

The People vs. Page Count

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**INT. COURTROOM - DAY**

The public gallery is packed with nerds of all ages.

On the stand, DOUGLAS, a surprisingly young 20 something nerd.

Pacing in front of him, cheeks already red, GEOFF, ancient.

Geoff brandishes a sheaf of papers at Douglas.

GEOFF  
Eight lines up, 'nerd', an orphan.

DOUGLAS  
Which ones are they again?

GEOFF  
A single word left hanging on a line.

DOUGLAS  
And?

GEOFF  
It's a shameful waste of paper and  
inflates the read.

DOUGLAS  
Paper, does anyone use that anymore?

Geoff makes to answer but is interrupted by JUDGE DON, wise beyond his years with a Kevin Bacon level youthfulness.

JUDGE DON  
We are drifting from the point.

Geoff nods, back on track.

GEOFF  
Do you deny kidnapping Zack?

DOUGLAS  
Well that's quite an emotive term.

GEOFF  
So you admit it?

Douglas nods. The other writers in the public gallery gasp.

DOUGLAS  
But I was just trying to clarify and  
explain a few things.

GEOFF

Such as?

DOUGLAS

Well, like how he could torture us with three challenges one after the other with diminishing page counts.

GEOFF

You think that's harsh! I remember an OWC when --

DOUGLAS

It wasn't just that, he threw in a surprise round of two pages, TWO!

A couple of members of the gallery feint at the inhumanity.

GEOFF

So, you...

DOUGLAS

I borrowed him in order to share my feelings, so he could understand the injustice he inflicted on us.

GEOFF

So you took it on yourself to --

DOUGLAS

It wasn't just for me, it was for all the noble writers on SimplyScripts who strive so hard to meet Zack's twisted criteria... all with the hope of winning the sacred SS mug.

GEOFF

Objection your honor, over florid language use!

JUDGE DON

Overruled, its in character!

GEOFF

So where is he? Have you killed him?

DOUGLAS

Killed him, no, of course not! It's only a writing challenge for goodness sake! I've just left him with Pia and Libby who are watching him whilst he completes each of the rounds under exam conditions - see if he can Zack it, I mean hack it!