

Private Investigator
by
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INT. OFFICE - DAY

A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR (25) wearing a black suit, fancy shoes and sunglasses casually lays back on his seat, with his legs and feet on the table in front of him. His hands are on the back of his head. On the table is a phone, and on his left is a high up city view. The weather is sunny. The phone rings and the P.I. takes the call as he sits more normally.

P.I.

Hello, who is this?... James Ziegler?
I know that name, what do you want
from me?... Your friend Sebastien has
been seen with a hose in a hosepipe
ban? What, he was using it on his
car?... He hasn't been using it, but
he definitely owns one?... Owning a
hose isn't illegal, you know? It's
only illegal if it actually gets
used... You'll pay me how much?... I
see. Well, let me see what I can do..
.. Oh, he's gone...

The P.I. hangs up and talks to himself.

P.I.

I've never had a call like that
before, but if James really wants me
to prove Sebastien owns a hose, who
am I to argue? Now all I need are the
details of James and Sebastien...
Easy money! Let's call him back.

EXT. SEBASTIEN'S GARDEN - DAY

It is still sunny. SEBASTIEN roams up and down his empty front garden with a lawnmower in his hands. A row of similar houses are on both his sides and the other side of the road. A black car with tinted windows drives by at around 5 mph. Its front window gets winded down and then a flash comes from the vehicle. DAN turns to face it as the window goes up and the car drives off and disappears. SEBASTIEN comments to himself.

SEBASTIEN

Huh... That was funny... Was that
James pranking me? But pranking me by
taking a photo of me gardening? That
doesn't sound right... Maybe he's
just getting desperate and having
some kind of a mental breakdown...

The same car from before drives back the way it came as the window winds down and another photo apparently gets taken.

SEBASTIEN

Right, I've had enough of this.

SEBASTIEN chases the car down the road. He passes house after house, but the car is too fast as it speeds away. DAN, now out of breath, shakes his fist in the air and shouts.

SEBASTIEN

Tell me your plans, James! Tell me now!

SEBASTIEN'S mobile rings from his pocket. He takes the call on speaker mode. It's JAMES.

JAMES

Hello, Dan. Doing the gardening?

SEBASTIEN

It WAS you!

JAMES

What the person stalking you?

SEBASTIEN

Yes!

JAMES

Maybe it was me, maybe it wasn't me. Or maybe I just know your routine. Why don't you just ignore me or whoever it is that's bothering you and hose your garden?

SEBASTIEN

Because that would be illegal?

JAMES

What do you mean?

SEBASTIEN

There's a hosepipe ban...

JAMES

So you know it's illegal?

SEBASTIEN

I'm sorry?

JAMES

You own a hose. And they're banned.

SEBASTIEN

Well I own a hose, but I'm not using it, so I'm fine...

JAMES

Oh yeah? How's that work, then?

SEBASTIEN

Why do you think there are hosepipe bans, James?

JAMES

Just a random law. These are crazy times...

SEBASTIEN

It's because in dry weather water is more limited and hoses waste water. It's not random, it's perfectly reasonable. You want to know what isn't reasonable? Me having to change my name and... Oh. He's gone.

INT. CAR - DAY

The P.I. is driving his car down a suburban street with all windows up; with one hand on the steering wheel; and the other holding a mobile to his ear. It's also on speaker mode. I don't know why. Not very stealthy is it?

P.I.

Hello, James. I got a couple of shots of Sebastien, but I couldn't see a hose unfortunately. However, I did get some first rate pics of him mowing the lawn!

JAMES

Did he look like a bellend whilst mowing the lawn?

P.I.

Yeah!

JAMES

I guess that will have to do for now.

P.I.

You know... It's completely possible for someone to plant a hose on someone's garden...

JAMES

A hose tree?

P.I.

No, PLANT. Another word for 'place'..

..

JAMES
I've never heard that word used that way before...

P.I.
Ok. But me getting the hose will cost you...

JAMES
Oh forget it, I'll get the hose myself.

EXT. SEBASTIEN'S GARDEN

It's still sunny, but the skies are a little darker. SEBASTIEN continues mowing his lawn. JAMES approaches him with a hosepipe under one arm and a phone in his other hand.

JAMES
Hello, Sebastien.

SEBASTIEN
James? Why are you carrying a hose? Are you offering to water my garden?

JAMES
Would you like that?

SEBASTIEN
Well no, there's a ban... It would be a nice thought, though...

SEBASTIEN smiles nervously.

JAMES
Oh, a nice thought? How about this for a nice thought???

JAMES throws the hose on SEBASTIEN'S garden, takes a photo and runs away at full speed. SEBASTIEN stares at him in disbelief.

SEBASTIEN
Huh...