

CLIFFORD CLEMAN

Written by

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1 INT. IMBUSCH'S OFFICE - NIGHT**1**

In a dark office, we see a door slowly creep open. In walks three ROBBERS dressed in black carrying dangerous weapons.

All their eyes go in different directions in search of something. Finally, Robber #1 sees it, and motions to the other two that he does so. They both look.

Hanging on the far wall sits a small pedestal with a KEY propped up. The robbers make their way towards it. When they arrive, Robber #1 looks achieved.

2 INT. OUTSIDE HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER**2**

The Robbers exit Imbusch's office into the dark hallway. Suddenly, the lights turn on, and they turn to see IMBUSCH, a school principal, standing in a bathrobe by the light switch. The Robbers hold up their weapons.

IMBUSCH
(nervously, not expecting
this to work)
Uh...drop your weapons?

Miraculously they do, with looks of fear suddenly on their faces.

ROBBER #1
RUN!

They make their way to the exit door, Robber #1 in the lead with the key. When he reaches it, he shuts the door behind him, leading the other two to bonk their heads on it. They fall to the ground, unconscious.

3 INT. OUTSIDE HALLWAY - MORNING**3**

Now dressed and pacing with panic, Imbusch hears a KNOCK at the door. He opens it to see CLIFFORD CLEMAN, a devilishly handsome genius detective, holding a cup of hot coffee.

CLIFFORD
(stepping inside)
I came as fast as I could. Now,
break it down for me.

IMBUSCH
(annoyed)
If you insist.

He takes out a pair of party sunglasses and switches on a boombox on a table to his right. He begins dancing.

CLIFFORD

No, no, I mean the crime!

IMBUSCH

Oh.

(switches off boombox,
points to doorway)

Well, I walked through that door
and saw a group of robbers stealing
the master key to the high school!

Clifford peers into Imbusch's office to see the empty pedestal.

CLIFFORD

And where are the robbers?

A VOICE (O.S.)

(in great pain)

Ow.

Clifford looks down to see that he is standing on Robber #2.

CLIFFORD

Oh, here we are.

Clifford kneels down next to Robber #2. He takes a small notepad and pencil out of his jacket pocket while still holding his hot coffee.

CLIFFORD

Now, tell me who you work for.

ROBBER #2

His name is Vincent Sing. He...

While Robber #2 continues speaking, Clifford tries to write while still holding his coffee, but clearly struggles.

CLIFFORD

I'm sorry, could you just hold this
for a second?

Clifford places the coffee on Robber #2's chest. It topples over and we hear the SIZZLING sound of it burning his chest.

ROBBER #2

AHHHHH!

CLIFFORD

Oh, I am so sorry about that.

IMBUSCH

Don't worry, we've got another.

Clifford stands up, sees and walks over to the barely conscious Robber #3. He sees a knife in his hand. He grabs it and examines it closely.

CLIFFORD

Ah, yes, the knife.

(to Imbusch)

You know, lots of criminals these days try to get so creative with their weapons, but a simple knife is all you really need.

In an attempt to do a trick, Clifford tosses the knife in the air and tries to catch it. But...

ROBBER #3

AHHHHH!

Clifford kneels down quickly, rips Robber #3's jacket open, and examines the wound.

CLIFFORD

I assure you you will be alright.

He turns to Imbusch with a "He will not be alright" look, then stands up.

CLIFFORD

Well, it appears we're out of subjects.

IMBUSCH

Oh, that's alright. They weren't willing to talk anyway.

CLIFFORD

(looking down at the bodies disapprovingly)

Scum.

IMBUSCH

Anyway, I've got to get to work. We're preparing for a special speech tonight from the Prime Minister of Bogadia.

CLIFFORD

Well, isn't that unlucky? The master key to the high school stolen on the same day as a major diplomatic event also located at the high school?

IMBUSCH

I know, right?

(a pause)

Do you think they're connected?

CLIFFORD

(thinking)

No, I don't think so.

Clifford looks down at the corpse for another examination. He notices a small business card with a peculiar "VS" logo on it in the breast pocket. He kneels down, picks it up, and examines it.

4 EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - SOON AFTER

4

As Clifford walks to the parking lot, he says to Imbusch-- waiting at the front steps--while holding up the card:

CLIFFORD

I recognize this logo. I'll have to go see what I can find.

Pulled over on the sidewalk sits a snazzy sports car. Clifford walks to the driver's side. But instead of getting in, he sits on a small pink bicycle right next to it with a fake badge taped to the handlebar. He pedals away.

5 INT. CLIFFORD'S STUDY - NIGHT

5

Clifford sits at his desk which is decorated with numerous police accolades on it. He searches through files.

CLIFFORD (V.O.)

I spend hours searching through the files of my past cases, hoping to remember where I once saw that logo.

Clifford opens another file and sees a business card with that exact "VS" logo paper clipped to a stack of papers. He grins.

6 EXT. VILLAINOUS MANOR - NIGHT

6

Clifford ascends the steps to the front entrance, the "VS" logo on a sign above the door. But two muscular SECURITY GUARDS stand in his way.

GUARD #1
Stop right there.

CLIFFORD
(taking out his license)
Relax, I'm Private Investigator
Clifford Cleman here on important
business.

GUARD #1
(examining it)
Eh, no good.

CLIFFORD
You can't be serious.

GUARD #1
I'm not. He is.

Clifford looks to Guard #2, who he now sees has a "Serious" name tag on his lapel.

CLIFFORD
(looking at it)
You're joking.

GUARD #1
No, I'm Joking.

Clifford looks back to Guard #1, whose name tag reads "Joking."

GUARD #2
What do you not understand about
this?

CLIFFORD
Jesus Christ.

A VOICE (O.S.)
Yes?

Clifford turns to see JESUS CHRIST himself to his left.

CLIFFORD
Oh, I...

JESUS CHRIST
Are you using my name in vain?

CLIFFORD

No, I...

7 EXT. VILLAINOUS MANOR - MOMENTS LATER 7

Clifford lands at the bottom of the steps after being thrown down by the guards. He stands up, dusts himself off, and walks off.

8 EXT. BACK OF VILLAINOUS MANOR - MOMENTS LATER 8

Clifford walks around to the back. He tries a door, this one unguarded. But it is locked. Looking doubtful for a second, he spots a window. He walks over to it, raises it up, and climbs through.

9 INT. BACK ENTRANCE OF VILLAINOUS MANOR - MOMENTS LATER 9

Clifford lands on the floor, stands up, and walks over to the door. He unlocks it. He then walks back to the window and climbs out of it.

10 EXT. BACK ENTRANCE OF VILLAINOUS MANOR - MOMENTS LATER 10

Clifford walks to the now unlocked door and opens it.

11 INT. BACK ENTRANCE OF VILLAINOUS MANOR - MOMENTS LATER 11

Clifford enters and examines the area. He hears voices and sees a dim light down the hall. He follows it. He peers into a meeting room through a slightly open door.

12 INT. MEETING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 12

A group of men sit around a table deliberating. At the head of the table sits a MYSTERIOUS MAN with a look of riches and danger to him. BRIAN, who looks nothing like Clifford and wears a flat cap and tan suit, says to the man on his right:

BRIAN

I'm getting a refill.

Brian stands up and walks to the door, his drink in his left hand. As he exits, we watch a pair of hands grab him and pull him aside.

13 INT. OUTSIDE OF MEETING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 13

Clifford pins Brian against a wall.

BRIAN
What the--

CLIFFORD
Shush! What's your name?

BRIAN
Brian.

CLIFFORD
Okay, Brian, who was that man at
the head of the table?

INSERT: No audio, the Mysterious Man gives an order.

BRIAN (V.O.)
That's Vincent Sing.

BACK TO SCENE.

CLIFFORD
Why did he need the master key to
the high school?

BRIAN
He's ordered the assassination of
the Prime Minister of Bogadia!

CLIFFORD
Why?

BRIAN
National relations, nuclear policy,
Jeffrey Epstein...

CLIFFORD
What are you saying?

BRIAN
I don't know, I'm trying to sound
like I know what I'm talking about!

CLIFFORD
GAH!

14 INT. MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

14

Clifford enters wearing Brian's tan suit and flat cap and holding his drink in his right hand. He bears zero resemblance to the real Brian. Everyone goes silent.

CLIFFORD
What's wrong, guys? It's me, Brian.

A pause.

MEMBER
That's not Brian! Brian's left-handed!

Clifford looks down at the drink in his right hand.

CLIFFORD
Damn it.

VINCENT
(standing up)
Get him!

15 INT. FRONT LOBBY OF HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

15

Imbusch and MS. TOBEY excitedly stand at the front doors.

IMBUSCH
(adjusting his tie)
How do I look?

MS. TOBEY
You look great.
(fixes hair)
How do I look?

IMBUSCH
(hesitant)
Great.

Ms. Tobey gives him a dirty look, but stops as they hear the sound of the doors opening.

In walks the PRIME MINISTER, dressed in fashionable garb and a handsome headdress, followed by multiple SECURITY GUARDS.

IMBUSCH
Good evening, Your Highness.

SECURITY GUARD
You will address him as Your Highness!

IMBUSCH
I just d...

PRIME MINISTER
(nonchalantly)

Quiet. Where am I giving the speech?

IMBUSCH
In our auditorium, upstairs.

OTHER SECURITY GUARD
Are security measures up to date?

IMBUSCH
Of course. His Highness's life is in great hands.

16 INT. MANOR BASEMENT - NIGHT

16

Clifford sits up against a pole as two of Vincent Sing's HENCHMEN tie him to it. Vincent paces dragging a wooden baseball bat.

CLIFFORD
You know, if the goal was for me not to enjoy this, you've failed miserably.

Vincent slams the bat into the pole.

VINCENT SING
Quiet!
(a pause)
Who are you?

CLIFFORD
I'm Private Investigator Clifford Cleman. We've met before.

VINCENT SING
When?

CLIFFORD
Don't know. I haven't read the spin-off yet.

VINCENT SING
Well, unfortunately for you, this is the last time we'll meet.

He takes a small detonator out of his pocket with a running timer on it and drops it to the floor.

VINCENT SING
Now if you'll excuse me, I have a speech to catch.

Clifford peers past Vincent to see a scary ASSASSIN sharpening a knife. He and Vincent both exit the room as the henchmen finish tying Clifford up and go to stand to the side, right over the detonator.

HENCHMAN #1
 (tapping the detonator
 with his foot)
 About a minute 'til you're dead,
 Private.

CLIFFORD
 Bold of you to assume I don't have
 a little trick up my sleeve.

Behind Clifford's back, we see him pull a giant sword--three or four feet long--out of his sleeve. He cuts through the rope for a few seconds until he is free.

In the blink of an eye as the henchmen watch in confusion, Clifford jumps up and whacks both of them with the sword. They fall to the floor in pain.

CLIFFORD
 Now if you'll excuse me, I have a
 Prime Minister to save.

17 INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

17

Imbusch walks down the aisle of the crowded room, as people settle into their seats. He hears his phone RINGING. He steps outside.

18 INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

18

Imbusch picks up the phone.

IMBUSCH
 I'm a little busy right now. Could
 I call you back?

CLIFFORD (O.S.)
 (through phone)
 Imbusch, it's me!

IMBUSCH
 Oh, Clifford! How are you?

19 EXT. DARK STREET - MOMENTS LATER

19

Clifford hurries on his pink bike while holding his phone.

CLIFFORD
 Not good! Remember how those
 robbers stole the master key to the
 high school?

INTERCUT with HALLWAY.

IMBUSCH (O.S.)
 (into phone)
 Yes...

CLIFFORD
 (into phone)
 It turns out that WAS connected to
 the Prime Minister!

IMBUSCH
 (into phone)
 Oh, no! What can I do?

CLIFFORD
 (into phone)
 Stop the event. Do NOT let the
 Prime Minister get onto that stage.

IMBUSCH
 (into phone)
 Copy that.

Imbusch opens the door to the auditorium and enters...

20 INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

20

...but the scene is all different. Instead of a loud room
 with everyone moving around into their seats, only one noise
 can be heard: the voice of the Prime Minister, as everyone
 sits down listening intently.

PRIME MINISTER
 In Bogadia, we have a saying: it is
 not about who you are, but who you
 are based on what you are, defined
 by who you have been and who you
 are going to be, if you can be the
 best version of yourself.

In another area of the auditorium, Vincent Sing sits
 patiently. He eyes the back of the stage.

21 EXT. FRONT STEPS OF HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

21

Clifford rolls up on his pink bike, crashing into a parked car. He stumbles off of it and runs up the steps.

22 INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

22

Imbusch silently panics as the Prime Minister continues:

PRIME MINISTER

But who are you, really? Who can
you be when who you are is nothing
more than a representation of what
you are as a by-product of what you
have been and what you can be?

We see the confusion on Imbusch's face. But then he hears a small cry to his right:

CROWD MEMBER

(tearing up)
So insightful.

Elsewhere, Vincent Sing watches the stage as an ASSASSIN peers out of the left curtain, wearing all black and holding a knife.

Clifford enters through the back entrance by Imbusch.

IMBUSCH

You're too late!

He points to the Assassin, who is concealed but definitely visible, then to the aisles filled with POLICE and SECURITY.

IMBUSCH

They'll never let you through.

CLIFFORD

Then we'll have to get creative.

Clifford jumps up and dives onto the people in the back rows. Screams of pain and confusion ensue as he falls through to the floor.

IMBUSCH

What was that!?!

CROWD MEMBER #2

Yeah, man, what the hell!

CLIFFORD

I'm trying to crowd surf!

CROWD MEMBER #2

Oh.
 (yelling to crowd)
He's trying to crowd surf!

Suddenly, Clifford levitates into the air with the help of the crowd, and they send him all the way to the stage.

The Assassin steps out of the curtain and inches toward the Prime Minister. The crowd gasps...

But Clifford jumps up onto the stage, grabs the Prime Minister, and sidekicks the Assassin.

The crowd cheers. The Prime Minister lifts a defiant fist into the air.

23 INT. HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - LATER

23

Clifford stands at the back with Imbusch as the Prime Minister's speech continues, and police escort the Assassin and Vincent Sing out in handcuffs.

IMBUSCH
I still can't imagine why anyone
would want to assassinate him.

CLIFFORD
Yeah, beats me.

PRIME MINISTER
With our combined nuclear arsenals,
the world will fear Bogadia and
America alike!

CLIFFORD (CONT'D)
But anyway, I think it's my time to
leave.

IMBUSCH
Really? You don't want to stay for
the banquet?

CLIFFORD
No can do. Duty calls.

He looks around at the crowd.

CLIFFORD
But this has been fun.

He smiles lightly.

Clifford walks off to the exit. But before he leaves, he turns to the camera, looks right into it, and bows.

Clifford exits.