

'Diffraction'

Final Draft

by

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1 - SERIES OF SHOTS around INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

MCU Mission Statement

CU Personnel Report 'James Leeson'

Pan to Preston Goodwin logo in frame

CU reflection of ladies feet in heels

JAMES (O/S)

... and as you know, making sure the bottom line is secure is what matters most in our game.

WIL (O/S)

Hmm. So, are you gonna tell us what lies you promised to snag the Hato-yama account?

JAMES (O/S)

Just good service, Wil.

WIL (O/S)

Yeah, right.

JAMES (O/S)

I think they were just looking for a change.

WIL (O/S)

Must have told them something... I mean, we went pretty keen on pricing and...

MAX (O/S)

(interrupts)

James. We're getting tired of locking horns with you. I think it comes as no surprise that you've been on our radar for a while.

JAMES (O/S)

I'm glad to hear that.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Slightly nervous and impeccably dressed, JAMES (33) sits in a meeting room opposite MAX (50) and WIL (42), alongside an empty chair. Max and Wil's suits are even more expensive than James'. They are interviewing him for a high-paying job as a senior executive, and the interview has already been going for about 20 minutes.

WIL

Righto then, what sort of package will it take to bring you into the Preston Goodwin fold?

LISA (VO)

Here you go, baby. You know these guys want you. Remember to give it a tickle.

LISA's voice is heard only by James. Nobody can see her.

JAMES

Well, my total package is one-ten at the moment.

WIL

Yeah, we were thinking you'd be worth that.

JAMES

Like I said when we started, they know how to look after people at TTF.

WIL

It's a fair bit.

LISA (VO)

You're worth it, just sit tight. He's worth it, clown!

WIL

I mean, our authorisation only stretches so far...

JAMES

Okay...

MAX

(interrupts)

One thirty five, total package.

LISA (VO)

(excited)

Yes! Now I can get my new car. You're the man, James! Ha Ha!

Excited and full of butterflies, James does his best to not let his emotions get the best of him.

MAX

When can you start?

Dolly / pan from Max and Wil to a mirror in the room. In the mirror, we can see that Lisa is sitting in the chair next to James. She is wearing a formal business outfit and a big smile.

JAMES

Sorry Max?

MAX

When can you start?

LISA

Straight away!

JAMES

I'll have to discuss your offer, of course.

WIL

Of course.

Max and Wil quickly share a look.

JAMES

I know you are both extremely busy men. Max, Wil, I'll have an answer for you by the end of the day.

WIL

Okay. We'll look forward to a positive outcome, and hopefully the start of a fruitful relationship that will be mutually benef...

MAX

(interrupts)

James, we hope that you'll come on board.

Wil's head jolts towards Max at the interruption, before begrudgingly acknowledging that his sentence was a little long-winded.

The three men stand. Wil and then Max shakes James' hand.

LISA

Ya reckon Wil waxes his chest?

2 - EXT. CARPARK - DAY

James walks, struts, on his own to his car. His smile is wide, with shoulders to match. When the camera is directly on him, he is walking alone. When the camera (frequently) captures his reflection in a mirror, Lisa is walking alongside.

He gets into his car.

3 - INT. CAR - DAY

James sits alone in his car, overlooking a park. From outside the car, it appears as if he is talking to himself.

JAMES

It's definitely a good offer. I just don't know if I want to jump ship to someone in the same game. I mean, I've been at TTF for more than 10 years.

Cut to a shot of the passenger seat through the driver's rear vision mirror, where Lisa now sits.

LISA

This is what you've been working so hard for all these years. You're reputation is huge. How long have they taken advantage of you at TTF.

JAMES

(Resigned)

Yeah, but am I really going to make a difference? Preston Goodwin. I mean, I'll just be doing the same thing, but for more money. And there's Wil to deal with. And I'll be in China.

LISA

The difference is... we'll have more money! And you'll be doing the same thing!

JAMES

Yeah, but...

LISA

And you've promised me I can get a brand new car since before we got married.

There is a long pause while James considers Lisa's words. He starts the car.

4 - SERIES OF SHOTS

James alone behind the wheel.

James and Lisa together as viewed in a shop window reflection.

James and Lisa together in the car - reflected internal mirror.

James notices a fast food restaurant and pulls in.

5 - INT. / EXT. CAR IN CARPARK - DAY

James unbuckles his seatbelt and moves to get out.

LISA

Where do you think you're going?

JAMES

(Cynically)

It's lunchtime. I'm getting a cheeseburger. You know what? Two cheeseburgers! And a thick shake.

LISA

Really?

JAMES

Really!

6 - INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Drinks and open lunch containers haphazardly fill the table, as Max stands pouring himself and Wil a drink. Wil sits at the table; the pair have their top shirt buttons undone.

WIL

Well, he's qualified, smart, intelligent. I'm not saying he wouldn't be a get for us.

MAX

He's kicked your butt for the last 12 months!

Wil's dour look reveals the truth in Max's claim.

MAX (CONT.)

What's with taking forever to answer a question?

WIL

I know! Probably just nerves. He was thinking how much to boost his current salary by!

MAX

Yeah, I reckon. I thought he would have jumped at the cash.

Wil reaches for James' personnel folder and opens it.

WIL

Ah, he wants it. He's probably itching to call right now.

I don't know who he's got to discuss it with? It says here he's single!

7 - EXT. PARK - DAY

James sits at a street cafe, wearing mirrored sunglasses and eating a salad sandwich. We can only see Lisa in the sunglasses.

JAMES

So, what's your thoughts?

LISA

Trust your judgement baby. You've always done the right thing.

JAMES

You can be very persuasive when you want to be.

Lisa holds up her left hand and flashes her wedding ring.

LISA
Took you long enough to propose...

You do know that you look ridiculous
in those things.

James absorbs Lisa's quip with a wry smile.

8 - EXT. PARK - DAY

James and Lisa walk side by side along a path in the park;
theoretically hand in hand.

LISA
So, what are you afraid of?

JAMES
I just...

I dunno.

LISA
What?

JAMES
Lise. If I say yes, that's it.

Walking in front, Lisa quickly turns and stops James, standing
face to face.

LISA
James, I've got to tell you Eleanor
Roosevelt said it best, "Do one
thing everyday that scares you."

James takes off his glasses, looks in Lisa's direction and
then looks down.

JAMES
(thoughtfully)
I'll miss you.

A few tense seconds pass. Almost following her command, James
takes out his mobile phone and dials.

CUT TO:

9 - INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY. SWAP WITH 10 - EXT. - PARK - DAY

Max and Wil sit, still discussing the days proceedings. Max checks his phone as it rings, looks at Wil and answers.

MAX

Hey James. Are you making me a happy man?

JAMES

Hi Max. As Eleanor Roosevelt says, "Don't be scared to do things everyday."

MAX

Okay?

JAMES

I'll give notice tomorrow.

MAX

Fantastic! Come in after that and we'll start the paperwork. Welcome aboard!

JAMES

Cheers Max.

James hangs up and takes a deep sigh. He puts his sunglasses back on. Lisa is no longer in his reflections, no longer in his life.

11 - EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE DRIVEWAY - LATE DAY

James drives into his driveway. He is alone, even in reflections.

12 - INT. HOUSE - LATE DAY

Sitting in front of his television, eating a microwave pizza, James is lost. Behind him is a picture of him and Lisa smiling, her wedding ring perched on the corner of the frame.

A small tear, but a new beginning.