

A QUICK MEETING

by

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SETTING — Meeting room of an office.

CHARACTERS — MIDDLE MANAGER, WORKING DEAD, and several other employees (nonspeaking). Any genders, any ages, woo diversity.

AT RISE — MIDDLE MANAGER is in full babble. WORKING DEAD and all the others look defeated, sad.

MIDDLE MANAGER

...and I think maybe way back in the 1990s, '96 maybe?, we discussed something similar, and it was decided then that the company preference, and this was several executive directors ago, so probably we should revisit this, the company preference was that we not—...

WORKING DEAD

(singing to the tune of “Part of Your World”)

Hearing this crap
Smelling these feet
When you say “meeting” must we actually meet?
Couldn't you send an email
An email about everything?

Yes you're the king
Of still talking
How many hours can your blabbing bring?
What have you even said
Said about... anything?

One hour long's not one-twenty
I am staring real hard at the door
You want to discuss this some more?
How 'bout Monday!
But no luck
Here's my spiel
I am boooooored...

I wanna be going home right now
I wanna watch, wanna watch some Netflix
Sipping a glass of that – what do you call it?
Oh – booze!

I'm still awake but I don't know how
These eyes were meant for reading, learning
Not fighting desire to – what's it called again?
Snoooooze...!

Out of this room, out of this place
Or I will shoot myself in the—!

MIDDLE MANAGER

Hey!

WORKING DEAD

(seeing that everyone has heard)

...Oh.

MIDDLE MANAGER

We're all bored, but do you hear us singing about it?

WORKING DEAD

I... really sorry.

MIDDLE MANAGER

Anyway, the preference was that we not tell clients where exactly the money goes even if they do ask... proprietary something-or-other... but that, in some cases, we could outline for them some general areas where the money might have been spent...

(continues talking, but we cannot hear)

WORKING DEAD

(singing softly, broken)

...Meeting won't end

Wish you'd just send

A goddamn emaaaaaail....

END OF PLAY.