

Lucky Coins

By

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Simulator

Cast of Characters

Martin: Anxious. Hesitant. Unsure of himself. Just trying to do his laundry.

Denny: A man on his own.

Scene

The Lucky Coins Launderette

ACT I

Scene 1

(DENNY is shirtless and in boxers, doing push-ups in the middle of the Lucky Coins Launderette. It's dark, and you hear the tumbling of a dryer over the introductory underscore)

DENNY:

14... 15... 16...

(A buzzer is blares)

17... 18... 19...

(The introduction underscore fades)

20... 21... 22...

(MARTIN enters, not noticing DENNY in the dark. He's carrying an overloaded basket of laundry)

23... 24...

(MARTIN, nearly fumbling his laundry, turns on the lights. DENNY continues unfazed)

25... 26...

(MARTIN moves to one of the machines, now noticing DENNY)

27... 28...

(Another buzzer blares. MARTIN jumps, almost losing his laundry basket next to DENNY. DENNY is unflinching)

29... 30...

MARTIN:

Ahem.

(MARTIN moves awkwardly around DENNY to what seems to be the only unused washing machine)

DENNY:

31... 32...

(MARTIN sets his basket down, and realizes he can only open the washer if DENNY moves)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33... 34... 35... DENNY: (cont'd)

Excuse me... MARTIN:

36... 37... DENNY:

Um... MARTIN:

38... DENNY:

Pardon me. (Raising his voice)

DENNY:

(Momentarily stops in an "up" position. He puts a finger up, to give pause, and continues)

39... 40.

(He stops)

Yes?

MARTIN:

Oh... yes. Um... Would you mind?

DENNY:

Yeah. Sure.

(DENNY gathers himself)

Doing laundry?

MARTIN:

(hesitating due to the obvious nature of the question. The tumbling sound of a drier stops)

Trying to.

(A dryer buzzer blares, and MARTIN jumps again)

DENNY:

That's me.

(DENNY crosses to his laundry, and pulls out his clothes. It's all what he was wearing, and he begins to put them back on)

You're a little jumpy there.

MARTIN:

I'm, uh, new here.

DENNY:

To the Lucky Coins?

MARTIN:

No. Well, yes. But I was referring to being new here. To town. New... To the town.

DENNY:

Huh, well, welcome.

MARTIN:

Strange name.

DENNY:

Excuse me?

MARTIN:

Sorry... I mean this place has a strange name... Lucky Coins.

DENNY:

Sure.

MARTIN:

Do you always do your workout... while you're... you know?

DENNY:

What do I know?

MARTIN:

Nothing. No! I mean... You were doing push ups in your underwear.

DENNY:

Did that make you uncomfortable?

MARTIN:

No... I mean, it was unusual... Um... Uncomfortable, no.

(Another dryer buzzes and MARTIN jumps again)

Shoot!

DENNY:

Shoot? Man, you seem anxious about something.

MARTIN:

Well, I'm not... I just have a quick trigger to loud noises.

DENNY:

Relax, man. No one here but you and me.

MARTIN:

I'm trying.

(Awkward moment)

So... your workout. In your... boxers. In public. Is that a thing?

DENNY:

It's what I got.

MARTIN:

What do you mean.

DENNY:

It's all I've got. These clothes.

MARTIN:

Really!?

DENNY:

Yeah, really. The Lucky Coins is my Laundromat, and my gym. Every once in a while, it's my roof, too.

MARTIN:

Oh... I'm sorry.

DENNY:

Why are you sorry? We don't even know each other.

MARTIN:

I don't... I don't know how that's relative.

DENNY:

You don't know me, and you're sorry for me?

MARTIN:

I'm sorry... I mean... I don't get it. Did I say something wrong?

DENNY:

What if this is my choice? Minimalism. These boxers, these socks, these shoes, these pants, this shirt, this fleece... I don't have anything holding me down.

(CONTINUED)

(A dryer buzzes again, and MARTIN
does not jump this time)
Maybe this is my choice, and maybe we're all not so lucky.

MARTIN:
I'm sorry...

DENNY:
Stop saying that. Just, do your laundry.

MARTIN:
Okay...

(He can't help himself)
Sorry.

END SIM