

BUS STOP
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LOCATION: Bus Stop

TIME: Present Day

SIN: Wrath

CAST:

BOOKWORM: male 20s or 30s. Nerdy, introspective, shy and highly imaginative.

NANNY: female 40s or older. Chatty and a bit of a busy body.

PUNK: male Late teens or early 20s. Sullen but highly excitable.

BUSINESS MAN: male 30s or 40s. Stoic while in "reality," but his personality changes and adapts to which fantasy he's reenacting. Also, British.

*OLDER LADY: female 60s. Dignified and sophisticated.

*SEXY LADY: female 20s. Gorgeous. Sex on legs.

*HOUSEWIFE: female 30s or 40s. Depressed and despondent. Just trying to get through the day.

*One actress can play these three roles, or they can be three separate actresses.

Stage Right is the "reality" side, and will be prominently lit when the bus patrons are speaking to each other. Stage Left is the "fantasy" side, and will be prominently lit when the fantasy sequences are being reenacted.

On Stage Right, three people wait for the bus. A middle aged NANNY sits on one end of the bench, pantomiming tending to a small child. A teenage PUNK leans against the bus sign, bopping his head to his iPod. A 20something BOOKWORM sits on the other end of the bench, engrossed in a mystery novel.

On Stage Left, a distinguished looking BUSINESS MAN paces, smoking a cigarette and holding a briefcase. His face is a blank slate, but his body language portrays anxiety and anger.

The sound of traffic, honking horns and construction work going on is consistent through the scene, except during the fantasy sequences.

EXT. BUS STOP

The Bookworm glances up from the novel and sees the Business Man. He looks back to his book, but then looks up again and starts watching the Business Man pace. He seems fascinated, and then he speaks, more to himself than to the other people.

BOOKWORM
It's in his briefcase.

NANNY
(thinking he's speaking to her)
Excuse me?

BOOKWORM
The money, he's got it hidden-

He turns to the Woman, sees the confusion on her face and buries his face back in his novel, the rest of the sentence a mumble.

BOOKWORM
-in his briefcase.

NANNY
What money?

BOOKWORM
Nothing, I was just making it up.

The Woman stares at the Bookworm. He doesn't look threatening, but he's talking crazy. The Bookworm pauses, then turns to face the Woman.

BOOKWORM
Look how he's pacing the sidewalk so intensely. His hands are balled into fists, but his face is totally blank. So even though his body language is saying that he's pissed about something, he's trying to blend in so no one will notice him.

NANNY
(getting interested)
So what does that mean?

The Bookworm scoots closer to her on the bench. The Bookworm and Woman don't notice, but the Punk turns the volume down on his iPod, listening in.

BOOKWORM
He's a mastermind criminal.

FANTASY SEQUENCE

*The lighting switches to Stage Left. Now the Business Man is lit, and the bus stop is in shadow. All actions on Stage Left are in **pantomime**. The Business Man knocks on a door, much calmer, confident and he has a suave charm about him.*

BOOKWORM (VO)
He's been a con man for years, and he's been working this job for months.

A LADY enters the stage and answers the door. She's dressed very posh and even though she carries herself a little

arrogantly, she smiles warmly at the Business Man and kisses him on each cheek.

BOOKWORM (VO)

See, he's gained the trust of a wealthy widow, despite her being icy cold to everyone else.

The Lady shows the Business Man inside, where she has tea and scones set up. They sit and she pours him a cup of tea.

BOOKWORM (VO)

Over the course of their friendship she's confided in him, and last week while they were having their morning tea and scones-

NANNY (VO)

What's a scone?

BOOKWORM (VO)

It's a kind of pastry.

NANNY (VO)

Why weren't they drinking coffee?

BOOKWORM (VO)

Well, they're both British...

NANNY (VO)

Oh, okay.

BOOKWORM (VO)

Anyway, last week she let slip where her safe is hidden, and so this morning was the day that he finally went to crack the safe.

The Lady excuses herself and leaves the stage. The Business Man jumps up and pantomimes taking down a painting from the wall, revealing the safe. He quickly whips out a stethoscope and cracks the safe.

He opens the door to reveal piles and piles of cash. He loads it into his briefcase, closes the door, and starts to replace the mirror, but he hears the Lady returning and rushes to replace the mirror. He returns to the table

just as the Lady returns onstage. Flustered, he stands up to leave.

BOOKWORM (VO)

While she's doing the dishes, he steals all the money, and stuffs it in his suitcase. Then he fakes feeling ill so he can get away with her money before she notices anything.

The Business Man leaves the apartment, but stops when he sees the traffic. He looks around, his face showing no emotion, his hands starting to ball into fists.

BOOKWORM (VO)

Because he was ahead of schedule, and because of all this traffic, his accomplice is late picking him up.

BACK TO REALITY

The Lady exits the stage, and the Business Man resumes his pacing. Lighting back to Stage Right.

BOOKWORM

So now he's stuck at the scene of the crime, millions of dollars in his briefcase, waiting for his getaway car.

NANNY

I don't buy it.

BOOKWORM

What do you mean? Why not?

NANNY

If the lady was as rich as you say she is, she wouldn't be doing her own dishes.

The Bookworm stares at the Woman, at a loss for words. Slowly, so the other two don't notice, the Punk pulls one of the earbuds out of his ear.

NANNY

You see how he's smoking a cigarette?

The Bookworm looks back to the Business Man and watches him take a drag.

BOOKWORM

Yeah, so?

NANNY

He's having a torrid love affair.

****FANTASY SEQUENCE****

The Business Man knocks on the door and leans against the frame. The Lady enters the stage and opens the door, smiling seductively at him. She's wearing a lacy bathrobe that's open just enough to show some cleavage.

NANNY (VO)

He's been having an affair with his much younger, slutty secretary for weeks now.

The Lady pulls the Business Man into the apartment and pulls him close in a very passionate kiss. She breaks off the kiss, steps back and slowly pulls open her bathrobe to reveal a very naughty piece of lingerie.

NANNY (VO)

He's been having trouble with his wife lately, and he recently started returning the advances that his secretary had always made. Last month they started having an affair, and it's been going on ever since.

The Business Man takes off his jacket and tie and drops them on the floor, but keeps the briefcase.

BOOKWORM (VO)

He brings the briefcase into the bedroom?

NANNY (VO)

He hides his sex toys in with his paper work.

BOOKWORM (VO)

His what??

The Business Man opens the briefcase to reveal lots of various sex toys. He pulls out a pair of handcuffs and the Lady gives him a playful smile. The Business Man and Lady exit the stage, dropping clothes on their way out.

NANNY (VO)

Oh yeah, she does things in bed that his wife would never do. It's very scandalous. And he doesn't want to get caught, so every week he drives to the office and parks his car, then walks 3 blocks over to take a taxi to his mistress' apartment. He's got one of those custom license plates, so anyone driving by would recognize his car and say something to his wife.

BOOKWORM (VO)

Smart guy.

The Business Man returns to the stage, straightening his tie as he does so. Then he lights up a cigarette and he starts to pace.

NANNY (VO)

It usually works perfectly. He gets to the office earlier than anyone else, and by the time the taxi drops him back by work, he has time to walk to the Starbucks on the corner, get a latte, and walk back to the office right on time to start the day. Except that today with all this traffic, his taxi is late and he's stuck waiting on the sidewalk.

BACK TO REALITY

BOOKWORM

He's mad about being late to work? So what? He's probably someone important who can stroll in whenever he wants.

NANNY

No, no, he doesn't care about being late. See, the longer he waits on the sidewalk, the greater the chances are of someone he knows driving by and

NANNY (CONTINUED)

seeing him. And the longer he waits,
the guiltier he feels about cheating on
his wife.

BOOKWORM

So he does still love his wife?

NANNY

Of course he does! They've been married
over 30 years, but the problems started
when-

PUNK

Man, you guys are both way off.

The Woman and Bookworm look over in surprise.

****FANTASY SEQUENCE****

The Business Man strolls through his office, cocky and important. He goes into a meeting where he gets the news that he's being demoted. The Business Man is outraged, but he can't do anything about it.

PUNK (VO)

See, he used to be a bigwig at some big
company, right? But they had all these
like, cutbacks and he got demoted.

He pantomimes packing up his belongings and carries his box of stuff out of his office to his new cubicle.

PUNK (VO)

So before he had like, this big corner
office and he was all important, and
now he's just another cubicle monkey.
They turned his office into a private
gym for all of the CEOs of the company,
which pissed him off like you wouldn't
believe.

The Lady returns to the stage, looking run-down and dumpy in a dingy bathrobe. She hands the Business Man a cup of coffee which he takes a sip from, then hands it back to her and she hands him a sack lunch.

She kisses him on the cheek half-heartedly, not noticing his anger. She tiredly exits the stage.

PUNK (VO)

And because he got demoted he couldn't afford his house anymore and then they repo'ed his car and now he has to carpool with Simmons in Accounting.

BOOKWORM (VO)

And the company is doing so poorly, he's afraid he's going to get fired.

PUNK (VO)

Dude, he's already been fired!

The Business Man is in another meeting, this time getting fired. He listens expressionless, then walks offstage, scarily calm.

PUNK (VO)

They told him he got the axe a couple weeks ago and today is his last day at work and he's wicked pissed.

The Business Man walks back onstage, with a gun. He puts the gun in his breast pocket, lights a cigarette and begins pacing.

PUNK (VO)

So he went and got a gun and today he's totally going to go postal when he gets to the office. He's taking everyone out, starting with whoever is working out in the gym aka his old office.

BACK TO REALITY

The Business Man takes one last drag of his cigarette, tosses it on the ground and continues to pace.

NANNY

He looks kinda nervous.

PUNK

Well yeah, I'd be hella nervous too if I was about to go on a killing spree.

BOOKWORM

I almost feel bad for him.

The Woman and Punk look at him.

BOOKWORM

I said almost.

The three of them look back to see the Business Man staring straight at them intently. They quickly look away nervously.

NANNY

Do you think he heard us talking about him?

BOOKWORM

From all the way over there? He couldn't have...

PUNK

He looks...kinda...intense.

BUSINESS MAN

HEY!

The threesome look up, startled but before they can react, the familiar squealing of bad bus breaks draws the threesome's attention downstage, where the bus is approaching.

The Bookworm quickly shuts his book and stands. The Woman readies the carrier. The Punk shifts his backpack to the other shoulder. All three avoid eye contact with the Business Man.

The Business Man yells out something, but the loud drilling from the construction drowns out his words. Frustrated, he darts across the stage and almost gets hit by a car.

BOOKWORM

Um...

The loud blare of the horn startles everyone, but the Business Man waves it off, storming across the stage, his hand reaches into his breast pocket...

PUNK

Oh shit! He's totally going to kill us.

The Punk pauses for a moment, then turns and runs offstage. The Woman and Bookworm look at each other as the Business Man steps next to them. His hand emerges from his pocket and the Bookworm stands there frozen. The Woman lets out a small cry and covers the carrier.

The Business Man sets down his briefcase on the bench and pulls out...his wallet. The lighting for the first time, covers the entire stage.

BUSINESS MAN
(British accent)
Do either of you have change for a \$50?

The Woman and Bookworm shake their head 'no,' still somewhat shaken. The Business Man steps around the Bookworm and Woman to be first in line for the bus. The Bookworm tries to recover.

BOOKWORM
Bet with a co-worker?

BUSINESS MAN
(pause; quietly seething)
Car's in the shop.

A moment of silence. Then, the Bookworm leans over to the Woman and whispers.

BOOKWORM
I told you he was British.

The sound of the bus pulling up to the curb and the doors opening as the lights fade out.

THE END.