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CAROL 'S WAY

Ep 1: Facing Facts (10 Sample Scenes)

by

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13 part half-hour comedy-drama
with interactive online workshop

Developed as part of RMIT Screenwriting.
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INT/EXT. AIRPLANE/SET - DAY 1
CAROL, GENTLEMAN, EXTRAS

1

An airplane has just touched down, it taxi's to the loading dock.

PA ANNOUNCEMENT (VO)

Ladies and gentleman, please remain seated until the Captain switches off the seat-belt sign. Once again we thank you for flying with us today and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

The seat-belt sign dings and the light goes out. The sound and chaos of everyone taking belts off and eager to depart the plane.

CAROL begins spraying her already well fixed hair with hairspray.

The GENTLEMAN next to her cops a face full of spray. Others around express their discomfort at the overbearing smell.

She moves onto perfume then stands and pushes her ample bosom past the gentleman so she can reach her cases from above. She has no care nor awareness for holding up everyone else.

CAROL

(to the Gentleman)

Would you mind getting that down for me?

He obliges, but it's very heavy.

CAROL (CONT'D)

I thank you.

2

INT. AIRPORT ARRIVALS/LOCATION - DAY 1
CAROL, EXTRAS

2

CAROL emerges from the International Gates to the arrivals meeting area. A row of chauffeurs and drivers hold signs with various names, she walks along beside them, reading each one closely. She's a bit short sighted. She gets to the end, and reading someone's t-shirt, realises there's no-one there for her.

She looks around, perplexed. Carol puts her bags down and settles in to wait.

People push past her to meet with families and friends.

INT. AIRPORT HELP DESK/LOCATION - DAY 1
CAROL, STAFF MEMBER, EXTRAS

CAROL dings the service bell even though the STAFF MEMBER is not far away.

STAFF MEMBER

Yeah hold your horses luv.

The Staff Member is not interested in hurrying. She is talking to a colleague. Carol continues.

CAROL

I suspect it would have been a limousine that was picking me up, I don't think I ordered any horses.

STAFF MEMBER

Yeah good alright.

The Staff Member still ignores Carol. The airport baggage area seems pretty empty behind her now.

Carol is not impressed with the service. She pulls out her mobile phone and a business card. She attempts to dial a number. Her phone beeps at her.

CAROL

Still no service? What's wrong with this place.

STAFF MEMBER

Yeah?

CAROL

You know I think 'Can I help you' is the polite way to greet a person in this situation... 'Can I *help* you'.. Do you see the difference?

The Staff Member stares back, expressionless.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Could you dial this number for me please dear, my cell doesn't seem to have a signal.

The Staff Member takes the card. It reads "Big Tour & Events Company".

CAROL (CONT'D)

You should buy a ticket to my tour.

The Staff Member doesn't even blink. She dials the number and hands the receiver to Carol.

RECORDED MESSAGE (V0)
We regret to advise that the number you
are calling has been disconnected.

Carol turns back, smiling politely.

CAROL
Could you try it again please.

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EXT/INT. AIRPORT TAXI RANK/LOCATION - DAY 1
CAROL, TAXI DRIVER, EXTRAS

4

CAROL approaches a rental car desk with her many lurid suitcases. She gives up wheeling them as they're rather cumbersome to manoeuver. She leaves them unattended and walks to the counter.

CAROL
Do you take American Express?

SAL
Extra twenty percent.

CAROL
Because it's American! Good gracious.
Alright, I'd like to hire a limo and a
driver please.

SAL
Oh we're just rental, we don't have any
limousines.

CALLUM
(to himself) Oh yeah?

Behind Sal is young man reading a comic with his feet on a desk. This is CALLUM.

SAL
And you have to drive yourself.

CAROL
Oh no honey you don't want me driving
anything, and I mean *anything*.

Behind Carol, two SECURITY GUARDS have spied her unattended luggage, they approach it with caution. They're talking on their walkie talkies and looking around for anyone suspicious.

CAROL (CONT'D)

But what about you? Do you drive? Or him?
He doesn't look very busy.

Callum looks up, he's not wearing a rental uniform like
SAL.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Yes you son, how about I pay you two
hundred dollars to drive me to this place
(she holds up the tour card) in
whatever's the best car you have.

Carol puts the tour card and American Express on the
desk.

Callum puts his comic book down, suddenly interested.

SAL

He doesn't even work here.

CALLUM

I'll do it Sal.

SAL

Don't forget your class starts today.

CALLUM

Charge her a hatchback and I'll take her
in mine.

He taps Sal on the bum.

Sal takes Carol's Amex and hands her some forms.

RENTAL ASSISTANT

If you can start by filling in these.

In the background, the Security Guards have cleared the
area and are beginning to load Carol's luggage onto a
trolley, carefully, to take away.

CAROL

I get so bored with paperwork.

RENTAL ASSISTANT

Um, your card doesn't seem to be going
through.

CAROL

Oh it will, it doesn't even have a limit.

RENTAL ASSISTANT
I'm sorry, do you have something else?

CAROL
Really? Well... I have some cash in
my....

She turns around toward her suitcases and sees them being
wheeled away.

CAROL (CONT'D)
Hey what do you think you're doing?

5 INT. AIRPORT ATM/LOCATION - DAY 1
CAROL, EXTRAS

5

CAROL is an ATM.

A rejection slip is spat out at her. She looks at it
quizzically. She takes the card and swaps it with yet
another one, we get the feeling she's been trying a few
from the number of slips in her hand. She enters her pin.

CAROL
(to the machine) So old Carol here is
feeling a bit tired and emotional and she
can feel here forehead starting to
wrinkle. Which we all know is not good
for a youthful complexion..

She turns around to Callum, who is waiting with her bags
behind her. She smiles at him.

CAROL (CONT'D)
Is it?

The machine beeps at her and spits out yet another
rejection slip. She reads it.

CAROL looks in her purse to see what cash is left, there
are some American dollars.

CAROL (CONT'D)
How about I give you one hundred..?

Callum sighs, rolls his eyes and nods as he takes the
money. He turns around and stops. He turns back to her.

CALLUM
This is American money?

CAROL
Your point is..?

CALLUM
Well I can't spend it.

CAROL
It's worth more than your money dear.

CALLUM
Is it?

CAROL
Yes it is.

Callum thinks about it. That's ok then.

6

EXT/AIRPORT CARPARK - DAY 1
CAROL, CALLUM, EXTRAS

6

CAROL waves her phone above her head, still looking for a mobile signal.

CAROL (CONT'D)
Oh how far do we have to go to get a signal in this town?

CALLUM
You're probably still on an Yanky network.

CAROL
You don't get them here?

He laughs at her.

CALLUM
Here we go.

CAROL
Oh you *do* have a limous... no you don't.

Yes it's a limousine, but it's absolutely filthy. It's rusted, it's old, it's dinged and it looks like it's been doing wheelies in a mud bath. It virtually has.

CALLUM
Could probably do with a wash.

CAROL
You're joking right.

CALLUM
Did you still want a lift?

Carol knows she probably doesn't have much choice.

6 INT. CALLUM'S LIMO/LOCATION - DAY 1
CAROL, CALLUM

6

CAROL rides in amongst empty beer and soft drink cans, spare stinky flannelette shirts, desert boots, rugs, empty chip packets, various magazines and a lot of mud.

The limo turns into a street, it pulls up in front of a short stretch of a suburban shopping strip.

CALLUM
Here you go.

They both look out the window. Totally unconvinced.

CALLUM (CONT'D)
You sure this is the place you want?

CAROL
This is it?

CALLUM looks at the card she gave him, "Big Tour and Events Co" and it seems to match the daggy gold lettering painted on the window of a suburban shop front. Venetian blinds have been drawn and there are no lights on.

Callum's mobile rings.

CALLUM
Yo, Callum's phone, Callum speaking....Oh really?

CAROL gets out of the car.

7 EXT. TOUR OFFICE/LOCATION - DAY 1
CAROL, TAXI DRIVER

7

CAROL bangs on the closed door of the office.

There's definitely no sign of anyone there. Mail has accumulated under the door, Carol pulls a few things out, there aren't any clues however.

She returns to the car.

CAROL

Don't suppose you fancy lending old Carol some money?

CALLUM

Fat chance.

CAROL

You know that expression actually makes no sense. Fat implies to me 'a lot', as in 'a lot of chance' do you follow?

CALLUM

Sure. I meant no chance.

CAROL

Well say what you mean.

CALLUM

Only place that I can think might know what to do would know is the Community Centre where I'm doing my course, but the teacher just cancelled so I wasn't gonna go there anymore.

They sit in silence together for a while.

Carol sighs.

CALLUM (CONT'D)

Well nice meeting you everything. Good luck with your tour and stuff. And so, if I can have my hundred bucks and I'll be on my way.

Carol looks at the week old newspapers and mail flapping under the door of the very closed looking Tour Office.

CAROL

What's the course you're doing?

CALLUM

It's some unemployment life skills thing. Supposed to get us back into the workforce or something.

CAROL

Is that right?

Callum looks at her through the rear view mirror. She smiles.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Don't make me raise my eyebrow, I'm trying to preserve my botox.

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EXT. COMMUNITY CENTRE/LOCATION - DAY 1
CAROL, STAN, TAXI DRIVER

9

STAN is making cheese toasties and cup of tea. CALLUM approaches with CAROL in tow.

CALLUM

Ah excuse me are you Stan?

STAN

Yeah g'day, oh beg pardon, got a mouthful of cheese, not a way to greet strangers is it? Beg pardon. Stan's the name, how's tricks?

CALLUM

Um I'm Callum, you phoned me before about the "Get Back To Work" course.

STAN

Oh bloody Barungle Council said they'd line someone up and I just knew they'd give me the arse-about but there you go, yeah sorry mate, listen you can use the internet for half an hour though for no charge if you need. (he extends his hand to Carol) G'day Stan.

CAROL

Carol Condominium Stan, it's a delight to meet you. Listen Callum told me about your situation....

STAN

Did he? You his mum are you?

CAROL

Goodness I'm old enough to be this boy's grandmother, and for that I thank you.

Stan blushes, he realises he's still eating in front of them. He offers some of his food.

STAN

Oh beg pardon. Toastie?

CAROL
No, but I thank you. Do you have a budget
for this course you want run Stan?

STAN
Ey?

CAROL
Well you need someone to run a life
skills course, I'm a life coach... I
think you know what I'm saying....

10

INT. COMMUNITY CENTRE/LOCATION - DAY 2 - MORNING
VIN, STAN, ALAAN, EXTRAS

10

VIN wanders into the classroom, nervously looking around
at the three or four others who have assembled. There's a
note on the board that says "Class Cancelled No Teacher".
Vin looks at the board and then to the others.

SOUKI
We don't know if it's for us.

VIN
Rocking. Sweet potatoes, hope so. I is
get back to making some tunes.

JUDY and SOUKI share a look. IVAN is hiding up the back,
his head down. He makes a kind of snorting sound.

VIN turns to leave but blocking him at the door are
CAROL, CALLUM and STAN.

STAN
Well take a seat class, we are back on
trackydack. We are very pleased to have
the honour to welcome and say hello to
Ms, oh I didn't ask, how rude of me...
are you Miss, Ms, you did say ex-husband
so I just assumed...

CAROL
After four ex husbands you lose track
Stan it doesn't matter. I'm Carol.

STAN
Well please welcome Carol.

There's half hearted applause.

Callum sits next to Souki. He smiles and she smiles back.

Stan exits, motioning to Carol he's just across the hall if she needs anything.

CAROL

Ok let me cut straight to the point. My name's Carol Condominium, I've written a best selling book.

She pulls several copies of her book 'Carol Condominium's Goal Setting Workshop' out of her bag and places them like a display on the desk.

CAROL (CONT'D)

I have copies, they're all signed and you're welcome to buy one today, ten percent discount for cash today only. I'm a life coach and motivational speaker from California. But I've been on the Jay Leno show twice. Twice. That's right, so apparently I have something to say.

Now. You should all be paying fifteen hundred dollars right now for this course, but you're all here for free right? Uh huh. Good ok. Well pay attention.

I've just spent 28 hours on a one-way flight, I'm feeling great. My last ex-husband has frozen my credit cards, apparently I've been stood up by the tour company who brought me out to your country, my dog, who's name is kitty - that's right, keep up or you'll get confused - is about to spend the next 30 days in quarantine, my cell phone won't work and I just gave my last hundred dollars to the young man at the back of the class who drives the smelliest limousine I've ever encountered.

I'm sure you won't be at all surprised to hear that I'm not in the slightest bit interested in being here.

Ok just so we're clear.

Any questions so far?

Clearly everyone is too scared to blink, let alone anything else.

Carol wipes the 'class cancelled' sign off the whiteboard and continues her spiel.

CAROL (CONT'D)

Great. Don't look so petrified. We're going to have fun. I might seem like I have no sense of humour but it's difficult for me to look like I emote. That's what happens when you reach you 50's, you put your money in your face.

They don't look convinced. Callum speaks under his breath so Souki can hear him.

CALLUM

Oh God what have I done.

CAROL

Alright first step to getting back into the workforce is to release your fears and face some facts! Uh huh. You know what I'm saying. That's right.

Ok so let's all stand up and take a big deep breath, now on the exhale I want you to let out a very big long loud sound like you're constipated, as loud as you possibly can, you're going to feel like a foghorn.

They look at her blankly.

CAROL (CONT'D)

You think I'm joking. I'm not joking. This is a great way to release. Ok take a deep breath in....

I'm not however going to join you by the way, because I'm not the one who's unemployed here...

Carol smiles. She's the teacher.

CAROL (CONT'D)

That's great...hold it... and release....

11

EXT. COMMUNITY CENTRE/LOCATION - DAY

11

The humble Community Centre is wedged into a suburban street.

A chorus of unrehearsed guttural foghorn like sounds are heard from the front room.

Dogs in the neighbourhood begin to bark.

OPENING TITLES