Scam Man

by

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WGA Registration

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"Alternate title-"Jobs"

INT. OFFICE

A shot of a business manager sitting at a desk during a job interview. The opening shot is from the hero’s p.o.v.

    MANAGER
    So Frank. You want to be a sou chef?

Frank nods yes.

We need to know that you will be willing to work overtime and weekends.

We see the hero in a chair eager to answer.

    FRANK
    Yes sir, that’s not a problem I’m a hard worker.

    MANAGER
    I see you used to work at a pizzeria?

    FRANK
    Oh right...(clearing his throat) Well I was a short order cook.. I know it’s not much but I’m willing to go through the training. I’m a fast learner.

    MANAGER
    Good... We’ll get back to you soon!

Awkward moment.

    FRANK
    Is that what you need to know?

    MANAGER
    That’s it, have a good day sir.

The manager gives Frank a long smile and stare with a slight head nod.

    MANAGER
    Next, please.

In walks a beautiful blond with a great personality...
GIRL
(very peppy)
Hello.

MANAGER
Hi! how are you today!?

GIRL
I’m doing great!!

As Frank is heading through the door he looks back very perplexed by their initial rapport.

Frank walks out the door there was a very long line of people. Its an open call interview for a restaurant line all the way down the street.

EXT. STREET

A woman walking the streets passing by the busy world. People going on buses. Checking the papers. Making phone calls. She finally reaches the apartment. Inside is Frank sitting at a table with his coffee with paper work. Stack of bills and a couple of cups next to them. Except for the man’s working area. The apartment is well kept but very tight corners.

The women enters the apartment. We see some classic paintings of pastas and wines. The women looks upset, looks around and begins to clean the little apartment.

FRANK
Hi (pause)I know how everything looks lately. Everything’s going to get better soon.

JANE
Well that reminds me...I have to tell you something.

FRANK
Oh anything, what is it?

JANE
I’ve decide I am going to move in with my parents for a little while.

FRANK
What, you don’t have to do that.

*Frank gets up and walks over to the fridge opens it up. The fridge looking very empty he grabs a bottle of water.*
FRANK
I thought we were helping each other here.

JANE
I know but they told me they are cutting shifts off my schedule.

Jane places the bags on the small table.

FRANK
Oh no!

Frank walks over to the phone and about to dial.

JANE
What are you doing?

FRANK
I’m calling your manager.

JANE
You don’t have to do that! I told them I was fine with it.

FRANK
Okay then slow down.

JANE
And now I may be pregnant.

FRANK
(pause)
Are you sure?

JANE
Yes... I’m late.

JANE WALKS OVER AND OPENS A WINDOW.

FRANK
Your late? Then I’ll have to support you.

JANE
(pauses)
My parents want to help me out so I can get back on my feet.

FRANK
I told you a few restaurant owners need a chef. It’s just getting (MORE)
FRANK (cont’d)
pushed back till the place opens up. That’s all. What? Wall street, housing, automobile industry it’s all tight right now.

The two of them are very close both trying to go in the opposite direction but it’s difficult to move.

Jane pauses and just looks over to her keys.

JANE
I’m sorry I don’t want to end up with a broken willow.

Jane walks away and moves closer to the door.

FRANK
What’s that suppose to mean?

JANE
It’s like you just said its tough right now.

We see the chairs don’t even match the table.

FRANK
It’s just for a little while longer. the manager Greg said they are still renovating the restaurant. He said he will need a chef. I’m not just waiting around. You see me looking for other jobs too. Just in case. Right!? Do you know what it’s like... It’s a jungle out there! People who are way over qualified are taking the lower positions. You could even look for yourself.

Frank goes to grab the paper.

JANE
I know about it cause my friend Sheryl can’t find work. She keeps telling me how hard it is... And she’s always complaining.

FRANK
That’s her! (Pause) You know how you always wanted to have a baby? You didn’t say it all the time but I knew that’s what you really wanted. To take care of and raise a child. I love you and... I just want to help you. I will.
(she looks very sad and now without words.)

JANE
Thank you Frank.

FRANK
Please don’t.

JANE
My ride is outside I have to go.

*Jane opens the door and starts to walk out of the apartment.*

*Frank follows her outside.*

FRANK
Why are they here?

JANE
I’m sorry I just couldn’t do it alone.

Outside her parents are sitting in car in the street

FRANK
Jane... I’s not over.

*L’absente by Yann Tiersan starts to play.*

Jane looks back at him and then starts to walk toward the car. She gets in the back and they drive away.

*INT. Franks Apartment*

Frank returns back up stairs enters the apartment and sees the bag of groceries. He pulls out the milk, bread, and eggs. He places them into the fridge. Frank tries to make a phone call only it’s cut off because of an unpaid service. He grabs his keys, some change and leaves the apartment.

Camera follows Frank all the way to a phone booth near his house on a side street.

Frank looks around and sees little boy reading the paper.

FRANK
Are you reading that paper?

KID
Yes I’m reading the news.

(continued)
FRANK
Yup you are. Can I just see it for a second?

KID
Hold on it says that the unemployment is down to 6%.

FRANK
Huh, but why are you looking at that- (he looks at him in slight disbelief and keeps the Classifieds for himself)

KID
I’m trying to plan for my future. so if you’ll excuse me. (turns his shoulder)

FRANK
Fine whatever you do. Don’t fall in love.

Kid looks at him in slight disbelief and keeps the Classifieds for himself.

FRANK
Sorry I’ll give it back to you.

He makes his own phone call with some extra quarters. He calls the first job he could find.

FRANK
Hello, I am calling about the job add you placed, your looking for servers. Right?

LADY
Yes we were. We just hired someone to fill the position.

FRANK
Oh really that fast?

LADY
That’s right sir.

FRANK
Are there any other positions available?

(continued)
LADY
I’m sorry. Try back in about a month. We are hiring for all other positions then.

FRANK
Oh. Thanks for your time...

LADY
No problem.

Frank hangs up and dials another listing. The camera begins to circle around the phone booth. With music playing showing the speed at which Frank is going at and also all the hang ups. Cutting back and forth from the paper to his face talking on the phone and writing notes on the paper.

Finally he hangs up the phone one last time and searches his pockets and has no more change. Frank gets out of the phone booth to grab some change. Music stops when he opens the phone booth. Middle of L’absente by Yann Tiersan

EXT. Street-Mid Day

BUM
Do you have any change on you man.

FRANK
Come on I was gonna ask you for change. You probably have more money than me right now.

BUM
I have to make money here, I am tired.

FRANK
Can I please have a couple of quarters?

BUM
You don’t look broke?

FRANK
Is that a joke? (he pulls out his pocket and shows the bum his empty wallet.)

Bum finally hands him 50 cents.

FRANK
Okay thank you sir.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:  

He turns away and looks through the classifieds and sees a job as a telemarketer. He places the call and he has a quick conversation with the secretary.

INT. Phone Booth

SECRETARY
Hello this is Samantha.

FRANK
Hi Samantha my name is Frank, I am just calling about the add to fill the telemarketing position.

SECRETARY
Okay Frank. Do you have experience in telemarketing.

FRANK
Yes I do about one year of experience.

SECRETARY
OK great! I’m going to set up an interview for you.

FRANK
Sounds good!

SECRETARY
OK that’s great, Can you come in tomorrow.

FRANK
Sure can!

INT. FRANK’S APARTMENT—DUSK

Frank goes back to his apartment so he can change his clothes. Left and right he is trying to pick out the right shirt and tie. He stares into the dark mirror and finally feels ready.

L’Absente Yann Tieresan stops playing

Next day Frank is walking on the streets entering the building.

He sits down waiting and finally he is called in from a distance to go into one of the offices for the interview.

INT. OFFICE—AFTERNOON

(CONTINUED)
SECRETARY
Hello do you have your resume with you.

FRANK
Yes I do.

SECRETARY
Have a seat the manager will be right with you.

Frank sits on the couch for a few months observing the atmosphere. A couple of beats later the manager waves him over from the distance. They walk across the large office floor.

INT. Office.

KENNY/MANAGER
Okay tell me about your self.

FRANK
Well I worked in sales and to keep me through culinary school. I was the chef for a restaurant till the owner sold the place... Now I would like to get back to sales, to pay the bills.

KENNY
How come your not with a company now... flipping burgers or some shit like that.

FRANK
Um, I was working on commission but they never turned around to pay me. So I’d rather do sales then serve bad food.

KENNY
Cold calls too? Huh?

FRANK
Yes sir, Qualified and passed it over to the closer.

KENNY
Did any of them go through?

FRANK
Yeah, but once I past it along I never was actually paid. So that was all.

(Continued)
Manager stands up to give him the indication that the meaning is over. Frank hesitates and then stands and looks at him in the eye.

FRANK
Okay so. That’s it.

KENNY
Yes for now, call you in about 24 hours.

FRANK
Okay do I have the job?

KENNY
(pauses) We just have to review it over... You can dial the main line tomorrow.

Frank shakes his hand and looks him in the eye.

Cut to the next day and Frank enters a store with great cooking supplies. He is admiring his surroundings what great chefs would have in their kitchen. He walks out and enters a phone booth makes a call to the office.

INT. Phone Booth

FRANK
Hello this is Frank I was told to call today about my job status.

SECRETARY
Okay please hold.

FRANK
All right.

SECRETARY
Kenny remembers you. He will call you back.

FRANK
Hold on a second...

Frank looks down and sees the number written on the phone booth

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

FRANK
Wait... Have him call this number.
Its 555-510-8205

SECRETARY
OK.

FRANK
Thank you. Bye.

L’Absente Yann Tieresan is beginning to play.

And now the waiting begins. He is posted right next to the phone for a few minutes. Wondering what is going on in his life. He is standing and waiting to here the phone ring. The day begins to fade to night and still no phone call. Then it rings.

FRANK
Hello.

KENNY
Hello Frank! Can you come in tomorrow morning?

FRANK
Yeah. I can what time.?

KENNY
9am

FRANK
OK.

KENNY
Great! We are going to start training you.

FRANK
All right sounds good.

KENNY
See ya tomorrow. Make sure you wear a shirt and tie.

They both hang up and Frank looks at the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. Office Next Day

Kenny is walking around coaching. Frank walks in and see’s the call center.

(CONTINUED)
KENNY
Frank, It’s good to see you.

FRANK
Its good to have work.

KENNY
What we do is have you call the lead sheet and see if we can get any warm ones and then go down to the house to pick up the paper work.

FRANK
Why not just fax them?

KENNY
We want to inspect the house and make sure it fits the standard condition.

Kenny hands Frank a cell phone.

FRANK
(Pause) cell phone what for?

KENNY
Company phone your going to need it out in the field.

FRANK
Sure will do.

CUT TO:

INT. Frank’s office. Frank is on the phone.

FRANK
Yes you can keep the house and we get a borrow with better credit.

MAN
Yes OK.

FRANK
And then begin to rent the house and prevent the loss of the home.

MAN
Sounds good I would like to see a track history.

(CONTINUED)
FRANK
Not a problem. We will get that over to you right away.

The next few moments L’Absente Yann Tieresan is playing over the background of all the moments of Frank at his new job. You can see that he is making progress.

He is dialing.
He is shown talking on the phone.
Music fades to Frank on looking at a picture of Jane.

INT. Office

KENNY
Remember the house you found on Seward Ave.

FRANK
Yea I do. what about it?

KENNY
Here’s your check. They made the transfer to us!

Kenny hands Frank a pay check!

FRANK
That’s good! So now what? They have to file for bankruptcy.

KENNY
The attorneys are on that as we speak.

Kenny walks by the window to look through the blinds. Feels good to have some security and make it through this tough economy. Tough times, that’s bullshit! There’s still money to be made.

FRANK
Yeah! Let’s hope it stays this way.

KENNY
We are lucky to have you. Haha Finish up your rounds and we can add on a bonus.

EXT: 2nd House.

(CONTINUED)
Frank drives up to a house to sign over another mortgage deal. A Jewish man opens the door as he is walking up the toward the house.

JEWISH MAN
What Can I help you?

FRANK
I am here to pick up some signed papers.

JEWISH MAN
No, I thought I told you guys I can’t let this happen unless I know where it’s going to.

FRANK
Its going back to the mortgage company.

JEWISH MAN
It should be? I want to see a client who had kept their home through the foreclosure.

FRANK
OK. I will get that to you then.

JEWISH MAN
(Slightly Angry)
Yes, file to my attorney then maybe we will continue to talk! Otherwise don’t come here anymore.

Jewish man slams the door in front of Frank.

BUM
Hello do you have any change?

FRANK
I really don’t I’m sorry.

BUM
(pause)
Your too away from who you are?

FRANK
I’m sorry?

CUT TO:

EXT: 3rd House

(CONTINUED)
Two men who look like locksmiths are wearing construction clothes. As they are working, a police officer walks out of his house next door.

MAN ONE
Did you see who just walked out of that house.

MAN TWO
Yeah...a cop...so?

MAN ONE
So, why wouldn’t you tell me a cop lived right next door.

MAN TWO
I didn’t know. And besides... we just changed the locks remember.

Man two’s cell phone rings. He Answers

MAN TWO
Yes sir.

KENNY
Hey, Did you guys finish?

MAN TWO
Yes sir just locking up.

KENNY
Good. One of our guys and a lady are coming by to rent it out. Lock up and get the hell out of there.

INT: RESTAURANT

Frank is sitting at a booth by himself and a woman walk in with her little daughter a young child around 3 to 4 years old.

LADY
Frank?

FRANK
Yes that’s me. Maria?

MARIA
Yes.

FRANK
Yes we spoke over the phone.

He reaches to shake his hand, and Maria pulls away frantic.

(CONTINUED)
MARIA
Why’s is the loan taking so long
you said I could keep my house And
it’s coming to close in a week.

FRANK
Well I’m not sure. We thought you
were you interested in leasing.

MARIA
No. The owner told me I was getting
a loan from Samuels Company.

Maria shows the foreclosure form a Samuels
Mortgage Company.

FRANK
I work for Longwells. What was the
owners name?

MARIA
His name was Kenny?

FRANK
Kenny, why is Kenny giving out two
different companies? I thought you
were leasing.

MARIA
I need to take care of my children,
and they don’t want to leave. Oh my
God—I’m getting scammed here.

FRANK
I think there’s a misunderstanding
here...

Maria is beginning to seem a little nervous.

MARIA
Are you kidding me, can you just
tell me if I will keep my home.

FRANK
I’m sorry mam I’m just not sure.

MARIA
Fucking ridiculous!

FRANK
Ok, calm down. I’m sure we can work
something out.
The little girl is looking very sad at this point. And it hurts Maria to see her like this.

Maria throws the keys at Frank!

Frank stands there very hurt and looks up at the chef cooking. He shakes his head— and notices that they made a scene. He looks to everyone with no words left to say.

L’Absente Yann Tieresan is playing to its end.

CUT TO

Frank’s entering the building. He takes the stairs and then enters Kenny’s office.

Frank pauses to keep his cool

Kenny walks around his desk.
KENNY
Listen, we are going go on a little
down time. This will give us a
break before, so you can cool down.

FRANK
Oh what do you mean down time.

KENNY
It’s a little hiatus!

FRANK
A hiatus? One minute this office is
the best service in town. The next
minute we are on a hiatus.

KENNY
That’s the business sometimes. Sit
down your getting too emotional.

FRANK
No sir your messing with people’s
lives and their children. This is
nothing but false promises. And
where I draw the line.

KENNY
And what do you plan on doing
walking into a burger joint for
work.

FRANK
Can I get my pay? I’m done.

Kenny looks at him and hands him his envelope, Frank grabs
it looks through it to double check the cash is there. He
leaves the office and Kenny talks loud enough for Frank to
hear him down the hall.

KENNY
Hey remember. My doors always open.

CUT TO:

Frank’s walking in the street as he walks faster. The
homeless man approaches Frank.

HOMELESS MAN
Hi can I have a dollar.

FRANK
Here you go man.

Frank hands the homeless man about a bunch of singles.

(CONTINUED)
HOMELESS MAN
Thanks Sir.

Frank continues to Jane’s Parents Apartment.

EXT. Janes house.

Frank rings the bell and Jane answers.

JANE
Frank, what are you doing here?

FRANK
Hi Jane, Just thought I stop by to see if you needed anything.

JANE
I’m fine.

FRANK
Are you sure?

Frank pulls out the wad of money in the envelope.

JANE
What’s this from?

FRANK
I worked for it just take it.

Frank gives her the envelope with the cash.

JANE
All right then. (pause) Bye Frank.

Frank is standing in the hallway with his head down.

CUT TO:

INT. KENNYS OFFICE

Enters an assistant. She is a younger intern.

INTERN
Sir we have to go.

MANAGER
I’ll tell you when we go.

INTERN
They are changing the locks.

Kenny is livid.

(CONTINUED)
KENNY
I said shut up. I’ll tell you when we leave!

INTERN
I’m not getting locked in. Bye I’m leaving.

KENNY
Just go.

He puts his head down and the new owner walks in and he is a music record owner. He has a tag of his company around his neck.

RECORD OWNER
Guess what, I just bought you out!

THE END.