

"ANOTHER SHAMELESS CHRISTMAS CAROL RIP OFF II"

By

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FADE IN:

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

It's December 24. A minimalist sculpture is in front of the building. The parking lot is about half full.

JAY SWIFT, 40, handsome, well groomed, medium build, and four other people leave the building. Jay takes out a cell phone, it's 12:05.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

Jay and the others are at a table. Servers take away the dishes and return with deserts.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Jay drives into the almost empty parking lot and parks in the CEO's parking space. The vehicle's clock shows 2:10.

Jay and the others exit the vehicle. Jay strolls towards the front entrance. The others go to their vehicles parked in other executive parking spaces.

INT. CEO'S OFFICE - DAY

Jay looks through his emails.

INT. EXERCISE ROOM - DAY

Jay, wearing gym clothes, gets on an exercise machine. A wall clock reads 3:07.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Jay saunters down the corridor with abstract expressionist paintings. One painting morphs into an image of a southern gentleman.

Jay notices the change. He stops and the painting morphs back to normal. Jay continues down the corridor.

INT. UPSCALE RESTAURANT - DAY

There is regular seating and seating at the bar. The TV screens at the bar are showing sports events. A clock shows 3:52. There is holiday lighting and contemporary holiday music is playing. There are many patrons.

Jay takes a seat at the bar. One of the TV screens switches to a commercial. The commercial has a flicker of the southern gentleman.

INT. SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE - NIGHT

His house has Holiday themed projections. The Santa Clause in his sleigh projection changes momentarily to Santa Clause with the southern gentleman's face.

Jay reacts then dismisses the aberration.

INT. DREAM SETTING - NIGHT

Southern gentleman approaches Jay.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A STRIKE on the bed wakes Jay. BEAUREGARD JACKSON, early 20<sup>th</sup> century southern style dress, stern face, wire rimmed glasses, stands at the foot of the bed.

Jay throws a pillow.

JAY

Lights!

Overhead light turns on. Jay grabs a lamp and jumps out of bed.

BEAUREGARD

Don't start breaking your own things. I'm not going to hurt you.

Jay brandishes the lamp.

JAY

I'm calling the police!

BEAUREGARD

Do that.

Jay grabs his cell phone. It doesn't turn on.

JAY

What!

BEAUREGARD

Nothing is going to work for you.

JAY

The light did.

BEAUREGARD

It worked for me.

The overhead light flickers.

JAY

I'm dreaming.

BEAUREGARD

Do you know who I am?

JAY

No!

BEAUREGARD

I'm Beauregard Jackson. You had a statue of me taken to the dump.

JAY

You're Jackson's ghost and you're mad about me dumping that relic of you.

BEAUREGARD

I'm mad about you taking my company to the dump.

JAY

It isn't your company and I'm taking it to the next level.

BEAUREGARD

Follow me and we'll see about the next level.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Beauregard and Jay watch as workers load the Beauregard Jackson statue onto a truck.

BEAUREGARD

One of your first actions was getting rid of the building's artwork.

The truck drives off.

There's a minimalist structure.

Beauregard leads Jay into the building.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Beauregard and Jay stroll past workers removing classical paintings and hanging expressionist paintings.

Beauregard's face shows disapproval.

JAY

It's called modernization.

BEAUREGARD

It is a waste of money.

JAY

You have to spend money to make money.

Beauregard opens a conference room door,

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

There's a large table with chairs, a flat screen on the wall, and a laptop on the table.

The INSTRUCTOR, mid-20s, is showing a presentation diagram. A dozen managers, all above 50, sit around the table.

BEAUREGARD

Do you see a problem here?

JAY

Too many like you. Old guard.

BEAUREGARD

I see a problem with experienced managers being taught by someone half their age about some newfangled management method.

JAY

It's a scientific method of managing resources.

BEAUREGARD

A new management fad that results in managers spending time in a classroom learning things that will get discarded when the company's fortunes go bad.

JAY

Modern management practices are so businesses don't go bad.

Beauregard waves Jay out the door.

INT. PRINTER ROOM - DAY

A vendor is installing a modern looking printer. Workers are wheeling out an older and bulkier machine.

JAY

Out with the old in with the new.

Beauregard gives an unbelieving look. Beauregard points to the door.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Workers are putting up a large shadow box.

BEAUREGARD

What is this for?

JAY

We put a world map in it and put pins on the map showing where the employees came from.

BEAUREGARD

A wise use of \$2,527.36?

JAY

You know the cost of everything and the value of nothing.

Beauregard steps out. He signals Jay to follow.

INT. OFFICE BAY - DAY

It's an open area with rows of work stations about 90% occupied.

Beauregard leads Jay past the work stations.

One employee is sleeping at the desk and another is sleeping in a tent under the desk. An employee is looking at a non-business-related web site and another is texting a friend.

BEAUREGARD

Now let's look at this Holiday Season.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Jay stands in front of the minimalist structure. There's a makeshift concession stand. A score of employees and family members are present.

JAY

This is the company's way of kicking off the holiday season. Merry Christmas, Heri za Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah, Lailat al Miraj Mubarak, Happy Bodhi Day.

The attendees CLAP.

Beauregard and Jay watch from a distance.

BEAUREGARD

You bought sweets for seven times the people who came.

JAY

Better more than less.

BEAUREGARD

What made you think people would stay late for this?

JAY

A half-hour. Maybe I should do it a half-hour earlier next year.

BEAUREGARD

Add lost productivity to that bill?

JAY

Morale. It's not just the bottom line.

BEAUREGARD

The bottom line is everything. Morale doesn't help the bottom line.

JAY

You could give me an exact price tag for this, can't you?

BEAUREGARD

\$1,7550.60.

JAY

It's not cost. It's value.

Beauregard enters the building. Jay hurries after him.

INT. PRINTER ROOM - DAY

The modern looking printer has "OUT OF ORDER" written on a piece of bond paper on top of it. An OFFICE WORKER quick steps in and sees the sign.

OFFICE WORKER

I don't believe this!

Office Worker rushes out and Beauregard and Jay follow.

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

Beauregard and Jay stand as Office Worker steps in and presses the "7" button.

BEAUREGARD

That one doesn't work either.

JAY

Does one work?

BEAUREGARD

On the 13<sup>th</sup> floor.

Jay presses the "13" button, no effect.

BEAUREGARD (CONT'D)

You didn't think that would work?

JAY

Nothing else to do anyway.

BEAUREGARD

You traded old, boring reliable for new,  
sharp-looking junk.

The elevator opens. Office Worker, Beauregard, and Jay exit.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

A bulletin board is where the shadow box was. People are eating and talking at some of the tables.

Beauregard and Jay stroll in.

BEAUREGARD

You kept the map for six months.

JAY

We went for functional. You should be happy.

Beauregard stops at a table with two DINERS.

DINER 1

I have three sick days to kill.

DINER 2

I'm going to take a sick day tomorrow.  
We're going to go Christmas shopping.

DINER 1

Everybody else in my office already marked  
the days they'll be "sick".

Beauregard gives Jay a dirty look. Beauregard stomps out.

INT. OFFICE BAY - DAY

The bay is about 40% occupied.

Beauregard and Jay enter.

Two employees put on their coats and leave. Beauregard  
draws attention to the clock. It's 3 o'clock.

JAY

Working from home is more productive.

BEAUREGARD

So says some studies but the smart  
companies want their workers at work.

JAY

You're dead, and so should be your archaic  
business practices.

BEAUREGARD

Like not ignoring employee theft?

JAY

Where do you see employee theft?

BEAUREGARD

Employees socializing when they should be  
working. Calling in sick when they're  
not.

JAY

Nickle and diming employees are a good way  
to have big turn arounds.

Beauregard marches through the exit door.

INT. BALLROOM - NIGHT

It has expensive furnishings, decorations, and food. There is a bar. A combo plays holiday music. Many people are present.

Beauregard and Jay step in.

"Care to know how much this shindig costs?"

"You're saying we should cancel holiday parties?"

"Nobody is going to stay with a company or work harder because they like a party. These employees are eating and drinking the profits."

"It's torture listening to you."

"The future will show you torture."

INT. OFFICE BAY - NIGHT

Jay is in a crazy quilt of odd shaped cubicles. There are a few people, they are speaking Hindi. There's a digital wall clock.

Beauregard is at the other end of the Bay. He approaches Jay.

BEAUREGARD

The is the same office bay on a Christmas in the near future.

JAY

I don't like this layout at all.

The employees put on their coats and shuffle out the door. Jay glances at a digital wall clock.

JAY (CONT'D)

Two forty-seven. Early release?

BEAUREGARD

Yes, it's 2:47 AM.

JAY

The late shift?

BEAUREGARD

No, they worked for over 18 hours. Their productivity is amazing. The company's profit margins are excellent.

JAY

You expect me to ask the employees to work such hours?

BEAUREGARD

You should do whatever it takes to keep The Jackson Corporation in business.

Beauregard exits and Jay follows.

INT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Beauregard and Jay amble along the bare walls. Occasionally an employee darts past them.

JAY

This place has no soul.

BEAUREGARD

This place has no nonsense.

Beauregard opens a door.

INT. PRINTER ROOM - DAY

A large printer is spitting out paper at a high speed. An office worker tends to the output.

Beauregard brings Jay's attention to a digital clock. It shows 9:47 12/25.

JAY

Working on Christmas?

BEAUREGARD

Working when necessary. Floating holidays. The business is open every day. That's keeping up with the times.

JAY

You telling me if I don't change, I'll be out of a job?

BEAUREGARD

Do you think I would be doing this just so you could keep your position?

Beauregard marches out. Jay hesitates then hurries out.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

The minimalist sculpture is gone. In its place is "HDS, Ltd." in stainless steel.

BEAUREGARD

My company will go bankrupt because of you.

JAY

You're saying to save your company I should be a hard bottom with the employees and look to spend as little as possible?

BEAUREGARD

That's it in a nutshell.

JAY

Let me school you. Your company is not that important. Your practices didn't survive last century and has no business in this one.

Beauregard turn and walks away.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

A STRIKE on the bed wakes Jay. Beauregard Jackson stands at the foot of the bed.

JAY

How many years are you going to haunt me!

BEAUREGARD

You destroyed my company, disrupted the lives of 1,947 employees and their families. Every year for the rest of your natural life.

FADE OUT:

THE END