

CROOKED VENGEANCE

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FADE IN:

1 INT. FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

1

We see BERNIE, a young blonde man, lying on his front on a kitchen floor. We hear echoed shouts and shots of police uniform.

BERNIE (V.O.)

On this floor tonight, I wonder, what was I trying to achieve really? Was it happiness or by my own nature satisfaction? You might think they're the same but to a man filled with rage; it's an itch you have to scratch. How could I have been so short sighted?

Why did I not choose what I knew was more important?

Now I am faced with an even harder decision.

2 INT. HOUSE ROBBERY - NIGHT

2

We see a man lying in bed sleeping, he turns over. As the narration starts, we see Bernie, a young, blonde man, levering open a window from the exterior of the house. We cut to images of valuable jewellery, antiques and cash being grabbed and bagged in a small sports bag by Bernie.

BERNIE (V.O.)

Thief. Crook. Criminal... That's what I am. Nothin' more; nothin' less. I mean who doesn't take out home insurance theses days. It's not like I rob council houses or the vulnerable. Why would I nick some old widow's husband's war medals. You couldn't even tempt me with a fucking fat ass TV. How am I getting away with that? Just as with any occupation, I specialise.

Bernie drops an item walking up the stairs, making a loud sound.

As the music starts to become more sinister we see the man start to wake. The man gets out of bed and walks out of his bedroom. The man turns the landing light on.

We see Bernie sprint down the stairs and out of the front door, into a getaway vehicle. The car revs loud and speeds off into the distance. We see the driver, and Bernie in the front passenger's seat holding the bag. Focusing on the bag we cross fade into the next scene...

SLOW CROSS-FADE:

3

EXT. MARK'S HOUSE - DAY

3

We see the bag held by Bernie walking down a street. Bernie walks up the driveway and to the front door of a quiet, middle-class home. Bernie knocks on the door and waits until a tall, brown haired man in his twenties opens the door with a warm greeting.

MARK  
(opening the door)  
Bernie! Come in!

BERNIE  
(stepping in)  
Alright, loot as usual.

MARK  
(walking)  
Yeh, yeh, yeh, its all good boss.

We see Bernie sit down opposite MARK in his kitchen/diner.

MARK (CONT'D)  
So, what be in the bag today?

We see Bernie open the small sports bag, take out and open a box full of gold rings.

MARK (CONT'D)  
Ah my favourite!

BERNIE  
(Handing the rings over)  
I'm curious how'd you value this  
shit.

Mark turns around to grab a jeweller's eye piece.

MARK  
Depends, nah mean?

Bernie leans in.

BERNIE  
Not quite?

Mark begins and continues to inspect a gold ring.

MARK  
Well, the value depends on the  
carat and weight.

Mark turns around again to plop the ring on a digital scale  
and makes a calculation on his phone.

BERNIE  
(begins to stand and move  
towards Mark)  
Yeah, but what's my value.

Mark puts the ring on a small piece of paper and notes down  
it's pound value. When he turns around to reply to Bernie he  
is already stood right next to Mark's face.

MARK  
(face to face)  
Just below scrap value.

BERNIE  
How much below?

Mark moves on to the next ring.

MARK  
Ay you never asked before?

BERNIE  
Well I'm asking now.

MARK  
Thirty percent.

BERNIE  
And you sell it scrap value.

MARK  
Well yeah boss that's all its good  
for init. You get a better rate  
than bloody Roger.

BERNIE  
Roger!? What are you doing fucking  
with that cunt.

MARK

Money is money. I don't care where it comes from.

BERNIE

Listen, that dog needs a beatin' after what he did.

MARK

What and risk business.

BERNIE

The cunt needs to be put in his place Mark. You should know that.

MARK

Maybe I'll help you fuck over Roger rabbit, if I can profit.

Mark values the last ring and starts to count up a wad of cash from a red safe.

BERNIE

Would make my day mate. Think how much more money we could make selling shit privately online.

Mark stops what he's doing, stands up and pushes Bernie.

MARK

Now that's how you get fucking caught idiot! Advertising stolen shit online.

(shaking his head)

BERNIE

Alright, alright, fucking just an idea.

MARK

You just let me do what I do, and it's cool. Anything else in that bag?

BERNIE

Nah, had to get out quick didn't I. Gezzar woke up and nearly caught me.

Mark hands over the cash and the two start walking towards the door.

MARK

Ah well better than being caught.  
Be fucking careful, we got a good  
thing going on. Oh. I got your  
order.

Mark grabs a paper bag from the kitchen counter.

BERNIE

Thanks buddy, pleasure doing  
business.

Bernie starts to turn his back and opens the door.

MARK

Hey! What am I?

BERNIE

A legitimate private jewels dealer!

MARK

Yeh you got that right.

The door shuts.

CUT TO:

4

INT. BERNIE'S CAR - DAY

4

We see Bernie driving in his car with the paper bag on the  
passenger's seat.

BERNIE (V.O.)

Mark is a nutter. One you don't  
want to get on the wrong side of.  
Used to be a high class thief  
robbing banks. But ever since he  
was in the slammer he's been just  
dealing. One of my most trusted  
allies. Unlike many of the pricks I  
seem to come across.

While driving Bernie takes out a black pistol from the brown  
paper bag, he holds it up.

BERNIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Roger, my first ever running buddy  
for four years. We must of robbed  
fifty grand in those years. My  
brother, the one who's supposed to  
look out for me, and the bastoard  
turned on me for greed.

(MORE)

BERNIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
Ohh, what I would do if I saw that  
rat walking down the street.

Bernie then puts the pistol in the glove box, the music  
reverbs and we whip-pan into a flash back.

FLASH BACK:

5 EXT. DRUG DEALERS HOUSE - NIGHT 5

We see Bernie and ROGER walking down a dimly lit street and  
turn into a house.

6 INT. DRUG DEALERS HOUSE - NIGHT 6

We see Roger first and then Bernie walk though the slightly  
open front door.

BERNIE  
Ay, this ain't right, the door's  
open.

ROGER  
Ah, we can handle it.

Bernie stares at Roger turning his head making an anxious  
annoyed look. They continue into the house.

They enter the living-room which is littered with drug  
paraphernalia, drugs and cash. Bernie immediately starts  
stuffing bags with cocaine and cash.

Roger stands still and an eerie vibe fills the room when a  
large figure slowly walks towards Bernie from behind.

Bernie turns around to find a very tall angry drug dealer,  
who immediately punches Bernie in the face and knocks him  
again to the ground. Roger then joins in beating and kicking  
Bernie, who helplessly tries to stand and fight.

Bernie becomes swollen with bruises and blood pours from his  
nose. The two take each end of Bernie's battered body;  
carrying him outside and shoving him into the boot of the  
getaway car.

DRIVER  
(leaning out of the  
drivers window)  
Oi! What the fuck's going on?

ROGER  
(giving the driver £30)  
Keep quiet you dick. I'll be back.

Roger runs back into the house with the drug dealer and raises a gun to his head. *BANG!* the dealer is lying on the floor and Roger proceeds to bag every valuable item in sight, running back to into the car.

DRIVER  
You're a fucking idiot, scumbag.

ROGER  
Do your damn job and drive!

The car speeds off.

We then see Bernie being dragged out of the boot and on to a street corner.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Sorry mate, I couldn't resist.

Roger walks back round the car.

BERNIE  
You better hide you little shit.  
Because I'm coming for you.

END OF FLASHBACK

FADE TO BLACK:

7 INT. BERNIE'S FLAT - EVENING

7

We see Bernie get through the front door of his flat. He goes to his bedroom and hides his cash in a shoebox under his bed.

We see Bernie sit on his sofa and begin to relax watching television.

Bernie looks depressed and turns the TV off. He goes to his phone and makes a call.

When the recipient answers the screen splits to reveal a young lady.

CHARMAIN  
(into phone)  
Bernie?



BERNIE  
(into phone)  
Char, I just wanted to speak.

CHARMAIN  
Have you sorted out what I asked.

BERNIE  
Well, nah not really 'cause it's  
hard. I got bills to pay baby.

CHARMAIN  
The door is open, you just got to  
work to open it. I can't be  
involved in your games.

BERNIE  
Yeah, I plan to pack the games up,  
be a better man, for you.

CHARMAIN  
When's it going to happen then?  
I've been waiting too long.

BERNIE  
I know, I'm sorry. I got to get one  
more thing done and I'm out.

CHARMAIN  
Why don't you ever tell me exactly  
what you're trying to do? I know  
you can be this man, but your  
holding back.

BERNIE  
I just got to get even, with a  
gezzar.

CHARMAIN  
Call me when you've sorted your  
life out then.

BERNIE  
I need company, Charmain.

CHARMAIN  
Goodbye, Bernie.

Charmain hangs up her phone. The split screen goes back to  
just Bernie and he punches the wall in frustration.

BERNIE (V.O.)

What I am is not what I want to be.  
A man without commitment, a man  
with nobody to really turn to. I'm  
only just starting to comprehend  
life.

FADE TO BLACK:

CUT TO:

8

INT. MARK'S HOUSE - NIGHT

8

We see Mark sat on his sofa waiting, clicking his fingers.  
Hearing a knock on the door, Mark gets up and opens the door.

MARK

Come in lads.

ROGER

This is Gerald.

Mark closes the door.

GERALD

(raising right hand)

Hey

Mark dismisses GERALD'S attempt to shake his hand. Gerald  
looks anxious.

MARK

New partner?

ROGER

Well, I need all the help I can  
get.

MARK

Hmm, not going to fuck this one  
over then.

ROGER

Nah, I've learned.

MARK

Good.

Mark turns his back and starts to walk into the kitchen.  
Roger and Gerald follow.

MARK (CONT'D)

Now what you boys trying to sell?

GERALD  
(getting loot out of bag)  
Two gold necklaces' and a laptop.

MARK  
Fuck the laptop.

Roger smirks and Gerald passes Mark the gold. Mark sits down and starts to inspect the two necklaces.

ROGER  
We got a big score coming up.

MARK  
(using eyepiece)  
Ah right. A house?

Mark continues to work out a value.

ROGER  
Yeah, we need some help.

MARK  
Well I can only drive, boys.

ROGER  
Mark, this is the owner a big ass company, there's going to be a lot of shit to clear.

Mark stops what he is doing and looks at Roger.

MARK  
I don't care son.

GERALD  
If you help clear we can make more money.

MARK  
Just who the fuck do you think you are, just fucking stay quiet.

Gerald becomes embarrassed and doesn't make any eye contact with Mark.

ROGER  
He didn't mean to insult you Mark.

MARK  
I'm not a front line man Roger, you know that.

ROGER  
Alright, but this place is on the market.

Mark weighs up one of the necklaces.

MARK  
(jokingly)  
So haha. You want me to book a viewing?

ROGER  
Now, we know the owners are away at the moment. But we think the daughter is taking viewings.

GERALD  
Amazing how useful Instagram can be.

MARK  
Oh so you're serious, you want me to view the house?

ROGER  
Well, that would be helpful.

MARK  
Me driving?

ROGER  
Yes

Mark starts counting out cash.

MARK  
Well, what's in it for me?

ROGER  
Twenty percent.

Mark looks displeased.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
Uhh, thirty.

MARK  
(cash in hand)  
Deal. Well I think this is gunna go just how I want to it go.

Mark stands up and gives the cash to Roger.

ROGER  
You bet.

MARK  
Pleasure doing business boys.

Mark sees Roger and Gerald out.

ROGER  
See ya.

GERALD  
Yeah safe.

As soon as the door closes Mark goes to the phone and calls Bernie. When Bernie answers the phone we split screen. We see Bernie half asleep on his sofa.

BERNIE  
(into phone)  
Mark, it's late.

MARK  
We are on.

BERNIE  
For what?

MARK  
Fucking over Roger rabbit.

BERNIE  
Fantastic, when?

MARK  
Come to the pub mate, we need to  
talk shit through.

BERNIE  
Can't it wait?

MARK  
No, you pleb. You wanted this and  
the conditions have arisen.

BERNIE  
Fine I'll be there, Bell?

MARK  
Bell it is.

CUT TO:

9

INT. THE BELL INN - NIGHT

9

We see a montage of signage, pints filling up, being sipped and lines of cocaine being snorted.

BERNIE

So bunny boy wants to hit a farm house.

MARK

Yeah, and it's on the market, so you need to go for a viewing. Ha.

BERNIE

Aha.

MARK

(on his smart phone)

Better dress smart, your name is Greg. I've booked it for 11am tomorrow, I'll send you the address now, and act sophisticated, we don't want to fuck this up.

BERNIE

Sound. But how's the whole thing happening, you know.

MARK

Well that why we came to the pub, I'm bunny's driver. Oh and get this he's got a new partner, Gerald.

BERNIE

Now that's slimy as fuck.

MARK

I'm afraid you're going to have to do all the dirty work. I'll be in my car waiting for you. Although Roger thinks I'm driving for him.

BERNIE

Right, so I have to take on two buggers.

MARK

Well, you got the motivation and what about that order you got in the glove box.

The scene pauses for Bernie's narration.

BERNIE (V.O.)

Now at this point, I start to wonder; is it really worth it? I mean I can't let Roger get away with what he did but this is a huge risk. I've known Roger since I was thirteen, he would always get his own way. But this could be my last score, go out on a bang. Then I get outta the business.

We continue the scene.

BERNIE

Jesus Christ I'm no killer Mark.

MARK

Yeah but it's quite a bit of leverage ha.

BERNIE

I suppose they won't be in one place together when they're clearing.

MARK

Exactly, they can do most of the work and then you take em out one by one.

BERNIE

What about the daughter?

MARK

Not your problem, that's for bunny boy haha.

BERNIE

You know this is gunna be my last score.

MARK

Charmain huh?

BERNIE

Yeah.

MARK

You know there's plenty more fish in the sea, plenty of unlawful women too. How do you think I met my wife?

BERNIE

Ah Angie, bless her. But Mark I've come to realize I don't want to live this life. All the paranoia, lies, unfulfilled desires. It doesn't end well, for god sake, Angie died.

MARK

Now that was my fault. So fuck off.

BERNIE

Stop blaming yourself Mark. It was the smack.

MARK

(sighs)

BERNIE

I'm sorry. Charmain, won't just make me happier she'll make me a better man Mark.

MARK

(drinking pint)

Hmmm

Mark downs the rest of his pint the two get up and put their glasses on the bar. As we tilt down from the pub sign we see them walk out of the pub.

CROSS-FADE:

10

EXT. FARM HOUSE - DAY

10

We see Bernie pull up to a quiet farm house in the countryside; a for sale sign visible. The sun is shining and Bernie is smartly dressed in a white shirt. We follow him through the gates as they open, and up the drive way to meet a young lady standing just outside the doorway.

MARY

(smiling and presenting  
her hand)

Hello, you must be Greg.

BERNIE

Yes, and you?

MARY

Mary.



BERNIE  
Lovely to meet you.

MARY  
Come on in.

We see Bernie enter the kitchen with the young lady as she shows him around.

MARY (CONT'D)  
(smiling)  
So, this is the kitchen, as you can see ha.

BERNIE  
You don't say, this is beautiful.  
Can I see the garden?

MARY  
Of course come through.

Mary walks through the back door and Bernie follows.

MARY (CONT'D)  
So the house comes with 4 acres of land.  
(pointing)  
This field and that field.

We see shots of the house, objects in the house. We see Bernie pay extra attention to valuable commodities.

We then see Bernie say goodbye and leave in his car.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. MARK'S CAR - NIGHT

We see Mark, Roger and Gerald pull up in a car close to the target house. Roger checks his pistol's magazine and then he and Gerald put balaclavas on.

MARK  
Now, my intelligence suggests the highest value loot will be in the master bedroom. The daughter will be in the living room most likely.

ROGER  
Fucking hell gone all sophisticated.  
Why did you view the target, when we're the ones cracking this score?

MARK

Because I felt you could give the game away, with your faces and all. Anyway I sent you the photos.

GERALD

So we are going through the back door?

ROGER

Yes through the fields and the back gate.

MARK

Good luck.

ROGER

We'll see you on the other side.

Gerald and Roger leave the car, discretely hopping the fence into the field. We see them walk through the field and open the back gate.

EXT. FARM HOUSE - NIGHT

Roger peers inside the empty lit kitchen. We see the Woman watching the television and then Roger and Gerald opening the back door. The commercial advert break starts and the young woman stands up from the sofa and walks out of the room towards the kitchen.

INT. MARK'S CAR - NIGHT

We see mark on the phone.

MARK

(speaking into mobile)  
Oi they've gone.

We hear Bernie's response through Mark's phone.

BERNIE (O.S.)

Alright safe.

A moment later Bernie opens's the passenger's door and sits in the seat. There is a moment of silence before Bernie speaks.

BERNIE (CONT'D)

So, here we are then.

MARK

I haven't felt this thrill in a while.

BERNIE

Can't believe things are finally going my way.

MARK

You derive in mate. I'm sorry I did business with Rabbit boy behind your back.

BERNIE

I don't blame you, he makes a good turn around. Just happens to be a cunt.

CUT TO:

INT. FARM HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

We see Mary walk into the kitchen and second she lays eyes on the men she screams at the top of her lungs in fear. Roger and Gerald look at each-other for a split second before sprinting after Mary. Mary runs back the way she came and then up the first steps of the stairs. Roger chasing after her, leaps for her ankle, grabbing and bringing the woman to the floor. The woman continues to scream and curse at the two.

MARY

(screaming)

Get off me you fucking bastards!

Ahhhhhh!

What are you going to do?!

Gerald proceeds to silence Mary with gaffer tape as she continues to frantically scream, while Roger tapes up her legs. Mary is left shaking and humming as loud as she can through the tape.

ROGER

Right, into the kitchen.

Mary starts screaming more hysterically as Gerald lifts her body and Roger starts to lift her legs. The two struggle to carry Mary as she tries to wriggle out of her capture.

CUT TO:

INT. MARK'S CAR - NIGHT

We see Bernie and Mark still in his car.

BERNIE

How long do you think I should wait.

MARK

Hmm, as long as you have the advantage of surprise and they have taken care of the girl.

BERNIE

A sign would be good haha.

MARK

I mean you could just wait outside the back door until it's clear.

We hear the screams of Mary.

MARK (CONT'D)

Fucking hell, they ain't modest are they.

BERNIE

I guess I'll have to go now.

Bernie puts a stocking over his head. We see him check his gun. Mark then pulls out a bag of coke.

MARK

Gotta have the edge.

BERNIE

Yeah alright

Bernie snorts a line.

MARK

Safe mate.

The two fist bump and Bernie leaves Mark's car. We see him jump the fence.

INT. FARM HOUSE KITCHEN - NIGHT

Roger and Gerald lie Mary on the kitchen floor. Gerald watches over her when Roger grabs a dinning room chair.

ROGER

Watch her, I'm getting a chair.

Roger returns with the chair and the two put Mary reluctantly on the chair and begin to tie her up.

We see from Bernie's perspective just outside the Kitchen window.

After they have tied her up they start looking around for valuable items to bag around the house. Roger goes upstairs and Gerald searches downstairs.

As soon as Bernie sees that the Kitchen is clear he enters through the back door. Mary turns her head to Bernie and screams as she watches him walk towards the hallway door and get cover gun in hand waiting to strike.

We see Roger in a bed room turning the place upside down. He finds some cash, a camera and takes a ring. We then see Gerald in the living room looking for valuables. He steps back into the hallway and looks up the stairs.

GERALD  
(shouting)  
Roger! What about the TV.

ROGER  
(shouting)  
Nah fuck it. Keep your voice down.

Gerald then walks towards the kitchen through the door when he is struck in the neck by Bernie with the pistol. Gerald falls to the floor chocking, Mary starts crying with hysteria and Bernie punches Gerald in the face.

We see Roger in the master bedroom looking through draws, when he heres the commotion he stops.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
(shouting)  
Oi whats going on?

Roger leaves the room. We see Bernie leave carefully through the doorway. Gerald still wheezing and rolling on the floor in pain; blood drips from his nose.

Bernie discreetly moves past the stairs before Roger could see him and hides in the dinning room. Roger continues into the kitchen and finds Gerald on the floor.

ROGER (CONT'D)  
What the fuck happened?

Mary starts to laugh as Gearld holds his throat with one hand and points to the hallway with the other he tries to speak.

GERALD  
(in a croaked voice)  
Ahh, he went out there.

Roger turns and heads into the hallway with his knife in hand looking for Bernie. We see Bernie hiding at the side of the door in the dining room. Roger looks in the living room and then turns into the dining room. Bernie hits Roger in the head with his gun.

BERNIE  
Hello, old timer.

ROGER  
(holding his head)  
Fuck you. Bernie, you think you can  
fuck me over.

Roger takes a stab at Bernie with his knife, Bernie dodges.

BERNIE  
Why'd you do it Roger.

Roger tries another stab but Bernie catches his hand in motion cutting Bernie's hand. The two are struggling for control of the knife.

ROGER  
Why don't you just shoot me?

BERNIE  
I'm not here to kill you.

At this point Bernie kicks Roger's leg and trips him up. The two continue to battle for control of the knife on the floor.

ROGER  
You haven't got a choice. It's you  
or me.

BERNIE  
No.

Bernie struggles to pull the knife away from both of them. Roger pushes the Knife towards Bernie.

ROGER  
(shouting)  
Gerald! Fucking get in here you  
stupid pansy.

Bernie starts to make head way pushing the knife to Roger.

BERNIE

You're right, I don't have a choice.

The knife starts to touch Roger. Bernie pushes his hardest, slowly penetrating Roger's abdomen.

Roger screams.

ROGER

(screaming)

ARGHHHHHH

Just as Gerald gets up, Roger lets go and the knife plummets into his body. Bernie gets up quick but is tackled to the ground by Gerald and sits on top of him. Gerald starts laying punch after punch into Bernie's face. Bernie reaches for his gun on the floor, Gerald oblivious. Bernie finally gets the gun and shoots Gerald in his side. Gerald falls.

Bernie lays on the ground breathing heavily gun still in hand on the floor, taking a moment to reconcile.

Almost immediately two we see Police officers burst into the house, reassure Mary and then burst into the hallway.

POLICE OFFICER ONE

(shouting)

Put the gun down! Now! Put the gun down.

POLICE OFFICER TWO

(shouting)

Put the gun down! And put your hands in the air now!

Bernie looks devastated. The scene pauses.

BERNIE

That's it. No more happiness. I've fucked it. I've ruined the score, brought distraught, and for what. My own revenge. Well I've got it now, turns out only could only have one wish. I only have two more options to be free of everything or to be bound for longer than I have lived. I've let Mark down, he'll have a price on my head. Charmaine couldn't be further from me. I choose to be at peace.

The scene starts again, Bernie turns the gun to him and immediately shoots himself in the head.

The End, Credits roll.

ENTERTAIN  
UK