

The Salon

by

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by

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1. INT. SALON - NIGHT

Two men walk into a salon. Both men are dressed in a pair of jeans, a polo shirt and a jacket. Both of them look dangerous. One of them is short, bald, chubby and 48 years old. The other is tall and well built and in his late thirties. The two men look around the room.

JOKE (49) turns around to address the men. She is seated in a wheelchair and attending to a customer under a heavy facial treatment. She seems troubled at the presence of the men. Seated in a corner is TENI (22) she seems to be engrossed in a book.

JOKE

We are closed for the night.

SHORT BALD MAN

Are you sure about that? Your door is still open, you are attending to a customer and

JOKE

This is the last person I'm attending to for the night. And I'm only doing this because she has waited a long time for her turn.

SHORT BALD MAN

(points at Teni)

Then what is she waiting for?

Joke starts to respond but the man raises his hand at her.

SHORT BALD MAN (CONT'D)

(to Teni)

What are you waiting for?

Teni does not respond.

SHORT BALD MAN (CONT'D)

I am talking to you.

Teni looks at Joke. The ladies are scared.

SHORT BALD MAN (CONT'D)

Are you deaf?

(to Joke)

Is she deaf?

The well built man starts to walk towards Teni.

TENI

I'm waiting for my mother.

SHORT BALD MAN

Who is your mother?

JOKE

I am her mother.

The short bald man looks around the salon as if he has lost something. He stops looking and sighs.

SHORT BALD MAN

(to his colleague)

Let's get out of here.

The well built man starts to walk back to him.

SHORT BALD MAN (CONT'D)

Wait! What is that on your clothes?

The well built man turns to look at Teni. Teni and Joke are alarmed. Teni looks at herself. She finds nothing.

TENI

There is nothing on my clothes Sir.

The well built man turns to look at the short bald man. He realizes that the short bald man is pointing at him.

SHORT BALD MAN

I'm not talking to you. What is that?

The well built man looks at his jacket. There are blood stains on it. He sighs, produces a handkerchief from his pocket and spits on it.

SHORT BALD MAN (CONT'D)

Don't do that out here.

(to Teni)

Where is your bathroom?

Teni points at the bathroom door. The well built man walks past her towards the bathroom door. The man gets to the door and pulls at the handle, it is locked. He pulls again. The door does not respond. He turns around.

SHORT BALD MAN (CONT'D)

(to Teni)

Open the door.

JOKE

She doesn't have the key. Let me come and open it for you.

Joke wheels herself to the bathroom door and produces a key. She puts the key in the lock and turns it. The well built man signals her to wait and step back.

JOKE (CONT'D)

Is there a problem?

The short bald man has his hand behind him, and we see he is holding a gun.

SHORT BALD MAN

Do as he asks.

Joke wheels herself away from the door. The well built man yanks the door open and simultaneously points a gun into the bathroom. The bathroom is empty except for a waste bin in the corner. The two men look at each other. The short bald man puts away his gun and nods. The well built man walks into the bathroom and closes the door.

2. INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The well built man places his gun on the sink and turns on the tap. He wets a part of his handkerchief under the running water before scrubbing his jacket with the wet tip. The blood stain is removed. He is satisfied. He looks around his jacket and finds more blood stains. He sighs. He takes off his jacket. He soaks the tip of the handkerchief again and starts to scrub his jacket.

3. INT. SALON - NIGHT

The short bald man walks over to Joke and takes his seat in the spare swivel chair. He contemplates Joke who is attending to her clients nails. The client's face is covered in facial treatment and the head is under a dryer. The client is in a bathrobe, and the legs are in a pair of leggings.

SHORT BALD MAN

All this in the name of beauty?

(to Joke)

How do you do this in your condition?

JOKE

It isn't easy but I have to do it.
It pays for my daughter's
education.

The short bald man nods his head and for the first time the books on the counter catch his attention. He contemplates them. They are medical books. He looks up at the mirror and catches Teni spying on him over her book. The book in her hand is also a medical book. The short bald man turns to look at Teni, he looks at the book, then at Joke. He puts his hand in his jacket and produces a picture.

SHORT BALD MAN

Have you seen this man?

Joke looks at the picture. It is the picture of a very good looking young man in his late twenties. Joke looks at Teni. They are both scared.

CUT TO:

4. INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The hefty man is satisfied with the cleaning. He puts on his Jacket. He looks at his handkerchief, it is already a mess. He picks it up and steps on a lever at the bottom of the waste bin. The lid pops open. There is surprise on his face.

CUT TO:

5. INT. SALON - NIGHT

The short bald man is still holding the picture up at Joke.

SHORT BALD MAN

Are you sure you haven't seen this
man?

JOKE

Yes I'm sure.

The short bald man produces a gun.

SHORT BALD MAN

Think carefully. He must have been bleeding and carrying a backpack.

JOKE

I have not seen him.

SHORT BALD MAN

(to Teni)

What about you?

CUT TO:

6. INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT

The well built man moves in on the waste bin. There are pieces of bloodied clothes, cotton wool and bandages in the waste bin.

CUT TO:

7. INT. SALON - NIGHT

Teni shakes her head in fright. The short bald man turns to Joke's client.

SHORT BALD MAN

And you? Have you seen this . . . ?

Two gun shots ring out. Short bald man looks at his abdomen. He has two entry wounds on his abdomen. The client reaches out from under the covering. He is brandishing a smoking gun.

The bathroom door bursts open. The client jumps out of his chair behind the short bald man. A shot rings out. A bullet catches Joke in the face. Joke spins out of her wheel chair and falls on the ground. Another shot rings out and catches short bald man in the chest.

The client responds with two gun shots. The well built man is sent flying back into the bathroom.

MOMENTS EARLIER

8. INT. SALON - NIGHT

Joke is closing up shop for the night.

TENI

We don't have forever to pay the fees mummy.

JOKE

We don't need forever. We will figure out how to get the money. Bear with me my dear.

TENI

Ok mummy.

A young man runs into the salon.

JOKE

Go away! We are closed!

Teni sees that the man is bleeding from his right arm. The blood drips on the floor of the salon.

GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN

Help me please! Some men are trying to kill me. Please help!

JOKE

Go away! We don't want any trouble!

TENI

Mummy he is bleeding.

JOKE

And so what?!

(to the young man)

Please go before I call the Police.

GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN

Look I have money! Look!

The young man produces a wad of cash and throws it in Joke's lap. Joke is astonished. She picks up the blood stained wad and looks at it.

YOUNG MAN

Please I need your help!

Joke throws the wad of cash back at him.

JOKE

Sorry we can't help you. Please take your money and leave.

TENI

Mummy what are you doing?! We need the money! I need the money!

JOKE

(to Teni)

No we don't!

(to the young man)

Please leave!

TENI

But mummy?!

JOKE

Will you shut up your mouth?!

(to the young man)

You! Leave now!

The good looking young man produces a gun with his good hand and points it at the ladies.

GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN

I said I need your help!

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

9. INT. SALON - NIGHT

We fade in on the picture of the good looking young man on the floor of the Salon. A hand picks it up. It is the client. He has cleaned off the facial treatment. He is the good looking man in the picture. He puts the picture away and walks towards a Teni is in a corner in shock.

GOOD LOOKING YOUNG MAN

Sorry about your mother. But I
can't leave any witnesses.

He raises his pistol at Teni and a gun shot rings out. The young man turns in surprise to see Joke pointing a smoking gun at him. There is a scar on her face where a bullet grazed her. She is holding the short bald man's gun. She fires it again.

CUT TO BLACK.

THE END.