

Context:

In the scenes provided, we get a glimpse of Zed. A disturbingly calm office outcast who is always close to tipping into chaos and violence.

In the first scene, Adam tries to avoid him, but Zed picks up on his presence and forces an uncomfortable interaction. He quickly latches onto the idea of protest and looks for any opportunity to escalate a situation that is meant to be peaceful.

In the second scene, Zed has gone completely off-script, killing two of LoopFinance's executives. He is still, calm, and shows no remorse, only a quiet drive to keep going.

When you read the sides you'll notice that Zed doesn't say much. He doesn't feel the need to explain himself or justify what he does. He doesn't care how he comes across, and social conventions have never mattered to him.

We are looking for an ice-cold performance – controlled, intense, and unsettling. Someone who feels unpredictable, because nothing really registers emotionally.

Side #1

INT. THE OFFICE - THE PIT - CONTINUOUS

Adam is walking through the pit with a stack of flyers when he comes across ZED's station. Zed is a younger, malnourished-looking zombie wearing an oversized and wrinkled shirt, ill-fitting tie, and scuffed shoes. His desk is cluttered with disturbing pictures of guns, bombs, and anarchist symbols. This includes a poster of his name, spelt out in bones.

Adam spots what looks like a half-written manifesto on Zed's desk and watches, uneasy, as Zed scrolls through an obscure online forum. Freaked out, Adam attempts to silently shuffle past.

ADAM'S THOUGHTS (V.O.)

I usually don't come to this part of the office, and Zed here is the reason. If LoopFinance ever gets shot up, he'll be the prime susp-

Zed turns around, as if sensing Adam's presence, and locks his eyes onto Adam.

ZED

Can I help you?

ADAM

(startled)

Oh, hey. Yeah.

Adam passes Zed a flyer. Zed doesn't take it, he just stares at it in Adam's hand.

ADAM (CONT'D)

We're going to protest tomorrow...
to fight for our rights.

Zed rips the flyer out of Adam's hand.

ZED

Fight? Will we need weapons?

ADAM

(laughing nervously)

Oh, no, this is a peaceful protest.
We're raising awareness, not like
burning the building down or
anything...

ZED
(contemplative)
Burning the building down...

Adam quickly shuffles away.

Side #2

INT. THE OFFICE - HOSTAGE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Adam rushes in and sees Charles and Preston, slumped over, dead. The bags over their heads are blood-soaked. Adam turns to Zed.

ADAM
(screaming)
What the FUCK did you do?!

ZED
Did you get the loot?

ADAM
No, and getting ransom money was the backup plan, but you've just executed the fucking rich guys!

Adam approaches Jim.

ADAM (CONT'D)
Where's the money?!

JIM
What money?

ADAM
The money in the safe. The money you used to pay Victor and Freya. Where is it?!

JIM
There was never anything in there. We wired the money to the Grim Reaper.

ADAM
Then why'd you point to it in the meeting?!

JIM
It... It was a prop. For dramatic tension!

Adam turns away in anguish. He puts his hands on a desk and screams into the void.

Zed puts a consoling arm around him, much to his displeasure.

ZED

So... Can I off him?

Jim's eyes widen. He gets up and silently sneaks out of the room.

ADAM

No, you can't "off him"! You shouldn't have offed anyone! That wasn't the fucking plan!

ZED

So what now?

ADAM

We'll make Jim transfer us money from his personal account and hope he has enough.

Adam turns.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Wait. Where is he?