

"The Robbery"

12 min.

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A short play by Louis Bisignani

Scene: A Bank

Characters: Katie, Linda, Andrea ñ bank tellers; Jeff ñ a robber

(At rise, the tellers are behind the counter, doing their day's accounts)

Katie: Oh gosh! I'm \$12 short! I'll have to start all over again!

Linda: Just put \$12 of your own in the drawer. We'll be late for dinner!

Andrea: I don't think it works that way! She has to find her error!

Linda: I suppose we have to stay here with her? My drawer is fine, so why do I have to-

Andrea: Because Mr. Jones doesn't want anyone here alone, that's why!

Linda: Mr. Jones! I hate him! He always looks at me like he wishes I'd take my clothes off!

Andrea: So what! That's what all men do! Just ignore him!

Katie: Will one of you lock the door? It's past closing time! Oh! What a mess!

Linda: I'll do it. (she walks to door)

Andrea: Don't get so excited! It'll only make finding your error that much harder!

Katie: You love saying that, don't you?

Andrea: What?

Katie: 'Eher error'- 'your error'! I feel bad enough holding you guys up as it is!

Andrea: Well, it's not my error!

Linda: (Jeff is at door and trying to come in as Linda tries to keep door closed) we're closed!

Jeff: What time is it?

Linda: It's closing time! Come back tomorrow!

Jeff: Let me in! I'm here to rob the bank!

Linda: We're closed! You'll have to come back tomorrow!

Andrea: Don't listen to any of his excuses, Linda! And don't feel sorry for him, either! We're closed!

Linda: Don't worry! I told him!

Jeff: (pulls out gun) I have a gun!

Linda: He says he has a gun!

Andrea: Don't listen to him! We're closed!

Katie: Oh good! I found \$6 of my-the error!

Linda: I can't let you in! It's against bank policy! We're closed!

Jeff: If you don't let me in, I'll-I'll shoot you!

Linda: That's different! Come right in!

Katie: Linda! Why are you letting him in?

Linda: He said he'd shoot me!

Andrea: Mr. Jones is not going to be happy about this, Linda!

Jeff: Please, shut up! All of you!

Katie: Now I'll never find the other \$6!

Jeff: Did you hear me? Please shut up! I said please!!

Linda: Are you going to make us take off our clothes?
(hopefully)

Jeff: What? Uh-no! (to Linda) Get over there! Please!!

Katie: Could you please let me find the error in my drawer before you rob us?

Jeff: What? No!! Get over there! Stand by-what's your name?

Linda: Linda! I hope you're not going to make us take off our

clothes! (Katie moves to Linda)

Andrea: Will you stop giving him ideas, Linda!

Jeff: You too! Get over here by- these two!

Linda: It's Linda! I told you! And this is Katie!

Jeff: Uh-Hello Katie!

Katie: Hello! Um-her name is Andrea! (Andrea is now next to other two)

Jeff: Hello, Andrea. (mispronounces her name)

Andrea: That's Andrea! Hey! Why are we being so polite to this guy? He's a bank robber!

Katie: Well, he has a gun! Is that a good enough reason for you?

Andrea: Only men rob banks! Did you ever realize that?

Linda: And they often make the girl tellers take their clothes off!

Andrea: Linda! Shut up!!

Linda: Well. At least he says please.

Katie: Shouldn't we put our hands up?

Jeff: Uh-Oh, yes! Put up your hands! (He kneels and opens the large duffel he has carried in with him. He puts his gun down, takes a large amount of rope from the bag, places the bag on the gun, and walks to the trio) Here-Uh-Katie! Hold this end of the rope, please.

Katie: You're going to tie us up?!

Jeff: Yes! Now please be quiet!

Linda: Are you going to make us take our clothes off first?

Andrea: Linda!! Please shut up!!!

(Jeff circles the trio several times wrapping the rope as he goes)

Andrea: Katie, why are you helping him? He's tying us up! He's a robber!

Katie: I'm helping him because he has a gun!

Andrea: No he doesn't! Where's a gun? I don't see a gun!

Jeff: It's right -Uh-where's my gun? Oh, my God! Where's my gun?

Linda: It's under your bag.

Andrea: Thank you, Linda!

Linda: You're welcome!

Jeff: (picks up bag and puts gun in his belt) Yeah, thanks! (finishes tying up girls) There! Now, don't move and you won't get hurt! Um-where's the money? I-ah-I've never done this before!

Katie: Please don't rob my drawer! I'm still \$6 short and Mr. Jones-

Jeff: Who's Mr. Jones?

Katie: He's the manager! He's not here now!

Linda: And he always looks at me like he wishes I was naked!

Andrea: Linda!! Please!!!

Jeff: That's kind of creepy! He could get in big trouble for sexual harassment!

Andrea: She'd never turn him in!

Katie: Linda-Mr. Jones is gay! He doesn't look at you like that! It's all in your imagination!

Linda: You're both so trusting!

Jeff: Could you please stop arguing, and tell me where the money is!

Linda: The key to our drawers is on a little hook next to the teller's window!

Andrea: Thank you, Linda!

Katie: Stop picking on her! He has a gun!!

Andrea: Only because she told him where it was!

Katie: True-true.

Jeff: (from behind counter) I found the key and-Oh!! Look at all the money!!!

Katie: If you stop now, you could just leave and we wouldn't say anything.

Jeff: why would I do that?

Katie: Because you look like a nice guy! You don't look like a robber! Honest!!

Jeff: Really! That's nice of you to say!

Andrea: (sotto voce) Keep it up Katie! I think he believes you!

Katie: (sotto voce) Oh, I'm being sincere! He does seem nice! And he is kind of cute!

Andrea: (sotto voce) You really think so? I don't know. He's not my type at all!

Linda: (sotto voce) I think he's gay!

Andrea: (sotto voce) what? why would you say that?

Linda: (sotto voce) I still have my clothes on, don't I? Apparently he isn't interested in that sort of thing!

Katie: (sotto voce) I think that might be jumping to conclusions!

Andrea: (sotto voce) Yeah, Linda! Just because he's a gentleman, doesn't mean he's gay!

Linda: You two sound like you'd like to date him!

Andrea: Oh, not me! No! Not me!!

Katie: You make it sound like he's beneath you! Like you wouldn't date him if he was the last man

on earth!

Andrea: Oh, No!! I don't mean to sound like that! It's just that he's not my type!

Linda: Could you move your arm! It's sticking in my ribs!

Jeff: (He has retrieved his bag and filled it with money during

this conversation) well, I guess

I'll be going. It was nice meeting you all! (Goes toward door)

Katie: wait! what's your name?

Jeff: What? My name? why-I don't think I should tell you my name!

Katie: Just your first name! what's the harm?

Jeff: Uh-I guess you're right, Katie! It's-Jeff!

Katie: Jeff! That's a nice name!

Andrea: (sotto voce) Katie what are you doing? Let him leave! It's over! We're safe!

Katie: I don't suppose we'll ever see each other again?

Jeff: well-no! I guess that would be impossible! Unless you really wanted to-see me, that is!

Katie: well, I must say, you have been pretty polite! Under the circumstances!

Linda: (sotto voce to Andrea) Do you believe this?

Andrea: (sotto voce to Linda) Shhh! This is so-romantic!

Linda: (sotto voce) Romantic! It's crazy!

Katie: Jeff-put the money back-for me!

Jeff: But-I need it!

Katie: We can find a way! Together! If you'll let me-help you!

Jeff: I don't know!

Katie: Please, Jeff! Put the money down! We'll put it back! Nobody will ever know!

Jeff: I've never done anything like this! I must have been crazy!

Linda: (sotto voce) what did I tell you?!

Andrea: (sotto voce) I think I'm going to cry!

Jeff: (places bag on floor) There! will I see you again?

Katie: I'm in the book! Last name is Dooley! Call me!

Jeff: I will! So long, Katie! (starts to leave) Oh, and so long, Linda and Andrea! (mispronounces name)

(exits)

Andrea: It's Andrea!(shouts after him)

Linda: Thank God he's gone! I was sure he'd make us get naked! What a relief!

Katie: We have to put the money back! My God, now I'll never find that \$6!!! Here, move your

arm, so we can loosen these ropes!

(The three girls free themselves from the rope. The bag of money is on the floor. The girls kneel on the floor and start taking the money out of the bag. The bank door opens. Vocalization encouraged, e.g. "we'll be here till midnight! what a mess!" Etc.)

Mr. Jones: (standing in doorway) what is going on? Is that-money all over the floor?

Andrea: I tried to tell them it was a bad idea, Mr. Jones! Umm-playing with the money,that is.

Katie: what?! we didn't do this! I mean-I mean it wasn't our fault!

Linda: well it wasn't my fault at least!

Andrea: Are you saying it was my fault?

Katie: How can you say that it was my fault?(these two lines are almost simultaneous)

Mr. Jones: wait a minute! One at a time! Now-what is going on here?!

Andrea: I know this looks bad, but I can explain, Mr. Jones!

Katie: Let me explain this, Andrea! (looks at Andrea and Linda to keep quiet) Mr. Jones, we were just trying to move some of the cash from the cash drawers-and we were using this bag-and we dropped it-and then you came in!

Linda: We were? (punch from Andrea) Ouch! Oh, yeah, we were!

Mr. Jones: Really? Then what is this rope doing here? (picks up rope)

Andrea: Uhhh-tell him Katie.

Linda: Yes, tell him Katie. (Andrea and Linda step away from Katie)

Mr. Jones: Go ahead, Katie. Explain away!

Katie: Well-um-the rope. Yes-the rope. You see, we-that is Andrea and Linda and

I have been taking classes after work.

Linda: Classes?

Andrea: Yes, classes! (elbows Linda)

Mr. Jones: Classes? what kind of classes requires a rope?

Katie: Uhhh-we go to a gym where they teach us wall climbing. After work. And the rope was in the bag and it fell out when we-

Mr. Jones: That's the most ridiculous story I ever heard!

Linda: It's a lie! (frantic) I'm so sorry Mr. Jones! We were robbed! By a robber!

Mr. Jones: what?! Robbed?! Then why is all that money still here?

Andrea: Katie asked him to leave the money. (points at Katie)

Linda: Yes! That's right! Katie made a date with him and he left the money! He was kind of nice! He didn't even make us take our clothes off!

Katie: Thank you Andrea and Linda.

Mr. Jones: I have never heard such nonsense in my life. A robber who leaves behind the money because you ask him to? I don't know what you three are up to, but I assure you, I am going to find out! (he has moved behind the counter)

Jeff: (opens door does not see Mr. Jones) Hi, Katie! I was wondering if I could have my bag and rope back. I need the bag to carry my gun in. (brandishes gun) Oh, and I'll give you a call, O.K.. Katie?

FIN - BLACKOUT