JIM

2 0 .

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

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. **INT. RECEPTION SEATING AREA - DAY**

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.

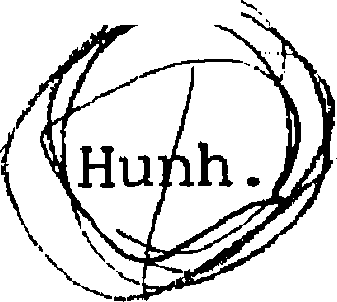
SCOTT

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 What's that?

21.

SCOTT



PAM

Smoked turkey. ,--

SCOTT

From the Starbucks...?

PAM

Mmm...

Oh. See you later.

Pam looks queasy and puts the rest of her sandwich down. **INT. DESK AREA - DAY**

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

22.

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 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.

**INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY**

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

23.

(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)

(MORE)

SCOTT (cont' d)

24.

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.

25.

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 it's

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.

26.

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.

**DWIGHT TALKING HEAD - INT. - DAY**

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?

**SCENE 25 - INT. DESK AREA - DAY**

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...

27.

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 SRA1. 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. **INT. RECEPTION SEATING AREA - DAY**

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

JIM

That feels nice. Do some with your nails.

PAM

28.

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 with your hair at all.

JIM

Hmm, you noticed.

**INT. OPEN-PLAN OFFICE - DAY**

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.

**INT. RECEPTION - DAY**

Pam and Jim are flirting.

JIM

You like a drink?