

The Funnel Web
- draft 05 -

By

Eric Hackler

INT. PARKING GARAGE - DAY

The garage is mostly empty. Cracks crisscross the pavement below like the spiderwebs on the ceiling.

A large SUV sits double-parked in the distance. A man (FURROW) dressed in jeans and a t-shirt, enters the garage. He mostly keeps his back to us as he looks around at all the cars. The large SUV flashes its headlights.

He approaches at almost-a-run.

INT. VEHICLE - CONTINUOUS

The door is unlocked. FURROW takes the passenger seat and closes the door quickly.

FURROW
I know. I know. How long do we have?

He looks to the driver, ORCHARD. She is wearing sweats.

ORCHARD
Nine minutes.

FURROW
(rubbing hands together)
Right. Finalise the plan with me.

ORCHARD
The mark is at the playground for another half hour. In nine minutes, his babysitter will get a call that her boyfriend is in the hospital. While she's distracted, I approach with my phone out and tell him I saw a rare pokemon in this park. He follows me, I grab him. We drop off the ransom letter on our way to the safehouse. Finalised?

Furrow doesn't answer.

ORCHARD
What?

FURROW
Wolf knows we're coming.

ORCHARD
When did Wolf get involved?

FURROW
I just passed him walking to his
car. He said--

EXT. STREET - DAY

Furrow is walking past OFFICER WOLF and OFFICER REDBACK -
who appears to be texting. Wolf pats Furrow's shoulder.

WOLF
Have fun out there today, Sport!

INT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

FURROW
--Like we're playing baseball or
something.

ORCHARD
This type of job involves running.

FURROW
Not my end of it.

Orchard is about to reply when--

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Officers Wolf & Redback are sitting in their cruiser in the
parking lot of a small park.

Redback's uniform is perfect whereas Wolf's looks like he
wasn't planning to come into work today. Redback is typing
on his phone.

WOLF
Right, you just sit there, Kiddo.

REDBACK
Until when, sir?

WOLF
Don't call me "Sir", we're not
dating.

REDBACK
Yes, s--mhmm

WOLF
Until the two scoundrels pull in
and grab the kid.

REDBACK
Then we chase them?

WOLF
Yes, and then we lose them.

REDBACK
Isn't that the opposite of our job?

WOLF
Our job is doing whatever gets us
paid. That's how jobs work.

REDBACK
Who's paying us to lose kids?

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - DAY

Actor turned real estate mogul, EDDIE WANDER and his lawyer,
WEAVER are arguing. Both are dressed as if their suits
trying to outdo each other.

WANDER
I am!

WEAVER
I know you are but I'm going to
keep asking until you actually
consider the ramifications.

WANDER
You mean being a hero? Getting the
press on my side for once?

WEAVER
You're kidnapping a child.

WANDER
I'm having a child kidnapped.
There's a difference.

WEAVER
Not enough of one.

WANDER
Look, he'll come back. They're like
yo-yos

WEAVER
Eddie, I'm all for distracting the
press right now, but I would love
to know how this solution ended up
being your solution.

WANDER
I told you, I was with Huntsman at
the club. The trial happened to
come up and he insisted I should
think--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - EVENING

Wander and HUNTSMAN sit in two cushy armchairs in an opulent
room that looks like it would implode if someone walked in
wearing jeans.

HUNTSMAN
--Outside the box. Exactly.

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
Outside the box?

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN
Exactly. See, it has never been,
about being cleverer than other
people. It's just about finding
that line they're too scared to
cross and...

He mimes crossing a line.

WANDER
But boundaries are there for a
reason.

HUNTSMAN
Are you one of the They? There's a
right way and a successful way.
They don't succeed.

WANDER
So, if I wanted the headlines
talking with me instead of at me--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
--All I need to do is see what
stories get the most sympathy and
do that.

WEAVER
And you landed on--

EXT. VEHICLE - DAY

The car is parked on a dirt road. Furrow is sitting on the tailgate. There is a child's essay beside him and he is scribbling on a notepad. Orchard is standing and stretching her legs. She's playing with a length of rope in her hands.

In the trunk is a case of fruit punch and assorted kid's snacks. And duct tape.

FURROW
--kidnapping his nephew?

ORCHARD
Correct.

FURROW
How did he arrive at that?

ORCHARD
You're aware of the court case he's
involved in?

FURROW
The one with--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

Weaver is consulting his notes.

WEAVER
--17 counts of fraud. 6 counts of
embezzlement. 4 counts of negligent
homicide.

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

That's the one. Obviously, he wants it to go away.

REDBACK

That's a lot to ask for.

WOLF

The man did win two MTV movie awards, Nitro, he's used to getting what he wants.

REDBACK

And today, that's abducting a member of his immediate family?

WOLF

Bingo, Breezy. So Furry and Applecheeks grab him. We lead the chase so we can be sure to lose them.

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD

The amber alert goes out with accompanying sympathy, he gets a couple days--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

--as the networks' golden boy. Then, a ransom letter--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

--arrives at his house, he pays it, the kid comes back and--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD

--everyone forgets that he's on trial for those construction workers' deaths. How's that ransom letter coming, by the way?

FURROW
Almost got the handwriting to
match. Reverse for a second though,
wouldn't anything be easier than
this?

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
No, that's the point. This is the
easiest option.

WEAVER
You are the only person who doesn't
find that puerile.

WANDER
Oh don't use that word.

WEAVER
Which one? Puerile?

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

REDBACK
How many letters is that?

WOLF
(counting)
Eight. No, seven.

REDBACK
Eh, too many.

WOLF
What about--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
--Inane? Crazy? Stupid?

WANDER
Come on! You never pretended to be
sick to get out of school?

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
Hyper-embellished a traffic report
so no one would ask you why you
didn't do anything else the rest of
your shift?

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
Thought 'if I was dying, I wouldn't
have to go to work today'?

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
Escalation is so easy. The bigger
story always wins.

Beat.

WEAVER
And if you get caught?

WANDER
Well, you are sworn to privilege--

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Orchard stands beside a luxury car. Wander is in the
backseat with the window rolled down.

WANDER
You screwed up that job for Sylvana
and they'd love to know where
you've been hiding--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
--You, owe him how much?--

Furrow looks sheepish.

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
--and I've known Wolf since he was twelve.

WEAVER
What about his partner?

WANDER
He doesn't have one--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
--Never like the idea of sharing profits.

REDBACK
So why am I here?

WOLF
Because one day, Chappy, I'm going to retire and I'll need someone to carry on this good work.

REDBACK
Do you even know my real name?

WOLF
John.

Redback shakes his head.

WOLF
Martin.

Another head shake.

WOLF
Seamus.

No.

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
Eddie.

Wander turns from where he'd been admiring himself in a mirror.

WEAVER

Listen to me. You truly can't see a better way out of this? You have so little faith in me?

WANDER

No, no, no, Charlie. Not you. It's just I need control over my life. I'm like a little famous child in a cement mixer of bad publicity. I'm helpless. If I do this, I'm actually accomplishing something.

Weaver stares at him.

WEAVER

So--

INT. WANDER'S CAR - NIGHT

Wander and Orchard sit in the backseat.

WANDER

--You swipe the kid--

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Wander and Wolf are having a drink together.

WOLF

--I know a guy who can write the note--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER

--Wolf calls it in--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF

--Of course, I get some of the details wrong--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

FURROW
(tearing out a page)
--then I leave this note on
Wander's front gate--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
--leading me to make a statement
about how distraught I am--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
--meanwhile--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
--the child gets two days of candy
and HBO--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
(to Weaver)
--you make the money drop--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
--we take our cut--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
--the kid comes home safe--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
--Eddie Wander becomes a hero--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
--public opinion shifts in his
favour--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
--the jury pool is contaminated--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN
--and all this goes--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WEAVER
--away for 25 to--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN
--life is good.

INT. BAR - AS BEFORE

WANDER
Cheers.

He and Wolf clink glasses. Wander checks his watch.

WANDER
Wow, it's--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

He checks his phone.

WOLF
--almost time. Remember, spectacle
is--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

FURROW
--key.

Orchard tosses it to him.

ORCHARD
I'll be back--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
--in a couple days with the kid.
He'll love me after I save him
from--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

WOLF
--all these awful people in the
world. And we're the ones who--

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
--get to profit from it. at the end
of the day--

INT. WANDER'S OFFICE - AS BEFORE

WANDER
--it all works out.

WEAVER
Yes, ex--

INT. COUNTRY CLUB - AS BEFORE

HUNTSMAN
--actly. And the most important
thing is--

INT. POLICE CAR - AS BEFORE

Redback is still typing on his phone.

HUNTSMAN (V.O.)
--tell no one.

He sends a message.

EXT. VEHICLE - AS BEFORE

ORCHARD
Go!

Furrow turns the key and the car roars to life.

FAST FADE OUT

CREDITS

Through the credits, we hear voiceover of news reports covering the botched kidnapping of Eddie Wander's nephew due to the rookie cop who tipped off the media.

REPORTER 1 (V.O.)
Now to our top story, A 9 year-old boy is home safe this evening after an attempted kidnapping arranged by his own uncle.

REPORTER 2 (V.O.)
Police Officer, Nathan Redback, alerted the media to what was happening just moments before the kidnapping was to take place.

REPORTER 3 (V.O.)
Embattled former child star and CEO of WanderLux, Eddie Wander is back in custody tonight along with a veteran police officer and a career criminal - all of whom were involved in the scheme.

REPORTER 4 (V.O.)
Babysitter said she was immediately suspicious upon being told her boyfriend had been hospitalised as she'd broken up with him 2 months ago.

REPORTER 5 (V.O.)

Sources say Wander planned the abduction in the hopes of distracting the media.

REPORTER 6 (V.O.)

In other news, Jason Momoa took a selfie with a seal today...