

## PATENTLY COUTURE

By Ian Stroud

INT. PATENT OFFICE - DAY

MARTIN sits behind his desk. There are lots of papers stacked everywhere, and a computer. AL enters.

MARTIN

Al, great to see you. I was so sorry to hear the courts ruled in favor of Apple and Google for all your tech patents. What can I do for you today?

AL

I'm laying my cards on the table. I'm dead broke, and I need some long term cash, so I've brought in some patents I thought of over the past few days that I know will really bring the bank!

MARTIN

I'm glad to see you've got that fighting spirit! Let's take a look.

Al takes a paper out of his back with schematics and notes and diagrams written on it.

AL

The first one I want to show you is a devise that, when properly aligned, allows the used to accomplish predominantly vehicular transportation, but also for steering a and possibly as an alternative to shoes.

Martin stares at Al for a beat.

MARTIN

(slowly, confused)

So...It sounds to me like you're trying to patent the wheel. Is that what you're going for?

AL

Hey, call it what you will. I brought a prototype to help you visualize it.

Out of his bag, Al removes a a crudely chiseled stone wheel.

AL

It's still in the early design stages, but I think you get the idea.

MARTIN

Al, did you make that yourself?

AL

Of course. I invented it. Who else would make it?

MARTIN

Al. I know you must be hurting for money pretty bad, but it's not going to be possible to patent the wheel. It's arguably the first invention in the existence of ever.

AL

Yeah...I..I know. I thought maybe though, you know? Just like if you only include NASCAR, all the tires they use...

MARTIN

We've been working together for years. I want to help you here, but you need to give me something to

latch onto.

Al takes another paper out of his bag.

AL

Alright, I've got more ideas. This invention is pretty special. Some people will go their entire lives without getting this. Some people get it only a short time.

MARTIN

Sounds like it could be a cash cow.

AL

It is. You know that feeling you get when you look at your wife?

MARTIN

Of course!

AL

And your kids?

MARTIN

Yes..

AL

Or when you go to your favorite restaurant that you've gone to for decades and get your favorite meal made perfectly?

MARTIN

Jesus, Al, are you trying to patent the human concept of 'Love'?

AL

I was going to call it Smishee, but I think you get what I'm going for.

MARTIN

This is a little insulting. We both

know you cannot patent an emotion.

AL

I'm not convinced we can't! Think of the money in it! Tell you what, you put this through and I'll give you 30% of the revenue I pull in for it. And think if we had a global golden age where everyone stopped hating others!

MARTIN

Al--

AL

(interrupting)

I've got a prototype!

Al walks around the desk and embraces Martin.

AL

(whispering in Martin's ear)

I Smishee you.

Martin lightly pushes him away.

MARTIN

I'm not playing this game. If you're going to waste my time and dishonor my work, I can take other clients.

AL

Okay okay okay okay okay. I know. That was rough. I've saved the best for last though.

MARTIN

I swear, if you don't deliver on

this one.

Al takes another paper from his bag.

AL

Relax. So you know how you go about your day? And I go about mine? And everyone else goes about theirs? Well some people don't. They're not doing anything - breathing, moving, looking at stuff. They're useless, but those of us who are still going about, there's money in that.

AL

Life.

MARTIN

I don't know if there is a word for it, but pretty much anyone who's not buried in the ground or ha their body burned, they should pay for that privilege.

AL

How much money did you lose in the suits?

MARTIN

I own the government \$1.5 billion.

AL

Alright. I'll try and push this one through for you.

Al hugs Martin again.

AL

I Shishee you!

BLACKOUT