

Self-Serve

Written By

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INT. CAR - NIGHT

MATT is driving, listening to a cheesy motivational tape.

TAPE

You have to find the potential deep within you. Find it, and you can accomplish anything you want! YOU are amazing. Say it! (pause)

MATT

(happily)

I...am AMAZING!

TAPE

Good! You ARE amazing! And you can do whatever you set your mind to! You are capable! Say it!

MATT

(even happier)

I am capable!

TAPE

There you go! You are a winner! You have so much to be proud of! Whatever your endeavors, you can accomplish all of them by just being YOU. With a positive attitude, anything is possible. You can do this. Say it!

MATT

I can do this. I can DO this!

Matt has reached his destination. He hypes himself up and struggles to put on a ski mask.

INT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

Station is empty except for one CLERK at the counter. We see Matt in a ski mask with duffle bag enter the station. There's somebody at the counter, so Matt pretends to look at cereal or something on the shelves until they leave. He's next in line and pulls the gun on the clerk.

MATT

Relax. Just hand over the money, and I'll be on my way.

CLERK

(Shaken, panicking)

(MORE)

CLERK (CONT'D)

Okay...okay. Yeah.

Clerk is taking a long time, fumbling and obviously nervous.

MATT

Let's go! Pick it up!

MATT attempts to fire a shot into the air for intimidation, but we hear the empty gun click. He tries to fire a few more times with the same result. CLERK is laughing now and picks up the phone and dials 9-1-1.

MATT panics and hits the clerk square in the face with the gun, knocking him unconscious. MATT runs behind the counter and hangs up the phone. MATT takes the body and hides it in the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - LATER

MATT is at the register trying to get it open and failing.

Enter OLD LADY

MATT

Excuse me, but we're actually
closed so if you could just
leave...

OLD LADY completely ignores him and makes a straight line for the bathroom. MATT realizes this and stops her moments before she finds the body.

MATT

I'm sorry but the bathrooms are out
of order.

OLD LADY

Son, I walked all the way in here,
I can't make it back. I need to
pee!

OLD LADY pushes past and opens the door, MATT grabs her and pulls her back.

MATT

NO! There's...somebody else in
there. Some drunk passed out.

OLD LADY

Then you best figure something out
because I'm about to let loose

(MORE)

OLD LADY (CONT'D)

right in the middle of the floor.

MATT scrambles and quickly wheels out a mop bucket. He leads OLD LADY to a back room.

OLD LADY

(from back room)

I hate to be a burden, but could I get a little help back here?

MATT rolls his eyes, walks in. (pause)

MATT

Oh god. OH GOD! IT'S EVERYWHERE!!!
IN THE BUCKET!! IN THE BUCKET!!!

Hears a slip and a splash.

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - LATER

MATT is soaking wet at the counter as the lady is leaving. She leaves and MATT runs to the bathroom to dry off.

MATT is blowing his hair under the air dryer, looks over and remembers the body. He switches shirts with the CLERK and needs to find a new hiding place. He settles on the beer cooler.

CUT TO:

INT. BEER COOLER - LATER

MATT is hilariously hiding the body.

Enter ROCCO and DAGGER, two big and tough looking guys, obviously a little drunk. They take their goods to the register.

MATT runs to the front and starts scanning things, having no clue what he's doing. He makes the beep sounds himself. Tells them a square total and pockets the money.

DAGGER

Hey hold on. I need another six-pack.

Heads to the beer cooler. MATT runs out and stands between DAGGER and the door.

MATT

Uh...I'm gonna have to see some I.D. before I let you back there.

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

New corporate policy.

ROCCO

Oh it's cool. I got my I.D. I'll buy it.

MATT

NO! I can't let you do that. For all I know, this guy is under 21! You know what? I should call the cops. You realize what they do to people who buy booze for minors? They come to your traile-house and take all your alcohol...and your guns. So if you care at all about your 2nd amendment rights, I suggest you get the hell out of my store.

DAGGER

Hmmm...he's got a point...(pause)

DAGGER punches MATT square in the face, grabs a case of beer outside the cooler and they both walk out the door.

MATT sits up off the floor with a black eye.

CUT TO:

INT. BACK ROOM - LATER

MATT is trying to duct tape the body to an office chair in a back room. He hears the bells on the door and runs out to see who it is.

INT. GAS STATION - LATER

A bigger, more competent ROBBER is standing at the counter.

ROBBER

Alright man you've got ten seconds to open that register.

MATT

Oh jeez, I can't do that.

ROBBER

Yeah this is your job, whatever. I won't hurt you, I just need the money.

MATT

(getting angry)

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

You don't understand, I literally
can't get it open!

MATT reaches for the phone.

ROBBER

You better open that thing before-

MATT swings the receiver at the ROBBER's face, and ROBBER
easily dodges.

ROBBER

Big mistake, buddy.

ROBBER lifts the crowbar

CUT TO:

INT. GAS STATION - WIDE

ROBBER's crowbar connects with MATT's face. MATT falls
behind the counter. ROBBER runs around back and beats MATT
before seeing police lights in the distance. ROBBER can
leave out the front or a back door.

Police come in and find MATT bruised on the floor.

OFFICER 1

Sir are you alright? Do you need us
to call you an ambulance?

MATT

(obviously nervous to be
surrounded by cops)
No. No. I'm fine.

OFFICER 2

Then we'd like to ask you a few
questions. We're following up on a
call that came through about an
hour ago, but had nobody on the
line. Is there some place we could
sit down and talk? You look
terrible.

MATT

Oh that won't be necessary. I'm
fine.

OFFICER 1

I insist. As a courtesy to local
businesses in high risk areas, we
like to review their security

(MORE)

OFFICER 1 (CONT'D)

protocol to see if there are any potential weak spots.

OFFICER 2

Have you seen any suspicious individuals lately?

MATT

(thinks)

Well, there were actually three guys. They brought two vehicles. The first two were in a-

OFFICER 1 continues listening and writing notes while OFFICER 2 looks for clues. While in the hallway, the back room door starts to open (beat) right behind the officer. MATT alters his story to say how he was thrown into the door, throwing himself into the door, knocking the body back into the room unconscious and shutting the door in the process.

CUT TO:

EXT. GAS STATION - LATER

The officers are thanking MATT and are about to leave. They notice MATT's car parked in the handicap spot.

OFFICER 2

We got word that another unit saw these guys about a half hour ago. Thanks for cooperating tonight. We know it's probably a hard night for you.

OFFICER 2

Hey man, you're lucky I don't write you up. You gotta keep that open for customers. You know, customer always comes first, right?

MATT snaps.

MATT

For the customers. The customers? You wanna hear about the customers? I'll tell you what! I got cold cocked and beaten with a crowbar tonight! And now you're telling me I have to move my car so some old lady can come piss all over me because the body's in the bathroom?

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

While not just stick it in the beer cooler? Oh right. Because two slack-jawed hicks can't go a damn day without a cold one! So don't tell ME to move my car.

MATT is irate. He's moving towards the cop car.

MATT

Don't tell ME to move my car. You know who needs to move their car? These stupid... (kicks car)...cops... (kicks car again) and their stupid...

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL CELL - LATER

Cell door slides shut in front of Matt.

MATT

Guys I'm sorry. I got a little out of hand. I was stressed! Let's talk this out.

Officers leave. Camera pans over, reveals ROCCO, DAGGER, and ROBBER all in his cell.

ROBBER

Oh it's gonna be a fun night.

CUT TO BLACK