

What's Your Emergency?

Written by

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INT. SOMEWHERE VERY DARK - NIGHT?

Scuffling sounds, scrabbling, someone struggling.

PAULO

Fuck.

More struggling, straining, heavy breaths.

PAULO (cont'd)

Gotcha.

One long beep of a phone powering on.

Three short beeps of a phone dialing.

OPERATOR

Nine-One-One, what's your emergency?

PAULO

I'm not entirely sure.

OPERATOR

Er, okay Sir, what's your situation?

PAULO

I'm trapped, in a coffin I think.
It's pitch black and I can barely
move due to being handcuffed. I'm
also worried that if I move I'll
accidentally disconnect this phone
which is jammed in my back pocket.

OPERATOR

Oh --

PAULO

So when you ask what service I need,
is there a 'rescue tied up people
from premature burial' service?

OPERATOR

Well no, not exactly, that would be
quite a niche service.

PAULO

Agreed.

OPERATOR

Can I take you're name sir?

PAULO

Sure, why the hell not. It's Paulo,
Paulo Renda.

OPERATOR
The missing Mafia guy?

PAULO
Yes, the missing Mafia guy, now you
gonna help me or not?

OPERATOR
Sorry, yes. Are you injured?

PAULO
Massive headache, from those goons
that tried to ice me.

OPERATOR
And they buried you?

PAULO
I believe that's what they normally
do with people in coffins.

OPERATOR
So, you need an Ambulance, and
probably the Police --

PAULO
You think I'm pazzo? Can definitely
treat the Police as optional.

OPERATOR
Er, yes, I guess so.

A faint knocking sound.

PAULO
Ambulance guys have digging gear?

OPERATOR
Or girls.

PAULO
What?

OPERATOR
Could be female Ambulance personnel.

PAULO
Does that make them more or less
likely to have shovels?

The Operator doesn't answer.

PAULO (cont'd)
So I don't give a rats fuck then.

OPERATOR
Fire Service then.

Knocking sound.

OPERATOR (cont'd)
Sorry, did you say something?

PAULO
Not me, knocking from somewhere.

OPERATOR
Hey, maybe, you aren't underground?

PAULO
Hmm, I wonder.

Sounds of thrashing and exertion.

OPERATOR
What's happening?

PAULO
I'm trying to see if I can move the
coffin any by rocking it.

OPERATOR
And?

PAULO
Nope, I'm definitely underground.

OPERATOR
Okay, well I can get your location
from your cell phone.

More knocking.

OPERATOR (cont'd)
Can you tell where the knocking is
coming from?

PAULO
Beneath me.

Knocking again, a staccato rhythm.

OPERATOR
As in underneath your coffin?

PAULO
Yeah, I know, tell me about it.

The knocking repeats, definitely a pattern to it.

OPERATOR
When I was a kid --

PAULO
This betta be going somewhere.

OPERATOR
I was a Boy Scout, took all my
badges, and everything.

PAULO
That's was the somewhere?

OPERATOR
That knocking's morse code.

The knocking is louder, nearer, insistent.

PAULO
What's it saying?

OPERATOR
Something about you being close
enough even if you aren't...

PAULO
Aren't what?

KNOCKING.

OPERATOR
Quite dead yet.

PAULO
Bullshit.

OPERATOR
Apparently, there's a really hot
place for you, a bit farther down.

The violent cracking of wood is followed by Paulo's screams.

OPERATOR (cont'd)
Sir, Mr Renda, Sir... do you still
need assistance.

No answer.

OPERATOR (cont'd)
Guess not.

The line, and Paulo Renda, are dead.