

DENNIS HAS A DREAM

17-DE06-W34

Dennis needs a job promotion to solve his financial woes but his boss has other plans.

FADE IN:

EXT. CITY WIDE BANK - ESTABLISHING - EVENING

A commercial bank on a downtown street in a small farming town that looks like it was built in the 1980s.

INT. CITY WIDE BANK - LOBBY - EVENING

Comfortable chairs, check writing station and two desks populate the lobby. The bank is closed.

Outside, a WOMAN CUSTOMER, dressed in business attire, hurries to the door, realizes it's locked. Frustrated, she walks away.

INT. CITY WIDE BANK - TELLER LINE - EVENING

THREE TELLERS stand at their stations, reconciling their cash drawers.

DENNIS COLLINS, mid 30s, business minded, clean cut in well-worn clothes, stands at his station and glares at the computer screen. Pinned on his shirt is a name tag that reads DENNIS COLLINS, HEAD TELLER.

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN -- bank account of DENNIS COLLINS

Checking Account Balance: \$15.76.

Dennis chews his already demolished nails.

MARILYN, a soft hearted truly "blonde" brained teller, early 30s, approaches Dennis' station. She sees him looking at his account.

MARILYN

Wow, Dennis, that's scary. And payday isn't for another week.

Dennis quickly closes the browser window and tries to shrug off her remarks. He pivots to face her.

DENNIS

Marilyn, what can I do for you?

MARILYN

I'm having a bit of a problem.

DENNIS

Another math crisis?

MARILYN

No, I mean yes, but - the paper drawer on my printer is jammed.

Dennis gets up and follows Marilyn to her teller station.

He jerks open the paper drawer and a paper snake POPS out. Marilyn SCREAMS, Dennis jumps and LAUGHTER explodes behind them.

Dennis and Marilyn turn to see CHARLIE TURNER, Bank Manager, a rotund, jolly prankster, walk toward them. He's cracking up with laughter.

DENNIS

Paper snakes went out with joy buzzers, Charlie.

MARILYN

Charlie Turner, you've been a great manager but a terrible prankster.

CHARLIE

Oh you know you're gonna miss my jokes. Well, I'm announcing my replacement tomorrow morning. Be there or be square.

Marilyn and Dennis grimace at his joke as he leaves.

DENNIS

Can you believe he's only leaving two weeks to train the new person?

Marilyn turns back to her cash draw.

Dennis leans his back against the counter and thoughtfully gazes into space.

Marilyn counts the money in her cash drawer. Her lips move as she counts.

DENNIS

However, he wouldn't need two weeks to train me.

Marilyn stops counting and starts all over after Dennis says two.

DENNIS

I do have ten years seniority.

When Dennis says ten, Marilyn stops, heaves a frustrated sigh and starts all over.

DENNIS

And I've been head teller for the
past five.

When Dennis says five, Marilyn stops counting and throws the money down on the counter with a irritable yell.

Dennis turns back to Marilyn.

MARILYN

Here you count it. I'm done.

FADE TO BLACK:

EXT. DENNIS' HOUSE - NIGHT

A remodeled farm house in an older neighborhood is brightly lit.

A 10 year-old Volvo sits in the driveway.

INT. DENNIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

LINDA COLLINS, pregnant, a business executive turned housewife, sits on the couch watching a Charlie Rose-type television program.

Dennis sits at the dining room table and shuffles bills.

CLOSE ON OVERDUE BILLS:

Cable TV, car payment, credit cards, house mortgage.

An unopened envelope is next a worn Bible on the table near the bills. Dennis picks it up and glances at the Bible. He opens the letter and pulls out an invoice.

CLOSE IN ON INVOICE --

GENESIS FERTILITY CLINIC. Balance amount is \$22,829.62.
In big letters: PAST DUE.

Discouraged, Dennis puts his head in his hands.

Linda turns off the television and waddles over to the dining room table.

She looks at the stack of bills, then at Dennis, compassion in her eyes.

LINDA

You're sure you don't want my help?

DENNIS

Lindy, I can do this. I can do this.

LINDA

Do you want to pray?

DENNIS

You pray. Mine don't seem to get past the ceiling.

Linda kisses Dennis on the forehead.

LINDA

Don't stay up too late.

She leaves the room.

Dennis looks at the Bible.

DENNIS

Okay God, I need something.

He takes the Bible, closes his eyes and opens it, takes his finger and points to a place on the page. He opens his eyes and reads the scripture verse aloud.

DENNIS

He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had. We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

He pushes the Bible away.

DENNIS

I meant something I could use.

Dennis puts his head down on the table and dozes off.

DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. BANK - TELLER STATION - DAY

Dennis stands at the money counter and wraps the bundles of money with paper straps.

DANCE MUSIC starts to play. The bundle Dennis just set down stands up and dances. The other bundles stand up and dance around it.

Dennis, excited, joins in the dance.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. DENNIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dennis wakes up. He grabs the open Bible and rereads the passage. Excited, he runs from the room.

INT. DENNIS' HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dennis dashes into the bedroom and nudges the sleeping Linda. She wakes up, startled.

LINDA

Dennis? What's wrong?

DENNIS

You mean what's right! I'm gonna get the promotion. I saw it in a dream.

Dennis kneels beside the bed.

DENNIS

I know it was from God. Everything is going to work out just fine.

INT. CITY WIDE BANK - LOBBY - DAY

The SECURITY GUARD opens the front door and Dennis walks in, a spring in his step, carrying a LARGE COFFEE.

INT. CITY WIDE BANK - CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Charlie sits behind his inexpensive desk. Two chairs sit in front. A LARGE RED PAPER BAG sits on Charlie's desk.

Dennis strides into the office. Charlie snatches the paper bag from desk and sets it on the floor.

DENNIS

Good Morning, Boss.

Dennis hands Charlie the coffee.

DENNIS

White chocolate mocha, with an extra pump of white chocolate and extra whipped cream.

CHARLIE

Buttering me up?

DENNIS

Absolutely.

CHARLIE

Excellent! I have a favor to ask. I've planned a little joke and want you to help me out.

Charlie hands Dennis a small drum and drum stick. Dennis gives him a curious look.

CHARLIE

You'll know when to use it.

Charlie gives Dennis a wink and takes a sip of his coffee.

CHARLIE

Just the way I like it.

Dennis leaves the office and heads for the break room. He beats on the drum with the stick and breaks into the dance from the dream.

INT. BANK - BREAK ROOM - DAY

A coffee pot, a small fridge, a small table and a few chairs, crowd the break room. Marilyn pours coffee into a cup.

Dennis dances in just as Marilyn turns around and they collide. Marilyn's hot coffee spills on Dennis who lets out a yell.

MARILYN

Dennis! Oh dang. Let me get that.

She grabs a paper towel, wets it, and scrubs the coffee stain on his shirt.

DENNIS

Ah, it's an old one. I'll soon be able to buy a whole new wardrobe.

Marilyn looks puzzled as Dennis dances out the door.

INT. CITY WIDE BANK - LOBBY - DAY

The Security Guard stands at the closed doors. A few CUSTOMERS wait outside.

INT. CITY WIDE BANK - BEHIND THE TELLER LINE - DAY

Charlie holds the large red paper bag as Marilyn stands beside Dennis, who proudly holds the drum and drumstick in his hands.

CHARLIE

I have really enjoyed my time here
at City Wide Bank. We've had fun,
haven't we?

The Group responds with chuckles and groans.

CHARLIE

I thought hard and long about who
I should choose to take my place.
I knew that person needed to be
someone who could adequately-

Charlie reaches in the red paper bag and takes out a huge pair of CLOWN SHOES.

CHARLIE

-fill my shoes.

The whole group groans.

CHARLIE

Dennis, drum roll please.

Dennis breaks into a broad grin as he does the drum roll on the tiny drum.

CHARLIE

Please give a big welcoming
congratulations to-

Shoes in hand, Charlie walks toward Dennis and Marilyn.

Dennis looks as if he is about to burst with anticipation.

Charlie hands the shoes to Marilyn.

CHARLIE

Your new manager!

Dennis, flabbergasted, drops the drum.

Everyone gasps.

Charlie gestures for her to put them on.

Marilyn, overcome with emotion, takes off her high heels and puts on the shoes.

Dennis reels from the shock.

FLASH

The stacks of money in his dream stop dancing. The music fades as the bundles sprout wings and fly off.

Charlie's VOICE fades back in.

CHARLIE

I expect you to show the same respect and loyalty Marilyn as you have to me.

(to Marilyn)

If you have any problems, you know you can count always count on Dennis.

Charlie looks at Dennis who is still dazed.

CHARLIE

Right Dennis?

Dennis snaps to.

DENNIS

Right.

Charlie looks at the clock.

CHARLIE

It's ten. Time to open the doors.

Charlie signals for Marilyn to follow him to his desk. She shuffles awkwardly behind him in the oversized shoes.

INT. BANK - LOBBY CUSTOMER DESK - LATER

Dennis and a balding, male CUSTOMER, mid 50s, sit at the desk, talking. They end their conversation. Dennis steps around the desk and shakes hands with the Customer who leaves.

Dennis picks up his cell phone, reluctance and dread in his demeanor. He dials.

LINDA (ON PHONE)

Hi sweetie.

DENNIS

Hi Lindy.

LINDA (ON PHONE)

Did you get the pics?

DENNIS

Pics? Hold on.

He checks his phone.

CLOSE ON PHONE

Dennis scrolls through the pictures of:

A crib with price tag of \$599. Dennis eyes flash \$\$\$ and cash register sfx

A stroller with price tag of \$1399.

A rocking chair with price tag of \$349.

He scrolls fast as the other pics roll by and dissolve into:

INT. DENNIS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Linda sits on the couch, surrounded by the stroller, crib, changing table, rocker, tons of baby cloths, and boxes of diapers, her cell phone to her ear.

LINDA

I can't wait for you to see everything. We can have a nice candle light dinner to celebrate your promotion and then set up the nursery?

DENNIS (ON PHONE)

Uh, where did you get the money?

LINDA

I opened an account at Babies 'R Us. It was easier than I thought. They gave me a five thousand dollar credit line. Can you believe it?

DENNIS (ON PHONE)

Wow, five thousand. Ummm. Did you use it all?

LINDA

Dennis, baby stuff is expensive.
Is something wrong? You did get
the promotion.

DENNIS (ON PHONE)

Oh, oh, a customer. I'll call you
back.

Dennis hangs up.

INT. BANK - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Dennis paces. Different VOICES assail him.

VOICE#1 (V.O.)

What are you going to do now?

VOICE#2 (V.O.)

How could they do this to you?

VOICE #3 (V.O.)

They owe you. You deserve that
money.

Dennis' expression morphs from distraught to furious.

INT. BANK - CHARLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Dennis pokes his head in.

DENNIS

I'm going to lunch.

CHARLIE

But we are having a small
celebration for our new manager.

Dennis ignores Charlie and leaves.

INT. DOLLAR STORE - TOY AISLE - DAY

Dennis browses the toy aisle.

He finds --

A CLEAR MASK and puts it on. In a toy mirror, he sees it
hides his facial features.

A BLACK WATER PISTOL that looks realistic.

INT. DOLLAR STORE - CLOTHING AISLE - DAY

Dennis tries on a dark colored HOODY. He sticks the water pistol in the pocket and points it. Satisfied, he takes the hoody off and takes everything to the check out.

EXT. BANK - DAY

Dennis stands around the corner of the front entrance, wearing the hoody and the mask. He puts the water pistol in his pocket and pulls the hood over his head.

The Security Guard stands near the ATM, checking things on his cell phone. Dennis casually strolls to the front doors and opens them.

INT. BANK - LOBBY - DAY

TWO CUSTOMERS are being helped by Marilyn and another Teller.

Dennis walks into the bank. He points the water pistol from inside his pocket at Marilyn, the Teller and the Customers.

DENNIS

This is a stick-up.

The Customers fall to the floor.

Dennis walks up to Marilyn's window.

DENNIS

(disguises voice)

Put all the money from both of your drawers in this bag.

He thrusts the Dollar Store bag at Marilyn.

Marilyn recognizes the coffee stain on Dennis' shirt.

MARILYN

Dennis? Is that you?

Dennis backs up and turns to run out the door.

The Security guard stops him and pulls his mask down but it still hangs around his neck.

Marilyn makes her way to the Lobby and grabs Dennis' arm.

MARILYN

It's okay. It's just a prank.

The Security lets Dennis go and shakes his head in confusion. The Customers jump up and run out of the bank. The Tellers look uncomfortable, unsure of what just happened.

Marilyn takes Dennis' arm and nearly drags him toward the break room.

MARILYN

Dennis, that was brilliant. But it was dangerous. You could have been shot.

INT. BANK - BREAK ROOM - DAY

Marilyn pulls Dennis into the break room followed by Charlie and two other Tellers. The room is decorated with balloons and streamers.

A CAKE sets on the table next to the big shoes.

CLOSE IN ON CAKE:

A picture of Dennis with CONGRATULATIONS!

Charlie walks over to Dennis and gives him a hearty slap on the back.

CHARLIE

You figured out the promotion was yours all along. I have to hand it to you. That was some prank! You did me proud.

Dennis' face reveals his gratitude that he is saved.

DENNIS

Well, someone has to carry on when you're gone.

FADE OUT:

