

Blue Door Ronnie

by

Joseph Arnone

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FADE IN.

INT. FRONT OF SHOP - EVENING

RONNIE stands in front of a store counter. He is disheveled in appearance, but not ragged.

SILVIA stands behind it. She is casual in both dress and personality.

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

Listen, I'm really—if you
want to know the truth, I'm
trying to make my rent.

SYLVIA

I know how it is.

RONNIE

If you know how it is, please,
cut me this break.

SYLVIA

I really wish to help you,
but if I take an item that
I know for sure won't sell,
I'm not only hurting the
company I work for, but I
am jeopardizing my job.

SYLVIA (cont'd)
I've already had two warnings
from my boss because I have

compassion for people, so it's
gotten me in trouble.

I know times are tough,
but sadly, you're not the
only one.

RONNIE
This is bullshit.

SYLVIA
I know.

RONNIE
Not you. I wouldn't speak--the
situation is bullshit.

SYLVIA
Can I offer you free coffee?

RONNIE
Nah, thank you. You know I,
I'm not some random druggie
looking for a quick fix. Things
have gone downhill with my
business. I've lost so many
accounts. One after the other.
I'm left with crumbs. But the
bills keep coming in though..

SYLVIA
What is it you do again?

RONNIE
Exterminating.

SYLVIA
Roaches and rats?

RONNIE
Yeah...is there...will you let
me speak to your boss?

SYLVIA
I wouldn't suggest that?

RONNIE
Can you just get your boss,
please?

SYLVIA
Ronnie, is it?

RONNIE
Yes.

SYLVIA
I *really* wouldn't suggest it.

Awkward beat.

RONNIE
Sylvia, I'm a desperate man.

SYLVIA
Are you sure?

RONNIE
I have no choice. Let me.

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.

RONNIE
Hi, you're the boss man?

BOSS
I am.

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

BOSS

We don't take that item.

RONNIE

But, I'm a valued customer. I come here quite often and my items are pretty solid. No junk. I have always brought in good pieces. I admit, this item isn't the greatest of pieces I've brought in, but it's worth something. 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. You don't understand what will happen to me if I don't have enough money to cover my rent. The landlord hates my guts, okay? He despises me and each month he's praying to slap an eviction notice on my door. I've already been to court with this guy three times.

BOSS

Move.

RONNIE

Excuse me?

BOSS

Find another place to live.

RONNIE

I can't.

BOSS

Why can't you?

RONNIE

Because I don't qualify for
any other place...not really.
I don't have the finances to
move. I don't believe another
apartment will take me because
of my poor credit history and
I'm just...it won't work. I'm
in a bad spot. Just give me
something. I'll take anything.

BOSS

Anything?

RONNIE

Anything.

A blue door opens.

BOSS

Come inside and we'll straighten
you out.

The boss goes into the blue door.

RONNIE

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

CUT TO:

INT. BACK OFFICE - SAME TIME

Ronnie enters the blue door. It closes behind him.

The boss turns around with a large knife and violently
takes hold of Ronnie's head of hair. The boss slices
along Ronnie's ear.

Ronnie screams wildly. The boss releases his grip on
Ronnie and laughs.

CUT TO:

INT. FRONT OF SHOP - SAME TIME

A moment goes by...Ronnie screams wildly. He comes back through the blue door with blood trickling down the side of his ear. He tries to escape the room from the front entrance door, but the door is locked.

RONNIE

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

Let me out. Forget it. You made
your point.

SYLVIA

Nope.

RONNIE

What do you mean, NOPE?

SYLVIA

You're with us now.

RONNIE

WHAT?!

Ronnie kicks the door a few times, but it won't budge. He calms down gradually.

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.

SYLVIA (cont'd)

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

RONNIE (cont'd)
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 will be 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,

SYLVIA (cont'd)
nobody really gives a damn. The
world keeps spinning.

Ronnie begins to look pale and faint.

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.

FADE OUT.