

THE ASSISTANTS

by

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COLD OPENING

INT. EDMUND BROTHERS BULLPEN - DAY
(MIKE'S VO)

OPEN ON THE OFFICE BULLPEN OF EDMUND BROTHERS, THE SIXTH LARGEST BOND-TRADING FIRM IN CHICAGO. THOUGH IT'S THE END OF A LONG DAY, THE PLACE IS STILL A HIVE OF CAPITALISTIC ACTIVITY. FINANCIAL TYPES DASH BACK AND FORTH DOING ALL SORTS OF BOND STUFF.

ANGLE ON MIKE TALLARD, 23, A GOOD-LOOKING EVERYMAN, (A YOUNG RON LIVINGSTON), AS HE WRITES AN E-MAIL TO HIS FATHER ON HIS OFFICE COMPUTER. WITH FLASHBACKS, WE SEE THAT THE REALITY OF HIS DAILY DUTIES ARE IN STARK CONTRAST TO HIS WRITINGS.

MIKE'S VO

Hey Dad! Mike here, hope everyone's fine back in Sheboygan. Heard you had a blizzard yesterday. Remember not to let Freddy run the snowblower. You don't need another night in the emergency room. Ha, ha. So, wow, what a whirlwind it's been at Edmund Brothers this week.

QUICK CUT FLASHBACKS OF MIKE PERFORMING MENIAL TASKS AROUND THE OFFICE. HE SORTS MAIL, HE GETS LUNCH, HE STRAIGHTENS UP A CONFERENCE ROOM...

MIKE'S VO (CONT'D)

You can imagine that when you work for the sixth biggest bond trading firm in Chicago it can be pretty hectic.

WE SEE MIKE, JOHNNY, VINCE AND BLAKE (WHOM WE'LL MEET IN A MINUTE) MOVING A DESK, TAKING MESSAGES, PICKING UP DRY CLEANING...

MIKE'S VO (CONT'D)

My duties are varied and intense but it's great knowing you're such an important part of a team. Today one of the partners entrusted me with some vital Edmunds Brothers business. I'd give you the details but I'd have to kill you. Ha, ha.

WE SEE HIM BUYING SOME PANTYHOSE AND TAMPONS AT THE LOBBY SHOP.

MIKE'S VO (CONT'D)

I guess you can see why I decided to come to Chicago. And with Johnny, Vince and Blake all being here too, it just wasn't an opportunity I could afford to pass up. Anyway, I'm sure you and Freddy are holding down the fort at Tallard Meats just fine. Has Freddy figured out the candy machine yet? Tell him to keep at it. Ha, ha. Sorry about all the "ha-has." Your son, Mike.

CUT TO:

ACT ONESCENE AINT. BULLPEN - DAY

(JOHNNY, VINCE, BLAKE, MIKE)

PUSH THROUGH THE BUSY BULLPEN UNTIL WE REACH SOME DESKS IN THE FAR CORNER OF THE ROOM. THREE YOUNG EDMUNDS BROTHERS ASSISTANTS ARE CROWDED AROUND A COMPUTER SCREEN.

BLAKE FIEST, 22, IS A WIRY, INTENSE 143-POUNDER WITH A SHOCK OF RED HAIR AND LARGE, UNFASHIONABLE GLASSES (SETH GREEN). HE SLURPS COFFEE FROM HIS BELOVED "I (HEART) TROPICAL FISH" MUG. VINCE LEPETSKY, 22, IS A PUDGY AND LOVEABLE HORATIO SANZ TYPE. JOHNNY VERBEEK, 22, IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD-LOOKING YET DOWN-TO-EARTH GUY'S GUY (ASHTON KUTCHER).

THE THREE OF THEM ARE GOOFING OFF LOOKING AT A DATING WEBSITE CALLED "CHICAGO LOVEMATCH."

JOHNNY

These Chicago girls are really
incredible.

VINCE

I know, I'm way over my head here. I
should've submitted a better looking
picture to this dating service.

BLAKE

And these interests you put down, you
don't snowboard, Vince.

VINCE

True, but as long as we don't go
snowboarding on the first few dates,
I'm fine. I'll break it to her six
months into the relationship, we'll
laugh...

JOHNNY

Check if that girl from the
seventeenth floor is still on this
thing.

THEY SCROLL DOWN FURTHER.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Ohmigod, she's still listed. "Lena
Halstrom." I love her.

BLAKE

"Looking for a man who's strong,
assured and sensitive."

JOHNNY

Again with the sensitive! That's like
the fifth one who put that down.

VINCE

Chicago must be full of louts.

JOHNNY

Sensitivity. We can do that.

JUST THEN, MIKE ENTERS CARRYING SOME PAPERS.

MIKE

Guys!

THINKING THEY'RE BUSTED BY AN AUTHORITY FIGURE, THEY EXPERTLY
SWITCH THE COMPUTER SCREEN TO SPREAD SHEETS.

JOHNNY

Oh, it's you. Not now, Mikey. I think
we've had a breakthrough into the
Chicago female psyche here.

HE RETURNS TO THE DATING SCREEN. THEY CONTINUE TO CHECK OUT GIRLS AS MIKE SPEAKS.

MIKE

Great news.

JOHNNY

What's up?

MIKE

Remember that bond trading seminar I told you about. Irv Trepinsky's Top Ten Tips on Low Grade Municipals?

JOHNNY

The one where we drive to Naperville and listen to bond trading stuff for three straight hours?

MIKE

Exactly. I scored us four free passes for tonight! We're in!

BLAKE

Uh...

MIKE

Guys, it's gonna be awesome. This dude guarantees a 17% increase in productivity after one session. C'mon, it'll be fun. Let's think of it like a road trip! Huh? Who's in?

JOHNNY SIGHS.

JOHNNY

Mikey?

MIKE

Yeah?

JOHNNY

I don't think we want to go the seminar. It's Wednesday night. C'mon. We're gonna hit The Jungle. Free happy hour food, dart tournament. It's a tradition.

MIKE

We've been here three weeks. We have a tradition?

JOHNNY

We have a tradition of eating free food.

MIKE

Okay, fine. But you guys don't know what you're missing. I'll take notes and brief you all later.

JOHNNY

You do that.

MIKE LEAVES IN A BUSTLE OF AMBITION. THE OTHERS WATCH HIM FOR A MOMENT.

VINCE

Wow.

BLAKE

Mikey's really getting into all this.

VINCE

Where's this coming from? He never acted like this at school.

JOHNNY

It's good. He's...he's showing initiative. Maybe we should do that.

THEY EXCHANGE LOOKS. MAYBE THEY'LL SHOW INITIATIVE A LITTLE LATER. THEY RETURN TO THE DATING SCREEN.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Alright, now check for girls looking for broke, randy guys sharing a studio apartment who enjoy the Defcom 5 video game.

CUT TO:

SCENE BINT. THE BULLPEN - LATER

(BLAKE, JOHNNY, MIKE, VINCE, LENA, JANET, BILL)

WORK IS IN FULL SWING. BLAKE, JOHNNY AND MIKE ARE AT THEIR DESKS ANSWERING PHONES, WHILE VINCE WORKS ON A COMPUTER NEARBY.

BLAKE

Miss Wang's office. Hold please. Miss

Wang's office. Hold please. (then)

Kill me.

JOHNNY LOOKS OVER AT MIKE AND NOTICES HE IS BURIED IN A BOOK.

JOHNNY

What's this? (looks at Mike's book)

"Trade with Trepinski" Is that the seminar guy?

MIKE

(defensive) Yeah, so?

JOHNNY

I'm not busting your chops, man. I'm proud of you. You're being ambitious.

MIKE

Exactly. That's the Tallard way.

JOHNNY

It is? The Tallard way?

MIKE

Sure.

JOHNNY

Okay. It's just odd though, because in five years of friendship I've never actually witnessed the Tallard way. But, it's cool. Just keep things in perspective, dude. Remember Mikey, "you can't chase success, it has to come to you."

MIKE

What does that mean?

JOHNNY

I'm not sure. I read it somewhere though.

MIKE

No you didn't. I think you just made it up right now.

JOHNNY

Okay but it sounds like it could be true. At least admit that.

MIKE

I just think we have to take advantage of our opportunities. And every moment here is full of major opportunity.

(his phone rings) Miss Wang's office.

Hold please.

VINCE LOOKS UP AND NOTICES A GORGEOUS GIRL STANDING AT THE LASER PRINTER.

VINCE

Johnny! There's that girl from 171
That Lena.

JOHNNY

Oh, man, she fascinates me.

HE NOTICES THAT SHE IS HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE LASER PRINTER.

JOHNNY (CONT'D)

Speaking of opportunities...

VINCE

Be sensitive!

JOHNNY SAUNTERS OVER TO LENA WHO IS BANGING ON THE OFFENDING
PRINTER.

JOHNNY

Trouble?

LENA

(flustered) I've got to get these
documents over to the conference room
right away and this stupid thing won't
print.

JOHNNY

Well, let me have a look at it.

LENA

Would you? I'm in a bind here, the
meeting's already started and...