The Lay Off

An EZ Life Production

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Initial Draft

1. INT. JANES APARTMENT -

The alarm rings in JANE's aparmtment. She goes through her morning routine prior to starting her remote job.She checks her phone in bed, washes her face, gets the coffee brewing and as she gets ready for work.

JANE hears a text notifcation. She checks her phone casually.

CLOSE UP ON JANE'S PHONE:

MONICA: Hey, just checking in.. Are you okay?

JANE is confused at the message and replies

CLOSE UP ON JANE'S PHONE:

JANE: Hey! Im fine, is everything okay? What's up?
MONICA: you haven't heard yet?? The company (name tbd) just sent out an email about a big lay off. I checked this morning but thank goodness im safe! I am hoping that you weren't affected either!

JANE is mortified of the news and races over to her laptop

FADE TO:

ALTERNATING CLOSE UP ON JANE'S LAPTOP AND ON JANE:

Inaudible high-pitched sound rings as JANE reads the earth shattering email. She remains still as her heart races faster with every line she reads.

FOLLOWING SHOT OF JANE'S REACTIONS:

In utter disbelief she paces around, messages her colleagues, searches for answers as her anxiety beings to build.

2. INT. JANES APARTMENT - LATER

JANE blankley stares at her laptop during a video conference with HR. Shock prevents her from communicating verbally to the murmurs of the "grim reaper".

HR PERSON
"... We understand this is difficult to process. Do you have any questions?"

JANE
Shakes her head no

HR PERSON
Okay. Well.. *(voice* (MORE)

HR PERSON (CONT'D)
fades out while speaking) We thank you for commitment to the firm, and if there is anything you need, please contact the resources we have provided.

The call ends and JANE breaks down in tears.

FADE AWAY FROM JANE AS SHE CONTINUES TO CRY IN THE DARK ROOM:

CUT TO:

3. EXT. JANES APARTMENT - EVENING

JANE is walking alone at night, processing what had happened today. She beings to sob during the middle of her walk.

She stops at a bench pondering what comes next.

4. INT. JANES APARTMENT - MORNING AND MULTIPLE DAYS

(Montage)

Without the need for an alarm, JANE slowly wakes up and stares up at her ceiling, realzing yesterday's events were not a bad dream.

She grabs her phone and is greeted to and ignores condolences from friends, family, and colleagues and continues to lay slumped in her bed. A call from her father is ignored as she covers herself with her comforter.

Most of the morning routine is skipped. JANE readies her coffee and receives an email notification from HR. She throws her phone in a fit of rage.

CLOSE ON JANE AT HER DESK/ FROM REAR, SIDE, AND FRONT:

JANE begrudgingly opens her laptop and beigns to work on her resume.

Time flies by (hours and days) and the light in the room and her clothes changes but JANE remains in the same spot applying to jobs.

JANE finally feels the exhaustion crawls out of her chair wth a "F**K this" energy.

JANE returns to bed as if the past few days were the same long day.

CUT TO:

5. INT. JANES APARTMENT - MID DAY

JANE drinks her water after her return from a run. As she walks to her computer to continue her job hunt, she sees her sketch pad and realizes it has been a while since she has done any sketching.

She opens her sketchpad and reminices on her Architecture drawings.

CLOSE ON JANE DRAWING ON HER SKETCHPAD:

Hours have gone by and as JANE lifts her pen, she is impressed she has retained her ability to create beautiful architecture drawings. She smiles for the first time.

CUT TO:

6. INT. JANES APARTMENT - MID DAY (NEXT DAY)

JANE is at her desk working on some drawings with her laptop open next to her.

CLOSE ON LAPTOP:

An email notification alerts JANE

EMAIL ON JANES LAPTOP:

She reads a discouraging email from a job Interviewer rejecting her application.

JANE starts to feel frustration building and slams her laptop shut.

JANE walks into her room and collapses on the floor with her hands on her face as sadness overcomes her.

FADE TO:

7. INT. JANES APARTMENT - EVENING

JANE is about to place an order on door dash but looks at the final price. She checks her bank account and proceeds to cancel the order.

JANE walks into the kitchen and preps herself frozen food.

FADE OUT:

8. INT. JANES APARTMENT - MORNING AND MID DAY MONTAGE

JANE looks at her reflection in thebathroom mirror with a new attitude.

JANE begins to work furiously on her designs and searches on her laptop for architecture programs. Motivated by her passion she begins to move quickly with purpose.

JANE is alerted with a notification by an Interviewer for a final round.

She is elated and smiles.

9. INT. JANES APARTMENT - MID DAY

JANE completes her interview with a smile. Confident and proud.

INTERVIEWER
Thank you so much. You will be hearing from us shortly.

JANE
Thank you, I look forward to it.

JANE closes her laptop in relief but is still anxious about the outcome. She exits her apartment to take break.

10. EXT. JANES APARTMENT - EVENING

During her walk JANE sets her sights on the buildings around and gets inspiration from the scenery.

She receives a phone call from her father. This time she answers it.

PAN OUT AS THE INAUDIBLE CONVERSATION CONTINUES:

FADE TO:

11. EXT. JANES APARTMENT - LATER

JANE is working on a sketch she was inspired by from the previous nights walk.

An alert comes from JANE's laptop.

CLOSE ON JANE'S FACE THEN LAPTOP:

JANE is smiling ear to ear. She has been offered a job.

A second email appears on the screen. But she looks shocked in a happy way.

The email informs her that she has been accepted to an architecture apprenticeship program.

Thrilled with her options she pauses her drawing and contemplates her decision as she stares at the laptop.

CLOSE UP ON THE LAPTOP WITH THE EMAIL WITH THE JOB OFFER, BLURS INTO THE EASEL THAT HOLDS HER LATEST SKETCH.:

CLOSE UP TO JANE'S FACE (EYES):

FADE OUT: