(The King of Queens)

(“Strike One”)

by

(Jonna Kyle)
ACT TWO

SCENE F

LOCKER ROOM AT DOUG’S WORK – AFTERNOON
(DOUG AND DEACON)

DEACON IS AT HIS LOCKER, GETTING READY TO GO HOME WHEN DOUG ENTERS.

DOUG

Hey D! I have some news.

DEACON

Where have you been man? We got some news earlier too.

DOUG

Oh? I bet it can’t beat my news!

DEACON

Yeah? The negotiations broke down Doug. As of this afternoon, IPS is on strike. Now beat that.

DOUG

I… umm… well. You know… now that I think about it, my news isn’t that great. I’m just going to go. But hey, thanks for the heads up about the strike. Since we probably won’t be seeing each other for the next week or so, will you at least call and make sure I’m still alive?

DEACON

What’re you talking about? Oh God. What have you done now?
DOUG

Well. It’s really not my fault. If the company could’ve agreed on the union contracts, it would’ve been one of the smartest decisions I ever made.

DEACON

And that is….?

DOUG

Ugh… I bought a new car.

DEACON

A what? Doug, you’re crazy man! If I were Carrie, I’d kill you too. Nah man, you’re on your own. But I will be looking in the obituaries for you.

DOUG

Thanks… you’re a great friend! Well, now I guess I have to go and return the car.

DEACON

You can’t just return a car. Especially the day that you just bought it.

DOUG

Oh yeah? Well you just wait. I’m going to go back to the dealership and demand they give me a refund. You’ll see. I’ll do this all myself.
SCENE G

CAR DEALERSHIP PARKING LOT - LATER AFTERNOON
(DOUG AND MR. CONNOR (CAR SALESMAN))

DOUG DRIVES UP TO DEALERSHIP TO SEE MR. CONNOR (SALESMAN) WALKING TO HIS CAR TO LEAVE FOR THE DAY.

DOUG
(Driving up to Mr. Connor. He rolls down the window and keeps driving while Mr. Connor keeps walking)
Mr. Connor, it’s me, Doug, you’re delivery man, and also the one who bought this SUV earlier today.

MR. CONNOR
Doug, good to see you again so soon, how do you like your new set of wheels?

DOUG
I like the car a lot sir, but I’ve got kind of a problem now. You see, I never discussed buying the car with my wife. This afternoon, I wasn’t thinking clearly, and I realize now that I shouldn’t have bought the car. (They both arrive at Mr. Connor’s car so Doug parks the SUV but keeps talking to him through the open window).

MR. CONNOR
That’s a real shame Doug, but I’m a salesman, not a counselor. Have a good evening. (He tries to get in his car but Doug keeps talking)

DOUG
I realize that, but I was hoping you wouldn’t be too busy to make a return transaction for me right fast. You get the car back and I get my money back. What do you say?
MR. CONNOR
I don’t think you realize what a contract means. You signed the paper and agreed to the purchase of the car. Now there’s nothing I can do for you. Good day. (He gets in his car)

DOUG
Please! (He gets out of his car) You’ve got to take the car back. You can keep my money too! If my wife sees that I bought this car, she’s going to kill me. And I’m only 99% serious that she will.

MR. CONNOR
I really am sorry about that, but a deal’s a deal. The car is yours; at least until your wife kills you. Then it will be her car. And I’m sure she’ll appreciate it in time since it will have been the last gift you “gave” her. Again, have a good evening. (He drives away)

DOUG
(gets back in the SUV)
Stupid new car. Why’d you have to look so good? Stupid work is what it is. It’s not your fault (as he pets the dashboard). We’ll just go home and Carrie will fall under your spell the way I did earlier. Everything will be OK.
SCENE H

KITCHEN- NIGHT
(DOUG, SPENCE, AND CARRIE)

DOUG WALKS INTO KITCHEN TO FIND SPENCE SITTING AT KITCHEN TABLE.

DOUG

Spence. What’re you doing here? Better yet, how did you even get in?

SPENCE

Hey man. I just thought I come over and see what you guys were doing for supper. It’s bingo night, which means my mom won’t be back until nine, so I’m on my own tonight. And I know where you hide the key to the kitchen door. So what’s for supper?

DOUG

Remind me to re-hide the key later. So Carrie isn’t home yet?

SPENCE

Not that I’ve seen.

DOUG

Good. That means I’ve got a few more minutes to devise a plan.

SPENCE

Uh-oh. When you say “devise a plan” that means you did something Carrie will be upset about. What’d you do this time?

DOUG

Why does everyone just assume I did something wrong?
(Headlights shine in window, signaling Carrie is home)

DOUG

Ahh! She’s home! OK Spence, the plan is you bought a new car today and you’re over to show it off. Got it? Good.

CARRIE WALKS IN WITH PIZZA

CARRIE

Hi honey… and Spence. Is someone here? I almost drove past the house because I saw that SUV in the driveway. Actually, I thought I was in the wrong neighborhood because no one around here drives anything close to that nice of a car.

DOUG GRABS THE PIZZA FROM HER ARMS AND SETS IT ON THE TABLE.

DOUG

No, it’s just me and Spence here. But uh, you like Spence’s new car?

CARRIE

That’s your car? Wow, if I knew you’d be making enough money to afford that kind of car, I would have gotten with you and not him.

SPENCE

Haha, yeah. My car. (Doug is behind Carrie, motioning for Spence to leave). Well, I guess it’s time for me to go. Got to get “my” new car home. Can’t keep it in this neighborhood for long, people will start thinking you two are uppity and too good to drive your old car.

DOUG OPENS DOOR, SPENCE WALKS OUT TO PORCH.
DOUG
Leaving so soon? Well alright, thanks for rubbing it in our faces that you got a new car you son of an ass. Bye.

SPENCE
What about supper?

DOUG
Take a slice of pizza to go. (He hands him a slice). Bye.

DOUG CLOSES THE DOOR.

CARRIE
Well that was kind of rude of you.

DOUG
What? He usually annoys the hell out of you and now you’re upset that I got rid of him so soon?

CARRIE
Well, I was just curious as to why he bought that car and how he’s going to afford it.

DOUG
So asking about his finances isn’t rude, but giving him a slice of pizza is?

CARRIE
Oh, you know what I mean. You just seemed in a hurry to get rid of him.

DOUG
Well… I’m just really hungry.

CARRIE
Alright, well let’s eat then.

DOUG AND CARRIE SIT AT THE TABLE AND EAT.
CARRIE
So, how was your day?

DOUG
It was goo..umm..fine.. it was ok. Just ok. How about yours? Do you want something to drink? Need a napkin? Want a fork?

CARRIE
Whoa. No, I don’t need anything. Are you sure you’re OK?

DOUG
Yeah, of course. Do I not look fine? Am I talking too much? I can be quiet if you want me to.

CARRIE
Doug, seriously. What’s wrong?

DOUG
Nothing. Everything is dandy.

CARRIE
Dandy? Really?

(She gives him a doubting look)

DOUG
Dammit, fine. We found out today that IPS is going on strike.

CARRIE
What?! They didn’t get the negotiations worked out?

DOUG
Obviously not. I was out on deliveries when the news came in. Deacon told me before we left for the day.
CARRIE
Well how long is it going to take for those idiots to get everything agreed upon? Don’t they realize that people’s livelihoods are on the line?

DOUG SITS QUIETLY WITHOUT EATING.

CARRIE
Oh honey, I’m sorry. I know you’ve already thought about this all evening. Let’s try to be positive about this. Is there something we could do that would cheer you up?

DOUG
(smiling)
Well there is one thing that always makes me feel better when I’m upset.

CARRIE
(Understanding his train of thought, laughs) You must be upset a lot.

CARRIE SITS IN DOUG’S LAP AND KISSES HIM.

DOUG
What can I say? I’m a very troubled man.

CARRIE
It sounds like I should get you upstairs.

DOUG
Oh yeah? And what’s going to happen up there?

CARRIE
Well first (she whispers in his ear) and then I’ll (whispers in his ear again).

DOUG
Let’s do it!
DOUG PICKS UP CARRIE AND IS ABOUT TO CARRY HER UPSTAIRS WHEN THEY HEAR A KNOCK ON THE DOOR. DOUG OPENS IT, CARRIE STILL IN HIS ARMS. SPENCE IS AT THE DOOR.

SPENCE
Is this a bad time?

DOUG
A little bit, yeah.

SPENCE
Awesome. Well, you forgot to give me the keys to your new car.

DOUG
Oh yeah. Sorry man.

CARRIE JUMPS OUT OF DOUG’S ARMS.

CARRIE
Wait a second. Spence just said “your” new car.

DOUG
What?! No he didn’t. I clearly heard him say his car. Right Spence?

SPENCE
No, I said “your car”. Remember, you wanted me to take it off your hands for the night until you could tell Carrie about it?

CARRIE
Doug?!

DOUG
Spence?!
SPENCE
Oh, I guess you haven’t talked to her about it yet. Alright, well I’m going to go home for real now. Thanks for the pizza!

SPENCE LEAVES

DOUG
(turns to Carrie and smiles innocently)
Surprise… We got a new car.

CARRIE
I can’t believe you. We talked about it last night. I told you we didn’t have the money for a new car. And what do you do? You go behind my back and buy one! What is wrong with you?

DOUG
Are you angry?

CARRIE
Angry?! I’m furious! I would have been angry if you bought it last week, but you bought it today knowing IPS was in negotiations. Now you don’t have a job. How do you think we’ll be able to make car payments off of one salary? Do you see why I’m furious now?!

DOUG
I can see it now. You know what helps calm my furious-ous-ness? (He waves his eyebrows at her in suggestion)

CARRIE
Why in the world would I want to sleep with you now, you jackass? You’re on the couch until you return that car.
DOUG
But I tried already. Mr. Connor’s said I couldn’t return it.

CARRIE
Well, you’re going to try again tomorrow and annoy the hell out of Mr. Connor until he takes the car back.

DOUG
Can’t we keep it? It comes with a towing package! Don’t you realize what all we can tow now?

CARRIE
If you don’t get rid of that car out there, I’ll be towing your dead body to a river, got it! You enjoy the couch tonight and pray that Mr. Connor takes the car back. Or you two will have me to deal with.

CARRIE GOES UPSTAIRS AND DOUG HEADS TO THE LIVING ROOM.
SCENE I

CAR DEALERSHIP- MORNING

(DOUG, CARRIE, MR. CONNOR)

DOUG AND CARRIE ARE AT THE CAR DEALERSHIP TO RETURN THEIR NEW CAR, BUT HAVE TO CONVINCE MR. CONNOR TO TAKE IT BACK SOMEHOW.

MR. CONNOR
What can I do for you fine folks today? If it’s a deal on a new car, you came to the right place because we’re on our October Palooza sale.

DOUG
No, no. I already fell for the old “Palooza” bit. If you remember, I was here yesterday Mr. Connor.

MR. CONNOR
Oh that’s right. Doug, I didn’t recognize you without your shorts and boxes. So what brings you in today?

DOUG
We’re here to return the SUV you sold me yesterday.

MR. CONNOR
I see. Well, like I said last night, you signed a contract and therefore cannot return the car.

DOUG
I tried telling my wife that, but she’s convinced that we should be able to return it and get our money back.

MR. CONNOR
Well, that’s impossible. Have a good day now.
DOUG

Wait just a minute. You’ll have to tell her that so that way I can leave.

(yelling) Hey Carrie! Come here!

(to Mr. Connor) Here she comes. Good luck.

CARRIE

Yes?

MR. CONNOR

Nice to meet you ma’am. I understand you’re here with your husband to return your recently purchased SUV.

CARRIE

That’s right. And we’ll gladly be on our way if you could do that for us right fast.

MR. CONNOR

I’m sorry, but our policy here is once the contract is signed, there is no backing out of it. The car is yours.

CARRIE

I’m sorry, I don’t mean to be rude, but my policy is “I don’t buy into bull crap”.

MR. CONNOR

Excuse me?

CARRIE

May I see the contract?

MR. CONNOR

I don’t see why you would want to. Your husband made a very good car selection and even had amenities added to it for a reasonable price.
CARRIE
That’s good to know. But I’d still like to look over the contract.

MR. CONNOR
Suit yourself, but you’d have to hire a darn good lawyer to find a way out of our contracts here.

CARRIE
My husband didn’t tell you? I’m Carrie Heffernan, attorney at law, and am in the top five best attorneys in Queens.

MR. CONNOR
Oh, Mrs. Heffernan. I wasn’t aware of your occupation. I guess we just haven’t done business together yet. I’ll go get your husband’s contract.

MR. CONNOR GOES INTO HIS OFFICE

DOUG
You’re not a lawyer.

CARRIE
Well duh, but do you see any other way of us getting rid of the car?!

MR. CONNOR RETURNS AND HANDS CARRIE THE CONTRACT.

MR. CONNOR
I still think you’re wasting your time. You might as well just go home now with your nice car.

CARRIE
We’ll see who gets stuck with the vehicle.

CARRIE READS OVER CONTRACT WHILE MR. CONNOR ASSISTS ANOTHER COUPLE. IN THE MEANIME, DOUG WANDERS INTO MONEY MACHINE.
DOUG (V.O.)
Oh good, he gave her the contract. Even if we don’t get to
keep the SUV, I’ll be walking out with more money than I
came in here with. Thank you money machine!

DOUG NODS TO THE MAN RUNNING THE MACHINE TO START IT UP.

DOUG (V.O. cont.)
Big money baby, come on, big money!
Whoa! There’s so much in here.
Gotcha! Got another!

(He pauses and sees Carrie pointing at the contract and Mr.
Connor turning red. Carrie waves her hands above her head,
clearly yelling at the salesman.)

DOUG (V.O. cont.)
Sucks to be him! Glad I’m in here. Oh my God! There’s a
fifty in here?!

DOUG DROPS ALL THE MONEY HE HAD CAUGHT AND FIGHTS MADLY TO
CATCH THE FIFTY DOLLAR BILL.

DOUG (V.O. cont.)
Crap, crap, crap! Dammit, come here!

(He sees Carrie ripping up the contract and Mr. Connor
staring at her in disbelief. The machine is heard being
turned off and the money is dropping to the floor.)

Are you freaking kidding me?! This thing is jacked
(because he didn’t catch any money).

(He bends over and picks up a few bills before he exits the
machine).

I believe I deserve this for my effort (he says to the man
running the machine).
DOUG WALKS TO CARRIE AS HE STUFFS THE MONEY IN HIS POCKET.

DOUG

How’s it going?

CARRIE

Good! I found a way out of the contract, so Mr. Connor has to take the car back and give us the down payment back.

DOUG

I knew my baby would take care of it.

CARRIE

Aww, you’re so sweet. You’re still on the couch tonight though.

DOUG

I know.

MR. CONNOR COMES BACK WITH MORE PAPERWORK

MR. CONNOR

Alright, Mr. and Mrs. Heffernan, I am so sorry about this. Hopefully we can settle this today and not drag this into court?

(He looks to Carrie nervously hopeful)

CARRIE

As long as we get our money back, you’ll never hear from me again.

MR. CONNOR

Excellent. Although I hope you’ll come back to me when you are ready to purchase a new vehicle.

DOUG SIGNS THE PAPERWORK.

CARRIE

Don’t press you’re luck buddy.

DOUG HANDS THE PAPERWORK TO MR. CONNOR.
DOUG
Yeah. Buddy.

MR. CONNOR GIVES HIM A LOOK.

DOUG
Sorry sir. I guess I’ll be seeing you once my company gets off strike.

CARRIE TAKES DOUG BY THE ARM AND THEY LEAVE WITHOUT THE SUV.

COMMERCIAL
SCENE J

QUICKIE BURGER DRIVE THROUGH – NOON
(DOUG AND CARRIE)

CARRIE IS DRIVING AND DOUG IS IN THE PASSENGER SEAT OF THEIR OLD CAR.

DOUG
We should go to October Palooza every year. That money machine is awesome!

CARRIE
Yeah. You got enough money for one meal here.

DOUG
I told you that thing is rigged! I was going for the fifty, but it just floated above my reach. You’re lucky I got anything. Stupid machine.

CARRIE
It’s OK. I’m just giving you a hard time. Oh, good. Our turn.

DRIVE THRU
Welcome to Quickie Burger. Can I take your order?

CARRIE
Yeah. I need a Number 2 and a number 4 with two Frozy Fudge Blasts.

DRIVE THRU
Alright, I have a number 2, a number 4, and two Frozy Fudge Blasts. Anything else?

DOUG
Add a number 3!
DRIVE THRU
Anything else?
CARRIE
No! That’s all.
DRIVE THRU
That’ll be $11.53. Please pull to the next window.
CARRIE
Thank you.
CARRIE TRIES TO MOVE THE CAR FORWARD, BUT IT HAS DIED.
CARRIE
What the hell is going on?
DOUG GIVES HER A “I TOLD YOU SO” FACE
DOUG
Should have kept the SUV.
CARRIE
Shut up the hell up and move the car!
DOUG
It’s your turn!
DRIVE THRU
Please move forward.
CARRIE
We’re trying! Doug!
DOUG
Carrie!
DRIVE THRU
Move forward please.
CARRIE
Give us a minute!
DRIVE THRU
You’re holding up the line.

CARRIE
I know! Now shush!

DRIVE THRU
You shush.

DOUG AND CARRIE LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN DISBELIEF. DOUG REACHES IN THE BACKSEAT AND HANDS CARRIE THE FOAM BAT.

DOUG
Go get him baby!

CARRIE
You bet I will.

CARRIE GETS OUT OF THE CAR WITH THE BAT

END OF ACT.