

JUST IN TIME

A Short Comedy

Written by
Roberta M Roy

Robbiedobb@aol.com
(845) 454-5200

FADE IN:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

The work day begins.

Office coordinator MS. RYMP (60s), grandmotherly, pearls, earrings, and JASMINE (30s) long straight dark hair, blouse and slacks, wait.

MS. RYMP

Looking forward to Barbra joining us in web design. Thank you for leading her to us. Her references are outstanding.

JASMINE

Glad you like her. I know I'll enjoy working with her. We've been friends since childhood.

MS. RYMP

That's a plus, too. It should make her orientation easier.

JASMINE

You'll love her. On the job, she's task oriented. Outside, just a delightful human. She should be here any minute.

SKIP (30s), tie askew, hair ruffled, pulling on his suit jacket, hurries out. He runs full body into BARBRA (30s), petite, pretty, large glasses, bountiful curly hair, tailored suit, as she enters. Her purse tumbles to the ground.

When both bend to pick it up, they bump heads and share an awkward laugh.

Skip returns Barbra's purse --

SKIP

Apologies. So sorry. Just late.

-- then hurries on.

Barbra glances between Jasmine and Skip as he departs then back to Jasmine who shrugs her shoulders.

Ms. Rymp shakes her head in disapproval. She extends a hand to Barbra.

MS.RYMP
Apologies for the abrupt welcome.
Skip is in sales. Always on the go.
Always behind schedule. But a
charmer. Couldn't run the place
without him.

Jasmine puts an arm around Barbra.

JASMINE
You all right?

BARBRA
Fine.
(laughs)
Just need to stay out of -- what's
his name -- Skip? Skip's way.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Barbra on a computer. Jasmine stands beside her.

JASMINE
The first company you'll be working
with is Carrol's Dress Boutique.
This is her first website. It'll
take a bit to determine exactly
what's needed.

BARBRA
Love challenges.
(looks up)
I also have you for backup. Yes?

Jasmine squeezes Barbra's shoulder.

JASMINE
You got it.

JASMINE'S DESK - LATER

Skip, jacket free, tie askew, hair slicked down, stops by
with a box of donuts.

SKIP
I'm a clod. I ran into that new
girl this morning? What's her name?
Barbra?

JASMINE
Not too cool, Skip ol' boy.

SKIP
 Figured I'd bring a treat. Part of
 the balancing act.

Jasmine lifts a donut from the open box.

JASMINE
 (smiles)
 Fine with me, Skip.

BARBRA'S DESK

Skip approaches.

Barbra, intent on her work. She shoots him a quick glance.

SKIP
 Say, Barbra, sorry about this
 morning. I'm Skip.

Barbra rapt on her computer screen.

BARBRA
 No big deal, Skip.

SKIP
 Thought you might like a donut.

BARBRA
 (no eye contact)
 Thanks, but no thanks. Watching my
 calories.

Crestfallen, Skip withdraws.

MAIN ENTRANCE

Work day done.

Jasmine, Barbra, and HEIDI (20s), blond, overweight, ready to
 head out.

JASMINE
 Whew! Busy day. Why don't we stop
 at Savona's for a quick pick-me-up?

HEIDI
 Sounds good to me.

Jasmine takes Barbra's arm, smiles at Heidi.

JASMINE
 Love Savona's. Always so upbeat.
 Great idea, Jasmine.

They laugh and chat as they go.

INT. OFFICE - COFFEE ROOM - DAY

Barbra and Heidi prepare coffee.

BARBRA
Last night was fun! We should do it
again. Soon. Maybe tonight? It's
Thursday -- almost the weekend.

Skip, wearing a raincoat over his suit, hair askew, in a
hurry, enters.

Barbra and Heidi make room for him to reach the coffee.

In a rush, Skip fills his coffee cup and turns just as Barbra
does. The collision knocks his cup. Coffee spills.

BARBRA
(steps back)
So sorry, Skip. Let me get it.

Barbra reaches for paper towels.

SKIP
I'm a clod. So sorry. Just in a
hurry.

She mops up the spilled coffee.

BARBRA
(tossed off laugh)
Not to worry. I've got it. Don't
let us slow you down.

Skip races out.

Heidi raises her hands and looks to the ceiling. She and
Barbra laugh and shake their heads.

INT./EXT. CITY STREETS - JASMINE'S CAR, TRAVELING - DAY

Jasmine drives with Barbra in the passenger's seat and Heidi
in the backseat.

JASMINE
I get a kick out of Skip. He's
sweet and pleasant, but does he
ever slow down?

HEIDI

Only when he's conferencing. Or
after dark?

BARBRA

Except for stopping by my desk to
offer me a doughnut, whenever I've
seen him, he's been on a tear.
First, running into me then the
coffee.

HEIDI

That's Skip.
(snaps fingers, sings)
Just skippin' along.

BARBRA

(guffaws)
Wonder if we'll ever have a real
conversation.

JASMINE

You will. You'll find he's a fine
conversationalist.

BARBRA

(scoffs)
If he stays still long enough.

JASMINE

He's very ambitious and hard
working. He balances graduate
studies and work. It's challenging.

INT. OFFICE - BARBRA'S DESK - DAY

Barbra on the phone.

BARBRA

Yes, Carrol. I can do that... yes.
We include images of each style on
an associated page: day with
daywear, evening with eveningwear,
bridal gowns with wedding.

(listens)

Talk to you later.

Skip pauses near Barbara, her eyes glued to the computer.

SKIP

Hey, Barbra. How's it going?

She remains fixed on the screen.

BARBRA
Struggling. But getting there.
Thanks.

Skip starts to speak, thinks better of it and moves on.

COFFEE ROOM

Barbra, Heidi, and Jasmine brew coffee.

JASMINE
Barbra, on Thursdays the office
crew gathers at Eduardo's for
drinks and a bite to eat. You said
you were interested. Yes?

BARBRA
Sounds good. I have an errand to
run after work so I might be a bit
late.

HEIDI
No, problem. Most of us stay until
8:30 or 9:00. Some later.

BARBRA
I'll catch up with you around 6:30.

INT. EDUARDO'S RESTAURANT/BAR - NIGHT

Heidi, Jasmine, Skip, GEORGE (40s) big, balding, overweight,
Ms. Rymp and other Coworkers mingle at the bar.

Skip, hair slicked down, tie askew, raincoat over his arm,
beerglass in hand, has a piece of paper stuck to his chin
where he has cut himself shaving.

MS. RYMP
I thought you would've invited
Barbra to join us.

JASMINE
She's coming. Had an errand to run.

George and Skip off to the side.

GEORGE
New girl, eh? Like to meet her. Is
she nice?

SKIP

Pretty? Likes to laugh with her friends. Me? Just haven't had the chance to talk with her.

GEORGE

Really?

SKIP

Not for lack of trying. But you know me. My workload drives me.

GEORGE

And you wind up doing everything at the last minute.

SKIP

If there weren't last minutes, some days I think I'd get nothing done.

GEORGE

That's sales. Always at someone's beck and call. Ever consider doing anything else?

SKIP

Not until I finish my Master's. Good thing about sales is despite the pressure, my schedule is flexible so I can take classes.

GEORGE

What are you studying?

SKIP

Business administration.

GEORGE

Well, given your background in sales, sounds like a good fit.

SKIP

Speaking of sales, I agreed to meet a business owner about a website. Gotta run.

He slugs down the rest of his beer, says his goodbyes.

SKIP

See you, George. Gotta go, Jasmine.
See you tomorrow.
(offers his hand)
See you, Ms. Rymp. Gotta run.

FRONT DOOR

Skip pulling on a raincoat, hurries out just as Barbra enters.

Head down, she closes her umbrella and does not see Skip barrel toward her.

The two collide. Skip finishes pulling on his raincoat.

Barbra drops her umbrella, stands dumbstruck

SKIP

Oh. So sorry.

Skip, embarrassed.

SKIP

Here. Let me get it for you.

Skip hands the umbrella to Barbra.

They both chuckle.

BARBRA

We have to stop meeting this way,
Skip.

SKIP

Had the same thought. On that note,
how about we have dinner together.
Tomorrow night.

BARBRA

(Thinks a moment, laughs)
Why not.

SKIP

Great. But look, I'm late. Would it
be all right if we hammer out the
details tomorrow? At work?

BARBRA

On second thought, dinner only if
you promise not to be late.

SKIP

It's a promise.

Skip hurries out. Barbra heads in -- to warm greetings.

EXT. BARBRA'S HOME - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Flowers in hand, hair slicked, tie askew, Skip rings the doorbell.

Barbra swings open the door.

BARBRA

Wow! Doubly blessed. On time and with Posies!

SKIP

Given our brief but noteworthy history, it's the least I could do.

BARBRA

(smiles)

Things will get better, I'm sure.

SKIP

Fingers crossed.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

A waiter leads Skip (hair slicked, tie askew) and Barbra, (hair free and wearing large earrings, a colorful dress, and carrying a large pocket book) to a table then hands them each a menu.

WAITER

Care for something from the bar?

BARBRA

Whaddayathink, Skip? Brew? Or Cyclone?

SKIP

Your choice. Except after what we've been through...

BARBRA

I'll take a brew.

SKIP

Make it two.

BARBRA

Skip. Talk to me. How is it you're always in such a rush?

SKIP

Juggling sales and my studies.

BARBRA
You're still in school?

SKIP
Working on my masters.

The Waiter places two drafts on the table.

BARBRA
Not easy, huh?

SKIP
To date, for us, it's been easier
for me than for you.

He lifts his glass to toast.

SKIP
To smooth sailing. For both of us.

Barbra clinks Skip's glass with hers.

FADE OUT.

THE END