

Characters

Nathan (M)	Mid thirties - An everyman, the typical love interest in an action movie.
Vincent (M)	Fifties - A smooth talking and unflappable villain. He is always in control.
Andrew (M)	Forties - A typical bruiser sidekick to Vincent.
Vendor (M)	Fifties - An odd and hyper-active street vendor
Writer (F)	Forties - They should wear masks so they appear like drones.
Charlene (F)	Thirties - A tough as nails detective who will do anything to get the job done.
Teddy (M)	Thirties - The comic relief sidekick detective to Charlene.

The gender of any character can be changed to accommodate your cast. Characters will change on each restart but these are the base characteristics.

Scene 1 - Park

(The stage is mostly empty. There is a park bench DL and a food cart UR. On the bench sits Nathan who is battered and bruised with his hands tied. Standing next to him is Vincent and Andrew, they keep an eye out for anything that seems funny. Standing at the food cart is the Vendor who is getting a hot dog for the Writer.)

(Vincent and Andrew have Russian accents.)

- Vincent:** Such a nice day for a lover's reunion, don't you think Mr. Nathan?
- Andrew:** If she is as smart as she thinks she is, she won't come.
- Nathan:** I hope to god she doesn't. I wish she would just walk away from all of this, but you killed her brother Vincent. She will be here.
- Vincent:** That business with her brother was unfortunate, but they were getting too close to my organization. I couldn't let that happen, he had to go. It wasn't personal, it was just business.
- Nathan:** It was personal to her. That's when she got those files on all your dirty dealings.
- Vincent:** She is resourceful. But I have you, so it balances out. She will come to make the trade.
- Nathan:** I'm not worth it.
- Andrew:** That we can agree on, but she is a fool. She will trade our files for your life, but in the end she will lose both.
- Vincent:** So sad, to die on such a beautiful day.
- Nathan:** She's making the trade in public so you can't do a thing.
- Vincent:** You think that will stop us from putting a bullet in both of you? This is my city, even if someone were to witness what is about to happen, they wouldn't dare say a word.

(Vincent looks over at Vendor and Writer.)

- Vincent:** But why tempt fate? Andrew.
- Andrew:** Yeah boss?
- Vincent:** Let's disperse our little audience.
- Andrew:** Sure thing boss.

(Vincent turns to Nathan.)

- Vincent:** You will have to excuse my rudeness, but I must return the senator's call.

(Vincent dials a number on his phone and talks with someone as Andrew walks over to Vendor and Writer.)

Vendor: Can I interest you in a hot dog, my good man?

Andrew: No, but you can clear out of here.

Vendor: What? This is my regular spot.

Andrew: Now it's mine.

(Andrew kicks the cart. This frightens the Writer who quickly rushes off R.)

Vendor: There's no call for that.

Andrew: More where that came from unless you move this cart out of here. You got ten seconds.

Vendor: Come on, I gotta earn a living.

Andrew: 10... 9... 8...

Vendor: I'm going, I'm going.

(The Vendor picks up the cart and moves it off L. Andrew starts to light a cigarette and watches the cart go. As his back is turned, Charlene Krakowski, sneaks on from R and grabs Andrew from behind and puts him in a choke hold.)

Charlene: Good to see you again Andrew.

(Andrew struggles to break free but can't.)

Andrew: Your brother says hi.

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Charlene: You know you shouldn't smoke...

(Charlene twists Andrew's neck and he falls down dead.)

Charlene: Haven't you heard, it kills.

(Andrew goes down and Charlene sneaks off R. After she is gone, Vincent notices Andrew on the ground.)

Vincent: I'm going to have to call you back senator.

(Vincent hangs up his phone and pulls a gun out of his pocket and goes to check on Andrew. As soon as he leaves Nathan, Teddy enters from L and rushes to Nathan and starts to untie him.)

Nathan: Teddy?

Teddy: Wow buddy, you look rough.

Nathan: I should have known you would come with Char.

Teddy: If you knew I was coming, why didn't you freshen up a bit?

(Nathan starts to laugh but winces.)

Nathan: You know, you aren't as funny as you think you are.

Teddy: That's what my ex-wife used to say. Come on, let's get you out of here.

(Teddy finishes untying Nathan and helps him to his feet. Before they can exit Vincent sees and turns on them with his gun raised.)

Vincent: Leaving so soon, the party is just getting started.

(Charlene enters from behind Vincent with her own gun trained on him.)

Charlene: Don't bust out the streamers too quickly Vincent.

(Vincent holds his hands up.)

Vincent: Very good Miss Krakowski. You seem to have gotten the drop on me.

Charlene: Wasn't that hard. From your reputation I would have thought stopping you would be more difficult.

Vincent: A reputation hard won my dear.

(Vincent drops his gun and turns to Charlene.)

Vincent: Take me in, turn over all the evidence you have. I will beat it. I always beat it.

(Vincent holds his hands out to be handcuffed. Charlene lowers her gun and thinks to herself.)

Teddy: I knew you would get him, didn't I say that Nathan?

Nathan: You're a regular fortune teller Teddy. Come on Char, slap the cuffs on him and let's take him downtown.

Vincent: What are you waiting for detective?

(Charlene lifts her gun again.)

Charlene: You're right, if I go through the system, it won't stick. You will be out in no time. You have to be stopped for good.

Vincent: I wouldn't have thought you had it in you.

(Charlene steps forward and puts Vincent on his knees.)

Charlene: I didn't... not until I met you.

Teddy: Char, leave the jokes to me, you know I'm the funny one.

Nathan: Don't do this.

Charlene: I have to Nathan. He ruined my life and he has to pay.

(Nathan steps towards Charlene gingerly.)

Nathan: I know he hurt you, but that doesn't have to be the end. You and me, we can start over.

Charlene: It's too late for that.

(As Charlene and Nathan talk, Vincent slowly reaches for a gun in his jacket that the others don't see.)

Nathan: It's never too late, you taught me that. We've got a chance but you have to take him down right! If you compromise who you are, he's already won.

Charlene: Oh Nathan, I...

(As Charlene talks, Vincent pulls the gun out and shoots Charlene. As she is shot she returns fire and kills Vincent who slumps to the ground.)

Nathan: No!

(Nathan rushes over and catches Charlene as she falls and they both go to the ground. Teddy goes to check on Vincent and pulls out a phone and dials it.)

Nathan: No, no. Char!

Charlene: It's OK Nathan. I just need to rest a moment.

Nathan: You do that, just rest Char. You're going to be fine.

Charlene: Can we go to the coast? You can show me the sunset on the beach like you said you would...

Nathan: I will, I will.

(As Charlene talks she dies in Nathan's arms who just cradles her and cries.)

(Blackout)

Scene 2 - Park

(The stage is completely reset to the way it was at the beginning. Instead of a hot dog cart, this time it is a taco cart. This time Vincent and Andrew have Italian accents.)

Vincent: A storm is coming Mr. Nathan, I hope this doesn't take too long. You must be excited to see your love again.

Andrew: If she is as smart as she thinks she is, she won't come.

Nathan: I hope to god she doesn't. I wish she would just walk away from all of this, but you killed her sister Vincent. She will be here.

Vincent: That business with her sister was unfortunate, but they were getting too close to my organization. I couldn't let that happen, she had to go. It wasn't personal, it was just business.

Nathan: It was personal to her. That's when she got those files on all your dirty dealings.

Vincent: She is resourceful. But I have you, so it balances out. She will come to make the trade.

Nathan: I'm not worth it.

Andrew: That we can agree on, but she is a fool. She will trade our files for your life, but in the end she will lose both.

Vincent: How fitting to die on such a gray day like today.

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Nathan: She's making the trade in public so you can't do a thing.

Vincent: You think that will stop us from putting a bullet in both of you.? This is my city, even if someone were to witness what is about to happen, they wouldn't dare say a word.

(Vincent looks over at Vendor and Writer.)

Vincent: But why tempt fate? Andrew.

Andrew: Yeah boss?

Vincent: Let's disperse our little audience.

Andrew: Sure thing boss.

(Vincent turns to Nathan.)

Vincent: You will have to excuse my rudeness, but I must return the governor's call.

(Vincent dials a number on his phone and talks with someone as Andrew walks over to Vendor and Writer.)

Vendor: Can I interest you in a taco, my good man?

Andrew: Taco, I thought this was a hot dog cart.

Vendor: Nope, always been tacos. I'm a third generation taco man.

Andrew: That's... weird. Look, I'm going to need you to clear out of here.

Vendor: What? This is my regular spot.

Andrew: Now it's mine.

(Andrew kicks the cart. This frightens the Writer who quickly rushes of R.)

Vendor: There's no call for that.

Andrew: More where that came from unless you move this cart out of here. You got five seconds.

Vendor: Come on, I gotta earn a living.

Andrew: 5... 4... 3...

Vendor: I'm going, I'm going.

(The Vendor picks up the cart and moves it off L. Andrew pulls out a small mirror to check his hair. As his back is turned, Charlene sneaks on from R and grabs Andrew from behind and puts him in a choke hold.)

Charlene: Good to see you again Andrew.

(Andrew struggles to break free but can't.)

Andrew: Your sister says hi.

Charlene: You got a lot of hair spray in today.

(Andrew struggles to breathe.)

Andrew: Hair makes the man.

Charlene: Shouldn't use so much, you know what it does to the environment...

(Charlene twists Andrew's neck and he falls down dead.)

Charlene: It melts the polar ice SNAP!

(Andrew goes down and Charlene sneaks off R. After she is gone Vincent notices Andrew on the ground.)

Vincent: I'm going to have to call you back governor.

(Vincent hangs up his phone and pulls a gun out of his pocket and goes to check on Andrew. As soon as he leaves Nathan, Teddy enters from L and rushes to Nathan and starts to untie him.)

Nathan: Teddy?

Teddy: Wow buddy, you've been through it.

Nathan: That's what happens when goons use you for a punching bag.

Teddy: I gotta say, it might be an improvement.

(Nathan starts to laugh but winces.)

Nathan: You know you aren't as funny as you think you are.

Teddy: That's what my ex-wife used to say. Come on, let's get you out of here.

(Teddy finishes untying Nathan and he helps him to his feet. Before they can exit Vincent sees and turns on them with his gun raised.)

Vincent: Leaving so soon? It's rude to leave a party early.

(Charlene enters from behind Vincent with her own gun trained on him.)

Charlene: If it's a party you can cry if you want to and I think you're going to want to.

(Vincent holds his hands up.)

Vincent: Very good Miss Krakowski. You seem to have gotten the drop on me.

Charlene: Wasn't that hard. From your reputation I would have thought stopping you would be more difficult.

Vincent: A reputation hard won my dear.

(Vincent drops his gun and turns to Charlene.)

Vincent: Take me in, turn over all the evidence you have. I will beat it. I always beat it.

(Vincent holds his hands out to be handcuffed. Charlene lowers her gun and thinks to herself.)

Teddy: I knew you would get him, didn't I say that Nathan?

Nathan: You're a regular fortune teller Teddy. Come on Char, slap the cuffs on him and let's take him downtown.

Vincent: What are you waiting for detective?

(Charlene lifts her gun again.)

Charlene: You're right, if I go through the system, it won't stick. You will be out in no time. You have to be stopped for good.

Vincent: I wouldn't have thought you had it in you.

(Charlene steps forward and puts Vincent on his knees.)

Charlene: I didn't... not until I met you.

Teddy: Char, leave the jokes to me, you know I'm the funny one.

Nathan: Don't do this.

Charlene: I have to Nathan. He ruined my life and he has to pay.

(Nathan steps towards Charlene gingerly.)

Nathan: I know he hurt you, but that doesn't have to be the end. You and me, we can start over.

(Charlene lifts her pistol and Vincent closes his eyes. She looks at Vincent and then at Nathan and lowers her gun.)

Charlene: You're right. Vincent, you can worm your way out of these charges all you want. Just know when you get out, I will be here waiting. Waiting to put you back behind bars.

(Nathan comes over to Char and they embrace as Teddy comes over and puts handcuffs on Vincent.)

(Blackout)

Scene 3 - Park

(The stage is completely reset to the way it was at the beginning. Instead of a taco cart, this time it is a gyro cart.)

(This time Vincent and Andrew have Southern accents.)

Vincent: I hope this doesn't last long, it's getting cold out.

Nathan: Wait, wasn't it a nice day?

Andrew: Actually... I thought there was a storm coming.

Vincent: Strange. Anyway, I assume you are excited to see your love again?

Andrew: If she is as smart as she thinks she is, she won't come.

Nathan: I hope to god she doesn't. I wish she would just walk away from all of this... I feel like I've said that already.

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Vincent: Honestly, this all feels very familiar.

Andrew: You do kidnap a lot of people boss.

Vincent: True, but this seems... more than that. Mr. Nathan you are going to talk about...

Nathan: Not killing us in public and then you will talk about nobody daring to say anything if you do.

Andrew: And then I go and take care of that guy with the taco truck over there.

(Andrew walks over to the Vendor and the Writer.)

Vendor: Actually, it's a gyro truck.

(Andrew turns.)

Andrew: I could have swore it was tacos or maybe hot dogs. Don't worry I will get to the bottom of this...

(As Andrew is turned Charlene enters and snaps his neck. As she does she throws out a one-liner.)

Charlene: Yeah, it will only take a snap!

(Everyone just stares at Charlene.)

Vincent: I liked the last one-liner better.

Vendor: Eh, I would go with the first one.

Charlene: Vincent, I'm here for Nathan and to take you in.

Vincent: Right, and your friend is hiding over there.

(Vincent pulls out his gun and points it off L. Teddy slowly enters with his hands up.)

Teddy: Hey there. Char, things aren't going to plan.

Charlene: But I feel like they did already, twice. This doesn't make a whole lot of sense.

(The Writer steps forward from the Vendor cart.)

Writer: I think I can explain.

(Everyone turns to the Writer.)

Nathan: And who are you?

Writer: That's a big question. I'm... your creator.

Vendor: God?

Writer: No. I'm the writer.

Charlene: The writer of what?

Writer: Well... of this.

(The Writer makes a gesture with her hands. The Vendor looks at his own hands.)

Vendor: I see, the writer of hands.

Writer: No, all of this. This is a screenplay and you are characters in it.

Teddy: What... no.

Charlene: That's not possible.

Writer: Isn't it? Really think about your lives, how much do you know about yourselves, about your past and who you are?

(Nathan speaks as a movie voiceover.)

Nathan: I know I'm a street-wise, ex-felon turned private investigator who has gotten mixed up in a criminal conspiracy and has fallen for the tough on the outside but soft on the inside detective who never thought she would have time for

love.

(Everyone turns to Nathan a little confused.)

Writer: Right, but that's just a character description. Can you tell me where you were born? What are your parents' names? What did you do two weeks ago?

Nathan: Well... I mean...

Vincent: He can't do it!

Nathan: No, I can, I mean I'm...

Writer: Easier question, what is your last name?

Nathan: Haha, that is...

(Nathan can't answer.)

Teddy: Oh my God we are characters in a script.

Vendor: You don't give people last names?

Writer: Or firsts in your case... Vendor.

(Vendor thinks to himself.)

Vendor: Oh geeze, yeah, damn. I don't have a name.

Writer: Sorry. I mean, actors usually fill in a lot of that stuff, I'm just building the structure.

Charlene: Well this is a bombshell.

(Vincent looks around.)

Vincent: I can't believe you are listening to this nonsense. It's not possible, we do not just exist in a screenplay.

Writer: Sorry, it's true. Here, let me demonstrate.

(The Writer looks out to the audience.)

Writer: It was at this moment that Andrew sat upright because an injury as a child had caused his spine to be permanently out of alignment and Charlene's neck snap didn't kill him.

(Andrew sits up quickly and everyone screams and reacts.)

Andrew: Haha, Charlene, if only you had known about my injury as a child you would never have attempted to kill me in such a way, now prepare to die!

(Andrew pulls his gun out and points at Charlene but everyone just stares at him.)

Andrew: I feel like I missed something important.

Vincent: Apparently we aren't real Andrew, now you're caught up.
(Andrew thinks to himself for a moment.)

Andrew: Well, that's a bummer.

Charlene: Wait, would injuring your neck prevent it from being broken?

Writer: I don't know. That was off the cuff, usually I research medical things but honestly as long as you sound convincing, people don't question it.
(Vincent goes over and helps Andrew to his feet while Charlene goes over to Teddy and Nathan.)

Writer: Look, I'm sorry you all had to find out.

Charlene: I definitely liked it better before I knew I was just the creation of a hack writer.

Writer: Hack?

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Charlene: Now that I can look at the situation, objectively, it seems a bit cliché.

Writer: Cliché?
(The Writer looks around to everyone who just kind of quietly agrees with Charlene but doesn't want to make it apparent.)

Vendor: I don't have any reason to lie, so yeah. She's a cop on the edge trying to take down a corrupt businessman with ties to the city. I mean Hillary Swank would have killed this role like 15 years ago.

Charlene: I love her, can she play me?

Writer: That's not... I don't make those decisions.
(The Writer thinks to herself for a minute.)

Writer: So maybe you're right, it is a bit cliché.
(No one says a word.)

Writer: Don't everyone disagree at once.

Vendor: Sorry almighty creator, but it is. Also the ending kind of stinks.

Vincent: I don't know, the one where I didn't die wasn't terrible.

Andrew: Wait, you don't die every time?

(Vincent just shushes Andrew as they talk.)

Charlene: It maybe lacks polish.

Nathan: It's been done before.

Writer: You're right, you're right. That's actually why you've been going through this a few times. I'm trying a few different ways to end this story. Endings are hard y'all.

Teddy: If you are trying to come up with something better, I have an idea.

Writer: Might be crazy to allow a character to come up with their own ending, but at this point I may be a little desperate. Let's hear it.

Teddy: Well...

(Blackout)

Scene 4 - Park

(The stage is completely reset to the way it was at the beginning. Instead of a gyro cart, this time it is an ice cream cart.)

(This time Vincent and Andrew have Brooklyn accents.)

Vincent: Fitting that on the seasonal equinox you and your love must die Mr. Nathan.

Nathan: How do you know she will come?

Andrew: Because she is in love, and a fool.

Nathan: If she is such a fool, how was she able to steal the codex from your fortified holdings?

Vincent: That was unfortunate, but because we have you, she will bring it back to it's rightful owner.

Nathan: Rightful owner? I'm sure the New Jersey Elvish Community would have something to say about that.

(The Writer steps forward from the cart.)

Writer: Wait, Elvish?

(Teddy pops his head out.)

Teddy: Yeah, fantasy is big now. Give it a chance.

(The Writer just waves her hand and Teddy exits.)

Vincent: They won't need it anymore, we slaughtered their elders last night.

Andrew: Just like we will slaughter you and your little girlfriend.

Nathan: She arranged to meet you in public, how are you going to do that?

Vincent: Once I have the Codex again I can erase the memory of any witness. Of course, we could save ourselves the effort, Andrew clear away any onlookers.

(Andrew walks over to the Vendor and Writer.)

Vincent: I hate to be rude but I must contact the mayor on the Astral Plane.

(Vincent goes into a trance.)

Andrew: You need to clear out of here now. Begone!

Vendor: Please sir, I am but a humble ice cream seller. I need the money to feed the twelve adopted gnomes my wife and I have taken in.

Andrew: If you aren't out of here in five seconds, hungry gnomes will be the least of

your problems.

Vendor: Fine, fine.

(The Vendor and Writer exit. Andrew pulls a gun out of his pocket and inspects it. As he does Charlene enters with a wand and puts it into Andrew's back.)

Andrew: Can't believe you were stupid enough to come.

Charlene: Can't believe you were stupid enough to bring a gun to a wand fight.

(Andrew turns and tries to fire at Charlene but she uses her wand.)

Charlene: Gelida!

(Andrew freezes in his steps and falls to the ground. Charlene sneaks off as Vincent comes out of his trance and sees Andrew.)

Vincent: Must I handle everything?

(Vincent goes over to Andrew, as he does Teddy sneaks on to Nathan.)

Nathan: Teddy, is that you?

Teddy: Who else would it be?

Nathan: Nobody, because you are the greatest warrior I have ever known.

Teddy: Flattery will get you everywhere my good man.

(Teddy pulls out a wand.)

Teddy: Corrigiam calciamentorum.

(Nathan's ropes come off.)

Nathan: What can't you do?

Teddy: I'll let you know when I figure that out.

(Vincent turns on Teddy and pulls out his own wand.)

Vincent: Theodore, I should have known you would come.

(Charlene comes behind Vincent with her own wand.)

Charlene: And he's not alone.

(Vincent turns to see Charlene.)

Vincent: It seems you have the drop on me. Or do you?

(Charlene and Teddy relax as Vincent starts to put his wand on the ground but at the last second zaps Charlene.)

Vincent: Fulgur!

(Charlene screams and drops to the ground while Vincent turns his wand on Teddy.)

Vincent: Now it's just you and me.

Teddy: Too bad... for you.

(They both yell at the same time.)

Teddy: Decrusto!

Vincent: Decursto!

(They stand shaking their wands at each other. Nathan just stares in awe!)

Nathan: Amazing!

(After a moment Vincent screams and is zapped and falls to the ground. Teddy spins his wand in his hand and puts it in his pocket.)

Teddy: And that's how I 'spell' relief.

Nathan: That was awesome pal.

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(Charlene slowly gets to her feet.)

Charlene: It truly was, thank you for saving me, just like you always do.

(Charlene goes to Teddy, they almost kiss but then Charlene turns to Nathan.)

Charlene: Nathan, I'm...

Nathan: It's OK, I understand. If it had to be any other man, I'm glad it's him.

(Charlene smiles at him and then back to Teddy. They lean in to kiss each other as the Writer storms on.)

Writer: Whoa, whoa!

(Everyone snaps out of what they are doing. Andrew and Vincent get back up as the Vendor re-enters.)

Charlene: What the hell dude?

(Charlene pushes Teddy away from herself.)

Charlene: Not cool.

Teddy: I thought it was pretty good!

Charlene: Of course you did, you made yourself the most awesome hero ever.

Writer: And there is magic in the world now? What is that all about?

Teddy: Magic is cool.

Nathan: It really isn't.

Writer: So, some notes.

Teddy: Cool, cool. Totally understandable. Lay it on me.

Charlene: It was terrible.

Writer: Yeah, I mean it was just awful.

Vendor: I know it's a minor thing but I don't think my character would sell ice cream.

Vincent: That is your takeaway from this train wreck?

Nathan: There was magic and the main character is completely sidelined in the ending of her own movie, but ice cream was the problem?

Vendor: Pretty much. Other than that, I liked it.

Teddy: Plus mine, that's two votes for this ending.

Writer: What vote? This isn't a thing we are voting on. I'm the writer of this story.

Andrew: Maybe we should.

Writer: Excuse me.

Andrew: I mean you weren't having much more luck than the idiot over there.

Teddy: So you liked it too, that's three.

Andrew: No, shut up. Don't ever speak again.

(Andrew turns back to the Writer.)

Andrew: But were you really doing better?

Vincent: This is true. Which is why you should listen to me.

Charlene: Oh wow, the villain has an idea.

Vincent: Hey, I'm only a villain in the story, doesn't mean that's the real me.

Writer: It does, because I created you and you're evil.

Vincent: Fair enough.

Charlene: Maybe you should listen to your heroine's idea.

Writer: Why not, pretty sure I've heard worse ideas, like literally just a couple of minutes ago.

Teddy: Hey!

Writer: Fine, what have you got?

Charlene: Well...

(Blackout)

Scene 5 - Park

(The stage is completely reset to the way it was at the beginning. Instead of an ice cream cart, this time it is a fish and chips cart.)

(This time Vincent and Andrew have British accents.)

- Vincent:** What a wonderful day for a little murder.
- Nathan:** You're a mad man Vincent and you won't get away with this.
- Vincent:** Of course I will. Your lovely Charlene was the only person who could have stopped me but because of your incompetence, I will get away scot-free. She will come to trade for your worthless life...
- Andrew:** Then we will have her.
- Nathan:** Maybe she won't come.
- Vincent:** You may be slow, and stupid, and not very good looking but she won't let us hurt you.
- Andrew:** That's what makes her a fool.
- Nathan:** That's what makes her a hero. Besides, how can you kill us out in the open like this?
- Vincent:** I run this city you ugly man. No one would dare say a word to the police and even if they did no prosecutor would dare try me.
- Andrew:** That's right boss but just to save us the hassle, how about I clear out the square?
- Vincent:** Very well, take care of it Andrew. I need to go call the president, excuse me a moment.
- (Vincent starts to talk on his phone as Andrew goes over to the Vendor and the Writer.)**
- Vendor:** Can I interest you in some fish and chips my good man?
- Andrew:** Fish and chips? Are mobile fish and chips vendors a thing?
- (Charlene pokes her head on.)**
- Charlene:** Probably... keep going.
- Andrew:** Fine.
- (Andrew turns back to the Vendor as the Writer exits.)**
- Andrew:** I'm going to need you to clear out of here and be quick about it.
- Vendor:** But I am just a simple street vendor trying to make a living in the big city.

Andrew: You won't be living for much longer if you don't leave.

(As Andrew argues with the Vendor, Charlene enters with her gun raised at Andrew.)

Charlene: Good to see you again Andrew. Get your hands up.

(As Andrew and Charlene talk, Vincent notices this and lifts his gun towards Charlene.)

Andrew: You think you have the drop on me.

Charlene: I do.

(Vincent has his gun on Charlene.)

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Vincent: But not on me.

Charlene: Do you really think I would come here without backup?

(Teddy enters behind Vincent with his gun raised.)

Teddy: Good to see you again Vincent.

(Vincent raises his hands in the air.)

Vincent: Well done inspector.

Charlene: I don't need your admiration you piece of garbage. Cuff him Teddy.

(Teddy goes towards Vincent but stops.)

Teddy: I mean I could, or I could do this.

(Teddy quickly turns his gun on Nathan and Vincent puts his gun back on Charlene.)

Nathan: How could you betray us Teddy?

Teddy: Why does one do anything you idiot? For the money, and Vincent is paying me a lot of it.

Charlene: Oh Teddy, Teddy. I knew you were a rat the moment I laid eyes on you.

Teddy: If that's true then why do we have the upper hand?

Charlene: Do you?

(Andrew pulls out his gun and points it at Teddy.)

Andrew: Hands up! I am an undercover FBI agent and also... Char's brother.

Nathan: Wait, Andrew is good? I'm very confused

Vincent: Wouldn't expect anything less, you moron.

(Vincent turns to Charlene.)

Vincent: But I am not the fool your boyfriend is.

(Vincent snaps his fingers and the Vendor pulls a gun on Andrew.)

Vincent: I knew you were undercover this whole time. Did you really think I wouldn't have a contingency plan?

Charlene: I knew you would, that's why...

(Charlene snaps her fingers and Nathan gets free of the ropes and has a gun of his own and points it at Vincent.)

Nathan: We came prepared.

(Everyone stands and looks at each other for a moment and then they all start shooting and all fall down dead. After a moment the Writer enters.)

Writer: What was that?

(Everyone starts getting to their feet.)

Charlene: Shocking, right?

Writer: Shocking yes, stupid, also yes.

Charlene: Stupid?

Writer: It doesn't make any sense. You can't have ten twist endings at the very end of a movie.

Nathan: Also, I didn't like how mean everyone was to me.

Teddy: I know, it wasn't very good, let's use mine.

Vincent: I would rather do anything than yours.

Writer: He's right. I mean the twist ending was bad, but yours was... what's another word for bad?

Charlene: Shouldn't you know one, I mean you are a writer.

Writer: Yes... shut up.

Vendor: I had fun with that one.

Charlene: Thank you.

Vendor: It was nice to be involved.

Nathan: Yeah, but did you think it was good?

Vendor: Oh, no. It was really bad.

Charlene: Hey!

Andrew: Since none of those floated your boat, I have an idea.

Writer: Why not, let's get all of the bad ideas out the way.

Andrew: What?

Writer: Nothing, go, what is it?

Andrew: Well...

(Blackout)

Scene 6 - Park

(The stage is completely reset to the way it was at the beginning. Instead of a fish and chips cart, this time it is a sushi cart.)

(This time Vincent and Andrew have no accents.)

Nathan: How could you monsters do this?

Andrew: Monster, I am no monster, I am...

(Music starts to swell as Andrew steps center stage and a spotlight hits him.)

Andrew: Just a man...

(Andrew starts to sing as the Writer pushes her way forward and the regular lights come back up.)

Writer: Nope, definitely not.

Andrew: What, music is how I express myself?

Writer: I am your creator and I say it isn't. We aren't doing a musical. This isn't getting me anywhere. I'm no closer to having an ending than I was when we started.

(The Vendor steps forward.)

Vendor: I have a thought.

Writer: I think I'm closing the door on everyone's ideas.

Vendor: Oh, it's not an idea...

Writer: That's helpful.

Vendor: It's a thought. You are overthinking this. You're trying so hard to come up with this amazing ending that is hard hitting, or surprising or whatever but have you thought about just making it happy?

Writer: Isn't that too simple?

Vendor: I don't know, the real world is so rough, do our stories have to be the same?

Teddy: I actually kind of like that.

Writer: Really?

Vincent: I wouldn't mind not dying or going to jail in the end.

Andrew: I'm all for not dying, it isn't fun.

Charlene: It's not very realistic, but maybe that's OK.

Teddy: Reality can be too real sometimes.

Writer: So what, you want everything to just work out for everyone?
(Everyone looks at each other for a moment and then all nod.)

Charlene: Yeah, is that so wrong?

Writer: I'm not so sure, fine... Let's give it a shot.

(Blackout)

Scene 7 - Park

(The stage is completely reset to the way it was at the beginning. Instead of a sushi cart, this time it is a sausage cart.)

(This time Vincent and Andrew have their original accents.)

Vincent: What a fine day.

Nathan: That it is. Would be a shame if people had to get hurt.

Andrew: It's not like we want that to happen, but what other choice do we have?

Nathan: There's always another option.

Vincent: I'm sorry but we are past that point. Andrew, go clear the area before the Detective comes and we have to do the unthinkable.

(Andrew goes over to the Vendor and the Writer.)

Nathan: Vincent, I can see you aren't such a bad person, deep down. You can stop this.

Vincent: I don't think I can.

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(Andrew talks to the Vendor.)

Andrew: You need to clear this area.

Vendor: Why? This is the best spot in the city to sell sausages.

Andrew: I'm sorry, but there is something going to happen that you don't want to see.

Vendor: But I have to make money, my friend. Rent is coming due and my family doesn't have enough to cover it, we'll be out in the street.

Andrew: I'm sorry, but there is nothing I can do.

(As Andrew talks to the Vendor, Charlene enters with her gun drawn.)

Charlene: That's what villains like you always say.

(Vincent sees Charlene and starts to reach for a gun but Teddy enters with his gun drawn and pointed at him.)

Teddy: Don't do it, don't make me do something that can't be taken back.

(Vincent and Andrew look at each other and raise their hands in the air.)

Vincent: I think deep down I wanted it to end this way.

Charlene: But it never had to. Vincent, you were once a brilliant man who helped people, you just lost your way.

Nathan: She's right, you don't have to be the bad guy anymore.

Andrew: I'm tired of doing bad things, I want to be a good person again.

Vincent: It's too late.

Charlene: It's never too late.

(Charlene walks towards Vincent and holsters her gun.)

Charlene: Change starts with someone making a choice. I'm choosing to trust you.

(Vincent nods to her and goes and unties Nathan.)

Vincent: I'm sorry, all of you.

Teddy: Hey, we all get a little crazy sometimes.

Vincent: I want to help you detectives. Those files you have, that is just the tip of the iceberg. Let me give you everything I have and you can put away a lot of really bad people.

(Vincent pulls out a thumb drive and hands it to Teddy as Nathan goes and embraces Charlene.)

Teddy: I knew you had it in you.

(Andrew brings the Vendor over to Vincent.)

Andrew: And boss, we can start helping people again. Like this fellow here, he has fallen on some hard times.

Vendor: That's true, I just need a helping hand.

Vincent: All of us do from time to time.

Andrew: Don't worry friend, my boss here will take care of all of it.

(The Vendor looks to Vincent who nods his head 'yes.' The Vendor goes and hugs him.)

Vendor: Bless you sir.

(Nathan and Charlene embrace.)

Nathan: I wasn't sure I would ever see you again.

Charlene: I knew we would be together in the end.

Nathan: I love you.

Charlene: And I love you.

(Charlene and Nathan lean in to kiss as the spotlight goes to the Writer who talks to the audience.)

Writer: So... that wasn't very good. But it feels... right. I'm telling you, endings are hard and sometimes walking away from a story with a nice feeling is just fine. We deal with enough drama in the real world. Not revolutionary, but maybe it's needed from time to time. I'm going to stick with this happy ending, it may not be great but it is how it should be. I mean, unless you liked the magic one? Nope, no, that makes sense. Happy it is.

(Blackout)