

NEW YEARS 2017

Written by

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Based on the 2016 version

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FADE IN:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHTFALL

The streets are wet as the rain pours down. In the streets people with umbrellas are trying to find a cab.

EXT. FLOOR (OFFICE BUILDING) - NIGHT

On the penthouse floor with overhanging rooftop the well known two luxury reclining chairs are empty when you and me open the balcony doors and enter while the rain pours in front of the balcony.

INT. BALCONY (FLOOR OFFICE BUILDING) - NIGHT

YOU, (still in your prime years on the peak of your game, and I, (still early fifty's still working on his big break) walk onto the balcony and talk indistinctly. In one hand we both have what looks like a glass of scotch and in the other a big burning cigar (unless you're a woman in which case the Scotch can be anything else you like same as the cigar). We look at the streets.

YOU

Still with your favorite scotch I see.

BURT

Ha ha, you would think so, but no. Coffee and scotch, coffee and scotch.

YOU

Morning and evening?

BURT

Day and night, but no again. Ice tea. I switched from whiskey to ice tea and from coffee to tea.

YOU

Who would have thought? You're a democrat now too.

BURT

Now you're getting nasty.

YOU

I'm just saying. I would have thought that since the latest elections even you would be converted.

BURT
(pauses, thinks, looks
ahead and sighs)
We could still survive.

YOU
Perhaps.

BURT
Look at them.

(Points at people in the
street chasing cabs)
Everyone hurrying home. The same
home they hurry back to day after
day, month after month year after
year. I swear, I even recognize
some of them from last year.

YOU
And what does that say about us?

(Short pause)
Speaking of it what about your big
career change plans. You're novel
was just published last time we
stood here.

Both men sit down in the chairs.

BURT
Big success, very big
success.

YOU
I'm sure it was.

BURT
(in a tired voice, with a
sigh)
No really. I wouldn't lie to you my
friend. Copies sold all over the
world.

YOU
Many copies sold?

Burt grunts and takes a nip of his iced tea.

BURT
They made it into an audio book and
for a moment there was some
interest in making a feature film
based on the book.

YOU
What happened?

BURT
They went for the other guy. Can
you believe that?

YOU
Disgraceful.

BURT
It sure is.

YOU
Any new writing plans?

BURT
I'm writing the next one.
Publishing was planned for April
2017 but I'm only halfway yet so...

YOU
What 's it about?

BURT
Same theme, same lead character who
a few years later who accidentally
gets involved in another
international crisis of sorts.
Based on true events again.

YOU
Sounds catchy.

(Softly singing)
Another year over and what have you
done?

BURT
Tuna catch. I caught my first big
tuna.

YOU
You never seem to stop amazing me.

BURT
Hmm. So what now? Are we going for
an entirely different year or what?

YOU
Is that really what you want.
Entirely different. I always
believed you didn't have it that
bad. Burt, you're still 51 years
old, still more money then you
could spend,

(Burt quickly turns his
head, looks at you with a
naughty smile on your
face, you react quickly)
(MORE)

YOU (CONT'D)
 sensible. You have your health,
 except for that one small mishap
 last year.

BURT

(Interrupts you)
 And yes I know it. I still could be
 a little fitter. My life isn't bad.
 That's not what I'm saying. What I
 mean is that I strongly believe
 that change is the foundation for a
 healthy life.

YOU
 So change.

BURT

Always something to change.

YOU

(clearly thinking, while
 nibbling your cigar)
 We can always use a bit of change
 from time to time I guess.
 (Both men pause and gaze
 into the night)

BURT
 Indeed we can.
 (Inhales deep and pauses.)
 New year's resolution?

YOU
 To the both of us?

BURT
 To the both of us.

BURT/YOU
 (simultaneously, in soft
 voice, while raising
 their glasses)
 Happy ever changing holidays.

INT. BALCONY (FLOOR OFFICE BUILDING) - NIGHT

ZOOM OUT OF THE BALCONY.

FADE OUT.