

# Elm Shoots

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version 8-24

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(Because there will be no formal storyboards, this document will have more detailed direction than a script for submission to a contest, etc.)

EXT. SOLID GROUNDS PATIO - DAY

CINDY and HEATHER are sitting, coffee and rolls on the table. HENRY is sitting at a nearby table.

MEDIUM CU.

HEATHER

Have you been seeing anybody lately?

CINDY

I just got asked out by that sports reporter, Joe Smith. I met him at the yacht club last weekend.

CUT TO:

CU HEATHER

HEATHER

Joe Smith. You've got to be kidding!

CUT TO:

CU HENRY

Henry turns his head toward Cindy and Heather.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

No, really. He gave me his card, asked me to call him to go out sometime. I told him I'm a cheerleader in college, which sealed the deal.

HEATHER

That's just like him. Says he's interested, gives you his card, then leaves it up to you to take the initiative.

CINDY

How do you know him?

HEATHER

I went out with him about half a dozen times. All he did was talk about the jocks he's met, their nice homes, what cars they drive. He

was boring.

And he never put the moves on me. Just waited for me to be so impressed with his blather that I'd throw myself into his arms.

(Jokingly.)

Needless to say, I kept my lady-like composure.

He doesn't even seem very athletic. He never mentioned getting a varsity letter in school, or even being on any team, in any sport.

I don't even know if he could catch a ball if it was thrown to him.

CINDY  
Maybe it's time he played in the big leagues. I've got a plan.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY  
JOE gets a phone call. (Henry in voice over). Cell phone rings.

CU.

JOE  
Yo Ho Ho.

HENRY  
It's me. Hey, some girl named Cindy is gonna try to drive you crazy. I heard her talking over Sunday brunch with her girlfriend. She'll call you tomorrow morning at work, so be prepared.

JOE  
Tell me everything you know.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ELMWOOD AVENUE - DAY  
Cindy and Joe are walking down the street, dressed in jeans and t-shirts.

MEDIUM SHOT.

CINDY  
I've got to get my girlfriend a gift. Thanks for coming with me. If I get something big,

do you mind carrying it?

JOE  
No problem.

CINDY  
Well, don't you want to take my arm?

JOE  
No problem.

Cindy takes Joe's arm, and pulls his elbow against her breast.

CUT TO:

CU CINDY

Cindy does not appear to be wearing anything under the t-shirt.

VO. HENRY

Hey, how's things?

CUT TO:

CU CINDY, JOE, AND HENRY  
Henry's head is in between them. They turn toward Henry. Henry is looking at Cindy.

CINDY  
Do, I know you?

JOE  
He wishes. Cindy, this is my friend, Henry.

HENRY  
Do I get a kiss on the cheek, before you  
*promenade?*

JOE  
Will a kiss make you disappear?

HENRY  
Up to heaven.

Cindy gives Henry a kiss on both cheeks.

HENRY  
Have a beautiful day.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU  
Cindy and Joe turn away from Henry.  
CINDY  
Shall we continue?

DISSOLVE TO:

They walk arm-in-arm, then Cindy stops in front of Blue Mountain Coffee.

CUT TO:

CU.

CINDY  
Let's see about a coffee maker.

CUT TO:

INT. BLUE MOUNTAIN COFFEE - DAY

MEDIUM CU.

Cindy is holding a metal coffee maker. Joe is looking away from Cindy.

CUT TO:

CU.

CINDY  
What do you think about this? (Cindy tosses Joe the coffee maker.)

CUT TO:

CU.  
Joe looks her way, and catches it.

VO.

CINDY  
Nice catch.

JOE  
I've been practicing.

But you behave yourself. Something could've gotten broken, ya know. This isn't a ball diamond, and I'm not your catcher.

Now, if you want to buy a good coffee maker,

get a French press, like this one. (Joe puts down the pot, picks up a different one, with a pyrex shell.)

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

JOE

And if you want to buy this, you'll need a burr grinder, not a blade grinder.

This should do the trick.

Joe picks up a small, white coffee grinder.

JOE

These burr grinders result in a more uniform grain size. I already made the mistake of buying a blade grinder. I've since bought one of these, and it works like a charm.

CINDY

I bet you think you're pretty smart, huh?

JOE

In some things, I'm almost clairvoyant.

I knew you were going to toss that coffee pot at me.

CINDY

Well, lets see what other surprises Elmwood has in store for us, before we make any decisions.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. PIER 1 WINDOW - DAY

Cindy and Joe are walking past several six foot metal giraffes in the window of Pier 1 Imports.

MEDIUM SHOT.

CINDY

Now, don't you think a six foot high metal giraffe would look better on a lawn than a pink flamingo?

JOE

One would be awfully lonely. You'd have to buy two of them, to keep each other company. Don't you think that couples have more fun?

CINDY

I'm having fun being single.

JOE

Do you want to save some money? We could look across the street, in the thrift shop?

CINDY

Nah, I couldn't get something from there. This is a gift.

JOE

I've seen some nice things in the window.

CINDY

Should I go stand in the window? Pretending that I'm a mannequin? (Seductively.) You could come in and dress me?

JOE

(Nonchalantly.)  
I think you're big enough to dress yourself. I bet you can even tie your shoes.

CINDY  
(Seductively.)  
I might even be able to tie a knot in a  
cherry stem, while it's in my mouth.

Cindy takes Joe's arm, squeezes it against her breast,  
and they start to walk away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. INSPIRATION POINT - DAY  
Cindy and Joe are walking into the store.

INT. INSPIRATION POINT - DAY  
Cindy and Joe are looking at a rack of candles. Cindy  
is holding a candle to her nose.

CINDY  
These smell great.

JOE  
This one is called Joy.

CINDY  
We could listen to Beethoven's Ode to Joy  
with it.

JOE  
(Surprise)

You like Beethoven?

CINDY  
I'm not a bimbo, even if I act like it  
sometimes.

JOE  
How about this book on the history of Crystal  
Beach?

CUT TO:

CU. BOOK COVER

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY  
That's too old-time for her.

JOE  
How about this, a history of Buffalo Blues  
and Rock and Roll?

CUT TO:

CU. BOOK COVER

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY  
Maybe.

JOE  
How about a nice bag, with Betty Page on it?

CUT TO:

CU. HANDBAG

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY  
You just like the old pin-up picture.

JOE  
But it's so artistic.

CINDY  
We can go down the street to the Albright  
Knox for art. I suppose your idea of art is a  
glossy centerfold.

JOE  
No, I prefer art in 3 dimensional forms, like  
Auguste Rodin. Or you. You're at least 3  
dimensional.

CINDY  
(Jokingly. Throwing her chest  
forward.)  
*I am **very** three di men shu null, and don't  
you forget it.*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MYKONOS RESTAURANT - DAY

MEDIUM SHOT.

Cindy and Joe are looking inside, standing near the  
door.

MEDIUM CU.

JOE  
You could get her a gift certificate.

*I (with emphasis) like this place, but  
there's lots of other restaurants you could  
consider.*

*This block has lots of places, from hot dogs  
or pizza to Vietnamese, to high class kwee  
zeen.*

CINDY  
No, she might think she has to take me with  
her. We see enough of each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ARTCRAFTERS GALLERY - DAY  
Cindy and Joe are looking in the window.

MEDIUM SHOT.

CINDY  
Let's look in here.

CUT TO:

INT. ARTCRAFTERS GALLERY - DAY

MEDIUM CU.

Cindy and Joe are looking at art glass. Cindy is  
holding a long, slim, green glass vase, about 2 feet  
tall. Joe has his hands in his pockets.

CUT TO:

CU.

Cindy tosses the vase.

CUT TO:

CU. JOE, FROM KNEES TO HEAD

Joe just watches as the vase crashes to the floor.  
Sound of breaking glass.

CUT TO:

CU.

Broken glass at Joe's feet.

CUT TO:

CU. CINDY'S FACE

CINDY  
(Incredulously.)  
I didn't think you'd miss it!

CUT TO:

CU. JOE'S FACE

JOE  
(Exasperated.)  
I didn't think you'd throw it! I told you  
last time, I'm not your catcher.  
  
What we have here is a classic failure to  
communicate.

CUT TO:

CU. CINDY'S FACE

CINDY  
(Irritated.)  
What we have here is a classic failure to  
take your damn hands out of your pockets.

CUT TO:

CU. JOE'S FACE

JOE  
You must admit, I gave you fair warning. To  
show what a good sport I am, I'll pay for  
half.  
  
It was worth watching the expression on your  
face.

Joe slowly leans his head forward, until his head is  
almost touching Cindy's head.

Now, show me that you can be a good sport,  
too. You did throw it, after all.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

Joe starts to laugh, then Cindy laughs.

CINDY  
We're quite a pair, aren't we.

That's one way to avoid having to carry  
something heavy.

JOE  
Let's go around the corner, I'll buy you some  
nice, light, unbreakable flowers.

JOE

Let's go around the corner, I'll buy you some nice, light, unbreakable flowers.

CINDY

We'll need a vase. But I don't think we'll be able to use the one we'll be paying for.

JOE

You'll have to use the old fashioned kind. Your hand.

Joe takes Cindy's hand, and raises it up to her face. Cindy makes a fist, smiles, and shakes it at Joe.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BALD'S EX-CELL FLOWERS - DAY

Cindy is leaving the shop, flowers in hand. Joe is behind her, putting his wallet in his pocket.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OFF THE WALL - DAY

Guitar player is busking at the far end of the shot. Cindy and Joe are walking toward the door.

JOE

I'll buy you lunch, for being such a good sport.

CUT TO:

INT. OFF THE WALL - DAY

Cindy and Joe are waiting to be seated, looking at a wall display.

JOE

Here's a book from a local photographer, Milton Rogovin.

CINDY

I've seen his photos at the Gallery at Rockwell Hall. He donated his collection to the Library of congress.

Lets sit at this table.

CUT TO:

INT. OFF THE WALL - DAY

Cindy and Joe are seated. Plates and wine glasses are half-consumed.

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY

We'll have to come back here some time and play scrabble, in the back room. You'll have to show me you can spell more than the names of celebrities.

JOE

And why would you think that I can only spell the names of celebrities? I have not mentioned the name of a single celebrity all day.

CINDY

Let's just call it a woman's intuition.

JOE

(Teasingly.)

I wonder if that's anything like my clairvoyance?



CINDY  
Only time will tell.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. - DAY  
Long shot of Teressa's shop.

CUT TO:

INT. TERESSA'S - DAY  
Cindy and Joe are looking at a dress.

MEDIUM CU.

JOE  
This is a great dress.

CUT TO:

CU. DRESS

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY  
It's beautiful.

Cindy looks around at other merchandise. Walks to the wall, from which shirts are hanging.

But how about this?

Cindy takes a small tank top down from the wall.

Like it?

CUT TO:

CU. TANK TOP

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

JOE  
How could I disapprove of something so small and harmless?

CINDY  
So you don't find this threatening?

CUT TO:

CU.

Cindy holds the skimpy tank top in front of her.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY  
Would you be intimidated if I wore something like this?

JOE  
I thought we were buying a gift for your girl friend.

CINDY  
I can always treat myself to something too, you know.

JOE  
Don't think about yourself, now. Think about your friend.

CINDY  
Are you my friend?

JOE  
I'm trying to be friendly with you. I don't  
*normally* spend an afternoon in these little  
shops.

CINDY  
So, as a friend, would you give me your  
honest opinion if I asked for it?

JOE  
No problem.

CINDY  
So, how would this look on me? I'm gonna try  
it on.

Cindy goes into the changing room.

CUT TO:

Cindy modeling the shirt.

CUT TO:

CU. CINDY

CINDY  
Cat got your tongue? You're not speaking.

CUT TO:

CU. JOE

JOE  
Nice top. Very nice top. No problem.

CUT TO:

MEDIUM CU.

CINDY  
So, you see, it's worth buying this for  
myself.

Just to see the look of admiration on your  
face.

Well, now you shouldn't have anything to be  
nervous about. As you can see, I'm not hiding  
anything.

JOE  
No hidden agendas? Nothing to hide?

CINDY  
Well everybody has things they like to keep  
secret. I'm not a blabbermouth.

---

JOE  
That's good.

Because you never know who could overhear  
some chance remark, bits and pieces of a  
conversation.

They could get the wrong impression. Maybe  
think somebody is shallow, when in fact  
they're really quite fascinating and

intelligent.

CINDY  
So are you saying that you're fascinating and  
intelligent?

JOE

No, I'm talking about you.

Let's just keep our little secrets buried,  
and see what we can discover about each other  
that's worth sharing.

Who knows, this could be the start of a  
wonderful relationship.

CINDY

Is this another example of your clairvoyance?

JOE

No, just an example of my optimism.

Let's declare a truce, no more surprises, or  
jolts, just little nudges as we go along.

CINDY

Then how about if I nudge you down Elmwood a  
little farther, to the street fair? (Cindy  
slaps Joe on the ass.)

JOE

Better pay for that tank top, first.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ELMWOOD AVENUE - DAY

WIDE SHOT.

Cindy and Joe are walking toward the Elmwood Avenue  
Street Fair. Cindy is wearing the tank top, and  
carrying the flowers.

THE END