

CODY AND PETEY HANGING OUT ON A COVIDY SUMMER DAY

Written by

Heinrich Manure

Hero as Villain - comedy, chauffeur, pack of gum, arena

(c) 2020

FADE IN.

INT./EXT. 2020 BENTLEY - DAY (PARKED)

PETEY (50), dressed in a black suit and tie and white shirt, his dark hair slicked into place, twists round from the driver's seat to look at CODY (6) in the back. Tiny and doe-eyed, his brown hair parted to the side, the child's bottom lip quivers as he bravely stifles a cry.

SUPER: AUGUST 31, 2020 - COLTS NECK, NEW JERSEY

A small bus flashes past the driver's window. Seconds later, the HISS of the bus door.

Several children, ages six to twelve, exit, wearing masks. They head towards the ritzy BROOKS ELEMENTARY ACADEMY.

Petey takes a look at the building, then turns his gaze back to Cody, concern etched to his face. He lets out a huge sigh.

PETEY

Not feelin' it today, are you, pal?

Cody looks down while he shakes his head no.

INT./EXT. 2020 BENTLEY - DAY (MOVING)

Petey unwraps a big wad of gum and pops it into his mouth.

PETEY

Hey, I know your dad has a no gum policy, but how's about we break some rules today, okay?

Cody shakes his head yes with delight.

Petey stretches one arm back and tosses Cody a big piece.

PETEY

Seeing as how I'm bigger than you, I'm gonna go for two!

Petey gets another piece in his mouth, works it a bit, and starts to force the huge wad through his lips. He observes Cody in the rear view mirror, who's giggling hysterically.

Cody's eyes get wide. He gasps, and reaches for his throat.

PETEY

Hey, what's the matter?

EXT. STRIP MALL - DAY

The Bentley screeches into a parking spot. Petey flies out the driver's side and reaches frantically for the rear door.

INT./EXT. 2020 BENTLEY - DAY (PARKED)

A desperate Petey pats Cody's back in an effort to calm him, as the child gasps and coughs.

PETEY

Oh boy, stay with me pal, okay?
Gotta do that maneuver. Heimlich.
Oh no, but it's the baby Heimlich!

Petey pulls his head out of the backseat and looks around.

PETEY

Yo, a little help here? Need a baby
Heimlich done! Baby Heimlich,
anyone? Baby Heimlich! Ma'am?

An ELDERLY LADY (65) approaches. She sees Petey in hysterics and goes into full alert, cupping her hands to her mouth.

ELDERLY LADY

Baby Heimlich? Baby Heimlich? Has
anyone seen a baby named Heimlich?

Petey shoots her an exasperated look and drops his head.

PETEY

No, lady, I didn't lose a - I need
some help with - oh jeez...

Petey ducks back in and puts his hand on Cody's sternum. He pushes gently once... then twice... then pats his back.

PETEY

C'mon, buddy, cough for me! You can
do it! C'mon... C'mon!

Petey pats one more time... and Cody coughs out the wad.

Exhausted, Petey collapses next to Cody on the back seat.

EXT. FAIRMOUNT PARK - OUTDOOR ARENA - DAY (PHILADELPHIA)

Petey sits with his arm around Cody at the edge of the concert stage at the Skyline Pavilion at the Mann Center.

PETEY

Nice of my buddy Ralph to let us in, huh? You know, I'm not gonna take you to school if you don't wanna go. You know that, right?

Cody puts his hands together in prayer, and bows.

PETEY

Great, we're playing hooky today. Lemme see, what can I teach you?

Cody tilts his head and gives Petey his undivided attention.

PETEY

One, don't eat gum in a moving vehicle. Sorry, buddy. My bad.

A smile and a hand wave from Cody.

PETEY

Oh, and if you eat a bag of Doritos after using hand sanitizer? Don't lick your fingers. Very important.

Petey leaps to his feet and plays air guitar. Cody shakes his head back and forth and uses the stage as a set of bongos.

PETEY

Man, I wish I could have played. I just wasn't good enough.

Petey crosses over to Cody and leans down.

PETEY

Okay, pay attention. People are going to tell you that the Beatles are the best band of all time. Now don't get me wrong, they're great. But they're not the best.

Cody puts both hands on his face, fingers up, eyes wide.

PETEY

Hah, very funny. The Beatles were not a great live band! In order to be the best you have to play live. Ambrosia is a better live band than the Beatles. You know -
(singing)
"You're the biggest part of me."

Cody gives Petey an earnest "okay" sign with his fingers.

CLAP. CLAP. CLAP. Petey turns toward the noise.

MONICA (O.S.)
Encore, encore!

MONICA (45), heavysset with a cherubic face, hops on stage.

PETEY
Cody, this is my sister, Monica.

Cody waves.

MONICA
Hi, sweetie pie!
(to Petey)
So, did you tell him that Charo was
once married to Xavier Cugat?

PETEY
No, but I was about to tell him
that Dinah Shore dated Frank
Sinatra for a while.
(to Cody)
Charo. Classically trained Flamenco
guitarist. Beats George Harrison.

Monica slaps Petey on the arm. She pulls him away from Cody.

MONICA
What are you doing?

PETEY
Mon, I'm not taking him back. His
father is one of those re-opening
assholes. Among many other things.

MONICA
Do you want to go to jail?

Petey exhales. A long, drawn out sigh.

PETEY
He won't talk. He's smart as a
whip, too. But his father... he
terrorizes him. Thinks the kid is
soft. I'm the only friend he's got.
I can't let him down. Now, I got a
hundred k of that rat bastard's
money in the trunk, and I say you
head for nana's farm. Virginia is
way off his radar.

MONICA
Me? What do you - why not us?

The two look over at Cody, who's lying contently on the stage, staring up at the clouds, drifting off to sleep.

Monica puts her hand over her heart. Petey smiles.

PETEY

I almost killed that kid today. It was an accident. But c'mon, Mon, you know I'm a screw up. I mean, I -

MONICA

You love him.

Petey nods, slowly, in the affirmative.

PETEY

Here's the kid that Doug couldn't give you. That he didn't want.

Monica observes the sleeping Cody. She's in love, too.

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

The Bentley boogies down a one-up, one-down country highway.

PETEY (V.O.)

He'll hunt you down unless he thinks the kid is...

MONICA (V.O.)

Dead?

INT. PETEY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A UNIFORMED OFFICER cuffs Petey.

PETEY (V.O.)

You be a good boy for your Aunt Monica. Can you do that for me?

A DETECTIVE leads Petey toward the door.

CODY (V.O.)

I love you, Uncle Petey.

A single tear runs down Petey's cheek.

PETEY (V.O.)

Me too, pal.

FADE OUT.