

RANSOM

Written by

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EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

In the early evening a man limps up to a short set of stairs that lead to the back door of the kitchen of a restaurant. The man, BARRY, 50, is disheveled enough that you question if he's drunk. He climbs the stairs and pounds on the door, waits then pounds again.

BARRY  
(While knocking)  
Allan!

While Barry is yelling his name, ALLAN, 45, quickly opens the door. He is dressed in a well-worn chef uniform and a tired expression.

ALLAN  
-Shut up, I'm here. I'm also  
working, so what do you need?

BARRY  
Don't bullshit me, you got off 5  
minutes ago. Have a drink.

Barry hands Allan a tall can of beer and sits at the bottom of the stairs as Allan slides down the wall to lean up against the kitchen door.

ALLAN  
Since when do you know my work  
schedule?

BARRY  
Since I've needed to.

ALLAN  
What do you need then?

Barry takes a long swig of his drink, pain in his eyes. He waits a beat after finishing his drink before saying.

BARRY  
So, I told Damien he can have the  
money.

Allan lets his head fall back against the door, hitting hard.

ALLAN  
Barry, he's not going to let her  
go. You could have at least kept  
the five thousand dollars!

BARRY

I had to do it! I know he's a scumbag but he might have some decency left.

ALLAN

Unlikely.

BARRY

You know I have to get her back. He may not honor his word but it's better than not trying and him shooting my wife because I couldn't spare the ransom.

ALLAN

You can't spare the ransom! You haven't had work in months, where are you getting this money anyway?!

Barry takes another hard swig, avoiding Allan's gaze. Allan realizes the answer and rubs his face with his beer-free hand.

ALLAN (CONT'D)

You realize you're never getting out if the cops catch you again.

BARRY

I have no choice. I can't live without her, so it's just something I have to do.

ALLAN

How much have you sold so far?

BARRY

6 ounces.

It's Allen's turn to take a hard swig. Then he gets up and goes back into the kitchen and returns with the tray from the cash register. He shoves it to Barry with a gruff-

ALLAN

I can't have you going back to prison.

BARRY

This is your whole month, I can't take this from you.

ALLAN

Look, I can balance this, and you can't handle this on your own. At least this way it's legal.

Barry pulls Allan up and into a hug.

BARRY

Thank you.

ALLAN

Go get your woman back.

They both smile and turn away from each other. Barry walks off with the money and Allan goes back into the kitchen and yells to his partner-

ALLAN (CONT'D)

(Offscreen)

Lorenzo, you're getting your half tomorrow!

LORENZO

(Offscreen, fading out)

God dammit man! I really needed that tonight! My buddy's throwing this sick party downtown and I needed those singles you know what I mean!

FADE TO BLACK.