

FINDERS (NOT) KEEPERS

written by

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INT. BUILDING ENTRANCE - NIGHT

PITCH DARK

Door opens and a GIRL SILHOUETTE enters from the street lit by night lights.

Girl (TANJA) 38, hair in a ponytail, red in her face and sweaty, wearing leggings and hood sweater, sprints up the stairs of a ragged building.

Tanja makes it to the third floor and walks to the apartment. She takes out the keys, and before she is to open the door she notices movement at the end of the hallway. It is a MAN IN THE BLACK SUITE, sitting on the chair and dozing off. He adjusts in the chair.

TANJA
Fuck you. You hear me.

Man In The Black Suite doesn't budge.

TANJA
He'll make good.

MAN IN THE BLACK SUITE
Just doing my job.

TANJA
Tell your boss he'll have the money
in two days.

Tanja unlocks the door and enters

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tanja enters the apartment hall. She can hear FEMALE ANCHOR from the TV. She takes her shoes off without untying the laces.

Tanja enters the small living room furnished some forty years ago. TV is on, however it is set to teletext with sports results.

Tanja takes the remote and turns the TV off. She goes to the kitchen where her FATHER (70), wearing a washed out robe, is reading huge paper.

Tanja pours water in the glass and drinks. She looks at her Father.

(CONTINUED)

TANJA
Gone an hour and already teletext.

Father gives no reaction.

TANJA
You hear me?

FATHER
Mhm?

TANJA
Will you stop it?

FATHER
Stop what?

TANJA
Damn gambling dad!

Father raises the paper.

FATHER
No more gambling Tan. I am into the
stocks now.

Tanja realizes Father is reading papers some thirty years
old that had stock reports. She makes a step toward the
Father and picks the paper by the edge.

TANJA
29.11.1989.?

Father looks at her expressionless.

TANJA
Dad, this paper is from 1989.!
Everything is on the internet now.

FATHER
Where is the internet?

Father is looking at Tanja with a look that has something
childishly innocent.

Tanja sits next to him and hugs him firmly.

INT. APARTMENT/BATHROOM - LATER

Father is naked from the waist up while Tanja is drying him with a towel. She spots a pimple and presses it out with her nails. She uses the towel to clean it.

Tanja can see her father in the mirror.

TANJA
I found the money.

FATHER
What money?

TANJA
For your debt.

Father turns her head toward Tanja.

FATHER
For gas? I payed that.

TANJA
No, not the gas. Your debt to that loan shark.

FATHER
Where did you find it?

TANJA
Doesn't matter. Just promise me you will no more--

FATHER
By fornication? Is that how?

TANJA
Dad!

Father pulls away from Tanja and leaves the bathroom.

FATHER
My daughter, impudent...!

Tanja is at the end of her strength.

INT. APARTMENT/BEDROOM - LATER

Father is fast asleep, wearing dippers. Tanja is next to him, as if making sure he is asleep.

Tanja walks to the living room. She sits on a sofa with the TV still running.

(CONTINUED)

Tanja takes out a plastic cork. She flips it around revealing a 200.000 kuna imprinted inside.

Tanja takes out her laptop and browses. She find what she is looking for and dials the number from he cellphone.

TANJA

Hello? Good evening. I am calling regarding the sweepstakes. I got the cork.

VOICE (OFF)

Is there a serial number?

Tanja finds a fineprint.

TANJA

Yes.

VOICE (OFF)

Bring the cork to our headquarters. Make sure you have credit account.

TANJA

Sure.

VOICE (OFF)

Congratulations.

Tanja hangs up, and dials another number.

TANJA

Hey.

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

Hey. What's up.

TANJA

Not much. With you?

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

Don't ask. My washing machine broke. Literally. It was doing the spinning cycle, it went all the way to the stairs and crashed down.

TANJA

Oh. I guess you can't talk?

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

I can, briefly. Something with dad?

(CONTINUED)

TANJA

No. I mean, yes. I found the money.

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

You what?

TANJA

I found it. Literally. I went jogging on the levee and stopped to buy soda. I opened it and - pooh - there it is. It has sweepstakes on it and the cork is a winning one.

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

Get out!

Tanja bites her lip.

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

How much?

TANJA

Two hundred k.

FEMALE VOICE

And how much does he--?

TANJA

Hundred and fifty.

FEMALE VOICE

Fuckin' a.

TANJA

I settle that and we have the money to put him in the home.

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

The home..

TANJA

Don't start that again. It's all on me 'cause you have a family and all. And I got the money and now you--

FEMALE VOICE (OFF)

Here's my repair guy. We'll continue. Got to go.

End of conversation. Tanja slips into the sofa. She slowly surrenders to the night while the TV is still on.

(CONTINUED)

TV ANCHOR

Another murder attempt in Zagreb.
Police found a man with a stab
wound on the levee, near the Swamp
club. Thanks to the anonymous call
and quick ambulance, man survived.
Police asks anyone who...

Tanja opens her eyes. She is wide awake. She reaches for the remote and tunes up. The news is gone.

Tanja thinks for a moment. She dials the number.

VOICE (OFF)

Police.

TANJA

Hello.

VOICE (OFF)

Good evening. What is the reason
for your call.

TANJA

The man that was stabbed on the
levee. I found him and called
police.

VOICE (OFF)

Hold on. (few moments pass) Go to
Heinzel station, ask for Moro, he
is in charge of the case.

TANJA

Thanks.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Tanja is standing at the door to Father's room. Father is fast asleep.

INT. BUILDING HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Apartment door opens and Tanja exits. Man In The Black Suite shifts in the chair, obviously woken by the door sound.

Tanja just looks at him and walks away.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Tanja is walking, avoiding occasional passer-by. She stops at the window promoting travel to exotic locations.

Tanja's face reflects in the window. Her moment of daydreaming is interrupted by a drunk homeless man

HOMELESS MAN
Spare a kuna? Just a kuna...

Tanja walks away.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Tanja is standing in front of the door. Here and there POLICEMAN escorts a SUSPECT.

The door opens and MORO (55) shows Tanja in.

MORO
Name?

TANJA
Tanja Osterman.

MORO
Year of birth?

TANJA
Eighty two.

MORO
Address?

TANJA
City of Chicago twenty two.

Moro closes his notepad.

MORO
Why did you flee the crime scene.

TANJA
I called emergency. Had no clue I had to wait.

Moro stares her down.

TANJA
I have a sick father at home. I had no time to--

(CONTINUED)

MORO

Did you see anyone, anything?

Tanja shakes her head.

MORO

Did you touch him, tried to help?

TANJA

I thought he was dead.

MORO

He made it. And let's hope he doesn't mention your name once he wakes up.

TANJA

He won't.

Moro is looking at Tanja.

MORO

You may go. If you remember anything, call us.

Tanja gets up. She comes to the door.

TANJA

Which hospital?

MORO

Sisters of Mercy.

EXT. POLICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Tanja exits and goes into the night.

EXT. HOSPITAL BUILDING - NIGHT

Tanja enters the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Tanja approaches front desk where the ADMINISTRATOR is handling the phones.

TANJA

Emergency?

Administrator points her direction.

(CONTINUED)

Tanja starts slowly, passing glass doors dividing departments.

Finally, she reaches the emergency unit.

Several patients in casts are seated, or laying on mobile beds.

NURSE (44) comes out from one of the offices. Tanja approaches her.

TANJA

Excuse me. That man that was
stabbed on the levee..

NURSE

He is in intensive care.

TANJA

How is he?

NURSE

He lost a leg but he'll make it.

Tanja is struck.

TANJA

A leg?

NURSE

Are you OK?

Tanja gathers her composure.

TANJA

Can I see him?

NURSE

And you are?

TANJA

A friend.

NURSE

A friend...who doesn't know his
name.

TANJA

Please.

Nurse softens.

NURSE

Behind that door. You will see his father, older, gray man. He is behind the glass, you cannot go into the room.

Tanja walks toward the door. Deep breath as if dive jumping. She opens the door and enters a long hallway. To her left is a long glass with thin wire inside.

Rows of beds with patients connected to breathing machines.

Tanja's walk is wary as if trying not to wake a dragon. In the bottom of the hallway she can see the MAN'S FATHER. His gaze is fixed, and doesn't notice approaching Tanja.

Tanja can now see a MAN lying on the bed with one leg fully bandaged. He is unconscious.

TANJA

Good evening.

Father looks at her briefly.

MAN'S FATHER

Evening.

TANJA

You are his father.

Father nods.

MAN'S FATHER

Friend?

Tanja shakes her head.

TANJA

I don't know your son. But I found him and called the ambulance.

Father looks at her. He turns and hugs Tanja firmly. She is uncomfortable.

TANJA

How is he?

FATHER

How...he lost his leg. My boy. Seen anyone?

(CONTINUED)

TANJA

No, he was just laying there. I thought he was dead.

FATHER

I don't understand. He never partied, just work and home. He earns our living, after my wife passed. And now--

Father is about to break.

FATHER

What do we do now.

Dead silnce in the hallway is filled only with the beeping sound of the life support.

Tanja and Man's Father are watching through the wired glass. Tanja puts her hand in her pocket. After a few moments---

TANJA

Off I go. Good luck with him.

FATHER

Thank you my child. Had you not called, he'd be dead.

Tanja makes no comment. She walks down the hallway. Before she is to reach the end, she changes her mind.

Tanja turns and goes back. She takes the cork and reaches to Man's Father.

TANJA

He was holding onto this. I am sorry, I thought he was dead. Just laying there....

Tanja turns and speeds down the hallway, her eyes starting to wet.

THE END