

A BANK VAULT - The stage is completely bare. If possible a backdrop of safe deposit boxes or flats to make the room feel small and metallic. The entrance to the vault will be stage right in this version but you can do whatever you want.

We hear a voice off stage.

BANK ROBBER

Alright, this is a robbery! Everyone on the floor!

We hear the sound of a gunshot or two. There are a few short screams.

BANK ROBBER

The next one goes into your skull buddy. All bank employees into the vault. Don't touch no buttons or anything. Quick quick.

Suddenly from stage right come four people, looking quite distressed. They are AARON (early 20s male, a loan specialist), BECCA (late teens, a teller), MARGE (40s female, the manager), TINA (late 20s, female, a guard). The BANK ROBBER (a white guy) follows, wearing a ski mask with a gun slung over his shoulder. He has Becca by the arm. He throws them all into the vault.

BANK ROBBER

If any of you come out, I start shooting.

The robber exits.

BECCA

Well, this sucks.

AARON

Are you kidding? This is awesome! We're going to be on the news! We'll be famous.

BECCA

But what if one of us gets shot?

TINA

They always shoot the guard first.

MARGE

Everyone relax, no one is getting shot. The bank has protocols for robberies.

AARON

And they are?

MARGE

Don't do anything. It's not your money, it belongs to Mr. Jacobson.

AARON

And that man can afford to lose a few hundred thou'.

BECCA

I can do nothing. You mind if I check my voice mail while we're stuck in here? I missed a call earlier.

MARGE

No personal calls on company time.

BECCA

Really?

TINA

Can she use her phone to call the police? I'm over my minutes.

MARGE

Fine. Go ahead.

BECCA

But I'm going to check my voice mail first.

She dials her voicemail.

BECCA

There's no reception in here. I hate AT&T

TINA

We're inside a steel box, five inches thick.

BECCA

This just got lame.

TINA

Anyone here on Verizon? I hear they get reception every where.

AARON

I am, but my phone is back at my desk.

MARGE

I don't have a cell phone.

TINA

So the police aren't coming. Great.

AARON

You've got a gun, how about you shoot us out of here? You know, take them out. Pop pop.

TINA

Take them out? I haven't shot this gun since my security guard training three years ago and besides, do I look like Rambo to you? I'm not getting my butt shot off for no robbery.

AARON

Then give me the gun, I'll do it.

TINA

What?!

AARON

Didn't you see Back to the Future 3? Marty was awesome with a gun because he played video games. I play video games. Logic follows...

MARGE

We sit tight until they leave, and then we call the police. Everyone relax. It's what Mr. Jacobson would want us to do.

Marge sits down on the ground, Aaron and Tina also.

BECCA

I'm not sitting on the ground.

MARGE

This is a great opportunity to do some team building.

AARON

How do we even know they're still out there?

From off stage we hear the robber again.

BANK ROBBER

You, fat chick, start putting the money in the bag. Come on, move it fatty.

MARGE

Let's play two truths and a lie. Each person says three statements, two are true and one is false. Then the rest of the team has to guess which is which. Tina, why don't you go first?

TINA

Alright then. I'm a Pisces, I was born in New York and I have ten fingers.

BECCA

You're not a Pisces.

TINA

Right, I was born in June.

MARGE

We're bonding, I can feel it! Aaron, your turn.

AARON

Alright. I have a girlfriend, I'm scared of hamsters and we're being robbed.

BECCA

Please tell me that you're not really scared of hamsters.

AARON

No, I'm single. What are you doing later?

BECCA

I dunno.

MARGE

Not the kind of team building I had in mind.

TINA

Can I make a suggestion?

MARGE

We should let Becca have a turn.

BECCA

I pass.

The robber enters the vault again.

BANK ROBBER

Just making sure there's no funny business. Keep up the good work folks.

MARGE

Can I ask, what's taking so long?

BANK ROBBER

Don't you worry. We know what we're doing.

MARGE

I'm the manager here, I would like to help get you folks out of here as fast as possible.

BANK ROBBER

We're just looking some stuff up on the computer before we go. You hold tight, but thanks for the help.

The robber exits.

AARON

I knew it, this isn't a simple robbery. These guys are pros. They're probably hacking into some mainframe somewhere and wiring money to Nigeria.

BECCA

That guy's not black.

TINA

Because all black people steal?

BECCA

No, because he said Nigera. I'm pretty sure it's full of black people.

AARON

Maybe I don't have the details right, but there's some high level stuff going on here. They could be CIA, funding some top secret spies.

TINA

Maybe they're just checking their e-mail before they go.

MARGE

I hope not. Those computers are for banking use only. I wish I could block those infuriating e-mail sites.

AARON

And Facebook too.

MARGE

Which one is Facebook? Is that the one with the birds?

BECCA

Are you kidding? Do you live under the ocean?

MARGE

I'm not very up on the computer culture. I work, I go to the library, I go home and I come back here again.

AARON

Sounds like a hoot.

TINA

You don't use a computer at all?

MARGE

Well, sure. Once I couldn't find my TV Guide so I had to look up the TV schedule online. Took me three hours.

BECCA

Is your husband this backwoods?

MARGE

My husband is in a coma.

BECCA

I'm sorry.

MARGE

Oh, don't worry about it. He's been in the coma for ten years now. If he woke up tomorrow he'd have no idea how to use a computer either. We're like two peas in a pod!

BECCA

That is so romantic.

TINA

The longer the robbers are here the better chance the cops show up and that means they start killing hostages.

MARGE

That would be terrible for business. Unless we can spin it into some kind of marketing slogan. Bank with us or die!

AARON

Bank with us AND die.

MARGE

I'll send it over to Mr. Jacobson's office, see if they like it.

TINA

Quick, someone switch clothes with me.

BECCA

And why?

TINA

To confuse them, if they start killing guards they won't know whose the real guard and who's the teller in disguise.

AARON

I'm a loan specialist.

BECCA

And I am not wearing that grungy outfit.

TINA

Grungy?!

MARGE

No one is trading places with anyone. Tina, if you get shot for being a guard then you get shot for being a guard. It's part of the guard's oath.

TINA

I didn't swear any kind of oath.

MARGE

Are you sure there's no oath?

TINA

I took a urine test.

MARGE

And you passed or you wouldn't be here right now.

AARON

Every one quiet!

Sirens are heard building in the background.

TINA

Oh no! The police! Someone's gonna get got!

MARGE

This is good, justice will be served.

We again hear the bank robber from off stage.

BANK ROBBER

The cops! Ok, everyone stop what you're doing. We need a hostage.

The bank robber enters the vault.

TINA

I don't want to die!

The bank robber ignores her. He points to Becca.

BANK ROBBER

You, pretty girl. You're our hostage.

TINA

Yes!

BECCA

You think I'm pretty?!

BANK ROBBER

Pretty enough. Come on.

Becca blushes and happily takes the arm of the bank robber. They exit.

A gunshot is heard off stage.

BANK ROBBER

No, you idiots. The police have to see. Wait right here.

The bank robber reenters the vault.

BANK ROBBER

I need another hostage.

AARON

I'll do it!

TINA

Better him than me.

BANK ROBBER

Both of you. Just in case one of you gets shot.

TINA

What about the customers? Can't you shoot one of the customers?

BANK ROBBER

You call yourself a guard? What about the oath of the bank guard?

TINA

There is no oath.

BANK ROBBER

I'm pretty sure there's an oath.

TINA

Maybe I missed that day.

BANK ROBBER

Come on you two.

Tina is very upset but goes. Aaron thinks this is awesome.

AARON

Don't forget to tell the news how brave I was!

They all exit. Immediately there are two gunshots off stage.

BANK ROBBER

Are you kidding me?!

The bank robber re-enters. The only one left is Marge.

BANK ROBBER

Are you ready to make the ultimate sacrifice for your bank?

Marge rises, powerfully.

MARGE

I am ready to die for my bank. It is the duty of any good manager to volunteer herself as a hostage, assuming all her other employees are dead first. This bank is my life, my life is this bank. Let's go!

The Bank Robber starts clapping, slowly. He claps faster and faster and as he does Aaron re-enters the vault followed by Tina and Becca. They are clapping as well.

BANK ROBBER

Bravo, bravo Marge! I knew I made the right choice!

MARGE

What's going on? How are you alive?!

The bank robber pulls off his mask to reveal he is an older white man...MR. JACOBSON!

MARGE

Mister Jacobson!?

MR. JACOBSON

It is I.

Aaron leaves the stage.

MARGE

Marge, I am here to tell you that you are being promoted to regional manager! Congratulations!

Aaron returns with glasses of champagne. Passes them out.

MARGE

I don't know what to say! I was totally fooled.

BECCA

I knew it'd work!

TINA

We really had you going!

MARGE

But what about the police siren?

MR. JACOBSON

Oh, those were real. The police have us surrounded.

MARGE

The gunshots?

AARON

He shot a few customers.

TINA

But don't worry, no business customers. Just the regular kind.

MARGE

As regional manager I'm very happy to hear that.

MR. JACOBSON

That's my Marge. Now, if someone wouldn't mind hiding this gun...

AARON

I got it!

Aaron takes the gun. Stuffs it down his pants.

MR. JACOBSON

Marge, if you'll lead the way, I'd like to treat you to a celebratory lunch.

MARGE

I'm so honored!

Everyone exits. Five seconds later there is a barrage of gunfire. The lights fade slowly.