

Covering Your Tracts

by

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And

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FADE IN:

INT. RECEPTION DESK - DAY

Inside an office building, a SECRETARY sits at a desk, on the phone. The sign above the desk reads "Eternity Tracts: Keeping you out of Hell since 1986!"

INT. LENNY'S OFFICE - DAY

LENNY, 30, sits at his desk, talking on the PHONE with a friend.

LENNY

I'm leaving in about five minutes. No, the flight's not til tomorrow, I just gotta get outa here. I've been in Aruba in my head for a week already. I'm going stir crazy.

(Beat)

All right, I'll see ya in two weeks.

Lenny stands up and prepares to go home. KENDRA, 25, comes through the open door with a file folder.

KENDRA

New tract, ready to ship. Just need you to check it over and sign it.

LENNY

Oh. I was just heading out.

Kendra gives him a look.

LENNY (CONT'D)

(Sigh)

Fine. Leave it.

Kendra puts it on his desk.

KENDRA

Hey, did you hear? Mason's stepping down from his position at the company to become a full-time missionary.

LENNY

Really? Where's he going?

KENDRA

Washington D.C. He's become fluent in both spin and hyperbole. I asked if he wanted a farewell party but it was impossible to get a straight answer from him.

LENNY

Well I wish him all the best and... hey! If he's stepping down- who's taking his place?

KENDRA

Hmm...I hadn't thought about that. Probably Henry I guess.

LENNY

Yes! Henry! And if Henry becomes President, that means...

KENDRA

Leapin' Lutherans! You could become Vice-President!

LENNY

Mm-hmm! Dat's right! Go Lenny! Go Lenny!
(Beat)
I'll be like Biden but smarter! Great way to start my vacation.

KENDRA

Well my early congratulations! Remember, don't forget the little people. I need a new desk chair. Make sure you okay this before you leave... Mr. Vice President.

Kendra leaves, and Lenny is pumped. He can barely sit still as he leafs through the manuscript--a comic strip tract, drawn on regular sheets of paper.

Lenny looks at his watch and sighs.

LENNY

And for my first decree- I hereby believe by faith that this tract is ready for publication.

He signs the bottom and takes it out the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Lenny comes out of the elevator with a smile on his face. He looks tan.

SUPERIMPOSE: "TWO WEEKS LATER".

The office is in a tizzy. EMPLOYEES are frantic. The SECRETARY talks to someone on the phone--the lines lighting up like a Christmas tree. Lenny is curious, and walks toward his office. He notices Kendra.

LENNY

Wow. I leave for two weeks and the whole place goes nuts?

Kendra pushes him into his office and closes the door behind them.

INT. LENNY'S OFFICE - CONTINUING

KENDRA

I tried your cell.

LENNY

I turned it off. What happened?

Kendra pulls out the new tract and points to a line of dialogue in a speech bubble.

KENDRA

It says, "Vengeance is fine, says the Lord."

LENNY

What?

KENDRA

It's supposed to be "Vengeance is mine, says--"

LENNY

I know what it's supposed to be.

KENDRA

This is serious Lenny. If Mason finds out he'll be looking for someone to blame.

LENNY

Well he can't blame me. I didn't even look at it!

KENDRA
(Clears throat)

LENNY
Holy Manna! I didn't look at it! It is my
fault!

KENDRA
Ye-p.

LENNY
Has anybody else noticed yet?

KENDRA
A few.

INT. DINER - DAY

A waitress talks to a male patron.

WAITRESS
Someone just tipped me with a tract that
said that vengeance is fine. I agree.

She pours hot soup in his lap.

WAITRESS (CONT'D)
That's for the bad tips.
(Beat, walking away)
Finally, a tract that I like.

EXT. HOUSE - DAY

An OLDER MAN gets his newspaper and sees that the
neighbor kids left their bikes in his yard. He sneers at
the neighbor's house, then sees that there is a tract in
his newspaper bag.

He begins to read it, and his eyebrows raise. He gets
into his car in his own driveway, drives it next door and
deliberately parks in his neighbor's front yard. He gets
out, and casually walks to his own house.

The NEIGHBOR sees him, mouth agape.

OLDER MAN
How ya doin' Joe?

Older man hits the "Lock" button on his key ring and the
alarm signals it's armed.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Two OFFICE WORKERS look through a window into a break room.

A CRAZY LUNCH GUY finishes writing "Vengeance is fine" on the window in mustard

OFFICE WORKER #1

What is he doing?

OFFICE WORKER #2

He locked himself in. Said he's tired of people taking his lunches.

Crazy lunch guy goes back to the refrigerator and frantically rifles through and eats all the lunches.

OFFICE WORKER #1

Hey! That's my cupcake!

INT. LENNY'S OFFICE - CONTINUING

Lenny and Kendra in the office.

LENNY

What about-

Suddenly, Mr. MASON, the President, comes through the door. Lenny stands at attention.

LENNY (CONT'D)

Mr. Mason. Hello, sir.

MASON

What happened, Lenny? A major news outlet just called to ask why I'm advocating revenge. The "Vengeance is Fine" thing is taking over the internet. The one time people memorize scripture, and it's wrong.

LENNY

I just found out myself. I-

MASON

Who's responsible?

LENNY

You mean-

MASON

Who made this mistake?

Lenny gulps.

MASON (CONT'D)

Don't try to cover for him, Lenny. It was Jeremy in printing, wasn't it?

LENNY

Jeremy? Well... I don't want to say.... actually...

Mason looks at Kendra.

KENDRA

Yeah. Jeremy's a really good guy, I don't want to get him in trouble...

Mason seems very disappointed.

MASON

All right. You two have said enough. I'll handle this myself.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

JEREMY cleans out his desk. He has a box in his hand, and says goodbye to everyone. His eyes meet with Lenny's from across the room.

INT. LENNY'S OFFICE - DAY

Lenny and Kendra conspire.

LENNY

Okay, let's make a pact. This never gets out.

KENDRA

Never.

LENNY

Never ever.

KENDRA

Never ever forever.

LENNY

Never ever forever... um... can't think of another one. Just zip it.

KENDRA
Consider it zipped. And buttoned. With
velcro. Forever.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LENNY'S OFFICE - DAY

Lenny works on his computer when Kendra comes in.

KENDRA
Mason wants to see you.

Lenny's eyes light up.

LENNY
Really?

Kendra smiles, thinking the same thing Lenny is thinking.

LENNY (CONT'D)
This has gotta be it. Right? It's gotta
be it.

KENDRA
Gotta be.

Kendra begins to hum "Here Comes the Bride."

Lenny heads out, then sticks his head back in.

LENNY
That was "Here Comes the Bride".

KENDRA
Oh. What's "Hail to The Chief"?

They take a moment, then Kendra starts humming "Pop Goes
the Weasel."

LENNY
Never mind.

He goes.

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Lenny walks in. Jeremy turns around in his chair.

JEREMY
(Smiling)
Hello, Lenny. I'm your new President.
(MORE)

JEREMY (CONT'D)

Bet you're wondering how this happened. Mason's my father. We kept it a secret because he didn't want me getting preferential treatment. But I'm looking forward to being your boss.

Jeremy's eyes betray that he doesn't trust Lenny.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Lenny and Kendra huddle with the door closed.

LENNY

All right, let's not panic.

KENDRA

Do you think he knows?

LENNY

How could he know? I didn't tell him. You didn't tell him. Did you?

KENDRA

Vel-cro No!

LENNY

We just have to play it cool. Not a word. We're little mice. Just little mice.

KENDRA

Why are we mice?

LENNY

Because mice don't talk.

KENDRA

They squeal.

LENNY

We're not gonna squeal.

KENDRA

Then I think we should come up with another animal.

LENNY

Forget it! Just play it cool!

Knock at the door. Lenny opens it. It's Jeremy.

JEREMY

Kendra, could I see you in my office?

KENDRA

Sure. Be right there.

Jermev closes the door.

LENNY

Be cool.

KENDRA

I'm cool. Like a penguin. That's our animal!

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Kendra is doubled over, crying hysterically in front of Jeremy.

KENDRA

It was my fault! I did it! I was the one who got you fired!

JEREMY

I appreciate you being honest, Kendra. You can go back to your desk.

KENDRA

(Surprised)

Really? You're giving me a second chance?

JEREMY

Honesty is important to me. Go ahead.

INT. KENDRA'S CUBICLE - DAY

Kendra walk back to her desk.

LENNY

Did you tell him about me?

Kendra shakes her head. Jeremy comes out.

JEREMY

Lenny, could I see you in my office?

LENNY

Sure.

Lenny and Kendra exchange looks before he goes. Kendra looks concerned that he's going to let her take the hit alone.

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Lenny sits in front of Jeremy at his desk.

JEREMY

So... Lenny... is there anything you'd like to say to me before we get started on this journey together?

LENNY

(Hesitant, then:)

Nope.

Pause.

JEREMY

Great. Because I'm gonna change some things around a little bit. Your position is being eliminated.

LENNY

What?

JEREMY

Don't worry. You still have a job. In fact, it's a promotion. I'm making you "Vice-President of Development."

LENNY

(Smiles)

That's great! Thanks. I'll take it.

JEREMY

Your first duty is that I'm having you brainstorm tracts with our new employee, my brother-in-law...

(Smiles)

Randy..

INT. EMPTY ROOM - DAY

Lenny and Randy, a nutty, energetic guy, sit in a room together.

RANDY

Okay, These tracts have fallen behind the times. I really want to contemporize them, reach a new audience. My suggestion: "Moses and the ten text messages."

Lenny shakes his head.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - DAY

Randy has another idea for Lenny.

RANDY

Okay, nobody wants to hear about Hell anymore. The fire and darkness is just too scary. How about we just say that in Hell, you have to wear really tight shoes. That's very painful, you know.

Lenny gets a little annoyed.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - DAY

RANDY

So I have Jesus on a jet ski, instead of walking on water. Thought it was more believable. So he says, "Trust me, Peter. Hop on."

Lenny is very annoyed. Jeremy is watching from a window, a sly smile on his face.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - DAY

RANDY

We have to get the Rachael Ray audience. So I thought I'd update the recipes. So Jesus feeds the five thousand with two rolls of sushi and five bagels.

(Beat)

And he turns the water into a virgin banana daiquiri.

Lenny is about to have a nervous breakdown.

INT. EMPTY ROOM - DAY

Randy has another idea for Lenny.

RANDY

This one is one for kids to witness to Muslims. It's called "Allah Allah, All Come Free."

(Beat)

Might have trouble finding an illustrator.

Lenny can't take it anymore.

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Lenny comes in. Jeremy looks up from his desk.

LENNY

(Crying)

I can't do this anymore. I don't want this job. Can I please have my old job back?

JEREMY

Well, your old job's been filled.

Lenny is stunned.

JEREMY (CONT'D)

But you can certainly be that person's assistant.

LENNY

Yes! Anything! I'll do anything to get back to something I understand.

JEREMY

All right. I'll introduce you to your new boss.

INT. LENNY'S OLD OFFICE - DAY

Lenny walks in with Jeremy, and Kendra is behind the desk. Lenny is shocked.

KENDRA

Hello, Lenny. I need your help with illustrating a scripture. Proverbs 28:3: He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. Any ideas?

LENNY

I've got a couple.

KENDRA

Thought you might.

(Beat)

By the way, love your chair.

FADE OUT.