

Henry is sitting in the chair, dressed in a suit and tie. He is jittery. After a while, Edwards enters from the bedroom in a casual robe. He sees Henry, then exits through the apartment door. He reenters moments later with a newspaper.

Edwards

It's a bit early in the morning to be dressed up.

Henry

What time is it?

He takes a golden pocket watch and chain out of his robe. When it opens, a ticking sound is heard.

Edwards

8 AM.

Edwards closes the watch. The ticking stops.

Henry

Well, you know me, Edwards. I dress for no one but myself.

Edwards scoffs and goes to pour himself some coffee.

I'm surprised you're even up this early. That job last night ended late.

Edwards

This wasn't a normal job, though. This was the job that's gonna make me. I'm made, Henry. Made!

Henry

How much?

Edwards

Enough to buy the biggest island in the Pacific.

Henry

Australia is the biggest island in the Pacific.

Edwards

And that's how rich I'm gonna be.

Henry

All this for a poor chump without a security team? It's too much. Don't make the deal.

Edwards plops himself down on the couch with his coffee and newspaper.

Edwards

Well, Henry, you know me. I never look a gift horse in the mouth.

Henry

You're getting careless. You feel it too. I know you do. This guy, Faust, he's nothing but trouble.

Edwards

Shut up already, would you?

Henry

You've never seen his face, his voice is always masked, and he's paying you top dollar for a low level target. Edwards, it –

Edwards

I said be quiet! I've got this under control! Me! I'm the one who's gonna be filthy rich! I'm gonna be the one controlling everything and everyone. By tomorrow, every person I see will be at my command.

Henry

Money doesn't work like that. People are still people.

Edwards

Wrong. See, what you don't understand is that money is the universal language. People are always gonna want something. It's how they survive on this crazy little world. They want something, they need something, to make themselves better, to take down the next guy on top. Money symbolizes the grandness of want. A fixed, neutral medium through which anything can be acquired, any desire can be satisfied. And the next time my phone rings, and Faust confirms payment for services rendered, I am going to have all the money I'm ever going to want.

A phone rings. Henry and Edwards both check their pockets and pull out a cell phone.

Mine. Ha ha, see? Watch this.

He answers the phone. Henry also puts his phone to his ear.

Hello?

Henry

It's Emily. She's just found out the gender of the baby. She wants to know if you want to know.

Edwards's face twists in discomfort and rage.

Edwards

I made it clear I didn't want to hear from you again. Hell, I blocked you on everything. How are you calling me right now!?

Henry

She's using a payphone at the mall. You're not that untouchable, Edwards.

Edwards

Are you kidding me? Whatever. I'm busy and I don't care. I don't care about your baby –

Henry

It's not just her baby. It's yours too.

Edwards

Didn't you hear me? I don't care! I don't care whose it is, I don't care what gender it is, I just want you gone. You want money? Of course you do. I'll pay you to leave me alone.

Henry

She's crying. She needs to see you. She says she has to tell you something important.

Edwards

No. No. Do not come here. I've already told you, I'm not going to see you anymore.

Henry

She's adamant. She still loves you. She'll be here in ten minutes.

Henry hangs up his phone.

Edwards

Damn it!

Edwards slams his phone down on the table.

Henry

It was a girl, in case you wanted to know.

Edwards checks his pocket watch. Again, when he opens it, a ticking sound is heard.

Edwards

Ten minutes? I can be out of here in ten minutes.

When he closes the pocket watch, the ticking sound stops.

Henry

There's no point in avoiding her. She'll be back. She loves you.

Edwards

How many times have I said it? I don't care.

Henry

Then what are you gonna do? You gonna keep running? Off into the horizon with you? Like a coward. Always running at the first sight of trouble, just to go cause it somewhere else. Well I got news for you, Edwards. The line of work you chose brings nothing but trouble. You're gonna be neck deep in the stuff for the rest of your life. And sure you can run. Everyone can run. But if your legs don't get tired along the way, one day, you're gonna realize that this ugly little world is round. You're gonna make it over that horizon just to find yourself in the same trouble you started in.

Edwards

So you're suggesting I stay here and let that woman and her little brat ruin my life.

Henry

Consider the alternative. You'd be running scared at the first sign of family and commitment. That certainly doesn't sound dignified.

Edwards considers this for a moment, then smiles.

Edwards

Fine, Henry. You've convinced me. I'll stay. Besides, I'm a dangerous man. What can she possibly do to me?

Henry

More than you can ever imagine.

Edwards takes the newspaper and begins reading it. It is positioned so that his face is blocked. The phone rings. Edwards doesn't even acknowledge it, which is strange because he is anxious for a call from Faust. In fact, it looks like Edwards is frozen in time, unmoving, with his face hidden from the audience. Henry answers his phone.

Hello?...Oh hi April...No I'm not busy...Well actually...I'm waiting on a call from Mr. Faust...I mean, uh, Mr. Peterson...Yes he does...He says he has a job for me if I want it and to wait for his call for confirmation...Why yes, as a matter of fact, I am dressed up for a phone call. It makes me feel more professional...To tell you the truth, I'm nervous. I haven't worked

since getting out. What if...? Oh never mind. You're right. I will be fine...But yes I will be free tonight...When will you be home?

He reaches into his pocket with his free hand and pulls out a pocket watch and chain identical to Edwards's. When he opens it, there is also the sound of ticking heard.

7:30? I'll make some of that baked ziti you like so much. You do like it right?...No you won't hurt my feelings...Alright fine I'll order takeout for us and start up a movie or something, ok?...Ok good. See you tonight. I love you.

He hangs up and puts his phone away. He looks down at the watch for a second and closes it. The ticking stops. He puts this away also. Edwards puts his paper down.

Edwards

And I'll tell you something else. Now that I'm rich, I'll be able to get any girl I want.

Henry

Is that so?

Edwards

Yep. That's how it works. Chicks only want guys who have money. It's a natural animalistic desire, dating back to the Stone Age. They want to know a guy can provide for them. Therefore, the more money you have, the better women you have. Emily, I got her when I had less money. So now, it's time for me to upgrade.

Henry

What are you talking about? Her father was the owner of one of the biggest corporations in the country.

Edwards

Well, she's clearly not rich enough if she got pregnant.

Henry

You...you actually believe that. All of it. You...

Edwards

It's the truth.

Henry

You actually believe that. And I know you do because...Do you know how I met April? I came out of prison with nothing. I lived on the streets for months. April, she saw me, she pitied me, she got me back on my feet.

She is the kindest soul I have ever met. I am as much hers as she is mine.
And I didn't need anything material. I just needed to learn some humility.

Edwards

I bet I could buy her.

Henry stands suddenly and furiously.

Henry

You're out of line, Edwards. I'm in control here. There are things that I
will not allow you to say.

*Henry stares down at Edwards. They stare at each other intensely. Finally, Edwards averts his
gaze and tends to his coffee.*

Edwards

Fine.

Henry slowly sits back down.

But my position on Emily hasn't changed.

Henry

I didn't expect it to.

Edwards

Once payment comes through, you better believe that Daddy's gonna get
the hell outta here.

Henry

You are despicable.

Edwards

Don't judge me. You can't judge me until you get your hands on more
money than me.

Henry

I just can't believe you don't see this coming.

Edwards

See what coming?

Henry

This.

The phone rings. Edwards snatches his phone off of the table.

Edwards

Finally!

Henry picks up his phone as Edwards answers.

Faust. It's about goddamn time.

Henry

It is Faust. His voice is masked, as it usually is during your interactions with him.

Edwards

Listen, Faust, I'm about to be a busy man, so just give me the number of the Swiss bank account already and let's be done with each other, alright?

Henry

He's laughing. There's going to be a problem with that, he says. There is no money.

Edwards

What? What do you mean? Faust, you son of a –

Henry

The police have the footage of you killing a man. A private investigator. Conveniently, the same private investigator Faust hired to scope you out. He thanks you. Now he doesn't have to pay him either.

Edwards

I don't have any problems with you, Faust, or whoever the hell you are! Why are you doing this? Why!?

Henry

Maybe next time you'll think twice before getting someone's daughter pregnant and treating her worse than an animal. The only reason he's even warning you is because he promised her.

Edwards

What...no...God no...

Henry

The police are on their way. You have about ten minutes.

Henry hangs up.

Edwards

You son of a bitch! I'm gonna kill you! You saw what I did to that guy? Oh, you got something worse coming for you buddy. You hear me? Do you hear me!?

Edwards throws his phone, enraged.

I'm going to kill him.

Henry

No time, Edwards. Ten minutes.

Edwards

I gotta...I gotta get out of here

Edwards exits into the bedroom. He reenters, too quickly, it would seem, fully dressed. He goes to the exit of the apartment, but Henry is standing in his way.

Henry

Again with the running.

Edwards

This is different and you know it.

Henry

It's no different. You're no different.

Edwards

Stop talking. And get out of my way.

Henry

Do you really have everything you need?

Edwards takes his pocket watch out. It opens accidentally and ticking is heard.

Edwards

This is all I need. I might not be rich anymore, but this family heirloom is worth more than this entire building. Now. Get out of my way.

Edwards closes the watch, stopping the ticking, and pushes past Henry and goes towards the door.

Henry

You wanna know what happens when you walk out that door?

Edwards stops, a few feet away from the exit.

You're going to get in your car. You're going to race away, but Emily will be standing in the middle of the street. She won't move. You expect her to. She's going to die. Your child...is going to die.

The two turn to look at each other, Edwards in rage, Henry in contempt.

And the worst part? You will feel absolutely nothing. You will pause by the side of the road to watch the blood pour from her crumpled body and all you will be able to think about is how you're going to get away with this.

Edwards

I think I've had just about enough of you.

Henry

The police will find you in the end. They only wanted you for questioning, anyways. The footage of your murder was inconclusive and thrown out at your trial, but you had just killed a woman and her unborn child. That was not going to rest well with the jury.

With a yell, Edwards launches himself at Henry, but Henry steps to the side and Edwards falls to the ground.

Look at you...no...look at me. So full of fury...pride...They're going to break you in prison. It'll be so satisfying to watch.

Edwards slowly gets up off the ground, angry, but desperate.

Edwards

Keep talking. Just keep on talking. I dare you.

Henry

Fifteen years. Fifteen years of my life wasted, rotting in a cell, slowly having everything drained out of me. By the time you left, you were less than nothing. But April saved us, gave us a place to live and another chance to love. And that's where we are now. The crossroads of remorse and second chances.

Edwards punches Henry square across the face, but Henry is unfazed. Edwards punches him again, and again, and again, but Henry is unmoved. He cannot feel a thing.

Your time is up. Can you feel it? The ending of you and the beginning of me.

Edwards

I have no ending. I'm unstoppable, baby. This is just a setback. I'll be on my feet again in no time, you'll see.

Henry

Yes, that's the problem, isn't it? You never ended. Mr. Peterson is giving me an opportunity to really make something of my life, but you just won't get out of my head!

Henry takes out his pocket watch. Edwards looks in horror and confusion. He feels around in his own pockets for the watch, but he can't find it.

Edwards

How did you...no...you thief...

Henry

My name is Henry Edwards and whoever you are...you are going to die!

Henry lunges with the chain. The watch comes open and the ticking is heard. Henry swiftly wraps the chain around Edwards's neck and begins strangling him. Edwards struggles in a futile effort. The sound of the ticking grows louder as Edwards begins losing his strength, his flailing becoming more and more sluggish. Suddenly, the phone rings. The ticking sound stops. Henry releases his hold on Edwards, who slumps to the ground, and takes his phone out.

Hello?...Oh Mr. Peterson, hello...No I'm not busy, I just got a little tied up. I've actually been waiting for your call all morning...You said you would call me today if you found any work for me.

Henry's face slowly switches from hopeful to worried.

My past work experience?... So you know... I see...Mr. Peterson, I am trying as hard as I can to...It's not really something I want to...How much?

Below, Edwards stirs weakly and crawls over to Henry. He rolls over and looks up at Henry.

Edwards

You can't...kill...me...

Henry closes his eyes and takes a deep breath.

Henry

Very well...I'll take the job...Yes...A pleasure doing business with you.

He hangs up the phone.

Curtain