

Third Shift

By
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ACT ONE

EXT. NYC - LOWER MANHATTAN. NIGHT.

TIME STAMP: 11:30 PM. A YOUNG WOMAN in a tight dress races through the city as it shuts down for the night. She runs past: businesses pulling down grates, restaurants locking up, the last of the suits hailing cabs home. Under this we hear -

DANA (V.O.)

Working the third shift is hard. You're starting your day as the rest of the world is getting ready for bed.

We push in on a towering skyscraper.

INT. HELBROOK & ASSOCIATES. CONFERENCE ROOM. CONTINUOUS.

The voice belongs to **DANA HARVEY** - 40s, by the books HR rep in a sharp suit. She's great at her job *during the day*. But right now she is fighting to stay awake as she talks to a group of uninterested employees.

DANA

So believe me when I say that everyone at this firm appreciates the efforts that the overnight support staff puts into...

Dana falls asleep. Nobody is fazed by this, except **CRAIG HOOK**-40s, third shift supervisor, takes his position of power very seriously. Craig reaches out to touch Dana, but stops, unsure whether or not he should wake his superior. Awkward...

TOMMY - late 20s, gay, chill, Adam Pally type - takes a picture of sleeping Dana. **LINDSAY** - late 20s, competitive with a desperate edge - notices Tommy taking a picture and fluffs her hair.

LINDSAY

Do you think Dana's prettier than me?

TOMMY

Yes.

LINDSAY

It's because she gets more sunlight.

TOMMY

Day people look the same as night people. You're just not that hot.

Lindsay shoots Tommy a dirty look. Dana snaps awake, crazed and disoriented. She remembers where she is and powers on.

DANA

Some attorneys have expressed concerns that things are not as professional and efficient on this shift as they are during the first and second shifts.

CRAIG

Ms. Harvey, I assure you that my staff is nothing but professional.

The door flies open and **JADE** - mid 20s, our woman from the opening, charming and she knows it - bursts into the room.

JADE

There everyone is! Didn't realize there was a meeting. Just been at my desk, working away since 11 o'clock, when my shift started... I brought candy!

Several people rush toward Jade for candy. Dana gives Craig a look - you were saying. He forces a smile and addresses his employees with cheer.

CRAIG

Hey gang, Ms. Harvey's been so nice as to visit us from HR. Let's show her how *professional* we are on the third shift!

As soon as Craig steps in front of Dana, he drops the smile and angrily mouths threats to his staff as they settle down.

TOMMY

(to Jade)

I think you've upset the Craigtator.

JADE

Nah, that's just his face.

TOMMY

How was opening night?

JADE

17 people in the audience.

TOMMY

Alright, double digits!

JADE

Well 12 of them were German tourists who kept asking "*Is this Broadway?*" and then left when they realized it wasn't. Wow, he's still going.

Tommy turns and sees Craig, still silently mouthing threats.

DANA

Is there a problem?

CRAIG

Round of applause for Dana Harvey.

DANA

Not necessary. As I was saying, what was I saying, how do you do this, I shouldn't be awake right now... We hired a wellness counselor to help mitigate the stresses of working overnight and increase work efficiency. Albert Goldstein.

ALBERT GOLDSTEIN - 20s, never grew out of his awkward stage - fumbles through his notes. Lindsay turns to Jade and Tommy.

LINDSAY

I knew it! That's Jerry Goldstein's son.

JADE

How do you know that?

TOMMY

Why do you know that?

LINDSAY

I don't know, maybe because Jerry Goldstein's the most powerful director slash producer in the city and I've seen like all of his family pictures.

TOMMY

Aaaw, Lindsay's a stalker. Shocker.

LINDSAY

Funny. We'll see who's laughing when my new bestie Albert introduces me to his dad who casts me in all of his shows.

ALBERT

Thanks Ms. Harvey. Um, there are many negative side effects to working the graveyard shift, such as heart disease, diabetes, obesity -

LINDSAY

OBESITY!

DANA

Skip the negative effects and get to how you'll help them! Please.