

Hero

Written by David Webb Peoples

Sequence 1

In a courtroom, Bernie LaPlante is found guilty of all charges. While his lawyer talks to the judge, he steals cash from her wallet. Outside the courtroom, his lawyer asks Bernie to pay back money he previously borrowed from her.

Bernie and his son Joey visit a zoo, then find a wallet in a restaurant. They leave without paying the cheque. Bernie preaches selfishness to Joey.

Bernie goes to a bar where he tries to sell the credit cards in the found wallet.

Sequence 2

Gale, a news reporter, and Chucky, her cameraman, film an interview with a businessman on the ledge of a skyscraper. Gale and Chucky are sure to film him as he jumps to his death.

Gale is going to New York, where she is being given an award.

Sequence 3

Gale gives her award speech, about the nobility of journalism. On the plane, flying home, she has with her a Silver Mic award.

Sequence 4

Bernie drives to meet Joey. Gale's plane crashes in front of him. He stops his car, takes off his shoes, and helps passengers escape the burning wreck, including Gale, whose bag he steals. Chucky has been filming the whole time. Bernie finds only one of his shoes and drives off to see Joey. His ex-wife is furious because he is so late.

On his way home, Bernie's car breaks down. He gets a lift into the city with John, a homeless man who lives in his car, to whom he gives his one remaining shoe.

Bernie is late for work and is fired.

Sequence 5

Gale, in hospital, is told that they cannot find the man who saved her from the plane. She films interviews with survivors of the crash about the man, then finds an image of Bernie on the tape filmed by Chucky the night of the crash. A news report airs about the crash and the missing "hero." A million dollars is offered by the television station for an interview with the missing man.

Bernie's other shoe is found.

Sequence 6

Joey sees the television report and recalls Bernie was wearing one shoe when he stopped by.

Sequence 7

Bernie tries to sell Gale's credit cards in the bar. He hears on television about the million dollar reward, but is arrested in a sting operation.

Sequence 8

Hundreds of people show up at the television station claiming their million dollars.

Sequence 9

In the courtroom, Bernie tells his lawyer that he saved the people from the plane. It is announced that "the hero of flight 104" has been found. Bernie has to raise \$25,000 in bail money.

Sequence 10

John is interviewed on television. He tells the story of saving all the passengers. Bernie, in jail, watches.

Sequence 11

Gale is told that the police have recovered her stolen credit cards. She says they weren't stolen, that they burned up in the crash.

John is given a luxury suite in the hotel. He goes out for dinner with Gale and is feted as a hero. He asks a crowd of admirers to donate blankets to the homeless.

Sequence 12

Gale films interviews with soldiers who served with John in Vietnam. They describe how he saved their lives. John is given a check for a million dollars. Bernie watches from jail. His lawyer bails him out and he goes to a hospital where John is visiting children. In the lobby, Bernie attempts to confront John.

Sequence 13

One of the children John visits in hospital makes a miraculous recovery.

The television station films a reconstruction of the crash. John tells Gale how uncomfortable he is with all this attention.

The police tell Gale about Bernie and the credit cards.

Bernie, who is to be sentenced tomorrow, calls Joey from the bar.

Sequence 14

Gale and Chucky show up at Bernie's apartment, where Gale finds her Silver Mic award. Bernie shows up home at the exact moment that John threatens to jump from the top of a building. He will talk only to Gale. Gale and Chucky leave Bernie's apartment, and take Bernie with them. During the drive, Gale says that obviously John stole her bag when he saved her and sold the cards to Bernie, and Bernie is now trying to blackmail John.

John is standing on the ledge of a tall building. Gale tries to talk him down. John gives Gale a note "which will explain everything." Bernie and John talk on the ledge about the situation they find themselves in. Joey watches the scene on television. Bernie tells John that he is, in fact, going to blackmail John, and that he shouldn't jump and shouldn't tell the truth about what really happened. Joey and his mother drive to the building. Gale, who is having a crisis of confidence, quits. John and Bernie discuss terms about how John can help Bernie, including paying for Joey's college. Bernie slips and almost falls. John saves him.

Sequence 15

A press conference. John says that he couldn't have saved Bernie's life if Bernie hadn't already saved John's life. Gale asks Bernie if he was the one who saved her. Bernie denies it was him. Gale doesn't believe him.

Sequence 16

Bernie and Joey visit a zoo. Bernie tells Joey what really happened the night of the plane crash. Joey wonders how his father, always so selfish, could have saved so many people. At that moment a woman cries out: "My daughter fell in the lion's cage." Bernie takes off his shoes.