

THE GREAT INDOORS

"Pilot"

Written by

Mike Gibbons

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COLD OPENING
SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. RECEPTION OF OUTDOOR LIFE MAGAZINE - DAY (D1)

JOEL ENTERS FROM THE ELEVATOR. JOEL IS A 35-ISH OUTDOORSY, GUY'S GUY WHO COULD ANCHOR A HUGE SITCOM. HE WEARS A VELCRO BOOT/CAST FOR HIS INJURED FOOT. THE OFFICES ARE AN INDUSTRIAL LOFT WITH GIANT PHOTOS OF NATURE. THE QUIRKY, TIMID, EARLY 20'S RECEPTIONIST, ESTHER, (THINK: YOUNG KRISTEN SCHAAL) HAS A SMALL DOG AND A GIANT BOTTLE OF HAND SANITIZER ON HER DESK.

JOEL

Hi. Cute dog. I didn't know they let dogs in the office, now.

ESTHER

They don't.

JOEL

(CONFUSED) So... is this one of those special dogs that can go anywhere?

ESTHER

(WHISPERS) You're not allowed to ask if it's an *emotional support animal*.

JOEL

(WHISPERS) Wow. It is special if it can understand us.

JOEL STARTS TO WALK PAST HER INTO THE OFFICE.

ESTHER

Excuse me...

JOEL

I'm just going in to see Antonio.

ESTHER

I.D. please.

JOEL

I.D.? I'm Joel Gordon.

ESTHER

Oh, I'm sorry. Your I.D., Mr. Gordon?

JOEL

Mr. Gordon? Are you kidding? Look,
(SEARCHES) I left my wallet in my
other backpack, but I've worked here
for years.

ESTHER

Here?

JOEL

Yes. Well, not here, here, but...

JOEL SEES HIMSELF IN THE HUGE PHOTO BEHIND ESTHER'S DESK. HE
IS POSING ON A MOUNTAIN TOP HOLDING A SUMMIT FLAG WITH THE
MAGAZINE'S LOGO. HE HAS A HELMET AND BUSHY BEARD.

JOEL (CONT'D)

... there.

ESTHER LOOKS AT THE PHOTO FOR A HEALTHY BEAT. THEN...

ESTHER

Where?

JOEL

That's Kilimanjaro.

ESTHER

I know that's Kilimanjaro. Where are
you?

JOEL

There's one guy in the photo!

ESTHER LOOKS BETWEEN THE PHOTO AND JOEL A FEW TIMES.

ESTHER

You wish you were that guy.

JOEL

I got it now. (WHISPERS) This is a
seeing eye dog.

CLARK, A MILLENNIAL, ENTERS. HE IS A TECH/NERD SURVIVALIST,
WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT SURVIVING AT SEA, IN THE WOODS AND
ON MARS, BUT HASN'T LEFT DOWNTOWN IN 5 YEARS. THINK: GARETH
FROM THE BRITISH OFFICE. HE IS INCREDIBLY LITERAL, AND AN
UNNATURAL FIT IN HIS OUTDOOR CLOTHES.

CLARK

Joel Gordon?! So incredible to meet
you! I'm Clark, digital story editor.

JOEL

Hi Clark, digital story editor.

CLARK

(SHOWING THEM OFF) I got the same
Moab boots you called "life savers"
when you were stranded for eight days
in the remote Alaskan wilderness.

JOEL

That's a lot of shoe for the city.

CLARK

I walk through Lincoln Park to get to
work, so.

JOEL

Oh, well, gotta have them.

CLARK

(RE: CAST) I heard about your fall.

JOEL

Oh, it was nothing. Until I hit the ground. Then it was a very painful something.

CLARK

Esther, do you know who this guy is?

The Joel Gordon!

CLARK POINTS TO THE HUGE PHOTO. ESTHER AGAIN LOOKS BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THE PHOTO AND JOEL.

ESTHER

It's like a bad fake I.D.

JOEL

It was a few years ago.

CLARK

Do you have time to swing by the digital department?

JOEL

I'm supposed to meet Antonio.

CLARK

Cool, it's on the way. Come on.

JOEL GESTURES UP TO HIS PHOTO AS HE EXITS PAST ESTHER.

JOEL

That's me.

ESTHER

(ALMOST UNDER BREATH) Not any more.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE B

INT. THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT - LATER (D1)

THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT/WEBSITE IS AN OPEN AREA BULLPEN. IT IS INHABITED BY A DIVERSE GROUP OF MILLENNIALS. DWAYNE IS AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE URBAN OUTDOORSMAN, ROCKING TIMBERLAND AND CARHARTT BEFORE GOING HIPSTER-LUMBERJACK. HE IS STYLISH AND TOO FULL OF POSITIVE ENERGY. EMMA IS THE BEAUTIFUL BLONDE WHO SEEMS NATURAL BUT IS VERY TIGHTLY WOUND. SHE IS THE SOCIAL MEDIA EXPERT. CLARK AND JOEL CROSS TO THE TABLE.

JOEL

(TO CLARK) Whoa, what's that smell?

CLARK

We'll get to it. (THEN TO ALL) We have a very special guest toda--

DWAYNE

Holy crap, you're Joel Gordon!

CLARK

Joel this is Dwayne, that's Emma and Zeb is in the tent over there.

ZEB (O.S.)

Hey.

WE DO NOT SEE ZEB IN THIS SCENE. HE IS JUST A VOICE.

JOEL

Hey. Why is Zeb in a tent?

CLARK

(QUICK AND EFFICIENT) He's living in there for 30 days straight. We have a 24/7 Periscope, and he can't leave the tent. Meals, bathroom... everything in the tent.

DWAYNE

Also, he is demo-ing this new underwear that's so rad they claim you don't have to change them for 2 weeks.

ZEB (O.S.)

Yeah, those aren't working out.

JOEL

(RE: SMELL) No kidding. Tents are just for sleeping. Why can't he leave the tent?

EMMA

(EXCITED) Because Mountain Hardware sponsored this whole Periscope, and they bought a banner on the site.

(AWKWARD/TIGHT) Sha Shing!

JOEL

Oh, a banner. (NO IDEA) So, you guys are in ad sales?

CLARK

No! We are the website and all digital extensions of articles, including social media.

EMMA

And there's good news. We just had our most retweeted online poll, "Best Gear for the Zombie Apocalypse."

EMMA USES A REMOTE TO CALL UP IMAGES ON MONITOR. CLARK HIGH FIVES DWAYNE.

CLARK

Yes! Nailed it! (EXCITEDLY TO JOEL)

Guess the #1 zombie-killing tool?

JOEL

Are we talking about this Outdoor Life magazine?

EMMA

Yes, and it has twice the uniques of any article we've ever done.

DWAYNE

C'mon, #1 zombie killing tool, bro?

JOEL

Uh, Zeb's underwear?

CLARK

Nope. Tent spikes.

JOEL

Of course. Okay, then. I have to go see the guy who runs this magazine, but (ISN'T THAT CUTE) good luck with all of your "digital extensions" and such.

CLARK

Okay. See you soon, Joel!

JOEL

Can't wait.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE C

INT. ANTONIO'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER (D1)

ANTONIO IS THE 60-ISH CHARISMATIC FOUNDER OF THE MAGAZINE AND AN OUTDOOR LEGEND WITH A FOREIGN ACCENT. THINK ANTONIO BANDERAS MEETS THE DOS EQUIS GUY. HIS OFFICE IS FILLED WITH ARTIFACTS AND PHOTOS OF HIS WORLD EXPLOITS. HE'S THRILLED TO SEE JOEL AND IS POURING THEM DRINKS.

ANTONIO

Joel, my star reporter! Come here!

THEY EMBRACE HEARTILY. WHILE THEY'RE HUGGING...

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

(WHISPERS INTO EAR) Any extra
Vicodin?

JOEL

I'm already out.

ANTONIO

(ENDS EMBRACE) Then it will have to
be scotch.

ANTONIO HANDS HIM A SCOTCH AND THEY CLINK GLASSES. JOEL STARES AT A SIGNED PHOTO OF ANTONIO AND A SHERPA AT A MOUNTAIN BASE CAMP.

JOEL

I never saw this. Your Sherpa in the
Himalayas thanked you?

ANTONIO

Ahh, Pasang. Tough descent. I
carried him down K2.

JOEL

(REMEMBERS) Oh, yeah.

ANTONIO

I get more credit than I deserve. It was Pasang or my backpack, and he weighed less than my pack. They are a tiny, tiny people. (THEN) Joel, great story on the Kodiak bears. Those poor beasts are history, huh?

JOEL

That's not the whole story, but--

ANTONIO

They lived in paradise until we came along. Now the lucky ones are in zoos, forced into boxes of concrete and steel, taunted with windows so they can glimpse the freedom they no longer possess...

ANTONIO STARES WISTFULLY OUT THE WINDOW FOR A LONG BEAT.

JOEL

(FINALLY) Well, thanks for finding me a job here in the office, (RE: CAST) now that I'm on the injured reserve...

ANTONIO

Oh, it's only a temporary setback. You'll be back out there in no time.

JOEL

Actually, I've been thinking--

ANTONIO

Pshhhhhh! Don't. It's not good for you. (THEN) Follow me. I'll show you where you'll be working.

ANTONIO LEADS JOEL OUT.

RESET TO:

INT. HALLWAY OF OFFICE - CONTINUOUS (D1)

ANTONIO LEADS JOEL DOWN THE HALLWAY.

ANTONIO

Joel, office life is not easy for people like us. I stare at a computer for hours, I'm getting soft, I've been told anonymously to wear deodorant every day!

JOEL

Sir, I get it, but I've been on the road forever and I just feel... I don't know... life is passing me by, and it might be time to grow up and--

ANTONIO

Pshhhhhh! Do you recall George Mallory's answer when asked why he was going to climb Everest?

JOEL

He said, "because it is there."

ANTONIO

Exactly. He needed to explore like us. He couldn't stop.

JOEL

Well he did stop the next year, when he died on Everest at 37 years old.

ANTONIO

Then welcome to your Everest.

ANTONIO THEN TURNS THE CORNER, LEADING JOEL INTO THE DIGITAL BULLPEN WITH ALL THE MILLENNIALS THAT JOEL HAD JUST LEFT.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

Here is your base camp. This is where you'll be working.

JOEL STARES AT THE MILLENNIALS. THEY EXCITEDLY WAVE BACK. JOEL MOANS IN PAIN.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

(CONCERNED) Is it your leg?

JOEL

No.

FADE OUT.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE
SCENE D

FADE IN:

INT. KITCHEN AT MAGAZINE - LATER (D1)

ANTONIO PUTS GRINDS IN AN OLD STOVE-TOP ESPRESSO MAKER.

ANTONIO

You want one?

JOEL

Sure. Antonio, those kids work on
the website.

ANTONIO POINTS WITH DISDAIN AT THE KEURIG COFFEE MAKER.

ANTONIO

Yes. And they all drink those coffee
pods. Podcast, iPod, coffee pod...
They love anything with the word "pod"
in it.

JOEL

I can't work with them.

ANTONIO

Why not?

JOEL

For one, I didn't know the zombie
apocalypse was so soon.

ANTONIO

So, now you do.

JOEL

Look, I'm a print guy. I'm like you --
I love real writing. On paper.

(MORE)

JOEL (CONT'D)

All this "digital content" stuff?
That's not for me. Come on, what's
happening on the print side? I bet
it's something exciting.

ANTONIO

Layoffs.

JOEL

Not as exciting as I'd hoped.

ANTONIO

I'm sorry, Joel, but digital is where
the growth is. And these kids need
you. They are all little green men.

JOEL

(CONFUSED BEAT, THEN) You mean
they're all a little green.

ANTONIO

What I said. They don't know the
voice of the magazine yet. They could
use someone like you to "show them the
ropes." Did you see how I did that?

JOEL

Yeah I got it, but--

ANTONIO

Because we both scale mountains--

JOEL

Yep still got it.

ANTONIO'S DAUGHTER, BROOKE, ENTERS. SHE IS EARLY 30'S, BEAUTIFUL AND DRIVEN. SHE HAS A NATURAL AIR ABOUT HER THAT MAKES HER CORPORATE WARDROBE SEEM A BIT TOO FORMAL FOR HER.

BROOKE

Hey, Dad-- (THEN, NOTICING JOEL) Oh
god, it's you.

ALL SORTS OF SPARKS -- NOT ALL THE GOOD KIND. IT'S CLEAR THAT BROOKE AND JOEL HAVE A FRAUGHT PAST.

JOEL

Hi, Brooke. I see you haven't lost
your bubbly charm.

BROOKE

Sorry. I just--

JOEL

No, I get it. My bum leg is hideous.
I'm a monster now. Kids on the street
cry when they see me.

BROOKE LAUGHS. THEY HUG.

JOEL (CONT'D)

You look good. Married life must be
treating you well. How's Paul?

ANTONIO MAKES EEESH SOUND, DESPITE HIS FOCUS ON THE COFFEE.

BROOKE

Right. Things didn't work out.

JOEL

Oh, I'm sorry--

BROOKE

No, it's okay. It wasn't right, I
pulled the plug.

ANTONIO

You didn't deserve him!

BROOKE ROLLS HER EYES AND GESTURES "GIVE HIM A SECOND..."

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

You deserve better.

BROOKE

Thanks, Dad.

JOEL

So, are you just stopping by, or...

ANTONIO

Brooke is helping me run the magazine,
now.

JOEL

What?! Her?

BROOKE

(SMUG) My dad knows talent when he
sees it.

ANTONIO

I do. Which is why I just hired Joel
to oversee the digital division.

BROOKE

What?! Him?

JOEL

Exactly. Brooke, please tell your
father I can't work on the website.

BROOKE

He cannot work on the website.

JOEL

Listen to your daughter!

BROOKE

He's a cocky, undisciplined nomad with zero management experience.

JOEL

That's enough help, thank you.

BROOKE

I'm just saying, I don't think he's the best fit for this office.

ANTONIO

Both of you calm down. It's only for next month's issue because we are way behind. (TO BROOKE) This will give you more time to focus on the print side of things.

BROOKE

We are not way behind.

JOEL

I can see you still got some of that fire.

BROOKE

Leave my fire out of this. (TO ANTONIO) You put me in charge of overseeing print and digital. So it would be nice if this had been a "we" decision.

ANTONIO

You are right. But we still don't have the companion ideas for Joel's piece on the bears. Why not let him help? Despite what happened back then, you make a good team.

BROOKE

Please don't go there.

ANTONIO

(TO JOEL) And you, this is where we need you right now.

JOEL

(SIGHS) What choice do I have?

BROOKE

Same as me. None.

JOEL TAKES A DEEP BREATH, THEN HEADS BACK TO...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE E

INT. THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT - A FEW MINUTES LATER (D1)

JOEL ENTERS. THE ROOM IS SMOKY.

JOEL

What is that?

CLARK

We tried some road kill recipes on the camping stove. Possum is super oily.

JOEL

Well at least I can't smell Zeb.

ZEB (O.S.)

That makes one of us.

JOEL

So, I just met with Antonio, and it looks like starting tomorrow I'll be working with you guys.

DWAYNE

Cool, tomorrow I'm picking up breakfast for everybody. Plus the best cold brew coffee you've ever had.

JOEL

Thanks, let me give you some--

AS JOEL TAKES OUT HIS WALLET, DWAYNE LAUGHS.

DWAYNE

Wow, I love that you still use cash. Do you have pictures of your grandkids in that wallet? (THEN) You should start thinking about Venmo.

JOEL

What?

DWAYNE

Venmo. Square Cash. Google wallet.

JOEL

I know the "Google" part.

DWAYNE

Never mind. Too much change will be stressful for you.

EMMA

So Joel, you going to be here awhile?

JOEL

Here, like this department? No. Just this issue. Then over to print.

CLARK

Ah, with the grown-ups. Then back out on the peaks when the ankle heals?

JOEL

(THINKS) I don't know.

CLARK

Have you ever worked in an office?

JOEL

No. Never thought I would.

ZEB (O.S.)

Some are better than others.

DWAYNE

So what's up? Why would you stay?

JOEL

You guys won't be able to relate to this because you're so young, but... I'm feeling the need to settle down, I guess.

EMMA

Start a family?

JOEL

Well, a first date would be a start.

EMMA

I have a boyfriend.

JOEL

(VERY CONCERNED) No! I didn't mean you. That would be inapp--

EMMA

(LAUGHS) I'm kidding!

JOEL

(BEAT) So, you don't have a boyfriend?

DWAYNE

Dude, you on Bumble?

JOEL

I'm just hearing about Venmo.

DWAYNE

The chicks have to contact you first!

JOEL

Your move, Emma. I'm kidding! (THEN)
You know, maybe working here will be
all right. I know Brooke wants to
hear pitches tomorrow, so why don't we
meet first thing in the morning and
I'll see you then.

EVERYONE AD-LIBS AGREEMENT. ESTHER ENTERS LOOKING A LITTLE
PANICKED.

ESTHER

Has anyone seen Felicia?

EMMA

No, Esther.

JOEL

Your dog left you? That's not very
supportive.

JOEL IS AMUSED BY HIS JOKE, BUT QUICKLY SEES THAT THE ROOM IS
OVER-SENSITIVE AND THINKS THE JOKE IS INAPPROPRIATE.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Guys, it's a joke. (THEN) I'll help
you look. Zeb, did he sneak in there
with you?

ZEB (O.S.)

This tent isn't fit for an animal.

JOEL

Right.

THEY ALL LOOK FOR THE DOG AS WE...

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE H

INT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT (N1)

JOEL AND HIS GOOD FRIEND EDDIE ENTER THE LIVING ROOM. EDDIE IS A MID/LATE 30'S BLACK GUY WITH A SHAVED HEAD (THINK: CHRIS WILLIAMS) WHO CAN BE SURPRISINGLY WISE IN HIS YOGI BERRA-LIKE SIMPLICITY.

EDDIE

I can't believe you're moving in.

This is too perfect, man.

JOEL

"Perfect" is a strong word. Isn't this a little sad?

EDDIE

Sad? My mom left me her house, I can't afford the taxes, so I'll live in the guest house and you'll rent this, but really I'll be here all the time, so it's sort of like we're roommates again.

JOEL

(SARCASTIC) Well, when you put it that way, our lives sound pretty great.

EDDIE

Are you kidding, each day is better than the next.

JOEL TRIES HARD TO FIGURE THIS OUT, BUT CAN'T.

JOEL

I appreciate this, man. I know you've been making some good money renting this out on Airbnb.

EDDIE

Don't be ridiculous. I'm psyched you are going to be here. Plus, the last renters had an orgy in here.

JOEL QUICKLY REMOVES HIS HAND FROM THE LEATHER CHAIR.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

Turns out most home rentals are really brothel rentals.

JOEL

I'm not buying the place. You don't have to disclose that information.

EDDIE

It was only one night. (BEAT) Two nights. But that's history. (THEN) It was three days, two nights. It was long. (UNDER HIS BREATH) And fun.

JOEL

Eddie! So I can start crashing here tomorrow night?

EDDIE

100 percent.

JOEL

Okay, good. My sister's place has been great, but tomorrow she's having her book club. (BEAT) That's what she calls it. But it's just her. And she watches The Notebook. And we cry. I mean, she cries.

EDDIE

So how was work?

JOEL

I don't even recognize the place. It's packed with these twenty-somethings who... are we old?

EDDIE

No! Why would you say that?

JOEL

For the first time I'm feeling really old.

EDDIE

Joel, easy. We are not our fathers' mid 30's. C'mon, look at us. If you didn't know me, how old would you guess I am?

JOEL

Nope. I never guess a bald black man's age. It can be 25 or 70. I'm always about 20 years off.

EDDIE

Well, don't let this next generation
get in your head. They are a handful.
They're coddled, entitled... Most
still live at home.

JOEL LOOKS TO EDDIE TO SEE IF HE REALIZED WHAT HE JUST SAID.

EDDIE (CONT'D)

With their parents. Totally
different.

JOEL

Totally.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE J

INT. THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT - NEXT MORNING (D2)

JOEL SITS IN THE OFFICE ALONE WAITING. LONG SILENCE THEN...

JOEL

Zeb, is it like this every morning?

ZEB (O.S.)

No, normally I'm having a panic
attack.

FINALLY THE MILLENNIALS ENTER.

DWAYNE

Breakfast!

JOEL

Guys, it's eleven. What happened to
first thing this morning?

DWAYNE

It is.

JOEL

This is your first thing?

BROOKE ENTERS AND SITS AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE. THERE IS
TENSION BETWEEN SHE AND JOEL.

BROOKE

Okay, you've all met Joel. And let me
say, you will not find a more
committed... Joel in this room. (ZEB
LAUGHS) Thank you, Zeb. Now, on to
today's agenda: Road Kill Recipes, The
Commuter Backpack and Midtown Mountain
Bikes.

(MORE)

BROOKE (CONT'D)

But who is spearheading the digital tie-in to Joel's article on the bears?

DWAYNE

That'd be me! It's a slide show link: "5 Things to do if Attacked by a Bear."

EMMA

Joel, I bet you know all of these.

JOEL

Unless we're talking about hairy gay guys, and even then...

DWAYNE

Dude, you just observed bears for months. This is totally your thing.

JOEL

(RELUCTANTLY) Okay... obviously, bear spray.

DWAYNE

No, this is if there's no bear spray! The attack is already on! DiCaprio vs Bear!!

JOEL LOOKS TO BROOKE WITH THE MOST PATRONIZING SMIRK.

BROOKE

Joel, just name one thing to do if a bear attacks.

JOEL

(BEAT) Die. You die.

SILENCE.

JOEL (CONT'D)

I've seen it.

MORE SILENCE.

CLARK

(STUNNED TO DWAYNE) Maybe change the
list to "Top One Thing To Do."

JOEL GIVES BROOKE A LOOK. HER CELL PHONE RINGS.

BROOKE

I've got to run over to print, can you
handle this?

JOEL

I've got an idea, why don't I go over
to print and you stay here?

BROOKE

So you're saying you can't handle
this. Figures.

BROOKE TALKS ON HER PHONE AS SHE EXITS. THIS BURNS JOEL, WHO
LOOKS AROUND THE TABLE DISAPPOINTED.

DWAYNE

Cheer up, Joel. What's the matter?

JOEL

We are under a serious deadline, it's
midday and this meeting should have
been over by now.

EMMA

We sort of make our own hours, as long
as the work gets done, and all.

JOEL

The work is not getting done, and all!
So far all we got is a "Top One" list.

CLARK

Well up 'til now, this schedule has
been working for us.

JOEL

"Up til now"? How long have you been
at the magazine?

DWAYNE

I've been here almost a year. Friends
are starting to make fun of me for
going for a gold watch.

JOEL

None of you have ever - or even want to -
stay at a job for longer than that?

THEY ALL NOD, "NO," LIKE JOEL IS CRAZY.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Almost a year?! What are you,
lifeguards? This isn't a summer job.
This is the only job I've ever had.

CLARK

What!?! You sound like my grandfather.

JOEL

(INTENSITY RISES) Yeah, I'm ancient because I write articles longer than pop quizzes, I get to work in the morning and I still use cash instead of *Bevmo!* I'm soooo old!! Since when did 35 become the new 80?

DWAYNE MIMES LOOKING AT HIS WATCH.

DWAYNE

Since forever ago.

JOEL

You don't even have a watch! I'm surprised you guys even know what this motion means!

JOEL MIMES LOOKING AT WATCH.

ZEB (O.S.)

Apple watch, right here.

ZEB'S ARM APPEARS OUT OF TENT WITH AN APPLE WATCH.

JOEL

We all know the Apple Watch is not a real watch.

ZEB (O.S.)

You're right.

ZEB'S ARM RECEDES BACK INTO THE TENT.

EMMA

Joel, don't worry, we got this.

JOEL

I don't think you got or get this. You
all seem very confident. It seems
like life has been easy so far. You
went to good schools.

JOEL POINTS AT A STANFORD BUMPER STICKER AT DWAYNE'S DESK.
THEN HE GESTURES AT A PICTURE OF A WINNING SOCCER TEAM WITH A
TROPHY AT EMMA'S DESK.

JOEL (CONT'D)

You played on winning teams...

EMMA

We only won 2 games that year.

JOEL

You're all holding a huge trophy?

EMMA JUST STARES. JOEL LITERALLY SHAKES HIS HEAD IN
CONFUSION. THEN HE NOTICES CLARK MESSING WITH WIRES AND A
MICROPHONE AT HIS DESK AREA.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Clark what are you doing?

CLARK

I'm listening. I'm just setting up
for my podcast.

JOEL

You have a podcast? About what?

CLARK

I interview people.

JOEL

Who are you interviewing today?

CLARK

Dwayne.

JOEL

(SOTTO) This is unbelievable. (THEN) And what are you interviewing Dwayne about?

CLARK

(LONG BEAT) His podcast.

JOEL

(ANGRY) Just stop! Can we stop the insanity?

CLARK IS CLEARLY TAKEN ABACK.

JOEL (CONT'D)

This is a job. This is work. You guys are playing around, like it has to be fun all the time. It's not! And Clark, here's a piece of advice, get a podcast when you actually have something to say, and when people think it's worth hearing. I haven't heard you say one thing - about the outdoors or anything - that's worth listening to!

CLARK IS DUMBSTRUCK AND THEN STARTS TO GET EMOTIONAL. HE RUNS OUT. THE MEETING IS A DISASTER. LONG BEAT.

ZEB (O.S.)

Did Joel just make Clark cry?

DWAYNE/EMMA

Yes.

OFF JOEL'S INCREDULOUS LOOK...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO
SCENE K

FADE IN:

INT. BROOKE'S OFFICE - DAY (D2)

JOEL SITS IN FRONT OF AN H.R. REPRESENTATIVE, CAROL, AND THE MAGAZINE'S LEGAL COUNSEL, PHILIP. HE'S CLEARLY IN TROUBLE.

CAROL

Mister Gordon, do you realize why this meeting has been called between you, (RE: HERSELF) human resources, and (RE: PHILIP) our general counsel?

JOEL

(CONTRITE) I made Clark cry.

CAROL

(YOU MONSTER) You made Clark cry. In this litigious age, such behavior puts our company in jeopardy of a lawsuit. You have created a hostile work environment.

THE DOOR OPENS AND WE SEE ANTONIO ABOUT TO ENTER BUT HE HEARS THE WORD LAWSUIT, SEES THE SITUATION AND BACKS RIGHT OUT.

JOEL

Come on, I'm allowed to be critical. And if I may, I sort of thought only girls cried at work.

PHILIP

Whoa!

JOEL

I'm sorry. Women?

PHILIP

Whoa!

CAROL

Mister Gordon, have you ever worked in an office with today's generation?

JOEL

Is that what they're called? No.

CAROL

Young adults today are a very... delicate group. They're used to being told that they're perfect, so criticism needs to be couched in a shower of praise. We offer an entire class on how to deal with them.

JOEL

Maybe they need a class on how to deal with life.

CAROL GLANCES AT PHILIP. PHILIP PUTS HIS HANDS OVER HIS EARS. SHE SUDDENLY CHANGES HER TONE COMPLETELY.

CAROL

Okay, look. I totally agree with you. Today's kids in their twenties are a bunch of spoiled-ass babies and I would slap them from here to Delaware if I had my way with them. Unfortunately, that's not allowed. That means we have to get used to it, so I'm telling you, get used to it.

CAROL NODS AT PHILIP, AND THEY EXIT AS BROOKE ENTERS, SMUG.

BROOKE

So, how does your ass feel?

JOEL

Chewed out. Look, I don't think I speak this millennial language. Maybe I'm too old school.

BROOKE

Oh, don't give me that crap. You like to think that you're just like my dad.

JOEL

We are similar in many ways.

BROOKE

Please, when my father was your age he had three families! But really? You're a lot closer to those kids.

JOEL

(OVERREACTING) What?! That's stupid! Name one way I'm like them.

BROOKE

Well, for one, you overreact to criticism. (THEN) And you have trouble committing.

JOEL

Oh, here we go. I see what this is about -- you not wanting me to work here, and saying I'm undisciplined, and everything. You're still angry at me for not calling you after we hooked up a few years back.

BROOKE

What?! Are you crazy? I barely even remember what you're talking about and why would you say "I'll call you in exactly three days" and then never call?

JOEL

There was no reception on Kilimanjaro!

BROOKE

That's what every guy says!

JOEL

Well you sure got over it fast. When I got back two weeks later you were already dating Paul.

THEY EXCHANGE A LOOK, RECOGNIZING THAT THEY BOTH HURT EACH OTHER. JOEL THEN RETREATS.

JOEL (CONT'D)

You know what? Maybe this whole thing was a mistake. Maybe I'm not "the best fit" here in this office.

BROOKE

A-ha, so I was right! When do I get to hear you actually admit it?

JOEL

I'll call you in three days!

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE L

INT. EDDIE'S HOUSE - LATER THAT NIGHT (N2)

JOEL ENTERS EDDIE'S HOUSE WITH A SUITCASE AND BEDDING. A JAPANESE COUPLE AND THEIR DAUGHTER HOLD THE TV REMOTE AND SPEAK JAPANESE. THEY ARE STARTLED AND THIS STARTLES JOEL.

JOEL

What the hell?! What are you doing here?

THE FAMILY STARES SILENTLY, STILL SHOCKED.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Are you friends of Eddie's?

THEY RECOGNIZE "EDDIE" AND REPEAT IT FOLLOWED BY JAPANESE.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Ummmmmm...

JOEL PRESSES A BUTTON ON HIS PHONE, HEARS A BEEP AND ASKS...

JOEL (CONT'D)

How do you say in Japanese, "What are you doing here?"

THE PHONE BEEPS AND THEN A WOMAN'S VOICE TRANSLATES IN JAPANESE. THE FAMILY EXCITEDLY UNDERSTANDS AND THEN THE DAUGHTER DOES THE SAME WITH HER PHONE, SPEAKING JAPANESE INTO IT. THE PHONE THEN BEEPS AND A WOMAN'S VOICE SAYS...

PHONE

"What is your HBO GO password?"

JOEL

Eddie!!!!

EDDIE ENTERS FROM THE BACK DOOR AND SEES THE SITUATION.

EDDIE

Oh, shoot! I forgot you were coming tonight. These are the last renters.

JOEL

(EXASPERATED) Eddie, not tonight. I had quite the day at work. I made a millennial cry.

EDDIE

Nice. Up top?

EDDIE'S HIGH FIVE IS LEFT HANGING.

JOEL

No, it's bad. I don't know how to work with them, and we have this massive deadline.

EDDIE

Okay, hold that thought.

EDDIE SPEAKS RAPID FIRE JAPANESE. JOEL IS SURPRISED. THE FAMILY UNDERSTANDS AND LAUGHS A LITTLE.

JOEL

What did you tell them?

EDDIE

That you made a millennial cry.

JOEL

Eddie, this is serious. And Brooke thinks I'm basically one of them.

EDDIE

Brooke?! Brooke, Brooke? Who Brooke your heart?

JOEL

It didn't break.

EDDIE

Really? Because ever since you two didn't work out, you've been running around the world like Peter Pan with no attachments, avoiding anything close to a serious relationship -- as if the one adventure you're too scared to experience... is love itself.

JOEL

(BEAT) That's shockingly perceptive.

EDDIE

I'm a wise fool, man. Get used to it.

JOEL

Well, either way, Brooke is just another reason not to work there. I don't think I can do this.

EDDIE

Quitting at the first tiny sign of adversity? Wow, maybe you are just like a millennial. Look, you have a choice; you can be angry about your early-onset mid-life crisis, or you can realize you know these kids better than you think. They are young. When you were young, Antonio helped you. Be their Antonio. But with less yelling and more coddling.

THIS LANDS WITH JOEL. AND JUST THE TONE OF IT HAS CAUSED THE JAPANESE FAMILY TO LOOK ON WITH CONCERN. JOEL IS EXHAUSTED.

JOEL

So are they leaving or am I crashing
in the back house?

EDDIE

No. I'll handle it. I'll explain we
have to find them another place.

EDDIE THEN LAUNCHES INTO FAST, FLAWLESS JAPANESE. JOEL IS SURPRISED. EDDIE AND THE FAMILY COME TO A SMILING AGREEMENT.

JOEL

You work it out?

EDDIE

Yep, they're staying. You're with me.
Only two nights.

THE JAPANESE MOTHER ASKS A LONG QUESTION IN JAPANESE.

JOEL

What is she saying?

EDDIE

She says she is sorry.

JOEL

It sounded longer than that.

EDDIE

You're right. She didn't say sorry.

EDDIE THEN ANSWERS HER IN FLAWLESS FAST JAPANESE, THAT ENDS WITH A VERY CLEAR, "GAME OF THRONES." THE JAPANESE FAMILY GETS VERY EXCITED AND HANDS EDDIE THE REMOTE CONTROL. JOEL SHAKES HIS HEAD GIVING UP AND EXITS THE BACK DOOR.

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE M

INT. THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT - THE NEXT MORNING (D3)

JOEL WAITS AS WE HEAR ZEB'S VERY FORCED BREATHS.

JOEL

That's it; exhale all the way, Zeb.

Panic attacks are all in your head.

THE GROUP ENTERS.

JOEL (CONT'D)

(TO ZEB) Eleven o'clock, on the dot.

(THEN TO ALL) Good morning guys. I want to start with an apology.

Especially to Clark. I was out of line.

CLARK

Eh, it didn't really bother me.

JOEL

If that were true, I don't think I would have found these Moab boots in the copy room recycling bin.

CLARK ACTS BUSTED. JOEL HANDS CLARK BACK HIS BOOTS, AND THEY SHAKE. JOEL TURNS TO EVERYONE ELSE.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Anyway, it wasn't fair of me to be so critical. The truth is, a lot of this is new to me, too. But I think we can learn a lot from each other.

REVEAL BROOKE HAD ENTERED THE OFFICE AND WAS LISTENING. SHE IS IMPRESSED. SHE BACKS OUT SILENTLY.

JOEL (CONT'D)

We have twenty-four hours until our pitch meeting. Now, let me tell you about this magazine. It's not about "Outdoor Chic" or "Urban Ruggedness." It's about the "outdoors." Clark, do you remember the last time you went camping?

CLARK

(PROUD) Star Wars, The Force Awakens.
(SHAME SETS IN AND HE FADES) #41 in line.

JOEL

Actually, not nearly as bad an example as it sounds. You love the outdoors, but you don't get enough of it. That's where we come in - we remind people to get out. Out of the house. Out of the city. Out of their ruts!

CLARK

Let's start our own magazine and call it, "Out."

JOEL

That's a gay magazine.

DWAYNE

Bro, back in the day, maybe, but you're not allowed to say that anymore.

JOEL

No. "Out" is a real gay magazine.

EMMA

Now he's calling it, real gay.

JOEL

No! An actual gay magazine. (THINKS,
THEN) So, would you guys want to do
this?

CLARK

Start a gay magazine?

JOEL

No! I'm saying, we step it up. No
more "Zombie Recipes" or "Possum
Tailgating." If we put our heads
together, I bet we can make cool lists
that are fun to read and that we're
proud of. What do you say?

ZEB (O.S.)

Let's do it! (THEN) FYI, I just
pumped my fist in the air.

DWAYNE GESTURES TOWARDS HIS LAPTOP.

DWAYNE

Guys, if Out Magazine is really gay,
why is Kevin Spacey on the cover?

DISSOLVE TO:

SCENE P

INT. THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (D4)

WE FADE IN TO THE END OF THE PITCH MEETING WHERE THEY ARE PRESENTING THE IDEAS FOR NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE. ANTONIO SITS AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE. BROOKE AND JOEL SIT TOGETHER NEARBY.

CLARK

And finally, we're doing a piece on why Alaska has so many reality shows.

BROOKE

I don't think that makes for a very long piece.

CLARK

There are 14.

ANTONIO

What?! That's half the population!

Guys! This was great!

ANTONIO GIVES A PROUD LOOK TO BROOKE AND JOEL. BROOKE AND JOEL EXCHANGE A LOOK AND SMILE.

ANTONIO (CONT'D)

Joel, Brooke and I knew you could do this.

BROOKE

I did?

ANTONIO

Sure, you did. And this is going to be hard for you to beat next month.

JOEL

(REALIZING) You are not serious.

ANTONIO CROSSES TO EXIT.

ANTONIO

Oh, I am very serious. What are you going to do, leave all of them now?

JOEL

That was the plan.

ANTONIO

Plans change. Just look at you.

ANTONIO EXITS.

CLARK

I'm glad you're staying, Joel.

THEY ALL ECHO THIS SENTIMENT.

JOEL

Well you guys did great work. But even if you didn't pull this off, I got a little something for you.

JOEL GRABS HIS PACK AND STARTS HANDING OUT TROPHIES. THEY ARE ALL TOUCHED AND LAUGH AT THE SENTIMENT.

EMMA

Awww, you didn't have to.

JOEL

From what I gather... I did.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

INT. THE DIGITAL DEPARTMENT - THE NEXT DAY (D5)

JOEL APPROACHES EMMA, CLARK AND DWAYNE AROUND A COMPUTER.

JOEL

How is my article doing?

EMMA

340,000 views so far.

JOEL

Great! Right? Sounds like a lot.

CLARK

It's...

JOEL

What?

CLARK

Well, Dwayne's online poll about your article has 900,000 views.

JOEL

What poll?

DWAYNE

(PROUD) What celebrity looks most like a bear?

JOEL

Guys, are you serious? (LOOKS AT COMPUTER)
I thought we talked about stupid polls like this-- (THEN) Oh my god, Drake looks exactly like a baby bear!

DWAYNE

I know, right?!!

DWAYNE HUGS JOEL AS WE...

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW