

TABLE TALK

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. PLANNING ROOM - NIGHT 1

The basement of a suburban home. A folding table sits in the middle of the room. Three chairs sit around the table. A single lamp sits on the edge of the table.

CASPER, a slender 35-year-old, steps towards the table. He lays the blueprints to a jewelry store down on the table. He turns the lamp so it illuminates the blueprints as well as his face.

CASPER

Perfect.

The clattering of feet down stairs cuts through the air. Casper quickly disappears into the darkness. A trio of figures approaches the table.

2 TABLE 2

MAX, a well-dressed 28-year-old, sits on one side of the table. She types away on her cellphone.

RYAN, a stoic 26-year-old, plops down opposite Max. She absentmindedly glances around the room.

JACK, a suave 34-year-old stands between them. He leans on the table.

RYAN

So how goes the new life?

JACK

A little crazy, but way more fulfilling.

MAX

(Not looking up)

Never thought I would see you settle down.

Jack takes a toothpick out of his pocket.

JACK

Hey...

Jack points the toothpick at Max.

JACK (CONT'D)

I never said I settled.

Jack sticks the toothpick in his mouth. Ryan slumps in her chair and plays with a loose thread. Max continues to type away on her cellphone.

JACK (CONT'D)
(calling out)
Alright Casper, you called us all
here, what's the job?

Casper emerges from the darkness.

CASPER
Compatriots, you're probably
wondering why I brought you all
here?

MAX
(staring at her phone)
What's with the pompous jargon?

Casper sighs.

CASPER
Can't you guys just once let me
bring a dramatic flair to these
meetings?

Jack taps his wrist.

JACK
Look man, I'm on a timer.

CASPER
Fine, I'll skip right to the point.
This is the final job.
(beat)
The one that will secure our
legacy.

Max, Jack, and Ryan look at Casper.

MAX, JACK, & RYAN
Our?

CASPER
Yes, OUR. We're a team, we've been
hitting stuff like this for years.

Jack shakes his head.

JACK
WE haven't done anything since--

CASPER
NO. Do not bring up the cake
factory incident.

MAX
What was so bad about that job?

JACK
We nearly got caught.

RYAN
Yeah, then you guys convinced me to
try and eat our way out.

Jack and Max laugh. Ryan smiles.

JACK
That's right.

Jack looks around the room.

JACK (CONT'D)
Hey Casper do you still have-- (the
bag)

CASPER
No Jack, I don't have-- (the bag)

Jack gets up from the table.

3 SHELF

3

Jack goes to a nearby shelf.

JACK
Found it!

Jack reveals a bag covered in icing. Max and Ryan laugh.
Casper shakes his head.

CASPER
Can we PLEASE get back to the
matter at hand?

Jack places the bag on the shelf.

JACK
Yeah, yeah. Give us your master
plan.

Jack returns to his chair. Casper pulls out a handful of multi-colored buttons and dumps them on the table. Ryan reaches for a yellow button.

RYAN

Can I finally be a different color?

CASPER

No, we've had our assigned colors for years. We aren't changing them on the last job.

Ryan snatches the yellow button and slumps in her chair.

CASPER (CONT'D)

Alright, here's the plan...

Casper grabs a blue button and moves it around the blueprint.

CASPER (CONT'D)

Jack will go in the day before and scope the place out. Find all the cameras, guards, what our exit plan - (will be.)

JACK

How long is this going to take?

Casper looks at Jack.

CASPER

I just started explaining the plan.

JACK

Not the plan, my stake out. I gotta pick my kid up from daycare at 5.

Casper blinks.

CASPER

Do it on a day they aren't in daycare.

JACK

Well, then I'm solo parenting.

CASPER

(annoyed)

Then do it before 5! Look, I don't care when, just get it done!

Jack holds up his hands.

JACK
Alright. Sheesh.

CASPER
Moving on...

Casper grabs a red button.

CASPER (CONT'D)
The night of the job. Ryan, will
go in first and neutralize all the
guards.

RYAN
I'm not killing anyone.

Everyone looks at Ryan.

CASPER
Ryan, you're the muscle.

MAX
Aren't you a trained assassin?

Ryan fiddles with the yellow button.

RYAN
I am. But I just... couldn't take
all the blood on my hands. So, I
took a vow of pacifism last year.

Jack pats Ryan's shoulder.

JACK
Good on you, working towards a
better life.

Ryan smiles. Casper runs his hands through his hair.

CASPER
Ryan, we need someone to
neutralize their security. You are
the-- (Muscle)

RYAN
I can still be the muscle, just no
killing.

Casper sighs.

CASPER
Fine. You... knock them out,
better?

Ryan shakes his head. Casper throws up his hands.

CASPER (CONT'D)
What do you want then?

Ryan lays the yellow button on the table.

RYAN
Scare them.

Casper shakes his head.

CASPER
Ryan, how are you going to scare
the security away?

Ryan locks eyes with Casper.

RYAN
I have my ways.

BEAT

CASPER
Fine, sure, whatever. You scare
away the security.

Ryan leans back in her chair. Casper grabs a green button.

CASPER (CONT'D)
After the security is gone. The
rest of us will enter. Then, Max
will hack into the-- (security
system)

Max's phone BUZZES. She jumps to her feet. Eyes glued to her phone.

MAX
No can-do Casper!

Casper throws up his hands.

CASPER
Why not?

MAX
Because I just landed a government
contract!

JACK
Heck ya! Congrats!

MAX
Thanks, I've been waiting all day
to hear back about-- (this
contract)

CASPER
Max, if you can't hack, what can
you do?

Max shrugs.

MAX
I don't know, carry the bags? Look
more important things just
happened.

Casper blinks.

CASPER
What?

MAX
Look...

Max gestures to the blueprints.

MAX (CONT'D)
...I know that THIS is the crews
legacy but...

Max holds up her phone.

MAX (CONT'D)
...THIS is my future.

Casper blinks. He opens his mouth to respond.

A phone alarm BLARES. Casper SLAMS the table.

CASPER
Now what?

Jack pulls out his phone.

JACK
Hey man, I said I was on a timer.
Now, daddy-duty calls.

CASPER
Seriously? Right, now?

Jack looks at Casper.

JACK
Seriously. Right, now.

Jack gets up from the table. He sets his toothpick on the table.

5 INT. PLANNING ROOM - NIGHT

5

Ryan and Max follow Suite.

MAX
I'm calling it too, I gotta prep
for my first meeting with the
client.

RYAN
Yeah, I got my 4 AM meditation I
need to
get ready for.

JACK
It's 7:30?

RYAN
Yeah, I need to sleep.

Casper looks around the room.

CASPER
Are you guys all crazy?

Max, Jack, and Ryan look at Casper.

CASPER (CONT'D)
What about the job?
(beat)
Our legacy?

Max, Jack, and Ryan exchange glances.

CASPER (CONT'D)
Does all of this mean nothing to
you?

BEAT

JACK
Same time next week?

Max and Ryan nod.

JACK (CONT'D)
So we just pick this up next week.

CASPER
We don't have a week! This is it!
If we don't hit this place right
now, our legacy is gone!

RYAN
Come on Casper, there's always
another place we can hit.

CASPER
No, there isn't! I've been looking
for months for the right place,
waiting to bring you guys back for
this one moment.
(beat)
We will NEVER get another chance
after this.

JACK
Casper, are you really going to
stake our entire history on this
one job?

Casper looks around the room. He opens his mouth to speak.

BEAT

Casper sighs.

CASPER
No.
(beat)
We can pick it up next week.

Jack smiles. Ryan and Max nod. They head out of the basement.
Casper sighs. Jack stops at the stairs.

JACK
Hey Casper.

Casper glances at Jack. They lock eyes.

JACK (CONT'D)
We'll be here.

Casper nods. Jack heads out of the basement. Casper is left
alone, staring at the blueprints.

CASPER
One job. Just one job that's all I
wanted!

Casper SLAMS the table.

CASPER (CONT'D)

At this rate, we will never be able
to secure--

SUSAN (O.S.)

Casper! Dinner's on the table!

BEAT

Casper sighs. He glances at the blueprints and shakes his head.

Casper goes to the basement stairs. He looks back at the table. He sighs.

CASPER

Alright, next week.

Casper smiles. He then turns off the basement lights and heads to dinner.

FADE OUT.