

How to get Away with Robbery

Written by

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INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

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Three 25 year old's, ZOE, SAM, and ELENA, stand in a garage with tables with bags of money and drugs. CARLOS, a 30 year old man, searches through the bags.

CARLOS
Where's the rest?

Elena looks down and holds one arm. Sam looks at her confused.

ZOE
It should all be there.

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Carlos quickly walks over and pulls a reluctant Zoe by the arm over to the bags. He pulls her into a headlock to show her the inside of the bags. Zoe looks nervously.

CARLOS
Do you see \$5,000?

Zoe shakes her head quickly.

ZOE
No.

Carlos releases her and she runs back over to the girls.

CARLOS
Does anyone else wanna take a look?

The girls shake their heads nervously.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
Quiero mi dinero!

Carlos throws the boxes on the ground and the girls jump.

ELENA
Podemos llevartelo.

CARLOS
Donde esta?

ELENA
Lo dejé con Tommy. Pienso que él lo llevó.

*

The girls look at Elena strangely when they hear Tommy.

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CARLOS
Perra Estupida!
(beat)
I want my money by Friday.

SAM
We need more time.

CARLOS
That wasn't a request.

ELENA
Carlos, por favor.

CARLOS
Get out and don't come back until
you have my damn money.

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EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The girls walk.

SAM
What the hell happened Elena!

ZOE
Yeah, I thought you sold all of
your drugs?

ELENA
Tommy took one of our bags of money
and my portion of the drugs so I
wasn't able to sell them.

Everyone stops walking.

SAM
Oh my God, so poor Zoe had to
suffer because of your pathetic
choice in men?

Sam shakes her head in disbelief.

ELENA
Zo, I'm so sorry. Are you okay?

ZOE
Yeah, I'm fine, but you kind of
screwed us.

ELENA

I'm sorry I didn't tell you guys. I thought I'd be able to figure it out but then Carlos wanted the money sooner.

ZOE

We'll figure it out. We always do.

Elena hugs Zoe.

ZOE (CONT'D)

We could use the money I've been saving up.

SAM

Zo, we can't let you do that.

ELENA

Really? But how else are we gonna get \$5,000 by Friday?

SAM

I don't know, why don't you ask your klepto boyfriend!

Elena looks down.

ELENA

He won't answer his phone and all of his things are gone.

SAM

He's gone! Well, this day just keeps getting better and better.

ELENA

I'm sorry.

SAM

I know. I know. But we have to come up with a plan.

ZOE

We will.

Elena nods.

INT. THE GIRLS' HOUSE DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The girls sit and play go fish. Beers are on the table.

ELENA
Any ideas?

SAM
We could sell our clothes.

ZOE
You got some Versace I don't know about?

SAM
It's just an idea.

ELENA
What if we sell our kidneys?

SAM
I'm not selling my kidney!

ZOE
Me either.

SAM
(to Elena)
Go fish.

ELENA
Fine. We could rob a bank.

Elena smiles.

ELENA (CONT'D)
We could get thousands of dollars from a safe.

Zoe looks up from her cards.

ZOE
No not a bank.
(beat)
A house.

Everyone puts their cards down.

ELENA
What? You want to rob our employers?

ZOE
Mr. Herschel keeps a safe in his closet and he still has Mrs. Herschel's jewelry.

SAM

Maids are always the first people to get blamed.

ZOE

He's so old he probably wouldn't even notice.

ELENA

You're right. Last week he was looking for his glasses for an hour and they were on his head.

Sam rubs her forehead.

SAM

I don't know it's pretty risky and I don't want to go back to jail. Do you?

ELENA

No... No I don't.

SAM

Exactly and after juvie we were only supposed to sell drugs until we got back on our feet.

ZOE

And, after we pay Carlos back we can be done.

(a beat)

I might even apply for college.

SAM

Really? That's great.

ELENA

That's what you wanna do with the money you saved? Instead of getting us out this situation you wanna burn money on college?

SAM

Elena.

ZOE

First of all I don't even have enough money to pay Carlos. Sorry for wanting to make something out of myself.

Elena EXHALES.

ELENA

I didn't mean it like that. I'm
just tired of working for Carlos.

Zoe touches Elena's hand.

ZOE

I know. Me too.

SAM

You guys really think Carlos is
just gonna let us go?

ZOE

What if we pay him double?

SAM

That's \$10,000!

ZOE

We'll figure it out.

ELENA

We might have to rob more houses.

SAM

Oh my God.

Sam takes a sip of beer and contemplates as she taps the
bottle.

SAM (CONT'D)

Okay.

Elena and Zoe smile.

ELENA

So how are we gonna do this?

INT. MR. HERSCHEL'S HOUSE HALLWAY - DAY

The girls clean the house with their maid outfits on. Zoe
passes by Sam in the bathroom and nods. Sam closes the door.

ZOE (V.O.)

Sam you're in charge of the jewelry
in the bathroom. Mr. Herschel
hasn't been in there since his wife
left him.

INT. MR. HERSCHEL'S HOUSE BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sam opens an empty container of clorox wipes. She searches a jewelry box for jewelry and puts it in the container.

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INT. THE GIRLS' HOUSE DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The girls sit at the dining room table.

ELENA

And I know how to crack a safe.

Elena smiles.

SAM

Where did you learn that?

ELENA

Tommy. He's not completely pathetic.

Sam and Zoe give Elena a puzzled look.

INT. MR. HERSCHEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zoe makes up the bed. Elena is by the armoire. She has on gloves and uses paper clips for the safe. She turns the nob. An empty Clorox wipe container is on the floor.

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ZOE (V.O.)

Okay Elena then you crack the safe.

The safe opens and the doorknob to the room turns. Zoe looks at Elena panicked. MR. HERSCHEL, a 70 year old man in an undershirt walks in the room.

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MR. HERSCHEL

Hey Zoe.

Zoe runs in front of Mr. Herschel and smiles nervously.

ZOE

Mr.H. Wha-what are you doing in here?

MR. HERSCHEL

It's my room. Move out of my way.

ZOE

I'm sorry I can't let you in.

MR. HERSCHEL
I just need a shirt Zoe. What is
going on?

Zoe throws her hands in the air and smiles.

ZOE
Surprise! You caught us. We're
organizing. *

MR. HERSCHEL
Oh, well that's nice but I want my
shirt.

ZOE
Just tell me what kind of shirt.

MR. HERSCHEL
I want the purple dress shirt or
was the black?

He scratches his head. Zoe smiles.

MR. HERSCHEL (CONT'D)
No, definitely purple.

ZOE
Okay. *

Zoe nods her head and smiles. *

ELENA
One purple shirt coming right up! *

Elena gives Mr. Herschel the shirt. *

ELENA (CONT'D)
Here you go.

MR. HERSCHEL
Thank you. And uh, don't move my
safe.

Elena LAUGHS nervously.

ELENA
There's a safe in there? Whaaat?

Mr. Herschel gives a perplexed look.

MR.HERSCHEL
Yeah.

He walks out and Elena closes the door behind him.

ELENA

Oh my God!
(whispers)

ZOE

That was close.

They walk **back** and see all of the money in the safe. *

ZOE (CONT'D)

Wow.

Elena starts to put money in the empty Clorox container.

ELENA

Organizing? **Really?** *

ZOE

I think I came up with a pretty
good excuse!

They start to look through his clothes.

INT. GIRLS' HOUSE DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON *

The girls sit at the table with cash. Beers in their hands. *

ZOE

We did it.

They clank beers and take a sip.

SAM

I went to that appraiser guy.

ZOE

Can we trust him?

SAM

Yeah. No questions asked and him
and my dad go way back.

Zoe nods.

SAM (CONT'D)

I think that jewelry has to be
worth thousands.

ELENA

Maybe we don't need to rob anyone
else.

Sam smiles and her phone starts to ring. She answers.

SAM

Hello?

Sam stands up.

SAM (CONT'D)

What? Are you kidding me!
(beat)

SAM (CONT'D)

No it's not your fault. Thanks for
calling.

She hangs up.

*

ZOE

What's wrong?

SAM

The jewelry is fake. Maybe worth
only a couple hundred.

ZOE

What!

ELENA

What!

Sam sits down.

SAM

Guess we're not done.

ZOE

We only have about \$5,500.

ELENA

Shit, looks like we gotta rob Ms.
Riley too.

Elena drinks.

*

ZOE

What does she even have?

*

SAM

We have to look tomorrow and take
whatever we can.

ELENA

Oh look at you coming around.

Sam shrugs.

SAM
(playful)
I had fun today and no one walked
in on me.

Sam smiles and takes a sip of beer. Elena pushes her.

INT. MS. RILEY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Zoe makes up the bed. Then she searches a filing cabinet. *

INT. MS. RILEY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sam cleans the sink counter. *

INT. MS. RILEY'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

On a coffee table is a plate of cookies. Elena dusts a lamp and looks over at MS. RILEY, a 60 year old southern woman, on the couch reading a newspaper. A picture of Ms. Riley sits on the table beside her. Elena walks over to the other couch. *

MS. RILEY
You missed a spot, Sweetie.

Ms. Riley looks back down at the newspaper. Elena gives a fake smile and walks back over to the lamp. *

ELENA
Wasn't quite finished yet.

MS. RILEY
Well then stay over there until
you're finished, Honey.

Elena speaks through gritted teeth while she dusts the lamp. *

ELENA
Of course Ms. Riley.

MS. RILEY
I just try to help you girls' out
the best way I can.

Elena walks back over to the other couch. She looks over at Ms. Riley before she searches in between the cushions and finds a \$100 bill. She quickly stuffs it in her pocket.

ELENA
And we so appreciate the help.

Elena genuinely smiles and Ms. Riley smiles up at her.

INT. MS. RILEY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zoe rummages through **the filing cabinet** and finds **an envelope with** cash. She smiles and puts it in her pocket. *
*

INT. MS. RILEY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sam finds an expensive diamond necklace and bracelet **hidden under velvet fabric**. She holds **the big necklace** and opens her mouth in shock. *
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INT. MS. RILEY'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Zoe and Sam walk into the living room. Elena gathers her things **and takes a cookie**. Ms. Riley knits on the couch. *

MS. RILEY
Y'all finished?

ZOE
Yes Ms. Riley.

MS. RILEY
Wonderful. See you girl's next week.

SAM
Actually, we're going on vacation.

Zoe looks at Sam confused.

MS. RILEY
Oh alright, y'all have fun. *

Elena goes over to them. *

SAM
We will.

Sam, Zoe, and Elena walk to the front door. They open the door and walk out.

EXT. MS. RILEY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Zoe, Sam, and Elena walk towards their car.

ZOE
Vacation?

SAM

Well we should probably leave the city just in case they notice. And

She opens an empty container to show the jewelry. The girls look.

ELENA

It's beautiful.

ZOE

Let's just hope it's real this time.

SAM

Y'all know Ms. Riley doesn't do fake.
(imitating Ms. Riley)

The girls LAUGH and get into the car.

INT. THE GIRLS' LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The girls listen to music, dance, and take shots. The table is covered in money and jewelry.

SAM

So how much money did we actually get?

Elena counts the money.

ELENA

Well we got \$5,500 from Mr. Herschel. Me and Zoe got \$1,000 from Ms. Riley. And the necklace you got is worth \$35,000 and the bracelet is \$19,000. So that's \$60,500!

They smile.

ZOE

Nice job Sam.

They clink glasses.

SAM

We have enough to pay Carlos and leave.

ELENA
Zo, looks like you'll have enough
money for at least community
college.

Zoe smiles and shakes her head. Elena's phone RINGS and she
picks it up.

ELENA (CONT'D)
Hello?

Elena looks at the girls startled.

ELENA (CONT'D)
Okay... Of course... Bye.

*

She hangs up the phone.

ZOE
What's wrong? Who was that?

ELENA
A detective. They want me to come
in for questioning.

SAM
Oh my God. Is this about the money?

Elena shakes her head.

ELENA
The drugs.

She puts her head in her hands. Zoe and Sam look at each
other concerned.

CUT TO:

INT. DETECTIVE OFFICE - MORNING

Elena sits a table while she stares into a mug. DETECTIVE
WILSON, a 45 year old woman, sits across from her with
paperwork.

DETECTIVE WILSON
Ms. Vargas?

Elena looks up.

DETECTIVE WILSON (CONT'D)
Thomas Edwards was caught with
cocaine in a bag. He claimed he
accidentally took your bag.

ELENA

Is it impossible to believe that he carries man bags?

DETECTIVE WILSON

He also, claims you and your friends are drug dealers.

ELENA

Did he also tell you he sells guns illegally?

The detective is intrigued and moves forward to rest her head on her hand.

ELENA (CONT'D)

See I can make allegations too but I have proof.

The detective slides over an evidence bag with cocaine.

DETECTIVE WILSON

Will we find your fingerprints on the bag?

Elena closes her eyes.

DETECTIVE WILSON (CONT'D)

You'd be facing up to...

ELENA

Wait. What if I can give you one of the top drug dealers around here?

Detective Wilson raises her eyebrows.

ELENA (CONT'D)

But I want Tommy arrested. And immunity or no deal.

DETECTIVE WILSON

Depends on who you consider to be on top.

ELENA

Carlos Jimenez.

DETECTIVE WILSON

Carlos. We've been after him for awhile. We can make a deal.

Elena smiles.

INT. WAREHOUSE - AFTERNOON

Elena, Zoe, and Sam stand across from Carlos. There is a bag on a table and a chair in the corner.

CARLOS
Is everything there this time?

ZOE
Yes and we brought double the money. We want out.

Carlos shakes head and smiles.

CARLOS
Your payment is late. The extra money will go towards your late fees.

SAM
That's not fair. We've worked for you for years and have always been on time. Can't you just forgive us this one time?

CARLOS
Can't do it Chicas.

Elena walks over to Carlos and puts her bag on the table.

ELENA
Aqui hay, \$5,000 mas.

Carlos opens the bag to find the money as she injects him in the neck with a syringe. Zoe and Sam GASP. Carlos grabs his neck.

CARLOS
What did you do?

Carlos passes out on the floor. Zoe and Sam run over to them.

ZOE
What the hell Elena!

They all stare down at Carlos.

ELENA
I made an immunity deal with the detective to give them Carlos.

ZOE
How did they even find out about the drugs?

ELENA

Tommy.

SAM

That Asshole.

ELENA

Oh he's a part of the deal too.

*

Sam smiles.

ZOE

Nice!

SAM

What about us?

ELENA

I got immunity for all of us.

The girls smile.

SAM

Come through, Elena!

ZOE

Hell yeah!

Elena tries to drag Carlos.

ELENA

Now, can you guys help me?

They go to help drag Carlos to the chair.

ZOE

What's your plan?

ELENA

Tie him up in that chair over there. The police are on their way.

Elena throws rope to them.

SAM

Let's hurry up and finish. We've seen enough police to last us a lifetime.

They begin to tie his legs and wrists.

ELENA

Agreed.

ZOE
What did you inject him with
anyway?

*
*

ELENA
Remember, Crystal from juvie?

ZOE
Oh God.

SAM
Is he gonna be okay?

Sam looks at him concerned and he begins to wake up. They back up.

CARLOS
Que demonios?

Carlos tries to move.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
Get me out of this!

ELENA
Can't do it Chico.

Police sirens BLARE. Carlos tries to escape again.

ZOE
Sounds like it's time to go.

Elena grabs the bag off of the table and begins to run. Zoe and Sam run after her.

CARLOS
You can't leave me here!

They look back and LAUGH.

CARLOS (CONT'D)
Putas!

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

The girls run towards their car.

ZOE
What about the rest of the money?

Elena opens the trunk revealing the rest of the money in a bag. They smile at each other.

ELENA

All a part of the plan.

Then she puts the other bag in the trunk and closes it.

SAM

Vacation time!

They get in the car and drive away.