

LOOK BOOKER

Written by

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INT. OFFICE - DAY

Seated behind the desk is a confidant-looking man, LOOK BOOKER (50).

Seated in front of the desk, with a troubled look on his face, is WRITER (40).

LOOK BOOKER

So tell me what it is that's  
bothering you about your look book.

WRITER

Well, it seems that all you've done  
is transcribe my text over a low-  
quality 1970's porn-film.

Look Booker appears as though he understands.

LOOK BOOKER

I think I know what you're getting  
at. Too much pubic hair, right?

WRITER

Uh, no. That's not the problem.

Look Booker appears confused.

LOOK BOOKER

What are you saying then? Not  
enough pubic hair? Come on, be  
realistic. It was the seventies. It  
just doesn't get any hairier than  
that. That one guy looks like he's  
got a sasquatch between his legs.  
How much more hair do you want?

Writer looks surprised by the turn the conversation has  
taken.

WRITER

Well, actually, my complaint  
doesn't have anything to do with  
the quantity of pubic hair, one way  
or the other.

Again Look Booker appears confused.

LOOK BOOKER

So what's the problem then?

WRITER

The problem is, I don't think a porn film is the right imagery for my script.

LOOK BOOKER

Why not? Retro porn is all the rage these days.

WRITER

Be that as it may, I don't think it's a good fit for my project.

LOOK BOOKER

How can a porn film not be a good fit?

WRITER

Well, for one thing, my script is intended for a family audience, so I don't see how porn fits in with that.

LOOK BOOKER

Because it's a good fit for the people you're pitching too, studio execs, who all happen to be pervs, and pervs love porn.

Writer is taken aback.

WRITER

Whoah. That's such a sweeping and derogatory statement ... and what about the female execs? Are they porn pervs too?

LOOK BOOKER

Don't worry about them. Nobody listens to them. They're just there for show.

WRITER

What do you mean just for show?

LOOK BOOKER

There just there so the studio won't look like a bunch of sexist swine.

Writer's finding this hard to believe.

WRITER

You're saying all the studio cares about is making it look good?

LOOK BOOKER

Exactly. That's what this business is all about, how things look. That's why these things are called Look Books, instead of, How Things Really Are Books.

WRITER

Wow, this is all quite disconcerting.

LOOK BOOKER

Hey, no problem. If you're not happy with your look book, we can start all over again from scratch.

WRITER

And how much will that cost?

LOOK BOOKER

Lots. I didn't make a fortune in the look book business by not charging people.

WRITER

I know. I'm basically bled dry here by all the extra charges you've hit me with.

LOOK BOOKER

Well it's up to you. Personally I think you should go with what you've got. Keep the pervs happy, and you'll go a long way in this business.

WRITER

That can't be true.

LOOK BOOKER

Well, it's my operational approach, and as I've already mentioned, I have made a fortune in the look book business.

WRITER

I'm aware of that.

LOOK BOOKER  
Hey, they don't call me the look  
book genius for nothing.

Writer looks defeated.

WRITER  
Okay, I guess I don't really have  
any other choice, I'm going to have  
to go with it.

Writer shakes his head woefully

LOOK BOOKER  
Good decision. You won't regret it.  
Oh yeah, by the way, I'm going to  
have to charge you extra for this  
meeting.

WRITER  
Of course.

INT. ACADEMY AWARDS CEREMONY - NIGHT - 2 YEARS LATER

Writer is standing on stage with his Oscar for best  
screenplay.

WRITER  
Wow. This is all so much to take  
in. There are so many people to  
thank I don't want to name names  
because there's too many of them.  
So thank-you to everyone who's  
helped me along the way.

Writer pauses for a moment.

WRITER (CONT'D)  
There is one person though whom I  
think deserves special mention. A  
man who helped me when I needed it  
most, and without whom I wouldn't  
be standing here today. That man is  
of course, Look Booker.

A murmur goes through the crowd.

WRITER (CONT'D)  
Now I know he wasn't popular with  
everyone, and that explains why he  
was dismembered by a mob of angry  
writers ...

(MORE)

WRITER (CONT'D)

and why they were found not guilty by reason of justifiable homicide. I'm not here to defend the man on a personal basis, and that's a good thing, because he was a piece of crap, but I think we need to give him his due.

Writer slowly surveys the crowd.

WRITER (CONT'D)

I think we need to acknowledge that he was what he claimed to be, a look book genius, and for that I'm grateful.

Writer looks lost in thought for a moment, and then he snaps to.

WRITER (CONT'D)

Once again, thanks to everyone who voted for me.

Writer holds up his award and walks off the stage as the audience APPLAUDS.

FADE OUT: