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Harry Striker: Interview Transcript

Det. David Filtness: This is detective David Filtness and Sergeant Emma Ridley with one Harry Striker in the investigation to recover the stolen crown jewels. Interview commencing at 11:39 on the ninth of December 2020.

Good morning Mr Striker, my name is Detective Filtness, this is Sergeant Ridley and we will be conducting the interview today. We will be asking questions referring to the robbery of the crown jewels which took place at 3:37 am on the morning of the eighth of December 2020. To clarify, the offer on the table is 50% jail time for any information that may lead to the capture of the thief referred to as ‘Robin Hood’.

Do you understand and agree to these terms?

Harry Striker: Yes.

Det. David Filtness Excellent. So what can you tell us about the Robin Hood bandits?

Harry Striker It was a name Robin came up with. He’d go on about how important it would be to keep the public on side and that some people might not want to grass us up you know, because Robin Hood is a bit of a hero isn’t he.

Det. David Filtness And what about the group, what can you tell about Robin and anyone else involved

Harry Striker I’m afraid there’s not much I can say. We never really met up – everything was done with, like, messages you see. We had a spot where we’d leave each other notes and check up with where each other were in the planning process.

Sergeant Emma Ridley So how many other people were there?

Harry Striker No, it was just us…

Sergeant Emma Ridley You honestly expect us to believe it only took the two individuals to break into one of the most secure locations in the country and steal perhaps the most notorious collection of jewellery in the world?

Harry Striker You can believe what you want, but what I’m telling you if the truth I swear. Robin planned the thing and I designed the equipment.

Det. David Filtness Right… You keep on referring to him as Robin. Was that his real name?

Harry Striker Don’t know. A mate of mine said there was a guy looking to pull off something a little bit outrageous and that it’d be up my street. To be fair he weren’t wrong.

Sergeant Emma Ridley So what can you tell us about him?

Harry Striker …Short bloke, at least I think he was a bloke, I never saw his face. Didn’t talk much, but then again we weren’t exactly going to make a lot of noise. Quite athletic though. Can’t give you a great description as we only met yesterday before the break in and he was already dressed to hide his appearance.

Sergeant Emma Ridley But what about after you left the tower?

Harry Striker We sort of went our separate ways until you nicked me. Plan was to split and then meet up at Southampton docks later that night. Robin brought my cut down after paying off the guards and the local community. Then he nipped away just before I got arrested.

Det. David Filtness O.K. so what can you tell us about your involvement in the heist itself. What did Robin want you to do?

Harry Striker My main job was to design this grapple gun.

Sergeant Emma Ridley As in Batman?!

Harry Striker (laugh) Yeh sort of. Robin told me to find these guys that had made one by searching for ‘Make it Real: grappling hook winch (test)’ on youtube, you should check them out, I think their channel was called Hacksmith Industries or something. It was pretty cool to be honest and fun to design. I tracked them down and put my own little tweaks to it. The guys also warned me that it wouldn’t actually attach properly unless it was coming down at at least 10 meters per second so I designed mine to bear that in mind.

Det David Filtness So how was it different?

Harry Striker Well it didn’t have any batman logos on it or anything. I don’t think mine shot the grapple out at the same speed, but it had the same acceleration and top speed when it winched you up.

Sergeant Emma Ridley Anything Else?

Harry striker … (chuckle) Yeh, they did say that one of them broke their leg once when they were travelling back down after a climb. They didn’t have any resistance built in you see so they just basically fell under gravity. Lucky to not come off worse if you ask me.

Sergeant Emma Ridley So what did you do?

Harry Striker Oh I just built in a feature so that once you hit five meters a second it wouldn’t go any faster. It was a great product to be fair. I made a few and flogged them on ebay. Sold at least a couple dozen so if you do catch anyone else with one that’s probably on me, though they may be slightly different specs.

Det. David Filtness Right.. moving on, take me through the heist itself

Harry Striker Well the key was speed. We had to break in and out in under 3 minutes due to the guards. We had rehearsed a few times and knew it would take 1 minute 50 once we had made it to the top of the white tower.

Det. David Filtness I’m assuming there was no coincidence that you timed the heist to happen at the same time as the jewels were to be moved from the jewel house?

Harry Striker The whole thing had become an opportunity because Robin had managed to convince someone to put them on display there instead of in the Jewel House for this special event. I don’t know how but that guy has contacts.

Sergeant Emma Ridley What about the rest of the heist?

Harry Striker We worked out that it would take two seconds to get out of the van after stopping and then ten seconds to get ready to ascend using the grapple winch, 10 seconds to prepare to come down and a final 10 seconds to dismantle the whole thing once we were back at the van.

Sergeant Emma Ridley So 32 seconds in total?

Harry Striker Yeh, on top of the 1 minute 50 and the time to shoot the grapple, climb the building and then get back down. I don’t really know much else though. Robin dealt with all the finer points of the break in.

Det David Filtness Ok. Well thankyou Harry, I think we’ll end the interview there.