

Con-fidence

By

Hazel Leong

INT. OFFICE

A guy in his mid 20s, with unkempt appearance, watches his erotic show intently while eating his packed food. He is SCAMMER.

The room is a makeshift office and darkly lit.

Just as the show is to reach it's climax point, someone hits his head. Scammer turns around, chiding halfway but freezes when he realizes who it is. A burly man with an intimidating demeanor stares back at him.

Scammer's older COLLEAGUE.

Colleague averts his gaze to the show on Scammer's screen. Scammer immediately closes it in embarrassment.

COLLEAGUE

Boss wants another 3K by 10pm.

Colleague drops a file with some papers in it on his desk.

SCAMMER

(confused)

I already hit my quota for this week.

Scammer looks through the file.

SCAMMER (CONT'D)

And these are **your** numbers to call.

COLLEAGUE

If you not happy, you can go talk to Boss.

Colleague cracks his knuckles to send a message. Scammer retreats and scowls at his computer. Colleague squeezes his shoulders.

COLLEAGUE

Don't say I never give you chance make more money.

He takes away Scammer's food and relaxes on the couch behind.

INT. OFFICE (LATER)

SCAMMER
(on the phone)
Hi, I'm calling from Singapore
Customs-

Receiver hangs up.

INT. OFFICE (LATER)

SCAMMER
Am I speaking to Ong Wee Teck? I'm
calling from Singapore Customs and
there is a concern regarding your
package that just arrived from
overseas.

RECIEVER
(on the other line)
What happened? My son didn't do
anything wrong, right?

RECIEVER
(over the phone)
Ah Teck ah! What did you buy? The
police call! Ah Teck!

Scammer hears a scuffle over the phone.

WEE TECK
(to mother)
Don't be a busybody can?

And the line ends.

INT. OFFICE (LATER)

SCAMMER
Yes, your package seems to contain
a small bag of white substance. But
for a small fee of -

RECIEVER
(interrupts)
Eh but someone called me on Tuesday
and told me if I gave him a small
fee, he would help me. Is my parcel
cleared? Hello? I paid him already-

(CONTINUED)

Scammer quickly hangs up. He is dejected and strikes off yet another number. The list is almost exhausted and he checks the time. It is 9pm already.

Colleague is sleeping cozily on the couch, the leftover food thrown on the floor.

Scammer throws many middle fingers at him in anger but just then Colleague stirs awake and Scammer quickly conceals it, turning back to his computer.

Colleague goes back to sleep in his daze, turning his back to Scammer.

Returning back to work, Scammer accesses the illegal information database for the next number to call. He makes some notes on the file and dials the number.

Someone picks up.

SCAMMER

(into the phone with
enthusiasm)

Good evening, I'm calling from
Singapore Customs. May I speak to
Peter Soo?

PETER (V.O)

(over the phone, filtered)
Yes speaking.

SCAMMER

Sorry to call at such a late timing
but there is a problem with your
parcel.

PETER (V.O)

Parcel?

SCAMMER

Yes, it is from Amazon.

PETER (V.O)

Oh yes, I'm expecting to receive it
tomorrow. What's wrong?

SCAMMER

There has been a mysterious
substance detected inside the
package-

(CONTINUED)

PETER (V.O)
I didn't order anything illegal if
that is what you are saying.

SCAMMER
Yes, but we need to report it as
protocol.

PETER (V.O)
But I bought it as a gift for my
son! It's the new PS5. Is the
police going to come after me?

SCAMMER
They might take you into
questioning.

PETER (V.O)
But I didn't do anything! It's just
a gift-

SCAMMER
Yes, I understand sir. But there's
mysterious substance detected
inside. (beat)

SCAMMER (CONT'D)
Honestly, this sort of thing happen
quite frequently. I'm not saying
you have anything to do with it.
It's just... something might have
happened along the way.

PETER (V.O)
It's not my fault!

SCAMMER
But the parcel is under your name.

PETER (V.O)
Fuck. Fuck. Fuck! (beat) Sorry.

SCAMMER
I know I shouldn't be doing this
but maybe I can help you.

PETER (V.O)
Really?

SCAMMER
I mean it's not your fault
something like this happened.
(beat) but it's going to be a bit
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SCAMMER (cont'd)
complicated. I will need to get my
colleague-

PETER (V.O)
(interrupts)
How much? \$500?

SCAMMER
Erm...it's not just one or two
persons I'm talking about. We're
putting our jobs at risk too.

PETER (V.O)
Is \$3000 enough?

SCAMMER
Absolutely! If you can wire it to
me now, I can start working on
getting your parcel out of the
system.

PETER (V.O)
Thank you so much! What's the
account number?

SCAMMER
213-459-0687. Under RCBC Bank.

PETER (V.O)
Got it. Just give me a second.

There some movement on the other end of the phone. Scammer
is pleased he finally conned some poor stranger.

PETER (V.O)
Hello? I've transferred it.

SCAMMER
Let me just check my account.

Scammer logs into the bank account.

PETER (V.O)
What is your name again?

SCAMMER
(while checking)
Chew Boon Kiat... Sorry but I don't
see any recent-

(CONTINUED)

PETER (V.O)
(interrupts)
Chew Boon Kiat, you are under
arrest on the suspicion of fraud
and obtaining of personal
information without permission.

SCAMMER
What-

PETER (V.O)
I'm Officer Peter Soh, from the
Cybercrime Division. And I'm afraid
it is your unlucky day, not mine.

Horrified, Scammer is about to hang up the phone but Peter stops him.

PETER (V.O) (CONT'D)
Don't bother. I've already traced
your phone signal. And it's coming
from (beat) Seng Huat Warehouse.

Scammer stands up in shock and starts panicking.

SCAMMER
I'm so sorry sir! Please let me go.
I promise I won't do this again!

PETER (V.O)
Just a second ago, you were
confidently swindling me of my hard
earned savings.

SCAMMER
Please, I didn't know any better.

Colleague stirs, the noise is annoying him.

COLLEAGUE
(in a daze)
You get your 3K already or not?
Talk so much.

Scammer looks at him nervously but Colleague goes back to slumberland, snoring without a care.

PETER (V.O)
I will see you at the police
station.

(CONTINUED)

SCAMMER

(hushed tone)

Wait! Please, is there anything I can do. Anything. I can't afford to go back to prison.

PETER (V.O)

Are you trying to bribe me?

SCAMMER

\$3000! Can? That's all I have.

PETER (V.O)

Are you asking me to tarnish my reputation for just \$3000? I will see you in court, with an added charge for bribing a police officer.

SCAMMER

I'm so sorry. I really can't go to jail, my boss will-

PETER (V.O)

Honestly, I can't be bothered with catching a petty crook like you. It's your boss who I am after. (coughs) Make it \$5000 and I will take it this never happened.

Scammer slumps into his chair, helpless.

SCAMMER

But I don't even have \$5000!

PETER (V.O)

\$5000 is a small fine to pay compared to 3 to 5 years imprisonment.

Scammer is about to lose it and decides to give in.

SCAMMER

Account number.

PETER (V.O)

Smart. 283-510-1337. Under RCBC Bank.

Scammer hesistantly logs in to his bank account and does an immediate transfer.

(CONTINUED)

SCAMMER

Done.

PETER (V.O)

Let me check first. Must pay safe
right? (beat) All right. Got it.

SCAMMER

If the police come finding me, I
will tell them you took my money.

PETER (V.O)

Now why would I do something stupid
like that. Trust me, I'm on your
side.

Scammer hangs up immediately and throws the phone on the
table.

INT. ANOTHER OFFICE

A man wearing a singlet, with menacing tattoos, looks at
his phone and smirks.

PETER

Want to steal my business? Wait
long long. It's me who came up with
this scam in the first place.

He puts the phone into his pocket and walks off.

PETER (CONT'D)

Who wants to drink tonight? I buy.

We hear cheers from men off screen, calling him big boss.

The End.