

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