

AMERICA'S STRANGEST SYNDROMES

Pilot
"I Need Tweetment"

Written by
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AMERICA'S STRANGEST SYNDROMES

COLD OPENEXT. BACKYARD - DAY

CLOSE UP on OLIVE (25): a scruffy, meek, neglected woman.

OLIVE
(to the camera)
I didn't always know I was a bird-

WIDE reveals Olive sat in a BIRD BATH. She lovingly delivers WORMS with her MOUTH to the jaws of BRADLEY (55): greasy ponytail, gold jewelry, immaculate brown suit.

OLIVE (V.O) (CONT'D)
--Not until I met Brad. I thank him every day for what he did for me...

VT/ PHOTOS: OLIVE'S PAST

A frail TEENAGE OLIVE sleeps ROUGH on the street. A YOUNG, HANDSOME BRADLEY watches from the shadows, licks his lips. He POUNCES on her and THROWS her into the back of a WHITE VAN.

OLIVE (V.O.)
He's the Mother Teresa of the bird world. He saved me. He's my hero.

He teaches her to build NESTS, PECK WOOD, FLAP her "WINGS".

OLIVE (V.O.)
He gave me my freedom.

Bradley CLIPS Olive's "WINGS" and locks her in a TINY, FILTHY BIRD CAGE. Olive beams at him with adoration as BIRDS ATTACK her face and DEFECATE on her. He poses sexily for the camera.

OLIVE (V.O.)
It's time I gave back. Brad's duck species is highly endangered. We've been trying to conceive for over a year now...

EXT. BACKYARD - DAY

Olive sits on a giant NEST, with a look of DEEP FOCUS. Bradley smokes a CIGAR and watches her expectantly as she pushes with all her might. Harder...HARDER.

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A LARGE FART NOISE is released. Silence. Bradley looks at her like she is utterly worthless. He SIGHS disappointingly and walks away. Olive runs after him, a BROWN STAIN on her pants.

BRADLEY (V.O.)

I must fulfill my father's wishes
to recover the species before he
passes away.

EXT. POND - DAY

Bradley talks to a random, vacant-looking DUCK. SUDDENLY A CAT POUNCES on the duck. Bradley screams.

PRODUCER(O.S)

Oh my goodness, cut! CUT!

Reveal the small skeleton CREW and the horrified British PRODUCER, ADRIANA (24): in a pantsuit, holds a clipboard. She chases the cat apologetically.

GIL (O.S.)

Keep rolling! This is great TV!

Reveal GIL ABLEMAN (75), the painfully 70's TV DIRECTOR standing behind a CAMERA. He wears a silk shirt, blue tinted glasses and the skin of a 305 year old spray-tan addict. He YANKS Adriana back whilst Bradley tries to save the DUCK.

BRADLEY (V.O.)

As my father laid there bleeding
out, he said: "dear boy, provide me
with a chick before this breeding
season ends and my death will not
be in vain." There's just one
problem. Breeding season ends in-

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Bradley cries and hugs his now dead, badly TAXIDERMIED, DUCK FATHER. Olive gives him an unreciprocated hug.

BRADLEY

--24 hours! If you can't give me an
egg by then, we're through!

Bradley storms out. CLOSE UP on Olive's desperate expression. She looks like she has just received a DEATH SENTENCE.

END COLD OPEN

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