

Mirrors

First Draft

by

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Opening credits flash over black background.

JAMES (O/S)

... and that's what I can bring to PetroAsia.

MAX (O/S)

Hmmm. Can you give me a prime example from your current role where you've had to deal with internal fraud?

JAMES (O/S)

Yeah, well, that's a good question. Yeah.. Well, we had a time where someone in the C suite was overcharging on marketing expenses - to the tune of two-hundred thousand.

WIL (O/S)

Phew!

JAMES (O/S)

Yeah, so we had to sort that one pretty quickly...

MAX (O/S)

How did you deal with it?

JAMES (O/S)

Got the board involved. There's an oversight committee that got right on top of it.

FADE IN:

INT. BOARDROOM - 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

James, what sort of package will it take to bring you into the PetroAsia fold?

LISA (VO)
 Here you go, baby. Make sure you up
 it a bit.

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

JAMES
 Well, my total package is one thirty
 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.

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

JAMES
 Okay...

MAX
 (interrupts)
 One seventy five, total package.

LISA (VO)
 (excited)
 Yes! We can afford Leslie's braces
 with that.

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

MAX
 When can you start?

The camera dollies and pans 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.

LISA
Straight away!

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

WIL
Of course.

Max and Wil look at each other quickly.

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

WIL
Okay. We'll look forward to a positive outcome, and 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, before James leaves the room.

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.

INT. CAR - DAY

James drives alone in a suburban setting. 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. It's not just the more money, but you'll have a team under you.

JAMES

(Resigned)

I know. But am I really going to make a difference? I mean, I'll just be doing the same thing, but for more money.

LISA

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

JAMES

Yeah, but...

LISA

And Leslie's braces aren't just going to 'magic' their way onto her smile!

There is a long pause while James considers Lisa's words. As he drives, he notices a fast food restaurant and pulls in to the:

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!

Another long pause. James puts on his seatbelt and starts the car.

LISA

Salad?

JAMES

(semi-resigned)

Probably Caesar.

SERIES OF SHOTS

James alone behind the wheel.

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

James alone as he pulls in to a park.

James and Lisa together in the car - reflected.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

Max and Wil sit at the boardroom, opposite each other, with their top shirt buttons undone. Drinks and open lunch containers haphazardly fill the table.

WIL

Well, he's qualified, smart, intelligent. He's definitely a get for us.

MAX

What's with taking forever to answer a question?

WIL

I know! Maybe it was just nerves. He was probably thinking how much to up his current salary by.

MAX

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

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

CUT TO:

EXT. - PARK - DAY

James sits at a park bench, wearing mirrored sunglasses and eating a caesar salad. We can only see Lisa in the sunglasses.

JAMES
 Righto! I'm gonna do it!

LISA
 Attaboy!

JAMES
 You can be very persuasive when you
 want to be.

LISA
 Took you long enough to propose..

James absorbs Lisa's quip, takes out his mobile phone and dials a number.

CUT TO:

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY. SWAP WITH EXT. - PARK - DAY

Max and Wil sit looking at each other. Max answers his mobile phone.

MAX
 Hey James.

JAMES
 Hi Max. I'm on board. I'm gonna do
 it!

MAX
 Fantastic! Come in tomorrow and
 we'll start the paperwork. Welcome
 aboard!

JAMES
 Cheers Max.

James hangs up and takes a deep sigh.

LISA
Well, you've got the day off.
What's on the agenda?

JAMES
I'm going home.

ENDING ONE

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE DRIVEWAY - LATE DAY

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

INT. HOUSE - LATE DAY

Sitting in front of his television, eating a microwave pizza, James ponders his day, his life. Behind him is a picture of him and Lisa smiling.

A small tear.

ENDING TWO

EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE DRIVEWAY - LATE DAY

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

INT. HOUSE - LATE DAY

James walks inside. Lisa is in the kitchen, looking worn down. There are two kids running around.

LISA
How was your day?

JAMES
Fantastic.

THE END