

Fix-It In Post "Pilot"

By

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EXT. NONDESCRIPT OFFICE BUILDING - EARLY MORNING

Outside of a dark looming building, JIM LEE (29) looks up at his new office building. The building is higher than the cloud line. A flock of crows circle the building. Dark clouds surround the top of the building.

He sighs and shakes his head before entering the building.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - HALLWAY - CONTINUED

The doors shut on their own behind him and echo throughout the empty hallway. His footsteps echo loudly as he walks further into the building.

The winding and twisting hallways grow darker. Some hallway lights flicker as he walks past. The hallway twists one more time and then at the end of the hall a single glass door.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - OUTSIDE RECEPTION- CONTINUED

He examines the door. It has a blue bulldog logo and the name "Bludog Studios" written on it. He pulls it open.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - RECEPTION- CONTINUED

Inside is a sleeping guard in the corner and a box full of name tags on the reception desk. JIM sifts through it and finds his. He wraps it around his neck and continues towards his floor.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - 2ND FLOOR - CONTINUED

This floor has lights on but little to no one is here. The desks are empty. Rows of black screen computers as far as the eye could see.

JIM continues his trek.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - 1ST FLOOR- DUNGEON

There is a faint blue light coming from below the steps. He walks down the steps into the DUNGEON. The whole room is only lit by a few sparse computer screens. This is where the lighting and compositing department works.

(CONTINUED)

Rows of computers are on each side of the walkway. His hands reach out to find his way through the dark. There is one desk that has a light on. The desk looks as if it came out of a classic film noir detective's office. Low lighting, a glass of whiskey, and always some mysterious amount of fog.

He passes by and drops his stuff at a nearby computer. He hangs his coat on the chair and looks around. Off in the distance there are a few people that are already here.

A few feet away there are two Indian TWINS already here working. The blue light reflect off of their identical faces. Their eyes pierce him and follow him as he walks by.

At the end of the room there's a single bright light.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - KITCHENETTE - ENTRANCE

JIM walks over to the light, curious. When he gets to it a train of people push him aside and enter the kitchenette.

JIM

Ow! What the hell!?

The line of people doesn't stop. Some are even repeat offenders. All of them fidgeting.

He finds an opening and jumps into line.

As it gets closer into the room he sees it's a line for the only working coffee machine.

He looks back and the people behind him are doing limbo while they wait.

JIM

What the-?

He gets shoved into the kitchenette.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - KITCHENETTE

He finally enters the room and manages to pour himself a cup of coffee. He quickly steps away from the erratic line. Right before people surge forward.

Opposite of the coffee machine on the wall is a small print out picture of a man. He looks a little heavy set and greying. The paper is crinkled and crooked.

It reads: "Jerry Williams, 1980-2022, Lighting Dept., Proud Bludog Family."

Below it is a large plate of doughnuts and people grab some after their coffee. But no one stops to read the sign.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - MORNING

When he returns to his desk with a coffee and a doughnut in hand, he sees someone is sitting at the foggy desk now. PAUL SIMON (55) also known, unaffectionately by his peers, as NOIR.

NOIR

Hey you must be the new guy.

This guy is hidden in the shadow. He extends his hand out for a handshake. His hand is all that shows up in the light.

JIM tries to take his hand but JIM's own hands are full.

JIM

Oh sorry!

He stuffs the doughnut in his mouth and shakes the guy's hand.

NOIR

I'm Paul Simon. But people here like to call me Noir. No idea why though. But it sounds cool.

JIM

(with food in mouth)

Yeah, no idea. But that's cool!

NOIR

What was that?

JIM

(food in mouth)

Oh sorry!

He takes a bite and swallows before holding the rest of the doughnut again.

JIM

I said that's cool! Anyway I'm Jim Lee.

NOIR

Funny you don't look Asian?

(CONTINUED)

JIM

What?

NOIR

With a name like that I thought you'd be Asian.

JIM

(awkward chuckle)

Ha ha, yeah...Sorry to disappoint. Well nice meeting you Paul.

NOIR

You too. And call me Noir.

JIM

Um okay-

JIM walks away from that awkward scenario and heads towards his desk.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - JIM'S DESK

He places his coffee and doughnut down when someone plops down in the chair next to him.

AMY (O.S.)

Hi you must be the new person! See what I did? I didn't want to offend you in case you're not cis, so I just called you person. I don't want to assume anything.

JIM looks over at AMY (22) an overweight girl in an ugly bright shirt with fading dyed purple hair that's smiling at him.

JIM

Um, thanks? Yeah, I'm new. My name is Jim.

AMY

Hi Jim! My name is Amy. So what are your pronouns? Mine are she/her although sometimes I like to use they/them.

AMY (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Oh and I identify as gender queer.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
Um, cool. And just the normal ones
I guess?

AMY
(confused)
Normal? Does that mean you think
pronouns like xe and xem aren't
normal?

JIM
No, I just mean-

AMY's expression sours and JIM is tired.

JIM (CONT'D)
(sighs)
It's he and him.

AMY
Okay then! Looks like we sit next
to each other! We're gonna be great
friends! I can already feel like
we're vibing.

JIM
Um, sure.

JIM winces and regrets his choice in desks. She smiles at
him freakishly wide. He eyes the empty desks near him and
wonders if it would be too late to move?

JIM
So, Amy? who was that guy they have
posted up in the kitchen?

AMY
Oh you mean Jerry? Yeah HR sent out
an e-mail to all of us about that.
But I guess since you're new you
didn't get that.

JIM
(mumbles)
I guess not.

AMY
He was a lighting artist like us.
And he was working over 80 hours
last week and he had a heart
attack.

(CONTINUED)

JIM
He died in the office?!

JIM imagines death germs around him. He wipes his hands on his pants.

AMY
(smiles)
Yup. And then right after that they hired you.

JIM
So they hired me because I'm replacing a dead guy?

AMY
(chipper)
Yup!

JIM
And that doesn't strike you as weird at all?

AMY
(still chipper)
Nope that kind of thing happens here often. Two months ago someone over in the effects department got replaced too.

JIM
Oh.

JIM doesn't feel like eating. He also feels like he's going to need more coffee to get through the day. So he grabs his mug and his doughnut and heads to the kitchen.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - KITCHEN

The crowd of people are gone and only one person is standing and drinking her coffee. SARAH (24) has long curly dark hair and is the most fashionable one in the office. She is eyeing JIM up behind her coffee.

JIM throws the doughnut away and notices she's eyeing him up.

JIM
Um hi?

He takes in how hot she is and clears his throat. He puts on a fake bravado.

(CONTINUED)

JIM (CONT'D)
(deep voice)
I mean, Hey. The name's Jim.

SARAH
(laughs behind her cup)
I'm Sarah.

JIM's fake bravado falls away.

JIM
I like that sweater. I mean you
look nice.

SARAH
(concerned)
Really? You don't think it's too
baggy?

JIM
No-

JIM was about to say more but the moment is lost. Another man walks through the kitchen and her hungry eyes land on him. Feeling deflated JIM just quietly leaves.

He completely forgets about getting another cup of coffee.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - JIM'S DESK

JIM sits at his desk and starts to work. Out of nowhere an e-mail notification pops up on his monitor.

We see that all of the screens in the DUNGEON have gotten the pop up notification.

It reads: "The client has decided that the entirety of the movie's vfx shots will be replaced. (There will also be new extra scenes included.) However the studio would like the movie to be done on schedule..."

SUNG-HEE (O.S.)
Oo! Sound like challenge!

JIM looks around and finds the owner of the voice. SUNG-HEE (30) a ridiculously chipper Korean immigrant with a thick accent.

JIM
And is that good?

SUNG-HEE turns around to face JIM, smiles, and bows his head slightly.

(CONTINUED)

SUNG-HEE

Oh hello! Yes I never do this before.

JIM

What? Redo a whole movie in two weeks?

SUNG-HEE

Yes. This will be fun.

JIM

Sounds like hell if you ask me. Oh and the name's Jim.

He sticks his hand out for a shake.

SUNG-HEE

I am Sung-hee.

SUNG-HEE smiles even brighter somehow. SUNG-HEE doesn't take his hand.

JIM

(awkward)

Cool...Well I should probably get something done today. Nice meeting you.

SUNG-HEE

(smiles)

You too!

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - JIM'S DESK - CONTINUED

JIM spots SARAH leaving the kitchen. She has to pass him to get to her desk.

JIM

(smiles)

Hey!

SARAH stops in her tracks.

SARAH

(smiles)

Hey.

JIM

So I'm new. Do you know where someone could get a good cup of coffee around here? This stuff kinda sucks.

(CONTINUED)

He looks at his empty mug and chucks it behind him. Amy miraculously catches the flying mug.

AMY (O.S.)
(shrieks)
What the hell?!

She looks around trying to figure out where it came from.

SARAH
(chuckles)
Yeah it does.

She takes a sip of her coffee and smirks at him.

SARAH(CONT'D)
I might know a place.

JIM
Sweet do you want to maybe go there
sometime? How about now?!

SARAH
I'm kind of busy now.

JIM
Okay that's fine how about later
maybe after lunch? You know after
the 2'oclock slug brain comes out.

SARAH
(chuckles)
Not today.

JIM
Alright well how about tomorrow
then?

SARAH
You're really persistent aren't
you?

JIM
(smirks)
That's my middle name.

SARAH
I can tell. Well fine tomorrow
after lunch sounds good.

JIM
Perfect.

She smiles at him before walking away towards her desk.

(CONTINUED)

SUNG-HEE (O.S.)
(tsk tsk)
No good idea.

SUNG-HEE turns to him.

JIM
What are you talking about?

SUNG-HEE
She date everyone here. She break
your heart.

JIM
Even you?

SUNG-HEE
Two year ago. When she first work
here.

JIM
(smirks)
Oh. Then this should be easy then.

SUNG-HEE
Okay don't say I don't warn you.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - JIM'S DESK - MID MORNING

JIM is working on a particularly hard shot. On screen a
superhero is falling from the sky into the water below.

Just then he notices something catch his eye. The tag for
the previous owner of this shot has the name "Jeff W"
written on it.

JIM
(gasps)
No way!

AMY
(leans over)
What? What's going on?

JIM
Jeff worked on this shot!

She looks at the screen.

AMY
Wow I guess so. I don't remember
all of his. They weren't kidding
about you replacing him huh?

(CONTINUED)

JIM is freaking out. He combs through all of his assigned shots. Every single one of them were once Jeff's.

JIM
(mouths)
Fuck!

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - SARAH'S DESK - MID MORNING

AMY is at SARAH's desk. She is eating chips and offers SARAH some.

AMY
So what do you think about Jim?

SARAH
Jim? Oh Jerry 2.0?! Why did he say something about me?

AMY
Um, no? Should he?

SARAH
No reason. But yeah he's cute.
Definitely an improvement.

AMY
Yeah I guess so. That's not what I mean though. Do you think with the deadline he'll make it?

SARAH
I don't know. I don't know if I'll even make it. They might need to replace me too.

AMY
Mood. But seriously this is his first movie?

SARAH
What?

AMY
Yeah he's only worked on commercials till now. See!

AMY shows her JIM's demo reel on her phone.

SARAH
Oh he's going to die. But then again he might be used to the quick turn around.

(CONTINUED)

AMY

I hope so for his sake.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - CAFETERIA - LUNCH TIME

JIM walks into the cafeteria. He passes by the TWINS from earlier who again both stare as he walks by.

Off in the other side of the cafeteria a group of people are betting on how long JIM will last at Bludog.

GAMBLER #2

So how long do you think he'll last?

GAMBLER #3

I'd say a month tops.

GAMBLER #1

Alright and I'll put myself down for a week.

GAMBLER #4

I heard he's never even been in vfx.

GAMBLER #1

Nah you mean he's never worked on a movie. He's done commercials.

GAMBLER #2

No way then he'd be gone in a week. Put me down for a year.

GAMBLER #4

(snickers)

Oh look who's playing the long game.

GAMBLER #1

Okay that's pretty far out I'll put you down for half a year to a year instead.

GAMBLER #2

Alright I appreciate it.

GAMBLER #3

(whispers)

Oh shit he's here hide it all!

(CONTINUED)

The group betters hide their bidding money and score board as JIM walks by. Their eyes follow him. JIM shrugs it off and finds an empty table.

He sits down and immediately the seats around him are filled by AMY, SARAH, and SUNG-HEE.

SUNG-HEE
(chuckles)
Hello "New Jerry."

AMY
(winces)
Sorry I told them.

JIM
Shit is that what people are
calling me now?!

SARAH
That and "Jerry 2.0."

JIM
Great way to make a guy feel
welcomed.

AMY
Oh don't worry it'll go away soon.

JIM
You mean when another guy drops
dead?

AMY
Don't be so rude! But yeah.

JIM
How am I rude you're the one who
told me about this whole thing?!

AMY
I just told you who he was, I
didn't tell you to be rude about
this whole thing.

JIM
Fine whatever! But still it doesn't
sit right with me.

AMY
What doesn't?

(CONTINUED)

JIM
that I'm only here because Jerry
died.

AMY
Aww! Don't cut yourself short! Your
commercials were good!

JIM
You saw my demo reel?!

SARAH
Yeah she stalks new people she
meets. And then shows me.

AMY
(scoffs)
No I don't!

SARAH
Yeah you do. You're pretty creepy
Amy.

AMY
(offended)
No I'm not!

AMY (CONT'D)
(pouts)
Anyway at least I'm not Noir level
creepy!

JIM
Speaking of, how has he not been
canceled yet?

AMY
Mood.

SARAH
Not for the lack of trying. But why
this time?

JIM
The first thing he says is he's
surprised I'm not Asian.

JIM (CONT'D)
(to SUNG-HEE)
No offense.

(CONTINUED)

SUNG-HEE

(smiles)

Okay.

AMY

He's the brother in law of the lighting department head. So he can't be fired.

SARAH

Nepotism.

JIM

Isn't that like all of the film industry?

AMY and SARAH look at each other frustrated. SUNG-HEE is smiling through his sandwich.

JIM

What I don't get is he's ancient. Practically a boomer. So how has he not just retired yet?

AMY

That's ageist!

SARAH

We think he stays because it makes him feel relevant. And it gives him something to do.

JIM

Okay well how hasn't he gotten any promotions?

AMY

Actually he has, a few times even. He told me he didn't accept them because he likes being an artist.

SARAH

Even though his work is subpar. Anyone can do it. But yeah I think it's so he can socialize with us. When you're higher up you have even less time.

Just then NOIR shows up. This time he's not shadowed and you can see he is a middle aged white man with glasses.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH(CONT'D)
Speak of the devil-

NOIR
And he shall arrive. So you guys
were talking about me? What about?

JIM
Nothing Paul.

NOIR
Oh no come on now! I want to know!

JIM
Fine! We were wondering why you
like that name *Noir* so much.

NOIR
It makes me sound all mysterious-

SARAH
(mumbles)
And old.

AMY
(mumbles)
And old.

NOIR
What was that?

JIM
Probably nothing. Anyway so Paul
how long have you been here?

NOIR
Fifty-five years...Oh at Bludog you
mean? For about eight years now.

JIM
And in that time you haven't
thought to find something else? Or
you know move on?

NOIR
Something else? Move on?

JIM
You know another company or another
position? You should be a head of
the department somewhere by now.

NOIR
Nope.

(CONTINUED)

JIM

What do you mean nope? Why not?

NOIR

Why? What's the point? I've got everything I need here.

JIM

That's kind of sad Paul. Sounds like you're not trying anymore.

NOIR

(scoffs)

What does that mean? I'm still trying! I'm still hip!

SARAH

(mumbles)

No one even said that.

NOIR

(shouts)

I'm still young!

People around them in the cafeteria stop to stare.

JIM

Calm down Paul!

NOIR

(shouts)

No you know what?! I'll prove it!

He scrolls through his phone and finds an old meme from 2017 he had saved and just discovered.

NOIR

See isn't this funny!?

He shows it to everyone at the table.

NOIR

See I'm still in the know.

AMY

Um, actually that meme represents oppression. And-

NOIR

Shut up! Not everything is super woke!

AMY scoffs and glares at NOIR. She's seething in her seat.

(CONTINUED)

NOIR

But see Jim, this is funny right?

JIM

Yeah sure Paul. It's funny. But what does that have to do with you not wanting to leave here?

NOIR

It-

SUNG-HEE

Maybe he okay here?

NOIR looks at SUNG-HEE stunned.

SUNG-HEE

What? I can speak English.

NOIR

You mean this whole time I've known you, you could speak English?

SUNG-HEE

Yes.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - SUNG-HEE'S DESK
(FLASHBACK)

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

Title Card: "2015"

NOIR is laughing as he scrolls through his phone. He is standing next to SUNG-HEE's desk.

NOIR

Hey you know that "Gangnam Style" song right? Oh right that's probably your favorite song.

He continues to scroll through his phone.

SUNG-HEE rolls his eyes.

NOIR

So that's why they call it a Gangnam style? I'm sure you already knew that though. You're from there right?

SUNG-HEE looks up and smiles before looking back at the computer monitor.

(CONTINUED)

NOIR

Well that was some fun trivia of
the day. Anyway have a good one!

NOIR whistles as he walks away and SUNG-HEE shakes his head.

END FLASHBACK

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - CAFETERIA - LUNCH

Present Day

NOIR is still staring at SUNG-HEE in disbelief then shakes
his head and sighs.

NOIR

Why haven't you said anything
before?! You made me think you
couldn't speak English for years.

SUNG-HEE

Easier that way.

NOIR

Holy shit.

JIM

Yeah you don't say. Whelp I'm
leaving this awkward as hell
moment. See you guys later in
dailies.

NOIR

Okay, see you Jim!

AMY

Bye!

SARAH

Bye!

SUNG-HEE smiles and waves.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - JIM'S DESK - DAILIES

Cut to Camera view of a Zoom style conference call. JIM is
the first one to arrive.

JIM

(mumbles)

Oh-kay this is weird they said it's
at one o'clock right? Where is
everyone?

(CONTINUED)

SUNG-HEE arrives next, he is all smiles as usual.

JIM
Oh hey!

SUNG-HEE
Hello!

The two quiet TWINS from earlier show up on the call.

JIM
Hey! I've seen you guys earlier but
I didn't get a chance to say hi!

The TWINS microphone stays mute.

A beat.

JIM
(awkward)
Oh-kay. Anyway nice meeting you.

JIM also mutes his microphone.

The VFX SUPERVISOR a big bearded man (35) and the LIGHTING LEAD a sickly skinny British man (30) joins the call.

VFX SUPERVISOR
Hey glad to see everyone is here.

LIGHTING LEAD
Oh-lo! And no looks like we're
missing a few.

VFX SUPERVISOR
Should we wait then?

SARAH joins the call.

LIGHTING LEAD
Just two more I think.

LIGHTING LEAD (CONT'D)
Well in the mean time I can
introduce you to one of our new
team members. Jim Lee.

VFX SUPERVISOR
Oh right, because Jerry is gone?

JIM is mute but his face falls at that remark.

SARAH snorts and tries to hide her laughter on screen with fake coughs.

(CONTINUED)

NOIR fumbles with his headset.

NOIR
(mumbles)
Damn piece of shit! Stop tangling
up!

JIM
Paul you're not mute.

NOIR
What?!

SARAH
You're not mute Noir!

NOIR
Oh really?! Shit! Hold on.

NOIR finds a way to mute himself. By grabbing the microphone
in his hand.

AMY finally arrives, she's always late.

AMY
Oh sorry I'm late everyone.

LIGHTING LEAD
No worries.

VFX SUPERVISOR
Just try to be here on time for
once.

AMY winces.

LIGHTING LEAD
Alright so the shots I have to show
you today are from the PU sequence
and the AR one. Now the first one
is-

The dailies meeting goes on and on, the voices blur away as
everyone else in the call tries to keep their composure.

NOIR falls asleep and he wasn't mute after all. His snoring
comes through.

SARAH laughs at him.

JIM leaves his screen and shows up on NOIR's to wake him up.

SUNG-HEE is sitting real still with his eyes unblinking.

(CONTINUED)

AMY turns to ask him something but he doesn't move.

JIM shocks NOIR awake.

NOIR
(shouts)
What the-?!

JIM
You were snoring! And for Christ's
sake mute yourself.

JIM hits the mute button on his computer. He rushes back to his computer.

AMY is still trying to get SUNG-HEE's attention. He finally wakes up and we see he had his eyes painted onto his eyelids.

Everyone including the VFX SUPERVISOR and LIGHTING LEAD stop to stare.

LIGHTING LEAD
Well that's it for today.

VFX SUPERVISOR
Alright see you guys tomorrow and
remember we've got two weeks!

The VFX SUPERVISOR leaves the call and the Lighting LEAD clears his throat.

LIGHTING LEAD
Jim again welcome to the show,
sorry you're not here on better
circumstances.

JIM
It's fine, and thanks.

LIGHTING LEAD
Alright well everyone else get your
shite together! There's going to be
plenty of overtime coming our way.
Alright anyhow good luck on your
shots.

The LIGHTING LEAD leaves the call and one by one so does everyone else. NOIR is of course the last to leave.

NOIR
How the fuck do I-? Oh right the
big red phone down button.

He finally leaves the call.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - JIM'S DESK

JIM can't shake the feeling that he should know more about Jerry. He stops working and turns to AMY.

JIM

Isn't it a bit strange that no one even talks about Jerry? To all of you he was just here.

AMY

Not really, people come and go all the time.

AMY (CONT'D)

(shock)

Oh not that they keeping dying, I mean they move on. To another company.

JIM

Right. So there's got to be someone here that was friends with him and they can tell me more about him right?

AMY

Maybe but why?

JIM

I'm replacing a guy because he died, I feel like I should at least learn who he was. It's the least I could do.

AMY

But you do know. He was a lighter like you, he worked too hard and had a heart attack. And now you're here.

JIM

And that's ALL I know. I don't even know if he had kids or what he was like. I'm going to to try to find someone.

JIM shoots up from his chair.

(CONTINUED)

AMY
Good luck.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - 1ST FLOOR - PRODUCTION AREA

JIM walks around seeing who he could talk to. He spots the production staff and figures someone there ought to know.

JIM
Hey so I was wondering if maybe you could tell me a little bit more about Jerry?

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Who's Jerry?

JIM
The guy I replaced.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Oh that Jerry! Yeah nah I couldn't tell you anything, I barely knew him.

JIM
Did anyone know him?

He looked around the office and all of them shrugged.

JIM
There's got to be someone that knew him!

EXT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - 1ST FLOOR - MEETING ROOM

Outside of a meeting room JIM runs into the LIGHTING LEAD from earlier.

JIM
Hey!

LIGHTING LEAD
Hi Jim! How are you settling in?

JIM
Fine, so hey I was wondering did you know anything about Jerry?

LIGHTING LEAD
What about him?

(CONTINUED)

JIM

I don't know, did if he have a family or something?

LIGHTING LEAD

I think he had two kids or something I don't remember. He would drag on sometimes but I rarely listened. Anyway I'm a bit short on time. If you have any other questions ask Sung-hee.

The LIGHTING LEAD rushes off.

JIM

(mumbles)

If everyone is in the office why are we still doing zoom meetings?

SUNG-HEE(O.S.)

I don't know.

JIM jumps from SUNG-HEE showing up out of the blue.

JIM

(shouts)

Oh god!

JIM (CONT'D)

Hi! So hey do you know anything about Jerry?

SUNG-HEE

He was nice.

SUNG-HEE leaves. JIM is left wondering if anyone even knew him.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - AMY'S DESK - MID AFTERNOON

NOIR heads over to AMY's desk.

NOIR

So why were you late this time? About of anxiety or was it another one of your kind's panic attack?

AMY

(shock)

Um excuse me?! My kind? And are you making fun of my mental illness?!

(CONTINUED)

NOIR

No, I'm sure other people really have them. People that went through some real shit. Like veterans. But what made you late this time? You only live three blocks from here.

AMY

(scoffs)

And?

NOIR

So why are you always late?

AMY

That's none of your business. But if you have to know-

NOIR

I don't, but I'm sure you'll tell me anyway.

One seat over JIM comes back and sits in his chair and puts his headphones on to work.

AMY

It's because I had a small anxiety attack after lunch. I was watching some tik toks and they triggered me. They reminded me of when my parents sold the house from under me. I was living on my friend's couch for months.

NOIR

(regret)

Well shit. I'm sorry kid. But hey maybe use your phone less?

AMY

I should but-

NOIR

Your generation is addicted to them.

NOIR leaves AMY's desk.

AMY

(mumbles)

Boomer.

NOIR

(mumbles)

Zoomer.

He turns to JIM.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - JIM'S DESK - CONTINUED

NOIR hovers by JIM and waits till he notices. JIM reluctantly pulls off his headphones to see what NOIR wants.

NOIR

Hey Jerry- I mean Jim, how's it hanging?

NOIR chuckles at his own joke.

JIM

(sighs)

Hey Paul. From like 5 minutes ago when we were all on the call? Yeah nothing has changed.

NOIR

Nothing new?

JIM

Nope.

NOIR

So I've heard through the grapevine you've got all of Jerry's shots.

JIM

Word seems to have a funny way of traveling fast around here.

JIM side eyes AMY.

NOIR

But has anyone told you that you're at his desk too?

JIM

What?!

JIM looks around his desk in concern.

NOIR

No I'm just joshing you it's the one next to you.

He's pointing at the empty seat on the left of JIM. He looks over at it.

JIM

(mumbles)

Well shit.

(CONTINUED)

JIM (CONT'D)

(to Noir)

Well hey I need to get back to work.

NOIR

Well hey let me see your work first.

JIM

Fine. Then you're leaving!

NOIR

Alright.

JIM pulls up what he was working on since the morning. His lighting work is really beautiful. And all of his shots are more than halfway done.

NOIR

Wow! And you didn't come across any errors?

JIM

To be honest not many. A few animation errors I had to send back. Like this one.

He pulls up a shot where the character model is inverted and the eyeballs are coming out of their sockets.

NOIR

That's so creepy.

JIM

Yeah it's cursed but anyways so yeah so those are my shots.

NOIR

You just got those shots today?

JIM

Yeah I just got here remember.

NOIR

(mumbles)

Fucking show off.

NOIR retreats in a silent jealous rage.

AMY turns to JIM and smiles.

(CONTINUED)

AMY
You showed him!

JIM
Sure, Amy. Sure.

AMY deflates and JIM goes back to work. He feels a little funny and starts to rub his head.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON KITCHENETTE

SARAH is picking out snacks by the coffee machine.

NOIR comes in with his mug and pretends to choose a coffee.

NOIR
(frustrated)
There's just so many options on this new spangled machine. I don't know which one to get.

SARAH
I'm surprised you haven't tried them all by now.

NOIR
Ha! Good point I'll just go through all of them.

SARAH nods her head. She notices NOIR isn't wearing his wedding ring anymore.

A sweet "Dulce Frappe" concoction floods his mug.

NOIR
Thanks now to see what this tastes like.

He takes a sip. His face is pinched in disgust.

NOIR
What happened to coffee just being coffee?

SARAH
(mumbles)
Just choose the black coffee option then. Jeez.

NOIR
Well waste not, want not and all. I'll see you around.

He takes another sip as he leaves and groans at the taste.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - NIGHTMARE SEQUENCE

Begin Nightmare Sequence:

JIM looks at his hands and he notices it's a little thicker and older. With a few liver spots and more veins.

JIM
What the-?

He looks down and sees his flat stomach replaced with a giant beer gut.

JIM
What the hell?

The date on the computer was last week. His desk looks different. There's a photo of some kids next to his monitor.

The monitor itself is covered with sticky notes in a handwriting he doesn't recognize.

AMY(O.S.)
Hi Jerry did you get that shot I asked for help on done? It should be "PCS-1280."

JIM looks over at AMY. She's two seats down now. And her hair is a different color. A faded pink.

JIM
(confused)
What? Why are you calling me that?

His voice isn't his. JIM's hands shoot up to his mouth in shock.

AMY
Are you okay Jerry? You don't look good. Not talking about your looks or anything. Just you look a little sick.

JIM tries to get up from his desk but he is having trouble.

A hand lands on each shoulder. It's the TWINS from earlier. They shush him and prevent him from standing.

Just then JIM feels a sharp pain run through him. He clutches his heart.

(CONTINUED)

SFX: Fast heartbeat

JIM
(groans)
Aaaa! What the hell!

JIM falls off the chair onto the floor clutching his heart.
He's wheezing.

SFX: Heart rate monitor flatline

AMY (O.S.)
(shouts)
Jerry?!!

The last thing he sees are the twins above him.

End Nightmare Sequence

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - JIM'S DESK - LATE AFTERNOON

Present Day

JIM shoots his head up from the desk and screams.

AMY
Are you okay?

JIM
(breathing heavy)
Maybe? Yeah, yeah I think so.

He's sweating a little and tries to catch his breath. He nervously looks at his hands. They're his again. He then looks down at his stomach. It's flat again. His voice is also his again.

JIM
Oh thank God!

The desk isn't covered with sticky notes and there are no photos. JIM sighs in relief.

AMY
What happened?

JIM
Nothing. Everything is fine.

AMY
Maybe you ate something weird?

NOIR overhears when he walks by.

(CONTINUED)

NOIR(O.S.)
Probably that cheap sushi you had
for lunch.

JIM
(mumbles)
Maybe.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - SARAH'S DESK

AMY grabs her too sweet latte and heads over to SARAH's
desk.

AMY
Hey so how are your shots going?

SARAH
Good I'm just having a little
trouble with lighting the pupils.

AMY
Yeah. So any new tea?

SARAH
I think Noir got divorced.

AMY
What since when?!

SARAH
He took off his wedding ring.

AMY
What do you think happened?

SARAH
I don't know their shared instagram
went private. You don't think she
has her own secret one do you?

AMY
What was her name again?

SARAH
Margaret I think?

AMY
So a maggie then. Let me see.

She fumbles with her phone a few seconds.

(CONTINUED)

AMY

Okay found her! "Maggie83." Why do boomers always put their birth year in their username?

SARAH

I can't tell if I should be disgusted at how fast you were able to find her or not.

AMY

Do you want to see it or not?!

SARAH

Show me!

AMY hands SARAH her phone.

SARAH(CONT'D)

No way she was born in eighty-three! You know how old Noir is.

AMY

So she's trying to be younger?

SARAH

That would explain the guy she's with.

AMY peers over here shoulder at the photos. All of the most recent ones were of the wife and a younger man at a beach.

AMY

Oh.

SARAH

Yeah-

AMY

We gotta tell him right?

SARAH

Maybe? He might already know. In any case it looks like Jerry isn't the only one that got replaced.

AMY and SARAH chuckle behind the computers.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - BEER O'CLOCK - DUSK

A trolley cart comes by and a blond stoner production assistant, ETHAN(21) slides a can of beer down JIM's desk.

ETHAN

Hey you look new. You also look like you could use one of these.

JIM

Um hey thanks. You can tell huh? So what's this about?

He turns the can over in his hand.

ETHAN

Oh yeah every day an hour before work ends we go around giving everyone beer.

He pulls a giant bottle of cheap red wine out.

ETHAN

Or wine.

JIM

Nice! Now I can see why you guys like working here! Don't tell anyone I said that. It's my first day I don't want people to think things.

ETHAN

(zips his mouth)

I won't tell. If you don't tell anyone about this.

JIM

What?

ETHAN slides another can down to him.

JIM

Hey thanks man!

ETHAN

No problem, you could really use it. Especially since I've heard you're a replacement.

JIM

Wow, literally everyone knows!

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN

They do man. But hey don't let it get to you. It doesn't mean anything. Nothing much happens around here. But yeah people will forget soon don't worry.

JIM

(smiles)

Thanks man.

ETHAN

No worries. Alright see you later bruh!

JIM raises his beer at him and takes a pull from it.

ETHAN whistles "Don't Worry Be Happy" by Bobby McFerin as he pushes the cart away.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - BEER O'CLOCK - NOIR'S DESK

SARAH grabs a can of beer from the cart and doesn't even acknowledge ETHAN. She hands the beer to NOIR.

NOIR

Thanks.

SARAH

So Jim brought up a good point earlier. How come you haven't moved on to another company or became a lead or something? By now you could've been the head of the VFX department and about to retire with your very own yacht.

NOIR

I don't know. If I'm a lead I can't hangout anymore. I like being able to talk with you guys.

SARAH

Thought as much. But what about friends or-?

She points at his ring finger and the missing wedding band.

SARAH

What happened? Did Lorraine leave you?

(CONTINUED)

NOIR
(sheepishly)

No-

SARAH raises her brow.

NOIR
(sighs)
Okay yeah she left. She got fed up
with me being consumed with work.
"Never gave her the time of day"
apparently.

SARAH
(mumbles)
Or time of night apparently.

NOIR
What?

SARAH
Then why are you still here?

NOIR
(snickers)
What the hell else am I supposed to
do?!

SARAH
I don't know retire maybe? Or find
another better paying company at
the very least?

She scrolls through her phone to his wife's secret instagram
page.

NOIR
And you don't think I've tried?
I've applied to a billion and one
places! No one wants me. So I've
stayed here. And I got so consumed
with work that pretty much everyone
has left me or forgotten about me.

SARAH
So we're all you have left?

NOIR
Yeah, pretty much.

SARAH
(whispers)
Fuck.

(CONTINUED)

She decides not to tell him and puts her phone away.

NOIR
You said it.

He opens the drawer at his desk and pulls out a small silver flask. He holds it up for SARAH and she wordlessly takes a sip from it.

SARAH
Smooth.

She hands it back to NOIR who nearly drains the flask.

NOIR
Hits the spot.

SARAH
But wait I heard that your brother
in law was the one that keeps you
here?

NOIR
Yeah I think he just feels sorry
for me now.

SARAH
Probably.

NOIR
Gee thanks.

INT. BLUDOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - END OF DAY

JIM spots the time and he stretches. He gets up and starts packing his stuff to leave.

AMY is already packed.

AMY
See you tomorrow!

JIM
Alright, goodnight!

JIM checks a few things on his computer first then turns it off.

INT. BLU DOG STUDIOS - DUNGEON - SARAH'S DESK

JIM finds SARAH is busy focusing on her work and drinking the last of her beer can.

JIM

So hey are you doing OT or are you heading out?

SARAH

I'll head out soon. I think today is probably the last day we can before OT hits us.

JIM

Well then we should enjoy the night while it lasts.

SARAH

(smirks)

Yeah.

JIM

Do you want to maybe grab a bite to eat?

SARAH

(smiles)

I could eat.

Just then AMY comes rushing back to the floor out of breath.

AMY

(shouts)

The doors are locked!

SARAH

What?!

JIM

What the hell are you talking about?!

NOIR comes rushing over.

NOIR

What's happening?!

JIM

The doors are locked.

(CONTINUED)

SARAH
Have you tried all of them?!

AMY
(still out of breath)
Every one on this floor and above.

SUNG-HEE
Even emergency one?

AMY
Yes!

JIM
We're locked in!

NOIR
Well this is one hell of a way to
treat us!

SARAH
This can't be legal.

AMY
I want to go home!

JIM
Should we call the police or
someone?

SUNG-HEE
(smiles)
Yay! Time for overtime!

Everyone looks at SUNG-HEE in shock, and then back at each other.

Roll Credits