

SAMPLE - DESPERATE MEASURES

Written by

Julia Dietrich

INT. CAR, ABANDONED PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Skylar and Matt are back in the car. Matt's in the back with Mr. Kumar.

MATT

You wanna live right? Give us something we can use?

Mr. Kumar looks from Matt to Skylar, confused.

MR. KUMAR

What the hell does that mean?

SKYLAR

It means you're a lying piece of shit with a lot of money. You must've cut corners somewhere.

MR. KUMAR

You think I cheated my way to the top? This is the problem with your generation. You want all of the reward without doing any of the work. I started my company with nothing. I worked late nights, weekends, on vacations, for years.

MATT

Are you choosing your pride over your life?

Matt takes the gun out again.

SKYLAR

This is the problem with entitled, pretentious pricks like you. All you care about is money. It's probably why your kids want nothing to do with you.

Mr. Kumar's eyes narrow in on Skylar.

MR. KUMAR

Don't talk about my family. You know nothing about them.

MATT

Well we do know that if you don't give us something, you don't get to see them again.

Matt pulls out Mr. Kumar's phone.

MATT (CONT'D)  
And we want proof.

MR. KUMAR  
You took my phone? God you two  
really are stupid.

Matt grabs Mr. Kumar, pointing the gun on him again.

MATT  
Watch yourself!

MR. KUMAR  
Okay! Take it easy.

Matt loosens his grip. Skylar takes the phone and starts going through it.

MR. KUMAR (CONT'D)  
Alright, now I'm not proud of this,  
but many years ago I once stole a  
lolly from Mrs. Roberts's candy  
shop down the street.

Mr. Kumar can't help but smirk. Matts looks at Skylar, oddly calm. He turns back to Mr. Kumar and laughs.

MATT  
That's funny.

Matt suddenly hits Mr. Kumar with the back of the gun.

MATT (CONT'D)  
D'you not get that you'll die if  
you don't give us something real?!

MR. KUMAR  
I worked hard and the company grew.  
No shady deals or shifty  
associates. God, you kids watch too  
much TV. Real life's boring.

Skylar looks up from the phone.

SKYLAR  
Who's Alex Patel?

Mr. Kumar turns to her with a sudden look of panic.

MATT  
He's the guy who's job I took. He  
was fired for mishandling company  
property. Got another guy hurt real  
bad.

Skylar turns to Mr. Kumar.

SKYLAR

Then why did he message you about a truck he told you to fix and some inspector.

MR. KUMAR

He's grasping at straws. He messed up and refuses to take responsibility, just like you.

Matt glares at him.

MATT

I told you! A car pulled into my lane. I had to swerve.

MR. KUMAR

Losing me clients and a lot of money. You were in a truck. What kinda damage could a little car do?

MATT

I was trying not to kill anyone!

Mr. Kumar glances down at the gun.

MR. KUMAR

You do see the irony in that right?

SKYLAR

Why does Alex think he has a case?

MR. KUMAR

He doesn't.

SKYLAR

But you did buy off the inspector to say that the truck was fine.

MR. KUMAR

No I didn't.

MATT

You really wanna die Kumar?

Mr. Kumar laughs.

MR. KUMAR

C'mon, you and I both know you're not gonna do jackshit to me.

Matt presses the gun to his temple.

MATT  
Oh yeah? Try me!

Suddenly they see the flicker from a flashlight. Someone's coming.

MR. KUMAR  
HELP! HEL-

Matt quickly pushes Mr. Kumar to the floor of the car and presses his hand against his mouth. He holds the gun on him.

MATT  
(hushed)  
Shut. Up.

Mr. Kumar keeps struggling, but more quietly.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Go get rid of them.

SKYLAR  
But the blood!

Skylar frantically rubs the blood off her face and hands.

MATT  
Just go.

Skylar pulls her hair down to cover the blood on her face and gets out.