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HEALTH NUTS

by:

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A very hazy dream sequence in which PETER TIMBERLAKE (48) is walking with a clown on a beach. Peter is very angry about something and makes lots of gestures with his hands. The clown just laughs and listens. The clown leads Peter to the very end of the beach and speaks.

CLOWN

The cynic knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.

PETER

(his mouth is moving but no sound is coming out.)

CLOWN

The cynic knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.

PETER

(pausing for a second and coming nose to nose with the clown.) Just what the HELL does that mean?

At that moment Peter opens his eyes to find himself laying on his back in the break room of First Union Bank headquarters in Atlanta. Peter Timberlake is the senior computer operator with First Union. Five of his co-workers are standing over him. KELLY SINGELTION, BRAIN QUARTERLY, SIMON EASTON, DAVID JOHNSON, and FRANK O'REILLY are all junior computer operators with First Union.

INT.- FIRST UNION BANK- MORNING

BRIAN

Is he breathing? Should someone call 911?

KELLY

If he weren't breathing stupid, he'd be dead.

FRANK

Peter...Peter, can you hear me?

BRIAN
I'm calling 911.

KELLY
Peter?

Peter finally opens his eyes and sees his co-workers standing over him. Peter, with help, stands in the middle of the circle.

PETER
How long was I lying in the middle of the middle of the break room floor?

SIMON
30 seconds. What the hell happen?

PETER
I don't know, but the last thing I remember is that I was pouring a cup of coffee.

FRANK
Somebody check that coffee pot. I know it's bad, but not that bad.

KELLY
Peter, do you remember anything after pouring the coffee?

PETER
Only the dream....a very strange dream in which a clown and I was walking down a beach talking.

All five co-workers turn to each other and began to chuckle.

PETER (CONT'D)
Then the clown gets closer and begins to whisper in my ear "the cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

SIMON
Is that all he said? He didn't have any discount coupons to the upcoming circus did he? (smiling)

DAVID
Who's the cynic in that metaphor? You or the wizard?

KELLY

It was a clown David, what else did he say?

PETER

The first few seconds his lips were just moving and nothing was coming out. I couldn't hear a word he was saying.

KELLY takes PETER by the hand and leads him to a chair.

KELLY

Set down Peter, what do you think it means? Did you have any weird dreams lately?

BRIAN

Either he had a mini stroke or a mild heart attack. I can't believe you'll ask if he had any weird dreams lately. You should go to the hospital and get checked out.

SIMON

It could be acid reflux.

FRANK

I don't think acid reflux can knock a man to the floor.

PETER

Let's get back to work. I'll be all right.

DAVID

You never answered my question about the metaphor. Are you sure you don't remember any of the words the joker said to you?

PETER

Yeah... he said get back to work or you're fired.

At that point all five co-workers and Peter go back to their assigned stations.

DISSOLVE to Kelly working at her station. Her telephone rings.

KELLY

Hello, this is Kelly.

PETER

Hey Kelly, Peter here. I didn't want to say this in front of the guys but I think that I in fact did, have a mild heart attack or stroke.

KELLY

You should go to the doctor immediately. That's nothing to fool around with Peter. Did you call MILDRED? (Peters' wife)

PETER

That's way I'm calling, I'm leaving work a little early so tell everyone for me. I'll tell my wife when I get home tonight.

KELLY

Ok, ok, don't worry about here. Go take care of yourself. Peter...are you going to tell the doctor about the clown and the beach?

PETER

Good-bye Kelly.

KELLY

Bye.

Peter hangs up the phone, head for the coat rack and grabs his London Fog. He walks past Brian, Simon, David, and Frank's desk and head for the door. All four men are obviously talking about Peter and his near death experience earlier today.

DISSOLVE TO PETER DRIVING TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE. MUSIC IS PLAYING. Every song on the radio is about death or near death experiences. Peter changes the station but all songs remain the same.

PETER is very reluctant to get out of the car. He just sits there for a minute and then finally goes in the doctors' office.

INT.- DOCTORS OFFICE- LOBBY LATE AFTERNOON

PETER (V.O.)

(picking through the magazines) Why can't they have just one magazine that's somewhat entertaining like Hustler, or Playboy?

(MORE)

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 (looking around the waiting room)
 What a bunch of losers, hey lady,
 stop eating so much and you won't
 weigh 500 pounds.

RECEPTIONIST ENTERS THE WAITING ROOM

RECEPTIONIST
 Mr. Peter Timberlake. Peter
 Timberlake

PETER stands and puts the magazine back on the table. He
 walks toward the RECEPTIONIST.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
 Mr. Timberlake?

PETER
 Yep.

RECEPTIONIST
 Walk this way.

PETER is led in a back area and the RECEPTIONIST closes the
 door. Once in back, Peter has many tests taken on him and is
 waiting for the DOCTOR to come in and tell him the results.

MOMENTS LATER THE DOCTOR ENTERS THE ROOM

INT.- EXAMINATION ROOM- DAY

DOCTOR
 (his hand extended) I'm Dr. Walker
 Mr. Timberlake; the nurse tells me
 that you had an episode this
 afternoon.

PETER (V.O.)
 An episode? I damn near died today
 you asshole.

PETER (CONT'D)
 Yes, yes I sure did. I don't know
 what brought that on today. One
 minute I was fine and the next
 thing I knew was that I was on the
 fucking floor.

DOCTOR
 Please Mr. Timberlake, try to
 refrain from using any profanity in
 the examination room.

PETER stares at the cross around the DOCTORS neck.

PETER

Sorry doc, it won't happen again.
What happen to me today? I really
felt like I was goner for a minute.

DOCTOR

First things first, Mr. Timberlake.
Answer a few questions for me if
you will. Do you drink and if so,
how much per week.

SLOWLY ZOOM-IN ON PETERS FACE while Peter remembers last
Wednesday night.

FADE TO PETER at a bar with five friends drinking like
sailors on liberty, smacking waitresses on the butt and
cursing up a storm.

CUT BACK TO PETER

PETER

Just a little, only on the
weekends.

DOCTOR

What about your diet, how much red
meat do you consume in; let's say a
two week period.

SLOWLY ZOOM IN ON PETERS FACE while Peter flashes back to the
backyard barbeque he had last Thursday. Peter opens the
barbeque pit and on the grill are six porterhouse steaks.
Peter just smiles at the meat as he brushes lemon vinaigrette
on them.

CUT BACK TO PETER

PETER

Just a little, on the weekends
mostly.

THE DOCTOR PAUSES FOR A SECOND and writes something down on
the chart.

DOCTOR

How often do you exercise?

PETER

Defiantly three times a week. I
try to lift free weight.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

You know, build up the old triceps
and biceps.

FADE TO PETER LIFTING A GARBAGE CAN AND WALKING IT TO THE
CURB.

CUT BACK TO THE EXAMINATION ROOM

DOCTOR

This is what we found Peter. Your
cholesterol is extremely high and
so is your blood pressure. Have
you ever heard of Gastro-Esophageal
Reflux Disease Peter? It can feel
like your having a heart attack.

PETER

Gastro what?

DOCTOR

Gastro-Esophageal Reflux. It is
an extremely common disorder and is
primarily treated with changes in
lifestyle. GERD is a digestive
disorder that affects the lower
esophageal sphincter-or muscle.
GERD and heartburn occur at least
once a month, and about 25 million
adults suffer daily heartburn.
With diet and exercise, you can
reduce your chances of that ever
happening again. You need to make
some changes in your diet. Avoiding
foods and beverages that can weaken
the system such as fried or fatty
foods, coffee, alcoholic beverages,
and stopping any cigarette smoking
can be very, very helpful. Foods
and beverages that can irritate a
damaged esophageal lining, such as
citrus fruits and juices, tomato
products, and pepper, should also
be avoided. DECREASING the size of
portions at mealtime may also help
control symptoms. Maybe substitute
red meat with turkey or even going
to a vegetarian diet all together.
You're almost forty years old
Peter, you can't continue to eat
like you're in college.

(MORE)

DOCTOR (CONT'D)

Think of your family, your friends,
anything to get you motivated to
change your lifestyle.

PETER

To be quite honest Doc, I don't
even know where to begin.

DOCTOR

The easiest way is diet. Also
elevating the head of the bed on 6-
inch blocks or sleeping on a
specially designed wedge can reduce
heartburn by allowing gravity to
minimize reflux of stomach contents
into the esophagus.

PETER

Six inch blocks?

DOCTOR

Listen Peter; they are many health
foods stores all around the city.
Stop by one of them and I'm sure
you'll get all the information you
need to start a healthy lifestyle.
Discuss this with your family and
maybe all of you can benefit from
the experience. (extending his
hand) Thanks for coming in Mr.
Timberlake; I will also give you a
prescription for some medicine that
can help reduce your cholesterol.
Good luck. If you have any
questions please feel free to call
my office.

PETER AND THE DOCTOR shakes hands and Peter leaves the
doctors office and walks to his car.

INT.- PETERS' CAR

PETER (V.O.)

Heart attack? (looking at himself
in the rear-view mirror.) I'm only
38 years old. This will scare the
hell out of Mildred. I have to
change. I have to. First, I will
tell her what happened today, and
then I will suggest that we change
our diet just a little.

CUT TO:

EXT.- PETER STARTS HIS CAR AND DRIVE OFF.

INT.- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD- NIGHT PETER, MILDRED and their two kids, JESSICA (8 years old), and PETER JR. (5 years old), is sitting at the DINNER TABLE.

PETER

(staring at the pot roast on the table) My, my, my, everything looks great honey. How was your day today?

MILDRED

(putting food on everyone's plate)
Fine, just fine.

PETER JR.

Gilbert brought his pet lizard to class today. He said that he named it Lester. Lester The Lizard. They made him take it back home.

JESSICA

What a dork.

PETER

Jessica, don't call your brother a dork.

MILDRED

Let's not have any fighting at the dinner table tonight kids.
(cutting a HUGE piece of pot roast)

Here you go honey.

Peter is reluctant to take the plate from Mildred.

PETER

(with the look of concern on his face) Thanks.

JESSICA

(eating her dinner) My teacher told our class today that we have a very good chance to win the science fair this year. Daddy, do you know the difference between an independent variable and a dependent variable?

PETER JR.

What's a science fair mommy?

JESSICA

Be quiet!

MILDRED

Why don't you just tell your brother what it is Jessica.

PETER

No baby, tell daddy what's the difference.

JESSICA

He's always interrupting. He needs to listen more. (speaking very silently) the cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. (back to her regular voice) An independent variable is a variable that is purposely changed by the experimenter. And a dependent variable is a variable that responds.

PETER

(looking very firmly at Jessica)
What did you just say?

JESSICA

A independent variable...

PETER

No...before that.

Jessica just smiles at Peter.

PETER (CONT'D)

(raising his voice slightly)
Jessica, what did you just say to your brother?

PETER JR.

You interrupt too. Mommy she interrupts too.

JESSICA

I bet we win it this year.

PETER JR.

Can I do a science fair too mommy?

PETER

Jessica... what did you just say to your brother?

JESSICA

I said that we had a very good chance to win this year.

MILDRED

You can do anything you set your mind to do P.J.

JESSICA

Mom, he can't be in the science fair, he's not even in elementary school yet.

EVERYONE AT THE DINNER TABLE IS TALKING except Peter.

FADE TO PETER LOOKING DOWN AT HIS PLATE with Peter Jr., Jessica, and Mildred TALKING in the background.

PETER (V.O.)

What if I did eat this, would I die tonight?

MILDRED

Peter, you ok? Why aren't you eating?

PETER

Yeah, yeah, I was just thinking about something. (cutting a piece of the pot roast)

MILDRED

You didn't say how your day went dear.

THE SOUND OF JESSICA AND PETER JR. fighting in the background.

PETER

Just another day at the office.
(eating his veggies on his plate)
Oh, I almost forgot...I went to the doctor today after work.

MILDRED

What?

JESSICA and PETER JR. stops fighting and everyone looks at PETER

PETER

I had some very slight chest pains at work and I was making sure it was nothing serious. Pass the carrots dear.

JESSICA

You had a heart attack daddy?

PETER JR.

Your heart attacked you daddy?

PETER

I didn't have a heart attack. I just had some chest pains and I went to the doctor to make sure it was nothing serious.

MILDRED

(holding the bowl of carrots) Will you please tell me what happen? What did the doctor say?

PETER

I have to change my diet. (holding a fork full of pot roast) My cholesterol is high and so is my blood pressure. We'll talk about it later.

PETER JR.

What's cholesterol? Do I have cholesterol?

JESSICA

It's in your blood pressure, right dad?

MILDRED

Eat your food kids.

PETER

It's something that little kids need not worry about. Everyone just eat up.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)
 (whispering to Mildred over the table) We'll talk later.

MILDRED
 Is that why you didn't touch my roast? You love my pot roast.

PETER
 (dropping his fork on his plate)
 Can we please talk about this later?

PETER JR.

You dropped your fork daddy.

EVERYONE CONTINUE TO EAT AND NOT ANOTHER WORD IS SPOKEN.

PETER eats mostly veggies and rice while MILDRED just looks at him with disbelief.

INT.- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD - BEDROOM NIGHT

MILDRED
 (walking down the hallway from the kids bedroom) Good night, no talking ok.

PETER'S STANDING IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR

MILDRED enters the BEDROOM

MILDRED
 You hardly touched your dinner tonight.

PETER
 It was a very trying day...(sitting down on the edge of the bed) Close the door.

MILDRED
 I knew it was something serious. What really happened today Peter?

PETER
 (pausing for a second) Don't over react, but I had a very (making a small gesture with his fingers) small heart attack today at work. Very small.

MILDRED just stands over him with her arms folded.

PETER (CONT'D)

One minute I was pouring a cup of joe and the next thing I know, I was on the floor.

MILDRED

(slowly sitting next to Peter on the bed) You got to be kidding me. It's damn near 9:30 p.m. and you're just now telling your wife that you almost died today at work!!

PETER

I didn't almost die Mildred; it was just gastro esophageal reflux. The doctor said that I MUST change my diet. Cut back on the red meat and alcohol. Exercise more often. I'll be all right in no time. (standing up in front of the mirror rocking back and forth, sucking his gut in.)

MILDRED

What else did the doctor say?

PETER

That's just about it. To be quite honest Mildred, it scared the hell out of me.

MILDRED

Come on, try to get some rest. Tomorrow is a new day.

NEXT MORNING- INT.- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD KITCHEN

PETER JR.

Who is taking me to school today?

PETER

Mommy.

MILDRED

Daddy.

PETER

(turning to Mildred) Today is your day. I'm Monday, Wednesday, Friday... you are Tuesday Thursday.

JESSICA
Dad, today is Wednesday. Duh...

PETER JR.

Daddy, Jessica said duh to you.

JESSICA
Duh is NOT a bad word runt.

MILDRED
Please kids.

PETER
I was just....I was thinking about going to Mega-Mega before I go to work.

JESSICA
Debbie said that her brother got an X-rated movie from Mega-Mega.

PETER
I think they have a big health food section.

PETER JR.
Health food daddy? Is this healthy food mommy?

MILDRED
Very healthy baby. Honey, why don't you go to Mega-Mega on your lunch break?

PETER
Everybody, please. Let's just eat our breakfast.

Everyone continues to eat breakfast.

PETER (CONT'D)
Ok kiddy's, let's go. Last one in the wagon is a boiled egg.

PETER JR.

(running from the table) That's a rotten egg daddy.

JESSICA
(running from the table) He cheated. He left the table too early.

Jessica and Peter Jr. leave the table while Peter and Mildred sit quietly across from each other.

MILDRED

So..

PETER

Listen, I'm just going there to see what they have. Maybe I can find alternatives for the entire family. (pausing for a second) Do you want me to bring one of those...tapes home as well?

MILDRED

No.

DISSOLVE TO Peter in the First Union Bank computer room. Peter is sitting behind his terminal when Simon arrives.

INT.-COMPUTER ROOM- FIRST UNION BANK MORNING

SIMON

Good morning Pete, so... was I right? Acid reflux.

PETER

(never taking his eyes away from the computer monitor.) Ah...yeah, acid reflux.

SIMON

That's it? What else did he say? I bet he told you to stop eating all that junk food. I told everyone that it was acid reflux and nobody believed me. I just knew..

PETER

I'm really busy this morning Simon, is there anything else?

SIMON

No, no. I just wanted to see if you're ok. Talk to you later.

KELLY

(making a strange face) Mega-Mega? What are you going there for?

PETER

Why does everyone react strangely when I mention Mega-Mega? You would think that the store is located in hell or something.

KELLY

(shaking her head) It's just a very, very big store. You can get lost in there.

Peter turns and looks directly into the camera and doesn't say a word.

KELLY (CONT'D)

Are you going after work?

PETER

Maybe during lunch I'll stop by there.

KELLY

You'll need way more time than that for Mega-Mega.

PETER

What are you doing for lunch? Since it's so big, maybe you should go there with me. I don't want to get lost.

KELLY

(smiling) I'll go with you, what time?

PETER

Noonish.

PETER and KELLY driving into the parking lot of Mega-Mega Supermarket. Mega-Mega is a huge supermarket with a football stadium size parking lot.

INT.- PETERS' CAR NOONISH

PETER

Whoa.

KELLY

Told you.

PETER

(taking out a list) Here are some of the things that my doctor told me to look for.

KELLY

Ready, set, let's go.

PETER and KELLY get out of the car and walk toward the entrance of Mega-Mega. When the sliding doors open, massive amounts of people and merchandise are everywhere. Peter and Kelly just stand still and look around. Employees are everywhere shoving samples of cheese, bread, ice cream, and fruit into the hands of shoppers.

INTERIOR- MEGA-MEGA SUPERMARKET AFTERNOON

PETER

Ok, we'll meet back here in..lets say, 20 minutes.

KELLY

Great. (eyeing the xxx video section) I have a few things to return. (pulling a dvd from her bag.)

Peter and Kelly go their separate ways and begin to take care of business. Peter goes over to the customer service center for a little help.

PETER

(looking at his shopping list) Hi, could you tell me where is the health food section?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Welcome to Mega Mega, I can I help you today?

PETER

Which isle is the health food section?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Health food? (smiling) All of our food here at Mega Mega is quality healthy food. So..to answer your question, the answer has to be EVERY ISLE.

PETER

I have a list of things in specific
that I'm looking for.
Like..something called t-o-f-u,
bean curd, and tempeh.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Humm.. maybe try...the health food
section on 4b.

PETER

Why didn't you just...

CUSTOMER SERVICE

(turning to the next customer)
Welcome to Mega Mega, how can I
help you today?

Peter walks away from customer service and head toward 4b.

PETER (V.O.)

This has to be the biggest
supermarket on the planet.

As Peter walks through the store, the signage on the aisle
are as follows: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 1h, 1i, 1j, and
so on, and so on. By the time Peter reaches 4b, he is dazed
and confused.

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Finally. Let's see...(his paper list
is all crumpled up) t-o-f-u,
tempeh...

CUT TO KELLY openly flirting with a fellow customer in the
video section of Mega-Mega.

KELLY

(holding a dvd) This is absolutely
the best film work in the business.
Have you ever seen this one?

DVD (P.O.V.)

B.B.B (xxx) Big Bold Bucks.

The customer just looks at Kelly and walks away. As he walks
away, Peter comes in the video section.

PETER

Are you ready?

KELLY
(holding the dvd behind her back)
Yeah...sure, let's go.

Kelly and Peter start to walk toward the cashiers.

PETER
I couldn't find any of the products
on my list. The health food
section in here is ridiculous.

CUT TO SECTION 4b with Peter looking at the limited products
in disbelief.

CUT BACK TO Peter and Kelly.

KELLY
I definitely found what I was
looking for. (holding the dvd "The
Wizard Of Oz" over her copy of
"B.B.B".)

PETER
(looking at the top dvd) You're in
for an exciting evening Kelly; just
follow the yellow brick road.

KELLY
Oh...I intend to.

PETER and KELLY check out and go back to work.

INTERIOR- FIRST UNION BANK- LATE AFTERNOON

Peter is searching again through the yellow pages for health
food stores. Simon comes over to Peter's desk.

SIMON
(looking over Peter's shoulder)
What's going on? I thought you and
Kelly went to the (wink, wink, with
his fingers) health food store
today.

PETER
(closing the yellow pages) What is
it Simon?

SIMON
I just came over to see if
everything was ok. Kelly told us
that..

PETER

Us?

SIMON

We were just talking about Mega-Mega that's all. Boy...I would love to go there Peter.

PETER

I would love to go there? Get in your car and just go. What is it with everybody's fear and obsession with Mega-Mega? It's just a supermarket, that's all.

SIMON

What were you looking for that Mega-Mega didn't have?

PETER

Tofu, tempeh, setain, and let's see...bean curd.

SIMON

Maybe you should try a specialty store. Maybe a health food store?

PETER

See you tomorrow Simon, have a great afternoon.

SIMON

See you tomorrow.

Peter start to look over the yellow pages again and stops his finger on "Service Is Bliss Community Owned Natural Foods Cooperative.

PETER (V.O.)

Yeah...Service Is Bliss...

Peter begins to leave for the day with the address of Service Is Bliss written down on a post-it note.

EXTERIOR- LATE AFTERNOON- PETERS' CAR

PETER (V.O.)

What the hell...

Service Is Bliss is located in the bohemian arts district of the city. There are street vendors everywhere with panhandlers to boot.

PETER (CONT'D)
 (rolling his window down) Excuse
 me...can you tell me where that
 health food store called Service
 Is..

STREET VENDOR
 Turn right on Euclid Ave. and go up
 one block brother. One Luv.

PETER
 Right on Euclid, thanks man.
 Ahh..two love.

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Must be a retired tennis player.

Peter rolls his car window up and turns right on Euclid Ave.
 Beyond the horizon is Service Is Bliss Health Food Store.
 Peter is overwhelmed once again. Peter gets out of his car
 and walks toward the entrance of S.I.B. At the entrance of
 the store there are huge plants of sage, thyme, and oregano.

INTERIOR- SERVICE IS BLISS COOPERATIVE FOODS- LATE AFTERNOON

Peter goes over to the customer service center. The customer
 service representative is a puck rocker with blue hair. She
 is busy watering the plants around her desk and blatantly
 ignores the telephone ringing.

PETER
 Hi, I was wondering..

C.S. REP.

(turning around to Peter) Oh, how long have you
 been standing there? Welcome to the Co-op. How can I...one
 moment.

She answers the telephone.

C.S. REP.

(speaking into the phone) Service Is Bliss, how can I help
 you? (pauses) Yes, yes, can you hold on for one second
 please? (once again turning to Peter) How may I help you
 today?

PETER
 Hi...I may need a little help. I
 have never been here and I would
 like some information about your
 store.

C.S. REP

You came to the right place.
Service Is Bliss Natural Food
Cooperative is a (reaching Peter
some pamphlets)

PETER

So I take it you do carry tofu,
tempeh, and seitan.

C.S. REP.

(laughing) Do we! First, let me tell you a little something about the Co-op. Service Is Bliss is a Cooperative. A cooperative is an autonomous association of people united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. (pointing toward the pamphlet) As you can see, the principles of cooperation is open and voluntary membership, democratic control-one member, one vote, member economic participation, autonomy and independence, continuous education to members and the public, cooperation among cooperatives, and concern for the community. Freedom.

PETER

(noticing her name tag) Thanks...Zoo?

C.S. REP.

That's not really my name. Here at S.I.B., employees can request to be called anything you want to be called. In my case, Zoo.

PETER (V.O.)

I can't imagine why? (looking at
her from head to toe).

C.S. REP.

You see Zoo can mean a variety of things...for instance, a Zoo can bring a negative cogitation because of the caged up brutality of animals but if you considered the positive aspects of Zoo, you can feel the love and admiration of every living...

PETER

(turning away) Thanks for your
help.

C.S. REP.

Ok...ok...well, if you have any questions make sure you stop by the customer service center. Ok, ok...bye.

The C.S. Representative finally walks away. Peter looks over a few varieties of tofu and finally decides on the barbeque flavor. He grabs a few of them and head toward the checkout.

CASHIER 1
Greetings...did you find everything ok?

PETER
Ahh...yeah, thanks...(looking at his name tag) question mark?

CASHIER 1
(ringing up Peter's tofu) My name isn't question mark. I'm nothing.

PETER
Nothing? Underneath the caption "my name is" on your nametag, there is a question mark.

CASHIER 1
That means nothing. You see nothing, I'm nothing.

PETER
Why don't you just put the word nothing on your name tag?

CASHIER 1
I'm the weight of a feather minus ten million tons, I'm that. That's certainly not nothing. That will be \$10.59.

PETER (V.O.)
(reaching him his money) I wonder what name his check has on it.

CASHIER 1
(reaching Peter his change) Have a nice day.

At that moment a page over the loud speaker says "Nothing, you have a call on line 2, nothing line 2.

CUT BACK TO THE CASHIER

CASHIER 1 (CONT'D)
 (under his breath) I told her not
 to call me that.

Peter leaves S.I.B. and head home.

INTERIOR- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD LATE AFTERNOON

Peter tries to conceal his purchase of the tofu by putting it
 in his briefcase. He walks in the house as if he just left
 work.

PETER
 I'm home, kiddies, daddy's home.

Peter Jr. and his sister run to Peter and give him a big hug.

PETER JR.
 Did you bring me anything daddy?

JESSICA
 Did you bring me anything daddy is
 the first thing out of the little
 runts mouth. How was your day
 daddy? (whispering) Did you bring
 me anything daddy?

PETER
 Hi kiddies...where is your mother?

PETER JR.
 Mommy's up stairs daddy.

JESSICA
 (taking his briefcase) You know the
 science fair is coming up and..

PETER
 You told me all about the science
 fair yesterday baby. I know it is
 tomorrow.

PETER JR.
 I can't wait until the science fair daddy.

JESSICA
 Please be quiet pipsqueak.

Mildred enters the room and gives Peter a kiss.

PETER JR. & JESSICA

Yuk.

MILDRED
How was your day dear?

PETER
Fine, just fine. I stopped by that
health food store in the village
today after work.

MILDRED
Mega-Mega!

JESSICA
Mega-Mega!

PETER JR.

Mega-Mega?

PETER
What is it with...no...Service Is Bliss
Health Food Co-op in the village.

MILDRED
Thank god...did you buy anything?

PETER
(reaching in his briefcase) Just
these things.

MILDRED
Tempeh, tofu, bean curd.

PETER JR.

Bean curd? What's bean curd mommy?

JESSICA
It's the same as tofu, right daddy.
Karen in my class always brings
tofu for lunch. I think she is a
veterinarian.

MILDRED
I think that's vegetarian honey.

PETER
Let's be a little bit adventuress
tonight. What do you say, tofu,
bean curd, and tempeh for dinner!

MILDRED, JESSICA, and PETER JR. don't say a word.

CUT TO DINNER TABLE- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD- EVENING

The camera pans the dinner table slowly to display the tempeh, tofu, and bean curd. The dinner doesn't seem very appetizing to anyone. Peter is the first to indulge.

PETER

Let's dig in.

Simultaneously, everyone devours the veggies.

Minutes later. Nothing's left on the table but the tempeh, tofu, and bean curd. Everyone looks at each other. Camera pans person to person.

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I swear this stuff looks like what came out of Puffy this morning.

MILDRED (V.O.)

Think positive Mildred, think positive.

JESSICA (V.O.)

This doesn't look like the tofu Karen brings for lunch.

PETER JR. (V.O.)

Is this part of the science fair?

PETER (V.O.)

Ok...everyone is waiting on my lead, so...

PETER (CONT'D)

Nobody touched the new health food I got today.

Peter uses his fork to pick up a piece of the tofu. He stops for a second before he puts it in his mouth.

PETER (CONT'D)

Humm...this is great. Jr, try some.

PETER JR.

(reluctantly picking up the tofu) Jessica didn't eat any of hers.

MILDRED

Ok, kids eat your food. You won't know if you like something if you don't try it. (eating a piece of tofu) This is great. Dig in kiddos.

FADE TO FOLLOWING MORNING

INTERIOR- FIRST UNION BANK

Frank is sitting on Peter's desk talking with Brian. Peter walks in.

PETER

Good morning gentlemen, is there any reason that you're setting on my desk Frank?

FRANK

(getting up) Sorry. Tell him.

BRIAN

Why do I have to tell him?

FRANK

Because I told you that's why.

PETER

(sitting behind his desk) Tell me what?

BRIAN

(whispering) Downsizing.

FRANK

Downsizing.

PETER

Downsizing?

BRIAN

Downsizing. Word around the water cooler is that headquarters wants to cut the payroll. That translates into downsizing. No one's job is secure.

FRANK

No one. I just bought my house not six months ago man.

PETER

Hold on, hold on. If there was some downsizing coming from headquarters, I would have heard about it by now.

BRIAN

What the hell do I tell my wife? I'm 34 years old; I really don't what to start all over again. I've been with First Union for over 8 years.

PETER

(Very matter of fact)
Before anyone leaves this office I want you two to keep this tight lipped. Let me make some calls. I'll get to the bottom of this. (picking up the phone) Remember what I said, tight lipped. (making the zipping gesture with his hand and mouth.)

Brian and Frank both make the zipping of the lip gesture to Peter before they leave.

MINUTES LATER Brian and Frank are walking from cubical to cubical telling fellow co-workers the bad news. Before each co-worker leave, they make the zipping gesture. Some employees burst out in tears while others throw their computer monitors to the floor.

CUT BACK TO PETER'S DESK

PETER

(talking on the telephone) I know, I know. How long do you think I have?

PHONE (V.O.)

Word from headquarters is that you and the entire 14th floor is under scrutiny. Six months severance, 401K, and a fair warning Peter.

(MORE)

PHONE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I hope you have a juicy
401K...everybody is getting the shaft
on this one. Mums the word.

PETER

Mums the word? (V.O.) Mums the
fucking word? I have to....god...I
can't tell them.

PHONE (V.O.)

You're right Peter, you can't tell
them. Keep your fingers crossed
and you may be spared.

PETER

Can you tell me when perhaps?

PHONE (V.O.)

Soon...I have to go...talk to you
later.

Peter hangs up the phone only to have the entire computer
operating office looking in his direction. He tries to
ignore them for a while but is forced to come out and address
his co-workers.

INTERIOR- FIRST UNION COMPUTER ROOM- DAY

PETER

Can I have everyone's attention?
Listen up; can I have everyone's
attention?

Everyone stops and walk toward the entrance of Peter's
office. Simon, David, Kelly, Brian, and Frank are all in the
very front of the rest of the office personal.

PAN Camera over the faces of the five co-workers listed.

SIMON (V.O.)

I bet he will be the only one
spared.

DAVID (V.O.)

Prick...my wife is deficiently
leaving me now!

KELLY (V.O.)

What time does the dvd section
close @ Mega-Mega?

BRIAN (V.O.)
Can I withdraw money from my 401K
account while I am receiving
severance pay?

FRANK (V.O.)
Yeah...yeah...come to think of
it...that girl in the video section
of Mega-Mega does look like Kelly.

PETER
(clearing his throat) I'm
sure...I'm sure that everyone by
now has heard that some changes are
on the horizon. But...I'm here to
tell you that the changes that most
of you are anticipating are just
mere water-cooler gossip. We here
@ First Union has always...proven
to be a quality place to work and
will continue to be just that in
the near future.

PAN CAMERA over faces; stop briefly over each one. PETER'S
voice is heard in the background.

BRIAN (V.O.)
What's this we here @ First Union
crap. Cut to the chase.

KELLY (V.O.)
I think I did return that DVD
yesterday.

FRANK (V.O.)
My wife is definitely leaving me, I
just know it.

SIMON (V.O.)
They like me here, I refuse to get
fired.

DAVID (V.O.)
I have to enter the job market
again! Shit!

CUT back to Peter speaking to his co-workers.

INTERIOR -DAY PETER'S OFFICE

PETER

Before you say anything I just want you to know that I had nothing to do with the decision making process involved today. I had no way of knowing that all of you would get laid off. Shit, I thought that I was under fire myself. Had I have known...

KELLY

(holding a box with all of her personal items in it.) Peter, I don't hold you responsible for what happen today. I can't speak for the rest of them, but I don't have any animosity toward you or First Union. Maybe it's a sign to go back to school or find something more fulfilling in my life. No hard feelings.

As KELLY extends her hand to PETER, the bottom of the box she is carrying gives way. Plants, books, and office supplies are all over the floor. Peter and Kelly are on the floor putting all of her belongings back into the box when the BANK MANAGER walks in Peter's office.

CAMERA shot from eye level of Peter on the floor. All you see is \$500.00 dollar shoes.

SLOWLY pan camera from shoes to the waist of the bank manager. The bank manager doesn't say a word. All you see is a pink piece of paper in his hand with "separation notice" in bold black lettering. Peter, while still on the floor, takes the papers.

FIVE MONTHS LATER- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD- MORNING

It's a typical Timberlake morning. The kids are getting ready for school while Peter scans the classified ads searching for employment. MILDRED is now working as a teaching assistant at the kids' school. It's been five months and Peter hasn't even come close to finding any type of employment. He needs a shave and is still in his bath robe.

KITCHEN- MORNING- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD

MILDRED

What's on your agenda today dear?

PETER

Oh...I thought I'll go check my portfolio and way my stock options today. Or maybe I'll cash in those million dollar stock bonds in the hall closet. (pausing) What do you think is on my agenda today? What has been on my agenda every morning for the past five months Mildred. Work, work, work. I have to find work Mildred. Have you seen the bills lately?

MILDRED

I've seen the bills Peter...I've seen the bills. Hell, I even paid a few of them last month. I was just...

PETER

Listen; if I don't find something soon we could lose the house. I've been fighting them off best I can but we are two and a half months behind.

The kids enter the kitchen area and sit at the table with Peter and Mildred.

PETER JR.

Morning daddy.

JESSICA

Gooood morning daddy.

PETER JR.

Gooood morning daddy. Gooood morning mommy.

JESSICA

Copy cat. You always do everything that I do. Morning mommy.

MILDRED

Don't start you two. Jessica get two bowls and the cereal. Jr. grab the milk. (whispering to Peter) You'll find something soon honey.

PETER

I have an interview @ noon with this electronics warehouse in the village.

JESSICA

Good luck daddy. You will get it.

PETER JR.

Electronics? Electronic daddy. Electro daddy.

MILDRED

(smiling) Eat your breakfast kids.
(taking Peter's hand) You'll get it. Just you wait and see.

PETER

Yeah...I'll be home around 2:00. Have a nice day honey.

The Timberlake family continues to eat breakfast while Peter scans the classified ads one last time.

DISSOLVE TO- 11:31 p.m. INTERIOR PETER'S CAR

Peter has the address to the electronics warehouse written on a napkin. He is trying to read the napkin and drive at the same time. Peter makes a few turns and finally is in the village district. Street vendors are everywhere. The atmosphere is like a carnival.

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I remember this place, with the same losers as before. I hope this doesn't take to long.

Peter finds a parking space and takes a few moments to gather his thoughts. He turns off the ignition and looks in the rear view mirror.

PETER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

What I'm I doing? I'm 38 years old and is interviewing for a warehouse job in the village? I don't want to do this shit. I am leaving! I'm just going to start my car and just go home. I'm telling Mildred that they gave me the standard line; we'll call you. To hell with it, I'm outta here.

Right as Peter begins to start his car a panhandler knocks on the driver's side window of the car. Alarmed, Peter rolls down the window.

EXTERIOR- VILLAGE- DAY

PANHANDLER

Excuse me sir, but I was wondering if you would be interested in buying a newspaper today. I'm not asking for a hand out, I'm a working man just like you. The change you spare can feed an entire village in a third world country. I just trying to make a decent living while...

While Peter is listening to the gibberish that the panhandler is selling, his head is transposed on the body of the panhandler. There is a tap on the passenger side window and it is Peter Jr. Peter Jr. is holding up the same day old newspaper to the window. Behind him are Jessica and Mildred and even the family dog Puffy with a newspaper in his mouth.

PETER

(taking the paper and reading the date on it) Is this yesterday's paper? You got to be kidding. You can't be serious.

PANHANDLER

The news is the news. Facts are facts. You can't change history...

PETER

Listen...(turning the car off again)
I'm late for an interview.

PETER leaves his car and enters "Electron Ron's". He enters the store and asks for the manager.

INTERIOR- ELECTRON RON'S MID-DAY

CLERK

Can I help you sir?

PETER

Yes...I'm here for a 12:00 p.m. interview. My name is Peter..

CLERK

I know, I know. (pointing down the
isle) Go down there and make a
right then a left. Ask for Mr.
Garner.

PETER

Make a right then a left. Got it.
Thanks.

CLERK

(speaking under his breath) I
should have gotten that job.

Peter is walking toward the entrance of the manager's office. He takes a deep breath and enters. In the waiting area there are TEN other applicants waiting for the same 12:00 p.m. interview. All ten of the applicants are in the mid to late 20's. Peter has a seat next to a twenty-something that's reading a TIME magazine.

INTERIOR- MANAGER'S WAITING AREA- MID-DAY

TWENTY-SOMETHING

You see this...all of these dumb-ass
reality shows are making a killing.
(pointing to the magazine) You see
all you have to do is to come up a
gimmick, some silly ass gimmick
that no one has ever thought of.
Make it somewhat believable and
bam, you're an instant millionaire.
I have this idea right, take this
group of yuppies and put them in
the toughest, meanest housing
project in New York City. The name
of the show would be, are you ready
for this..."The Real Hood". Get it,
"The Real Hood", not "The Real
World" but "The Real Hood".

PETER (V.O.)

I can't be competing with this
idiot for the management position.

PETER (CONT'D)

Are you here for the manager
position?

TWENTY-SOMETHING

We can get maybe, what's that
African-American actors name, the
one that was in that action movie.

PETER

I don't...

TWENTY-SOMETHING

What's his name...he's real handsome...what's his name. Anyway, get him to come off like he's from the hood right. Then have maybe...Hallie Berry to co-host with him and bam...instant hit.

PETER

(looking at his watch) Is everyone here scheduled for the 12:00 p.m. interview?

The door labeled "manager private" slowly opens and out comes a very voluptuous young lady with a clip board. Everyone in the waiting area stops what they are doing and look in the direction of the young lady. She looks at the clip board and uses her finger to go from the top of the board to the bottom. She then looks all around the room.

VOLUPTUOUS

Can I have everyone's..

CUT TO- All applicants except Peter, lean forward simultaneously.

VOLUPTUOUS (CONT'D)

(whispering) Never mind. (regular voice) Is everyone here for the 12:00 p.m. interview?

CUT TO- All applicants except Peter, lean forward simultaneously once more.

VOLUPTUOUS (CONT'D)

The manager regrets to inform you that he can't conduct any one on one interviews today. Instead, he will have a mass interview with all applicants. Some of you will have to stand during the interviewing process. Please follow me.

Young voluptuous spins around as if she's on a pedestal. All applicants file behind her in an informed formation. Peter is dead last. Everyone pile in the managers office and Peter is pinned to the back wall, barely can see. The manager is in his early 20's and is dressed as if he shops at the local thrift store. He has a cigarette burning in the ashtray and his feet are on his desk.

Ms. Voluptuous walks up to the manager, drops the clipboard on his desk and whispers something in his ear. The manager laughs for a moment then pat Ms. Voluptuous on the ass. On the way out of the room, Ms. Voluptuous winks her eye at the manager.

INTERIOR- MANAGER OFFICE MID-AFTERNOON

MANAGER

Man, man, man...ok, ok..let's get down to business. (laughing)
Everyone here knows why you're here. I mean, good morning, good afternoon everyone. Electron Ron's is in need for an assistant manager. My assistant if you will. (rummaging through some papers on his desk)

A voice from the very back of the office is Peter's. You can only see the left side of his face.

PETER

Excuse me, isn't the job...I thought the position advertised was manager, not assistant manager.

ZOOM IN on the managers' face.

The applicants part like the Red Sea and expose Peter in full view of the manager.

PETER (CONT'D)

(nervously) I mean...I thought that the position was in management. I mean...

MANAGER

(starting to stand up) You want my job? You came here for my job? Can you say assistant manager? That's the position available today. Assistant manager!

PETER

Listen, I'm only saying that I thought...

MANAGER

I can't believe this..(reaching for his telephone) I have worked my ass off.

(MORE)

MANAGER (CONT'D)

My father wouldn't have made me the manager of his store if I wasn't...(speaking into the phone) Debbie, get in here.

PETER

I'm sorry I wasted your time today. I must have read the ad wrong.

The MANAGER just sits and stares.

PETER (CONT'D)

I must have read the ad wrong.

The MANAGER is expressionless. All other applicants are emotionless. As Peter prepares to leave the office, Ms. Voluptuous enters the room. The room is silent while Peter somewhat hesitates to leave the office.

VOLUPTUOUS

(holding the classified ads) The ad says "manager needed".

PETER

(whispering) I don't think a manager is "needed" in this office. Maybe the other guys can assist him.

PETER leaves the office. He pauses for a moment outside the entrance of "Electron Ron's". Peter takes the napkin with "Electron Ron's" address on it out of his briefcase and throws it in the air. The only thing left in his briefcase is a few pencils and his old list of items he purchased from the health food store "Service Is Bliss". He decides to walk to S.I.B. and purchase some items that the doctor had recommended earlier in the week.

EXT.- VILLAGE DAY

The atmosphere is the same as before. Street vendors, panhandlers, and the smell of incense burning. Peter tries his best to ignore the atmosphere and arrives at S.I.B. Before he enters, a sign on the window catches his eye. The sign reads "Help Wanted: Apply Within". Peter enters S.I.B.

INT.- "SERVICE IS BLISS" HEALTH FOOD CO-OP - DAY

Peter recognizes the customer service person from before. He waits his turn at the customer service counter.

C.S. REP.

Welcome to "Service Is Bliss", can I help you?

PETER

Yes, yes you can. I noticed the help wanted sign in the window and wondered what position was available.

C.S. REP.

(looking through applications on her desk) Let's see, let's see. Here we go. The position is...no, that's not it, unless you want to work as a cashier. Ok, seems like the only position available is cashier. Do you have any cashier experience?

PETER (V.O.)

Cashier? I have a college degree for god sakes.

PETER (CONT'D)

(reluctantly) How much does it pay?

CUT TO Early Morning shift at Service Is Bliss Natural Food Co-op. Peter is standing in front of his register with his green apron and name tag that simply reads "Peter".

INT.- "SERVICE IS BLISS" HEALTH FOOD CO-OP - DAY

Peter's first customer is a dread locked Rastamon.

RASTAMON

(putting his grocery items on the counter.)

Greetings.

PETER

(ringing up the items)

Hi, I mean greetings. That will be \$24.98. Cash, check, or charge?

RASTAMON

(paying for his items) I've never seen you here before mon. You new here? I mean, yeh never seen me face before?

PETER

Yeh never what? I mean, this is my first day. (giving the customer the change). Have a nice day sir.

After Peter has a series of very strange and interesting customers, his 30 minute break as finally arrived. Peter's manager comes over to him.

MANAGER

So, what do you think? How was your first day?

PETER

Fine, just fine. Lots of interesting People.

MANAGER

Well, it's time for your break. You do remember where the break room is right? Just go down the stairs and to your left. You can't miss it. Just follow the nuts and berries. Just kidding.

Peter takes off his green apron and walks toward the stairs. He arrives at the break room and sees 3 other employees in there. They have all look as they were from a time warp circa 1963. Everyone has hair past the shoulders and sandals. Peter reluctantly opens the refrigerator only to see open containers of tofu wild rice, soy milk, salad, and half eaten pieces of fruit. Another employee comes behind Peter.

EMPLOYEE

Hey man. Are you new?

PETER

Yes. My name is Peter.

EMPLOYEE

You can call me Rain Forest.
(Giving Peter a soul shake) Let me introduce you to everyone else.
(turning to the others in the break room.) This is Honey Lilly, this is Thunder, and last but certainly not least (0?)

PETER (V.O.)

Oh I remember this one.

Everyone greets Peter with some type of 1960's handshake and a "welcome to the cooperative brother".

PETER (CONT'D)

Thanks everyone. Thanks

EMPLOYEE

Help yourself to anything in here man. Everyone is family here man.
(MORE)

EMPLOYEE (CONT'D)
 (pointing to the break room table)
 There are all the nuts, dried
 fruit, and granola you can eat
 here. Enjoy man.

PETER(V.O.)
 That table looks like the bottom of
 a bird cage.

PETER (CONT'D)
 No thanks. I think I will just
 take a walk around the
 neighborhood. Maybe later.

Peter leaves the break room as his fellow employee's mingle and discuss the latest news around the world. Peter starts to walk around the corner of "Service Is Bliss" and encounter the same street vendors and atmosphere as he did before. Peter returns to his register and finishes his shift. He has finished his first day of new job and is heading home.

INT.- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD- NIGHT

Peter opens his front door and is greeted by the family dog.

PETER
 I'm home.

Mildred is in the kitchen preparing dinner and the kids are upstairs. Peter goes into the kitchen.

PETER (CONT'D)
 Hi honey, what a day.

MILDRED
 Honey, I didn't hear you. How was
 your first day? Did you learn
 anything "healthy" today? (smiling)

PETER
 Anything healthy?

MILDRED
 I'm just kidding honey. How was
 your day dear?

PETER
 It was a very interesting
 experience. I've never met so many
 unique people in one place before,
 from the customers to the
 employee's. Everyone is so, how
 can I explain it, so...let's say
 "unique".

MILDRED
 Unique? What do you mean unique?

PETER
 First of all you can change your name to what ever you want. To a certain extant of course.

MILDRED
 Why on earth would anyone what to change their name just because their working in a health food store.

PETER
 When I applied for the position the customer service representative said that it gave the employee's the right to free expression. (throwing his hands in the air)

MILDRED
 So, when I get a new job, I can change my name to anything that I want. Let's see....I think I would choose....Sultry Mildred.

PETER
 Sultry Mildred?

MILDRED
 What's wrong with Sultry Mildred?

PETER
 Mildred you're married for god's sake. No wife of mine is going to be called sultry at work or anywhere else, other then this bedroom of course.

MILDRED
 (coming very close to Peter)
 Yes, I like S & M. You don't like it Mr?

Right at that moment the kids walk into the bedroom and see Peter and Mildred very, very close to each other.

Peter Jr.

Look Jessica, mommy and daddy's dancing.

JESSICA
Yeah, right.

At that moment Mildred and Peter break apart from each other.

PETER
Why aren't you guy's in bed?

MILDRED
It's not that late dear. What is it kiddo's.

JESSICA
Oh nothing. What are you guys talking about?

MILDRED
(turning to Peter)
Let's ask the kids.

PETER
Mildred no!

MILDRED
Jessica, at daddy's new job anyone can be called any name or thing they want. It has to be within reason of course. What name would you choose if you could Jessica?

JESSICA
I don't know, let me think. Maybe Princess Jessica.

PETER JR.
Your name is already Jessica. Mom said anything.

JESSICA
My name is not Princess is it runt?

MILDRED
Princess Jessica is perfect. What about you Jr.

PETER JR.
Hum...I don't know...maybe Puffy Power Paw.

JESSICA
Why would you name yourself after our dog? You're a lame O.

PETER
That's a good name Jr.

JESSICA
What about you mom? What name
would you choose?

PETER
Mildred.

MILDRED
Well, daddy and I were just talking
about that.

PETER
Mildred.

MILDRED
Let's see. I would choose...what
about S.M.

PETER JR.
What does S.M. mean mom.

JESSICA
Yeah mom, what does it mean?

MILDRED
It means "Super Mom".

PETER JR.
The adventures of Super Mom!

JESSICA
Cool mom. What about you daddy?
What name did you choose today?

PETER
I didn't pick one yet. Maybe I
will let you two and mom choose one
for me in a few days. It will give
you time to think about it. Deal?

JESSICA
Deal.

PETER JR.
Super duper deal.

PETER

Fine. Give mom a kiss and off to bed.

The kids kiss Peter and Mildred then run off to their rooms.

PETER (CONT'D)

Ok super mom, time for S.S.

MILDRED

SS?

PETER

Sound sleep. (kissing Mildred on the forehead) Goodnight dear.

NEXT MORNING- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD-INTERIOR

Peter awakes before everyone because his shift starts early this morning. Peter is getting dress in front of the mirror. He pulls is green work apron over his head and just stares at himself. He then quickly rips the apron from around his head and places it in his briefcase with the lunch that Mildred has prepared for him. A portion of the green apron is hanging out of his briefcase and can easily be seen.

TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD-EXT

Peter is walking to his car with his briefcase when his neighbor notices the green apron strings from the case.

NEIGHBOR

(getting in his car) Good morning Peter. Hey Peter, you have something hanging from your case.

PETER

(quickly shoving the green strings in the case) Thanks.

NEIGHBOR

You're welcome. You don't want to get dirt on you're....

PETER

It's just an apron that I'm taking to the laundry for Mildred.

NEIGHBOR

Nice. Green is earth friendly.

PETER
 (pulling out of his driveway) I'm
 running a little late.

Peter drives off to work.

SERVICE IS BLISS COOPERATIVE- INT.

Peter walks in the store and is greeted by the manager.

MANAGER
 Greetings Peter. Are you ready for
 a blissful day?

PETER (V.O.)
 Blissful?

MANAGER
 Peter? I'm sorry; did you choose a
 bliss name? It's not Peter
 anymore. Let me guess. Let's
 see....

PETER
 I'm still Peter. I was just
 thinking about how bliss my day
 will be.

Peter walks off toward the time clock and puts his green apron on. He looks at the time sheets and read the names on them. None of the names of his co-workers are on the sheets. The names are simple names; not the "bliss" names that he has come accustomed using. While Peter is reading the time sheets the front end manager comes behind him.

FRONT END MANAGER
 Hey Peter. It is Peter right?

PETER
 Hey. I mean Greetings? I was
 just...

FRONT END MANAGER
 You don't have to explain to me. Having trouble finding your time sheet? Here is a little clue; put a sticker on the right corner of it and you can easily find it when you report to work. Look at all of different stickers on the other time sheets. Everyone is unique in their own way.

PETER

But if I don't put a sticker on my time sheet that will make it stand out even more.

FRONT END MANAGER

Exactly, so choose your sticker carefully. Once you're clocked in, come and see me.

PETER

Don't I have to report to my station?

FRONT END MANAGER

Yes, but first I would like to talk to you first.

PETER

Sure thing. I'll find you.

Peter finally find his time sheet and report to the front end managers office.

FRONT END MANAGER OFFICE-INT.

FRONT END MANAGER

Peter, first of all how was your first day?

PETER

Fine, just fine. Why?

FRONT END MANAGER

I was just wondering because you didn't seem to...how can I say it...enthusiastic at the time clock. Is everything alright?

PETER(V.O.)

Fucking enthusiastic? I'm a god dam cashier at a modified fruit stand with a wife and two kids and a college degree.

PETER (CONT'D)

Enthusiastic? I'm very enthusiastic to be here. I appreciate the opportunity to grow with the store and people that I work with.

FRONT END MANAGER

I know that the first day of any job can be a little stressful and I was just wondering about your state of mind.

PETER (V.O.)

My state of mind. Can I shoot myself now?

PETER (CONT'D)

No, no. Everything is fine.

FRONT END MANAGER

Good to hear Peter. Good to hear.

PETER

Thanks. Is that all?

FRONT END MANAGER

Yeah, that's it. Oh, one other thing. Did you choose your "bliss" name yet?

PETER

I didn't realize that I had to...

FRONT END MANAGER

No, god no Peter. You don't have to change your name by any means. Everyone should feel the freedom of expression around here. When one becomes who they are or who they wanted to be becomes one with the.....

Peter is in a daze and is not listening to any of the words the front end manager is saying.

FRONT END MANAGER

With that being said, one is one with the name that one has chosen.

PETER

I have to think about it. Can I have some time to think about it?

FRONT END MANAGER

Take your time Peter. Take your time. It will come to you soon enough.

Peter report to his station a little late and there are customers already in his line waiting.

Peter began to take his first customer. Everyone is very peaceful. Everyone but one customer.

PETER

Hi, I mean Greetings. Welcome to the...

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

I've been waiting for over 20 minutes. That's why I don't like shopping here. I have a good mind to take my business over to Mega-Mega. (putting all of his groceries on the counter.) Who is the manager on duty? This is ridiculous. How much do I owe you? I bet if I was at Mega-Mega I would have been half way home by now. How much did you say I owed you? This is ridiculous.

PETER

Uh...that will be \$29.59.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

How much? You got to be kidding me. Thirty bucks for a few fruits and vegetables. You must have rung something up wrong. Let's see, how much was this kiwi?

PETER

Let's see, the kiwi was \$1.46.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

\$1.46!!!! That's not what I paid for it the other day. It must be something wrong with your system.

PETER

The fruits and vegetables are all weighted and the price will change from time to time because of the size of the item. That may be the cause of the price difference.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

I'll let it go this time but next time I would like to speak to the person in charge. How much?

PETER

(pointing to the screen)

\$29.59.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON
 (handing Peter a card that he
 has never seen before) Here you go.
 My emancipation card.

PETER
 Emancipation card? Is it debit,
 credit, or food stamps?

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON
 Emancipation card!

PETER
 I'd better go get the manager.
 Excuse me for a second.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON
 (with his arms folded) Take you
 time. I'll be right here.

Peter walks over to the front-end manager's office and knocks on the door. The front-end manger opens the door with a surprised look on his face. Peter notices behind the front end manager is a young female cashier. She also has a surprised look.

FRONT-END MANAGER
 (fixing his tie and shirt) What is
 it Peter? Is everything ok?

PETER
 Sure, sure. I only have a customer
 that says that they have an
 emancipation card. Not credit,
 ebt, or debit. Emancipation? Do we
 take those and if we do no one ever
 told me about it.

FRONT-END MANAGER
 That's only an ebt or electronic
 food stamps. Many of our customers
 don't like to refer the card as
 food stamps. They use the word
 emancipation which means freedom.
 Free from any government control
 devices like banks and credit card
 companies. (opening the office
 door just enough to see the young
 cashier. He waves at her) Is that
 all Peter?

PETER

Yes sir. Got it. Thank you sir.

Peter walks back to his station.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

Well it's about time. I have things to do.

PETER

I apologize. I have never heard of that type of card before, wow.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

That's right!

PETER

I always thought that emancipation meant freedom. Freedom.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

It does.

PETER

Then explain to me if you have a so called "emancipation" card, why do you rely on the federal government to issue you that "freedom" card. You are relying on the government to feed you and your family and you have the nerve to call it emancipation. Please. Here is your receipt, have a beautiful day sir. And come back and see us.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

(shocked) Oh no he didn't! Oh no he didn't! What did you say to me? I don't have to rely on any one or any fucking government to feed me and mine. Who the hell do you think you are? I what to see the manager! I what to see the manager right now!!

The Front-End manager hears the commotion from his office and walks over to Peter's station.

FRONT-END MANAGER

What's going on Peter? Didn't the card go through?

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

This... cashier was very disrespectful to me. I've been shopping here for years and years and I have never been treated with so my disrespect. He, (looking at his name tag) Peter said that I was a slave for the government because I rely on the government to feed my family.

PETER

Sir, I only suggested that the so called "emancipation" card was not what you may have thought it was. I was only...

FRONT-END MANAGER

I'm so sorry sir. He just started and is a little rusty around the edges. I am sure that Peter didn't mean to call you and your family slaves. How about if I pay for your items today as a jester of good faith?

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

Wow. Now I can't feed my fucking family. I need the man to feed my little black children in the cotton field. That's it? Is that it? Cut me a piece of watermelon Mr. Man and give me a side order of fried chicken. Is that it?

FRONT-END MANAGER

Please sir. We don't sell chicken here. Please accept our sincere apologies and these groceries. Believe me sir; it will never ever happen again.

UN-PEACEFULL PERSON

Well.....(looking very firmly at Peter) I think I can let it slide this time. Speaking of sliding, can you put those items that I just purchased back on my emancipation card by sliding it again with a refund?

PETER (V.O.)
Un-fucking believable

FRONT-END MANAGER
Absolutely. Yes sir, absolutely.

The front-end manager refunds the money back to the customer's card. After the customer leaves the store, the manager has a few words for Peter.

FRONT-END MANAGER (CONT'D)
Peter, the first thing we here at Service Is Bliss preach is the gospel of the customer. The customer is always right. Remember that Peter. That's why most of our customers are repeat customers. If he thinks that an electronic food stamp card was an emancipation card, so be it. It's what he thinks. So what.

PETER (V.O.)
I've got to find another job. It's like I'm on other planet.

FRONT-END MANAGER
Why don't you take your break early today Peter.

PETER
It's only 11:15a.m.

FRONT-END MANAGER
That's fine. See you in 30 minutes.

Peter removes his apron and takes his 30 minute break. Peter simply grabs a burger from across the street and brings it back to the break room. They have three other co-workers in the break room. Peter takes a seat and un-wrap his medium rare 100% beef burger.

SERVICE IS BLISS- DAY- BREAK ROOM

CO-WORKER 1
Hi.

CO-WORKER 2
What the hell is that smell?

CO-WORKER 3
I smell...what is it...dead flesh.

CO-WORKER 1

Don't pay attention to them. Enjoy your lunch.

CO-WORKER 3

Is that cow flesh?

PETER

(taking a big bite) Yes, I think so. For \$9.95 it better be a cow.

CO-WORKER 2

Gross!!! You can still see the blood. Nasty. What's your name again?

PETER

(taking another big ass bite) Peter.

CO-WORKER 3

Did you know that saturated animal fat in red meat contributes to heart disease and atherosclerosis?

PETER

(taking his last meaty bite) I sorry, are you talking to me?

CO-WORKER 2

Red meat is also thought to increase the risks of rheumatoid arthritis and endometriosis.

PETER

(leaving the table) I'm sorry, but I think my break is up. I would love to talk to all of you....what's your name again? Never mind, you all have a healthy happy day.

CO-WORKER 1

See you around Peter.

The other two co-workers whisper to each other about Peter while co-worker #1 enjoys a good laugh. Peter finishes his shift and is heading home.

TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD-INT.- NIGHT

MILDRED

Hi dear. How was your day?

PETER

Another day in tofuville.

MILDRED

Is that good or bad?

PETER

For what it's worth, it was just another day. I have to find something else. You would not believe some of the people that shop at that place.

MILDRED

That so called place is paying the bills, the mortgage, and providing food for our family.

PETER

Where are kids by the way?

MILDRED

They're next door.

PETER

Maybe your right Mildred but some of the customers are just a little out there. Just because you're a vegetarian or a vegan doesn't give you the right to judge everybody else's dietary habits. If I want to eat a damn hamburger for lunch I can. I should bring in some ribs tomorrow. I could just imagine what they would do if I brought some pork ribs into the break room.

MILDRED

(holding his hand) Listen dear; you knew the type of environment it was before you took the position. Just try to hang in there. Before you know it, another job will present itself.

CAPTION: ONE YEAR LATER

INT.- SERVICE IS BLISS COOPERATIVE- MORNING

Peter is working at his register when the front end manager approaches him.

PETER
Good morning.

FRONT-END MANAGER
Good morning Peter. It still is
Peter right? Just kidding, just
kidding.

PETER (V.O.)
Please get away from me.

PETER (CONT'D)
Yelp, still Peter. What can I help
you with?

FRONT-END MANAGER
Remember some time ago I talked to
you about the National Cooperative
Association Picnic?

PETER
The what?

FRONT-END MANAGER
The National Cooperative
Association Picnic in Florida.

It's coming up soon and the General Manager wanted me to ask
you if you were still interested in attending. The coop
wants to send a family to represent the store and their not
that many associates with a spouse and kids.

PETER
I don't know. When it is again?

FRONT-END MANAGER
In a few weeks. We will pay for
your room, gas, and you even get a
\$30.00 per-diem. What do you say?
The G.M. would really appreciate
it.

PETER
What does the G.M. have to do with
this?

FRONT-END MANAGER
Who do you think asked me to ask
you? Why don't you go down stairs
during you break and talk to him
about it? It won't hurt anything.
(MORE)

FRONT-END MANAGER (CONT'D)

Even if you say no, at least you showed some interest in helping the coop.

PETER

Sure, sure why not. I'll go and talk to him.

FRONT-END MANAGER

That's the spirit. That's the cooperative spirit!

INT.-BREAK ROOM- SERVICE IS BLISS

Peter is sitting in the break room contemplating whether he should go into the General Manager's office. Before his break is over Peter decides to go to the office. As Peter stands, the G.M. is standing in the door of the break room.

The G.M. is a very low talker. He also has a slight tendency of walking away while he's talking.

GENERAL MANAGER

(extending his hand) Peter, it is Peter right? I'm the G.M. How is your day going so far?

PETER

Yes, it's still Peter sir.

GENERAL MANAGER

Don't you sir me. Wow, the last time someone called me sir I was at my brother and law home and his little Patty called me sir. (walking toward his office) Patty is the sweetest niece you would want on gods green earth. I told her the same thing that I am going to tell you. The only sir is my father. I'm not my father my any means, no sir.

Peter is trying to keep up with the G.M. and listen to what he is saying also.

INT-GENERAL MANAGER OFFICE- DAY

G.M.

(sitting at his desk) The front end manager said that you may be interested in representing the coop during our annual picnic.

PETER

I don't know that much about it. I only have been working here for a little over a year. I don't know if I am the right person to represent the coop. I'm not familiar with all of the products. I'm not a vegetarian. I don't know if...

G.M.

Nonsense. We here at Service Is Bliss is a family originated business. It doesn't matter if you don't know every single thing about the coop. It doesn't even matter if you are not a veggie. You know what matters Peter? What really matters is the fact that you have a wife and two kids and is working in a cooperative. You know what that in tells?

PETER (V.O.)

Barely can eat, behind on my mortgage?

PETER (CONT'D)

No sir, what does it mean?

G.M.

Community owned and operated for the people by the people. That says a lot in these times Peter. It says a lot about you Peter.

PETER

Thank you.

G.M.

So, what's it going to be?

PETER

Can I talk to my wife before I make a decision?

G.M.

Sure, sure. Take your time. Just let me know by tomorrow morning. (standing) I know the front end manager is wondering where you are. Thanks for coming in Peter. I'll talk to you tomorrow.

PETER

Have a good evening sir. I mean Mr. Davison.

Peter finishes his shift and is driving home.

INT.- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD- EVENING

Peter is greeted by his wife and kids.

PETER
What's up kiddo's?

PETER JR.

Daddy's home!

JESSICA
How was your day daddy?

PETER JR.

(whispering) Did you bring me anything from work?

JESSICA
Here we go again. Did you bring
"me" anything. How about did you
bring anything for us? God!

PETER
Matter of fact I did. (reaching in
his briefcase) How about some
almond granola bars?

PETER JR.

Thanks dad. We will eat it later.

JESSICA
Thanks dad.

PETER
You're welcome. Where is mom?

PETER JR.

(running upstairs) She is up here.

Jessica and Peter Jr. both run upstairs and give the almond granola bars to the family dog. The family dog takes a sniff of the bars and turn away.

Peter checks the mail and walk upstairs to speak with his wife.

INT.-TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD- EVENING

PETER

Hi Mildred. How was your day?

MILDRED

Hi dear. (kissing Peter)

PETER

Fine. I brought the kids some candy bars from work and I saw them give them to Puffy.

MILDRED

Real candy bars or some of those things you call candy from the coop?

PETER

They are good for you.

MILDRED

Yeah, I know that but try to explain that to a five and eight year old.

PETER

Mildred, how would you feel about taking a trip to Florida? All expenses paid.

MILDRED

To Florida? What's the catch?

PETER

(pausing) What do you mean?

MILDRED

Peter Timberlake I know you. You wouldn't just come in from work and say "hey everybody, let's take a trip to Florida. All expenses paid. What's the catch?"

PETER

Well, the National Cooperative Association is having its annual company picnic in Florida and the G.M. asked me to represent the store. He chose me because I'm one of a few employees' with a wife and kids.

MILDRED

I can't believe that he chose you because you have a family rather than because of your work performance.

PETER

Either way, would you like to go?

MILDRED

As much as you talk about your co-workers and say how weird and self-righteous they are. You want to attend an annual picnic with all of the coops in the country. The same people that you come home and talk hours about is the same one's you want to spend the weekend with?

PETER

The G.M. asked me. It may lead to a promotion or maybe I can network with other coops about positions open in their stores.

MILDRED

Maybe you're right. Did you tell the kids yet?

PETER

No, I wanted to talk to you about it first. What do you say?

MILDRED

Ok. Maybe what we need is a get-away. Sure, why not.

CAPTION: ROAD TRIP

INT.-TIMBERLAKE CAR- DAY

PETER

\$150.00 for shots and 3 days in a kennel. What a rip off.

MILDRED

Puffy needed somewhere to stay plus he wasn't up to date with his shots.

PETER

Our hotel may be the same cost as that kennel.

PETER JR.

Are we staying in a kennel?

JESSICA

No we are not staying in a kennel.
That was just a reference about the
cost of things right dad?

PETER JR.

I miss Puffy already.

MILDRED

Kids don't worry about Puffy, he
will be alright.

PETER

(under his breath) For that about
of money Puffy should have his own
maid.

JESSICA

How far do we have to go before we
get their dad?

PETER

Just a few more miles.

PETER JR.

I hope there are lots of cool games to play.

MILDRED

I'm sure they will.

PETER

Remember kids, some of the food
will not be like the food we eat at
home. Some of the burgers and dogs
will be tofu and other meat
substitutes. So try to put lots
and lots of condiments on your
hotdogs and burgers. That will make
them taste better, believe me.

PETER JR.

Dad, will a lot of adults be at the picnic?

MILDRED

They will have lots of kids and
adults there.

(MORE)

MILDRED (CONT'D)

That's one of the reasons why the General Manager chose us to represent the store. Why do you ask dear?

PETER JR.

(laughing) Because my teacher said that only adults use lots and lots of condoms.

Everyone but Peter laughs in the car.

The car arrives at the entrance of the picnic. The atmosphere is like 1969 Woodstock. Everyone is dressed in tie-dye tops and sandals. It's a very open, free spirited atmosphere.

EXT.- NATIONAL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION PICNIC- DAY

PETER

Wow. Look at all of these hippies.

MILDRED

Peter!

PETER JR.

Look at all of the want daddy?

JESSICA

Hippies. Hippies are a subculture that was originally a youth movement that began in the U.S. during the early 1960's and spread around the world.

Peter and Mildred look at each other.

JESSICA (CONT'D)

I read about them in my Social Studies class.

PETER

Ok troops. Let's get out and introduce ourselves. Remember want I said about the "condiments".

Peter and his family introduce themselves and mingle with the crowd. Peter Jr. and Jessica quickly make friends while Peter and Mildred do the same. Everyone is playing outdoor games and is having a good time. Some time past and the day turn into night. Everyone is ready to eat and is sitting around a big camp fire.

EXT.-CAMP FIRE-NATIONAL COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION PICNIC-NIGHT

The President of the N.C.A. rises to the front of the crowd.

N.C.G. PREZ

Can I have everyone's attention please? My name is Hugh Samson and I am the President of the N.C.G. I would like to first thank all of you for coming to our 20th annual celebration. When I look around here I see the future. The future of the vast world of cooperatives throughout the world. Please, please enjoy the food and drinks made available through your local cooperative. Thanks for coming and enjoy.

Everyone stands and form a line to the buffet. When Peter and his family arrive at the buffet, everything looks the same. Tofu burgers, BBQ tofu hotdogs, sweet potato fries, veggie kabobs, corn on the cob, and lots and lots of salad.

PETER (V.O.)

What the hell is this? I should have brought those ribs!

MILDRED (V.O.)

Do these people believe in chicken?

PETER JR.(V.O.)

Just remember, lots and lots of condiments.

JESSICA

Lots of condiments won't help any of this mess.

Peter and his family fill of their plates with most of the food on the grill and take a sit on the picnic bench. Sitting next to them is another family from a Minnesota cooperative. That family has plenty of food on their plates, from mountains of potato fries to piles and piles of b.b.q. tofu.

PETER

Everything looks great. (turning to the other family) I'm Peter.

MR. MINN

Well, hello Mr. Peter. I'm River and this is my family. First there is my wife, Beth. Then that little bundle of joy over there is Faith. Last but not lease there is River Jr.

PETER (V.O.)
 You named your son River Jr?

PETER (CONT'D)
 Hi, I'm Peter. It's just plain old Peter. This is my wife Mildred and my daughter Jessica and finally my son Peter Jr.

MR. MINN
 Well, pleased to meet you just plain old Peter. (extending his hand).

Mr. Minnesota gives Peter an old fashion soul shake.

MR. MINN (CONT'D)
 The food is great. Are you vegans also?

PETER
 (looking at the size of Mr. Minnesota and his family. Huge!)
 Vegan huh?

MR. MINN
 You know man, nothing with a face man. Nothing with a face.

Peter and his family watches as Mr. Minnesota and his overweight family scarf down the sweet potato fries and b.b.q. hot dogs. Each of his kids has at least 5 hot dogs on their plate.

MR. MINN (CONT'D)
 (talking with his mouth full)
 What's your job title at the Coop?
 Which one are you with again?

PETER
 I'm huh...I work in the frond end of the store.

MR. MINN
 Front end manager huh. Working with all of those new cashiers everyday must be hard. We have a high turn over in the front end department all the time. I fear for you man.

Mildred and Peter just look at each other while Mr. Minnesota talks. Peter Jr. raises his hand as if he was in a classroom.

PETER JR.

Dad, I thought you worked on the register?

PETER

I have to do it all in the front end son. Sometimes that means working on the cash register.

MR. MINN

You know just plain Peter; we have a job opening at our coop. The store manager is moving to the desert and we will need somebody very soon. Our store is not remotely like your coop in Atlanta. We sell free range chicken, beef, and even organic wines and beer. Some people say that it has the feel of a national food store but it's still a coop to me.

PETER

Store manager in Minnesota?

MILDRED

Minnesota?

MR. MINN

Yep, lovely cold Minnesota. I heard the pay is good. I'm just giving you the heads up. If you want to apply, just let me know before the weekend is over. Just between you and me just plain Peter. (getting up with his family) It's almost time for the drum circle. Let's go kids. Nice meeting you and your family just plain Peter.

Mr. Minnesota leaves the table. Peter and his family finish their meal as best they could.

PETER

What do you think?

MILDRED

What do I think about what?

PETER

Mildred. Come on. What do you think about moving to Minnesota?

MILDRED

I don't know. What about the kids?
School? I don't know Peter.

PETER

Do you think I should apply?

MILDRED

What harm will it to. Go ahead and
apply when we get back home.

PETER

Sure thing. Come on, let's go and
enjoy the drum circle.

Peter and his family complete the drum circle with lots of
singing and fire dancing.

FADE TO: Peter is at his computer in his den applying for the
position in Minnesota. He finishes the on-line application
and is off to another day at Service Is Bliss.

Peter finishes another shift with the same type of customers
as before. Customers range from young to old, black to
white, vegans to vegetarians. Peter is making friends with
some of his repeat customers and is starting to enjoy
interacting with them. Peter drives home.

INT.- TIMBERLAKE HOUSEHOLD- NIGHT

Peter quietly enters his den to check his email. He has a
message from the cooperative in Minnesota. They would like
to interview him for the position of store manager. Peter
becomes very excited and leaves his den to find Mildred to
tell her the good news.

PETER

(holding a piece of paper behind
his back) Guess what I have?

MILDRED

Peter, when did you get home?

PETER

Guess what I have behind my back?

MILDRED

Peter, if you brought another
package of meat substitutes home.

PETER

Nope. Remember that store manager
position in Minnesota?

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

They want to interview me next week. They want to fly me there and interview me!

MILDRED

I didn't know you applied for that job.

PETER

Mildred, I have to do what's best for this family. I think this maybe a good move for everybody. What do you think?

MILDRED

(pausing) Well, if you really want to.

PETER

I really want to, for us.

Peter and Mildred hung each other. Right at that moment the kids enter the bedroom.

PETER JR.

What's going on? Dad, did you bring me anything?

JESSICA

Hi dad.

PETER

I have a surprise for everyone.

PETER JR.

What is it dad?

PETER

How would you like to move to another state?

JESSICA

What. Why do we have to move dad? All of my friends are here in Atlanta. Move were?

PETER

Minnesota.

PETER JR.

Minnesota?

JESSICA
Minnesota?

PETER
Yes, Minnesota.

PETER JR.

Minnesota has a lot of snow doesn't it dad?

PETER
It does. What do you think
Jessica?

JESSICA
All of my friends are here dad. My
school is here dad. Why move, we
are happy here. Mom, aren't we
happy here.

MILDRED
Of course we are happy here but dad
has a good job interview in
Minnesota. If he gets the job, we
may have to move.

JESSICA
This sucks! (leaving the bedroom)

PETER JR.

Did you hear Jessica dad?

MILDRED
Go to your room Jr.

The kids leave Peter and Mildred in the bedroom. They just
stand in the door way silent.

CUT TO: An airplane taking off.

CAPTION: MINNESOTA

INT.- MINNESOTA FOOD COOPERATIVE- EVENING

Peter is sitting in the reception area. He is waiting for
the General Manager to interview him. Before the interview
starts, Peter notices the way the store is set up. The
cashiers don't have a bench to sit on when there no customers
in line. Service Is Bliss has benches for the cashiers. The
store managers are walking around watching everyone with a
close eye. The customers are mostly upper middle class
housewives. The General Manager finally makes his entrance.

He has the look of a big fat boss man. There is absolutely nothing healthy about this man. The G.M. walks right past Peter without even looking in his direction. The G.M. goes over to the reception area and talks with the receptionist. He speaks to her as if she was a stray dog eating from his garbage can. He then grabs some papers from her and walks into his office and slams his door. Peter can't believe the type of place this is. This is nothing like the environment he left at Service Is Bliss. Peter looks around once more and stands. The receptionist notices Peter standing.

RECEPTIONIST

The G.M. will be with you in just a moment.

PETER

(pausing) I just. I.....

RECEPTIONIST

Sir?

Right at that moment Peter walks out of the reception area and out of the cooperative. Peter hails a cab and goes back to the airport. Peter flies back to Atlanta without interviewing for the management position.

Peter is greeted by his family at the gate of the airport.

MILDRED

Welcome home dear. How did it go?
Did you enjoy Minnesota?

PETER

Fine, just fine. They had a lot of applicants with tons of experience. I don't know if I was really qualified for the position. We will see.

PETER JR.

Welcome home dad. (whispering) Did you bring me...

JESSICA

We can hear you runt. Hi dad,
welcome home. (hugging Peter)

MILDRED

Kids, let your dad settle in before you start in on him.

The Timberlake family leaves the airport and drive home. Peter never heard anything from the cooperative in Minnesota and never told Mildred what really happen there. Later that year, Peter was promoted to store manager at Service Is Bliss for more money than he turned down in Minnesota and became a strict vegetarian.

THE END