

FADE IN:

EXT. JOHN AUGUST'S HOUSE - DAY

Establishing shot of a quiet, peaceful abode.

CRAIG (V.O.)
Stuart. It's Craig...

INT./EXT. TESLA - SAME

CRAIG MAZIN (40s) speeds down a suburban Los Angeles street. SMARTPHONE in hand. Looking anxious.

CRAIG
(into phone)
... I'm pulling in right now. Give me a call, man - let me know what the hell's going on.

He hangs up, spins the wheel, and turns the car into -

EXT. JOHN AUGUST'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

where he parks. Exits the Tesla. Rushes across the front lawn and --

- trips on a GARDEN GNOME. Face-planting into the US Verde Buffalo Grass.

Craig grimaces. Sits up. Looks back in utter confusion.

CRAIG (V.O.)
(prelap)
Since when do you have a fucking garden gnome?!

INT. JOHN AUGUST'S HOUSE, OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

JOHN AUGUST (40s) glances up from his cluttered, disaster area of a desk. Looking equally anxious.

JOHN
What??

CRAIG
On your lawn? The garden gnome?

John shrugs. Shakes his head. Hardly listening as he rummages through the crap on his desk. Half cleaning. Half searching.

JOHN
(sotto)
Where is it... come on...

Craig clears off a chair. Sits.

CRAIG
So what's the deal?
(re clutter)
Still no Stuart?

JOHN
Still no Stuart.

CRAIG
Haven't even heard from him?

JOHN
Haven't even heard from him.

Building impatience in John's voice.

CRAIG
No episode tonight, then, I take it?

JOHN
No, Craig... no episode tonight.

A beat. Craig broods.

CRAIG
Were you mean to him or something?

John pauses. Looks up. GLARES at Craig.

Then - in a sudden FIT OF RAGE - he HURLS a massive handful of papers and yells -

JOHN
*MEAN TO HIM? MEAN TO HIM?! I'M
NOT MEAN, CRAIG! I'M A NICE,
SWEET, FRIENDLY FUCKING GUY!
OKAY?! OKAY?! DO YOU EVER HEAR
ME ARGUE? YOU EVER HEAR ME FIGHT?
NO!!! I'M CALM, CRAIG - I'M
FUCKING CALM!*

Craig looks stunned. A deer in headlights.

CRAIG
John, I'm sorry, I just -

JOHN
- SORRY SCHMORRY, CRAIG!
(points to the door)
GET OUT! GO FIND YOUR OWN ONE-COOL-
THING FOR ONCE!!

A beat.

CRAIG
What happened to us, John? What
happened to the way it used to be?

JOHN
Ha! When it was just a podcast
about screenwriting and things that
are interesting to screenwriters?

CRAIG
Yeah. The good old days.

JOHN
(shrugs, nonchalant)
Beats the shit out of me.

Craig shakes his head in disappointment. Stands.

CRAIG
See you in one hour. When you beg
me to come back.

JOHN
See you *never*. When I *don't*.

Craig exits, slamming the door behind him. John softens.

OVER BLACK:

TITLE CARD: ONE HOUR LATER

INT. JOHN AUGUST'S HOUSE, OFFICE - NIGHT

John and Craig sit back-to-back in their UNDERWEAR, tied up
with rope. Both wear POINTY GARDEN GNOME HATS and EXTRA
SMALL UMBRAGE-ORANGE SCRIPTNOTES T-SHIRTS.

JOHN
I am going to kill Stuart.