

CORPORATE CRUELTY

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Final Draft: 11/26/24

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**INT. CORPORATE OFFICES OF EZ-SPORTS - DAY.**

Dallas Texas. Present Day.

Over nine hundred employees of two companies walk into a huge auditorium at the offices of EZ-SPORTS firm.

Today is merger day and EZ-SPORTS and Brand Sports Management are meeting for the first time after a proposed merger.

Employees of both companies take their seats in a 1000 seat auditorium. Several shake hands and have discussions as the huge auditorium fills with employees from both companies.

One employee a young man of 24, JOE CARSON, black hair, 6'1 walks into the auditorium and finds a seat in one of the isles. David sees other young men his age in his isle. JOHN WILLS, 25, 5'7, RICHARD EMERSON, 26, 5'9, and AL WILLIAMS, 28, 6'0.

The lights dim and the stage is lights are turned on. In walks DAVID WALKER, 60 years old, the CEO of EZ-SPORTS, gray hair, slim, about 6'3.

DAVID

Hello everyone. Glad you all could make it. Today is the first day that our merger which has been made official. I want to thank everyone here for their specific and very impressive contributions to the largest sports management merger in the South West.

Many applaud.

Nothing has been easy the last 3 months, but somehow, after it was looking bleak, we somehow, managed to pull this off. A total of 15,500 employees from two companies, now together as one.

David puts his hands together to signify the merger and many in the auditorium start to applaud loudly. Eventually a 2 minute standing ovation begins.

DAVID (CONT'D)

The name of the new company is "EZ-BRAND-SPORTS Management"!

More applause from the audience.

A huge banner displays on huge screen above the stage, and the entire crowd stands and applauds.

JOE

Wow.

RICHARD

That is an impressive banner

AL

That it is.

Joe leans forward and shakes the hands of the other young men in his isle.

JOE

Nice to meet you guys.

RICHARD

You too.

AL

You too.

JOHN

You too man.

JOE

Want to have lunch after?

They all shake their heads yes.

Everyone takes their seats after the 2 minute standing ovation.

DAVID

When I started this company 15 years ago with my x-partner, the idea came from reading an ESPN report that came out at the time. A large percentage of NBA and NFL players wound up broke, only 5 years after they retired.

This news both angered and depressed me. There is no excuse for something like this to happen to any exceptional young athlete.

To find yourself one of the very lucky few and make it into a life as a sports athlete.

Then because you are so young, not having the skill and knowledge to manage money.

(MORE)

DAVID (CONT'D)

Retiring either because of an injury or because your time is up.

Having nothing to show for all of that hard work and far too often physical pain for so many years. This is a tragedy.

Our jobs are to stop this from happening. Using expert money management and in many cases, putting these young players on an allowance. In a sense, we save futures at EZ and as a result, we save lives.

We provide experience and common sense to a young terrified kid, who through no fault of his own has no ability to manage a great deal of money.

Now that we have merged, this 15 year old philosophy is now the same for 2 companies that are now joined as one.

Several in the audience applaud.

DAVID (CONT'D)

With all mergers and you are already aware of this. We have to figure out the new company paradigm. This means reducing redundancy in some areas of the new company.

For those of you who will not be remaining with this company a month from now, you all will be getting a generous severance and the full use of our outplacement facilities to find a new job.

Leaving us is a harsh reality of corporations and all mergers. Unfortunately there is no workaround.

For those who remain with the new company there will be more work and more hours as we all figure out our final new direction. Are there any questions?

A woman in the front raises her hand.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Yes.

WOMAN

Do we know yet, now many positions will be eliminated after the merger is finalized?

DAVID

The merger is finalized. However we are in the first third of the phase where we can determine redundant positions. Due to that reason, I do not have any final numbers right now.

A man in the middle of the crowd raises his hand.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Yes.

MAN

Are there any more mergers planned in the near future?

DAVID

In the distant future, never say never, but from what I know about this industry I see no other company out there that we would consider commensurate with our philosophy.

This is the end of the presentation. Lets all get back to work creating this new company!  
Thank you!

Several stand and applaud.

Joe, Richard, John and Al, start to file out of the auditorium, towards the cafeteria.

**INT. MAIN CAFETERIA - DAY.**

10 minutes later.

All four men head to the stairs and arrive in the cafeteria.

The cafeteria is huge and about as good as it gets.

AL  
What don't they have here?

RICHARD  
I hear its subsidized, they pay  
about 25%.

JOE  
We might all get fat working here.

Some 15 minutes later.

Joe and his coworkers are sitting at a cafeteria table,  
overlooking a courtyard.

RICHARD  
What did you guys think of the  
speech?

JOE  
I thought it was good. I did not  
know there are fifteen thousand  
people now.

AL  
Are you guys in IT or sales? I am  
in sales.

JOE  
I am IT.

RICHARD  
Sales, I work with AL.

JOHN  
IT.

JOE  
They might get rid of about 1/3 due  
to redundancy.

JOHN  
Great amounts of turnover in all  
mergers this size.

RICHARD  
So this could be our last lunch as  
a group.

AL  
I think the IT department is safe  
though, for the most part. Sales is  
something else.

RICHARD

I did hear that they will be using the software from EZ-SPORTS. I heard it was better.

AL

So Joe and John, you guys are in EZ? So you are in good shape. Most likely.

JOE

I think so.

JOHN

I hope so.

JOE

Our software is better than Brand. Its faster and better written. I think John and I will survive this merger, but who knows?

AL

When do you guys think they will announce who stays and who leaves?

JOHN

Late next week, was what I heard.

AL

Mergers are brutal. The announcements may happen sooner than we think.

JOE

Working for other people will always mean that we are not in charge of our own destiny.

Regardless of what happens next. Its been good meeting you guys.

AL

You too.

JOHN

You too.

RICHARD

You too.

JOE

Anyone know what is next for today?

AL

I heard we report to our managers and new offices are going to be assigned at 1 PM.

John looks at his watch.

JOHN

Its 12:45, time to head up there.

John, Joe, Al and RICHARD start heading towards the cafeteria exit.

**INT. 4TH FLOOR. MAIN SALES - DAY.**

Al and RICHARD walk towards a crowded conference room. There is coffee, salad, cookies.

RICHARD

At least there is food.

AL

Looks good too.

Head Sales Manager, SAL ORLANDO, 61, bald, about 5'6, walks in.

SAL

Hello everyone. Welcome to the new company. We are still forming, and still trying to figure out where we are going. The new jobs have not been defined and what jobs will be remaining or changed, we are still working this out.

Please help yourself to the coffee and food. One the way out, grab the assignment sheet, to find out where you will be temporarily sitting on this main sales floor. Your assignments will be coming via e-mail during the next few days.

Several file out of the conference room, and are handed the assignment sheet.

AL

This will be a slow moving series of hourly discoveries.

RICHARD

They do not seem to have their act together. It looks like I have nothing assigned for the next 2 days.



AL

Same here. So we have to make it look like we are doing something all day. Do I ever hate this.

RICHARD

This is not looking good.

**INT. IT DEPARTMENT. 5TH FLOOR - DAY.**

John and Joe stand on the outside of a crowded conference room.

Some coffee and cookies are on the table, but it is too crowded to walk inside.

The new head of the IT department, Chris Edwards, 50, 5'11, brown hair walks into the conference room.

Hello everyone. For those who are from Brand, I am the head of the IT department for this division for EZ. For the next few days we will be figuring out where everybody will set and your assignments for the next few months. Enjoy the coffee, and be sure to pick up the assignment sheets on the table on the way out.

Welcome to EZ-Brand-Sports!

Several applaud.

Joe and John grab an assignment sheet.

JOE

Looks like my job is the same as before.

JOHN

Looks like I have nothing to do for 2 days.

JOE

I can off load some of my work.

JOHN

If you do that, you might get both of us in trouble. Rule of thumb, with an organization this political, just do nothing and say nothing.

JOE

Thanks for reminding me of the reality.

JOHN

What I have found out over the years of working for other people.

Someone is always gunning for you. And getting back stabbed is about as common as a Wednesday.

JOE

I have been there.

JOHN

I am sure we have stories we can tell each other.

JOE

Next time we have lunch.

JOHN

They lied to me on my interview, when I joined 3 years ago. Telling me I would be a mid level employee. Instead they made me a trainee. Then lied to me again, telling me it would be 6 months, 18 months, 21 months and finally 24 months to be promoted to the level I was promised when I started.

JOE

You're kidding.

JOHN

They were trying to save money by screwing over the new hires. Lied to so many times, I lost count. Getting underpaid for two long years.

They don't tell you it is a two year wait, because they don't want people quitting in droves. That part of the lie worked on me.

There were no other jobs, so I stayed and got screwed.

JOE

I guess I was lucky that did not happen to me.

JOHN

They just kept moving the carrot.  
After 21 months, when I heard it  
was 3 more months, I was so close  
to quitting immediately.

JOE

Why didn't you?

JOHN

There was just nothing out there,  
and EZ knew it.

JOE

This is why the show Shark Tank is  
so popular.

JOHN

If you can make it on your own,  
with your own company that is  
always the best way to go.

JOE

One hundred percent.

JOHN

So what do we do for the next few  
days?

JOE

That I do not know. If I find out  
anything, I will let you know. I am  
over in the A isle.

JOHN

I am in H.

JOE

I will call you.

JOHN

OK.

John walks over the H isle and into his modest office with a  
APPLE Laptop, small window, two chairs, phone, fax machine.

John steps out of his office. Next door is sitting a young  
woman, OLIVIA HARRISON, 27, blonde, just over five foot tall.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hello.

OLIVIA

Hello.

JOHN  
Are you from EZ or Brand?

OLIVIA  
EZ. Worried about keeping my job.

JOHN  
We all are. Mergers can be brutal.

OLIVIA  
I agree.

JOHN  
How long are you with EZ?

OLIVIA  
3 years.

JOHN  
.NET C#?

OLIVIA  
All that stuff and also finance. I had a double major in college.

JOHN  
Where did you go?

OLIVIA  
N.Y.U.

JOHN  
What do you like the most, IT or Finance?

OLIVIA  
Both are ways to make money.

I was more of a Python girl before this job.

JOHN  
I have some Python. Its a good looking language.

OLIVIA  
It can do anything, but it can be slow.

JOHN  
Yes I heard it was slower.

OLIVIA  
Well, nice to meet you.

JOHN

Maybe we can have lunch sometime.  
Like in the Cafeteria?

OLIVIA

Sure why not?

JOHN

Good luck on your job here with the  
new company.

OLIVIA

You too.

John slowly exits OLIVIA's office. Both are smiling as John leaves.

As John enters his office, his phone rings.

JOHN

Hello?

JOE

John, its Joe. Can I come over  
there, or you can come here?

JOHN

I will walk over to the A isle. See  
you in a few seconds.

JOE

OK.

John enters Joe's office.

JOHN

Well, no surprise. The exact same  
as configuration as my office.  
Although this is white. Mine is  
purple.

JOE

Purple?

JOHN

Now I am curious about the other  
isles. Multicolored isles. What a  
strange concept.

JOE

Pink, Light Red, Blue, and some  
kind of a beige color that I am not  
sure about. There is a rumor.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

I heard about the decision on who stays is coming on Monday. So we have Friday and the weekend to worry.

JOHN

That seems too soon.

JOE

From what we have heard so far. It seems they might be speeding this along.

JOHN

They are probably bleeding money, with too many people working here.

JOE

All mergers are like this. Then they start to dump redundant people. Most of the time they over fire too many people and then hire some back.

JOHN

Lets hope for the best. You know Olivia Harrison?

JOE

No.

JOHN

She is in my isle.

JOE

Hot?

JOHN

Cute. My type.

JOE

My neighbor weighs about 350.

JOHN

Jesus. How does anyone get that fat?

JOE

Hard work? Sacrifice?

John and Joe laugh.

JOHN

Want to have lunch on Friday?

JOE

Sure. It might be our last day as employees here.

JOHN

I heard the job market for what we do, is not that hot.

JOE

I heard the same. Its called working for other people. Employed by other people. Not in charge of your own destiny.

JOHN

The unfortunate reality for way too many millions of us.

JOE

Have you thought of putting out your own shingle? Starting your own company?

JOHN

I have. But doing something like that scares the hell out of me.

JOE

I would do it only if I could do it without shelling out a ton of my own money. It is just not worth the risk.

JOHN

Something to talk about on Friday lunch?

JOE

See you then. Richard and Al too?

JOHN

Yes.

**INT. OFFICE CAFETERIA - DAY.**

One Day later. 11:45 AM.

Friday. Richard, Al, John and Joe are in the Cafeteria having lunch.

RICHARD

Joe. How did you find out about Monday being the day?

JOE

I was walking down my isle, and I overheard someone saying that the decision about who stays is going to come at 2 PM on Monday.

RICHARD

That seems way too soon.

JOE

My guess is the redundant people are costing them more than they expected.

RICHARD

Monday is going to be a tough day.

JOHN

My first job. They were dumping many people on a Friday. I will never forget people in their offices crying. So many lost their jobs. Including me.

AL

Man this sucks.

JOHN

One of the worst parts of life. Is having to make a living.

JOE

This is why I thought this would be the greatest company. We are saving great athletes from themselves. Saving them from losing a ton of money and not having enough for retirement.

JOHN

I thought so too. But this is a business like all others. Its the bottom line that counts.

JOE

This is why John and I were talking about starting our own firm.

RICHARD

Meaning, taking clients from here?

JOE

Friends, colleagues, connections we have established on our own.

(MORE)



JOE (CONT'D)

We would have to see a lawyer  
before anything like this could  
start.

AL

That is for damn sure.

JOE

This kind of thing happens all the  
time. We could all be unemployed on  
Tuesday.

AL

We wait until we find out who  
leaves. Then we have this  
conversation again. Agreed?

JOE

Agreed.

RICHARD

Agreed.

JOHN

Agreed.

They all shake hands.

AL

The upside. For today at least is  
that the food is great. If I get  
canned, this food will be hard to  
miss out on.

JOE

It is the best cafeteria I have  
ever seen.

AL

(To John)

I heard you met Olivia.

JOHN

What?

AL

Olivia Henderson.

JOHN

How the hell did you hear about  
that?

AL

She is in your isle. I figured you  
guys have talked by now.

JOHN

Yes, we talked. We are not going out, at least as far as I know, unless the gossip grapevine has arranged our first date already.

RICHARD

She is by far the hottest woman here.

AL

No doubt she is very good looking. Can she make conversation?

JOHN

What does that mean?

AL

You know what that means.

JOHN

Because she is blonde, she is dumb or something?

AL

Not really. But yes.

JOHN

She can hold a conversation.

AL

I will take your word for it.

JOHN

I will keep you guys posted on what happens with her OK?

RICHARD

Really?

JOHN

No.

They all laugh.

RICHARD

What is the plan then? If we all get canned on Monday, we join forces with our own company?

JOHN

How would that work? What if one or two of us does not lose their job?

JOE  
Good question.

JOHN  
Does it have to be all or none?  
This entire conversation started  
with a merger and people losing  
their jobs.

The real issue is not working for  
other people. CEO's of our own  
life. Control over our own destiny.

AL  
This is making me very nervous. If  
one of us is still employed on  
Monday, it would be risky to join  
with a completing new company.  
Possibly taking clients away from  
this company, during a merger.

JOHN  
Litigation. Law suits. I do not  
know what the best path is here  
guys. Lets think about it over the  
weekend.

RICHARD  
I am in.

**INT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY.**

Monday morning. Almost 10 AM.

Al, Joe, John and Richard meet in front of John's office.

JOE  
I heard they are calling people in,  
one by one. Starting at 10 AM.

RICHARD  
I heard the same thing.

Olivia comes out of her office.

OLIVIA  
Hi.

JOE  
Hi, how are you.

OLIVIA  
Fine.

JOHN  
This is Olivia Henderson.

RICHARD  
Nice to meet you.

AL  
Nice to meet you.

Richard and Olivia shake hands, Olivia and Joe shake hands.  
Al and Olivia shake hands.

OLIVIA  
I heard you guys talking about 10  
AM. I heard the same thing. This  
could be the last day for many  
people here.

JOE  
Looks like it.

OLIVIA  
Mergers are murder. For everyone.  
Also, how do they know they are  
getting rid of the right people?

JOHN  
They say its about reducing  
redundancy. But is that the real  
reason?

RICHARD  
God knows what they will say when  
its our time to find out you have  
to leave.

JOHN  
Don't really want to know. Its been  
a good job here for almost 3 years.  
Nothing lasts forever, but it will  
be hard to leave and start over.

Olivia's cell phone rings.

OLIVIA  
He wants to see me now.

JOHN  
Good luck.

JOE  
Yes, Good luck to you.

RICHARD  
Good Luck.

AL  
Good Luck.

**INT. MANAGER OFFICE - DAY.**

Olivia walks into the office of SAL HENDERSON, 42, the new manager for her group in the new combined company.

SAL  
Hello Olivia. Please sit down.

Olivia sits in the chair across from Sal.

SAL (CONT'D)  
OK, real quick. Only due to the merger, nothing to do with your work, we will be letting you go. Effective in 2 weeks. Here is your severance package.

OLIVIA  
I assume I can leave early, any time I want?

SAL  
Yes, all I will say is that it would look better for whatever reference call we get about you, that you help the transition before you leave.

OLIVIA  
Transition?

SAL  
Yes. For the merger.

OLIVIA  
Some other person will be taking over my job, probably from the other company.

SAL  
Yes.

OLIVIA  
So for two weeks before I leave, I will have to train them?

SAL  
Yes.

OLIVIA

No thanks. Lets make my last day today. For the record my work is as good or better than anyone here. It always has been.

SAL

Sorry you feel this way.

OLIVIA

Do you?

SAL

Yes, of course I do.

OLIVIA

Good to know. Bye.

Olivia gets up and leaves Sal's office.

**INT. H ISLE - DAY.**

John is talking with Joe in his office. Olivia walks over to where John and Joe are standing.

JOHN

So what happened?

OLIVIA

They let me go.

JOHN

What? I heard you were great here.

OLIVIA

It could be because of an incident about two months ago.

JOHN

What incident?

OLIVIA

Some drunken fat manager ogled me and then tried to grab me. Then tried to ask me out, after hugging me and grabbing my ass!

JOE

Who?

OLIVIA

Ray Garcia.

JOE  
Holy shit. Ray is Sal's boss.

OLIVIA  
Sal, the new manager who just fired me?

JOE  
Yes.

JOHN  
Grounds for unlawful termination.

OLIVIA  
Sexual harassment.

John's cell phone rings.

JOHN  
Looks like I am next.

OLIVIA  
Good luck.

JOHN  
Considering what is going on. What does good luck mean? Staying and leaving both suck now.

**INT. MANAGER'S OFFICE - DAY.**

SAL  
John. Sit down.

John sits in the chair across from Sal.

SAL (CONT'D)  
Congratulations. You are one of the few who will remain with the new company.

JOHN  
What happened with Olivia?

SAL  
I am clearly, not able to talk another person's employment or release from the company.

JOHN  
I heard she was sexually harassed by your asshole boss Ray.

SAL  
You heard wrong. Who the hell told  
you that.

JOHN  
Who do you think?

SAL  
Sour grapes. People lash out when  
they lose their jobs.

JOHN  
This is not sour grapes. She is  
telling the truth.

SAL  
Hey man. Do you want your job here  
or not?

John rolls up a piece of paper and holds it in his hand.

JOHN  
Take this and your job and you know  
where to stick it.

John leaves the office, throwing the rolled up paper at Sal.

**INT. ISLE H. - DAY.**

Joe and OLIVIA are talking, some minutes later.

JOHN  
I just quit.

JOE  
What?

JOHN  
You heard me.

JOE  
Why?

JOHN  
He told me I will one of the few  
who will be staying and then I  
thought about Olivia and what they  
are doing to so many people. I just  
walked out.

OLIVIA  
You did not have to do that for me  
John.



JOHN

I did it for all of us. This company gives me a bad taste. Look around. Loyal hard working people losing their livelihoods.

John, Olivia and Joe look down the isle of people talking, many of them close to tears.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Is this what life is? Your entire financial life in the hands of a few assholes who believe they can make money for themselves and thousands of other people lose their fucking jobs?

JOE

I agree with what you said. But a speech that great, given on the way out of a Walmart, with a cart full of food. You still do not get keep the food. Life is about obtaining food and shelter. Life is too much about money.

JOHN

Our own idea. Our own company. Going off on our own Joe.

OLIVIA

Count me in.

JOHN

Really?

OLIVIA

Being part of a brand new company has always been a dream of mine.

JOE

Count me in too. What about Richard and Al?

JOHN

I have not heard yet, odds are they will find out today, like us.

OLIVIA

What about taking clients out of here?

JOHN

That is why we need Al and Richard.  
Probably both of them. We are in IT  
and don't have those contacts.

JOE

This is very risky.

OLIVIA

Its not really.

JOHN

Why not?

OLIVIA

I have a sexual harassment lawsuit.  
I also have a unlawful termination  
lawsuit. Its called leverage guys.

JOE

You just might be right.

JOHN

If Richard, Al or both of them join  
us, then I think we may have a  
plan.

Al and Richard walk down the H isle.

JOE

So what happened?

RICHARD

Both of us are gone. Once I got  
canned, Al just walked in and said  
take this job and you know the  
rest.

JOE

John did the same thing when Olivia  
lost her job.

Joe's cell phone rings.

JOE (CONT'D)

Now its my turn. Should I even  
bother to even walk over there?

JOHN

Isn't there an emoji of a pile of  
shit somewhere on cell phone  
texting?

John and Joe laugh.

JOE

No need to walk over there. Sending a pile of shit emoji. Hitting SEND.

They all laugh.

JOHN

Al, and Richard. We have decided to break off on our own and start our own company.

JOE

Interested?

AL

Hell yes.

RICHARD

Yes.

JOHN

We will need some of your existing contacts.

RICHARD

What about the huge and legally binding non compete clauses that we both sighed years ago?

OLIVIA

I have a sexual harassment and unlawful termination lawsuit on our side guys.

AL

Who attacked you?

OLIVIA

Some lowlife named Ray Garcia.

AL

I know that creep. A real sleaze bag. Also a drunk.

RICHARD

Guys. It looks like we have our work cut out.

AL

Anybody know a lawyer?

RICHARD

I do. He is my uncle Jimmy. He is also very rich. He also works with new company start ups.

They all join hands.

JOE

Its 11:15 PM, November 2023. It all starts for us five today. Richard, give a call to your uncle Jimmy.

RICHARD

Immediately.

JOHN

As far as the name?

RICHARD

That is going to require some big time thought.

JOHN

Lets sleep on that.

OLIVIA

Five Together?

JOHN

That is not bad.

JOE

I like that too. What do you guys think?

RICHARD

I will arrange a meeting with Jimmy. If we cannot think of anything better. That name sounds good to me.

AL

I am glad to be walking out of here for good. We are taking a big risk. But you only live once.

RICHARD

I am looking forward to the future. Unfortunately, that will include dealing with lawyers.

JOE

Is your uncle Jimmy any good?

RICHARD

He is a good lawyer in a good firm. However he is very annoying. When I was in high school he kept asking me, "are you going out for sports?".

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

If he asks me that again at our meeting. You may hear me scream.

JOE

Something to look forward to.

JOHN

When can you arrange our first company meeting?

RICHARD

Give me 3 days.

They all shake hands.

JOE

Lets all get our things and get the hell out of here!

AL

For good.

JOHN

You got it.

**INT. JIMMY EMERSON'S OFFICE - DAY.**

Three days later. 9 AM.

Law offices of Reynold's and Reynold's.

Olivia, Joe, John, Al and RICHARD are waiting in JIMMY EMERSON's office. Jimmy is 52, overweight, with black hair over six foot tall.

Jimmy walks in.

Hello guys, how are you?

JOE

Fine, how are you?

JIMMY

To be honest I am both excited and afraid for you guys. Going off on your own, competing with a huge company in the middle of a merger? Taking clients away from them?

JOHN

It is a risk, but Olivia has some important information.

OLIVIA

I was sexually harassed by on one of the higher level managers at EZ. I was also fired because I refused the managers advances, so we can use those two issues as leverage.

JIMMY

You have witnesses? Evidence?

OLIVIA

I have voice recordings and even a few videos of one of the times I was physically grabbed. I have three witnesses.

JIMMY

That is fucking impressive. Considering the huge circumstances, you guys just may have a shot. How many clients can you take from them?

JOE

Al? Richard?

AL

I have three for sure.

RICHARD

Maybe five.

JIMMY

How do you know they will go with you guys.

RICHARD

That is where you come in.

JIMMY

How do you figure?

RICHARD

We will need your help to set us up in a good office that looks like we are in business.

JIMMY

One question first Rich. Are you going out for sports?

They all smile.

RICHARD

Sports? Where? What do you mean? I am no longer in high school. Or college.

JIMMY

Sports leagues? Shit like that?

RICHARD

Like I told you in high school. No, I am not going out for sports.

JIMMY

Sorry to hear.

As far as an office like that, we have a few places we have used to impress clients.

I will have to get my guys here to buy into this first. This is not something we can just do.

Then we will have to research the clients you bring over first to make sure they have enough assets.

That is just step one guys. We have a great deal of work to do, starting with Olivia's potential lawsuits and see if they blink. What about software?

JOE

John and I were talking about that on the way over here. We can start with Excel, believe it or not. You can build a ton of valuable software right inside of Excel.

Then when we are more established, we can create better applications or buy an outside vendor product.

JIMMY

You and John are software developers. Where do you fit in with the new company?

JOE

We don't really know yet. Management and getting the Excel and then the software a the start.

JOHN

We will need to get the database records from the clients.

JIMMY

I can guarantee that your former company will not give you this information. This will be labeled as proprietary for their company only.

JOHN

I would never even think of asking them for this information. We will get it from our clients when they join us.

JIMMY

You guys got enough clout to pull this off? This could be a huge disaster and if it fails. Forget about asking for references. You will be screwed.

AL

We have all thought this through. You only live once. We want our own company.

JIMMY

So who is CEO?

AL

Another thing we do not know yet. We will be making this decision soon.

STEVE WILSON, 61, 5'11, a partner in the law firm walks into the meeting.

JIMMY

Steve. Is there a problem?

STEVE

Yes there is.

Steven sits down next to Jimmy.

STEVE (CONT'D)

I happen to know something about your company. Helping athletes with their finances is one part of their business. The other part is gambling.

(MORE)



STEVE (CONT'D)

This is not well known, because it is illegal, within the business they are in.

There is a possibility that the mob is involved.

JIMMY

How do you know that?

STEVE

I know a guy who knows a guy. If the mob is in any way connected with this company and you guys want to start a competing business, during a merger? Then think about a possible dangerous future for all of you.

JOE

Jesus Christ.

STEVE

My first reaction when Jimmy told you what you guys want to do was this one possible outcome.

JIMMY

Doesn't this change everything? Why take the risk?

JOHN

What risk? We have no idea if this is true.

OLIVIA

Simple solution. Find out all we need to know first and then make the decision. How do we verify this?

STEVE

We don't. If gambling and the mob are involved with some of these athletes, its going to be very well hidden. I found out from a guy I know and he is not even sure.

Richard looks at the other members of the group.

RICHARD

What do you guys want to do?

AL

We have to find out more. Richard and I are in sales. We are the ones who have to make the calls to our former clients to get them to come over. Lets not panic before this even starts.

RICHARD

Assuming the mob is involved, Al and I would be the first to be in trouble.

OLIVIA

Steve. Can you find out more about what is going on here? We are flying blind and speculating. We have no idea what is going on.

STEVE

I will ask around.

JIMMY

In the meantime. I will start the paperwork and some of what we will need to move forward. Lets have another meeting in 2 days. Steve, you are invited.

They all start to leave Jimmy's office.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Richard. I will call you to set up the meeting.

RICHARD

Same place? Your office?

JIMMY

Sure, unless you have a better idea.

RICHARD

Can we make this a lunch meeting?

JIMMY

You mean paid for by this law firm?

RICHARD

Yes.

JIMMY

No. My office. I will call you.

They leave of Jimmy's office. Olivia and John are laughing.

**INT. CORRIDOR LAW OFFICES - DAY.**

One minute later.

AL

I knew nothing would be easy. But now some of us or all of us can be bumped off by the mob? What the hell?

JOHN

Lets try and stay positive.

OLIVIA

We have a good group of people with experience. We have to try this.

AL

Maybe he just told us the Mob thing, to try and scare us off of this new company.

OLIVIA

That might be true. Richard would Steve do something like that? Lie about the mob?

RICHARD

I never liked Uncle Jimmy or Steve that much, but I do not think they would lie about something like this.

JOHN

I would rather not speculate on being murdered because we want to start our own company. What we are trying to do has been done. Without people getting shot.

JOE

What we don't know is what scares me.

AL

See all you guys in three days. Hopefully good news about our new company.

**INT. LAW OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY.**

3 days later.

Steve and Jimmy, Al, Richard, John, Joe and Olivia are all sitting in a large conference room.

STEVE

From now on this is our meeting place for your proposed company.

STEVE (CONT'D)

First order of business is our retainer fee starting today and forward. For something like this, it will be 650 an hour for all legal services with a retainer fee of 25K.

That includes the paperwork for your company. Given your relatively young ages, will this be a problem?

JOHN

We all have savings, so I don't think this will be an issue.

STEVE

Our retainer, only because Richard is related to Jimmy, is only 25K. Normally we start at double that.

JOE

We will pool our resources.

JIMMY

We all love to watch Shark Tank and see the success stories. This is real life, and starting a new major company like this as financial advisors for sports athletes will cost you guys money to get started.

As far as the temporary offices to get the clients you will need at the start, we will be giving you guys this for free. The building is not being used now anyway.

RICHARD

Thank you.

JIMMY

Not a problem.

OLIVIA

What about the possible connections to gambling and the mob with EZ-Sports.

STEVE

Nothing on that yet. I am looking around. The merger did finalize. They are now EZ-BRAND-SPORTS.

OLIVIA

What about my harassment case, and unlawful termination?

STEVE

The only smart thing to do is to play that card, only when we need to play it.

Anything else would be stupid. If they threaten us after you guys start calling former clients, then we play that card.

JOHN

Sounds like a good plan. How many lost their jobs in the merger?

JIMMY

Of the 9200 with EZ and the 3300 with Brand, about 2500 are gone. That should be the final number. About a 20% cut. It could have been much worse. More EZ people lost their jobs than Brand.

JOE

So what happens next?

STEVE

No charges for these first 2 meetings, once again because Jimmy is related to Richard. Then we will need the 25K retainer to get started.

You guys have to come up with a business plan. Nothing starts until we have a legal and valid business plan and the 25K.

Is that OK with everybody?

Sure.

JOE

Sure.

JOHN

OLIVIA  
Sounds good to me.

Richard nods at Al.

AL  
Richard and I are OK.

STEVE  
Once you have the business plan and it checks out with us, then we can start to arrange meetings with clients at the temporary company location. This of course is after you 2 guys, Al and Richard, start to contact former clients.

Let myself or Jimmy know about any threatening calls from EZ or Brand.

OLIVIA  
Then do we worry about a call from a guy from the Godfather after we start to call clients?

STEVE  
Nothing about this is going to be easy. The early stages are always the most difficult. We have no reason to believe the worst. Lets take it one unit of work at a time.

JOE  
There is no reason why Olivia, John and I cannot start to call clients. Richard and Al have about 8 clients they have dealt with while with EZ. We can try for more. Agreed?

RICHARD  
I agree, lets have the entire group call past clients.

JOE  
Lets come up with a number. 3 more? 4 more?

RICHARD  
I would say no more than 15 clients should be contacted at the start.  
(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Hopefully we can get 5 clients to start with us.

JIMMY

OK guys. That is it for today's meeting. I think this is a good start. Good luck to all of you.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.**

2 days later.

The suburbs of Dallas Texas.

Richard, Al, Joe, John and Olivia are sitting in Richard's living room.

OLIVIA

We have all gone this far and nobody has addressed the elephant in the room.

JOE

What elephant?

OLIVIA

We have 3 mostly IT people. Two sales people and no person who specializes in finance. Who preferably has an MBA in Finance.

JOHN

She is right.

OLIVIA

We have to bring in a new partner who has experience in the field and an MBA. He or she should probably be the CEO.

AL

It is the salesmen who normally bring in the money.

OLIVIA

Without someone who has the financial background we might never get to square one.

I have a friend who has everything we need. She hates her current job and wants to leave.

JOHN

She?

OLIVIA

Yes she. Is that a problem?

JOHN

No.

OLIVIA

We are top heavy with the males in this company so far.

JOE

I agree. Did you call her already?

OLIVIA

Yes, she will be here in about 10 minutes. She is interested.

JOE

The other good news is the retainer fee is now divided by 6 rather than five.

OLIVIA

She has an MBA and experience with financial services helping athletes.

She has an MBA from Rutgers in Economics.

RICHARD

I guess in our zeal to get this running and leaving our jobs, we forgot about something this big. Thank you Olivia for this huge catch.

AL

Yes thank you.

JOE

Thanks for realizing this.

JOHN

I am 100% behind this idea.

The doorbell rings.



OLIVIA

Something like this, is all about appearances. Any new customer would have to trust that we know what the hell we are doing when it comes to making money. Her name is Mary and she is always early.

Richard answers the door.

RICHARD

Mary?

MARY

Yes, hello. I am Mary Anderson.

RICHARD

Come in please, we are all here.

MARY ANDERSON enters the apartment. 39, 5'2, brunette.

Everybody stands to shake hands.

JOHN

Nice to meet you.

JOE

Yes nice to meet you.

Richard and Al shake Mary's hands.

MARY

Olivia tells me you guys are about to start writing your business plan.

JOHN

The plan is for each of us to write a different part.

JOE

Did Olivia tell you about the 25 thousand dollar retainer?

MARY

Yes, and that will be no problem. I have always wanted to be part of a startup Olivia told me about the harassment legal issue. This does sound risky, but I love risk.

JOE

Welcome aboard.

MARY

Thank you! I took an intense course in business plan writing in college. Would you like me to begin?

OLIVIA

We have all agreed that because of your experience and MBA in Economics that you should be the interim CEO.

MARY

Thank you for this honor everyone. My first question for all of you, is what was it about your previous company that you thought was the most impressive. The company idea that had the most integrity?

JOE

Helping professional athletes to not ever blow away their financial windfalls when they retire.

The number of them who go broke after retirement is an outrage.

JOHN

This is why I joined the company in the first place. ESPN had a documentary about this. Some 75% of NBA and NFL players go bankrupt 5 years after they stop playing.

MARY

I agree this is a good place to start. Lets take this great idea and all agree to make it better.

Did EZ help many athletes to save their money and not go bankrupt?

RICHARD

To be honest. That statistic I do not know.

AL

Me either. Its a hard statistic to find out because any employee will only know about their subset of clients.

JOE  
Me either.

JOHN  
I have no idea.

MARY  
We should attempt to find out what the track record of EZ has been. How many athletes have they saved from themselves. How many still went bankrupt. We should make it a priority.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Lets make the cornerstone of our business plan to never allow any failure. Our philosophy is we give athletes a calculated allowance, when they play.

When they retire they would have the option to stay with the same allowance paradigm, choose another option or go elsewhere.

This way we would never fail to achieve our company credo of no athlete bankruptcies.

JOHN  
Sounds like you have been down this road before.

MARY  
I have. Another startup a few years ago. That one did not work out. This one will.

JOHN  
Why?

MARY  
Better people involved. I am 5 years more experienced.

OLIVIA  
What do you guys think?

JOE  
I am impressed.

MARY

Who has a a minor in Finance in college? Or took any financial courses?

JOE

I did.

AL

I minored in Economics.

JOHN

Not me. I was all Computer Science and Engineering.

RICHARD

I was all Marketing, for the whole Bachelors degree. I have a minor in computer science.

MARY

OK, Joe and Al will be part time in the financial department, working with myself and Olivia who will be partitioning her time with finance and IT. Is that OK with everyone?

JOE

Yes.

AL

Yes.

MARY

Whatever you guys do not know. I will train you. When we interview clients we will have to embellish your financial experience and education.

No. I do not mean lie. I mean embellish.

OLIVIA

Is that risky?

MARY

Everything about this new company will be risky. We do not even consider starting until we have clients lined up first. Olivia tells me the law firm will be setting up some temporary offices for client interviews?

OLIVIA

Yes.

MARY

This is vital to get started.  
Hopefully we will not have to play  
our legal card with Olivia's  
harassment and unlawful  
termination.

I fully expect some retribution  
from EZ after we get started. As we  
will always do as a new company, we  
will plan for the worst.

OLIVIA

There is something else about EZ I  
did not mention before.

MARY

What is that?

OLIVIA

According to Steve one of the  
lawyers at Reynold's. EZ may have  
some connections to the mob and  
gambling because of all the  
athletes they work with. This has  
not been confirmed.

MARY

Something to tell me before this  
meeting, don't you think?

OLIVIA

Like I said we have no  
confirmation.

MARY

If we find out down the road that  
any of us could be in physical  
danger while undertaking this idea  
of a new company, we should be  
ready to shut it all down  
immediately. Agreed?

They all nod their heads in agreement.

OLIVIA

Hopefully that will never happen.

Mary passes out 5 different documents to everyone in the  
group.

MARY

These are templates to different parts of our new business plan. Lets meet here again in 2 days with each of us filling out the parts. Then we will have to discuss and combine this into one document.

Each of you must also have your checks for 1/6 of the lawyer retainer fee of \$4167. Are we all in agreement?

JOHN

Sounds good to me.

OLIVIA

Good.

JOE

OK.

RICHARD

OK.

AL

Same here. What time?

MARY

Same time, 7 PM. Meet here again?

RICHARD

Yes that will be OK.

MARY

Does anybody have anything else? Any concerns? Worries.

JOHN

Other than the big one, with the possible gambling Mafia connection and EZ.

MARY

My philosophy of life is very easy. You do not have a real problem or concern until it is right in front of you. Odds are that nothing will come from this worry.

JOHN

I hope you are right. I am worried, but I will not prevent me from moving forward with our business.

JOE

I agree.

MARY

Anything else. OK guys. We meet in two days at 7 PM.

Everybody files out of RICHARD's apartment.

Joe and John are the last 2 leave.

RICHARD

Hey John, Joe. Can you hang back for a few minutes?

JOE

Sure.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.**

JOHN

What's up?

RICHARD

You guys want some wine?

JOHN

Got anything more heavy?

RICHARD

I have Vodka.

JOE

That will do.

Richard gets out 3 glasses.

RICHARD

Just one guys, you have to drive home.

JOE

What's up?

RICHARD

She just came in and took over the whole thing.

JOHN

She is a leader and probably a control freak.

RICHARD

This was our company. What is it now?

JOE

She has the experience in Finance. We do not. She has an MBA in Finance. None of us have that.

RICHARD

We have some experience and we all worked in a major financial advisement firm for 3 years.

JOHN

We need her to get started. I don't see we have a choice.

RICHARD

For me, she seemed to be too much too soon. Can we get her to tone down the control?

JOHN

I will talk to Olivia to get Mary to back off a little before our next meeting.

JOE

We have to move fast here. The merger is the perfect time to step in with our new company.

JOHN

Richard, thanks again for Jimmy and that law firm.

RICHARD

How worried are you guys about the possibility of getting shot in the face at a Target parking lot one day?

JOE

Once we hear more from Steve we will have a better idea. I refused to let this drive me more crazy that I already am.

RICHARD

I have had trouble sleeping the last few days. We are in an area of our lives, where just about everything can go wrong.

JOHN

One day at a time man. Lets finish the drinks and we will go home, OK?



JOE

The next step is creating the business plan for the company.

JOHN

Lets toast to Five Together. Now Six Together?

The men clink glasses.

RICHARD

I think we need a new name.

JOHN

Something to discuss next time.

JOE

How do we make our company stand out. Different than EZ and all other financial advisement companies?

JOHN

That is our challenge as we write the business plan. We can't just say, the customer first, we care about the customer. EZ says that. We need a new hook.

JOE

Maybe the company invests in the same things as we recommend. The company and all employees are all on the same page? We not only stand by our advice. We live by it.

RICHARD

I like that.

JOHN

Lets go with that as a start.

The men clink glasses.

RICHARD

Just one drink guys, you have to drive home.

JOHN

The other option is to get drunk and stay here tonight?

RICHARD

Joe?

JOE

I guess so. You seem to have enough booze.

RICHARD

Lets get hammered. As we embark on a huge new chapter in our lives. That I hope. Will not get us all shot.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - MORNING.**

10 AM. RICHARD's apartment. The men are laying on the couch and a chair.

Joe wakes up on the couch.

JOE

Man. What day is it? Are we dead?

RICHARD

We might be too hung over to be dead.

JOHN

For some reason, I do not have a headache. But I just remembered. I have not stood up yet. What time is it?

Joe looks at his watch.

JOE

Its 10 AM. We have slept the whole night.

JOHN

This is what drinking is all about. It gives you courage and makes you stupid all at the same time.

RICHARD

At least you guys did not drive home. Or did you? Maybe we are all dead on a highway somewhere.

JOHN

As long as we are all here. Lets try and start the business plan for our 3 parts.

RICHARD

My brain is somewhere on the roof.  
How the hell can I think about  
writing anything?

JOE

Lets rest a while. You got coffee?

RICHARD

Yes. But that implies that I have  
to get up and make it. I cannot  
move.

JOE

Lets give it an hour.

JOHN

I am so tired, I can barely think.

JOE

Two hours?

RICHARD

Three.

JOE

It will be tomorrow when we are  
ready.

JOHN

Guys we have to get this done  
before the next group meeting.

Olivia will smooth the Mary control  
over issue over. Trust me.

JOE

Can we sleep this off now. I am  
dozing off.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - DAY.**

Three hours later.

JOHN

Hey guys. Lets wake up.

JOE

I am better.

RICHARD

I am good now. Let me get out my  
laptop.

RICHARD gets his Apple Laptop and puts it on the kitchen table.

JOE

Apple?

RICHARD

Yes. I prefer Apple.

JOE

No problem, I am just so use to Microsoft software.

RICHARD

You are a developer. I am a sales person.

JOHN

Lets get our assignments.

Richard, John and Joe get out their assignments for the business plan.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Like we said before, we have to be very different if we expect to be successful and get startup money from anyone.

JOE

Our first idea, about all of us and the company using the same investment vehicles we recommend to our clients.

RICHARD

Good start. What else? I have no clue.

JOE

You are the sales guy. You must have some ideas.

RICHARD

No sales pressure. We provide you will the best investment ideas. No pressure, ever.

JOE

OK. That is good. Lets add that.

Richard types on his computer, creating a list of items.

JOHN

We still do not have something big.

JOE

We promise all of our clients. That we do not charge any yearly fee unless the client has made money. If its a bad stock market year and the client loses money, then we make no fees.

JOHN

Man that is a risky one.

JOE

It has always seemed fair to me. Think about this. If we guide a client into making money, why should be expect to get paid if they lose money?

JOHN

We should add it to the list, but the problems with this are obvious. Any bad year and the company goes under without the fees.

Consistent income for the company. However from the customer's point of view this idea seems fair.

RICHARD

It is a great idea, were it not for the harsh realities of the stock market, making money and life. All companies need revenue to survive.

JOE

This would mean that we have to be perfectly diversified to avoid losses in any clients and the companies portfolio.

JOHN

No such thing really. There is always a losing year.

Or we add this idea as an option. Meaning that this portfolio would have higher overall fees if the client makes or does not lose money. If he loses money in any year, he/she pays no fee at the end of the year.

RICHARD

Do you think Mary would go for this idea?

JOHN

We will put it in and find out. It is unique and as far as I know, ever done before. It could be the new idea we need to get started. To set ourselves apart from other financial advisors.

RICHARD

Even though we all agree that Mary is the interim CEO, at this early stage we should be able to vote on something like this.

JOHN

Another point to bring up at the next huge meeting. We all have our work cut out.

The 3 men work on the business plan proposal for the next few hours.

JOE

Guys, I think we have it. Our half of the business plan.

They all shake hands.

JOHN

Lets NOT get drunk again. Its time to go home and get ready for day after tomorrow.

RICHARD

Good work everybody. We all know that getting all of his past Mary, will be a problem.

JOHN

She should have some new ideas of her own, she is the MBA of Finance.

RICHARD

See you guys here in 2 days.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.**

Two days later.

Olivia, Al, Joe, John, and Mary all arrive at RICHARD's apartment exactly at 7 PM.

RICHARD

Hello guys. All right on time. Good sign for future meetings.

MARY

I assume everybody has their completed part of the business plan?

First I will address a few issues. Olivia has told me that the understandable concern is that I might be stepping on some toes. I was not involved from the beginning with this ambitious new company.

I have the MBA in finance and the most experience with portfolio management.

However, everyone in this room will be trained to handle financial matters and portfolios.

We will determine the hierarchy of the company later. I also have a great deal of experience with business plans and this is our main concern right now. Are there any questions?

RICHARD

How long will you be the interim CEO?

MARY

For as long as this entire group think it is necessary. I will lead when or if my experience or expertise is needed. Then we can vote on the best CEO later, after the company is incorporated, or we go LLC.

Richard hands Mary the three documents for the business plan.

RICHARD

Here is what we 3 came up with.

MARY

Thank you. Al, Olivia and I worked together over the weekend as well. Looks like we have our work cut out.

The rest of this meeting will be about hashing out our final business plan. We will have to come to an agreement on all of our new ideas and issues. Richard, would you like to present what you guys came up with.

Richard stands up in front of the group.

RICHARD

John, Joe and I, believe that whatever business ideas we have for the new company, they will have to stand out in the financial world. Otherwise, why would anyone go with a startup? Our first idea is all about fees.

If a portfolio we manage loses money then we should not charge the client. We only charge a fee if the client follows our advice and either breaks even or makes money.

MARY

That is extremely risky if we have a major bear market. We could have the perfect portfolio and generate no fees from any clients.

RICHARD

We thought of that. This kind of a portfolio where the client never pays if their portfolio loses money in a year, would have a higher fee structure, if the client makes money or breaks even.

MARY

That fee structure would be very difficult to determine. Some major math with Excel would be necessary.

OLIVIA

I agree, this idea is unique, but maybe not plausible.



JOE

An idea for the future, but maybe not the business plan straight out of the gate?

JOHN

I agree that the idea is great and will set us apart. But maybe too risky for the business plan that we give to our lawyers day one.

RICHARD

Our other idea, is our promise that all of us will be using the same investment vehicles that we recommend.

OLIVIA

Great minds think alike. Our group had the same idea.

MARY

That is good for us to stand out as a new investment firm. Not enough however.

JOE

What else did you guys come up with?

OLIVIA

Not much in terms of setting us apart from any other financial service company.

MARY

As I said, we have our work cut out. Our ideas so far are generic and somewhat soft.

OLIVIA

The first step is for all of us to review what we have so far on both sides, and then combine all of this into one business plan.

RICHARD

We were scheduled to visit Jimmy and Steve tomorrow. We will have to push this out. We need more time guys.

MARY

I agree. We are far from ready. We will probably need another 5 days to do this right.

From my experience, none of this is ever easy. Assuming we get past this idea, we will need seed money to get started. So much can still go wrong.

Olivia, John, Joe, Al and Richard continue to read the business plan

JOE

Five days seems OK to me. You guys did quite a bit here. More than we did.

OLIVIA

I heard you guys got drunk?

JOE

Who told you that?

OLIVIA

John.

Joe looks at John.

JOE

What a big mouth.

JOHN

Oh come on, who would not get drunk during something like this. Our entire lives are up in the air. Suppose all of this goes up in smoke.

MARY

I will be adding positive thinking to our company business plan.

Some laugh.

JOHN

I agree, but we are embarking on a new path. Not to mention the possible Mafia shoot out we all might face. In our face.

MARY

I really do not believe that is Mafia threat is real. We will talk to Steve at the next lawyer meeting. We have to know what we are getting into.

RICHARD

Taking clients away from EZ during a merger. That worries me.

MARY

We have to rely on Steve. Olivia and I called him the other day. If this is a real threat we will find out soon.

OLIVIA

Hopefully we will not have to use my threat of sexual harassment legal action.

MARY

If it comes to that. Then I would worry about things escalating.

JOE

We are all in risky territory.

RICHARD

That we are.

MARY

Every startup is risky territory. What if we can't get investors? There are problems that will come up that we have not even thought of yet.

This is my second startup. I remember all that went wrong 5 years ago with my last one. I have experience with the downside.

OLIVIA

We are lucky to have you.

MARY

Has anyone thought of the name for the company?

JOE

Financial Life?

RICHARD  
Life Investments?

MARY  
That one I like.

JOHN  
Life and Times Finance?

OLIVIA  
That is a good one.

MARY  
Simple solution we will put those  
names in a hat and vote. Do we all  
agree?

Everybody raises their hand.

Everybody writes their choices on a small piece of paper.

Mary counts the choices in the hat.

MARY (CONT'D)  
Looks like Life and Times Finance  
is our new name. The count is 4-2.

That is step one for any new  
company. Agreeing on the name.

As far as our final business plan,  
I suggest that swap the proposals  
and come together tomorrow with  
final idea to combine into one  
document.

Then we meet with Jimmy and Steve  
and launch the company. Do we all  
agree?

Everyone in the group nods yes. Richard gives a thumbs up.

MARY (CONT'D)  
OK. If that is all for today?

RICHARD  
You guys want a drink?

OLIVIA  
I could use one.

MARY

Lets stick with wine or beer OK  
guys?

**INT. LAW OFFICES OF REYNOLD'S AND REYNOLDS. DAY.**

Five days later.

Olivia, Mary, John, Joe, Richard and Al walk into a large conference room.

Jimmy Emerson and Steve Wilson greet the group as they arrive.

JIMMY

Hey guys, glad you could make it.

STEVE

Hello again.

They all shake hands and sit around a large conference room table.

OLIVIA

First order of business. Here are the six checks for your retainer.

Olivia hands Jimmy the retainer checks.

JIMMY

Thank you. Our plan at the start will be to set up interviews with some of our wealthier investors.

A Go Fund Me page will be created. You guys have to create your company resume. I will give you a sample of what you will need for that.

Mary hands Jimmy three copies of the business plan.

MARY

This is our final business plan, with input from everyone in this group.

Jimmy hands a copy to Steve who looks it over.

STEVE

This looks good. Very professional.

MARY

We each did a part and then combined.

JOHN

What about the elephant in the room?

STEVE

I checked around. Think about it. If there was any criminal threat possible against your new company. Nobody would be talking anyway. If I were you guys, I would not worry.

Concentrate on all you have to do. Any new company is a nightmare of obstacles and problems that have to be worked through.

Worrying will distract you from a very challenging next few months.

Steve makes a conference call to an outer office.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Don. Can you come in here? We have the business plan.

Steve notices the name of the company on the business plan.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Life and Times Finance. Good name.

DON WASHKAU, 52, 5'11, walks into the conference room. Steve hands him one copy of the business plan and the 6 checks.

STEVE (CONT'D)

Don please have the business staff process these checks. Give the business plan to legal.

DON

OK. Thank you. Hello guys.

STEVE

Jimmy, please read off the agenda for this meeting.

JIMMY

First, we have to attract investors. We will take care of this here. That process will be part of the retainer.

(MORE)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Our firm will have to verify and approve of the business plan.

Then the interview process with former and new clients in the temporary satellite offices we will have set up for your company.

The key thing here is once you get one or more existing clients from EZ, then it will be easier to attract new clients. If you get a big name client, then even more will follow.

Our company will update your business plan adding and changing where necessary to add the proper legal wording.

You will all also be getting a summary of your business plan in the mail. We will notify when there are updates and changes.

MARY

How will that work?

JIMMY

We will be calling each one of you individually. Changes or additions via our law offices will be approved once we get a majority vote. For ties, we will have to have another meeting to hash that out.

MARY

Sounds very professional. Better than last time.

JIMMY

Last time?

MARY

This is my second startup.

STEVE

What happened the first time?

MARY

We started out very well and then we crashed and burned after a year.

STEVE

Sorry to hear that.

MARY

We did not have the right people that time. This time we do.

STEVE

I think you do have the right people. The right combination of skills for a startup like this.

You all will have to be strong to keep going when things get tough.

They always get tough. You have to drive through those times.

JOHN

At this point, we have no choice. To a person, we have made this decision to be in charge of our own destiny.

JOE

And it may also fail.

STEVE

But you all realize that this is the hard truth for anyone in this world who ever had the courage or got disgusted enough as an employee to start their own business.

You want to be your own boss. There are consequences. There are extreme risks. Highs and lows. People start their own business after bad experiences being an employee, more than any other reason.

Working for someone else too often can involve injustice. We want things to be fair, to make sense. This is the essence of entrepreneurship.

That being said. This may not work out.

JIMMY

You guys have a solid starting point.

(MORE)



JIMMY (CONT'D)

You have all the avenues covered as far as experience that even includes software development.

STEVE

We like to call it, smoothing out the bumps. You can never take a hard knock too hard, or anything positive too positively. Stay middle of the road.

Don Washkau walks into the conference room.

DON

Our legal department has approved your business plan. Here are eight copies for everyone, with the suggested changes and additions marked in light red.

STEVE

Thank you Don, that was very efficient.

DON

Those guys are experts.

The group looks over the new document.

MARY

I agree with most of the updates and comments. You are the lawyers. This is what we need to move forward with our new business.

OLIVIA

The next steps?

JIMMY

We have arranged a four week usage of our temporary offices for your company. This is where you will bring in current EZ clients and new ones you can find and bring in.

When you get about 5 clients you can start to feel good about your chances. However, nobody gets a paycheck for at least 6 months. Nobody should ever start a new business on their own without savings.

STEVE

You guys can start moving in, a week from now. You have a month to generate enough clients and investors to have a viable start.

JIMMY

Start calling clients, if you have not already. Ask them if they have friends who need financial advice.

AL

I have called few clients to alert them about our new company.

RICHARD

So have I. Just an alert. Obviously we are not ready to start taking on new clients.

STEVE

Your company has to be legally incorporated first. We recommend a Chapter S corporation. That has most of the bells and whistles you will need to survive. It is the most flexible corporation.

MARY

An LLC has less paperwork at year end.

STEVE

True, but less opportunity for tax breaks. You guys should work this decision out among yourself. Then let us know. We will handle whatever you decide.

The corporation return will cost more to file, but the flexibility and tax advantages we have found to be the best way to go.

This is ultimately your decision.

MARY

As a group. I think we should vote now, to get this moving along. Chapter S. Raise hands?

4 out of the 6 in the group raise their hands.

MARY (CONT'D)

We will move forward with a Chapter S.

JIMMY

In my experience this is the best way to go. Especially for startups.

Next thing. You have to send us a list of potential clients for the new company. Then we will arrange the interviews in the temporary offices.

RICHARD

I have the list. I will send you an e-mail when I get home.

JIMMY

The temporary offices will be open next week. You guys need a battle plan. A list of things to say to convince these athletes and non-athletes to join your new company.

AL

Richard and I have been working on this.

MARY

We have to get everybody involved with these interviews. Two people per interview. This is the most difficult step. We will break into three groups.

Our next step will be for our group to meet and hash out the interview process.

JOE

When can we meet?

MARY

First thing tomorrow morning. Richard. Are you OK with your apartment again?

RICHARD

Yes. Definitely.

STEVE

I want wish all of you, the best of luck. Our firm will be available to you at all times.

MARY

Thank you Steve.

They all stand up to leave the conference room, shaking hands with Steve and Jimmy.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - DAY.**

Next morning. 10 AM.

Al passes out documents to everyone in the group.

AL

This is our list of current clients. Friends of current clients that we know of. The last page is some possible new clients.

RICHARD

Al and I have identified some EZ clients who have not been positive in satisfaction surveys.

These are the ones in addition to our former clients that we will target.

OLIVIA

That last one. Getting the list of dissatisfied clients is a great idea.

AL

I grabbed that file to my flash drive the day we all left.

MARY

We should go top down. Start with Al and Richards former clients and then interview all the unhappy current clients of EZ.

JOHN

Good idea guys. Lets divide up the list.

RICHARD

There are about 60 unhappy clients.  
Giving EZ a 5 out of 10 or less.  
Each one of us can take 10 and  
start calling immediately.

There 7 clients who rate EZ as a 1.

MARY

Richard. Can you take the list and  
send each one of us an e-mail  
containing 10 names and numbers.  
Lets get rolling on this.

AL

Rich and I will also call our old  
clients, to gage some interest in  
moving on with us.

MARY

The progress will be slow at first.  
We do not do the final commit,  
until we know this company will be  
viable.

They all join hands.

ALL

All together! LIFE AND TIME  
FINANCE!

RICHARD

WINNING!

ALL

WINNING!

**INT. COMPANY TEMPORARY OFFICES. DALLAS TEXAS. - DAY.**

Four Days Later.

Mary, Olivia, John, Joe, Al and Richard all walk into a  
furnished office. They are greeted by Jimmy.

There is a company sign already posted when they arrive.

OLIVIA

I am impressed. They already have  
our company sign.

Olivia greets the secretary at the front desk. MARTHA, 28,  
brunette, 5'2.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)  
Hello. And you are?

MARTHA  
I am Martha, I will be handling the  
phone calls and scheduling the  
interviews for the next few days.

JIMMY  
Martha has always been our  
secretary for situations like this.  
This I think is your third time  
doing this?

MARTHA  
Fourth.

JIMMY  
She is great at this. Will be a big  
help with all the scheduling.

MARY  
Thank you for your help.

MARTHA  
You are welcome.

Martha stands and shakes the hands of everyone in the group.

MARTHA (CONT'D)  
There are 3 conference rooms set  
up. No clients have arrived yet.  
All the meetings are scheduled for  
1 PM.

MARY  
We will be breaking up in 3 groups  
of 2.

Joe walks up to Martha.

JOE  
Nice to meet you.

MARTHA  
You too.

They both smile at each other.

JOHN  
Lets check out the offices and  
conference rooms.

Joe and John enter the main part of the building.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Joe. Something going on there?

JOE

Don't know. She is pretty though.

JOHN

That she is.

JOE

Thought you were with Olivia?

JOHN

You know women. I don't know if I am with her or not. Don't worry, I am not a man who steps on toes or any other part of the body.

They both smile.

They all arrive in the main floor of the temporary offices.

RICHARD

This is impressive Jimmy.

JIMMY

This would cost one hell of a lot more money, if we were not related. I had to pull some strings.

You have this for 4 weeks to drum up some clients. Lets see how you guys do. Richard. You and AL, are in conference room A. Olivia and Mary, conference room B. Joe and John are in C. Good luck.

**INT. CONFERENCE ROOM A - DAY.**

10 minutes later. 12:30 PM.

A tall young basketball player, RONNY WILLIAMS, 19, 6'8. Enters with his parents, JANE WILLIAMS, 62, and JAMES WILLIAMS, 64.

Al and Richard stand to greet them.

AL

Hello. Nice to meet you.

RICHARD

Yes. Hello.

They all shake hands.

AL

Welcome. Please sit.

RICHARD

So Ronny. You are at Georgetown?  
Entering the NBA early?

RONNY

Yes.

RICHARD

You are making the right move at  
the right time. There is so much  
money to be made, and having  
experts handle so much money is a  
must.

AL

You all have heard the history of  
athletes and too many losing money  
and not being able to retire?

JANE

Yes. That is why we are all here.

AL

You remind me of Michael Jordan's  
mother in that recent movie "AIR".  
Did you guys see that?

JANE

That is another reason why we are  
here. We always want to do the  
right thing with our son.

AL

That is great to hear. We are a new  
company, and most of us are  
formerly associated with EZ Sports.

We will offer much better financial  
expertise, investing advice and  
better directed paths for  
retirement. More personal attention  
and humanity than EZ.

JANE

How do we know that you guys, just  
starting out will be better than  
EZ?



RICHARD

I would recommend that you talk to our former clients, many of whom will be coming over to our new company. We have done right by them, as we will do right by your son.

Our experience with retirement and money management is unmatched.

Al hands Jane, James and Ronny, brochures of the new company.

JANE

This looks impressive. We will be calling your references. Looking over this and we will let you know by the end of the week. Is that OK with both of you?

AL

Yes that is perfectly fine. At your own pace. Thank you for coming in. We hope you will join us.

They all stand and shake hands. Jane, Ronny and James leave the conference room.

RICHARD

I have no idea how that went. Were they impressed? This is going to be tough.

AL

We need one big name to join us. Then the others will follow.

RICHARD

We need that and lots of luck.

**INT. CONFERENCE ROOM B - DAY.**

Olivia and Mary are waiting for their clients to arrive.

OLIVIA

Jimmy said, 1:00 PM. Its 1:10.

MARY

I am sure they will be here.

OLIVIA

This guy is in the NFL and his satisfaction questionnaire score is a very low 2 out of 10.

MARY

How long with EZ?

OLIVIA

Three years.

MARY

He should be a strong possible.

JUSTIN THOMAS, 6'5, 265 pound NFL linebacker, walks into conference room B.

Olivia and Mary stand to shake his hand.

OLIVIA

Nice to meet you.

MARY (CONT'D)

Nice to meet you.

JUSTIN

Nice to meet you ladies.

MARY

Have a seat.

OLIVIA

You are a big guy.

JUSTIN

NFL requirement.

MARY

Linebacker?

JUSTIN

For the Steelers. Three years.

MARY

As long as you have been with EZ?

JUSTIN

Since rookie season. EZ was recommended to several of us by one of the assistant coaches.

MARY

You graded EZ a 2 out of 10?

JUSTIN

The last year I was not happy with the investments and the direction they provided. The first two years were just OK.

MARY

Sorry to hear that. Our new company has a goal to be the best sports accounting firm there is. A ranking of 2 out of 10 would never be acceptable in our company.

JUSTIN

That is good to hear. I want better returns. Less fees.

MARY

This is why diversification is vital in investing. Based on your age and your desire for better returns, I know our company will provide you a better overall return.

JUSTIN

How much?

MARY

Nobody in investing can promise exact figures. That is impossible. What we can provide you is professional expertise and experience as financial advisors. We actually do care about all of our clients.

JUSTIN

I did not like the allowance they gave me.

OLIVIA

Why?

JUSTIN

Something about the word allowance, makes me feel like I am 13 years old.

OLIVIA

Understandable. However, the allowance idea is just a way of controlling expenses.

(MORE)

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

Planning for retirement so that the money remaining after your playing days are over, will be enough to maintain your lifestyle. Maybe never work another day in your life.

Spending unchecked while you are playing has been a bad idea for athletes for many years now. This is why sports financial companies like EZ and ours were created in the first place.

When you are young, in great shape and everything is going so well, its so hard for a young person to imagine an injury that ends your career. But this happens every day, especially in the NFL.

That is our job. We have to protect you from always having enough money, especially after you retire..

JUSTIN

So you are saying there is no workaroud?

MARY

Financial advisors for sports athletes all do this. We can increase your allowance, or monthly income allocation if you want.

Then we have the expertise to extrapolate where you will be financially when you retire, based on current expenses. If we have no benchmark of spending, the retirement calculations are not possible.

JUSTIN

Can you send me an e-mail proposal for this?

MARY

Definitely.

Justin hands Mary his business card.

JUSTIN  
When will I hear back?

MARY  
First thing tomorrow morning.  
After reviewing your current  
situation.

JUSTIN  
Are you currently in business?

MARY  
Our company's kick off will be this  
Saturday. You are invited to the  
party. Its right here at 1 PM.

JUSTIN  
Thank you.

MARY  
You are very welcome.

Justin, Mary and Olivia stand and shake hands. Justin leaves  
the conference room.

OLIVIA  
The entire reason for our financial  
advising company with athletes is  
to control how and when they spend.

MARY  
Justin is going to be a challenge.  
We will explain all of this in our  
proposal e-mail. We must stick with  
the allowance paradigm. Otherwise  
the whole idea of this company  
falls apart.

**INT. CONFERENCE ROOM C - DAY.**

John and Joe are sitting at a large conference room table.

JOE  
This guy is a defensive back. Plays  
for Chicago. He graded EZ a 3.  
Pretty low.

JOHN  
His assets?

JOE

Less than the big names, but he is worth about 7 million right now. He is 32, probably close to retiring.

JOHN

He sounds promising. Name?

JOE

Gerald Riggins.

JOHN

Riggins?

JOE

Yes.

JOHN

Related to John Riggins the running back in the 1980s?

JOE

We will ask him.

GERALD RIGGINS, 32, 6'2. Brown hair walks into the conference room. He shakes hands with both Joe and John. They sit at the conference room table.

JOHN

Hello. Nice to met you.

JOE

Nice to meet you.

GERALD

Nice to meet you guys. Thanks for the invite.

JOHN

Are you related to the running back for the Washington Redskins in the 1980s, John Riggins?

GERALD

Many people ask me that. No. Not related.

JOHN

Riggins was a bruising running back.

GERALD

Long before my time, but I did look him up. He was a tough runner.

JOE

You graded EZ a 3 out of 10? Are you looking to move on from them?

GERALD

Not happy with the service, or the allowance or the direction of my investments.

JOE

Did you let them know your investment preferences?

GERALD

I don't remember being asked that question.

JOHN

Aggressive, conservative? Moderate? Nothing like that?

GERALD

No, don't remember that.

JOHN

We can promise you that our new company always will know, exactly what your preferences are. All the time. That is our promise.

GERALD

That sounds very good.

JOE

I am quite surprised that these fundamental questions were never asked. That is not good.

GERALD

Are you guys MBA's in finance?

JOE

We both have financial training. We will head up the IT department for this company at the start.

Mary Anderson, our CEO and Olivia Henderson will be heading up the financial arm. Mary has an MBA in Finance.

GERALD

I know Olivia. Met her once at a meeting at EZ. Good looking woman.

JOHN  
That she is.

GERALD  
You guys are involved?

JOHN  
Not really. Just friends and  
colleagues.

GERALD  
What about the merger?

JOE  
The merger has been completed. Its  
the reason why we started our own  
company. None of us liked the way  
EZ handled the merger.

GERALD  
OK. So far, I like what I hear. You  
can e-mail me all that information.

Joe hands Gerald a pamphlet.

JOE  
Here is our company brochure. Our  
commitment to the success and  
comfortable retirement of all our  
clients is our number one goal.

GERALD  
Thank you guys. I am impressed. I  
have your number. Will let you know  
in a few days.

Gerald smiles and shakes Joe and John's hands and leaves the  
conference room.

JOE  
I really think that went well.

JOHN  
He is not a whale, but I agree. We  
have something here.

JOE  
Lets do that again. Just like that.

Joe and John shake hands.



**INT. CONFERENCE ROOM D - DAY.**

The group and Jimmy meet in conference room D.

MARY

How did it go for you guys?

JOE

I think we have Gerald Riggins. He seemed very impressed. He just may be our first client.

MARY

Olivia and I am not sure about ours. Its touch and go.

AL

We were talking about the recent movie AIR, with Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. That is how much Ronnie William's mother Jane reminded us of Michael Jordan's mother.

RICHARD

This may happen though. We are about 50% there.

JIMMY

You guys have about 20 interviews lined up for this week. Lets reconvene on Friday night at 6 PM to review where we stand.

OLIVIA

Sounds good.

MARY

Good.

JOHN

Sounds good to me.

MARY (CONT'D)

Same here.

JIMMY

Friday at 6 PM it is. Same conference room.

**INT. CONFERENCE ROOM D - DAY.**

Four Days later. Conference room D. 10 AM.

Steven and Jimmy enter Conference Room D. Cindy, Mary, Al, Richard, John and Joe are already seated.

STEVE

I hope there is good news?

MARY

Out of the 20 we interviewed this week and the 6 we interviewed on Monday, we have about 6 definite and 3 maybe.

STEVE

How definite are the definite's?

MARY

They have verbally committed.

STEVE

You know as well as we do that if its not in writing then it does not mean anything. Your challenge as a group is to get signed contracts.

MARY

We are working on that as we speak.

OLIVIA

It could be that some are afraid to leave EZ. The devil you know.

STEVE

This is always the case in a situation like this. Also this is about their money. They have to trust you guys.

In my opinion, given that there are six of you and only two of you have solid financial backgrounds and experience, that might be hard to pull off.

OLIVIA

We know we can do it.

RICHARD

I am on the phone with them almost every day. I think we are solid, despite the apprehension.

AL

I am also calling them regularly. Richard and I have taken half.

JIMMY

We told you this would be tough. All company startups are a nightmare to start. Financial ones, managing and investing money of wealthy and even average people, is a tough sell.

STEVE

You have to build trust. You have to be very aggressive in this early stage.

RICHARD

We need a whale.

STEVE

Define whale.

RICHARD

An athlete who everybody knows and respects. If he joins our company then other athletes will follow.

MARY

That would be an optimal scenario.

JIMMY

In my experience with startups like this one. That would work. The problem is finding and then convincing the whale to come over here. Any of you have any ideas?

AL

I have a friend, who works for another firm, not EZ. I hear he is not thrilled with his current firm.

JIMMY

Who is the whale?

AL

James Johnson, the baseball player. Leading the National league in home runs right now.

JIMMY

He looks worth a shot. Take it.

AL

I am calling him tonight.

JIMMY

Keeping trying with the others you might have so far.

If you guys get the whale then the game changes in your favor.

STEVE

Our next meeting is in one week. Right here. Same time.

RICHARD

Thanks guys.

Steve and Jimmy leave the conference room.

Mary looks at Al.

MARY

How sure are you that you have a shot at this guy?

AL

Right now, maybe 40%. He is very unhappy with EZ. But he will probably want to stay with them.

JOHN

Convincing him to take a chance at a startup is going to be difficult.

OLIVIA

That is a tall order.

MARY

All we can do now is get on the phone with our remaining potential clients and prepare for next week. Then hope we get the whale.

JOE

I hope it doesn't come down to needing a whale and this whole thing dies.

MARY

Me either. We all might be out 25 thousand dollars guys. These are the risks and downsides that they never talk about on Shark Tank. Its great if it all works out.

If it doesn't, then you lose money. Same with the stock market.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

This week is make or break. Lets  
get to work.

ALL

OK.

They all stand and shake hands.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - DAY.**

Two days later.

Al and Richard are sitting at the dining room table.

Al's cell phone rings. Al is in an emotional conversation  
immediately.

Al hangs up his cell phone.

RICHARD

Al? Everything OK.

AL

I think we have our whale.

RICHARD

My God. Really?

AL

The original guy fell through, its  
another whale.

RICHARD

How big a whale? Who?

AL

Alex Martin. Portland Trailblazer's  
starting center.

RICHARD

I know about him. He is 7'4. More  
of a huge guy whale than a huge  
money one. Why did James Johnson  
drop out?

AL

No reason was given. Then his agent  
referred me to Alex.

RICHARD

Lets go for it. At this point, this  
is not going well.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

He has to be good enough to draw other players in.

AL

He is coming over here tonight. I made the appointment for 7 PM.

RICHARD

Great. I will call the others about this.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

2 hours later.

RICHARD

You told him 7 PM and its 7:20?

AL

I don't want to call this guy on his cell phone. That would be pushing it.

The doorbell rings.

AL (CONT'D)

Great this is Alex.

Alex is standing in the hallway.

AL (CONT'D)

Hello man. You are tall. Thanks for coming.

RICHARD

I think you are the tallest man I have ever seem.

They all shake hands.

ALEX

Thanks for inviting me. Nice to meet you guys.

RICHARD

Did you have the time to read my e-mail?

ALEX

Yes I did.

RICHARD

What did you think?

ALEX

I thought it was good.

RICHARD

Thanks. We all contributed. The other members of our team are not here quite yet.

ALEX

OK. Just one thing.

They all sit at Richards dining room table.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I pay no fees.

AL

What?

ALEX

No fees. You guys need me more than I need you. You need a named NBA player. I know you are a start up and I am your first big name.

AL

We would have to clear that with the other members of our new company.

Its just the two of us, we need a consensus. We have six people in our group.

ALEX

I have decided to join based on your e-mail, but I have to be fee-free. Is that understood?

AL

Yes, sure.

RICHARD

Yes.

ALEX

Guys I have another appointment across town. Let me know OK?

RICHARD

Sure. We will.

Alex gets up and abruptly leaves the apartment. They all shake hands.

AL  
Thanks again for coming by, we will  
let you know.

Alex leaves.

RICHARD  
Man. I cannot believe that guy. He  
makes millions a year.

When will the guys be here?

AL  
I was expecting them to meet Alex.  
No chance of that happening now.  
There will be here in about 10  
minutes.

RICHARD  
What do you think?

AL  
No fees? We are banking on this guy  
drawing in other athletes and he is  
a known name but not really that  
big.

Lets get everybody together and  
make a decision.

The doorbell rings.

Cindy, Mary, Joe and John walk into Richard's apartment.

JOE  
Hello guys.

JOHN  
Where is Alex?

RICHARD  
He left a few minutes ago.

JOHN  
Why?

RICHARD  
He threw and ultimatum at us.

MARY  
Let me guess. He wants our services  
to be free.



AL

How did you know?.

MARY

I have been down this getting the whale to join our company road already.

AL

How did it work out?

MARY

It didn't. We cannot have a client dictate our fees, because he knows we need him.

The word will get out that he is paying nothing and other important clients will want the same or a big reduction.

OLIVIA

Then we have no business. When our clients dictate our fees, then that is the very definition of no business.

MARY

This decision, is not an option. It will ruin us.

JOHN

So now what?

MARY

Lets have a meeting. Lets decide where we are. If this is not working out, then we will cut our losses and terminate this company.

OLIVIA

Before it has a chance to even start?

MARY

It happens all the time. We all knew this going in.

They all sit at Richard's dining room table.

MARY (CONT'D)

John and Joe. What is your status?

JOE

We have two possible clients.

MARY

What are the odds of them joining us.

JOE

Not getting a strong warm and fuzzy feeling.

MARY

John?

JOHN

Joe is right. Not warm enough. Only about 70 degrees.

MARY

Olivia and I have one who will join and two who are still not sure. I cannot promise that we can get more than just one.

JOHN

Important names?

MARY

All three are just unhappy clients of EZ, not big names. One is disgusted with how he has been treated. He is the strongest.

AL

Richard and I are about the same as Olivia and Mary. One strong, no big names and three others who are possible. Our big hope was Alex, and that is dead now.

MARY

Guys, after all these weeks now. I don't think we have enough to move forward. Hopefully we can get some of our retainer money back from the lawyers. Although in my experience with law firms, that is unlikely.

OLIVIA

So we are giving up?

MARY

There are not enough clients willing to give us a shot.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

We lost both of our whales. I do not see a way through all of this.

The phone rings.

Richard answers his phone.

RICHARD

Yes. Yes this is he. James. Thanks for calling. Yes. Alex was just here. Yes sir.

We were discussing the no fee issue here with all the principals. Yes right now. I am happy to hear that. Thanks man.

That is very generous. Right away? Yes we are ready. Thank you! Thanks for the call man! We appreciate that. Thanks.

JOHN

James Johnson?

OLIVIA

The baseball playing whale?

RICHARD

He said that he spoke with Alex, did not like that he asked for a no fee deal and he agreed to be our whale.

They all cheer and high five.

MARY

I think we might be saved. I think this is our way in. I would have bet the farm that this was a lost cause.

AL

I always knew that guy would come through in some way. He is a great guy.

MARY

Lets continue with trying to get those other clients to join.

JOE

This hopefully should be enough to get us moving.

MARY

Great day everyone. Thank you!  
Thank you Al and Richard. Your  
contacts saved the day.

But we are not out of the woods  
yet.

We have another group meeting with  
the lawyers in 2 days. Lets all  
bring this together then.

JOE

What if we need more time?

MARY

Let Olivia or I know and we will  
move up the lawyer meeting. It is  
essential that they know that we  
are ready with something real. A  
company that can make money day  
one. With signed client contracts.

They all stand and join hands.

**INT. LAW OFFICES OF REYNOLD'S AND REYNOLDS DAY.**

Conference Room D.

4 Days later.

Steve and Jimmy greet Cindy, Olivia, Joe, John, Al and  
Richard.

STEVE

We hear there is some very  
promising news.

MARY

We think we have James Johnson. He  
has not signed yet, but all the  
indications are that he will.

STEVE

Nothing is real until they sign.  
When will he sign?

MARY

He said, day after tomorrow.

STEVE

Which is three days before your first month and when we will have to close down these temporary offices.

MARY

That is correct.

JIMMY

What else do you have?

JOHN

We have 3 other former EZ clients who have agreed to join and they have also not signed yet.

JIMMY

Why is it so hard for you guys to get a client to sign? Maybe 3 or 4 after almost a month? Still nobody has signed?

MARY

We are hoping that James joining will be the push we need.

STEVE

Lets all meet again the day after James signs. Otherwise this company will not be viable with only 3 maybe clients.

We will have to shut this down. You had 30 days, this is not looking like it is going to work.

JOE

When James signs we will get others to follow.

STEVE

Do you know that for sure?

JOE

Nobody can know something like this for sure.

STEVE

As your lawyer. Lets give this 3 more days. If James signs and at least 2 others agree to be clients then we are OK. For now.

(MORE)

STEVE (CONT'D)

Otherwise I would advise all of you to shut this down. You all have to make a living and right now you are making no income. You all need time to get new jobs.

Everybody knows that having a big gap in a resume is never a good thing.

JIMMY

As far as our retainer, we will be able to refund you half of this - only because Richard is a family member.

MARY

Thank you Jimmy.

STEVE

Our next meeting is in four days. I hope with 3 to 4 signed contracts and the signed whale.

MARY

OK.

All six stand up shake hands and high five.

STEVE

No matter how this turns out. It has been an honor and a privilege meeting all of you.

RICHARD

You as well.

MARY

Thank you for your help during this process.

OLIVIA

Yes, thank you Steve.

STEVE

You are all welcome.

JIMMY

Good luck to all of you. It has been a privilege.

Steve and Jimmy leave the conference room.

MARY

Well this is it. The crossroads. We need the whale, and at least three new clients to go another month. Even with the whale, there are no guarantees.

JOHN

Regardless of what happens, we all tried our best. I always wanted to have my own business or be part of a startup.

JOE

Same here.

AL

Agreed.

RICHARD

The same.

MARY

We have four days before our meeting back here. Lets get on the phones and get things moving.

Tonight we have to meet with James and get him to sign with us. Without him, this entire business will die before it even starts.

JOE

Once we have him signed then we can call all of the other possible clients who are on the fence.

MARY

Once again Richard. Your apartment?

RICHARD

You got it. 7 PM?

MARY

Lets have everybody there. He has to know what we are all serious about this business.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT. - NIGHT.**

Several hours later. 7:20 PM Richards Dallas apartment.

Olivia, Mary, Joe, John, Richard and Al are all in Richards living room drinking coffee.

JOHN

Let me guess. It probably not a good sign that he is 20 minutes late. We said 7 PM.

OLIVIA

I agree this is rather rude. Hopefully he will come through and finally sign with us.

Joe and Al are looking out the window.

AL

I see no cars in the parking lot.

JOE

That might be something. It looks like an expensive SUV. Richard does James drive an expensive black SUV?

RICHARD

I honestly do not know.

AL

Shit that is not him. He is now 25 minutes late.

Al looks at his watch in disgust.

MARY

Being upset and panicky will ultimately mean that our meeting tonight will not go well.

AL

Why the hell would someone say they want to join our company and not sign after all this time?

MARY

If you are in this state when James arrives. Then you will have to leave. We are all nervous and upset about the status of our venture. We must keep our cool or we have no chance.

JOHN

He has arrived. Just got out of his car.

AL

Good. Finally. 25 minutes late.



MARY

Lets all calm down. Friendly and calm. Al, if you want to drink something like Vodka. Now might be the right time.

AL

I already did and I am still a wreck.

The door bell rings.

Richard answers.

RICHARD

Hello James! Glad you could make it.

JAMES

Horrendous traffic tonight. Some kind of an accident off Route 26.

RICHARD

No worries man. Nice to see you again. Have a seat. I am blessed with a large dining room table.

They all sit around a very large dining room table.

MARY

Nice to meet you for the first time James. I am Mary Anderson.

JAMES

Hello. Nice to meet you.

OLIVIA

I am Olivia Henderson.

James stands to shake Olivia's hand.

JAMES

Nice to meet you.

OLIVIA

You too.

MARY

As Richard mentioned over the phone. This is signing night.

JAMES

Signing night?

MARY

Yes, Richard told you that you will be signing the startup contract with us tonight.

RICHARD

Mary. I did not actually put it in those words.

MARY

What did you say to James?

RICHARD

We wanted a meeting to discuss the future.

Mary gives Richard a cross look.

MARY

James. We need to make this all legal. We need a signed contract to establish an account for you and move your money to our client portal, which will be Fidelity Investments.

RICHARD

Fidelity is the best James.

JAMES

I have heard that for many years. Their website is the best.

MARY

We will manage your money for the long term, making sure you will retire with no worries. You will never have to work again, as long as you follow our financial advice.

JAMES

Given that I am the most famous guy you have so far. Will I be given any incentive to join?

MARY

What do you mean?

JAMES

Reduced fees. No fees?

MARY

We had this discussion the last time with Alex. Our answer was no.

(MORE)

MARY (CONT'D)

We cannot offer a deal like this to anyone.

JAMES

I would keep it confidential.

MARY

I am sure you would, but information like this always gets out. If that happens then our fee structure will collapse and so will this company.

JOHN

Our understanding is that Alex talked to you after asking for no fees and that is when you stepped in, when you believed this was not appropriate. What changed?

JAMES

I thought about it for a few days. I changed my mind.

RICHARD

From other players I know in the NBA who know you. This comes as a surprise.

MARY

Its all irrelevant. We will not offer any special fee structures based on the current fame or social media following of any athlete we take on. It is out of the question.

JAMES

Can I think about this for a few days?

MARY

No. We have to have a signed contract tonight or we will find someone else.

JAMES

You don't have anyone else?

MARY

How do you know?

JAMES

I have my sources.

Mary stands up and offers her hand.

MARY

James. It was great to meet you.  
Good luck with your current firm.  
This is not going to work out.

JAMES

OK.

James shakes hands with Mary and stands up to leave.

Olivia whispers to Mary

OLIVIA

Are we sure about this?

MARY

Yes.

James leaves the apartment.

MARY (CONT'D)

Guys, most likely this is when we  
all part ways and cut our losses.  
I knew this was going to be hard.  
We all have to start to think about  
new jobs. We have been unemployed  
for about 3 months now.

AL

We have to know when its time to  
get out. I think this is it. This  
has been nothing but nos and bad  
people.

RICHARD

Man. I thought we were there. We  
were so close.

JOHN

Just when things seem to be going  
great. The floor drops from  
underneath and its game over.

I cannot believe that this has  
died, because of two jerks who are  
already multi-millionaires and they  
want free financial advice?

RICHARD

It really makes no sense. These two  
guys are rich.

(MORE)

RICHARD (CONT'D)

Why do they care about end of year  
or quarterly fees?

JOE

I agree. This does not make much  
sense.

JOHN

Do you guys think something else is  
going on here?

JOE

EZ?

JOHN

You think they have messed this up?

JOE

They would have to have some  
leverage over James and Alex?

MARY

How insane would this be if it is  
true? They screw us around with  
possible big name athletes who have  
no intentions of signing with us?  
Just to teach us some kind of a  
lesson? To try and frustrate us  
into giving up on our new company?

RICHARD

We all know there some real lowlife  
running the show at EZ. However,  
this is crazy even for them. How  
the hell do we find out what the  
hell is going on here?

OLIVIA

I have a contact there. I will call  
her.

RICHARD

When?

OLIVIA

First thing tomorrow morning.

JOE

We could just be way too paranoid.  
This will all finally fail because  
of the greed of two athletes who  
are already rich.

MARY

The more I think about this, this no fees might be something they would pull to frustrate us into giving up.

Having the six of us get our hopes up and they pull the rug out from under us when we think we are about to be successful with our new company.

Olivia, how good is your contact at EZ?

OLIVIA

She is very good. She knows just about everything that is going on there.

MARY

As soon as you can contact her, try and find out what is going on. Find out about the merger, how well that is going.

OLIVIA

I will let you guys know at our next and possibly last meeting.

JOE

Try and find out if we still may be shot by a Mafia guy.

Some laugh.

MARY

Not something to make light of, considering some EZ criminals that we know are working there.

This potential threat maybe not be removed just because we have probably failed as a company.

Olivia, as soon as you find out what kind of a scam we might be part of, we will call another meeting.

They all stand and shake hands.

JOHN

This is not looking good, but I for one have not given up all hope. Remember we have Olivia and her legal leverage over EZ.

MARY

I have not forgotten about that.

OLIVIA

If I can find out what the hell is going on, we will decide if and when we can pull out our legal card.

JOHN

Lets meet again here, in 2 days or sooner if Olivia finds out something significant.

**INT. OLIVIA HENDERSON'S APARTMENT - DAY.**

Outskirts of Dallas Texas. 10 AM. The next morning.

Olivia gets a call on her cell phone.

The call is from BETH TIMMONS, 52, brunette. A long time EZ senior secretary.

OLIVIA

Beth. How are you? Thank you for getting back to me.

BETH

To be honest. I almost didn't.

OLIVIA

Why not?

BETH

I am afraid of some of these people Olivia.

Possible Mafia connections because of illegal gambling, paying off players.

OLIVIA

I would be nervous myself. Are you able to tell me anything? If you are too scared, that is OK. But you know that nobody will ever find out we talked.

BETH

That is unless somehow they are bugging my apartment or my phone. Even though I had it checked a month ago.

OLIVIA

Me too. You never can be too careful.

BETH

Your suspicions are correct. Both Alex and James are potential suspects in throwing NBA games to give gamblers an unfair advantage.

EZ told them they would help them from the FBI if they cooperated.

OLIVIA

You mean that whole thing about them being interested in joining and then asking for no fees was a scam?

BETH

It was meant to frustrate you guys and stop you from making progress by signing a named player.

OLIVIA

Well at least we know we are not paranoid. What a sick thing to do.

BETH

They would do almost anything to stop you guys from starting a competing company.

OLIVIA

Including shooting one or all of us?

BETH

That I cannot say. Over the last 20 years I have heard some criminal stories about the higher ups and the CEO.

People like that, sometimes get to be super rich and successful for both good and bad reasons.



OLIVIA

What have you heard about our company?

BETH

You already know that they hate that you six have started a new firm to compete against them.

OLIVIA

That is no surprise. Especially considering this ongoing merger.

BETH

Anything beyond James and Alex. I do not know. Its a miracle that I heard about this.

I was in the ladies room and two women were talking and I overheard.

OLIVIA

What do you think they might do?

BETH

Actually (a beat). They might do anything.

OLIVIA

Have you heard about any possible criminal connections?

BETH

I have do direct knowledge of that, which is a good thing because I would be looking over my shoulder.

OLIVIA

It sounds like you are saying that one of us in our company could be shot?

BETH

I have no direct knowledge of that ever happening to anyone in the past or any plot involving someone getting shot.

OLIVIA

What about indirect knowledge?

BETH

Olivia. People talk. Behind all sports betting there is always, the criminal element.

OLIVIA

In some earlier trip to the ladies room. Someone may have said the word murder?

BETH

I will not confirm or deny I ever heard that.

OLIVIA

This looks like this is all the progress I will be making with you tonight. I will talk to my colleagues.

BETH

Olivia, I would consider giving this up. Its you six against a large corporation and potentially dangerous people.

OLIVIA

After the latest disappointment, with James and Alex, is not looking good regardless of the dangerous people.

We are all proud that we tried. We gave it a good shot. Looks like it was the wrong situation for us.

BETH

I have to leave now. Good hearing from you again. Hopefully we can have lunch one day soon.

OLIVIA

I would like that. Bye for now Beth.

BETH

Bye.

**INT. RICHARD'S APARTMENT - NIGHT.**

4 Hours later. Olivia, Mary, Al, Richard, Joe and John all arrive for the meeting.

MARY

Olivia. Thanks for calling this meeting. I am afraid to ask you what you found out.

OLIVIA

Our crazy suspicions are true. My contact heard two women in the ladies room.

MARY

James and Alex?

OLIVIA

They forced them to run this scam on us, because they are suspects in a FBI sports gambling investigation.

JOHN

The upside is that I feel better than before about leaving EZ.

OLIVIA

It was a way to discourage us with starting our new company.

JOE

I for one am discouraged.

AL

So what does this mean? We just walk away and give up?

MARY

What about the Mafia connection?

OLIVIA

She said she could not confirm or deny.

MARY

That is not a warm cozy answer to my question.

RICHARD

Now that we are walking away, what difference does that make. Lets just call it a night and move on with our careers as employees

MARY

Have we as a group of six hard working ambitious and proud people decided to walk away? We are all sure that we are going to give this up?

RICHARD

There does not seem to be anything left to pursue.

JOE

We have 3 maybe 4 unhappy EZ clients who are close to joining.

OLIVIA

The lawyer told us, that 3 or 4 is not enough with no whale.

MARY

We are almost two months into this. It takes time to build a new client base. Right now, I am so angry about what EZ did, that a good part of me wants some revenge.

RICHARD

Revenge how?

MARY

I don't know. We still have Olivia's sexual harassment card.

RICHARD

Even threatening that might be risky considering the criminals involved. Is it worth the risk? What do we gain?

MARY

Some leverage. For them to leave us alone. I am not a quitter. I still believe in this company and the six talented people in this room. We cannot let a few lowlife ruin our potential.

AL

They are big, and we are small. What the hell can we do?

MARY

I propose we put our heads together and try to figure this out.

RICHARD

James and Alex. They have to hate EZ. Talk to them, see if there is any kind of an idea there. EZ does not know yet what we know. The element of surprise is on our side.

MARY

We have to tread very lightly. None of us are sure about the level of criminality.

JOHN

We might be able to use Olivia's legal issues. Once we find out what we are dealing with.

RICHARD

How the hell do we proceed?

MARY

We all have the right to start our own company. Without the threats and tricks of criminals who seek to ruin our ambitions because of their own greed.

JOE

Could not have said that any better. What they tried to do is outrageous.

All six of us now have to stand up for ourselves. I believe it is worth the risk.

AL

So do I. Even at the risk of being shot in the face.

JOHN

Well said Joe. I am in.

RICHARD

I am in.

OLIVIA

You all know I am in.

MARY

Looks like we are all in. With no defined idea or plan on how to proceed.

JOE

Who will call James and Alex?

AL

I will do that. I have a good relationship with both of them.

MARY

Try and appeal to their sense of humanity.

JOE

Or threaten them with legal action.

OLIVIA

What do we have on them? Only the overheard comment about a possible illegal insider gambling. We have no proof.

MARY

Olivia, your contact. Did you ask her about EZ and gambling, involving any other athletes?

OLIVIA

She only confirmed James and Alex. If there are others involved, I will have to call her again. She is already afraid to talk to me.

MARY

Right now we are at our last gasp of air. Unless someone else has another idea.

JOHN

We have to find a client of EZ who is an athlete who was coerced by them to gamble on an actual game.

MARY

If we go against them with only Olivia's possible lawsuit, then we might not have enough leverage to get them to leave us alone.

RICHARD

Lets call the lawyers. See what they think.

OLIVIA

Could they know about this scam that was played on us from the beginning? Could they be involved with helping EZ?

MARY

Anything is possible. They are lawyers. Money is always first with people like this. However, it does not seem that they are involved with this scam with James and Alex.

JOE

Why not?

MARY

Just an instinct. Jimmy and Steve did not steer us to those two athletes. Otherwise I would say they are involved. It seems too far fetched.

JOE

I say we walk into the EZ offices and confront the CEO and whoever is in the office with him. If we have to we can spring Olivia's sexual harassment issue lawsuit immediately.

MARY

A risky move.

JOE

From my perspective. I think its the only move we have left. As you said, all of us have the right to pursue our own business.

MARY

You guys want to vote on this? All six of us just force ourselves into the office of the CEO one day. All our cards on the table.

JOHN

You have my vote.

AL

I am in.

RICHARD

We have nothing to lose.

OLIVIA

I don't see any other viable idea at this point.

JOE

You all know I am in.

MARY

OK. Tomorrow morning at 9 AM. First we have to find out where David Walker will be at 9 AM tomorrow morning.

The plan will be. Either leave us alone or we will use Olivia's sexual harassment case along with her video and documented proof. We are not going to give this up without a final fight!

They all hold hands and high five.

**INT. OFFICES OF EZ. DALLAS TEXAS - DAY.**

One days later.

Olivia, Mary, Al, Richard, Joe and John walk into the main lobby of EZ. They are greeted by the receptionist, LARA BARNES, 30, blonde, 5'5.

LARA

Hello. Can I help you?

MARY

We have a meeting with the CEO, David Walker.

LARA

I am sorry, David has no meetings scheduled this morning.

MARY

No problem. We are going in anyway.

They all walk into the main building

LARA

Hey! You cannot go in there. Security! Security!

Joe and John lead the way, into the main office CEO, David Walker. And barge into his office.



JOHN

Hello!

DAVID

By all means, just barge your way in! Who the hell are you people?

Mary and Olivia sit in chairs in front of David's desk. Richard, Al, Joe and John sit on a couch behind them.

OLIVIA

Enough bullshit. You know who the hell we all are.

DAVID

What the hell do you want?

MARY

We want you to leave us the hell alone, to pursue our American dream of starting our own company.

DAVID

What the fuck are you talking about?

OLIVIA

More bullshit.

MARY

That garbage you pulled with James and Alex.

DAVID

What garbage?

OLIVIA

More lies.

Two security guards rush into David's office.

DAVID

Guys, its OK. I will take care of this?

GUARD #1

Are you sure sir?

DAVID

Yes.

GUARD #2

We will wait outside OK?

DAVID

OK.

The two security guards leave and wait outside David's office door.

DAVID (CONT'D)

You guys are lucky that I have a clean schedule today.

OLIVIA

Clean from what? Screwing over other people?

DAVID

I never screwed anybody over in my life.

MARY

We have it from a very good source that you coerced James Johnson and Alex Martin to try and scam us.

DAVID

I have no idea what you are talking about.

MARY

Olivia, its time.

OLIVIA

We have proof through our FBI contacts that you coerced Alex and James to run this scam on us. And there might be several other athletes involved.

DAVID

What proof?

OLIVIA

Do you know about my sexual harassment charges?

DAVID

What?

OLIVIA

About a year ago, I was harassed by one of your Vice Presidents.

DAVID

Who?

OLIVIA

Not your business now. But we will sue if we have to.

DAVID

You have proof of that too?

MARY

What do you think?

DAVID

What do you people want?

MARY

What I said from the beginning. The six of us want to start our own company. This new company is in the same industry as EZ and the company you are merging with.

We want to be left alone. We are Americans pursuing our American dream.

DAVID

Or else?

OLIVIA

Sexual harassment charges come out against your company involving me and proof including witnesses, audio and even video. Then we get the FBI involved with the sports gambling issue.

DAVID

And?

MARY

You provide us with one of your whales. One of your most famous client athletes.

DAVID

What do I get?

OLIVIA

We will sign a no prosecution agreement and delete all evidence.

DAVID

How would you prove all the evidence is gone?

OLIVIA

We have two tech guys in our group.  
Joe and John. They will provide you  
all the guaranteed proof you need.

Joe and John sarcastically wave at David.

OLIVIA (CONT'D)

They will provide all the proof you  
would ever need.

DAVID

Do you have a whale in mind?

OLIVIA

Anybody in your top 10. It doesn't  
matter.

MARY

We reserve the right to review the  
list of candidates and make a group  
decision.

DAVID

So I am just going to lay down now,  
and give you everything you want?

RICHARD

You are required to be a human  
being and leave us the fuck alone.

AL

The other choice is to call our  
bluff. If you want a fight. You  
have one.

DAVID

I will have to consider all of this  
and get back to you.

MARY

You have one day. We have to make  
a decision on our company. We don't  
have days and weeks.

DAVID

I will get back to you.

MARY

When?

DAVID

In one day. Now can you all just please leave, or I will call in security again to force you to leave.

They all get up and leave David's office.

David picks up his desk phone after the group leaves his office.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Raymond. Yes. Give me Raymond.

RAYMOND

Ya?

DAVID

This is Walker.

RAYMOND

Ya?

DAVID

That conversation from last time? I want all six.

RAYMOND

So you want all six of them killed now?

DAVID

Yes.

RAYMOND

How?

DAVID

Shot. Strangled. Drowned. Poisoned. However you guys take care of business.

RAYMOND

Why all six?

DAVID

Because that is what I want.

RAYMOND

That is a half million dollar job, at least.

DAVID  
I am good for the money. You  
fucking know that.

RAYMOND  
When?

DAVID  
By the end of the week.

RAYMOND  
OK. Its half now, through the  
account number I gave you. The  
other half when they are all dead.

DAVID  
I have the number.

RAYMOND  
OK.

DAVID  
Thanks.

RAYMOND  
Bye.

DAVID  
Bye.

Five minutes later. Olivia, Mary, Al, John, Joe and Richard  
walk into David's office followed by two FBI agents.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Don't you assholes ever fucking  
knock? Where the hell is security?

AGENT #1  
Are you David Walker?

DAVID  
Why? What you guys doing here  
again?

AGENT #2  
Are you David Walker sir?

DAVID  
Yes. Why?

AGENT #2  
You are under arrest for attempted  
murder. We have just recorded your  
conversation with Raymond Cagnoni.  
(MORE)

AGENT #2 (CONT'D)

He has been under surveillance for about 2 years.

AGENT #1

Stand up sir.

DAVID

Why? Are you arresting me?

AGENT #1

Attempted murder of six people is a federal crime sir. You are under arrest. Put your hands behind your back.

Mary, Richard, Al, Joe, John and Olivia are smiling as David is handcuffed.

MARY

Sometimes in this life. Too rarely. Justice is served. You just hired someone to kill all six of us you son of a bitch.

RICHARD

Time to lawyer up asshole.

David is escorted out of his office. He stands eye to eye with Mary.

DAVID

This is not over bitch.

MARY

It is for you asshole. I don't take kindly to anyone trying to ruin my life or trying to take my life. This is a final goodbye. I have no plans to visit you in prison.

David is escorted out of the office.

JOE

Now what?

OLIVIA

I think we try to start our own business. Our fair shot at the American dream.

MARY

Could not have said it better myself.

They all stand and raise hands, hug and high five.

**THE END**

Corporate Cruelty