

RATED E

TRANSFER

aka HOW TO STEAL N350 MILLION WITHOUT REALLY TRYING!

An Original Short Film

Written

By

Emil B. Garuba

JUNE 2012

Copyright © Emil B. Garuba (2012) Rated E Productions
emilgaruba@hotmail.com

1 EXTREME CLOSE ON A MOBILE PHONE

It rests face up on a table. A beat of silence is broken by its abrupt RING... RING... RING...

The phone's screen shows: UNKNOWN NUMBER.

RING... RING... RING...

A HAND enters the frame to pick up the ringing phone... then backs away!

RING... RING... RING...

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

2 EXT. APEX SAVINGS & LOANS BUILDING - DAY

Establishing shot of the building at late afternoon -- over which we hear the CLACKING of computer keys.

3 INT. OFFICE - DAY

FELIX OKON, 35, trim build in a suit and tie, hunches over a laptop next to a stack of files on the table in the small office space. His likeable features suggest a gentle, intelligent demeanor.

Grids of numbers from the laptop screen reflect off his spectacles. His eyes ping-pong from files to laptop. Tired, he takes off his specs, rubs his eyes and continues typing.

Beside him lie a meticulous arrangement of post-it notes on which are scribbled various calculations. He strikes us as extremely good at his job, tackling the overwhelming array of numbers and data with methodical assurance.

He punches in the final keystrokes and leans back in his chair with a satisfied sigh of relief. His mobile phone rings. He looks at the caller ID: "SWEETIE."

Felix smiles and answers...

FELIX
Sweetie, how are you doing?

MIRIAM (V.O.)
I'm fine, dear. You're still at the office?

FELIX

Yes. I had some last-minute data to put into the system. You know how work piles up around here. But I'm finished now. I'll be home in thirty minutes.

MIRIAM (V.O.)

Okay. I'm making supper. Your favorite.

FELIX

Mmmm, I can't wait. See you soon.

He hangs up, smiles, and shuts off his laptop.

4

INT. APEX SAVINGS & LOANS OFFICES - DAY

Briefcase in hand, Felix walks through a vacant corridor of empty offices. He's about to head out the back door when his mobile phone rings. He checks the caller ID -- it's an UNKNOWN NUMBER.

FELIX

Who's this now..?

He doesn't answer and lets it ring until it stops. He takes out his keys to lock up, when the phone rings again. He looks at it -- still the unknown number. Felix sighs and answers...

FELIX (CONT'D)

Hello?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

You're a hard man to get a hold of, Mr. Okon.

FELIX

Who's this?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

That's not important. What IS important is that you listen to me very carefully and do what I say or there will be consequences!

A beat.

FELIX

Pardon? Sorry, I think you have the wrong number.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
No, Mr. Okon... I believe I have
the right number!

Felix frowns.

FELIX
Who is this? Mr. Haruna? Is that
you?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
You have a serious choice to make,
one that can either help you or
damn you! So choose wisely because
the clock is ticking!

FELIX
Stop playing, Haruna, I know it's
you! I'm not in the mood for one of
your jokes.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
This isn't a joke, Mr. Okon. This
is very real! Like I said, you have
a choice to make. If you make the
right choice, which I'm sincerely
hoping you do, then everything
should work out perfectly... for
everyone. But the wrong choice --

FELIX
Let me guess, things will go badly?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
I see that you understand me
perfectly. Now, there are some
rules to follow. To break the rules
will be very bad indeed. It'll mean
that there's been a breakdown of
communication, and we REALLY need
to stay in touch, Mr. Okon. It's a
matter of life or death!

FELIX
Okay, I've heard enough! Listen, I
don't know who you are or how you
got my number, but I'm in no mood
for games! Please, don't call
again!

Felix hangs up. He proceeds to lock up. The phone rings again
-- he sees the unknown number and answers...

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
You know it's very rude to hang up
on people!

FELIX
Listen, whoever you are, I thought
I told you not to --

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
I can see that you need some
convincing...

(beat)
Your name is Felix Okon, age 35.
You live at No. 6 Sanusi Crescent.
You are an account manager at Apex
Savings and Loans. You've worked
there for five years now. You are
loyal and hardworking. Personally I
think you should have received a
raise in salary by now.

Felix's eyes light up.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
You are married to Miriam Okon, age
30. She's a pharmacist at the state
hospital. You've been married for
five years, and you have an
anniversary coming up soon. Next
week Wednesday to be exact. Happy
anniversary, Mr. Okon.

Stunned, Felix lets go of his briefcase and it drops to the
ground.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
I see I have your full attention
now.

FELIX
Who are you? How do you know about
my family?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
But I'm not finished, Mr. Okon --
You also have a daughter,
Elizabeth, age five. She attends
Pioneer International School, and
she's the light of your life.
Daddy's little girl.

FELIX

What are you saying? Where are my wife and daughter? What have you done to them?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Relax, Mr. Okon. I haven't done anything to them... yet. They are safe and sound at home. With a couple of my men to keep them company of course.

FELIX

I don't believe you! This is some sort of trick!

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Is THIS a trick, Mr. Okon?

Felix hears a CLICK and then the sounds of a WOMAN and CHILD SCREAMING on the other end.

FELIX

MIRIAM! ELIZABETH! HELLO? CAN YOU HEAR ME? HELLO???

Another CLICK and the mysterious voice returns --

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Convinced?

FELIX

I swear, if you touch one hair on their heads --

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

Please, Mr. Okon, you are in no position to make threats. I hold all the cards here, so to speak. Now, back to the rules -- You will answer your phone when I call and you won't alert anyone to us, especially the police! You will comply with all my demands or I'll tell my men to kill your wife and daughter!

FELIX

NO! PLEASE, DON'T DO THAT!!!

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

I'm not a man to be toyed with, Mr. Okon.

(MORE)

MALE VOICE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I can already see that you believe
what I'm saying. Yes, I'm watching
you this very instant!

Felix looks around, at the numerous buildings and windows
surrounding the street. He sees no one.

FELIX
How are you doing this? WHO ARE
YOU???

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
I need you calm for the next thirty
minutes or so. Calm enough to
follow my instructions. If you
don't, well, you can imagine what
will happen to your pretty wife and
daughter.

FELIX
Please, don't do anything to them!
Tell me, what do you want from me?

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
Good. I knew you'd come around
Felix. You don't mind if I call you
Felix, do you?

FELIX
No...

MALE VOICE (V.O.)
That's good. It establishes trust
between us. And since trust is a
two-way street, you can call me
Simon.

Felix searches his thoughts for any hint of recognition...

SIMON (V.O.)
Don't bother, Felix. We've never
met before, but I know who you are.
I know all the intimate details of
your life, past and present. You
are a god-fearing man, and you put
your family first! That's why
you'll do what I tell you. And
right now, Simon says you should
unlock the door and go back to your
office!

Felix does as he's told and unlocks the door.

5 INT. APEX SAVINGS & LOANS OFFICES - LATE AFTERNOON

Felix walks hurriedly through the vacant corridor once more, his mobile phone pressed to his ear. He looks at the security camera mounted in the ceiling as he unlocks the door to his office.

6 INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Felix drops his briefcase on the table and paces, sweating...

FELIX
I'm in my office...

SIMON (V.O.)
Good. Now, Simon says log into your system and bring up the account number I tell you. Do it fast. Your family's safety depends on it!

FELIX
Okay, okay --

Felix quickly unpacks his laptop, boots it, and logs into the company intranet.

FELIX (CONT'D)
I'm ready. What's the account number?

SIMON (V.O.)
1-3-8-0-4-2-1-0-7-2-3-1-6...

Felix inputs the number into the system and brings up an account page on the screen. He studies it for a moment.

SIMON (V.O.)
Tell me what you see, Felix.

FELIX
Um, it's one of our active corporate accounts. Full transaction history plus recurring deposits.

SIMON (V.O.)
What's the balance?

FELIX
Three Hundred and Fifty million naira!

SIMON (V.O.)
 Excellent! Now, Simon says transfer
 the three hundred and fifty million
 into this account... the number is
 3-5-0-1-7-5-4-3-0-5-7-3-9. Do it
 now, Felix!

FELIX
 But -- I can't do that! The
 auditors will check and see that
 the transfer came from my log-in!
 I'll be arrested and go to jail!

SIMON (V.O.)
 That's really not my problem,
 Felix! Remember the rules -- tick-
 tock, tick-tock...

Felix's fingers stab the keyboards like he's killing
 something. He enters the new numbers into the system.

FELIX
 It's done.

SIMON (V.O.)
 Good. Now, once I have conformation
 of the transfer I'll tell my men to
 release your family. Wait for my
 call. And don't do anything stupid.
 Remember, I'm watching you!

FELIX
 But --

The line goes dead.

FELIX (CONT'D)
 Hello! Hello?!?

He sinks back into his chair, hand rubbing his brow, staring
 right at the laptop screen.

He leans forward and slowly places a suspicious finger on the
 laptop's webcam. He pulls his finger away, looks at it
 closely -- it's not on. Felix shakes his head.

CUT TO:

7

INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Felix sits hunched over the table with his head buried in his
 hands. His phone rings and Felix quickly snaps out of his
 despondency to answer --

FELIX
Hello? Simon..?

SIMON (V.O.)
Good job, Felix. I just received confirmation that I'm now three hundred and fifty million naira richer!

FELIX
I've done what you asked... let my family go...

SIMON (V.O.)
Of course I will... when me and my men are very far away. And don't bother trying to trace the transfer. I had it routed through numerous accounts in different countries around the world, so it would be impossible to track the final destination!

FELIX
Please, Simon. I'm begging you!

SIMON (V.O.)
Well, since you asked so nicely. Simon says, sit tight and wait. You'll get another call soon confirming their release.

FELIX
Another call? How do I know you'll keep your word?

SIMON (V.O.)
You don't! Cheer up, Felix. You made the right choice.

The line goes dead again.

FELIX
SIMON?!?

He falls back into his chair and grits his teeth!

FELIX (CONT'D)
My god! This is not happening...
this is not happening...

CUT TO:

8 INT. OFFICE - AN HOUR LATER

Felix, sans suit and tie, paces the office. The TICKING sound of the wall clock seems amplified somehow! He repeatedly shoots glances at the mobile phone in his hand and wipes the sweat off his face in increasing anguish!

Suddenly, the phone rings and Felix answers, on autopilot --

FELIX
SIMON?

MIRIAM (V.O.)
Simon? Who's Simon?

Felix checks the caller ID -- SWEETIE!

FELIX
Miriam! Thank God! Are you okay?
Are the men gone? Did they harm
you? What about Elizabeth?

MIRIAM (V.O.)
Harm me? What men? What are you
talking about?

FELIX
But -- I received a call from a man
and -- I thought you and Elizabeth
were in danger!

MIRIAM (V.O.)
We are fine. What danger?

FELIX
Are you sure? There's no one there?

MIRIAM (V.O.)
Just me and Elizabeth. We decided
to go ahead and eat since you
couldn't make it.

FELIX
So... you're really okay...

MIRIAM (V.O.)
Yes. But now I'm beginning to worry
about you. Are you still in the
office? You said you'd be home in
thirty minutes... that was over an
hour ago!

Felix listens, shocked to hear his wife's voice, hale and hearty.

MIRIAM (V.O.)
Is everything okay? When are you
coming home? Felix? Are you still
there..?

Felix, phone still in hand, slumps in his chair and stares at
the laptop screen as Miriam's voice drowns out...

The message on the screen reads: TRANSFER COMPLETE!

FADE OUT.