

OFFICE PLANT

Written by
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Screenplay by
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Address
Phone Number

1 EXT. - DAY OFFICE BLDG. 1

MFX, music sting

DOLLY IN WIDE to sign in front of office bldg. Camera settles on a temporary "For Lease" banner covering the sign. A hand suddenly enters frame and tears away the banner.

NOTE: Sign underneath reads, COMMERCE BUILDING, Office/Plant/Warehouse

2 I/E - DAY LOADING DOCK EXT., OFFICE INT. 2

CUT to MONTAGE of FAST MOTION shots of movers and employees moving into the office building. MUSIC (up tempo, up beat, industrial).

-WIDE, truck being unloaded

-HIGH WIDE, cubicles being equipped

-WIDE, break room being outfitted

NOTE: Someone places a tropical plant on a shelf in this shot.

Activity subsides leaving an empty break room. HOLD SHOT/
MUSIC STOPS.

FADE OUT.

3 I/E. - DAY SAME BREAK ROOM 3

FADE IN

Another MONTAGE in fast motion of employees, movers dismantling the office. This is a reverse of the above process. MUSIC up tempo but not as fast or as happy.

-WIDE, break room being dismantled

-HIGH WIDE, cubicles being packed

-WIDE, truck being loaded

-CU A new "For lease sign" gets posted over the building sign. MUSIC ends on a STING

CUT to empty break room with only the tropical plant remaining. A single fluorescent light illuminates it.

SFX light humming

CUT TO BLACK

TITLES

4 INT. - DAY OFFICE INTERIORS

4

FADE IN:

NARRATOR

No one knows how long it had been there, or even how it got there. It just appeared one day, sometime in the long ago past.

SLOW DOLLY into plant, alone on the shelf in break room.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Maybe it was already there when the staff from Cabinets and More moved in, and that was a little over five years ago.

MED, a guy installing "Cabinets and More" sign over reception desk back wall.

A SERIES of shots of employees moving in and setting up shop (NORMAL SPEED)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And even though no one could really determine what species it was, they didn't put much thought into it either.

Associates carry boxes past plant, pause to glance at it, then move on.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

It was just there in the corner of the break room, high upon a shelf, and that's just the way it was.

DOLLY or BOOM into plant, alone.

5 INT. - DAY BREAK ROOM

5

CUT TO:

NARRATOR

*Margaret from accounting surmised
that it was...*

MARGARET (CONFIDENT)

"...a Rubber Tree plant!"

MED Standing near coffee maker (with horn rims, lanyard,
outrageous coffee mug, etc.)

NARRATOR

*She had caught her brother peeing
on one in a hotel lobby when he was
only five, and she would never be
able to get that image out of her
head.*

6 INT. - DAY OR NIGHT HOTEL LOBBY 6

DISSOLVE OR WIPE FX

VIGNETTE flashback of a young Margaret at the hotel incident.
WIDE DOLLY past brother to CU Margaret in disbelief.

DISSOLVE OR WIPE FX

7 INT. - MOMENTS LATER, SAME BREAK ROOM 7

NARRATOR

*But Horace from assembly disagreed.
He swore up and down that it was a
Fig.*

MED Horace joins Margaret. He's holding an oversized energy
drink. (Monster?)

HORACE

"If that's not a Fig..."

NARRATOR

He insisted...

HORACE

"...you can kiss my..."

WIDE Margaret and Horace standing together in background,
other associates around a table in foreground.

HORACE (CONT'D)

"...lily-white %#@!" SFX: (BLEEEP)

NARRATOR

*And from then on, everyone referred
to it as... a fig.*

On this, the group at table in foreground peel away in disgust.

8 INT. - DAY FRONT DESK

8

CUT TO:

NARRATOR

*If it wasn't for Tina who "worked"
the phones, it would have died a
long time ago.*

MED Tina at front desk, engaged in a personal cell phone call, ignoring the ringing office phone.

SFX phone ringing & Tina's idle chit chat underneath Narrator.

9 INT. - DAY BREAK ROOM

9

CUT TO:

NARRATOR

*But every now and then, much to the
delight of the forklift drivers who
would eat french fries damp with
grease...*

WIDE, DOLLY IN forklift drivers (2 guys and 1 manly woman). They slowly lower their fast food and look up in awe.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

*...she would climb atop a stool in
her pink "BEBE" sweatpants and pour
a little ice from her Big Gulp into
the plant.*

CUT TO:

BOOM UP action of Tina's booty seductively climbing up the step stool and dumping ice in the pot.

CUT TO:

NARRATOR

And each time that she would bend over to move the stool into a new position, // those four little letters on the back of her pants...B...E...B...E, would expand /// and the forklift drivers would fall in love all over again.

WIDE Tina moving the stool

WIDE & CU of her booty (SFX of a balloon stretching) //

MED CU dreamy-eyed forklift drivers exhaling sighs of passion (including the manly female). ///

NOTE: Possibly mayo and grease running down the arm of one of the guys!

CUT TO:

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

The fact that it was still alive at all was a miracle. It had grown as tall as it could, even lifting the drop ceiling a full three inches before it finally stopped.

BOOM UP CU plant to reveal the lifted ceiling tile.

CUT TO:

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And the closest fluorescent light which was over three panels away // blinked intermittently, teasing it like a bullet-riddled canteen. /// Even it's leaves, which once were brilliant green were now just a soft grey, as a layer of dust and neglect disguised the true beauty that lay beneath.

MED SIDE VIEW-ROLL FOCUS top of plant in foreground, light fixture in background.

CU light fixture. SFX: ZZZ, ZTZ electrical buzzing of light. //

XCU PANS, TILTS neglected leaves in a SERIES of DISSOLVES. ///

10 INT. - DAY SAME BREAK ROOM 10

CUT TO:

NARRATOR

It was Louis, who worked the arc welder and had three missing fingers and a bad case of psoriasis, who suggested...

MED Louis in break room scratches his head with a pinky finger. He is wearing welding gloves with the three middle fingers cut off or permanently folded under.

LOUIS

"...just throw the damned thing out! It must be teeming with disease!!!"

Continue MED DOLLY IN to CU Louis, gesturing with his thumb in an "outta here" motion.

NARRATOR

...Whereby Louis commences to share his experience of teeming diseases in the ball pit at his nephew's fast food party. //

11 INT. - DAY KIDS' BALL PIT IN A FAST FOOD JOINT 11

CUT TO:

XWIDE and CLOSE Louis having a blast in a ball pit with little kids climbing all over him. [Louis still wears the gloves]

12 INT. - DAY WALLACE'S BATHROOM 12

CUT TO:

QUICK CUT, LOW ANGLE, WIDE Louis hurling over a toilet. // SFX: barfing **NOTE:** This is a stand alone shot after the ball pit.

WIPE FX to Wallace: TBD

13 INT. - DAY MAIL ROOM & FRONT DESK 13

NARRATOR

But Wallace from the mail room // who sported a pair of bowed legs /// and a set of sideburns that stretched well below his chin /4 had a better idea.

WIDE Wallace barely able to see over the counter at the mail room. **NOTE:** He is very short.

CUT TO:

LOW ANGLE bowed legs (from rear) //

XCU sideburns ///

MED Wallace (facing camera) on back side of counter as two associates enter frame (backs to camera) /4

WALLACE

"...An office pool!"

Action continued, CU Wallace holds up a pool roster.

NARRATOR

If they could convince Tina to stop watering it, they could put a little money on the day it would finally go "belly up." // But Tina wasn't having any of it. Until of course, the pool reached forty-five dollars. That would cover the cost of a new set of fingernail veneers. So she was all in. /// And so it began. On the _____ day of _____ of that year /4 the little office plant that sat high upon a shelf in the dimly lit break room of Cabinets & More, was left to fend for itself.

CUT TO:

MED CU REVERSAL of the two associates facing Wallace, mouths agape, nodding. Smiles grow as they turn and face each other with excitement.

MED Tina at her desk shaking a finger, her head and mouthing "no, no, no!" //

Action continues as a FIST FULL of bills ENTERS THE FRAME changing Tina's attitude to one of selfish enthusiasm.

ANIMATION calendar pages turn on a mobile device (a la old Hollywood transition). **NOTE:** Perhaps Tina holds her iPhone in a CU. ///

DISSOLVE TO:

DOLLY OUT lonely plant and create SERIES OF DISSOLVES.
CU,MED,WIDE /4

14 INT. - DAY VARIOUS WORK STATIONS

14

NARRATOR

*Three weeks would pass and nine of fifteen employees would be eliminated from the pool before the plant started showing any signs of giving up. // It's leaves, which once pointed **skyward** and supported the weight of a drop ceiling, now hung heavy towards the floor. /// It's once brilliant color started to fade, turning a pale yellow, like the eyes of an aging alcoholic.*

DISSOLVE TO:

CU hourglass (also old Hollywood cliché)

SUPER OVER hourglass, SERIES of DISSOLVES CU associates at various work stations, hanging their heads in disappointment at being eliminated.

DISSOLVE TO:

15 INT. - DAY BREAK ROOM

15

MED, FX action of sadly drooping plant OC //

CU dust-fuzzy leaves fading, turning yellow. ///

QUICK FADE OUT/FADE IN

NARRATOR

*Another two weeks passed and the plant still stood defiant. // Roger from Sales with /// the bad comb-over /4 and fake Rolex watch, **said he'd had enough.***

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

/5 He decided to speed things up a bit by propping himself atop the refrigerator filled with decay /6 and removing the fluorescent tube that gave the little plant hope. /7 And two days later, when the plant's leaves started to fall, /8 you could hear cheers erupting from the break room each time a leaf would hit the linoleum floor.

LOW ANGLE WIDE plant in break room Roger standing next to a small ladder, looks at plant, placing fists on hips. //

CUT TO: XCU HIGH ANGLE OVER-HEAD looking down on Roger's comb-over. ///

CUT TO: XCU outrageous "Rolex" /4

CUT TO: WIDE HIGH ANGLE Roger climbing up the ladder. Comb-over and watch dominantly displayed. /5

CUT TO: MED, LOW ANGLE Roger pulling flo tube out of fixture. /6

DISSOLVE TO: CU single leaf tumbling down the height of the plant. /7

CUT TO: CU leaf falling in mid-air SLO-MO FX.

DISSOLVE TO: SLO-MO FX leaf landing gently on the floor. /8

-BRIEF PAUSE-

CUT TO:

NOTE: This is a stand-alone shot after the pause.

WIDE associates, gathered around the break room table. They're stone still at first, staring. Then erupt into cheers and high-fives. Wallace clenching cash holdings in fist.

FADE OUT/FADE IN

16

INT. - DAY BREAK ROOM

16

NARRATOR

*Then...on St. Patrick's Day...with the little plant still gasping for life, **virtually** everyone was eliminated from the pool. // But that's when Louis decided to take matters into his own hands.*

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

*/// He dug deep into the pocket of his overalls and **withdrew** the lighter that he used to ignite his torch. /4 And even though Tina warned him...*

WIDE, STATIC HIGH ANGLE (CAMERA LOCKED) drooping plant in foreground, gathered associates in background start disappearing one by one through a SERIES OF DISSOLVES.

Only Tina and Louis are left. Louis reaches for his pocket.
//

NOTE: Should every one be wearing green for St. Pat's?

XCU and DOLLY continued action, Louis pulls out lighter with gloved hand, flicks it aflame and moves toward the plant.
///

TINA

"You'll lose your job!..."

MED Tina as Louis and lighter pass through the frame. /4

NARRATOR

...if he set the plant on fire, she was wrong. // It was actually the sprinkler head, hidden behind the plant's only remaining leaf /// that ultimately did him in.

-BRIEF PAUSE-

WIDE HIGH ANGLE, POV of the plant, Louis in foreground, Tina in background. An orange flash lights up Louis' face.

XCU sprinkler head going off. //

WIDE LOW ANGLE Louis (stunned), Tina (hands to her mouth) and break room are getting drenched. Plant is smoldering. ///

17 INT. - DAY BOSS'S OFFICE

17

CUT TO:

BOSS

"Louis! You're FIRED!!!"

XWIDE DOLLY IN to the boss sitting at his desk, drenched.

NOTE: This is another stand alone shot after pause.

CUT TO: BLACK

18 INT. - DAY BREAK ROOM & FRONT DOOR OF BLDG.

18

FADE IN:

NARRATOR

The "Great Flood", as it was referred to from then on, closed the shop for an entire week // as a response team from _____ struggled to clean it up. And a funny thing happened after that. /// When _____ finally left and the staff from Cabinets & More returned a week later, the little plant in the corner that was once one leaf away from death, had sprung back to life. /4 Nourished by the "Great Flood" /5 and a new set of lights by the clean up team, /6 a single white flower had emerged and proudly presented itself towards the light.

WIDE, DOLLY IN man in cleanup uniform posting a sign on the lobby door, "Temporarily closed due to the 'Great Flood'."

DISSOLVE TO: Break room being mopped, barrel full of debris being removed, a wall being painted. The plant is still there. //

MATCH DISSOLVE: Empty break room now devoid of activity. SLOW BOOM IN to CU plant. ///

XCU residual drop of water leaves the sprinkler head. /4

XCU the same drop splashes on the white flower. /5

ANIMATE a time lapse of the flower growing. A bright light is in the background. /6

SFX: Heavenly chorus of angels?

19 INT. - NIGHT I.T. ROOM

19

NARRATOR

After a little research by Martin in IT, // who had a diamond earring /// and a fungal infection, /4 it turned out that Horace and Margaret were both wrong.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)
*/5 It wasn't a Rubber Tree or a Fig
 at all. It was in fact...a
 Shamrock Plant.*

CUT TO:

CU Martin at computer with data projected in his glasses.

XCU earring SFX: Blinggg //

CU nasty toes in flip flops MFX: Bwhoooh ///

20 INT. - DAY 20

CUT TO:

WIDE to MED DOLLY IN Horace and Margaret in break room. The two look at each other and shrug. /4

DOLLY IN CU to the healthy plant. /5

21 INT. - DAY IN THE WAREHOUSE 21

CUT TO:

NARRATOR
*Horace built a plant stand out of
 solid oak, the very next day.*

BOOM DOWN WIDE TO CU as Horace puts the finishing touches on the stand and attaches a nameplate reading..."LUCKY"

MUSIC UP.

FADE OUT.

MUSIC/CREDITS

(END)