



Scripts.com

# The Best and the Brightest

By Josh Shelov

(LIGHTNING STRIKING)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(THUNDER RUMBLING)

(WIND HOWLING)

(THUNDER RUMBLING)

ANNOUNCER ON RADIO: Tropical  
storm warnings are now in effect  
for all of  
the Gulf Coast.

We're looking at a strong Category  
3, so board up those windows  
and get ready  
for a wild ride.

Folks, there are emergency  
shelters being set up in King County  
and Scarborough County.

(SWITCHING CHANNEL)

(ROCK MUSIC PLAYING)

(OPENING CAR DOOR)

(VEHICLE APPROACHING)

Howie!

Johnny Gavineau.

You got the permit?

Yes, I do.

(CLANKING)

This is against  
my better judgment.

(SIGHS)

Okay. Let's get to it.

**JOHNNY:**

get back to the coast.

(CLEARING THROAT)

There's a hurricane coming.

(CLEARING THROAT)

I got property there. I gotta  
get the place battened down.

(GROWLING)

Never touch the cage.

Was he trained?

Trained how? Jump  
through a hoop on fire?

He can do that?

No.

Well, does he just sit  
there and look pretty?  
I thought he  
was a circus cat.  
Circus don't want him.  
(TIGER ROARS)  
Look, I'm starting  
a safari ranch.  
This is my  
main attraction.  
I need, you know,  
a scary animal.  
Scary?  
Yeah. That's what  
the tourists pay to see.  
I don't think this  
cat's scary enough.  
I'm not paying top dollar for an  
animal that doesn't scare anyone  
and doesn't know  
any tricks.  
Now, maybe if  
I'm paying less,  
say, \$5,000 less...  
Mr. Gavineau, the only  
reason we are talking  
is because last month this  
cat attacked a circus horse  
while 300 of  
your tourists  
ran screaming  
for their lives.  
Chased her down,  
did he?  
Went 16 feet over a cage.  
Passed 11 other horses  
just to get to this one.  
Silver Dollar  
was her name.  
He broke her spine  
so that she couldn't move,  
and then  
he ate her alive.  
You ever heard a horse

scream, Mr. Gavineau?

You want to know why  
he went after that one?

Because

she was the pretty one.

And you're right,

Mr. Gavineau.

This cat,

he's not scary.

He's evil.

(BANGS CAGE)

(LAUGHING NERVOUSLY)

This is a waste of time  
and my gas money.

I'll take it!

Plus your expenses.

Cat hasn't eaten  
in two weeks.

That's how you show him  
who's boss.

And when you move him, you  
roll the cage with this.

(TRUCK DOOR OPENS)

Safari park, huh?

Well, good luck  
with that.

(TRUCK DOOR CLOSES)

(TRUCK STARTING)

Good luck with that.

Man makes his own luck!

Isn't that right,

Lucifer?

(TIGER GROWLS)

Tom, you there?

(FEEDBACK ON WALKIE-TALKIE)

Tom.

Tom, come on.

Remember? I told you they  
have fish here. You love fish.

They have all... Come look  
at this. Come look at this.

See, look. Come here.

They have yellow fish.

Blue fish, purple fish.

I think they even  
have clown fish.  
Tom, come on. You're  
gonna be happy here.  
Mom would have loved  
this place. Okay?  
It took me  
a long time to find it.  
I know you understand.  
This is your home now. You  
cannot come to college with me.  
Hey.  
Please do not  
screw this up.  
(DOCTOR CLEARING THROAT)

**DOCTOR:**

living with your stepfather,  
but you've  
taken care of Tom  
since your mother  
passed away.  
And after college,  
will you once again  
be taking on Tom's care?  
Yes.  
No red.  
That depends on,  
of course,  
what's best for Tom  
at that point.  
I have custodianship, so I  
will be checking in on him.  
Sorry,  
he does not like red.  
Well, then let's  
get things settled.  
Tom, would you like to  
say goodbye to your sister?  
So, I'm gonna take off.  
I'll see you in a couple  
of weeks, all right?  
(YELLING) No! No touch!  
No! No, no!

No!  
I'm so sorry.  
(CONTINUES YELLING)  
I've got...  
I got his stuff out.  
He likes this...  
He likes this  
God's eye and...  
When he's walking,  
he might need it.  
(SOFTLY) Tom,  
I want you to be calm.  
(STOPS YELLING)  
Good.  
Can you sit down for me?  
Can you do that for me?  
Can you sit down,  
please?  
Good.  
Thank you.  
You know,  
who Tom is now  
is pretty much who Tom  
is always going to be.  
People can sacrifice  
their entire lives  
taking care of  
an autistic child.  
Don't feel guilty  
if you can't.  
(DOOR OPENS)  
(WHISPERING)  
(DOOR OPENS)  
There seems  
to be a problem.  
Your check is being denied  
due to insufficient funds?  
No, that's... That's  
not right. That little...  
(DIALING)  
Do you have  
another resource?  
No.  
What about

your stepfather?

No. There's money in there.

**ON PHONE:**

This is Mr. Fenton.

Hi, Mr. Fenton,  
this is Kelly Taylor.

Hi, Kelly.

How are you?

Could you check the balance  
of my account for me?

Your stepfather withdrew all  
the money from that account.

It's closed.

When?

Yesterday.

So...

He said he was  
changing your house  
into some sort  
of safari ranch?

I hope that's  
not a surprise.

Yeah, I don't...

I don't really care about the  
animal thing. That money was for Tom.

Kelly, sounds like you should  
take this up with Johnny.

Thank you.

**MAN 1:**

wait a minute.

**MAN 2:**

Let's go! Unhitch it!

(BANGING ON CAGE)

(MEN CHATTERING)

Hey, .hombres,

I understand that  
the power of hurricanes  
has almost doubled  
in the past 30 years.

Now, whether that has  
to do with global warming

doesn't much  
matter to me,  
but what does matter is getting  
this place battened down. Now.

(TIGER GROWLING)

(MAN 1 BECKONING TIGER)

(TIGER CONTINUES GROWLING)

(MAN 2 SPEAKING SPANISH)

(HISSING)

Hey!

(SPEAKING SPANISH)

(MAN 2 SCREAMING)

Shit!

(MEN YELLING IN SPANISH)

Get me a rag!

Here, here, here. Shit!

I want you to keep  
pressure on it, okay?

Like this.

Now, listen to me.

I want you to go to the  
clinic down the road.

Okay. All right?

They'll take care of you.

They will not

deport you.

(SPEAKING SPANISH)

Now go.

And fast! He's gonna

lose that finger!

God damn it! I just said  
unhitch me. We're staying here.

(BANGING ON CAGE)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(SPEAKING SPANISH)

**JOHNNY:**

boarded up!

(MAN SHOUTING INSTRUCTIONS  
IN SPANISH)

(SCREWDRIVER WHIRRING)

Johnny!

Where are you?

What is this?



Johnny?

Where did the freezer  
come from, huh?

(TIGER GROWLING)

(BANGING ON CAGE)

Hey!

What the hell are you doing?

That's a carnivore in there.

(MIMICKING TIGER)

You understand?

Now, go back in the  
house where it's safe.

(THUNDER RUMBLING)

Out here, not safe.

In the house, safe.

Now, go on. Run.

Hey! Where's my money?

What money?

My bank account.

You closed it.

Wait a second.

That's not your money.

Of course it is.

I went to the bank, I asked if  
there were any other accounts,  
they said just one,  
co-signed by your mother,  
so I took it out...

So, you stole it.

You doing drugs?

What?

Because drugs will damage  
both the hippocampus  
and the amygdala  
portions of the brain.

That's where we  
process memory.

Your memory's  
a little foggy here.

I have to remind you that  
your mom didn't leave a will.

She did.

Hey.

She wanted me to take care

of Tom. That's what she said.

Written on

a Post-it note.

Wasn't a Post-it note.

She wrote her wishes  
for the future of you and  
your brother on a note.

Nobody's happy your mom  
swallowed a bottle of pills.

I also have

to point out,  
in the absence of  
any other information,  
the money, this house,  
goes to me.

Now, I don't know, if she'd  
have wanted it any different,  
she might have  
written another Post-it.

Just don't do that.

Don't talk about her.

(KELLY SIGHING)

Look, I don't care what you  
bought. I need what's left.

(CLEARING THROAT)

That's gonna be  
a problem.

What?

I don't have it.

How? How could you  
not have it?

You just got it out  
yesterday, right?

I bought a tiger.

(SCOFFS) You're crazy.

People are gonna pay to stay  
here, they want the real deal.

A Bengal tiger  
is the real deal.

That money was for Tom,  
for his care,  
so that I could know  
that he was all right.

Kelly, you don't have to put your

plans aside to help your brother.

Just leave Tom with me.

(SCREWDRIVER WHIRRING)

(DOOR OPENS)

**JOHNNY:**

I said use the big screw!

Eat.

**It's 5:**

Want eat.

Right.

No!

No, no, no, no, no!

Look. Okay? There.

Okay, let's go.

Come on.

So, what are we  
gonna watch today?

Want to try  
something different?

Oprah? Ellen?

A little

History Channel?

Arrgh, matey!

Arrgh.

The Taylors.

Fascinating viewing,  
even after the 785th time.

**MOTHER:**

Kelly, come closer.

I see my

8-year-old boy today.

We got

an 8-year-old pirate.

There's two, Tommy,

three, four, five,

couple more, six, my

pirate, seven, eight candles.

Let's light

those candles, Tommy!

Oh, it's a little

windy out here.

We got two.  
We got two!  
Make a wish and  
blow them out.  
Happy birthday, my good  
boy. I love you so much.  
I just want you to be  
happy. Come on, nestle close.

**ON PHONE:**

This is Tom Lewis.  
Hi, Mr. Lewis,  
this is Kelly Taylor.  
Hey, Kelly.  
How's it going?  
I'm glad I caught you.  
Are you on campus already?  
Is everything okay?  
There's been a hitch.  
(SIGHS) Okay.  
What's going on?  
Yeah, I'm just... I'm  
gonna need a few months  
to take care of  
some family business,  
and I'm just gonna  
start second semester.  
Kelly, you've deferred the  
scholarship twice already.  
This is about  
your brother, right?  
You're not his mother.  
He has a stepfather.  
Now, you need to make  
the right choice here.  
Otherwise, I am giving this  
money to someone who needs it.  
Mr. Lewis, I need it.  
Okay, that's what  
I want to hear,  
because I am  
really not kidding.  
Kelly, if you don't show up,  
there's nothing I can do.

That scholarship is gone.

Do you understand?

I understand.

This is

a big step for you,

but look how hard

you've worked for this.

Kelly, I really believe

you're making the right choice.

Thank you. Me, too.

Okay. See you soon.

(STAIRS CREAKING)

Stop it, Tom.

I just need a minute.

This is my mad face, do

you understand? Stop it.

(YELLING) Don't touch!

(SHOUTS)

Hey! Where did

you get this, huh?

This is Mom's.

Why have I not seen this?

What is this?

Have you taken

any of these, Tom?

Tell me right now.

Have you?

Seconal. Christ,

Mom, what weren't you on?

(SIGHS)

(SCREAMING)

God.

(DOOR OPENS)

(DROPS TOOTHBRUSH)

(WIND HOWLING)

(TIGER SNARLING)

Hey, Tom.

Time to go to bed.

(BANGING ON CAGE)

(TRUCK DOOR OPENS)

(TRUCK DOOR CLOSES)

(CHAIN RATTLING)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(MUFFLED SCREAMING)

(GASPS)

(THUNDER RUMBLING)

ANNOUNCER ON RADIO: After a  
night of watching and waiting,  
say good morning to  
Hurricane Isabel.  
Storm made landfall just

**after 5:**

We're talking  
120-mile-per-hour winds  
coming in  
off the Gulf Coast.  
If you're in  
Montgomery County,  
you are not in danger,  
but don't worry.  
We'll be here with  
you the whole way...  
Outstanding choice.

(CLANKING)

(RUSTLING)

(RUSTLING INTENSIFIES)

Hello?

Tom?

(SNIFFLING)

(GASPS)

(WIND HOWLING)

(BREATHING HEAVILY)

Damn it!

(TIGER SNARLING)

Tom, wake up.

Tom!

This is serious.

Tom, wake up.

Damn it.

**AUTOMATED VOICE:**

Montgomery County Emergency Services.  
We are currently  
experiencing a hurricane.  
Please enter  
your phone number,  
and we'll call you

as soon as we...

(ENTERING NUMBER)

(SNIFFLING)

(DIALING)

(RINGING)

(COUNTRY MUSIC PLAYING)

Give me another.

(RINGING TONE)

(CREAKING)

(FOOTSTEPS)

(SOFTLY) Tom.

(TIGER GROWLING)

(GASPS)

(DOORKNOB RATTLING)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(GRUNTING)

(GRUNTING)

(BANGING ON DOOR)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(TIGER POUNDING ON DOOR)

(DOOR BREAKING)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(PANTING)

(CELL PHONE RINGING)

(TIGER ROARING)

(SMASHING)

(SNIFFING)

(ROARING)

(GASPS)

(GROANING)

(PANTING)

(GASPS)

Where the fuck

have you been?

(SNIFFLING)

**KELLY:**

(SOFTLY) Come on.

Jesus.

Tom.

(SHUSHING)

The tiger is

in the house.

(DOOR OPENING)

Come on,  
play the quiet game.  
It's the quiet game.  
Quiet game.  
Come on. Come on.  
Quiet game.  
(KELLY PANTING)  
Come on, come on,  
come on.  
Come on,  
you piece of shit!  
Damn it!  
(POUNING ON DOOR)  
(TOM SHOUTING)  
(TIGER GROWLING)  
(ROARING)  
(TOM SCREAMING)  
(KELLY GRUNTING)  
(TOM SHOUTING)  
(KELLY SHOUTING)  
Let's go!  
Come on!  
(TIGER GROWLING)  
(TOM SHOUTING)  
(TIGER GROWLING)  
Eat now. Eat.  
(BANGING ON TABLE)  
Eat! Eat breakfast now!  
Eat now! Eat!  
Eat! Eat!  
Want to eat!  
Want eat!  
Eat!  
Want it!  
Your breakfast.  
(STAIRS CREAKING)  
(GROWLING)  
(TOM SHOUTING)  
(SCREAMING)  
(MUFFLED SCREAMING)  
(TIGER MEWLING)  
Get dressed.  
(SOFTLY) Yes,  
stay in your room.



(GRUNTING)

(GROWLING)

(GROWLING)

Tom.

Get dressed.

No touch. No touch.

I'm touching your shirt.

No touch. No touch.

Look,

I'm not touching you.

(DOOR OPENING)

No touch.

No touch.

Come here.

Get out of there. Get  
out of there. Get out!

What is this?

Enough with Mom!

(TOM WHINING)

(GRUNTING)

(WIND HOWLING)

(CONTINUES WHINING)

Want her? Have her.

(POUNING ON DOOR)

(SCRATCHING ON DOOR)

(DOOR BREAKING)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(GROWLING)

(GRUNTING)

(ROARING)

(TOM SCREAMING)

(SCREAMING)

(GROWLING)

(GLASS SHATTERING)

(WIND HOWLING)

(GRUNTING)

Where's the gun?

Come on, come on,  
come on, come on.

Okay.

Move. Move.

Damn it!

(EXCLAIMS)

(SNIFFLING)

Please let there be  
a way out of this.  
Show me the way out,  
please, God.  
Let there be  
a way out of this.  
(THUNDER RUMBLING)

**KELLY:**

You bastard.  
Are you out of  
your mind?  
It's in a cage.  
It's not like it would be  
wandering around the whole property.  
How the hell are you gonna  
keep this thing under control?  
Starve it.  
How's that?  
You have  
to starve them.  
Hasn't eaten  
in two weeks.  
That's how you show a cat  
who's boss.  
And that's you?  
I'm just trying to make  
a go of it here, Maurice.  
Uh-huh.  
When Kelly goes to college,  
and she will.  
You know how  
young people are.  
Who's gonna  
take care of that boy?  
Well, you...  
You've been a godsend  
to those kids, Johnny.

**KELLY:**

Where is it? Where is it?  
No! No touching!  
(EXCLAIMS)  
I think we can go through the

laundry room, okay? You understand?

Let me go first.

Be very quiet.

(GROWLING)

(GASPS)

No.

No, no.

(HOME MOVIE PLAYING ON TV)

(GROWLS)

(MOTHER SINGING ON TV)

(GUN CLICKS)

(TIGER GROWLING)

**KELLY:**

we gotta go.

No, stay!

(GROWLS)

(ROARING)

(FIRE ALARM BLARING)

(TIGER GROWLING)

(WIND HOWLING)

(GROANS)

(THUNDER RUMBLING)

(ENGINE STALLING)

(SOBBING)

(GRUNTING)

(TIGER MEWLING)

**KELLY:**

So sorry

Mom left you, Tom.

She left me, too.

I'm sorry she did that.

But I'm not gonna

leave you, Tommy.

We're gonna get out

of here, right now.

And wherever I go,

you are coming with me.

No touch.

No touch.

Don't move.

(GROWLING)

Go to the laundry room.

(CLATTERING)  
Go back. Go back.  
We'll go around.  
(FLOORBOARDS CREAKING)  
(THUDDING)  
(SCREAMING)  
(ROARING)  
(GROWLING)  
Get in the freezer.  
I know you understand me.  
Get in the freezer.  
(BOTH GRUNTING)  
(TOM WHINING)  
(POUNING ON FREEZER)  
(KELLY SHUSHING)  
Easy.  
All right.  
It's okay.  
Tom, it's okay.  
It's okay.  
(WHIMPERING)  
It's okay. It's okay.  
Now, breathe slowly.  
(BREATHING SLOWLY)  
Just breathe.  
(TIGER GROWLING)  
(POUNING CONTINUES)  
Here's what's  
gonna happen.  
You're just  
gonna fall asleep.  
That's not so bad, huh?  
I bet you're real tired.  
Just close your eyes  
and go to sleep.  
(KELLY HUMMING)  
(ELECTRICITY TURNS ON)  
Tommy, come on.  
Come on.  
(SCREWDRIVER WHIRRING)  
(CLEARS THROAT)

**JOHNNY:**

was a madhouse.

Everyone was there,  
even Lindsay Bosier.  
Tossing back  
hurricanes.  
Eight months pregnant. You'd  
think she'd have more sense.  
Some people, right?

**KELLY:**

what happened here.  
He can't tell anyone.  
So, you gonna  
let us go?  
You're not the only one  
who wanted out.  
Your mother was  
gonna leave me.  
You killed her.  
Kelly...

(JOHNNY SCREAMING)

(GROWLING)

(ROARING)