

Prodigal Project Excerpt

by

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INT CASINO NIGHT

Daniel is dressed to the nines. His blood shot eyes are hidden behind thick black sunglasses. He is standing outside the front of a club which, like all things in Vegas, has its entrance in the back of a Casino. Two beautiful women walk by and Daniel takes the opportunity to watch them pass. As they pass he notices a little old lady down on all fours beside a slot machine, her butt is waving in the air.

A casino employee approaches her but the sounds of the casino drown out the conversation from Daniel. The old lady looks upset then hits the casino worker with her purse. Three more workers approach and she looks panicked. Something is wrong. Daniel leaves his place in line to intercede.

DANIEL

Is there something wrong here?

WORKER

Nothing to be concerned about

OLD LADY

These men are trying to steal from me!

DANIEL

Is this true?

WORKER

No. She is looking for loose change under the machines. It's against company policy. It's equivalent to begging.

OLD LADY

I lost some money. It's mine. I have a right to look for it. I'll look under every machine if I have to.

WORKER

Mam, we are sorry that you have missed placed your money but the casino forbids scouring for loose change.

OLD LADY

Well I am not going to give up. So you will just have to arrest me.

She clutches her purse and lacy umbrella.

DANIEL
 Maybe it doesn't have to come to
 that.

Daniel pulls out a large wad of cash.

DANIEL (CONT'D)
 How much did you loose?

OLD LADY
 Don't try to coddle me boy! I don't
 want *your* money I want *my* money.

WORKER
 Mam, we may not be the police but
 we will call them if you continue
 to be a

OLD LADY
 I FOUND IT.

The old Lady reaches between two nearby slot machines and
 pulls out a single large round golden coin.

OLD LADY (CONT'D)
 Well gentlemen I'll be leaving now.

Daniel looks at his fat wad of cash and then at here single
 coin.

DANIEL
 That's it?

OLD LADY
 Son, in a city like this every cent
 matters. Each coin is an
 opportunity worth fighting for.

The woman proudly and quietly walks out of view. Just then
 Silas enters with a female friend around his neck. She is
 dressed like a trashy Queen of Hearts.

SILAS
 There you are! What are you doing
 you are supposed to be waiting in
 line.

Daniel starts to explain but is cut off

SILAS (CONT'D)
 Lucky for you Veronica here knows a
 back way in.