

Genuine Fake

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FADE IN:

INT. SUPERMARKET CHECKOUT - DAY

Old rockabilly EDDIE ROWBOTTOM 63, and his glamorous wife RUTH 61, pay for their groceries, before they push their trolley towards the exit.

RUTH
D'you want to use the toilet while
I check the receipt?

EDDIE
Yeah, alright.

RUTH
I'll be outside.

EDDIE
OK.

He takes off his woollen hat to reveal a good head of greying hair as he walks off. She puts on her specs and begins to check the itemised bill.

INT. GENTS TOILET - DAY

He uses one of the three urinals. Four threatening YOUTHS of different ethnicities burst in.

Aware of them, he uses a sink unit to wash his heavily tattooed hands as he stares at his weathered reflection in the mirror. The Youths appear beside him.

WANG the Chinese member of the group deliberately splashes him with water when he turns on the tap. His delinquent associates find it hilarious.

Eddie avoids confrontation, instead ignores them and sticks his hands under the hand drier.

KANE FRANK - Biracial clocks Eddie's GOLD WATCH.

KANE FRANK
(to Eddie)
Let me see that watch bruv.

EDDIE
(measured)
What for? It's worthless.

KANE FRANK

Let me see. Take it off.

Eddie shakes his head and slides off his watch. He hands it over.

Kane Frank rolls it over his fingers as his inquisitive associates look over his shoulder with interest.

EDDIE

Genuine fake.

KANE FRANK

This ain't no fake, bruv. It's the real deal.

(intropsectively)

It says Eddie on the back. Is that you?

EDDIE

Yeah, that's right.

They laugh at him. He looks at them in wonder

EDDIE (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

Kane Frank rolls his big beady eyes and snarls.

KANE FRANK

Are you takin' the fuckin' piss bruv? What... you think we're stupid or summink? This is the real deal.

EDDIE

(shakes head)

No, no, it's not. It's a genuine fake. I bought it in Turkey last year. It doesn't even keep time. It stops working altogether when I take it off.

KANE FRANK

You idiot! That's coz it's a movement watch, bruv. Are you stupid?

Kane Frank headbutts him.

EDDIE

Ouch! You little...!

He sets off the hand drier as they give him a kicking before they exit with the watch. Eddie lies on the floor injured.

An ageing SHOPPER enters and immediately comes to his aide.

SHOPPER
(mortified)
Hey! You all right mate? What happened?

He helps Eddie to his feet.

SHOPPER (CONT'D)
You okay?

EDDIE
Yeah, yeah. I'm fine. I'm all right. They took my watch, that's all.

SHOPPER
D' you want me to call someone?

EDDIE
Nah, nah, it's okay thanks. I'll be all right.

He brushes himself down and tends to his lip with a bit of tissue, before he exits.

EXT. SUPERMARKET - CONT'D

Eddie covers his face as he approaches Ruth. She gasps when she spots him.

The MANAGER 40s quickly approaches.

MANAGER
What happened?

EDDIE
I just got jacked in the gents. There was four of 'em. They stole my watch.

MANAGER
(outraged)
In the gents?

EDDIE
Yeah but it's okay. I'll be fine.

RUTH

Eddie.

EDDIE

It's alright luv.

MANAGER

This is outrageous! I'll get security. We can't have this sort of stuff going on inside our store.

Eddie shakes his head and grimaces.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

(on radio)

Security needed at the entrance immediately.

RUTH

(to Manager)

It's a bit late now! They've probably gone.

EDDIE

Leave it luv.

RUTH

(to Manager)

We'll call the police outside.

EDDIE

No! No police, Ruth. Let's just get out of here.

MANAGER

Are you sure we can't do anything sir? We can get you cleaned up, until the police arrive.

EDDIE

No police.

They turn and exit.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - DAY

Ruth loads up the boot as he enters the vehicle and starts the engine.

Once she's in the passenger seat, he reverses out of the bay then drives slowly towards the exit.

His POV: the Youths ride push bikes as they cycle out of the car park. He follows.

BACK TO SCENE

RUTH
(knowingly)
That's them, isn't it?

EDDIE
Yep.

RUTH
What are you going to do?

EDDIE
Follow 'em.

RUTH
Oh, let's just go home and call the police.

EDDIE
I wanna see where they go. I want my watch back.

He stops as they cycle into a concrete jungle.

His POV: They high five with other YOUTHS and show off the watch.

EDDIE (CONT'D)
(grits teeth)
Right.

He turns the vehicle around.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Leather clad Eddie revs up his HARLEY DAVIDSON then slips on a crash helmet before he races off.

EXT. BOURNE ESTATE - NIGHT

Eddie and a posse of EX HELL'S ANGELS ride up on their Harley's. They scan the concrete jungle for activity of life.

It's ghostly quiet with some apartment lights switched on. They turn off their headlights before they enter a dimly lit-

UNDERGROUND CAR PARK.

A mixed gang of YOUTHS, some on pushbikes, some on foot gather in cliques as they generally misbehave.

Eddie climbs off his Harley and marches towards them.

They immediately spot him, then surround him with an unwelcome attitude.

HOSTILE YOUTH

Yo bruv. What's your problem? You looking for summink?

He catches the blade of a ZOMBIE KNIFE coming towards him. and quickly unzips his studded leather bomber. He pulls out an automatic weapon.

He sprays them with bullets. They drop like flies and lie covered in their own blood.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sweating profusely while he tosses and turns, Eddie opens his eyes then sits up in bed. Ruth sleeps peacefully.

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

They sit at the table and eat breakfast.

RUTH

How'd you feel?

EDDIE

I didn't sleep well. I had a nightmare- me and guys rode over there and kicked their arses.

RUTH

You really should inform the police, Eddie. Tell them what happened. We know where they live. You can lead them there and show them the people who took it.

EDDIE

They won't do anything, not now. They'll just say I should've reported it at the time. Anyway, they've probably sold it by now.

RUTH

I told you not to wear it. I knew something like this would happen. You can't have anything nice these days.

EDDIE

I know. I should've listened.

RUTH

Bastards! How dare they do that. They wouldn't have done it when you were younger, that's for sure.

EDDIE

Too right.

RUTH

At least you're okay.
(pecks his cheek)
I love you.

EDDIE

Thank luv.

RUTH

They're just bullies.

EDDIE

I told them it was a fake.

RUTH

They obviously didn't believe you?

EDDIE

Maybe not, but at least I've put the doubt in their minds. It's unlikely they'll know its true value when they try and sell it.

She gets to her feet and puts the empty dishes away.

RUTH

So what are you going to do, then?

EDDIE

I'm gonna try and get it back.

RUTH

Don't be silly, Eddie. It's not worth the trouble. We can always get you another watch.

EDDIE
That watch meant a lot to me.

RUTH
Well just don't do anything stupid.

EDDIE
OK.

RUTH
Right, I'm off to pull some pints.
See you later.

EDDIE
Yeah okay, luv. Have a good day.

RUTH
Promise me you won't do anything
stupid now, Eddie?

EDDIE
No, I won't.

RUTH
Promise?

EDDIE
Promise.

She kisses his cheek then exits.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

JORDAN a youth 12 rides up to JOE, a smartly dressed old man
who waits for a bus.

JORDAN
Oi, mister. Wanna buy a watch?

JOE
I beg your pardon?

He climbs off his bike and shows the gold watch.

JORDAN
My brother reckons it's worth
thousands.

JOE
I haven't got that kind of money.

Joe inspects the watch.

JOE (CONT'D)
It's not even real.

JORDAN
How'd you know that, then?

JOE
Look, the second hand moves too quickly. And it says the name Eddie on the back. Where did you say you got it?

Jordan looks sheepishly at him.

JORDAN
None of your bizniz.

JOE
It doesn't work properly. That's not the time, is it? Its says 7.10. Look at my watch and see the difference.

He shows him his old leather strap watch.

JOE (CONT'D)
See? And the time is 10.30.

JORDAN
(convinced)
Oh yeah.

JOE
It's definitely fake, I'm afraid.

JORDAN
How much, then?

JOE
(chuckles)
But I don't really want it. It's practically worthless. Anyway, I don't have that kind of money.

JORDAN
Give me fifty then.

JOE
Thirty. That's all I have.

JORDAN
Done.

Jordan gives him the watch and cycles off.

INT. DEVONSHIRE ARMS P.H - DAY

Joe enters and approaches the bar. Ruth turns to serve him.

RUTH
(pleasantly)
What can I get for you?

JOE
A Virgin Mary, please?

RUTH
(smiles)
A Virgin Mary? Of course.

She prepares his drink. He produces his wallet.

She passes his drink to him. He taps his credit card on the card reader.

Her POV: The WATCH strapped to his wrist.

BACK TO SCENE

She stands in deep thought as she gazes at the watch.

He takes his drink and sits down quietly at a small table. She watches him closely as he reads messages on his phone.

Unexpectedly, he looks up at her and passes her a friendly smile. She smiles back at him.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Kane Frank stands in his boxers and frantically searches his pockets, drawers and cupboards for the watch.

KANE FRANK
(lividly)
JORDAN! JORDAN!

Jordan enters with a guilty look upon his pasty face.

JORDAN
What?

KANE FRANK
Where's my watch, you little
bastard?

JORDAN
(knowingly)
What watch?

KANE FRANK

Tell me you didn't take that watch,
did ya?

JORDAN

No! I never touched your silly fake
watch.

KANE FRANK

I'm gonna kill you, you little
fucker! Where's my watch?!

JORDAN

I'm not the only one here you know!
Blame dad! Go on!

KANE FRANK

I'll kill you if you've taken that
watch! It's worth thousands of
peas.

Jordan legs it out of the flat. Kane Frank chases after him.

INT. DEVONSHIRE ARMS P.H- CONT'D

Joe approaches the bar and places his empty glass down on
the counter. Ruth picks it up and sticks it inside the
washer.

JOE

Do I know you from somewhere? You
look quite familiar.

RUTH

Oh, I don't think so... unless
you've been in before.

JOE

No. It's my first time, actually.
But you do look rather familiar to
me. Maybe we met in another
lifetime. You remind me of my late
wife you know.

RUTH

Lucky me, then.

JOE

(chuckles)
Ha! Yes.

RUTH

Sorry, that just sounded rude.

JOE

Well, I never took it that way.

RUTH

Thanks.

JOE

Listen, I was just going to have some dinner at that quaint little French bistro across the road. Can I tempt you to join me, or have you eaten already?

RUTH

If you don't mind waiting. I finish in ten minutes.

JOE

Pour me a lemonade, then.

RUTH

Sure.

She turns to pour him a lemonade.

INT. SACRE BLEU BISTRO - NIGHT

Ruth and Joe are seated comfortably at a small candle lit table. They share a bottle of red.

JOE

It was very kind of you to accept my offer of dinner. I wasn't expecting you to say yes, to be honest.

RUTH

Why not? You're very charming.
(eyes watch)
Besides, I'm drawn to your watch.
Where did you get it?

He looks at the watch as he shakes his head knowingly.

JOE

This. It's worthless. It's fake.

He slides it off his wrist and hands it to her.

RUTH

It says Eddie on the back. It belongs to my husband.

(MORE)

RUTH (CONT'D)

I bought him this Rolex watch for our thirtieth wedding anniversary.

JOE

I know.

She studies it carefully and smiles.

RUTH

(aback)

You know? But how?

JOE

I saw your husband lying on the floor in the gents toilet at the supermarket yesterday. I was the one that helped him to his feet, just after he'd been robbed of this watch.

RUTH

But how did you get it back?

JOE

By chance, actually.

RUTH

Go on.

JOE

I was waiting for the bus this morning when some desperate local lad rode up to me on his bicycle and asked me if I would give him fifty quid for it. I told him it was fake.

(chuckles)

He talked me into buying it.

RUTH

How come?

JOE

Oh, I don't know. Call it intuition.

RUTH

You gave him fifty pounds?

JOE

Oh no... I'm not that soft. I got him down to thirty. Mind you, I knew it was the real deal, myself.

RUTH

But I don't understand- how did you know where to find me?

JOE

Oh, I didn't. The reason I came into your pub was to ask if anyone knew of anyone called Eddie. But when I saw you, I recognised you immediately. That's why I asked you here. I wanted to hand it back to you over dinner.

RUTH

(heartily)
Right, I'm paying.

JOE

Oh no. But you-

RUTH

(elatedly)
I insist!

JOE

Well, okay then, if you insist.

RUTH

And remind me to give you back what you paid for it before we leave.

Waiter approaches. She looks up at him and smiles.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Now what shall we have - the lobster?

He grins.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Eddie sits in the armchair with a bottle of beer. He watches TV. Ruth enters with a huge grin and a bottle of bubbly.

She takes off her coat and immediately opens the bubbly.

He doesn't look at her as she comes behind him and brings her hand in front of his face. The watch sits in the hollow of her hand.

He jumps up in surprise.

EDDIE

Ruth! How did you get it?

RUTH

It's a long story. But come to bed
and I'll tell you all about it.
You'll be blown away.

He follows her up the stairs with the bottle of bubbly in
hand.

FADE OUT.

THE END