

The Cable Guy

by

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Based on a Screenplay by

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FULL FRAME - WHITE NOISE

Credits begin. The entire frame is filled with white noise within which one can make out the faint image of a television program. Every few moments the channel changes, revealing a new ghostly image.

The camera pulls back very slowly. We reveal that this image is coming from a twenty seven inch television.

The camera pulls back some more and we see a man's hand enter frame holding a remote control. The hand changes channels frantically.

The camera pulls back into its final position and we see STEVEN KOVACS, thirty years old, sitting on his couch. He is trying to find a channel with viewable reception. Unfortunately for him--his cable is not hooked up.

STEVEN

(looks at watch)

Jesus, where's the cable guy already?

END OF CREDIT SEQUENCE

1A

INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

1A

It is a stylish old apartment. There are half unpacked boxes strewn about the floor. Steven has just moved in. He picks the phone up and dials.

*
*

STEVEN

(into the phone)

Hello, Rick Legatos please.

*

2

INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS

2

We see Steven's best friend RICK standing in the middle of a busy newsroom. He is a rough looking, cynical local news cameraman. In the background, hanging from the ceiling is a television set.

ON THE TV - An anchorman sits at his desk fixing his hair as he waits to go on the air. A graphic on the screen says "Sam Sweet Trial Update."

RICK

How's the move going?

3

INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

3

Steven unpacks as they speak. The phone call intercuts between the two locations.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

Horrible. The cable guy is missing in action. Apparently he's going to be here sometime between eight AM and my death.

RICK

You haven't called Robin have you?
Please tell me you didn't call her.

STEVEN

(sarcastically)
No, I'm giving her space.
(beat)
I can't believe she's doing this.

RICK

You never should have asked her to marry you. You're the mad smotherer.

STEVEN

All she had to do was say no. She didn't have to kick me out. I feel like Felix Unger.

RICK

You forced her to evaluate the relationship. If you didn't propose she would never have realized how unhappy she was.

STEVEN

I don't want to talk about it.
So what time are you going to come by?

RICK

I can't. I'm working double shifts the rest of the week.

STEVEN

It's my first night here. Don't do this to me.

RICK

The other camera guy pulled out his back. Besides, I spent the last two weeks with you on my couch. Isn't that enough?

STEVEN

Fine, fine.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

RICK

One piece of advice. Slip the cable guy fifty bucks, he'll give you all the movie channels for free. Even the dirty ones.

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*

STEVEN

I couldn't, I'm not good at that stuff. What if he says no? I'll feel like an idiot.

*
*
*
*

RICK

None of them say no, believe me. I'll talk to you later.

*
*

Steven hangs up, and waits.

DISSOLVE TO:

4 INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

4

Steven continues unpacking. He is very neat. He opens a box and finds pictures of him with his ex-girlfriend. He looks at one sadly, considering whether or not to put it on display. He puts it back in the box.

4A EXT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

4A*

Establishing shot of a renovated apartment building built in the nineteen twenties. A moving truck pulls into a gated side garage.

5 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - LATER

5

Movers deliver a small breakfast table and chairs. Steven directs them as to where to put them.

CLOSE UP OF CLOCK - 3:52 P.M.

6 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - LATER

6

Steven puts a few feet of tin foil on his antenna to help the reception. He changes channels. Still nothing. He pulls it off frustrated.

7 INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

7

Many of the boxes are gone. Steven lies on the couch, staring at the ceiling, fidgeting. He is unable to fill his day without cable.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

STEVEN
Where the hell is he?

8 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - LATER

8

Steven paces back and forth across the room. He stares at his watch frequently.

CLOSE UP OF CLOCK - 5:12 P.M.

9 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - LATER

9

Steven slowly eats a sandwich in his empty kitchen. He looks at the clock. It says five thirty. He picks up the phone and dials. A machine picks up.

ROBIN (VO)
Hi, this is Robin. Leave a message. If you are trying to reach Steven he can now be reached at 555-3837.

Steven hangs up.

10 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - SUNSET

10

Steven does sit ups. He looks up at the clock.

CLOSE UP OF THE CLOCK - 6:48 P.M.

STEVEN
(to himself)
Forget it. Idiots.

He gets up, and walks into the bathroom.

11 INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

11

Steven gets undressed. He turns on the shower, adjusts the heat, then gets in. He tries to lose his tension by letting the hot water engulf him. He takes some shampoo, and lathers up his hair.

THE DOORBELL RINGS

STEVEN
(annoyed)
Oh great.

THE DOORBELL RINGS SEVERAL TIMES

Steven jumps out of the shower, soaking wet, throws on a bathrobe and runs to the door.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

STEVEN

Don't leave! I'm here! I'm here!

12 INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

12

Steven runs to the door.

CABLE GUY (OS)

Hello! Cable Guy!

Steven reaches the door, and looks through the peep-hole.

P.O.V. THROUGH THE PEEPHOLE

The CABLE GUY is walking away!

INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM/HALLWAY - DAY

Steven opens the door and yells to the Cable Guy.

STEVEN

Hey, wait!

The Cable Guy turns back.

CABLE GUY

Well, look who decided to show up. I was just gonna go collect my retirement pension.

*
*
*
*

The Cable Guy wears a clean white jump suit, and is extremely confident despite the fact that he speaks with a slight lisp. This lisp gives him a child-like quality.

STEVEN

You were supposed to be here four hours ago.

CABLE GUY

Was I? So I'm the tardy one. Good to know.

*
*
*

STEVEN

Yes. I had to go to the Bed 'n Bath place, but now it's closed.

CABLE GUY

(turns to leave)

Maybe I shouldn't have come at all--jerk off!

*
*

(turns back-smiling)

I'm just joking. Let's do this.

(CONTINUED)

The Cable Guy heads into Steven's apartment. They walk down the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

(looks around)

Oh, the old McNair place. I never thought they'd get the floors clean after what happened here.

STEVEN

What happened?

CABLE GUY

(long beat)

They had a lot of cats.

They walk into Steven's living room.

CABLE GUY

Hey, this could be a cool pad. Here is a comment card.

He pulls out a card, and hands it to Steven without turning back to look at him.

CABLE GUY

Please mail it in when I am done.

STEVEN

These go to your boss?

CABLE GUY

No, they go to me. I'm a perfectioniss..perfectioniss...

(he strains to lose his lisp)

perfectioniss...t.

Now let's take a look at what we're dealing with.

The Cable Guy walks around the room with his hands out, sensing the space.

CABLE GUY

Come on baby. Come on baby. Talk to me baby. Tell me where you like it. That's it baby.

He zones in on one wall. He feels the wall in a sensuous manner.

CABLE GUY

Here's your sweet spot.

He pulls out his drill, and begins drilling.

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY
So your lady kicked you out.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

12

CONTINUED: (4)

12

STEVEN

What?

CABLE GUY

In preparing your service I noticed you were previously wired across town at 1268 and a half Chestnut. Last week the billing was transferred to one Robin Harris. Smells like heartbreak to me.

STEVEN

I really don't want to talk about it with you. Could you please just install my cable? I'm going to get dressed.

CABLE GUY

No sweat.

Steven walks away, into the hallway. A moment later the Cable Guy runs to him.

CABLE GUY

Hey, I'm going to go to the hallway so I can access the floorboards. Don't be spooked if you hear someone crawling underneath you.

STEVEN

Okay, whatever.

Steven walks toward his bedroom.

CABLE GUY

Put on your bathing suit 'cause you'll be channel surfing in no time.

The Cable Guy pulls the trigger on his drill twice to punctuate his joke.

13

INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

13

CLOSE UP - THE TELEVISION

RIKKI KLIEMAN from COURT TV broadcasts from their studio.

RIKKI KLIEMAN

(to camera)

So ends day fifty four of the trial of former child star Sam Sweet who has been accused of shooting his twin brother, Stan, in cold blood. The twins were stars of the hit sitcom "Double Trouble" which aired from nineteen seventy seven til nineteen eighty four.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

A video package rolls in - We see several photographs of Sam Sweet and his twin brother at various ages. Included is the cast photo of "Double Trouble." Pictured in the photo are eight year old Stan and Sam and Conrad Janis as their single dad.

(CONTINUED)

We see a brief clip from "Double Trouble," starring the two eight year old boys, then a shot of Sam Sweet being taken out of a police car in handcuffs.

RIKKI KLIEMAN

(to camera)

Life wasn't sweet after the cancellation of their program. Hollywood chewed them up and spit them out. A frustrated Sam turned to petty larceny, while his more impressionable brother, Stan, fell in with a fringe cult called "The Brotherhood of Friends." Reduced to tabloid fodder a fury was growing inside of Sam. A burning need to be recognized as an individual, not a person famous for having an identical twin. A need that took the form of four shotgun blasts on the night of November fourteenth. And so today his attorneys continue the unusual defense of "Twin Envy."

ANGLE ON

Steven re-enters the room. The Cable Guy is watching television.

STEVEN

How's it going?

The Cable Guy holds up one finger as if to say "quiet." His eyes never leave the TV.

CABLE GUY

Guilty, guilty, guilt-freakin-tee. I hope they fry this bastard.

Steven sees that the Cable Guy has completely redecorated the room in a fashion which makes the room impractical for anything other than watching television. The TV is now on the stairs blocking the entrance into the living room. All furniture faces the TV, making conversation impossible.

STEVEN

(looks around)

What happened?

CABLE GUY

(jumps to his feet)

The arrangement of your major appliances and your furniture was causing some noisy pics and hum bars in your reception. I moved a few things. Cleared it right up. Is that cool?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (3)

13

STEVEN
(non-confrontational)
I...guess so.

CABLE GUY
You programmed?
(off of Steven's look)
Then let me slave your remotes.

He picks up Steven's remotes, punches in a complicated series of commands, then points them at each other. As he holds them together he makes a face as if their power is surging through him.

CABLE GUY
Ooh, maybe we should leave these two alone.

STEVEN
So after this I'll only need one remote for everything?

CABLE GUY
You know you're pretty good at this. You could be a cable guy yourself.
(he finishes)
Now let me check your levels.

With amazing alacrity he adjusts color setting, sound controls, closed captioned etc. Then he clicks through the channels. A music video, documentary on Hitler, Oprah Winfrey Show, starving kids, Barney, Court TV. The Cable Guy watches emotionless.

CABLE GUY
All right. That about does it. I just have some paperwork for you to fill out. Sign here.

Steven does.

CABLE GUY
That gave me power of attorney over you.
(beat)
Joking.

Steven laughs. The Cable Guy joins him, but then continues to laugh way too hard for way too long. As the laugh ends it quickly turns into an awkward moment. The Cable Guy does not want to leave.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (4)

13

CABLE GUY
I'm about finished here.
(beat)
Okay, I feel good about this.

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(CONTINUED)

13

CONTINUED: (5)

13

Cable Guy walks to the door.

STEVEN

One thing.

CABLE GUY

(turns back immediately)

Yeah!

STEVEN

I...uh...I have this friend and he said he gave his cable guy fifty bucks and he got free movie channels. Have you ever heard of anything like that?

CABLE GUY

(deadly serious)

You mean illegal cable?

STEVEN

Uh...yes.

CABLE GUY

Who told you that? I want his name.

STEVEN

Forget it.

CABLE GUY

You're offering me a bribe? What you have just done is illegal, and in this state if convicted, you could be fined five thousand dollars or spend six months in a correctional facility.

STEVEN

Please...that was dumb. I was just making conversation--

CABLE GUY

(laughs)

I'm just jerking your chain. Wake up little snoozy. I'll juice you up. All it is is a push of a button.

He puts his arm around Steven and walks him toward the front door.

STEVEN

Oh, great. How much?

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

Don't worry about it. I couldn't charge
you. Your girl just booted you.
Consider it one guy doing another guy a
solid.

STEVEN

That is so nice.

CABLE GUY

Hey, you're a 'nice' guy. You'd be surprised how many customers treat you like shit, like I'm a God damn plumber or something.

(hands him a card)

Here is my personal beeper number. It's just for my preferred customers. Never call the company, they'll just put you on hold.

STEVEN

Thanks. Really.

(holds up comment card-jokes)

You're gonna get some good marks here.

CABLE GUY

Maybe some day I'll take you out to the satellite and show you how all this stuff works. It's really incredible.

STEVEN

Sure. We should do that one day.

CABLE GUY

How 'bout tomorrow?

STEVEN

Tomorrow? Tomorrow's not good.

CABLE GUY

What are you going to do, sit home and stew about your ex?

STEVEN

No.

CABLE GUY

(insulted)

Oh, okay. I guess I crossed the line. Sorry.

STEVEN

(guilty)

You didn't cross the line.

CABLE GUY

(immediately happy)

No? Cool. I'll pick you up at six thirty. On the flipside.

*
*

The Cable Guy leaves before Steven can reconsider. Steven cannot believe he just got roped into that.

14 INT. CITYWIDE LAND DEVELOPERS - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

14

Steven is in the middle of a presentation to his co-workers. His boss, HAL DANIELS, looks impressed.

Steven pulls a sheet off of an architects model of a condominium complex.

STEVEN

...There are twenty four classrooms; each can be converted into a 1400 square foot home. The facility has two tennis courts, an Olympic size pool and full gym, with a stage if the residents decide they want to perform "Oklahoma."

Everyone laughs. Steven is very good at his job.

STEVEN

The kitsch appeal of living in an old schoolhouse should be very attractive to young, upwardly mobile home buyers. And most important, the structure is available in foreclosure. If we put down a cash bid, we're going to steal this thing.

There is a pause, then everyone applauds.

14AA INT. CITYWIDE LAND DEVELOPERS - CONTINUOUS

14AA*

Hal runs over to Steven, and puts his arm around him.

HAL

Yo Steve-o. Tough room, but you got 'em. How are you doing?

STEVEN

Fine.

HAL

Yeah? Did I hear something about you having some troubles at home?

STEVEN

Robin and I have been having a difficult time. I moved out, but I really think it's only temporary.

HAL

Gotcha. I love this project, but it's a big mother. Can I be blunt? If I approve this and you screw it up, it's not going

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14AA CONTINUED:

14AA

HAL (cont'd)
to be my ass. I have total confidence in
you, but you hear where I'm coming from,
right?

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

14AA CONTINUED: (2)

14AA

STEVEN

Absolutely. Now that I'm on my own I've got more time than ever. It's a good thing.

HAL

(playfully)

I can't look bad on this one. I know you're gonna do great.

STEVEN

Thank you. I will.

Hal goes down the stairs to his office. Steven watches him disappear, then turns to his secretary, JOAN.

STEVEN

I'll be right back.

14AB EXT. SASSY MAGAZINE OFFICES - DAY

14AB*

Wide establishing shot. Steven enters the building.

*

14A INT. SASSY MAGAZINE OFFICES - DAY

14A

Steven walks through the halls looking for Robin's office.

15 OMITTED

15

16 INT. ROBIN'S OFFICE AT SASSY MAGAZINE - DAY

16

ROBIN HARRIS, an attractive woman in her late twenties, sits at her desk at "Sassy Magazine." Her office is fairly nice, but she is definitely not at the upper level of the company yet. There are papers spread all over her desk. On her walls are pictures from the magazine, and articles she has written.

Steven peeks his head in her door.

STEVEN

Hello.

Robin's face drops.

ROBIN

Steven, what are you doing here?

STEVEN

I was just in the area. Thought I'd pop by. So, I'm popping by. How's work? How'd the big teen crush article come out?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

ROBIN

They liked it.

(beat)

I thought we agreed we weren't going to
see each other for a month.

STEVEN

I know, I know, it's just Hal accepted my
proposal to renovate the old schoolhouse.

ROBIN

That's wonderful, congratulations.

STEVEN

I know I'm breaking the rules, but come
have dinner with me tonight to celebrate.

ROBIN

I don't think we should.

STEVEN

Come on, this is the biggest day of my
career.

ROBIN

Don't put me in this position. .

STEVEN

What position? I'm not putting you in any
position. Hal accepted my proposal.

ROBIN

(feeling pressured)

Steven, I love you, but I need to take
some time on my own to see how I feel.
You agreed to this. I mean...this is
exactly why we broke up, because you
never listen to me.

STEVEN

What? Now we're broken up? What
happened to 'trial separation?'

ROBIN

I can't get into this now. If you haven't
noticed, I'm at work.

STEVEN

Sorry to disturb you.

He turns to leave.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

ROBIN
(sincerely)
Steven. Congratulations. I know how
much this means to you. You deserve it.

STEVEN
Thanks.

He leaves.

17 OMITTED

17

17A INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - SIX THIRTY P.M.

17A

Steven is watching television. He looks lonely and
depressed. He clicks around in a daze, never stopping for
more than a second.

He hears a horn honking outside.

CABLE GUY (OS)
Steven!!!! Stev-ey!!!! Let's go!!!!

*

ON THE TV - A commercial for Medieval Times Restaurant.

Steven walks over to the window and sees The Cable Guy
standing in front of his van, leaning in his window honking
the horn.

CABLE GUY
Steven!!!!
(waves)
Hey buddy!!! Come on down!!!

Steven waves and then steps back from the window. He doesn't
know what to do. He looks at the television.

ON THE TV - The local news.

REPORTER
Coming up next a special report,
"Loneliness, America's Silent Killer."

Steven looks back out the window and sees the Cable Guy
smiling and waving for him to come down.

STEVEN
(begins walking to the door)
What the hell.

18 EXT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DUSK 18

Steven walks from his apartment to the customized van. On the side of the white van it says, "The Cable Company-Get Wired Today."

STEVEN
How's it going?

CABLE GUY
Howdy partner. Climb aboard.

Steven gets in.

19 INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS 19

The van drives onto the main boulevard.

CABLE GUY
Thanks for coming out. You know most people think cable is just a simple co-ax that comes out of the wall. They never take the time to understand how it works.

STEVEN
Where exactly are we going?

CABLE GUY
We're going to take a ride on the information superhighway.

20 EXT. CITY - DUSK 20

Birds eye P.O.V. shot follows the Cable Guy's van as it drives through the city.

CABLE GUY
...it all started in Lansford Pennsylvania where Panther Valley Television, with the assistance of Jerrod Electronics, created the first cable television system.

The van drives up into the hills, finally revealing a huge satellite dish on top of a small mountain, overlooking the entire city.

CABLE GUY
I visited Lansford once. It's the Cable Guy's Mecca. It was very emotional.

21 EXT. WOODED AREA - DUSK

21

Steven and the Cable Guy get out of the van, and walk down a trail.

CABLE GUY

I come here to think sometimes. To clear my head.

They turn a corner and the satellite dish is right in front of them. It is enormous. Next to it is a one hundred and fifty foot radio antenna. Next to that is a small fenced-in shack where the satellite's controls are located.

CABLE GUY

There she is. Right now she's sending entertainment and information to millions of satisfied citizens.

STEVEN

That's pretty impressive.

CABLE GUY

See, I knew the moment I met you you that you would appreciate this.

*
*
*

The Cable Guy runs to the dish. A few seconds later he appears inside of it.

CABLE GUY

(with wonder)

The future is now. Soon every American home will integrate their television, phone, and computer. You'll be able to visit the Louvre on one channel, and watch the female mud wrestling on another. You can do your shopping at home, or play Mortal Kombat with a friend in Vietnam. There's no end to the possibilities.

(waves to Steven)

Come on up! What are you waiting for?!

22 INT. SATELLITE DISH - NIGHT

22

The Cable Guy and Steven are lying in the middle of the dish, looking up at the night sky.

CABLE GUY

Sometimes I'll sit here and imagine that there are billions of bits of information surging through me.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

STEVEN

I've watched a lot of TV in my life. I
guess I've always taken it for granted.

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

When I was a kid my mom worked nights.
Never met dad. But the old TV was always
there for me.

STEVEN

I know what you mean. My dad was there,
but he might as well have been gone. My
mom is a stewardess. She was always out
of town.

CABLE GUY

(moved)

That's tough. You must have a lot of
abandonment issues. Reality isn't "Father
Knows Best," it's a kick in the face on
Saturday night. But what doesn't kill us
makes us stronger, right?

STEVEN

(tentative)

You know my brother's a speech therapist.

The Cable guy sits up. He looks angry.

CABLE GUY

So?

There is a long silence. Steven doesn't know how to react.

STEVEN

Never mind.

The Cable Guy sits back down and pretends Steven never
mentioned it.

CABLE GUY

(beat)

So, you're pretty lovestruck about your
lady, huh?

STEVEN

I miss her. I asked her to marry me, and
she asked me to move out.

CABLE GUY

I hate that.

STEVEN

She said she felt pressured. Can you
believe that?

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

Women are a labyrinth. Can I be frank? I don't think you listen to her. I think you try to tell her what she wants to hear. She wants you to thirst for knowledge about who she is. All the complicated splendor that is woman. When your love is truly giving, it will come back to you ten-fold.

*

STEVEN

You're right. That is remarkably insightful.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (4)

22

CABLE GUY

Yeah, it was Jerry Springer's final
thought on Friday's show.

23 EXT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - LATER

23

The van pulls up in front of Steven's apartment building.

CABLE GUY

You know what? Women are suckers for
"Sleepless in Seattle." It's on HBO this
month. That's your bait right there.

*
*

STEVEN

Robin loves that movie.

CABLE GUY

They all do. Next time you talk to her
tell her you're cooking yourself dinner,
and watching it by yourself. Sound like
you're happier than a pig in shit.
She'll come running. Betcha. Then just
play it cool.

*

STEVEN

Maybe I will.

Steven gets out of the car.

STEVEN

Thanks a lot. I'm embarrassed to say
this, but I don't know your name. What
is it?

CABLE GUY

(touched)

You really want to know my name? You do?
Really? It's Ernie Douglas. But my
friends call me Chip.

*
*
*

STEVEN

I'll see ya' Chip.

Before he can exit the van, the Cable Guy is staring him in
the eyes.

CABLE GUY

Let's just remember right now. You know
some people walk through their entire
lives and never find a true friend.

(long pause)

I guess we're the lucky ones.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

STEVEN'S P.O.V. - The Cable Guy is in slow motion. He blinks once.

STEVEN

Uh...good-bye.

*

CABLE GUY

Later buddy. I'll catch ya' on the flipside.

Steven exits the van feeling a little uncomfortable.

24 INT. COFFEEHOUSE - NEXT DAY

24

Steven and Robin are talking. Robin does not look happy to see him.

STEVEN

I don't listen to you. I pretend to understand, but I'm really just saying what I think you want to hear. So from now on I'm going to try my best to listen more because I do love you and am interested in learning about every detail about the complicated splendor that is you.

Robin looks at him, somewhat shocked.

ROBIN

Oh.

STEVEN

I want us to get back together, but I can see why taking this time might be good for us. So, I'm not mad.

After a long beat, Robin smiles.

ROBIN

Sometimes time apart is healthy.

STEVEN

You're right. Well, that's what I came here to say. Look, I've got to get back to the office.

He starts getting up.

ROBIN

So, are you doing anything tomorrow?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

STEVEN

I'm just going to cook myself dinner and watch a movie. "Sleepless in Seattle" is on cable.

ROBIN

Really?

STEVEN

If you're around you should drop by and check out the new apartment.

ROBIN

Okay, maybe I will.

He exits the room. We see his hidden smile. As he does we see a television broadcasting the Sweet case. *

ON MTV-Sam Sweet sits behind the defendant's table. TABITHA SOREN is giving the news update.

TABITHA SOREN

Today in the Sam Sweet case the prosecution played the 911 call that Sam Sweet made the night he murdered his brother. Keep in mind, he confessed one month later.

The courtroom listens to a 911 phone call. The transcription is seen on the screen.

SAM SWEET (ON THE
TAPE

(crying and babbling)

Hello, please send help. My twin brother has been shot.

911 OPERATOR

Slow down sir. What happened?

SAM SWEET

Oh my God, they shot him with a shot gun four times. I mean I think it was a shotgun. Who would do such a thing?! I think it was an Asian gang or something. They were speaking some other language.

Sam leans over and whispers something in his lawyer's ear.

TABITHA SOREN

Mmmmm. Who indeed? Coming up next, a rare interview with Michael Jackson's zoo-keeper.

25 INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY

25

Steven is playing a pick up, full court basketball game with some of his friends. It is a competitive, but friendly game. Steven is on skins, Rick is on shirts.

STEVEN

Here, here, here.

A player passes to Steven. Rick is covering him. Steven drives to the basket and puts in a lay up.

RICK

(to himself)

Shit! My fault! My fault!

STEVEN

Not your fault. I'm in the zone. There is no stopping me today.

Play begins again. A player named JEFF takes the ball out, then passes to a heavy-set player who catches the ball, then drives to the basket. When he does he twists his ankle, dropping the ball. The ball rolls out of bounds into a dark corner of the gym. We follow it as it rolls on the ground until it hits a man's sneaker. A pair of hands pick up the ball. The camera tilts up the man's body. It is the Cable Guy. He is holding another ball. He starts dribbling the two balls in a circular pattern.

CABLE GUY

Hey, you guys play here too? Cool. I was just in the neighborhood. Thought I'd run the court for a couple of innings.

RICK

(gestures to injured player)

Great. We need another man.

STEVEN

This is...Chip Douglas...my cable guy.

Rick smiles in recognition.

CABLE GUY

We met about a week ago during a routine installation, but I feel like I've known him my whole life.

Steven can't believe this is happening.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

RICK

Oh really. That's sweet. All right Chip Douglas, you're on shirts. Lets play.

CABLE GUY

No, I want to be on Steven's team. I'm skins.

The Cable Guy quickly takes off his shirt. Steven looks shocked because underneath his clothes he is rippled with muscles. The dichotomy between his nerdy face, and his awesome physique is scary.

JEFF

I don't care, I'll be shirts. Let's just play.

CABLE GUY

Wait a sec', I've got to warm up.

The Cable Guy starts running wind sprints across the court, touching all the main lines. Everyone stares at him until he finishes.

CABLE GUY

Let's get it on!

STEVEN

Are you any good?

CABLE GUY

Feed me under the boards and you'll find out.

Jeff goes to half court and checks the ball with the Cable Guy.

CABLE GUY

Let's see what you got white shadow.

The Cable Guy is all over him, covering him as tightly as humanly possible. He keeps his hands near Jeff's face, whacks him in the back as he dribbles, etc. He couldn't be more annoying.

CABLE GUY

This is just like that movie "One on One" with Robbie Benson. You know he was the voice of Simba in "The Lion King."

Jeff passes to Rick who drives to the basket and puts up a shot which goes in. Rick and Jeff slap hands.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

CABLE GUY
(doing the 'traveling hand
signal)
Traveling! That's traveling!

RICK
Yeah, whatever you say Chip.
Everyone runs down the court, ignoring him.

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

All right, so we're playing that type of game. Prison rules. I get it.

Steven's team passes the ball around. The Cable Guy runs around the court, attempting to get open. He criss crosses all over the court.

CABLE GUY

Feed me the rock! Feed me the rock! I'm open! I'm so open! I'm dyin' of loneliness here!

A team mate passes the ball to Steven. The Cable Guy grabs it so Steven and him are fighting over the ball.

CABLE GUY

Come on Steven, no man is an island.

He rips the ball out of Steven's hands, and drives to the basket, pushing Jeff out of the way in the process. The ball goes in.

The Cable Guy makes a buzzing sound, and does the foul hand signal.

CABLE GUY

And one! That's definitely a foul!

(to Jeff)

You want to mug me, my pants are in my wallet. I mean my wallet is in my...you know what I mean.

STEVEN

(to Cable Guy)

What are you doing?

CABLE GUY

Don't play from fear Steven. We can take these guys.

MUSIC UP- SLOW MOTION - STEVEN'S P.O.V.

a) The shirts put a shot which doesn't go in. The Cable Guy swings his elbows wildly as he pulls it down.

b) The Cable Guy drives to the basket in slow motion violently taking down two men, including Rick.

c) Rick drives to the basket. On his way he fakes out Steven who falls to the floor. Rick scores. The Cable Guy helps Steven up. As the Cable Guy walks across the court he bangs shoulders with Rick.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (4)

25

The Cable Guy takes the ball out with Steven. They head down the court.

CABLE GUY
(to Steven)

Don't worry, I've got his number.

At half court the Cable Guy fires a no look bullet pass across court, nailing Rick in the head. Rick is stunned. The ball flies out of bounds.

CABLE GUY
Sorry, I thought you were skins.

(CONTINUED)

Steven's team inbounds the ball at half court. Steven gets the ball, and drives to the basket. He misses.

Slow motion - the Cable Guy literally steps on Rick's back and leaps into the air, slam-dunking the rebound into the basket with two hands. He hangs on the rim as the backboard shatters, raining glass over the court.

JOEL

Well I guess that's game.

Everyone begins to exit the court.

JEFF

Thanks for bringing your "friend."

The Cable Guy runs up to Rick.

CABLE GUY

Good game.

(slaps Rick on the butt)

You were tough out there. Your play brought me up to a higher level. I mean that.

RICK

(dismissive)

Yeah.

He shakes his head and exits with the rest of the players.

STEVEN

What are you doing?

CABLE GUY

It was payback time. I was protecting you.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (4)

25

STEVEN

You ruined the game.

CABLE GUY

I don't appreciate your tone Steven.
That's not the way friends speak to each other.

STEVEN

What are you talking about? I don't even know you!

CABLE GUY

Well let's fix that. Let me buy you a Heineken?

STEVEN

No, I'm going home.

Steven turns to leave.

CABLE GUY

Well, uh, I guess we'll talk later. I've got to go shower up and do some stuff. I'll call you if I get a chance. Or you call me...or something.

*
*

The Cable Guy puts his hand up for Steven to high five. Steven slaps it halfheartedly. Then the Cable Guy extends his palm out low by his knee.

CABLE GUY

And down low.

Steven stares at it for a beat. The Cable Guy waits. He'll wait as long as it takes. Finally Steven gives him a low five just so he can leave.

CABLE GUY

(pulls his hand away so Steven misses it)

Too slow. Have a good one.

STEVEN

(as he walks away)

Yeah, have a good one.

26 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - NEXT NIGHT

26

Steven runs in with a small bag of groceries. He is dressed for a date. He pulls out a bottle of wine. He opens the oven, and checks on dinner. It is almost ready. Then he checks his message machine as he prepares the meal. He begins chopping an onion.

(CONTINUED)

MESSAGE VOICE

You have eleven messages

STEVEN'S MOTHER
(ON THE MACHINE)

Steven, it's mom. Give me a call. I'm still your mother.

STEVEN'S FATHER
(ON THE MACHINE)

I'm getting on. Steven call your mother.

CABLE GUY (ON THE
MACHINE)

Hey Steven. Just checking in. Give me a ring. I'm at 555-4329.

(beep)

What's up Steven? I'm at a pay phone. If you're there pick up. Pick up. Pick up. Okay, I'll be home later. I'll talk to you then.

Steven stops chopping.

CABLE GUY (ON THE
MACHINE)

(beep)

Okay I'm home now. Give me a buzz when you get in. I'll be here pretty much all night. Bye.

(beep tone)

Hey Steven. Quick question, give me a call when you get a chance.

(beep tone)

I was just taking a whiz, thought you might have called. Okay later.

(beep tone)

Sorry, I had call waiting, didn't get to it, thought it might have been you. All right, bye.

Steven is beginning to get a little wigged out by this. He fast forwards through a sampling of the rest of the calls.

CABLE GUY

(fast forwards)

...We're having ourselves quite a little game of phone tag here. You're it!

(fast forwards)

...I was just blow drying my hair and I thought I heard the phone ringing.

(fast forwards)

...you're a tough man to reach. ...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY (cont'd)

(fast forwards)

...I guess you're too busy to call your
friends.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (3)

26

Steven fast forwards the machine. All he hears is sighing.
Then--

CABLE GUY (ON THE
MACHINE)
(long beat-then quiet and
distant)

Shit.

The doorbell rings. Steven takes a deep breath then opens
the door. It is Robin. She is dressed casually, but looks
beautiful.

ROBIN

Hi.

STEVEN

Hey, good to see you.

ROBIN

You too.

There is an awkward moment where Steven intentionally doesn't
kiss her hello.

STEVEN

Come on in. What do you think of the
place?

She looks at the odd placement of furniture.

ROBIN

You made some interesting choices laying
out the room.

STEVEN

(embarrassed)

That's actually where the movers put the
furniture. I'm gonna change it, very
soon.

ROBIN

No, I like it.

STEVEN

Oh...it's been growing on me.

27 INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

27

The food is all eaten. Steven and Robin are sitting on the
couch having an awkward conversation.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

ROBIN
So how's work?

STEVEN
Work's good.

ROBIN
How's Hal?

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

Don't get me started. That guy has no vision. It's like working for Mr. MaGoo. And those hair plugs. Does he think nobody notices?

ROBIN

It's just great that he approved your project. It's a real step up.

STEVEN

I know. Now if only someone at corporate smartened up enough to dump Hal, then I could really get some stuff done.

ROBIN

It's nice to see you doing so well.

STEVEN

Well, it's nice just to see you.

ROBIN

(slightly uncomfortable)

Yeah.

STEVEN

(looks at his watch)

Hey, it should be starting.

They sit on the couch. Robin moves to sit close to Steven. Steven turns on the television. The screen is filled with white noise. The sound is loud static.

STEVEN

Damn cable is out. Son of a bitch.

He fumbles with five remotes, looking for the right one.

STEVEN

I don't know which one he slaved it to.

ROBIN

It's alright. We can watch it another night.

STEVEN

No, no. We really should see it now. Now's a good time.

He plays with the remote, hoping it will magically come back. It doesn't.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

STEVEN

Wait, wait. I know what to do.

He runs to the kitchen and grabs the Cable Guy's beeper
number.

*
*

STEVEN

The Cable Guy's a friend of mine. I'm a
preferred customer. I'll just page him.
We'll have this fixed in no time.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

Steven dials the Cable Guy's beeper number into the phone.
The moment he is finished dialing--

THERE IS A KNOCK - THE CAMERA WHIP PANS TO THE DOOR

Steven walks to the door and opens it. Standing there is the Cable Guy looking dark and disturbed, different than we've ever seen him before. Steven is startled.

STEVEN

That was...fast.

CABLE GUY

Is there a problem with your service?

STEVEN

Yeah...my cable went out.

Steven pushes him out into the hall.

CABLE GUY

Really?

The Cable Guy holds up a cut cable cord.

CABLE GUY

So you called me. Interesting how you call when you need something. Is that how you treat people?

STEVEN

I've been really busy. You've got to get my cable going, Robin is here. This is really important.

He peeks in to get a look at Robin. They make momentary eye contact. Steven pushes him back out.

CABLE GUY

But calling me back isn't?

STEVEN

I'm sorry. Please, you've got to help me.

CABLE GUY

Why should I help you? I gave you free cable. What have you ever done for me?

STEVEN

Anything you want. Name it--quickly.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: (3)

27

CABLE GUY
Tomorrow night, we hang out.

STEVEN
Fine, whatever you want.

CABLE GUY
God bless you. You're too good to me.

The Cable Guy walks over to a fuse type box, turns one knob, then walks back to Steven.

CABLE GUY
(loud-normally)
All set.

*

STEVEN
So what's with the cut cord?

CABLE GUY
(nonchalantly)
That's for effect. See ya' tomorrow
Steven.
(conspiratorially)
She's pretty. And don't kiss her. Don't
even touch her. Fight the urge at all
costs. It will pay off later with...

*

*

He makes a motion which implies sex.

CABLE GUY
Enjoy the flick.

The Cable Guy walks away. Steven walks back inside.

ROBIN
Who was that?

STEVEN
Nobody.

Steven sits down next to Robin. Robin moves next to him.
Steven looks very happy.

28 ON THE TV

28

A scene from the film "Sleepless in Seattle."

The camera pulls out and reveals the Cable Guy watching the film in the back of his van--alone. We cannot see much of the inside of the van because the only light is that of the television, but we can tell that he lives there.

EXT. VAN - NIGHT

The camera continues to pull out. We see that the van is parked in front of Steven's apartment complex.

28A INT. CABLE GUY'S VAN - NIGHT

28A

The Cable Guy looks into space for a moment. We hear a haunting version of the television theme to "My Three Sons."

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK SEQUENCE**29 INT. 1970'S STYLE LIVING ROOM - NIGHT**

29

The setting is a dirty, cheap living room. The place has empty to-go containers on the floor. The only furniture is a ratty couch, and a television set.

Sitting in front of the television is the Cable Boy at eight years old. He is watching "My Three Sons." The three Douglas brothers are having fun.

A tired looking, forty year old woman enters. She is dressed in cheap, revealing clothing, and too much make-up. She is drinking from a cocktail glass.

MOTHER

Okay, Mommy's going out.

CABLE BOY

When am I going to get a brother? You said I was getting a brother to play with.

MOTHER

First Mommy's got to find a man. Now you watch your friend Mr. Television. He'll take care of you.

(as she exits)

And don't sit too close, it'll rot your brain.

She stumbles out. The Cable Boy stares transfixed on the television. He keeps one hand on the TV at all times, so he can change channels. It's the prehistoric remote control.

30 EXT. PARKING LOT - DUSK

30

The Cable Guy and Steven walk across a parking lot. Steven has his eyes closed.

*
*

CABLE GUY

Sorry about yesterday. I was in kind of a weird mood. How'd things go with you? Keep 'em closed.

*
*

STEVEN

Pretty well. We'll see. Look, about the other night. I didn't appreciate you--

*

CABLE GUY

Don't peek. I want this to be a surprise.

*

STEVEN

I really don't need to be surprised. Where are we going?

*
*
*

CABLE GUY

Only the best restaurant in town.

They walk around a corner.

CABLE GUY

Okay, here we are. Open sesame.

*

Steven opens his eyes.

*

The camera moves behind them and reveals an enormous faux castle with a big sign on it which says "MEDIEVAL TIMES RESTAURANT."

STEVEN

Medieval Times?

CABLE GUY

I know what you're thinking. Don't worry, I'm buying.

31 INT. MEDIEVAL TIMES - LATER

31

The Cable Guy and Steven are walking to their table. All the seating overlooks a large, circular arena, the kind a rodeo is held in. The entire restaurant/arena is designed in Medieval themed decor. All of the staff are dressed as knights, sorcerers, royalty etc.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

STEVEN

Funny, I never thought I would ever actually come here.

CABLE GUY

I love this place. I come here twice a week.

A Hispanic woman with a large butt walks by. The Cable Guy is transfixed.

CABLE GUY

Oh man, that's my look. I love big butts. Ow, that hurts.

He grabs his crotch and squeezes, as if it's the only way he can control himself.

CABLE GUY

There ought to be a law.

STEVEN

(gestures to him squeezing his crotch)

Please don't.

They sit down.

CABLE GUY

You know what I need right now? Pooooon tang. And I'm not talking about that place in Vietnam either.

STEVEN

Good to know.

The WAITRESS walks over. She is dressed in period clothes. *

WAITRESS

(flatly)

Welcome to Medieval Times. My name is Melinda. I'll be your serving wench. May I get you something from the bar keep?

The Cable Guy gestures for Steven to watch him.

CABLE GUY

(too into it)

Dost thust have thou a mug of ale for me and me mate? He has been pitched in battle for a fortnight an has a King's thirst for the beer thust thou might have for thust.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

WAITRESS

(uninspired)

I'll be right back my lord.

The Cable Guy puts something together.

CABLE GUY

There you go.

He hands Steven a paper crown. They both put theirs on.

STEVEN

Thanks for the help.

*

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

The trumpets go off, the lights go down and the show begins.

CABLE GUY

Buckle up. Here we go.

*

The Cable Guy turns and looks at a stage that stands at one end above the arena.

32 ON THE STAGE - A MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE ALAN RICKMAN IN "ROBIN HOOD" SPEAKS TO THE CROWD.

32

HOST

Welcome to a magnificent journey into the past. This is Medieval Times!

The crowd applauds.

HOST

Are you prepared for a night of feasting and sport the likes of which ye will never forget?!

The audience applauds.

HOST

I charge you to stand up on your feet and cheer for your section's knight!

ON THE STANDS - Each section of the crowd is painted a color that corresponds with a Knight. The Cable Guy stands up and cheers like he is at a wrestling match. Steven remains seated.

CABLE GUY

Let the games begin! The Blue Knight rules! The Red Knight sucks the big one! You're going down! Going down!

An embarrassed Steven applauds politely. The Cable Guy sits down.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MEDIEVAL TIMES - LATER

33

ON THE FLOOR - In the center of the room two Knights are fighting with swords while on horse back.

ON STEVEN AND THE CABLE GUY - They are eating whole chickens with their bare hands while watching the show.

STEVEN

(to the waitress)

Could I get a knife and fork?

WAITRESS

There were no utensils in medieval times, so there are no utensils at 'Medieval Times.' Do you want a refill on that Pepsi?

STEVEN

There were no utensils, but there was Pepsi?

WAITRESS

Look, I have a lot of tables to get to.

The waitress exits.

*

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

So, what were you saying before?

STEVEN

(tentatively)

How do I put this? I've really enjoyed hanging out with you, but...

CABLE GUY

That's why I became a cable guy. To make friends like you. Every time I walk up to a new door, that door is a possibility for friendship. When I walked in your apartment I knew there was something there. I just knew it.

STEVEN

(sotto)

Oh Lord.

(tries to get back on track)

I want you to know--

The lights change. Trumpets play a fanfare. The host walks out onto the stage, interrupting Steven.

HOST

We have reached the climax of our competition good people! Now, two noble men from our audience will battle to the death to resolve a grievance. Will a Master...

(looks at his clipboard)

Steven M. Kovacs and Lord Ernie Douglas make your way to the fighting pit!

A spotlight shines on them. Steven is shocked.

CABLE GUY

Let's go.

STEVEN

What's going on?

CABLE GUY

It appears we're going to do battle, Steven.

STEVEN

Is this a normal part of the show?

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

CABLE GUY

No, but I give all the Knights free cable. They said it would be cool if we just went at it for a little while.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

Two PIMPLY FACED SERFS from the show come and lead them away.

STEVEN
Is this safe?

CABLE GUY
That's what the armor's for.

34 INT. FIGHTING PIT - LATER

34

Steven and the Cable Guy are being dressed in armor by the two serfs in the center of the arena. The Cable Guy could not be happier. Steven is freaked out.

STEVEN
What are we supposed to do? We've got to be careful we don't hurt each other, right?

The Cable Guy doesn't answer him. He has his game face on.

CABLE GUY
I cannot listen to any of your instructions for you are my sworn enemy, and are about to meet your demise.

Before Steven can answer him the trumpets blare.

HOST
Let the battle begin. Come now people, let me hear your voices!

The crowd cheers. Music plays. The serfs hand them each a sword and a shield, then walk away.

The Cable Guy crouches in a war-like position. He begins to circle Steven like a cat. Steven mirrors him, not sure what to do.

STEVEN
Just take it easy.

The Cable Guy runs at Steven, and swings his sword. In fear, Steven puts his shield over his head. The sword smashes into it sending sparks into the air. The Cable Guy lunges at Steven, and misses. Steven ducks and runs about ten feet away.

STEVEN
(enraged)
What are you doing?!

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY
(matter of fact)
I'm trying to kill you.

The Cable Guy charges at Steven. Steven blocks the sword with his shield, and pushes him off.

CABLE GUY
Nice move. Necessity is the mother of invention.

The Cable Guy throws his sword and shield to the serf, who throws him a mace.

The Cable Guy screams and starts running after Steven in a huge circle holding the mace.

CABLE GUY
Come back here!

All of a sudden the Cable Guy grabs his leg as if it's cramped up.

CABLE GUY
Oh, my leg. It's cramped.

Concerned, Steven walks over to him.

STEVEN
Are you alright?

CABLE GUY
I am now!

The Cable Guy turns around, and whacks Steven in the head with his mace. Steven flies back, his helmet now obscuring his vision. He fixes his helmet, only to see the Cable Guy charging straight at him with the mace.

He blocks the first hit with the mace, then takes his sword, and wraps the chain of the mace around his blade, pulling it out of the Cable Guy's hand, sending it flying away.

While the Cable Guy watches the mace fly away, Steven butts him with his shield, sending him flying onto his back. Enraged, Steven throws away his sword and his shield, and comes at the Cable Guy with his bare hands. As he reaches the Cable Guy, the Cable Guy grabs him with his own bare hands and flips him over onto his back.

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

That's the spirit. Let's give 'em a good show.

Steven's upside down P.O.V. - The Cable Guy comes crawling at him, ready to attack.

Steven grabs a handful of dirt and throws it into the Cable Guy's face.

CABLE GUY

(over-acting)

I'm blinded! Oh, my eyes!

He wipes the dirt out from them, and glares at Steven.

CABLE GUY

So that's how it's gonna be, huh? All right. If you want to play rough, Daddy can play rough.

The serfs throw Steven and the Cable Guy huge battle axes, four feet long, with huge silver blades on the end of them. They circle each other.

CABLE GUY

This is just like when Spock had to fight Kirk on 'Star Trek.' Best friends forced to do battle.

The Cable Guy begins to hum the "Star Trek Battle Music," as they cross battle axes.

MUSIC UP: Orchestral version of the "Star Trek Battle Music."

Steven pushes the Cable Guy off. The Cable Guy grabs the blunt end of his battle axe, and swings the blade at Steven, cutting his shirt open.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

Chip, this isn't funny! Will you stop it!

CABLE GUY

The name is Spock. If we don't battle to the death, they'll kill us both.

STEVEN

This isn't Star Trek.

CABLE GUY

Good-bye Jim.

The Cable Guy goes into an elaborate yet clumsy martial arts type move with the stick, swinging it around, holding both ends and jumping over and behind it, finally culminating in a slow motion roundhouse sweep that up-ends Steven and puts him flat on his back.

The Cable Guy stands up like a triumphant warrior and walks toward the horses entrance in his own slow motion.

There is a long pause, and then we hear the sound of pounding horse hooves. A moment later the Cable Guy rides out on a horse holding a jousting stick.

The show's host runs up to Steven.

HOST

Quickly, muster a top your steed.

(Steven doesn't move-the host drops character)

Get on the God damn horse! I don't think he's kidding!

Left with no choice, Steven jumps on a horse and grabs a joust. The host smacks Steven's horse sending it straight toward the charging Cable Guy.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN
Don't do this!

CABLE GUY
Jim, we have no choice!

STEVEN
Oh my God.

They run toward each other. A horrible game of chicken. Neither gives in. When they reach one another Steven knocks the Cable Guy off of his horse with his jousting stick.

The Cable Guy flies through the air, and lands on his back. Steven rides to him. Jumps off his horse, throws off his helmet.

STEVEN
(concerned)
Are you okay?

The Cable Guy sits up and smiles at him.

CABLE GUY
Well done good sir. You are the victor,
but we shall meet again.

The two serfs put Steven on a chair connected to two poles. They carry him to the center of the arena in victory. The crowd cheers wildly. Steven feels the adrenaline rush. He holds up his arms in triumph, and smiles.

*
*
*
*

DISSOLVE TO LATER:

35 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING- NIGHT

35

They are walking up the stairs.

*

CABLE GUY
You've got a real warrior's instinct.

*
*

STEVEN
I've got to admit there's a real feeling
of power holding that jousting stick.

*
*
*

CABLE GUY
If Robin saw you tonight, she would be
begging you to take her back. I'm
telling you these knights get laid all
the time.

*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

STEVEN
We should go again next week.

CABLE GUY
Easy there Lancelot.

Steven opens the door to his apartment.

36 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

36

Steven pops into the kitchen and hits a button on his answering machine.

MACHINE
You have zero messages.

CABLE GUY
Nobody loves ya.
(grabs a beer from the fridge)
Hey, I think I left something in the
living room the other day. Could you be
a pal?

Steven walks to the living room.

36AA INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

36AA

Steven turns on the lights.

CABLE GUY
What do you think?

Steven's entire stereo system and TV have been replaced with a sixty five inch television, laser disc player, karaoke machine and a brand new stereo system. All top of the line.

STEVEN
What is this?

CABLE GUY
It appears as if someone took the liberty
of updating your in home entertainment
system. I got you the big screen, plus
THX quality sound that would make George
Lucas cream in his pants.

STEVEN
You went in my house when I wasn't home?

CABLE GUY
How else was I supposed to get the stuff
in here? Osmosis?

(CONTINUED)

36AA CONTINUED:

36AA

STEVEN

How much did this cost?

CABLE GUY

Practically nothing. I have a connection. Preferred customer. I hook him up, he hooks me up.

The Cable Guy sits down.

*

STEVEN

Look, I can't accept this. I wouldn't feel right.

CABLE GUY

Yes but you give me something so much more valuable...friendship.

STEVEN

And you've given me friendship, so we're even.

(beat)

Really, don't take it personally, but you've got to take it back.

CABLE GUY

(sadly)

Well, my buddy with the pick-up truck works all week. Is it all right if I leave it here till Saturday?

The Cable Guy walks to the TV.

*

STEVEN

(guilty)

Sure, no problem. And don't get me wrong. I really appreciate the gesture.

CABLE GUY

Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. It's cool.

*

*

He walks to the door.

*

STEVEN

Thank you.

*

*

CABLE GUY

(sadly)

On the flipside.

*

*

*

36A INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

36A

Steven dials the phone. On his computer screen a graphic reads "HELLO STEVEN - HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY."

(CONTINUED)

36A CONTINUED:

36A

STEVEN

(into the phone)

Robin, it's Steven again. I'm still
trying to reach you. Okay, I'm at work.
Call me.

He hangs up. He is getting frustrated. The door opens. Hal
Daniels sticks his head in, but does not enter.

MR. DANIELS

How's it going?

STEVEN

Good.

MR. DANIELS

(long beat)

Good good?

STEVEN

Great.

MR. DANIELS

Good. Keep it up.

He leaves. The phone rings.

SECRETARY

(through the intercom)

Robin on line two.

Steven lights up. He takes a deep breath, then answers the
phone.

STEVEN

Hey, I had the best time the other night.
When am I going get you on my couch
again?

36B INT. VAN - DAY

36B*

The Cable Guy is driving around. He speaks on a cellular
phone.

CABLE GUY

Well tonight's not looking too good. How
about tomorrow?

STEVEN

Chip?

(CONTINUED)

36B CONTINUED:

36B

CABLE GUY

I knew I'd get you on the phone that way.
Listen, ~~that~~ equipment will be history
soon. Let's bust that karaoke machine's
cherry.

STEVEN

What do ~~you~~ mean?

CABLE GUY

Tomorrow night, karaoke jam. No ifs ands
or buts. Well maybe a few butts. Later
gator.

37 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - SATURDAY NIGHT

37

CLOSE UP - AN ODD ~~MAN~~'S FACE INTENSELY SINGING "AMERICAN
WOMAN."

We pull out to reveal we are in Steven's living room. It is
populated with about twenty odd looking misfits mingling and
dancing to the music. Among them we see Rick looking very
uncomfortable.

37AA INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

37AA

Steven is on the phone. He is dressed up. Occasionally a
misfit enters and ~~grabs~~ a drink from the fridge.

STEVEN

Hey Robin. What's up? Did you get my
message?

37A INT. ROBIN'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT

37A

The scene intercuts between the two locations. Robin is
dressed up, and on ~~her~~ way out.

ROBIN

Yes. You left me five messages. It kind
of freaked me out.

STEVEN

Sorry. I've been trying to reach you
'cause I'm kind of having a party. A
karaoke...jam...party. You've got to come
over.

*
*
*

ROBIN

(listens for a beat)

I can't. I'm going to dinner with
someone.

(CONTINUED)

37A CONTINUED:

37A

STEVEN

Dinner? ~~What~~, like a date?

ROBIN

Not really a date.

STEVEN

You've got a date?! I thought we had fun
the other night. *

ROBIN

We did, ~~but~~ that doesn't mean we're
offically back together. You said it
yourself, time apart is good. *

STEVEN

Yes, time apart from each other, but not
with other people. That's not time
apart, that's time with someone else. *

ROBIN

I'm not going to do anything, it's just
dinner. *

STEVEN

Well what if you like him? You might
like him better than me. This is so
unfair. *

ROBIN

You're allowed to go out with someone if
you want to. *

STEVEN

But I don't want to. We're supposed to
be alone, thinking about the other
person. I didn't agree to this. *

ROBIN

Fine, ~~then~~ I won't go. *

STEVEN

No, you have to go because if I say don't
then you'll call me a control freak and
I'm not. *

ROBIN

No, I'm cancelling. *

STEVEN

No, you're going. I'm not gonna to have
this pinned on me. *

(CONTINUED)

37A CONTINUED: (2)

37A

ROBIN
Alright, I'm going.

*

STEVEN
Good. Have fun.

*

ROBIN
You too.

*

STEVEN
Bye.

*

ROBIN
Bye.

*

*

Steven hangs up the phone. The Cable Guy appears, and hands him a beer.

CABLE GUY
This is just a sign that you need to live a little. She's having fun, and you should too.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

You're probably right.

CABLE GUY

Damn right I'm right.

STEVEN

Oh, I got you a little something.

He hands a box to the Cable Guy.

CABLE GUY

I thought you said we were even. You're breaking the rules.

STEVEN

So shoot me.

He opens it very quickly.

CABLE GUY

(overly-excited)

What is it?

The box says, "Lose Your Lisp in Thirty Days." The Cable Guy is so moved he cannot speak.

STEVEN

My brother said it might help with your lisp.

The Cable Guy looks Steven in the eye for a long beat, then hugs him hard.

CABLE GUY

Words cannot express...

(he is too moved to finish his sentence)

STEVEN

It's no big deal.

CABLE GUY

Yes it is.

He stares at Steven until it makes him uncomfortable.

CABLE GUY

Now I'm on a mission. This has got to be the best karaoke jam ever!

37B INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

37B

They walk into the living room. Everyone's having fun. We
see a couple of off duty policemen in uniform mingling with
the crowd. Same song continues.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

37B CONTINUED:

37B

STEVEN

You've got some nice friends.

CABLE GUY

These people are acquaintances. They're not ride to the airport friends, like us.

(sees something)

Whoah, chick alert at three o'clock. A real barn burner. Don't look.

STEVEN

You're playing with me.

CABLE GUY

No sirree Steven. This woman is all over you like a lamp-shade.

STEVEN

Shut up.

He turns, and sees a stunning woman standing in the middle of a group of male and female misfits. When he looks at her, she smiles. He quickly turns back.

*

CABLE GUY

I'd strike while the iron is hot. He who hesitates, masturbates, know what I'm saying?

*

Steven slowly walks over to the pretty woman.

STEVEN

Hey. I'm Steven.

WOMAN

Heather.

STEVEN

Can I get you something to drink?

HEATHER

Sure, I'll have a shot of tequila if you will.

STEVEN

Coming right up.

*

*

ON THE KARAOKE STAGE - AN OLDER MAN SINGS "ROCK THE BOAT."

*

37C INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER

37C*

The Cable Guy walks over to Rick, and snaps a picture of him.

CABLE GUY

I'm glad you accepted my invitation.

RICK

Steven invited me.

The Cable Guy looks at Steven and Heather.

CABLE GUY

Look at him. Have you ever seen him so alive? He's changing, Rick. You've got to learn to live with that.

RICK

I don't know what your story is "Chip Douglas," but I'm going to find out.

CABLE GUY

Oooh. How dramatic.

RICK

I'm outta here.

Rick exits the party. The song ends.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

37C CONTINUED:

37C

ON THE CABLE GUY - At the karaoke area. He speaks into the microphone. *

CABLE GUY

Hello everyone. First of all I'd like to thank Steven for being such a terrific host.

Steven smiles, and does a half wave to everyone as they applaud.

CABLE GUY

Don't forget to kick in some spinach for the beer. Steven ain't made of money. And I expect some of you to join in the clean up crew.

OFF DUTY COP

Sing something! Do a song!

CABLE GUY

(false coyness)

No...I really couldn't.

ODD MAN

Come on! Do your song!

CABLE GUY

Okay, just to stop that guy from begging. *

(CONTINUED)

37C CONTINUED: (2)

37C

The Cable Guy begins to sing "SOMEBODY TO LOVE" by Jefferson
Airplane.

*
*

CUT AWAY TO STEVEN AND HEATHER

*

STEVEN

So what do you do?

HEATHER

I can barely hear you. Do you want to
talk in the other room?

STEVEN

Oh...okay.

They walk into Steven's bedroom.

38 INT. BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

38

Steven and Heather are sitting on the bed talking. She's
massaging his shoulders as he speaks.

*
*

STEVEN

She says she wants a break, and that's
fine with me. I think I needed some time
also.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

HEATHER

Yeah, I know what you mean. You need to relax.

*
*

She leans in and kisses him.

39 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

39

ON THE CABLE GUY

The Cable Guy sings. All of the guests are enjoying themselves.

40 INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

40

Steven and Heather are kissing passionately. Suddenly the door flies open. The Cable Guy dances into the room and takes out a Polaroid instamatic camera and FLASHES A PICTURE of Steven and Heather, then dances out of the room, flashing pictures of others as he exits.

41 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - NEXT MORNING

41

Steven walks into the kitchen looking a little disheveled. The Cable Guy is cooking him breakfast.

CABLE GUY

Good morning Mary Sunshine. And how we are we today? Hope you don't mind I borrowed your sweatshirt. Bacon and eggs coming up.

STEVEN

Where did Heather go?

Steven sits down at the breakfast table. The Cable Guy serves him breakfast as they speak, then sits down with him.

CABLE GUY

I heard her slip out early this morning.

STEVEN

What a night. That was just what I needed.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

CABLE GUY

You look like a new man.

STEVEN

I feel like a new man. I was getting so used to being rejected. I really liked her.

CABLE GUY

Hey, it was my treat.

STEVEN

(taken aback)

What do you mean it was "your treat?"

CABLE GUY

You know, I bought this time, you buy next time. Don't let your eggs get cold.

STEVEN

(getting concerned)

Buy what?

CABLE GUY

What do you mean "buy what"? The Women!

STEVEN

You mean Heather is a prostitute?

CABLE GUY

(laughs in relief)

Ho...ho. That's a good one. You had me going there.

(beat)

You're not kidding, are you?

(beat)

Do you think a woman like that would hang out with us if we weren't paying? Of course she is.

The Cable Guy walks to the fridge.

STEVEN

I can't believe this.

CABLE GUY

Well don't worry. She's totally clean. I tried her out last week to make sure she was top quality, and I'm healthy as a horse.

(He drinks out of the O.J. container)

Want some orange juice?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

STEVEN

You've got to be kidding? Please tell me
she's a friend of yours. You're just
messing with my mind again, right?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (3)

41

CABLE GUY

No. I wish I had friends like that. *

STEVEN

Get out of my house!

CABLE GUY

What are you ashamed of? I know she was
a working girl, but she kind of liked
you. You might have even been able to
get a freebie. *

STEVEN

Out, now! And I don't ever want to see
you again.

(to himself)

Robin is never going to forgive me.

CABLE GUY

(getting desperate)

I'll tell you how you handle that. Don't
tell her. You want to get her back, I'll
help you get her back. I can do that.

STEVEN

I don't want your help. I just want you
out of my apartment!

(gestures to the TV)

And get all that stuff out of here.

CABLE GUY

(begins to cry)

Why are you doing this? You need to ask
yourself why you're doing this. *

STEVEN

Get out. *

CABLE GUY

Why does this always happen. Everything
was going so well. I made you breakfast.
What do I have to do? I'll make it good
again. *

STEVEN

(pushing him out the door) *

Out!

CABLE GUY

It's okay. I'll fix it. I'll make it
good again. *

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (4)

41

STEVEN

Out, now!

The Cable Guy walks out the door. Steven closes it.

CABLE GUY (OS)

(to Steven - through the door)

You just relax. Everything's cool.

*
*
*

42 OMITTED

42

43 EXT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

43

P.O.V. Shot - Robin and a date enter the restaurant.

We move to reveal the Cable Guy driving up in his van. He watches them from across the street. A moment later he heads inside.

44 INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - NIGHT

44

The Cable Guy enters the restaurant. The HOSTESS walks over to him.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

HOSTESS

May I help you?

CABLE GUY

No, I'm meeting someone here.

He looks around the restaurant, then spots Robin and a handsome, chiseled man at a table. They are on a date. The Cable Guy looks angry. He walks to the restroom.

45 INT. RESTROOM - NIGHT

45*

An OLDER BATHROOM ATTENDANT stands in front of the sinks. On the counter sits a variety of toiletries. A MAN washes his hands. The bathroom attendant hands him some paper towels. The man puts a tip in the basket, and exits.

BATHROOM ATTENDANT

Most appreciated.

The Cable Guy walks over to the bathroom attendant. He dramatically whips out a twenty dollar bill, and puts it in front of the bathroom attendant's nose.

CABLE GUY

You've been working hard. Take a break.

46 INT. RESTAURANT - A LITTLE LATER

46

Robin is talking to her date RAY. He is handsome, and somewhat goofy. They have empty salad plates in front of them.

RAY

My brother and I wanna start our own sun block company. But the twist is, it's only for skiing. SkiBlock. Or SunSki. We haven't decided yet. Maybe BlockSki. Do you think that sounds good?

ROBIN

BlockSki? That sounds right.

RAY

So, Gail told me you're just coming off a relationship.

ROBIN

Well, not really. We're kind of in a holding pattern. He wants more of a commitment, but I don't think I'm ready. I just want to have a good time for a while.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

RAY

Then we got to get you on a Skidoo!

ROBIN

Skidoo?

RAY

High powered snow mobile. It'll blow
your mind. It flies over powder like
it's glass.

Their waitress passes by.

RAY

(impatiently)

Hey, how are you doing on that chicken?
Have the eggs hatched yet? Thanks.

Robin is mortified by his behavior.

RAY

So, how's your work going?

ROBIN

It's been crazy. They just hired a--

RAY

Hold that thought. I have to use the rest
room. Be right back.

He leaves. Robin looks relieved to have a break.

47 INT. RESTROOM - MOMENTS LATER

47

Ray enters the restroom as a DISTINGUISHED MAN exits. The
Cable Guy is now wearing the bathroom attendant's blue shirt,
white pants and a thin fake mustache.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

CABLE GUY
(to the Distinguished Man)
Enjoy your meal.

*

Ray walks toward the stalls.

CABLE GUY
Good evening sir. Pleasant night, isn't it?

RAY
(curt)
Yeah.

CABLE GUY
But I guess the weather's always pleasant in here. The winters are remarkably mild.

He laughs at his own joke. Ray walks into the handicapped stall.

CABLE GUY (OS)
If you need anything, just let me know.
Anything at all.

RAY
(getting annoyed)
I think I can handle it.

Ray unzips his fly, and prepares to pee standing up. Suddenly, as if out of thin air, the Cable Guy is standing right behind him. He speaks into Ray's ear, startling him.

CABLE GUY
I'm here to serve you.

RAY
Jesus! Get out of here!

CABLE GUY
Most people never bother to take advantage of all my services, for instance--

The Cable Guy grabs the back of Ray's shirt, kicks his feet out from under him, and slams his face into the toilet bowl, sloshing it around. Ray struggles, but the Cable Guy is too strong.

CABLE GUY
I can help you wash up. Cleanliness is next to Godliness.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (2)

47

He pulls his face out. Then pulls him out of the stall, and takes him to the sink counter.

CABLE GUY

You're on a big date, you'll need to look
your best.

*
*

He hits Ray in the face with a powder puff, then pulls out a
tweezer.

*
*

CABLE GUY

The monobrow looks good on Bert and
Ernie, but not on you.

*
*

He tweezes his eyebrows.

*

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED: (3)

47

CABLE GUY

Let me do a little Jose Eber on you. *

The Cable Guy combs his soaking wet hair into a very goofy looking side part.

CABLE GUY

Looking good, now let's dry you off.

He runs Ray face first into the starting button of an automatic hand dryer. It turns on. The Cable Guy puts his face right up next to the air.

CABLE GUY

Now suck it. Suck the air!

Ray hesitantly puts his mouth around the nozzle, and his cheeks start fluttering like an astronaut experiencing heavy Deforce.

CABLE GUY

From this angle you look just like Neil Armstrong experiencing G-Force. I believe you have the "right stuff."

The Cable Guy pulls him away. *

CABLE GUY

Don't worry about the tip. But I've got one for you.

(whispers into his ear)

Stay away from Robin. She's taken.

He tosses him out the door.

47A INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

47A

The door opens, and Ray falls to the floor.

47B INT. RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

47B

Robin sits alone at her table. She looks at her watch. In the background the Cable Guy slips out.

48 OMITTED

48

49 INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

49

Steven is watching television while eating a TV dinner.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

ON THE TV - LOCAL TELEVISION NEWS

ANCHOR MAN

Here's a bizarre story from downtown,
where a man was beaten in a restroom by
an assailant disguised as a bathroom
attendant. The victim has been unable to
speak since the unmotivated attack.

We see the image of shaken up RAY being led out of the
restaurant by two police officers.

ANCHOR MAN

A police sketch artist put together this
drawing from witnesses' descriptions.

We see a drawing which looks a little like the Cable Guy. In
it he has a mustache and appears to be Hispanic. Steven looks
carefully. Does he know that man? Nah. He changes the
channel.

ON THE TV - the UPN logo flies up, followed by a slick promo
for a UPN Movie-of-the-Week on the Sam Sweet trial.

*
*

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Tonight on UPN, the true story behind the
trial that's captured the nation.

*

We see ERIC ROBERTS holding a shotgun, pointed at another
scared Eric Roberts.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The jury may still be out, but the
chilling facts are in. Eric Roberts, in
his dramatic debut is Sam and Stan Sweet.
"Brother, Sweet Brother: the killing of
Stanton Sweet." Tonight on UPN.

*

49A EXT. ROBIN'S APT. - DAY

49A*

The Cable Guy walks over to a FEMALE NEIGHBOR.

*

CABLE GUY

Excuse me, apartment 202 is Robin Harris?

*

*

FEMALE NEIGHBOR

(points)

It's right upstairs.

*

*

*

50 INT./EXT. ROBIN'S HOME - DAY

50

There is a LOUD KNOCK. Robin is getting ready for work. She
walks to the door, then speaks to the Cable Guy without
opening the door.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

ROBIN

Who is it?

CABLE GUY

It's the Cable Guy.

ROBIN

There's no problem with my cable.

CABLE GUY

I've got an upgrade order for one Robin Harris. The Rainbow package, that's every pay channel available.

ROBIN

I didn't order this.

CABLE GUY

Apparently you've got a secret admirer.

She opens the door, but leaves the chain on. *

ROBIN

Was it a man named Steven?

CABLE GUY

I can't tell you.

ROBIN

Come on.

CABLE GUY *

No, I promised Steven I wouldn't say. *

(feigns embarrassment) *

Oh my goodness, what have I done? You didn't hear it from me. *

Robin opens the door. He steps inside. *

ROBIN *

I have to get ready for work, so do what you have to do. *

CABLE GUY *

You won't even know I'm here. I'm Claude Rains. I'm the invisible man. Go slay the dragon. *

51 INT. AIR DUCT - LATER

51

The Cable Guy is in the air duct. He is pulling cord. He reaches an area of the duct which opens up to a vent. He looks through and sees Robin changing in the bedroom. He tries not to look at Robin undress. He turns away.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

CABLE GUY

I'm sorry Steven. I'm just a man.

He turns back and looks at her. He notices a birthmark on her back.

52 INT. APARTMENT - LATER

52

The Cable Guy drops down from the closet ceiling, then walks over to Robin.

CABLE GUY

That about does it. I'm through here. My job is done.

ROBIN

So, are you a friend of Steven's?

CABLE GUY

I'm proud to say I am. I installed his cable recently, and we just hit it off.

ROBIN

That's right. You fixed his cable the other night.

CABLE GUY

Guilty.

ROBIN

(suspicious)

So you guys are going out a lot?

CABLE GUY

Not really. That man is devoted to you. You know I'm probably crossing a boundary telling you this, but he's really crazy about you.

ROBIN

Did he say that?

CABLE GUY

Only every five minutes. Quite frankly, I'm sick of hearing it. No, I'm just kidding you.

(looks her deeply in the eyes)

He's a good man. He mentioned that you guys have had some problems.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

ROBIN

Well, it's a little complicated.

CABLE GUY

It always is. You know I asked a woman to marry me once. She said she wanted to think about it. We agreed to take some time apart to re-assess our feelings. To give each other...

(mockingly)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED: (2)

52

CABLE GUY (cont'd)
space.
(choked up)
Well, she is no longer with us.

ROBIN
I'm so sorry.

CABLE GUY
(sobbing)
Sometimes you don't know what you have
till it's gone. Just promise me you'll
never go bungee jumping in Mexico. They
just don't have the regulations.

ROBIN
I promise.

CABLE GUY
(embarrassed that he broke
down in front of her)
Anyway, I've said too much.

ROBIN
Thank you.

CABLE GUY
Cherish him. Every hair on his head.

He quickly departs. We hold on Robin for a beat.

53 OMITTED

53

53A OMITTED

53A*

53B INT. RENOVATION SITE - DUSK - INTERCUT

53B

Steven holds on a cellular phone as he walks down the long
gothic hallway of a half renovated school house. Around him
construction workers go about their business.

STEVEN
Hello?

ROBIN (VO)
I love you.

STEVEN
Robin?

54 INT. ROBIN'S APARTMENT - INTERCUT

54

Robin is on the phone.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Yes.

STEVEN

(surprised)

I...love you too.

ROBIN

That was so sweet of you.

STEVEN

(playing along)

Oh...well...

ROBIN

You didn't have to do that.

STEVEN

I...wanted to.

ROBIN

Giving me free cable. Only you would do something like that.

*
*
*

STEVEN

You got it? Great.

ROBIN

Yes, your friend came by.

STEVEN

My friend?

ROBIN

The Cable Guy. I liked him. He was kind of goofy, but nice. Thank you so much for doing that.

STEVEN

I'm...glad you liked it. I've wanted to do something for you, but I've been trying to give you your space.

ROBIN

Well, I don't think we should make rules anymore.

STEVEN

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED: (2)

54

ROBIN

Call me later if you're around?

STEVEN

Sure, I'll call you as soon as I get home. Bye.

Steven is elated. He can barely contain himself.

RICK (OS)

Steven, are you ready to rock? *

Steven turns and sees Rick wearing a "Soundgarden" T-shirt.

STEVEN

(pained)

The concert. Oh Jesus.

RICK

What?

STEVEN

Robin just called. I think we're getting back together.

RICK

(pissed)

So you're blowing me off? I can't believe this.

STEVEN

This is the first time she asked to get together.

RICK

You do this every time. You only call me after a girl breaks your heart. "Oh Rick can I stay on your couch? Let's talk all night about how mean girls are." Then as soon as you find another girl you blow me off. I don't know why I fall for it anymore.

 *
*
*

55 OMITTED

55

56 EXT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

56

It is raining. Rick pulls up, and drops Steven off.

STEVEN

Don't be mad. Can't you get someone else to go?

(CONTINUED)

RICK

Yeah, maybe I'll take MY cable guy.

Steven gets out of the car. Rick drives off. Steven walks up the steps to his apartment. The Cable Guy appears from behind a corner.

CABLE GUY

Pretty smooth work. I set 'em up, you knock 'em down.

STEVEN

What?

CABLE GUY

Robin. I got her back for you. I juiced her up.

STEVEN

How do you know we're back together?

CABLE GUY

Free cable is the ultimate aphrodisiac.

STEVEN

I don't want you messing around with my life.

CABLE GUY

I felt bad about the other night, so I wanted to make it up to you. What are you doing? Do you want to catch a flick?

Steven looks the Cable Guy in the eye.

STEVEN

(as if speaking to a child)

Look, I appreciate you helping me out with Robin. But you have to understand, I'm going to have to work extra hard to not screw this relationship up again. You're very nice, but I just don't have any room in my life for a new friend. Okay?

CABLE GUY

What are you trying to say?

STEVEN

(firmly)

I don't want to be your friend.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

56

CABLE GUY

I appreciate your honesty. You're a real
straight shooter.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (3)

56

STEVEN
So, you're all right?

*
*

CABLE GUY
Hey, I'm a big boy. It's no big deal.
Whatever.

STEVEN
You sure?

*
*

CABLE GUY
Oh, I'm fine.

*
*

Steven walks away. The Cable Guy just stands there as the rain pours down on him. MUSIC UP.

*
*

57 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

57

ON THE TV-Conan O'Brien is doing a monologue joke about Sam Sweet.

Steven and Robin are kissing. Outside it is raining. There is occasional lightning and thunder. In the middle of kissing, lightning flashes. Steven looks up and sees a flash of the Cable Guy staring down at them, his face pressed against the skylight. In the next flash he is gone. Was it real? Steven looks scared.

ROBIN
Are you all right?

STEVEN
I'm fine.

They go back to kissing.

57A EXT. TELEPHONE POLE/INT. ROBIN'S OFFICE - DAY

57A

The Cable Guy and Robin are speaking on the phone. As the conversation continues we slowly pull back and reveal that the Cable Guy is standing on the top of a telephone pole, dressed as a phone company employee. He speaks into a repairman's phone which is illegally hooked into the telephone pole.

CABLE GUY
Hey, it's Chip Douglas.

ROBIN
Chip Douglas?

(CONTINUED)

57A CONTINUED:

57A

CABLE GUY
Your cable guy.

(CONTINUED)

57A CONTINUED: (2)

57A

ROBIN
(surprised to hear from him)
Oh, hi. What's up?

CABLE GUY
I feel kind of weird calling you. It's
just...I'm worried about Steven.

ROBIN
What is it?

CABLE GUY
Something isn't right. He hasn't been
himself lately. Have you noticed
anything?

ROBIN
No, things are actually going really
well.

CABLE GUY
Good.

ROBIN
Should I be worried?

CABLE GUY
Nope. I'm probably just being a nervous
nelliie. Let's just keep our eyes open.

ROBIN
(nervous)
I will. Good-bye.

She hangs up, then dials Steven's number.

ROBIN
Steven Kovacs please.

*

57B INT. STEVEN'S SECRETARY'S DESK - CONTINUOUS

57B

His secretary, JOAN, answers the phone.

JOAN
Sorry Robin. He's in a meeting.

58 INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

58

A dozen of the top employees of the company Steven works for
are having a meeting. Steven listens intently as a SALES
MANAGER speaks to the group.

(CONTINUED)

SALES MANAGER

The response to our initial offering has been remarkable. A local investment group has decided to buy the entire complex and turn them into rentals. In retrospect I must admit we made one big mistake.

Everyone hangs on his every word.

SALES MANAGER

We should have asked for more money.

The entire room laughs. Mr. Daniels stands up.

MR. DANIELS

I just want to put this out there, Stevey. You did it man. You laid your cajones, and mine, out on the table, and you slam dunked it. Way to go.

(nervously jokes)

Now watch, they'll give him my job. All right, onto other business. We have just closed escrow on the downtown plot. So, now that that bear is off our back we can get down to the business of finding an architect. Corporate has sent over a list. I don't know where they come up with these people, but I'm going to recommend that we go with the guys at Sulley and Richfield. They've done this kind of job before. Bill is a golfing buddy. They're definitely going to deliver.

As Mr. Daniels speaks, Joan tries to get Steven's attention from a crack in the door.

JOAN

(quietly)

Pssst. Steven.

Steven turns and see her. She waves for him to come to her. He waves her off.

JOAN

(more urgently-quietly)

I really need to speak with you.

Some people are beginning to notice this exchange.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN
(curtly)
It can wait.

Right then two POLICE OFFICERS storm into the room. Joan stands behind them looking concerned.

POLICE OFFICER
Is there a Steven Kovacs here?

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

Uh...I'm Steven Kovacs. What's going on? *

POLICE OFFICER

You are under arrest.

MR. DANIELS

What did he do? *

POLICE OFFICER

Receipt of stolen merchandise.

STEVEN

What? I never--

POLICE OFFICER

Please put your hands on the table.

Steven moves a sudden move toward the Police Officer. The Officer jabs him in the ribs with his club. Steven groans, then leans over in pain.

POLICE OFFICER

Please listen to my instructions. Hands on the table.

Steven puts his hands on the table. The Officer kicks his legs apart, then frisks him in front of everyone. It is pure humiliation.

POLICE OFFICER

Hands behind your back.

The other Officer cuffs him, then turns him around.

POLICE OFFICER #2

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say may be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney one will be provided for you. Do you understand?

STEVEN

This is all a mistake. I didn't accept any stolen goods.

Just then it hits him. He hears the Cable Guy's voice in his head.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED: (4)

58

CABLE GUY (V.O.)
(with echo)
...you're getting THX quality sound that
would make George Lucas cream in his
pants--cream in his pants.

He pushes him toward the door. Steven looks at everyone's
horrified faces as he is taken away. He tries to break the
tension with a joke.

STEVEN
Hey, relax. I'm the one who's going to
jail.

Nobody laughs. He exits.

59 EXT. OFFICE TOWER - MOMENTS LATER

59

Steven is walked to a police car, and put inside.

We slowly reveal a man across the street. He is looking under
the hood of his car. Apparently it has broken down. The man
turns and we see that it is the Cable Guy covertly watching
Steven's humiliation. As the policeman pushes Steven into
the car he looks at the Cable Guy and touches his nose. The
Cable Guy touches his nose.

60 INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

60

Steven is chained to a bench. He is speaking to his father
EARL, a stout man of sixty, and his LAWYER.

EARL
I can't believe you did this.

STEVEN
I didn't do anything.

EARL
He gave you a big screen TV and a hi-fi
system as a present? You expect me to
believe that? You know you're killing
your mother with this.

STEVEN
I swear it's true.

EARL
Why would you accept such extravagant
gifts?

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

STEVEN

I don't know. I shouldn't have.

EARL

What is really going on here Steven? Are you on something? Are you taking the pot?

*
*

STEVEN

I'm fine! I didn't do anything! Please, call my cable guy, his name is Ernie Douglas.

LAWYER

Steven, the police looked into it, nobody named Ernie Douglas works for 'The Cable Company.'

STEVEN

What?

*
*

EARL

You want to tell us the truth now?

STEVEN

(falling apart)

That's got to be a mistake. Oh, this isn't happening.

EARL

Yes it is, and it's killing your mother. Did you deliberately want to ruin our fortieth anniversary party on Monday, Steven?

STEVEN

Yeah, Dad, I did. It's all a big plan.

(to the lawyer)

When can you get me out of here?

LAWYER

Unfortunately it's too late to get a bail hearing today. You're going to have to spend the weekend in county lock up.

*

61 OMITTED

61

62 INT. PRISON - LATER

62

Steven is now wearing prison blues. He holds a pillow and a set of sheets as he walks down the long corridor to his cell. Lining each side are cells filled with angry prisoners who throw things at Steven, and taunt him as he walks by. It is a nightmare.

PRISONER #1

New meat! Look at the pretty boy!

PRISONER #2

Nobody touches him, he's mine! You touch him, you're dead!

PRISONER #3

Is baby scared?! Don't cry baby!

They all laugh and scream at him until he reaches his cell. A guard opens the door. Steven enters his cell. He turns and inside is an angry looking prisoner. The door is locked behind him.

ANGRY PRISONER

Ooh, looks like I won the lottery.

63 OMITTED

63

64 INT. VISITORS ROOM - MORNING

64

A guard walks Steven in. His lawyer sits on the other side of the glass with his back to Steven. Steven sits down and picks up the phone, excited to hear any news.

STEVEN

What did you hear? What did you hear?

The man turns around. It is not Steven's lawyer, it is the Cable Guy dressed in an expensive suit.

CABLE GUY

Hello Steven. I came as soon as I heard.

Steven's head sinks.

STEVEN

Who are you?! What's your real name?!

CABLE GUY

That's not what's important right now. We have to get you out of here. I was watching Court TV, and I think I found a loophole in your case. I'm going to talk

(MORE)

*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

CABLE GUY (cont'd)
to the judge about getting a writ of
habeas corpus. I'll tell you how we win
this thing, we put the entire system on
trial.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN

Why are you doing this to me?

CABLE GUY

I didn't do this to you, you did this to you. You need to learn who your friends are.

STEVEN

You set me up.

CABLE GUY

I taught you a lesson. I can be your best friend, or your worst enemy. I hope you'll choose the latter...I mean, the former. You know what I mean.

STEVEN

I'll never be your friend. You need help.

The Cable Guy absorbs the blow, then goes on the offensive.

CABLE GUY

Right now I think you're the one who needs help. I'm here to give you comfort.

The Cable Guy puts his hand up to the glass.

CABLE GUY

Come on, touch it.

Steven just stares at him.

CABLE GUY

Come on. You need human contact. Touch it.

STEVEN

I will not touch it.

The Cable Guy stands up, and begins unbuttoning his shirt.

STEVEN

What are you doing? Stop it.

Steven looks around frantically.

CABLE GUY

I know how you're feeling right now.

The Cable Guy pushes his naked breast against the glass. Other prisoners are beginning to stare.

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN
(smacking the glass)
Stop it! Stop it!

CABLE GUY
I'm here for you.

STEVEN
(smacks the glass three times)
Get off there! Are you trying to get me
killed?

The Cable Guy begins to laugh.

CABLE GUY
(as he buttons his shirt)
I was just messing with your mind.
Remember, 'Midnight Express.' Awesome
film. Oliver Stone won the Academy Award
for the Screenplay.

STEVEN
Guard! Guard!

The Cable Guy starts leaving.

CABLE GUY
Don't you worry about Robin, I'll make
sure she's well taken care of.

STEVEN
You go near her, I'll kill you.

Steven lunges at the glass. Steven's guard pulls Steven out
of the room toward the exit.

STEVEN
Hey, this is the guy who framed me!

Everyone turns. The Cable Guy is gone. The door is closing.

65 EXT. OUTDOOR CAFE - DAY

65

The Cable Guy is sitting at a table wearing a Walkman.
People look at him funny as he speaks out loud to his lisp
tape.

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY
(over-pronouncing)
Sea shells. Sea shells. Salmon. Salmon.
Silverware. Silverware. Suspicious.
Suspicious. Sensational. Sensational.

Robin is brought over to the table by a hostess. The Cable Guy takes off his Walkman, and stands up to be polite. He sits down in perfect synch with her.

ROBIN
Hello.

CABLE GUY
Hello. I'm sorry we have to meet under these circumstances.

ROBIN
Me too. Believe me.

CABLE GUY
I know we don't know each other very well, but we do have one thing in common, our concern for Steven.

ROBIN
Well, you were right. Something's happening with him and he won't even acknowledge it.

CABLE GUY
If he refuses to admit he has a problem, we may have to let him hit bottom. He's gonna need some tough love.

ROBIN
(tentatively)
You know his lawyer said that nobody named Ernie Douglas works for the Cable Company.

CABLE GUY
(chuckles)
Did he do a name search? 'Cause I work under a pseudonym so the customers won't harass me at home. Kind of like a stripper. My real name is Larry, Larry Tate.

ROBIN
And he's saying he received all the stereo equipment from you.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

I know, and I'm not mad. He's been cornered, so he's telling some wives tales. He doesn't mean to hurt me.

ROBIN

I just feel like I triggered this with him. It's not that I don't want to get married, it's just I felt like he wanted to get married just to get married. I don't deal well with pressure.

CABLE GUY

Hey, welcome to the human race. We're not perfect. We all think we have to look like a 'Baywatch' babe and be as witty as 'Seinfeld.' Give yourself a break.

ROBIN

God I could go for turkey and mashed potatoes now.

CABLE GUY

Comfort food. Bring it on.

ROBIN

Exactly.

She laughs.

CABLE GUY

You've got a great laugh. Can I make a request? I'd like to hear it a little more often.

She blushes.

*

(CONTINUED)

66 INT. PRISON ADMINISTRATION - NEXT DAY

66

ON THE TV - Hard Copy's BARRY NOLAN, sits behind his desk giving a news update.

BARRY NOLAN

The Sam Sweet trial has been thrown into chaos as a result of a videotape made a month after the killing. In this "Hard Copy" exclusive an apparently intoxicated Sam Sweet puts on a macabre show for his friends at a party. The judge has not decided whether this tape is admissable as evidence.

We see a videotape of Sam Sweet at a party. The date and time are seen in the corner. Sam stands next to the corner of a wall which is completely covered with a mirror. Sam gestures with a beer bottle as he looks at his reflection in the mirror.

SAM SWEET

(to camera)

Hey everyone. Look it's me and...

(gestures to his reflection)

my brother Stan.

(waves at his reflection)

Hi Stan. It's so nice to see you. How are you feeling?

(to camera)

Look, he's alive.

Sam punches the mirror, shattering it.

SAM SWEET

(angry)

Now he's dead.

Realizing he's revealed too much, he forces a smile.

(CONTINUED)

SAM SWEET

What? I'm just goofing around.

We pull back and reveal a group of police officers watching this on television.

We pan over to Steven's father EARL paying bail.

STEVEN

I'm sorry dad.

EARL

I don't want to hear it. You're lucky your mother hasn't had a heart attack.

STEVEN

I didn't do anything.

EARL

Just like you said you didn't steal that 'X-Men' comic book when you were eight. Then I found it in your...

EARL/STEVEN

Underwear drawer.

STEVEN

Will you ever stop mentioning that?

EARL

This cost me a lot of money. You jump bail, I swear I'll hire one of those...guys to hunt you down.

STEVEN

A bounty hunter?

EARL

Yes.

67 INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

67

Steven walks into his apartment, exhausted from his jail experience. He walks into the living room and sees several new frames on the wall. They are four foot blow ups of Polaroid photographs of Steven with his arm around the Cable Guy at the karaoke jam. The photos have been tinted in a stylish fashion.

Steven angrily runs to the wall and takes them down.

68 OMITTED

68

69 EXT. STEVEN'S PARENTS' HOME - NIGHT

69

Steven and Robin are walking up the stairs to the front door.
They are dressed up for his parents' anniversary party.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

Are you sure you're okay?

STEVEN

Yes. I'm fine.

ROBIN

You're not fine. When you say you're fine, I know you're not fine.

STEVEN

I just want to get this over with so I can go home and get some rest.

ROBIN

I want you to know I invited your friend. He was concerned about you. *

STEVEN

Great. I feel bad. I've been kind of blowing Rick off lately.

He rings the doorbell.

ROBIN

Not Rick.

The door opens. Standing there, dressed to kill, is the Cable Guy.

CABLE GUY

You can only come in if you came to rage.

Steven is shocked. Robin walks in. When Steven walks in, the Cable Guy stops him.

CABLE GUY

(to Robin)

Is this guy cool?

(to Steven)

I'm just joshing. Come on in.

They walk inside.

INT. STEVEN'S FATHER'S HOME

Steven turns to Robin.

STEVEN

(enraged)

What is he doing here?

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

ROBIN
I invited him.

STEVEN
When did you invite him?

ROBIN
At lunch the other day.

STEVEN
At lunch? You had lunch with him?

The Cable Guy walks over.

ROBIN
Hello. You look great.

She gives him a peck on the cheek. Steven winces.

CABLE GUY
And you are a vision. Hello Steven.
You're looking rested.

STEVEN
Come here.

He pulls the Cable Guy aside.

CABLE GUY
Are you O.K.? I'm getting some really
weird energy from you. *

STEVEN
Maybe it's because I just got out of
prison, where you sent me. I should just
drag you to the police right now.

CABLE GUY
You can if you like, but I'd hate to have
to show Robin this.

He takes out a Polaroid of Steven kissing the hooker.

STEVEN
You bastard.

The Cable Guy quickly puts it away.

CABLE GUY
Come on Steven, let's just have a good
time tonight.

(CONTINUED)

Robin, Earl and Steven's mother walk over.

EARL

Steven, your mother and I had a long talk
with your friend Larry here when he came
over to screw in the cable.

*
*
*

STEVEN'S MOTHER

(to the Cable Guy)

Thank you again for that.

*
*
*

EARL

(beat)

We owe you an apology. I didn't realize
the seriousness of your problems. You're
obviously going through some kind of
personal hell and I need to be more
understanding. We didn't get involved
with things like that when I was your
age.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Steven cannot figure out what kind of lie the Cable Guy has
told them.

EARL

I know we haven't been there for you
lately but we're going to see you through
this, 'cause we are a family. I love
you.

*
*
*
*
*

He gives him a big hug. Steven grimaces.

STEVEN'S MOTHER

You've got a good friend here.

They walk into the next room where the entire family is
gathered for pre-dinner cocktails.

Steven's brother PETE walks over to Steven. He carries a
baby in a pouch.

PETE

(winks)

Hey buddy, we're with you. Keep your
chin up.

71 INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

71

As the Cable Guy charms Steven's family we pan across all of
the guests laughing, and enjoying dinner.

(CONTINUED)

70

CONTINUED: (3)

70

Steven's brother PETE walks over to Steven. He carries a baby in a pouch.

PETE

(winks)

Hey buddy, we're with you. Keep your chin up.

71

INT. DINING ROOM - LATER

71

As the Cable Guy charms Steven's family we pan across all of the guests laughing, and enjoying dinner.

CABLE GUY

So Steven is carrying this battle ax, and he's chasing me, swinging like a mad man. I'm yelling at him, 'hey, it's just a show! Come on, what are you trying to prove?!'

*
*

(CONTINUED)

STEVEN'S SISTER

He always takes things too seriously.

CABLE GUY

Tell me something I don't know. This guy almost took my head off.

Everybody laughs.

The camera moves to Steven. He stares at the Cable Guy, his eyes filled with rage.

STEVEN'S P.O.V.

The Cable Guy is talking and eating in SLOW-MOTION.

ON STEVEN - watching him. He is in normal motion.

ON THE CABLE GUY - eating in SLOW MOTION.

ON STEVEN - getting very irritated.

STEVEN

What are you doing?

ON THE CABLE GUY

As he talks we realize he has not been in slow motion, he's just been pretending he's in slow motion.

CABLE GUY

It's from "Goodfellas." Remember the intro scene at the bar. I'm Johnny Two Times.

He moves in slow motion some more. Everyone laughs.

TONY, Steven's six year old nephew, runs to the Cable Guy with a toy gun.

TONY

Pow, pow, pow. You're under arrest.

*
*

Everyone laughs. The Cable Guy starts running around the table. Tony makes chase, laughing all the way.

CABLE GUY

You'll never catch me copper.

The Cable Guy stops, grabs a piece of asparagus and puts it between his lip and nose, and pretends it's a mustache.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: (2)

71

CABLE GUY

I'm gonna wear a disguise.

Steven looks at the Cable Guy and remembers something.

STEVEN'S P.O.V. - He sees the Cable Guy. The artist's rendering of the man who beat up Robin's date appears in front of the Cable Guy's face. Steven realizes that they are the same person.

Steven gets a frightened look on his face.

The kid points his gun at the Cable Guy and yells "pow." The Cable Guy drops to the floor like he's been shot.

CABLE GUY

Oh, you got me.

The Cable Guy plays dead. The kid walks over to him. When he gets close, the Cable Guy lunges to grab him.

CABLE GUY

(devil voice)

Aaaah!!! Nobody messes with me and lives!

The kid screams with laughter and runs away. The Cable Guy chases him around the table and out of the room. Steven instantly fears for Tony's safety. He follows them.

72-75 OMITTED

72-75

75A INT. LIBRARY - A MOMENT LATER

75A

Steven walks around looking for Tony. Suddenly from behind a couch Tony and the Cable Guy pop out.

TONY/CABLE GUY

Booo!

STEVEN

Jesus!

*
*

Steven flies back, scared out of his wits. Tony and the Cable Guy start laughing hysterically. They have a grand 'ol time enjoying their little prank.

CABLE GUY

Oh man, you should have seen your face.
It was classic.

(CONTINUED)

75A CONTINUED:

75A

STEVEN

Very funny. Tony, go to your mother!

Tony immediately starts crying. He leaves.

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

Look what you've done.

STEVEN

I know you beat up Robin's date.

The Cable Guy's laughter stops on a dime.

CABLE GUY

I guess I did what you didn't have the guts to do.

STEVEN

You stay away from Robin.

CABLE GUY

(disturbed)

Don't mess with me. I'm feeling like a part of the family, and I like it. You should try it some time.

Steven's mother enters.

STEVEN'S MOTHER

(looks at them)

My, you two look like brothers. Come on back, we're all having coffee in the living room.

Cable Guy quickly starts walking back to the dining room.

CABLE GUY

(happily)

Are you guys trying to fatten me up? 'Cause if you are, you're doing a damn good job of it.

He laughs, and exits. Steven slowly follows.

76-78 OMITTED

76-78

79 INT. LIVING AREA - LATER

79

Everyone is sitting around having coffee. The Cable Guy is writing words on torn up pieces of paper.

CABLE GUY

You've never played "Porno Password?"

*

(CONTINUED)

EARL

No, but I like the sound of it.

CABLE GUY

It's the adult version of the popular television game show. Robin you're on my team. Steven, you're with mom.

(to everyone else)

You're the audience.

The Cable Guy sits next to Robin. Steven and his mother sit across from them.

The Cable Guy looks at the word, then shows it to the family so none of the contestants can see it. He whispers in Steven's ear.

CABLE GUY

(whispers)

The password is...vagina.

Steven winces.

STEVEN

I really don't want to play this game.

(looks to his mother)

Woman. Woman.

STEVEN'S MOTHER

Uh...man?

STEVEN

No.

CABLE GUY

(to Robin)

Pe-nis. Pe-nis. Pe-nis.

Robin concentrates hard, but she can't figure it out.

CABLE GUY

Peeee-nis. Peeee-nis.

ROBIN

Vagina?

CABLE GUY

(pumps his fist)

Yes!

He high fives Robin. Everyone laughs.

(CONTINUED)

EARL

(blurts out)

I thought it was going to be shlong!

(covers his mouth-embarrassed)

Whoops.

Everyone laughs. They are all having a great time, except Steven.

CABLE GUY

Okay, now we're getting it.

(to Steven)

The password is...nipple.

STEVEN

Can I pass?

EARL

Come on Steven, don't be a stick in the mud.

STEVEN

Breast. Breast.

STEVEN MOTHER

Tit?

Everyone laughs. Steven's face is red.

CABLE GUY

Hard...

(gestures like there is
another word after it)

Hard...

ROBIN

Erection?

Everyone laughs. Steven looks like he might kill the Cable Guy.

STEVEN

Center. Center.

STEVEN'S MOTHER

Nipple?

Everyone cheers.

STEVEN'S MOTHER

I can't believe I got it. I was going to
say areola.

(CONTINUED)

EVERYONE

Yes, we love you. We love you.

STEVEN

(to the Cable Guy)

I hate you! Get out of my life!

CABLE GUY

He's projecting all his anger onto me.
Maybe I should go.

ROBIN

(to the Cable Guy)

No, please don't go.

(to Steven)

Steven, you're being an asshole.

(CONTINUED)

80

EXT. DRIVEWAY - LATER

80

Robin is venting her anger at Steven as they walk to the car.

ROBIN

I just think you were completely out of
line. I don't know what's happening to
you these days.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

80

Steven gets fed up.

STEVEN

Robin, this guy is a sociopath. He leaves messages on my machine night and day. He shows up wherever I go. He won't leave me alone.

ROBIN

Sounds familiar.

STEVEN

You know he was the one who beat up your date at that restaurant. That's right. And he gave you the free cable. It wasn't me.

ROBIN

But you took the credit for it?

STEVEN

That's what he wanted. He was manipulating me. It feels so good to be honest about this. I've been wanting to tell you for so long, but he's been blackmailing me. *

ROBIN

Blackmailing you? How?

STEVEN

With a photograph.

ROBIN

Of what?

STEVEN

Me with a...prostitute.

ROBIN

What?!

STEVEN

He set it up. He invited this woman to my party and didn't tell me she was a prostitute. I'm so glad we can talk about this. *

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN

You were with a prostitute?

*

STEVEN

She seduced me. That's what they do.
They're professionals.

*

ROBIN

So that makes it better?

STEVEN

That's not the point. The point is this
guy has been setting me up. He's
responsible.

ROBIN

He didn't have sex with a whore. You
did.

STEVEN

Robin you don't--

ROBIN

I don't want to hear it. You have some
serious problems, and it's not my
responsibility to help you. I am only
responsible for my own happiness.

*

STEVEN

Where did that come from?

ROBIN

It was Jerry Springer's "final thought."

She exits.

80A INT. NEWSROOM - NIGHT

80A

Rick is running to an editing bay. Steven follows him.

STEVEN

I'm sorry I've been blowing you off.

RICK

You bet your ass you've been blowing me
off.

(CONTINUED)

80A CONTINUED:

80A

STEVEN

It's just, this guy is really doing a number on me.

RICK

I told you not to hang out with him.

STEVEN

You're the one who told me to offer him money so I could get free cable.

RICK

You didn't tell me he was a psychopath.

(beat)

I'll see if I can get my friend in research to track him down.

STEVEN

His name is Ernie Douglas. His friends call him Chip.

*
*

RICK

Ernie Douglas? Ernie Douglas? Why does that sound so familiar?

81 INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - NEXT DAY

81

Steven's secretary Joan is watching a news report about the Sam Sweet trial on a mini television.

On the TV - a Female Prosecutor gestures with a shotgun as she questions a policeman.

Joan changes channels. The image changes to LARRY KING interviewing ALAN DERSHOWITZ regarding "the abuse excuse."

BACK TO SCENE

Steven walks over to Joan.

STEVEN

(to his secretary)

Did anyone notice I'm late?

JOAN

What are you talking about, you've been here for an hour.

STEVEN

Thank you.

Steven walks to his office.

81A INT. STEVEN'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

81A

Steven walks behind his desk. He notices something which disturbs him. His computer is on. He clicks a button and a message comes on the screen.

ON THE SCREEN- "GOOD MORNING STEVEN. HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY. HERE'S AN EXTRA SPECIAL SURPRISE."

Then an image comes on the screen. It is black and white surveillance video, digitized to the computer format. The video is of Robin and Steven talking. It is the conversation they had before they watched "Sleepless in Seattle."

STEVEN

Work's good.

ROBIN

How's Hal?

STEVEN

Don't get me started. That guy has no vision. It's like working for Mr. MaGoo. And those hair plugs. Does he think nobody notices?

ROBIN

It's just great that he approved your project.

STEVEN

I know. Now if only someone at corporate smartened up enough to dump Hal, then I could really get some stuff done.

The scene starts again. It is on a loop. Steven is aghast. He looks up and sees the scene is playing on every computer in the office. He gets a panicked look on his face. Is Hal seeing this? He runs out of his office to prevent Hal from viewing this.

81B INT. OFFICE BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

81B

Steven runs to the edge of the stairs and looks down.

STEVEN'S P.O.V. - He sees Hal downstairs, walking into his office.

BACK TO STEVEN - He runs down the stairs towards Hal's office as fast as he can.

81C INT. HAL'S OFFICE

81C*

Steven walks in. Hal is sitting behind his desk staring sadly at the computer. He looks up and sees Steven.

STEVEN (ON THE
COMPUTER)

I think I hate him, hate him, hate him,
hate him.

STEVEN

I'm so sorry.

HAL

Don't worry. It's okay Steven.

82 OMITTED

82

82A OMITTED

82A

82B OMITTED

82B

82C INT. PARKING GARAGE - LATER

82C

Steven walks to his car carrying a box filled with his belongings. He has been fired. Suddenly a car alarms beeps. Its headlights flash. Then another, and another. Soon he is surrounded by screaming car alarms, and flashing headlights. He looks around in fear.

STEVEN

Chip! Chip, this isn't funny! Where are
you?!!!

Suddenly they all stop simultaneously, and then the only sound is a maniacal laugh echoing through the garage.

Steven runs to his car, and gets in. He drives up the ramp in a panic. From out of nowhere the Cable Guy steps into the beam of his headlights. He cannot stop in time. The Cable Guy is thrown into the air, then lands on the back of the roof of the car. Before he falls off he grabs on to the bar of the luggage rack.

Steven looks through his rear view window and sees the Cable Guy staring at him.

As Steven continues to drive the Cable Guy climbs on to the roof of the car, then jumps on the hood, and stares at Steven through the windshield. Steven swerves around, almost losing control of the car.

(CONTINUED)

82C CONTINUED:

82C

STEVEN

Leave me alone! I have no job, no
girlfriend, no family anymore! It's
over! You won!

(CONTINUED)

CABLE GUY

(menacingly)

Oh no. It's not over. It's just gettin'
started.

He turns a corner very sharply throwing the Cable Guy off his car. The Cable Guy falls to the ground, rolling many times, then leaps to his feet using the momentum of the roll, and runs off, scampering like a supernatural bug.

83-94 OMITTED

83-94

95 OMITTED

95

95A INT. NEWSROOM - NIGHT

95A

ON THE TV - The local news.

MARK THOMPSON

The jury has notified the judge that they are very close to reaching a verdict, and would like to keep deliberating into the evening hours.

Rick is sitting at his desk. A FEMALE RESEARCHER walks over, and sits down.

RESEARCHER

There are five people named Ernie Douglas in this county. Two are African American. One is eighty five years old. One is eleven years old, and the last one is in a wheelchair.

RICK

So we're nowhere. Ernie Douglas? Ernie Douglas?

She begins tapping her foot nervously.

RICK

Could you stop that?

RESEARCHER

Don't snap at me. I'm doing this as a favor.

He continues staring at her two tone wing tipped style shoe.

RICK

(has an epiphany)

Wait, could you start that again? Start tapping your foot again.

She begins tapping. Rick begins whistling a single note. Then a few more. Before long he is whistling the theme to "My Three Sons." She joins him. They sing louder and louder. They've broken the code.

*
*
*
*

96 INT. STEVEN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT 96*

The PHONE RINGS. Steven runs in the front door, and picks up the phone. *

STEVEN
Hello. *

RICK (VO)
Bingo. "My Three Sons." *

STEVEN
Chip and Ernie Douglas. *

97 INT. NEWSROOM - CONTINUOUS - INTERCUT 97*

Rick sits at his desk. The researcher is at his side. *

RICK
I've got a list of every cable installer fired in the last four years. Every one of these guys has the same physical description as our friend. *

(reads from the list)
Murray Slaughter, Brendan Walsh, Sam Malone, Alex Reiger. There was even a guy who liked to be called 'the big Ragu.' *

97AA INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS 97AA*

Steven walks in and looks for the Cable Guy's hidden camera as speaks on the phone. *

STEVEN
Carmin from "Laverne and Shirley." *

RICK
That's so sad that you know that. *
Anyway, the cable company in town fired a guy six months ago named Darren Stevens. *
He stole the truck and disappeared. *
That's our guy. *

Steven finds a small camera in one of the televisions speakers. He rips it out. *

STEVEN
So he doesn't even work for the Cable Company? *

97A INT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

97A

Quick cuts of Steven bolting doors, and locking windows.

RICK (VO)

He was fired for beating up a customer
who yelled at him for being late. A
company in Denver thinks they might have
a lead on who he really is.
If I were you I'd lock down tonight.
I'll call you when I get some more info.

98 INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

98

Steven is watching television. He struggles to stay awake.

ON THE TV - The Weather Channel. A weatherman predicts
upcoming "Intermittent thunderstorms." Steven changes
channels. Court TV is on. The defense attorney in the Sam
Sweet trial is speaking.

*
*
*
*

DEFENSE (ON TV)

(Dialogue to come.)

*
*

The defense attorney's words turn into gibberish as Steven's
eyes go heavy and he falls asleep.

*

99 ON STEVEN - HE IS ASLEEP HE SLOWLY WAKES UP.

99

The gibberish turns into clearly spoken words, only this time
the voice sounds more familiar.

ON THE TV - We see the Sweet trial. A prosecutor makes a
passionate final summation. We reveal that it is the Cable
Guy.

CABLE GUY

This man killed his own brother. Some
people don't even have a brother...

The camera pushes in on the Cable Guy's face. He looks to
camera.

CABLE GUY

...do they Steven? Are you listening to
me? Don't shut it off. Don't shut it--

ON STEVEN - He shuts off the TV, and walks out of the room.

100 INT. STEVEN'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 100*

The entire apartment appears much larger. Steven walks down the hallway. He looks into the living room and sees Rick. *

RICK *

Why do you keep icing me man? *

100A INT. ELONGATED BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 100A*

He opens up a door and sees an elongated version of his bathroom. The shower is steaming. The two eight year old Sweet twins stand in front of it looking very spooky. He quickly closes the door. *

100B INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 100B*

He continues down the hallway and opens the door to the dining room, but when he opens it he sees Robin's bedroom. *

100C INT. ROBIN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 100C*

Robin is in bed. A man wearing a cable installer's uniform is smothering her with a pillow. The man turns--it is Steven. He quickly closes the door. *

100D INT. HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 100D*

He hears someone pounding on the front door. He opens the door. Nobody is there. Then the Cable Guy pops into frame holding a cut cord. *

CABLE GUY *

You owe me! *

Steven slams the door. Then looks through the peep hole. *

101 P.O.V. THROUGH THE PEEPHOLE 101*

The Cable Guy begins to run full speed at the door. As he does he gets bigger and bigger, and more distorted as he comes closer to the peephole. BANG! He hits the door. Then disappears from frame. A moment later he stumbles back into frame, then walks to the far end of the hall, and runs again to the door even faster. BANG! He staggers back into position again. He runs toward the door. *

102 INT. STEVEN'S HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 102*

Steven runs away from the front door. The door smashes open, and the Cable Guy runs after him. *

(CONTINUED)

102 CONTINUED:

102

Steven runs away down the hallway. The hallway appears to be a mile long. He tries to run fast but appears to move in almost slow motion. Every time he looks over his shoulder he sees the Cable Guy running at an alarmingly fast rate of speed toward him, grunting like a wolf.

CABLE GUY

I just want to hang out. No big deal.

He keeps running, and the hallway starts getting smaller and smaller, till he can barely fit through. He becomes trapped at the end of the hall. He looks back another time and the Cable Guy is gone. Steven turns around slowly and starts walking back down the hallway.

103 OMITTED

103

104 INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

104

Steven runs in. The television is on. He sits on the edge of the couch not sure what to do.

He puts his head down. When he looks up, he sees the Cable Guy's face on the television set. The Cable Guy's face stretches out from the television, getting larger and larger.

CABLE GUY

Steven, you're just like me. We're cut from the same cloth. We're one and the same!

Then it opens its mouth, and swallows Steven pulling him into the television.

105 INT. STEVEN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

105

Steven wakes up in a cold sweat.

STEVEN

(panting)

I am not a smotherer!

*

The phone rings.

STEVEN

I am not a smotherer.

*

*

CABLE GUY

Who said you were?

*

*

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED:

105

Oh no.

STEVEN

((CONTINUED))

105 CONTINUED: (2)

105

CABLE GUY (VO)

It didn't have to come to this Steven.
We could have been blood brothers.

STEVEN

Rick told me you were fired from The
Cable Company. You're not even a real
cable guy.

106 INT. SOMEWHERE - CONTINUOUS

106

Close up of the Cable Guy's face.

CABLE GUY

Do you feel good now that you've hurt me?
Well now I'm going to have to hurt you.
I'm going to take away what you hold
dearest in the world.

STEVEN (VO)

I swear to God, if you touch--

CABLE GUY

Could you hold on a second, I've got call
waiting. It'll just be a sec.

He clicks over. Steven just sits there, waiting. Waiting
some more. Then the Cable Guy clicks back.

CABLE GUY

Sorry about that. Where was I? Oh yeah.
You're going to feel my wrath.

107 INT. STEVEN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

107

STEVEN

(pleading)

Don't do this. There must be some way
for us to work this out.

108 INT. ROBIN'S VENT - CONTINUOUS

108*

A daddy long legs spider crawls across his face. He never
acknowledges it.

CABLE GUY

I wish there was.

(losing it)

Oh Steven, I'm just so tired. So very
tired.

*

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

108

STEVEN

Let's talk in person. Where are you? *

CABLE GUY *

I'd love to chat, but I've got a date
with Robin. *He looks to his left. We reveal he is once again inside
ROBIN'S VENT. *

CABLE GUY *

She hates when I'm late. *

STEVEN *

Stay away from her! *

CABLE GUY *

Good-bye Steven. *

Steven runs out the door. *

108A EXT. STEVEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

108A*

It is raining lightly outside. Steven is in his car. He pulls away quickly.

108B OMITTED

108B

109 OMITTED

109

109AA OMITTED

109AA

109AB OMITTED

109AB*

109A OMITTED

109A*

110 OMITTED

110*

10A INT. STEVEN'S CAR - NIGHT

110A

Steven is driving in his car. It is wet outside. The windows are wet, but it is not raining.

*

(CONTINUED)

110A CONTINUED:

110A

111 OMITTED

111*

111A OMITTED

111A*

112 OMITTED

112*

113 OMITTED

113*

((CONTINUED))

113 CONTINUED:

113

114-6 OMITTED (NOW PART OF SCENE 106)

114-6

116A OMITTED

116A*

116B OMITTED

116B*

116C OMITTED

116C*

16D OMITTED

116D*

116DAEXT. ROBIN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

116DA*

Steven's car screeches to a stop. He runs up to the front gate and sees a FEMALE NEIGHBOR.

*
*

STEVEN
(frantically)
Is Robin home?

*
*
*

FEMALE NEIGHBOR
She just left with that nice cable man.

*
*

STEVEN
Do you know where they were going?

*
*

FEMALE NEIGHBOR
Oh, I don't know. But he said they were taking a ride on the the information super-highway.

*
*
*
*

Steven's eyes widen in horror. Lightning flashes. A thunderclap. A moment later it begins to rain hard. He runs back to his car. Lightning flashes again.

*
*
*

116E EXT. SATELLITE DISH - NIGHT

116E

Lightning Flash. The Cable Guy and Robin are at the dish. He gives her the same tour he gave Steven earlier in the film.

CABLE GUY
...it all started in Lansford
Pennsylvania where Panther Valley
Television, with the assistance of Jerrod
Electronics, created the first cable
television system.

116F EXT. STREET ON OUTSKIRTS OF CITY - NIGHT

116F

Steven drives up the mountain to the satellite dish. It is raining.

116G EXT. SATELLITE DISH - NIGHT

116G

The Cable Guy and Robin are now standing on the edge of the dish. It is raining.

CABLE GUY
The future is now. Soon every American
home will integrate their television,
phone, and computer. You'll be able to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

116G CONTINUED:

116G

CABLE GUY (cont'd)
visit the Louvre on one channel, and
watch female mud wrestling on another.
You can do your shopping at home, or play
a game of Mortal Kombat with a friend in
Vietnam.

117 EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - NIGHT

117

Steven continues up the mountain to the satellite dish. It
is raining.

117A EXT. SATELLITE DISH - NIGHT

117A

Robin and the Cable Guy are on the dish. It is raining.

(CONTINUED)

117A CONTINUED:

117A

ROBIN

This is really fascinating, but I really think we ought to go now.

CABLE GUY

I knew you'd appreciate it. I took Steven here once, and he didn't give a rats ass about my interests.

ROBIN

I'm worried about Steven.

CABLE GUY

Maybe Steven should be worried about you.
(beat)
So, where was I?

118 OMITTED (NOW PART OF SCENE 109AB)

118

119 OMITTED

119

120 OMITTED

120

121 OMITTED

121

121A EXT. SATELLITE DISH - CONTINUOUS

121A

A wide establishing shot of the satellite dish. There is rain and lightning.

122 EXT. MUDDY DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

122*

Steven drives his car up the muddy dirt road. It gets stuck in the the mud. He gets out of the car, and begins walking to the satellite dish which is surrounded by a chain link fence. He hears the sounds of horse hooves coming closer, and closer. Then he sees a headless man on a horse ride straight toward the fence. The horse has the coat of arms from Medieval Times. When he reaches it he smashes off the chain with a sword, then rides through. The horse rears back on its hind legs.

The horse runs full speed directly at Steven who is forced to jump out of the way so he won't be trampled. When the horse stops, the Cable Guy pops his head through the top of his coat.

CABLE GUY

(chuckles)

Icabod Crane! The Disney Channel showed it all last month.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED:

122

The Cable Guy rides toward him again.

CABLE GUY

Last time we fought I let you win! Not
this time!

(like the Vegas announcer)

Let's get ready to ruuuuuuummmmbbble!!!!

(CONTINUED)

This time when he gets near Steven, he leaps off the horse, onto him. They both slam into a puddle of mud, strangling each other. Steven rolls on top of the Cable Guy.

STEVEN

Where's Robin?!

CABLE GUY

This isn't about Robin, this is about you and me.

They are both covered in mud like warriors from the rain forest. The Cable Guy bites Steven's hand. Steven punches him with his free hand.

STEVEN

Where's Robin!!!

CABLE GUY

I'm sorry, I didn't catch the question?!

From out of nowhere the Cable Guy's legs fly up onto Steven's neck in a crab hold. He uses the momentum to flip back on top of Steven. Steven, now on the bottom, takes his hands and boxes the Cable Guy's ears. The Cable Guy flies back, now Steven is on top again.

Steven grabs a large rock and slams it down. The Cable Guy angles his body so it just misses his head. The rocks sits next to him in the mud.

CABLE GUY

(like Darth Vader)

Yes Luke, go to the dark side.

In an instant the Cable Guy flips him back over, and gets back on top of Steven. He pulls a drill out of his belt and turns it on.

CABLE GUY

I think its time to make you cable ready.

He slowly brings the drill down to Steven. Steven blindly reaches behind him. He grabs a large branch and bats the Cable Guy off of him.

The Cable Guy over-reacts, holding his face like Quasimodo, as he staggers around.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED: (3)

122

CABLE GUY

(crazed)

You treat me like the TV! You use me, but
you can't live without me!
You can't shut me off with your remote
control!!!! I'm not like Robin and Rick
and Mommy and Daddy and brother and
sister and cousin--

Mirroring the Medieval Times roundhouse battle axe move,
Steven up-ends the Cable Guy who falls to the ground,
unconscious. Steven pokes him a couple of times with the
stick to make sure he's out.

STEVEN

I got the point.

ROBIN

(in the distance)

Steven.

He looks to the the dish, but cannot see Robin. Steven runs
to the gate.

123 EXT. SATELLITE DISH - MOMENTS LATER

123

Steven climbs over the edge into the dish. Below him he sees
that the bottom of the dish is filled with several feet of
rainwater.

Three wires go from the points on the edge of the dish, and
meet at a point at the center of the satellite, thirty feet
above the floor of the dish. ROBIN is hanging by her bound
hands from the center of where those wires meet.

Steven climbs down toward the bottom of the dish.

ROBIN

Help me Steven!

In the background we see the blurry image of the Cable Guy
climbing through an entry hatch at the top of the ditch.
Robin's eyes fill with terror.

(CONTINUED)

ROBIN
Steven! Look out!

CABLE GUY
(mimics her)
Yeah Steven. Look out!

The Cable Guy leaps out of the hatch like a jack in the box. He slides down the dish, knocking Steven down. The two tumble down the slope of the dish, and tumble down all the way into the water.

CABLE GUY
(sweetly, like a girl)
I've missed you.

The Cable Guy starts to dunk Steven's head in and out of the water. He pulls him up. *

CABLE GUY
(dramatically)
"Dry land is not a myth, I've seen it."
Kevin Costner from Waterworld. I don't
know what the fuss was about, that movie
ruled, I saw it six times.

He pulls Steven under the water, then pulls him up. *

CABLE GUY
Isn't it weird that we've wound up in
this position?

He pushes him under the water again. After a moment he pulls him back up. Steven gasps for air.

CABLE GUY
Who would of thunk it?

Enraged, Steven punches him in the mouth with such tremendous force that it appears to have knocked his jaw out of alignment.

CABLE GUY
(without any lisp)
You're gonna have to do better than that
Steven.
(realizing his lisp is gone)
Steven. Hey, my lisp is gone.

(CONTINUED)

123 CONTINUED: (2)

123

Steven hits him again, this time on the other side of the face.

CABLE GUY
(lispering again)
You stupid son of a bitch.

Steven head butts the Cable Guy, who falls unconscious into the water, then slowly sinks beneath it. He is surely finished.

ROBIN
Steven!

124 EXT. SATELLITE DISH - CONTINUOUS

124

He runs to the edge of the dish and un-ties a rope which is attached to a pulley, and lowers Robin down. He runs to her and unties her.

The rain begins to taper off.

*

25 EXT. SATELLITE DISH - CONTINUOUS

125

The rain has stopped. Steven and Robin sit in the dish, a few feet from the edge of the water. They are exhausted from their ordeal. They hold each other close.

ROBIN

I'm sorry I didn't believe you. I love you.

STEVEN

I love you too. You're right. We shouldn't get married.

WATER LEVEL P.O.V. - BEHIND ROBIN AND STEVEN.

As Robin and Steven talk in the background, the Cable Guy's nose slowly breaks the surface of the water, sucking life giving air.

STEVEN

I've got a lot of problems to work out which have absolutely nothing to do with you.

ON STEVEN AND ROBIN

ROBIN

We'll work them out together.

They kiss. Suddenly Steven is dragged toward the water by the arm of the Cable Guy, which is sticking out of the water.

ROBIN

Steven, Steven!

STEVEN

Robin!

Steven scratches and claws like a man in quicksand. Then he disappears into the water. There is a long eerie silence. What is happening?

*

Suddenly, like an explosion from hell, the Cable Guy flies out of the water holding Steven above his head like a psychotic wrestler. This is covered from many angles, in cool dramatic slow motion.

CABLE GUY

WWF, World Wrestling Federation BACK--
BREAK--ER!

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED:

125

With that he throws Steven down onto his knee. Stunned and semi-conscious, Steven rolls off to the edge of the water. *

The Cable Guy, in his own slow motion, like the conquering warrior that he believes he is, walks towards Robin, singing dramatic music.

CABLE GUY

Da-da-da. Da-da-da.

MUSIC UP: Our orchestral score picks up where the Cable Guy leaves off.

He grabs Robin around the neck, and puts a staple gun to her head, then walks her toward the edge of the dish.

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED: (2)

125

CABLE GUY

Let's get going.

125A EXT. SATELLITE DISH - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

125A

Steven slowly wakes up. He looks and sees the Cable Guy and Robin beginning to climb up the radio antenna. He quickly gets up to follow them.

126 EXT. ANTENNA - NIGHT

126

The Cable Guy and Robin climb the antenna. Steven follows them up from a distance.

The Cable Guy and Robin reach a platform at the top of the antenna. The Cable Guy holds Robin with one hand, and holds a staple gun to her temple with the other hand. Steven climbs onto the platform.

STEVEN

Easy.

He walks with Robin to the edge of the the platform. There is a one hundred foot drop to the dish below.

CABLE GUY

It didn't have to be this way Steven. I'm just trying to show you the kind of things that can happen when you mistreat people.

STEVEN

Why are we up here? What are you planning to do?

*
*

CABLE GUY

I don't really have a plan. I'm pretty much going moment to moment. Winging it really. But you've got to admit this is a pretty cool place for an ending.

*

STEVEN

Ending to what?

CABLE GUY

You know this is just like that movie, 'Goldeneye'--

STEVEN

No! This is not like anything! This isn't a movie, this is reality! You're hurting us!

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED:

126

This hits the Cable Guy like a sucker punch. The Cable Guy eyes turn sad.

CABLE GUY

(crushed)

I just wanted to be your friend, but I screwed it up.

A helicopter rises from below, and hovers next to the tower. Dazed, he lets go of Robin. She runs to Steven's arms.

A helicopter hovers around shining a bright light directly in the Cable Guy's eyes. The Cable Guy stares into the light. He nods his head as if the light is giving him a heavenly message.

CABLE GUY

What's that? Huh? Come again? Oh, I see. You want me to quiet down and just chill out in front of the TV for a while. You were never there for me were you mother? I had to suckle at the breast of Carol Brady. I am the bastard son of Claire Huxtable. I am the lost Cunningham. I spent my whole life waiting for John Boy to say good night to me. That's it. That's it!

The Cable Guy climbs onto the rail. He is going to jump off. From below we hear the sound of sirens. Police cars pull up and surround the antenna.

STEVEN

Don't do it. Come down. We'll all go out. We'll get a Heineken.

CABLE GUY

I'm not thirsty anymore. See ya.

STEVEN

Nooo!!!

He falls backwards off the rail. Steven leaps onto the floor. He reaches his hand out past the rail, and grabs the Cable Guy's forearm just as he completes a freefalling back flip. Steven grabs onto the antenna with his other hand.

STEVEN

You're not going anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED: (2)

126

CABLE GUY

It's O.K. Really. I understand my
purpose now.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED: (3)

126

The Cable Guy hangs high above the satellite dish. Steven tries to pull the Cable Guy back onto the platform, but the Cable Guy does not want to be saved.

STEVEN

Don't do this. You just need help. We all get lonely.

CABLE GUY

Yeah, but I get really lonely.

(beat)

I mean, look at me. Come on.

*

STEVEN

You're gonna be fine. I'll be your friend. Just come on up.

*

*

Steven can't hold onto his forearm any longer. The Cable Guy's arm slips and Steven grabs onto his hand at the last possible second.

CABLE GUY

No, it's too late for me, but there's a lot of little Cable Boys and Girls out there who still have a chance.

*

*

*

The Cable Guy grabs Steven with his other hand. Now he holds onto Steven with both hands, then pulls himself up so he can speak directly into Steven's face.

*

*

*

CABLE GUY

Don't you see it Steven, somebody has to kill the baby-sitter.

*

*

*

The Cable Guy lets go.

*

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED: (4)

126

The Cable Guy begins falling toward the dish below.

*

126A EXT. ANTENNA - NIGHT

126A

LONG-WIDE SHOT of the entire antenna.

The Cable Guy falls backward toward the satellite.

127 INT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

127

A nuclear family is watching court TV.

On the TV - A REPORTER speaks to the camera from the courthouse.

REPORTER

This is the moment America has been waiting for. We've just been told the jury is ready to render their decision.

128 EXT. ANTENNA - CONTINUOUS

128

The Cable Guy sails through the air. As he falls he looks almost peaceful. Totally comfortable with what he is doing.

128AA INT. COUCH POTATO APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

128AA

A COUCH POTATO sits on a fold out bed, his eyes glued on the television.

ON THE TV - The COURT CLERK is about to read the jury's decision.

COURT CLERK

By unanimous vote the defendant Sam Sweet...

128AB EXT. SATELLITE DISH - CONTINUOUS

128AB

CLOSE ON - The Cable Guy plummeting toward the dish, about to hit.

128AC INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - CONTINUOUS

128AC

The camera flies through the crowd at the same speed as the Cable Guy straight into a close up of the television.

COURT CLERK

...has been found--

We hear a loud thud. The screen turns to white noise.

128A EXT. TOP OF THE ANTENNA - CONTINUOUS 128A*
Steven and Robin gasp.

128B EXT. SATELLITE DISH - CONTINUOUS 128B
From below we see the Cable Guy's silhouette motionless on the struts of the satellite dish.

128C EXT. THE CITY - CONTINUOUS 128C
A wide panorama of the city. All of the color televisions which can be seen through the many windows of apartments and houses turn to white noise.

128D INT. NEIGHBORHOOD BAR - CONTINUOUS 128D
The television shows white noise. Everyone screams at the TV.

129 OMITTED 129

130 OMITTED 130

31 EXT. SATELLITE DISH - CONTINUOUS 131

It appears as if the needle of the antenna has impaled the Cable Guy. The camera pulls back and reveals the Cable Guy landed right next to the needle of the antenna, clearly destroying much of the satellite's vital mechanisms.

CABLE GUY

Close one.

He falls unconscious.

132 OMITTED 132

133 OMITTED 133

134 INT. COUCH POTATO APARTMENT - NIGHT 134

A pasty white couch potato stares at the white noise, not sure what to do. He turns and picks up a book. As music crescendos he begins to read.

135 EXT. SATELLITE DISH - LATER 135

The Cable Guy is being taken away on a stretcher toward an emergency helicopter. Steven and Robin are covered in police blankets. Steven stops the stretcher.

CABLE GUY

(looks at Steven and Robin)

You two are going to do just fine.

STEVEN

(warmly)

You never told me your real name.

CABLE GUY

You really want to know my real name?

It's...Richard Ricardo. But my friends call me Ricky. Ricky Ricardo, get it?

(losing strength)

I'm just messing with ya'.

The paramedics put the Cable Guy on the helicopter. The helicopter flies away.

P.O.V. SHOT - From the helicopter looking down on Steven and Robin holding each other, getting smaller and smaller until they disappear.

136 INT. HELICOPTER - CONTINUOUS

136

The Cable Guy lies in a stretcher next to the paramedic. He is barely conscious, struggling for survival.

*
*

PARAMEDIC

*

Hang in there buddy. Stay with me. Just stay with me.

The Cable Guy's eyes slowly open. He motions for the paramedic to come closer.

*
*

CABLE GUY

Am I really your buddy?

137 EXT. SKY - DAWN

137

The helicopter flies away.