

GETTYSTOCK
(Draft 7)

Written by

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INT. APARTMENT BEDROOM - DAY

A dimly lit one-bedroom apartment. ETHAN and BROOKE, a couple in their mid-twenties, are asleep. Brooke wears a flashy engagement ring. A digital clock on a night-stand next to them changes from 5:59 to 6:00 and starts buzzing. Ethan rolls over and turns it off. Ethan gets out of bed. He is tall and has a bony face. He takes a shower and puts on a suit. He sits down on the side of the bed to put on his shoes.

BROOKE
What time is it?

ETHAN
It's 6:15

BROOKE
You're leaving this early?

ETHAN
I have that meeting with the outreach clients. Remember?

BROOKE
(jokingly)
OK Mr. Marketing Manager. Go do your marketing. I love you.

ETHAN
Love you too honey.

Ethan kisses Brooke on the forehead.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Ethan takes a stack of manila folders from the kitchen table and places them inside briefcase. As he does this, one of them slips and it falls to the ground. Ethan doesn't notice this. The folder says "outreach clients" in black sharpie. Ethan heads out the door.

EXT. ETHAN'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Ethan pulls out of the driveway and leaves.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Ethan gets out of his car and starts walking towards a tall office building.

INT. ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

He rides the elevator alone, briefcase in hand, and gets off on the 4th floor.

INT. GETTYSTOCK OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Ethan walks past a reception desk with the word "Gettystock" in large type on the wall behind it. Nobody sits behind the desk. The space beyond the desk is brightly lit, with impossibly white walls. A short man, SAM (30) with thick framed glasses, a black T-shirt, and a DSLR camera around his neck approaches Ethan.

SAM

Good, you're here. I have a lot of shots lined up for you today. We're going to do some "slacker employee" shots, some "tired employee working overtime" shots, and some "angry boss firing employee over the phone" shots. Then we're going to pair you up with Hank and Gertrude to do some hand shake/high five bonding group shots. Sorry for the early call time.

ETHAN

It's alright.

Ethan sets his briefcase and cellphone down on a desk. Sam sees the briefcase.

SAM

Oh, you didn't need to bring your own briefcase we have plenty in the prop closet.

ETHAN

I know it's just...

SAM

Have you still not told her?

ETHAN

I'm going to do it next week. I'm just not ready yet.

SAM

Are you kidding me? Didn't you just asked her to marry you?

ETHAN

I'm just nervous. I don't want to... lose her.

INT. APARTMENT KITCHEN - SAME

Brooke walks past the kitchen table. She picks up the manila folder on the floor that Ethan left behind.

INT. GETTYSTOCK OFFICES - LATER

Ethan poses as a "slacker employee". He sits with his feet up on a desk and his hand in a bag of chips. He has a goofy look on his face. Sam takes a bunch of pictures.

SAM

Awesome, awesome. Even more relaxed, Ethan. Come on, drop your expression a little more. There we go.

INT. APARTMENT - SAME

Brooke is now wearing a white oxford shirt and grey slacks. Her hair is neatly tied back in a knot. She has her phone tucked between her ear and shoulder. Ethan's voicemail plays.

ETHAN (VOICEMAIL)

Hey, it's Ethan. I can't come to the phone right now. Please leave your message at the beep. Thank you!

Brooke puts the folder in her purse and heads out the door.

INT. GETTYSTOCK OFFICES - LATER

Ethan poses as a "stressed out employee working overtime". He hides his face in his palms. In front of him, there's a comically huge stack of paper.

SAM

Alright one more. I want you to put one hand on the side of your face and make an expression like "I hate this, but I definitely deserve this..."

On a desk behind Sam, Ethan's phone buzzes on top of his briefcase. Brooke's picture lights up the screen.

INT. GETTYSTOCK OFFICES - LATER

Ethan poses as an "angry boss firing employee over the phone". He looks furious, holding a landline phone between his ear and shoulder.

SAM

Come on, angrier! Even angrier! Let me really see the emotion in your eyes. That's it. There we go. Now make your other hand into a fist and hold it in front of you.

Ethan scrunches his face tighter and makes his hand into a fist.

ETHAN

Have you got it yet?

SAM

I need you to get angrier! Imagine that I just told you Netflix announced they're going to stop streaming a bunch of movies next month, and you don't have time to watch all of them. You're mad at them, but your even madder at yourself for squandering the opportunity to watch them. Angrier!

Ethan looks as if he's about to turn into The Hulk.

BROOKE (O.S.)

Ethan?

Right as the camera flashes, Ethan turns to see Brooke. She's standing by the reception desk. His expression immediately changes from anger to confusion.

ETHAN

Brooke? Uh, what are you doing here?

SAM

God dammit, I missed the shot. I need to switch my card.

Sam walks off. Brooke approaches Ethan and hands him the folder.

BROOKE

You left this in this kitchen.
Babe, what is all this? Are you
doing a photo shoot?

ETHAN

Brooke I... yeah. We're... taking
new photos for our ID badges!

BROOKE

Really? Then why did you look so
angry? I thought something terrible
had happened.

ETHAN

Oh honey, it's just a little office
humor. Don't worry about-

HANK (30), a man with a goatee, also wearing a suit
approaches Ethan.

HANK

Hey Ethan, were doing an "employee
gets re-hired" shoot together this
afternoon. Do you want to be the
boss or should I?

ETHAN

(under his breath)

Hank!

Hank sees Brooke.

HANK

Brooke! Oh my god, I didn't even
see you there. Congrats on the
engagement!

BROOKE

Thanks Hank. How have you been?

HANK

Pretty good actually. I don't know
if Ethan told you, but I just got a
big promotion.

BROOKE

Did you?

HANK

Oh yeah. A huge one.

BROOKE

So what are you now?

HANK
Um, Senior Marketing... Regional...
Administrative... Vice... Chair.

BROOKE
(Skeptical)
That's wonderful...

ETHAN
Hank, have I... briefed you about
the Waterbridge account?

HANK
No you haven't.

ETHAN
Excuse me honey, I'll be right
back. I just need to brief Hank
about this account.

BROOKE
(checking her watch)
Ethan I'm going to be late for
work.

ETHAN
This will only take a minute!

INT. GETTYSTOCK CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ethan and Hank hurry into an empty conference room and close
the door behind them.

ETHAN
Dude, what the hell was that?

HANK
I'm sorry! I didn't see her there!

ETHAN
She's totally on to me now!

HANK
Nah, dude you're fine. Just tell
her I was joking.

ETHAN
She's supposed to think we're
coworkers. You literally asked me
if I want to be your boss in front
of her.

HANK

I don't know man. Maybe you should just tell her the truth. You are getting married.

ETHAN

What? All that lying for nothing? All those charades we worked on for hours, just trying to convince her that we work at regular jobs at a regular marketing firm? No. You haven't told Cynthia the truth, so why should I tell Brooke?

HANK

Well about that...

ETHAN

Cynthia knows? You told her?

HANK

I didn't want to ask her to marry me before she knew the truth. I told her I'm not really Senior Marketing Regional Administrator Chair since last may.

Ethan sighs.

ETHAN

OK, fine. I'll tell her.

INT. GETTYSTOCK OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Brooke is sitting at one of the empty desks. Ethan approaches her.

ETHAN

Brooke, there's something I need to tell you.

BROOKE

What?

ETHAN

I'm... I'm going on a business trip! I've been invited to a marketing sales quota conference in...

Ethan looks around and sees Sam in the office kitchen pouring coffee into a cup.

ETHAN (CONT'D)
 Pour...tugal... Portugal!

BROOKE
 Oh my god, that's amazing! When?

ETHAN
 Two weeks from now.

BROOKE
 Really?

ETHAN
 Yeah, why?

BROOKE
 I just figured they would have postponed it until after all the flooding has cleared.

ETHAN
 Well that's because the meeting's in a skyscraper! A little flood can't touch our marketing team when we're 30 stories above sea level!

Brooke makes a confused face. A woman, JANICE, in her twenties wearing a navy suit walks past them. She abruptly stops when she sees Brooke.

JANICE
 Brooke?

BROOKE
 Janice?

JANICE
 What are the chances!

BROOKE
 How have you been?

JANICE
 Great. Really great.

BROOKE
 Jesus, I haven't seen you since... I don't think I've seen you since you left Axle.

JANICE
 I miss Axle

BROOKE

Janice, this is my fiancée Ethan.

JANICE

This is too funny. Ethan and I have been working together for almost a month now. I would've never guessed you two were engaged.

BROOKE

And you work in... marketing now?

JANICE

(pondering)

I guess some days I do. Some days I see myself working in finance. Other days I see myself working in PR. There's really a whole range of identities I get to step into here. Well, it was great seeing you. I have to go pose as an intern giving a supervisor coffee.

Janice leaves.

BROOKE

What was that?

ETHAN

She probably just meant she needs coffee.

BROOKE

OK, well I should probably get going. I'm just going to use the bathroom quickly.

ETHAN

Wait that's not a bathroom!

Brooke opens a closet door, mistaking it for a bathroom. Inside the closet there is a shocking amount of briefcases, suits, landline phones, stacks of fake money, and balloons. Everything is neatly arranged. Brooke stares into the closet.

BROOKE

What is this?

Ethan takes a deep breath.

ETHAN

That's our prop closet.

BROOKE

What?

ETHAN

I'm not a marketing manager.

BROOKE

You're not?

ETHAN

No. I'm... a stock photo model. They take pictures of me pretending to be a marketing manager. Sometimes Some days I'm a boss. Some days I'm an employee. Some days I love my job. Some days I hate my job. Only one thing has ever stayed the same: I'm a fraud.

BROOKE

That's why you were posing when I came in?

ETHAN

That was for "Angry boss fires employee over the phone." I'm sorry I lied to you.

BROOKE

But wait, didn't you graduate from Dartmouth with a marketing degree?

Ethan shakes his head.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

What are you talking about? I've seen so many pictures of your college days. Aren't you still on their...

Brooke turns around and starts typing on the computer keyboard. She loads Dartmouth college's website. At the top of the page, a large banner image displays Ethan very proudly wearing a Dartmouth T-shirt.

BROOKE (CONT'D)

How do you explain this?

ETHAN

(cringing)

That's also a stock photo.

BROOKE

What?

ETHAN

In my early twenties I did a shoot
for a bunch of New Hampshire
colleges.

Ethan uses the computer to navigate to the websites of
University of New Hampshire, Southern New Hampshire
University, Keene State College, and Franklin Pierce
University. On every website there is a banner image
featuring Ethan wearing the school's respective T-shirt.

BROOKE

Oh my god. I can't believe this.

ETHAN

Baby please, I never meant to lie
to you like this. I can explain. Do
you remember when we met?

CUT TO:

EXT. DARTMOUTH COLLEGE CAMPUS - DAY (FLASHBACK)

A younger Ethan talks to a younger Brooke.

ETHAN

Hi I'm Ethan!

BROOKE

Brooke!

ETHAN

What are you majoring in?

BROOKE

Well, I'm doing a double major in
computer science and biology, so my
plan is to combine them so I can
make artificial limbs.

ETHAN

Wow, that's amazing.

BROOKE

What about you?

ETHAN

Well I...

FLASHBACK ENDS

INT. GETTYSTOCK OFFICES - SAME

ETHAN

I couldn't tell you I was just a model. You would have never wanted to speak to me again. That's why I lied.

BROOKE

I need to show you something.

Brooke leads Ethan out the door.

SAM

Wait, where are you going? We still need to do "angry boss fires employee over the phone"!

They leave.

SAM (CONT'D)

Are you serious?

INT. BROOKE'S CAR - DAY

Brooke drives with Ethan.

ETHAN

Where are you taking me?

BROOKE

You know how you've never been to my office?

ETHAN

Yeah? Well that's because of a security measure right? The robots are too dangerous?

Brooke gives him a look as if to say "you really believe that?"

INT. AXLE - SAME

Ethan and Brooke walk into a large building that says "Axle" in huge letters. Inside, there several ENGINEERS posing for with a ROBOT for a photo. A bald man in a black shirt and thick frame glasses takes their picture.

ETHAN

Wait a second...you're...

Brooke shakes her head.

BROOKE
I'm not an engineer.

ETHAN
So you...

BROOKE
Do I what?

ETHAN
You still want to marry me?

Brooke smiles.

BLACKOUT

END CREDITS OVER A SEQUENCE OF WATERMARKED STOCK PHOTOS
DEPICTING ETHAN AND BROOKE'S WEDDING.