

Right Side Up

By

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FADE IN:

1 INT. OFFICE - DAY 1

WILLIAM STRAUS (28), a filing organizer, sitting at his cubicle desk doing work. He is attractive and well-dressed, but seemingly unconfident.

All the men in the office seem to be trying to lay low, as if they know that a threat is approaching.

As the female employees enter the office, who are all different shapes and sizes, they begin to sexualize the male employees.

One female stares down a male employee as if he were a 5-star meal. Another female is running her hand down a man's back, and nonchalantly leaves her hand on his ass.

Another couple of other female employees take pictures of the ass of a male employee. They show each other the pictures they got and high-five.

TARA LIVINGSTON (34), the company boss who is barely good-looking, but people think, including herself, that she is just because of her power and success within the company.

Tara sends William a wink and blows him an air kiss as a signal that she is ready for their meeting as she struts passed his cubicle.

2 INT.TARA'S OFFICE - DAY 2

William enters Tara's office and sits down swiftly. He tries to not make eye contact with her.

TARA

So remind me why you have been nagging me for this meeting, Will.

WILLIAM

Tara, I wanted to discuss with you my next step within the company. I've been working here a few years now, and I feel as if I've showed my dedication to you and this company-

TARA

(Interrupts him)

I can offer you a new position if that's what you're getting at.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

(Sigh of relief)

Ugh, yes ma'am that would be so great! You know I have another baby on the way and this new position could really help me out and-

TARA

(Interrupts him)

The position is for the office receptionist.

WILLIAM

Wait. What? I literally just told you that I have a baby on the way. I need something bigger than a receptionist job.

TARA

Oh baby... you don't have what it takes to move any higher than that. These high up jobs aren't for people like you.

WILLIAM

People like me? As in people that are males?

TARA

Precisely. Don't take offense to it, it's just that these more powerful jobs are more suitable for women.

WILLIAM

But why? I'm more driven and educated than half the girls in this office.

TARA

Because William. We think with our hearts and our heads. You men only think with what's below the belt.

William looks at the floor.

TARA

Well babe, what'll it be?

WILLIAM

Well Ms. Livingston, I guess I'm your newest office receptionist.

(CONTINUED)

TARA

This is a good move for you Will.
You'll start your training
tomorrow. Thanks for coming in.

William gets up to leave Tara's office. As he opens the door to leave, he looks back at Tara, and she winks and does a growl that's supposed to be sexy. He exits.

3

INT.RECEPTION DESK - DAY

3

William enters behind the reception desk, drops his things on the desk, and plops down in the rolling-chair. He looks to the left of himself and sees a woman smiling at him.

PAIGE (26), a young and bubbly blonde who looks like she just graduated from college.

PAIGE

Hi, I'm Paige, and you must be
William Straus!

Paige reaches out her hand. William shakes her hand.

WILLIAM

Oh, good to meet you Paige. I'm
assuming your here to be trained
for the receptionist position as
well, huh?

Paige laughs as she simultaneously gives William's arm a quick squeeze.

PAIGE

No,no! I'm the one training you.
This was my entry job to the
company, and I've been here for two
months, so Ms. Livingston promoted
me to project manager. So, I have
my two weeks here at this desk to
train you and then it's all yours!

WILLIAM

Well good for you. I just got
promoted to this job, my entry
position was a filing organizer.

PAIGE

Look at you movin' up the ladder!

WILLIAM

(Annoyed)

Yep.

(CONTINUED)

PAIGE
So let's get started.

Paige begins to give William a mini tour of the desk.

PAIGE
And here is the directory for forwarding calls, oh, and dial 9 before you make any outgoing calls. And here are all the files you will need, and make sure to keep the desk calendar organized. OH, and of course you'll need the computer password it's-

Paige whispers the password into William's ear.

PAIGE
Did you get it? Do you need me to write it down?

WILLIAM
(Annoyed)
No, I think I got it, Paige, thanks.

PAIGE
Trust me, this job is a piece of cake, and the pay isn't half bad either.

Paige nudges her elbow into William's ribs. His eyes light up.

4 INT. OFFICE MAIL ROOM - DAY 4

William finds his name under the clerical section of the mailboxes. He grabs his mail out of the cubby and walks back to the reception desk whistling.

5 INT. RECEPTION DESK - DAY 5

Realizing it is pay day, William rummages through the mail, excited to find a check.

He rips open the envelope to see the number on the check, his mouth drops open in awe.

Paige walks in from the mailroom.

PAIGE
What are you catching flies about?

Paige sits down and starts going through her mail.

WILLIAM

Nothing, I-

PAIGE

Hey, Will, I think the mail guys must've switched our cubbies up because all my mail has your name on it.

WILLIAM

Oh, jeez I didn't even notice that this was all yours!

William and Paige switch mail. William opens the envelope with his paycheck inside. He is devastated and angry. He clenches the check and walks towards Tara's office.

6

INT.TARA'S OFFICE - DAY

6

William barges into the office without knocking. He holds up the wrinkled check.

WILLIAM

What is this?

TARA

Um looks to me as if it's your paycheck!

WILLIAM

I'm not playing games here, Tara. I know how much you pay Paige for being the receptionist.

TARA

That's nice. I wasn't keeping it a secret.

WILLIAM

Why is my paycheck significantly lower than hers?

TARA

Oh my, you men are always overreacting about this.

William drops his arm down as if it were just released from a puppeteer string. He looks defeated.

WILLIAM

Look, I will do anything to get paid the amount Paige does.

(CONTINUED)

Tara raises an eyebrow and lifts her feet onto the desk. She rocks her pen back and forth between her fingers.

TARA
Anything?

WILLIAM
Yes, anything.

TARA
Here's my offer. In exchange for a favor, I will raise your pay to equal Paige's.

WILLIAM
(Rambles)
Ok, yeah I can do favors. Like what? I can get your coffee every morning, you'll just have to tell me your orde-

Tara gazes at him, but doesn't say a word. William realizes what she is insinuating.

WILLIAM
No. I am NOT sleeping with you!

Tara gets up from her desk and walks toward William. She rubs her hand up his outer leg and arm and begins to whisper in his ear. William refuses to look at her.

TARA
Suit yourself. But I'll give you some more time to think about it in case you change your mind.

7 INT.WILLIAM'S HOME - NIGHT

7

William enters his home to a baby and a pregnant wife, BECCA (28) waiting for him. He is visibly distraught.

Becca looks like the sweet, girl next door type mixed with some edge. She is in her pajamas feeding her and William's toddler. She notices something is off with Will.

BECCA
Something wrong, hon?

William kisses his wife and child on the cheek. He loosens his tie and lets out a deep breath and sits down.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

Just something came up at work
that's all.

BECCA

Care to tell me about it? Maybe I
can help.

William hesitates. Becca puts her arm around him.

BECCA

C'mon babe, you can tell me
anything. Tell me what's up with
you?

WILLIAM

Basically, in order for me to get
paid the same amount as the old
female secretary-

William stops to think before he continues speaking because
he is unsure what to tell his wife.

WILLIAM

She wants me to do some extra work
for her.

BECCA

Listen I know you hate your job and
your boss, but I think you should
do whatever she's asking. We could
use the extra cash and maybe this
could lead to something bigger.

WILLIAM

(under his breath)

I hope it doesn't lead to anything.

BECCA

What?

WILLIAM

Nothing. You're right. I'll think
about it.

BECCA

Alright, Will. I'm gonna go lay
down though. I love you.

Becca gets up to go to bed. Before she goes, she kisses
him.

William is left visibly confused, takes a deep breath and
sighs. He loosens his tie once more.

8 INT.TARA'S OFFICE - DAY

8

Tara is doing her work at her desk-- planning meetings, returning emails and phone calls, and looking up pictures of the male candidates for the next filing organizer.

William enters Tara's office in a contained, and organized rage. Tara grins and looks at Will as if he were a sad puppy.

TARA

Aw, I knew you would change your mind. They always come back.

WILLIAM

Let's get this over with.

William shuts Tara's office door closed and locks it.

9 INT. OFFICE - DAY

9

Tara's office door swings open. Will is walking out and Tara is frantically following him.

TARA

There's nothing wrong about wanting a little sex!

WILLIAM

But there is something wrong with trying to have sex with your employees in exchange for a pay raise.

TARA

Oh, c'mon William. Nobody got hurt. I think you're being a little over-dramatic about the whole thing, don't you? You have a baby on the way, you needed some extra cash, and I gave you that opportunity. You should be thanking me.

William stops in his tracks and he looks at Tara as if he just took the largest shot of moonshine.

WILLIAM

You're disgusting. And just an FYI I got this all on tape too.

Will pulls out his phone from his chest pocket and aims its camera right on Tara's face.

(CONTINUED)

WILLIAM

Say hi to the camera, Tara!

Tara shoves her hand onto his phone to cover up the camera.

TARA

And what exactly do you think
you'll be doing with that? I'll
have you fired so quick-

WILLIAM

Ok well how about I take this to
Human Resources to find out who
they'll be firing? And maybe after
I can give it to the authorities
just for a little more fun.

William pats Tara on the shoulder and walks out of the office. Tara is just standing where Will left her. She lets out a huff, turns around and walks back to her office. She slams the door.

10

INT.TARA'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

10

Tara is piling all of her office supplies into one last giant cardboard moving box. She looks like she's been drinking for hours.

She tapes the last box and picks it up and walks out of the office without making eye contact with anyone or saying a word.

All the females in the office sit with their heads down in shame.

It is apparent that all the men feel like celebrating. They look comfortable and satisfied.

As Will is walking by one of his male colleagues, he puts his hand up for a high five. Will smiles and high fives him and continues walking.

FADE OUT