

# *The Leading Man*

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START CREDITS:

1 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM -- DAY 1

The bedroom looks to be decorated with items from the neighborhood thrift store. A cheap futon, a tube tv set on a dated and well used night stand. There are acting books, classic works, modern plays and paperback mysteries on small second hand bookshelves.

GREG PETERS (30 year old, ruggedly handsome African American) sits up in his bed and yawns.

2 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 2

Greg's at his desk looking at his planner. He needs to tape an audition, go to rehearsal from 1p to 4p and be off book and he has a catering gig at 5p. He takes a breath.

GREG

Let's get it.

3 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 3

A small HD digital camcorder is filming as Greg delivers a gripping monologue. He's crying and scared.

GREG

That could be my girls, man. That could be my blood on the street.

He stops, gets up and turns the recorder off.

GREG (CONT'D)

That might be a little too harsh. This ain't gonna work.

Greg takes the camcorder, removes the SD card and inserts in into his laptop. And sets it on the desk by his laptop computer.

He turns on the computer, opens a video editing program (windows movie maker), and copies the files onto the computer.

4 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 4

DVD pops out and he writes on the DVD

He takes an envelope from his desk, sits on the futon and puts his headshot & resume and the DVD in the manila folder.

5 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 5

He's looking through his closet but can't find what he's looking for.

GREG

Really?

He turns and picks up a pair of black pants off the floor and a white shirt on the back of his desk chair. Small stain on the shirt. He gives it the sniff test. It's ok.

6 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 6

Greg finishes ironing the shirt, places it on a hanger that already has the now ironed black pants, brings the hook of the hanger through the opening of a black trash bag and through a hole in the bottom and hangs the outfit on the door knob.

7 INT. GREG'S BEDROOM -- MOMENTS LATER 7

Greg is lying with his head of the foot of the futon studying a script.

8 EXT. GREG'S APARTMENT -- DAY 8

Greg has a backpack and his catering outfit over his shoulder as he steps out of his apartment.

GREG

Let's get it!

Greg gets into his car and drives away.

END CREDITS:

9 EXT. NEW ORLEANS STREET -- MORNING 9

CONSTANCE "CONNIE" BODIN, a 30 year old, attractive African American woman is briskly making her way on a busy downtown sidewalk.

CONSTANCE

Yes, I saw it, Bree! Don't worry about it. I'm not worried about it so you shouldn't be. Ok. I left her company. I left that film. I left LA. I'm back home in New Orleans with my family and my friends. I'm running my own casting company and my life is Great! So don't you worry about it. Let her say what she wants. I have a film going up for a Golden Globe while she scrambles trying to be relevant. Ok? Ok.

10 INT. STARBUCK'S -- CONTINUOUS 10

Connie steps into a Starbuck's and get's into the short line.

CONSTANCE

Hey so? What happened with DeAndre?

(Connie's expression  
changes)

What did you do? Because you always  
do something, Bree! This is the  
sixth guy I've tried to set you up  
with. Who's fault is it then? You're  
the only constant in this equation!

Connie makes it to the counter. JASON WHITE (30's, Caucasian)  
is smiling knowingly at Connie.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)

Hold on, Bree.

JASON

Good morning, Connie.

CONSTANCE

Hi Jason. How are you this morning?

JASON

I'm good now that my morning sunshine  
has arrived.

Connie blushes.

CONSTANCE

Thank you, Jason.

JASON

The usual caramel macchiato with soy  
milk and whip cream?

CONSTANCE

Yes please.

Jason rings her up as she goes back to her conversation.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)

You don't know how to act.

Constance is checking Jason out while he makes her drink  
personally. She smiles.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)

You don't know how to keep your  
ratchet in check. I know because I  
know you, Bree! I could've kept  
that man for myself. I know he was  
fine, I saw him first.

Connie sees that Jason is bringing her drink.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)

Look, I gotta go. Girl bye!

She hurriedly hangs up her phone.

JASON  
Here you go, Connie.

CONSTANCE  
Thank you, Jason.

JASON  
Have you thought about what I asked you the other day? You know, going out with me?

CONSTANCE  
I have but I'm just really slammed at work and...

JASON  
Look, it's no pressure. Just let me know when you have time. Ok?

CONSTANCE  
Ok.

He goes back to work as Connie looks him up and down before walking out the door.

11 INT. BODIN LOBBY -- MORNING

11

Connie enters the lobby with her tray of drinks walks over to the security counter.

She sets the tray of drinks on the counter. BENTON RAMSEY, a 67 year old African American security guard at the building greets her with a big smile.

BENTON  
Hey there, Connie.

CONSTANCE  
Hey Mr. Ramsey! How are you doing today?

BENTON  
Oh I can't complain. Looks like you've got a nice little crowd up there.

CONSTANCE  
Oh yeah?

BENTON  
Yeah. Casting another one of them big motion pictures.

Connie swipes her badge.

CONSTANCE

Yeah. You know how it is.

BENTON

And congratulations on your nomination!!

CONSTANCE

Thank you!! Oh, I'm gonna have a little get together at my place after the awards - win or lose. I would love it if you came by.

BENTON

You know what? I just might take you up on that since you know I'm only 2 weeks away from retirement!

CONSTANCE

Well there are congrats to go around!

BENTON

Yes. 26 years.

CONSTANCE

Wow.

BENTON

I only wish Mrs. Ramsey was still alive. We wanted to do a little traveling when we retired.

CONSTANCE

Yeah.

BENTON

Hey, but I'm gonna go where ever the good Lord takes me.

CONSTANCE

I heard that. See you later.

BENTON

Do your thang!

She rushes onto the already closing elevator.

12 INT. BODIN COMMON AREA -- CONTINUOUS

12

The office is busy with actors readying themselves to audition. Some are in far corners going over lines, performing warm-up exercises & rituals. Others are sitting patiently while still others are sending text messages or some other activity on their smart phones.

As Connie exits the elevator, PAULA ZINGER (24 year old Caucasian) runs up to her.

PAULA  
 Hi Connie! Teddy's in the room.  
 We're ready to go. We have our  
 potentials signed in. Just waiting  
 on you to start.

CONSTANCE  
 Ok. so?

PAULA  
 So what?

CONSTANCE  
 How'd it go?

Paula smiles a revealing smile.

CONSTANCE (CONT'D)  
 That's what I thought.

PAULA  
 He's really nice. How'd you know  
 that we'd hit it off?

CONSTANCE  
 That's what I do.

They both laugh.

PAULA  
 We saw the article. Are you ok?

CONSTANCE  
 I'm fine. You ready to do this?

PAULA  
 Yes ma'am!

CONSTANCE  
 Ok, let me set this stuff down in my  
 office and I'll be right there!

PAULA  
 Ok.

13 INT. BODIN CASTING/CONNIE'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

13

PAM CROCKETT (25) is sitting at the desk adjusting the name  
 plate which reads Constance Bodin C.D. which she turns away  
 from her as Constance comes into the office. They both are  
 frozen with astonishment.

CONSTANCE  
 Excuse me?

PAM  
 I'm so sorry, Miss Bodin...