

THE POST WAR ECONOMY

"Someone Has To Fire Thropnar"

Written by

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EXT. CITY STREET - MORNING

Begin on the sun in a beautiful blue sky. We hear offscreen birds chirping and that classic cartoon sunny morning music (Morning by Peer Gynt). The TITLE CARD appears on screen: THE POST WAR ECONOMY

Pan down through thicker and thicker clouds to a city street in a world completely ravaged by nuclear war; most buildings are shells of their former selves, gaping holes in the street steam, trash cans are turned over, and concrete boulders and debris scatter across the street and sidewalks. The sky down here is orange and in the distance, a fire and brimstone storm rains down. It's chaos.

A MAN and WOMAN, mid 20s, nice but tattered clothing, run down the street screaming.

MAN/WOMAN

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH OH
GOD OH NO AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

We see they are being chased by GIANT MUTATED ANIMALS - what looks like the head of a wolf, the body of an ape, and wings of a dragon. Some fly and some run; all chase the frantic couple.

The man and the woman run down the street, fearful for their lives. They turn a corner, then another, then duck quickly into a door. They collapse onto the ground and catch their breath.

A WOMAN, 30, dark hair and eyes, comes up to them.

WOMAN #2

Can I help you?

The man and woman look up, gasping for breath.

WOMAN #1

Outside - these giant creatures -
dragon wings-

MAN

They were chasing us. Oh god. It was
awful-

WOMAN #1

And the fire storms...they're coming
again-

WOMAN #2

Yeah, no, I know. I meant...can we help you?

Widen to reveal the building the couple entered is actually a stocked, staffed and open for business. As the woman stands up, we can see her name tag reads HOLLY.

WOMAN #1

Oh my goodness, yes. We came for, we were looking for an ottoman!

MAN

We wanted it to be green, maybe seafoam? To match our tent?

HOLLY

Sure, right this way!

EXT. FURNITURE STORE - LATER

The couple exit the furniture store with a large ottoman that the man carries.

WOMAN

(excited)

Can you believe they had one in stock? And in such good condition!

MAN

It only has one small stain!

WOMAN

And I'm pretty sure it's just blood!

Just then, they scream and run offscreen as the horde of dragon wolves begin to chase them again.

MAN/WOMAN

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH NOOOOOO WHY
AAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!

Wide on the exterior shot of the furniture as the man and woman are chased off.

END OF COLD OPEN.

INT. FURNITURE STORE - MOMENTS LATER

At the front desk, the frustrated and long suffering half-mutant assistant manager, MAX, tries to teach HOLLY, the saleswoman from earlier how to properly do inventory. He keeps being accosted by new mutant CARLOS, a young bro in his early 20s, whose mutant powers have somehow manifested as extreme confidence and large muscles. He tries to bond with Max over how awesome it is to be a mutant.

MAX
(indifferent)
Yeah...uh-huh...that's great.

CARLOS
And like, when I lift things, I don't even need to use my legs anymore. I could lift that couch over there with one pinky!

MAX
Wow, yeah. You should go show us.

CARLOS
What, you don't believe me? Watch this!

As soon as Carlos leaves, Max turns back to Holly.

MAX
Right, so as I was saying, after the sale you want to write the quantity here...

As he points to the places in the ledger, Holly begins to write.

MAX (cont'd)
And the description of the item over on this line, so like Large Ottoman, Green, Small blood stain...

Just then the manager, BUD LUCKY, mid 50s, hair frazzled and bow-tie askew, slams his hands down on the front desk.

MAX (cont'd)
(under his breath)
What now?

BUD
Someone has to fire Thropnar!!

Max looks uneasy.

MAX
Thropnar...The Decapitator?

Bud nods rapidly.

BUD
He just decapitated another
customer!!

On THROPNAR THE DECAPITATOR, full mutant, 7 feet tall, giant axe in hand, stands over the headless body of a customer. In the background, Carlos tries to lift a couch with one hand.

BUD (V.O.)
Plus, his sales have been down for
weeks!

On Max.

MAX
Do you think it's because of all the
decapitating?

BUD
Is it??? Oh geez, it is, isn't it??

MAX
Why did you even hire a guy named
Thropnar *The Decapitator*?

BUD
Well, I never had any trouble with
Bugar the Beheader!

On BUGAR THE BEHEADER, a mutant of similar size and structure, but standing more upright and polished. She holds an axe in one hand and calmly sells a couch to an older couple.

BUGAR
Personally, I'd go with the \$400
couch. It's just more comfortable.

On Bud, wiping sweat off his forehead. This man is anxiety incarnate.

BUD
She's never hurt anyone...that I know
of...

Bud swivels to face Max. He tries to straighten up and look tough.

BUD (cont'd)
As assistant manager, I need you to
fire Thropnar.

MAX
(protesting)
But-

BUD
By the end of the day!!

Bud walks away quickly. Max stands there stunned. Then he
turns to Holly.

HOLLY
Oh um-I mean, I'm new, I couldn't
possibly-oh was that a phone ringing?
It was probably my mom...gotta go!

Holly runs out. Off Max's face as he thinks about what to
do...

CUT TO:

INT. BREAK ROOM

A CLOCK as time speeds up and the hands go from 10 am to 12
noon. Back on Max's thinking face as he sits at a table in
the break room, eating spaghetti. Holly walks over with her
lunch, also spaghetti, and joins him.

HOLLY
Have you figured out how you're going
to fire Thropnar?

MAX
I have to get someone else to do it.
I just don't know who...

HOLLY
Do you really think he's going to
decapitate the person who fires him??

Just then, Thropnar yells from the other end of the room.

THROPNAR
That's...MY...SPAGHETTI!!!!!!!!!!

Thropnar stands over a coworker who is accidentally eating
Thropnar's lunch. Just as he brings his axe down, we cut back
to Holly and Max for their reaction as we hear the <SFK: KA-
SSHIING!>. They wince.

MAX
I do. I really do.

Then Max turns to look at another table, where four other coworkers sit, all eating spaghetti. One of them is GIL, a stylish, mostly human man with gills growing out of his neck. Another is Shelly, a sweet older woman in her late 40s. Sitting with them as well is a two headed mutant, with a good-looking male and female head, and an eager young blond man no older than 17.

MAX (cont'd)
Maybe Gil...he always wants more responsibility.

HOLLY
Is he named Gil because of the...you know...gills?

MAX
No, and DON'T ask. He will bite your head off. I mean, not literally. He's not Thropnar.

Max gestures to Thropnar as he says this, but then realizes that Thropnar is actually biting another coworker's head off.

MAX (cont'd)
Oh god. I gotta go put up more 'help wanted' signs.

INT. SHOWROOM FLOOR - LATER

Gil is in the main showroom floor, re-arranging the furniture. Max approaches him timidly.

MAX
Gil, uh, that looks great!

GIL
I know. I asked Brenda to take care of this but she has no idea how to color coordinate.

MAX
I've got another job for you, if you're up for it?

GIL
Oh my god please tell me it's to redecorate the bedroom set at the front-

MAX
No, um, you know Thropnar?

GIL
(unimpressed)
I know his work.

MAX
Well, uh, we need you to fire him.

GIL
Oh, HELL no. I'd literally rather
die.

Gil immediately turns and walks away, leaving Max.

MAX
(calling after him)
But he could make that happen---ugh.

BEGIN MONTAGE -

A brief montage begins as Max continues to ask other employees to fire Thropnar for him.

First, he asks BUGAR THE BEHEADER, fellow mutant, fellow head removal specialist.

MAX
Hey, Bugar! My main mutant!

BUGAR
What do you want?

Max approaches Ashlynn and Blanche, the two-headed mutant who are in an on-again-off-again relationship with themselves.

MAX
Could I ask you guys a question?

ASHLYNN
Omg, yes, we ARE back together
again!!

Shelly organizes some papers behind the main counter as Max arrives.

SHELLY
(in a sweet southern
accent)
Oh hullo, sweetheart!

MAX

Shelly, you're the heart of this store, you know that?

Back on Bugar. Max's pitch is not going well.

MAX (cont'd)

So...do you think you could fire him?

Bugar slaps him.

BUGAR

I resent the implication that I should do it just because I am also a mutant. AND FURTHERMORE...

On Ashlynn and Blanche's horrified face.

MAX

But if he beheads one of you, you still have the other head! It's perfect!

Ashlynn gasps, and Blanche eyes Max angrily before turning away.

On Shelly, who's loving the attention.

MAX (cont'd)

Like, the mom of the store, everybody loves you!

SHELLY

Oh, bless your heart!

MAX

So...I need you to fire Thropnar for me.

Shelly's face falls instantly. Suddenly, she rips out a switchblade and threatens Max. Her sweet southern accent is gone.

SHELLY

If you ever ask me something like that again I'LL CUT YOU, you hear me you little punk?!?

END OF MONTAGE

INT. BREAK ROOM - END OF WORKDAY

The break room is full of employees preparing to leave as the store closes for the day. Holly stands at her locker, grabbing her jacket and purse, when Max walks in totally defeated. Holly closes her locker.

HOLLY
Did you do it?

Max shoots her a look, then turns to look around the room. Then he turns back to grab the door, and just as Thropnar is about to enter, slams it closed.

THROPNAR
(muffled)
Hey!

Max locks the door. The employees in the break room turn to look at him, confused. Max's eyes are wild now. He speaks in a hushed, but frantic whisper.

MAX
Listen. No one is going home until
SOMEONE goes out there and fires
Thropnar.

Everyone sits in silence, as still as possible. Max roves around the room, begging people to volunteer.

MAX (cont'd)
Gerry?? Come on old man, I know how
you feel about mutants! Tell him off,
I know you want to!

The older man shifts uncomfortably in his seat.

GERRY
What I...feel about mutants is...that
they're wonderful people.

MAX
(turning)
Scotty?

The eager young blond boy can't help but respond..

SCOTTY
Yeah??

..then regrets it immediately.

SCOTTY (cont'd)
I mean...no!!! Please, I have so much
to live for!!

Scotty begins to cry. Max is getting mad. He pounds his fists
on the table in front of Scotty.

MAX
Well SOMEONE is going to-

CARLOS
Alright, alright..

Max looks over as Carlos stands up.

CARLOS (cont'd)
...I can handle this. It's clearly a
job for a pro.

Max stares at him silently for a moment but then snaps out of
it and stands up excited.

MAX
Yes-yes! It is! Go for it, pro.

CARLOS
We'll talk about my raise after I'm
done.

He winks at Max, and then exits the room.

The break room sits in complete silence as they collectively
strain to hear the conversation on the other side of the
door. Max sweats.

We hear Carlos, in a very muffled voice, explain the
situation to Thropnar.

CARLOS (cont'd)
(muffled)
Sno..ne ning ih..ne nah no net nu go.

(translation: So...the thing is...we have to let you go.)

Then Thropnar responds. Fairly calmly.

THROPNAR
(muffled)
On..on..I nunetly nunernan.

(translation: Oh...oh...I completely understand.)

A beat of silence. And then: <SFX: KA-SHIIIIING>

The employees in the break room react to the noise of the axe, as Thropnar stomps away down the hall. Max puts his head in his hands.

Then the door slowly creaks open, and everyone looks up. On the doorway, empty for a moment, before Carlos's head rolls into the break room.

CARLOS'S HEAD

Well...I think he took it pretty
well!

CUT TO BLACK.