NewsRadia

"Arcade"

#304

Written by Brian Kelley

Directed by Tom Cherones

> 2ND REVISED TABLE DRAFT September 6, 1996

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NewsRadio

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#304

2nd Revised Table Draft - 9/6/96

CAST

DAVE DAVE FOLEY
JIMMY STEPHEN ROOT
MATTHEW ANDY DICK
LISA MAURA TIERNEY
BETH VICKI LEWIS
JOE JOE ROGAN
CATHERINE KHANDI ALEXANDER
and
BILL PHIL HARTMAN
VENDING MANTBA
KID #1 TBA
KID #2 TBA
KID #3 TBA
GIRL TBA

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<u>SETS</u>

<u>INTERIORS</u>

BULLPEN	(D)	(N)
DAVE'S OFFICE	(D)	
ELEVATOR FOYER	(D)	(N)
HALLWAY OUTSIDE TESTING CENTER	(D)	
ARCADE	(D)	

ACT ONE

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. BULLPEN - MORNING (D-1)
(Dave, Joe, Matthew, Beth, Catherine, Bill, Lisa)

* A staff meeting is in progress. Everyone except Bill is there. Dave has a suggestion box with him.

DAVE

And finally, the moment you've all been waiting for. (HOLDS UP ENVELOPE) That's right -- it's time to announce the winner of the Dave Nelson Budget-Cutter of the Month Award!

Silence from the staff.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Come on. Can't you guys at least pretend to be into this?

JOE

Matthew's into it. .

They look at Matthew, who has his eyes closed and his fingers crossed and is rocking back and forth.

MATTHEW

(TO HIMSELF) Come on, come on, come on...

DAVE

Matthew might be a little <u>too</u> into this.

MATTHEW

I can't stand the suspense anymore.

Matthew grabs the envelope out of Dave's hand and rips it open.

MATTHEW (CONT'D) *

Who is it? Who is it? Who is it?

DAVE

That's actually my phone bill,

Matthew. I was playing make-believe.

The Budget-Cutter of the Month award

goes to... Beth!

BETH *

Yes! (TO GROUP) In your face!

(POINTS TO EACH) You. You. You. You.

DAVE

That's not quite the spirit of the award, but congratulations nonetheless. Beth's idea: (FROM A NOTECARD) "Get rid of the old sandwich vending machine in the lobby, which costs us an arm and a leg to rent and no one uses."

JOE

What about my suggestion?

DAVE

(FROM ANOTHER NOTECARD) That was...

"Stop paying the station's taxes

until NASA admits there are pyramids
on Mars?"

JOE * Youh, which you had?

I'm not asking them to go there. A

simple acknowledgment would be
enough.

DAVE

Well, maybe you'll win next month. In the most have the condition of the c

all those boxes of paper clips? No one really uses them.

MATTHEW

I do!

JOE

Yeah, but making necklaces and bracelets doesn't count.

Matthew pulls the collar of his sweater up higher to conceal his paperclip necklace.

MATTHEW

(SOUR GRAPES) I don't see what was so bad about the sandwich machine.

JOE

That thing's been there since the Ford Administration.

CATHERINE *

So have the sandwiches in it. Has anyone ever actually tried to eat one of those dried-out, leathery old... specimens?

Bill has exited the booth and joined them.

BILL

What are you guys talking about?

DAVE

The sandwich machine by the elevators.

BILL

Best sandwiches in the city.

LISA *

I think I'm going to be sick.

BILL

They're an acquired taste. Like a good wine or cheese, a sandwich needs to be properly aged.

General disgust from everyone.

BILL (CONT'D)

In the olden days, a country squire would age his pheasants for weeks before they were fit for consumption.

LISA

In the "olden days," people died of ptomaine poisoning and blamed it on ghosts.

BILL

All this talk of aged lunchmeat and ghosts has made me peckish. I'll be at the sandwich machine if I'm needed.

Bill exits.

BETH

So what do I win?

DAVE

You get to call the vending company and tell them to pick up the sandwich machine.

BETH *

And then I get the tiara?

The staff disperses. Bill re-enters, unwrapping a vending machine sandwich in a loud, crinkly wrapper. He walks up to Dave, and takes a bite. The sandwich is so old it crunches. Bill gives Dave a friendly salute with his leathery sandwich, and exits into the booth.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

SCENE B

FADE IN:

INT. BULLPEN/DAVE'S OFFICE - LATER (D-1)
(Matthew, Lisa, Beth, Dave, Bill)

Lisa is at the conference table reading the paper. Matthew approaches.

MATTHEW

Anybody do the Jumble yet?

LISA

Looks like you beat the rush.

MATTHEW

Yes! Cause I got Jumble Fever, and I got it bad.

LISA *

Matthew, I keep telling you if you take your quinine, that won't be a problem.

MATTHEW *

Oh, well, it's not a real fever.

Jumble's this scrambled word game.

The letters are all mixed-up, and
you rearrange them to make a word
and--

LISA *

I know. It's pretty simple.

MATTHEW

Oh sure -- "simple." Like an atomic bomb.

LISA *

Doing the Jumble is nothing but a waste of brain energy.

MATTHEW

And those creepy math tricks you do aren't?

LISA

I don't do math "tricks."

MATTHEW

Square root of 5,312.

LISA

(IMMEDIATELY) 72.8835

MATTHEW

Okay, that was an easy one.

LISA

(RE: THE PAPER) Take it.

They move on to the next word.

MATTHEW

Zzz, zzz, zzzat, zzzzet--

LISA

There's no "z".

Beth walks up and glances at the puzzle.

BETH

"Glove."

MATTHEW

"Glove!" Phew. Tough one. Good eye, good eye.

BETH *

(MOVING QUICKLY) "Chalk." "Glove."

"Mostly." "Detain." And "How did the mixed doubles team fare in the big match?" Answer: "They fell in love."

Duh. (BOWS) Thank you.

MATTHEW *

(LAUGHING) "They fell in love." Oh, it's a pun! Because in tennis, love means something different! Get it!

LISA

(TO BETH) How did you do that?

BETH

(TO LISA) You see those letters?
When you rearrange them, they spell a word.

BETH

"Junior," "Revamp," "Tardy,"

"Lariat." And the manager said the pinch hitter would be a "Change for the batter."

MATTHEW

(LAUGHS) Change for the batter.

BETH

(LAUGHS) ...for the batter.

Matthew laughs even harder.

BETH (CONT'D)

(SOBER) Actually, I don't get it.

What does it mean?

MATTHEW

(EMBARRASSED) I was just laughing because you were.

Lisa exits to Dave's office.

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Dave's at his desk. Lisa enters.

DAVE *

(NOT LOOKING UP) I'm kind of busy right now, Beth. (BEAT) Bill. (BEAT) Catherine, Matthew. Joe? Guy who repairs the copier? (BEAT) Lisa?

LISA

Why am I last?

DAVE

(FINALLY SEES HER) Because you're not as needy as the other children.

LISA

It's finally happening. I'm getting stupider.

DAVE

What?

LISA

The human brain starts deteriorating irreversibly after the age of thirty.

DAVE

Where'd you hear that?

LISA

I don't remember. (AS IF THIS PROVES IT) See? See?

DAVE

This reminds me of the time my Uncle
Larry--

LISA

Yes, I'm sure it does. I couldn't even solve the Jumble, Dave. The <u>Jumble</u>!

DAVE *

Well, the point is to rearrange the letters until you spell a word--

LISA

I know!

DAVE *

See -- you're not so dumb after all!
Lisa shuts the door and sits in front of Dave's desk.

LISA

(SERIOUS) I can't even listen to NPR anymore. I try to focus on what they're saying, but my mind wanders and I get confused.

DAVE

Isn't that what's supposed to happen when you listen to NPR?

LISA

I used to listen to it all the time in high school.

DAVE

So you think you're stupider than "high-school Lisa"?

LISA

Possibly. Probably. Definitely.

DAVE

Maybe you should retake the SAT's and find out for sure.

LISA

Ha ha. But you know, I did get an 800 on my--

DAVE

Yes, I know, I know.

Beth enters with a clipboard.

BETH

Knock, knock. Here, sign this.

Dave signs it, Beth starts to leave.

DAVE *

I didn't just sign for a stolen jeep, did I, Radar?

BETH

Nope. It's for the guys who are here to replace the sandwich machine.

DAVE

(NOT LOOKING UP) Replace it with what? I thought we were getting rid of it. Beth?

Beth has exited.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(TO LISA) Alright, where were we?

LISA

(THINKS) Um... I'm getting stupider.

See? See?

DAVE

Well, we always knew this day would come, Algernon.

Lisa stares at Dave. She's trying desperately to remember who Algernon is.

LISA

I understand the general principle, but how did you solve it so fast?

BETH

Well, you look at the letters and one of them goes "Put me first!" and then the other ones are like, "I'm second, and my friend Mr. E is third." (EMBARRASSED) Know what? I'd really rather not reveal the intricacies of my process.

Lisa shuffles through the papers on the desk, finds another Jumble, and surreptitiously tries to work it out. She writes and erases furiously.

MATTHEW

(TO BETH) You <u>are</u> really good at that...can you do this?

Matthew bends his thumb backwards until it touches his wrist.

BETH

Eww, no, can you do this?

Beth crosses her eyes, touches her tongue to her nose and rotates her right index finger in one direction and her left finger in the opposite direction. Matthew tries and fails.

MATTHEW

That's hard...

Beth glances over Lisa's shoulder and flies through the jumble.

DAVE

What monstrosity?

* Bill exits. Dave jumps up and follows. As Bill leaves, he drops a sandwich. It hits the coffee table with a loud thud.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. ELEVATOR FOYER - MOMENTS LATER (D-1)
(Bill, Dave, Beth, Lisa, Catherine, Joe, Matthew, Vending Man)

Dave and Bill enter. Beth is there, along with a vending company man. He's about to haul out the sandwich machine.

BILL

Alright, my good man. We'll have no further use for your services. This is the manager, and he's not about to let you take these poor, delicious souls from their home.

DAVE

Just ignore him.

VENDING MAN

I'm trying.

DAVE

Beth, what's this about "replacing" the sandwich machine?

BETH

Relax. Just another Budget-Cutter of the Month concept, compliments of the reigning champion.

VENDING MAN

You got a garbage can? I found this behind the machine.

The vending man holds up an even more ancient sandwich.

BILL

I'll take that.

BETH

It looks like it's been back there for twenty years.

BILL

Hand it over! Gently, gently.

Bill delicately adds the treasured sandwich to his pile. The vending man wheels the sandwich machine into the elevator, revealing it's replacement:

An old arcade-style "Stargate Defender" video game...

BETH

Ta da!

DAVE

No. Nuh-uh. Absolutely not.

BETH

Hear me out. With a cash cow like this we won't just save money, we'll make it. One quarter at a time.

DAVE

No. Get it out of here. Quickly.

BETH

A good pinball machine like this will bring in--

DAVE *

First of all, it isn't a pinball machine. It's a classic arcade game from 1981, the glory days of the pre-16 bit processors.

BETH *

Right. And I think the point is to shoot all the space ships--

DAVE *

No, the point is to save the last remaining humanoids from the alien landers. That is, if the Ellabbian Space Guppies don't get you first.

BETH *

How do you know so much about it?

DAVE *

It just... seems like common sense.

BETH *

Hang on. You weren't one of those weird, pale, friendless virgins in high school who spent every day in the arcade hunched over the controls of a simulated space ship, were you?

Beth exits. Dave is alone. He looks around, and when he's sure she's gone, he dashes back to the machine.

Lisa enters, peering at the back of a cereal box. Dave covers. While Lisa talks to Dave, Dave is obviously distracted and transfixed by the video game.

LISA

(TO DAVE) There are supposed to be five differences between these two pictures.

DAVE

Good to know.

LISA

I can only find two.

DAVE

The dog's hat is tilted the other way.

LISA

Well, duh.

DAVE

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There's one more frog.

LISA

Got it.

DAVE

I see. Incidentally, you know they changed the I.Q. test? It turns out games on the backs of cereal boxes don't weigh as heavily in your overall score.

Catherine crosses from stairwell to bullpen.

CATHERINE

(NOT STOPPING) The cowboy's boots are bigger.

Joe crosses from bullpen to bathroom.

JOE

(NOT STOPPING) The balloons are missing.

Matthew crosses to bullpen.

MATTHEW

(NOT STOPPING) Balloons hadn't been invented yet back in cowboy times.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. DAVE'S OFFICE/BULLPEN - THAT AFTERNOON (D-1)
(Bill, Dave, Jimmy, Beth, Lisa, Joe)

Dave is trying to work. Bill is on the couch, eating a couple of sandwiches. When he unwraps them, there is a very distinctive loud crinkle.

Bill eats very slowly, savoring each morsel. Each morsel is also remarkably loud and crunchy.

BILL

Mmmmmmm. Oh, yeah.

DAVE

I really don't understand how you can eat those things.

BILL

They aren't what you would call conventionally tasty. I guess they just remind me of the sandwiches my mother used to make for me.

DAVE

Your mother made sandwiches like that?

BILL

(FONDLY RECALLING) Yes. She'd make a month's worth of sandwiches at a time, then leave them for me in a box on the porch.(BEAT) She was quite a woman.

DAVE

I'll bet.

BILL

Of course, now I have to ration these. Like a squirrel, burying a precious bone. While those... those "vidiots" play that infernal machine...

DAVE

No one's playing the video game. I took the extension cord.

Dave points to his coat rack, where the extension cord hangs. Jimmy enters.

JIMMY

What's the buzz? Tell me what's a-happenin'?

DAVE

Hi, Mr. James.

BILL

(OFFERING SANDWICH) Hungry, Jim?

JIMMY

(LOOKS) I was.

Bill exits. Jimmy walks over to the window.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

(LOOKING OUT) Hey. That guy down there has a gun. What the--

Dave crosses quickly to the window and looks down.

DAVE

Where?

100

Jimmy steals the extension cord and stuffs it into the back of his pants.

JIMMY

Guess it was just one of those birds that looks like a gun... sitting on one of those trees that looks like a man. (EXITING) Well, I gotta go.

DAVE

Mr. James, no video games during work hours.

* Jimmy looks down and sees that the extension cord is hanging from the back of his pants, like a tail. Dave grabs it and reels Jimmy in.

JIMMY

Aw, for Pete's sakes, Dave. Let me play!

DAVE

No. I'm sorry, sir, but it's for your own good.

YMMIL

Last time I heard that, my father made me smoke a carton of cigarettes in a closet.

DAVE *

Is there anyone in this office from a normal family?

JIMMY *

Oh, so I guess your dad was soft on smoking. Now, give me the cord.

DAVE

Trust me, as soon as you drop that first quarter, that machine will consume your every waking moment, and haunt you when you sleep, until your entire life is irreversibly o holley ob 4 . There ruined.

JIMMY

Is there something you'd like to tell me, Dave?

DAVE

(FINALLY LETTING IT OUT) I spent half of high school playing Stargate Defender. Two solid years.

YMMI

Huh. You must have been pretty good. What was your high score?

DAVE

(IMMEDIATELY) 1,248,500. March 7, 1983.

JIMMY *

(LOW WHISTLE) One point two million?
(BEAT) Is that good?

DAVE *

Wisconsin offers few distractions for a pale friendless virgin of sixteen.

JIMMY *

No argument there. You think you still got the old magic?

DAVE

Honestly, I can't think about anything else. But I've laid down the law, and it would be wrong to start playing now.

JIMMY *

Come on -- just one game?

DAVE *

There's no such thing as "just one game."

JIMMY

Well, I respect that. You made a rule, and you're sticking to it.

DAVE

Just part of being the boss.

JIMMY

Amen. And part of being the <u>boss's</u> boss is ignoring the rules and playing video games whenever you feel like it. Got any tips?

DAVE

Save the humanoids. Just convince yourself that the humanoids are your real-life family. Which will motivate you to make sure that nothing bad ever, ever happens to them.

Dave hands Jimmy the extension cord.

JIMMY *

Thanks, Obi-wan. Now if you'll excuse me, I hear the game calling me.

Jimmy exits.

DAVE *

It's not him the machine wants...

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE E

FADE IN:

INT. BULLPEN - MOMENTS LATER (D-1)
(Jimmy, Beth, Lisa, Joe)

- * Joe is at the conference table.
- * Jimmy enters from Dave's office and stops at Beth's desk. Lisa lingers nearby.

JIMMY

Hey there, little lady. You got any quarters on you?

BETH

I certainly do. (OPENS DRAWER) It's three quarters for a dollar.

JIMMY

Whoa, whoa. Run that by me again?

BETH

Sorry. House rules.

JIMMY

That's highway robbery. I love it.

(HANDING HER A BILL) Give me three hundred dollars worth of those Bad Larrys.

BETH

(THINKS) Okay, at three for a dollar that would be--

Lisa walks up.

LISA

(RAPIDLY) 900 quarters. If it were four per dollar, it's would be 1200. Five, 1500. Six, 1800. Et cetera. (TO JIMMY) Do you ever feel like your mind's slipping as you get older, sir?

JIMMY *

Wha?

LISA

You see, Mr. James--

JIMMY

What'd you call me?

LISA

Mr. James. What's wrong?

JIMMY

My name's Mr. Jones.

LISA

(BEAT) What?

JIMMY

Joe?

JOE

Yeah -- Jonny Jones.

JIMMY *

Beth?

BETH *

Yeah.

LISA

(SHAKEN) No, but I--

JIMMY/JOE/BETH *

Ha ha!/Got you.

LISA

It's not funny.

Lisa storms off.

YMMIL

(TO HIMSELF) "Jonny Jones." What

kind of stupid-sounding name is

that?

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE J

INT. ELEVATOR FOYER - QUITTING TIME (N-1)
(Catherine, Jimmy, Bill, Dave)

Jimmy is playing the video game. He's looking a little disheveled, and he's pumping quarters in at an alarming rate.

Catherine is waiting for the elevator.

CATHERINE

Good night, Jimmy.

JIMMY

(CONCENTRATING) Um.

Bill enters, his arms filled with sandwiches.

BILL

'Night, there, Jimmy.

JIMMY

Um.

CATHERINE

(TO BILL) I'm not riding down with those.

BILL

We'll take the stairs.

Bill and Catherine exit, to the stairs and elevator, respectively.

Jimmy's game ends. Dave enters.

DAVE

Still at it, Mr. James?

JIMMY

(DAZED AND DEEPLY UPSET) So sad...

DAVE

Come again?

JIMMY *

All those humanoids getting beamed up into outer space. Nothing I could do. Mom, Dad, my brother...all gone.

DAVE

Took my advice to heart, huh? Did it help your score?

JIMMY

Don't know. Kind of hard to see the screen through all the tears. You want to play?

DAVE

As much as I'd like to, no.

JIMMY

Just one game?

DAVE

(SHARPLY) No. Thank you.

JIMMY

Alright. I gotta go call my mom and apologize for letting her down...

Jimmy exits.

Dave waits for the elevator. He glances over at the machine. He tries to ignore it.

SFX: GAME BEEPS

DAVE *

What did you say?

Dave crosses to the game, and pulls out a quarter.

DAVE (CONT'D) *

It's been a long time, Stargate.

* Dave looks around to make sure no one's watching.

DAVE (CONT'D) *

(AS THE MACHINE) Indeed it has,

Dave. (NORMAL VOICE) I believe we

have some unfinished business...

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE K

INT. ELEVATOR FOYER - LATER (N-1)
(Dave, Matthew)

Dave is still at the machine, playing furiously. He looks like hell. His game ends. He slaps his hand on the console.

DAVE

So close! Okay, just one more...

As Dave digs for a quarter he notices that the sun is coming up outside.

DAVE (CONT'D)

(LOOKING AT WATCH) Oh my God.

Dave grabs his coat and his briefcase and rushes to the elevator. He punches the button. After a moment, the doors open. Dave gets on .. but Matthew gets off.

MATTHEW

David! Good morning. Are you just

going home now?

Dave gets off again.

DAVE

No, I... just got here.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE M

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE TESTING CENTER - NEXT DAY (D-2)
(Dave, Lisa, Kid #1, Kid #2, Kid #3, Girl)

Dave and Lisa exit the prep course's classroom along with a bunch of high school students. Dave looks incredibly tired and disheveled.

DAVE

How long do we have until the next

section?

LISA

Ten minutes. So? How are you doing?

DAVE

A little unnerved.

LISA

It's not all that bad.

DAVE

No, I just feel weird being the only kid in my row with a pension plan.

LIŞA

I'm gonna have a cigarette.

12

DAVE

You don't smoke.

LISA

I did in high school.

Lisa walks off. Dave finds himself surrounded by a bunch of teenage boys. He looks at them, warily, for a beat.

KID #1

(TO DAVE) Dude, your mom is hot.

DAVE

(PUZZLED) My mom...?

KID #2

Yeah. It must be weird to have a mom who's, like, a really cute girl.

DAVE

(REALIZES) Yeah, it is...

KID #2

Why's she taking the SAT with you?

DAVE

Well, you know. She likes to keep an eye on me. Always on my case.

KID #3

I hear that.

KID #2

Man, I'd like to have her on my

case!

High-fives all around.

DAVE

Hey, whoa. That's my mother you're talking about.

ANGLE ON: Lisa sits on a bench, smoking, next to a teenage girl. Lisa is feverishly studying from a sheet of paper.

GIRL

What are you looking at?

LISA

Just a list of vocabulary words.

GIRL

You should relax. The SAT's not such a big deal.

LISA

(NOT LOOKING UP) Maybe not. But if you don't pretend it is, you won't get a good score, which means you can't get into a good college, which means you won't get a good job, and then your life is ruined.

Lisa looks over and notices that the girl has started crying softly. Lisa reaches over to comfort her.

LISA (CONT'D)

But you know, if you have lots of good extracurriculars...

ANGLE ON: Dave still talking to the kids. He's established a rapport.

DAVE

So I was up playing this video game all night, and that's why I can hardly stand up today.

KID #1

I hear that.

KID #2

Which game was it?

DAVE

Stargate Defender.

KID #2

Never heard of it.

DAVE

It's from 1981.

KID #3

Hey, that's the year I was born!

KID #1/ KID #2

Me too./ Me too.

DAVE

What a coincidence.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE P

INT. ELEVATOR FOYER - LATER (D-2)

* (Jimmy, Beth, Dave)

* Jimmy is playing the game, losing an incredible number of quarters. He looks totally ragged. Beth stands by, asking him questions.

BETH *

Your secretary also said you have a twelve o'clock with the IBM Board of Directors tomorrow.

JIMMY

Um.

BETH *

Did you get that?

JIMMY

Cancel. It.

BETH *

Also, something about the steel plant managers want to know if you approve the wage increase?

JIMMY

Um.

BETH *

What was that?

JIMMY

Yeah. Give 'em whatever they want.

Bastards.

BETH *

Okay, but should I tell her to--

* Just then, Jimmy loses his last quarter. He's very shaken. He turns on Beth. Dave enters from around the corner.

JIMMY ·

(TO BETH) Dammit, woman! You just

killed my humanoid mother!

* Beth exits. Jimmy feels bad.

JIMMY (CONT'D) *

(CALLING AFTER HER) Beth? I'm sorry.

I didn't mean to--

Dave hands Jimmy a roll of quarters and exits to bullpen. Jimmy smashes open the roll and starts playing again.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE R

INT. BULLPEN/DAVE'S OFFICE/BULLPEN/ELEVATOR FOYER-CONTINUOUS (D-2)
(Dave, Bill, Lisa, Beth, Joe, Catherine)

* Dave enters.

Bill is leaning against the booth, in obvious pain. He's wearing a baseball hat.

DAVE

You okay, Bill?

BILL

I'm fine.

DAVE

(NOT BREAKING STRIDE) Good.

BILL

(STOPS HIM) Alright, I'll stop trying to be brave. I feel like hell.

DAVE

Maybe you should lay off the sandwiches.

BILL

No, that's just it. I finished the last one at exactly 12:41 last night. Ever since, things have been happening to my body.

DAVE

I suppose it would be impolite to run away at this point in the conversation, wouldn't it?

BILL

I think my system grew used to its hourly artificial preservatives fix.

(LEANS IN) My body has started to age incredibly rapidly.

DAVE

No it hasn't.

BILL

Yes, it has. We're running out of time. Look!

Bill takes off the cap. His hair is gray.

BILL (CONT'D)

Help me. I'm begging you.

A beat.

DAVE

You actually dyed your hair gray to convince me to bring back the sandwich machine?

ANGLE ON: BILL'S DESK

Joe is standing over Bill.

JOE

Twenty dollars apiece. Three for fifty.

Bill rapidly counts out some bills to Joe. Joe tosses three of the special sandwiches on Bill's desk. They thud. Bill rips one open and takes a bite.

BILL *

Ah... (TO SANDWICHES) It's been a long time, my little friends.

 * Joe goes to Catherine at the coffee station.

CATHERINE

So what -- is there another sandwich machine on another floor?

JOE

Nope. Made them myself. Then wrapped them in foil, ran them through the clothes dryer and taped them to the roof of my van when I drove in this morning.

* Catherine exits.

ANGLE ON: DOOR TO FOYER

Beth is blocking Dave's way.

BETH

I just want you to be prepared.

DAVE

Did someone beat my high score?

BETH

No. I got rid of the arcade game like you asked me to.

DAVE

No!

BETH

But it's cool. The vending company gave me a really good deal on another machine.

DAVE

Not Ms. Pacman. Please -- anything but Ms. Pacman.

BETH

Go check it out.

INT. ELEVATOR FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Dave and Beth come around the corner. In place of the Defender machine is one of those gypsy fortune-teller machines, with a lady mannequin inside a glass booth.

BETH

They were going to throw it out.

Isn't she cool?

DAVE

No. Where's the fun in this?

BETH

You'll grow to love her.

Beth pats Dave on the back and exits. Dave stands there, forlorn, with his handful of quarters. He picks out a quarter and puts it in the machine. DAVE

I wish I was big.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

CREDIT TAG

INT. ARCADE - DAY
(Dave, Kid #1, Kid #2)

A sleazy, run-down video arcade in Times Square. Dave -- in his suit, with his briefcase at his side -- is playing Stargate Defender. Two of the kids from the SAT test walk up.

KID #1

Hey, you're that dude we met at the SAT place.

DAVE

(NOT LOOKING UP) Hey fellas.

KID #2

So how'd you do?

DAVE

(NOT LOOKING UP) One point eight million.

KID #2

No -- I mean on the SATs?

DAVE *

(NOT LOOKING UP) A little lower.

A beat while they watch him play.

KID #1

Hey, is your mom going to pick you up here?

DAVE

(NOT LOOKING UP) Nope. (GAME ENDS)

Damn!

FADE OUT

END OF SHOW