

FINDERS

By Jason Hall

Contact:

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Characters:

JOAN, Late 20's.

ZEB, Late 20's, her partner and the father of her son.

CLARE, 50's, Joan's mother.

Note:

A sheet of 'glass' (it doesn't need to be glass, but should give that impression) is present in every scene, serving different functions in each (i.e. the windscreen of a car, an exterior window, a table, a piece of art, etc.). Between scenes the sheet of glass should be reconfigured in full view of the audience.

THREE

(CLARE steps forward, as the glass becomes a kitchen table, strewn with papers and a laptop. When it's ready, JOAN sits down.)

CLARE *(Audience.)* It's October.

 Their house.

 'Theirs.'

 They rent.

(She goes.)

ZEB Joany?

JOAN Yea?

ZEB Why you up?

JOAN What?

ZEB It's like 3am.

JOAN Is it?

ZEB Come to bed.

JOAN You need to look at this.

ZEB Show me in the morning.

JOAN Come here.

ZEB What...what is all this?

JOAN Bank statements. Going back to when I was at uni?

ZEB Okay.

JOAN We opened this account? Student loan, Mum and Dad would put money in, that sort of thing.

ZEB Okay.

JOAN Good interest, Dad got some deal.

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ZEB Okay?

JOAN And when uni was over it was all totally empty and I just left it, didn't think about it. Changed the address to Mum's because I was down in London.

ZEB *(Smiles.)* In a squat.

JOAN Right.

ZEB With me.

JOAN *Listen.* So these statements, they'd come to Mum's every month and I guess she just threw them in a box or whatever.

ZEB So...?

JOAN So look at this.

(Hands him a letter.)

ZEB *(Reading.)* The account's dormant.

JOAN Notice anything?

ZEB It's from three years ago...

JOAN Look at the balance.

(He does.)

ZEB Whoa.

JOAN Right?

ZEB That's...that's a lot of...

JOAN *Right?*

ZEB That's a lot of money.

JOAN Exactly.

ZEB Some kind of mistake?

JOAN Obviously.

ZEB That's *insane* / though, that's like *bonkers*.

JOAN So I've been looking back over the statements, looking back over the years before to see when the money came in, you know?

ZEB When was it?

JOAN Five years ago. And a bit.

ZEB *Five years?*

JOAN And a bit.

ZEB You've had this money for five years?

JOAN And a bit, yea.

ZEB Who transferred it in?

JOAN Doesn't say.

ZEB It must say something.

JOAN Look.

(Hands him another statement.)

ZEB "Internal transfer."

Huh.

You'd think they'd notice!

JOAN Right?

ZEB Look at that!

JOAN You *would* think someone would notice by now, right?

ZEB Totally.

Well.

That's some craziness. You should come to bed.

JOAN In the morning, will you come with me?

ZEB Where?

JOAN To report this.

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ZEB *Report* this?

JOAN Yes.

ZEB Why?

JOAN It's not ours.

ZEB *(faking)* Finders keepers.

JOAN *(Serious.)* Really?

ZEB We'll sort it tomorrow, okay?

JOAN Sort what?

ZEB What we do.

JOAN We report it.

Don't we?

ZEB Absolutely.

Maybe.

I dunno / I'm half asleep!

JOAN Because I need to know what we're doing or there's no point going to bed.

ZEB We'll report it. I'll go with you in the morning.

JOAN Okay.

ZEB Yea?

JOAN We're not keeping it?

ZEB No.

Unless – do *you* want to keep it?

JOAN I'm not saying that.

ZEB There's nothing wrong if you do.

JOAN There is.

ZEB Not *wanting* to keep it. *Wanting* to keep it is only natural, it's a lot of money, it's normal.

JOAN Wanting leads to doing.

ZEB No...

JOAN And doing, in this case, doing is basically, it's stealing.

ZEB Is it?

JOAN The money's not ours.

ZEB But we didn't *take* it.

JOAN But we *have* it.

ZEB But that's not *stealing*.

JOAN So you do want to keep it?

ZEB *(Laughs.)* I want to go to bed.

JOAN You want to keep it, don't you?

ZEB I've only known about this for like six seconds!

JOAN But you do.

ZEB No!

JOAN Okay.

ZEB Decision made!

JOAN Okay.

(Beat.)

ZEB Think what we could do with that, though.

JOAN Zeb!

ZEB Joking! Come on. Bed.

(He starts to leave. She sits still.)

JOAN I've been online.

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Researching.

ZEB Joany...

JOAN There are cases like this. Loads. Not *exactly* like this, not this much money but the trend seems to be, the thing the websites say is that the money, the money is basically, you can't keep it.

ZEB There you go.

JOAN But the *interest*...

(*Beat.*)

ZEB The interest?

JOAN The *interest*...

ZEB What about the interest.

JOAN It's a grey area.

ZEB Meaning?

JOAN I don't know.

ZEB So, what, we could keep the interest?

JOAN People have.

ZEB How?

JOAN They put the interest into a separate account while everything gets settled. And in that separate account the interest can't be touched.

ZEB So...

So, if we transfer the interest from the last five years / into (*Continues.*)

JOAN And a bit.

ZEB another account – *right* – if we transfer it into another account we might get to keep it?

JOAN Yes.

ZEB That would be cool!

JOAN But we're not doing that.

ZEB We're not?

JOAN We already agreed that what we're doing is reporting it.

ZEB We did?

JOAN Yes, just now.

ZEB You didn't tell me about the other account thing!

JOAN And I didn't tell you because a thing is either right or a thing is wrong
and I wanted to know what you thought about that and you told me.
You think it's wrong.

ZEB Joany, I'm just trying to get to bed!

JOAN So you *do* want to keep it?

ZEB Can we please –

JOAN Or not?

ZEB Would I like to have that money? Of course!

JOAN That's not the question.

ZEB But I'd settle for the interest.

JOAN So we *are* keeping it?

ZEB Why...

 Why don't we just wait?

JOAN Let's say we're out walking and we find a sack filled with cash.

ZEB We didn't –

JOAN Do we pick it up or leave it there?

ZEB We pick it up.

JOAN Then what?

ZEB Joany, I don't –

JOAN Do we keep some for ourselves?

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ZEB No.

JOAN We try to find the owner, right?

ZEB Definitely.

JOAN Okay.

ZEB Okay?

JOAN Yea.

ZEB Okay.

 But we could wait.

 Before we try to find the owner we could wait.

JOAN Wait?

ZEB Wait.

JOAN Could we?

ZEB This isn't a sack of cash.

JOAN No.

ZEB It's not sitting under the bed or something. It's already in a bank.

JOAN Gaining interest.

ZEB Exactly.

JOAN So....we wait...?

ZEB A few months.

JOAN *(Gesturing between them.)* Is this...

ZEB What?

JOAN Is this is a thing? That we're doing?

ZEB Why not?

JOAN We leave it a few months.

ZEB Til, say, it's been six full years.

JOAN And we don't touch it or anything.

ZEB Just carry on as before.

JOAN When we didn't know it was there.

ZEB And nobody knows we know.

JOAN Our secret.

ZEB Don't tell a soul.

JOAN Then after a few months...

ZEB Then we see.

JOAN Then maybe we transfer the interest to another account.

ZEB And *then* we report it.

JOAN And, before then, if the bank or anyone comes asking, then we can totally give it back.

ZEB And it's like, "I haven't looked in that account in years."

JOAN "And see, I haven't even touched it."

ZEB Haven't taken out a pound.

JOAN But for now, we forget about it.

ZEB Totally.

(Beat.)

JOAN Okay.

 I could sleep for days.