

AND NOW, IN COLOUR...

Starring

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Alistair McGowan
William Vandyck
Flip Webster

Written by

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HOSTAGES 1

Gary Tim
Bob Alistair
Joanna Caroline
Inspector William
Constable Flip

INTERIOR, DINGY ROOM.

**A MAN (GARY) WEARING A BLACK
BALACLAVA AND BRANDISHING A GUN
IS AT THE OPEN WINDOW HOLDING A
MEGAPHONE. ANOTHER SIMILARLY
DRESSED MAN (BOB) JOINS HIM,
ALTHOUGH BOB HAS ROLLED HIS
BALACLAVA UP SO THAT HIS FACE IS
EXPOSED. BOTH HAVE TORN PIECES
OF PURPLE CLOTH TIED ROUND THEIR**

**ARMS. BLUE FLASHING POLICE
LIGHTS FLICKER THROUGH THE
WINDOW AND ACROSS THE WALLS.
IT'S TENSE.**

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

This is the Purple Dawn Freedom
Fighters! The deadline of three
o'clock this afternoon remains.
Meet the demands or the hostages
will be shot one by one. No
negotiation! (TO BOB) How are
the hostages?

BOB:

Fine. They're fine.

GARY:

Right, well I guess now we just
wait.

BOB:

Yes ... Gary ... the thing is, I
think one of them may have
caught a glimpse of me without
my balaclava.

GARY:

What? Which one?

BOB:

Er ... it was the girl with long
brown hair.

GARY:

Damn! Do you think she could
identify you?

BOB:

Well ... yees, I think so ...
the thing is Gary ... that this
girl, the hostage - Joanna - and
myself, well we've sort of
decided to get married.

GARY:

(RATHER QUIETLY)

What?

BOB:

This is the real thing Gary. I
wanted you to be the first to
know.

GARY:

But ... Bob, we've been planning this for two years. Think of our dream of the future! The dream we've shared since Mrs. Evans' class.

BOB:

Yeah, I know. **(BEAT)** And that's why I'd like you to be best man, Gary.

GARY:

Oh ... that's a very nice thought Bob.

BOB:

Joanna wants to buy a semi-detached in Hounslow with the ransom money. What do you think?

GARY:

(PACING)

Right. Lets' see. Now. Better get a cake. **(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)** This is the Purple Dawn Freedom

Fighters - we have an extra demand. We want a wedding cake with icing and everything, ... a priest, and a wedding ring - a nice one.

CUT TO EXTERIOR, WHERE WE FIRST SEE THE POLICE CAR STAKING OUT THE SCENE. THE NEGOTIATOR - A POLICE INSPECTOR - IS LEANING OVER THE BONNET WITH THE MEGAPHONE, ASSISTED BY A WPC. BEHIND THEM ARE MARKSMEN WITH EARPHONES AND RIFLES.

DURING THIS DIALOGUE, WE CUT BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE ROOM.

POLICE NEGOTIATOR (INSPECTOR):

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

This is the Police. I repeat your demands are now - the release of fourteen Purple Dawn terrorists from Class One security jails in Europe, a fully fuelled plane, £90,000, an iced wedding cake, a priest, and

a nice wedding ring. What's going on? Are you getting married?

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

We're not telling.

INSPECTOR:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

Oh, go on. Are you?

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

Well, the sound of wedding bells may not be too far off.

SLIGHT PAUSE

INSPECTOR:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

This is the Police. All of us here at the anti-terrorist squad would like to send our congratulations. Can we come to the wedding?

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

No.

INSPECTOR:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

We'll meet all your demands.

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

No.

INSPECTOR:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

Come on! We have the place
surrounded. We are winning.

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

No, you're not. We're winning
easily.

ENTER JOANNA - THE HOSTAGE.

BOB:

Oh Gary, I'd like you to meet
Joanna.

JOANNA:

Hello.

GARY:

Oh ... hello.

THEY SORT OF SHAKE HANDS

JOANNA:

Would you mind if they came? I think they look rather nice in those uniforms.

GARY:

Oh alright.

JOANNA:

Does anyone want coffee?

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

Alright. You can come.

WE HEAR THE POLICE CHEERING OFF.

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

The service is at 2.00.

INSPECTOR:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

That's too early. We need more time to buy presents and get changed and everything.

GARY:

(THROUGH MEGAPHONE)

No negotiation..

BACK WITH THE POLICEMEN NOW

CONSTABLE:

Better get a move on sir.

INSPECTOR:

Right, yes. I know a shop where we can buy some Le Creuset saucepans.

CONSTABLE:

Yes. Right. I'll get the buttonholes.

A SECOND CONSTABLE RUSHES UP

CONSTABLE TWO:

Another group of hostages have
been taken, across town sir.
They want you to negotiate.

INSPECTOR:

Oh no. When's that one finish?

CONSTABLE TWO:

Sir?

INSPECTOR:

When's their deadline?

CONSTABLE TWO:

Er ... 1.30 sir.

INSPECTOR:

Right. **(BEAT)** Do you think they
can make it any earlier?