

**THE SMILEYS**

Written by

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**EXT. PARK - DAY**

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It's a beautiful day.

The grass is dancing, the birds are singing, and the socially distanced people are pouring in for their weekend activities.

One of these people is GEOFFREY ELLINGTON (27), the main staff writer at Bridges Newspaper Company. He has a blanket in his arms and a piece of paper in his hand.

He passes by a sign that reads "Bridges Newspaper Company Picnic Today! Starts at [insert time that is earlier than your phone's here]" on the front, and "All proceeds go to the Smileys Charity" on the back.

He lays it down on the ground underneath a tree.

He sits down, ready to begin the festivities. He reads the piece of paper in his hand. It's titled "BRIDGES NEWSPAPER COMPANY - COMPANY PICNIC ATTENDANCE SHEET."

He eyes one of the employees on the list: JACK FREDRICKSON (23), a financial assistant who was recently hired. Geoffrey has been showing her the ropes the past four months, and this is her first chance to meet all the lovely co-workers that Geoffrey has had the pleasure of working with all these years.

Geoffrey takes his phone out and texts Jack. "I can't believe we hired you four months ago. You've been doing a great job! Excited to have you meet all the wonderful people in this company."

Some time passes. Geoffrey checks his phone.

Turns out, he's late.

SUSPENSEFUL PIANO TRACK BEGINS (IF YOU CAN FIND ONE).

Worried, he texts the company group chat.

"Where is everyone?" He types.

BEAT

"Looking for Jack." He gets a reply.

"Why?" Geoffrey types back. But he doesn't get a reply. What exactly is going on here?

STOP MUSIC TRACK (IF THERE IS ONE).

FADE TO:

**2 INT. BRIDGES NEWSPAPER COMPANY OFFICE - DAY 2**

Geoffrey is sitting at a desk and typing in his phone again. He finishes and tosses his phone onto the desk.

A close up of the phone reveals the text to a person described as "Company CEO": "Hello, Ms. MADISON BRIDGES (46). The police just confirmed with us that Jack is nowhere to be found. What should we do?"

A page prints out of the printer adjacent to Geoffrey reading:

ANOTHER SMILEYS KIDNAPPING? JACK FREDRICKSON NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

CUT TO BLACK

Intertitle: THREE DAYS LATER.

FADE IN:

**3 INT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING 3**

Geoffrey is in bed, sleeping.

There's a KNOCK on his door. It wakes him up.

He's not expecting anyone, but he gets out of bed and goes to answer.

**4 EXT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS 4**

He opens the door, but there's no one there.

**5 INT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS 5**

He peers in his mailbox and finds a single letter. It reads "The Smileys."

He TEARS it open. The letter is addressed to him specifically. The front has the Smiley's logo, but the back actually says something: "Bring us \$100,000 by next week or Jack gets the worst of it."

His hands shake. In a rage, he TEARS the letter.

CUT TO:

6 INT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - AFTERNOON 6

INTENSE METAL MUSIC PLAYS (IF YOU CAN FIND A TRACK TO USE).

Geoffrey's bedroom door opens. He's wearing a leather jacket, sweatpants, and sunglasses.

He runs toward the camera.

7 INT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS 7

He races out the front door.

8 EXT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS 8

He rushes into his car and flies off.

CUT TO BLACK

MUSIC STOPS

FADE IN:

9 INT. POKER HOUSE - NIGHT 9

EERIE JAZZ STARTS (IF YOU CAN FIND ANY TO USE).

The money won't come to Geoffrey, so he's going to the money. Or at least, he hopes to.

Geoffrey sits at a washed out, hyper-exposed kitchen table with a mess of cards and bills on it.

He throws his cards on the table and takes a big swig of vodka, celebrating that round's victory.

FADE OUT.

MUSIC STOPS

10 EXT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT 10

Geoffrey's car pulls into the driveway abnormally slow.

Geoffrey walks out of the driver side, tipsy to the point of barely being able to stand and walks into his house with an empty vodka bottle in hand.

**11 INT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - FOYER - CONTINUOUS 11**

He closes the door and stumbles into a chair. He stares at the massive amount of mail on his table that he neglected to try and get the money to save Jack.

Not sure what to do anymore, he SLAMS his head on the table and cries the night away.

FADE TO BLACK.

CUT TO:

**12 INT. GEOFFREY'S HOUSE - FOYER - MORNING 12**

Geoffrey's been in the same spot all night. He lifts his head. A letter is stuck to it. He grabs it and inspects it. It's blank.

He opens it. It contains a flash drive and a picture of Geoffrey's boss, Madison Bridges, with a note on the back. It reads: "My friend pulled some strings for this fake check. Hopefully, the Smileys won't notice. Let's get Jack back!"

Geoffrey nods. HEROIC MUSIC STARTS (IF YOU HAVE ANY). His eyes are determined. He grabs his keys, phone, flash drive, and wallet. He rises, walks up to the front door, takes a deep breath, and walks out.

CUT TO:

**13 EXT. THE SMILEYS HIDEOUT - FRONT GATE - DAY 13**

Geoffrey walks up to the gate and jumps it.

**14 EXT. THE SMILEYS HIDEOUT - FRONT DOOR - CONTINUOUS 14**

Geoffrey tries opening the door, but it's locked. He rams into it twice to no effect, but on the third attempt...

**15 INT. THE SMILEYS HIDEOUT - CONTINUOUS 15**

MUSIC STOPS.

Geoffrey breaks through and trips. He looks up.

SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC STARTS (IF YOU CAN FIND ANY TO USE).

The place is a dump.

There are boxes and rotten wood everywhere. It doesn't look like anyone has cleaned this place in years.

He hears something to his right.

His head SNAPS to that direction. He finds a grey cardigan-hooded man with black gloves a smiley plastered on his face. It's the SMILEYS BOSS.

The boss motions Geoffrey to hand the money over.

Geoffrey complies.

The boss THROWS the flash drive away.

Geoffrey is CONFUSED.

The boss points to his right. It's... a towel?

The towel falls, REVEALING a giant picture of Ms. Bridges with the Smileys logo on it!

SCRATCHY SUSPENSE MUSIC PLAYS (IF YOU CAN FIND ANY TO USE).

She's been in on this kidnapping the whole time.

Geoffrey realizes he's been played from the very beginning and makes a run for it.

But the door is locked.

He turns around.

The Smileys boss REACHES for him.

CUT TO BLACK

MUSIC STOPS.

FADE IN:

16

INT. ???????????????? - DAY

16

Geoffrey is dead.

Someone tied a plastic bag around his head.

With a smiley face drawn on it.

CUT TO BLACK