

Perfect World

by
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FADE IN:

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY

Everyone is carrying a script.

VOICE OVER

In the year 2057, the government, now known affectionately as Fred (which, unbeknownst to the inhabitants, stands for Freedom Restriction and Eradication Directive), wanted to show that it could lead the world in a more civil and humane manner. Fred's goal was to make sure that it's inhabitants were always comfortable and never at a loss for words. So, to accomplish that, they outlawed all non-scripted conversation. Most inhabitants, being monosyllabic since the abolition of any book not written by a Fred certified rock star, were happy to give one more overrated personal freedom to the all knowing and powerful Fred. Of course, some radical personal freedom inhabitants (i.e. Cantabridgians and others of that ilk) felt that Fred had finally overstepped their bounds. They may have been willing to go along with clean testicle Tuesdays and the eradication of bad hair days, but they felt it wouldn't be prudent to give up their unscripted daily interaction. Of course, to alleviate any possible uprising (which had been outlawed as too loud and smelly anyway) Fred reprogrammed the music chip in the subversives personal aural indulgence manipulator and they were quick to see the benefits of scripted conversation or were driven mad with blandness. It's good to see that even in this advanced society John Tesh's music could still cause a level four brain freeze. It didn't take long for the scripts to be utilized for all daily interaction.

(MORE)

VOICE OVER (CONT'D)

Of course, Fred, not wanting to foretell what was going to happen to the inhabitants, never put their names on the scripts and only gave them pages full of lines and the directive to read in order. Fred was pretty smart and figured that if someone knew they were going to be killed or be forced to sit through a lecture by an economist they would probably just go back to bed for the day. You've got to hand it to Fred, they were a pretty sneaky benevolent despot. The years went by and everyone was happy and uncommonly witty living in this lower case Algonquin round table until that fateful day.

Zoom in to two stylish, pseudo-hip people, TROY and JULIE, walking down the street.

TROY

I was reading some of the more profound teachings of Little Richard last night and I must say that I find myself more and more doubtful of the intelligence level of our forefathers. I mean, last night when I got to the part where he wrote 'A wop bop a lou ah a wop bam boo', I've got to tell you, it bought tears to my eyes. He should have been made their leader instead of being relegated to wasting his genius as the center spot on Hollywood Squares.

JULIE

I know what you mean. To me this proves that free thought is not only overrated but overpriced. Just the other night I was reading the Book of Clinton and when he asked the question that many scholars have argued about over the years, 'Do you want fries with that shake?' I was overcome with an emptiness that was only filled by my rushing out and purchasing more Fred certified consumer goods.

Follow two bubbly, dressing for excess women, DIANE and TERRI, walking out of a store.

DIANE

And then I said to him, if he thought he was going to be able to get me in the personal fluids interchange inhabiter he had another thing coming.

TERRI

Men are so phony these days. I mean, where do they come up with these lines?

Follow three low level street thugs, WARREN, DEAN and GENE, walking quickly down the street. Warren speaks directly to Dean.

WARREN

We've got to end this now. If we let this situation continue we will be in serious trouble by the end of the month.

DEAN

Don't look at me as if it's my fault. I told you two weeks ago that we had a situation on our hands.

WARREN

I'm not blaming anyone, Dean. It's just that I think we've been more than kind in this matter. It's time to put a stop to it.

DEAN

You know how hard this is for me, Warren.

WARREN

I understand that. He is, after all, your brother. But, it's time we severed all ties so we can move forward into other territories. Do you agree, Dean?

Dean nods.

GENE

What are you two talking about? Dean? Warren?

WARREN

We're sorry Gene but you've become a barrier to our future success.

Warren and Dean pull out guns and shoot Gene many times.
Everyone walks by like nothings happening.

Follow VINCENT, dressed in sweats and MELISSA, dressed neatly
but not at all overt, as they step over Gene.

VINCENT

Did you see that? It was just like
the scene in Rocky 87 where
Sylvester Stalone the eighth had to
go back to his great, great, great,
great, great grandfathers original
career as a mob enforcer and had to
shoot the kid who got the last
pixie stick a mob bosses
granddaughter wanted.

MELISSA

Can we get off the movies and start
to think about us? This
relationship isn't going in a
direction that I'm at all happy
with. You spend most of your time
watching movies. Not only movies,
but old movies from before 2010 in
that totally unrealistic color. I
mean, how could you. . .

Just then a gust of wind rips the scripts out of everyone
hands. Pull back as scripts swirl all over the street. The
scripts fall back to the street and people pick up the script
that is closest to them. Everyone gets the wrong script.

Zoom in to Melissa and Vincent who are now acting like Julie
and Troy.

MELISSA (CONT'D)

I must totally disagree with your
assessment on this point. There is
no way that Michael was a better
representative of 20th century
angst than his sister Janet.

VINCENT

You are so delusional. As is your wont, you have taken the easy road out. Granted, Janet Jackson did give us some memorable moments but she had none of the honesty and naked realism of Michael.

MELISSA

I can't believe that you'd even waste time debating that point. But you will be forced to admit that Tito was the most talented. His treatise on the evolution of orbital transcendentalism still astounds me.

VINCENT

Of course. Only a fool would try.

Follow Warren and Dean who are now in the character of Vincent and Melissa.

WARREN

Would you please back off on this. You're really starting to get on my nerves.

DEAN

I haven't started to get on your nerves yet, mister. Every time I want to talk about our relationship you change the subject. Usually with your stupid movie trivia.

WARREN

It's not stupid. Besides, I don't understand what there is to talk about. As far as our relationship goes I can't see anything wrong.

DEAN

That's because you never think about it. And you never take a moment, just one moment, to think about how the things you do are going to affect me.

WARREN

Oh, please. What do I do that's so bad? I gave you an orgasm last night, didn't I?

DEAN

That's what I mean. You never think past that one thing.

WARREN

But you've got to admit it's not too bad.

DEAN

See? That's exactly what I mean. You think all the ills in our relationship can be forgotten as long as you get me off. It doesn't work that way. If you'd listen just once to what I was saying we might actually have a great relationship instead of one that's filled with questions. If it keeps going this way I don't think that I can stay with you much longer.

WARREN

Oh, Honey.

Leans over and hugs and kisses Dean on the lips.

WARREN (CONT'D)

Everything'll be fine. I promise I'll listen more. Now let's get a move on. The film starts in ten minutes.

Follow Diane and Terri who are now in the characters of Warren and Dean.

TERRI

You know, I fell kind of bad that we had to ice Gene like. To just do it on the street.

DIANE

It had to be done.

TERRI

There's no question about that. But it's not like the old days. Remember when we'd have taken him out to dinner and then shanked him over desert? There just doesn't seem to be the spectacle of the old days.

DIANE

Yeah, everything's got to be done so fast now. No time for ceremony. There was a mystique to murder in the old days that's just not there anymore.

TERRI

Not to mention the rush that came from thinking you might get snagged.

DIANE

Yeah, I miss that the most. Since murder was decriminalized it just isn't as much fun.

Follow Troy and Julie who are now the characters of Diane and Terri.

TROY

Oh, so, did I tell you? I was at the club last night and this thing came over to me and do you know what he said? He said that I was the only thing that kept him alive.

JULIE

Can you believe that? What did you say?

TROY

I said that it was about time to terminate life support.

They screech and do the woman high five (wiggle their fingers at each other).

JULIE

They're just so immature these days. It's like everything is planned and no one has a mind of his own.

TROY

You're right. Everyone seems so. . .there's a smudge here. Can you make out this word?

They look at Troy's script.

JULIE

Contrived.

TROY

Thanks. Contrived these days.

Zoom out to a full shot of the street.

VOICE OVER

Although Fred and his cohorts may
not visit in your lifetime, it's
best to be afraid, be very afraid,
if you start hearing John Tesh all
day.

FADE OUT.