

SCENE ONE

EXT. NIGHT- CITY STREETS- OPENING CREDITS OVER MARLON

walking home (in khakis), buying a few items from a sidewalk grocer, coming up apartment steps with groceries, and in to apartment, to rush to tv and turn on "The National". END OPENING CREDITS.

INT. NIGHT- THE SMALL APARTMENT- MARLON

is watching "The National" alone. George Bush (and Cheney) is explaining how hard it is finding stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction in such a huge country with so much sand. Marlon talks to us.

MARLON (V.O.)

Lying particularly irritates me.

(transition to SCENE TWO)

It's not just our leaders, either.

SCENE TWO

INT. DAY- DENTIST'S OFFICE- MARLON

in chair. The DENTIST hovers over him, working.

MARLON (CONT)

(looking over at CAM)

He lied to me about my root canal.

The DENTIST pokes him.

DENTIST

What are you doing? Sit still.

MARLON smiles weakly. The DENTIST keeps blocking the CAM, bending over Marlon. CAM keeps moving, trying to keep Marlon in view. He peeks out from under the Dentist's armpit:

MARLON

(whispering)

I overheard the nurse on the phone. His yacht needs a new engine.

DENTIST

(irritated)

Are you in pain?

MARLON

Yes.

The DENTIST brings out an enormous needle.

MARLON

No! Not really. Well; yes, pain, but not so much pain; for a thing like that; I mean, what's a little pain? Really, it's just a question of interpretation; there's pain, the pain threshold, the perception of pain, and there's pain; I mean, a really big pain...

DENTIST

Like a pain in the ass?

EXTR. CLOSE-UP- MARLON'S FOREHEAD- NEEDLE

going right in, deep, right in the middle.

SCENE THREE

EXT. DAY- SIDEWALK GROCERY- MARLON

(band-aid in middle of forehead) is holding up a dripping tomato.

GROCER

They're just nicely ripe.

Beside the cash register a NATIONAL ENQUIRER sports the headline: WHAT FORCE KEEPS THE EARTH SPINNING? Is It Slowing? There is a color photo of Earth (from Space).

SCENE FOUR

INT. MORNING- OFFICE- MARLON

(in khakis with band-aid), a pale red stain on his white shirt, is standing by the coffeepot with a few fellow employees, WANDA (the secretary), MAX and FRANCES, all eating powdered jelly donuts except Marlon. The BOSS ENTERS.

BOSS

Good morning, team.

EMPLOYEES

Morning, Chief.

MARLON

Morning, Boss.

BOSS

Chief, Marlon.

MARLON

Chief.

BOSS

Say; you're not eating your donut.

MARLON

Well, I...

BOSS

Marlon, don't be shy. You may be the low man on the totem pole, but you're still entitled to a donut.

MARLON

Actually, I'd prefer, uh... to, uh... not to, uh... uh...

BOSS picks up a donut and, grabbing MARLON's hand, slaps it in, curls his fingers around it (a little jelly oozes out) and walks off OUT OF FRAME. Marlon takes a tiny bite, catching the jelly with his tongue and smiling weakly at the others.