

the office

Beach Games
#03022

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***** OUR 50th EPISODE !!! *****

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COLD OPEN

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - DAY 1

MICHAEL is slumped over. DWIGHT is nearby, looking at WEBMD.

MICHAEL

Bluchh.

DWIGHT

Where does it hurt?

MICHAEL

Just... all over. I don't want to do anything. I'm dying.

DWIGHT

That's not how it works. You have to point at a specific part of the body.

Michael takes his mouse and points to the center of the body.

MICHAEL

Here. Just here.

Dwight reads the POPUP MENU on the screen.

DWIGHT

Menstrual cramps?

MICHAEL

(maybe)
Mmmmm?

DWIGHT

(reading)
The uterus contracts after your egg passes through it.

MICHAEL

Not it. I don't have eggs.

DWIGHT

When did you start feeling this way?

MICHAEL

I don't know, like ten minutes ago.

DWIGHT

Around when I came in with the paperwork?

Michael shrugs, unsure.

(CONTINUED)

DWIGHT (CONT'D)
(reading)
Is it possible you ate food that
contained animal waste?

PAM sticks her head in.

PAM
Um, Michael. David Wallace is on line
one.

MICHAEL
(perks up)
The CFO? Really?

Pam nods - yes, really. Michael stands up -- finally
something interesting to do. He ushers them out.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Okay, out! Everybody out.

DWIGHT
Michael, I believe you are too sick to
take this call. You have the option of
returning the call at a later time.

MICHAEL
(annoyed)
I know how calls work.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM
About forty times a year, Michael gets
really sick but has no symptoms. Dwight
is always gravely concerned.

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER -D1

Michael is on the speakerphone with DAVID WALLACE.

MICHAEL
To what do I owe this great honor, David
Wallace--
(can't help it)
--and Grommit. Moon cheese. Frankie
Mooncheese. Malcolm. You talk.

Wallace SIGHS.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(re: sigh)
Jan? Is Jan there?

(CONTINUED)

DAVID (V.O.)
Jan is out of town right now.

MICHAEL
Oh. David, I broke Jan's heart. And I feel awful. It was not my intention to ruin a life. We're all just looking to get our freak on, you know?

DAVID (V.O.)
Michael, I am calling to see if you would come down and interview for a job we have opening up in corporate.

MICHAEL
Really?

DAVID (V.O.)
A week from today. Bring the stats on your post merger performance and your recommendation for who'd take over the Scranton branch.

MICHAEL
Wow. I wish I had prepared something to say.

DAVID (V.O.)
That's not necessary.

MICHAEL
...May God guide you in your quest.

DAVID WALLACE
Yes. God guide you too.

Michael hangs up and turns to camera.

MICHAEL
All better. Sometimes all the body needs to heal itself is to be promoted.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. OFFICE - DAY 2

Everybody is wearing CASUAL CLOTHES.

MICHAEL

Okay, does everyone have their towels,
swimsuits? Oscar, you have your speedo,
I presume?

OSCAR

I don't wear a speedo, Michael.

MICHAEL

Well, you can't swim in leather pants,
Oscar, so maybe you should pick something
up.

Oscar SIGHS.

MEREDITH TALKING HEAD

MEREDITH

Today is beach day! Michael's taking the
whole office to the beach. I wore my
bathing suit under my shirt.

She LIFTS UP HER SHIRT. Her NUDE BODY IS PIXILATED. She
realizes and WHIPS IT DOWN.

MEREDITH (CONT'D)

Oh yeah, I decided to pack it in my
purse.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D2

MICHAEL

So we have an hour and a half. Everybody
go potty now. And then we will be
congregating downstairs on the par-tay
bus.

(to camera)

Good times on wheels. Only way to
travel. Besides a monorail.

PHYLLIS

Well, Bob was going to just drive me.

MICHAEL

No. No guests today. Classic gang only.
Just us good friends who've known each
other for years, through thick and
thin... oh, and Karen and Andy too.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY
Thank you for giving us a chance.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM
Michael's really been into the "classic gang" lately, ever since he broke up with Jan. The "classic gang": Just Michael, me, Oscar, Kevin, Angela, Stanley, Phyllis, Jim, Dwight, Kelly, Ryan, Meredith, and Creed. We're a regular *Oceans Eleven*.

INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D2

TOBY comes in with a big FLOPPY HAT and a BEACH BAG.

TOBY
Anybody want sunblock? I've got SPF thirty.

MICHAEL
You're not coming.

TOBY
It's beach day.

MICHAEL
You should have thought of that before you were you. Classic gang only!!

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
I want today to be a beautiful memory that the staff and I can share after I go to New York. Something that will erase the unfair accusations of sexism and insensitivity that have dogged me over the years.

INT. OFFICE - D2

Pam intercepts a call.

PAM
Um, Jim. You have a call from David Wallace.

JIM
Oh. Okay.

His face gives away nothing. He picks up the phone and hunches over, talking quietly. Pam watches but can't make out anything.

INT. OFFICE - ANNEX - D2

KELLY is staring at THREE SWIMSUITS displayed on her desk.

KELLY

Why is it so crazy hard? It should be obvious right away. How do you make decisions, Ryan?

RYAN

I realize that no matter what decision I make it doesn't matter at all. It will not change the course of anything. And I shouldn't have bothered anyone by saying it out loud.

KELLY

That's so not the case with this.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - D2

Toby is at Pam's desk. He's holding out a tube of SUNSCREEN.

TOBY

Want my sunscreen?

PAM

Oh, great. I forgot mine and I'm wearing a two piece.

Toby makes a bummed groany NOISE.

PAM (CONT'D)

Thanks, Toby.

Toby shuffles away, passing Michael, who's approaching Pam's desk. Toby gives Michael the tiniest, almost imperceptible glare.

Michael leans on Pam's desk.

MICHAEL

You broke up with Roy and kept working together. That worked out okay, right?

PAM

Well, remember? You fired Roy for attacking Jim, and I don't speak to him anymore, really.

MICHAEL

Mmm, acrimonious. So, I have a very important job for you today.

PAM

I thought we were just having fun on the beach.

MICHAEL

We are. But I would like you to take notes and give me your impressions of people's character. Not their "hotness" or whatever, but their humor and charisma and the indefinable quality that makes you all glad to follow me.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL

I have an interior motive for going to the beach -- I can't decide who to recommend as my replacement. Not surprising, tall order. I'm going to test them all with carnival games until a hero emerges.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - CONTINUOUS - D2

PAM

You would like me to write down everyone's indefinable qualities.

MICHAEL

Yes. Write down everything that everyone's doing all the time and type it up in a way that's helpful.

PAM

Okay, I guess I don't really understand--

MICHAEL

Just write it all down.

Pam grabs a YELLOW PAD from her desk.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Oh, you're going to need like five or six of those.

(as he walks away)

The statistician! Crazy hot stat chick!
Writing down stats...

Pam is disappointed.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM

I have the most boring job in the office,
so why wouldn't I have the most boring
duty on beach day.

EXT. DUNDER MIFFLIN - PARKING LOT - D2

There is an old chartered BUS in the lot.

MICHAEL

This way to the party bus!

INT. PARTY BUS - D2

CLOSE on a SIGN that says, "No alcohol, no loud talking."

MEREDITH

What the hell?

MICHAEL

It's a bus that takes you to a party.

MEREDITH

Um, I forgot my swimsuit.

She runs off.

KEVIN TALKING HEAD

Outside bus.

KEVIN

I just want to lie on the beach and eat
hot dogs. That's all I've ever wanted.

INT. PARTY BUS - MOMENTS LATER - D2

People have taken their seats.

MICHAEL

Are we all here?

VOICES

Yup.

The DRIVER closes the door and starts to pull out. Meredith
RUNS up holding a BIG GULP and the bus stops to let her on.

DWIGHT

Can I say a few words about lake safety?

MICHAEL

If you have to.

JIM

Michael, as number two, it should be my job to give the lake safety lecture.

MICHAEL

Great. Take it away.

JIM

Thank you.

(to bus)

Does anyone seriously think there may be something dangerous about a lake?

DWIGHT

Yes.

JIM

Anybody else? No? All right. Dwight, you will have to wear water wings if you want to come on this trip.

DWIGHT

I will not.

MICHAEL

Yes you will, if Jim thinks you need them.

DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

DWIGHT

I don't have water wings. I don't think I will be able to get them in time. What the hell am I going to do?

INT. PARTY BUS - D2

Meredith sipping her big gulp. Michael sits in the back of the bus, rows behind everyone else. He pulls a pink deflated SUMO SUIT out of a BAG. Dwight comes down the aisle and notices.

DWIGHT

What's all this?

MICHAEL

Nothing.

DWIGHT

If I guess will you tell me?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

No.

DWIGHT

Are we putting on a play for Japanese investors?

MICHAEL

No.

DWIGHT

(whiny)

Please tell me. I've been so good.

MICHAEL

You are really annoying me. If you keep it up I will never, ever tell you another thing ever again.

Dwight sits near Michael, tortured and desperately trying to stay silent as he watches Michael goes through bags, catching glimpses of really cool things -- TORCHES, BANDANAS, SPOONS.

DWIGHT

(squeaky noise)

Ennnk.

Michael looks at him, annoyed.

MICHAEL

All right. Listen everyone. This isn't just a day at the beach.

STANLEY

Oh sweet mother of God.

MICHAEL

If you don't like it, you can go to the back of the bus, Stanley.

STANLEY

Excuse me?

MICHAEL

Or, the front of the bus. Drive the bus if you like. Just -- we're all participating in mandatory fun activities.

(off grumpy looks)

Don't look at me like that. I said, Fun. Funtivities. With a secret prize for the winner.

(CONTINUED)

DWIGHT

Yes! I knew it wasn't just a day at the beach.

MICHAEL

Dwight, please. Your enthusiasm is turning people off.

DWIGHT

(muttering)

I hope there are management parables.

As Michael walks back to his seat at the back of the bus--

MICHAEL

(to Pam)

Did you write that down?

PAM

Which part?

MICHAEL

What I said and how everyone reacted.

PAM

I don't--

MICHAEL

Whoa, whoa -- get it down before you forget it.

Pam looks overwhelmed. Michael looks at her NOTEBOOK.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

There's drawings all over this! Ooh, I can't stay mad at you.

MEREDITH

Can we pull over please at the next rest stop?

MICHAEL

No. We're only ten minutes from the lake.

MEREDITH

Pull over! Pull over!

Meredith runs out. We see through bus windows that she is PEEING behind a bush. Everyone turns away politely or with disgust except Creed, who peers with fascination, nodding. A truck HONKS off camera.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

Michael is BLOWING UP a sumo suit.

MICHAEL

This is an inflatable sumo suit. (puff)
In the olden days, if you wanted to find
a guy who could be king, you had him pull
a sword out of a stone. But times have
changed. (puff) And it's not about the
best sumo wrestler. (puff) It's about
the best manager. (puff) So I don't
care who wins. (puff) It's how they
wrestle in a blowup suit that'll tell me
all I need to know. (puff) Not know
how, sumo. (puff) Whew.

Michael passes out. The air leaks out from the suit as he
nods against the window.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

The bus stops and everyone gets out. Lake Scranton is a gravelly, dumpy beach. People start finding spots on PICNIC BENCHES, under trees.

ANGELA

(to group)

Everyone should be wearing sunblock. Forty-five or higher. Anything lower and you might as well be using corn oil.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - BEACH AREA - D2

Kelly trying to put an UMBRELLA in the gravelly rubble. It doesn't work. Meredith drags a HUGE COOLER across frame.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - MICHAEL'S AREA - D2

In the background, people are still setting up.

MICHAEL

Okay! Everyone should find a nice, cozy spot and get settled.

(instantly)

Okay, now let's play some games! Listen up!

People turn to look. Michael is standing near a bunch of tiki torches set up to look like *Survivor*.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

We are situated at the northeast corner of scenic Lake Scranton, America's third-largest lake.

ANGLE ON: Jim. He shakes his head, "no."

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Originally a coal quarry, today it's filled with recycled water, which sounds very environmental but you couldn't pay me to drink it. It is here that a group of Americans are in for the afternoon of a lifetime. They will be divided into four tribes. It is the ultimate challenge. One day. Fourteen strangers. That work together. Only one survivor.

OSCAR

What?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL
Nothing. Just words. Inspiring words.
(to camera, re: Oscar)
Not a contender.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
Yes, I am choosing my apprentice, which
is why I've modeled all of my games after
Survivor.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

The group stands clumped together, near Michael.

MICHAEL
For the competitions, we will have four
teams. I am going to pick four captains
at random off the top of my head without
thinking:
(fast)
Jim, Dwight, Andy, and Stanley.

STANLEY
I don't want to be a captain.

MICHAEL
Just... you have to be. I already made
up tee shirts.

He shows a TEE SHIRT that says, "Stanley: Team Captain."

STANLEY
I thought you said it was random.

MICHAEL
It is. I randomly put thought into it
and instinctively chose you after much
deliberation.

STANLEY TALKING HEAD

STANLEY
I was forced to go to Lake Scranton with
my co-workers and given a responsibility
that I do not want, and all I got was
this lousy tee shirt.

DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

Holding up his TEE SHIRT.

DWIGHT
Yyyyyyyyyyes!

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - LATER - D2

The four captains are choosing teams. Jim has already chosen Karen.

DWIGHT
I will take... Ryan.

ANDY
I will take... Angela.

Andy holds up his hand to high-five her, and she walks right by him. She glances at Dwight with satisfaction.

DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

DWIGHT
Ryan is fast. Angela is athletic but I happen to know she has a lower back problem that might slow her down.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - LATER - D2

Dwight now has Ryan, Creed, and Meredith. Jim has Karen and Kevin. Andy has Angela and Kelly. Stanley has Oscar and Phyllis.

KELLY
Can I go lie out in the sun?

MICHAEL
No! We need team names. Dwight?

DWIGHT
My team will be Gryffindor.

JIM
Really? Not Slytherin?

DWIGHT
Slytherin are the bad guys, Jim.

JIM
I know. We will be Voldemort.

DWIGHT
He who must not be named! You can't be that!

Jim's team starts to CHANT.

JIM'S TEAM
Voldemort! Voldemort!

DWIGHT
(looking around, nervously)
You really shouldn't do that.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

By a tiki torch, *Survivor* style.

MICHAEL
Jim Halpert? Pros: Smart, cool, good
looking... remind you of anyone you know?
(smiles to camera)
Cons: Not a hard worker. I'll work all
day on a project, and he'll finish the
same project in half an hour. So that
should tell you something.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

MICHAEL
Okay, okay. Stanley.

STANLEY
I don't care what my team is called.

MICHAEL
You have to pick something. C'mon
Stanley, try a little.

STANLEY
(beat)
I got nothing.

MICHAEL
Fine. Then I'll pick for you. The Red
Team.

STANLEY
No. The Blue Team.

ANDY
And we will be Team USA!

MICHAEL
Super. Pam, make a note. Andy is
patriotic. Now everyone! This way for
the first game!

Andy beams.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL

Andy Bernard? Pros: he's classy, he gets me, he went to Cornell, I trust him.
Cons: I don't really trust him.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - MOMENTS LATER - D2

Michael brings a FLAG to mark the finish line.

MICHAEL

Who's ready to have fun?!

DWIGHT

I am!

ANDY

Team USA is ready!

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

All right! We will start with the spoon and egg race... but with a twist.

STANLEY

There's already a twist. You're carrying an egg on a spoon.

MICHAEL

Shh -- just. It's a teamwork game. The guy with the egg is blindfolded and he has to go around these torches and put it in a pail. First team back wins.

JIM

Those torches are lit.

MICHAEL

Yes. Dramatic.

JIM

No, Michael -- people are blindfolded. That's... a hazard.

Michael thinks.

MICHAEL

Very good Jim.

(to Pam)

Make a note that Jim is astute. Ready!

JIM

Not going to put out the torches?

MICHAEL

Get set!

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Okay.

MICHAEL
Go!

The teams take off, gingerly. Phyllis instantly DROPS the EGG.

STANLEY
(sincere)
Thank you so much.

He walks off and sits down with his CROSSWORD PUZZLE. Kelly takes two little steps.

KELLY
Am I near the rock? I'm near the big rock, I just know it. I don't want to hit the rock.

Kelly IMMEDIATELY takes her BLINDFOLD off. CAMERA FINDS the closest BIG ROCK, very far away. Andy swallows his anger.

ANDY TALKING HEAD

ANDY
My strategy for today is, win or lose, to do it gracefully and have fun.
(thinking he's being diabolical)
Heh, heh, heh.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - CONTINUOUS - D2

Dwight guides a blindfolded Ryan.

DWIGHT
(to Ryan)
Let's go, Temp. Andale! Arriba!

RYAN
Please stop.

Jim and Karen are kind of enjoying themselves.

JIM
Keep going. You're doing great.

He steers her off the course and towards the water.

KAREN
Are we winning?

(CONTINUED)

JIM

We're in second. Careful! There's a hole. Step over the -- no! Eh! Yes!

Karen steps over nothing -- gingerly.

ANGLE ON: Michael. He is angry that this isn't working better.

MICHAEL

Come on, everyone. This is important.

He glances at Pam, who is quickly taking notes. Pam pauses to shake out her sore hand.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM

There's nothing better than a beautiful day at the beach, filled with sun, surf and diligent note-taking.

MICHAEL (O.C.)

Pam! You're missing things!

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - BEACH - D2

Out in the lake, Creed, with his pants legs rolled up, is staring at the water. Suddenly his hand darts down and GRABS A SMALL FISH out of the lake.

ANGLE ON: Dwight and Ryan.

DWIGHT

Mush! Mush, I say!

RYAN

Okay. That's it for me.

He takes his blindfold off.

ANGLE ON: Jim and Karen. Karen has reached the water. She steps in, in her sneakers.

KAREN

Aaaah!

She takes her blindfold off, realizes what Jim has done.

KAREN (CONT'D)

(laughing)

You ass!

JIM
What did I do?

She chases him around, laughing, and whips the egg at him.

ANDY
Great job, everyone! That was fantastic!

ANGLE ON: Michael. This is not going well.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

ANGLE ON: Michael approaching Pam, arms filled with SHOPPING BAGS.

MICHAEL
Hey Pam, I have another special project for you.

PAM
Does it have to do with the shopping bags filled with hot dogs?

MICHAEL
Whip smart. Here's the deal. They're pre-cooked, so this is not absolutely necessary, but if you could warm up six hundred hot dogs for an eating contest I want to run in ten minutes, I'd really appreciate it.

PAM
How am I supposed to--

MICHAEL
Thanks a bunch!

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
To be a good manager you have to be hungry. Hungry for success. What's another place where it's good to be hungry? Lunch. Confused? You'll find out.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

CLOSE UP of HOT DOGS crammed on a little public HIBACHI GRILL. REVEAL Pam cooking as Michael watches anxiously.

MICHAEL
Who came out the best in the race, in your opinion?

(CONTINUED)

PAM
(checking notes)
Well, Karen kept the blindfold on
longest, but she also threw her egg at
Jim...

MICHAEL
Ugh. Everyone blew it. Pam, if these
people can't carry an egg in a spoon
blindfolded, what does that say about how
they will conduct a conference call, or
manage sales reports?

PAM
...It tells me nothing.

MICHAEL
Exactly.
(beat)
Are you doing this right? It seems to be
taking an awfully long time.

PAM
There's six hundred of them.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - PICNIC AREA - D2

The teams sit at different PICNIC BENCHES. Michael addresses
the group.

MICHAEL
Okay! Everybody comfortable? Ready for
lunch... which is actually your next
event! Hot dog eating contest. If
you're curious, the world record is fifty-
four and a half. We have enough so that
each of you can set that record today --
so reach for the stars! The team that
eats the most hot dogs in ten minutes
wins. On your mark...

KELLY
Can I have a turkey burger?

MICHAEL
No. There's only one, and I claimed it.

He holds the TURKEY BURGER up.

OSCAR
Can't we just eat the lunches we brought?

MICHAEL

It's... this is important. Okay? You have to do this. It's important to try to eat as many hot dogs as you can.

MEREDITH

Hot dogs are really unhealthy.

MICHAEL

You son of a bitch. Just...

People look at each other -- what is going on?

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

On your mark... get set... go!

People very casually start eating hot dogs at exactly the same rate they would normally. Michael looks angry.

PHYLLIS

(to Stanley)

Is there any mustard?

MICHAEL

No mustard! Just dip the buns in water so you can eat faster!

People are just eating and chatting.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Come on! Eat! You need to take this seriously. The winner of today gets a giant, giant prize.

MEREDITH

What is it?

MICHAEL

I can't say.

JIM

Inspiring.

Karen GIGGLES.

MICHAEL

All right. The prize is a regional manager's salary for a whole year. And a Sebring. And the feeling that you are making a difference in the world.

KELLY

Can we just take the first two prizes?

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

(blurting)

The winner of today gets to have my job.

Beat. People look confused.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I am interviewing for a job at corporate. And they're only interviewing a handful of people, and I am the most qualified and I'm probably going to get it. And I need to find someone to take my place in Scranton.

DWIGHT

You're leaving?

MICHAEL

Yes. I didn't tell anyone because I did not want to cast a pall over our fun beach day.

JIM

You just wanted us to eat fifty-five hot dogs.

MICHAEL

I wanted to test your hunger which is part of the character of a good leader. I am always hungry. But I don't know who to recommend now, because frankly nobody is stepping up.

Andy grabs a handful of hot dogs from the PLATTER, sits down and starts chewing.

ANDY

(mouth full)

These are great!

STANLEY

Do you expect me to believe that you are truly making your recommendations on this basis?

MICHAEL

Word.

Stanley hesitates, then reaches for a bunch of hot dogs. Andy looks at him fearfully, and eats faster. Dwight and Kevin jump down and start digging in. Jim and Karen roll their eyes.

JIM TALKING HEAD

Jim is eating from a small bin of TUNA SALAD. In the background, the hot dog eating continues.

JIM

Karen and I are having our own contest, to see which one of us can eat the most normal amount of tuna salad, in an unspecified but comfortable amount of time. Right now, I'd say we're roughly tied.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - PICNIC AREA - D2

Creed has just finished eating the little fish and is SUCKING THE BONES. He looks over at the frantic hot-dog eaters.

CREED

Aw, no one told me there were going to be hot dogs.

Michael gives commentary, trying to whip up excitement.

MICHAEL

Andy Bernard has eaten four hot dogs!
And Dwight Schrute right behind with three and a half! And Stanley! Stanley coming on strong with three hot dogs!

Stanley keeps at it.

STANLEY (V.O.)

I don't want a new car, I don't want...

STANLEY TALKING HEAD

STANLEY

...a pretty girl on the side, I don't want the nerve.com Collection of Naughty Crosswords, although I'm getting it for Fathers Day. I want to be the boss. Hoo chile, I want to be the boss.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - PICNIC AREA - CONTINUOUS - D2

MICHAEL

(checking watch)

Four seconds, three, two, one, and stop!

People stop eating.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
And the winner is... Andy Bernard!
Fourteen hot dogs!

ANDY
One came up.

MICHAEL
Thirteen hot dogs!

KEVIN TALKING HEAD

KEVIN
I'm out of it. Let's face it, the eating
contest was my best shot.

DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

DWIGHT
I want to win. I want it more than I
want to breathe. And I love breathing
more than life itself.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - EARLIER - D2

SPY SHOT: Dwight and Angela talk a good distance from the
others. Their dialogue is SUBTITLED a la *Survivor* because
they are whispering.

DWIGHT
Sabotage...

ANGELA
What are you saying? Are you saying
sandwich?

DWIGHT
No. I was saying that before. Not now.
Now I am saying sabotage. The ancient
Dutch art of screwing up your own team.

ANGELA
I knew you were saying sabotage. I was
giving you an example of it. I will
misunderstand everything Andy says until
he goes insane.

DWIGHT
If Michael organizes some kind of stupid
group hug, stand next to me.

ANGELA
Dwight!

DWIGHT

Sorry.

They walk away.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

Jim, Stanley, Andy, and Dwight are dressed in sumo suits. Jim and Stanley stand facing each other. There is a CIRCLE IN THE DIRT/SAND marking a makeshift ring. Karen is rubbing Jim's shoulders.

MICHAEL

It is simple. There are only three rules.

(reads instructions)

You cannot touch the ground. You cannot go outside the ring. You must always wear the safety mittens.

JIM

What safety mittens?

STANLEY

We don't have mittens.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

I don't know, they're in my trunk maybe, it's fine.

DWIGHT

They have to bow to each other.

MICHAEL

Fine, whatever.

Jim and Stanley bow to each other.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

And... go!

Jim awkwardly moves towards Stanley who is lunging at him with fire in his eyes.

STANLEY

Agggggggghhhh!

Stanley HURTLES towards Jim and KNOCKS HIM OVER fast. Jim is startled. He was not expecting that.

Reactions from the crowd.

Stanley crosses over and holds out his hand to help him up.

STANLEY (CONT'D)

Sorry about that. It's all about taking points away from Dwight.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
(nods, disoriented)
No, okay, good, yeah.

JIM TALKING HEAD

JIM
Oh, my God. I don't know who that was
but it wasn't Stanley. I have never seen
that look in a man's eyes ever. I
thought I might die. On beach day.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

Dwight and Stanley are going at it. It's more of a fight
than Dwight anticipated.

PHYLLIS TALKING HEAD

PHYLLIS
The guy who sits behind me and the guy
who sits across from me are fighting to
see who becomes my boss. And I'm rather
enjoying it.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

Stanley is getting tired. He looks sweaty and scary. Dwight
pushes him over.

DWIGHT
Yeah! Eat sand, ya fat old man!

Pam JOTS this down on her notebook.

DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

Dwight is in his sumo suit, still sweaty.

DWIGHT
I had to win. It would be a grave
dishonor to myself and to anyone who
knows my interests if I were to fail at
this. I'm being called back in.

Dwight awkwardly bows to the camera.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)
Shinjaru.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

Dwight and Andy are in sumo suits running towards each other.

OSCAR TALKING HEAD

Dwight and Andy wrestle in the background.

OSCAR

If either of these guys are put in charge of the office, I'll transfer to Albany. Gil can come if he wants. I'm kind of looking for a way out of that relationship anyway. I think I might try girls for a while. Angela thinks I can cross over. We'll see.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - D2

Dwight pushes Andy out of bounds and on his back.

ANDY TALKING HEAD

ANDY

Yeah, the only reason I lost is because I recently learned that it's better to work things out with words.

DWIGHT (O.C.)

That's not why you lost.

CAMERA WIDENS to find Dwight standing next to Andy, both still in their sumo suits.

ANDY

It is too. I could've beaten you so badly.

DWIGHT

Yeah, right.

Dwight pushes Andy with the stomach of his sumo suit. Andy pushes back. They're wrestling again and they both go down. Dwight clearly has the upper hand and Andy knows he's losing.

ANDY

I would rather figure this out with words!

EXT. SCRANTON LAKE - D2

Andy is hot and takes a break. He heads down to the water. He has a TOWEL and tries to dip it in the water. As he leans over, he TOPPLES IN. It's a struggle. He loses and starts to FLOAT AWAY. He CALLS FOR HELP but nobody can hear him above the CHEERING for the sumo match.

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE ON: Angela. She notices Andy float away and bites her lip.

ANDY
Angela! Help! Tell someone!

ANGELA
What, Andy? Andy, what should I tell them?

ANDY
Tell them that I'm floating away, obviously.

ANGELA
I don't understand what you want from me.

ANDY
It's pretty simple.

ANGELA
Sorry. Bye Andy.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

In the background we see Andy floating away.

MICHAEL
I knew finding a successor would be difficult. What I didn't know is that it would be impossible. Everyone has proven to be wildly disappointing. Jim isn't taking it seriously, Stanley is having a stroke and Andy, where is he? Where the hell is Andy?

EXT. SCRANTON LAKE - D2

A PICK-UP TRUCK full of FIREWOOD rolls up and TWO GRIMY PEOPLE hop out and approach Michael. Michael points to a place on the beach and the guys start unloading wood.

ANGELA
Well, have you seen enough, Michael? I'm getting cold.

MICHAEL
That is why you will never take over the branch. We have one more surprise coming.

Michael addresses the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

What does a great manager need most of all? Courage.

STANLEY

How so?

(he sees Michael being
irritated and adjusts)

I mean, sure thing. That sounds... smar -
- I can't do this anymore. I'm going to
sit in the bus.

Stanley crosses to the bus.

MICHAEL

Your loss Stanley. Because the rest of
us are going to have a super fun time
defeating our fear and creating a lasting
memory -- walking through fire!

Behind him the grimy guys LIGHT a big pile of wood they have
built up on the beach.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - NIGHT 2

Jim and Karen off by themselves. This is done with *Survivor* SPY SHOT GREEN NIGHT VISION. Jim talks into his CELLPHONE.

JIM

Okay, I'll see you next week. Thank you.
And here is Karen Filippelli.

He passes the cell phone to Karen.

KAREN

Yes, Hi David... I'd like to be
considered for the corporate position as
well...

A SEAGULL CALLS OUT.

KAREN (CONT'D)

No that was a bird. We're still at work,
sort of.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - N2

People take off their shoes as the grimy guys RAKE THE COALS.
The coal walk/fire walk is situated so you can finish the
walk and then walk into the lake

KEVIN

(to Angela)
You gonna go?

ANGELA

I will not walk in the fire after your
disgusting feet have gone though.

KEVIN

It's a million degrees!

Pam looks excited as she steps out of her shoes by herself.

PAM

(to camera, grinning)
I fully expect my feet to be burned and I
will go to the hospital. Is that the
right spirit to go into a coal walk?

Michael notices.

MICHAEL

Not you, Pam. You have to keep score.

(CONTINUED)

PAM
I'd like to try--

MICHAEL
Pointless.

Pam, embarrassed, puts her shoes back on. Michael addresses the group.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
This is about courage. Guts. You need guts to be regional manager. Who among you has the guts to replace me? Let him walk across the coals.

ANGELA
Or her.

MICHAEL
Enjoy.

Everyone stands looking at the firewalk. It looks shoddily put-together and scary.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Jim, you're up.

JIM
Nope.

MICHAEL
Oh, come on, why not?

JIM
I have fourteen reasons. Would you like to hear them?

MICHAEL
No, you know what? You're a coward. You don't have what it takes to be regional manager.

JIM
That seems harsh.

MICHAEL
All right, it's Andy's turn. Where is Andy?

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - TREE AND BUSHES AT WATERS' EDGE - N2

In the light of a Sun Gun mounted on the camera, amid a bunch of OLD NEWSPAPERS and 6-PACK CAN HOLDERS stuck to some tree roots, is the sumo suit with Andy inside. Andy struggles.

(CONTINUED)

ANDY
Who's there? Help.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - CONTINUOUS - N2

MICHAEL
Andy's never around today.

RYAN
I think he found something better to do
on the other side of the lake.

KEVIN
Why don't you do it, Michael?

JIM
Yeah, if this is so central to your job
description, you should be able to do it.

MICHAEL
No, this is to find the person with what
it takes to replace me.

JIM
Yeah, I got that.

OSCAR
Come on, Michael.

MICHAEL
All right. Fine.

He stands at the edge but can't do it.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I am a special case because I burned my
foot. Probably shouldn't do it, just
reopen old wounds.

CREED
Seems like you are walking on it fine.

MICHAEL
Old psychological wounds.

MEREDITH
C'mon, Michael. Show us how it's done.

She gets behind Michael and prods him a little.

MICHAEL
(screams)

(CONTINUED)

Pam makes a note in her notebook. Michael back away, then looks at his WATCH.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

(less real scream)

Look. It's almost dark. No time for me to go. I think I've proved my point that... What goes around comes arou--

DWIGHT

I will do this Michael. I have what it takes. I will stand in the fire until you award me your recommendation.

He walks into the middle of the firewalk and STANDS IN FIRE looking defiantly at Michael.

KELLY

Get out, Dwight.

JIM

C'mon, man.

CREED

(sniffs)

Turkey burgers?

MICHAEL

C'mon, Dwight. That wouldn't be fair.

DWIGHT

Give it to me.

(then)

Ow. Ow. Ow.

He FALLS DOWN INTO THE COALS AND SPAZZES OUT, rolling all around.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

B ROLL: Michael watches Dwight writhe in the pit with distaste.

MICHAEL

Being a boss is also about image. I have never looked like that. That was gross.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - OTHER SIDE OF LAKE - N2

Andy is blown to the other side of the lake and manages to roll onto his feet. He climbs out and stares across the lake at the torches. Then he starts to trot around the lake. He passes a car and tries to hitch but they are creeped out by the suit and avoid him.

EXT. LAKE SCRANTON - N2

MICHAEL

Well, if I had to pick one person to replace me based on today, it would be Mr. Outside Hire.

ANGELA

Or Mrs. Outside Hire.

MICHAEL

(unconvincingly)

Yeah. Anyway, I'm not hiring someone I don't know. I'm not leaving this branch that I love in the hands of an outside hire. So, one hundred points, sudden death, tribal council round to test for the most important aspect of my job anyway: what I call the Bob Hope factor.

KELLY

Who's Bob Hope?

MICHAEL

Oh come on! Famous comedian.

KELLY

Like Nia Vardalos.

MICHAEL

What? Who?

KELLY

My Big Fat Greek Wedding.

MICHAEL

Oh, I loved that movie. She's right. Pam, make a note.

Pam pretends to scribble something.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Whoever replaces me has to be funny, as great a leader as Vardalos or Hope. So now, Jim, Dwight? Anything to say?

Jim gets up.

JIM

Hey, I know what you are looking for, but I have to be honest with you. I don't think I should be considered as your replacement.

(CONTINUED)

MICHAEL

Don't be so modest. You can do it.

JIM

I am going to interview on Thursday with David Wallace for the open job in New York.

Pam stops writing.

MICHAEL

That is not funny.

PAM

But that, so you would move to New York City?

JIM

Yes.

Pam looks like she wants to say something but can't.

MICHAEL

I'm docking Team Voldemort sixty points for false pretenses.

DWIGHT

Shhh.

MICHAEL

Dwight, it's up to you. Wow us.

Dwight gets up slowly and stands in front of the torches. The moment is fraught with drama.

DWIGHT

A man, his wife and his children walk into a talent agent's office. The man describes their act and it is horribly raunchy.

In the background, Pam drifts over to coals. She psyches herself up and RUNS ACROSS. Exhilarated, she returns.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

Really tasteless stuff. The agent asks them the name of the act and the man says the aristocrats.

Michael nods seriously.

MICHAEL

That was a very funny story.

(CONTINUED)

Pam comes up behind him.

PAM

Hey, I want to say something. I've been trying to be more honest lately, and I need to say some things. I did the coal walk. You couldn't do that Michael, so maybe I should be your boss. I feel really good right now. Why didn't any of you come to my art show? That kind of sucked because I invited all of you. It's just like sometimes some of you don't even act like I exist. Like, Jim, I called off my wedding because of you and now we're not even friends, it's just weird between us and it sucks. I miss you. You were my best friend before you went to Stamford. I miss you. I shouldn't have been with Roy and there were a lot of reasons to call off the wedding, but the truth is, I didn't care about any of the reasons until I met you. And you're with somebody else now, and fine, that's whatever, but it doesn't mean you have to hate me. Wouldn't that be sad, if you had to hate everybody who wasn't your girlfriend to make your girlfriend feel okay. I wouldn't do that to my boyfriend. My feet are starting to hurt like hell, and I just wanted to tell you, Jim, and everyone here in this circle, I guess, that I miss having fun with you, not the other people in the circle so much, anyway I am going to walk into the lake now. Good day.

Jim stares at her. Karen looks to him like, check out crazy chick.

MICHAEL

Pam, that was amazing, but I'm still looking for someone with a sales background.

Jim watches Pam walk to the lake.

END OF SHOW