

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU

Written by

Brad Hanel and Danyell Monk

Based on a true story

CAST:

FATHER - the father

SUZIE - the Suzie

BEGGAR - the holy beggar

SCENE 1 -EXT. - NYC - DAY

A father and daughter walk on stage and look around.

FATHER

Here we are Suzie, the Big Apple!

SUZIE

Wow dad, this place is so huge.

FATHER

It's a real beautiful city but you also have to be careful. Some people don't have the best intentions.

SUZIE

What do you mean?

A beggar suddenly approaches the father and daughter.

BEGGAR

Sorry to bother you but my daughter is going into labor in Syracuse and I don't have quite enough money for gas. Is there any chance you could give me a few bucks? It'd really help me out.

SUZIE

Dad help this man! He wants to see his grandbaby be born!

FATHER

No, sorry, we don't have any money on us.

SUZIE

Wait, yeah we do! We just stopped at the A-T-.....

The father puts a hand over his daughters's mouth.

FATHER

Sorry man, we got nothing.

BEGGAR
(sarcastically)
Huh. Sure you don't.

The beggar walks away.

FATHER
Ya see Suzie, that man is liar. He
would've just used that money for
drugs or something.

SUZIE
Oh, okay. What are drugs?

FATHER
I'll tell you when you're older.
(beat) What a sorry excuse for a
man. I mean seriously? Coming up to
a guy and his daughter and asking
for money? That just seems wrong!
And couldn't he have made up a
better story than that?

The beggar, now wearing a lab coat, reapproaches the father
and daughter.

BEGGAR
(with an accent)
Sorry to bother you my
distinguished folk, but I am a
doctor from Syracuse and I just got
called in to deliver a baby. But
alas! I don't have quite enough
money for gas. Is there any chance
you could give me a few dollars?
It'd really help me out.

SUZIE
Dad we should really help him out!
He's an obstetrician!

FATHER
How do you know what an
obstetrician is? Anyway not
important. Sorry sir, we don't have
any money.

SUZIE
But daaaaaaaaaaaaaaddddd!

FATHER
(through his teeth)
Suzie. We. Don't. Have. Any. Money.

BEGGAR

Well if I was a brain doctor, I'd say you need to get yours checked out.

The beggar walks away.

FATHER

I can't believe this. We've been in the city for what? Five minutes? We've already been bothered twice.

SUZIE

I don't know dad, that guy seemed more real than the first one.

FATHER

No Suzie, these beggars are all the same. They just want your money so they can buy bad things.

SUZIE

You mean like drugs?

FATHER

Yes, drugs, exactly!

The beggar reapproaches yet again with a long wig on and a ball shoved under his shirt.

BEGGAR

(in a woman's voice,
heavily breathing)

Sorry to bother you but I'm supposed to be going into labor in Syracuse and I don't have quite enough money for gas. Is there any chance you could spare me some cash? It'd really help me out.

SUZIE

Dad, quick! She's having a baby! Give her money now!

FATHER

That's fuckin' bullshit. I bet you have a basketball in your shirt!

BEGGAR

Sir, I swear I don't. I'm just a dainty little lass...

FATHER

Find someone else to help you.

BEGGAR

Well I don't wanna bring my baby
into a world with you in it anyway!

The beggar walks away.

SUZIE

Dad why were you so mean to that
poor lady?

FATHER

Like I told you before, it's just a
scam! Whenever anyone, and I mean
anyone, comes up to you in New York
City asking for money it's a scam!
It's always a scam!

SUZIE

But dad, what would you do if you
were having a baby and you couldn't
get to Syracuse?

FATHER

I would plan ahead Suzie! Also, I
can't have a baby... but I'll tell
you about that when you're older.
Anyway, how many different beggars
are there in this city?

The beggar crawls on stage wearing a diaper and bib.

BEGGAR

(in a baby voice)
Sorry to bother you but I'm the
baby...

FATHER

(interrupting)
No! That's it! Come on Suzie, we're
leaving!

SCENE 2 - EXT. - FUTURE NYC - DAY

Someone walks across stage with sign that says "20 YEARS
LATER."

The father enters the stage on the phone with Suzie who is
now old.

FATHER

Suzie, what? You're in labor? You
aren't due for another 3 weeks!
Uhhhhhh yeah.....

(MORE)

FATHER (CONT'D)

I can make it to Syracuse. I'll be there soon! Just gotta get gas first!

The father checks his wallet and realizes he has no money. He looks around and sees a man holding a newspaper in front of his face and approaches him.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Sorry to bother you but my daughter is going into labor in Syracuse and I don't have quite enough money for gas. Is there any chance you could give me a few bucks? It'd really help me out.

The man lowers his newspaper to reveal he is the beggar who the father met many years before. The father gasps.

BEGGAR

Well, well, well, after all these years. I missed my daughter's birth thanks to you. I could be petty and mean about this, but I've decided I'll be the better man. Here you are, sir. Go meet your grandchild.

The beggar hands the father a few dollars.

FATHER

Wow! Thank you!

BEGGAR

No problem! I just hope you learned your lesson today.

The beggar walks away.

The father stares contemplatively at the money, then pulls out his phone.

FATHER

(on phone)

Sorry Suzie, I'm not gonna be able to make it.

He hangs up the phone.

FATHER (CONT'D)

Time to go get me some good drugs!

THE END