

Fistful of Bytes
"The Router has Landed"
by
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COLD OPENING

SCENE A

FADE IN:

INT. MACHINE ROOM - DAY

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

LONG HAIR, KEN, AND GOOD JIM ARE STANDING AROUND ONE SERVER RACK WATCHING KEN TYPE. BAD JIM AND JULIE ARE STANDING AROUND ANOTHER SERVER RACK.

LONG HAIR

Did that work?

KEN

Ummm... it might have. Wait. (TYPES)

I think so.

LONG HAIR

(TO JULIE) What have you got?

JULIE

(TO BAD JIM) Run it.

BAD JIM

(TYPES) Yes! No. Wait. I don't think it worked.

HURRICANE BUZZ FLINGS OPEN THE DOOR.

HURRICANE BUZZ

What is going on here? How many engineers does it take to configure a server?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

(COUNTS) One, two, three, four, five,
and a manager brings it up to six.
Yep. It takes six engineers.

HURRICANE BUZZ

That's not what I meant! Do you all
need to be in here? Don't you have
work to do?

LONG HAIR

Work? uhh...yes. Pretty much what
I'm doing now.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Fine.

HURRICANE BUZZ STORMS OUT.

JULIE

Smooth. Very smooth.

CUT TO:

END OF COLD OPENING

ACT ONE

SCENE B

INT. CUBE MAZE - DAY

(JULIE, LONG HAIR, GOOD JIM, KEN)

LONG HAIR IS SITTING IN HIS CUBE, SUCKING DOWN COFFEE FROM HAS MASSIVE STAINLESS STEEL MUG. JULIE COMES IN, PISSED.

JULIE

I can't believe it.

LONG HAIR

(PUZZLED) I have my doubts sometimes, also, but I find that martini's help.

JULIE

I'm sorry. Good morning, how are you?

LONG HAIR

I'm fine. You don't sound so fine this morning.

JULIE

Do you believe those buffoons in building security?

LONG HAIR

Believe?

JULIE

This place is an accident waiting to happen. I got through security this morning with this!

SHE PULLS A HUGE FILLET KNIFE OUT OF HER PURSE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

I can see why. It's not like they have guns or anything. I'd back down from a knife like that.

JULIE

They never even looked.

LONG HAIR

So, you'd be happier if they opened everyone's purse and rooted around looking for huge knives?

JULIE

Doesn't it make sense?

LONG HAIR

Oh, absolutely. You've got the knife.

What else can I do but agree?

GOOD JIM OPENS THE DOOR, WHISTLING LOUDLY AND DOING A VERY GOOFY WALK. HE STOPS WHEN HE SEES JULIE BRANDISHING A KNIFE OVER LONG HAIR. HIS TUNE CHANGES AND HE STARTS WALKING IN S-L-O-W M-O-T-I-O-N.

GOOD JIM

Adrenaline pumping, time dilates.

LONG HAIR

(TO JULIE) I guess this doesn't look good.

GOOD JIM

Point of clarification: are there rules in a knife fight?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Jim.

GOOD JIM THROWS UP HIS HANDS AND FREEZES. JULIE PUTS THE KNIFE BACK IN HER PURSE.

KEN OPENS THE DOOR AND COMES IN FULL OF SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. HE'S CARRYING A 3-FOOT LONG HEDGE TRIMMER.

KEN

Good morning.

GOOD JIM

It's not what it appears.

KEN

No, it's beautiful. A perfect day for pruning.

LONG HAIR

Okay. That's half the story. But, and this is big, we still don't have a hedge.

JULIE

Good morning, Ken, how are you?

KEN

Wonderful!

JULIE

And the hedge trimmer? What's that about? Are you going to moonlight as a gardener during your lunch break?

KEN

No, I was going to take it to the machine shop to sharpen it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

You see what I mean?

GOOD JIM

The search for meaning. Please.

JULIE

He just walked through security with
that hedge trimmer.

KEN

Sure. How else could I get it in?

JULIE

How about not bringing it into the
office in the first place?

KEN

I don't work in the machine shop, so
where else would I bring it?

JULIE SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISBELIEF.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE C

INT. DEMO ROOM - DAY

(GOOD JIM, KEN, BAD JIM)

GOOD JIM IS POLISHING THE CONFERENCE ROOM TABLE. KEN COMES IN WITH THE HEDGE TRIMMER.

GOOD JIM

Darth Vader, only you would be so bold.

KEN

What?

GOOD JIM

No light sabers in the conference room.

KEN

I can't keep it in my cubicle.

GOOD JIM

You have a hedge?

KEN

Of course.

GOOD JIM

The hedge surrounds a house?

KEN

And?

GOOD JIM

This house has a garage?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

Are you saying I should leave this at home?

GOOD JIM

It was just a passing fancy.

BAD JIM BARGES IN.

BAD JIM

Okay. Okay. I've got the -- (SEES THE HEDGE TRIMMER) whoa -- nice tool.

KEN

I've got a big bush at home, I need a tool like this.

GOOD JIM PUTS HIS HANDS OVER HIS EARS.

GOOD JIM

La, la, la, I can't hear you.

BAD JIM

When you've got a lot of bush to take care of, you need a really powerful tool.

GOOD JIM

Sigh. Demo? Focus please. And... Action.

BAD JIM

Look, how important is this demo?

GOOD JIM

Never a good opening gambit.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

I just don't have time for this. I've got way too much to do.

GOOD JIM

Engineering demo is the work. (MIMES MOVING A CHESS PIECE) Check.

BAD JIM

What about all the other things I have to do?

GOOD JIM

Like?

BAD JIM

Everything! I don't have time for this.

GOOD JIM

Don't have time: repeated move. Check and Mate.

BAD JIM

Okay. Okay. I'll get the demo started. But do you really need this?

GOOD JIM

We need Aries to be happy, delighted, transported to heights of engineering ecstasy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

Oh, you're just doing another demo for
Aries? How many times is she going to
look at this demo?

GOOD JIM

Until she... (SIGHS)

GOOD JIM SWOONS.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE D

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM

(JULIE, HURRICANE BUZZ)

JULIE SITS AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM TABLE. BUZZ HURTLES IN WITH A STYROFOAM CUP AND HIS DAYTIMER. HE SPILLS SOMETHING FROM HIS CUP AS HE SITS DOWN.

JULIE HANDS HIM A NAPKIN.

JULIE

Is that tea, Buzz?

HURRICANE BUZZ

I'm on a diet. Can't drink coffee.

JULIE

Coffee has calories?

HURRICANE BUZZ

No, sugar and cream do.

JULIE PEEKS INTO THE STYROFOAM CUP.

JULIE

(PUZZLED) That doesn't look like tea.

HURRICANE BUZZ

No. I can't stand tea. So I put in non-dairy creamer. Fewer calories than cream and sugar.

JULIE

But couldn't you use low-cal creamer in coffee?

HURRICANE BUZZ

Oh, no. It ruins the coffee.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

So you drink tea, which you hate
anyway?

HURRICANE BUZZ

Exactly. That's the key to a diet.

BUZZ FLIPS THROUGH HIS BULKY DAY TIMER.

HURRICANE BUZZ (CONT'D)

Okay. So, who's going down to the
loading dock for our new router
delivery?

JULIE

Router?

HURRICANE BUZZ

Router. We have a new router for
project Iodine arriving today.
Someone has to meet it at the loading
dock.

JULIE

What router?

HURRICANE BUZZ

You mean no one ordered the router?

JULIE

Wait. Wait. Ready... Undo! Why
would there be a router arriving at
the loading dock today?

HURRICANE BUZZ

If you didn't order it, who did?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Buzz. Focus. Julie here. Why do you think someone ordered a router?

BUZZ FLIPS PAGES WILDLY IN HIS HUGE, OVERSTUFFED DAYTIMER.

HURRICANE BUZZ

It's in the project plan. We need -- wait -- I don't have it. I left the plan at my desk.

JULIE

I don't see how that's possible - you've got more trash in that day timer than the Washington County landfill.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Okay. Okay. I'll get the plan. We have to figure out how to handle this router delivery.

JULIE

If there is a router delivery.

BUZZ JUMPS UP AND RUNS OUT TRAILING LOOSE PAPERS EVERYWHERE. AFTER WATCHING HIM DEPART, JULIE JUMPS UP AND RUNS TO THE DOOR.

JULIE (CONT'D)

And this is not a crisis!

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE E

INT. COFFEE SHOP

(JULIE, LONG HAIR)

JULIE AND LONG HAIR ARE SITTING OVER COFFEE.

JULIE

Can you believe Ken bringing a hedge trimmer in?

LONG HAIR

Just as strange as bringing in a fillet knife.

JULIE

That's different.

LONG HAIR

Clearly. The hedge trimmer is 4 times as big.

JULIE

Really, size doesn't matter.

LONG HAIR

That's what I told my first wife.

JULIE

It's the secrecy factor. Ken carried the hedge trimmer in openly. But I accidentally carried a concealed weapon past security.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

Accidentally. What's this I see
before me? A fillet knife? Where are
the bass, the trout?

JULIE

It's a little too late for trout. It
was bass.

LONG HAIR

Was there a concealed bass in your
purse, also? Sushi on the hoof?
Great lunch plan: just a bowl of rice
and a newspaper please, I brought my
own raw fish for sushi.

JULIE

No. It's just that I took it out of
my tackle box to sharpen it, and
accidentally brought it in to work.
And security didn't find it.

LONG HAIR

Did you want them to sharpen it for
you?

JULIE

Be serious. How secure do you feel
here?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

I'm a contractor. I can be fired at any moment. Security doesn't mean anything to me.

JULIE

Not job security. I mean security security.

LONG HAIR

Aren't they there to keep the patent stuff from walking out the door?

JULIE

Walking out the door? What if they stop me going out?

LONG HAIR

With a knife? What would they say? Take that knife back to your desk and threaten co-workers with it?

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE F

INT. MACHINE ROOM - DAY
(JULIE, KEN)

JULIE AND KEN ARE STARING AT A RACK OF COMPUTERS.

JULIE

This rack?

KEN

It's the only one with the capacity
for the new disk array.

JULIE

Nice rack.

KEN

Did you say nice rack?

JULIE

What did you want me say?

(CONSTRUCTION-WORKER GROWL) Woo-hoo
baby you got what I want!

KEN

Uh... Ahh...

JULIE

It's okay, Ken. I won't tell any of
the other women what kinds of things
men say about them. Your secrets are
all safe with me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

So, we'll have to move those
processors to this rack.

JULIE

And the switch?

KEN

Absolutely.

KEN PULLS OUT A DRAWER WITH A KEYBOARD ON IT, HITS A SWITCH
AND STARTS TO TYPE.

JULIE

Wait, wait, wait.

KEN

(OVER HIS SHOULDER) What?

JULIE

Procedures. Process. Ken. We have
to tell people we're shutting those
processors down.

KEN

They'd find out soon enough.

JULIE

Do you think they might get pissed if
you just shut this down without
telling anybody?

KEN

What can they do about it? What do
they do when there's a crash?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

A crash is completely different.

KEN

How so? Machine stops, people complain. See, all I have to do is "oops" and we can move these processors right now, before lunch.

JULIE

Please do not oops.

KEN

What's wrong with an oops?

JULIE

Ken, a planned oops is just wrong.

KEN

Oops.

JULIE

(AGHAST) You didn't!

KEN

Gotcha! I'll send a shutdown notice.

JULIE

No oops. Make this an oops-free zone.

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE G

INT. DEMO ROOM - DAY
(ARIES, GOOD JIM)

GOOD JIM IS ADJUSTING WORKSTATIONS. HE MOVES THE KEYBOARD, TIPS THE DISPLAY, ALIGNS THE MOUSE. HE CHECKS THAT THE CORDS ARE ALL HANGING STRAIGHT. HE PULLS OUT A BIG FEATHER DUSTER AND DUSTS THE TOPS OF ALL THE MICE.

ARIES WALKS IN. JIM WHIPS THE FEATHER DUSTER BEHIND HIS BACK.

ARIES

Hey.

GOOD JIM

Greetings... (HE WAVES HIS HAND AS IF
TO SAY MORE) and... greetings.

GOOD JIM HAS A DEER-IN-THE-HEADLIGHTS STARE WHEN FACE-TO-FACE WITH ARIES. ARIES IS WILLING TO GUT IT OUT. SHE STANDS FOR A WHILE. GOOD JIM STARES, SLOWLY WORKING ON SAYING SOMETHING. ARIES SHIFTS FROM FOOT TO FOOT.

GOOD JIM OPENS HIS MOUTH, MOVES HIS HAND. ARIES TIPS HER HEAD, ENCOURAGING HIM. HE FREEZES. ARIES LOOKS AROUND, NERVOUS.

GOOD JIM OPENS HIS MOUTH AGAIN, THIS TIME HE BRINGS OUT THE FEATHER DUSTER BY ACCIDENT. HE REACTS, AGHAST, AND WHIPS IT BACK BEHIND HIS BACK. THIS IS LAME, SO HE BRINGS IT OUT AGAIN, THIS TIME MORE SLOWLY. HE NODS TO THE FEATHER DUSTER. THE FEATHER DUSTER NODS BACK AT HIM.

GOOD JIM (CONT'D)

House cleaning.

ARIES

Good to know. But not really a
software thing, is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOOD JIM

Software, aye, there's the rub. Would
you care to have a seat?

GOOD JIM HOLDS A CHAIR FOR HER. SHE STARES AT HIM, HARD. HE
SMILES AND WAVES HER INTO THE CHAIR.

ARIES

That's sweet, but do I look like your
grandmother?

GOOD JIM

(THINKS, LOOKING CLOSELY) No. Not at
all. She's, well, and you're, uh.

ARIES

I'm uh. I'm a whole lotta uh, and I
prefer to hold my own chair. Can I
sit over there?

GOOD JIM

(HORRIFIED) Glare.

ARIES

Glare?

GOOD JIM

The lighting. It reflects off the
glass. I've adjusted this one.

ARIES

Adjusted?

GOOD JIM

For your altitude?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIES

Are you saying I have an altitude
problem?

GOOD JIM

Problem?

ARIES

Because it's my altitude, and it's the
only altitude I've got.

GOOD JIM

I guess a bad altitude is better than
no altitude at all.

ARIES

No altitude adjustment for this girl.
I was born to be short and top-heavy.
If you don't mind, I'd prefer that
chair (POINTS) because its already
short.

GOOD JIM

(SLYLY) Anything, your shortness.

ARIES

(SECRETLY PLEASED) Watch it. One word
from me, and you'll be working on this
software for the rest of your natural
life.

GOOD JIM

Ah, the Sisyphean joy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIES

Don't start on the obscure Latin.

GOOD JIM

It's all Greek to me.

ARIES

I'm sure it is. What are we looking
at here?

GOOD JIM

(ROD SERLING) You are about to enter
another dimension, a dimension not
only of sight and sound but of mind; a
journey into --

ARIES

Hold the phone. Do I look like a
customer?

GOOD JIM

Actually, yes, you are my internal
customer, and you must be (OVER THE
TOP) delighted with what you see.

ARIES

How about, then, we keep the chatter
down and you show me something.

GOOD JIM

I'll show you mine if you show me
yours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARIES

Watch it. You show me yours and if I don't laugh out loud, we'll see what happens next.

GOOD JIM

Ah, derisive laughter. Very cutting.

GOOD JIM WAGGLES HIS FINGERS EXPECTANTLY. HE TAKES A BIG BREATH. ARIES MOVES THE MOUSE AND STARTS TYPING.

GOOD JIM (CONT'D)

Okay, then, if you would be so kind as to double click on the --

ARIES

Thanks, I'm there already. (WAVES HIM ON) Pick up the pace.

GOOD JIM

(HAND ON HIS HEART) Ah, the sublime joy.

ARIES

Hey! What happened? It stopped.

GOOD JIM

Stopped? You have stopped what could not be stopped. This is -- is --

GOOD JIM COLLAPSES INTO A CHAIR, HEAD ON THE TABLE.

ARIES

I'll give you a moment. How about we try this again tomorrow?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

SHE LEAVES JIM SOBBING.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE H

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

(JULIE, LONG HAIR, HURRICANE BUZZ)

JULIE HAS A SALAD. LONG HAIR HAS GIANT PLATE OF EVERYTHING - MEAT, POTATOES, VEGGIE, SALAD, DESSERT.

JULIE

I've got to run, Ken should be about done moving the servers to free up some rack space.

LONG HAIR

(LOOKS AT HIS WATCH) Yep. Just about time to go clean up whatever mess he made.

JULIE

It's not rocket science. But there's always something.

LONG HAIR

Speaking of not rocket science.

HURRICANE BUZZ RUSHES IN WITH A BOWL OF SOUP AND HIS GIANT DAY-TIMER CRAMMED FULL OF TRASH.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Hey.

BUZZ PULLS OUT A CHAIR AND SITS DOWN, SLOPPING SOUP ALL OVER HIS DAYTIMER.

HURRICANE BUZZ (CONT'D)

Ow! Dag Nab it! Can I borrow some napkins?

LONG HAIR POINTS AT JULIE. SHE NODS IN AGREEMENT.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Borrow? How about you keep this.

SHE HANDS HIM HER NAPKIN. LONG HAIR FISHES AROUND AMONG HIS STACK OF PLATES FOR A NAPKIN. BUZZ WIPES UP HIS SPILLED SOUP AND LOOKS OVER AT LONG HAIR'S SPREAD.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Oh, man, look at that lunch. You could choke a horse with that. And me on a diet.

LONG HAIR

You're right, this is all about you and your diet. (TO JULIE) Choke a horse.

JULIE NODS.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Too-chee. Too-chee.

JULIE GETS UP.

JULIE

If you'll excuse me, I've got to go and... (EVASIVE) check on...

LONG HAIR

(HELPING) Check on... Some email? Uh ... and stuff...

HURRICANE BUZZ LOOKS BACK AND FORTH AT THEM AS THEY STRUGGLE FOR AN EXCUSE.

JULIE

At my desk. See you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ

Ken swapping out the servers again?

JULIE

(DEFEATED) Yes. (SLOWLY) Touche.

SHE SITS BACK DOWN.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Before you go; I found the plan for the new router delivery. It's supposed to be here today. We need to get it installed immediately or the whole plan collapses like a house of cards.

JULIE SITS BACK DOWN. BUZZ ROOTS AROUND IN HIS DAYTIMER, DROPPING PAPERS ONTO THE FLOOR.

LONG HAIR

House of cards.

JULIE

I heard.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Here.

BUZZ HANDS JULIE A PIECE OF PAPER. JULIE LOOKS AT IT, PUZZLED. SHE PASSES IT TO LONG HAIR.

JULIE

What plan is that supposed to be?

HURRICANE BUZZ

The latest and greatest project Iodine plan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

I don't think I recognize any of this.

Buzz, are you sure this is project

Iodine?

HURRICANE BUZZ GRABS IT FROM LONG HAIR.

LONG HAIR

That's okay, I wasn't really

interested anyway.

LONG HAIR PICKS UP HIS BOTTLE OF SODA.

HURRICANE BUZZ

What is the date on this?

PAUSES BEFORE TAKING A DRINK.

LONG HAIR

I'll assume that's a rhetorical
question, since you're holding the
only copy.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Well, I'll be fried in turpentine.

LONG HAIR SPRAYS SODA AS HE CHOKES ON THAT.

HURRICANE BUZZ (CONT'D)

What? It's not project Iodine. I
don't know what this is. I gotta find
the real plan.

BUZZ PACKS UP HIS DAYTIMER AND RUSHES OFF, LEAVING HIS SOUP.
JULIE AND LONG HAIR LOOK AT EACH OTHER, BAFFLED BY WHAT
THEY'VE JUST SEEN.

JULIE

Okay. There was a 'Dag Nab it'.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

And a 'choke a horse'.

JULIE

But what is 'fried in turpentine'?

LONG HAIR

That's a new one for Buzz-Word Bingo.

LING HAIR PULLS OUT A POSTER BOARD WITH BUZZ'S CATCH-PHRASES ON IT.

JULIE

Take out "Born in the USA", he hasn't said that in a long time.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE I

FADE IN:

INT. MACHINE ROOM - DAY
(JULIE, KEN, BAD JIM)

JULIE AND KEN ARE PEERING AT A SERVER RACK. KEN IS SCRATCHING HIS HEAD.

JULIE

Did you say oops?

KEN

Yes, but I think it was a real oops.

JULIE

What happened?

KEN

I don't think it was good.

BAD JIM COMES IN, SPINNING A CD ON HIS FINGER.

JULIE

I'm only getting a vague feeling of discomfort here. Should I actually be worrying?

KEN

I think so.

BAD JIM

Did Ken touch it? I'd worry.

JULIE

Thanks for vote of no confidence.
Polling Ken. Focus please. What do we know for sure?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

For sure?

JULIE

Ken, please. For sure, like "death and taxes" for sure.

KEN

When you think about it, we never really know much. I mean our perceptions are all just shadows of what really exists.

JULIE

Have you been talking with Good Jim? Don't start with that 'what if someone else sees a different color where I see red' nonsense. Tell me about this server.

BAD JIM

Nonsense? What if everyone else sees blue where Ken see red?

JULIE

(SIGH) Ken. If you see things shifted toward red it means ...well... the universe is expanding! Server, Ken. Focus. Tell Julie what happened.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

I think that the demo server had a hard link to one of the ones we just stopped.

JULIE

The Demo One server?

THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND THEIR FACES FALL AS THEY REALIZE THE IMPLICATIONS.

JULIE

Good Jim's demo.

KEN

Good Jim's demo.

BAD JIM

Nice work, Ken.

KEN

Poor guy. He was so set on wowing Aries. I can reconfigure it.

JULIE

I don't think Aries would wait around. I can check, but I think that's that.

KEN

But Good Jim? And Aries? He'll be devastated. He was going to pop the question.

JULIE

Pop the question?

BAD JIM

Oh, yeah. He was going to ask her to go downstairs for coffee.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

That is so sad.

KEN

That he won't be able to pop question?

JULIE

No. That he can't just talk to her.

He needs remedial lessons in normal.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE J

INT. CUBE FARM - DAY

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

JULIE IS SITTING AT HER CUBE, TYPING. LONG HAIR COMES IN AND SITS DOWN AT HIS WORKSTATION.

JULIE

Could you forward the real project
Iodine plan to Buzz?

LONG HAIR

Would it help?

JULIE

I can only hope.

LONG HAIR

Oh, yeah, lunch. Who's got the Buzz-
Word pig?

JULIE LEANS OVER TO GOOD JIM'S CUBICLE, THEN LEANS BACK.

JULIE

Maybe Ken has it.

LONG HAIR SCROUNGES AROUND IN HIS POCKET AND PULLS OUT A BILL.

LONG HAIR

Do you mind?

JULIE

Not at all.

SHE ROOTS AROUND IN HER PURSE FOR A WHILE, PULLS OUT THE KNIFE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR

Look, if its a problem, I can do it myself.

JULIE

Lay off. It's just a fillet knife.

LONG HAIR

If you're filleting a 400 pound bluefin tuna. Or maybe defending yourself from a great white shark. I don't think a large-mouth bass needs a knife that big.

JULIE TAKES THE MONEY TO KEN'S CUBICLE.

JULIE

(STANDING IN KEN'S CUBE) So he just waltzed in here with a hedge trimmer.

LONG HAIR

And he'll foxtrot right back out with it, too.

JULIE COMES BACK FROM KEN'S CUBE.

JULIE

Maybe I should do that with the knife.

LONG HAIR

What, wave it at the guards on your way out? I can see how that helps.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JULIE

Then they'd know that I got in with it. Maybe they'd improve their inspections.

LONG HAIR

Or maybe they'd just pass the word to human resources that Julie's blown a gasket and needs a permanent vacation.

BAD JIM PRAIRIE-DOG'S UP, REMOVING HIS HEADPHONES.

BAD JIM

It's not like I was listening, but I couldn't help overhearing, but I didn't catch all that. Julie's taking vacation?

LONG HAIR

Jim. Here's a hint: turn down the music to eavesdrop.

JULIE

Okay, fine then, I'll sneak it out. But if I get caught...

LONG HAIR

You'll denounce me as the ringleader? The secret fishing cabal? The central committee of angling? I don't fish. The closest I get to fish is sushi. I think you need to relax and put down the knife.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LONG HAIR (CONT'D)

(BEAT) That sounds so cop-show. (DEEP
VOICE) Put down the knife, Julie, and
no one will get hurt.

BAD JIM APPEARS OVER THE CUBICLE WALL WAVING A NERF GUN.
GOOD JIM DRAGS HIMSELF IN, TOTALLY DESPONDENT.

BAD JIM

I got her covered. Don't try anything
dumb, Julie.

LONG HAIR

(DEEP) Just give me the knife.

GOOD JIM

The knife? That would have been my
first choice.

GOOD JIM DOES A COMIC-BOOK LUNGE INTO KEN'S CUBICLE AND
EMERGES WITH THE HEDGE-TRIMMER.

GOOD JIM (CONT'D)

(SINGS DARTH VADER THEME) Na na na nu-
ni-na nu-ni-na.

JULIE

Oh, please.

JULIE PUTS THE KNIFE BACK IN HER PURSE AND SITS DOWN. GOOD
JIM PUTS DOWN THE HEDGE TRIMMER.

LONG HAIR

Chief, if I were surrounded by eight
or ten of these things, would I stand
a chance with them?

GOOD JIM SLINKS AROUND TO HIS CUBE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOOD JIM

(SOUTHERN SHERIFF) If you have a gun,
shoot 'em in the head. If you don't,
get yourself a club or a torch. Beat
'em or burn 'em.

KEN COMES IN.

BAD JIM

Oh, wait, it isn't loaded.

BAD JIM COCKS THE NERF GUN NOISILY.

LONG HAIR

Great, now we're all dead.

KEN

What'd I miss?

JULIE

It was pretty obscure.

LONG HAIR

Night of the living dead.

GOOD JIM

1968.

JULIE

Maybe you two should get out more.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE K

INT. LOADING DOCK - DAY
(FRANK, HURRICANE BUZZ)

HURRICANE BUZZ IS PACING AROUND. FRANK WANDERS BY WITH HIS SCANNER.

FRANK

Buzz. I haven't seen you in just forever.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Frank, listen. What's your schedule for today?

FRANK

My schedule? Well, I'm working till four, then I've got to run over to daycare and get Lloyd, and then we're going to --

HURRICANE BUZZ

Wait. Sorry. Not what I meant. I meant the receiving schedule.

FRANK

Why? Are you expecting something?
(WORRIED AND CONSOLING) I don't think I have anything for you, but we should go look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ

Frank, it's not like I had a death in the family. I'm just looking for a router.

FRANK IS BAFFLED. HE DOES HIS THINKING POSE - HAND ON HIP, HAND ON SIDE OF HEAD. HE LOOKS AROUND AT THE FLOOR FOR A MOMENT.

FRANK

(HOLDING HIS HANDS UP TO SHOW A SMALL PACKAGE) A router?

HURRICANE BUZZ

It's not the size.

FRANK

Everyone says that.

HURRICANE BUZZ

It's the long pole in the tent.

FRANK

(LOST) Ahh, the long pole in the --

HURRICANE BUZZ

Forget it, it's just a metaphor.

FRANK

Is that the shipping company? (HOLDS UP FOUR FINGERS) Meta-Four? Cute name. Meta-Four. I can --

HURRICANE BUZZ

No. Long pole in the tent is a metaphor for ... you know ...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ (CONT'D)

the first one you take down when you
fold up a circus tent.

FRANK

(THINKING) A circus tent.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Okay. So no router?

FRANK

Like in the cartoon with the little
elephant and the crows. I watched
that all the time when I was little.
Lloyd doesn't like it though, the
dream with the dancing elephants is
too boring for kids nowadays.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Have you been hanging out with the
software team? Look, I'm trying to
track down a router.

FRANK

When did you order it? Where's your
ship confirmation?

HURRICANE BUZZ

Ship confirmation. You're a genius.
Of course. I'll call the vendor.

FRANK

(WAVES HIS FINGERS) Meta-Four?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ

No. The long pole in the tent was a metaphor.

FRANK

Wait. Wait. Why would you know the names of vendors that make circus tents?

HURRICANE BUZZ

No. I don't. I just used the phrase ... to describe ... Look, I have to go.

FRANK

Stop in again.

BUZZ STORMS OFF.

FRANK (CONT'D)

Belt and suspenders. Who dresses him in the morning?

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 1

INT. GOOD JIM'S CUBE - DAY

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

GOOD JIM IS TYPING. HIS CUBE IS BARE, BARE, BARE. HE HAS A SMALL JAPANESE-LOOKING SHRINE WITH A BUDDAH STATUE. GOOD JIM HAS SLID WAY DOWN IN HIS CHAIR AS HE TYPES.

HE STRAIGHTENS UP SUDDENLY, LOOKS OVER THE TOP OF HIS CUBICLE.

GOOD JIM

Ken?

KEN SCUTTLES AROUND THE CORNER. GOOD JIM DOES AN ELABORATE DOUBLE-TAKE. THEN HE DOES A LONG SLOW PAN FROM THE TOP OF HIS CUBE WHERE KEN USUALLY APPEARS TO JIM IN PERSON.

GOOD JIM (CONT'D)

Ken.

KEN

Hey.

GOOD JIM

To what do I owe the pleasure of this in-person visit?

KEN

(TRYING TO BE EVASIVE) Nothing. I mean I figured that popping over the top of the cube was kind of rude and so I...

GOOD JIM

Ahhh. Dame Judith Martin has spoken on office protocol. Did you bring a gift?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

What?

GOOD JIM

Had I known it was formal, I would
have baked a cake. Tea?

KEN

I'm sorry, I got lost there.

LONG HAIR WHEELS HIS CHAIR OVER.

LONG HAIR

Miss Manners. Judith Martin.

KEN

Miss Manners?

LONG HAIR

Etiquette advice. You know, like Dear
Abby and Car Talk without the lying,
cheating ex-husbands or (LOOK AT GOOD
JIM) broken-down turbo-chargers.

GOOD JIM

(PETULANT) The turbo does work.

LONG HAIR

One week a month. Then it breaks down
again. I'd suggest that you buy a new
car without so many moving parts, but
I interrupt.

GOOD JIM

(DIGNIFIED) Correct. My car and I
have a history.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOOD JIM (CONT'D)

(BACK TO WORK) Now that we are gathered, the project Iodine demo server crashed.

LONG HAIR

When?

GOOD JIM

Today.

LONG HAIR

Today? Isn't that way ahead of --

KEN

Uhhh...

GOOD JIM

By, uhh, do you mean that you can give us enlightenment?

KEN

Well you see...

THE DOOR BANGS OPEN. HURRICAN BUZZ HAS BARGED IN.

HURRICANE BUZZ (O.S.)

Julie!

LONG HAIR

A shift in the wind.

GOOD JIM

A clap of thunder.

HURRICANE BUZZ RUSHES AROUND THE CORNER TO JOIN THE CREW.

LONG HAIR

A storm brewing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ

Julie.

GOOD JIM

(NODS AS HE LOOKS CAREFULLY AT LONG
HAIR AND KEN) No, not that I can see.

HURRICANE BUZZ

I was looking for Julie to see if we
got a shipment confirmation on the
router.

LONG HAIR

Router?

HURRICANE BUZZ

The one that's supposed to be shipped
today.

LONG HAIR

For?

HURRICANE BUZZ

(DUH!) Project Iodine.

LONG HAIR

Sorry for just coming on this, but
that's been rescheduled.

GOOD JIM

(ENLIGHTENMENT) Rescheduled.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Rescheduled?

LONG HAIR

Rescheduled.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

Can I play, too? Rescheduled.

LONG HAIR

Oooh. That's a tenth of a point deduction. It was supposed to be asked in the form of a question.

KEN

Rescheduled?

LONG HAIR

Better.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Who rescheduled the project?

LONG HAIR

(PUZZLED BY THE QUESTION) You...

HURRICANE BUZZ

When?

LONG HAIR

When Julie said you can't do two full-time projects at the same time.

HURRICANE BUZZ

Well I'll be dipped.

GOOD JIM

(ENLIGHTENED) Dipped.

LONG HAIR

Dipped?

KEN

(TRIUMPHANT) Dipped.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HURRICANE BUZZ

Is there an echo in here?

LONG HAIR

Ohh. I'm so sorry, you were expected to say it as a question. That's a full point deduction.

HURRICANE BUZZ

I'm not following.

LONG HAIR

A question: "Dipped?"

HURRICANE BUZZ

You know like dipped in ... uh ... manure.

GOOD JIM

Ah, the quaint agrarian metaphor. Life on the farm. How noble. We don't even have windows.

HURRICANE BUZZ

So, the whole project is delayed. That's why no one ordered the router.

GOOD JIM

Was Julie keeping this a secret?

LONG HAIR

Well, if you'd go to meetings once in a while, you'd know about schedule changes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOOD JIM

(DISDAIN) Status meetings. How tedious.

LONG HAIR

Okay. If you want fun status meetings, I'll get a clown to make balloon animals with the production schedule. How's that?

GOOD JIM

(CYNICAL) Oh, unbounded joy.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE M

INT. CAFETERIA

(BAD JIM, JULIE)

BAD JIM FISHES IN HIS POCKETS AIMLESSLY. HE PULLS OUT A MASSIVE WAD OF TRASH AND SHOWS IT TO JULIE WITH A HELPLESS SHRUG.

BAD JIM

I forgot to go to the ATM this morning. Can you spot me?

JULIE

Sure. But you know, Jim, ATM's give more than twenties.

BAD JIM

Oh no. If I take out more than a twenty, I'll just spend it.

JULIE

So instead, I spend it and you pay me back. (DEPRECATING) I can see how well that works.

BAD JIM

It's the fees that kill me.

JULIE

Fees! Are you paying a buck and change to take out twenty? That's a huge penalty! When you have fees, take out two hundred!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

I don't have that much in the account.

JULIE

You don't -- wait. Is this because if you had more than a hundred in the account, you'd only spend it?

BAD JIM

Oh, yea. Each week I move one hundred from my payroll account to the ATM account. That makes it harder to spend.

JULIE

You can't write a check from the payroll account?

BAD JIM

Oh, no. I would never do that. Except when I needed to. Like when I bought the new golf clubs. But that's different.

JULIE

My head hurts.

BAD JIM

It's really simple. All I do is --

JULIE

Let's not talk about it, okay? You're on track for project Iodine starting in two weeks?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BAD JIM

(PANIC) Whew. Two weeks. Project Iodine is big. I don't know if I can have it ready to start in two weeks.

JULIE

Ready to start? There's nothing to do before it starts, except review the plan.

BAD JIM

And build the database!

JULIE

No. Jim. Wait. Undo. That's part of the project. It doesn't happen before. It happens during.

BAD JIM

Well whatever. I just don't you know think we should wait until the start of the project to start the project, you know?

JULIE

No. Actually I don't. Can we stick to the schedule? Just this once, can we try not to think outside the box?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

SCENE N

INT. CUBE MAZE

(KEN, LONG HAIR, GOOD JIM)

LONG HAIR IS TYPING. GOOD JIM'S CHAIR IS SLID BACK AND HE IS SPINNING IDLY.

THERE IS A HUGE FIBBER-MCGEE-AND-MOLLY CRASH. GOOD JIM STOPS SPINNING AND HALF-STANDS TO LOOK AT KEN'S CUBICLE. LONG HAIR LOOKS OVER AT KEN'S CUBE.

KEN

Ooops.

LONG HAIR

Everything okay, Ken?

KEN

Oh yea. That wasn't a bad oops.

GOOD JIM

There's a good oops?

ANOTHER HUGE CRASH. THE HEDGE TRIMMER APPEARS OVER THE CUBE. A WIRE IS CAUGHT IN THE TEETH.

KEN

Ooops.

GOOD JIM

Good oops or bad oops.

KEN'S HEAD APPEARS OVER THE CUBE.

KEN

Uh. I think it was a bad oops.

KEN PLUCKS THE WIRE OUT OF THE HEDGE TRIMMER TEETH.

LONG HAIR

Would you like a hand with that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEN

(CONFIDENT) No. I've got it.

KEN DUCKS SUDDENLY. A SMALL CRASH. GOOD JIM AND LONG HAIR
LOOK, PUZZLED. KEN POPS BACK UP.

KEN (CONT'D)

See?

A HUGE CRASH.

KEN (CONT'D)

Ooops.

FADE OUT.

END OF TAG