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Mr. Giles

Dramatic Writing

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Screen Play Treatment For *The Absolute Greatest Heist of All Time,* created by Sean and Ian Brownlee

**Logline**

A group of sly middle schoolers attempt to steal ten million tickets from a local mascot arcade restaurant in order to win a rigged all expenses paid trip to Hawaii.

**Characters**

* Nick Roberts – Nick Roberts is the hero of the story. He is a seventh grader living in a small town in northern Georgia. He lives with his slacker brother and his dads who are in a strained relationship. His family is struggling financially due to the closing of their own rival mascot arcade restaurant, giving Nick a fear of the people he holds dear leaving him. He has developed a strong sense of confidence in his ideas and plans working out to cope, and this has led to him gaining some popularity. He is good at planning, though his overconfidence makes him ignore the flaws in his plans, and he starts to lose his cool when things don’t work out. He enjoys building models and fills his rooms with them, even having a scale model of the town. His love of planning has given him an enjoyment of arcade puzzle games. His confidence has led him to slick his black hair back and dress in business casual, and he has an affinity for funky ties, having a different tie for each day of the week. He is also somewhat short for a seventh grader. Seeing how his parents have struggled also drives him to want to help them, causing him to want to do the heist.
* Ricky Drift - Ricky is the antagonist of the story. He is a middle-aged man who is slightly overweight and balding. He owns Drift‘s Pizza Speedway, a mascot arcade restaurant. He is very confident in his own ideas and was a spoiled child, making him not handle feedback very well. He spends too much time on his work, often spending more time at the restaurant than with his family causing him to neglect his daughter Danica despite still caring for her. He is always thinking about how he can make his business succeed. He loves Eurobeat, leading to his pizza place to play exclusively Eurobeat, which isn’t the most popular with the local area. Also, he felt threatened when he saw that Nick’s parents' similar restaurant was more popular than his, causing him to do illegal business activities to shut them down.
* Danica Drift – Danica is Ricky's daughter and is in seventh grade with Nick. She is a pessimistic person and is upset with her father not paying enough attention to her and the rest of her family, causing her to work with Nick to help him in his heist. She is physically fit, has dark brown hair, and is short. She is good at being quiet and sneaking around.
* Elliot Hussie – Elliot is a classmate of Nick. He is scrawny and short. He spends most of his time playing rhythm games and other kinds of video games that require great precision and reaction time, causing him to get quite good and quite full of himself. He also likes to go by his gamertag ”3lliot” (pronounced ”threl-iot”) though most people don't call him that. He also enjoys solving Rubik Cubes and other cube puzzles. He spends most of his time in the library at school playing games when he isn't in class and doesn’t talk much to other people. He feels nothing challenges him anymore, and thinks the challenge of the heist will be a true test of his skill.
* Keith ”the Brick“ Mason – Keith is another one of Nick’s classmates and is the ace of their school’s debate team. He is quite charismatic and extremely good with his words, making him popular with his classmates. He is well liked by his peers and hates letting people down. He is also very strong and physically fit, being built more like a jock than a debate team member. He enjoys working out and tries to find time to do it when he can. He lost the big debate, losing the Hawaii trip that was its prize, making him want to win Ricky‘s prize.
* Stewart Roberts – Stewart is Nick’s older brother. He is a college student who is studying programing, though he is a big slacker, always trying to find the easy way out of things. He acts as a mentor to Nick and his friends, showing them the art of cheating the system. He cares deeply for his family and wants to help them any way he can. He has messy, unkempt hair and usually wears sweatpants and whatever he finds is clean, not really caring about his appearance.
* Richard Ryder – Richard is Nick’s best friend. He is very attached to Nick, doing just about anything Nick asks him to do. They have also been friends since they met in elementary school. He idolizes Nick due to his confidence and tries to be as confident as him. His family is wealthy, allowing him to finance the group. He dresses in nicer clothing than the average person.
* Henry Roberts – Henry is one of Nick and Stewart’s parents. He is middle aged and slightly balding, though he still has most of his hair. He is an engineer and came up with the idea for "Nick's Nightcore and Pizza" which was closed down by Ricky using sketchy business practices. He is very stressed about his family's finances and is currently working whatever small jobs he can find around town to keep the family afloat financially.
* William Roberts – William is one of Nick and Stewart’s parents. He is middle aged but unlike his husband he still has a lot of his hair. He is also an engineer and helped create the animatronics for his family’s restaurant. He is not too worried about his family’s financial situation, living in denial of the problem they are in. He really loves his family and is working at a local supermarket while looking for an engineering job.

**Summary**

*The Absolute Greatest Heist of All Time* is a short comedy film that follows a group of middle schoolers who attempt to perform a heist on a mascot pizza arcade (similar to Chuck E. Cheese) to win an all expense paid trip to Hawaii. The group intends to just play enough arcade games to win the prize, however they soon learn that the prize doesn’t exist, and the games are all rigged. This causes them to shift their plan to trying to steal enough tickets from the place’s storage room instead in an attempt to force the owner to give them the prize. They think their plan is absolutely perfect, however they ignore its flaws and end up getting caught. However, they don’t give up and accept that they aren’t perfect and quickly replan the heist, this time taking into account their flaws. This allows them to succeed, landing them the trip to Hawaii. This helps to develop a main idea of both acceptance of flaws and that nothing is perfect and that you shouldn’t let that discourage you.

**Act 1**

The story opens with Nick Roberts at a birthday party at Drift’s Pizza Speedway, a mascot arcade restaurant similar to Chuck E. Cheese. Nick is playing a puzzle game while his friend Richard Ryder cheers him on, and in the background you can see Elliot Hussie getting a high score in a rhythm game and Keith ”The Brick” Mason playing a strength test game. Nick flaunts that his planning is perfect and that he is going to get the high score, but after someone points out he made a mistake he loses. Nick and Rich then head to the table reserved for the party, where they talk about how annoyed Nick is that kids keep having parties at the restaurant as an animatronic show can be seen in the background. After a bit of conversation, Ricky Drift, the owner of the place, comes out and quiets everyone down. He then announces that he is introducing a trip to Hawaii as a new prize you can win for the low low cost of 10 million tickets. The whole arcade fills with energy, and Nick and Rich decide they are going to get this prize no matter what. On the way home from the party, Nick talks to his older brother, Stewart, about the prize and Stewart shows some interest in helping him out. Once they get home, the audience can overhear Nick’s parents discussing/arguing over their poor financial situation. The next day, Nick and Rich decide they will need help if they want to win the prize, so they decide to assemble a crew. The two first head to a debate club meeting to recruit Keith, overhearing that they had just lost a trip to Hawaii due to Keith losing them their last competition, and after telling him of the prize, Keith joins. Then they go to the library where they find Elliot playing a rhythm game and getting a very high score. Nick is able to convince him to join by telling him it will be a challenge worthy of his skill. Finally, Nick goes to his brother and asks for his help until he says yes. finally, the whole group meets at Nick‘s house to start discussing how they are going to win the prize. However, Rich is nowhere to be found until he runs in, revealing that he got one more person to help them: Danica Drift. Danica then reveals to the group that the prize is fake and rigged. The group panics for a bit, not knowing if they should continue planning or not, however Stewart convinces them that if Ricky is going to play dirty and offer a fake prize, then they should play dirty too.

**Act 2**

They then discuss the different parts of the restaurant, with Danica giving them a rundown of the different rooms. The group then decides they need more information about the games and animatronics, so they head out for some recon. When they first get there, Elliot and Keith start by checking out the different arcade games while Nick and Rich investigate the prize corner/main floor. Elliot quickly gets distracted by one of the arcade games, however he keeps losing over and over again, confusing him. The scene then cuts to Danica sneaking around the back rooms of the restaurant while you hear Ricky arguing with a staff member about the restaurant. She starts by checking the storage room, where she notices that it stores extra tickets. However, the door is locked so she starts to look for the key. She then moves across the hall to the employee break room, where she finds a key rack with the storage room key hooked on it. As she goes to grab it, she hears the door to Ricky’s office creak open as Ricky heads towards the break room. It then cuts back to Elliot continuing to lose at the arcade game, causing him to hit it in anger. Keith sees this and joins in causing the back panel to fly open revealing the motherboard of the machine. The two look over at it, and learn that a thumb drive labeled ”rigging code” had been inserted into a USB slot on the motherboard, which is implied to be the reason Elliot kept losing. However, staff notice them and start to walk over. Nick and Rich then distract the staff members thanks to Rich doing something stupid, allowing Elliot and Keith to get away. Then, the scene moves back to Danica, who, in an attempt to flee Ricky, ran to the backstage area through a hallway that connects to it from the breakroom. Unfortunately, Ricky catches and scolds her, telling her she better not cause any trouble and needs to stay out of the back because of the massive wave of parties scheduled for the coming days, with him emphasizing one party on Sunday in particular. He then sends Danica back to the main floor, with Danica taking note of the floppy disk slots on the back of the animatronics. The group then meets back up at Nick’s house and discuss their findings. They start to plan out their heist, with Keith saying he can create a program to unrig the arcade games, and offers to create one to mess with the animatronics but asks the kids to get him a floppy disk reader/writer for it to work. Nick then asks his parents if they have one since they were in the same business as Ricky, and they begin to reminisce about their shut down restaurant as they give him the device. Finally, the group is ready and starts the heist.

The heist starts with Elliot and Nick going to all the different arcade machines and unrigging each of them as Keith uses his debate team skills to argue with Ricky about a complaint he has with the place. Then, Rich sneaks into the backstage area through the main floor and gives some kind of signal to Keith to move his argument with Keith over to a position where Ricky can see Elliot and Nick messing with the machines. Once Ricky notices them, Rich sets off the animatronics, causing Ricky to get confused and rush over there instead, telling the staff to deal with Nick and Elliot so he can fix the animatronics. Nick then yells out to the party that the machines are giving extra tickets/are easier, causing chaos to unfold on the main floor. While the staff is distracted on the main floor, Danica sneaks to the back, heading straight for the break room to grab the key while Keith stands watch. However, once Danica gets to the break room she finds that the key isn’t there. Then, Rich gets caught messing with the animatronics by Ricky while Nick and Elliot get caught messing with the arcade machines by the other staff members. Finally, Danica and Keith get caught by a staff member returning to the break room. The group then gets sent to Ricky’s office, where he scolds the kids and then leaves the room to call their parents. Defeated, the group is confused on how their plan could have failed until Nick realizes they were just ignoring all the flaws in their plan, and gives the group a pep talk about how there is still a chance for them to succeed, they just need to accept their flaws and work with them.

**Act 3**

The group then starts quickly planning a new heist, taking into account the flaws of the previous one and the current state of things. Once they have everything worked out, Danica is able to get them out of Ricky’s office by figuring out the keycode to unlock the door is her birthday. The new plan starts with Keith and Rich taking a mascot uniform from the changing room while Nick and Danica head to the backstage area. Keith and Rich then head out to the main floor and convince the staff member with the key that it is time to swap shifts, with them getting the key in the process. They then hand it off to Elliot, who makes a precise throw to Nick and Danica. The two then wait for the staff member that swapped out with Keith and Nick to return to the changing room so they can lock them in, giving them a window to go and steal the tickets in the storage room. They then carry out all the tickets, bringing them to the prize counter and exchanging the tickets for the trip with an exhausted staff member who is to tired to count the tickets. Then, Rich and Keith, still in the mascot costume, yell out to everyone that someone won the prize, causing everyone to turn their attention towards Nick and Danica. Seeing this, Ricky stops calling the kid’s parents and storms over to them. Nick taunts Ricky, saying that he has to give them the prize now or else he would risk losing his reputation since everyone was watching them. Ricky, infuriated, blows up at Nick, accidently revealing that he had done illegal business practices that had forced Nick’s parents to close their restaurant Everyone stares at Ricky in disbelief as Nick’s parents walk in to hear Ricky admit to everything. Realizing what he had done, Ricky defeatedly gives the kids the prize, causing everyone to celebrate. It then cuts to a few weeks later with the whole group relaxing on the beach, reminiscing about the heist and Nick’s parents taking over Ricky's restaurant as the sun sets in the background.