

Mystery Meat

A 48 Hour Short Film

WRITTEN BY

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EXT. DETROIT SKYLINE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Wheels of a trashcan scrape against concrete.

EXT. GREEN DOT STABLES - CONTINUOUS

JACK, wearing casual attire, mustache, struggles as he hauls a TRASH CAN across a parking lot. He stops. A HUMAN ARM sticks out of the can. He scans the area and places the arm back in.

He places the trash can by a back door, walks to a different door, and walks into the building.

INT. GREEN DOT STABLES - CONTINUOUS

GABRIEL, a bouncer, sits at the entrance.

GABRIEL

Jackie, boy!

JACK

What's up, fucker?

They dap each other up.

GABRIEL

Long night?

JACK

It was a killer, man.

GABRIEL

Hey, be careful, Sergei is a little on edge--

SERGEI

JACK!

SERGEI, the head chef, stands behind the bar.

SERGEI (CONT'D)

Get your ass in here!

Gabriel shrugs, "I told you". Jack pats him on the back as he passes by.

INT. BACKROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sergei embraces Jack.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SERGEI

My boy. How'd everything go last night?

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

A MAN sits at his desk. Jack rises behind him. In a flash he has the man in a chokehold.

MAN

Momma

JACK

That's right call for your mama.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. BACKROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sergei LAUGHS.

SERGEI

Oh man, I love it when they call for their mommas! Did he shit his pants too?

JACK

Yeah.

Sergei BUSTS OUT OF LAUGHING for an extended amount of time.

SERGEI

Oh, man. I miss it. I miss it.

JACK

That's the last one. I mean it.

SERGEI

Oh, Jack.

JACK

No, I told you, this was the last one. I'm out.

Sergei's face goes dead. He stares into Jack's soul. He takes his shirt

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SERGEI

You're done when I say you're done
and you, my friend, are far from
done.

JACK

We had an agreement.

SERGEI

I like you, Jack, but if you talk
back to me one more time you'll
end up in the fucking freezer.

Beat.

SERGEI

I have another job for you. This
is the last one, hand on my heart.

JACK

Who's the target?

Sergei motions to Gabriel.

SERGEI

Turns out, Gabrielle, has a big
fucking mouth. He's running around
town disclosing our secret
ingredient. We can't have that.

JACK

I can't. He's my friend.

Sergei stares daggers into Jack's soul.

JACK (CONT'D)

When do you want it done?

SERGEI

Tonight. Don't disappoint me.

Sergei walks out of the room. He stops next behind an
unsuspecting Gabriel. He looks back at Jack, points his
fingers at Gabriel's head and pulls the trigger. He
motions to his pants and whuffs the air in front of his
nose. Gabriel turns around.

SERGEI

You're doing a fine job, Gabe.
Fine job.

Gabriel turns around. Sergei walks off. Gabriel turns to
Jack. He flips off Sergei. Jack CHUCKLES.

INT. GREEN DOT STABLES - CONTINUOUS

Jack approaches Gabriel.

GABRIEL
You out of here?

JACK
Yeah.

They dap each other up.

JACK (CONT'D)
Hey, uh, you want to hang out
tonight?

GABRIEL
Yeah, you can come to my place
after I get off work.

JACK
Cool. I'll, uh, see you then.

Jack walks out.

GABRIEL
I wouldn't complain if you brought
a pizza!

Jack gives him thumbs up.

INT. JACK'S CAR - LATER

Jack sits in his car. In the passenger seat is the pizza. Jack opens the box and pours a small LIQUID on half the pizza. He marks the half of pizza box with a sharpie.

INT. GABRIEL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jack walks in the door. Gabriel sits on the couch watching a movie.

GABRIEL
Yo yo!

JACK
What's up, man? Oh, you brought
pizza!

Jack throws the pizza on the couch. His PHONE RINGS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK
Sorry, I got to take this.

INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack's answers the PHONE.

JACK
Hello.

MAN (V.O.)
Abort mission.

JACK
What?

MAN (V.O.)
I don't care what Sergei said, you
are to leave the target alive.

JACK
But--

MAN (V.O.)
Abort mission.

The man hangs up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack walks to the living room. Gabriel is already three
pieces of pizza deep. Jack freezes.

GABRIEL
Everything good?

JACK
Uh, yeah, yeah.

Jack sits down on the couch watching Gabriel eat.

GABRIEL
This is some good pizza.

JACK
Yeah, uh, how are you feeling?

GABRIEL
Better now. Eat some.

Jack peers to the box. He sees the sharpie mark on the
uneaten side.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

You know what, I'm good. I'm good.

GABRIEL

You sure? Making me feel like an asshole.

JACK

Yeah, I'm good.

GABRIEL

Alright, more for me--

Gabriel reaches for the pizza.

JACK

No!

GABRIEL

Jeez, what's got your panties in a bunch?

JACK

Not a big pizza guy.

GABRIEL

Okay?

Jack picks up the box.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Jack throws the pizza in the trash. He SIGHS of relief. His PHONE rings. He answers.

JACK

Sergei, I--

SERGEI

I don't care what that motherfucker says! Take care of him.

JACK

But--

SERGEI

Do it!

Sergei hangs up. Jack cocks his head back.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack pulls a kitchen KNIFE from it's holder. He approaches an unsuspecting Gabriel.

GABRIEL

I don't get how you don't like pizza? Like who doesn't like pizza? I could eat pizza the rest of my life.

Jack raises the knife over his head.

Jack drops the knife. Gabriel turns around.

GABRIEL

Whatcha' doin'?

JACK

Hovering.

GABRIEL

Where's the pizza?

JACK

I, uh, threw it out.

GABRIEL

What?

RING!

GABRIEL

Going to take that?

EXT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Jack answers the phone.

MAN (V.O.)

You kill him your next.

JACK

Sergei just said--

MAN (V.O.)

The target is a high valuable asset to my operations. Leave him.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jack and Gabriel sit on the couch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACK

Can I ask you a personal question?

GABRIEL

I guess.

JACK

Do you like what you do?

GABRIEL

Fuck no! Who does? I'm getting out of that place as soon as I can. Can I tell you a secret?

Jack nods.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)

I found out a secret about the restaurant. I'm going to sell the information to the Lucazi family. And when I get paid...I'm opening a dance studio.

JACK

A dance studio?

Jack LAUGHS.

GABRIEL

Fuck you, man. I'm serious.

JACK

You...dance?

GABRIEL

I love to dance. It's my dream too open up my own studio.

JACK

Never would have guessed.

GABRIEL

What about you? What's your dream?

JACK

Guys like me don't have dreams. We follow orders.

RING! Jack's phone.

JACK

Be right back.

INT. GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

SERGEI
Take. Him. Out.

JACK
I can't I--

Sergei hangs up.

Jack takes a GUN out of his holster.

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gabriel is dancing in the living room.

GABRIEL
I call this my footloose routine!

Jack approaches Gabriel with the gun behind his back.

Gabriel dances. Jack stands behind him.

GABRIEL
You're a good friend, man.

Jack raises the gun to Gabriel's head.

JACK
It takes one to know one.

BANG!

CUT TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

INT. GREEN DOT STABLES - DAY

A patron sits at a booth looking at a menu. Sergei approaches.

SERGEI
Do you know what you want, sir?

PATRON
Yeah, I'll try the "Mystery Meat"

SERGEI
Excellent. We just got a fresh shipment in last night.

INT. GREEN DOT STABLES, KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sergei enters the kitchen.

SERGEI

We got a Mystery Meat order!
Medium rare!

Sergei opens the freezer. TWO DEAD BODIES are frozen.
Gabriel's body, still warm, hangs in the front. Sergei
enters the freezer and as the door closes we...

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END