

OPPORTUNITY MUTINY

by

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

THREE MEN, all twenty-seven years of age, sit in a dim and dingy living room. FREDDY, sleepy-eyed and unkempt, takes a huge drag off of a healthy sized BLUNT. He gives birth to a THICK cloud of smoke.

Freddy passes the blunt over to MIKE, a serious thinker who doesn't realize he's full of shit. JACOB, the apartment's messy tenant, observes Mike through uninspired eyes. He's the kind of guy who thinks the cigarette in his hand makes him look important and/or intelligent.

JACOB

So, Mike, did you find a job yet?

MIKE

Nah, I was gonna look in the Village Voice about some jobs but I didn't get a chance to, you know? It's already Friday though, so I just figure I'll wait until next week when the new issue comes out.

JACOB

Yeah, all the jobs in this week's issue are probably taken already, right?

MIKE

Yeah.

FREDDY

Didn't you say last week you didn't get a chance to grab the Village Voice too?

MIKE

Yeah, it's like some invisible force doesn't want me to get a job, you know? Like the unemployment monster or something.

JACOB

That's the way I feel about my singing. I don't know what I'm doing wrong. I just can't seem to break into the business.

FREDDY

At least you guys aren't lonely?
It's been almost two years now since
my girl broke up with me and I still
haven't found anybody.

They all nod in silent agreement. A KNOCK on the door
interrupts the momentous meeting of the minds.

JACOB

That must be the food we ordered.

MIKE

You got me, right, Jacob? You know
I haven't been working.

JACOB

Yeah, just get me next time.

MIKE

No doubt.

Jacob unglues himself from the couch and exits.

INT. APARTMENT - FOYER - NIGHT

Jacob opens the door to reveal an irate looking MAN, 20s.
He is impeccably groomed and wears an obviously expensive
dark suit. Jacob notices the Man is not carrying any food.

JACOB

Can I help you?

MAN

(sternly)
Is your name Jacob?

JACOB

Yeah, who are you?

MAN

I'm Opportunity. May I come in?

JACOB

Your name is Opportunity?

MAN

No, I am Opportunity. Now if you
don't mind, I'm very busy and I need
to have a few words with you and
your friends.

Jacob is beyond confused but stupidity forbids him to form an opinion.

JACOB
Okay. Come on in.

MAN
Thank you.

OPPORTUNITY, walks through the door and heads directly for the living room. Jacob follows after him.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Freddy and Mike quickly hide the blunt and wave away smoke when Opportunity walks in. He eyeballs them unpleasantly. Jacob enters scratching his head.

JACOB
(to Mike and Freddy)
Guys, this is Opportunity.

FREDDY
Your name is Opportunity?

OPPORTUNITY
(dead pan)
No.

FREDDY
Jacob just said--

OPPORTUNITY
Shut up, Freddy.

MIKE
You know his name?

OPPORTUNITY
I do, Mike. I know all of you. Now my time is limited so don't speak unless spoken to.
(to Jacob)
Sit down.

Jacob, a bit terrified by his unwelcome guest, does as he's told. In the silence, Opportunity stares at them, disgusted. He snaps his fingers and a bulb sparks to life, shedding light on the room.

OPPORTUNITY

I can't believe you guys. How stupid do you need to be to not realize when you're being helped?

The trio of friends are clueless.

OPPORTUNITY

I wanted to give up on you three a long time ago, but I kept telling myself, no, no, they'll snap out of it. Sooner or later they'll take advantage of me and what I have to offer. No one can be that stupid or dense or hopeless or moronic or slow or... well the point is, all this time--nothing.

Jacob, fearfully, raise his hand.

OPPORTUNITY

What?

JACOB

I don't know where you're going with this.

OPPORTUNITY

(annoyed)

I-am-Opportunity. That's not my name, it's what I am. Everyone wants something. You three want something, right? Well, I am responsible making sure you get the chance but you need to make it happen. I only plant the seeds that grow the fruits of success. You have to do the work.

MIKE

Let me get this straight. You give people opportunities to succeed in life?

OPPORTUNITY

Yes.

MIKE

So you're like a genie then?

OPPORTUNITY

Something like that.

MIKE

Do we get any wishes?

OPPORTUNITY

No you don't get any fucking wishes. I'm not that type of genie. Geez, you guys don't want to do anything for yourselves, do you? What I do is, I set things up. I set certain events into action that, if handled properly, can benefit the lives of all those involved. I give you the chance and you have to make the most of it.

Freddy and Mike are impressed. Jacob seems doubtful.

JACOB

What do you want with us?

OPPORTUNITY

I'll be perfectly honest, I want nothing to do with you three, but my heart is too big and alas I am here. For awhile now I have been busting my ass, throwing opportunity after opportunity at the three of you jerks and I'm still batting a big zero.

(to Freddy)

You, Freddy, you're always bitching about being lonely. I think you enjoy being lonely.

FREDDY

No I don't. Why would someone enjoy being lonely?

OPPORTUNITY

You tell me?

FREDDY

I am lonely. I don't enjoy it though.

OPPORTUNITY

Okay, let's say that's true. That's your story, right? That's what you're sticking with?

Freddy, confused, nods.

OPPORTUNITY

Okay, if you don't enjoy being lonely, how do you explain the time, two months ago to be exact, I got you stuck in the elevator with that girl, from your building that you're always talking about? You were in there with her for over an hour, waiting for someone to get you out and did you make any effort to talk to her?

FREDDY

I talked to her.

OPPORTUNITY

(mimicking Freddy)

Oh, man. I hope we're not stuck in here for too long, wrestling's coming on.

(annoyed)

Jesus Christ, man! That girl had her eye on you for months and you blew it in two seconds. Two fucking seconds.

FREDDY

(excited)

She likes me?

OPPORTUNITY

Not anymore. Now she thinks you're an idiot. Her friends refer to you as Freddy the Manchild.

FREDDY

That's not true. Is it?

OPPORTUNITY

And another time I had the wind blow your hat down the street and that really cute red head picked it up for you before it fell in a puddle. When she gave your hat back to you, what did you do?

FREDDY

Hey, I talked to her, all right?

OPPORTUNITY

Yeah, for like three minutes. Whoopditty doo!

FREDDY

You can't say I didn't talk to her
though.

OPPORTUNITY

Yes and I also can't say that you
did your best to prove you're not a
total waste of skin.

FREDDY

What was I supposed to do? Drag her
home by the hair and lock her in my
room?

OPPORTUNITY

Use you charm you fucking tit.

Freddy looks down to his keys.

OPPORTUNITY

No, I'm not talking about the stupid
rabbit's foot you keep on your
keychain which, by the way, is so
cheesy it cost you the chance at
another girl who had intentions. I
strongly suggest you get rid of it.

FREDDY

But it's my lucky rabbit's foot.

OPPORTUNITY

Do you feel lucky?

Freddy thinks for a minute, lowering his head.

FREDDY

(unhappy)
No.

OPPORTUNITY

Right.

Opportunity grabs the rabbit's foot and tosses it out the
window.

OPPORTUNITY

Out the fuckin' window.

FREDDY

Hey!

OPPORTUNITY

You have no idea how much more appealing I just made you by trashing that ridiculous little severed limb of yours.

FREDDY

My mom gave that to me.

OPPORTUNITY

That's another thing, mentioning how much you and your mom enjoy going to Foxwoods to play slot machines is not something woman are looking for in a man. And your mom only goes anyway because she feels bad for you.

FREDDY

(defensive)

I've tried to get a girl. I just don't have any luck.

OPPORTUNITY

I don't know about that, Freddy. Now I'm one step away from breaking your leg outside of a Miss America pageant. If you can't get a girl then, I suggest you apply for priesthood.

FREDDY

I--

OPPORTUNITY

(cutting him off)

Ssh! You're done. You Jacob, what's your thing? What is it you want?

JACOB

I guess it's to be a singer.

OPPORTUNITY

You guess or is that it?

JACOB

Yeah, that's it. I want to be a singer.

OPPORTUNITY

Okay, then sing me a little something.

JACOB
(confused)
Uh... okay.

Jacob clears his throat.

JACOB
(singing)
HOW DO I--

OPPORTUNITY
(cutting him off)
Stop! There's something missing.
Damn, what is it? Oh, I know, a
sense of fucking reality. Wake up,
Jacob! You're living in a dream
world. You say you wanna be a singer,
that's fine, I can appreciate that.
What I don't appreciate is you wasting
all these musicians I've been throwing
at you for months. At least fifty,
now. All thirsty to make music.
All thirsty for success. Did you
ever say to yourself, hey let's sit
down and work on some tunes and quench
our thirst for success in making
music?

JACOB
What musicians?

Opportunity looks around the room, spotting a BOX OF CEREAL.
He grabs the box and SMACKS Jacob in the head with it.

OPPORTUNITY
What musicians?! You've come across
at least one musician every week for
the past six months.

JACOB
I have?

Opportunity goes for the cereal box again.

JACOB
Okay. Okay. I remember a few.

OPPORTUNITY
And?

JACOB
I don't know. Nothing happened.

OPPORTUNITY

Who's fault do you think that is?

JACOB

Mine?

OPPORTUNITY

No, no, no. Don't start kissing my ass just yet. You're not getting out of this so easily. Last month, when I had that guy hit you by accident with his car door, he turned out to be a guitarist for a band, right?

JACOB

Yeah.

OPPORTUNITY

He told you he had a bunch of music written and just needed some lyrics and a singer, right?

JACOB

Yeah.

OPPORTUNITY

You told him you sing and write lyrics and he invited you to a band rehearsal to try out as their singer. What did you do?

JACOB

I, uh... don't remember.

OPPORTUNITY

(serious)

Don't fuck with me.

MIKE

I went over to Freddy's to watch wrestling. Okay?!

OPPORTUNITY

Again with the wrestling! What is it with you guys?!

JACOB

It was Wrestlemania! And Freddy's the only one of us who has an illegal cablebox that gets all the channels.

FREDDY

Yeah, tell the whole neighborhood,
Jacob! Thanks!

OPPORTUNITY

I couldn't believe you never showed
up for that rehearsal and you never
even called that guy to try and set
up another audition. I was so mad
at you I not only sent another singer
their way, I had them signed to a
multimillion dollar contract with a
major record company. They just
made a video that's about to go into
heavy rotation on MTV and everything.

Opportunity grabs the REMOTE and clicks on the TELEVISION.
An ALTERNATIVE BAND pounds out a catchy tune. The SINGER is
very talented. Opportunity clicks off the television.

MIKE & FREDDY & JACOB

(in unison)

Wow.

JACOB

I didn't realize I came across so
many musicians.

OPPORTUNITY

Yeah, obviously. I mean, do you
think all those people playing music
in the subways genuinely enjoy being
down there? No! I put them down
there for idiots like you! Shit, I
even flirted with the idea of having
this really unstable punk band in
the village kidnap you and force you
to sing for them in their basement
at gunpoint.

Jacob's jaw drops.

OPPORTUNITY

That brings us to you, Mike.

Mike braces himself for the worst.

OPPORTUNITY

The man who claims to want to find a
job.

MIKE

I don't claim. I want to find a job. I need to find a job.

OPPORTUNITY

You need to find a job?

MIKE

Yeah.

OPPORTUNITY

Well I've got news for you, Mikey. A job is not gonna hit you in the head. Actually, that's not true. I did hit you in the head with a job and you still didn't notice it.

MIKE

What are you talking about?

OPPORTUNITY

Remember, a couple of months ago, a stack of Village Voices fell out of a truck and landed on you?

MIKE

(uneasy)

Yeah, I do. I was unconscious for like five minutes.

OPPORTUNITY

Sorry about that. They were supposed land in front of you. Still, you didn't even bother to take a Village Voice with you when you came through. By that point I had personally called their offices and placed an anonymous job listing just for your dumb ass.

MIKE

(frightened)

I... I... I'm scared of the Village Voice, okay? It all happened so fast, I never saw it coming. I don't think I can face another issue of the Village Voice without crying.

Freddy and Jacob look to Mike, confused. They both stifle laughter.

MIKE

It's not funny. I saw my whole life flash before my eyes.

FREDDY

I remember that. You were telling everybody you got jumped by five guys.

MIKE

Fuck you, Freddy. If I spent half the time looking for a job that you spend in your room jerking off I'd probably have a hundred of them by now.

FREDDY

Hey, I never jerked off in my life!

MIKE

Yeah, I really believe that. Just like I believe you really tried to talk to that girl in the elevator.

FREDDY

(angry)

Wrestling was on! Okay?! It was a tile match. I had other things on my mind!

MIKE

Yeah, or maybe you're just too in love your mother.

FREDDY

You take that back or I'm gonna put your fuckin' head through the wall.

JACOB

Guys! Guys! Chill out, let's not get crazy over here.

Mike and Freddy refrain from attacking each other, but adrenaline is clearly still running through both of them. Opportunity has a sly grin on his face.

OPPORTUNITY

That was an incredible display.

JACOB

What was so incredible about it?

OPPORTUNITY

That's the most energy I've seen out of you three for a long time. Maybe you should save some of that aggressiveness for the next time I set something up for you guys.

Opportunity gets no response.

OPPORTUNITY

Well, it seems my work here is done. I have shown you the error of your ways. I suggest you gentlemen take heed to my words. I don't usually come knocking... literally. I hope the next time I come along you won't let me pass you by. It could be the last time I give you a chance. After that, all you have left to rely on is luck and I guarantee you, getting what you want through me is much more fulfilling. Good night.

Opportunity, calmly, exits. Jacob, Mike and Freddy still look a bit shaken up by the bizarre encounter.

FREDDY

That was... weird.

JACOB

Do you think he was bullshitting?

MIKE

I don't know. He seemed to know a lot about us. Maybe he really is opportunity.

FREDDY

How will we know when he gives us another chance?

MIKE

How's anybody supposed to know?

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

A YOUNG MAN, 25, walks towards the building and spots Freddy's RABBIT'S FOOT on the floor. He picks it up and examines it.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Is that a rabbit's foot?

The Young Man looks over to see a YOUNG WOMAN, 25, standing near the building's entrance.

YOUNG MAN
Yeah, I think it is.

The Young Woman walks over to him.

YOUNG WOMAN
I think those are so cute.

YOUNG MAN
Do you?

She nods.

YOUNG MAN
I heard they're supposed to be lucky.

YOUNG WOMAN
Yeah, I heard that too.

The Young Woman looks at the Young Man in a very flirtatious manner.

YOUNG WOMAN
Does it make you feel lucky?

He understands completely.

YOUNG MAN
I feel very lucky.

They both smile. Invisible sparks are flying. Just then, Opportunity passes by and pats the Young Man on the back.

OPPORTUNITY
(happy)
Atta boy! You haven't let me down yet.

Opportunity gives the confused Young Man a double thumbs up and disappears down the block.

YOUNG WOMAN
Who was that?

YOUNG MAN
I have no idea.

YOUNG WOMAN

So do you wanna go grab something to eat?

YOUNG MAN

Sure.

Smiling, they walk off--arm and arm.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Freddy, Mike and Jacob are still lying about the living room, reflecting on what just took place.

JACOB

I just find it really bugged out that opportunity is an actual person.

FREDDY

He's not a real person. He probably just made himself look like that so he could talk to us.

MIKE

Damn, but are we that bad that he felt the need to come yell at us for fucking up every time he laid something out for us?

JACOB

That's what I was thinking. There's gotta be someone else out there who's even less aggressive than we are when it comes to taking advantage of good fortune.

They all nod in agreement. There's a KNOCK at the door.

FREDDY

Who's that?

JACOB

That must be the food we ordered.

MIKE

Jacob, you--

JACOB

Yeah, Mike, I got you. I know you haven't been working.

MIKE

Thanks, man.

Jacob gets up to answer the door.

INT. APARTMENT - FOYER - NIGHT

Jacob approaches the door and opens it. A WOMAN, 20s, dressed all in black, clutching what appears to be a BLACK LEATHER PADDLE, stands before Jacob. She looks bitter and agitated.

JACOB

Can I help you?

WOMAN

(snotty)

Are you Jacob?

JACOB

Yeah, who are you?

WOMAN

(snotty)

I'm Lady Luck. May I come in?

JACOB

(nervous)

Oh... shit.

FADE OUT: