

CORNER GAS

"Violation"

by  
Garner Haines

Sue Giordano  
Hudson Agency  
914-737-1475

COLD OPENING

EXT. CORNER GAS - DAY  
(CUSTOMER, BRENT)

BRENT FINISHES A FILL-UP

CUSTOMER

How come you don't have a self-serve  
option here?

BRENT

Only when I serve myself.

CUSTOMER

No, I mean, why not have a self-serve  
option, then let your customers do  
their own fill-ups? Think of how much  
you could save by eliminating staff.

BRENT

Hmm. Yeah, I could lay off...

BRENT LOOKS AT WANDA, INSIDE, POINTS AT HIMSELF.

BRENT (CONT'D)

I'm afraid the only one who'll be  
eliminated is me. And not in the  
euphemistic way.

WANDA LOOKS SUSPICIOUSLY AT BRENT. BRENT DOES A FRIENDLY  
WAVE. SHE'S UNCONVINCED.

END OF COLD OPENING

ACT ONE

EXT. ROAD - NIGHT

(HANK)

HANK WALKS HOME ALONE, HUMMING TO HIMSELF.

A BRIGHT LIGHT SHINES ON HIS FACE AS WE HEAR A STRANGE WHIRRING NOISE.

HANK LOOKS AWESTRUCK.

HANK

Oh my!

MUSIC: CLOSE ENCOUNTERS (OR SIMILAR) SWELLING STING.

THE LIGHT GROWS BRIGHTER UNTIL IT BLOTS EVERYTHING OUT.

EXT. DOG RIVER STREET - DAY

(EMMA, OSCAR)

IN THEIR CAR.

EMMA

We're going to be late.

OSCAR

Relax! I know a short cut.

EMMA

You and your short cuts.

OSCAR

What?

EMMA

You remember the last short cut, don't  
you?

WHIP CUT TO:

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - DAY - FLASHBACK

(OSCAR, EMMA)

STANDING BESIDE THEIR CAR, A PATH OF CRUSHED WHEAT BEHIND THEM, OSCAR LOOKING LOST, EMMA ANNOYED.

OSCAR

It's just a little further down the  
road, that's all.

EMMA

There is no more road.

WHIP CUT TO:

EXT. DOG RIVER STREET - DAY  
(OSCAR, EMMA)

OSCAR

That was different. Some jackass  
changed the signs.  
(sees something)

Oh, I can cut through here and save  
ten minutes!

OSCAR CHUCKLES AT HIS CLEVERNESS.

EMMA

You can't turn here.

THEIR CAR DRIVES BY THE POLICE CAR. DAVIS AND KAREN PULL OUT  
AFTER THEM, SIREN AND LIGHTS ON.

EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY  
(OSCAR, DAVIS, EMMA)

OSCAR

What do you mean, 'illegal left turn'?

DAVIS

There's a sign back there, says 'No  
Left Turn'.

THERE IS, INDEED, A NO LEFT TURN SIGN.

EMMA

(leans out window)

I told you.

OSCAR

I didn't see any damn sign!

DAVIS

Ignorance of the law is no excuse.  
(aside to Karen)

I've always wanted to say that.

OSCAR

I've been able to turn left down this  
road my whole life and it was never  
illegal.

DAVIS

It is now. City council says so.

OSCAR

What jackass came up with that idea?

WHIP CUT TO:

INT. CITY COUNCIL MEETING, FLASHBACK - DAY  
(OSCAR)

OSCAR

Some jackass cut me off on Chaff  
Street. There oughta be a law against  
that!

THE CROWD MURMURS ITS ASSENT. OSCAR LOOKS TRIUMPHANT.

WHIP CUT TO:

EXT. SIDE STREET - DAY  
(KAREN, OSCAR)

KAREN

Here you go.

KAREN HANDS HIM THE TICKET.

OSCAR

Twenty bucks? Well I'm not paying  
this! I'll see you in court!

INT. THE RUBY - DAY

(LACEY, BRENT, OSCAR, DAVIS)

LACEY

There you go, best in Dog River.

BRENT

Thanks. I'll ignore the qualifiers.

LACEY BRINGS A SLICE OF PIE. BRENT LOOKS EAGER AND READY TO  
ENJOY IT, BUT IS INTERRUPTED WHEN OSCAR WALKS IN.

OSCAR

(to Brent)

Can you believe it?

BRENT

(re: pie)

I haven't tried it yet.

OSCAR

Davis gave me a ticket! For an -  
(mocking)

"Illegal Left Turn"  
(scoffs)

As if!

BRENT

Oh yes, clearly he was in the wrong.

You never turn left.

OSCAR

Exactly! Well, I'm going to fight  
this, yessirree.

LACEY

How much was the fine, Oscar?

OSCAR

That's not the point. It's the principle of the thing.

BRENT

He's a man of his principles.

OSCAR

(to Brent)

I've got a plan. Listen. Go home and grab your camera. I want pictures of every conceivable angle of that intersection. Then I want you to make eight by ten prints of each angle, and mount it to bristol board -

OSCAR CONTINUES WHILE BRENT SCRAMBLES FOR A PEN.

OSCAR (CONT'D)

- along with a scale drawing. Then I want you to bring over your Matchbox cars.

BRENT

You want to play with my cars?

OSCAR

No, jackass! I want to make a diagram!

BRENT

Uh, you lost me.

OSCAR

I'm going to prove my case in court.  
Make a diagram, you know, with little  
cars and trees and buildings and  
stuff.

BRENT

Oh, a diorama.

OSCAR  
(dismissive wave)

The judge ain't gonna be Italian,  
don't try anything fancy, just do what  
I told ya.

BRENT

Right.  
(beat)

Wait, I'm supposed to make all this?

OSCAR

Of course, I've got to prepare my  
testimony.

BRENT

What is that? "I didn't see the sign,  
I turned left, ya caught me?"

OSCAR

Sure, only more legal-sounding. I  
gotta go.

DAVIS AND KAREN WALK IN.

OSCAR (CONT'D)  
(to Davis)

I'll see you in court.



DAVIS

Look, Oscar, it's just a \$20 fine. Why don't you just pay and be done with it? That's what everybody else does.

OSCAR

Well, I'm not everybody else! Oh sure, the system takes advantage of the average hard-working citizen who doesn't have time to go to court to fight back and figures it's easier to just pay up. Well I've got news for you, bub, I've got plenty of time on my hands!

OSCAR STORMS OUT.

BRENT  
(puts up hand)

I don't.

INT. CORNER GAS - DAY  
(HANK, BRENT, WANDA)

HANK BURSTS IN

HANK

Guys! Guys! You'll never believe what I saw last night!

BRENT

"Degrassi: The Next Generation"?

WANDA

"Robson Arms"?

HANK

No, it wasn't on TV. It was something in the sky when I was walking home. I saw a UFO!

WANDA AND BRENT CHUCKLE.

WANDA

A UFO, really. Just how many beers did you have last night?

HANK

I only had two beers. I don't like to go over the legal limit when I'm walking home.

BRENT

Okay, but you did eat a lot of beer nuts.

HANK

I wasn't drunk and I wasn't imagining it. I saw what I saw.

WANDA

Well, maybe you saw what you saw, but you didn't know what it was you were sawing - seeing.  
(blink)

What did you see?

HANK

It was kinda shaped like a hubcap, and there was this strange noise like -

(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)  
(imitates sound)

Wuwuwuwuwuwu!

WANDA

You sure it wasn't just Venus -

BRENT

Or swamp gas.

WANDA

Or the International Space Station?

BRENT  
(to Wanda)

Wait, you can see that?

WANDA

At this latitude, with the naked eye,  
the ISS would've been visible last  
night from 11:10 to 11:13 PM 10  
degrees above the western horizon.

HANK

Aha! Well, I looked at my watch when I  
left the hotel bar, it was already  
half past 11. Besides, the CSI doesn't  
make any noise. The thing I saw made a  
noise -  
(imitates noise again)

Wuwuwuwuwuwu!

BRENT

Well, I'm convinced. Nothing on Earth  
can make a noise like that. Oh, except  
Hank.  
(puts on jacket)  
(MORE)

BRENT (CONT'D)

Look after the store for me, would ya?  
I've got to go take some pictures of  
an intersection for my Dad. Give my  
regards to E.T.

BRENT LEAVES.

HANK

You don't believe me either, do you?

WANDA

I never believe anything you say.

EXT. DOG RIVER STREET - DAY

BRENT

BRENT, HOLDING A CLUNKY OLD POLAROID CAMERA, TAKES PICTURES  
OF THE INTERSECTION, SIGNS AND BUILDINGS, STUFFING THE  
FINISHED PICTURES IN A BAG.

KAREN AND DAVIS LOOK ON FROM THEIR SQUAD CAR.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY, CONTINUOUS

(DAVIS, KAREN)

DAVIS

What do you suppose he's up to?

KAREN

(okay, I'll bite)

...taking pictures?

DAVIS

I'm going to investigate.

EXT. DOG RIVER STREET- DAY

(DAVIS, KAREN, BRENT)

DAVIS WALKS UP TO BRENT.

DAVIS

I'm sorry, Brent, you can't be here.

This is a crime scene.

KAREN

Crime scene?

BRENT

Since when is making an illegal left  
turn a crime?

DAVIS

You're getting too close, Brent. I'm  
warning you.

BRENT TAKES A STEP BACK.

BRENT

That better?

DAVIS

I'll need to confiscate that camera.

BRENT

Sure. I'm done.

DAVIS TAKES THE CAMERA, AND WITH A SMUG LOOK, OPENS UP THE  
BACK.

DAVIS

Oh, so sorry. I ruined your film.

BRENT

Well, it was empty anyway, and I've  
got these -  
(holds up Polaroids)

You can hang on to the camera if you'd  
like.

BRENT WALKS AWAY. DAVIS LOOKS ANNOYED, HANDS THE CAMERA TO  
KAREN, WHO LOOKS IT OVER, DELIGHTED.

KAREN

Hey, a Polaroid camera!

EXT. ROAD - DAY

SAME PATCH OF ROAD. THIS TIME, HANK STUMBLES A BIT AS HE WALKS BECAUSE HE'S LOOKING UP THE WHOLE TIME, AND NOT WHERE HE'S GOING.

WHEN HE TRIPS, HE LOOKS DOWN AND SEES SOMETHING IN THE FIELD, WHICH HE RUNS TOWARDS.

WE SEE HE'S STANDING IN A CROP CIRCLE.

HANK

Oh my!

SAME MUSICAL STING.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. RUBY - DAY

(BRENT, LACEY, HANK)

LACEY TOPS UP BRENT'S COFFEE.

BRENT

Got any more of that pie?

LACEY

I've got something even better!

LACEY BRINGS OUT A TRAY OF COOKIES WITH A PRETTY DECENT RENDERING OF A "NO LEFT TURN" SIGN.

BRENT

Cookies with road signs?

LACEY

I got a cookie decorating kit. It was so quick and easy, I wanted to do something more than just the usual smiley faces on it, maybe something topical, so there you are.

BRENT

Has my dad seen these yet?

LACEY

Not to worry, when he comes by, I'll just switch to these:

LACEY BRINGS OUT ANOTHER TRAY, WITH GREEN ALIEN FACES ON THEM.

BRENT

Cute.

HANK BURSTS IN AGAIN.

HANK

Brent! Brent!

BRENT  
(points to Hank)

Hank. Hank.  
(points to Lacey)

Lacey. Lacey.

HANK

I had a close encounters of the...  
(counts in air)

First and second kind.

BRENT

Great! Let me know when you get close  
to third.  
(reconsiders)

Actually, don't let me know. I'd  
rather be blissfully ignorant.

HANK

No, no it's like in that movie "Close  
Encounters of the Third Kind"? You  
see, the first kind, that's just a  
sighting - I had that last night.  
Today, I was passing by the same spot  
where I saw the UFO and - they made  
strange round shapes in the wheat -

BRENT

"Crop Circles"?



HANK

Yes! That's it! You see? That's part two! Close encounters of the second kind! Oh, I can't wait for third kind.

BRENT

Three strikes and you're out to lunch.

LACEY

"Close Encounters"? I thought there was only one movie.

BRENT

There were three, but the first two were destroyed in the interest of national security.

LACEY

You're kidding!

BRENT

Yeah, I am.

HANK

Don't listen to him, Lacey. He's just jealous because the aliens will be landing here soon and they chose me to make contact with.

LACEY

Really. Aliens. Landing here? In Dog River?

HANK

It makes sense though. Cause of all the open space, it's easier to land here than in the big cities.

LACEY

I thought the reason more UFOs were seen in rural areas because people were less -  
(back peddles)

Often with other people at night, given the, isolation, you know.

LACEY GOES BACK TO SERVING COFFEE TO ESCAPE.

HANK

Yeah! Oh, Brent! Can I borrow your keyboard?

BRENT

Why is everybody borrowing my stuff today?

HANK

They'll probably be back tonight. Please?

BRENT

Fine. Oh, have a cookie.

BRENT SHOWS HANK ONE OF THE ALIEN COOKIES. HANK LOOKS WIDE-EYED AT IT. HE TAKES IT, HOLDING IT REVERENTLY IN HIS HANDS.

HANK

This means something. This is important.

BRENT

Yeah, it means 30 extra minutes on a Stairmaster.

HANK POCKETS THE COOKIE.

HANK

Okay, I'll stop by your house to pick up the keyboard later. I gotta get my camping gear together and I gotta tell the police.

HANK LEAVES

BRENT

Tell them what?

INT. LEROY HOUSEHOLD - DAY  
(EMMA, OSCAR)

EMMA WALKS IN HOLDING A CARDBOARD BOX. OSCAR SITS AT A TYPEWRITER, HUNTING AND PECKING AWAY, A BIN OF CRUMPLED PAPER BESIDE HIM.

EMMA

Brent dropped off those things you asked for. He said you owe him \$20 for the film.

OSCAR  
(dismissive wave)

Fine, fine.

HE RESUMES TYPING.

EMMA

Are you still working on that statement?

OSCAR

Yes! It's gotta be perfect. Those lawyers will try to poke holes in my testimony.

EMMA

What lawyers? It'll just be you and Davis and a judge. There aren't any lawyers in traffic court.

OSCAR

That's why it's so unfair. He's a cop, I'm just a citizen. He'll try to use his cop tricks on me, so I'm making sure it's airtight.

EMMA

Just don't suffocate on it.  
(beat)

Look, why don't you just pay the fine and be done with it? It's not worth this much trouble.

OSCAR

It damn sure is. It's not just a ticket, I'm fighting the system! Sticking it to The Man!

EMMA

Oscar, you are The Man.

OSCAR

Thanks!

EMMA SHAKES HER HEAD IN DISMAY. HE TYPES SOME MORE, THEN WITH TRIUMPHANT GLEE, PRESSES THE CARRIAGE RETURN KEY. DING!

OSCAR (CONT'D)

There! Perfect!

EMMA

Done already? Let me see.

SHE READS, THEN HANDS IT BACK TO HIM.

OSCAR

Well?

EMMA

(hands it back)

"Jackass" isn't a legal term.

OSCAR

(takes it, goes back to typewriter)

Bah! Fine. I'll revise it again.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

(HANK, KAREN)

HANK WALKS IN.

HANK

I need to report something.

KAREN WHIPS OUT A FORM, READIES A PEN AND PAYS RAPT ATTENTION.

KAREN

State the nature of the crime.

HANK

(searching)

Illegal landing?

KAREN

(sighs; puts pen down)

Is this about the UFO?

HANK

Just come with me, please! I need  
someone official to witness it too so  
everybody doesn't think I'm crazy.

KAREN

Fine.

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - DAY

KAREN AND HANK, STANDING IN A FRESHLY CUT FIELD.

HANK

But it was here!

KAREN

And now it's not.

HANK

It was here! Wheat cut into a perfect  
circle -  
(Ominous)

Too perfect...

KAREN

You're right. No human being could  
have cut wheat like this.

HANK

What do you think it was then?

KAREN

(air quotes)

A "combine harvester". Not all that  
unusual in these parts.

HANK

This must be where they landed. You just can't tell because the wheat's been cut now, but I swear it was here! Aren't you going to dust for prints or take blood samples or something, you know, do that forensics thing?

KAREN

Has there been a murder?

HANK

No.

KAREN

Then there's your answer.

SHE WALKS AWAY, ANNOYED.

HANK

It is true! And I'll prove it!

INT. RUBY - DAY  
(OSCAR, BRENT)

OSCAR WALKS IN AND SITS BESIDE BRENT.

OSCAR

Those cars of yours won't do. They don't match. They'll need to be repainted.

BRENT

Oh, no. I've done enough already, with the street plans for the intersection, the photo spread, getting statements and collecting model parts, I'm done.

OSCAR

Forget it then! I've got a better  
idea.

BRENT

Don't tell me you're going to build  
the diorama.

OSCAR

No, I'm still revising my statement. I  
got Wanda to do it for me.

BRENT DOES A SPIT TAKE ON THE COFFEE.

BRENT

Wanda? How'd you manage that?

WHIP CUT TO:

INT. CORNER GAS - DAY  
(OSCAR, WANDA)

WANDA LOOKS SUPREMELY BORED AND ANNOYED AS OSCAR RANTS IN THE  
BACKGROUND.

OSCAR

It's outrageous. My taxes pay his  
salary so I'm paying him to give me a  
ticket? No sirree! I -

WANDA, HOLDS UP AN IMPROVISED WHITE FLAG AND WAVES IT.

WANDA

What would it take for you to leave me  
alone for the rest of the day?

OSCAR RUBS HIS HANDS TOGETHER, PLEASED.

WHIP CUT TO:

INT. RUBY - DAY  
(OSCAR, BRENT, LACEY, HANK, DAVIS)



OSCAR SHRUGS.

OSCAR

I can be very persuasive.

BRENT

Something ending in "asive" anyway.

OSCAR SEES THE COOKIES WITH THE NO-LEFT TURN SIGNS.

OSCAR

Oh, this is outrageous! What jackass  
thought this up?

LACEY ARRIVES.

LACEY

(looks from Oscar to the  
cookie)

Too soon?

HANK WALKS IN, UPSET.

HANK

Brent, did you bring your keyboard?

BRENT BRINGS OUT A SMALL, CHEAP, SYNTHESIZER KEYBOARD.

BRENT

If you get abducted, make sure they  
leave this behind, okay?

HANK

Sure! Make fun of me, everybody else  
does.

LACEY

Oh, that's not true.

HANK HOLDS UP AN ALIEN COOKIE.

HANK

Oh? Eh Tuesday, Lacey?

BRENT

Et tu, Hank.

HANK

She started it. She's making fun of me  
with these cookies.

LACEY

Earlier you thought they were  
important and meaningful.

HANK

Now I see it was a way to profit from  
my misfortune.

OSCAR

And mine. I demand these cookies be  
removed at once!

DAVIS WALKS IN, SKIRTING CAREFULLY AROUND OSCAR.

HANK

Yeah!

DAVIS

Hey, Lacey, can I get a box of those  
cookies to go?

LACEY GATHERS THEM UP, PUTS THEM IN A BOX AND HANDS THEM TO  
DAVIS. DAVIS HANDS HER A BILL. LACEY WAVES HIM OFF.

LACEY

They're all yours.

DAVIS

Thanks!

OSCAR

Finally! Some justice!

DAVIS

Sure. See you in court, Oscar. Good  
day everybody!

BUT NOBODY SEEMS TO BE HAVING A GOOD DAY.

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - NIGHT

(HANK)

HANK HAS HIS TENT SET UP, ALONG WITH HIS COLEMAN STOVE, LAMP,  
THE WORKS. IN FRONT OF HIM IS BRENT'S KEYBOARD.

HE POKES AWAY AT THE KEYS, TRYING, UNSUCCESSFULLY TO PLAY THE  
FIVE NOTE SEQUENCE FROM "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS".

HANK

Damn. Almost have it.

FINALLY, HE GETS IT RIGHT. HE PLAYS IT OVER A COUPLE OF  
TIMES, THEN SWITCHES ON A BOSSA NOVA BEAT, ADDS A HORN  
SECTION...

HANK (CONT'D)

No, too much.

HE ELIMINATES THE EXTRA ARRANGEMENTS AND GOES BACK TO THE  
FIVE NOTES, LOOKING SKYWARD.

HANK (CONT'D)

(singing along)

Come and land right here...  
(beat)

Show them I'm not weird...  
(beat)

Did you bring some beer....

INT. LEROY HOUSEHOLD - NIGHT

(WANDA, EMMA, OSCAR)

WANDA, OSCAR AND EMMA ARE CONTEMPLATING THE DIORAMA, WHICH WE  
CAN'T SEE.

WANDA

Well?

EMMA

I'm impressed. How come you're so good at building models?

WANDA

Tanner likes me to build miniature cities for him so he can pretend to be Godzilla and destroy them. The more realistic the better. Since you just needed this for court, I saved time by skipping the blood squibs.

EMMA

My carpet thanks you for that.

OSCAR

It'll do.

WANDA

From you that's high praise. I'll take it. Oh, and I'll also take \$30 for paint and modelling supplies.

OSCAR HANDS HER THE MONEY.

OSCAR

Fine, fine. Whatever.  
(chuckles)

I'm going to win.

INT. TOWN HALL / COURTROOM - DAY

FITZY WALKS IN, STANDS BEFORE THE PODIUM. TWO OTHER PODIA ARE SET UP FACING HIM, LIKE IN ONE OF THOSE TV COURTROOM SHOWS.

BRENT  
(taps Davis on the shoulder)

How come Fitzzy's the judge?

DAVIS  
(to Brent)

Dog River doesn't have a regular  
traffic court judge.  
(pointed look at Oscar)

Most people don't fight their traffic  
tickets.

FITZY

All rise. Let's make this quick. I've  
got some important mayoral stuff I was  
in the middle of.

WHIP CUT TO:

INT. FITZY'S OFFICE - DAY

FITZY'S ASLEEP IN HIS CHAIR, HEAD BACK, SNORING.

WHIP CUT TO:

INT. TOWN HALL / COURTROOM - DAY

OSCAR AND DAVIS TAKE THEIR PLACES.

FITZY

Okay, Davis, we'll hear from you  
first.

OSCAR

How come he gets to go first?

FITZY

Okay, Oscar, if you want to, you can  
go first.

DAVIS

Fine with me.

OSCAR

Wait a minute! If I go first then he gets the last word.

FITZY

That's how it works.

OSCAR

You go first, Davis.

DAVIS  
(but no thanks)

Thanks.

FITZY

All right, constable.

DAVIS FLIPS OPEN HIS NOTEBOOK.

DAVIS  
(reads)

Yesterday at 10:38 AM, the defendant, Oscar Leroy, made a left turn in a No Left Turn zone on Chaff Street.

DAVIS CLOSES HIS NOTEBOOK.

FITZY

Oscar, your turn.

OSCAR MOTIONS TO WANDA WHO BRINGS OUT HER DIORAMA, AND TO BRENT, WHO PLACES HIS PHOTO COLLAGE ON AN EASEL FOR ALL TO SEE.

PEOPLE OOH AND AHH. DAVIS LOOKS AT HIS NOTEBOOK, FEELING INADEQUATE.

OSCAR  
(pointing to each)

Now as you can see by this  
photographic evidence, and this di-o-  
ra-ma, given the time of day and the  
lighting conditions present, there was  
no possible way I could've seen the No  
Left Turn sign before I had completed  
my turn. This is entrapment, your  
honour, and I move these charges be  
dropped.

(beat)

Now I'll be calling my first in a  
series of expert witnesses -

FITZY

That won't be necessary.

OSCAR  
(turns around)

Oh. Never mind, guys.

THE CAST OF "COLD SQUAD" (OR SIMILAR), LOOKING DISAPPOINTED,  
GET UP AND LEAVE.

FITZY

May I continue?  
(at Oscar's wave)

Very well, then, as it is a minor  
moving violation, since you've gone  
through so much trouble, and we're in  
a hurry, charged are hereby dropped.  
(pounds gavel)

Court dismissed.

A CHEER GOES OUT THROUGH THE CROWD. FITZY AND MOST OF THE OTHERS FILTER OUT.

OSCAR SEEMS OVERLY PLEASED WITH HIMSELF.

KAREN

Wow! That's amazing, Wanda, good work!

BRENT

Do you like my photo collage?

KAREN

It's very -

DAVIS

Hey, what about protecting the Thin Blue Line?

KAREN

...it's okay.

BEHIND DAVIS' BACK SHE GIVES A THUMBS-UP.

DAVIS

Oscar, congratulations.

THEY SHAKE HANDS.

OSCAR

(chuckles)

I won. I beat the system.

DAVIS

Until next time then.

DAVIS LEAVES. KAREN STOPS TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE DISPLAYS UNTIL DAVIS TURNS AND GLARES AT HER, THEN SHE FOLLOWS QUICKLY.

EMMA WALKS UP BESIDE OSCAR.



EMMA

Well now, isn't this something? You  
beat a \$20 traffic ticket, and how  
much did it cost for all this?

BRENT

Twenty dollars.  
(to Wanda)

Plus you ruined my Matchbox cars, so  
he owes me a new set.

WANDA

Thirty dollars. And I get to keep the  
model...for Tanner.

WANDA TAKES HER DIORAMA.

EMMA

Fifty dollars. I'm so proud.

OSCAR

It's the principle of the thing. I  
won. Ha! I won!

EXT. TOWN HALL / COURTROOM - DAY

OSCAR, EMMA, DAVIS, KAREN

OSCAR AND EMMA EXIT THE TOWN HALL JUST IN TIME TO SEE DAVIS  
PLACE A PARKING TICKET ON OSCAR'S CAR.

DAVIS POINTS TO THE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPOT SIGN. OSCAR  
FLIES INTO A RAGE. ALL FOUR ARGUE AD LIB.

EXT. WHEAT FIELD - NIGHT

(HANK)

HANK, ASLEEP IN HIS SLEEPING BAG.

HANK  
(dreaming)

This is what Earth people call  
kissing.

A BRIGHT LIGHT SHINES ON HIM, AND THE WEIRD HUMMING NOISE RETURNS. HE AWAKES WITH A START, THEN STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF FROM HIS SLEEPING BAG, WHICH TAKES A FEW TRIES.

HANK (CONT'D)

Holy!

HE FALLS, THEN STANDS UP, FINALLY FREE.

SILHOUETTED BY THE LIGHT ARE TWO ALIEN FIGURES. A TALL, STOCKY MALE SHAPE AND A SHORTER FEMALE SHAPE, EACH WITH ENLARGED HEADS.

HANK HOLDS UP HIS HAND IN A PEACE SIGN.

HANK (CONT'D)

I come in peace. Or, like, you come in  
peace, and I'm peaceful too. Um, hi!

HE WAVES.

THE ALIENS WAVE.

NOW HE'S NOT SURE WHAT TO DO.

HANK (CONT'D)

Take me to your leader?

THE ALIENS SHAKE THEIR HEADS, "NO."

HANK (CONT'D)

Take me back with you?

AGAIN, "NO."

HANK (CONT'D)

Could you come over with me to my  
friend Brent's house? I'm sure he'd  
love to -

ANOTHER HEAD SHAKE. AND A GOODBYE WAVE.

HANK (CONT'D)

Right. Just passing through. Okey

dokey, uh...

HE HOLDS HIS HAND UP IN THE VULCAN SALUTE FROM "STAR TREK".

THE ALIENS DO THE SAME.

HANK LOOKS PLEASED.

HANK (CONT'D)

Live long and prosper.

THE ALIENS NOD, THEN LEAVE.

THE LIGHT SUDDENLY GOES DARK AND HANK STUMBLES AROUND  
BLINKING, BLIND FROM THE AFTERIMAGE.

HANK (CONT'D)

Camera! Camera! Where's my -  
(realizing it's too late)

Aw, nuts.  
(looking up to the sky)

Goodbye! Have a nice trip!

END OF ACT TWO

TAGINT. CORNER GAS - DAY

(HANK, BRENT, WANDA)

HANK WALKS IN, FEELING VINDICATED.

HANK

Guys, you should've been there. It was amazing! I met the aliens! They were really friendly. They didn't say much, but we understood each other completely.

BRENT

The less said the better.

HANK

I told them we meant them no harm, and they sorta said that they come in peace too. I was like a goodwill ambassador for the whole planet.

WANDA

So you represented Earth's finest then? God help us.

HANK

I didn't get a chance to get any pictures, but at least now I know. I saw them. They were real.  
(beat)

I'm going to go to the Ruby to tell Lacey. I hear she's got cookies with smiley faces on them.

HANK LEAVES. BRENT AND WANDA WATCH HIM GO, THEN SPEAK IN CONSPIRATORIAL TONES.

BRENT

I'd say that was an unqualified success.

WANDA

I agree. Are we ready for the next phase?

BRENT

As soon as I can safely get my gear off the water tower.

WANDA

The windmill by Russel Haines' farm has an unobstructed view. It would make an excellent base of operations for Phase Two.

BRENT

The citizens of Wullerton -

THEY BOTH SPIT.

BRENT (CONT'D)

...won't know what hit' em.

THEY SMILE, DO THE VULCAN HAND SALUTE, THEN PUT THE SALUTES TOGETHER IN A HANDSHAKE, GRINNING MISCHIEVOUSLY.

END