

The Suit

written by

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(C)

FADE IN:

INT. LONDON ICONIC TAXI - NIGHT

TAXI DRIVER 34 sits behind the wheel. He's stuck at a red traffic signal during the inclement weather.

His POV: A road void of people and traffic as his wipers slide back and forth across his windscreen.

CU: THE RED TRAFFIC LIGHT CHANGES TO GREEN.

He prepares to move forward when a tall, slim SUIT (29) taps on his offside window with his coat pulled over his head to protect himself from the downpour.

Driver lets his window down to speak to the Suit.

SUIT

(desperately)

Am I glad to see you, or what.

DRIVER

(disappointedly)

Where are you going?

SUIT

22 Harwood Drive.

DRIVER

Jump in.

SUIT

You're a life saver.

DRIVER

That's what they all say.

The Suit jumps in the back then shakes the rain off his coat.

SUIT

I've just left a conference. I didn't realise the time. It's just flown.

DRIVER

You're lucky to catch me. I was just about to turn off my light and go home.

SUIT

Thank god for small mercies then.

Beat.

Driver stops the taxi and turns to see the Suit slumped on the back seat. He's asleep and snoring.

DRIVER

(sighs)

Hey guvner, wake up, we're here.

No movement.

DRIVER /

(louder)

Oi! Guvner, wake up! You're home!

The Suit stirs then rubs his eyes.

DRIVER /

Your home now, guvner, c'mon.

The Suit lethargically sits up then looks through the offside window before his stifled eyes nearly pop out of his head.

SUIT

(dismayed)

Where the fuck are we? This isn't the address I gave you.

DRIVER

(more dismayed)

You what?

SUIT

I asked you to take me to Harwood Drive. Where are we?

DRIVER

Nah, nah. You said Hertford Drive.

SUIT

Listen, I know what I said, pal. I said Harwood Drive.

DRIVER

I know what I heard. It's my job to listen to what people say, and you asked for Hertford Drive.

SUIT

I think I should know where I live, pal. Where are we, anyway?

DRIVER

Hertford Drive.

SUIT

I know that soppo bollocks! I can see that for meself! I meant where in England are we?

DRIVER

Hertford.

SUIT

What, Hertford in Hertfordshire?

DRIVER

Yeah.

CU: FARE METER 91.80.

SUIT

Well, you need to take me to where I asked you to take me in the first place. And it ain't ninety fuckin' quid either. So you better turn that meter off and start it again when we get back to where you picked me up.

DRIVER

(shakes head)

That's not happening. You need to pay the fare and get another cab.

SUIT

Get another cab?! What, in the middle of nowhere at one-O'clock in the morning?! You're having a laugh, pal. I'm not paying you a single penny until you take me to the address I asked for.

DRIVER

Look, as far as I'm concerned I've already done that. Now if you decide to fall asleep during the journey that's not my problem, it's yours. Just pay the fare and get out.

SUIT

I'm not budgin'.

DRIVER

In that case I'll have to call
the filth.

SUIT

Call 'em. I don't care. I'm not
moving until you take me home.

DRIVER

OK. I will then.

He grabs his phone and hits the digits.

BLEEP BLEEP a few times then a connection.

EMERGENCY V.O

(boring female vocal)

Police emergency. How may I help?

DRIVER

Yeah, I've got a passenger in the
back of my taxi. He's refusing to
pay the fare.

SUIT O.S

That's rubbish! He took me to the
wrong place! Go on, tell her that
while you're at it.

DRIVER

(on phone)

Did you hear that?

EMERGENCY V.O

Has your passenger threatened you
at all?

DRIVER

No, not yet... but he might.

EMERGENCY V.O

I'm afraid, unless your passenger
threatens you we cannot do
anything. All our units are busy
at the moment.

DRIVER

So what am I supposed to do then?

EMERGENCY V.O

Can't you talk to him and persuade him to pay some of the fare?

DRIVER

No, he won't. He's being very aggressive actually. I'm afraid for my safety.

EMERGENCY V.O

But you said he hasn't threatened you, has he?

DRIVER

Well, no but-

EMERGENCY V.O

-So call back if he threatens you and I'll see what I can do.

DRIVER

Oh well, thank you very much for nothing.

Call ends. He discards his phone and sinks over the steering wheel in despair.

SUIT O.S

You wanker. Now take me back to where I asked to go in the first place.

DRIVER

I'm not taking you anywhere until you pay what it says on the meter first.

SUIT

That's theft, that is.

DRIVER

No it's not.

SUIT

Yes it is.

DRIVER

OK. How about we compromise then?

Suit sits back in his seat and is all ears.

SUIT

What's your offer?

DRIVER.

I take you back and we split the difference.

SUIT

What's your estimation of the difference?

DRIVER

Well, the fare now, say is ninety quid, so half that for going back makes one-thirty-five. Half that again, say you will pay me sixty-five quid. I can't be fairer than that.

SUIT

I've got a better idea.

DRIVER

What's that?

SUIT

You turn off the meter and scrub the ninety quid, and I'll pay you thirty quid to take me home. It's normally only around twenty quid from where you picked me up.

DRIVER

I'd rather stick pins in my eyes than do that.

SUIT

You're fucked then, aintcha?

DRIVER

No, you are.

SUIT

How am I fucked?

DRIVER

Because I've had enough of all this bollocks.

SUIT

So, what then?

DRIVER

You either pay me the fare shown on the meter and get out, or I will drag you out and take the money out of your wallet meself.

Suit gawks as he moves to the edge of his seat and leans forward.

SUIT

Are you threatening me, pal?

DRIVER

Yeah. That's a direct threat.

Suit takes out his phone and taps some digits.

BLEEP BLEEP a few times before a connection.

EMERGENCY V.O

Police emergency service. How may I help?

SUIT

Yeah, It's DCI Sean Maddox here. I'm in the back of a taxi and the driver has just threatened me.

EMERGENCY V.O

What's your destination, Detective?

SUIT

Hertford Drive.

EMERGENCY V.O

There's a unit on its way to you right now. It shouldn't be too long.

Driver freezes whilst agape in his seat.

SUIT

Looks like you're nicked.

Beat.

BLUE LIGHTS FLASH.

8.

The Driver is led away in cuffs then seated in the back of a Police vehicle.

FADE OUT.

THE END