



**OFF
WITH
HER
HEAD**

written by
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FADE IN:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

KATHY (56), giddy, reclines against a pillow, scrolling on her laptop. She wears a large men's T-shirt and some soccer shorts.

RANDY (34) steps out of the bathroom in boxers. Flips off the light. He hops in bed beside her. Kathy ignores him, her gaze transfixed on the screen.

KATHY

I want to shoot something different. Like. The scissors portrait was cute, but... I want to make some noise. Do something fucked up.

RANDY

Like Andres Serrano fucked up? I went to a show of his in New York a few years back.

KATHY

Oh, fuck yes. The Piss Christ guy. He does like Klan members and decapitated cows, right?

RANDY

Yeah, right... I'd appreciate not having to clean up blood and piss when I get home tomorrow.

CLOSE ON THE COMPUTER SCREEN

Google Images scrolls up. A collage of depravity. Blood and cum on a sheet of glass. A woman holding a horses hard cock. A man sucking his own dick. All shocking, but shot with a raw realism. Among the chaos, a Serrano portrait of Trump.

The cursor clicks it. It enlarges.

KATHY

Yeah? Well, I'm not making any promises.

RANDY

When does the photographer get here?

KATHY

Tyler. He's getting here around eight thirty and we're going all day. Or until we get something we both like.

Light shines from the laptop, dances on her face.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Camera equipment scattered on the table. TYLER (35) sits at the table, taps his pencil on the notepad. Kathy carries her laptop to him.

KATHY

Tyler, have a look at some of these. Maybe we could--

RANDY

No, no, don't show me. I don't want to be derivative.

Kathy retracts the laptop. Sits down across from him, embarrassed by the rejection.

Randy sits in pensive silence.

KATHY

Do you have any other ideas?

RANDY

No. I think we have enough to shoot. We could try the nude Cheetos bathtub concept.

CLOSE ON THE LAPTOP

The Andres Serrano Trump portrait sits enlarged on Kathy's laptop screen.

KATHY (O.S.)

You know, I'm not afraid to get political. Let's get fucking political.

Randy doodles something on the notepad. A frownie face with a jagged cut-off neck.

INT. FOYER - DAY

Kathy, made-up, hair done, lifts her hand to the camera. Red splotches on it.

KATHY

This is fake blood. Just so you know. I won't give away what we're doing, but Tyler and I are not afraid to do images that make noise.

SMASH TO BLACK.

INT. MEETIN ROOM - DAY

About ten people around the table. Some dressy, some casual. Laptops open, notebooks scattered.

A spinning CNN logo on the TV in the background.

At the end of the table, the only suit in the room, CHARLIE (38), rises from his chair. Paces.

CHARLIE

So, TMZ was first to report... again. We need reactions now. What's Melania saying?

The writers shuffle. Some search their laptops, others doodle on papers.

SARAH (27) pipes up.

SARAH

Nothing. Yet. I'm sure the president will be tweeting before long. Our Facebook analytics guy says we'll have an increase in clickthrough of forty percent if we post within two hours.

JEFFREY (29) chimes in.

JEFFREY

With the right headline.

CHARLIE

It's making me think of... This is conjuring up images of ISIS beheadings. The only thing worse than ISIS is Nazi Germany. And the Nazi's at least have the good sense to be dead. Well, mostly.

(beat)

Gimme a headline. Something striking.

JEFFREY

Kathy Griffin's unforgivable message to America.

SARAH

And the world.

CHARLIE

That's it. Keep an eye on the president and first lady for reactions.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

JOHN (44) pours the dregs of the communal coffee pot into his styrofoam cup.

GREG (38) steps behind him. Peers at the pot.

GREG

Ugh, come on, man. I got that post-lunch lethargy.

John presents his cup.

JOHN

You want the dregs?

GREG

Nah, I'll brew another pot.

Greg grabs the pot. Starts to walk away when

JOHN

Hey, did you see that Trump photo?

Greg keeps walking.

GREG

Yeah. Unforgivable. Sends a bad message to America.

SMASH TO:

TWITTER FEED

A stream of tweets floods in.

"Griffin's photo is appalling. You may not like him, but he's our president."

@CNN "Kathy Griffin's unforgivable message to America and the world. "

"She took it too far. Shame. Shame."

"Haha. Damn, she beat me to it."

@CNN: "Article: Melania Trump's strong words about that Kathy Griffin photo."

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

GEORGE (62) eats lunch with Charlie at the modern fine dining establishment.

GEORGE

I'm hearing things about this photo. Haven't seen it yet.

CHARLIE

You haven't?

Charlie taps his phone, holds it out to George.

GEORGE

Please, I'm eating. Anyway, I'm hearing rumblings of some ties about to be severed. People are talking.

Charlie nods. He gazes off. Lost in thought.

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

Charlie stands at the head of the table. The writers in their seats.

CHARLIE

People are talking. We need to be a part of the conversation.

Charlie paces.

CHARLIE

Sarah, let's do a people's reaction article. Grab the most critical tweets opposing Kathy. I'm thinking five. Make sure two of those tweets are from verified accounts. Headline: Twitter explodes with outrage over Kathy Griffin photo.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Kathy sits, no makeup, a look of exhaustion on her face. The camera looks down at her. She speaks with an undertone of desperations.

KATHY

I am just now seeing the reaction of these images. I'm a comic. I cross the line. I move the line, then I cross it. I went way too far. The image is too disturbing. I understand how it offends people. It wasn't funny. I get it. I've made a lot of mistakes in my career. I will continue. I asked your forgiveness. Taking down the image. Gonna ask the photographer to take down the image. And I beg for your forgiveness. I went too far. I made a mistake and I was wrong.

CUT TO:

YOUTUBE VIDEO PLAYER

TAMMY (19), dressed beach hip, sits at her computer desk, a bed in the background behind her. She addresses the camera. She speaks with a valley girl accent.

A picture of Kathy Griffin holding a blurred out head appears in the upper right hand corner over Tammy's shoulder.

TAMMY

I personally don't know what she was thinking. I mean, I voted for Hillary. And you all know me. I Marched for women. But I can't March for her. My brother is in the army and knows people who have lost friends to ISIS.

Pull out from the video to reveal

INT. TAMMY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Tammy watches her own video. Stares at the screen in disbelief.

She pulls open the webcam recorder. Looks into it, angry.

TAMMY

Hi YouTube. So, my video was just demonitized. This is such bullshit. I'm reporting on the news. And their reason is that the advertiser said--

INT. CORNER OFFICE - DAY

EXECUTIVE MAN (57), holds the phone to his ear.

EXECUTIVE MAN

Squatty Potty is a health brand,
and we can't have it associated
with or even playing next to this
kind of filth. Pull it.

SMASH TO:

TWITTER FEED

@CNN: "BREAKING - Squatty Potty drops Kathy Griffin after Trump photo"

"Serves her right. If she has the money to shoot that filth, she'll survive this."

@CNN: "CNN fires Kathy Griffin"

INT. MEETIN ROOM - DAY

Charlie plops in his chair. Reclines.

CHARLIE

Click through?

SARAH

Up sixty five percent.

Charlie nods, pleased.

CHARLIE

Can you believe how this exploded?
Man... People really started
talking.

SARAH

Yes sir.

CHARLIE

We're doing God's work here,
people. Good work.

INT. KATHY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Kathy, somber, defeated, stares at her laptop in bed.

CLOSE ON THE SCREEN

A news article on the CNN website. "CNN Drops Kathy Griffin as host of New Years."

An embedded tweet from Anderson Cooper: "For the record, I am appalled by the photo shoot Kathy Griffin took part in. It is clearly disgusting and completely inappropriate."

The cursor clicks the close button. The web browser vanishes.

ANGLE ON KATHY

Her sad eyes glued to the screen the screen.

Randy walks into the bedroom.

RANDY
Hun, put it away.

CLOSE ON THE SCREEN

The photo. Kathy Griffin holding a decapitated Trump head. Uncensored. The cursor clicks the image. A menu pops up. The cursor scrolls down.

Hovers over "Make Desktop Background". Click.

The laptop slams shut.

She takes a deep breath, sets the laptop on the floor, dons a fake smile.

KATHY
You want to make some noise?

Randy gives her a cheeky smirk.

FADE OUT.

THE END