

Just Another Day at the Office (Play in a Day - Year One)

September 2012

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Summary: Five office workers are trapped in a building that has been evacuated due to an accidental release of an odorless lethal chemical that causes odd thoughts and behaviors. Unaware of the true magnitude of the danger they face, the group manages to band together and make their own sense out of the situation, in their confused mission to survive.

Characters (in order of appearance):

Wendie - Woman. Mid 30's. Raisin addict

George - Man. Has nervous tick coughs/clears throat a lot

Clarence Gilly - Man.

Talismanic Terrence - Man. Magic Mike's 2nd cousin. 40's.
Dancer (not a good one)

Ezra - Woman. Very outgoing. Hair in a pony tail.

Announcer

Rescue Worker #1

Rescue Worker #2

Scene: 37th floor, 8th cubicle on the right, just after the bathrooms across from the printer room. Wendie is on the phone with George, 2 cubicles down.

WENDIE

But how could he have thought that I would? I really wish I could - **I love it like that** but that's just not how it works in real life. Sorry!

GEORGE

(clearing throat)

Ya - **well, that's easy...**it could be, you know.

WENDIE

My memory isn't good enough to come up with an elaborate lie like that.

GEORGE

Please don't quote me! Not everything on the discovery channel is true, you know!

WENDIE

I am not going to say anything else.

(Wendie and George hang up and Wendie is typing and eating her raisins slowly, one at a time. George puts his earphones on and is blaring his music, leaned back in his chair with his eyes closed and feet up. Moments later, alarm sounds & lights flash with recorded announcement):

ANNOUNCER

For safety reasons, please exit the building immediately. Thank you. For safety reasons, please exit the building immediately. Thank you.

(Wendie jumps up and hits her head on the top of her desk cabinet and knocks herself out. Alarm continues for a minute and then stops. Wendie comes to and runs to George's cube, startling him).

WENDIE

George, WHAT ARE YOU DOING! Where is everyone? What's going on!!!! (Cramming raisins in her mouth by the handfuls.)

GEORGE

(coughs/jumps up/headphones fall off)

My foot is asleep. (Holds his foot and hops around)

WENDIE

Put that down and pay attention! I think everyone's gone! We gotta get outta here! (rubbing head) I must have hit my head when the alarm went off.

GEORGE

It's like my mother used to say: "Don't jump high in a low ceilinged room"! Come on, Wendie. What's your rush? This is the *perfect* time to see what we've got going on around here.

(Starts going through drawers of desk in cube between his and Wendie's. Picks through some papers).

WENDIE

You have got to be joking!

GEORGE

WHAT!?! Did you know Barry makes twice as much as you?!
Hmmm - **Does anyone have any fudge?** I think Barry does! Mmm.
Needs more gummy worms.

WENDIE

What is wrong with you? You are such an imbecile! **I truly do not care** about Barry or his fudge!

GEORGE

(Coughs)

Oh I see - a little stress and **MEOW!**

WENDIE

The doors are locked. Why are the doors locked. And the phones aren't working. Oh my God - we're trapped in here. Do you smell smoke?

GEORGE

I don't smell smoke (looks out the window) but - wow, have you ever noticed, **the view is amazing from up here.** But, ya, we do appear to be locked in. Or perhaps more like locked down, to be precise. Ok, look, here's the deal. I think I know what's going on.

WENDIE

(Sighing)

I really can't hear your 'we're crazy and in a mental hospital pumped full of experimental drugs and hallucinating everything in our lives' theory right now, George -

GEORGE

That IS actually a valid theory, you know. But ok, **so on this side, we have** a little twist on that hypothesis. Remember when we took that personality assessment about 3 months ago? Remember how we thought it was an elaborate corporate scheme to bring down the poor and innocent soul who playfully replaced the toner in the copy machine with sweet and low just to lighten things up a little? Ha ha. Get it?

WENDIE

YOU thought that and it wasn't a mystery to anyone who had half a brain who did that...

GEORGE

My darling...oh how to tell you. Ok, obviously I seriously underestimated upper management, yet again. They were not actually trying to investigate that small potato of a crime. They were grooming us.

WENDIE

Uh huh...for what, exactly?

GEORGE

Do not be afraid to doubt, my dear. It is the key to knowledge.

WENDIE

Just tell me what's going on!

GEORGE

We are on a space ship heading towards Mars.

WENDIE

Hey! Let's add some raisins to Mars! Do you like them?

GEORGE

Really, Wendie...**NO MORE RAISINS!** We've got to get serious and realistic. We must find the control center of this spaceship slash office and negotiate with the evil alien beings who have taken over and are now sucking us into their outer space lair in order to start a new colony of life on their cold and distant planet!

WENDIE

When was your last vacation, George?

GEORGE

Since the doors are locked and we can't go OUT, we have no choice but to go UP! We'll crawl through the ceiling and the air ducts will lead the way.

WENDIE

Mmm hmmm...ok, well **when you finish with that, let me know.**

(George stands on top of Barry's desk and crawls above the ceiling tile and then falls out from the ceiling back into his own cube)

WENDIE

I knew this was going to happen.

GEORGE

Nobody is as brave as me...Ow!!! Oh, that's a raisin.

WENDIE

They're from my garden - What can I say? I think there's something weird in my water or soil or something? **Organic doesn't necessarily mean it tastes good.** Or isn't pointy and hard. But I think they're extra high in fiber...(?)

GEORGE

(picking the raisin out of his foot & tossing it)

Bless his pointed little head.

(Clarence walks in)

CLARENCE

My raisins are rainbow.

WENDIE

Look! It's Clarence!

CLARENCE

(looks up from where George just fell)

I do not desire the above part. You know George, **Pain is just weakness leaving the body.**

TERRENCE

And don't forget the T-Man Terrence, baby (disco dances in). Your good luck has arrived. You're welcome.

GEORGE

Have you found it yet?

WENDIE

(explaining to Clarence and Terrence)

We're looking for the bridge of this spaceship.

CLARENCE

Ohhhhh...**How in the world did you decide THAT?**

(Wendie nods towards George, rolling her eyes)

CLARENCE

Ok uh, I guess if there were a bridge around here, it would probably be in the Ladies' room. I've always suspected that's where all the big decisions got made, anyway.

TERRENCE

Let's go - My tramp stamp don't say "**Merhaba**" for nothin'!

CLARENCE

Hello! In Turkish!

(Clarence, Terrence, Wendie and George are walking to the bathroom)

WENDIE

You know, if you get a grape tattoo, when you get older it is going to look like a raisin.

GEORGE

(talking to the others as they walk into the bathroom)

I suppose you think this is something to laugh about?

(**sound of screaming** - from bathroom stall)

EZRA

EMERGENCY! I'm out of toilet paper! Can someone please hand me a roll?

WENDIE

(hands roll under stall)

EZ is that you? Um, there are *guys* out here...

EZRA

Wendie! No worries. Don't mind me. Have a seat and take a load off. Ha ha! Hey, do you have cell phone coverage cuz I was just talking and my phone went dead like out of the blue. It was so rude! (Ezra starts singing "**Hey I just met you and this is crazy but here's my number so call me maybe**").

WENDIE

Still here.

EZRA

Can I do this here, please?

(flushing sound. Ezra picks up air freshener and sprays it in the direction of the toilet stall she just came out of).

WENDIE

A woman who knows no shame - we know her as Ezra.

GEORGE

Do you have to slam the door so hard?

EZRA

Sorry - Everything's *off* today. I don't remember how I got in here, just that I was dizzy and saw the toilet and **at that point, it just made more sense to sit on it** than anything else. Then after a minute, I thought "Maybe I'm hiding from something...or someone?" so then I was really quiet. I figured "**I'm hiding so I'd better not light a fire**".

CLARENCE

A match wouldn't have hurt...

EZRA

(frowns)

So, you guys are *really* in trouble...!! I can't believe you started the office party without me! I thought it wasn't until next week. What's the theme? There were alarms and lights flashing? Is it disco? **Can you believe I overslept today of all days!**

WENDIE

Spaceship heading towards Mars. **Are you happy?**

EZRA

Shut the front door! Oh, I forgot my space outfit! You know, they say on Mars, **it's not the heat, it's the humility**. Or maybe it was the heredity? Oh, who really knows. Hey, can we do "Disco-Mars"?

GEORGE

When are you going to get serious? We've got to figure out what we are going to do when we land. There could be hostile inhabitants. They could WANT things from us.

EZRA

Nooooooo ! That's it. It's not the heat, it's the hostility. I'm sure of it. (walks over to window) Wow, **Look at that line over there.**

CLARENCE

Hey, I think I see Pete.

TERRENCE

Who's Pete?

CLARENCE

You know Pete! That security guard who's always tellin' those jokes? You know, when we saw him out and you said "hey, **I like your shirt**" cuz it had that freaky Hamlet design and he goes "**Thanks, I got it off a dead guy**"...ha ha - Remember?

TERRENCE

Oh ya - that dude was so crazy, man. Hey, you know what we need right now? **We need a Weiner Dog.**

(Everyone looks at Terrence for explanation.)

TERRENCE

Well, Pete has this cute little well, technically, he's a monkey but his *name* is Weiner Dog, although when he showed me Weiner Dog's picture, he said "**This is Cody Bear. He's my K-9 son**". So, **There's no dogs** allowed in his apartment but the lease doesn't say anything about monkeys and that is exactly what we need right now. A monkey!

CLARENCE

Ya, I remember. And you were asking him "**Where did you get that monkey**" but the music was so loud he thought you said "where did you eat fat Monday" and he was like "monkey eat bananas" and you were like "**I like eating bananas, too**" and **that was when it happened.**

WENDIE

What? What happened?

CLARENCE

We discovered low-fat banana pina colada smoothies. It's only the best drink EVER.

TERRENCE

Yes! Yes! Yes! That's the dude. We need to catch his attention and get him to send Weiner Dog to climb up and unlock the doors and rescue us.

CLARENCE

Don't forget to tell him to bring more smoothies.

(Terrence nods)

EZRA

Ok, let me get this straight. I really need to know I'm right. At least, about 1 thing. What is the Martian style this year? Hair up? or down?

WENDIE

You make it harder than it is. My vote is "up".

EZRA

(spinning in circles)

I'm right, I'm right, I'm right

CLARENCE

(Has been playing on his cell phone and finishes his video game)

And that is how you spear a fish the RIGHT way!

TERRENCE

Remember, MOM is always right!

CLARENCE

Mother Superior doesn't know I'm a transvestite.

TERRENCE

What?! I thought you didn't become a transvestite at this company until after a year! It's only been a few months.

WENDIE

Vested. You guys are talking about being vested.

GEORGE

Is anyone else but me going to focus? We've got to focus people. Now, once we land, we'll need a vehicle. I'm sure **"it is walking distance"** is not a saying they use on Mars.

EZRA

They always say that six wheels are better than four.

GEORGE

Well, **that's easy**. We'll just (clears throat) find 2 tricycles and attach them. My wife always tells me how great I am with tools.

WENDIE

No, she says you are a tool, George.

GEORGE

Hey, she **thinks I'm ambitious!** (coughs some more)

CLARENCE

If we're going to be riding around some planet together, **we will need to drop off George before we catch something. Are you feeling better today?** You seem worse.

GEORGE

No, really, it's fine. I'm not sick. It's just a tickle. **You people make me wonder what stars feel like if I jump out.**

TERRENCE

Eagles may fly, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines...just a thought. So, EZ, you want music? I've got my tunes handy. Still fitty-cent charged up and ready to go...

EZRA

Hit it, T-Man.

TERRENCE

Everybody just dance - take a chance - Move your body to the dance floor.

(Ezra and Terrence are dancing. George is trying to grab the iphone away from them.)

TERRENCE

Faster, Faster - Full speed ahead. Watch out!

EZRA

Oh George, STOP!

(George gives up and sits down)

WENDIE

(dancing with Terrence and Ezra)

I can't wait to introduce raisins to all the Martians. I think my raisins will really be popular. I'm sure they'll be like "None of this food has raisins in it! None! Why have "just add water" food but NO raisins!" Those poor people. I mean, Martians.

EZRA

I don't need Raisins or Fudge - although Barry does make a mean rocky road...hmmm, I'll make a new treat from Mars rocks and call it "Rocky Mars Road"!

CLARENCE

I'll pass.

WENDIE

Mars Rocks? What we need to do is **get some iced Lattes and sit down!** Phew (fanning herself) I say **let's turn Mars into an ice rink!**

TERRENCE

(Turns music off)

Have I told **you ladies** that you **look beautiful today?**

CLARENCE

ah Ha! **I caught you in the act!**

TERRENCE

But that's not what I meant. I been behaving myself! Now THAT's a LINE!

CLARENCE

Ya right!

WENDIE

And now we have...THIS...!

CLARENCE

(to Terrence)

That is a really ugly sweater.

TERRENCE

You should know - it is YOURS.

WENDIE

(starts fanning herself again)

Oh, **what a balmy day.**

CLARENCE

AAAH, don't know nutthhhhhin 'bout it.

EZRA

I have two little brothers. They used to fight all the time. To calm them, I'd tell them the story of **Supah Fly**. Want to hear it?

CLARENCE

What do I look like?

TERRENCE

A Supah Fly fan?

CLARENCE

You see this (fingers in pinch position)- **this is Ichabod. He's my pet spider.** And he's going to bite you and make you dance like Grandma Gilly. (pinches Terrence) Oh wait a minute. Nevermind. You already do.

TERRENCE

You see **this, this is Bongo. He's my pet.**

(Terrence bops Clarence on the head)

CLARENCE

May I borrow that when you're done?

(bops Terrence back)

They tussle for a moment but then laugh and stop fighting.

(KNOCK)

VOICE OF RESCUE WORKER
IS THERE ANYONE IN THERE?

WENDIE
The wall wants to know if we are in here. Are we?

GEORGE
Tell the wall "yes" and **Thanks for asking.**

VOICE OF RESCUE WORKER
Stay calm. We'll get you out soon. STAY CALM.

EZRA
When? This is alarming. There's nothing scarier than being told to stay calm!!

CLARENCE
We are almost dying and you are laughing.

GEORGE
(looking out the window)

Wow - Look at that planet!

WENDIE
Where are we?

GEORGE
I don't know but **being lost is really about perspective.** And to my way of thinking, we are creating our own planet from scratch. A clean slate. What an opportunity.

CLARENCE
I'm not creative. But I've played a creative person on stage before.

TERRENCE
Ain't nobody got time for that. (drinks something from a flask) **Medicine left in the container won't help you heal,** ya know!

EZRA
I feel so dizzy. Have we landed yet? **Like really, I'm Sofia.**

CLARENCE

Grab your shoes, Sofia. We've got to get ready for the big tournament. **But I don't know where I left my bowling ball.**

TERRENCE

Say brotha! Go check underneath the chalkboard!

(Points at nothing)

GEORGE

Increase the oxygen output, Santa! I mean, Captain! **NOW!**

TERRENCE

(weakly)

Ho ho ho

EZRA

Ya?

(SOUND OF DOOR BREAKING DOWN. Masked Rescue Worker enters)

RESCUE WORKER #1

(into walkie talkie)

Five of them. **I can't do this** alone. Ok thanks - Roger that.

(Rescue worker picks up George and Ezra in both arms)

GEORGE

I'm George. You COULD spell Roger with the letters in my name, but well, you'd need 2 R's, technically speaking. But if you Promise to put in a good word with Santa and the Martians, you can call me Roger. This is Sofia. We call her Ezra, though.

RESCUE WORKER #1

Which is why we need help.

(Rescue worker #2 comes in and helps Terrence and Wendie stand. Clarence gets up and holds onto Terrence. They all start walking out)

TERRENCE

If there's a rat in your basement, you really should **consider getting a cat.** And speaking of cats, did I tell you about my friend who has a dog who's really a monkey? Are you a monkey?