

THE OFFICE (U.S.) – PILOT

Written by

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FADE IN:

1 INT. MICHAEL SCOTT'S OFFICE - DAY - SCENE 1

1

Michael Scott is sitting behind his desk addressing a job seeker.

SCOTT

I'm a busy man. When I give jobs, I don't have time for a lotta B.S. If a guy comes to me and says, "Michael, this job has been my dream since I was a little kid. My whole life has been leading up to this job," That, I respond to. Nothing is more important than enthusiasm, from the Greek word meaning -- 'enthusiastic.' Huh?

He looks to the job seeker, who says nothing.

SCOTT

Only problem is, you you talk the talk, but you don't walk the walk. Okay, that was global, I'll make it local: you didn't pass your fork-lift driver's test. But -- the foreman at the warehouse is a personal friend, okay? So don't sweat it, you're in.

He picks up the receiver and dials.

SCOTT

(into phone, showing off)
Deon -- You dog -- Playa!

He winks at the job seeker.

SCOTT

It's "the boss," and when I mean Springsteen, I'll just say "God" Have you put out an ad for the fork-lift driver's job?

Scott crosses his fingers and bites his lip.

SCOTT

Good, don't, I've got the guy here, he's "the man" Has he passed his fork-lift driver's test? Playa, he gives the tests.

Scott rolls his eyes.

SCOTT
Sure -- Sure. He's first aid-
trained, sure. Sure - we'll shoot a
resume over to you this afternoon.

Scott mimes for the job seeker to type up a resume.

SCOTT
(into phone)
We still hangin' on Sunday? No, no,
no, you can't get out of it! How's
Jill? She left ya yet? Sure --
Okay, see you then.

He puts down the phone and grits his teeth.

SCOTT
She left him last month, I forgot
about that.

2 INT. OPEN-PLAN OFFICE - DAY - SCENE 2

2

Scott is showing the camera crew around his office.

SCOTT
I've been in the business for
twelve years. I've been at IDS as
general manager for eight of those.
So, putting together my team --

Scott notices Pam at the reception.

SCOTT
Hey, it's Spam, spam, wonderful
Pam. Pam Beesly -- Receptionist.
Been with us forever, right Pam?

PAM
How ya doin'?

PAM
Yeah.

SCOTT
Yeah. At one time or another every
guy in the office has "sprayed on
Pam."

PAM
(annoyed)
What?

SCOTT
Any messages?

PAM
Yeah. Just a fax.

Pam hands him a fax.

SCOTT
Hmm -- Pam, this is from Corporate.

PAM
I know --

SCOTT
(somber)
How many times have I told you?
There's a special filing cabinet
for things from Corporate --

PAM
(worried)
You haven't told me --

SCOTT
-- it's called the wastepaper
basket!

Scott throws the fax over the counter into Pam's wastepaper basket and laughs at the brilliance of his practical joke.

SCOTT
The look on your face -- Ha! You'd
better get that back.

3 INT. SCOTT TALKING HEAD - DAY

3

SCOTT
People say I'm the best boss.

He points to a mug in the foreground with the inscription.

SCOTT
"World's Greatest Boss." They go,
"Oh, we've never worked in a place
like this before, you're such a
riot. You get the best out of us."
And I go, you know, "Que sera,
sera." If that's true -- awesome.

Scott shrugs and looks smugly into camera.

4 INT. RECEPTION - DAY - SCENE 3

4

SCOTT

Take it easy on me today, Pam.

PAM

(exasperated)

Yeah? Why's that?

SCOTT

Oh God. Did I party last night. I was out with the Packer. Meredith Packster-Birney.

(to camera crew)

Todd Packer.

(to Pam)

Had us a bar hop. "Duff, Duff, that wonderful stuff--"

SCOTT

D'oh! I was baked, man! Wow, don't ever come out with me and the Green Bay Packer.

PAM

No, I won't.

SCOTT

There's guys my age, and they look middle-aged --- How old do you think I look?

PAM

Thirty-n --

SCOTT

(interrupting)

-- Thirty, right -- About that. Oh, man I have got to slow down. Drinking a little too much --

Scott pats his belly.

SCOTT

-- if every single night of the week is too much.

PAM

(joking)

-- And every lunchtime.

Beat. Scott turns suddenly, a cold look in his eyes.

SCOTT

How many have I had this week?

PAM

What?

SCOTT

How many beers have I drunk this week. If you're counting -- ?

PAM

I'm not counting.

SCOTT

You seem to be counting. Does it offend you, huh? You know, that's getting a little -- a little bit personal. What if I started doing that with you? I could look at you and come out with something clever like, "You're really -- uh -- "

He can't think of anything.

SCOTT

-- but I don't. Because I'm a professional and professionalism is -- uh -- And that is what I want, okay? That's all. I'm disappointed, Pam. I really am.

He strides off, leaving Pam speechless.

5 INT. OPEN-PLAN OFFICE - DAY - SCENE 4

5

Shots of office life. Jim is working. Dwight arrives and smacks Jim upside the head with a newspaper.

DWIGHT

Wassaaaaap?

Jim looks indignant.

JIM

Oh, fu -- Don't do that, Jesus --

DWIGHT

Aw, what's the matter? Is it your time of the month? Whew. Just ten brewskis for me last night. Yeah, that's all.

(burps)

Uhhhh.

Dwight pretends to find a headline in his newspaper.

DWIGHT

Oh, no! Here it is! "IDS team leader caught out drinking wit boss -- Senior management completely trashed" Whew. And tonight I'm going out with Animal. Yeah, we're just gonna go to the library and read -- not! I doubt it!

6 INT. JIM TALKING HEAD - DAY

6

JIM

I'm a sales rep, which means that my job is to speak to clients on the phone about er -- quantity and type of paper -- whether we can supply it to them and whether they can pay for it -- and I'm boring myself talking about it --

7 INT. DESK AREA - DAY - SCENE 5

7

Scott emerges from his office, smiling.

SCOTT

Wassaaaap?

JIM

Hey! 'Wassaaaap?' I still love that.

SCOTT

Wassaaaap? Ohhh.

Points at Dwight.

SCOTT

You're fired, Schrute, ya big drunk.

Scott points to himself, laughing.

SCOTT

Pot calling the kettle black here.

Scott mimes vomiting and then starts giggling. Dwight joins in.

SCOTT

What'd he tell you? It's all true.
 Guilty as a futhermucker. Went out
 with a few of his crew last night.
 He goes, "Well, you can come if you
 want, gotta warn you, Michael, they
 can get rowdy." I go, "Oh, I'll
 handle it." I was worse than them
 by the end, wasn't I? They're
 going, "Who's that freak?" "That's
 my boss." "Well we can't stand it
 any more, we're leaving." They just
 snuck out, didn't they?

DWIGHT
 (aside to Jim)
 I told you.

SCOTT
 Outrageous!

Scott puts one hand round his throat, another reaching out in
 front of him as if dying.

SCOTT
 Help me, A.A!

Scott laughs, waiting for a response. There is none.

SCOTT
 What?

JIM
 Nothing.

SCOTT
 See you later.

JIM
 Okay, see you later. Take care.

8 INT. RECEPTION - DAY - SCENE 6

8

Jan Tarnovsky-Gould approaches Pam at reception. Scott's
 talking head begins over this.

9 INT. SCOTT TALKING HEAD - DAY

9

SCOTT

Corporate doesn't really interfere with me at all. Jan Tarnovsky-Gould. I call her, er -- Ruth Bader-Ginsburg, heh heh not to her face -- but not because I'm scared of her.

10 INT. SCOTT'S OFFICE - DAY - SCENE 7

10

Jan and Scott are sitting in Scott's office. Pam comes in and sits down. Scott is discussing his tie.

SCOTT

I got them off an African guy, you know, had a suit-case out on the street. Two for ten bucks. "Yo, I'll take four." So -- okay. Meeting with Jan Tarnovsky-Gould. Present.

Jan takes some papers from her bag. She crosses her legs and Scott sneaks a look.

SCOTT

(lascivious)

Mmrn. Shoot!

JAN

Was there anything that you wanted to add to the agenda?

SCOTT

(trying to be cool)

Me no get an agenda.

JAN

Sorry?

SCOTT

I did not get any agenda.

JAN

I faxed you one this morning.

SCOTT

No, we never got a fax, did we Pam?

PAM

Well, maybe --

SCOTT

(passing the buck)

Then why isn't it in my hand?
Because a company runs on
efficiency of communication.

PAM
You put it in the garbage can that
was a special filing cabinet.

SCOTT
(to Jan, covering
himself)
As a joke, yeah. It's not even my
joke, it's my brother's joke and
it's supposed to be with bills.
Doesn't work great with faxes.

JAN
Do you want to look at mine?

SCOTT
(humbled)
Yeah.

11 INT. SCOTT TALKING HEAD - DAY

11

SCOTT
Yeah, sure, she'd say she's the
boss, but there shouldn't be any
ego when you're pulling together to
do something good, y'know? It's
like Comic Relief. I'm out here in
Africa and I'm seeing the flies and
the starvation -- and she -- if she
is the boss -- she's in the studio
with, you know, Robin Williams and
Whoopi Goldberg. They're doing
their job, they're counting the
money. Good for them. But, their
hands are clean, while I'm down
here in the office with the little
starving kids --

12 INT. SCOTT'S OFFICE - DAY - SCENE 8

12

JAN
Okay, since the last meeting, Alan
and the board have decided that we
can't justify a Scranton branch and
a Stamford branch.

SCOTT
(obviously flustered)

Oh, okay, go on --

JAN
No, no, listen, Michael, don't
panic --

SCOTT
-- Oh, go on. Should be good. This
is it. Go on --

JAN
-- No, listen, Michael, no, no, no
--

SCOTT
-- Alarm bells, so --

JAN
-- No, don't panic -- We haven't
made any --

SCOTT
-- I don't panic --

JAN
-- We haven't made any decisions
yet --

SCOTT
-- Good --

JAN
-- I've spoken to Josh in Stamford
--

SCOTT
-- Yeah --

JAN
- I've told him the same as you.
And it's up to either you or him to
convince me that your branch could
incorporate the other.

SCOTT
-- Okay, no problem --

JAN
This does, however, mean that there
is going to be downsizing.

SCOTT

Oh, you see, me no want to hear that, Jan, because downsizing is a bitch. It is a real bitch. I wouldn't wish that on Josh's men. I certainly wouldn't wish it on my men. Or women. Present company excepted. Is Josh concerned about downsizing?

JAN

Well he is, of course, yes.

SCOTT

Good. Because I'm very concerned about downsizing, although I understand if it's absolutely necessary, as a businessman, then it has to be -- Does he understand if it's --

JAN

(stopping him)

-- Michael --

SCOTT

-- Go on --

JAN

-- Can we not talk about downsizing?--

SCOTT

Well, we have to sooner or later --

JAN

(stopping him)

-- Yes, but at the moment, what we have to decide is, do you take on Stamford's people at this branch or the other way round?

SCOTT

We'll take on theirs.

JAN

No --

SCOTT

No?

JAN

-- No, you and I don't decide. I decide.

SCOTT
You do decide, but --

JAN
I decide once you've made your case
--

SCOTT
-- based on factors. Okay. Is there
a time limit on--?

Scott's desk phone rings. His answer machine kicks in.

SCOTT
I'll just screen it.

SCOTT'S VOICE
Hi, I'm not available, so please
leave a message.

TODD PACKER
(on phone)
Alright, Mikey, it's the Packer.
What's going on?

SCOTT
(showing off)
Todd Packer. Terrific rep.

TODD PACKER
I hear you've got a hangover, you
big fag.

SCOTT
Oh, that's not good. That's
derogatory.

TODD PACKER
Call me back. Hey, you're in with
that Jan what's-her-face today,
aren't you? Give her a pork from
me, dude.

SCOTT
(embarrassed)
Oh -- Awful, awful man.

JAN
Can we keep a lid on this for the
time being? I really don't want to
worry people unduly.

SCOTT

No worries. Under regime, this will
this not leave the office.

He mimes zipping his mouth shut. As soon as he has said this
we cut to a montage of different employees discussing the
news.

ANGLE ON DONNA

DONNA
So what does downsizing actually
mean?

ANGLE ON EMMA AND KEVIN

EMMA
So, you'd just go, would you?

KEVIN
Would you?

EMMA
Oh I I dunno.

ANGLE ON JIM AND PAM

Jim is discussing things with Pam.

JIM
Kevin and Donna and all the others
are having these --

PAM
Yeah, I know, they're all going
nuts, aren't they?

JIM
-- weird sort of secret pow-wows --

PAM
I actually don't give a monkeys, do
you?

JIM
-- Oh, no, we're gonna lose our
jobs." I could care less.

Pam holds up her pinkie finger. Jim holds up his and they
give a little pinkie finger shake on it. (Or some other tiny
piece of ad-libbed flirtation.)

PAM

I hope they do get rid of me --
Because then I might actually get
off my ass and do something. Um, I
don't think it's a many little
girls' dream to be a receptionist.
I used to do illustrations. Mostly
watercolor, a few oil pencils --
Jim thinks they're good. Maybe they
are -- I just don't want to be
treading water, you know, and then
wake up in another five years and
say, "shoot, done it again."

14 INT. DESK AREA - DAY - SCENE 9

14

Dwight is sitting at his desk, playing with some chewing gum in his mouth. He notices the camera and puts the gum in the garbage as discreetly as possible. He goes back to his work.

15 INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY

15

Pam is introducing Ryan, a young temp, to Scott.

PAM

This is Mr. Scott.

SCOTT

Guilty.

RYAN

Hey.

Scott gives a "Who are you?" expression.

RYAN

Ryan Howard, from the temping
agency. Daniqua sent me down to
start today.

SCOTT

Just a temp -- Howard? Like Moe
Howard? Stooges, man.

With lighting wit, Scott snaps into an impersonation of The Three Stooges.

SCOTT

Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk! Moe! Gimme five.
(off Pam's look)
It's a guy thing, Pam. Who was the
one before Shemp?

RYAN

Curly?

SCOTT

Right. Curly Joe Dorita.

RYAN

Just Curly. Joe Dorita's different.

SCOTT

Hey -- comedy's kind of my thing,
so -- Here's Curly Joe:

(Curly voice)

Nyuk, nyuk, nyuk!

Ryan laughs politely.

16 INT. SCOTT TALKING HEAD - DAY

16

SCOTT

What upsets me about the job?
Wasted talent. People could come to
me, and they could say, "Excuse me,
Michael, but you've been in the
business twelve years. Can you tell
us how to manage a team, how to
keep them happy as well as moving
towards the goal posts?" But they
don't. That's the tragedy.

Scott shrugs as if it hurts to be a martyr, but he can take
it.

17 INT. DESK AREA - DAY

17

Jim is on the phone. Some of Jim's possessions have slipped
across onto Dwight's desk, and Dwight is pushing them back
with a ruler. He slides it between his and Jim's desks to
clarify just where the dividing line too much for Jim.

JIM

Yeah -- Look, Mr. Davis, I'm gonna
have to call you back. Something's
just come up. Two minutes. Thanks
very much. Bye.

Jim puts down the phone.

JIM

(to Dwight)

What are you doing?

DWIGHT

What?

JIM

Dwight, what are you doing?

DWIGHT

I'm just pushing your stuff off my desk, I can't concentrate when --

JIM

It's not on your desk.

DWIGHT

It was, it's all overlapping. It's all coming over the edge here.

Jim buries his head in his hands.

DWIGHT

One word, two syllables: De-mar-cation.

18 INT. OPEN-PLAN OFFICE - DAY

18

Ryan is being led through the office by Michael Scott. Scott grins excitedly and points out a 'Homer Simpson' doll impaled on a coat stand. He waits for a big laugh. Ryan looks at him calmly. Unfazed, he continues.

SCOTT

This is the accounting department. The number dudes. Don't let the job descriptions fool ya. They are all completely crazy.

(pointing to Kevin)

Especially that one. He's a mental patient. Not literally, of course, that wouldn't work. The last place you'd want someone like that is in accounting --

Scott crouches behind an office plant and peers through the leaves.

SCOTT

"Veddy interesting -- But shtoopid!" Artie Johnson. I do that to cheer 'em up. We send the girls out to get the plants. You know, it makes them a little bit happier, because they can sometimes get a little --

He mimes 'depressed.' Scott leans over to a novelty fish mounted on the wall and presses the button. Nothing happens.

SCOTT

Oh, the batteries are dead. C'mon people!

(to an employee)

Can you get some batteries for 'Billy Bigmouth?' Take it out of petty cash.

(to camera crew)

You can't put a price on comedy.

19 INT. DESK AREA - DAY

19

JIM

You're a scrotum, Dwight. You're a scrotum and a dildo.

DWIGHT

I'm still not listening, so it's not offending me, so --

JIM

Right, okay, so you won't hear this -- you're a tool, you're a tool, you're a tool.

Dwight ignores him.

JIM

You're a tool.

20 INT. DWIGHT TALKING HEAD - DAY

20

DWIGHT

Yeah, it's okay here, but people sometimes take advantage, because it's so relaxed. You know, I'm a volunteer Sheriff's Deputy on the weekends and you can't screw around there. That's sort of one of the rules.

21 INT. OPEN-PLAN OFFICE - DAY

21

Shots of people working, then cut to: Ryan's induction is still underway. Scott points out a sketch pinned to a board.

SCOTT

Cartoons. "Does my butt look big in this?" Now, don't worry, that's not sexist, 'cause the man is sayin it -- finally! So, props for that -- props for that in the workplace.

Dwight walks by, stirring a cup of coffee.

SCOTT
Ooh, careful, watch out for this guy! Dwight Schrute in the building!
(making the introductions)
Ryan, the new temp.

DWIGHT
Hey.

RYAN
Good to see you.

SCOTT
Introduce yourself.

DWIGHT
Uh -- Dwight Schrute, Assistant Manager.

SCOTT
Assistant to the Regional Manager.

Scott points to himself.

SCOTT
Dwight's my right-hand man, immediately beneath me -- as the priest said to the altar boy! Bill Maher. Not his line, but in the style of.
(Ryan stares at him.)
Of course, there's nothing wrong with that, if you're gay. I mean, not that I'm asking, I'm not allowed to ask if you're gay -- or Catholic. And if you're Catholic, well -- it's actually word for word a Bill Maher line, so don't blame me. Over here is the kitchen --

Scott steers Ryan into a little room with a coffee maker and accessories.

SCOTT

We provide tea bags, sugar,
stirrers, creamer, the works. Oh,
coffee tax. I collect a coffee tax
to pay for better coffee.
Starbucks, man. Only the 'Bucks
will do! So -- How 'bout, fifty
cents to start?

He holds his hand out. There is an uncomfortable pause.

SCOTT
(he half-glances to
camera)
It's usually more, but --

Finally, Ryan takes out some money and gives it to Scott.

22 INT. DESK AREA - DAY

22

Jim is taping something. Dwight appears and demands his tape back by holding out his hand. Jim slaps it.

JIM
Hey soul brother.

DWIGHT
Give it back.

JIM
I'm just using it for a second.

Dwight snatches the tape back. It has his name written on it in Wite-Out

DWIGHT
It's got my name on it. 'Dwight.'

JIM
Uh, actually it says, 'Dwig,' but -
-

DWIGHT
If you want to borrow it, just
gotta ask.

JIM
Dude, you always say "no." What's
the point?

DWIGHT
Maybe that's why you should ask.

JIM

Dwight, it was just there, okay?

DWIGHT

Yeah? That's its home. Leave it there.

Dwight puts the tape dispenser back in its proper place.

JIM

Okay -- Okay -- Okay --

Driven to desperate measures, Jim snatches the tape dispenser and runs to the window.

DWIGHT

(panicked)

Somebody stop him! Dammit, that's mine!

Jim holds the tape dispenser out of the window.

JIM

You stay where you are, okay? I'm gonna let this go, okay, unless you stop acting like a tool.

DWIGHT

Yeah, like you will --

JIM

Yeah, like I did --

Jim lets go of the tape dispenser.

DWIGHT

What if that kills someone?

JIM

Kills somebody? Umm, well, they'll think you're the murderer. It's got your name on it.

DWIGHT

Why would a murderer put his name on the murder weapon?

JIM

Because he's an impossibly annoying prick?

DWIGHT

(calling)

Michael!

JIM

I hate what -- I hate the fact that
you bring me down to this; I really
do, I resent it.

DWIGHT

(pointing to an employee)
I don't know why you're laughing.

JIM

Leave her out of it. Go on,
Jessica, keep it up. Listen, you
bring me down to this, "Dwig."

They wander back to their desks, bickering.

23 INT. RECEPTION SEATING AREA - DAY

23

Pam is sitting on a chair eating a sandwich and reading a
book. Scott enters.

SCOTT

Hiya. What's that?

Scott examines the book cover.

SCOTT

'Wired.' John Belushi. Funny?

PAM

It's okay.

Silence.

SCOTT

Freaked myself out this morning.

PAM

Oh yeah?

Scott nods and fingers his genitals.

SCOTT

Thought I found a lump. I mean, I
examine the jewels every month, but
this felt different -- Turns out
it's fine -- But freaky, man,
"testicular cancer" -- cancer of
them old testicles --

Scott points at the sandwich that Pam no longer feels like
eating.

SCOTT
What's that?

PAM
Smoked turkey.

SCOTT
Huh. From the Starbucks--?

PAM
Mmm --

SCOTT
Oh. See you later.

Pam looks queasy and puts the rest of her sandwich down.

24 INT. DESK AREA - DAY

24

Jim is building a wall of box files between his desk and Dwight's. Dwight appears.

JIM
(to camera crew)
I don't like acting like a kid, you
know what I mean? But he's --

DWIGHT
What are you doing?

JIM
To be honest, I don't want to have
to look at you, Dwight.

Dwight sits down at his desk and is gradually obscured by the wall of files that Jim is building.

DWIGHT
You can't do that.

JIM
Why not?

DWIGHT
Health and safety.

Jim laughs and gives a despairing look to camera.

JIM
Health and safety. Uh huh, why?
"Crushed by cardboard," or what?

DWIGHT

No, number one: blocking out light.
Number two: misuse of company
files.

JIM
Misuse of files.
(snapping, turning to
camera)
Yeah, see, this is why the whole
downsizing thing doesn't bother me.

Dwight's little face pops up from behind the 'wall.'

DWIGHT
Downsizing?

JIM
Because if I have to work with him
another day --
(stressed face)
I'm just going to --

DWIGHT
Here? Downsizing?

JIM
I will -- I will slit my throat.

As he says this, he mimes a slitting motion across his
throat. Dwight chips in.

DWIGHT
Yeah, you won't do it like that,
though. Gotta get the knife in
behind the windpipe, then pull it
down like that.

JIM
Or I could just apply for another
job.

25 INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

25

Employees are gathering in the meeting room. They pull up
chairs as Scott addresses them.

SCOTT
Okay, thanks for coming in --
This'll only take a minute. I am
aware of the rumors that have been
circulating and I just want to take
this opportunity to set the record
straight.

DWIGHT
(leaping up,
interrupting)
Ah-ah-ah, I'm the team leader, I
should know first.

SCOTT
Yeah, I'm telling everyone now,
Dwight, s --

DWIGHT
(interrupting)
Just tell me very quickly. Just
whisper it to me.

EMPLOYEE
(out of shot)
Can't you just tell us?

Other employees chime in.

DWIGHT
Yeah, alright, alright.
(to Scott)
Should I tell 'em?

SCOTT
You don't know what it is.

DWIGHT
Alright, you tell them then. With
my permission.

SCOTT
I don't need your permission.

DWIGHT
Permission granted. Use it as you
wish.

SCOTT
Corporate has deemed it appropriate
to enforce an ultimatum upon me,
and Jan is talking about either
downsizing the Stamford branch or
this branch.

Murmurs of unease

STANLEY
And you're gonna let her?

SCOTT

No, Stanley, you didn't see me in there with her.

(aside)

For his eyes only --

(back to room)

-- I said, "If Corporate wants to come here and interfere, they've got to go through me. You can go and mess with Josh's people, but I'm the head of this family. You ain't messin' with my chillun. I am, if any one's going to."

EMPLOYEE

Yeah, but Michael, what if they do downsize here?

SCOTT

Not gunna happen.

STANLEY

It could be out of your hands, Michael.

SCOTT

It won't be out of my hands, Stanley, okay? That's a promise.

STANLEY

Oh -- can you promise that?

DWIGHT

On his mother's grave.

SCOTT

(non-committal, to Dwight)

Well --

(to Stanley)

I have promised it, okay, and it's an insult to me that you still have to ask.

STANLEY

It's just that we need to know --

SCOTT

Sorry, Stanley, Pam wants to speak -- Your turn Pam.

PAM

It's just that I was in the meeting with Jan and she said that it could be this branch that gets the ax.

Murmurs of unease.

SCOTT

Well, if you were in the meeting
with Jan, then maybe you should --

He mimes zipping his mouth closed.

SCOTT

-- stick to the ongoing
confidentiality agreement -- of --
meetings.

DWIGHT

(also miming mouth
zipping)

Yeah, information is power!

STANLEY

So you can't say for sure whether
going to be us or them, can you?

SCOTT

Look. This is my ship and I am
asking you to trust me and you
can't go wrong.

STANLEY

Oh, Michael, it's not a question of
trust --

SCOTT

It is a question of trust, Stanley.
Yeah, yeah, it is a question of
trust.

STANLEY

It's communication --

SCOTT

Do you trust me? Do you trust me?
Yes or no.

STANLEY

Yes, I trust you.

SCOTT

He does. So -- meeting adjourned.

DWIGHT

Good. Excellent.

Everyone starts to leave.

DWIGHT

I would have said practically the same thing, in fact I'd have chaired a very similar -- Can I just ask, do you trust me? Hands up if you trust me.

SCOTT

You don't have to --

DWIGHT

Yeah, well, you asked them.

One girl has put her hand up.

SCOTT

Put your hand down.

DWIGHT

No, I need to know. I'm Assistant Regional Manager.

SCOTT

Assistant to the Regional Manager. They're going.

26 INT. DWIGHT TALKING HEAD - DAY

26

DWIGHT

I'm not worried about me -- I'll be alright -- if there's going to be downsizing, then so be it. That's just natural selection. In the wild, some people wouldn't survive. I mean, you know, imagine a warehouse where a little midget fella is driving a forklift. He can't see over the top, he's got great big platform shoes on so he can reach the pedals, because of his little legs. I mean, Tony's a sweet guy, don't get me wrong, but should he be working here?

27 INT. DESK AREA - DAY - SCENE 25

27

Dwight, unseen behind Jim's wall of box files, is asking him a question.

DWIGHT

Have you got a price for matt-coated SRA!?

JIM

If I can't see you, I can't hear
you, Dwight.

Dwight peers over the 'wall.'

DWIGHT

Just tell me, will you?

JIM

No, I can't hear you. If you want
to speak to me --

DWIGHT

I'm right here, just tell me now.

JIM

-- if you want to speak to me, then
call me, okay?

Dwight sits back down, and dials Jim's number. Jim's phone
rings, but he doesn't answer it.

DWIGHT

(from behind wall)
It's on voice-mail.

JIM

Leave a message.

DWIGHT

Hi. It's me, Dwight. I need a price
on matt-coated -- Oh, this is
stupid --

JIM

Yeah it is -- This is stupid. It's
so -- Sorry, dude, what do you
want?

While Dwight is answering, Jim creeps away unseen.

DWIGHT

Uh -- I need a tonnage price on
matt-coated SRAl. So I've got three
sixty down here, but I'm sure that
isn't right, 'cos when I spoke to
Dave, earlier on, he --

Pause.

DWIGHT

Okay, I know you're not there --
and obviously you can't hear that,
but I'm not talking to myself,
because they're filming.

Pause. Dwight's head pops up, to check Jim's gone.

28 INT. RECEPTION SEATING AREA - DAY

28

Jim is seated. Pam runs her fingers through his hair, trying to arrange it.

JIM
That feels nice. Do some with your
nails.

PAM
Sure.

Pam finishes.

JIM
This could be a new career, Pam.

Pam laughs.

PAM
There's no difference, is there?
You actually can't do anything at
all.
with your hair

JIM
Hmm, you noticed.

29 INT. OPEN-PLAN OFFICE - DAY

29

Scott leads Ryan the temp over to a storeroom.

SCOTT
And this here is the gym.

Inside is a single old Stairmaster.

RYAN
You work out?

SCOTT

I used to on this all the time,
then I stopped and then I sold it
to the employees for the gym. Which
reminds me -- Workout tax. A
bargain at -- one dollar.

He holds out his hand.

RYAN
I usually run in the mornings.

SCOTT
Fine. I'll cover you this week. You
can owe me.

30 INT. RECEPTION - DAY

30

Pam and Jim are flirting.

JIM
You like a drink?

PAM
Yeah.

JIM
At the end of the week?

PAM
Yeah.

JIM
Well, this is why we're all going
out, so we can have an --

PAM
When are we going out?

JIM
-- end of the week drink.

PAM
So when are we going out?

JIM
Well, tonight, hopefully, I
thought.

Pam's fiance, Roy, appears. He is holding something wrapped
in a black garbage bag under his arm. Jim immediately steps
back from Pam's desk.

ROY

(to Jim)
Hey, man.

PAM
Hi.

ROY
(to Pam)
Hi, baby, you ready, yeah?

PAM
Yeah. Uh -- would you mind, if I
went out for a drink with these
guys?

ROY
No, no, no. Come on, let's go home,
yeah?

PAM
Okay, I'll -- I'll be a couple of
minutes, 'cos it's only twenty past
five.

JIM
(to Roy)
You should come, man. You know,
we're all going -- get a chance to
see what people are like outta the
office, it'll be fun.

ROY
No, sounds good, man, but
seriously, we gotta get going.

JIM
Okay.

Pam trots off. Roy and Jim stand in silence, nothing to say
to each other. The silence becomes tortuous. Finally, Jim
tries to make conversation.

JIM
Um, what's in the bag?

ROY
Just tell her I'll see her later,
okay?

JIM
Sure, will do. Okay. Awesome. Take
care.

Jim nods. Roy leaves. We zoom in to watch Jim's face.

31 INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

31

Ryan and Scott are sitting in the meeting room.

SCOTT
The dreaded first day.

RYAN
Yeah.

SCOTT
Everything cool?

RYAN
Everything's cool.

SCOTT
Have you felt the vibe yet? We work hard, we play hard. Play hard when we should be working hard sometimes, partly my fault, sure. I let them get away with murder, which know means they let me get away with murder -- you know, the girls love me, but -- not in that way -- but, er, you know.

He thinks about it and decides maybe they do.

SCOTT
I guess I've created an atmosphere here where I'm a friend first, boss second. And probably an entertainer third.

There is a knock at the door.

SCOTT
(call out)
Just a sec!
(to Ryan)
You like the Jamie Kennedy Experiment?

RYAN
Yeah.

SCOTT
You like Punk'd? Okay, watch this.
Don't give me away.
(calls out)
Come in!

Pam comes in.

SCOTT
 (to Ryan)
 -- and then Corporate said, yeah,
 so
 that'll be --

PAM
 You got a fax.

SCOTT
 Thanks. Oh, don't go, Pam, up a
 chair? I was going to call you in,
 anyway, it'll be quick.
 can you pull

She sits down. Before Scott goes on, she glances behind her and the camera follows her gaze to see Jim laughing with some office workers who are putting on coats and preparing to go out. Pam looks after them wistfully.

SCOTT
 Um, as you are aware, there is
 going to be downsizing, and you've
 made my life easier --

Pam smiles.

SCOTT
 -- in that I'm going to have to let
 you go first.

PAM
 (shocked)
 What? Why?

SCOTT
 Why? Theft. Stealing.

PAM
 Stealing? Er -- Um -- what am I
 supposed to have stolen?

SCOTT
 Post-It notes.

PAM
 Post-It notes? What are they worth,
 like fifty cents?

SCOTT

Oh, got a bible there, Ryan? "Thou shalt not steal unless it's only worth fifty cents." You steal a thousand Post-It notes at fifty cents, and you've made -- uh -- a profit -- margin.

PAM
Why would I steal Post-It notes?

SCOTT
I don't know. To make the little things on the end of the joints.

RYAN
Roaches?

SCOTT
Roaches.
(to Pam)
Caught you, you drug addict! No, only joking.

PAM
Are you serious?

SCOTT
Yeah.

PAM
I can't believe -- God -- I've never even stolen a paper clip. And now you're firing me.

SCOTT
And the good news is, I don't need to give you any severance pay 'cos it's gross misconduct. So, you can go clear your desk.

Pam starts crying. The joke has seriously backfired. [The "World's Greatest Boss" mug is visible on his desk.] Scott looks pained and anxious; Ryan doesn't know where to look.

SCOTT
Oh, now -- that was the joke there. See? You've been "Xed", punk. We joke, him and me -- Morale boost. Settling him in --
(looking at the faxes)
Uh, thanks for the taxes -- Guess I'll do these n--

PAM

We all hate you.

SCOTT

Come on.

PAM

No one respects you. You're a sad little man.

SCOTT

(doesn't believe her)

Really? Didn't know that.

They sit in silence. It is painfully quiet for what seems like forever. Finally Pam leaves. Scott's talking head begins.

32 INT. SCOTT TALKING HEAD - DAY

32

SCOTT

What is the single most important thing for a company? Is it the building? Is it the inventory? Is it the cashflow? Nuh uh. It's the people. My proudest moment here wasn't when I increased profits by seventeen per cent, or cut expenses without losing a single employee. No.

SCOTT

It was a young Guatemalan guy, first job in the country, barely spoke English, but he came to me and he went, "Mr. Scott, will you be the Godfather to my child."

He nods, smugly. Beat.

SCOTT

Didn't happen in the end. We had to let him go, he sucked.

CLOSING MUSIC & END CREDITS, THEN:

TAG

33 INT. OFFICE

33

The camera is by the exit, spying back. In zoom, we see the bathroom door. Pam hurries out, dabbing her eyes. She is surprised to see Jim still at his desk. Everyone else is gone.

PAM

You still here? How come you didn't go out with everybody?

JIM

(waves at computer)

Ah, I gotta enter these orders before I can leave.

PAM

Oh -- Well, uh, see you Monday?

JIM

Yeah. Take care.

She leaves towards the camera. Jim turns back to his computer. Just before Pam passes, we hear an unmistakable computer game sound effect from Jim's computer in the background. Pam smiles as she passes the camera. We zoom in on Jim as he plays Bookworm to kill Friday night.

The End.