

## **Characters**

- Bruce (M) - An office worker trying to quit smoking
- Cam (M) - An office worker
- Chad (M) - A Theatrical office worker
- Elsa (F) - Sharply dressed office worker
- Jodie (F) - Office worker
- Mark (M) - Man pretending to be the CEO
- Nancy (F) - Fantasy role playing office worker
- Pat (F) - Office worker in a sci-fi outfit
- Phil (M) - Office worker in a suit and Hawaiian shirt
- Sally (F) - Middle-aged office worker with large glasses and a cat sweater

## Scene 1 – Office

**(The stage is full of several cubicles with computers at desks. There is a table with a coffee pot on it far R. Bruce sits at a desk, he wears rumpled clothes and looks as though he has spent several days sleeping in an alley. After a moment Cam enters from L. He wears a nice looking suite and tight shirt. He enters and sees Bruce asleep at his desk.)**

**Cam:** What are you doing Bruce?

**(Bruce starts awake.)**

**Bruce:** What, huh?

**Cam:** Did you sleep here last night?

**(Bruce walks over to Cam and pulls a Patch out of his pocket and starts to lick it vigorously)**

**Cam:** You know you are supposed to wear nicotine patches.

**Bruce:** What do you know? They work better this way. I mean not as good as eating them, but after a few my body started vibrating and I could taste colours.

**Cam:** Weird. Also, you're quitting smoking?

**Bruce:** Yeah.

**Cam:** Management tried getting rid of smoke breaks months ago and you threw a brick through the front window.

**Bruce:** Fascists. My wife is on me now though. Says I can't sleep at home until I quit. I've been crashing here in the office until...

**Cam:** Well that's great and all, and this has been just a fascinating chat, but...

**(Cam backs away from Bruce just as Chad enters behind him from L. Chad wears fancy clothes and a cloak. Bruce looks at Cam and starts placing Patches on himself.)**

**Cam:** I need to go get on the phones.

**Chad:** Since when do you man the phones this early Cameron?

**(Cam turns and jumps a little when he hears Chad.)**

**Chad:** You have never been what one would consider a go-getter.

**Cam:** Why don't you go-get your chair and leave me alone.

**Chad:** Such witty repertoire, what depths of your soul did you dredge that comeback from?

**(Cam wants to continue arguing but closes his mouth.)**

**Cam:** Nice cape.

**(Cam goes and sits at a desk and ignores Chad.)**

**Chad:** This is a cloak for enjoying a night at the theatre, it is urban and sophisticated, something you obviously have no knowledge of, Philistine.

**(Bruce stands next to Chad and licks a new Patch. Chad looks at him.)**

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**Chad:** Just what in the name of Thespis are you doing Bruce?

**Bruce:** What?

**(As the two talk, Sally, a middle-aged woman with large glasses and a cat sweater enters from L, and walks to them.)**

**Sally:** Hey boys, what's the skinny as the young kids would say?

Both men turn to her and before they can speak Cam rejoins them.

**Cam:** No kid has said that, ever.

**Sally:** Oh, I was just...

**Bruce:** I thought you were getting on the phones?

**Cam:** I would if Phil would turn the main system on.

**Sally:** Good to see you trying to get a jumpstart on the day, to get your numbers up. Can I help at all?

**Cam:** **(thinks to himself)** No.

**Sally:** Well, it's good to see you taking some initiative.

**Cam:** Wouldn't call it that, just would rather be on the phones than talk with you all.

**Sally:** I'm sure you weren't trying to, but that was quite rude Cam.

**Cam:** Oh I know, I'm going to go talk to Phil.

**(Cam exits R.)**

**Sally:** Oh well, that's not very nice and...

**Chad:** What a prima donna, hmph!

**(Chad flourishes his cloak and walks to the cubicles.)**

**Bruce:** We work with some real weirdos.

**(Bruce starts licking a Patch next to Sally. Sally looks at him and then runs back to the cubicles. Bruce stands alone for a moment then goes back to his desk. Cam re-enters and goes to his desk. Cam is frustrated and Bruce looks over at him.)**

**Bruce:** What did Phil say?

**Cam:** Couldn't even talk with him. He's got some lady in his office.

**(Cam sighs loudly.)**

**Cam:** The one time I try to start early and Phil screws it up.

**Bruce:** Why are you here already? You're usually like ten minutes late.

**Cam:** Because I wanted to be on the phones before Nancy gets in.

**Bruce:** Why?

**Cam:** I can't sit through any more of her stupid weekend stories. I can literally feel myself slipping into a coma when she drones on and I'm afraid one of these times I'm not coming back.

**Bruce:** Yes, because god forbid someone shares the happy moments of their lives with you.

**(As Bruce talks, Jodie enters from L. She wears comfortable, but professional looking clothes. She walks past Cam and sits down in the desk behind him. As she passes Cam, he pays no attention to Bruce.)**

**Bruce:** Oh yeah, I was done talking to you.

**Cam:** **(to Jodie)** And how are you this morning?

**(Bruce shakes his head and turns back to his desk. Cam gets up and backs away from his desk. As this is happening Nancy enters from L and rushes over to Cam. She is wearing a fantasy costume.)**

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**Nancy:** Morning Cam.

**(Cam turns to Nancy and is shocked by her outfit.)**

**Cam:** **(incredulous)** What's wrong with you?

**(Nancy starts to answer)**

**Cam:** It was rhetorical Nancy.

**Chad:** Don't worry my dear, he doesn't even know what that means.

**Cam:** Cape.

**Chad:** Theatre cloak!

**(Chad's head goes back down. Cam is amused by himself and turns back to Nancy and really takes in how she is dressed.)**

**Cam:** What are you wearing?

**(Nancy steps up very proudly to show her costume.)**

**Nancy:** Do you like it?

**Cam:** There aren't words.

**Nancy:** I know, cool right?

**Cam:** Why would you wear that to the place you work?

**(Chad comes around the cubicles to stand next to Nancy.)**

**Chad:** Exactly, this is casual Friday, not whatever it is that you are wearing... Friday?

**Cam:** Says the grown man wearing a cape.

**Chad:** Theatre cloak!

**(Chad flourishes his cloak and Sally walks up to the group.)**

**Sally:** Don't let these boys get you down, I think your costume looks very nice.

**Bruce:** **(still sitting)** Well if the woman in a giant cat sweater likes it, it must be cool.

**Cam:** Not bad Bruce.

**Bruce:** **(getting angry and yelling)** I'll show you not bad you yuppy, free-loading, no-good...

**(Everyone stares at Bruce as he calms himself down and stands.)**

**Bruce:** Sorry, that was uncalled for. It's the nicotine withdrawals, I'm a little testy this morning.

**Sally:** It's OK, we all understand...

**Bruce:** **(yelling)** I'll understand your face!

**(Everyone just stares at Bruce and then start going back to their desks.)**

**Cam:** Two minutes of my life I'm never getting back.

**(He turns to go back to his desk but Nancy is right there.)**

**Nancy:** I don't care if not everyone likes my outfit. I like it and that's enough.

**(Cam doesn't say anything and Nancy's pride falters.)**

**Nancy:** I mean, you do like it right? Like a lot?

**Cam:** There is nothing casual about what you are wearing right now.

**Nancy:** When Phil said we would do our first Casual Friday, I thought it would be a great chance for all of us to come to work as we really are.

**(Nancy looks a little light-headed.)**

**Cam:** It worries me that this is who you really are.

**Nancy:** Ha ha, that old Cam-Nancy back and forth. Classic!

**Cam:** If you say so.

**Nancy:** So, what are you going to be doing this weekend? I'm going out with my friends and we are...

**Cam:** **(to himself)** Nooooo.

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**Nancy:** What was that?

**Cam:** Nooooo. Hmm, couldn't think of anything better than that. Look, I'm glad you are going to have fun but I just can't muster the enthusiasm to listen to you.

**Nancy:** **(unsure of herself)** Oh, haha, classic.

**(After a moment Nancy looks wobbly and reaches for her head.)**

**Cam:** What's wrong with you?

**Nancy:** I was putting the finishing touches on my helmet this morning. Was using spray paint and forgot to open my windows and...

**(As Nancy talks Jodie gets up and walks to the coffee pot.)**

**Nancy:** I'm feeling kind of funny and...

**(Nancy starts to faint but Cam sees Jodie. He doesn't catch Nancy and instead goes to Jodie. Nancy falls to the ground.)**

**Cam:** **(to Jodie)** Can you believe these people?

**Jodie:** What do you mean?

**(Everyone else has seen Nancy fall and go to help her up.)**

**Cam:** Have you looked around? What a bunch of freaks.

**Jodie:** Everyone looks comfortable, I mean except you. Are your shirts supposed to be that tight?

**Cam:** Funny.

**Jodie:** Others though, they look relaxed, I thought that was the point of doing Casual Fridays?

**Cam:** You're new here so I will let you know what's really going on...

**Jodie:** **(not impressed)** How kind of you.

**Cam:** Phil has an unnatural obsession with all of us getting along and being friends, he's always pushing forced fun on us which is...

**Jodie:** Sweet.

**Cam:** Sweet, yeah exactly what I was thinking.

**Jodie:** No you weren't.

**Cam:** No I wasn't. You really think it's sweet?

**Jodie:** I know I'm just the temp but I've worked in a lot of offices and I would rather be at one where people got along. Nothing wrong with being friends with your co-workers.

**(As they talk Bruce comes over for coffee.)**

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**Cam:** In this office it is.

**Jodie:** Keep going Cam, this whole hitting on me thing is working out real great for you.

**(Jodie walks back to her desk, as she does Bruce stands next to Cam.)**

**Bruce:** Burn!

**Cam:** Shut up.

**Bruce:** No, I'm burning! The Patches!

**(Bruce takes off his overshirt revealing lots of patches on him.)**

**Bruce:** Help!

**(Cam just stares at him for a moment.)**

**Cam:** No.

**(Nancy is sitting up while Sally fans her. Cam just steps over her and goes to his desk. Elsa, a sharply dressed business woman enters from R with her back to the staff.)**

**Elsa:** I can't believe you Phil! I have contractors coming in later today to get things turned off, this was supposed to be taken care of two weeks ago.

**(Phil, a man in a business suit and a Hawaiian shirt over it follows her in.)**

**Phil:** I know, but in my defence I really don't want to do it.

**Elsa:** That's not a defence Phil.

**Phil:** Really?

**Elsa:** Of course it's not, why do I have to explain that to you? This is a delicate situation and you have to take care of it in an appropriate manner. I've overseen five of these in the last month.

**Phil:** Wow, you have a lot of experience then, can you do it?

**(Phil looks for a 'yes' from Elsa, she doesn't look amused.)**

**Phil:** So that's a no?

**(Pat, a man wearing a sci-fi uniform comes running in from L and runs up to Phil.)**

**Elsa:** That's a no.

**Pat:** Phil... Phil... Phil...

**(Phil tries to ignore Pat and Elsa gets increasingly frustrated by the situation in front of her.)**

**Pat:** Phil... Phil... Phil...

**Phil:** What, Pat? What?

**Pat:** I got tired of waiting in your car until Elsa left. Hi Elsa.

**Elsa:** Hello Patrick. Why was your assistant manager waiting in a car? And why are you dressed like that?

**(Pat doesn't answer.)**

**Phil:** I didn't want to look bad in front of you...

**Elsa:** **(under her breath)** Too late for that.

**Phil:** So I had Pat stay outside until you left. I knew this would be rough enough and Pat doesn't necessarily make things go smoothly.

**(Elsa shakes her head and turns away from Phil.)**

**Phil:** Oh, so I 'm the bad guy. I cracked a window and gave him a juice box.

**(As Elsa turns she sees the rest of the office. Sally and Chad are helping Nancy to her feet and Bruce is trying to pull patches off himself.)**



**Elsa:** What in God's name is going on here?

**Nancy:** **(woozily)** It's Casual Friday.

**(Nancy puts her helmet back on.)**

**Elsa:** Casual is not the word I would use. This is supposed to be a professional office.

**(Phil sees an in.)**

**Phil:** Yeah, I am ashamed team, you know the dress code is...

**Elsa:** You would be more convincing if you weren't wearing a Hawaiian shirt. You know what, this is just making my job easier.

**(Elsa turns to Phil and Pat.)**

**Elsa:** You get your wish, I will take care of this because I don't trust you to do it right.

**(Pat lifts a laser gun.)**

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**Pat:** I have a laser gun.

**Elsa:** **(under her breath)** Oh my god!

**(All of the staff has made their way in front of Elsa and are waiting patiently.)**

**Elsa:** You all listen up. Phil was supposed to notify you two weeks ago but apparently management in this office is comprised of a coward and a child.

**(Elsa turns to Pat who lifts his gun.)**

**Elsa:** And ownership wants this to go smoothly so I Came to make sure that happens.

**Chad:** And what, pray-tell, is to go smoothly?

**Elsa:** This branch is being shut down.

**(There is a general commotion amongst the staff.)**

**Elsa:** Wait, that's not quite correct.

**Sally:** Oh thank god.

**Elsa:** All the branches are being shut down.

**Nancy:** By Odin's beard!

**Sally:** Does that mean we are all losing our jobs?

**Elsa:** That's what being shut down means, miss?

**Sally:** Oh, it's Sally...

**Elsa:** Actually, I don't care. Point is, you were all supposed to be given two weeks notice but you can thank Phil for not getting that. At the end of today all of your jobs are going to be outsourced to India or some other country, honestly I could care less.

**Nancy:** Wait, does that mean you could care less about the country or about our jobs or...

**Elsa:** I can't answer you looking like that.

**Nancy:** I'm a level 10 chaotic neutral warrior of the high-plains...

**Elsa:** I'm just going to stop you right there.

**Chad:** What a pity, things were going so swimmingly.

**Sally:** I don't think they were actually.

**Bruce:** He was being sarcastic!

**Jodie:** Come on now, you don't have to get snippy with her.

**(Everyone starts to argue but Cam stands away from them and seems to be smiling.)**

**Elsa:** Can't believe this place wasn't shut down a long time ago.

**(Elsa notices Cam.)**

**Elsa:** You, living embodiment of Axe body spray.

**(Cam points at himself.)**

**Elsa:** Yes you, who else would I be talking to? You're taking this in stride.

**Cam:** That's because I could care less about this go-nowhere job. I'll have another one by the end of the day.

**(Elsa just stares at him.)**

**Cam:** Not a go-nowhere one, you know, but a good one. A good job.

**Elsa:** Awfully confident for someone making barely above minimum wage.

**Cam:** I went to college, not like the losers that work here, I've got options.

**Elsa:** Bully for you.

**(Elsa turns back to everyone who are still arguing. She snaps her fingers and they all stop.)**

**Elsa:** As for the rest of you, finish your shift and then pack up your desks.

**Bruce:** Why, so you can sell them just like you sold us out?  
**Nancy:** That's right.  
**Elsa:** God no, after seeing the people that work here we are going to burn them for health reasons.

**(Elsa turns to Phil.)**

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**Elsa:** Phil!  
**Phil:** Yes Elsa?  
**Elsa:** If I had my way you would be out on the street like these other poor schmucks, but I don't, so you best count your lucky stars. Pat.

**(Pat slowly lifts his laser gun.)**

**Elsa:** Keep doing whatever it is you do.  
**(Elsa storms off L. Phil trails after her with Pat in tow. Cam goes and sits at his desk.)**

**Phil:** What about my desk Elsa?

**Pat:** I have a laser gun!

**(After they are gone Nancy steps forward.)**

**Nancy:** Worst, casual, Friday, ever.  
**Sally:** Why I'm so mad I could write a strongly worded letter.  
**Chad:** Reign it in Sally, no need for such drastic measures.  
**Jodie:** Not helping Chad.  
**Bruce:** New girl is right.  
**Jodie:** My name is Jodie, Bruce.  
**Bruce:** Jolie is right...  
**Jodie:** I've been over to your house, I'm in your wife's book club.  
**Bruce:** **(ignoring Jodie)** Joni Mitchell is right. This ain't the time for empty threats and sarcastic comments. I have had enough of those corporate fat cats stepping on us.

**(Everyone gathers around Bruce and gets into what he is saying. Phil and Pat re-enter. Phil reads the room and hangs back a little. Cam stays at his desk.)**

**Bruce:** I'm sick of it. I turn on the news and all I see is the working man getting his back broken by a lying system that tells us that if you work hard you get ahead. At the same time these lying CEOs make record profits, stealing from us. I've had enough. It's time we sent a message to management.

**(Everyone agrees.)**

**Bruce:** Management all across this country, they need to know they can't keep pushing around the working man. They can't silence us! So what are we going to do?

**(No one knows what to say.)**

**Bruce:** I'll tell you what we're going to do... we're going to burn this building to the ground!

**(Everyone is cheering until they realize what Bruce has said.)**

**Jodie:** Wait, what?

**Chad:** Maybe a bit severe my good man.

**(Pat steps forward.)**

**Pat:** Burn it down around management!

**(Phil grabs Pat.)**

**Phil:** We are management Pat!

**(Pat is unfazed.)**

**Pat:** Burn the whole system down!

**Jodie:** Bruce, we can't burn the building down because that is, well it's crazy.

**Bruce:** With that tone of voice you can make anything sound crazy.

**(Bruce looks around for help but no one gives him any.)**

**Nancy:** No Bruce, just no.

**Bruce:** Maybe you're right, not thinking very straight today. Got about two boxes of nicotine Patches on and I ate another.

**Nancy:** Great Scott!

**Chad:** Dear lord man, how are you not, you know, deceased?

**(Bruce freezes and doesn't speak or move.)**

**Sally:** Bruce?

**Nancy:** Bruce?

**Chad:** Oh no, did this just take a dark turn?

**(After a moment Bruce lets out a deep breath and everyone jumps).**

**Bruce:** I think my heart stopped for a minute.

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**Chad:** That sounds about right.

**(Phil walks over to everyone.)**

**Phil:** Crazy morning huh team?

**Jodie:** Get bent Phil

**(Jodie goes back to her desk.)**

**Phil:** That was uncalled for.

**Chad:** True, what you deserve is far worse but I would never be so uncouth as to say it in mixed company. Good day to you sir.

**(Chad twirls his cloak and goes back to his desk. Phil turns to Nancy.)**

**Phil:** Nancy, come on Nancy.

**(Nancy puts on her helmet defiantly.)**

**Phil:** Not you too.

**(Nancy walks back to her desk. Phil turns to Sally.)**

**Phil:** Sally...

**(Sally doesn't say anything.)**

**Phil:** I know you can't be mad at me Sally, not you...

**(Sally stomps on Phil's foot and goes back to her desk. Phil hops around a little and comes face to face with Bruce who isn't moving.)**

**Phil:** You going to hurt me too?

**(Bruce lets out another long breath.)**

**Bruce:** Ahhh, there it goes again. I think I should call a doctor.

**(Bruce hurries to his desk. Phil turns to Pat.)**

**Phil:** I guess it's just me and you Pat.

**(Pat stomps on Phil's other foot.)**

**Phil:** Why, why would you do that?

**Pat:** Thought it was a new thing we were trying.

**(Phil storms off R and Pat trails after him. Cam is on the phone.)**

**Cam:** No I get it Steve, not a problem. Just keep me in mind if something comes up. Thanks.

**(Cam hangs up and doesn't know what to say. Jodie walks up to him.)**

**Jodie:** So have you already found a new job? Sure it can't be hard for someone who went to college.

**Cam:** You heard that?

**Jodie:** Heard you making a jerk of yourself, yeah, I did.

**Cam:** I've put out some feelers. Got some friends from school that owe me. It can't be that hard.

**Jodie:** I'm here to tell you buddy it's harder out there than you think. You realize having a college degree doesn't make you important? I have one and I'm just a temp.

**Cam:** That's just you, I'm going to be...

**Jodie:** Let me make this very plain, you are not special. We're all in the same boat.

**Cam:** Why are you riding me so hard, I just lost my job.

**Jodie:** **(yelling)** We all just lost our jobs! You are the most self-centred person I have ever met. I can't believe I was attracted to you when I first started.

**Cam:** Well hey now.

**Jodie:** Past-tense Cam. The more I got to know you...

**Cam:** The more you realized how charming and cool I am.

**Jodie:** The more I realized you are a tool. And newsflash, you aren't as charming as you think you are.

**Cam:** Even if that's true, which it's totally not, I'm at least better than the losers that inhabit this office.

**(Nancy walks out from her cubicle with a box full of personal stuff, swords and the like and exits L.)**

**Cam:** Case in point.

**Jodie:** So what, you think you're better than her?

**Cam:** Have you seen her?

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**Jodie:** Have you seen you?

**Cam:** What's that mean?

**Jodie:** Nancy is out there living her life, meanwhile you are wearing an uncomfortable suit on Casual Friday.

**Cam:** This cost several hundred dollars, I'm totally comfortable in this.

**Jodie:** No one is comfortable in that. Do you even have blood flow to your head with a shirt that tight? And how long did it take you to get your hair just the right kind of dishevelled?

**Cam:** (quietly) An hour.

**Jodie:** I see a bunch of hard working people just trying to get by and being true to themselves. You're the only here trying to be something else, that's what I call a loser. But hey, what's it matter to you? You have a college degree.

**Cam:** (quietly) I actually never finished, dropped out a few credits shy.

**Jodie:** You are going to be beating back those job offers with a stick.

**(Jodie goes back to her desk. As she does, SFX. Cam's phone rings, he rushes to pick it up.)**

**Cam:** You got Cam. George, no this is a great time. I'm glad you called, hope you got some good news for me... oh, really... no, I understand. Times are tough, well do you know anyone else who might be... no, I get it. Thanks for calling.

**(Cam hangs up and looks as though he is going to be sick. Nancy re-enters from L and goes to Cam's desk.)**

**Nancy:** What a day? It reminds me of the time I was on the plains of Crom and we were surrounded by a band of orcs and yes, things did look pretty grim but I pulled out my sword and...

**Cam:** Are you trying to cheer me up by telling me stories about your stupid dress-up parties? Let me lay some knowledge on you Nancy, I don't like you. You are weird and you make me uncomfortable. Do you not get that? I am so glad that I will never have to sit through one of your inane stories ever again.

**(Everyone has come around to the sound of Cam yelling. Nancy just stands there for a moment. Cam realizes he may have gone too far.)**

**Cam:** Wait, sorry, that was harsh...

**Nancy:** (quietly) Larping.

**Cam:** What?

**Nancy:** (yelling) Larping, live action roleplaying. That's what I do, that's what I love. It's not dress-up parties and it's not stupid. I guess it is weird, and maybe I'm weird but I would rather be that than what you are. I'm glad I won't ever have to see you again, you or your stupid hair.

Nancy walks up and messes up Cam's hair. He is so dumbfounded he doesn't do anything.

**Chad:** Oh verily no she did not.

**Nancy:** Yeah, I said it. Your hair is stupid. You're stupid.

(Nancy smiles and everyone gathers around her.)

**Nancy:** That feels great to say out loud. You're the worst! Wow, I can't believe I'm enjoying this so much.

**Sally:** I don't like you very much Cam!

Everyone turns to Sally.

**Nancy:** Right on Sally.

**Sally:** You are always rude to me and I've never done anything but be nice to you.

**Nancy:** We've all bent over backwards to make you feel like you belong. We all feel bad for you.

**Cam:** You feel bad for me?

**Nancy:** You're always alone, you stick to yourself. You never go out with us after work, heck you never go out with anyone ever. All you do is complain about this place, about us, about your own life and you've never once realized we were trying to help you?

**Chad:** To set the record straight, I never tried to help you because I don't like you.

**Nancy:** Not now Chad.

**Chad:** Read the room, right, right.

**Cam:** No, that's not it. You just want to be around me because I'm the cool guy in the office.

**Nancy:** No, you're the Pathetic guy with no life. Sure I wanted to be your friend, but you know what, not anymore. I'm tired of wasting my time because you aren't worth it.

**Sally:** Good for you Nancy.

**Chad:** Hear hear my good woman.

**Bruce:** Yeah, let's murder the bum!



**(Everyone turns to Bruce.)**

**Bruce:** OK, too far.

**(Nancy starts to go back to her desk as does everyone else.)**

**Cam:** (quietly) You're right.

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**Nancy:** What?

**Cam:** I am the worst, and this isn't comfortable.

Cam takes off his tie and loosens his shirt.

**Cam:** It's not easy being confronted with our flaws, but you're right. I've treated you like garbage Nancy and you were still nice to me. Sally, you just tried to help me out, Jodie you've always told me the truth, straight-up, Bruce you aren't so bad for a maniac and Chad...

**(Chad steps up to Cam.)**

**Cam:** Nope, I still don't like you Chad.

**Chad:** Ditto.

**Cam:** I've been awful to all of you and I wish I had something better to say than, I'm sorry. I kept treating this place as a stepping stone to something better. Once that happened my life would truly start but I should have seen I was letting it pass me by. That I could have had something special with you all. You're going to get through this just fine because you have family, friends, people who care about you. All I have at home is a Sharper Image catalogue, it's not even mine, it's the previous tenants, they just never cancelled their subscription. I've treated you terribly.

**Sally:** Acted like you were better than us.

**Cam:** Exactly right.

**Chad:** Condescended us.

**Cam:** Kind of the same thing Sally just said, but yes...

**Nancy:** Insulted our hobbies.

**Cam:** Feel like I covered that.

**Bruce:** Offended our sensibilities...

**Cam:** OK, I get it. I'm a jerk

**Jodie:** Huge jerk.

**(Cam turns to Jodie who smiles at him a little. He smiles back.)**

**Cam:** The biggest. Looks like maybe I needed this job more than any of you. Too bad I figured it out the day it closes.

**(Everyone gathers around Cam.)**

**Nancy:** At least one good thing Came out of today.

Nancy goes in for a hug but Cam stops her.

**Cam:** Eh, maybe a little too much.

**(Everyone looks at Cam.)**

**Cam:** Alright fine.

Nancy rushes up and hugs Cam. After a moment everyone else joins in except Chad. After a beat Nancy grabs him and makes him join in the hug.

**Cam:** You guys are pretty awesome, wish I would have seen that a long time ago.

**(Phil and Pat sneak in and join the hug.)**

**Phil:** Oh, you all are the best.

**(Everyone realizes Phil has joined in and they break apart.)**

**Cam:** Not cool Phil!

**Jodie:** Yeah, no hug for you. You stabbed us in the back.

**Chad:** Betrayal, thy name is Phil!

**Phil:** I'll admit, mistakes were made...

**Pat:** By Phil.

**Phil:** Yes, by me, thanks Pat. But I might have a solution to all this.

**Sally:** What does that mean?

**Phil:** Well, it's a long shot.

**Cam:** Only kind of shot we have left.

**Phil:** The branch is being outsourced over financial concerns. If we could collect \$30,000 by the end of the day it might...

**(Everyone leans in close to Phil and looks very eager.)**

**Phil:** No, it will, if you could collect that by the end of the day I know they won't shut us down.

**Cam:** Really?

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**Phil:** Really, I mean it's not like I would make this up.

**(Phil laughs to himself a little but no one notices.)**

**Cam:** What do you say? I'm willing to go for it if you guys are.

**Chad:** Let us do this!

**Bruce:** Yeah!

**Pat:** Let's burn this place to the ground!

**(Fade to black.)**

## Scene 2 –The Office

**(During the blackout a thermometer poster is brought out. Everyone is at their desks and as each talk a spotlight comes up on them.)**

**Sally:** (perky) Sir if you don't pay your balance in full with me on the phone at this exact moment I will hound you until the very end of your days. You will see me in your dreams, I will haunt your every waking moment. You cannot escape me, not even death would release you. Uh-huh, and could you repeat the last four numbers of your credit card number again.

**(Sally turns to everyone and smiles as she types in some numbers. Everyone else just stares at her for a moment.)**

**Cam:** Dear lord I'm really glad we're friends now. Scary.

**(Nancy stands, on her phone, and talks.)**

**Nancy:** By the light of paladin Vickers I would not lie and if you make your payment on the phone with me today I will slay next month's finance charges.

**(Nancy sits and starts to type. Sally goes and Marks off a chunk of the thermometer with a Marker. Jodie stands.)**

**Jodie:** I've been doing this for years now, a veteran of the wars so to say, and I can tell you with the upmost certainty that deals like this don't come along very often. In my vast, and I mean vast, experience on the job I would say this is the best offer I have ever seen. Yup, a card number would be just fine.

**(Nancy stands and Marks off more of the thermometer. Chad stands and flutters his cloak as he talks on the phone.)**

**Chad:** Alas, I cannot diminish the amount you owe. It pains me that I am unable to do so but I can waive the over the phone payment fee, though I risk my job, nay my very livelihood, I do it to best serve you.

**(Everyone turns to Chad and gives him a little clap. Jodie goes and Marks off on the thermometer. Cam stands.)**

**Cam:** Listen to my voice, do I sound like a loser to you? Of course not, and I would only ever go out with someone who takes care of the balances they owe. Uh-huh, great, you can take care of that with me over the phone, you could also give me your cell number. Thanks.

**(Cam smiles at Jodie and she just scoffs. Chad goes and Marks off the thermometer. As Cam finishes up everyone else stands and goes around Bruce who is arguing on the phone.)**

**Bruce:** I get it, it's a lot of money, but it's money you owe. Hey, no, no, none of that. Listen up you little punk, you do not speak to me like that. I will come to your home, I have your address and I will make you wish your mother and father never met! I will teach you the very meaning of the word hell!

**(Everyone tries to calm Bruce down but to no avail. Cam Marks off more of the thermometer and joins the group.)**

**Cam:** (sarcastically) Well, we're screwed. Thanks Bruce.

**Nancy:** To be fair we are still a way off.

**Jodie:** We gave it a good shot but I guess it's time to start packing up our desks.

**Chad:** Bruce's wrath has truly doomed us all this day.

**Bruce:** (very nicely) And a good day to you too sir. Glad we could get this all sorted out. No, no, you're the man! Thank you again.

**(Everyone turns back to Bruce.)**

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**Chad:** Verily what just happened?

**(Bruce stands and takes a deep breath).**

**Bruce:** I just collected the last amount! Suck on that you fat cat bureaucracy!.

**(Everyone starts celebrating as Bruce Marks off the last of the thermometer. As this is happening Phil enters from L with Mark, a man in a suit.)**

**Sally:** Phil, Phil, we did it! We collected all \$30,000!

**Phil:** Yeah, I was worried that you would, I mean excited that you could come together like this! That's why I brought in Mark here, he is Elsa's boss.

**(Mark looks at Phil.)**

**Phil:** Isn't that right Mark?

**Mark:** Oh, right, right.

**(Mark looks around.)**

**Mark:** This is fine work everyone, mighty fine work. I'm glad to see you succeed like this. This just goes to show what good old fashioned American hard-work can accomplish!

**Jodie:** So what do you say?

**Mark:** I say you have proven yourself exemplary employees, more than that you have proven yourself exemplary human beings. In the long run that's what truly matters.

**Cam:** Not really.

**Nancy:** Yeah, do we get to keep our jobs?

**(Mark thinks for a moment and everyone leans in for an answer.)**

**Mark:** Oh what the heck, the branch stays open!

**(Everyone starts jumping up and down celebrating. In the midst of all this Cam grabs Jodie and dips her and gives her a big kiss. Everyone turns and reacts to this. Cam comes back up and Jodie just stares at him for a moment then slaps him.)**

**Cam:** What?

**Jodie:** Totally misread the situation.

**Cam:** But I thought...

**Jodie:** I think you are less of a jerk but that doesn't mean I am immediately falling for you, a girl needs some romance.

**(Jodie smiles at Cam a little. Everyone continues celebrating as Pat walks in from R. He starts jumping up and down with everyone until he sees Mark, he then stops and waves.)**

**Pat:** Hey Mark.

**Nancy:** You've met the big boss Pat?

**Pat:** The big boss of my throne. Mark's my plumber, hey Mark.

**(Everyone turns to Mark and Phil, Phil cowers a little.)**

**Chad:** Plumber?

**Cam:** So which is it, powerful CEO or plumber?

**Mark:** I like to think of myself as a powerful plumber. Number one on the westside.

**(Mark starts handing out business cards to everyone.)**

**Mark:** I'm actually here to get all the pipes shut down in the building. As I Came in Phil grabbed me and asked me to pretend to be a CEO, I did a little theatre back in college so I figured why not.

**Jodie:** Why are you wearing a suit if you are going to be working on the plumbing?

**Mark:** What? Everyone likes to look professional while they work.

**(Mark looks everyone up and down.)**

**Mark:** Well maybe not everyone.

**(Mark exits L and everyone turns on Phil.)**

**Pat:** Hey Mark.

**Chad:** How could you do such a thing Phil?

**Phil:** What?  
**Jodie:** You lied to us!  
**Nancy:** Again!  
**Phil:** I wouldn't call it lying, per se.  
**Cam:** What would you call it then?

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**Phil:** I...  
**(Everyone looks very mad at Phil)**

**Phil:** I'm sorry. Honestly I didn't think you would actually collect the full amount, so great for you!

**Bruce:** I'm going to rip off your face and wear it as a Halloween mask!  
**(Bruce lunges for Phil and everyone holds him back.)**

**Pat:** Ah, that's what I was going as.  
**(Everyone struggles and yells as Elsa enters from L.)**

**Elsa:** I didn't think it was possible for you all to be more unprofessional, but hey, here it is.

**Phil:** Elsa, you're back.

**Elsa:** Of course I am. I need to supervise everyone being processed out because I don't trust you to do it right. What have you been doing?

**Nancy:** Phil lied to us, he told us if we collect \$30,000 we could keep our jobs.  
**(Elsa starts laughing and pulls out her phone.)**

**Elsa:** And you believed him? Oh my sweet summer child. Here everyone hold still I want to get a picture of this, this is just too adorable.  
**(Everyone freezes and looks mad but Pat who smiles big and waves at the Camera.)**

**Cam:** So I take it we aren't keeping our jobs?

**Elsa:** Do you not get how these thing happen, this decision was made months ago, there wasn't anything you could do. Besides, \$30,000 is how much this office is supposed to collect every day.  
**(Elsa starts to exit R and LAUGHS to herself and types on her phone.)**

**Elsa:** Keep your jobs, just too precious. I need to send this to my sister, she will get a kick out of it.

**(Elsa exits and everyone calms down.)**

**Nancy:** I guess that's it, we are defeated.

**Sally:** We all go our separate ways.

**Chad:** **(half-heartily)**Huzzah.

**(Chad with very low energy flourishes his cloak and everyone moves back towards their desks. Cam stays put.)**

**Cam:** That fancy plumber was right. We just proved how awesome we are, who cares if Elsa or management get that. They are losing one heck of an office right here.

**Jodie:** The jerk has a point.

**(Jodie smiles at Cam and he keeps going.)**

**Cam:** When I woke up today I never thought I would say this, but, what would you say to going out for drinks? I don't think I'm ready to say goodbye to all of you yet.

**Sally:** My little darlings can wait for din-din until later.

**Chad:** I have been dying to try out this quaint little place in the village.

**(Nancy doesn't say anything.)**

**Cam:** What do you say Nancy?

**(Nancy doesn't say anything.)**

**Cam:** **(putting on a deep voice)** I mean, what say you noble warrior?

**(Nancy smiles and forearm grabs Cam and gives him a dramatic handshake.)**

**Nancy:** I say aye! Let us go for grog!

**(Sally, Chad, Bruce and Nancy all turn and exit L. Cam turns to Jodie.)**

**Cam:** I don't quite understand what just happened there.

**Jodie:** Yeah, but I think you liked it. Better watch out, keep acting like this and you are going to lose your reputation for being a shallow, horrible person.

**(Jodie gives him a seductive smile as she exits L.)**

**Cam:** God I hope not.

**(Cam starts to follow.)**

**Phil:** **(very sadly)** Yeah, go have fun, I'll just finish up here. It's cool.



**Cam:** Phil.

**(Phil looks up excitedly.)**

**Cam:** You are the worst dude.

**(Phil looks upset and Cam sighs.)**

**Cam:** Fine, if I get a second chance I guess you can too.

**(Phil jumps in the air for joy.)**

**Cam:** Just, keep it cool man.

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**(Phil stops and tries to look cool. Cam exits L. Phil turns to Pat.)**

**Phil:** Pat, go grab my party blazer from the office. Wait up everyone!

**(Phil rushes off L after everyone.)**

**Pat:** Sure thing, I'll be right behind you.

**(Pat exits R and then re-enters a moment later with a gas can. He starts to empty it out on the stage and stops, puts the gas can down and salutes.)**

**Pat:** America!

**(Lights off. Tabs Closed.)**