

CROWNING HACKNEY

By

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FADE IN:

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

DWAYNE HACKNEY's quirky face fills the screen.

DWAYNE

I've always wanted to be a male super model. I'm not sure why. I think I'm at a time in my life where I want to give something back. Yea.

I've tried three or four professions in the last. . . oh, couple of years or so. But this one just feels right.

Based on what I've read on the internet, I'm pretty sure I've got what it takes. Teeth, bone structure, good skin, effervescent personality. And the most encouraging aspect of this profession is the absolute lack of middle-aged, bald super models.

I don't know why nobody's thought of this before. I mean hello.

EXT. CAR - DAY

DWAYNE

Today's a big day. I'm heading to a local modeling agency. I tried to find a Barbizon, cuz I hear they're the best, but none close.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

Have you taken the Barbizon quiz?

DWAYNE

I didn't know they had a quiz.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)  
Yea. I've got the questions here.  
Do you want me to ask a few?

DWAYNE  
(flashes exaggerated model  
pose to camera)  
Sure.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)  
Why do you keep doing that?

DWAYNE  
Doing what?

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)  
Making those faces.

DWAYNE  
I don't know. It just feels  
natural.

DWAYNE (cont'd)  
Was that part of the quiz? No?

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)  
Do you consider yourself to be an  
enthusiastic person?

DWAYNE  
Is this the quiz? Yes? OK.

DWAYNE (cont'd)  
Oh yea. I mean, big time.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)  
Do you enjoy being fashionable?

DWAYNE  
Man, more than life itself.  
Clean's good too though, ya know.  
Anything clean.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)  
How often do people tell you  
you're a hottie?

DWAYNE

Often. My mom, priest, sometimes dad, but that hasn't happened since I was young.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

Do you set goals for yourself?

DWAYNE

All the time. I can't even count all the goals I've set over the last year. Goal setting is good.

Dwayne pulls up to a McDonald's drive up window and orders a Big Mac, fries and vanilla shake.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

Would you say fitness and nutrition are the most important part of your life?

DWAYNE

Absolutely. I mean you can't be a super model without keeping the fat off. I would plan on purging at least a week before the shoot, two weeks prior to runway work.

Dwayne pulls out of the McDonald's.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

What features are you complimented on most?

DWAYNE

(looking in rearview mirror)  
Definitely my lips. They pretty much keep the whole face together, and you can see them from most any angle.

DWAYNE (cont'd)

(pause)  
Is that it?

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

That's it.

DWAYNE

(eating french fry)

Pretty much a slam-dunk, huh. Yea,  
that's what Hanna tells me too.

EXT. PATIO - DAY

HANNA HACKNEY, an attractive women, is lounging by the pool.

HANNA

I'd say Dwayne is more like a child than a husband. He just can't seem to find himself. I give him a month on this latest super model escapade, and then on to some other lame idealistic jaunt.

Hanna glances over to the young, muscular POOL BOY, who flashes a SEXY SMILE back while sweeping.

HANNA (cont'd)

I think he's got some form of A.D.D., probably had it since birth.

Hanna motions the pool boy over to her lounge.

HANNA (cont'd)

I guess he's just lucky that his family left him more money than Rockefeller.

Hanna hands the pool boy sun tan lotion, rolls over and unclips her bikini top. He begins to slowly rub oil on her back.

HANNA (cont'd)

I guess we're both lucky. Aren't we Raul?

EXT. STREET - DAY

Dwayne's car rounds the corner on to a small town street. He parks, steps out of his car and meanders to the front of the modeling agency. A sign on the building reads: "FAMOUS MODEL MANAGEMENT".

DWAYNE

This is where it all happens. I hope they're as good as Barbizon.

INT. MODELING AGENCY - DAY

Dwayne enters. The room is full of pictures, newspaper fashion advertisements, and fashion magazines.

A YOUNG BOY and two YOUNG GIRLS are reading various magazines.

DWAYNE

Hey, you guys here to be super models too?

The two girls giggle and the boy thinks Dwayne's an idiot. Dwayne is befuddled by the response.

Dwayne drifts towards the wall and gazes at the various pictures. All the male high-fashion models are young, thin and have sloppy long hair, except for a picture of TYSON BECKFORD with a shaved head.

DWAYNE

(to self)

Only one bald guy, and he's young and black. This is gonna be easy.

SALLY SIMON opens the door to her office and exits with a young MALE PROTÉGÉ. She realizes everyone in the office is listening.

SALLY

I know you'll do just fine, Judd.  
Say hello to your mom for me and  
have fun in New York.

Dwayne, the boy and two girls all perk up and look impressed. As the protégé exits, Sally approaches the young boy.

SALLY

You must be Dwayne.

The boy looks confused.

DWAYNE

No, I'm Dwayne. I spoke with you  
on the phone.

Sally's expression goes from hopeful to glum. She quickly regains a sense of enthusiasm.

SALLY

Right. Come in.

Dwayne gawks at the celebrity pictures hanging on her office wall.

SALLY

Please, sit down.

Sally's office is a mess, unorganized with slides, comp cards, headshots and tear sheets piled all over. Dwayne sits across from Sally.

SALLY (cont'd)

So Dwayne, you..ahh..want to be a  
male super model?

DWAYNE

Yea. I just noticed the picture of  
Tyrone Beckfeld, and..

SALLY

(interrupting)

Tyson Beckford. His name is Tyson Beckford.

DWAYNE

...I think he's going to be my biggest competition. I mean right now all the male supermodels are young, thin, and have tons of hair. A huge void exists for a middle-aged, bald guy with good skin, teeth and bone structure.

SALLY

(containing herself)

I can see that. I think you may be on to something.

Dwayne is thrilled Sally understands his point of view.

SALLY (cont'd)

Now are you locked in to fashion super model, or would you also consider commercial work, or maybe fetish modeling? I think fetish would really be good for you.

DWAYNE

You mean like a hat model?

Sally looks bewildered.

DWAYNE (cont'd)

No. The big opportunity here is definitely high-fashion super model. I mean if I can't make it at that level. It just wouldn't make any sense to me, you know?

SALLY

Absolutely. I know exactly what you mean. But, it might take a substantial investment, I mean, especially since you're getting a late start.

DWAYNE

But everything I've read on the internet says I just need a Polaroid.

SALLY

That's only for people who aren't really serious. I sense you're very serious. And if that's the case, you're going to require the best BOOK in the business.

Dwayne begins to get excited.

DWAYNE

When do we start?

SALLY

We can get started immediately. All I need to do is run your credit card to cover a few expenses, and we're on our way.

EXT. CAR - DAY

DWAYNE

I think that went pretty well. I got a really good vibe from Sally, ya know, that whole trust thing. Not to mention she's hooked up with the New York scene. Yea, this one is feeling good.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

The television blares and Dwayne watches a runway fashion show on the Style network.

DWAYNE

I've been watching all the fashion shows trying to find a middle-aged bald guy on the cat-walk, and as suspected, it's a wide open deal.

Dwayne watches the models prance up and down the cat-walk and begins to imitate their walk.

DWAYNE

It's all about the cat-walk. The moves, the looks, the three prong turn at the end of the runway. It's just like a cat.

Dwayne's CAT prances across the room. Dwayne gazes at his cat, and then back to the TV, and back to his cat. Dwayne focuses on his cat's ASS as it makes its way across the room.

Dwayne follows his cat, watching his ass as he slowly moves across the room. Dwayne bends down, picks up the cat, closely studies his ass, and proceeds to lie down on the floor holding the cat's ass close to his face.

Dwayne then releases the cat and watches the REAR QUARTER of his cat as he walks away. The back legs, thighs and hips all working together in unusual harmony.

Dwayne then gets up and begins to mimic the cat's walk in various forms.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Dwayne prepares to shave. He study's his face in the mirror and practices various facial expressions (AD LIB).

INT. EXERCISE ROOM - DAY

Dwayne works out on a weight machine.

DWAYNE

Sally called. I've got my test photo shoot tomorrow. I tried to purge, but all I kept doing was gagging. It's harder to throw up than I thought. So instead, I'm hitting the weights hard for a quick tone up.

Dwayne jumps off the weight machine and picks up two 10 lb. Dumbbells. He studies his body in the mirror (AD LIB).

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

Dwayne enters, walking gingerly. Sally introduces him to MATT, the photographer.

MATT

Oh, I see what you mean Sally. Big opportunity with this guy.

SALLY

(to Dwayne)

Are you OK?

DWAYNE

I couldn't purge, so I worked out a little hard yesterday. But I think it worked. (pointing to arm muscle) Check it out!

Sally and Matt share a quick glance.

MATT

OK Dwayne. Let's transform you in to that middle-aged, bald super model. Did you bring a few wardrobe options?

Dwayne leads them into the waiting room where a ridiculous amount of clothing is piled all over the room. Sally and Matt shake their heads.

MONTAGE - PHOTO SHOOT

-- Various studio headshots  
-- Various clothing options  
-- Various off-location fashion shots

BACK TO SCENE

MATT

That was incredible! You're truly a performer of fashion. Simply breathtaking.

SALLY

And such unusual facial features, don't you agree Matt?

MATT

Definitely a wide range of looks.

DWAYNE

Yea. I sensed all my features coming together overlaying with my vibrant personality. Watch out Tyrone!

MATT

Who?

SALLY

Tyson. His name is Tyson!

DWAYNE

Right. So what happens next?

MATT

Well, we have so many looks; it may take us some time to sort through them. The important thing is we have enough to create a book and several comp cards for our New York contacts to review.

DWAYNE

But isn't a book copies of actual fashion work?

SALLY

Dwayne. You did your work, and fabulous I might add. Now let us do ours.

SALLY (cont'd)

Why don't you head home and get rested so you're ready for that first super model assignment, and we'll call you when something pops.

DWAYNE

Yea, I could use a nap. That fashion shoot thing is kind of exhausting.

Sally stares blankly at Dwayne.

EXT. SCENIC STREET - DAY

Dwayne quickly pumps his old, squeaky bike along a quiet, beautiful scenic drive. He's dressed more like a hell's angel than a super model. His lightly bearded FACE shows exhaustion.

DWAYNE

It's been two weeks and I haven't heard from Sally. I got an email saying she's working the collection shows throughout Europe, but things are looking very bright. Waiting is the hardest part of this super model deal.

Behind Dwayne, a group of professional cyclists draft at high speed and quickly approach.

DWAYNE

I figure I'd take the time to trim some fat, the old fashioned way, in case I have to settle for a few choice gigs while I wait. Ya know, maybe PlayGirl, or entering the International Male Model Competition in South Beach.

The cyclists catch Dwayne and force him off the narrow road onto the grassy shoulder.

Dwayne is caught by surprise and tries to maintain his composure as a long line of colorful cyclists whiz by with high tech bikes.

Dwayne's bike begins to wobble and topples to the ground. Dwayne jumps off the bike, avoids falling and breaks into a light jog, leaving his bike in shambles.

DWAYNE  
(shouting to cyclists)  
Training for the iron man. This is  
where the biking ends and the  
running starts.

Dwayne stops jogging and slows to a walk. He stops.

DWAYNE (cont'd)  
(to self)  
All right. Time to hit the pool.

EXT. CAR - DAY

DWAYNE  
It pays to be patient. Sally  
finally called, and I'm on my way  
to my first photo shoot. Man, this  
could lead to the big one.  
(singing) Supermodel, Supermodel.

INT. PHOTO STUDIO - DAY

Dwayne sits on a stool. He seems excited and practices a few poses while waiting.

A PHOTOGRAPHER loads his camera and makes adjustments to lighting.

PHOTOGRAPHER  
OK...I'm sorry, what was your name  
again?

DWAYNE  
Dwayne. Dwayne Hackney.

PHOTOGRAPHER

OK, Dwayne. Do me a favor and just drop your chin so the top of your head points directly towards the camera.

Dwayne is confused.

DWAYNE

But you won't be able to see my face.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Right. That's the idea.

Dwayne flashes a look of puzzlement.

PHOTOGRAPHER (cont'd)

Didn't your agent explain what this shoot is about?

DWAYNE

No. She just said it would be a great step in becoming a supermodel.

The photographer freezes and then explodes into laughter.

Dwayne's EYES peek towards the floor in embarrassment.

The photographer realizes Dwayne is serious, stops laughing and fumbles for words. The situation becomes awkward. Silence fills the air.

PHOTOGRAPHER

This is a before shot for a hair replacement ad.

DWAYNE

Oh.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Do you want to continue?

DWAYNE

Sure.

Dwayne's rejected FACE disappears as he lowers his chin. His BALD CROWN points directly towards the camera.

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

The office is professional and neat. Dwayne sits at his desk, his heavily bearded face worn and dejected. He gazes at a headshot and comp card.

DWAYNE

I'm beginning to wonder a little  
bit. I thought this was the one.  
It just felt right.

Dwayne's face goes blank. He reflects on his previously failed professions. He begins to question his self-worth.

Hanna peeks in to the room, her FACE sympathetic. She meanders towards Dwayne, slides behind his chair and stretches her arms over his shoulders and down the front of his chest, gently resting her chin on the top of his head.

HANNA

This isn't the one?

Dwayne shrugs his shoulders, slightly shaking his head while holding back a tear.

She KISSES the top of his BALD HEAD. Dwayne smiles.

DWAYNE

You're always there for me.

Hanna's face goes expressionless. She shows the guilt. Her eyes begin to water.

She instantly fends off the tears and regains her composure.

HANNA

(hopeful)

Maybe you'll still get a call.

Dwayne regains a slight sense of hope.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

The blue waves break gently onto the shore.

Dwayne waxes his long board, and attaches the leash to his ankle.

He picks up his board and heads towards the water. The strong cross wind makes it awkward to carry. Dwayne struggles to keep the board from knocking him to the sand.

He stops at the shoreline, cautiously dips his toes in the water, and assesses the incoming set of waves.

DWAYNE

The more I thought about it. That supermodel thing. I don't know. I don't think I was narcissistic enough. Oh well, it could have been huge.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

Are you disappointed?

DWAYNE

No. It really forced me to take a look at myself and really dig down deep to figure out what I really want.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

And that would be?

DWAYNE

Professional surfer. Just you and the waves, man.

CAMERA OPERATOR (OS)

Have you ever surfed before?

DWAYNE

Nah. But I figure it'll only take a few months to get up to speed. And then. . . bonsai pipeline.

END