

WAREHOUSE CROOKS

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FADE IN:

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A street with shuttered warehouses. A security guard JONAS checking locks. He finds one loose, leans in to listen. He notices flashing lights, muffled voices. Jonas grabs his walkie-talkie microphone.

JONAS

Three eighty four to HQ...?

HQ (O.S.)

Go ahead three eighty four...

JONAS

Three eighty four at one oh five Cahuenga Street at Lemon. There's a light on and movement inside. Requesting LAPD backup.

HQ (O.S.)

Roger three eighty four. LAPD notified. One oh four Cahuenga.

SUPER: TEN MINUTES LATER - SAME LOCATION

LAPD black & white arrives and parks. JOHN and BOB exit the patrol car and speak in hushed tones to Jonas.

JOHN

(whispering to Jonas)

What do we have?

JONAS

(whispering)

I'm not sure. Two. Maybe three inside.

BOB

(whispering)

You think it could be kids broke in there. Through the roof maybe? I don't see any windows?

JONAS

They were talking so soft. I couldn't say. It's possible?

BOB

John, call the air unit. Let's see if there's any egress from the roof?

John reaches in the patrol car, grabs the microphone.

JOHN  
Ten ten to HQ...?

HQ (O.S.)  
Go ahead ten ten...

JOHN  
HQ We're requesting an air unit  
at...  
(to Jonas)  
What's the address here...?

JONAS  
(softly)  
One oh five Cahuenga Street at  
Lemon...

JOHN  
One oh five Cahuenga Street at  
Lemon...

HQ (O.S.)  
Roger, ten ten. Air unit en route  
to one oh five Cahuenga Street.

John leaves the patrol car and returns to the  
conversation between Jonas and Bob.

BOB  
You wanna go in before the air  
unit? Surprise 'em?

JOHN  
Works for me.

John pulls out his weapon, racks the slide, slips it back  
in to the holster.

JONAS  
You go in blind, you may be the  
ones surprised! Better to wait for  
the air unit, rest of your backup  
to get here...?

BOB  
Rent-a-cop attitude.

JONAS  
But a live one. Left a lot of arms  
and legs in Iraq on account of John  
Wayne.

JOHN

I don't care what you saw overseas.  
Streets of Chiraq a whole lot worse  
than a John Wayne movie!

JONAS

I'm just saying it's better to be  
safe than a dead hero.

BOB

I was born a hero, buddy!  
(to John)  
We going, or not?

JOHN

Let's move out!

John and Bob draw weapons, slowly approach the warehouse with stealth. Jonas follows behind. John removes the lock, cautiously opens the door. Jonas stays by the door.

INT WAREHOUSE - SAME - NIGHT

John and Bob enter a darkened interior lit only by scattered flashlight beams. Muffled VOICES heard o.s. John and Bob turn ON their flashlights.

POV:JOHN & BOB

Six DWARFS #1 - 6 all wearing miner's hats are moving numerous boxes and placing them in stacks around the warehouse.

JOHN

Stop what you're doing and put your  
hands up!

BACK TO SCENE: INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME NIGHT

Startled by the police flashlights the dwarfs stop moving and raise their hands.

DWARF #1

You're early...?

BOB

And not a bit too soon, it seems?

DWARF #2

Huh...?

DWARF #3  
That's not your line?

JOHN  
My line, what? Line up against the wall. All of you!

The dwarfs don't move.

DWARF #4  
You're suppose to say, 'We're here to see Mathis!'"

JOHN  
Who's Mathis?

BOB  
He said for you to line up against the wall. Are you guys deaf?

The dwarfs still don't move.

DWARF #5  
Mathis is the man selling you the fireworks?

JOHN  
What are you talking about? I'm not buying any fireworks! Get the fuck up against the wall like I said!

DWARF #2  
(to John)  
Didn't you get the last revisions? I guess not, since you're early. You ask about Mathis AFTER the helicopter arrives...

BOB  
I'm gonna revise your face if you don't get your butts up against the damn wall!

The dwarfs still don't move. The SOUND of a helicopter is HEARD o.s.

EXT. WAREHOUSE ROOF - SAME NIGHT

Suddenly the LAPD air unit arrives on scene, it's powerful halogen LIGHT sweeping the roof.

POV: LAPD HELICOPTER

The powerful halogen light is sweeping the roof. It HOLDS on the opened skylight door. Film equipment, light stands, generator and electrical wires are clustered around the door.

BACK TO SCENE: INT. WAREHOUSE - SAME NIGHT

DWARF #1  
Finally! Everybody's late...

PILOT (O.S.)  
(over John's walkie-talkie)  
Air unit five to ten ten...

John grabs his shoulder microphone.

JOHN  
Ten ten. Go ahead five...

PILOT (O.S.)  
Looks like they made entrance  
through the skylight door. No  
suspects on the roof.

JOHN  
Roger that, five. All suspects  
inside under control.

DWARF #1  
(shouting)  
WESLEY...???

WESLEY (O.S.)  
(shouting)  
CUT! CUT!

Suddenly the warehouse lights come ON. The warehouse is revealed to be film set. A large camera crane with WESLEY, 30's, and MELISSA 20,S is descending to the ground. Wesley is pissed. He steps off the crane, approaches John and Bob.

WESLEY  
(to Bob & John, angry)  
You ruined my shot! What agency  
sent you?

John and Bob both holster their weapons.

JOHN  
 (confused)  
 Agency? We're LAPD! Security guard  
 outside thought this was a robbery?

WESLEY  
 Well he thought wrong!  
 (yelling at Melissa)  
 Melissa, where's the security guard  
 we hired for the set? And the SAG  
 talent we rehearsed?

MELISSA  
 (embarrassed)  
 I don't know, Wesley? Second AD  
 made up the call sheet. It was on  
 him...?

WESLEY  
 And who's second AD?

MELISSA  
 (embarrassed)  
 Charlie. But he hasn't shown yet. I  
 was trying to cover for him. I'm  
 sorry. I just don't know what  
 happened?

WESLEY  
 What happened is we've blown the  
 shot! You gonna pay to recast and  
 reshoot it???

MELISSA  
 Let me see who I can call.

Melissa starts working her cell phone.

BOB  
 (grabs his microphone)  
 Ten twelve, air unit five...

PILOT (O.S.)  
 Air unit five, go ahead ten  
 twelve...

BOB  
 Yeah, five, this is a movie set. No  
 reason to stick around.

PILOT (O.S.)  
 Roger that, ten twelve. Airship  
 five out...!

WESLEY  
 Someone! Anyone? -- bring that  
 security guard in here!

A production assistant leaves the set, returns with Jonas.

WESLEY (CONT'D)  
 What's your name?

JONAS  
 Jonas Walker.

WESLEY  
 All right Jonas Walker, what agency  
 sent you?

JONAS  
 I'm with Day By Day. But they  
 didn't send me. Peterson had to go  
 out of town on an emergency and  
 asked if I'd cover for him.

WESLEY  
 He didn't tell you this was a film  
 shoot?

JONAS  
 Naw. Just said it was a warehouse  
 job.

A cell phone RINGS. Melissa answers. A beat.

MELISSA  
 Wesley, the talent playing the cops  
 had a traffic accident. No  
 injuries, but they won't make the  
 shoot.

WESLEY  
 (throwing up his hands)  
 Great! What else can go wrong?  
 (beat)  
 All right people, tonight's a bust!  
 Let's wrap this up. We'll audition  
 for the cops tomorrow.

DWARF #1  
 Wait a minute, Wesley -- I've got  
 an idea. We've already got cops  
 here, right-?

(to John & Bob)  
 You guys be interested in playing  
 the cops? I mean you're already

(MORE)



DWARF #1 (cont'd)  
 cops. You got the uniforms, the  
 guns...?

WESLEY  
 (thinking about it)  
 He's got a point? We'll pay you SAG  
 wages for the few lines you'll say?  
 Won't take that long -- and you'll  
 save us bundle...? How about it?

John and Bob thinking about it.

JOHN  
 (hesitant)  
 I don't know? We're still on duty.  
 Bob...?

BOB  
 I'm game if you are?  
 (to Wesley)  
 What do we have to do?

WESLEY  
 Melissa, give him the sides to  
 read.  
 (to John and Bob)  
 It's real simple. You come in like  
 you did. Only you don't draw your  
 guns because you're in on the  
 robbery. You ask to see Mathis...

Wesley turns around, motions to DWARF #6

WESLEY (CONT'D)  
 This is Mathis. He'll say...  
 (to Dwarf #6)  
 Tell him what you'll say, Mathis.

DWARF #6  
 I'll say, "You're late! We had to  
 go with someone else. Sorry."

WESLEY  
 Then one of you says, "Bullshit!"  
 Then your partner says, "Sorry my  
 ass! We had a deal!" And Mathis  
 suddenly pulls a gun - not a real  
 one - and says "You're right..**HAD** a  
 deal. Cuff these suckers, guys!"  
 And then they take your guns and  
 handcuff you to the chairs. At that  
 point they finish loading all the

(MORE)

WESLEY (cont'd)  
boxes, turn off those helmet lights  
and disappear in the darkness. End  
of scene. Two, maybe three minutes  
at most, officers -- unless someone  
blows a line and we have to do  
another take! That work for you?

BOB  
I always wanted to be in movies.

WESLEY  
Your waiting is over. One thing  
though. We can't have any live  
weapons on the set. Insurance won't  
allow that. We use prop guns in the  
movies. Let our accidental security  
guard Jonas hold your weapons until  
we're done. OK?  
(shouting)  
PROPS! Hey props, bring me  
two fake guns up here please!

Another production assistant brings two .9 mm fake guns to  
Wesley. Wesley takes one and FIRES into the ceiling. The  
SOUND is like a child's cap pistol.

WESLEY (CONT'D)  
Not very loud, is it? Sound effects  
have you believing it's a canon!

Wesley exchanges the prop guns for the real guns, gives them  
to Jonas.

WESLEY (CONT'D)  
(to Jonas)  
Don't let nobody in here, Jonas!  
And I do mean nobody! One of the  
PA's will let you know when we're  
done! One interruption is enough!

Jonas leaves the warehouse with the weapons.

WESLEY (CONT'D)  
(shouting to film crew)  
ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE, LET'S DO THIS!  
PLACES EVERYONE!!!  
(beat)  
LIGHTS! CAMERA! And....ACTION!

DISSOLVE:

INT. SPORTS BAR - DAY

A number of patrons are watching the news on TV screens. There are numerous police vehicles, detectives, and crime scene yellow tape at the front of the warehouse.

TV NEWSCASTER

....and authorities don't yet have a full list of all the items that were stolen. The warehouse was leased by the US Customs Service and stored millions of dollars worth of seized and confiscated items brought into the country illegally. The robbery was carried out by a gang of little people posing as actors under the guise of shooting a film. A security guard Jonas Walker is being questioned as a 'person of interest' after he was found in possession of weapons that belonged to the two missing LAPD officers. The two officers were located unharmed inside the large warehouse where they had been handcuffed for several hours to chairs. Police theorize all of the stolen merchandise was removed through a tunnel that ran from the warehouse to a nearby underground channel that opened into the LA River. As of this moment, exactly how many people were involved or their whereabouts is unknown. An LAPD spokesperson has planned a news conference for later today on the status of the investigation...

THE END