

(Name of Project)

by
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in Order of Work Performed)

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An empty apartment. The front door is upstage right. The bedroom door is upstage left. A table and a couple of chairs are the only source of furniture.

DANNY enters frantically from the front door. He wears a blood-splattered shirt. He quickly closes and locks the door behind him. He faces the audience and grimaces. He goes to the window (audience) and peers out looking up and down the street. He paces the space trying to clear his head and regain some composure -- with little luck. He pulls out a cigarette, lights it and smokes deeply. He pulls out a gun tucked in his pants from the back -- looks at it and places it emphatically on the table. He thinks for a second, takes another drag off the cigarette, goes over to the gun, looks down and finally notices the extent of the blood on his shirt. He grimaces with an audible expletive. He thinks for a moment, puts out the cigarette on the table and exits the bedroom door. After a moment there is a feeble knock on the front door. Danny's head pops in from the bedroom. Another feeble knock is heard. Danny rushes in, cleaned up, wearing a new white dress shirt and no pants, grabs the gun and goes to the front door. He answers the knock initially with a loud whisper.

DANNY

Who is it?

MO(O.S.)

It's me. Mo. Open the door.

DANNY

I said, who is it?

MO(O.S.)

Are you kidding me? I said it was me. Open the door.

DANNY

I'm only going to ask you one more time. Who is it?

MO(O.S.)

Damn it, Danny!

I'm telling you . . .
DANNY

Okay, okay. Ask me again.
MO(O.S.)

You gotta knock again.
DANNY

Jesus Christ, Danny.
MO(O.S.)

He knocks again.

Who is it?
DANNY

I um . . .
MO(O.S.)

I said, who is it?
DANNY

I don't remember. Come on, let me in.
MO(O.S.)

You don't get in without the fucking password.
DANNY

God damn it, Danny. Let me in.
MO(O.S.)

Whose idea was the password anyway, huh? It wasn't mine. I know that.
DANNY

Fuck you.
MO(O.S.)

That's not gonna help.
DANNY

That's the password, Danny. "Fuck you" is the password.
MO(O.S.)

I don't think so, Mo.
DANNY

Well, it should be.
MO(O.S.)

Danny looks around several places to hide the gun including the pants he's not wearing.

He finally places the gun on the table and overturns a chair on the table to conceal the gun.

MO(O.S.)

You think it's helping the situation with me sitting out here in the hallway talking to the door? Huh? Do you? Danny? Fucker.

Mo knocks cleanly and precisely.

DANNY

Who is it?

MO(O.S.)

It's the plumber. I've come to fix the sink.

DANNY opens the door. MO enters.

MO

What happened?

DANNY

Nothing happened?

MO

Really. I heard a gun shot. That wasn't a gun shot?

DANNY

I didn't hear anything.

MO

What the hell are you talking about? What was it then?

DANNY

How the hell should I know?

MO

That's great. That's just fucking great. Where are your pants?

DANNY

Where's the money, Mo?

MO

What money?

DANNY

Where's the fucking money, Mo?! Did you remember to grab the money? Did you remember the one fucking thing you were supposed to do, Mo!

MO

Hey, I heard a gun shot --

DANNY

You forgot the money.

MO

Hey! I heard a gun shot and I ran. That's right. I ran. So what ever money you're talking about is - is still there because I figured somebody had a fucking gun and they were using it and maybe you were in there getting killed or something - I mean, I wasn't at the "bring a fucking gun in case people are getting killed" meeting.

A long pause. DANNY goes back over to the window and paces.

MO

I thought you were grabbing the money.

DANNY

Jesus Christ.

MO

So what was it then?

DANNY

What?

MO

If it wasn't a gun what was it?

DANNY

I didn't hear anything.

MO

Then why didn't you grab the money?

DANNY

I went to the back to see - he's always asleep in that chair. I didn't see him so I was coming back to warn you - I didn't hear the fucking gun, okay? Though I did notice you running across the parking lot from the window.

MO

Jesus Christ.

DANNY

That, I noticed.

MO

"Piece of cake, Mo. Got the pass code, in the side door, one security guard, slip in, grab the box, slip out, count the money."

DANNY

Just shut up for a second, will you? Let me think --

MO
I gotta eat something.

He exits through the other door.

MO (O.S.)
There's nothing in here? There's nothing in here to eat or drink or nothing.

DANNY
Nobody lives here, Mo. Why would there be food here if nobody lives here?

Mo reenters.

MO
I'm hungry.

DANNY
Nobody lives here.

MO
Let's get a pizza. You want to get a pizza?

DANNY rushes him and pushes him against the wall.

DANNY
You want a fucking pizza, Mo? Is that what you want, huh?!

Mo pushes him off.

MO
What's with all the pushing? Yeah, I want a pizza.

DANNY
Nobody lives here! Do you understand me? No people, no food.

MO
Delivery?

We HEAR fumbling keys outside the front door. The boys smack into one another looking for a place to hide. Danny pulls out the gun from underneath the chair. Mo's eyes bulge. They crouch on either side of the door. GLORIA enters. She wears a modest wedding dress complete with bouquet and headdress. Danny quickly hands the gun to Mo who anxiously puts the gun behind him tucking it into his pants. Gloria turns around to see them. She screams - Mo quickly closes the door.

GLORIA

I KNEW IT! You bastard.

DANNY

Hey, Baby!

GLORIA

Where - what are you doing here? Why are you - you're late - you're late dammit. Were you planning on coming?

DANNY

I was - Mo just wanted to see - he wanted to - see the new place.

MO

Yeah, I wanted to get a look at your new place, Gloria.

GLORIA

Yeah?

MO

It's very nice.

GLORIA

You son-of-a-bitch! You aren't even dressed. Where are your pants? I have people - my grandparents drove all the way from New Jersey, damn it! And you! What kind of best man are you? You have one responsibility - get his happy ass to the church on time. What are you doing here, god damn it?! Why aren't you dressed? Were you going to come? Tell me you were coming, Danny. If you think I'm going to let you leave me - Don't tell me you were planning to leave me at my wedding. Don't tell me you were planning to leave me up there all by myself in front of my Nanna and Zeezee who drove all through the fucking night from New Jersey to see me finally get married. Were you? Were you gonna leave me there? Because I won't let you - I'm not going to be one of those women - I'll kill you first. I will. Don't think I won't kill you - but understand this. Either way, you and I are getting married. Dead or alive.

DANNY

I'm getting dressed.

MO

We were coming, Gloria -

DANNY

I'm getting dressed - Mo, here - Mo forgot his suit so -

MO

Yeah - it's my fault -

DANNY

Dumb-ass! You know how he is, Gloria -

MO

My suit - where's my suit -

DANNY

He left his suit - it's in the bedroom closet, dumb-ass.

MO

You want to help me find it, Danny?

DANNY

I think you can find it now, Mo. Jeez. You see what I've been dealing with?

MO

I really think you should help me find it.

GLORIA

What the hell is going on? Get dressed!

The boys exit into the bedroom.

GLORIA

You did this to me, Danny. You turned me into this - this - look at me! Look at me, goddamn it!

Danny comes to the bedroom doorway.
Gloria sees him.

GLORIA

What are you doing?

DANNY

I thought you wanted me to look at you.

GLORIA

Get dressed!

As he exits he says . . .

DANNY

Why are you yelling at me?

GLORIA

You did this to me and I'll tell you this - you will make it up to me. You will make it up to me. I don't know how. I don't know when but you will make it up to me. And it better be a good one too! Whatever it is. It better be something good like a -- like a -

DANNY(O.S.)

Like what?

GLORIA

Like something good! Like something big and good, goddamn it!

MO(O.S.)

Like a new car.

DANNY(O.S.)

Shut up, Mo.

MO(O.S.)

What? That's big and good.

GLORIA

I don't want a new car!

Gloria sits at the table and picks up the cigarette butt. She starts to cry. It gets louder as Danny appears at the doorway now wearing dress pants. He goes over to Gloria. Gloria drops her head onto her lap and wails.

GLORIA

I get it, okay? I get it. Why did I ever think that you - that we could - look at this, Danny. Look at this.

Mo comes into the room having changed both his shirt and pants.

MO

It's not mine. I don't even smoke anymore.

DANNY

Since when?

MO

Since awhile ago -

DANNY

Since last night?

MO

That was different.

DANNY

What was different?

MO

It just was.

DANNY

You're whacked.

GLORIA

On the table, Danny? You put out your cigarette on the table?

DANNY

I wasn't thinking.

GLORIA

Why would you put out a cigarette on your own table.

DANNY

I was nervous, Gloria. I wasn't thinking straight.

GLORIA

You put out cigarettes on tables when you're nervous?

MO

That's weird.

DANNY

Shut up, Mo.

GLORIA

Okay - okay, fine.

DANNY

What?

GLORIA

You don't love me.

DANNY

What are you talking about?

GLORIA

Who am I kidding here? Who's the fool - who's the fool in this equation? I'll tell you - it's the one wearing the white dress - that's the fool. Here I am everybody - the idiot in the wedding dress making a fool out of herself!

DANNY

You're not the fool, Gloria.

MO

It's not you, Gloria.

GLORIA

Who is it then? Huh? Who is it? Is it you? Is it you, Mo? Danny? Is it you?

DANNY

It's me.

MO

It's Danny - absolutely.

DANNY

Shut up, Mo.

MO

Man, why don't you shut up? I'm sick of you telling me to shut up.

DANNY

Shut up, Mo.

MO

You shut up.

DANNY

No, you shut up!

MO

No, you shut up!

DANNY

No, you shut up!

GLORIA

AAAA!!!!!!

MO

See what you did?

GLORIA

I need to know this - Danny. Look, okay? I really need to know this so please tell me the truth, okay? I'm only going to ask you this once. I can handle the truth but I need to hear it from you and I want you to look me right in the eye and tell me the truth, okay?

DANNY

It's my cigarette.

GLORIA

Not the cigarette! Do you love me, Danny?

DANNY

Of course I love you.

GLORIA

No, Danny - I mean, really - look me in the eye and tell me really -

He drop down on his knees and looks her in the eyes.

DANNY

Gloria - I really love you.

She smacks Danny down to the ground and continues to wail on him.

GLORIA

Then why are you doing this to me?

Mo lifts her off -

MO

Gloria, listen - listen to me. It's not his fault, Gloria.

GLORIA

What's not his fault?

MO

You're right. It was my job to make sure he was at the church - to be on time. It was the one job I had and I let myself be talked out of it.

GLORIA

What are you talking about?

MO

I let myself - I let my friendship override my common sense - Danny, are you bleeding?

GLORIA

He's bleeding? You're bleeding, Danny.

DANNY

No shit?

GLORIA

What - why are you bleeding?

DANNY

Because I felt like it.

GLORIA

What the hell happened?

DANNY

Nothing! Nothing happened - I just felt like bleeding - sometimes people just bleed, okay? Could you leave me alone all ready?

GLORIA

God damn it, Danny - what happened? Mo?

MO

I just - I don't know. We were inside the side door for about - I don't know. We split up - he told me to wait so I just -

DANNY

You ran away -

MO

I did do that. I remember that clearly. I ran away.

DANNY

Because you're a pussy.

MO

Hey! You had the gun, tough guy! Did I know that?

GLORIA

Who had a gun?

DANNY

You're such an idiot, Mo.

GLORIA

What the hell did you - why would you have a gun? What the hell is going on?

MO

'Cause he's a killer.

DANNY

Shut up, Mo!

MO

Thinks he's the High Plains Drifter or some bullshit.

GLORIA

Did you shoot somebody, Danny?

MO

The security guard?

GLORIA

What security guard? You shot a security guard?

DANNY

I didn't shoot the security guard.

MO

Well, you shot somebody.

GLORIA

Who? Who did you shoot, Danny?

MO

Who did you shoot, Danny?

DANNY

Me! Okay? Me. I shot me.

GLORIA

What?

DANNY

The gun went off - when I was - the gun went off and I - I shot myself.

MO

I knew I heard a gun shot!

DANNY

And you wonder if I love you? Ha! That's what I have to say about that. Ha!

GLORIA

Let me see -

She goes to attend his wound.

DANNY

It's just a little hole -

GLORIA

A little hole? Jesus, Danny -

MO

A little hole on the side - what's that joke about the hooker with the appendectomy -

GLORIA

Shut up, Mo -

MO

I'm just trying to lighten the situation -

GLORIA

Oh, my god! Danny - this is - this is a hole - there's a hole, Danny. A hole!

DANNY

I know -

GLORIA

Oh, my god -

MO

Is it bad?

GLORIA

There's a hole!

DANNY

Calm down, would you -

GLORIA

You have a hole - there's a hole from a bullet - you have a bullet hole -- what the hell were you doing with a gun on my wedding day?! You son-of-a-bitch!

She starts wailing on him again. Mo lifts her off -

MO

Gloria - Gloria! I don't think that's gonna help.

Gloria starts wailing on Mo.

GLORIA

Why did you let him shoot himself on my wedding day!

MO

I didn't know - I didn't even know he had a gun -

GLORIA

What the hell is going on!

DANNY

It was for you.

GLORIA

What!?

DANNY

It was for you - I wanted to - I wanted to surprise you -

GLORIA

What are you talking about? What is he talking about?

MO

He wanted to surprise you.

GLORIA

He wanted to surprise me?

MO

Yeah.

DANNY

Yeah.

A beat.

MO

SURPRISE!

GLORIA

Okay - look. I'm going to sit right here and listen to what better be an extraordinary story about how you ended up - on our wedding day - in our new apartment - with a bullet hole - when you should be dancing with me under a disco ball, munching on stale wedding cake and watching my Nanna wipe tears of joy off her stupid face! Because if you don't - if you don't have an extra - extraordinary story - I'm going to take my finger - this finger that was supposed to have a WEDDING RING on it an hour ago - I'm going to take this finger and jam it into that little bullet hole!

DANNY

Do you remember the first time I drove you out to that tree in the middle of the fields in that little Volkswagen I had? We went out to that one lonely tree. Do you remember?

GLORIA

Bullet hole!?

DANNY

Remember that one tree out there surrounded by nothing - nothing but that sea of corn. You remember that, don't you Gloria. We went out and sat in front of that tree looking up at all those stars. I fell in love with you that night. I fell in love with you underneath all those stars hanging up over us. We went out to lie in the field so we could count the number of shooting stars we saw. You said that sometimes you got scared looking up at that big sky, being scared that you were all alone and that nothing really mattered. And I told you I felt that way sometimes too. Hell, I felt that way all the time - then you reached over and held my hand. And we kissed underneath those stars, underneath that lonely tree and all that fear I had, all the fear I ever had left me. I didn't feel alone anymore. I felt like I belonged to something...or someone. Like I belonged to you and you belonged to me and together we were safe underneath our little tree, like we were safe underneath all that distance, beneath all those stars.

MO

They cut down that tree.

GLORIA

Shut up, Mo.

MO

Again with the shut up - what am I doing here anyway?

DANNY

What are you doing here?

GLORIA

You're the best man.

MO

So?

DANNY

Some best man -

MO

You know I have a finger for you too, Danny.

GLORIA

So your bullet hole is an extension of your love.

DANNY

I'm getting to that -

GLORIA

You shot yourself on our wedding day as a symbol of your devotion.

MO

Like a tattoo! Shut up, Mo.

DANNY

Let me explain what happened -

MO

I'll explain -

DANNY

Mo -

MO

Shut up, Danny! Here's the thing. He loves you, Gloria. No doubt about that - he does love you.

DANNY

She knows that! You do know that, right baby?

GLORIA

Speak, Mo.

MO

And - and he wanted - wants - he wants to make sure you have - that your marriage gets off on the right foot - that you're prepared to, you know - that you're financially prepared to step out into the world together as husband and wife, right?

GLORIA

So -

MO

So the plan was to build - to very quickly build a little nest egg that would help you - you know, that would make it possible to step out together in style, right?

GLORIA

Am I supposed to be following this?

DANNY

I don't feel too good.

GLORIA

Shut up, Danny. Finish, Mo.

MO

So Danny calls me and asks me to help him - which is my job, right? As the best man I have certain responsibilities - certain obligations to the needs of the groom, right?

GLORIA

Just finish -

MO

I mean, it's more than just having the ring in your pocket and making sure he doesn't puke all over the stripper --

Gloria drops her head into her lap.

GLORIA

What are you saying!?

MO

We robbed a pet store.

DANNY

Oh, god.

GLORIA

You what?

MO

We didn't though - I mean, we were unsuccessful -

DANNY

You guys?

MO

Danny had this plan - this piece of cake plan to break in and grab the - you know, grab the box - the money -

GLORIA

You what?

Danny passes out.

MO

See, Danny had a pass code to get in the building and there's only one guard, usually asleep, I guess.

I mean, I was just the wing man, you know - in the caper - but there wasn't any security guard so Danny shot himself and I ran because I didn't know about the gun and I forgot to grab the money and Danny thought I had it so he didn't grab anything because he saw me running across the parking lot from the window and you have to know all this, I mean Gloria, you have to know all this was for you. He did it all for you. We - we did it all for you. For your future together.

GLORIA

So you tried to rob a pet store for our future together. Oh, Danny. Danny?

They both rush to him. Gloria showers him with kisses.

GLORIA

Danny? Oh, Danny honey, I love you so much.

MO

Is he breathing?

GLORIA

I think so. Help me get him up.

MO

Should we take him to the hospital?

They get him to his feet and begin heading for the front door.

GLORIA

Yeah, yeah but the church first. First the church then the hospital. I'll get him, you get the door. Grab my bouquet.

Lights.

End play.

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