the office
E-MAIL SURVEILLANCE

Directed by
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COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

1 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - DAY 1

MICHAEL is sipping coffee, staring out the window. A concerned look comes over him. The camera looks out the window and finds...

2 EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS - D1

A YOUNG MUSLIM MAN with a backpack is walking into the building.

3 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

Michael dials his phone in a panic.

    MICHAEL
    Pick up, pick up, dammit.

    SPEAKERPHONE (V.O.)
    You have reached the security desk at-

    MICHAEL
    (to camera)
    This is bad.

Michael hangs up and runs out of his office.

4 INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - D1

Michael runs in from his office.

    MICHAEL
    Everyone, lock the doors, turn out the lights, pretend not to be here.

    JIM
    (calmly)
    Are we in danger?

    MICHAEL
    I don't know. There's no time to think about if this is real.

He runs to lock the door and turn out the lights.

    MICHAEL (CONT'D)
    Sush sush sush sush.

Everyone is quiet. There is a KNOCK on the door. They wait. Then another TAP TAP TAP.
MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
The IT tech guy and me did not get off to a great start.

END OF COLD OPEN
FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE – ACCOUNTING AREA – D1

OSCAR is bouncing his knee up and down while he works. ANGELA sighs. He looks up to see Angela staring at his leg.

ANGELA
You’re going to have to stop that.

Oscar moves his leg under the desk, out of view. A beat.

ANGELA (CONT’D)
I can still feel it.

INT. MICHAEL’S OFFICE – D1

SADIQ, the Muslim IT tech, is working at Michael’s computer. Michael hovers.

MICHAEL
I tried to install it myself, but you guys have everything so password-protected--

SADIQ
That just means you have to enter your password. What’s your password, Michael?

Sadiq notices a Post-It note stuck to Michael’s computer. It says “Password: 1234.”

SADIQ (CONT’D)
Oh. 1234.

Michael doesn’t answer. Sadiq looks up to find him staring at his turban. Michael quickly looks away to the computer screen.

MICHAEL
So, that’s great.

Sadiq looks back and Michael returns to staring at his turban.

SADIQ
Do you have a question or something... about my turban?

MICHAEL
No... I wear a turban too, sometimes. It’s in that drawer, let me show you.

(CONTINUED)
He pulls out his Carnac turban and puts it on.

SADIQ
Why do you have that?
MICHAEL
It's funny. Johnny Carson. Did you have Johnny Carson where you grew up?

SADIQ
In Pittsburgh? Yes. But I never really watched him.

MICHAEL
(whispers)
You were forbidden?

SADIQ
No, I'm much younger than you. I watch Conan.

Michael removes his turban and puts it away.

SADIQ (CONT'D)
So you need system admin. privileges.

MICHAEL
Oooh, privileges. For top management only, I'm sure. An exclusive club. Like United's Red Carpet Club.
(to camera)
I'm in that, too. Get the day pass mostly.

SADIQ
It just means I have to log on for you.

MICHAEL
Do you need to see my ID first? My pay stub? Proof that I deserve these privileges?

SADIQ
No. I just need you to be quiet for a second.

MICHAEL
Wow. All business. We could use somebody like you working here.

SADIQ
I do work here.

There's a beat and then Michael steps outside.

INT. OFFICE - JIM AND DWIGHT'S DESKS - CONTINUOUS - DL

Dwight sees Michael has exited and he gets up.

(CONTINUED)
DWIGHT
What are you doing?

MICHAEL
("stupid question")
Ummmm, what I'm always doing. My job.

DWIGHT
No, why's he here? What is it?

MICHAEL
I can't tell you.

DWIGHT
You have to tell me.

MICHAEL
No. I don't.

DWIGHT
(looks at camera, then)
Look, I know you don't want to think about this, but if anything were to happen to you, God forbid, I'd need to know in order to take over.

MICHAEL
Nothing's going to happen to me. I'm in great shape. Best shape of my life.
(shows biceps to camera)
Look at these puppies.

DWIGHT

MICHAEL
What? That's not gonna-- You need to leave.

DWIGHT
Okay, but I suggest you write down what you're doing and put it in an envelope that I won't open until I have to.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
There are some things a boss can't share with his employees. His salary -- that would just depress them. His bed.

(MORE) (CONTINUED)
MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(gets lost in thought, then)
I also can't tell them I'm going to be
reading their e-mails. E-mail
surveillance. All the big companies do
it. Increases efficiency. Increases
productivity. It is a necessary evil.
Well, not really evil. It is a necessary
good thing.

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - D1

Sadiq is sitting at Michael's computer. Michael stands over
his shoulder looking at the screen.

MICHAEL
So, how do you search?

SADIQ
By keyword phrase.

MICHAEL
Oh. Try, um, "profits."

He types, but before any possible results could come up--

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(quickly)
Now try "Michael Scott," "Michael," and
"Boss." And "funny."

Sadiq types. Michael looks at the screen.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(to camera)
Ah, an e-mail from Stanley.
(reading, in Stanley's voice)
"I can't go to the game tonight because
my boss, Michael, is an ass and is making
me stay late.
(impulsively)
Stanley's an ass.
(then)
Not our hardest worker.

INT. OFFICE - D1

PAM is working at her desk. She yawns. The camera WHIPS
over to find JIM yawning. He's not looking at Pam now, but
we know he just did.

INT. OFFICE - D1

PHYLLIS is reading something on her computer. She looks
concerned.

(CONTINUED)
PHYLILS
Oh, this isn't good.

STANLEY doesn't look up.

STANLEY
It's fine.

PHYLILS
You don't even know what I'm talking about.

He doesn't.

ANGLE ON: Michael coming out of his office. Oscar sees him.

OSCAR
Hey, what's the deal, Michael? Why are you spying on our computers?

Everyone looks up, interested.

MICHAEL
Oh, no, everyone -- Oscar's gone crazy! What other ghost stories do you have for us -- that I've bugged the office? Put cameras in the plants --

(robot voice)

Michael makes robot movements.

OSCAR
Actually, we just got a memo from IT saying you're doing e-mail surveillance.

MICHAEL
(annoyed)
What?! No, that defeats the whole--

DWIGHT
So, it's true? You have access to our e-mails?

MICHAEL
Yes. But it's no big deal. It's normal for a growing company to--

PAM
We're growing? I thought we were worried about downsizing.

(CONTINUED)
MICHAEL
(annoyed)
Not growing in terms of number of people or jobs, Pam. We're growing together. To make a better company. A more united company.

STANLEY
Yeah, one where our boss spies on us.

MICHAEL
Look, I hear you Stanley. And you know what the problem is?

STANLEY
I think I do.

MICHAEL
The problem is that when people think of "Big Brother," they think bad and scary. But that's ridiculous. I love my big brother. He's a great guy. Handsome. Fit. And he has helpful suggestions. Like here's one for Jim-- Instead of e-mailing Amazon about the CD you never got, I suggest you tell Visa to cancel the charge.

Michael looks at Jim as if to say "see?"

JIM
Yeah, I didn't need help with that.

MICHAEL
Seems like you did. Lots of e-mails to Amazon. Tons of wasted computer space.

(then)
Okay, back to work, everyone.

Michael goes back to his office. Everyone looks annoyed.

ANGLE ON: Phyllis looking to Stanley as if to say "I told you so."

TOBY TALKING HEAD

TOBY
Yeah, I assumed Michael was already doing that. That's why I only use my personal e-mail account.
14 INT. OFFICE - ACCOUNTING AREA - D1

KEVIN is at his computer. On his screen we see he's dragging a file to the trash. He clicks "Empty Trash." A task bar comes up and progresses slowly. He has a lot to erase.

15 INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - D1

Pam is at her desk. Angela is at the printer. Dwight approaches Angela and leans in quietly.

DWIGHT
Just so you know -- if you have any sensitive emails, they need to be deleted immediately.

ANGELA
I know.

DWIGHT
Good.

Dwight walks back to his desk. Pam doesn't know what to make of this. She waves Jim over.

PAM
Something just happened.

JIM
Okay, that's less than you usually give me to go on--

PAM
Dwight just told Angela that she needs to delete any sensitive emails she has immediately.

JIM
What?

PAM
I know.

JIM
Huh.

PAM
(scare of the question)
Do you think--?

JIM
No way. Dwight and Angela? No way. 

(CONTINUED)
Continued:

PAM
I know! Ew! Ew! Ew!
(beat, then)
Maybe?

We can see by Jim's face, he's considering it.

PAM (CONT'D)
It's horrible. But I have to know.
Don't you have to know?

JIM
No, I don't think so.

PAM
Well, I can't let this go. I have to figure it out. And, lucky for me, I have nothing going on up here from now--
(looking at her calendar)
--until March.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM
It's like squishing a spider under a book. I know it's going to be gross, but I have to look to see that it's really dead.
(then to camera crew)
So, if you see anything going on between them...

INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - D1

Michael is glued to his computer. He glances up at the camera from time to time.

MICHAEL
Should've done this a long time ago. Tons of personal e-mails. Huge time wasters. Like -- Kevin's ranking of the best bars in Scranton... (notices something, outraged) Poor Richards is number seven?! Come on!!

His intercom buzzes.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Yeah?

PAM
Accounting needs your approval of the--

(CONTINUED)
MICHAEL

Not now! Working!

Michael hangs up on her and looks back to his computer.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)

Oooh, Meredith got an Evite... Looks like Jim's having a bbq... Tonight? That's odd. How come I didn't get my Evitation?

Oh, here we go--

(reading)

Click here for the invite list... Angela, Stanley, Oscar... Hmmm... I don't see...

Meredith, Phyllis...

(looks at camera)

You guys are on here...

(back to screen)

...Kevin, Creed... Must be... No.

MICHAIL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL

There's always a distance between the boss and the employees. It's intimidation, mostly. An awareness that they're not me. It's like, "Oh, I respect Michael Scott so much -- what if I drop spinach dip on him at the party? What will he think of me then? Will it affect my salary?"

(then, pensive)

I don't know. As much as I come across as approachable, as one of the guys, sometimes I think I could be even approachabler.

INT. OFFICE - D1

Dwight is staring in the direction of accounting. The camera WHIPS to find Pam has just noticed this. Could he be staring at Angela? Pam gets up to get a better look. She follows Dwight's gaze to--

Kevin who is lifting a box onto a shelf. His shirt has come un-tucked, exposing his stomach.

BACK TO PAM, who deflates a little.

JIM

(to Pam, leaning in)

Keep your eye on the prize. The horrible, horrible prize.

(CONTINUED)
Pam heads back to her desk.

INT. BREAK ROOM - D1

SPY SHOT: Jim is getting a soda. Kevin approaches.

KEVIN
Hey, I know it's last minute, but is it cool if I bring my fiancee tonight?

JIM
Sure. It's very casual. I'm not worried about numbers or anything.

JIM TALKING HEAD

JIM
What would Phyllis look like in my living room? Where would Stanley hang out? There are work friends who you watch all day long answering the phone saying "Dunder Mifflin this is..." You know, whoever, Oscar, and you just want to see what they would look like at your place. Plus, my roommate wants to meet everybody. I'm pretty sure he thinks I'm making Dwight up.

INT. OFFICE - JIM AND DWIGHT'S DESKS - D1

Michael comes out of his office. His tie is off and a few buttons on his shirt are unbuttoned. He wanders over to Jim's desk.

MICHAEL
(a little down)
Hey.

JIM
Hi.

DWIGHT
Where's your tie?
MICHAEL
I don’t know. I just wanted to take it off. Sometimes work can be so damn frustrating. You know what I mean, Jim?

JIM
Uh, yeah, I guess.

DWIGHT
What’s wrong, Michael? Talk to me.

MICHAEL
It’s just the same old crap. The boss is riding my ass.

DWIGHT
(alarmed)
Oh, God. Jan? What’s going on?

MICHAEL
I don’t know. I don’t want to talk about it. I just want to hang out here where I’m just one of the guys.

DWIGHT
The most important one of the guys.

MICHAEL
That’s not the point.

Jim looks to camera -- point? What’s the point?

DWIGHT
(quietly, but intense)
It’s exactly the point. You’ve hit a slump. Happens to the best. But you have to remember who you are. How hard you’ve worked for this. You are the boss. You can buy and sell all of us with a snap of your little finger.

MICHAEL
I would never do that.

JIM
(to Dwight)
And you can’t actually snap with your little finger.

DWIGHT
(to Jim)
This hardly seems the time.

(continued)
MICHAEL
No, this is great. This is perfect. Just
us, out here, doing some friendly ribbing.
The group of us. The worker bees.

Jim looks to the camera -- what the hell?

Pam heads to the vending machine. Angela is there, getting a
candy bar.

PAM
Hey, Angela. How's it going?

ANGELA
It's okay.

PAM
You bringing anyone to Jim's party
tonight?

ANGELA
No. Are we supposed to?

PAM
No, I don't think so, no.

Angela's Baby Ruth drops. She reaches for it. Pam readies
her dollar and sees that Angela is putting another dollar in.

PAM (CONT'D)
Oh.

Angela pushes the button for another Baby Ruth and Pam turns
to the camera holding up two fingers.

PAM (CONT'D)
(mouthing the word)
Two.

Pam looks at the camera -- isn't that interesting?

Pam is standing near Dwight's desk.

PAM
So, a friend of mine is kinda into these
two girls that he works with.
(MORE)
PAM (Cont'd)

One is tall and brunette and the other one is short and blond and really perky and kind of judgemental. Which one do you think he should go out with?

DWIGHT
(thinks, then)
Do you have access to their medical records?

DWIGHT
The great thing about modern America is the computerization of medical records. As a volunteer sheriff, I can look up anyone's psychiatric records, surgical history, yeast infections. For some reason, there are a lot of yeast infections in this county. Probably because we're down-river from a Wonder Bread factory.

PAM
Uhuh...

DWIGHT
Is this for sex or marriage or just for fun?

PAM
Huh. You know what? I'll talk to him and get back to you.

Pam quickly runs away.

She sees Roy at reception.

PAM
Hi.

(Continued)
ROY
He, babe.

He kisses her and is a little more affectionate than normal.

ROY (CONT'D)
Hey, do you mind if I go to Lonny's poker game tonight? I promise it's the last one for a while.

PAM
But I thought we were going to go to that barbecue at Jim's house...

ROY
Oh man, can't you go to that without me? Come up with something. Tell him I ate something.

PAM
I might be late.

ROY
Don't wake me up. I'm playing ball in the morning.

Roy crosses off. Pam is lost in thought for a minute, then--

PAM
(to camera crew)
Did I miss anything?

INT. KITCHEN - D1

Jim, Pam, Oscar and Kevin are eating lunch. Michael comes in, with a Cup O' Noodles and sits next to Jim. Jim looks to Pam -- what the hell?

KEVIN
You're going to eat with us?

MICHAEL
(glancing at camera)

Michael looks around at what everyone's eating.

(CONTINUED)
MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Yogurt -- very good, Pam... Some P.B. and J -- excellent choice, Oscar. What do you have there, Jim?

JIM
Oh, uh, ham and cheese.

MICHAEL
(making up a little song)
Cheese with ham and bread, with ham and bread...

It's now quiet and uncomfortable.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
So how's everyone's day going so far?

The group responds with "fine," "okay," etc.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Cool. Cool.

Ryan rushes in towards Michael with Styrofoam containers.

RYAN
I'm sorry this is so late. They had a big order right before yours. But they threw in a free spicy tuna roll.

Ryan tries to hand it to Michael.

MICHAEL
I don't need it. I have my lunch.

RYAN
You don't want this?

MICHAEL
No. Why don't you have it?

(then)
Better yet, put it in the fridge. With my name on it.

Ryan takes the food and crosses to the fridge.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(holding up soup)
Cup o' Noodles is all I need. Brain food. Got through college on this stuff.
(to Jim)
You, too?

(continues)
JIM
Nah, never really liked it.

MICHAEL
You know what I miss most about college?
Not that it was that long ago, ten --
eight years probably.

KEVIN
Would have to be more than ten.

MICHAEL
(mocking)
Ooooh, look at me -- I'm an accountant. I
always have to show off with my numbers.

KEVIN
I was just saying--

MICHAEL
Say it, then. Don't spray it.

Kevin looks at Michael -- he was in no way "spraying it."

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
I miss those college parties. Man, were
they off the hook. And everyone was
there, the jocks, the nerds, all the
same, just having fun, the cool kids, the
professors...

PAM
The professors went to the parties?

MICHAEL
Of course. They were the most fun. We'd
always invite them.

Jim is squirming. This is awkward.

JIM TALKING HEAD

JIM
I've got three cases of imported beer, a
karaoke machine, and I'm not inviting
Michael. Three ingredients for a great
party. It's nothing personal, I just
want everyone to relax and have fun.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - DI

Pam is working. The camera moves in TIGHT ON her. Pam looks
up to find the camera is very close.

(CONTINUED)
PAM (into camera)
What?

Pam looks up and sees Dwight take a bite of a BABY RUTH BAR.

PAM (CONT'D)
(delighted, to camera)
Yay! Thank you.

INT. OFFICE - JIM AND DWIGHT'S DESKS - D1

Jim and Dwight are there. Michael is nearby.

DWIGHT
I mapped out my route to the party tonight and I have several questions. First--

JIM
Hey, could you keep it down?

DWIGHT
Why?

JIM
Some people don't know about it.

DWIGHT
What? Who?

JIM
(embarrassed)
Michael.

DWIGHT
Just Michael? Why just Michael?

Michael is coming closer. Jim just wants to shut Dwight up.

JIM
(pouting, quietly)
...Because, it's a surprise.

DWIGHT
(quietly)
It is? Oh, that's perfect. He's had such a hard day.

INT. OFFICE - RECEPTION AREA - D1

Pam is at her desk. Jim crosses over.
JIM
So, Dwight thinks tonight is a surprise party for Michael.

PAM
Really? That’s great. Maybe we can get him to hide and wait somewhere.

JIM
(laughs, then)
Hey, so I’m trying to figure out numbers of people for food and stuff -- any idea if Roy’s planning on coming?

PAM
No, he’s not going to make it.

JIM
Okay, cool. Thanks.

As Jim turns, we see he’s a little happier than when he came over. Michael spots Jim and comes out of his office.

MICHAEL
Hey there. Almost quitting time.

JIM
Yup. Four o’clock.

MICHAEL
One more hour. Take care of anything you forgot to do.

(beat, then)
Hey, I don’t know if you have plans tonight... but if not, we could hang out.

JIM
Oh.

(beat, Jim waivers, then stays firm)
I can’t.

MICHAEL
You have plans?

JIM
Yeah.

MICHAEL
(quickly)
Yeah, I have really big plans, too.
JIM

I thought you just said you wanted to hang out.
MICHAEL
Tonight? Oh, I can’t tonight. I have... my improv class. With all my improv buds.

JIM
Sounds like fun.

MICHAEL
It’s a blast. Wouldn’t miss it for the world. But if something else came up I could always not go.

Jim’s uncomfortable, but he’s not going to give in now.

JIM
Improv sounds great.

MICHAEL
Okay.
(starts back to his office, then hears something)
What?

JIM
Stanley coughed.

END OF ACT ONE
ACT TWO

30 INT. OFFICE - NIGHT 1

Shots of people collecting their things and heading out. Jim is putting his jacket on while going over last-minute party preparations.

JIM
Okay, Oscar, I can count on your for ice. Phyllis, you are the queen of sodas. And Kevin, you're sure you don't mind stopping by Pizza Hut?

KEVIN
I was going there anyway.

31 INT. MICHAEL'S OFFICE - N1

Michael's getting ready to leave.

MICHAEL
(to camera)
Five o'clock. Gonna get my improv on.
(holds up coffee)
Just drinking the ol' comedy juice.
Guess what this is--
(does a labored movement --
"it's anybody's guess")
A dinosaur leaving work to go to improv.
Just a taste.

32 INT. OFFICE - N1

SPY SHOT: Oscar is heading to the elevator. Michael approaches him as he's leaving. Still angling for an invite.

MICHAEL
Hey, Oscar. Got big plans for tonight?

OSCAR
(cradling cell phone)
On a call.

Oscar rushes past.

MICHAEL
Kevin, my main man, where you off to?

KEVIN
(way too easily)
My brother's in town and we're going to see the Alaska IMAX film at the Science Center.

(CONTINUED)
Kevin leaves.

MICHAEL
Angela. You're in a rush. Where you headed?

ANGELA
I'm just leaving for the day.

MICHAEL
Duhhh. But where are you going?
ANGELA
Charity...bake...drive.

MICHAEL
Hm.

33
ANGELA TALKING HEAD

ANGELA
(tortured)
Lying is a sin. I hate him for putting
me in that position.
(then, realizing)
I don't mean that. I'm sorry.

34
INT. OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - N1

Michael finds Dwight getting his coat to leave.

MICHAEL
Dwight. My loyal compadre. What do you
say, you me hang tonight, just doing
whatever. Celebrate ourselves,
celebrating. Your choice -- what's that
stupid show you've been asking me to
watch with you? I'll watch it.
Battleship Galaga?

DWIGHT
Oh. That would have been great. But I
can't tonight. I have...
(giggling)
...practice. Soccer practice.

MICHAEL
You play soccer?

DWIGHT
Clarinet.

Michael realizes that Dwight is going to the party.

MICHAEL
Oh, Dwight. Even you.

DWIGHT
Hope you have fun tonight, whatever
you're doing! See you -- tomorrow!

Dwight passes the camera on the way out.
INT. JIM'S LIVING ROOM - N1

Jim's house is a small two bedroom, two bathroom house. The bedrooms are upstairs and the living room/kitchen are downstairs. There's a small patio out back.

Shots of Jim hurriedly cleaning.

The party is just starting -- people are mingling in the living room.

JIM
Okay, if I can have everyone's attention -- there's wine in the kitchen and beer out on the porch, and no, it's not all just for Kelly and Meredith.

MEREDITH (O.S.)
You better believe it is.

KELLY (O.S.)
Somebody come help me with Meredith.

ANGLE ON: Oscar, talking to a GOOD-LOOKING UPBEAT GUY in his mid-twenties, who has his arm around an ATTRACTIVE WOMAN.

OSCAR
So, you're Jim's roommate?

MARK
Yeah, I'm Mark. This is Lisa.

OSCAR
How'd you two meet?

MARK
At work. She started before me and I kept going to her for training -- even though I understood it all.

LISA
Yeah, right.

Mark kisses Lisa -- you can tell they're the kind of couple that's always cuddly and in love.

ANGLE ON: Dwight coming in, wearing Birkenstocks -- he's holding up a Hide-A-Key Rock and heading straight for Jim.
DWIGHT
Really, Jim? Do you really think this is a good idea?!

MARK
Hey, you must be Dwight?

DWIGHT
You don’t work with us.

JIM
Mark is my roommate.

Mark leans in to shake Dwight’s hand.

MARK
I like the Birkenstocks.

DWIGHT
Yeah, thanks. I always keep a set of them in the car.
(then, to Jim)
When’s the guest of honor coming?

JIM
Oh, uh, later.

Jim notices Pam enter.

JIM (CONT’D)
(to Pam)
Hey, you’re just in time.
(then, to group)
Okay, the tour group is now leaving. We will be visiting both rooms in the house and if we’re lucky, we’ll get to peek inside the bathroom.

Phyllis, Ryan, Kevin, and Kevin’s fiancee, STACY, gather near Jim for the tour.

JIM (CONT’D)
I just need to remind you: there is no flash photography allowed and please do not touch anything, as much as you might want to.

The group follows Jim upstairs.

RYAN
Hey, where’s Katy?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

JIM
I don't know, I haven't talked to her in a while.

Pam, with some effort, has overheard.

RYAN
Do you mind if I call her?

JIM
Let's talk about it later.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - N1
Michael opens the door to a classroom where a group of about TEN STUDENTS are sitting in chairs. They're mostly in their twenties, except one WOMAN who's around Michael's age.

MICHAEL
(to camera, still in the hall)
They can't start without me.

Michael crosses in.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
Funny story. This is how I came to improv. I came to improv... um... I was walking down the street and... a race car pulled up and a guy said, "You're funny. You're the funniest guy I ever met, or my name is not Dale Earnhardt."
(bursts out laughing)
That was just an improv. How I really came to improv was I found a flyer.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS - N1
The teacher, CHRIS, late twenties -- actually enjoys this job -- nice, supportive.

CHRIS
Let's get right into it. I need two people for this next scene. Who's up for it?

A bunch of hands go up, Michael more eager than the rest.

MICHAEL
(a la Freddie Boom-Boom
Washington)
Ooh, ooh, ooh, Mr. Kot-Tare, Mr. Kot-Tare!

(CONTINUED)
CHRIS
Okay, Michael and--

The rest of the hands go down. Michael heads up.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Anybody? C'mon people, this is why you're here -- to build confidence.

MICHAEL
(passing camera)
Not why I'm here.

CHRIS
...learn skills...

MICHAEL
(mutters to camera)
See whose skills are the best.

CHRIS
How about Mary Beth?

Michael rolls his eyes to camera as MARY BETH, the one woman who's Michael's age, gets up.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Start us off, Mary Beth.

Mary Beth skips into the scene, licking an ice cream cone clearly a little girl. Michael turns to her.

MICHAEL
(holding an imaginary gun)
Detective Michael Scarn. I'm ordering you to drop the gun!

Mary Beth quickly adapts, making her ice cream cone a gun.

MARY BETH
(German accent)
How did you know?

The class laughs. Michael smiles, thinking the laughter is for him.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
Think about it. What's the most exciting thing that can happen in a movie or on TV or in real life? Someone has a gun.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
MICHAEL (CONT'D)
That's why I always start with a gun.
Just try and top it. You can't.

INT. JIM'S BEDROOM - N1

Jim is leading the tour group (Pam, Ryan, Phyllis, Kevin, and Stacy) through his room.

JIM
Now, if you look closely, you'll find clues about the guy who lives here. He likes to bike, obviously--
(points to bike hanging on wall)
--he loves travel guides. And if you're really perceptive, you'll notice he didn't do a great job cleaning his room.

Jim kicks an empty water bottle under his bed.

JIM (CONT'D)
Okay, moving on.

As they head out, Ryan points out the penguin paperweight and mug with a penguin on it.

RYAN
(to Jim)
A penguin guy, huh?

JIM
I made the mistake of telling somebody I liked penguins five years ago and here we are.

PHYL LIS
Oh. I'm sorry. I gave you that mug.

JIM
(sweetly)
Well, then it means something if it came from you.

Jim looks at the camera-- Oops. As the group moves on, Pam lingers a bit and looks around.

JIM (O.S.) (CONT'D)
And that's my place. Thank you for taking the tour, please keep your hands in the cart until the doors are open.

(CONTINUED)
PAM  
(taking it in, then caught by camera)  
Hmm. Jim's bedroom.

Jim comes back in as Pam is looking at Jim's desk.

PAM  
So, this is the home desk. You have to sit there so I can get the full experience.

JIM  
Of course.

Jim sits down. Pam tries to find a place where she can look at him from the same angle she looks at him in the office.

PAM  
Okay, I think I would be right about here.

JIM  
That seems right.

PAM  
And Dwight would be--

JIM  
No, don't put that image in my head. Just happy thoughts, Pam.

They laugh. Pam spots something.

PAM  
Ooh, yearbook.

Pam takes his yearbook, sits on his bed, and begins to flip through. Jim watches her.

INT. CLASSROOM - N1

The students are all standing in the space up front.

CHRIS  
Okay, Bill's going to start us off and then I want you guys to jump in when you have an idea.

BILL crawls on the ground. He's exhausted and wipes sweat from his forehead.

(CONTINUED)
BILL
I'm so thirsty. So incredibly thirsty.

Michael is "warming up" on the sidelines -- jumping up and down. He starts to go in, when another guy, DAVE, beats him to it and stands near Bill.

DAVE
(playing upbeat teen)
Welcome to the Sahara Desert Latte Hut. Would you like to try our Green Tea Iced-Blended?

Some laughs from group.
MICHAEL
(to camera)
Not funny.

BILL
Just. Water.

Michael tries to head in and another woman, STEPHANIE, moves in front of him -- no one wants Michael going in. Stephanie is playing a very pregnant white trash chick.

STEPHANIE
I'm supposed to meet my doctor here. Have you seen him? He's a very angry midget.

Off this set-up, Michael runs into the scene.

MICHAEL
Michael Scoon. FBI. You know what you did!

Michael holds up a "gun" and shoots everyone. They fall down, dead. Michael walks towards "dead" Bill.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
You didn't think I could figure out your little ruse, huh? Huh?
(nudges dead body with foot)
That's right. I know where you hid the diamonds. I've been staking out you and your little friends for weeks.

Another IMPROV ACTOR gets one foot in the scene and Michael shoots him dead, too. Then, Michael shoots some people waiting on the side.

STEVE
(pissed)
Hey, I'm not even in the scene.

CHRIS
Okay, stop! Stop!

Michael slumps over like a pissed off teen.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Michael, you can't just shoot everyone in the scene.

MICHAEL
(rolls eyes to camera, look what I'm dealing with, then)
If you didn't stop me, you would've seen how good it was going to be.

(CONTINUED)
CHRIS
What about the scene they set up?

MICHAEL
Bo-ring.

CHRIS
No, it wasn’t.

MICHAEL
If it was interesting, they wouldn’t all be dead. Or they could’ve defended themselves with their own guns. Their choice.

CHRIS
No! No more guns. Michael, I’m going to need you to give me all your guns. Now.

Michael reluctantly hands him a series of “guns” he has stashed.

CHRIS (CONT’D)
Okay, for the next exercise, let’s everyone pair up.

Everyone quickly pairs up, leaving Michael alone.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
No one ever wants to fight the heavyweight champ. Nobody wants that title shot.

EXT. JIM’S PATIO — N1

A small patio with a barbeque. A tree house is built on one of the nearby trees.

ANGLE ON: Jim flipping burgers. Toby waits with a plate.

TOBY
Hey, I really like the tree house.

JIM
Oh, thanks. It belongs to the owners.

TOBY
I’d love to have one like that.

JIM
Yeah.

(beat, then)

(MORE) (CONTINUED)
THE OFFICE

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CONTINUED:

JIM (CONT'D)
Oh, right. Sorry, for like half a second
I forgot you had a kid.

Toby laughs and crosses away. Angela's next in line.

JIM (CONT'D)
Hey, Angela. Having fun?

ANGELA
I have sap on me.

She points to her feet. She is wearing clogs.

INT. JIM'S LIVING ROOM - N1
Kevin's fiancee approaching Meredith.

STACY
Hi, I'm Stacy.

MEREDITH
I'm Meredith.

STACY
Nice to meet you.

MEREDITH TALKING HEAD

MEREDITH
I've met Stacy at least three times. I
even bought her a drink at last year's
Christmas party. What is it? Why
doesn't she remember me?

aA46 EXT. PATIO - CONTINUOUS - N1

Ryan and Kevin stand near the bbq grill. There are a few
chicken breasts cooking. Ryan reaches over to turn up the
propane. Kevin knocks his hand out of the way.

KEVIN
Not so fast, Fire Guy.

Ryan grimaces.

A46 INT. JIM'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - N1

Kelly, Stanley, and Oscar.

STANLEY
I didn't think the premium laser/color
copy batch would sell as well as it did.

(CONTINUED)
OSCAR
It surprised us all.

KELLY
I'm sorry, but could we please not talk about paper? There has to be something else to talk about.

Beat of silence.

ANGLE ON: Pam, noticing that Dwight and Angela are off to the side together, just the two of them, talking. Pam smiles.

BACK TO: Kelly, Oscar and Stanley.
STANLEY
Will be a while till we get our hands on
the twenty-pound acid free stock.

OSCAR
Oh, it's worth the wait, though.

Frustrated, Kelly crosses outside to get a beer.

ANGLE ON: Pam, who's still keeping her eye on Dwight and
Angela, as she heads to Phyllis.

PAM
Hey, can I ask you something?

PHYLLIS
Sure.

PAM
You wouldn't happen to know about any
secret office romances, would you?

PHYLLIS
(hushed, leaning in)
You tell me.

Pam looks confused.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)
You mean you and Jim, right?

Pam's look shows she didn't.

PHYLLIS (CONT'D)
(feels horrible)
Oh, God. I'm so sorry. I thought-- You
guys hang out all the time and you're
always talking and-- I'm sorry.

PAM
It's okay.

It's not okay.

46

INT. CLASSROOM - N1

Mary Beth and Bill are playing the improv game "Freeze."
They are "building a sand castle at the beach."

CHRIS
Freeze!

(CONTINUED)
Bill freezes as he’s patting down sand on the castle and Mary Beth freezes as she’s digging in the sand with her hands.

MICHAEL
I’m in!

Michael heads into the scene.

CHRIS
Do you want to go over the rules one more time?

MICHAEL
Nope.

Michael taps Mary Beth and takes her place.

MICHAEL (CONT’D (CONT’D))
(to Bill)
I’m looking for money in my wallet so you can tell me my fortune.

Surprised looks from the group -- no FBI? No guns? Bill, pleased, changes the sand castle to a crystal ball.

BILL
(Feeling crystal ball)
I promise it’s worth it. I can see you walking out of here and you are thrilled with your reading.

Laughter. It throws Michael -- he should be getting laughs.

MICHAEL
(can’t think of anything)
I’m just-- I need--

Michael leans in and whispers something to him. Bill puts his hands up.

CHRIS
Michael, what did you tell him?

MICHAEL
Nothing.

CHRIS
Then why are his hands up? Bill?

BILL
He told me he couldn’t show it to me but he has a gun.

(Continued)
CHRIS
(had enough)
Okay, let’s call it a day.

MICHAEL TALKING HEAD

MICHAEL
Improvised is hit or miss. You should’ve
seen me last week. I was on fire. Like
Whose Line Is It Anyway? It’s Michael’s
line, because his is the funniest.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - N1

Everyone is heading out quickly in a group. Michael rushes
to catch up to them. As he nears them he hears--

MARY BETH
How do I get to Bernie’s Tavern from here?

BILL
Don’t worry, we’re gonna carpool.

MICHAEL
So... Bernie’s? We’re all going to
Bernie’s?

BILL
Uh... we’re not going, as a group, it’s
just a private friend who happens to know
all of us from different ways is throwing
a private birthday thing...

Michael’s look shows he doesn’t know about this.

MICHAEL
(to the group)
Hey, I’d love to meet up with you all at
Bernie’s but I have a party to go to.
Big work party. Can’t get out of it.

A few people turn and give Michael polite smiles.

INT. JIM’S LIVING ROOM - N1

Phyllis sings at the karaoke machine.

PHYLIS
...Here I go again, on my own. Going
down the only road I’ve ever known. Like
a drifter I was born to walk alone...

(Continued)
As she sings... Jim crosses over to Pam with two cookies on a plate. He offers her one. She takes it.

PAM
(off Phyllis)
Great party.

JIM
Are you being sarcastic?

PAM
I'm not sure.

JIM
Hey, how's your project coming along?

PAM
Oh, actually, I called it off.

JIM
Really?

PAM
Yeah, it turns out I was just grasping at straws.

JIM
Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

PAM TALKING HEAD

PAM
(really stressing this)
Just because two people are hanging out and it might look like they're together, it doesn't mean they're together. They could just be friends. It was totally unfair of me to assume there was something going on.

INT. JIM'S LIVING ROOM - SAME - N1

Jim and Pam are sitting together. Pam is watching Kevin sing a Steve Miller Band song (please try and clear Jungle Love, The Joker, Abracadabra, Fly Like an Eagle). Jim looks around at everyone. This is what everybody looks like at his house. He smiles. His moment is interrupted by--

Dwight (O.S.)
Surprise!

(CONTINUED)
Everyone turns to see Michael is there. It's awkward. Dwight looks confused and he turns to Phyllis, who quietly straightens Dwight out.

MICHAEL
Hey, I was just passing by and thought
I'd stop in. Jim, this is for you--
(hands Jim a bottle of wine)
If you're opening it, I'd like some.

Michael notices that Sadiq is standing there with a beer.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Oh, come on, that guy?
(catches himself for camera)
Good guy. Not a terrorist.

Jim takes the wine to the kitchen. No one can believe Michael showed up, uninvited. Michael looks around and spots the karaoke.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Karaoke!! No way! I'm so good at that!
I call next!

INT. JIM'S LIVING ROOM - A LITTLE LATER - N1

The party has lost steam. Michael is at the karaoke machine, mic in hand.

MICHAEL
Okay, I need someone to sing with me.

Nobody moves. The instrumental part of "Islands in the Stream" kicks in.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
It's a duet. Two person song. Come on.

Still no takers. Jim watches even though it's hard to.

MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Somebody? Pam? I need--
(he has to sing, but still looks for someone)
"Baby when I met you there was peace
unknown" -- Kelly? -- "I set out to get
you with a fine tooth comb" -- Meredith? --
"I was soft inside, there was somethin'
going on" -- Okay, this is where the other part comes in, if someone could just come up and--

(MORE)
MICHAEL (CONT'D)
(moves to the side, now doing
"other part)
"You do something to me that I can’t
explain, hold me closer and I feel no
pain, every beat of my heart, we’ve got
something going on.”

Jim can’t bear it any longer and decides to help him out. As
he takes the mic, we see Michael smile.

JIM
"Tender love is blind, it requires a
dedication / All this love we feel, needs
no conversation."

Everyone is enjoying watching this, especially Pam.

MICHAEL/JIM
"We ride it together, ah-ah, Makin’ love
with each other, ah-ah. Islands in the
stream, that is what we are…"

Michael is having fun and getting into it. As he and Jim
continue to sing, the camera notices the tree house through
the window, where we see on the floor DWIGHT’S BIRKENSTOCKS
in between Angela’s two small woman’s clogs...

END OF SHOW