

Temptation
Screenplay by
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Based on Ain't No Rest for the Wicked by Cage the Elephant

1 EXT. PHILADELPHIA STREET - DAY

1

Jack, 32, with terrible posture and worn out shoes is walking down the street. He has beads of sweat on the top of his forehead, but is seemingly very determined on his walk. He is fidgeting with something in his right pocket. It is a gun.

Passing various restaurants and shops, he sees a woman on the street with her son. She is begging people for money to feed them. She holds a cardboard SIGN that reads, "Bills to Pay. Mouths to Feed." As he gets closer to her, an astute man in a business suit begins to pass her.

Her son, disheveled and appearing younger than eight years old, approaches the man. He reaches out his hand. The man looks at the boy for a few seconds, and keeps walking.

Disappointed at the man's lack of compassion to the boy, Jack hands the boy a crumpled DOLLAR from his left pocket. Still determined, Jack continues on his walk.

As he turns the corner, he anxiously holds the gun to his side. He looks down at it in defeat. When he looks up, he sees a beautiful young woman, wearing minimal clothing. She smiles at him. As he avoids eye contact, she begins to approach him.

HOOKER

I've never seen a man who looks so all alone. Could you use a little company?

He is taken aback by her approach. He looks at her, speechless. She begins to glide her hand down his right arm. He tenses as his eyes dart to outline of the gun in his pocket.

HOOKER

If you pay the right price, your evening will be nice. Then, you can go and send me on my way.

Jack looks disappointed, but also curious.

JACK

What made you want to live this kind of life?

(CONTINUED)

HOOKER

(Shrugs)

Money doesn't grow on trees.
Everyone's gotta work to get
something, you can't just sit there
and expect to get it.

Flashback to a visual of the homeless woman and her son.
Then to the sign: "Bills to pay, mouths to feed."

He apologetically reaches again into his left pocket and
hands the woman a crumpled DOLLAR. He hurries away.

He walks a few more blocks until he sees what he was looking
for. He stops outside a store called, "Goldman Jewelers."
His hand reaches down his right side to find the gun in his
pocket. He gulps. Taking a deep breath, he opens the glass
door into the store.

2

INT. GOLDMAN'S JEWELRY - SAME TIME

2

Stepping into the store, Jack is skittish. He repeatedly
looks over his shoulder.

Goldman's Jewelry store is enormous. It's one of those ritzy
straight-out-of-a-Town-and-Country-magazine type places. The
radiance from the store makes Jack squint. The heat from the
ornate lights on the ceiling burn his forehead. There are a
few people in the store, much less than usual.

Jack rubs his eyes and walks towards the EMPLOYEE working at
the main desk. He is putting a diamond necklace he just
showed to a previous customer back in it's case. He looks up
at Jack and smiles as he approaches.

EMPLOYEE

Good Afternoon. How may I assist
you today?

Jack acts quickly on his feet. He motions towards an item in
the display case.

JACK

Could I see those earrings please?

EMPLOYEE

The 10 carat gold diamond studs?
Ah, yes. Very popular choice. A
gift, I assume?

JACK

Something like that.

(CONTINUED)

The employee goes into the glass display and takes out the earrings. He hands them to Jack.

JACK

These look nice. How much?

EMPLOYEE

Those will be about six-hundred and seventy dollars. After tax.

Confused, Jack refocuses on the reason he came.

JACK

I'll take them.

EMPLOYEE

Wonderful. Let me just work out the transaction...Will that be credit?

Jack nods. He watches as the employee opens the register. The verdant bills draw in his eyes like a moth to a flame. He hastily looks around the store. It is evident that him and the employee are the only ones in the store.

He begins to reach for the gun. Now is the time to do it.

He is suddenly distracted by something he sees out of the corner of his eye. Behind the employee is a photograph taped to the wall. The picture shows a pretty woman with two smiling children. Both boys.

He exhales.

The employee begins wrapping the earrings up in a jewelry holder. He takes out a box for them. Jack's hand is clutching the gun in his pocket. Sweat begins crawling down the sides of his face.

The employee wraps a bow around the box. Jack's eyes dart from the employee, to the money in the register, and back again. Jack tries to remove the gun from his pocket. He can't move.

JACK

(to himself)

What are you doing? Just do it.

The employee looks up to see Jack, visibly stiff.

EMPLOYEE

Sir, are.. you okay?

Jack struggles to fight the urge to pull out his gun. He is visibly trying to move, but cannot. Extremely frustrated, his eyebrows are furrowed and sweat beads on his forehead.

The employee notices Jack fumbling through his pocket. His eyes land on the outline of the gun.

EMPLOYEE

(panicking)

Sir. What are you..SIR! I am going to call the police.

He slowly reaches for his phone. Jack takes a step forward.

JACK

(angry)

No! I just need the money.

EMPLOYEE

But...why?

The room begins to spin. Jack's vision of the employee becomes hazy. He attempts to form words. All at once, he is stopped by the sound of a heart monitor.

He looks around for the source of the noise. The store becomes a blur. Beep. Beep. Beep.

3

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING

3

Jack's body jerks as he wakes up in an armchair. His stomach shakes with emptiness. He rubs his eyes and looks up.

JACK

(to himself)

Phew. Just a dream.

Lying next to him, in a hospital bed, is his son, TYLER, 8. He is sleeping, hooked up to multiple machines. His heart monitor is routinely beeping. He is wearing a hospital gown and a knit EAGLES hat that covers his bald head. Jack sighs. Beat.

He quietly gets up from the chair. He walks out of the hospital room. Walking down the hallway, he is approached by a nurse. Unenthusiastic, she hands him a piece of paper.

He looks down at it, noticing his several invoices from the hospital. She puts her hand on his right shoulder. He winces, and a visual of the hooker flashes through his mind. He sees her touching his arm.

(CONTINUED)

Uneasy, he nervously reaches down for where he left the gun. It's not there. He then goes to check his other pocket. He pulls out crumpled dollar bills. The nurse notices his distress.

NURSE

We hope your son gets better soon,
Jack.

The nurse walks away, leaving Jack alone in the hallway. He looks back down at the invoice, and suddenly looks ill.

He looks back into the room where his son is sleeping. The sounds of the hospital drain out and the only thing he can hear is the monitor.

Beep. Beep. Beep.

FADE TO BLACK.