

## EXAMPLE Screenplay for *Good Morning, Sunshine!*

Good Morning, Sunshine!

By Heather D. Freeman

INT. HOME OFFICE - DAY

Early morning light filters into a cluttered office, framing a small laptop. A bleary-eyed WOMAN in curlers, a fuzzy bathrobe, and slippers stumbles in and sets her COFFEE CUP next to the COMPUTER. She plops herself in front of the machine, turning it on, resting her chin in her hand groggily as she waits for it to whirr to life. As the computer's blue light hits her face, she snaps momentarily out of her daze. She types furiously for a moment, pauses to read, and then types again.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

An ESTABLISHING SHOT of the Woman's home reveals that her house is in a suburban cul-de-sac of similar residences. The neighbor windows are all dark except for her own. Early morning light begins to warm the empty street.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

The Woman reads, types, and sips coffee.

WOMAN

(muttering)

Let's see . . . "Funny joke" from Carol. Carol's always got funny jokes.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

HUSBAND snores in bed. The blinds are drawn down.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

The text of the email is reflected in the Woman's eyes as she reads the screen; she starts to chuckle.

WOMAN

(muttering a bit more clearly)

—and then the cat did the same. Ho, ho. The cat did the same. Oh, that's grand. The cat. Ha, ha, that's really, ha, that's really hilarious. The cat—!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - SAME TIME

The DOG is sleeping on his bed. As the woman continues to chuckle, he groggily lifts an ear and opens an eye.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

The Woman is really starting to guffaw now.

WOMAN

(loudly)

The cat! Ha, ha! Oh my! The cat! With the shoe! Oh! Ha, ha!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

The Husband groggily lifts his head; the Woman's growing laughter is audible in the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - SAME TIME

The Dog wags his tail a bit and whines. The Woman's laughter grows louder.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

Woman is really laughing hard now, pounding her fists on the table. She flops around in her chair, her laughter occasionally paralyzing her as her slippers flip about on her feet. The chair bounces around on the floor in her mania.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - SAME TIME

The Dog gets up and whines, turning in circles as the banging sounds increase and then crawls under his dog bed, whimpering. Furniture is shaking nearby.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

The whole floor and furniture is shaking with the Woman's laughter. The Husband gets out of bed with difficulty, stumbling as he tries to reach the door, but each new guffaw from the Woman just bounces him back into his bed.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

Woman's face is utterly contorted with hysterical laughter. Tears stream down her face.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

The sun is just up now, and the Woman's house is shaking and rumbling as her laughter vibrates the house. A lamp flies through the Woman's window, and as the glass breaks, her laughter erupts loudly out into the street, shaking nearby houses as well as her own. Lights begin to flick on in neighboring windows.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

The Woman is literally bouncing off the walls with her laughter, coffee cup flying about, computer crashing to the floor, books flying about, objects breaking left and right.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - SAME TIME

The Dog is still cowering under the dog bed. Everything is bouncing violently into the air with each laugh. The Dog's paws appear from under the bed as he writes his "Last Will and Testament."

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

The Husband is clinging to the bed for dear life, his legs through up and down with each gale of laughter.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

All the houses are now hopping in their foundations with each of her laughs. Lights are on, CAR ALARMS blare, dogs BARK.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

The Woman seizes up momentarily, a laugh so deep and intense she can't even exhale out the breath or sound for a moment. For that moment, everything in the room is still.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - SAME TIME

The Husband clings to the bed, panting; his eyes are frantic as all is momentarily still.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVINGROOM - SAME TIME

The Dog pulls in the ``Last Will and Testament`` and pokes out his nose.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. HOME OFFICE - SAME TIME

WOMAN  
(gasping)  
The cat!

The Woman exhales, letting out such a tremendous laugh that it splinters apart the whole room.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - SAME TIME

The Woman's house lurches up into the air and comes crashing down with such force it crashes through the earth, creating a SINKHOLE that tips a neighboring houses partially into it.

NEIGHBOR MAN  
(muffled from inside his house, but screaming)  
AHH! MY GARAGE!!

There's momentary stillness as car alarms continue to go off and dogs bark. NEIGHBOR MAN comes out of his house in his bathrobe. POLICE SIRENS sound in the distance, gradually getting louder. Then, from a depths of the sinkhole, the Woman's laughter resumes with a wild hoot.

CUT TO BLACK:

NEIGHBOR WOMAN (OFF SCREEN)

Well, I read that joke last week. I didn't think it was very funny at all. Not at all.