

EXCERPT from *JUMPING JIMMY* by Gary Young
©2008 GARY YOUNG

AS SCENE OPENS, we TAYLOR, age 32, perched on a window ledge, high above the city. He is dressed nice-casual, and is in the midst of a scam that he expects will garner him fame and money without really breaking a law. Not major one, anyway. We HEAR the sounds of crowd noise, sirens and shouting.

TAYLOR
(*Sotto voce*) I'm freezing.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
(*Out loud*) Forget it! I'm jumping.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
(*Sotto voce*) I don't know how long I can last up here without gloves. That was really stupid. Forgetting gloves. Damn. The crowd is still unsympathetic. No one has found the note yet. You'd think by now they'd have found at least one copy. I just hope they don't get wind of this in my next city.
(*laugh*) Well, there's always Lima, Peru. Lots of widows there. I'll consider Lima a worst case scenario.

LOUDSPEAKER (VO)
If you come down we won't hurt you.
It's not worth it, fella.

TAYLOR
(*Sotto voce*) Now that's real negotiating. He must have learned from Dirty Harry. (*Yelling*) I'm serious!

Spotlight shines in his face and he slips.

TAYLOR (CONT'D)
(*Sotto voce*) Jesus! They must really want me to jump. I can't show outward signs of stress from the spotlight. I need it for the effect. Damn. Right in my eyes.

Knock from "inside"

VOICE (V.O.)
Housekeeping.

TAYLOR
(*Sotto voce*) Yeah. I'd hate to be remembered as messy. (*Out loud*) No, thank you. (*Sotto voce*) She isn't very well tuned into current events, that's for sure.

Another Knock

VOICE (V.O.)
Housekeeping.

The sound of a key and a door opening.

SHE enters. Goes to the window and closes it without looking. HE is enough to the left of the window that he could be missed. HE does a take to the window.

TAYLOR
You're not supposed to close and lock a window when there's a jumper on the ledge. Should I try to talk to her? Does she speak English? Does it matter? I'll knock on the window. (HE inches over to the window, slips and recovers) Maybe I'll wait until the loony squad gets here. (*SOUND of people excitedly entering the room. "This is the room." How did the window get closed? "Get out of my way."*) Here they are now. (*LOONY SQUAD opens window and we see arms reaching out to HIM. HE inches over to the corner and goes out of sight.*) (*SOUND: Let me handle this. Don't get him excited. CASSIE, age 27, dressed nicely, comes into view and gingerly makes it out onto the ledge*)

CASSIE
(*Quietly*) Shhhh! (*Looking down*)
He's around the corner.

FROM INSIDE
How do you know.

CASSIE
Because he didn't jump.

FROM INSIDE
How do you know that?

CASSIE
I know that because the crowd is
not cheering.