

SAVED BY A THESPIAN

Written by

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INT. AMBULANCE - AFTERNOON

Three paramedics (MATT, SUZIE, LOUIS) sit in an ambulance talking.

MATT

So Suzie, now that we're all here,  
I want to introduce you to Louis.  
He just reinstated his paramedic  
license until he gets more  
consistent acting work.

SUZIE

Awesome! So Louis, you're an actor?

LOUIS

Actually dear Suzie, we prefer to  
be called thespians within the  
community. But yes, by average  
people of your...shall we say,  
taste, we are called actors.

SUZIE.

Have you been in anything I'd know?

LOUIS

Let's not focus our minds on the  
hardening cement that is our past.  
We must focus on the opportunities  
of the future!

SUZIE

Right...Right...

Radio chatter comes in over ambulance intercom

DISPATCHER

We've got a man suffering a heart  
attack down on 3rd street. I need  
someone there stat.

Matt grabs radio but Louis stands up and grabs it out of his  
hands before having a chance to speak.

LOUIS

Fear not, dear dispatcher! We are  
but merely two blocks away from  
that hallowed soul. I am igniting  
the chambers of movement as we  
speak. Our chariot will be there  
post hast. Onward!

SUZIE

You certainly have enthusiasm..  
let's go.

EXT. DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK - DAY

The three paramedics rush out of the ambulance and toward a man laying on the ground. Another man (JOHN) is on his knees next to the dying man.

JOHN

Quick! He's having a heart attack  
and I don't know how to do CPR.

MATT

Alright, Louis, I'm gonna need a  
defibrillator, stat. Hold his head  
up.

LOUIS

I will gather the necessary aid,  
but first, we must gather an  
audience.

SUZIE

An audience? What are you talking  
about? We need to act quickly or  
this man is going to die!

LOUIS

This is a scene of drama! Without  
intrigued passersby it is for  
naught. And let's do something  
about this lighting. Its way too  
dark here, its hideous. This feels  
like the street where the damned go  
to meet the proverbial reaper.

SUZIE

That's what I'm saying, this man is  
dying! We don't need anyone else  
here, let's do our job.

LOUIS

Without an audience, what does it  
matter whether that wounded man  
lives or perishes?

MATT

He's not wounded, he's having a  
heart attack! Get the defibrillator  
now.

Louis steps backward towards the ambulance and pulls out the defibrillator.

LOUIS

An attack of the heart yes, so what  
better way to bring him back than  
with the cheer of his fellow man?

Louis hands Matt the defibrillator. As Matt charges the defibrillators Louis walks back to the ambulance and starts searching for something.

MATT

This baby will be ready in five  
seconds. Suzie hold his head up.

LOUIS

Wait! Wait! Wait!

Defibrillator makes a microwave timer noise.

MATT

No time to wait Louis.

Louis pulls tripod out of the back of the ambulance along with a bluetooth speaker.

LOUIS

I've got it!

Louis mounts his phone on the tripod.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

I don't know about you, but when  
Tarantino asks to see my range,  
I'll have something to send him.  
Can you say you'll have something  
to send him Matt?

Matt ignores Louis and starts using the defibrillator on the man.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

That's what I thought. Now let's  
get the mood right...

Louis hits a button on the bluetooth speaker and the song "Kickstart My Heart" starts playing. He grabs the defibrillator pads out of Matt's hands and throws them to the side before beginnng to give CPR at the same tempo as the song.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

(yelling)

Now listen to me good sir! You hath  
not lived your last day! Do not go  
gently into that good night!

By now a couple people walking by have stopped and are  
watching. Louis takes a brief break to look at them and  
begins clapping along with the beat.

MATT

What the hell are you doing? Don't  
stop!

LOUIS

The key to any great performance is  
escalation! We need to get the  
audience engaged, so clap!

Suzie reluctantly starts to clap along with the beat. Matt  
grunts and begrudgingly joins too. Louis continues giving CPR  
to the tempo of the song.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

See, the thing you don't understand  
about drama and tragedy Matt, is  
that it takes life to do it well,  
and your poor effort to liven the  
mood tells me you're terrible at  
acting.

MATT

And you're a terrible paramedic,  
I'm not even an -

LOUIS

(interjecting)

If you were a better performer,  
you'd know that it also has the  
power to give life.

Louis stands up and proclaims to the crowd that has  
accumulated on the sidewalk.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

You will not die on me!

Louis bends over to breath into the man's mouth. The man  
suddenly wakes up and hugs Louis in relief.

MAN

Saved by a thespian! Thank you!

The crowd starts cheering and clapping. Louis puts his hand to Matt's face as he grabs his phone and walks back to the ambulance. A man (AGENT) in a suit fights through the crowd toward the ambulance.

AGENT

Wait! I represent Get Stupid Rich Productions. We loved your performance, and we're prepared to offer you \$3 million if you'll do two movies with us.

MATT

What the hell is going on?

LOUIS

What's going on, Matt, is that you missed your chance to make the world your stage, a chance to give life to an audience. Maybe next time you'll give some heart and soul into the performance.

The End