
LESTER FRIDAY'S 1983 TRIP TO THE
LUCKY LADY KENO CHALLENGE IN
WENDOVER, NEVADA; AND SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS

A screenplay by
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Adapted from the short story of the same name by
Tim Boisvert

1 EXT. CASINO PARKING LOT - NIGHT

1

Lester Friday walks out of the Lucky Lady Casino and into the parking lot. He carries a big cardboard check as he walks through the empty lot, to his car over 100 yards away. He gets into the car and puts the big check in the back seat, then slowly drives across the parking lot.

NARRATOR

In the summer of 1983, a Mr. Lester Friday walked out of the Lucky Lady Casino in Wendover, Nevada. He carried with him a big cardboard check in the amount of fifty-thousand dollars, his prize for a night well spent at the annual Lucky Lady Keno Challenge. Lester stepped into his late-model Lincoln Continental, slowed his way through the parking lot, and returned to his home in suburban Ogden, Utah.

2 EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY/OGDEN CITY STREETS - DAWN

2

Lester drives across I-80 between Wendover and Ogden. He exits the freeway and enters Ogden, then drives through the city.

NARRATOR

Impaired by two high-balls and a low dose of methamphetamines, he drove unusually fast that morning, no doubt concerned with the alibi forming in his mind. He had stayed late at the office, he'd say, and had slept in the employee lounge when sleep had come to him. No thought was given to an explanation for the prize money, which now found itself lying across the bench seat in the back. Regardless, he'd spend it before she ever knew that he had it.

3 EXT. LESTER'S DRIVEWAY - MORNING

3

Lester pulls in and stops the car. He puts the car into "Park" and takes the key out. He steps out of that car and notices the check in the back seat.

He moves the driver's seat forward, folds the check, and covers it with his gym clothes and racquetball racquet.

4 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

4

Lester walks in the front door and sets his briefcase down. He sighs and looks around for a moment. We hear the sound of a shower down the hallway. He begins to walk down the hallway and we follow him into his bedroom. On the left is a bathroom, and someone is inside showering.

Lester flops down on the bed and lies on his back. His eyes remain wide open.

The shower turns off, and then a cupboard is opened and then closed. The bathroom door opens and steam enters the bedroom. Suzanne walks out of the bathroom with a towel wrapped around her and slowly moves toward the bed. Lester doesn't respond. He continues to look straight up.

Suzanne has a look of mild frustration on her face, as if perhaps she's seen this before; she's angry that he didn't come home. She doesn't say anything, though.

LESTER

(Continuing to look at
the ceiling)

I stayed late... At the office...
Working on the benefits file.

SUZANNE

(shaking her head
lightly, as if she's hurt
and doesn't know what to
say)

You should've called.

Lester looks as if he's going to respond but he doesn't, and instead he rolls over onto his side, facing away from Suzanne, and continues to look forward with his eyes open.

5 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - MORNING

5

Suzanne is standing in the bathroom with her waitress clothes on. She puts her nametag on, shuts the light off, and walks out of the room, leaving the door open.

Lester continues to sleep on the bed.

6 INT. LESTER'S BEDROOM - MORNING

6

Lester sleeps on the bed.

We see that his eyes are closed as we move closer to his face.

We hear Suzanne walking down the hall.

SUZANNE
You bastard!

Lester sits up and sees Suzanne standing there with the check.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
You went to Wendover again, didn't you?

Lester sits up a bit more to look at her

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
Didn't you?!

Lester doesn't answer. Suzanne is pissed off.

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
ANSWER ME!

We move closer to Suzanne. She calms down a bit

SUZANNE (CONT'D)
Answer me, damnit!

We hear three knocks on the front door in the faint background.

7 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - MORNING 7

We hear three fists knock on the door three times. Lester wakes up and listens. We hear three fists knock on the door three more times.

8 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 8

Lester walks into the hallway, and we see him walk down the hall and unlock the door

9 EXT. LESTER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 9

Lester opens the door and we see him from the Koreans' P.O.V. Lester sizes them up.

10 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 10

We see the three Koreans, standing in front of Lester's door. They are arranged in a triangle formation, with the tallest one in the back, the medium-height one closer to the camera, and the shortest one closest to the door.

NARRATOR

There, standing in Lester's door,
stood the three Koreans from the
night before.

11 INT. CASINO BAR - NIGHT 11

Flashback.

Lester sits next to the three Koreans at the casino bar, along with three or four women, laughing at their jokes, which of course are all in Korean. Every now and then they throw some English words in, after which the other people at the bar, including Lester, all laugh. Lester takes a shot of liquor.

12 INT. LESTER'S HOUSE - MORNING 12

Lester smiles and welcomes his guests.

LESTER

Well, hi guys! Come on in!

The Korean in front starts yelling at Lester in Korean. After ten seconds of this yelling, he gets a piece of paper from one of the other Koreans and puts it's up in front of Lester, all the while continuing to yell. Lester looks at it, then tries to grab it so he can read it, but the Korean pulls it back.

LESTER (CONT'D)

Just a minute, guys.

LESTER (CONT'D)

(Lester makes a gesture
as if he's putting
reading glasses on.)

Let me get my glasses.

Lester walks away from the door, toward the living room, while the Koreans stand at the door waiting. He walks through the house and past his reading glasses. He then walks out into the garage and out the side of the house.

13 EXT. LESTER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS 13

The three Koreans patiently wait while Lester gets his glasses. The Korean in front turns partially to his left and says something quiet to the Korean behind him.

14 EXT. LESTER'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS 14

Lester sneaks up to the car without the Koreans noticing. He opens the door and the car makes a dinging sound. The Koreans hear this and turn around. They scream something in Korean and then run after Lester. By this time, Lester has backed the car out and into the street. He speeds away as the Koreans go running after him.

15 EXT. OGDEN STREET - MORNING 15

Lester leisurely drives through the city. We see him driving for at least 15 seconds, his music on lightly in the background. He doesn't seem to care about what has just happened; it's as if he's ignoring it.

NARRATOR

It is here where the story finds
its home.

16 I/E. DOUGHNUT SHOP - MORNING 16

Lester parks at the doughnut shop, gets out of the car, and walks in. He stands at the counter and orders a doughnut and a coffee. He then sits down at a table near the back and eats his breakfast while reading USA Today.

NARRATOR

In the minutes that followed,
Lester's getaway strategy consisted
of pulling into the Daytime Donuts
location on the 1400 block of
University Way, walking in, and
ordering a black coffee and a
crueler. Perhaps Lester suffered
from some sort of short-term memory
loss, maybe it was pure
capriciousness, or perhaps, just
perhaps, this lapse of judgment was
forged by the stress of the moment.
Either way, Lester proceeded to sit
(MORE)

NARRATOR (Cont'd)
 himself in one of the hard seats
 away from the window and browse
 that day's copy of USA Today.

17 I/E. DOUGHNUT SHOP - MOMENTS LATER

17

Lester has finished his doughnut and coffee. He wipes his face with a napkin, gets up, throws his trash away, and walks outside, still carrying the USA Today.

As soon as he exits the shop, a Buick pulls up and slams on the brakes 10 yards from Lester. The three Koreans get out of the car and stand in a line perpendicular to Lester.

Lester notices this line-up and thinks that it's some sort of wild west showdown. He kinks his neck a bit and smiles, realizing what is happening. He drops the newspaper to the ground, then he puts his right hand down by his waist, twitching it as if he's going to draw a revolver from his imaginary holster.

The main Korean gets a confused look on his face.

Lester puts a smirk on his face and squints his eyes, as if he's preparing to growl at them.

At that point, the store clerk from the doughnut shop walks out and stands next to Lester. He wants to take the paper back inside.

Lester doesn't look at him, but turns his head just a bit in the clerk's direction, scowls a la Clint Eastwood, and then turns it back toward the Koreans.

The clerk grabs the newspaper from the ground and walks back inside with it.

The camera floats from Lester over to the Koreans, who all look at each other a few times, then charge at Lester.

Lester runs toward his car. The Koreans chase him.

Lester arrives at his car and fidgets with the door handles. The Koreans catch him, and the main Korean judo-chops Lester on the back of the neck, causing Lester to fall to the ground.

With Lester on the ground, the medium-sized Korean notices the check in the back of the car. He quickly shouts something in Korean about the check ("It's the check!

"), then the main Korean reaches into the car and grabs it. He unfolds it and the three Koreans look at it.

18 INT. CASINO PARKING LOT - DAY 18

The Koreans are running through the parking lot with their suitcases. They come to a stop, though, and look disappointed.

NARRATOR

After finding themselves stranded in Wendover the previous afternoon, left by their tour group and forgotten by their friends, the Korean men had formulated a plan.

19 INT. CASINO - NIGHT 19

We see the insides of a casino.

NARRATOR

There was to be a keno tournament that very night, and at the hotel they had stayed at no less! Years of playing keno at the Yun Eet-nen Yo Casino in downtown Seoul would prove to be their very salvation!

The Koreans sit in the Keno area and watch their tickets and the screens. We then see them being awarded a big check in the amount of \$50,000.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Entering the tournament and playing all night, the men found themselves the winners of the tournament at around 4 A.M., and they were awarded a large cardboard check in the amount of \$50,000.

20 INT. CASINO BAR - NIGHT 20

The Koreans sit at a bar, joking with women and a plastered Lester, and drinking Shirley Temples.

NARRATOR

Awaiting sunrise and the opening of the local Wells Fargo branch, the
(MORE)

NARRATOR (Cont'd)
 three Koreans doused their struggle
 away at the Lucky Lady Casino bar,
 ordering Shirley Temples all
 around.

The Koreans whisper something to each other, then they
 stand and look at the bartender.

KOREAN #1
 Bathroom?

The bartender points toward the direction of the bathroom,
 and the three Koreans walk away toward the bathroom,
 carrying the check with them.

We see Lester's face as a demonic look overtakes him. He
 gets up and walks toward the bathroom about 10 seconds
 after the Koreans leave the bar.

21 INT. CASINO BATHROOM - NIGHT 21

The check is up against the wall, near the mirror, and the
 three Koreans are peeing at three urinals in a row. Lester
 slowly walks in, careful not to alert them. He washes his
 hands, then looks at the check. He checks to see that the
 Koreans aren't watching him, and then takes the check.
 Lester goes out the door.

The Koreans notice this, but they can't stop peeing because
 they've been holding it all day, and ending it quickly
 would cause them to pee themselves, a great dishonor in
 eastern-Asian countries. The main Korean screams for Lester
 to stop.

KOREAN #1
 HA JI MA!

22 EXT. CASINO PARKING LOT - NIGHT 22

(this is a repeat of the first scene)

Lester walks to his car, gets in, and drives across the
 parking lot.

The Koreans run out of the casino and into the parking lot,
 though. One of them has pee on his pants.

23 EXT. DOUGHNUT SHOP - MORNING 23

Lester is lying there on the ground.

The Koreans are still holding the check. They start to fill with rage.

24 EXT. DESERT HIGHWAY - MORNING 24

The Koreans drive their Buick. The short Korean in the passenger seat looks out the window at some object up ahead on the right.

We see the object on the right, a big concrete tree in the middle of the desert.

We see the Koreans, all three of them looking at the tree as they pass it.

25 EXT. DOUGHNUT SHOP - MORNING 25

The Koreans look at the check.

Lester moves on the ground and grunts.

The main Korean folds the check back up (it had been creased in half) and promptly hits Lester on the shoulder with the check, then passes it to the second Korean. He hits Lester with it, then passes it to the third Korean. They continue passing it back and forth for a few rounds.

NARRATOR

This wasn't a minor punishment that the three Koreans inflicted upon Lester, though, you see, as Lester had folded the big check in half in order to conceal it from his wife, and you probably already know that folded cardboard is hard like a piece of wood.

The camera backs out.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And so, Lester, now tamed by the power of the Orient, lay there defenselessly and took his beating like the man he had always wanted to become.

26 EXT. DOUGHNUT SHOP - MOMENTS LATER 26

The Koreans drive away in their Buick, leaving Lester lying on the ground, a bloodied and beaten man.

NARRATOR

The Koreans, happy to have the money for their return trip back in their possession, left him in the street and drove away in their Buick, no doubt leaving the rented car at the Salt Lake International Airport and flying home to Korea.

27 EXT. AIRPORT - MORNING

27

We see a plane leaving the airport.