

DOWNLINE

A PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR-THRILLER FEATURE

Written by [Your Name]

LOG LINE:

When a hopeful college graduate joins a prestigious business company, he discovers it's a dangerous cult that will do anything to keep him forever.

SCREENPLAY

EXT. DOWNTOWN ATLANTA COFFEE SHOP MORNING

EVAN (22), bright-eyed, hopeful, steps outside with a coffee. He glances at his phone as a MAN IN A SUIT bumps into him, dropping a small black business card before disappearing into the crowd.

Evan picks it up. Downline Solutions.

EVAN

(to himself)

Sales and networking. Could this be my shot at something real?

CUT TO:

INT. DOWNLINE SOLUTIONS OFFICE DAY

The office is minimalist and quiet. Ten BUSINESS CASUAL employees sit perfectly arranged in a circle. The BEARDED MAN (45), perfectly groomed and unnerving, steps forward.

BEARDED MAN

You must be Evan. Please, have a seat.

Evan hesitates, looking around at the attentive faces.

EVAN

(nervously smiling)

Thanks. Uh, this looks very organized. Im hoping to grow my career here sales is really my passion.

The MEMBERS smile in unison. Almost too synchronized.

BEARDED MAN

Thats what we do, Evan. Everyone here is committed to our purpose.

EVAN

(puzzled, glancing around at the others watching him closely)

Your purpose?

BEARDED MAN

Very simple. Every member is both the company and its future. Every success you have is all of our success.

One of the MEMBERS leans in a WOMAN WITH DARK EYES.

WOMAN

And Evan, every sacrifice you make is all of our sacrifice too.

EVAN

(uneasy laugh)

Thats... a strong philosophy.

BEARDED MAN

Youll come to understand that its more than a philosophy. Its a way of life.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE EVANS RISE

- Evan enthusiastically making calls, closing deals.
- Receiving awards at a dinner where the BEARDED MAN raises a toast.
- Evan glancing around and seeing every face fixed on him with an intensity that sends a shiver up his spine.
- Late nights in the office as the company family looks on.

EVAN

(muttering to himself)

Why are they always watching me?

CUT TO:

INT. DOWNLINE SOLUTIONS OFFICE NIGHT

Evan stands before the group, hands trembling.

EVAN

I appreciate everything youve given me, truly. But Id like to resign.

The room falls into absolute silence. All eyes turn toward him, and the BEARDED MAN leans forward slowly.

BEARDED MAN

Resign?

EVAN

(voice cracking)

Yes. I I want to do something else with my life.

The BEARDED MAN

Thats not how this company works. You dont leave, Evan. You **are** the company.

The members lean in, forming a tight semicircle around him.

EVAN

(voice rising)

You cant stop me. I can walk out that door anytime I want.

BEARDED MAN

(smiles coldly)

Go ahead and try.

The door LOCKS loudly. Evan tries the handle it doesnt budge.

EVAN

What is this?!

BEARDED MAN

This is commitment. This is loyalty. Once youre one of us, Evan, you always will be. The company takes care of its own forever.

Evan backs up, realizing the floor is damp. Gasoline. The BEARDED MAN strikes a match, drops it into a tray. A faint orange glow dances in the room.

BEARDED MAN

And the companys secrets die here.

Evan grabs a PEN the only thing within reach and CHARGES as we CUT TO BLACK.

INT. PENTHOUSE BATHROOM NIGHT (3 YEARS LATER)

Evan, successful yet hollow-eyed, stares into a grand mirror. A single tear falls.

EVAN

I am the company.

Behind him, the BEARDED MAN materializes in the glass ageless and smiling.

BEARDED MAN

We are the company.

BLACKOUT. Credits roll to Paint It Black by The Rolling Stones.
