

Screenwriting Extract ~ Television Drama

"P.Y.L.O" - Television drama pilot

© Louisa Dent & Mark Pearce

Extract Synopsis

GERRY CARMEN has come to for an appointment at P.Y.L.O. - an acronym which stands for Protecting Your Loved Ones. The company organises alibis for people who are conducting extra-marital affairs.

Scene extract:

12. INT. PARADIS'S OFFICE MORNING 12.

GEOFF PARADIS sits behind an imposing desk, blowing the heat off a cappuccino. His office is very elaborate, expensive in style, and predominately scarlet in colour. It is decorated with gadgets and novelties. GERRY CARMEN sits in a leather armchair, looking nervous.

PARADIS

Gerry, you are part of an elite group of clients. Not one of the extra-marital affairs conducted through us has ever been discovered. Why? We pay attention to detail. You want to go away for the weekend? We'll give you plane tickets for a seminar in Buenos Aries. Itineraries, correspondence, transcripts, receipts for your dirty laundry. And if your wife wants a gift, we'll buy her an authentic hand-carved Mexican doll. We'll wrap it with the sticky tape overlapping, so she thinks you did it. Evidence that can't be argued, Gerry. Details. Now. Tell me. What do you need, Gerry?

GERRY

I think I just want something small. Just a night, or maybe two nights, you know, something where I can take her out, something special, somewhere nice.

PARADIS

Do you work late often?

GERRY

No.

PARADIS

If you did, what would be your excuse?

GERRY

I don't know...I, maybe I was snowed under, paperwork...

PARADIS

Think creatively, Gerry.

GERRY

Well, a couple of times last year I had this commercial shot in the yard at night, you know, for telly....

PARADIS

A commercial....perfect!

GERRY

Isn't that a little elaborate?

PARADIS

Elaborate? Gerry, the best alibis are always the most elaborate. We make the commercial, you take your parcel out to dinner.

PARADIS slides something across the table: a small device, about the size of five cent piece.

PARADIS

For peace of mind, we operate on an optical receiver network.

GERRY

OK, like a two way radio.

PARADIS

No, like an optical receiver network. It fits behind a button, like so...

PARADIS twists a button on his shirt to reveal his own optical device.

PARADIS

Come in Gerry.

GERRY

(into the device)

Hello?

PARADIS

Over the next twenty four hours, our company will install hidden cameras in strategic positions which will enable us to monitor the progress of your affair to ensure smooth running of all operations. Once again, surveillance is strictly confidential.

GERRY

Oky doke.

PARADIS

Now there's just one more thing.

PARADIS slides some paperwork across the desk.

PARADIS

This is a confidential contract between me and you only.

PARADIS notices Gerry hesitating.

PARADIS (CONT'D)

What have you got to lose?

GERRY

My wife.

END OF EXTRACT