

RULES ARE RULES

by

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LOGLINE:

When a law-abiding teenager breaks one of society's oldest rules, he discovers that his watch doesn't actually answer to him.

FADE IN:

INT. TY'S PICKUP TRUCK - NIGHT

TY, the driver whose last two citation stones hang from his rearview mirror reading "SPEEDING, 100/80" and "FAILURE TO YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY," whips into the last parking spot available on the top floor of the four-story viewing deck.

The car behind him honks but continues down the one-way ramp.

TY unbuckles, reaches out his window, opens the panel door, and pushes the "ROTATE" button from the menu of options.

RICKY, wearing his letterman jacket labeled "LINEBACKER," grips Ty's headrest as the entire parking spot rises, turns 180 degrees, and lowers soundlessly.

TY

Relax. He'll put it back on.

RICKY

(loosens grip)

It's the number one rule. Watches on at all times except for resizing.

He gets out and slams the door.

BRYAN, with each button clasped on his polo shirt and his short hair parted evenly, slides his blue watch back on.

BRYAN

Well you dared me to see what happens.

Bryan's watch reactivates, beeps once, and checks his vitals. He shrugs.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

Nothing.

Ty checks his own blue watch. He points back toward Ricky.

TY

I bet he's mad that his dad didn't interfere when they arrested his mom for some reason.

BRYAN

It's only been two weeks. She'll probably be back soon.

(finally unbuckles)

Besides, he's probably too busy giving you citation stones.

TY

(laughs)

The chief doesn't give those out. And I'm good as long as I don't get another one.

They exit the truck.

EXT. DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATER — CONTINUOUS

Below, cars continue to fill the parking lot and BOT-HOPS zoom around on old-fashioned roller skates delivering orders.

Ricky sits on the tailgate, his gaze wandering through the windowless viewing area and past the movie screen, which towers above them.

RICKY

You're going to get us all arrested.

BRYAN

I just—

Ty hushes them and activates the "PRIVACY WALLS" from the side panel. Transparent glass walls raise up from the floor and surround their parking spot on three sides.

ON THE SCREEN, a WOMAN runs from a MASKED FIGURE.

WOMAN

(screams)

I'm sorry! I should've—

Bryan sits on the tailgate and averts his eyes when the Masked Figure stabs the Woman.

BRYAN

I just wanted to help.
(points at screen)

Too bad they don't tell us the movie in advance. I hate the slashers.

TY
(laughs)
What? You'd rather watch romance.

BRYAN
Yeah! Hardly anyone dies in those.

TY
(scoffs)
That's the problem.
(beat)
Want me to order something?

RICKY
Can we just leave?

INT. BRYAN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

An annoying beeping sound echoes throughout the room. A POLICE OFFICER, a balding man in his mid-20s, presses different buttons until his handheld device finally quiets.

POLICE OFFICER
It seems his watch has reappeared in the system.

BRYAN'S MOM, whose purple watch dings with a message to "SLOW YOUR BREATHING," stands next to him in front of a couch piled with folded laundry.

BRYAN'S MOM
I'm sure he never took it off.

POLICE OFFICER
Rules are rules. I'll need to bring him in when-

Bryan walks in the front door and his mom wraps him in a tight hug.

The Police Officer scans Bryan's watch from across the room. Handcuffs instantly spring from Bryan's watch and wrap both wrists in tight restraint behind his back.

BRYAN

What's going on?

POLICE OFFICER

Scan says you took your watch off.

The Police Officer guides him out the door.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

The Police Officer walks Bryan past several desks and toward a door labeled "SENTENCING." Instead of a room, the door opens to an elevator that only goes down.

ELEVATOR

They enter and are followed by the CHIEF, who stands like a statue even though his eyes are swollen and red. The Chief exits three floors down through a door labeled "CAPITAL OFFENSES."

BRYAN

Is this really because of a watch?

The Police Officer ignores him. After five more floors, they arrive at a door labeled "JUVENILE FIRST OFFENSES" and exit the elevator.

JUVENILE FIRST OFFENSES HALL

They continue down a hallway lined on both sides with locked doors. Bryan is pushed through one.

HOLDING CELL

The room is empty except for benches lining three of the four walls. Next to the door, the fourth wall whirs to life as a giant movie screen.

POLICE OFFICER

Watch the video. Then you can
speak to the judge.

Someone else is shoved into the room before he slams the door and activates the lock.

Ty, also handcuffed, laughs when he sees Bryan.

TY

What're you doing here?

BRYAN
Stupid watch. You?

TY
Another citation stone. I only-

The light in the room dims as the screen starts playing a movie that only has background music for sound. Bryan and Ty sit on a bench.

MONTAGE: CLIPS FROM ON SCREEN MOVIE

- MAN'S DRIVEWAY: A middle-aged MAN in a business suit pulls in. An officer scans the Man's watch and arrests him.

- DRESSING ROOM: The Man exits the elevator on the "CAPITAL OFFENSES" floor, is escorted to a back room, and bombarded by a crew of people who cake him in makeup.

- BACKSTAGE: A tiny earpiece is slipped into the Man's ear, and contacts are forced into his eyes, which act as a small holographic teleprompter projecting from his eyes and displaying one of his lines: I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER.

- BEDROOM SET: The Man hides behind a bed. He's about to yell something, but someone points to a sniper in the catwalk and motions for him to zip his mouth.

- SPLIT SCREEN (BEDROOM SET AND DRIVE-IN MOVIE THEATER): Movie-goers watch as the same Man on their screen, a much younger version with a different build and different nationality, tries to shield himself from the Masked Figure when the bedroom door opens.

- POLICE STATION: The Chief hands over the man's personal effects to a middle-aged woman.

BACK TO SCENE

The wall screen fades out and the door opens. Neither Bryan nor Ty could speak as they walk toward the Police Officer.

POLICE OFFICER
Judge is ready. Who knows... he may order a romance movie.

FADE OUT.