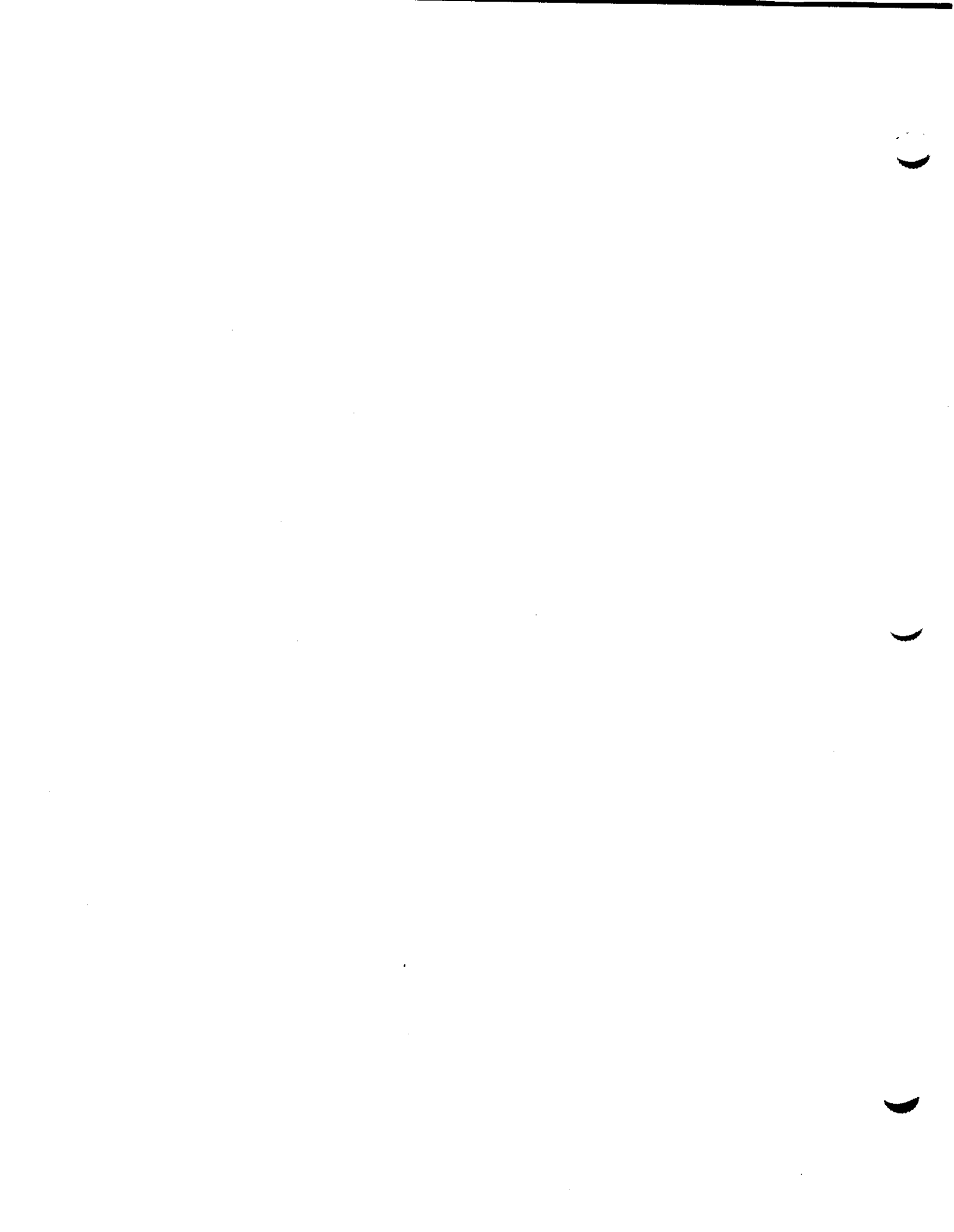


C In Good Company

Written
by

Paul Weitz



A digital alarm clock hits 4:30 AM. The first note of a SONG, the CREDITS MUSIC, starts as a hand turns off the alarm clock.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

DAN FOREMAN, age 51, gets out of bed. His wife Ann, 46, mumbles, doesn't open her eyes.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A light goes on in a window.

INT. DAN'S BATHROOM - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Dan shaves, showers, it's still dark outside. He looks at the grey in his hair.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Dan gets dressed in the dark. Puts on his tie. Kisses Ann on the forehead. Behind Ann is a picture of Dan's family. Dan tiptoes out.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Dan drinks coffee. On a small TV behind him, a business channel is on. We see anti-WTO riots. Bill Gates. Images of computer chips being manufactured in India. Dan turns the SOUND UP as a new story comes on, the GLOBECOM logo with MERGER RUMORS as a headline.

NEWS ANCHOR

After months of speculation,
analysts expect an announcement
this week that Globecom
International will acquire Waterman
Publishing and its flagship
magazine, Sports America.

Dan's attention is caught.

NEWS ANCHOR

The man at the helm of Globecom, billionaire media magnate Teddy K, has been on a spending spree recently -- acquiring a food service company, a cable operator, and two telecommunications providers in deals totaling more than 13 billion dollars.

(pause)

And, how did one lucky ferret owner come to own the largest dog-treat manufacturer on the east coast?

Dan turns off the TV. He dumps the used coffee grains in the trash, where he sees the box for...a "Home Pregnancy Test Kit". He lifts it out of the garbage. Glances over at a picture of his daughter Alex in tennis gear on the fridge. Fear washes over his face.

Lights sweep over the window. A car horn BEEPS. Dan looks at his watch.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE, SUBURBS - EARLY MORNING - NIGHT

Dan gets in a cab.

EXT. AIRPORT - MORNING

A plane takes off.

EXT. KALB AUTOMOTIVE - DAY

Dan gets out of a rental car.

INT. KALB'S OFFICE - DAY

EUGENE KALB is sixty-something, the CEO of Kalb Automotive. He shakes hands with Dan.

KALB

Thanks for the Lakers tickets. The seats were great, and I'm sick of my damn luxury box.

DAN

I hope Taylor had a fun birthday party.

KALB

(smiles)

My grandson had a terrific time. But I still don't want to advertise in the magazine. My son-in-law tells me people don't read anymore. Too much effort moving the eyes back and forth. We're putting our budget into TV, radio and internet.

A pause. We're ready for Dan to launch into a big pitch.

DAN

Okay.

KALB

"Okay?" What does that mean?

DAN

I'm not going to try to sell you.

KALB

Why the hell not? You're a salesman, aren't you?

DAN

Yes. I'm just not a very good one.

KALB

I'll say.

DAN

(laughs)

But I am going to ask you one favor.

Dan takes an issue of SPORTS AMERICA magazine out of his briefcase.

DAN

I'm going to leave you an issue of the magazine. And I'll personally send you a new one every week. I'll call you again in a few weeks, and if you want to, we'll talk. There's a pretty good article comparing today's quarterbacks with Jonny Unitas.

KALB

There's no comparison. Unitas would kick their butts.

(MORE)

KALB (cont'd)
(holds up magazine)
So this is your sales pitch?

DAN
Yeah. I've worked at the magazine
for over twenty years, and I
believe in it.

KALB
Good for you. You worried about
all these rumors that your parent
company's gonna be sold?

DAN
Not really. Can't see how it would
affect me.

KALB
Well, hopefully it won't.
(gets up)
You know, that Teddy K. character
offered to buy my business a few
years ago. Wanted to merge us with
Pep Boys. I told him to screw
himself...who knows, maybe I was
dumb. My son-in-law says I'm a
dinosaur.

DAN
Hey, don't knock the dinosaurs.
They ruled the earth for millions
of years. They must have been doing
something right.

Kalb laughs. The two of them shake hands.

INT. GLOBECOM CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

CLOSEUP ON a DINOSAUR, or, more accurately, a cell-phone
shaped like a dinosaur, held by CARTER DURYEA, 26, a young
executive.

CARTER
We will never be able to reach this
significant, untapped market unless
we learn to think like them. In
point of fact, less than .05
percent of all cell phone users are
currently beneath the age of five
years old.

(MORE)

CARTER (cont'd)
 The Triceratops phone, the T-Rex
 phone, and the Pterodactyl phone
 are going to change all that.
 And...each phone will have its own
 unique ring.

The cell phone ROARS like a dinosaur.

CARTER
 (little kid voice)
 Mommy...I want one...buy me one for
 Christmas...

At the end of the conference table sits STECKLE, the boss of
 this group of young marketing execs.

STECKLE
 P.F.G., Carter. P.F.G.

YOUNG EXEC #1
 (whispers to Carter)
 What's P.F.G?

CARTER
 Pretty frigging good.

Carter makes the phone ROAR again. Steckle looks up from
 checking the email on his handheld blackberry.

STECKLE
 Gentlemen, ladies, I have an
 announcement to make. It's on.
 Teddy K. has busted his move, and
 we are taking over Waterman
 Publishing.

The room ERUPTS IN APPLAUSE.

STECKLE
 The man has vision. He's a maniac.
 And I guess it's okay for me to
 tell you, Teddy K has personally
 asked me to go over there and turn
 around marketing in the magazine
 division. So, if you'll excuse me.
 Carry on.

Steckle gets up and leaves the meeting. Everyone starts
 talking.

YOUNG EXEC #1
 (excited, to Carter)
 Waterman Publishing -- wow --

CARTER
Yeah, yeah, yeah --

Carter hurries out the door.

INT. GLOBECOM HALLWAY - DAY

Carter follows Steckle down the hall.

CARTER
Mark! Mark!

He catches up with him, dodging past other people in the hall.

CARTER
Okay, so you're taking me with you.
You have to take me with you.

STECKLE
Carter, I'm gonna take that place
and whip its fat ass into shape...
And...

CARTER
And?

STECKLE
And I want you to come run ad sales
at Sports America.

CARTER
I knew it!

STECKLE
The magazine's a cash cow. It's
the cornerstone. I mentioned your
name to Teddy K. He liked what you
did with cell phones.

CARTER
Wait, hold up. Teddy K. knows my
name?

STECKLE
I'm going to tell you something and
I don't want it to go to your head.
(pause)
You're being groomed.

CARTER
I'm being groomed?
(pause)
Mark, thank you. I am going to
kick so much ass for you. I will
take no prisoners. I will be your
ninja assassin!

STECKLE
(cheerful)
Wow, you're the new me!
(beat, dead serious)
No. I'm the new me.
(smiles)
Congratulations!

Steckle walks off. Carter gives a KARATE KICK.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALEX, Dan's 18 year old daughter, lies in bed, awake. She has a tennis ball in her hand. She tosses it up in the air, catches it with the same hand, repeating the motion over and over.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A cab pulls up, drops Dan off.

INT. DAN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Going through the kitchen. Dan pauses, looks into the wastebasket. The pregnancy kit is gone.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Dan goes down the hall, opens a door, looks into his 16 year old daughter JANA's room. She's sleeping. He closes the door again. Continues down the hall, takes a deep breath, and looks in on Alex's room.

INT. ALEX'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

ALEX looks up from her bed.

ALEX
Hey, Dad.

DAN
Hey, button. What are you doing
awake?

ALEX
(shrugs)
Couldn't sleep.

DAN
Couldn't sleep? Why? You worrying
about something?

ALEX
Not really.

DAN
Cause if you are worried about
something...you know you can always
talk to me. Remember, when you
were little, we made a deal, we'd
always be honest with each other.

ALEX
(laughs)
Yeah...I actually am a little
tired. We're still playing
tomorrow, right?

DAN
Sure.

ALEX
Alright, I'll see you then.
(turns off the light)
Love you.

DAN
(stands there a moment)
Love you too.

He closes the door, heading to his bedroom.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dan's wife ANN, 46, looks up as Dan changes out of his travel
clothes.

ANN
What time is it? Hi, sweetheart.

DAN
Little after three. Sorry I woke
you up. Go back to sleep.

Dan gets in bed beside her. He kisses her shoulder. She
kisses him back.

ANN
You're not tired?

DAN
Not really....Honey, does
umm...does Alex have a new
boyfriend?

ANN
Uh, no, not that I know of. Why?

DAN
Well...no reason. What about that
Myron kid?

ANN
(kisses him)
I think they're just friends.
(pause)
I'm pregnant --

DAN
What?!
(pause)
I'm sorry, I thought you said you
were pregnant.
(she nods)
You can't be pregnant.

ANN
I know, but I am.

DAN
But -- How did that happen?

ANN
Well, I think you were there too.

DAN
No, honey. You're done with all
that.

ANN
That's what Dr. Steinberg said,
but...I guess he was wrong.

DAN
 Are you sure?
 (she nods)
 Holy crap...holy crap! Does it
 feel like a boy?

ANN
 Right now it feels like a stomach
 flu.

DAN
 You can't be serious. Are you
 serious?
 (beat)
 Alright...alright. This is going
 to be fine. When he's twenty-one,
 I'll be...seventy-two.

ANN
 Three.

DAN
 Two.

ANN
 Three.

DAN
 Holy crap.

Dan lays back in bed, staring anxiously up at the ceiling.

INT. CARTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

CARTER (O.S.)
 I am so excited.

Carter is lying in bed with his (newlywed) wife Kimberly.
 He's on his back. She's facing away from him.

CARTER
 I am just so damn excited. Is this
 excitement contagious, or what?

KIMBERLY
 No.

CARTER
 I'm being groomed. I am being
 groomed. Do you understand what
 that means?

KIMBERLY

That you're a chimpanzee?

CARTER

It means...well, it means we're on the road. It's all falling into place. We can get a bigger house. We can have kids. I mean, we have a life going on here!

KIMBERLY

Carter, it's three AM. How much more enthusiasm are we looking at here? Fifteen minutes? An hour?

CARTER

I don't know, I'm sorry, it's just...Teddy K. knows my name.

KIMBERLY

Are you even qualified for this job?

CARTER

What? Sure. Selling cell phones, selling ad space, it's all the same crap. Anyway, it's just a stepping stone.

EXT. CARTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The lone light goes off.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

CU on computer monitor (spatially same as house) showing news of GlobeCom's takeover of Waterman Publishing. PULL OUT to reveal everyone freaking out in office. MORTY, middle aged, dapper, and morbid, is saying to anyone who will listen (at the moment, THEO, another salesman):

MORTY

We're all going to get fired.

THEO

Anything's possible.

MORTY

It's not possible, it's probable.

LOUIE, barrel chested, frenetic, comes down the hall with ALICIA, a sales woman.

LOUIE
Have you heard about this Teddy K
guy?

ALICIA
Everyone's heard of him --

LOUIE
I hear he's an albino, but he
covers it up with makeup!

MORTY
Hey, Alicia! Alicia? Are you
fired yet?

ALICIA
What? No! Why, are you fired?

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

A placard on the desk reads DAN FOREMAN -- VP AD SALES. Dan's office has a great view of the city. It's decorated with the memorabilia from Dan's more than twenty years at Sports America.

Dan sits with his boss, ENRIQUE.

DAN
I'm sorry, are you -- are you
saying I'm fired?

ENRIQUE
Not yet, not yet, Dan. But I can't
predict the future. The thing is,
you're not head of ad sales
anymore. Carter Duryea is.

DAN
Who the hell is Carter Duryea?

ENRIQUE
Some hotshot from GlobeCom. This
is a bummer, Dan. A real bummer.
But you're lucky. A lot of people
are getting canned immediately,
across the company.

DAN
Are you getting fired?

ENRIQUE

Me? No.

DAN

We had our biggest year ever this year. My team works incredibly hard. I'm not going to put up with this.

ENRIQUE

You have to put up with it. I mean, what are you gonna do, start somewhere new? You're not a kid anymore. You know how tough it is out there. Places are cutting back, they're not looking for guys like you who make a decent salary. Hey, I'm as pissed off about this as you are.

DAN

So then why are you smiling?

ENRIQUE

I'm not smiling.

DAN

Your lips are curling up.

ENRIQUE

They do that naturally, Dan.

EXT. MADISON AVE - DAY

Dan's older daughter, Alex, walks into the Waterman Publishing building.

INT. LOBBY, WATERMAN PUBLISHING BUILDING - DAY

Alex gets into an elevator. She's holding a tennis racket. Behind her, Carter HURRIES towards the elevator.

CARTER

Hold up! Please.

Alex uses her racket to hold the door open.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Carter and Alex are alone in the elevator. Alex pushes the button for the 47th floor.

CARTER
47. Going to the Sports America offices?

ALEX
Yup.

CARTER
...What are you, an intern?

ALEX
No. My Dad works there...Are you interning there?

CARTER
I'm starting a new job there.

ALEX
Oh. Cool. Congratulations. That's awesome.

CARTER
Thank you.
(pause)
To be honest, I'm scared shitless. I have no idea what I'm doing.

Alex laughs.

CARTER
Don't tell anyone, okay?

ALEX
(laughs)
Okay. I won't.

She smiles at him. He smiles back. The elevator reaches the floor, the door opens, and Carter's expression turns to one of confidence.

CARTER
After you.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE, BY DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Theo, a salesman, passes by Dan.

THEO
Dan, your daughter's here.

DAN
She is?

Dan starts down the hall.

ALICIA
Hey, Boss, what's this takeover
gonna mean for our stock options?

DAN
I have no idea. And don't call me
"Boss".

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE, HALLWAY - DAY

From the other direction comes Carter, led by DEBRA, the
receptionist.

DEBRA
(kissing ass)
So nice to meet you, Mr. Colon's
very excited to work with you --

As Dan passes Morty's office, Morty yells to Dan.

MORTY
Dan, you hear anything new? Are we
all fired?

DAN
(distracted)
Can't talk now, Morty --

His head turned towards Morty, DAN WALKS RIGHT INTO CARTER.
It's a real COLLISION. Debra gives a GASP.

CARTER
OOOF!

DAN
Sorry!

CARTER
No, I'm sorry. You alright?

DAN
I'm fine. It was my fault. You
okay?

CARTER
I think so. No broken bones.

DAN
Alright, then. No harm, no foul.

Dan moves on towards the reception area.

INT. RECEPTION, SPORTS AMERICA - DAY

Dan walks up to Alex.

ALEX
Hey, Dad.

DAN
Hey, champ. What are you doing here?

ALEX
Umm, tennis, remember?

DAN
Oh, yeah. Sorry.

ALEX
Is today no good for you?

DAN
(beat)
No, it's fine. Heck with it.
Let's go.

EXT. ROOFTOP TENNIS COURT - DAY

Dan and Alex are playing tennis on a rooftop court. Alex SERVES. Dan gets a racket on it, but just barely. The ball goes FLYING.

In fact, she is an awesome tennis player, running Dan ragged around the court. Dan tries to reach a crosscourt shot and tumbles to the ground.

ALEX
You okay?

Dan looks over at his daughter, and does some PUSHUPS.

AFTER their match, they sit on a bench. Dan is drenched.

ALEX
You sort of sucked today.

DAN
I was holding back, to build up
your confidence.

ALEX
Yeah right. You're gettin' old.

DAN
Thank you.

ALEX
Dad, remember how I was saying
maybe I'd want to transfer to NYU?
Well...I got in.

DAN
To NYU? Sweetheart, that's
fantastic!
(beat)
But that means...you'd have to live
in the city.

ALEX
Yeah...I want to study creative
writing, and NYU has a great
program.

DAN
How about the tennis team?

ALEX
Dad...I'm not going to be a
professional tennis player.

DAN
Well look, button, it's almost as
tough being a writer. Living in
the city, I don't think it's such a
great idea. It can be really
lonely, you need street smarts. I
just don't think it's a great idea.

ALEX
But I want to try living in the
city. I know NYU's a lot more
expensive. But it would be such a
good experience.

DAN

Yeah. It is more expensive, but...

(pause)

It's your education, that's the most important thing...We can manage it.

She hugs him, elated. Over Alex's shoulder, Dan's face falls, the pressure getting the best of him.

ALEX

(laughs)

Yech, you're like drenched.

When Alex pulls back, he smiles for her sake.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

Enrique is going down the hall, showing Carter around.

ENRIQUE

This is Morty Wexler. Morty, Carter Duryea.

CARTER

You're on the Ford account, right?

MORTY

Correct.

CARTER

Great to meet you.

MORTY

You too. I'm really looking forward to working with you!

Enrique and Carter move on. Louie comes out of his office.

LOUIE

(in a mincing voice,
imitating Morty)

"I'm really looking forward to working with you."

Louie makes an "ass-kissing" sound.

MORTY

Bite me.

Further down the hall, Enrique leads Carter towards DAN'S OFFICE.

ENRIQUE

We have a terrific office for you,
great view. But it's not cleared
out yet.

Enrique takes Carter into DAN'S OFFICE.

ENRIQUE

Not bad, hunh? Excuse me a second,
I'm just going to use the little
boy's room.

Enrique leaves Carter in Dan's comfortable office. Carter
looks at the view.

CARTER

(impressed)

Tasty.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE, HALLWAY - DAY

Dan comes back into the office, showered and clean after his
game.

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Carter is still waiting for Enrique. He is glancing at Dan's
FAMILY PHOTOS, as well as photos of Dan with sports stars,
etc. when Dan comes in.

DAN

Can I help you?

CARTER

Oh! Sorry, this is your office.

DAN

Yeah.

(beat)

You're the guy I bumped into.

CARTER

Yes. You must be Dan Foreman.

(smiles)

Hi, I'm Carter Duryea.

DAN

You're Carter Duryea?

CARTER

Yes. Great to meet you.

DAN
The Carter Duryea who's coming in
to run ad sales?

CARTER
Correct.

Carter puts his hand out.

DAN
How old are you?

CARTER
Me? I'm twenty-six.

DAN
You're twenty-six...

Dan shakes his hand.

DAN
...and you're my new boss.

CARTER
I guess so...
(wincing)
Hey, that's some...Kung-Fu Grip
you've got there.

Dan lets go of his hand.

DAN
So what kind of experience do you
have in ad sales?

CARTER
Not much.

DAN
How much?

CARTER
None.

DAN
None. Well, that's not much.

CARTER
I'm a fast learner. So now you
know how old I am. How old are
you?

DAN
I'm fifty-one.

CARTER
Wow, that's -- that's crazy.
You're one year older than my
father.

Enrique comes in.

ENRIQUE
Great, you two have met!

CARTER
Yeah, we're good pals already.
(smiles)
Well, nice to meet you.

DAN
Un-hunh. It was a pleasure.

ENRIQUE
Dan, you want this door closed?

DAN
Yeah, why don't you go ahead and
close it.

They exit, Enrique closing the door behind them.

Dan picks up an AUTOGRAPHED BASEBALL.

Across the room is a silver trophy-plate reading "1987
SALESMAN OF THE YEAR".

He takes aim, and WHIPS THE BALL AT THE PLATE, SENDING IT
FLYING.

INT. HALLWAY BY DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

A plate reading DAN FOREMAN, VICE PRESIDENT AD SALES is slid
out of its holder as MOVING MEN transfer Dan's stuff to a
smaller office. Dan steps into his new office, watching the
boxes pile up.

EXT. PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - DAY

Carter walks with a well-dressed man, an uncle, perhaps? The
man looks proud of him.

CARTER

It was pretty unexpected. It's like a pretty big promotion.

PORSCHE DEALER

Wow! That's fantastic! Way to go.

The camera reveals that he is in a Porsche dealership. The man accompanying him is a salesman.

PORSCHE DEALER

(stops in front of a car)
So, the Boxster S-type has more guts. You'll sure feel the extra horsepower. But if you really want to go, I'd say take the Nine Eleven Carrera.

CARTER

(considers)

I'll take the Nine Eleven.

INT. PORSCHE - DAY

Carter tries out the stereo. The cup holders. The seat warmer.

EXT. PORSCHE DEALERSHIP LOT - LATER

Carter ZOOMS out of the lot in a new, black Porsche Carrera.

INT. PORSCHE 911 - DAY

CARTER

NICE! TASTY!

Carter is checking himself out in the mirror, distracted, when --

EXT. STREET BY PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - DAY

An SUV SLAMS into the front of his car.

INT. PORSCHE 911 - DAY

The AIRBAG SLAMS Carter back into his seat.

CARTER

Mmmff --

EXT. STREET BY PORSCHE DEALERSHIP - DAY

The Porsche sits there, its front left side CRUMPLED. The SUV driver puts down his cellphone.

SUV DRIVER

I'll call you back.

(calls out)

Jackass!

EXT. CARTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The damaged Porsche pulls up into Carter's driveway. Carter gets out, his arm in a sling.

INT. CARTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Carter walks in, noticing a couple of SUITCASES by the door.

Kimberly is standing there.

KIMBERLY

Hi.

CARTER

Hi. I uh...I hurt my arm. But I'm okay.

KIMBERLY

I'm glad you're okay. Carter...

She nods to the suitcases.

CARTER

Kim...Kimmy...Again? Come on. Seven months. We've been married seven months. I know things have been a bit off. I've been putting in crazy hours at my job. I know we should have -- we should have gone on a real honeymoon, that was my fault. I should have -- I should have shut off that cell phone -- that thing was ringing off the hook! The good thing is, I can change. This has been a great lesson to me. Thank you.

KIMBERLY
Don't try to sell me, Carter.

CARTER
(plowing on)
Kim, I love you. I want to have children with you.

KIMBERLY
But I don't want to have children with you. I don't even know if I want to have children, period. I told you that. I told you on our second date.

CARTER
I thought you were joking.

KIMBERLY
Carter...is this really such a surprise to you?

CARTER
...Are you...sleeping with someone else?

KIMBERLY
...I was. But I broke up with him.

Carter bursts out laughing.

CARTER
Wow, that must have been rough on him!

She goes and picks up her bags.

KIMBERLY
I'll be at my parents. They're really excited to have me back.

Carter covers his face. We hear a HEARTBEAT.

INT. OBSTETRICIAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dan stares nervously at Ann as the obstetrician listens for the baby's heartbeat with a "stereo" stethoscope.

OBSTETRICIAN
We're gonna hear two heartbeats now, that strong slower one is yours, mom.

Dan listens as A STRONG, STEADY HEARTBEAT is heard over the scope's amplifier. The obstetrician fishes around.

A QUIETER, FASTER HEARTBEAT is heard beside the bass drum of Ann's pulse.

OBSTETRICIAN

And that...that's your baby's heartbeat.

ANN

Oh my God...

Ann smiles, looking up at Dan, who is looking pale.

OBSTETRICIAN

Nice strong heartbeat. That's your new baby, Dan.

Dan looks stressed out. Subjectively, with Dan, we hear an IRREGULAR beat joining the other beats. He tries to smile, grimacing instead.

ANN

Dan?

DAN

Yes?

ANN

Are you okay?

DAN

Yeah...that's...fantastic...I'm --
I just feel a little -- you know --

CUT TO: Dan's shirt is open, and the doctor is listening to DAN'S HEARTBEAT.

OBSTETRICIAN

Well, you are having a little bit of arrhythmia. Have you been drinking a lot of caffeine? Are you under a lot of stress?

DAN

Well...I did sort of get demoted at work.

OBSTETRICIAN

Ah.

ANN
You what?

DAN
(nods, tries to smile)
We'll talk.

Ann looks shocked.

INT. PORSCHE IN DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

CU McDonalds wrapper on the passenger seat.

Carter sits alone in his Porsche outside his house.

He reclines the car seat as far back as it will go (which isn't far). He curls up to try to sleep in the Porsche.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

A Grande cup of STARBUCKS coffee is drained by Carter.
Carter's assistant, SAMMY, comes up to him holding a new cup.

SAMMY
Another?

CARTER
Yeah, don't even ask, just keep it coming.

Carter starts on the next cappuccino as he goes to the head of a long conference table. The entire sales team, as well as everyone's secretaries, and even a couple of the janitorial staff, are gathered. Dan sits among the rest of the sales team.

CARTER
How was everyone's weekend? Good?
(puts his face in his hand)
I'm sorry, that was...

An uncomfortable pause, as Carter gathers himself.

CARTER
All right! I'd like to thank everyone for joining me. As most of you know, my name's Carter Duryea and I am really excited to be working with such a great group of people.

(MORE)

CARTER (cont'd)

Like Teddy K. says, what makes
Globecom great...is the men and
women...of Globecom -- is it like a
thousand degrees in here, or is it
me?

(beat)

It's me.

Morty looks at Dan, concerned.

CARTER

Now I've been given an agenda here,
and you're gonna learn this about
me, I'm a machine...

(Carter blanks)

What was I saying?

ALICIA

An agenda?

CARTER

Agenda, yes. In order to achieve
the goals that have been set out
for us, we are going to have to
increase ad pages by 20 percent.

There is a MURMUR in the room. Carter sucks down some more
coffee.

MORTY

(whispers to Louie)

Shit, I knew it.

DAN

(with disbelief)

Twenty percent? Carter, only a
start up magazine can do that.

CARTER

Well I think this team can do it.

MORTY

(tentative)

Uh...How?

DAN

(automatic)

Well, Morty --

CARTER

(cuts him off)

Good question. And the answer...

(an epiphany)

...is synergy.

(MORE)

CARTER (cont'd)

To take it to the next level, we need to team up, we need to synchronize, we need to synergize! We're not alone here. We're not alone! We are now part of one of the biggest multimedia and brand name companies in the universe. Let's take advantage of that. Did you know that one of our sister companies makes Krispity Krunch?

Silence.

DAN

So?

CARTER

So we talk to our brothers and sisters at Krispity Krunch, and we make a deal to supply Sports Factoids for their boxes, so when Joe Couch Potato is snacking, what does he see? Sports America Krispity Krunch Sports Factoids! He's definitely getting more Krispity Krunch, and he's definitely not getting Krunch 'n' Krackle, which looks and tastes exactly the same, but has no sports Factoids. Krispity Krunch is so pleased with the idea that they guarantee twenty-six pages a year. Besides which, they know Teddy K. Is gonna be pissed if they don't pony up. Bingo -- synergy!

DAN

Isn't that cheating?

CARTER

Hell no! And you know what else? We also own Starline Cell Phones. What do we put on their browser?

DAN

Factoids?

CARTER

Yes! Factoids! Synergy! You know what else? Box scores! And ads! We make a deal where one-hundred thousand hits on the internet has an equivalent value of one ad page in our hard copy.

(MORE)

CARTER (cont'd)

Are you getting it, people? The magazine is now just a sort of portal to a synergized world of cross-promotion! Let's open things wide here, people! Let's get psyched!

Come on, let's take the plunge, let's embrace something new!

(pointing)

Louie, are you psyched about this?

LOUIE

...I'm psyched.

CARTER

Okay. Alicia, are you psyched?

ALICIA

Absolutely.

CARTER

You...what's your name?

MAINTENANCE GUY

Hector. I'm in maintenance.

CARTER

Oh. That's cool. Hector, I know you're psyched.

MAINTENANCE GUY

I'M PSYCHED!

CARTER

Alright, Hector's psyched! And if Hector's psyched, then I'm psyched! I am psyched for this team! Who else is psyched!

People call out "I'm psyched!"

MORTY

(leans over to Louie)

Who do you think will be the first to get canned?

LOUIE

(whispers)

My bet's on Dan. He's prehistoric.

INT. JAPANESE RESTAURANT - DAY

Carter and Dan sit at a sushi restaurant. Carter's LEG BOUNCES with nervous energy.

CARTER

I'm glad you could join me for lunch, Dan. Do you like sushi?

DAN

I'll stick with the teriyaki.

CARTER

You should try some! The spicy tuna roll is awesome here. Here, try it!

Carter holds out his plate, which is covered with sushi.

CARTER

Get that. Get that. Go fishin' man.

Dan looks at it a moment, then takes a bite.

DAN

(hates it)

Mmm -- yeah. Really...raw.

CARTER

(talks over him)

So I wanted to talk to you, because the increase in ad pages is only part of the equation in terms of achieving the bottom line my bosses want me to hit. I'm also going to have to get rid of 300 K salary from the sales team, immediately.

DAN

Carter, I don't make that much money.

CARTER

I know what you make, Dan.

DAN

Alright. Well.

(gets up)

I wish you told me I was fired before I ate the goddam fish.

CARTER

Hey, hold on a second, I'm not letting you go here.

DAN

You're not?

CARTER

No. Look, you're an excellent salesman, you ran a good team, and I think there's the potential for you to be an awesome wing man.

DAN

An awesome wing man. Well, Carter, I can see the benefit to you in having an awesome wing man. But what's the benefit to me, at this point in my career, in being an awesome wing man?

CARTER

Well, one benefit, at this point in your career, is you get to keep your job. That's a pretty good benefit, don't you think?

Dan stands there, considering.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

The salesman are hushed, as SWEARING is heard from down the hall, behind the closed door of Carter's (Dan's old) office.

ENRIQUE (O.S.)

Are you smiling? You're smiling at me -- you think this is funny!

Enrique emerges from Carter's office.

ENRIQUE

That A-HOLE. We'll see how soon this place goes down the SHITTER without me! That LITTLE, SNOT-NOSED BRAT!

Enrique STORMS past where Morty and Dan are drinking coffee. Morty raises his eyebrows at Dan.

MORTY

Maybe there is justice in the world.

Enrique pushes past a group of eavesdropping salespeople on his way to the elevator.

ENRIQUE

You enjoying yourselves? Great.

As Enrique leaves, Alicia and Theo do a little high-five.

INT. CARTER'S (DAN'S OLD) OFFICE - DAY

Having just fired Enrique, Carter sags, leaning his head against the closed door.

MUSIC RISES over the following montage.

INT. DAN'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

Dan puts a copy of the magazine into a Fedex packet to send to EUGENE KALB in Los Angeles.

Sammy, Carter's twenty-something assistant, appears at his door.

SAMMY

(snappy)

Carter's ready for you.

INT. CARTER'S (DAN'S OLD) OFFICE - DAY

The office is empty and stark, absent the clutter of Dan's pictures and memorabilia. Carter hands Dan a booklet of forms in the Globecom blue color.

CARTER

Dan, I'd like you to fill this out,
please --

Carter sees Dan glance at the lone photo on his shelf -- a picture of Kimberly. Carter turns the picture over on its face.

CARTER

It's a 360 evaluation.

DAN

And that is?

CARTER

It's a self-evaluation. They call it 360 because it's supposed to be from every angle. It's corporate policy. It'd be great if you have it on Monday.

Carter pats Dan on the arm, dismissing him.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Carter addresses a group of buyers, Dan at his side.

CARTER

If you want to get aggressive, if you want to reach that core demographic --

DAN

I believe --

CARTER

(cuts him off)

Not now, Dan.

(to buyers)

Sports America is the top magazine, boys twelve to eighteen, in the country.

Dan deflates a little.

INT. CARTER'S (DAN'S OLD) OFFICE - NIGHT

Late at night. A janitor goes by as Carter works late.

INT. CARTER'S HOUSE - DAY

CLOSEUP PROFILE Carter runs against a jungle background. For a moment it looks as if he's out in the wild. He has a phone to his ear.

KIM'S VOICE (O.S.)

Hi, leave me a message! Or don't.

BEEP.

We PULL BACK, revealing Carter is jogging on a treadmill by his flat-screen TV, which has a nature show on.

CARTER
(leaving message)
Hi, it's me. I mean, you know it's
me, I guess I'm...filling up the
old mailbox...anyway, call me back.
Or don't.

He hangs up. Looks at the phone again.

INT. CARTER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Carter squats in front of a fish tank with a single goldfish
in it. He TAPS the tank, trying to get the fish's attention.

CARTER
Here boy. Here boy. Here.

INT. CARTER'S HOUSE - DAY

Carter is back on the treadmill, calling an old friend.

CARTER
Oh, hi, Mrs. Charneski, is Jeff
there? Oh, he did? Okay, well,
please tell him Carter said hi.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, SUBURBS

Dan sits watching TV. The PHONE RINGS.

DAN
Hello?

INT. CARTER'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Carter waves at the goldfish.

CARTER
Here boy. HEY.

The fish is oblivious.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Dan sits eating popcorn, watching TV. The phone rings.

CARTER (O.S.)
Hey, Dan! Carter here.

DAN

Who?

CARTER (O.S.)

(chuckles)

Carter Duryea. Listen, I'd like to get the group together tomorrow and go over some business development ideas.

DAN

Tomorrow's Sunday.

CARTER (O.S.)

Right! We'd get a great jump on the week. I'm not talking the whole day, just the afternoon, meet at noon, I'll order some sushi, it'll be fun. Great!

Carter hangs up. Dan looks at the phone, shocked.

EXT. MADISON AVE - DAY

Dan walks up to the building on Sunday, looking angry.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

Dan walks into the Sports America office. It's empty.

INT. CARTER'S (DAN'S OLD) OFFICE - DAY

Carter sits at his desk, pressing his fingers into his eyes.

STECKLE (O.S.)

What the hell are you doing?

From Carter's POV, we see Steckle in double.

CARTER

Uh, nothing, just...seeing stars. You ever do that?

STECKLE

Yeah, when I was three.

CARTER

What are you doing here on a Sunday?

STECKLE

Sunday is a fun day to kick some
ass.

CARTER

Absolutely. Hey, my team's coming
in. Dan Foreman's here, you should
meet him.

STECKLE

Yeah, I'd rather not get personally
involved. Didn't we decide to let
him go?

CARTER

No, I let go of Enrique Colon
instead, remember?

STECKLE

Oh, yeah, that's right. Did a
little "Colon Cleansing". Get it?

CARTER

(laughs)

That's good. Hey, you want to have
dinner tonight?

STECKLE

Wish I could, but I'm flying to
Berlin to meet with some of our
satellite guys.

CARTER

(disappointed)

Oh. That's too bad.

STECKLE

Why? Something wrong?

CARTER

No, just...

(beat)

Ah, my wife and I are having a few
problems...

STECKLE

Okay, gotta go. Look, you're gonna
have to riff some more people.

CARTER

Riff them?

STECKLE
Reduction in forces. Shitcan them.

CARTER
Listen, I -- I think we can get
pages up, so we don't have to riff
anyone yet.

STECKLE
Fine. But sooner or later, we all
have to deal with reality.

Steckle leaves.

INT. HALL BY CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

Night. A group of salesmen are leaving the imposed Sunday meeting. Carter stands outside the door, still full of energy, saying goodbye as everyone finally leaves to go home.

CARTER
Great work, thanks for coming in!
Night, Morty! Night Louie! What
are you guys up to? Want to go out
for a beer?

LOUIE
I'd love to, but I'm a recovering
alcoholic.

CARTER
Oh. Better not then. Morty?

MORTY
I'd better get home for dinner. My
wife is slowly poisoning me to
death, and she gets very angry if
I'm late.

CARTER
(beat)
Okay. No problemo. Alicia?

ALICIA
No, I have to get home and do my
hair.

CARTER
Hey, Dan, want to grab a beer?

DAN
I have to go have dinner with my
family.
(joking)
You want to have dinner with my
family?

CARTER
(quickly)
Sure! That would be great! Thanks
a lot! Just let me get my stuff
together.

DAN
Hey, wait --

But Carter is already off. Dan is surprised and annoyed that Carter is taking him up on his mock offer.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE, SUBURBS - NIGHT

Carter's unwashed, dented Porsche pulls up to the house. Carter has a lead foot on the brakes.

DAN
Who taught you how to drive?

CARTER
Uh, no one.

DAN
No kidding.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ann comes out from the kitchen as Dan and Carter come in.

CARTER
Now this is a house! I mean, like
a home-type house, you know what I
mean?

DAN
Yes. Sweetheart, this is Carter
Duryea from the office.

ANN
(fake smile)
Oh. Hello. Nice to meet you.

CARTER
Hi, Mrs. Foreman. Thanks so much
for having me in your home.

Carter HUGS Ann, who is taken by surprise.

ANN
Uhh -- You're very welcome. I hope
you like baked ziti.

CARTER
I love baked ziti. Baked ziti.
Exactly! That is exactly what I
need. Fantastic. Home cooking.
Awesome.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ann and Dan are in the kitchen.

ANN
Is there something wrong with him?

DAN
Clearly. Let's just feed him and
get him the hell out of here.

ANN
He really is young. At least, a
lot younger than you.

DAN
Thanks for that.

ANN
I did the numbers on NYU today. Do
you know how expensive that school
is? Plus living expenses. Plus
Jana's orthodonture. Plus baby
costs.

DAN
Hey, don't worry about it.

ANN
That's not actually a solution to a
problem: "Don't worry about it." I
think we might have to take out a
second mortgage.

DAN

Maybe I should go into the living room and ask my boss for a raise.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Carter is looking at framed family photos on the mantle. He stares at the happy photographs, his expression is as if he's trying to decipher runes.

Alex comes down the stairs, followed by Jana.

Alex stops short.

CARTER

Oh, hi! I was just looking at you in these photographs, and you were, you've -- I never actually introduced myself in the elevator. I'm Carter Duryea --

ALEX

I know who you are. Does my Dad know you're here?

CARTER

Your Dad invited me for dinner. Technically.

JANA

Who's this?

ALEX

This is Dad's new boss.

JANA

You can't be Dad's new boss. You're too young.

ALEX

He's also "scared shitless".

CARTER

Hey. Good memory.

JANA

Plus you're too cute to be Dad's boss.

CARTER

Really? Thanks.

The PHONE RINGS.

JANA
(yells)
I'VE GOT IT!

She RUNS UPSTAIRS to answer, leaving Alex and Carter alone.

CARTER
So, how's it going?

Alex looks at him like he's weird.

ALEX
I'm okay. What are you doing here,
really?

CARTER
Really? My wife left me, and
today's the anniversary of our
first date, and I found the idea of
going home to my house to be too
depressing, so I sort of leeches
onto your Dad and invited myself
over.

ALEX
...You're sort of a bizarrely
honest guy, hunh?

CARTER
Not really. Just with you, for
some reason. Most people would
probably say I'm an anal-retentive,
emotionally guarded asshole.

The two of them stand there a moment.

ALEX
(pause)
You want to play foosball?

CARTER
Okay.

ALEX
Okay. Just let me...change.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ann is opening the oven.

DAN

You think Alex can cope with living in New York on her own?

ANN

I'm less worried about her coping with it than I am about you.

DAN

Yeah, frankly I'd rather keep her under house arrest with a homing device on her ankle.

ANN

So then why'd you agree to it without even talking to me? And why is your teenage boss here? And why do I feel so nauseous -- I hardly had any morning sickness the first two times! I'm sick of it!

DAN

Alright, alright, calm down...let me get that --

Dan GRABS THE HOT CASSEROLE DISH with his BARE HANDS --

DAN

OWW! SHIT!

He DROPS THE CASSEROLE, SHATTERING IT on the floor, splashing tomato sauce on his pants.

Ann just looks at him. Then she leans over to be sick in the sink.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, GARAGE - NIGHT

Alex is kicking Carter's ass at FOOSBALL.

ALEX

I'm just not that into tennis anymore, and what I'm really not into is being "the tennis jock," you know? It's like people don't even invite me to parties because they think I'm in training. Also there's this rumor going around that I'm a lesbian.

CARTER

That sucks. I mean -- not being a lesbian, but --

ALEX

Well, I'm not.

(she smashes the ball)

It would be one thing if I was going to go pro and make a ton of money, but I'm not at that level. I've played girls who are that level, and I'm not. Not that I'd want to be, really. Their lives have peaked by the time they're like twenty-one.

Carter retrieves the ball.

CARTER

Sometimes I wonder if my life has peaked at 26. If it's all downhill from here.

ALEX

It probably is.

CARTER

Yeah, probably.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dan is at the door, paying a pizza delivery guy.

DAN

Thanks. Keep the change.

He closes the door with his foot.

DAN

(calls upstairs)

DINNER'S READY.

JANA

(from upstairs)

I'M ON AN IMPORTANT CALL.

DAN

WITH WHO?

JANA

MY BOYFRIEND.

DAN
Your what?

Dan puts down the pizzas, picks up the phone.

DAN
Hi, this is Mr. Foreman. Who is
this, and how old are you?
(pause)
Alright, Will, I just wanted to say
that if you ever give my daughter
an alcoholic beverage or a joint, I
will hunt you down and neuter you.

JANA
DAD!!!

Dan hangs up.

DAN
DINNER'S READY.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, GARAGE - NIGHT

Dan comes into the rec room. Sees Carter and Alex RALLYING.

DAN
There you are. You kids ready to
come inside for dinner?

Dan pauses, realizing he's just called his boss a "kid" to
his face.

Alex and Carter look at each other.

INT. DAN'S DINING ROOM - NIGHT

A family tableau. Everyone talking and eating at the same
time.

CARTER
Mmm. Great pizza. Where'd you get
it?

ANN
It's from a wonderful little
Italian restaurant called Dominoes.

JANA
So are you really Dad's boss?

CARTER
 (swallows, glances at Dan)
 We're more -- colleagues.

DAN
 (takes another slice)
 That's not true. He's the boss
 man. I'm the wing man.

JANA
 Are you married? You're wearing a
 wedding ring.

CARTER
 Yeah. Sort of. Yes. Yes.

JANA
 So you're like...prematurely old.

ANN
 Jana, would you pass the pizza?

CARTER
 I've got it.

Carter REACHES FOR THE PIZZA at the same time as Jana,
 KNOCKING OVER A SODA. It SPILLS ONTO DAN'S LAP.

DAN
 DAMMIT!

CARTER
 Sorry!

DAN
 That's okay. Never mind.

CARTER
 Let me --

Carter tries to WIPE DAN'S LAP with his napkin.

DAN
 Carter, only my wife is allowed to
 touch me there. Now excuse me. I
 have to change my pants. Again.

Dan leaves the dining room. Carter smiles sheepishly.

ALEX
 (to Carter)
 Good job.

CARTER

Thanks.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Carter is leaving the house, waving goodbye. Dan and Ann are in the doorway.

CARTER

Bye, thank you so much, that was a great dinner! Terrific pepperoni.

ANN

You're very welcome.

DAN

Goodbye. Go home.

Dan shuts the door.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE, SUBURBS - NIGHT

CARTER

(to the shut door)

Thanks again.

Carter turns, goes back to his car.

Behind him, ALEX IS WATCHING HIM from the window. He glances back over his shoulder, and she DUCKS BEHIND THE DRAPE.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Alex looks a little puzzled with herself. She looks again, as...

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Carter pulls out jerkily from the house.

INT. CARTER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Carter stands in his empty living room. He tips a table lamp gently, balancing it until it falls off the table.

EXT. NYU DORM HIGH-RISE - DAY

Alex moves into her dorm. Dan unloads her stuff out of his station wagon.

EXT. TRIBECA APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

A couple of movers help Carter move into his new apartment.

INT. ALEX'S DORM - DAY

Dan carries a box past a POSTER OF A CANNABIS LEAF on another student's door. He frowns.

EXT. NYU DORM HIGH-RISE - DAY

Alex walks Dan out to his car. The two of them HUG.

DAN

Here's some pepper spray.

Dan hands her some pepper spray on a chain.

ALEX

Thanks, that's sweet.

DAN

Oh, and I've installed surveillance devices throughout the dorm so I can tell if you're doing anything bad.

ALEX

Okay.

DAN

Okay. Be careful.

Dan turns his face away, hiding his emotion, and quickly gets into his car.

EXT. BANK - DAY

Ann and Dan walk into a bank MORTGAGE LOAN office.

INT. BANK - DAY

Dan and Ann are in the BANK LOAN OFFICE, filling out forms for a second mortgage.

LOAN OFFICER
Sign here, here, and here, and
you've got your second mortgage.

Dan looks at Ann. She smiles at him, a bit ruefully.

Dan SIGNS.

INT. DIVORCE LAWYER'S OFFICE - DAY

Carter SIGNS papers.

Carter is sitting in a LAWYER'S OFFICE, filling out forms for his divorce.

DIVORCE LAWYER
Sign there, there...and there. And
it's official...

Carter FINISHES SIGNING.

DIVORCE LAWYER
You're divorced.

INT. DAN'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

Carter is in Dan's office.

CARTER
Alright, two things. First,
Steckle wants to organize a company
basketball league. I'm captain of
the sales team. You're power
forward. Second, I heard you're
taking the Rums of Jamaica guys to
a Knicks game on Wednesday night.
You should have run that by me.

DAN
Run it by you? They're my clients.

CARTER
No, they're GlobeCom clients. So
we're taking them to the Globecom
luxury suite.

DAN

These aren't luxury suite kind of guys.

CARTER

Dan, everyone is a luxury suite kind of guy. The suite's being used on Wednesday -- Teddy K's hosting Bill Clinton, Jay-Z and Kofi Annan -- so we'll take them to a concert on Thursday.

DAN

A concert?

CARTER

The thing is, we need to get them to up their buy for this year by eighteen pages. We have to start kicking some ass here, or I have to let some people go.

DAN

Why do you say "let them go?" They don't want to go. Why don't you just say "fire them?"

CARTER

Because it sounds better.

DAN

Not to the person getting fired it doesn't.

Carter looks at Dan.

EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN - NIGHT

The lights on the marquee read TONIGHT: LEGALLY DEDD.

INT. LUXURY SUITE - NIGHT

A well-stocked corporate luxury suite, high above the concert floor. Dan, Carter, Morty, Louie, and a couple of other sales people shmooze their guests from Rums of Jamaica as **HARDCORE HIP-HOP PLAYS BENEATH THEM**. A waitress in hip-hop gear serves drinks.

CORWIN, mid-fifties, black, from Philadelphia, not Jamaica, is the head ad buyer for Rums of Jamaica.

CARTER

Apparently, he was shot twelve times, and pronounced "legally dead", hence the name.

CORWIN

Someone should tell him it's spelled D-e-a-d.

DAN

They're afraid to.

CARTER

He has a number one song out right now. He's a protege of Fifty Cent.

DAN

Why don't they call him "Nickel?"

CARTER

What?

CORWIN

(laughs)

In twenty years, your jokes haven't improved.

CARTER

Anyone want another rum and coke?
Corwin?

CORWIN

Nope, I'm okay. But I am glad it's all Jamaican rum.

CARTER

Oh, this is Petey from K-JAM sneakers.

PETEY

I'm excited to talk to you about the possibility of a cross-promotion where if you buy a certain amount of Jamaican rum, you get a discount on running shoes.

CORWIN

Un-hunh...sounds like a great fit. Get a lot of drunk people running around. Hey, Dan, you want to go get some air?

DAN

Sure. I'll be back in a bit,
Carter.

CARTER

No problem. But don't be too long,
we got chimichangas on the way!

EXT. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN SEATS - NIGHT

Dan and Corwin walk on the street outside MSG.

DAN

Sorry about this concert. They
wouldn't let me just get normal
seats for the Knicks game.

CORWIN

That's okay. Dan, I've been
instructed not to advertise in
Sports America any more.

DAN

(shocked)
What?

CORWIN

We were bought out last year by a
company called Continental Brands.
Apparently, the company that bought
us and the company that bought you
guys are having a feud over
wireless communications in Europe.

DAN

Wireless communications? What the
hell does that have to do with our
business?

CORWIN

Nothing. But we have this
corporate policy now. I just found
out about it, or I wouldn't have
yanked your chain by coming here
tonight.

(sighs)

I'm sorry, Dan.

INT. BAR NEAR MSG - NIGHT

Dan and Carter sit in a bar. Carter drinks beer. Dan drinks scotch on the rocks.

DAN
We'll get those ad pages back.
We'll just have to work a little
harder to fill 'em.

CARTER
You don't get it. Steckle gave me
a bottom line. We had to increase
pages this quarter.

The drink.

CARTER
...Dan, I have to...I have to fire
Louie and Morty.

DAN
No you don't.

CARTER
Yeah, I do. We've got Alicia,
Pete, and Harry on the Ford
account. So Morty is a logical
choice. And the new woman at Pepsi
thinks Louie's a sexist, guess why?
He called her sugartits.

DAN
That idiot. Look, you can't fire
those guys. These are my guys.
They've been with me for eight
years -- I hired them at the same
time.

CARTER
I know. That's why they have big,
bloated salaries, that are not
commensurate with what they bring
in. I'm sorry.

DAN
(pause)
I've been here twenty-three years.
My salary's higher than theirs.
Why don't you just fire me?

CARTER

(angry)

You want me to fire you Dan?
Because I could.

(heated)

You have a family that loves you.
You have a new kid on the way. I
look at you sometimes, and it's
like...

(pause)

You have people who need you. You
really want to put them in jeopardy
for Morty and Louie?

Dan looks at him.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, SUBURBS - NIGHT

Dan comes up the stairs, the alcohol apparent in his plodding
walk.

Dan looks in at Jana's room.

His younger daughter sleeps peacefully.

INT. DAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Late at night. Dan sits on his bed.

Ann reaches up and touches him on the shoulder.

Then he gets in beside Ann.

She pulls him closer. He puts his hand on her belly. Ann
closes her eyes. Dan's eyes stay open.

INT. CARTER'S (DAN'S OLD) OFFICE - MORNING

Carter is sleeping on his couch. Dan comes into the office.

DAN

What are you, living here now?

CARTER

What? What time is it?

DAN

Seven AM. Look, I've been thinking
all night.

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)
And...if it has to be done...I
should be the one to do it.

INT. DAN'S NEW OFFICE - DAY

Morty and Louie sit on Dan's couch as Dan closes the blinds.

DAN
Guys, I feel...really terrible
about what I'm about to say,
but...I'm afraid you're both
being...let go.

LOUIE
Being let go? What does that mean?

DAN
It means...you're fired. Believe
me, if I had any choice in the
matter...I just thought you should
hear it from me, because I'm the
one who hired you.

LOUIE
Wait a minute, are you getting
fired too?

DAN
...No. This...this isn't my
decision.

LOUIE
Oh, so...it's not your decision so
you're not to blame.

DAN
I didn't say that.

LOUIE
I can't believe this. You were --
you were like a brother to me. I
would have stepped in front of a
bus for you, you piece of shit.
You know, you've become a real
corporate asshole.

DAN
Louie --

LOUIE
I tell you what, if you see my
friend Dan, tell him I was looking
for him.

DAN

Louie!

Louie leaves. Dan looks shocked.

MORTY

Dan...what the hell am I going to tell my wife? I mean...she already wears the pants. Now she's gonna wear the tie and jacket too.

DAN

Morty...I'm sorry.

Morty starts to cry.

MORTY

I know this must have been hard for you. You were a good boss, Dan. I mean it. You always treated everyone with respect. And...well I appreciate it.

They shake hands. Dan avoids his eyes.

Morty leaves, Dan stands at the interior window. Tries to open the blinds. Can't bring himself to.

INT. CARTER'S (DAN'S OLD) OFFICE - DAY

Carter is sitting on an exercise bike, peddling. Dan comes in, hands Carter something.

CARTER

What's this?

DAN

My 360 self-evaluation.

CARTER

...You've rated yourself "Does not meet expectations."

DAN

Yeah.

Dan turns and leaves.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

Morty leaves the office, carrying a bedraggled houseplant.

Colleagues shake his hand, hug him goodbye.

EXT. SOHO STREET - DAY

Carter walks down the street in Soho, checking out stores.
He sees Alex sitting at a cafe alone.

EXT. SOHO CAFE - DAY

Carter comes over to Alex.

CARTER
Hey! What are you doing here?

ALEX
Oh, hey! Nothing, just reading.
I'm going to NYU now.

CARTER
Awesome, you did it.

ALEX
How about you?

CARTER
I rented an apartment. In Tribeca.

ALEX
That's awesome.
(pause)
Do you drink coffee?

CARTER
No, usually I just hook up to an
IV.

EXT. CAFE TABLE - DAY (LATER)

TWO EMPTY ESPRESSO CUPS sit next to the FULL ONE Carter is nursing.

Carter is sitting with Alex at the cafe table, his leg bouncing nervously.

ALEX
You sure can pound back the
caffeine. Is that why your leg is
shaking like that?

CARTER

I think it is.

ALEX

Your wedding ring's gone.

CARTER

Uh, yeah. I am officially the first guy from my high-school class to get a divorce.

ALEX

Oh. Sorry.

CARTER

That's okay. If I look at it honestly, it's been coming since... pretty much our second date. So umm...how's school?

ALEX

Pretty good!

(pause, less upbeat)

Pretty good. I mean, it's sort of hard to get to know people, coming in as a transfer. Everybody has already joined their clique and they're not sure if they can admit one more. My creative writing classes are cool, though.

CARTER

Creative writing, hunh?

ALEX

Yeah, I guess I've always been interested in stories. Escaping into someone else's life. Because mine seemed pretty boring. I'm cursed with a functional family. Of course writing isn't exactly practical, so I'm thinking of getting a double major in business.

CARTER

Oh, man, don't do that. Stick with writing.

ALEX

You know, sometimes you seem sort of bummed out with your career or something, which is weird because you're so successful.

CARTER

No, I'm not bummed out. It's pretty much what I have in life, you know, my career. That and a dented Porsche.

ALEX

Well your family must be really proud of you.

CARTER

(shrugs)

My mom is, maybe, I don't know. She was sort of a hippy, so she's not so into the corporate stuff. And my dad left home when I was four, so...I don't know the guy. His parents had money, but he was this "artist", in quotes, he was kind of a druggie, he was in this cult for a while-- hey, let's get out of here, you want to maybe...go for a walk or something? Now that you know my entire life story?

ALEX

Sure, but there's not much left to talk about.

She smiles at him. He smiles, enjoying being kidded.

CARTER

...Right.

EXT. SOHO STREET - DAY

Alex and Carter walk down the street, talking nonstop.

EXT. STREET, CHINATOWN - DAY

Alex and Carter walk down the street in Chinatown, past a fish market. They try to avoid the fish guts on the pavement. Carter is making Alex laugh.

EXT. STREET, LITTLE ITALY - NIGHT

Alex and Carter come out of an Italian restaurant in Little Italy.

Alex kisses him, stopping him in his tracks.

CARTER

Right.

Carter looks a little stunned.

ALEX

Umm, you want to see my dorm room,
maybe?

Carter laughs nervously.

ALEX

Look, don't get the wrong idea,
it's not like I uh...have guys up
to my dorm room often. Or ever,
actually...

Carter takes a breath.

CARTER

...Okay.

ALEX

Okay.

INT. DORM HALL - NIGHT

Alex leads Carter down the hall towards her room. Music
blares out from various rooms as they go past.

CARTER

I am having a major college
flashback.

ALEX

Come on, old man.
(opens a door)
My roommate's out tonight.

CARTER

Oh. I was...really looking forward
to meeting her.

ALEX

Yeah, she's...only mildly
chemically imbalanced.

INT. ALEX'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

A college dorm room, half of which is Alex's, half of which is decorated primarily in black.

ALEX
Ta-daa!

CARTER
Wow. This is awesome.

ALEX
Yeah, it's okay.

Alex takes off her scarf by a "GLOBECOM" banner which has been graffitied to read 'GLOBECOM SUCKS.'

ALEX
Umm...so...

CARTER
So...yeah...I heard this...this rumor that alcohol impairs your judgement --

She starts UNBUTTONING CARTER'S SHIRT.

CARTER
Hold on -- wait --

ALEX
(stops)
Yes?

CARTER
Umm...I wish you weren't so beautiful.

ALEX
I'm not.

CARTER
Actually, you are.

ALEX
Thank you.

Attempting to set the mood, Alex light some incense -- Puts on some music -- Turns on a lamp, drapes a tie-dyed shirt over it -- MELLOW LIGHT fills the room.

CARTER
 (gently)
 Well I...I think everything's
 perfect now...

ALEX
 Then why are you still talking?

They kiss. Alex starts to laugh.

CARTER
 What?

ALEX
 I was just thinking how my dad said
 he put surveillance devices all
 over the building.

CARTER
 Uh, yeah...that's very funny...

He glances up at the ceiling as she PULLS HIM ONTO THE BED.

CUT TO:

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

Dan WATCHING SOMETHING. Widen out -- He is drinking coffee,
 watching as around him there is PANDEMONIUM. Moving men are
 all over, packing up people's offices.

DAN
 (to moving man)
 Where to now?

MOVING MAN #1
 You're all going to the 29th floor.

DAN
 I hear there's great air-
 conditioning on that floor.

INT. HALL BY DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Carter comes down the hall, sees Dan, and halts for a second
 in fear (he has just slept with Dan's daughter), then waves
 to him, overcompensating.

CARTER
 (almost shouts)
 Hi, Dan! How was your commute?
 (MORE)

CARTER (cont'd)
Boy, can you believe they're moving
our offices again? Hey, our first
hoops league game is gonna be
against the 51st floor, corporate
VP's -- which is now apparently
gonna be this floor!

DAN
What's wrong with you?

CARTER
What? Me? Nothing. Why?

DAN
You're acting jumpy. You switch
from Mocha to crack?

CARTER
You are really, really, paranoid,
you know that?! Crack. Ha-ha!

Carter turns a corner, flattens himself against the wall, and
EXHALES.

MUSIC RISES.

EXT. NYU DORM HIGH-RISE - NIGHT

Carter picks Alex up for a date in his Porsche.

The Porsche has finally been fixed.

Alex steps out of the dorm to meet him in a LONG, SEXY DRESS.

Carter looks smitten.

INT. TENNIS BUBBLE - DAY

Carter and Alex play tennis. Alex is drinking a soda while
hitting with Carter.

CARTER
You know, that's completely
demoralizing.

Alex laughs.

ALEX
Sorry.

INT. ALEX'S ROOM - DAY

Ann and Dan are constructing a crib in Alex's room. Dan is getting frustrated, trying to jam a spindle into a socket.

ANN

Don't force it. Don't force it.

Dan forces it, and the bottom of the crib FALLS with a CRASH.

DAN

(looks at her)

Don't say it.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Ann writes CHECKS for various BILLS, while in the background, Dan leaves a message for Alex.

DAN

Hi there, Alex, haven't talked to you in a few days, give us a call.

(hangs up, presses redial)

...Okay, guess you have your cellphone off. Give us a call.

(to Ann)

Should I try again?

ANN

Yeah, maybe the first twenty times were a fluke.

INT. EXPENSIVE RESTAURANT - DAY

Carter slaps down a CREDIT CARD for a fancy lunch with Alex.

INT. TARGET - DAY

Dan puts down his credit card, buying a cart full of BULK ITEMS at Target with Ann.

INT. CARTER'S 2ND NEW OFFICE - DAY

Carter closes his blinds.

Carter fires a member of the sales team.

SALESMAN
(stunned)
...I'm fired?

CARTER
I'm sorry.

Then another.

SALESWOMAN
But I've worked here for five
years?

Carter reaches over and grabs some tissues, and hands them
to...

Sammy, his eager assistant.

Sammy, who has been fired as well, is crying. He blows his
nose and shakes Carter's hand.

SAMMY
It's been an honor.

Carter pats Sammy on the back.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA HALLWAY - DAY

Chairs and desks pile up in the hall, as moving men break
down the empty office spaces caused by layoffs.

INT. CARTER'S OFFICE - DAY

Carter runs in place by his desk.

INT. HALLWAY 29TH FLOOR - DAY

Alicia pauses, seeing Carter running in place through his
window.

INT. CARTER'S 2ND NEW OFFICE - DAY

Carter looks over, realizes he's being watched.

EXT. WATERMAN PUBLISHING (NOW GLOBECOM) BUILDING - DAY

Snow falls outside the building.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Snow blankets the city.

INT. GYMNASIUM - NIGHT

BALLS BOUNCING. Night. AN INDOOR BASKETBALL COURT. First game of the company league.

The Sports America ad sales team is in gray jerseys with SALES RATS on them. The corporate VP team, which includes Steckle, is in slick GLOBECOM TROTTERS jerseys.

Dan is sliding a bulky knee brace over his leg.

CARTER

Jeez, you gonna be okay?

DAN

I'll be fine. What's that guy doing here? He's one of the moving men.

Dan nods to a 6'6" guy who's on Steckle's team. The moving man DUNKS.

CARTER

I guess Steckle recruited him for the corporate VP team.

DAN

Well that's fair.
(looks up at basket)
Wonder if I can still dunk.

CARTER

You could dunk?

DAN

Yeah. Can't you? You're only 26.

STECKLE (O.S.)

Heads up!

Carter FLINCHES as Steckle pretends to whip a ball at him. Carter chuckles.

STECKLE

(to Carter)

Word on the street is that Teddy K's on the prowl.

(MORE)

STECKLE (cont'd)
 Soon as he gets back from his
 'round the world balloon trip he's
 gonna go munch on Continental
 Brands.

DAN
 Great. Maybe they'll advertise in
 our magazines again.

Carter flinches as Steckle focuses on Dan like a shark.

STECKLE
 I'm sorry, who are you?

CARTER
 Mark, this is Dan Foreman. Dan
 just closed the Toys R Us deal.

DAN
 Carter's being modest, he did most
 of the work.

STECKLE
 That's beautiful, maybe you two
 should get a room.

Dan's face gets red.

STECKLE
 You pussies ready to be schooled?

Carter tries to laugh it off as Steckle dribbles away. Dan
 looks pissed.

THE GAME STARTS.

Steckle and Dan match up.

The 6'6" moving man is a ringer. But so's Dan. The moving
 man dominates inside, while Dan knocks down outside shots.
 Steckle gets more and more pissed, as Dan takes him to
 school. The big man starts to double-team Dan.

Dan BANGS down underneath the basket, GRABBING A REBOUND, and
 is REJECTED by the big moving man. The VP TEAM CHEERS.

STECKLE
 (in Dan's face)
 YEEAAAH! Not in my house!

A look of annoyance at Steckle crosses Carter's face.

At the other end, Steckle passes to the big man. Dan goes to double team him, and he passes back to Steckle who hits an EASY LAYUP.

STECKLE

Sweetness! You can't guard me!

Dan swallows his anger.

Next trip upcourt, Dan gets double teamed. He makes a neat pass to Carter, who makes an open layup.

CARTER

Yes!

Carter and Dan share a moment, pointing at each other across the court.

DAN

(to Theo)

I'll take big man.

Next trip down the court, Dan guards the big guy. He is UP IN HIS JOCKSTRAP, keeping within a foot of him at all times.

6'6" MOVING MAN

Hey, ease up old man, don't have a heart attack.

DAN

What's the matter, big man, can't take a little D?

Dan KNOCKS a pass away from him. At the other end, Dan gets the ball back on a pass, starts to SHOOT when Steckle BLOCKS/FOULS him.

STECKLE

RE-JEC-TION!

Dan glares at Steckle.

The VP team runs upcourt. Steckle STREAKS DOWN THE COURT, going up for an EASY LAYUP, when Dan RUNS UP from out of nowhere, BLOCKING THE SHOT.

DAN

Not in my house.

Dan sprints down to the other end, catching a pass and going for THE DUNK.

Dan's team cheers.

CARTER

Dunk it!

DAN SKIES...ALMOST MAKING IT...

BUT THE BALL CATCHES THE RIM INSTEAD, causing Dan to LOSE HIS BALANCE.

Dan COMES DOWN AWKWARDLY, SLAMMING into the court.

Dan hops up quickly, his shoulder GROTESQUELY out of joint.

CARTER

Oh, shit.

Everyone looks a little disgusted.

Steckle stifles a laugh.

EXT. DAN'S 2ND OFFICE WINDOW - DAY

We see Dan's smaller new office from OUTSIDE the building.

Dan is making a phone call. He comes up to the window, his arm in a sling.

On the other end of the line is Alex's answering machine.

ALEX (O.S.)

Hi, you've reached Alex's cell.

Please leave a message.

Dan hangs up the phone.

We dolly over to see CARTER standing at the window in his adjoining office. Carter is staring at the city, musing.

Carter turns and sits down at his desk.

INT. CARTER'S 2ND NEW OFFICE - DAY

Carter's screen saver is the GlobeCom logo. He hits a button, and a picture of ALEX fills the screen.

Carter sits looking at the photo, an intimate closeup.

DAN (O.S.)

So what's her name?

Carter hits a button and gets rid of the picture of Alex. Dan is at the door - he hasn't seen it.

CARTER
(freaked)
What? Who?

DAN
The fish.

CARTER
Oh. It's uh...it's a he, and his
name's Buddy.

DAN
Doesn't he want a friend?

CARTER
He had a friend, but...he ate him.
How's your shoulder?

DAN
Keeps popping out. You mind?
(Carter nods)
Tell me something, when you were
eighteen, did you ever return your
parents' phone calls?

CARTER
Uh, well, they never called, but I
guess I would have.

DAN
My older daughter won't call me
back. I feel like going to NYU and
kidnapping her, so I can stop
worrying about her.

CARTER
Well, that, that sounds like a not
great idea. Anyway, Alex seems --
from the very brief time I met her --
to be pretty savvy.

(in a reverie)
I wouldn't worry about her too
much. She's a terrific, smart
woman. Girl. Young lady.
whatever. My point is, she can
handle herself.

(pause)
You seem to have a really great
marriage...How do you do it?

DAN
You just pick the right one to be
in the foxhole with. And then...
(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)
when you're outside of the foxhole,
you keep your dick in your pants.

CARTER
Wow, that's...poetic.

Dan nods. Carter smiles.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

A FOOTBALL-SHAPED CAKE with HAPPY FIFTY-SECOND BIRTHDAY written on it is placed on the table by Ann.

Ann's pregnancy is very visible now.

A SURPRISE PARTY is in the works. The living room is full.

We see people from work -- Alicia, Theo, etc. among the crowd.

Carter comes in.

CARTER
Hey, Theo, how's it --

Theo mumbles hello as he blows past Carter.

Carter finds himself standing by a preteen kid holding a wrapped basketball.

CARTER
(with present)
Hey, where do I put this?

The kid points to a gifts table.

Carter stands around a moment, trying to bond.

CARTER
This party's a rager, hunh?

The kid nods unenthusiastically.

CARTER
Okay.

Carter heads over to the gifts table.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE, SUBURBS - DAY

Dan's Volvo station wagon drives towards the house.

INT. DAN'S STATION WAGON - DAY

Dan drives towards the house with Jana.

JANA

Are you still glad you decided not to have a birthday party?

DAN

Yup. I'm not in the mood this year.

JANA

Well, Mom says you could use a little fun. She says you should lighten up for the sake of your health.

DAN

She does, does she?

Looking towards his house, Dan sees a little MOVEMENT behind one of the drapes.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

Alex pulls away from peeking out the window.

ALEX

They're here! Everybody hide!

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Dan and Jana get out of the car. Dan pauses, looking towards the house.

DAN

You go ahead, I just want to put an envelope in the mailbox.

Dan watches Jana go ahead into the house. Then he TAKES OFF HIS COAT.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jana comes in, excited.

JANA
Quiet -- he's coming in in a
minute! Everyone hide!

Everyone hides.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Dan is now TAKING OFF HIS SHIRT. He KICKS OFF HIS SHOES.

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY

We hear the FRONT DOOR OPEN. Everyone leaps up and YELLS:

EVERYONE
SURPRISE!!!

We see everyone's face register SHOCK. Ann DROPS THE CAMERA she was holding.

REVERSE from their POV

Dan is standing at the door in his UNDERPANTS, SMILING.

DAN
Wow! What a surprise!

Dan MOONS the partygoers. Everyypne SHRIEKS.

JANA
(horrified)
DAAAD!!!

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY

LATER. Dan, fully clothed now, drinks punch, chatting with some friends, when Morty comes over.

DAN
Morty! Good to see you! Thanks
for coming. How are you?

MORTY
Not so good. Not so good. I mean,
psychologically.

DAN
Oh. I'm sorry.

MORTY

That's okay. Anyway, my wife got a promotion. I'm hoping she'll raise my allowance.

(pats Dan on shoulder)

But this is good punch.

Morty walks off.

INT. CARTER'S PORSCHE, DRIVEWAY - DAY

Carter and Alex sit in Carter's Porsche.

ALEX

I better get back inside, they're going to notice I'm missing.

CARTER

Yeah, I just wanted to give you a gift.

Carter hands her a box.

ALEX

It's not my birthday.

She opens it. It's a pendant with small diamonds in it.

ALEX

Holy shit, are these real diamonds?

CARTER

No, they're cubic zirconium. Yeah, they're real.

ALEX

These are too much, I can't take them.

CARTER

No, I'm sorry --

ALEX

I feel funny, I --

CARTER

No, don't feel --

ALEX

It's sweet. Very sweet.

CARTER

Oh. Good, thanks.

They kiss. Then they both quickly look over at the house where the party is going on.

CARTER

Alex, I've really been thinking,
and...you're the kind of person
who's good to be in a foxhole with.

ALEX

But we're not in a foxhole. We're
in a Porsche.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The party is in swing. Dan is unwrapping presents -- mostly shoulder braces, boxes of Ben Gay, etc, as people cheer. Dan looks out the window.

EXT. DAN'S HOUSE, SUBURBS - DAY

Carter and Alex walk back to the party, holding hands for a moment.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dan sees Carter and Alex holding hands. Then they break apart as they approach the house.

Dan looks like he's had the wind knocked out of him. Did he just see what he thought he saw?

INT. NEW SPORTS AMERICA OFFICES, ELEVATORS - DAY

The elevator door opens, Carter steps in, and Dan stops the elevator.

DAN

Hey, I thought maybe we could have
lunch today. Go over some stuff.

CARTER

I'd love to, but I already have a
lunch.

DAN

Oh yeah? With who?

CARTER

(beat)

With Wally Hebert from Proctor and
Gamble.

DAN

Don't you want your wing man along?

CARTER

Uh, not today.

The elevator closes, leaving Dan there. The other elevator opens, some people step out. A beat. Dan steps in.

EXT. MADISON AVE - DAY

Carter hails a cab. From the building lobby, Dan is WATCHING HIM.

Dan hails a cab too.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

Carter goes inside a trendy restaurant.

INT. DOWNTOWN RESTAURANT - DAY

Carter joins Alex at a table.

CARTER

Sorry I'm late. It's really been a
hell of a day.

ALEX

That's okay. But I have a three
o'clock class.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

Dan is on the street outside the restaurant. Trying to stay hidden, Dan looks through the restaurant window. He FREEZES as he sees CARTER AND ALEX sitting inside.

INT. CHELSEA RESTAURANT - DAY

Carter and Alex's waiter comes over.

CARTER

Hey, you're wearing the necklace!

ALEX

Yeah.

(makes a face)

I feel like an imposter. I mean,
it's great, but --

CARTER

An imposter? You look beautiful,
doesn't she look beautiful?

WAITER

She does -- now we have three
specials today. Avocado soup with
Awapuhi oil. Calamari fritti with
awapuhi. We have bluefin tuna with
jalapeno, drizzled with awapuhi.
We also have poached Maine lobster -

CARTER

May I get a side of awapuhi oil
with that, please?

Alex laughs.

INT. FRONT OF RESTAURANT - DAY

Dan walks by the maitre d'.

MAITRE D'

(smiles)

Welcome, may I help you?

Dan walks right past.

At the table, the waiter is still reading the specials.

CARTER

(looking up)

Holy shit.

ALEX

(freaked)

Dad?!

Dan stands there, glowering.

WAITER

Hi, is there going to be a third?

DAN

I have just one question. Are you sleeping with him?

WAITER

I'm gonna go get you folks some bread.

The waiter retreats.

CARTER

Dan, this isn't what it looks like.

DAN

Oh, really? What does it look like? Tell me. WHAT DO YOU THINK IT LOOKS LIKE?

CARTER

Well...it probably looks like some kind of...tawdry, sleazy affair, kind of thing, but --

DAN

Alex, I asked you a question. Are you sleeping with him?

ALEX

What do you want me to say, Dad?

Alex looks down at her plate.

DAN

(to Carter)

Get up.

CARTER

What?

DAN

Get up.

A beat. Carter gets up.

Dan PUNCHES HIM IN THE EYE, sending Carter FLYING BACKWARDS OVER HIS CHAIR.

People in the restaurant GASP.

Dan WINCES, holding his hurt shoulder.

ALEX

Dad! Stop! It's not his fault!

The maitre d' comes over.

MAITRE D'
Sir, I don't think you should --

DAN
(wheels on him)
You'd better back off before I drop
kick you across this restaurant.

The maitre d' veers away.

Carter is on the floor.

CARTER
Oww -- Jesus.

DAN
(to Carter)
You are a piece of shit.

CARTER
Dan, I love her.

DAN
You what?

CARTER
I love her.
(to Alex)
I love you.

Alex hides her face.

DAN
You love her? She's my daughter!

CARTER
I know...

DAN
She's in college. She's a college student. I took out a frigging second mortgage so she could go there! Three years ago I was paying orthodonture bills for her!

Alex starts to cry.

CARTER
I'm sorry.

DAN
(to Alex)

This guy? You had to sleep with
him?

Dan turns and walks out of the restaurant. Alex gets up.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Dan leaves the restaurant, followed by Alex.

ALEX
Dad! Dad! Wait! I'm sorry, it's
not -- this had nothing to do with
you!

DAN
He's my boss, Alex!

ALEX
That's not...I wasn't thinking of
that. It just happened.

DAN
We made a deal, remember? We made
a deal to always be honest with
each other.

ALEX
Dad, I was five years old when we
made that deal.

DAN
Yeah. I liked you better then.

ALEX
That's an awful -- an awful thing
to say -- wait, don't walk away
from me, let's talk -- let's talk
about this --

DAN
Why? You clearly don't need my
advice about anything.

Dan walks off, leaving Alex crying.

MUSIC RISES.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - DAY

Dan sits down on a bench. Takes off his tie. He looks shattered.

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - DAY

Carter walks towards NYU, his eye blossoming purple.

INT. ALEX'S DORM ROOM - DAY

Carter comes in. Alex and her roommate are there.

ALEX'S ROOMMATE

Hey, Carter, wow, that's some shiner.

ALEX

Could we have some privacy, Maya?

ALEX'S ROOMMATE

Sure. Absolutely.

The roommate leaves.

ALEX

Have a seat. You want some ice for that?

CARTER

Yes, please.

Alex goes to a mini-fridge.

ALEX

Umm, we don't have any ice left. But here, this soda's cold.

She hands Carter a cold soda, which he puts on his eye.

CARTER

So, umm...sorry about my timing there, with uh...the L word. It just sort of slipped out. But I've been thinking about it a lot, and that's how I feel.

ALEX

Umm -- that's really sweet.

CARTER

I mean it.

ALEX

I know you probably think you do.
But I've been thinking too, and I'm
-- I'm doing a double major.

CARTER

(nodding)

Yeah...

ALEX

And I'm taking anthropology classes
on top of that. I've got a lot
going on.

CARTER

Yeah...absolutely...

ALEX

I'm not really ready for a big
commitment.

Carter tries to play it off like something positive.

CARTER

Yes. Absolutely. That's what I'm
talking about. Look, when I said I
loved you I didn't mean that I
wanted to...interfere with your
classes, I mean...I'm not talking
about marriage or anything. Yet.

ALEX

Carter, I've had a great time, and
I think you're a really great guy,
but...You're on the rebound.

CARTER

I'm not.

ALEX

It wasn't all that long ago that
your wife left you.

CARTER

That was the best thing that ever
happened to me.

ALEX

Well...good. But then it's a good thing whether you're with me or not. And I...I think we should stop seeing each other.

Carter assumes the same cajoling expression he had when Kim left him.

CARTER

Alex. Aleex...

Alex looks Carter in the eyes. She looks open, vulnerable. The look freezes Carter. He drops the sell job he had been trying to do.

CARTER

I just want to tell you...

(beat)

I've enjoyed talking to you more than pretty much anyone in my entire life.

ALEX

(swallows)

Thank you...Me too.

Carter nods.

Turns and leaves Alex's dorm room. The sound of the door opening transitions us to...

INT. DAN'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dan comes into the living room, looking exhausted.

Jana comes down from the top of the stairs.

JANA

Dad?! Where have you been? Your cell phone was off.

DAN

Why? What is it?

(beat)

Where's mom?

EXT. SUBURBAN HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Dan and Jana park Dan's Volvo.

Dan RUNS out, ahead of Jana, SLAMMING the car door behind him.

INT. ANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Dan comes in, finds Ann lying peacefully in a hospital bed.

ANN
There you are.

DAN
You okay?

ANN
I'm fine. The baby's fine. I had a little scare. There was some bleeding.

DAN
What was it?

ANN
A uterine tear. It sounds bad, but it's okay. I just need some rest.

Dan controls himself.

DAN
Sorry. I'm just glad you're okay.

He wipes his eyes.

DAN
I just...I don't know what the hell I would do if anything ever happened to you. I think I would pack it in.

ANN
Well, I'm afraid you're gonna be stuck with me for a while.

She kisses his hand.

For the first time that day, Dan becomes calm.

INT. ANN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

Late at night. Dan sits by Ann's bed as she sleeps.

The door opens, and Alex comes in.

She looks at her mom.

ALEX
Is she okay?

DAN
(whispers)
Yeah. Sleeping.

He puts his finger over his lips. Gets up.

INT. HOSPITAL CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Dan and Alex sit in a small waiting area. Dan has a paper cup of coffee.

ALEX
I broke up with Carter.

DAN
Why? Because of me?

ALEX
No. Because of me. Anyway, I'm sorry.

DAN
For what?

ALEX
Lying to you. Hiding stuff from you.

Dan picks at the lid of the coffee cup.

ALEX
I should tell you, Carter didn't seduce me. If anything, it was the other way around.

DAN
Please, I don't need the details --
(beat)
Unless, I mean, you want to tell me.

ALEX
Uh, no. Not particularly.

DAN
Good.

ALEX

You probably think I'm disgusting.

DAN

Disgusting? Why on earth would I think that?

ALEX

..I didn't know you took out a second mortgage. I don't have to go to NYU. SUNY's fine.

DAN

No --

ALEX

Its fine.

DAN

(firm)

No. You're staying at NYU...

Dan gathers himself.

DAN

Look, Alex, you're a...a smart woman. You can handle yourself. And what I'm saying is...I'm going to try, okay? To...be whatever kind of father I should now be for you. I'm not saying I can pull it off, but...I'm gonna try and...adjust.

ALEX

(touched)

Dad...you don't have to change.

DAN

Yeah...I do.

Dan pats her on the shoulder.

EXT. MADISON AVENUE - DAY

High angle shot on the city. Taxis, buses, people going by from skyscraper perspective.

INT. ASSISTANTS' DESKS - DAY

Three computer screens pop to "TEDDY K. IS COMING", one after the other.

A saleswoman reacts with surprise as Teddy K's jovial face pops onto her screen.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Moving men lift out the table.

They set up the room. Plug stuff in. Set up a podium.

Steckle appears. Greets some of Teddy K's staff. More and more people fill the space.

INT. HUGE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

About a HUNDRED-FIFTY PEOPLE are JAMMED into the room, including Theo, Alicia and the remaining sales staff.

TEDDY K emerges from the elevator bank, with his beautiful, somewhat robotic assistant at his side. It's hard to tell how old he is. He could be a mature-looking 40, or a young-looking 60.

The crowd parts before him, staring, amazed, at the great man.

Teddy is naturally charming, working the room.

TEDDY K.

Hi! How are ya! Good to see ya!

(to secretary)

Nice brooch!

(joking to assistant)

We must be paying her too much money!

Teddy moves into the conference room, SHAKING PEOPLE'S HANDS, GIVING HIGH-FIVES.

TEDDY K.

(greeting people)

Hi, hi, how are you, hi.

Teddy's assistant whispers in his ear as he approaches Steckle.

TEDDY K'S ASSISTANT
 (in Teddy's ear)
 Mark Steckle.

 TEDDY K.
 (smiles at Steckle)
 Mark Steckle! How are ya?!

Steckle beams.

 STECKLE
 Hi, Teddy!

 TEDDY K.
 How ya doin'?

 STECKLE
 Very psyched!

Steckle leads him through the crowd, stopping by Carter.

 STECKLE
 Oh, this is Carter Duryea.

 TEDDY K.
 Oh, yes, cell phones.

 CARTER
 Thanks! I'm with Sports America
 now.

 TEDDY K.
 That's the flagship.
 (pauses)
 What happened to your eye?

 STECKLE
 Yeah, what did happen?

All eyes are on Carter.

 CARTER
 Oh, I...fell asleep at my computer.
 (mimes it)
 Bang. Right on the monitor.

 TEDDY K.
 Well...those things can be
 dangerous!

Teddy laughs, which is the cue for everyone else to laugh!

TEDDY K.

Well keep up the good work! Keep
in touch!

Teddy K. gives Carter the thumbs up sign, and moves on.

STECKLE

(whispers to Carter)

I wouldn't be surprised if he
announces another takeover today.

Teddy stands at a podium. He looks out at the crowd, as
everyone settles in their seats.

TEDDY K.

Synergy.

The room lights go down. Teddy is bathed in the blue glow
from a rear-projected Globecom logo behind him.

Carter looks over to see Dan, who comes out of the elevator.
He is in yesterday's clothes, having spent the night at the
hospital.

TEDDY K.

What exactly does it mean? Why
does a business swim with it, and
sink without it, in this new ocean
of megabytes, streaming video, and
satellites?

Dan makes his way into the crowd.

TEDDY K.

There are vast differences between
us. On a person to person level,
on a national level, on a global
level. Every day, the world
becomes more complex.

The crowd gazes at Teddy, mesmerized.

TEDDY K.

And to survive in a complex world,
we need complex bonds to interface
with it.

The audience hangs on his words. Dan watches him with
narrowed eyes.

TEDDY K.

What we're building here. Is it a
company, or is it an economy?

(MORE)

TEDDY K. (cont'd)

Is it a new country, with no national boundaries, a new democracy of the consumer? A new democracy with a new electorate. Twenty-four hour music videos in Kuala Lumpur. Computers with parts manufactured in Japan, Greenland, Idaho and India. A soft-drink ad going out simultaneously to seven continents? The Dalai Llama eating Krispity Krunch while uploading prayers onto the net?
(pauses)

In this room. In this room, I see this.

Teddy K. Holds up his hands, FINGERS EXTENDED. Wiggles them.

TEDDY K.

What we're trying to get to is this.

Teddy K. INTERLACES HIS FINGERS, mimicking the GLOBECOM CORPORATE LOGO.

TEDDY K.

(smiles)

This is unbreakable. This is inevitable. Woman's World magazine. Why not a Woman's World channel? Across the world. Computers. Why not a weekly computers section in Sports America magazine?

Someone in the audience LAUGHS.

It's Dan.

All heads turn towards him.

He looks a little surprised at himself.

DAN

Uh, excuse me. Excuse me.

TEDDY K.

(puzzled)

Yes?

There is murmuring in crowd.

DAN

I'm sorry. My uh...My name's Dan Foreman. I...I work for Sports America...and...I'm not sure I understand what you're talking about.

Carter looks at Dan, shocked.

Dan proceeds, tentatively.

DAN

What I mean is, what do computers have to do with sports? Are you literally saying there should be a section in the magazine about computers? Who's going to want to read that?

Steckle shoots Dan a look of DEEP HATRED.

DAN

And I'm not sure I understand how the way the world is changing is actually going to change how we do business. I mean, we still are selling a product which someone hopefully needs, right? We're still just human beings, with other human beings as customers.

Dan picks up steam.

DAN

And I can't see how this company is like its own country. I mean, just because we sell all different kinds of things, that doesn't mean we should operate by our own laws, does it? Besides which, countries, at least democratic ones, have some obligations to their citizens, don't they? So how do layoffs and bottom-line thinking fit into that?

There is a long pause.

TEDDY K.

...Dan Foreman.

Teddy nods gravely.

TEDDY K.

...Sports America...you ask some excellent questions.

(nods)

Some excellent, excellent questions.

(mulling it over)

I'm glad you asked them.

(pause)

And I'm leaving it to you...

(gazes at the crowd sternly)

...to all of you, to answer them.

And now, unfortunately...

(to his assistant)

Absolutely.

Teddy K. LEAVES THE ROOM, followed by his assistant.

There is a pause. Everyone is silent.

Then Steckle starts APPLAUDING TEDDY K.

STECKLE

YEAH! TEDDY K!

Everyone else in the room JOINS HIM in applauding.

STECKLE

TEDDY K!!!

Dan walks out through the back of the crowd, who are all facing away from him, towards the departing Teddy K.

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dan sits behind his desk. Carter comes in.

CARTER

Oh my God. Oh my God, Dan.

Steckle comes in.

STECKLE

Good, you're both in here.

(points at Carter)

You I'll deal with in a second.

(to Dan)

You. Have you lost your frigging mind?

DAN
Well, he...he said they were
excellent questions.

CARTER
Dan --

STECKLE
Okay, you think this is funny. You
think it's funny to disrespect a
great man. Do you know who you
were talking to just now? Teddy K!
TEDDY K, GODAMMIT!

(pause)

Look, we've been carrying your fat,
bloated salary for way too long. I
want you out of this building
within the next ten minutes. Now
I'm gonna go to my office and smoke
a nice cuban cigar, and try to
forget you ever existed.

(to Carter)

In my office. Now.

Steckle turns to go.

CARTER
Mark...Don't fire him.

STECKLE
Excuse me?

CARTER
He busts his ass, Mark...and...

STECKLE
(aggressive)
And?

CARTER
Nothing.

Dan looks down, embarrassed and defeated.

CARTER
Just...if you fire him...
(pause)
You have to fire me too.

Dan looks at Carter, surprised.

STECKLE

...I'm sorry. Let me get something straight. You're throwing yourself in with him? With this useless, over the hill loser? Think here, think what you're doing, because if you're not careful, you're gonna end up like him.

CARTER

I guess...I guess...that would be okay.

STECKLE

(beat)

Alright. Then you're fired too, you little shit.

CARTER

...That's too bad, because...you're going to lose a huge client Dan and I were working on. It was going to save the year for us. Without it, magazine's pretty deep in the red.

STECKLE

Oh yeah? What client is that?

Pause. Carter glances at Dan. Dan looks at Steckle.

DAN

...You think we're going to tell you?

Steckle stares at Dan.

STECKLE

...You're bluffing.

DAN

I don't bluff...I'm not that good a salesman.

STECKLE

(beat)

Okay, well I don't give a crap.

CARTER

I think Teddy K. will. See, I'm gonna call him, and tell him you drove his most profitable magazine, his flagship, into the ground. And he'll listen to me.

(MORE)

CARTER (cont'd)

(beat)

He likes what I did with cell phones.

Steckle looks from Carter to Dan. It's a standoff.

STECKLE

You have 24 hours. Or you're both gone.

Steckle leaves.

CARTER

(beat)

Any ideas?

Dan thinks...

DAN

...One.

EXT. PARKING LOT, KALB AUTOMOTIVE - DAY

Los Angeles.

Dan and Carter get out of their rental car.

Carter looks nervous. Dan smiles at him reassuringly.

EXT. BRIDGE, CORPORATE CAMPUS - DAY

Dan and Carter walk towards the Kalb Automotive building.

DAN

You got all your research?

(Carter nods)

Alright. Follow my lead.

He pats Carter on the arm.

INT. LARGE OFFICE - DAY

Dan hands a copy of SPORTS AMERICA to Morton Kalb.

DAN

Thought I'd bring you this in person again.

KALB

Thanks. How are your daughters?

DAN

They're great, thanks. And your grandkids?

KALB

They're fine. My son-in-law has my oldest, Ralphie, enrolled in a computer camp, whatever that is.

Carter approaches, laughing a little too loud. Kalb looks at him as if noticing him for the first time.

DAN

I'd like to introduce my boss, Carter Duryea.

KALB

Your boss? He looks more like your nephew.

CARTER

Well I've...been learning a lot from Dan.

KALB

What happened to your eye?

DAN

That's one of the things he's learned from me.

An uncomfortable pause. Carter tries to laugh this off.

KALB

Are you saying you punched him in the eye? Why?

CARTER

We don't really have to get into this.

KALB

Please, I'm...rather curious.

DAN

(to Carter)

Why did I hit you?

Carter gives Dan a look. What the hell is Dan thinking?

DAN

(pauses, then shrugs)

...He called me a dinosaur.

(MORE)

DAN (cont'd)
Said I was out of date, and I'd
better step in line.

Dan looks at Carter. Carter's eyes widen a touch.

Kalb looks surprised.

KALB
So you slugged him?

DAN
It was a fair fight.
(to Carter)
Right?

Carter picks up the ball.

CARTER
Right.
(taking out a folder)
Mr. Kalb, you have a truly
impressive business. I've been
looking into all the details, new
franchise openings, market
awareness, customer demographics --

KALB
I'm sorry, you got into a fistfight
because he called you a dinosaur?

DAN
I don't know what happened. I just
snapped. There's only so much a
man can put up with.

KALB
Hunh. And...if you're his boss,
why didn't you fire him?

CARTER
(pause)
He's my best salesman. Now I've
been looking at a cross-promotion
we could do with Krispity-Krunch --

DAN
(cuts him off)
Carter, that's okay. Mr. Kalb, I
don't want to go into facts and
figures right now. You know them
all anyway. Let me just ask you,
what's your hesitation about
advertising in the magazine?

Kalb watches the two of them.

KALB

...My hesitation is that our advertising budget is already overextended. My son-in-law spent a lot of money on cable and on-line, and, frankly, we're not getting the bang for the buck that we hoped for. He wants to plow more money into it, but...

DAN

...But?

Kalb looks from Carter to Dan.

KALB

But he is such an asshole.

Kalb's anger spills out.

KALB

I built this business, and I know more about running it than he ever will. And I know that when I make a mistake, it doesn't pay to retrench. I'm going to restructure our whole advertising plan. Starting with a major buy in your magazine.

DAN

That's great news, Mr. Kalb! Thank you.

CARTER

Thank you so much!

Dan and Kalb shake hands.

KALB

(to Carter)

Oh, and...I don't give a shit about Krispity Krunch. Let's just stick to the magazine.

Kalb walks Dan towards the door.

KALB

(to Dan)

So you really slugged him?

DAN

Yup.
(snaps his fingers)
Carter.

Carter follows him out.

EXT. BRIDGE, CORPORATE CAMPUS - DAY

Dan and Carter arrive at the office.

CARTER

That was awesome! You were amazing! I mean, that was actually...fun!

DAN

(laughs)
What Kalb really needed was to see an old fart who beat the crap out of a kid half his age. And you know what the best thing is? It's the right thing for him to do. It's gonna improve his business.

CARTER

(stops)
...You actually...you actually believe in this stuff, don't you?

DAN

(stops)
Course I do. Why the hell else would I do it?

Dan walks off down the bridge, doing a little dance.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

Dan and Carter get off the elevator, still on a high. Alicia sees them.

ALICIA

Dan, where have you been?!

DAN

We were in Los Angeles.

CARTER

We made a huge sale.

ALICIA
Congratulations. So did Teddy K.
He sold the company! To Calcor
Communications!

CARTER
What? That can't be!

Carter and Dan stand there, speechless.

INT. STECKLE'S OFFICE - DAY

Carter and Dan come in.

CARTER
Mark! What happened? I thought
you said Teddy K was going to buy
another company!

STECKLE
That's what they told me, but -- he
sold us...I'm out.

CARTER
Wait, you're out?

STECKLE
Yeah. They're reorganizing the
whole place.
(to Carter)
You're out too.

Carter looks stunned.

STECKLE
(to Dan)
I think you're in.

DAN
I'm in what?

STECKLE
Your old job.

DAN
My old job? Running the
department?

STECKLE
That's the rumor.

(MORE)

STECKLE (cont'd)
(he sits back, shattered)
The whole thing seems so arbitrary.
I feel used.

DAN
(pause)
Yeah. Kinda tough to know you're
replaceable, hunh?

He looks at both of them.

DAN
I'm sorry you lost your jobs.

MUSIC RISES.

EXT. TRIBECA APARTMENT - NIGHT

Carter sits on the street outside his apartment.

He thinks.

INT. DAN'S FIRST OFFICE - DAY

Dan stands in his old office. The walls are empty.

He has boxes of his stuff piled in the middle of the room.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Carter walks towards the camera in his business suit.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. DAN'S FIRST OFFICE - DAY

Dan puts all his old memorabilia, pictures, etc. back up on
the shelves and walls, taking possession of his office again.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Carter walks closer to the camera as the music CRESCENDOES.

INT. SPORTS AMERICA OFFICE - DAY

The elevator BINGS, and Carter steps through the doors into
the office.

He is dressed in sweats and jeans, looking like a kid for the first time in the movie.

He walks down the hall, looking around, looking a little lost.

INT. DAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Dan is back in his old office. He stands as Carter comes in.

CARTER

Hi, Dan.

DAN

Carter. Come on in.

CARTER

Nice office.

DAN

Thanks. Have a seat.

Carter sits.

DAN

So. How have you been the last month?

CARTER

I've been good, thanks. It's been...pretty strange not having to get up and go into work in the morning.

DAN

Yeah. Well that's what I wanted to talk to you about.

(pause)

I want to offer you a job. We definitely...had our moments. But I think you're a good manager, and a good salesman, and I'd like you to come here and be my second in command.

CARTER

(surprised)

Dan...I really appreciate that, more than you know. And if I knew this was what I wanted to do, there's no one I could learn more from than you.

(MORE)

CARTER (cont'd)

But I'm not sure what I want to do for a living. I'm not sure I want to work at a big place. I thought I did. I thought I had everything mapped out. But...I'm not really sure what I want to do with my life. I just know I want it to mean something to me, like this means something to you.

DAN

Oh.

CARTER

Do you think I'm being stupid?

DAN

(pause)

...No, I don't. I think that sounds right.

Carter nods.

He settles back.

CARTER

So how's...the family?

DAN

Ann's good. Baby's coming Tuesday after next Tuesday. Caesarian.

CARTER

Wow. That's amazing.

DAN

It sure is.

(pause)

And the girls...the girls are both good.

CARTER

I'm glad. Please...give them all my best.

Pause. Carter gets up.

DAN

So what are you going to do?

CARTER

I've saved up a bit of money, I'm going to travel.

DAN
That'll be fun.

Carter stands there for a moment.

CARTER
Umm...Dan...thanks.

DAN
...For what?

CARTER
For...I guess for showing me a few things. No one ever took the time to umm...give me a hard time before. Or to teach me anything...actually worth learning. See, I never really had a...

Carter takes a breath.

He scowls a bit, FIGHTING BACK THE EMOTION which has snuck up on him.

Dan looks down.

CARTER
...Sorry. You know what I'm saying.

DAN
Yeah. I do.

CARTER
...Alright.

DAN
Listen, Carter. I want to tell you something. You're gonna be okay.

CARTER
You think so?

DAN
Yeah. I know it. You're a good man.

Carter stands there. It's the first time he's ever heard this.

Carter goes over to Dan and HUGS him.

Dan awkwardly pats Carter on the back. Then he HUGS Carter.

They release the hug. Carter rubs his eye.

DAN
Don't be a stranger.

They shake hands.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Carter steps out of the elevator and sees Morty waiting to get on among a group of office workers.

CARTER
Hey, Morty! You're back!

MORTY
Yeah! Back in the saddle! Look at you, you're -- you look like a delivery guy.
(turns)
Hey, do you know Dan's daughter Alex?

As some people move through Carter sees Alex approaching. She's carrying her tennis gear.

CARTER
(shocked)
Oh -- hi, yeah -- what are you -- what are you doing here?

ALEX
(shocked)
Oh -- I'm just...surprising my dad, seeing if he wants to play tennis...

MORTY
(oblivious)
Alex is a fantastic tennis player. She was a junior champ, right?

CARTER
Oh, really, you...you play tennis, hunh?

ALEX
(smiles)
...Yeah. So, umm...how's it going?

CARTER

Good, I'm actually uh...leaving town. Think I might try and teach, or...open an awapuhi store. I don't know. You...doing good?

ALEX

Yeah, I'm...just...working on some short stories...

CARTER

That's...that's great.

Morty looks from one to the other.

MORTY

Well, I got a raise! Dan got me a raise, which is a good thing, because my wife just got laid off. Timing's everything in life, right?

Another elevator door opens. People get in.

MORTY (CONT'D)

(getting in elevator)

Take care, Carter!

CARTER

Yeah, you too, Morty. Nice to...nice to see both of you again.

ALEX

Yeah, it was really good to see you, Carter.

Alex gets in the elevator. As the doors close, she lifts her hand in a goodbye to Carter.

Carter turns and walks away from the elevator.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOSPITAL - DAY

And PUSH IN towards the hospital.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD, WAITING ROOM - DAY

Alex and Jana are sitting in the waiting room.

Dan comes out, dressed in hospital blues. He looks exhausted.

Jana and Alex hurry over to him.

JANA
Well?

ALEX
Well?

DAN
...Well. I am delighted to say...
(he smiles)
...You have a baby sister.

Dan grins. Jana hugs him.

ALEX
Are you happy Dad?

DAN
Yeah. I'm psyched.

Alex and Dan smile at each other.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Carter runs in place.

At first, it is framed to look as if Carter is jogging on a treadmill in front of his TV again.

A cell phone rings.

CARTER
Hello? Hey, Dan! Oh my God!
That's great! Got a name yet?
(beat)
That's fantastic. What?
(pause)
No, that's because I'm jogging.

Carter jogs away from the camera, revealing he is on a beach.

CARTER
No, I'm outside. I'm actually
jogging...outside.

Carter jogs off down the beach. His conversation continues as music rises.

THE END.