

THE SCREENWRITER

Written by

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Based on the true life stories of literally thousands of
struggling screenwriters and a few successful ones as well.

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FADE IN:

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

A small beam of daylight shines down through the darkness of a jail cell's small window.

The beam of daylight shines directly on a YOUNG MAN'S face.

The young man is asleep.

YOUNG MAN (V.O.)
Only six more hours left
and I am free as a bird.
How did I end up here?
Well, it all started with
a dream...

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

A YOUNG MAN rides a bmx bike in the middle of the road. He peddles as fast as he can and he is visibly out of breath.

A UPS TRUCK passes him on the left and the young man reaches out and grabs hold of the back to hitch a ride.

The young man looks back and notices a police car follows right behind him and he can see two police officers with very disappointed looks on their faces.

The young man lets go of the back of the UPS truck and exits towards the sidewalk on the right.

The young man uses the brake on his bmx bike to come to a complete stop.

He watches the police car as it stops, turns around and it's red and blue lights flash on with the POLICE SIREN WAILING as well.

The young man, knowing he is being chased, exits the suburban street.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME(FRONT YARD) - DAY

The young man peddles through the front yard of someone's home as an unknown man stands in the front doorway in his evening robe. The unknown man picks up his newspaper.

The police car stops right in front of the unknown man's house as the young man vanishes into the backyard.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME(BACK YARD) - DAY

The POLICE SIREN'S WAILS continue as the young man peddles through the backyard. A large dog chases close behind him.

CLOSE ON YOUNG MAN'S ANKLE

The large dog's teeth literally scrape against the young man's leg as the dog chases him through the yard.

BACK TO SCENE

The young man approaches the chain link fence that leads to a back alley. He hits the front brake and his bike's rear end lifts up until his bike is standing on the front wheel with full momentum still carrying him.

The young man and his bike lift off the ground and fly over the fence.

The LARGE DOG is left BARKING behind him.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN ALLEY - DAY

The young man and his bike flip completely and he lands on his back wheel successfully.

He then lowers the front end of his bmx bike and continues to peddle down the center of the alley.

EXT. HAMBURGER JOINT - DAY

The young man peddle's up to the hamburger joint and parks his BMX bike. He then pulls out a hat and a name badge out of his backpack and places them on his clothing appropriately as he enters the front entrance of the restaurant.

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - DAY

As the young man walks through the front entrance an OLDER BALDING WHITE MAN approaches him.

OLDER BALDING WHITE MAN
This is the fifth time this week,
SEBASTION.

SEBASTION
Sorry I'm late, MR. NEECE.

MR. NEECE
If your father wasn't my best
friend your ass would've been out
of here a month ago..

SEBASTION
I know, I know..

Sebastion continues towards the back and vanishes behind the door that reads "EMPLOYEES ONLY".

MR. NEECE
(raising his voice)When I
get back there all those
dishes better be
clean!(sotto voice)..you
son of a bitch.

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - DISHWASHING ROOM

Sebastion stares at a huge pile of dirty dishes piled up with his jaw open. A pretty redheaded girl walks up to him and stares at the pile of dirty dishes and him.

PRETTY REDHEADED GIRL
(laughing)It looks like
you are going to get
overtime this week. I'm
jealous.

SEBASTION
Shut up, Cindy.

Sebastion takes a dirty wet dishtowel and smacks Cindy on her ass with it.

CINDY
Hey, that's sexual harassment!

Sebastion walks over to a radio and turns it on. A RAP SONG is playing.

SEBASTION
Would you believe that's not the
first crime I've committed today?

The sound of a POLICE CAR SIREN WAILS LOUDLY and then FADES AWAY.

Cindy gives Sebastion the middle finger and leaves the room.

Sebastion washes the dirty dishes and dances to the RAP SONG that continues to PLAY.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
That's me. Sebastion
King.

FLASHBACK - EXT. GRADUATION CEREMONY - DAY

A slightly younger, clean-cut version of Sebastion walks across the stage and receives a diploma from a school official.

Sebastion then lifts his gown to reveal that he is only wearing boxer briefs underneath then runs off of the stage as several people chase him.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
I hold a master's in
screenwriting. I
graduated at the top of
my class.

END FLASHBACK:

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - GRILLING STATION - DAY

Sebastion flips burgers as the flames from the grill permeate and rise high and burn the burgers. Mr. Neece hovers over him like a helicopter.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
Now, I flip burgers and I
still live with my mom
and my dad. You might
think I'm a loser..

MR. NEECE
Is that burger ready yet?

Sebastion distracts Mr. Neece long enough to spit on one of the burgers.

SEBASTION
(smiling)It's done!

Sebastion hands the burnt, spit-on burger to Mr. Neece and then Mr. Neece carries it away.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
But I have a plan.

EXT. HAMBURGER JOINT - DUSK

Sebastion walks out of the hamburger joint, gets on his BMX bike and peddles away.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - DAY

A UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN peddles a BMX bike and places a package in the mailbox in front of the small suburban home and then peddles away.

A YOUNG GIRL, five years of age, walks out to the mailbox and gets the package and some other mail as well.

She then skips back to the front entrance of the small suburban home and enters through the front door.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

A MAN in casual business attire is seated at the kitchen table. He reads his newspaper and drinks his coffee.

His WIFE stands in front of the oven and prepares breakfast. Then she gathers different packages of food and places them in different bags on the table.

The young girl approaches her father and attempts to interrupt his reading.

YOUNG GIRL

Daddy!

He continues to read.

YOUNG GIRL (CONT'D)

(louder)Daddy!

The man lowers his paper just enough to see his young daughter.

MAN

Yes, dear?

YOUNG GIRL

I brought your mail.

The young girl places the pile of mail on the kitchen table. The man immediately notices the huge yellow envelope that has the words "READ IMMEDIATELY" written in very large, bold letters.

He picks up the package and begins to open the letter.

WIFE

Did you call the exterminator?

MAN

I will dear.

The man tries to read the letter but his wife still continues to talk.

WIFE

And did you remember to pay the mortgage?

MAN

I took care of it yesterday.

WIFE

Now, JOHN, don't forget that your daughter and I have a dance recital tonight.

JOHN

That's tonight?

WIFE

I've been telling you this for weeks now! Don't you listen to me?

JOHN

You know how behind I am! The contest must declare a winner next week.

WIFE

What's more important, some silly screenwriting contest or your daughter?

JOHN

That silly screenwriting contest pays for this house and her dance lessons.

WIFE

How could I ever forget?

The young girl bounces around the room and pirouettes. She is dressed in a ballerina dress over her clothes with a little tiara on her forehead.

The wife looks at her watch.

WIFE (CONT'D)

Come on, honey. We're running late!

The wife takes the little girl by the hand and proceeds to exit toward the front door.

JOHN

Bye, guys, love you!

YOUNG GIRL

Bye, Daddy!

The wife exits the small, suburban home and the DOOR SLAMS SHUT. She reopens the door, leans halfway inside the house looking at her husband.

WIFE

(pointing her finger at
him) 7:30, don't be late!

The wife closes the front door. John redirects his attention to the large package.

John opens the package and sees a small box and a letter. He places the small box and the letter on the table.

CLOSE ON LETTER

The letter's print is mismatched newspaper clippings. It reads, " THE SCREENPLAY ENTITLED THE CONTESTANT MUST WIN. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, WHERE YOU WORK AND WHERE YOUR LITTLE GIRL GOES TO SCHOOL. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF. YOURS TRULY, THE SCREENWRITER."

BACK TO SCENE

John, visibly shaken by what he has just read, opens the small box.

A small, decayed hand is situated in the center of the box. A diamond encrusted wedding ring is present on the decaying hand.

John recognizes both the ring and the hand immediately.

JOHN

(to himself) That's my
grandmother's hand.

As John sits at the kitchen table with his mouth agape we can see a UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN wearing black peddle away on a BMX bike outside of John's kitchen window.

EXT. SMALL SUBURBAN HOME#2 - DAY

A MAN walks out of the front door with his wife and newborn child and helps her place the baby in the car that is parked in the driveway.

As they drive away he waves goodbye to them with a smile on his face.

The man goes back inside of his house.

INT. SMALL SUBURBAN HOME#2 - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The man sits on his sofa and turns on his television to watch the morning news.

As the news broadcast is playing with the typical weather reports and traffic updates the signal becomes jammed and another image appears on his television screen.

The image is The man and ANOTHER MAN making love in a bed.

The man's jaw drops open in disbelief. Their grunts and moans of pleasure can be heard growing louder and louder.

YOUNG MAN (THROUGH TELEVISION)
 How would your wife feel
 if she knew what was
 really going on? The
 screenplay entitled THE
CONTESTANT must win. You
have no idea what I am
capable of! Yours truly,
 the screenwriter.

The signal on the television returns back to the newscast that was originally broadcasting.

EXT. SMALL SUBURBAN HOME#3 - DAY

An UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN#2 wearing all black clothing is parked in the front yard on his BMX bicycle. He turns off a hand held radio then peddles away.

EXT. SMALL SUBURBAN HOME#3 - DAY

A small delivery van is parked in the driveway of a small home. A DELIVERY MAN carries a large bouquet of flowers that includes a dozen roses and a dozen violets to the front door of the home.

The delivery man RINGS the DOORBELL.

A YOUNG WOMAN wearing a nightgown answers the door.

DELIVERY MAN
Are you SUSAN SWANSON?

SUSAN
Yes.

DELIVERY MAN
I have a delivery for you.

SUSAN
Who is it from?

DELIVERY MAN
It only says The Screenwriter.

SUSAN
Oh, my God! I can't believe this!

The delivery man then hands her a Small envelope with a card inside.

DELIVERY MAN
Have a good day, Ma'am!

SUSAN
You, too!

The delivery man walks away and she closes the door as she carries her bouquet of flowers and envelope with her.

INT. SMALL SUBURBAN HOME#3 - LIVING ROOM - DAY

She sets her bouquet of flowers on a stand next to her television and sits down on her couch and begins to open the envelope.

CLOSE ON ENVELOPE

An cursive message is engraved in gold reading, " ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE, IF THE SCREENPLAY ENTITLED THE CONTESTANT DOES NOT WIN, HE WILL BE COMING FOR YOU. YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I AM CAPABLE OF BUT YOU KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF HE COMES AFTER YOU. YOURS TRULY, THE SCREENWRITER."

A small picture of a handsome young man is placed in the opposite side of the envelope.

Small hearts with arrows surround the picture of him. X'S and O's can also be seen.

BACK TO SCENE

Susan looks up and throws the envelope down on the floor. Tears start streaming down her face.

She covers her face with her hands.

SUSAN
(screaming)Not again!

EXT. FLOWER SHOP - DAY

An UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN#3 wearing all black clothing is seated on his BMX bike in front of a flower shop. He holds a walkie-talkie up to his ear.

CLOSE ON YOUNG MAN#3

SEBASTION (V.O.)
Did you remember to pay
in cash?

UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN#3
That's affirmative. Over and out.

BACK TO SCENE

The unknown young man places his walkie-talkie in his backpack and peddles away from the flower shop.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON A MANUSCRIPT OF A SCREENPLAY(OPENED TO PAGE 10)

The audience can read the words as they are being narrated.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
Ten pages in, the reader
believes he knows how the
story will unfold and how
it will end. Little does
he or she know that the
real fun is about to
begin.

The page is slowly turned by a hand to page number eleven as the audience views page number eleven and the typing including scene headings, action and dialogue.

INT. SEBASTION'S HOME - HIS BEDROOM - DAY

Sebastion's FATHER enters the room to find Sebastion as he sits at his computer. The faces of his three FRIENDS are visible inside his computer screen.

SEBASTION
(speaking to his
friends) Good job, boys.
Over and out.

SEBASTION'S FATHER
Sebastion?

Sebastion turns off his computer screen and turns his chair to face his father.

Sebastion's father has a look of utter disappointment on his face.

SEBASTION
Yes, Sir.

SEBASTION'S FATHER
Have you reviewed the applications
I got for you.

SEBASTION
Yes.

SEBASTION'S FATHER
Then why did I find them in the
garbage?

SEBASTION
Why should someone with a master's
degree in screenwriting apply for a
welding program?

SEBASTION'S FATHER
Because that spoiled brat with the
fancy degree can't live with his
mommy and daddy for the rest of his
natural life!

SEBASTION
I'm not going to be here much
longer, Dad.

SEBASTION'S FATHER

You're right, Son. I'm kicking you out. You have one week to get all of your things and find a place of your own.

SEBASTION

What!! You know that the BigDogz Film Festival isn't until next week!

SEBASTION'S FATHER

Listen to me, young Man. Do you really believe that your entire future rests on how this little contest turns out?

SEBASTION

But, Dad, I have a plan. I need you to trust me!

SEBASTION'S FATHER

And I need you to grow up, Son.

SEBASTION

Yes, Sir.

Sebastion's father walks over to Sebastion's desk and picks up a piece of paper. He takes a close look at it and holds back his laughter.

SEBASTION'S FATHER

(reading the paper he found)" A dead woman's bare hand, two gay men and a crazy lover's wicked obsession. Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum."

SEBASTION

I was considering scoring a soundtrack for a project that's currently in development.

SEBASTION'S FATHER

This is what a fifty thousand dollar degree buys? This is a joke!

Sebastion's father throws the paper with the unfinished lyrics in the garbage.

Sebastion is visibly upset.

SEBASTION

Originally, I was going to use Mozart's Concerto No. 5 but it's a bit too highbrow for the general audience.

SEBASTION'S FATHER

I suggest you pack your bags tonight.

Sebastion's father walks out of the room and SLAMS the DOOR SHUT behind him.

Sebastion, visually affected by his father's harsh criticism, picks up his cell phone and makes a phone call. He does his best to hold back his tears.

SEBASTION

Yes, it went exactly like I expected it would.

Sebastion paces back and forth. His eyes are red and tears flow down his face.

SEBASTION (CONT'D)

I know, I know.

Sebastion packs a small suitcase full of clothes then places his laptop computer in it before ZIPPING IT SHUT.

SEBASTION (CONT'D)

Yes, I was able to get it all. See you guys in a little while.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

Susan, John and JAMIE sit at a large circular table.

They all appear tense. Several small piles of screenplay manuscripts are neatly stacked in front of each one of them.

Susan sips a glass of coffee and her hand shakes like a leaf as the COFFEE CUP RATTLES on it's CERAMIC COASTER.

Jamie taps his pencil on the desk and pretends to read one of the manuscripts.

JOHN

So, ladies and gentleman. Have we come to a conclusion?

SUSAN

Out of the five thousand entrants
we have narrowed it down to
fifteen.

JOHN

What about you, Jamie?

JAMIE

Personally, I found THE CONTESTANT
quite compelling.

JOHN

And you, Susan?

SUSAN

THE CONTESTANT, is by far, the most
original manuscript that I have had
the honor to read in over a decade.

JOHN

Are you sure? I thought we were
leaning towards BABY BOOBY
SQUIRTERS?

SUSAN

We need to take this seriously. You
all know the winner of this contest
wins a blind movie deal with a
major movie studio.

JOHN

All we really need to do is rent a
seat and sell some sugar, folks!

JAMIE

Have you actually read THE
CONTESTANT, John?

JOHN

I flipped through it, briefly.

SUSAN

Why don't we do a table read so we
can visualize what we like the most
about THE CONTESTANT?

JOHN

That's not a bad idea. Susan, since
it's only gentleman-like to let
ladies lead, you can go first.

Susan opens the manuscript in front of her that has "THE
CONTESTANT" written in bold letters on the front page.

SUSAN
 (reading from the
 manuscript) It was a dark,
 rainy night...

FADE TO WHITE:

SCRIPT READ SEQUENCE - DARK HOUSE - NIGHT(RAINING)

SUSAN (V.O.)
 A woman with long red hair...

A woman with long red hair paces back and forth. She is visibly frightened. THREE LOUD KNOCKS on the FRONT DOOR startle her.

She picks up a large knife and clenches it tightly in front of her like King Arthur holding his sword.

A silhouette of a male figure is visible through the glass window.

The front door swings open and a HANDSOME YOUNG MAN stands in the doorway. He is visibly drenched from the HARD RAIN BEATING the GROUND like a natural symphony.

HANDSOME YOUNG MAN
 Have you missed me, baby?

WOMAN
 Why won't you leave me alone?

HANDSOME YOUNG MAN
 You know I can't live without you,
 sugar britches.

The handsome young man steps into the house out of the heavy rain and steps closer towards her slowly.

She points the large knife at him. He continues to walk forward unafraid of her threat.

WOMAN
 Stay away from me!

The handsome young man pulls out a GUN and SHOOTS her right in the middle of her chest. She falls to the floor, dying.

HANDSOME YOUNG MAN
 Goodnight, my Juliet, parting is
 such sweet sorrow.

The handsome young man picks up her limp, dead hand still clenching the large knife and pushes it through his own chest.

The handsome young man's body lies lifeless on top of the dead young woman's body in the middle of her living room floor as THUNDER POUNDS and lightning flashes through her windows.

END SCRIPT READ
SEQUENCE:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

Susan looks up after she reads the scene from THE CONTESTANT.

Tears fall from her face and land on the desk in front of her.

JOHN

I have to admit that I have never seen you so emotionally moved by anything you have read here, Susan.

SUSAN

You said that you flipped through this manuscript briefly, John. Why don't you share what you find so intriguing about this piece of work?

Susan and Jamie both stare at John.

JOHN

I guess that means I am next.

John grabs the manuscript and flips to a page near the center and begins to read.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(reading from the manuscript) Her cold, clammy fingers...

FADE TO WHITE:

SCRIPT READ SEQUENCE#2 - NURSING HOME - OLD LADY'S ROOM - DAY

Her cold, clammy fingers reach up and point toward the ceiling.

She lets out a couple of painful moans that echo louder and louder in the room.

An old lady lies in her bed. She is thin, pale and very near to death.

A YOUNG BOY leans forward to kiss her.

YOUNG BOY
I love you, mee-maw.

As he kisses her she reaches up and grabs him by his throat. She will not let go. She laughs wickedly.

The young boy's parents struggle to save the young boy from the old lady's death grip. She refuses to let go.

As the father pries the old lady's hand off of his son she goes into convulsions and then dies right in front of all of them.

The boy is both physically and mentally traumatized. His parents shake him in hopes of snapping him out of his catatonic state unsuccessfully.

YOUNG BOY'S FATHER
Son, son, can you hear me? Son!
What's wrong with him?

YOUNG BOY'S MOTHER
Johnny? Baby, wake up!

END TABLE READ
SEQUENCE#2:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

John looks up at Susan and Jamie and a mixed look of horror and disbelief can be read on their faces.

JOHN
Well, Jamie, I hope that you can share what compelled you to believe that this manuscript deserves to be seen on the silver screen.

Jamie reluctantly picks up the manuscript. He looks at John and Susan then stalls a few seconds.

JOHN (CONT'D)
Is there a problem, Jamie?

SUSAN
Why are you hesitating? Could you please read the fucking script already?

JOHN
 Children, may I remind everyone in
 this room that we are all
 professionals?

JAMIE
 Okay, okay. I'll read the fucking
 script.

Jamie picks up the manuscript and flips to a page near the
 end.

Susan and John are leaning forward in their chairs because
 Jamie is speaking in such a soft voice.

JAMIE (CONT'D)
 (reading from the manuscript) They
 looked into each other's eyes...

FADE TO WHITE:

SCRIPT READ SEQUENCE#3 - EXT. PARK - DAY

Two gay men are lying next to each other on a blanket in a
 park. They are holding each other tight and staring deep into
 each other's eyes.

They kiss a couple of times.

GAY MAN
 Oh, JAMES, you're such an animal!

JAMES
 (with a lisp) Oh, stop it!

James slaps his gay lover on his rear end.

GAY MAN
 I have an idea...

The gay man leans over and whispers into Jame's ear.

JAMES
 What if we get caught?

GAY MAN
 That's what makes it so exciting!

James and his gay lover stand up and walk over towards a
 wooded area in the park

EXT. PARK(WOODED AREA) - DAY

James and his gay lover run to a spot deep in the woods where no one can see them and start stripping their clothes off.

After they are completely naked they kiss each other passionately.

James goes down on his gay lover and gets down on his knees to do so.

As this happens four men in all black clothing show up and surround them.

One of four men SHOOTs his GUN and it hits James' lover in the back. Blood gushes out of his back.

Another one of the four men stabs James in the back and James bites his gay lover's member(his dick) clean off.

Jame's gay lover slowly falls to his death as blood spurts out of where his dick used to be and from the gunshot to his back.

James dies of both the stab wound and asphyxiation. In other words, he chokes on his lover's dick.

The group of men wearing all black steal both James and his lover's clothes and money.

They run off never to be seen again.

END TABLE READ
SEQUENCE#3:

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

Jamie puts the manuscript down and looks up. Both Susan and John give him a very awkward stare.

Jamie lowers his head in shame and cries.

JOHN

I guess, next time I say ladies
first I am going to have to let you
begin reading.

JAMIE

Very funny, asshole!

Jamie jumps up from the table, wipes the tears from his face and attempts to leave the room.

John stands up as well and then he walks in front of Jamie to block him from the exit.

JOHN
I'm not judging, you, my friend.
Please come back. We need to figure
out how we are going to handle this
situation together.

John puts his arm around Jamie's shoulder and leads him back to his seat. John returns to his chair as well.

JOHN (CONT'D)
As the founding member of this
judging panel it is my
responsibility to ensure both our
success as well as our safety.
Unfortunately, we are all going to
have to be very honest with each
other. Can you handle that?

Susan and Jamie look at each other then they look at John and nod their heads in agreement.

JOHN (CONT'D)
(showing empathy towards
Jamie) Susan, you first.

SUSAN
I have had to change my name and I
have moved over half a dozen times
to escape from my ex-fiancee. It
doesn't matter where I go or what I
do he always finds me!

JAMIE
Uh..., my name is Jamie and I am a
closet homosexual. I am married and
a devoted father but I also have a
steady boyfriend that I see every
other weekend.

Jamie and Susan look at John in interest of what he is going to say.

JOHN
When I was a small boy my
grandmother almost killed me. She
tried to strangle me to death. I
grew up bouncing from foster home
to foster home after that.

SUSAN

How did the Author of THE CONTESTANT find out all these things about us?

JOHN

Now, look, we can't go pointing fingers yet. We need solid evidence!

SUSAN

Who else would've done this. Not only did he blackmail every one of us he has unofficially threatened to murder us all in his screenplay.

JOHN

This could all be a sick, twisted game that he finds amusing.

JAMIE

He has crossed the line!

SUSAN

I agree, this isn't a joke or a game. This is our lives!

JOHN

And that is the choice we have to make, right now! Do we choose to believe he is bluffing or do we believe that he is actually capable of causing us real harm?

JAMIE

I, for one, don't want to take any chances.

SUSAN

So, what should we do, John?

JOHN

I believe we should consult with the authorities. This is way beyond anything that I have ever experienced before. Do we all agree?

Susan nods in agreement but Jamie lowers his head again.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Jamie?

JAMIE

Oh, what the hell. I was going to come out of the closet eventually.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - PARKING LOT - DAY

A unmarked police car parks in front of the office building. Two police officers in plain dressed clothes walk into the front entrance.

A UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN peddles his BMX bike and parks it near the front entrance. He grabs a walkie-talkie out of his backpack and holds it up to his head.

CLOSE ON UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN

UNKNOWN YOUNG MAN

Operation delta is in full effect.
I repeat, operation delta is in full effect.

BACK TO SCENE

The unknown young man places his walkie-talkie back in his backpack and then peddles his bicycle away from the office building's parking lot.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

Susan, John and Jamie are seated at the large circular desk in the center of the room.

Two middle-aged police officers stand beside the large table. One of them notes on a notepad as the other police officer listens carefully.

POLICE OFFICER#1

So, after everything you've told me you believe that this screenwriter, Sebastian King, is behind all of this?

JAMIE

Why would anyone else want THE CONTESTANT to win so badly?

POLICE OFFICER#1

Good question. How do we know if any of you have anything to gain financially from him winning this contest?

SUSAN

We would never do such a thing!

JOHN

What are we supposed to do?

POLICE OFFICER#1

Unfortunately, you have been blackmailed but you can't prove that he did it. The murder threat could be argued as nothing more than a coincidence or he was simply trying to impress you with his mastery of the horror genre.

JAMIE

He's a fucking genius.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Other than entering your contest what do the three of you actually know about him?

SUSAN

He is a classically trained musician. He has starred in many plays at the local live theatre and he has won many awards for short stories over the years.

JAMIE

And he has earned his master's in screenwriting at the local university.

JOHN

He has to have access to a government database to be able to dig up all the information he has on us. That has to be illegal.

POLICE OFFICER#1

I can ask a guy at the office if any local government computers have been hacked recently.

Police officer#2 makes an extra entry on his notepad.

JOHN

So, is there anything we can do, Officer?

POLICE OFFICER#1

The only way we can charge him with anything, currently, is if we can get a confession.

SUSAN

Have you checked the flower store? Maybe a record of the purchase can shed light on the identity of who sent that message to me.

POLICE OFFICER#1

We did. They must've paid in cash because there is no checking or credit card information with the accused name mentioned.

JOHN

What if we trick him into confessing?

SUSAN

How do we do that, John?

JOHN

We are screenwriters. Think outside of the box for a minute.

JAMIE

What do you mean?

JOHN

What does this kid want more than anything?

JAMIE

To win this contest.

JOHN

So let's let him think he won. Then, let's lure him here to meet us and we will give him the disappointing news that he has been disqualified from our contest due to plagiarism.

SUSAN

Are you nuts? He might go batshit crazy and blow this entire building up if you do something like that!

JOHN

Or in a moment of rage he might confess to what he did and be forced to pay for his crimes.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Whoa, whoa, whoa.... I like the idea but you better let me be in charge of this little plan of yours. I don't want anyone jeopardizing their lives.

JAMIE

So, you'll help us?

POLICE OFFICER#1

On the firm condition that you will leave me in charge. Have any of you ever wore a wire before?

Susan, John and Jamie shake their heads for no.

POLICE OFFICER#1 (CONT'D)

Who here has the least hairy chest?

John and Jamie look at Susan.

POLICE OFFICER#1 (CONT'D)

Okay, maybe the second least hairy chest?

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - DISHWASHING ROOM - NIGHT

Sebastion stands in front of the dishwashing machine. He places dirty dishes inside. LOUD RAP MUSIC is BLASTING out of the RADIO.

Mr. Neece approaches Sebastion's work station and turns the RADIO VOLUME DOWN.

MR. NEECE

Hey, Jackass, a letter came for ya.

Mr. Neece hands Sebastion a small envelope. Sebastion opens the letter.

CLOSE ON ENVELOPE

The letter's print is large and in cursive.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

" We are pleased to announce that Mr. Sebastion King will be the grand prize winner of the Big Dogz screenplay contest and he will gain a blind movie deal with a major production company. Please come to our corporate office so that we may interview you in person to help prepare you for the awards ceremony later this week. Our address and the time of the previously mentioned meeting are located at the bottom of the page. Sincerely, Big Dogz."

BACK TO SCENE

Sebastion jumps up and down in excitement. Cindy walks into the dishwashing room to see what the excitement is all about.

Sebastion picks Cindy up and spins her around a few times then puts her back down.

CINDY

What happened?

SEBASTION

I won! I won! I won!

CINDY

What did you win?

SEBASTION

The screenwriting contest! My screenplay is going to be made into a movie!

Sebastion picks Cindy up again and kisses her right on her lips.

SEBASTION (CONT'D)

(addressing Mr. Neece)I quit!

Sebastion throws the apron and the employee workhat he wears down on the floor and slowly walks out.

MR. NEECE

Can you at least finish your shift?
Don't leave me hanging like this,
kid!

This statement stops Sebastion in his tracks. He rethinks his decision.

Sebastion turns around and approaches Mr. Neese.

SEBASTION

You're right, sir. The contest isn't officially announced until next week. I will stay with you until then.

Mr. Neese puts his arm around Sebastion and embraces him.

MR. NEECE

I am happy for you, son. Your dream is coming true but don't let it go to your head. Don't forget all the people that have always been there for you!

SEBASTION

Thank you, sir!

MR. NEECE

(shouting)Everybody, listen up! After we close tonight we are having a celebration party for our soon-to-be famous screenwriter Mr. Sebastion King!

All the employees at the hamburger joint join in a round of applause for Sebastion.

Sebastion bows several times for them.

INT. SCHOOL - PLAY STAGE(JOHN'S DAUGHTER'S POV) - NIGHT

John's daughter dances in a ballerina outfit with several other little girls with CLASSICAL MUSIC PLAYING. Her teacher and a couple other adults give the young girls instructions with hand gestures.

John's daughter looks out into the audience and notices that her father's chair is empty.

This makes her sad. Her mother is also visibly upset.

John's daughter notices the back door of the auditoriums open and the bright light in the background.

John walks down the hall toward's his wife. This make's John's daughter happy.

John's daughter notices that her mother and father argue but she doesn't know why.

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Sebastion, Cindy, Mr. Neece and the other employees at the hamburger Joint listen to LOUD MUSIC, drink beer and dance wildly.

Sebastion dances with Cindy and makes out with her. Some of the other employees light up joints and pass them around.

INT. JAMIE'S HOME - NIGHT - SAME TIME

Jamie places several suitcases placed together near his front door. He opens the front door, picks up the suitcases and walks through the threshold.

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - NIGHT

Sebastion dances on the tables in the restaurant playing an air guitar as the LOUD MUSIC continues to PLAY.

INT. SCHOOL - PLAY - NIGHT - SAME TIME

John, his daughter and his wife exit down the center of the isle despite the fact that the play and CLASSICAL MUSIC CONTINUES without his daughter's performance. His daughter cries as they leave.

The CLASSICAL MUSIC FADES as the family exits through the front doors of the auditorium.

Everyone stands up and gives a standing ovation.

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - NIGHT

Cindy is dancing on the table next to Sebastion. She is half-naked as he continues to play the air guitar with LOUD ROCK MUSIC playing in the background.

All of the other employees dance and drink beer as Mr. Neece is lies on the floor unconscious.

EXT. JAMIE'S HOME - NIGHT

Jamie kisses his wife as she stands next to her vehicle and holds their baby girl. Jamie then kisses his baby goodbye before his wife places the baby in the backseat of the car.

As Jamie's wife and baby girl exit the driveway he waves goodbye to them with tears in his eyes.

Another car pulls up into the driveway. Susan steps out of the parked vehicle and approaches Jamie.

SUSAN

Are you sure she's okay with me staying here tonight?

JAMIE

She's already spoken to John and he explained what's happening to her.

SUSAN

Does she know?

JAMIE

That I'm gay. No, not yet.

SUSAN

So, John's wife and daughter, what's their plan?

JAMIE

They are staying with her mother.

SUSAN

If that sick bastard tries anything stupid...

JAMIE

The police will deal with him...

SUSAN

Where are those donut eating sons of bitches, anyway?

A squad car pulls up to the edge of Jamie's yard and parks. Two police officers eat donuts and walk up to Susan and Jamie.

JAMIE

Speak of the devil.

POLICE OFFICER#1

I thought your other friend was supposed to be here, too.

SUSAN

John's our boss.

The police officer#1 looks at Susan's car and then he takes a good look at Jamie's house.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Man, if this is the ride you're rolling in (referring to Susan) and this is your crib (referring to Jamie) I can't wait to see how your boss is livin'.

SUSAN

I drive a nice car, so what?

POLICE OFFICER#1

Most of the folk in this town could pay their rent and feed their kids for a month on what you must be payin for this. (referring to her car)

SUSAN

Are you trying to imply something?

POLICE OFFICER#1

Mo' money, mo' problems. That saying always rings true.

JAMIE

What are you saying?

POLICE OFFICER#1

No wonder you got the problems you are dealing with. How much does the winner get?

JAMIE

The winner of our contest will receive 20,000 dollars and a blind movie deal with a major movie production company.

POLICE OFFICER#1

And how many people entered your contest?

SUSAN

This year we had over five thousand entries.

POLICE OFFICER#1

How much they pay to be in your contest?

JAMIE

Fifty dollars is our standard entry fee. If they want coverage it will cost thirty dollars extra.

POLICE OFFICER#1
(to police officer#2)Go get my
calculator, man.

Police officer number two begins to leave before Jamie
interrupts him.

JAMIE
You can borrow my phone.

Jamie hands his phone to police officer#1. He starts to
calculate with Jamie's cellphone.

POLICE OFFICER#1
What percentage of your costumers
request coverage?

JAMIE
Roughly fifty percent.

SUSAN
Why are you asking us all of these
questions, officer?

POLICE OFFICER#1
I'm establishing a solid motive.

SUSAN
Against Sebastian?

POLICE OFFICER#1
No, I'm thinking of going into this
business myself. You three guys
almost bank half a million a year
doin this shit!

SUSAN
So, what's stopping you?

POLICE OFFICER#1
You can honestly tell me that the
three of you can read over five
thousand screenplays a year?

Another car pulls up into the driveway and parks. John steps
out of the vehicle and approaches everyone.

JOHN
Why is everybody standing out here?

POLICE OFFICER#1
We were going over some of the
finer details about being employed
in show business.

JOHN

If it's alright with you I'd like
to go inside and get some sleep.

SUSAN

Me, too.

John and Susan walk toward's the front entrance of Jamie's house. Jamie trails behind them.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Good night, folks. Tomorrow we will
discuss the needs for security
detail and if it fits within your
business's budget.

INT. TEENAGER'S BEDROOM - DAY

FOUR YOUNG MEN are all in different places in one YOUNG MAN'S bedroom. One sits at the computer, another lies on the bed and writes in a notebook and another young man watches television.

One young man paces back and forth with a cellphone held up to his ear.

A CHARACTER on the television show is gives a lecture.

CHARACTER

"Never say that you haven't
produced anything! Always say we
have various projects in different
stages of production!"

The YOUNG MAN watching television recites what he has just learned.

YOUNG MAN

"We have various projects in
different stages of production."

The YOUNG MAN that continues to pace with his cellphone becomes annoyed.

YOUNG MAN#2

(To young man watching
television) Shut up, man! Come on,
answer already!

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - DAY

Sebastion, Cindy, Mr. Neece and the other employees are all unconscious inside the restaurant. Several people stand outside and wait for the hamburger joint to open.

One impatient costumer BANGS on the DOOR SEVERAL TIMES.

This startles Sebastion and as he slowly wakes up he notices that his PHONE RINGS.

Sebastion picks up his cellphone and holds it up to his ear.

SEBASTION

Hello? What? No, I haven't forgot.
I'll be there soon.

Sebastion hangs up his cellphone, looks up and out of the window and notices the angry mob outside.

Sebastion slowly gets up and sneaks out the back entrance.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

John, Jamie and Susan sit at their oversized desk. Police Officer#1 is pacing back and forth.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Let's go over this one more time.

JOHN

When he arrives we will pretend to interview him in preparation for his big win.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Then...

SUSAN

We need to ask him directly why he chose to kill off the characters in the scenes of his screenplay without directly admitting we know that he has blackmailed us.

POLICE OFFICER#1

And...

JAMES

We can't break character and directly accuse him of anything.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Why?

JOHN

He will immediately know that we have set him up and we may not be able to have him prosecuted.

POLICE OFFICER#1

We know this dude is sharp. Our only chance of getting a recorded confession rests on how he reacts to the news of his disqualification.

SUSAN

What if he decides to go postal and start killing everyone?

POLICE OFFICER#1

That's why we placed a metal detector in the front entrance. We've got you covered.

JOHN

I, for one, will be glad when this is all over.

SUSAN

If you don't arrest that bastard's sorry ass I want to file a restraining order!

INT. TEENAGER'S BEDROOM - DAY

The four young men stand together and look at Sebastian as he models a sharp, three piece suit with matching cufflinks.

One young man signals for Sebastian to turn around. Sebastian turns a full circle.

Another young man fixes Sebastian's collar and brushes dust off of Sebastian's shoulder.

YOUNG MAN#2

Yo, man. This is sick!

Young man#2 gives Sebastian a high five. The others all join in and do the same thing.

SEBASTION

Thanks for letting me borrow your suit, DUDE.

DUDE

It's the least I can do, man.

YOUNG MAN#3

This has to be the craziest thing a screenwriter has ever done in the history of mankind!

SEBASTION

You've obviously never heard of Gary Devore.

DUDE

Who's that, man?

SEBASTION

Janet Jackson's ex-boyfriend. They found him murdered with his hands chopped off!

YOUNG MAN#3

Whoa! Who killed him?

SEBASTION

No one knows. He was about to start shooting a film about the U.S. Invasion of the Panama Canal. They never found any of his screenplays or notes.

DUDE

Someone should write a screenplay and make a movie about that, man.

SEBASTION

One step ahead of you, Dude!

Sebastion pulls a screenplay out of his backpack and hands it to Dude.

Dude gives it back to Sebastion.

DUDE

I'm not ready to die yet, man.

YOUNG MAN#3

Can I read it?

Young man#3 snatches the screenplay out of Sebastion's hands and flips through the pages.

YOUNG MAN#3 (CONT'D)
(quoting instructor on t.v.) "We
have various projects in different
stages of production!"

DUDE
You gotta love his enthusiasm, man.

Sebastion looks at his watch.

SEBASTION
Damn, I'm going to be late!

Sebastion opens the door and exits the room in a hurry.

DUDE
Break a leg, man!

YOUNG MAN#4
Don't tell him that, Dude. He might
really do it!

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Sebastion rides his BMX bike to the meeting while wearing his
three piece suit.

Sebastion speeds up after he sees a UPS TRUCK and grabs the
back of it successfully to hitch a ride.

As he is rides down the road the UPS Truck passes a parked
police car.

INT. SQUAD CAR - DAY

Two uniformed POLICE OFFICERS look up and see Sebastion hitch
a ride on the back of the UPS Truck while he rides his
bicycle.

POLICE OFFICERS
(in unison) It's him, again!

One of the police officers begins to turn on the police siren
but the other stops him from doing this.

POLICE OFFICER,
Wait, I have an idea.

The police officer picks up his CB unit.

POLICE OFFICER, (CONT'D)
Attention all cars, attention all
cars. I have located our bogey
heading south on Avenue A, be on
the lookout.

EXT. SQUAD CAR - DAY

Sebastion sits on his BMX bike right behind the squad car. He laughs to himself and shakes his head.

Sebastion gets on his bike and peddles away.

EXT. SUBURBAN ALLEY - DAY

Sebastion peddles his BMX bike down the alley and notices that another squad car is parked sideways blocking his path.

Instead of stopping and turning to flee Sebastion peddles his BMX bike faster.

As an unknown police officer begins to open the door of the squad car Sebastion hits the front brake of BMX bike and does a forward flip over the hood of the parked squad car.

Sebastion lands on the back wheel then lowers the front wheel down and turns to the left and vanishes from the alley.

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Sebastion parks his BMX bike near the entrance, takes out a handkerchief and wipes the sweat off of his forehead. After this he pulls out a small comb and fixes his hair.

Sebastion walks to the entrance of the office building.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - MAIN LOBBY

Sebastion approaches the RECEPTIONIST seated at the front desk by the elevators that lead up to Bigdogz office.

RECEPTIONIST
How can I help you?

SEBASTION
My name is Sebastion King. I have
an appointment with the Bigdogz
Screenwriting Contest today.

RECEPTIONIST
Just one moment, dear.

The receptionist picks up her phone.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
A Mr. Sebastian King is here. Oh,
you've been expecting him. Okay,
bye.

The receptionist hangs up the phone.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)
They've been expecting you. Their
office is on the second floor,
first door on the right.

SEBASTION
Thank you.

Sebastian approaches the elevator entrance and pushes the button on the wall. As he enters the elevator the SOUNDS of POLICE SIRENS WAIL in the distance.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

Sebastian opens the door leading into The Bigdogz office and walks in.

John, Susan and Jamie sit at their large round desk. No one rises to greet Sebastian.

Sebastian struts in confidently towards them. Sebastian looks directly at Jamie and winks at him then blows a small kiss.

Jamie does his best to keep his composure but the anger inside is visibly apparent.

John stands up and motions for Sebastian to come have a seat. A small chair has been placed in front of the large desk for Sebastian.

JOHN
So, this is the author of THE
CONTESTANT! It is an honor to meet
you, young man.

SEBASTION
If it's okay with you I'd rather
stand.

JOHN

Are you sure, Son? This meeting might take quite a while.

SEBASTION

I tend to think better on my feet, Sir.

John sits back down before continuing the interview.

JOHN

Before we decide to grant you with the grand prize of our contest we want to ask you a few questions first, Son.

SEBASTION

I thought the decision was already made.

JOHN

We just want to verify a few things, first.

SEBASTION

That's perfectly fine with me.

JOHN

Susan will go first.

SUSAN

What inspired you to write THE CONTESTANT? I'm not talking about the prize or the fame or the money what I really want to know is what was your true inspiration?

SEBASTION

I have to admit, originally, THE CONTESTANT was about a screenwriter that murdered the judges of a screenwriting contest with his bare hands but I decided against that. Who in their right minds would try such a thing, right?

SUSAN

Who, indeed?

SEBASTION

Instead, I felt that it was more original to let the audience see them pay the price for the mistakes they had made in the past.

SUSAN

So, a woman being stalked and murdered by her ex-boyfriend is your idea of justice?

SEBASTION

If she hadn't cheated on him with his best friend he wouldn't have lost his sanity in first place, Ms. Susan.

Susan stops her questioning. She appears guilty.

SUSAN

I have no more questions.

SEBASTION

You don't remember that she cheated on him? How thoroughly did you read my screenplay, ma'am?

JOHN

(interrupting Sebastian) Now, Son, please remember that we are the ones conducting the interview, okay.

SEBASTION

Yes, sir.

JOHN

Can we continue? I will be next.

SEBASTION

Go right ahead, sir.

JOHN

In the scene that you had the son of one of the judges almost murdered by his grandmother why her? Why couldn't you have him kidnapped by the contestant instead?

SEBASTION

Because I felt that the embarrassment of having his son almost murdered by his grandmother was too much for him to handle. Wouldn't you agree, John?

JOHN

I have to admit that some memories in real life are far too painful for anyone to relive over and over again.

SEBASTION

Is this the last question? Which major studio is going to option THE CONTESTANT?

JOHN

Not yet. Jamie has a couple of questions for you as well.

Everyone in the room turns their attention to Jamie. He looks as if he doesn't want to speak and pauses a few seconds before he begins.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Jamie?

JAMIE

(clearing his throat)Ahem!

SEBASTION

Is something stuck in your throat, sir?

JAMIE

(whispering to John)He thinks he's so fucking cute!

JOHN

(reminding Jamie to keep his cool)Jamie!

JAMIE

I only have one question for you, Son. What was your inspiration for the scene with the gay lovers being murdered?

SEBASTION

Believe it or not it had nothing to do with the screenwriter taking revenge on the judges for rejecting his work. It was my favorite movie, THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP.

JAMIE

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP? Are you fucking kidding me?

SEBASTION

Are you familiar with this movie,
sir?

JAMIE

No, I am not.

SEBASTION

Starring the late Robin Williams?
It was his first dramatic role!

JOHN

(interrupting)I have to say that I
am impressed with the fact that
someone as young as you are is
familiar with this film but I
honestly still don't see the
connection.

SEBASTION

The scene with the cheating wife
biting her lover's dick off was
priceless! In my screenplay I
wanted to achieve the same level of
controversy that they created. If I
used a heterosexual everyone
would've been like, " been there,
done that!".

John, Jamie and Susan give each other nervous glances. They
all know that they have only one chance left.

JOHN

That was our last question, Son.

SEBASTION

Why was all this necessary?

JOHN

Because we needed to be absolutely
sure that you aren't guilty of
plagiarism.

SEBASTION

(shouting)What?

JOHN

We noticed that there were too many
similarities between THE CONTESTANT
and BABY BOOBY SQUIRTERS.

SEBASTION

BABY BOOBY SQUIRTERS?

SUSAN

The only difference we found was the fact that you simply changed the names of the characters and the title and passed it off as your own work!

SEBASTION

That's not true. You can't do this to me!

Tears well up in Sebastian's eyes and fall down the sides of his face.

JAMIE

You are officially disqualified from this contest and we have blacklisted you. You can't ever enter another screenplay into any screenwriting contest in this country ever again!

Sebastian rushes towards Jamie and grabs him by his shirt collar. Sebastian pulls Jamie close to him so that they are face to face.

SEBASTION

(shouting)You have no idea
what I am capable of!

Several police officers bust into the office from several different directions and then grab Sebastian. Sebastian is body slammed onto the floor and they place him in handcuffs.

The police officers pull Sebastian up onto his feet lead him away.

One of the police officers reads Sebastian his Miranda rights.

POLICE OFFICER#1

You have the right to remain silent, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law...

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Sebastian is in the custody of the two police officers. They over his head and place him inside of a parked squad car in the parking lot.

John, Susan and Jamie watch the police officers drive away with Sebastian in their custody.

SUSAN

I am soo glad that this is finally over!

A small group of REPORTERS approach the judges and ask questions as several camera men film and take pictures of them.

REPORTERS

What happened here today?/ Why was one of your contestants arrested?/ Why would your grand prize winning contestant be charged with blackmail and attempted murder?

John looks past the reporters and sees that the news trucks parked around the corner have both the local and national news emblems on the sides of the vehicles.

JOHN

Susan, I think this is just the beginning.

INT. JAIL - DAY

Sebastian wears orange prison clothes. He holds the bars of his cell. He also appears to not have shaved for over a week.

Another MUSCULAR BLACK PRISONER leans against the back of the prison and stares at Sebastian.

SEBASTION

(to himself)I guess I'll get to experience what the Marquis de Sade went through now.

The muscular black prisoner walks up to Sebastian and licks his lips as he looks up and down at Sebastian.

MUSCULAR BLACK PRISONER

I've always been a Jean Genet fan, myself!

A PRISON GUARD approaches Sebastian's cell and opens it.

PRISON GUARD

You have a visitor. Let's go.

Sebastian and the prison guard leave the jail cell and then the prison guard closes the jail cell door.

MUSCULAR BLACK PRISONER
Hurry back, sweetie!

INT. SMALL ROOM - DAY.

Sebastion sits in a small room that is divided by a glass wall. Sebastion's father enters the room on the other side of the glass wall and sits down facing Sebastion.

SEBASTION
Nice of you to come, Dad.

SEBASTION'S FATHER
Look at you! You're homeless,
unemployed and now you are about to
become a convicted felon!

SEBASTION
Why did you come here, Dad?

SEBASTION'S FATHER
The last time we spoke what did you
say? What did you say?

SEBASTION
That I have a plan and I need you
to trust me!

SEBASTION'S FATHER
So, this is what happens when you
chase fortune and fame? Was this a
part of your plan?

SEBASTION
Even Sylvester Stallone was
homeless before he wrote and
starred in Rocky.

SEBASTION'S FATHER
You are not Sylvester Stallone and
this is not some idiotic movie,
Son, this is real life!

SEBASTION
Do you think I'm not aware of that?

SEBASTION'S FATHER
When I kicked you out of the house
I just wanted to show you how hard
the real world is. I had no idea
that you would take things this
far!

SEBASTION

What are you trying to say, Dad?

SEBASTION'S FATHER

I know you're guilty son!

SEBASTION

What are you talking about?

SEBASTION'S FATHER

Your life story has made national news, son. Everyone knows every single detail of what has happened.

SEBASTION

Everyone? Every single detail?

SEBASTION'S FATHER

The head of the screenwriting contest has lined up interviews with all the major networks. That's all we ever see on television now.

SEBASTION

What did you mean by every single detail, Dad? I have to know.

SEBASTION'S FATHER

They know that you blackmailed them so that you would win the contest and they know that you even threatened to murder them in the screenplay that you entered into the contest. Everyone is saying you are a sick, twisted bastard that would kill his own mother to become rich and famous.

SEBASTION

Really?

SEBASTION'S FATHER

I could drive the final nail in your coffin but I am your father.

SEBASTION

What are you talking about?

SEBASTION'S FATHER

That little musical score you wrote, Son. Didn't the lyrics mention a dead woman's hand, a killer boyfriend and a gay dead lover's hand?

SEBASTION

Oh, I remember that. You threw that
in the trash, remember?

SEBASTION'S FATHER

I thought it was a joke.

SEBASTION

No, Dad. You thought I was the
joke.

SEBASTION'S FATHER

I cannot bail you out, Son. Maybe
one day you will forgive me. I am
sorry.

Sebastion's father stands up and leaves the room. As the DOOR
SLAMS SHUT tears well up in Sebastion's eyes.

SEBASTION

No, Dad, maybe one day you will
forgive me.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE - DAY

Several reporters gather around the large circular desk as
John, Jamie and Susan sit in the center. Several flashes of
light flicker as several reporters take pictures of them.

JOHN

As you all know we will announce
the winner of The Bigdogz
Screenwriting Contest next week and
we have already acquired over
20,000 entries for next years
contest!

REPORTER#1

Do you think any of the contestants
next year will try what Sebastion
King did?

SUSAN

We have added a disclaimer that if
any screenplay entered even
slightly resembles anything related
to our real lives they will
automatically be disqualified!

REPORTER#2

Would THE CONTESTANT make a great
movie in your opinion?

JAMIE

At best, Sebastian King's work
would have to be rated as mediocre.

REPORTER#3

Did you know that there is
currently a bidding war going on
for THE CONTESTANT?

JOHN

Excuse me?

REPORTER#4

It would seem that your contestant
has now become the most famous
screenwriter to have ever lived
thanks to your contest. How do you
feel about that?

JOHN

Like a violin that has been well
played. This interview is over.
Goodbye, everyone.

John stands up and exits the main room and heads towards his
private office. He opens the door, enters the office and
SLAMS the DOOR SHUT.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - JOHN'S PRIVATE OFFICE - DAY

John paces back and forth. He is visibly upset.

SEVERAL LIGHT KNOCKS on the DOOR occur as it creaks open
slowly. Susan and Jamie enter John's private office and lock
the door behind them.

SUSAN

Why are you so upset?

JOHN

Don't you get it? He played us!

SUSAN

And now we are the biggest
screenwriting contest in the free
world!

JAMIE

When they find him guilty of
blackmail and threatening to murder
us he will be a very old man before
they let him out of prison.

JOHN

I hope you're right, Jamie.

SUSAN

How did the national news stations get wind of this story so quickly?

JOHN

I heard that it was an anonymous tip that led them here.

John picks up a remote control that sits on his desk and turns on his television. A newscast plays on the television.

CLOSE ON NEWS REPORT

Pictures of Sebastian King and the screenwriting judges are visible by the NEWS REPORTER's head as he speaks.

NEWS REPORTER

The trial of the century is scheduled for next week for the mad screenwriter. Several major studios are currently fighting for the rights to his story but he has refused to sell it to anyone!

NEWS REPORTER#2

This is an interesting development. It makes you question if Sebastian King really is as starved for fame and fortune as everyone thinks.

BACK TO SCENE

John turns off the television with his remote control and places it on his desk.

JOHN

Jamie, I am going to need you to destroy all the printed and online files regarding BABY BOOBY SQUIRTERS immediately.

JAMIE

I can't do that, John.

JOHN

Do I have to remind you that we lied to Sebastian to force a confession? If we are issued a subpoena Sebastian might be found innocent!

JAMIE

I've already compromised myself far too much for this job, John. You can't expect me to continue to lie and deceive people.

JOHN

Like that has ever been a problem for you, Jamie. I will only ask you one more time. If you do not you are fired!

JAMIE

Consider this my resignation, John.

Jamie leaves the office SLAMS the DOOR SHUT with Susan and John left speechless.

After a few moments of silence John and Susan stare at each other in utter confusion.

SUSAN

What now, John?

JOHN

This could be the end of Big Dogz if this gets out, Susan. Can you do what I asked?

SUSAN

Consider it done. What should we tell the Screenwriter that wrote that screenplay?

John paces back and forth. As he does this he articulates the statement that he wants Susan to give.

JOHN

"Due to a technical malfunction we have lost your submission and we have no records of how your work placed this year. We deeply apologize for this inconvenience and we will offer you two years of free submissions and free mentoring from our award winning staff. Please forgive us for this and recommend us to all of your aspiring screenwriting friends in the future. Yours truly, big dogz."

SUSAN

Sounds good to me.

INT. JAIL - SECLUDED ROOM - DAY

Sebastion sits at a table and a LAWYER sits right across from him.

A prison guard stands by the door and watches Sebastion closely.

LAWYER

Due to the national publicity this case has attracted it has proven quite difficult to find a jury that isn't biased.

SEBASTION

So, everyone thinks I'm guilty?

LAWYER

Everyone knows your guilty, Sebastion. Why don't you admit that you're guilty? They might give you a reduced sentence.

SEBASTION

The only thing I am guilty of is following my dream.

LAWYER

If you don't enter a plea bargain you will probably end up in prison for a long time, Young Man.

SEBASTION

They lied to me.

LAWYER

What are you talking about, Sebastion?

SEBASTION

When they accused me of plagiarism and disqualified me from their contest. They lied.

LAWYER

Do you have proof?

SEBASTION

Kinda...

LAWYER

"Kinda..." isn't going to cut it, Son.

SEBASTION

I only have one copy on my computer. It's at my friend Dude's house.

LAWYER

What is it?

SEBASTION

I am the author of BABY BOOBY SQUIRTERS. They claimed that I copied THE CONTESTANT from that screenplay and passed it off as my own.

LAWYER

How did they not know that you wrote BABY BOOBY SQUIRTERS?

SEBASTION

I used an alias.

LAWYER

Why would you do that?

SEBASTION

I thought that if I entered several submissions with different aliases it would give me a better chance of winning.

LAWYER

This fact could help you if it discredits the credibility of the contest you entered.

SEBASTION

So, are you going to represent me or do I have to defend myself?

LAWYER

Has anyone told you that the man that chooses to represent himself has a fool for a client?

SEBASTION

I've heard that before. So, will you help me?

LAWYER

I'd have to be a fool not to. This is the "trial of the century" after all.

SEBASTION
So, what do I call you, counselor?

LAWYER
MR KARDASHIAN.

SEBASTION
Are you related to the Kardashians?

MR. KARDASHIAN
No, but it would seem like lawyers with this last name are drawn to trials like this.

SEBASTION
So, Mr. Kardashian, what's our next step?

MR. KARDASHIAN
I am going to have to issue an subpoena to Big Dogz and if they don't have any records on file I will have to visit your friend. What was his name, again?

SEBASTION
Dude, just Dude.

MR. KARDASHIAN
Is that his real fucking name?

SEBASTION
His real name is Bob but ever since he saw THE BIG LEBOWSKI he insists that everyone call him dude, man.

MR. KARDASHIAN
That was a great movie, man. I need to ask you one more question before I leave, Sebastian.

Mr. Kardashian stands up from his seat at the table and packs his briefcase.

SEBASTION
What is it?

MR. KARDASHIAN
Why didn't you sell the rights to your story? I heard they offered you several million for it.

SEBASTION
I'm not ready to sell it, yet.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Even though I am a court appointed attorney it would be nice to be paid for my services.

SEBASTION

I'm sure you'll find a way to manage with all the publishing companies offering you book deals, sir.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Touch`e, my friend. Touch`e.

Mr. Kardashian leaves the secluded room in the jail with Sebastian.

INT. TEENAGER'S BEDROOM - DAY

DUDE'S MOM opens the door to her son's room to find four teenagers as they seem to goof off. One appears play on the computer while the others play video games with LOUD ROCK MUSIC PLAYING as well.

Dude's mom slaps Dude in the back of his head to interrupt him and to get his attention.

DUDE'S MOM

Turn that shit down, Son. Somebody is here to see you!

DUDE

I was winning, man!

Dude's mom smacks him in the head one more time as he LOWERS THE LOUD ROCK MUSIC.

DUDE'S MOM

I am your mother, Dude! Do not address me as "man."

Dude's mom leaves the room and leaves Mr. Kardashian as he stands near the doorway. Dude turns his video game on and plays some more and ignores Mr. Kardashian completely.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Dude, may I call you Dude?

DUDE

What's up, man?

MR. KARDASHIAN

I am Sebastian's attorney. I need your help.

DUDE

Why would some fancy attorney need my help, man?

MR. KARDASHIAN

Because Sebastian said that you have the only copy of his screenplay called Baby Booby Squirters on your computer, man.

DUDE

What's in it for me if I give that to you, man?

MR. KARDASHIAN

Well, Son, this can go down two ways. Either you hand it over to me willingly or I'll have to serve you and your mom a subpoena and if you don't cooperate both of you could go to jail for obstructing justice.

DUDE

Do you think they're going to make a movie out of Sebastian's story, man?

MR. KARDASHIAN

I've heard several studios have already shown interest in it.

DUDE

Who do you think will play me, man?

MR. KARDASHIAN

Justin Bieber, maybe. Look, Son, are you going to get that file for me or not?

Dude walks over to his desk and opens a drawer. The other young men in the room take over the video game as Dude hands a screenplay to Mr. Kardashian.

DUDE

Do you really think I'd let my boy rot in jail? I was just pulling your leg, man.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Why did your boy leave his
screenplay here with you?

DUDE

He didn't tell you? His pops kicked
him out, man?

MR. KARDASHIAN

Why?

DUDE

His pops thinks my boy should grow
up, get a haircut and get a real
job, man.

EXT. COURT - DAY (EARLY MORNING)

Dude and the other three young men associated with Sebastian
all wear black clothing and ride their BMX bikes around the
exterior of the small town court and exit the scene.

Reporters and many adults wearing business attire clothing
enter the front entrance of the court.

INT. COURT - DAY

The small town court is packed with people. Not a single
empty seat can be seen. Several people stand near the rear of
the court.

The jury box has twelve jurors. All are of different ages and
races.

Sebastian King and Mr. Kardashian sit at the front left of
the courtroom and at the front right the screenwriting judges
John and Susan sit with their attorney.

Screenwriting judge Jamie is notably absent.

Sebastian intentionally looks at John and Susan as they avoid
to make eye contact with Sebastian.

The BAILIFF stands next to the judge's bench. The indistinct
chatter of several small conversations among many different
people continue until the bailiff steps forward.

BAILIFF

Everyone, please rise as the
honorable JUDGE JONES approaches
the bench.

All conversations come to an abrupt halt as everyone in the small court stands as ordered.

Judge Jones is an older black man and he approaches his bench and takes a seat.

JUDGE JONES

This court is now in session. It will hear Big Dogz vs. Sebastian King. Is everyone present?

The PROSECUTOR stands and we can see that one of the chairs meant for Jamie is empty.

PROSECUTOR

Jamie Devon is absent, your Honor.

JUDGE JONES

Can we continue or do we have to reschedule this trial for a later date?

PROSECUTOR

We believe that we have more than enough evidence to continue, your Honor.

JUDGE JONES

Then you may proceed.

The prosecutor stands up and walks to the center of the court. He makes sure the jury has their undivided attention set on him.

PROSECUTOR

Mr. Sebastian King has been arrested on three counts of blackmail, one assault and battery and three counts of threatening to murder my clients. He has plead innocent to all charges but after today no one will believe that this young man is innocent.

The prosecutor returns to his empty chair and sits back down.

Sebastian's lawyer doesn't seem to pay attention.

JUDGE JONES

Are you prepared to give your statement?

Sebastian rolls his eyes in embarrassment. Sebastian nudges his lawyer and redirects his attention to Judge Jones.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Yes, your Honor.

Mr. Kardashian accidentally spills a couple of papers out of his briefcase as he attempts to stand up. He trips over his own feet and almost trips but catches himself.

He approaches the center of the court and ignores the jury looking at the audience in the courtroom instead.

MR. KARDASHIAN (CONT'D)

It's true that my client has been accused of blackmail and threatening to murder the screenwriting judges at Big Dogz. It is also true that he was arrested and had to be pried away from beating Jamie Devon after Mr. Devon had accused my client of plagiarism after crushing the dream that he had spent his entire life trying to make come true. Once this trial is over not only will you find my client innocent of all charges you may not ever trust the integrity or credibility of Big Dogz Productions ever again. My client was obviously a victim of entrapment and I move to have all the charges dismissed.

PROSECUTOR

I object, your Honor.

The judge bangs his gavel.

JUDGE JONES

Overruled. MR. SMITH, I believe you should call your first witness to the stand.

MR. SMITH

I would like to call Susan Swanson to the stand, your Honor.

Susan walks up to the front of the court. The bailiff makes her place her hand on the Bible.

BAILIFF

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing more so help you, God?

SUSAN

I do.

BAILIFF

Please have a seat, Ma'am.

Susan sits in the witness chair that is next to the judges bench.

MR. SMITH

Can you tell me how you were blackmailed and threatened with murder, Susan?

SUSAN

I was sent a bouquet of flowers that demanded that THE CONTESTANT must win and if it didn't he threatened to tell my ex-boyfriend where I was. Then Sebastian even had a character in his story murdered by her ex boyfriend.

MR. SMITH

If I show the courtroom the bouquet you were sent will it upset you?

SUSAN

I think I can handle it.

Mr. Smith walks over to his desk and picks up the bouquet of withered flowers and the card that belongs to her as well.

He holds the card up really high for everyone to see then he quotes it directly.

MR. SMITH

"Roses are red, violets are blue, you have no idea what I am capable of but you know what will happen if he comes after you. Yours truly, the screenwriter."

Mr. Smith walks over to the jury box and holds the card up for everyone to see.

MR. SMITH (CONT'D)

(quoting the card)"You have no idea what I am capable of!" Please remember that statement, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr. Smith walks back to Susan's bench to begin a new set of questions.

MR. SMITH (CONT'D)

Who is the screenwriter, Mr. Sebastian King, referring to, Susan?

MR. KARDASHIAN

Objection! Leading the witness.

JUDGE JONES

Overruled. Let the witness answer the question.

SUSAN

He was referring to my ex-boyfriend, Mark. He has been stalking me for over three years now.

MR. SMITH

Why hasn't Mark been able to find you, Susan?

SUSAN

I changed my name and I moved over three thousand miles away to escape him.

MR. SMITH

Did you ever try to get a restraining order against him?

SUSAN

Right before I changed my name he broke into my house with a knife. I barely escaped with my life!

MR. SMITH

Can anyone obtain these facts about you legally, Susan?

SUSAN

No. I have been under federal protection.

MR. SMITH

So, Mr. Sebastian King is also guilty of hacking into the federal database as well it would seem.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Objection. No proof has been obtained that supports this claim.

JUDGE JONES

Sustained. Mr Smith, Do you have any more questions for your witness?

MR. SMITH

No, your Honor.

JUDGE JONES

Alright, then. I believe it's the defense's turn.

Mr. Kardashian clumsily gathers his papers on his desk and almost spills his glass of water. He then stands up and approaches the bench.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Were the police or anyone else able to prove who purchased the flowers that were delivered to you?

SUSAN

No, whoever paid for them paid in cash.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Whoever? So, there is absolutely no solid evidence proving that Sebastian King is guilty of blackmailing you?

SUSAN

(sotto voice) That is correct, sir.

MR. KARDASHIAN

I don't believe the jury heard you, ma'am.

SUSAN

(louder) That is correct.

MR. KARDASHIAN

It would seem that the only thing the prosecution has proven is that someone did bribe you so that Sebastian King's screenplay would win your contest. Is that correct, Susan?

SUSAN

That bastard threatened to have me murdered!

MR. KARDASHIAN

Did Mr. Sebastian King directly say I will kill you, Susan, if THE CONTESTANT does not win the contest?

SUSAN

No, he did not.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Did whoever it was that actually blackmailed you directly threaten to have you murdered?

SUSAN

No, sir.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Have you ever stopped and wondered if someone took very great lengths to set up Sebastian King?

SUSAN

I have given that possibility some thought.

MR. KARDASHIAN

How many other contestants entered Big Dogz screenwriting contest this year?

SUSAN

We had over five thousand people enter our contest this year.

MR. KARDASHIAN

That would leave out over five thousand possible suspects that all have motive, wouldn't it, Susan?

Susan's appearance changes from calm to visibly pissed off.

Mr. Kardashian redirects his attention to Judge Jones.

MR. KARDASHIAN (CONT'D)

(addressing Judge Jones) If we don't have time to question every single contestant that entered I move to issue a mistrial, your Honor.

JUDGE JONES

Overruled! Do you have any more questions, counselor?

MR. KARDASHIAN

I have no more questions, your Honor.

JUDGE JONES

Mr. Smith, I suggest that you call your next witness to the stand.

MR. SMITH

The prosecution calls Mr. John Devlin to the stand, your Honor.

As Susan returns to her seat at the prosecuting attorney's desk John stands up and approaches the bench.

The Bailiff places a Bible in front of John. John places his hand on the bible and places his other hand in the air.

BAILIFF

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you, God?

JOHN

I do, sir.

BAILIFF

Take your seat, sir.

John sits in the witness chair by the judge's bench.

MR. SMITH

Are you the Owner and CEO of Big Dogz screenwriting contest?

JOHN

Yes, I am.

MR. SMITH

Can you tell me what persuaded you to have Mr. Sebastian King's screenplay, THE CONTESTANT, declared the winner of your contest this year?

JOHN

He mailed my dead grandmother's hand to me and demanded that THE CONTESTANT must win.

MR. SMITH

Is it okay with you if I show everyone a picture of the evidence we just mentioned?

JOHN
Please do, sir.

Mr. Smith holds up a huge picture of John's dead grandmother's severed hand. The decay with several exposed bones is horrifying.

Mr. Smith makes sure that all the people in the jury can see this picture clearly before he places it back on his desk.

MR. SMITH
Was there anything else that he mentioned when he blackmailed you that the jury might need to know?

JOHN
He said, "You have no idea what I am capable of!"

Mr. Smith walks very close to the jury box.

MR. SMITH
"You have no idea what I am capable of!" He's obviously capable of digging up a dead woman and chopping off her hand and mailing it to her grandson.

Mr. Smith walks back over to John.

MR. SMITH (CONT'D)
Is there anything else that you would like to add, John?

JOHN
He used a character in his screenplay to threaten me with murder. It may have been indirect but it definitely was not a coincidence.

John glares directly at Sebastian and Sebastian refuses to make eye contact with him.

MR. SMITH
Your Honor, with your permission I would like to show you the video that was recorded on the day of Sebastian King's arrest?

JUDGE JONES
Let us see it, sir.

Mr. Smith brings out a television large enough for everyone in the courtroom to see.

JUDGE JONES (CONT'D)

Hold on, counselor. We need to let the defense question the witness first.

MR. SMITH

Yes, of course, your Honor.

Mr. Kardashian approaches the judge's bench then he walks over towards John.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Was anyone able to prove beyond a shadow of doubt that Sebastian King dug up your grandmother and mailed her dead hand to you?

JOHN

The police were unable to obtain any finger prints from the letter that was mailed.

MR. KARDASHIAN

What about your Grandmother's burial site?

JOHN

Whoever dug up my grandmother put her back in the ground, covered it back up with dirt and left a fresh bouquet of flowers.

MR. KARDASHIAN

How did you know it was your grandmother's hand and not someone else's?

JOHN

She still had her wedding ring on. I recognized the ring.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Before your lawyer plays his video I only have one more question for you, sir. Did Sebastian King ever say I will kill you, John Devlin, if my screenplay THE CONTESTANT does not win your contest?

JOHN

No, he did not.

MR. KARDASHIAN

With no solid proof and no direct threat ever being said how do you expect this jury to convict this young man?

JOHN

Once everyone sees the video everyone will know just how guilty that little bastard is!

MR. KARDASHIAN

(speaking to Judge Jones) I have no more questions, your Honor.

Mr. Kardashian walks back to the desk occupied by Sebastian as well and takes his seat.

Mr. Smith stands up and points his remote at the television near the judge's bench and presses play.

CLOSE ON JURORS(SERIES OF TIME ELAPSED SHOTS)

The twelve jurors watch the video as it plays in its entirety. As the scene progresses the facial expressions of the jurors does not change.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

Originally, THE CONTESTANT was about a screenwriter that murdered the judges...

SUSAN (V.O.)

A woman being stalked and murdered by her ex-boyfriend is your idea of justice?

SEBASTION (V.O.)

If she hadn't cheated on him with his best friend he wouldn't have lost his sanity in the first place...

JOHN (V.O.)

In the scene that you had the son of the judge almost murdered by his grandmother..

SEBASTION (V.O.)

Murdered by his grandmother was too much for him to handle, wouldn't you agree?

JOHN (V.O.)
 We had to make sure that you
 weren't guilty of plagiarism...

SEBASTION (V.O.)
 What?

JOHN (V.O.)
 There were too many similarities
 between THE CONTESTANT and BABY
 BOOBY SQUIRTERS...

SUSAN (V.O.)
 You changed the names of the
 characters and the title and passed
 it off as your own work!

JAMIE (V.O.)
 You have been blacklisted and you
 are officially disqualified...

SEBASTION (V.O.)
 You have no idea what I am capable
 of!

BACK TO SCENE

Mr. Smith points his remote at the screen and hits rewind. He then pushes play again.

Sebastion, in the television screen, grabs Jamie by the collar.

SEBASTION
 (television recording) You have no
 idea what I am capable of!

Mr. Smith points his remote at the television and pauses the scene with Sebastion as he grabs Jamie by the throat.

Mr. Smith walks over towards the jury box.

MR. SMITH
 (quoting Sebastion) "You have no
 idea what I am capable of!"

JUDGE JONES
 Does the prosecution rest it's
 case?

MR. SMITH
 We have nothing more to show today,
 your Honor.

JUDGE JONES

How about the defense? Do you rest your case?

MR. KARDASHIAN

Before I call my client to the stand I have only one thing for the jurors to see, your Honor.

JUDGE JONES

Proceed, counselor.

Mr. Kardashian picks up a small pile of screenplays on his desk. He walks over to the Jurors and hands everyone two screenplays. He still holds two screenplays himself.

Mr. Kardashian holds up the two screenplays high enough for everyone in the courtroom to see.

MR. KARDASHIAN

I have just given each juror their own autographed copy of BABY BOOBY SQUIRTERS and THE CONTESTANT.

Mr. Kardashian walks up to John as he sits by the judge's bench.

MR. KARDASHIAN (CONT'D)

Didn't you say that my client, Sebastian King, plagiarized this screenplay?

JOHN

How did you get that?

MR. KARDASHIAN

Please answer my question, sir.

JOHN

There is no way that he could've legally obtained this screenplay. This had to have been taken from our files without permission!

MR. KARDASHIAN

Do you even remember who wrote this?

JOHN

His name was William H. Scott. His work was absolutely brilliant!

MR. KARDASHIAN

Ladies and gentleman of the jury, William H. Scott is the alias that my client, Sebastian King, used to enter his comedy screenplay under.

JOHN

That can't be possible!

MR. KARDASHIAN

How can a single screenwriter plagiarize himself, John?(directing his speech to the jury)After all of you read through this material I am sure not one of you will find a single word that is similar and my client is a victim of entrapment!

The judge BANGS his GAVEL SEVERAL TIMES as the people in the courtroom chatter amongst themselves.

JUDGE JONES

Mr. Devlin. I do believe that you and your associate, Ms. Susan Treyborn were under oath and swore to tell the truth to this jury. You are going to be held in contempt of court after this hearing is over. Do I make myself clear, sir?

JOHN

Yes, your Honor.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Does this mean that all charges against my client are going to be dropped, your Honor?

JUDGE JONES

Not exactly. I want to hear what the accused has to say before we make our decision.(addressing John) Mr. Devlin, you may go back to your seat.(addressing Sebastian)Please take the stand, Son.

John returns to his seat as Sebastian approaches the stand. The bailiff places his Bible out and Sebastian places his hand on it.

BAILIFF

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you, God?

SEBASTION

Yes, sir.

BAILIFF

Have a seat, Son.

Sebastion sits down and Mr. Kardashian approaches him.

MR. KARDASHIAN

We have no idea what you are capable of, Sebastion. That seems to be the central theme of this trial today, doesn't it?

SEBASTION

Yes, sir.

MR. KARDASHIAN

When you attacked Jamie how many police officers did it take to pull you off of him, Son?

SEBASTION

Three, sir.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Did you have any idea that you were being filmed during this interview, Son?

SEBASTION

No, sir.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Now, Sebastion, what the judge and the jury needs to know and quite frankly what I need to know is what exactly did you mean by saying you have no idea what I am capable of?

Sebastion looks directly at the jurors. He appears shaken up by the entire situation.

SEBASTION

Ever since I was a little boy it has been my dream to write and create movies. I have earned my masters in screenwriting and up until a couple of weeks ago I was flipping burgers and still living with my dad. Now I am homeless, unemployed and in prison all because I followed my dream.

(MORE)

SEBASTION (CONT'D)

When I said you have no idea what I am capable of I meant as an artist, musician and as a writer.

Judge Jones BANGS his GAVEL on his BENCH SEVERAL TIMES.

Some of the members of the jury have tears in their eyes.

JUDGE JONES

When I was a young man if a man has the education required the jobs were there for the taking. I am going to allow the jury to decide your case but before I do that I only have one word of advice for you. Sometimes, winning doesn't matter. It's how you play the game.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Since we know that Big Dogz lied about my client and we also know that there is no way my client could've accessed any of their information in any federal database I move that an investigation should take place due to the lack of integrity that Big Dogz has displayed. How many new admissions to their contest did they say they have lined up for next year? Twenty thousand, maybe?

JUDGE JONES

They are not the ones on trial today, counselor. The court will take a two hour recess and in this time I expect the jury to come to a decision.

Judge Jones BANGS his GAVEL on his bench.

INT. COURT - DAY

Everyone sits in their proper places inside the court. The only people missing are the members of the jury.

A door opens on the left side of the courtroom near the jury box and all the jurors enter the courtroom.

The last juror hands a piece of paper to the bailiff before taking his seat.

The bailiff hands the piece of paper to Judge Jones.

Judge Jones looks at the paper for a few moments then looks directly at Sebastion.

JUDGE JONES

Mr. Sebastion King, the court finds you innocent on three counts of blackmail and three counts of death threats against Big Dogz.

Sebastion and Mr. Kardashian celebrate and several people in the courtroom applaud.

Judge Jones BANGS his GAVEL.

JUDGE JONES (CONT'D)

However, the jury has found you guilty of assault and battery against Mr. Jamie Devon. You will be sentenced to six months in jail.

Sebastion and Mr. Kardashian appear upset over the news as John and Susan appear slightly pleased with the results.

Two police officers approach John and Susan then place them in handcuffs.

As the police officers lead them away John turns and glares at Sebastion stopping dead in his tracks.

JOHN

Mark my words, Young Man, no one will ever see any movie that you have written. I will make sure of that!

After John and Susan have left the court Mr. Kardashian has his briefcase closed and stands up without a sign of clumsiness.

SEBASTION

Was that your first trial, sir?

MR. KARDASHIAN

I was a little nervous. Did it show?

SEBASTION

Thanks for everything you did for me.

MR. KARDASHIAN

Consider yourself lucky, Sebastion. Things could've turned out alot worse than it did.

Two police officers approach Sebastian and place him in handcuffs.

As reporters and photographers take pictures of Sebastian he holds his head up high and smiles for the cameras.

INT. JAIL CELL - DAY

A single ray of sunshine pierces through the darkness of the jail cell. SUPER: "6 MONTHS LATER."

Sebastian opens his eyes, sits up and the ray of light blinds him temporarily.

Sebastian stands up and grabs the bars of his jail cell.

SEBASTION

"Now I know why the caged bird sings."

The LOCK on the JAIL DOOR CLICKS a FEW TIMES. The jail door opens and a police officer enters.

POLICE OFFICER#1

Come on, Son. You are free to go.

EXT. JAIL - DAY

Sebastian walks out of the front door of the jail wearing street clothes.

As he walks out towards the edge of the street he notices that his BMX bike is locked on a bike rack.

Sebastian unlocks his BMX bike, gets on it rides away.

No national or local film crews are present during his release.

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY

Sebastian peddles his BMX bike down the center of the road by himself.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

In the world of screenwriting there are certain terms most people don't know about. Exposition, transformational arc and the proper introduction of characters all come to mind.

(MORE)

SEBASTION (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I think that now would be the
perfect time to introduce everyone
to my film crew!

Dude rides up from a side-street and peddles his BMX bike
right beside Sebastian.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

A couple of months prior to my
arrest and incarceration I formed a
little film company called The Real
Big Dogz Productions. Bob, a.k.a.
Dude, is my director of
photography.

FLASHBACK - INT. COURT - DAY

Dude places cell phones that have been rigged to work as
cameras near the roof of the court.

INT. OFFICE BUILDING - LARGE OFFICE

Dude places a cell phone/camera in the corner of the
building. He uses a janitor's uniform as a disguise he wears
a mustache.

INT. HAMBURGER JOINT - DAY

Dude places a cell phone/camera near the ceiling of the
restaurant.

EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT

Dude films Sebastian as he is digs up John's grandmother out
of her grave.

The SHOVEL SLICES through the DIRT and the DIRT THUMPS as it
lands on the ground.

Only Sebastian's head and the tip of the shovel can be seen
as dirt flies out of the grave.

Sebastian lifts one arm up into the air and holds a severed,
decaying hand.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

For obvious reasons not all of the
scenes made the final cut.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Dude and Sebastian hide behind a couple of bushes and watch two naked gay men have sex.

Dude films with the cell phone/camera as Sebastian's jaw is wide open.

DUDE

You think I should get a close-up
and a cum shot?

SEBASTION

I think I'm going to be sick, Dude.

Sebastian throws up as Dude continues to film the scene.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT)

As Sebastian and Dude peddle their BMX bikes in the center of the road another young man previously seen peddles up from another side street and peddles right beside them.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

This is RANDY. His father is the
chief of police of a small town
about twenty miles from here.

FLASHBACK - INT. TEENAGER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Randy sits at Dude's computer desk. He has pictures of all three screenwriting judges on the computer.

The printer next to the computer prints up papers with detailed information including arrests, driving records etc. about each screenwriting judge.

Randy gives Sebastian small piles of paper with the information about the screenwriting judges.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

He has access to both local and
federal websites that remain
untraceable. His contribution to
our work has been invaluable!

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT)

Another young man from one of the previous scenes pulls up from another side street and peddles right beside Sebastian, Dude and Randy.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
This is Travis. He is a math wiz
and a tech wizard.

FLASHBACK - INT. TEENAGER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Randy rigs all the cell phones to operate as film cameras.

In total, there is at least fifty cell phones/cameras that lie at the corner of the bed.

Randy then pulls out a map of the small town and places it on Dude's bed. Small red x's can be seen at several different locations on the map.

Dude places several cell phone/camera's into his backpack and gives Randy a high five and then he exits the room.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
All of our camera's were generously
donated by Randy's dad. I guess
drug dealers doing time didn't need
them anymore.

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT)

Another large, heavy-set young man from one of the previous scenes pulls up from another side street and rides right beside Sebastian, Dude, Randy and Travis.

The large, heavy-set young man has to physically labor to keep up with everyone but manages to keep up his pace.

SEBASTION (V.O.)
And last but not least, LITTLE
SEAN.

A miniature ghost E.T. sits on a basket at the front of Little Sean's bike.

FLASHBACK - INT. TEENAGER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Little Sean watches a small television with an OLDER MAN that paces back and forth on the screen.

OLDER MAN

(in television)"Never say you haven't produced anything. Always say we have many projects in various stages of production!"

SEBASTION (V.O.)

Little Sean purchased an online film school and gave us the basic education we needed to finance, film and distribute our project!

Little Sean turns the television off and picks up his cell phone.

LITTLE SEAN

Is this NBC NEWS? I'D Like to report a situation unfolding right now where a screenwriting contest winner is being charged with blackmail and attempted murder...

SEBASTION (V.O.)

He was also in charge of our marketing and publicity department. How many independent films can you name that has received free national publicity?

END FLASHBACK:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - DAY (BACK TO PRESENT)

Sebastian, Dude, Randy, and Travis all stare at the front of Little Sean's bike.

The heart on the ghost E.T. on the front of the bike glows as red as a red light.

SEBASTION

What the fuck is that?

LITTLE SEAN

Steven Spielberg is a genius!

DUDE

That's cool, man!

LITTLE SEAN

Do you think he will want to work
with us after all this is done?

DUDE

Keep dreaming, man! Keep dreaming.

The road they all travel on comes to a dead end with a small
fence. A open, grassy field is behind the fence.

All the young men speed up except for Little Sean.

LITTLE SEAN

They know I can't do that shit!

Sebastion, Dude, Randy and Travis peddle their BMX bikes to
about five feet away from the fence and they all hit their
front breaks simultaneously. They all flip forward and go
airborne over the fence.

CUT TO:

CLOSE ON COMPUTER SCREEN

An image of a young man on a BMX bike does a front flip and
lands on it's back wheel as the title, "THE REAL BIG DOGZ
PRODUCTIONS!", transitions from out of nowhere to gigantic
bold print.

Another title on the bottom of the screen states, "THE
CONTESTANT: A MOVIE PRODUCED, WRITTEN, DIRECTED AND STARRING
SEBASTION KING!".

INT. TEENAGER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Dude hands Sebastion a DVD box with the title, THE
CONTESTANT, and smiles.

DUDE

I think Mozart's Concerto No. 5 was
a brilliant touch, man!

SEBASTION

I can't believe we did it!

DUDE

What are you going to do with your
copy, man?

SEBASTION

I don't know, yet.

Little Sean enters the room. He appears very excited and he holds a piece of paper up in the air.

SEBASTION (CONT'D)

What's that, Little Sean?

LITTLE SEAN

We have been accepted to The Sundance Film Festival, guys!

DUDE

Do you think Quentin Tarantino will be there this year, man?

RANDY

Guys, how are we going to get there?

TRAVIS

Do we need to remind you that we are flat broke?

Sebastion walks over to Dude's desk and pulls out a copy of his screenplay. He hands it over to Little Sean.

SEBASTION

I think it's time we decided which lucky production company will get to option THE CONTESTANT.

DUDE

Do you realize that this is the most valuable movie prop in the history of filmmaking, man?

SEBASTION

Without the screenplay there would be no film industry, dude!

INT. SEBASTION'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sebastion's father sits on the couch and reads his paper. He is interrupted by a DOORBELL RINGING.

He gets up and walks towards the entrance.

EXT. SEBASTION'S HOME - FRONT PORCH - DAY

The front door opens and Sebastion's father immediately notices that no one is there.

Sebastion's father notices a BMX bike with a young man on it as it vanishes from sight.

Sebastion's father looks down and notices a small envelope and a small white box at the front doorstep.

Sebastion's father picks up the envelope and small box and goes back inside his house.

INT. SEBASTION'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Sebastion's father sits on his couch. He opens the small box to find a DVD entitled THE SCREENWRITER.

Sebastion's father opens the envelope entitled HAPPY FATHER'S DAY and pulls out a small card.

CLOSE ON CARD

As Sebastion's father begins to read the words, DEAR FATHER..., we begin to hear Sebastion's narrative.

SEBASTION (V.O.)

Dear father, I wanted you to be the first person to see the film that I created and starred in. I have enclosed a ticket to The Sundance Film Festival for you so if you want you can be at the world premiere of this show. P.S. Please pay attention to what was said after you left me in jail. Your son, Sebastion.

EXT. FILM FESTIVAL - NIGHT

A giant red carpet leads from the main street into the entrance of a movie theater.

Several ropes and barricades block the red carpet. Many people stand behind the barricades.

The sign above the movie theater has the words THIS WEEK ONLY THE SCREENWRITER STARRING SEBASTION KING in bold print with extra lights to highlight the sign.

Several exotic cars pull up and park near the main street.

All the members of The Real Big Dogz Movie Production Company all step out with extremely gorgeous dates at their sides.

The Real Big Dogz all wear matching tuxes, shoes and jewelry.

As the group approach the front of the entrance with their dates by their sides the photographers take pictures of them.

An UNKNOWN MAN steps over one of the barricades and approaches The Real Big Dogz. He stops them right in front of the movie theatre.

UNKNOWN MAN

Sebastion King?

Little Sean jumps up and down in excitement. He also points his finger at the unknown man.

LITTLE SEAN

(high pitch squeal)It's Quentin Tarantino!

SEBASTION

(to Little Sean)Keep your cool, bro. (to Quentin Tarantino) That's me.

QUENTIN TARANTINO

I just saw your movie. Have you secured a distributor yet?

SEBASTION

Several offers are being considered.

Quentin Tarantino reaches inside his jacket and pulls out a card. He gives the card to Sebastion.

QUENTIN TARANTINO

If you guys have any other projects in the works it would be an honor for you to consider using me as your director.

LITTLE SEAN

(stuttering)we-we... have v-v-various projects in different stages of p-p-production.

QUENTIN TARANTINO

That's cool. Let me know if you need me!

Quentin Tarantino winks at Sebastion and begins to walk away.

SEBASTION
(raising his voice)Have you ever
heard of Gary Devore?

Quentin Tarantino turns around and comes back to Sebastion.

QUENTIN TARANTINO
The writer without hands? Who
hasn't heard of him?

Sebastion gives Dude a glance remembering that Dude didn't
know who he was.

SEBASTION
We have a project in development
about him in the making. Would you
like to come aboard?

QUENTIN TARANTINO
Do you think you're ready to handle
such a provocative project?

SEBASTION
You have no idea...

QUENTIN TARANTINO
(laughing)What you're capable of? I
know exactly what you are capable
of you little son of a bitch!

SEBASTION
So, what do you think?

QUENTIN TARANTINO
Another pair of missing hands? If
you're not careful you are going to
get yourself pigeon holed into
making films about missing hands.
Was that your true inspiration for
the scene with the lady with the
missing hand in your film?

SEBASTION
Try The Departed starring Leonardo
Dicaprio.

QUENTIN TARANTINO
Nice...

The Real Big Dogz Production Company enter the theatre with
their dates.

FADE TO BLACK.

BLACK SCREEN

SUPER: THE SCREENWRITER became the highest grossing independent film ever beating out THE BLAIR WITCH by over 100 million dollars making Sebastian King the most sought after movie producer in human history.

Of course, this is just a work of fiction and the facts previously stated are complete bullshit.

No screenwriting judges were harmed in any way during the making of this film. Years of psychological counseling maybe but no physical harm done that can be proven in any local or federal court in this nation.

THE END