

Faith In You?

Taglines:

- **Faith in you?**
- What do you believe in? God knows.

(Sound effect of siren)

(Two bank robbers with clearly marked bags come hurtling round the corner. They drop the bags, put their hands on their knees and start panting)

Robber 1: You think we lost them?

Robber 2: Wait - let's listen out *(they both stop and listen out)*
Silence – the criminal's best friend.

Robber 1: Too right *(he gives a sigh of relief)*. So what are your takings?

Robber 2: Better than the last job, I've really hit the jackpot this time. There's a TV, microwave and I think there might be a DVD player in there too. How does your haul look?

Robber 1: I've got a video recorder, X-box 360, a couple of laptops, an inflatable banana (for some reason) and a set of hair straighteners.

Robber 2: Why on earth did you steal those?

Robber 1: I thought it might be a solution to when my hair gets a bit frizzy that's all! *(he looks sheepish)*

Robber 2: Each to their own. Dunno how I'm gonna carry all of this much further; it's a bit of a dead weight. Do you mind taking some of my stuff?

Robber 1: No way! The banana may be inflatable but the video recorder definitely isn't! Besides – you know the rules, if you blag it then you have to drag it.

Robber 2: What about that house we did over in Corporation Street last week, don't you remember that fridge that I had to lug around cos you were too lazy to carry it?

Robber 1: I made you carry it cos it was you that nicked it! I wasn't gonna risk suffering for your recklessness and I told you that at the time. You're gonna get us caught one of these days cos of your foolishness!

(Pause)

Robber 1: Do you reckon we're safe here? There must be loads of policemen looking for us.

Robber 2: Chill out will ya? I may take a few small chances from time to time, but at least I'm not always worrying over nothing.

Robber 1: There's a difference between being worried and being alert. You might wanna start appreciating that. A complacent criminal will always end up a convicted criminal, mark my words.

Robber 2: Spare me the clichés – if you could just listen to yourself one of these days you'd be embarrassed.

Robber 1: *(resigned, and worried about offending Robber 2)* Okay, okay – maybe I am fretting a little bit too much. But it does pay to be careful on a job like this.

(Pause)

Robber 2: Pretty exciting chase though wasn't it!

Robber 1: *(he rolls his eyes)* You can say that again. You've never been one to does things by halves have you?

Robber 2: What about that bit when I rounded the corner and just missed that copper? Pretty impressive sidestep I thought.

Robber 1: You wouldn't have almost run into him if you'd listened to me and gone the other way round that car park!

Robber 2: *(Throws him a darting look)*

Robber 1: *(indignant)* I'm just saying!

Robber 2: Well we're safe now and that's what counts.

Robber 1: I wouldn't be so sure if I were you! Look! *(he points at a policeman who has just rounded the corner and seen them)*

Robber 1: *(he freezes in terror)*

Robber 2: Well don't just stand there! Run! *(they both mime running away)*

N.B This section could be done one of two ways. Either a comedy-type police chase could ensue, with various instances when both of them almost get caught.

OR You could cut straight to them trying to scale the wall

(They run into a high brick wall)

Robber 2: Great. Now what are we gonna do?

Robber 1: There's no way we're gonna be able to carry our stuff *and* ourselves over that. Come on, we're gonna have to leave it here.

Robber 2: You what? There's no way I'm leaving my bag behind, think how much cash I could get for all of this *(he points to the bag)*

Robber 1: Don't be stupid! You're freedom is worth more than the contents of that bag *(he drops his own bag and mimes starting to climb the wall)*

Robber 2: You're giving all of your stuff up! You are madder than I thought.

Robber 1: Maybe. Or maybe I've realised that now is the time to give up this life completely. I'm fed up with being worried all the time, constantly watching over my shoulder, wondering whether the siren I can hear is coming for me.

Robber 2: *(he starts to try and scale the wall, but with obvious difficulty)* You have so little faith! I can do this!

Robber 1: Goodbye Jim *(he leaves, miming the jump down the other side of the wall)*

(The policeman catches up with Jim, placing his hand on his shoulder. Jim turns round slowly, then hangs his head. He is led off the stage)

Curtain

N.B Things to remember:

1. It's important to emphasise how for one of the robbers it is all or nothing
2. Robber 1 is the more nervous of the two, whereas Robber 2 tries to be more authoritative
3. The final moment when Jim is caught is key – take your time over his reaction