

Woody

WOODY HARRIS (30s) wears glasses, skinny, hair thinning, works for an insurance company.

TONY ANDERS (30s), tall, imposing, architect.

Woody and Tony are very close friends. They live in Portland.

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Woody and Tony are walking on an almost empty street. It is cloudy. Woody is holding a Starbucks cup.

WOODY

"Thank you for your patience and support" - this is what this IT department says at the end of their emails informing everyone about some upgrades or downtime. "Thank you for your patience", they say, mocking me. They must know I don't have any patience for anything.

TONY

Woody, you're a total paranoid?

WOODY

You know Seinfeld was doing Transcendental Meditation for 40 minutes every day during his show? 40 minutes, can you imagine? No wonder he was so successful.

TONY

Maybe it wasn't only the meditation.

WOODY

Must have been, I can't meditate for 5 minutes, not even 2 minutes, not even 30 seconds. My mind is a whirlpool of racing, useless thoughts that I cannot quiet down for even the shortest amount of time. I like the idea of meditation, I fully agree with it, I just don't like the *practice* of meditation.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

It's only a generic phrase, don't read too much into it. I bet you're the only one who does.

WOODY

And "thank you for your support". I don't even know what they actually do. Listen to me, it's a thinly disguised irony. They say "thank you" but they know I haven't supported them at all. They only make me feel guilty.

TONY

Ask them how you could support them, then their messages will be more meaningful for you if this is what you want.

WOODY

I'm afraid to ask them. What if it takes too much time or I don't know how? Then the "thank you for your support" will be ironic, like, "Thank you but no thanks".

TONY

They'd have come to you if they'd really needed your support.

WOODY

That's the thing, they would not. It's more committal if you offer yourself to help rather than them asking you. It's like in that 1984 book by George Orwell: The main character is tortured and he asks what more they want from him - but they don't want to tell him, they just keep torturing him.

TONY

I haven't read the book.

WOODY

You should. Where was I?

(beat)

They know whatever they asked him he'd say it, just because of the torture, so they want him to volunteer what they want to hear. They know it will be more powerful if it comes from within him.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

I might have a standard message in my e-mail signature, don't really know what it is.

WOODY

The communication is so important. Got a notification from a video app: "You've got a lot of free movies and shows to watch! So get to work." Can you imagine? "Get to work!" I don't want to work. I'm not a movie reviewer. After they've sent a few of them, every other day almost, this "get to work" annoyed me so greatly I deleted the app right away. Not to mention my favorite series was no longer available.

TONY

Whatever. I think it's the weather here. Too gloomy and rainy, makes you think like that. My wife and I want to move to California, weather is wonderful over there. You should move too.

WOODY

I don't want to move there especially with this drought. I'd feel guilty every time taking a shower or flushing the toilet or even shaving. You know, all men in California should wear beards like the sailors in submarines you see in war movies.

TONY

Okay. Okay.

WOODY

Here I can wear long sleeves all year round. I need long sleeves to open the doors in public places, and not only in California is it too hot but I'll have to wear short sleeves. I hate them.

TONY

You are a germophobe!

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

In fact I am a "badgermophobe", - one word. I'm against bad germs only. I welcome good germs into my life. Don't know how I can differentiate them, though.

TONY

There isn't such a word, so you are still a germophobe.

WOODY

I was on the bus once, and someone put a book on the seat beside him. People sit there, I'm sure those seats never get washed, and he put his book there, a book he's going to hold in bed, maybe, before falling asleep. I'd never be able to do this and that guy seemed happier and healthier than me, and for sure he read more. I've hardly read any books lately.

TONY

This is why you get sick all the time, by being afraid of germs.

WOODY

Yes, germs and sun. Too much sun in California. Every time I'd go out I would have to apply lots of sunscreen, or come out only during the night like vampires. You know, even clothing cannot protect you from sun, you have to buy some that's sun-protective. Some labels have a UV protection factor. It's crazy.

TONY

I'm sure it's not so bad.

WOODY

They say sunscreens are safe, but in 20 years' time they'll discover while they did protect you from getting skin cancer, they gave you some other type of cancer too, or Alzheimer's. The sunscreen will be the asbestos of the future. Then you'll see lots of class action lawsuits. I'm saving all receipts

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(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)

and tubes of sunscreen, try to stick with some big companies and hope they won't go bankrupt in the meantime.

TONY

Don't you want to become a screenwriter? You have to move to LA if you want to break into this field. Otherwise you have to be insanely talented to make it from here.

WOODY

That's the thing, 99% of people who move to LA for this purpose don't make it, they don't end up working in the industry - see, I am using this term, it makes me feel knowledgeable - but 1% do. I wish I'd move there only to make up the 99% for the benefit of the 1%. This would be my contribution to art.

TONY

I'm sure they are made up numbers but it sounds about right.

WOODY

In fact, there should be a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for this 99%, that made it possible all the other stars. A statue at the entrance to LA for the artist who didn't make it, and by making it I don't mean striking it rich but having a decent wage, decent by LA standards, mind you.

TONY

By the way, this is the first time I've seen you drinking coffee on the go.

WOODY

It's only water. I've noticed people holding coffee and walking and they seemed so focused and determined, so full of energy and vitality, people who are really going places. I want to be like them so I'm walking around with a

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
Starbucks cup. It makes me composed  
and poised, gives me a huge boost  
of confidence, projects the image  
of a man who knows what he wants in  
life and how to achieve it.

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Someone rings the bell. Woody opens the door and Tony is  
standing there holding a cup of coffee and dressed for  
tennis.

TONY  
You aren't ready?!

WOODY  
Give me 20 minutes.

TONY  
What for? How long does it take you  
to get dressed?

WOODY  
I want to do my oil pulling, swish  
coconut oil around my mouth, and  
then spit it out. Haven't you heard  
of this? They say it does wonders  
for your health. Gwyneth Paltrow is  
doing it.

TONY  
Do you believe in it?

WOODY  
Not really, but I have to try it,  
seems easy enough.

TONY  
Can't you do it after you come back  
or tomorrow?

WOODY  
No, I have to do it first thing in  
the morning, and I cannot postpone  
it, this is the story of my life: I  
always say I'll do it tomorrow, and  
always something else comes up, I  
have to form a habit, do it for at  
least 21 days in a row. Watch TV,  
do something. Give me your cup.  
Can't spit out the oil in the sink,  
it can clog.

(CONTINUED)

Tony takes the last sip and hands in the cup.

WOODY (CONT'D)

The cleaning lady will be here  
soon.

Tony watches TV in the living room. Woody enters the living room still swishing coconut oil around his mouth.

Tony goes to the bathroom. The cleaning lady (50s) enters the apartment and she goes to the living room. Tony comes out of the bathroom without noticing his fly is open.

Woody is in the living room and spits out the coconut oil in the paper cup (white stuff comes out of his mouth). The cleaning lady sees this and also that Tony's fly is open, who notices it at the same time, excuses himself and pulls up the zipper. Silence. The cleaning lady quietly leaves the living room.

Next day, Woody is in the kitchen eating a banana. The cleaning lady enters the kitchen right when Woody takes a bite from the banana. She stops looks at him in a certain way then she quietly leaves the kitchen.

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

It is the end of the working day and almost everyone has left. Woody desperately wants to go the washroom as he has an upset stomach. He goes to the washroom on his floor, but it is closed for maintenance. He RUNS to the other washroom on the floor below. But to his horror, one stall is occupied and the other is out of order. Desperate he runs to the women's washroom, knocks, and SHOUTS -

WOODY

Cleaning!

There is no response, so he enters and goes to a stall.

A WOMAN, 20s, enters the washroom (we do not see her). She is talking on the phone, and she is sobbing.

INT. WASHROOM

WOMAN (O.S.)

Jack broke up with me. I don't want  
to go home. I'm going to spend all  
night here in the washroom.

Woody looks frightened and he accidentally makes a noise.

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WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Who's there?

WOODY  
(in a high-pitched voice that  
he will keep using)  
Sorry.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
I got scared, I thought it was one  
those perverts who hide in women's  
washrooms.

WOODY  
I am not.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
I'll hang up now. Sorry that you  
heard me like that, my boyfriend  
broke up with me.

After some pause

WOODY  
Men are pigs.

WOMAN (O.S.)  
Yes, they are. Sorry, do you have  
anything to do this evening ...?

Woody meanwhile frantically messages Tony: "CALL ME NOW,  
PLEASE."

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
Let's go out together, what do you  
say? Drinks are on me. I'd really  
like some company.

Woody's phone rings.

WOODY  
Hello?

TONY  
*Why are you talking like that? Is  
someone squeezing your testicles?  
Did you call me to come and help  
you?*

WOODY  
Yes, I will go out with you this  
evening.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

*What are you talking about? And now that you have called, LINDA (Tony's wife) had a minor accident with your car, it wasn't her fault ....*

WOODY

*(this time he forgets the high-pitched voice)*  
What?!

Woody coughs a few times.

WOODY (CONT'D)

*(again in a high-pitched voice)*  
Sorry, I have to talk on the phone.

WOMAN (O.S.)

OK, I'll go now. I'll give you privacy, I didn't talk too much with you but I feel, somehow, much better.

We now see the woman exiting the washroom.

WOODY

Is she OK?

TONY

*You got your voice back. What happened?*

WOODY

I'll tell you later.

TONY

*Yes, she is OK. The car has only a few dents, don't worry it'll go through our insurance.*

Woody ends the call.

INT. ELEVATOR

The woman from the washroom, and Woody.

The elevator stops, the woman gets out, she pulls a laptop bag on wheels. Accidentally hits Woody in the groin.

The doors are closing.

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WOMAN

I am terribly sorry. Are you hurt?

WOODY

(bent over, in a high pitched  
voice)

I am not.

The woman looks at him strangely, as if she has just realized something.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING LOBBY - DAY

Woody is waiting for the elevator. A boy scout (7) approaches him.

BOY

Hi, my name is John.

I'm a Scout with Troop 557 here in Portland. I am selling chocolate candy bars to help raise money to go to Scout Camp. By buying the bar today, you'll be helping me earn my own way to camp next summer and do fun things with my Troop all year long.

Woody takes a bar, and starts reading the ingredients.

WOODY

Milk chocolate and, in brackets:  
sugar, chocolate, skim milk powder,  
soy lecithin, polyglycerol  
polyricinoleate, caramel,  
humectant, salt, agar, potassium  
sorbate, caramel color, artificial  
flavor, soy lecithin, colors yellow  
#6, and yellow #5. What is this  
polyglycerol polyricinoleate? You  
should know what you are selling.

BOY

I am selling chocolate candy bars  
to help raise money to go to Scout  
Camp. By buying the bar today,  
you'll be helping me earn my own  
way to camp next summer and do fun  
things with my Troop all year long.

WOODY

Why don't you sell healthier bars?  
You know, bars with ingredients you  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
can pronounce. Be different than the others, ask questions! Why this candy and not others with no artificial ingredients. They would be more expensive but that's it. Some people will buy them, some not. This is how it works.

BOY  
By buying the bar today, you'll be helping me earn my own way to camp next summer and do fun things with my Troop all year long.

WOODY  
And why buy and sell? Make the chocolate yourself and sell it. China and Germany are doing well because they are mainly manufacturing countries and after that, trading countries. Be a manufacturing scout first and then a trading scout.

BOY  
I want to go to camp next summer and do things with my Troop.

Woody gives up and buys a bar. He takes a bite, and seems very pleased and satisfied with the taste.

Woody enters the elevator.

DIANE (30s), quite an attractive woman, steps in too. They both go to the same floor. Woody starts reading the news crawler on the elevator monitor. It shows "The four Kardashian sisters Kim, Khloe, Kendall, and Kylie have each released an app to..." but the news crawler does not move and the elevator stops at the 4th floor.

WOODY  
I hate this. Now I don't know what this app is for. Check your health, bring peace to the world? Even though I'm leaving, maybe I can still read the rest of the news.

Woody bends backwards, a comical exaggeration.

Diane and Woody walk out of the elevator. Diane starts laughing and Woody notices her first name on the identification card hanged to the lanyard around her neck.

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WOODY (CONT'D)

This is an accident waiting to happen. Someone will fall on their back trying to read the full news. Who could I talk with about this potentially very dangerous situation?

DIANE

(smiling)

Maybe a shrink.

(pause)

It's only a joke, hope you don't mind.

WOODY

(smiling)

Not at all. I can take a good joke. It's been nice joking with you.

DIANE

Likewise.

Diane walks away but Woody keeps looking at her.

He enters an office.

WOODY

Hello.

RECEPTIONIST

Hello.

WOODY

Could you please let Linda Anders know I'm here.

RECEPTIONIST

Will do.

LINDA ANDERS (30s), Tony's wife, works as an Architect in the same company, shows up.

WOODY

Good life!

LINDA

Good life!? What's this? What happened with hello or good morning?

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WOODY  
I'll tell you.

Woody passes by the elevator door, walks towards the office door, Diane had gone through.

LINDA  
Where're you going?

WOODY  
Come with me.

They stop in front of the door.

WOODY (CONT'D)  
Do you know someone called Diane who works for this company?

LINDA  
I don't think I know her. Why?

Linda and Woody walk towards the elevator and Linda calls it.

WOODY  
Aren't we waiting for Tony?!

LINDA  
He can't join us, he has to prepare for a meeting.

WOODY  
I've just met her in the elevator and it felt like love at first sight. Could you find out whether she's married or has a boyfriend? If not, ask her for a date on my behalf.

LINDA  
I don't know her. How would I do it?

WOODY  
You always try to fix me up with someone, now you have the opportunity. I don't want to look her up on Internet. Just go to the reception, say you have something personal to talk to her about, and ask her bluntly about her status.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

I'm not so sure.

WOODY

Come on! If she's available tell her that a friend of yours saw her and liked her. Women trust women. If I did this it would be too creepy, and I'll never be able to come to your office ever again.

LINDA

I'll think about it, still seems strange.

Linda and Woody step into the elevator.

WOODY

I owe you an explanation about the "Good Life". I've had an epiphany this morning. I realized "Good Morning" is not good enough. You say it, but it implies by no fault of your own their afternoon or evening could be crap.

LINDA

Good day?!

WOODY

It won't cut it either. What about the rest of week, or month. I was going for "Good year" but I realized it won't be enough either. So "Good life" will cover it. You are the first person I said it to, but I'm going to tell it to everyone.

LINDA

You wanted to test it on me first?

WOODY

Kind of, see the reaction.

Can you imagine, if I come across God as He must walking among us sometimes, without me realizing he is God, and I say "Good life" to him? God must be a polite guy and He for sure would answer likewise, "Good life." And if God tells you "Good life," you are set for ... life.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

Whatever. I feel like a smoothie, I know a place very close.

Linda and Woody step out of the elevator. Woody throws a glance at the monitor and the news crawler shows "The four Kardashian sisters Kim, Khloe, Kendall, and Kylie have each released an app to..."

He sighs.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Linda and Woody come out of the office building. Woody notices a homeless man by the door. They walk towards the smoothie bar.

WOODY

I have a theory that the government could house all homeless people so they don't have to live on the streets. But they don't! And you know why?

LINDA

I know it's a rhetorical question, so tell me.

WOODY

They keep the homeless on streets to scare the shit out of the middle class. They want the middle class to toe the consumer society line, keep working, putting in at least forty hours of work per week with very few vacation days so taxes can be collected and goods consumed.

LINDA

You don't say so!

WOODY

If the middle class didn't see the homeless they might think of working less and enjoying life more. But the sight of the homeless keeps them trudging ahead. "I don't want to end up like that guy", they think.

LINDA

Are you thinking the same?

(CONTINUED)



WOODY

This homeless man must have been put here by the companies who have offices in this high rise to increase the productivity of their office workers. See, he's white and a man - has to be a man and white, because if he were African American people would think yes, statistics, they are poorer than us, nothing we can do about it.

LINDA

Again, you don't say so!

WOODY

People think "I must be grateful I have a job. I have to work harder not to give them any reasons to fire me". Isn't the homeless man at the door every morning?

LINDA

Yes he is, I suppose because he has nowhere else to go and sleeps there.

WOODY

See, he's there as a reminder for the working day ahead. This is his "contract", to be there every morning. I bet weekends he's off. And he has to be by the door afternoons from three to seven. After that he must be out of sight.

LINDA

How do you know so much?

WOODY

I just know. So, people are conditioned to work longer to avoid seeing the homeless, knowing that after seven he won't be there so they can leave guilt free for their "eat as much as you can" family dinners and sleeping in Egyptian cotton sheets.

LINDA

(unaffected)

You should be a stand-up comedian.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

Too many comedians already. Society needs more nurses, and plumbers, not comedians. And if I were a comedian I'd do stand up only in hospitals and at burials. Those are the people who need to be entertained, not in bars and clubs.

LINDA

Burials?! Would anyone have a comedian at their own burial?

WOODY

I'm sure there're some people who would.

INT. SMOOTHIE BAR

Linda and Woody read the menu.

JIM (20s), slightly overweight, is the store associate waiting for them to order. He looks very, very bored.

LINDA

I will have a Mighty Kale smoothie, please.

Linda hands in the credit card, another store associate starts preparing the smoothie.

WOODY

I'll have a Berry Banana and add this new thing Chlorella please... It sounds like Cholera, doesn't it?

JIM.

(imperturbable)  
That will be 6.50.

WOODY

(handing in the credit card  
and not giving up)  
It is like adding cholera to your juice.

Jim shows no reaction. Linda and Woody leave with their drinks.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Have you seen it? No reaction. It's common courtesy, a smile, something to acknowledge my attempt of a joke.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

Not everyone gets you. Or he might have heard it thousands of times before.

WOODY

Still, I'm the customer. As an employee he should have put some effort into smiling. After all, I made it so easy for him...

Woody makes an awkward move and spills some smoothie on his sleeve.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Shoot! And I didn't take a napkin.

LINDA

Let's go back and get some.

Linda and Woody approach the smoothie bar.

WOODY

(addressing to Jim)

Could I have a few napkins please?  
I spilled the juice.

(shows his sleeve to Jim)

Jim starts laughing and hands Woody a few napkins. Woody looks at Linda. They walk away.

LINDA

I suppose he is a fan of slapstick comedy.

Linda and Woody sit on a bench. All of a sudden it starts raining, though lightly.

LINDA (CONT'D)

Let's go to that coffee store.

INT. COFFEE STORE

Linda orders some food and Woody, coffee.

LINDA

I knew you weren't drinking coffee.

WOODY

Yes, I wasn't but so many recent studies have shown that drinking coffee is good for your health. People who drink coffee have fewer

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
chances of developing cancer,  
Parkinsons, and Alzheimer's.

LINDA  
I've read that, too.

WOODY  
But you know what? You have to  
drink five, six cups of coffee a  
day to get the benefits. What am I  
supposed to do now, from no cup to  
five a day? My heart might be  
irremediably damaged. But perhaps  
it's better to suddenly die from  
heart failure than slowly from  
other diseases - I won't say their  
name so as to not draw their  
attention.

LINDA  
I'm glad I'm a coffee drinker.

WOODY  
I've been having tea, mostly  
herbal, because they've been saying  
for a long time the coffee was not  
good for your health. Now they've  
changed their mind and coffee is  
good. You can't win.

Woody takes out a bamboo straw from his pocket and starts  
sipping the coffee.

LINDA  
What're you doing?

WOODY  
Coffee stains your teeth, so I  
read.

LINDA  
You're the first one I've seen  
drinking coffee with a straw.

WOODY  
Soon there'll be more like me.

LINDA  
We're moving to LA next month.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

(very surprised)

Are you?! Tony told me you wanted to move there but it seemed only a wish not that you'd follow through and so soon.

LINDA

Yes, it was quite unexpected. He got a contract to design a very expensive house. We're going to set up our own company.

WOODY

Your own company? Will you have your pictures on bus benches: 'Linda and Tony Anders will design the house of your dreams'?

LINDA

(laughing)

We won't. Only real estate agents and lawyers do. I like it here but we want a change and we'll have more opportunities down there.

WOODY

I don't understand why anyone would want to move to California now. People were moving there before for sun and no rain, and swimming. But now same things, sun and no rain, should discourage people moving over there.

LINDA

I'm sure it's not so bad.

WOODY

And don't forget the jelly fish. You have to swim now wearing a diver suit even though you don't do any diving.

(beat)

I've known you for 20 years. I'll miss you guys.

LINDA

We'll miss you too.

WOODY

Not as much as you'll miss the rain. I'll ship some from time to time via UPS.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

You know you can stay with us if  
you want to come to LA.

WOODY

Thank you. So you'll put me up and  
... put up with me.

LINDA

Yes, we will.

WOODY

The problem is, if I want to make  
it, I have to live rough, and eat  
only once a day, preferably go  
through garbage cans from fast food  
restaurants. All these people who  
made it, you read they were dirt  
poor before. No one, after they  
moved to other city and bought  
furniture from Ikea for their  
rented condo, is going to make it.  
This seems to be the rule.

LINDA

Ahh, again, one of your theories.

WOODY

There's a gym at my workplace. It  
has TV, showers, mats, and the  
office kitchen has a microwave and  
a fridge. Everything I'd need is  
there. Unfortunately they close the  
gym during the night. But listen,  
if I gave up my condo and slept in  
the gym for a while I'd become a  
millionaire.

LINDA

M'hm. Maybe this is the reason you  
don't have anyone by now with all  
these ideas.

WOODY

And if I lived in a park on a  
bench, and still have my job, this  
would show real character. I'd  
become a billionaire, a classic  
rags to riches story. But I'm not  
so tough and I'd be happy being  
only a millionaire.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA  
(laughing)  
Still, you could move to LA.

WOODY  
Yes, I know, but I have such a good job. Anyway I'm afraid I will soon be replaced by Artificial Intelligence. Two hundred years ago people started to lose their jobs because of the machines. Now it'll happen the same way, but with white collar people. I'm afraid I'll become a Luddite and join some movement to destroy the big smart computers.

LINDA  
I'm sure you worry for nothing.

WOODY  
Or have my job off-shored. You know I'm thinking of learning a trade. That can't be off-shored. Plumbers will be the kings of the world. They'll have a mansion on a street full of writers and artists, who will mow his lawn or do other menial tasks for him.

LINDA  
Okay, okay, it's good you run these ideas by me so I can bring you down to earth.

WOODY  
No good?

LINDA  
Not at all, funny, maybe, but no good.

EXT. COFFEE STORE

LINDA  
We'll invite you over for dinner before we leave. See you.

WOODY  
See you. Don't forget to find out what I've asked you.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

I will. But don't get your hopes up.

WOODY

I'll be careful not to.

Linda and Woody start walking opposite directions.

Woody passes by a baseball court where two African Americans are playing. Then he walks by a white man with golf gear practicing his swing, obviously waiting to be picked up.

QUICK DAYDREAM (Woody has a very vivid imagination; from now on when he imagines it will be indicated in this format, QUICK DAYDREAM - start of imagination, BACK TO SCENE - end of imagination)

Woody drives a car, he looks to his right and sees two white men playing basketball on a court. Then he sees on the sidewalk an African American with golf gear practicing his swing, obviously waiting to be picked up.

BACK TO SCENE

Woody walks towards the traffic lights, countdown already started. People walk faster and faster around him.

WOODY (V.O.)

I am not going to run, it's no point, rain has stopped and I'm in no rush.

People start running to make the traffic lights. Woody starts running too.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Woody sits up from his desk and walks towards ROB's desk (30's, very athletic and handsome).

WOODY

Do you think you'd have time to look over what I sent you by the end of today?

ROB

Yes, I will. Give me 20 minutes. I've had some other pressing issues.

Woody notices on Rob's desk a small mirror and quite a few photos with his wife, and his two children.

(CONTINUED)



WOODY

You have a mirror!? Do you look at it and ask who's the smartest and most handsome in the team?

ROB

Yes, I do and the answer is you!

WOODY

So many personal photos! Didn't you know it's against the rules and procedures? You can only have one photo of your direct manager and one of the CEO. No one else.

ROB

You're such a funny guy.

WOODY

(changing the tone)

What do you mean I'm funny?!

ROB

You're just funny, you know, not only now, but in general.

WOODY

What do you mean? They way I talk? What?

ROB

It's just, you know, it's just funny. What you say.

WOODY

Funny how? I mean, what's funny about it?

DANNY

(work colleague, 50s, watched the whole scene, sounds worried)

Woody, what's happening with you?

WOODY

Whoa, whoa Danny! He's a big boy, he knows what he said. What did you say? Funny how? What?

ROB

Just you know you're funny. What's wrong with you?

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

Nothing is wrong with me, and let me understand this: I'm funny how, I mean, funny, like I'm a clown? I amuse you. I make you laugh? I'm here to fuckin' amuse you? What do you mean funny? Funny how? How am I funny?

ROB

Hey, what got into you? You never talk like that. You know you're funny, that's it.

WOODY

No, no I don't know. You said it. How do I know? You said I'm funny.  
(yelling now)  
How the fuck am I funny? What the fuck is so funny about me? Tell me. Tell me, what's funny?  
(Long suspenseful pause)  
Got you! Goodfellas movie, the scene from the restaurant, when Ray Liotta tells Joe Pesci he's funny. Did you see it?

ROB

I don't think I did, not so funny though.

WOODY

I had to do it. I've always wanted to say it, never seemed to be the right moment.

Rob starts laughing. Woody goes back to his desk and sits down.

QUICK DAYDREAM

Rob walks outside, looks into the mirrors on the pillars of a high rise.

In a mall now. Still, he looks into the mirrors.

Sees his reflection in the tinted window of a car. The window comes down and a man smiles at him. Rob bolts.

Rob, in the restroom. He looks in the mirror and he is very pleased with what he sees. He arranges his hair a few times.

(CONTINUED)

Rob goes to his desk. He has many photos all of them with ... him, mostly showing him in different body building poses. He winks at his reflection in a big mirror that is on the desk.

Rob wears a slim fit short sleeve shirt that reveal his bulging biceps.

Women pass by his desk and sigh.

Rob wears only the pants. His pectorals move in cadence with his typing on the keyboard.

Women are all over around his desk looking at him, mesmerized.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Phone rings.

WOODY

Hello.

LINDA

Hello. You're coming on Sunday for the Super Bowl final, aren't you?

WOODY

Yes I am. Not a fan of football, but I like the ads.

LINDA

Good. I have a surprise for you.

WOODY

Surprise?! I don't like surprises. For me, most surprises are negative so I'm trying to completely eliminate all surprises from my life. I know I'll miss a few good ones here and there but it's a price worth paying.

LINDA

It's a good surprise, don't worry.

WOODY

I do worry now because if it's good, it will have to be followed soon by a bad one to balance out. The more pleasant the surprise is, the worse the next one will be.

(CONTINUED)

LINDA

Okay, Okay. See you on Sunday.

INT. LINDA'S AND TONY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Woody rings the bell. Tony opens the door, wearing the jersey of one of the Super Bowl final teams.

WOODY

Good life.

TONY

(hesitant at first)

Haha, Linda told me about your new thing. Good life to you too!

Tony and Woody enter the living room. Woody stops, thunderstruck. Diane is there.

LINDA

Diane, Woody.

Diane and Woody shake hands.

DIANE

Glad to know you. How's your back?

WOODY

Nice to know you. Still holding, managed not to fall backwards, ... yet.

TONY

Let's sit down and eat now, I am famished. Beer and chips during the match.

Small talk around the table.

INT. KITCHEN

LINDA

I told you I had a surprise for you. It's a good one, isn't it?

WOODY

Yes, it is. If she's here it means she's single. Did you go to the reception and ask to see her?

LINDA

There was no need.

INT. ELEVATOR - FLASHBACK

Linda and Diane are in the elevator.

LINDA

Such nice shoes you have! Where did you buy them?

DIANE

There's a small shoe store close to here, kind of hard to find. I'll go there during lunch. If you want you can come with me.

The elevator stops at their floor.

LINDA

Yes. I'd love to come.

DIANE

See you here at 12.

LINDA

I'll be here. By the way my name is Linda.

DIANE

Diane, glad to meet you.

They shake hands.

INT. KITCHEN

LINDA

We went together, we clicked and one thing led to another. Isn't it amazing how things sometimes work out?

WOODY

Yes it is.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Linda, Diane, Tony, and Woody are round the table, they eat, and have small talk. Linda brings coffee. Woody makes a move as if he wants to take out something out of his pocket. Linda stares furiously at him, her face says "Don't do it." Woody reluctantly gives up.

They watch the TV. A Doritos ad is shown.

QUICK DAYDREAM

(CONTINUED)

## THE COUPLE

Tony brings a bag of Doritos and empties it on a plate.

Linda and Tony eat together.

They are very much in love and you can see this from the way they look at each other.

The pile gets smaller and smaller and their faces don't express the same love like in the beginning.

The expression of their faces goes from love to indifference; they look more lovingly at the Doritos rather than at each one.

At the end they are down to the last chip. Both of them hold it.

Their faces show hatred.

Linda opens the cupboard takes a new bag of Doritos and puts it on the table.

They again show deep love to each other.

## THE SWITCH

Big office with cubicles.

One guy has a crush on a colleague but he is too shy to ask her out.

One day he goes to the vending machine. The girl has just gotten Doritos and now she is pouring coffee. Our guy gets Doritos as well, she warmly smiles to him (for the first time) and he smiles back.

Next scene, the girl walks away from her desk, back facing us.

The guy has an idea, takes his bag of Doritos, goes to her desk, and writes on the desk using the chips "Will you go out with me?"

Then he goes back to his desk and keeps checking his email. Nothing so he walks to the girl's desk. He's holding the bag of Doritos.

Rob sits at the desk, he looks at the bag of Doritos, at what it is on his desk (he and the girl switched the desks as she was assigned to a new position), smiles and says 'Yes.'

(CONTINUED)

BACK TO SCENE

Diane and Woody leave the apartment.

WOODY

What're you doing on Friday? Would you like to go see a movie?

DIANE

Yes.

WOODY

What's your number?

DIANE

555 --

WOODY

No, no, use your phone to send it to me.

DIANE

(takes out her phone)

I've never done it.

WOODY

Should be dead simple. They show this in ads. It seems cool, those people who do it are so cool. Read the instructions for your phone, I'll read them for mine. It has something to do with bluetooth.

12 minutes later.

WOODY (CONT'D)

I still don't understand how it works. I can never figure things out on this phone. I'm not so cool it seems. Let's do it the old-fashioned way.

INT. GYM OFFICE - DAY

Woody tries to do a few chin ups. He does one, two, three with much difficulty. A nice girl walks by. He counts loudly forty-nine, fifty. He finishes, he looks around and notices everyone has small socks that can be hardly seen above the shoe. Woody looks at his socks and even if they are not tall they seem huge in comparison with what the others are wearing. He starts to roll them down to look small as well.

(CONTINUED)

Woody goes to another machine, starts cleaning it, including the hanging bar, that starts swinging; he doesn't notice it, and it hits him in the head. Woody looks around, wonders whether anyone saw this. Nobody did.

Woody notices a girl sparring with a boxing sack.

QUICK DAYDREAM

WOODY

Nice moves you have there.

BOXING GIRL

(she comes closer)

What did you say?

WOODY

I said --

The girl pulls back a fist and a series of quick hits brings Woody to the ground.

BACK TO SCENE

Woody looks at a girl, not very athletic looking doing dead lifts with weights, more than what Woody has usually been lifting. The girl finishes the set and notices Woody.

BODYBUILDER GIRL

We can use the bar in turns if you want to.

WOODY

(reluctantly as he hasn't raised so much weight before but if the girl can raise it, he should not have any problems too)

Yes, why not.

Woody lifts the weight. He grimaces with pain and puts the bar down.

BODYBUILDER GIRL

Are you OK?

WOODY

Yes, I am... almost. My lower back was injured before, it seems it hasn't been fully cured yet.

I'll do something else. I'll go to my 200 pounds bench press routine.

(CONTINUED)



BODYBUILDER GIRL  
All right, take care.

Woody moves away, he looks at a group of three guys. They work out together helping each other and sharing nutrition tips. One of seems more experienced and teaches the other two.

QUICK DAYDREAM

GUY 1  
(matter-of-fact)  
You seem to have put on some weight lately.

GUY 2  
You're one to talk.

GUY 1  
I bench press more than you.

GUY 2  
You'll never have my biceps.

GUY 3  
Guys, guys, calm down!

GUY 1, GUY 2  
Stay out of this.

GUY 2  
Fatso!

GUY 1  
You have no taste in clothes!

BACK TO SCENE

Woody smiles to himself.

INT. OFFICE - LOBBY, GYM FLOOR

Woody is in front of four elevator doors. He presses the down button. A door opens, he notices it a second too late, walks towards it, the doors close in front of him. Presses the button again. He is looking at the previous door. Another door opens, he rushes towards the elevator, barely gets in while the doors are closing.

WOODY (V.O.)  
What's this? Man against elevator!

QUICK DAYDREAM

(CONTINUED)

Woody is in the lobby, 4 elevators in front of him. One elevator is open. He walks towards it, doors close in front of him. Another elevator opens, he rushes towards it, doors close in front of him.

Another elevator opens. He walks towards it, doors start closing, he stops, doors stop closing, he starts walking again, doors start closing. Woody walks backwards. The doors start opening. He stops, turns his back to the elevator pretends he doesn't want to use it. All of the sudden he turns, and darts towards the elevator. He slides in laterally while the doors close.

BACK TO SCENE

Woody steps out of the elevator laughing by himself. A few people around stare at him for a short period of time.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Woody looks at Diane's number on the phone and finally decides to call.

WOODY

Hello. How are you?

DIANE

Hello. Fine, what about you?

WOODY

I was thinking, why wait until Friday? Let's go to a movie tonight... if you are free.

DIANE

This evening?!

WOODY

Yes, Monday is a day as good as any other day. In my opinion, Mondays are highly underrated. I want to make Monday a fun day too. I've always dreaded Mondays but I want to start enjoying them.

DIANE

OK.

WOODY

7 PM at Silver City, see you.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

See you.

INT. MOVIE THEATER - LOBBY

WOODY

Do you have any preference?

DIANE

Not really, but I don't like science fiction, horror or action movies. I'll let you choose anyway.

WOODY

I don't like horror either. Science fiction and action, yes. When I was a kid I used to devour science fiction books. But you know what, I've started to like Indian movies. Songs, dances, humour, happy end, you have everything. There is a book "The Old Man Who Read Love Stories". Someone might write a book about me: "The Middle-Aged Man Who Watched Indian Movies", and if not, I'll write it.

(looking at the movie list)

Sometimes I go for the worst rated movie. I want to support them, somebody has to see them, and also, they give me hope that I have a chance.

DIANE

Linda told me you write screenplays.

WOODY

She exaggerates. It's more like a hobby than anything serious. I am an aspiring screenwriter. I aspire - it sounds much better than "I want to be" - I desire to be a screenwriter, don't do too much towards this goal. In fact, more than a screenwriter, I'd like to become a *prateur*.

DIANE

What's a *prateur*? I've never heard this word.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

I've come up with it from producer and auteur. An auteur is someone like Quentin Tarantino and Woody Allen, who writes and directs, but for the money you'd need a producer. So I'd like to be producer, director, and writer, a prateur. Billionaires fight famine, poverty, diseases, I'd just make movies with my own money, as no-one else would finance me.

DIANE

What screenplays did you write?

WOODY

I've started quite a few screenplays, more like fragments, have finished none.

DIANE

Shouldn't you try to finish at least one?

WOODY

I know I should, but they are much better in my head. On paper it shows right away I have neither the talent nor the skill. And I procrastinate a lot. My middle name should be procrastination. And I am too much of a day dreamer. It's a curse. Do you know there is a company that is going to make special glasses that will dim when you day dream? So you can train your brain to stop day dreaming. I'm going to be among the first ones to buy a pair.

DIANE

Didn't Google make some glasses?

WOODY

They weren't the same thing and they didn't catch on. Never had one, never understood what they were supposed to do. But day dreaming is even worse than baldness, and finally there might be a cure for it. Day dreaming and procrastination, whoever finds a cure for them will be rich.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

Why don't you train your mind  
yourself? They've written books  
about it.

WOODY

I don't have the patience and will.  
And in fact... Look, a movie by  
Woody Allen. Do you like him?

DIANE

I've seen Midnight in Paris and  
Blue Jasmine, don't think I've seen  
anything else.

WOODY

Let's go and see this movie. Did  
you know he's made a movie every  
year? I've watched all of them.  
He's one of my favorites, and not  
because he's my namesake. It's good  
we are here on a Monday, they won't  
have his movie by Friday. His  
movies are not week-end movies,  
more like Monday or Tuesday movies.  
By Wednesday they have to make room  
for the money makers.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

Diane and Woody walk quickly down the sidewalk.

WOODY

Did you enjoy the movie?

DIANE

Yes, I did.

WOODY

So you didn't watch Annie Hall for  
sure? Woody Allen and Diane Keaton  
played in it.

DIANE

I am quite sure I didn't. Was it  
good?

WOODY

Neh! A long, drawn on movie, even  
Woody Allen's wife said she  
couldn't watch it entirely.

They stop in the middle of the sidewalk. Woody turns Diane  
around to face him.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (CONT'D)  
Hey, listen, listen.

DIANE  
What?

WOODY  
Give me a kiss.

DIANE  
Really? Here in the middle of the street?

WOODY  
Yeah, why not, because there's gonna be all that tension. You know, we never kissed before and I'll never know when to make the right move or anything. So we'll kiss now we'll get it over with and then we'll go eat. It'll be only a short kiss. Okay?

DIANE  
Oh, all right.

WOODY  
And we'll digest our food better.

DIANE  
Okay.

WOODY  
Okay?

DIANE  
Yeah.

They kiss.

WOODY  
So now we can digest our food.

DIANE  
Linda told me you are not... how do I put this...

WOODY  
Normal?

DIANE  
I'd have said "like the other people".

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

I'd like to be normal but it seems  
I am cursed with anormalcy. There  
isn't such a word, I came up with  
it, sounds better than abnormalcy.

They turn and start walking again.

INT. DELI - NIGHT

Diane and Woody sit down in a booth. The deli is fairly well  
lit and crowded. Conversation, plates clattering, can be  
heard over the dialogue.

They read the menu.

WOODY

Did you know that designing the  
menu has become a science? The most  
profitable items are put in the top  
right of the front page. Also, see  
there is no dollar sign beside the  
price. They want to subconsciously  
make you forget you pay money so as  
to not refrain yourself from  
spending more.

DIANE

I didn't know.

WOODY

And see, the dishes have titles  
like "Grandma's sweet potato  
chicken" to conjure images of one's  
happy childhood when grandma was  
around making delicious dishes.  
Have you decided yet?

DIANE

I can't make up my mind.

WOODY

And notice this "Limit five types  
of cheese per burger."

DIANE

Who gets five types of cheese on a  
burger?

WOODY

This is called anchoring, people  
would usually just pick one type of  
cheese on a burger, but when they

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
read about the five limit on the menu, their mind is anchored at a much higher number than usual and they end up ordering more than one piece of cheese, and of course paying more for a burger.

DIANE  
You seem to know a lot of things.

WOODY  
Many of them are useless things. What I know in fact is very shallow, go deeper and there's nothing, a huge dark void. I watched a NASA documentary about a black hole consuming a star. It's the same with me, bright ideas and concepts enter my brain, you know, created by smart people, part of mankind's knowledge, but nothing comes out. I'm a black hole.

The waitress comes.

WOODY (CONT'D)  
About this dish "Grandma's sweet potato chicken"? Whose grandma is she?

WAITRESS  
(unfazed and kind of bored)  
I don't know. It's just a name.

WOODY  
Have you been working long here? Do you get a lot asked about this?

WAITRESS  
I've been working here for some time. Yes, from time to time someone will ask. It was funny the first time, I got used to it, give the same answer now.

WOODY  
(to Diane)  
Are you ready to order?

DIANE  
Yes. I will have spaghetti bolognese.

(CONTINUED)



WOODY

And I will have a vegetable curry  
and a broccoli salad.

WAITRESS

I'm sorry but we have not been  
delivered broccoli today.

WOODY

In this case I will have only the  
vegetable curry.  
(a pause; looks at Diane than  
at the waitress)  
I will cancel the broccoli salad.

WAITRESS

(writing down the orders)  
I have heard that, too.

The waitress leaves.

WOODY

See, it's difficult to be original  
nowadays. What is said has been  
said before and will be said again.  
Future generations will hate us.  
They won't be able to come up with  
anything creatively original.

DIANE

(still chuckling)  
Are you a vegetarian?

WOODY

I am not a vegetarian because I eat  
bread, fruits, doughnuts, cheese. I  
don't eat only vegetables. I'm a no  
meat eater, that's what I am.

But I feel I'm slowly becoming a  
vegan christian, you know, the  
worst. Only jihadists are worse  
than me.

DIANE

So you believe in God?

WOODY

Yes, I do. I figured out it's safer  
to believe. If I don't there isn't  
much I could gain from, but if I do  
maybe God will give me a helping  
hand in health, happiness, and as

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
they say, the last but not least,  
personal finances.

EXT. STREET - EVENING

WOODY  
I did have fun today. First Monday  
I've had so much fun since I can  
remember. What about you?

DIANE  
Yes, I did.

WOODY  
Let's do it again if you want to.  
Next Monday? At this moment you'd  
ask me, "What about Friday?"

DIANE  
I wouldn't.

WOODY  
And I'd say, I'm dating someone  
else on Friday. And Saturday I  
can't either, having another date,  
different from Friday's.

DIANE  
(seems surprised)  
Ohh!

WOODY  
I'm not, only joking. I've been  
waiting for a long time to make  
this joke, had to get it out of my  
system. I'll call you.

DIANE  
Okay.

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Woody is brushing his teeth. He listens and looks at "The  
Mamas & The Papas - Monday Monday".

WOODY (V.O.)  
What a nice, uplifting, positive  
song. I should listen to it every  
Monday morning. Wait a moment, what  
are they saying? "Every other day  
of the week is fine, yeah, but  
whenever Monday comes you can find  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (V.O.) (cont'd)  
me crying all of the time." What's  
this sorrowful turn here? It seems  
to go against the tone of the  
music. Anyway, I won't pay  
attention to the lyrics and still  
listen to it every Monday, it'll be  
my week's start song.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

ANN (40s) is a colleague of Woody's. He shows her a video  
with the famous diet Coke ad: Female office workers watch a  
handsome shirtless guy drinking diet Coke.

WOODY  
Would you like to be in a parody ad  
I want to shoot, similar to this  
one?

ANN  
I don't really want to. Go ask the  
other girls, someone who's not  
married.

Woody goes to MARY (30s), another colleague. He's showing  
her the same video.

WOODY  
I'd like to shoot a parody ad like  
this one and I'd like you to be in  
it. And please before you turn me  
down, have bulletproof, ironclad  
arguments that can withstand the  
test of time, the kind of arguments  
you would think 10 years from now  
and say, "Yes, I was right to turn  
that guy down, the arguments were  
valid then and they are still now."  
What do you say?

MARY  
Don't take it personally, but I  
don't want to be in it.

WOODY  
Why not? It'll be fun. And if the  
video becomes viral you could  
become famous. You might be asked  
to be in commercials.

(CONTINUED)

MARY

No, sorry. I don't really want to be in some YouTube video.

WOODY

Okay, at least promise me it isn't your last word and you'll sleep on it.

MARY

(smiling)

Yes, I'll sleep on it.

WOODY

I'm here. If you change your mind let me know. I won't hold it against you that you turned me down first.

MARY

Haha.

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

Woody is wearing a baseball cap backwards. Mary is holding a video camera. Tony is holding another video camera. Diane, Rob, JANE (40s) and PETER (30s) are sitting at desks (Diane, behind a divider opposite Rob's desk, Jane and Peter to the left and right of Rob). Rob is wearing a slim fit, short sleeve shirt.

WOODY

(to Tony)

Tony, you'll start filming right now. You'll make a film about making film. You'll mainly focus on me. I already have the title "An auteur is born." Auteur - has such a nice ring.

We might need to take a few takes when I say 'Action' or 'Cut.' I want to give the impression that I know what I'm doing and I'm really the man in charge.

(to Mary)

Mary, you start filming when I say 'Action'.

(to Rob)

Rob, give me 30 push-ups, I want to see those biceps bulging.

(to Jane)

Jane, when you hear Rob opening his can, look at him and roll your eyes

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
as if saying "Oh my God, here we go again!"

(to Peter)

Peter, throw furtive glances at Rob. You do not want to, but you can't help it, you can't control it, you try to fight the urge to look but in vain, all of your efforts are futile - "How much more can a man take?" You decide to keep looking, that's it, you've done it, there's no way back, you're relieved and you are not ashamed of it.

(to Diane)

You've seen the video. You hear the can being opened, climb up the desk and look at Rob lovingly, sensually, adoringly, give me your best, if you think it's too hard to convey these feelings, think about a very cute puppy or think about me.

(to everyone)

This will be the first part, in the second part Rob drinks another diet drink brand. It'll roll slightly differently. Jane, again, when Rob starts drinking look at him, and roll your eyes. Peter, same as before throw furtive glances at Rob. Fight against it, can't take it any more, you start staring at him. Diane, here there's a change for you. You see what he's drinking and you are disgusted, appalled, repulsed by what you see, almost shocked. You go back to your desk.

(to Mary)

Now, the moment I've been waiting for all my life. Action!

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Diane and Woody are in front of the door. Woody is taking the key out.

WOODY

I am trying to never wish anything, and it started from the key.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE  
From the key?!

WOODY  
Yes, there was a time I was  
bothered a lot by locking the door,  
I was always stressed I didn't and  
a few times I had to go back and  
check.

DIANE  
And was it locked?

WOODY  
Yes, it was but I started to wish I  
didn't have to worry about keys and  
locking up. And one day I had an  
epiphany: in the hospital and  
prison you don't need keys, there  
is no key worry there. Cold shivers  
went down my spine when I realized  
this. I was wishing for something  
that if it'd happened it'd have  
been much worse.

Woody is opening the door.

WOODY (CONT'D)  
So my advice is to be careful what  
you wish for because it might come  
true.

DIANE  
I'll keep that in mind.

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - EVENING (LATER)

Diane and Woody are in the living room.

WOODY  
I am almost done with the editing.  
Let's watch it.

Woody plays the movie on his computer connected to a big LCD  
screen.

Title reads 'Diet Coke (or Pepsi or other brand) ad.'

Background sound: the standard office sound.

ROB

Grabs a Diet Coke can.

(CONTINUED)

Background sound: everything goes quiet, you could hear a pin DROP - and a pin is shown dropping.

Starts puling the tab of a the can.

Background sound: the tab being pulled

DIANE

She talks on the phone, she suddenly and quietly puts the phone down.

ROB

Starts drinking, his bicep fully flexed, as if he raises 200 lb not 300 g.

Background music

JANE

Rolls her eyes.

PETER

Throws furtive glances. He doesn't want to, but he cannot help it, he cannot control it; he tries to fight the urge to look, but in vain. All his efforts are futile: "How much more can a man take?" Decides to keep looking. "That's it, he's done it and there is no way back."

DIANE

Climbs on the desks and looks adoringly and sensually at Rob as if in a trance.

Woody pauses the movie.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Have you ever taken acting classes?

DIANE

No, I haven't.

WOODY

In school did you act in plays?

DIANE

I didn't.

WOODY

Have you ever dreamed of being an actress?

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

Not really, when I was a kid I  
wanted to become a surgeon.

WOODY

Hmm, so it seems you have a natural  
talent for acting.

DIANE

I think so. I was told my face is  
very expressive.

Woody re-starts the ad.

Title on the screen reads "A few days later."

Background sound: the standard office sound.

ROB

Grabs a can of a diet drink of a competing brand.

Background sound: everything goes quiet, you could hear the  
pin DROP - and a pin is shown dropping.

Starts pulling the tab of the can.

Background sound: the tab being pulled.

DIANE

She takes off the noise cancellation headphones.

ROB

Starts drinking, his bicep fully flexed, as if he raises 200  
lb not 300 g.

Background music

JANE

Rolls her eyes.

PETER

Throws furtive glances. Does not want to, but he cannot help  
it, he cannot control it; he tries to fight the urge to look  
but in vain. All his efforts are futile: "How much more can  
a man take?"

Decides to keep looking: "That's it, he's done it and there  
is no way back."

(CONTINUED)



DIANE

Climbs on the desks and looks initially adoringly and sensually at Rob. Then she notices what he drinks - background music changes - and she tries to look disgusted and repelled without much success. She keeps staring. We hear Woody's voice in the background "that's enough Diane, go back to your desk."

Woody pauses the ad.

WOODY

You didn't act too well here. I wanted something else.

DIANE

I did my best. On the whole I think it came out pretty good. It was fun. Did you show it to your colleagues? What did they say?

WOODY

Not yet. It looks good... with the exception of the last part, I am not fully happy with. I'll see about it.

INT. OFFICE - EVENING

Woody sits at his desk quite late in the evening. Everyone has left. Cleaning ladies show up. They are LAURA (30s), GINA (40s), MARIA (50s), and LUISA (40s). Woody pauses what he's doing at the computer, looks at them, and seems to have just had an idea.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Rob and Woody are in a meeting room.

WOODY

You're the first one to see the final result.

Woody starts the recording, which is displayed on a big screen.

Title reads 'Diet Coke (or Pepsi or other brand) ad.'

Background sound: the standard office sound.

LAURA

She is standing chit-chatting with Mary.

(CONTINUED)

ROB

Grabs a Diet Coke can.

Background sound: everything goes quiet, you could hear a pin DROP and a pin is shown dropping.

Starts puling the tab of a the can.

Background sound: the tab being pulled.

LAURA

Stops paying attention to what the other person says.

GINA

Talks on the phone, she quietly puts the phone down.

LUISA

Takes off the headphones (arrow on the screen points to them with caption "noise cancelling headphones".)

MARIA

In the office kitchen washing her lunch box, she doesn't finish the washing, she rushes back.

ROB

Starts drinking, his bicep fully flexed, as if he raises 200 lb not 300 g.

Suitable background music.

LAURA

Looks intently, she thinks, "If she'd only just stop talking", referring to the person she is conversing with.

JANE

Rolls her eyes.

PETER

Throws furtive glances.

He does not want to, but he cannot help it, he cannot control it, he tries to fight the urge to look but in vain, all his efforts are futile, "How much more can a man take?" He decides to keep looking: "That's it, he's done it and there is no way back."

(CONTINUED)

GINA, MARIA, LUISA

Climb on Luisa's desk and look, mesmerized, at Rob. All three sigh.

Laura sighs, Peter sighs, TONY (the cameraman) sighs.

The diet coke is finished. The background music is replaced with the office sound.

Gina briefly disappears.

She comes back with a 2.5 l Diet Coke and puts it gently on Rob's desk.

ROB

Takes the bottle, bicep again fully flexed.

Background music starts again. The magic can continue and this time, for much longer.

ROB

Woody, this is genius. When are you going to upload it to YouTube?

WOODY

I don't have the rights to the music so I don't want to be arrested or pay a huge fine. I'll try to find a site in India or China where they are more lax about these things.

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT -EVENING

Diane and Woody are in the kitchen eating.

WOODY

Now we live together. It's official. Since you gave up your apartment and moved here, this is a new phase in our relationship. So what's the phase?

DIANE

I don't know, you said it. You come up with all these things.

WOODY

I don't know it either. Sometimes I just like to hear myself talking. And I've noticed you're a good listener.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

Who says I'm listening!

WOODY

(haha)

I'm glad you moved in. And it's good for environment too. I don't have any hard data to back it up with but single people living by themselves in their apartments puts lots of stress on the environment. Singles pollute more than couples. Somehow similar to how the cows pollute more than all the cars in the world.

DIANE

I don't see the similarity.

WOODY

Cows produce methane that's more dangerous than the CO2. So people would help the environment much more by stopping eating beef, rather than taking public transportation instead of driving their own car.

Diane puts some food on Woody's plate. Some awkward mistake and food falls on the floor.

WOODY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?!

Woody bends down, picks up the food off the floor, washes some of it, and throws away the rest in the garbage. He sits back at the table, returning the washed food.

Diane bites from a few breadsticks but somehow they fall.

WOODY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Again?! What're you doing?!

Diane picks up the breadsticks off the floor, comes a little bit closer to Woody's face smiling and eating the breadsticks.

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Woody comes out of the bathroom.

WOODY

Orange Alert, Orange Alert!

We are very low on toilet rolls. We should have plenty of them. Anything else but this can be missing. In a ravaging economic crisis, toilet rolls will be among the first products to disappear; mankind will have more important problems to solve.

DIANE

Don't worry, I'll buy some tomorrow.

WOODY

And flushing the toilet must work, anything else in the house can break down but flushing the toilet. I'd buy a million dollar insurance policy only for this if there was one.

DIANE

Okay, okay. Why are you telling me this?

WOODY

In fact, I am talking more to myself, but I need someone to bounce ideas off of. I still have to talk to someone at my company about my idea. Coverage for toilet overflow, or not flushing. The civilized world is terrified by these mishaps, especially if it happens when you are someone's guest. I have a feeling this type of policy would be a best seller.

DIANE

I don't know about it, you work in insurance.

WOODY

If we have a house together I'd like to have a urinal in the bathroom. It's more hygienic.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

Our house will not have a urinal  
like a restaurant.

WOODY

Think about it. You don't want to  
clean what guests did, and men miss  
a lot, trust me. I am a good hitter  
in general, can't vouch for others.

DIANE

(giving him the look)

Me?!

WOODY

I meant 'we.' We don't want to  
clean other's urine. Just think  
about it. At least in the guests'  
washroom.

Woody sits down reading some instructions to assemble  
furniture.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Twelve languages here and I am sure  
none of them are clear. The English  
one doesn't make sense at all. I  
have here only 4 screws of this  
type and they say I should have 8?

DIANE

(shouting from another room)

Do you need any help?

WOODY

I'll figure it out. I learned some  
Spanish in school, I'll try to read  
the Spanish version, maybe it's  
clearer. But next time we'll have  
to buy from Ikea.

QUICK DAYDREAM

INT. PRODUCTION OFFICE - DAY

WARREN ALLVIN (60s), a director of no small reputé, sits  
opposite the seasoned producer, JERRY ROSENSTERN (50s), who  
has quite a few blockbusters under his belt.

JERRY

We liked your script, we very much  
enjoyed it, all the hallmarks of  
what your movies are famous for:

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (cont'd)  
clever jokes, psychoanalysis, non sequitur, double entendre, innuendo, historical references, puns, cerebral lines. Your script was a reading delight and we are sure your movie will be as good or even better than the screenplay itself.

WARREN  
Thank you, I was trying to create a colorful world where two people meet, they fall in love, but with, you know, conflicts, maybe the--

JERRY  
That's all fine, Warren. What kind of budget were you figuring on?

WARREN  
Lower budget, definitely lower-end budget. I don't like to spend much even if it isn't my money.

He laughs nervously.

JERRY  
That's all fine and good, Warren. I'm sure we'd get the money back with a profit, even win an award or two, but ...

WARREN  
But?

JERRY  
Here's the thing, Warren. We'd like to finance a bigger budgeted movie so we could earn even more. We want to move the needle if you know what I mean.

WARREN  
Move the needle? Which needle?

JERRY  
Big is what people want. A Warren Allvin blockbuster is what we want. We give you a hundred million dollar budget, we make a billion dollars. Big budget summer movies are what the film industry is all about nowadays.

(CONTINUED)

WARREN

I don't know...

JERRY

Think Big. Act Big. Enjoy Big! That is what Hollywood is all about. And you'd make lots of money, too. You could buy an entire island.

WARREN

I don't want to buy an island.

JERRY

You could buy a vineyard here in California and a mansion with a swimming pool the size of a small lake.

WARREN

California? With all this drought I would not want to move over there. I would feel guilty every time I take a shower.

JERRY

It's where you gotta live if you want to make it big in this business. You are a name but you are not big. Or you could buy a castle in France.

WARREN

(pondering)

What kind of movie would you want?

JERRY

It's entirely up to you, with the caveat that there are a few things we'd need you stay away from.

WARREN

What kind of 'things'?

JERRY

No psychoanalysis. No long dialogues, no word plays, double entendre, non-sequiter innuendo.

Do you know how difficult is to translate puns into other languages?

(CONTINUED)



WARREN

That's my--

JERRY

And none of that 'why is the bald eagle called bald even though it isn't bald and the condor is not called bald even if it is bald?' Warren, we want a movie that can appeal to a wide audience. Something for everyone and not just for intellectuals.

WARREN

So what do you have in mind if I were on board with this?

JERRY

(pausing)

Get this. A Warren Allvin zombie movie. However, not necessarily a zombie movie, I am sure you could come up with something genial and lucrative at the same time, and I am talking about one billion US dollars.

Warren is stunned, doesn't know what to say, finally recovers, picks his words carefully.

WARREN

Why me? I don't think I am the needle type of director/screenwriter.

JERRY

There are a least one billion moviegoers - see again this number, I dream only about it - who haven't heard of you. And it is a pity. After they see this movie maybe they will want to see your old movies as well and who knows, some will like them and come to see your future more traditional movies. So this will expand your fan base.

It is so difficult to bring two market segments so different together, you have your fans who for nothing in the world would want to be seen watching a zombie movie. Also, there are millions of action

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JERRY (cont'd)  
movie fans, by a magnitude of  
hundred times perhaps thousand to  
your fan base - no offense here.

WARREN  
None taken.

JERRY  
Did you know that China sets a  
quota of thirty-four foreign films  
that can show in theaters each  
year? As a result it makes economic  
sense to show a blockbuster. You  
need a blockbuster to break that  
market. People will find out you  
have made many other movies,  
perhaps they will be curious to see  
them, and demand a relaxation of  
the quota that might be granted for  
the so-called art movies.

Jerry reaches a remote control and starts the music center.  
Classical music by Mozart can be heard. Both Warren and  
Jerry listen in silence for a while.

JERRY (CONT'D)  
You know nobody likes classical  
music when they are young, but  
later in life it grows on them. So  
it might be the same with the  
action movie fans. On the other  
hand, your fans will definitely  
turn out to see your zombie movie.  
Just think about it.

Warren squirms in his seat, anguished.

JERRY (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
You know what, give us the one  
billion dollar movie and we will  
owe you. We will finance any movie  
of yours for the next ten years.

WARREN  
Any movie? Even if I want to make a  
movie where I can talk at length  
about bowel movements?

JERRY  
What the heck, you can make an  
entire series about it. Just move  
the needle for us.

Warren Allvin sits in shock.

INT. COFFEE STORE - DAY

GEORGE DAVID (50s), actor/writer/comedian and WARREN are in a coffee store. GEORGE is sipping coffee through a straw.

WARREN

What are you doing?

GEORGE

I don't want to stain my teeth.

WARREN

You are the only one I've seen doing this.

GEORGE

Today only me, but just wait, this will catch on. What did they say about your screenplay? Are they going to make the movie?

WARREN

They want me, in fact they didn't say want - they *would* like me to make an action movie, preferably a zombie movie.

GEORGE

(laughing)

A zombie movie?!

WARREN

In fact I think they want to have the movie and release it only when I am dead or about to die. This way it might sell better, plus not to mention the other movies I'd made will get exposure again. And the executive mentioned a few times they needed to move the needle, and said something about synergy of costs as well.

GEORGE

What needle? Anyway, the studio's suggestion might have its own merits, don't discount it too lightly. Attach a few stars and for sure you will have a blockbuster. And you know what's worse than zombies?

(CONTINUED)

WARREN

The Tea Party?

GEORGE

Tea Party is the second worse. Nazis, Nazis are worse than zombies. And Nazi zombies are the worst that you can imagine - mind you - that's what the movie should be about. Himmler is sending Nazi zombies to assassinate the Allies leaders when they meet in Teheran or Yalta.

WARREN

I don't know, zombies are not my style. They are very boring, they're just running around and killing or being killed. This is all they do. And people who run for their life from zombies don't have the time and inclination to say any clever remarks, my strongest point. They hardly talk.

GEORGE

O.K., go for this one. I even have a a title 'Zombie Angst,' a metaphor. In this movie, the psychoanalyst has a patient who thinks he's a zombie. He walks around New York like a zombie. At work, he acts like a zombie, It's a commentary of how popular culture has taken over our everyday lives and turned us into symbolic zombies. The zombie is a metaphor. The psychoanalyst greedily turn his patients into zombies so they can come back to him as they are never cured. They don't kill; they just infect others who become the psychoanalyst's patients as recommended by the people who infected them.

WARREN

This would be more up my script alley, but people don't want metaphors in their summer movies. You ever see a blockbuster where a giant metaphor destroyed a city? Or a high-speed chase between two

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WARREN (cont'd)  
metaphors. And I still cannot see how it would make one billion. Its only result would be that it would alienate my fans, not too many as the studio executive took great care to point out quite a few times.

GEORGE  
Don't worry, we will come up about something!

WARREN  
We?!

GEORGE  
I will contribute pro-bono to your movie if you help me in my quest. My quest is to switch the name of the bald eagle and condor. The bald eagle should be called condor and vice-versa. The condor will be the bald eagle. It does not make sense. Why is the bald eagle called bald because it is not bald? And the condor is bald but it is not called bald. So let's call a spade a spade.

WARREN  
So you were my friend! What kind of reaction did your idea elicit, as I suppose I am not the first one you shared it with?

GEORGE  
Only to a handful of people who were not very forthcoming but you know, original ideas encounter a lot of resistance at the beginning until they are fully embraced. This is what I want to be my legacy, changing the name of the bald eagle. The encyclopedias will mention under the condor that it was called bald eagle at the beginning and a guy George David started the campaign to have the current name. That will be a legacy worth having.

(CONTINUED)

WARREN

What about campaigning for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People Day? Why celebrate someone who brought slavery and misery to the people who were here from before? Or campaign to change the spelling of colonel closer to what it sounds like coronel.

GEORGE

There are so many people who campaign for this but changing the name of the bald eagle? It is only me. It will not be easy but I have a few ideas. We have to prepare the public opinion. We need a few scenes with a bald eagle flying majestically and the song El Condor Pasa by Simon & Garfunkel as background. Also, this should be the final scene for the maximum effect. People will leave with this wonderful song in their head, they will look it up and see it is 'El Condor Pasa' and will, subconsciously, associate the bald eagle with the condor. And then it will be easy to convince the public that switching condors' and bald eagles' names is the right thing to do. And then we need a few senators who will promise they will change the name to get more votes.

INT. WARREN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The clock shows 3 am. The phone rings.

GEORGE

I have found it. The movie that will move the needle.

WARREN

It's three AM.

GEORGE

Couldn't wait. It's genial. Listen. We'll make different versions of a movie using same actors, director, set, and each version will be distributed to the right market. The movie will be about battles,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GEORGE (cont'd)  
with many Hollywood liberties about  
historical accuracy. For example  
the Arab version:

QUICK DAYDREAM

Before a battle with the Crusaders.

Crusaders' camp: drinking wine, women, partying.

Arabs' camp: praying to God, highly spiritual atmosphere.

During the battle: one Arab fights against 10 crusaders, the  
Arabs are chasing the crusaders, who run, leaving all  
weapons behind.

BACK TO SCENE

GEORGE (CONT'D)  
Do you get it? Isn't it genial?

WARREN  
Yes, I do. We'll talk about it  
tomorrow, in fact, today but later.  
Good night, at least what's left of  
it.

Warren hangs up and turns off his cell.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Woody is in the bathroom, he shouts from there, we don't see  
Diane.

WOODY  
Towels should have distinct sides  
to clean certain areas, if you know  
what I mean.

DIANE  
Use two towels.

WOODY  
Too complicated, one towel clearly  
having both sides marked would be  
best.

Woody looks at the counter where he has lots of things for  
cleaning his teeth: dental floss, water picker, Sulca brush,  
electric brush, a gum massage stimulator. He picks the  
dental floss.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (CONT'D)

Don't fall asleep. I'll be with you soon, if you know what I mean. I use so many things to clean up the teeth and I still get decays. And this is the reason I read less.

I spend so much time and energy cleaning my teeth, when I'm done I'm exhausted, don't seem able to pick up a book.

After Woody finished with the dental floss he starts using the other devices.

WOODY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Crocodiles have it best. They open their mouth and small birds clean their teeth. I wish there was a device that could replace everything I have. You put it in your mouth and it does everything, brushing, flossing, and you just sit and watch TV or read a book. I'm neanderthalizing myself. I'm becoming a brute: Eat, sleep, go to work, and have some distractions thrown in. Yes, I work less than a Neanderthal had to hunt, and I don't have to fear any animals going for my jugular, but that's it.

Woody is now using the gum massage device. He enters the bedroom where Diane is sleeping soundly. Woody sighs, goes to the living room and turns on the TV.

'LOUIE' the comedy-drama television series with Louis C.K., is on. He watches an episode, turns off the TV, and starts typing on the computer.

LOUIE

a spec script

QUICK DAYDREAM

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

LOUIE

You are in a hotel. You've had a shower. Now you use a plush towel to dry. You use it on your face. Hundreds of men must have wiped

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



LOUIE (cont'd)  
their bottoms, maybe with the very  
part you use for your face. Think  
about it.

Louie imitates a man who uses a towel to dry his bottom,  
then next on his crotch. Next he imitates another man who  
presumably uses the same towel on his face. He looks like he  
is in heaven using such a plush towel.

INT. LOUIE'S APARTMENT - DAY

Louie sits on the sofa eating and watching TV (a Robin Hood  
movie). On the table, a mess: Pizza, ice cream, cheesecake,  
and beer. Louie falls asleep. He has a dream.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CASTLE HALL - EVENING

Louie is a jester at a king's court. The king is giving a  
banquet for his court. Duke Wellington, a very fat man, is  
the object of the jester's jokes.

LOUIE  
A ship sank at Calais before  
sailing, even if there was no  
storm. She was carrying the duke's  
armor. Duke's villagers are going  
hungry this year. He ate the  
harvest. The duke would be very  
good for ambushing the enemy. The  
army could hide behind him.

The duke is fuming but he cannot do anything, everyone  
including the king is laughing at each joke.

LOUIE (CONT'D)  
There is a fat chance the duke  
could touch his toes, ever, ever in  
any position.

Everyone laughs heartily, and after they have stopped:

KING  
Louie, maybe you wanted to say  
"slim chance."

LOUIE  
(looking at the duke)  
No, "fat chance" I meant. It is  
"fat chance."

The king seems to ponder and everyone else too, and after a while they start laughing even louder.

INT. CASTLE HALL - DAY

The king all of a sudden has a heart attack. Someone takes his pulse.

KNIGHT  
The king is dead.

BISHOP  
King's son is too young. We have to move fast before the French find out. I propose we proclaim Duke Wellington as regent until the king's son is fit to reign.

COURT  
The King is dead, long live the Regent!

The duke sits on the throne. He motions to an officer, who approaches him and the duke whispers something into his ear.

OFFICER  
(orders 2 soldiers pointing towards Louie)  
Hold this man!

The soldiers grab Louie and throw him to the floor. The officer pulls out his sword - everyone has frozen in disbelief.

DUKE  
He who laughs last, laughs best.

The officer pretends he will cut off Louie's head, but stops at the last moment. The duke starts laughing and laughing, and after him the whole court. Louie sits up and laughs nervously too.

EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT

Louie is approaching a ship and talks to someone who seems to be the captain.

LOUIE  
When are you leaving?

CAPTAIN  
At dawn.

(CONTINUED)

LOUIE  
How far from here?

CAPTAIN  
Very far away.

Louie hands him a few gold coins.

LOUIE  
I want to come along.

CAPTAIN  
(takes the money)  
Welcome aboard!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HARBOR - MORNING

The ship sails away, we can see her name: Mayflower.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COMEDY CLUB - NIGHT

Louie is on stage.

LOUIE  
Now you know the origin of the  
expression "fat chance" and also  
why there are so many comedians in  
America. It's in the genes, so many  
jesters had to flee Europe when  
they felt their life was in danger  
after the king or queen or some  
other powerful figure no longer  
protected them. And where could  
they flee to and be somehow safe?  
To America the land of free speech.

BACK TO SCENE

Woody looks amused, and content with himself shutting down  
the computer. He enters the bedroom, lies down in bed and  
reaches to turn off the electric space heater. Quite a few  
click noises are being heard.

DIANE  
(woken)  
What're you doing?

(CONTINUED)

WOODY  
Sorry, just trying to switch off  
the damn thing.

DIANE  
It's only one switch!

WOODY  
I can never get it in one switch.

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Woody in bed, he cannot get out of the bed. He shouts in pain. He has to roll over.

DIANE  
Are you Okay?

WOODY  
No more gym, or sports.

Stay at home and watch TV, it's healthier, at least for me.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - RECEPTION

No-one else except Woody is there. There is a sign that says "One question or problem only per visit." The receptionist is JANET (40s), African American.

WOODY  
Hello.

JANET  
Hello.

WOODY  
I'd like to see the doctor.

JANET  
Please take a number.

WOODY  
There is no one else here.

JANE  
Please take a number an then take a  
seat.

Woody reluctantly takes a number - it is 25 - and then sits down.

(CONTINUED)

JANET  
Twenty-three!

Woody looks around.

JANET (CONT'D)  
Twenty-four!  
(pause)  
Twenty-five!

Woody goes to the reception and hands in the number.

JANET (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Reason for your visit?

WOODY  
(looking at the sign)  
Lower back injury.

JANET  
Please go to Room 1, the doctor  
will see you.

Woody enters Room 1 and sits on a chair, the doctor MARTIN  
(50s) shows up.

MARTIN  
How can I help you?

WOODY  
I injured my lower back at the gym.

MARTIN  
Lie down.

The doctor starts feeling the area. At some point Woody  
screams in pain.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
The area is sore. Have a massage  
and I'll prescribe you some pain  
killers.

WOODY  
(pointing to the nose)  
Also, I have this wart ...

MARTIN  
Sorry, only one problem per visit.

WOODY  
There was no-one waiting.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN  
There could be now.

WOODY  
(pointing to a phone on the  
desk)  
Would it be possible to call your  
receptionist and ask?

MARTIN  
Sorry this is the policy.

Woody leaves the room. In the waiting area there is no one.

WOODY  
I'd like to see the doctor again...

JANET  
Please take a number and then take  
a seat.

Woody sighs, takes a number and sits down.

JANET (CONT'D)  
Twenty-six!

Woody goes to the reception and hands in the number.

JANET (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Reason for your visit?

WOODY  
I have this wart on my nose that  
I'd like to be looked at.

JANET  
Please go to Room 2, the doctor  
will see you.

Woody enters Room 2 and sits on a chair, Martin enters the  
room.

MARTIN  
Let's have a look at this wart.

Martin is examining it closer.

MARTIN (CONT'D)  
It seems to be a normal wart,  
however I'll do a biopsy and then  
I'll cauterize it.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

Why did I get it there?

MARTIN

I don't know, it's good it isn't on  
your penis!

(Haha)

WOODY

Why's a biopsy needed? Is it so  
bad?

MARTIN

Precautionary, just to see whether  
there is anything malign.

WOODY

Malign?! Could I have skin cancer?

MARTIN

Don't worry about it. Usually no  
biopsy is required for a wart but  
just in case.

The doctor cauterizes the wart.

WOODY

Don't take it wrongly but I hope I  
won't see you too soon!

MARTIN

(Haha)

Likewise!

Woody goes to the reception.

WOODY

How long does it take for the  
result?

JANET

One week at most.

WOODY

So you'll call me if there is  
something bad.

JANET

Yes, we will.

WOODY

What if the result is good. Will  
you still call me?

(CONTINUED)

JANET

No, we won't, we'll call you only if you need to see the doctor again.

WOODY

I'll be worried sick. If I don't get a call I'll think that either the result was good or you tried to get hold of me and couldn't.

JANET

We'll leave a message.

WOODY

Do you have my correct phone number? 555-588-8578?

JANET

Yes, we do.

WOODY

Can I see for myself in your computer? Sometimes mistakes can happen.

JANET

No you cannot, it is confidential private information.

WOODY

It is my own private information!!!  
Can't I have a look?

JANET

No, you cannot. You have to file a request with the Office for Privacy Access, we receive the request, then we'll print out everything we have on file for you and give it to you. And again we do have your correct phone.

WOODY

Can I call next week to confirm?

JANET

We discourage this as we can get very busy.

WOODY

Can you mail me a copy of the result?

(CONTINUED)



JANET

Yes, this we can do. It is a twenty dollar charge for the copy and mailing and insurance doesn't pay for it.

WOODY

Twenty! Are you going to Fedex it?

JANET

No, regular non-registered mail, fifty if you want to have it Fedexed.

WOODY

(sighs)

I don't want to pay for bad results. It's like adding insult to injury. I might come and pick it up myself. Don't take it wrongly but I hope I won't hear from you!

JANET

(unphased)

Good bye!

EXT. PARK - DAY

Diane and Woody are in a park. They walk by a field where people are playing softball.

WOODY

I have a very pessimistic view of life. You should know this about me now that we are together. For me the glass is never half full, only half empty.

DIANE

I am always glad the glass is half full. It could have been empty.

WOODY

And I feel that life is divided up into the horrible and the miserable. Those are the two categories ...

DIANE

M'hm.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

... you know, the horrible would be like, I don't know, terminal cases, you know?

DIANE

M'hm.

WOODY

And blind people, crippled, don't know how they get through life. It's amazing to me.

DIANE

M'hm.

WOODY

You know, and the miserable is everyone else. That's all. So when you go through life you should be thankful that you're miserable. You're very lucky... to be...(overlapping Diane's laughter)... to be miserable.

DIANE

U-huh.

WOODY

And I'm not a celebration guy, no birthdays, anniversaries, don't like them, don't do them. Christmas and Thanksgiving yes, don't have any choice, have to follow the social norms, don't want to be too much of an outlier. I don't exchange gifts either. So much waste of energy and time. I do buy gifts but randomly, no special days are needed for me to do this.

DIANE

You know what, I feel the same, I'm not so radical like you though.

WOODY

And I'm not a romantic guy.

DIANE

Good to know. I had a feeling you weren't.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

You might send me a message like this. "If you are sleeping, send me your dreams. If you are laughing, send me your smile. If you are eating, send me a bite. If you are drinking, send me a sip. If you are crying, send me your tears." And I'd answer: "I am on the toilet. Please advise."

DIANE

(laughing)

I'd never send such a message!

WOODY

Just in case you do. Don't say you haven't been warned.

DIANE

If you don't mind my asking, how old are you?

WOODY

I don't like talking about it, I go by don't ask, don't tell. I am at the age no-one cares about you. You never hear anyone say someone, I helped a middle age man carry the groceries to his car or I gave my seat in a bus to a middle aged man.

DIANE

(haha)

WOODY

This is the reason I don't go on cruise ships. They say they carry enough life boats, but I am sure they don't. Old people, children, and women will go first, which is normal, and then it will be everyone else. Young men will run faster than me and push me aside. I'll never make it.

DIANE

Linda told me not to take you seriously.

WOODY

Can you imagine thousands of years ago at the age I'm now I would have

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
been considered a wise man, a sage  
held in high esteem by my tribe?

My fellow tribesmen would come to  
me with offerings, first hunt of  
the day or fresh berries with the  
dew still on them, and I'd impart  
advise. An advise so cryptic so  
they wouldn't understand it but  
just enforce in their mind how  
smart I am. Now middle age is only  
a reminder I'll soon end up in home  
care.

DIANE  
It's the pessimist in you who's  
talking.

WOODY  
It's the age I need a family  
doctor, a walk-in clinic no longer  
cuts it, before the rate of success  
was pretty good. In, get the  
treatment, out, I'm cured. Now I'm  
getting back for the same issue,  
and sometimes I have more than one.  
You know Queen Elizabeth the 1st of  
England had the mirrors in her  
palaces removed as she grew older?

DIANE  
And do you have mirrors at home?

WOODY  
(pausing and laughing)  
Yes I do, but I don't have  
calendars, those that you hang up  
with cute animals or landscapes. In  
fact this is one of just a  
multitude of ideas I have,  
calendars without the year. We  
don't need to know the year, only  
the month and day. No need to see a  
constant reminder of the year we  
are in, not much helpful, and for  
sure depressing.

DIANE  
Anything else I need to know about  
you?

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

I catch a cold easily. A colleague gets sick, I'll get it too despite the so many times I wash my hands. Can't prevent falling sick, and now I have OCD too. Have started to hug my colleagues who display signs of having caught a cold just to be done with it.

My sister used to tell me I should wear a sign "fragile."

DIANE

I've found out so much about you.

WOODY

And I don't like making any plans. This way I won't be disappointed if they fail. No plans, no disappointment.

DIANE

(haha)

I think life must be very hard for you!

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Woody in his bed groaning with pain. He cannot stand up and has to roll off the bed.

WOODY (V.O.)

Yes, no more gym. Softball, yes I should play softball, I've seen people young and old playing it.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Tony and Woody are in tennis gear on a tennis court sheltering from a pouring rain.

WOODY

"It's good it's not on your penis." So he said. Now oral sex isn't as appealing as before. Only by uttering this phrase he scared me for life. I am very impressionable especially at a doctor's. You know how they used to brand iron cattle. Now the doctor with his off hand remark brand ironed my brain with "no oral sex." It's like that movie

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)

"Fatal Attraction" that taught me not have extra-marital affairs. Hollywood is like Church, and movies fulfill the role of sermons now. People learn from movies now that they don't go anymore to church.

TONY

You're not married.

WOODY

I'm not, but if I were. And a biopsy to check for skin ...! Don't want to say its name so as to not draw its attention, but you know what I mean.

TONY

Stop worrying about it.

WOODY

I've been eating fruits and vegetables as advised by the government, pay my credit card on time, don't watch too much TV, and save for my old age. Be frugal and not in debt, that's my motto, very Un-American I know. And still I'll get it. I'll be so upset with this outcome.

TONY

I'm sure it will be okay.

WOODY

Hope I don't put much of a burden on you but I'd like you to be the executor of my will. I want to be buried in the frozen north. You know how they discover mummies well preserved in ice or tundra?

TONY

Yes, I do.

WOODY

Aliens or future advanced generations will discover me and might clone me. I want to photoshop a few pictures of me, to look athletic with a nice hair. I want

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)

20/20 vision and a strong healthy smile, no tooth decays, with a minimal amount of time spent on dental hygiene. I want them to make me like that.

TONY

I'm quite sure they will do that.

WOODY

You know people who sleep 4.5 hours a night and wake up refreshed? They discovered they have a certain gene. I want that gene. Now I sleep 8-9 hours and still feel tired. And the gene to be able to drink coffee to give me energy but not affect my sleep pattern. Basically I want a much better, upgraded me.

TONY

Yes, get a list of the genes you wish.

WOODY

And I want something else, won't tell you now, still have to figure out how to ask for it and why it's imperative I should be provided with it.

TONY

I kind of have an idea what you are thinking of, no need to tell me.

WOODY

I'll put my wishes on tables of stone? Do you know we cannot read floppy disks made 30 years ago but we can read what was written 2,000 years ago? Tables of stone will withstand the test of time,

But I'd like first to become a notable person so it is worth for them to clone me. Or at least to be displayed in a world famous museum and to be researched, the subject of PhD dissertations. I don't want to end up on the dissection table of a high-school.

(CONTINUED)

TONY

I can be the executor, but I want very detailed instructions.

(smiling)

It seems you have quite complex demands.

WOODY

At the same time I am OK being average. Average Americans have among the best in the world. If you aren't average you could be very rich but you could be very poor. You could have perfect health, be like those people who have a very nice smile, and they hardly get sick, but you could also have those rare diseases, like flesh eating bacteria or Ebola. So average is good after all, I should be content to only have the illnesses of the average American.

TONY

The rain won't stop too soon. Let's call it a day. See, we wouldn't have this problem in California.

WOODY

I like rain, not now, not today, but in general. I like that I don't feel guilty I spend my weekend indoors.

Tony and Woody are walking to the parking lot.

WOODY (CONT'D)

Have you had requests to put urinals in private houses?

TONY

No, why?

WOODY

Don't think it's a good idea? It would be so convenient and hygienic, no more splashing around, and it'd save water too. It's an idea that would go down well in California.

(CONTINUED)



TONY

I don't know about it.

WOODY

And also save the time you need to lift the seat and put it down if you have a significant other as this is the polite thing to do.

TONY

You have a point here.

WOODY

Microsoft used to ask people at interviews, "How would you design Bill Gates' bathroom?" so when I applied a long time ago I put in my cover letter my ideas, and a urinal was one of them. And have the lid of the toilet come down automatically before you flush. Analyze on the spot the biological waste and send a report to the personal doctor.

TONY

And what was the outcome?

WOODY

Never heard back. Sometimes I think they used my ideas and now Bill Gates has a bathroom like that. Wish I was invited to his house so I could check for myself.

TONY

I'm sure he didn't need your ideas.

WOODY

Listen to me! It's enough a celebrity does it in their house and you will have a steady flow of work designing urinals in the existing bathrooms.

TONY

(haha)

Hope not. See you.

WOODY

See you.

Tony and Woody are getting into their cars.

EXT. PARK - DAY

LARRY (40s) is the captain of a softball amateur team, Woody has just joined.

LARRY  
Have you played softball or  
baseball before?

WOODY  
I haven't. I was on the chess team  
in school.

LARRY  
Let's practice a few catches.

Larry throws the ball. Woody misses it. He picks it up.

WOODY  
Wow! The ball is so hard. Why is it  
called softball?

Woody throws the ball back to Larry who catches it  
effortlessly.

LARRY  
I have no idea.

Larry throws the ball again. This time Woody catches it, but  
it is quite painful.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
Try to catch the ball with the palm  
of your glove, not with the  
fingers.

Later, Woody is waiting to bat. He watches as his teammates  
(mostly women) hit the ball either from the first pitch or  
second. It is Woody's turn. The pitcher throws the ball.  
Woody swings and misses it.

LARRY (CONT'D)  
(shouts)  
Keep your feet parallel, stand with  
your legs shoulder width part.  
Slightly bend your knees. Keep your  
eye on the ball.

The pitcher throws again, Woody misses it again. His  
teammates encourage him.

Pitcher throws again. Woody swings and this time he hits the  
ball, not very far but he does hit it and the other team  
doesn't catch it.

(CONTINUED)

He starts running... with the bat in his hand. His teammates shout him to drop the bat. He drops it and reaches first base. Everyone applauds.

Next batter from Woody's team hits the ball far away. Woody starts running to second base. Someone from his team shouts to stop and go back. He stops disoriented.

"Run back," they shout to him. He runs back, almost colliding with a well-built woman, who steps on his foot. Then he is accidentally hit with the "soft" ball in the forehead. He falls, passes out for a very short time, wakes up with everyone around him. His first words:

WOODY

This sport should be called  
"hardball" not "softball"!

LARRY

Are you okay?

WOODY

(standing up)

We'll see at the brain scan!

Everyone laughs and applauds. Woody limps.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - ROOM

MARTIN

(looking at a file in front of  
him)

The result of the biopsy is  
negative. Now let's look at your  
foot.

WOODY

It's so disconcerting, this  
"negative" thing, it should be  
called "positive." It's positive  
for me.

MARTIN

It's negative because we could not  
find what we were looking for. It's  
the correct term.

The doctor, Martin, is examining Woody's foot. Woody shouts in pain.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

It'll take a few weeks to heal.

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

No need for an X ray?!

MARTIN

There is no need, even if your bones are broken we won't do anything about them. I see you have a concussion, judging by your forehead. What happened?

WOODY

I was hit by a ball that I'd always thought would be soft, during a softball game. Do I need a brain scan?

MARTIN

Have you experienced any loss of memory?

WOODY

Not more than usual.

MARTIN

(haha)

No need for a brain scan.

WOODY

Finally only good news today. I needed it. Now I can focus on my campaign to change the name of the softball to something else that more accurately describes it. Hardball?! I don't others to be deceived like me. Wars have been started in the past because of misunderstandings.

MARTIN

(haha)

Good luck in your endeavour.

WOODY

Good bye. And again I hope I won't see you again too soon. Been seeing a lot of you lately. Not a good sign.

INT. GYM - DAY

Woody is watching TV and doing arm curls (we don't see the weights). He is panting, and really pushing himself.

News is about the Chinese billionaire Wang Jianlin, a former People's Liberation Army soldier, and his plans for the Oriental Movie Metropolis, the future Chinese Hollywood.

Next news is about the escape of a drug cartel lord in Mexico.

Woody is done, he puts the weights on the rack. They are 15 pound weights.

INT. WOODY'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Woody is at his computer searching for Wang Jianlin. He reads a few articles.

WOODY (V.O.)  
 Hmm, an army man! I have a movie  
 for you.

Woody types the title of the movie "Spitfire."

QUICK DAYDREAM

Young Chinese (CHEN, 24) is fascinated by Spitfires and Battle of Britain. He spends most of his free time playing air fighter computer games.

One day he visits a fair, where there is a model of a Spitfire and a Spitfire simulator.

Everything looks almost real, he has to wear a WWII British pilot uniform to get into the simulator.

Before he climbs into the plane, he is given the mission by a very British-looking gentleman:

ATTENDANT  
 Your mission is to defend humanity  
 from the barbarity descending upon  
 the world.

On a screen there are images of the Nazi marches, summary executions, extermination camps, a little girl shot by an SS officer.

Tears come to Chen's eyes.

Chen goes into the simulator, the door closes, and everything looks so real.

(CONTINUED)

He takes off, fights but he is shot down almost immediately by a German fighter.

Chen comes out shaking.

CHEN

I am so good at aerial fights. I have reached the top level, I don't know how it happened.

ATTENDANT

This is not a game. This is the real thing!

Someone else is waiting, Again, Chen watches the screen. Again, the little girl, shot by an SS officer.

Chen face shows determination, he goes home and starts reading everything that he can find about Spitfires and Battle of Britain, he reads biographies of the British flying aces of that time. He also reads a lot about the German fighters. He starts practicing martial arts as well in order to improve his physical endurance and concentration.

After work he goes every day to the fair, he gets better but he still is being shot, without shooting down anyone.

One evening he goes to the fair, which is being closed to move to other cities, all the installations are being removed; he is devastated, he bribes someone to get one last chance to enter.

This is it. Chen takes off and starts shooting down enemy planes, adrenaline is high.

Next, Chen wakes up in a hospital.

"Where am I?" he asks a nurse. "Hospital St. James."

"I don't know it, which city?"

"New York."

Chen sees a newspaper on a bedside table, title "War Ravages Europe, Hitler Winning," date, 10 July 1941. He tells the medical staff he comes from the future. They put him in the psychiatric ward. He pretends he has been cured in order to be released.

Chen flees to Canada and asks to become a volunteer in RAF, being Asian they don't trust him, he reveals characteristics of the Spitfires and Messerschmidts. They think he is a spy and send him to England.

(CONTINUED)

There, RAF interrogate him as he knows too many things that are still well-guarded secrets. About the radar for example. Chen doesn't want to tell them he comes from the future not to be put in a mental institution again. He is considered a spy and sent to a camp for captured German pilots. However, before that, Douglas Bader (RAF flying ace) - even he does not know what to make of Chen - makes an effort to listen to him and learn.

In the camp he has an altercation with some of the pilots when he tells them about the war crimes Nazi Germany, including the Wehrmacht, is committing. Almost no one believes him, and all the other prisoners shun him with the exception of JUERGEN (28s) who befriends him and confesses he hates the Nazis and he knows what they are capable of.

With the help of Juergen, Chen escapes the camp, steals a car and drives to a RAF airport. There he manages to take off with a Spitfire, gets into an air battle, and shoots down a few German planes.

After this Chen is still not trusted to fly, the thing he wants most, but this time RAF pays attention to him, and he trains fighter pilots.

A nurse ANN (22) takes a liking to Chen. They start seeing each other. Ann's family, typical English family of that time, stereotypes and prejudices against Asians. A very embarrassing conversation happens during a dinner. Ann storms out, taking Chen with her.

They go to a pub. Racist remarks, Chen is picked on. He tries not to pay any attention but when Ann is picked on, he cannot take it anymore. A fight ensues, Chen puts his martial arts skills to good use easily overpowering his opponents.

It is 1941, and Chen manages to have a meeting with the US military attaché, who incredulously listens to what Chen says. Chen's medical dossier from the States proves to him Chen is not mentally sound, however he decides to communicate to the ambassador what he's learned.

AMBASSADOR

So how does he know all this?

MILITARY ATTACHÉ

I don't know. Maybe he is psychic.

AMBASSADOR

I can't inform the president a  
psychic has told us the exact place  
and date Japan will attack.

(CONTINUED)

Ann and Chen have a last date. He tells her about his plans of going to the US. Ann cries, implores him to stay, but Chen says he must go, and promises he will be back and will ask her to marry him. Heartbreaking scene.

He boards a plane for New York, clandestine, makes it to Oahu, he is considered a Japanese spy because he has a manual how to fly an American fighter plane. Chen is put in a jail.

He escapes the morning of December 7th due to the chaos, takes off with a plane, and he fights the Japanese aircraft attacking Pearl Harbor.

The Japanese have finished their mission and are flying back to the aircraft carriers. Chen lands, has a torpedo armed to his plane after some convincing work, takes off in the direction of the Japanese expeditionary force.

An aircraft carrier is in his visual sight. He flies closer and closer. Anti-aircraft guns shoot at him. Chen's plane explodes.

Chen wakes up in a hospital (his Chinese city): Present day.

CHEN  
Where is Ann?

CHEN'S MOTHER  
Who? Who is Ann?

CHEN  
Is the war over?

CHEN'S MOTHER  
What war? What are you talking about?

CHEN  
Where am I?

CHEN'S MOTHER  
In the <name> hospital. You've been in a coma for 3 months.

Chen turns his head, tears come to the corner of his eyes.

BACK TO SCENE

Woody looks at the watch. It is almost 2 AM, he sighs and starts typing again.

QUICK DAYDREAM



Title - The Cartel

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Jason is tied to a chair with a hood over his head. A video screen is set up in front of him.

RAUL, 30, a well-built man, YANKS the hood off. Jason shakes his head to clear the fogginess.

MANUEL (O.S.)

The tranquilizer effects should be wearing off about now.

JASON

Where is my family?

MANUEL "EL REX" ESCOBAR, 42, a hardened man nobody would want to mess with, walks over to him.

MANUEL

Your family is safe... for now. And whether you see them again depends on you. You killed two of my men and wounded some others.

JASON

They were trying to kill my family.

MANUEL

Not kill you. Escort you. But the dead are only the cost of doing business. Besides, if you weren't so good at killing, we wouldn't even need you.

JASON

What do you want?

MANUEL

We need you to find a man who betrayed us and kill him.

JASON

I'm not a killer for hire.

MANUEL

You better learn to be or you will never see your family again.

JASON

I want to see them now!

Raul PUNCHES Jason in the face.

(CONTINUED)

RAUL  
Do not interrupt!

MANUEL  
Forgive Raul, he can be rough but  
his methods have their time and  
place.

The video screen comes to life and a video and photographs  
of Roberto Galarza appears.

MANUEL (CONT'D)  
This is the man who you must kill:  
Roberto Galarza. He betrayed me and  
killed some of my men. Behead him  
and post the video of his execution  
online. Then bring me his hand and  
the ring that he wears.

JASON  
How come I get the honors?

MANUEL  
We considered others but did not  
think they would have succeeded,  
and we would have had to kill their  
families. It would have made us  
look bad if we had failed to  
silence him.

JASON  
And put you in jail.

Manuel nods.

MANUEL  
You took ten years to find Bin  
Laden but you have only ten days to  
find that *hijo de puta*.

JASON  
I want to see my family first!

Raul hits him again.

RAUL  
We didn't say you could speak!

Jason rocks back and then forward in the chair and  
head-butts Raul, knocking him to the ground. Raul gets up  
and is ready to pummel Jason but Manuel intervenes.

(CONTINUED)

MANUEL

Enough. We have to keep him healthy  
and ready to go on his mission.

RAUL

After this is over, we will settle  
up, puta.

JASON

Let's see how brave you are against  
men who aren't tied to a chair, you  
pussy.

Raul goes to punch Jason but again, Manuel stops him.

MANUEL

I said, enough! Let's show Mr.  
Smith what the stakes are.

The video screen comes on again and shows Jason's family in  
a clean, well-lit room.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

As you can see, they are quite  
comfortable and safe. However, if  
you do not succeed, they will be  
burned alive, but not before my men  
take turns with them.

JASON

I would kill you all if that  
happens.

MANUEL

Don't fail me, then. Here is a  
reminder of what is in store for  
them if you do fail.

Raul rips Jason's shirt, pours some gasoline on a part of  
the bare skin of his arm and lights it on fire for a few  
seconds.

Jason SCREAMS.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

Remember what it feels like.  
Remember how it will feel to them.

JASON

If you hurt them, I'll--

(CONTINUED)

MANUEL

If you fail, you will be dead.  
Also, do not have any moral  
scruples about killing this man. He  
murdered many people, maybe many  
more than the number of terrorists  
you have killed.

JASON

That was my job.

MANUEL

This mission is also your job. Do  
not fail or we will all be sorry.

JASON

Not as much as you will be.

Manuel laughs.

MANUEL

Failure is not an option, Mr.  
Smith. Everyone who has tried to  
cross us has paid with their life.  
And their family's lives.

Manual starts to walk away. He stops, turns back, grins at  
Jason.

MANUEL (CONT'D)

One other thing. I like giving the  
people I hire resources as well.  
Threats are not enough, I know this  
from experience. So you will get  
one million now, and one million  
after the job is done. Just so  
there are no hard feelings between  
us. Besides, you might need the  
money to fulfill your mission. We  
all know Uncle Sam doesn't pay very  
well.

From behind, a MAN IN A LAB COAT injects him and Jason's  
body goes limp.

EXT. BUS STATION IN MEXICO - DAY

Jason lies on a bench in a bus station in the middle of  
nowhere. A cabbie, ALBERTO, 60, shakes him.

ALBERTO

Gringo, gringo wake up!

Jason stirs, sees Alberto and GRABS him.

(CONTINUED)

JASON  
Who brought me here?

ALBERTO  
Tranquilo, senor! I don't know!

JASON  
Who sent you?

ALBERTO  
I got a call from a man saying to  
come here and pick you up and that  
you pay me well to help you.

JASON  
Are you telling the truth?

ALBERTO  
Yes, I swear. I have no reason to  
lie.

Jason looks at him, comes to a decision, lets him go.

JASON  
Do you have a bag?

ALBERTO  
Yes.

Jason starts to undress and puts his clothes in the bag,  
remaining in his underwear.

JASON  
Give me your phone.

ALBERTO  
My phone?

JASON  
Do you still have the number of the  
man who called to your phone?

ALBERTO  
I don't know, I should.

Jason punches in a number.

ALBERTO (CONT'D)  
Hey, who are you calling? Is it  
long distance?

Jason doesn't answer, reaches for a suitcase, opens it, and  
tosses some bills at Alberto.

(CONTINUED)

ALBERTO (CONT'D) (cont'd)  
Thank you, senor.

JASON  
Jerry, I need a favor. Can you give me a list of the numbers who called this phone? I need it ASAP. Thanks. I owe you one.

He hangs up.

ALBERTO  
Senor, where do you wish to go?

JASON  
First off, I need to buy a few cell phones. Second, some place to buy some clothes.

ALBERTO  
For the amount of money you've given me, I can sell you my shirt and pants.

Alberto grins but Jason is no mood for joking.

JASON  
There's more money for you if you you can run some errands for me. But nobody can know. First off, we get these to my friend.

He tosses Alberto the bag of clothes.

Jason's expression is one of determination and also anger.

EXT. MEXICO CITY - DAY

Jason and Alberto enter the city in the cab.

INT. ALBERTO'S CAB - DAY

Jason sits in the front seat as Alberto drives.

ALBERTO  
Where are we going, senor?

JASON  
Some friends of mine.

ALBERTO  
Tell me where to go and I will take you.

(CONTINUED)

JASON

No, drop me off here and get us some rooms for the night. Make sure they are off the main street--

ALBERTO

I understand. Nobody will know we are there.

JASON

It sounds like you've done this before.

ALBERTO

What makes you think that I haven't?

Alberto laughs.

JASON

I'll call you later for the address.

EXT. MEXICO CITY STREET - DAY

Jason gets out of Alberto's cab and makes a call on his cell phone, talks very shortly, and then discards the cell phone.

He starts walking down the street.

Jason comes to a rundown office building and enters.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Jason enters the building lobby. It is old and seemingly in disrepair. If one looks carefully, several high-tech surveillance can be seen.

Jason passes through the security checkpoint, and then over to the receptionist, and presents his identification.

JASON

I'm Jason Smith. I have an appointment.

She is all-business as she checks the computer monitor.

RECEPTIONIST

He is expecting you. Fourth floor.

Jason heads toward the old-style elevator with the gate that closes over it.

INT. FOURTH FLOOR HALLWAY - DAY

Jason exits the elevator and walks down the dingy hallway that has peeling wallpaper and faded paint on the walls.

INT. JERRY'S LAB - DAY

Jason enters a lab. In stark contrast to what he has seen so far, it is modern and high-tech.

JERRY ADAMS, a nerdy-looking guy, looks up and smiles.

JASON

Jerry, still watching porn?

JERRY

Any time I can. It's my job to monitor what our targets are watching in hopes that it will provide insight into the way they think.

JASON

And you like it.

Jerry shrugs.

JERRY

I admit that I have a fondness for  
-

Jason holds up his hands.

JASON

- I don't need to hear it.

They both laugh but then Jerry becomes serious.

JERRY

I'm sorry about your family.  
Whatever you need from me, you got it.

JASON

Thanks. What do you have for me?

JERRY

The call came from a payphone.

JASON

Any satellite images?

(CONTINUED)



JERRY

No. They know when our eyes fly over and they adjust accordingly.

JASON

Anything on the clothes?

JERRY

The usual that could be found all throughout Mexico. I'll give you the full written report before you go.

The door to the office opens and WALLACE THOMSON (50s) walks in. He has an air of menacing authority, the look of the CIA boss that he is.

JASON

Wallace, I didn't know you were down here in Mexico.

WALLACE

You're not supposed to know. A word with you in private.

He nods to Jerry who stands and leaves the room.

JASON

He was just doing me a favor.

Wallace holds his hand up.

WALLACE

We all do favors for fellow agents. And for former agents. Hey, we're all one big happy family.

Jason is wary, senses a trap.

JASON

My family was kidnapped by Escobar. He wants me to take out a man who betrayed him. Roberto Galarza. Do you know where he is?

WALLACE

Officially, we do not. Our orders are to stand down while the FBI and Mexico conduct their business. They don't want us to get in the way.

(CONTINUED)

JASON  
Unofficially?

WALLACE  
Unofficial is unofficial. It  
doesn't exist. You remember how  
that game is played, don't you?

JASON  
All too well. Can you help me?

Wallace slowly shakes his head.

WALLACE  
I can't. But I have no problem with  
you talking to Jerry and the other  
techies about things. Also, I have  
no problem with you sitting in on a  
background briefing for some of my  
agents regarding the cartels that's  
going on now. It's in a conference  
room 2 on the first floor. If you  
hurry, there's a part coming up  
that you might be particularly  
interested in.

JASON  
Thanks, Wallace.

WALLACE  
I don't know what you're talking  
about.

Jason heads out. Wallace watches him leave and then calls on  
his cell.

WALLACE (CONT'D)  
I want to know everything that  
Jason Smith does until further  
notice.

BACK TO SCENE

INT. OFFICE - MORNING

Woody enters the office and sits at his desk. He turns to  
Danny.

WOODY  
Where's Rob? He's usually here  
before me.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Haven't you heard? I found out this morning too. He passed away.

WOODY

What?! What happened?

DANNY

Heart attack they say, all of a sudden, his wife found him collapsed on the floor.

WOODY

(visible shaken)

How is it possible? So young and fit.

DANNY

It happens.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - LATER

Woody is smoking. Danny is coming in with a take away lunch.

DANNY

I didn't know you were smoking.

WOODY

I wasn't. I started today. What's the point of eating healthy and going to the gym? You think it will delay the inevitable, but it doesn't seem to help.

DANNY

Rob's passing away affected all of us. But think of his wife and children, they were affected most. Smoking won't help you or anyone else. Let's go.

Woody seems to have tears in his eyes. He throws the cigarette and follows Danny.

INT. CAR - EVENING

Diane and Woody are in a car, Woody drives.

WOODY

All these people driving, bringing home the honey.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

You mean the bacon?

WOODY

The honey not the bacon, the expression should be changed. Bring home the honey is more inclusive as many people don't eat pork. And also it has a nice religious connotation, the land of milk and honey. Do you know the origin of the expression?

DIANE

I don't.

WOODY

They say the church in some small town in England some one thousand years ago would award a side of bacon to any man who could honestly say that he had not argued with his wife for a year and a day. "Bringing home the bacon" meant the man was considered a role model for his community.

DIANE

Sounds somehow romantic.

WOODY

Anyway, I'm sure the expression will change soon to "bring home the honey." It has to change. More and more people are learning English, it is becoming Earth's lingua franca. Many non-native speakers, if they are Muslim, or Jewish or vegetarian or Hindu, do they eat bacon? I know the Hindu don't eat beef, I'm not so sure about pork, but for argument's sake let's say they don't. Where was I?

DIANE

Talking about non-native English speakers.

WOODY

Yes, they cannot use "bring home the bacon," but "bring home the honey" is universal. When the time comes I want to use my fifteen

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WOODY (cont'd)  
minutes of fame intelligently.  
"Bring home the honey" is on my  
list to spread it. There's only a  
legend about the origin of "bring  
home the bacon" but there won't be  
any legend about the origin of  
"bring home the honey." It will be  
a fact, I did it, and this will be  
my legacy to the mankind.

Woody swerves brusquely as he didn't notice a car in front  
of him stopping.

DIANE  
Be careful, stop talking! Watch the  
road!

They drive on, a police car is on a side of the road.

WOODY  
Police cars make me uneasy. I'm  
always afraid they'll stop me  
because I did something wrong that  
I wasn't even aware of. They even  
might arrest me and end up in a  
Kafkaesque situation.

Moments of silence.

WOODY (CONT'D)  
I have a feeling you don't know  
what the word Kafkaesque means and  
you didn't ask, but in fact it's  
not important to know it, and  
perhaps only a few times in your  
life you'll come across this term,  
and maybe not even then and I hope  
you'll never be in a situation to  
naturally come to you to say "this  
is Kafkian." Have you read the book  
'The Trial' by Kafka?

DIANE  
I haven't. Was it good?

WOODY  
It's part of some list of "100  
books of the Century." Too good,  
unfortunately, as it made a long  
lasting impression on me, and now I  
fear the police even if I like to  
think I'm a law abiding citizen.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY (LA)

Woody and Tony are in front of a mansion, which belongs to the executive producer JERRY GOLDSTEIN (60s). There is a bench beside the door, and also a water dispenser. Tony rings the bell. Above the door there is a CCTV camera.

WOODY

You designed his house?

TONY

Not this house, his vacation house.  
Good morning.

JERRY (O.S.)

Good morning, sorry, I'm in the  
middle of something, I'll be ready  
soon.

WOODY

Why is he having us at his house  
and not his office?

TONY

I don't know, tax purposes I  
suppose.

WOODY

And who's got a bench in front of  
their door?

TONY

If he uses it as an office it makes  
sense. Tell me, how's it going with  
you and Diane? Getting married?

WOODY

I think she'd like too but I don't  
feel like committing. What if I  
become wildly successful, tons of  
girls will throw at me. It would be  
impolite to turn them down.

TONY

Listen to yourself. Get a hold of  
yourself! You won't find someone  
like her. Didn't you say the first  
question you got asked while online  
dating was "What car are you  
driving?"

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

That's true. I felt so terrible  
disappointing them.

JERRY (O.S.)

Come on up. Take the stairs, first  
door on the right.

Tony and Woody go up, open the door. Jerry comes to them and  
shake their hands.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Sorry to keep you waiting. Let's  
get down to business. I don't  
usually do this but I'm doing a  
favor to Tony.

(to Woody)

What do you have?

WOODY

'New Leader' screenplay, you know  
how North Korea is always  
negatively portrayed? What about a  
movie about how the leader of North  
Korea is doing good things?

QUICK DAYDREAM

Newspaper splashes: "North Korea cancels nuclear program,"  
"North Korea embarks on economic reform," "North Korean  
leader to address Congress."

INT. US CONGRESS

NEW LEADER

I'm very glad to be here. I feel  
very safe. No one can assassinate  
me here.

(everyone laughs)

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

New Leader, civilians and military (North Korea, South Korea  
and US) are sitting at a round table.

SK CIVILIAN

Fifteen billion dollars for  
seventy-two decrepit submarines?!

SK GENERAL

They are no match for our forces.  
In case of conflict they'd be sunk  
in the first twenty-four hours.

(CONTINUED)

NK GENERAL

Our announcement we want to sell our submarine fleet has been met with interest. We've been approached by other parties, government and

(pause)

non-government entities.

(looking at US General)

In the wrong hands unfortunately they can do lots of damage.

US GENERAL

Do you mean terrorist organizations?

NK GENERAL

We don't deal with terrorists. We deal with legally registered organizations. However, we don't care what they do with the merchandise later. Same as Smith & Wesson. They just sell guns, it's not their responsibility how people use them.

AMERICAN CIVILIAN

The price has to be much lower as we'd purchase all of the submarines. You'd still get more than you'd get on the open market. Can't justify this price for the tax payer.

NEW LEADER

(towards American civilian)

What if America didn't need any soldiers stationed in Korea? How much will the tax payer save?

(towards US general)

You have more troops defending Seoul than your own border. But drugs cartels and terrorism pose a bigger threat to America than Democratic Korea.

Operation Pastorius in 1942. Eight Nazi agents are brought on US soil by two submarines. Their mission was to sabotage economic targets and spread a wave of terror by planting explosives in public places. Fortunately one of the

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



NEW LEADER (cont'd)  
agents betrayed the mission and no  
damage was done.

(toward SK delegation)  
2010, Cheonan ship was sunk, you  
said by a Democratic People's  
Republic of Korea submarine, never  
proved. Forty-six people died. How  
much is it worth one man's life?  
And you know very well all these  
money will come back to you. We  
want to modernize our economy and  
improve people's life, so we will  
buy goods and machinery from you.

Silence. SK and American delegation look at a SK civilian,  
who seems to be the highest in charge, but hasn't spoken a  
word. He nods.

SK CIVILIAN  
Agreed.

BACK TO SCENE

WOODY  
And more scenes like that.

JERRY  
Sound interesting, but it might be  
too toxic. You never know how  
they'd react. Anything else?

WOODY  
Still political, but a comedy this  
time.

Woody hands over to Jerry a screenplay with the title  
'Putin.'

QUICK DAYDREAM

A man resembling Putin is in all the following scenes.  
Kills a saber-toothed tiger with empty hands, Tarzan-like.  
Shirtless, rides a mammoth.  
Fights the Mongols.  
Fights the Teutons.  
Fights the Nazi SS in WWII  
Fights ISIS.

(CONTINUED)

BACK TO SCENE

JERRY

Comedy, comedy, but do you want to start a world war, a war that will end the civilization as we know it? We would change the title for sure but still? Charlie Chaplin made 'The Great Dictator' and one year later Hitler declared war on America, one of the reasons, I'm sure being this movie. Who's your agent?

WOODY

I don't have an agent?

Jerry throws the script as if it is contaminated.

JERRY

I'd thought you had one. Can't talk to you any more.

Jerry scribbles something on a business card.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Here you are. Tell him I sent you and he will put you in touch with one of our studio's readers.

INT. AGENT'S OFFICE - DAY

MARK(30s) is the agent. Woody and Mark shake hands. Mark sits back in the chair.

MARK

(gesturing to a pile of scripts)

Give me two minutes?

Mark takes a script that seems quite thick, he opens it to the last page.

MARK (CONT'D)

185 pages! Does he think he's Quentin Tarantino?

He throws the script away in a 'Recycling' bin. Next script he picks up seems quite thin. He throws it away too. Next one seems OK, he takes a ruler and starts measuring something on the page. It seems OK, Mark sighs, and puts it on another pile on his desk. He then proceeds in the same manner with the rest of the scripts, most of them end up in the recycling bin.

(CONTINUED)

MARK (CONT'D) (cont'd)

OK.

Woody hands him four scripts. Mark takes one randomly and browses it.

MARK (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Two brads, good. All of them like that?

WOODY

Yes.

MARK

Formatting?

WOODY

Industry standard! Used Final Draft.

MARK

Pages?

WOODY

All of them more than 80 pages, but fewer than 130.

MARK

Good.

Mark puts them on the pile next to him and then takes the pile and throws it in a quite huge closet full of scripts.

MARK (CONT'D)

The studio will contact you if we decide to move forward with any of your scripts.

EXT. HOUSE - GARDEN

The house is white, around it there is a white picket fence. An SUV (Tesla X) can be seen in the driveway. Woody gets out of a small bathroom. While closing the door a urinal can be seen.

Go goes to the yard and starts playing with two kids. Diane reads a book in a chair. They seem to be happy and content.

DIANE

How was your day?

(CONTINUED)

WOODY

Usual stuff, the average day,  
working in insurance isn't too  
exciting and I enjoy it like that.  
Being the average of the averagest  
is the best state one can be in.

FADE OUT.

THE END