

FAT DAN THE WEATHER MAN

"Pilot"

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COLD OPEN

EXT. SUBURBAN PHOENIX - MORNING

DAN DANIELS (40's, chubby) sits behind the wheel of his SUV as he drives his son DAN JR. (8) to school.

DAN

I'm proud of you, buddy. Third grade.
In some cultures you'd be considered a
man now.

*
*
*

He tassels Dan Jr.'s hair.

*

DAN JR.

Really?

*

DAN

Sure. After school you'd have to hunt
for our food. And plow the fields.

*
*

DAN JR.

That sounds terrible.

*
*

DAN

That's what men do. We hunt. And plow.

*
*

DAN JR.

Then why are you always playing golf
and getting massages?

*
*
*

DAN

I was just making a point about men.
And I'm not "always" getting massages-

*
*
*

DAN JR.

Hey look, it's you Dad!

*
*

He spots a billboard for the local KPHX news team.

*

Dan is in back smiling, and up front is Irene Sanchez, a good looking anchor woman in a red blazer.

DAN JR. (CONT'D)

Is that lady your boss?

DAN

No! Why do you ask?

*

DAN JR.

Because you're in back, and she's up
front like, hey look at me, I'm the
boss.

*
*
*
*

DAN *
 It was just a fun pose for the group. *
 We're all one big team. *

DAN JR. *
 But she made you stand in back? *

DAN *
 She didn't *make* me. Trust me, weather *
 man is the best job in the world. Fun, *
 easy, and everyone loves you. *

DAN JR. *
 I thought it's hard to predict the *
 weather. *

DAN *
 Well, I don't "predict" it as much as *
 read it off the cue cards. *

DAN JR. *
 I always thought you predict it. *

DAN *
 No, I just read the cards. *

DAN JR. *
 Then why do they even need you? If *
 everyone has the weather on their *
 phone can't they just- *

DAN *
 You know what, we've gone way off *
 topic. What were we talking about? *

DAN JR. *
 Your boss lady. *

DAN *
 Before that. *

DAN JR. *
 Hunting and plowing. *

DAN *
 We really need to work on our morning *
 small talk. *

OPENING TITLES AND CREDITS

CARD: FAT DAN THE WEATHER MAN *

ACT ONE

Upbeat music plays over a series of vignettes, as we watch Dan embark on his morning routine.

EXT. SCHOOL

Dan drops Dan Jr. at the curb and calls out to the teacher on the car line.

DAN
I found this kid hitchhiking on the interstate, can you take him in?

The teacher laughs, as if it's a different joke every day.

INT. MARCEL'S BAKERY

Dan picks up a box of pastries as a female customer asks to take a selfie with him.

As they take the picture, he plants a big, sloppy kiss on her cheek and gets a laugh from the nearby customers.

EXT. KPHX SECURITY KIOSK

Dan rolls down his window as the security guard emerges.

DAN
Hi, I'll take a Grande Mochaccino.

The guard laughs when he sees it's Dan.

They do an elaborate handshake, then he opens the gate.

EXT. KPHX PARKING LOT

Dan pulls into a space which is clearly reserved for Irene Sanchez.

He parks as we ANGLE on his vanity plate: FAT DAN.

INT. KPHX STUDIO

Dan stands by the craft service table telling jokes to the crew, when IRENE SANCHEZ (30's, Latina) enters wearing a fitted red blazer and not a hair out of place.

IRENE
Thanks for parking in my spot again Dan. Real classy.

DAN
So sorry Irene. Force of habit.

IRENE

And why aren't you rehearsing? Look alive, we're on the air soon.

DAN

Irene, I'm the weather guy. Let's not over think my job.

IRENE

How is that even a job? You work a half hour in the morning, a half hour at night and play golf all day.

DAN

It is a relaxing schedule, I'll give you that. But can you really stay mad at a guy who stopped at Marcel's for your birthday?!

He dramatically unveils a box of gourmet cupcakes.

DAN (CONT'D)

Ta da.

IRENE

Dan, your schtick is getting so old.

DAN

Oh come on. Even Hitler's first reaction would be "Oooh, cupcakes."

IRENE

You're comparing me to Hitler now?

DAN

I'm just saying he liked cupcakes more than you. Don't read anything into that.

IRENE

I can't do this. I worked too hard to get here. Put myself through school, immigrated with my family as a child, literally on my father's back-

DAN

Oh boy, here we go with the "father's back" story.

IRENE

Are you making fun of my story?

DAN

I love the story. I just think, you know, maybe there's some embellishment going on.

IRENE

Is that so.

DAN

How would he carry you that far? Was he an Ironman triathlete? Did he purchase some type of special harness?

IRENE

He just did. He was a great man.

DAN

My guess is he carried you for five minutes then said holy crap Irene you weigh 60 pounds, you need to walk.

IRENE

I have never, in my life-

The Executive Producer HENRY (60) steps in.

HENRY

Guys, I think we need to talk.

CREW

Good idea. / Yes. / Absolutely.

They leave, as the crew descend upon the cupcakes.

INT. KPHX - BACK STAGE - CONTINUOUS

While the male co-anchor does a cooking segment in the background, Dan, Irene and Henry huddle and talk softly.

HENRY

This drama's got to end. Ratings have plateaued, and our #1 spot is in jeopardy.

DAN

Maybe it's Irene. Is there research that shows small children are scared of her?

IRENE

The problem is Dan. Who wants to watch a weather man with a poor work ethic and a palpable sense of entitlement?

DAN

Oh that's the vibe I give off?

IRENE

You ooze it from every chubby, sweaty pore.

DAN

That's low. You know I'm sensitive about my weight.

IRENE

Oh, you're *sensitive* now. Your license plate says FAT DAN, and you sell unauthorized Fat Dan merchandise on Etsy.

DAN

(Aside, to Henry)

That's not true. A few belts maybe.

HENRY

Guys, this is the problem. Right here. This tension shows on air.

DAN

What more can I do? I've tried.

HENRY

I was thinking... maybe you two could try flirting a little on air.

Irene pretends to hold back vomiting.

DAN

Fake vomit? That's my schtick. She's stealing my schtick, Henry!

IRENE

I can not flirt with this man. I would never respect myself.

DAN

Plus I'm pretty rusty in the flirting department. Throw Irene into the mix and it's a recipe for disaster.

HENRY

You guys are pros. I'm sure you can fake it for 20 seconds.

They both mull it over.

IRENE

Fine. If our kids are friends, no reason we can't get along. I'll flirt with Dan and try to suppress my inner repulsion.

DAN

And I'll flirt with Irene. Even though the very idea is the boner killer to end all boner killers.

HENRY

I feel like we're making progress here.

INT. - KPHX STUDIO

The broadcast is LIVE, as Dan finishes his weather segment.

DAN

...and that's the five-day, back to you, Irene.

IRENE

Looks like some bad hair days coming up with that humidity.

DAN

Not for you, you always look so nice.

IRENE

I'm blushing. You're not looking so bad yourself. Have you lost weight?

DAN

Not even close, but thanks for asking.

The news team all laugh.

RICK THE SPORTS GUY

Get a room, you two!

We cut to the control room as a very pleased Henry motions for them to keep going. Then it all goes wrong.

On the monitor Dan's face is suddenly covered by black bars.

SFX: (BLEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEP!)

HENRY

Did he just say-

SCOTTY

I think he did.

HENRY
(To the engineer)
Did we bleep it in time?

ENGINEER
We're looking at a semi-bleep. I
didn't see it coming.

Henry closes his eyes.

CUT back to the LIVE broadcast. Irene is speechless.

IRENE
O-kayyy then. On that note, why don't
we sign off and wish you all a
pleasant day, Phoenix.

She forces a smile until they are off the air.

Then all hell breaks loose and everyone converges on Dan.

HENRY
What the hell was that?!

DAN
What? You told me to flirt.

IRENE
You call that flirting? That was the
filthiest thing ever uttered on TV.

HENRY
You obviously can't say that phrase on
the air, Dan.

DAN
Sure you can. I heard it on Bill Maher
last week.

HENRY
That's pay cable. This is morning
broadcast. We can't even say butt.

DAN
We can't?

HENRY
No, we have to say tush or hiney. You
should know that by now.

DAN
I have to be honest, based on this
reaction I'm not sure I even know what
the phrase means.

Someone whispers in his ear.

DAN (CONT'D)
Good God that's gross. People do that?

HENRY
Why would you use a phrase you don't
know the meaning of?!

DAN
I told you I was rusty! I asked Scotty
for flirting tips and that was on his
list.

He holds up the list Scotty gave him.

SCOTTY
That one was a joke. Obviously!

HENRY
Dan, this is the wrong climate for
this. Too many headlines like this.

IRENE
I'm just going to come out and say it.
Maybe it's time to cut Dan loose.

The room goes quiet. All eyes go to Henry.

DAN
Henry. Explain to her how this works.

HENRY
I'm in a tough spot, Dan. Irene's the
future of this broadcast. You're the
guy who just offended a whole gender.
What would you do in my shoes?

DAN
I'd chuckle lightheartedly and say
let's all get back to work.

Henry looks at Irene, who glares at him with arms crossed.

HENRY
No one's chuckling, Dan. Kills me to
say this, but you had a good run.

DAN
What? You can't fire me! I'm too
popular. I'm Fat Dan the Weather Man.

IRENE

You'll always be fat and you'll always be named Dan. No one can take that away from you.

DAN

Now she develops a sense of humor. Great.

(Then)

If this is actually happening, I just want to say three things.

He counts them off on his fingers.

DAN (CONT'D)

It's been an honor working here. I love you people like family. The cupcakes are coming with me.

Dan starts scurrying around the room grabbing half eaten cupcakes off tables and people's plates.

HENRY

Dan please. This is no way to go out.

DAN

I never said I was classy.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Dan comes bounding out of the front doors muttering to himself, carrying his personal belongings and the cupcakes.

DAN

You try to be nice, you try to make people happy-

He looks up and sees his car is no longer there.

In its place is a white convertible with the vanity plate EN FUEGO.

The security guard ESTEBAN (30's) comes rushing over.

ESTEBAN

I tried to stop them.

DAN

She had me TOWED?! It was an honest mistake.

ESTEBAN

They said you were warned many times.

DAN

This was my spot for 15 years. There's an adjustment period! Did you explain that to the tow guy?

ESTEBAN

We did not discuss the adjustment period, no. He said you can get your car here.

He hands Dan a card.

DAN

107th Avenue? Since when does Phoenix have 107 avenues?

ESTEBAN

It's a big city, Dan.

Dan just looks around, helpless.

DAN

What do I do now?

ESTEBAN

I don't know, call an Uber?

DAN

Scotty usually does that for me.

ESTEBAN

You could walk to the Radisson and flag a cab.

DAN

That sounds like a nightmare.

ESTEBAN

There's always the bus.

DAN

These are terrible ideas, Esteban.

ESTEBAN

I just sit in the security hut, Dan. I don't have all the answers.

He leaves Dan alone with his cupcakes, staring at Irene's white convertible.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. CITY BUS**

Dan boards the bus and seems confused how to pay.

DRIVER

Hey, Fat Dan's riding my bus! How cool is that.

DAN

Let's not make a scene. Does this thing take credit cards?

DRIVER

You're money's no good here. This ride is on the city of Phoenix.

(On intercom)

Folks, unless you're visibly handicapped or crazy old you need to clear these seats up front. VIP coming through.

An older man makes room for Dan. Dan sits and makes a call.

DAN

Jerry, we need to talk.

Split screen with his agent JERRY, a distinguished gray haired man of about 60.

JERRY

I heard, I heard. What did you say?

DAN

Some kind of sex phrase that, quite frankly, doesn't even make sense.

JERRY

Have you told Deborah yet.

DAN

I don't like to bother her with these things.

JERRY

These life altering events?

DAN

I like to have good news. Let's just focus on our next move. Is Miami still interested?

JERRY

Who knows. They've been courting you for years, but-

DAN

But what? I'm an A-List weather man.

JERRY

This morning changed things. Plus, you were in more demand when you were truly fat. Now you're somewhere between husky and flabby.

DAN

I'm still fat.

JERRY

Barely. Ten more pounds and you gotta lose the nickname.

DAN

Let's just move on something fast, before this gets in the press.

JERRY

I'll get the team on it. Swing by after lunch and we'll regroup.

DAN

Sounds good. Who's your best friend?

JERRY

Do we have to end every call like this?

DAN

It's our thing.

JERRY

(Reluctant)

You're my best friend, and I'd represent you even if you didn't pay me 10% of your income.

DAN

I like that. That's a nice way to end a call.

They hang up. The woman sitting next to Dan leans in.

WOMAN ON BUS

Can I ask you a small favor?

DAN

Sorry, I can't take a selfie right now. Hope you understand.

WOMAN ON BUS

I was just hoping you could scoot over. You're so sweaty, the entire side of my blouse is drenched.

Dan sheepishly scoots over.

INT. DAN AND DEBORAH'S HOME

DEBORAH (40's) is dressing for work when Dan walks in.

DAN

Hey you. Just thought I'd sneak home and see if you want to make omelets or something-

*
*
*

DEBORAH

Dan, I know what happened. I've gotten 20 texts and a fax from my mother.

*
*

DAN

I'm sorry, I'm so embarrassed.

Dan collapses on the couch.

DEBORAH

What were you thinking?!

*
*

DAN

It was a joke. A lighthearted workplace sex joke.

*
*
*

DEBORAH

That's not a genre of humor. Dan, you can't make jokes about women in this climate. You know that.

*
*
*
*

DAN

I was trying to be funny.

*
*

DEBORAH

Here's a comedy tip: if it's about a female co-worker and you have a joke to make, shut your chubby yap hole because no one wants to hear it.

*
*
*
*
*

DAN

That's not exactly a "tip."

*
*

DEBORAH

I just can't believe they fired you.
Did Irene not accept your apology?

*
*
*

Dan looks like he's thinking.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Dear Lord, tell me you apologized.

*

DAN

I'm trying to replay it in my head. I argued. Then I blamed Scotty. Then I stormed off with the cupcakes. I can't picture where I would've slipped an apology in there.

DEBORAH

What world are you living in? A tearful apology comes with the territory here.

*
*
*

DAN

I'm not good at showing remorse. I have a very sarcastic face.

*
*

DEBORAH

I can't watch this. Here's what's going to happen.

She plants her hands on Dan's shoulders and makes him focus.

*

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

I'm showing a house across town, so you pick up Danny from karate. Irene's always there with her daughter. Don't make a big thing of it, just say *hey, sorry for today, I messed up, I've got some soul searching to do*. Then make that ridiculous puppy dog face you do when you know you're busted.

Dan makes the face.

DEBORAH (CONT'D)

Yes, that one. Then ask for her opinion on what you can do different. And let her talk.

DAN

You're so good at this. Like Harvey Keitel in Pulp Fiction. Remember, when he swoops in to clean up the dead body. Brings the disinfectant and plastic sheets.

She stares at him.

DAN (CONT'D)

It's a compliment. I'm saying we're a good team.

(Then)

I should have just said "thank you."

DEBORAH

Much better. I'm running late. Good luck. Knock 'em dead. Text me.

She kisses Dan on top of the head, and heads out the door.

DAN

Oh, any chance you're swinging by 107th Avenue?

(Off her look)

Forget I asked. Whole other story.

EXT. KARATE CLASS

Dan gets out of a cab carrying several pizzas.

DAN

Keep the change. And sorry about the upholstery. I don't respond well to heat.

INT. KARATE CLASS

The class is underway as Dan enters holding several pizzas.

DAN

Hot front moving through, forecast calls for pizza!

KIDS

Yay! / Mr. Daniels! / Pizza guy!!!

The kids go crazy and shower Dan with high-fives. Dan starts doing faux karate moves with his son.

DAN

Who's this, Jackie Chan? Am I fighting Jackie Chan or my son Danny.

DAN JR.

(Laughing)

It's me, Danny.

KARATE TEACHER

Sir, can I have a word with you?

DAN JR.

That's my dad. He's on TV.

KARATE TEACHER

Fantastic. Sir, why on earth would you bring pizzas to a karate class?

DAN

Oh, that's my thing. At baseball it's always a big hit. They wheel me in from center field on a golf cart.

KARATE TEACHER

Mr. Daniels, it's 3pm. If these kids eat now they'll either vomit or spoil their dinners. I'm afraid you'll have to rescind the offer.

DAN

Rescind? They're literally chanting my name.

KARATE TEACHER

We all have mountains to climb.

This is clearly the hardest thing Dan has ever had to do.

DAN

Kids, this is unprecedented and a little passive aggressive, but I need to rescind the pizza offer.

KIDS

Boooo! / No! / What does rescind mean?

DAN

For the record this is not the real me. I am still the fun dad!

Dan gathers the boxes, heads to the bleachers and looks for Irene. Instead, he finds Henry the Executive Producer.

DAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

HENRY

Irene was busy. I'm picking up her daughter.

DAN

You have no shame, do you?

HENRY

I'm a Producer, I can't afford to have shame.

DAN

Listen, before you go through with this, I just want to say a few things. I'm sorry for this morning. I'm filled with remorse. I have much soul searching to do.

HENRY

That sounded rehearsed.

DAN

No, it was pretty spontaneous.

HENRY

Deborah told you to say that.

DAN

She might have suggested a few buzz words, but I made it my own. Listen Henry, you know I don't deserve-

HENRY

Dan, stop. Irene is not letting this go. As we speak she's running lines with your replacement. Gail.

DAN

Gail? She sounds terrible.

HENRY

Based on what?

DAN

I don't know. "Gail the weather lady," who's going to watch that.

HENRY

Irene loves her. She hits all the right demos. I mean, in this climate you just can't compete with an ethnically ambiguous lesbian.

DAN

Henry, please. We've got too much history. You need to put your foot down.

HENRY

Dan, I'm picking up Irene's daughter from karate, then taking her to her friend Stacy's house. Does it look like I'm calling the shots here?

EXT. HORIZON TALENT AGENCY

Dan and Dan Jr. get out of a 1992 Suzuki Samurai.

DAN

Thanks for the ride, karate teacher.

KARATE TEACHER

It's Glenn. And for the record, your wife is far less disruptive at these events.

DAN

We're very different people, I'll give you that.

Dan closes the door and Glenn drives off.

DAN JR.

Where are we, dad?

DAN

We're going to see Uncle Jerry.

DAN JR.

Yay!

DAN

Just dial down the excitement. This is kind of serious.

Dan gets down on one knee and talks to Danny.

DAN (CONT'D)

Everything's going to be fine, but you should know, daddy lost his job today.

DAN JR.

Oh. Did they find out you can't really predict the weather?

DAN

No. Let's just say I made a bad joke.

DAN JR.

How bad?

DAN

I'll tell you some day when you're in your mid-thirties. But hey, life is not about your mistakes, it's about how you pick yourself up. No matter what you hear the next few days, or what kids say at school, I want you to be proud of your dad. And know that I'm a good person. Deal?

Poignant moment as they look into each others eyes.

DAN JR.

It's hard to say without knowing the specifics.

DAN

Fair enough.

INT. HORIZON TALENT AGENCY

Dan gets Dan Jr. settled on a couch with a magazine, then joins the conference table full of agents.

JERRY

Is he okay with Media Week? We can run out and get something.

DAN

As long as it's got pictures he's fine.

Danny seems engrossed in the magazine.

DAN (CONT'D)

So, where are we at with offers?

JERRY

Well, the team has been working the phones all day. Stacey, why don't you run Dan through where we're at.

STACEY (29), an energetic young agent takes the floor.

STACEY

Sure Jerry. This map behind you lays it all out.

They swivel around and look at the wall, which features a huge map of the U.S. with color coded dots on each city.

STACEY (CONT'D)

The red dots indicate the stations that have passed. And the green dots are what we're calling "firm offers."

Pan across the board. We see nothing but red dots.

STACEY (CONT'D)

As you can see there's lots of red throughout the southeast, and lots of red up the eastern seaboard. All major metropolitan areas are completely red, as is most of the west, including all five Hawaiian islands-

DAN

Stacey, sorry to interrupt. It looks like all the dots are red.

STACEY

That's correct.

DAN

So why do you have the two colored system?

STACEY

That's a question for Jerry. It's been a very stressful day around here.

She sits down.

JERRY

Listen Dan, I'm not gonna sugar coat this. In the current climate, no one wants to touch you.

DAN

But I didn't do anything wrong!

JERRY

It's a feeding frenzy out there. One slip up can be a career ender.

DAN

I was asked to flirt, and my assistant fed me the line. If I'm guilty of anything, it's being too wholesome.

JERRY

Try explaining that to the internet.

DAN

So where does this leave us?

JERRY

It's not good. You could find yourself unemployable as a weather man. You're in Wiener territory here.

DAN

As in Anthony Wiener, or just wieners in general.

JERRY

Anthony. What would it mean the other way?

DAN

I don't even know, my head is spinning right now.

In the silence, Dan Jr. looks up from the magazine.

DAN JR.

I'm proud of you, dad.

DAN

Not now, Danny. Not now.

INT. DAN AND DEBORAH'S HOME - EVENING

Everyone is by the TV watching Dan's replacement, GAIL, a woman with slumped shoulders and a droning monotone voice.

GAIL

And that's the weather forecast. Back to you, Irene.

IRENE

Thanks Gail, and welcome to the team. Why don't you tell our viewers a little about yourself.

GAIL

Well, my name is Gail. I love music and I love to relax.

IRENE

(Waiting for more)
Great. Welcome to our little family.
(Then to camera)
In other news, there's been another stabbing out on 107th Avenue-

Dan turns off the TV, frustrated.

DEBORAH

She's not big on personality is she?

DAN

It's insulting. They should be pulling in top talent from a major market.

Dan collapses on the couch.

DAN (CONT'D)

After all these years. "Unemployable."

DEBORAH

Oh come on, don't believe that.

DAN

Deb. I'm a flabby middle-aged white guy with no discernible skills to offer the world.

DEBORAH

That's true.

DAN

You're supposed to say don't be ridiculous.

DEBORAH

That's what I meant. Hey, everything happens for a reason. If you try a little harder, dig deep, you'll grow from this experience.

DAN

I don't want to grow. And dig. That sounds like a nightmare.

Deb smiles. Dan gets up from the couch.

DAN (CONT'D)

What do you say Danny, you want to go with Daddy to pick up his car?

DAN JR.

I'm going to pass.

DAN

Where does he get the sarcasm from?

Dan's phone rings and everyone stops. He puts it on speaker.

DAN (CONT'D)

Talk to me Jerry.

JERRY

I spoke too soon. We have an offer.

DAN
That's incredible!

JERRY
It's local. The money is solid. And they're in the same office park as KPHX, so you won't even have to change parking spots.

DAN
Sounds incredible. What station?

JERRY
El Mundo, channel 463 on cable! The Spanish speaking station!

DAN
The tone of your voice sounds excited, but the words coming out are terrible.

JERRY
This is where the money is, Dan. This is the future.

DAN
You really think it's a good idea?

JERRY
Dan, I'm your biggest fan. You're a talented guy. But right now you need to put your ego aside, bend over, and take one for the team.

DAN
Great pep talk. Go ahead and set it up.

Dan hangs up and he is visibly deflated.

DEBORAH
For what it's worth I'm proud of you. I know how hard this is.

DAN JR.
And I don't care what anyone says, you're the best dad ever.

DAN
Awww, come here.

He lifts Danny onto his lap and gives Danny a big hug.

DAN JR.

I don't care if no one wants your pizzas... or if you can't really predict the weather... or if you're in Wiener territory, or-

DAN

Okay we get it. "Best dad ever" is basically what you're trying to say.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. EL MUNDO STUDIOS - THE NEXT DAY**

Dan waits in the expansive lobby which overlooks the parking lot and his old KPHX building. He takes in the posters on the wall:

Channel 463 is the place to be!

#1 in the southwest amongst Latinos 50+!

He approaches the female RECEPTIONIST (23), who is typing.

DAN

Hi, can I get another bottled water?

RECEPTIONIST

Sorry, we usually just offer the one.

DAN

Oh. They're not even full size, they're the 8 ounce minis.

RECEPTIONIST

I don't make the rules.

DAN

For what it's worth, I'm kind of a big deal around here. TV personality.

RECEPTIONIST

I don't own a TV.

DAN

I'm Fat Dan the Weather Man.

RECEPTIONIST

Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

DAN

I'm just saying, the fact that I'm interviewing here is exciting for this station. The place is abuzz. If they knew you were withholding water-

RECEPTIONIST

Fine.

She reaches down and hands him a mini bottled water.

DAN

Thank you. One last question-

RECEPTIONIST

Sir, I gave you two waters and a name tag, I've got nothing else to offer.

A young executive JUAN (25) greets Dan from across the lobby.

JUAN

Dan, welcome! We're ready for you.

DAN

Now that's how you greet someone.

Dan and the receptionist stare each other down.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

Dan sits across from the president of the network, GABRIELLA TORRES (50), and Juan who escorted him in.

GABRIELLA

Dan, we're so thrilled you were willing to come in and talk.

DAN

What can I say, the timing worked out.

GABRIELLA

We sense a real opportunity here. Once your PR issues blow over, we think you could be a real crossover talent for us. Open up a whole new demographic.

DAN

Sounds exciting.

GABRIELLA

If you're ready to put your nose to the grindstone, the sky's the limit.

DAN

Grindstone? I'll just be doing the weather, right?

GABRIELLA

Let me walk you through the job. Our ratings are closing in on broadcast numbers so we've got the pedal to the floor. We work a full 7 to 7 day.

DAN

Am to pm?

GABRIELLA

After the morning rehearsal, you'll do the weather, then you're up in the chopper through rush hour for traffic.

DAN

Oh, I'll be doing traffic too?

GABRIELLA

Naturally. Then mid-day we work through lunch to discuss community outreach, then you're back in the chopper through rush hour.

DAN

Two choppers in one day?

GABRIELLA

Of course. After traffic you're back here for the evening weather, then we do a roundtable critique each night.

DAN

And all this is happening in Spanish.

GABRIELLA

Naturally.

DAN

I'm not really a traffic guy. Is it possible I could stick to weather and keep a lighter schedule?

GABRIELLA

It's all the same job.

JUAN

We've had a lot of luck with the weather / traffic combo.

GABRIELLA

I think you'll enjoy that part of the job. Juan, why don't you give Dan a quick tour, then take him upstairs to meet Don.

DAN

Would Don be my assistant?

GABRIELLA

Oh no, we don't believe in assistants. Don would be your pilot. I think you two will make a fun duo.

Juan nods enthusiastically.

JUAN
Lots of fun.

EXT. ROOFTOP HELIPAD

Juan leaves Dan on the roof to meet the helicopter pilot DON (50's), who stands with pride beside the El Mundo chopper.

DON
Right out of the gate I need you to lose the soda pop before I smack it out of your hand.

DAN
Oh, it's just a Diet Coke-

Don grabs the can from his hand and tosses it off the roof.

DON
My chopper, my rules. I did two tours in Iraq, now I'm flying traffic guys around, so I've got a short fuse for bull crap.

DAN
What's happening.

DON
I'll lay it down real simple. No cell phones, no food, no drinks. Pull any of those out and it's going up your keester.

DAN
You're going to shove a Diet Coke up my keester?

DON
I've done it. Don't test me. Welcome aboard.

He holds the chopper door open for Dan.

DAN
Oh no, this is just a meet and greet. We haven't even resolved if I'll be covering traffic.

DON
Oh you're covering traffic. Let's rock n' roll fatboy.

Don hops inside and revs the engine.

EXT. HELICOPTER - AIRBORNE

They ride high above Phoenix in the chopper which Don seems to pilot with much relish.

DON

Feel that power? Feel that thrust
between your thighs?

DAN

My thighs are kind of thick.

DON

I like that. Funny. I tell ya Danny
boy, there's nothing like soaring high
above the masses, looking down on the
city like a bunch of ants.

(Screams to the city below)

This is my town. You're in Don's town,
you feel me, Phoenix?

DAN

Are you always this energetic?

DON

I love what I do. How about you, you
love traffic.

DAN

I'm actually more of a weather guy. I
was the #1 broadcast personality-

DON

Check your ego at the door, Rambo.
I've flown with generals, presidents,
royalty. Once I took Don Johnson and
his family for a sunset tour, so
NOTHING you say will impress me.

DAN

What was Don Johnson doing in Phoenix?

DON

None of your goddam business.

He looks Dan in the eye and puts a hand on his shoulder.

DON (CONT'D)

I know we just met Dan, but I sense a
lot of friction in this relationship.
A lot of friction.

EXT. PARKING LOT

Dan looks disheveled as he returns to his car which is parked between the El Mundo building and KPHX.

He sits behind the wheel and gently starts to bang his head on the steering wheel.

DAN
What is happening.

He looks up through his moon roof.

DAN (CONT'D)
Lord, I know I haven't prayed since that time in college when I was throwing up after the hot dog contest. In retrospect that was an inappropriate use of prayer. But this time I need you. Please try to set up a few more interviews. I can't be the El Mundo traffic guy. I'm scared of Don, I can't speak Spanish-

There's a knock at his window. It's his old assistant Scotty.

SCOTTY
Dan? Who are you talking to?

Dan rolls the window down.

DAN
Oh, hey Scotty. I was on speaker phone.

SCOTTY
Do you need to finish the call?

DAN
Sure.
(Pretends)
Great talking to you, Mom. Have fun on the cruise. Love you.

He pretends to hang up.

SCOTTY
She didn't say goodbye. Did you just hang up on your mom?

DAN
She'll be fine. What's up?

Dan gets out of the car.

SCOTTY

Listen, they're probably calling your agent now but something's going on.

DAN

What do you mean?

SCOTTY

Henry wants to talk before tonight's broadcast. I saw your car, so I ran out.

DAN

Did Gail bomb?

SCOTTY

I don't have any details.

DAN

Gail bombed and Dan's back! I knew it!

He embraces Scotty in a bear hug.

DAN (CONT'D)

Come on Scotty, do the Gail Bombed Dance with me.

Dan starts dancing.

SCOTTY

I'm not doing the Gail Bombed Dance.

DAN

It's the only favor I'll ever ask you.

SCOTTY

It was so peaceful for the one day you were gone.

Scotty halfheartedly joins him in the dance.

INT. HENRY'S OFFICE

Dan enters and finds Henry behind his desk.

DAN

Henry, you are a sight for sore eyes.
I brought you some Mexican hard candy.

He places a few loose candies on the desk.

HENRY

Thanks?

DAN

Listen, let's put this whole thing behind us. You overreacted, no big deal. We've got history and you can't-

HENRY

Dan, I didn't call to offer your job back.

DAN

Oh no?

HENRY

No. It's come to my attention that you dumped upwards of ten cupcakes in Irene's car yesterday.

DAN

Doesn't sound like something I'd do.

HENRY

Dan, we have the security footage.

Henry cues it on the monitor and narrates as it plays.

HENRY (CONT'D)

This is you leaving the building at 10am. You offer the security guard some type of gum or mint, then talk for an extended time. Once he leaves, you proceed to dump an entire box of cupcakes in Irene's car. Then you do a bizarre victory dance, and scurry out of the parking lot on foot.

They watch it all on the video.

DAN

Okay. That does ring a bell now that I see the footage.

HENRY

Why would you do something like that?

DAN

It happened before my epiphany, so you have to factor that in.

HENRY

Listen, Dan. Irene wanted to play the footage on tonight's broadcast to use it as a teachable moment. But she's agreed to let it go if you'll just clean her car while everyone watches.

DAN

Are we talking a thorough detailing,
or just a once-over with Febreze?

HENRY

You're not in a position to negotiate,
Dan.

DAN

Of course. I'll find a damp cloth and
get started.

INT. ELEVATORS

Dan approaches the elevator doors, where Irene is waiting.

IRENE

Listen Dan, no hard feelings. *

DAN

Hard feelings? Why, because you ruined
my life in an overzealous fit of rage? *

IRENE

Hey, these are the times we live in. *
It's not my fault if you're washed up *
and my star is only beginning to rise. *
Don't let it gnaw away at you. *

DAN

I won't, because I'll have this job
back within six months, I promise. *

IRENE

Not as long as there's breath in my
lungs. *

DAN

Well then let's hope for an untimely
demise. I'm half kidding, relax. *

IRENE

You're a terrible man, Dan. *

DAN

You're a petty woman, Irene. *

IRENE

Your son sucks at karate. *

DAN

Your daughter has a grating, nasal
voice. *

IRENE
So long, Dan.

*
*

DAN
Hasta la vista, baby.

*
*

IRENE
Way to end on a dated '90's reference.

*
*

Before Dan can reply, the elevator doors close on him.

*

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

EXT. EL MUNDO HELICOPTER

Dan is reporting LIVE on the air from the El Mundo chopper.

DAN
Buenos dias, me llamo Gordo Dan con el tráfico.

Caption: *Good morning, this is Fat Dan with the traffic.*

DON
(Yells in background)
Geez Louise, how many times with the freaking Diet Coke?!

Dan and Don audibly wrestle for the can.

DAN
It's hot up here Don, you can't keep throwing my beverages out the window!

INT. DAN AND DEBORAH'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Deborah watches the live broadcast with Dan Jr.

DEBORAH
I can't imagine this is going to end well.

Dan Jr. nods in agreement.

END OF EPISODE