Baby Gives Me Confidence

By

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INT. APARTMENT LOBBY - NOON

Two 30-somethings, Daniel and Jack, carry furniture into the lobby from outside. They walk past an old lady (Dolores) who is getting out of her son's car.

Dolores accidentally leaves her purse in the car without her or her son noticing.

DOLORES' SON
Look, mom, the kids would love to see you, but we just don't have time these days.

DOLORES
I know you guys are busy, but I haven't seen the kids since October. I would sure love it if I could come-

DOLORES' SON
Ok, mom. We'll see what we can do. I really got to run.

The son hastily closes the door and speeds off.

INT. ELEVATOR - 12:10PM

Daniel and Jack enter the elevator with a different set of furniture. At the same time, a woman (Heather) and her boyfriend are coming out of the elevator.

Heather used to be a real beauty queen in high school, but has seen better days. Her boyfriend looks like the kind of guy that occasionally gets violent--an aged playboy that's still angry about not getting the world.

BOYFRIEND
I know, I know, I know. But I just don't have it. Them's the facts, babe. You're just gonna have to cover me for a bit.

Heather looks at her boyfriend as if she's been down a long and an exhausting road with this behavior.

HEATHER
Babe, I can't-

MAN
You got this.

Her boyfriend kisses her on the cheek, slaps her butt and heads out the apartment lobby door.

EXT. TRUCK - 12:25PM

Daniel, Jack and another friend (Seth) are standing next to a truck with a baby grand piano in the bed.

JACK
I'm telling you, doofus, it's not gonna fit in the elevator or in that tiny stairwell. We need to either cut this relic in half or hoist it up the side of the building.

DANIEL
I know, I just don't want her to get hurt. I've had my Baby since high school. She just... gives me confidence, you know?

Daniel summons Liberace's piano style in his pantomime.

SETH
I'm telling you guys, hoisting her up the side of the building is the only way.

They all look towards a large window, 5 stories up the building.

INT. 5TH STORY STAIRWELL - 12:45PM

Daniel and Jack have two ends of the same rope wrapped tightly around their hands as they struggle to pull the piano through the window at the end of the stairwell.

Seth is 5 stories below, underneath the roped piano.

SETH
Nice and easy, fellas! Nice and easy.

JACK
Don't worry, I got this! Oh, and Daniel's helping too.

SETH
Put those little chicken bones to work, Danny boy!

Daniel and Jack are on same flight of stairs, one headed up towards the sixth floor and one pulling down towards the fourth.

JACK
Whenever you want to start helping, puss boy.

DANIEL
Shitttt. I'm practically lifting this whole thing.

JACK
Are you kidding me? I'd probably be better off without-

Suddenly, Jack's left foot slips on a stair, he loses leverage and the weight of the piano sends him and Daniel flying towards the window.

As Jack falls backwards his head gets slammed on the last step, knocking him unconscious.

Daniel barely manages to stop the piano from pulling him out the window. His legs are propped against the wall.

EXT. TRUCK - 12:46PM

Seth sees the baby grand fall a story before stopping. The piano precariously dangles in the air.

SETH
Oh, shit. You guys alright up there!

DANIEL
Seth! Seth!!! Jack just got knocked out. It's only me up here holding this thing!

Seth jumps out of the truck and bolts for the lobby.

INT. APARTMENT STAIRCASE - 12:47PM

Daniel's legs shake as he uses every ounce of strength he has to hold the piano up.

DANIEL
Help! Help!!! Somebody help me!

Two doors in the hallway slowly open. Dolores pokes her head out of one door. Heather pokes her head out of the other.

DANIEL
Help!!!

Dolores and Heather look at each other. They both bolt down the hallway towards Daniel. They reach him at the same time.

DANIEL
You have to help me. I'm holding a piano outside this window.

Heather runs to the see out the window.

DOLORES
Why don’t you just let it go?

HEATHER
He can’t, it’ll land on somebody.

Dolores and Heather both look at each other, then at a struggling Daniel, and jack on the ground.

They spring into action and pick up the other end of the rope.

EXT. APARTMENT - 12:48PM

Seth is desperately trying to get into the lobby, but the door is locked and there’s nobody in sight.

He bolts to the back of the building.

INT. STAIRWELL - 12:50PM

Heather, Dolores and Daniel are sprawled out in the stairwell. Each of them fighting as hard as they can to pull the piano up. They’re sweaty and making weird struggle sounds.

DANIEL
I know we’re not the most likely bunch to pull this thing up, but we have no other choice. Either we fall to our deaths or somebody down there dies.

HEATHER
Try both scenarios. We’re all wrapped up in these ropes. If this baby goes down, we’re all going with it.

DOLORES
Oh, god. I wanna see my grand kids again.

DANIEL
Fuck this!!!

Daniel gets a huge burst of energy and begins to pull as hard as he can.

DANIEL
You’re seeing those fuckin’ kids again, Dolores! AGHHH!!!!

Heather and Dolores both gain strength from Daniel’s zeal.

They start pulling and straining as hard they can, slowly making progress.

EXT. BACK OF APARTMENT BUILDING - 12:51PM

Seth frantically shakes the locked door handle to the back entrance of the building.

SETH
Fuck!!!

Seth runs to the side of the building and spots an open window on the first floor. He starts to climb.

INT. STAIRWELL - 12:52PM

DOLORES
Cock... SUCKER!!!!

HEATHER
Come on, you piece of shit!!!

DANIEL
You fucker, aggghhhh!!!

The baby grand has now reached the height of the 3rd floor as they make headway.

Dolores farts.

Progress immediately comes to an abrupt halt as they burst into laughter.

They immediately lose strength and get slammed to the perimeter of the window. The baby grand begins winning the battle again as it slowly starts to pull them closer to their deaths.

They get more serious as the reality sinks in, but are still struggling with the church giggles.

DANIEL
Oh shit, no, no, no, no. I'm not... going... quietly into that night.

Daniel, Heather and Dolores all share a look. Serious faces ensue and they kick it into overdrive.

INT. OTHER SIDE OF HALLWAY - 12:53PM

The other end of the hallway is relatively quiet as the 3 struggle with the piano in the distance. Their muffled voices can be heard.

ALL 3
Agggggghhhhh!!!!!

INT. STAIRWELL - 1:00PM

Seth runs up the stairs as fast as he can. He reaches the scene. He sees Daniel, Dolores and Heather in different parts of the stairwell. They're on all fours, trying to inhale as much oxygen as possible.

The baby grand is next to next to the window, with Jack unconscious beneath it.

SETH
Holy shit. What happened?

There's no reaction as they continue to fight for breathe.

Daniel finally stands up. Walks up to Seth. Gets close to his face.

DANIEL
I had no choice but to find my own crew, and commandeer the situation. Jacky-poo decided to take a little cat nap.

Seth looks shocked by Daniel's sudden resolve.

Suddenly, Dolores' son walks up the stairs with his mother's purse in hand.

He's startled by the strange scene. He runs to his mother's aid.

DOLORES' SON
Mom, oh my god. Are you alright? What happened?

Dolores finally catches her breathe, stands up, and confidently walks up to her son. She takes her purse from him and puts it on her shoulder like a boss.

DOLORES
Thank you, my dear. Now if you'll be so kind, you're going to help me pack my things. I'm going to see my grand children now.

Her son is taken aback by her gumption. But looks as if he's almost been waiting for this side of his mom. He capitulates and starts to help her to her apartment.

In the hallway, Heather is calling her boyfriend.

BOYFRIEND
Wassup, baby.

HEATHER
Hi. Yeah, so, I just decided that I'm not gonna pay your rent. So good luck with that.

She hangs up the phone.

She's looks over at Daniel and Dolores. They all look at each other. They're all... wild, full of hutzpah, happy.

FADE OUT

THE END.