

DAVID E. KELLEY: TV WARRIOR
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Searchlights flash across the night sky. Helicopters circle a building and people yell from the ground up to DAVID E. KELLEY, who is sweating and crying, threatening to jump. A NARRATOR'S voice-over cuts in. The voice is reminiscent of narrators from fifties music videos and Rod Roddey of the "Price is Right."

NARRATOR

David E. Kelley - there's a reason one might call him a God of television. Producer and writer of your favorite 44 minute comedies and dramas, Mr. Kelley has lived the American Dream, 90's style. Married to Michelle Pfeifer, David has had a rockin' rollin' career. He is truly - a TV Warrior. But I'm getting way too ahead of myself.

David closes his eyes and prays to himself.

NARRATOR

Why would a TV Warrior like Kelley give up the sweet life? Well, it's a looooong story.

Lights and sound all dim to black and silence, with the exception of a back lit David.

DAVID KELLEY
(desperately)

No - I'm not a TV Warrior anymore.

CUT TO: BLACK

FADE UP from black to reveal a brilliant jib shot of David walking up to camera with a stack of scripts in hand, as the other school children exit school.

NARRATOR

I suppose it all started in high school.

Three burly BULLIES approach David, speaking to him condescendingly.

BULLY 1

(slapping down David's script)
Hey David!

DAVID

Well, hey fellas.

BULLY 1

Whatcha got there TV star...?

DAVID

(lying)

Oh this? Oh...it's um...just some blank stationery.

BULLY 2

Then you won't mind if we look at it!

DAVID

Guys give that back! Guys come on!

BULLY 3

No, no no no no no, look at this, look at this...oh my god...Vinny, Chuckie...Season One, Episode 1!

BULLY 1

Ew, a stinky script!

DAVID

It's not a script!

BULLY 2

Oh it's not? Then who's "Doogie Howser" - played by a one Neil Patrick Harris?

DAVID

Come on guys, that's my...stuff.

BULLY 3

(interrupting)

Ha ha ha ha! The premise is...

(imitating a TV voice announcer)

A middle aged man deals with the usual problems of traveling through time - his girlfriend loves him, he's a smash at parties, and he's a lawyer.

BULLY 1

Oh, brilliant Doogie!

BULLY 2

Come on fellas, let's leave David E. and Mr. Howser alone. You're a joke Kelley. Go do something that doesn't suck for a change.

The boys walk off making Doogie Howser references. David tries to collect the pages that are all over the place. An eccentric looking man dressed in 20s clothing (fellow television producer STEVEN BOCHCO) approaches David from behind, sympathetically.

STEVEN

(handing him a page)

Hey David E...lost a page?

DAVID

Oh, hi Steven Bochco. Did you come to make fun of me too?

STEVEN

(speaking fast and inspirational)

No! I wanted to tell you those guys are so out of line. You've gotta dream David! I should know. I'm writing a few shows as we speak, including NYPD Blue, Hooperman, a modern Twilight Zone just to name a few. Let's see what we've got here.

Bochco reads a page off of the ground.

STEVEN

Doogie Howser - the story of a time traveling lawyer. Well, I don't know about the time traveling lawyer thing, but "Doogie Howser..." Cool! Golden! What a name! I'd love to co-create with you. What do you say pal, want to go into business together?

DAVID

Jeez, Steven Bochco, I didn't realize that you wanted to be a TV Warrior too!

STEVEN

TV Warrior? TV Warriors! I see the two of us together! In the stars, on the marquee! David E. Kelley and Steven Bochco! With John Ritter playing Detective Harry Hooperman!

DAVID

Hooperman? Cool!

STEVEN

All right, from here on out it's Hooperman and Doogie Howser! Best pals 'till we're cancelled! Now get your butt in that school and hit the books - and remember David E. - nothing's more important than a dream!

Steven Bochco sings "Nothing's More Important Than a Dream," a song about hope in the face of adversity. At the end, Steven Bochco literally flies away.

DAVID

(yelling after him)

But where do I start?

STEVEN

I've got a few ideas too David. Ally McBeal buddy - remember that name bud - Ally McBeal...

3 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

3

David is in a classroom. A TEACHER is lecturing, with everyone looking up, but David writing. The teacher is walking up and down the aisles inquiring.

TEACHER

And so Samuel Gompers began the AFL, which stands for what, Julie?

JULIE

A Flock of Loogies?

TEACHER

Very good Julie.

(sticks a star on her forehead)

And in time, there was a catastrophe at a woman's factory, changing standards for workers. And what was that catastrophe, Timothy?

TIMOTHY

AIDS?

TEACHER

AIDS what?

TIMOTHY

Oh...um...(thinking for the answer) They had AIDS?

TEACHER

Good.

(sticks a star on his forehead)

And in time, the African Football League and the Woman's Movement collaborated in...what? Mr. Kelley?

David continues to write, not paying attention.

TEACHER

Mr. Kelley? DAVID E!

DAVID

Oh...uh...Seneca Falls?

TEACHER

Wrong answer! Dunce!

(she slaps a dunce hat on his head)

Now what have you been doing that is so much more interesting than the African Football League, mmm?

(puts on glasses)

Season 1 of Chicago Hope, written by David E. Kelley TV warrior...

(flips through pages)

...in collaboration with Steven Bochco...

(flips through pages)

...guest appearances by a one Hooperman...this is hardly historical Mr. Kelley!

She hits him with the script rolled up.

DAVID

I'm sorry...it's just...

TEACHER

Well since you think I'm sooo boring, perhaps you, Mr. Hooperman and his zany cast of characters can give us a few laughs. Go on, read this to the entire class.

DAVID

(sighing)

Chicago Hope is a television medical drama in a sitcom style.

BULLY 2

Ew, a stinky script!

The class laughs.

TEACHER

Well Mr. Kelley, I hope you're satisfied for poisoning the minds of my students. Now go. You're not a TV star, you're not a TV writer, and you are certainly not, a TV Warrior! Now sit down.

DAVID

(building courage)

NO! I will be a TV Warrior! I do believe in fairies! Steven Bochco believed in me and now I believe in myself! You've gotta dream a little - Steven Bochco taught me that, and now he's dead!

STUDENT

(nonchalantly and quickly)

S-Steven Bochco's dead? I-I liked him.

DAVID

I'll show you! I'll show you all! I swear to God, heaven and hell! I WILL BE A TV WARRIOR! I WILL BE A TV WARRIOR! I WILL BE A TV WARRIOR!!!

David runs out.

TEACHER

Well, he'll be a TV dumbass if he keeps that up. Now then, where were we? The liberation of the Women's League from the Pirate Federation?

4 EXT. QUIET ROAD - NIGHT

4

David's crying in the rain. Lightning flashes and thunder crashes.

NARRATOR

And David tried...and he cried...and he tried and cried...and he cried and he cried and he tried and he tried. But he got - mmm...no satisfaction! Hard work and persistence couldn't get him through the darkest hours - Steven Bochco, dead, scripts, suck, not a friend in the world. What more can one do but resort to asking...the dark one?

DAVID

I'd sell my soul to Satan for a good script!

David is struck by lightning, and begins chanting Satanic phrases while writing possessed. He screams, falls, and passes out.

FADE OUT

5 EXT. QUIET ROAD - DAY

5

David is kind of dead in the same place. The sun shines. Birds tweet. The three bullies come over again.

BULLY 1

God, I hate it when people hit dogs and leave them in the street like this.

BULLY 2

That's no dog Chuckie. I think it's Tim Hunter, creator of Beverly Hills 90210.

BULLY 3

Great program, wrongly dismissed as a guilty pleasure for teeny boppers.

BULLY 1

Wait, I don't think it's a dog or Tim Hunter. This is Aaron Spelling, executive producer of Melrose Place.

BULLY 2

Kyle McBride was dreamy.

BULLY 3

Well he's got a script on him. That should prove it.

Bully 3 picks up the script and begins reading it.

BULLY 3

It's Doogie Howser M.D. - this is David E. Kelley.

BULLY 2

The TV Warrior? What the hell was his script about? A time traveling lawyer or something?

BULLY 3

That's what I thought, but here, it says that Doogie Howser M.D. is about "a teenage genius dealing with usual problems, like girlfriends and parties, on top of being a licensed physician in a difficult residency program."

They all pause and think about it for a second.

BULLY 2

That's stupid, right?

BULLY 1

It doesn't sound stupid...if I didn't know any better, I'd think it was awesome.

BULLY 3

It kinda makes me want to tune in.

David wakes up, moaning and groaning. The bullies jump back, nervously.

DAVID

(to himself)

And Pacey ends up with Joey and Dawson meets Spielberg.

(He realizes where he is)

You guys! What are you doing with my script? That's mine!

David snatches for the script and it flies in all directions.

DAVID

Now look what you made me do!

David tries to collect the script, and the bullies help him.

DAVID

What are you doing? Why are you helping me? To mess it up again?

BULLY 2

David, we never liked you. We thought your shows were really stupid. But this...David, this...this is frightening!

BULLY 3

We'll do anything for you, just get this show on the air!

DAVID

You like it?

BULLY 1

Yeah, the first draft was terrible, but these revisions...wow! What a concept!

DAVID

What are you talking about Bully 1?

BULLY 2

I think what Bully 1's trying to say here is that...well...the TV Warrior within you has emerged!

David stands up tall. The bullies back down.

DAVID

Yes! Yes! Ha ha! I'm unstoppable! ABC,
NBC, FOX, the WB I guess, lock up your
daughters, because I am David E. Kelley!
TV Warrior!

CUE: Song "David E. Kelley: TV Warrior," an energetic song
about David's life that plays over the following scene.

6 STUDIO SETS - DAY

6

Three scenes are on a studio sound stage - one from Doogie
Howser, one from L.A. Law, and one from Chicago Hope.
Meanwhile, David is flying from set to set in a cape, with
money flying out of his pockets.

NARRATOR

So Doogie Howser was indeed picked up...

DOOGIE

Dad, I'm not a child anymore! I'm a
licensed physician!

Whoosh pan to next set.

NARRATOR

Then L.A. Law...

ARNIE BECKER

Michael, I'm not a child anymore! I'm a
licensed attorney!

Whoosh pan to next set.

NARRATOR

And of course, Chicago Hope...

DR. AARON SHUTT

Dr. Austin, I'm not a child anymore! I'm
a grown up Doogie Howser!

NARRATOR

Now that's some interesting and original
programming! But behind the boob tube...

INT. CHURCH - DAY

Kelley and MICHELLE PFEIFER in her cat woman costume are being wed by a PRIEST.

PRIEST

David E., Michelle Pfeifer, Michelle
Pfeifer, David E.

The wedding theme plays loudly throughout the church, and Michelle and David march obnoxiously through the crowd for a sickeningly long time. People throw rice and money. Throughout all of this, the narrator continuously says, "That's right." "Yes..." "Correct." "Mmmm...yes." "Uh-huh." "That's right."

NARRATOR

It was the golden age in TV Land. But the best, was yet to come...

7 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - DAY

7

David's SECRETARY peers around a door to Kelley, who sits on a desk being playful with Michelle Pfeifer.

DAVID

Who's catwoman? You're catwoman. You're catwoman. Screw Lee Meriweather. You're *Catwoman*.

SECRETARY

Mr. Kelley, Rupert Murdoch would like to schedule a meeting with you at Twentieth Century Fox.

DAVID

(sighing, to Pfeifer)

Well, sorry Honey, but protecting Gotham city's a big responsibility.

PFEIFER

Meow!

INT. ELEVATOR - DAY

David goes to the elevator to find that the elevator operator is Steven Bochco.

DAVID

Twentieth floor please.

STEVEN BOCHCO

Yes sir, buddy.

DAVID

Just get me up there, huh pal?

The two wait for a while.

BOCHCO

Don't think that being a TV Warrior makes your farts smell like daisies, *Doogie*.

David slowly turns to Steven Bochco.

DAVID

It can't be. It just can't be! You died! In that...that uh...that thing.

BOCHCO

Well actually I didn't die at all, I got hooked on cocaine and became an elevator operator as part of my twelve step program.

DAVID

But what about all that talk about dreaming? All of my success is thanks to you Steven Bochco.

BOCHCO

I still think you should dream. It's just...a lot easier to dream stoned off your rocker is all I'm saying.

DAVID

What? Steven Bochco what happened to you?

BOCHCO

Just remember buddy, narcotics is the answer. You keep on that street sugar and there's no telling what will happen to you. Just watch out for Tito...who...sells

you a...bogus batch for 20 large...that gets you in a 12 step program...

DAVID

Jeez Steven Bochco, I used to look up to you. But all of my success has been through keeping clean and working hard.

BOCHCO

Oh...you think you did this all by yourself?

DAVID

What do you mean?

BOCHO

Well you're looking for Rupert Murdoch right? It's room

(with great emphasis)

666 at the end of the hall. Don't fear the reaper buddy. 4:20 - I gotta get going.

David gets off the elevator.

DAVID

(to himself)

I don't like Steven Bochco anymore, I wish he was dead.

8 INT. RUPERT MURDOCH'S OFFICE - DAY

8

David walks through the door and finds RUPERT MURDOCH sitting at a desk, who's dressed like a twenties journalist. His voice is low and sweetly condescending. His room is full of Satanic symbolism. Rupert very rarely looks at David in the eyes. He just does busy work.

RUPERT

Okay, have a seat David.

David sits.

RUPERT

How you doin' big spender?

DAVID

Well -

RUPERT

(interrupting)

Okay...now, let's cut the foreplay, okay? What I need you to do, for me, now, David, okay? Taking notes? Okay? Is to help the News Corporation Ltd. and the people here at Twentieth Century Fox out of a bind.

DAVID

Okay, what's going on?

RUPERT

Well, our primetime lineup is wonderful, okay, we have *Martin*, we have a nice *Simpsons* season premiere today, okay, several reality shows for this evening - *Who Wants to Be Rich? Who Wants to Be Married? Who Wants to be Rich and Married?* But I've got a little pop quiz for you, okay? Hope you studied.

Rupert laughs heartily. David's just uncomfortable.

RUPERT

Why would I need you if I had all of that?

DAVID

I...I don't know sir -

RUPERT

(interrupting)

Nope! Sorry! Wrong answer!

(makes a "wrong" buzz).

What I need...from you...okay? Think you can handle this? Is a 44 minute comedy drama. We have Callista Flockhart on hand, if you want to use her, that's fine, but we really need one of those popped out by this weekend.

DAVID

But we have no contract...

RUPERT

David, out of the bubble, okay? We need open minded people here. You've been saying *Ally McBeal* to people for years, I've heard you, okay, I'm not slow. What is that? What's Ally McBeal?

DAVID

Well, I haven't really thought about it before, all I have is that name.

RUPERT

(screaming)

Well think about it!

The scene turns red, and deep, loud noises are heard. Then, everything calms down and the room turns to normal again.

DAVID

(standing up and speaking quickly)
Ally McBeal and Billy Thomas were going steady throughout their childhoods. Ally even followed Billy to Harvard law school despite having no interest in law. But when Billy chose to pursue a career in law away from Ally, their relationship came to an end. Premise.

RUPERT

That's right. Now you've got some homework, okay, bang that baby out by Thursday, and we'll be shoving mainstream entertainment down America's throat before they know it.

Rupert laughs heartily.

DAVID

(shyly)

Okay...Mr. Murdoch...s-sir.

RUPERT

(dismissively)

All right, cool, thank you David. Just remember, you owe me David. You haven't earned everything on your own.

David turns to respond, but resigns, and leaves.

RUPERT

All right, let's make some money.

9 EXT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

9

NARRATOR

Ally McBeal flew off the press in less than a week, the pilot was shot in a day, and season one was complete in a month. America was eating it up with a side of David E. Kelley, TV Warrior! But David E. wasn't as happy.

Michelle Pfeifer and David E. Kelley are at dinner, talking. Light Italian music plays in the background. David's playing with his spaghetti, and Michelle's playing with a ball of yarn.

PFEIFER

David, you've been playing with that spaghetti for an hour. What's wrong?

DAVID

(like a child)

Nothing...

PFEIFER

I know you better than that David. After all, I did marry you because I love you, not just because we're both famous.

DAVID

(very childish)

I said nothing, all right? God, woulda lay off me?

PFEIFER

David, I might be wearing a mask, but I can see there's a problem, and I can listen to you.

DAVID

It's just...it's just what some guys have been saying at work lately...

PFEIFER

What did they say? Do I know their mothers?

DAVID

(very childish)

No, please Michelle, don't.

David slouches in the chair deeply.

PFEIFER

What did they say mister?

DAVID

They said...that...I didn't earn everything I have today.

PFEIFER

Who said that?

DAVID

(fast and on the verge of tears)

First it was Steven Bochco in the elevator, and he does drugs now, and then it was Rupert Murdoch and he yelled at me and said I didn't earn anything myself and I better do Ally McBeal or else and that I'm worthless and...

PFEIFER

Hey hey, now, that's just silly, there's no need for the snuffle sniffles. How could that be true? You wrote all of those scripts yourself. You've earned everything (including me) with your talent. You're a big TV star! Right buddy? Who's my TV man?

DAVID

He he...I am...it's just...everything really has changed ever since I got struck by lightning. I've always wanted this, but people are really starting to freak me out. It's like...God's spiting me or something.

PFEIFER

Honey, you know we don't believe in God -
we're richer than he is. Meow!

Michelle cartwheels off frame.

DAVID

(calling after her)

And you're starting to freak me out too
Michelle Pfeifer, my wife! I don't want
God to spite me! I don't think I'm better
than God! The next time I win an emmy or
TV award or whatever, I'm not going to
thank Steven Bochco, because he's a
crackhead! I'm going to thank the one
person that matters!

10 INT. GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS - NIGHT

10

A presenter prepares to call the winner of a golden globe.

PRESENTER

And the Golden Globe for Outstanding
slash best comedy series goes to...

(delivered tiredly)

David E Kelley...TV Warrior...for Ally McBeal

David E. Kelley waltzes up to the podium happily. The
audience is silent.

DAVID

Well, what a year, huh? I just want to
take this opportunity to tell everyone
that no one man is responsible for all of
his success. I'm indebted to someone.

The stage turns red and Rupert's hearty laugh is heard over
the David's. David looks confused but then resumes his
speech.

DAVID

Why, there's someone who's helped me
through thick and thin ever since the
Doogie Howser days. And I've failed to
even mention his (or her)'s

(winks at the audience)

name. That special someone is God. Thank you so much for your undying support.

The stage turns red again. Rupert's hearty laugh turns angry.

RUPERT

WHAT? NO!

STEVEN BOCHCO

(voice over)

Chill out man, I've got something that will calm you down.

RUPERT

Thanks Steven Bochco.

FADE TO BLACK.

NARRATOR

(over images from the film thus far)
Troubles a brew in TVland! Will David come out on top? Will Rupert Murdoch succeed in his dastardly plans? Will Steven Bochco and Tito work things out? The answers to all of these and more - after this very important announcement for all you internet pirates! Arghh!

11 INT. BASEMENT - DAY

11

Sad music plays over the sequence, which is inter-cut in an interview style with titles.

TITLE: This Man is NOT an actor. Is NOT.

SET PAINTER

I've been involved in over 200 films, ranging from the *Jazz Singer*, some of Scorsese's, um, I was in *Hellraiser 2*.

TITLE: This Man is Contracted as a Set Painter.

SET PAINTER

And you know, people, we all, movies, um, including *Hellraiser*, you gotta have

paint or else your sunk. You know? Tough luck.

TITLE: You know how you download MOVIES and SONGS on the INTERNET?

SET PAINTER

When you click that button and your downloadin', ya know, you're downloading my paycheck. My life.

TITLE: When you pirate this man's work, you pirate his soul.

SET PAINTER

I'm not a million dollar employee, ya know? I only make about a hundred grand. And that's a substantial difference that no one really takes into consideration.

TITLE: Including YOU.

SET PAINTER

And people say, "Oh, you get your paycheck before the movie comes out. Your paycheck has nothing to do with how well the movie does." And I say, simple answer. "So what?"

TITLE: Simple answer. So what?

SET PAINTER

They say, "Oh, it only hurts the top guys, the big wigs, the execs," and I say, "That may be...but, what's the difference between downloading their money, their hard work, and stealing a candy bar, at your community's grocery store. Would you steal a candy bar? I would hope your mother raised you better than that."

TITLE: Would you steal a candy bar...from a dying baby?

SET PAINTER

People say, my logic, the talkin', my argument, if you will, goes in circles, I

never really get to the point. I just keep talking and filling my sentences with more words and never really get to what I was going to say, ya know, in the first place, if you get what I'm saying. And I say, "Well, that's how the world works."

TITLE: Everytime You Download a Movie or Song, A Fairy Dies Somewhere.

SET PAINTER

Our message is simple. And so are your minds.

TITLE: Let's Work Together on This to Make the World Safe From Pirates.

12 INT. DAVID'S OFFICE - DAY

12

David's in his office reading a newspaper. His secretary is with him, filing her nails.

DAVID

Can you believe this Chere? Ratings are down on my TV shows because of those cheats on the internet. Downloading every episode of Ally McBeal, just because they *like* it! Well this can't keep up, or else Callista won't be able to pay for the food she wastes!

CHERE

Well, supposedly TV shows are pirated more frequently than films. Maybe it's time for David E. Kelley to hit celluloid.

DAVID

(putting down the newspaper)
Huh. I never thought of that. Maybe it is time to write for the movies. I guess it's always been a dream of mine. But what can I write about that's more important than Ally McBeal?

CHERE

Well, the year *is* 1997. And disaster films are surprisingly well received. Look here - Dante's Peak, Volcano, Deep Impact, Titanic, My Best Friend's Wedding. David...make a disaster film dammit.

DAVID

That makes perfect sense Chere - the lineup is printed money. Deep Impact, Volcano, and the David E. Kelley Project. My mind's a little dry on ideas, but I'll think of something.

David paces across the room, thinking.

DAVID

Hmm...disaster, scary, roar! Monsters? No! Aliens? Wouldn't fly - not believable. Sharks have already been done...something nice and scary!

CHERE

(looking through papers)
George W. Bush's running for office in 2000? What a crock of -

DAVID

Crock! Crocodiles! Roar!
(makes crocodile gestures
with his hands)
I have never, ever, seen a movie with a crocodile in it. But David E. Kelley's gonna bring it to the screen!
(crawls around on the floor
like a crocodile)
It should be SCARY! SCARY! Like, Bill Pullman scary! Man vs. Beast!
(stands up)
Oh, this is gonna be good!

CHERE

Well, he'll be a movie dumbass if he keeps that up.

Glitz and glamour reign throughout a theater for the premiere of *Lake Placid*. Once the scene calms, the narrator physically walks out to address the audience.

NARRATOR

Ladies and Gentleman, grab onto your seats, and get ready for a wild ride through upstate New York. Or, Maine, it might be. Sit back, relax, and enjoy,
LAKE PLACID: ATTACK OF THE SUCK MONSTER!

An edited piece comprised with parodied footage of *Lake Placid* accentuates the crappiest parts of *Lake Placid*, particularly the tameness and fake looking aspects of the crocodile, and the poor acting of Bill Pullman and Bridget Fonda. People in the audience boo and jeer and throw gummy bears at the screen. Eventually, the movie just shuts down. The narrator walks back out.

NARRATOR

(without his narrator voice
at all - very serious)

Ladies and gentleman, I sincerely apologize. This was indeed the greatest mistake in cinematic history. I especially apologize to any children who had to be subjected to such crappiness. Senior citizens, you have my highest condolences. Review cards are available, but please know, there's no pressure to fill them out. I'm just...I'm sorry.

He walks off. Lights go down and the crowd disperses, very displeased.

14 INT. THEATER LOBBY - NIGHT

14

SEVEN REVIEWERS are walking out, talking with one another. The three bullies are also there.

REVIEWER 1

Terribly mediocre.

REVIEWER 2

Where *Godzilla* makes the head hurt, *Lake Placid* splashes up a load of nothing. A solid D.

REVIEWER 3

Dante's Peak was obviously so much better.

REVIEWER 4

Hell, even *Volcano* was better than that piece of crap.

REVIEWER 5

There's a special look actors get - avid, yet resigned - when the movie they're starring in is so bad it practically billboards their stalled careers.

REVIEWER 6

Lake Placid isn't so bad that it's good. It's so bad that it's *really* bad.

REVIEWER 7

As dramatically substantial as "Ally McBeal" is skinny!

BULLY 1

I knew the TV Warrior was nothing but a TV Fraud. Loser.

BULLY 2

They say you're only as good as your last project. I guess that means David E. Kelley completely sucks.

BULLY 3

(singing)

David Kelley! TV Moron!

The three bullies laugh. Everyone exits frame, revealing David who was sitting sadly, listening all along.

DAVID

What happened? I was doing great! Why Lord? Why have you forsaken me?

Rupert Murdoch's hearty laugh is heard off frame.

MURDOCH

Muhahahahahah...okay?

DAVID

It's as though thanking God has somehow hurt me.

Murdoch enters.

MURDOCH

Well that's because it's tough to remain successful without me David. Ya know? You can go to NBC, make 6.75 an hour, I'll call 'em up right now.

DAVID

What did you ever do for me Rupert Murdoch? *I* wrote Ally McBeal, not you.

MURDOCH

Oh? David, do you remember when you were a kid, when you got struck by lightning?

DAVID

Well, of course.

MURDOCH

You uttered something before that happened. Have any recollection?

DAVID

I was crying...the kids and teachers were mocking me. I was a nobody.

MURDOCH

Right, but what did you say?

DAVID

I said...I'd sell my soul...

MURDOCH

Okay...to who?

DAVID

To...the...dev...il.

Rupert laughs deep.

DAVID

Oh. OH! Holy moley, you're - !

Rupert exits.

DAVID

All this time - my success, my riches, my Michelle...they were all bestowed upon me by Satan! And when I thanked God, the pact was broken! My powers, talent, and everything was taken away. I can't live with myself. I haven't earned a thing in the world. I'm a nobody...I'm a TV Dumbass!

David sings the song, "TV Dumbass," a sad song about his failure.

15 EXT. BUILDING LEDGE - NIGHT

15

David stands on the ledge of the building, identically to the beginning of the film. The spotlights are racing again. Everyone's trying to talk him down.

DAVID

No! Don't try to stop me! I'm not a TV Warrior anymore!

SOMEONE

No way David, you rock!

SOMEONE ELSE

Doogie Howser brother! DOOGIE HOWSER! I LOVE THAT SHOW MAN!

PFEIFER

David! Don't do this! *Lake Placid* sucked, sure, but look at *L.A. Law*, *Ally McBeal*, *Chicago Hope*, and *Mystery Alaska*! DAVID GET DOWN!

DAVID

(eyes closed and looking away)
NO MICHELLE PFEIFER! I didn't do any of it!

PFEIFER

(struggling to hear)

What?

DAVID

I said I didn't -

PFEIFER

Hold on I can't hear you, let me come up!
(to the rescue teams) You wanna turn down
this racket?

Everything kind of stops. Everyone apologizes to Michelle.
She climbs up with him and inches her way to the ledge.

PFEIFER

Okay, what?

DAVID

I didn't actually write or earn any of my
work Michelle.

PFEIFER

You've been saying that for a while. I
told you, you earned it all.

DAVID

No Michelle, everyone was right. I
listened to all the wrong people. I
ignored the one person I should have
listened to - Steven Bochco, my best
friend. AND NOW HE'S DEAD!

PFEIFER

He's not dead, he's right down there.

BOCHCO

(calling up)

Right down here buddy pal!

DAVID

Steven Bochco? Are you off the pipe?

BOCHCO

Not yet buddy. Still riding that crazy
train.

DAVID

Michelle, when I was in high school, I sold my soul to Satan for my talents.

PFEIFER

Oh please Mister, you know that's not true.

DAVID

(inching away)

I did! And that's how I did so well. Then, when I thanked God at the Golden Globes or Emmy's or whatever, my pact with Lucifer was broken and *Lake Placid* was born. I'm a hack.

PFEIFER

David, you were a hack all along. That's why I married you. That's why America loved you. The most successful TV shows are hack jobs anyway.

DAVID

There are two kinds of hack though - giving people everything they want with no mental stimulus at all, or just plain sucking. Now all I can do is suck. Just wait until you see "Boston Public!"

PFEIFER

(sighing)

I - I love you, but...how can I believe any of this?

MURDOCH

(calling up to David)

YO DAVID! I NEED THAT SOUL LIKE...NOW? OKAY? SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST JUMP DOWN HERE, OKAY? Hey how you doin' Michelle Pfeifer?

DAVID

Ahh! There he is!

PFEIFER

What's all this about taking souls?

DAVID

Rupert Murdoch! He's Satan!

PFEIFER

Well I saw that coming from a mile away.

(turns to David)

David - we can help you destroy Lucifer.

DAVID

Who though? It'd take an army to defeat him!

BOCHCO

No, it would take Hollywood!

Steven Bochco comes out with an army of people, carrying a "Hollywood" flag. Michelle and David get down from the ledge. As it turns out, it was three feet off the ground and the audience had been duped before this by camera trickery.

DAVID

Steven Bochco, you're an elevator attendant. How did you get so many actors and executives?

BOCHCO

When you rock the ganja, you make friends in high places buddy.

PFEIFER

Well, let's face it David - the only thing more powerful than Hell is Hollywood!

DAVID

All right!

Rupert Murdoch comes out.

MURDOCH

Well you know what?

Murdoch freaks out. Recordings of loud, rumbling, satanic sounds play, as he rips his clothes to reveal Satan. Everyone yells.

BOCHCO

Don't be afraid everybody! It will take
all our evil together to beat him!

SATAN

INSOLENT FOOLS! YOU ARE EXPERIENCING
FIRST HAND MY FINAL COMING! I'M GOING TO
HIT HOLLYWOOD WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!

BOCHCO

Bullspit buddy! First line of attack!
Attack!

Reviewers approach Satan and form a semi-circle around him.

SATAN

Let's rock bitches.

REVIEWER 1

And it's that kind of weak dialogue that
has you spitting up clichéd catch phrase
after clichéd catch phrase.

REVIWER 2

I agree. His presence was fully felt in
the dark ages, but now his appeal is
lost.

REVIEWER 3

That combined with his modern get-up
makes Lucifer Luci-crap.

PFEIFER

Oh, burned!

SATAN

You will be cast into eternal hell-fire!

REVIEWER 4

See, that's just boring and slow. You
make what would be a 90 minute thriller
into a wordy snooze-fest.

REVIEWER 5

You're clearly just jumping on the bandwagon of this year's campy gore-bores.

REVIEWER 6

While sitting in the thrall of you, it's only natural for the abused mind to scramble to find reason in an otherwise meaningless piece of garbage.

SATAN

Meaningless piece of...? I'll kill every one of you!

REVIEWER 7

Kill everyone of us? Not in those shorts buddy!

SATAN

I'm not wearing shorts -

REVIEWER 1

Tell it to New Line or whatever picked you up as this year's most overdone spokesperson for emos.

SATAN

I'm not an Emo! I know only hatred and death!

REVIEWER 2

You know only how to put an audience to sleep.

REVIEWER 3

You're just making up for your obviously more "feminine" traits.

SATAN

What the hell are you trying to say?

REVIEWER 4

I don't know, what are we saying Lucy?

SATAN

You - you guys suck! I'm outta here! And I'm never coming back because you're...you guys are messed up man!

REVIEWER 5

If you can't take the heat, stand back from the stove!

SATAN

You guys just don't let up. You're mean. BYE!

Satan runs away. Everyone cheers. David and Michelle embrace.

DAVID

Wow! Satan tried to take over Heaven, but, looks like Hollywood took over Hell! To Hollywood!

ALL

Here here!

DAVID

The pendulum swings to the left...

REVIEWER 1

The pendulum swings to the right!

MICHELLE

David E. Kelley's a winner!

BOCHCO

Tito's 20 dollars light!

DAVID

(trying to think what to say)
Uh, grapefruits...

ALL

(playful)

David!

DAVID

(very stupidly)
Uh oh!

MICHELLE

The mistakes of Hollywood are redeemed.

REVIEWER 4

The modern waits to be met.

DAVID

Say good-bye to the age of Satan!

BOCHCO

Let's all board this crazy jet!

DAVID

To Hollywood!

ALL

To Hollywood!

MICHELLE

To David E. Kelley!

STEVEN BOCHCO

The new king of Hollywood!

Steven crowns David.

DAVID

All right! Let's give America everything
we've got!

Everyone runs off frame excitedly except Steven Bochco and
David.

DAVID

So what ever happened to Hooperman?

STEVEN BOCHCO

Barbara Bosson was way too annoying for
that to have worked. But John Ritter was
magical. He will be missed.

The song "David Kelley: TV Warrior" plays during credits.
The first slate is "DEDICATED TO JOHN RITTER."