

"SMART GUY"

"The Hendersons In Jeopardy"

COLD OPEN

FADE IN:

INT. HENDERSON KITCHEN - DAY (DAY 1)  
(T.J., Floyd, Marcus, Yvette)

FLOYD SETS OUT ALL THE STUFF HE NEEDS TO DO THE MONTHLY BOOKS.  
HE'S TALKING HIMSELF UP, BUILDING ENTHUSIASM FOR THE TASK.

FLOYD

Okay, here we go, the monthly  
books! I feel good. I feel  
strong. I've got the ledgers, I've  
got the bankbooks.

HE PUTS A SMALL PAPER BAG ON THE TABLE.

FLOYD (CONT'D)

Business receipts...

AND TWO LARGE GROCERY BAGS.

FLOYD (CONT'D)

Family expenses. Pens. Pencils in  
case the pens don't work. Tissues  
in case the figures don't work.

A BIG COOKIE:

FLOYD (CONT'D)

And a big cookie for when I'm done.  
Now, where's my calculator?

T.J. ENTERS.

FLOYD (CONT'D)

Here he is.

T.J. PUTS ON AN OLD-FASHIONED BANK TELLER'S VISOR AND FLOYD LIFTS  
HIM ONTO THE CHAIR. T.J. LEANS OVER THE BOOKS, EXPERTLY SCANNING  
THE PAGES WHILE FLOYD WATCHES HIM INTENTLY.

T.J.

Hmm.

FLOYD  
(PANIC) What do you mean, "hmm"?

T.J.  
This pen doesn't work.

FLOYD  
Have a pencil!

T.J. TAKES THE PENCIL AND EXAMINES THE LEDGER. TURNS A PAGE. HE SHAKES HIS HEAD.

FLOYD (CONT'D)  
What? What is it?

T.J.  
According to these books, the business looks pretty solid. But the family will have to go.

YVETTE ENTERS.

FLOYD  
I knew it! We've got to make some economies around here. Yvette, set the furnace down to 45 degrees. No, set it down to 30 and we can turn off the fridge.

YVETTE  
Speaking of cold, I need a new winter coat.

FLOYD TURNS TO T.J. WHO SHAKES HIS HEAD.

T.J.  
Sorry. No can do.

YVETTE  
My coat's four years old! It's still got my old boyfriend's name from junior high written in pen on the sleeve!

FLOYD  
Couldn't you just get back together with him?

YVETTE

Dad! I wouldn't ask for this if I didn't need it!

FLOYD

It's not that we can't ever afford to buy you a new winter coat, we just can't afford it this month.

YVETTE

When can we afford it?

FLOYD TURNS TO T.J.

T.J.

July.

YVETTE

What? It's not like I'm asking for something insane like a motorcycle.

MARCUS BREEZES IN.

MARCUS

Dad, break out the checkbook, I'm buying a motorcycle. Now, I know what you're thinking: sure Marcus deserves this but aren't motorcycles expensive? In a word, no.

FLOYD

Funny, I was about to use that same word. Marcus, I just turned Yvette down for a winter coat.

MARCUS

Well you should! That's stupid and frivolous.

YVETTE

How do you figure that?

MARCUS

You've already got a coat, but I haven't got a motorcycle! Besides, this is the deal of the century!

T.J.

It'll have to be the deal of the next century, cos this one's spent

out.

MARCUS

Come on, T.J...

T.J.

I'm not saying no, Marcus. The numbers say no. Numbers don't lie.

MARCUS

Yeah? Numbers don't get held head-first over the toilet and dunked like a teabag, either. You traitor.

YVETTE

Yeah, thanks for nothing.

MARCUS AND YVETTE STORM OUT. T.J. SIGHS.

T.J.

Man. "Uneasy lies the head that wears the visor."

FLOYD

Don't take it hard. They just aren't mature enough to deal with disappointment in a rational adult manner.

T.J.

Uh, Dad? About that new leather toolbelt...

FLOYD BREAKS DOWN.

FLOYD

What? Have you seen my old toolbelt? The hammer loop's worn right through! Juggle the numbers! I'll let you have my cookie! These aren't chocolate chips, these are chocolate chunks!

T.J. EXITS, SHAKING HIS HEAD, AS FLOYD FOLLOWS.

FLOYD (CONT'D)

See? Chunks! Chunks are twice the size of chips! Please, T.J!?

FADE OUT:

END OF COLD OPEN

ACT ONE

SCENE 1

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY (DAY 1)  
(T.J., Marcus, Yvette, Craig, Toni)

LATER THAT DAY. MARCUS TALKS TO CRAIG, THE SENIOR WHO'S SELLING THE BIKE, AS CRAIG PUTS HIS HELMET IN HIS LOCKER.

CRAIG

So Henderson, are you buying my bike or what? I need that fifteen hundred bucks to get a good, dependable car for college.

MARCUS

(IN CON MODE) See, that's why this is so perfect! You need something and I need something!

T.J. HAS BEEN LISTENING.

T.J.

Yeah, sounds like you both need fifteen hundred dollars.

CRAIG

What?

MARCUS

You'll have to excuse him. His brain's so big, sometimes his tongue has to move just to get out of the way. You can stick a fork in this deal, cos it is done. We'll catch you later.

CRAIG

Better not be much later.

CRAIG MOVES OFF. MARCUS TURNS ON T.J.

MARCUS

First thing I'm gonna do when I get that bike is run you over.

T.J.

By the time you get fifteen hundred dollars you'll be too old to kick-start it. Why don't you get a job?

MARCUS

Right. Standing behind a counter in a paper hat. I may want that bike but I've still got my dignity. I'm gonna go check the pay phones for dimes.

HE WALKS OFF. FURTHER DOWN, YVETTE IS APPROACHED BY HER FRIEND, TONI.

TONI

Lend me two bucks for lunch?

YVETTE

Sure, Toni. (GETTING THE \$2) I thought you had a job at that pizza-and-chicken place.

TONI

"Pies 'N Thighs"? Had is right. I spent two days mopping up chicken juice then I quit and I burned my clothes.

YVETTE

So there's an opening?

TONI

That's all chickens *have* is openings. With this yellow stuff dripping out of them...

YVETTE

I mean an opening at the restaurant.

TONI

I can't believe I used to eat there. I swear they put stuff in the nuggets that was in the chicken's mouth when they killed

it. I'm gonna go wash my hands up  
to the shoulders again.

TONI EXITS. YVETTE OPENS HER LOCKER AND LOOKS AT HER OLD COAT.  
SHE'S THINKING...

CUT TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 2

INT. MARCUS & T.J.'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)  
(T.J., Marcus, Alex Trebek V/O)

MARCUS COUNTS HIS FEW DOLLARS OUT ONTO THE BED WHILE T.J. PLYS  
HIS GAMEBOY AND WATCHES TV WITH THE SOUND OFF.

MARCUS

Ten, twenty... twenty-one, twenty-  
two, twenty-three.

T.J.

(GLANCES AT TV) "What is Nitric  
Acid?"

MARCUS TRIES COUNTING THE SAME BILLS BACKWARDS.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

One, two, three, thirteen,  
aaaaand.... still twenty-three.

T.J.

(OFF TV) "Who was Alfonso the 6th?"

MARCUS

Quiet. I'm trying to solve an  
intricate financial problem here.

T.J.

How to turn \$23 into a motorbike?

MARCUS

Shut up.

T.J.

(OFF TV) "What is Continental  
Drift?"

MARCUS

If Dad pawned his car I could drive him to work on the back of my bike. Nah, then I couldn't do wheelies. There must be some asset I can *liquidate*...

T.J.

(OFF TV) "What is the Van Allen Belt?"

MARCUS

It's supposed to snow next week, I could sell our front lawn! Dad wouldn't miss it till Spring.

T.J.

(OFF T.V.) "What was the Treaty of Ghent?"

MARCUS

Can you watch that downstairs so I don't have to hit you and think at the same time?

T.J. GOES TO THE DOOR AND TURNS:

T.J.

"What is one broke, grumpy fool?"

HE RUNS OUT BEFORE MARCUS CAN THROW SOMETHING. MARCUS RETURNS TO HIS PROBLEM.

MARCUS

Don't know why he watches that, he knows all the answers.

MARCUS PICKS UP THE REMOTE TO TURN OFF THE TV BUT HE HITS "MUTE."

ALEX TREBEK (V/O)

Sorry, we were looking for "the Treaty of Ghent." Leaving Melinda Beck with a grand total of thirty thousand dollars.

MARCUS

(WHISTLES) Bet she buys a nice bike.

ALEX TREBEK (V/O)  
 Next week it's Junior Jeopardy,  
 from Washington, D.C. If you live  
 in the D.C. area and you'd like to  
 be a contestant, phone us at this  
 number.

MARCUS'S EYES LIGHT UP. HE RUNS OUT.

MARCUS  
 T.J., come back! I was only  
 kidding! I've got a proposition  
 for you!

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 3

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)  
 (T.J., Floyd, Marcus, Yvette)

THE NEXT NIGHT. T.J. ENTERS FROM THE LIVING ROOM IN A SUIT, WITH  
 A POLKA-DOT BOW TIE AND GLASSES. MARCUS ENTERS, RUNNING A LINT  
 ROLLER OVER HIM.

T.J.  
 Why've I gotta wear this? I look  
 like Little Stevie Wonder.

MARCUS  
 Everyone knows smart guys wear bow  
 ties and glasses. That's why  
 people enjoy beating them up so  
 much. Show me your biggest  
 Jeopardy smile.

T.J. SMILES.

MARCUS (CONT'D)  
 Hold still, you've still got some  
 dinner in there.

MARCUS PUTS THE LINT ROLLER IN T.J.'S MOUTH. T.J. COUGHS AND  
 SPITS.

T.J.  
 What do I need a manager for,  
 anyway?

MARCUS

Are you kidding? This audition's just the beginning; I'm gonna take you all the way. If you do good I might even bring you back.

MARCUS AND T.J. SNIFF THE AIR.

T.J.

What's that nasty smell?

YVETTE ENTERS, LOOKING TIRED.

MARCUS

Where have you been?

YVETTE

I've got a job.

MARCUS

Doing what, painting the sewer?

YVETTE

I'm cleaning up at Pies 'N Thighs.

MARCUS

Please tell me we don't eat the part of the chicken that smells like that.

YVETTE

At least I'm making money. How much are you gonna earn this week?

T.J.

Ten percent!

YVETTE

Of what?

T.J.

Of me! I'm going on Jeopardy and Marcus is gonna help me win all kinds of money and women and glory.

YVETTE

T.J., the only way Marcus could help you win on Jeopardy is if he was both of the other contestants.

YVETTE EXITS.

MARCUS

Jealousy is an ugly thing. Okay, we've got your coat, gloves, shoes, money for the bus. Just one thing we still need.

T.J.

What?

FLOYD ENTERS.

MARCUS

Dad's signature on the consent form.

MARCUS SLIDES UP TO HIS DAD.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Dad, just sign this piece of paper and we'll be out of here, you don't have to read it, wow, is that the time?

FLOYD LOOKS AT THE FORM.

FLOYD

You're going on Jeopardy? As what, a prize?

MARCUS

Not me. T.J.

FLOYD

That makes more sense. But I don't know...

MARCUS

I know you're worried about finding the money to put T.J. through college...

FLOYD

("CON ALERT") Uh-huh.

MARCUS

I know how much it's been weighing on your soul, keeping you up

nights, making you an old man before your time. I see those wrinkles around your tired saggy eyes. I feel your pain.

FLOYD

You're gonna be feeling my boot leather in a minute. Get back to Jeopardy.

MARCUS

Eighty percent of the Junior winners' money goes to an education fund to spend as their parents see fit.

FLOYD

And the rest goes to T.J.?

MARCUS

(VAGUELY) Whatever.

T.J.

After I settle my contractual management obligations.

FLOYD LOOKS UP FROM SIGNING.

FLOYD

Pardon me?

MARCUS HUSTLES T.J. TO THE DOOR.

MARCUS

He's just practicing big words for the audition. Well, we're outy!

MARCUS GRABS THE SIGNED PERMISSION SLIP AND HUSTLES T.J. OUT THE DOOR.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 4

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY (DAY 3)  
(T.J., Marcus, Yvette, Mrs. Dowling, Craig, Toni, Cheerleaders, Extras)

THE NEXT DAY AFTER CLASS. A CLUSTER OF KIDS GATHERS AROUND T.J. AND MARCUS.

MARCUS

... then the guy asks "What's the biggest city in Turkey?" and T.J. says "Istanbul, formerly Constantinople but which the Romans called Byzantium, and the only major city that sits on two continents." The guy says forget the questionnaire... you're on the show!

THE KIDS DISPERSE IN A HAZE OF HIGH-SPIRITED GOODWILL AS MRS. DOWLING CROSSES OVER.

MRS. DOWLING

T.J., I've given your class permission to come to the studio Friday to watch you win. I want you to know we're all very proud of you.

MARCUS

You know, I'm his manager.

MRS. DOWLING

Yes. We're still proud of him.

MRS. DOWLING EXITS. CRAIG WALKS OVER.

CRAIG

Heard you found a way to raise the cash.

MARCUS

(COCKY) You could say that. In fact, it's a pity you only have one bike. I think I should really have two. One just to ride to school and the other one just to ride home again.

T.J.

Technically, that would only work once.

MARCUS

Listen, Craig, whaddya say we raise

the price to seventeen hundred, and you give me the keys today? I'll pay you when he wins.

CRAIG

Supposes he loses. How do I get my money?

MARCUS

Money? (TO T.J.) Tell the man a little something about money.

T.J.

What kind? Dollars, Pounds, yen, the Nigerian naira, the Brazilian cruzeiro, the Polish zloty, the escudo, the quetzal, the Mongolian tughrik...

CRAIG

(IMPRESSED) Take the keys. You can pay me next week.

CRAIG HANDS MARCUS THE KEYS AND HIS HELMET. MARCUS CAN'T BELIEVE HIS LUCK. TWO CUTE CHEERLEADERS IN UNIFORM WALK OVER.

CHEERLEADER 1

Hey, good-looking.

MARCUS

Ladies!

CHEERLEADER 1

Not you. T.J. (PUSHING PAST MARCUS) We heard what you're going to do and we think it's wonderful!

CHEERLEADER 2

We wrote a special cheer in your honor. We'd be thrilled if you'd come to the gym and watch us practice it.

CHEERLEADER 1

It needs a lot of work because there's lots of bending and shaking.

THEY EACH TAKE ONE OF HIS ARMS.

T.J.

It doesn't get much better than  
this.

THEY WALK HIM OFF. MARCUS IS TEMPORARILY SET-BACK, THEN HE SPOTS  
YVETTE AT HER LOCKER WITH TONI. HE CROSSES OVER, DANGLING HIS  
NEW KEYS.

MARCUS

Need a ride to work? You've been  
there a whole week now, what are  
you, eleven bucks closer to that  
coat?

TONI

At least she's earning her own  
money, not piggybacking on someone  
else.

MARCUS

Hey, you think Lee Iacocca ever  
built a car? Ever see Don King  
take a punch? Smart people don't  
work. They get other people to  
work for them.

MARCUS WALKS OFF, TWIRLING THE KEYS. YVETTE AND TONI WATCH HIM  
GO.

YVETTE

He's gonna come home real soon and  
lay that swelled head on a  
pillowcase full of chicken  
stomachs.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 5

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)  
(T.J., Floyd, Marcus, Yvette)

(THAT NIGHT. STACKS OF BOOKS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL STUFF SET OUT  
AROUND KITCHEN: MAPS ON THE FRIDGE, A GLOBE. MARCUS DOES THE  
DISHES, FLOYD TALLIES SOMETHING ON A SHEET.)

FLOYD

Okay, I've tallied your score and

it points to a definite strategy.  
 (A BIG STACK OF BOOKS) You're  
 strong on history, science,  
 literature, aerodynamics,  
 electronics, languages, geography,  
 and Spiderman.

HE INDICATES TWO SMALL BOOKS.

FLOYD (CONT'D)  
 But you're disturbingly weak on  
 deep sea fishing lures and  
 Renaissance comedians.

MARCUS  
 Dad, they're never going to ask  
 what was Charles the Second's  
 favorite joke.

FLOYD  
 You never know.

YVETTE ENTERS.

FLOYD (CONT'D)  
 You're home early.

MARCUS  
 Someone steal your beak scissors?

YVETTE  
 (SHOOTS MARCUS A LOOK) Someone  
 booked the restaurant for a private  
 party, I'm going in early to clean  
 up. (TO T.J.) Big day tomorrow,  
 are you ready?

T.J.  
 (WITH MOVES) I'm better than  
 ready. I'm the Cranium King, the  
 Sultan of Smart, I'm the Master  
 Fact Blaster. I'm unbeatable,  
 untoppable, unstoppable. I'm the  
 Man with the Mind, in the zone all  
 alone, my brain is on *fire*!

HE ENDS WITH A DRAMATIC POSE. FLOYD STARES AT HIM. MARCUS  
 EXPLAINS:

MARCUS

A little thing I taught him for his post-victory interview with Alex.

FLOYD

T.J., you're smart but you're not infallible. Like the man said, "Chance favors the prepared mind." Let's go through those Renaissance comedians one more time. (OPENING BOOK) Sir Pansy Wetterton...

MARCUS SLIPS A LOOK AT HIS WATCH.

MARCUS

Dad, T.J.'s tired, his brain feels warm. I think I should take him out for some fresh air. Then I'll take over the studying.

FLOYD

Okay but don't keep him out late. He needs to be rested up for tomorrow.

MARCUS

What kind of manager would I be if I didn't take care of my man?

FLIP TO:

ACT ONE

SCENE 6

INT. PIES 'N THIGHS - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)  
(T.J., Marcus, Cheerleaders, Pretty Girls, Extras)

AN HOUR LATER. TIGHT ON MARCUS.

MARCUS

Let's party all night!

WIDER: MARCUS IS STANDING ON A CHAIR IN PIES 'N THIGHS -- THERE'S A "GO T.J!" BANNER HANGING FROM THE CEILING AND A DOZEN CHEERING TEENS. THE CHEERLEADERS ARE FAWNING OVER T.J., WHO HAS EVERY KIND OF FOOD SET OUT IN FRONT OF HIM.

MUSIC: PARTY STUFF WINDS UP

MARCUS STEPS DOWN AND TURNS TO A PRETTY GIRL.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Yo! Marcus Henderson. I handle  
him! Have a chicken rib!

HE OFFERS HER A TINY RIB. SHE LOOKS AT HIM LIKE HE'S STUPID AND  
WALKS AWAY.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

Hope those shoes are comfortable,  
cos you're walking home. (TO T.J.)  
This is only the beginning, kid!  
We've got Wheel Of Fortune, Price  
Is Right... Thinking For Dollars.  
We're gonna be rich and famous!  
Anything you want tonight, it's on  
me!

T.J.

I'll take two triple milkshakes for  
a hundred, Alex!

T.J. SUCKS ON TWO MILKSHAKE STRAWS AND PICKS UP A PIZZA SLICE AND  
A CHICKEN LEG. THE TWO CUTE CHEERLEADERS DO A CHEER:

CHEERLEADERS

T.J, T.J, Go Go Go!  
Ain't no fact that he don't know!  
Yaaaaaaaay T.J.!

ON THE GENERAL MERRIMENT, WE FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

SCENE 7

FADE IN:

INT. PIES 'N THIGHS - DAY (DAY 4)  
(Yvette, Mr. Bilsky)

EARLY THE NEXT MORNING. YVETTE FINISHES PUTTING TRASH IN 4  
GARBAGE BAGS. HER MANAGER, MR. BILSKY, COMES OVER.

YVETTE

I'm finished. (THE 4 BAGS:) We've  
got dry stuff, sticky stuff, wet

stuff... and stuff even the X-Files  
couldn't identify.

MR. BILSKY

Thanks, Yvette, you're a lifesaver.  
In fact, I was telling your brother  
you'd make a great Assistant  
Manager.

YVETTE

Marcus was in here? Figures. Was  
he showing off his bike?

MR. BILSKY

I'm talking about your other  
brother, the little guy -- the  
Sultan of Smart.

YVETTE

T.J. was here?

MR. BILSKY

Yeah, last night. This was his  
party.

HE PICKS UP THE CRUMPLED "GO T.J!" BANNER.

MR. BILSKY (CONT'D)

Man, I never saw a little guy eat  
so much. Two pizzas, six quarter-  
chickens, three slices of pie. Not  
to mention the nachos, the  
milkshakes, the cheese sauce, the  
nuggets...

YVETTE

(HORRIFIED) He ate the nuggets?

YVETTE RUSHES OUT. MR. BILSKY CALLS AFTER HER, APOLOGETICALLY:

MR. BILSKY

I didn't know he was your brother  
when I sold them to him!

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 8

INT. JEOPARDY SET - DAY (DAY 4)  
 (T.J., Floyd, Marcus)

EMPTY SHOW SET, WITH WORK LIGHTS. 3 PODIUMS, GAME BOARD. FLOYD WALKS ON FROM THE WINGS.

FLOYD  
 There it is. Your college fund.

HE LOOKS AROUND AND SEES T.J. BEHIND HIM.

FLOYD (CONT'D)  
 Whatcha doing hiding in the wings?

T.J. WADDLES ON FROM THE WINGS, QUITE ILL, WALKING SLOWLY TO AVOID BEING SICK.

T.J.  
 Don't say "wings."

FLOYD  
 Come here, champ.

FLOYD RUBS T.J. WARMLY AGAINST HIM. T.J. WOBBLES LIKE AN INFLATABLE PUNCHING-BAG.

FLOYD (CONT'D)  
 Did your brother go over Ancient Greece with you last night?

T.J. FIGHTS THE URGE TO THROW UP.

T.J.  
 Yeah, there was a whole lot of ancient grease. You know, we didn't exactly study all night...

FLOYD  
 Of course not, you needed your rest. I mean, you and Marcus have been out late every night at the library right?

BEFORE T.J. CAN ANSWER, MARCUS ENTERS IN FATIGUED BIKER LEATHERS -- STUDDERED PANTS, JACKET, GOGGLES, GLOVES, A LONG SCARF, THE WHOLE "WILD ONE" LOOK.

MARCUS  
 Sorry I'm late, I was chaining my

hog to a dumpster.

FLOYD

Is that where you found that outfit?

MARCUS

You've gotta pay extra to get it worn-in like this. Otherwise, you squeak. Can I talk to my man alone?

FLOYD

Don't put any more facts in him, he looks about full up.

FLOYD WANDERS OVER TO LOOK AT THE GAME BOARD. MARCUS TAKES T.J. ASIDE.

MARCUS

Our whole class is in the green room. You've gotta win for them. You've gotta win for the school. But most of all you've gotta win thirty-seven thousand, eight hundred dollars for me.

T.J.

Thirty-seven thousand? You said the bike was seventeen hundred!

MARCUS

Yeah, but the outfit ran me another five. Plus I think I might look good with a tooth diamond.

MARCUS CHECKS HIS SMILE IN HIS HELMET REFLECTION AND T.J. LOOKS QUEASY, AS WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 9

INT. GREEN ROOM - DAY (DAY 4)  
(Mrs. Dowling, Cheerleaders, Class)

AN HOUR LATER. T.J.'S CLASS GATHERS EXCITEDLY AROUND THE MONITOR

IN THE GREEN ROOM.

CHEERLEADERS

T.J., T.J., he's our man!  
If he can't think it, no one can!  
Go T.J.!

CLASS CHEERS. MRS. DOWLING QUIETS THEM DOWN.

MRS. DOWLING

This is a big day for our school;  
comport yourselves accordingly.  
And if Mr. Trebek speaks to any of  
you, be polite and well-spoken, and  
tell him in a loud clear voice that  
I'm single and definitely  
available.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 10

INT. JEOPARDY SET - DAY (DAY 4)  
(T.J., Alex Trebek, Amy, Bickle)

AT THE PODIUMS. ALEX TREBEK SPEAKS TO THE THREE KIDS: T.J.,  
AMY, AND BICKLE.

ALEX

Good luck all of you. Oh and  
T.J... please thank your Principal  
for the lovely flowers and  
chocolates and the invitation to  
Club Med.

ALEX WALKS TO HIS PLACE BY THE GAME BOARD. T.J. WOBBLES A  
LITTLE. AMY NOTICES.

AMY

Are you okay? You're look like  
you're gonna vomit... from the  
Latin, *Vomitus*.

T.J.

I'm a little dizzy. I've just  
gotta hold onto something.

T.J. TEETERS AND SQUEEZES HIS BUZZER BUTTON.

SFX: BUZZ! BUZZ!

ALEX LOOKS UP. T.J. SMILES WEAKLY.

T.J. (CONT'D)  
Just testing.

AMY  
If you do toss your plums, do it  
that way. This is a new dress.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 11

INT. GREEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS (DAY 4)  
(Floyd, Marcus, Mrs. Dowling, Bickle's Dad, Amy's Mom, Class)

MUSIC: "JEOPARDY THEME"

MARCUS AND FLOYD WATCH THE MONITOR WITH T.J.'S CLASSMATES AND  
MRS. DOWLING. AMY'S MOM AND BICKLE'S DAD BRAG TO FLOYD:

BICKLE'S DAD  
Bickle wrote his first sonata at  
the age of seven.

AMY'S MOM  
Amy was a published author at six.

FLOYD  
(WHISPERS TO MARCUS) Say something  
impressive.

MARCUS  
(LOUDLY) I hear T.J.'s brother has  
a brand new motorbike.

ON FLOYD'S REACTION,

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

## SCENE 12

INT. JEOPARDY SET - DAY (DAY 4)  
 (T.J., Alex Trebek, Amy, Bickle)

A MINUTE LATER -- THE GAME IS UNDERWAY.

ALEX  
 Let's have a look at the categories  
 for the first round.

ANGLE: THE ANSWER BOARD AS THE CATEGORIES ARE REVEALED.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
 Authors, Landlocked Countries,  
 Inventors, Who Said It, On Four  
 Legs...

CUT TO:

## ACT TWO

## SCENE 13

INT. GREEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS (DAY 4)  
 (Floyd, Marcus, Mrs. Dowling, Amy's Mom, Bickle's Dad, Class)

EVERYONE STARES AT FLOYD AND MARCUS, WHO CHANT, WITH THEIR  
 FINGERS CROSSED...

FLOYD & MARCUS  
 No deep sea-fishing, no deep-sea  
 fishing...

CUT TO:

## ACT TWO

## SCENE 14

INT. JEOPARDY SET - CONTINUOUS - (DAY 4)  
 (T.J., Alex Trebek, Amy, Bickle)

ALEX READS THE LAST CATEGORY:

ALEX

...and lastly... Gourmet Foods.

T.J. GAGS AND PUTS A HAND TO HIS MOUTH.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
Ladies First; Amy picks the first  
topic.

AMY  
(ALL CHARM) Thank you, Alex. I'll  
take Landlocked Countries for one  
hundred.

ANGLE: ANSWER BOARD.

ALEX  
"Ulan Bator is the capital of this  
landlocked nation in Asia."

T.J. BUZZES IN.

ALEX (CONT'D)  
T.J.?

T.J.  
What is Mongolia?

ALEX  
Correct, and T.J. takes the lead.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 15

INT. GREEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS (DAY 4)  
(Floyd, Marcus, Yvette, Mrs. Dowling, Amy's Mom, Bickle's Dad,  
Class)

THE ROOM ERUPTS IN CELEBRATION. MRS. DOWLING DOES A VICTORY  
DANCE. AMY AND BICKLE'S PARENTS ARE SUBDUED. FLOYD TURNS TO  
BICKLE'S DAD:

FLOYD  
I guess when he was writing that  
sonata, Mongolia didn't come up  
much.

YVETTE RUNS IN.

MARCUS

You missed it! I just made ten dollars in five seconds! KA-CHINGG!

YVETTE

Get out of my way. Dad, there's something I've got to tell you...

MARCUS

Whoa whoa, first... I want to know why you were late.

YVETTE

You mean apart from me spending two hours cleaning up the mess you and your friends made last night?

MARCUS

Uh, never mind that. This is family, there is no excuse for you not being here for your brother!

YVETTE

Plus, there was a trash truck in the alley stopping traffic while it emptied a dumpster.

MARCUS

What? The one chained to my bike?

MARCUS SCREAMS AND RUNS OUT. EVERYBODY "SHUSHES" HIM AS HE EXITS.

FLOYD

What was that about a mess?

YVETTE

T.J. wasn't studying last night. He was out with Marcus, eating his own weight in greasy chicken and pizza.

AMY (V/O)

"Gourmet Food for \$100," please, Alex.

FLOYD

Uh-oh.

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 16

INT. JEOPARDY - CONTINUOUS (DAY 4)  
(T.J., Alex Trebek, Amy, Bickle)

10 MINUTES LATER. AMY HAS \$2,300. T.J. HAS \$2,400. BICKLE HAS \$100.

ALEX

"These fleshy bivalves can be enjoyed Rockefeller, on the half shell, or deep-fat fried."

SFX: T.J.'S BUZZER

ALEX (CONT'D)

T.J.?

T.J.

(WOOZY) Could we please change to another subject?

ALEX

Nnnno, I'm afraid we can't accept that.

SFX: BUZZER

ALEX (CONT'D)

Amy?

AMY

What are delicious, slippery, slimy (POINTEDLY, TO T.J.)... oysters?

T.J. PUTS A HAND TO HIS MOUTH. AMY'S SCORE JUMPS TO \$2,400 AND T.J.'S DROPS TO \$2,300.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 17

INT. GREEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS (DAY 4)  
 (Floyd, Marcus, Yvette, Mrs. Dowling, AMy's Mom, Bickle's Dad,  
 Class, Amy V/O, Alex V/O)

T.J.'S SUPPORTERS WATCH IN QUIET HORROR.

ALEX (V/O)  
 Right, and Amy moves into the lead.

AMY'S MOM  
 Yes!

ALEX (V/O)  
 Bickle still hanging back, looking  
 for a suitable subject.

BICKLE'S DAD BANGS HIS HEAD REPEATEDLY ON THE WALL. MRS. DOWLING  
 STARES AT THE MONITOR.

MRS. DOWLING  
 Do T.J.'s eyes normally roll back  
 in his head like that?

CHEERLEADERS  
 T.J., T.J, sure looks sick...

EVERYBODY  
 Shut up!!

AMY (V/O)  
 "Gourmet Food for 400," Alex.

FLOYD  
 No, no, a different subject!

SFX: "DAILY DOUBLE" SOUND

ALEX (V/O)  
 And it's our first Daily Double!

MARCUS WALKS IN. HE'S SHATTERED, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS THE  
 MOTORBIKE HANDLEBARS HE'S HOLDING, WHICH ARE TWISTED INTO A  
 CHROME PRETZEL.

MARCUS  
 My bike! My beautiful beautiful  
 bike!

THE MIRROR FALLS OFF THE TWISTED HANDLEBARS.

MARCUS (CONT'D)

My beautiful mirror! I spent all my Manager's fees on a pile of scrap metal! I've never been so unhappy!

FLOYD

(GRIM) Just wait about twenty seconds.

MARCUS LOOKS UP AT THE TV MONITOR AND SQUINTS.

MARCUS

Who's that green kid?

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 18

INT. JEOPARDY SET - CONTINUOUS - (DAY 4)  
(T.J., Alex Trebek, Amy, Bickle)

T.J. IS SWAYING FROM SIDE TO SIDE.

ALEX

"The Scottish prepare this delicacy by boiling heart, liver and minced suet inside a calf's stomach."

SFX: BUZZER

ALEX (CONT'D)

T.J.?

T.J. CAN ONLY MANAGE A BURP.

ALEX (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, we need that in the form of a question.

CUT TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 19

INT. GREEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS - (DAY 4)  
 (T.J. V/O, Floyd, Marcus, Yvette, Mrs. Dowling, Alex V/O, Class,  
 Amy's Mom, Bickle's Dad)

EVERYONE AGONIZES WITH T.J. AS HE STARTS MAKING A NEW NOISE; A  
 GURGLING MOANING SOUND.

FLOYD

Oh no. I know that noise.

MARCUS

Oh, please don't.

YVETTE

He made the same noise that  
 Christmas we had to re-wallpaper  
 his bedroom.

ALEX (V/O)

(HELPFULLY) Popular Scottish  
 dish... in a calf's stomach...

FLOYD

No, no, don't repeat it.

MARCUS

He's got the answer! He's opening  
 his mouth!

WE HEAR AN UNMISTAKEABLE SOUND FROM T.J. THE KIDS ALL AVERT  
 THEIR EYES IN SHAME AND HORROR.

MRS. DOWLING

This is a sad day for knowledge.

ALEX (V/O)

Is there a janitor in the house? I  
 think we'd better stop tape.

MARCUS YELLS AT THE SCREEN.

MARCUS

No! Keep going! He's okay! I  
 need that money! Look on the  
 floor! Maybe he spelled out the  
 answer!

AS MARCUS FALLS ON HIS KNEES, SOBBING, HOLDING HIS HANDLEBARS,

WE:

DISSOLVE TO:

ACT TWO

SCENE 20

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT (NIGHT 4)  
(T.J., Floyd, Marcus, Yvette)

THAT NIGHT. FLOYD TELLS-OFF A WHIPPED-LOOKING T.J. AND MARCUS.

FLOYD

I mean, what got into your head?  
Was there even a moment when you  
stopped and said, I should be  
thinking about protecting my  
brother, not about partying and  
showing off?

MARCUS

Dad's really disappointed in you,  
T.J.

FLOYD

Not him, you.

T.J.

It was my fault. I let my brains  
go to my head.

FLOYD

I wish you'd let some of them go to  
*his* head. No matter how talented  
you are, if you don't give  
something your best effort, you're  
wasting your time. Yvette got a  
tough job nobody wanted and stuck  
with it till she earned the money  
for her coat.

YVETTE ENTERS, SHOWING OFF HER NEW COAT.

YVETTE

Hello gentlemen. Would anyone care  
to join me for a walk in the nice  
cold air? Marcus, you could ride  
alongside me on your big heap of

crushed metal.

MARCUS

(MOANS) I've got no bike, and no cash to pay for the bike I don't got. (TO T.J.) You're supposed to be smart. What do I do?

T.J.

Hmmm, "Money Problems" for seventeen hundred. And the question is, "What is a paper hat and loss of all dignity?"

AS MARCUS DROPS HIS HEAD INTO HIS HANDS, WE:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

TAG

FADE IN:

INT. PIES 'N THIGHS - NIGHT (NIGHT 4)  
(T.J., Floyd, Marcus, Yvette, extras)

YVETTE LEANS OVER A TABLE IN HER NEW ASSISTANT MANAGER'S UNIFORM.

YVETTE

Hi, I'm the Assistant Manager, is everything fine with your meal?

REVEAL: SHE'S TALKING TO HER DAD, WHO'S EATING, AND T.J. WHO ISN'T.

T.J.

(BAD MEMORIES) I'll just suck on this toothpick, thank you.

FLOYD

Congratulations on the promotion and the raise. You worked hard for this.

YVETTE

I hate to disagree with you Dad, but a wise man once said "Smart people don't work, they get other

people to work for them." Hey mop  
jockey! Chicken spill under table  
four!

MARCUS ENTERS IN A JANITOR UNIFORM WITH A MOP.

T.J.

Don't feel bad, Marcus. With your  
salary, after taxes, I calculate  
you'll pay off your debt in only  
five hundred and seventy hours and  
five minutes.

MARCUS MOPS AND SUFFERS.

T.J. (CONT'D)

(THE TABLE) Oh, and there's some  
gum under here.

FADE OUT:

THE END