

The Bomb Book

By Ahnika Lexvold

A ticking sound is heard. Lights up on two rookie bomb squad officers over a large bomb with visible red numbers counting down with the ticking sound. Lebowski has a thick book in one hand and is looking through it frantically. Jefferson waits with tools in his hands.
Beat.

Jefferson

Have you found anything yet?

Lebowski

Just give me a second!

Jefferson

We don't have a second! You've already had a second! Multiple seconds!

Lebowski

(Cutting him off) Shhhhhhhhh! I'm concentrating.

Jefferson

You know what? This is ridiculous. Just give me the book.

Lebowski

No! I can figure out how to dismantle this bomb. It's my job!

Jefferson

And look where we are! Above a large bomb, halfway through its countdown, nowhere closer to figuring out how to dismantle it than we were when it started. Just give me the book, maybe I can find something quicker.

Lebowski

What makes you think that? You are just as lost as I am here. We agreed, I would look through the manual, you would do the dismantling. Now stop distracting me! This is serious.

Jefferson

This is serious? This is serious. Really. I didn't know that. Huh, I just thought when the numbers got to zero a kitten would be dispersed or that it would explode candy. Jesus Lebowski, I know

this is serious! That's why you should just give me the book. You've been looking, you couldn't find anything, it's my turn to try. Hand over the book!

Lebowski
No!

Lebowski hugs the book to his chest and runs to the opposite corner of the room

Jefferson
Really? What the hell man! Now is not the time to act like a child.

Lebowski
I'm the child? You're the one trying to take the book. You have to do EVERYTHING yourself, don't you. I mean, there are two of us here for a reason. We are equally unexperienced in this.
Just let me do my job!

Jefferson
You know, I would let you "just do your job" if you were actually able to do it! Just give me the book already!

Jefferson gets up from the bomb and advances towards Lebowski

Lebowski
NOOOOOOOOOO!

Lebowski runs from Jefferson, holding the book close to protect it. Jefferson chases Lebowski around the room. They end up on either side of the bomb, at a standstill.
Beat.

Jefferson
Alright. This isn't working. I can see that. But one of us still needs to have the book. Why are you so opposed to just letting me have it for a bit?

Lebowski
Look, I don't want to give you the book because...well...it's a lot of responsibility, ok! And the fact of the matter is you...you...you just...you aren't...
(meekly)

You just aren't the most responsible person..

Jefferson
WHAT?

Lebowski
Look! It's not a bad thing! Some people are meant to be leaders, and some are meant to be followers. The world needs both to function.

Jefferson
Wow. Just...wow.

Lebowski
Look man, you need to get over it and accept it, because it's the truth and we need to get back to the job at hand.

Jefferson
No, no. Please explain to me. How do you figure that I am not responsible enough to READ A BOOK.

Lebowski
Really? Do we really have to do this now?

Jefferson
Or you could just give me the book.

Lebowski
Fine. Remember when the captain was going over with us how to use the manual?

Jefferson
...Vaguely...

Lebowski
Exactly! You weren't paying attention! You were nodding off through the whole presentation!

Jefferson
Well a lot of help that presentation was anyway. You payed attention and still don't know where to find how to dismantle a bomb - WHICH IS WHAT THE WHOLE BOOK IS ABOUT!

Lebowski

And then there's the fact that you are always late for work, your desk is a mess, you eat junk food for lunch everyday...

Jefferson

What does all that have to do with anything?

Lebowski

...and yet you still are an elitist control freak who refuses to acknowledge anyone else or accept help in anyway because - oh yeah - you have some distorted self image of grandeur!

Jefferson

This is so ridiculous. Look, I get it, you don't like me. But we still have a bomb to dismantle and you having the book is not getting us anywhere. So just hand it over for christ's sake!

Lebowski

Oh my GOD! How can you not see how self-absorbed you are? You are still obsessing over the damn book! Why can't you just let us both do our own jobs? Christ, what did I do to get stuck with such an ass-hole of a partner. God, if it weren't for the fact that I actually care about saving people I would just leave you here alone with the damn book and the stupid bomb!

Jefferson

If you actually cared about saving people that's what you would do!

Lebowski

AHHHHHH! I HATE YOU!

Jefferson

GIVE ME THE BOOK!

The two grab ends of the book and start fighting for it. While this is happening, they fail to notice the bomb has only 10 seconds left. The audience should be able to see the seconds counting down and the ticking should be heard again. Just before the bomb hits zero, the lights should go out completely. An explosion is heard.

End of play.