

From Project Murder: The Elimination Challenge

By Don Zolidis

BAILHEW, a cop
MOSLEY, a cop,
CAROL-ANN, also a cop

Bailihev and Mosley have just received a phone call threatening to kill a contestant live on the reality show, Project Design.

BAILIHEW

Thoughts?

MOSLEY

I don't think you can do a peace out after a death threat. It's so wrong. It violates the entire purpose of the peace out.

BAILIHEW

No what do you think we should do about the death threat!?

MOSLEY

I don't know! We tune in on Wednesday. It sounds really exciting.

BAILIHEW

You want us to *tune in*?

MOSLEY

Why are you asking me?! You always do this, you have the answer in your own mind, and then you ask me and you *expect* me to come up with the same answer! This is why I have stress headaches, sir.

BAILIHEW

Mosley!

MOSLEY

Sorry sir. I'm having trouble at home. My cat, he's... he's unhappy. He's not using the litter box properly. My life is a nightmare.

BAILIHEW

I'm sorry to hear that.

MOSLEY

We'll get through it. I just need a lot of prayers right now. And Febreeze.

BAILIHEW

All right, look. We've got to get somebody on this – now I think that –
(CAROL-ANN enters.)

CAROL-ANN

Knock knock! Hello.

BAILIHEW

Officer Perkins, I don't believe I called you in here.

CAROL-ANN

That's okay. Because I sensed danger and I am alert. You want to see my preparedness stance?
It's like this.

(She does her preparedness stance)

BAILIHEW

Were you listening at the door again?

CAROL-ANN

When you're as finely tuned as I am, you just feel it. Like the Force.

BAILIHEW

So that's a yes?

CAROL-ANN

Yes sir. At the door.

MOSLEY

Perkins –

CAROL-ANN

Call me Carol-Ann.

MOSLEY

Perkins, if you don't mind, we have some very serious business to attend to. And some bonding.

BAILIHEW

There won't be any bonding.

MOSLEY

He says that, but there will probably be bonding.

BAILIHEW

Nope.

MOSLEY

So if you could just wait outside please?

CAROL-ANN

I get it. I got you. It's a guy thing. Like in the restroom.

BAILIHEW

There's nothing going on in the restroom.*

CAROL-ANN

The sauna. No one's wearing any clothes. It's sweaty – *

**These two lines may be cut.*

BAILIHEW

Do you mind?

CAROL-ANN

I'll just be outside using my imagination then.

(She backs out, knocks something over.)

Whoops. Little stumble. Normally I'm like a cat.

(She makes a cat motion, knocks something else over.)

(She's out.)

BAILIHEW

All right, I want to get our best man on this –

MOSLEY

That's going to be Harwick –

BAILIHEW

I thought the same thing.

(CAROL-ANN is back.)

CAROL-ANN

Yo um... I couldn't help but listening in again – you said “best man on this”- and with all due respect, your best man ain't a man. Boom.

(she stands there)

BAILIHEW

What?

CAROL-ANN

I can smell the situation.

MOSLEY

What situation?

CAROL-ANN

The Project Design situation –

BAILIHEW

You know what, we do have a job for you. The Vice-Presidential motorcade needs a few good cops to accompany him –

CAROL-ANN

What? That dirtbag?

MOSLEY

This is the vice-president you're talking about –

CAROL-ANN

Not doing it. I'm not into politics. So here's what happens: We go full Miss Congeniality up on this thang. I go undercover –

BAILIHEW

No –

CAROL-ANN

I develop a persona – I'm a designer, I'm eccentric, yet sensual – you can't figure me out. Where did she come from? How does she have these skills? My use of color is phenomenal –

BAILIHEW

Are you listening?

CAROL-ANN

A good cop never listens to the wrong people. So then – I dominate the competition – it's stunning, I win the whole the thing – they try to kill me, that's when I strike.

MOSLEY

This is completely unrealistic.

CAROL-ANN

I fill the Sandra Bullock role. I'm amazing. And... here's the kicker... I fall for one of the other designers... romantically.

BAILIHEW

This is actually a real issue, Perkins, you can't –

CAROL-ANN

Oh sure we'll fight it at first. I'll have a bad feeling about it. But I won't be able to contain myself any longer. There's longing. There's fire in our loins. A late night session. He or she looks over at me, I'm not picky*

*(*this line may be changed to “he looks over at me”)*

– lets go of the fabric in the Singer sewing machine – the fabric tumbles to the ground as we make out like animals. Hands and feet going everywhere. Kama Sutra stuff.* And you know what? My lover is the killer. Shocking. No one saw it coming. Boom. Case solved. Murder averted. I get a spread in Marie Claire magazine and ten thousand dollars in prize money from an internet fashion company.

(pause)

You’re considering it.

BAILIHEW

No we’re not.

MOSLEY

The vice-presidential motorcade –

CAROL-ANN

He can wait in traffic like the rest of the scum!

BAILIHEW

Perkins, we need a competent detective on this. Go home. Get psychiatric help. You’re not getting this job.

CAROL-ANN

Oh. Aw gee. I do this all the time! I get excited about seeing myself in a Sandra Bullock role. I don’t even look good in a bikini. No one wants to see that. That’s probably why I’m alone. You know. Without love. That probably explains it. I’ll go home now. Get one of those frozen pizzas. Eat the whole thing. Cry during it. I probably deserve this life.

BAILIHEW

Okay.

CAROL-ANN

I’ll probably be so sad that I’ll call the commissioner and tell him everything I know about the Jenkins case, and how that money that was supposed to be evidence disappeared and how I had no idea who did that, even though you were suddenly able to get that new truck – and I’ll be crying while I email him the photos I took of you with the cash.

BAILIHEW

I’m sorry?

CAROL-ANN

What?

BAILIHEW

Are you threatening me?

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CAROL-ANN

Do I sound like I'm threatening you? That would be crazy. Like a fox.

BAILIHEW

Um... can I talk to you in private?

CAROL-ANN

Nope. Give me the job. Undercover.

BAILIHEW

I'll have to arrange it with the producers –

CAROL-ANN

Do it.

To read the rest of this play, contact me at donzolidis@gmail.com