

DANGER GORILLA  
An original Screenplay  
by  
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FADE IN  
BEGIN CREDITS

(OPEN) V.O.

KNAPP

We had about 5 minutes to save the janitor and the gorilla, or we were going to lose them both. The entire caper was going to be a complete failure, Loretta was lactating all over the place, Westinghouse's readings were going bat guano, and Tripper had absolutely no idea, short of shooting the kid, what to do with a screaming baby.

(pause)

But I'm getting ahead of myself.

INT. BAD GUY HIDEOUT- DAY

ROOM is a LARGE WAREHOUSE similar to an industrial loft apartment.

4 men and one woman sit around a table discussing their scheme.

Brian Knapp (male, white, 40s) speaks from the end of the table.

KNAPP

Thank you for being here. We five are about to embark on the greatest heist in modern history. Each of you only knows his or her part. Today we put the pieces together.

The five look around at each other. Knapp gestures to Westinghouse.

WESTINGHOUSE is rolling 10-sided dice and writing the results down in a spiral notebook.

WESTINGHOUSE (white, 20s, nerd, thin) continues rolling.

KNAPP

Nicolai Westinghouse. Electronics genius, computer hacker, security systems specialist. If it is run by circuits, Nicolai can override it.

WESTINGHOUSE does not acknowledge the intro.

LORETTA Q (female, black, fit, 30s) sits across from him.

KNAPP

Ah, yes. Well. Next we have Loretta Q. Surgical nurse. She will be largely responsible for getting us access for phase 2. And helping me in my part, of course.

WEAK APPLAUSE.

HARRY TRIPPER (male, 40s, very thin, European, Italian or

Hispanic, dark hair).

KNAPP

Every heist needs an enforcer. Harry  
Tripper.

TRIPPER

Hare.

KNAPP

Yes, of course, Hare. Mr. Tripper is  
responsible for any unforeseen difficulty  
that may arise. Guards, law enforcement,  
witnesses, by-standers.

TRIPPER raises his gun.

TRIPPER

Bang.

KNAPP

WEAK APPLAUSE.

CHARLEY BARREL (30s, stocky, white, intellectually slow).

KNAPP

And lastly, Charley Barrel. The brave  
janitor on whom everything hinges.

WEAK APPLAUSE.

LORETTA answers a text.

LORETTA

Sorry.

LORETTA puts her phone away.

LORETTA

OK, Brain. Spill it. What's this all for?

KNAPP

For to make us all ridiculously rich, sweet  
Loretta. Behold!

KNAPP shows a picture on a laptop of a diary in a clear case.

KNAPP

On loan from the UK, showing for only one  
week, The Hitchcock Diary.

WESTINGHOUSE speaks without looking up from his dice rolling.

WESTINGHOUSE

That's an urban legend.

KNAPP

Its contents are the stuff of legend Mr.

Westinghouse, but its existence is reality.

TRIPPER polishes his gun while he speaks.

TRIPPER

That's the Director Hitchcock, right?

KNAPP

Precisely. The British legend. With an equally legendary story about his diary. No one currently living has ever read it. But it purportedly contains admissions by Hitchcock himself that he did not direct any of the films for which he has been given credit.

LORETTA

Didn't direct his films?

LORETTA grimaces as she pulls out her phone and answers another text.

KNAPP

Correct. His reputation has been based on mendacities. Frippery. Falsehoods. And if its alleged contents were ever proven true, it would stand the Hollywood elitists on their heads. The amount of money they would pay to keep the contents private is nearly incalculable. The McGuffin, as it were, will be held in the safe of the Metropolitan Museum every night, on their most secure floor.

TRIPPER

So we heist it during the transport to the secure floor, right?

KNAPP

Incorrect. As formidable as you are with a firearm, Mr. Tripper you would not be able to overcome 8 trained, armored operatives equipped with automatic rifles. No, our approach will be much less conventional. And each of you will have a decidedly critical role to play. Phase one-

KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

TRIPPER

Expecting company?

KNAPP

I am not.

TRIPPER stands.

TRIPPER

I'll get rid of them.

TRIPPER walks to the front door and opens it.

LITTLE GIRL(O.C.)

Hello sir. Would you like to buy some cookies to support our club?

TRIPPER pulls his pistol and shoots 3 times. He picks up the cookies and closes the front door.

LORETTA

What the hell are you doing?

TRIPPER

I said I'd get rid of them.

LORETTA

You shot a little girl???

TRIPPER

No. I shot two girls. And their club leader.

LORETTA

Why? Why???

TRIPPER

They saw my face.

KNAPP

They had no idea what we were doing in here.

TRIPPER holds up a box.

TRIPPER

Cookies?

KNAPP

It will be alright. Mr. Tripper, please go attend to the problem. The rest of you pay attention to my presentation.

TRIPPER LEAVES.

LORETTA

But he just shot 3 people!

KNAPP

And it will be alright.

LORETTA STANDS.

LORETTA

I've had it. I'm leaving.

KNAPP (slowly)

Remember Missy.

LORETTA SITS.

KNAPP

Good. Now. We steal the safe from the Metropolitan Gallery which contains the original copy of Hitchcock's diary. First problem: If we try to open safe without punching in the proper 32-digit punch code, the safe explodes with a devastating blast, destroying the diary and the burglar... and the top 8 floors of the museum.

WESTINGHOUSE

I can punch in 2 wrong codes before the safe arms itself. I will need about 2 hours for my equipment to crack the 32-digit code, which means bringing it back here.

KNAPP

Correct. And how do we remove a 4-ton safe from its secure room, atop a pyramidal building? We cannot just land on the pitched roof and access from above. Armed guards with automatic rifles patrol below. Seems quite a quandary. Until Mr. Barrel and I hit on the solution.

BARREL

I said- we need a trained gorilla. But then I said- train a gorilla? Man, that would take forever.

KNAPP

And that monologue set in motion the precise plan we will discuss today.

THE FRONT DOOR OPENS. TRIPPER walks in and sits down.  
LORETTA answers another text.

KNAPP

Everything copacetic?

TRIPPER

Fine.

LORETTA

But he shot 3 people.

AWKWARD SILENCE as everyone stares around the room.

KNAPP

Remember Missy.

:ORETTA looks down, not answering.

KNAPP

Alright. The problem? Moving a 4-ton safe from a pyramidal building with no roof access above, and ravenous, well-armed guards below.

WESTINGHOUSE ROLLING DICE.

KNAPP (CONT)

The answer? A gorilla with the ability to move a 4-ton safe from a pyramidal building with no roof access above, and ravenous well-armed guards below.

TRIPPER

But training the ape would take too long, even if he could learn it at all.

KNAPP

As was said. So? We change the learning curve by giving the gorilla a human brain.

AWKWARD SILENCE as everyone stares around the room.

KNAPP

In addition to being a master criminal, some of you know I am also a brilliant neurosurgeon. A skill set which will serve me well.

LORETTA

A horrific transplant.

KNAPP

Exactly. Mr. Barrel knows of the operational procedure and has graciously volunteered his brain for the caper. I will remove his brain from his body, and place it in the body of the gorilla, keeping Mr. Barrel's body alive on life support, which you will oversee.

LORETTA

And when the robbery is over?

LORETTA answers another text.

KNAPP

Mr. Barrel has the option of returning to his human body or keeping his new one.

(beat)

Did you- get that?

LORETTA

Yeah. Sorry. What happens to the ape?

BARREL

This is the part I don't like. It's mean.

KNAPP

The gorilla brain will be dead, and the consciousness of that gorilla will go wherever gorilla consciousnesses go when gorilla life is over.

TRIPPER is POLISHING HIS GUN.

TRIPPER

Wait, you don't mind your brain getting shoved into an ape, but you are concerned about how the ape feels? By the way, where's the beer?

BARREL

You don't know if he's going to feel pain or fear or panic.

LORETTA

Why not just keep the ape brain on ice?

KNAPP

The procedure will be far above ape comprehension. It's not the pulling it out that is the problem, it is the reconnecting of the brain to the gorilla's body. Its psyche will not be able to grasp the meaning of the trauma and die anyway.

BARREL

That's sad.

TRIPPER

It's not sad. It's an ape. You're a freak.

BARREL

No, you're just as ass. Remember on Star Trek TOS where the Enterprise was being overtaken by the Scalosians, the people that moved at super speed so their conversations sounded like buzzing?

WESTINGHOUSE stops rolling.

WESTINGHOUSE

Season 3, Episode 11, Wink of an Eye.

BARREL

Right! Invisible, time-accelerated aliens tried to take over the Enterprise and abduct the crew for genetic stock.



WESTINGHOUSE

It was kind of a bland episode but considering it was season 3 it was better than average, better than Spock's Brain, which was the worst ever. Specter of the Gun was probably the best out of Season 3.

TRIPPER

Well, we found out what it takes to get him to quit rolling his dice. Can I get a beer?

BARREL

The point is when we base the value of other beings, based on what we know of human experience, we miss a lot.

TRIPPER

You're kidding.

KNAPP

He's not. But back to the summary of our duties and objectives-

WESTINGHOUSE BEGINS ROLLING again.

KNAPP (CONT)

Loretta will secure the facility, assist in the operation and oversee cryogenic storage of the human body, in anticipation of Mr. Barrel's decision.

TRIPPER

OK, that's the first thing. A hospital. How are you going to secure a hospital without local Law Enforcement raining down hellfire on us.

LORETTA

For decades, Mercy General was the only game in town. You needed a hospital, that's where you ended up. Recent top-end additions in the city, like Heritage Healing Center, have put tremendous pressure on Mercy. The people with money didn't want to go to an old facility and abandoned it in droves. Mercy has had to undergo massive upgrades. One of their original wings has been completely shut down. No one ever uses it and it has minimal surveillance. It just needs power.

WESTINGHOUSE

No problem.

TRIPPER

What about the surveillance?

WESTINGHOUSE keeps rolling while talking.

WESTINGHOUSE

It's offsite. No physical guards. Easy enough to spoof with a prerecorded video loop.

KNAPP

And so, after the exchange, and a short while for Mr. Barrel to acclimate to his new body, we shall initiate Phase 2. The heist itself. But first, I'm getting hungry. Anybody else want to eat?

TRIPPER

I could eat. If I had a beer.

KNAPP

You won't shoot someone if we order delivery will you?

TRIPPER

Would I need to?

KNAPP

No. Anybody else?

LORETTA answers another text.

LORETTA

I'm sorry. I have to make a call.

KNAPP

Westinghouse? Barrel?

BARREL

Sure.

WESTINGHOUSE

What?

KNAPP

Food?

WESTINGHOUSE

Oh, right, right. Of course.

LORETTA moves herself away from the group and dials her phone.

LORETTA (TO PHONE)

Hey it's me.

(pause)

No I can't come get him. I am in this meeting.

(pause)

OK. You fed him?

(pause)  
Burped him?  
(pause)  
Changed him?  
(pause)  
I know he's teething. That's why I gave you  
the clove oil.  
(pause)  
No, Missy can't come! You know she's in  
physical therapy. It will be hours.  
(pause)  
Constance, just do this for us.  
(pause)  
Constance-  
(pause)  
Constance?  
(pause)  
Constance!  
(pause)  
Alright! I'll take him!  
(pause)  
No I can't come get him. You'll have to  
bring him here.  
(pause)  
I'll text you the address. Text me when you  
get here and I'll come out and get him.  
(pause)  
OK. Bye.

LORETTA stabs off the phone, and turns around to the group.