

the office

The Coup
#03002

Written by
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COLD OPEN

1 INT. KITCHEN - MORNING - DAY 1 1

PAM is manning the microwave. MICHAEL enters.

MICHAEL
What's the hold up?

PAM
It takes time for popcorn to pop.

MICHAEL
Well, how much longer?

Pam points to the little clock on the microwave, which is counting down, another twenty seconds. Michael nods, exasperated. He keeps fidgeting. Squirms. Pam looks annoyed.

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Movie Monday!

2 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MORNING - D1 2

Michael searches through a BOX OF DVD'S.

MICHAEL (V.O.)
The only cure I know for the Monday blues...

Michael finds the movie he's looking for.

3 MICHAEL TALKING HEAD 3

MICHAEL
...is *Varsity Blues!*

He holds up the DVD to camera.

4 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - D1 4

Michael ushers in the last few people.

MICHAEL
Let's go, let's go.
(to Dwight)
Everyone here?

DWIGHT
Yes.

Michael looks over the group.

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2.

4

4

MICHAEL
Where's Angela?

Dwight pretends not to hear.

5

DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

5

DWIGHT
No, not everyone approves of movie
Monday. I won't say who.

6

ANGELA TALKING HEAD

6

ANGELA
I don't approve. I don't.

7

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS - D1

7

MICHAEL
Dwight.

Michael SNAPS in his ear.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
What is wrong with you. Go find Angela.

DWIGHT
Angela from accounting? I'll see if I
can find her.

Dwight gets up as Pam enters with a TRAY of BAGS OF MICROWAVE
POPCORN.

PAM
Popcorn anyone?

MICHAEL
Me!

No one else wants any, leaving Pam with a big tray. She
glances at the camera.

END COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

8 INT. BREAK ROOM - D1

8

Dwight is talking to Angela, who is KNITTING in a corner.

DWIGHT

Michael needs everyone inside for movie Monday.

ANGELA

I don't care. He's wasting everyone's time.

DWIGHT

No, Michael knows what he's doing.

ANGELA

How can you say that?

DWIGHT

He was one of the strongest salesmen this company has ever seen. I've never come close to his numbers.

ANGELA

He's not a salesman anymore. In my opinion, a manager's job is to protect his employees from verbal abuse and man handling.

(beat)

Like you would do. If you were manager.

Dwight gets a mischievous look.

DWIGHT

Maybe not all man handlings.

Angela shoots him a look, then glances at the camera.

9 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - D1

9

Dwight returns.

MICHAEL

Kevin, you want to do scenes from last week?

KEVIN

Really?

MICHAEL

Yep.

(CONTINUED)

DWIGHT

Why him?

MICHAEL

Don't whine.

(does a voice)

Previously on *Varsity Blues*...

Nods to Kevin. Kevin stands.

KEVIN

Billy Bob got a head injury but Coach made him play. Then Lance got sacked and he's out for the season. So now Mox, whose seen like no game time, out of nowhere, throws this amazing pass and wins the game. Then Lance's girlfriend comes out with this whipped cream bikini, and she's like, "Do me!" And Mox is like, "No thank you." Which was stupid, because she's hotter than Mox's girlfriend. Then --

As Kevin continues his synopsis, Dwight SHUTS THE BLINDS.

SPY SHOT: A glimpse of the parking lot through an opening in the blinds. JAN'S CAR is pulling in the lot.

10 INT. OFFICE - TWO MINUTES LATER - D1 10

JAN enters to reception and looks around, surprised to find no one around but the camera. She walks into the bullpen and seems confused. Angela comes around from accounting and, with attitude, points Jan to the conference room.

11 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - D1 11

Jan opens the door and Michael winces at the light from the office.

MICHAEL

Jan, hey, just in time. Come on in and close the door.

JAN

...Are you showing a movie during work hours?

MICHAEL

Jan?

JAN

Michael?

11

CONTINUED:

11

MICHAEL

I can't see.

She realizes she is blocking his view. She looks angry and shuts off the movie. Kevin softly GROANS.

JAN

(losing it)
What the hell? Do you have any idea what's at stake here? With imminent branch closings you are risking the jobs of every employee here, don't you--

Jan catches herself, feeling she said too much in front of everyone.

JAN (CONT'D)

In your office, Michael.

She exits to Michael's office and he follows. The others in the conference room look at each other.

MEREDITH

Our jobs are at risk?

12

MEREDITH TALKING HEAD

12

MEREDITH

I can't handle... right now... I quit drinking again -- thank you -- and this time, well... My son gave me these magnetic bracelets, they help control my Chi. It feels right. I'm hopeful.

13

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - D1

13

Jan is still furious.

JAN

How would a movie increase productivity, Michael? How on earth would it do that?

MICHAEL

People work faster after.

JAN

Magically?

MICHAEL

No, they have to, to make up for the time they lost watching the movie.

(CONTINUED)

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13 CONTINUED:

13

JAN

No.

14 INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

14

People settle back to their desks to the faint sound of Jan chewing out Michael in his office.

JAN (O.S.)

Do I need to hire a baby sitter for you, Michael? Some fourteen-year-old girl whose job it is to limit the amount of television you watch during the work day?

15 INT. STAMFORD OFFICE - D1

15

JIM is on the phone with a customer.

JIM

I'd like to speak with you in person -- I think we can really help your company.

The lights go out.

JIM (CONT'D)

...Great, I'll see you next week.

Jim hangs up. People who sit by the windows close the blinds. Jim turns to KAREN.

JIM (CONT'D)

Again?

KAREN

Scared?

16 JIM TALKING HEAD

16

JIM

The Stamford branch plays this World War Two video game, *Call Of Duty*. They're all really into it and I really suck. My first day here I got motion sickness running through Stalingrad and threw up in my waste basket. I suggested that people here are taking this game too seriously. The next day my car was keyed. I'm pretty sure there's a connection.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

B ROLL: various shots of Stamford employees intently playing the game: shots of different boards -- of tanks getting blown up, soldiers hurling grenades, a group of soldiers getting gunned down by the deployable gun, and, if using COD2, a soldier crying in a foxhole.

17 KAREN TALKING HEAD

17

KAREN

Call of Duty. Yeah. I've never been much into video games, but...*Call of Duty.*

18 INT. STAMFORD OFFICE - D1

18

ANGLE ON: Jim's screen, as he shoots two soldiers in the back.

ANDY (O.S.)

Hey!

ANDY turns around to Jim.

ANDY (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

JIM

Killing Germans, anyway I can.

ANDY

We're on the German team. Shoot the Russians.

JIM

Right.

Andy goes back to the game. Jim turns to Karen.

JIM (CONT'D)

We're playing teams?

Karen LAUGHS at Jim.

KAREN

Yep.

19 INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - D1

19

Pam signs for a PACKAGE and talks on the phone.

PAM

(into phone; excited)
Kelly, my stuff just came.

19 CONTINUED:

19

KELLY (V.O.)
(from phone)
Aaahhhh!

Pam pulls the phone away from her ear.

20 PAM TALKING HEAD

20

PAM
Kelly really likes to online shop, and I,
well, I kinda wanted some new clothes. I
mean, it's been awhile since... I felt
like I wanted... maybe should have a
new... just new clothes.

21 INT. BREAK ROOM - D1

21

Pam and Kelly open the BOX OF CLOTHES.

KELLY
I love it!

PAM
I don't know.

KELLY
You didn't try it on yet. Try it on.

PAM
Not at work. I'll wait until--

KELLY
Fashion show! Fashion show! Fashion
show at lunch!

Pam looks to camera, "What the hell?"

KELLY (CONT'D)
Fashion show! Fashion show! Fashion
show at lunch!

22 INT. OFFICE - DWIGHT AND RYAN'S DESKS - D1

22

Angela walks by Dwight's desk and gives him a pointed look as she continues to the kitchen. After a beat, Dwight heads to the kitchen.

23 INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER - D1

23

EXTREME SPY SHOT: Angela is at the fridge and Dwight aimlessly looks through the cupboards.

23 CONTINUED:

23

ANGELA

I suppose you're happy.

DWIGHT

(suspecting a trap)

I'm not, I mean in general I'm hap-- I'm not unhappy. Are you talking about--

ANGELA

Michael is going to get us all fired. You sat back and let him play that dumb movie and now Jan is peeved off and we're all going to lose our jobs.

DWIGHT

That won't happen.

ANGELA

You know she has it out for him.

24 DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

24

DWIGHT

Ever since Michael dumped Jan for Carol, she's been bitching out on him. Reject a woman and she will never let it go. It is one of the many defects of their kind. Also, weak arms.

25 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS - D1

25

ANGELA

You should be running this office, Dwight.

DWIGHT

Michael won't let me.

Ryan and Kelly enter from the Annex and pass through. Dwight and Angela both hustle to look occupied.

RYAN

Fives miles, that's great.

KELLY

Thanks. But don't tell my mom I've been running, she thinks it makes my legs look too muscular.

RYAN

No problem, I've never met your mom.

(CONTINUED)

KELLY
(knowing full well)
Haven't you?

Ryan's face registers the trap he just fell into as Kelly and Ryan exit to the bullpen.

ANGELA
It's not up to Michael. It's Jan's call.
Talk to her.

DWIGHT
What? I could never--

ANGELA
Fine. Sit back and do nothing and let us
all get fired.

Angela leaves. Dwight looks very disturbed.

26 DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

26

DWIGHT
The Schrutes are a very loyal breed. But I also have Manheim blood from my German grandmother. And the Manheims knew when to cut and run. No sense going down with a losing regime. But Schrute blood -- it's amazing that when these two bloods mixed, the whole thing didn't explode.

27 INT. OFFICE - D1

27

Jan leaves Michael's office and exits. Dwight watches her go. Dwight looks into Michael's office and sees MICHAEL BURY HIS HEAD IN HIS HANDS. Dwight gets up and walks into...

28 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

28

Dwight walks in.

DWIGHT
Everything okay?

MICHAEL
Not your business.

DWIGHT
You know, if the branch is in trouble, there are things you can do.

MICHAEL
What do you know about managing?

28 CONTINUED:

28

DWIGHT

I know you need to cut costs. We could fire Meredith. That's a cost.

MICHAEL

I'm not firing--

DWIGHT

And Creed might be living here, we could charge him rent.

MICHAEL

What?

29 CREED TALKING HEAD

29

CREED

Four nights a week I sleep under my desk.

B-ROLL shots of: At night, Creed brushing his teeth, unrolling a sleeping bag. Creed in a wife-beater, wiping himself with baby wipes. Creed saying his prayers.

CREED (CONT'D)

Then three nights at my place in Toronto. Beautiful countries, both of 'em.

30 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

30

MICHAEL

Firing people is bad for morale. It's really bad for the person who's fired, also. You know what this office really needs? Upsizing. We need our spirits lifted. Lifted up. C'mon.

Michael and Dwight exit into...

31 INT. OFFICE - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS - D1

31

Michael addresses the room.

MICHAEL

Alright. I believe that we were all watching a movie together before we were so rudely interrupted. So, let's get back in there.

Nobody moves.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Hellooooo? Movie Monday?! Stanley?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

STANLEY
I'm on the phone.

He is not on the phone. Michael looks confused.

MICHAEL
Ryan?

RYAN
...Jan said we're not supposed to.

MICHAEL
Okay, fine. Well.
(checks his watch)
We were scheduled to watch a movie now,
so, I guess I'll just play online
Scrabble.

Michael heads into his office.

Angela shoots Dwight a "see what I mean" look. Dwight starts
TUGGING ON HIS HAIR.

32 ANGELA TALKING HEAD

32

ANGELA
I know that patience and loyalty are good
and virtuous traits. But sometimes I
just think: "grow a pair."

33 EXT. DUNDER MIFFLIN PARKING LOT - LATER - D1

33

SPY SHOT: Dwight SPRINTS BACK AND FORTH through the parking
lot, tormented, trying to figure things out.

After a beat, he takes out his cell and dials.

JAN (V.O.)
Hello.

DWIGHT
Is this Jan?

JAN (V.O.)
Who is this?

DWIGHT
Is this Jan?

JAN (V.O.)
Yes, who am I speaking with?

(CONTINUED)

DWIGHT

Sorry, I had to make sure. Jan, this is
Dwight Schrute.

Jan SIGHS audibly.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

I need to speak with you about a very
sensitive matter.

JAN (V.O.)

You should talk to Michael, and he'll
talk to me. That way we don't speak to
each other.

DWIGHT

It's about Michael.

JAN (V.O.)

What about him?

DWIGHT

I can't talk here. It's sensitive.

JAN (V.O.)

It's not about a surprise party, is it?

DWIGHT

No, but we should discuss that another time.

JAN (V.O.)

Look, I'm already an hour outside of
Scranton. I'm not coming back.

In the background, Kevin walks by and heads to his car.
Dwight moves to a safe place to talk.

DWIGHT

Pull over, I'll meet you.

JAN (V.O.)

No.

DWIGHT

What exit are you at?

JAN (V.O.)

Dwight.

DWIGHT

Thirty four? Thirty five?

JAN (V.O.)
Thirty nine.

DWIGHT
Thirty nine?! Alright, slow it down and
get off at forty. Take a left off the
exit ramp, you'll see a Liz Claiborne
outlet on your right. You like that
store. Shop there until I get there.

JAN (V.O.)
How do you know I like that store?

DWIGHT
Many of your blouses are Claibornes.

JAN (V.O.)
(creeped out)
How do you know that?

DWIGHT
Part of my job.

JAN (V.O.)
No, it's not. It's officially not.

DWIGHT
Noted.

34 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - LATER - D1 34

Dwight, KEYS in hand, walks into Michael's office. Michael
is talking with Stanley.

STANLEY
But that's below cost.

MICHAEL
Just for a while, until he stops shopping
around. Then we creep the price back up.
Oh, charge him more for pens.

Stanley exits and Dwight enters.

DWIGHT
I'm going to the dentist.

MICHAEL
Okay.

DWIGHT
I'm having an emergency crown put in.

MICHAEL

Ouch.

DWIGHT

Yes. It's a new dentist. It's far. It might take three hours.

MICHAEL

Why are you using a dentist so far away?

DWIGHT

Insurance reasons.

MICHAEL

We don't have dental insurance.

DWIGHT

I picked it up through the Beet Farmers Association.

MICHAEL

Gross.

Michael goes back to work. Dwight watches him work for a meaningful beat and then exits.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

35 EXT. COFFEE SHOP - D1

35

Dwight watches Jan put some BAGS FROM LIZ CLAIBORNE in her trunk.

DWIGHT
Get anything good?

JAN
Yes.

DWIGHT
A new blouse? Halter top? Camisole?

Jan slams her trunk closed.

36 INT. COFFEE SHOP - D1

36

Jan and Dwight sit at a booth.

DWIGHT
We both know the branch is in trouble.

JAN
I'm not going to comment on that.

DWIGHT
It's okay, you can tell me. Michael's
been running this place into the ground,
hasn't he?

JAN
The business is changing, Dwight. I
don't think you can blame one man for an
industry wide problem.

DWIGHT
I could save the branch.

JAN
Really?

DWIGHT
If I just had the chance to run it.

JAN
Okay.

DWIGHT
Okay I can run it?

JAN
What would you do differently?

(CONTINUED)

DWIGHT

Mostly get rid of waste, which is half
the people there.

JAN

Half?

DWIGHT

About. Maybe more.

A WAITRESS comes over with a TON OF FOOD. She puts a MASSIVE
PLATE of pancakes, waffles, bacon, sausage, toast, eggs, etc.
in front of Dwight, and a SMALL BLACK COFFEE in front of Jan.

JAN

Well, Dwight, you must feel very strongly
to speak with me like this, behind
Michael's back. And turning on so many
of your coworkers.

DWIGHT

(considers)

Deciding to turn on Michael was hard, but
once I did I didn't look back. I think,
in a way, Michael would want me to do
this because it's what's best for the
branch. And I couldn't care less about
my coworkers. So, there it is. I want
the branch. I will await your decision.

Dwight takes the SYRUP, and, as he talks, without breaking
eye contact with Jan, pours it over EVERYTHING ON HIS PLATE.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

If you want, there's a new Ann Taylor
outlet that opened near here. I know you
like their earrings.

JAN

(reluctant)

Where is it?

Pam comes out of the bathroom in an outfit that is much
cooler than she normally wears. Kelly, Meredith and Phyllis
APPLAUD her new outfit.

KELLY

It's so sexy. You look so hot.

PHYLLIS

It's really something.

PAM

It's too much, isn't it? I'm going to return it.

KELLY

Noooooo! Just wear it for one day, and see how it feels.

ROY passes through from the annex with a SODA. He notices Pam's new clothes.

ROY

Hi.

PAM

Hi.

ROY

You look nice.

Beat.

KELLY

Awkward.

Meredith reaches to take a BAGEL out of the toaster, when a SHARP KNIFE, attracted by her MAGNETIC BRACELET, flies up and CUTS HER HAND. She CRIES out.

ROY TALKING HEAD

ROY

I never used to tell Pam how nice she looked. Except for when she asked me. And once at our senior prom.

INT. STAMFORD OFFICE - D1

Call of Duty is in progress. Karen starts to smile. THE CAMERA TIGHTENS on her.

KAREN

(whispering to camera)
Look how cute he is.

ANGLE ON: Karen's screen. She sees "Unknown Soldier" up against a wall, facing it, and jumping repeatedly.

KAREN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

(whisper)
He can't even turn around. And he's trying to shoot with his binoculars.

Her soldier puts away a scoped rifle and takes out a handgun.

JIM (O.S.)

What are you whispering about back there?

KAREN (O.S.)

Nothing. You just concentrate on turning around.

JIM (O.S.)

I'm trying.

KAREN (O.S.)

Tap S, then D.

"Unknown Soldier" slowly backs up a bit, turns, and stares into Karen's pistol.

KAREN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Any last words? No?

She executes him.

ANGLE ON: Jim and Karen. Jim turns to her.

JIM

That brings you pleasure?

KAREN

Yes.

JIM

Psychopath.

KAREN

Maybe.

Jim turns back to the game, more determined.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - LATER - D1

Michael talks with Pam, at her desk.

MICHAEL

...So she sleeps with him, but she's in love with the head surgeon guy, McDreamy, and she starts crying. But that dorky doctor is in love with her and--

Pam looks over at her switchboard.

40 CONTINUED:

40

PAM
(on the phone)
Dunder Mifflin, this is Pam... I'll get
him for you.
(to Michael)
It's Jan for you.

MICHAEL
Really?

PAM
Yes.

Michael eyes her suspiciously, then goes into his office.

41 PAM TALKING HEAD

41

PAM
I may have, a few weeks ago, faked a call
from Jan in order to get away from a
synopsis of, I think it was *Navy NCIS*.
Since then Michael's been suspicious.

42 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - D1

42

Michael HITS THE SPEAKERPHONE.

MICHAEL
(tentative)
Jan?

JAN (V.O.)
Michael, I just had a very interesting
conversation with one of your employees.

MICHAEL
That's nice.

JAN (V.O.)
No, it wasn't. Dwight just told me that he
thinks he can run the branch better than you.

MICHAEL
What? Were you at the dentist?

JAN (V.O.)
Have you lost the confidence of all your
employees?

MICHAEL
Their confidence in me is at an all time
high.

(CONTINUED)

42

42

JAN (V.O.)

Get things together there. Do you understand me? You can't have people undermining you. Get control of your branch.

MICHAEL

I will. I don't have to, I already have control, but I'll do it.

JAN (V.O.)

Oh for God sakes.

She hangs up.

43

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

43

MICHAEL

What was Dwight thinking? That he could turn Jan against me? Ha! Did you hear her? She ratted him out immediately. Of course she did -- she's my ex-lover. Ish.

44

INT. STAMFORD OFFICE - D1

44

A game is in progress. JOSH comes out of his office.

JOSH

Andy, Jim, can I see you in the conference room for a minute?

ANDY

Now?

JOSH

(a little annoyed)

Yes, now.

(to everyone)

Put the game on hold, everyone!

Jim and Andy begin to get up.

45

INT. STAMFORD CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER - D1

45

Josh speaks to Jim and Andy.

JOSH

Look, this isn't working, we're getting slaughtered out there.

ANDY

It's the new guy.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

What are we talking about?

ANDY

See what I mean?

JOSH

We just need a strategy.

Josh starts a CRUDE MAP on the WIPE OFF BOARD.

JOSH (CONT'D)

We set a trap in the gun room. Andy, switch to the deployable gun and set up here. Jim, are you playing with the mp40 or 44?

JIM

I had the sniper rifle.

JOSH

You don't snipe in Chateau!
Not in teams!

ANDY

Are you playing for the other
team? My God?!

Jim finds the camera for a quick glance.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - D1

Pam sits at her desk, spacing out. Her monitor times out and the screen goes black, enabling her to see her reflection. She sees herself in her new clothes and sits up a little straighter.

Kevin walks over and overtly eyes her up and down.

KEVIN

Nice.

Pam BUTTONS UP another button on her blouse.

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - D1

From inside the building, Michael watches Dwight get out of his car and walk into the building. Michael nods to himself. He then takes a BAG OF M&M'S from his desk and walks out to the Bullpen.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

Michael leans against Ryan's desk.

MICHAEL

Everything good?

RYAN

Yeah.

Michael waits. After a beat, Dwight enters.

MICHAEL

Hey Dwight. Want an M&M?

DWIGHT

No thanks, I'm stuffed.

MICHAEL

Seriously, have an M&M, they're really good.

Michael holds out the bag, offering, and Dwight holds out his hand, accepting. Michael watches Dwight eat a few.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Good, huh?

DWIGHT

They're okay.

MICHAEL

I thought you weren't supposed to eat for a few hours after getting a crown put in.

DWIGHT

They have quick bonding stuff now.

MICHAEL

Oh. Sounds like a good dentist. What's his name?

DWIGHT

Crentist.

MICHAEL

Your Dentist's name is Crentist? That sounds a lot like dentist.

DWIGHT

Maybe that's why he became a dentist.

MICHAEL

My name is Scott, and I didn't become a...

Michael searches for a rhyme. He looks to Ryan, who shakes his head, and then to Pam, who shrugs.

49 MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

49

MICHAEL

"Scott" is not hard to rhyme. Trot. Plot.
Mot. Draught. Flott -- not a word. Not.
The other kind of knot, with the rope. But
these aren't vocations. Sought.

50 INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

50

MICHAEL

What's Crenlist's first name?

DWIGHT

I didn't ask.

MICHAEL

You didn't ask or he didn't say.

DWIGHT

Both.

51 DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

51

DWIGHT

Crenshaw, Dr. Edward Crenshaw. He works
an hour away, I researched it, had it all
planned out. But in the moment I changed
my plan. I said Crenlist.

(pointedly)

And I did it without an improv class.

52 INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

52

MICHAEL

He put in a crown?

DWIGHT

Yes.

MICHAEL

Let me see. Show me your teeth.

Dwight OPENS HIS MOUTH as wide as he can. Michael peers in,
not sure what to look for.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

You should floss more.

DWIGHT

I know.

52 CONTINUED:

52

MICHAEL

Okay, then.

Michael walks back into his office. Dwight sits, find's Angela's gaze, and gives her a subtle THUMBS UP.

53 MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

53

MICHAEL

Business is like a jungle. I am like a tiger, and Dwight is like a monkey who tries to stab the tiger in the back with a stick. What does the tiger do? Does he fire the monkey? Does he transfer the monkey to another branch? -- pun. Who knows what goes on in the head of a tiger? We don't have that technology.

54 INT. OFFICE - A LITTLE LATER - D1

54

Michael, looking somber, STICKS HIS HEAD OUT of his office.

MICHAEL

Dwight, can I talk to you for a minute?

55 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - D1

55

Michael and Dwight sit in the chairs.

MICHAEL

Oh, man.

DWIGHT

What?

MICHAEL

This is tough. Woof. I just got off the phone with Jan, and... and...

DWIGHT

...and?

MICHAEL

She demoted me.

DWIGHT

No.

MICHAEL

Yeah. I'm demoted to, if you can believe this, your job.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

And she said that you would be getting a call from corporate a little later about being acting manager for a while.

DWIGHT

I can't believe this news.

MICHAEL

I told her I didn't know if you would do it. I told her you've always been so loyal to me, my most trusted ally.

DWIGHT

You said that?

Michael nods. Dwight seems tormented.

MICHAEL

But I think you should do it.

DWIGHT

If you think I should, I will.

MICHAEL

Good, then it's settled. You are the new acting manager of the Dunder Mifflin Scranton branch, and I am the Assistant Regional Manager.

DWIGHT

Assistant to the Regional Manager, yes. Thank you for staying on, Michael. I really appreciate it. I can't imagine this place without you.

MICHAEL

Can't you?

DWIGHT

I don't know.

MICHAEL

We should probably tell the troops.

DWIGHT

When I'm ready, Mike. Okay, let's do it.

Michael makes a funny face to camera behind Dwight's back.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

56 INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - D1

56

Michael and Dwight address the group.

MICHAEL

Everybody, hi. Hey. So. I have good news and I have bad news. Which do you want to hear first? Or both together, or no news? I can just go back into my office without saying anything. But it affects you all.

PAM

Just say both.

MICHAEL

Both. I am being replaced as your leader by Dwight.

PHYLLIS

You're kidding.

MICHAEL

You might think that I am kidding, I understand that.

ANGELA

Congratulations, Dwight.

DWIGHT

Thank you, Angela.

STANLEY

Why Dwight?

MICHAEL

Because Dwight never lies.

STANLEY

How does that qualify him to run a branch?

MICHAEL

Because that's all it takes.

That seems weird to people.

MEREDITH

How does that--

As Meredith begins to speak, she gestures with her good hand (the other is bandaged) over a CONTAINER OF THUMB TACKS which then COME FLYING INTO HER MAGNETIZED WRIST. Again she CRIES out and quickly exits to the kitchen.

MICHAEL

Dwight, do you want to say a few words to everyone about loyalty?

DWIGHT

I would like to say, to the few of you that will remain under my employ, that I will lead you into the black with ferocity.

PHYLLIS

What will you do, Michael?

MICHAEL

I'll be fine.

KEVIN

Do you have any savings?

MICHAEL

No, but I don't need--

KEVIN

You might lose your condo.

MICHAEL

I won't.

DWIGHT

Michael will be remaining here in my old position.

PHYLLIS

You're kidding?!

MICHAEL

I can see why you might think that I am kidding.

PAM

I have this old vacuum cleaner that's broken. If Dwight doesn't work out, maybe that could be manager.

58 INT. STAMFORD OFFICE - D1

58

ANGLE ON: Jim's screen. He sees "Karen The Jim Slayer" soldier just standing in the street.

JIM (O.S.)
What? Just standing? Taking a little siesta? Not so smart.

Jim puts her in his sights and kills her.

JIM (CONT'D)
Yes, I killed you--

As Jim turns to Karen he sees that she is greeting Jan, who just entered.

JAN
Hello, Jim. How's work?

JIM
(caught)
Good.

Jan casually walks over to his computer, hits some keys to explode a grenade, killing his soldier.

Jan LAUGHS. Someone turns the lights back on.

JAN
Jim, I'm meeting with Josh now, but remind me to tell you before I go what Dwight said to me earlier. You'll get a kick out of it.

She heads into the conference room. Karen smiles at Jim.

59 JIM TALKING HEAD

59

JIM
Things are a little different in Stamford. It's not bad.

60 INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - D1

60

Pam sits at her desk. Creed walks up and starts staring at her.

PAM
What?

CREED
Just looking.

60 CONTINUED: 60

PAM
Please go back to your desk.

CREED
In a minute.

Pam tries to button up another button on her cool blouse, but there isn't one. She grabs her old GREY SWEATER.

61 INT. BREAK ROOM - D1 61

SPY SHOT: Angela and Dwight.

ANGELA
It's really happening.

DWIGHT
Yes.

ANGELA
We can make a difference here.

DWIGHT
I - will - make a difference here.

ANGELA
You alone? I thought that together we'd-

DWIGHT
Don't be naive. There is only room for one at the top.

He gets his soda and leaves, but then pauses at the doorway.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)
But you can be in charge of the women.

She smiles.

62 PHYLLIS TALKING HEAD 62

PHYLLIS
Maybe I'll quit. My fiance told me that I don't have to work once we get married. He said my new job was to be Mrs. Bob Vance, the first lady of Vance refrigeration.

63 MEREDITH TALKING HEADS 63

MEREDITH
I think I'm safe. I hope I'm safe. I have a kid to feed.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

63

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

I should probably go tell Dwight that I think he's going to make a really great boss.

Meredith unbuttons the top two buttons of her blouse.

64 CREED TALKING HEAD

64

CREED

"Meet the new boss. Same as the old boss." That's a little something I made up to describe how I feel right now.

65 PAM TALKING HEAD

65

Start on B roll: Pam, who has completely changed back to her old clothes, is packing up the new clothes in the box they came in.

PAM

Well, I remember why I dress like I do at work. I remember. But I'm keeping the clothes -- I have a cool new outfit for the weekends, if I ever go out. It'll be nice to have some after work clothes that are not pajamas.

66 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - D1

66

Dwight is unpacking his things on Michael's desk.

MICHAEL

So, it's probably too quick for you to have any ideas about what you might do as leader.

DWIGHT

I have some.

MICHAEL

So soon?

DWIGHT

Personnel changes.

MICHAEL

I've put these people together carefully.

DWIGHT

And protocol changes.

MICHAEL

Like?

DWIGHT

Dress code.

MICHAEL

Something inappropriate out there?

DWIGHT

Some colors are awfully bright. Some of the purples.

Michael looks out to the workers: Phyllis is dressed in all purple.

MICHAEL

Well, I suppose I should turn over the key to the famous Sebring.

DWIGHT

No, thank you.

MICHAEL

It's a corporate lease, you've earned it.

DWIGHT

I'll pass.

MICHAEL

What?

DWIGHT

It's not my style.

MICHAEL

You said you liked it. You always admired it.

DWIGHT

That was before. I think I'll get something German with decent gas mileage. A convertible is a ridiculous choice for this climate.

MICHAEL

Take it back.

DWIGHT

No.

MICHAEL

That's my car! Dammit, Dwight, I know! I know! I know!

DWIGHT

You know what?

MICHAEL

Jan told me right away. I made it all up. I know what you did.

This slowly registers on Dwight's face.

DWIGHT

The Sebring's cool. It's cool. It has a cassette player, most cars don't come with that anymore.

MICHAEL

How dare you?

DWIGHT

Please don't fire me, please, please.

67 INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - D1

67

Angela sees, through the window, Dwight getting down on his knees before Michael. She winces.

68 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

68

Dwight is kneeling before Michael.

MICHAEL

Give me one good reason why I shouldn't.

DWIGHT

I have very high sales numbers.

MICHAEL

Not good enough.

DWIGHT

I'll do your laundry for a month. For a year.

MICHAEL

I have a laundry machine.

DWIGHT

Anything.

MICHAEL

How can I trust you again?

DWIGHT

You can't, I understand. But I will never betray you again. I swear. What can I do? What can I do? What can I do? What can I do?

68

CONTINUED:

68

Dwight falls back into his chair, a beaten man. Michael nods
-- enough.

MICHAEL
You can stand up.

Dwight stands.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
And you can hug it out, bitch.

Michael OPENS HIS ARMS for a hug. Dwight EMBRACES him
deeply.

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
"Hug it out, bitch."

69

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

69

MICHAEL
That's what men say to each other after a
fight. They hug it out, and in so doing,
bury the bad and move on. Women could
learn a lot from men.

END OF ACT THREE

TAG

70 MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

70

MICHAEL

Yes we hugged it out, but it turns out I
was still a little angry.

71 INT. OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER - D1

71

SLOW REVEAL that Dwight is standing on a chair with his head
down wearing a sign that reads "Liar."

MICHAEL (V.O.)

I felt I needed to punish him a little
bit more. I'm also making him do my
laundry for a year.

People pass Dwight without really looking. Angela looks very
chastened.

END OF SHOW