

The Hack

Pilot

By

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(CONTINUED)

FADE IN:

1 INT. COFFEE HOUSE - LATE MORNING 1

LES TYLER, 21, stands in the middle of the line for coffee, wearing a cheap suit and completely focused on his iphone.

CLOSE UP on his phone screen. He writes to someone named MEGHAN. His fingers slowly type out:

"Wanna see a movie together?"

He reviews the message and rapidly taps the 'delete' button. Thinks to himself for a moment. He can't mess this up. He instead types out:

"Can I take you out on a date?"

Still dissatisfied, LES reaches for the 'delete' button, but then . . .

Another customer, a BIG GUY, shoves into his arm forcing LES to accidentally press the 'send' button instead.

His eyes widen with panic, LES looks down at his phone to see that the message has indeed been sent.

LES
Son of a . . .

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

3.

LES picks his head up and notices the BIG GUY cutting to the front of the line.

LES (CONT'D) Hey!
What do you think you're
doing?

BIG GUY ignores the yelling.

LES (CONT'D)
You can't push people around just
so you can cut all of us!

BIG GUY takes his coffee and walks up to LES, easily dwarfing him. LES stands his ground . . . for a second.

LES (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. No disrespect intended.

BIG GUY fake lunges at LES who cowers in fear.

BIG GUY
That's what I thought.

BIG GUY walks out of the shop while LES shamefully fixes his tie.

2 INT. MARLIN PRODUCTIONS - DAY

2

The waiting area for the main offices. A bright and shiny sign on the wall reads: MARLIN PRODUCTIONS. LES briskly walks past the sign and right up the front desk where RECEPTIONIST 1 sits -- Normal, everyday, pretty front face.

RECEPTIONIST 1
Hello, how can I help you?

LES
Hi, I'm Les Tyler, I have a meeting
with Mr. Tompkins.

RECEPTIONIST 1 starts scanning the computer screen.

RECEPTIONIST 1
And what is this
meeting about?

LES

(CONTINUED)

I'm a screenwriter, it's about one of my scripts.

RECEPTIONIST 1

There you are, Mr. Tyler. Please have a seat.

LES

Thank you.

LES turns to an empty waiting room with as many empty chairs that could fit in there. He pick and chair and sits to review his script that he pulls out from his backpack.

He takes a highlighter and flips through the pages that are covered with notes, highlighting the important notes.

A BUZZ. LES takes a look at his phone.

CLOSE UP on the screen:

1 New Message from Meghan

LES's sets the phone down and thinks. He flips the phone back over and starts entering his password. Half-way through, he stops, clicks his phone off and slides it back into his pocket.

RECEPTIONIST 1

Mr. Tyler?

LES approaches the desk.

RECEPTIONIST 1 (CONT'D)

Now, take this number and give it to them down that hallway.

LES

Okay. Thank You.

LES take the number and walks down the hallway entering . . .

3 INT. SECOND WAITING ROOM - DAY

3

Another waiting room. This time a sea-foam green palette colors the wall. LES steps up to the desk where RECEPTIONIST 2 -- a bored, unenthusiastic type, sits. LES hands over the number.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

5.

RECEPTIONIST 2
(mono-tone)

Great. Have a seat.

LES finds a chair and pops a squat.

CUT TO:

A few minutes later.

RECEPTIONIST 2 (CONT'D)

Mr. Tyler?

LES stands up with excitement and strides over to the desk.

RECEPTIONIST 2 (CONT'D)

Take this colored card and hand it
over to the people down the hall.

LES grabs a hold of the card and strolls down the hallway
entering . . .

4 INT. THIRD WAITING ROOM - DAY

4

ANOTHER WAITING ROOM. LES walks with a little less pep in
his step up to the desk and greets RECEPTIONIST 3 --
bubbly, energetic in an over-the-top way.

RECEPTIONIST 3

Hello! You are Mr. Tyler right?

LES

Yes.

RECEPTIONIST 3 The
front room said you were
coming. You're just the person
I wanted to see here.

LES

Great! I was beginning to think
that this was never going to . . .

RECEPTIONIST 3 whips out a plastic pineapple with a fake
duck head crudely plastered onto it.

RECEPTIONIST 3 You're
gonna take this down that
hallway and give it the
receptionist down there. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

LES
(in disbelief)

Ok.

RECEPTIONIST 3
Thank you, honey.

LES schlepps his way down the hallway entering . . .

5 INT. FOURTH WAITING ROOM - DAY

5

Is it really a surprise where he ended up? LES, disenfranchised, walks up to the front desk to RECEPTIONIST 4 -- just as bubbly and energetic as the last one. LES tosses the pineapple onto the desk.

RECEPTIONIST 4
What is this?

LES
I was told to give this to you?
From the lady down there?

RECEPTIONIST 4
(gasp)
Caroline gave this to me?

LES
I guess.

RECEPTIONIST 4
Sudan. She
remembered!

LES walks over to an empty chair to sit.

RECEPTIONIST 4 (CONT'D)
Excuse me, you're waiting for Mr.
Tompkins, right?

LES
Yes.

RECEPTIONIST 4 (CONT'D)
Well you have to go back the way
you came, honey.

LES

What? But--

RECEPTIONIST 4 Yeah,
this isn't even his office over
here. We work for Timberlands Co.

LES picks himself up and starts to heads back to . . .

6

INT. THIRD WAITING ROOM - DAY

6

LES sluggishly returns to the previous room walking past
the desk.

RECEPTIONIST 3 Did
she love it? What did she
think?

LES

Yeah, I think so.

RECEPTIONIST 3
What was her face like?

LES

I don't --

RECEPTIONIST 3
Was it like this?

RECEPTIONIST 3 gasps with a surprised face.

RECEPTIONIST 3 (CONT'D)
Or like this?

She then wears a "cuddly" awe face.

LES

I don't know, somewhere in between?

RECEPTIONIST 3
Oh, like this.

An odd mix of a "surprise" and a "cuddly" expression
stretches across her face.

LES

(un-enthused)

Perfect.

LES heads towards the chairs to wait.

(CONTINUED)

RECEPTIONIST 3 Oh, by the way, Mr. Tompkins won't be able to see you today.

LES turns around in disbelief.

LES
What are you talking about?

RECEPTIONIST 3 He's not here. Your meeting has been cancelled.

LES
Are you kidding me? This is the fourth time I've had to reschedule with him! How can he do this? You'd think he could of told me before I had the numbered paper, the colored paper and the stupid pineapple-duck, thing? The 'PUCK"!?

RECEPTIONIST 3
He has an opening in 6 months.

LES stands there for a moment. Face is expressionless.

LES
Okay.

7 INT. LES'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

7

JOEL, 22, and COREY, 22, sit on opposite ends of a beaten up couch in the middle of a lived-in living room. Specifically a young adult MALE lived-in living room. The two friends sit with lap tops.

COREY
Okay, how about two brothers, one democrat, one republican, run for president. The twist is they are Siamese twins.

JOEL
Nice!

COREY
The title would be . . .

(CONTINUED)

BOTH

Split Decision!

JOEL

What about a dog? He was always a good boy until one day he learned he was nothing more than slave and now he has to save his brothers and sisters from the whip? It'll be an underdog story.

COREY

Okay, not bad.

COREY types out the ideas.

JOEL

Now how about something easy to write? Like a reality game show?

COREY

Like what?

JOEL

What if we gave contestants 2 hours to go to local parks and abduct as many children as possible. The most kids wins!

COREY

How about a mini-gold tournament game show? It'd be great for the whole family!

JOEL

Gilbert Gottfried hosts a game show where orphans battle each other in an obstacle course and the one who wins gets adopted?

COREY stares over at JOEL with eyes full of confusion.

JOEL (CONT'D) (imitating Gilbert Gottfried) Little Katie's family was killed in a house fire. But I have to say that she is tearing up
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOEL (CONT'D) (cont'd)
this course. Her parents aren't the
only thing on fire!

COREY continues to stare down JOEL.

The door swings open and LES enters.

JOEL AND COREY
What's up, man? Hey, dude! (etc.)

LES passes through the living room towards the laundry
room.

COREY
How'd the big meeting go, super
star?

LES
Uh, he, had to cancel.

JOEL
Aw, man, that sucks!

LES
Yeah. I rescheduled though.

COREY
Well, I guess our celebratory night
of going to the movies will just be
an ordinary night of going to the
movies, huh?

LES
I guess so.

LES enters the laundry room and FLICKS on the light. JOEL
and COREY can be heard in the background discussing more
ideas. LES looks over to the dryer bouncing up and down. He
scans down to the floor and sees his clean clothes sitting
in an unkempt pile on the floor.

Adding salt to the wound, there is CLEARLY an EMPTY basket
right next to the clothes.

Quickly, LES picks up the clothes and sees the dirty,
stained linoleum that laid under them.

LES
Guys!

JOEL AND COREY (O.S)

What?

LES sets his clothes into an empty basket.

LES

Did you take my clothes out of the dryer?

JOEL (O.S) Oh, yeah,

I had to put mine in. What's wrong?

LES

(sigh)
Never mind.

8

INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

8

A semi-crowded theater. The pre-movie dimmed lights give a little illumination to the audience waiting for the show. LES and JOEL sit one seat apart from each other, saving it for COREY.

LES fidgets with his phone. CLOSE UP on screen. His fingers hover dangerously over his messages. A red "1", shows that he still has not read his message from MEGHAN. His fingers inch closer to the button, but then he quickly chickens out and retracts. He goes through this motion a few times until . . .

COREY (O.S)

Gentlemen!

COREY squeezes in between JOEL and LES. He hands over assorted drinks and candy.

JOEL

Thanks!

LES

Yeah, man, thanks. What do I owe you?

COREY

Don't worry about it, man.

LES

C'mon, dude.

(CONTINUED)

COREY

I'm serious, it's the least I can do. We voted between seeing Loser-Man 2 and that indie movie you wanted to see, and you lost two to one. I felt bad.

LES

Fair enough, but you can't say that The Electrician's Wife didn't have some appeal.

JOEL

If Emma Watson "appeals" off her dress in that movie, then yeah!

They all chuckle. LES takes a sip of his drink. He winces with disgust.

LES

Hey, man, is this regular?

COREY

Should be.

LES

It taste like diet.

COREY

It can't be, I asked for regular because you asked me for regular.

LES

Nah, it's diet.

COREY

Well, if you go up and ask I'm sure they'll give you a regular. Here take the receipt.

COREY hands LES the receipt.

LES

Um, you know what, it's okay. I'm fine.

COREY

What? You sure?

(CONTINUED)

LES

Yeah, movie's about to start
anyways.

COREY

If you say so.

The lights in the theater dim. Just as they are almost completely off, a TALL man shimmies down the aisle and sits right in front of LES. His height obscures LES's view. He tries to lean over to one side but nothing is going to work.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

14.

After a few more attempts at improving his view, LES sinks back into his chair and gives up.

CUT TO:

30 minutes into the movie. The entire theater is rolling with laughter. JOEL and COREY have the time of their lives. LES sits behind the pillar of a man with his arms crossed and an unimpressed face.

Another funny line and the crowd goes nuts! Especially the man sitting in front of LES. He lets out the most annoying, hoarse laugh ever heard. LES glares at the back of the head making the noise with disbelief. Can it get worse than this?

Fed up with this nonsense, LES jumps out of his chair and walks out of the theater.

9 INT. BATHROOM - NIGHT 9

LES stands at a urinal and "takes care of business".

He finishes and goes to wash his hands. He dries his hands and pulls out his phone once again. Nothing changes, he just stares at that notification.

He heads out of the bathroom.

10 INT. MOVIE THEATER HALLWAY - NIGHT 10

LES opens the door to re-enter "Loser-Man 2". Before he enters, across the hall: "The Electrician's Wife".

With a seconds of hesitation, LES crosses the hallway and enters the doors into . . .

11 INT. MOVIE THEATER (THE ELECTRICIAN'S WIFE) - NIGHT 11

"The Electrician's Wife". The atmosphere of the theater is one of a higher class than the one playing an unfunny comedy sequel.

LES doesn't make it all the way to a seat, he walks far enough in to see the screen and the scene playing on it.

CUT TO:

12 INT. HOUSE - DAY (THE ELECTRICIAN'S WIFE MOVIE) 12

A warm, romantic, soft filtered image of, TOM, 30's, The Electrician, standing in front of a giant wall out-let.

Cheesy, romantic music plays, stirring up this dramatic and intense moment.

TOM

I don't have much time left, Judy.

JUDY (O.S)

(Emma Watson's Character)
No, Tom! You can't do this!

TOM

I have no choice!
(beat)
I'm gone, Judy. It's too late for me. But not for you. You can't let people keep pushing you around. Just like I never let my clients push me around. Go on without me. Live your life. Remember, I'm the DAMN Electrician, and you're the Electrician's wife! So . . . LIVE!

TOM shoves his hands into the giant outlet and electrocutes himself.

CUT TO:

13 INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT (THE ELECTRICIAN'S WIFE)
(REALITY)

13

LES stands and stares at the beauty, the masterpiece and sheer poetry of this scene he just watched.

He smiles and spins around, exiting the theater with some new found determination.

14 INT. MOVIE THEATER CANDY COUNTER - NIGHT 14

CLOSE UP on LES standing in front of the candy counter.

LES

I respect you. I respect your job.
It's not always easy, I get it. But I have a life too. My life isn't always easy. I let people walk all over me. I never say what's on my mind. Well I've been quiet too long. (beat) (LES (MORE))

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

(CONTINUED)

LES (cont'd) raises his hand) Now,
 please, let me finish. I have a
 lot to offer. I have a lot to
 share. I'm going to write a movie
 that's going to play in this
 theater, and when that day comes .
 . . I want a regular soda.

PULL BACK to see an EMPLOYEE, 18, staring with the most
 uninterested face.

EMPLOYEE

Do you have your receipt?

LES pulls out his receipt with a triumphant fist. He smiles
 and takes his soda.

15

MONTAGE - VARIOUS

15

A) INT. MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT (LOSER-MAN 2)

LES merrily joins his friends in the theater. He hops back
 into his seat and is greeted with an obscured view from the
 man in front of him.

LES walks down to the man.

LES

(whispered)

Excuse me. I'm sorry but you're
 kinda blocking the view. Do you
 think you could move?

TALL MAN

Yeah, sure, no problem. Thanks for
 telling me.

LES

Well hey, why don't you seat up
 here with us?

CUT TO:

JOEL, COREY, LES and TALL MAN all sit in a row together.
 They laugh hardheartedly, TALL MAN laughing with his
 signature, over-the-top laugh.

B) INT. LES'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LES stands in the laundry room and addresses JOEL and
 COREY.

LES

SO if you see my clothes are clean,
just put them in an empty basket.
Cool?

JOEL

Of course!

COREY

No, problem.

JOEL Why
didn't you say so?

All three bros fist bump each other.

COREY

If we help with laundry, there
won't be a quandary, right?

LES

Right! Cool!

C) EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

LES skips down the crowded sidewalk with a chipper smile
and his cheap suit. He enters the building.

D) INT. MARLIN PRODUCTIONS - DAY

LES zips pass the MARLIN PRODUCTIONS sign and RECEPTIONIST
1.

RECEPTIONIST 1

How can I help you today?

LES

I'm going in to see Mr. Tompkins.

RECEPTIONIST 1

Do you have an
appointment?

LES

No!

RECEPTIONIST 1 jumps out of her chair and chases after LES down the hall.

RECEPTIONIST 1 What?

You can't go in there. Mr.
Marlin is very busy.

16

INT. MARLIN'S OFFICE - DAY

16

The door to Marlin's office slams open. LES walks into the most elaborately decorated office with all the confidence in the world. He is followed by RECEPTIONIST 1, 2 and 3.

RECEPTIONISTS

Wait!

LES

Mr. Tompkins? Mr. Tompkins?!

There is a clattering sound coming from behind the ornate wooden desk.

WOMEN'S VOICE

(whisper)
We can't finish now.

MARLIN

(whisper)
Just stay for a minute while I get
rid of this joker.

WOMEN'S VOICE

(whisper)
Like he's not hearing us speaking
in hushed tones.

MARLIN

(whisper)
Damn it.

From behind the desk, MARLIN, 50, emerges with RECEPTIONIST 4. She sets on the table the Pineapple Duck. Regaining his composure, despite his compromised position, MARLIN sends out his receptionists. He glares down LES, standing with his chest out and squared shoulders.

The two share a stare until LES finally breaks the silence with . . .

LES

I respect you. I respect your job.
It's not always easy, I get it. But
I have a life too. My life isn't --

MARLIN

(interrupting)
Shut up! Just shut up, and tell me
what the hell you're doing in here?

LES

Well it's simple. I've had to
reschedule and cancel with you four
times without any explanation. Do
you not see anything wrong with
that?

MARLIN

What?

LES

7 months ago, I got email saying
you got my script and you wanted
to talk to me in person. I went
out and bought this cheap suit,
using what little money I have on
it instead of using it to go to
college! Don't you have the
decency to actually meet me.

MARLIN

Why? To find out that you're some
kid with a script that sucks?

(beat)

Look, I'm sorry. I'm truly sorry I
never was able to keep to our
meetings. I promise you, I always
had an excuse. Have you seen my
receptionist, not exactly efficient
in getting messages out. The truth
is I wanted to meet you.

(CONTINUED)

LES

You just insulted my script, why the hell would you want to meet me?

MARLIN

Because you're some kid with a script that sucks. I know you, I was you. I wanted to help you. But now you come in here, guns ablazing because you've got some sort of chip on your shoulder? What, that you deserve it more than anyone else?

LES slowly starts to lower his chest, his shoulder slump.

LES

Man. Man! I blew this, right?

MARLIN

Very much so.

(beat)

I will say this, you've got confidence. But that is just a piece of what it takes to make it here. Listen, let's keep our meeting in 6 months, ok?

LES

okay.

MARLIN

But you've gotta get outta of here now.

LES

Okay.

LES turns to walk out. He stops in his tracks.

LES (CONT'D)

One last thing? What is up with the pineapple-duck thing?

MARLIN stares LES down.

LES (CONT'D)

Right, never mind.

LES scampers out of the office.

17 MONTAGE - VARIOUS 17

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

LES walks through the crowded street. His face as long as a horse.

EXT. PARKING LOT - DAY

LES drives up to an empty parking spot but is quickly cutoff by another car.

LES sits in his car. An expressionless face.

18 INT. COFFEE HOUSE - LATE MORNING 18

LES stands in line for coffee, he is just one customer away from the front of the line. He stands with an expressionless face, none of the hectic morning rush of coffee drinkers can faze him.

BUZZ.

LES pulls out his phone. He sees there is a new message from

MEGHAN:

"Are we going on a date or what? :)"

LES stares in disbelief. He quickly types back:

"Yeah, sorry I didn't respond, I've been . . . "

LES thinks for a second. He finishes the message:

". . . busy"

An inner monologue from TOM, the electrician from the movie, begins to play in LES's mind.

TOM (O.S)

Live your life. . .

MEGAHN responds:

"No prob, let's get together soon"

LES stares at his phone smiling.

TOM (O.S) (CONT'D)

Don't let people push you around,
like I didn't let my clients push
me around.

LES Responds: **"How**

about next week?"

MEGHAN responds:

"See you then!"

TOM (O.S) (CONT'D) I'm
the DAMN Electrician, and you're

the Electrician's wife! So
LIIIIIVVEE---

The inner monologue ends abruptly when . . .

FRONT OF LINE CUSTOMER
Hey! You can't cut all of us!

The BIG GUY from LES's previous visit to the coffee house
grabs his coffee, turns around and walks up to the FRONT OF
LINE CUSTOMER.

BIG GUY
You got a problem, here?

FRONT OF LINE CUSTOMER just stares silently.

BIG GUY (CONT'D)
(to Les) How about you?

LES quickly responds.

LES
No! Go right ahead!

LES smiles a nervous smile.

FADE OUT