

the office

"Piracy"

A spec script by Amanda Mason

SAMPLE

THE OFFICE

"Piracy"

COLD OPEN

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION -- MORNING

The PHONE RINGS at reception, but PAM is nowhere in sight. MICHAEL'S office is empty, JIM and DWIGHT'S desks unoccupied. It's obviously that time of morning just before everyone arrives. After THREE RINGS, we HEAR:

PAM (O.S.)
Dunder-Mifflin, this is Pam.

CAMERA WHIPS TO:

INT. OFFICE - COPIER -- CONTINUOUS

Pam stands in front of the COPIER, the FRONT PANEL open as she tries to clear a paper jam. She physically holds a WIRELESS HEADSET to her ear.

PAM
...hello? Dunder-Mifflin, this is...
AUGH!

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM (CONT'D)
So, about a week ago, Michael signed off on an order for a wireless headset for me. At first, I thought it was nice. I could get my faxes done before it was time to go home, instead of staying late... I wouldn't have to roll calls to voice mail when I had to leave my desk...

INT. OFFICE - COPIER -- CONTINUOUS

Pam is still in front of the copier, trying to clear the jam, one hand holding the headset to her ear. The phone RINGS again in the distance. Her frustration is palpable.

PAM
(to machine)
There. Is. No. Jam. In. Tray.
Number. Five!

Pam lets go of the earpiece on her ear, where it stays in place momentarily before falling to the ground.

PAM (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The bad news is that it hasn't worked as well as I thought.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM (CONT'D)

The worse news is that Michael got
one, too.

(then)

And his works.

INT. OFFICE - COPIER -- CONTINUOUS

Pam, defeated, turns and is startled to find MICHAEL standing behind her. Not doing anything to assist her. Staring at her. Wearing his own HEADSET. AND DRESSED LIKE CAPTAIN JACK SPARROW.

She looks to camera, speechless, as the PHONE rings on.

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

INT. OFFICE -- MORNING

THE STAFF files into the CONFERENCE ROOM. DWIGHT, dressed in his own PIRATE GEAR -- BANDANNA wrapped around his head, GOLD HOOP EARRING attached to his ear -- passes out PIRATE-THEMED PARTY FAVORS (EYE PATCHES, etc.) as each person enters.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Today is a big day for Team Scranton
and they don't even know it yet.

INT. OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

All of the workers settle in, fiddling with their PARTY FAVORS. KEVIN puts a set of FAKE PIRATE TEETH into his mouth.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

David Wallace, our new CFO, has
initiated the first annual Dunder-
Mifflin north-eastern regional sales
competition.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

NOTE: Michael wears his WIRELESS HEADSET in all TALKING HEADS.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

So, from 9:30 a.m. -- which is
approximately six minutes from now --
until 4:30 p.m., we will be trying
to outwit, outlast, and outsell
Stamford, Albany, and Boston. Wait.
Buffalo... Boston... No, no it's
Buffalo. Definitely Buffalo.

INT. OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM -- MOMENTS LATER

MICHAEL

...and at the end of the day, the
branch with the most sales dollars
will win, drumroll please...

Dwight obliges.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Passes to Great America! Arrr there
any questions?

Dwight is delighted. Meredith, Stanley, and Angela all raise
their hands.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Meredith.

MEREDITH

Can we bring our kids?

MICHAEL

No.

(sees Stanley's hand
raised)

And that goes for S.O.'s too, Stanley.
Sorry, guys, but unless you're banging
someone within these four walls,
sucks for you...

Stanley does not lower his hand.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Stanley, let's let someone else have
a turn, 'kay?

STANLEY

This little contest wouldn't have
anything to do with downsizing, would
it?

MICHAEL

No, this doesn't have to do with
downsizing. This is to boost sales.
If anything, it's up-sizing. This
is a friendly competition, and I
think we can all agree that downsizing
is not friendly.

DAVID WALLACE TALKING HEAD

DAVID WALLACE

Actually, we're not prepared to rule
anything out, and that includes
downsizing. Any more questions?

INT. OFFICE - CONFERENCE ROOM -- SAME

Angela's hand is raised.

MICHAEL

Angela?

ANGELA

Great America is in Jackson.
(off Michael's unspoken
"so?")
That's in New Jersey...

MICHAEL

Your point?

ANGELA

I would just like to know if Corporate
will be providing transportation.
With the price of gas --

MICHAEL

-- Meredith, congratulations, you may have Angela's ticket. Now if no one has anything important --

Kevin removes his PIRATE TEETH. Angela is squicked.

KEVIN

-- Are you wearing eyeliner?

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL

Pirates are so hot right now.
(Paris Hilton)
So hott. Johnny Depp. Orlando Bloom. Initially I wanted to do a military theme -- Semper Fi! -- but I didn't want to be insensitive to Oscar... He's a Democrat.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION -- MOMENTS LATER

Pam sits at her desk -- headset discarded -- working on something behind her barrier. Jim leans over the desk, trying to sneak a peek at what she's doing.

JIM

Let me see...

PAM

Just a sec. I'm nearly done.
(and then,
conspiratorily)
Do it again.

They both laugh, Jim intentionally glancing towards Angela to make her think they're talking about her.

CAMERA WHIPS TO:

INT. OFFICE - ACCOUNTING -- CONTINUOUS

Angela sits at her desk. Shoots daggers towards reception with her eyes.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM

This morning, when I got to work,
this was stuck to my computer screen.

She holds up a NOTE on an Anne Geddes-style STICKY NOTE that reads: "THE MICROWAVE NEEDS CLEANING."

PAM (CONT'D)

It's actually the fifth one I've gotten this week... It's Wednesday.

ANGELA TALKING HEAD

Angela holds up a copy of the RECEPTIONIST JOB DUTIES.

ANGELA

It is part of Pam's responsibilities as receptionist. The job description explicitly states, "Keeps the workspace tidy."

(beat)

I can get you a copy if you'd like.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM

Yeah. Workspace. Keyword: work. How much work do you think actually goes on in the break room?

(beat)

Oh my God, that sounded like Michael, didn't it?

INT. OFFICE - WATER COOLER -- MOMENTS LATER

OSCAR, KELLY, and Meredith stand around the water cooler talking.

KELLY

Who do you guys think is going to be a better mother? Jennifer Garner or Jennifer Aniston?

MEREDITH

Is Jennifer Aniston pregnant?

OSCAR

No.

KELLY

Yes. I was reading the new "Star" in line at Turkey Hill and she definitely has a baby bump.

MEREDITH

Oh, maybe I did see that...

KELLY

I hope she is. She deserves it after everything that homewrecker did to her.

OSCAR

I really like Jennifer Garner.

MEREDITH

Oh, me too.

KELLY

Oh my God, I loved her in "Pearl Harbor."

MEREDITH

Wait, "Pearl Harbor" was Kate Beckinsale...

OSCAR

No, no, Jennifer was the nurse with the --

They're interrupted by Dwight, who carries a STACK OF TELEPHONE BOOKS.

DWIGHT

-- What is going on here?

None of them answer him.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

In case you haven't heard, there's a sales contest going on. You should all be at your desks contributing.

KELLY

Dwight, none of us work in sales.

DWIGHT

Well guess what? Today you do.

He passes out a BOOK to each of them.

DWIGHT (CONT'D)

You get to cold call.

KELLY

This isn't my job. I'm going to tell Michael.

DWIGHT

Fine. Go to Michael. It was his idea. Now get back to your desks.

He leaves. They all look down at their books, incredulous.

MICHAEL (V.O.)

Like I said, this is a big day for my troops.

MICHAEL AND DWIGHT TALKING HEAD

Michael's office. Dwight stands beside him.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

But this is an even bigger day for me, personally.

(MORE)

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

My manhood -- me jewels, if you will --
are on the chopping block. Two words:
Josh Porter. Stamford. Young.
Smart. Good-looking.

DWIGHT

Recently had a two-page spread in
"Paper Age."

MICHAEL

Did not. Which issue?

DWIGHT

Jan/Feb.

MICHAEL

I must have missed it, so he's
obviously not that special.

DWIGHT

I'll get you a copy.

MICHAEL

It doesn't matter, Dwight, you know
why? Josh is nothing more than a
corporate kiss-ass. The new CFO's
lap dog.

DWIGHT

Pshaw. I think we all know who Jan's
lap dog is...

MICHAEL

Rawwwwr.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION - LATER

Pam still works on whatever she's working on, mid-conversation
with Jim:

JIM

(mock shock)
Pam Beesley!

PAM

What? It's fun in the bitter barn...
Alright, I'm done.

JIM

Let's see it.

She puts on her PIRATE EYE PATCH. Except this one has an
EYEBALL painted on it with correction fluid and Sharpie
marker.

PAM

What do you think?

JIM
It's terrifying.

She's proud of herself. Jim notices something beside Pam's nose -- A SMALL SPOT OF CORRECTION FLUID. She notices his stare.

PAM
What?

JIM
Nothing. It's just...you have something...

He gestures to the LEFT side of his nose. She wipes at the right side of her own nose, mirroring him.

JIM (CONT'D)
Your other left.

PAM
(trying again)
Did I get it?

She didn't.

JIM
Hold still for just a sec...

He looks over the barrier of her desk looking for something, finally finding a BOX OF TISSUES. He takes one.

PAM
What are you doing?

JIM
Just hold still.

He wipes at the spot to no avail. Almost without thinking, he wets the tissue with his tongue and tries again. It works.

PAM
Excuse me. Did you just wipe my face with your spit on a hankie?

JIM
Actually, it's a Kleenex.

PAM
Who are you, my mom?

JIM
Yes, I am your mom...

Pam steals the tissue, amused. The moment is broken as the phone rings.

PAM
 Dunder-Mifflin, this is Pam... Hi,
 Jan... He is... Just a second...

She dials Michael's extension.

CAMERA WHIPS TO:

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Michael's phone rings, but his office is empty.

CAMERA WHIPS TO:

INT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Michael sets up a GAME OF HANGMAN on the WHITE BOARD in the back. He presses a BUTTON on the side of his HEADSET.

MICHAEL
 Hola! Como esta?

PAM
 Michael, I have Jan on the phone.

MICHAEL
 Alrighty then. Put her through.

PAM
 She wants to talk to you in your
 office. With Toby.

MICHAEL
 Fine.
 (as he passes Toby at
 his desk)
 Pam, would you please send Toby in?

Michael enters his office. Toby nods in acknowledgment to Pam -- no need to call -- and follows Michael in. Before the camera can follow *him* in, however, Toby just nods "no" and shuts the door and the blinds.

Pam transfers the call, then looks to Jim: What is that about? Jim shrugs and nonchalantly heads back to his desk, shooting the camera a look of "Oh crap." No one in the office really knows what to think at this point, but there's that lingering fear of downsizing.

STANLEY
 (I knew it)
 Mmmm-hmmm.

STANLEY TALKING HEAD

STANLEY (CONT'D)
 I do not care what Michael said.
 (MORE)

STANLEY (CONT'D)

Demand for uncoated free sheet paper is low and continuing to drop. Postal costs are up. Production costs are up. Consumer confidence is down. It doesn't take an MBA to figure out that something's gotta give.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION -- LATER

Dwight stands at the reception area, admiring Pam's wireless headset that lies on her desk.

DWIGHT

Pam, question: What kind of noise cancellation do you get on that baby?

PAM

It's okay, I guess. I haven't really used it that much.

DWIGHT

May I?

PAM

Sure.

She hands him the HEADSET, but given the reverence with which he handles it, you'd think it was the holy grail.

DWIGHT

Michael said that if we win, he'll get me one.

PAM

Good for you.

DWIGHT

What's the range?

PAM

(go away)
Dwight --

She doesn't get to finish her thought. Michael and Toby exit his office. Toby stands back as Michael addresses his employees.

MICHAEL

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm afraid I have an announcement to make and, frankly, it breaks my heart to have to do what I'm about to do.

He actually has their attention.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Jim Halpert, will you please stand?

Jim does. Pam's look is one of concern.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Would you like to tell them, or should I?

JIM
 Well, last week, I had a meeting with Corporate and --

MICHAEL
 -- He took another job. In Stamford.

Now Pam is really confused. Everyone else hovers in that state between relief at not being downsized and being sad to see a co-worker go.

MICHAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 How did I feel when I heard Jim was jumping ship?

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 Here's the thing. I consider Jim and I to be good buddies. Yes, we kinda went through a rough patch when I accidentally outed his thing for Pam, but we stuck it out. We made it work. So color me gobsmacked when I hear the news from somebody else. From Jan. Honestly? I felt jilted. Like a lover. Except we are not lovers because I am not a homosexual.

INT. OFFICE -- SAME

MICHAEL
 You know what, Jim? You're disqualified. You have betrayed me. You have betrayed your co-workers, and we don't want you here.

Jim gathers his things to leave. No skin off his back.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
 For the rest of the day, you sit next to Kelly. You, sir, are marooned.

All eyes are on him as he makes his way back to the cubicle area.

Dwight can't help himself...

DWIGHT
(beating the reception
desk to the beat)
Trans-fer! Trans-fer! Trans-fer!

Pam takes the headset from his hand before he completely destroys it. Michael retreats to his office.

MICHAEL
(to Dwight)
Oh, can it, Swabby!

Michael slams his door.

END OF ACT ONE