

The Fellowship

by

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EXT. DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Randall pulls up to the side of the school behind some dumpsters. As he gets off of his bike, Squirrelly rises out of the shadows.

SQUIRRELLY

How you know I'd be here?

RANDALL

Where else do people go to do this kind of stuff?

SQUIRRELLY

Good point.

Stacey comes up.

STACEY

Evening, boys. So what's the plan?

Squirrelly seems a bit hesitant.

STACEY

You do have a plan?

SQUIRRELLY

Don't rush me. Nate's not here.

They hear a NOISE and turn. Nate walks up decked out in camouflage and a huge backpack. He's ready for an adventure.

He slaps his fist to his breast in salute.

NATE

So what is tonight's mission?

They all look to Squirrelly.

SQUIRRELLY

We need a way to Florida, right?
Well, I know something we can use.

RANDALL

You don't mean...

SQUIRRELLY

The car in auto shop.

STACEY

You expect us to ride in a
contraption you guys put together.
Does it even run?

SQUIRRELLY

It started for last week's test.

STACEY

Has it ever been out of the shop?

SQUIRRELLY

Not yet.

STACEY

So we don't even know if the
wheels are going to fall off?

SQUIRRELLY

You have a better idea?

STACEY

Unfortunately, no. Air bags?

Squirrely and Randall look at each other knowingly.

RANDALL

You don't want to use the air
bags.

(beat)

You know Greg Smith?

STACEY

Yeah. I haven't seen him in
awhile.

RANDALL

Exactly.

SQUIRRELLY

He's going to recover just fine.

NATE

I don't need no stinkin' air bags.
Let's go.

They hear a CAR approaching. Stacey motions to the dumpster. The boys hesitate, but then follow. Randall stashes his bike behind the dumpster.

INT. DUMPSTER - NIGHT

The gang crouches quietly inside. They hear the CAR STOP.

Nate starts to WHEEZE. He raises his inhaler. Stacey stops him and gestures for quiet. Squirrely puts his hand over Nate's mouth. Nate starts to turn blue.

The CAR PULLS OFF. Nate explodes, gasping for breath and sucking on his inhaler.

SQUIRRELLY

Who do you think that was?

STACEY

Probably security.

They all look at her.

STACEY (CONT'D)

Rent-a-cops keep an eye on things.
Remember Jeremy Briggs?

RANDALL

The flunky.

STACEY

He's one. Guess they figured he
broke into this place so much when
he was here he'd know all the
tricks. Most guards are worthless;
Jeremy I'd worry about.

There's a SCUFFLING SOUND in the dumpster.

SQUIRRELLY

What's that?

STACEY

A rat?

NATE

(squeakily)

What?

STACEY

You don't think we're the only things that hang out in a dumpster.

RANDALL

Security raises a bigger issue: Isn't this stealing?

More SCUFFLING. They all look around.

SQUIRRELLY

There's definitely something in here.

STACEY

(to Randall)

Don't think we can pull this off?

NATE

We can.

RANDALL

That's not it.

SQUIRRELLY

We built the car.

RANDALL

Hanging the fuzzy dice doesn't count.

SQUIRRELLY

We did more than that. Besides, we're just...

NATE

Borrowing.

SQUIRRELLY

Yeah, we'll bring it back.

STACEY

Haven't you ever borrowed anything?

Randall turns away, subconsciously patting the duffle bag. Then he slips, falling down into the garbage.

SQUIRRELLY

Randall! I told you something's in here. It's got him!

Squirrely picks up a can and throws it. His bad aim sends it PINGING and ricocheting off the side of the dumpster.

STACEY

What are you doing? You could hit one of us. Are you crazy?

NATE

(starting to unravel)
The walls... closing in. We gotta get outta here. Randall?

Nate rummages through the garbage. He slips and goes down. Nate SQUEALS.

Squirrely picks up another can. Stacey grabs his hand.

STACEY

Not again.

More commotion. An ALLEY CAT jumps out of the dumpster. Randall gets up, brushing trash off.

SQUIRRELLY

You okay?

Randall gives him a what-do-you-think look.

Stacey tries to rouse Nate. He just lays there. She puts his inhaler to his mouth and gives a squirt. He comes to.

NATE

(sputtering)
I was just... thinking... thinking of... of a plan.

STACEY

You were in a deep meditative state.

(beat)

I'm not so sure now that we can pull this off. What I was saying before the trash monster got us: You're already expelled, Randall. But, the rest of us...

Squirrely and Nate look uncomfortable, the consequences of their scheme setting in.

RANDALL

See, I got a record. I'd like to get back in school sometime.

Stacey feels his forehead.

STACEY

Are you sick? You're living the dream.

(beat)

We won't get caught.

They look at Randall.

RANDALL

Okay, let's borrow the car. So how do we get in?

They look at Squirrely, who looks perplexed.

STACEY

Follow me.

EXT. GAMER'S DREAM - NIGHT

Stan pulls up on his motorcycle. He's dressed in all black. He slowly turns his head to stare at a PERSON on the street, who balks in fear and runs.

Stan looks in the window-no one is there. He REVS his bike and takes off.

INT. DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY/WINDOW - NIGHT

The REVVING ENGINE resounds.

AN OPEN WINDOW.

The gang stands and talks in whispers.

STACEY

The janitor never has fixed this window properly.

SQUIRRELLY

Good ol' Mr. Hankerson.

STACEY

He and Mr. Wardin don't see eye-to-eye. Hankerson's always doing stuff to tweak him.

RANDALL

How'd you know about it?

STACEY

Extra-curricular activities. I do have other friends.

(beat)

Squirrelly?

SQUIRRELLY

What?

STACEY

Lead the way. This is your idea.

Squirrelly just stands there.

RANDALL

I'll do it.

They set off. A moment later, Gollum kid slips in the window.

INT. DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAYS - NIGHT

The gang passes some lockers. Stacey kicks one. It CLANGS. Startled, everyone looks at her.

STACEY

Randall's fantasy girl's locker.

Moments later, Squirrelly kicks another locker. It CLANGS.

SQUIRRELLY

(smiling mischievously)

Joe's locker.

A flashlight shines in the hallway intersection ahead. The gang ducks for cover just in time to see a SECURITY GUARD/JEREMY BRIGGS silhouetted in the light.

SQUIRRELLY (CONT'D)

How come when I kick a locker?

RANDALL

Shush.

They creep off in the other direction and come to another intersection. The gang is about to go down the hallway to the right when another light appears, SECURITY GUARD 2 is silhouetted in the light. They head to the left.

EXT. DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL - NIGHT

Stan pulls up next to the dumpsters. He scans the area, as if he's trying to catch a scent. He spies Randall's bike stashed behind the dumpsters.

INT. DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAYS - NIGHT

The gang is cut off again. This time the security guards are silhouetted at both ends of the hallway. The gang runs down a side hallway.

RANDALL

There it is!

He points to a classroom door. They run to it and go in.

INT: DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL, HALLWAY/WINDOW - NIGHT

Stan drops in. He scans the hallway, scenting the air again, and takes off in the same direction the gang went.

INT. DRUMMOND HIGH SCHOOL, AUTO CLASS - NIGHT

The gang stands inside. A car sits covered in the back near a garage door. Everyone follows Randall over.

Squirrelly attempts to pull the cover off with flare. It gets stuck. Randall helps him.

SQUIRRELLY

Our chariot.

It's a nondescript blue, four-door sedan.

STACEY

Well, it looks like a car.

She tries to open the front passenger door. It sticks. Squirrely nudges the door forcefully. It opens.

SQUIRRELY

Just needs a good nudge.

STACEY

Your work?

Squirrely nods towards Randall. Randall shrugs.

Nate looks in, a pair of fuzzy dice hang from the rearview mirror.

NATE

There are fuzzy dice.

RANDALL

(to Squirrely)

Get the keys. We'll need some gas too.

NATE

I'll get it.

RANDALL

Over there.

Squirrely and Nate are off. Gollum kid peers out from a nearby table.

Suddenly, a light shines down the hallway, visible through the classroom door window.

STACEY

Security!

They head for cover, Randall grabbing the car cover. In the commotion, Gollum kid slips into the car's backseat.

The door opens. Jeremy Briggs enters with his flashlight.

Randall and Stacey are hiding together.

RANDALL

Jeremy.

Jeremy slowly sweeps the room with his light. It rests on Squirrely and Nate's hiding spot.

Nate starts to hyperventilate. He raises his inhaler. Squirrely grabs it, puts it to Nate's mouth and presses it ever so slowly.

Does Jeremy hear? He steps towards their hiding place but then turns away.

He shines the light on the car and peers inside. Surprise! No Gollum kid.

Jeremy's light then rests on Randall and Stacey's hiding spot. He scans the room once more and saunters to the door.

Jeremy flicks his light off. Opens the door and then closes it without leaving.

A long beat and then Randall starts to rise. Stacey stops him. Squirrely and Nate also start to come out of hiding.

Jeremy flicks on his light and scans the room. Squirrely and Nate stop just missing being revealed.

Jeremy flicks the light off again. This time he leaves.

It's a long double beat before the gang rises this time.

STACEY

I told you to watch out for him.

RANDALL

Think he's gone?

SQUIRRELY

I hope so.

RANDALL

Let's get this over with. I'll keep a lookout.

(to Stacey)

Can you open the garage door?

She nods. Everyone goes to their tasks. Stacey hits the button to raise the door. The door CLANKS as it slowly retracts. Everyone cringes, but they continue their jobs.

NATE

Ready!

Randall heads towards the car. The others hop in. Squirrely turns the ignition, the car GRINDS but doesn't start.

The door bursts open!

Stan HOWLS and takes off after Randall. Randall runs, stumbles and the flash drive comes out of his pocket. It falls in SLOW MOTION, the SOUNDS of it hitting the floor exaggerated. Is it as fickle as the one ring?

Randall scrambles for the drive. Stan is almost on him. Randall grabs it.

The car GRINDS. Stacey and Nate motion to Randall.

STACEY/NATE

Come on! Come on! Randall!

Randall runs for all he is worth, Stan in hot pursuit. The car starts. Randall dives for the open back door. Stacey and Nate grab him and haul him in. The car SQUEALS off.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Randall lays in a jumble in the backseat, his head in Stacey's lap. He looks up at her.

She smiles.

STACEY

I'd love to continue this intimate moment, but not now.

Randall scrambles up and starts to climb into the front seat. The car SCREECHES to a stop, throwing Randall back.

RANDALL

What's going on!

SQUIRRELLY

The door!

They all look. The slow-moving door is only half open.

Stan is almost on them.

NATE

I think we can make it.

RANDALL

It doesn't matter. Go!

Squirrely hits the gas. The car shoots forward right before Stan is on top of it.

The bottom of the door SCRAPES along the top of the car. SPARKS fly, but the car makes it through.

Stan stands in the doorway. He HOWLS, turns and runs.