

ELSEWHERE (SAMPLE SCRIPT)

By

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CU - TELEVISION SCREEN

The sun rising over the ocean.

CU - TABLE

On it is a wine glass, filled with blood. It casts a long shadow over the smooth, white surface that shifts as the sunlight comes through.

INT. APARTMENT

A modern one bedroom just below mid-town Manhattan. NAN and LANGE sit at a small dinner table. They finish up a continental breakfast.

Nan is an very attractive but unkempt brunette in her early thirties. Her eyes are a deep blue that carry a hint of loneliness. She wears a silk robe, her hand clutches the waist strings nervously.

Lange is a neat, conservative looking type also in his early thirties.

NAN

I've always wanted one. I see other women...holding them, protecting them. Why wouldn't you want that? Why wouldn't you want to care?

LANGE

It's not as dramatic as all of that.

The sound of a LOW VIBRATION. He drinks the rest of his orange juice.

NAN

I think it's time...for me. I want a child.

LANGE

I'm sorry. That's not practical right now.

NAN

Such a fucking lawyer, aren't you?

He takes out his cell phone and presses a button. The vibration stops.

LANGE

I'm not a lawyer honey....that was your job.

INT. TAXI (MOVING) - DAY

Lang stares out the window, watching the billboards of Times Square go by. He then runs his hand up and down his forearm. He slowly sinks his nails into it. We hear ELNA singing.

ELNA (V.O.)

I don't like a dirty bowl. Dirty bowl, go away. Go away for good. Be as white and tidy as you can be! With Ring Free. Ring Free, cleaning power good enough for you and me.

We hear LAUGHTER and APPLAUSE. Lange looks at his forearm to see that his nails have left small indents, almost puncturing the skin.

CONFERENCE ROOM IN FREEMAN AND GOODWIN

The applause continues as Elna, a cheerful woman in her 30's, takes a bow. Behind her is an easel with a picture of Ring Free Toilet Cleaner. We are in the headquarters of Freeman and Goodwin. One of the cities top ad agencies. Other PITCH MEN and WOMEN wait to deliver their presentations, including Lange.

MR. ARLIN nods in approval. He's a tall thin man in his 50's. A chiseled face, with thin lips and eyebrows that always seem to look slightly raised.

MR. ARLIN

You're perfect Elna! This is why she's #1. Isn't she great everyone? Isn't...

The applause starts again.

MR. ARLIN (CONT'D)

Oh, my. Let's not give her too much of that. She might move on to bigger and better stuff. So?

2 REPRESENTATIVES from Ring Free look to Arlin with a smile.

REPRESENTATIVE #1

We like it.

MEN'S REST ROOM

Lange pisses into a urinal.

Pissing next to him is ANDREW, a portly man around Lange's age.

ANDREW

105.

LANG

Excuse me?

ANDREW

My novel...I'm up to 105 pages. I'm going all the way with this one.

LANG

Good...I mean, that's great.

ANDREW

You write too, don't you?

LANGE

I used to but..

ANDREW

I'm doing it for myself. This place isn't the end of the line for me. I've got plenty of ideas.

Lange nods in agreement and zips up. He then heads for the sink. The urinal automatically flushes.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

You want to read it when I'm done?

LANG

(washing his hands)

Sure, I guess.

MR. ARLIN'S OFFICE

Mr. Arlin sits on his desk, flipping through papers. Lange sits in a chair across from him.

MR. ARLIN

Your idea for Ring Free was lacking.

LANGE
Sorry...dry spot. It'll pass.

MR. ARLIN
It's been going on for awhile now.

LANGE
Has it?

MR. ARLIN
Enough for me to notice. Not to mention our clients. I'm going to pull you away from the team.

LANGE
No....don't do that.

MR. ARLIN
Just for a bit. I want to hear your own voice on some accounts we have coming in.

LANGE
If you just let me work it out on my own...

MR. ARLIN
I am, and I want you to get focused again. You're invaluable to us Lange. I'm doing this for you.

LANGE
For me?

MR. ARLIN
Yes.

LANGE
Are you trying to push me out of here?

MR. ARLIN
Lange....

LANGE
I can't afford....

MR. ARLIN
If you don't go along with this plan....

LANGE

Fine....but this is ridiculous.

MR. ARLIN

Glad to hear you agree. Let me ask you this, do you take nutritional supplements?

LANG

You mean vitamins?

MR. ARLIN

Vitamins are for kids and geriatrics. That's a problem. Not enough men from the ages of 18 to 35 are taking nutritional supplements. We have a client, Regentec, who are hurting bad in this demographic. We've got to win them over. It's gotta be hip....practical at the same time. Like a daily routine. Think:"That guy's taking them, I should too!"

Arlin smiles.

MR. ARLIN (CONT'D)

See what you can come up with. I have faith in you.

LANGE'S OFFICE

Lange sits at his desk, small tape recorder in hand. A stack of micro cassettes are on it.

All are labeled "Ad pitches". He watches the tape turn. His thumb rubs the record button. He shuts the recorder off and looks at a television. A man and woman ride in a sporty convertible through a sun drenched country side. The tape goes to static.

Lange shuts off the television and walks to the window.

LANGE'S DREAM

A high cliff with the ocean far below. Waves slam into it's base. At the top is Lange. Behind him are lush green hills.

Above him are gray skies.

HALLWAY IN FREEMAN AND GOODWIN

Lange walks down it, distant in thought. Posters for different products adorn the walls. Elna talks to other EMPLOYEES about her big score. She holds a bottle of Ring Free close to her.

ELNA

...enough for 2 to 3 months. Have a good one Lange.

He forces a smile.

NAN (V.O.)

...sierra. The sierra in a queen size. What?

LANGE AND NAN'S APARTMENT

Nan sits on the floor with fashion and home decorating catalogs scattered around her. She talks over a cordless phone.

NAN

I thought the cases would come with that. It's a set isn't it? Fine I'll get them also.

Her eyes scan the photos.

NAN (CONT'D)

Here, I'll give you my shoppers identification number. My credit card info is there. It's 4415. Bill it to that. How long? No that's fine. Thank you.

She hangs up and heads for her...

BEDROOM

Several packages are on the bed. She opens one to find a sexy black dress. She holds it to her chest.

LANGE (V.O.)

I should tell you that I don't normally do this.

VANESSA (V.O.)

Drink?

LANGE (V.O.)
I mean go out to these places
alone. It makes me very
uncomfortable.

INT. BAR

Trendy, crowded, dark. Lange sits at the bar talking to a
beautiful fair skinned woman, 19, named
VANESSA.

She runs her fingers through her raven colored hair.

VANESSA
You're married right?

LANGE
I am.

She smiles as her green eyes scan him over. They carry a
hint of danger.

VANESSA
What do you do?

LANGE
I develop advertisements. Jingles,
slogans.

VANESSA
Is that any fun?

LANGE
It can be at times. It's a
wonderful way to reach different
types of people.

VANESSA
I thought your job was to lie.

LANGE
No...I try to stay honest. I look
for the good in a product and focus
on that. The best thing is when you
get to see your ad on TV.

VANESSA
Which ones on TV did you make?

LANGE
Max Vision prescription lenses and
disposable contacts. The
BMW convertible...

He begins to twist his wedding ring.

VANESSA
How long have you been married?

LANGE
10 years.

VANESSA
Can I be totally honest with you?

LANGE
Sure.

VANESSA
You really don't belong here.

LANGE
I know...that's why I'm here.

VANESSA
You like not fitting in?

LANGE
I don't know if this is going to
make a whole lot of
sense.....but...I want an outlet.

VANESSA
What?

LANGE
You're not in my line of
work....you wouldn't understand.

VANESSA
I'm just the bimbo that's good at
sucking men off?

LANGE
No...I don't think that.

VANESSA
Am I part of some survey? You
trying to find my "demographic"?

LANGE
You?

VANESSA
What type of shit are you trying to
sell me? What product is going to
chase all my problems away?