

THE PROMOTION  
By Tyler Christiansen  
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CAST

Bill - A newly promoted office worker.

John - Bill's Co-worker.

Sam - Another worker at the office.

\*NOTE: All lines are delivered incredibly passive-aggressively. There's never a moment where Bill and John aren't grinning ear to ear.

(John enters Bill's office, holding an Edible Arrangement)

JOHN

Knock, knock, Mr. Boss-man.

BILL

Uh oh, here comes trouble. How ya doing John?

JOHN

Good, good, I just wanted to stop by, congratulate you on the big promotion.

(He hands the Edible Arrangement off to Bill)

JOHN

And I come bearing gifts.

BILL

Oh, an Edible Arrangement? Someone's a big spender, huh?

JOHN

Well, only the best for you. Seems like they've been working you to the bone with this fancy new position. I figured you could use some nourishment, you look exhausted.

BILL

Many thanks my friend, oh and John, I really hope there's no hard feelings between us. I know how much you wanted the job and you really tried your best and y'know...it just wasn't good enough. Happens to the best of us. Maybe next time champ!

JOHN

Of course, no hard feelings at all. I mean, we all knew you were gonna get it.

You spend so much time at the water cooler laughing at Carl's jokes, there's no way he wasn't gonna give it to you. Because he knows, personally, you're the best man for the job.

BILL

Well I thank you for your wonderful gift, it was very thoughtful and I bet it's even more delicious. If anyone knows good food it's you, huh?

(He pats John's stomach)

BILL

You certainly haven't been missing any meals.

JOHN

It's all that home cooking, y'know? Coming home to a wife that loves you can definitely make you put on some pounds. How is Sheila by the way? Are the divorce papers finalized yet?

BILL

They are! They absolutely are. Y'know, if you want the name of my lawyer, he's great. I know you and Rebecca have been getting into those screaming matches again lately.

JOHN

That's marriage for ya! What're you gonna do when she sleeps with your best friend and takes the kids from you, oh wait! That was Sheila! Brain fart!

(They both let out an obnoxious, fake laugh)

BILL

Well the kids are doing just fine. Brandon actually just got accepted into Stanford, how's Steven doing? Still setting small animals on fire? Eh, boys will be boys!

JOHN

Oh no, we got him this fantastic new doctor, he's actually in the same hospital where you got your stomach pumped. That was some Christmas party, huh?

BILL

Mhm, mhm, well you know all about having a good time "Mr. Five DUI's" Say, did they ever give you your license back?

JOHN

We're working on it. I get to take these fabulous classes, it's great to just learn again. Speaking of classes, how's that high school girl you were caught texting, you sly dog, you.

BILL

She's actually a junior in college which, I'm sorry let me explain, I know you didn't go to school, means she's in her twenties. It's going great! We actually took a little trip to Myrtle Beach last weekend, it was fantastic. If you're ever fortunate enough to take a vacation, you should check it out.

JOHN

That's why you look so tan! I was like 'is that John Stamos, or did Bill's liver finally revolt and he's in the early stages of jaundice?' You look fantastic!

BILL

Well thank you kind sir, no my health is fine. Oh that reminds me, I am so sorry to hear that your mother passed away. Lung cancer is just awful. Now how much of your second hand smoke do you think contributed to that or can't they tell?

JOHN

Mhm, it's been tough, but we're a strong family, we're pulling through. I know you didn't have a great relationship with your parents because you're....Oh God, what was the word they used in that letter they sent you? Unlovable? Yeah, but losing a parent is tough.

BILL

I bet. Well, I am sure she's just looking up at you now, wishing you the best. And hey, if you're ever sad that she died before getting to witness you do anything of note with your life, you stop that right now! I'm sure she was very proud that you're a mid-level employee and have been for, what? Fifteen years now?

(A beat of silence. Then they let out another obnoxious, fake laugh.)

JOHN

Yeah...

BILL

Yeah...

(Sam enters for a moment.)

SAM

(genuinely)

Hey Bill! Just wanted to say congrats on the promotion. Good job man!

(Bill nods at him and he exits. Another beat.)

BILL

(dropping the passive  
aggressive act)

...What the fuck was that supposed to mean?

BLACKOUT.