

KISS ME RUBY - THE MOVIE

Written by

Rodrigo Baumgartner Ayres

All Rights Reserved.

Copyright © 2017 Registered, WGAe. Distribution or disclosure of the material to unauthorized persons is prohibited. The sale, copying or reproduction of this material in any form is also prohibited.

KISS ME RUBY

1 - INT. DARK CORRIDOR

(Ominous score is playing.)

SIMON (30s) paces slowly towards the end of the corridor. He wears a long coat and a top hat, a common look during the 1920s. He reaches the end and taps lightly on a door. 'Knock... knock, knock, knock' -a secret knock- He waits, looks around down the long and empty dark corridor. RUBY (30s) opens but leaves the latch on. There's something suspicious in the air. They converse through the slit.

SIMON

The bird has left the nest.

RUBY

The cat has jumped the fence.

SIMON

The pot of gold-

RUBY

Awaits at the rainbow's end.

SIMON

Are you alone?

RUBY

That's what I said.

SIMON

Let's not delay.

Ruby opens the door. We can see she wears a long dress 1920s style. Simon barges in and pushes her against the wall. He restrain her wrists and analyzes her up and down.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Why should I trust you?

RUBY

You should not.

He releases her and enters the apartment. The whole place is dark, lit only by a few scattered candles. He walks towards a window and slightly sways the curtain aside to peek outside. Faint sun light pours in revealing it's daytime.

SIMON

Why is it so dark?

RUBY
Someone might be watching.

Ruby retrieves a long kitchen knife and handles it in a creepy way. She aggressively stabs a lump of cheese.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Provolone?

SIMON
I'm not hungry.

RUBY
Thirsty?

Ruby pours two glasses of wine and offers him one. He takes it and smells it. He is suspicious.

SIMON
Give me the other one.

They swap glasses.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Drink.

She makes a motion as if to drink it, but instead she pours the entire glass on the floor and on her feet. They stare at each other. She mocks him by making a 'whorish flirting face'. He laughs faintly. She points at his face.

RUBY
I win.

SIMON
Why are you pouring wine on your feet?

RUBY
I win, I win.

SIMON
No, you lose, you broke character.

RUBY
I did not!

SIMON
Roxascha would never flirt with Romantchov like that.

RUBY
She just did. And I win.

He looks at the puddle of wine on the floor and her stained feet.

SIMON
Well played.

They embrace each other and kiss. A few seconds in she pulls away from him.

RUBY
Sorry, my feet are all sticky.

SIMON
I know.

RUBY
I have to clean this.

SIMON
Yep.

Ruby jumps in the kitchen. Simon walks to the window and pulls the curtains aside bathing the entire room with light. The mood of the room completely changes.

Ruby grabs some wet tissues and wipes the wine. Meanwhile Simon's phone rings.

SIMON (CONT'D)
It's my AD.

She giggles.

RUBY
Clarence?

Simon nods.

SIMON
Last production meeting today
before we fly out to shoot the
movie.

ENTER SPLIT SCREEN: CLARENCE IS WALKING DOWN A STREET IN DOWNTOWN MANHATTAN.

Clarence dresses fashionably, a combination of different colored pants, suit and bow tie.

SIMON (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Talk to me Clarence.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Hi Simon, I'm sorry to bother you.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Well hurry up then.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Yes, I'm sorry.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Stop saying you're sorry.

Clarence struggles and nearly says he's sorry again.

SIMON (ON PHONE) (CONT'D)
Don't!

Clarence swallows dry.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Where are you?

SIMON (ON PHONE)
I'm busy, but I'll be there in an
hour or so.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Ok... I thought you were coming
early to help me set up?

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Bye Clarence.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Simo-

Simon hangs up.

END SPLIT SCREEN

RUBY
How is he?

SIMON
He's fine, let's not talk about
him.

RUBY
Are you sure it's fine?

SIMON
(flirting)
It can be better.

They start making out. She jumps him and climbs him. He carries her to the bedroom and kicks down the door.

2 - INT. BEDROOM - AN HOUR LATER

Simon and Ruby are having sex.

SIMON
Oh yeah. That's it.

RUBY
Yeah?

SIMON
Yeah, yeah.

RUBY
Yeah!

SIMON
Yeaaaah!

RUBY
Yes!

They orgasm.

SIMON
Baby, I love you baby.

RUBY
I love you too darling.

He is embarrassed.

SIMON
Wow, that came out of nowhere. I'm sorry.

RUBY
Don't worry, it's okay.

SIMON
Do your other clients say shit like this?

RUBY
Right. Ahm, yeah, these things happen.

SIMON
Right.

RUBY

The heat of the moment, right?

SIMON

Right, I don't know why I got embarrassed. I guess I do love you in a way and I just wanted to say that I'm going to miss this. I'm going to miss this a lot.

RUBY

You are?

SIMON

I wish I had a little more time.

RUBY

Do you wish we had more time?

SIMON

But then I would just be giving excuses wouldn't I? Thanks to you I don't do that shit anymore.

RUBY

Right. Good job Mr. Director.

SIMON

Thank you. I mean, of course I'm a little nervous and since you can see right through me I won't even try to hide it, but because of you I feel good, you know? I feel patient. I know there will be a lot of conflict on this trip and everything is gonna go wrong all the time. But that's okay. Conflict is good.

RUBY

I wish we had more time.

SIMON

That's so cute. I am so sorry my money is going away from you.

RUBY

Right... Haha...

SIMON

All right, I get it. I'm taking off. Just let me find my clothes.

RUBY
No, not at all.

Simon finds his watch.

SIMON
Shit, 6:30pm, Clarence must be going crazy already. All right. Life. What am I doing. I... Let me get out of here, I don't want to mess with your precious schedule. I'm sure you have more clients coming in soon.

RUBY
What? You know I don't bring anybody here.

SIMON
Time is money.

Simon clumsily puts his clothes on.

RUBY
Hey, just calm down. All is gonna be there for you just where you left it.

SIMON
What?

RUBY
I mean... Hurry up? You're gonna fuck it up?

SIMON
Right.

RUBY
Directors are always early... right?

SIMON
Yep, fun time is over, unfortunately. Now it's the important stuff. Business.

RUBY
Yes sir...

Simon is ready to go. They look at each other.

SIMON

(tries to french it up.)
Avant que je ne parte, mon cheri,
je veux juste dire, merci. J'espère
vous revoir. Au revoir.

Simon kisses Ruby's hand.

RUBY

That was beautiful.

SIMON

All right, see you in six months. I
mean, if I don't get shot by some
crazy narco or something, right?

Simon walks to the door.

RUBY

Are you not forgetting anything?

SIMON

Holy shit, I almost forgot to pay
you.

RUBY

Oh, no. Not that...

SIMON

Yes, I did.

RUBY

Don't worry about it, honestly,
just pay me next time? I was
thinking-

Simon checks his wallet.

SIMON

Next time? That will take months. I
mean, literally this whole
production just might go south
because I have no money to pay for
it and if that's the case I might
never see you again.

RUBY

Really?

SIMON

No, I mean, I do have money to pay
you now, obviously, but probably
not to get the shooting done and
then come back to America and-

RUBY
No, Simon, just relax for a minute.

SIMON
Right, I'm rambling, no second thoughts. A director always knows what he's doing even if he doesn't.

RUBY
Yes...

SIMON
\$250?

RUBY
No.

SIMON
No, right, extra time.

RUBY
No!

Simon checks his watch.

SIMON
6:35pm. And I thought you were supposed to keep track of time.

RUBY
Simon.

SIMON
It's okay, I forgot it too. Let's call it another \$100 then?

RUBY
It's not about the money.

Simon senses something in Ruby's tone but prefers not to indulge.

SIMON
No. Of course I'll pay you. I told you, 'therapy' is in the budget. I almost forgot. I've been wanting to do this for a long time. Ready?

Simon tosses a bunch of \$1 bills in the air.

SIMON (CONT'D)
I shower you with gold my diva!

RUBY

Woo...

Ruby is not excited but catches a couple of gliding bills and places them in her bra.

SIMON

You see? I brought all these bills.
My wallet was like, so thick...
Don't you think that's funny? You
seem a little... What's wrong?

RUBY

Nothing.

SIMON

Is it because I'm leaving?

RUBY

What? Of course not...

SIMON

Right. Didn't think so.

RUBY

I was just thinking that...

SIMON

Hum?

RUBY

You could use more 'therapy'.

SIMON

Hum?

RUBY

And I could use some time off.

SIMON

What?

RUBY

God damn it, do I have to spell it
out for you?

SIMON

What?

RUBY

Can't you take me with you?

SIMON

What?

RUBY

I don't know, it's just something I was thinking. Take a vacation or something.

SIMON

You want to come to South America with me?

RUBY

Maybe?

SIMON

Are you being serious right now?

RUBY

I can help, no? Like I was helping with the castings?

SIMON

Well, I'm going to be working, yes, in the middle of the jungle! Where you can't wear your pretty clothes that you look so beautiful. In fact it's so rainy and damp over there your clothes don't get dry for days. I'm not even gonna get started on the bugs, diseases, rebel groups...

RUBY

Like in 'Hearts of Darkness', I get it. A filmmaker's real life nightmarish adventure.

SIMON

Plus, I am pretty sure I got all the help I can afford.

RUBY

You don't have to pay me anything. I can pay for my own ticket, and what's even better, I can be an investor. So you see. You paid me for... 'therapy', and I'll pay you for... accompanying me in an adventure.

SIMON

Ok... I'm gonna go..? I have a meeting...

RUBY

We could make it work.

SIMON

...and everyone is probably there already, and I'm in charge. I'm the director...

RUBY

We could keep each other company.

SIMON

...the plane leaves tomorrow, I have to explain everything to the entire crew today, there's a major investor I still have to secure. The whole enterprise might be ruined! I mean, odds of that happening are already like, so high.

RUBY

Nobody would know. We would be mixing business with pleasure.

SIMON

You're not kidding, okay, first of all-

RUBY

Except for Patrick of course.

SIMON

Exactly. Patrick.

RUBY

He's such a nice guy though, he wouldn't give us any problems.

SIMON

Is he now? Nice in what sense?

RUBY

Don't even start, you know I exercise full discretion with all my clients.

SIMON

Fucking actor is already nagging me for more lines. If I bring you along-

RUBY

Well, if it weren't for him you wouldn't have met the love of your life.

SIMON

Exactly. He knows how happy you make me. He knows me too well.

RUBY

Just man up. If he keeps asking you for stuff just cut him off.

SIMON

Just man up... If Patrick knows then Wanda knows. And if Wanda knows then everybody knows.

RUBY

Wanda is a troglodyte and a bitch, I don't know why you cast her.

SIMON

Jungle? Hiking? Narcos?

RUBY

Yes, I get the troglodyte part.

SIMON

Whatever, that's not the point I'm trying to make.

RUBY

You're afraid.

SIMON

No, that's not the point either.

RUBY

Mixing business with pleasure.

SIMON

Yes. That's what got me in trouble in the first place.

RUBY

I know.

SIMON

I got fired for freaking out on the set and snapping at my producer. Why? Because I took something personal when I shouldn't. And did my long lasting friendship with him make any difference when I called to apologize? Of course not, the damage was done.

RUBY
You are afraid.

SIMON
No. No more mixing business with
pleasure. That's the best decision.
Otherwise you just ruin everything.

RUBY
We have been seeing each other for
six months, I think I know a little
bit about you at this point.

SIMON
Shit Ruby, if you want to take a
vacation go somewhere else, you
have the entire world. Definitely
not the middle of the jungle. I
mean, okay if it happens that you
are in South America in the same
country as me, and in a hotel, I
guess we can meet for a quicky.

RUBY
You would like that wouldn't you?

SIMON
Yes, but I have more important
things to worry about right now.

RUBY
Then what is keeping you?

SIMON
You are!

RUBY
Am I? Are you sure? Because I don't
think so.

SIMON
Yes, I'm ready to go. Look,
Clarence is calling. I have to go.

RUBY
I won't be here when you come back.
If you ever come back.

Simon answers the phone.

ENTER SPLIT SCREEN: CLARENCE IS IN A CONFERENCE ROOM IN AN OFFICE. FURTHER BEHIND HIM WE CAN SEE PEOPLE ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Yes Clarence.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Hi Simon, where are you?

SIMON (ON PHONE)
I'll be right there, okay?

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
The investor is here.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Okay, just tell him I'll be right there.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
It might just be me, but I think moods are heating a little bit here.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Calm down Clarence.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
I can't do this without you. People are gonna pull out on the deal, we're gonna lose everything. No movie.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Clarence, just be yourself. That's why I hired you, because you're nice. Because you can do this.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Simon, do you care about this movie?

SIMON (ON PHONE)
What sort of question is that, of course!

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Because you're losing it.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
I literally went broke because of it.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
You're losing your baby.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Just stall them, I'll be right
there. Bye Clarence.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Oh my god-

Simon hangs up.

END SPLIT SCREEN

SIMON
Clarence... is freaking out
already. I have to go.

RUBY
Goodbye then.

SIMON
Goodbye. I don't know why you're
doing this. You're really sort of
ruining this for me because the
idea of seeing you again was
actually bringing me some comfort.
Anyway-

RUBY
Because I fucking love you, stupid
ass.

Simon is speechless.

RUBY (CONT'D)
There. I said it. I don't want you
to go without me.

Simon is playful.

SIMON
I mean... I love you too darling?

RUBY
No...

SIMON
Holy shit.

RUBY
Surprise...

SIMON

No, no, no. Nobody loves me.

RUBY

I do.

SIMON

I mean, my mom did but that's because she carried me for nine months and I came out of her vagina.

RUBY

You've opened up to me so many times. You're funny and cute and sad and I think I have a thing for sad guys, I feel pity for them-

SIMON

Got it. Yes, I agree, I am depressing.

RUBY

No wait, let me explain.

SIMON

Thank you, I appreciate your pity.

RUBY

With you is different. You know? I know you.

SIMON

No, you don't. You're not my fucking therapist, you are a hooker. Okay? How about we go back to being honest with each other here.

RUBY

Do you think it's fair that you got to open up to me so many times and made me listen to all your bullshit.

SIMON

Wow!

RUBY

And I didn't get to open up not once.

SIMON

First of all, bullshit?

RUBY
First of all, hooker?

SIMON
I am paying you.

RUBY
I just thought that... I'm so
fucking stupid. Why do you do this
Ruby? Why do you do this! Ruby!

SIMON
You are so unfair. You had plenty
of opportunities to say whatever
you wanted.

RUBY
No I didn't.

SIMON
But you were always so... boss. I
never thought-

RUBY
That's the job. It didn't seem
smart to mix business with
pleasure. But after listening to
you-

SIMON
What? I said the opposite.

RUBY
You said the opposite but what you
actually meant was the opposite of
the opposite.

SIMON
Well I'm sorry, but I thought I was
saying what I was saying.

RUBY
Is that all you have to say?

SIMON
If it makes you feel any better
I've been told that I'm like a
vampire. That I suck people's
energies to feed my ego and make
everyone around me feel miserable.
And it never stops, because I'm a
depthless well. The emptiness
inside of me can never be
fulfilled.

(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

Best thing for you is to stay as far away from me as possible.

RUBY

You told me that already. In different words but meaning the same thing.

SIMON

How can I possibly love you back, Ruby? I'm not gonna date a... call-girl.

RUBY

Right... Got it. Forget about it. Let's not make a big deal out of this. I was just kidding. And you better go. You're running late.

Simon checks his watch.

SIMON

Yeah, shit. At this point I'd better call an Uber.

Simon checks his phone.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Great, there's a 'Mohamed' only five minutes away... Done.

RUBY

Okay. Have a safe trip, thank you for your business. Now get out.

SIMON

Ruby-

RUBY

Go away.

SIMON

Ruby, I'm sorry.

RUBY

Get out! Get out of here! Do you want to see me cry you fucking asshole? Go away and never come back.

SIMON

Fuck man. Why the women I like never like me, and the women I don't like, do!

(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

No, I mean, it's not that I don't like you. I mean... All this time I thought we were being honest with each other but now you are telling me that it was all a lie?

RUBY

No, I thought I was being honest too, but then for once in my life I started feeling something different than ego, or pity or envy. And you gave me that. So, I'm sorry that I told you, but I'm also really glad that I did because I would regret it so much more if I didn't.

SIMON

I don't know what to say.

RUBY

Of course you don't. It's not fair what I did to you. And now you're gonna be late for your meeting and it's my fault. I'm sorry, it's just something I do, I repeatedly ruin other people's lives just so I can blame myself for it.

SIMON

You're kind of like a vampire like me.

RUBY

Yes, but with a burden of blame.

SIMON

Do you want to talk about it?

RUBY

How the tables have turned.

SIMON

I can't give you good feedback though. Best I can do is an awkward tap at the back.

RUBY

I appreciate your pity.

SIMON

You're welcome.

RUBY

...A long time ago I ran away from home because I thought I could make it on my own. One day when my beautiful prideful self found herself with no roof above her head and nothing to eat, she did not go back to mommy. No she didn't... It's funny I told my mom I was gonna be an actress. That that was my destiny, you know? It had always been my dream since I was little. C'mon, how depressing is that. You can laugh.

SIMON

Yeah, that's pretty depressing. It would be even more depressing if you were still pursuing acting.

RUBY

I am!

They laugh. He is suspicious.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Yeah... for a second there I became that little girl again who pictured... I pictured my self... that's so silly... I pictured myself with you, going to South America together and shooting your stupid movie... I know what you're thinking. I admit, I appreciated your business if that's what you want to hear. But I mostly enjoyed being with you, hearing your stories about show business. Your passion, the struggle of making a movie. I wanted to be a part of it, but how could I possibly say any of that without sounding utterly and completely petty and desperate... I wanted to have everything, mix business with-

Simon's phone rings.

RUBY (CONT'D)

Your Uber is here.

Simon answers.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Hi. Yes, I'll be right down.

Simon hangs up.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Fucking Ubers come so fast.

RUBY
You're gonna be late. Just go. Get out of here.

Simon doesn't move.

RUBY (CONT'D)
Are you worried about me or something? Just go. I'll be fine. Because you know who loves me? Me. I know how to take care of myself. I will go on my own adventure and I'll start over as many times as I have to.

SIMON
You're gonna be fine. I mean, I wish I was going by myself too, you know? Loners will be lonely... Nah, who am I kidding, I'm glad that I have company. The guys are nice. Patrick is nice... and...

RUBY
Clarence?

SIMON
Yes, Clarence.

Ruby imitates Clarence in a squeaky voice.

RUBY
(imitating Clarence)
'Hi I'm Clarence. How are you beautiful peoples?'

Simon also imitates Clarence's voice.

SIMON
(imitating Clarence)
'I'm Clarence. Don't think of me as your boss, think of me as your friend.'

RUBY
 (imitating Clarence)
 'I am so sorry everybody. I am SO
 sorry about everything.'

SIMON
 (imitating Clarence)
 Mimimi. Sniff, sniff, sniff.

RUBY
 And Wanda.

SIMON
 (rough voice, imitating Wanda)
 Yes. Wanda.

Ruby strikes a masculine pose.

RUBY
 Wanda-Wall. Woo!

SIMON
 Somebody's gotta protect Clarence.

RUBY
 Right.

SIMON
 Yeah...

RUBY
 They are nice.

SIMON
 Yeah... they are very nice...
 everybody is nice...

Silence.

Simon's cellphone rings. He doesn't pick up.

SIMON (CONT'D)
 I used to work with this guy and he
 kept telling me that because I'm
 lonely and shit I would end up
 dating a hooker. That one day I
 would have enough money to keep
 fucking her and then I would get an
 exclusive or something. And it kind
 of made sense, I never really
 excluded that possibility, I just
 never thought that I would end up
 dating a hooker without having any
 money. I'm broke Ruby.
 (MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

All my money is going into this
crazy movie in South America.
And... I love you too.

Silence. And then the phone starts ringing again.

RUBY

The meeting!

SIMON

The meeting! Oh my god!

RUBY

Oh my god! You're gonna be late!

SIMON

Everyone's going to be there.

RUBY

You better hurry.

SIMON

Yes, yes. Right. Okay.

Simon is ready to leave.

SIMON (CONT'D)

So, we're going to South America
then?

RUBY

Yes we are.

SIMON

Ok. I will send you a picture of
the plane ticket.

RUBY

Good idea.

SIMON

Oh my god, this is never going to
work.

RUBY

Nothing ever works.

SIMON

You might die in the jungle.

RUBY

You will protect me.

SIMON
We're going to fight a lot.

RUBY
Conflict is good?

SIMON
I'm going to be jealous. Fuck, I mean, Patrick is going to be there.

RUBY
Patrick is ugly and horrible in bed.

SIMON
Really?

RUBY
Yes, and his dick is small.

SIMON
I knew it.

RUBY
I prefer yours even when it's soft.

SIMON
Ok. That's too far.

RUBY
Ok, sorry.

SIMON
Ok. It's ok. Wait. What about you?

RUBY
What?

SIMON
Are you not coming to the meeting?

RUBY
Of course not. You go.

SIMON
But everyone's gonna be there.

RUBY
Precisely. And I am a mess. We are both a mess, but you unfortunately have no choice. You have to go.

SIMON

No... You should come. I should introduce you today. My new assistant.

RUBY

Simon, no. We are not thinking straight over here.

Simon approaches Ruby.

SIMON

C'mon, put some clothes on. Let's go mix some business with pleasure.

Ruby embraces Simon.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Okay. Let's do a quicky and then we go.

They kiss.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Clarence is distressed. He is on the phone waiting for Simon to pick up. It rings once, it rings twice, and then...

ENTER SPLIT SCREEN: SIMON AND RUBY SITTING IN THE BACK OF A CAB.

SIMON (ON PHONE)

I'm in a cab, I'm almost there.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)

That's what you said thirty minutes ago.

SIMON (ON PHONE)

Hang in there Clarence. Tell them I was securing a new investor. A really hot one.

Simon winks at Ruby.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)

Is that why you're so late?

SIMON (ON PHONE)

Yes, and I'm bringing her with me. You're all going to meet her.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
They're gonna leave, Simon, the
minute I hang up the phone.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
No they're not.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
Yes they are.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
You're not gonna let them.
Remember, if you look worried, than
everybody else will get worried
too.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
I'm not so sure if that ship hasn't
already sailed.

SIMON (ON PHONE)
A director always knows what he's
doing, even when he doesn't.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
I'm not-

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Yes you are. You are the assistant
director, that's what that means.
Now go do your job and save the
movie.

CLARENCE (ON PHONE)
I can't-

SIMON (ON PHONE)
Be a dick, Clarence. Show them
who's in charge. Please. I'm in the
middle of traffic, I'm gonna hop
off and make a run for it. See you
in a few.

Simon hangs up.

END SPLIT SCREEN

Clarence turns to face everyone. There are EIGHT PEOPLE
there, including WANDA (30s), PATRICK (30s), NESTOR THE
DP(30s) who has a camera hanging on a strap around his neck,
PHIL THE PA (20s), DAVID THE INVESTOR (40s) and THREE CREW
MEMBERS (20s - 40s).

DAVID

So?

Clarence is very shy.

CLARENCE

So, hum, Simon said he is on the way-

NESTOR

Where is he coming from? Alaska?

DAVID

That's it, I'm leaving. And I'm taking my money with me.

CLARENCE

Mr. Harris, please. Just a few more minutes.

DAVID

Don't 'Mr. Harris' me. I've had enough. This is bullshit.

CLARENCE

No!

DAVID

Excuse me?

For a second it looks like Clarence is going to 'man up' and be a 'dick' like Simon said, but instead...

CLARENCE

I'm sorry. I am so sorry. Please don't go. Just stay.

Clarence is about to cry.

DAVID

Why should I?

CLARENCE

Because... we are so close, we can't give up now.

DAVID

We haven't even started.

CLARENCE

We've been preparing for this for months. Simon has been working on it for years.

DAVID
Then where is he?

CLARENCE
He's in a cab, he's bringing a new investor.

DAVID
Bullshit.

CLARENCE
It's true. That's what took him so long. He was out there, working to make this work. We got it. We got all the funding we need. All I'm asking is a little bit more patience. Please.

NESTOR
I don't know Clarence... I think I speak for all of us here that this production is a mess.

CLARENCE
But it's always a mess, isn't it? Nestor?

NESTOR
Not this time. This time we are literally worried for our lives.

CLARENCE
We just got cold feet.

DAVID
Talk about yourself Cinderella.

CLARENCE
Specially me. It's true. That might be so, but that doesn't mean it doesn't apply to you. Or any of you.

DAVID
Then who's gonna lead us? Our absent leader who has abandoned us on the eve of departure?

CLARENCE
Yes.

DAVID
What a relief it gives me to hear you say that.

CLARENCE

And me too.

DAVID

You? I would never follow you into the jungle, not in a million years.

CLARENCE

So what then? You're just gonna give up?

DAVID

Yes, and save a lot of money.

NESTOR

Save my equipment from humidity and disaster.

WANDA

I'm worried about not having a bathroom.

PATRICK

Simon doesn't want to give my character more lines.

CLARENCE

Leave now and save a lot of money, yes. Go back to your homes, live comfortably, keep your equipment safe, audition for other movies. And many years from now when you're telling your lives' stories to your kids, I hope you have enough of those because there's nothing sadder than an old man who hasn't lived. Instead of you Nestor, it will be someone else capturing those beautiful nature shots.

NESTOR

Are you threatening me?

CLARENCE

Probably someone who doesn't have your ability, who doesn't have your fancy '20K', 'ultra gigs', 'shutter speeds' camera. But someone is gonna do it.

Clarence turns to Phil who is somewhat distracted playing on his phone and taking selfies.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)
 Somebody is gonna bring his phone
 and post EVERYTHING on Instagram,
 all day long, everyday. With
 monkeys, and nature and... 'lions',
 and... beasts.

He turns to Wanda, the bulky actress.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)
 Why work out everyday? Just so you
 can look good? Go out at night to
 dance and pick up dick?

He turns to Patrick.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)
 You want your acting to be deep?
 How could you possibly improve if
 you've never suffered, never dared
 and never seen anything.

He turns to David.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)
 Opportunity often wears a disguise.
 It's called uncertainty. Fear of
 the unknown. And if you can't
 recognize her, she just walks by
 and leaves you behind.

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON CLARENCE

He speaks to everyone.

CLARENCE (CONT'D)
 Somebody is going, because I'm
 going, and Simon is going. And if
 we survive, that's all we're gonna
 talk about for decades, and decades
 to come. It's not about money, it's
 about living. It's not about fame,
 it's about glory. We are all part
 of this. It belongs to all of us.
 Are you with me?

SIMON
 Aye.

RUBY
 Aye!

Simon and Ruby had slipped in unnoticed.

Wanda stands up.

WANDA

Aye!

And then Patrick.

PATRICK

Aye!

And then Phil, still looking at his phone.

PHIL

Aye...

The other THREE CREW MEMBERS.

THREE CREW MEMBERS

Aye!

Nestor.

NESTOR

Aye...

CAMERA PUSHES IN ON DAVID.

David takes his time. Everybody around him is happy and excited. He nods.

DAVID

Aye.

RUBY

Yahoo!

SIMON

South America here we come baby!

Simon embraces Ruby under one arm and Clarence under the other.

THE END