

Green Thumb
by
Noor Nooruddin

Screenplay

Full Sail University
Film Screenwriting
Nyebrahimnooruddin@fullsail.edu
Oct. 26, 2016

INT. GREENHOUSE ROOM - DAY

The room is covered from top to bottom with different plants hanging from the ceiling, growing out of pots, or climbing up the walls.

ALI, 24 and in a dark suit, lies on the floor with his eyes closed. He takes in deep, meditative breaths.

The MORTAL KOMBAT theme song blasts through the room and Ali sits up.

ALI

Well, that's my cue, guys.

Ali gets up and high fives the leaves of his plants on his way out of the apartment.

INT. CREATIVE JUICES OFFICES - DAY

Staff members chitchat in the open office space. Ali walks in, stares at the floor, and mumbles a good-morning. He disappears into a "Managing Director" office.

DANIA, 26, dressed sharply with one side of her hair shaved, shakes her head and sighs.

DANIA

Every morning...

INT. ALI'S OFFICE - DAY

Ali settles into his desk and starts up his computer. His office has a window that overlooks the rest of the workplace, where most employees work in cubicles.

He watches his employees chitchat and laugh. He sighs, giving his office plant a single pet.

His face lights up when he sees REEM, 27, walk in wearing a white shirt and dark pencil skirt, and join the employees. She picks up a coffee walks towards Ali's office. Ali quickly rearranges himself.

REEM

Good morning! I know you've missed me around the office!

ALI

Good morning! Your two weeks over already?

REEM

And I could not wait until the staff meeting to give you the news: Batelco called me a couple of days ago raving about Creative Juices!

Ali's eyes widen.

ALI

They're in?

REEM

I don't know what magic you pulled, but it worked! They want to finalize the deal right away. The biggest telecom company in the country. Imagine!

ALI

Reem, your mission is to make sure we lock them in TODAY. Contract signed, whatever it takes!

REEM

Yes, sir! I'll head over to Legal now. Oh and here's the mail, Ahmed forgot to keep them on your desk this morning.

Reem places the papers on Ali's desk. A bracelet on her wrist JINGLES as she moves.

ALI

Oh, nice bracelet. It looks very pretty on you. Is it from Mike?

REEM

No, Mike and I broke up. I got this from an artisan in Amsterdam who replicated a bracelet her mother used to wear.

ALI

Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't know about Mike. Was it during the trip?

REEM

Nope, I broke up with Mike just before my flight. It's okay! I've been planning to for a while. We just didn't fit and lost interest in each other. Time for new opportunities, maybe.

ALI

Well... That's great, then.

REEM

Yeah.

They linger in a brief and awkward silence.

REEM (CONT'D)

Well, I'll get started on finalizing this today. I'll let you know when I need you to sign the paperwork.

ALI

Right. Thanks, Reem.

As Reem walks out of his office, Dania comes in with a folder and a smile on her face.

ALI (CONT'D)

What?

DANIA

I take it you got the wonderful news.

ALI

Yup, and we need to get them to sign the contracts today, before they change their minds.

DANIA

What? No, I mean about Reem!

ALI

Oh... It makes me nervous. Why am I nervous?

DANIA

Because your body knows that your life is about to change now that you have an opening with her, that's why.

ALI

Don't be ridiculous, Dania. Nothing's going to change just because she's single. She's probably in break-up pain right now, anyway.

The two look out the in-office window and see Reem chuckling at a YouTube video on Ahmed's phone.

DANIA

Oh yeah, she seems devastated.

ALI

She's so out of reach! There's too much I need to fix or hide before even thinking about having someone like her in my life.

DANIA

Hide? Just go up to her and say, "Hey, I'm freaky, and I want to know how freaky you are too. So let's be freaky together over dinner."

Ali laughs.

ALI

Is that how you got Sheila?

DANIA

And it was happily ever after ever since. Everyone's weird, boss, it's just a matter of who you want to share your funkiness with.

Ali glances at his office cactus, across from his office plant, and sighs.

ALI

Not like this. The last time I told someone about my "funkiness," they completely shut me out and called me a freak.

DANIA

Look, I know what works best with you: an action goal! You need something physically concrete to achieve in your upcoming adventure to woo Reem.

ALI

Like getting her to kiss me?

DANIA

There you go! Now do that thing that you do when you blow clients away and have them beg you to take them.

ALI

A PowerPoint presentation to get her to kiss me.

Dania scoffs.

DANIA

Look, I wouldn't be pushing if you had all the time in the world.

ALI

What do you mean?

DANIA

I got a call from the Dubai office. They need a current-employee recruitment and they were asking about Reem. This may be your only shot.

ALI

That's not pressure at all.

DANIA

Just promise me you'll try something.

ALI

I'll try something. If I can think of something.

DANIA

Yay! Well, here's the brief on Red Bull, then. Let me know who you want on Creative.

Dania turns to leave and then stops.

DANIA (CONT'D)

Just... please don't pick Rashed, he won't stop about the health risks, and the benefits of "gymming." That's not even a word.

ALI

Yeah, he's a self-perfectionist, if that's a thing.

DANIA

He's self-conscious, and that's a thing. He spent a week listening to the Phantom of the Opera, until his cousin told him musicals were "gay." Now it's Bedouin poetry all day long.

ALI

Good thing I have a private office and headphones!

DANIA

No one likes a show-off, boss. Now, don't forget what you promised!

Dania leaves the office and Ali stares at his computer screen.