

Elm Shoots

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(Because there will be no formal storyboards, this document will have more detailed direction than a script for submission to a contest, etc.)

EXT. SOLID GROUNDS PATIO - DAY

CINDY and HEATHER are sitting, coffee and rolls on the table. HENRY is sitting at a nearby table.

MEDIUM CU.

HEATHER

Have you been seeing anybody lately?

CINDY

I just got asked out by that sports reporter, Joe Smith. I met him at the yacht club last weekend.

CUT TO:

CU HEATHER

HEATHER

Joe Smith. You've got to be kidding!

CUT TO:

CU HENRY

Henry turns his head toward Cindy and Heather.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

No, really. He gave me his card, asked me to call him to go out sometime. I told him I'm a cheerleader in college, which sealed the deal.

HEATHER

That's just like him. Says he's interested, gives you his card, then leaves it up to you to take the initiative.

CINDY

How do you know him?

HEATHER

I went out with him about half a dozen times. All he did was talk about the jocks he's met, their nice homes, what cars they drive. He

was boring.

And he never put the moves on me. Just waited for me to be so impressed with his blather that I'd throw myself into his arms.

(Jokingly.)
Needless to say, I kept my lady-like composure.

He doesn't even seem very athletic. He never mentioned getting a varsity letter in school, or even being on any team, in any sport.

I don't even know if he could catch a ball if it was thrown to him.

CINDY

Maybe it's time he played in the big leagues. I've got a plan.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

JOE gets a phone call. (Henry in voice over). Cell phone rings.

CU.

JOE

Yo Ho Ho.

HENRY

It's me. Hey, some girl named Cindy is gonna try to drive you crazy. I heard her talking over Sunday brunch with her girlfriend. She'll call you tomorrow morning at work, so be prepared.

JOE

Tell me everything you know.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ELMWOOD AVENUE - DAY

Cindy and Joe are walking down the street, dressed in jeans and t-shirts.

MEDIUM SHOT.

CINDY

I've got to get my girlfriend a gift. Thanks for coming with me. If I get something big,

do you mind carrying it?

JOE

No problem.

CINDY

Well, don't you want to take my arm?

JOE

No problem.

Cindy takes Joe's arm, and pulls his elbow against her breast.

CUT TO:

CU CINDY

Cindy does not appear to be wearing anything under the t-shirt.

VO. HENRY

Hey, how's things?

CUT TO:

CU CINDY, JOE, AND HENRY

Henry's head is in between them. They turn toward Henry. Henry is looking at Cindy.

CINDY

Do, I know you?

JOE

He wishes. Cindy, this is my friend, Henry.

HENRY

Do I get a kiss on the cheek, before you *promenade*?

JOE

Will a kiss make you disappear?

HENRY

Up to heaven.

Cindy gives Henry a kiss on both cheeks.

HENRY

Have a beautiful day.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU

Cindy and Joe turn away from Henry.

CINDY

Shall we continue?

DISSOLVE TO:

They walk arm-in-arm, then Cindy stops in front of Blue Mountain Coffee.

CUT TO:

CU.

CINDY

Let's see about a coffee maker.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE - DAY

MEDIUM CU.

Cindy is holding a metal coffee maker. Joe is looking away from Cindy.

CUT TO:

CU.

CINDY

What do you think about this? (Cindy tosses Joe the coffee maker.)

CUT TO:

CU.

Joe looks her way, and catches it.

VO.

CINDY

Nice catch.

JOE

I've been practicing.

But you behave yourself. Something could've gotten broken, ya know. This isn't a ball diamond, and I'm not your catcher.

Now, if you want to buy a good coffee maker,

get a French press, like this one. (Joe puts down the pot, picks up a different one, with a pyrex shell.)

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

JOE

And if you want to buy this, you'll need a burr grinder, not a blade grinder.

This should do the trick.

Joe picks up a small, white coffee grinder.

JOE

These burr grinders result in a more uniform grain size. I already made the mistake of buying a blade grinder. I've since bought one of these, and it works like a charm.

CINDY

I bet you think you're pretty smart, huh?

JOE

In some things, I'm almost clairvoyant.

I knew you were going to toss that coffee pot at me.

CINDY

Well, lets see what other surprises Elmwood has in store for us, before we make any decisions.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIER 1 WINDOW - DAY

Cindy and Joe are walking past several six foot metal giraffes in the window of Pier 1 Imports.

MEDIUM SHOT.

CINDY

Now, don't you think a six foot high metal giraffe would look better on a lawn than a pink flamingo?

JOE

One would be awfully lonely. You'd have to buy two of them, to keep each other company. Don't you think that couples have more fun?

CINDY

I'm having fun being single.

JOE

Do you want to save some money? We could look across the street, in the thrift shop?

CINDY

Nah, I couldn't get something from there. This is a gift.

JOE

I've seen some nice things in the window.

CINDY

Should I go stand in the window? Pretending that I'm a mannequin? (Seductively.) You could come in and dress me?

JOE

(Nonchalantly.)

I think you're big enough to dress yourself. I bet you can even tie your shoes.

CINDY

(Seductively.)

I might even be able to tie a knot in a cherry stem, while it's in my mouth.

Cindy takes Joe's arm, squeezes it against her breast, and they start to walk away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. INSPIRATION POINT - DAY

Cindy and Joe are walking into the store.

INT. INSPIRATION POINT - DAY

Cindy and Joe are looking at a rack of candles. Cindy is holding a candle to her nose.

CINDY

These smell great.

JOE

This one is called Joy.

CINDY

We could listen to Beethoven's Ode to Joy with it.

JOE

(Surprise)

You like Beethoven?

CINDY

I'm not a bimbo, even if I act like it
sometimes.

JOE

How about this book on the history of Crystal
Beach?

CUT TO:

CU. BOOK COVER

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

That's too old-time for her.

JOE

How about this, a history of Buffalo Blues
and Rock and Roll?

CUT TO:

CU. BOOK COVER

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

Maybe.

JOE

How about a nice bag, with Betty Page on it?

CUT TO:

CU. HANDBAG

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

You just like the old pin-up picture.

JOE

But it's so artistic.

CINDY

We can go down the street to the Albright Knox for art. I suppose your idea of art is a glossy centerfold.

JOE

No, I prefer art in 3 dimensional forms, like Auguste Rodin. Or you. You're at least 3 dimensional.

CINDY

(Jokingly. Throwing her chest forward.)

*I am **very** three di men shu null, and don't you forget it.*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MYKONOS RESTAURANT - DAY

MEDIUM SHOT.

Cindy and Joe are looking inside, standing near the door.

MEDIUM CU.

JOE

You could get her a gift certificate.

I (with emphasis) like this place, but there's lots of other restaurants you could consider.

This block has lots of places, from hot dogs or pizza to Vietnamese, to high class kwee zeen.

CINDY

No, she might think she has to take me with her. We see enough of each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ARTCRAFTERS GALLERY - DAY

Cindy and Joe are looking in the window.

MEDIUM SHOT.

CINDY

Let's look in here.

CUT TO:

INT. ARTCRAFTERS GALLERY - DAY

MEDIUM CU.

Cindy and Joe are looking at art glass. Cindy is holding a long, slim, green glass vase, about 2 feet tall. Joe has his hands in his pockets.

CUT TO:

CU.

Cindy tosses the vase.

CUT TO:

CU. JOE, FROM KNEES TO HEAD

Joe just watches as the vase crashes to the floor. Sound of breaking glass.

CUT TO:

CU.

Broken glass at Joe's feet.

CUT TO:

CU. CINDY'S FACE

CINDY
(Incredulously.)
I didn't think you'd miss it!

CUT TO:

CU. JOE'S FACE

JOE
(Exasperated.)
I didn't think you'd throw it! I told you last time, I'm not your catcher.

What we have here is a classic failure to communicate.

CUT TO:

CU. CINDY'S FACE

CINDY

(Irritated.)

What we have here is a classic failure to take your damn hands out of your pockets.

CUT TO:

CU. JOE'S FACE

JOE

You must admit, I gave you fair warning. To show what a good sport I am, I'll pay for half.

It was worth watching the expression on your face.

Joe slowly leans his head forward, until his head is almost touching Cindy's head.

Now, show me that you can be a good sport, too. You did throw it, after all.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

Joe starts to laugh, then Cindy laughs.

CINDY

We're quite a pair, aren't we.

That's one way to avoid having to carry something heavy.

JOE

Let's go around the corner, I'll buy you some nice, light, unbreakable flowers.

CINDY

We'll need a vase. But I don't think we'll be able to use the one we'll be paying for.

JOE

You'll have to use the old fashioned kind. Your hand.

Joe takes Cindy's hand, and raises it up to her face. Cindy makes a fist, smiles, and shakes it at Joe.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BALD'S EX-CELL FLOWERS - DAY

Cindy is leaving the shop, flowers in hand. Joe is behind her, putting his wallet in his pocket.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OFF THE WALL - DAY

Guitar player is busking at the far end of the shot. Cindy and Joe are walking toward the door.

JOE

I'll buy you lunch, for being such a good sport.

CUT TO:

INT. OFF THE WALL - DAY

Cindy and Joe are waiting to be seated, looking at a wall display.

JOE

Here's a book from a local photographer, Milton Rogovin.

CINDY

I've seen his photos at the Gallery at Rockwell Hall. He donated his collection to the Library of congress.

Lets sit at this table.

CUT TO:

INT. OFF THE WALL - DAY

Cindy and Joe are seated. Plates and wine glasses are half-consumed.

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

We'll have to come back here some time and play scrabble, in the back room. You'll have to show me you can spell more than the names of celebrities.

JOE

And why would you think that I can only spell the names of celebrities? I have not mentioned the name of a single celebrity all day.

CINDY

Let's just call it a woman's intuition.

JOE
(Teasingly.)
I wonder if that's anything like my
clairvoyance?

CINDY
Only time will tell.

DISSOLVE TO:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - DAY
Long shot of Teressa's shop.

CUT TO:

INT. TERESSA'S - DAY
Cindy and Joe are looking at a dress.

MEDIUM CU.

JOE
This is a great dress.

CUT TO:

CU. DRESS

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY
It's beautiful.

Cindy looks around at other merchandise. Walks to the
wall, from which shirts are hanging.

But how about this?

Cindy takes a small tank top down from the wall.

Like it?

CUT TO:

CU. TANK TOP

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

JOE

How could I disapprove of something so small
and harmless?

CINDY

So you don't find this threatening?

CUT TO:

CU.

Cindy holds the skimpy tank top in front of her.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

Would you be intimidated if I wore something
like this?

JOE

I thought we were buying a gift for your girl
friend.

CINDY

I can always treat myself to something too,
you know.

JOE

Don't think about yourself, now. Think about
your friend.

CINDY

Are you my friend?

JOE

I'm trying to be friendly with you. I don't
normally spend an afternoon in these little
shops.

CINDY

So, as a friend, would you give me your
honest opinion if I asked for it?

JOE

No problem.

CINDY

So, how would this look on me? I'm gonna try

it on.

Cindy goes into the changing room.

CUT TO:

Cindy modeling the shirt.

CUT TO:

CU. CINDY

CINDY

Cat got your tongue? You're not speaking.

CUT TO:

CU. JOE

JOE

Nice top. Very nice top. No problem.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

So, you see, it's worth buying this for myself.

Just to see the look of admiration on your face.

Well, now you shouldn't have anything to be nervous about. As you can see, I'm not hiding anything.

JOE

No hidden agendas? Nothing to hide?

CINDY

Well everybody has things they like to keep secret. I'm not a blabbermouth.

JOE

That's good.

Because you never know who could overhear some chance remark, bits and pieces of a conversation.

They could get the wrong impression. Maybe think somebody is shallow, when in fact they're really quite fascinating and

intelligent.

CINDY

So are you saying that you're fascinating and intelligent?

JOE

No, I'm talking about you.

Let's just keep our little secrets buried, and see what we can discover about each other that's worth sharing.

Who knows, this could be the start of a wonderful relationship.

CINDY

Is this another example of your clairvoyance?

JOE

No, just an example of my optimism.

Let's declare a truce, no more surprises, or jolts, just little nudges as we go along.

CINDY

Then how about if I nudge you down Elmwood a little farther, to the street fair? (Cindy slaps Joe on the ass.)

JOE

Better pay for that tank top, first.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ELMWOOD AVENUE - DAY

WIDE SHOT.

Cindy and Joe are walking toward the Elmwood Avenue Street Fair. Cindy is wearing the tank top, and carrying the flowers.

THE END