

VAT NUMBER THREE

BY

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Ed Bently, a man with a secret, must work on Thanksgiving Day
at the Eagle Brewery.

FADE IN:

EXT. BREWERY PARKING LOT - DAY

Christmas decorations adorn the rusted chain link fence that surrounds the parking lot of the EAGLE BREWERY.

Smoke escapes the tall decayed brick towers. Fewer than twenty cars fill the large lot.

INT. ED'S CAR - DAY

ED BENTLEY (34) freshly shaven, in blue work clothes, turns off the car engine just as the song "I'll be home for Christmas" comes on the radio.

He grabs his oversized black metal lunch box and gets out of the car.

INT. BREWERY LOBBY - DAY

Ed enters the rotating doors into the lobby which is overly decorated for Christmas. Holiday songs play over the intercom.

ANGIE HERMAN (56) dressed in tacky Christmas clothes, sits at the reception desk talking on the phone. She waves at Ed as he enters the door behind her desk.

INT. FERMENTATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Brown residue cover the upper half of grey walls.

Small wooden offices align one side of the room. A third of them are occupied.

Ed makes his way past the enormous copper vats to an office at the end of the room.

INT. ED'S OFFICE

A two foot, sparsely decorated Christmas tree sits in the corner on a table. Beneath the tree is a poorly wrapped present.

Ed places his lunch box on the floor beside a small television with foil covered rabbit ears.

Ed pulls out the chair and sits down. He lightly touches the coffee cup with the saying "World's Greatest Dad" that holds pens and pencils.

A photograph of a woman and a young boy hugging smile at Ed. He adjusts the position of the frame and gently caresses the woman's cheek.

TONY ORLY (35) in blue work clothes, eating an apple, enters the office and sits on the edge of Ed's desk. His butt knocks over the picture.

TONY

Hey Ed. Sorry you had to come in today --

Ed picks up the picture and moves it away from Tony.

TONY

--being it Thanksgiving and all. Hopefully the wife wasn't too angry.

ED

No problem. She understood.

Tony gets off the desk.

TONY

It's only til three, so you'll still have time to eat dinner with the family.

Ed nods and forces a smile.

TONY

Well, uh, I'll let you get to work.

Tony leaves only to be replaced by ANDY SMIT (22) an anxious young man.

ANDY

Ed, Ed! Ya gotta come quick. It's vat number three. She's kicking up again.

Ed quickly gets up and follows Andy into the

FERMENTATION ROOM

As they run to a large copper vat in the corner which is shaking violently and spewing beer onto the floor.

ANDY

She needs your touch, man!

Ed grabs the ladder from the corner and places it against the vat. Andy holds the bottom of the ladder for Ed.

Ed lifts open the control box on the side of the vat and presses a red button.

The vat shakes harder.

Ed pushes a variety of numbered buttons with the same result.

He unlatches the lid and pushes it back. Steam billows out.

Ed covers his face.

ANDY

Careful man! She's pretty feisty today!

Ed sees the emergency shut off valve on the inside of the vat towards the middle.

Ed's clothes are wet from the steam.

Ed extends his arm but can't reach the valve. He steps on the top rung of the ladder.

The edge of the vat is mid thigh. Ed leans across the boiling beer and reaches for the Emergency Shut Off valve.

Unexpectedly, the beer bubbles and explodes in Ed's face.

Ed screams as he loses his balance and falls into the vat.

Andy scrambles up the ladder in time to see Ed's foot sink.

LATER

Two policemen stand around vat number three, which is deathly still. They look up and steam rises from the vat.

One policeman attempts to question Andy, but he is too distraught to answer.

INT. ED'S OFFICE

DETECTIVE HARRY MORRIS (46) dressed in a suit, stands at the desk holding a small pad while Tony sits in the chair in disbelief.

MORRIS

Has anyone contacted the family?

TONY

Angie is getting his file from
human resources.

Angie enters the office. Her mascara covers her cheeks. She hands the file to Tony.

ANGIE

(crying)

I don't see any mention of a wife
in the file.

TONY

What?

HARRY

(to Tony)

I thought you said he was married.

Tony opens the file and quickly scans through the forms. He pulls out a pink sheet of paper.

TONY

Damn. He wrote his own name as the
emergency contact.

ANGIE

What?

Tony throws the paper on the desk.

TONY

Doesn't anyone read this stuff?

Angie runs out of the office crying hysterically.

Tony picks up the picture of the woman and boy.

TONY

What about this picture of his
family?

MORRIS

Can I see that?

Tony hands the picture to the detective.

Det. Morris pulls the back off the picture and then removes the paper picture.

HARRY
(to Tony)
Look.

Tony takes the picture and reads the back.

TONY
Remove before inserting photograph.

MORRIS
He wanted everyone to think he was
married.

TONY
Why does that matter?

MORRIS
Some people want to give the
impression they have a life when
they don't.

Tony shakes his head.

Det. Morris spots the lunch box. He grabs it and opens it.

Inside is a large cooked turkey leg with all the fixings.

MORRIS
Look at this.

TONY
Jesus.

Det. Morris slowly closes the lunch box and hands it to Tony.

MORRIS
We'll have the vat removed before
you open again tomorrow.

Tony, still in shock, nods and gets up to leave.

TONY
(whispers)
Ed.

Det. Morris closes his pad and leaves the office. Tony turns
off the light and closes the door.

The lights on the small Christmas tree glow in the dark as
the song "I'll be home for Christmas" plays through the
intercom.

FADE OUT: