BAD BUSINESS

"Codenames"

Pilot

Written by

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EXT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

An old abandoned warehouse. It looks like it's been in disuse for years.

Standing in front of a small shut door is CONDOR, a man in his mid 30s, heavyset, slightly balding, dressed in a wrinkled suit and tie, looks directly into the camera. He shifts his weight from one foot to the other, nervous.

He's waiting for a cue. A hand darts out in front of the camera signaling him to start.

CONDOR
Hi everyone, I'm Gilbert

Condor freezes in place.

He dashes towards the camera. Covering the lens with his hand.

CONDOR (CONT'D)
Can we cut that?

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. WAREHOUSE - LATER

A few minutes have passed. Condor is pacing in front of the doors. His suit has been straightened out. Condor mutters to himself.

CONDOR
Take twelve, Come on Gilbert, don't screw up this time.

He turns to face the camera. Noticing it's already rolling. He straightens his posture. Ready to deliver.

CONDOR (CONT'D)
Greetings everyone I'm...

He stops. This time he'll get it right.

CONDOR (CONT'D)
(slowly)
Condor.

He breaths a sigh of relief. Condor has saved himself.

CONDOR (CONT'D)
We're here to let you into our lives, and show you...
(MORE)

CONDOR (CONT'D)
(beat)
How we... uh... do our business.

He pulls open the doors, slipping through, Condor beckons the camera to follow him.

The camera slowly moves forward, trying to squeeze through the door. Condor's hand reaches out and pulls the camera into-

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

It's pitch black. The camera hasn't had time to adjust to the darkness.

CONDOR
Are you prepared?

A light clicks on, shedding a faint glow around the room. A hand flies in front of the camera.

HAWK
Christ, Gil. Warn someone next time.

CONDOR
Use our codenam-

HAWK
Did you hire college students?!

CONDOR
It was the cheapest option.

The hand is dropped from the camera. Standing in front of it is HAWK, a woman in her late 20s, hair tied back. She stares above the camera, looking past it to the person behind.

HAWK
What is he paying you?

A hand reaches out and hands her a stack of paper. Hawk snatches it from them.

She reads over the papers.

HAWK (CONT'D)
You're giving them college credit?

CONDOR
With a chance for actual pay upon completion of the job!

HAWK
We are committing armed robbery Gilbert-

CONDOR
Keep your voice down. We don't want any suspicion.

HAWK
-And you thought it was a good idea to bring along an actual child.

CONDOR
It wasn't my idea.

HAWK
Then who's was it?

ROBIN, a short, frail man in his late 20s, steps into the light. He's hunched over, preparing himself for Hawk's berating.

ROBIN
It was mine...

Condor indicates for the camera to follow him.

He struts over and wraps his arm around Robin's shoulder, like a proud parent.

CONDOR
It was our little bird's idea to have the whole thing recorded.

HAWK (O.S.)
And what's the reason for that?

CONDOR
Well you see Lesl-Robin here-

ROBIN
I'll explain it.

Robin removes Condor's arm and takes a deep breath. He knows that what he says will get scrutinized.

ROBIN (CONT'D)
I thought that it would be a good idea for us to study our heists. You know... like football teams.

Hawk stares at the two of them. She turns to the camera.

HAWK
And you're okay with this?

CONDOR
The job market is tough and they needed a-

HAWK
I'm asking them.

The person behind the camera is silent. The camera bobs up and down.

CONDOR
Everyone sign these film release forms.

Condor grabs a large stack of papers and slams them onto the table in the center of the room.

Robin grabs a stack and begins filling it out.

HAWK
What is this?

CONDOR
It's a film release form.

Condor turns to the camera, making sure he's got the correct term.

The camera shoots a thumbs up at him.

CONDOR (CONT'D)
It's to make sure we can have our kid here as part of the crew.

HAWK
What we're already doing is...

Condor looks at her. Signaling to watch her words. She walks up to Condor, pulling him away from the camera.

Condor turns around giving a weak "Everything is okay" smile to camera.

HAWK (CONT'D)
(to Condor)
What we're doing is illegal. Why do we need to follow the rules for this?

ROBIN
What name are we putting?

CONDOR
Just put Robin.

ROBIN
(pointing to Hawk)
But that's her name.

Condor turns to the camera.

CONDOR
What should we put?

A hand darts out from behind the camera. Pointing to Condor.

CONDOR (CONT'D)
Oh, I need to put my NAME?

The camera bobs up and down again. Condor leans in close to camera

CONDOR (CONT'D)
Is this for legal reasons? Are we going to be found out?

The camera is motionless.

CONDOR (CONT'D)
All right everyone put your real names on the documents.

ROBIN
But I thought we weren't supposed to use our real names.

Hawk snatches the papers.

HAWK
Just fill them out Leslie.

CONDOR
Codenames! We use codenames!

Hawk gives the completed forms back to camera.

HAWK
What's our next step?

Condor and Robin hand the papers back.

Condor motions to the camera. He wants to be the center of attention.

CONDOR
I think we save that for the next part?

HAWK
We’re done for the day?!

ROBIN
But we just got started?

Condor turns away from the camera.

CONDOR
We’re doing these in bulk. We’re not done for today.

CONDOR (CONT’D)
Gotta leave them waiting on a cliffhanger.

Condor covers the camera lens with his hand.

CUT TO BLACK.