

Toy Thieves

Revision 1

By

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EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING 1 *

TONY, LESTER, and KERRY, a group of 6th graders are running through alleys and parks. *

Behind them, a menacing pack of BULLIES. *

Tony leads the runaways with Kerry shortly behind, and Lester barely keeping up. Tony is carefully clutching his prized RAZORMAN action figure.

The bullies pass a bus stop with kids boarding *

BULLY
Hey Tony! Missed your bus.

The chase continues through a busy urban center with cars and shops. Tony and Kerry find a bush to hide in, while Lester has just rounded the corner. *

The bullies are nearing, when Kerry grabs Lester and SLAMS him into the bush for cover. *

The bullies run by unaware of their prey's escape.

Tony, Lester, and Kerry fall out of the bush and catch their breath. They brush leaves off their clothes; Tony in a sweatshirt, Kerry a Wonder Woman tee, and Lester a neon stripped shirt. *

KERRY
That was too close. This is the last time I'm missing the bus because you're too scared to stand up for yourself Tony.

TONY
Yeah Yeah. But you have to admit getting to walk through the city every morning is quite exciting *

KERRY
(sarcastically)
It's great. Getting to walk another 20 minutes and see the sights like homeless Ernie and shady storefronts. Nothing like it. *

LESTER
Guys. I think my glasses got squished when you threw me in the...

(CONTINUED)

KERRY

Shut it Lester. *

Lester looks at his bent spectacles gloomily. *

The gang continues down the city block. From their nonchalance, it is clear the path is quite familiar to them. *

After walking for a few minutes, the kids pass a decrepit-looking joint, WALT'S COMICS AND TOYS. It is not very inviting for a comic shop, with signs reading "no touching" and "no food" adorning the shut front door. Tony stops for a look, while his friends march ahead. *

TONY

Yoo hoo guys. How 'bout we stop into this place for a bit. First period can wait huh? *

KERRY

Uck. I don't think so, my first time playing hookie isn't gonna be spent in a comic store. Especially one where it looks like someone died. *

TONY

Come on Kerry... Lester? Sure it's a little shoddy, but who knows. Place this old might even have some Razorman originals. *

LESTER

Oh alright. I suppose a few minutes couldn't hurt. *

The three head for the door.

KERRY

Ugh. Why do I hang out with you two. *

INT. WALT'S COMICS AND TOYS - MORNING

2 *

As they walk into the store, Walt, the store owner, doesn't greet them. He is a man in his late 40s, who looks as if he's lost faith in the world. It is clear this shop is the only thing he's got going for him. *

The shop smells of dust and cardboard. Piles of comics are strewn everywhere. *

(CONTINUED)

Walt keeps a watchful eye on our heroes. Lester and Kerry go through some stacks in the back. Tony nervously approaches the counter. *

TONY

Excuse me sir. Do you have any Razorman originals? *

Walt appears particularly perturbed by this request.

WALT

What does it look like bud. We've got the limited collection, razor-backed adventures, i mean...I need ya to be more specific kid. *

TONY

I guess the limited edition then.

WALT

Issue?

TONY

No there's no issue here

WALT

I meant issue number. You got any clue what you want? *

TONY

Six...Is..Issue six.

Walt grimaces, and then turns around towards the wall behind the counter to look for the requested item. Meanwhile, Tony is peeking at the Razorman Walt has on display. *

This one's much nicer than his ragged old thing. This one's still got that plastic shimmer. *

He goes to pick it up. When he accidentally knocks it and the rest of the comics and toys on the counter over. *

In chain-reaction-like fashion everything CRASHES to the floor. *

Walt jolts back toward the counter. *

TONY

Sorry. I didn't mean...

Walt is teeming with anger. *

(CONTINUED)

WALT

You little rascal. Get out. Get out
of my store and never come back.
You hear? All of you. Beat it!

The three frantically run out.

EXT. OUTSIDE STORE - MORNING

3 *

They find sanctuary on the street corner, their hearts still racing from the scare.

LESTER

Geez Tony. You almost had us
killed.

KERRY

Yeah great decision to walk in
there.

Tony is ignoring his friends admonishment as he checks his pockets.

TONY

It's Razorman. He's gone, I don't
know where he went.

LESTER

I do.

Lester points to Tony's action figure on the ground of the toy shop.

KERRY

Don't you dare go after that Tony.

Before his friends have a chance to stop him, Tony runs back in.

KERRY

Wow. Never thought I'd lose a
friend like this.

INT. WALT'S COMICS AND TOYS - MORNING

4 *

The place is a mess. Walt is cleaning up what he can.

Tony cautiously opens the door making sure preoccupied Walt doesn't hear him enter. He inches towards Razorman.

He slowly grabs for the toy.

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(CONTINUED)

SLAM! *

Walt's hand comes out of nowhere and starts to pry it from Tony's boyish hands.

WALT
I thought I told you to get out of here. *

TONY
Hey! That's mine, I brought it from home. I swear. *

Walt leers at the boy in anger.

WALT
Nice try buddy. But next time you wanna steal something of mine, I'll make sure you never see another toy again. *

Walt rips it from Tony's hands. *

WALT
Now beat it. *

Tony, now petrified, starts inching backward. *

After about two steps, he ditches the backpedal and bolts. *

EXT. OUTSIDE STORE - MORNING 5 *

Tony runs down the sidewalk to his friends who are eagerly awaiting his return. Kerry hugs her returned friend.

KERRY
You're alive. *

Tony angrily steps back. *

TONY
Let's go to class.

They walk down the street. *

INT. WALT'S COMICS AND TOYS, BACKROOM - MORNING 6 *

Walt takes out a handkerchief and starts cleaning Razorman. *

He then places it in a glass case, locks it, and puts it on top of a shelf. *

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

7

A BELL rings. *

Junior high students are carrying trays to the tables of the well-established cliques they frequent.

Tony, Lester, and Kerry are sitting at their own table, with bagged lunches. *

Tony is not eating, preferring to sit with his head in his hands *

KERRY

Hey dude. Don't look so blue. I'm sure you're Mom'll get it back for you. *

TONY

You kidding I can't tell her I was there. If she new I skipped science she'd kill me. *

Kerry plops a spoonful of macaroni and cheese into her mouth. Not waiting to swallow before speaking. *

KERRY

Well why don't you just buy a new one?

TONY

Buy a new one? Kerry. Razorman's been discontinued for twenty years, this was my dad's toy growing up. It's the only memory I have of him.

Kerry swallows. *

KERRY

I guess you could somehow break into Walt's shop, find out where he's holding your poor toy hostage, and pry it from his cold, sweaty hands. *

Kerry and Lester join in laughter. *

Tony meanwhile has a light bulb go off. *

He starts to lose himself in a day dream, as Kerry starts waving her hands in front of his eyes. *

(CONTINUED)

KERRY

Tony. Tony? Tony. I was kidding...What's gotten into you?

He snaps out of it.

TONY

That's it. We sneak into Walt's and take back Razorman. I'll start writing up some schemes. Lester do you still have Ocean's 11 on videotape? I'm gonna need to start watching a lot more heist movies.

Kerry and Lester shake their heads in unison.

KERRY

Jeez. There you go with another crazy idea. You saw what he did with your action figure. Imagine what he'll do to you.

LESTER

Kerry's right. Look, I found out some more dirt on this Walt guy. Turns out he does this sorta thing all the time. He takes kids toys, and then...when they come to try and get 'em back. He locks them away. In their very own display cases. Just ask Jimmy Everson?

KERRY

No. Come on Lester you don't really believe that do you?

LESTER

When's the last time you saw Jimmy huh? Hasn't been to school all week.

KERRY

He's probably sick or something

LESTER

Sure. Sick.

There is an awkward silence as Kerry and Tony stare at Lester befuddled.

TONY

Guys. I need you to back me if I'm gonna do this. I need all the help I can get.

(CONTINUED)

KERRY

I'm afraid I can't Tony. Although I don't believe Walt's locking kids in cages, he's clearly not afraid to take their toys. This is a horrible idea, you'll just have to say goodbye to that silly little toy.

Tony shakes his head. *

TONY

Haven't you ever lost something you really care about Kerry? Wouldn't you do anything to get it back? I mean you're the one always telling me to stand up for myself. *

Kerry looks guiltily back at Tony. *

KERRY

I want Mrs. Dubinsky's homework for the rest of the year, not just the quarter...And...my opening night ticket for Jurassic Park paid for. In full. *

The two do their very unique handshake. *

TONY

Deal. Alright, Lester you in? *

LESTER

To have a chance to capture on videotape, the lair of the most evil-comic-store-owner-villain in history. Of course. As long as I'm safe behind a camera outside the store. *

TONY

I can deal with that. *

Tony takes out his book bag. Splays various pens and papers about the table. *

KERRY

What's all this for? *

TONY

Guys. We've got a team to assemble. *

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

MONTAGE -- GATHERING THE CREW

style: if Wes Anderson directed Ocean's Eleven.

Montage Music - "Green Onions" - Booker T and the M.G.s

Tony sneaks out of the school library with blueprints. It's unclear whether they are of the toy store but they look official.

Tony approaches a classmate with huge aviator sunglasses on. He is working on a model fighter jet. Around him are countless paper airplanes. Tony whispers into his ear and we see the other
nod. SUBTITLE: Pilot

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*

Tony, Lester, and Kerry are strewn about a living room floor with markers and crayons drawing a map.

A girl is playing with fireworks and other flammables. Tony slowly walks behind her carefully avoiding an explosion and whispers in her ear and receives a similar
nod. SUBTITLE: Pyro

*

Back to the original three acting out some scenarios with dolls, army men, and legos on a playmate rug.

A chubby boy in glasses sits in front of a computer typing vigorously. We see codes being hacked on the monitor, as Tony's reflection comes in to view, he grabs the hacker's shoulder and hands him a candy bar. The hacker grins.
SUBTITLE: Gizmo

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*

Tony frantically sifts through drawers various utensils and tools in his house

A sweaty, lean kid is stopped climbing rope by Tony. The two shake hands, before the gym teacher interrupts their agreement with a
whistle. SUBTITLE: Ninja

*

Tony, Lester, and Kerry are sitting in the dark on a couch eating popcorn off each others' laps. The TV is playing Ocean's 11. Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin adorn the screen.

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*

A tall and grungy boy is trying to break into a locker, when Tony scares him by tapping his shoulder. The lock picker looks displeased at Tony's presence, before getting handed something shinny and looking to Tony with a
smile. SUBTITLE: Houdini

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CUT TO:

INT. TREE HOUSE - NIGHT

8

Tony points at schemes he's drawn up on the walls of the tree house. *

The kids approached by Tony in the montage now all sit across from one another at a table. PILOT, PYRO, GIZMO, NINJA, and HOUDINI all in attendance. *

Tony is King Arthur, and the "band of experts" his round table. *

TONY

Alright men...and girls...This is it, the night we take back what's ours.

ROUND TABLE

Ra.

TONY

Now this isn't just about Razorman, this is about all of us. About standing up for what's ours. We've all been bullied and taken advantage of, tonight's the night we change that. Tonight's the night we put all our "bad habits" to good use.

ROUND TABLE

Ra.

TONY

Okay. Kerry ready the wagon. Operation Razor Blades is a go. *

ROUND TABLE

Ra.

The gang leaves the tree house like a crew of firefighters exiting the station. *

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

9

Kerry snaps a set of huge steampunk goggles to her face. *

She pedals a bicycle with a wagon attached behind it via rope. Inside the wagon sits the crew quietly and intently, like a group of seasoned soldiers about to entire battle. *

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY ALLEY - NIGHT

10

The gang pulls up to the back alley behind Grab N' Go bodega. They huddle nearby a dumpster under a dimly lit area.

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*

Houdini makes work on the bodega's backdoor.

HOUDINI
Hey guys. Got it.

The gang cautiously enters one by one.

INT. GRAB N' GO - NIGHT

11

Inside it's pitch black.

TONY
Pyro. Lights.

A match comes to life highlighting Pyro's maniacal face, easily amused by the fire. She opens her coat revealing lots of fireworks, flares, and possibly explosives, before finally pulling a CANDLE from her pocket.

*

The candle light allows the group to view this shoddy convenience store covered floor to ceiling with junk: batteries, snacks, lampshades, you name it.

The crew finally makes it to a back stairwell with holey floorboards, spider webs, and rats. The gang looks down and grimaces in unison.

TONY
Alright. Who's first?

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNEL - NIGHT

12

Pyro leads the gang through a narrow tunnel underneath Grab N' Go. Graffiti marks the walls.

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The tunnel ends at a broken ladder. Ninja looks up the shaft and gives a nod back to his comrades. He readies himself for the climb.

(CONTINUED)

Straight out of a kung-fu epic, Ninja reaches the top in a flash, wall jumping to the peak. The crews' jaws drop. Ninja flings a rope down the shaft. *

The gang climb up. *

INT. FOUNDATIONS UNDER WALT'S SHOP - NIGHT 13 *

Artificial light illuminates a boiler works underneath the building. The gang walk to a small wooden door.

Before Tony has any time to inform his crew of the next obstacle. Pyro is lighting a small explosive next to the door. He calmly walks back.

PYRO

You might wanna get down. *

BOOM!

The door is blown to bits. The gang must scrape ash and wood off their bodies. They proceed to run through the door with full steam.

CUT TO:

INT. VENTILATION SHAFT - NIGHT 14 *

The gang is climbing through a series of vents.

Tony looks down and sees Walt's toy shop beneath him. *

TONY

(in a whisper)

Alright guys. This is it. *

They all fall smoothly to the floor of the shop. Tony is last to hit bottom, when he does, he sends Lester, planted outside the store with his camera, a thumbs up. *

TONY

Okay. Good work everybody. Let's all look around for Razorman, and then we can finally get out of here.

The crew disperses and quietly searches the store for the toy.

Some start flipping through stacks of comics, others through toy bins. *

(CONTINUED)

Tony, who is surveying the walls, stumbles upon a poster with great superhero villains on it: Joker, Lex Luther, Magneto to name a few. *

He leans in for a closer look when he pushes the wall inward. *

He reveals a secret doorway. *

TONY

Guys I think I found something.

They fearlessly follow him in.

INT. WALT'S COMICS AND TOYS, BACKROOM - NIGHT

15

A room fully lit, covered in action figures, toys, comics, collectibles, it's a child's dreamland. Original cases of aquaman, batman, ant man. *

At the top of the treasure room on the highest shelf sits Razorman. It lies in a well-secured glass case by itself. *

TONY

Found her.

The crew start to race after it.

TONY

Stop. See those lasers, they're motion sensors. We set off even just one, and we'll be... *

PYRO

Burnt to smithereens?!?

TONY

Well...no...but it will set off an alarm alerting Walt of our presence. So Gizmo can you shut them off somehow? *

GIZMO

Way ahead of you Tony.

Gizmo is busy rewiring the outlet on the wall. He detaches the wires and connects what looks like a GAMEBOY. After pressing some buttons along to 8-bit music, the lasers disappear. *

(CONTINUED)

TONY

Great. Ninja you know what to do

Ninja nods at Tony as he preps for the climb, when Pilot steps in from the back.

PILOT

Hey. How come you haven't put my talent to use yet?

*
*

TONY

Well I just figured it be simpler if...

Pilot pulls out a gadget with two propellers and a handle attached. He revs it up.

A slight breeze blows back his comrades.

Pilot helicopters up to the Razorman case and takes it down off the shelf and down to the ground.

PILOT

What were you saying again?

The team is stunned as Pilot hands Tony the case.

TONY

Jesus. Razorman.

*

Tony looks up at pilot admiringly, and salutes him. Pilot returns the favor.

Houdini picks the lock off the case. The crew exchanges high-fives as Houdini hands Razorman over to Tony who raises it high.

KERRY

We did it.

Kerry trips on the leg of a table and begins another chain reaction of toys.

*

KERRY

Uh oh.

The noise is overwhelmingly loud. Millions of dollars worth of collectibles come tumbling down.

*
*

TONY

Everybody scram.

*

The crew starts to dash for the door when it is opened by none other than Walt himself.

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(CONTINUED)

The shock on his face is wider than the St. Louis Arch. *

The others run right through his lanky legs, but Tony is last and can't make it past the giant.

Walt is seething.

WALT

You thief. Thought you could steal my Razorman again. Well I got news for you, he's mine. *

Walt again pulls the toy from Tony's hands

WALT

You kids think these are just toys, treat 'em like disposable objects. These are pieces of history, and this one's a most impressive artifact. *

Walt slowly backs Tony into the corner, domineering over his small frame. *

WALT

They've got a special place for children who steal you know. *

TONY

No. Please don't lock me in a cage sir, I'm too young to be a display item. Look, it seems like this toy means a lot to you. Certainly more than it does to me. He's yours. Just don't put me in a cage. Please. *

Walt looks confused. *

WALT

Lock you in a cage? I was talking about juvie. Where'd you get an idea like that. *

TONY

All around school. Rumor is you put Jimmy Everson in a display case, that's why we haven't seen him all week. I won't let you do the same to me. *

Walt lowers his guard. Let's out a chuckle. *

(CONTINUED)

WALT

Jimmy's got strep throat. I didn't kick him out. I told him to go see a doctor, I was afraid he was gonna get the whole place sick. Jesus, kid. You just believe anything people tell you?

Tony looks stunned at Walt's sudden change of heart.

TONY

Well I mean after what you did to me, stealing my Razorman and all. I figured anything was possible.

WALT

Steal your Razorman? You were the one who had your mitts on it. It wasn't for sale, I was just protecting what was mine. As I am now.

TONY

What do you mean yours? My father gave him to me the day I was born. I just dropped it last time I was here, and I've come to take it back.

Walt clutches his scalp.

WALT

Oh dear lord. You got it all wrong son.

Walt hands Tony back Razorman.

WALT

Look under his helmet.

Tony takes off the helmet on Razorman.

He sees WALT drawn in permanent pen on the inside of the headgear.

WALT

Birthday present. 1958. First toy I ever owned.

Tony looks dumfounded.

Walt bends over to pick up a trash can next to Tony.

He lifts out the broken pieces of Tony's Razorman.

(CONTINUED)

WALT

I assume this is yours then.

Walt hands Tony the pieces.

WALT

I must have stepped on it running
after you, last time you were here.

Tony looks up at Walt with a frown.

WALT

I know from your angle I must look
like the bad guy. I hope you can
forgive me.

TONY

I trashed your store twice looking
for this stupid thing. I should be
the one forgiving you.

Tony drops the plastic pieces. Heads for the door.

The now subdued Walt let's him pass willingly.

Tony goes to open the door to exit when,

Walt turns.

WALT

Hey kid. Forgot something.

Tony turns back to Walt, who tosses him his Razorman.

TONY

Tomorrow I want you in here right
after school to help me clean up
this place. Alright?

Tony's face lights up.

TONY

Yes sir. Thank you. But I can't
take this from you.

WALT

It's Walt. And yes you can. You'd
go through all this just to get it
back. He means more to you than he
ever did to me.

Walt sticks out his hand. Tony shakes it.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

Tony.

*
*

WALT

Pleasure to meet you Tony.

*
*

Tony exits the room.

*

CUT TO:

*

EXT. OUTSIDE STORE - MIDNIGHT

16

*

Tony makes it outside to the street where his friends are waiting.

*
*

They look relieved at the sight of their leader. Lester is following them with his camcorder.

*
*

KERRY

You get it?

*

Tony pulls out the Razorman and lifts it high in the air with both hands.

*
*

The kids all cheer as Kerry and Tony hug.

*

TONY

Let's go home.

*
*

Kerry hops on her bike, and the crew exits by wagon from its first successful mission.

*
*

FADE TO BROWN.

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