

"Help Wanted"

FADE IN:

1 EXT. RESIDENTIAL JOB SITE - DAY - HOT SUMMER MORNING

A bulldozer levels a sub-urban pad for a house with a settlement date a month away. From a rooftop, one lot over, ROI CAUSTIC, a 30 something, shirtless, chisel bodied roofing contractor, is working at a machine-like pace. His air gun rips across a four-tab shingle so fast, that a single crackle is heard, even though 4 nails were fired. Already a new shingle is laid, another crackle, another shingle... Sweat pours off a young male STOCKER as he precisely drops a new bundle of shingles ahead of Roi like a card dealer in Vegas. Several other roofers work methodically together. An adjacent home reveals exposed plywood awaiting the CREWS Arrival. In 4 hours that home too will be roofed.

Across the street, a new homeowner, ROBERT JONES, a middle aged, white-collar worker, peers out the window from his breakfast nook. A Bulldozer is ROARING, an air compressor is CHURNING and the neighbors are getting restless.

2 INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - BREAKFAST NOOK - DAY

Robert slams shut the nearly soundproof window continuing to watch the workers. HEATHER, his cute, homemaking wife still wearing her nighties, enters the nook tossing a newspaper to the table. The HELP WANTED section lands upward. A coffee maker purkles out the last drop of fresh brewed caffeine. Robert glances at his watch, adjusts his necktie, reading the newspaper. After pouring 2 cups, Heather sits next to Robert, placing both cups in front of her. She runs her hands through his perfectly styled head of hair. Robert pulls his head away, resumes reading.

ROBERT
Hey, watch the hair!

HEATHER
I have my coffee, what are you drinking?

Without looking, Robert snags one of the cups.

ROBERT
I ask you to do one thing for me in the morning! Make my coffee! Now you're going to drink both cups?

Heather just rolls her eyes in disbelief.

ROBERT
Five years today! Going to get a
raise, I can just feel it.

HEATHER
A raise! Great, can we...

ROBERT
Come on now, don't get carried
away. The minute I mention raise,
you have it spent.

HEATHER
But Robert...

ROBERT
Heather!

HEATHER
Robert...

ROBERT
Heather, are we going to do this
all day, because I'm not going to
give...

Heather becomes tempered momentarily, but calmness prevails
her.

HEATHER
Then I'm going to get a job.

Robert is now angered, she has his attention now as he drops
the newspaper and glares at her.

ROBERT
What?

HEATHER
A job!

ROBERT
I know what you said. Doing what?
You don't have any job experience...

HEATHER
Amy called me. She says it's so
fun...

He chokes on his coffee, jumps to his feet in anger.

ROBERT

No way! You're not going to prostitute yourself like that...

Heather pleading.

HEATHER

She's a massage therapist!

Robert degrading, eyes bulging.

ROBERT

Massage nothing, that's a sleazy job and you know it...

HEATHER

It's an art form! Not everyone can do it...

ROBERT

Right, not everyone can do it, and you're one of them!

HEATHER

Just what are you imagining with your sick little mind?

ROBERT

Imagining? You're in denial!

HEATHER

Denial? The only thing I've been denying is that you're a sick, jealous person!

Robert approaches Heather to intimidate her. Talks close.

ROBERT

Then you tell me! You've seen the James Bond movies. Are they wearing clothes when they get massages? NO!

HEATHER

Sit down and eat! Are you losing it?

Robert sits down, starts to take a bite, realizes she got the last word. He tries to keep his mouth shut, but just can't do it. Just before he speaks, Heather beats him to it.

HEATHER

Wow, that's a first! For once you let me get the last...

ROBERT
Yes, I'm trying to apply what we
learned at counseling.

HEATHER
What's that?

ROBERT
Listening! You said sit down and
eat! I did!

HEATHER
That's interesting. I didn't think
you ever heard anything I say.

Robert, even louder, more arrogant.

ROBERT
Oh, I heard you! Then you asked me
if I'm losing it! The answer is
No! You think half the men in this
town are going to come to you to
feel good? Is it any wonder I won't
have kids with you? Picture that! A
pregnant woman running around
giving every man in town a thrill!

HEATHER
You know, it's not just men that
get massages!

ROBERT
Don't even bring that up! Don't
even...

HEATHER
Just because I have short hair
doesn't make me a lesbian!

Long pause.

ROBERT
I didn't say that.

HEATHER
Well you said it before!

Total silence. Robert is staring for a winner in the fight.
Speaking sincerely, this time.

ROBERT
Well, I should "not" have said it.

Turns the mood from a fight to one of concern.

ROBERT

I'm sorry. I'm blowing off steam.
Forget I said any of this.

HEATHER

Oh, just forget it, right?

ROBERT

It's just that I think too highly
of you. I can't stand the thought
of you having to lower yourself.
People should be serving you.

Heather, kind, but doubtful.

HEATHER

You're just saying that.

ROBERT

No, I mean it. My father made sure
mom never had to work. I want the
same for my wife.

HEATHER

Did you ever stop to think that
some people enjoy working? A job
doesn't have to be all about money,
it's a sense of accomplishment.

ROBERT

Well, all I know is that answering
to people every day isn't fun.
There's always somebody making
decisions for me. I feel helpless.
I feel controlled.

Heather, speaking sarcastically.

HEATHER

Sounds familiar.

ROBERT

I get so upset that I can't give
you everything that you deserve.
Then it turns to a fight about
something stupid.

HEATHER

All fights are stupid.

ROBERT

But I'm not trying to control you.
I'm trying to get a handle on our
life.

HEATHER

You want things to be perfect!

ROBERT

We get so close to being there.
Every time I think we have enough,
then bam, someone pulls the rug out
from under us!

HEATHER

Things will never be perfect. I
know it's important to plan, but,
look at us. Did your parents plan
to have you? Did they plan for your
sister?

ROBERT

No, but...

HEATHER

Think of how sad it would've been
for you to grow up without her. But
your parents worked things out.

ROBERT

Yeah, but times are different now.

HEATHER

Well, let me tell you! My father
stalled around forever until my
mother finally had to make plans of
her own!

ROBERT

What?

HEATHER

Please, don't ever repeat this!
Promi se?

ROBERT

Ri ght. I promi se.

HEATHER

The "reason" I exist on this
planet. Really, don't tell. My
mother would die if this got out.

ROBERT

Tell me, you can trust me...

Heather, slowly, nervously.

HEATHER

She took a needle and..

Gestures poking a tiny hole.

ROBERT

A needle and, what?

HEATHER

...poked a hole through the condom!

Robert jumps up and spits coffee out his nose chocking. Calms down. Walk to the phone, teasing.

ROBERT

Oh boy, does your father know? I gotta call...

HEATHER

No, you promised...

ROBERT

Oh, I'm sure he needs to know, I mean...

Heather reaches her arms around Robert and snags the phone.

ROBERT

With that in mind, let me go in there today, get that raise, and then we can talk about, well, you know...

Heather perks up.

HEATHER

Oh, really? I hope that...

ROBERT

Yes, we can "talk" about it. I don't want any needle poking ideas running through your mind.

HEATHER

Oh, we can do more than "talk about it".

Heather kisses Robert.

ROBERT

Did you brush your teeth?

Heather backs off a little embarrassed.

HEATHER

Did you blow your nose?

Phone RINGS. Robert starts reading the paper again.

Heather, speaking into the phone.

HEATHER

Hello? Oh, I'm fine thank you.
Well, my husband reads the paper
more than I do, but uh, he's
getting ready for work.

Heather, listening to the NEWSPAPER REP.

HEATHER

I really never thought of it like
that. How much would we save?

ROBERT

Who is it? Give me the phone!

HEATHER

It's the newspaper. They want to
know if...

ROBERT

Again?

Robert annoyed. Grabs phone. Talking rudely into the phone.

ROBERT

Don't you think if I wanted the
paper delivered to my shrubs every
morning I'd have ordered it by now?

Robert tones it down a little.

ROBERT

Hey, are you looking at a computer
screen right now? Yeah? You got
some kind of database there in
front of you? Great, you see my
name on it?

Robert's voice raised.

ROBERT

Delete it, or I will have your ass
fired!

Robert's voice changes to polite but fake.

ROBERT

Wait a minute, I'm sorry. I'm sure
you're just being helpful. Yeah, I
mean it. You're trying to help me,
so maybe I can help you.

Faintly hear the telemarketer through the phone.

NEWSPAPER REP (V. O.)

Great, so you'll buy a
subscription!

ROBERT

No, good try. That paper you work
for, does it have a sports section?
Great! A Comic section too? Good!
How about a "Help Wanted" section?
Really?

Robert, mockingly speaking to Heather.

ROBERT

Honey, this newspaper has a help
wanted section!

Robert, speaking to phone. Again rudely.

ROBERT

Why don't you scour through it, and
get a real job!

Robert, after SLAMMING the phone, calmly walks to the window
with his coffee, sips last few drops.

HEATHER

Don't you think you were a little
rough on him?

Ignoring her and peering out the window, Robert sees a roofer
across the street, pouring coffee down his throat. Robert
opens the window. Compressors CHURNING, nail-guns CRACKLING.

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EXT. RESIDENTIAL JOB SITE - DAY - HOT SUMMER MORNING

Stocker slides down the roof handing Roi a hot coffee.

ROI
We've been here three hours and the
white collars are just heading to
work! They don't know what a real
job is.

The blistered, sun scorched Stocker, speaking sarcastically.

STOCKER
They're missing out!

As steam pours from his coffee, Roi gulps half the cup, and
as if the caffeine takes immediate affect, he bursts with a
sudden rush of energy. SCREAMING.

ROI
WHOOOOO! YEHHH!

Roi throws his cup and hits the stocker in the head to
motivate the CREW. A unified war cry, and it's back to work.
This is the madness of their occupation.

FADE IN:

4 INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - BREAKFAST NOOK - DAY - SECONDS LATER

ROBERT
You know, those lunatics woke me up
at six o'clock! Screaming from the
rooftops!

HEATHER
You're not the only one.

ROBERT
Why would anyone take a job like
that?

Heather walks towards window to sneak a peak.

HEATHER
Maybe they like the outdoors?

ROBERT
I mean telemarketers!

HEATHER
He was only doing his job.

ROBERT

It bothers me to no end. What events have unfolded in their pathetic little lives that they would resort to saying, "I'll take the job! I don't mind calling people over and over"...

Heather taking notice of the time.

HEATHER

You're going to be late for your pay raise.

ROBERT

Right! Later!

Robert grabs his corporate tools, namely a briefcase and his coffee mug as he bolts out of the house. Camera follows Robert walking to his car then focuses onto roof scene. Roofers are working relentlessly.

5 EXT. ROBERT'S WORKPLACE - DAY - MOMENTS LATER

The words "reserved for management" mark the parking spot at the Industrial Building where Robert works. Robert's CAR pulls in. He gets out, walks towards the main entrance. A suit wearing COMPANY MAN meets Robert at the door, blocking him out.

ROBERT

What is it? Are they planning a surprise party for me? You know, it "has been" five years today?

COMPANY MAN

We can't let you in! There's been cut backs. Effective immediately!

2ND COMPANY MAN

You're one of the cut backs.

Robert is stunned, disbelief.

ROBERT

What the hell are you talking about? It's a joke, right?

COMPANY MAN

Believe me, I wish.

2ND COMPANY MAN

Would you rather we let you work all week, and not pay you? That's what corporate was going to do!

COMPANY MAN

We're risking our job to stand out here!

ROBERT

What do you mean risking "your job"? I'm "out" and you still have a job? I bust my...

COMPANY MAN

Some of us are going to continue until the take over is complete, and then we'll probably be "out" too!

ROBERT

Take over, what's going on? Just last week Miller was talking about stock options. Bonuses!

Robert lunges to the door screaming, prompting the company men to kick him to the curb.

COMPANY MAN

Come on, let's step back! Think it over!

ROBERT

Where's Miller? I'll tear him up! Why isn't he out here, that son of a...

Robert throws his brief case into the building. COMPANY MAN grabs Robert's arm. 2nd COMPANY MAN steps closer.

COMPANY MAN

I have a family, Rob! I hate it as much as you do, but walk away! We don't want a scene!

2ND COMPANY MAN

Nothing we can do, so go home!

ROBERT

This is wrong. They've been leading us on, no warning!

Robert's head drops, turns away and walks towards his car. Turns and scowls back at the men.

ROBERT

You're not the only one with a family! What am I going to do?

Robert leans on car. Has emotional breakdown. Suddenly he charges the building, picking up a brick, screaming. Throws a brick at building that hits wall and falls harmlessly.

Both men grab Robert, restraining him.

COMPANY MAN

It's not going to make matters better! Just go home!

ROBERT

This is not fair, not fair.

COMPANY MAN

That's right, it's not fair! Nobody said it would be!

Robert walks back to the parking lot, leans on car, slamming his hand onto the hood. Starts shaking, crying, pulling his hair. Speaking in an undertone. Repeatedly slams fists onto the car.

Leans on car to calm down. Robert struggles to get the key to fit into the car lock. Shocked, nervous. Slowly turns around.

Camera drifts to identical car parked adjacent to car Robert is slamming.

FADE IN:

6 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - DAY - LATER THAT MORNING

A MAN approaches a young FEMALE EMPLOYEE in the computer sales department. The man is none other than JOHN J. MCMURPHY, a confidently balding, arrogant, 40 something, pin-striped man.

JOHN

Excuse me. Could you please tell me about this computer.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE

Yes sir. It's on sale for \$999.

JOHN
Yes, of course, the price is
clearly marked, but what could you
tell me "about" the computer?

Female employee's eyes frantically scanning across the label
for more details.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
Uh, well, it says it comes with a 1
year warrantee.

JOHN
Again, I could have read this
myself. Tell me why "you" feel "I"
would need "this" computer.

The youthful male ALEX PAINTER, a quirky, cyberpunk, who is
setting up a computer display, listens, but is careful not to
look at John or his struggling co-worker.

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
Well, yes sir. I'd be glad to.
Perhaps you could tell me what
you'll be using it for.

JOHN
What am I "using it for"? That's
irrelevant!

FEMALE EMPLOYEE
Sir, I'm not so sure I know where
you're coming from.

JOHN
Well I'll tell you then! I want you
to try to sell me this computer!

As they continue this charade, Alex's BOSS, a stuffy
corporate lifer, taps Alex on the shoulder.

BOSS
I need to see you in my office,
immediately!

CUT TO:

7 INT. DEPARTMENT STORE - OFFICE - DAY - SECONDS LATER

A PHOTO is slapped down in front of Alex as he is seated on
the humbling side of his boss's desk.

ALEX
I don't know why she'd say a thing
like that. I've never seen her
before in my life.

Alex looks at the PHOTO of an attractive teenage girl.

BOSS
Never?

ALEX
Never. I'd remember seeing a girl
this hot. Trust me.

BOSS
We run a tight ship here Alex! We
must honor our customers.

ALEX
I know that, and I've always tried
to respect that, but you have to
believe...

BOSS
Have to? See this videotape? It
covers the day she came into our
store! A day in which you were
working!

ALEX
So!

BOSS
So? You tell me, what am I going to
see when I watch this tape?

ALEX
You haven't looked at the tape yet,
have you?

BOSS
Of course I've looked at the tape.
I want to give you a chance to come
forward!

ALEX
You haven't even looked at the
tape!

BOSS

Is it your position that you did not harass this female in our store? What are we going to see, Alex?

ALEX

You know what I see. I see a blank tape sitting in front of me! You have nothing! You're trying to get me to confess to something I didn't do! You can shove this tape up your...

Boss hits speakerphone paging security, BEEP. WHAM. Alex crushes the tape with his fist. Boss jumps up out of seat, stepping up the intensity.

BOSS

Did you harass this girl in our store? I need to know!

ALEX

NO!

BOSS

Did you harass this girl outside the store?

ALEX

NO! This is ridiculous!

BOSS

No, I'll tell you what's ridiculous! We're looking at a 20 million dollar lawsuit because this pretty little 16 year old preacher's daughter says that you harassed her. So we need your full cooperation, and we need it now!

Alex, fed up, becoming sarcastic.

ALEX

Fine, I'll cooperate. But let me ask you a question.

BOSS

I'm all ears!

ALEX

Did you harass this pretty little preacher's daughter in this store?

BOSS
That is uncalled for! We demand
your full cooperation

ALEX
Did you harass her outside the
store? I mean, you really didn't
answer my question.

Boss runs out the door yelling for assistance. Alex grabs the
PHOTO, slips it in his pocket. Boss charges back in with
SECURITY.

BOSS
After further review, and according
to policy 7.69, which you read and
signed, we carry the right to
terminate your employment with the
company.

ALEX
What "further" review? What is
this?

SECURITY grabs Alex and starts hauling him out.

BOSS
The customer is always right!

ALEX
The customer is NOT always right!

BOSS
We cannot protect you from any
impending civil actions against you
in this matter.

SECURITY drags Alex further away, his voice fades.

ALEX
I need this job! You can't do this
to me. You can't...

BOSS
We just did! Terminated. So long
Alex!

FADE IN:

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EXT. RESIDENTIAL JOB SITE - DAY - AFTERNOON

Roofers are still working at high speed. Compressor running. Stocker is running stacks of shingles to each roofer. The Roofers efficiently bark out short commands to the Stocker.

ROI
Shingle! Keep them coming Big Guy!

Stocker slides a stack of shingles down to Roi.

STOCKER
Got you covered!

ROI
Hustle! Hustle!

BILL, a 26 year old camouflage wearing, 2nd in command roofer with tree trunk forearms, is working a few rows across from Roi.

BILL
Hey, Stocker, no showing favoritism. Shingles over here!

ROI
That's no excuse for me blowing you off the roof. Nails!

Stocker throws a coil of nails to Roi with perfect accuracy.

BRIAN, another hard body, who calls himself B-MAN, is working just above Roi.

B-MAN
Shingles!

STOCKER
Here you are!

B-MAN
Thanks little guy.

STOCKER
That's big guy to you!

B-MAN
Well, I don't know about that. I'm shooting and you're stocking.

STOCKER

Yeah, well you couldn't stock the world's 3 fastest roofers, like I do!

Sarcastic. Silly.

B-MAN

That's true.

ROI

Shingles! B-MAN, toss me a coil!
Perfect throw! What time is it?

BILL

Lunch!

ROI

Let's eat! Compressor!

The LABORER recognizes his cue, shuts off the compressor. B-MAN does the fireman style ladder slide. In seconds the crew loads the truck like a military exercise. B-MAN, who is bouncing around to his blasting truck stereo, lets out a war cry.

B-MAN

WAHOO! WFR! World's Fastest
Roofers!

FADE IN:

9 EXT. ITALIAN PIZZA SHOP - DAY - MINUTES LATER.

Bill follows Roi into the restroom of the pizza shop. Roi on cell phone lips words into the mirror "...I've been roofing 10 years, got my own truck..." The rest of the CREW enter and begin washing their hands.

ROI

You can't keep up?

BILL

You're a monster.

B-MAN

Twenty squares by lunch. Has to be a new record.

BILL

I did sixteen square myself!

B-MAN
I did sixteen too, and my gun
stinks!

BILL
Don't blame it on the tools! We
need a new stocker!

STOCKER
Yeah, right! It's the tools.

B-MAN and Stocker start wrestling around.

Roi, being his usually sarcastic self, stands on the toilet rim and aims down into the toilet. Monkey see, monkey do, B-MAN jumps up on a toilet too.

BILL
Can you cover me? I forgot my
wallet.

ROI
Yeah! No problem.

B-MAN
Yeah, can you cover...

ROI
Yeah, yeah, a worker has to eat.

B-MAN
Thanks big guy. I brought my
wallet. I just don't have any
money.

ROI
I'm with yah. When you're done
monkey-ing around, order me the
usual. I gotta talk to Bill for a
sec'.

ROI and B-MAN jumps down and shoot for the sinks. B-man pseudo-washes his hands, as ROI lathers up heavily.

B-MAN
Slice of black olives, pepperoni
and seltzer water.

ROI
Your awesome.

BILL
Yeah, order me the same thing.

B-MAN
You know, for a germaphobe, you
sure picked the wrong line of work.

ROI
For people who like to be paid on
time, we sure picked the wrong line
of work.

BILL
I was just going to ask. No check?

Voices lowered.

ROI
That's what I wanted to talk to you
about. Nine weeks, not a cent.
We're really in the hole now.

BILL
We can't just stop working!

ROI
They do this all the time. But
something seems different this
time...

BILL
All the houses going up, they have
to have money!

ROI
Let's hope for the best, prepare
for the worst.

As Roi and Bill walk out the restroom a small BOY is playing
with the crank on a giant gumball machine. Roi puts in a
quarter for the boy.

ROI
Turn the knob big guy. It's going
to be a red one!

BOY
I want a blue one!

ROI
Well, I'm sorry, but you'll have to
wait for the next gumball if you
want a blue one.

The little boy turns the knob, a red gumball spins around and
round falling to the bottom. Bill gives Roi a double take.

ROI

I wouldn't read too much into that!

Bill quickly digs into his pocket for change.

BILL

I just have to see.

He spins the knob, his eyes bug out as the blue gumball rolls around and round to the bottom. Roi just shrugs his shoulder, turns and walks away. The little boy's eyes glow.

BOY

A blue one!

BILL

Here kid, I'll trade yah.

FADE TO:

10 EXT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - DAY - SAME AFTERNOON

Robert returning home, slowly gets out of his car and walks hopelessly into the house.

Heather is watching a talk show in the living room as Robert walks past without saying a word.

HEATHER

Forget your lunch? What's up with your hair?

Robert just stares at Heather.

HEATHER

I don't like that look.

Robert murmurs.

ROBERT

Downsizing. Shutting down. I don't even know.

HEATHER

Downsizing? Your job? They can't do that!

ROBERT

They can, and they did! Did you really think I would drive all the way home to pick up my lunch?

HEATHER

Don't they have to give a notice
or...

ROBERT

No, they don't. It's over. Just
like that. Boom!

HEATHER

What are you going to do? What are
we...

ROBERT

I don't know! I really don't know.

HEATHER

We're already living week to week.

ROBERT

I know, I know! I have to find a
job! I'm going to get a newspaper.

Heather runs across room, grabs the newspaper and hands it to
Robert. Robert gives her a bratty look.

HEATHER

I'll call my mother.

Robert throws the paper down.

ROBERT

National Paper! It doesn't have
local jobs! And please, don't call
your mother.

HEATHER

Oh my god, just this morning the
local paper called...

ROBERT

Not now, please, not now! I know I
was an idiot this morning! Please,
don't grind it in.

Phone RINGS, Robert speaking into the phone.

ROBERT

Hello?

It's Robert's MOTHER-IN-LAW, an obnoxious, conspiracy theory,
homeopathic lunatic. She's also a speed talker.

MOTHER-IN-LAW (V. O.)

Robert, what are you doing home?
Oh, you must not feel good.
Speaking of not feeling good, my
eyes are swollen like giant golf
balls. My brain is swollen from all
these dust particles created by
overhead jets. My back feels like
it's been in a wrestling match, my
thyroid's thumping faster than my
heart, and you know what I heard on
TV? White meat is more harmful than
red meat!

ROBERT

Yes, if you don't cook it...

MOTHER-IN-LAW (V. O.)

...and I've been eating all white
meat. All those steroids they're
pumping the cows with! Now with all
that, do you think I could take a
cleansing? No, I'm out of the
homeopathic remedies, and now we
have to drive three and a half
hours each way to see Dr. Jane.
She's the best, the best,
homeopathic doctor on the planet.

ROBERT

Can't she just mail them to you?

MOTHER-IN-LAW (V. O.)

Are you kidding? Not with the mail
system! Jane says the remedies
loose effect if you mail them
because the government radiates our
mail, plus you can't trust the mail
system anyway, or any government
agency for that matter. Did you
hear that now they're digging up
chemical leaks that the military
has been hiding for the last 20
years, leaking near the school,
contaminating all the water? Now
I'm bathing in bottled water, and
you wonder why we're so sick! That
has to be what's wrong with you.
How's your thyroid feeling?

ROBERT

My thyroid has never felt better.

MOTHER-IN-LAW (V. O.)

You're coming down with something.
That's the first sign. You really
should see Jane! A miracle worker!
She really can help you.

ROBERT

Well, I'm waiting to see her work
her miracles on you first.

MOTHER-IN-LAW (V. O.)

And the sun, the radiation levels
are so high that you shouldn't even
go outside today. I can feel them,
they're really high, but take a
coffee enema! I take one every
morning, it really does work. It
cleans out all the toxins that are
polluting us from the air we
breathe, which reminds me. I have to
change the filters in the clean air
machine. That could be why my eyes
are swollen. I just read that the
pump bottles are more dangerous to
the ozone than the aerosol cans!
Can you believe it?

Robert has been playing with his hair, appears to have
nervously pulled out a very small patch.

ROBERT

You can't believe everything you
hear...

HEATHER

Let me bail you out.

Heather grabs phone, speaking into phone.

HEATHER

Mom, hello, how are you feel...

Heather, biting her tongue.

HEATHER

I mean, is there something specific
that you wanted, because we're in
the middle of something?

ROBERT

Don't tell her what happened!

Robert walks across room and turns on music (song: hold me)

MOTHER-IN-LAW (V. O.)

Is he treating you right! I hear that sick music he listens too again. Why is he so snappy today? You know what I saw on a talk show about men with deep-set eyes? Is he beating you? Are you in danger? I will send your father over if...

HEATHER

He does not have deep-set eyes, so you have nothing to worry about.

ROBERT

They're not even remotely deep-set!

Robert walks out the front door disturbed. Door slams shut.

FADE IN:

11 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - EVENING - SAME DAY

Front door opens. Roi's exhausted, sun beaten, shirtless torso makes it's way from the entrance to the home office. He looks at answering machine. 12 messages, Trying to appear undisturbed over the messages and half ignoring the stressful pile of bills sitting on the desk, he perks up and runs up to his wife, NOVA. Nova is a petite, beautiful, Italian-French-German American. Roi covers her eyes from behind.

ROI

Guess who?

Roi playfully kissing Nova on the neck while still holding her eyes closed.

NOVA

Uh, uh! I know, don't tell me. Could it be, my husband?

ROI

How in the world did you know? You always seem to guess. Always!

NOVA

I can smell you! For a roofer, you sure smell great. Are you sure you're working hard enough?

She turns around. Hugging. A kiss.

ROI
You smell pretty good for an
artist.

Nova pulls him into her art room. She twists herself looking
at it from several angles, still holding close to Roi.

NOVA
Starving artist! It's done, how do
you like it?

ROI
I love it! We have to get prints of
this. It's too bad you have to part
with something you put so much
into.

NOVA
Like you said, prints.

ROI
Are you hungry?

Nova grabs his face and kisses him again.

NOVA
I just said I was a starving
artist! Hey, we can go out as late
as we want tonight. My parents are
watching Mini - ROI.

ROI
Oh, Dinner AND a movie!

NOVA
What took you so long? I thought
you were the fastest roofer in the
world!

ROI
Ah, that's just a rumor.

Phone RINGS.

NOVA
It's been ringing all day! Better
get it.

ROI
Alright, if you say so.

Roi runs into his office, partially closing the door.
Speaking into the phone.

ROI

I'm sorry, you must have the wrong...

DIALTONE, Roi hangs up the phone. Roi starts tearing through the large pile of bills, clearly marked FINAL NOTICE, other marked for COLLECTIONS. He taps the play button on the answer machine.

The answering machine has 8 messages. Message one.

KEN (V. O.)

Roi, this is Ken from Seamore. I have two houses ready for you. Be there in the morning...

Roi taps the next message button

MIKE (V. O.)

Roi, this is Mike at Roof-Co Supply, and we need to get those invoices taken care of ASAP...

Roi taps the next message button

RALPH FARGER

Uh, eh, this is Ralph, Farger, F A R G E R. Uh, I have been roofing for 10 years, got my own truck, 1988, ladder racks and all on it, tools, I can do it all, put down 20 square a day, and that is hand nailin', even faster with a gun, give me a call.

The answering machine beeps.

RALPH FARGER

Uh, shit, uh, I forgot to give you my phone...

Roi taps the next message button. TENSE MUSIC. Roi moves close to the phone after hearing PHILLIP speaking.

PHILLIP

Roi, this is Phillip, from accounting at Seamore Homes. We're tanking out really fast. I wouldn't roof another house. I can't talk, I'm in the office. I'll try calling you when I get home.

MIKE (V. O.)

Roi, this is Mike at Seamore. I know that Ken has 2 houses ready in his subdivision, but I need you...

Roi is sick, his worst fears are coming true. Nova approaches, speaking through the door.

NOVA

Roi, are we going to go out to dinner?

ROI

Hey, give me 10 minutes to get ready.

NOVA

Is everything OK I heard...

Roi opens the door. Puts arms around Nova's waist.

ROI

What, that, oh that's business for yah. Everything has to be done yesterday.

NOVA

It sounds serious, what's going on? I heard...

Roi distracting Nova's attention, leads her into a fast moving, graceful dance.

ROI

Let's get dressed up tonight, really spiffy, and live like kings. You know, the red dress? Your knock out punch.

Roi playfully pokes at her. Nova pokes back.

NOVA

Yes, and you can wear the pink pants I got you!

Roi pulls his pants up to his chest and prances around.

ROI

You mean the ones that come up to here? I said live like kings! Kings don't wear pink pants. I still can't believe you bought...

NOVA

I can't believe you didn't exchange them. I think you might still want to wear them or something, I mean, I don't know?

ROI

You're onto me!

Nova hugs Roi and smells him deeply. Jest ing.

NOVA

I still can't get over how good you smell. Are you sure that you are working hard enough?

Jest ing

ROI

Details, details! I can't slip anything past you. I'm really a stockbroker. I made the whole "roofing" thing up when we were dating. You said you wanted to marry a hard-working sweaty man...

NOVA

Oh, Oh, No! I can't live with this. You're a white-collar worker, oh...

ROI

Well, this is a load off my back. I won't have to keep changing into these dirty clothes on my way home from Wall Street every day. Haven't washed this shirt in a year.

NOVA

Speaking of changing clothes, I want to see you strip right now and get in the shower! Now! Hustle! 7 minutes left!

ROI

OK, OK, I'm stripping! As if "you" will be ready in 7 minutes.

NOVA

OK, take your time. You have enough people rushing you.

Nova whips Roi with a towel as he runs for the shower. She whips at him again. Roi turns and tackles her lightly to the ground and kisses her, all the while Nova laughing.

NOVA
This isn't the shower.

ROI
Yes! Let's not get carried away, we have a big night ahead of us.

NOVA
Right, living like kings and all that, with your Wall Street income.

Roi, running towards the shower. Nova following, shedding clothes, then cutting into the bedroom.

NOVA
Did you ever think about working for someone else?

ROI
What?

Nova creeps into the bathroom while Roi hops into the shower. She writes on the mirror with her finger before the steam can fog up the bathroom.

NOVA
Did you ever think about just working for someone else?

ROI
I guess I haven't had the time to even think about that. I really love what I'm doing.

NOVA
Are you serious? This job is going to kill you!

ROI
It's good exercise.

Nova is now sitting on the bed putting on her panty hose.

NOVA
I can't believe your parents kept you from college.

ROI

Don't blame them. I started this business when I was 17. Why would I need college.

NOVA

I know... You know what I mean. If you had an education, you could've done anything you wanted, a job, with benefits, retirement.

ROI

We're all in the same boat. The B-MAN, Bill, we gotta stick together.

NOVA

I know that you try to hide things. Your job is killing you. You're working late, 7 days a week...

ROI

I'd love to spend more time with you guys. But we're really in deep.

NOVA

I'm really worried. I heard your messages. Are you gonna get paid?

ROI

I never know what to believe.

NOVA

You're pouring all the money into the company. Does the builder think you're a bank? You work like an animal and it's not right!

Nova, now wearing the dress, slides into her heels. Roi turning towards the bathroom mirror, notices the words "I love you". Roi, touched by this, enters bedroom in his t-shirt and underwear.

ROI

I'm going to tell you something I've never told you before...

Roi, looking for the right words

NOVA

What is it?

ROI

When I wake up in the morning, it's pitch black. Every muscle in my body aches. I don't know who I am, where I am. I only know I have to get up and go through the same grueling pain from the day before. I feel around the bed, the sheets, then, I feel your soft, warm skin. With that one touch, it's clear. I'll do anything for you. Whether it's 120 degrees or 40 below zero. With a kiss on your cheek, I'm ready for the world. I get to the job site and I see the guys standing there with the same look I must have when I wake up. It's my job to fire them up. If I don't run up that ladder and get it on, it's over. But they come alive! We get the job done! It's a feeling I just can't describe! We owe it all to you!

NOVA

Oh, honey. You told me that already.

ROI

And you sat there and let me...

NOVA

But I still get goose bumps when you tell it.

ROI

When I am with you, all my problems go away.

Nova looks down at his pink pants. Playfully.

NOVA

Well, not all your problems.

ROI

You bought them.

NOVA

You didn't take them back.

ROI

But you...

Roi tackles Nova onto the bed as they laugh it off...

FADE IN:

12 INT. ALEX' S APARTMENT - EVENING - SAME DAY

Alex slams a newspaper onto the coffee table opened to the help wanted section. He circles the ad, "Do you like looking important, shopping, eating, music, rock and roll atmosphere? If you are lazy and want big bucks, call MR. COX 555-1234." ALEX' S GRANDMA is lying on the couch, she is infirmed. She Moans.

Alex begins talking to himself in front of the mirror.

ALEX
Hi, I am Alex, I love to eat, shop.
Hi, I am Alex, I love to eat, love
to shop, and I am lazy!

ALEX' S GRANDMA
Did you loose the job? Alex?

ALEX' S GRANDMA cries in misery.

ALEX
I' m gonna take care of you
Grandmom.

Alex nervously smiling into the mirror, picks up phone and calls the ad. A National Cookbook Sales Rep answers, speaking rather poignant.

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. O.)
Hello, National Cookbook, the
worlds largest cookbook company.
How can I assist you?

ALEX
I' m calling regarding the ad in the
paper.

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. O.)
Which ad in the paper?

ALEX
The help wanted ad, asking if I
like to eat, shop...

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. O.)
Great! Please hold!

Alex is placed on hold briefly. The Voice is back.

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. 0.)
I need your first and last name, in
that order.

ALEX
Alex Painter!

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. 0.)
Your phone number!

ALEX
Why do you want my phone number? I
just want to ask about the...

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. 0.)
Are you looking for a job, sir?

ALEX
Why, yes, but...

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. 0.)
Then may I suggest that in your
efforts towards finding employment,
show a cooperative attitude?

ALEX
I am sorry, 555-3443.

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. 0.)
Are you a legal citizen of this
country?

ALEX
Yes, I am..

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. 0.)
Why should we hire you for this
job?

ALEX
Can I ask what the job is first? I
don't even know what...

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. 0.)
The person you need to speak to is
presently interviewing potential
candidates. He can completely
answer any and all questions. Do
you have any special skills that
you'd be bringing to our company?

Alex, annoyed, but joking.

ALEX
Well, I like to eat, shop, and I am
lazy.

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. O.)
As I mentioned, if you don't want
to cooperate with us, I suggest you
seek employment elsewhere.

ALEX
No, I was just commenting regarding
the ad.

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. O.)
Do you have any special skills that
you would be bringing to our
company?

ALEX
Well, yes, I...

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. O.)
Please Hold!

Alex is irritated. Murmurs.

NATIONAL COOKBOOK SALES REP (V. O.)
Alex, I'm going to ask you to stay
near the phone and our general
manager will be calling you soon.
Thank you, and good day.

Alex is dejected, looks at PHOTO he took from previous job of
girl.

ALEX
Can you believe the crap that we
have to put up with?

Phone rings. Alex picks up quickly.

ALEX
Hello, this is Alex.

A fast talking MR. COX elates.

MR. COX (V. O.)
Hello, Alex, this is Mr. Cox, with
National Cookbook, the world's
largest in Cookbooks! How are you
doing Alex?

ALEX

OK I guess...

MR. COX (V. O.)

OK you guess? Well, I'm doing great! We're just swamped with calls from people who are really excited about our company. Alex, Do you enjoy shopping, eating, and making a bundle of money?

ALEX

Well, yes, I was just telling the lady...

MR. COX (V. O.)

So you're married?

ALEX

No, I meant the receptionist at your company.

MR. COX (V. O.)

Our company approach is to surround ourselves with people who do! Alex, people like you! It's our recipe for success.

ALEX

Is that in your cookbook?

MR. COX (V. O.)

I take you as a man that knows just what he wants. We specialize in helping people, like you, to get that. Now, doesn't that sound like something you would want? Of course you would, who wouldn't? Right Alex?

Alex confused, but appeasing to MR. COX.

ALEX

Uh, right.

MR. COX (V. O.)

Alex, if we were to select you for a position, and I am not saying that we have, when would you be able to start?

ALEX
Start doing what?

MR. COX (V. O.)
It sounds like you have a lot of interest, and a lot of questions that we just can't answer over the phone. We need to get you in here.

ALEX
Well, OK.

MR. COX (V. O.)
Do you have our address?

Alex glances to the circled Help Wanted ad.

ALEX
Yes sir.

MR. COX
Good, very organized, we like that. Which is better for you, 8 o'clock or nine o'clock?

ALEX
Which day, you mean tomorrow morning?

MR. COX (V. O.)
That's right! The sooner the better don't you think?

ALEX
Sure, I guess 8:00 would be sooner.

MR. COX (V. O.)
Then 8:00 it is. Good day Alex!

Alex pondering. Looks at PHOTO of the girl. Talks to PHOTO.

ALEX'S GRANDMA watching.

ALEX
What would you do if you were in my shoes?

ALEX'S GRANDMA
Is that your girlfriend?

Phone RINGS, Alex runs to get it.

ALEX
No grandmom. Hello?

MR. COX (V. O.)
Hello, this is Mr. Cox with
National Cookbook. How are you!

ALEX
GREAT!

MR. COX (V. O.)
That's what we like to hear! Do you
enjoy shopping, eating and making
really big bucks?

ALEX
Yes, but, uh, I think we just
spoke, this is Alex.

MR. COX (V. O.)
Hey, Oh Alex. Great! We'll see you
tomorrow.

ALEX
I don't think I want...

CLICK, Mr. Cox hangs up before Alex can finish.

ALEX'S GRANDMA
You gotta fight for that job.

Alex holds the receiver away from his face, looking into it
with dejection, resets the dial tone and continues his job
search.

FADE IN:

13 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - EVENING - SAME NIGHT

Roi and Nova, gleaming like 2 kids out on the town for the
first time, watch patiently as a distinguished WAITER places
their meals before them. The waiter, speaking with an almost
fake British Gentleman's accent. (K. Martin Song)

WAITER
The half-roasted-chicken for the
Gentleman... And the Basil and olive
linguini for the Lady.

Roi, imitating the fake British accent.

ROI
Half-Roasted? Is the other half
raw?

WAITER
Sir, that's a half-chicken, fully-
roasted sir. Are you sure I can't
change your mind and introduce you
to one of our finest bottles of
wine?

ROI
We'd love to, but we'll have to
pass. You see, my wife and I will
be performing ballet at Concert
Hall tonight.

WAITER
I see, but of course.

ROI
Could we have an additional supply
of water, if you're coming back?

WAITER
But of course I'm coming back, sir.
Will there be anything else.

ROI
Perhaps a large stack of twenties.

NOVA
Thanks, were fine for now. You can
see why I married him!

An interrupting cell-phone RINGS. Roi embarrassed, hunches as
if he is less noticeable.

ROI
Thought I set it to vibrate. I have
to take this call.

Nova is embarrassed, but nods in agreement. Roi, speaking
softly into the phone, not realizing the volume of the
receiver is set too high.

ROI
Hello.

PHILLIP (V. O.)
It's Phillip from Seamore. I'm glad
I caught you.

Roi adjusts the volume lower and now only he can hear Phillip speaking. Roi's face is curious, then turning even more dejected.

A moment passes as he listens, hunching away from Nova, speaking softly into the cell-phone.

ROI

So you are positive? I knew it!

Another brief moment passes as Roi listens intently.

ROI

Well, what can I do? We're screwed.
Look, I'm eating dinner with my
wife, but I really, really
appreciate you calling.

Roi, upon hanging up the phone, does his best to gain composure, but with one look into Nova's eyes, she knows everything. As her head bows downward in grief, the WAITER reappears filling the water glasses. Roi, speaking upbeat, almost defiant.

ROI

Like Kings! Mr. Waiter, The Ballet
has been canceled. It looks like
we'll be having a bottle of your
finest after all, you decide!

Nova pokes her fork at the untouched meal, as Roi walks over to Nova, walks her out onto the Balcony and dances in the night. Song: Raven Mayhem titled "Singular Acceptance"

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Roi and Nova Dancing
- B) Heather and Robert Dancing in their living room
- C) Alex riding on the Water Taxi with overview of Roi and Nova dancing on the deck.
- D) Close up of Roi and Nova dancing
- E) As song ends, cut to sunshine

FADE IN:

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Robert is kneeling at the coffee table with the newspaper opened to Help Wanted section.
- B) Robert hangs up the phone, scratches another ad off the list.
- C) Heather enters, dropping the mail next to Robert as he makes a call.
- D) Heather kneels beside Robert and begins to scan the ads.

HEATHER

Here's one. Install cable for fastest growing cable company in the U.S. It says "great pay".

ROBERT

Let me see that. "Must have own truck and tools." What kind of company hires a cable installer, and makes him use his own truck and tools?

HEATHER

Do you know how to program a computer?

ROBERT

Program a computer? No, why?

HEATHER

Well, you had one at work.

ROBERT

Yeah, had one. That doesn't mean I know how to program one.

HEATHER

What "can" you do?

ROBERT

Just look for management jobs.

HEATHER

Why management?

ROBERT

Because management jobs pay the most.

HEATHER

So do computer programming jobs.

ROBERT

Yeah, but I don't know how to program a computer. Don't you remember, like 5 seconds ago. You asked me if I knew how to program a computer, and I said..

HEATHER

Well, you've never managed either?

ROBERT

Believe me, if there's one thing that I learned after reporting to managers for the past 5 years, it's that you can fake your way through a manager's job.

HEATHER

What?

Robert, mocking a snooty manager.

ROBERT

That's right! What are your goals? How do you plan on obtaining them? Tell me, why do we need you at our company? Then it's off to a round of golf.

HEATHER

Hey, I didn't mean to touch a nerve.

ROBERT

I slaved for them and just when I was due for a raise, I'm out.

HEATHER

Yes, I've been here all along. The deadlines, the overtime, and not this week honey, not this year honey. When, when will we be able to, when? I'm beginning to think it will never happen.

ROBERT

What are you talking about? You were still in Junior High when I started this job!

HEATHER

Well I've been with you for 2 years now!

ROBERT

Two Years! You've known me two years! We haven't even been married a year!

HEATHER

You know what I'm talking about! I'm not getting any older.

ROBERT

We're all getting older, honey.

HEATHER

You know what I mean!

ROBERT

I don't know what you mean. You are so young. What is the hurry?

HEATHER

Where I grew up, if you didn't start having kids when you were 18, then you were...

ROBERT

Look, I heard stories of country girls and all that, but you're not in Kansas anymore.

HEATHER

Kansas? What's Kansas have to do with...

ROBERT

Haven't you ever heard that before? Sometimes I wonder if your parents even let you out of the house.

Heather's face drops. Robert, realizing he's not the only victim, softens up and puts his arm on Heather's shoulder.

ROBERT

I'm sorry. I've been rough. I'm so stupid!

Robert smacks himself in the head.

ROBERT

You're right. I didn't lose my job. We lost "our" job. It's going to work out.

Heather, continuing to desperately search, perks up.

HEATHER

We'll get another job! Hey, look, managers wanted. Earn while you learn. Oh, never mind. \$300 a week!

Robert crosses it off.

HEATHER

What about this one? "Managers, 6 figure income. We have the proof". I'm calling.

Heather after dialing, excitedly pushes the phone onto Robert.

HEATHER

Talk to them! It's ringing.

Robert hesitantly speaking into the phone.

ROBERT

Hello, this is Robert. I'm calling regarding the job opening.

GEORGE, a loud mouthed, pushy sales manager blasts his voice over the fiber optic lines.

GEORGE (V. O.)

Great, I'm George, welcome to Memorial Gardens. It's a great job opening. All of our managers make six figures. I guess because our customers are dying to get in. Hah, hah..

ROBERT

I'm sure they are.

GEORGE (V. O.)

I would like to make you the newest member of Memorial Gardens, staff member that is. We need managers, and fast. In fact, I need you to come in right away for an interview.

ROBERT

Well, OK.

GEORGE (V. O.)

I need you to meet me at 9 am?

ROBERT

Great! I know where it is. See you tomorrow! For sure!

As Robert hangs up, Heather is eager for an update.

HEATHER

Fill me in! How did it go?

ROBERT

A cemetery? Not me! No way!

HEATHER

Cemetery? Why didn't you tell him that?

ROBERT

Why didn't I tell him what?

Heather imitating Robert

HEATHER

Tell him what you told me.
"Cemetery, Not Me! No Way!"

ROBERT

Oh right, just say, Not me! No way!
No. It's just easier my way.

HEATHER

Yeah, just easier to say, "See you tomorrow."

ROBERT

Yeah, that's right. Hey, look at this!

CLOSE UP:

The ad reads "earn while you learn. \$4000 and more while training. 30 managers needed for immediate hire. Overwhelming growth. Expanding in 20 cities this year".

FADE IN:

15 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - DAY - SAME DAY

Roi's hand circling the same ad Robert was looking at as Nova clings to Roi very supportively.

NOVA
I think it's time you start lying
to them!

ROI
They'll have to like me for what I
am!

NOVA
Just make up a college! Everyone
lies, especially on interviews.

ROI
Everyone lies?

NOVA
Name someone who doesn't lie.

Roi whistles for his son, who quickly slides down the steps.

SON
You called?

ROI
Do you tell lies?

SON
Not anymore.

ROI
When was the last time you lied to
your mom?

SON
So long ago, I can't even remember.

ROI
When was the last time you lied to
me?

SON
Remember when you asked me when was
the last time I lied to mom, and I
told you so long ago I can't even
remember.

ROI
Yeah.

SON
Well, I lied.

Roi squeezes a stuffed toy that laughs, everyone laughs, as Roi cutely runs his son off.

NOVA
See there! What did I tell you?

ROI
I'm not going to do it!

NOVA
Then I'm going to get a job!

ROI
Doing What?

NOVA
Well, Amy called and she said it's fun.

ROI
Amy? Isn't she a massage therapist?

NOVA
Yeah. .

ROI
Don't they need to practice for like a million hours on someone before they get a license?

NOVA
Yeah. . .

ROI
Hmmm. . . So I'd be married to, and sleeping with might I add, an expert massage. . .

NOVA
Just what are you imagining with your sick little mind?

ROI
I'm just saying it might not be a bad. . .

NOVA
Here's one you should call! Hiring
30 managers. Just call them.

ROI
Fine. Don't laugh. I'm going to use
my super voice. But I won't lie!

NOVA
No, not the super voice!

ROI
I have to.

Roi holding back his laughter, makes the call. Speaking into
the phone with the super voice.

ROI
Hello, I'm calling regarding the ad
in the newspaper.

INTERCUTTING:

16 INT: SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - DAY

A gum chomping, teenage female RECEPTIONIST is stroking the
letters ROI as they appear on the monitor in front of her
while speaking into her headset.

RECEPTIONIST
You say R O I. I don't think I've
seen it spelled with an "I" before.
How do you spell your last name?

The letters C A U S T I C appear on the monitor.

RECEPTIONIST
Now, I know I've never seen that
before. Sounds German.

INTERCUTTING:

17 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - DAY - SAME DAY

Nova teases Roi by taking off her shirt, then her pants. She
is posing like a lingerie model. Roi is trying not to be
distracted.

Speaking into the phone.

ROI
You can thank the government for that. Ellis Island, my grandfather looked up and saw a 50 gallon drum, it's a crazy story. Oh, I'm a contractor, at least I was yesterday.

Roi, cupping the phone.

ROI
She sounds nice.

NOVA
Are you getting aroused?

ROI
I'm just being nice.

NOVA
Hey, not her, look.

Nova shows off her body. Raises her hands in air.

ROI
Wait till you get on the phone next time, no mercy.

He gets up and grabs her, then hears a man on the other line.

ROI
Hello, yes, that's me.

INTERCUTTING:

18 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - DAY

Will McClutchen, a typical fast talking salesman, wearing the standard issue salesman uniform, puts Roi on the speakerphone.

WILL
Hello, I'm Will McClutchen, with Security International, protecting the world. I'll be recording this call for high-level security purposes. I'm going to ask you a series of questions. Listen carefully. If you answer yes to all of the questions, you'll qualify for the next level. Answer only preceding the questions.

ROI (V. O.)
Don't you mean after the questions?

WILL
Yes, that is what I said. Are you a
US citizen, and over 18?

ROI
Yes.

WILL
I meant answer after all of the
questions have been asked. Do you
have adequate transportation?
Are you a hard working, team
player? Will you pass a drug test?
Are you interested in a full time
management position? Are you
interested in making a 6 figure
income?

ROI
Yes.

WILL
Great, I'll need you to stay near
the phone until we run a security
clearance. You'll be called with
the results.

INTERCUT:

19 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - DAY

Roi hangs up the phone and is feeling a bit disoriented.

ROI
Woo, that was intense. Security
clearance! He taped the interview!

NOVA
Well, that's what these big time
companies do! Sounds like the CIA
or something.

ROI
He said Security International.
They must be checking me out on
this galactic sized computer.

NOVA
Maybe they're outside our house
right now, looking in our windows
with huge telephoto lenses.

ROI
Well, at least you're giving them a
show.

Nova looking out window, at first pretends to be scared. All
of a sudden it's for real. A man across street is looking
back at her. Nova SCREAMS.

NOVA
Oh my god, there's a man, he was
watching.

ROI
Really convincing Nova.

NOVA
I mean it! Look.

Roi looks to window and sees the man fleeing.

ROI
What the...

Nova is terrified and starts getting dressed. She turns
looking for Roi. Roi appears running in the foreground
through the window and is chasing the man away.

Phone RINGS and Roi jumps to answer.

NOVA
Yes, that's my husband. Well, we
just, well, I think he's very
interested, if you can just give
him a minute...

INTERCUT:

20 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - DAY

Back at the SECURITY INTERNATIONAL office. Roi has made it to
the final round, as none other than JOHN J. MCMURPHY is
sitting behind the desk now, with Roi on the speakerphone.

ROI
Hello?

John speaking in a powerful, yet arrogant voice.

JOHN

Roi, this is John J. McMurphy, from Security International. We ran a background check on you, and things really look great. It seems that you are quite a remarkable man, Roi. The kind of people we like to employ at Security International. Now what exactly do you do again?

ROI

I've been running a roofing business...

JOHN

Of course, that's just wonderful. I think tomorrow morning you and I need to meet in person. You don't want to miss out, because this position is going to be filled quickly.

ROI

Tomorrow's good. What exactly am I applying for?

JOHN

That's what we'll be talking about tomorrow.

INTERCUT:

21 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - DAY

Back to Roi's house, Roi hangs up the phone.

NOVA

What is it? CIA, FBI...

ROI

Maybe it's one of those high profile bodyguard companies that protect the celebrities. I'm going to be like, guarding Brad Pitt or Jennifer Love Hewitt...

NOVA

Or maybe like Robert Deniro, Al Pacino, Dustin Hoffman!

ROI
Dustin Hoffman? Who wants him, he's
not stockable?

NOVA
Have you seen Rainman? He seems
vulnerable. I'd say he's stockable.

ROI
Who's the girl with the pretty
hair, really big smile, Richard
Gere?

NOVA
Pretty Woman?

ROI
She's really pretty!

NOVA
Julia Roberts.

ROI
Yeah, her. Hey! I always wanted to
meet Steven Seagal. Maybe I'll be
protecting...

NOVA
Yes, right, maybe the other way
around.

ROI
Well, they say I have the fastest
hands in the world.

Roi pokes at Nova playfully as they wrestle to the couch.

NOVA
Yeah, fast hands. How did I get so
lucky?

FADE IN:

22 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - DAY - NEXT MORNING

Nova drops Roi off in front of building and drives off in the
roofing truck. Roi runs into the building.

Roi approaches front desk. Security International sign on
wall. Roi is nervous. Receptionist is wearing headset phone
and acting like she's extremely important.

ROI
I'm here to see Mr. McMurphy.

RECEPTIONIST
Yes, you are, and here's your application.

ROI
Oh, I've already been pre-screened.
In fact...

RECEPTIONIST
I'm sure, but I'll need you to fill this out. Take a seat in the room at the end of the hallway.

ROI
Could I ask you, what exactly does this company do?

RECEPTIONIST
I thought you said pre-screened?
Mr. McMurphy will discuss everything in your interview.

23 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - BATHROOM - DAY

Roi walks to the restroom. Adjusts tie in the mirror.
Rehearsing in front of the mirror.

ROI
Hi, I am Roi Caustic, I like backpacking, horseback riding, and an occasional adult...

As Roi turns on the sink, water splashes his zipper area.

ROI
Oh, that's slick! Real slick!

With no napkins in the dispenser, Roi darts into a stall.
Floor is wet so Roi slips to the floor, and his notebook falls into the toilet.

ROI
Oh, come off it, this is just great!

Roi closes himself in the stall and lets off some steam.
FOOTSTEPS approaching. Roi seeing a pair a \$400 shoes under the door, plays dead. A KNOCK on the stall door awakens his charade.

Roi opens the door and is staring eye to eye with John.

JOHN
Having trouble using the potty?

ROI
Yes, uh, the sink splashed me, and..

JOHN
Yes, the sink did it.

ROI
I have an important interview.
Excuse me.

FADE IN:

24 INT: SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

An alarm display is stationed in front of the room. Sirens, panels, motion sensors. Roi enters interview room and sits in 3rd row. Seconds later an embarrassed Roi watches John enter the room, front and center. Robert seated in the 2nd row, turns around and extends his hand to Roi

ROBERT
Hi, I'm Robert Jones. Looks like it's not going to be a private interview.

ROI
Roi Caustic. Yeah, right.

John pacing intensely, as the room fills, points Roi out.

JOHN
I need you to move forward, let's move together. Let's fill in the front rows.

Everyone in room continues to fill out applications. John seats newcomers in arrogant manner. John directs a nervous Alex toward the front.

JOHN
Come to the front! Come to the front.

ALEX
I'm here for a personal interview with Mr. McMurray. I'm pre-qualified for..

JOHN
Yes, all of you are pre-qualified
for the interview. Now let's see
who qualifies for the positions.
And that is McMurphy, not McMurray.

John watches as the last few applicants take their seats.

JOHN
Group, put down your pens, watch
and listen. My name is John J.
McMurphy. Some of you I have met on
the phone, some I've met up close
and personal.

John hurls a glaring, sarcastic look Roi's direction.

JOHN
I am the General Manager of
Security International. We are a
secure company. We offer secure
employment, which means financial
security. Everyone here wants that,
don't we?

As John's head bobs up and down, a LATECOMER enters.

JOHN
Can I help you?

LATECOMER
Yes, I have a personal interview
with Mr. Murphy.

JOHN
No, you don't have an interview.
You are late. This group is on
time! Goodbye!

LATECOMER
They told me 8:15.

JOHN
They did? Was anybody else told
8:15. No? Everyone here was told
8:00 AM sharp. Why would we tell
one person 8:15 and everyone else
8:00? That just doesn't make sense.
Does it? Let's go. Leave!

John, hands on, steers the latecomer out of the room.

JOHN

Now as I was saying, we protect the world! While other companies are downsizing, we are the fastest growing company in the Northeast. We're going to open 20 more offices next month. We'll be opening in Chicago by December, then out to California in January. Does anyone like California? Tremendous growth! We need qualified managers, and this company promotes from within.

PAUL, an employee, enters the room from side entrance and attempts to pour a coffee. John seeing this, marches straight to him.

JOHN

What do you think you're doing!

PAUL

I'm just getting a cup of...

JOHN

No, you're interrupting my meeting with these talented potential future managers, right?

PAUL

You're right, sir. I'm very...

JOHN

Go out the door from which you came in. We run a tight ship around here. You can get coffee from the other side of the building!

John guides Paul out the door and locks it, returning to the front of the room.

JOHN

Has anyone ever heard of Jon Mart?
Did I say John Mart, I mean J Mart.

All the hands go up.

JOHN

Of course! Keep your hands up if you heard of them 10 years ago.

All hands go down.

JOHN

That's because there weren't any J Marts 10 years ago. It was my job as their General Manager to put them on the map. That's just what I did. Now, over 300 stores worldwide. I get the job done, and things happen around me. And smart people follow me, and good things happen to them. Many of my managers from J Mart work for me here now. That's why Security International hired me. They paid a l-o-----t of money to get me here, and you can bet, they make a l-o-----t of money from me. So if you are smart, and do as I instruct you, you will also make a l-o-----t of money. We'd all like that, wouldn't we? Who can tell me, what's the fastest growing business in the world? You!

John points to JANE, an attentive, ambitious applicant.

JANE

I'm Jane, research?

JOHN

Me Tarzan! No, not research. Let's give BOY a try!

Pointing to an embarrassed Alex.

ALEX

Long distance phones?

JOHN

No, your friends and family aren't as interested in switching for small change as the millions of commercials lead you to believe! Next.

PERSON 2

Nursing, medical I mean.

JOHN

No. Do you want to try, Roi?

ROI

Security!

JOHN

You are on the right path! Crime! Crime is the fastest growing business in the world! But that is why Security International wants to make Security the fastest growing business. The security business is on an upswing. Projected to grow by 500% in the next 10 years! And since crime will never go away, the security business will never go away! It's a ground floor gold rush.

John points to crime fact chart. Starts reading from the top down.

JOHN

1 in 4 homes will be broken into this year. Murder is up 55% from 10 years ago. Rape is up 75% from 10 years ago. Arson is up 58% from 10 years ago. Car theft is up 200% from 10 years ago. Am I scaring you? Good, because this is serious business. How many here have been victims of any of the above?

With half the hands going up including his own, John selects Roi.

JOHN

Tell us what happened?

ROI

Last year all my tools were stolen from my garage.

JOHN

Great example, B & E! 1 in 4.

PERSON 1

My car was stolen 6 months ago.

JOHN

Up 200% and climbing! Great, and you.

ALEX

I had my job stolen from me.

JOHN

Cute! And you sir.

ROBERT
My uncles' house was set on fire.

JOHN
Arson up 58%

PERSON 2
My neighbor was killed by a stray
bullet last year during a drive by.
He was the nicest...

JOHN
Good, murder, up 55%.

John points to the female in the front row.

Any rapes? None, that's great.
People, as we can see, it's not a
matter of IF it happens! It's WHEN
it happens! If you are not
protected, you WILL be a victim.
How many people are currently
protected?

With everyone pretty much in confusion, John rephrases.

JOHN
How many people have a security
system in their home?

A few people raise their hand.

JOHN
Ah, now I see the hands.

John darts towards audience and starts calling on the people
with their hands up.

JOHN
Who protects you?

PERSON 1
Brants Security.

JOHN
Ha, junk! I said who protects you.

PERSON 2
We have Brants also.

JOHN

In other words, vulnerable, with limited protection. Anyone else with Brants?

One more hand goes up. John runs to each and hands a business card.

JOHN

I'm going to do you guys a big favor. Here's my card with 25% off a new system if you protect yourself today! We'll talk after the interview.

PERSON 1

What's wrong with Brants?

JOHN

Just ask any criminal. I can take this pencil and POP, poke it right through the center of the pathetically weak keypad, rendering the system useless.

PERSON 3

What about EDV security?

JOHN

See this keypad. I want you to punch in 1-2-3.

John swiftly runs up to Person 3 with a keypad. Person 3 punches in 1-2-3.

JOHN

Congratulations, you just deactivated an EDV system by using the built in default security code. Real high tech, huh. You can get this information in your local pool hall. You, do you have a family? How do you protect them?

PERSON 4

I have a big dog.

JOHN

Who is protecting your big dog?

PERSON 4

From what, nobody's going to get past him.

JOHN

A 12 ounce steak soaked in cyanide
will take any dog down in a split
second!

JOHN

I see you nodding. At Security
International, we protect those we
love, including our pets.

ROBERT

Yes, but can we all afford to?

JOHN

You have a wife?

ROBERT

Yes.

JOHN

Any children.

ROBERT

Not yet...

JOHN

What price would you put on your
wife or children, if you're ever
blessed? It's not really a matter
of whether you can afford security,
but can you afford not to be
secure, isn't it?

Again John points his finger highlighting each of the facts
about crime.

JOHN

Friends, there's not an easier,
more fulfilling job in the world.
And did I mention you can make a L-
O-T of money in this business!

JOHN

Has anyone ever had a sales
position?

John randomly points to BETTY.

BETTY

I sold vacuums door to door.

JOHN

Ouch! How much did they run?

BETTY

About 2 grand after attachments,
filters...

JOHN

Wow, and you sold them? So you
cleared about 150 bucks a sale?

BETTY

Yes, about.

JOHN

How on earth did you get your foot
in the door?

BETTY

Well, when I finally did, I
wouldn't leave without a sale.

JOHN

Tough way to make a buck, huh? So
which would you rather do? Sell a
vacuum that collects dust, or join
forces with us and protect lives?

BETTY

Protect lives!

JOHN

Right on! Who here's currently
making a 6 figure income? Nobody?
Well, it looks like I'm all alone
in that club. But if you're
selected to be a Security
International manager, and you
apply everything we teach you, 6
figs will come easy! Take a minute
and just imagine yourself with that
kind of income. Do you see it? What
will you do with the extra money?

ROBERT

Well, first I'd get the best
security system money can buy!

JOHN

Quick learner! Well, I'm sure
you're thinking, what's the next
step, aren't you? Tonight you can
all take the 1st step towards
qualifying to becoming Security
International managers.

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)
I need you to make a contact list that includes names and phone numbers of 30 friends, neighbors, and family members that are not currently protected. If you make your list, you make the team!

JOHN
Then let's all meet here tomorrow morning at 8:00 am sharp!

John runs out of the room like a football coach at a pep rally.

JOHN
Security! Security! Security!

Robert and Roi are in culture shock.

ROI
Well, 30 names by tomorrow. I sure hope this works out.

ROBERT
Amen to that. 6 "figs" sounds really good!

FADE IN:

25 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - DAY - JOHN'S OFFICE

Paul, John and the Will McClutchen are laughing about the performance.

WILL
But sir, I was told 8:15, ha hah ha...

PAUL
All I wanted was a cup of coffee, ha hah...

WILL
We run a tight ship around here. Ha hah...

PAUL
I'll tell you when you can get a coffee, now drop and give me 20.

Will drops and pretends to do push-ups while laughing. Paul gives John a bear hug as he compliments him.

PAUL
You're good, real good. Academy
award man!

JOHN
I'll do anything it takes!
Anything!

FADE IN:

26 INT: ROBERT'S HOUSE - DAY

Robert enters the kitchen and rummages through the junk drawer until he pulls out the address book. Heather is curiously watching.

HEATHER
Did you get the job?

ROBERT
I'll find out tomorrow.

HEATHER
Well, how much does it pay?

ROBERT
It's complicated.

HEATHER
Here, eat my chicken. I don't need
it.

Heather sets a plate of chicken in front Robert. Robert hastily looks at it.

HEATHER
Didn't you see the new coffee
table?

ROBERT
Coffee table? Are you crazy?
I'm looking for a job and you buy a
coffee table? Take it back! For
crying out loud, I'm washing my
face with deodorant soap. I'm
washing my hair with it, look at my
hair! That's how bad..

HEATHER

I can't. All sales final! Plus, I told the salesman you lost your job, so I didn't have to pay anything for it. Not for 6 months at least.

ROBERT

Are you flirting with a stinking furniture salesman?

Robert takes a large bite out of the chicken and immediately chokes on it.

HEATHER

That's what you get for jumping to conclusions.

Robert flies out the door, into the backyard. He picks up an ax, starts chopping the limbs off the TREE. Heather can only watch in shock.

HEATHER

Robert, you're going to ruin your suit.

Robert stops. Looks at the ax blade. Smirks. Looks at Heather. Resumes chopping.

ROBERT

Now you're going to start being money conscious?

Heather slams the door. Robert swings away.

FADE IN:

27 INT: ROI'S HOUSE - DAY

Door swings open as Roi enters searching for Nova, finding her in back room. He sneaks up and places his hands on her eyes, teasing her. Voice disguised.

ROI

Guess who?

NOVA

Oh, uh, could it be the newest manager of Security International? How did you get home?

ROI
I walked. So far, so good. Oh, to qualify, I have to write down 30 names of people we know that aren't protected.

NOVA
That's miles! Why didn't you call? Aren't protected?

ROI
Saved on gas! Aren't protected by means of a security system!

NOVA
You're going to "sell" security systems? What are you writing?

ROI
I'm writing a script.

Nova placing a plate of chicken in front of Roi. Roi is writing on a note pad the words "How much is this going to cost us?" And "What price can you put on your family?"

Roi tosses a book at Nova titled YOU CAN SELL ANYONE, ANYTIME. Nova runs her hands through the book.

NOVA
You mean a sales pitch?

ROI
Yes, my sales pitch.

NOVA
Bill called, he wants you to meet him tonight at Fawn Meadows. He said bring "the marshmallows".

Roi choking on his chicken, tries to pretend all is well.

NOVA
I'm sorry, is it dry?

ROI
No, it's great.

NOVA
What's with the marshmallows?

ROI
Marshmallows? Oh, the guys want to talk. This is rough on all of us.

NOVA
I'm so proud of the way you're
dealing with all of this. I want to
just kill that builder.

Roi pretends to be scared. Deliberately speaks slowly.

ROI
Kill? How? How you gonna kill them?

NOVA
I'd choke 'em to death with this
dreadfully dry chicken!

ROI
No, not the dry chicken torture
treatment!

Nova grabs the chicken and chases Roi around playfully. Roi
takes his tie off and wraps it around Nova's neck gently and
chokes her lightly. Nova pretends to choke a little.

ROI
Well, I better go meet the guys.
Don't wait up for me. Well, you can
if you want.

NOVA
Going to see your mistress again?

ROI
I can't sneak anything past you.

NOVA
Take the chicken... you need to eat.

With a kiss on the lips, Roi is on his way.

As he reaches the front door, he's jumped by his son wearing
a BLACK SKI MASK, who has been hiding in ambush.

SON
BLAAAAH...

Roi "acts" scared. Nova "is" scared and screams.

NOVA
My god, you scared the..

ROI
Oh my god, it's the child burglar!

Roi picks his son up and wrestles him to the ground. This is why we need a home security system!

SON
I scared you! Ha hah...
Nothing can stop the masked child prowler.

ROI
You take care of your mother for me.

Roi pulls off the mask. Static shocks son's hair.

SON
Ouch, that stings!

ROI
Wow, some prowler. I don't need an electric-tazer to stop you, just a little static shock will do.

Roi and Nova start sliding their feet across the carpet to charge up static. They chase their son around the house shocking him in a playful manner.

ROI
Bye guys, take care of each other.

Nova stares curiously at Roi. He stares back. Gives her a kiss.

NOVA
Don't forget the marshmallows.

FADE IN:

28 EXT. HARDWARE STORE - EVENING

Roi, approaching the entrance, drops the chicken bones in the trash can, glances up to see a help wanted sign. Roi picks up a job application upon entering the store.

29 INT. HARDWARE STORE - EVENING

Roi places a can of paint thinner, gloves, ax onto the counter and nods at CASHIER. She nods back, huge smile. Roi is nervous.

CASHIER
Hello! Will you be using your store card?

ROI
Cash! How do you like your job?

CASHIER
Which job? No store card? No problem, I can sign you up. It only takes 5 minutes and I can save you 20 percent on this purchase.

ROI
No thanks.

Cashier, glancing at the items, thinks it's a good time for a joke.

CASHIER
What, you don't want them to leave a paper trail! Ha hah..

Roi places the can of paint thinner and the gloves onto the counter. But it's the ax that gets her attention, causing suspicion. Roi counters with a little reverse psychology, speaking deeper and scary.

ROI
The ax is for my wife.

CASHIER
Your wife?

ROI
She started asking too many questions.

An awkward moment for the cashier breaks when Roi busts out laughing.

ROI
I'm sorry, how much did you say.

CASHIER
Thirty-two even, sir.

ROI
Look at that, exact change.

Roi pays, nods goodbye and quickly heads out the door.

Seeing the help wanted sign again, tosses his application into the trash and raises the axe as to toss it into the passenger seat. Close up on the ax.

FADE IN:

30 EXT. ROBERTS HOUSE - EVENING

Close up on the ax. Robert swings away at what is left of the once proud and tall tree in the backyard. Robert stops and picks up a log and walks into the house. Heather is crying near fireplace. Robert tosses in a log. Pokes at fire. Robert comforts Heather.

ROBERT

I'm so sorry honey. I'm having a hard time dealing with this. I've never, "not" had a job.

HEATHER

You've always had a job!

Robert, kindly, but whiney.

ROBERT

That's what I just said.

HEATHER

You said you've never "not" had a job.

ROBERT

Technically...

HEATHER

You just cut down our...

ROBERT

I was mad. I wasn't thinking.

HEATHER

I'm taking it back.

ROBERT

It'll grow back.

HEATHER

The coffee table!

ROBERT

Well why didn't you say coffee...

HEATHER

Well, because I was staring at the coffee table. You scared me. Swinging that ax like that, you really scared me.

ROBERT

Honey, sweetie, you know that's not the first time I've done something like that. We used to practically have a forest out there.

HEATHER

We live in the city! You can't just go out in the back yard and act like a mad man.

ROBERT

You're absolutely right. I know that now. Don't you see? I was scared, but I know what I want now. I want you to be happy, and to have the things that you want. The things you deserve.

HEATHER

I don't want much. I just want what everyone wants. Keep this house, our car, I want to have kids running around..

Robert grabs a wooden stick and a marshmallow. Toasting one.

ROBERT

I'll make this job work. From now on, just looking at the bright side. Sure, I chopped down another tree, but look, we got a fire burning, we can toast marshmallows and get cozy. Who knows what that can lead to?

Heather grabs a marshmallow and throws it at Robert, then laughs.

HEATHER

I hope you mean that.

Heather hugs Robert as they both look at the fire blazing.

FADE IN:

31 EXT. RESIDENTIAL JOB SITE - NIGHT

Close up: A blazing fire. Bill is holding a match in one hand and a can of paint thinner in the other. Roi puts the match out with his fingers. B-man takes a rock and hurls it into a Seamore Homes sign, letting out his famous war-cry.

ROI
Why are we doing this?

BILL
It's called redemption. They knew they weren't going to pay us.

ROI
Is torching their office the answer?

BILL
You, of all people? Look around you! How many people are already living in houses we roofed? Where's the money?

B-MAN
How can they do it?

BILL
Any luck with the new job?

ROI
Wearing a tie, it's not the same.

BILL
You have to like the people you work with!

B-MAN
YEAH! Fastest Freaking Roofers!

ROI
I'm in so deep with the suppliers, I can't step one foot on a jobsite. All I wanted to do was keep the team together.

BILL
You don't belong in a suite! You were born to roof!

B-MAN

We had something special. They took it from us!

STOCKER

Come on man, we can't let them get away with it.

BILL

This is all we have! Don't let them break us down!

ROI

Haven't I always said, "Never do anything unless you know why you are doing it?" Stocker! Move a little to the left! B-Man, backlight the building. I want to get a good shot of this!

Stocker and his video camera move left. B-man goes to his truck and turns on his stereo with violent music blaring and turns on his headlights. ROI throws a rock through the window of the mobile office.

B-MAN

YEAH! Now that's what I'm talking about!

B-MAN also throws a rock through the window of the mobile office. B-man sounds a war cry.

B-MAN

They can't get away with this!

ROI

Let it go down!

B-man takes an open can of paint thinner and throws it through the mobile office window and lets out his war cry. All the other guys let out the same scream and start throwing rocks at the office. Roi walks up slowly, lights a match and tosses it into the window. In seconds the office is overtaken by flames.

B-MAN

Wooo! Get the marshmallows and hotdogs.

FADE IN:

CLOSE UP: Broiler flames burst to the ceiling as another burger is flipped. Alex, clips the PHOTO of the GIRL onto the overhead order-taking clip.

ALEX

All because of you, sweetie.

MANAGER

We got customers Alex. Get out there!

Alex embarrassed. Straightens uniform. Walks to counter.

ALEX

Can I help the next person?

CUSTOMER

Yes, I'll take a double cheese and a small fry.

ALEX

Double cheese. If you would like to upsize those fries it'll only cost you 23 more cents.

CUSTOMER

I can clearly read from the menu that you have 2 sizes of fries, and yet, I ordered small.

ALEX

Double Cheese, small fry, and what to drink?

CUSTOMER

I brought my own.

ALEX

I understand, sir. We can't allow you to bring in outside drinks. I don't make the rules...

CUSTOMER

Well, you don't have to tell anyone, you know.

ALEX

Would you like a pie or cookies with your order?

CUSTOMER
Double Cheese, small fry! Nothing else!

ALEX
Yes sir, right away. I'm sorry for the hold up. I'll run back and prepare your order myself!

Customer is nervous about Alex making his meal.

CUSTOMER
Just forget it!

Seeing the customer storming out, the Manager gestures Alex to the kitchen. Alex points towards the counter as if to say he can do better. Manager shaking his head in disappointment, hands Alex a spatula and leads him to the broiler. A dejected Alex, pressing the fat from the burgers, flames rising to the ceiling. Alex, deliriously reaches his hand into the fryer and snatching a French fry, tosses it into his mouth. Upon painfully awakening from a mental lapse, a SCREAM. Boss takes Alex's apron and sends him out the back door. He's fired.

BOSS
Just get out of here! You're not worth the trouble!

FADE IN:

33 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

CLOSE UP: John J. McMurphy.

JOHN
What would happen, god forbid, if your house caught on fire while you were sleeping and you weren't protected by our system?

John is glaring for an answer, as a clueless audience is unaware that he is role-playing. John becomes JOHN HOMEOWNER. Arrogant, slow, idiotic.

JOHN HOMEOWNER
Well, uh, I guess I'd hear the crackling and wake up, then try to find a way out.

JOHN
Do you know what smoke does when you're sleeping?

JOHN HOMEOWNER

Uh, it wakes you up?

JOHN

No! You fall into a deeper sleep.
So what would happen to you, in the
event of a fire?

JOHN HOMEOWNER

Well, I guess...

JOHN

Yes! That's right! Future managers!
I can't stress enough the
importance of asking "What would
happen if..." It's the single most
powerful ammunition you have.
Robert, you have something to say.

ROBERT

Why would we need ammunition? Isn't
it obvious that everyone needs a
system?

JOHN

People are stupid! Roi, wake up!
Who is protecting your home right
now?

ROI

My significant other.

JOHN

Does he ever take naps?

ROI

She, sometimes.

JOHN

What would happen, god forbid, if
an intruder were to violate your
home while she was taking a nap?

ROI

I don't even want to think about
that.

JOHN

But you have to! Who's protecting
her?

Roi just nods his head.

JOHN

Does that answer your question, Robert? As obvious the need for protection is, the vast majority of the world is currently living unprotected. Future managers! We're about to change that! Who can guess another of the benefits of learning this philosophy?

TARA

Money?

JOHN

Yes, we can make a L-0-T of money. You like that, don't you?

John's attention changes and he's noticeably angered as a female CANDIDATE walks in late.

JOHN

You are late! Go! Go find a job somewhere else! O. K. everyone, let's all pass forward our assignments from yesterday.

As assignments are passed forward, John scowls over them.

JOHN

Ok, looks good, good. Roi, 30 names! Tara, 33 names, good!

Alex, with bandaged hand, is quietly sneaking in late from the rear. John sees him out of the corner of his eye.

JOHN

Alex, you just missed the action.

ALEX

Action, what was that sir?

JOHN

I just tossed out a young woman because she was late. Oh, perhaps you can catch her outside, because you will be joining her. You're not going to be one of our managers. Bye! Bye!

ALEX

I won't go! I need this job! I can do this job!

As Alex raises bandaged hand, John displays a change of heart.

JOHN
You do have your assignment from
last night don't you?

ALEX
30 names!

JOHN
You stay, another day!

John takes the assignment lists, shuffles them, and passes them out randomly to each person.

JOHN
These call sheets will be your
assignments for when you get home
tonight. We're going to give every
single person on these lists the
chance to be protected! Before we
can do this, what do we need to do?

TARA
Training?

JOHN
Close! Before we can offer
protection, we need to feel
protection. How can we direct
others to peace and security, if we
are not living it ourselves, right?
Are we committed to protection? Are
we committed to becoming future
managers? Committed to making a lot
of money?

All heads nod in agreement.

JOHN
Well, since we're all in agreement,
I need everyone before leaving
today to sign their "future
managers" acceptance agreement. I
highly recommend you select the
option to obtain the 3 year home
security system installation and
monitoring agreement. As future
managers, you will receive the
monitoring services at a 25%
reduced rate. No looking back now
so lets get started.

John's assistants pass out the applications.

JOHN

What do we need to do Tara?

TARA

Getting trained to protect homes
and make lot's of money!

JOHN

That's right. My plan is simple.
Easy! I call it the 6 figure plan.
You call on 30 people a day. 2
people say, yes, I am interested. 1
of those 2 obtain protection. You
make 6 figures. BANG! It's that
easy.

John again kicks into roll playing with himself. Upon spotting a banana that Roi has brought, John grabs it and pretends it's a phone.

JOHN

Hello, I'm John. I work with
Security International, how are
you?

JOHN HOMEOWNER

Great?

JOHN

Well your day just got even better!
Your friend Roi just started the
future managers program with us,
and he said you were the sensible
kind of person that would be
interested in protecting your
family and home. With crime on the
rise, not many people can say they
feel protected, can they? I would
like for Roi and I to come over and
show you how you can feel real
peace and security even in today's
dangerous times. All we ask is a
moment of your time that can
drastically improve the safety for
you and your family. Sounds fair,
doesn't it? Which day is better for
you, Wednesday or Friday?

JOHN HOMEOWNER

Wednesday.

JOHN
Great, I have a 4 pm and 6 pm,
which would you prefer.

JOHN HOMEOWNER
Four.

JOHN
Great. We'll see you Friday at 4
pm. The security code for when we
arrive will be "spaceman".

John tosses the banana back to Roi.

JOHN
It's that easy! No kidding. You try
it, Robert!

A nervous rumble moves around the room as Robert is put on
the spot.

ROBERT
Gee, thanks for picking me first...
Hi, my name is Robert. I got your
name from John McMurphy. He said
you might be interested in...

JOHN
Would, would!

ROBERT
What?

JOHN
You said "might". It's "would" be
interested!

ROBERT
John said you would be interested
in protecting your family. I would
like to know if you would like for
John and I to come over and show
you the benefits of a security
system.

John is shaking his head and rolling his eyes in disgust.

JOHN
I am going to teach a skill that
will change each and every life in
this room! A skill that will allow
you to have anything you want. You
would like that wouldn't you?

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)
Let me illustrate. Roi, come stand with me. I want you to try to overcome my attempts to control you. Tara, the same goes to you, just try to resist me. I know that'll be hard!

Every one laughs.

JOHN
Roi, I have an alarm system that will cost you \$4000 dollars? Would you like to buy it?

ROI
No thanks!

JOHN
Maybe I could come over and show you the benefits. Can I do that Roi, come over tomorrow night?

ROI
No thanks! Not interested!

JOHN
Are you sure, I can cut the price in half?

ROI
No thanks, go away.

Again the group laughs.

JOHN
Ok, you win, it's free. No charge, can I come over and install this for you?

ROI
I said no! I don't need it.

John noticeably changes his method while drilling Tara. He's constantly nodding his head and speaking very controlling.

JOHN
Tara, how are you today?

TARA
O. k.

JOHN
Great. The weather is just beautiful today, isn't it?
(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)
We could use more days like this,
couldn't we?

TARA
Yes, we sure could.

JOHN
Tara, if I could make your house
the safest house on the block,
you'd be happy wouldn't you?

TARA
Sure, if it was the safest...

JOHN
If I could install the most
advanced security system in the
world in your house, then it would
be the safest house on your block,
wouldn't it?

TARA
Yes.

JOHN
If I could design this system to
fit easily in your budget, you'd be
getting it, wouldn't you?

TARA
Yes.

JOHN
Well, for me to be able to do this,
I'll have to come over to your
house and design this system, won't
I? It just makes sense, doesn't it?

TARA
Right!

JOHN
Ok everyone, can you see the
difference. You can get what you
want, when you want, who you want.
It's that easy. I want to call out
someone who has really done a
remarkable job managing with us.
Come on up here Shannon. Give it
up!

SHANNON, a very attractive, well dressed woman enters the
room upon introduction. Everyone applauds.

SHANNON

John's right! When I first started, I thought, there is no way I could maintain the income level that I had become accustomed to. I was making \$1000 a night on the weekends. I met John at my place of work and that night he literally sold me on quitting my job, diving into a whole new career. I've never looked back. In my first month I made \$7,000. I haven't had a low month like that since. And trust me, this is a whole lot easier than dancing at a bar! I really feel good about what I'm doing, knowing I'm helping to protect children and families. I have no formal schooling, just a lot of heart. This is really easy. Just like John says, make 30 phone calls and one of those gets protected, you are in for some real serious money! As a manager, I would be glad to go on appointments with anyone that will have me. Just come get me!

Alex raises his hand to volunteer. John steps back up to the platform as he and all the other guys watch Shannon walk away.

JOHN

Not you Alex, I'll train you myself!

FADE IN:

34 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT - SAME NIGHT

Alex is starting a new waiter job at a restaurant. MARIO, the headwaiter, hands Alex a couple of menus and points him to the table where a young COUPLE is being seated. Alex gathers his thoughts putting on his waiter jacket.

MARIO

I'll train you myself! Remember, you live and die on 15% of the bill.

ALEX

I got it.

While waiting for Alex, the seated couple talks.

WOMAN

It's expensive.

MAN

Well, let's just get water and split a meal.

WOMAN

I know. It doesn't make sense spending 100 bucks just to eat a meal that will be digested in 10 minutes.

MAN

You can buy a bowling ball for that amount and it will last 50 years.

WOMAN

What are you talking, "bowling balls" for?

MAN

I'm just saying that a bowling ball is something..

ALEX

Hello, my name is Alex. May I offer you one of our micro beers?

MAN

No thanks. I'll have water.

WOMAN

Water for me too.

ALEX

Just water?

MAN

Yes, "just" water.

ALEX

I was only repeating the misses' request.

MAN

I know that, but you said it like a question. Nothing wrong with water is there? Why do people say "just" water?

(MORE)

MAN (cont'd)
They say we should drink like a 50
gallon drum a day, you know.

ALEX
Yes, but there is water in just
about everything, like coffee,
soda, tea. I think beer has...

MAN
No, they mean pure water. Not
counting coffee, soda...

ALEX
Oh, well why didn't you say so. We
have a pure bottled water that...

MAN
I don't mean bottled water. I mean
just water.

ALEX
Now do you see why they say, "just
water"? Can I get you an appetizer
before your meal?

WOMAN
No, in fact, we are probably just
splitting a meal.

ALEX
There's an additional \$3 plate
charge...

MAN
Then only bring one plate. We're
not paying \$3 for the rights to use
a plate!

ALEX
Ok, I'll be back to take your
order.

Mario jumps Alex as he reaches the kitchen.

ALEX
They just wanted water.

MARIO
What, just water? What did I tell
you? I'll show you how to get this
done! Bus the table next to me and
pay attention!

Mario darts off on a mission.

MARIO

Welcome, my name is Mario. I'll be your waiter tonight.

WOMAN

Oh, some kid already started taking our order.

MARIO

Great! Then he must have told you about our famous micro brews, didn't he?

MAN

No, he didn't. We both ordered water.

MARIO

We'll certainly bring you water, but have you ever tried our microbrew?

WOMAN

No.

MARIO

Well, I can't have you guys leaving here without tasting the best brew in the world, can I? Which do you usually prefer, sir, light or dark?

MAN

Usually light beer.

MARIO

Great, we have a really good one tonight that will knock your shoes off. But that's OK, we're a casual establishment! And the lady, have you ever heard of Blackberry wheat? That just sounds irresistible, doesn't it?

WOMAN

Blackberry? Never heard of it. It does sound good.

MARIO

Well, that settles it. You have to try one then. If you don't like it, I'll buy it!

WOMAN

Oh, no, we couldn't allow that...

MARIO

Sir, the beer you will be drinking is just awesome. But you know what will make it even better? Have you ever heard of our "Go For It" Platter? It's a customized sampler platter designed to compliment the brew you selected...

Seeing enough, Alex makes his way to the kitchen, all the while watching Mario pushing the order higher.

Mario appears in the kitchen, addressing Alex.

MARIO

Just water?

FADE IN:

35

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Nova turns on a sad song that plays throughout the SERIES.
- B) Robert, while pulling his hair, scratches off another name from his call list. Picks up the phone dialing. Heather is hiding a "How to Massage" book.
- C) Roi hangs up phone, scratches off another name from his call list.
- D) Alex enters his apartment and throws his waiter apron to the floor, pulls out his call list.
- E) John J., in front of the group pointing to the white board circling 30 calls, 2 appointments, 1 sale, LOTS \$\$\$\$...
- F) Nova and Heather in a class learning massage from Amy.
- G) Robert and Roi, having a door SLAMMED in their face.
- H) Roi and Alex having a door SLAMMED in their face.
- I) Alex and Shannon having a door SLAMMED in their face by the Misses while Mister peeks out the window at Shannon.
- J) A hand knocks on the door.
- K) A mans face appears peeking out the window. (ROBERT)

END SERIES OF SHOTS

FADE IN:

36 INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - EVENING - WEEKS LATER

A KNOCK on the door. Robert peeks out the window. Two suited men with briefcases. Robert opens door.

LUKE

Hello, my name is LUKE. My companion and I are talking to people in your neighborhood about security. We can't turn on the news without seeing some form of crime or violence can we?

ROBERT

You are right. My name is Robert. Would you guys like to come in and have a seat? Perhaps talk about it...

LUKE

Yes, thank you very much. You're the first person today who's been so kind.

ROBERT

Can I get you guys something to drink? A soda, juice...

LUKE

Just water.

JARED

Just water for me too. Thanks!

Robert runs excitedly to the kitchen to tell Heather.

ROBERT

Heather, you'll never guess. It's the competition. Bring them each a glass of water.

HEATHER

What's going on?

ROBERT

I'm going to pick their brains.

Phone RINGS. Robert picks it up.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - DAY - PARKING LOT

John J. is obnoxiously talking on cell phone in a hurry to his next sales call. Roi and Alex are with him. Standing by John J's Car. John tosses the keys to his car to Alex without looking at him. Alex is shocked. So is Roi.

JOHN

Drive! Here's the address.

As John continues to speak to Robert, Roi consoles Alex. Whispers underneath a louder John J. who continues to speak to Robert on the phone.

ROI

You've never driven, have you?

ALEX

No, I'm.. I don't want him to know about... I need this job.

ROI

You've played the driving games haven't you?

ALEX

They had one at my last job, but...

ROI

It's the same thing. Just turn the key. The left peddle is the break, right peddle is the gas. Just tap lighter than your thinking, trust me. You'll be fine.

JOHN

Robert, you gotta step it up. You gotta get the job done. I know what you're capable of. You are a diamond in the rough.

ROBERT (V. O.)

I'm doing everything I can. I got the competition in my living room right now. I'm gonna...

Alex begins driving as John continues to speak. The car lunging away.

JOHN
That's it, you go pick those
brains. Go! Go! Go!

CUT TO:

38 INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - EVENING

An excited Robert runs back into the living room, sitting
across from the 2 men.

ROBERT
You know you're so right about
crime. It's getting worse every
year.

LUKE
It's undeniable.

JARED
I remember growing up, we never
locked our doors. We trusted our
neighbors. If we needed a cup of
sugar, or a cup of...

Heather enters room. Handing the 2nd man a glass of water.

HEATHER
Water?

JARED
Right, a glass of water, it would
just appear...

Heather, gives LUKE a glass of water and sits next to LUKE. A
jealous Robert gestures for Heather to sit with him.

LUKE
What he's saying is, just last week
in this very neighborhood a house
was robbed!

ROBERT
It's really getting bad. The police
can't keep up with it.

LUKE
Thanks, ma'am. Just look around
the world, we see people living in
fear, terror.

ROBERT

Right again, terror! Don't even get me started with terror.

LUKE

Wouldn't it be nice to live in a world that feels safe, like when we were kids?

ROBERT

Absolutely!

JARED

Can you think of anything today that can stop crime?

HEATHER

Well, how about a big tough guard dog?

LUKE

Well, a guard dog could help, but there's something I was thinking of that could be even more effective.

ROBERT

Are you thinking, perhaps, a security system?

LUKE

Well, a security system would make you feel safer. But I'm talking about a system that is greater than that. A system that would do away with the need for locks, alarm systems, or policemen for that matter.

ROBERT

I'm a little lost.

LUKE

I'd like to read you an account from Proverbs 1:33.
"As for the one listening to me...", well, not me of course, this is GOD speaking, "...he will reside in security, and be undisturbed from the dread of calamity."

Robert, seeing LUKE reading from a bible, is totally confused.

ROBERT
What are you talking about?

LUKE
I'm talking about a new system, in which GOD has promised to destroy all wicked people.

ROBERT
Wicked people?

JARED
Wicked people who have refused to listen to his word.

ROBERT
What's this have to do with selling alarms?

LUKE
Pardon me?

ROBERT
Selling alarms, security systems!

Robert, gesturing with quotations.

ROBERT
Protecting homes!

LUKE
God has no need for alarm systems. We're delivering his message to the world of the new coming system, offering hope to those that will listen.

Robert puts his hands over his face in shock, puts his head between his knees. Realizes his mistake, releases a long cynical laugh. After a moment, his laughter becomes anger.

ROBERT
So, why are you here at "my" house?

Heather kicks Robert under the coffee table.

ROBERT
Did you just kick...

Heather kicks Robert again and lips the words "Take it easy".

ROBERT
You know I don't read lips.

Heather, embarrassed, points to the men, who are starring at them.

JARED

We are carrying out GOD' S message,
that which we were commanded.

ROBERT

And the message is?

LUKE

Well, he is soon to destroy wicked
mankind and restore his righteous
rule in a peaceful paradise on
earth.

ROBERT

Again I ask, why are you at "my"
house? What are you saying about
me?

LUKE

Just saying that the time is near.

ROBERT

Are you selling something?

LUKE

Sir, we are not salesman, we are in
the ministry work.

ROBERT

I really wish you were selling
something.

LUKE

May I ask why, sir?

ROBERT

Because if you're not selling
something, then you're saying I'm a
"wicked" person.

LUKE

We're looking for people with a
good heart and open mind and giving
people a chance to join the true
religion.

JARED

The bible says God has one true
religion.

ROBERT

I have had about as much as I can handle from judgmental morons.

JARED

I can assure you that we are not Mormons.

ROBERT

I said morons! Moron!

LUKE

I think you misunderstood our message.

ROBERT

Well let me see. You believe that God has one true religion, right? And he'll destroy the wicked, right? And the good people will get to live in a world without locks, without alarms, right?

LUKE

Right. That's true.

ROBERT

Well, I'm not of your religion! So you're saying I'm not good. So you have to be saying I'm bad!

LUKE

Sir, there is more to it than that. That's why we offer a free home bible study?

ROBERT

So you "are" selling something.

JARED

It's free!

ROBERT

Well, I don't have a bible. I'm sure you'll need me to have one. Can you sell me one?

LUKE

Of course we can get you all the literature that you'll need to make your own decisions in this critical live and death issue.

ROBERT

Sure, sell me a bible, some "literature", weekly meetings at a church. I'm sure you will welcome me as a member and allow me to tithe each week, won't you?

LUKE

You love your wife don't you? You both deserve the chance to do a little research? It could save your life, her life.

HEATHER

That's a good point...

ROBERT

See, you are saying we're going to die!

LUKE

You have it all wrong!

ROBERT

Maybe I do! Maybe you do! I may not be good! But the Lord knows my wife is a good person. What's she doing that's so bad that merits the god you worship to destroy her?

LUKE

It's not what she's doing! It's what she is not doing. God said that we should be gathering together as a group and...

ROBERT

Right! God really needs all those collection plates, because he's saving it up so he can rid the world of evil!

HEATHER

Robert...

ROBERT

That's enough, gentlemen! It's time for you to save the rest of the world. Sorry you weren't able to save any lives here today. Allow me to show you the door!

LUKE
I hope you reconsider. Let me just
leave this free leaflet.

ROBERT
No, I don't want your leaflet. Give
this to someone that's worthy!

Jared slips a leaflet to Heather. Upon evacuating the 2 men
from his house, Robert hurls their briefcase to the curb.

ROBERT
You'll need this to save my
neighbor. He's wicked too!

Door slams shut.

FADE IN:

39 EXT. JED'S HOUSE - DAY

A hand KNOCKS on the door. John J. and Roi stand waiting for
an answer as they observe the filthy surroundings.

JOHN
Looks like a pigs pen.

ROI
Do you think they can afford..

JOHN
Watch your tongue. PMA!

ROI
Excuse me.

JOHN
Positive Mental Attitude! They will
be protected today!

As the door opens, JED, an older, unkempt man with tobacco
juice streaking down his overalls, lets out a burp.

JED
Security?

JOHN
Security International. John J
McMurphy!

JED
Well come on in! I'm Jed.

FADE IN:

40 INT. JED'S HOUSE - DAY

As Roi and John enter, they discover it's filthier than the outside. Jed's WIFE, looking as if she could be Jed's mother, is rocking in a chair. Across from her is JED'S SON, equally disturbing and grinning ear to ear.

JOHN
And you must be Granny, and this
must be Jethro.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Jed erupts into a hideous laugh.
- B) Jed's wife's hideous laugh, revealing tobacco stained teeth.
- C) Jed's son, an even weirder laugh.
- D) Roi's nervous laughter.
- E) John's fake laughing.
- F) Jed STOMPS his foot. BOOM.
- G) All in room in total silence.
- H) Jed lifts his shoe revealing a smashed bug.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

JED
That's gotta be the biggest one
yet!

JOHN
This is a nice place you have here.
Are you the project manager?

John is making a reference to all the tools and construction debris. John rubs his hand on a cabinet like it is a fine piece.

JED
Yep, wife and boy helping too...

JOHN
The cabinets are nice. How do you hang them, screws, nails, bolts?

JED
Yep!

JOHN
Glue?

JED
Yep!

As John is tapping the cabinets as if impressed with the sturdiness, Jed darts past him, grabs a soda from the refrigerator, takes a swig, a loud GULP. John turns a 180, and Jed is staring up his nostrils.

JED
Burp! Want a swig?

JOHN
I can't drink soda. Indigestion.

JED
I get it too! That won't stop me!

JOHN
Roi, weren't you just saying how thirsty you were? Go ahead and have a swig!

JED
Here yah go Roi, finish her off!

Jed hands the bottle to Roi. Roi pretends to drink from it as Jed's son watches him like a hawk.

JED'S SON
He didn't drink none! He faked it!

ROI
I drank some, I...

JED'S SON
Faked it!

Jed's son starts rocking back and forth weirdly repeating himself.

JOHN

Roi, you wouldn't fake that would you? Show them you appreciate the beverage. Finish her up!

Close up on Roi's mouth. Roi finishes the bottle. He is disgusted but tries to hide it.

JOHN

See there, he was thirsty!

How long have you guys lived here?

JED'S WIFE

He was born in this house. His father built this house, and we're remodeling it.

JOHN

How many years have you been remodeling it?

JED

Oh, about 16 years now.

JED'S WIFE

He's taking forever because he likes everything just perfect.

JED

That's right. I'm a perfectionist. How much is this alarm going to cost me?

JOHN

I'm sure you'd like to know, since you're doing all this remodeling? Are you doing this full time, Jed, or do you have another job?

JED

I'm a custodian at the school, and we sell things like arts and crafts. She makes 'em!

Roi, pretending to be interested, is fumbling through the piles of cheaply made recycled crafts.

JED'S WIFE

I made these from 2 liter bottles. It's a wind thingy. You hang them on your porch.

JED

Guess what she made these from.

JOHN

Well look at that, from a peanut can?

JED

It's a piggy bank. She's really artsie and everything. A person like you or me see a milk jug. She sees a candle holder.

JED'S WIFE

It pays the bills.

JOHN

Put me down for one. I need a place to keep my change. This is really great! Makes "cents" doesn't it? Ha hah... Get it, cents?

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Jed erupts into a hideous laugh.
- B) Jed's wife's hideous laugh, revealing tobacco stained teeth.
- C) Jed's son, an even weirder laugh.
- D) Roi's nervous laughter.
- E) John's demo kit SLAMMING onto the coffee table.
- F) All in room in total silence.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

JOHN

This is the PTR-3000. State of the art hybrid system. Fully upgradeable. There's no other system in it's class. Comes with a lifetime warrantee.

JED

Hybrid?

JOHN
That's right, hybrid! Have you or
your family ever experienced a
burglary, fire, or medical
emergency.

JED'S WIFE
Well, we had a bike stolen from the
back porch!

JED
That was 20 years ago.

JOHN
Did the authorities catch the
intruder?

JED
Nah.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. JED'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex is fiddling in the car with the stick shift, practicing driving. He pulls out a can and a spoon from his pocket. As he opens the can and eats, camera reveals that Alex is eating cat food. Alex grabs John's car phone and calls Robert.

ALEX
Hey, Robert! How's it going! I
drove John's car!

ROBERT
What?

ALEX
Yeah! I drove John and Roi to a
lead. I heard John say he's gonna
sell the big one! He said he can
just feel it! Gonna make a L-O-T of
money!

ROBERT
How's your sales coming? Make any
money?

ALEX
Soon! I can just feel it. Once I
master the system, I'll make a L-O-
T of money! Do you want to meet Roi
and I at Spice tonight around nine?
(MORE)

ALEX (cont' d)
It's walking distance from my house.

CUT TO:

42 INT: JED'S HOUSE - DAY

JOHN
See how easily a criminal can violate your home when you're not protected? Do you feel a security system is a luxury item or a necessity?

JED
A luxury.

JED'S WIFE
Yep, a luxury!

JOHN
A luxury? Crime is on the rise each year. The odds are now 1 in 3 that unprotected homeowners will be victimized by a violent crime each year. The fact that you haven't experienced this in the last 20 years makes the odds even higher for your home, doesn't it? So really, it's not "if" this will happen, it's "when".

JED
So it's a luxury item?

JOHN
I'm saying home protection is a necessity! Not a luxury item!

JED
How much is this going to cost us?

JOHN
What price can you put on your family?

JED
We're not exactly rich. I don't know if we can afford this machine.

JOHN

It's not a matter of whether you can afford protection, but rather a matter of whether you can afford not to have protection.

JED

What?

JOHN

You deserve this and your family deserves this. But before we talk price, I need to demonstrate how this system can provide peace of mind.

John, opening his demo kit, reveals a dollhouse-like presentation piece. It has a tiny entrance door, patio door, windows and a phone line that he plugs into the homeowners phone jack. Roi is falling asleep while standing behind a drooling John who is hovering over the demo kit.

JED

Look at that!

JOHN

This is the front door. Notice the beep when I open the door. Notice when I open any of the windows. Same beep! Press this button, the system is armed and ready to protect your home and family.

Roi is falling deeper into sleep as John's presentation blurs into a dream.

FADE IN:

43 EXT. RESIDENTIAL JOB SITE - DAY

A shirtless, sun-beaten Roi, is working on the roof with the CREW. Nail guns are BLASTING, shingles are SLAPPING, the crew enjoying camaraderie.

B-MAN

Shingles!

The Stocker slides down roof with a pile of shingles.

BILL

Nails!

ROI
Shingles!

Nova slides down roof placing a pile of bills instead of shingles.

NOVA
Roi, these are due today! What are we going to do?

Nova grabs Roi's nail gun and loads like a pro as he stands in shock.

ROI
Shingles!

In front of the blaring sunlight, John J. appears at the peak of the roof.

JOHN
Hustle! HA HA HA!

B-MAN
Woo wee, I'll have my side done in ten minutes!

Phillip from Seamore homes pushes papers in front of Roi.

PHILLIP
It's over Roi. You are not getting paid.

JOHN
We're going to build so many houses this year, and your company is going to roof every one of them, for free! We appreciate all your hard work!

NOVA
Roi, they're going to take our house! We need to pay these bills!

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Roi slowly stands up, his guys working in the background.
- B) John J and Phillip laughing at the roof peak.
- C) Roi walks backwards to the roof edge.
- D) Bill and B-Man working at high speed.

E) Nova waiving the bills in the air.

F) Roi does a backwards swam dive off the edge of the roof.

END MONTAGE

FADE IN:

44 INT. JED'S HOUSE - DAY

The moment Roi hits the ground, a loud siren BLARES from John's demo kit. Roi lets out a loud SCREAM.

JOHN

Relax Roi! It's only a demo!

A MONITORING STATION REP'S voice interrupts through a 2-way monitor speaker that is built into the demo kit.

MONITORING STATION REP

Security Central, how can we assist you?

John, speaking like a Pentagon spokesman, into the demo kit.

JOHN

This is John J. McMurphy of Branch 6001, performing a home demonstration.

MONITORING STATION REP

May I have your password?

JOHN

David is a Hasslehoffer.

MONITORING STATION REP

That is correct, sir. You may proceed with your demonstration.

JOHN

Thank you ma'am. Could you tell us what actions you would have taken had I not been able to give you the correct password, in the event of an actual home invasion?

MONITORING STATION REP
Yes sir. I would have stayed online
monitoring the situation while
contacting the police, informing
them of a home invasion in
progress.

Jed and his family are impressed as John is gleaming.

JOHN
Thanks, and have a good day.

MONITORING STATION REP
Thank you, Mr. McMurphy. Good day.

JOHN
Jed, do you think this would be an
effective means of protection in
the event of a home invasion.

JED
Was that a recording?

John lifts the phone wire, demonstrating that his demo kit is
connected to Jed's phone jack.

JOHN
Live, my friend! When fully
installed in your home, you will
have the full protective services
of Police, Fire Department, and
Medical Response Teams.

JED
I didn't even see you plug it in!

JOHN
Now give me a few moments to walk
around your beautiful home, and I
will design a system that will
fully protect your family.

FADE IN:

45 INT. JED'S HOUSE - DAY

A worksheet with designs and scribbled notes lays on the
kitchen table as all are seated around it.

JOHN
Now the moment we have been waiting
for.

JED
Let's hear it!

JOHN
I'm going to need your family to invest \$200 a month for complete protection.

JED
\$200 a month! For how long?

JOHN
Once you start protecting your home, you don't set an end date, do you Jed?

JED
I don't like to pay monthly for nothing!

JED'S WIFE
We pay all at once.

JOHN
Jed, you're a good parent aren't you? Imagine, god forbid, your son took really ill. The doctor told you that there is only one cure. It's this pill.

John places a large imaginary pill on the table. BOOM!

JOHN
It's the size of a softball. Now, your son needs to take this pill, once a day. This pill has no side effects. But it's huge! He takes the pill, he lives. Are you going to make him swallow this pill whole? Of course not! You're going to break it up, aren't you? Break it up into bite sized pieces. Pieces that he can swallow, right?

JED
Right...

JOHN
Well, that's what we have here!

John slides the contract in front of Jed.

JOHN

When you think about breaking it up, that \$200 a month comes to \$6.66 a day. That's just about 25 cents an hour. That's less than ½ a penny per minute to fully protect your loved ones and yourself, from violent crimes, a fire, or worse!

JED

Sir, we just can't afford that! We don't have that kind of money.

JOHN

Are you saying you can't afford ½ a penny per minute to protect your family?

JED

Not right now I can't.

JOHN

When could you?

JED

Maybe in 6 months?

JOHN

In 6 months you could afford this. What's changing in 6 months?

JED

Well, I'm due for a raise.

JOHN

OK. I'll pack up my things. I'll keep this contract 'til then. Roi, pack the demo kit, we have people to protect.

Roi and John packing everything, but leaving the contract out.

JOHN

In 6 months you'll be protected, right Jed?

JED

Yeah. 6 months I'll be ready. Sorry to turn you away and everything.

JOHN
So in 6 months, Right? You're not just saying that to be nice, are you Jed?

JED
No, I want the thing!

JOHN
So, this is the system you want, right?

JED
Oh yeah.

JOHN
You like the company, right?

JED
Sure, I like the company!

JOHN
And you're OK with me aren't you? Have I explained everything?

JED
Yeah! Just great!

JOHN
Well, you'll really like this system. We'll see you in 6 months. It was nice to meet everyone.

JED'S WIFE
You all take care now.

JED
I got your card here. We'll be thinking about it and everything.

ROI
Bye. Nice to meet you all.

Roi and John are approaching the door, Jed opens the door, and John stops, stands still and pauses for a moment.

JED
Is everything alright?

JOHN
No, in fact everything is not alright.

John walks back to the kitchen table and grabs the contract on the table and sits down.

JOHN

Everything is not alright! I'm in the business of protecting families. If I leave here today, then I have let my company down, myself down, and more importantly, each and everyone living in this unprotected household. Mr. Jed, I trust you as a man of character! A man that loves his family greatly! You are a man of your word, aren't you?

JED

That's right!

JOHN

You've given me a commitment that in 6 months you'll be getting my system.

JED

Yeah.

JOHN

Now I'm going to show you that I am a man character too! I'm not going to let 6 months stand between us, only to risk your family to a home invasion, or worse. I wouldn't be able to sleep! Would you?

JED

Probably not, but...

JOHN

Then, I'll install this system tomorrow, and we'll not receive one penny for 6 months. That's fair, isn't it?

JED'S WIFE

He's right Jed! Get it. Get it!

JED

Ok. Ok.

JOHN

Best decision you've ever made, you won't regret it!

John's hand aggressively lunges forward as Jed reluctantly shakes on it. John shakes Jed's wife's hand as well.

JOHN
Congratulations! You're going to be protected! I just need your approval to start the protection process. This just feels great, doesn't it?

FADE IN:

46 EXT: JED'S HOUSE - DAY

Alex, Roi and John are standing by John's Car.

ROI
Wow, that was something. I can't believe...

Alex, imitating John

ALEX
He gets the job done! That's awesome!

JOHN
That's right! I get the job done! See how much money you can make? They just signed for a minimum of \$8,000 bucks.

John lets out a cynical LAUGH.

JOHN
That's more than their shack is worth! It costs our company \$100 for equipment, toss \$100 to an installer, and the rest is profit.

ROI
Why are we charging so much then?

JOHN
I don't have a rich father! Do you Roi?

ROI
I don't have a rich anything.

JOHN
I'll do anything I can to make it in this rat race.

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)
If, because I'm smarter than the next person, so be it. Survival of the fittest! Could he have gotten a system a whole lot cheaper elsewhere? Yes! But I did my job in there today! If you care about your family, you'll do the same.

Roi looks into Alex's bag and sees he is eating cat food.
Alex enthusiastically starts the car.

FADE IN:

47 EXT. SPICE NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Alex is waiting outside, waiting for Roi and Robert.

He is nervous about his age. Robert approaches.

ROBERT
Hey Alex!

ALEX
Hey, did you sell anything today!

ROBERT
No, but McCluthen Rocked it out!
What are you doing, this is a strip club.

ALEX
What's a strip club?

ROBERT
You serious?

ALEX
It's walking distance from my apartment. The sign says good food!

ROBERT
So you've obviously never been...

Alex breaks down into a sad state of mind. Tearful.

ALEX
Look, I just wanted to meet you guys, and well, I don't know what's going to happen. I need this job to work out, and I haven't been able to...

Robert consoles Alex

ROBERT
Hey, it's going to be alright. You
just gotta learn the system,
remember. Get a little momentum
going. You'll be fine.

Robert steers Alex into the restaurant, as a bouncer bounces
at them both.

BOUNCER
I need to see an I.D.

ROBERT
Look, we just want to get something
to eat.

BOUNCER
Yeah, well, I need to see...

Just as he steps up his muscle, a confident John J. McMurphy
interrupts.

JOHN
They are with me!

BOUNCER
Yes Mr. McMurphy. Good day sir. You
gentlemen enjoy your dinner.

FADE IN:

48 INT. SPICE NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

MUSIC is blaring, girls are dancing in lingerie on the bar
tops. Alex's eyes are glued to the dancers as Robert is
stuffing his face with wings.

ROBERT
I haven't sold crap!

ALEX
John J made a killing today. He's
awesome.

ROBERT
I need a big one, bad, real bad,
man.

Roi walks up from behind them.

ROI
This is the wrong place to say a
thing like that.

ALEX
Hey, this place is awesome.

ROBERT
You sell anything today.

Roi shakes head no, then extends a hand to Alex.

ROI
So what going on big guy! You're
running with the big boys tonight.

Roi see's Robert stuffing face and Alex has nothing to eat,
just a glass of water. A COCKTAIL WAITRESS approaches the
table.

COCKTAIL WAITRESS
What can I get you.

ROI
Alex, Did you eat yet?

ALEX
Oh, I had a can of tuna before I
got here.

ROI
Like the can you had in John's car?

ALEX
Let me show you, look at this.

An excited Alex tossed out a card with an older mans face on
it.

ALEX
Found it in the parking lot of Bulk
Club. They think it's my grandpa.
My grandma and I got cases of that
tuna at home.

ROI
I think that's tuna flavor.

ALEX
Yeah, and it's cheap! I'll bring
you some...

ROI
Sure, but only if you help me help
me with an order of wings? There's
no way I can eat them all.

Alex's eyes are bigger than when he saw the dancers for the
first time.

ALEX
Alright! I'll help you! Thanks!

ROI
Ma'am, we'll have a double order of
wings and 2 bottles of beer! Root
beer.

COCKTAIL WAITRESS
Anything else?

ROI
A stack of twenties...

PA ANNOUNCER bursts out.

PA ANNOUNCER (V. O.)
OK, lets give it up to our newest
and hottest dancer, the beautiful
and luscious "Aurora Night".

ROBERT
You know how he got in here?

ROI
Cause he's the man!

Robert taps Roi and points across the bar to John J.

ROBERT
Look! He must be a regular. I'll
bet Shannon worked here.

Roi looks at John J., He is talking to a STRANGER and
pointing to Aurora Night on stage. Roi follows the point to
see to his surprise that Aurora is actually Nova. Roi walks
directly to the stage and approaches Nova. Nova continues her
dance as Roi stands motionless. Nova establishes eye contact
with Roi. She is stunned and motionless. Nova is nervous.

NOVA
I'm so sorry.

Roi extends his hand holding a \$2 bill. Grabs Nova by the
face and kisses her. Music continues as the crowd whistles.

ROI
No, I'm sorry...

Bouncer confronts Roi.

BOUNCER
You can't touch performers, man.
House rules.

CUT TO:

49 INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Heather is sitting on the couch in candle light, looking at the bills as Robert barges in. No other lights. (Power shut off)

ROBERT
I just went on sales calls with Will McClutchen. He sold one for \$7,000 and one for \$5,000. He'll be pulling in \$2,000 bucks commission in 4 hours work!

HEATHER
4 Hours? It's midnight, you're just getting home!

ROBERT
I was getting more training, then we went to...

HEATHER
A bar?

ROBERT
I had 1 drink!

HEATHER
Oh, just one drink? Who goes to the bar and has one drink?

ROBERT
Roi and Alex didn't even have...

HEATHER
Alex, of course he didn't. That kid shouldn't even be in a bar! How'd he get this job anyway...

ROBERT
What's your point? Why are we
talking about Alex...

HEATHER
My Point? I'm looking at the bills!
The house, the car, the insurance!

ROBERT
Relax! Did you hear what I said?

HEATHER
Yes, McClutchen making 2 grand! How
much did you make?

ROBERT
Listen to me! I need your support.
Don't you think I'm stressed out
too?

HEATHER
We are running out of time!

Heather tosses the bills on the new coffee table.

ROBERT
You are the one that goes out and
buys a coffee table after I loose
my job!

HEATHER
When will you stop bringing that
up?

ROBERT
When you stop doing stupid things
like that. Locking your keys in the
car! Leaving the lights on! Running
the air conditioner with the widows
open! That costs money!

Heather turns away from Robert.

HEATHER
Well if you haven't noticed, we
haven't run the HVAC system much
lately.

ROBERT
They're turning the electric back
on tomorrow!

HEATHER

Oh, by the way, my mother just got an alarm. Security International.

ROBERT

What? How?

HEATHER

She said, "John J. get's the job done." She was upset that you didn't even think to protect her.

ROBERT

The list! He used my list. I wonder who else..

HEATHER

I'm not happy!

ROBERT

Aren't you glad we don't have kids now?

HEATHER

3rd world countries! They have children running all over the streets, and they manage to survive.

ROBERT

If survival is all you're talking about, then stop complaining! Let's live on the streets, like 3rd worlders. Look at you, sitting there complaining that the bills are due. Maybe you should be looking for a job too!

HEATHER

Oh, believe me, I am, and then I'll be getting my own place!

ROBERT

What! Don't talk like that, you spoiled brat. We have everything we need. We have...

Just then Robert throws a glass across the room and it smashes the TV. Heather hysterically crying, falls to the floor.

HEATHER

No! It's not even paid for!

ROBERT
Why did you wait up for me? Why
couldn't you have just been in bed
when I got home!

As Heather runs upstairs crying, Robert walks over to look at
the mess.

FADE IN:

50 INT. A PROSPECTS HOUSE - DAY - NEXT DAY

Roi and Robert, seated in front of FREDRICK, a wealthy
prospect who is so proud of his large custom home.

ROI
Sir, the system that we have
designed for you comes to \$200 a
day!

FREDRICK
\$200 a day, are you out of you
mind?

ROBERT
I think he means \$200 a month.
Don't you Roi.

ROI
That's right sir. I mean \$200 a
month? Would \$200 a month be
affordable to you?

FREDRICK
Well, if you're asking if I can
afford \$200 a month, the answer is
yes. But that doesn't mean I'm
willing to spend that much. My
neighbor just got an alarm for
free. He just pays for the
monitoring.

ROI
Free? How much is the monitoring?

FREDRICK
\$15.00 a month! How long have you
been in this?

ROI
I'm really just getting started.

FREDRI CK

Well, maybe you should consider a different job. They've been advertising free alarms for some time now. Any educated consumer knows you don't pay \$200 a month for an alarm. For crying out loud! That would come to...

FREDRI CK arrogantly grabs Roi's calculator, crunching the numbers.

FREDRI CK

\$200 a month for 60 months, that's \$12,000 dollars in five years. Why would I pay that kind of money? It doesn't make sense, does it?

ROI

Well, sir, I don't know what to tell you. People are certainly buying this system.

FREDRI CK

Not anyone in their right mind would! Look, I appreciate your time and effort, and I have your card here if anything comes up.

FADE IN:

51 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - OFFICE - DAY

John is standing in front of the group.

JOHN

This group needs to learn how to overcome objections! Alex, why didn't your lead get protected? What was the objection?

ALEX

They have a dog!

John starts roll playing with Alex, assuming Alex as the homeowner. John's head is bobbing back and forth when he talks, his eyes bulging in a condescending manner.

JOHN

Sir, I can appreciate that you have a dog. I have a dog too!

(MORE)

JOHN (cont'd)
But, if you don't mind me asking,
what do you mean when you say, "I
have a dog?"

ALEX
He keeps me safe.

JOHN
He keeps you safe? I can appreciate
that! Have you trained him to use
the telephone?

ALEX
Uh, no...

JOHN
If I may ask, what would happen,
god forbid, if your house caught on
fire when you were away?

ALEX
My dog would be trapped!

JOHN
Our systems can contact the fire
authorities at the 1st sign of
smoke. That's why my entire family
is protected, including my dog!
Roi, what happened with you!

ROI
Well, I told him about the \$200 a
month payment, and he jumped me
about his neighbor getting a free
one.

JOHN
I can appreciate that sir. But may
I ask you this. Here's two systems
that I have designed for you!

John runs to the whiteboard and rights down free alarm and
\$5,000 alarm.

JOHN
Most of your neighbors have this
free system, because lets face it,
who couldn't afford a free system?
Right?

ROI
Right.

JOHN
Now, sir, Do you know why it's
free?

ROI
Why?

JOHN
The components used in this system
are junk. In fact, an experienced
intruder could disarm these systems
by poking the keypad with a pinky!
Pop! But this superior system that
I've designed for you is
impregnable. If I protect your home
with this system, and all of your
neighbors have the cheap one, an
experienced intruder would violate
your neighbors house instead of
yours, right?

ROI
Right. But, I don't know if I can
remember all of that

JOHN
If you want to put food on the
table, you will. Take home your
manuals and read the chapter on
overcoming objections.

John pulls a cover off the whiteboard.

JOHN
Just take a look at the boards to
see how we have been doing!

A whiteboard displays all of the sales for the entire
company. The small list of experienced salesman have huge
gross volume for the month. The larger group in training have
ridiculously low numbers.

FADE IN:

52 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - DAY

Nova, cooking in the kitchen, hears the door SQUEEK open.
As she is facing the sink, an INTRUDER has entered the house.

NOVA

You're home early. I didn't think
I'd see you till midnight.

The intruder has snuck up on her like Roi does, put his hands over her eyes, and starts biting her neck roughly. Breathing heavily.

NOVA

Dinner will be ready... OOOH! You're
in a good mood.

NOVA

Ouch! You're being rough. What
happened, did you sell a...

INTRUDER

Roi's not home yet!

Nova screams. She fights to get loose, but the intruder holds her tighter, then throws her to the floor and points a gun in her face.

INTRUDER

Another noise like that and I
shoot!

NOVA

What do you want?

INTRUDER

Let's just say, I'm the boy in
school that got laughed at one too
many times. So, I decided to take
what I want, and I want you!

NOVA

You better leave, my husband is
coming home any second!

INTRUDER

Oh really? That's funny, when I
came in you said you thought you
wouldn't see him till midnight.
How's he doing selling by the way?

A stalling Nova, speaking nervously in fear for her life.

NOVA

Things have been pretty bad? What
do you do for a living?

INTRUDER

Oh, I just burglarize homes and
terrify women. Take off your
clothes.

Nova stares in shock.

INTRUDER

Now!

A startled Nova slowly appeases him by slowly unbuttoning her
top.

INTRUDER

That's good!

Intruder, speaking very concerned, like a true bi-polar.

INTRUDER

Do you like music? When I was
growing up, I wanted to be a rock
star so I could meet a girl like
you.

Intruder inserts the cd while keeping a close eye on Nova.

The lyrics, accompanied by an eerie acoustic guitar
performance:

LYRICS

If I can't have you,
and if I'm denied.
If I can't have you,
you're going to die.
I never wanted to kill,
but if I can't have you,
No one will...

INTRUDER

Isn't this a lovely song? It sums
up exactly how I feel. Oh, I'm
going to need you to take off the
shirt and the pants. That's right,
nice and easy.

As Nova is slowly following his orders, the Intruder places
his gun on the countertop.

INTRUDER

I watched you shopping today. I
thought you might have been picking
out Roi's favorite food. Now I'm
picking Roi's favorite food.

NOVA

So you know Roi?

INTRUDER

Oh, just from my research. I'm a perfectionist when it comes to details.

NOVA

I'd like to introduce you to him. He's really a great guy. You'd like him.

INTRUDER

Don't talk that way. It's such a turn off, and I'm really not interested in guys.

Nova backs herself more into a corner as the intruder approaches. Her eye catches the book on the counter, HOW TO SELL ANYONE, ANYTIME. Focus on the book. She glares at the gun out of the corner of her eyes. Focus on the gun. She is now closer to the gun than the intruder.

NOVA

But the song, it said, ...if I can't have you..."? I never rejected you, now did I?

INTRUDER

You would have. I've been doing this long enough to know. I mean, look at me! I'm hideous! I can't get a girl! Can't keep a job.

NOVA

You're not hideous.

INTRUDER

It's a fine line between a lover and "stalker"?

NOVA

What?

INTRUDER

Why can't women just tell the truth? "It was nice to meet you, I'll call, definitely." The phone never rings. Hot chicks like you, all the same!

NOVA
It's a numbers game!

INTRUDER
Numbers what?

Long pause

INTRUDER
I've killed before, and I'll kill
again.

NOVA
It's like any sales pitch. You talk
to 30 people, 2 are interested, and
you close the deal on one of them.
I'll bet you haven't talked to 30
hot chicks, have you?

INTRUDER
Did you hear what I said?

NOVA
You just have to get a good sales
pitch.

INTRUDER
To be denied? You heard the song.
What will happen if I'm denied?
It's true. If it rhymes it's true!
Sing with me.

Intruder cues the song again, syncs up with the lyrics.

INTRUDER
...If I can't have you, and if I'm
denied. Sing with me! ...if I can't
have you, you're going to die...

Nova joins in the song in total fright peering at the gun on
the countertop.

NOVA
...if I can't have you...I'm going to
try...

Intruder stops the music angrily.

INTRUDER
No, no, no! It clearly says "die",
not try!

NOVA
But they both rhyme...

INTRUDER
You really shouldn't mess with me.
Look at me! I've invaded your home.
I have you laying practically naked
on the floor of your kitchen. For
god sake, I'm playing this
psychopathic music on your home
stereo. You have to admit, I'm
pretty freaky, right?

NOVA
Look, you want the stereo? We have
insurance. I can help you load it
in your car...

INTRUDER
Do I look like a small time
larcenist to you! I don't want the
stereo! I'm a sexual offender for
Christ sake! I want you!

NOVA
I want to hear the rest of the
song, something about suicide.

INTRUDER
Nice try, but that's just
figurative. It represents how
serious I am about this!

NOVA
You have a good voice. Can I hear
the song again? You should think
about a career in...

INTRUDER
Listen! I'm in control, not you! I
have the power. No one can stop me!
No one ever stops me! Take it off,
now!

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Roi opens the front door and discovers the dangerous situation.
- B) Intruder turns in surprise
- C) Nova lunges for the gun.

- D) Roi Charges at the intruder.
- E) Intruder, turns and beats Nova to the gun, knocking her to the floor.
- F) Roi dives out the kitchen window seeing the gun pointing his direction.
- G) Intruder turns pointing gun at Nova.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INTRUDER

Ow! That's gotta hurt. Can you believe he'd abandon you like that?

A CRASH of glass scatters throughout the room, as Roi, diving through the opposite window, tackles the intruder. A ferocious hit, driving the head of the intruder into the tile floor.

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) The motionless intruder laying on the tile floor.
- B) Nova lunging into Roi's arms as they embrace.
- C) Paramedics hauling out a covered body from the house.
- D) Roi, with a cordless drill, screwing plywood over the broken windows.
- E) Nightfall, Roi comforts Nova as she reads brochure about alarms.

END OF SERIES OF SHOTS

FADE IN:

53 INT. BUSINESS OFFICE - EVENING

Robert enters the office and approaches the receptionist.

ROBERT

Hello, I'm here for an interview with...

RECEPTIONIST

Yes, it's the conference room at the end of the hallway. They're expecting you.

Robert marching to the interview room, to his surprise, a full house. JAMIE, a pompous want-to-be sales manager is directing the show.

JAMIE

Welcome. Come forward. Lets fill in the seats. Ok, we're going to get started. I'm glad you could all make it for the interview. I'm really excited to tell you all about the opportunity we have for each of you tonight. My name is Jamie Smith! I'm the V.P. of this exploding company! As you may or may not know from the phone interview, we're a very successful company. I should say a very active, very lucrative company.

Jamie flips a large poster card, now revealing the company secrets. A MLM Company!

JAMIE

I'm going to get right to the point! How many people in this room have either made a phone call, or know someone that has?

A deep gasp chorus permeates the room.

JAMIE

That's right, you may have guessed it. Wouldn't it be great if every time someone you know makes a phone call, you make money? Excited yet? We're talking about money like you've never seen before. Our industry is in an upswing and we have the facts to prove it! In 3 years, our company is going to be a multi-billion dollar business. This is a ground floor opportunity! But before we go any further, I'd like to know more about you all. Let's start in the front row, ma'am.

VICKI

My name is Vicki. I have been selling copy machines to large businesses. I'm a single mom looking to make more money. That's why I need this job.

JAMIE

Great, and you sir.

JOHN

My name is John J. McMurphy.

Robert is shocked, confused, down right angry. He makes a B-line for the exit, hearing John's words fade.

JOHN

I'm a manager of a security company, looking to make more money. Pay the bills if you will. I'm very interested in what I have heard during the interview...

FADE IN:

54 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A loud THUMP downstairs. A frightened Nova wakes Roi.

NOVA

Someone's at the door!

As if in one motion, Roi has his shoes on and whips out a machete from under the bed, to Nova's surprise.

NOVA

That thing was under our bed?

ROI

I'll take care of this! Stay here.
Lock the door.

Roi works his way downstairs. Nova follows behind. Roi stops, gestures for her to go back. Nova shakes head no. A light shines outside the front door. Slowly CREAKING open. A horn BLASTS.

CAMERAMAN

Surprise! Look at the Camera.

It's John J. McMurphy accompanied by a CAMERAMAN shining a bright light in his face. A squinting Roi, speaking half-spooked.

ROI
Can I help you?

JOHN
It's me, John J McMurphy! Didn't Robert tell you? I have many jobs!
Ha Hah Ha!

ROI
He called me earlier, but...

JOHN
I also represent Worldwide Sweepstakes, and your family was selected as the \$1 million winner. Congratulations! Is this your signature, Roi?

ROI
I don't remember signing any sweepstakes... Nova? Did you sign this!

NOVA
What is it? What's going on?

ROI
It's John, from work. He said we just...

JOHN
That's right, your family has just won the \$10 million sweepstakes! No more bills! No more crazy sales leads! This is the beginning your financial security Roi! What will you do with \$1 billion!

ROI
One billion?

NOVA
One Billion?

JOHN
Stay with me here. This is not a dream! You won! You're a winner!

Roi walks around the house picking up things and smashing them. He's walking around the floor in his bare feet walking in glass.

ROI

What, not a dream? Slap me in the face Nova. Is this real? It has to be real, I'm not waking up. It's for real.

NOVA

It's for real! It is! We won!

Nova lays a slap across his face leaving her handprint.

Roi runs to the mirror, sees the handprint.

ROI

It's for real! I can pay off all of our debts.

Nova tears up papers marked bankruptcy as Roi starts celebrating.

JOHN

It is real! It's not a dream!

A sudden change in tempo as John murmurs to Roi.

JOHN

Sorry about the break-in earlier. That must have been rough, huh? To come home, and the nerve of that guy.

ROI

How did you know about...

JOHN

It doesn't matter now. You can buy the best system in the biz!

Roi speechless, staring at the camera man and his assistant.

ROI

Principal Lurch? Nova, look it's my high school principal and my English teacher, they...

Another slap to the face courtesy of Nova, Roi's eyes open.

NOVA
Roi, wake up! Your feet, the glass
Roi...

Roi awakens, standing in broken glass, stunned.

FADE IN:

55 EXT. ROBERT'S CAR - NIGHT

Robert, pulling into his home driveway, takes notice that the clock displays 1:00 AM. As he opens the car door, his dome light shines on his dismal sales record. After a quick glance, he throws them to the car floor in disgust. A quick glance in the mirror, and to his shock, large clumps of hair have fallen out. Reaching to his hair, he pulls out even more.

FADE IN:

56 INT. ROBERT'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Robert walking into a pitch black foyer, flips on a soft light. Robert drops his necktie onto the coffee table, glancing down seeing a pile of unopened mail.

To his surprise, another new COFFEE TABLE. He slides his hand across the table as if "feeling is believing".

As Robert heads up the stairs he hears a faint MOAN, sounding like a sick animal. He slowly starts walking up the steps. With each step, the MOAN is louder.

57 INT. ROBERTS HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

The door opens slightly. A low CREEK. Robert is standing outside the bedroom in shock, afraid to open the door further, choices to listen to John and Heather.

JOHN
You want to be happy don't you? Of course you do. Tell me you want to be happy.

HEATHER
Yes. I want to be happy.

JOHN
We can go deeper now can't we?

HEATHER

We can try, but it's best if you just try to relax... Breath in, that's good, relax...

JOHN

This is a win-win situation. You want to have kids, don't you? It just makes sense doesn't it?

HEATHER

Well, I guess when you put it that way. I mean Robert could focus on his sales, and...

JOHN

Exactly. It could be a while before he starts calming down, what, with the stress of his new career. I'd be glad to do this for you. For both of you! You won't regret this.

A shaking Robert slowly pushes open the door. CREAK. Heather is wearing her nighties and massaging John on a massage table in the candle lit bedroom. John turns, seeing a shocked, jealous husband, appears unaffected by his presence. Using a James Bond voice.

JOHN

What a pleasant surprise. Did you sell one tonight?

ROBERT

What is this... Heather, why?

HEATHER

Robert, it's an art form!

ROBERT

Heather, why?

HEATHER

I just thought somebody should be making an income...

JOHN

She's really good!

John starts laughing in a real sinister, hideous laugh. The laugh echoes throughout the room. Heather starts the same laugh. Robert starts panicking and screams.

ROBERT

NO! You're not going to screw me at work and then walk into my house and...

A diving Robert lands on John as they wrestle. Wrestling, turning to tossing and turning. They are completely covered by the sheets. Heather is caught in the middle, but she manages to turn on a bright light. She pulls off the sheets and Robert is wrestling the pillow.

HEATHER

Stop it! You are scaring me!

Robert wakes up from his dream as Heather calms him down. Robert just lays in bed on his back staring at the ceiling.

MUSIC. SAVE A SINNER

CUT TO:

58 INT: ALEX'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Alex dressed in Goth, candles lit. A knife is laying on the table. Alex's looking at the PHOTO of the girl. Listening to song, Save a Sinner. In the background, the following vocals are heard:

LYRICS

When I talk out
Words of faith with doubt
All the while, I knew, in the end
I'd be tried and condemned
Forgiver deliver me from sin
I've tried to defend my stand
and I've reached the conclusion
Nothing's proven
Until it happens
Forgiver deliver me from sin

ALEX

I thought no one could hurt me more than you. Then I met him.

Alex picks up the knife and his CARICATURE that he has drawn in pen and ink of John and sticks it onto the wall next to the PHOTO.

ALEX

When am I getting paid John?

Alex, singing the chorus while staring in the mirror.

ALEX

Save...

LYRICS

Save a sinner

Save...

Save my soul

Alex looks around the room deeply thinking.

FADE IN:

59 INT. ROI'S HOUSE - MORNING

Nova is finishing a new painting on an easel depicting a sweaty half naked man, the sun burning down, as an evil suited boss pushes him to produce. Nova watching as Roi gets ready for work, pouring coffee.

NOVA

I can't believe you're even going in today.

Roi and Nova look at the plywood.

ROI

I wasn't thinking.

NOVA

No... Go in. We need the... It's not like he's coming back.

ROI

Right, I mean, what are the odds of there being...

NOVA

Right, just go...

SON charges in the room wearing a ski mask that covers his face.

SON

I'll protect you, mom. I can scare anybody away!

Nova laughs a little. Roi rips the mask off of his face.

NOVA

I know you will sweetie.

ROI
Remember what I taught you?

SON strikes a defensive pose.

NOVA
He's showing up in your dreams. Why don't you look for a another job?

ROI
Honey, I have been looking. But I have to finish what I started.

NOVA
What does that mean? What are you..

ROI
I am going to fight for us! Who knows what the world holds for us? But, no matter what happens, know this. I've always loved you. Always have, always will!

Nova quickly strokes blue and white paint on Roi's face.

NOVA
Ok, Braveheart. Freedom!

ROI
..Freedom!

Roi hugs Nova, a tender kiss, as son jumps in and hugs them both. Roi tucks the mask into his jacket pocket.

ROI
And you won't be needing this mask. Frightening your mother like that...

Roi messing up his son's hair, static shocks him. This starts a playful reaction of all 3 of them charging their socks and static shocking each other.

FADE IN:

60 EXT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - MORNING

Standing just outside the rear entrance, Roi, Robert and Alex are softly talking, but clearly all are in disgust. Above their heads, the sign reads "Protecting Lives is our Reality"

ROBERT

He was at the interview! Saying something about needing to make extra money.

ALEX

Just add that to the list.

Roi kicks the wall in protest.

ROI

I've heard all I need to hear.

Will, having just arrived in his sports sedan, approaches guys at the rear entrance.

WILL

If a bomb hit here, you'd all be dead!

ALEX

Got that right!

WILL

Better get inside! Don't want John to get upset.

ROBERT

We'll be right in.

FADE IN:

61 INT. SECURITY INTERNATIONAL - MORNING

John and 2 of his assistants are sitting in front of the room while all the other salesmen are seated in the rows of seats. John, speaking to two managers.

PAUL

The police said it was self-defense. It all happened so fast.

ASSISTANT 2

I told you he's too intense.

JOHN

Well, we don't have a choice in the matter.

PAUL

What, firing him?

JOHN

It's all over the news. It's going to kill our reputation. Security International employee doesn't need an alarm system! He just kills intruders.

ASSISTANT 2

You sure you're not taking it personal.

John walks in front of the group to get the morning started. A pair of hands plugs in a device that connects to the PA mic

JOHN

Well, it is time to get started. I see almost everyone has made it on time. Anyone that is late will be penalized. We're nearing the end of the month, and we really need to start seeing results from this group.

From the front entrance, a loud interruption occurs. A MASKED MAN, (black ski mask) carrying a handgun, charges to the front of the room screaming orders.

MASKED MAN

Everyone stay where you are and nobody gets hurt!

Masked man shouting to John.

MASKED MAN

John, tie him to the chair. Now!
Him too!

John follows his orders. The masked man pushes John to the open chair in the front of the room.

MASKED MAN

I'm going to need you to sit here!

He aggressively ties John to the seat while cautiously watching the rest of the group.

MASKED MAN

If nobody tries to be a hero, I won't have to use this!

He holds the gun for all to see.

MASKED MAN

This is between management and myself!

JOHN

They are management!

MASKED MAN

Well, that's what we all signed up for, am I right everyone? Come on! Don't be afraid. I want to see a show of hands from everyone that applied for a management position.

As entire group reluctantly raise their hands, the Masked Man pulls out a newspaper clipping.

MASKED MAN

In fact, let me read the ad that got us all here!

Reading like an enthusiastic, naive applicant would.

MASKED MAN

"Earn while you learn. \$4000.00 and more while training. 30 managers needed for immediate hire. Overwhelming growth. Expanding in 20 cities this year."

JOHN

Yeh! That sounds like the casting call I wrote.

MASKED MAN

Managers? Managers? We are at best, at best, salesman in training!

JOHN

You may not yet be managers, but managers you will be, if you follow the plan, and if...

MASKED MAN

Oh, Johnny, I'm the one in control now. Watching you swagger back and forth in front of us like you were God's gift to the planet earth. Leading us on, tapping into our friends and family.

(MORE)

MASKED MAN (cont'd)
Using us to get your foot in the door so you can come in with your high powered closing skills and sell them, sorry, I mean "protect them", right?

JOHN
Just listen to what you're saying. You think I had you to make a list of people you knew so I could sell them?

MASKED MAN
Yes, exactly!

John, revolting, arrogant.

JOHN
I had you call the people you knew so you could start out protecting the ones you love most. And if, in the process, you gain more experience in your job, then that's just smart, isn't it?

Masked man approaches and puts the gun to John's head.

MASKED MAN
Good sales pitch! But I'm not buying it!

JOHN
Tell them Mark. Who've you protected so far? Tell them!

MARK
Yes sir. I've protected my parents, my sister and her husband. My neighbors, on both sides of my house, and I have...

JOHN
And because you protected both of your neighbors, what did you qualify for?

MARK
I get free monitoring.

JOHN

That's right, because we believe that if you had the decency to protect both of your neighbors, then you have just made yourself vulnerable to an attack, didn't you? So we protect you!

MARK

That's right sir!

MASKED MAN

Would you just zip it! He's just one person who made it! I distinctively heard you say, just before I stormed in this morning, that we need to see results! Let's hear from someone else! Tara!

John, looking to the rear of the room, notices that the rear entrance door is cracked open.

TARA

Well, pretty good.

MASKED MAN

Come on! Tell us your commission earnings!

TARA

Well, \$900 dollars so far.

MASKED MAN

Let's see, not exactly the \$4 G's a month we were told, now is it?

JOHN

I've been doing this long enough to know who's working the plan, and who is not. Mark, how many calls do you make a day?

MARK

Well, just like you said, make 30 phone calls and if only 2 people agree to an appointment, and one of those get protected..

MASKED MAN

You sound brainwashed!

MARK

Then call me brainwashed, but it works.

MASKED MAN

If you want I can tie you up, too!

Mark sinks into his chair, covering his mouth.

JOHN

Tara, how many calls do you make? Tell us. Don't be afraid.

TARA

Well, I tried to call 30, but usually I just call about 10 people.

JOHN

Mark, tell us, did you have any success in your first 10 calls.

MARK

No sir. I had to call 30.

JOHN

And you could do this in less than an hour couldn't you?

MARK

Yes sir.

MASKED MAN

No way!

MARK

It's true!

MASKED MAN

Mark, I'm serious! There's still an empty seat here!

MARK

Yes sir!

JOHN

How can you stand here and say no way? You've never tried!

MASKED MAN

I made my calls! I got nothing!

JOHN

You tell me right now, how many calls did you make each night? Your threatening my live, but you didn't even protect your own home, did you?

MASKED MAN

I made the calls! I called people! You're going to get what you deserve!

JOHN

Fine, you want to kill me? Go ahead, kill me! But I challenge you! Let them be the proof! Take the survey.

MASKED MAN

I'll take that challenge. You just signed your death certificate.

JOHN

Stand up if you made 30 calls a night and didn't make the commissions I promised! Stand up!

MASKED MAN

You heard him, don't be afraid, stand up! I'm doing this for you guys! Stand up!

JOHN

Nobody! You say that you're doing this for them? You can't even look at them and say that you stuck with the plan, can you? Turn and face the truth!

The Masked Man turns to the group, dropping his head, lowering his gun.

JOHN

You're standing before them telling them they can't make the money I promised, but you haven't even tried the plan.

MASKED MAN

I made a lot of calls. I tried. People hung up on me. People that I know hung up on me.

John begins speaking like a concerned parent to a helpless child.

JOHN
Mark, did people hang up on you?

MARK
My own grandmother.

A low nervous LAUGHTER throughout the room.

JOHN
But what did you do?

MARK
Like you said in training.. I called you.

JOHN
Now, tell me who is "doing it for them"?

MASKED MAN
You have an answer for everything! Answer this. If you are making so much money, working the plan, then you tell them where you were last night!

JOHN
What does that have to do with..

MASKED MAN
Last night John was at a job interview! Well, at least it was supposed to be an interview. Turned out to be a stupid Multi-Level-Marketing scam.

JOHN
I was learning their system. Looking for ways to help our company become even more profitable. You would like that wouldn't you? Listen, I've told you all before, I will do anything it takes!

MASKED MAN
More profitable? I've made nothing. They're taking my car! My wife is...

JOHN

It's not too late! You don't have to do this!

MASKED MAN

I have to do this. I have no choice!

JOHN

We can turn this around. I can help you.

MASKED MAN

What can you do, it's too late!

JOHN

Are you saying you can't make 30 calls a night?

MASKED MAN

I'll never be able to do what you can do!

JOHN

Of course you can! It's a lot easier than committing this crime, isn't it? Just make the calls and it's a win, win! Protect homes, save your career! It's not too late!

MASKED MAN

Oh, it's too late! I can't do this anymore. I'm going to end it all right now!

SERIES OF SHOTS

- A) Rear entrance door bursts open, Roi beginning a heroic charge.
- B) Masked man pointing the gun to John's head.
- C) Roi still charging, unnoticed.
- D) John is terrified, shaking, as the Masked Man's finger is squeezing tighter on the trigger.
- E) Roi hurling his body, tackling the Masked Man precisely as the gun trigger is fully pulled.
- F) A shot of water squirts John in the face.

- G) Roi, slamming Masked Man into the carpet.
- H) The plastic gun smashes to pieces against the wall.
- I) Water streaks down the wall.
- J) Entire group motionless, stunned.
- K) Robert and Alex are standing in rear of room near the open door.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Roi rips off the mask, revealing Will. A single but loud APPLAUSE echoes throughout the room. Pan around to reveal that John is not only applauding, he's standing. His 2 assistants stand up, the ropes fall off effortlessly, and they begin to applaud. Slowly everyone in the room join in. Roi stands up and is puzzled, confused. He looks at John and his assistants, turns to see everyone else is also applauding. Another applaud joins in nearer to him. It's the Masked Man, Will, who is now standing and applauding. Roi is even more confused.

JOHN

Well done! Wonderful! If this doesn't demonstrate the need for home protection, what does? I want to thank Will for a wonderful performance!

Applauds get even louder and consistent. Roi's world starts to spin around him as he starts to have an awareness of what really has happened. Not just the fake hostage situation, but everything in his recent life.

62 SERIES OF SHOTS (ALL FLASHBACKS)

- A) The red gumball spinning making a rolling noise layered to sound score of eerie music.
- B) Close up of John's face saying, "makes sense doesn't it"?
- C) Mark saying "...30 calls, just like you said John."
- D) Roi looking at John J. at Spice, where John is pointing to Nova. A closer look we reveal that John J. is talking to the Intruder that later attacks Nova.
- E) Nova, laying on the kitchen floor as the Stalker turns to him.

- F) John saying, "I'll do anything it takes..."
- G) John saying "Sorry about the break in earlier. That must have been rough, huh?"
- H) Jed, Jed's wife and son laughing hideously.
- I) John saying, "make a L-0-T of money".
- J) John, Will and the entire group applauding this current act.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Roi turns to listen to John speaking motivationally.

JOHN
Like I said, I will do anything it
takes.

Roi is standing stunned in the middle of the room. Camera begins full rotation, slowly from his front. As camera rotates around him, the applauding continues.

FADE IN:

63 INT. FILM REVIEW ROOM - DAY

The camera has reached it's full rotation, we finally see Roi's face, smiling while applauding. We can see the entire room. Roi is standing in the middle of a FILM REVIEW THEATER with a group of STUDIO INVESTORS and FILM MAKERS applauding. There's a large screen with the movie HELP WANTED. Over Roi's head, we can see the stunned Roi on the movie screen. Investors are watching the movie credits while applauding. The studio investors, One by one, approaching Roi to congratulate him.

INVESTOR
Roi, we loved it. Your best movie yet! And they said you could only do Sci-fi! Hollywood, for god sake, the world, will love this.

ROI
I told you I'd do anything it takes. Thank you. You're too kind.

INVESTOR 2
We want to do this! You got yourself a deal! Let do this!

ROI
You're going to make a l-o-t of
money! You won't regret it!

The smiling Roi, looks up at the stunned Roi on the movie screen. The film credits roll. Use these as the actual movie credits. Roi stares at the camera.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Overlay the following flashback shots

The gumball rolling around

Roi tapping the answering machine and we hear the message claiming to be Ralph Farger, saying "I've been roofing 10 years, got my own truck"

Roi in bathroom saying the words "I've been roofing 10 years, got my..."

Roi asks directs camera and lights in scene 31

Nova and Roi, Scene 27, Roi says "I'm writing a script"

Show the footage of Roi's hand writing the words as Jed and John voice them from scene 42

The End

Song Credits:

Rick Jackson: If I can't have you. Save A Sinner

Script Written by Caustic

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