

LANDSCAPES

an original screenplay

by

Michael Dippery

Contact:

Michael Dippery  
# ##### ## # ##  
#####, ## #####  
(###) ###-####  
mdippery@gmail.com

LANDSCAPES

FADE IN:

INT. MALCOLM'S APARTMENT

MALCOLM, early twenties, sits on the loveseat in his studio apartment next to his ROOMMATE, roughly the same age, feet propped up on a battered coffee table. The apartment is a standard New York City studio, practically too small for one person, let alone two. An old mattress is jammed into one corner opposite the couch, the sheets and blanket lying in a heap at its foot. The room is littered with the accoutrement of young men: magazines, video games, boots, shirts, and its ilk. An old TV sits on the scuffed dresser opposite the couch. There are two windows, but the shades are drawn, and they provide no illumination.

ROOMMATE

This room is small, like Delaware  
small.

MALCOLM

Delaware's not that small.

ROOMMATE

Well, sure, you couldn't carpet the  
entire thing, but it's still pretty  
small.

Malcolm ponders the surroundings of his abode as he takes  
in his roommate's point.

MALCOLM

You know what would really tie this  
room together?

ROOMMATE

What's that?

MALCOLM

A painting.

ROOMMATE

A painting?

MALCOLM

A painting.

ROOMMATE

Of what?

MALCOLM

I don't know. A landscape. Maybe we could paint a mural on the wall. Of the rolling hills of Pennsylvania.

ROOMMATE

That's a great idea, Malcolm, except neither of us has an artistic bone in our bodies.

MALCOLM

True. I'm going to buy one, then.

ROOMMATE

With what? The ample bank account you don't possess?

MALCOLM

I'll work, I guess.

ROOMMATE

You, work?

MALCOLM

Why not?

ROOMMATE

Working's for mortals.

He pushes himself off of the couch and heads for the attached kitchen.

ROOMMATE (cont'd)

You want a beer?

INT. AQUARIUM OFFICE - DAY

The AQUARIUM HR REP, a fiftysomething man with greying hair, dressed in a suit, sits behind a desk, ruffling through papers. Malcolm sits in a chair opposite, relaxed, his hands folded in his lap.

AQUARIUM HR REP

Well, Mr. Daniels, everything seems to be in order here. I am a bit confused by your résumé, however. At the top, you wrote: "Objective: To obtain a position as a sea otter."

MALCOLM

Yes, that's correct.

AQUARIUM HR REP

Oh, okay. Let me make a note: "Sea otter trainer."

MALCOLM

No sir, I mean "sea otter".

AQUARIUM HR REP

I'm...not sure I follow.

MALCOLM

(clears throat)

Well, sir, I think I'd make a great sea otter. I really enjoy the water and I'm always been a strong swimmer. I enjoy coming to the aquarium to watch the sea otters. Those little guys look like they have a great time, and I'm a pretty fun person, too, if I do say so myself.

The HR rep pauses for a second, as if deep in thought.

AQUARIUM HR REP

Do you have any experience in training sea otters?

MALCOLM

No, sir. That major wasn't offered at my college.

AQUARIUM HR REP

Well, ah, I'm not sure we have any positions open for sea otters right now, but I'll keep your résumé on file and let you know, ah, if anything comes up.

MALCOLM

I appreciate that.

INT. WIDGET OFFICE

Malcolm sits in a hard wooden chair opposite another HR REP in a cheap brown suit. This office is a fairly standard affair: messy desk, a couple of plaques and awards on the wall.

HR REP

So, Mr. Daniels, what made you interested in Widget Enterprises?

MALCOLM

Landscapes.

HR REP

Pardon?

MALCOLM

Landscapes.

HR REP

I'm not sure I follow, son.

MALCOLM

(clears throat)

I'm interested in purchasing a landscape. For my apartment. I'm not good at art but I appreciate scenery, and I think a beautiful landscape would make the apartment much more livable.

HR REP

That's great, son! Exactly the drive we're looking for at Widget Enterprises. The only problem I see is that Widget Enterprises doesn't deal in landscapes.

MALCOLM

I know that, sir. I just need to earn enough money for a landscape. That's all.

The HR rep stands and vigorously shakes Malcolm's hand.

HR REP

That's great, son! You'll do great here! Welcome aboard!