

ANGER MANAGEMENT

Written by
Mike Morucci

410-960-9573
mikemorucci@yahoo.com

FADE IN

INT. CLASSROOM - NIGHT

Chairs form a circle in an otherwise empty classroom. "Anger Management" scrawled in big letters on a chalkboard.

BRADY, in a button-down shirt and khakis, leads a group of four other participants:

TANYA, a hard-edged woman who would make Chuck Norris piddle.

CARLA, the opposite of Tanya. Sweet, professional, reserved.

CHUCK, an uncool hipster ironically now cool. Nope, uncool again.

DAVE, a shy everyman and newcomer to the group.

BRADY
Everyone, please welcome Dave.

GROUP
(unemphatic and in unison)
Hi, Dave.

Dave nods sheepishly.

BRADY
What motivates people?

The group is silent.

DAVE
(hesitantly)
Empowerment?

Brady leaps to his feet, flipping his chair over.

BRADY
(mockingly)
Empowerment?!

The circle chuckles.

BRADY
FEAR. Fear motivates employees.

DAVE
Employees?

BRADY
Oh, Parsons warned me about you.

DAVE

My VP?

BRADY

She said you were too touchy-feely
with your staff.

DAVE

I don't touch my staff.

Chuck giggles.

DAVE

And I call them peers.

Tanya leans in to Dave, her nose presses against his cheek.

TANYA

Only pussies have peers.

BRADY

Whoah. Whoah. Whoah. Tanya. We
talked about this.

TANYA

Well he is a pussy.

BRADY

He's the cover boy for Perdue but
you have to choose your words. We
can abuse the hell out of people as
long as we stay within H.R. vocab
guidelines.

CHUCK

Wussy. That's just pussy with a
"Wuh".

Brady looks at Carla. Carla pulls out a binder and checks.

CARLA

Hasn't made the list yet. You can
use nutless, twat, and if you fake
a British accent, he's a complete
tossler.

DAVE

I don't understand. I was told I
need Anger Management after I lost
my cool in the Ops meeting.

CHUCK

I heard you shattered a window.

DAVE
It cracked. A little.

CHUCK
With your fist.

TANYA
Mad props.

CHUCK
No one says mad--

Tanya plays with her knife then slowly looks up at Chuck. He pees himself a little.

BRADY
(to Carla)
Jesus. I thought you briefed him.
You are the head of HR.

CARLA
Suck my HR. You brief him asshat.
Also, not on the list.

BRADY
Dave, we thought you were a lost
cause until you showed potential at
that meeting.

DAVE
Say what now?

CARLA
You got balls laddy. This is anger
management training.

CHUCK
We're getting paid for this.

BRADY
After the economic collapse, we
discovered employees needed us more
than we needed them. And we could
motivate them just through fear and
intimidation.

CHUCK
And fear.

BRADY
Chuck needs some work.

DAVE
But when the job market returned...

CARLA

It was too late. Spines don't regenerate. Like Chuck's brain cells. Don't buck the system, or you might get bucked yourself.

TANYA

Bucked hard.

BRADY

You can harness that anger, and make it work for you.

CARLA

And the company.

TANYA

It totally changed my life.

BRADY

Tell him how it was before.

TANYA

Oh I had weekly one-on-ones, listened to their issues, helped them win their career development.

CARLA

Monthly birthday lunches.

TANYA

Sick leave. Pot lucks. Blah, blah, bitches.

DAVE

That can all be very effective--

TANYA

(in a British accent)

Wanker!

Without looking, Tanya reaches for a high five and Carla reciprocates.

TANYA

They under-performed. Did the bare minimum. We were missing milestones and they wanted to be "heard".

BRADY

Until...

CARLA

We learned if we just threaten the staff and stop listening to them, they become much more productive.

CHUCK

And a lot quieter.

TANYA

It works on my kids too.

BRADY

And screaming at people is a total stress-reliever. Who needs the gym?

DAVE

So let me get this straight. You want me to stop treating my staff like human beings, flip the work-life balance on its ass, and if anyone complains, scare the living crap out of them?

Brady nods. Carla grins. Tanya cuts herself. Chuck pokes his fingers through his empty eyeglass frames. Dave stares at the group dumbfounded, then slowly smiles.

DAVE

I can totally do that!

BRADY

Breakthrough!

CARLA

Beers on Dave!

DAVE

I don't know. I still have to buy--

Tanya throws a quick heart-punch to Dave's chest.

DAVE

(gasping for wind)

O.K.

The group slowly exits. Tanya puts her arm around Dave.

TANYA

I learned that one in class: Self-Defense for Performance Appraisals. It won't show a bruise. I can teach you later.

FADE OUT