PREVIEW: THE DEADLINE

By

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Cast of Characters

Ryan: Realistic former Marketing Manager
Chris: Con artist friend of Ryan
Marc: Enthusiastic friend of Ryan
Amanda: Optimistic friend of Ryan
J.T.: Smart but inexperienced friend of Ryan
Adam: CEO of Green Boxes
Kim: Determined Marketing Manager

Synopsis

After another failed marketing campaign, the CEO of Green Boxes has to find someone that can create a new slogan for the company before a commercial is shot the next day. He has the former marketing manager and the current marketing manager help him in his search, which doesn't prove to be as easy as he thinks.

Set

Set in Green Boxes headquarters the day before a commercial is shot, the CEO has to find a new slogan for the company before the day is done in order to make the commercial on time, which is more challenging than it seems.

Note

The set is comprised of two rooms right next to each other, a conference room with chairs and a large table, and an office with a desk, a computer, and a chair.

Lights up on an office. It looks like the typical CEO's office in a movie. A man is sitting in a chair. There is a man sitting opposite him.

Props (7)

TV
Office supplies
various television equipment (lights, camera, etc.)
tables
banners/posters
a computer
chairs

Adam

Do you realize that if this ad campaign fails, if our sales went down too much last quarter, you are out and Kim is the new marketing director for Green Boxes?

Ryan

Yes! I know! You've only told me every time we've done this for the past 4 months!

Adam

I can't sugarcoat this situation any longer, Ryan. Sales have been down for months now. We're dangerously close to bankruptcy. If I didn't have Kim, this company would've been history already. Tomorrow is the day we shoot our new commercial. I can't let it go through unless we see some results.

Ryan

At least give me one more chance!

Adam

Look, you've been here for 15 years. You're the best marketing director this company has ever had. But at some point, the wheels start to fall off. Things aren't as good as they used to be. People start viewing this company as a nostalgia act. I'm sorry to say that we are at this point.

Ryan

Adam, listen to me. I've worked hard on this ad campaign because I know my job has been on the line for months now. I really hope this is a hit.

Adam

Let's hope so too. For the sake of the company and my reputation.

RYAN leaves. KIM enters.

Adam

There she is! The assistant marketing director here to hopefully celebrate our success.

Kim

There's been a ton of publicity since last quarter began. A ton of people viewed our latest ad campaign, which I think is amazing.

Adam

It's been a month since our new advertising campaign came out for Green Boxes. Was it you or Ryan who came up with the slogan "Storing Won't Be Boring"?

Kim

It was Ryan.

Adam

You had some ideas, didn't you?

Kim

Yeah, but they weren't as good as the one he picked out and ultimately used. He was really enthusiastic about using this one, so I went with it.

Adam

I've known Ryan for years. If there's anything I know, it's that he's great for picking slogans and advertising campaigns. But I want to let you in on a little secret.

Kim

Um, OK?

ADAM leans in.

Adam

Our sales have been down for months now. The message isn't getting through to the people.

Kim

What do you mean?

Adam

I might have to let Ryan go.

Kim

No! You can't do that. Ryan's worked so hard over the past year. You can't just fire him!

Adam

I know what you're thinking. Even the best workers have bad days. But the thing is, he's been in a slump for way too long and there's been more bad days than good. I want to believe that he has good ideas left in him, but I'm honestly not seeing it. For the sake of saving this company, it might have to come to fruition.

Kim

I guess you're right.

Adam

I really hope sales are up, though. We need this company to bounce back. It would be a great morale booster for the rest of the employees!

Kim

Most definitely. Isn't tomorrow the day that the new commercial is being shot?

Adam

Yes it is. That's something I want to talk to you about. If I fire Ryan, we're going to have to pick the new assistant marketing director in time for the new commercial tomorrow. That means you're going to become the new marketing director. I hope you can handle this.

Kim

Wait. I'm going to be the next marketing director if Ryan fails?

Adam

Yes, that's what I said.

Kim

So if he gets fired, I'm suddenly thrown into the position?

Adam

Why are you worried? You've been here for years training under Ryan. When the time comes, either when he gets fired or leaves, you got this.

Kim

I hope so.

Adam

I believe in you. Now go get ready for the quarterly report reveal.

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on a conference room with everyone in it. In front of them is a TV and an envelope on the table.

Adam

Should we watch the commercial to bring us good luck?

Ryan

Absolutely. This is bound to be the best commercial ever.

Kim

Let's do this!

KIM turns the TV on, while RYAN puts in a disc. When the disk is loaded, he presses play. ADAM appears on screen holding a Green Box.

Adam

Do you ever find yourself struggling with ordinary boxes when storing things? Try Green Boxes! Green Boxes are an environmentally friendly alternative to regular storage boxes. They can be recyclable and reusable! Green Boxes - Where Storing Won't Be Boring!

KIM and RYAN clap after the commercial ends. ADAM smiles and pats both of them on the back.

Ryan

Did you like it?

Adam

I'll admit it. I did.

Kim

That's great.

Ryan

I hope sales are up in that case. We really need that jolt.

Kim

I think everyone needs that boost of energy. This year hasn't exactly gone according to plan.

Ryan

We'll be the ones to fix it. I know it!

Adam

Now that we've seen this commercial, Kim, Ryan, I have something to say to the both of you.

Kim

What is it?

Adam

This is a make or break moment for this company. We all know that our sales haven't been the best for the past couple of months. We should be in bankruptcy right now, but we're not.

Ryan

We apologize.

Adam

I honestly hope that for the two of you, this ad campaign was a success. The reason being that I know that you two have worked hard. Not only on this ad campaign, but for every one of the ad campaigns this company has put out for the last 10 years.

Kim

It's been a pleasure working with the man beside me.

Ryan

I agree. Kim's been such a big help at so many pivotal times that I wouldn't know what to do without her.

Adam

But at some point, the fairy tale has to end and we need to get real. What you two, especially you Ryan since you're the head marketing manager, have put out the past couple years simply isn't good enough.

Ryan

We're sorry. We'll do better next time.

Adam

Better next time? Are you serious? This isn't a competition series. This is business! I've been holding this anger in for months. Something has to change! If we fail this time, Ryan, you're done.

Kim

Adam, he's worked hard!

Ryan

Listen to Kim!

Kim

After the last couple of ad campaigns that failed, we need this to go right!

Ryan

The slogan and the advertising were good,

Adam

But the sales were trash, Ryan. Why buy a product that puts out subpar and cheap commercials?

Ryan

That shouldn't matter.

Adam

Well it does. You are the marketing director of this company! You should know this!

Ryan

You do have a point.

Adam

The product and the ad campaign have to mesh together. They have to both create something memorable.

ADAM mimes crushing a can with his bare hands.

Ryan

You've seen our work for the latest ad campaign. You've even said that it's some of the best things we've come up with.

Kim

Why the doubt now?

Adam

Look. I'm sorry for being emotional. I'm also sorry for dragging Kim into all this mess. But the thing is, I know you are capable of so much more. I'm not really angry, but I'm disappointed. I expect better from you. If our sales go down this time, then I'm going to have to let you go. I have to try and salvage this company somehow. If it means letting a good friend go, then that's what I'm going to have to do. This isn't personal, it's business.

Ryan

I love working at this company. Canning me the day before the new commercial shoot doesn't make sense!

Kim

I actually agree with him. That's not good business and you know it, Adam.

Ryan

Are we going to read the sales report?

Adam

Actually, I've changed my mind. I'd rather open it in private. I want to contain my emotions and not let everything spill out.

Ryan

We understand.

KIM and RYAN exit. Adam sits down in a chair, opens the envelope, and reads the piece of paper inside it.

Adam

Are you serious?

ADAM takes the paper and flings it across the room. He opens the door.

Adam

I need Ryan in the conference room NOW!

RYAN enter the conference room and sit down across from ADAM.

Ryan

So I see you have this quarter's sales report right next to you. I really hope you have good news to tell me. I really need it right now.

ADAM buries his hands in his head and shakes it.

Adam

I have to tell you something.

Ryan

Something good?

Adam

Nope. It isn't something good.

RYAN starts to get up from his chair.

Adam

Where are you going?

Ryan

I'm fired, aren't I?

Adam

Sit down right now!

Ryan

Why should I?

Adam

As your boss, I want to let you go right now. But as your friend, I want you to come back here so you can fully understand why I'm furious right now.

Adam

As you wish.

RYAN sits back down in his chair.

Adam

Let me make one thing clear here....

ADAM picks up the paper and slams it onto the desk in front of RYAN.

Adam

You see this? READ IT!

Ryan

Sales in Q1 - $5,381, Sales in Q2 - $4,842.90

Adam

We lost 10% last quarter in sales!

Ryan

Can't I make it up to you? I guarantee you that I can improve this company's advertising somehow. Besides, it's just a 10% loss in sales! It's not like we lost thousands of dollars or anything like that.

ADAM gets visibly angrier and rips the paper in half.

Adam

What did you just say?

Ryan

We only lost 10% in sales. You need to calm down.

Adam

You don't get it, do you? A LOSS AT A TIME LIKE THIS IS BASICALLY A DEATH SENTENCE FOR THIS COMPANY! We're down to our last investor and half of our original stores have stopped carrying our products due to low sales. We're dangerously close to bankruptcy. Go back to your offices. I'll meet with you there in a minute.

RYAN stares at ADAM as he leave the conference room. KIM enters the conference room with an alarmed look on her face.

Kim

Are you good? I heard all of the yelling and I came to see what was wrong.

Adam

No, Kim, I'm not good. I can't deal with this anymore. I have to do something about this. It might not be popular with Ryan, but it's the best thing to do for this company.

Lights down on the conference room. Lights up on RYAN's office. He is sitting down. He has a giant rubber band ball and a laptop at his desk. He spins around in his chair and then sighs.

Ryan

I finally make something that could save this place, and Adam doesn't believe in me? What a joke.

ADAM enters RYAN's office with an insanely angry look on his face. He sits down at the desk and slams his hand on it.

Ryan

I'm sorry.

Adam

Why do you keep saying that like it's going to change anything? Do you think we're in a kid's movie? One little "I'm sorry" and everything is magically forgiven? Well I hate to tell you this, but life doesn't work like that! Sometimes you have to be the bad guy, and today, I'm the bad guy!

Ryan

Calm down, man! I honestly think you're really overreacting about this whole situation. How about we just go over what's going to happen tomorrow and figure all of this out later.

Adam

I will not calm down or forget about the state this company is currently is! Sales continuing to go lower is a major problem. I need to get that through your head one way or another.

Ryan

Sales didn't go down that much! Be reasonable.

ADAM closes his eyes, puts his fingers on them, and shakes his head. He then opens his eyes and takes a breath.

Adam

Then I'm going to have to ask you a question. How much money did we make last quarter?

Ryan

Around $5K?

Adam

Exactly. That's the problem.

Ryan

That's a tremendous amount of money for what we're producing.

Adam

We were making double that two years ago. We were making $10K a year! Life was good and this company was rolling in money. Now we barely break even! Don't you get that?

Ryan

Why all of the sudden are you so mad? Why bring this up now?

Adam

I look at the yearly sales chart and I see it going down. Combine that with the cost of production and that's a serious problem. I'm super close to declaring bankruptcy.

RYAN starts to pace around the room. His face turns from happiness to almost rage.

Ryan

You're canning me because of one ad campaign? An ad campaign that YOU personally starred in. Something that you wanted to do after you came up to me begging for a starring role.

Adam

Yes, you're right on that. I did want to be in your last ad campaign. But for two years, I've watched sales fall and us either barely break even or suffer a loss. I don't trust you to make a good ad campaign anymore. Kim has better ideas. I'm sorry.

Ryan

You're leaving everything up to Kim?

Adam

Yes, I am. I have two options. Option 1, I go with someone who I know has fresh ideas that can revitalize this company. Option 2, I stick with someone whom I've given chance after chance to with little improvement over the past couple of years. I'm really sorry, but Ryan, you're fired.

Ryan

You just gave away a good worker, Adam. I really hope you're happy.

ADAM gets up out of the chair and walks out of the office. RYAN slams his fist on the desk. KIM walks in.

Kim

Well today has been something.

Ryan

Totally

Kim

How did it go?

Ryan

It went horribly.

Kim

You got fired, didn't you?

Ryan

Yes, I unfortunately did. I'm out of a job.

Kim

That's terrible. I feel bad for you.

Ryan

Why do you feel bad for me?

Kim

I helped you out on all of these campaigns. Shouldn't I be getting partial blame?

Ryan

Nope

Kim

Nope?

Ryan

Kim, I get where you're coming from. But everything involving marketing and ad campaigns has to go through by me. The state of this company is my fault. I fully take responsibility.

Kim

But you shouldn't have to.

Ryan

I know, but that's how this type of job works.

Kim

I wonder who my replacement is going to be, given that I now have your job.

RYAN looks up at KIM and smiles widely.

Ryan

You're a genius!

Kim

What do you mean?

Ryan

I can bring in some people and then you and Adam can choose who to pick.

Kim

So we don't have to scramble for the rest of the day.

Ryan

We can do the work ourselves!

Kim

I really don't know if that's a good idea. He's pretty mad at you.

Ryan

I'll run it by him and see what he says. Go to his office and stall him.

Kim

I'll do just that. I trust you, Ryan.

Lights down on RYAN's office. Lights up on ADAM's office. KIM is standing next to ADAM.

Kim

You actually did it. You fired my best friend and a great employee. I can't believe it.

Adam

I had to. I think he's a great guy, but at some point you have to be the villain of the story. You have make some business decisions before personal ones.

Kim

Now I'm the new marketing director of Green Boxes.

Adam

Usually, I'd be happy. But I'm not. One more wrong move and we're history.

Kim

I know. Ryan helped shape this company into a powerhouse. Now we're barely relevant to anyone.

Adam

I'd honestly say just keep what we were going to film tomorrow, but it doesn't feel right to do that without him.

A knock is heard.

Kim

I'll get it.

ADAM opens the door and sees RYAN standing there. He enters the office and sits down in a chair in front of his desk.

Adam

No matter what you say, you're still fired.

Ryan

I know that. But I can help you.

Kim

Ryan talked to me about this after you left. I'm sure you'll like what he has to say.

Adam

Fine. But make it quick. We don't have all day.

Ryan

My graduating class from business school was super huge. I know some people that are either currently looking for work or are finishing up with super huge projects.

Adam

Your point being?

Ryan

I can help you find your next assistant marketing director.

Adam

What are you going to do?

Ryan

I'll leave you some contact information. Then you can call them and set up interviews later today.

Kim

Doesn't that sound like a great idea, Adam?

Adam

Absolutely not!

Ryan

Why?

Adam

We're holding our interviews today with qualified people only.

Ryan

You really want to stress yourself out? That doesn't seem like a great idea.

Kim

Just think about it for a while, OK? He does have a point.

ADAM gets up from his desk and sighs.

Adam

You don't get it, do you? THE COMMERCIAL SHOOT IS TOMORROW! You know, the one that the fate of this company is dependent on? We don't have time to conduct in-depth interviews with your friends! We need to get a new assistant marketing director now.

Ryan

I can help you!

Adam

Here's the thing. We're sort of in a time crunch here. We can't waste time with your friends.

Ryan

You don't know who's going to walk through the door if you hold an open search. Not one person could be the solution to your problem. That's why you need my friends! I can personally say that they're hard working and the right people for the job!

Adam

This is just a plot for you to get your job back, isn't it?

Ryan

Nope.

Adam

How do I know?

Ryan

I've never given you bad advice in the many years I've worked for you at this company. I won't start now. I want to see this company succeed as much as you do. Since it won't involve me, I want to see one of my friends in my place. Please, Adam. Trust me.

KIM goes to the corner of the office and motions for ADAM to join her.

Kim

Why don't you at least consider it?

Adam

If we had a week before our next deadline, I'd do it. I don't want one of his friends to be our downfall.

Kim

You've trusted him for 15 years! You said it yourself. It's not personal, it's business. Make a personal decision out there.

Adam

You know what? I'll go ahead and take his offer.

Kim

Let's do it.

ADAM and KIM sit back down at the table.

Adam

Kim and I just had a conversation. We both think the same thing. You make a very convincing argument.

Ryan

So I can give you some recommendations for the job?

Adam

Yes you can. I've known you for a long time. The least I can do is get a good parting gift in the form of one of your friends.

Ryan

Sounds like a plan. Was it hard to convince him, Kim?

Kim

Yes, but it was worth it. He realized how much you have done for this company. If anyone can gather worthy candidates in less than a day, it's you.

Adam

I agree.

RYAN starts to exit the conference room.

Adam

Don't leave yet! You have to be there when Kim and I evaluate your friends. Whatever our opinions are of them, you have to hear them.

Kim

I get to help?

Adam

Well you're the new marketing director, aren't you?

Kim

Yes, but I didn't think-

Adam

You're very important in all of this. You're going to be working with whoever wins later today.

Kim

You're right.

Ryan

Why should I stay? I just got fired, didn't I?

Adam

You know your friends better than anyone. I don't want to hire someone that you don't think is fit for the job for whatever reason. You know these people, not us. It's what's best for our current situation.

Ryan

That sounds reasonable.

Kim

Hopefully you'll give us someone who's easy to work with. These next couple hours are going to be busy!

Ryan

Trust me, you two. I have everything under control.

Lights down on the conference room. Lights up in front of RYAN's office. He's trying to open the door.

Ryan

Really? I must've left my keys in Adam's office.

KIM walks up to him.

Kim

Here's your keys. You left them.

Ryan

Thanks Kim.

RYAN walks in the door, leaving KIM standing outside his office.

Kim

Can I come in? I have an idea.

Ryan

Sure you can.

KIM walks into the office and sits down. RYAN sits down as well.

Kim

First off, I would like to say that I'm really sorry about what's happened today. You're an amazing guy who I'm really going to miss around the office.

Ryan

I'm going to miss you too. So what's the plan? Getting Adam donuts to cheer him up?

Kim

Something even better. Let's make the commercial ourselves!

Ryan

Look, Kim. I got fired earlier today. No one knows about this except for you and Adam. I'm already on the bottom of the totem pole. In about two hours, the whole company will know that I'm a laughing stock. I'd rather not ruin my reputation further just because you're going to miss me. I want to play it safe and let my friends do the work.

KIM sighs.

Kim

Hear me out. Please.

Ryan

Absolutely not.

KIM produces a poster from his briefcase. She stands it up on RYAN's desk. It reads "The Green Way of Boxing".

Ryan

You're not going to give up, aren't you?

Kim

We can show Adam that he made the wrong decision!

Ryan

What is there to show? I can't demand to get my job back! You're the new marketing director! Get it through your head that I'm done for! You're going to have to accept the fact that you're doing this without me from now on!

Kim

Just give me the camera. For a friend?

Ryan

Fine

RYAN produces a camera from his desk and gives it to KIM. She puts the poster on a stand. She reveals that the poster is just the first in a series of large posters also on the stand. RYAN gives a thumbs up and KIM hits play.

Ryan

(Fake enthusiastically) Boxing can be a chore. But it doesn't have to be. When you use simple cardboard boxes, you're using a box made from trees in the environment. But with Green Boxes, you're using a box made from compostable material. That means that trees can stay standing. We're saving trees one green box at a time!

KIM stops the camera. She smiles widely, gives RYAN a thumbs up, and puts the collection of posters on a chair.

Kim

Well, how do you like it?

Ryan

I like it, but I want to be honest with you. I'm your friend, but this changes nothing.

Kim

What do you mean?

Ryan

Adam wants someone new. They don't want me anymore.

Kim

Maybe a last minute change of heart will do them both good?

Ryan

Look, I admire your dedication. We've spent a ton of time together at this company over the years. But you can't change a set decision.

KIM and RYAN stand up. RYAN spins his chair. KIM taps her fingers.

Kim

At least it'll maybe convince Adam to stick with the material we have.

Ryan

Keep dreaming

KIM and RYAN sit back down.

Kim

Look. You're already on the outs, so can I present it to him?

Ryan

You want to make me look worse than I already am? Be my guest.

Kim

Trust me on this one.

Ryan

Fine. Just do what you did the last time. Act like nothing suspicious is going on.

Kim

Sounds like a plan.

Lights down on RYAN's office. Lights up on ADAM's office. KIM and ADAM are sitting next to each other.

Kim

I can't believe it. I get to be in the search process for my assistant! That never happens, does it?

Adam

Nope.

Kim

Then why now?

Adam

Kim, I know you. You're great. Hard worker, never late or slacking off. You're the perfect choice for marketing director. I need you because of the time constraint that we have. We need someone that you can get along with so everything goes right tomorrow at the commercial shoot.

Kim

That makes sense. Do you know if Ryan has chosen anyone to come in yet?

Adam

I'll give him 20 more minutes. He's probably still waiting for some responses from his friends.

A knock is heard at the door.

Adam

Who is it?

Ryan

It's your previous favorite person in the office!

Kim

Come in.

RYAN enters ADAM's office. He sits down in the chair in front of his desk.

Adam

Let me guess. You've already gotten a bunch of people through the door?

Ryan

No, but I do have a gift for you.

Kim

Ryan! It's not a gift!

Adam

You two seem conflicted.

Ryan

Kim wants one last chance to show you that I'm the right person for the job. I think she's crazy.

Kim

I'm not crazy. It's just that I don't want you to leave. We've worked so hard on so many different projects. I'm scared I'll fail.

Adam

Ryan, can you step out for a while?

Ryan

Sure

RYAN exits

Adam

Kim, what's going on?

Kim

I'm scared, Adam. What if I don't measure up to Ryan and his accomplishments? I don't want this company to go under solely because of me.

Adam

Is this why you've been talking to Ryan all day today? You feel like you're not going to be good enough?

Kim

I don't know what I'm going to do without him by my side. He says that I'll be fine but I'm not so sure.

Adam

Listen, Kim. I know you can do this. I'm always going to be there for you whenever you need me to be. I'm your boss. You'll be fine.

Kim

Promise?

Adam

Promise

Kim

Thanks, Adam. I'll go get Ryan.

KIM gets up and bangs on the door. RYAN comes back in and sits down.

Adam

Kim just told me what's been going on today.

Ryan

Adam, I'm-

Adam

I understand everything. I know Kim will do good for this company, exactly like you've told her.

Kim

Thanks so much.

Ryan

You're welcome.

Adam

So now that everything's cleared up, let's see that gift!

RYAN takes out the camera and gives it to ADAM. He presses play.

Ryan

(Fake enthusiastically) Boxing can be a chore. But it doesn't have to be. When you use simple cardboard boxes, you're using a box made from trees in the environment. But with Green Boxes, you're using a box made from compostable material. That means that trees can stay standing. We're saving trees one green box at a time!

ADAM claps but has a stoic look on his face. KIM gives RYAN a thumbs up.

Adam

Great job, but this changes nothing.

Ryan

I knew it.

Adam

We need big ideas and even bigger slogans. Something that will make people notice us! That's why I want your friends.

Kim

But the commercial shoot is tomorrow! Fire him then?

Adam

Sometimes you have to make sacrifices and make hard decisions. Look, I didn't want to fire you, but the sales charts justify it. I'm really sorry.

Ryan

At least I gave you a good parting gift!

Adam

I actually have a parting gift of my own to give you. I think you'll love it.

ADAM reaches under his desk and produces a picture. He gives it to RYAN.

Ryan

Is that-

Adam

Yes it is.

Ryan

The first day we started this company.

Adam

You know why I gave you this? Motivation. I'd hate for this company to be shut down due to poor mistakes on your part. After 15 years of collaboration, having it all end horribly isn't the way I want the legacy of Green Boxes to be preserved.

Ryan

Thank you so much.

Kim

Want to go to your car and start putting all of your things in there? I can help you carry all the heavy stuff you won't be able to carry on your own.

Ryan

Sounds like a plan.

KIM and RYAN step outside of ADAM's office. They high five each other.

Kim

So it's official then. You're done with this company.

Ryan

It's sad, but I know I can get some good candidates to hopefully work with you. They're all quality people.

Kim

Who do you think you'll call first?

Ryan

I've already made a call to someone who's great for the job.

Kim

It better be someone good.

Ryan

Here he is now!

A tall man with a 1950's style haircut and a leather jacket walks up to them. He shakes Kim's hand.

Chris

Hi, my name is Chris Appleton. I'm Ryan's friend from High School.

Kim

Hi Chris. I'm Kim, the new marketing manager of Green Boxes.

Chris

I've heard a lot about you over the years from him. You've really been there for him throughout the highs and the lows.

Kim

Yes I have. Which is why him leaving is so sad.

Chris

You'll get over it. It took me a while to get over the fact that him and I were heading off to different colleges. But we stayed in touch all these years!

Kim

Thanks so much.

CHRIS slaps Ryan on the back.

Chris

Hey Ryan! Long time no see.

Ryan

Same to you

Chris

I got the call a couple of minutes ago. I heard you were looking for some friends to pitch ad campaigns to your boss by the end of the day. Luckily, I was already in the area so here I am. I can make a pitch to the two of them!

Ryan

You serious?

Chris

I'm so serious right now. I'll rescue your company.

Ryan

Let's go back inside and meet with Adam. I'm sure he'll like you!

RYAN knocks on the door of ADAM's office.

Adam

Come in!

The three of them enter the office. CHRIS shakes ADAM's hand.

Adam

You're one of Ryan's friends, aren't you?

Chris

Yes I am. My name is Chris Appleton. I was one of his friends in High School. I heard you were talking to him about some friends giving you pitches.

Adam

Absolutely. I trust him.

Chris

I heard what happened earlier today. I feel bad, but I won't let you down.

Adam

Sounds good. However, you're going to have to give me something in return. How do I know you're really in it for the job and not as a simple favor for Ryan?

CHRIS produces his wallet from his pocket.

Chris

How about I make you a deal? My father runs Appleton's, the finest steak restaurant in town. How about I give you free food for a month in exchange for $200?

ADAM thinks for a moment.

Adam

I'm holding you to your word. Get your materials and head to the conference room.

Chris

I won't let any of you down

CHRIS walks out the door with a giant smile on his face.

Adam

Don't make me regret this.

Kim

You better know what you're doing. Adam really wants the person he hires to be amazing. I do too.

Ryan

Trust me. Chris is the real deal.

Adam

Let's head to the conference room.

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on the conference room. All except CHRIS are in there.

Ryan

He must have a lot of materials.

Adam

The more the better.

Kim

If he blows us away, we'll hire him on the spot.

Ryan

Excellent.

A knock is heard at the door. CHRIS has changed into a t-shirt and swimsuit. A look of anger washes over everyone's faces.

Amanda

WHERE'S YOUR PRESENTATION?

Chris

Not here. But I have my plane ticket to Jamaica with me.

Adam

Now we're done for!

Ryan

Thanks a lot, Chris.

Kim

Are you kidding me right now?

ADAM gets face to face with CHRIS.

Adam

I gave you $200! Where did it go?

Chris

I bought a plane ticket to Jamaica. I knew you three would be gullible and believe my perfectly crafted story. Well, the flight leaves in a half hour. I've got to run!

CHRIS runs out the door. ADAM goes after him. KIM and RYAN remain in the conference room.

Kim

Well we can think of this as a trial run, right?

Ryan

No. I'm done being optimistic. I'm leaving right now.

Kim

Don't say that. I still believe you can find the right people.

Ryan

Chris was my best friend back in the day! If he can't get the job done, who will? Let's face it. I should leave and let you and Adam do the search with your own people. I've embarrassed this company enough already today.

Kim

Everything will be fine. I believe in you.

ADAM reenters the conference room. He has a look of disbelief on his face.

Adam

I can't believe I lost $200.

Kim

Was he like this in High School?

Ryan

He was the guy who we could count on the most back then.

Adam

Well you certainly can't count on him now!

Ryan

If you're mad, I understand. If you want me to leave, I understand as well.

Adam

I'm still very mad. If we don't find someone today, we're going to have to delay our commercial shoot. But I know you. You would never purposely bring in horrible candidates for a position. If you are mad, it's understandable.

Ryan

I am mad! I thought I could trust Chris. I thought he could be the ticket to this company going back on top. But he deceived us and took advantage of us.

Adam

You better have someone else in mind. Otherwise, Kim and I will have to continue the search without you.

Ryan

3 of my friends are actually on their way here now.

Adam

Excellent. Now get out of the conference room before someone else tries to scam me out of my money.

Ryan

Understood

RYAN exits. ADAM and KIM sit down in their chairs.

Kim

This has to be a one time thing, right? I can't imagine Ryan not bringing in the right people for the job.

Adam

If there's one thing you and Ryan did right, it's that you two always worked hard and delivered on all of your promises to me. I am going to miss that.

Kim

Me too

Adam

Hopefully this new batch of people will be better than Chris.

Kim

They will. I know it.

A knock is heard.

Kim

Good news?

Adam

Let's hope so.

Kim

Come in!

RYAN enters

Adam

I can't believe you're back already.

Kim

Something's up. That must mean good news.

Adam

Are your friends here yet?

Ryan

No, but I have an idea that will impress them.

ADAM buries his hands in his face and sighs.

Adam

What is it?

Ryan

If you want to make it an official business meeting, leave the chair you're currently sitting in here when my friends come in. Kim and I gave it to you, remember?

Adam

No way!

Ryan

Are you afraid someone's going to steal it?

Adam

No, I'm afraid someone's going to damage it.

Ryan

What's the big deal?

Kim

I'm not going to lie, Adam. It is a nice chair.

ADAM gets visibly frustrated.

Adam

This chair was given to me by the two of you when we launched our first ad campaign. I'm not going to risk any damage to it!

Ryan

But you just said it was special.

Adam

That's why I want to keep it here! I don't want to ruin it.

Ryan

I can get you another one.

Adam

It cost nearly $1000 15 years ago. Who knows what it's worth now!

Kim

You sat in it during my interview, remember?

Adam

So? The chair is priceless!

Everyone stops speaking for 10 seconds.

Adam

Is that all you wanted to talk to me about? Bringing my chair to the interview?

Ryan

Yes it was. I wanted you to make a good impression for my friends. That's why I suggested it to you.

Adam

We will. A chair isn't going to change anything. Kim and I need to not lose our heads.

Ryan

Don't do what you did earlier today with me?

Adam

That was different and you know it

ADAM smiles.

Adam

You know what, Ryan? I have something to say to you.

Ryan

Anything!

Adam

If we somehow find the right person before the end of the day, not that there's any doubt about that since you know your friends better than we do, you can pick out a new chair for me.

Ryan

Are you serious?

Adam

Absolutely!

RYAN's phone rings. He picks it up.

Ryan

(On phone) You're here? The other two are here too? I'll ask him.

Adam

What do they need to know?

Ryan

Where should they go?

Adam

Let's clear out the conference room and have them meet in here to set up shop. Then they can come into my office for the meeting.

Ryan

Sounds like a plan *(On phone)* You three got that? See you in a few.

RYAN hangs up.

Kim

I'm really excited.

Ryan

Trust me, you should be. The three people I have for you two have known me for years. They're really smart and hard working. You'll like them.

Adam

Then what are we waiting for? Let's get the room cleaned out and ready to go!

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on the conference room. A minute passes and MARC enters. On him is a hat, backpack, and a green jumpsuit. He sits down. He starts to check the materials he's brought with him. As he does that, the door opens. In walks a woman with a green shirt that says "Green=Good". She is carrying hats that say the same slogan.

Amanda

Hey Marc!

Marc

Amanda! You've made it.

AMANDA and MARC shake hands. AMANDA sits down across from MARC.

Amanda

Yes I have. It's great to see you again.

Marc

Same here. It's been a couple of years now, right?

Amanda

Yes it has. I last saw you at the Las Vegas Marketing Convention 3 years ago.

Marc

I remember that now!

Amanda

It was fun. You look like you're going to the conference now, with your green jumpsuit on.

Marc

Well when you're the Lean Green Boxing Machine, you have to look the part.

AMANDA and MARC laugh.

Marc

So, why are you here sitting across from me?

Amanda

I've been all around the country, coming up with slogans, ad campaigns, billboards. It's been really fun.

Marc

Then why stop? Why trade the big company life for a smaller one?

Amanda

All these years, I've watched Ryan have success from a distance. I feel bad that he got fired. But once he called me to help him, I was on the first flight here. I feel like it's time to do him a favor.

Marc

I agree.

Amanda

Plus for a company that helps the environment? Count me in!

Marc

For me, it's the fact that I'd been dragging my feet the past couple of years

Amanda

What do you mean? Your work with Rooster Breakfast Cereal is legendary.

Marc

There's only so much things you can do with a rooster before it gets stale. That's why I left. When a rooster roller skating with a walrus is pitched by your assistants, you know it's time to leave.

AMANDA and MARC laugh.

Amanda

That sounds awful.

Marc

It was. Besides, helping Ryan is the least I can do. He told me that he'd always have the door open for me if I wanted a job in the company. I'm potentially going to finally fulfill his promise, although I'd imagined it to be under very different circumstances.

Amanda

That's true.

Marc

Do you remember when he became the marketing director for this company?

Amanda

Sure do!

Marc

It was so long ago.

Amanda

He was always super smart in business school.

Marc

Shame that his ideas hadn't hit the mark.

Amanda

I know. He's always had a bunch of good ideas.

Marc

The last ad campaign definitely did him in.

Amanda

Yep. I honestly never liked it.

Marc

Storing won't be boring? Really?

Amanda

He has so much potential. You and I both know that. It's sad to see where he is now.

Marc

Hopefully one of us can impress Adam and Kim. Then we can make him proud.

The conference room door opens once again. In walks a guy with a beard carrying a giant rolled up banner.

Marc

Need help?

J.T.

Sure. Place it on the table.

JT and MARC lift up the banner and place it on the table. Then they both sit down.

J.T.

My name's JT.

Amanda

I'm Amanda.

Marc

Marc here.

J.T.

Nice to meet you all.

Amanda

Nice to meet you too.

J.T.

Have they begun the interviews yet?

Marc

Nope

J.T.

(Pointing to banner) Carrying this banner here was super hard.

Amanda

It's rather large.

Marc

What's the deal with it?

J.T.

Let me show you.

JT unwraps the banner. It reads "Stay Environmentally Friendly. Stay Green."

Marc

Nice message.

Amanda

Talking about the environment makes sense. I'm glad someone's pointing that out.

J.T.

Yeah. What's your ad campaigns?

Marc

The LEAN GREEN BOXING MACHINE! I'm going to be a superhero who encourages people to use this product.

J.T.

By dressing up in a green jumpsuit?

Marc

Come on. Is it really that bad?

J.T.

It honestly looks weird.

Marc

Children will love it!

J.T.

That's why I think that. You look like a villain from a children's TV series.

Marc

Maybe it'll help kids convince their parents to buy this product. You never know.

Amanda

Since we're all talking about our new ad campaigns, mine has the slogan Green=Good. It's going to be an awesome commercial. Watch this!

AMANDA produces a regular storage box and a Green Box. She drops the regular box on the floor and the lid comes off the box. She does the same with the Green Box and it stays on.

Marc

That makes a lot of sense. I like the straightforwardness of it.

Amanda

So, JT, why are you here?

J.T.

I want to make my mark on the marketing world. I got my master's degree in marketing last year. I got a bachelor's degree in accounting, but after many years, I found it boring. So I went back to school to do what I truly love.

Marc

So you've never worked in marketing before and you've just gotten your degree?

J.T.

I have a Master's Degree and a 4.0 College GPA. Sure, I don't have all of the experience that you two probably have, but my work at school can back me up.

Amanda

So basically you're really smart, but you've never actually had an entry level job in this field before?

J.T.

Precisely

Amanda

Are you sure you're making the right decision? I get that you're smart and all, but shouldn't you work your way up the ladder first?

J.T.

The former marketing director, Ryan, trusts me. He knows what I can do. I know I can make a great ad campaign.

Amanda

You know Ryan?

Marc

Amanda and I know him from business school.

J.T.

We went through K-12 together.

Marc

He's a great person.

J.T.

Which makes him getting fired even more horrible.

Amanda

I feel bad for Kim.

Marc

Why? She got promoted. Isn't that her dream?

J.T.

Why? She got promoted. Isn't that her dream?

Amanda

Unfortunate

Marc

Indeed. We're the ones that have to blow the two of them away with our ideas.

J.T.

Absolutely

Amanda

They'll call us when they're ready, right?

J.T.

I'd assume so.

Lights down on the conference room. Lights up on ADAM's office. He is gathered with KIM and RYAN. He is sitting in a black swivel chair.

Ryan

The applicants are in the conference room.

Kim

Let's give them a few more minutes to set up. That'll ensure that they are ready.

Adam

I agree. They need to do well.

Ryan

Trust me. They will.

Kim

I know I can count on you.

Adam

Same here.

Ryan

Thanks you two. You made my experience here amazing. You two will sadly have to carry on without me.

Adam

Like I said before, I'm looking for someone who has new and fresh ideas. I'll always be rooting for you, Ryan. That will never change.

Ryan

You're forgetting something, Adam.

Adam

What?

ADAM thinks for a second and then points his finger at them.

Adam

I'm not switching out my chair!

Ryan

No one's going to damage it.

Kim

It'll be safe.

Adam

I just don't think it's a good idea. That's all.

Ryan

You always told us to look our best during our interviews with you. That should apply to the things around you.

Kim

He's right, Adam.

Adam

Look, if it makes you happy, I'll go get the chair.

ADAM stares at them as he picks up the wooden chair he was previously sitting in and brings it over to his desk. He takes the swivel chair and places it behind him.

Adam

Happy now?

Ryan

Yes, very.

Kim

You know Adam, you actually look professional in that chair. It really suits you.

Adam

It does, but I'm only doing this once. I only sit in it during important meetings with you two.

Ryan

I'm sure my friends will like it.

Kim

I'm pretty sure they will too.

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on the conference room. The three candidates are talking with one another.

J.T.

I still can't believe that Ryan got Adam and Kim to believe in us.

Amanda

You should.

Marc

Yeah

Amanda

He's been at this company for so long, Adam and Kim practically consider him family. If I was him, I'd help choose their successors as well.

J.T.

You do have a point.

Marc

The commercial shoot is tomorrow. Interviewing random people off the street is too much of a risk at the moment. They need someone right now, and luckily that lucky someone is one of us.

Amanda

Agreed. Roberto and Ryan know what we can do, right Marc?

Marc

Right

J.T.

What about me?

Marc

I'm sorry to say this, but Ryan knows us from business school. They know how hard we've worked on marketing at a whole.

Amanda

You're what? Their childhood buddy?

J.T.

Listen, I'm as qualified as you two-

Marc

You got a college degree. That's great! Many people get college degrees and then fall out of love or fail at the things they went to school for!

J.T.

You're saying I'm going to fail?

Amanda

Can you come up with a full on ad campaign? Can you work with the marketing director of a company?

J.T.

Yes I can

Amanda

What are you going to do, then?

J.T.

I'm going to come up with a jingle. It'll surely work!

Marc

This isn't the mid-2000's! No one has jingles anymore!

J.T.

We have to impress Adam and Kim. They might like it! You never know!

Amanda

You really don't know what it's like to work in a company, don't you? You're going to be eaten alive as soon as Adam and Kim hear your pathetic qualifications!

J.T.

You know what? How about we stop talking about our qualifications! None of that is going to matter!

Marc

Yeah, right.

J.T.

Adam and Kim wouldn't be happy if they knew Ryan's hand chosen candidates were arguing with each other.

Marc

Speaking of Adam and Kim, I'm wondering what's going through their minds right now.

J.T.

That's actually a really good question.

Amanda

Optimism? Dread? A mixture of both?

Marc

There's no easy way to know or even find out.

J.T.

I think they're feeling both. Think about it. They know the commercial shoot is coming up. Kim is glad that she's now the marketing director, but has to find an assistant RIGHT NOW. Adam is going through the typical last minute motions.

Marc

I know how that feels.

Amanda

Last minute rushes are never a good thing.

Marc

Agreed

J.T.

Do you honestly feel like Kim is right for the job?

Marc

I'd say so.

Amanda

Good luck, Marc.

Marc

Good luck, Amanda.

J.T.

Funny how you'll never say that to me.

Marc

Good luck walking through that door.

A knock is heard at the door. ADAM walks into the conference room. AMANDA, JT, and MARC all turn around and face them.

Adam

Hello ambitious friends of Ryan. I'm Adam, the CEO of Green Boxes. You're here because they think that one of you three can create our next ad campaign in time for our commercial shoot tomorrow. I'm looking forward to seeing what you have in store for us. If one of you three impress, you will work with Kim in creating a new ad campaign later on today.

ADAM points to MARC.

Adam

You with the green costume, you're up first.

MARC rises from his seat. He carries his hat and backpack with him. Lights down on the conference room. Lights up on ADAM's office. ADAM sits down in his chair. MARC sits in front of him. KIM and RYAN gather around them.

Marc

Hi everyone! The name's Marc.

Adam

It's a pleasure to meet you, Marc

Kim

Same here

Adam

So Ryan recommended you to come in?

Marc

Yes he did.

Kim

Did he recommend you wear a green jumpsuit?

Marc

Nope. That one was all me.

Adam

So Marc, why do you think you can create the new ad campaign for Green Boxes?

Marc

Ad campaigns need to be bold. They need to sound amazing while looking great as well. My ad campaign holds both of those qualities.

Adam

Why should we pick your ad campaign?

Marc

Everyone is fascinated with super heroes these days. Having a "Lean Green Boxing Machine" will help relate to the people.

Kim

Have you created an ad campaign before?

Marc

I created the last ad campaign for Rooster Breakfast Cereal. The one with the Rooster walking the globe.

Adam

When was this?

Marc

It was pitched about 2 years ago and the ads starting rolling out last year.

Adam

Well I'm looking forward to hearing your idea! You can start whenever you want to.

Marc

Isn't Ryan going to talk to me during this process?

Adam

He's not the one giving the interview. You can talk to him afterwards if you want.

Marc

Sounds good. Now let's get things started!

MARC starts to unzip his backpack. In it is a Green Box, a plastic bag, and various toys and items.

Marc

Here I have a bunch of toys and a plastic bag.

He starts stuffing random items in a plastic bag.

Marc

He starts stuffing random items in a plastic bag.

He stuffs more items into the plastic bag. It starts to rip and tear. It eventually rips and everything falls out.

Marc

It rips apart. But not with a Green Box.

He takes all of the items on the floor and puts them in the Green Box. They all stay in the box.

Marc

What better way to show the power of Green Boxes than to give them a superhero that demonstrates what I showed?

MARC mimes punching motions.

Adam

That's interesting.

Kim

What are you planning to do with your superhero gimmick?

Marc

I was thinking of having random people having their bags and boxes break in random locations. I rush in and give them a Green Box to solve all of their problems.

Adam

That has potential.

Kim

Is the Lean Green Boxing Machine going to be the slogan to your advertisements?

Marc

Yes it will.

Adam

Sounds good. We'll call you back after we evaluate all of the candidates.

Marc

See you all later.

MARC exits.

Adam

(To RYAN) So what did you think of that pitch?

Ryan

That was actually really good.

Adam

I agree.

Kim

He's such a creative guy.

Ryan

He's always been a great speaker.

Kim

His energy was unforgettable.

Adam

So far I'm impressed. Hopefully your other two friends will be as good as Marc was.

Ryan

I hope so too.

Kim

Who will you pick next?

Adam

I really don't know. You'll find out soon enough.

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on the conference room. MARC enters.

Marc

That was pretty easy.

J.T.

Was it?

Marc

Yes it was.

Amanda

What did they ask you?

Marc

They just asked me about my prior work experience and why I should be the next assistant marketing manager of this company. Just the standard interview questions.

Amanda

JT, that's a bummer.

J.T.

Can you stop?

Marc

They won't like it when you tell them what you've done. That's the hard truth.

J.T.

You don't know that.

Amanda

They want people who actually know what an office environment is like. You're straight out of college!

J.T.

So what?

Marc

So they're not going to like someone without any prior work experience! You're entering today as a loser!

JT slams his fist on the table.

J.T.

Last time I checked, I wasn't the loser.

Amanda

Can you prove that?

J.T.

I have a Master's Degree! Do you?

AMANDA/MARC: No

J.T.

Then you two should stop bullying me.

AMANDA and MARC turn their chairs around, the backs of them facing JT. ADAM suddenly enters.

Adam

The young woman with the "Green=Good" shirt is next.

Marc

Good luck in there.

Amanda

Thanks.

JT stares at AMANDA as she walks out. She takes the hats that she brought to the conference room with her. Lights down on the conference room. Lights up on ADAM's office. She sits down in front of his desk.

Adam

And what is your name?

Amanda

Amanda. Pleased to meet you, Adam. Same to you, Kim.

Adam

Welcome to my office, Amanda.

Kim

Hi Amanda.

Adam

I'm sure you know Ryan.

Amanda

Absolutely. I've been friends with him for years.

Ryan

She's right.

Kim

He's a great person.

Adam

But not the people we want right now. That's why you, Marc, and the other guy we haven't met yet are here.

Kim

We're confident that at least one of you will impress us.

Adam

Kim and I are the ones giving the interview. Ryan is here for support. You can talk to him afterwards.

Amanda

Understandable.

Ryan

(To AMANDA)

You'll do great!

Kim

Let's start the interview off with a couple of questions.

Amanda

Sounds good enough to me.

Adam

So, to start off, why do you think you can create the new ad campaign for Green Boxes?

Amanda

I've create many commercials for different companies over the past couple of years.

Kim

That intrigues me. Did you learn a lot?

Amanda

Absolutely.

Adam

What were some of the ad campaigns that you were able to work on?

Amanda

I worked on the Talking Parrot campaign for Mr. Parrot, the Ranch Everything campaign for Burgerz, and the Phone Man campaign for Bold Phones.

Kim

Impressive.

Adam

You're really experienced. Hopefully your pitch shows that. The office is all yours.

AMANDA gives the hats out to everyone.

Amanda

First things first. Let's make something clear. Every storage crate looks the same. It's all the same white or gray plastic that constantly breaks apart.

She grabs a plastic container out of her bag and throws it on the ground. The lid separates from the container.

Amanda

They hold things well, but they don't have a ton of durability.

She grabs a Green Box from her bag and tosses it to the floor. It doesn't break.

Amanda

Green Boxes don't just store materials. If you drop it, the contents stay packed inside.

She points to her shirt and goes over "Green=Good" with her finger.

Amanda

I was thinking of using all of that along with the Green=Good slogan in my ad campaign. Let's have someone do exactly what I just did. Try to shove a ton of stuff in a regular bag and have it break. Then we give them a Green Box and everything fits.

Kim

That could work. What do you think, Adam?

Adam

I actually like that.

Kim

That was really creative!

Adam

The distinction between regular bags and our products was really clear.

Amanda

Thanks so much!

Adam

We'll call you back when we've made a decision. Please head back to the conference room.

AMANDA exits the office. ADAM claps his hands and RYAN and KIM fist bump each other.

Ryan

I actually feel good about this.

Kim

Same here. So far so good, Ryan! If these are the type of people I'll be working with, I'm excited!

Adam

Marc's enthusiasm was outstanding and Amanda's pitch was one of the best I've ever heard.

Kim

Yeah they've really been impressive.

Ryan

I really think you'll find the one in time for the commercial shoot.

Adam

So far, your friends are getting passing grades.

Ryan

I see you've saved the best person for last.

Kim

Are we going to be impressed?

Ryan

Definitely.

Adam

I'll go get him.

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on the conference room. AMANDA enters.

Amanda

Marc, you were right.

Marc

How so?

Amanda

That wasn't that bad. They weren't too harsh on me.

Marc

Just wait until they get to the last person.

Amanda

Womp womp womp

J.T.

Seriously, you two. What is your problem with me?

Marc

We don't have a problem with you.

Amanda

We just know that you won't meet the qualifications.

Marc

You haven't worked at a company in their marketing department.

J.T.

Don't you two get it? I've gone to Grad School and gotten my Master's Degree. I've been getting A's all throughout the graduate program. I know what I'm doing! Just because I haven't spent the last however many years thinking up ad campaigns for a million different companies on their payroll doesn't mean I don't have a chance to do just that!

ADAM enters, interrupting JT's yelling.

Adam

You with the giant banner. Come with me.

J.T.

At last.

Adam

Are you ready?

J.T.

You bet I am.

JT shakes his head at AMANDA and MARC. Lights down on the conference room. Lights up on ADAM's office. He sets the banner to the side and sits down in front of the desk. KIM and RYAN have a visible look of curiosity on their faces.

Adam

What's your name?

J.T.

I'm JT. Nice to see you all.

Adam

Welcome to Green Boxes, JT.

Kim

We're glad to have you here.

Adam

We've been really impressed with Ryan's other friends today. I really hope you can wow Kim and I as well.

J.T.

I'll do the best that I can.

Adam

To start off, why do you think you can create the new ad campaign for Green Boxes?

J.T.

I feel like Green Boxes are a special type of product. One that needs a great ad campaign that really attracts customers to this product. My idea can help do that.

Kim

You're very energetic!

Adam

I like that. I really do.

J.T.

I'm an energetic person. That's who I am.

Adam

Any prior experience?

J.T.

I haven't worked for any companies in their marketing department, if that's what you're asking.

Kim

Then why are you here?

J.T.

I just graduated from Grad School with a 4.0 GPA and a Master's Degree. I feel like working at my childhood friend's company would make him proud.

Adam

Very interesting.

Kim

It's your time to shine.

Adam

Let's do this!

J.T.

I know you're the one conducting this interview, but can Ryan weigh in too? I feel like it's very important.

Adam

You know what? He's only here for support, but since he's already brought in two great applicants, he absolutely can!

(To RYAN) Don't mess anything up or distract him in any way?

Ryan

I won't.

RYAN gives JT a thumbs up. JT clears his throat and takes a deep breath. Then he begins to talk.

J.T.

To begin, I'd like to ask you three a simple question. What's something unique about Green Boxes?

Adam

They're very compact.

J.T.

That's a good reason.

Kim

They're cheap to buy.

J.T.

You're right about that.

Ryan

They're environmentally friendly.

J.T.

That's the best answer yet!

JT gets out of his chair and retrieves his banner. He unrolls it and hangs it up on the wall in back of him.

Kim

Cool banner!

J.T.

Absolutely. This product is 100% reusable and recyclable! That is a huge deal these days, which is why my ad campaign focuses on the catchphrase "Stay Environmentally Friendly. Stay Green." But that's not all. This jingle will capture everyone's attention!

(Singing) Green Boxes are the best They stand out from all the rest They're recyclable and compact They never break and that's a fact Green Boxes are the great choice If you see what I mean So stay environmentally friendly And always stay green

Everyone claps for JT.

J.T.

So what did you think of that?

Adam

That was epic.

Kim

I definitely agree. Make sure you write that down. You might need that if you get picked.

J.T.

I'll do that.

Adam

You hit it out of the park.

J.T.

Which part was the best, the banner or the song?

Kim

Both were outstanding!

J.T.

Thanks so much!

Adam

We'll call you back when we make our final decision.

J.T.

Sounds good.

JT leaves.

Ryan

Wow. What a show. What do you two think? Adam? Kim?

Kim

Most definitely. We've been really impressed with all of your choices today. Great job.

Adam

After seeing all three of your friends and their presentations, I have to say something to you.

Ryan

What is it?

Adam

Kim was right. You didn't deserve to get yelled at earlier today.

Ryan

Yes I did. I've been underperforming for a long time. This company hasn't been on the mark for months and the sales reports definitely showed that. I totally deserved that outburst before my firing.

Adam

No you didn't. I'm the CEO, but I'm mostly your friend. I know you have been struggling. I also know you and Kim have been working as hard as you could. It's just that I've been so stressed out given the state the company is in at the moment. I should've been professional when I fired you two and I wasn't. I'm extremely sorry.

Ryan

It's all good. Thanks for apologizing to us, Adam.

Adam

You're welcome. Thank you for suggesting three amazing people. I'm confident that any of them is the right decision.

Kim

Whoever gets chosen will be a lucky person. I'm really excited to get to work as soon as possible!

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on the conference room. AMANDA and MARC are looking sad.

Amanda

I'm feeling bad.

Marc

Me too.

Amanda

Why are you feeling bad?

Marc

We crossed the line. We insulted JT.

Amanda

Yes we did. I'm really disgusted by my behavior today.

Marc

Who are we to judge someone with a master's degree?

Amanda

We don't have one.

Marc

Imagine if Ryan heard about this.

Amanda

He'd kick us out. I know he would.

Marc

JT would be the winner by default.

Amanda

I think we should apologize to him. He deserves one.

Marc

Yes he does. I've been thinking about that too.

Amanda

Hopefully he gets back here soon.

JT enters and sits down in his chair.

Amanda

So, how did it go?

J.T.

I thought it was good.

Amanda

You thought?

Marc

What did everyone else think?

J.T.

They liked it.

Amanda

That's good.

Marc

I think we should all feel pretty good.

J.T.

Why should I believe you two? You haven't believed in me all day. What changed?

Amanda

Well we had time to reflect on what we had said to you earlier in the day.

Marc

Amanda and I were wrong. We're really sorry for insulting you. It doesn't matter how much you're qualified to get the job. You just have to impress the right people at the right time.

Amanda

To tell you the truth, we were jealous.

Marc

As soon as you said you got a master's degree, we knew we were outmatched. You've done more school than we have.

J.T.

Why didn't you two say anything?

Amanda

We didn't want to you feel that we didn't have a chance.

J.T.

I accept your apology. I also think that you two still have a chance.

Amanda

How can we? They know what you've done.

Marc

We've been working for years, but you've continued your education. That's a great thing.

Amanda

If you win, we're proud of you.

J.T.

Are you serious?

Amanda

Absolutely.

J.T.

No matter what happens, I'm glad I got to spend the past hour with you two. You're honestly both pretty good people. Your ideas are definitely creative, which is always a good thing.

Marc

Thanks JT

Amanda

You definitely have a bright mind and a brighter future ahead of you.

J.T.

Same to you two.

Lights down on the conference room. Lights up on ADAM's office.

Adam

Today definitely started on a low note, but so far it's been a drastic turn around.

Kim

All three were just so good.

Ryan

I know.

Adam

Sadly only one of them can work with you on the new commercial, Kim.

Kim

I know. That's the tough part.

Adam

I want to pick all 3, but I can't. Only one is going to choose the new ad campaign for the commercial.

Ryan

Do you think you have a winner?

Kim

Absolutely. You thinking who I'm thinking?

Adam

Yes I am.

Ryan

You want to bring them in?

Adam

Gladly

ADAM picks up a phone on his desk. He presses a button and then starts to speak into it.

Adam

Amanda, JT, Marc. You three can come into my office. We've made a decision.

ADAM hangs the phone up. AMANDA, JT, and MARC enter the office. They stand in front of the desk.

Kim

Adam and I really didn't know what to expect when Ryan recommended you three to give us idea pitches for our new commercial in such short notice. But you all blew us away.

Adam

All of your ideas and presentations were top notch. However, only one of you can become the assistant marketing manager for Green Boxes and decide the ad campaign for the commercial shooting tomorrow.

Kim

The person who will work with me on the Green Boxes ad campaign for tomorrow's commercial shoot is...

Adam

JT!

JT jumps up and down. He hugs both AMANDA and MARC at the same time. Then he shakes the hands of ADAM, KIM, and RYAN.

J.T.

I'm so thankful for this experience. Thank you very much!

Kim

Amanda, Adam and I loved your distinction between our boxes and regular boxes, and Marc, your creativity is second to none.

Adam

But JT, you really wowed us!

J.T.

Thank you so much.

Kim

Your ad campaign will ensure that our products will be successful anywhere they are sold.

Adam

You really made us proud.

Everyone claps for JT.

Marc

Thank you so much for this opportunity. I'll be on the lookout for new advertisements and merchandise on your webpage, TV, and social media! Great job JT!

Amanda

I'm glad I got to present my idea today. It was a great experience. Congrats on your win JT!

AMANDA and MARC exit.

J.T.

Wow. I honestly don't believe it.

Ryan

You always were very creative. Plus, you had a way with music that no one else had. We should've known you'd be using that in your favor.

J.T.

Definitely

Kim

Once you finished that song, we knew you were the right choice.

Ryan

Welcome to the Green Boxes team.

J.T.

Thank you all so much. Now what happens?

Adam

Come to the conference room! I have a surprise for you. Kim, Ryan, you two come as well.

Lights down on ADAM's office. Lights up on the conference room. It is filled with a banner that says "Congratulations" on it and a ton of balloons.

Ryan

No way! You did all of this for him?

Kim

He deserves it!

Adam

He took the baseball and hit a grand slam with his idea for our new commercial.

Ryan

Congrats man!

J.T.

This is the best day of my life. I can't believe you did all of this for me.

Adam

We sure did!

Kim

I'm so excited to be working with you on this commercial tomorrow!

J.T.

Same here.

Adam

As for Ryan, we couldn't have done it without you.

Kim

You gave us three exemplary candidates.

Adam

We couldn't have asked for anyone better. You really did a ton for this company.

Ryan

I'm going out with my head held high, aren't I?

Adam

You sure are. Thanks for everything.

Ryan

You're welcome.

RYAN hugs ADAM and KIM, then exits. ADAM's cell phone rings. He answers it.

Adam

What? We have to film it by the end of the day? Luckily we have everything we need. Thanks. Bye.

ADAM hangs up his phone.

Kim

What is it?

Adam

The commercial has to be shot by today, not tomorrow. Kim, are you confident that JT's song is going to work?

Kim

Most definitely.

J.T.

Being on TV has always been my dream.

Adam

Now get ready! You have no time to waste!

Lights down on the conference room. Lights up on the exterior of the Green Boxes building. JT is standing next to Green Boxes with a microphone in his hand.

Kim

You ready for this?

J.T.

I know I am.

Adam

Lights. Camera. ACTION!

J.T.

(Singing) Green Boxes are the best They stand out from all the rest They're recyclable and compact They never break and that's a fact Green Boxes are the great choice 60. If you see what I mean So stay environmentally friendly And always stay green.

Adam

CUT!

J.T.

That was epic.

Kim

I loved that. I really do.

Adam

Hopefully the customers love it as much as we do.

J.T.

Trust me. Within the first couple of hours, the rap is going to be a hit. Everyone is going to be singing it!

Adam

I hope you're right. That means more exposure for us!

Lights down on the exterior of Green Boxes headquarters. Lights up on ADAM's office. ADAM, JT, and KIM are gathered around a computer.

Adam

So now that it's the next day, let's check and see what everyone is saying about this new ad campaign!

Kim

I'm sure everyone loves it.

J.T.

I hope they do. I think it's a pretty good song.

Adam

Think? I know it's a good song.

J.T.

This whole process has been exhilarating and honestly a lot of fun.

Kim

It's one of the best commercials we've put out. All thanks to you.

J.T.

I wouldn't be here right now if it wasn't for Ryan. He helped get me in the door. Now I'm the new assistant marketing director of Green Boxes.

Adam

The song did the trick! Have you seen what people have been saying lately? The amount of press and news articles written have been insane! "Green Boxes has risen from near bankruptcy with a catchy new tune" rephrased 50 different times? That headline will never get old.

JT's face turns bright red.

J.T.

I'm still not used to all the exposure.

Adam

How come? You should be happy!

J.T.

I am happy, but it's still embarrassing. Seeing my song on the internet every time you open up Twitter or YouTube. I don't think I'll ever get used to it.

They all laugh. ADAM gets a huge smile on his face.

Adam

Well you're going to have to get used to it pretty fast. "Stay Environmentally Friendly. Stay Green." is trending #1 on X, and the ad is trending on YouTube. There's also a ton of videos on both sides of people singing it.

J.T.

That's amazing. I'm sure the song will stay with them for years to come.

ADAM and KIM clap.

Kim

You really did an outstanding job on everything, JT!

Adam

We appreciate your great idea and your willingness to put all of this together so fast.

J.T.

It was nothing, honestly.

ADAM scrolls down on the computer. His mouth gapes.

J.T.

What is it? Have I broken another record?

Adam

Our YouTube video has broken a million views!

J.T.

Are you serious?

Kim

We posted it 2 hours ago. How could that be possible?

Adam

The power of JT and his energetic, catchy song.

J.T.

LET'S GO!

Everyone starts jumping around, hugging, and high fiving each other.

J.T.

I've made a hit song!

Kim

I'd say so.

ADAM suddenly shuts down the computer.

Kim

What was that for?

J.T.

Are we in some sort of trouble?

Adam

Nope. But I have bad news.

J.T.

What is it?

Adam

The celebration has to be cut short.

Kim

Can't we celebrate for 5 more minutes?

Adam

I wish. But the grind never stops. Especially now that we're back in the green! As marketing director and assistant marketing director, the ideas don't stop flowing. You two need to start thinking of ideas about the next step in our ad campaign. Maybe expand the lyrics. Or find a new jingle. Whatever. Get your ideas to me by the end of the month and we'll go from there.

Kim

Then let's get to work!

J.T.

We'll have something for you by the end of the week.

Kim

Should we write it our ideas on paper or email them to you?

Adam

It doesn't matter. Just give me a fresh take on the Stay environmentally friendly, stay green premise.

Kim

We won't let you down.

J.T.

We promise.

KIM and JT leave. They come back in a few seconds with a giant box. It takes both of them to carry it.

Adam

What's this?

Kim

It says "For all of your hard work. From Ryan."

ADAM lights up.

Adam

There's no way-

ADAM rips open the box, unveiling an office chair.

J.T.

He kept his promise. He actually got you a chair.

Kim

It looks like the chair you already have.

Adam

But the one I have now is 10 years old. This chair is brand new. Ryan didn't let me down after all.

Kim

Should we help you take the old one out?

Adam

No, I'll do it myself. You and JT should start planning the new ad campaign.

Kim

Are you sure?

Adam

Yes

J.T.

See you later.

Kim

Bye Adam. Talk to you soon.

Adam

You two are the best. This company will be back on top before you know it.

JT and KIM shake ADAM's hand. Lights down.