

BLUE DOOR RONNIE

by

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INT. PAWN SHOP - COUNTER - DAY

RONNIE stands in front of a counter. SYLVIA stands behind it.

SYLVIA
I can't do it.

RONNIE
Why not?

SYLVIA
I just can't.

RONNIE
I've been coming here for months.
You can't let this one squeak by?

SYLVIA
My boss will have my ass.

RONNIE
This is bullshit.

SYLVIA
I know.

RONNIE
Where's your boss? Let me speak to
your boss?

SYLVIA
I wouldn't suggest that?

RONNIE
Can you just get your boss,
please?

Sylvia eyes Ronnie and leaves the counter. A moment goes by and she comes back with a large man. So large in fact that we only see his stomach and chest, which consists of a white buttoned down shirt and red tie.

Ronnie swallows.

Hi, you're the boss man?

BOSS
Yes.

RONNIE
I'd like to get rid of this item.

BOSS

No. We don't take that.

RONNIE

But I'm a valued customer. Can't you do me this one solid man?

BOSS

No. We can't and we won't.

RONNIE

Come on, man, please, I really need the money. Give me less for it, I don't care, just give me something. Anything.

BOSS

Anything?

RONNIE

Anything.

A blue door opens.

BOSS

Come inside and we'll straighten you out.

RONNIE

Thank you. You guys, honestly, this is exactly what I need. Some decent people in the world.

Ronnie enters the blue door. It closes. A moment goes by...Ronnie screams wildly. He comes back through the blue door with blood trickling down from his ear. He tries to escape the room but the door is locked.

Help! Hey! Help! Let me out! I'll leave. Let me out. Please!

Sylvia stands at the counter.

SYLVIA

I told you we don't take that item.

RONNIE

You could have just told me!

SYLVIA

I did.

RONNIE

Can I go now? Forget it. You made your point.

SYLVIA

Nope.

RONNIE

What do you mean, NOPE?

SYLVIA

You're with us now.

RONNIE

WHAT?!

SYLVIA

Here's how it works. Some people come in here and they want to get rid of some items. We are always happy to oblige...in most cases. But, there are some cases in which we cannot oblige and in those cases we do our best to reflect our company policies in a diplomatic way. When that doesn't seem to work, as in your current case, we are forced to push diplomacy to the side and rectify the situation with brute force. Such brute force tactics are techniques that have proven to be effective when encountering hostile people such as yourself.

RONNIE

Hostile? I wasn't hostile.

SYLVIA

In such situations as this, we have no alternative but to bring you into our ship and make you one of us.

RONNIE

I just want to leave. If you don't want to buy the item it's fine. I'll walk away.

SYLVIA

You're missing the point, Ronnie. You can't leave. You are now a permanent.

RONNIE

Permanent?

SYLVIA

You weren't making it in the outside world, Ronnie. By staying here, you will be given all the attributes and obedience one needs to have a decent life.

RONNIE

What kind of pawn shop is this place? Let me out!

SYLVIA

It's okay, Ronnie. We have a position waiting just for you.

RONNIE

Help! Help me!!!

SYLVIA

Shhh, shhh, shhhh. Shhh, shhh, shhhh...Ronnie. It's alright. It's alright, dear. Shhh. Come back inside the blue door and we will fix you up. I promise. Listen to me, you can't leave now but I promise you with all my heart that if you willingly accept our offer, you will be the happiest man alive on planet Earth. Wouldn't you like that?

RONNIE

I have a life outside these doors.

SYLVIA

Shhh, shhh, Ronnie. It's fine. Come back through the blue door and we will take care of all your needs. You won't have to worry about paying rent, taking care of your kid, looking for work, hustling, getting consumed with friends and family issues...you will have a clean slate and all your worries are gone. Poof. Just like that. Doesn't that sound lovely?

RONNIE

There are people out there who will look for me.

SYLVIA

Nobody cares, Ronnie. I mean
honestly, at the end of the day,
nobody really gives a shit. The
world keeps spinning.

RONNIE

My ear is cut real good. Bleeding
a lot.

SYLVIA

Come inside. I'll personally patch
your ear back up.

RONNIE

Am I going to get hurt again?

SYLVIA

Not at all.

RONNIE

Why did he cut me?

SYLVIA

You gave him no choice. (beat)
Come...come back inside.

Ronnie enters the blue door. It closes slowly.