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Short Fiction, masterwork

Angus and Rufus, Starring in...

The Cruise Line Heist

The two roguish gentlemen had finally made it to the docks. The day was ripe for the picking, with the afternoon sun hanging from the sky. There was quite the crowd gathered around the pristine cruise ship and the gentlemen had their fair share of trouble simply getting on the ship.

"Aye Angus?" said Rufus

"Ah what is it ya plump peach?" said Angus.

"I must admit, I didn't think we had the money to get ourselves a ticket or two onto this deluxe cruise ship,"

Angus turned to Rufus and slapped his hand onto his mouth.

"Aye you better shut your trap alright?"

Before he spoke another word, Angus notices the fact that he's standing in a crowd with ever so many eyes draw onto him. He pulls his hand away from him.

"Why uh, I'll have you know I paid up top dollar for this here ticket you see. I got lucky down at... uhm."

His gaze darted all around the dock, looking for a suitable spare part for his invention he likes to call the golden painted lie. It all came together when he set his eyes on a crate of fruit being carried in by some crew members.

"Why, the grocery store of course. I found me a spare lottery ticket and that got me top dollar, it did."

"Angus, you did it, you got us out of the red and into the blue," said Rufus.

"Aw shoot, I didn't think that the first thing I had to worry about spending me money on is a pair of glasses for your color-blind eyes."

"No that's not it, we're gonna be going out in the blue we are."

Angus threw his hand onto his own face. "You've gotta be kidding me. Look enough about how we're gonna be going out in the blue, let's just worry bout gett'n on the boat alright? We can talk more about this later."

After finishing their conversation, the two gentlemen made their way onto the boat. They showed their tickets, figured out where they'd be staying for the time being, and off they went. Though their walk to their rooms was met with a woman in the middle of the hallway. She stood like a telephone pole in an earthquake. Angus poked the woman's shoulder.

"Excuse me, ma'am?"

The woman was caught off guard. She spun around and slapped Angus in the face.

"Get ba- Oh, oh my goodness. I'm so sorry about that. I thought you were a giant rat," the woman said.

"I ain't no bloody rat. Do I look like pink nosed rascal to you?"

"What? No, there was a giant, disgusting, revolting, hideous, rat out here. Don't worry about it, I think I know just the thing to get rid of that pest. You two go do your thing and just stay in your rooms alright? I'll make sure that plagued abomination doesn't wiggle around here anymore." She turned around and walked off to her room. "Now would we, no we wouldn't." She closed the door behind her.

After such an ordeal, the two gentlemen made their way into their rooms. Angus set his suitcase on the side of his bed and laid down on the bed. Rufus sat down at the edge of the other bed.

"Alright Rufus, I want you to get this through that thick skull of yours. We ain't here for no vacation, ya got that?"

"Well, what are we here for then?"

"Rufus, you bucket of whale fat. Do you not understand what we do every day for a living? What's it we do all the time?"

"Uuhm... Don't we go out for some breakfast first thing in the morning?"

"No, ya dink. What we do every day is steal. We take what we want and sometimes we get paid for it. Now, what do you think we're doing on this cruise ship?"

"Oh Angus, if we're gonna be on a cruise ship, can we get a tan? I hear it can make ya look as cooked as a fresh scone from the oven."

"I swear, if I hear one more thing of food out of your chompers, I'll seal your lips faster than an illegal immigrant being ask for ID."

Angus took in a deep breath and sat up.

"Alright, now listen up. We've got orders that someone on this ship is carrying around a diamond and not just any old diamond. The mate I got the job from says that this diamond is cut all pretty like and he wants that diamond. I don't blame myself. I'd love to get me hands on a diamond like that. He says that if we can get that diamond to him, we'll be getting five hundred million dollars."

"Five hundred million dollars? We could own a bakery with that kind of money."

"Aye, keep your head on ya pinhead. We ain't even got the diamond yet."

Angus puts his suitcase on the bed and pulls out a Hawaiian shirt and a pair of sunglasses. The last thing he pulls out is a picture of a man with an orange suit on. His nose looked long and flat. His head was round and not a trace of hair was on his head. The most remarkable fact was his gleaming orange eyes. Angus shows the picture to Rufus. "This is the fella that we're looking for out here."

"Aye why's he look like an orange tic-tac?"

"That doesn't matter. What does matter, is that he's got the diamond and we're gonna steal it and make millions. Now cmon, put your swimsuit on. You're going swimming."

"Swimming? Why's I gotta go swimming?"

"Because the mate who gave me the plan told me that he was gonna be by the poolside, for sure. What you've gotta do is cannonball into the pool, make a big splash to get him all wet. I will rush to his side with a towel and with that, I'll make him chatter like a parrot. I'll walk him down to his cabin, know where it is and tonight, we'll break in, steal the diamond without a trace and boom, we'll be rich."

"That sounds perfect, Angus."

"It does, doesn't it? Now get your swimsuit on so we can that diamond."

Rufus went into the bathroom to put his swimsuit on while Angus put his Hawaiian shirt and sunglasses on. After the two of them got dressed for their operation, they walked out of their room only to discover that the hallway was layered mouse traps.

"What the bloody hell? Who's the crazy wacko throwing down all these traps like they're sprinkling sprinkles onto an ice cream scoop?" said Angus.

Angus glances over at the room of the one woman they encountered not so long ago.

"I bet this was her idea. What a crazy twat."

"Angus, how are we gonna get past all these mouse traps? Are we gonna be stuck here forever?"

"No, you dimwit, you just gotta be careful. You know how to be careful, don't ya?"

Angus dangled his foot over a spot he could rest his foot at without being bitten by a trap. He stepped forward, bending his leg forward and working his feet about like a ballerina. Rufus followed along in Angus' footsteps, treading through the trap field with caution packed in each step. Things were going all well until Rufus noticed a yellow dot within the plain painting. Rufus' gaze was set upon the only mouse trap that had a delicious block of cheese on it.

Angus had almost passed through the hallway until he noticed Rufus looking down at the one trap.

"Aye Rufus, get your mind out of the cheese grater before I gotta lug you over here myself." Angus turned around and slammed his foot right smack dab onto a mouse trap. He yelled in pain and lost his balance. He dropped to the ground with a cluster of mouse traps snapping onto him.

"Ah, god damn it all, these mouse traps are all over me!"

Rufus was able to make it through the trap wave alive, but Angus could only leave the field with scars and marks.

"You little dolt. You better watch your steps, or I'll be having you do some dance classes after this."

"Aye you better watch yourself Angus, you know much I despise those classes."

"That's because you and that Santa sack you call a belly is so jiggly, people look over and think you're holding onto some kind of jelly while you're dancing."

Angus slaps one of the traps on his fingers onto Rufus' belly. Hurt, Angus still found it humorous.

With little time spent detaching the traps, the two of them made their way to the pool. Angus hit Rufus in the arm with his shoulder and pointed over to a man near the pool.

"We got him, our target is sitting by the poolside. You know the plan, now let's get to it."

Rufus nodded his head and made his way over to the pool. Angus approached the towel cart and grabbed one of the towels. He made sure that he stayed distanced from the pool, but close to the target. Their target was sitting in a long chair with a pair of black sunglasses on, an orange pair of swimming trunks and a drop of sunscreen on their nose.

Rufus jumped into the water and hugged his legs to his chest.

"Cannonball!"

Rufus made a large splash into the pool. So much so that their target got soaked with water. Angus dashed up to their target with the towel and offered it to them.

"Aye that mate's quite the bonehead he is for jumping around like that. The name's Boris, Boris Weldington. I'm pleased to have the chance to talk to you Mr?"

The man took the towel from Angus and rubbed it against his face.

"Boris Weldington? You're not... wait a minute, are you the Boris Weldington of the Dshan's car mechanics?"

While Angus was talking to with the target, Rufus was being called out of the pool by the lifeguard.

"Hey, I don't want no cannonballs out here. Keep it down and swim simple, man," said the lifeguard.

Rufus got out of the pool and noticed Angus and their target talking to each other. Their conversation seemed to be going well. So much so that Angus and he left the pool area.

"Angus, wait where's he going? Oh wait, I remember what I gotta do now. I gotta head back to our room."

Rufus was able to go back to their room with ease. Time passed as the sun had finally set and the noise on the ship was falling into a silence.

Angus knocked on the door and Rufus opened the door.

"We've got'em. All we gotta do now is sneak into his room and steal the diamond."

"Oh, we're gonna do it, we're gonna steal the diamond and make millions!"

"Right, now get ready, because this is it. We're gonna steal that diamond."

Rufus and Angus dressed up in all black. The only thing that anyone could take note of was their figure and their eyes. Before the two of them left, Angus took a small grey ball and a lock pick from his suitcase and kept it snug in his pocket. The blanket of night rested over the shoulders of the thieves as they treaded through the ship and to their target's room. Angus whipped out a lock pick from his pocket and began to pick the lock. With a click from the door, it unlocked. Although, what awaited them was two guards holding assault rifles to their faces.

Angus and Rufus held their hands up for mercy.

Their target laughed as he stood between the two men holding assault rifles.

"I was expecting someone to try and steal my diamond from me, but I didn't think you two would've have any part in it! You made a mockery of trying to pass off as a weldington. It was too hilarious to not walk away from."

"Shoot, time to go to plan B," said Angus.

Angus took the small ball from his pocket and threw it on the ground. The ball blew up with a large and dense cloud of smoke cloaking the two thieves in the hallway.

"Get'em," said Angus.

Angus lunged his fingers at one guard's eyes, pinching them out and kicking him down to the ground. The guard screamed and glued his hands to his eyes. He swiped the gun from him while he was on the ground. Rufus threw his belly weight onto the guard and hit him into the end of the cabin. Before he could fly off, he snagged his gun.

"Looks like the tables have turned, ya diknus, how's that for a Weldington?"

Angus was interrupted by the fire alarms. The ship sprinkled the hallway with water and cleared out most of the smoke from the smoke bomb. One of the passengers came out to check out what all the noise was about when they saw Rufus and Angus with their guns. The passenger screamed in such terror.

"It's a boat heist run," said one of passengers.

Screams were gradually popping up like popcorn kernels in a popcorn machine. The passengers were set in chaos and filed out of their cabins.

"No, no, wait come back. We're not trying to hold up this boat," said Angus.

Their target ran off with a suitcase with the crowd before they could take anything from him.

"Aye, come back here with our millions of dollars, ya tic-tac," said Rufus, rushing after him. Angus followed with him. The two of them kept encountering more people screaming and running amuck around the ship. The two thieves lost him outside of the ship.

"Ah damn it all, we messed this all up. This whole ship is going inside under once that one bastard called out ship heist. How the heck are we supposed to take a ship with just us two and some guns?"

Rufus held his finger up and took Angus' gun.

"Angus, I got an idea."

Rufus tossed the guns into the ocean.

"What the, no you absolute dolt! What are you doing? You think you're gonna be donating those guns over to the federation of helpless dolphins attacked by sharks by doing that? What you think that those dolphins are gonna swarm the ship and hold it down until we get back home? You complete idiot, now we ain't got nothing when they come find us!"

"Aye thought that maybe if we don't have guns on us, we won't seem that dangerous," said Rufus.

Angus hit Rufus in the face with the back of his hand.

"You're a real muttonhead ya know that? Alright, cmon we gotta get out of here before they take us in."

"But where are we gonna go? It's not like we can jump onto another ship and sail off into the open blue."

"That's where you're wrong, cmon."

Angus grabbed Rufus' arm and ran over to the life rafts. He shoved him into the life raft and jumped in with him.

"Now where did I put my phone?"

A crew member pointed over at Angus and Rufus.

"Stop them!"

Rufus gasped and acted fast. He unhooked the boat off of the ship, sending the two of them into the ocean. They both screamed in terror, falling into the ocean with their raft being the only difference between drowning and floating.

"Rufus, what were ya thinking? I don't have me phone that has a offline gps system downloaded. Without that, we're gonna be stuck in the ocean."

"Aw you should've been a lot keener on bringing it with us instead of flapping those gosh darn mouse traps at me you stick bug," said Rufus.

"Why I outta... Never mind," said Angus.