

(Name of Show)

("Title of Episode")

by

(Name of First Writer)

(Based on, If Any)

Revisions by

(Names of Subsequent Writers,  
in Order of Work Performed)

Current Revisions by  
(Current Writer, date)

Name (of company, if applicable)

Address

Phone Number

I'M WITH STUPID

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. EVANSTON POLICE STATION - DAY - DAY 1

This modern building is located in Evanston, Illinois, a densely populated suburb north of Chicago, bordered on the east by Lake Michigan. It's cold. That dry, grey, kind of cold where if you were waiting at a bus stop with a friend, you'd say, "It's fucking cold, dude."

INT. EVANSTON POLICE STATION - DAY

The lobby is dominated by a long, raised police desk. We see OFFICERS EXITING, bundled up for the cold. OTHER OFFICERS ENTER, relieved to be inside the warm building. OFFICER CAVELLO, a female cop in her 20's, is at the police desk.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hey!

Officer Cavello looks around. There's no one there.

VOICE (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Down here!

Officer Cavello leans over the raised desk and sees a MAN IN A WHEELCHAIR looking up at her. He's wearing a winter coat and a Chicago Bears knit ski hat. This is PAUL, (20's-30's) He's a pinched, nebbishy looking guy, but makes up for it by his lack of charm and personality.

PAUL

I called twice about a home invasion and no one ever came out.  
My name is Paul van Devere. I live in Harmony Court.

SERGEANT BEACHAM (late 30's) passes by carrying a coffee mug. He's got five years before he gets the magic twenty and he can move to Florida and fish for bonefish, if he doesn't get fired for excessive force or just being a dick.

OFFICER CAVELLO

Sergeant Beacham, did we get a home invasion call from Harmony Court?

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
It's bogus. This little  
handicapped nerd calls in false  
reports at least twice a week just  
to have someone to talk to.

Officer Cavello subtly indicates "He's down there."

SERGEANT BEACHAM (CONT'D)  
The guy's pathetic. If he calls  
back, tell him someone's on the  
way. Maybe he'll get it through  
his thick loser skull that --

Cavello blatantly points over the desk. Sergeant Beacham  
leans over, sees Paul, then straightens up.

SERGEANT BEACHAM (CONT'D)  
Get rid of him.

OFFICER CAVELLO  
Really? Just send him away? He's  
got no friends, he's in the chair,  
that Bears hat... it's so sad.

PAUL (O.S.)  
You people realize you're not in a  
soundproof booth, don't you?

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
(irritated)  
Alright, Cavello. Make yourself  
useful and get me some coffee.

OFFICER CAVELLO takes Beacham's coffee mug and EXITS. A HALF FROZEN HOMELESS GUY ENTERS. This is SHELDON, (30's) a big lumbering guy with an open, friendly face and demeanor to match. He hangs back, overhearing Sergeant Beacham dealing with Paul.

SERGEANT BEACHAM (CONT'D)  
Okay, Paul. What's the story  
today.

PAUL  
Like I told you. A large man in a  
ski mask came crashing through my  
window.

EXT. OUTSIDE PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY - HOURS EARLIER

We see Paul's window being broken out from the inside.

INT. EVANSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT SUB-STATION - CONTINUOUS

PAUL

I scared him off but he swore he'd  
kill me if I went to the police.  
Maybe you should put an officer  
outside my door for a few days.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

I'm not sending any more of my guys  
over just to keep you company,  
Paul. Get yourself a friend, for  
Chrissake! That place you live,  
that Harmony Court. It's crawling  
with disabled people like you --

PAUL

I'm not "disabled". "Disabled"  
sounds like I'm broken. It's  
insulting.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Would you people pick something and  
stick to it! We've been through  
"crippled", "retarded",  
"handicapped", "physically  
challenged". What the hell is it  
now?

PAUL

I prefer "differently abled."

SERGEANT BEACHAM

I'm not saying that. It's stupid.  
Go home, Paul.

PAUL

Sergeant Beacham, I had to get into  
my winter clothes, which takes a  
lot of time and effort in my case,  
then burn half my battery power to  
come here because you wouldn't do  
your job. I want to file a  
complaint. If for no other reason  
than when this man comes back and  
murders me in my bed, my legal  
representatives can use it as  
evidence when they sue you and the  
Evanston Police Department for  
negligence.

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
(weary)  
Wait over there.

SHELDON APPROACHES Sergeant Beacham as PAUL ROLLS A FEW FEET AWAY, within earshot Sheldon and Sergeant Beacham.

SHELDON  
Hi, Sheldon Rutkowski. How are you today, sir? Listen, um --

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
No.

SHELDON  
No?

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
No.

SHELDON  
I haven't said anything.

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
No. You can't stay in a cell tonight.

SHELDON  
How did, uh...?

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
You just tried to scam a cell at the Sheridan Station, didn't you?  
(off Sheldon's guilty look)

They told me you were on your way. After you leave here, I'm going to call the Addison Station. And so on and so forth until you get to Lake Michigan, which I hope you jump into.

SHELDON  
Come on. It's freezing out there. I'm desperate.

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
Try the Lakeview Shelter.

SHELDON  
Mmmmm. Been there. Ever try sleeping next to a schizophrenic?  
(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

One personality starts snoring and another one starts screaming for it to shut up, which wakes up all the other personalities and they take sides. Didn't sleep a wink.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Personally, I don't care where you go. But unless you've committed a crime, you're not getting a cell.

SHELDON

Just out of curiosity, what's grabbing a purse go for? Just an attempt, I'm saying --

SERGEANT BEACHAM

I want you to understand this. I don't care if I catch you banging a hooker in a stolen Porsche with a crack pipe hanging out of your mouth. You're not spending the night in my jail.

SHELDON

Don't take this the wrong way, sir, but why are you being such a dick?

SERGEANT BEACHAM

I'll tell you why. After the Addison Station called, I ran your name through the computer. You're a deadbeat dad, Sheldon. And I can't stand deadbeat dads.

SHELDON

There is an explanation for that, but maybe you should take me into custody until we get it sorted out.

SERGEANT BEACHAM

Get out of here!

SHELDON EXITS as OFFICER CAVELLO ENTERS and hands Sergeant Beacham his coffee.

SERGEANT BEACHAM (CONT'D)

Go ahead and write up that lunatic's home invasion, then toss it. It's pure fantasyland.

OFFICER CAVELLO

Okay. What's the guys name again?

PAUL (O.S.)  
Paul. Van. DEVERE.

As Beacham and Cavello lean over the desk and see Paul...

EXT. ESTABLISHING SHOT OF HARMONY COURT - DAY - DAY 1

Harmony Court is a gated, privately owned and funded assisted living community designed specifically for people with mental and physical disabilities. There are wide walkways to accommodate wheelchairs. Ramps galore and generous cutouts on every curb. Raised picnic tables with no benches to allow wheelchair users to fit their legs under. A swimming pool, sloped at one end for easy entry and exit. Water fountains are lower. A FEW RESIDENTS are out and about. MOST IN WHEELCHAIRS. SOME WEARING PROSTHETIC LIMBS. A BLIND COUPLE makes their along the walkway.

EXT. HARMONY COURT - COURTYARD - DAY - DAY 1

SID, (30's) African American, paraplegic wheelchair user, good looking, cool, and charismatic, and GRAHAM, (30's), Sid's sidekick and fellow instigator, also a wheelchair user with cerebral palsy, and speaks via a voice machine, are sitting at one of the high picnic tables playing blackjack. They are bundled up for the cold.

SID  
Okay, Graham. What you gonna do?

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)  
Hit. Me.

Sid puts a card down and flips Graham's cards over.

SID  
Busted.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)  
Ten. Showing. Should. Have.  
Stuck.

SID  
Tell me this, man. If you have to program everything into that machine, why do you always have the right thing to say no matter what the conversation?

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)  
Just. Lucky. I. Guess.

SID

Alright, I'll go with that, then.  
Gimme some.

Sid attempts a fist bump, but Graham's fist is an unpredictable moving target that's hard to hit.

SID (CONT'D)

Damn. You been drinking Red Bull?

LEAH and ANDREW ENTER. LEAH, (20's-30's), wheelchair user, calender girl hot, with a huge heart. Especially for ANDREW, (20's), Asperger's Syndrome. A younger Rainman minus the savant. Airplanes are his obsession and he always wears some article of airplane related clothing. Today it's a trucker's cap with a picture of a WWII Hellcat fighter plane on it. Whenever you see Leah, ANDREW is not far behind. Leah and ANDREW are laden with bags from a party supply store.

LEAH

Are you crazy? I can't believe  
you're out here playing cards.  
It's freezing.

SID

You know my man Graham can't stand  
being inside. Should have been a  
cowboy or something.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)

No. Allergic. To. Horses.

LEAH

Must drive you crazy having that  
one little thing standing between  
you and a life in the rodeo.

SID

(to Leah)

What you got in the bags?

LEAH

Went shopping for Andrew's birthday  
party. We got a lot of cool  
airplane stuff didn't we, sweetie?

ANDREW

Yes. We did. We saw a Boeing 747-  
400ER which has Pratt and Whitney  
engines. It's maximum fuel  
capacity is 63,705 U.S. gallons --

SID

I definitely want to hear more about that, Andrew, but listen. I want to see you getting out of control tonight at your party. I want to see you with a fine little beezy getting ignorant, okay?

A beat. Andrew looks up at the sky.

SID (CONT'D)

(to Leah, re: Andrew)

I lost him. What happened?

LEAH

It's an Asperger's thing. He doesn't get concepts. Like "getting ignorant" to him means you actually want him to be an idiot.

SID

Kinda strange isn't it?

LEAH

To him, you're strange.

JEAN ENTERS with her very attractive niece, DEBBIE. Jean (50's) is the manager and self appointed dictator of Harmony Court. She is a cold, no nonsense woman with no social life, sexually repressed, and is uncomfortable with feelings and sentimentality. On the contrary, Debbie (Southern, early 20's) is friendly, warm interested in the tenants, and has a penchant for putting her foot in her mouth.

DEBBIE

(to group)

Hey, everybody! Guess who's back!

The group ad libs surprised greetings to Debbie.

SID

(re: Debbie)

I thought you were gone for good.

JEAN

Debbie is going back to Northwestern for a graduate degree.

DEBBIE

So, I'm going to be living here with Aunt Jean again.

LEAH  
Graduate school? For P.E.?

DEBBIE  
(correcting her)  
*Human Science.* With an emphasis on kinesiology. The human body is just so fascinating. We take it for granted but just doing this...  
(raises foot)  
Is a little miracle.

There is an awkward beat as she realizes most of her audience can't move their legs. She puts her foot back down.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)  
It's actually not that big a deal.

LEAH  
(to Jean)  
So, when can I get the key to the rec room? I want to set up for Andrew's birthday party.

JEAN  
When you fill out the request form.

DEBBIE  
Hey, happy birthday, Andrew!

ANDREW  
Here's a watch I made.

Andrew offers Jean and Debbie a rubber band. Debbie takes hers and puts it on her left wrist.

DEBBIE  
Thank you. I love it.

Jean just holds hers.

LEAH  
(to Jean)  
I handed you my request form last week.

JEAN  
You didn't fill in a time.

ANDREW  
(to Jean, re: rubber band)  
You wear it if you're in the Andrew Club.

LEAH  
(to Jean)  
Yes, I did. I put down 6 o'clock -  
til.

ANDREW  
(to Jean, re: rubber band)  
You wear it if you're in the Andrew  
Club.

JEAN  
(to ANDREW, distracted)  
What?  
(then, to Leah)  
"Til" is not a time. "Til" could  
mean anything.

LEAH  
Oh, my god, Jean. Eleven, okay?  
Til eleven o'clock.

ANDREW  
(to Jean, re: rubber band)  
You wear it if you're in the Andrew  
Club.

JEAN  
(to Andrew, frustrated)  
What?!

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)  
Put. It. On. And. He'll. Stop.

Jean puts the rubber band on her right wrist.

JEAN  
(to Leah)  
It can't be eleven. No parties in  
the rec room after ten, you know  
that.

LEAH  
Alright, ten! And why did you wait  
until now to tell me this?!

JEAN  
It's not my job to chase you down.

LEAH  
(re: legs)  
Not that hard, Jean.

JEAN

I'm sorry if you're frustrated with  
me, Leah. The board makes the  
rules I just --

ANDREW

(to, Jean indicating left  
wrist)

No! This one! This one!

JEAN

Oh, for God's sake --  
(fast, to Leah)  
When you fill out the request form  
properly, I'll give you the key.

JEAN EXITS quickly.

DEBBIE

Great to see you guys!

DEBBIE EXITS, following Jean.

SID

Andrew, you are on fire today.

ANDREW frowns, then quickly walks away.

SID (CONT'D)

No. He does not really think he's  
on fire.

LEAH

What can I say? He didn't get the  
handbook.

EXT. OUTSIDE POLICE SUB-STATION - DAY

Sheldon stands on the sidewalk. A YOUNG COUPLE PASSES BY.

SHELDON

Spare some change.

They ignore him. Sheldon spots PAUL EXITING the police  
station and wheeling away.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey, buddy!

Paul ignores Sheldon and keeps going.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - MOMENTS LATER

Paul wheels his chair expertly down the sidewalk, dodging pedestrians, garbage cans, post office boxes, etc. Sheldon catches up to Paul at an intersection.

SHELDON

Hey! Hang on a second.

Paul reaches for the crossing button. Sheldon hits it for him.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

It's Paul, right? I'm Sheldon. I saw you in the police station. I heard you talking to the Sergeant. I was thinking maybe we could help each other out.

PAUL

I don't need any help.

SHELDON

Well, it sounded to me like you could use some company and I could use a warm place for the night so --

PAUL

I have no idea what you're talking about. Besides, I'm very particular about who I allow into my apartment. I'm a clean freak, and I wouldn't be able to sleep thinking about what must be shedding from your body.

SHELDON

Oh. Because I'm a street person, you just assume I'm dirty? That's a stereotype. And you, of all people should know about stereotyping. Shame on you.

PAUL

I'm not assuming anything. I could scratch my name in the dirt on your hand.

SHELDON

Well, what do you expect? I've been living under a goddam bridge for two days!

(then)

(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Look, Paul. Let's quit farting around. It's freezing. I'll die out here. And I think maybe you're at least a little interested in trying it out.

PAUL

(scoffs)

What makes you think that?

SHELDON

Because the crossing light came and went and you're still talking to me.

PAUL

(beat)

Can you fix things?

SHELDON

Oh, yeah. Absolutely. I'm a whiz.

PAUL

I've got a window that needs boarding up. If I'm satisfied with the work, we'll talk about you staying the night.

SHELDON

Deal!

Sheldon holds out his hand. Paul doesn't take it.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

I'll need you to push my chair.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Push? That thing was going, like, fifty a minute ago.

PAUL

I have to conserve my battery.  
It's not good to run them down.

Sheldon shrugs, then gets behind the chair and starts pushing. It's heavy. Paul settles back like royalty and enjoys the ride.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. HARMONY COURT - LATER

Sheldon pushes Paul. He stops to catch his breath.

PAUL

You're stopping again? We're almost there.

SHELDON

Define "almost there" because according to you "just up the street" is half a mile.

A GUY WITH CEREBRAL PALSY passes by on crutches. He wears a White Sox baseball jacket.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(sotto)

What's wrong with him?

PAUL

He's a White Sox fan.

SHELDON

No, I mean --

PAUL

I don't know what's wrong with him. Just because I'm a wheel chair user doesn't mean I'm an expert on every disability.

SHELDON

So... everyone who lives here has to have... I mean they have to be... well, you know... like you?

PAUL

Painfully handsome? No. They just have to be physically or mentally disabled.

PAUL spots JEAN EXITING the MANAGER'S OFFICE, then turning away from them to lock the door. She's carrying a computer printout folded over several times.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
(to Sheldon, pointing)  
My apartment is in that building.  
Hide in the stairwell and I'll meet  
you there.

SHELDON  
Hide? Why?

PAUL  
Just go! I'll be right there!

SHELDON HURRIES AWAY and ENTERS an apartment building. Paul tries to cruise past Jean as she approaches.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Morning, Jean.

JEAN  
Wait a minute. I was just coming to see you. I got another complaint from Mr. Reyes this morning. He said you've been turning your television on at 5 a.m. and waking him up. He thinks your doing it on purpose.

PAUL  
He's right. If I keep waking him up at five a.m. eventually he'll be too tired to get up and steal my paper.

JEAN  
He's not stealing your paper. I thought we'd settled that.

PAUL  
Just because you believed him and not me doesn't mean it's settled.

JEAN  
I'm not going to have these stupid arguments with you anymore, Paul.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Does that mean I win?

JEAN  
You tell me.

Jean unfolds the computer sheet. It accordions to the ground.

JEAN (CONT'D)

This is the list of people waiting to get into Harmony Court. There's no shortage. Mr. Fellers was the manager before me. He was here when your family left you at the front gate. He was the one who convinced the board to let you stay. Well, your guardian angel left two years ago and that's the day the world stopped revolving around you. I'm not Mr. Fellers. All I care about is running Harmony Court smoothly, efficiently and profitably. If you take up any more of my valuable time with your nonsense, I'll go to the board and have you evicted. From now on I recommend you tread very lightly around me.

JEAN EXITS. PAUL lets her words sink in, then EXITS.

INT. APARTMENT HALLWAY - DAY - LATER

Paul and Sheldon move down the wide hallway toward Paul's apartment.

PAUL

You'll have to stay out of sight.  
You're not exactly supposed to be here.

SHELDON

Why?

PAUL

Have you found in your travels that most people roll out the welcome wagon for vagrants?

As Paul and Sheldon approach the door to Paul's apartment, SID and GRAHAM round the corner and approach Paul and Sheldon.

SID

What's happening, Paul? We've been looking all over for you, baby.

PAUL

(surprised)

Really?

SID

No. Whatcha doing with the  
homeless guy?

PAUL

He's not homeless. He's a friend  
of mine from New York. A writer.  
You wouldn't be familiar with his  
stuff. It's found in books.

SID

No. He's a homeless guy. Me and  
Graham saw him bumming money in  
front of the 31 Flavors yesterday.

(to Sheldon)

I'm Sid and this is Graham. How  
you doing, man?

SHELDON

Good, thanks. I'm Sheldon.

SID

(to Paul)

So you finally went out and got  
yourself a friend, huh? That's  
good. I'm happy for you.

PAUL

Just because I don't hang out in  
your little clique doesn't mean I  
don't have friends. I have plenty  
of friends. My Christmas list  
takes up two three ringed binders.  
One domestic, one international.

SID

My mailbox is right next to yours.  
I've never seen you send out  
Christmas cards. I've never seen  
you get one either.

PAUL

I stopped sending them a few years  
ago. It took me days to address  
all of them. The last thing I need  
is carpal tunnel.

SID

Better not let Jean catch your  
friend around here.

PAUL

She won't unless someone tells.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)  
No. One. Will. Tell.

SHELDON  
(startled by voice box)  
Holy sh --!

SID  
(to Paul)  
Look, you're not exactly the most  
likeable guy around, but we  
wouldn't rat you out to an A.B.

PAUL  
(off Sheldon's look)  
Able Bodied.  
(then, to Sid)  
So you'll keep quiet?

SID  
Hey, I'm just living life to the  
fullest. Minding my own business.

PAUL  
(to Sheldon)  
Come on.

PAUL AND SHELDON EXIT into Paul's apartment.

SID  
Five bucks says Jean finds the  
hobo.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)  
You're. On.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY - LATER

The interior of Paul's apartment is designed for a wheelchair user. The doorways are wider. The counters are lower. Even the doorknobs are easier to get to. Paul's window has been boarded up and Sheldon is wrapping up the power cord to a vacuum cleaner. PAUL ENTERS from the kitchen.

PAUL  
Don't put that away yet. You still  
have to do the bedroom.

SHELDON  
Are you kidding me? I boarded up  
your window, changed about thirty  
light bulbs, cleaned the kitchen,  
now I'm vacuuming the house.  
(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)  
By the way, you're NOT a clean  
freak. You're kind of a slob.

PAUL  
A few little chores for a warm  
place to stay doesn't seem like a  
lot to ask. But if you're not  
happy with the deal...

Sheldon grudgingly begins unwrapping the power cord.

SHELDON  
So, tell me this. You've got all  
these people around. Why're you  
faking burglaries just to have  
someone to talk to?

PAUL  
I did not fake a burglary.

SHELDON  
Come on. The glass is on the  
outside. If he broke in --

PAUL  
Maybe he staged it that way so the  
police would think I was some  
lonely pathetic guy who faked a  
break-in so they'd send someone  
over to keep me company. Huh?  
Ever consider that?

SHELDON  
Seems like kind of a complicated  
thought for a burglar.

PAUL  
Well, obviously he's a pro. They  
haven't caught him yet, have they?

SFX. KNOCK ON DOOR

PAUL (CONT'D)  
In the bathroom! Go! Go!

SHELDON EXITS. Paul opens the door. It's Debbie.

DEBBIE  
Hi, Paul.

PAUL  
Debbie? I thought you were  
teaching jumping jacks in Alabammy  
or something.

DEBBIE

Came back to get my graduate  
degree.

PAUL

In P.E.?

DEBBIE

*Human Science.*

(then)

Look, I was in Aunt Jean's office  
answering the phone when the police  
called. They said the next time  
you burgle yourself, they'll charge  
you with filing a false police  
report.

PAUL

Unbelievable. I get broken into  
and they treat me like the  
criminal?

DEBBIE

I'm serious, Paul. Aunt Jean is  
already super ticked at you.

PAUL

She does seem a little touchy  
lately. And I think she's got the  
beginnings of a moustache. Is she  
going through "the change?"

DEBBIE

Don't talk bad about my aunt. I'll  
cover your butt on this one, but  
don't push it.

(then)

You know what, Paul? I know  
they're doing amazing things with  
spinal cords these days, but I  
really think the secret to healing  
yourself is having a really super  
positive attitude. I truly believe  
that.

PAUL

(beat)

I have cerebral palsy, not a spinal  
injury. And your theory is insane.

DEBBIE

Okay, Mr. Negative.

DEBBIE EXITS. SHELDON ENTERS from the bathroom.

SHELDON  
Who was that?

PAUL  
The manager's niece. Killer bod.  
She has the hots for me. I've  
considered using her for a play toy  
but I could never be serious about  
a woman with a Phd in dodgeball.

(then)  
I should probably start thinking  
about dinner. Are you hungry?

SHELDON  
Am I hungry? You know how in the  
cartoons, a wolf looks at a pig and  
it turns into a ham with all the  
trimmings? For the last hour,  
you've looked like a pot roast.

PAUL  
How about a pork chop instead?  
I've got nothing in the house so  
you'll have to go to the market.

Paul takes a twenty from his pocket.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
This should cover it.

SHELDON  
Now I'm doing your grocery  
shopping? I'm starting to feel a  
little taken advantage of here. I  
do have some pride, you know.

PAUL  
That's an odd comment coming from a  
deadbeat dad.  
(beat, off Sheldon's look)  
I heard you talking to the  
Sergeant.

SHELDON  
I'm not a dead beat dad.  
Technically. I married this woman  
who had three kids. Bad kids.  
Gonna end up in prison, no doubt.  
Anyway, I adopted them.

PAUL

Why?

SHELDON

They were monsters but they were  
really cute, you know? Especially,  
the baby girl. The two year old.

(shivers)

Definitely going to end up on death  
row, that one.

(then)

Wife divorced me after two months  
and sued for child support. I send  
money, you know, whenever I can.  
But that's not good enough, so I'm  
a deadbeat.

PAUL

(beat)

Bring me back my change and a  
receipt.

SHELDON

(grumpy)

Alright. Where's the nearest  
market?

PAUL

About a mile up Front Street.

SHELDON

No way. I pushed you twenty  
blocks. I've been working my tail  
off since I got here. My legs  
hurt, I'm tired. I'm not walking  
two miles. Forget it.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. HARMONY COURT - DAY

SHELDON EXITS the apartment building in Paul's wheelchair. He's wearing Paul's Bear's knit ski cap. He aims for a cutout, but veers out of control, goes over the curb, and spills himself out of the chair. He gets back in, spins in circles a couple of times, gets himself lined up and shoots out of frame in reverse.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

WE FOLLOW SHELDON as he rolls crazily down the sidewalk, taking out pedestrians and garbage cans as he goes.

## EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Sheldon is on a hill. WE FOLLOW as he heads down, picking up speed as he goes. Faster, faster. He loses control of the chair. He flies off of the sidewalk and into the street. Cars brakes scream. Horns wail. Sheldon shoots across the street and slams into a parked car, sending him flying and the chair toppling over, wheels still spinning. Sheldon gets up, rights his chair, looks up and notices he's crashed right in front of a SUPER MARKET. He smiles and...

## INT. HARMONY COURT REC-ROOM - DAY

It's a big open room with arcade games, a lowered, and regular sized pool tables, and a big rear projection television, vending machines. Sid, and Graham are there helping Leah decorate for ANDREW's party. Sid puts plastic wrap over trays of party snacks, while Leah sets up tables with airplane themed napkins, hats, cups, etc.

SID

(oggling Leah)

I got a feeling tonight's the night  
it's gonna be you, me and Viagra.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)

Looking. Forward. To. It.

SID

You're very sexy, but I was talking  
to Leah.

LEAH

Sorry, babe. Wouldn't happen  
anyway, but I think I found myself  
a boyfriend. We've been blogging  
pretty hot and heavy the past week.

SID

He in a chair?

LEAH

No. Why does he have to be in a  
chair?

SID

He know you're in one?

LEAH

Yep. Doesn't care. He blogged me  
the sweetest thing the other night.

(MORE)

LEAH (CONT'D)

"I live in Malibu and I've got a country house in Vermont." I'm so in love.

PAUL ENTERS in a manual chair and heads for the soda machine.

SID

Paul, why you rolling old school?

PAUL

Power chair's recharging.

LEAH

Sid said you've got a homeless guy staying in your apartment. What's that about?

SID

None of your business.

LEAH

It is if he's a perv. I've got enough on my hands with Graham peeping Tom-ing me to death.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)

She. Really. Does.

SID

I think you brought him home for sex.

PAUL

I did not!

LEAH

Didn't even consider that. Paul has a sex slave.

PAUL

I'm not having sex with him! I'm letting him spend the night on my couch in exchange for some handyman work and light housekeeping.

LEAH

"Handyman work?" That what you guys are calling it?

SID

Actually, I've got some loose tiles in my shower. Think I could borrow your hobo, Paul?

PAUL

(enjoying the attention)

I could probably arrange something.  
He's so grateful, I can get him to  
do whatever I want. It's like  
having a butler.

SID

A butler! Man, if I had a butler,  
I'd get him to stretch my legs  
morning, noon and night.  
Can you get him to stretch you?

PAUL

All I'd have to do is ask.

LEAH

I'd make my butler come with me  
everywhere. And every time a  
normie was taking up a handicapped  
seat on the bus, or was sitting in  
a handicapped toilet, I'd get him  
to throw them out. Would he do  
that?

PAUL

Of course. He's devoted to me.  
Follows me around like a puppy.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)

Can. You. Get. Him. To. Wipe. Your.  
Ass.

SID

Ohhhh, Graham! There we go! I  
love it, baby, gimme some.

(bumps fist)

Damn, I actually hit it. Feel like  
I should get a stuffed Tweety Bird  
or something.

GRAHAM (VOICE BOX)

Can. You. Get. Him. To. Do.  
It.

PAUL

Of course I can, but I would never  
ask him. It's ridiculous.

SID

How about for five bucks?

LEAH

Five bucks? He's not trying to get him to eat a bug.

SID

You're right. A hundred bucks.

PAUL

You don't have a hundred dollars.

SID

We'll all chip in. But listen. For a hundred, we've gotta put a clock on this thing. Andrew's party is over at ten. By ten o'clock, the deed must be done.

LEAH

Wait, though. How's he going to prove it? I'm not taking his word for it.

SID

(to Paul)

You got a camera on your cel phone, right? While he's swabbing the deck, take a snappie. There's your proof. You show me that picture at Andrew's party and you got yourself a hundred bucks.

PAUL

I said no. I'm not asking him. I'm perfectly capable of --

SID

Got nothing to do with capable. I'm capable. Leah's capable. Graham's ... well, maybe not Graham. I'm talking about you said you could get your boy to do anything you say. Or were you just shooting your mouth off like usual?

PAUL

(beat)

I'll see you tonight. Bring your money.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Paul is watching television. Sheldon is dozing on the couch. The remains of their pork chop dinners sit on TV trays. Paul looks at the clock. It's 7:15 pm.

PAUL

Sheldon? Sheldon?

Paul picks up a napkin and throws it at Sheldon, waking him.

SHELDON

What?

PAUL

Those pork chops went right through me. I have to use the rest room.

SHELDON

You woke me up to tell me that?  
It's not that interesting.

PAUL

No, see, I'll need some help.  
(beat)  
After. With the clean up.

It dawns on Sheldon what Paul is saying.

SHELDON

You mean you can't... you can't...

PAUL

It's my hands. Dexterity problems.  
It's part of my condition.

SHELDON

What if you, you know, really  
concentrated...

Paul shakes his head "no."

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Well, um, how do you usually...

PAUL

I have a lady who comes in the  
mornings. This can't wait. Look,  
I wouldn't ask if I didn't need --

Sheldon gets up and starts pacing.

SHELDON

I know. I know. I'm just trying  
to, you know, I just need a minute  
here... I mean, it's not  
something...

PAUL

I know.

SHELDON

I mean I never...

PAUL

Right.

A long beat.

SHELDON

(resigned)

Well, I guess, uh, if it has to be  
done... we should just...go do it.

PAUL

You... you want to do it?

SHELDON

Oh, absolutely. It's my wildest  
dream come true. No, I don't want  
to do it. But you said you need  
help so... I'll help.

Paul reacts. He's not used to this sentiment. It's like  
what a friend would say. SHELDON CROSSES to the bathroom  
door and opens it.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

Come on. Let's go.

PAUL

Um, actually, you know, don't worry  
about it. I'll just... figure  
something out.

SHELDON

Paul. Come on, willya. Let's get  
it over with.

PAUL

Seriously. Go back to sleep. I  
think I can hold off until morning.

SHELDON

No, that can't be good for you.  
Look, don't be embarrassed. That  
little girl I adopted. The two  
year old? I used to change her  
diapers all the time. This'll  
probably be a similar deal.  
Just... on a grown man and... on a  
much... much larger scale.

As Sheldon stands by the door with an uneasy smile, and Paul sits with a conflicted expression we...

TIME DISSOLVE:

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT - A LITTLE WHILE LATER.

We hold on Paul's bathroom door for a few beats, then:

SFX: TOILET FLUSH

PAUL (O.S.)

Thank you.

SHELDON (O.S.)

Don't mention it.

SHELDON ENTERS looking a bit stricken, but holding it together. He strips off a pair of dish washing gloves and EXITS.

EXT. PAUL'S DECK - NIGHT - A WHILE LATER

Sheldon is outside smoking a cigar, calming himself.

INT. JEAN'S OFFICE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Jean is on the phone, a bank of security monitors behind her. On one of the monitors, we see Sheldon on the deck, smoking.

JEAN

(into phone)

Hello, Sergeant Beacham, it's Jean  
Butler from Harmony Court. We have  
a prowler.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - LATER

Paul is sitting at a table frowning at the photograph on his cell phone. He glances at the clock. It reads 8:25 pm. He closes the cell phone. He's torn. SHELDON ENTERS from the bathroom freshly showered, wearing nothing but a towel.

SHELDON

Oh, that felt good. I'm a new man!

PAUL

Good, good. Listen, Sheldon.  
There's a birthday party in the rec  
room tonight. I promised I'd make  
an appearance.

SHELDON

Go ahead. Don't worry about me,  
I'll be fine.

Paul starts for the door. He opens it, then stops.

PAUL

Or...

Paul glances again at the clock. A beat. He looks at his  
cel phone. He can't make up his mind. Then he closes the  
door. He's not going to show them the photo.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Or we could play a game of chess.  
I have a set in the closet.

Paul starts to roll toward the closet. On the way over, he  
sets his cel phone on the table.

SHELDON

Never learned to play.

PAUL

I can teach you if you want.

SHELDON

Sure. Whatever.

Paul retrieves the chess board from the closet, then turns  
just in time to see Sheldon cross to the table and pick up  
his cel phone. Paul freezes.

SHELDON (CONT'D)

(re: phone)

I've never owned one of these  
things. Never would. Don't want  
to be that available, you know.

PAUL

(trying to stay calm)

Right. Here, I'll take it.

Paul rolls closer to Sheldon, who is still fiddling with the phone.

SHELDON  
Everybody walking around, these  
things stuck to their ears.  
Terrible way to live. Like a ball  
and chain.

PAUL  
Sheldon, give me the phone.

Sheldon opens the phone and freezes. Then glares at Paul.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
(innocently)  
What? What's the matter?

SHELDON  
What is this?

PAUL  
What's what?

SHELDON  
This picture. Of me... with you...  
(re: bathroom)  
In there.

PAUL  
The screen saver? Oh. I can  
explain that.

SHELDON  
Good. Explain it.

PAUL  
(re: chess game)  
What about the chess game? I  
thought we --

SHELDON  
Forget the game! What is this?!

PAUL  
(getting nervous)  
Just calm down, okay? It's  
actually kind of funny, when you  
think about it.

SHELDON  
Were you going to put this on the  
Internet?  
(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)  
Humiliate the Homeless.com? Is  
that what this is? Some sick  
joke?!

Sheldon hovers menacingly over Paul.

PAUL  
(scared)  
No, it was a bet! It was a bet.  
With Sid and a couple of the  
others. A hundred dollars. Funny,  
right?  
(off Sheldon's glare)  
No? Not funny?

SHELDON  
I did this because you said you  
couldn't. I did this because I  
thought you needed help.

PAUL  
Oh, because I'm in a wheelchair you  
think I can't perform basic  
hygiene? That's insulting. I  
think you owe me an apology.

SHELDON  
An apology? Apology?!

PAUL  
I accept.

SHELDON  
You little --

Sheldon lunges at Paul, trying to get him in a strangle hold.

JEAN, SERGEANT BEACHAM and OFFICER CAVELLO BURST IN to find  
half naked Sheldon on top of Paul.

JEAN  
Oh, my God! I think Paul's being  
molested!

Beacham and Cavello pull Sheldon off of Paul.

OFFICER CAVELLO  
(to Sheldon)  
Put your hands behind your back!

SHELDON  
Wait a minute. Wait --

OFFICER CAVELLO  
Behind your back!

SHELDON  
Okay, okay.

Officer Cavello cuffs him.

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
Congratulations, Sheldon. You got your cell. It's not going to be a cozy little over nighter, though. Sexually assaulting a handicapped person ought to get you a couple of years in federal prison. You're under arrest.

Beacham and Cavello escort Sheldon toward the door.

SHELDON  
Paul! Tell them the truth!  
C'mon, man. I cooked for you, I did your shopping, I cleaned up after you... in more ways than one.  
Tell them!

PAUL  
Wait.

Everyone looks at Paul, waiting.

PAUL (CONT'D)  
Well, he... He, uh... He said he was a Mormon Missionary.

SHELDON  
No, no, no, c'mon man!

PAUL  
I asked him if he wanted a sandwich and he said yes. When I turned to go into the kitchen, he jumped me.

SERGEANT BEACHAM  
(to Sheldon, disgusted)  
You're the worst.

Beacham and Cavello pull Sheldon toward the door.

SHELDON  
You're going to let them do this?  
Paul. Come on.  
(MORE)

SHELDON (CONT'D)  
I thought we were buddies! Tell  
them I'm your friend!

BEACHAM, CAVELLO and SHELDON EXIT. Jean is left alone with Paul. She's not good at the comforting.

JEAN  
Well... I'm glad you weren't  
injured.

PAUL  
Not physically. I'm emotionally  
destroyed. I don't think I'll ever  
get over this.  
(then, all business)  
Tell the board we don't have to  
drag this into court. I'm willing  
to settle.

JEAN  
(beat, holding her tongue)  
I'll pass that along.

Officer Cavello sticks her head in.

OFFICER CAVELLO  
Ma'am? We're going to need your  
statement.

JEAN  
Of course.  
(to Paul)  
Good night.

CAVELLO and JEAN EXIT.

Paul looks relieved for a moment. Then he notices the chess set on the table. He picks it up and opens it. Then closes it. No one to play with. He's alone again.

INT. REC-ROOM - NIGHT - A BIT LATER

A crowd of DISABLED RESIDENTS are celebrating Andrew's birthday. All the decorations are airplane themed. Andrew sits in a chair watching an airplane video on the big screen, oblivious to his party. Leah, Sid and Graham sit close by. DEBBIE ENTERS from the kitchen carrying the airplane birthday cake with twenty eight lit candles. EVERYONE SINGS HAPPY BIRTHDAY to ANDREW, who claps his hands over his ears and continues to watch the airplane video.

SID

(to Leah)

You think he appreciates this nice party you gave him?

LEAH

Not the same way we would, but he does. Plus, who cares. He's my pal and should have a birthday party.

SID

Speaking of party, I was thinking when your rich boyfriend flies out here, I'd rent a limo and we'd all go out to Arlington and watch the ponies run. Then after, stop off at Temptations for a lap dance or two. His treat, of course.

LEAH

Yeah, I have a feeling that's over.

SID

Uh oh. What happened?

LEAH

His wife blogged me and told me it was over. She also told me he's a raging alcoholic and only blogs me when he's whacked out of his head on scotch and coke.

SID

He's married?

LEAH

(sighs)

All the good ones are.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - LATE THAT NIGHT

PAUL ENTERS wearing his winter garb. SHELDON ENTERS right behind him looking pissed.

PAUL

(re: chess board)

I set the board up if you still want to learn.

SHELDON

I told you I'm not staying. I'm just getting my stuff and leaving.

Sheldon picks up his coat and backpack.

PAUL

Stop being such a baby. I dropped the charges. You're free. I wasn't going to mention it, but you forgot to thank me.

(off Sheldon's glare)

Look, stay the night and you can leave first thing. It's freezing out there.

SHELDON

Not much warmth in here either,  
know what I mean?

Sheldon crosses to the front door and opens it.

PAUL

Wait! Just wait a minute!

Sheldon pauses at the door.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Okay. You were right.

(re: boarded window)

There was no burglar. I broke the window. And... you have to promise me you'll never tell a soul.

(beat)

There is no Christmas list.

SHELDON

(beat, then)

What the hell's the matter with you anyway?

PAUL

Kind of a blunt way of asking but my motor function is --

SHELDON

No. What's wrong with you in here.

(points to head)

You've got a nice place to live.

Good people all around. And you're the most pissed off guy I've ever met. I've got nothing. Nothing! And I'm happier than you.

PAUL

(terse)

I don't know, Sheldon, maybe getting dumped here by my parents when I was ten years old because I was disabled and not worth keeping has something to do with me being pissed off. And maybe this place and everyone here is a daily reminder of that and it makes me not want to be pals with any of them. And it makes me not want to be here. It's just a theory I have but it seems about right.

SHELDON

So go. What's keeping you?

PAUL

(beat)

All of the people here grew up in an able bodied world, adjusted to it, then moved here where things are a little easier. I'm the other way around. I want to function like they can out there, but I'm not good at it. Yet.

SHELDON

(long beat)

You said that bet was for what? A hundred?

PAUL

That's right.

SHELDON

Where's my fifty?

INT. REC-ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER.

Paul is there with Sid, Leah and Graham. Sid is looking at Paul's cell phone, while Paul counts out bills.

SID

Your bathroom gets better light than mine.

PAUL

Nice doing business with you. I hope it wasn't too painful.

SID

Wasn't painful at all. I've got side bets with about half the people at this party that I could get you to show me a picture of your ass.

(calling off)

Hey, Jeff! Tommy! Reyes! Get over here and bring your wallet!

PAUL

Give me that!

Sid takes off with Paul's phone and Paul chases after him...

INT. PAUL'S LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Paul and Sheldon are hunched over a chess board.

PAUL

No! You can't move your rook diagonally. Only up or down or side to side. How many times do I have to tell you?

SHELDON

I've never been more bored.

PAUL

Listen, if you're only spending the night because you think I'm a lonely, sad, little man who needs pitying then forget it. You can leave after this game.

SHELDON

No. I still think you're a devious little shit. But I'm not going out in that.

Sheldon nods toward the window. Through the window we see that it's begun to snow. The birthday celebration has moved outside. Sid is in his chair, sliding around the frozen surface of the swimming pool. Graham soon follows. Then Leah, who tries to coax Andrew onto the ice. Soon, SEVERAL MORE RESIDENTS join the fun. Jean runs over, angrily trying to chase people off, but slips and falls on the ice. DEBBIE runs onto the ice to help her, then slips. As Sheldon and Paul continue their chess game we...

FADE OUT.

