

JUMPERS by Gary Young

AS SCENE OPENS, we see a man perched on a window ledge, high above the city. We HEAR the sounds of crowd noise, sirens and shouting.

TAYLOR (VO)
Shit. I'm freezing.

TAYLOR
Forget it! I'm jumping.

TAYLOR (VO)
I don't know how long I can last up here without gloves. That was really stupid. Forgetting gloves. Damn. The crowd is still unsympathetic. No one has found the note yet. You'd think by now they'd have found at least one copy. I just hope they don't get wind of this in my next city.
(laugh) Well, there's always Lima, Peru. Lots of widows there. I'll consider Lima a worst case scenario.

Loudspeaker (VO)

(vo) If you come down we won't hurt you. It's not worth it, fella.

TAYLOR
(vo) Now that's real negotiating. He must have learned from Dirty Harry. (yelling) I'm serious!

Spotlight shines in his face and he slips.

TAYLOR
(vo) Jesus! They must really want me to jump. I can't show outward signs of stress from the spotlight. I need it for the effect. Damn. Right in my eyes.

Knock from "inside"

Voice

Housekeeping.

TAYLOR

(vo)Yeah. I'd hate to be remembered as messy. (speaking) No, thank you. (vo) She isn't very well tuned into current events, that's for sure.

Another Knock

Voice

Housekeeping. (the sound of a key and a door opening).

SHE enters. Goes to the window and closes it without looking. HE is enough to the left of the window that he could be missed. HE does a take to the window.

TAYLOR

You're not supposed to close and lock a window when there's a jumper on the ledge. Should I try to talk to her? Does she speak English? Does it matter? I'll knock on the window. (HE inches over to the window, slips and recovers) Maybe I'll wait until the loony squad gets here. (SOUND of people excitedly entering the room. "This is the room." How did the window get closed? "Get out of my way.") Here they are now. (LOONY SQUAD opens window and we see arms reaching out to HIM. HE inches over to the corner and goes out of sight.) (SOUND: Let me handle this. Don't get him excited. FEMALE comes into view and gingerly makes it out onto the ledge)

CASSIE

(Quietly) Shhhh! (Looking down) He's around the corner.

FROM INSIDE

How do you know.

CASSIE

Because he didn't jump.

FROM INSIDE

How do you know that?

CASSIE

I know that because the crowd is not cheering. (SHE ventures further onto the ledge). I see his shadow. I think it's his shadow.

FROM INSIDE

Be careful.

CASSIE

This is not as much fun as it looks. I'll be very careful. (She ventures out of sight)

PLATFORM with window unit turns 180 degrees to reveal the inside of the hotel room. Seated on the easy chair and reading a newspaper, now covering his face, is Thomas. Very calm. Peaceful. He is looking at the obituaries. He circles one and immediately sees another that strikes his fancy even more. He tears the obituary out of the paper.

CASSIE (ENTERING)

Whatcha reading?

TAYLOR (STARTLED)

Just the paper. Uh, funnies. I love Dick Tracey.

CASSIE

Who's that? Oh! Dick Tracey. Isn't he the detective that Warren Beatty played a few years ago?

TAYLOR

I don't know. I guess so. I didn't see the movie.

CASSIE

Is he in there?

TAYLOR

Actually, what I meant is that this other strip reminds me of Dick Tracey.

CASSIE

Which one?

TAYLOR

Snoopy.

CASSIE

Peanuts?

TAYLOR
Yes. Peanuts.

CASSIE
How?

TAYLOR
How what?

CASSIE
How does Snoopy remind you of Dick Tracey.

TAYLOR
Lucy does. She is always analyzing things.

CASSIE
Is that Lucy or Shroeder who analyzes?

TAYLOR
That's a nice dress you have on there.

CASSIE
You like it? It's old. PC.

TAYLOR
Politically correct?

CASSIE
No, sorry. I forget sometimes. PC is a rather crude reference that we make sometimes in the support group. It stands for pre-Chris. Actually, it isn't even accurate. It isn't pre-Chris, but I bought it before he died. PC. Good thing his name wasn't Ulysses.

TAYLOR
What do you call things you bought after he died?

CASSIE
We don't have a name for that.

TAYLOR
You should. Does it disturb you to wear clothes that you had before he died.