

COMMITTED

Written by

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FADE IN

1 INT. DON & MIKE'S APARTMENT - DAY

1

DON (25) is eating cereal for breakfast. A bedroom door opens, MIKE (25) enters.

DON

Hey Mike, what're you up to? You're not dressed for work.

MIKE

(SIGHS) Yeah, I'm not going in today.

The bedroom door closes behind Mike. Don continues to eat cereal.

DON

What? Why not? What happened?

MIKE

Gramma passed away.

DON

Gramma passed away? Wait... did your grandmother pass away or did you just tell your boss that your grandmother passed away? Because I think you used that excuse a few months ago.

MIKE

Yes, and he remembered. So this time I had to include zombies to make it believable.

DON

Zombies... and believable? And he bought it?

Mike moves around the apartment from room to room, looking for something.

MIKE

Yep, and he told me not to come back until I have quelled the zombie uprising.

Don drops the spoon into the cereal bowl.

(cont.)

(cont.)

DON

That kinda sounds like you were fired.

MIKE

Yeah, I know.

Mike continues to move around the apartment, collecting a random assortment of tools including tupperware, a shovel, and a tarp.

DON

So what are you going to do now?

Mike drags a shovel along the floor.

DON

(deathly serious tone) And why do you have that shovel?

MIKE

I have to fake a zombie uprising to get my job back. Hand me those paper towels and that pint of blood, please.

DON

You mean fake blood, right? For the stage?

MIKE

(beat) Yes.

Mike rustles with the tools and wraps them up together in the tarp.

DON

You're lying again, aren't you?

MIKE

(beat) (beat) No?

DON

I don't care. I don't know. I don't want to know. I don't want to be a part of this. I don't want to be a part of anything, not since that attempt to become Spider-Man failed.

(cont.)

(cont.)

Mike drops the tools to focus on Don.

MIKE

Failed!? What do you mean failed? That worked (beat) momentarily.

DON

Whatever. Now you're trying to fake a zombie uprising?

MIKE

Yep.

DON

To get your job back?

MIKE

Yep!

DON

Why?

MIKE

That was the condition the boss set for me to come back? Jeez, the things I do to please some people. (Mike GRUMBLES indistinctly)

DON

Okay, now at what point would it just become easier to find another job?

MIKE

(LAUGHS) Heck, not in this economy. Fighting zombies is just easier. Can you hand me that camera?

Mike points to a nearby digital camera. Don follows his direction.

DON

What? No. That's my camera!

MIKE

Yes, but I need it to document the uprising.

(cont.)

(cont.)

DON

No way, you'll break it or get blood on it, or something.

MIKE

Fake blood. But I need it to prove my progress.

DON

I'll carry it.

Don picks up the camera and puts his bowl in the sink.

MIKE

But I thought you didn't want to be a part of it?

DON

You'll just take it when I'm not looking and it'll end up covered in guts or dirt. I'll carry it.

MIKE

So, you're coming? (beat) Aww, I love you, too.

Mike gives Don a giant bear hug. Don fidgets and squirms, uncomfortably.

DON

I hate you, let's go.

Don and Mike leave the apartment, carrying all the equipment Mike had laid out.

FADE OUT

FADE IN

2 INT. DON & MIKE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Don & Mike return to their apartment, exhausted. They stomp through the door, breathing heavily, dragging and shuffling their feet. Don & Mike are lightly covered in dirt. They drop the tools by the door. Don pulls up a chair and sits down at a table. Mike flops down on the couch in front of the television.

MIKE

You've been quiet the whole ride home.
I'm worried.

DON

You're worried? (SIGH) I'm still trying
to comprehend what we just did.

MIKE

What do you mean? It worked, better than
we expected!

DON

You call that better?

MIKE

Yes.

DON

Better?

MIKE

Yes?

DON

Our plan was to stage a series of
photographs of you fighting some
zombies, splattered in some gore,
some action shots, a map of your
progress, coupled with a tragic story
of how you eventually had to put down
your grandmother.

MIKE

We did that.

DON

Lee and Ray were supposed to dress
(cont.)

(cont.)

DON

the part, and shamle around for the video segments.

MIKE

And they did. They did great.

DON

Yes, but it wasn't part of the plan to be seen by a group of superstitious Mexican immigrant loading dock workers when they were in that field! Nor was it part of the plan to scare an elderly group of churchgoers attending a funeral when we did the graveyard scene! And the elementary school, those kids will never (beat) sleep (beat) again!

MIKE

Hey, do you remember when War of the Worlds was read over the radio? People who tuned in late actually believed there was an alien invasion and started arming themselves.

DON

That's not helping.

MIKE

It's art, we're learning from and following the example of a work of art that has persisted for decades. This is an homage.

DON

I'm supposed to be helping you get your job back, not instigate mass hysteria and panic! Gads, this is worse than the time you tried to build the 1 to 1 scale of the Stay Puff't Marshmallow Man.

MIKE

That would have worked if it weren't for all those pigeons attracted to the sugar. But on the bright side, we did cut down on the pigeon population. Who knew there were so many in New York?

(cont.)

(cont.)

DON

Birds exploded! The marshmallows swelled
when they reached the birds' stomachs!
Thousands of birds burst in mid-air!

MIKE

It won't get that bad. Let's just watch
some TV.

Mike turns on the TV by remote. The news is playing.

NEWSCASTER

Tonight on Channel 6 News, c-correlated
reports, are you serious? Correlated
reports that the end of days has come
and the dead are rising from their graves.

MIKE

See, better!

DON

I hate you.

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN

3 INT/EXT. DON'S CAR IN PARKING LOT - DAY

3

MIKE

Thanks for agreeing to do the driving. I'm glad I've had your support through all this. I don't want to face my boss alone.

DON

Well, you need money. But is he still your boss? He did kinda fire you.

MIKE

Sure he's my boss. He just asked me to kill a few zombies. That's not unreasonable, right?

DON

It's pretty unreasonable.

MIKE

Well what do you do when zombies enter the equation? They don't make good pets. Trust me. I know.

DON

Never mind. Have you got everything? The photographs we took? All the video? Adding the news reports?

MIKE

Yep! It's all together.

DON

Did you add the pictures of the church sign? The one quoting revelations because of you?

MIKE

Uh-huh! That's right here.

Mike waves a file folder.

MIKE

Ooh! And I also created an emergency zombie plan.

(cont.)

(cont.)

Mike waves more papers.

MIKE

For the other employees of the Burger Grill. That's gotta score me some points, showing initiative.

DON

So, what if he doesn't agree to give you your job back?

MIKE

That's why I asked Lee and Ray to come.

From the back seat LEE (25) and RAY (25) speak.

LEE & RAY

Braiiiiins

DON

Oh no. No, no, no. This is going to get out of hand again. Are we going to see this on the news tonight?

MIKE

Absolutely not!

DON

This isn't going to be like last time?

MIKE

No.

DON

Remember, I can't go to that Starbucks anymore! You know how much I loved those vente strawberries & cream!

MIKE

That's why I wanted you, you specifically, here with me. To make sure that doesn't happen again.

DON

Good. I won't let that happen again. This time I can see you and stop you

(cont.)

(cont.)

DON
from crossing the line.

MIKE
No, no, nothing like that. I need you
to be the getaway driver. I'm off.

Mike exits the car.

LEE & RAY
Braiiiiins.

DON
I hate you.

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN

4 INT/EXT DON'S CAR IN PARKING LOT - DAY

4

DON

How did it go?

Don turns on the car's ignition. Mike gets in the car passenger seat and SIGHS.

MIKE

Well, I didn't get my old job back.

DON

Tough break. I knew this whole scheme was a long shot. I'm gonna get some drive through, do you want anything?

MIKE

No, I'm good, thanks.

DON

Maybe now we can try finding you a better job.

MIKE

Oh, I did get a better job.

DON

What? Wait. What?

MIKE

The boss saw how I took such a professional angle on what was a ridiculous subject, and able to present it in a clear, logical way. He said it was an example of a skill set he needed. He made me a shift manager.

DON

Wow. That's good news. That's incredible news. I'm happy for you, really happy. I'm glad we could all he- wait. Where's Lee & Ray?

MIKE

Oh, well since the boss fired me, we were down on manpower. While I was gone, everyone else was overworked and a few more people

(cont.)

(cont.)

MIKE

quit. We were in a bind, so I gave them my
old job.

Don pulls up to the drive through speaker box. SCREAMS and
panic is heard off screen and a STAMPEDE of people leave
the fast food restaurant. The speaker box keys and chirps.

LEE & RAY

Braiiiiiiins

MIKE

They started immediately!

DON

I hate you.

CUT TO BLACK

FADE IN

5 INT. DON & MIKE'S APARTMENT - DAY

5

Don is in the kitchen staring at a bowl of cereal. Mike enters.

MIKE

Good morning, Don! Happy Saturday!

DON

(SIGHs)

MIKE

What's wrong?

DON

I don't know how to make sense out of the past few days.

MIKE

What do you mean?

DON

You've been fired, promoted, given two of our friends jobs, caused mass hysteria, and convinced a bunch of folk that it was the end of days.

MIKE

That's right.

DON

All because you lied?

MIKE

What lie?

DON

Your grandmother passing away?

MIKE

That wasn't a lie, she did pass away.

DON

Oh, snap, you were serious? I'm so sorry. I s- I thought that was just something to get- I'm sorry. Is there going to be a wake?

(cont.)

(cont.)

MIKE

Oh, that was years ago. I was, like, 10.

DON

(GROWLS)

MIKE

What?

DON

Explain it to me, please. How did the last few days end up with you not going to prison or at least getting arrested?

MIKE

Well, it's about commitment. People like seeing commitment. If you can commit to something, whatever it is, give it your all, and you'll attract people's interest.

DON

Commitment? Is that what you call using a home made flamethrower to flash cook 200 pieces of French toast and 10 lbs of bacon at the church breakfast fund raiser?

MIKE

Precisely! Now you're getting it!

DON

You started a zombie apocalypse!

MIKE

Well, that was just a small, accidental side effect, like when I faked your death.

DON

Sid- wait, like what?

MIKE

Never mind. You were saying?

DON

I forget.

(cont.)

(cont.)

MIKE

I was saying that you should be
committed, like me.

DON

I hate you.

FADE TO BLACK