

SICK TRAINING

written by

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INT. STAN'S APPARTMENT - MORNING

Thursday. 7:00 am. STAN's alarm goes off. STAN (early 30s) wakes up at once and moves to the edge of the bed, quickly slipping his feet into his Smurfs slippers.

He's ready to stand, but suddenly stops, in the middle of the action. Thinks for a second, then sluggishly returns under the quilt.

INT. STAN'S APPARTMENT - MORNING

STAN's mobile goes off: "Perfect day". He's getting a few calls from a persistent contact: Work Trevor. He can't see who's calling since he's facing the other way, but he's got an idea and even if he's awake, he's not planning to get it.

Next comes a message. STAN treats it the same.

INT. STAN'S APPARTMENT - DAY

STAN's standing, stark naked, in front of the bedroom mirror.

He's holding an electric hair clipper.

He gives himself a buzz cut. Hair clippings are falling on the carpet, in an otherwise clean and organized room. This time he doesn't care.

INT. STAN'S BATHROOM - DAY

STAN's shaving his head. The hair falls all over the sink and floor.

EXT. STAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Winter. A fresh layer of snow has covered the sidewalk over the night. Neighbors had made paths in front of their houses, but people have to go round, walking on the street, when they reach STAN's.

He lays his backpack on the snow and returns inside. Comes back with a plastic shovel. Begins to work on connecting the pathways.

His mobile goes off again. Work Trevor. STAN shuts is off and goes back to clearing the snow.

INT. SUBWAY - DAY

STAN turns on his mobile. Two messages. Reads first. 9:40 am: "Can I know where you are?". Second, 11:00 am: "You are late!".

INT. OFFICE BUILDING, STAN'S DESK - DAY

STAN's moving slowly. It doesn't take TREVOR (late 20s, director) more than a minute to make appearance.

TREVOR

Do you know how late you are?

STAN ignores him. Without turning on the computer, he brings out of his lunch box. Leisurely sets everything in place and starts eating.

TREVOR must be still waiting for an answer.

STAN

We'll talk after.

TREVOR

Oh, yeah! Be sure we will!

INT. TREVOR'S DESK - DAY

TREVOR was on pins and needles.

TREVOR

This is totally...

STAN

Let's go to a meeting room.

STAN walks away.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

STAN sits down on the first chair he sets eyes on. TREVOR goes round the room, to the chair opposite to his. STAN takes his fur hat down. Before TREVOR can sit...

STAN

I have cancer.

TREVOR is left speechless.

STAN looks around the room.

STAN (CONT'D)
A few months, at best.

TREVOR
I'm really sorry. I don't know what
to say.

STAN
I'll kill myself today, after we
sort things out.

TREVOR is blank, jaw-drop.

STAN (CONT'D)
I'll make a file with all passwords
and send it to you.

INT. GLENNON'S OFFICE - DAY

TREVOR barges into the office. GLENNON (40s, VP) was playing
a video game on his tablet and enjoying it a lot.

TREVOR
Our accountant wants to kill
himself!

GLENNON's smile freezes.

TREVOR (CONT'D)
He just told me!

GLENNON
He's here?

TREVOR
Yes. He came in very late.

GLENNON
What did he say? Word for word.

TREVOR
That today, after work, he'll kill
himself.

GLENNON
Ouch.
(BEAT)
Was he serious?

TREVOR
Like a bull!

GLENNON

Damn.

(BEAT)

Better bring him inside, before he gets to it, right? We need to buy some time!

TREVOR goes for the door.

GLENNON (CONT'D)

That stumpy fellow next to the main door, right?

TREVOR

Yes.

GLENNON

What's his name again? Tom? Thomas?

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

STAN is sending an e-mail.

TREVOR

Hey buddy!

STAN

Just sent you the file.

TREVOR

Great, thanks.

(BEAT)

You know, GLENNON asked you to join me to his office.

STAN gives him a distrustful look.

INT. GLENNON'S OFFICE - DAY

GLENNON tries to spread the good mood as soon as STAN and TREVOR get in.

GLENNON

Hey, trooper! STAN, right?

(BEAT)

Great haircut! Makes you look... tough!

GLENNON puts his fist up and touches with his elbow, by mistake, the office microphone switch. It's now ON.

GLENNON (CONT'D)

In power!

GLENNON had an internal radio system installed around the office, so he can give speeches to the employees right from his director's chair. Without them knowing, all other employees are now listening to their discussion.

STAN

Thanks! I have cancer.

TREVOR sits. Asks STAN to sit. GLENNON gives TREVOR an angry look, but he's a winner, he immediately recovers.

GLENNON

Damn, boy. Sorry to hear it.

(BEAT)

Do you know how big the success rate on fighting cancer is nowadays?

STAN

I'll kill myself after work.

GLENNON

Yeah, about that... wouldn't you prefer to give it a chance? Try to see how it goes?

(BEAT)

Let God work his magic!

STAN

Atheist.

TREVOR

But STAN, you have to fight!

GLENNON

Exactly! Think of your family, your friends!

STAN loses interest. Looks around the office.

GLENNON (CONT'D)

OK, tell me. You want a raise? You have it! 10% starting next week!

STAN

Won't cover the treatment.

GLENNON

20%. It's done. It's yours! TREVOR go bring somebody from HR, please.

TREVOR gets up. STAN makes him a sign to sit back.

GLENNON (CONT'D)

You want to be a manager? I understand, you want to further your career. That's fine. We'll hire a new accountant and make you Accountant Manager. We'll probably need it, anyway, after the take-over.

STAN

Or to replace me.

Few moments of silence. TREVOR sits back down.

GLENNON

You can't just go like that, buddy! We need someone to replace you. And you need to show him how you're doing stuff.

(BEAT)

Give us a month. We hire someone next week and after that there's plenty of time for you to pass the know-how.

STAN

Get MIYOKO. She wants to be an accountant.

GLENNON

MIYOKO, perfect!

TREVOR

Yeah, not sure about that...

GLENNON

You don't think so?

TREVOR

I don't think so.

STAN walks to the door.

STAN

One day is enough. Tomorrow after work I do it.

STAN leaves the office. GLENNON wants to pour himself a drink when notices the microphone was ON. Shows it to TREVOR. Turns it off.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

STAN goes back to his desk. All employees are staring at him.

INT. GLENNON'S OFFICE - DAY

GLENNON's sipping from a glass of brandy.

GLENNON
Bring that girl MIYOKO to me.

TREVOR
We can't.

GLENNON
I sure fucking can, if I want to!

TREVOR
Please!
(BEAT)
I love her.

GLENNON
You do? I though you were gay.

TREVOR makes a face.

GLENNON (CONT'D)
Really. I did!

TREVOR
Well, I'm not.
(BEAT)
If he gets to stay next to her and
train her and all, she might fall
for him.

GLENNON thinks it over for a second.

GLENNON
You're a smart nut, buddy! That's a
great idea! We'll make him fall in
love with her! That should keep him
around some more...

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

STAN is working on some files. CLAIRE (20s) joins, holding a few apples.

CLAIRE
Want one?

STAN
I'm OK. Just had a bite.

CLAIRE
Take it! You can eat it later.
(BEAT)
Or tomorrow.

STAN takes an apple, the smallest, hoping CLAIRE will just go.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
We're going for some drinks after work. Wanna come?

STAN
I don't know.

CLAIRE
You should come.

STAN
I'll think about it.

CLAIRE winks and goes back to the relaxation room. Most of the employees are there, waiting for her.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

MIYOKO (20s) is coming out of GLENNON's office. TREVOR follows fast.

TREVOR
Are you OK?

MIYOKO
Oh, yeah, sure. I'd love to get the job!

TREVOR
Playing him and all?

MIYOKO
Don't sweat, I'm practically made for it.

TREVOR stops and sighs.

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

MIYOKO comes to STAN, smiling. When getting closer, she hides it.

MIYOKO
I hear you resigned.
(BEAT)
They might give me the job.

STAN
That's good.

MIYOKO
So... what's there to know?

STAN
Not now. We'll start tomorrow,
first thing.
(BEAT)
One day should be enough.

MIYOKO
Sounds good to me.
(BEAT)
Will it take all day?

STAN
Yeah, most probably.

MIYOKO's not sure what to do.

MIYOKO
You going for drinks with the guys?

STAN
No. I have some things to take care
of.

MIYOKO
See you tomorrow?

INT. STAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

STAN has put most of his things in boxes. Each box has a piece of paper glued to it, stating the contents and where the box should go.

He goes out.

EXT. STAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

STAN has made a snowman. He just lays next to it, in the snow, and looks at the sky.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Everybody gets petrified when STAN goes past them. Nobody knows what to say, so they just do their best to avoid him, or look busy as hell.

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

MIYOKO was waiting for STAN at his desk. He dives right into a training session.

It's lousy! This man who's offering her the opportunity of a job she craved for and who's showing her how to succeed in it... has only a few hours left of his life. By his decision!

She can't really concentrate.

MIYOKO

Look... Stop for a minute.

(BEAT)

I thought about it all night.
 Couldn't close one eye. Are you actually going to go through with it?

STAN's working on the computer.

MIYOKO (CONT'D)

What the fuck man? Why not let nature do it's course?

(BEAT)

I'd love to get the job, sure, but not this way. I don't even understand what you're saying there. I'll need your help for a while.

STAN looks her in the eyes. Looks back at the computer and goes back to training her.

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

STAN continues the training when they hear loud talking the other side of the office. MIYOKO stops him.

MIYOKO

I need a break. Let's go.

INT. RECREATION ROOM - DAY

MARICIA's turning forty and everybody's there to congratulate her.

MARICIA

What about some cake guys?

EVERYBODY

Cut it! Sure! Let's have some!

STAN and MIYOKO join them. Suddenly, deep silence takes over the room. Chills run down people's spines. Nobody knows how to react.

MARCIA starts cutting the cake. The silence deepens even further.

CLAIRE helps MARCIA pass the slices. STAN gets one.

STAN

Uhm... Happy Birthday!

They all eat silently. You can almost hear blood going through their veins.

Some colleagues go away.

MARICIA

No, man! That's not fucking fair!

(BEAT)

You know what? I need my song! I deserve it! I'm turning forty and I need it!

(BEAT)

Fuck you STAN and your egoistic ass! Just because you're a pussy and can't fight your fucking cancer we're all supposed to stop living, or what?

Nobody moves a millimeter. Nobody even breaths when...

...GLENNON joins them. He's bringing a pack of colored balloons. He's singing.

GLENNON

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you!

The others join in. All people are singing. It's kind of pathetic.

STAN only ate half of his cake. He lays the rest on a table and leaves. MIYOKO follows him.

MIYOKO
STAN, I'm sorry!

STAN
Why would this... be your fault?

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

STAN's back at his computer. GLENNON joins.

GLENNON
Look buddy, say what you will, we need you. TREVOR was telling me... Nobody knows how to work those damn books the way you do.
(BEAT)
You win. Tell me what you want and I'll do it. A better view? An office? What will do it?

STAN
GLENNON... Mafia byword: bribe works better than the book. My byword: a smile and a cleavage work better than a bullet.
(BEAT)
She'll be fine.

INT. GLENNON'S OFFICE - DAY

GLENNON and TREVOR are brainstorming.

TREVOR
I give up.

GLENNON's playing with his glass.

GLENNON
There's only one thing left...

Just to make sure, he turns the microphone ON and then turns it back OFF.

GLENNON (CONT'D)
It must be you.

TREVOR turns into a question mark.

GLENNON (CONT'D)
 Must be because of you.
 (BEAT)

GLENNON (CONT'D)
 It's obvious. What other reason can
 it be? He hates his manager, he
 wants out.
 (BEAT)
 Refused a raise, refused a
 promotion. Of course... you
 would've stayed his manager.

TREVOR
 That can't...

GLENNON
 No, it is. And he's not even the
 first one bringing this up. There
 were others...

TREVOR has to do something.

TREVOR
 Could I have a drink?

GLENNON shows him to help himself, leaves him fill his glass.
 Asks for a refill.

TREVOR drinks it down. GLENNON takes a sip and continues to
 play with the glass.

GLENNON
 He's out, you're out!
 (BEAT)
 He kills himself, I kill you.

TREVOR jumps out of his seat. He's ready for action!

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

STAN looks pretty satisfied. He's wrapping things up. Showing
 her where he can find some powerpoint presentations and all.

He takes a white square and writes on his password.

STAN gets up.

STAN
 Be back in a second.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING

STAN is walking towards the office toilets... but passes by and continues to walk towards the stairwell.

INT. STAN'S DESK - DAY

MIYOKO's writing a message on her phone. TREVOR joins her.

TREVOR

STAN?

MIYOKO

Toilet? I suppose...

TREVOR

I'll wait.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING BALCONY - DAY

5th floor. People are smoking and chatting, fighting the cold.

STAN comes out of the building, wearing only his office clothes. He looks around with great consideration, checking the thick balcony railing.

He finds a place he likes. Takes a bit of time, but he manages gets on in after all.

People are stunned. What's he going to do?

STAN jumps...

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

...right into a huge pile of snow. He's not moving a finger.

People are screaming! The longest seconds in history.

STAN gets up. 5th floor and he didn't even get a scratch.

Wipes the snow down of his clothes and fights out of the pile of snow.

Once out of it, he goes directly to the near street and jumps in front of a big truck.