

ONE CAMERA

Written by

Simon K. Parker

Based on, If Any

INT. BEN'S APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM/KITCHEN - DAY

A fancy apartment, plush furniture, a huge television and a kitchen that's kitted out with all the most up to date fanciest of gadgets.

Ben opens his fridge, it's completely empty. He just looks into it, pondering.

Suddenly the power trips and everything goes out. The lights, the television, everything in here that runs on electricity is suddenly switched off.

Ben slowly closes the door to the empty fridge. He takes a couple of steps backwards and takes a moment just to look all around him. Frowning. Trying to work out what's happened.

WILLIAM, 25, bursts in through the door. With nothing but a towel wrapped around his waist he still has shampoo in his hair. Obviously his time in the shower got abruptly cut short.

WILLIAM

The powers gone.

BEN

Yeah. I noticed.

WILLIAM

Did you pay them like I asked you?

Ben shrugs.

BEN

After rent, we don't have very much money left.

WILLIAM

Electricity, water, gas, food. None of those things are included in the rent.

BEN

I told you that I'd find us a great place to live and I did.

WILLIAM

No, that's not what happened. I said that I didn't trust you when you came up with this plan of heading out to the city. I said I didn't want to go with you because I can't trust you.

BEN

Alright.

WILLIAM

You then made all kinds of crazy promises about contacts you had, people you knew and how you'd be able to find us the perfect place to live.

BEN

And I did.

WILLIAM

No, this isn't living. I knew I couldn't trust you back then and I definitely know I can't trust you now. My own brother, and that's how I feel about you. Isn't that sad?

Ben shakes his head.

BEN

Is this not a nice place?

WILLIAM

It is.

BEN

Alright.

WILLIAM

How much money do we have left?

BEN

I've already told you.  
(a deep breath)  
Not very much.

WILLIAM

Like, what's not very much?

Ben shrugs again.

BEN

Like, nothing.

WILLIAM

That's it. I'm packing up and I'm going home.

BEN

No, Will. Don't. You can trust me, you've just gotta let me prove it.

(MORE)

BEN (CONT'D)

We came to the city to make something of ourselves. We can't quit after only two months. We can make it here.

WILLIAM

I can't live like this.

William storms back out through the door. Making sure to slam it shut behind him.

INT. APARTMENT - WILLIAM'S BEDROOM - DAY

William, now in clothes, is rashly packing up his suitcase. Just throwing the clothes in and slamming his hands down onto them, squashing them down.

Ben appears in the doorway, just watching him.

William sees him, takes a break, out of breath.

WILLIAM

What is it Ben? I'm going home. You should come too.

Ben shakes his head.

BEN

I came here, to this city, to make something of myself.

WILLIAM

And lost all our money on rent. Nothing but rent. All of our money on rent. It's insane.

BEN

Then I'll find us a better place.

WILLIAM

Too late.

BEN

I'll take out a loan and I'll find a better place.

WILLIAM

You're just no good with money.

BEN

I'll find us a better place. Just give me some time.

William sits down on the end of his bed.

WILLIAM

If you can't find us a place that we can afford, with enough left over for electricity, heating, water and food. By the end of the day, I'm going home to Mom and Dad. And to hell if they think I'm a failure.

BEN

Give me a week at least.

WILLIAM

We have no water. And we have no food. You get one day.

BEN

Maybe we just need better paid jobs.

William lets out a long deep breath. Holding up a single finger to Ben.

WILLIAM

One day. One.

Ben silently leaves. William stays sitting on the edge of his bed, looking like he could cry.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Ben, looking all the worse for wear, follows PHILIP, 40, inside an upscale apartment, much nicer than the one he is currently living in.

They enter and both stop in the middle of the spacious front room. Ben looks exhausted, his face caked in a thin layer of sweat.

He looks around, in awe.

BEN

This is like the twentieth place I've looked at today.

PHILIP

Oh?

BEN

And it's the nicest.

PHILIP

Thank you.

BEN

But there's no way I can afford this place. This is somewhere a millionaire would live.

PHILIP

You saw the ad I put out right?

BEN

Yeah, in the back pages of a porn mag.

PHILIP

What did you think?

BEN

Well, I normally just read those things for laughs. For the kicks. Some pretty funny ads in those things.

PHILIP

And mine?

BEN

I thought it was a joke. A place like this is rent free.

PHILIP

Well that's the offer.

BEN

It can't be real.

PHILIP

One camera.

BEN

Yeah, I read the ad.

PHILIP

Just one camera. Inside the apartment with you at all times.

BEN

And where's this camera going to be?

PHILIP

Just one.

BEN

In the bathroom. The bedroom?

PHILIP

This apartment has two bathrooms and three bedrooms, it's just one camera.

BEN

This is crazy. Free rent and all I have to do is agree to one camera.

PHILIP

That can not be turned off.

BEN

Free rent?

Philip nods. He's totally serious.

PHILIP

Free rent.

Ben doesn't need long to think this offer over, chuckling to himself.

BEN

Hell, where do I sign?

Philip smiles back at him, very happy to hear it.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Ben drags William behind him. Pulling him inside the swanky kitchen. It's huge, sparkling, clean and ultra modern.

Ben first brings William over to the fridge.

WILLIAM

Will you slow down, I've still got what feels like a million questions about this place.

BEN

They can wait.

(opens the fridges double doors)

Will you just take a look at that.

The fridge is full of delicious looking foods of all kinds. Every shelf is crammed full.

BEN (CONT'D)

A welcoming gift. This time the food is included in the rent.

WILLIAM

Yeah, the rent that apparently doesn't exist.

BEN

Will you just quit worrying?

Ben now brings William over to the cupboards. He opens these up next, and these two are filled with all kinds of food.

WILLIAM

This just doesn't feel right.

BEN

You're right, it feels perfect.

Ben beams with excitement, all William can do is roll his eyes.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - BATHROOM - DAY

Ben now pulls William inside the massive bathroom, a huge fancy bathtub that looks like it could easily double up for a jacuzzi.

BEN

And the hot water never runs out.

As if to prove this point, Ben turns the hot water on for the bath, shower and the basin all at once.

WILLIAM

But...

Ben holds up a finger, placing it against William's lips. He then flushes the toilet.

BEN

Water, food, heating and rent. All free. Just for one little camera. That sounds pretty fair, pretty reasonable. Like a pretty god damn good deal. We're insane if we don't take this.

William swipes Ben's finger away.

WILLIAM

And where is this camera? Because that kind of makes a difference.

BEN

Why?

WILLIAM

Why? Because where it is, is all important. Where it is, shows that he's either a security nut or a pervert.

Ben shrugs.

BEN

It's just one little camera. For all of this. Who cares?

WILLIAM

I care. It matters to me.

Ben lets out a long deep breath.

BEN

Then let's find it.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Ben searches the ceiling, the lights and the television. William busies himself checking the mirrors and anything else on the walls.

BEN

I can't see anything.

WILLIAM

We've searched every room, just keep looking.

BEN

Maybe there isn't a camera?

WILLIAM

Are you serious?

BEN

Yeah, maybe it's just some psychological thing. A test.

WILLIAM

Do you have any idea how small these hidden cameras can be now?

There's a knock at the front door. The two brothers share a look.

Ben goes over to answer it. It's Philip, and he's wearing a large go-pro attached to his head. A single camera pointing out, recording.

He enters. Ben is confused, William is furious.

BEN

Oh, that's the single camera?

Philip walks around them, keeping the camera pointing at them.

PHILIP

Just act like I'm not here.

William looks like he's just about had enough. He points at Philip, letting out a long deep breath.

WILLIAM

(to Ben)

And that's why I can't ever trust you. Because you keep getting me involved in shit like this.

William exits the front room. Ben watches Philip who in turn watches him.

BEN

(to Philip)

That's the single camera?

Philip gives him a thumbs up.

BEN (CONT'D)

And?

PHILIP

You agreed to a single camera that can never be turned off.

BEN

And it's recording?

Philip answers this by giving Ben another thumbs up.

BEN (CONT'D)

And why?

PHILIP

For my website. I'm live streaming this.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

William yet again packs up his suitcase. Philip records him whilst Ben stands to the side and watches on.

BEN  
(to william)  
I found a fabulous place with free rent. You say you can't trust me but I always deliver.

WILLIAM  
(to Ben)  
Go to hell.

BEN  
I've never broken a promise. I've found us a place.

WILLIAM  
I'm going home.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Ben makes himself something to eat, a sandwich and a drink. Philip keeps himself close. Not saying anything but recording everything.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - FRONT ROOM - DAY

Ben sits himself down in front of the large television, takes a bite out of his sandwich.

Philip kneels down beside him, keeping his go pro camera trained on Ben.

Ben turns to face him, smiling into the camera.

BEN  
So our contact.

PHILIP  
What about it?

BEN  
If I just accept and put up with this one camera, my rent, bills and food are all taken care of?

PHILIP  
That's the deal.

BEN  
My brother will come back.

Philip gives him another thumbs up.

BEN (CONT'D)  
I told him I would find us the  
perfect place to live, and I have.

Ben finishes off his sandwich, eating hungrily. Philip is keen to capture his every move.

INT. POSH APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Ben makes himself another drink. Philip follows him, keeping himself right on top of Ben. Making sure that his camera is aimed at him at all times.

Ben, trying his best to ignore the camera only a couple of inches from his face, takes a look around the impressive kitchen and smiles.

BEN  
Yeah, this is going to be OK. This  
is city living. William will come  
back. He has to come back.

FADE TO BLACK

THE END