

SHORT ATTENTION SPAN DAN

In

"TROUBLE? WHAT TROUBLE?"

Written by

Robert Smith

(407) 508-0200

ScreenSmith
1503 S. U.S. Highway 3012 #38
Tampa, FL 33619

SHORT ATTENTION SPAN DAN

"Trouble? What Trouble?"

CAST

DAN DOUGLAS.....BRILLIANT ACTOR
ANTSY NANCY.....BRILLIANT ACTRESS
IRON MIKE.....ROUGH TOUGH ACTOR
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WORKER #1.....LAME GUY
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WORKER #2.....ANOTHER LAME GUY
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WORKER #3.....YET ANOTHER LAME GUY
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WORKER #4. THE UGLY ONE.....UGLY LAME GUY
SACME FOREMAN.....FOREMAN DUDE
BUTTERLFY.....AS HIMSELF
BIRDS.....AS THEMSELVES
FISH.....AS THEMSELVES

GUEST CAST

INNOCENT BYSTANDER.....PRODUCER

SHORT ATTENTION SPAN DAN

"PROBLEM? WHAT PROBLEM?"

TEASER

INT. NICHOLS EMPLOYMENT AGENCY - DAY

ANTSY NANCY (professional, pretty, mid 20s) hands SHORT ATTENTION SPAN DAN (tall, light and goofy, mid 20s) his new job assignment.

NANCY

On your last job at Howdy's Dude Ranch the bull gave you the horns. Now's your chance to be the bulldozer! Get moving and don't mess up this time!

CUT TO MAIN TITLE

ACT ONE

EXT. MAIN STREET - DAY

Dan strolls toward city hall, job assignment in hand. He looks at his watch and steps off the curb and into the street. WHOOSH! A car passes by and just misses him.

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

Dan approaches a beautiful building. The sign reads, "HAPPYVILLE CITY HALL" Dan looks over to the construction site next to the building and spots a bulldozer marked, "SACME CONSTRUCTION COMPANY".

DAN

Being a bulldozer operator can't be that difficult. Can it?

Dan climbs in and grabs the controls. The bulldozer starts to move out of control. Dan rolls away from the site and onto the grass in front of City Hall. He runs over some sprinkler heads and sets off geysers of water. He finally gets the behemoth machine to stop.

Dan pauses to catch his breath. A butterfly comes in and lands on one of the control levers. Dan holds out an index finger and the butterfly flutters up and lands on it.

DAN (CONT'D)
Look at you little friend.

Dan lifts the butterfly up to eye level. He leans back in his seat and puts his feet up on the control panel. His feet move a lever forward and he fails to notice the large ball on the end of the chain from his bulldozer as it begins to swing back and forth.

The large ball crashes into a large sculpture of a smiley face in front of the Happyville City Hall. BONK!

The ball turns it sideways and takes a huge chunk out of it. Only the large pedestal remains intact below.

CLOSE UP ON THE INSCRIPTION ON THE PEDESTAL

It reads, "Attention to Detail Brings Progress"

This message is lost on Dan who lets the butterfly loose out of the window.

DAN (CONT'D)
Fly away little friend.

Dan looks over and finally sees the devastation he has caused.

DAN (CONT'D)
Uh oh.

Dan surveys the landscape.

DAN (CONT'D)
At least no one was hurt.

A foreman runs toward Dan. He stops at the window of the bulldozer.

FOREMAN
You've got to be more careful Dan!
I know I shouldn't do this. I'm
going to give you a second chance
on the condition that you pay
attention this time.

Three other workers roll a large platform over to the damaged sculpture. They all climb to the top of it and immediately get to work on the repair of the sculpture.

PAN TO CLOSE UP ON DAN IN THE BULLDOZER

Dan's butterfly friend flies back into the cabin of the bulldozer. Dan is again distracted. He accidentally trips another lever, the ball swings back toward the other workers and bulldozes the platform. CRASH!

All three workers fly off the platform. One is able to grab the side of it on his way down. He hangs from the platform with one hand as he waves his other fist at Dan.

The foreman looks up at Dan from the ground below. He cups his hands over his mouth to yell up at Dan.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)
You're fired! You've just been
sacked by the SACME Construction
Company!

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. NICHOLS EMPLOYMENT AGENCY - DAY

Nancy hands Dan another job assignment.

NANCY
I don't know why I'm doing this.
You're a potential hazard to every
company I send you to.

Nancy takes a file marked SACME and throws it in the trash.

NANCY (CONT'D)
You're a hazard to my company as
well.

Nancy takes a file marked NUCLE-O and throws it in the trash.

NANCY (CONT'D)
At least you did less damage at
SACME than you did on your last job
at the nuclear power plant.

Nancy calms down and makes eyes at Dan.

DAN
Just a few more weeks in the
hospital and I think those fellows
will be okay.

INT. HAPPYVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY

The four injured NUCLE-O employees recover in the same ward.

CLOSE UP ON A WORKER IN A FULL BODY CAST

The worker stares at a drawing of himself and Dan. In it, he holds a sabre to Dan's back as he makes Dan walk the plank.

CLOSE UP ON ANOTHER WORKER IN AN UPPER BODY CAST

His drawing shows him as he lifts an axe over Dan's head on the chopping block.

CLOSE UP ON A THIRD WORKER IN A LOWER BODY CAST

This worker's drawing shows him throw the switch next to Dan who is in an electric chair.

CLOSE UP ON A BIG, UGLY WORKER WITH HIS HEAD BANDAGED

This worker stares at a drawing of a fresh cemetery plot with a tombstone that simply reads, "Dan".

EXT. IRON MIKE'S ORPHANAGE BUILDING SITE -DAY

The biggest, ugliest, and meanest of the workers injured in the nuclear power plant accident recovers enough to leave the hospital and hunt Dan down. He finds Dan in his new position as an ironworker in IRON MIKE's crew on the building site for Happyville's new orphanage.

The revenge-thirsty worker finds Dan ten stories up on a steel beam, as Dan stands ready to connect another steel beam to the partially made frame. The beam is suspended about head high by a steel cable attached to a crane on the ground below.

The angry worker climbs onto another beam out of Dan's view. He reaches up, grabs hold of the beam and pushes it toward Dan in the hopes that it will knock Dan off the building and one hundred feet down to the ground.

Instead, Dan notices that one of his boot laces is untied. He kneels down to tie it just before the beam's impact.

The beam misses him and swings back over Dan's head like a pendulum to return past its original position and knock the angry worker off the building ten stories down to the top of a dump truck filled with dirt.

The truck drives off with the now extremely angry worker who is flat on his back on top of the dirt pile. The angry worker waves both of his fists at Dan who is oblivious to him and everything that just happened.

Dan stands up and grabs the beam to set it in place with the rest of the frame as intended.

INT. HAPPYVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY

The angry worker is now in a full body cast as he and his co-workers draw up another plan to get even with Dan.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. IRON MIKE'S IRONWORKS ORPHANAGE BUILDING SITE - DAY

The other three workmen from the nuclear power plant stand in front of a shack marked, HIRING MANAGER. They all pick up hard hats, put them on and head toward the job site. They spot Dan and spy on him as he drives rivets into the steel frame. They turn their attention to their blueprint for revenge.

Dan takes a call from Nancy on his mobile phone.

DAN

Hello.

NANCY (V.O.)

You're consistently improving. The prospects of your doing a good job here are beginning to look up.

DAN

Look up? Yeah! Those birds are awesome!

As Dan looks up to the sky, the workmen loosen all of the rivets that Dan has just riveted. As a result, a full section of steel beams crashes to the ground. CRASH!

IRON MIKE (burly, chomps a cigar) arrives on the scene.

IRON MIKE

Great job Dan! How did you know
all of those beams were defective?

DAN

I, uh.

IRON MIKE

If you hadn't discarded all of
them, this orphanage could have
caved in on all of the little
children!

DAN

Uh, you know.

IRON MIKE

I'm promoting you to foreman!

DAN

Huh?

The nuclear power plant workers all cringe.

NANCY (V.O.)

Dan? Is everything all right?
Please tell me everything is all
right.

Dan notices the resentful workers and the plan they hold.

DAN

I'll be right with you. There's
something I have to take care of.

Dan puts his phone in his pocket. With a set of tongs he
takes three smoking hot rivets from the fire and flings them
up into the air. One lands down the back of each of the
three workers overalls and immediately smolders on their
backsides.

DAN (CONT'D)

You're all fired!

EXT. LAKEFRONT - NEXT DAY

Dan and Nancy sit on the pier and share their first kiss.
Then with his arm still around Nancy he leans over to see the
fish as they swim and jump in the water below. He leans over
too far. They both fall in and make a big splash. SPLOOSH!

Dan and Nancy climb out of the water and make their way back
toward the pier.

NANCY

Dan, I want you to make a big
splash in the world, not in the
water!

Nancy looks at Dan and can't help but feel for him.

NANCY (CONT'D)

At least you've been able to focus
your attention at work.

Back on the pier Dan gives Nancy another kiss. Nancy holds
onto the piling this time.

THE END

#####