

WILLING TO BE RICH

Written by

Simon K. Parker

copyright 2023  
Simonkyleparker@hotmail.co.uk

INT. PETE'S CAR - DAY

PETE, 30, good looking and covered in cool tattoos drives with MAXINE, 25, long blonde hair and sunglasses on the front passenger seat beside him.

Pete's smiling whilst Maxine has her arms crossed and looks annoyed.

PETE

This is going to be good for us.  
Something like this what we need,  
just to get away from all the  
noise.

She looks across at him.

MAXINE

This is your last chance Pete. If  
you can't quit this time, I'm  
leaving. I'm divorcing you and  
you'll never see me again.

He reaches over to her. Puts a hand on the back of her neck. Lovingly caressing her skin.

PETE

Just one more chance that's all I'm  
asking for.

MAXINE

And you're getting it aren't you?

He nods.

PETE

I'm not going to blow it this time.

Maxine now turns away from him and looks out of the window at the passing green scenery.

MAXINE

How much further is it?

PETE

Rest your eyes for a little bit.  
There's still a couple of hours to  
go.

EXT. OLD HOUSE - DAY

Pete's car parks up outside an old rundown property. A four bedroom family home that looks like it's been neglected for more than a few years now.

It only has one neighbour. Another house close by. There are no other houses or even roads.

Pete and Maxine get out of the car, she stretches and yawns. Looks like she's just waking up.

She turns to look at the house.

MAXINE

Wow.

He smiles excited.

PETE

Impressive place right. I spent my childhood coming here.

MAXINE

This is your grandparents house?

PETE

Yeah.

MAXINE

What a dump.

He's genuinely hurt.

PETE

Don't be like that.

MAXINE

Well it is and I'm already regretting coming here with you.

He reaches down nervously and takes a hold of her hand. She reluctantly lets him.

PETE

Just don't forget why we're here. I don't want to lose you.

She rolls her eyes.

Still keeping a hold of her hand Pete pulls her towards the entrance to the house.

PETE (CONT'D)  
At least let me take you around  
inside.

EXT. OLD HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - DAY

Pete uses a shovel to dig out a small hole at the base of a large apple tree. Maxine stands beside it. Arms crossed front of her chest.

MAXINE  
Shouldn't I be the one to bury this  
stuff?

Finished he steps back admiring his hole.

PETE  
Why?

MAXINE  
Because if you know where it is,  
what's stopping you from just  
coming out here and digging it up  
again?

PETE  
This is symbolic. I discovered  
drugs and I first used them here in  
this house when I was 14 years old  
and this is where I'm going to  
stop.

He now reaches down for a shoebox. He opens it up and it's filled with drug paraphernalia.

Everything a heroin user would need.

He places it down into the hole and covers the box up with the dug out dirt.

MAXINE  
You can't ever do this stuff ever  
again and that's final.

He nods.

PETE  
And I won't.

He fills the hole back up to the very top.

INT. OLD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Dusty and covered in cobwebs it's obviously not been used in a number of years.

Pete and Maxine sit at the table for a basic looking pasta dish. Pete happily serves them, Maxine seems less than impressed.

There's a knock on the door loud and purposefully. Both Pete and Maxine are jolted by it.

MAXINE

Who else knows where we are?

PETE

No one.

MAXINE

Then who the hell is that?

Pete shrugs.

PETE

I guess I'll find out.

MAXINE

I swear to God Pete, if this is any of your friends turning up. I'm going to scream.

PETE

Nobody knows we're here.

MAXINE

Then who is it?

Pete stands up pushing his chair back.

PETE

That's what I'm going to find out.

INT. OLD HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Pete opens the door to the RICH, 60. He smiles at him. Maxine peers around the kitchen door, sneakily watching on.

RICH

Hi neighbour, I saw your car but I didn't think anybody was living here anymore?

Pete smiles back.

PETE

You're from the house next to us?

Rich reaches out. Holds out his hand, Pete takes it and they both shake.

PETE (CONT'D)

This is my grandparent's house. They're both still alive living in a much smaller place, but they just haven't got round to selling this place yet. Personally, I don't think they ever will but they've let me come out here for a few weeks. Maybe longer, me and my wife haven't decided on that yet.

RICH

Unfortunately, I never met your grandparents when I moved in. This house was already empty. You're the first neighbours I've had since I've come out here.

PETE

Awesome! Was nice to meet you.

RICH

I'd like to buy this house.

PETE

Me too.

RICH

You couldn't sell it to me even if you want to.

PETE

Nope.

RICH

Anyhow, would you mind if I came in? I think there's a few things I need to talk to you about?

Pete opens the door a little wider, gesturing for Rich to come in.

INT. OLD HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Pete shows Rich to the kitchen table where Maxine already sits watching him suspiciously.

Rich is dressed in expensive designer clothes. He wears a large gold watch, has a gold necklace and diamond earrings.

RICH

I've been very fortunate to make my fortune and amass a decent income. I am also fortunate to be able to conduct all of my business entirely from my home.

Maxine leans forwards, intrigued.

MAXINE

And what is it that you do?

Rich aims her a playful smile.

RICH

I'd rather keep that private if you don't mind.

He then reaches into his jacket and removes 3 fat and rather expensive looking cigars.

He puts one into his own mouth then offers the other two to Pete and Maxine.

Pete refuses.

PETE

No thank you.

Maxine takes her.

MAXINE

Yes please.

Pete looks across at her surprised.

PETE

Really?

MAXINE

If I want to try one I should be allowed to. Remember, you're the addict, not me.

Rich lights up his cigar then Maxine's.

RICH

I'm a very private man. And as such I would like to pay you my new neighbours one million dollars a year every year for you to honour my privacy.

Pete and Maxine can't help but burst out laughing as they hear this.

RICH (CONT'D)

And by that. I mean you are to simply ignore what goes on at my house. Your job for the one million dollars is to simply not see anything. That is my offer.

MAXINE

You're crazy.

PETE

You don't even know how long we're going to be here?

RICH

That's fine. The offer still stands.

MAXINE

A million dollars and all we have to do is keep our noses out of your business?

RICH

Yes, that's very well put.

PETE

Sounds too easy.

RICH

That's the offer

Maxine takes a drag on the cigar and starts coughing.

MAXINE

Sure, I'll take a million

RICH

You two perhaps share a joint account?

PETE

We're married so yeah.

Rich pulls out his phone and brings up his online banking account to make a payment.

He hands it over to Maxine.

RICH  
Enter your bank details.

PETE  
This is a scam.

RICH  
No, this is conducting business.

Maxine snatches the phone and quickly types in her bankcard information.

Pete looks at her, worried.

PETE  
Shouldn't we at least talk it over first?

MAXINE  
We're not discussing one million dollars. I'm saying give me give me give me now.

Finished, she hands Rich his phone back. Rich then enters a few numbers of his own.

RICH  
It's done but remember our deal.

MAXINE  
It's done?

He nods.

MAXINE (CONT'D)  
You just gave us a million dollars?

Again Rich nods.

Maxine and Pete take out their own phones checking their own online bank information. They both let out the cheer and a squeal.

MAXINE (CONT'D)  
Oh my fucking god you just given us a fucking million dollars.

PETE  
What the fuck?

Maxine starts dancing around the table.

Pete places a gentle hand onto the back of Rich.

PETE (CONT'D)  
Can I get you something to drink?

RICH  
I'd rather just go home.

INT. OLD HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Early in the morning, the sun slowly rises.

Pete and Maxine are in bed together. Pete's the first to wake up.

He goes to the bedroom window. He pulls back the curtains and sees Rich guiding two children to the front of his own house.

Pete watches him, unseen. Only a quick glimpse before Rich and the two children disappear out of view.

Maxine now wakes up. Disturbed by the light that Pete is letting into the room.

MAXINE  
What are you doing?

PETE  
I heard something.

MAXINE  
Come back to bed. We're  
Millionaires now, no such thing as  
early starts for us anymore.

PETE  
I've just seen our new neighbour.

MAXINE  
Great guy isn't he? I think I've  
already decided that me and him are  
going to be best friends for life.

Pete turns to face her with a look of worry.

PETE  
I've just seen him take two little  
kids into his house.

MAXINE  
Probably his children?

PETE  
Looked too young to be as children.

MAXINE  
How do you know?

PETE  
Gut feeling.

MAXINE  
Maybe his grandchildren?

PETE  
I don't know, but I think I want to  
ask him about it.

Maxine sits up now wide awake and very annoyed. She picks up one of the pillows and throws it hard at Pete.

MAXINE  
Do not and I'm warning you, do not  
fuck this up for us.

Pete reluctantly gets back into bed.

Maxine wraps her arms around him and places a couple of kisses around his face.

MAXINE (CONT'D)  
Don't you get it? We can finally be  
happy.

INT. OLD HOUSE - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Maxine lays out across the sofa, busy on her phone. Pete moves around the front room dusting and sweeping up, trying to at least make the place look tidy.

He takes a break, hot and tired. He looks across at her, irritated.

PETE  
You could help.

MAXINE  
We'll hire a maid.

PETE  
And a chef and a gardener too?

She nods.

MAXINE

Damn right. We're millionaires now,  
millionaires don't do chores.

PETE

And do millionaires just lie around  
on their phones all day?

She excitedly leaps up, coming over to him showing him on her phone all of the internet shopping she's been doing.

MAXINE

I'll have you know I've ordered us  
a new front room and a new  
bathroom. New chairs, new sofa, new  
TV. New carpet, new bedsheets and  
so much more that I need to buy for  
this house.

PETE

How long do you think was staying  
here?

She shrugs.

MAXINE

I don't know.

She sits back down.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I haven't made my mind up yet, but  
this place is starting to grow on  
me.

PETE

Does that happen to coincide with  
the fact that our neighbour just  
gave us a million dollars?

She smiles.

MAXINE

Maybe.

Maxine lays back down on the sofa and continues her internet shopping.

Pete stays on his feet, leans on his brush and watches her. A look of deep concern.

INT. OLD HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pete and Maxine are in bed together. Pete lays on his side. Eyes closed. Trying to get to sleep. Maxine sits up next to him, still on her phone and still shopping.

He keeps his eyes closed but groans.

PETE

Can you please give it a break? I can't sleep with you being on your phone all night.

MAXINE

I'm nearly done. Do you want to see what I brought?

PETE

Not really.

MAXINE

Well it'll be here in a few days anyway so I can show you then.

PETE

I can't wait.

MAXINE

You should be grateful you never shop for yourself. I've got you a whole new wardrobe, shoes, jackets, coats, shirts. You're going to look great.

Pete's eyes open. He sits up. Looks slightly annoyed.

PETE

I thought you were buying things for the house?

MAXINE

I have, that's done. Well not done, but the first wave of shopping is on its way. I'm getting some great stuff for us.

PETE

We don't need any stuff, you need to remember while we're out here.

MAXINE

Well that's changed hasn't it.

PETE

Not for me it hasn't.

MAXINE

Well for me it has.

PETE

We've had this money for less than a day and you're already going through it.

MAXINE

Don't worry, there's plenty left.

PETE

We shouldn't even be touching it.

MAXINE

Why?

PETE

We don't even know the guy. What if he changes his mind?

She laughs.

MAXINE

Too late, the second it came into our account, it's ours.

PETE

How much did you spend today?

She shrugs genuinely having no clue.

MAXINE

We've got plenty left. The house is going to look awesome and we're going to look awesome and you haven't had to do anything. I've done it all.

Pete lets out a heavy sigh, he lays back down closing his eyes again.

PETE

I'm tired. I need to sleep.

MAXINE

Fine.

She gets out of bed.

MAXINE (CONT'D)  
I'll let you sleep.

She exits the bedroom, still on her phone and still shopping and buying.

INT. OLD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

It's the middle of the night. Maxine makes herself something to drink while scrolling through a high end expensive handbag online store.

She then hears screaming coming from outside. She peers through the window and sees a young GIRL bleeding from her head, dressed and only her underwear. No older than 13 years old and running from the neighbour's house.

She watches on awestruck, terrified.

MAXINE  
Oh my God.

Then Rich appears, throwing himself on top of the screaming child, wrestling her to the ground.

Maxine then averts her gaze, returning to her phones screen acting like she didn't see anything at all.

INT. OLD HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pete had been asleep, but is woken by the sound of the girl screaming.

He gets out of bed and rushes to the bedroom window. Looking outside he sees Rich wrestling with the young girl.

PETE  
Jesus Christ

Pete then runs out of the bedroom, sprinting.

INT. OLD HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Maxine now has her back to the window. Still scrolling on her phone. Pete enters the kitchen and points.

PETE  
Are you not hearing that?

Pete runs to the window. Looks out and watches Rich punching the young girl hard in the face.

PETE (CONT'D)  
Jesus Christ what the fuck is going  
on?

Pete now grabs his jacket and heads for the back door.

He grabs hold of the door handle, Maxine now joins him but  
grabbing hold of his arm trying to stop him from leaving.

MAXINE  
You're not really going out there?

PETE  
Of course I am.

MAXINE  
To do what?

PETE  
Did you not see what I just saw?

MAXINE  
No.

PETE  
Well you certainly heard that  
fucking screaming and don't dare  
tell me you didn't.

MAXINE  
What you going to do out there?

PETE  
I'm going to find out what the fuck  
is going on.

MAXINE  
He asked us to mind our own  
business.

PETE  
Do you hearing yourself right now?

MAXINE  
That's what he asked us and that's  
what we agreed to.

PETE  
Jesus Christ Maxine.

MAXINE  
One million dollars. He paid us one  
million. All we have to do was keep  
our noses out of his business.

(MORE)

MAXINE (CONT'D)

We'll never have this kind of money  
ever again.

PETE

His business is punching young  
girl's in the fucking face.

MAXINE

I didn't see anything.

PETE

Well you fucking heard it.

MAXINE

And we don't know who she is.

PETE

And that's why I'm going to find  
out.

MAXINE

She could be a relative of his.

PETE

She could be his own fucking  
daughter. I don't give a shit it's  
the middle of the night. She's  
running screaming and he punches  
during the fucking head.

MAXINE

You're not leaving.

PETE

You're really okay with this?

MAXINE

I'm really okay with being paid a  
million dollars to mind my own  
fucking business. Yes.

He considers her.

PETE

Well I'm not.

Pete grabs hold of Maxine and roughly pulls her out of the  
way, tossing her to the side.

She throws herself back at him, punching him in the arms,  
chest and back.

MAXINE

(screaming)

If you leave, if you go out there, if you break our deal with him it's over between me and you. That's it for our marriage. There's no saving it this time. I fucking mean it Pete. If you go out there, me and you. It's done.

Pete stares at her down. Coldly.

PETE

You never cared that I was an addict. You only care about the money that I was spending to feed my habit.

MAXINE

Damn fucking right.

PETE

And if the heroin was free, you wouldn't have cared less.

MAXINE

Tell you what, why don't you dig up that shit up out of the garden. Fill your veins with it, overdose and drop dead.

Pete opens the back door, he leaves slamming it shut behind him.

EXT. OLD HOUSE - BACK GARDEN - NIGHT

Pete is down on his hands and knees and with his bare hands he digs out the hole retrieving his box of drugs.

INT. RICH'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Pete kicks open the front door. He sees Rich trying to drag this poor girl down through the open door to the basement.

Even though she's been punished hard in the face. She's still trying to resist him.

Pete steps forwards.

PETE

What the fuck do you think you're doing?

Rich spins around to face him.

RICH  
Get the fuck out of my house.

PETE  
Let go of the girl.

RICH  
I said get the fuck out of my house. Who the hell do you think you are? Have you forgotten my deal?

PETE  
Let go of the girl right now. I'm not asking again.

Rich pulls out a large knife from his back pocket. He holds it out ready. He charges at Pete trying to stab him in the chest.

Pete successfully blocks the knife then plunges a heroin filled syringe into the side of Rich's neck. Pumping the drugs all in at once.

Rich falls down to his knees. Gasping, struggling to breathe. Struggling to understand what's just happened to him.

Pete skips past him, picks up the half naked young girl.

PETE (CONT'D)  
I'm going to get you out of here.

Her nose broken, she's slipping in and out of consciousness.

YOUNG MAXINE  
No, there's others.

INT. RICH'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Pete carries the young girl down into the damp dark basement.

There's several young teenage girl's chained to the walls. All of them are clearly victims of terrible abuse. None of them are any older than 13.

All the colour leaves Pete's face. He looks like he's going to be sick.

PETE  
For a million dollars.

Fade to black

The end