

Better Off Ted
"Naughty Science"

a spec script by

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&

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ACT ONE

1 FADE IN: 1

2 INT. VERIDIAN DYNAMICS OFFICES - DAY 2

Ted walks through the halls of the Veridian offices.

TED (TO CAMERA)

The great thing about working at a company like Veridian Dynamics is that everyday we create something new. The way we manage that is by promoting an environment that is friendly to innovation.

Ted stops next to a cubicle where DOUG, a disheveled thirty-something office drone with red eyes, is working furiously. Doug does not seem to notice Ted.

TED (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)

Take Doug here. He's working on a chewing gum that allows people to work for weeks without sleep.

(to Doug)

How's it going, Doug?

DOUG

(startled)

Ahhh!

TED (TO CAMERA)

The better Doug's gum works, the better Doug works on the gum. Veridian calls that "running in the circle of progress."

(beat)

To foster innovation, we encourage new ideas, the willingness to try something that might not work, and the philosophy that you should always ask questions.

A door in front of Ted EXPLODES off of its hinges and flies across the hallway.

TED (TO CAMERA) (CONT'D)

And sometimes you *don't* ask questions.

Ted opens a door into...

3 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - MINUTES LATER

3

Linda, Ted, Veronica, Phil, Lem, and underlings listen as Veronica speaks.

VERONICA

Alright people, as of last year, Americans spend more money trying to lose weight than they do on food. We already have them eating our treats, but unfortunately there's a limit to how much a person can consume when they watch their weight. How do we keep the throngs consuming our powdered cakes and...*syruped corn* without their hearts exploding.

(to self)

We had enough of those problems in the nineties.

TED

(loudly clasps hands)

Okay, well I think we all agree fitness is a good thing. And studies show time and time again, carbs or whatever, calories are all that matters in a diet. And *that's* why our negative-calorie soda could be a game-changer in nutrition.

(to Linda)

Now, I think testing starts today...

LINDA

Right, we're scheduled to do our first round of human tests later this morning.

(nervous)

Which would *normally* be after animal testing, but for some reason not this time.

VERONICA

Get off it, Linda. Soda is a people food. Anyway, who wants lean bacon?

TED

Well this is great news. We're excited to see how this goes. Now, does anyone have any other updates?

Phil and Lem bustle excitedly, each waiting for the other to butt in.

PHIL

Well, actually, we don't want to speak to soon, but Lem and I are on the verge of something big.

LEM

This may be the greatest discovery for humanity since...um, shelter.

VERONICA

Phil, Lem...Phlegm, perhaps you weren't listening when we said we have a negative calorie soda to work on. So, unless you have negative calorie corn dogs you're dismissed.

PHIL

(meekly)
We don't have that.

INT. TESTING ROOM - LATER

TEST SUBJECTS 1-3 sit in a row at a table, with Linda on the other side with a clipboard. Each subject has a white can with the number "78" printed on it in black text. Ted and Veronica are hovering nearby.

LINDA

(reading from a prompt)
Congratulations. You are about to embark on a six week program drinking formula 78. You have all been pre-screened in the 'mildly obese' group, and this formula should help you lose weight. As you drink your first 12-ounce serving now, we will survey your opinions today, and then will send you home with a case. Please speak up if you experience trouble breathing.

TEST SUBJECT 1

There any liquor in it?

VERONICA

(eager)
Would you buy it if there were?

TEST SUBJECT 1

Yes, mam.

LINDA

Okay, you may drink.

They pop the top, and bottoms up. CLOSE ON the subjects drinking cautiously. Ted, Veronica, and Linda all lean in eagerly, awaiting feedback.

TEST SUBJECT 2

It's better than the Mountain Dew!

TED

And it will help you lose weight.

TEST SUBJECT 3

I don't know what type of appetite suppressant this is, but I could sure go for some cheese fries!

VERONICA

(patting him on the shoulder)

You have those cheesed fries.

Veronica retracts her hand from his shoulder, grimacing.