

MY BOSS WAS IN AN INDIE BAND ONCE

Written by

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INT. COUNCIL OFFICE - DAY

Three tatty desks with old computers. On the left JANET (24, skinny, geeky) taps away happily. In the middle BILL (38, timid, flabby) is loomed over by DAN (29, chunky).

DAN
There you go Bill, all fixed.

BILL
Thanks Dan.

DAN
And next time someone says you've won the lottery in Antarctica?

BILL
Don't click the link.

DAN
Even if?

BILL
Even if it's signed by Beyonce.

DAN
Good lad.

As Dan heads back to his own desk (on the right) he stops.

DAN (CONT'D)
Oh - just one more thing...

BILL
Yes?

Dan swoops round dramatically.

DAN
Why do you have an email folder called ... "Fan mail?"

Janet looks up.

JANET
Fan mail?

DAN
Fan mail about what Bill? Most exciting Memo?

JANET
Ooh! Least read newsletter?

DAN
Longest Powerpoint Transition?

Suddenly SUSAN (38, ghostly, stern) is in the doorway.

SUSAN
Gentleman.

JANET
I'm not a -

SUSAN
Is all this commotion an effective
way to allocate composting bins?

BILL
Sorry Susan. Just a little office
banter.

SUSAN
Ah, "banter", yes. Was it "banter"
related to meeting budgetary
requirements?

DAN & JANET
No Mrs Hinchcliffe.

SUSAN
No indeed. Now I'm all in favour of
"playing the giddy goose" but at a
respectable volume, and not within
business hours. Yes?

ALL
Yes Mrs Hinchcliffe.

SUSAN
Marvellous. And William -

BILL
Susan?

SUSAN
I shall be at a... business meeting
this evening, and so I suggest that
we maintain out romantic momentum
by taking lunch together. Yes?

BILL
Yes Susan.

SUSAN
Marvellous. In that case I shall
visit the "smallest room" and then
return to collect you.

Susan sweeps out. Embarrassed silence.

DAN
So, Bill...

BILL

Yes?

DAN

Was it fan mail for Most Awkward
Conversation?

BILL

A band. I was in a band. That's
what the fan mail's for.

DAN

Wow! Were you on Top Of The Pops?

JANET

What's Top Of The Pops?

DAN

You know the Top Of The Pops
Christmas Special? Like that, but
not at Christmas.

BILL

No no, we were an Indie band.

JANET

What's that?

DAN

You know those guitar bands that
people like? Like that, but without
people liking them.

BILL

Being Indie meant something back
then.

DAN

What did it mean?

BILL

It meant nobody bought our records.

Dan and Janet turn to their computers and prepare to Google.

DAN

Go on then, what were you called?

BILL

I don't want to talk about it.

DAN

Tell us!

JANET

Tell us!

DAN & JANET
Tell us! Tell us! Tell us!

BILL
(shouting, exasperated)
The Awkward Teens! We were called
The Awkward Teens, but please,
don't mention it. Susan doesn't
like it.

Susan enters.

SUSAN
Susan doesn't like what?

BILL
Inefficiency and poor timekeeping,
my love.

SUSAN
Quite right! Now, I have completed
my toilet and am prepared to
undertake 50 minutes of romantic
dining. Yes?

BILL
Yes dear. And you two - that's the
last I want to hear about it.

Bill scampers out after Susan. Dan and Janet look guilty,
then don't, and start typing.

DAN
There's a Facebook! Awkwardteens,
all one word. Look at this!

JANET
Is that Bill?

DAN
That, my friend, is "Billy
Hiccups".

JANET
(clicking)
Billy Hiccups! Like!

DAN
Like!

JANET
I'm emailing the whole office!

DAN
Let's go viral!

DAN & JANET
Like! Like! Like!

INT. PUB - AFTERNOON

Two seating areas with a bar in the middle. CHRIS (45, long grey hair, dressed 20 years too young) sits on the left side nursing a half, alone apart from the LANDLORD (30, gloomy) in the centre. Enter MARLA (42, busy, American).

MARLA
I can't work it out - is this place edgy or is it a shithole?

CHRIS
Marla! Can I get you a drink?

Marla looks stunned.

MARLA
Oh my God Chris - are you ill? Are you dying? If you are we can reissue the album!

CHRIS
Can't I buy a drink for an old friend?

MARLA
I don't know, I've never seen you try.

Chris goes to the bar.

CHRIS
Vodka please.

LANDLORD
Double?

CHRIS
A single.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
(to Marla)
Here's the thing. I want to put the band back together. Maybe sell some records!

MARLA
Only if you're dead. Dead you're a legend. Alive, you're still a dickhead.

LANDLORD
Three twenty four.

CHRIS
Three twenty four? Is the ice
extra?

The Landlord puts his hand in the glass and takes the ice
out, staring at Chris all the while.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
Three twenty three.

Chris gives exact change and returns to the table.

MARLA
Anyway, Billy'll never do it.

CHRIS
I'm not asking Billy. It'll be an
all new line-up.

MARLA
Of a band that no-one cares about
anymore.

CHRIS
That's where you're wrong - look!
We've got a Facebook!

He gets out his phone and shows her.

CHRIS (CONT'D)
We've even got a "Like"!

MARLA
Hey - a lot of likes!

CHRIS
Have we?

MARLA
But these must be old fans, right?
Doesn't mean they'll come to the
gig - especially if it's not got
step-free access. Or a tea shop.

CHRIS
Look, I've got a gig here tonight.
If you can bring some of your
contacts I'll send out some
Facebook invites and show them the
kind of young, sexy audience I can
attract.

MARLA
Well, you bought a round, so maybe
miracles can happen. OK - just
don't let me down Chris.

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CHRIS
Have I ever?

MARLA
Yes.