

# **Money (Short Story)**

**By Daniel Varona**

Money. Makes the world go round.

Money. It's a zero-sum game.  
Let's negotiate.

Let's incorporate. Let's expense. Let's evaluate.

Time is money, but money isn't time.

And I ain't got any time to expense on your third grade game  
theory.

You think time is paper.  
You think time is plastic.

Crystal, marble, and gold and you don't even know what it's for.

It's time to talk to the board, so let's go up to the 51<sup>st</sup> floor.

You'll get to present, but before, let's remember that money  
talks.

And this is what it says:

"Thank you for your time, and I'm glad I have your attention.

The situation is suboptimal, but I'm cautiously optimistic.

It's a busy street, but we can always adjust the sails.

Profits are money, but money isn't profits.

A million dollars is a lot of money. A lot of time. A lot of paper,  
and a lot of plastic.

So what's a billion to you?

We have a vision. We have a plan. But I can tell a lot of you are  
looking at your pile, thinking... 'If money isn't time. If money isn't  
profits. If money isn't paper or plastic. Then what is it?'

Money is a zero-tolerance policy.

Money is America.

Money is freedom, responsibility, and opportunity."

I said you'd get to present, but that wasn't true.

A decision has been made, and you weren't allowed in the room.

It's a hostile takeover. We're announcing a tender offer.

For how much? Money isn't numbers.

Money is decision-making power, and I regret to inform you that  
the corporation is going in a new direction and we will no longer  
be in need of your services.

Money talks, and it would like to say that underperformance will  
no longer be tolerated.

It's you and me, and the big blue sea.

And I can promise you, you won't find a bigger fish.