Morning Coffee

By

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Original Comedy Screenplay

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EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY (NOON) - ESTABLISHING

Cars pass on a city street in front of a Deli restaurant.

TITLE - MORNING COFFEE

INT. RESTAURANT - SAME

A group of female office coworkers, CLAIRE(26), STEPHANIE(32), JANET(33), and BRENDA(30), are having lunch at the restaurant, gossiping about people at their workplace.

JENNY(29), a coffee addict who works with them, shows up, late, walking through the doors in a hurry. She walks over to their table.

JENNY
Hey guys! Sorry I’m late. My Starbucks order took forever to make.

STEPHANIE
Nothing out of the ordinary for you.

JANET
(to Jenny)
Why didn’t you just get coffee here?

JENNY
Janet honey -- you know I have to get my triple shot of espresso made just right.

Janet rolls her eyes with a half-smirk.

CLaire
Jenny, it’s like you’re addicted to that stuff.

JENNY
No I’m not-

BRENDA
Yeah -- I bet you couldn’t even go a day without coffee!

JENNY
Yes I could!

(CONTINUED)
STEPHANIE
How much do you guys think she spends on coffee, let alone Starbucks, a year?!

BRENDA
A few hundred, maybe?

JANET
No, it’s definitely in the thousands.

They all laugh. Jenny half-laughs along with them.

CLAIRE
Jenny, how ’bout we make a bet. You guys up for it?

OTHER GIRLS
Sure!

CLAIRE
Alright -- we’ll all chip in $25 and give you a Benjamin if you make it through a whole day without taking a single sip of coffee.

JENNY
(slightly frustrated)
Please, I can go three days without coffee -- heck, I could go an entire week!

The other girls laugh at her declaration.

STEPHANIE
Okay, we’ll make it five-hundred then.

The other girls look at Stephanie slightly wide-eyed.

BRENDA
Steph, really?

STEPHANIE
Please, she can’t go thirty minutes without huffing a coffee bean.

The girls all laugh again, one snorting in laughter.

JENNY
(wincing)

(MORE)

(Continued)
JENNY (cont’d)
Alright, alright -- I accept. I’ll prove to you all that I can go a whole week without coffee!

JANET
It’s settled then. Now what were we talking about?

Jenny sits down to eat with them.

JANET (CONT’D)
Oh yes -- so I think Alexander has a thing for Trisha because I heard them flirting in the breakro-

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY (NEXT MORNING) - CLOSE ON ALARM-CLOCK

Jenny’s alarm-clock changes from 6:59AM to 7:00AM and begins to BEEP. Jenny’s hand hits the snooze button.

CLOSE UP - JENNY SITS UP IN HER BED AND TAKES A DEEP BREATH

Jenny stretches, puts on her slippers, and begins to leave the room.

INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Toast pops out of a toaster and Jenny retrieves it. She takes a bite while reaching for a coffee mug.

Jenny pauses, and then puts down the mug, remembering the bet. She pours a glass of orange juice instead.

INT. BEDROOM - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

MONTAGE - JENNY GETS READY FOR WORK

A.) She buttons up her shirt.

B.) She brushes her teeth.

C.) She heads out the door.

END MONTAGE
EXT./INT. OFFICE WORKPLACE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

Jenny walks inside the office where her coworkers are whispering about her.

CLAIRE
(whispering)
There she is.

JANET
She looks good.

STEPHANIE
Still sane.

JENNY
(walking toward them)
Morning y’al!'

BRENDA
Hey Jenny -- how ’ya holding up?

JENNY
I’ve never felt better! Maybe skipping coffee is going to be a good thing for me.

INT. JENNY’S OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY (HOURS LATER)

Jenny is propped up and asleep at her desk, head beginning to fall to her keyboard. Suddenly, Brenda comes and KNOCKS on her cubicle. Jenny awakes in haste.

JENNY
Who! What?

BRENDA
(chuckling)
Hey Jenny, you seem quite tired. Need a cup of coffee?

JENNY
No! I’m good. I don’t need it.

Jenny’s coworkers around the corner are looking over to see the conversation. They are laughing softly.
INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER THAT EVENING)

Jenny drops her work-bag and falls onto her bed. She closes her eyes for a brief second.

CLOSE UP - JENNY’S FACE AS SHE FALLS ASLEEP

MATCH CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - DAY (NEXT MORNING) - CONTINUOUS ANGLE ON JENNY

Jenny awakens to BIRDS CHIRPING. She looks out the window and sighs.

INT. JENNY’S CAR - DAY

Jenny is on her way to work. Her eyes are heavy, her hair’s a mess, and she’s wearing the same clothes as the day before. She looks out her window to see pedestrians on the sidewalk.

JENNY’S POV - PEDESTRIANS APPEAR TO BE MOVING IN SLOW MOTION

JENNY

What the...

A CAR HONKS at Jenny and she snaps out of her trance and brings her car to a halting stop in front of a BICYCLIST(21) just short of hitting him.

JENNY

(to Bicyclist)

Sorry!

BICYCLIST

What the heck lady!

JENNY

I’m so sorry!

INT. OFFICE WORKPLACE - DAY (NEXT DAY)

Jenny is falling asleep on her desk. Her lipstick is smeared, her eye-bags are drooping, and she’s staring off into space. She dozes off and her head hits the desk.

Her BOSS(43) walks past her cubicle. He makes a double-take and walks back to her cubicle to see Jenny unconscious.

(CONTINUED)
BOSS
Jenny -- Jenny!

Jenny awakens quickly with bloodshot eyes.

JENNY
What? Um -- yes, yes sir!

BOSS
No sleeping on the job -- please get back to work.

JENNY
Yes sir -- sorry.

The Boss walks off. Jenny stares off into space, her mouth agape.

EXTREME CLOSE UP - JENNY’S CRAZED EYES

Jenny looks around. The SOUND of the dialogue of coworkers around her AMPLIFIES to simulate drug-like euphoric withdrawal symptoms.

She looks the other way to more coworkers. They appear to be dancing in clown costumes and making fun of her. She looks the other way again. Her boss’s head is huge and he’s laughing maniacally.

JENNY’S POV - HER COWORKERS IN A SPinning ROOM

Which shows the colors of her vision change to blooming bright greens. The SOUND of her fellow coworkers talking becomes even louder and muffled.

Everything seems to slow into super slow-motion. Jenny, not affected by the slow-motion, begins to panic and bite her nails as she looks back and forth at the chaos she sees around her.

CLAIRE (O.S.)
(muffled)
Jenny -- Jenny? Jenny!

BACK TO SCENE

Jenny snaps out of her trance to see Claire standing in front of her desk.

CLAIRE
(staring at Jenny)
You... okay?

Jenny pauses for a moment before replying.

(CONTINUED)
JENNY

CLAIRE
I don’t know about this bet... maybe you should have a coffee.

JENNY
No, no... I don’t need coffee. I’m fine. I’m totally fine... I promise. I’m going to win this bet.

CLAIRE
The Boss thinks you should take the rest of the day off.

JENNY
What? Oh, okay... sure.

Jenny begins to get up and grab her bags as Claire walks off.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT (ONE NIGHT LATER)

Jenny is laying in her bed on her back, staring at the ceiling. Her eyes are wide. She is shaking, sweating, and she cannot sleep.

INSERT - JENNY’S CALENDAR

Which shows the days she’s marked off without drinking coffee. The days are marked up all the way until the night of day five, which is the day she’s on now.

BACK TO SCENE

Jenny turns over and shuffles in her covers.

MONTAGE - JENNY IN BED

A.) She shuffles in her covers.

B.) She looks out the window.

C.) She turns over on her stomach.

END MONTAGE

Jenny pauses for a moment, then gets up and leaves the room.
INT. KITCHEN - SAME

Jenny pours a glass of water and chugs it down. She hears DRIPPING. She looks over at her coffeemaker.

JENNY’S POV - HER COFFEE MAKER DRIPPING EXCESS COFFEE INTO THE POT

Jenny looks at the coffeemaker. Her mouth waters. The DRIPS become louder.

EXTREME CLOSE UP - JENNY’S BLOODSHOT EYES WATCHING THE COFFEE MAKER

Jenny then walks to the coffeemaker and starts to turn it on. She grabs a mug.

Suddenly, she pauses, and then she begins to pick up the coffeemaker. She throws it away in the trash. She heads back to her bedroom to sleep.

EXT./INT. OFFICE WORKPLACE - DAY (NEXT MORNING) - ESTABLISHING

Jenny, chirpy and lively, walks into the office, seemingly back to normal.

JENNY

Morning all!

The whispering coworkers all look as Jenny proceeds to head to her desk. Jenny sits down and begins to type on her computer.

BRENDA

(walking to Jenny’s cubicle)

Wow, you seem to be over your coffee withdrawals. Can’t believe you’ve made it this far!

JENNY

Yeah, I guess it just took me a few days to snap out of my routine. I’ve never felt better!

BRENDA

Well, I commend you. Just hold out today and you’ll get your five-hundred tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)
JENNY
Told you I didn’t need coffee!
Those five Benjamins will be mine!

BRENDA
(chuckling)
Yeah. Hey, you joining us for lunch later?

JENNY
I’ll be there!

BRENDA
(smiling)
Great -- see you at the usual spot.

Brenda walks off.

Jenny looks around for a moment. She then reaches in her purse, pulls out a small spill-less mug, and sips on some coffee secretly. She continues working happily.

CUT TO: BLACK

THE END