

18 CONTINUED:

18

FRANK
Nothing. Why?

ELIOT
Well...it, uh, seems to pervert
the whole..."spirit" of
Christmas. It won't make people
feel good and joyous. This ad
will frighten them.

FRANK
(smiling coldly)
It'll scare the Dickens out of
them!

Frank turns on his heels and heads back to his office.
Grace gives Eliot a sympathetic smile and follows.

19 INT. AREA OUTSIDE FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

19

They reach Grace's desk, neat and impersonal save for a
child's fingerpainting taped to her cubicle wall.

FRANK
And, Grace, would you ah...oh,
what's the name of the kid I was
just talking to? With glasses,
bright kid, lot of guts?

GRACE
Eliot Loudermilk.

FRANK
Yeah, Loudermilk. Would you call
security, have them clean out his
desk, change his locks and toss
him out of the building.

GRACE
He's fired? But it's Christmas.

FRANK
Thank you. Call accounting and
have his bonus stopped.

GRACE
(on phone)
Loudermilk? Code Nine.

He points at the fingerpainting.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

FRANK
What's this?

GRACE
It's a painting one of my kids
did. See, there's Santa and -

FRANK
How many fingers does Mrs. Claus
have on her left hand?

GRACE
(studying it)
Four.

FRANK
On her right?

GRACE
Seven.

He yanks it off the wall and tosses it to her.

FRANK
Grace, it's crap. Lose it.

He heads for his office.

FRANK
Come in and bring your pad.

20 INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

20

Frank is making himself a "Stab" -- Stolichnaya and Tab
-- when Grace enters. *

FRANK
Okay, let's get this over with.
Read me the list. *

Grace takes out the Christmas list.

GRACE
Goldberg.

FRANK
Send him a VHS home video recorder.

GRACE
Parker.

CDNK11800

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

FRANK
VHS.

GRACE
Kaluta.

FRANK
The bath towel.

GRACE
Brock.

FRANK
VHS.

GRACE
Forristal.

FRANK
Towel.

GRACE
Whitacre.

Frank stands at the window, sipping his drink, staring moodily down at the street. It's snowing heavily.

FRANK
What was the last rating on
Police Zoo?

21 EXT. STREET OUTSIDE IBC BUILDING - DAY.

21

Eliot Loudermilk stands in the snow outside the IBC entrance, holding a tennis racket. Cardboard boxes filled with his stuff sit piled on the curb. A briefcase sails out and lands at his feet. WE HEAR sad violin MUSIC -- "Eliot's Theme." Eliot looks up at the towering skyscraper and raises his fist.

ELIOT
(screaming)
I'll get you Frank Cross you son
of a bitch!

*

22 INT. FRANK'S OFFICE - DAY

22

*

Grace reads the ratings for Police Zoo.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22 *

GRACE

Five point two Neilson, seven
share and a TVQ of three.

FRANK/GRACE

(together)

Towel.

GRACE

Your brother.

FRANK

Towel.

Frank's getting impatient. He grabs the list.

FRANK

Just gimme that. Towel, towel,
VHS, towel ... And Grace...put
yourself down for a towel.

GRACE

What about my bonus?

FRANK

And a face cloth.

Grace answers the phone. He throws back the drink.

GRACE

Mr. Cross' office. Yes, I'll
tell him.

She hangs up.

GRACE

Mr. Rhineland's on his way down.

FRANK

What? He's coming here? Jesus
Christ, how do I look?

She straightens his tie and fixes his hair as he shoves the vodka bottle in the desk drawer. He then assumes an "executive working pose" behind his desk, jotting down notes from a copy of Sport's Illustrated. Grace is about to leave when she notices the magazine is upside-down. She turns it right-side-up and exits as PRESTON RHINELANDER enters. Rhineland, IBC chairman, is in his sixties with white hair and pale blue eyes. His manner is more than reserved. It's cold.

(CONTINUED)

(GROMIRCO)