

FADE IN: You don't need editing direction on a spec script.

**WHITE SCREEN** Later in the script it seems the roses are made from money or do the petals turn to money when they fall off?

Money lies around potted, new red roses.

Money is scattered around a potted rose. Play with the wording for flow. Idea - the petals are embossed with \$100 bills.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

A large, beautiful two-story house. Fancy. A lovely flower garden sits out front.

Consider assigning a \$ value to the house - million dollar home or is it a multi-million? Are we talking expensive neighborhood or Paris Hilton/Elon Musk rich.

INT. HOUSE - DAY

~~Gorgeous flowers decorate the house.~~

The flower theme is clear from the other text.

OFFICE

Fancy office with stunning flowers. A rich, stuck-up investor, EDA SMAYBERG (40), hangs up an office phone. She smiles, ~~feeling accomplished.~~

Show the feeling instead of telling it.

\*She rubs her hands together with a chuckle.

A cellphone rings. Her rich, stuck-up MOM (70) calls. Eda adds expensive jewelry to her online cart as she talks. answers

EDA

Combine sentences - Her cellphone rings, it's her rich...

Hello, mom.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE) (V.O.)

Hello, dear. How has your day been?

EDA

Lucrative.

This works, but I think it flows smoother in present tense "How is your day going" or suggestion- jump to the chase with "Have you made any money today?" Like mom is making sure she is on task- amp up the personality.

Her mom laughs, pleased.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)

Splendid. Guess what happened today. My maid suggested that I donate money. ~~Nonsense!~~

Suggestion - you'll never guess what happened today - since you are not actually having Eda guess.

Suggestion- name a charity

EDA

Ha! You should've fired her right then.

Shorten - Did you fire her? I would have fired her? She should be fired.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)

I did.

Eda's mom laughs, and Eda smiles. Eda orders the jewelry.

Suggestion - Combine the sentences to one short image. Eda snorts as she places her order.

Recommend finding alternative words to smiles. I'll include a link with suggestion in the email.  
\*See example

Avoid using generic words like "laughs" or "smiles" try to find alternatives that give the reader a clearer understanding of the emotion/intensity of the action

## DOWNSTAIRS HALL

great word choice- gives a clear picture.

Eda struts down the staircase with a purse. A caring maid, CARA SMITH (45), sweeps.

Why would the maid care about this woman?

EDA  
I'm going shopping.

Thought- Eda isn't the type to explain her actions to the maid.

CARA  
Ok, Miss Smayberg.

Alt. Ideas

- have Eda give Cara an order or insult

- Eda ignores Cara, closes the door as Cara is nicely saying goodbye or reminding her about her coat

Eda opens the front door...

## EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - DAY

A lively, humorous woman, JOY PEOPLES (40), stands at the door. She's dirty with raggedy clothes. An old bike rests at her side.

JOY  
Hi, Eda!

Eda frowns at Joy, disgusted.

EDA  
Who are you?

JOY  
(shocked)  
You don't recognize me?

EDA  
No, I don't. ~~Go wash your face and I might be able to.~~

It feels colder and more stuck up if she interacts as little as possible. Stingy with words as well as money. She wouldn't want to encourage conversation with someone like Joy.

JOY  
Come on, look.

Eda observes Joy's face.

EDA  
Joy?

What was Eda and Joy's relationship in high school? What made Joy think Eda would be helpful. Is the wealth something new? - Based on the mom conversation it seems like she was raised in this lifestyle, but another spin could be she worked her butt off her money and that is why she is stingy and wont share. She is overcompensating. This is a chance to give some hints to Joy and Eda's backstory, add some layers to Eda's character through Joy.

JOY  
Yeah! Long time, huh!? Remember  
back in high school --

This isn't bad, but can easily be taken out, the audience can use their imagination to fill in the blank, internet, mutual friend, social media, etc.

EDA  
Wait a minute. How did you find out  
where I live?

JOY  
The internet!

Eda looks Joy up and down.

EDA  
What happened to you?

JOY  
Life.

Suggestion- to amp up Joy's quirky personality, replace the dialogue with a shrug.

~~Eda opens her mouth to say something rude -- Joy lays her bike down and backs up, marvels at the house. Joy rushes back to the door and bounces in place.~~

JOY (CONT'D)  
Wow, this house is huge!

Eda checks her watch.

Suggestion- continue the action- have her start walking away and Joy get in front of her again.

~~EDA  
What do you want?~~

JOY  
Can I have a few dollars? I haven't ate in two days.

Joy pulls on her shirt.

Suggestion - add in an exaggerated gesture for joy "rubs he stomach" "puppy dog eyes" etc.

JOY (CONT'D)  
And I haven't changed since, um, I don't remember.

EDA  
I'm not giving you money.

Opportunity here as well to dive into both characters if you have Joy say "Why not, you have plenty?" or something to that affect. What would be Eda's response to that?

Joy frowns and sticks her lip out, ~~disappointed~~. She smiles, excited.

this is a great descriptive gesture.

If you invert the line - sticks he lips out with a frown - you don't need the disappointed.

JOY  
Can I clean your house!?! I won't charge much!

This is great, but worth playing around with some other dialogue choices - I'll work for food or some other sort of payment not \$\$

Eda points inside. ~~Joy sees~~ Cara sweeping the hall.

Perfect- saying it without saying it.

JOY (CONT'D)  
Hi, I'm Joy!

I'm picturing Joy taking the opening to go inside or peer over Eda's shoulder- What is Joy physically doing?

CARA  
Hi, it's nice to meet you --

Eda shuts the door.

JOY  
~~(to Eda)~~  
Can I please have a few dollars?

the doors shut- so there is no else for Joy to talk to

Recommend taking this exchange out, to avoid dragging the conversation

EDA  
You're holding me up.

Eda struts to a luxury car, <sup>drives off</sup> leaves. Joy knocks on the door. Cara answers.

JOY <sup>Alt. we just met</sup>  
I know I just met you, buttttt do you have a few dollars?

Cara digs a few dollars out her pocket, gives them to Joy.

Opportunity for a small sentimental gesture or even a comedic moment behind Eda's back - Cara tells Joy she can use the shower or something to that effect.

INT. HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Eda sits shopping bags, her purse, and a box on the table.

She pulls potted red roses out the box. The roses are new. She sees money in the box.

spots

How can you tell roses are new? Alt. full bloom, budding, etc.

another word try to find alternatives for.

EDA  
What?

She puts the money in her purse. She unbags clothes, sees money around the pot. She puts it in her purse.

Try to find new ways to say things when actions are repeated.

She unbags perfume, sees money around the pot. She stares at the roses. Money falls off them. She gasps, shocked.

Ex. turns to find more money scattered on the table at the base of the pot. Pocket's it again.

EDA (CONT'D)  
Money roses!

<sup>Idea- fist pump - push the contrast to her normal staid character.</sup>  
She screams and jumps around the room, delighted. Cara hurries in, panicking.

CARA  
What's wrong, Miss Smayberg!?

EDA  
Money roses!

Cara calms down, relieved.

What would Cara's concern be if something did happen- that she would have to spend more time waiting on Eda? Lose her job? Fun thought to explore.

CARA  
Oh, I thought something happened to you... Money roses. I know someone who makes those.

EDA  
No, not those money roses.

Eda points to the roses. Cara sees money fall off them. Cara points at the roses, shocked.

flowers

CARA  
Mo-money fell off those, those...

EDA  
Roses!

Cara gawks at the roses.

CARA  
How?

EDA      *Chance to include some fun body language.*  
I don't care!

CARA  
Where did they come from?

EDA  
Some strange woman gave them to me.

CARA  
Can I have some ~~of the money~~?

EDA  
No.

CARA  
But, Eda --

*Interesting you changed to calling her by first name- is that deliberate? Did Cara have a previous relationship with Eda where they were closer?* EDA

I said no.

Eda snatches money off the table, counts it. Cara notices the roses are losing color and drying out.

CARA  
Your roses are dying.

Eda drops the money, rushes to the roses.

EDA  
No, no, no. They were just fine!  
It's ok. I'll save them. I've saved roses before.

CARA  
These roses are dying too fast. I don't think you can save them.

EDA  
Why are you dying!?

Eda taps her lip, thinking.

*Thought- Eda has boatloads of money- how much can these roses be giving her? This should be small change to her, yet the reaction is so big - I get the excitement over the magic, but even if they are \$100 bills the set up you have already would be the same if you or I got a tree that dropped about \$5 a day in quarters. Cool and magical, but it wouldn't change our situation significantly. - so either the roses got to be dropping diamonds maybe or Eda's reactions need tweaking.*

*Idea- Piggy backing off the earlier spin that Eda didn't always have money- she might empathize with the roses.*

*Idea- It could be the "unique" value that Eda covets over the monetary. Like a rare first edition or original painting.*

EDA (CONT'D)  
The woman said something! "*Share with others, or these roses will die.*"

Adjust the blunt quoting of the woman, maybe phrase it as a question, the woman couldn't have been serious when she said....? or some other more natural way of getting the information into the scene. Maybe there is a note in the box or the little stake in the pot with instructions.

CARA  
Share the money with others!

EDA  
Ha!

Opportunity for another comedic or emotional action(s) line with Cara getting her hopes raised then dashed.

CARA  
Please, Miss Smayberg. My family really needs --

EDA                      Nice cut off, feels very natural.  
Shhh. I'm thinking.

You already show it.

Eda taps her lip, ~~thinking~~. Her eyes light up.

EDA (CONT'D)  
I'll spend as much as I can before they die!

This is a great moment because it says a lot without saying a lot. Play with the action lines and dialogue, it's good as is, but might benefit from adjustment.

CARA  
Just share, and they won't die.

Eda snatches up the money, holds it like she's protecting it.

EDA  
It's mine. You can leave.

Cara glances at the roses, sighs. She leaves. Eda dances with the money.

it works, but be careful of overuse and when possible, go with another word/action choice.

FOYER

**Three times:** Eda rushes into the house with shopping bags.

Is there a symbolic reason for 3 times? You have it here and below. If not, I would consider leaving it out, the bold print takes the reader out of the flow a bit.

LIVING ROOM

Eda plops down on the sofa, exhausted. She holds the roses and bottled water.

Money falls off the roses. The roses are drier, less color.

She drinks the water, jumps up.

Fun scene. Shopping marathons are hard work.

EDA  
Back to shopping!

Idea- maybe some of the stuff she is buying are silly or completely useless for her. Like if she is buying dog stuff but doesn't have one and is allergic or scuba gear, but she is afraid of water.

FOYER

**Three times:** Eda rushes into the house with shopping bags, luggage, and kitchenware.

KITCHEN      *Idea - the \$ amounts on the money get smaller.*

Eda rests at the table, drained. The roses are on it.

Money falls off them. The roses are drier, less color.

Five piles of money are on the table. A note is on each pile:  
"Bills," "Invest," "Savings," "Rainy Day," "Me Days"

Her cellphone rings.      *Eda is very good at money management.*

EDA  
Hello, mom.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
(panics)  
Did you invest in Nosh? The  
pharmaceutical company.

EDA      *(V.O.) - Phone conversation where you don't see the person  
only hear them use Voice Over*

Yes.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
How much?

EDA      *Could use some action lines to break up the dialogue.*

Millions.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
So did I!

EDA  
Mom, what's wrong?

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
It's a Ponzi scheme!

EDA      *Suggestion- Just use "Mom" as character name, since no one  
else's mom is there.*

No, it's not.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
It is! It's on the news! All of the  
major channels!

Dread falls on Eda.

EDA  
If I lose that money...



*This shows that Eda isn't the type to put all her  
eggs in one basket. It makes this next scene  
feel unrealistic or overdramatized.*

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
Not "if," dear. Your money is gone.

EDA  
Maybe I'll get some of it back.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
Not anytime soon!

#### DINING ROOM

Eda sits, stressed; face in hands. She stares at the roses. They're crispy, moments from being completely dead.

EDA  
~~"Share with others, or these roses will die."... No.~~

She sits back, folds her arms. She eyeballs the roses.

CARA (V.O.)  
~~(in Eda's mind)~~  
Just share, and they won't die.

She grabs her cellphone, puts it down. Grabs phone, puts it down. Grabs phone, puts it down. She dials.

CARA (PHONE)  
More formal "Hello" Hi, Miss Smayberg.

EDA  
~~Can you come over?~~

This is the moment Eda softens, she asks instead of tells. Suggestion is to move it down a bit.

CARA (PHONE)  
To work?

EDA  
No...  
(difficult) *Make this the moment of softening.*  
I'm sharing... I'm sharing the money with you.

New location or just vocally?

Cara celebrates. Eda looks at the roses. They're new. Eda grabs them, dances around.

*It might be cute if there was side by side images of both women dancing. However, make sure you imply the shot and not say it directly. If you decide to insert it. Ex. The women perform matching boogie downs in their respective homes.*

#### FOYER

Someone knocks on the front door. Eda opens it to Joy. Joy is dirty. ~~She~~ wears the same raggedy clothes. Her bike stands at her side.

*Combine sentences*



JOY  
Hi, Eda! Sorry to bother you again,  
butttt can I have a few dollars?

EDA  
Come in.

Joy jerks her head back, ~~shocked~~.

JOY  
Really? ~~You're gonna let me borrow  
it?~~

EDA  
Just come in.

Joy hurries in, leaving ~~es~~ her bike outside.

INT. HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Eda struts in. Joy bounces in. Joy looks around, marveling.

JOY  
Wowwww.

Money falls off the roses. Joy notices. She blinks a few times, sees money fall off the roses.

JOY (CONT'D)      My cynical side wonders why Joy can't get a job or  
Did you see that!?

My cynical side wonders why Joy can't get a job or hold onto money - mental issues, drugs, gambling addiction - maybe give her a small backstory.

EDA  
Yes. They're money roses.

Joy throws up her arms.

JOY  
Free money!

Eda nods, gives her money. Joy celebrates wildly, dances silly. Eda laughs.

EXT. HOUSE - FRONT - DAY      I love that Eda struts, but the word is used a lot maybe find a couple of alternatives- swaggers, marches, etc.

Eda struts toward the house with her purse and shopping bags, cellphone to ear.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
(stunned)  
You ~~actually~~ shared?

EDA  
Yes, mom. It felt... Nice.

EDA'S MOM (PHONE)  
Nonsense.  
good ole mom

INT. HOUSE - FOYER - DAY

The roses sit on an entryway table. The roses are new. Money falls off them.

Eda struts into the house, off the phone. Joy texts "*I got the job!*" and a goofy picture. Joy is clean. She wears a new retail store uniform.

Eda texts "*I'm happy for you.*" She thinks. She smiles, texts "*Come by later. Get more.*"

Finish strong with more creative word choices.

FADE OUT.

I truly enjoyed the story and can't wait to see what your next revision brings. A couple of small areas that need more explanation or tweaking in the story logic, but overall, a fun read.

Don't hold back from amping up some of the comedic opportunities.

You don't have to go into full on backstories, but a line or two hinting at them might make the characters more rounded.

I love the message and theme of the story and it will give the visual team a lot of fun things to play around with.