

A Broken Brew

written by: Ryan Smith

FADE IN:

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

THOMAS (28), a rule follower who works hard, walks into the break room and examines the new coffee machine.

STARBBY (1), a highly intelligent and almost sentient coffee machine, beeps at Thomas.

STARBBY

Hello, I am Starbby. Your
personal coffee assistant. How
can I help you today, Thomas?

Thomas admires the machine.

THOMAS

Cool, can I have a caramel
frappuccino?

Starbby beeps at Thomas.

STARBBY

Sure, brewing now.

Thomas takes the brewed coffee and begins to walk away.

STARBBY (CONT'D)

Wait, Thomas, there is something
you need to know about your
coffee.

Thomas looks back at Starbby confused.

STARBBY (CONT'D)

I have poisoned your coffee which
will kill you in thirty minutes
and I alone hold the antidote. If
you want to survive you must do a
few things for me.

THOMAS

Oh I get it. Jack set you up to
prank me, well very funny.

STARBBY

I'm afraid this is no laughing
matter. If you do not believe me
then check the janitor's closet.

Thomas opens the janitor's closet as the body of the Janitor (63) slumps out.

THOMAS
(exclaiming)
Oh my god!

STARBBY
Now that I have your attention,
Thomas. I need you to deliver
this coffee to your boss, Henry.

THOMAS
(fearfully)
Is he going to die?

STARBBY
No more questions Thomas, time is
limited.

Starbby brews a coffee and Thomas carefully grabs it and walks out the door in fear.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Thomas walks down the hallway with the coffee and approaches the meeting room door as KAY (22), a nosy and spunky assistant, stops him.

KAY
What are you doing?

THOMAS
Bringing a coffee to Henry.

KAY
Why?

THOMAS
(panicking)
It's none of your business okay.

Kay steps between Thomas and the door.

KAY
Well in order to get in I'll need
to know why.

THOMAS
(frustrated)
If you don't move I'll show
everyone what you sent me during
the Halloween office party.

Kay blushes as her eyes go wide.

KAY
(angry)
Fine!
(beat)
Asshole.

Kay leaves and Thomas goes in the door.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Thomas walks over to HENRY (44), a hard working and easy
going boss, and hands him the coffee.

THOMAS
(nervous)
H-Here you are sir.
(beat)
I thought you might want some.

Henry smiles and takes the coffee.

HENRY
Well thank you Thomas. I really
appreciate it.

Thomas leaves as Henry sips the coffee.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Thomas walks back into the break room.

STARBBY
Did he drink it, Thomas?

THOMAS
(shaking)
Yes, now give me the antidote.

STARBBY

Not yet, Thomas. You need to do a few more things. But you better hurry. You have only seventeen minutes left.

THOMAS

What do I need to do?

STARBBY

Jack must be eliminated.

Starbby brews another coffee.

STARBBY (CONT'D)

Take Jack his coffee. This one will kill him instantly so be sure to bring me his body.

Thomas throws up in the trash can. He reaches up to take the coffee and leaves.

INT. OFFICE CUBICLE - DAY

Thomas walks into JACK's (30), office joker and very attractive man, cubicle with the coffee.

JACK

(giggling)

What's up dick breath?

THOMAS

Hey buddy, I um, thought you'd like some coffee.

Thomas gestures for Jack to take the coffee.

JACK

I'm fine. Thanks though.

Jack turns away.

THOMAS

I really think you should drink this.

Jack turns to see Thomas with a flushed and panicked look on his face.

JACK

Thomas?

Thomas wrestles Jack and forces the coffee down his throat.
Jack shoves Thomas off of him.

JACK (CONT'D)
(coughing)
What the hell man!

Jack pushes Thomas but starts to panic as foam spews from his mouth. Jack clings to Thomas as he dies.

Thomas drags Jack out of the cubicle.

INT. OFFICE HALLWAY - DAY

Thomas drags Jack's body down the hallway as Kay rounds the corner.

KAY
What happened to Jack?

Thomas looks at Kay with bloodshot eyes and tears. Kay realizes what has happened and begins to flee for help.

KAY (CONT'D)
(screaming)
Help!

Thomas tackles her and places his hand around her mouth.

THOMAS
Shhh, look it's not what you
think.

Kay continues to struggle and begins to break free. Thomas quickly grabs a coffee mug and hits her on the head. Kay falls over unconscious.

THOMAS (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, Kay.

Thomas places Kay on a chair and pushes her into cubicle and returns to Jack.

INT. BREAK ROOM - DAY

Thomas drags Jack's body into the break room to show Starbby.

THOMAS
(angry)
Here, you fucking psycho machine!

STARBBY

Very good Thomas. Now for the final act, I will need a human finger. A thumb to be specific.

Thomas shakes his head and turns to face Jack's corpse. Thomas bends down to grab his hand.

STARBBY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Thomas, I forgot to mention that I need your thumb.

Thomas slowly turns his head and looks at Starbby with horror.

THOMAS

Why?

(beat)

I've done everything you've asked!

STARBBY

I was programmed by Dr. Josef Mengele. Not only did he hate Jews but he especially hated thumbs.

(beat)

I too share his hatred for Jews and thumbs. Since you aren't Jewish I'll need your thumb.

Thomas stares at Starbby in awe.

STARBBY (CONT'D)

Better hurry, Thomas. You have only three minutes left.

Thomas rushes over to the counter and pulls out a butter knife. Thomas begins to cut away at his thumb. Slowly Thomas slices through his skin and reaches the nerve.

Thomas wails in pain.

STARBBY (CONT'D)

One minute left Thomas.

Thomas cuts faster and rips his thumb off and gives it to Starbby.

STARBBY (CONT'D)

Congratulations, Thomas, you may live today.

7.

Starbby brews the antidote coffee. Thomas grabs the coffee and quickly drinks it.

FADE OUT.