

Darth Feng Shui

By

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Based on a character created by Chris Paradis

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EXT. OFFICE BUILDING PARKING LOT - DAY

(Reminiscent of Luke on Tatooine looking at the twin suns.)
A beat-up pickup truck pulls into a small office parking lot.

VOICE OVER

It feels weird saying it but I have
a good feeling about this.

Beat.

Of course I'll let you know how it
goes. But I'm here now. I'll call
you right after. Mhmm... Bye.

SETH exits the vehicle, adjusts the settings on his phone and puts it in his pocket. He stands by his truck in a parking lot under a glaring sun. He tucks his white dress shirt into his khakis and considers retying his tie. He then walks toward the office building.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Seth stands outside the office door. He takes a deep breath and opens the door.

INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Seth walks into a small waiting room and looks for a receptionist -- there isn't one. He looks awkwardly around before sitting down. An office door pops open before he gets a chance to get comfortable. MRS. PARSONS emerges from the office with JI YIN.

SANDY PARSONS

Oh Ji, Bob will be so surprised!

JI YIN

I certainly hope so. I'm sincerely
looking forward to the opportunity,
Mrs. Parsons.

Ji Yin escorts the lady out off-camera. Seth sits unnoticed. Ji Yin walks back into the waiting room and eyes Seth for the first time.

JI YIN

You're my three o'clock, yes?

(CONTINUED)

SETH

Yes, sir. I'm Seth Co--

Ji Yin cuts off Seth and motions for Seth to join him in his office.

INT. JI YIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Seth and Ji Yin enter the office. Ji Yin sits in a large black office chair.

JI YIN

Do sit.

Seth sits in an uncomfortable looking chair and takes in the office. The office is sterile with a bookcase, massive desk and imperial red curtains.

SETH

(unsure)It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Dazhong.

JI YIN

Please - call me Ji.

Beat.

You are here for the receptionist job, yes? I admit to being in dire need of one. My last seemed to have a difference in opinion on the job's appropriate duties unfortunately. You see, I'm not looking for just a receptionist. I need someone with ambition... an apprentice if you will.

Seth listens and waits for an opportunity to speak.

JI YIN

(continuing)This is just not a paycheck. Not just a job. This is interior design.

Beat. Seth nearly interrupts.

JI YIN

Be here by eight thirty tomorrow. No later.

SETH

What? Is that it?

Ji Yin rises from his chair.

(CONTINUED)

JI YIN
Yes? Is there anything else?

SETH
Um...no. Thank you, mist--

JI YIN
Ji.

SETH
Ji.

Ji opens the door and Seth walks out. The door shuts immediately.

INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Seth leans against the closed door and sighs, relieved.

CUT.

INT. OFFICE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Seth walks into the office. He wears different attire and clutches a coffee mug. He looks around and finds no one there. He then takes a seat at the reception desk and finds a note.

NO APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED UNTIL 10
AM. FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF. DO NOT
DISTURB MY MEDIATION.

Seth sits back and looks around. He investigates desk drawers, does tricks with his pens, waits for the silent phone to ring, etc. He eyes Ji Yin's office door. The clock ticks away and shows the passage of time. Ji Yin's door opens at 9:30AM. Seth is startled. Ji emerges from his office wearing his off-setting working attire.

JI YIN
Come, apprentice. Let us...
(realizes that Seth eyeballs his
bizarre appearance) This is my
working attire. I find it to be a
component of the art of interior
design. Hmmm. I see that you
yourself have no style. Yet that in
itself is style. Curious. But yes,
let us be on our way.

Ji walks out of the office waiting room and Seth quickly follows behind.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING PARKING LOT - DAY

Ji walks towards his vehicle and motions back towards Seth. The door locks unexplained. Seth does not notice. Seth opens the door and gets in without closing.

CUT.

EXT. PARSONS' HOME - DAY

The door remains open. Seth steps out into the driveway of the Parsons' home. Ji marches along the driveway to the door.

SETH

I don't understand, Mi-- Ji. I'm supposed to be your receptionist.

JI YIN

My apprentice.

SETH

But--

Ji arrives at the door. He does not turn back as he speaks.

JI YIN

Enough. We have much work to do.

Seth follows close behind, looking for possible hiding spots for the house key. Plant plots, door mat, etc. Ji opens the door by flicking his wrist while Seth is distracted. Seth looks up, scratches his head then follows Ji into the house.

INT. PARSONS' HOME - DAY

Ji marches into the house and quickly makes his way to the living room. Seth shuffles along, obviously impressed by his surroundings.

SETH

Nice place. Why would they even--?

JI YIN

Would you describe this setting as balanced, perhaps even symmetrical, apprentice?

Seth hesitates.

(CONTINUED)

SETH

Yeah. I guess so.

JI YIN

Symmetry is a lie. Balance is an insult to the natural order. It is our job to make the clients recognize this. Imbalance is necessary. Imbalance is truth.

Ji reaches into his robe and pulls out a light saber handle. He closes his eyes and exhales. Seth watches awkwardly.

SETH

What is that?

JI YIN

Every designer must have his tools. If you don't feel strong enough, apprentice, I suggest you wait for me in the transport.

Ji ignites his light saber. Seth jumps back.

SETH

Wha--? What are you doing? Are you crazy or something?

JI YIN

BE SILENT! I have work to be done.

Ji slices a plant. Seth eyes the madness in front of him then runs out. Ji sighs as the door slams behind him.

JI YIN

A pity.

Ji shrugs it off then studies a lamp before tilting the shade with a motion of his hand. He turns to a wall and pulls a couple of photos off it. They fall to the floor. Ji turns and force pushes an ottoman inches from the entrance way. He then cuts the tip of the coffee table's leg with his light saber. He turns back to the bare wall. He tilts his head. He extinguishes his saber then raises his hands. Force lightning explodes from his fingertips. He grins. Laughter escapes him. He lowers his hands after frying the wall. An odd off-color design appears on the wall.

CUT.

INT. PARSON'S HOME - DAY

A door shuts. We hear BOB PARSONS and Sandy Parsons talk as they walk into the room.

SANDY PARSONS

I just know you're going to love
it, Bob. Just keep your eyes
closed.

Sandy walks into the room. Horror appears slowly on her face. She trips over the ottoman that Ji Yen pushed. Bob opens his eyes. He looks over the trashed room and realizes...

BOB PARSONS

I sense the work of Darth Feng
Shui.

END.