

Passing the Buck

by
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PASSING THE BUCK

A MAN IN THE SUIT sits tied to a chair, apparently passed out. CHARLIE, a man in his early 30's sits opposite him. He is armed.

Charlie hisses at the man, claps his hands, eventually slapping him, if a little uncertainly, to wake him up.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT

Huh? My head, Jesus.

CHARLIE

You want some water?

THE MAN IN THE SUIT

What? My ears are ringing. What?

CHARLIE

I asked you if you want some water.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT

Yeah, sure. Hey, what's wrong with my hands? I can't feel my hands. Hey, am I tied up?

CHARLIE

Yeah.

He lifts a bottle of water to The Man in the Suit's lips. After a sip, The Man in the Suit laughs.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Something funny?

THE MAN IN THE SUIT

Well don't break a sweat or anything. I'm tied up, you say? Like it's any other day of the week? Jesus, untie me. Unbelievable. Where you come from anyway? Everyone get tied up where you're from? It's like, no big deal?

CHARLIE

No. Have some more water.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT

(more alert)

I don't want more water, I want to move my hands. How'd I get tied up anyway... Hey, hey, do I know you.

CHARLIE

No.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT

Sure, sure I do-

CHARLIE
You don't know me.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT
Yes I do, I know you. You're the guy that, you're the guy that hit me! Jesus. Where am I? WHERE AM I!! HELP!! HELP!!

CHARLIE
Shut up.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT
HELPGETMEOUTOFHEREHELPFUCK!

CHARLIE
SHUT UP!

The Man in the Suit gets quiet.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
No one can hear you.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT
You tied me up.

CHARLIE
Yeah.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT
Why?

CHARLIE
Lots of reasons. Mostly so you won't get away.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT
You hit me and threw me in your van, and then you hit me again. Hard. That's why my ears are ringing.

CHARLIE
Yeah.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT
You want money, or something? You want my wallet? I've got four hundred dollars in my wallet.

Charlie laughs.

THE MAN IN THE SUIT (CONT'D)
And my bankcard. Use my bankcard if you want. The PIN number is 2020. Take my Visa for God's sake! Take my American Express.

CHARLIE
You think I'm mugging you? You think a person goes through this much trouble, watching, learning your routine, sets up this room, ties you to a chair... Just to steal your wallet?