

# **REMOTE**

A 10 Minute Play

by

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©

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**REMOTE**

**Characters:**

CHARLIE

EMMET

A FEMALE TELEVISION ANNOUNCER VOICE

A MALE TELEVISION ANNOUNCER VOICE

VARIOUS OFF-STAGE VOICES

**Place:**

A Hotel Guest Room, Columbus, Ohio.

**Time:**

Now.

SETTING: A guest room at a hotel in Columbus, OH.

AT RISE: Two haggard business men, CHARLIE and EMMET, in suits walk in and throw down their briefcases on the bed, stretching and removing their coats.

CHARLIE

The worst part is we just sat there and watched it happen.

EMMET

I knew the account was in trouble when she started talking about dinosaurs. Your prospective client starts using words like "dinosaurs", "fossils", "extinct", you can kiss your ass goodbye. We should have known when she wouldn't let us come to her office. Hah? First tip-off right there. Had to meet us here, like we might bring "fossil" vibes into her workplace.

CHARLIE

Like a nightmare.

EMMET

Complete nightmare.

(Charlie picks up the remote control and turns on the T.V.)

CHARLIE

At least now we get to leave town tomorrow.

EMMET

You know, I used to have very fond feelings for Columbus. That woman has single-handedly ruined my affection for a major mid-western metropolitan area.

CHARLIE

(Watching T.V.)

Hey, check it out. Columbus is on the news.

EMMET

Well, of course it is. Why do you think they call it "local" news?

CHARLIE

No. It's the same news. It's on this channel.

(Click)

And this one.

(Click)

And this one. And...

EMMET

Wait. They're all showing the same building...

CHARLIE

That street corner looks kind of familiar.

EMMET

So does that whole block.

(Emmet goes to the window to look out  
as Charlie stares at the T.V.)

CHARLIE

Hey! Isn't that our car? That's our rental car!

EMMET

That's our block-

EMMET AND CHARLIE

That's our hotel!

CHARLIE

Cool! Our hotel's on T.V.!

EMMET

Why are we on T.V.? Is there a fire? Do you think we're on  
fire?

CHARLIE

(Peering at the T.V.)

I don't see any flames.

(Clicks the remote)

Not on this channel either.

(Click)

All clear.

EMMET

Turn up the sound! Turn up the sound!

(Charlie does)

FEMALE T.V. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

-police have indeed cordoned off the block-

EMMET

Oh god oh god-

FEMALE T.V. ANNOUNCER

Of course, everyone is hoping for a peaceful outcome to the  
Westin Great Southern hostage crisis.

EMMET

WHAT??

CHARLIE

Cool! We're in a hostage crisis, Emmet!

EMMET

No, no, no, no. We can't be in a hostage crisis, we're not even at Orange Alert, we're at Mauve or- or- why didn't we hear any of this??

CHARLIE

We didn't turn on the T.V. 'til just now.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

This is as close as police are letting our camera crew-

CHARLIE

Let's see if someone else is closer.

(Click. He changes channels)

EMMET

We gotta get out of here, Charlie-

CHARLIE

(Watching the T.V.)

Dude! This channel's already got a title running on the bottom -- "The Westin Great Southern Hostage Crisis"! My life's never had a title before.

EMMET

This isn't your title -- there's been some kind of mistake -- we gotta-

CHARLIE

I wonder if it'll expand! "Day 1"! "Day 2"!

EMMET

Oh god.

CHARLIE

"Week Three of the Westin Great Southern Hostage Crisis"-

EMMET

There aren't enough continental breakfasts for three weeks -- we gotta get out of here-

CHARLIE

(Pointing to the T.V.)

Look! An aerial shot! That means-

(Faint sound of helicopters overhead.  
Emmet moves to the window)

EMMET

Choppers?

(The sound grows louder...)

CHARLIE

(Scanning the T.V.)

They got police choppers... and news choppers covering the police choppers... and looks like a blimp or something covering the news choppers covering the police choppers...

EMMET

(Opening the window and craning his head out)

I can barely see them...

CHARLIE

(Flipping the channel back)

You get a real good view back here on Channel Five.

(Emmet returns to the T.V. as Charlie turns the sound back up)

MALE T.V. ANNOUNCER

-authorities are now stating with certainty that the gunman responsible for the series of robberies in the downtown area has taken refuge in the Westin Great Southern Hotel-

(Click. Charlie changes the channel)

EMMET

Why would he pick this hotel?? You don't pick a classy hotel to hide out in -- you pick a dump, a dive-

CHARLIE

Maybe he's an Teddy Roosevelt impersonator.

EMMET

What??

CHARLIE

You know, goes for the antique look. Monocle. Spittoon. Didn't Teddy Roosevelt stay here? Maybe he feels comfortable here.

EMMET

Are you telling me there's a guy dressed as Theodore Roosevelt holding hostages in this hotel?

(Charlie clicks the remote again)

FEMALE T.V. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

-we are getting reports of a room... the police seem to think he's holed up with hostages... in... we're hearing in Room 414.

CHARLIE

Wow. So Teddy's got a room.

EMMET

(Feeling his pockets, checking  
the nightstand)

414... 414? That's the fourth floor -- we're on the fourth  
floor -- where's our room key??

FEMALE T.V. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

It's unclear if 414 holds any special significance for the  
gunman-

(Charlie pulls the key card and  
envelope from his shirt pocket and  
hands it to Emmet, never taking his  
eyes off the T.V., but changing the  
channel again)

EMMET

(Reading the envelope)

416! We're in Room 416!

(Beat)

That means he's right next door.

CHARLIE

The little scroll on the bottom of Channel Eight says 414  
too. It must be true-

EMMET

(Whispered fiercely)

Mute it!!

(Charlie does)

EMMET (CONT'D)

(Inching to the middle of the  
room, quietly)

...there's a man with a gun... inches from us, Charlie.

(Beat. They listen...  
Only choppers...)

CHARLIE

(Quietly)

I wonder which side he's on?

EMMET

(Inching toward one wall)

Why haven't we heard anything? Don't you think we'd have  
heard someone taking hostages?

CHARLIE

(Inching toward the other wall  
to listen)

It's an old building. They got good thick walls.

EMMET

Shhh...

CHARLIE

(Quietly)

Not like those crap walls in that hotel in Tulsa -- remember that? Those walls were so thin, the guy next door belched, we said, "Excuse you!", he said, "Sorry!" -- Remember that?

EMMET

(Trying to listen to the wall)

Will you shut up?

CHARLIE

(Back to the T.V.)

Hey, they're all showing the same shot of the outside -- I wonder if that's his window?

EMMET

Which one?

CHARLIE

One of those lit ones.

EMMET

One must be ours.

CHARLIE

Which one?

EMMET

I don't know.

CHARLIE

Go stand in the window and wave.

EMMET

What?

CHARLIE

Go give a quick wave. Let's figure out which window is ours.

EMMET

But-

CHARLIE

Just go wave, Emmet! Hurry! Before they move the camera!

(Emmet gingerly moves to the window... stands to the side of it and waves...)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

There you are! You're on T.V.!

EMMET

(Coming back to see the screen)

Where-

CHARLIE

Well, now you're gone. Go back! Go back and wave!

(Emmet runs to the window, waving,  
trying to see himself on T.V.)

EMMET

Can you see me? Can you see me?

(BLAM BLAM!! Two shots echo from below  
-- Emmet and Charlie DIVE to the floor.  
Pause. Silence.)

CHARLIE

Holy shit.

EMMET

Jesus Jesus Jesus Jesus-

CHARLIE

They must have thought you were Teddy.

EMMET

I'm not Teddy! I'm not a gunman! I work for Verizon!!

CHARLIE

Those couldn't have been snipers. Snipers would have popped  
you right off. Crack.

EMMET

Oh god...

CHARLIE

I wouldn't stand by the window anymore.

(BOOM BOOM BOOM -- muffled shots from  
next door)

EMMET

Jesus God!!

CHARLIE

(Pointing to the T.V.)

He's shooting back! Teddy's shooting back from his window!  
Holy Cow!

EMMET

We have to get out of here-

CHARLIE

No! Listen!

(Pause. Silence)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

He's stopped.  
 (Pointing to the T.V., quietly)  
 The shots came from that window... and you were standing in  
that window...  
 (Arranging himself to figure  
 out the directions)  
 So that means he's in...

EMMET

(Pointing to one wall)

...that room.

(They both look in that direction)

EMMET (CONT'D)

(Quietly)

Do you think he knows we're here?

CHARLIE

The walls are pretty thick. We didn't know he was here.

EMMET

That's true.

CHARLIE

Unless he watches T.V. and saw your dumb-ass stunt waving at  
 the window.

EMMET

Excuse me?? Who was yelling "Wave! Wave!"??

CHARLIE

(Back to the T.V.)

Oh man, they're really bringing in the riot gear-

EMMET

(Watching the T.V.)

Is that a SWAT truck?

CHARLIE

Oh yeah.

EMMET

Are those real? I've never seen one for real.

CHARLIE

It's not gonna make that corner...

EMMET

Wait, that's where we parked our car -- that's our car!!  
It's gonna hit-

(They flinch, watching the screen)

CHARLIE

Ouch!

EMMET

Oh god! That was a rental!

CHARLIE

Oh maaaaan!

EMMET

I didn't buy insurance for getting crushed by a SWAT truck...

CHARLIE

Blam-O.

EMMET

This is coming out of our commissions, you know that!

CHARLIE

What commissions? They didn't sign, remember?

EMMET

Oh god oh god oh god...

CHARLIE

I hope they show that shot again. The tires poppin' and the safety glass -- that was pretty spectacular.

EMMET

Of all the cars to hit...

CHARLIE

(Changing the channel)

Ooo! This channel's showing the replay! Look! There it goes -- WHOOM! Oh, man, look at the hood!

EMMET

It could have taken out that SUV -- I would have paid to see it take out that SUV.

CHARLIE

Show it again, show it again...

(Muffled noises from next door)

EMMET

Quiet! He's yelling -- why is he yelling?

CHARLIE

Let's turn up the volume and see-

EMMET

(Grabbing the remote)

No! Keep it mute! I want to hear!

CHARLIE

(Pulling the remote back)

They'll tell you what he's saying!

EMMET

(Fighting for the remote)

I want to hear for myself!

CHARLIE

What are you gonna trust? Your ears?

EMMET

Mute it!

CHARLIE

Who's more objective, Emmet, you or them??

EMMET

I don't care, I wanta-

(Pause. They stop fighting... both looking up at the screen...)

EMMET (CONT'D)

What the hell is that?

CHARLIE

You must have pushed a button.

EMMET

You were pushing buttons too-

CHARLIE

Where's the news?

EMMET

What IS that?

(Beat)

CHARLIE

It looks like a porno movie.

EMMET

What?

CHARLIE

You must have pushed the button for Pay-Per-View Porn.

EMMET

You were pushing buttons... too...

(They both are mesmerized by the T.V.)

CHARLIE

Whoa.

EMMET

"Nothing But Butts"?

CHARLIE

Pretty descriptive title, I'd say.

EMMET

...are those real?

CHARLIE

Don't look like surgery to me...

EMMET

This is like \$9.95 or something, isn't it? This is going to get charged to the company credit card! I'm gonna have to explain "Nothing But Butts" to Accounts Payable!

CHARLIE

Relax. The title doesn't show up on the bill.

EMMET

We lose the account, we lose the car, we're buying porn movies-

(BOOM BOOM! Muffled shots from next door -- more yelling)

EMMET (CONT'D)

(Fumbling with the remote,  
pushing buttons)

Oh god, get back to the news, get back to the news-

CHARLIE

(Watching the T.V.)

They're storming the place!

EMMET

They got a cameraman with them?

(Noises outside -- running feet...)

CHARLIE  
 (Watching the T.V.)  
 That's our hall! That's our hall!

(Stomping noises outside...)

EMMET  
 (Watching the T.V.)  
 They're right outside our room!

(Muffled CRUNCH...)

CHARLIE  
 (Watching the T.V.)  
 They broke down his door!

(BANG BANG BANG BANG from next door --  
 yells -- muffled chaos...  
 Charlie and Emmet never take their eyes  
 off the screen...)

CHARLIE (CONT'D)  
 Oh man oh man oh man...

EMMET  
 Oh god oh god oh god...

(Silence.)

EMMET (CONT'D)  
 The picture went out! What happened to the picture??

CHARLIE  
 (Flipping channels)  
 It's not this one either. Or here... just the outside of the  
 building.

EMMET  
 It looks calm.

CHARLIE  
 ...They must have got him.

EMMET  
 Why not show that on T.V.?

CHARLIE  
 Maybe somebody else got shot. Maybe there's blood.

EMMET  
 They don't want to show blood on T.V.

CHARLIE  
That'd be disturbing.

(Pause)

EMMET  
So they must have got Teddy.

CHARLIE  
They'll tell us in a little while.

EMMET  
Maybe they'll show a recap.

CHARLIE  
They'll be showing that all night.

EMMET  
Jesus.

(They both sit there in their  
dishevelled hotel room, staring at the  
T.V.)

EMMET (CONT'D)  
We should probably do something.

CHARLIE  
...We already paid for that porn movie.

EMMET  
Can you get back to that?

CHARLIE  
(Punches the remote)  
It should still be... here.

EMMET  
Yep.

(They stare blankly at the screen.  
Pause...)

CHARLIE  
She's a real looker.

(Blackout)

**THE END**