets to the entrance first. Takes out a green card and holds it out in front of him.

AIDEN, 50, missing his left arm gets to the entrance next. He reaches inside his jacket and has an identical card. Shows it to Logan.

Finally DANIEL, 35, missing his right-hand joins them. He too holds onto a card, just the same as the other two.

They look amongst each other, trying to work out whats going on.

LOGAN

So who's idea was this?

AIDEN

I don't like being messed around. Is this some kind of joke?

DANIEL

Nothing to do with me.

LOGAN

We've all got the same card.

AIDEN

Yeah. What the hell is all this about?

LUCAS, 19, now steps out from the shadows. Dressed in a fine, expensive suit he grins at the three men.

LUCAS

Good evening gentlemen. I must confess that it was I who sent you those cards, invitations if you will.

The other three men all turn to face him.

AIDEN

So what is it, you invite three
cripples out to have a good laugh at
them or something?

DANIEL

I'm no cripple.

LOGAN

Yeah, don't much like that word
myself.

AIDEN

Well, it's what we are, look at us.
It's obvious.

LUCAS

On those cards is an invitation to get
back the money you lost. I have
friends in many high places. But I
also have friends in very low places
too. We'll get back to that later on.

AIDEN

Just spit out what you want to say and
stop wasting my time.

LUCAS

I know the government has stopped your
payments of benefits. Telling you to
go and find work.

AIDEN

Bastards.

DANIEL

Yeah, me too.

LOGAN

How did you know?

LUCAS

My friend, as I've just indicated, I
have friends in very high places. I
know a lot about each of you. You were
very carefully chosen.

AIDEN

What the hell is this?

DANIEL

What do you know about me?

LUCAS

Your name is Daniel, lost your hand in a fight. Broken your knuckles. Went home to sleep it off but it became gangrenous. Had to be amputated.

LOGAN

And me?

LUCAS

Your name is Logan. Served bravely in the army. Your vehicle got hit by an IED. Paralyzed from the waist down.

AIDEN

And me?

LUCAS

You're Aiden. Car accident.

AIDEN

And who are you?

LUCAS

I'm Lucas. I like helping men like you. Men who have lost everything by no fault of your own. Who now find themselves in hardship because a corrupt government has decided that you no longer deserve benefits for your horrible accidents and should now find a job. But because of your physical appearances no one wants to hire you. You're stuck. That's where I come in.

DANIEL

I can do any job a man with two hands can. But I'm not given a chance.

LOGAN

And there's plenty of jobs where you're sat down all day. But none for me.

AIDEN

People take one look at me and show me the door.

LUCAS

I always have money. I used to own this very warehouse until the government shut me down. But it didn't stop me. I can make each of you rich.

AIDEN

How?

LUCAS

As I said, I always have money because I know where it is thanks to my friends in low places. And I simply take it. There's a post office twenty miles from here. Tonight. They have one hundred thousand pounds sitting in it, unprotected.

The three men all share a nervous look.

LOGAN

I'm not a criminal.

DANIEL

Neither am I.

AIDEN

How can so much money be left unguarded?

LUCAS

Because no one knows it's there. My offer, come with me. Help me steal it. And you'll all get a fair split.

LOGAN

I'm in a wheelchair, how can I rob a bank?

LUCAS

Not a bank, a post office. And you being in a wheelchair makes you most useful for such a job.

AIDEN

How?

LUCAS

No one will expect it, or believe it. The news story will come out once we're done that four men robbed a post office. No police officer in his right mind is going to arrest and question a man in a wheelchair. A man missing an arm. Or a man missing his hand. It is because of how society sees you, thinking that your are incapable that makes you most capable. Anyone can steal money, it's getting to keep hold of it that's the tricky part.

AIDEN

I'm in.

LOGAN

Wait a minute. If it's so easy why do you need us?

LUCAS

I need extra hands.

AIDEN

Well, you've got me.

LOGAN

You don't even know this guy.

AIDEN

And I don't even know you Logan.

DANIEL

You shouldn't have said are real names?

AIDEN

Why Daniel, don't you trust me?

LUCAS

It's easy. I'll break-in. Logan is the lookout. Aiden and Daniel help me remove the money. I'll have a vehicle waiting.

LOGAN

I don't want anyone getting hurt.

LUCAS
It'll just be us.

AIDEN
Daniel, are you in?

DANIEL
I guess so. With me and you Aiden,
that gives him two extra hands.

Aiden smiles.

AIDEN
Logan, that just leaves you. I can't
get a job, but I need money. And
desperately. Don't tell me you're not
in the same boat.

LOGAN
Alright, I'm in too.

Lucas beams.

LUCAS
Excellent, then let us get to work.

EXT. POST OFFICE - NIGHT

Logan wheels himself into a lookout position.

Lucas moves around the back of the post office with Aiden and Daniel following closely behind him. Lucas suddenly pulls out a handgun.

Logan is the first to see it.

LOGAN
What are you doing? You said no one
would get hurt.

Lucas smiles.

LUCAS
Too late now. You're all here. This is
going to work.

Now Aiden and Daniel see the gun.

AIDEN
What the hell?

DANIEL
Do you really need that?

Lucas rounds the corner. We hear distant voices. Lucas starts firing out his gun. Blasting his way into the back of the post office. He's gone mad.

Logan is terrified.

LOGAN
No.

Aiden is reluctant but goes after Lucas.

AIDEN
Shit. It's too late now.

Daniel follows too.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

They've all returned to their spot just outside the entrance to the warehouse. Dumping down huge sacks of money down onto the ground.

Lucas kneels in front of it, out of breath, the gun still held in his hand. He inspects the money sacks.

The three others gather around him.

LOGAN
You're a murderer.

LUCAS
And we're all rich.

AIDEN
I thought you were doing this for us?

LUCAS
We've all got what we wanted. Don't get upset now.

With tears in his eyes, Logan is already upset.

LOGAN
You're a murderer.

LUCAS
You've already said that.

LOGAN
You promised.

LUCAS
You all did well. Lucas tosses one
money sack from all the others.

DANIEL
What's this Lucas?

LUCAS
It's your share Daniel. And you get to
share that bag with Logan and Aiden.

AIDEN
Just the one for the three of us?

LUCAS
Yes.

AIDEN
What's this shit?

LUCAS
I feel like I did most of the work so
I'm keeping most of the money.

AIDEN
Like hell you are.

Aiden reaches down and snatches the gun from Lucas. Lucas
looks up at him, furious.

LUCAS
Are you out of your mind?

AIDEN
You picked us for this job, because
you thought we were desperate. And you
were right. I am.

LUCAS

I'm the only person who's going to be
keeping you out of prison.

AIDEN

Well, it's like you said. Who's going
to believe that a gang of cripple
robbers did this?

Aiden takes aim and fires. Shooting Lucas in the head.
Killing him.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END