

Stalked

By Michael Zielinski

Registered with the Writers
Guild of America, East

Michael Zielinski
mzielinski7@comcast.net
610-401-8289
1731 Colony Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Cast of Characters

MEREDITH:

DON:

STALKER:

ACT IScene 1

MEREDITH and DON, two attractive people in their early 30's, are asleep in a hotel room. She awakens to discover his faced buried in her chest.

MEREDITH

Wake up, whatever your name is.

DON

What?

She pushes him away from her breasts and adjusts her bra.

DON

Good morning.

He stares at her for a moment and smiles.

DON

Did we do it?

MEREDITH

Do what? Discuss the rise of secularism in America?

DON

You know what I mean.

MEREDITH

Hopefully the only things we shared were our favorite recipes.

DON

Hopefully we shared our bodies.

MEREDITH

Doubtful. You were so drunk it would've taken a miracle for that to happen. I doubt God performs miracles when it comes to one-night stands.

DON

Exceptions can happen, even with miracles.

MEREDITH

If we had sex, I'm going to put bamboo sticks under your fingernails for taking advantage of me.

DON
Then how do you explain last night? Did you find me simply irresistible?

MEREDITH
Alcohol-induced temporary insanity.

DON
The trigger of many one-night stands. What's your name?

MEREDITH
Meredith. Yours?

DON
Don.

MEREDITH
What do you do?

DON
I write copy for an ad agency even though I hate commercials. They're too intrusive so I fast-forward through them. What do you do?

MEREDITH
I'm a TV weather forecaster. And I do watch the weather models.

DON
That's a great job. You're wrong most of the time and never held accountable.

MEREDITH
Seven-day forecasts are marketing bullshit. Three days is the limit of our high probability range. And if we do blow a forecast, we just don't mention it. We forecast the weather, not review it.

DON
I don't watch weather forecasts. As Bob Dylan sang, you don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows.

MEREDITH
Your loss. I look pretty good on camera. Which actually can be a bad thing. You can attract stalkers.

DON
Are you being stalked?

MEREDITH

Yes. Some creep stalks me like a timber wolf. I have a PFA order out against him but that doesn't do shit. The cops can't always be there for you.

DON

Sorry to hear you're in such a vulnerable state.

MEREDITH

Which is the real reason I wound up in this hotel room with you. I saw the bastard at the reception last night. He must have crashed the wedding. I gravitated toward you for protection because you were the only male guest without a date.

DON

My girlfriend and I broke up a week before the wedding.

MEREDITH

Thank God you did. I needed you. When I heard you had a room here at the hotel, I figured that was safer than walking alone to my car in the parking lot.

DON

I sound like the lesser of two evils. Just so you know, I'm hardly an action hero. I did play high school football but I was the kicker.

MEREDITH

You can always kick him in the balls if he breaks into our room. But I must warn you that he recently got out of prison for manslaughter.

DON

Just wonderful. A stalker with a killer instinct who's horny as hell.

MEREDITH

Man up for a damsel in distress.

DON

Do I look like Prince Valiant to you?

MEREDITH

Prince Pussy, what kind of man are you?

DON

A smart one who likes keeping his body parts intact. I'm attached to them. I'm also an underwear model.

MEREDITH

Probably for adult diapers since you're the kind of guy who shits his pants at the first sniff of danger.

DON

I'm your only shield against this guy and you're insulting me? I could just walk out that door and go home. He has no beef with me.

MEREDITH

I caught the stalker's eye while we were dancing at the reception and he was staring laser beams of destruction at both of us. He likely thinks you're my boyfriend, especially if he followed us to this room.

DON

So I do have some skin in this game. Skin that this guy would love to peel like a grape just to get to you. You set me up big time.

MEREDITH

I was desperate. I just wish you were a Navy Seal packing a Glock right now.

DON

So do I.

MEREDITH

If you protect me from this stalker, I promise to text you weather alerts regularly.

DON

A good thing you're not a salesman. How about promising to fuck my brains out for risking making the ultimate sacrifice?

MEREDITH

Done. Unless he blows your brains out first.

DON

So let's screw now.

MEREDITH

I have a bad headache. Must be the stress.

DON

Do we confront him here if he breaks in or make a run for it?

MEREDITH

Since he's so relentless, I doubt he left the hotel.

DON

Agreed.

MEREDITH

He's either in the lobby waiting for us or he's in the hallway waiting to break in our room so he can throw you out the window and rape me.

DON

We stay here. But if we stay past 11 this morning, I'll be charged for another night.

MEREDITH

If we survive, I'll reimburse you. I wish you were brave instead of cheap.

DON

I may surprise you. I saw all The Transporter movies. So I'll pretend I'm Jason Statham.

MEREDITH

I can't begin to tell you how utterly safe that makes me feel.

DON

I'm going to remove the curtain shower bar and smack the stalker hard across the shins with it if he breaks in. Then you slam his back with the ironing board I saw in the closet. And then I'll hit him over the head with the nightstand lamp.

MEREDITH

Not bad. But we don't know how long it will be before he breaks in. Do we stand there the whole time holding a curtain shower bar, an ironing board and a lamp? Suppose I have to pee?

DON

Pee on the carpet. It might wash away some of the semen in the carpet.

MEREDITH

That's totally disgusting.

DON

I read where even expensive hotel rooms are petri dishes for high levels of bacteria.

MEREDITH

That's it! We can expose him to enough germs to incapacitate him.

DON

Apparently the TV remote and the main light switch are crawling with germs.

MEREDITH

What do we do? Ask him to keep changing channels and turning on and the the lights until he keels over?

DON

Once he gets woozy from the bacteria, we'll knock him out.

MEREDITH

That could take years. The hotel bill will be astronomical. We need another plan.

DON

I also saw an iron in the closet. How about I grab that and crawl under the bed while you lie on the bed? When he breaks in and jumps on you, I'll pop out and slam him in the head with the iron.

MEREDITH

I'll pass on that. Suppose you fall asleep under the bed or smother in all the dust bunnies under there?

DON

Then it's time to get weaponized.

He climbs out of bed, wearing boxers and a T-shirt. He walks into the bathroom and returns with the curtain shower bar. Then he goes into the closet and grabs the ironing board and iron.

MEREDITH

I've just gotten this weather forecasting job and I can't get fucked up. The lady I replaced was fired because she put on too much weight. She started covering up the entire East Coast while standing next to the weather map. Looks are everything on TV.

DON

So you're saying it's OK if I get mutilated because nobody gives a shit what a copywriter looks like?

She hops out of bed wearing a bra and panties.

MEREDITH

Of course not. I just pray the stalker is bisexual and goes after you first so I can scoot out the door.

DON

Thanks for having my back.

MEREDITH

But I'd tell the front desk to send someone up to our room.

DON

I'm sure they'd be lickety-split getting up here. I'd be dissected like a biology frog by then.

MEREDITH

The key is to stay calm. If we panic, we'll mess things up and he'll destroy us.

The STALKER, big and thick and in his 40's, bursts through the door. Meredith is a manic mess, screaming and crying while temporarily paralyzed by fear. A nervous Don grabs the shower bar but it slips through his hands. The stalker lunges at him and pins him to the floor.

DON

Mr. Stalker, you're bigger and stronger than me. So why do we have to resort to violence to keep you away from her? How about we call room service and request a deck of cards? You and I could play a game of red takes black. If you win, you get total access to Meredith. If I win, you swear to leave her alone forever and politely bid your adieu. Or to speed things up, we could just flip a coin.

MEREDITH

(Screaming)

I hate you Don for being such a coward!

STALKER

I don't want to hurt you. My high school yearbook proclaimed me to be the most likely to become a Good Samaritan. I just want to talk to Meredith. If you agree to not hit me, I will let you up.

DON

Deal.

STALKER

Deal.

The stalker gets up off Don and extends a hand to him as he arises. Meredith is crying hysterically.

MEREDITH

Why are you stalking me? We've never met.

STALKER

We meet every weeknight at 6:15 and 11:15 when you come into my living room. I love how you say that clouds will be trespassing upon the sun. I live for cloudy days just so I can hear you say that. When you forecast rain, I fantasize about you being wet. When you predict a cold day, I imagine your nipples hard.

MEREDITH

Are you crazy? I'm on your TV screen, not in your life. I'm a meteorologist. Not a sex object.

STALKER

You always are so nice to the news anchor and the sports guy. Why can't you be nice to me? Is that because your husband is here?

DON

I'm not her husband. We just met at last night's wedding reception.

MEREDITH

My husband is quite the comedian.

DON

And the perfect gentleman. Let me grab my clothes and I'll leave you two lovebirds alone.

MEREDITH

(Angry)

Damn you for bailing on me and leaving me alone with this sicko.

STALKER

What a guy. I'll have to buy you a drink sometime if I ever find a job.

DON

Sounds good.

Don walks over to the bed and picks up his pants lying on the floor.

STALKER

Kind of cozy, don't you think Meredith?

He lumbers over to her and smiles.

MEREDITH

(Sharply)

I can't believe that wimp is walking out on me.

DON

I just don't like threesomes.

With the stalker's back to him, Don quickly pulls his belt out of his pants' loops, rushes up to the stalker and wraps the belt around his throat. The stalker struggles mightily as Don yanks harder and harder on the belt to choke him.

DON

(Urgently)

Grab your purse and run for it, Meredith!

MEREDITH

In my bra and panties?

DON

(Frantically)

Get the hell out of here before he overpowers me. He's as tough as titanium. I can't hold on forever.

MEREDITH

There's a cold front coming in. I'll be chilly. And I'll look like a slut in the lobby. People might recognize me.

DON

(Shouting)

You'll look like a fucking corpse if you stay here and just stand there. Hit him with the damn iron!

She picks up the iron but when she goes to slam it on the stalker's head, he violently twists and the iron hits Don on the head. He slumps to the floor onto his back. The stalker picks up the ironing board and is about to whack Don with it when Don forcefully and repeatedly kicks the stalker in the groin. Whimpering in pain, the stalker crumples to the floor. Don jumps up and firmly plants his right foot on the stalker's throat.

MEREDITH

You must have been a hell of a placekicker and punter.

DON

Call 9-1-1 and get the cops here before this big lug turns us both into lunchmeat.

She fetches her purse, pulls out her phone and punches in 9-1-1.

MEREDITH

(Into her phone)

Please send police immediately to Room 412 at the Downtown Hotel. I'm Meredith Abbott, a weather forecaster on Channel 13. A stalker broke into our hotel room but my boyfriend has him temporarily subdued.

She ends the call.

DON

You called me your boyfriend.

MEREDITH

What did you want me to say? That the guy I just had a one-night stand with is trying to save my honor and my ass?

DON

Since I've saved your ass, will you have dinner with me tonight?

MEREDITH

Your request is granted, my Prince Valiant. But it has to be an English pub with a round table.

STALKER

(Raspy because of Don's foot on his throat)

Now that I've gotten to know you Meredith, I don't like you anymore. And you're not as attractive in person as you are on television.

DON

It must be the extra studio makeup.

MEREDITH

You stay out of this, Don.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF PLAY)

