

STUCK

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FADE IN:

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

TERI (30s) a dark haired looker, in heels and a form-hugging skirt and blouse, rushes down the walkway with a briefcase in her hand.

She makes it to an idling taxi at the curb, reaches out, and opens the back door.

Teri looks inside the cab and immediately freezes.

INSIDE THE CAB

DAISY, a female clown with a painted on face, flashes a wave her way. She's dressed in full clown garb with a large plastic flower pinned on her dress.

The DRIVER, a frumpy, chunky man (40s) looks back over his shoulder to Teri.

DRIVER

You gonna get in or what?

TERI climbs into the back seat and closes the door behind her.

INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS

Teri sets her briefcase at her feet.

The driver lifts some papers on a clipboard and a pen.

DRIVER

Where to?

Teri perks up.

TERI

Fifty seven East Fifty third. In
Canton.

The driver scribbles something on the clipboard then puts it on the passenger seat.

He puts the car in gear.

INT. MOVING TAXI - LATER

Daisy leans back on the door and studies Teri.

Teri faces her.

Daisy reaches into a bag. She pulls out a mirror with one hand and a toothbrush with the other. She holds up the mirror, gives her teeth a quick once over, then drops them back inside the bag.

She turns to Teri. With her index fingers, she lifts the corners of her lips and flashes a pearly white smile.

Teri returns her smile. Daisy extends her right hand in friendship. Teri accepts. They shake. BUZZ! Teri jumps.

Daisy laughs silently. She pulls back her hand and shows Teri the buzzer ring on her finger.

Teri's eyes widen.

TERI

Oh...

Daisy holds onto her belly as she lets out a silent rip-roaring belly laugh.

Teri turns her head and looks out the window.

DRIVER

I hope you don't mind. I've got one more fare to pick up on the way.

Teri looks at the driver.

TERI

I don't mind.

She looks to Daisy.

TERI

Do you mind?

Daisy shakes her head, no.

TERI

Can't you speak?

She shakes her head yes.

The driver looks at them through the rearview mirror.

DRIVER

She's in character. She doesn't speak. Her name is Daisy.

Teri looks at her.

TERI

Daisy?

Daisy shakes her head yes. She points at the large flower pinned on her dress and smiles proudly.

TERI

Like the flower.

Daisy shakes her head yes.

TERI

I'm Teri.

Daisy nods. She extends her right hand out to Teri in friendship. Teri LAUGHS.

TERI

Oh, no. You already got me once.

Daisy holds onto her belly and laughs silently.

TERI

You know, I've always been afraid of clowns.

Daisy pouts. She hands Teri a silk flower. Teri smiles.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER

The cab and all its passengers idle at the curb.

BOB (20s) rushes down a walkway from a house, slugging down a beer as he runs.

He opens the back door.

INT./EXT. CAB - CONTINUOUS

Teri, the clown, and the driver all stare at him.

BOB steps back.

BOB

Do I ride up front?

DRIVER

It's against the rules. There's plenty of room back there. They'll scoot over, but you're not bringing that beer in here.

Bob chugs the last drop of his beer down.

Teri takes the cue and inches over with her briefcase in her lap. She glances at Daisy. Daisy directs a friendly smile at her. Teri quickly turns away.

Bob tosses his bottle on the ground and climbs inside.

INT. MOVING TAXI - LATER

The driver extends his arm over the passenger seat and keeps his eyes on the road as he drives.

Meanwhile, the three passengers in the back seat sit shoulder to shoulder.

Daisy situates herself to extend her right hand overtop of Teri and her briefcase, toward Bob. Teri presses her briefcase flat on her lap, out of the way. Bob accepts and shakes her hand. BUZZ!

Daisy pulls her hand back and laughs silently.

Teri notices Bob's smirk. She GIGGLES. Bob lightens up.

Daisy lifts a bicycle horn from her side and gives the bulb a squeeze, HONK! HONK! She laughs silently to herself.

Bob notices Teri's long legs. His eyes move up her legs, inch by inch up her body, and stops at her breast.

BOB

I must be a treasure hunter, 'cuz I
sure am diggin' your chest.

He looks for her reaction. She cocks a brow.

TERI

Are you joking me?!

Daisy reaches overtop of Teri and blasts the horn in his face. HONK! HONK! She shakes a "no no" finger at him.

Bob leans in overtop of Teri, toward Daisy.

BOB

Your eyes... Your eyes... are as
blue... as... Window cleaner.

Even through Daisy's make-up you can see her frown. She blasts her horn in his face, HONK!

BOB

Hey, you may not be the best
looking girl in here, but beauty is
only a light switch away.

Daisy pulls a fake gun out of her bag and points it at Bob.
She pulls the trigger, CLICK!

A flag unrolls from the gun. It reads: "BANG!"

Teri looks to the driver.

TERI

Can you shut him up?

He checks them through the rearview mirror.

DRIVER

He doesn't mean anything by it.
He's just havin' a little
fun. Aren't you, Sir?

Daisy holds a can. She turns it this way, that way, as she inspects it.

Bob lets out a roaring BUUURRRP!

A springy fake snake soars upward in front of Teri, hits the ceiling, and ricochets back to her head. PING!

TERI

Ow!

Daisy makes an "uh oh" face. She throws her hands up.

She grabs the fake snake and pushes it together like an accordion. Teri looks at her with a blank expression. Daisy shrugs. She puts the snake into the can.

BURP!

Teri flags the stench from her nose. She looks Bob up and down.

BOB

You must work at the Post
Office, 'cuz I saw you checking out
my package.

DRIVER

Hey, now! Slow your roll.

Teri focuses on Bob. Her anger steams.

TERI

Yeah, back off, Bro.

Daisy agrees with a nod. She shoots a spray of water overtop of Teri toward Bob, and soaks Teri.

Teri turns her attention to Daisy.

TERI

Come on!

Daisy throws her hands up in an "oh well".

Bob BURPS out a musical tune.

Teri turns back to the driver.

TERI

Can't you go any faster to get this
guy to his bar?

Bob hiccups. He screws a cap onto a half pint of whiskey and tucks it away into his back pants pocket.

BOB

You can just take your time. I'm in
no hurry to go to work.

TERI

Work? They let you work drunk?

BOB

I'm the bartender.

TERI

Remind me to never go to that bar.

Bob looks at her and smiles.

BOB

Your daddy must be a drug dealer,
'cuz you're so dope.

Teri palms her forehead out of frustration.

Bob points his phone at her and with a CLICK takes her picture.

TERI
What did you just do?

BOB
I'm showing my mom what my next wife looks like.

Teri GROWLS out her distaste.

TERI
Is that all you know how to do?
Quote terrible pick up lines?

Bob is speechless, knows he's pushed too far.

Daisy blows air into a long balloon. As it fills, it smacks Teri in the face. Teri recoils and shoves it away.

Daisy throws her hands up.

Teri's face reddens.

Bob notices the balloon.

BOB
I got something you can blow.

Daisy's eyes widen.

DRIVER
There's no need for vulgarity.

Daisy shoves Teri into Bob. Bob pushes her back. Daisy shoves her again. Teri throws her arms up and breaks the two apart.

TERI
(screams)
STOP!

All three fly forward as breaks SQUEAL.

The driver struggles to steer the taxi.

Everyone falls back into their seats as the taxi comes to a full stop.

Teri turns her head to one side. CRACK! Then to the other. CRACK!

She's suddenly calm. Eerily calm. It's deadly quiet.

TERI
Thank you.

Daisy focuses a watchful eye on Teri. She lifts her fake gun.

The driver turns around and faces her.

DRIVER
Don't you ever do that again!

TERI
Me?! You're going to yell at
me!? I'm the only sane one here.
I've got a clown to the left of
me...

Daisy eyes her.

TERI
... a joker to the right...

Bob smiles boldly.

TERI
... and here I am. Stuck in the
middle with you. I'm trapped!

DRIVER
If that's how you feel, get outta'
my cab. Now!

TERI
Gladly.

Teri reaches over Bob and opens the door.

TERI
Let me out, you freak.

He doesn't move. She climbs overtop of him.

BOB
How about a kiss, sugar lips?

She gives him a dirty look.

BOB
Did you feel my shirt? It's made
out of boyfriend material.

Teri GRUMBLES as she steps outside.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Teri steps away from the taxi. She stops, turns back for a look and sees Bob lean toward Daisy.

BOB

Are you a magician? Because when I
look at you, everyone else
disappears.

HONK! of Daisy's horn.

The taxi inches away from the curb.

BOB

You must be a baker. Because you've
got nice buns.

Daisy whacks him with her balloon.

Teri just shakes her head.

The taxi moves down the road.

Teri pulls a cell phone from her briefcase, punches in numbers, and makes a call.

TERI

Yes, I'd like to set up an Uber
account.

DOWN THE STREET

The taxi pulls over to the curb. The back door opens and Bob comes flying out. He lands on the ground.

BACK TO TERI

She sees Bob in the distance as he gets to his feet.

She turns quickly.

TERI

Right away, please.

Bob sees her. He throws both arms up, flags her.

BOB

Hey, sugar lips, you dropped
something! Me, your honey bee!

Teri runs off.

BOB

Come back here! It's pollinating
time!

Her feet move faster.

FADE OUT.