

‘Ted’ Tickles Moral Funny Bone

by Miranda Dean

“Better Off Ted” is an office comedy about a large, unethical American corporation, Veridian Dynamics, that values profits over morals.

The show follows the very hectic and unordinary life of Ted Crisp (Jay Harrington), a man who lives by morals and the strict difference between right and wrong.

Ted is the head of Research and Development at Veridian Dynamics. He oversees two Research scientists, Lem (Malcolm Barret) and Phil (Jonathan Slavin), and the head of Testing, Linda (Andrea Anders), for whom Ted has some romantic feelings.

Ted’s boss Veronica (Portia de Rossi) is an emotionless and conscience-free woman; with whom Ted had an affair. Veronica can be as immoral and unethical as the company she works for. Veronica works “for the company” and puts her employees’ best interest and safety far from her mind.



Veridian Dynamics is always pushing the limits of science and human capability. Veridian’s goal is to make products that can (in some way) improve the lives of people and/or businesses. They make *everything*, from medicine to edible metal, from deadly pumpkins to cowless beef.

The show ties Ted’s complicated work life with his interesting home life. Outside of work, Ted is a single dad. His daughter Rose (Isabella Acres) is a smart, ethical, and realistic girl who spends most of her time clarifying right from wrong to not only her father, Ted, but to the people at Veridian Dynamics, too.

Ted usually turns to Rose for advice, and for an outside opinion about what he should do at work. But after Veridian decides to chronically freeze one of the Research scientists (the pilot episode), Ted begins to question the company himself.

This show is funny, but from a more adult perspective. Even the serious scenes have some underlying humor in them. The show does things from a perspective that allows viewers to relate it (somewhat) to their own lives; it points out all of the awkward situations that you don’t really want to happen in your own life.

I recommend this show to anyone who likes adult humor, and anyone who enjoys shows like “The Office” or “Scrubs.”

New episodes of “Better Off Ted” air every Wednesday at 8:30 pm on ABC.