

BAIT

by

Jerod Brennen

2324 Glencroft Drive
Hilliard, Ohio 43026
323.863.6398
jerod.brennen@gmail.com

FADE IN:

EXT. SUBURBAN PARK - DAY

A MIDDLE-AGED MAN stands over one of the park's concrete picnic tables, holding a camcorder in one hand, recording his actions.

With his other hand, he positions a TOY ROBOT in the center of the table.

MAN (O.S.)
And now for the bait.

He flips a switch, and the robot begins to rock back and forth.

The man slips away and hides behind a tree. He peeks the camera around the tree, recording the robot from a distance.

The camera pans back and forth between the robot and a YOUNG BOY playing nearby.

MAN (O.S.)
Come on, come on.

The boy notices the robot. He looks around, wondering where the owner is.

MAN (O.S.)
Bingo.

The boy moves toward the toy. He picks it up.

The man steps out from behind the tree and beelines toward the boy.

MAN (O.S.)
Excuse me. Excuse me, young man.
That's my robot you're playing
with.

YOUNG BOY
I was just looking at it. What's
with the camera?

MAN (O.S.)
I'm making a movie. About robots.

YOUNG BOY
Cool.

MAN (O.S.)
Do you like movies?

YOUNG BOY
I guess.

MAN (O.S.)
And robots?

YOUNG BOY
Who doesn't?

MAN (O.S.)
Which do you like better? Movies or
robots?

Tough decision. The boy puts some thought into it.

YOUNG BOY
I'd say robots.

The man bends down, eye-to-eye with the boy.

MAN (O.S.)
You know what? I've got a whole
bunch of robots in my van. Do you
want one?

YOUNG BOY
Can I have this one?

The man picks up the robot.

MAN (O.S.)
Sorry. I need that one for my
movie. But if you come over to my
van, I can give you a brand new
one. You can take your pick.

The man stands and turns, revealing the LONE WHITE VAN
parked nearby.

YOUNG BOY
I should ask my dad.

MAN (O.S.)
Tell you what. Let's surprise your
dad. If you carry my robot back to
the van, I'll give you two brand
new robots. One for you and one for
your dad. What do you say?

The man extends the robot to the boy. The boy considers,
then takes the robot from the man's hand.

They walk to the van, together.

The man opens the van's rear door. Inside is a BOX, overflowing with unopened toys.

The boy sets the man's robot down by the box.

YOUNG BOY
I can really have two?

MAN (O.S.)
Sure thing. Just climb on in and
take your pick.

The boy stands there, looking up at the man.

MAN (O.S.)
Go on. Don't be shy.

The boy doesn't move. He looks past the man, behind him.

MAN (O.S.)
Well? What are you waiting for?

A loud electric CRACKLE!

The man falls past the boy, into the van. He lands on his side, unconscious.

The camera continues to roll, pointing into the parking lot.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)
Awesome!

Standing in frame, over the man, is the boy's FATHER. He holds a STUN GUN at his side.

FATHER
Good job, Billy.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)
Just like we practiced, right? Did
I do okay?

FATHER
You were perfect.

Billy's father reaches into the van and grabs one of the unopened toys. He hands it to his son.

FATHER
Here.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)
Really? I can keep it?

Billy's father looks down at the man in the van.

FATHER
Sure thing. This guy won't be
needing it anymore, not after
Daddy's done playing with him.

Billy's father flips the unconscious man's legs into the
van.

He closes the van door.

CUT TO BLACK