

A Fistful of Bytes

"Breasts or Legs"

by  
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COLD OPENING

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. BAD JIM'S CUBE  
(KEN, GOOD JIM)

KEN SAUNTERS PAST BAD JIM'S TRASH-STREWN MULTI-COMPUTER CUBICLE. HE GLANCES AT THE COMPUTER AND DOES A BIG DOUBLE TAKE. HE PUSHES THE MOUSE AROUND, INCREDULOUS.

GOOD JIM PRAIRIE-DOGS OVER HIS CUBE HOLDING A DISH AND SOME CHOPSTICKS.

KEN

Jim. Jim. Check it out!

GOOD JIM SCUTTLES AROUND THE CORNER, WITH AN OVER-THE-TOP CONSPIRATORIAL SNEAK.

GOOD JIM

Unattended prompt.

KEN

We can change his password.

GOOD JIM

Take his computer hostage. (UMPIRE CALLING A STRIKE) Steeeerike you're outta here.

KEN

What should I change it to?

GOOD JIM PULLS A PDA OUT OF HIS POCKET. HE CLICKS IT A FEW TIMES.

GOOD JIM

Let's see...this is the eleventh time.

Make it "not again eleven".

(CONTINUED)

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2. CO/A

CONTINUED:

KEN

You think he'll ever learn?

GOOD JIM SHAKES HIS HEAD, PUTS AWAY HIS PDA, AND TIP-TOES OUT OF THE CUBICLE. KEN TYPES.

CUT TO:

END OF COLD OPENING

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. CUBE MAZE

(BAD JIM, LONG HAIR, KEN, GOOD JIM, JULIE, HURRICANE BUZZ)

LONG HAIR SHUFFLES IN CARRYING HIS MASSIVE STAINLESS STEEL COFFEE MUG. HE FLOPS DOWN IN HIS CUBICLE ON THE FRONT-SIDE OF THE CUBE FARM.

BAD JIM PRAIRIE-DOGS UP FROM HIS CUBICLE ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE CUBE FARM.

BAD JIM

You're here!

LONG HAIR

(LOOKS AROUND) Good morning to you,  
Jim. And how was your weekend?

BAD JIM RUNS AROUND TO LONG HAIR IN THE FRONT OF THE CUBE FARM. HE'S WORRIED SICK.

BAD JIM

Can I tell you something  
confidentially?

LONG HAIR

Actually, I doubt it. But go ahead,  
I'm willing look for change in  
someone.

BAD JIM

Don't tell anyone, but Karen and I are  
separating.

THE DOOR POPS OPEN AND THEN SWINGS SHUT AGAIN. JIM JUMPS UP AND STARES AT THE DOOR. LONG HAIR SWIVELS AROUND IN HIS CHAIR.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM (CONT'D)

What was that?

LONG HAIR

They call it a door.

WHILE THEY STARE, THE DOOR POPS OPEN AGAIN AND KEN SIDLES IN CARRYING A HUGE BOX. KEN IS MORE CHEERFUL THAN PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE

KEN

What a beautiful morning!

BAD JIM

(TO LONG HAIR) Remember, strictly confidential.

LONG HAIR

(CROSSES HIS HEART) I'll take it to the grave. Or until my next client, when all of this will be lost in a gin-flavored haze.

BAD JIM

(WORRIED) Your next client? Are you leaving?

KEN COMES OVER WITH HIS BOX TO LISTEN. GOOD JIM SLIPS IN QUIETLY.

LONG HAIR

I'm a contractor. I'm just passing through. All of this is (WAVES EXPANSIVELY) just temporary.

GOOD JIM

How Zen. A dream within a dream.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVERYONE JUMPS, NO ONE SAW HIM SLIP IN.

LONG HAIR

Welcome to this morning's round of  
"Non-sequitur". Let's welcome today's  
contestant. Tell us a little about  
yourself, Jim.

GOOD JIM

(POINTS) Ken. Box.

LONG HAIR

Fascinating. And so true. (TO KEN)  
And what do we have today?

KEN

This is my remote controlled  
Helicopter. I had trouble with the  
electronics and I brought it in to use  
the test bench in Engineering.

LONG HAIR

(HEAD IN HANDS) Marvellous. Next  
week, maybe I'll drive here and we can  
see if they'll paint my car down in  
the factory. Just be sure know one  
sees it, okay?

BAD JIM

I just don't have time for any of  
this. Ken, can I talk with you?

KEN

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

Privately.

KEN LOOKS AT GOOD JIM AND LONG HAIR: WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM LISTENING?

BAD JIM GLOWERS AT KEN.

BAD JIM (CONT'D)

Confidentially. I have some personal issues to discuss with you.

KEN LOOKS AROUND AT THE CUBE FARM, BLANKLY. THERE'S NO PRIVACY ANYWHERE.

GOOD JIM

Where's the cone of silence when you need it?

LONG HAIR

Sorry about that chief.

GOOD JIM TAKES OFF HIS SHOE.

GOOD JIM

Ninety-nine. Clear out the demo room for Ken and Jim.

BAD JIM

Look, we've got a lot to do today.

Let's just get this over with, okay?

KEN, HIS BOX AND BAD JIM GO TO THE DEMO ROOM -- A CONFERENCE ROOM FULL OF COMPUTERS -- OFF TO THE SIDE OF THE CUBE MAZE.

THE DOOR OPENS AND JULIE STRUTS IN.

JULIE

Morning boys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOOD JIM

The tale is told. The fellowship is complete.

GOOD JIM SCUTTLES TO HIS CUBE, SITS AND SLUMPS SO FAR DOWN IN HIS CHAIR THAT HIS CHIN IS LEVEL WITH HIS KEYBOARD.

JULIE

How was your weekend?

LONG HAIR

I suffered from fleeting moments of sobriety, but otherwise I had pleasant airplane rides home and back again.

JULIE

How's the family?

KEN AND BAD JIM COME OUT OF THE DEMO ROOM. KEN HAS NO BOX.

BAD JIM

Strictly confidential, now. Strictly.

KEN

Oh, that is so sad.

KEN PATS BAD JIM'S SHOULDER. JULIE NODS TOWARD THEM. LONG HAIR SWIVELS AROUND TO WATCH THEM SPLIT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE CUBES. HE SWINGS BACK TO JULIE.

LONG HAIR

Strictly confidential.

JULIE FROWNS.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JULIE

Bad Jim? Confidential? He's the only  
person I've ever seen who announces  
he's going to sneak out early for  
lunch.

THE DOOR SLAMS OPEN. HURRICANE BUZZ ROARS IN, DAYTIMER  
SPEWING PAPER, STYROFOAM COFFEE CUP SLOSHING ALL OVER  
EVERYTHING.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Ow! Dag-nab it!

JULIE

Morning, Buzz. How are you?

HURRICANE BUZZ

Can I just drop this stuff off? I got  
coffee all over everything.

HURRICANE BUZZ THROWS DOWN HIS COFFEE-SOAKED DAY-TIMER INTO  
LONG-HAIR'S CUBE AND ROOTS AROUND IN HIS POCKETS FOR A  
HANDKERCHIEF TO WIPE OFF HIS SHIRT FRONT.

JULIE

(TO THE AIR) My weekend was great, I  
went fishing up in Blue Mountain Lake.  
You?

LONG HAIR PICKS UP HIS GIANT COFFEE MUG AND WAVES IT AROUND.

LONG HAIR

Buzz.

HURRICANE BUZZ

We don't have time for that now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

Brilliant. We have plenty of time to pour coffee on my desk, but no time for a cup with a lid? Can I play, too? Maybe I'll carry an open container of epoxy in your office.

GOOD JIM

Priorities, Buzz, priorities.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Okay. Listen up everybody. I've got some important stuff.

BAD JIM PRAIRIE-DOGS UP IN THE BACKGROUND.

BAD JIM

Does it involve me? I've really got way too much work to do.

GOOD JIM

Meetings are the work.

BAD JIM

Don't start with me. I just don't have time.

LONG HAIR

No, Jim, this is the one all-hands meeting you can afford to miss. For that matter, why don't you just call it a day. We'll hold this meeting again tomorrow to fill you in on what you missed today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

Is that supposed to be sarcasm?

LONG HAIR

No, it's supposed to be the Knute  
Rockne "Win One For the Gipper"  
speech, but I couldn't remember any of  
the words!

BAD JIM SLINKS AROUND THE CORNER.

GOOD JIM

With Ronald Reagan as the Gipper.

HURRICANE BUZZ STARES BLANKLY, GOOD JIM SMILES. HURRICANE  
BUZZ GETS HIS FOCUS BACK.

HURRICANE BUZZ

I've just met with management, and we  
have a serious crisis.

JULIE

Good, I was afraid it would be a  
casual crisis. This is way to dressy  
for a casual crisis.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Management needs the software  
architecture done by close of business  
Friday. Done. Completely done. This  
is the team's number one priority for  
this week. Nothing else matters. Is  
that clear?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Has the customer signed the contract?

THIS STOPS HURRICANE BUZZ DEAD IN HIS TRACKS. HE BLINKS AND STARES AROUND, DUMBFOUNDED, LOST.

HURRICANE BUZZ

What?

JULIE

Has...the...customer...signed...the...  
contract? Buzz? (TAPS HIM ON THE  
HEAD) Clickety-click.

HURRICANE BUZZ

I don't see what...I can't see why...

JULIE

Correct me if I'm wrong here, but  
without a contract, we can't do any  
work.

GOOD JIM

Without a contract, they're not really  
a customer, are they? (BITTER) Tire  
Kickers.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Listen, you can split hairs all you  
want, but in the real world, we do  
what our customers ask us to do.

LONG HAIR

The real world?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ

Yes, the real world. Real customers.  
Real money.

LONG HAIR

And here, in my little fantasy land,  
we pile up time without a contract and  
pray that we'll get paid anyway  
because of - what? - some accounting  
error? Planned fraud?

KEN

(SERIOUSLY) You mean you contractors  
get paid no matter what? That's cool.

HURRICANE BUZZ

That's not all.

GOOD JIM

Wait, there's more.

BAD JIM

I don't think I can handle this.

HURRICANE BUZZ

The engineering prototype is due by  
close of business, Friday.

LONG HAIR

Close of business? Friday?

HURRICANE BUZZ

Friday.

LONG HAIR

And then what happens?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ

(DO THEY NOT GET IT?) We show it to engineering? Duh.

LONG HAIR

Friday night? After work? In the bar downstairs? Or maybe we'll go over to one of their houses and show them and their kids! What are you talking about?

HURRICANE BUZZ

We'll schedule the official demo.

JULIE

Help me understand the process. So, if I told you it was done today, what would you do?

HURRICANE BUZZ

I'd schedule the demo for early next month.

JULIE

Next month? Why does it have to be done Friday if no one looks at it until next month?

EVERYONE STARES AT HURRICANE BUZZ. BUZZ IS EMBARRASSED BY THE STARES. HE SHUFFLES AROUND A LITTLE, FUSSING WITH HIS PILE OF PAPERS AND COFFEE CUP.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Management needs the prototype done by close of business Friday. Done.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ (CONT'D)

Completely done. This is the team's  
number one priority for this week.  
Nothing else matters. Is that clear?

KEN

Wait a minute.

LONG HAIR SHAKES HIS HEAD.

LONG HAIR

Not now, Ken. We have work to do.

KEN

No, wait, Buzz just said that two  
different things were priority one.  
That doesn't --

LONG HAIR

Ken...

HURRICANE BUZZ

What? Do you have a question, Ken?

KEN

You said the architecture was priority  
one and the prototype was priority  
one. We can't do both.

GOOD JIM

(SAGELY) Priorities.

LONG HAIR SHRUGS. JULIE IS PISSED.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Well, we have two things to do. And  
they're both due Friday.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

One is irrelevant until next month,  
and the other is illegal without a  
contract.

JULIE

I do think there's something else  
going on behind all this. I'll just  
have to dig a little.

HURRICANE BUZZ

I'm giving you the schedule. Why  
can't you people just cooperate?  
Clear your calendars. We have a ton  
of work to do. And don't do anything  
embarrassing! We need this sale.

BUZZ PICKS UP HIS STUFF AND ROARS OUT OF THE ROOM. KEN AND  
BAD JIM SLINK BACK TO THEIR CUBICLES. JULIE AND LONG HAIR  
STARE AT EACH OTHER HELPLESSLY. GOOD JIM SPINS HIS CHAIR A  
FEW TIMES AND SLUMPS WAY, WAY DOWN.

THE DOOR CRASHES OPEN.

HURRICANE BUZZ (O.S.)  
(CONT'D)

Dag Nab it!

GOOD JIM

He said "dag nab it" (TWO FINGERS  
WAGGLE) twice.

LONG HAIR REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND PULLS OUT A WAD OF  
MONEY.

LONG HAIR

But one was in the hallway.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JULIE

We heard it in here.

GOOD JIM HOLDS OUT A BIG PINK PIGGY-BANK. LONG HAIR COUNTS OFF TWO BILLS AND STUFFS THEM IN THE PIG.

LONG HAIR

Two priority ones. And I tried to let one drop. But Ken, there, just cost you a dollar.

LONG HAIR TAKES THE PIG FROM GOOD JIM. JULIE SIGHS, GOES TO HER DESK, OPENS HER PURSE AND PULLS OUT A WAD OF MONEY AND STUFFS TWO BILLS INTO THE PIG.

JULIE

Who started this game?

LONG HAIR

You did.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. DEMO ROOM - DAY

(GOOD JIM, KEN)

KEN HAS A PILE OF MODEL HELICOPTER PARTS SCATTERED AROUND THE DEMO ROOM. GOOD JIM WALKS IN.

GOOD JIM

It doesn't look like software.

GOOD JIM PICKS UP A PIECE OF THE HELICOPTER. SLOWLY, ELABORATELY, HE PUTS A VERY SMALL PART IT INTO HIS MOUTH.

KEN

Hey!

GOOD JIM DROPS TO HIS KNEES, GRABS A CHAIR, AND GAGS THE TINY PART OUT ONTO THE CHAIR LIKE HE'S HEAVING UP A NIGHT OF BINGE DRINKING BY PRAYING TO THE PORCELAIN GODDESS.

GOOD JIM

(WIPING HIS MOUTH) It doesn't taste like software.

KEN

Was that necessary?

KEN PICKS THE THING UP OFF THE CHAIR AND WIPES IT OFF ON HIS SHIRT. GOOD JIM STANDS UP ROOTS AROUND SOME MORE AMONG THE PARTS. HE PICKS UP THE TECHNICAL-LOOKING GYROSCOPE AND WAGGLES IT AROUND, SHAKING THE WIRES.

GOOD JIM

Equilibrium. Work-life balance.

KEN

What? That's the gyroscope.

GOOD JIM

Ah so desu. And what is this doing in my demo room?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

Your demo room?

GOOD JIM

My little love nest. My honeymoon  
suite for software and engineering.  
(POINTS AT THE TABLE) The circular  
bed, mirrors on the ceiling, pink  
champagne on ice, we are all just  
prisoners here...

KEN

Prisoners?

GOOD JIM

(IRRITATED) Of our own device.

KEN

So, do you, like, have a demo  
scheduled or something?

GOOD JIM

In about five minutes. If you would  
be so kind.

KEN

Five minutes?

GOOD JIM

Chop-chop. What is it Julie says?  
(TAPS KEN ON THE HEAD) clickety-click.  
Done by Friday means engineering sees  
it today.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN SHOVES PARTS BACK INTO HIS BOX AS QUICKLY AS HE CAN. JUMPS UP WITH AN ARM FULL OF BOX AND STARTS TO LEAVE THE DEMO ROOM. HE KICKS OPEN THE DOOR. IT BANGS OPEN AND THEN BANGS SHUT AGAIN.

KEN FREEZES. JIM STARES AT KEN, FROZEN IN FRONT OF THE DOOR.

KEN

(PANIC) She's here.

GOOD JIM

(CALM) Julie?

KEN

Worse, Aries.

GOOD JIM

(PANIC) Engineering Aries? My Aries?

Here?

KEN NODS. JIM LOOKS AT HIS WATCH. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER.

KEN

GOOD JIM

Under the table.

Under the table.

GOOD JIM PULLS OUT SOME CHAIRS, KEN JAMS THE BOX UNDER THE TABLE. GOOD JIM SHOVES CHAIRS IN AROUND THE BOX TO CONCEAL AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. - RECEPTION AREA - DAY  
(BAD JIM, JULIE, JUANITA)

JULIE STRUTS THROUGH WITH A HUGE NOTEBOOK. BAD JIM IS GOING THE OTHER WAY WITH A BAG OF GOLF CLUBS.

BAD JIM

Jules, can we talk?

JULIE

Talk? Always. But, how is that different from what we're doing right now?

JIM LOOKS AROUND AT JUANITA, THE RECEPTIONIST, AND THE OTHER PEOPLE SITTING IN THE RECEPTION AREA.

BAD JIM

Confidentially.

JULIE

(SARCASTIC) Strictly confidential.

BAD JIM

It's serious.

JULIE

So's a bag of golf clubs in the office. Are you just playing through? Pardon me, is that my ball under your chair? Caddie, my carpet wedge, please.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

No, I'm just storing some stuff down  
in the warehouse.

JIM PULLS JULIE OVER TO THE SIDE.

EVERYONE SITTING IN THE RECEPTION AREA LEANS IN TO HEAR WHAT  
HE'S SAYING. JUANITA HAS TO MOVE OUT FROM BEHIND HER  
RECEPTIONIST DESK TO HEAR.

BAD JIM (CONT'D)

Don't tell anyone this, but Karen and  
I are separated. Well, not really  
separated, but a trial separation.  
You know, not really, but really.

JULIE

Not really, but really.

BAD JIM

You know how it is. With her and the  
kids and me and well you know and we  
just thought we could but we couldn't  
so we were going to and didn't and  
then we are but we aren't but not  
really yet, anyway. I mean it's not  
like the lawyers but they are but not  
really.

JULIE

Really, but not really. And the  
clubs?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

Pings. A nice set, with extra stiff shafts. You'd like them.

JULIE

I'd like the extra stiff shafts?

BAD JIM

Well, I bought these but I don't want you know Karen to know because of the finances and the missed house payments and the other bank account.

JULIE

Jim, are you moving in to the warehouse? Because that's really not a good idea.

BAD JIM

No, I'm not living here. It's not that they've got room for me to put more than a cot and a coffee-maker down in the tool crib. What do you think I am?

JULIE

Can we not talk about it? I'm trying to find out what put Buzz on the hurricane track. Don't forget: you owe me architecture stuff. Today.

SHE LOOKS AROUND. EVERYONE MOVES BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL POSITIONS IN THE RECEPTION AREA, EXCEPT THE JUANITA.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHE SMOOTHS DOWN HER HAIR AND LOOKS AROUND FOR SOME REASON TO BE AWAY FROM HER DESK. SHE WAVES HER HANDS AROUND, HELPLESSLY FOR A MOMENT.

JUANITA

Okay, then.

SHE GOES BACK TO HER DESK AND SITS DOWN.

CUT TO:



ACT ONE

SCENE E

INT. CUBE MAZE - DAY

(ARIES, LONG HAIR, GOOD JIM)

ARIES IS SITTING IN JULIE'S CHAIR, ACROSS FROM LONG HAIR.  
LONG HAIR IS STARING OFF INTO SPACE, SIPPING COFFEE  
THOUGHTFULLY.

ARIES

It's like Heller's Catch-22. The  
customer won't sign without a demo,  
and we really can't put any effort  
into a demo without a signed contract.

LONG HAIR

And?

ARIES

And what? The gutless wonders up in  
sales keep asking if there's anything  
we can do.

LONG HAIR

Do?

ARIES

Are you listening to me?

LONG HAIR

(SARCASTIC) No, I'm staring at your  
chest.

ARIES

No, you're not!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

(NODS HIS AGREEMENT) But isn't that  
what most men do?

ARIES

And?

GOOD JIM AND KEN EDGE OUT OF THE DEMO ROOM. THEY LOOK BOTH  
WAYS. NOD TO EACH OTHER. KEN GOES ONE WAY, GOOD JIM SLINKS  
OVER TOWARD LONG HAIR AND ARIES.

LONG HAIR

(SINCERE) I am sorry, but I'm really  
having trouble following all the ins  
and outs and curves and the teasing  
looks and sweaty tangled embraces of  
the corporate mating dance. I just  
want to get down and get busy with it.  
I know what they want, and I know that  
I have what it takes to satisfy them.  
I've turned this kind of trick before,  
and I know they'll love it.

GOOD JIM

And come back begging for more?

ARIES AND LONG HAIR JUMP.

LONG HAIR

(TO GOOD JIM) Have you ever thought of  
wearing a bell?

GOOD JIM

(THOUGHTFULLY) No...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

It was a rhetorical question. So that's why Hurricane Buzz is up to category five. The customer wants some pre-sales freebies.

GOOD JIM

You could show a little leg.

ARIES

Excuse me?

LONG HAIR

(GETS IT) Or unbutton a little.

ARIES

Uh, skirt present, reign it in.

LONG HAIR

What to they want to see? Are they leg men or chest men?

ARIES

I've heard just about enough!

SHE STANDS UP. GOOD JIM RAISES HIS EYEBROWS AND NODS AT ARIES.

LONG HAIR

Its true. You've been to meetings with the customer. You have heard things. What do they want to see? Prototype or architecture? Find out what turns them on. We'll do that by Friday.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIES

Is that what all this locker-room talk  
is about? Legs? Chest? Prototype?  
Architecture? Why didn't you say so?  
I'll give you what you need.

SHE SHIFTS HER BLOUSE AROUND. FUSSES WITH HER SKIRT. PUSHES  
UP HER BOOBS.

ARIES (CONT'D)

Try and say no to this!

SHE STRUTS OUT OF THE ROOM. GOOD JIM DOES A SWOON AND DRIFTS  
AFTER HER, BUT IS SEPARATED FROM HER WHEN THE DOOR SHUTS IN  
HIS FACE.

GOOD JIM

I'll give you what you need. Why does  
she say that to you? What am I?

LONG HAIR POINTS AT HIM, BUT HESITATES TO SAY ANYTHING.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE F

FADE IN:

INT. BAD JIM'S CUBE - DAY

(HURRICANE BUZZ, BAD JIM, JULIE)

BAD JIM IS HUNCHED OVER HIS KEYBOARD. HURRICANE BUZZ SITS BEHIND HIM, WATCHING INTENTLY AS JIM TYPES.

HURRICANE BUZZ

(STRUGGLING TO STAY CALM) Okay, so how's my database build going? Is it done, yet?

BAD JIM

What database build?

HURRICANE BUZZ

(SPINNING UP) For the prototype. We've got to have it done by Friday.

BAD JIM

Right, right, but, Julie's is waiting for my part of the software architecture. It's priority one, red alert. (BREATHES RAPIDLY) Hyper-ventilating, working as fast as I can. I just don't have time for this stuff.

HURRICANE BUZZ

(MORE HYPER) Okay, okay, we can cope. We've just got to focus on what needs to be done.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

I'm so stressed, I don't even know what I'm doing. (TO BUZZ) What am I doing?

HURRICANE BUZZ

(OVER THE TOP) Okay. It's not a crisis. We can do this. We've just got to prioritize and focus. I'll call a meeting and we'll brainstorm. We'll strategize. Meet me in the demo room in 5 minutes.

HURRICANE BUZZ JUMPS UP, READY FOR ACTION. HE IS BLOCKED BY JULIE.

HURRICANE BUZZ (CONT'D)

Get the team together, we've got a serious crisis!

BAD JIM

We need to proactively manage this situation!

JULIE

Hold it right there! Everyone take a big breath.

BAD JIM AND HURRICANE BUZZ LOOK AT EACH OTHER IN WIDE-EYED TOTAL PANIC.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Breathe. Now. Both of you. Come on, it won't hurt, I promise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THEY BOTH COLLAPSE, LETTING OUT HUGE SIGHS. BUZZ SITS BACK DOWN BEHIND BAD JIM.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Okay. Now, tell Julie what the problem is.

BAD JIM

HURRICANE BUZZ

You want the architecture and We've got to get the  
Buzz wants the database and I prototype done by close of  
have too much work to do; I business on Friday. Without  
can't handle this. the architecture, we can  
never close the deal.

JULIE (CONT'D)

You boys both need a time-out. Buzz,  
you go to Sales and ask them what we  
need to do first. Remember, we can  
only do one thing first. Everything  
that isn't first is -- are you with me  
on this? -- second. Clear? (SHE TAPS  
HIM ON THE HEAD).

BAD JIM

Whew! That would help. I have way  
too much work to do. I can't do the  
architecture.

JULIE

Jim. Jim. Look at me. Focus. Julie  
here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE (CONT'D)

The architecture is the work you have to do. It's the only thing. Polling Bad Jim. Anybody home?

BAD JIM

What about--

JULIE

Not any more. Architecture.

BAD JIM

But--

JULIE

Just a distraction.

BAD JIM

Weren't we going to--

JULIE

No time. Trumped.

BAD JIM

(SPINNING UP) We need to proactively manage this situation. I'll take charge of getting the architecture done.

JULIE

Can we not use words like proactive?

It just means "active". (STARES AT HIM FOR A MOMENT) What are you working on? (ANSWERS FOR HIM)

Architecture.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

JULIE TUNS TO HURRICANE BUZZ.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Why are you still here?

HURRICANE BUZZ

Sales. Right.

HURRICANE BUZZ LURCHES UNSTEADILY OUT OF THE CUBICLE.

JULIE

Boy am I glad I never had kids of my own. (TO JIM) What are you working on? It's a trick question, so think carefully.

BAD JIM

(THINKS) Architecture.

JULIE

Very good. You qualify for the bonus round.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE G

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

(LONG HAIR, JULIE, ARIES, ROGER, LARRY)

LONG HAIR AND JULIE ARE NEXT IN LINE.

LONG HAIR

Big, wimpy decaf for me. Beer and a shot for her.

JULIE

Hold the beer.

THE COFFEE SHOP KID STARES.

LONG HAIR

You're new, but you'll get over it. I find that a little surrealism every day is good for me. You don't really care, do you? French roast for her.

ARIES WALKS BY TWO NERDY ENGINEERING TYPES, LARRY AND ROGER, DROOLING AFTER HER. LONG HAIR TURNS AND WATCHES THEM.

LONG HAIR (CONT'D)

Hey.

ARIES

Hey.

LONG HAIR NODS AT THE DROOLING ENGINEERS.

ARIES (CONT'D)

This is Larry and Roger, two prospective customers. We're on our way back to the sales presentation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIES (CONT'D)

This is Julie, one of our software leads.

LONG HAIR

I'm a contractor. You can scrape me off your shoe when you're done with me.

JULIE

Pleased to meet you. Are you getting everything you need?

ROGER

Well we've still got some concerns.

LARRY

But we can't discuss them.

ROGER

It might color your presentation.

JULIE

What? You have questions but won't ask them?

LONG HAIR

It doesn't count unless we guess correctly? Are we on Deal or no Deal?

ARIES

We've got to go, see you.

ARIES AND THE NERDS TURN TO GO.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

The corporate mating dance. You do it  
so well. (SINGS HERNANDO'S HIDEAWAY)  
Ba -- ba ba -- ba ba ba bah, ba...ba --  
ba ba -- ba ba ba bah.

ARIES WHISTLES AT THEM FROM THE DOORWAY. LONGHAIR AND JULIE  
SWIVEL AROUND. ARIES POINTS AT HER ASS AND RUNS A  
PROVOCATIVE HAND DOWN HER LEG AND GIVES A BUTT-SHAKE. EVERY  
MAN IN THE COFFEE SHOP SIGHS.

LONG HAIR (CONT'D)

(KNOWING) Leg Men.

JULIE

(TO HERSELF) Aries! What are you  
doing?

JULIE GETS HER COFFEE AND STARTS TO GO.

LONG HAIR

They're leg men.

LONG HAIR GETS HIS COFFEE.

JULIE

Did you say leg men? As if she cared.  
She could do a lot better than those  
two badly socialized nerds with  
bathing issues.

LONG HAIR

Bathing issues?

JULIE

(POINTS AT HIS HAIR) Conditioner.  
We've been over this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

She said they were leg men, not chest men.

JULIE

Chest men? Skirt present. That is so insulting. Just because she's a brainy and attractive young woman!

LONG HAIR

And, sadly for most single men, she has high standards.

JULIE

I already said she had brains.

LONG HAIR

The point is that leg men want to see the demo. Chest men want to see the architecture.

JULIE

Leg men! You say they're leg men? Why didn't you tell me sooner? We have work to do.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE H

INT. CUBE MAZE - DAY

(LONG HAIR, JULIE, KEN, GOOD JIM)

THE DOOR BANGS OPEN; LONG HAIR AND JULIE HUSTLE IN.

LONG HAIR

All hands on deck.

EVERYONE PRAIRIE-DOG'S UP. THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND LONG HAIR AND JULIE.

JULIE

You get the server started, I'll prep  
the demo room.

KEN STARTS RUNNING. LONG HAIR GOES TO HIS CUBICLE.

KEN

Maybe I should help with the demo  
room.

JULIE

Sure, that'll be great.

KEN

No, I meant that I would do it.

JULIE

We don't have a lot of time.

JULIE TURNS TO THE DEMO ROOM. KEN DARTS IN FRONT OF HER,  
BLOCKING THE DOOR.

KEN

It's ... uhh ...

MEANWHILE, LONG HAIR GOES TO BAD JIM'S CUBICLE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

(STERNLY) Ken. Is there something you  
need to tell me?

KEN

(LOOKING AT THE FLOOR) Well.

LONG HAIR (O.S.)

Jim!

GOOD JIM

You bellowed?

LONG HAIR IS STANDING BEHIND BAD JIM'S CUBICLE.

LONG HAIR

Not you -- Bad Jim!

GOOD JIM

Right. I get us confused all the  
time.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE I

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

(BAD JIM, FRANK, JUANITA)

BAD JIM IS ROOTING AROUND IN A SMALL, DARK WAREHOUSE STOCK ROOM, FULL OF SHELVES WITH BOXES AND CRATES PLUS A SET OF GOLF CLUBS, A BOOM-BOX, A COFFEE-MAKER, A COOLER, A CD SHELF.

FRANK WANDERS DOWN THE AISLE WITH A BAR-CODE SCANNER. HE SETS DOWN THE SCANNER AND TAKES A CLUB OUT OF THE BAG AND WAGGLES IT PROFESSIONALLY. BAD JIM SPINS AROUND.

BAD JIM

Hey, Frank, what's up?

FRANK

Oooh. Pings. Nice clubs.

BAD JIM

Extra stiff shafts.

FRANK

Stiff shafts. (TOO SEXY) Nice.

(NEUTRAL) Moving in?

BAD JIM

No. It's not that. It's just I didn't you know I wanted to get some new clubs, but Karen would have you know so I just keep them here so I won't you know get in her way.

FRANK

(AFFECTIONATE HAND ON SHOULDER) Well, with the separation and all.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

What? Who told you?

FRANK

(OOOPS!) Uhh. It was just a guess. I wouldn't -- you know, bringing all this stuff in here, and all. And, uhh, I just over-heard rumors that uhh --

BAD JIM

Whatever. That Julie is the biggest blabbermouth in the entire company. But, yes, Karen and I are separating. Just don't tell anyone, okay?

FRANK

Don't tell anyone other than Julie, who already knows?

BAD JIM

I had to tell a few people so they wouldn't think I was behaving too strange, you know.

FRANK

And this isn't strange. (ZIPS HIS LIP) Safe with me.

JUANITA STROLLS IN.

JUANITA

There you are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

What do you mean by that?

JUANITA STRIKES A BATHING-SUIT COMPETITION POSE AND GIGGLES.

JUANITA

(BEAUTY-QUEEN BUBBLE-HEAD) What I meant was that the thing I most want is world peace. (HARD AS ICE) And if you don't get your heinie up to your demo room in 30 seconds, I'll personally take these high heels and beat you bloody!

BAD JIM

Whoa, whoa, I just meant that --

JUANITA

I'm not paid enough to care what you meant. (BAD JIM STARTS EDGING AWAY) I'm not even paid enough to wander all over tarnation looking for you. But I'll gladly beat you down on my own time.

BAD JIM HOT-FOOTS IT OUT THE WAREHOUSE.

FRANK

(NEUTRAL) Hey, Juanita.

JUANITA

(HARD) I don't have time for it, Frank, I just don't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANK

I didn't mean anything by it.

JUANITA

I see you checking this skirt.

FRANK

Well, uhh, you know, it's short. And those shoes.

JUANITA

(HARDER) Don't start with me.

FRANK

(COWED HUSBAND) I just wanted to know if I was supposed to pick up Lloyd at day care, or if you would.

JUANITA

(STILL HARD) If you want your dinner on time, you'll pick him up. I have to go to the store. And I have to get that goofy software guy up to the demo room. And what are you doing with those golf clubs?

FRANK

They're Jim's. Pings. Extra stiff shafts.

JUANITA

(SOFTER) Don't start with me. Not at work.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUANITA (CONT'D)

I'll see you at home, on time for  
dinner, with our son, and then after  
he goes to bed, I'll take care of you.  
(SOFT) You big, dumb hunk of man, you.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE J

INT. CUBE MAZE - DAY  
(JULIE, LONG HAIR)

JULIE IS ROOTING AROUND IN A FILE CABINET. LONG HAIR IS WANDERING AROUND, BUT FACING IN EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF JULIE.

JULIE

Okay, where'd you put the hand-outs?

LONG HAIR

Did you look in your dresser?

JULIE

That makes no sense. Why would I take the hand-outs home?

LONG HAIR

Did you check with your brother?

JULIE

Which one? I have six!

LONG HAIR

I remember them being in a box.

JULIE

A box?

LONG HAIR

A big box, with lots of others.

JULIE

Ahhh. The last shipment from the printer. That's it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE RUNS TO A CABINET AND THROWS OPEN THE DOORS. SHE LAYS HOLD OF A GIANT BOX ON THE BOTTOM SHELF AND STRUGGLES WITH IT.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Can you give me a hand with this?

LONG HAIR

No, honey, I'm here and you're there.

JULIE

(GETTING PISSED) Listen. Surrealism time is over. We have to get the glossies for the demo.

LONG HAIR

Yes, I know it sounds great.

JULIE

Great? It'll close the sale, dimwit!

LONG HAIR

Love you, too, honey. I'll see you Friday afternoon.

JULIE STANDS UP, TOTALLY PISSED OFF. TURNS AROUND AND STARES. LONG HAIR TURNS, HANGS UP HIS PHONE. SHE SEES HIS TELEPHONE HEAD-SET AND RELAXES.

LONG HAIR (CONT'D)

Pardon me? Did you say something?

Need a hand getting the hand-outs out of the cabinet? There's two customers, so we'll need four sets.

JULIE

Sure. That would be great. Ummm.

Was that your daughter on the phone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

Yes, she couldn't find the markers. I  
think my son put them in his room.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE K

INT. DEMO ROOM - DAY

(JULIE, KEN, LONG HAIR, ARIES, ROGER, LARRY, GOOD JIM, BAD JIM)

JULIE IS STARING IN HELPLESS HORROR AT A PILE OF FANCY ELECTRONIC TEST EQUIPMENT AND A BOX OF MISCELLANEOUS MODEL HELICOPTER PARTS. KEN BOBS BEHIND HER.

JULIE

(TWO SYLLABLE WAIL) Ke-en!

KEN

Yes?

JULIE

Okay. Okay. I don't really want to know what this is. I do, but there isn't time.

KEN

It's a helicopter.

JULIE

No. It's not a helicopter. It's a mess. In the demo room, with customers in the building. Customers who are leg men.

KEN LOOKS JULIE UP AND DOWN.

JULIE (CONT'D)

Not me, you nerd. Aries.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

KEN

Well. Uhhh. This is awkward, but I'd think that she'd attract chest men. I mean when you think about it, she's got. Uhhh. You know, they're hard to miss.

JULIE

They? Her two degrees: an MBA and a Master's in Mechanical Engineering? You're right, they're hard to miss.

KEN

Right. Her degrees. Thanks for setting me straight.

LONG HAIR LEANS THROUGH THE DOORWAY.

LONG HAIR

How we doing?

KEN

Better. Not so awkward.

JULIE

(TO LONG HAIR) What is this mess?

LONG HAIR

You don't want to know.

JULIE

You're right. I already said that. I'm just having trouble focusing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

Well, we only need to clear the conference table and couple of work stations. We can pile this stuff discreetly in the corner.

JULIE

Discreetly?

LONG HAIR

Yeah. What part about discretely didn't you understand?

JULIE

The discreet part, as in low-key, under-stated. No one in this office could be discreet if -- was that the door?

LONG HAIR LEANS OUT TO LOOK AT THE MAIN DOOR. THEN HE JUMPS BACK IN AND BANGS THE DEMO-ROOM DOOR SHUT.

LONG HAIR

Aries.

JULIE

Excellent use of discretion. She'd hardly have noticed. If you hadn't banged the door shut in her face!

LONG HAIR

I didn't bang it!

KEN

I didn't think it was that loud.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Listen, kid, you're already on thin ice today. (TAUNTING) "Oh, Buzz, you said two priority ones". Two! Next week, I hope you get that square.

KEN

I did get a bad square.

LONG HAIR REACHES BEHIND A COMPUTER AND PULLS OUT A HUGE FLIP-CHART LABELED "BUZZ-WORD BINGO". IT IS FILLED WITH SQUARES THAT HAVE DIFFERENT HURRICANE BUZZ NON-SENSE PHRASES LIKE 'DAG-NAB IT', AND 'PRIORITY ONE', 'CLEAR YOUR SCHEDULE', 'STRATEGIZE'.

LONG HAIR

I don't know, strategize is pretty safe. He doesn't say that often.

JULIE

Wait, I heard a "strategize" earlier today. Ken owes some money.

LONG HAIR

When? Who else heard it?

THERE'S A KNOCK-KNOCK ON THE DOOR. LONG HAIR STUFFS THE BUZZ-WORD BINGO BOARD BACK BEHIND A COMPUTER. ARIES OPENS THE DOOR AND BARGES IN.

ARIES

Can I come in? (BARELY VISIBLE DOUBLE TAKE AT KEN'S JUNK) And what's all this?

KEN

I... (LOOKS AT JULIE)

JULIE STARES HARD AT LONG HAIR. SHE'S NOT SPEAKING.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

It's...

KEN

We...

LONG HAIR

Oh, hi.

EVERYONE STARES AT LONG HAIR.

LONG HAIR (CONT'D)

Roger, Larry, come on in.

JULIE SITS DOWN. HARD. ROGER AND LARRY EDGE PAST ARIES.

LONG HAIR (CONT'D)

This is our demo room. I've got to  
check on the server, to be sure we've  
got the right software loaded. Julie,  
here, will take you through the -- uhh

EVERYONE STARES, HORRIFIED, AS ROGER STEPS UP TO THE TABLE  
AND PICKS UP THE GYROSCOPE; HE WAGGLES IT AROUND FOR A  
MOMENT.

ROGER

What's this?

ROGER HANDS IT TO LARRY.

KEN

Well, I can explain that, you see...

LARRY

It's one of ours.

KEN

(STALLING) Really?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ROGER

(TO ARIES) So, you are a customer of ours?

ARIES

(PANIC; THEN HARD-EDGED FOCUS) We'd prefer not to say.

ROGER

Oh?

ARIES

Yes, it might color your assessment of our products.

LARRY

Good point. (SOURLY) However, this changes things dramatically.

ARIES

How so?

LARRY

This is no longer just a purchasing call. If you are a customer as well as a vendor... Why... This is now a partnership opportunity.

ARIES IS THRILLED. JULIE SLUMPS DOWN IN HER CHAIR. KEN AND LONG HAIR LOOK BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN THEM. WHAT SHOULD THEY DO? HAPPY WITH ARIES OR DEPRESSED WITH JULIE?

ARIES

That brings this relationship to a whole new level.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

(DEPRESSED) Vice Presidents.

LARRY

(BRIGHT) CEO's.

JULIE

(TOTALLY DEPRESSED) Now it will take months.

LARRY

At least six months just to get on our CEO's schedule. This will be great!

JULIE

Joy unbounded.

LONG HAIR

(TRYING TO ENCOURAGE JULIE)

Partnership?

JULIE

If you thought sales was a long, drawn-out mating dance, wait till you see partnerships. Continental drift is faster.

ROGER

Well, sales is not an obstacle.

Forget the rest of the demo, we've got to get the executives together.

JULIE PUTS HER HEAD IN HER HANDS. ROGER AND LARRY LEAVE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIES

(TO LONG HAIR) I owe you big-time on  
this.

ARIES LEAVES, PASSING GOOD JIM WHO LINGERS OUTSIDE THE DOOR.  
HE HAS TO DODGE OUT OF HER WAY, THEN SWOONS AS SHE LEAVES.  
HE TURNS ON LONG HAIR.

GOOD JIM

Owe you? Why owe you? Why not me?  
(PITEOUSLY) What is it I lack?

LONG HAIR

Grace, charm, luck. Pretty much  
everything women look for. Keep  
trying though.

BAD JIM RUNS IN.

BAD JIM

Where are they going? They couldn't  
have seen the prototype! Listen,  
we've got to take charge of this  
situation. Don't let them leave.

LONG HAIR

Jim. Shhh. It's a tragedy that's  
spinning out of our control.

JULIE

Partnership.

BAD JIM

That's great!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

Maybe in a century or two. For now,  
it means no sale.

BAD JIM

That's terrible!

KEN

Hey! Where's my gyroscope?

LONG HAIR

Wait. Did Larry keep it?

KEN

Yeah, he was holding it last.

JULIE

Oh, no. That's awkward.

LONG HAIR

Great. Potential partners who are  
kleptomaniacs. Maybe we can catch  
them before they leave and -- I don't  
know -- discreetly ask for it back.

JULIE

Discreetly. Don't start something,  
just ask him.

LONG HAIR

Ken, get down to reception to head  
them off. I'll call Aries. Julie,  
call sales.

THEY ALL SPRINT OUT OF THE CONFERENCE ROOM. LEFT ALONE, GOOD  
JIM HOLDS UP THE GYROSCOPE. HE WAGGLES THE WIRES AROUND.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

GOOD JIM

Perhaps you were looking for this?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

SCENE L

INT. CUBE MAZE - NIGHT  
(BAD JIM, LONG HAIR)

BAD JIM PRAIRIE-DOGS UP FROM HIS CUBICLE.

BAD JIM

Omigod. I gotta run. Karen's going  
to kill me.

LONG HAIR LOOKS UP FROM HIS COMPUTER.

LONG HAIR

I thought that you and she were -- you  
know -- strictly confidential.

GOOD JIM LEANS BACK TO LISTEN. KEN SLOWLY PRAIRIE-DOGS UP.

BAD JIM

Who told you that?

LONG HAIR

You?

BAD JIM

Well... I've got to get home. I just  
don't have time to hang around here.

LONG HAIR

Did you move your stuff out of the  
warehouse?

BAD JIM

Oh, no, I couldn't do that. If she  
found out that I bought golf clubs.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM (CONT'D)

Whew. That would be terrible, she'd  
kick me out in a minute.

LONG HAIR

Which is different from being  
separated, how? Never mind. Go home.

FADE OUT.

END OF TAG