

Candied Camera
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"CANDIED CAMERA"

FADE IN:

INT. SOUND STAGE

REESE DOBSON is standing in front of a colorful background, wearing a bizarre costume. JOSEPH KELLER is operating the camera.

REESE
Hello, and welcome to CANDIED
CAMERA!

Reese throws handfuls of candy bars into the air. He smiles and waves his hands around frantically.

JOSEPH (O.S.)
Cut!

REESE
Phew! I need some CANDY!

Reese takes a candy bar from his pocket and unwraps it. He eats it, walking off-stage. The camera pulls out, revealing that he was on a sound stage. CREW MEMBERS are walking around. Joseph talks to a crew member and gestures towards the background.

FADE TO:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Reese walks down the street, still eating the candy. He is humming an upbeat song. People stop and stare.

REESE (V.O.)
My name is Reese Dobson, but most people call me The Candyman. They also call me Reese, El Hombre de Candy, and That Crazy Man who Throws Candy At Everyone. I'm the host of the hit TV show Candied Camera.

FADE TO:

INT. REESE'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Reese sits with both arms behind the back of the couch. A caption appears under his face, reading "Reese Dobson, Host of Candied Camera."

REESE

Candied Camera is...revolutionary.
There's nothing else like it on TV.

FADE TO:

INT. JOSEPH'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Joseph slouches on the couch. A caption appears under his face, reading "Joseph Keller, cameraman, Candied Camera."

JOSEPH

It's a cheap rip-off on Candid
Camera, except instead of just
jumping up and surprising people,
he throws candy at them, too.

FADE TO:

INT. REESE'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

REESE

It's taking the world by storm. We
have more viewers than...than we
can even count!

FADE TO:

INT. JOSEPH'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

JOSEPH

We're on public access, so we
probably reach about 50 houses. 25
if there's bad weather. I don't
even know why it hasn't been
pulled. I doubt anyone actually
watches it.

FADE TO:

INT. REESE'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

REESE

I've become a local celebrity!
 People come up to me and go, "Hey,
 you're that guy who throws candy at
 everyone!" And I go, "Yeah! But
 quiet, I'm gonna prank that guy
 over there!" And they're like,
 "Whatever you say, buddy!" It's
 amazing!

FADE TO:

INT. JOSEPH'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

JOSEPH

(sighs)

I'm just trying to raise money for
 med school. You know, he's got
 millions. Heir to a gumdrop fortune
 or something. If it weren't such a
 steady paycheck, I would have quit
 months ago.

Reese's giggle is heard in the background. Joseph shakes his
 head in semi-disgust.

FADE TO:

EXT. COLLEGE QUAD - DAY

Reese walks backwards and speaks directly into the camera,
 held by Joseph.

REESE

Welcome to Candied Camera! I'm your
 host, The Candyman. Today we've got
 a whole new group of people to
 surprise.

He walks closer to a group of CONFUSED MUSICIANS, carrying
 instrument cases and looking at a map. He puts his finger to
 his lips and points with his other hand to the group. He
 hides behind a tree, inching his way up with a sack of candy.

MUSICIAN #1

Maybe the practice rooms are there?

MUSICIAN #2
But aren't they by the library?

MUSICIAN #3
I think we need to ask someone for directions.

MUSICIAN #1
No, we don't! It's right over th--

Reese runs at the group of musicians and throws handfuls of candy at them. Musician #3 shrieks, and the other two shield their heads.

MUSICIAN #2
What the?

MUSICIAN #1
What the hell are you doing??

REESE
SMILE! YOU'RE ON CANDIED CAMERA!

Reese giggles and runs off in the opposite direction. The musicians watch him run away and then turn and look at each other, even more confused.

FADE TO:

INT. REESE'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

REESE
How did I come up with the idea for Candied Camera? I guess you could say it was fate. I applied for a job with Candid Camera, during the interview, they said, "Reese, it's just not going to work out." And I think what they were trying to say was, "Reese, you're too good for us. You need to go out there and revolutionize television. Change the world, like you were born to."

FADE TO:

INT. JOSEPH'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

JOSEPH
They didn't take him because he's a nutjob.

(MORE)

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

And, also because he's a nutjob, he thought it would be a great idea to make a rip-off where he just throws candy at people.

FADE TO:

EXT. PARK - DAY

A group of YOUNG DANCERS and one MALE DANCER are stretching outside the building. Reese is hidden behind a statue.

REESE

Welcome to another episode of Candied Camera. Observe our next group of people to be surprised.

The dancers stretch.

REESE (CONT'D)

Okay, you ready, Joey?

JOSEPH (O.C.)

Don't call me Joey.

Reese opens his sack of candy and takes handfuls. He inches forward by interpretive dancing. He runs up to the group of dancers, throwing handfuls of candy as he pirouettes around them. The MALE DANCER screams.

A DANCER

Away!

The Young Dancers gracefully jete away, and the Male Dancer jetes away ungracefully. Reese mugs at the camera. He giggles and dances off. The camera shakes as Joseph puts it down on the ground, then walks over to pick up the candy.

FADE TO:

INT. REESE'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

REESE

I feel really close to the people that I've been able to meet through Candied Camera. I definitely connect with my audience on a deep emotional level.

FADE TO:

INT. JOSEPH'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

JOSEPH

I know he's gotten at least five
restraining orders. Probably more.

FADE TO:

INT. LIBRARY BASEMENT - DAY

Reese hides on top of a bookshelf. He gestures to the ground.
ANNA and BILL are making out below.

Reese grins. He has built a track of toy racetrack around the
top of the shelf. It twists around, ending over Bill's head.
He positions a candy bar at the head of the track. He moves
it back and forth, then pushes it forward. It winds around.

Anna and Bill continue making out. The candy bar falls and
hits Bill in the head. They stop.

BILL

Ow!

ANNA

What was that?

More candy falls, first one at a time, then more until it
rains down on Anna and Bill. They look up and see Reese on
the bookshelf, dumping buckets of candy down on them.

REESE

SMILE! YOU'RE ON CANDIED CAMERA!

ANNA shrieks.

BILL

Hey!

ANNA

You told me that no one comes down
here! Now the whole town'll know
about it!

BILL

But Anna--

ANNA

No, Bill! Go back to your
girlfriend!

Anna walks off, wiping her lips on the back of her hand.
Reese giggles. Bill seethes, shaking his fist at Reese.

REESE

Uh-oh! Someone needs a pick-me-up!

Reese reaches down and tries to hand Bill a candy bar. Bill smacks it out of his hand and climbs up the shelf after him. Reese shrieks. Joseph sighs in the background.

FADE TO:

INT. REESE'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Reese strokes his chin.

REESE

You know, I think an idea like this had to have come from an ingenious mind. I must be pretty special.

FADE TO:

INT. JOSEPH'S INTERVIEW ROOM

JOSEPH

He can't even spell "candied" right. C-a-n-d-y hyphen e-d. We waste at least 10 minutes during every show changing everything so it's spelled right.

FADE TO:

EXT. THEATER - DAY

ASSISTANT CAMERAMAN holds up clapboard, reading "Candy-ed Camera: Take 2."

ASSISTANT CAMERAMAN

Candied Camera, Take--

JOSEPH (O.C.)

Wait a minute. Give me that.

Joseph puts down the camera and takes the clapboard from the Assistant Cameraman. He wipes off "Candy-ed" and writes "Candied" in its place. He gives the camera a look, then walks back and picks it up again. The Assistant Cameraman walks forward again.

ASSISTANT CAMERAMAN

Candied Camera, Take 2.

He moves the clapper down and exits frame. Joseph moves the camera over to show Reese hiding behind a nearby tree and some shrubs. He has constructed a catapult from twigs.

REESE

Observe the unsuspecting group of people in our next prank.

A group of three ACTORS are sitting on the steps.

ACTOR #1

Well, of course, you can SAY iambic pentameter is the best cadence for speech in the theatre, but can you substantiate it?

The Actors debate in a similar cadence. Reese fills the catapult with candy. He fires it at Actors.

REESE

(battle cry)
Candied Camera!!!

The Actors scream dramatically as the candy hits them. They pick up some and examine.

ACTOR #2

What, pray tell, would this be?

ACTOR #3

(sniffing a piece)
Why, I believe it is the sticky sweet of the sugarcane plant!

ACTOR #1

The world must want an encore!

The Actors improvise scenes melodramatically. Reese continues catapulting candy. Each time they are hit, they become more overt. Eventually they become too odd, even for Reese. He walks off, freaked out.

FADE TO:

INT. REESE'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

REESE

Candied Camera is like life.
There's always a sweet surprise that makes you see everything in a whole new way.

(MORE)

REESE (CONT'D)

That's my aim with Candied Camera.
To make people see that something
amazing can happen at any time.
Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to
go find someone to surprise today.

Reese gets up. He bows and holds up a candy bar.

REESE (CONT'D)

Accept this as a token of my
gratitude.

He goes to hand it to the cameraman, but instead puts it on
the coffee table by the couch. He pats it twice, nods at the
camera, then exits.

FADE TO:

INT. JOSEPH'S INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Joseph is about to say something, but he looks down and
closes his eyes for a moment. He looks back up.

JOSEPH

There's a lot of things I can say
about Reese. But you know what?
It's not even worth wasting breath
on. Crazy is as crazy does.

His cell phone BUZZES. He takes it out and reads a text
message. He shakes his head. He looks back at the camera.

JOSEPH (CONT'D)

Duty calls.

He leans down, leaving frame. He re-emerges with a camera
and something colorful. On putting it on his head
reluctantly, it is a multi-colored hat with "Candied Camera"
embroidered on it. Joseph pauses for a moment, embarrassed,
then gets up and exits.

FADE TO:

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

GUY is talking to a group of RANDOM PEOPLE. Reese, on the
side of the building out of view, holds a remote with a big
red button. Harder to see, there are pockets of candy hidden
in crevices all around.

A POLICE OFFICER walks by. Reese grins and poises his finger
over the button. Police Officer sees.

POLICE OFFICER
No! Stop right--

Reese presses the button. Candy explodes everywhere. Guy and the group duck and cover. Reese runs out of his hiding place, dances around in the candy and laughs maniacally.

Police Officer grabs Reese by the arm.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
What's the big idea??

Reese turns to face the camera and gapes. He puts a finger to his lips and grins. He reaches down and picks up a candy bar, then throws it in the Police Officer's face. Reese giggles. Police Officer squints at Reese, red with anger.

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)
Come with me.

Police Officer drags Reese away. He stops and turns back, suspicious. He walks into the bushes where Joseph is hiding and comes up very close to the camera, crooking a finger. The screen goes static.

CUT TO:

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

The screen is static, then clears to show Reese and Joseph sitting side by side on a bench in a jail cell. Reese is suppressing tears.

REESE
Well, folks, it looks like the
sweet life is all chewed up.
Signing off-
(sniffle)
For the last time...this is the
Candyman.

Reese throws a handful of candy at Joseph and sobs. Joseph closes his eyes and seethes.

FADE OUT.

THE END