

Mirrors

Third Draft

by

Damian Harris

Opening credits flash over black background.

JAMES (O/S)

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

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. I liaised with the oversight committee that got right on top of it.

FADE IN:

1 - 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 Sarcula fold?

LISA (VO)
Here you go, baby. 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 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.
He's worth it, clown!

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

JAMES
Okay...

MAX
(interrupts)
One seventy five, total package.

LISA (VO)
(excited)
Yes! Now I can get my new car.
You're the man, James!

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.

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. 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.

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.

3 - 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 bigger 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. 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 a brand new car since before we got married.

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:

4 - 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!

5 - 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.

6 - INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

Drinks and open lunch containers haphazardly fill the table,
as Max and Wil sit opposite each other; their top shirt but-
tons undone.

WIL
Well, he's qualified, smart, intel-
ligent. 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
boost his current salary by.

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

Wil reaches for James' personnel folder.

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!

CUT TO:

7 - 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

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 don't want to let you down.

LISA

You know, you never have!

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

LISA

As Eleanor Roosevelt famously said,
"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. BOARDROOM - 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 Will 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
Well, you've got the day off.
What's on the agenda?

JAMES
I'm going home.

ENDING ONE

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 ponders his day, his life. Behind him is a picture of him and Lisa smiling, her wedding ring perched on the corner of the frame.

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