

THE ROBBERY

Characters

BROOKS, A young guy about 20 or 21 years old, long hair and beard, well built.

SHIELDS, A young guy about 20 or 21 years old, long hair and beard, little shorter and stockier.

MANDY, An attractive young gal about 19 or 20 years old.

Scene 1

Setting

In BROOKS'S kitchen. The present.

Lights up to reveal BROOKS sitting at the table in his kitchen with a beer.

SHIELDS enters the room.

BROOKS

Hey.

SHIELDS

Hey. Where's mine?

BROOKS

In the fridge. Help yourself.

(SHIELDS goes to the fridge and gets a bottle of beer and then sits down at the table.)

BROOKS

I'm low on cash. How about you?

SHIELDS

Me, too. Any ideas?

BROOKS

Yes, I've been thinking we should rob a bank or something.

SHIELDS

Very funny.

BROOKS

No, I mean it. I need some money fast.

SHIELDS

What! Have you lost your mind? How many beers have you had anyway?

BROOKS

Only a couple, or 3, or maybe 4. I'm serious. Look, in the movies, how do people get money? They rob Casinos or banks.

SHIELDS

Yah, like we're someone in the *Oceans Eleven* movie or something. That took 11 people to rob a casino, people who are a lot smarter than we are.

BROOKS

What do you mean? Speak for yourself. I'm a smart guy.

SHIELDS

Ah-huh, that's why you flunked out of college.

BROOKS

I didn't flunk out; I just took some time off to get some money. There's a difference.

SHIELDS

Sure

(Takes a sip of beer)

SHIELDS (CONT.)

You're not actually serious, are you?

BROOKS

I am. This could be the most important thing we've ever done in our lives. It could solve all our financial problems.

SHIELDS

What do you mean, we?

BROOKS

Don't you need money? Or, are you inherently wealthy? Last time I checked, I had to buy the beer because you were broke.

SHIELDS

I'm smart enough to know I don't want to go to prison, so no thanks on your robbery idea.

BROOKS

Back to my plan. Did any of the Ocean's Eleven go to prison? They became rich, VERY rich. Come on, people have been doing this for hundreds of years. How about Robin Hood, Billy the Kid, or Hole in the Wall gang?

SHIELDS

You really have lost it, haven't you? Billy the Kid ended up dead by the way. Is that what you want?

BROOKS

That's only because he got carried away, I'm talking about just a one-time thing.

SHIELDS

Yes, and wasn't there an *Ocean's 12* and *13*? People don't just stop with once. It makes people greedy, so they want more and more.

BROOKS

Okay, okay, how about this: let's not start with a bank. Let's start with something small that won't be as hard. How about trying our skills with a convenience store, or.... Oh, I know the perfect place—there's a little bookstore on the corner of Fifth and Main. It will be easy and it will prepare us for something bigger.

SHIELDS

(Pause) What if I'm the lookout and you do the actual robbery?

BROOKS

You really are a wimp. It doesn't matter if you are the lookout or the robber, if we're caught, we both get the same time in jail. But, BUT we won't get caught. It can't be that hard. People do it all the time. My rent is due in 10 days. Let's do next Thursday night. Thursdays are quieter; there won't be as many people around.

SHIELDS

Just how do you plan to do this? Do you have a gun? Do you even know HOW to shoot a gun?

BROOKS

Of course I do. I used to shoot squirrels with a BB gun when I was a kid.

SHIELDS

Great, just great. You are going to go point a gun at someone and don't even know how to use one.

BROOKS

I don't have to know how to use one; I just have to point it at the clerk. Besides, shooting squirrels ought to count for something. They're fast you know. I won't have a moving target.

SHIELDS

This is getting crazier by the minute. Where do you think you are going to get a gun, or are you planning to use your BB gun?

BROOKS

My dad has a revolver. I'll just stop over and borrow it this week.

SHIELDS

You mean steal it. Come on, come on, let's be truthful. Then when the police find the weapon, your dad goes to jail instead of you. Nice son by the way.

BROOKS

Why are you so negative? You need a more positive outlook on life. We are going to be successful.

Now, we both need to get haircuts this week. We need to look like clean-cut guys, so no one will suspect us.

SHIELDS

There is no way I'm going to cut my hair. (*Closes his eyes, lifts his chin up to the right, and puts his right hand on his chest.*) It's the source of my strength—and my charm.

Anyway, it seems like we should get haircuts AFTER the robbery. Our present hair will serve as a sort of mask.

BROOKS

If we walk in the store with our long hair and beards, the clerk will be suspicious right away, maybe even call for help.

SHIELDS

That's dumb!

BROOKS

Besides, we'll have bandanas over our faces.

SHIELDS

You don't think that will look suspicious?

BROOKS

Well, I won't put mine on until I'm ready to walk up to the clerk. First, we have to look around and make sure the clerk is alone.

SHIELDS

Right, of course.

BROOKS

It's settled then. I will meet you right outside the bookstore at 7 pm Thursday night. Don't forget your bandana.

(Lights fade and go out.)

Scene 2

Setting

Next Thursday night at the bookstore. A few book racks and shelves. Counter on one end, door on the other.

Lights up to reveal BROOKS & SHIELDS entering the store.

SHIELDS

Hey, you do look like a new person with your hair cut and a shave. I hate to say it, but not bad looking either. You look like a nice guy.

BROOKS

I AM a nice guy, what are you talking about? You don't look so bad yourself. I didn't recognize you at first. This will be a great cover-up; no one will suspect us. Well, let's get on with it.

SHIELDS

I think I'm going to be sick. I need to leave.

(SHIELDS turns toward the door.)

BROOKS

(BROOKS grabs SHIELDS by the arm.)

No you don't. We are going to go through with this. Remember all you have to do is yell, "Here comes Billy" if anyone starts to come in the door. Got it? And stop shaking. It makes you look suspicious.

SHIELDS

Yes, body, stop shaking, stop shaking.

(Both boys start looking at books, with BROOKS moving slowly toward the clerk. BROOKS turns his head slightly to catch a glimpse of the clerk.)

MANDY

May I help you find something?

BROOKS

(BROOKS keeps his nose in a book.)

No, I just want to look.

(After a moment, BROOKS turns his head again and takes a little longer look at the girl.)

BROOKS (CONT.)

You look familiar, have I met you before?

MANDY

No, I don't think so.

BROOKS

Maybe a friend of a friend of a friend or something?

(BROOKS walks toward the girl.)

BROOKS (CONT.)

Have you worked here long?

MANDY

For about a year.

BROOKS

Hmmm, I must have come in at the wrong times. Is this your full-time job?

MANDY

No, I go to the local college. I just work here part-time.

BROOKS

Hey, no kidding? I go to there also. Maybe that's where I've seen you around. What kind of classes are you taking?

MANDY

I'm an English major, so all the general Ed classes plus English classes. I'm taking Shakespeare right now. It's such a great class.

BROOKS

Shakespeare? Really? Hey, that's good to know. I was thinking about taking it myself next semester. I think he was the greatest playwright ever. So, you like the classics?

MANDY

Oh yes, very much.

BROOKS

Isn't that a coincidence. I like them also. Say, maybe I could meet you sometime at the cafeteria on campus. You could share with me about your Shakespeare class and I'll buy you a latte.

MANDY

(Smiling) Sure, I'd like that. There aren't too many guys that are into Shakespeare these days.

BROOKS

Oh, I'm Tim Brooks by the way

(Extends his right hand out to MANDY.)

MANDY

(MANDY shakes his hand.)

And I'm Mandy Adams.

BROOKS

How about meeting next Monday? Could I get your phone number and give you a call Sunday night to confirm?

MANDY

Okay, it's 258-7570.

BROOKS

Oh, I need to run, my friend is waiting for me. See you Monday.
(BROOKS walks over to the door where SHIELDS is).

SHIELDS

(In a whisper) Did you get the money?

BROOKS

No, but I got a date with the most beautiful girl I've ever seen in my life. I'm going to apply for a student loan and go back to college. By the way, I need to stop by the library on the way home and pick up a book on Shakespeare.

SHIELDS

Shakespeare?

Diane Egge