

THE WORKROOM

by

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INT. WORK ROOM. DAY

A door opens into the half empty early morning of the firm's work room. SUTT(24) young, handsome and the bottom of the food chain, steps into the scene which is accompanied by muffled screaming in the CEO's office. He sees MATT(26) and JARROD(30), standing at the door.

SUTT

How long?

MATT

About 2 hours straight

SUTT

Jesus

JARROD

They're going to fight. I bet you a 100 bucks that they're going to fight.

MATT

It's always violence with you.

JARROD

Well if they're gonna waste all season yelling at each other at least they can...

A loud noise is heard from inside the office. TOBIAS(36) writer, storms out not making eye contact with anyone. The three watch him leave. JUDE(35) C.E.O, step in front of the door quietly. The three stare at him in awkward silence. Jude shoots his gaze at sudd.

JUDE

Get to fucking work.

Sudd runs to his workspace. Jude motions to walk away. Matt blocks him arms folded. He isn't happy.

MATT

We need to fix this

JUDE

I don't need this now Matt. Jude pushes past Matt and Jarrod. They follow him.

MATT

Pound tequilas, fly kites at the beach, roast marshmallows over a campfire. I don't care. We need to fix this jude. It's hunting season.

JARROD

Or if you're willing to actually throw fists I wouldn't...

Matt stares firmly at Jarrod.

JARROD

What?

MATT

(to Jude) Have you
checked your phone
lately? 3 episodes.
They've released three
episodes in the span of
five days and we're
sitting here, asses on
our hands, barely
scraping by. I mean,
Jude we have sponsors to
feed and Tobias is one
of our best writers.

JUDE

Haven't you heard the phrase
"nobody's indispensable?"

MATT

Haven't you heard the phrase "I
don't give a fuck?"

JARROD

That's a sentence

MATT

(To Jarrod) You're an
idiot. (To Jude) What
are you even fighting
about?

JARROD

Probably some chick

MATT

They're both married

JARROD

Happily?

JUDE

We'll get will on it

MATT

Will already has that new project
on his belt

JUDE

We'll get him to switch

MATT

It's hunting season

JUDE

I know that. You don't think I know
that?

MATT

Then fix it

JUDE

I'm not the only one that has problems here. I'm not the only one that's bringing personal issues in here. So I focus on my problems

Jude opens the door to VANESSA(20) who happens to be standing opposite it.

JUDE

And you focus on yours

Jude walks past Vanessa. She makes eye contact with Matt for a second. Matt takes a breath as if to utter a word. Vanessa bows her head and brushes past him. He looks back at her and chases after Jude.

VANESSA

Did they fight again

JARROD

Definitely broke a table. Has he tried to talk to you?

VANESSA

Wait they actually fought? Like physically?

JARROD

Unfortunately no. You know he's sorry

VANESSA

I see you're taking his side

JARROD

No it's not...it's Matt for christ's sake . Matt wouldn't hurt a fly. It was probably all the stress from this season

VANESSA

Jarrodd I'm done. I'm done with him. I don't care if he's not one to hurt a fly or slap a toddler in the face for stepping on his shoes. I...I got so used to it that it got worse.

JARROD

It's not your fault, van

VANESSA

Jarrodd I have work to do. I'll talk to you later.

Matt storms back in and chases after Vanessa as she walks away.

JARROD
Did he fix it? Are we good?

MATT
Van. Van we need to talk. Van!!!
Vanessa walks on.

JERRI(23) female, Jude's assistant, steals Matt's attention.

JERRI
Matt we got a problem. Final
notices if we don't release by the
end of this week, our fundings are
gutted.

5. MATT
Shit. SHIT!!!!

Matt sprints to his office angrily

JERRI
who do I get on the phone?!

CUT TO BLACK IN WHITE TYPEWRITER TEXT:
*THE WORKROOM

INT. WORK ROOM. DAY

SETH(25), writer, storms into the work room clicking on his phone. Matt corners him.

MATT
You're late

SETH
That's impossible. Have you seen
the three episodes?

MATT
You're late

SETH
I mean they're not good but they
are way ahead of us in...

MATT
You're late

SETH
I'm never late. Have you talked to
van?

MATT
You are late

SETH

I'm not

MATT

How?

SETH

How? I got to the building at 8:58. Since we use new tags now to enter and I don't have one, by the way, I couldn't go through.

6.

MATT

Why didn't you...

SETH

I tried to call someone in the work room but I was out of minutes and the plan I just bought didn't go through so I'm 500 short. I tried to borrow minutes but that didn't work. 9:00. Then Ken came out and let me in. Took me roughly 40 seconds to get to the elevator and a minute and a half for the elevator to open. 9:03. Elevator goes up. Stops at the 10th floor, goes up again. 10 seconds making a bee line for the door behind me where you say with your I'm technically your boss voice..."you're late". (Beat) 9:10

MATT

The fine's 200

SETH

How about 200 compliments

MATT

200 cash

SETH

The florescent lights bring out the bloodshot in your eyes. See I'm good at this

MATT

Shut up

SETH

I'm never late

MATT

I know

SETH
And I need a new tag though

MATT
I know

SETH
Have you talked to van?

7.

MATT
We have a meeting 3 hours

SETH
I obviously won't be late for that

MATT
Shut up

Jerri struts to Jude's office. She opens the door as he takes a call.

INT. JUDE'S OFFICE. DAY

JUDE
I know, but if you can...I understand. I understand. Thank you very much.

Jude slowly lowers the phone in silence. He stares away for a minute. Then suddenly bangs the phone repeatedly on his desk.

JERRI
(Beat) how many?

JUDE
First one. You call Will?

JERRI
On his way. Are you okay?

JUDE
He is our best writer.

JERRI
Tobias?

JUDE
There's gonna be another call. From another sponsor.

JERRI
I'll get you a new phone. Jerri proceeds to walk out the door

JUDE
He isn't our best writer is he?

JERRI
Are you asking me as your assistant
or your assistant?

8.

JUDE
(Beat) the second one?

JERRI
Losing Tobias would be the biggest
mistake you've ever made

JUDE
Ever?

JERRI
Ever

JUDE
What's the first one

JERRI
Same thing but more polite with the
"sir" at the end.

JUDE
I don't need this

JERRI
What you need is to fix this

JUDE
I don't need any of this. I want a
vacation. Something. Just a day
off.

JERRI
Want a day off? Easy. Start a fire
to this floor and burn your company
to the ground.

JUDE
I don't get a day off.

JERRI
You don't get a day off.

JUDE
Can we go back to the first one?

JERRI
I'll get you a new phone sir.

CUT TO:

9.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM. DAY

Its 12:00 and the staff is seated for the meeting. There's soda and pastries on the table which are drenched in papers and folders. Matt draws less than elegant charts on the white board

MATT

So we are here. And they are...here. See that? It's not a perfect line but it's long. It's longer than ours. Ours is a dot that managed to grow a spec. What can we do people? What can we do so I can draw the longest imperfect straight line on our side?

JARROD

I thought it was more about girth than length The room rumbles in laughter

MATT

It'll matter when you're out of a job and you have to be a male prostitute.

JARROD

Ouch. Someone's feisty.

MATT

Anyone else, please. Sutt raises his hands. Matt nods.

SUTT

We can work on some the early drafts we had last month. See if anything's there?

JARROD

It's called a draft for a reason. What's the reason?

SUTT

Uh...uh 'cause

JARROD

'Cause it's trash. We can't use that.

MATT

Wait. He has a point. We still have some unused work there. We can draw from different angles and make one whole Frankenstein of an episode.

VANESSA

Aren't drafts just sucky versions of final products.

JARROD

Well get your gloves on cos we're rummaging through trash today people.

SAFFIYA

We have no other options. We have sponsors pulling out.

JARROD

How thoughtful of them.

MATT

Who's for drafts?

JARROD

Do you seriously think we all would agree to a... Half the staff raises their hands.

JARROD

Fuck you.

MATT

No jarr, fuck you. Cus you're on trash duty. Get your gloves ready.

JARROD

Suck my dick

MATT

No thanks, I'm more into length than girth and...someone take this home for me.

SAFFIYA

You have neither.

MATT

A plus.

11.

JARROD

What sort of name is saffiya anyways? As the room murmurs on, Matt takes time from his sick burn to look at vanessa. She catches his gaze and slowly evades her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. WORK ROOM. DAY

Jude bursts out his office and power walks to the main door. Matt catches him mid sprint

MATT

3 hours

JUDE

Lucifer

MATT

It took us three hours but we finally put something together despite Tobias which I would reiterate is your fault.

JUDE

Lucifer

MATT

We got some ideas from our old writer's notes and I think we have enough for at least two good ones.

JUDE

Lucifer is here

MATT

Have you called Tobias?

JUDE

Matt

MATT

He at least needs to see this. I mean I don't want to seem like a Jarrod but I..

12. JUDE

Matt!

MATT

Did you fix it?

JUDE

Lucifer

MATT

Shes here?

JUDE

Ask me why

MATT

Do you...do you know why?

JUDE

We'll find out. Just ask me.

MATT

Why is Lucifer here.

Jude violently vibrates in frustration.

JUDE

I have no fucking idea!!!!

MATT

You know you could just have a tantrum. You don't need a reason to...

JUDE

Did you call her?

MATT

I've been in a meeting for four hours saving our asses.

JUDE

Jerri?

MATT

Jerri's not stupid

JUDE

Jarrood?

MATT

Okay now he's stupid. But not that stupid.

13. JUDE

Oh Jesus!

MATT

I keep asking this all the time and you never answer, but...why don't we just reject her funding?

JUDE

She owns 10.

MATT

Cut it off.

JUDE

She went to law school.

MATT

Well then kill her.

JUDE

Shes the devil. Shes a soul sucking, life entrapping, balls gripping, walking, breathing, 9th circle fire overlord of the damned.

AMETHYST

So I'm guessing that's a hard no on sushi this Friday.

Behind them, standing a few feet away is AMETHYST. A fiery redhead in a pure white fitting pantsuit and an expensive Louis Vuitton bag.

JUDE

Ammy

AMETHYST

Before I get fucked, I like a nice glass of Chardonnay and a damn decent foot rub. Wheres my Chardonnay Jude?

JUDE

Ammy

AMETHYST

Because it seems like I'm about to get fucked. Am I about to get fucked?

She throws daggers at Matt. He gets the gist and walks away in silence.

AMETHYST

Why aren't my ads running as they should be?

JUDE

I'll explain

AMETHYST

You'll explain how you'll fix it?

JUDE

Matt has an idea. We had a meeting not too long ago.

AMETHYST

I'm talking about Tobias.

JUDE

Who told you about...?

AMETHYST

Doesn't matter. What matters is that I don't have a Chardonnay in my hand and my feet still hurt like a bitch.

JUDE

You're not getting fucked.

AMETHYST

Well it sure seems like it.

JUDE

I guarantee it.

AMETHYST

I can here the sound of a zipper pulling down right now with a large penis about impale me in my...

JUDE

We have an idea

AMETHYST

I want Tobias

JUDE

We have other writers

AMETHYST

Do they look, sound and write like Tobias?

JUDE

They are just as good. I'm on the phone with Will.

AMETHYST

Will's a fucking pussy.

JUDE

You don't talk about my writers like that

AMETHYST

You know it. You just don't want to say it.

JUDE I... AMETHYST

Say it Judy

JUDE

Ammy

AMETHYST

Will is a pussy.

JUDE

Why are you here. This could've been a phone call.

AMETHYST

You don't want to see me? Is that it?

JUDE

My heart could deal without the constant jolts.

AMETHYST

Quit it with the flattery. You'll make a big girl blush.

JUDE

Phone call

AMETHYST

I do whatever the hell I want.

JUDE

So I'm guessing you're still with us?

AMETHYST

Sweetie, when I wore that white dress, was I fucking around when I said for better or for worse?

JUDE

The priest said that

AMETHYST

Well I affirmed it. For better or for worse.

JUDE

Still on for sushi this Friday?

AMETHYST

Why don't we stay in. I'm hampering for a Chardonnay and a foot rub.

She kisses him on the lips and struts away.

AMETHYST

(Loudly) I love the nickname by the way!!

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM. DAY

Jarrood walks in with a flash drive. Seth sits on a table, his laptop in front of him.

JARROD

Folder, "new stuff". Run it in the new outline and send it to saffiya.

SETH

I don't...I don't have her email address.

JARROD

Use the group email.

SETH

Don't I have to like tell her there's an email I sent. I mean, you know, spam and...all

JARROD

That's what notifications are for. And she can check her spam herself.

SETH

But what if she...if she has a problem with her inbox refreshing. It might be a virus. I think there's a virus going around. Probably a patient zero hard drive or something. That flash drive might have it to. I mean, I'm a also a tech guy, I can check to see if anything's wrong with maybe a pop-up add of malicious software or something?

JARROD

You want a reason to go to her desk?

SETH

No I...I was just thinking about the safety of her...laptop.

JARROD

Just go say Hi

SETH

And then what?

JARROD

Then ask her if she has a contagious virus.

SETH

sarcasm?

JARROD

No I'm being genuine. One out of ten girls you hook up with are teeming with STDs.

SETH

So I should I ask her?

JARROD

Do not be stupid.

SETH

What's the name of the folder again?

JARROD

Just go give her the flash.

SETH

But I need to run it in the new outline.

JARROD

Well do that on your laptop, send it to the flash and theeennn....

SETH
Give her the flash

JARROD
Thattaboy.

Jarrood steps out of the conference room into the:

INT. WORK ROOM. DAY

He sees Matt walking to his office.

JARROD
Hey I heard Lucifer came.

MATT
Don't say her name out loud it's worse than saying voldermort. Did you call her?

JARROD
I'm not stupid

MATT
Well

JARROD
Screw you. Is she pulling funds?

MATT
Don't think so.

JARROD
Spoke to van this morning?

MATT
Jarrod

JARROD
You have to talk to her. At least apologize.

19.

MATT
And say what?

JARROD
I'm sorry, here's a puppy.

MATT
She likes cats

JARROD
I'm sorry, we have to break up cus cats are the devil's pets.

MATT
Jarrod

JARROD

But you have to say something.

MATT

She doesn't even look at me. I mean she does but it's when I look at her and then she looks away from me like I'm some...

JARROD

Monster?

MATT

You could've let me say that.

JARROD

It would've hurt more

MATT

Yeah

JARROD

You do everything here Matt. Hunting season, Jude and Tobias. Jude. You handle everything. Sometimes it's like you're the CEO. But it's getting to you man. You are breaking apart.

MATT

What do you want me to do? This is my air. when I walk out this building, I need an oxygen tank strapped around my back to survive and she...she doesn't get that.

JARROD

I know

MATT

She thinks it's all about us and moving in together and milestones and anniversaries.

JARROD

I know

MATT

I don't have time for that!!

JARROD

Dude I know. I get it.

MATT

Shit. Shit!! I fucked up.

JARROD

Dude

MATT
Jarrod I fucked up. I...I hit her.

JARROD
I know

MATT
I'm a good guy

JARROD
You are

MATT
But I...I...I hit her

JARROD
It wasn't you. That was not you.

MATT
Shit

JARROD
You have to try

MATT
What if she doesn't...

JARROD
You have to try.

MATT
Shit

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET. DAY

Tobias drives down the busy lane. He is on the phone with his wife.

ELAINE
(Over phone) are you
kidding me?

TOBIAS
That's what he said. He's a fucking
asshole.

ELAINE
The kids are here. You're on
speaker phone.

TOBIAS
Why are they home?

ELAINE
Head lice

TOBIAS

Head lice?

ELAINE

It's a really bad break out. He knows it's his fault right?

TOBIAS

I don't think so. His head is so far up his ass, he licks brain to masturbate.

ELAINE

Kids!

TOBIAS

Pick up the phone then

ELAINE

I'm picking lice

TOBIAS

Didn't they do it at the school?

ELAINE

Just wanna be sure.

TOBIAS

If I leave, the whole place falls apart. He knows that. He knows he needs me.

ELAINE

Well you can find somewhere else.

TOBIAS

Yeah

ELAINE

Toby

TOBIAS

Yeah?

ELAINE

You don't need them. You don't need him.

TOBIAS

I know that.

ELAINE

He has to get his act together. I mean he'll bring down the company all on his own if he isn't careful.

TOBIAS

Hon, I just...

ELAINE

I know. But you leave when it's time. Okay?

TOBIAS

Love you

ELAINE

Love you too. Tobias phone falls off the stand on the dashboard.

TOBIAS

Shit He decides not to pick it up. But it rings again. Tobias worries it's Elaine. He reaches for the phone.

A loud honk rears in front of him. He props his head up in fear as a truck peels from the sharp cut. We see Tobias' face turn in fear. The loud honk draws closer.

JUMP CUT:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM. DAY

Vanessa is working on her laptop. Matt walks in slowly.

MATT

Van? She doesn't reply.

MATT

I know you don't wanna see me but...but I need to...I need to talk...

VANESSA

Jesus Christ, times seems painfully slow today. (Beat) you know I...I was gonna count the hours till closing today. I was gonna do it everyday. Probably when you're not around I wouldn't because well...well because you wouldn't be around and I'd be okay, I'd feel a little bit happy, I'd feel...safe.

MATT

Van

VANESSA

Seven fucking hours feels like seven weeks right now! Isn't that crazy? I mean, think about it, you're stuck with someone for seven straight hours.

MATT

That wasn't me

VANESSA
I have...I have work to do.

24.

MATT
Van, that wasn't me!

VANESSA
I don't care!!! (Beat) I just...I
can't do this right now.

MATT
No

VANESSA
I have work to do

MATT
Van listen

VANESSA
I'll move my stuff out of your
apartment.

MATT
Van

VANESSA
You looked at me. You looked at me
when you did it. It was you. You
could've just pushed me away or
thrown again a chair but you stood
there and you looked me right in
the eye. What the fuck Matt?

MATT
I'm sorry

VANESSA
(Sobbing)What the fuck
Matt?!!!

MATT
I'm sorry!

VANESSA
I was gonna tell you that night.

MATT
What...tell me what?

VANESSA
Never mind. It doesn't matter
anymore.

Matt looks down as vanessa holds her stomach.

MATT

Vanessa what...what did do?

(Sobbing) what did I do?

What did I do?!!! Jarrod
storms in.

JARROD

Guys!!!!

He feels the tension in the room.

JARROD

It's Tobias. Something happened.

FADE OUT.