

# The Recruiters...

A Sitcom for Radio.  
In Six 30 Minute Episodes.  
Written by Robert Salisbury

Episode Three: "*Human Resources*"

**The Recruiters... Episode Three: Human Resources**

<b>SETTINGS</b>	Bob's Apartment. A Bus. Phillip Banks office. A Cafe. The lobby and lift of World Tower. GHI Offices Level 62.	
<b>CAST</b>	<b>Bob Hachett</b> (40's)	Phillip Banks Manager. Struggling. Estranged wife.
	<b>Steve</b> (25)	Dreamer. Self-improvement books. Learning. Recruiter.
	<b>Todd</b> (50's)	Drinks. Wife belittles him. Phillip Banks Accountant.
	<b>Stephanie</b> (32)	Australian Career woman at Professional Personnel.
	<b>Jannelle</b> (22)	Receptionist at serviced offices. Hopeless at everything.
	<b>Achmed</b>	Middle Eastern Accent.
	<b>Dad</b>	Mr. Hachett, Bob's English father. Elderly. Stiff upper lip.
	<b>Kate</b>	Bob's wife. English Rose.
	<b>Reporter 1</b>	Male British Reporter on Radio on site in China.
	<b>Reporter 2</b>	Female Australian Reporter on Radio news.
	<b>Narrator</b>	Introduces The Radio Show.
	<b>Bus Driver</b>	Driver on the Sydney Bus takes fares from Bob.
	<b>Bar Girl</b> (20's)	Takes order from Bob in the Coffee Shop.
	<b>Bar Guy</b> (20's)	Serves cappuccino to Bob in the Coffee Shop.
	<b>Digger</b>	Stranger who talks of Terrorists in cafe.
	<b>Tim</b>	Timothee with an 'E". Spikey gay young creative - Ad Agency.
	<b>Old Man</b>	Reliable Rural Aussie accent. Slow and deep. Phillip Banks..
	<b>Voice over</b>	Fast talking, pseudo American Radio voice over.
	<b>Lady</b>	Ben's wife. Plain voice.
	<b>Ben</b>	Earnest Australian male.
	<b>Toni</b>	Head of GHI. Confident. Loud. Controlled.
	<b>Scott</b>	Scot with abrupt manner and loses his temper.
	<b>Tyler</b>	Young Aussie male, tries to hide his anti-gay feelings.
	<b>Bochevski</b>	Eastern European, Mature, seductive Mrs. Jana Bochevski.
	<b>Zack</b>	Very young, bad breathed recruit.
	<b>God</b>	Elderly man.

**Scene# 1      INSIDE SHAFT.**

**FX      CLANKING OF TOOLS IN BIG ECHOEY LIFT SHAFT.**

DIGGER      Ach-med! [echoes]

**FX      TOOL FALLING DOWN INTO DEEP SHAFT. CLANKING ON WAY**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 2      BOB'S BEDROOM. HOT NIGHT TIME.**

**FX      NOISE OF SEA, SUMMER INSECTS TRILLING. PHONE RINGS**

BOB      Hello.

DAD      Robert. Its your father.

BOB      Dad? Itsssss.. 4 in the morning.

DAD      Oh drat. Can't get used to the time difference. What's the weather like out there?.

BOB      Hot.

DAD      2 inches of snow here... when are you coming home?

BOB      We've been through this.

DAD      I don't know why you had to move to Or-stralia.

BOB      I needed to get away...

DAD      Your mother and I never moved to Or-stralia every time we wanted to get away... we'd go to Bournemouth for a dirty weekend.

BOB      Da-ad.

DAD      Katherine won't wait for ever: she is still your wife.

BOB      I know..

DAD      You need a woman Robert. Its no fun living alone.

BOB      ... Hows Mom?

DAD      Her bowels are playing up again. Had to take her to the toilet yesterday.

BOB      Look Its early Dad.

DAD      Oh alright.

BOB      Night Dad.

DAD      Goodnight son.

BOB      Arrr....

**FX      SOUND OF INSECTS**

BOB      *Hot summer nights.. can be difficult to sleep.*

**FX      SOUND OF KOOKABURRAS**

*Especially when your back is lobster red from the sun. Oooo.. So you lie awake.*

KATE      Hello Bob. Its me. Kate.

BOB      *And you think. .*

KATE      How are you Bob?

BOB      *.. And remember...*

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KATE [Seductively] Come here Bob...

BOB *Everything...*

STEPHANIE You're a bad man Bob!

**FX: SLAP!**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 3 BOB's APARTMENT. BOB MOVES AROUND THE KITCHEN PREPARING BREAKFAST.**

**FX: SIZZLING OF EGGS IN FRYING PAN.**

BOB [Coughs and hums over radio].

**FX: SWITCHES ON RADIO**

REPORTER 1 ... Not since Tienanmen Square has China seen such an uprising.

**FX: TOASTER POPS**

This Pro- democracy movement is now in direct collision with the ruling Communist Party..

**FX: SOUND OF GUNFIRE**

I'm having to get down now...

**FX: SCRAPS BUTTER ONTO TOAST**

..the military are opening fire....

**FX: GUN FIRE**

BOB Hm.

**FX TUNNING RADIO**

REPORTER 2 Sydney shall remain safe. We are in contact with members of the Chinese community

**FX TUNNING RADIO**

BOB Come on...

**FX RADIO TUNES TO THE RECRUITERS THEME MUSIC**

NARRATOR The Radio Players present... The Recruiters... by Robert Salisbury.

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----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 4 INTERIOR OF BUS.**

**FX SOUND OF BUS**

BOB City.

DRIVER Four dollars.

BOB *Everyone commutes... Into the city... out of the city...*

**FX: MOBILE PHONE**

STEVE Bob. Its Steve. Seen the news? The demonstrators are out.

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BOB           Something on the radio..  
STEVE        Still meeting at 10?  
BOB           Yes. World Square.  
STEVE        What is this Human Resources Audit?  
BOB           Staff Assessment.  
STEVE        So they don't need staff.  
BOB           I'm on the bus. Let's talk later.  
STEVE        See you in the lobby.  
BOB           *Dipstick!*

**FX       BUS DRONES ON**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 5       BOB ENTERS PHILLIP BANKS OFFICE. TODD WAITING.**

TODD        Morning Bob. Someone in the boardroom for you.  
BOB           Thanks Todd.

**FX       DOOR OPENS**

TIM           Timothee with an 'E', Spruik It Promotions. You must be Phillip.  
BOB           Bob actually.  
TIM           You're gonna love this..

**FX       CLICK OF TAPE. HOMELY MUSIC**

OLD MAN     Things were different then.. You judged a man by looking him in the eye.. 40 years later, my 2 boys run the company... They know all about technology, the internet... But at Phillip Banks, we still believe, people come first..

VOICEOVER   Phillip Banks... in business since 1968.

**FX       CLICK OF TAPE. MUSIC ENDS**

TIM           What do you think?  
BOB           No.  
TIM           No? You're right. What about this...

**FX       CLICK OF TAPE. LIVELY MUSIC**

VOICEOVER   Its January Madness at Phillip Banks! Candidates going cheap! This Chartered Accountant: 55,000, IT Contractor: 60,000. These 2 PA's, both computer literate, both graduates, both 27,000. First to interview will employ. So come on down to Phillip Banks January Madness Sale.

[deeper fast voice] This offer is strictly limited to the month of January. Failure to pay commission may result in loss of staff.

**FX       CLICK OF TAPE. MUSIC ENDS**

TIM           Is that Advertising. Or is that Advertising?  
BOB           Its tacky and cheap.  
TIM           Is that bad?

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BOB Pffff... We want something.. real!

TIM Oh my god! I've got it! You're gonna love this!

**FX CLICK OF TAPE. SAD MUSIC**

LADY When Ben lost his job, we were both worried.

BEN Especially since the little one arrived.

**FX BABY CRIES**

LADY It was important Ben went to see someone we could trust.

BEN The best.

VOICEOVER Phillip Banks has helped hundreds of people find work.

BEN They changed not only my life.. but her life too

**FX BABY GURGLS**

VOICEOVER To start your new life, call today.

**FX CLICK OF TAPE. MUSIC ENDS**

TIME [Sniffing] Moving stuff.

BOB No.

TIM [Incredulously] Really?

BOB Look, I'm sorry.

TIM I didn't win the Harvey Norman contract for nothing Bob.

BOB I've got another appointment.

TIM I know Advertising.

BOB I'll have to leave it there.

TIM No! Lets pause. [Very camp] We'll hook up tomorrow.

BOB OK.

TIM Don't forget, Timothee with an 'E'.

BOB Bye.

**FX CLOSES DOOR. PHONE RINGS**

BOB Bob Hachett.

JANNELLE There's a call for you.

BOB Oh.

JANNELLE I asked for their name. Like you asked... and for their telephone number.

BOB Good. Can you put them through?

JANNELLE Oh. I told them you were out for the day.

BOB But I was in.

JANNELLE Your phone was busy.

BOB Who was it?

JANNELLE I wrote it down on a piece of paper...

BOB *Oh no..*

JANNELLE I was doing my suduko and needed to make notes. So I tore it out my notebook.

BOB And lost it.

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JANNELLE No. Then Mike came in. And there was dogs muck on reception.  
BOB Yes.  
JANNELLE [Light heartedly] It was Mike's shoe. Well he asked for something to wipe with.  
BOB Mmm..  
JANNELLE Well its here if ye wan' it. Ye can still make out the number!  
BOB I have to meet Steve at GHI.

**FX PHONE DOWN**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 6 EXTERIOR. SYDNEY CBD.**

**FX FOOTSTEPS. BUSY STREET. COMMUTERS. BUSES. CARS.**  
BOB *Thing about life in Sydney is, We live in paradise. But no one cares.. The world is too far away.. too busy with their economies, their politics, their wars...*

**FX FOLLOW FOOT STEPS INTO BUSY COFFEE SHOP**

BOB Cappuccino please.  
BAR GIRL Cappuccino! [CALLS OUT] Regular or Large?  
BOB *Cause, there's drama here too.*  
BAR GUY One flat white for Jamie!  
BAR GIRL That's Regular. That's large.  
BOB ...Regular, please. *Sometimes you need to consider the bigger questions..*  
BAR GIRL Anything else?  
BOB No.  
BAR GIRL One Regular Cap! [CALLS]  
BOB *Its easy to forget..*  
BAR GIRL Can I have a name please?  
BOB Rumpelstiltskin.  
BAR GIRL How do you spell that?  
BOB *That we're human. Its Bob.*  
BAR GIRL One regular cappuccino, that will be, three dollars eighty..  
BOB *Everything comes at a price.*

**FX TILL RINGS**

BAR GIRL Change. Next please.  
BOB Thanks. [Bob wanders to side. Picks up a newspaper.] China at war...Hmm.

**FX SHAKES OUT NEWSPAPER. DRINKS.**

DIGGER Reading the paper?  
BOB What?  
DIGGER China. Military crackdown. Changing times.  
BOB Hm...  
DIGGER Ye know what they say? When you reach a fork in the road: take it.  
BOB Er

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DIGGER I was there ye know. Twin Towers all in rubble. A day I'll never forget. September the 7th.

BOB Oh.

DIGGER Then there was Afghanistan... you can imagine the scene...

BOB What was it like?

DIGGER Unimaginable... Not all bad, those Afghans. Some good men. Met a guy.. had his hand chopped off by the Taliban.

BOB O...

DIGGER No prouder moment in me life, than shaking his hand.

BOB Right.

**FX SHAKES NEWSPAPER**

BAR GUY One cap for Rumpelstiltskin! ... Rumpelstiltskin! You Rumpelstiltskin's?

BOB Its Bob....Thanks.

DIGGER Rudd.

BOB *Not you again?*

DIGGER Ye know what the Chinese call him?.. The School teacher. Ye know why?

BOB *Some people just can't help interacting.*

DIGGER Cause he looks...like a school teacher.

BOB *While some of us just want to be left alone.*

DIGGER Cause, they're here ye know?

BOB Who are?

DIGGER Terrorists...

BOB In Sydney?.

DIGGER Too much said. Gotta go. Be see'in ye.

BOB *I hope not.*

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 7 LOBBY OF WORLD TOWER. PEOPLE WALKING ON MARLBE FLOOR. LIFTS.**

**FX SOUNDS OF BUSY LOBBY. LIFTS.**

BOB You ready Steve?

STEVE Before we go up. Why can't they interview their own staff?

BOB Sometimes its complicated. They need an expert. .

STEVE So we're experts?

BOB Yeah. Its like your nurse, will attend to the sick. But when it comes to a diagnoses. She relies on the Doctor.

STEVE So your saying we're the Doctors and they're the nurses. Are you a Doctor Bob?

BOB Well not a medical one.

STEVE Dr. Bob Hachett! But you have a phd?



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BOB No.

STEVE So you're just a graduate?

BOB University of life!

STEVE You do have a degree don't you Bob?

BOB You can't beat it.

STEVE So you don't have a degree?

BOB There's nothing like experience.

STEVE I'm going to check your file when we get back to the office.

BOB Go on then.

STEVE I will.

BOB You can't access it.

STEVE Mind you, people didn't go to univesity in your day.

BOB Cause they did!

STEVE Just not you.

BOB Look can we drop it. They have complications. And with a bit of negotiation and compromise, everythings resolveable.

STEVE I'll get the lift.

BOB Where can I throw this coffee cup?

STEVE Terrorists.

BOB What?

STEVE No bins around anymore... Case terrorists leaves a bomb in them..

**FX MANY FOOTSTEPS. LIFT OPENS. FOOTSTEPS IN AND OUT.**

ACHMED Achmed di fahar...Shalla

**FX LIFT CLOSSES.**

STEVE See him?

BOB Mmm.

STEVE Bit strange.

**FX LIFT SLOWS. LIFT OPENS. FOOTSTEPS.**

MAN U.

BOB U. STEVE E.

**FX LIFT CLOSSES. BUTTONS PRESSED.**

MAN Tallest lift shaft in Australia, 848 feet.

STEVE Pardon?

MAN Safest in the world... since they changed the cables...

STEVE Why did they change the cables?

MAN Cause the last one's went. Kizzch! [NECK CUTTING NOISE] Right the way to the bottom. Good job there was no one in it.

BOB *You know people who talk in lifts ..are mad.*

STEVE When was this?

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MAN Don't worry mate. This lifts strong. [Raised voice] She shakes a little. But it won't snap.

**FX MAN JUMPING IN LIFT**

BOB *What did I tell you?*

STEVE Errr...do you have to do that?

MAN Twin cables.

STEVE 24.. 26 28..

MAN Just in case.. Kizzch! [NECK CUTTING NOISE]

STEVE 32..34...

MAN If they both snap, safety rods shoot out from the walls. Prevents the carriage from plummeting...

STEVE 40..42.

MAN 848 feet to the bottom. [Whistles then makes an exploding noise. ]

BOB Someone's done their research.

**FX LIFT SLOWS**

MAN If you had to step into this thing everyday, you'd do your research.

**FX LIFT STOPS**

G'day.

BOB C.

STEVE E.

**FX LIFT DOORS SHUT**

MAN [Muffled and fading] If ye hear a rattling noise, just stop at the next level and get off.

STEVE Huh. He's a bit random.

BOB Hmmm.

STEVE .... Do ye think they have twin cables?

**FX LIFT SLOWS. DOORS OPEN**

BOB Here we are.

**FX PAIR STEP OUT. LIFT CLOSSES.**

BOB You alright?

STEVE I'm not keen on lifts.

BOB Ignore him. They're safe.

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 8 INSIDE GHI BOARDROOM. BOB AND STEVE WAITING. QUIET. NO NOISE.**

BOB Spectacular view.

STEVE Yeah.

BOB Opera House. Harbour Bridge... Can see for miles.

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STEVE [Uncomfortable of heights] Mm.  
[DOOR OPENS]

TONI Morning guys. Bob, Steve. Hope you haven't been waiting long.

BOB No, no. Just got here. STEVE: No.

BOB How's Zack settling in?

TONI Good mate good.

BOB That's good.

TONI To be blunt, he's got bad breathe.

BOB Bad breathe huh?

TONI Stinks mate. An' e meets clients.

BOB I see...

TONI He needs to be told.

BOB Yes. You're right.

TONI So, I'll send him in with the others.

BOB I'm not telling him.

TONI You recommended him.

BOB You employed him.

TONI We paid you.

BOB *Your spineless no good shit head.*

TONI Arrh don't be an anchor. Weigh it up. We're keeping him.

BOB That's a relief.

TONI To be honest guys, we're over staffed. I've instructed everyone to re apply for their jobs. Here's a list of names.

**FX PAPER BEING HANDED OUT**

BOB Thanks. STEVE Thank you.

TONI I'd like you to interview them. Find out what you can.

BOB Right. STEVE Sure.

TONI Here's another list.

**FX PAPER BEING HANDED OUT**

BOB What's this for?

TONI These are the people we want to lose.

BOB So what do you want us to do?

TONI Tell us why we need to lose them. ...

BOB Oh.. STEVE ... Mm.

TONI Ok. I'll send them. Steve if you'd like to come with me.

[THEME MUSIC]

----- END OF SCENE -----

**Scene # 9 INSIDE GHI BOARDROOM. QUIET.**

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BOB                    So as Senior Manager, you are in charge of more than 20 people...

SCOTT                 [Harsh Scottish Accent] Aye. But I'm not a bossy sort. Can't stand bossy people.

BOB                    I see.

SCOTT                 You won't ne hear me bossing my people arround. And I don't expect to hear anyone else bossing my people arround. If I hear someone bossing my people arround, I tell 'em. [Pause. Then in RAISED VOICE] Don't get bossing my people arround mate! If anyone arround here is going to do the bossing its me. D'ye ken? DO YER!!!

BOB                    Right... I see.

SCOTT                 [CALM AGAIN] It sets the wrrong tone.

BOB                    OK.

**FX            TICKS SHEET WITH PEN**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 10        INTERIOR. SOME BACKGROUND OFFICE NOISE.**

STEVE                 There are openly gay staff at GHI. How do you feel about that?

TYLER                 Oh no worries. Too easy. Me brothers gay.

STEVE                 And you get along?

TYLER                 Arh yeah. We do heaps together. We were brought up in a very open home. Ma always saw the positive in people. Pa would change channels if there was homophobic language on TV.

STEVE                 Does your brother have friends?

TYLER                 Arrrh can't stand 'em. They're all poofs.

STEVE                 OK.

**FX            TICKS SHEET WITH PEN**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 11        Bob in GHI Boardroom.**

BOB                    So... Jana.

BOCHEVSKI            I want my job.

BOB                    We'll have to see what...

BOCHEVSKI            I don't think you understand.. I really want this job...

BOB                    You're a very [swallows] attractive employee.

BOCHEVSKI            Oh..So hot in here.

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BOB Yes...

BOCHEVSKI Do you mind if I loosen my buttons..

BOB Not at all. ..So many.

BOCHEVSKI I never wear a bra.. So restricting...

BOB [Clears throat] .

BOCHEVSKI Some air.

BOB Where was I?

BOCHEVSKI Let me loosen your tie.

BOB Oh!.

BOCHEVSKI Do you mind if I call you Bob...

BOB No.

BOCHEVSKI I will do anything to keep this job.

BOB I'd like nothing more than to see you down..

BOCHEVSKI OK

BOB On this list. Down on this list.

BOCHEVSKI I will do anything.

BOB What are you doing?

BOCHEVSKI Anything.

BOB Erm.. That's my leg.

BOCHEVSKI I want to leave nothing to chance.

BOB I'm afraid the selection process.

**FX SLOW ZIPPER**

BOB Isn't down to me.

**FX ZIPPER STOPS**

Though I do have some influence...

**FX ZIPPER CONTINUES**

BOCHEVSKI Anything Bob..

**FX DOOR IS KNOCKED AND OPENED QUICKLY**

STEVE Oo! BOB Ah!!

STEVE Sorry Bob. I did knock.

**FX CHAIR SHUFFLING**

BOB Mrs Bochevski was just, eh looking

STEVE I bet she was.

BOB For her contact lenses.

BOCHEVSKI You'll look after me, won't you Bob.

BOB Eh yes, yes, yes.

BOCHEVSKI I'll call you.

BOB Yes. That'll be all. Bye.

**FX FOOTSTEPS LEAVING ROOM.**

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STEVE Toni's wants a chat.  
BOB Alright.  
STEVE And Bob.  
BOB Yes?  
STEVE You've got Cappuccino on your nose.  
BOB Must be from this morning?  
STEVE You had it on in the lift.  
BOB Why didn't you tell me?  
STEVE Didn't seem important.  
BOB W...huuuuu....  
STEVE See you outside.  
**FX FOOTSTEPS LEAVING ROOM. DOOR CLOSSES.**  
BOB *Dipstick.*  
**FX FAST ZIPPER.**  
ARRRRGGGHHH! [ECHO CHAMBER]  
-  
----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 12 RECEPTION. TONI. BOB. STEVE. OFFICE NOISE IN BACKGROUND.**

TONI Fantastic job guys.  
BOB Jana seems like quite a capable employee!  
STEVE Especially with her contact lenses on.  
TONI Bob. I hope you didn't.  
BOB I didn't. [indignant]  
TONI You didn't? [surprised]  
BOB Did not. [emphatic]  
STEVE He did. [challenging]  
TONI Did he? [fascinated]  
BOB I did not! [outraged]  
STEVE You didn't? [incredulous]  
BOB Does she? [curious]  
TONI She does. [conspiratorially]  
STEVE Does it? [salaciously]  
TONI Did me. [bragging]  
STEVE Did she? [impressed]  
BOB Did you? [quizzical]  
TONI I did. [gallantly]  
BOB She didn't. [disparagingly]

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TONI Did too. [fighting talk]

STEVE Does too! [delightedly]

BOB Did you? [authoritatively]

TONI No. She doesn't. [disappointedly] [SUDDENLY ANIMATED] Zack! How ye doin mate?

ZACK Good Toni.

TONI Come here! ... Not too close Mate. Bob, Zack wants a quick word with you. You can use the boardroom, we'll wait here for ye's. Won't we Steve?

STEVE Yeah. Sure.

ZACK Sorry I...

TONI In ye go Zack.

BOB I'm not doing this.

TONI In ye go Bob.

**FX DOOR CLOSSES**

ZACK Sorry, I don't understand.

BOB Eh... Ooo... sit down Zack.

ZACK What's this about?

BOB Have breakfast this morning, did you?

ZACK Yes.

BOB And after that, what did you do?

ZACK Came to work.

BOB But what about straight after breakfast?

ZACK Caught the bus.

BOB No before that... Did you brush your teeth?

ZACK Course.

BOB Do you use mouthwash?

ZACK Sometimes.. What's this about?

BOB Pfffff.... bad breathe, who needs it?

ZACK Has Toni sent me in here to talk with you about bad breathe?

BOB Yes.

ZACK Lets smell...

BOB Oh..

ZACK Open wide.

BOB Urrgh.

ZACK Can't smell anything..

BOB Mm...

ZACK Just floss more.I wouldn't worry about it mate.

BOB Right. I'll do that.

**FX DOOR OPENS. DOOR SHUTS**

TONI Are we good? You guys talk? Sensitive shit?

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ZACK           No worries. All sorted.  
TONI           Good! I'm glad that's cleared up. Bob, you're a champ. And Steve..Heeeeeeyyyyyy!!.  
BOB            We'll be in touch.  
TONI            See you later.

**THEME MUSIC**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 13      INSIDE LIFT.**

**FX      MOVING LIFT. SCRAPING NOISE. CLANKING METAL.**  
BOB        What was that?  
          **FX      LIFT STOPS.**  
STEVE      I think we've stopped!  
BOB        Press the button.  
          **FX      BUTTONS PRESSED.**  
STEVE      Nothing'.  
BOB        What floor we on?  
STEVE      42<sup>nd</sup>.  
BOB        Try going up.  
          **FX      BUTTONS PRESSED.**  
STEVE      Nothing seems to be happening.  
BOB        Lights have come on... Maybe its just...  
STEVE      Should we press the alarm button?  
BOB        Go on then.  
          **FX      LOUD METALLIC BANDING. LIFT SHUDDER.**  
STEVE      Oh my God!  
BOB        I think we should call for help.  
STEVE      HELP! HELP!  
BOB        Not you. Use the phone. Where is it? Shit! Its all buttons.  
          **FX      PRESSING BUTTONS FURIOUSLY**  
STEVE      Look a light.  
BOB        Damn. My mobile's not working.  
STEVE      Look.  
BOB        Its a warning light. The air cons packed in. Try your mobile.  
STEVE      The batteries flat.  
BOB        What!  
STEVE      I didn't put it on charge last night. I was watching Laddette to Lady. Did you watch it?  
          It was really good.  
BOB        Pwww.. We'll just have to wait.



**FX MUSIC. SUSUPENSE.**

STEVE I know what we'll do.

BOB What?

STEVE We'll use the stairs instead.

BOB And how do you suppose we get out of here. We're in a metal box suspended 400 feet above the ground.

STEVE On twin cables.

BOB What difference does that make?

**FX LOUD NOISE. LIKE SNAPPING CABLES. SOMETHING METAL FALLING DOWN DEEP SHAFT, CLANKING ALONG THE WAY.**

BOB What the hell was that?

STEVE Sounded like one of the cables.

BOB Shut up!

STEVE Its a long way to the bottom.

BOB Shut up!

STEVE Sorry Bob.

BOB I should never have done this contract. This is devine retribution. Stupid Toni bloody Melani. I want to help people. Not fire them. It was like being in Auschwitz. Vetting new arrivals.

STEVE Are we going to die?

**FX LOUD EXPLOSION. COMING FROM OUTSIDE BUILDING. BOB AND STEVE JUMP TO FLOOR.**

BOB & STEVE Argh!

BOB Sounds like a bomb.

STEVE Here do you think its terrorists?

BOB I don't know.

STEVE They've taken over the building. [optimistically] We'll be on TV.

BOB I don't care. I just want to get out of here.

STEVE Oh my God. I hope they don't blow the building up. Bob?

BOB Yes.

STEVE Is there a toilet here?

BOB Of course there's not a toilet. ITS A LIFT!

STEVE I gotta go.

BOB Oh no don't.

**FX PEE STREAMING ONTO FLOOR.**

STEVE Arrrrrrhhhhh....

BOB God damn it! Oh Jesus Christ.

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STEVE Ooorrrrrr.....

BOB Pwooo....

STEVE Eeeeeee.....

**FX PEE STREAMING ONTO FLOOR STOPS**

BOB Have you finished?

**FX SOUND OF PEE STREAMING ONTO FLOOR RESUMES**

STEVE No. [STRAINED]

BOB It stinks in here!

**FX SOUND OF PEE STREAMING ONTO FLOOR STOPS.**

STEVE I feel better.

BOB Oh no its running to the middle.

STEVE It'll drain away.

BOB Don't tread in it!

STEVE Sorry Bob.

BOB Oh now I want to go.

STEVE You can do yours over there.

BOB We don't want to use up all the floor space.

STEVE But I don't want them mixing.

**FX PEE STREAMING ONTO FLOOR**

BOB Arrrrrhhhh.

STEVE Bob?

BOB Oooooooooo What is it?

STEVE They're pooling.

BOB Oh...

**FX PEE STREAMING ONTO FLOOR STOPS STOPS**

That's better.

----- **MUSIC TO DENOTE PASSAGE OF TIME** -----

**FX BUTTONS PRESSED**

BOB Nothing?

STEVE Bob? What would you do if you only had 10 minutes to live?

BOB Get out of this lift and head for the nearest bar.

STEVE I'd quit my job and write a book.

BOB In 10 minutes?

STEVE It only takes a minute. 'I quit'.

BOB I meant the book?

STEVE Probably something to do with Philosophy. You know, man's inner struggle with his demons. Like a modern day Pluto.

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BOB Pluto is a dog.

STEVE Steady on Bob. He was a great man. Like Stottle.

BOB Stottle?

STEVE Harry Stottle. You know a scientist from Scotland has calculated that there are around 32,000 intelligent life forms in our galaxy.

BOB What tosh!

STEVE You a creationist Bob?

BOB We are not having this conversation.

STEVE You'd like this book I'm reading. The God Delusion. Its a revelation!

BOB How?

STEVE You see. It suggests, that God... doesn't exist!

BOB Oh God!

STEVE Its no good using his name. Because he's not there.

BOB Spare me the bleeding obvious!

STEVE Do you believe in God Bob?

BOB He's no more real than the tooth fairy or Santa Claus. Religion is a cult... and so is the law.. and just for the record, we are not born equal.. Some are born with tendencies... but it doesn't excuse behaviour... and your colour does make a difference. only it doesn't make you better. Crime pays.. but money can't buy you love... Love is only a phase... and marriage only for raising children.. The government doesn't control the economy... And yes there is life on other planets... but none after death. Which can strike at anytime.. and you get no breaks for good behaviour. Its good to have friends... but we all sleep alone. All things pass away... including this planet, which as sure as night follows day, will one day burn itself out. and everything ever spoken, written, built or performed will be forgotten, INCLUDING THIS LIFT! In the meantime... it would be nice to have some intelligent discourse with someone whose depth runs beyond the cover of books, they have no interest in actually reading.

STEVE Alright Bob. Calm down.

BOB Sorry Steve.. its getting so hot in here.

STEVE Its alright.

BOB I wish they'd get us out of here. When are they going to get us out of here! This flaming metal box. Couldn't they make lifts from something a little more Fung Sway. I mean no one lives in a flaming metal box. Why do we have to travel in one.

STEVE Alright Bob. Take it easy.

BOB Friggin hell. Toni friggin Melani. Can't he fire his own people? Why does he have to involve us? I want to help people find work, not get them fired.

STEVE Yeah. We were used.

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BOB We're all used. Its down to the friggin eight lettered word beginning with B and ending with S.

STEVE Business?

BOB Bastards!

STEVE Its alright Bob. Everything is going to be fine.

BOB Have you stopped to think what might happen if this thing falls?

STEVE You mean to the bottom? To basement?.

BOB Yes to the basement.

STEVE We'll use the stairs and get up into the lobby. Then we can tell someone about the lift.

BOB Do you do this on purpose?

STEVE Do what?

BOB URRRGHH!!! [constrained]

STEVE What's the matter Bob?

BOB YOUR NECKTIE IS NOT ON PROPERLY!

STEVE What do you mean?

BOB It looks more like a bowline than a necktie.

STEVE I always wondered how you get yours so neat.

BOB [UNDOES HIS OWN TIE] Let me show you a half Windsor.

STEVE This is fun isn't it!

BOB You go around-once, under... Around twice.. down the rabbit hole and under and There! A balanced knot, that sits in the middle. Neatly.

STEVE Around once...

BOB You'd think they'd be here by now.

STEVE Under.

BOB Where are they?

STEVE There.

BOB Ohhh..

STEVE Tell me about your wife Bob.

BOB Kate.

KATE Are you alright Bob?

BOB Oh... I don't know.

STEVE Why is she still in England?

KATE Yes Bob. Why am I still here?

BOB It's complicated.

STEVE Do you miss her?

BOB Arrrrhhh. *I miss her.* She's...

STEVE She's what Bob?

KATE Yes Bob. What is she?

BOB Oh I don't know..

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STEVE Don't you want her anymore?  
KATE Well, do you?!  
BOB Its complicated.  
STEVE You said everything can be worked out. With a little negotiation. And compromise.  
KATE Well Bob?  
BOB *Oh God, what a fool I've been.*  
KATE There Bob.  
STEVE There Bob.

**FX LOUD EXPLOSION**

BOB Urrrrrrgh! STEVE Arrgghhh!

**FX SNAPPING CREAKING BENDING METAL. THEN FALLING LIFT**

BOB Oh my God! STEVE God! We're falling!

**FX SOUND OF SPINNING CINE REEL COMING TO A HALT**

BOB *Stop it there. You see, its easy to believe something doesn't exist, when you can't see it. Easy to forget that which isn't in front of you... But when you come face to face with it. That's a different matter.*

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Scene # 14 ANOTHER WORLD.**

**FX ETHEREAL MUSIC.**

BOB Oo. So light. Evey thing white. Is this heaven?  
STEVE Bob! [from afar]  
BOB *I guess not.*  
STEVE Am I glad to see you. Look. Matching white gowns. And there's the gate.  
BOB Are we?  
STEVE Dead as a Dodo.  
GOD Name?  
BOB Oo! Where did you come from?  
GOD I'll ask the questions. Name?  
BOB Bob Hachett.  
GOD Where are you from Bob?  
BOB Sydney.  
GOD Where's that?  
BOB Australia.  
GOD No I'm sorry, you'll have to be more precise.. which star system?  
BOB Planet Earth.. you know, the one that goes around the sun.  
GOD Oh people! There are more than 64 billion suns in my galaxy.  
STEVE We're from the one you sent your son to.

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GOD Oh that one!

STEVE Is that bad?

GOD You! Bob. Do you believe in me?

BOB I don't recognise you.

GOD So you believe in something?

BOB I believe that when you die, everything disappears. These hands, these clothes, my friends, my family, my house..

STEVE But surely were proof of the after life.

GOD Is there anyone living you wish to contact?

BOB *Kathrine.*

STEVE Can you feed my guinea pig?

GOD I've sort that.

STEVE She needs feeding everyday.

BOB You have a guinea pig.

STEVE Flopsy.

GOD Well we have met. Steve you can come this way. Not you Bob. Its Oblivion for you.

**FX SOUND OF LIFT PLUMMETING**

BOB **ARRGHHHH!!!!** STEVE **ARRGHHHH!!!!**

BOB **KATHERINE!!!!**

STEVE **FLOPSEY!!!!**

**FX ALMIGHTY CRASH OF LIFT HITTING BOTTOM OF SHAFT**

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Epilogue # 15 IN LIFT.**

STEVE Bob! Bob! Bob! [fade in]

BOB Uh!

STEVE Someone's above us.

BOB Its not God is it?

STEVE Don't be stupid. Its the engineers. They've come to rescue us.

**FX SOUND OF SMALL PANEL OPENING IN LIFT**

DIGGER G'day. Ye alright in there?

STEVE I'm fine. He's a bit disorientated.

BOB *You!*

DIGGER He's in shock. Understandable. What you fellas been through.

STEVE It was fun!

DIGGER Your'e safe now. We'll have you out in no time.

STEVE Oh that's so good to hear.

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DIGGER        What's all that water on the floor?  
BOB            I thought you were in the military?  
DIGGER        I was. Lift engineer now.

THEME MUSIC.

CREDITS

----- **END OF SCENE** -----

**Epilogue # 16 PHILLIP BANKS OFFICE. END OF DAY.**

TODD        Long day hey Bob?  
BOB        Hot one too.  
TODD        Well I'm off. See you tomorrow.  
BOB        Bye Todd.

**FX        CLOSING DOOR.**

----- **THE END** -----