

Out of Orbit - Episode One

A TV dramedy

November 2023  
Draft

1           **FADE IN FROM WHITE**                                           1

2           **EST. VEGAS STRIP - NIGHT**                                           2

Sin city.

Electricity fizzes down the strip.

We zip through the hotels as if on a drone, catching glimpses of the glitzy hotels and neon lights.

A hot Nevada night, with tourists rocking 00's style: baggy shorts, cut-off denim, flip phones, and giant cocktails.

3           **EXT. NERO'S CASINO - NIGHT**                                           3

Outside NERO'S CASINO a crowd gathers around a STUNT RAMP.

We track up to the top of the ramp where RICK ORBIT, daredevil extraordinaire sits atop his MOTORBIKE.

Mid-twenties, he wears a red jump suit and sports a white helmet emblazoned with a rocket ship. Streaks of blonde hair stick out like weeds through a sidewalk.

His eyes narrow...the world on mute in his head...the sound roars into focus when he hears his name--

ANNOUNCER (O.S)

...Rick Orbit will attempt his most audacious, daring, *ludicrous* stunt as he attempts to defy both gravity and sanity by clearing two white tigers...four Greyhound buses and a burning ring of fire!

We see Rick's hopeful flight path -- the white tigers in cages on plinths...the four greyhound buses...a burning ring of fire...before the safety of a downramp.

Rick gives a sweeping showman's wave to the crowd, then stares down the ramp.

He revs the bike.

He crouches.

Focuses.

RICK  
(to himself)  
To the moon.

Sound is drowned out, except the sound of his beating heart.

Rick drops his bike into the ramp...

...Pushing against the wind...

...his cheeks flapping. His eyes watering...

...he speeds down the ramp preparing for the jump...

The crowd hushes.

VIEW ON a rogue screw POPPING out the ramp -- this fault leverages up a piece of wood.

Rick doesn't notice. He hits the uplifted wood full pelt, wobbles but doesn't fall...

He launches off the ramp, propelling himself forward.

And then it's SLOW-MOTION as he hurtles over the tigers...

...The first Greyhound bus...

Second...

Third...

Fourth...

Rick realises he's lost control. The crowd also knows something is wrong.

He topples towards the ring of fire, and for a second you think he's going to be able to recover as he reaches back for the handlebars...

But then he smashes into ring of fire, tumbling before straightening like a javelin, headfirst towards the pavement.

He's literally on fire as he slides along the ground like a flaming hockey puck, coming to a stop near the crowd.

Blackness.

*Blink.*

*Blink.*

The world comes back into focus.

RICK'S POV looking up at A YOUNG WOMAN -- we'll find out later this is SALLY -- but for now a carefree teenager, blonde with streaks of blue and a few flowers in her hair.

YOUNG SALLY

Woah man, you're, like, totally on fire.

To Rick, she appears like a goddess, surrounded in a halo of flame.

A fire extinguisher churns as firefighters spray him down.

Sally blows a bubblegum bubble. It POPS. She takes the gum then uses it to plug a gushing bloody hole in his leg.

Rick smiles. She smiles.

RICK  
To the moon.

**4 EXT. A STATELY HOME - NIGHT 4**

**5 OVERLAY: 20 YEARS LATER. SURREY, UK. 5**

A beautiful, vine-covered, expensive manor house. Like something from *Midsomer Murders* or *Poirot*.

It's raining heavily. A beat-down car sits in the drive, its wipers furiously trying to keep up.

**6 INT. RICK'S CAR - NIGHT 6**

RICK ORBIT, now late-forties, sits in the drivers seat. Leathered face, overly tanned, crusty unkempt beard, his hair thinning and straw-like.

His phone is cradled on the dash. He's listening to tinny heavy metal music -- think Motley Crüe.

He stares up at the stately home, then at his watch -- "What's taking so long?"

He sees a bee on the window. He squashes it against the window. He's pleased with himself.

SFX: A SHOTGUN BLAST FROM INSIDE THE HOUSE.

The door of the mansion bursts open. TWO GUYS in balaclavas storm out, carrying duffel bags. They open the car door and jump in - one in the front, one in the back.

GUY #1 (SEAN)  
Go! Go! Go!

Rick casually pauses the music, starts the car. Then just sits there.

GUY #2 (BRIAN)  
You were supposed to keep the car running!

RICK  
It's an old car. I start it too fast, it'll conk out.

After a few seconds, he puts it in gear, starts driving.

7 INT/EXT. CAR/COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT

7

He drives casually down the country road.

RICK  
Who fired the gun?

SEAN  
We thought someone was chasing  
us!

RICK  
Who? The eighty-four year old  
octogenarian butler with bad  
knees?

Sean is frustrated with the speed Rick is driving. He sticks the shotgun to the back of Rick's head.

BRIAN  
This isn't an Uber, you wanker!

Rick nonchalantly pushes the gun away -- "Grow up".

RICK  
Cool your jets, champ.

Rick's phone rings. He answers it on SPEAKER PHONE.

RUDY (O.S)  
Rick?...Rick is that you?

RICK  
Oh, hey Rudy.

RUDY (O.S)  
Rick, it's me. It's Rudy.

RICK  
Yeah, I know how phones work.

RUDY  
Now a good time to talk?

RICK  
Who doesn't love a cold call from  
their lawyer? Wait...did I kill  
someone?

RUDY (O.S)  
How you doin', you alright?

RICK  
I had this virus the other week.  
Doctor's dunno what it is.

He coughs, as if proving a point. Brian and Sean look at each other - this guy serious??

RUDY (O.S)  
Sorry to hear that.

RICK  
Is meningococcal still a thing? I think it was that. Nah, can't have been. (to himself) I'd be dead...

Rick makes another careful turn around a corner, heading into a dreary village hamlet.

RUDY (O.S)  
I got some news. I don't really wanna deliver it over the phone.

RICK  
Whatever you have to tell me, you can tell in front of my crew.

SEAN  
You're not in our crew, old man!

RICK  
Now, come on, let's just see how this gig goes.

RUDY (O.S)  
Your crew? Are you on a job? Christ, Rick! I thought you gave that shit up!

RICK  
Last one. Promise.

He winks at the boys, shakes his head.

RUDY (O.S)  
It's important. It's about Sally.

RICK  
Sally? Ex-girlfriend Sally? I haven't seen her in like eighteen years. What's the grackle done now? Wrapped her tentacles around another unsuspecting hedgefund whale and sucked him dry for every last ounce of life--

RUDY (O.S)  
Would you shut up for a second. We lost her, Rick.

RICK  
She is very lithe, have you checked behind the curtains?

RUDY (O.S)  
 She's dead, Rick. She's fucking  
 dead. Okay?

Rick checks his mirrors, then pulls the car over, turns on his hazard lights. Takes the phone off speakerphone.

8 INT/EXT. CAR/ROADSIDE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

8

Brian and Sean are again perplexed.

RICK  
 ...Was it meningococcal?

RUDY (O.S)  
 It was a plane crash. A fucking  
 plane crash. Can you believe it?  
 Flying over the alps and straight  
 into the side of a mountain. Bam.

Rick just stares into the distance.

RICK  
 Man. That's rough.

In the distance, off in an adjacent valley, we see blue and red flashing lights.

Sean and Brian panic.

SEAN  
 SHIT SHIT SHIT! The cops!

BRIAN  
 Come on man! We gotta go!

Sean starts shaking him. Rick doesn't move.

SEAN  
 Move the fucking car!

SFX: SIRENS.

RUDY (O.S)  
 Are you still there? What's going  
 on? Are those sirens?

Brian starts to thrash around in the backseat.

The sirens get louder. Sean points his gun at Rick's face.

SEAN  
 Move. The. Car.

RICK  
 Rudy, do you mind if I call you  
 back tomorrow? I'm just finishing  
 something up.

RUDY (O.S)  
 Fine. There's actually more I  
 gotta tell you anyway.

Rick hangs up the phone. Then slaps his knees, comes to his senses.

RICK  
 Right. Sorry about that, guys.

Rick rubs his hands together. Revs the engine, then accelerates...

The car doesn't move.

He tries again.

They all look out the window.

The car is stuck in mud.

RICK  
 One of you is going to have to  
 get out and push.

Brian and Sean stare at him, but don't move.

RICK (CONT.)  
 I don't want to rush you, but I  
 think those sirens are the  
 police.

The thieves get out. Push the car as the sirens get louder.

The cop car comes into view, careens to a stop. TWO OFFICERS jump out. Start running towards the car.

Rick's car is freed. Sean and Brian jump back in.

Rick slams his foot down and the car speeds off.

The cops jump back in the car and head off in pursuit.

Rick's stunt driving skills are on display as he manoeuvres calmly around the country roads, while the trailing cop car struggles to keep up -

-- Rick makes a hairpin turn around a very tight corner; the cop car skids and drifts, knocking over a fence before correcting.

-- Rick approaches a road full of sheep, steers the car casually into the shoulder, before accelerating up and around. The cop car screeches to a stop.



-- Sean and Brian look through the back window and are happy to see they're in the clear. They pat Rick happily on the back.

**10 EXT. LONDON - NEXT MORNING 10**

Grimy. Grey. Still pissing with rain. Typical London morning.

**11 INT. ROSIE'S CAFE - DAY 11**

Inside the greasy spoon café, the floor is wet. Patrons shake themselves like dogs as they escape the rain. The bright pink vinyl booths squeak as people squeeze in and out.

Rick sits in a booth with a fat, portly man.

The portly man wears a black pin-striped suit and has eyebrows like caterpillars. He dabs his forehead with a napkin. This is RUDY (50s) - the voice on the phone.

Wearing a bright Hawaiian silk shirt, Rick shoves toast and eggs into his mouth. He's got yolk in his beard.

RUDY

So, turns out Sally had a kid.

Rudy takes a folder from his briefcase. Hands it to Rick.

RUDY (CONT.)

Surprise, it's yours. Mazel tov.

RICK

Do you want a piece of pie? They do a delicious banoffee pie here. Natalia is a dessert magician.

A WAITER walks past. Rick grabs him.

RICK (CONT.)

Hey...excuse me...is Natalia working today?

WAITER

Um...I don't know.

RICK

I think you'd know if one of the great dessert chefs was working. Shortish. Blondish. Russian...ish?

WAITER

Oh, *Natasha*. No. She left.

RICK

She left? Did she say where?

WAITER

We're not a real close-knit group.

Rudy reaches across the table to grab at Rick's arm.

RUDY

Rick, ya bastard, can you stop thinking about food for two secs. Did you hear what I just said?

Rick waves him away.

RICK

Rudy, relax - it can't be mine. I can't have kids, remember? The Milan incident. Nuts are toasted.

Rick grips his crotch. Rudy winces.

RUDY

Yeah, I remember. But turns out she predates your vasectomy-by-bullet.

RICK

Even so, I don't think my boys are strong swimmers. I've never even had a scare.

RUDY

Well, this will scare you.

Rudy pushes the folder into Rick's hands. The waiter continues to wait awkwardly.

WAITER

Um, can I get you guys anything?

RUDY

Coffee. Black. And hurry. I dunno how much more of this shit I can take.

RICK

And some banoffee pie.

Rick nods. The waiter walks away.

RICK (CONT.)

A piece in *memento mori*.

Rudy taps the folder.

RUDY

Look at the DNA test. Kid's yours. Sure as you've got egg all down your face.

Rick wipes his face, opens the folder. The waiter brings pie and coffee. Rick tucks in as he scans the papers. Closes the folder. Then closes his eyes.

RICK

Will you excuse me for a sec?

Rick exits the booth and disappears into the nearby bathroom.

We hear him SCREAM. Porcelain smashing.

He comes back sits back down, takes another piece of pie.

RICK

I've given this a lot of thought.  
I've decided to ignore it.

RUDY

It's not that simple, Rick.

Rick shakes his head violently.

RICK

Listen to me. What does she want?  
Money? This kid trying to  
blackmail me? Cos I'll smash her,  
Rudy. I'll fight her in a cage  
match. I'm Rick fucking Orbit! To  
the moon!

He shovels another load of pie in his mouth.

RICK (CONT.)

(mouth full)

Seriously though, I can't look  
after a kid. I can barely look  
after myself.

RUDY

I can tell by the shirt. Look,  
she's doesn't need money. She's  
fifteen. Basically raised herself  
because, well you know how Sally  
was. Attention span of iceberg  
lettuce. Legally, the girl needs  
a guardian until she's sixteen.

Rick rubs his hands through his hair, stressed.

RUDY (CONT.)

Look, if it sweetens the deal.  
You can move into Sally's West  
London mansion.

This piques Rick's interest.

RICK

No shit?

RUDY

This place, you'll love it. Clean towels, running hot water...

RICK

That would be a welcome change. But I don't know, I've got my own place. I've got rats relying on me.

RUDY

And I'm sure if they could talk they'd encourage you to grow the fuck up.

12 INT. RUDY'S OFFICE - DAY

12

A wood-panelled legal office. Style from the 60's. Only the cheap ticking clock gives any indication time is passing.

A PITH HUNTER'S HELMET and a couple of criss-crossed spears hang on the wall, alongside a photo of Rudy in a safari suit.

Rick touches the point of one the spears. It falls off the wall. He picks it up just as the door opens.

Rudy walks in with PENNY (15), ripped jeans, band t-shirt, fringe covering her eyes. Her expression suggests she just got busted smoking.

RUDY

Penny, this is Rick. Rick, Penny.

Rick heads around the table, goes for the hug, then thinks better of it. Real awkward "Dad" moment.

Penny sours. Takes her seat, folds her arms. Rick sits. Rudy is all business.

RUDY

A representative of Penny will be joining us shortly--

The door opens and another lawyer, THOMAS, 40's, slick, high-priced, walks in, carrying a can of Coke and a glass of ice. He puts it in front of Penny and sits down.

Thomas shakes Rick's hand. Then takes a seat at the table.

THOMAS

Thomas Wilkins. I represent Sarah's estate.

Penny pops the Coke, drinks straight from the can. Rick eyes the ice cold can, licking his lips, distracted.

Rudy begins reading the legal texts.

RUDY

So, according to Mrs. Sarah McGraw's final will and testimony, in the event of her death, it was her wish that Penny's father become her legal guardian until she turns sixte--

RICK

(whispers to Thomas)

Do you have another one of those Cokes?

Thomas tries to ignore him, turns away.

RICK (CONT.)

Rude.

Rudy turns to Penny and speaks as if she's a toddler.

RUDY

Now, Penny, I know this is a terrible time. But Rick's going to come and live with you. Would you like that?

PENNY

I don't need a guardian. I can take care of myself.

RUDY

I know, but legally, you're a minor.

PENNY

So's he by the look of it.

VIEW ON Rick picking his nose.

RUDY

Now, we were going to send you to live at his house, but your lawyer and I both agreed its best to cause as little disruption to your life as possible. So Rick's going to go live with you.

PENNY

Are you sure he's house trained?

RUDY

I'm seventy-percent sure.

Rick sniffs his armpits, gives a hearty thumbs up.

RICK

I think this is going really well.

13 EXT. OUTSIDE RUDY'S OFFICE - DAY

13

Rick and Penny outside the law offices. Rick's drinking a Coke. He finishes it in one. Burbs. He looks satisfied.

They stand there. Neither seem to know what to do next.

PENNY

Look, I appreciate you crawling out of your hole to hang out with the normal people, but I just lost my mum, so I don't really want some fat loser who ran out on me fifteen years ago hanging around not using deodorant for the next six months. I'll sign the forms to say you were--

Rick cuts her off, patting her like a dog.

RICK

Slow down, my little chipmunk. I've taken a lot of blows to the head. Now, first, I had no idea you existed until, like two days ago. Second, my apartment sucks and your house is apparently a palace. And third, and most importantly, deodorant is a carcinogen.

Penny is taken aback by this honesty.

RICK (CONT.)

So how about we just agree to backstroke through this pile of shit but stay in different lanes?

Rick slips on his sunnies.

RICK (CONT.)

Lunch? I know a strip club that does cheap chicken wings?

PENNY

I'm fifteen.

RICK

Pffft, I'm not asking you to work there.

PENNY

Just take me home.

Rick leads the way over to his motorbike. Penny, despite herself, looks impressed - the motorbike is a vintage TRIUMPH bike -- the kind Steve McQueen escaped the Germans on.

Rick takes a helmet out the back pouch - the same helmet from the jump disaster, dented and blunted. He then realises he only has one.

PENNY

It's okay, I don't need a helmet.

RICK

Come on. That wouldn't be great parenting now, would it?

He thinks.

**14 EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY**

**14**

Penny straddles Rick on his bike as they tear down the road.

She's wearing his helmet. Rick wears the pith helmet from Rudy's office.

**15 INT. PENNY'S HOUSE - DAY**

**15**

VIEW ON: A huge nude photograph of Penny's dead mum, Sally, in a very provocative position.

We pull out and see Rick standing in front of it, holding an overnight bag.

RICK

Erotic.

PENNY

Grandad painted it.

Penny stands on the staircase.

We're in a beautiful Victorian house, minimal design and contemporary art pieces make it look more like an art gallery.

Penny begins heading up the stairs.

PENNY (CONT.)

I'll show you your room.

Penny opens a door off a hallway.

## 16 INT. SALLY'S BEDROOM - DAY

16

Sally's bedroom is as immaculate as the rest of the house. Beautifully clean with white sheets, white bedside tables.

PENNY

This was Mum's room.

Penny stands at the doorway while Rick tours his new room.

RICK

I had no idea Sally had such good taste.

PENNY

She doesn't. *Didn't*. If it was up to her it'd be nothing but purple velvet and stripper poles.

RICK

Knew there was a reason I loved her.

In the corner, on a designer chair, sits a creepy clown doll. Rick picks it up.

RICK (CONT.)

Stephen King having a yard sale?

PENNY

I don't know who that is. I'm going to bed. I think Mum left some cocaine in the bedside table. Help yourself.

Penny leaves. Rick goes over to the bedside table. There are a lot of photos of Sally with a MAN -- we'll soon find out this is HENRY (40s).

Rick opens the drawer. There are two packets of cocaine, along with condoms, lube and various other sex paraphernalia.

A TV remote sits on the bedside table. Rick presses ON. A panel above the fireplace opens and a TV comes on.

Rick jumps onto the bed, takes out a bag of cocaine. Then, after a second's thought, also takes out a vibrator.

## 17 INT. PENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

17

Penny in her room on her laptop.

She's looking at a website -- NOBLE CHEMICAL. She's on the ABOUT US page and there's a picture of Henry (from Sally's bedside photo), listed as CHIEF INNOVATIONS OFFICER.

She scrolls down. There's an article about Henry's new product -- "SPRAY YIELDS PROMISING GROWTH RESULTS."



18 EXT. PENNY'S GARDEN - DAY

18

The garden has a pool, colourful blooms and a manicured lawn. Several BEEHIVES sit at the end, near the pool.

Penny, dressed in full apiary gear, tends to the hives. Rick appears, casually sipping from a thermos using a straw.

RICK  
Hey, cool! You've got your own  
little bee resort!

PENNY  
Is that fruit juice? Don't get  
too close. They might go for you.

RICK  
Oh, no, this is just vodka. I  
just like using the straw.  
Protects my teeth. They're the  
moneymaker.

He taps his white chompers. Rick gets a bit closer to the hive to inspect it, but then backs away.

PENNY  
Are you allergic?

Rick thinks.

RICK  
No idea.

PENNY  
Have you ever been stung?

RICK  
I paid twenty quid for a jar of  
honey at a farmer's market once?

Penny moves him away, goes back to inspecting the hives.

RICK (CONT.)  
I've got to go back to my place  
to pick up some stuff. You be  
alright by yourself for a few  
hours?

PENNY  
I've never needed you.

RICK  
Ah. Good. Good. Normal response.

A teenager appears behind Rick -- ABIGAIL, 17, in a bikini and sarong, fly-eye sunnies, carrying a big tote.

ABIGAIL

Hi! I'm Abigail. You must be Penny's dad. I've heard so much about you.

RICK

Only good things I hope.

ABIGAIL

Actually she said you were a piece of shit.

Rick turns to Penny, who shrugs -- "Yeah, I said it".

RICK

Well, anyway, what you crazy cats going to get up to?

ABIGAIL

We're going to chill by the pool, then go rob someone's house.

Rick chuckles.

RICK

Ah, I was doing that when I was your age. Remember to wear gloves.

**19 INT. RICK'S BRIXTON FLAT - DAY**

**19**

Rick's apartment is a bachelor's shithole.

There are faded posters of Rick's glory days: we pan across and see him shaking hands with the Queen, doing coke with Mick Jagger, doing coke with the Queen.

There's a dusty tanning bed in the cramped living room. Empty take-away bags and sweets wrappers everywhere. A couple of loaves of mouldy bread and a sourdough starter on a table.

Rick's in the bedroom, filling garbage bags with clothes. Shoving them in without looking.

He opens a wardrobe. In the bottom, he finds a dusty cardboard box.

He empties it onto the bed, like a kid upending a toy chest.

It's full of Rick Orbit memorabilia -- an action figure, posters, pins, trading cards. He holds up a t-shirt, "RICK ORBIT TOOK ME TO THE MOON." He smiles.

He finds a dusty VHS -- *Orbit's Greatest Stunts*.

20 INT. RICK'S BRIXTON FLAT - DAY - LATER

20

Rick sits in front of his TV watching the grainy footage.

On the video, we see a Young Rick in a car. A cameraman in his face.

CAMERAMAN

Rick, Rick - you're about to jump this bridge, are you nervous?

Young Rick waves him away.

YOUNG RICK

Pfft! Do I look nervous? This bridge is nothing. Give me the moon and I'd jump over that too!

It cuts to Young Rick clearing the bridge.

Current-day Rick, smiles, remembering the good times.

There's a knock on the door. Rick irritated.

RICK

Who is it?

HIRED GOOD

Hired goon.

Rick sighs, goes over and opens it. A HIRED GOON darkens his doorway. Rick gives a slight chuckle.

RICK

Oh. You really are a goon. Guess I can't be mad, yo--

The goon puts a hood over his head, drags him away.

21 EXT. GREENHOUSE - DAY

21

Penny still tending to her hives. Abigail sunbathing on a lounge.

ABIGAIL

Would it be weird if I slept with him?

PENNY

I'm not sure "weird" is the word I'd use. Disturbing maybe. Illegal, possibly.

ABIGAIL

You don't even like him.

PENNY

He's still a blood relative. I don't want to end up on Jeremy Vine.

ABIGAIL

Have you ever Googled him?

PENNY

Mum said he ran off to join the circus, what else do I need to know?

ABIGAIL

He was, like, a big deal stunt man. He was in a Bond film. And a Lohan film. He even got a Cosmo Kids award for most eligible bachelor.

PENNY

(sarcastic)

That must be why he missed fifteen of my birthdays in a row.

ABIGAIL

So, where'd we land on me sleeping with him? Cos "Award Winner" is on my sexual bucket list.

Penny takes off her bee hood and sits on the deck chair next to Abigail.

PENNY

Let it go, Abigail. Did you bring the glass cutter? After tonight we can have a discussion about whether you can fuck my dad.

Abigail takes a glass cutter from her tote bag.

ABIGAIL

Won't this set off the alarm?

PENNY

He never turns it on.

Abigail stares at her.

ABIGAIL

Are you sure you want to do this?

PENNY

Look--

Penny points to the ground, we see hundreds of dead bees.

PENNY (CONT.)  
Something is killing these bees.

ABIGAIL  
Maybe they committed suicide. The  
Brian Buzztown Massacre.

She laughs at her own joke. Penny ignores it.

PENNY  
I know it's him. I know he did  
it. He was always poking around  
here with his chemicals. Treating  
the garden like a test facility.

ABIGAIL  
Henry might be a scumbag and I  
know he just up and left after  
your mum died, but doesn't mean  
he's a bee killer.

PENNY  
I just need proof.

Abigail takes a bindle of strawberries from her bag. Pops one  
in her mouth.

ABIGAIL  
Who even cares, just buy more  
bees. It's not like it's a felony  
to mess with insects. Otherwise  
my little brother would be  
charged with rape. I once saw him  
with a bunch of cockroaches and a  
tube and he was bent ov--

Penny holds up a hand-- "Enough"

PENNY  
Your brother's deeply disturbing  
side projects aside, this is  
important. This could effect the  
entire food supply chai--

Abigail makes bored talking noises with her hands.

ABIGAIL  
Yeah, yeah, blah blah blah -- as  
long as I can keep the jewellery,  
you can go full Greta Thunberg.

Penny nods.

PENNY  
Take whatever you want. I just  
want to look around.

Abigail rolls her eyes, pops another strawberry in her mouth.

ABIGAIL

Yeah, right. And I just take off  
a guy's pants to stare at it.

22 INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

22

Rick's hair looks like it's standing on end.

A face appears, upside down. Grinning widely. This is FELIKS MINCHOV (30), a short, greasy-haired Russian oligarch.

FELIKS

Hello! Rick Orbit! How lovely to  
meet you. Big fan, big fan.

We spin around, and see the Rick dangling by one leg in a WAREHOUSE. His prosthetic leg dangles beside him.

There are two other people dangling either side of him -- the robbers, Sean and Brian. They're gagged.

Rick is confused. Looks at Feliks.

RICK

Do I know you?

FELIKS

Unlikely. But I know you. And  
that, I think, is most good  
fortune for you at the moment.  
Because you can, how you say?  
Make things Even Steven.

RICK

You're Even Steven?

Feliks laughs. He nods to a BODYGUARD who punches him in the ribs.

FELIKS

I'm sorry, Mr Orbit. I had to do  
that. You were being dumb.

Feliks pulls up a crate, sits on it.

FELIKS (CONT.)

I have a problem, you see. Well,  
actually, you have a problem. But  
you are also equal parts the  
solution. Even Stevens. You see?

RICK

Nothing so far. Go on.

FELIKS

You and your friends robbed a house. My house. You even killed my butler.

RICK

They killed your butler?!

FELIKS

Well, for all intents and purposes. He died of a heart attack after Bruno here beat him with a fire poker.

BRUNO, the bodyguard, cracks his knuckles.

FELIKS (CONT.)

You took valuable items from me, Mr. Orbit.

RICK

Um, I don't know what you're talking about --

The bodyguard edges closer, Feliks stops him.

FELIKS

Lucky for you, you are Rick Orbit.

RICK

You're right - that is lucky.

FELIKS

I am a big, big Rick Orbit fan.

RICK

You are?

FELIKS

Oh yes, massive fan. I saw you do your Vegas jump when you caught fire! I was very small. My father took me along with his mistress. She was a whore. And I saw you again, in Moscow, with the buses and the bears - again, with my father and his mistress. That bitch bought me a Rick Orbit t-shirt which I wore every day! And then also I saw you in Sydney with the cannon! I almost caught you except my father's mistress was standin--

RICK

No, please, tell me more about your father's mistress. I've got nothing else on.

FELIKS

I even remember the saddest of days...in Berlin...

He motions towards the prosthetic leg.

RICK

Yeah, wasn't a great day for me either.

FELIKS

But lucky I think! If it was not for your leg I would not have believed I was really meeting...

He puffs out his chest.

FELIKS (CONT.)

The Amazing Rick Orbit! And now, I think, you have a way out.

RICK

Yay.

FELIKS

Say the line for me, Rick Orbit.

RICK

Is now really the time?

FELIKS

Please. For me. Just once.

RICK

(begrudgingly)  
To the moon.

Feliks claps with joy. Then indicates to the other two dangling robbers. The bodyguard pulls out a gun and shoots them in the head.

Blood spatters onto Rick's face.

FELIKS

Thank you, Rick. You make me happy. Now, let's talk about how you can pay me back.

RICK

Can I have some water first? There's quite a lot of blood in my mouth.

FELIKS

What do you know about the artist Jan Brunner?



RICK

Do I look like I visit a lot of art galleries?

FELIKS

Not particularly. But you see, there is a particular painting by this artist in a particular gallery.

RICK

And you need someone to go with you? Shucks. I'm flattered. I'll wear my best bowtie.

Feliks motions to the guards and they punch him in the stomach again.

FELIKS

It is heavily guarded. Heavy security. And it will soon be leaving this country and I may never get my hands on it. You, Mr. Rick Orbit, are going to steal it for me.

RICK

Okay. Fine. Can I have some water first? There's quite a lot of blood in my mouth.

23 INT. PENNY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

23

Later that night.

Penny's in the kitchen, stirring a pot of ragu. Rick comes in. His face still splattered with blood.

Penny sees him, double takes.

PENNY

What happened to your face?

Rick touches his face, as if he didn't realise.

RICK

Spaghetti sauce. Stopped at Luigi's on the way home.

PENNY

Looks like blood.

RICK

Pfft. You've been watching too much TokTik.

He walks over and looks in her pot.

RICK (CONT.)  
What you making?

PENNY  
Vegetarian ragu. I used to make  
it with Mu--

Rick sticks his finger in, sucks the sauce off it. Penny  
stares, gobsmacked.

PENNY (CONT.)  
What the hell are you doing?

RICK  
What? Gotta taste the sauce.

PENNY  
Taste it - yes. Not stick your  
fat fingers in it!

Penny is truly disgusted. Rick is shocked at her reaction.

RICK  
Okay, tap the brakes. I've had a  
bit of a big day.

PENNY  
So you just thought you'd come in  
here and start shoving your  
grubby mitts into my sauce?!

RICK  
Woah, sorry. I didn't think it  
was a big deal.

PENNY  
You're a pig! You're a disgusting  
pig!

Penny takes her pot and throws it in the sink.

PENNY (CONT.)  
Thanks for ruining my dinner. Why  
don't you do us both a favour and  
just disappear for another  
fifteen years!

Penny storms out. Rick rolls his eyes goes over to the sink.

He takes a spoon from the drying rack and scoops out some of  
the sauce from the sink and eats it.

RICK  
Jeez. Must be a germaphobe or  
somethin'.

24           **EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

24

Abigail and Penny creep down a quiet residential street in a very affluent suburb. The houses are massive.

                  ABIGAIL

                  His fingers were actually in the  
                  sauce?

                  PENNY

                  So gross.

Penny points at a house.

                  PENNY (CONT.)

                  It's that one.

Penny leads the way around the side to a locked gate. She finds a key under a rock.

They creep down to the back of the house.

Penny takes out the glass cutter and uses it on a door window. Cuts a small hole, reaches in and unlocks it.

Abigail slips on some gloves. Hands a pair to Penny. Penny stares at her.

                  ABIGAIL

                  What? It was a good idea.

Penny rolls her eyes, puts on the gloves.

Together, they slip inside.

25           **INT. ROSIE'S CAFE - NIGHT**

25

Rick is tucking into a sundae when Rudy walks in and squeezes in opposite.

                  RUDY

                  You ever thought about eating  
                  something with a vitamin in it?

                  RICK

                  Strawberry sauce. Strawberry's a  
                  fruit.

                  RUDY

                  What do you want, Rick? My wife's  
                  making casserole, so gotta give  
                  myself enough time to get to  
                  McDonald's before I go home.

Rick licks his spoon.

RICK

Yeah, look I've been thinkin', and you know what, I think I'm done with this whole babysitter thing.

RUDY

You mean, parenting. When it's your kid, it's called parenting.

RICK

Whatever. It's just not for me. I got a lot on, it's my busy season.

RUDY

You haven't had a stunt job in ten years.

RICK

Thinking of getting a *regular* job.

RUDY

You haven't had a regular job in twenty years.

RICK

It's with this Russian guy. You wouldn't know him. Goes to a different school. But it's a real important job, going to eat up a lot of my time.

RUDY

Whatever shady shit you're into, I don't wanna know. But you can't just abandon your daughter.

RICK

Look, I tried the 7-day free trial, now I want to cancel.

RUDY

She's got no one else, Rick. You're it.

RICK

Must be *someone* else. Sally was never a one man guy. I should know - I had four threesomes and a forgy with her.

RUDY

Ah, there was some low card chemicals magnate but he wasn't interested in sticking around. He split the minute Sally was gone.

RICK

I'm not the paternal type, Rudy.  
I once stole bird eggs from a  
nesting robin to make an  
omelette.

Rudy sighs.

RUDY

I didn't wanna tell you this. But  
if you say no, she goes into  
care.

Rick starts scraping the sundae coupe with his spoon.

RICK

Would that be so bad? I mean,  
it's in the name.

Rudy whacks Rick in the forehead with his palm.

RUDY

Don't be a putz, Rick. It's a few  
months! Your daughter needs you.  
For once in your life, grow up.

**26 INT. BEDROOM - MANSION - NIGHT**

**26**

Penny and Abigail walk into an opulent bedroom.

Penny motions towards the room. Abigail runs to the dresser  
like a kid let loose in a candy store.

CLOSE UP: Jewellery. Lots. Of. Jewellery.

Abigail scoops them into a duffle bag. An underwear drawer is  
opened and picked through.

Abigails tears the room apart.

Penny, meanwhile, is more pensive, looking behind paintings,  
in side-tables, riffling through bedside tables.

Penny leaves the bedroom, goes into an office.

**27 INT. OFFICE - MANSION - CONTINUOUS**

**27**

Penny takes in the luxurious office, with its thick mahogany  
desk, gold ornaments, and shelves of dusty books.

She creeps to the desk, starts going through the drawers,  
looking at all the papers, she opens the bottom drawer --

SFX: AN ALARM GOES OFF.

Abigail rushes in.

ABIGAIL  
What the fuck?

PENNY  
I must have tripped an alarm!  
Come on!

Penny grabs up all the documents she can and together they rush out of the house.

**28 EXT. STREET - NIGHT**

**28**

They spill out onto the street...

Straight into the path of a security car.

They turn and run. TWO PODGY SECURITY OFFICERS jump out of their car and head after them.

The girls bolt down the street, dropping documents and jewellery in their wake.

They jump over a fence, leaving the podgy officers trailing.

**29 INT. PENNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT**

**29**

Rick arrives home. Penny is on the couch, jumps at the sound of the door, then steadies herself.

RICK  
Hey. You okay?

Penny doesn't reply. Rick flops into the couch.

RICK (CONT.)  
I'm sorry about before. With the sauce. I guess I'm not used to...hygiene. Anyway...how about we order from that English pub down the road? It serves really good Thai food.

Penny doesn't look up.

PENNY  
No thanks.

RICK  
Come on, I'll even buy you beer.

Penny throws her book down, gets up and leaves.

PENNY  
I don't want to have Thai food with you.

She storms out.

30 INT. PENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

30

Penny lies on her bed, scrolling through her iPad. We see she's looking through family pictures. In a couple of them, Henry is there as well. She covers him with her hand.

There's a knock on the door. Rick comes in.

RICK  
Hey, you okay?

Penny wipes away the tears. Hardens. Rolls over.

PENNY  
Stop asking me that.

RICK  
Is it the Thai food? We can get any cuisine.

Penny rolls back to face him.

PENNY  
Are you kidding me? It's not the Thai food! It's because my mum just died and now I have to live with a man-child who sticks his fingers in my food!

Rick sits on the edge of her bed. Laughs out of awkwardness.

RICK  
Penny...I know this is hard to believe but I really didn't know about you. I'm sure your Mum had her reasons...maybe it was because I was a man-child, I dunno. But if I'd known...

PENNY  
You would have what? Sent a birthday card every now and then?

RICK  
It was a strange time. I was overseas a lot. Working. Partying. It was a wild ride. I didn't even know what day it was, let alone the date. But yeah, maybe a card or two...

Penny rolls onto her back.

PENNY

Well, in six months you can go back to your *awesome* life and not have to worry about me again.

Rick looks like he's going to say something really profound, but he can't find the words. He stands up.

RICK

I'll order you a Pad Thai.

31

**EXT. PENNY'S HOUSE - NIGHT - LATER**

31

Rick eats alone on the couch. There's footsteps. Penny comes down the stairs, carrying a bag of Thai food Rick has left.

She sits on the couch.

PENNY

It was Mum's recipe. The ragu I mean. When I saw you *inserting* yourself into it...

She smiles.

PENNY (CONT.)

Freud would have a field day.

RICK

He head chef at that German place?

Penny bites into a prawn cracker.

RICK (CONT.)

Rudy said there was some other guy living here. What happened to him?

PENNY

Henry. He works for Noble Chemical. He's a prick. Why?

RICK

I think I'm wearing some of his underwear.

PENNY

He didn't care about me.

RICK

Want me to bash him?

PENNY

I don't need you to *try* so hard. Okay?

Rick holds his hands up in mock surrender.



RICK

I'm not out to ruin your life or nothing. Just trying to make this experience more pleasant than my last colonoscopy.

(then)

Hey, wanna go to the zoo this weekend?

PENNY

This you not trying?

RICK

I've got a kid's go free voucher - it's literally the least I can do.

PENNY

Why are you going to the zoo?

RICK

Gotta see someone about a job.

PENNY

You're getting a job at the zoo?  
You like animals?

RICK

Of course I love animals.

He holds up his chopsticks, a chicken piece in his grasp. Pops it in his mouth.

RICK (CONT.)

But she's only works there part-time. The rest of the time, she's a hacker. You know, fiddling with computers and stuff. You're into that, right?

Penny thinks on this for a second, but before she can reply, there's a SMASH of glass as a brick flies through the window and stops at their feet.

Rick picks it up. There's a note attached. He opens it.

Penny looks over his shoulder and reads -- *We need to talk* along with a phone number.

They look at each other...unsure who the note is for...