

The Panda Scheme

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scene a week exercise

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Source - "The panda scheme."

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

ODIS and GUY walk down the innercity street.

ODIS

At it's core the entire concept is very simple. It's called a confidence scheme for a reason. Do you know why?

GUY

Uhh.

ODIS

I'll take that as a no. Your mark needs to have more confidence in you than he does in himself. There's a couple ways that one can go about this. Speed is a good one. Keep your mark off kilter by running them down with information. As long as you sound like you know what you're talking about you're golden.

GUY

Speed. Got it.

ODIS

No, unfortunately, Guy, you don't. Another is using paranoia. Pump your mark with enough false information on how their money is in danger. Give them your knowledge, however fraudulent it may be, to keep them looking in fifty different directions while you come in through the back door that you convinced them to leave unlocked.

GUY

Okay. Paranoia.

ODIS

Listen, Guy. I'm trying to help you out here. I mean, if you want to be just another skid on the street begging for change you're welcome to be my guest.

GUY

No. I appreciate it. I do.

ODIS

Then you have to pay attention.  
What have you got so far?

GUY

Speed and paranoia.

ODIS

That's right. You need to work on your acting chops as well. You need to be able to lie about who you are and be convincing about it. Like walking up to someone and flashing a badge or a piece of ID and convincing them you are that person. Whether you're running a real estate scam or making some tourists wallet lighter.

Down the street a ELDERLY WOMAN walks toward them.

ODIS

I'm getting ahead of myself. I don't think you're quite ready for all of this.

GUY

I'm ready.

ODIS

I can see it in your eyes. Every time I start talking they glass over like there's no one home.

GUY

I can learn this. I swear.

ODIS

Let's just start simple. Sometimes you just need a quick score. Enter The Panda Scheme.

GUY

Oh, what's that?

As the Elderly Woman approaches she clutches her purse tightly with one hand while the other is jammed deep inside.

ODIS

Well, think about it. What would you do if walked in to a room and there was a giant panda there? You'd be thinking, "What the fuck is a panda doing here?"

GUY

Yeah. That'd be weird.

ODIS

And it's the only thing you'd be thinking about. It would be distracting. That's the first part of The Panda Scheme. The second is a couple black eyes.

GUY

Why the black eyes?

ODIS

Because you end up looking like a panda. Shut up for a second.

They fall silent as they pass the Elderly Woman. As soon as they pass her Odis sticks his foot out and trips Guy. He pushes him down to add a little extra momentum. Guy hits the ground hard absorbing most of the impact with his face.

ODIS

Holy shit! Are you okay?

Guy mumbles incoherently as a large bump begins to seep blood from his forehead. The Elderly Woman turns to see what's happening, hand still jammed deep in her purse.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Is he okay?

ODIS

Jesus, I don't know. Do you have a phone?

The Elderly Woman hesitantly steps back away from them.

ELDERLY WOMAN

I, but, I don't--

ODIS

Do you have a phone, yes or no? He needs help.

ELDERLY WOMAN

Yes.

ODIS

Great.

The Elderly Woman starts toward them. She removes her hand from her purse with a spray can in her hand. She jams it in to her pocket and begins searching through her purse again. Odis steps toward her.

ODIS

Thank you so much.

ELDERLY WOMAN

You're welco--

Odis punches her square in the nose grabbing her bag as she hits the ground. He turns to Guy.

ODIS

Sometimes you just need the quick grab. Sorry kid. Thanks for the distraction.

Odis turns and runs down the street away from the two people sprawled out on the sidewalk.