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The Fans Strike Back

by
Joseph P. Krawczyk

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The Fans Strike Back

by Joseph P. Krawczyk

CHARACTERS

LINDA: *Female, early-mid 20s*

FRANKIE: *Male, early-mid 20s*

ADAM: *An Adam Driver look-alike*

SETTING

Apartment Interior; Present Day

APPROXIMATE RUNNING TIME

25 Minutes

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AT RISE:

LINDA and FRANKIE shepherd a hooded man with his hands tied behind his back into an apartment. FRANKIE brandishes a gun.

Go on, move.

LINDA

What's happening here?

ADAM

You'll know soon enough.

LINDA

What is this about?

ADAM

Quiet down.

FRANKIE

What do you guys want with me?

ADAM

Sit.

LINDA

Who are you?

ADAM

I said sit down.

FRANKIE

FRANKIE pushes him down into a chair.

Okay, okay, no need to get physical.

ADAM

That's ironic, coming from you.

LINDA

Why am I being held captive like this? What did I do?

ADAM

Oh, you don't know?!

FRANKIE

If I did, I wouldn't ask the question.

ADAM

I think it's pretty clear.

LINDA

To whom?

ADAM

To us.

FRANKIE

Not to me.

ADAM

Isn't it obvious?

FRANKIE

No.

ADAM

Are you going to force us down the rabbit hole to awaken your memory? Is that what we have to do?

LINDA

Sure, go ahead, you'll see this is all a colossal mistake.

ADAM

I wish it were.

LINDA

You want money? I can get you money if you let me go. How much do you want? Just name your price.

ADAM

We don't want your money.

FRANKIE

I have enough to pay you off.

ADAM

What we want you can't give us.

FRANKIE

Every kidnapper wants money.

ADAM

LINDA
We're not crass people.

ADAM
Then, what the hell do you want?

FRANKIE
We want justice, damn it!

ADAM
Justice for what? What are you talking about?

LINDA
You know very well what we're talking about.

ADAM
No, sorry, I don't. Please enlighten me.

FRANKIE
We've been looking for you for a long time, and you're hard to find.

ADAM
No, I'm not. You can contact my manager or my agent.

FRANKIE
It took us years to capture you without any of your people watching out for you.

ADAM
Years? You've been stalking me for years?

LINDA
Ever since twenty fifteen.

ADAM
Why is that significant?

FRANKIE
Think about it.
(Beat)

ADAM
I've got nothing.

LINDA
You're not thinking hard enough.

ADAM
All I know I was walking to my car when all of a sudden I had a gun pointed at the back of my head and someone put a hood over my face.

FRANKIE
That would be us.

ADAM
Why?

FRANKIE
You're a fugitive.

ADAM
From what?!

LINDA
From justice.

FRANKIE
Stop playing the innocent game.

ADAM
No game.

LINDA
How do you sleep at night after what you've done? How do you look at yourself in the mirror? Why aren't you in agony? As we are. Why aren't you begging for forgiveness? As you should be doing right now, right at this moment.

FRANKIE
It took a lot of balls to do what you've done.

ADAM
I haven't done anything to deserve this.

LINDA
You have done one of the most grievous acts that anyone can commit. It's really unspeakable, but we're going to address it right here and now.

ADAM
What have I done?

LINDA
I'm surprised you're asking the question, because it should really stand out in your mind. How can you forget it?

ADAM
And that is?

FRANKIE
Patricide.

ADAM
Patricide?! I haven't killed my father.

LINDA
You damn well have.

ADAM
I hate to tell you this, but you've kidnapped the wrong man. I'm not guilty of doing that. No damn way.

LINDA
Just admit it.

ADAM
Admit what!

FRANKIE
The murder you committed.

ADAM
This is insane.

FRANKIE
Why did you kill him?

ADAM
My father's very much alive.

FRANKIE
Oh, no, he isn't. And we know that as a fact.

ADAM
Did you kill him?!

LINDA
No, asshole, you did.

ADAM
If I had, why would I?

FRANKIE
Because you went over to the dark side. And now you'll meet your destiny.

ADAM
Hold on right there. Are you kidding me? The dark side?!

FRANKIE
Oh, that's new to you?

LINDA

Yeah, buddy, what the hell got into you? What made you join the forces of evil?

LINDA removes his hood to reveal an Adam Driver look-alike.

ADAM

Excuse me?

LINDA

It's too late to answer that question, right Frankie?

FRANKIE

Yeah, what were we thinking?

ADAM

What are you guys talking about?

FRANKIE

We're talking about you. A Jedi who took a wrong turn.

ADAM

(Laughing)

Seriously, a Jedi!

LINDA

That's right, Kylo.

ADAM

Kylo?

LINDA

Yeah, that's correct.

FRANKIE

Kylo Ren to be more specific. A member of the First Order.

ADAM

Kylo Ren? Me? From Star Wars?

LINDA

You betrayed the Jedis, and in particular, Luke Skywalker.

ADAM

My name's Adam Driver.

LINDA

You play Adam Driver.

ADAM
No, I *am* Adam Driver.

LINDA
As we've said, Kylo –

ADAM
Are you serious?

LINDA
Dead serious.

ADAM
Look, I played a character in *Star Wars, The Force Awakens*. That's all. Did you see the movie? It came out in twenty fifteen.

LINDA
Of course, we saw it, the very first day of its release, and that's why you're here. And we were shocked, no, appalled at what you had done.

ADAM
I'm here because you saw a movie?

LINDA
No, you idiot. It's what you did in that movie.

FRANKIE
You killed Han Solo, husband to Princess Leia, and Chewbacca's best friend. What have you got to say to that? You've ruined the lives of three people. What's your rationale for committing such a heinous act?

ADAM
Are you guys on the level? This is a joke, right? Who put you up to this? I bet it was Harrison Ford. He's a real prankster. Where is he? In the next room? He never liked that part of the script. In fact, he was very critical of that plot point. Come on, Harrison, get in here. I know when you're kidding around.

LINDA
He's not here.

ADAM
It's just like him to –

LINDA
He's dead.

ADAM
Harrison?

Han Solo. LINDA

C'mon, get off it. I know a set up when I see one. ADAM

We don't kid about people's lives. FRANKIE

You've got this all wrong. ADAM

Really? FRANKIE

Yes, absolutely. ADAM

We have evidence. LINDA

What? ADAM

LINDA withdraws a light saber.

I believe this is yours, the murder weapon. LINDA

Where did you get that? ADAM

Does it matter? LINDA

That belongs to the studio. ADAM

This is hard core evidence. FRANKIE

Of what? ADAM

Of what you used to kill Han Solo. Your father! LINDA

That came from the Prop Department. ADAM

FRANKIE

It doesn't matter where it came from.

LINDA

This is pretty damning, Kylo.

ADAM

Stop calling me Kylo; my name is Adam Driver.

FRANKIE

Whatever.

ADAM

Don't throw whatever at me.

LINDA

We have more than this light saber.

ADAM

Like?

LINDA

Your fingerprints on the weapon.

ADAM

Of course, you do, because I used it in the course of the film. Why wouldn't my fingerprints be on the saber?

LINDA

Ah, so you finally admit it.

ADAM

(Screaming)

I never denied it...in...the...movie!!!

LINDA

Stop using the movie as an excuse.

ADAM

That's not an excuse. That's a reality.

Threateningly, FRANKIE puts his hand over ADAM's throat.

FRANKIE

You're going to hide behind the defense of a movie?

ADAM

Okay, okay, I can see you're serious about this.

FRANKIE lets him go.

LINDA

He finally gets it.

ADAM

Being in the movie is my only defense.

FRANKIE

That's pretty flimsy.

ADAM

That's all I have.

LINDA

You think we're going to buy that as an excuse?

ADAM

Alright, who's playing good cop, bad cop here? Because I can't tell.

*LINDA and FRANKIE
both raise their hands.*

And I demand to see a lawyer.

FRANKIE

What do you think this is? An episode of Law and Order, Special Victims Unit?

ADAM

I do feel like a special victim.

FRANKIE

Yeah, you're special alright.

ADAM

Are you guys cops?

FRANKIE

(Laughing)

We're not the police, we're vigilantes.

ADAM

Come on. You people are ridiculous.

FRANKIE

We have your nefarious deed on film. Do we need to show it to you?

ADAM

I'm very aware of the film. I was in it.

LINDA
Then, you admit to killing him?

ADAM
Yes.

FRANKIE
Ah-ha.

LINDA
Ah-ha, we have a confession. Ding, ding, ding.

ADAM
In the movie!!!

LINDA
I'm not ashamed to admit this, but we were in tears when you struck Han Solo down. My jaw dropped to my feet, my heart skipped a beat. I was absolutely stunned. How could you do such a nefarious thing?

FRANKIE
I still can't get a good night's sleep.

LINDA
I have insomnia.

FRANKIE
I'm still suffering from PTSD.

LINDA
Therapy doesn't even help.

FRANKIE
Lately, I've been developing the heartbreak of psoriasis.

ADAM
And that's all my fault?

FRANKIE
Yes, all of it.

ADAM
Guys, c'mon, you know that wasn't real, don't you?

LINDA
Oh, yeah, do we see Han Solo in the sequel, alive and breathing?

ADAM
Well, only as a memory.

LINDA
I rest my case.

ADAM
What is this? A sham trial?

LINDA
No, this is real, not a sham.

ADAM
Look, what do I have to do or say at this point?

FRANKIE
That you're guilty.

ADAM
Yes, guilty as charged! In the movie!!!

LINDA
And for that you have to suffer the consequences.
(Beat)

ADAM
What consequences?

LINDA
Grave consequences.

ADAM
Hold on, I've got to admit you were really impressed by the film and it's got a hold on you and you can't let go. In the abstract, that's good. I didn't think we'd have that much of an impact. That's absolutely amazing. That says something about the art of filmmaking, doesn't it? We really pulled it off, didn't we? *(Laughs, underscoring his point)*

LINDA
What it says is you struck down a beloved character to us. We're still grieving, and we'll never get over it. We'll have to live with this forever. Our hearts are broken and you shattered them into a thousand pieces.

ADAM
What are you guys? Star Wars geeks?

LINDA / FRANKIE
Geeks?!

FRANKIE goes for him.

ADAM
I mean fans!

FRANKIE

We're not geeks or fans. We're just loyal followers of the Resistance.

ADAM

This is getting too deep for me. Now, we're talking about the Resistance?

FRANKIE

Yes, and we're part of it.

ADAM

You're members of the Resistance? That really exists?

FRANKIE

You better believe it does.

ADAM

Come on.

FRANKIE

We're never going to give up the fight. The Resistance lives!

ADAM

That makes no sense, fellas.

LINDA

And Han Solo was part of the Resistance against the First Order.

ADAM

You really know your movie trivia. I'm impressed.

FRANKIE

Han Solo was a person we revered.

ADAM

A person? No, he's not a person, he does not exist, he's a made-up character. In fact, he was a rogue.

LINDA

That's blasphemy.

ADAM

You two have been to one too many Comicon conventions.

LINDA

Don't insult us.

ADAM

Oh, boy, are there a lot of people like you out there?

LINDA

Yes, of course.

FRANKIE

Those who believe in the force.

ADAM

And you two believe...in the force?

LINDA

Yes, it's all around us. Don't you believe in the force?

ADAM

Honestly, I don't know how to answer that question

LINDA

Why did you go over to the dark side?

ADAM

The dark side chose me; I didn't choose it.

LINDA

Very convenient answer.

ADAM

It's the truth.

FRANKIE

You can't handle the truth!

ADAM

I think you're mixing up two movies.

LINDA

You're going to need a bigger boat to get out of this.

ADAM

That's three movies.

LINDA

That's right, we're sharks and we're going to devour your ass.

ADAM

I think both of you have a serious problem. You've fallen into some kind of time-warp fantasy trap. Think about it. You've conflated reality and fantasy. It's a bad mix. You've got to pull them apart.

LINDA

We know what's real and what's not.

ADAM
Do you really?

FRANKIE
Yeah, we can't be fooled.

ADAM
You already have.

LINDA
Have what?

ADAM
Been duped, been fooled into thinking that Solo and Kylo are real. It's a space fantasy you two have spun in your twisted imagination.

LINDA
Twisted? You're the one with the twisted mind.

FRANKIE
Are you trying to play a trick on us?

ADAM
Are you guys on drugs? Hallucinogens maybe?

LINDA
We don't take drugs, so don't change the subject.

ADAM
I'm trying to help you.

FRANKIE
You're the bad guy here.

LINDA
You're the one who needs help.

FRANKIE
You're trying to deflect the issue at hand.

ADAM
And that is?

LINDA
Incest!

ADAM
What are you talking about? Where did that come from?

From Freud.

LINDA

Oedipus in the flesh.

FRANKIE

What?

ADAM

I know it's hard to keep this a secret because it's terribly embarrassing. Who would want to admit that?

LINDA

You're not making any sense.

ADAM

Tell him.

FRANKIE

Kill the father, Han Solo, then sleep with the mother, Princess Leia.

LINDA

You're the classic case.

FRANKIE

Oh, my God, you are both nuts!!!

ADAM

Only you didn't think Leia would be part of the Resistance, so you couldn't touch her.

FRANKIE

Okay, now, you're going too far, way too far.

ADAM

So that part of the plan didn't work out for you, did it?

(Beat)

LINDA

I'm going to be brutally honest here and please don't take this the wrong way. You guys need psychiatric help. Real bad. I can refer you to some really great, Hollywood psychiatrists who handle cases like yours.

ADAM

Don't play the psycho card with us.

LINDA

Can't you see that something is really off-kilter here?

ADAM

FRANKIE

Yeah, and it's you.

ADAM

Get this through your heads, I'm just an actor.

LINDA and FRANKIE laugh heartily.

LINDA

Yeah, and we're crypto-fund billionaires.

ADAM

Look how that turned out.

FRANKIE

Don't change the subject.

ADAM

I just follow orders from the writers and the director. You should take this up with JJ Abrams and the producers.

LINDA

Don't think we won't.

ADAM

Are you going to kidnap them, too?

FRANKIE

Right now, we're focusing on you.

ADAM

Well, what do you want?

LINDA

The Code of Hammurabi, buddy, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.

ADAM

What the hell does that mean?

FRANKIE

You've got to pay for what you've done.

ADAM

You're going to kill me?!

LINDA

Isn't that obvious to you by now?

ADAM

This is nuts. Harrison Ford is still alive.

LINDA

But Han Solo is dead.

ADAM

Stop! He played Han Solo, a character, who doesn't exist in reality.

FRANKIE

Didn't you ever see *The Purple Rose of Cairo*?

ADAM

Yes –

FRANKIE

Where the main character walks out of the film into the audience. He's real.

ADAM

That happens in the course of the movie, which is still a movie, a movie within a movie.

FRANKIE

You just stepped out of the movie, and here you are with us.

ADAM

You are confusing the shit out of me, and that's pure sophistry.

LINDA

What are you? A philosopher?

ADAM

I have a basic understanding.

LINDA

Understand this. We're not confused. We're very clear.

ADAM

Oh, God, I'm going to be killed for playing a part in a film.

FRANKIE

You accepted the part, didn't you?

ADAM

Well, yes.

LINDA

There you go.

Who wouldn't?

ADAM

Everybody...except you.

LINDA

You didn't have to.

FRANKIE

Tell us. Why did you kill him?

LINDA

C'mon, get it off your chest. You'll feel better if you do. What was your motive?

FRANKIE

It was in the script, damn it. I didn't write it.

ADAM

You didn't question it?

LINDA

Why would I question it?

ADAM

Are you dense? Someone tells you to commit murder and la-di-da, la-di-da, you just do it.

FRANKIE

That was what I was getting paid for.

ADAM

Dude, it was all about money for you, Judas?

FRANKIE

And you were being paid to kill Han Solo?

LINDA

Of course.

ADAM

You say that so matter-of-factly. Without a scintilla of remorse.

FRANKIE

All actors get paid to follow the script.

ADAM

You didn't fight to make changes?

LINDA

FRANKIE

You didn't say I can't do this? I can't kill Han Solo no matter how much money you're paying me.

ADAM

No.

FRANKIE

You don't have principles?

ADAM

I have principles...in...real...life.

LINDA

This is real to us as it should be to you.

ADAM

This is really exhausting. I was doing what I was asked to do.

FRANKIE

You just followed orders, is that it? Well, we've heard that one before. Just go with the flow. You didn't think about the consequences.

ADAM

Maybe I should have questioned the writers' choices.

FRANKIE

Ya' think?

LINDA

Yeah, maybe you should have.

FRANKIE

It's too late for that now.

LINDA

You have no conscience.

ADAM

I do, too.

FRANKIE

What are you? A sociopath?

This is Not the End of the Play
Ending Intentionally Omitted for Security Purposes