

QUIZ SHOW

by

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Based on the chapter,  
"Investigating the Quiz Shows,"  
from Remembering America by  
Richard N. Goodwin

Baltimore Pictures

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FOR EDUCATIONAL  
PURPOSES ONLY

1 INT. DAY. MERCEDES SHOWROOM--MANHATTAN.

The luscious curves of a 1956 MERCEDES 190 coupe, lacquered red, dripping with bright showroom light. Circling:

DICK GOODWIN, late 20s, a broad Boston accent, his brains worn on his sleeve. Flush with youth and American confidence. He chews a cigar as fat as a baby's arm.

A SALESMAN circles mosquito-like.

GOODWIN

What is this, the 190?

SALESMAN

That's 17 coats of paint,  
hand-sanded. Seven coats of  
lacquer.

Goodwin leans over. Looks at the sticker price. Sighs. Leans back. Whistles low, drinks it in. 'All this can be yours'...

SALESMAN

It takes a real individualist to  
drive a car like this. Just out  
of school?

GOODWIN

Harvard Law. Couple of years.  
First in my class.

SALESMAN

That degree sells itself.

GOODWIN

I've been working for the  
government.

SALESMAN

(disappointed)

Oh.

GOODWIN

Not that it's permanent.

SALESMAN

(interested again)

Would you like to get behind the  
wheel, Mr. Goodman?

GOODWIN

Goodwin.

SALESMAN

Just be careful with the cigar.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

The Salesman opens the door. Ushers Goodwin into the car.

GOODWIN  
I just think there's something  
wrong about working so you can  
drive a car.

SALESMAN  
Release the clutch, if you  
wouldn't mind.

GOODWIN  
You drive a car so that you can  
work. You don't work so that you  
can drive a car.

The Salesman leans over and starts the IGNITION.

SALESMAN  
Listen to that. That's a V8.  
(off gauges)  
You'll note it redlines at 8000  
RPM.

GOODWIN  
My father to this day has never  
owned a car. I don't even think  
he has a driver's license.

SALESMAN  
That's the American Dream.  
(resuming)  
I see you're admiring the  
dashboard--that's burlled walnut.

GOODWIN  
Is this what life has to offer?

SALESMAN  
Pretty much. (thinks) This or the  
Porsche. (resuming) The seats are  
Florentine glove leather.

GOODWIN  
The nicest piece of furniture I  
own will be in the garage.

SALESMAN  
I'm going to get some paperwork,  
just so you can see it's more  
affordable than you think.  
(gestures to radio)  
Try the radio.  
(more)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

SALESMAN (Cont'd)

The only thing that sounds better  
than the engine is the radio.

The Salesman EXITS. Goodwin turns on the radio. It emits a  
repetitive BEEP. He listens thoughtfully.

RADIO NEWSMAN (O.C.)

The Russians have beaten us into  
outer space. You are listening  
to the sound of Sputnik, a  
satellite launched this morning  
via rocket, in orbit right now  
directly over our heads...A sound  
that says...

The Salesman returns, leans in. LISTENS.

RADIO NEWSMAN (O.C.)

...all is not well with America.

SALESMAN

America doesn't own a Mercedes.

CLICK! He pushes a button on the radio. Changes the station to  
MUSIC that carries over into...

CUT TO:

The door of a BANK VAULT opens...

2 INT. EVENING. BANK VAULT.

Flashbulbs BURST as two BANK V.P.s insert separate keys into a  
safe-deposit box. Pull out a BOX embossed with the title

"21"

The V.P.s' heels click smartly on the marble. REPORTERS and  
PHOTOGRAPHERS follow them out to the street. A thick crowd of  
the curious. The V.P.s climb into an ARMORED CAR.

POLICE CHERRYTOPS

flash to life. The MOTORCADE roars uptown.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. EVENING. STREETS.

(CONTINUED)

## 3 CONTINUED:

COMMUTERS stream out of the subway. Anxiously check their watches. RUN to their homes...

CUT TO:

## 4 EXT. EVENING. STREETS.

A New York CABBIE flicks on his "OFF DUTY" light. Parks on the street. Runs into a bar...

CUT TO:

## 5 INT. EVENING. MOVIE THEATER.

A PROJECTIONIST snaps off a movie in mid-scene. USHERS wheel out two TELEVISION SETS...

CUT TO:

## 6 EXT. EVENING. ROCKEFELLER CENTER.

The MOTORCADE pulls up outside the RCA building. The Bank V.P.s emerge, march inside...

CUT TO:

## 7 INT. NIGHT. HOMES.

In one living room after another, HANDS reach for knobs on televisions...FIFTY MILLION VIEWERS across the nation...

ON THE TELEVISION

JACK BARRY, late 30s. Part snake-oil salesman, part snake.

BARRY

Good evening, I'm Jack Barry.

CUT TO:

## 8 INT. NIGHT. STUDIO.

Bright with klieg lights. A studio AUDIENCE twitchy with anticipation. Ponderous CAMERAS circle a podium that bears the bold legend, "GERITOL". He is flanked behind by two plexiglas ISOLATION BOOTHS.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

BARRY

Due to a series of ties, Herbert Stempel, our 41 year old ex-GI college student, must play at \$3,000 a point, which means that in a few brief minutes he can either win over \$100,000--the most money won on television to date--or lose everything he's won in the last eight weeks.

LISTENING BACKSTAGE

The champ: HERBIE STEMPEL, Herbert the Great, early 40s and overweight. Marine haircut and shabby suit. A Job for his generation--exiled to the Boroughs, flayed by grey-flannel insults, scourged by lowly status, grudge-laden before God.

The CHALLENGER watches as Herbie compulsively cleans his glasses.

CHALLENGER

Nervous?

HERBIE

Heh. It's only money.

BACK ON--BARRY

as the Bank V.P.'s deliver the questions, head offstage.

BARRY

Thank you, gentlemen.  
(to audience)

So right now, let's meet our first two players, as Geritol, America's Number One tonic, presents '21'.

Two ESCORTS bring Herbie and the Challenger to the podium.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

The producers, DAN ENRIGHT and ALBERT FREEDMAN. Enright has the soul of a shoplifter surprised to find himself in Tiffany's. Freedman is his willing right arm--until a better shoulder comes along.

Enright snaps a SWITCH. An APPLAUSE SIGN ignites the audience...

BACK ON--BARRY

as he greets Herbie and the Challenger.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

BARRY  
How are you, Herb? I imagine  
you're a kind of a folk hero out  
there in Queens.

CUT TO:

9 INT. NIGHT. SPONSOR'S APARTMENT.

White walls. White carpet. White curtains. White furniture. And  
a black heart--the grouchy SPONSOR of Geritol, early 50s. "21"  
on the TELEVISION. A platinum BLONDE serves him a drink.

SPONSOR  
(with disgust)  
Queens.

CUT TO:

10 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Barry interviews Herbie.

BARRY  
It's a nervous strain on the  
family, huh? How's your wife  
holding up?

HERBIE  
She's fine, thank you. Thank you,  
Mr. Barry, for asking.

Barry launches into the rules.

BARRY  
As you know, Herb, the questions,  
which have been kept in a bank  
vault--

HERBIE  
(interrupting him)  
I might add she no longer suffers  
from 'tired blood', now that I've  
got her on Geritol.

CUT TO:

11 INT. SAME TIME. SPONSOR'S APARTMENT.

The Sponsor BOILS while he watches Herbie.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

HERBIE (O.C.)  
 You know, Mr. Barry, while some people say that Geritol has no medical basis whatsoever, I can attest that it's a fine product.

CUT TO:

12 INT. NIGHT. APARTMENT--GREENWICH VILLAGE.

The buzz of genteel conversation. Tweeds and sherry. A BOOK PARTY in honor of THE PROFESSOR, MARK VAN DOREN, late 50s, a white-haired gent with a beatific demeanor, and his brisk, articulate wife DOROTHY, late 50s also. Stacks of their new BOOKS nearby. They greet a stream of GUESTS.

PROFESSOR #1  
 (shaking hands)  
 Professor:

THE PROFESSOR  
 Professor.

PROFESSOR #1  
 I'm sorry I'm late. You can't get a cab.

PROFESSOR #2  
 (greeting The Professor)  
 Professor.

THE PROFESSOR  
 Professor.

DOROTHY  
 Professor.

THE PROFESSOR  
 (to Dorothy)  
 Mother, where's Charlie?

ALONE IN THE DEN

Hand on chin, MESMERIZED, the blue light of a TELEVISION playing on his chiselled features:

CHARLES VAN DOREN, 30s, handsome, well-born, debonair, self-deprecating, perfect. The lithe build of a man who has never been made to run uphill. An endearing blankness--the boyish availability of a man still in search of himself.

A pretty YOUNG WOMAN, early 20s, approaches. Ignored by Charlie, she tries to start conversation.

(CONTINUED)



12 CONTINUED:

YOUNG WOMAN  
Do you know Professor Van Doren?

CHARLIE  
Oh--how rude of me. (introducing  
himself) I'm Charlie.  
(beat)  
He's my father.

YOUNG WOMAN  
I took his course at  
Columbia--'Hawthorne, Original  
Sin and the American  
Experience'--well, as silly as  
it sounds, it changed my life.

CHARLIE  
Was it the Hawthorne or the sin?

YOUNG WOMAN  
To be the son of that  
extraordinary man!

CHARLIE  
When you said that, 'Professor  
Van Doren'--you know, I'm also  
Professor Van Doren.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Mathematics? You seem like the  
mathematical type.

CHARLIE  
Oh, no. Literature. Same as Dad.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Really? Where do you teach?

CHARLIE  
Columbia.

CUT TO:

13 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

MUSIC plays and the two Escorts usher Herbie and the Challenger  
to the ISOLATION BOOTHS.

BARRY  
Once inside the isolation booth,  
neither player can see the other.  
(more)

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

BARRY (Cont'd)  
 Nor can they hear anything until  
 I turn their studios on.  
 (flipping switch)  
 Can you hear me, Herb?

HERBIE  
 Yes, Mr. Barry, I sure can.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Enright's gaze sweeps hawklike over the monitors.

ENRIGHT  
 Herb's too sure of himself. Turn  
 off the air conditioning in his  
 booth.

Freedman slides up a THERMOSTAT...

CUT TO:

14 INT. SAME TIME. NBC.

Goodwin sits on a couch--a waiting room outside the office of  
 the President of NBC. A huge NBC PEACOCK over his head.

A MONITOR

shows Herbie patting at his sweaty brow with a HANDKERCHIEF.  
 Goodwin gets up, crosses in front of the image.

BARRY (O.C.)  
 The first category is the American  
 Revolution.

A SECRETARY sits at a desk nearby. Goodwin approaches her.

GOODWIN  
 Do you think he might see me  
 before the peacock molts?

SECRETARY  
 Mr. Kintner apologizes, but he's  
 unavailable. Why don't you come  
 back tomorrow?.

GOODWIN  
 I'm sure he'd be available if my  
 name were Geritol.

SECRETARY  
 Who were you with again?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

GOODWIN

The United States  
Congress--perhaps you've heard  
of them. I spoke to Mr. Kintner  
personally six weeks ago.

SECRETARY

The President of NBC never speaks  
personally with anyone.

GOODWIN

The committee oversees television.  
Kintner makes his speech about  
television being a public trust  
and I take notes. It's simply a  
matter of routine.

SECRETARY

Isn't everything?

Goodwin moves away, DEFEATED. The Secretary returns to her work.  
Goodwin returns, nods toward the monitor.

GOODWIN

They do that show right here?

SECRETARY

Studio 21. Tenth floor.

CUT TO:

15 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Herbie chews a knuckle. Looks up.

HERBIE

The American Revolution...I'll  
try 11, 11 points, Mr. Barry--if  
that's okay.

BARRY

Let me remind you that the  
questions have been certified and  
graded for difficulty by the  
Encyclopedia Britannica on a scale  
from one to 11--11 being the  
hardest question.

HERBIE

That's right, Mr. Barry.

Barry, impressed by Herbie's daredevil bid, presses a button,  
and a QUESTION CARD pops up...

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

BARRY

(reading)

The question is in five parts.  
 'Every schoolboy knows about the  
 midnight ride of Paul Revere.  
 For 11 points: How many lanterns  
 were hung in the Old North Church?  
 Who rode with Paul Revere? Who  
 lent him his horse? Was it a mare  
 or a stallion? And what was the  
 horse's name?'

What a question! An audible GASP from the audience. Herbie grimaces, hugs his elbows, bites his lip, scratches his head, looks skyward for divine inspiration.

HERBIE

Would you mind, Mr. Barry--could  
 I take the third part last?

CUT TO:

16 INT. SAME TIME. SPONSOR'S HOME.

The Sponsor broods over the TV.

HERBIE (O.C.)

The code was 'One if by land, two  
 if by sea. Therefore it was two  
 lanterns in the steeple of the  
 Old North Church.

The Blonde enters with ROBERT KINTNER, 50s, a manner whipped smooth as a meringue.

BLONDE

(announcing)

Mr. Kintner.

KINTNER

I understand you're upset,  
 sir--the ratings are slightly  
 off--

SPONSOR

The ratings are off because of  
him.

He jabs a bony finger.

ON THE TELEVISION

Herbie mops his brow, struggles through the question.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

HERBIE  
Dawes and Prescott were the men  
who rode with him.

CUT TO:

17 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

A sign reads "QUIET--SHOW IN PROGRESS". Goodwin stops at the STAGE DOOR. Thinks a beat. OPENS it and enters the MEZZANINE. Leans against the back wall. Watches the stage below:

BARRY  
Was it a mare or a stallion?

HERBIE  
It was a mare.

CUT TO:

18 INT. SAME TIME. GOODWIN HOME.

SANDRA, Goodwin's pretty shikse wife, watches from the foot of the bed in their one-bedroom Georgetown apartment.

HERBIE (O.C.)  
What's the last part again?

BARRY (O.C.)  
The third part?

HERBIE (O.C.)  
No--I asked for the third part  
last.

BARRY (O.C.)  
That's fine.

HERBIE (O.C.)  
I just don't remember the last  
part.

SANDRA  
Who remembers the question? That's  
harder than the question.

CUT TO:

19 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO

Goodwin looks down from the mezzanine.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

BARRY  
What was the horse's name?

HERBIE  
The horse's name was Brown Beauty.

BARRY  
And finally, the man who loaned  
Paul Revere his horse for that  
fateful midnight ride?

HERBIE  
Who loaned him the horse...Who  
loaned him the horse...

CUT TO:

20 INT. SAME TIME. CONTROL ROOM.

Enright and Freedman exchange a look.

HERBIE (O.C.)  
...Who loaned him the horse...

CUT TO:

21 INT. SAME TIME. APARTMENT--GREENWICH VILLAGE.

Charlie wracks his brain, watches with the young woman.

HERBIE (O.C.)  
(searching)  
...Something tells me it was a  
clergyman...Reverend Luckbill...

CUT TO:

22 INT. SAME TIME. SPONSOR'S APARTMENT.

Kintner and the scowling Sponsor watch the show.

HERBIE (O.C.)  
...Reverend Larchwood...Reverend  
Lardbone...

KINTNER  
It's not easy to find suitable  
contestants.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

SPONSOR  
Do the show on the Sabbath. Just  
get rid of him.

The Sponsor exits. The Blonde arrives with Kintner's hat.

CUT TO:

23 INT. SAME TIME. ACROSS THE NATION.

Anxious VIEWERS move to the edge of their seats...Somewhere a  
phone rings unanswered, a child cries unheard...A can of beer  
FREEZES in mid-sip...

CUT TO:

24 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Goodwin leaning forward in anticipation...

BARRY  
Would you like more time, Herb?

Herbie curls into himself...Then POPS UP...

HERBIE  
Larkin! Deacon John Larkin!

BARRY  
Correct for 11 points!

IN THE MEZZANINE

Goodwin shakes his head in astonishment.

GOODWIN  
How the hell did he know that?

CUT TO:

25 INT. SAME TIME. GREENWICH VILLAGE--APARTMENT.

Charlie chews his lip in awed respect.

CHARLIE  
My God, he knows everything. I'd  
bet even Dad wouldn't know that.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

YOUNG WOMAN  
Professor Van Doren--can you  
imagine? He wouldn't be caught  
dead on one of these quiz shows!

CLOSE ON--CHARLIE

as the wheels SPIN...

CHARLIE  
No. You're quite right.

CUT TO:

26 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Barry delivers the commercial

BARRY  
Do you feel fatigued? Not having  
as much fun as you used to? Does  
life itself seem to be getting  
you down? The problem may be tired  
blood. (meaningfully) Tired  
blood.

IN THE ISOLATION BOOTH

The INTERCOM crackles on.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)  
Nice job, Herbie. You can relax  
a minute.

Herbie sags. Mops under his arms with the handkerchief.

HERBIE  
Christ. Again with the air  
conditioning.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

The phone RINGS. Freedman answers it. Turns to Enright.

FREEDMAN  
It's Kintner.

CUT TO:



27 INT. NIGHT. TIMES SQUARE STATION.

An ebullient Herbie descends into the subway. Tonight, he's Gene Kelly. Humming a tune, he dances down the stairs. The F train arrives, and he scoots inside.

PASSENGERS recognize him, point. Studiously nonchalant, he ignores them. Sinks down into his overcoat. And SMILES.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. NIGHT. FOREST HILLS.

Herbie walks through his tidy neighborhood. In his home run trot now...NEIGHBORS shake his hand, slap his back...

He climbs the stairs to his house. Across the street, a neighbor APPLAUDS from a second story window. Herbie bows elaborately, enters his house.

CUT TO:

29 INT. NIGHT. HERBIE'S APARTMENT.

Herbie enters, takes off his hat.

HERBIE

The genius is home! The rich  
genius is home!

IN THE LIVING ROOM

TOBY STEMPEL, late 30s, wedged heavily in an armchair. A box of Devil Dogs in her lap. She searches for a chunk of cake lost in the folds of her muumuu. Herbie enters.

HERBIE

Did you see me? Toby, wasn't I  
great? Wasn't I incredible? And  
that bit about Geritol--did I play  
them like a piano or what?

(looking in mirror)

What about my teeth--d'you think  
I should get my teeth capped?  
How'd my hair look?

TOBY

(sarcastic)

Could I take the third part last,  
Mr. Barry?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

HERBIE  
 Ninety-six thousand dollars!  
 C'mon, dance with me, Toby. C'mon!  
 We're celebrating!

He pulls and hauls at her with the exertions of a deep sea fisherman. But she's having none of it.

TOBY  
 Stop it, Herbert.

HERBIE  
 (croons)  
 'Dancing in the dark, until the  
 tune ends...'

TOBY  
 I told Lester to be home by ten.  
 He'll be here any minute.

HERBIE  
 Come on! A child can't see his  
 parents dancing? Be a good wife.

TOBY  
 If you knew how my ankles feel  
 you wouldn't ask.

Herbie gives up. Moves to the mirror. Starts to strip off his tie, his SUIT...

HERBIE  
 Why do you think your ankles hurt?  
 Eat some more.

TOBY  
 I'm retaining water, for your  
 information.

HERBIE  
 You and the Grand Coulee Dam.

He throws the suit jacket in a ball on the floor. Starts to strip off the pants. Toby stands, bends to pick the jacket up. Dusts it off...

HERBIE  
 You don't get it, do you? I go  
 out on the street and everybody  
 knows me. Everybody loves  
 me--me--Herbie Stempel. And they  
 love me for the same reason they  
 used to hate me. Because I'm the  
 guy who knows everything.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

TOBY

Do you know how much it's gonna  
cost to get this suit dry-cleaned?

HERBIE

Things are going to change around  
here, boy.

Herbie throws the pants on the floor. In his SHORTS now...

TOBY

(dusting suit)

Look at this. My father paid good  
money for this suit.

HERBIE

He wore it to his own wake!

TOBY

You make it sound like it was the  
suit that killed him.

HERBIE

You know why Enright likes that  
suit? You know why he personally  
picked that suit out of my closet?  
Because it makes me look like a  
schmuck. 'The poor ex-GI' with  
the hand-me-down suit and the  
walk-up apartment.

The PHONE RINGS...Toby goes to answer it.

TOBY

You should worship the ground I  
walk on, all my family's done for  
you.

HERBIE

You want to be worshipped, go to  
India and moo.

TOBY

I married a man who couldn't hold  
onto a dollar if he swallowed it.

(to phone)

Hello? Yeah, hi, Mom.

HERBIE

Cock-a-doodle-doo, baby--I'm not  
the putz you married.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (3)

TOBY  
(to phone)  
That's Herbie. He's in one of his  
moods. (listens) Of course I  
watched the show.

HERBIE  
Get off the phone--Steve Allen  
might call. Eisenhower might call.  
You think I'm kidding?

TOBY  
She wants to know why you only  
went for eight on the movies.

HERBIE  
Because my real area of expertise  
is pain-in-the-ass in-laws.

TOBY  
(to phone)  
I know everybody's watching.  
(listens) I know it's a lot of  
money.

HERBIE  
Hang up the phone. Hang it--would  
you please hang up the phone?

TOBY  
(to phone)  
I gotta go. He says Eisenhower's  
gonna call. I'll call you  
tomorrow.

She hangs up.

HERBIE  
Just sit. Sit with me. What is  
it with you?

He sits on the couch. She sits next to him.

TOBY  
You better put some clothes on.  
You'll catch cold.

HERBIE  
Toby, listen. Don't you see what  
this means for us?

TOBY  
You gonna leave me, Herbie?

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (4)

HERBIE

No, I'm not gonna leave you. Don't you understand? It's a revolution! For us. Everything--all of this. We don't need your mother and her money anymore--you can tell her where to get off after 38 years.

TOBY

You should hear all of a sudden how nice she's being.

HERBIE

(gestures to television)  
That box is the biggest thing since Gutenberg invented the printing press, and I'm the biggest thing on it. Don't you see? I could be on this show forever.

CUT TO:

30 INT. MORNING. NBC--INTERVIEW ROOM.

Pegboard and cheap furniture. Charlie sits opposite a RESEARCHER who TESTS him from a list of questions. There's a MIRROR in the wall behind them.

RESEARCHER

(reading from card)  
'Because of a disagreement with his commanding general, Ulysses S. Grant was virtually placed under arrest for a brief time early in 1862. Who was the commanding general of the Union Army at that time?'

CHARLIE

Oh, I know that! Halleck. General H.W. Halleck.

RESEARCHER

That's correct.

Charlie nervously rubs his sweaty palms on his knees. Tries to lean over to peek at the Researcher's tally.

WATCHING HIM

through a ONE-WAY MIRROR: Freedman. A PAGE passes through.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

FREEDMAN  
Who's that?

PAGE  
(off roster)  
Charles Van Doren.

FREEDMAN  
Van Doren like Van Doren Van  
Doren? He wants to be on 'Tic  
Tac Dough'?

The Page shrugs. Freedman licks his chops...

FREEDMAN  
Let me borrow this a second.

He grabs Charlie's file. Runs out.

CUT TO:

31 INT. HALLWAY.

Freedman runs with the file, virtually singing...

FREEDMAN  
I've got him...I've got the  
guy...This is the guy...I've got  
the guy...

CUT TO:

32 INT. DAY. ENRIGHT'S OFFICE

A spectacular 50th floor aerie with Art Deco furniture. Enright gazes out at his view. Turns as Freedman arrives.

FREEDMAN  
I've got the guy.

CUT TO:

33 INT. LATER. ENRIGHT'S OFFICE.

Enright appraises Charlie like a cattle rancher eyeballing a prize bull. Freedman can barely contain himself.

CHARLIE  
...Well, originally I was going  
to be a concert pianist.  
(more)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE (Cont'd)

And I was really quite good, but when the day was done, no Horowitz. So I decided to be an actor. Or a philosopher--I studied the Great Books at St. John's. I realized I'd never really excel at either of those, so I turned to astrophysics. But of course all the great physicists made their discoveries before the age of 25. That just wasn't in the cards. So I went to the West Bank and wrote a novel, about a parricide--

FREEDMAN

Excuse me?

CHARLIE

A boy who kills his father. My Dad liked it quite a lot, actually. But it's not like he equated it to Hawthorne or anything. It just seemed--do you know that Johnson remark, 'the epidemical conspiracy for the destruction of paper'? I mean, you could fill Yankee Stadium with all the mediocre novelists in the world, and--

ENRIGHT

Could I ask you a personal question? How much do they pay you up at Columbia?

CHARLIE

Eighty-six dollars a week.

ENRIGHT

Do you know how much the average stockbroker is paid? Do you have any idea what Bozo the Clown makes?

CHARLIE

Well, we can't all be Bozo the Clown.

ENRIGHT

I'm not questioning your choice of profession--not at all.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

ENRIGHT (Cont'd)  
I'm questioning the values of a society that pays somebody like you--what was it?

FREEDMAN  
Eighty-six dollars a week.

ENRIGHT  
Eighty-six dollars a week, and meanwhile Sputnik's up there right now beep-beep-beeping over our heads.

CHARLIE  
I have to admit, Mr. Enright, it's a national problem.

ENRIGHT  
I understand you came down here to try out for 'Tic Tac Dough'.

CHARLIE  
Well, my friends say I have a good mind for this sort of thing--I'd been planning a trip to Italy, and--

ENRIGHT  
How would you like to be on '21'?

CHARLIE  
'21'?

FREEDMAN  
Dan produces both shows.

ENRIGHT  
You're young, clean-cut...From a prominent family. You're exactly what this country needs. Kids would run to do their homework so they could be like Charles Van Doren.

CHARLIE  
It's just--what about Herbert Stempel?

ENRIGHT  
I love Herbie. People don't like him. Kids don't look up to him.

(CONTINUED)



33 CONTINUED: (3)

FREEDMAN

If you were a kid, would you want to grow up and be a fat, annoying Jewish guy with a sidewall haircut?

CHARLIE

I wanted to be Joe DiMaggio.

FREEDMAN

Especially after he held out for the hundred grand.

ENRIGHT

That's what this country needs. An intellectual Joe DiMaggio, with the money and the women and all from this (tapping his head) instead of a bat and ball.

CHARLIE

All that aside--well, honestly, I don't think I can beat him. 'Tic Tac Dough' seemed more feasible.

Enright thinks a beat. Gazes out the window.

ENRIGHT

What if we were to put you on the show--put you on '21' this Wednesday--and ask you questions you know? Say, the questions you already answered correctly on your test this morning?

CHARLIE

What do you mean? I thought the questions were in a bank vault.

ENRIGHT

Forget about that. I'm just thinking out loud.

CHARLIE

Seriously?

ENRIGHT

You want to win, don't you?

CHARLIE

I think I'd really rather try to beat him honestly.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (4)

FREEDMAN  
What's dishonest? It's not like  
we'd be giving you the answers.

CHARLIE  
I don't see the difference.

FREEDMAN  
We ask you a question, you know  
the answer. Just because we know  
you know, you still know.

ENRIGHT  
It's not like putting me on the  
show, or Al, and pretending I'm  
some intellectual. You've put in  
the time, years of study and  
erudition.

CHARLIE  
(wondering)  
I'm just trying to imagine, what  
would Kant think of this?

FREEDMAN  
I really don't think he'd have  
a problem with it.

ENRIGHT  
Nobody would ever have to know.  
Just us three. Think of what you'd  
accomplish for the cause of  
education.

CHARLIE  
It just doesn't seem right. I'd  
have to say no.

ENRIGHT  
Just an idea.

An awkward beat as they all look at each other.

CHARLIE  
Was that part of the test?

CUT TO:

34 INT. LATER. HALLWAY.

Enright and Freedman usher Charlie to the elevator.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

ENRIGHT  
Wednesday, Professor. Say around  
2 p.m. for the run-through.

CHARLIE  
It'll be, I assume--that is, not  
the way we discussed before.  
Aboveboard.

FREEDMAN  
So pure it floats.

ENRIGHT  
You're on your own.

CHARLIE  
Thank you. Well, a pleasure to  
meet you both. Goodbye.

He exits into the elevator. Enright turns to Freedman.

ENRIGHT  
Get me those questions.

CUT TO:

35 INT. NIGHT. TOOTS SHOR'S.

Herbie watches a competing quiz show at a crowded bar, TOOTS  
SHOR, the celebrated proprietor, beside him.

ON THE TELEVISION

an EMCEE asks a question.

EMCEE (O.C.)  
(reading)  
'Surgeon, soldier, sailor, spy,  
dreamed Thurber's great creation.  
Though Walter's life was mighty  
dry, he had imagination'. Name  
that story.

BACK ON--THE BAR

as Toots shakes his head in dismay, whistles low.

HERBIE  
'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty'.

Toots looks over at Herbie, doubletakes as he recognizes him.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

ON THE TELEVISION

as the Contestant flounders and the bell RINGS.

EMCEE (O.C.)  
 You don't know? (buzzer) 'The  
 Secret Life of Walter Mitty'.  
 According to the rules of 'Dotto',  
 the 10 dots you asked for will  
 now be connected in your  
 Opponent's picture...

An ARTIST works at a large easel--a CARICATURE forming...

BACK ON--THE BAR

as Toots nudges Herbie.

TOOTS  
 Excuse me--are you Herbert  
 Stempel?

HERBIE  
 Yes. I am.

TOOTS  
 (shaking hands)  
 Holy Toledo. Toots Shor.  
 (to man alongside)  
 Lookit--Herb Stempel. From  
 television. The guy that knows  
 everything.

THE MAN ALONGSIDE

turns from his drink. Offers his hand. It's JOE LOUIS.

HERBIE  
 Oh. Hiya, champ.

TOOTS  
 (off Herbie)  
 This guy's the Joe Louis of  
 brains.

Enright ARRIVES, taps Herbie on the shoulder.

ENRIGHT  
 Sorry I'm late.

Herbie digs to pay for his drink. Toots waves him off.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

TOOTS  
On the arm. You need  
anything--it's my jernt.

CUT TO:

36 INT. LATER. RESTAURANT.

Herbie and Enright chew pleasurably through thick steaks.  
Enright offers up a venerable Bordeaux.

ENRIGHT  
More wine, Herb?

HERBIE  
Thank you, Dan. Why not?

Enright pours the wine.

ENRIGHT  
You've earned it. How's that  
steak?

HERBIE  
Nothing like a fine piece of meat.

ENRIGHT  
You know, it's a hell of a thing.  
I'm looking at the thing  
today--you know, the Trendex  
ratings--

HERBIE  
Yeah?

ENRIGHT  
Well, it's the damndest thing.  
You've plateaued.

HERBIE  
I've plateaued? What does that  
mean?

ENRIGHT  
The ratings have plateaued.

HERBIE  
You just told me the other day  
the ratings were up.

ENRIGHT  
They were up. And now they've  
plateaued.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

HERBIE  
 'Plateaued'--what kind of word  
 is that? You mean people don't  
 like me any more?

ENRIGHT  
 It's not you per se, it's  
 just--well, regrettably, the  
 viewing public is fickle.

HERBIE  
 Maybe I should get my teeth  
 capped.

ENRIGHT  
 I don't think that's the answer.

HERBIE  
 You know what I think it is? I  
 think people are tired of that  
 whole 'GI college student' thing.  
 Frankly, I'm tired of it myself.  
 And that disgusting suit--I mean,  
 that's gotta be half of it--

ENRIGHT  
 It's not you, Herb. It's just the  
 nature of the show. They've  
 already seen you win. They're  
 bored with it.

HERBIE  
 What are you saying? You think  
 they want me to lose?

ENRIGHT  
 Don't you think that's natural?

HERBIE  
 You're panicking. The ratings'll  
 come around. This is temporary.  
 (gestures inside)  
 Look at Joe Louis. Joe Louis was  
 the champ for twelve years. Nobody  
 ever wanted Joe Louis to lose.

ENRIGHT  
 I'm saying just think about it.  
 Think about the little people.

HERBIE  
 Little people and big money.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

ENRIGHT

Think about all you've done for the cause of education.

HERBIE

The cause of education? I waited 41 years for this! Now I'm supposed to take a dive for the fucking cause of education?

ENRIGHT

I thought we had a relationship, Herb. I'm asking you for your help.

HERBIE

Fine. Just let me play it honestly.

A WAITER walks by.

ENRIGHT

Will you please keep your voice down?

HERBIE

You don't think I could do it? Go ahead. Give me a number.

Enright rolls his eyes. Herbie stops a WAITER.

HERBIE

(to Waiter)

Give me a number. A random number.

WAITER

23.

ENRIGHT

You're making a spectacle of yourself.

The Waiter continues on.

HERBIE

23. Beethoven was 23 when he composed his first piano sonata. In 1923 Jack Bentley set the record for batting average by a pitcher, hitting .427. There are 23 chromosomes in the human egg. Also the human sperm. 23rd President of the United States? Benjamin Harrison.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (3)

ENRIGHT  
Herb--

HERBIE  
Asian countries along the 23rd  
parallel of southern  
latitude--Australia, Tonga, French  
Polynesia--

ENRIGHT  
Don't start believing your own  
bullshit. You wouldn't know the  
name of Paul Revere's horse if  
he took a crap on your lawn.

HERBIE  
She.

ENRIGHT  
What?

HERBIE  
It was a mare, remember?

ENRIGHT  
The point is I helped you and now  
you owe me. You lose when I tell  
you to lose.

HERBIE  
But why now?

ENRIGHT  
It's an arrangement--it's always  
been an arrangement.

HERBIE  
If you made me lose before, if  
you made me lose right from the  
beginning, that I'd  
understand--that'd be my whole  
fucking life. But why now?

ENRIGHT  
Nothing lives forever.

HERBIE  
Producers and viruses live  
forever.

(CONTINUED)



36 CONTINUED: (4)

ENRIGHT

Look at the big picture. It's not like television is going to go away, you know. Think about the future.

HERBIE

The future? What are you talking about, the future? I mean, specifically.

ENRIGHT

If I knew, I'd write horoscopes for a living.

(to the Waiter)

Check?

HERBIE

You mean like a panel show?

ENRIGHT

Haven't I taken care of you?  
Haven't I been like a Dutch uncle to you?

HERBIE

Down to the wooden shoes.

ENRIGHT

Just trust me.

The Waiter brings the check. Enright goes over it.

HERBIE

You know, I could be terrific on one of those panel shows. Witty, off-the-cuff. Sort of a Bill Cullen thing--

ENRIGHT

The last category is movies. We're gonna ask you what won the Academy Award for 1955. You don't know it.

HERBIE

(sagging)

Oh, no. Oh, no. Don't do that.

ENRIGHT

You blank. You don't remember it.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (5)

HERBIE

I saw 'Marty' three times! How can I lose on 'Marty'? The Best Picture from a year ago and I don't know it?

ENRIGHT

That's the whole point.

HERBIE

It's not enough to take my championship away--you have to setz me in front of the entire country!

ENRIGHT

Someone of your intellect and it's such a simple question--don't you see the drama of that?

HERBIE

But 'Marty'? I'm begging you, Dan. Something else. Let me lose on a physics question.

Herbie gets on his knees.

ENRIGHT

Herb, will you get off the floor?

HERBIE

Please. Not 'Marty'. It's too humiliating.

Enright hands a FIFTY to the Waiter. Looks down at Herbie.

ENRIGHT

For 96 grand, Herb, you can afford to be humiliated.

CUT TO:

37 INT. NIGHT. GOODWIN APARTMENT--WASHINGTON, D.C.

A one bedroom in Georgetown. SANDRA, 20s, Goodwin's pretty shikse wife, does a crossword puzzle while she watches TV in bed. Goodwin enters, a huge CIGAR smoldering in his mouth.

SANDRA

No cigar in the bedroom.

Goodwin retreats into the hallway.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

GOODWIN

(muttering)

No cigar in the bedroom. We allow  
a television in the bedroom but  
there's no cigar in the bedroom.

IN THE HALLWAY

Goodwin sits, taps an ash into his pants cuff.

SANDRA

(from inside)

How was your day?

GOODWIN

Fine.

SANDRA

That bad?

GOODWIN

Today the Chairman asked me to  
write a speech for him, to deliver  
to the Kiwanis Club of  
Fayetteville, Arkansas.

SANDRA

You're good at that.

GOODWIN

It's supposed to be an  
investigative committee.

SANDRA

It's 1957, Dick. What are you  
gonna investigate?

ON THE TELEVISION

an ad for Geritol.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

Do you feel fatigued in the  
afternoon? Not having as much  
fun as you used to?

BACK ON--GOODWIN

puffing his cigar in the hallway...

SANDRA

(from inside)

What ever happened with that Wall  
Street job?

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2)

GOODWIN  
Money isn't everything, you know.

SANDRA  
I'm not the one who came back from  
New York with a Mercedes  
catalogue.

GOODWIN  
I just had this idea I was gonna  
do something with my life.

SANDRA  
It's a job, Dick. It's not sex.

GOODWIN  
That degree was supposed to be  
a ticket to something different.  
This isn't different. This is a  
different way of being the same.

IN THE BEDROOM

Sandra watches the television. Goodwin enters.

SANDRA  
You ever hear of Charles Van  
Doren?

GOODWIN  
Van Doren like Van Doren Van  
Doren?

SANDRA  
He's going to be on a quiz show.

ON THE TELEVISION

an ANNOUNCER delivers a PROMO.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
...he's a professor at Columbia  
University in the fabled Ivy  
League. And he'll be the new  
challenger this week on '21'!

CUT TO:

38 INT. NIGHT. HERBIE'S APARTMENT.

Herbie watches the same promo in his living room. His  
10-year-old son LESTER, a pint-sized Herbie complete with  
glasses, sits next to him.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

HERBIE

I'm such a schmuck. (to Lester)  
Your father's a schmuck.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

Will Herbert Stempel become the  
first man to win over \$100,000  
on television?

HERBIE

No, Herbert Stempel won't win over  
\$100,000. Herbert Stempel is going  
to take a dive!

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

...Tune in Wednesday and watch  
the best of CCNY take on the best  
of the Ivy League--this week on  
'21'!

HERBIE

Tune in and watch Herb Stempel  
get fed to the Columbia Lions.  
Tune in and watch Charles Van  
Doren eat his first kosher meal,  
this week on '21'!

Sounds of the front door unlocking...Toby enters in her coat.

TOBY

What are you doing, keeping Lester  
up like this?

HERBIE

The child has to learn. The child  
has to learn the depths that  
humanity can sink to.

She takes Lester by the hand, leads him out.

LESTER

He wouldn't let me practice my  
drums.

TOBY

You're going to give him your  
ulcer. Let him grow up with his  
own ulcer.

They exit. Herbie stares at the television.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

HERBIE  
(to himself)  
Why? What did I do? I did  
everything they said.

CUT TO:

39 INT. DAY. VAN DOREN OFFICE--COLUMBIA.

The Professor reads in their tiny book-cluttered office they share. Charlie noisily loads his briefcase. The Professor doesn't notice. Charlie moves to the door. Then turns.

CHARLIE  
Have you ever watched one of those  
quiz shows on television?

THE PROFESSOR  
You know we don't own a  
television, Charlie.

CHARLIE  
I just thought you might have seen  
one somewhere. 'The \$64,000  
Question', or '21'?

THE PROFESSOR  
For \$64,000 I hope they ask you  
the meaning of life.

CHARLIE  
(defensive)  
It's like a competition.

THE PROFESSOR  
You know--I don't think I know  
a single person who's ever seen  
one!

CHARLIE  
I've been told 50 million people  
watch those shows.

THE PROFESSOR  
Well, then, I suppose we've become  
a nation of proctors. They turn  
on the television and watch a  
quiz?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
 You know, apparently these shows  
 have done a lot to enhance the  
 image of intellectuals in this  
 country, motivate schoolchildren--

THE PROFESSOR  
 I'm sure they're harmless.  
 (changes the subject)  
 You know, the Tates are in town,  
 we're meeting them for dinner.  
 Would you like to join us?

CHARLIE  
 No. I have, uh...an appointment  
 with destiny.

THE PROFESSOR  
 (winks)  
 Give her a kiss for me.

CHARLIE  
 (winks)  
 I will.

CUT TO:

40 INT. NIGHT. STUDIO.

Barry rehearses while a DIRECTOR counts off...

BARRY  
 (different readings)  
 'Good evening, I'm Jack Barry'.  
 'Good evening, I'm Jack Barry'.  
 'Good evening, I'm Jack Barry'.

The Director signals.

BARRY  
 Good evening, I'm Jack Barry.

CUT TO:

41 INT. NIGHT. STEMPEL APARTMENT.

Toby eats oranges, drops the peels into a paper sack...

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
 ...Returning with \$96,000, from  
 Forest Hills, New York, Mr.  
 Herbert Stempel...

CUT TO:

42 INT. SAME TIME. SPONSOR'S APARTMENT.

The Sponsor and Kintner watch in the all-white space.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
 ...and from New York City,  
 Professor Charles Van Doren...

CUT TO:

43 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Barry interviews Charlie. Herbie fidgets alongside.

BARRY  
 Professor, are you in any way  
 related to Mark Van Doren, the  
 famous writer?

CHARLIE  
 He's my father, Jack. Dorothy Van  
 Doren, the author of the recent  
 'The Country Wife', is my mother,  
 and Carl Van Doren, the biographer  
 of Benjamin Franklin, was my  
 uncle.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Freedman leans in to a pensive Enright. Whispers.

FREEDMAN  
 Herbie's acting funny. You sure  
 he's on board?

BACK ON--BARRY

as he turns to Herbie.

BARRY  
 Herb, you have a chance tonight  
 to win over \$100,000--not bad for  
 an ex-GI college student.

(CONTINUED)



43 CONTINUED:

HERBIE  
Honestly, Mr. Barry, I feel  
that--win or lose--I've already  
shown exactly what it takes for  
a man in this country to rise  
above his circumstances.

BARRY  
Only in America.

CUT TO:

44 INT. SAME TIME. GOODWIN HOME.

The Goodwins eat Chinese food out of cartons, watch Charlie on  
the TV.

SANDRA  
Look at him. He's dreamy.

GOODWIN  
'Dreamy'? The man is a college  
professor.

SANDRA  
You know I like brainy guys.

GOODWIN  
You never said Herbert Stempel  
was dreamy.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

A condensation of the game as Charlie and Herbie, lip-biting and  
brow-mopping, bat the lead back and forth.

HERBIE  
...Andrew Johnson of Tennessee.

CUT TO:

CHARLIE  
...I guess, I guess that Atahualpa  
was the leader of the Incas at  
the time of the conquest...

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

HERBIE  
 ...therefore the Virgin Islands  
 must be Columbus's second  
 voyage...

CUT TO:

CHARLIE  
 ...The Daily News--wouldn't that  
 be Patterson, Joseph Patterson?

CUT TO:

HERBIE  
 ...If I could take that third part  
 last...

CUT TO:

CHARLIE  
 ...I'd like to take the third part  
 last, if I might...

CUT TO:

BARRY  
 Correct, Herb, for 8 points!

CUT TO:

BARRY  
 Professor, that's incorrect, and  
 you're back to five.

CUT TO:

HERBIE  
 ...Anne of Cleves...

CUT TO:

CHARLIE  
 ...Anne Boleyn...

CUT TO:

HERBIE  
 ...Catherine Howard...

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE  
...Catherine of Aragon...

CUT TO:

HERBIE  
...he divorced her...

CUT TO:

CHARLIE  
...he beheaded her...

CUT TO:

45 INT. LATER. STUDIO.

Barry launches into a question.

BARRY  
Herb Stempel, you lead at this point by 18 to 11. The category is movies. How many points do you want to try for?

HERBIE  
I'll try three, three points.

BARRY  
Which would give you 21 points if you guess right, and you will be the winner again.

Barry hits a button. The question pops up.

BARRY  
(reads)  
Which motion picture won the Academy Award for 1955?

IN THE BOOTH

Herbie sweats it out...Twists at his handkerchief...

HERBIE  
1955...Academy Award...Best Picture. Hmmm...You know, I don't remember.

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Enright and Freedman watch, TENSE...A STAGEHAND leans against a wall.

(CONTINUED)



49 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Herbie searches the skies for inspiration. Then SAGS.

BARRY  
Herb?

HERBIE  
Best Picture...No. I just don't  
remember.  
(helplessly)  
'Mister Roberts'?

BARRY  
No, I'm sorry. The answer is  
'Marty'.

HERBIE  
'Marty'!

BARRY  
(sorrowful)  
'Marty'.

CUT TO:

50 INT. NIGHT. GOODWIN HOME.

Goodwin stares dumbfounded at the TV.

GOODWIN  
Jeez. What an easy question.

CUT TO:

51 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Barry turns to Charlie.

BARRY  
And now for you, Professor--the  
category is the Civil War.

CHARLIE  
That's an awful big subject. Hmmm.  
Well, I'll try for 10 points,  
Jack.

BARRY  
Which will bring you to 21, and  
you will be the new champion.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

HERBIE

in his silent booth, frozen out, presses his face against the plexiglas--trying to get a look at Van Doren...

CLOSE ON--CHARLIE

as Barry reads the question.

BARRY

(reading)

'Because of a disagreement with his commanding general, Ulysses S. Grant was virtually placed under arrest for a brief time early in 1862. Who was the commanding general of the Union Army at that time?'

It's the SAME QUESTION he was asked in his test...Trapped in the isolation booth...What can he do?

BARRY

Tough question.

CHARLIE

It's just so oddly familiar...

BARRY

Would you like some more time?

CHARLIE

Whatever you can spare.

SUSPENSE MUSIC

blares...A rising scale out of a horror movie...

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Enright and Freedman watch, fists clenched in anticipation...

BACK ON--CHARLIE

The eyes of the audience bearing down on him... Till the music ends.

BARRY

Do you know the name?

CHARLIE

Oh, yes, uh--I know his name.  
Halleck. General H.W. Halleck.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED: (2)

BARRY  
That's correct! You are our new  
champion with \$20,000!

IN THE ISOLATION BOOTH

Charlie mops his brow. Amazed and appalled.

CHARLIE  
(sotto)  
That son of a bitch.

CLOSE ON--ENRIGHT

as he watches Charlie. SMILES. Shakes his head in admiration.

ENRIGHT  
That son of a bitch.

CUT TO:

52 INT. SAME TIME. STUDIO.

Barry slides into his oily conclusion.

BARRY  
Herb, I just want to say, by  
golly, you've had a tremendous  
run here. We may have a lot of  
contestants in the future...

CUT TO:

53 INT. SAME TIME. STEMPEL APARTMENT.

The phone RINGS unanswered. Toby crumples the bag of orange  
peels into the trash can. Exits the apartment.

BARRY (O.C.)  
...I doubt that anybody will ever  
display the knowledge, the  
fighting spirit, and the courage  
that you have on this program...

CUT TO:

54 INT. NIGHT. SPONSOR'S APARTMENT.

The Sponsor watches with Kintner.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

BARRY (O.C.)  
 And Professor Van Doren, you'll  
 be here to face a new challenger  
 next week on '21'!

SPONSOR  
 I like him. He's like a young  
 Ronald Reagan.

KINTNER  
 (eagerly)  
 With brains.

CUT TO:

55 INT. NIGHT. STUDIO.

Charlie stands by the elevator with Enright and Freedman. CREW MEMBERS and PAGES pass by, congratulate him. Herbie moves anonymously up the hallway from the deep background...

CHARLIE  
 God, I'm as exhausted as if I  
 played five sets of tennis.

NBC PAGE #1  
 Some tough questions tonight.

CHARLIE  
 Oh, not really.

FREEDMAN  
 Charlie, you're a natural.

CREW MEMBER #1  
 See you next week, Professor.

CHARLIE  
 Ugh! I don't even want to think  
 about it!  
 (to Enright)  
 Gosh, my brain is numb!

THE ELEVATOR ARRIVES

with a light and a bell. Herbie and some of the crew members climb inside. Freedman holds the door for Charlie.

ENRIGHT  
 Go home, have a martini. We'll  
 talk in the morning.

(CONTINUED)



55 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
I'm going to--I'm just going to  
take the stairs, if that's okay.

The others climb into the elevator.

HERBIE'S EYES

fill with RESENTMENT--watching Charlie as the doors CLOSE...

CUT TO:

56 INT. NIGHT. STAIRWELL.

Charlie RUNS down the fire stairs, muttering to himself. Flight  
after flight...His shoes landing with a clanging THUNK! THUNK!  
THUNK!...

CHARLIE  
What was I supposed to do, lose  
on a question I knew? Pretend I  
didn't know the answer? That would  
be just as dishonest...

STAIRS IN A TORRENT

As he rushes down pell-mell...His breath chugs heavily, his hair  
flaps over his forehead...

CHARLIE  
...I suppose I could've said  
something. Like what? God--I  
can't even imagine. The  
embarrassment. The publicity...

JUMPING

Skipping three stairs...four stairs...

CHARLIE  
...After all, it's for the good  
of the country. Besides, I've  
worked hard. I deserve twenty  
thousand dollars as much as  
anybody.

HE STOPS

Panting, chasing his breath--as if he'd run up all those stairs.  
Awed by the number he's just uttered.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
My God--twenty thousand dollars!

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

--Next week's show. Charlie divines the answer.

CHARLIE  
'Age of Innocence'.

BARRY  
Correct for ten points!

--CHILDREN gather in front of a family TV set.

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
Could that be Samuel Tilden?

BARRY (O.C.)  
Once again, Charlie, you are our  
champion!

--Charlie sits in a Morningside Heights coffee shop and reads  
his morning paper. Turns and sees

A CROWD OF STUDENTS

watching through the window. They APPLAUD. He shyly toasts them  
with his cup of coffee. Turns, pleased and ashamed, back to his  
paper.

--The following week--the opening of the show. The beautiful  
ESCORT brings Charlie and CHALLENGER #1 out.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
...returning with \$36,000...

--Charlie in a PREP ROOM. Freedman asks him a question.

FREEDMAN  
(reading)  
Who were the three heavyweight  
champions who preceded Joe Louis?

CHARLIE  
Let's see...Braddock. Baer, Max  
Baer...Hrumm...

FREEDMAN  
Primo Carnera.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

You're not supposed to do that.  
You can't use that.

FREEDMAN

I gotta sit here all day? What  
the hell's the difference?

--NUNS pray while Charlie searches for the answer.

CHARLIE (O.C.)

My goodness... Could it be--I'm  
going to guess Primo Carnera.

BARRY (O.C.)

You have 21!

The Nuns bless themselves, offer thanks to God.

--Charlie tours an empty Greenwich Village TOWNHOUSE.

REALTOR

It's the only townhouse available  
on Washington Square. They're firm  
at \$14,000.

CHARLIE

I'll take it.

--The week after...Charlie comes out with CHALLENGER #2.

ANNOUNCER

...Returning, with \$54,000...

--The week after...Sandra and Goodwin watch at home... Charlie  
comes out with CHALLENGER #3.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)

...returning with \$69,500, from  
New York, N.Y., Professor Charles  
Van Doren!

--The Sponsor and Kintner watch in the all-white apartment.

KINTNER

Fifty million people tuning in  
week after week just to watch a  
man win, what--\$10,000? Imagine  
if they could watch you.

The Sponsor shoots him a withering look...

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED: (3)

-SPINNING HEADLINES:

Business Section: 'GERITOL SALES  
DOUBLE IN '56' (with a photo of  
The Sponsor)

Variety: 'BARRY/ENRIGHT SELL TO  
NBC FOR \$2 MILLION'

Cosmopolitan: 'CHARLES VAN  
DOREN--BRAINS, LOOKS AND  
AVAILABLE'

Saturday Review: 'VAN DOREN:  
AMERICA'S ANSWER TO SPUTNIK'

Life: 'THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE  
WORLD'

CUT TO:

57 INT. DAY. VAN DOREN HOME--CORNWALL HOLLOW, CONNECTICUT.

Worn chintz and Christmas decorations. Dorothy darns socks. The  
Professor opens the front door. Smiles.

THE PROFESSOR  
If it isn't 'The Smartest Man in  
the World'.

REVERSE ANGLE

It's Charlie, straining to carry a huge CARTON...

DOROTHY  
Charlie! What a surprise!

CHARLIE  
Hello, Mother. (to father) Since  
when do you read Life Magazine?

THE PROFESSOR  
Trilling told me about it.

CHARLIE  
Since when does Trilling read Life  
Magazine?

THE PROFESSOR  
I think he saw it at the doctor's  
office.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

I can't even eat dinner in a restaurant anymore. People follow me inside to discover what kind of 'brain food' I eat.

(to Dorothy)

Mother, do you have a scissors or something?

She goes to the kitchen to find a scissors...

CHARLIE

There's a girl at NBC now whose sole job it is to answer my mail. This week alone I got fifty proposals of marriage.

THE PROFESSOR

Well, maybe you should accept one of them.

DOROTHY

Oh, don't be an old fool.

THE PROFESSOR

Well, why not? He's 33 years old. Jesus Christ had a girlfriend at 33.

Dorothy returns with the scissors, hands them to Charlie. He sets about opening the carton...

DOROTHY

Some gold-digger whose only qualification for marriage is an ability to lick a postage stamp.

CHARLIE

I'm sure they're all very nice girls.

THE PROFESSOR

(glares at Dorothy)

In that case, maybe I should appear on a quiz show.

CHARLIE

The money, meanwhile--no one knows what to do with it. I mean, everyone knows what to do with it. I'm besieged by stockbrokers. Stockbrokers and single women.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (2)

THE PROFESSOR  
Why don't you just put it in the bank?

CHARLIE  
It's not that simple.

THE PROFESSOR  
That's what I've always done with my prize money.

CHARLIE  
It's just--you don't understand Dad. It gets very complicated at this level--there are all sorts of tax implications--

THE PROFESSOR  
I think I can understand the concept of taxes.

CHARLIE  
Will you just listen to me, Dad? I'm not sure that I understand it, and it's my money.

DOROTHY  
How much money is it, anyway?

THE PROFESSOR  
Charlie, you're talking to me like I'm some sort of country bumpkin--or some flibbertigibbet with his head in the clouds--

CHARLIE  
Well, you have to admit it's not your strong suit.

THE PROFESSOR  
Believe me, if you have a practical bone in your body, it comes from the Van Dorens.

DOROTHY  
Ha!

Charlie finishes with the carton. Turns to them.

CHARLIE  
Ready? Voila!

The sides of the carton fall down, revealing

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (3)

A BRAND-NEW TELEVISION

set like a jewel in a beautiful cabinet. The wood matches the wood of the room. Charlie kneels to plug it in. Turns it on.

DOROTHY

This is wonderful! Now we can watch you on that show of yours!

THE PROFESSOR

We were supposed to watch it the other night at the Thurbers'.

DOROTHY

Even Thurber has a television. And he's blind.

THE PROFESSOR

Somehow we got sidetracked onto something or other.

They all admire the TV.

DOROTHY

Charlie...How much have you made on that show?

THE PROFESSOR

This ceaseless fretting about money. 'How frugal is the Chariot/ That bears the human soul'.

DOROTHY

Maybe you should take the frugal Chariot to the supermarket and see what chopped meat costs.

THE PROFESSOR

Would you like a sherry, Charlie?

The Professor exits to the kitchen.

DOROTHY

It's a simple question.

CHARLIE

It's not important.

DOROTHY

I'm going to feel like a fool if it comes up in conversation and I'm the only one who doesn't know.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED: (4)

The Professor returns, hands a SHERRY to Charlie.

DOROTHY  
(to Charlie)  
Well?

THE PROFESSOR  
Well, what? (getting it) Are you  
still on about the money?

CHARLIE  
\$106,000.

The Professor is dumbstruck--more money than he's earned in ten years.

DOROTHY  
In that case, we could also use  
a dishwasher.

The Professor shoots Dorothy a scathing look. The phone RINGS...Dorothy moves to the kitchen to answer it.

THE PROFESSOR  
So, Charlie, what do you make of  
this latest nonsense of Norman  
Mailer's?

DOROTHY  
(from inside)  
Professor, it's someone for you  
from Time Magazine.

THE PROFESSOR  
Time Magazine? What could that  
be about?

ON THE TELEVISION

as the Professor reaches for the knob, snaps it OFF.

CUT TO:

58 INT. LATER THAT WEEK. NBC--RECEPTION AREA.

THE COVER OF TIME

with Charlie's portrait and the caption, "CHARLES VAN DOREN," as  
the glossy SMACKS rhythmically against someone's knee...A  
metronome of impatience...

(CONTINUED)



58 CONTINUED:

WIDER

Herbie among the hopefuls in Enright's waiting room. He wears a sharkskin suit and a LOUD NECKTIE. CONTESTANT #1 turns to CONTESTANT #2, nods toward Herbie.

CONTESTANT #1

(aside)

Isn't that--what's his name? The guy that lost to Van Doren?

Enright's Secretary approaches Herbie.

SECRETARY

Mr. Enright will see you now.

CUT TO:

59 INT. DAY. ENRIGHT'S OFFICE.

Herbie enters with the copy of Time.

HERBIE

Did you see this? Did you?

ENRIGHT

Herb, you should've called.

HERBIE

..(reading)

'He combines the erudition of a Renaissance man with the nerves of a riverboat gambler...'  
Remember how he snubbed me after the show?

ENRIGHT

He didn't snub you.

HERBIE

He refused to even ride in the elevator with me! (resuming) 'He has become a "friend" in 50 million homes, whose weekly visits the whole family eagerly anticipates'--do you believe this shit?

ENRIGHT

That's the press--you know how they exaggerate.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

HERBIE

That should be me on the cover of Time! Charles Van Doren--he wouldn't know the answer to a doorbell if you didn't give it to him.

ENRIGHT

What do you want me to tell you, Herb? Life is unfair.

HERBIE

Life is unfair to me. Life isn't unfair to Charles Van Doren. It's like a joke. 'What do you give the man who has everything?' \$106,000.

ENRIGHT

It's not like I never put a dollar in your pocket.

HERBIE

I was a 'friend', too, in 50 million homes. Now I'm a 'friend' in a walkup in Queens.

(beat)

Besides, it's gone.

ENRIGHT

What do you mean, it's gone? The money's gone?

HERBIE

I mean invested. It's invested. It's tied up.

ENRIGHT

Have you spoken to your broker?

HERBIE

He's not a broker. He's more of...ah...a bookmaker.

ENRIGHT

You gave your money to a bookie?

HERBIE

Seed money. He's down in Florida right now. According to him it's the next growth area.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (2)

ENRIGHT

You invested your money with a bookie who has since left the state.

HERBIE

The point is you promised me a panel show.

ENRIGHT

I said I would do what I could. I put your name on a list.

HERBIE

I lost 12 pounds, you know. Did you tell them I lost 12 pounds?

ENRIGHT

I submitted a list of 45 names--

HERBIE

What about this tie? This is the kind of tie that looks best in black-and-white, right?

ENRIGHT

Well, it'll certainly improve it.

HERBIE

Twelve pounds. That'll make a big difference on camera.

ENRIGHT

Herb, listen. I put you on a list. 45 names--they rejected three. You were one of them.

HERBIE

Who were the others?

ENRIGHT

They turned out to be Communists.

HERBIE

Out of 45 names they rejected me and two Communists?

ENRIGHT

There'll be other shows.

HERBIE

I need that money, Dan! I need that panel show!  
(more)

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (3)

HERBIE (Cont'd)

That big blond putz is on the cover of Time and I can't even make the top fucking 42 for a fucking panel show?

ENRIGHT

Let me give you the name of my analyst. Have him send the bills to me. It might be helpful to have someone to talk to.

HERBIE

I'll tell you who I'm going to talk to. I'm going to the D.A. And the newspapers.

ENRIGHT

That wouldn't be smart.

HERBIE

I've been smart 42 years and look where it's gotten me--I'm going to be dumb for a change. I'm gonna tell the world that '21' is nothing but a fraud.

ENRIGHT

Who are you blowing the whistle on? You got the answers yourself.

HERBIE

I'm bringing you down with me, you lousy lying prick--you and Charles Van fucking Doren.

ENRIGHT

Go ahead. You know what? Nobody will believe you.

HERBIE

You just became part of television history, pal.

(mimics announcer)

'The fix is in--this week on "21".'

ENRIGHT

And even if anybody did believe you, they wouldn't give you the satisfaction.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED: (4)

HERBIE  
The cover of Time - his mug shot'll  
be on the cover of Time!

Herbie SLAMS out of the office as Freedman enters. Enright  
sighs, rubs his forehead.

ENRIGHT  
Shit.

FREEDMAN  
What happened?

DISSOLVE TO:

60 INT. MORNING. GOODWIN KITCHEN.

Goodwin reads the New York Times. Sandra watches the Today Show.

SANDRA  
(off television)  
Look at the arm on this guy. The  
Senators could use this guy.

ON THE TELEVISION

An angry Latin American demonstrator winds up, HURLS a stone at  
the motorcade of Vice President NIXON and his wife.

REPORTER (V.O.)  
...The demonstrators stoned and  
spat on the Nixons as they  
proceeded via motorcade through  
Caracas...Now back to Dave  
Garroway and the Today Show in  
New York.

DAVE GARROWAY, the jovial host, shakes his head. He turns to his  
co-host, J. FRED MUGGS. A chimpanzee. He SQUAWKS.

GARROWAY (O.C.)  
That's what I'm thinking. Can you  
imagine that kind of thing  
happening here?

Goodwin turns back to his paper. An item catches his eye. The  
wheels start to SPIN...

GOODWIN  
You know what a presentment is?

SANDRA  
It's on the tip of my tongue.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

GOODWIN

It's a formal statement from a grand jury. They make a presentment to announce publicly what the grand jury found out.

SANDRA

So?

GOODWIN

So it doesn't make any sense that a judge would seal it.

Goodwin points to a small HEADLINE on an inside page.

PRESENTMENT SEALED IN TV NETWORK INQUIRY

Sandra looks at the article.

SANDRA

What did they find out?

GOODWIN

That's what I'm saying. What did they find out?

Excited, he gulps at his coffee. Kisses his wife and RUNS.

GOODWIN

Don't wait up for me.

Sandra looks at the paper. Then up as the screen door SLAMS.

CUT TO:

61 INT. DAY. NEW YORK SUPREME COURT.

The messy democracy of a New York courtroom. A BAILIFF calls the court to order.

BAILIFF

The Supreme Court of the State of New York is now in session.

JUDGE SCHWEITZER, 50s, a grumpy clubhouse pol, looks at the day's docket...Reddens with RAGE as Goodwin stands.

GOODWIN

Your honor, I represent the Subcommittee on Legislative Oversight of the--

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

SCHWEITZER  
Did Herbert Stempel send you?

GOODWIN  
Herbert Stempel? As I understand it, this case involves network television, which falls under the committee's jurisdiction--

SCHWEITZER  
You tell your friend Stempel that that presentment lies in a deep cold grave, and the only way he's going to get his hands on it is to join it there. Now you get out of here, or I'm going to hold you in contempt!

The Judge nods to the burly Bailiff, who heads toward Goodwin. Goodwin gathers his papers, scrambles out.

CUT TO:

62 INT. LATER. KINTNER'S OFFICE.

Kintner enters as his Secretary answers the phone.

SECRETARY  
It's Judge Schweitzer.

Kintner stops in his tracks. Stares at the blinking phone.

CUT TO:

63 EXT. MORNING. STEMPEL HOME.

Goodwin rings the doorbell again. Herbie answers.

GOODWIN  
Mr. Stempel? My name is Richard Goodwin, I'm a lawyer with the Subcommittee on Legislative Oversight of the United States Congress.

HERBIE  
Yeah?

GOODWIN  
Did you recently testify before the grand jury?

(CONTINUED)

63 CONTINUED:

HERBIE  
Yeah?

GOODWIN  
Well, I'd like to talk to you  
about it.

Herbie blinks. He can't believe it.

HERBIE  
Gee, uh. Ha! Finally! Finally!  
Come in. What's your name,  
Goodwin?  
(calling inside)  
Hey, Toby, get dressed, willya?  
There's somebody here from  
Congress!

CUT TO:

64 INT. LATER. HERBIE'S APARTMENT.

They enter the living room. Toby watches the TV. Sounds of  
Herbie's son Lester DRUMMING wildly inside.

HERBIE  
I knew it was just a matter of  
time. This is my wife, Toby.  
This is Mr. Goodwin, he's an  
investigator from the United  
States Congress.

TOBY  
Pleased to meet you.

HERBIE  
Mrs. Rubber Crutch here thinks  
I should've kept my mouth shut.

TOBY  
1957 and I still believe in  
miracles.

She gets up. Heads toward the kitchen....

HERBIE  
If you're not big enough to admit  
you're wrong, honey, who is.

TOBY  
(to Goodwin)  
You want a cup of coffee? I  
already got a pot on.

(CONTINUED)



64 CONTINUED:

GOODWIN  
Yes, please.

She exits into the hallway.

HERBIE  
(after her)  
And bring some rugalach--if there  
are any left.  
(to Goodwin)  
I love my wife, but it's like  
living with a plague of locusts.

Goodwin sits, opens up a legal pad on his lap.

HERBIE  
Did you talk to Van Doren?

GOODWIN  
Charles Van Doren?

HERBIE  
If Charles Van Doren told them  
what I told them, you think this  
grand jury thing would be  
squashed?

GOODWIN  
Quashed.

HERBIE  
Quashed?

GOODWIN  
Not squashed. Quashed.

HERBIE  
Not in a million years, quashed,  
okay?

GOODWIN  
Charles Van Doren also spoke to  
the grand jury?

HERBIE  
Of course not. Him they would have  
to listen to. The man's name is  
open, sesame.

Toby returns with a pot of coffee and a plate of rugulach.

TOBY  
So, Mr. Goodwin--you gonna be able  
to help my husband?

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2)

HERBIE  
Have a rugalach.

GOODWIN  
No, thank you.

HERBIE  
Come on! You don't look like you  
have a weight problem.  
(calling inside)  
Lester! Willya knock it off for  
ten minutes!  
(with rugalach)  
They don't have this in  
Washington.

GOODWIN  
No, thank you.

HERBIE  
It's a Jewish delicacy. You don't  
know what you're missing.

GOODWIN  
I'm quite familiar with rugalach,  
thank you.

Herbie realizes that Goodwin is Jewish...

HERBIE  
Oh, really?

TOBY  
Did Herbie tell you he went to  
the newspapers? Not one would  
print his story.

HERBIE  
Being a voice alone in the  
wilderness, you know, that's one  
thing. Being a voice alone in  
Forest Hills, that's quite  
another.

TOBY  
Seventeen newspapers in the City  
of New York.

HERBIE  
If Charles Van Doren went to the  
papers--can you imagine the  
headlines? 'Van Doren Blows  
Whistle on Quiz Fix'.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (3)

GOODWIN  
Wait a minute--what do you mean,  
'fix'?

HERBIE  
Fix.  
(shouting)  
Lester!

TOBY  
Do you play a musical instrument,  
Mr. Goodwin?

HERBIE  
You're not supposed to ask him  
questions. He's here to ask me  
questions.

GOODWIN  
I just want to get this  
straight--'21' is fixed?

HERBIE  
You're so naive. Of course it's  
fixed! It's a fix, it's all a fix.  
A set-up.

GOODWIN  
That's unbelievable.

HERBIE  
Do you think that big blond putz  
would be on the show 13 weeks  
without somebody spoon-feeding  
him the answers?

Herbie tears into the rugalach.

GOODWIN  
You're saying Charles Van Doren  
is given the answers in advance?

HERBIE  
They made me take a dive--did you  
know that? 'Marty'. They told me  
I had 'plateaued'--that the  
ratings had 'plateaued'.

TOBY  
A sinking ship and the rats  
stayed.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (4)

HERBIE

Would they tell me to take a dive  
and not give him the answers?  
It's not logical.

GOODWIN

Then it's purely inferential.

HERBIE

There's nothing inferential about  
it. You think they'd give me the  
answers, who didn't even need the  
answers, and not give the Big Goy  
the answers ?

GOODWIN

They gave you the answers?

SURPRISED, Toby shoots him a look--this is the first she's heard  
of it. An awkward PAUSE, filled with the sound of Lester's  
drumming...

HERBIE

Would you please go inside and  
tell Gene Krupa to take five?

Toby gets up, goes inside. Herbie resumes.

GOODWIN

Herb--why would you admit that  
they gave you the answers?

HERBIE

Exactly. Exactly. That's the  
difference between me and Charles  
Van Doren--I admit it. I have  
my morality.

GOODWIN

I want to get this straight--they  
made you take a dive after giving  
you the answers.

HERBIE

I just wanted the money--frankly,  
to get out from under the  
financial thumb, as it were, of  
my in-laws. I didn't put myself  
up to the world as the Crown  
Prince of Education. I didn't  
parade myself on the cover of  
Time. That's why you have to nail  
him.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (5)

GOODWIN  
This isn't McCarthyism.

HERBIE  
Listen--think about what  
McCarthyism did for McCarthy.

GOODWIN  
I'm not here to nail anyone.

HERBIE  
I'm just saying--don't make  
necessarily the mistakes that I  
might have made in life. Think  
about your career. You nail Van  
Doren, kid, it'll be bigger than  
Sputnik. It'd be like Sputnik  
crashing--like a big blond Sputnik  
crashing right on his fucking  
head.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. DAY. COLUMBIA CAMPUS.

STUDENTS greet Charlie as he strides across campus. A man in his  
element. Then he notices Goodwin following him. Starts to hurry.  
Looks over his shoulder. Still being followed...

GOODWIN  
Professor Van Doren!

Charlie at a trot now...Goodwin runs after him.

CHARLIE DASHES

at a dead run across the Quad. Goodwin picks up the pursuit.

CHARLIE DUCKS

into the library, hustling through as STUDENTS greet him.

HIDE AND SEEK

behind a large CARD CATALOGUE. Goodwin hurries by. Charlie  
peeks. Sneaks down a hallway. Stops at the elevator. Pounds  
on the button as he looks around furtively.

CHARLIE  
Darn.

Goodwin looks around. Backtracks down the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

URNS THE CORNER

sees Charlie, hiding his face with his newspaper, pressing urgently on the elevator button. Runs up to him.

GOODWIN

Professor Van Doren! Excuse me--my name is Richard Goodwin. I'm a lawyer with--

CHARLIE

Oh. Thank God! Excuse me--I thought you were a stockbroker.

GOODWIN

A lawyer's bad enough. Professor--

CHARLIE

Nobody without acne gets to call me Professor. Call me Charlie.

GOODWIN

Do you have a minute?

CHARLIE

Sure. We can go up to my office, if this elevator ever gets here.

Charlie punches the button again.

CHARLIE

You know, you look like someone I know. Now isn't that funny? I've forgotten his name.

GOODWIN

My mother says I look like Tony Curtis.

CHARLIE

No, that's not it...

The elevator arrives. Charlie gestures for Goodwin to enter first. Then suddenly stops him.

CHARLIE

Stempel! Remember him? That's who you look like--Herbert Stempel!

CUT TO:

66 INT. LATER. LOW LIBRARY.

They move up the hallway past a sign hand-screwled by students:  
"THIS WAY TO WORLD'S SMARTEST MAN"

CHARLIE  
...I almost became a lawyer. But  
there's only nine seats on the  
Supreme Court, after all,  
and--where'd you go to law school?

Charlie unlocks his office, gestures for Goodwin to enter.

GOODWIN  
Harvard. I was first in my class.

CHARLIE  
Good for you. Did you know  
Professor Byse at all?

GOODWIN  
He taught me Contracts.

CHARLIE  
He taught me my backhand. That's  
him up there with Dad and  
Roosevelt.

Goodwin inspects the MEMORABILIA on the mantle: Mark Van Doren  
with Clark Byse and FDR. Mark Van Doren and Hemingway. The  
National Book Award. The Pulitzer Prize.

CHARLIE  
So, you must be happy to flee Our  
Nation's Capital.

GOODWIN  
Then you've spent some time there.

CHARLIE  
Washington? Washington's a town  
where for excitement they go to  
Baltimore.

GOODWIN  
Let me ask you--have you heard  
anything about these allegations  
that '21' was rigged?

CHARLIE  
Rigged?

GOODWIN  
Fixed.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
What an odd idea...I don't even  
know how you'd go about it.

GOODWIN  
So you've never noticed anything  
suspect about the show?

CHARLIE  
Its popularity is, I suppose,  
suspect.

GOODWIN  
Herbert Stempel says that during  
his reign on '21' he was given  
the answers.

CHARLIE  
Herbert Stempel? I'd've thought  
they got the answers from him.

GOODWIN  
He also says he was made to take  
a dive in his contest with you.

CHARLIE  
I'd hate to think I won anything  
but fairly.

GOODWIN  
You've never been asked to do  
anything improper?

CHARLIE  
Oh, Lord, no.

GOODWIN  
Because if you were, you know,  
they'd just be using you for your  
name. You'd be a victim as much  
as anyone.

CHARLIE  
Frankly, I wish they would. I'd  
love to take a dive and get back  
to normal life.

THE DOOR OPENS

and The Professor enters.

THE PROFESSOR  
Oh. Hello, Charlie. Am I  
interrupting?

(CONTINUED)



66 CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

Dick, this is my father, Mark Van Doren. This is Dick Goldwyn.

GOODWIN

Goodwin. It's an honor, sir.

THE PROFESSOR

Goodwin--what a wonderful name! 'Good.' 'Win'. All of America is in that name.

CHARLIE

Did you happen to see the show last night?

THE PROFESSOR

It was on last night? I'm sorry, Charlie, I--

CHARLIE

It's nothing, it's just--there was a question about Hawthorne. I thought you'd get a kick out of it.

THE PROFESSOR

I completely forgot.

Goodwin gets up to leave. Hands Charlie a card.

GOODWIN

I'm at the Gramercy Park--you can reach me there till Tuesday.

Charlie walks Goodwin to the door.

CHARLIE

Are you a card player, Dick? We have a regular game Saturday nights, we're looking for someone to fill in.

GOODWIN

I don't know that I'm a card player. I've played cards before.

CHARLIE

The address is--actually, why don't we drive up together? I'll pick you up around 7:30.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: (3)

THE PROFESSOR  
Dick, if you look around the table  
and can't tell who the sucker  
is--it's you.

They all share a big laugh.

CUT TO:

67 EXT. DAY. STREET.

Charlie talks on a PAY PHONE on Broadway, tearing at his hair  
and looking around furtively.

CHARLIE  
...I simply can't have this. He  
was questioning me!

ENRIGHT (O.C.)  
Calm down. His wife probably  
wanted an autograph.

CHARLIE  
Congress investigates Communists.  
Congress investigates mobsters.  
Those are not our people.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)  
Look on the bright side--you'll  
be on national television.  
(beat)  
That's a joke, Charlie.

CHARLIE  
You gave Herbert Stempel the  
answers? You never told me that!

ENRIGHT (O.C.)  
It never came up.

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
You said I could never beat him  
without getting the answers.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)  
I said you'd advance the cause  
of education. Was I right?

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
Why is he doing this? He's only  
implicating himself!

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

A PASSERBY

recognizes Charlie. Points at him.

PASSERBY

Hey! It's Charles Van Doren!

Charlie tries to hide in the phone booth.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)

Think about the future. Do you know how many calls I get from the network about you?

CHARLIE

You don't understand. I have a name.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)

That's what I'm telling you.

CHARLIE

I am Charles Van Doren.

ON THE PASSERBY

as others CROWD around him, stop to gawk.

PASSERBY

Look--Charles Van Doren! Hey, Professor--you calling Information? He's calling 411 for Information.

BACK ON--CHARLIE

as he struggles. Flashes a phony smile to the GAWKERS.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)

I have something that's gonna make Herbie go away. I guarantee it. Just don't say anything.

CHARLIE

(flustered)

I have to--I have to go.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)

Did you say anything?

CHARLIE

Goodbye. Yes. No. Goodbye.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED: (2)

Charlie hangs up. Turns. The crowd starts to cheer. Charlie smiles a phony smile, HURRIES from the applause...

CUT TO:

68 INT. NIGHT. HOTEL--FRONT DESK.

The CONCIERGE hands Goodwin his key and a NOTE.

CONCIERGE

Good night, Mr. Goodwin.

Goodwin OPENS the note. The letterhead, CHARLES VAN DOREN. Scrawled beneath:

It was a pleasure to meet you.

--CVD

From the shadows a WAITING MAN emerges...Goodwin looks up.

WAITING MAN

You Goodwin?

GOODWIN

Yeah?

The Waiting Man wheels a CAMERA to his eye. Aims.

FLASH!

CUT TO:

69 INT. NIGHT. HOTEL.

Goodwin smokes a cigar in bed, cradles the PHONE on his shoulder. Sandra does the crossword at home in Georgetown.

GOODWIN

What if I told you '21' was rigged?

SANDRA

'21' is like wrestling?

GOODWIN

That's what that grand jury was about. Herbert Stempel admits that they gave him the answers in advance.

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED:

SANDRA  
That's unbelievable.

GOODWIN  
And when they wanted him to lose,  
they made him take a dive.

SANDRA  
What about Van Doren?

GOODWIN  
I met him today. Him and his  
father. It turns out--

SANDRA  
Did you ask him if he's getting  
the answers?

GOODWIN  
Of course I asked him. You're not  
listening.

SANDRA  
I'm sorry.

GOODWIN  
It turns out Clark Byse is an old  
family friend.

SANDRA  
.Who?

GOODWIN  
My old Contracts professor at  
Harvard.

SANDRA  
It doesn't make sense that you'd  
make one guy take a dive and not  
give the other guy the answers.

GOODWIN  
You sound like Stempel.

SANDRA  
What makes you think Van Doren  
didn't get the answers?

GOODWIN  
Sandra--why would somebody like  
Charles Van Doren jeopardize  
everything he has for a quiz show?

(CONTINUED)

69 CONTINUED: (2)

SANDRA  
Those good-looking guys are always  
bullshit artists.

GOODWIN  
Do you have any idea what I'm onto  
here? I'm going after some of the  
biggest institutions in the  
country! Me, Dick Goodwin--the  
former bard of the Fayetteville  
Kiwanis--

SANDRA  
You smoking in the bed?

Goodwin draws deep. Grins ear to ear.

GOODWIN  
I'm having the time of my life.

CUT TO:

70 INT. NIGHT. STEMPEL APARTMENT.

Herbie brushes his teeth in the bathroom. Inside, Toby turns  
down the bed.

TOBY  
You never told me you got the  
answers, Herb.

HERBIE  
Of course they gave me the  
answers. I mean, not very many  
answers. I'm sure I mentioned  
it.

TOBY  
It's not a thing you 'mention'.  
What else did you do that you  
didn't 'mention'?

HERBIE  
What, are you gonna start on me,  
too? The man came here, he sat  
in our kitchen and he said, 'How'd  
you like to make \$25,000'? I don't  
know any man in America who'd turn  
that down.

TOBY  
That's not the point.

Herbie enters the bedroom, brandishing his toothbrush.

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

HERBIE

Let me tell you about honest.  
 You know what my father used to  
 tell me? 'Work hard and you'll  
 get ahead'. Was that honest?  
 Look at Geritol--'Geritol cures  
 tired blood'--and I'm the one  
 who's supposed to be ashamed.

TOBY

You never said you were getting  
 the answers.

HERBIE

Let them believe whatever they  
 want. What do I care? What do  
 I care if a bunch of saps--

TOBY

(right back)

I was one of the saps, Herbert.

CLOSE ON HERBIE

For the first time, he realizes what he did to his wife.

CUT TO:

71 INT. MORNING. "21" SET.

The set is dark. Goodwin climbs into an isolation booth. Puts on  
 a set of headphones. Looks out through the plexiglas, out at  
 the empty seats, the podium where Barry stands...

GOODWIN

Well, gee, Jack. Hmmm. Ty Cobb,  
 for starters. (beat) Would Honus  
 Wagner be the next? (beat) Most  
 base hits...Something makes me  
 want to say Tris Speaker--

An NBC PAGE knocks at the door, startling Goodwin.

NBC PAGE

Mr. Enright will see you now.

CUT TO:

72 INT. DAY. ENRIGHT'S OFFICE.

Goodwin enters. An angry Enright confronts him.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

ENRIGHT

Did you see the paper this morning?

He hands him the Daily News. A large PHOTOGRAPH of Goodwin--snapped last night at the hotel--beneath the headline:

CONGRESS PROBES QUIZ FIX

ENRIGHT

I will not have my show--what we've accomplished for the cause of education--slandered like this in the tabloids.

GOODWIN

I assure you, I had nothing to do with this.

ENRIGHT

Fix? The questions on '21' are certified by the Encyclopedia Britannica! They're kept under lock and key in a bank vault!

GOODWIN

Notwithstanding the bank vault, Mr. Enright, Herbert Stempel swears the show is rigged.

ENRIGHT

It would take a real individualist to believe Herb Stempel. Does he have any concrete evidence? Does it make any sense that a man would implicate himself like this?

GOODWIN

Well, I've only just--

ENRIGHT

It's not even logical. Do you know how the show works? If I made him take a dive, I'd have to give the answers to Charles Van Doren.

GOODWIN

Not necessarily.

ENRIGHT

Charles Van Doren! With his background? I think if you even suggested a scheme like that he'd punch you in the nose.

(CONTINUED)



72 CONTINUED: (2)

GOODWIN

With my nose he could hardly miss.

ENRIGHT

Mr. Goodwin, I'd rather not share this with anyone, but it seems like there's no other way.

A TAPE RECORDER

Sits on the coffee table. Enright hits "PLAY".

HERBIE (O.C.)

I need that money, Dan! I need that panel show! That big blond putz is on the cover of Time and I can't even make the top fucking 42 for a fucking panel show?

ENRIGHT (O.C.)

I think it's important that you see an analyst, Herb, for the intensive psychiatric care we both know you need.

HERBIE (O.C.)

I'm going to the D.A. And the newspapers. I'm gonna tell the world that '21' is nothing but a fraud.

ENRIGHT (O.C.)

This is a crude blackmail attempt that will never succeed. You know that I've always been scrupulously honest with you.

HERBIE (O.C.)

I'm bringing you down with me, you lousy lying prick--you and Charles Van fucking Doren.

Enright stops the tape. Shakes his head...

GOODWIN

I don't understand--he needed money?

ENRIGHT

Gambling. And that's the least of it. I trust you'll keep this between us--given Herb's medical condition...

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED: (3)

GOODWIN  
Medical condition?

Enright goes to his desk. Opens the top drawer, returns with a sheaf of BILLS. Goodwin examines them.

ENRIGHT  
I've been paying his psychiatrist's bills. A man like Herb, no longer in the public eye--television's like a monkey on his back. Needless to say, I feel responsible.

GOODWIN  
Five sessions a week?

ENRIGHT  
Well, it's not so bad that he needs to be institutionalized...

Enright ushers Goodwin to the door.

ENRIGHT  
My theory, Dick, is that Herb is so angry with himself for losing, so guilt-ridden, that he has projected that enormous guilt onto the person of Charles Van Doren--blames him for his downfall. Whereas the real downfall of Herbert Stempel has always been, regrettably... Herbert Stempel.

GOODWIN  
Do you worry about Van Doren? Someday when he's not in the public eye--

ENRIGHT  
He's far less neurotic than Herbie.

CUT TO:

73 INT. DAY. PSYCHIATRIST'S OFFICE.

An ANALYST sits in a cool, dimly-lit room. Charlie lies on the couch alongside him.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

...I keep having this dream. I open up my billfold, and there's a \$20 bill there. And I take it out, and close the billfold, and when I open the billfold again, there's another \$20 bill. And it's pleasurable at first. But then I want it to stop, and I can't. Do you have any idea what that might mean?

(a long beat)

You sound just like my father.

CUT TO:

74 EXT. EVENING. STEMPEL APARTMENT.

Goodwin rings the bell. Toby answers, WORRY on her brow.

GOODWIN

Hello. Is Herb around? (reacting)  
What's the matter?

Lester emerges from the shadows. With a vivid BLACK EYE.

CUT TO:

75 EXT. EVENING. FOREST HILLS.

Herbie RAGES outside a neighbor's home. A CROWD gathered around him.

HERBIE

Come on, you son of a bitch! Take responsibility for your degenerate son.

The NEIGHBOR, a brute in an undershirt, appears at the upstairs window. Scratches under his arm.

NEIGHBOR

Drop dead.

He slams the window shut.

HERBIE

'Drop dead'. That's very articulate. (gesturing) Darwin disproved, ladies and gentlemen!

The window opens. The Neighbor leans out.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED:

NEIGHBOR  
(sneering)  
'Marty'! 'Marty'!

GOODWIN

fights through the crowd. Herbie hustles up to the doorbell.  
Leans on it. Hustles back down and resumes his siege.

HERBIE  
You think you can just move into  
this neighborhood and launch a  
pogrom?

GOODWIN  
Herb, what happened?

HERBIE  
What? (sees Goodwin) Hey! You know  
who's here? The United States  
Congress is here!

GOODWIN  
Would you tell me what happened?

HERBIE  
Get up there. Subpoena him, that  
son of a bitch.

Herbie shoves Goodwin toward the door.

THE WINDOW OPENS

and the Neighbor emerges again.

HERBIE  
Say hello to the United States  
Congress, putz.

NEIGHBOR  
Listen, asshole, you have--

HIS TOUPEE

as it falls off, lands softly. Herbie runs, GRABS it.

HERBIE  
Rapunzel!

NEIGHBOR  
Leave that alone!

HERBIE  
Come down and get it.

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: (2)

Herbie plants the toupee firmly on his own head.

THE NEIGHBOR DISAPPEARS

from the window...Heading down...Herbie turns to Goodwin.

HERBIE

Wait'll he discovers the wrath  
of the American people as  
delivered by their elected  
representatives.

GOODWIN

What happened to Lester?

HERBIE

Did you see? Did you see what his  
son did to my son?

THE DOOR OPENS

and the Neighbor emerges.

NEIGHBOR

Gimme it back.

HERBIE

His son called my son a kike,  
okay? I don't have to take that.  
In my own neighborhood?

NEIGHBOR

My son takes it back. I'm calling  
you a kike.

HERBIE

A kike? You who couldn't spell  
kike are calling me kike?

NEIGHBOR

I call and am calling you kike.

HERBIE

(to Goodwin)  
Go ahead. Subpoena him.

GOODWIN

Will you please stop?

HERBIE

Subpoena him! Go ahead!

(CONTINUED)

75 CONTINUED: (3)

Herbie shoves Goodwin toward the Neighbor. The Neighbor shoves him back. Goodwin staggers, regains his balance. The Neighbor grabs at the toupee. A tug of war...

HERBIE  
Do you know who this is?

NEIGHBOR  
Another fucking kike.

Goodwin rears...Balls his fist...

SMACKS THE NEIGHBOR

The Neighbor staggers back...Then VOLLEYS back with a left hook...Herbie jumps him. Others jump in...

A MELEE

CUT TO:

76 INT. NIGHT. STEMPEL APARTMENT--KITCHEN.

Morose, Goodwin holds an icebag on his head. Elated, Herbie holds a steak on his eye.

HERBIE  
That was some shot you gave him.  
I can even forgive you for not  
giving him the subpoena.

GOODWIN  
(ironic)  
I'm glad I could help out.

HERBIE  
Did you see that one I gave him?  
That hook?

GOODWIN  
I may have missed it.

HERBIE  
You think he has maybe some  
ringing in his ear? He'll be  
answering the phone for a week.  
(gesturing) 'Hello?' 'Hello?' Guys  
like you and me--he's never seen  
guys like you and me.

GOODWIN  
Herb...I spoke to Dan Enright.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

HERBIE

That's a big waste of time. When are you gonna talk to Van Doren? You owe me, you know. Who do you think tipped the Daily News?

Goodwin starts to say something. Decides against it.

HERBIE

Enright--what, did he play that tape for you? He tried to scare me off with that, that prick. Listen to me--like I'm shocked. If the man had one ounce of ethics they'd throw him out of the producer's union.

GOODWIN

He implied that he might leak it to the press.

HERBIE

That'd be just like him--to wait till I'm forgotten and then smear me back into the public eye.

GOODWIN

Is there anyone who can corroborate your story? Any concrete evidence?

HERBIE

Just talk to Van Doren. WASPs--they can't even help it, they're congenital liars. Ask Van Doren what day it is and he'll lie to you just for practice.

GOODWIN

This isn't about Van Doren, Herb.

HERBIE

You think it isn't, but it is. Trust me. Go. Enough with the ice. Go up to Columbia--I'm sure he's there right now. Go!

Herbie grabs the ice bag out of Goodwin's hand, throws it in the sink. PULLS him by the shirt up out of his chair. Goodwin BLOWS. Knocks Herbie's hand away.

GOODWIN

Cut it out! Stop. Just stop.

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: (2)

HERBIE

Don't think I don't see what you're doing. You're going to build this great case--against me. A pile of evidence, an army of witnesses--yes, indeed, Herb Stempel got the answers. And meanwhile you and Van Doren are off giving each other the secret Ivy League handshake.

GOODWIN

You didn't say those things?

HERBIE

I fell for the same bullshit, okay? I thought I had some stake in the system.

GOODWIN

He's not paying your psychiatrist's bills?

HERBIE

Wait a minute--who do you believe here?

GOODWIN

I believe you, Herb. But frankly, you're a lousy witness.

Herbie, deflated, looks out the window...

HERBIE

It's gonna change, you know. Magnetism. What's attractive. What's sexy. What's 'in'. You think I'm wrong? I'm never wrong--that's my curse. Every movie, every magazine, it's gonna be short, annoying Jewish guys with big noses and a lot of hair on their backs. And Italians. You think I'm kidding? Guys like you and me--we're just ahead of our time.

CUT TO:

77 INT. DAY. NBC.

Freedman hands Charlie a MANILA ENVELOPE with the answers.

(CONTINUED)



77 CONTINUED:

FREEDMAN  
Here you go, Professor.

CHARLIE  
I was thinking, Al--if it's  
okay--I was thinking that I'd  
prefer it from now on if you just  
give me the questions. And then  
I could look up the answers on  
my own.

FREEDMAN  
Just give you the questions.

CHARLIE  
Then I look up the answers myself.  
It's, don't you think--well, less  
egregious?

Freedman takes the envelope back.

FREEDMAN  
Took the words right out of my  
mouth.

CUT TO:

78 INT. LATER. HALLWAY--NBC.

Charlie heads down the hall. Runs into Goodwin as he emerges  
from a STORAGE ROOM, his arms laden with BOXES--filled with  
KINESCOPES and files. Two JANITORS follow with more boxes.

CHARLIE  
Oh, hi, Dick.

GOODWIN  
Charlie. (off boxes) Nothing like  
a subpoena.

Goodwin continues down the hall. Charlie broods a beat.

CHARLIE  
(after him)  
Hey! See you tomorrow!

CUT TO:

79 INT. LATER. HOTEL ROOM.

Goodwin watches a KINESCOPE on the wall. An old "21" episode. A 16mm PROJECTOR whirs on a table. File boxes and film cans piled around the room.

GOODWIN

They want me to think Herbie's crazy. He's no more crazy than my Uncle Harold.

SANDRA

Your Uncle Harold's crazy, Dick. He made a pass at me at our wedding.

GOODWIN

Then why is it? Why is it I still believe him?

SANDRA

I know what your mother would say.

GOODWIN

What?

SANDRA

You take after your Uncle Harold.

CUT TO:

80 INT. LATER. HOTEL ROOM.

A tired Goodwin boxes a KINESCOPE. Threads a new one through the projector. Snaps it ON.

ON THE WALL

as the projector clickety-clacks and Goodwin adjusts the focus--Stempel faces JAMES SNODGRASS, a Greenwich Village ARTIST in his late 20s. Barry introduces him.

BARRY (O.C.)

And James Snodgrass--you're an artist by profession?

SNODGRASS (O.C.)

That's right, Jack. A painter.

BARRY (O.C.)

Well, fellows--what do you say? Let's play '21'!

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

BACK ON--GOODWIN

as he pours himself a cup of coffee. Boxes of FILES stacked around the room.

ON THE WALL

as Barry launches into his first question.

BARRY (O.C.)

Jim, I'll read you lines from four of America's greatest poets. First, 'I hear America singing--the very carols I hear'.

SNODGRASS (O.C.)

That would be Walt Whitman.

BARRY (O.C.)

That's right. Second: 'I shot an arrow in the air...'

GOODWIN WATCHES

rubs his tired eyes. Pours himself more COFFEE.

BARRY (O.C.)

Finally, 'Hope is the thing with feathers--that perches in the soul'.

SNODGRASS (O.C.)

'Hope is the thing with feathers--that perches in the soul'.

BARRY (O.C.)

Would you like more time?

SNODGRASS (O.C.)

No. That's Emily Dickinson.

BARRY (O.C.)

I'm--. (doubletake) Emily Dickinson?

SNODGRASS (O.C.)

She's one of my favorite poets.

ANGLE ON--GOODWIN

as he sees the doubletake. Sits up and takes notice.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED: (2)

BARRY (O.C.)  
Ho! Well, yes! All right, Jim--you  
couldn't get off to a better  
start--

Goodwin fumbles with the projector. REWINDS the film.

ON THE WALL

SNODGRASS (O.C.)  
Emily Dickinson.

BARRY (O.C.)  
I'm-- (doubletake) Emily  
Dickinson?

BACK ON--GOODWIN

Excited now, he rewinds the film again.

ON THE WALL

BARRY (O.C.)  
I'm-- (doubletake) Emily  
Dickinson?

SNODGRASS (O.C.)  
She's one of my favorite poets.

Goodwin grabs the phone. Dials "Information".

GOODWIN  
I need an address for a James  
Snodgrass. Try Greenwich Village.

BARRY (O.C.)  
Ho! Well, yes! All right,  
Jim--you're off to a veritable  
flying start, and we'll get back  
to you after this word about  
another of our fine products.

CUT TO:

81 INT. THE NEXT EVENING. CAR.

Goodwin and Charlie zoom up Park Avenue, top down, hair whipping  
in the summer wind.

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
Guys like you and me, Dick--the  
way American society is  
today--it's so hard to find a way  
to stand out. Nothing seems to  
be enough. The irony is, I  
sometimes think a volume of Keats  
and a room full of freshmen is  
all I really need.

Charlie drives a beat. Then turns to Goodwin with a smile.

CHARLIE  
So what do you think of the car?

WIDER

revealing Charlie's brand-new RED MERCEDES 190--the one Goodwin  
saw earlier. A traffic light turns RED as Charlie BLASTS through  
it...

CUT TO:

82 INT. NIGHT. PARK AVENUE APARTMENT.

CASH

as it's thrown into the middle of a table. A thunderhead of  
tobacco smoke. Goodwin plays SEVEN-CARD STUD with Charlie and  
four well-bred WASP buddies: FRED, GENE, JACK, and TREY.

GENE  
...Fold.

TREY  
Fold.

GOODWIN  
(to Trey)  
Nice home you have here.

CHARLIE  
(aside)  
We don't say 'home'--we say  
'house'.

FRED  
Bet five.

GOODWIN  
Raise a dollar.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
You'd better watch out, Fred.  
Dick's one of the brightest young  
lawyers down in Washington.

FRED  
Great. All my money already goes  
to Washington.

JACK  
I'm out.

FRED  
Taxes--it's nothing but organized  
theft.

GOODWIN  
(correcting him)  
Property.

FRED  
What?

GOODWIN  
'Property is theft'--I believe  
that's the locus classicus. From  
Proudhon.

CHARLIE  
(to Fred)  
I warned you.

GENE  
Great. Another one.

The betting concludes...Jack deals the next round...

JACK  
(looks at cards)  
What're you working on there,  
Charlie?

Charlie looks at his cards, smiles.

CHARLIE  
Raise five dollars.

Goodwin and Charlie lock gazes. Goodwin throws in another five.  
Fred thinks, throws in another five.

FRED  
I'd love to know what you have  
under there, Charlie.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: (2)

Jack deals another round...

CHARLIE  
The truth has its price.

FRED  
Everything has its price.

TREY  
So where'd you prep, Dick?

Silence. They all look at Goodwin. He STAMMERS...

CHARLIE  
Dick's up here on a witchhunt.  
He thinks '21' is fixed, and I'm  
getting the answers beforehand.

GOODWIN  
Are you?

Everyone starts to laugh.

GENE  
Try him.

TREY  
(mimics Charlie)  
I'll take nine, nine points.

GENE  
Name the first five Vice  
Presidents.

CHARLIE  
Let's see. John Adams, Thomas  
Jefferson, Aaron Burr, George  
Clinton, and Elbridge Gerry.

GENE  
Which face cards are in profile?  
Without looking.

CHARLIE  
Jack of Spades. King of Diamonds.  
And Jack of Hearts.

TREY  
Who's the King of Belgium?

FRED  
Joseph Belgium.

(CONTINUED)

82 CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE  
It's Baudouin, King Baudouin.

GENE  
Bo who?

CHARLIE  
B-A-U-D-O-U-I-N.

GOODWIN  
The night Lincoln was shot--who  
was the doctor at his deathbed,  
who embalmed him, and who was the  
detective on the case?

JACK  
Could we have a card game here?  
It's bad enough my wife makes me  
watch this bullshit.

CHARLIE  
The detective was Clarvoe, John  
Alexander Clarvoe...James Hall  
was the doctor. And he was  
embalmed--who embalmed him?  
Cattell, Henry or Harry--Henry  
Cattell embalmed him.

FRED  
And then he got murdered with  
estate taxes.

GENE  
I'm impressed. You're not  
impressed?

Charlie smiles at Goodwin. Takes out his wallet. Pulls out a  
FIFTY-DOLLAR BILL. Slides it onto the table.

FRED  
(folding)  
Now I'm impressed.

GENE  
Go ahead, Dick--call him.

Goodwin looks at Charlie. Looks at the fifty.

CHARLIE  
What do you say, Dick?

Goodwin thinks a beat. Folds up his cards.

(CONTINUED)



82 CONTINUED: (4)

GOODWIN  
Too rich for my blood.

JACK  
Try Geritol.

TREY  
Sandwich time.

Everyone heads to the kitchen, leaving Goodwin and Charlie.  
Fred slaps Goodwin on the back.

FRED  
(to Goodwin)  
'Property is theft'--maybe we  
should investigate you.

Charlie smiles enigmatically as he rakes in the money... Goodwin  
looks Charlie in the eye.

GOODWIN  
I know you're lying.

CHARLIE  
'Bluffing', Dick--the term is  
'bluffing'.

GOODWIN  
Charlie...I know you're lying.

They exchange a long look.

CHARLIE  
I'm sorry you feel that way, Dick.

CUT TO:

83 INT. NIGHT. HOTEL.

Goodwin talks on the phone to Sandra.

GOODWIN  
I hope you're satisfied.

SANDRA  
I thought you had something.

GOODWIN  
He knows I have something, and  
he still denied it. Now what does  
that tell you?

(CONTINUED)

83 CONTINUED:

SANDRA  
What?

GOODWIN  
Stempel got the answers because  
they were trying to create Van  
Doren. Then they got the real Van  
Doren. Stempel is Frankenstein.

SANDRA  
It just doesn't make any sense.

GOODWIN  
That's the last poker game I get  
invited to.

CUT TO:

84 EXT. LATER THAT WEEK. RCA BUILDING.

The frantic AUDIENCE throngs toward the doors, held by  
struggling USHERS. Goodwin fights toward the door...

USHER #1  
The hell with it--let 'em in.

The Ushers drop the ropes...The crowd SURGES forward, carrying  
Goodwin along...

CUT TO:

85 INT. SAME TIME. "21" SET.

An atmosphere ELECTRIC with anticipation. TECHNICIANS adjust  
lights, test microphones. The ORCHESTRA tunes up.

VIVIENNE NEARING, 30s, the attractive CHALLENGER, sits nervously  
tearing a Kleenex. Barry approaches.

BARRY  
Mrs. Nearing? I'm Jack Barry.  
Welcome aboard.

She jumps up. The pieces of Kleenex SCATTER. Barry kneels to  
pick them up. A MAKE-UP ARTIST approaches Mrs. Nearing.

MAKE-UP ARTIST  
You're a little shiny on the  
monitor, ma'am.

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

While the Make-Up Artist dabs with a powder puff, Barry looks up Mrs. Nearing's skirt.

CUT TO:

86 INT. SAME TIME. CONTROL ROOM.

Appalled, Enright watches Barry on the MONITOR. Charlie paces. Freedman leans back on a swivel chair.

FREEDMAN  
...He's bluffing.

CHARLIE  
'I know you're lying'. Those were his words.

FREEDMAN  
I grew up with guys like him. He's a noodzh.

CHARLIE  
He may be a noodzh, but he was also first in his class at Harvard Law School.

Freedman dismisses this with a masturbating gesture.

CHARLIE  
Will you please stop that?

ENRIGHT  
Charlie, you have to look at this analytically. We know he's spoken to Stempel. At best he's found another contestant who's told him a similar story.

CHARLIE  
How many people did you give the answers to?

ENRIGHT  
That's not the point.

CHARLIE  
I want to know. Did anybody play this game straight?

ENRIGHT  
We have 37 contestants who swore their innocence to the grand jury.  
(more)

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED:

ENRIGHT (Cont'd)  
If they change that story, they'd  
go to jail for perjury.

CHARLIE  
Maybe I should just tell the  
truth.

ENRIGHT  
You'll set back education in this  
country 50 years! Do you want that  
blood on your hands?

CHARLIE  
I just had no idea it would go  
this far.

ENRIGHT  
Charlie, the only people who can  
implicate you directly are all  
in this room. Think about that.

FREEDMAN  
Thank you, Dan. (to Charlie) You  
think that noodzh is gonna get  
me to talk?

CHARLIE  
No. I suppose you're right.

FREEDMAN  
They could kill me, I wouldn't  
talk. They could submit me to  
any kind of torture...ah...ah...

CHARLIE  
(helpfully)  
The rack.

FREEDMAN  
They could put me on the rack.

CHARLIE  
The Iron Maiden.

FREEDMAN  
Whatever.

CHARLIE  
The bastinado. The capucha.  
Boiling in oil. Running the  
gauntlet...

(CONTINUED)

86 CONTINUED: (2)

FREEDMAN  
I'm not telling them a fucking  
thing. Correct me, Dan, if I'm  
wrong.

ENRIGHT  
You're Charles Van Doren. Remember  
that. It's their word against  
yours.

FREEDMAN  
They took a vote in this  
country--they'd put you on the  
dollar bill.

CHARLIE  
Oh great.

ENRIGHT  
There's no concrete evidence.  
No tapes. Nothing in writing.

FREEDMAN  
Plus what did you do wrong?  
Everybody knows the magician don't  
saw the lady in half.

CHARLIE  
It's hardly the same thing.

FREEDMAN  
It's entertainment.

CHARLIE  
I am a college professor!

A KNOCK, and an NBC PAGE enters.

NBC PAGE  
They need the professor in makeup.

CUT TO:

87 INT. LATER. BAR.

Herbie watches '21' with two BARFLIES.

ANNOUNCER (O.C.)  
...returning with \$143,000, from  
New York City, Charles Van Doren!

(CONTINUED)

89 INT. SAME TIME. '21' SET.

Barry asks the first question.

BARRY  
(reading)  
At the same time as the attack  
on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese also  
attacked these three Pacific  
Islands. Name them.

MRS. NEARING  
Midway, Wake, and Guam.

BARRY  
Correct for eight points!

IN THE CONTROL ROOM

Freedman triggers the "APPLAUSE" sign. An NBC PAGE ushers  
Goodwin inside.

NBC PAGE  
Mr. Enright?

ENRIGHT  
Can't this wait?

GOODWIN  
I don't think so.

Enright gives his headphones to Freedman. Leads Goodwin out.

CUT TO:

90 INT. NIGHT. VAN DOREN HOME--CORNWALL.

Dorothy wrings her hands beside her bored husband.

BARRY (O.C.)  
...the P-40, the P-47, the P-51,  
the B-24, the B-25 and the B-26.  
Give me the nicknames that the  
Air Force gave to these planes.

DOROTHY  
Why, that's much harder than the  
question they asked that  
woman--and hers was ten points.  
Do you know the names of those  
planes?

THE PROFESSOR  
Of course not.

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

DOROTHY  
Who would know the names of those  
planes? He's not the Secretary  
of Defense.

CUT TO:

91 INT. SAME TIME. ENRIGHT'S OFFICE.

Enright gestures to a seat, closes the door.

ENRIGHT  
Mr. Goodwin, you're a very  
disruptive young man.

GOODWIN  
Do you remember James Snodgrass?  
He was a contestant on your show.

ENRIGHT  
A bohemian type, wasn't he? Al  
digs these people up. I don't know  
where he finds them.

GOODWIN  
'Hope is the thing with feathers-  
That perches in the soul--'?

ENRIGHT  
Thanks for the fortune--where's  
the cookie?

GOODWIN  
That's the first line of a poem  
by Emily Dickinson. You told James  
Snodgrass to identify the author,  
incorrectly, as Ralph Waldo  
Emerson.

ENRIGHT  
Mr. Goodwin--between Herb and now  
the ravings of this Greenwich  
Village beatnik--

GOODWIN  
He's a beatnik? Why? Because he's  
not Charles Van Doren?

ENRIGHT  
You're damn right he's not Charles  
Van Doren.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

BARFLY #1  
I got one for you. Name the guy  
that lost to Van Doren.

BARFLY #2  
Gee. I don't remember. Who the  
hell was that?

ON THE TELEVISION

as the show begins...

BARRY (O.C.)  
Well, Charlie, what do you think  
of Mrs. Nearing?

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
She's quite terrifying.

BARRY (O.C.)  
Quite a bean inside that pretty  
head, huh?

BACK ON--HERBIE

as he starts to THRILL...

HERBIE  
(to himself)  
Goodwin got something. He's taking  
a dive.

Herbie hustles to a PHONE BOOTH in back. Dials.

HERBIE  
(to phone)  
I have a bet for you.

CUT TO:

88 INT. SAME TIME. '21' SET.

Freedman and Enright watch Charlie on the monitors.

FREEDMAN  
You don't think Charlie'd--you  
don't think he'd blow the whole  
thing, do you?

FREEDMAN  
Get Garroway.

CUT TO:



91 CONTINUED:

ENRIGHT (Cont'd)  
 (resuming) Without a single shred  
 of concrete evidence--these  
 unsubstantiated crackpot  
 allegations--

Goodwin reaches into his jacket pocket. Pulls out  
 AN ENVELOPE

GOODWIN  
 Inside this envelope are all the  
 questions James Snodgrass was  
 asked on '21'. What's odd is that  
 he appeared on the show on May  
 13th. And he mailed this letter  
 to himself on May 11th. Registered  
 mail. Now I'd say that's pretty  
 goddam concrete.

Enright draws on his cigarette.

ENRIGHT  
 I don't suppose you'd be  
 interested in your own panel show.

Goodwin gets up. Moves to the door.

GOODWIN  
 Think about testifying against  
 the network.

ENRIGHT  
 What about Van Doren? You don't  
 have anything on Van Doren.

GOODWIN  
 It's over, Dan.

ENRIGHT  
 Never underestimate the American  
 public.

CUT TO:

92 INT. LATER. '21' SET.

Barry talks to camera.

BARRY  
 ...As we enter our final round,  
 Mrs.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

BARRY (Cont'd)  
Nearing leads by a score of 20  
to 16. It is the moment of truth,  
as it were, for Professor Charles  
Van Doren...

IN THE ISOLATION BOOTH

Charlie alone with the sound of his own breathing, his pulse  
loud in his ears...

BACK ON--BARRY

as he continues...

BARRY (O.C.)  
...after a record-breaking 14  
weeks...

INSIDE THE BOOTH

Charlie looks out from his plexiglas cage. His watch  
TICKING...His heart pounds louder...WHAM! WHAM! WHAM!

BACK ON--BARRY

as he hits a button...

BARRY  
Mrs. Nearing?

MRS. NEARING  
Yes?

BARRY  
We're going to let you listen in  
on this last round.

INSIDE THE BOOTH

as the noise in Charlie's head CRESCENDOES, breath roaring, his  
heartbeat like tympani...The Intercom CRACKLES on.

BARRY  
The category is royalty.

CHARLIE  
Royalty. Well, let's see. I'll  
take five, five points. That would  
get me to 21.

IN THE BALCONY

Goodwin arrives. Takes his seat in the audience...

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED: (2)

BARRY  
(reading)  
Name the Kings of the following  
countries: Norway, Sweden,  
Belgium, and Iraq.

CHARLIE  
Could I take the third part last?

MRS. NEARING

listens nervously in her booth...

CHARLIE  
Norway, that would be Haakon, King  
Haakon.

BARRY  
That's right.

CHARLIE  
Sweden--that's Gustavus.

BARRY  
The King of Iraq?

CHARLIE  
I believe that's his grandfather  
who's portrayed in that wonderful  
book, 'The Seven Pillars of  
Wisdom'. (beat) Faisal! King  
Faisal.

BARRY  
And Belgium?

CUT TO:

93 INT. SAME TIME. ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

FAMILIES crowd anxiously around the TV...NUNS tug at their  
rosaries...

CUT TO:

94 INT. SAME TIME. MOVIE THEATER.

People on the edge of their seats...

CUT TO:

95 INT. SAME TIME. PARK AVENUE.

Charlie's buddies and their wives, frozen in anticipation...

CUT TO:

96 INT. SAME TIME. GOODWIN HOME.

Sandra eats Chinese food on the bed. Lifting a shrimp to her mouth with her chopsticks, she FREEZES...

CUT TO:

97 EXT. SAME TIME. OFFICIAL BUILDING

A sign reads: "CONSULATE OF BELGIUM"

INSIDE

The STAFF of the Belgian consulate crowd around a small TV...

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
Belgium...Belgium...

CUT TO:

98 INT. NIGHT. CONTROL ROOM.

A pensive Enright returns. Freedman stares at the monitors.

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
It seems like an easy one...

BARRY (O.C.)  
Would you like more time?

CHARLIE (O.C.)  
If I could, please.

FREEDMAN  
That son of a bitch--he's gonna  
dump it.

The "suspense" music BUILDS...

CUT TO:

99 INT. NIGHT. SPONSOR'S APARTMENT.

The Sponsor and Kintner look at each other...

CUT TO:

100 INT. SAME TIME. BAR.

Herbie watches at the bar, EDGY...

CUT TO:

101 INT. NIGHT. '21' SET.

Charlie tucked inside himself...Looks up.

GOODWIN

watches from the balcony...

CHARLIE

Leopold?

BARRY

No. I'm sorry. It's Baudouin, King  
Baudouin.

The audience GASPS. Charlie folds--like he's been gutshot...

CLOSE ON--CHARLIE

his face turned away from the audience. As he SMILES.

CLOSE ON--GOODWIN

Now he knows...

CUT TO:

102 INT. SAME TIME. SPONSOR'S HOME.

The Sponsor turns to Kintner.

SPONSOR

How the hell did that happen?

CUT TO:

103 INT. SAME TIME. PARK AVENUE APARTMENT.

Trey turns to the others.

TREY

How could he miss that? Remember?  
I asked him that the other  
night--at the poker game.

CUT TO:

104 INT. SAME TIME. VAN DOREN HOME.

BARRY (O.C.)  
Mrs. Nearing, you are our new  
champion with \$8,000!

Dorothy, crestfallen, turns off the TV. Turns to The Professor.  
Who's sound ASLEEP. She NUDGES him awake.

THE PROFESSOR  
What? What happened?

DOROTHY  
Charlie lost.

THE PROFESSOR  
Oh. (beat) What was the question?

DOROTHY  
Who's the King of Belgium.

The Professor gets up.

THE PROFESSOR  
Who cares who the King of Belgium  
is besides the Queen of Belgium?

DOROTHY  
That isn't the point.

THE PROFESSOR  
Some overbred bore with a Hapsburg  
lip. You want a glass of milk?

DOROTHY  
Mark Van Doren--

THE PROFESSOR  
Mother, please--it's a quiz show.  
It's not as if it were something  
that really mattered.

CUT TO:

105 INT. SAME TIME. '21' SET.

As Mrs. Nearing and Charlie approach the lectern, Barry notices  
someone in the audience.

BARRY  
Ho! Who is that over there in our  
studio audience?

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED:

A SPOTLIGHT

sweeps over the audience. Lands on DAVE GARROWAY.

BARRY

Is that Dave Garroway? Dave  
Garroway of the NBC Today Show,  
ladies and gentlemen!

Charlie, PUZZLED, looks out toward the audience.

THE APPLAUSE SIGN

spurs a cheer as Garroway bounces up onto the stage...Shakes  
hands with Barry and Charlie...

GARROWAY

Charlie--I'll admit this has all  
happened rather suddenly,  
but--you've become like a friend,  
a wonderful visitor to millions  
of homes all across America.

CHARLIE

Thank you, Dave. I just think I'm  
going to enjoy some peace and  
quiet now, and a chance to get  
back to my books--

GARROWAY

We at the NBC Today Show would  
like you to be our special  
cultural correspondent--our  
Ambassador from the land of  
culture and learning to the people  
and the schoolchildren of  
America...

CHARLIE

Well, I hope you're not firing  
the monkey.

GARROWAY

...at a salary of \$50,000 a year.

He takes out a CONTRACT with a flourish. Charlie gapes at it.

FROM THE BALCONY

GOODWIN

(mutters)

Turn it down--you don't need it.

(CONTINUED)

105 CONTINUED: (2)

BACK ON--CHARLIE

GARROWAY  
It's the world's biggest  
classroom, Professor. Just sign  
on the dotted line.

Garroway hands Charlie a pen. Charlie takes it. And SIGNS.

CUT TO:

106 INT. SAME TIME. BOOKIE JOINT.

The BOOKIE, tough, 40s, counts out a stack of bills.

HERBIE  
Put them all the same way. So  
they're facing the same way.

The Bookie glowers at Herbie. Reverses the bill. Continues...

BOOKIE  
You knew something, didn't you?

HERBIE  
No. It was, you know, a hunch--it  
was just a hunch.

BOOKIE  
Just a hunch. A \$10,000 hunch.

HERBIE  
Don't blame me. You want to break  
somebody's legs, break Van Doren's  
legs. (beat) I mean, you know,  
not--maybe one leg.

The Bookie finishes counting. Hands Herbie the cash.

CUT TO:

107 EXT. MORNING. CHARLIE'S TOWNHOUSE.

Goodwin rings the doorbell. Charlie answers in a bathrobe.

GOODWIN  
Hello, Charlie.

(CONTINUED)



107 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
Oh, hello, Dick. Would you like  
to come in?

CUT TO:

108 INT. MORNING. CHARLIE'S TOWNHOUSE.

Charlie and Goodwin enter the living room. No furniture. BOXES full of books, yet to be unpacked. And a gigantic TELEVISION.

CHARLIE  
Excuse the robe. Last night was  
the first decent night's sleep  
I've had in months.

GOODWIN  
Nice place you have here.

CHARLIE  
I haven't had the chance to  
furnish it.

GOODWIN  
(off television)  
Just the essentials.

CHARLIE  
God knows when I'll get to this  
now, with this Today Show--did  
you watch last night?

GOODWIN  
Congratulations. 'The world's  
biggest classroom'.

CHARLIE  
Well, it's the world's biggest  
something. Would you like a cup  
of coffee?

Charlie goes into the kitchen.

GOODWIN  
Just like Herbie.

Charlie ducks back out.

CHARLIE  
Excuse me?

GOODWIN  
'King Baudouin'.

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
Oh. That. You know, apparently  
the Belgian Consulate has formally  
protested my ignorance.

Charlie returns to the kitchen. Makes two cups of coffee...

GOODWIN  
I was just thinking it's just like  
Herbie. You lost on one you knew.

IN THE KITCHEN

Charlie STOPS. Thinks.

CHARLIE  
How do you like it, Dick? You seem  
like a black coffee man.

Goodwin enters. Charlie hands him a cup of coffee.

GOODWIN  
The other night, Charlie. At the  
poker game. Trey asked you to name  
the King of Belgium and you nailed  
it. You even spelled it right.

CHARLIE  
Oh, dear--you know, you're right!  
How could that've slipped my mind?

GOODWIN  
For Chrissakes, Charlie--I'm not  
after you. I'm not gonna call you  
to testify. I'm even glad that  
a real intellectual made some  
money off this crazy scheme. I  
just want to hear you say it.  
It didn't 'slip your mind'--you  
took a dive.

Charlie takes his coffee cup. Flees into the living room.

CHARLIE  
You people are so persistent.

Goodwin follows after him.

GOODWIN  
Why the hell did you do it?

CHARLIE  
Please, Dick--I'm Charles Van  
Doren, I can't--

(CONTINUED)

108 CONTINUED: (2)

GOODWIN  
You'll feel better. For  
yourself--just admit it to one  
other person.

Charlie looks at Goodwin.

CHARLIE  
You know, Dick, the poets used  
to say the stag loves the hunter  
who kills it.

Goodwin gives up. Puts his coffee cup on the TV.

GOODWIN  
Do me a favor. If anybody should  
ask you about the quiz  
shows--don't make any kind of a  
public statement. Don't hold a  
press conference. Because then  
I'll have to call you.

CHARLIE  
Okay, Dick. Fair enough.

GOODWIN  
Goodbye, Charlie.

Goodwin moves to the door. Charlie calls to him.

CHARLIE  
If you ever need a place to stay  
when you're in New York--well,  
I'm all alone here.

GOODWIN  
I've hunted stag, Charlie, with  
my uncle, up in Maine. I don't  
think there's much affection  
either way.

CUT TO:

109 INT. MORNING. WAITING ROOM.

Goodwin sits under the peacock. Checks his watch. Gets up.

SECRETARY  
Mr. Kintner apologizes, he's  
unavailable.

(CONTINUED)

109 CONTINUED:

GOODWIN  
I'm going back to Washington  
today. He can reach me at the  
committee.

SECRETARY  
He'll know what this is in  
reference to?

GOODWIN  
Tell him to read the papers.

CUT TO:

MONTAGE

Spinning headlines:

Daily News: HOUSE SIFTS TV QUIZ  
FIX

World-Telegram: THE \$64,000  
ANSWER: HOAX!

Journal-American: QUIZ HEARINGS  
ANNOUNCED

CUT TO:

110 INT. MORNING. STEMPEL APARTMENT.

REPORTER #1 talks on the phone to his editor.

REPORTER #1  
...Stempel. (covers phone) Is it  
Stempel E-L or L-E? (to phone)  
I think it's E-L.

Three other REPORTERS surround Herbie. Toby pours coffee. Sounds  
of Lester drumming inside. The doorbell RINGS.

HERBIE  
You know, it's very amusing to  
me that all you bums are knocking  
on my door now. I gave you this  
story six months ago.

REPORTER #2  
Mrs. Stempel, you have any baby  
pictures of Herb we could use?

The doorbell rings again. Toby EXITS toward the door...

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED:

REPORTER #1  
(to Herbie)  
Do you think you could ask the  
kid to stop for five minutes?

HERBIE  
Why don't you interview him?  
Lester, L-E-S-T-E-R. It's a good  
human interest angle.

REPORTER #4  
How'd all this start?

HERBIE  
I was babysitting for my son.  
Enright came to see me. He sat  
right in that kitchen and he said,  
'How'd you like to make \$25,000?'  
And I said, 'Who wouldn't?'

Toby returns with REPORTER #5.

REPORTER #5  
How's it feel to be the center  
of all this attention?

REPORTER #2  
Get in line.

REPORTER #4  
(reading)  
'How'd you like to make \$25,000?'  
And you said, 'Who wouldn't?'

Toby senses the mood changing...

TOBY  
I'm gonna go look for the baby  
pictures.

She exits.

HERBIE  
In retrospect--I mean, look at  
Van Doren--I should've held out  
for a lot more.

REPORTER #4  
What does Van Doren have to do  
with it? You prostituted your  
name, your intellectual ability,  
for money.

(CONTINUED)

110 CONTINUED: (2)

HERBIE  
You're missing the story.

REPORTER #4  
You pulled a con job on the  
American people.

HERBIE  
So did he, dope. So did Charles  
Van Doren, but you know what?  
I got him. I nailed him. That's  
your story.

REPORTER #2  
Can you prove it?

HERBIE  
I don't have to prove it anymore.  
That goddam pious hypocrite--let's  
see him lie to the United States  
Congress.

REPORTER #5  
I just spoke to the committee.  
They're not calling him.

CUT TO:

111 EXT. SAME TIME. GOODWIN HOME.

Goodwin reads the paper. Sandra moves around the kitchen.

SANDRA  
You're gonna do a quiz show  
hearing without Charles Van Doren?

GOODWIN  
Van Doren's story is the same as  
Herbie's, the same as Snodgrass.

SANDRA  
He admits it?

GOODWIN  
I'm saying even if he admits it,  
he doesn't add anything.

SANDRA  
What'll you do when he makes a  
statement proclaiming his  
innocence?

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED:

GOODWIN  
He's not going to do that.

SANDRA  
You're going to look like a jerk.

GOODWIN  
Why would he do that? I told him  
to keep his mouth shut.

SANDRA  
I still don't know why he's not  
going to testify.

GOODWIN  
I just told you why. The hearings  
are circumscribed by legislative  
purpose. The legislative purpose  
is to reform television, not to  
reform Charles Van Doren.

SANDRA  
Don't patronize me.

GOODWIN  
I wouldn't patronize you if you'd  
pay attention. It's the same as  
the Barenblatt and Sweezy cases,  
when I was at The Court.

SANDRA  
If you don't want to answer, just  
don't answer. Don't give me a lot  
of legal bullshit.

GOODWIN  
I don't see any need to drag the  
man into the spotlight and  
ridicule him.

SANDRA  
You're dragging Herb Stempel into  
the spotlight.

GOODWIN  
Herbie doesn't need to be dragged  
into the spotlight, believe me.

SANDRA  
Nobody forced Van Doren to go in  
front of 50 million people either.

(CONTINUED)

111 CONTINUED: (2)

GOODWIN

At least he has the good sense  
to keep his mouth shut.

SANDRA

Good sense or good breeding?

GOODWIN

Oh, for crying out loud. He made  
a mistake.

SANDRA

You know, Dick, you're ten times  
the guy Charles Van Doren is, ten  
times the brain, ten times the  
human being, and meanwhile you're  
the one bending over backwards  
for him. You're like the Uncle  
Tom of the Jews.

GOODWIN

I'm glad it's so easy for you to  
destroy a man's life. I'll keep  
it in mind.

SANDRA

Quiz show hearings without Van  
Doren--it's like doing 'Hamlet'  
without Hamlet.

CUT TO:

112 INT. NIGHT. LE CIRQUE.

Charlie arrives with his parents in tow. The MAITRE D' fawns all  
over Charlie.

MAITRE D'

Welcome, Professor Van Doren!  
(to Waiter)

Professor Van Doren's table.  
(to The Professor)

Yes?

THE PROFESSOR

I'm also Professor Van Doren.

CHARLIE

Three tonight.

The Professor scowls as the Maitre D' ushers them inside.

CUT TO:



113 INT. LATER. LE CIRQUE.

Charlie, Dorothy and The Professor sit over their meal.

DOROTHY

Look at your plate,  
Charlie--you're hardly eating.  
It's as bad as when you were on  
that quiz show. You'd come over  
for dinner and just push a pea  
around your plate.

THE PROFESSOR

Maybe it was your cooking.

DOROTHY

'How ill white hairs become a fool  
and jester!'

CHARLIE

Henry IV Part 2.

THE PROFESSOR

'O curse of marriage! That we can  
call these delicate creatures  
ours'.

CHARLIE

Othello.

Dorothy cuts off a piece of veal from her plate. Gestures to the Professor.

DOROTHY

Take some of this veal, Professor.  
I can't finish this.  
(resuming)

Not that we saw you that often.  
I don't think we had dinner  
together three times in all the  
months you were on that show.

CHARLIE

'Uneasy lies the head that wears  
the crown'.

THE PROFESSOR

'Some rise by sin, and some by  
virtue fall'.

CHARLIE

Measure for Measure. 'What! must  
I hold a candle to my shames?'

THE PROFESSOR

The Merchant of Venice.

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
Mother, pass the pepper.

THE PROFESSOR  
'O! what men dare do! what men  
may do! what men daily do, not  
knowing what they do!'

CHARLIE  
Much Ado About Nothing. 'I am a  
man more sinned against than  
sinning'.

THE PROFESSOR  
Lear. 'The wheel is come full  
circle'.

CHARLIE  
Also Lear. 'What's gone and what's  
past help/ Should be past grief'.

THE PROFESSOR  
The Winter's Tale.

DOROTHY  
Is something going on?

CHARLIE  
It's just a game, Mother.

DOROTHY  
Oh! Professor! Did you remember  
to give Charlie that letter?

THE PROFESSOR  
Oh, yes. You got a letter sent  
to you up in Cornwall--it was  
addressed to Professor Van Doren,  
I opened it by mistake.

The Professor pulls out an envelope. Hands it to Charlie.

DOROTHY  
It's probably another one of those  
mash notes. Read it aloud.

THE PROFESSOR  
It's personal.

DOROTHY  
Especially if it's personal.

As Charlie reads, he starts to TREMBLE with rage...

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE

(reads aloud)

Dear Professor Van Doren, I am a great admirer of yours. The only way you will be able to live with yourself is to admit what you did--openly, clearly, and truly--as painful as that might be. You must remember that you are a Van Doren. Signed, A Friend.

DOROTHY

Admit what? What's he talking about?

CHARLIE

(to the Professor)

You wrote this, didn't you?

THE PROFESSOR

(blank)

It was in the mail.

CHARLIE

If you have something to say to me, why don't you just say it, goddamit!

DOROTHY

Charlie!

CHARLIE

Why don't you admit what you're really thinking--that you're thrilled!

THE PROFESSOR

I will not sit here while you make a scene in front of your mother.

CHARLIE

Oh, come off it, Dad.

THE PROFESSOR

I don't know what you're talking about, Charlie--it was in the mailbox!

CHARLIE

(right back)

There's no goddam postmark!

(CONTINUED)

113 CONTINUED: (3)

Charlie storms out. Patrons and waiters gape at him.

CUT TO:

114 INT. NIGHT. STEMPEL APARTMENT.

In the bedroom, Toby packs a bag for Herbie. He sits on the radiator, broods out the window, through the curtains.

TOBY

How long are you gonna be gone?  
Just overnight?

HERBIE

Pack me two nights just in case.  
After I tell my story--you never  
know--Eisenhower might want to  
see me.

She lays neckties out on the bed.

TOBY

Which suit do you want?

HERBIE

The sharkskin. Not that tie--the  
television tie.

TOBY

You sure you're doing the right  
thing?

HERBIE

Of course I'm doing the right  
thing.

TOBY

I just hope everyone doesn't hate  
you.

HERBIE

They're not gonna hate me.

TOBY

Herbie, you're gonna go up there  
in front of 50 million people and  
tell them they're so stupid they  
could watch that show week after  
week and never for a second think  
you were pulling something on  
them.

(CONTINUED)

114 CONTINUED:

HERBIE  
They're not gonna hate me--I'm  
telling the truth!

TOBY  
I'm your wife that loves you and  
I feel like a jerk.

HERBIE  
What am I supposed to do--am I  
supposed to just take it and take  
it and take it? They made me lose  
on 'Marty'. I'm supposed to take  
it.

TOBY  
I just don't know what you're  
gonna accomplish.

HERBIE  
I'll tell you what. I'm going down  
to Washington and if I do nothing  
else I will convince them that  
Herbert Stempel knows what won  
the goddam Academy Award for Best  
goddam Picture of 1955.

Toby returns to packing the bags.

TOBY  
Where'd you go with the car today?

HERBIE  
Connecticut. I had to drop  
something off.

CUT TO:

115 EXT. MORNING. RCA BUILDING.

A MOB OF REPORTERS

crowd outside, jostle against the NBC SECURITY GUARDS barring  
the doors. PHOTOGRAPHERS load their cameras.

CUT TO:

116 INT. SAME TIME. STAGE.

Charlie wraps up his segment.

(CONTINUED)

116 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE  
 ... "Beauty is truth, truth  
 beauty--that is all Ye know on  
 earth, and all ye need to know" .

WIDER

Garroway sits with J. Fred Muggs, who SQUAWKS, scratches.

GARROWAY  
 Thank you, Charles Van Doren, for  
 those timeless sentiments. Now  
 for a word from Ex-Lax.

Charlie tears off his lavolier, heads for the wings.

CUT TO:

117 INT. RCA BUILDING--HALLWAY.

Charlie goes to see Freedman. His SECRETARY on the phone.

SECRETARY  
 Mr. Freedman's office. Would you  
 hold?  
 (punching button)  
 I'm sorry, he's unavailable...  
 (covering phone)  
 Mr. Van Doren--

CHARLIE  
 Where's Al? Is he in?

Before she can stop him, he opens the door.

INSIDE FREEDMAN'S OFFICE

No photos. No papers. CLEANED OUT. The window is opened, and the  
 curtain blows EERILY...The Secretary follows inside.

SECRETARY  
 He's gone, Mr. Van Doren, he's--

CHARLIE  
 What do you mean, gone? He's gone  
 home?

SECRETARY  
 He's gone to Mexico.

Charlie blinks. He leans out the window...

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE'S POV

The crowd of REPORTERS outside...He turns to the Secretary.

CHARLIE  
Is there a back way out?

CUT TO:

118 INT. LATER. RCA BUILDING.

Charlie looks furtively up the back hallway. Climbs into a SERVICE ELEVATOR, rides down. Suddenly, it STOPS. Charlie hits the button. Then again. Like a Morse key now...Then

THE DOORS OPEN

A man climbs in...It's Kintner.

KINTNER  
Charlie, I'm the President of NBC.  
I think it's time we met.

He presses a button. They ride down. Kintner hands him a sheet of PAPER. Charlie reads it.

KINTNER  
Our legal department prepared this  
for you. You declare your complete  
innocence of any wrongdoing.

CHARLIE  
(pointing)  
There's a split infinitive here  
in the second paragraph.

KINTNER  
Television is a public trust.  
We can't afford to have even a  
hint of scandal in our company.

CHARLIE  
It's just that--well, Dick  
Goodwin, he suggested--

KINTNER  
Who?

CHARLIE  
Dick Goodwin. With the Committee.  
He suggested that I not say  
anything.

(CONTINUED)

118 CONTINUED:

KINTNER

This is a time when we all need to pull together. Haven't we been good to you, Charlie?

CHARLIE

Oh, absolutely. It's just that..

KINTNER

You wouldn't want your family to think you're involved in this whole mess, would you?

CUT TO:

119 INT. DAY. CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ROOM.

CONGRESSMEN arrayed in a long arc, like a football team bearing down after the kickoff. Opposite them: Herbie sits, nervous, at the witness table. From the counsel table, Goodwin gives him a reassuring look.

CHAIRMAN

For the record, will you state your name?

HERBIE

Herbert M. Stempel.

CHAIRMAN

Will you give your address?

HERBIE

105-15 66th Road, Forest Hills  
75, New York.

CHAIRMAN

Were you one of the contestants in the program referred to as '21'?

HERBIE

I was, yes, sir.

CHAIRMAN

At what time?

HERBIE

I participated from October 17, 1956, to December 5, 1956.

(CONTINUED)



119 CONTINUED:

CHAIRMAN

And during that time were you ever furnished with the answers in advance?

HERBIE

Generally, I would receive the questions and answers on Tuesday, typed up.

CHAIRMAN

And the show aired when?

HERBIE

Wednesday. We'd have a sort of rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon.

CONGRESSMAN #1

A rehearsal?

HERBIE

There was a great deal of histrionics involved, for the show to proceed the way Mr. Enright planned it.

CONGRESSMAN #1

Mr. Stempel, what do you mean by 'rehearsal'?

HERBIE

Well, for example, he told me how to breathe heavily into the microphone, and sigh, such as this. (Herbie sighs) He taught me how to stutter and say, in a plaintive voice, 'I will take nine, nine points'.

CHAIRMAN

So it was all choreographed.

HERBIE

How to bite my lip. How to mop my brow--he told me specifically not to smear my brow, but rather to pat for optimum effect. Of course I'm shvitzing the whole time because they turned off the air conditioning.

CHAIRMAN

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (2)

GOODWIN  
Mr. Chairman, with your  
permission, we might at this point  
view a portion of '21' taken from  
the program of the night of  
December 5.

CHAIRMAN  
Whenever you're ready.

Goodwin signals a TECHNICIAN. A projector ROLLS....

ON THE SCREEN

the Stempel/Van Doren contest...And it's as Herbie described it,  
to the letter...He sighs. He says plaintively, 'Nine, nine  
points'. The gallery starts to TITTER...

FROM THE WITNESS TABLE

Herbie, warming to the gallery, provides commentary.

HERBIE  
There. There's the lip biting.

CHAIRMAN  
Yes, we see.

LAUGHTER from the gallery.

HERBIE  
Finally I was told to open my eyes  
and with a dazzling smile give  
the answer and explode when Jack  
Barry said, 'That is right'.

ON THE SCREEN

Herbie opens his eyes. Smiles.

HERBIE (O.C.)  
His paper was the Emporia Gazette.

BARRY (O.C.)  
That is right!

Herbie explodes.

BACK ON--HERBIE

thoroughly pleased, as the gallery laughs out loud...

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (3)

HERBIE  
I don't know where he got it  
all--some article on mass  
psychology he read in Esquire.

ON THE SCREEN

Barry and the cameras turn to Charlie...

HERBIE  
Here. Watch Van Doren. He's even  
better at it than I am.

CONGRESSMAN #3  
Mr. Stempel, are you suggesting  
that Charles Van Doren also  
received the answers?

HERBIE  
Of course he got the answers!  
(off kinescope)  
Look at him. You see? With the  
brow. Patting--not smearing.

CONGRESSMAN #3  
Mr. Stempel, do you have any  
direct knowledge that Charles Van  
Doren received the answers?

Goodwin tries to signal Herbie. But Herbie's intent on the  
kinescope...

HERBIE  
What? No, I mean--look at him!  
It's the same thing!

CONGRESSMAN #3  
Did you rehearse together?

HERBIE  
Well, it wouldn't make much sense  
for me to take a dive and not fix  
Van Doren.

CONGRESSMAN #4  
Mr. Stempel, have you ever  
received any psychiatric treatment  
of any kind?

REPORTER #1 runs in. Leans close to REPORTER #2. They both run  
out. Herbie, distracted, turns back to Congressman #4.

HERBIE  
Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (4)

CONGRESSMAN #4  
Five sessions a week--that's  
pretty extensive, isn't it?

HERBIE  
I believe we can all use a little  
help at various times in our  
lives.

CONGRESSMAN #4  
Is it possible that any of your  
testimony is motivated by  
animosity toward Mr. Enright?

REPORTER #3 runs in. Whispers to REPORTER #4. Who leans over,  
explains to REPORTER #5.

REPORTER #4  
(whisper)  
Van Doren made a statement.

They all RUN from the chamber. Herbie notices them as the  
Congressmen bear down...

CONGRESSMAN #4  
Mr. Stempel?

HERBIE  
I don't feel that he lived up to  
his agreements. I think he  
promised certain things just to  
shut me up--

CONGRESSMAN #4  
So you resent the hell out of him.  
Are those your feelings?

HERBIE  
I'm here to tell the truth. Those  
are my feelings. What's your  
feeling?

A BUZZ builds in the hall. More reporters jump up, run outside.  
Staffers whisper in the ears of Congressmen...

CONGRESSMAN #4  
Charles Van Doren is a professor  
at Columbia University. Master's  
degree in astrophysics. Ph.D.  
in literature. Hails from one of  
the most prominent intellectual  
families in the country. Isn't  
it just possible that you got the  
answers and he didn't?

(CONTINUED)

119 CONTINUED: (5)

HERBIE  
Of course it's possible--as a  
matter of classical logic--

A mad RUSH for the doors now...The Chairman gavels...Herbie,  
distracted, presses on...

HERBIE  
--I was simply drawing your  
attention to an inferential proof  
rather than--

REPORTER #6 signals to a colleague, cries out.

REPORTER  
Van Doren's made a statement!

CHAOS as the chamber empties. Herbie leans into the microphone.  
Taps it LOUDLY.

HERBIE  
Excuse me! Excuse me! I'm making  
a statement!

CHAIRMAN  
Adjourned till one o'clock.

The Chairman gavels. Herbie stands as the room empties...

HERBIE  
This is a statement. What I'm  
saying is a statement. I'm telling  
the truth!

CUT TO:

120 INT. LATER. CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE.

The Chairman, enraged, a TELEGRAM in hand, circles Goodwin.

CHAIRMAN  
Who the hell is Charles Van Doren?  
What is he, somebody on  
television?

GOODWIN  
You don't know?

(CONTINUED)

120 CONTINUED:

CHAIRMAN

All I know is in the last hour I've received over 200 telegrams from Fayetteville asking me why I'm persecuting poor Charles Van Doren and why won't I let him defend himself. Why isn't he on the schedule of witnesses?

GOODWIN

Well, sir, if I could refer you to the Barenblatt and Swezey cases--

CHAIRMAN

I want his ass in that hearing room tomorrow. Understood?

GOODWIN

Will you tell me what he said?

CHAIRMAN

(reading)

'Mr. Van Doren has made himself available to members of the committee staff. He has advised them that at no time was he supplied any questions or answers with respect to his appearances on '21'. He was never assisted in any form and he has no knowledge of any assistance having been given to any other contestant. Signed, Charles Van Doren.'

CUT TO:

121 EXT. NIGHT. VAN DOREN HOME--CORNWALL.

Charlie at the front door. Moves to knock. Stops. Moves again. Stops. Turns. Returns. Moves to knock. Can't do it. Heads down the steps, up the gravel driveway.

The door opens behind him.

THE PROFESSOR

Charlie?

CUT TO:

122 INT. NIGHT. VAN DOREN HOME--CORNWALL.

Charlie sits by the fire. The Professor pours them both a Scotch, joins his son.

THE PROFESSOR  
So what's the news, Charlie?

CHARLIE  
Well, uh, there's--it seems  
there's this Congressional  
committee that's--they're  
investigating the quiz shows.

THE PROFESSOR  
I read about that.

CHARLIE  
I thought you might've. Anyway,  
they--well, it seems they want  
to call me. To testify.

THE PROFESSOR  
Oh, I've testified before. For  
the National Endowment. It's  
nothing.

CHARLIE  
I think this is a little  
different.

THE PROFESSOR  
You'll run circles around them.  
It's not exactly Jefferson and  
Lincoln down there, you know.

CHARLIE  
I'm just not sure, you know, what  
to tell them.

THE PROFESSOR  
Just tell them the truth--you'll  
do fine. The real issue, Charlie,  
is the way this is distracting  
you from your teaching--this and  
that program in the morning,  
although you insist it isn't.

CHARLIE  
Dad--

THE PROFESSOR  
You're a good teacher. I'm not  
just saying it because you're my  
son.

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED:

CHARLIE

Dad--I can't tell them the truth.

THE PROFESSOR

Why not? From what I understand, all it was was this bunch of frauds showing off an erudition they didn't really have--basically pretending to be Charles Van Doren. All you have to do is--

CHARLIE

You see, the problem, Dad, is it seems I was one of those frauds.

The Professor stares at Charlie. Unbelieving...

THE PROFESSOR

They gave you the answers?

Charlie gets up, agitated. Starts to pace...

CHARLIE

Oh, no. Not at first. At first they just asked me questions they already knew I knew the answers to. Well, we ran through those in five weeks. I still didn't want them to actually give me the answers. So I had them give me the questions. And I'd go look up the answers. Well, I didn't have the time, and finally, it just seemed silly. So--

THE PROFESSOR

They gave you the answers.

CHARLIE

What was I going to do at that point? Disillusion the whole goddam country?

THE PROFESSOR

They gave you \$129,000 to answer questions they knew you knew. Now that's inflation.

CHARLIE

(angry)

You're not being very helpful.

(CONTINUED)



122 CONTINUED: (2)

THE PROFESSOR  
(angry back)  
I'm sorry. I'm an old man. It's  
just all very hard for me to  
comprehend.

CHARLIE  
It's television, Dad. It's just...  
television.

THE PROFESSOR  
For what? What was it? Was it the  
money?

CHARLIE  
No, it was--I don't know.

THE PROFESSOR  
It was a goddam quiz show,  
Charlie.

CHARLIE  
'An ill-favoured thing, sir--'

THE PROFESSOR  
This is no time to play games.

CHARLIE  
(savagely)  
--but mine own'. It was mine.

THE PROFESSOR  
(right back)  
Your name is mine.

The two turn away from each other. Embarrassed by the expression  
of feeling. Hurt by the truth.

THE PROFESSOR  
I'm sorry, Charlie.

CHARLIE  
No, I'm sorry. I'm just sorry  
you'll be dragged into all this.

THE PROFESSOR  
I'll come with you down to  
Washington.

CHARLIE  
You really don't--

(CONTINUED)

122 CONTINUED: (3)

THE PROFESSOR  
I won't hear a word about it.  
(with sympathy)  
My God, son--what are you going  
to tell that committee?

CUT TO:

123 EXT. DAY. HEARING ROOM.

As VIPs are ushered in, Herbie strains to see through the doorway. A Capitol Hill COP blocks him.

HERBIE  
You gotta let me in. Let me in!  
It's my hearing!

COP  
If you don't have a ticket you  
don't go in.

HERBIE  
What about a subpoena? Just let  
me go inside and I'll have my  
close friend the Chairman write  
me a subpoena.

The Cop backs Herbie off with his NIGHTSTICK...

HERBIE  
Okay. Okay! Enough! (mutters)  
Asshole.

He wanders off down the hall. Turns a corner and SEES  
something...Hides behind the corner. Looks again.

HERBIE'S POV

Charlie, sitting in a shaft of sunlight, alone on the stairs.

CUT TO:

124 INT. SAME TIME. CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE.

Goodwin sits behind closed doors, alone with a WITNESS.

(CONTINUED)

124 CONTINUED:

GOODWIN

...The Chairman's instructions are to get you up there as promptly as possible and for the questions to take no longer than 15 minutes. He wants you to receive all questions in advance and for me to thank you for the courtesy of attending this hearing.

Goodwin hands over the questions.

REVERSE ANGLE

as Kintner takes the pages, looks them over.

GOODWIN

You knew all along, didn't you?

KINTNER

Young man, I am the President of the National Broadcasting Company. Our number one show, a show worth literally millions of dollars, that beat 'I Love Lucy' in the ratings...The idea that I wouldn't know every detail of that show's operation--frankly, it's insulting.

(ironic)

I never, never imagined they'd tamper with the honesty of that program.

GOODWIN

And they'll let you off the hook.

KINTNER

(off papers)

This doesn't seem like a grueling line of inquiry, does it? You're the only one I'm worried about. And you don't have anything.

GOODWIN

I have Dan Enright.

KINTNER

Dan Enright wants a future in television. The public has a short memory. But corporations never forget.

(CONTINUED)

124 CONTINUED: (2)

GOODWIN  
He's not that stupid. He knows  
he's through.

KINTNER  
It might take five years, ten  
years. But he'll be back. NBC  
goes on. Geritol goes on.  
(beat)  
Makes you wonder what you've  
accomplished, doesn't it?

GOODWIN  
Don't worry--I'm just starting.

KINTNER  
Even the quiz shows'll be back.  
They don't have to be fixed--you  
could accomplish the same thing  
just making the questions easier.  
That's what Dan never understood.  
Herb Stempel, Van Doren--Dan went  
nuts trying to find people like  
that. But our audience wasn't  
tuning in to watch some display  
of intellectual ability. They just  
wanted to watch the money.

CUT TO:

125 INT. SAME TIME. HEARING ROOM.

Goodwin hurries in behind the Congressmen. Leans over to the  
Chairman, whispers. The Chairman excuses a WITNESS.

CHAIRMAN  
The witness is excused. The  
committee calls Charles Van Doren.

PANDEMONIUM! PHOTOGRAPHERS press in...FLASH! FLASH! FLASH! as  
Charlie enters, The Professor by his side. In the hubbub, Herbie  
sneaks in, squeezes into the back of the room...

The Professor takes a seat in the gallery. Charlie sits at the  
witness table. The room quiets.

CHAIRMAN  
Will you state your name?

CHARLIE  
Charles Van Doren.

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED:

CHAIRMAN  
Will you give your address?

CHARLIE  
11 Washington Square, New York  
City.

CHAIRMAN  
Do you solemnly swear the  
testimony you give to this  
committee to be the truth, the  
whole truth, and nothing but the  
truth, so help you God?

CHARLIE  
I do.

ANGLE ON--GOODWIN

as sits at the counsel table. Glances over toward the side  
aisle...DOUBLETAKES.

GOODWIN POV

as Herbie CRAWLS on his hands and knees up the aisle, trying to  
get a better view...

CHAIRMAN  
I am advised that you have a  
statement which you would prefer  
to read at the outset?

CHARLIE  
Yes, sir. May I ask first, sir,  
if I may have a glass of water.  
I'm sorry to bother you.

A PAGE brings Charlie a glass of water. With glee, Herbie  
watches his nemesis squirm...

CHAIRMAN  
You may proceed.

CHARLIE  
I would give almost anything I  
have to reverse the course of my  
life in the last year. The past  
doesn't change for anyone. But  
at least I can learn from the  
past. I've learned a lot about  
life.

(more)

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED: (2)

CHARLIE (Cont'd)  
 I've learned a lot about myself,  
 and about the responsibilities  
 any man has to his fellow men.  
 I've learned a lot about good and  
 evil--they're not always what they  
 appear to be. I was involved,  
 deeply involved, in a deception.  
 I have deceived my friends, and  
 I had millions of them. In a  
 sense, I was like a child who  
 refuses to admit a fact in the  
 hope that it will go away. Of  
 course, it did not go away. There  
 was one way out, and that was  
 simply to tell the truth. I  
 finally realized what I should  
 have known before, that the truth  
 is always the best way, indeed  
 it is the only way, to promote  
 and protect faith, the only thing  
 with which a man can live. That  
 is why I am here today.

A long SILENCE...Goodwin sits and watches, stunned...Herbie in  
 his moment of VINDICATION. And then...

CHAIRMAN  
 Mr. Van Doren, I want to  
 compliment you for that statement.

CHARLIE  
 Thank you, sir.

CONGRESSMAN #1  
 Mr. Van Doren, I would like to  
 join with the chairman in  
 commending you for the  
 soul-searching fortitude that is  
 displayed in your statement.

CHARLIE  
 Thank you, sir. Thank you very  
 much.

CONGRESSMAN #3  
 Mr. Van Doren, I just want to add  
 my kudos. I have listened to many  
 witnesses in both civil and  
 criminal matters, and yours is  
 the most soul-searching confession  
 I think I have heard in a long  
 time.

(CONTINUED)

125 CONTINUED: (3)

CHARLIE  
Well, thank you, sir.

And then CONGRESSMAN #4, a curmudgeonly public servant, breaks in.

CONGRESSMAN #4  
Mr. Van Doren, I'm also from New York. Another part of New York. I am happy that you made the statement, but I cannot agree with most of my colleagues. I don't think an adult of your intelligence ought to be commended for simply, at long last, telling the truth.

Suddenly, the gallery bursts into loud APPLAUSE...Goodwin looks up into the eyes of an angry MOB...Charlie like a trapped animal...

SMASH CUT TO:

126 INT. LATER. HALLWAY.

A FRENZY of REPORTERS presses in on Charlie and his Dad.

REPORTER #1  
How do you feel, Charlie?

CHARLIE  
Relieved.

REPORTER #2  
Professor, did you know you've been fired by NBC?

REPORTER #3  
Professor Van Doren, are you proud of your son?

THE PROFESSOR  
I've always been proud of Charlie.

REPORTER #4  
Are you proud of what he did?

THE PROFESSOR  
What's important is that Charlie can get back now to his teaching.

(CONTINUED)

126 CONTINUED:

REPORTER #4  
The Columbia trustees met this morning. They voted to ask for Charlie's resignation.

The Professor blanches. He and Charlie exchange a look. Then an ANGRY MAN approaches...

ANGRY MAN  
You son of a bitch!

SMACK! as he punches Charlie in the eye. Charlie staggers back. The Reporters restrain the Angry Man...

HERBIE'S POV

as he watches this. Backs away from the crowd--like he's seen something for the first time.

REPORTER #5  
Hey, Herbie, how about a picture--you and Van Doren?

HERBIE  
No. Not now. (off Van Doren)  
Christ--look at the guy.

REPORTER #5  
Come on. The two of you.

HERBIE  
You know what the problem with you bums is? You never leave a guy alone unless you're leaving him alone.

CUT TO:

127 INT. DAY. HOTEL ROOM.

A man packs a SUITCASE on a hotel bed.

ON THE TELEVISION

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER conducts a press conference.

REPORTER #1 (O.C.)  
Sir, either as President or a TV viewer, do you have any strong feelings on rigged quiz shows?

Laughter from the press corps.

(CONTINUED)



127 CONTINUED:

EISENHOWER (O.C.)  
I think this was, if it was done,  
it's a terrible thing to do to  
the American public.

WATCHING

while he packs: The Professor. Cold with rage.

THE PROFESSOR  
God damn you, Charlie.

CUT TO:

128 INT. LATER. HEARING ROOM.

Enright and Freedman, aglow with his Mexico suntan, testify  
together. Goodwin broods at the counsel table...

CONGRESSMAN #1  
...So you freely admit that you  
helped rig these shows?

FREEDMAN  
What are these quiz shows, a  
public utility? I don't see why  
the hubbub.

CONGRESSMAN #1  
So you don't think you did  
anything wrong?

FREEDMAN  
We did one thing wrong--we were  
too successful.

CHAIRMAN  
Mr. Enright, did the network or  
the sponsor ever express any  
approval or disapproval of any  
particular contestant?

ENRIGHT  
Never. Not to my knowledge.

CHAIRMAN  
Did they know that you were  
supplying the contestants with  
the answers?

Goodwin looks at Enright.

(CONTINUED)

128 CONTINUED:

ENRIGHT  
 (smoothly)  
 No, sir. They had no knowledge  
 whatsoever.

AT THE COUNSEL TABLE

STAFFER #1 joins Goodwin.

STAFFER #1  
 (aside)  
 Congratulations on Van Doren.

GOODWIN  
 I thought I was gonna get  
 television. The truth is  
 television's gonna get us.

CUT TO:

129 INT. SAME TIME. CONGRESS.

The halls are deserted now. The sounds of Enright testifying  
 inside. Charlie dabs at his tender eye with a handkerchief.  
 Waits for the ELEVATOR. It opens.

HERBIE'S INSIDE

Charlie climbs in. The doors close. They ride down together, not  
 saying a word.

They emerge into the sunlight. Head their separate ways,  
 receding till they are little more than specks within the  
 frame...

A CRAWL over this:

--Charles Van Doren went to work for the Encyclopedia  
 Britannica. He now lives in his family's house in Cornwall  
 Hollow, Connecticut.

--Herbert Stempel received a degree in social work from CCNY.  
 He now works for the Department of Transportation of the City of  
 New York.

--Richard Goodwin became a speechwriter for Presidents Kennedy  
 and Johnson. He left the White House because of the Vietnam War  
 and retired from politics after the death of Robert Kennedy. He  
 is now a writer living in Concord, Massachusetts.

--Albert Freedman works for Penthouse magazine.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

--After seventeen years in exile, Dan Enright and Jack Barry came back to television with 'The Joker's Wild'. The highly successful show ran for ten years and made them multimillionaires.

--CBS, NBC, and ABC were never conclusively implicated in the quiz show scandals. In 1990 the gross revenues of the three networks totalled six billion dollars.

FADE TO BLACK: