

EVERYONE'S AMERIQA

Written by

A. M. Pfeffer

Story by

A. M. Pfeffer and Andrew Dinsky

Contact: 310-486-4372
12247 Hartsook St
Los Angeles, CA 91607

WGA West Registered
September 18, 2023

FADE IN:

INT. AN OPULENT OFFICE - LOS ANGELES - DAY

SUPER SLOW MO takes us around the bullpen, where utter havoc has descended upon TWENTY UNFORTUNATE SOULS, as their office is being shut down by FOUR MASSIVE SECURITY GUARDS.

Loose papers fly through the air; small garbage cans have fires burning inside; A LARGE MEXICAN MAN weeps like a little kid; An AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN hides under his desk talking on his cell phone; EMPLOYEES OF ALL BACKGROUNDS are being pushed this way and that, doing their best to gather up personal belongings and stacks of files.

And watching it all in her fancy designer suit with helpless despair from the doorway of the manager's office stands PAIGE KAVANAGH, LATE 20's.

PULL BACK from Paige and REVERSE ANGLE to the bullpen once again, as she takes in the chaos, scanning over the mostly YOUNG, UN-EXTRAORDINARY EMPLOYEES on their way out of a job. As she stands there in stunned disbelief...

PAIGE (V.O.)
(a hint of Boston)
"In this life we are all either kings or pawns, emperors and fools." Napoleon Bonaparte said that at some point. Probably right before they exiled his ass too.

SUPER: BASED ON WAY, WAY, WAY TOO MANY TRUE EVENTS

PAIGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Maybe we should just start from the beginning. The real, no sugar-coated bullshit beginning.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. 101 PINE STREET, LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA - EARLY MORNING

SUPER: LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA, 1979

An absolutely beautiful late 1970's Cadillac screeches into the parking lot of a small bank. The sign out front reads *LONG BEACH SAVINGS AND LOAN*.

A VERY POLISHED MAN, 40, with an impeccable suit to match the era, steps out of the car.

He leans down to wipe a speck of dirt off his shoe, simultaneously noticing a car wash business across the street sporting a promotional clown on the top of the building.

The man smirks to himself at the sight of the clown and pulls out a set of keys, opening up the bank.

INT. LONG BEACH SAVINGS AND LOAN - CONTINUOUS

The man turns on all the lights and we see that balloons are tied up everywhere, accompanied by a massive GRAND OPENING sign posted above where the tellers will take their place a few hours from now.

The following should be spoken as the dapper man walks around the tiny depository making sure all is absolutely perfect...

PAIGE (V.O.)

My name's Paige by the way, and today's my birthday. As in my actual birthday. Seriously, I'm being delivered a few hours from now on the other side of the country in a pleasant little town called Framingham, twenty miles east of Boston Massachusetts.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM

A DOCTOR slaps the ass of a NEWBORN. Off crying...

BACK TO:

INT. LONG BEACH SAVINGS AND LOAN - SAME AS BEFORE

PAIGE (V.O.)

Which means I share the same birthday as this bank. A bank that will later become the largest private retail mortgage lender in the history of the United States, and where I will go to work many years from now.

By now the dapper man grabs a slew of balloons and another "Grand Opening" to place out front of the bank, walking outside to do just that. And OFF FOCUS on that big sign...

EXT. LONG BEACH SAVINGS AND LOAN - CONTINUOUS

PAIGE (V.O.)

Call it destiny, or fate, or whatever it is you believe in. But trust me on this -- whether you've ever worked for this bank like I did, borrowed from it, or never even knew it existed -- this country, hell, the whole world felt its power like a fucking magnitude 10.0 earthquake.

CUT TO:

INT. LOWER MIDDLE CLASS IRISH AMERICAN HOUSEHOLD - DAY

SUPER: FRAMINGHAM MASSACHUSETTS, JANUARY 1983

A FOUR YEAR OLD PAIGE rams a toy truck into a piggy bank on the floor of the living room, while RONALD REAGAN is giving a State of The Union speech on an old television behind her. Picking Paige up off the floor...

MOM

Okay that's enough, Paige.

Much to Paige's dismay, her MOTHER places her in between herself and Paige's FATHER on the family couch.

Focusing in on Reagan's speech...

REAGAN ON TV

"Yes we still have problems -- plenty of them. But it's just plain wrong -- unjust to our country and unjust to our people -- to let those problems stand in the way of the most important truth of all: America is on the mend."

Raucous APPLAUSE from those in attendance.

PAIGE (V.O.)

According to history books, one of the country's worst recessions was actually over in November '82, but you couldn't tell that to the Savings & Loans institutions.

(MORE)

PAIGE (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 Forty-nine of them would go on to
 fail the same year after Reagan
 delivered this speech. But Long
 Beach Savings and Loan?

CUT TO:

INT. LONG BEACH SAVINGS AND LOAN - SAME TIME

The dapper man is in a back office with a few other BANK
 PERSONNEL watching the same state of the union speech on a
 little television. He's got a big grin on as they all listen.

PAIGE (V.O.)
 Yup -- they opened five more
 branches. And to truly understand
 why they were expanding while so
 many other banks were going out of
 business, you really need to
 understand this man, Roland Arnall.

PUSHING IN on the dapper character, we...

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - DAY

SUPER: LOS ANGELES, 1960'S

Roland, now in his 20's, has set up a little makeshift stand
 near the beach where he and a YOUNGER MAN peddle flowers.

PAIGE (V.O.)
 After a long road emigrating from
 post War World II Europe to the
 United States, Roland and his
 brother sold flowers on the
 streets, saving every penny he
 could for bigger plans.

A car full of BEAUTIFUL GIRLS stops at a stoplight not far
 from the makeshift stand. Roland takes this opportunity to
 throw together a bouquet, suavely making his way over to the
 car, ultimately getting down on one knee as if to propose.
 The girls are amused and impressed at the showmanship of it
 all, inviting him to come with.

But instead of going himself, he calls his brother over and
 sends the very excited younger man off with the girls.

Of course Roland never does give away those flowers. And as he puts them back in the stand one by one...

CUT TO:

EXT. SIX UNIT APARTMENT COMPLEX - LONG BEACH, CA

Roland stands before a truly dilapidated little complex. Although, from the look in his eye and smile on his face, you'd think he was staring straight at the Taj Mahal.

PAIGE (V.O.)

As soon as he had enough dough,
Roland began investing in real
estate. Apartments mostly.

An EMBARRASSED REALTOR rushes up to Roland, obviously apologizing for making him wait. But Roland doesn't mind, he just winks at the realtor and pats him reassuringly on the back. Then Roland extends out his hand towards the complex as if to say "after you." As they start walking...

PAIGE (V.O.)

By the end of the decade and many a
handshake later, Roland would have
enough clout and capital to raise
the few million bucks it took to
start Long Beach Savings and Loan.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - LUNCH TIME

Complete with Richie Rich lunch box, SEVEN YEAR OLD PAIGE is munching on a sandwich next to A COUPLE OTHER SEVEN YEAR OLD GUY FRIENDS who are in a fight over a baseball card trade.

SUPER: 1986

Interjecting...

SEVEN YEAR OLD PAIGE

Come on, Tommy, you have three Wade
Boggs rookie cards. Can't you give
up just one of 'em?

TOMMY

Not for Mattingly. No way, Paige!

SEVEN YEAR OLD PAIGE

How about if Kevin throws in a Ryne
Sandberg?