

An elderly gentleman sits at a TABLE in front of a coffee shop across the street from a bank. He takes a sip of a CUP OF COFFEE. A little boy curiously walks up and sits next to him. The man stares at the young boy.

OLD MAN

Can I help you?

BOY

What are you doing?

OLD MAN

I am people watching.

BOY

(uninterested)

Oh.

The man and the boy both fall silent for a bit. The boy swings his feet in the chair as the man watches the store across the street. He glances at the boy before clearing his throat.

OLD MAN

And what are YOU doing?

BOY

I dunno. I guess I'm people watching too.

OLD MAN

(gently sarcastic)

Oh? Have you watched where your parents have gone?

BOY

Yup. My mommy is inside getting coffee and my daddy is driving around.

OLD MAN

What do you mean by that? The driving around bit.

BOY

He's trying to catch bad guys.

OLD MAN

Oh? So he is a cop.

BOY

(hint of pride)

Yeah. He's a good guy who catches all the bad guys when they rob stores and stuff.

OLD MAN

(chuckles)

Is that so?

The man leans in to the boy with a sly grin.

OLD MAN

(whisper)

What if I told you, that I was a bank robber once?

The boy's posture straightens from curiosity at the man. His eyes almost shining with renewed interest.

BOY

Were you? Did my dad catch you?

OLD MAN

(laughs)

Oh no no. He would have been much too young to catch me. But yes. I was caught. Went to jail. Learned my lesson.

BOY

Did you rob a bank?

OLD MAN

(pauses in thought)

Well it did house a lot of money so yes. A bank of sorts.

BOY

You know the car that they bring money to the bank?

OLD MAN

Yes?

BOY

(excited curiosity)

What part did you rob? The truck? Or the bank?

OLD MAN

(pauses in thought)

I robbed the truck.

BOY

How did you do that?

OLD MAN

(laughs)

How did you know the difference between all this stuff?

BOY

(proud)

I watch movies.

OLD MAN

Well if you can keep a secret. I'll tell you. How about it?

The boy scoots his chair closer and nods excitedly.

OLD MAN

Well I first watched the place. Learned of the comings and goings. Learned the schedule of the truck. Then I-

WOMAN

There you are!

A woman approaches the child and old man. She bows politely.

WOMAN

I am so sorry if he is bothering you. Sweetheart let's get going. We don't want to be late meeting Daddy for lunch.

BOY

Awww but Mommy! He was gonna tell me how he robbed a bank!

WOMAN

(tense)

What?

OLD MAN

(laughs)

Oh I'm so sorry. I love telling a good story and you son looked a tad bored.

The old man pulls out a NOTEBOOK and a small BOOK entitled Creative Writing Prompts.

OLD MAN

He indulged in my mischievous side today. I miss all that energy you know?

WOMAN

(sigh of relief)

Oh I see. Well thank you for entertaining him. I hope he wasn't too rude or anything.

OLD MAN

Oh no no not at all. It was a pleasure really. Now you be good for you mommy the rest of the day okay? Maybe one day you'll get to read a book I write about a big bank robbery.

BOY

Are you gonna be the bad guy in it?

OLD MAN

(laughs)

I will think about it.

BOY

Ok! I wanna read it when you're done!

WOMAN

Ok let's get going now. Say thank you and bye to him sweetheart.

BOY

Bye bye!

The woman and the boy step out of the cafe and start walking down the street. The old man watches them with a smile as they round the corner. The old man pulls out a CELL PHONE and clicks a number on speed dial.

OLD MAN

Hey. It's me. It's off. Call everyone. We'll do this another time.

The old man hangs up the phone and stands up. He walks away from the cafe, tossing the phone into a nearby TRASH CAN. An armored bank truck rolls up to the bank and comes to a stop.