

The Funnel Web

By

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INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

The garage is mostly empty. Cracks crisscross the pavement below like the spiderwebs on the ceiling.

A large SUV sits double-parked in the distance. A man (FURROW) dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, enters the garage. He mostly keeps his back to us as he looks around at all the cars. The large SUV flashes its headlights.

He approaches at almost-a-run.

INT. VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

The door is unlocked. FURROW takes the passenger seat and closes the door quickly.

FURROW

I know. I know. How long do we have?

He looks to the driver, ORCHARD. She is wearing sweats.

ORCHARD

Nine minutes.

FURROW

(rubbing hands together)
Right. Finalise the plan with me.

ORCHARD

The mark is at the playground for another half hour. In nine minutes, his babysitter will get a call that her boyfriend is in the hospital. While she's distracted, I approach with my phone out and tell him I saw a rare pokemon in this park. He follows me, I grab him. We drop off the ransom letter on our way to the safehouse. Finalised?

Furrow doesn't answer.

ORCHARD

What?

FURROW

Wolf knows we're coming.

(CONTINUED)

ORCHARD

When did Wolf get involved?

FURROW

I just passed him walking to his car. He said--

EXT. STREET - DAY

Furrow is walking past OFFICER WOLF and OFFICER REDBACK - who appears to be texting. Wolf pats Furrow's shoulder.

WOLF

Have fun out there today, Sport!

INT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

FURROW

--Like we're playing baseball or something.

ORCHARD

This type of job involves running.

FURROW

Not my end of it.

Orchard is about to reply when--

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Officers Wolf & Redback are sitting in their cruiser in the parking lot of a small park.

Redback's uniform is perfect whereas Wolf's looks like he wasn't planning to come into work today. Redback is typing on his phone.

WOLF

Right, you just sit there, Kiddo.

REDBACK

Until when, sir?

WOLF

Don't call me "Sir", we're not dating.

(CONTINUED)

REDBACK

Yes, s--mhmm

WOLF

Until the two scoundrels pull in
and grab the kid.

REDBACK

Then we chase them?

WOLF

Yes, and then we lose them.

REDBACK

Isn't that the opposite of our job?

WOLF

Our job is doing whatever gets us
paid. That's how jobs work.

REDBACK

Who's paying us to lose kids?

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - DAY

Actor turned real estate mogul, EDDIE WANDER and his lawyer,
WEAVER are arguing. Both are dressed as if their suits
trying to outdo each other.

WANDER

I am!

WEAVER

I know you are but I'm going to
keep asking until you actually
consider the ramifications.

WANDER

You mean being a hero? Getting the
press on my side for once?

WEAVER

You're kidnapping a child.

WANDER

I'm having a child kidnapped.
There's a difference.

WEAVER

Not enough of one.

(CONTINUED)

WANDER

Look, he'll come back. They're like yo-yos

WEAVER

Eddie, I'm all for distracting the press right now, but I would love to know how this solution ended up being your solution.

WANDER

I told you, I was with Huntsman at the club. The trial happened to come up and he insisted I should think--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - EVENING

Wander and HUNTSMAN sit in two cushy armchairs in an opulent room that looks like it would implode if someone walked in wearing jeans.

HUNTSMAN

--Outside the box. Exactly.

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER

Outside the box?

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN

Exactly. See, it has never been, about being cleverer than other people. It's just about finding that line they're too scared to cross and...

He mimes crossing a line.

WANDER

But boundaries are there for a reason.

HUNTSMAN

Are you one of the They? There's a right way and a successful way. They don't succeed.

(CONTINUED)

WANDER

So, if I wanted the headlines
talking with me instead of at me--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

--All I need to do is see what
stories get the most sympathy and
do that.

WEAVER

And you landed on--

EXT. VEHICLE - DAY

The car is parked on a dirt road. Furrow is sitting on the tailgate. There is a child's essay beside him and he is scribbling on a notepad. Orchard is standing and stretching her legs. She's paying with a length of rope in her hands.

In the trunk is a case of fruit punch and assorted kid's snacks.

FURROW

--kidnapping his nephew?

ORCHARD

Correct.

FURROW

How did he arrive at that?

ORCHARD

You're aware of the court case he's
involved in?

FURROW

The one with--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

Weaver is consulting his notes.

WEAVER

--17 counts of fraud. 6 counts of
embezzlement. 4 counts of negligent
homicide.

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

That's the one. Obviously, he wants it to go away.

REDBACK

That's a lot to ask for.

WOLF

The man did win two MTV movie awards, Nitro, he's used to getting what he wants.

REDBACK

And today, that's abducting a member of his immediate family?

WOLF

Bingo, Breezy. So Furry and Applecheeks grab him. We lead the chase so we can be sure to lose them.

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD

The amber alert goes out with accompanying sympathy, he gets a couple days--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

--as the networks' golden boy. Then, a ransom letter--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

--arrives at his house, he pays it, the kid comes back and--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD

--everyone forgets that he's on trial for those construction workers' deaths. How's that ransom letter coming, by the way?

(CONTINUED)

FURROW

Almost got the handwriting to match. Reverse for a second though, wouldn't anything be easier than this?

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

No, that's the point. This is the easiest option.

WEAVER

You are the only person who doesn't find that puerile.

WANDER

Oh don't use that word.

WEAVER

Which one? Puerile?

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

REDBACK

How many letters is that?

WOLF

(counting)

Eight. No, seven.

REDBACK

Eh, too many.

WOLF

What about--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER

--Inane? Crazy? Stupid?

WANDER

Come on! You never pretended to be sick to get out of school?

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

Hyper-embellished a traffic report
so no one would ask you why you
didn't do anything else the rest of
your shift?

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD

Thought 'if I was dying, I wouldn't
have to go to work today'?

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

Escalation is so easy. The bigger
story always wins.

Beat.

WEAVER

And if you get caught?

WANDER

Well, you are sworn to privilege--

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Orchard stands beside a luxury car. Wander is in the
backseat with the window rolled down.

WANDER

You screwed up that job for Sylvana
and they'd love to know where
you've been hiding--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD

--You, owe him how much?--

Furrow looks sheepish.

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
--and I've known Wolf since he was
twelve.

WEAVER
What about his partner?

WANDER
He doesn't have one--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
--Never like the idea of sharing
profits.

REDBACK
So why am I here?

WOLF
Because one day, Chappy, I'm going
to retire and I'll need someone to
carry on this good work.

REDBACK
Do you even know my real name?

WOLF
John.

Redback shakes his head.

WOLF
Martin.

Another head shake.

WOLF
Seamus.

No.

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
Eddie.

Wander turns from where he'd been admiring himself in a
mirror.

(CONTINUED)

WEAVER

Listen to me. You truly can't see a better way out of this? You have so little faith in me?

WANDER

No, no, no, Charlie. Not you. It's just I need control over my life. I'm like a little famous child in a cement mixer of bad publicity. I'm helpless. If I do this, I'm actually accomplishing something.

Weaver stares at him.

WEAVER

So--

INT. WANDER'S CAR - NIGHT

Wander and Orchard sit in the backseat.

WANDER

--You swipe the kid--

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Wander and Wolf are having a drink together.

WOLF

--I know a guy who can write the note--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

--Wolf calls it in--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

--Of course, I get some of the details wrong--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

FURROW
 (tearing out a page)
 --then I leave this note on
 Wander's front gate--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
 --leading me to make a statement
 about how distraught I am--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
 --meanwhile--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
 --the child gets two days of candy
 and HBO--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
 (to Weaver)
 --you make the money drop--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
 --we take our cut--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
 --the kid comes home safe--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
 --Eddie Wander becomes a hero--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
 --public opinion shifts in his
 favour--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
 --the jury pool is contaminated--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN
 --and all this goes--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
 --away for 25 to--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN
 --life is good.

INT. BAR - AS BEFORE

WANDER
 Cheers.

He and Wolf clink glasses. Wander checks his watch.

WANDER
 Wow, it's--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

He checks his phone.

WOLF
 --almost time. Remember, spectacle
 is--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

FURROW

--key.

Orchard tosses it to him.

ORCHARD

I'll be back--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

--in a couple days with the kid.
He'll love me after I save him
from--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

--all these awful people in the
world. And we're the ones who--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD

--get to profit from it. at the end
of the day--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

--it all works out.

WEAVER

Yes, ex--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN

--actly. And the most important
thing is--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

Redback is still typing on his phone.

HUNTSMAN (V.O.)
--tell no one.

He sends a message.

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
Go!

Furrow turns the key and the car roars to life.

CREDITS

Through the credits, we hear voiceover of news reports covering the botched kidnapping of Edward Wander's nephew due to the rookie cop who tipped off the media.