

GENUINE FAKE

written by

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FADE IN:

INT. SUPERMARKET CHECKOUT - NIGHT

Clean shaven EDDIE ROWBOTTOM 63 and his glamorous wife RUTH 61 stand at checkout and pay for their groceries, before they walk towards the exit with their trolley.

RUTH

D'you still need to go?

EDDIE

Yeah.

He takes off his woollen hat to reveal a good head of hair.

She puts on her specs and begins to check the itemised bill as he walks off.

Beat.

INT. TOILET.

He enters and immediately takes a slash in one of the urinals.

Four boisterous YOUTHS 16/17 enter the cubicles. They are of different ethnicities.

When he finishes, he stands at the sink unit and looks at his weathered reflection in the mirror while he washes his heavily tattooed hands.

The Youths appear and stand beside him, before WANG the Chinese member of the group deliberately splashes him with water from the tap. His delinquent mates look on and snigger.

Eddie avoids confrontation, instead ignores them and uses the hand drier.

KANE FRANK - tall, skinny biracial dude spots his expensive Rolex and gestures to his colleagues with a nudge.

KANE FRANK

(to Eddie)

Show me your watch.

EDDIE

(measuredly)

It's just a fake. It's worthless.

KANE FRANK

Let me see, then. Take it off.

Eddie slides off his Rolex and hands it over.

Kane Frank studies it carefully as his inquisitive crew look over his shoulder.

EDDIE

(measuredly)

See. A genuine fake.

KANE FRANK

This ain't no fake, bruv. You're lying.

(intropsects)

It says Eddie on the back. Is that you?

EDDIE

Yes.

They roar with an ominous laughter.

EDDIE /

OK. Give me a tenner for it and it's yours.

Kane Frank rolls his big beady eyes as they lock horns.

KANE FRANK

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

EDDIE

(shakes head)

No, no. I'm telling you it's a genuine fake. I bought it in Turkey when I was holiday last year. It doesn't even keep time. It stops working when you take it off.

KANE FRANK

That's coz it's a movement watch, loser.

Kane Frank headbutts him.

EDDIE

Ouch! You little-!

Eddie falls back against the hand drier and sets it off before they give him a good kicking then exit with the watch.

Eddie lies hurt and bloodied.

Beat.

A middle aged SHOPPER enters and immediately spots him.

SHOPPER
(mortified)
Oh shit!

He kneels down and helps Eddie to his feet.

SHOPPER /
You okay, pal?

EDDIE
Yeah. I'm fine. I'm fine.

SHOPPER
D'you want me to call an ambulance?

EDDIE
You're okay. I'll be alright.
Thanks.

He brushes himself down, then covers his bloodied nose with tissue, before he exits.

Beat.

SUPERMARKET - CONT'D

He covers his face as he approaches Ruth. She stands agape while SHOPPERS look on in shock.

The supermarket MANAGER 40's quickly approaches.

MANAGER
Are you all right, sir? What happened to you?

EDDIE
Yeah, I'm fine. I was rolled in the toilets.

MANAGER
(outraged)
In this supermarket?

EDDIE

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

RUTH

What happened, Eddie?

EDDIE

It's alright. They stole my watch.

MANAGER

This is outrageous! I'll call security. I can't have this sort of thing going on inside my store.

Eddie shakes his head.

RUTH

(to Eddie)

Where are they now?

MANAGER

They must be outside somewhere, I'll call them.

RUTH

(to manager)

Not security! The people who did this to my husband.

EDDIE

Leave it. They'll be well gone by now.

RUTH

(to manager)

Can you call the police, please.

EDDIE

No! No police, Ruth. I'll deal with it. Let's just go home.

MANAGER

But are you sure, sir? We can get you cleaned up until they get here.

They walk towards the exit.

EDDIE
(looks back)
I'm positive. No police.

EXT. SUPERMARKET CAR PARK - DAY

Ruth loads up the boot with groceries as he enters the vehicle and winces in pain when he sits down and starts the engine.

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

He spots the Youth's on their bikes as they cycle out of the car park looking pleased with themselves. Unbeknown to them, he follows them.

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

EDDIE
Yep.

RUTH
What are you going to do?

EDDIE
Follow 'em.

RUTH
Oh Eddie, let's just go home.

EDDIE
No chance. I wanna see where they're going. I want my watch back whatever happens.

He stops the vehicle and observes as they cycle into a concrete jungle.

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

EDDIE
OK.

He turns the vehicle around and heads home.

BEGIN DREAM SEQUENCE:

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Leather clad Eddie revs up his HARLEY (Motorcycle) then slips on a black crash helmet before he races off.

EXT. BOURNE ESTATE - NIGHT

Eddie and a small group 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 their headlights off, before they enter a dimly lit-

UNDERGROUND CAR PARK.

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

Eddie climbs off his Harley and walks towards them at pace.

They spot him and immediately surround him with an unwelcome attitude.

HOSTILE YOUTH

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

He catches the blade of a ZOMBIE KNIFE coming towards him.

He quickly unzips his studded leather bomber and pulls out an UZI.

Along with his colleagues, he begins to spray them with bullets. They drop like squatted flies as they lie covered in their own claret.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Sweating profusely, Eddie suddenly opens his eyes, then sits up in bed. Ruth lies beside him as she sleeps peacefully.

Beat.

KITCHEN.

They sit at the table and eat breakfast.

RUTH

How's your headache - any better?

EDDIE

Yeah. I took some paracetamol.

RUTH

You really should go to the police and tell them what happened. You know where they live now. You can take them there and show them.

EDDIE

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

RUTH

I bought you that watch for our thirtieth anniversary. I told you not to wear it when we go shopping.

EDDIE

I know. And that's what hurts me most. I should've have listened to you.

RUTH

Bastards! How dare they do that to you. They wouldn't have done that when you were younger. You would've throttled them.

EDDIE

I know.

RUTH

Never mind. It's only a material thing at the end of the day. At least you're still in piece. I still love you.

EDDIE

Thanks.

RUTH

They obviously didn't believe you when you told them it was fake, did they?

EDDIE

No but at least I've put the doubt in their simple minds. It's unlikely they'll know its true value when they try and sell it to somebody.

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

RUTH

So what are you going to do, then?

EDDIE

I haven't decided. I will try to get it back though.

RUTH

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

EDDIE

Not like that one. It means a lot to me.

RUTH

Well, don't do anything stupid. Go to the police and tell them what happened. I've still got the receipt. It's in the top drawer in the bedroom.

EDDIE

OK.

RUTH

Right, I'm off to pull some pints. I'll see you later on.

EDDIE

Yeah, okay love. Have a good day at work.

RUTH

Now you won't do anything stupid, will you, Eddie?

EDDIE

No.

RUTH

Promise me.

EDDIE

I promise.

She kisses his cheek, then puts on her coat and exits.

Beat.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

JORDAN a black youth 14 rides up to JOE, a smartly dressed old man waiting for a bus.

JORDAN

Oi, mister, wanna buy a Rolex?

JOE

(dithery)

I beg your hearty pardon?

He climbs off his bike and shows the gold watch to him.

JORDAN

Look, it's proper. My brother reckons it's worth twenty K.

JOE

I haven't got twenty K.

(scratches chin)

Let me see it anyhow.

Joe inspects the watch.

JOE /

It's not a real Rolex, is it?

JORDAN

How can you tell that?

JOE

The second hand moves too quickly. And it says Eddie on the back.

Jordan looks closely.

JORDAN

What'd ya mean?

JOE

It doesn't move like it should do. Look at my watch and you'll see the difference.

He shows him his watch.

JORDAN

(convinced)

Oh yeah.

JOE

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

JORDAN

Give me a ton and it's yours.

JOE

(chuckles)

No. Sorry. I don't want it. It's worthless. Anyway I don't have that kind of money on me.

JORDAN

Fifty then.

JOE

I tell you what. I'll give you forty and no more.

JORDAN

All right. Done.

Joe gives him forty quid from his wallet. Jordon gives him the watch then cycles off.

JOE -

Now I'm cleaned me out.

INT. DEVONSHIRE ARMS P.H - DAY

Ruth pulls pints when Joe enters and approaches the bar.

She serves a customer then turns to him.

RUTH
(pleasantly)
What can I get you?

JOE
Can I have a Bloody Mary, please?

RUTH
(smiles)
Of course you can.

She prepares his drink. He produces his wallet.

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

Her POV: A similar WATCH strapped to his wrist.

Bts.

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

He takes his drink and sits down quietly at a 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 knowingly 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
(livid)
JORDAN! JORDAN, WHERE ARE YOU?

Jordan enters with a guilty look upon his face.

JORDAN
What?

KANE FRANK
Have you seen that watch?

JORDAN
(knowingly)
What watch? Leave me alone.

KANE FRANK

Jordan, please 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! You've sold my watch, haven'tcha?!

JORDAN

No! Blame somebody else! I'm not the only one that lives here you know! Blame dad! Go on!

KANE FRANK

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

Jordan legs it.

INT. DEVONSHIRE ARMS P.H- CONT'D

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

JOE

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

RUTH

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

JOE

No, I haven't. It's my first time actually. But you do look familiar to me. Maybe we met in another lifetime. You remind me of my late wife.

RUTH

That's what they all say.

JOE
(chuckles)
Ha! Very funny.

RUTH
Sorry. That just sounded rude.

JOE
-Oh, I never took it that way at
all.

RUTH
Thanks.

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

RUTH
If you don't mind waiting till I
finish in half-an-hour.

JOE
Pour me a lemonade while I wait
then.

RUTH
(gleefully)
Sure.

She turns to pour him a lemonade. He looks pleased as punch.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSING ESTATE TELEPHONE BOX - EVENING

Eddie spies a group of YOUTH'S. They ride their bikes in
circuitous fashion.

He spots Kane Frank. He walks with a fake limp as he heads
towards the telephone box.

Eddie pretends to talk into the phone as he pulls his hood
over his head, then slips on a pair of black rimmed
spectacles.

EDDIE

(on phone)

OK mate, I'll pop it over soon as
I get a chance.

Kane Frank angrily opens the telephone box door and scowls.

KANE FRANK

Hey bruv... whatcha doing?!
Are you spying on us?! That
phone's been broken for months,
you knob!

EDDIE

(vexed)

Where's my watch!

He methodically replaces the cordless receiver, then stabs
him repeatedly, before he legs it.

Kane Frank lies on the ground. His eyes roll around inside
his head as he bleeds profusely from the abdomen.

INT. SACRE BLEU RESTAURANT - 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 invitation to come to dinner
with me. I wasn't expecting you
to say yes, if I'm honest.

RUTH

Why not? You're very charming.
(eyes watch)
Besides, I like your watch.
Where'd ya get it?

He looks at the watch as he shakes his head in dismay.

JOE

Oh this. You can have it. It's
worthless. It's not even my name
scratched on the back. It belongs
to someone called Eddie.

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

RUTH

My husband. It belongs to my husband. I bought it for our thirtieth wedding anniversary.

JOE

(aback)

Oh.

She studies it carefully and smiles.

RUTH

(aback)

Are you sure I can't give you what you paid for it?

JOE

Oh no. I don't quite know why I bought it really. He must've seen me coming. Or I must have been in that other world.

RUTH

But where did you get it?

JOE

I was waiting for the bus this morning. Some desperate local lad came up to me and asked me if I would give him a hundred quid for it.

(chuckles)

He talked me into buying it.

RUTH

How come?

JOE

Oh I don't know. I'm just a big softy, I suppose.

RUTH

You gave him a hundred pounds?

JOE

Oh no... I'm not that soft. I got him down to forty. Mind you, I thought it looked the real deal, until a friend of mine confirmed to me that it was actually a fake. The encrusted diamond is a zirconian apparently. And it stops ticking all together when you take off. No fool like an old fool, eh?

RUTH

(heartily)

Right, I'm paying for dinner.

JOE

Oh no. But you-

RUTH

(elatedly)

-Yes, I insist!

JOE

(shocked)

Well, okay then.

RUTH

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

Waiter approaches their table. She looks up at him and smiles.

RUTH /

Now what shall we have - the lobster?

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Eddie sits in the armchair with a bottle of beer. He watches football on the TV.

Ruth enters with a huge grin on her face.

She takes off her coat then opens a bottle of bubbly.

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

He stares at it briefly before he jumps to his feet in surprise.

EDDIE

Where'd you find it?

RUTH

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

He bears an anxious grin as he follows her up the stairs with the bottle of bubbly in hand.

EXT. HOUSING ESTATE TELEPHONE BOX - DAY

A WHITE TENT hides Kane Frank's cadaver as BLUE LIGHTS flash at the scene.

JUVENILE'S on bikes encircle the telephone box as they look on.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Unclothed, Eddie and Ruth sit up against the headboard. He bears a worried expression. She bears a look of satisfaction as she clutches a flute of bubbly.

RUTH

Somebody up there must like you,
Eddie Rowbottom.

(drinks)

And he was such a lovely old man.

(ruminates)

A man with morals is hard to find
these days.

(drinks)

I paid for the meal. It was the
least I could do.

Cocking a deafen, Eddie climbs out of bed and slips on his dressing gown.

EDDIE

Ruth, there's something I haven't
told you.

RUTH

Oh, can't it wait, darling? I'm
not quite finished with you.

EDDIE
(tormented)
No, listen, will you?!

RUTH
What's wrong, Eddie?

EDDIE
I went there.

RUTH
Oh, you didn't!

EDDIE
I did.

RUTH
Oh Eddie!

EDDIE
I saw him.

RUTH
What did you do to him?

EDDIE
I stabbed-

She climbs out of bed in a fury and slams her drink down, before she confronts him.

RUTH
-No! Don't tell me. I don't wanna know anything. The less I know, the less I can say when they come to arrest you.

EDDIE
He came at-

RUTH
-Stop!

She slams the door shut upon her exit.

He sits on the bed and throws his head in his hands in despair.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Eddie is led out of the front door in handcuffs by UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICERS. Ruth stands behind him and sobs into a tissue.

FADE OUT.

THE END