

'Sergeant Beacham'
Rev. 2-27

I'M WITH STUPID

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ROADSIDE - DAY - DAY 1 1

We hold A SNOW COVERED SIGN at the edge of a densely populated Chicago suburb. After a beat, A SLAB OF SNOW SLIDES OFF THE SIGN revealing a SMILING, SUNGLASS WEARING SUN beaming its warm rays down on a REGATTA OF COLORFUL SAILBOATS. The sign reads: WELCOME TO FRIENDLY HOWARD, ILLINOIS, THE PEARL OF LAKE MICHIGAN!

CUT TO:

2 INT. HOWARD POLICE STATION - DAY - DAY 1 2

The lobby is dominated by a long, raised police desk. OFFICER CAVELLO, a female cop in her 20's, is at the desk.

VOICE (O.S.)

Excuse me. I called about a home invasion.

Officer Cavello looks around. There's NO ONE THERE.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Excuse me!

Officer Cavello leans over and sees a MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR looking up at her. He's bundled up from the cold and wearing a lame looking knit ski hat. This is PAUL, (20's-30's).

PAUL

I called twice about a home invasion and no one ever came out. My name is Paul Van Devere. I live in Harmony Court, apartment 5.

SERGEANT BEACHAM (late 40's) passes by. He's got five years before he gets the magic twenty if he doesn't get fired for excessive force or just being a total dick.

OFFICER CAVELLO
Sergeant Beacham, did we get a home invasion call from Harmony Court?

"I'm With Stupid"

Start →

#1

1/7

SERGEANT BEACHAM

It's bogus. This handicapped dork calls in false reports at least twice a week just to have someone to talk to. Screw him.

OFFICER CAVELLO

(trying to warn him)

Uh, Sarge...?

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Listen, my parents raised me to feel sorry for the crippled just like everybody else, okay? But this guy is even more annoying than real people.

Cavello blatantly points over the desk. Sergeant Beacham leans over, sees Paul, then straightens up.

SERGEANT BEACHAM (CONT'D)

Get rid of him.

OFFICER CAVELLO

Really? Just send him away? I don't know, Sarge, I feel bad for him.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Great. A cop with feelings. Very useful. Just go get me some coffee, Cavello, I'll take care of this tool.

PAUL (O.S.)

You people realize you're not in a soundproof booth, don't you?

OFFICER CAVELLO EXITS. A HALF FROZEN HOMELESS GUY ENTERS. This is SHELDON WILLIAMS (30's) a big guy with an open, friendly face and demeanor to match. Sergeant Beacham leans over the desk to address Paul.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Okay, Paul. What's the story this time?

PAUL

Like I told you on the phone. A large man wearing a ski mask came crashing through my window.

CUT TO:

2/7

3

3 EXT. OUTSIDE PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY - HOURS EARLIER 3

A WORKER is shoveling snow. He reacts as Paul's window BREAKS OUT from the inside.

CUT TO:

4 INT. HOWARD POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS 4

PAUL

I managed to fight him off but he swore he'd kill me if I went to the police. I want an officer posted outside my door for a few days.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Paul. Little buddy. Get yourself a friend, okay? That place you live, that Harmony Court. It's crawling with disabled people like you --

PAUL

I'm not "disabled". "Disabled" implies that I'm broken. It's insulting.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Would you people pick something and stick to it! We've been through "crippled", "retarded", "handicapped", "physically challenged". What the hell is it now?

PAUL

I prefer "differently abled."

SERGEANT BEACHAM

I'm not saying that. It's stupid. Go home, Paul.

PAUL

No. I want to file a complaint.

~~for no other reason than when this man comes back and murders me in my bed, my legal representatives can use it as evidence when they sue you and the Howard Police Department for negligence.~~

3/7

SERGEANT BEACHAM
 (weary)
 Alright. Just... roll over there
 and wait.

AS PAUL ROLLS AWAY, SHELDON APPROACHES Sergeant Beacham.

END

SHELDON
 Hi, Sheldon Williams. How are you
 today, sir? Listen, um --

SERGEANT BEACHAM
 No.

SHELDON
 No? I haven't said anything.

SERGEANT BEACHAM
 No. You can't stay in a cell
 tonight.

SHELDON
 How did, uh...?

SERGEANT BEACHAM
 Every time it drops below zero I'm
 up to my ears in bums wanting a
 cell.

CAVELLO ENTERS and hands Beacham a cup of coffee.

SERGEANT BEACHAM (CONT'D)
 (sips)
 Delicious, Cavello. Excellent
 police work.

SHELDON
 Sir, please. I've got no place to
 go.

SERGEANT BEACHAM
 Try the Lakemont Shelter.

SHELDON
 It's full. It's always full
 because they let anyone in there.
~~Last time I had to sleep next to~~
~~some dude with multiple~~
~~personalities.~~
 (more)

4/7