

DESIRE'

Four hundred thousand is a lot, Whip. What would you do with it?

WHIP

Keep it.
(Beat.)
You?

DESIRE'

I don't know. I never had that much before, I wouldn't know what to do.

WHIP

Well I'll tell you what I wouldn't do, I wouldn't turn it in.

DESIRE'

That's dishonest.

WHIP

You didn't ask if I would do the right thing. You just asked what I would do and I said I'd keep it. I aint turning in nothing like that, it could've been two, it could've been twenty, or it could've been a cool million. I don't care because obviously whoever it belonged to didn't need it that bad, so why waste the time trying to give it back?

DESIRE'

Well at least you've got your priorities straight.

WHIP

You damned right I do. I got dreams Desire', I got placed to be, people to see, things to do in this life. Four hundred thousand could get me where I want to be.

DESIRE'

Is that so?

WHIP

Yup.

DESIRE'

So after you've decided to keep it, what you gonna do with it next? You can't take money like that to a bank and expect to deposit it without heads being turned. Where are you going to keep it while you go to them places and see all them people and do all them things?

WHIP

Well since I know you aint gonna snitch on me, I figure I'd give it to you to put away in a wall somewhere until I need a withdrawal.

DESIRE'

And you expect me to just hide it?

WHIP

Well not really hide it, just keep it out of sight from others. It couldn't stay here though. This place has been known to catch fire; I wouldn't want it burning up.

DESIRE'

Are we really making a plan right now or are we just blowing smoke?

WHIP

Let's talk this thing out Desire', for real. I can't go to the bank with it because that'll look suspicious. I'm sure someone is out there watching what I'm doing so I've gotta maintain my regular profile with going to work down at DeMarco's every day and driving that shit excuse for a car he gave me.

DESIRE'

Okay.

WHIP

And Lord knows I can't tell him, our own cousin, first cousin, about any of it, not yet. I mean I've gotta pay him back but not 'til I'm ready to.

(Beat.)

Here's what we'll do. Lay low for about a week, keep doing what we've been doing like nothing new happened and then we'll pack up one night and be gone before day break. We'll take that dune buggy of a car to some dealership at least fifty to a hundred miles out of town, buy that big truck I've been telling you about, and keep driving 'til we hit the coast and don't look back.

DESIRE'

You've clearly had some time to think about this, haven't you?

WHIP

I mean it's not every day that you happen to take the trash out and find a case full of money, but when it happens you ought to be prepared.

DESIRE'

And what are we gonna do when we hit the coast?

WHIP

I've got a guy out there who can hook us up with a nice place for a couple nights until we find a nice house to set up shop in. The west coast is beautiful sis, just palm trees and paradise and pure sunshine. Rob knows a guy who knows a guy and we're gonna be straight when we get there.

DESIRE'

What's so bad about staying here Whip? This was our home for the past fifteen years. All we know is here.

WHIP

That's exactly why we should take the money and split! If we stay here we aint never getting out, even if we owned half the city. I wanna see the world sis, I wanna fly a plane, I wanna lay out on the beach behind my own house without a care in the world.

DESIRE'

Why? That seems like a waste. You said you had dreams, Whip. Is flying a plane and beach bumming a dream come true for you?

WHIP

No, but owning the airplane and the beach behind my house is. I'm tired of riding commercial, taking public transportation, lying on someone else's beach, swimming in the same water as the rest of the world. I want something to call my own Desire'.

DESIRE'

And four hundred thousand dollars is going to get you there?

WHIP

Yeah.

DESIRE'

How?

WHIP

By buying our freedom. Whoever said money don't grow on trees must not have looked in their trash cans.

(Beat.)

Look, Desire'. Look at all this cash. It's real. It didn't come from any forest on this side of town but it found its way. I think we ought to do what we can with it.

DESIRE'

I see it, but do we have to do what you want with it?

WHIP

I don't get it. What do you mean?

DESIRE'

I mean, do I get a say in what we should do with it?

WHIP

You said you didn't know.

DESIRE'

That wasn't my real answer. I thought you were asking me hypothetically.

WHIP

Okay, so then what would you do with the money?

DESIRE'

I would--

WHIP

Wait, forget I asked. No way! Not even if we had a million, two million, not even two hundred gajillion! Not happening.

DESIRE'

Why not?

WHIP

Because that's ridiculous!

DESIRE'

How is that ridiculous? That's our brother we're talking about here.

WHIP

That asshole is not my brother anymore. Besides, you know how much that'll cost. From the plane tickets, the passports, hiring a translator, and then finally paying them off as well. We won't have anything left to get back with, then what are we gonna do?

DESIRE'

We could just wire some money for his release and a ticket home. We don't have to physically go.

WHIP

Yes we would. He wouldn't get on that plane if I wasn't there to drag him home. He can rot in jail for all I care, he deserves it.

DESIRE'

What if mom heard you say that?

WHIP

She did! I told her that right before she died how much I thought of her and Russell. She was no good and didn't give a damn about me, or you! And Russell was a bully and a conman and damn near a murderer. I'm surprised it took this long for someone to finally put that animal in the cage where he belonged.

DESIRE'

But that's still your brother. And mine.

WHIP

You can take that long trip if you want to. I'm taking my money and getting out of town.

DESIRE'

And what about me?

WHIP

What about you?

DESIRE'

I have dreams too, Whip.

WHIP

Yeah? What about?

DESIRE'

Hypotheticals. Possibilities. Happiness.

WHIP

Great. Let me know if money will get you any of those. In the meantime, start packing your things. We're gotta be gone in three days.