

Baristas

By:

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EXT. STARBUCKS PARKING LOT - DAY

Sirens blare. A half dozen police cars speed into the Starbucks parking lot followed by local news trucks.

Police officers jump out of their cars holding guns. Camera men surround them with their cameras rolling. One police officer walks to the front of the crowd.

POLICE OFFICER

We have the building surrounded.
Drop your weapons and come out with
your hands up.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

A group of three customers sit on the floor with their backs touching. They are wearing hot sleeves tied together over their eyes as blindfolds.

IVY, 25, and ZANE, 33, stand behind TODD, 22.

Todd takes a deep breath. He walks towards the door.

TODD

Here goes nothing.

Cut to black.

EXT. STARBUCKS PARKING LOT - DAY

The sun is just beginning to rise. Todd is sitting in a car that looks like it should have stopped working years ago.

His brown hair has been perfectly gelled to look like he just rolled out of bed. He wears thick rimmed glasses.

He sees Ivy get out of her car. He cracks his window open.

TODD

Psst!

IVY

Todd? What are you--

TODD

Shh! Get in!

Ivy's long, wavy blond hair is pulled up into a bun on the top of her head. She has big bags under her eyes, and rolls them before getting in the passenger seat.

(CONTINUED)

IVY

Who are you hiding from?

TODD

Anyone could be watching! Have you forgotten?! Today is the day. "Occupy Starbucks" is a go!

IVY

You're making this into such a big deal. You think of that name all by yourself?

TODD

For your information, I did. We are the ninety-nine percent! The occupy movement sums up our ideals nicely.

IVY

What's with the glasses?

TODD

They give me the appearance of someone of greater social class. I wouldn't expect you to understand.

IVY

Let's just go over the plan. I don't want this to be a big thing.

TODD

This is big thing. If we don't get what we want, I'm going on strike and taking down the entire Starbucks corporation.

IVY

Some of us are living on the cup-o-noodles budget. So I would appreciate it if you didn't cause me to lose my job today.

TODD

You'd rather work without dignity?

IVY

You just don't get it.

TODD

Nope college dropouts like me don't get anything.

IVY
That's not what I--

TODD
Anyway, where's Zane?

IVY
Let's just wait for him inside. Max
won't be in until later anyway.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Todd is putting cash in the register while Ivy opens up coffee bags. Zane runs through the door. His curly mane is sticking out in all directions.

He wears a black polo with the green Starbucks apron, but he has slippers on his feet.

ZANE
Sup.

TODD
Why are you wearing those?

ZANE
They're comfy. Nice glasses man.

TODD
Thank you. We're all sick of catering to the ungrateful one percent! This is bigger than just us here. We represent all the lowly workers, laboring away for the big man and not getting enough in return. We are asking for righteousness! We will march right into Max's office and demand some change!

IVY
I'm just not getting paid enough.

TODD
Show a little less enthusiasm.

IVY
Don't you think you're being a little over the top?

(CONTINUED)

TODD
Don't you think you're being a
little too under the top?

Zane is sitting on the counter staring down at his feet.

TODD
Zane?

ZANE
Yeah change would be good.
Especially dimes and nickels.

TODD
Okay... Now as your superior, I'll
be doing most of the talking. You
guys are just there to present a
united front. Strength in numbers.

Through the windows we see MR. LUPO, 55 getting out of his
BMW. His balding black hair is slicked back with oil and his
sweater is struggling to cover his bulging stomach.

He walks inside and nods at the baristas.

MR. LUPO
It smells like freakin' raw sewage
in here. I thought I told you all
about a thing called soap. Use it.

He walks into his back office and shuts the door.

IVY
This is gonna go well.

INT. MR. LUPO'S OFFICE - DAY

Todd knocks on the office door. No response. He enters
anyway. Todd walks in first.

MR. LUPO
Did I say to come in?

TODD
Well, Max--

MR. LUPO
That's Mr. Lupo to you.

TODD
Mr. Lupo... As hardworking
employees of this Starbucks
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TODD (cont'd)
establishment, we have some
complaints. We are displeased with
how we've been treated.

IVY
Last week a lady spilled her drink
on her pants, blamed it on me,
screamed in my face and threw
scalding coffee on my hand.

Ivy lifts up her bandaged hand.

MR. LUPO
So what? Your burns are healing.

IVY
You made me make you a cup of
coffee and threw that on me too.

MR. LUPO
Part of our brand is making sure
customers know that we will do what
it takes to make them happy. It's
not my fault you didn't put the lid
on tight enough!

TODD
If that's not bad enough, for all
the crap we do, we need to be paid
more. We barely make minimum wage.

IVY
Last month I gave my landlord my
Ipod because I couldn't pay rent.

MR. LUPO
Who would want your nasty old Ipod?

TODD
To let you know that we're serious
about this, we've decided that we
are going to go on strike until we
get more respect and better pay.

Silence. Mr. Lupo opens up a cabinet. He takes out a large
stack of papers and throws it on the desk.

MR. LUPO
Samantha Moss... Oh a Cornell
graduate. I bet she knows how to
put lids on drinks, don't you?

(CONTINUED)

TODD

What are--

MR. LUPO

John Miller. Former Marine. It would look great if I hired him. Starbucks supports our troops!

TODD

Max--

MR. LUPO

Carly Smith, Anderson Weston, Sarah Bradley... The list goes on. I could replace any one of you ungrateful turds like that. If you go on strike, I'll just fire you. None of you deserve another penny.

ZANE

But what about--

Todd pushes him back. Zane looks anxious.

IVY

Mr. Lupo--

TODD

You can't do that!

MR. LUPO

Watch me.

Mr. Lupo picks up the phone and starts to dial.

ZANE

I think--

TODD

No you don't!

Todd reaches back to push Zane away, but as he does he knocks him down. A gun falls out of Zane's pocket.

The room goes silent again, except for a gasp from Ivy.

TODD

What the...

Zane picks up the gun and stands there staring at it in his hand. He looks baffled.

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MR. LUPO
You're threatening me?!

TODD
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE!

Todd dives under the desk. Zane looks confused. Mr. Lupo picks up his cell phone.

ZANE
What are you doing?! Give me that!

Zane grabs the cell phone from Mr. Lupo. Ivy steps forward.

MR. LUPO
Don't shoot me! Please!

IVY
Todd. Get out from under there.
Just make sure Max doesn't move? I
need to talk to Zane.

Todd slowly makes his way out from under the desk.

TODD
Yeah sure... I uhh just dropped my
glasses under there. I hope you
guys weren't scared.

Ivy grabs Zane's arm and drags him to the corner.

IVY
You're not gonna shoot that, right?

ZANE
Shoot what?

IVY
What the hell! The gun! Do you
always carry that with you?

ZANE
I was watching this Discovery
Channel special on guns and--

IVY
We don't need to get into this now.
Let's just fix this without going
to jail. Todd wouldn't survive
prison. Don't do anything crazy.

Zane nods his head. Zane and Ivy turn back to Mr. Lupo and Todd. Zane holds the gun up.

MR. LUPO

I'll give you a raise. I'll do what you want, just don't shoot me!

TODD

I'm glad you see things our way.

Todd turns to Ivy and Zane. As he turns his back, Mr. Lupo jumps out of his desk and runs to the door. Mr. Lupo makes it out but is tackled by Todd.

Todd straddles Mr. Lupo on the ground. Zane runs out holding the gun with Ivy following behind. A lady screams.

CUSTOMER 1

He has a gun! Run!

The baristas look up to see a dozen customers waiting in line. A few of them run, but some of them are frozen.

ZANE

Uhhh.

IVY

Just don't--

ZANE

Stay where you are! Don't move!

The remaining four customers put their hands in the air and freeze. Ivy looks like she is about to cry. Todd is still sitting on Mr. Lupo.

Cut to black.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

The three customers are standing with their heads down and eyes closed. They each stand with their arms on the shoulders of the person in front of them.

They have hot sleeves fashioned together covering their eyes. Todd is in the front of the line and walks them to the corner of the store behind a shelf.

IVY

Todd what are you doing? We can't keep them here just let them go!

TODD

It's too late for that. They've seen too much already, they know

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TODD (cont'd)
who what we look like! I am NOT
going to jail. I don't belong there
with all those filthy delinquents.

IVY
There's gotta be a way out. We
didn't mean to take them hostage!

As they are talking they walk by Mr. Lupo's office. There is
a piece of wood wedged on the outside so he can't get out.
We hear banging coming from the other side of the door.

MR. LUPO
Hey let me outta here! You can't
just leave me here!

IVY
At least one good thing came out of
this.

Zane comes out from behind the counter with four coffees.

ZANE
I made coffee for everyone! I hope
you enjoy your stay with us!

IVY
At least Zane is treating them like
human beings! You know we should--

CUSTOMER 2
Uh excuse me? Is this whole milk? I
only drink skim.

Todd grunts loudly then angrily walks down a staircase into
the supply room.

INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - DAY

Todd searches around the room, finds a plank of wood and
sticks it between the door handles. He stacks up boxes.

He piles up enough boxes to reach a small window at the top
of the wall. Todd opens the window as someone tries to get
in through the door.

IVY
Todd come out of there. Zane can't
handle all those people by himself.
The police should be coming by now,
we need to figure something out.

(CONTINUED)

Todd struggles to pull himself up through the window. He gets his head and arms through the window before he's stuck.

TODD

No.

Todd tries to pull himself back in but can't. Ivy gets the door open just enough to see Todd stuck in the window.

IVY

You're trying to ditch us?! What the hell.

TODD

Ivy help me out of here. The police--

IVY

I'm not helping you. You were about to screw us over.

TODD

Please. I've done so much for you.

IVY

What are you talking about?! You never do anything for me. You are so absorbed in yourself you hardly notice anyone else exists. You're always talking down to me and Zane and it's not fair.

TODD

I'm sorry okay? I'll stop doing that stuff if you just get me out.

IVY

Under one condition. You have to say "Ivy is the smartest and she is my boss."

TODD

Ugh. Come on the police will be here soon. Hurry!

IVY

Okay... I guess--

TODD

Fine. Ivy is the smartest and she is my superior.

IVY

So nice of you to say!

Ivy slams her body into the door and the wedged piece of wood moves a little bit. She keeps trying until the door opens enough to squeeze through.

She grabs Todd by the legs and pulls until he's out.

TODD

Thanks Ivy. You know I meant what I said. You're very smart.

IVY

You wouldn't be a bad guy if you were just a little more thoughtful. Let's go check on Zane.

TODD

He's alone with them? Oh no.

They walk out.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

Todd and Ivy run back into the main room. Zane is eating a slice of lemon pound cake. Over the speakers a mellow indie song plays.

Three hostages are sitting on the ground eating muffins.

TODD

Zane! What happened to that other lady?

ZANE

All four of them are here.

TODD

No Zane.. There are only three left. Crap! What have you been doing?

ZANE

Well I just went through some of these CD's that are lying around and thought we could give some a spin. And we ate some muffins.

TODD

You were supposed to be watching them! Was the door not locked?! Who

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TODD (cont'd)
takes people hostage and doesn't
even lock the door!

Todd walks over to the door and locks it. Suddenly, police sirens can be heard approaching.

TODD
Crap. Just play along. Nobody is
going to jail today.

IVY
Actually Zane and I thought of a
plan when you were stuck in a
window frame.

TODD
You did? Are you sure?

Zane shakes his head and grins.

IVY
Yup. Just trust us. Go outside and
act natural. We'll handle it.

TODD
If you say so.

The sirens get louder. A half dozen police cars pull up.

EXT. STARBUCKS - DAY

The officers get out and talk over a megaphone.

POLICE OFFICER
Put your weapons down and come
outside with your hands up.

Todd walks outside with his hands up wearing an apron.

TODD
What seems to be the problem
officers?

POLICE OFFICER
We have a lady here who says you're
holding hostages in this building
and threatening to shoot them.

He gestures to the lady who was held hostage. She is sweaty and shaking, standing outside a cop car staring at him.

(CONTINUED)

TODD

I don't know what you're talking about. Everything in there is normal! It's actually been a pretty slow business day.

CUSTOMER 1

He's lying! Go in there and see for yourself! Unless they've already murdered everyone...

TODD

(to officer)

Oh her? She came in this morning and was yelling because there wasn't enough caramel in her macchiato... Ya can't make everyone happy!

POLICE OFFICER

We're gonna have to come inside and take a look around.

TODD

Uhh sure thing.

Todd laughs nervously.

TODD

Crazy that she said we were holding people hostage! People will make up anything I guess.

Todd and a few police officers walk towards the door.

INT. STARBUCKS - DAY

They walk in to find Ivy and Zane smiling from behind the counter.

The three hostages are also behind the counter wearing matching black polo shirts and green aprons.

IVY

Hello sir, what can I get for you?

POLICE OFFICER

Nothing. I'm here to investigate a report of a hostage situation.

(CONTINUED)

IVY

Hostages? Here? Ha well that's not something we hear every day. Let me know if you need anything!

The police officer stares at all the workers suspiciously. They go about their tasks, wiping down equipment and organizing coffees.

The officers split up and search around. They look under tables and behind shelves. Some split off and go search the bathroom and storage room.

Todd pulls Ivy aside.

TODD

What the hell is this?

IVY

It was Zane's idea. He thought we should dress them up like employees and I thought it was crazy enough to work. They were surprisingly willing to help out. Turns out they liked the free muffins.

TODD

Wow I can't believe that actually worked. Wait... Where's Max?

A police officer tries to open the door to Max's office. We hear banging through the other side of the door. Ivy and Zane come over and other cops surround them.

MR. LUPO

Is somebody there? Help me! I'm locked in here!

The police officer moves the piece of wood blocking the door from opening. Mr. Lupo falls out of the office. He is extremely sweaty and flushed. He hugs the police officer.

MR. LUPO

You saved me. Thank god you came. These maniacs had me locked up in there all day. I haven't eaten anything in so long I feel faint. What time is it?! Six pm?

POLICE OFFICER

Seven thirty in the morning.

(CONTINUED)

MR. LUPO

Well it felt like forever. They threatened me with a gun! That freaking lunatic was gonna shoot me unless I paid them more.

Mr. Lupo is pacing in small circles as he talks. He stops and forcefully puts his pointer finger on Todd's chest.

Ivy and Todd share a look of worry. Zane is grinning.

MR. LUPO

You can be sure as hell you're out of a job now!

POLICE OFFICER

Whose gun is it?

The three of them look around at each other.

POLICE OFFICER

If nobody tells me--

TODD

It's my gun. I brought it here to intimidate Max. I wasn't going to shoot him, but I thought it would help us get our raise. It was my idea. Don't punish them.

IVY

Todd what--

TODD

Really.

MR. LUPO

Lock them all up! They would have killed me! Don't believe this bull shit.

The police officer pulls out handcuffs. The other officers move forward. Todd puts his hands out to be handcuffed.

Zane reaches into his pants and pulls out a gun. He points it at Mr. Lupo.

ZANE

Freeze Max.

IVY

Not again!

(CONTINUED)

TODD

Come on! What the hell man! I was trying to help you out!

The officer pushes Mr. Lupo against a wall and cuffs his hands behind his back. Zane holds up a badge.

ZANE

Shane Williams, FBI. Maxwell Lupo, you're under arrest for money laundering and arms trafficking. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law.

Todd and Ivy stand with their jaws wide open. Mr. Lupo fights against the officers swarming around him.

They drag a struggling Mr. Lupo out the door and put him in the back of a police car.

A police officer shakes Zane's hand.

POLICE OFFICER

Thanks for everything. Good work.

The police officer walks out. Ivy and Todd stand still.

IVY

So you work for the FBI?

TODD

And your name isn't Zane?

SHANE

No. What kind of name is Zane? I've been working undercover to gather enough proof against Max, he's into some pretty serious stuff. Sorry to put you guys through all that today. Although that hostage thing wasn't supposed to happen. And my gun wasn't supposed to come out earlier. But today was the day they were going to nail Max. And hey, at least you guys get a new boss!

IVY

Wow. Okay then.

(CONTINUED)

TODD

So why do you act so weird?

SHANE

You would have asked too many questions if I was normal. Besides, it was fun. I have to head out and take care of some paperwork for the case. You two take care.

Shane shakes hands with them, walks outside and drives away.

IVY

What a day.

TODD

Yeah. Thanks for everything today, you really came through. I'm sorry I haven't always treated you well.

IVY

It's fine, you're not a bad guy. I thought it was really nice of you to try and cover for me and Zane. But seriously, lose the glasses.

TODD

But they give me class!

IVY

Don't be something you're not. You're just as classy without them.

Todd takes his glasses off. He and Ivy start walking down the hall back into the main room.

TODD

You know I've been thinking. I think I'm gonna go back to school.

IVY

That's a great idea.

Todd and Ivy walk into the room to see a line out the door of angry customers.

Behind the counter, the three fake baristas are running around pressing buttons on machines, trying to make drinks.

TODD

Oh crap! It's only eight AM.

Fade to black.