

Caged

By

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INT.RESTROOM.DAY

MAX is washing his hands and a blade, tainted with blood, in the sink. He cleans up swiftly and begins to walk out. Before he leaves, he looks into the mirror at himself. Then there are knocks on the door. MAX turns his head toward the door.

JACK  
(outside) Hey MAX! we have to get  
outta here.

MAX turns his head to the mirror, looks at himself briefly, then walks out.

EXT.PARK.DAY

JACK  
What took ya so long? You usually  
would've been done in a  
minute. Something happened?

MAX  
Don't worry about it.

JACK  
Gee weez, sorry MAX. I didn't know  
it was that time again... Where's  
your purse? I'll grab your tampons  
for ya.

MAX  
(walks away at fast pace)

JACK  
Hey, what's the matter? It's just a  
joke. (pause) Come on. You wanna go  
get a beer? I found this real nice  
place down town. (pause) I mean,  
there are so many "WILLING" girls  
there and you can drink all the  
beer you can take with only fifty  
bucks. I know the owner, his name  
is Lenny. I guarantee you he will  
hook us up-

MAX  
(stops and turns around)  
I have to go talk to BOSS.

(CONTINUED)

JACK

(stops, silence)

What for? You know you can only see him for important things.

MAX

(big struggle to get it out)

I can't do this anymore JACK. It was fine in the beginning... when we were young and stupid, but... look at us. We are both getting old just pulling our necks further for the Death's scythe to strike. (silence) Do you remember JON from highschool?

JACK

Yeah, that idiot who was in theater.

MAX

Well I met that idiot the other day and he was making big bucks being a movie star. (silence) I remember when we used to make fun of him for thinking too big.

JACK

Just get to the damn point. What are ya going to tell BOSS?

MAX

I'm gonna quit.

JACK

You can't be serious. You're his best hit man! You know everything about him and all of us. He's not just gonna say "Oh, ohkay" and let you walk off like you're parents did.

MAX

Watch it.

JACK

HEY! I'm your best friend and I know what is good for you. You brought me into this, but now I know it better than you do; like the back of my head.

(CONTINUED)

MAX  
You mean back of your hand.

JACK  
What'ed "I" say?

MAX  
No one cares. Let's go.

JACK  
Don't talk to me like I'm a  
dumbass. Back in school I use to  
get better grades than you. Do you  
know how many times I had to help  
you with your homework and-(talk  
until car door closes)

The two of them get to a car. MAX gets in and closes the door.

CUT TO

INT.ROOM.DAY

In the room, the BOSS talking with a man. The BOSS has two body guards standing on either side of him.

BOSS  
Yes sir, that is right. If you  
invest in this business with me  
right now, you'll definitely-

The door to the room opens. MAX and JACK walks through.

MAX  
BOSS, we need to talk.

BOSS  
MAXXY! Of course, of course.  
Nothing I can't do for my favorite  
boy!

MAN1  
What the hell is this? We are in  
the middle of something here you  
punk-

BOSS punches MAN1 in the face. He falls over with his chair.

BOSS  
Watch your mouth you little rat.  
Who do you think you are? Get this  
jackass outta here.

(CONTINUED)

The two bodyguards move to grab MAN1.

MAN1

You're going to regret this you  
old- let go you bozos! (fades away)

Bodyguards take MAN1 outside and JACK follows them.

BOSS

(yells)

I'm not regretting nothing, you  
hear? (murmur) Ain't no good  
business men these days... Hey! How  
are you doing my boy? How's your  
little sister? Still sending her to  
school? Why she must be old enough  
to be in college by now! Hahaha,  
since I pay you, then I guess that  
makes me the Godfather eh?  
Hahahaha. So, what brings you here?

MAX

Ah... well, it's hard to say, you  
know?

BOSS

(silence) Well?

MAX

Shit... ah...

BOSS

Spit it out will ya?

MAX

(silence) Alright. Here it is  
BOSS: I want out.

BOSS

What? What d'you mean?

MAX

I don't want to work for you  
anymore. I don't want to work for  
anyone no more. I want to stop  
killing.

BOSS

The hell's gotten into you!? I knew  
there was something fishy about you  
lately. Is this what you were  
thinking about? HUH?!

(CONTINUED)

MAX

Just calm down for a minute-

BOSS

After all that I did for you, and you're just going to walk out? What made you think you can do that? I oughta-

MAX

GOD, DAMMIT! LISTEN!!! (silence)

BOSS

Don't you raise your voice at me.

MAX

You made me do it... Look BOSS. You are like a father to me. You took me into your family, gave me a place to stay, and gave me purpose. But, see, this purpose made me into someone. Someone I don't want to be no more. If I was not ever more grateful for your generosity I wouldn't even have come here to ask you for your permission. With all my respect and all my wish, I ask you BOSS. Let me out.

BOSS

Come on MAXXY, what did I do wrong? Did I not give you enough credit? Ah, it's because I let that TONY GARCIA kick you around last time! You know it was just for the business sake! Don't worry about it MAX, I'll get anything you want to keep you satisfied-

MAX

I don't want anything from this! Do you want to know what I want? I just want to be able to wake up with a fresh mind in the morning; maybe sleep in a little bit when I'm tired. Then I get ready and go to a normal job where I work hard all day and have a nice little chat with my co-workers. I want to come home exhausted from work. My family and friends will be waiting for me in the kitchen with a good old home-made dinner on the table.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAX (cont'd)

After I eat I'll have a normal  
night watching a normal game  
drinking a normal beer with my  
normal friends! Then most of all...  
I want to crash onto my bed and  
sleep like I'll never wake up.  
(pause) The people I killed  
suffocate me with their bloody  
hands BOSS! They won't stop begging  
for their lives!

BOSS

Is that the only reason?

MAX

(angrily)

What do you mean only? This is my  
life we are talking about here! I'm  
losing the faith in you BOSS. Maybe  
you weren't as respectable as I  
thought you would be.

BOSS

(contemplating, long pause)

Alright, here's your last pay.

BOSS throws a brown bag in front of MAX. MAX picks it up and  
looks at BOSS in disbelief.

BOSS

Now, if you're going out of  
business, I want you out for sure.  
If I ever see you underground...  
just don't make me do it, alright?  
(smiles)

MAX

Thanks BOSS.

BOSS

Tell your little sister uncle Jim  
says 'Hi.'

MAX

Will do. Good luck BOSS.

CUT TO

EXT. IN FRONT OF A BUILDING. DAY

MAX walks out of the building and continues walking down the sidewalk. JACK catches up to MAX from the back.

JACK  
So, how'd it go?

MAX  
I'm a free man. I'm a NEW man!

JACK  
Holy crap, I can't believe you actually pulled that shit off! That's just great! We have to celebrate, my friend, and it's gonna be on me. Alright, let's go to-

JACK stops and reaches into his pocket.

JACK  
Oh, oh, whoop! I'm vibrating.

He pulls out his cell phone and looks at it.

JACK  
It's my girlfriend. Crap. Excuse me.

JACK goes away from MAX for a minute and comes back. While that happens, MAX stares at the sky, smiling and chuckling.

JACK  
Sorry MAX. She wants me real bad right now. I mean, like 'get your ass right here, right now' kind of real bad. I'll call ya later, alright?

MAX  
(smiling)  
Yeah, sure JACK. I'll see you later.

MAX stands in the spot and watches JACK leave.

JACK WALKS OUT RIGHT OUT OF THE SCREEN AND MAX WALKS LEFT OUT OF THE SCREEN ON A WIDE SHOT. THE SCREEN IS CUT TO A PARK. MAX WALKS INTO THE SCREEN FROM THE RIGHT.

(CONTINUED)



MAX walks through the park smiling and chuckling by himself. He has a bottle of water in his hand. He sips it gracefully as he takes a seat on a bench. He sits there and watches everything with overflowing joy.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

INT.MAX'S HOME.NIGHT

A SHORT MONTAGE OF MAX WALKING INTO THE HOUSE AND COOKING, WATCHING TV, READING A BOOK, BRUSHING HIS TEETH, AND GOING TO BED.

After MAX falls asleep, an assassin creeps into his bedroom. He takes out a knife and tries to kill MAX.

Fight scene (IMPROV)

After taking down about six hit men, and getting stabbed in the left arm, he takes care of the wound and gets a pistol. He heads outside of the house. A car drives up to him out of the corner. He points the pistol at the car, ready to shoot.

JACK

Get in the god damn car!

MAX

JACK?

JACK

You deaf? Get in the car!

MAX gets in and JACK starts driving immediately.

MAX

What is going on?

JACK

What do ya think? The BOSS put hits out for you. He couldn't afford no hit man of his set free. You're too valuable-to everyone. So he's gonna kill you because he can't make you his own dog.

MAX

No, no, no. BOSS wouldn't-

(CONTINUED)

JACK

Look at you! Why the hell would anyone else try to do this to you?

MAX

(sarcastic)

I don't know JACK, maybe I killed somebody by an accident!... where are we going?

JACK

You and I are going to take down BOSS and set you free for sure, once and for all.

MAX

He's like a father to us, we can't do this! "I" can't do this!

JACK

A father who's trying to kill you! (pause) Are you gonna run for the rest of your life or are you gonna take this fool and be free? (pause) Good. Now grab that cock in the back and gun it.

MAX

You mean grab the gun and cock it.

JACK

Shut the hell up.

CUT TO

INT.BUILDING.NIGHT

(Improv of MAX and JACK taking down guards to get to the room)

CUT TO

INT.ROOM.NIGHT

The door opens. MAX and JACK walks in, blood over their clothes.

BOSS

What in the world is going on here? MAX, I told you not to let me see you here no more!

(CONTINUED)

MAX

What was the point of telling me that? You were going to make sure that you don't anyway, right?

BOSS

I don't know what you're talking about! The hell is goin' on!?

MAX

Oh, do not even try to back out of your own doings old man. I was really happy. I was so thankful to you... then you backstab me like this! Why did you do that! Why did you do that! Why! Why! Why!

BOSS

(trying to get up from the chair)

MAXXY, you have to talk to me boy-

MAX shoots BOSS. Once initially. After a pause, he uses all the bullets in the magazine. BOSS stays in the chair and takes the blows. MAX collapses on his knees and goes through an emotional surge. He finally calms down.

MAX

It's over... I'm free. I'm really free now... Thanks JACK. If it wasn't for you, I-

When MAX turns his head to look up at JACK, there is a pistol barrel to his head. The gun goes off and MAX dies. JACK takes out a cloth, wipes his gun down, and wipes off MAX's blood that got on his face. He casually puts the gun and the cloth away into his pockets.

WIDE: SHOWS THE WHOLE ROOM WITH MAX ON THE FLOOR, BOSS ON THE CHAIR AND JACK BY THE DOOR. JACK WALKS OUT THE DOOR AND THE CAMERA STAYS STATIONARY.

FADE OUT