

The Player Excerpt 001

Background: Tim Robbins plays Griffin Mill, a movie studio executive. He has an interesting job: He listens to writers tell their movie story ideas, and he chooses the stories that will become movies.

When this scene opens, Griffin is going to see his boss, Joel Levinson, for a breakfast meeting. Levinson is hiring a new guy, Larry Levy, and Griffin feels threatened by Levy. Levy is leaving his meeting with Levinson; they cross paths in the parking lot.

By the way, one of the reasons I'm showing this clip is to showcase the acting skills of Brion James (Levinson). Recognize him? Ten years before this, he played "Leon" in *Blade Runner*!

► TIME: 21:20

Susan: Good morning, Mr. Mills [sic]! Welcome to Geoffrey's!

Griffin: Hi, Susan. How are you? I...I'm with Joel.

Griffin: Hi, Burt; Griffin Mill. Good to see you!

Burt: Oh! Hi, Griffin. Good to see you!

Griffin: Hi, Charles. How are you?

Charles: Griffin. Nice to see you this morning! Bye-bye.

Burt: Asshole!

Charles: One of a breed.

Burt: Hmm!

Burt: No, actually, he's not one of a breed. There's a whole breed *of* them.

Burt: They're *breeding* them, actually.

Charles: <laughs> Yes! [...]

Burt: No...I have a theory...

Griffin: ...finish his breakfast.

Joel: He'd already eaten. He gets up early.

Griffin: Yeah.

Joel: You went to Mellon's last night, I hear.

Griffin: Hi, Cathy!

Griffin: How are you?

Griffin: So, Joel...you're losing your touch, scheduling these meetings so close together. The guy didn't have time to...

Griffin: Would you take this away, please? Yes, I did.

Joel: How is he?

Griffin: I'd like a **Vittel**™ water.

Griffin: <sigh> He's fine.

Joel: You left early. Why?

Griffin: We had to work on the, uh...on the museum party. I will not work for Larry Levy.

Joel: I'm not asking you to.

Griffin: I report to you. If I have to report to Larry Levy, I quit.

Joel: You can't quit. I won't let you quit. You have a year and a half on your contract, and I will sue you for breach if you don't show up in the office every day. With a smile.

Griffin: Why Levy?

Joel: Levy was available! He's good on material; you're good with writers. We're a team. He's a new member of the team, that's all. He can make us all look good.

Griffin: This is a red wine glass. Can I have my water in a water glass, please?

Joel: Well?

Griffin: I'll have to think about it, Joel.

Joel: I want an answer this afternoon.

Griffin: Well, I have to go out to Palmdale. Director of *Lonely Room's* giving **Lily** a hard time. Be back around five.

Joel: So call after five.

Griffin: I'll get back to you.

...

Burt: ...but I said, you know, "You haven't gone...you haven't *died*...enough. So he's still hanging on..."

