

THIS BOMB COULD BLOW IN LESS THAN 5 MINUTES AND 30 SECONDS

written by
Andy Gladbach

andy@andygladbach.com

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INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

LUCY and her friend DIANE, both mid-20s, play a video game. Lucy's phone rings. The number is unknown.

LUCY

Hello?

VOICE

There is a bomb underneath your apartment building. Do not try to find it. Do not call the police. I will know. This bomb could blow in less than five minutes and thirty seconds. So just get everyone out of your apartment.

LUCY

Um, okay, I can do that.

VOICE

And could you let the folks in apartment 104 know, please? They're not answering their phone.

LUCY

Sure.

Heavy breathing on the other end.

LUCY

Anything else?

VOICE

No, that's all, thanks.

The Voice on the other end hangs up.

DIANE

What was that?

LUCY

Some jerk saying there's a bomb underneath these apartments.

DIANE

Was it serious?

LUCY

His voice was low and raspy, so, I mean, probably.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Lucy and Diane run down the hallway, racing past apartment 104. Lucy stops.

LUCY
I'm supposed to tell the lady in
104.

DIANE
Is this the lady who called the
landlord at your birthday party?

LUCY
Yeah.

DIANE
And the one who made you late for
the concert in August?

LUCY
Yeah.

DIANE
And the one who --

LUCY
Yup.

Lucy strides away from the door. She stops again.

LUCY
Oh, for god's sake, I can't do
that.

She returns to the door and knocks. There is no answer. She
knocks again.

LUCY
Irina? Irina?

Still no response. Lucy is fairly pleased.

LUCY
Well, guess not.

IRINA (O.S.)
What do you want?

LUCY
You need to leave now.

IRINA (O.S.)
If anyone leaves, it will be you!

LUCY

I am leaving, Irina. But I have to take you with me.

IRINA (O.S.)

Thank you for offer, but I think I am most happy where you are not.

LUCY

The feeling is mutual, Irina!

Lucy storms away from the door, but her conscience gets to her again and she spins around.

LUCY

There is a bomb underneath the apartment building! This bomb, I am told, could blow any second now. Do you want... do you need my help?

IRINA opens the door. She is a short elderly Russian woman.

IRINA

Yes.

Lucy was hoping for the opposite response.

IRINA

What is so important that you make up story about bomb?

LUCY

It's not a story, Irina.

IRINA

You also say it is not your friend who pukes on my front door.

LUCY

It wasn't my friend!

IRINA

Someone else celebrating your birthday, then.

Lucy exhales. The air ruffles Irina's hair.

LUCY

Irina, I've been given instructions to get out of here and to let you know that there is a bomb that could blow any minute.

IRINA

Yes, it was disappointing prank.
Now help me with my phone. It does
not stop ringing.

LUCY

Have you tried answering it, Irina?

IRINA

I am busy. And I do not appreciate
tone of last thing you said.

LUCY

Irina, I am begging you, do not
brand me for the rest of my life as
the girl who saved herself and let
an old lady die, okay? What do I
have to do to get you out of here,
hmm? Move out? Give you my life
savings? Kill somebody?

Irina considers this.

IRINA

Yes, that will be fair trade.

LUCY

Which one?

IRINA

You move out.

LUCY

Fine. I'll be gone by the end of
the month.

DIANE

Okay, let's go!

IRINA

Ah! How long have you been there?

DIANE

Whole time.

IRINA

(to Lucy)

Your friend is very quiet. She can
stay.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

Lucy, Diane, and Irina exit the apartment building and cross the street, joining a small crowd of evacuated residents.

LUCY

I hope you're happy, Irina. You avoided getting blown up and I'm moving out, all because you wouldn't pick up your phone.

IRINA

I'll write myself thank you note later.

DIANE

We're gonna be such great neighbors, Irina.

Lucy, Diane, and Irina step onto the curb and face the apartment building, not knowing what to do next.

The apartment building explodes.

Lucy, suddenly appreciating the profound fragility of existence, looks over to Irina with a new perspective.

LUCY

Irina, I know we've had our differences, but now that our apartment building has been obliterated, maybe we can bury the hatchet and work together over the next few days while we find a new place to live.

IRINA

No.

Irina walks away.

THE END