

"HOLED UP"

a play by
David W. Boles

"We got somethin' bigger than the both of you.
We got compassion."

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WE CANNOT SEE. DARKNESS SURROUNDS. THE ONLY SOUND IS
DRIPPING WATER. WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS...

RIDG
Ouch! I stubbed my toe!

DEN
Keep it down. I'm feelin'
along with my hands.

RIDG
Can't see.

DEN
Stop pushing me, will ya?

RIDG
It wasn't...

INEZ
(upcut)
My pleasure.

DEN
You stop that directly, lady.

RIDG
Where's Hoobert?

DEN
He was right behind me.
Stop that!

INEZ
I'm behind you now.

DEN
Don't touch my bottom like
that.

INEZ
My hands are tied.

RIDG
We lost Hoobert!

DEN
(grandly)
Ever-ree-body...st-op!

WE HEAR BODIES BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER LIKE DOMINOES.
SILENCE. WE ARE STILL IN THE DARK. THE CONSTANT
DRIPPING LIQUID IS THE CHINESE WATER TORTURE AT ITS
BEST.

INEZ
You can't make a move without
Hubert.

DEN
Shush, you. Ridg?

RIDG
Yeah, Den? I'm over here.

DEN
How'd you get all the way over
there?

RIDG
I was standing in a puddle.
It's dry over here, Den.

DEN
Pass me a flashlight.

RIDG
Hoobert has them.

DEN
Poop. Now what?

RIDG
I got two candles hidden
away in my front pocket.
I got two of 'em.

DEN
Light 'em up!

SOUND OF A MATCH AGAINST ROCK. WE HAVE CANDLE LIGHT!
WE ARE IN A CAVE. RIDG IS STANDING ON A BOULDER. THEY
ALL LOOK AROUND. THERE ARE BOULDERS, ROCKS AND PUDDLES.
DEN AND RIDG CARRY TWO MANNEQUINS EACH.

RIDG
How'd I get up here?

DEN
Get down and give me a candle.

RIDG GETS DOWN AND THEY STAND THEIR MANNEQUINS UP. DEN NOW HAS A CANDLE. DEN, A SQUAT YOUNG MAN WHO HAS ROLLS OF FAT STICKING OUT OF HIS SEQUIN COWBOY SHIRT, STANDS LIKE A LUMP OF MASHED POTATOES. DEN ALSO WEARS DARK BLUE DENIM JEANS AND RED BOOTS. RIDG IS A CAT-LIKE OLD MAN. HE IS WRINKLED AND DOES NOT WALK. HE CREEPS. RIDG'S HEAD IS PUSHED INTO HIS SHOULDERS AND HE IS DRESSED ENTIRELY IN BLACK. INEZ IS A TOUGH, MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN. SHE IS BLINDFOLDED WITH A FEED SACK. WE CANNOT SEE HER FACE, BUT A SHOCK OF YELLOW HAIR STICKS OUT FROM THE SACK. HER HANDS ARE TIED BEHIND HER BACK. SHE IS DRESSED IN A WHITE BUSINESS SUIT. HER VOICE IS SULTRY AND MELODIC.

RIDG

So this is the Hole, huh?

DEN

I suppose it's the hideaway. Hubert told us that if we followed his directions directly, we'd get there.

INEZ

Then where's Hubert?

DEN

Shush, you. You're lucky to be alive.

INEZ

Really?

RIDG

Listen, Bank-Lady, we commit robberies all the time. We're not out doing Bank hold-ups for fun. No sir. Stealing is hard.

INEZ

So's being blindfolded.

DEN

Shush, you.

INEZ

Will you untie me? Or are you scared?

RIDG

Her hands do look red and scaly.

DEN

Shush you too. I'm the Driver here. You're just the stupid cat burglar.

INEZ

So untie me...Chauffeur.

DEN

We can wait for Hubert. He set this whole heist up.

RIDG

Way to tell her, Den.

DEN

Now Ridg, you go back and look for Hubert. We may have lost him directly after we took the bend.

RIDG

I'm not going alone.

DEN

You're not taking her! She's our prisoner. I have to stay here and guard her. I'm the guard.

INEZ

My name is Inez.

DEN

Go Ridg. It's about fifty feet back. Don't stub your toe again. Call Hubert's name, then wait for a response. Then run back here. Got it?

RIDG NODS. LOOKS AT DEN. LOOKS WHERE HE HAS TO GO. HE TAKES HIS CANDLE AND SLOWLY CREEPS AWAY.

INEZ

So here we are. Could you at least take off this blindfold? It smells like a cow.

DEN

Yeah, well, sorry. All I had in my trunk was a feed sack. I didn't know you wanted to come along.

INEZ

I didn't.

DEN

You screamed. We told you to get the money. The note didn't say anything about you opening up and screaming. We told you if you made a sound, you'd be sorry.

INEZ SCREAMS.

DEN (CON'T)

Shush you! Hubert might hear.

INEZ

I might as well have a heyday. You live on a farm. Am I right?

DEN

Well I was...hold the oatmeal! I know what you're tryin' to do. You're tryin' to trick me into tellin' you where I live. Sorry Bank-Lady. No change.

INEZ

I'm hungry and my throat is dusty.

DEN

Hubert has all the supplies.

INEZ

Oh. He's dead and here we are. Candles going to hot wax, my bladder is full and nothing to read while I eat breakfast. Where's my sleeping bag?

DEN

Hubert, again.

INEZ

Surprise.

DEN

Listen. You're here and you gotta do as we say. I'll cut you in on my half of the loot if you'll only shut up.

INEZ

I'm cold.

DEN

Me too.

INEZ

You want me, Den.

DEN

Eh?

INEZ

I know you want me.

DEN

I got a wife and three kids with one in the percolator. I got family where the sunshine is, so don't say things like that. What exactly did you say again?

INEZ

I said you want me. You can have me if you untie me. I'm scared and your voice is so kind. I want to see where I am. You ever felt scared, Den? Have you ever been awake at three in the morning because you had a nightmare? The first thing you do is pop the light on so you can see the Devil in full color. Are you the Fallen Angel, Den? Are you testing my Faith?

DEN

I ain't no Devil. Jesus, I'm tryin' to make a livin'. I wonder what's keepin' Ridg. I know Hubert's around here.

INEZ

The last thing I saw were the clouds. Rain came pouring down and we're going to freeze to death in this God-forsaken place. I can smell the mold. We won't freeze if we can keep warm. Hand me your candle.

DEN

It's too hot. The wax is dripping.

INEZ

I like it that way.

DEN

No. You'll get burned and deformed.

INEZ

Okay.

SHE GETS CLOSER TO HIM. SHE BENDS AND BLOWS HER BREATH IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THE CANDLE IS OUT. DARKNESS AGAIN.

RIDG (OFF)

Hoobert! Hoobert this is Ridg. You there, Hoobert?

INEZ

Hubert's dead.

DEN

No. We'll find him. It's dark that's all.

INEZ

It's wonderful.

RIDG (OFF)

Hooooo-Booort!

DEN

I hear him.

INEZ

He's whispering in my ear.

RIDG (STILL OFF)

I'm here by the ledge, Hoobert. Are you hurt? Den? I'm headin' back.

DEN
Here he comes.

INEZ
Quickly.

DEN
I...

INEZ
Let me tie you up.

DEN
Don't get so close. Stop.
Oh. No. Really, yes. I
like that.

HUBERT
What the hell is going on!

HUBERT, ABOUT 31, SHINES TWO HUGE FLUORESCENT LAMPS ON DEN AND INEZ. HUBERT STANDS ON THE BOULDER AND LOOKS DOWN AT THEM. DEN IS NAKED ON TOP AND INEZ IS UNTIED BUT HER BLINDFOLD IS STILL WRAPPED AROUND HER HEAD. HUBERT SHRUGS OFF A GIGANTIC BACKPACK. HE IS STOOPED, ANGRY AND SOAKING WET. HUBERT'S HAIR IS THINNING AND CURLY. HIS BROW IS GNARLED AND HIS THICK THIGH MUSCLES ARE EXPOSED BY HIS JOGGING SHORTS.

DEN
Hubert! She said you were
dead.

HUBERT
She's supposed to. I have
been listening to you two on
the other side of the rock.
I am disgusted.

INEZ
Need a thrill?

HUBERT
Tie her back up.

DEN TIES HER HANDS AGAIN WHILE HUBERT SETS UP THE TWO LAMPS. THEY ARE THE ONLY LIGHT. THE WATER IS STILL DRIPPING.

HUBERT

You let me down, Den. You did the same thing at the University. Screwed my wife while I was teaching your freshman class. Killed my wife instead of my best friend. Maybe I should have done the reverse.

DEN

She started it, Hubert. Just like before. I didn't want to. I got a wife and kids.

INEZ

With one in the percolator.

HUBERT

Shut up.

HUBERT CHARGES FOR DEN. HUBERT TAKES HIM TO THE GROUND AND PINS HIS ARMS. HE SLAPS DEN AND SPITS IN HIS FACE.

HUBERT (CON'T)

I'm Boss-King down here, understand, Den? I'll kill you too.

DEN

Sure, sure. Sorry Hubert. You're Boss-King. You want mannequins for your troops, I'll steal 'em for ya. Just don't hurt me.

INEZ

Your grip is slipping, Boss-King.

HUBERT

If I let you up, you promise not to touch her again. Even if she begs?

DEN

Promise. I do.

HUBERT

Fine. Then you put your shirt on.

HUBERT LETS DEN UP. DEN PUTS HIS SHIRT ON AND SNAPS THE FRONT CLOSED.

HUBERT

I'm in control. I went to school all my life and I have a degree. So don't tell me I'm stupid or losing my grip. The more educated one is, the more one understands just how great it is to be innocent. I know it is great to be down here. No cops. No courts. I can do what needs to be done. I'm Boss-King of the Hole.

RIDG ENTERS. HE PANTS FOR AIR.

RIDG

He's dead. I called 'til my throat got raw and Hubert is certainly dead. Hubert? You're here already. Just like I said.

HUBERT

Alive and ready to kick you in the head.

RIDG

It was all Den's idea.

HUBERT

Let us get one thing straight. We are the Nation, now. I'll call the shots to make it easy on you two. And for you lady, I killed up there once and it doesn't matter how many times I do it again, because hanging is hanging and electricity feels the same for one murder as it does for...

HUBERT COUNTS EVERYONE INCLUDING THE MANNEQUINS, INCLUDING HIMSELF.

HUBERT (CON'T)

Eight. No wait, that includes me. Seven, then.

INEZ

If you kill us all, you'll be ruling corpses.

HUBERT
No difference from up there.

RIDG
Let's eat.

DEN AND RIDG RACE TO THE BACKPACK AND BEGIN TO UNLOAD.

HUBERT
Here are some rules. We have the money stashed. But we're going to stay here until it is safe to get around on the outside and spend the money. Miss Hold-Up of the year will be disposed of as soon as we get settled. We can't have any witnesses.

INEZ
I won't die.

DEN
Hey. You brought cookies.

RIDG
And chewing gum! Just like camping out again..

HUBERT
This is better than camping out. We have our own world. We'll build a throne for me and start our own cable station. It'll be great.

INEZ
I don't want to be water on a wet dream, but I didn't do anything wrong. I don't want to die.

DEN
I forgot my toothbrush.

RIDG
Cavemen didn't brush their teeth.

DEN
At least we have breath mints.

HUBERT

We will divide our supplies three ways. We'll feed the Banker-Lady with the stuff we don't need. We do have some new rules I came up with. We have meetings. I'll run the meetings for simplicity's sake. Okay. We'll discuss our daily agenda. In order to speak, you must raise, let's say...your foot. If I see your foot and decide I don't want to say anything else at that particular instant, I'll allow you the cave floor. But it'll cost you to speak. You must pay me part of your share of the loot or part of your share of the food. I'll let you decide which you'll pay. Okay. The meeting has started.

DEN

Gosh. I dunno. That sounds kinda hard to follow.

HUBERT

It'll be great. The meeting has started, remember.

INEZ

Could someone please give me a crust of bread? A droplet of wine? An aspirin?

HUBERT

You didn't raise your foot, lady. And you didn't follow the rules. Your food ration for the day is spent.

RIDG

She's gotta eat.

HUBERT

Watch it, Ridg. One more time without a raised foot and you're next to lose.

DEN
Can't we talk?

HUBERT
Not during the meeting.

DEN
I don't think that sounds
fair.

HUBERT
Den, your foot wasn't up.
That'll cost you one cookie.
Pay up.

DEN
Hey! You let Ridg have a free
mistake. I want one too.

HUBERT
That'll also cost you a stick
of gum. Breakfast is next.

RIDG
Let's talk about this Hoobert.
I'm not in school so it'll take
a while to get used to raising
...my foot.

INEZ
There's seven of us against him.

HUBERT
But, you all are civilized.
Manners are the most dangerous
customs alive. I don't care about
you and I don't care about me. I
can threaten your food, your freedom
and your life. All you can do is hope.
You must do as I say because I am an
animal. Kill or be killed. And
that last outburst is going to
cost you a day's food, Ridg.
At-at-at. Don't open that mouth,
Den.

DEN BLUSHES AND RAISES HIS RIGHT FOOT.

HUBERT (CON'T)
Yes, Den?

DEN

Boss-King, I'm starved. Fact is, we all are. Let's start the manners at meetings tomorrow.

HUBERT

No. Request denied. You owe me an apple for the speech.

INEZ

We lose is we raise our foot or even if we don't!

HUBERT

No sleeping bag tonight, lady. I'm getting sick of you. Now then. We must start straight off with this meeting rule or you'll get out of control. You all start clearing away the rocks to form a smooth sleeping area. I'm going to take a break and eat a cupcake. I will keep an eye on you. Remember, I have the Bowie Knife. Meeting's over.

HUBERT GETS A CUPCAKE OUT OF THE BACKPACK AND EATS IT.

INEZ

I'm not going to take it. I'm leaving.

HUBERT

Not while I'm watching.

INEZ

You'll sleep sometime.

HUBERT

The boys and I will take turns keeping tabs on you. We're a team here and you are the one looking in.

INEZ

You've lost them.

HUBERT

That's it. I'm done with you, Bank-Lady. I'm going to give you something more to think about. You'll leave me alone.

HUBERT STUFFS THE REST OF THE CUPCAKE DOWN IN HIS MOUTH. HE GOES TO INEZ AND UNTIES HER. HE THEN FORCES HER TO THE GROUND AND PINS HER DOWN WITH HIS KNEES ON HER ARMS. SHE IS STIL BLINDFOLDED.

INEZ
You're hurting me!

HUBERT
Ridg, Den, find the biggest boulders you can lift and bring them over here.

RIDG AND DEN LIFT AND LUG ONE BOULDER EACH AND TAKE THEM TO HUBERT.

DEN
Got one.

RIDG
Mine's bigger. Can I have a sandwich?

HUBERT
This is the way I'll break you, lady. Okay. Put one boulder on each of her hands.

DEN
Her hands? It'll crush her tendons!

HUBERT
Do it. She's starting to struggle.

INEZ
I'll shut up, I promise.

HUBERT
Hurry up you two, or you won't eat for a week.

RIDG
Maybe we could put a sock in her mouth.

HUBERT
Do it now!

HUBERT STRETCHES HER ARMS STRAIGHT OUT FROM HER BODY SO THAT SHE FORMS A CROSS. RIDG AND DEN PUT THE ROCKS ON HER HANDS. INEZ SCREAMS. DEN AND RIDGE COVER THEIR EARS.

HUBERT
(triumphant)
There. Now we can get on with
some important business without
any interruptions.

INEZ STOPS SCREAMING. SHE STOPS MOVING. THE WATER DRIPS.

DEN
Look, Boss-King. She stopped
moving.

RIDG
She's dead.

HUBERT
Not dead. Only fainted dead-
away.

DEN
Maybe we should find a lighter
rock.

HUBERT
Maybe not.

RIDG
Now what do we do?

HUBERT
Well, we can put the rest of
the troops to bed.

THE MEN TAKE THE MANNEQUINS AND PLACE THEM HORIZONTAL ON
THE GROUND AROUND INEZ.

DEN
So now what do we do?

HUBERT
Well, we still have to hide out.
It's still dangerous to go out
and check the coast. So since
you two have performed so nicely,
I'll let you share the apple I
started on the way in.

HUBERT TOSSES A HALF-EATEN APPLE TO DEN.

DEN
Thanks, Hubert. I mean Boss-
King.

RIDG

Yeah. Thanks.

HUBERT

Okay, now you get some sleep.
We're going to start a new
taxation system tomorrow.
Rocks are the future. No more
of the stupid gold standard.

DEN

Then why'd we rob the bank?

HUBERT

We held-up the bank as a political
statement. Thumbed our noses at
the society. Got it?

DEN

I get it. So here we work against
each other to get ahead.

HUBERT

What's that supposed to mean?

DEN

Nuthin'.

HUBERT

Good. Let's bed down.

HUBERT FALLS TO THE FLOOR IN A HEAP. INSTANTLY, HE IS
ASLEEP AND SNORING. DEN AND RIDG SIT ON THE GROUND NEXT
TO INEZ.

DEN

Everybody's asleep 'cept us.

RIDG

I'm so hungry I want to die.

DEN

What's that supposed to mean?

RIDG

Nuthin'. Can I have a bite of
that apple?

DEN

Okay. But don't suck out all
the juice.

DEN PASSES THE APPLE TO RIDG. RIDGE LOOKS IT OVER. HE PLAYS WITH IT IN HIS HANDS AND WIPES IT ON THE SLEEVE OF HIS SHIRT. SILENCE. THE WATER DRIPS. HUBERT SNORES.

RIDG

So. Whadda ya think so far?

DEN

What's that supposed to mean?

RIDG

Nuthin'. Good apple.

DEN

Yeah, well pass it back.

RIDG

You're not Boss-King.

DEN

I'll wake him up and tell him what you did.

RIDG

Go ahead. He'll slug you in the face for waking him up.

INEZ

Hubert's the type that'd poke you in the eye, and then slap your face for crying.

DEN

Shush, you.

RIDG

She's alive! Pink and breathing.

DEN

Boss-King doesn't want any trouble from you, lady. Your hands hurt?

INEZ

I can't move. It's too cold.

RIDG

You can have my shirt.

DEN

No she can't. You just be quiet and go to sleep, lady. We don't want no trouble.

RIDG

It is cold in here. I wonder
what time it is?

INEZ

Could I have a taste of your
apple?

RIDG

It's good. Let her, Den.

DEN

No.

RIDG

She needs to eat. I don't
want to be up for murder too.

DEN

I said no.

INEZ

I won't tell. My throat is so
sore. The acid in the juice
might help.

RIDG

I won't tell either.

DEN

It is good juice.

INEZ

Thank you, Den.

DEN HOLDS THE APPLE ABOVE HER MOUTH. INEZ TAKES TWO
BITES AND CHEWS.

DEN

I'm throwing this away. Hubert
might check it for lipstick.

RIDG

You let her eat it. Not me.

DEN

Listen, squirt, you said you
wouldn't tell.

RIDG

Only if Boss-King doesn't find
out.

DEN CHUCKS THE APPLE TO THE BACK OF THE CAVE.

INEZ

You know, Hubert isn't as smart as he tells you.

DEN

Shush, you.

RIDG

He knows more than us.

INEZ

Does that always make him right?

DEN

Of course.

RIDG

He's Boss-King.

DEN

Hubert planned the whole hold-up. We're gonna be rich the rest of our lives.

INEZ

You are stupid. Think about it. The second you step out of this cave, Government Agents will be on your back faster than you can wink. If not that soon, they'll get you as soon as you try to spend one of those bills. They're marked.

DEN

I don't believe you.

RIDG

We'll save 'em.

INEZ

Still stupid. You'll end up saving those bills for twenty years. During that time you'll live like you do now. Why rob the bank anyway?

RIDG

It was exciting.

DEN

She's bluffing. She's making up horror stories to spook us, Ridg. Next she'll try to tell you that you're the Devil. Believe me, I know. I'm smart.

RIDG

Hubert has always taken care of us.

INEZ

I didn't tell you this earlier, because I didn't want to get Hubert mad. You both have kind hearts.

RIDG

Is that it?

DEN

She's gonna tell us a secret.

RIDG

I better wake up Boss-King for this.

INEZ

I pushed a button in the bank when you asked for the money. It is a small little button that I push only in emergencies. I use the tip of my shoe to push the little red button in. The button triggers a series of three cameras that take photographs of customers. Or of bank robbers.

RIDG

Pictures of us?

DEN

I was outside. I didn't see no camera.

INEZ

That's the whole idea. Two inside, one outside on the street. Hidden cameras all over the place, just like the coffee commercials. The bank has twenty 8 x 10 pictures of your mugs. In color, suitable for framing. Can send one to your mother from prison.

RIDG

I did see those in the movies
once.

DEN

I don't believe her. Hubert
would've thought of it.

INEZ

He did. He wants you to get
caught so he can have the money
all to himself. Wait until
you hit the outside. You'll see
the light.

RIDG

I'm scared. It really is getting
cold in here.

DEN

I'm waking up the Boss-King.
He'll help us.

INEZ

He'll get mad you found him out.
I can help us. I'll save you if
you save me.

DEN

Shush, you.

RIDG

My stomach is growling.

INEZ

Lift these boulders off my
hands.

DEN

No.

RIDG

After we take the boulders off,
then what happens?

INEZ

We'll be strong together. You're
all so worried about having me
blindfolded and everyone in the
country knows what you look like.
You help me. Take off the feed
sack and we'll be strong against
Hubert together. No more Boss-King.

RIDG
Hoobert wouldn't like not
being Boss-King anymore.

DEN
We might be able to help you.

INEZ
We can be a team. Us against
him. We can beat him up and
turn overselves in. I won't
press charges against you two,
because you helped me.

RIDG
What about Hoobert? You'd put
him in jail?

INEZ
He hurt me. Don't you think
that's a bit unfair?

DEN
What do we do?

INEZ
Take the rest of the troops and
have them stand guard.

DEN AND RIDG TAKE THE FOUR MANNEQUINS AND STAND THEM
CLOSE TOGETHER, FORMING A WALL BETWEEN THEM AND HUBERT.

DEN
Quick. We have to be quick
before Hubert wakes up.

INEZ
Take off the boulders.

THEY DO. THEY HELP HER TO HER FEET.

RIDG
Now what? I'm scared stiff.

INEZ
Take the blindfold off!

DEN
I don't think this was a
wise idea.

DEN UNTIES THE FEED SACK. WE SEE INEZ'S FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME. HER FACE IS SMOOTH WITH LINES OF MAKE-UP IN STREAMS DOWN HER FACE. SHE HAS BEEN CRYING. HUBERT SMASHES THROUGH THE MANNEQUINS, SENDING THEM FLYING AROUND THE CAVE. HUBERT IS POISED WITH HIS BOWIE KNIFE. HE IS GASPING FOR AIR. INEZ SCREAMS AND DEN AND RIDG TRY TO HIDE BEHIND HER.

HUBERT

I caught you! You turned on me you cowards! You betrayed me!

INEZ

You can't hurt us. We're together now.

HUBERT

I can kill you.

INEZ

There are all of us against you. We are no longer people. You have stripped us of desire to go along. We are angry, hungry and pissed off animals.

HUBERT

C'mon. Make a move to be the new Boss-King.

DEN

We only wanted to eat.

INEZ

You saw this coming. You're not blind.

RIDG

She said she wouldn't turn us in.

INEZ

Only you, Boss-King. Stab me and eat me and play with my guts. I don't care any more.

HUBERT

I'll do you better than that. I'll cut you up slowly. You'll have reason to scream. I'm not alone.

INEZ

Boys, pick up rocks. Get ready
to throw them as hard as you can.
Aim for his head and groin.

HUBERT

Shut up. I'll kill you dead.

INEZ

I died this afternoon. My hands
and heart were crushed by your
desire. Get the rocks.

DEN AND RIDG GATHER SOME GOOD-SIZED ROCKS.

HUBERT

Den. Ridg. It's me, Hubert.

DEN

She told us you were goin' to
turn us in. I don't want to
go to jail.

HUBERT

She was lying, Den. It's me...
Hubert. Your old buddy.

DEN

What do we do?

INEZ

Get ready to throw.

RIDG

I was hungry, that's all,
Hoobert.

HUBERT

I have lots of food. C'mon
guys. She's trying to pull
a fast one. We're smarter
than she is. Right?

INEZ

It's too late to go back now,
boys. When you must choose
between the law and disorder,
the law is always right.

HUBERT

I'll kill myself, then.

DEN
Hubert, don't kill yourself.

RIDG
Why Boss King?

INEZ
He's bluffing. He's too
selfish to kill himself.
Who'd he have to pick on
if he died?

HUBERT
No bluff, no lie. Look, Den,
Ridg. It's your buddy Hubert.
I'm sticking the knife into
my neck. Right in the main
jugular. Your oolld buddy Hubert.

RIDG
He's doin' it!

DEN
Just like a Vampire.

HUBERT STICKS THE KNIFE IN HIS NECK. DEN AND RIDG DROP
THE ROCKS.

INEZ
He's sucked your blood. Your
hearts are empty. Don't listen
to him. He's the Devil.

HUBERT
I'm feeling faint.

INEZ
Do it.

DEN
No, Boss-King.

RIDG
What do we do, Den?

HUBERT WINCES AS HE PUSHES THE KNIFE INTO HIS NECK. THERE
IS NO BLOOD. HUBERT HAS NOT BROKEN THE SKIN.

HUBERT
It's going in!

RIDG
Hubert, don't!

RIDG RACES TO HUBERT'S SALVATION. HUBERT TAKES THE KNIFE FROM HIS NECK AND LASHES OUT AT RIDG. HUBERT SLICES RIDG'S ARM AND HUBERT LAUGHS. DEN PICKS UP A ROCK AND HITS HUBERT IN THE BACK. INEZ SCREAMS AS HUBERT FALLS TO THE GROUND. THE BOWIE KNIFE IS ON THE GROUND. RIDG'S ARM IS BLEEDING.

RIDG

You hurt me, Hubert. You never did that before.

INEZ

He has, but you haven't seen the blood. He's the type that cuts you up without you being the wiser. Like a cancer.

HUBERT

I'll cut your throat next, you scab. My back hurts.

INEZ

I told you so.

DEN

You shut up, lady.

HUBERT

That's my Den.

DEN

You shut up too. Me and Ridg here are directly sick of being used. You two sit there while we're the ones bein' torn apart. Sure, maybe we don't got an expensive education. Sure, maybe we don't wear fancy clothes and smell like flowers. But we both got somethin' bigger than the both of you. We got compassion. C'mon, Ridg. We're goin' home.

DEN AND RIDG PICK UP THE MANNEQUINS.

HUBERT

Don't leave.

INEZ

You can't leave me here
with him. I'm coming with
you.

RIDG PICKS UP THE FEED SACK. DEN TIES THE SACK AROUND
RIDG'S BLEEDING ARM. DEN PICKS UP THE BOWIE KNIFE.

DEN

No. You're not gonna follow
us. We'll get caught, maybe,
but it'll be better than this
Hole.

INEZ

I won't tell.

HUBERT

You can't take the money.

RIDG

I don't want any money.

DEN

Keep the loot, Hubert. We're
makin' our own decisions now.
C'mon, Ridg. Let's go home.

THEY BEGIN TO EXIT.

RIDG

See ya, Bank-Lady. Bye, Boss-
King.

THEY ARE GONE. SILENCE. THE WATER DRIPS.

INEZ

Are you going to kill me?

HUBERT

No I'm not going to kill you.
I no murderer.

INEZ

You killed your wife.

HUBERT

Yeah. I killed her. Not the
same as murder, though.

INEZ

How'd you do it?

HUBERT

I used the simplest and most deadly weapon ever invented: logic. Emotion verses Logic. Logic is the slowest and the most painful way to kill a person you love. I broke her in two. Treated her like an animal in a laboratory and I stole her spirit. I rode her hard. She could not please me. I wouldn't let her. Now, I do not want potatoes. I want asparagus. I do not want sex. I want television. You are an ugly, mean and lying woman, and I hate you. She tried to keep smiling, but it killed her. She took a bottle of pills. I won, though. I proved that a person can be broken by logic, even if there is a mutual love to begin with. I haven't been to her grave yet. Didn't even see her buried. I was too proud of myself. It isn't enough to be loved. You have to be right too. I told her that she wouldn't always love me. There was no way.

INEZ

So you're going to lock yourself in the past?

HUBERT

No. I'm just not leaving here.

INEZ

Oh, excuse me. You're going to lock yourself in this cave.

HUBERT

So who made you Queen-for-the-day? Leave me alone.

INEZ

I won't leave you alone.

HUBERT

We'll see about that. I don't want your help or your company.

INEZ

You brought me here, so you're going to listen. You are so self-righteous that you're vision of the world outside your head is skewed.

HUBERT

Shut your mouth.

INEZ

There are a lot of things that can't be explained or defined. You can't go around putting things in convenient categories and expect it all to fit into your view of the world. Most of the ugly, terrible things hide under rocks and you have to go digging for them. Take me. I never told my father I loved him. Explain that one.

HUBERT

It can be explained. You need professional therapy.

INEZ

No I don't. There are things that happen that are so awful, so terrible, that I will never tell another person. And you know what, Hubert? You can't define it if I don't let it out. And you know what else? There isn't anything you can do about it, because I'm calling the shots. You are forced to accept me the way I am. Does that make my crime worse than yours? I don't think so. There are plenty worse things that happen. I'm just too chicken to go searching for them. I have enough terror in my life, thank you.

HUBERT

Well I'm not chicken. Show me the ugliest monster and I'll stand up and beat the truth out of it. I'm the Boss-King.

INEZ

You are a little boy.

HUBERT

I've had enough of you, lady.
Now get outta here.

INEZ

Look at you. You know I'm
right and you can't take it.
I took away your right to
feel sorry for yourself and
you're mad.

HUBERT

I said get out. Leave me alone!

INEZ

What're you gonna do? Kill me?

HUBERT

I'll take a rock and smash your
brains and they'll squirt out
your nose all over your clean
white clothes. And I will. By
God I'll do it with a smile on
my face.

INEZ

Do it. I dare you to smash my
skull. I won't move.

HUBERT JERKILY PICKS UP A ROCK AND HOLDS IT POISED ABOVE
INEZ'S HEAD.

HUBERT

I hate you.

HE DROPS THE ROCK.

INEZ

You just beat the truth out
of the ugliest monster. The
monster was you.

HUBERT

If you really knew what I was
like, you'd have nightmares
for the rest of your life.

INEZ

I don't think so.

HUBERT

Yeah, well I do. That's all that matters.

INEZ

Come with me. Turn yourself in and you won't serve more than a year in prison. You didn't spend the money. I'd write you. I might even visit you on weekends.

HUBERT

I'm staying here.

INEZ

Are you sure?

HUBERT

The hold-up was for thrills. Down here, in the Hole, it is thrilling and...safe. I am the Boss-King of this cave and I don't have to tell anything I don't want to.

INEZ

You'll need food.

HUBERT

I can listen to the water drip. I don't need the sun. I can make my own hours. I'll be fine.

INEZ

You'll do your time here?

HUBERT

Prisons are only illusions. A person dressed in black comes up and tells you 'this is a prison' and you believe him. I'm calling this home. You call it whatever you like, I really don't care.

INEZ

I won't tell them where you are.

HUBERT

You can have the money. It's at the mouth of the cave behind a red bush. Tell them you found it in a trash can. Or keep it yourself and take a vacation to the Bahamas. I don't care.

INEZ

Okay.

HUBERT

You leave me alone now?

INEZ

I was thinking. I might stop by every week or so. I might bring some food with me. Not because I feel sorry for you, but just to help you keep up your strength. What do you think?

HUBERT

You do what you want.

INEZ

All right. I'll see you later Hubert. You take care of yourself.

INEZ IS GONE. HUBERT GOES TO ONE OF THE BIG FLUORESCENT LAMPS AND TURNS IT OFF. NEXT, HUBERT WALKS TO THE OTHER LAMP AND STARES INTO THE LIGHT. THE WATER DRIPS LOUDER.

HUBERT

It's me and you. One long nightmare. Just remember. You're the monster, and I'm the Boss-King.

HUBERT TURNS OFF THE LAST FLUORESCENT LAMP. BLACKOUT.

CURTAIN