

TWO BELLMEN

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INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

A bellman, GAGE (28, chipper, obsessive, lightning quick), is seated behind the front desk, face deep in LUGGAGE AFICIONADO MAGAZINE, concealed inside a copy of MAXIM.

Above him hang five sequential pictures of him as "Employee of the year."

Bellman CHRISTIAN (26, hard-working, handsome, loyal, cynical) watches an attractive woman waltz through the lobby - with toilet paper trailing from her shoe. As she passes, Christian discreetly steps on it, then picks it up.

Nearby a smarmy hotel patron leers at the woman. Christian hands him the wad of toilet paper. He dabs at his sweat.

CHRISTIAN

Showtime.

Gage springs into action and they walk outside to the curb.

EXT. HOTEL - CURB - CONTINUOUS

The morning rush begins. Guests arrive and depart rapidly while bellmen Christian and Gage load and unload luggage like they were born to do it.

They send luggage flying overhead - spinning behind their backs - sailing between each other's legs - on and off of the luggage carts - magic in motion. Tips flood in.

INT. HOTEL - PENTHOUSE - DAY

Breathtaking views. MR. SANTOS (38) is handsome, Puerto Rican, charismatic, sharply dressed, he readies himself for his day, dancing as he goes.

He looks in the mirror and hypes himself up:

MR. SANTOS

Whose gonna make the sale? I'm gonna! Who? Me. That's right! You look good today!

Mr. Santos blows himself a kiss.

EXT. EMPLOYEE ENTRANCE BEHIND THE HOTEL - DAY

Ivan (30, thin and menacing, darting eyes) dressed in a janitorial uniform loads a purple glock handgun and tucks it into the back of his pants. He CRUNCHES a grape flavored blowpop in his MOUTH.

He watches a fresh faced hotel employee unlock the door to the hotel and walk in. Ninjalike - Ivan springs across the alley and catches the door the broom handle and sneaks in.

THIRTY STORIES ABOVE

A WINDOW WASHER watches Ivan through binoculars. When he sees Ivan sneak in, he returns to work with an approving nod.

EXT. DOWNTOWN LA - JW MARRIOT HOTEL - MAGIC HOUR

TIME LAPSE as dawn breaks over the hotel.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

Mr. Santos walks down the hallway and the elevator doors open the exact moment he appears.

As he steps out on the ground floor the sea of people part, effortlessly. He's handed a green smoothie by a hotel worker.

EXT. HOTEL CURB - DAY

A bag hits Christian in the back of the head - WHACK!  
Christian turns around to see Gage rushing toward him with concern.

Gage passes Christian and goes for the bag, cradling it and dusting it off. Christian gives him a "what the f---" look.

GAGE

We can put a band aid on you. No amount of ducktape'll fix a Rimowa.

Gage licks his finger and smooths the case.

CHRISTIAN

Why don't you watch where I'm going?

GAGE

Why don't you watch where I'm throwing? Besides if you do a heel spin flip a little faster-

Gage demonstrates the fancy new move.

CHRISTIAN

-I can catch and release quicker.

GAGE

Speaking of catch and release, you ever hear from the Brazilian girl?

CHRISTIAN

Not even a text.

GAGE

Try a girl next door type. They're nice and they call you back.

CHRISTIAN

I like all kinds of girls.

Mr. Santos appears and walks toward the curb like a demigod.

CHRISTIAN (CONT'D)

Only the bad ones like me.

Christian hucks the last suitcase toward Gage and turns around to grab the luggage cart.

THE SUITCASE HEADS STRAIGHT FOR MR. SANTOS.

Gage dives for it like an Olympian - catching it mid-air, diverolling to protect it like a newborn baby.

Mr. Santos turns in time to catch the scene.

He lends Gage a hand, puts his arm around him, and escorts him inside.

MR. SANTOS

Catch like that'll win the game!  
I'm looking for a man of your  
caliber to assist me today. You  
must have heard of Edward  
Wokington, the painter?

THIRTY STORIES ABOVE

THE WINDOW WASHER makes a call.

BELOW

Christian wheels a luggage cart along the curb when SCREECH!  
A black Camaro HITS the LUGGAGE CART!

At the last possible second, Christian DIVES out of the Camaro's way - landing HARD on the CURB.

The door opens and the driver of the car SARIAH (25, stunning, poised, mysterious) is on the phone.

SARIAH  
(on phone w/window washer)  
Ten minutes.

She hangs up, steps out of the car and looks down at CHRISTIAN.

SARIAH (CONT'D)  
Are you going grab my bags or is  
that too complicated?

Christian struggles to his feet as she pops the trunk.

She stands watch as he leans over - SNIP - she steals his keycard. He straightens up, she snatches her bags out of his hands and saunters toward the hotel entrance.

CHRISTIAN  
Did you want me to carry your bag?

Without turning around, she tosses her keys over her shoulder.

INT. HOTEL - TOP OF STAIRWELL - DAY

Ivan walks up a flight of stairs carrying the broom.

CRUNCH goes his CANDY as he opens the door to the roof - the light of day floods in.

INT. HOTEL - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS - ALL PARTIES CONVERGE AT THE PAINTING:

Sariah waltzes through the lobby and pulls her camera out.

Christian realizes his keycard is missing and walks toward Gage.

Ivan takes the stairs and back entrance to appear beside the painting, cleaning and eyeing the security in place.

Mr. Santos walks Gage toward THE WOKINGTON PAINTING.  
"AAAAHHH" HOLY GRAIL MUSIC PLAYS. The vividly drawn, highly abstract painting glows in a pool of golden light.

Mr. Santos stands with his arm around Gage, pointing at the painting.

MR. SANTOS

See that color there? Most don't notice it, but it's what ties the piece together. Like the wheel on a car, the breeze in the trees, like the flip in a ninja, without it, nothing works, nothing shines.

GAGE

Kind of like what I do, here, at the hotel?

We see GAGE VISION - a graphic appears on screen to calculate the exact number of degrees the painting is tilted.

MR. SANTOS

Exactly. A man like me can hire all the help in the world: guards, tripwires, cameras. But none of that comes close to someone you can put your trust in.

Mr. Santos gives an expectant pause. Gage waits, blankly.

MR. SANTOS (CONT'D)

I see the kind of person you are: loyal, honorable, focused.

Gage nods profusely.

MR. SANTOS (CONT'D)

As a favor to me, I need you to protect this painting with all your heart.

GAGE

I, I would be honored.

They turn away from the painting and Gage reaches behind his back to right the angle of the painting. He exhales.

MR. SANTOS

I like you Gage. You remind me of me.

The window washer, now dressed as an OPERATIVE in black tactical gear surveys the scene below through binoculars.

Mr. Santos directs WORKERS as they adjust the lights, and show him drink and hor's d'ervers options.

Christian spots Sariah and starts toward her. She sees him see her and bolts.

ART PATRONS arrive and Gage escorts them toward Santos.

MR. SANTOS (CONT'D)  
 Wokington works with a one haired  
 brush. Usually a camel hair, but  
 he's been known to use alpaca.

Ivan, now dressed as a wealthy business man hides a purple briefcase near the painting.

Mr. Santos approaches Ivan and sizes him up.

MR. SANTOS (CONT'D)  
 See this color here? It represents  
 danger, independence, risk, daring.

Ivan can't help but fall under Mr. Santos spell.

INT. HOTEL - OUTSIDE "EMPLOYEES ONLY" ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Christian chases Sariah, and finds her just as she whips out his keycard, places it in the lock - WHAM! Christian jumps out of nowhere to stop her. And the tussle begins - neither of them let go of the keycard.

SARIAH  
 Aren't you going above and beyond  
 your job description?

For a brief moment, they make eye contact, and there is no denying the chemistry.

CHRISTIAN  
 I guess my job is complicated, now  
 isn't it?

Christian shakes it off and twists the key out of her hands.

She clenches her jaw, decks him in the face, and bolts. Christian picks up a hotel phone and dials 911.

FIVE STORIES ABOVE THE LOBBY

The call routes to the window-washer-turned-operative, who hangs from a metal wire descending from the tripod he assembled earlier. He answers the call on his ear piece.

OPERATIVE

(on phone)

911, we have your location. We're sending people immediately.

INSERT of the small metal device adhered to phone wires on the roof, lighting up.

INT. LOBBY - ART SHOW - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Santos continues trying to sell Ivan.

MR. SANTOS

You are the unseen force. Rumi said "out beyond notions of right and wrong, there is a field. I'll meet you there."

Ivan is visibly moved. The clock strikes 6:59 and his ear piece activates. He pulls out his cell phone and places it over his ear piece.

IVAN

(into phone)

The purple dress, it's smashing.

VROOOOmmm!!! Two black motorcycles ride into the lobby.

The attendees, frightened, scatter in every direction.

Ivan's briefcase, now open, releases a SMOKE BOMB.

The TWO SECURITY GUARDS beside the painting try to guard their eyes from the smoke. They watch as:

Through the fog HEAVY and HUGE, two beastly men dismount from the motorcycles and head toward the painting.

The security guard fight back! HEAVY and HUGE do away with them, effortlessly. The crowd runs for the doors!

Gage hits the fan, which starts quickly clearing the smoke.

GAGE

Oh boy.

ABOVE - the Operative drops down - clips the painting - and begins to ascend - the Wokington painting in his hands.

Mr. Santos faints.

Gage runs up a set of stairs - chasing the operative. But the operative continues to rise up the first story!

Gage climbs the second story balcony, gaining on the operative.

On the third story, HE JUMPS FOR IT - tackles the operative - forcing him to drop the painting!

Down - down - down the painting goes!

Christian catches it!

The SUSPENSION LINE starts to CREAK - it gives way!

They fall - past the third story, then the second story, gaining speed.

Christian - still holding the painting - kicks an ottoman toward Gage's speeding body - and it breaks his fall!

The operative hits the ground - THUD! His body smacks the marble floor and...he's out.

IVAN

Get the painting!

HEAVY and HUGE bring out their guns.

IVAN (CONT'D)

Don't shoot - you might hurt the piece!

Gage steps toward Christian, both of their bodies safe behind the artwork. The guns are lowered.

Using the painting like a Spartan shield, the bellmen work together to defeat the men.

HUGE approaches - with sheer strength - he tosses the bellmen apart and takes the painting.

Gage and Christian use the surrounding art like weapons and go after HUGE - SMASH! WACK! They disarm him. But HUGE is not slowing down.

THEN - GAGE VISION ACTIVATES - he looks at a nearby sculpture and calculates the exact arc to HUGE's head.

Gage lifts the sculpture and hits him on the temple - BOING! The giant man falls like a tree. They pry the painting from his fingers.

The remaining henchmen HEAVY aims his gun at Christian's head. Just as he is about to fire - Sariah SPRINGS INTO ACTION TO DEFEND CHRISTIAN!

She jumps up and spirals around HEAVY to redirect his arm. BUT he's already fired. The bullet flies through the air - AND hits the frame and cracks it ever so slightly.

The operative wakes up and pulls off his mask - to reveal golden skin, silver hair, and a vendetta in his eyes. He takes out two Japanese swords.

The BATTLE BEGINS! Sariah fighting alongside Gage and Christian. Near miss! The operative slices the sleeve of Gage's coat. DING! A cufflink goes flying. HIYA! Gage narrowly misses being gutted. HIYA! Christian ducks but the operative pins him down, the sword at his neck. JUST THEN GAGE SMASHES A VASE OVER THE operative. He falls, unconscious.

Ivan pulls his purple glock on Gage, who is holding the painting.

IVAN (CONT'D)

Hand it over.

Gage shakes his head "No." Ivan takes aim. Christian shoots Gage a look that says - just give it to him.

Gage nods agreeably and TOSSES THE PAINTING HIGH IN THE AIR! SLOW MOTION - Ivan drops his gun, reaches for the painting -

BAAM! Gage drop kicks Ivan, sends him flying - knocking him out. Gage lands on his back - and CATCHES THE PAINTING!

Sariah pulls out a gun, grabs the painting from Gage's hands, and turns toward Ivan.

SARIAH

Hands up! FBI. You're under arrest.

CHRISTIAN

What? Why didn't you tell me?

SARIAH

(shrugs, smiles at him)

Too complicated.

SIRENS BLARE!

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - ART SHOW - NIGHT

Mr. Santos's eyelids are starting to flutter open. Marie, the hotel worker, gently slaps his cheeks. His eyes flash open. He sits up and looks around: the room is filled with police, criminals in handcuffs, being led away, hotel workers are cleaning up and...

THERE IS NO PAINTING!!! He lets out a piercing "movie girl" scream and begins crying in horror!

EXT. CURB - NIGHT

Christian hands Sariah her bags. She moves to kiss him on the cheek, as a thank you. He turns his cheek and they lock lips. The kiss is *downright dreamy*.

CHRISTIAN

I'd like to see you again.

SARIAH

You will. Tonight, 8 o'clock. I could use backup.

She tosses him a card with the address of a restaurant.

Christian sighs a lovesick sigh.

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT

Gage gets into a sparking Rolls Royce, ominous music blaring, he puts on his sunglasses. In his lap, sits the painting.

FADE TO BLACK

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - ART SHOW - DAY

Mr. Santos is staring at the place where the Wokington painting used to hang. Christian brings him coffee.

A BUYER arrives, check in hand. Mr. Santos starts to cry again as Christian turns the buyer away.

JUST THEN Gage sails in, riding on a luggage cart, the painting in hand.

GAGE

I fixed the frame. You won't even be able to see the glue I used!

Mr. Santos looks at the painting, relieved.

Christian smacks Gage upside the head.

THE END