

Emric Ladislas

I Tried

I dived into the depths of danger, plunging into the unknown just for you, yet...

Joseph Jethro



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Chapter 1

Check ma whip out!

Brander sat comfortably in his cosy living room, the soft glow of the evening sun filtering through the curtains. His legs were casually propped up on the coffee table, a position he found most relaxing after a long day. The room was filled with the faint aroma of freshly brewed tea, mingling with the subtle scent of the lavender candle flickering on the mantelpiece.

With a contented sigh, Brander picked up his phone, his fingers deftly swiping through various apps and notifications. His other hand absentmindedly traced the delicate rim of his teacup, the warmth of the ceramic, a comforting contrast to the cool air which blew through the open window. A smile played on his lips as he thought of his friend, Emric.

‘Emric,’ he chuckled softly, a smile playing on his lips. He browsed the Audi dealership’s website, his excitement almost tangible. ‘I can’t wait to show you my new car!’ he murmured, envisioning the astonishment and admiration that would light up Emric’s face. The anticipation of sharing his joy with his friend added a vibrant layer of happiness to his evening, making his heart race eagerly.

Brander’s excitement grew as he continued to browse the Audi dealership’s website. He leaned forward, his eyes scanning the sleek images of various models. Each car seemed more impressive than the last, but he was looking for something special, something that would truly stand out.

After a few moments of scrolling, he was captivated by the picture of the Audi Q8. The car’s bold, aggressive lines and luxurious design immediately caught his interest. He clicked on the image, bringing up a detailed view of the vehicle. The Q8’s wide stance and imposing framework displayed confidence and power, while the elegant curves and sophisticated finish held his attention.

Brander’s fingers danced over the screen as he explored the car’s features. The interior was a masterpiece of modern design, with plush leather seats and bright lighting. He could almost feel the smooth leather under his fingertips and hear the crisp sound of the premium audio system. The panoramic sunroof, which stretched across the entire length of the cabin, promised breathtaking views and a sense of openness.

Brander couldn’t wait any longer. He quickly navigated to the dealership’s contact page and dialled the number. As he waited for someone to answer, his eyes wandered around the living room, his mind already racing ahead to the moment he would drive his new car home.

‘Good evening, Audi dealership; how can I assist you?’ a friendly voice answered.

‘Hi, I’d like to inquire about the Audi Q8,’ Brander said, his voice brimming with excitement. ‘I’m very interested in purchasing one.’

The conversation flowed smoothly, with the salesperson providing all the information Brander needed. They discussed the various customisation options, from the exterior colour to the interior finishes. Brander opted for a deep metallic blue, which he felt perfectly matched his personality. He chose the premium leather seats in an elegant, rich brown shade and incorporated a few extra options, like the advanced sound system and the sports package.

Brander felt a sense of satisfaction and excitement. He would soon be the proud owner of a stunning Audi Q8.

As Brander hung up the phone, he heard the soft, rhythmic tap of someone’s footsteps against the cool, polished marble floor in the hallway. He looked up to see his wife, Elara, entering the room with a curious smile.

‘Hey, love,’ she greeted, settling into the armchair opposite him. ‘You look like you’ve got some exciting news. What’s up?’

Brander’s face lit up with enthusiasm. ‘I just finalised the details for our new car. It’s an Audi Q8, and it’s absolutely stunning.’

Elara raised an eyebrow, intrigued. ‘An Audi Q8? That sounds impressive. Tell me more about it.’

Brander leaned forward, his excitement evident. ‘It’s got this incredible design, bold and elegant at the same time. The interior is luxurious, with plush leather seats and a panoramic sunroof. I decided on a deep metallic blue finish for the exterior and elegant brown for the seats. And the features! Advanced driver assistance systems, a premium sound system, and even a sports package.’

Elara smiled, clearly impressed. ‘It sounds amazing. I can’t wait to see it.’

Brander continued, ‘And you know what? I can’t wait to show it to Emric. He’s always been such a car enthusiast. I can already picture his face when he sees it. He’ll be thrilled.’

Elara chuckled. ‘Emric will probably want to take it for a spin the moment he lays his eyes on it.’

‘Absolutely,’ Brander agreed, laughing. ‘He’s been talking about getting a new car himself, but I think this will blow him away. I can’t wait to take him for a ride and see his reaction.’

Elara reached over and squeezed Brander’s hand. ‘I’m so happy for you, Brander. You deserve this. And I’m sure Emric will be just as excited as you are.’

Brander’s hands tightened on his brand-new car’s sleek, leather-wrapped steering wheel as he sped down the winding roads. The engine roared with power, sending a thrill through his veins. The sun was setting, casting a golden hue over the landscape, and the car’s polished exterior gleamed in the fading light.

He sensed the ride’s smooth flow, the meticulous control of the handling, and the sheer force of acceleration as he pressed down on the gas pedal. The car responded instantly, surging forward with a burst of speed that made his heart race. He was on his way to pick up his best mate, eager to show off his latest acquisition.

As he navigated the bends, Brander couldn’t help but smile. The car was everything he had dreamed of and more, and it was all his.

He finally got to his mate’s street, where Emric was meant to be waiting. Brander pulled up in front of the house, the engine purring as he came to a stop. He saw Emric stumbling towards him with a wide grin on his face, his eyes slightly red, and his movements a bit erratic. ‘Yo, like yer whip, dude!’ Emric laughed, jumping into the passenger seat. ‘It’s spectacular, man!’

Brander chuckled, ‘Told ya,’ he smiled, ‘I only deal in the best.’

As Brander began their journey together, Emric looked at him, ‘Can ya put the window down, pal?’

‘Why?’ Brander asked, side-eyeing him.

Emric’s hand slipped into his jeans pocket, fumbling momentarily before pulling out a crumpled pack of cigarettes and a small baggie of something else. ‘Ya see,’ he said, pulling out a cig and lighting it with a shaky hand, ‘I need to have this. And maybe a lil’ somethin’ extra.’

Brander rolled his eyes, ‘Druggy,’ he muttered, lowering the window.

He watched as Emric sparked up and started to enjoy himself, taking heavy drags and exhaling clouds of smoke. The smell of tobacco filled the car, mingling with the new car scent. Emric leaned

back, a look of bliss on his face as he took another drag. 'This is the life, man,' he said, his voice slightly slurred. 'You and me, cruisin' in this beast. Nothin' better.'

Emric then pulled out something else and started to roll it, his hands shaking slightly. 'Gotta have my fix, ya know?' he mumbled, more to himself than to Brander. He lit up the new roll and inhaled deeply. 'Ah, that's the stuff,' he sighed, sinking deeper into the seat.

Brander couldn't help but smile despite the smoke and his friend's slightly concerning behaviour. He pressed down on the gas pedal, the car roaring as they sped down the road, the wind whipping through the open window.

The city lights blurred past them, creating a kaleidoscope of colours in the night. Emric, now more relaxed and slightly dazed, leaned back in his seat, his head lolling to the side as he took another deep drag from his makeshift joint.

'Man, this ride is somethin' else,' Emric slurred, his eyes half-closed. 'Feels like we're flyin'.'

Brander smirked, enjoying the thrill of the speed and the admiration from his friend. 'Told ya, mate. Only the best for us.'

They cruised through the city, the streets gradually becoming less crowded as they ventured further from the bustling centre. Brander took a sharp turn, the tyres squealing slightly, and Emric let out a whoop of excitement.

'Yeah, that's what I like!' Emric shouted, his voice filled with exhilaration. He fumbled with the car's sound system, managing to crank up the volume. The bass thumped through the speakers, adding to the adrenaline-fueled atmosphere.

Emric pulled out his phone, his fingers clumsily tapping on the screen. 'Gotta let the boys know 'bout this,' he mumbled, bombarding their group chat with a flurry of nonsensical messages. 'They ain't gonna believe this.'

Brander glanced over, shaking his head with a chuckle. 'You're a mess, Emric.'

Emric laughed, a raspy sound that turned into a cough. 'Yeah,' he said, grinning widely. He took another drag, the smoke curling around his face. 'Hey, pull over here,' he suddenly said, pointing to a dimly lit alleyway.

Brander frowned but obeyed, slowing the car and turning into the narrow alley. 'What for?'

Emric rummaged through his pockets, pulling out a small vial. 'Just need a quick hit,' he muttered, his hands shaking slightly as he prepared the substance. 'Won't take long.'

Brander sighed, watching as Emric leapt out of the car and started to take his drugs. Emric's mind blanked out momentarily before he shook his head and blinked rapidly. He jumped back into the car, 'All right, let's go,' he said, his voice steadier.

They pulled back onto the main road, the car's engine roaring as Brander accelerated. The night air rushed through the open window, carrying away the lingering smoke. Emric leaned back, a contented smile on his face. 'This is the life, man,' he repeated, his voice softer. 'Just you, me, and the open road.'

Brander glanced over at his friend, concern etched on his face. 'Emric bro, you need to stop takin' drugs, man,' he said, his tone serious. 'it ain't good for ya.'

Emric looked at him, a lazy smile on his face. 'Ah, come on, man, Brander. It's just a bit of fun. Nothin' serious.'

Brander shook his head, pressing down on the gas pedal. 'It might seem like fun now, but it's gonna catch up with ya. I don't want to see you go down that path.'

Emric sighed, leaning back in his seat. 'Yeah, yeah, I hear ya,' he mumbled. 'But right now, let's just enjoy the ride, alright?'

Brander nodded, despite the persistent worry in his head. He cared about Emric and didn't want to see him get hurt.