

Ghostbusters

by

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and

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Final Shooting Script
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EXT. NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY -- DAY

The sun shines brightly on the classic facade of the main library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. In the adjacent park area, pretty hustlers and drug peddlers go about their business.

FRONT STEPS

A few people lounge on the steps flanked by the familiar stone lions.

INT. MAIN READING ROOM -- DAY

People are dotted throughout the room sitting at the long oak tables polished by decades of use. Reading lamps with green glass shades cast a golden glow on the tables. The patina of age is everywhere. It is very quiet.

LIBRARIAN

A slightly stout, studious looking girl in her late twenties circulates quietly among the tables picking up books and putting them on her cart. Everything seems completely normal and peaceful.

POV

A single eerie musical note signals the presence of something strange looking down on the Librarian from a vantage point high above the room. It follows the Librarian as she pushes her cart around the corner.

INT. WORK AREA

The Librarian is alone in a back room sorting books for reshelving. Behind her is the card catalogue. One of the books attracts her interest and she starts leafing through it.

THE CARD CATALOGUE

Another eerie note is heard as one of the drawers silently slides open behind the Librarian and hundreds of index cards start popping out. The Librarian continues reading completely oblivious to this strange phenomenon.

She gets up and moves past another row of cabinets. Two more drawers quietly slide open, and thousands of file cards start shooting out of the open drawers just behind her, but the Librarian still doesn't notice.

THE STACKS

The Librarian works her way through rows and rows of old iron shelves containing many thousands of volumes stacked from floor to ceiling. As she puts the books back in their proper places, she slowly gets the feeling that she's being watched. She continues her task but suddenly hears a scratching noise and stops.

LIBRARIAN
(puzzled)
Hello? Is anybody there?

A ROW OF BOOKS

As the Librarian walks down the aisle, books start shooting off the shelf behind her. She turns suddenly and sees the fallen books.

THE LIBRARIAN

Frightened now, she walks slowly to the end of the aisle and tentatively peeks around the corner. Seeing no one, she starts to scratch her head and suddenly a dozen books fly off the shelf right in front of her and fall to the floor.

LIBRARIAN
(frightened)
All right! Who's there? Lyle? Is that you?

Very slowly now, her heart pounding, the Librarian tiptoes to the other end of the aisle. She gets to the corner and starts to peek around it, afraid to look but unable to resist.

INT. THE NEXT AISLE -- DAY

The Librarian comes slowly around the end of the stacks and gets her first look at the thing that's been watching her. Her eyes go very wide and her mouth opens in horror. She screams.

EXT. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY -- DAY

Students are entering and leaving a neo-Gothic building on the University's upper west side campus. A sign identifies the building as: Weaver Hall -- Department of Psychology.

INT. BASEMENT -- WEAVER HALL -- DAY

At one end of the dingy corridor is a door marked PARANORMAL STUDIES LABORATORY. A sign dangles from the doorknob: Maid -- Please Make Up This Room. Scrawled across the door is a line of student graffiti that reads: "Venkman Burn In Hell!" It looks like it's been written in blood.

VENKMAN (V.O.)
Now I'm going to turn over the next card and
I want you to concentrate and tell me what
you think it is.

INT. PARANORMAL STUDIES LAB -- SAME TIME - DAY

DR. PETER VENKMAN is administering an ESP test to two student volunteers, a boy and a girl, who sit across the table from him separated from each other by a screen.

Venkman is an associate professor but his rumpled suit and the manic gleam in his eyes indicate an underlying instability in his nature. However, while a little short on academic credentials, Venkman is long on confidence, charm and salesmanship.

He turns to the male volunteer, an obnoxious SOPHOMORE, and pulls out a card from the standard deck of ESP symbols. The card is visible to the camera over Venkman's shoulder but hidden from the sophomore by a masonite board that rests between them on the table. The card shows a star symbol on it.

VENKMAN
All right. What is it?

SOPHOMORE
(concentrates)
A square?

VENKMAN
(shakes his head)
Good guess -- but no.

He shows the Sophomore the star card then presses a button on the table which administers a mild electric shock to the volunteer. The Sophomore twitches involuntarily as the shock passes through the electrode attached to his fingertips. Then Venkman turns to the female volunteer, a very beautiful COED.

VENKMAN
Now just clear your mind and tell me what you see.

He turns over a card with a circle on it.

COED
(thinks hard)
Is it a star?

VENKMAN
(feigning surprise)
It is a star! That's great. You're very good.

The Coed beams proudly as Venkman turns back to the Sophomore without showing her the card.

VENKMAN
(to the Sophomore)
Now think.

He turns up the diamond card.

The Sophomore glances nervously at the electrodes, then ventures a guess.

SOPHOMORE

Circle?

VENKMAN

Close -- but definitely wrong.

He shocks him again and swivels around to face the Coed.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)

Ready?

(she nods and he turns up
the triangle card)

What is it?

COED

(biting her lip)

Ummm -- figure eight?

VENKMAN

(lies)

Incredible! Five for five. You're not
cheating on me here, are you?

COED

(amazed at her own ability)

No. They're just coming to me.

VENKMAN

Well, you're doing great. Keep it up.

He turns back to the Sophomore who winces as the next card is turned
up -- two parallel wavy lines.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)

Nervous?

SOPHOMORE

Yes. I don't like this.

VENKMAN

Well, just 75 more to go. What's this one?

SOPHOMORE

(takes a deep breath)

Two wavy lines?

VENKMAN

(burying the card)

Sorry. This isn't your day.

He zaps him again but this time the Sophomore really jumps.

SOPHOMORE

(angry)

Hey! I'm getting a little tired of this.

VENKMAN

You volunteered, didn't you? Aren't we paying you for this?

SOPHOMORE

Yeah, but I didn't know you were going to give me electric shocks. What are you trying to prove?

VENKMAN

I'm studying the effect of negative reinforcement on ESP ability.

SOPHOMORE

I'll tell you the effect! It pisses me off!

VENKMAN

Then my theory was correct.

The Sophomore gets up, pulls the electrodes off his fingertips and exits.

SOPHOMORE

(as he goes)

Keep the five bucks. I've had it!

Venkman turns back to the Coed and shrugs.

VENKMAN

Well, I guess some people have it and some don't.

COED

(provocatively)

Do you think I have it, Dr. Venkman?

VENKMAN

Definitely. I think you may be a very gifted telepath.

Suddenly the door opens and RAY STANTZ enters.

STANTZ

He is Venkman's colleague and best friend. A hard scientist with a good academic background, Stantz is a maverick who genuinely loves a challenge. At the moment, he seems really keyed up.

STANTZ

Drop everything, Venkman. We got one.

He starts rummaging through cabinets and drawers, gathering up a variety of electronic devices.

VENKMAN

He frowns at the intrusion and turns to the Coed.

VENKMAN

Excuse me for a minute.

(he crosses to Stantz)

Ray, I'm right in the middle of something here. Can you come back in about an hour?

STANTZ

(excited, but hushed and confidential)

Peter, at 1:40 this afternoon at the main branch of the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue, ten people witnessed a free-roaming, vaporous, full-torso apparition. It blew books from shelves at twenty feet away. Scared the socks off some poor librarian.

VENKMAN

(unimpressed)

Sure. That's great, Ray. I think you should get down there right away and check it out. Let me know what happens.

STANTZ

(insistent)

No, this one's for real, Peter. Spengler went down there and took some PKE readings. Right off the top of the scale. Buried the needle. We're close this time. I can feel it.

Venkman looks at Stantz, then back at the Coed, torn between duty and pleasure.

VENKMAN

(decides)

Okay. Just give me a second here.

(he crosses back to the Coed)

I have to leave now but if you've got some time I'd like you to come back this evening and do some more work with me.

COED

Eight o'clock?

VENKMAN

(lying again)

I was just going to say "eight." You're fantastic!

He waves good-bye and exits with Stantz.

EXT. PUBLIC LIBRARY -- DAY

Venkman and Stantz arrive in a taxi and trot up the front steps. Stantz is loaded down with equipment.

STANTZ

Spengler and I have charted every psychic occurrence in the Tri-State area for the past two years. The graph we came up with definitely points to something big.

VENKMAN

Ray, as your friend I have to tell you I think you've really gone around the bend on this ghost stuff. You've been running your ass off for two years checking out every schizo in the Five Boroughs who thinks he's had an experience. And what have you seen?

STANTZ

What do you mean by "seen?"

VENKMAN

Looked at with your eyes.

STANTZ

Well, I was at an unexplained multiple high-altitude rockfall once.

VENKMAN

Uh-huh. I've heard about the rockfall, Ray. I think you've been spending too much time with Spengler.

INT. MAIN READING ROOM -- DAY

EGON SPENGLER is looking for spirits when Venkman and Stantz arrive. Spengler is a real egghead, a New Wave Mr. Spock, who single-handedly got Venkman through graduate school. Spengler is incredibly intelligent but amazingly dense at the same time. At the moment he is listening to a table using a stethoscope connected to stereo earphones. Venkman comes up behind him and taps on the table to get his attention.

VENKMAN

Egon?

Spengler hears the tapping and thinks he's made contact with the spirit world. Then Venkman slams a heavy book down on the table.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)

Egon!

Spengler jumps at the deafening noise in his earphones and turns to see Venkman and Stantz.

SPENGLER

Oh! You're here.

VENKMAN

What have you got, Egon?

SPENGLER

Oh, this is big, Peter. This is very big. There's definitely something here.

VENKMAN

Egon, somehow this reminds me of the time
you tried to drill a hole in your head. Do
you remember that?

HEAD LIBRARIAN

A choleric, middle-aged civil servant, MR. DELACORTE, hurries over to meet
them.

HEAD LIBRARIAN

(nervous)

Hello, I'm Roger Delacorte - the Head
Librarian. Are you the men from the
University?

VENKMAN

Yes. I'm Dr. Venkman and this is Dr. Stantz.

HEAD LIBRARIAN

(leads them off)

Thank you for coming. I'd appreciate it if
we could take care of this quickly and quietly.

VENKMAN

One thing at a time. We don't even know
what it is yet.

INT. AN OFFICE -- A LITTLE LATER

Venkman is questioning the plump Librarian who saw the spirit, while a
Paramedic continues treating her for shock.

LIBRARIAN

I don't remember seeing any legs, but it
definitely had arms because it reached for
me.

STANTZ

(excited)

Arms! Great! I can't wait to get a look
at this thing.

Venkman glowers at him, still skeptical.

VENKMAN

(to the girl)

All right, miss. Have you or has any member
of your family ever been diagnosed
schizophrenic or mentally incompetent?

LIBRARIAN

Well, my uncle thought he was St. Jerome.

VENKMAN
(looks at Stantz)
I'll call that a big "yes."
(to the girl)
Do you yourself habitually use drugs,
stimulants or alcohol?

LIBRARIAN
No.

VENKMAN
I thought not. And one last thing. Are you
currently menstruating?

HEAD LIBRARIAN
(shocked)
What's that got to do with it?

VENKMAN
(snaps)
Back off, man! I'm a scientist!

THE DOOR

Spengler sticks his head in.

SPENGLER
(excited)
It's moving!

Stantz and Venkman rush out.

INT. DEEP IN THE STACKS -- DAY

They come slowly down the dark aisle with Spengler leading, taking
constant readings. Their faces are lit mainly by the light of their own
monitoring and recording equipment.

HIGH POV

Looking down on them from the spectral point of view.

A SPIRAL STAIRCASE

One by one, Venkman, Stantz and Spengler come down the tightly winding,
old iron staircase. They are scared. Books are strewn all over the
floor.

A BOOKSHELF

The books start to slide forward then the whole shelving unit topples over
and almost crushes the team under a ton of books. They jump to safety.

VENKMAN
Nice.
(out loud)
Hello...

Spengler looks at his meters and silently points at a dark aisle

intersecting the one they're in. The team inches toward it.

SPENGLER

It's here.

They stop at the corner.

INT. THE DARK AISLE -- DAY

The team peeks around the corner and looks toward camera.

THEIR POV -- DAY

An ethereal presence is hovering between the stacks about four feet off the ground. It seems to waver on the edge of being and non-being, then a large legless, headless torso begins to emerge.

VENKMAN, STANTZ AND SPENGLER

They stand there amazed.

STANTZ

(whispers)

What is it?

VENKMAN

It looks like a big pair of breasts and a pot belly.

THE TORSO -- DAY

A head and arms begin to form. The apparition is now unmistakably a full-bodied, somewhat elderly lady.

SPENGLER

It's a woman.

He edges closer to take valence readings. Stantz starts snapping infra-red photos of it.

STANTZ

(excited)

I told you it's real.

VENKMAN

(whispers)

What do we do now?

STANTZ

(whispers back)

I don't know. Talk to it.

VENKMAN

(nods in agreement then
hesitates)

What do I say?

STANTZ

Anything! Just make contact.

VENKMAN
(takes a deep breath, then
addresses the specter)
Hey, Lady?
(the apparition turns and
seems to look right past
them)
Lady! Can you talk? Who are you?
(no answer)
(to Stantz)
This is not working. Think of something else.

STANTZ
(sotto voce)
Okay. Okay. I got it. I know what to do.
Stay close. I have a plan.

He starts moving closer to the apparition. Venkman and Spengler edge closer, fighting their fear. They stop just a few feet from the vision.

STANTZ (CONT'D)
(whispers)
Okay, now do exactly as I say. Everybody
ready?

VENKMAN & SPENGLER
Ready.

STANTZ
Okay...
(shouts)
GET HER!!!

He leaps at the apparition. Venkman and Spengler jump reflexively at almost the same moment but they all end up on the floor grabbing at thin air.

THE GHOST -- DAY

She drops back a few feet, looms up into a raging demonlike specter and blasts them with a rush of hot breath as she mouths a single word.

THE GHOST
(roars)
QUIET!

VENKMAN, STANTZ AND SPENGLER

They scream and fall backwards.

EXT. LIBRARY -- MAIN ENTRANCE - DAY

They burst through the doors and onto the broad steps, both terrified and exhilarated by their first real contact with the supernatural. The Head Librarian rushes out the door after them and chases them down the steps.

HEAD LIBRARIAN
(very agitated)
Did you see it? What was it?

VENKMAN
We'll get back to you.

EXT. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY -- DAY.

Venkman, Stantz and Spengler head for their lab in Weaver Hall. Spengler makes rapid calculations as Venkman and Stantz argue.

VENKMAN
(steamed)
"Get her?" That was your whole plan? You call that science?

STANTZ
(exultant)
I guess I got a little overexcited. Wasn't it incredible! I'm telling you, this is a first. You know what this could mean to the University?

VENKMAN
(sarcastic)
Oh, yeah. This could be bigger than the microchip. They'll probably throw out the entire engineering department and turn their building over to us. We're probably the first serious scientists to ever molest a dead old lady.

SPENGLER
(consulting his mini-computer)
I wouldn't say the experience was completely wasted. Based on these new readings, I think we have an excellent chance of actually catching a ghost and holding it indefinitely.

Venkman stops dead in his tracks, stunned by the news. Stantz and Spengler continue walking.

STANTZ
(to Spengler; excited)
Then we were right! This is great. And if the ionization rate is constant for all ectoplasmic entities, I think we could really kick ass -- in the spiritual sense.

Venkman catches up with them again.

VENKMAN
Spengler, are you serious about actually catching a ghost?

SPENGLER
I'm always serious.

VENKMAN
(his mind reeling at the possibilities)

Wow!

EXT. WEAVER HALL -- A LITTLE LATER

They approach the entrance to the psychology department talking excitedly. Venkman stops at the door and turns to Spengler.

VENKMAN
Egon, I take back everything I ever said about you. Take this.
(he hands him a candy bar)
You earned it.

They enter the building with Spengler greedily devouring the candy bar.

INT. WEAVER HALL -- DAY

They walk through the hall, then down the stairs to the basement.

VENKMAN
(his mind racing)
If you guys are right, if we can actually trap a ghost and hold it somehow, I think I could win the Nobel Prize.

STANTZ
(protests)
If anyone deserves it, it's Spengler and me. We're doing all the hard research and designing the equipment.

VENKMAN
Yeah, but I introduced you guys. You never would've met if not for me. That's got to be worth something.

INT. THE BASEMENT -- DAY

A Workman in painter pants is at the door as Venkman, Stantz and Spengler approach and enter the lab. As soon as the door closes behind them, the Workman starts scraping their names off the door with a razor blade.

INT. THE LAB -- DAY

As they enter, janitorial and maintenance personnel are busy dismantling their apparatus and equipment. DEAN YAEGER is supervising. Venkman confronts him.

VENKMAN
(shocked)
I trust you're moving us to a better space somewhere on campus.

DEAN YAEGER

No, we're moving you OFF CAMPUS. The Board of Regents has decided to terminate your grant. You are to vacate these premises immediately.

VENKMAN

This is preposterous! I demand an explanation.

DEAN YAEGER

Fine. This University will no longer continue any funding of any kind for your group's activities.

VENKMAN

But why? The students love us!

DEAN YAEGER

Dr. Venkman, we believe that the purpose of science is to serve mankind. You, however, seem to regard science as some kind of "dodge" or "hustle." Your theories are the worst kind of popular tripe, your methods are sloppy and your conclusions are highly questionable. You're a poor scientist, Dr. Venkman, and you have no place in this department or in this University.

VENKMAN

I see.

STANTZ

(to Venkman)

You said you floored 'em at the Regents' meeting.

VENKMAN

(righteous)

Ray, I apologize.

(looking at Dean Yaeger)

I guess my confidence in the Regents was misplaced. They did this to Galileo, too.

DEAN YAEGER

It could be worse, Dr. Venkman. They took the astronomer Phileas and staked his head to the town gate.

EXT. COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY -- DAY -- A LITTLE LATER

Stantz and Venkman are sitting on a bench both looking desolate.

STANTZ

(shaking his head)

This is like a major disgrace. Forget M.I.T. or Stanford now ... they wouldn't touch us with a three-meter cattle prod.

VENKMAN

You're always so worried about your reputation. We don't need the University. Einstein did his best stuff while he was working as a patent clerk. They can't stop progress.

STANTZ

(not cheered)

Do you know what a patent clerk makes? I liked the University. They gave us money, they gave us the facilities and we didn't have to produce anything! I've worked in the private sector. They expect results. You've never been out of college. You don't know what it's like out there.

VENKMAN

(with visionary zeal)

Let me tell you, Ray, everything in life happens for a reason. Call it fate, call it luck, Karma, whatever. I think we were destined to get kicked out of there.

STANTZ

For what purpose?

VENKMAN

(with real conviction)

To go into business for ourselves.

Stantz is immediately intrigued by the idea but voices his reservations.

STANTZ

I don't know. That costs money. And the ecto-containment system we have in mind will require a load of bread to capitalize. Where would we get the money?

EXT. WIDE ANGLE VIEW OF MANHATTAN -- DAY

EXT. AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS -- DAY

Venkman, Stantz and Spengler emerge from the Irving Trust headquarters, all neatly dressed in suits.

VENKMAN

You'll never regret this, Ray.

STANTZ

(perturbed)

My parents left me that house, I was born there.

VENKMAN

You're not going to lose the house. Everybody has three mortgages these days.

STANTZ

But at nineteen percent interest! You didn't even bargain with the guy.

SPENGLER

(calculating)

Just for your information, Ray, the interest payments alone for the first five years come to over \$75,000.

VENKMAN

Will you guys relax? We are on the threshold of establishing the indispensable defense science of the next decade - Professional Paranormal Investigations and Eliminations. The franchise rights alone will make us wealthy beyond your wildest dreams.

STANTZ

But most people are afraid to even report these things.

VENKMAN

Maybe. But no one ever advertised before.

Stantz and Spengler exchange doubtful looks.

EXT. FIREHALL -- DAY

An abandoned brick, four-story fire station built by the city around the turn of the century. It bears a coat of faded red paint and legend above the garage door in chipped gilt letters: Engine Company #93. The garage doors open revealing Venkman standing in the white-tiled garage bay with a middle aged REAL ESTATE WOMAN wearing a blazer.

INT. GARAGE BAY -- DAY

Venkman is looking around.

R/E WOMAN

Besides this, you've got another substantial work area on the ground floor, office space, sleeping quarters and showers on the next floor, and you have your full kitchen on the top level. It's 10,000 square feet total.

SPENGLER

He comes out of the office area with a pocket calculator.

SPENGLER

It's 9,642.55 square feet.

The Realtor frowns at Spengler.

R/E WOMAN

What is he -- your accountant?

STANTZ

He is looking at the shiny brass fire pole.

STANTZ

(shouts, loving it)

Wow! Does this pole still work?

VENKMAN

(considering but not
wanting to appear too
eager)

This might do ... I don't know ... it just
seems kind of "pricey" for a fixer-upper,
don't you think? We're trying to keep our
costs down. You know how it is when you're
starting a new company.

R/E WOMAN

Yes, I know. What are you calling your
business?

STANTZ

Ghostbusters.

R/E WOMAN

Oh, well, this place is perfect for it.

EXT. UPPER WEST SIDE -- DAY

A high panoramic view of the city shows heavy traffic moving up and down
Central Park West on a beautiful sunny day.

EXT. 78th AND CENTRAL PARK WEST -- DAY

An unusual pre-war Gothic high-rise towers over the neighborhood
buildings. The top of the building includes an elaborate decorative
temple, complete with altar, stairs and Babylonian columns. The late
afternoon sun gives the structure an oddly menacing quality. The camera
PANS slowly down to the street as DANA BARRETT, an attractive woman in her
late twenties, comes walking up to the building carrying a cello case and
a shopping bag full of groceries. Guys on the street check her out as she
enters, but she coolly ignores them.

INT. HIGH-RISE APARTMENT BUILDING -- LOBBY -- DAY

Dana crosses the lobby and gets into the elevator.

INT. THIRTY FIFTH FLOOR -- DAY

Dana gets off the elevator and goes to the door of her apartment. As she
unlocks it, the door to the next apartment opens and Dana's neighbor,
LOUIS TULLY, peeks his head out the door. Louis is a shy nerd, hopelessly
in love with Dana.

LOUIS

Oh, Dana, it's you ...

DANA
(she's seen this before)
Hi, Louis.

LOUIS
... I thought it was the drug store.

DANA
Are you sick, Louis?

Louis has broken the ice. He confidently exits his apartment and approaches Dana. His door slams behind him as he leaves.

LOUIS
Oh, no, I feel great. I just ordered some more vitamins. I see you were exercising. So was I. I taped "20 Minute Workout" and played it back at high speed so it only took ten minutes and I got a really good workout. You wanna have a mineral water with me?

DANA
No thanks, Louis. I'm really tired. I've been rehearsing all morning.

LOUIS
Okay. I'll take a raincheck. I always have plenty of mineral water and other nutritious health foods, but you know that. Listen, that reminds me, I'm having a party for all my clients. It's gonna be my fourth anniversary as an accountant. I know you fill out your own tax return, but I'd like you to come being that you're my next door neighbor and all ...

DANA
Oh, that's nice, Louis. I'll stop by if I'm around.

LOUIS
You know you shouldn't leave your TV on so loud when you go out. That creep down the hall phoned the manager.

DANA
I thought I turned it off.
(she listens and hears
loud sound coming from
inside)
I guess I forgot.

Dana begins unlocking her door.

LOUIS

I climbed on the window ledge to see if I could disconnect the cable but I couldn't reach so I turned up the sound on my TV real loud so they'd think there was something wrong with everybody's TV. You know, you and I should really have keys to each other's apartment ...

Her door closes leaving Louis stranded. He walks back to his apartment muttering to himself.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

... in case of emergencies ...
(he discovers he has
locked himself out of his
apartment)
... like this one.

DANA'S APARTMENT -- DAY

A roomy, two-bedroom flat with a great view of the park.

She leaves the cello in the entrance hall, grabs the bag of groceries and goes through the living room toward the kitchen.

Remembering Louis, she stops at the TV set to turn it off, but a strange image on the screen catches her attention.

TV SCREEN

INT. CHILDREN'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Two children, a BOY and a GIRL, are asleep in bed when suddenly they are awakened by supernatural moaning and groaning.

THE CHILDREN

They scream and jump out of bed.

THE DOOR

Their MOTHER and FATHER, rush in to find the children cowering against the wall.

FATHER

What is it? What's wrong?

THE KIDS

Look!

They point at the closet.

MOTHER

(to Father)

Oh, dear. It's that darn ghost again.
Can't you do something about it.

FATHER
(helpless)
I've tried everything, honey! I guess we'll
just have to move.

The mother and the kids look at him with disappointment.

MOTHER
Gee, there must be a better way.

Stantz steps into the foreground.

STANTZ
Are you troubled by strange noises in the
night? Do you experience feelings of dread
in your basement or attic? Have you or your
family actually seen a spook, specter or
ghost? If the answer is yes, then don't
wait another minute. Just pick up the phone
and call the professionals -- Ghostbusters.

EXT. FIREHALL

Venkman, Stantz and Spengler are standing in front of the Ghostbusters'
sign. Spengler steps forward.

SPENGLER
(to camera)
Our courteous and efficient staff is on call
24 hours a day to serve all your supernatural
elimination needs.

INT. RECEPTION AREA

Janine is seen answering the telephone with a big fake smile on her face.

JANINE
(cheery)
Ghostbusters. We'll be right there.

INT. CHILDREN'S BEDROOM

Spengler is taking PKE readings along the baseboards. Stantz pops up from
under the bed.

STANTZ
(smiling proudly)
Got him! I don't think you'll have any more
trouble with that ghost.

FATHER, MOTHER AND VENKMAN

They all look as pleased as punch as Venkman hands the Father a bill.

FATHER
(looks at the total)
And it's economical, too!

MOTHER
How can we ever thank you?

VENKMAN
(big, cheesy smile)
All in a day's work, ma'am. After all ...
(to camera)
... We're Ghostbusters.
(he winks)

EXT. FRONT DOOR

Mother, Father and Kids wave goodbye to the Ghostbusters.

THE FAMILY
(sings)
If you have a ghost,
But you don't want to play host,
You can't sleep at all,
So who do you call ...
Ghostbusters - Ghostbusters.

VENKMAN, STANTZ AND SPENGLER

They smile at the camera as a phone number is supered on the screen.

GHOSTBUSTERS
(in unison)
We're ready to believe you,

Dana turns off the TV set and goes into the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN

Dana switches on the radio and starts unpacking groceries. She sets a loaf of bread and a carton of eggs on the counter and begins putting other items away in the pantry.

THE EGGS

The top of the carton pops open. Then, one by one, the eggs erupt and spill over onto the counter. As the liquid contents hit the countertop they sizzle. The eggs begin to fry on the formica surface.

DANA

She hears the sizzle, turns and sees the eggs frying. She gasps, then recovers and inspects the mess. She touches the counter gingerly, but it's not at all hot. Deeply perplexed, she stands there trying to think of an explanation. Then a strange new sound attracts her attention and she turns around to see where it's coming from.

Dana hears the sound of muffled chanting coming from the fridge. She pulls the door open and gets the shock of her life. The inside of the fridge has been transformed into the Gateway to another Realm -- a fiery path leading to a temple door. On each side of the door is a strange, snarling creature that could best be described as a TERROR DOG. Their front claws are raised toward each other in a symbolic pose. The incredible vision is accompanied by the unearthly chanting.

DANA

She stands there transfixed by horror, the flames reflecting in her eyes.

THE FRIDGE

The chanting gets more frenetic and ominous as the temple doors slowly begin to open.

DANA

She is paralyzed.

THE TEMPLE DOORS

They continue to open. We feel a terrible presence within.

THE PRESENCE
(whispers loudly and
hoarsely)
ZUUL!!!

DANA

She screams and slams the refrigerator door. Instantly, everything is normal again. She looks around the room.

THE EGGS

They are back in the carton, unbroken.

DANA

Fighting her fear, she turns back to the fridge and very slowly reaches for the handle. Then summoning all her courage, she yanks open the door. Ketchup, mustard, bottles of vitamins and other food items fall out of the rack on the inside of the refrigerator door. Dana sighs with relief as she sees nothing but the cool white porcelain interior of the fridge. She closes the door and stands there for a moment still shaken by the vision. Then she shakes her head and leaves the kitchen.

EXT. FIREHALL -- DAY

The garage bay door is open. Two painters on scaffolding are completing a paint job on the front of the structure in flat black paint. A carpenter finishes hanging a sign over the door. It reads: GHOSTBUSTERS.

Then Stantz comes driving up in a very long, gold 1959 Cadillac ambulance and turns into the garage bay of the firehall. The car has a battered look to it and rumbles noisily due to a broken muffler.

INT. GARAGE BAY -- DAY

Stantz hits the siren and flashes the emergency lights as he drives in. Venkman crosses to the car as Stantz jumps out enthusiastically.

STANTZ

Everybody can relax. I found the car. How do you like it?

VENKMAN

(not terribly pleased)

Do you think it's wide enough? How much?

STANTZ

Fourteen hundred.

Venkman steps on the front bumper and rocks it. It wallows badly.

STANTZ

Just needs a little suspension work ... And a muffler ... And maybe brakes.

RECEPTION AREA -- DAY

A bored-looking red-headed young woman, JANINE MELNITZ, sits in a swivel chair behind the reception desk, putting another coat of red polish on her heavily lacquered nails. Spengler is on his hands and knees wiring up the telephone system.

JANINE

(with a definitive Queens accent)

You're very handy, I can tell. I bet you like to read a lot, too.

SPENGLER

(looks up)

Print is dead.

JANINE

That's very fascinating to me. I read a lot myself. Some people think I'm too intellectual. But I think reading is a fabulous way to spend your spare time.

(he doesn't answer)

I also play racketball. Do you ever play?

SPENGLER

Is that a game?

JANINE

It's a great game! You should play sometime. I bet you'd be good. You seem very athletic. Do you have any hobbies?

SPENGLER

I collect spores, molds and fungus.

JANINE

Oh, that's very - unusual.

SPENGLER

I think it's the food of the future.

JANINE
Remind me not to go to lunch with you.

THE DOOR

Dana Barrett enters and looks around hesitantly,

VENKMAN

He springs into action.

VENKMAN
(all charm)
Hello. I'm Peter Venkman. May I help you?

DANA
Yes ... well ... I'm not sure. What I have
to say may sound a little ... unusual.

VENKMAN
We're all professionals here, Miss ...

DANA
Barrett. Dana Barrett.

They walk toward the inner office.

VENKMAN
Why don't you step into the office and we'll
talk about it.
(to Janine)
Hold all my calls, Janine.

JANINE
What calls?

Venkman frowns and exits with Dana.

INSERT -- TV MONITOR -- LATER

Dana is seen in close-up on a TV screen as she finishes telling about her
experience.

DANA
... and then I opened the door again but it
was gone. There was nothing there.

VENKMAN
(off-camera)
So what do you think it was?

INT. OFFICE -- SAME TIME

Dana is hooked up to a lie detector. Spengler is monitoring the readout
and videotaping the interview. Venkman and Stantz are listening intently,
waiting for Dana's assessment of her experience.

DANA
(after a long pause)
I think something in my refrigerator is
trying to get me.

Venkman stares at her, trying to make sense of her last statement.

VENKMAN
Generally, you don't see that kind of
behavior in a major appliance. What do you
think, Egon?

SPENGLER
(checking the polygraph)
She's telling the truth -- or at least she
thinks she is.

DANA
(defensive)
Why would anyone make up a thing like that?

VENKMAN
Some people like the attention. Some people
are just crazy.

STANTZ
(muses)
You know, Peter, this could be a past life
experience intruding on the present.

SPENGLER
Or even a race memory, stored in the
collective unconscious. And I wouldn't rule
out clairvoyance or telepathic contact either.

Dana starts laughing. They all regard her curiously.

DANA
(trying to be serious)
I'm sorry. It's just that I don't believe
in any of these things. I don't even know
my sign.

SPENGLER
(checks his notes)
You're a Scorpio with your moon in Leo and
Aquarius rising.

DANA
Is that good?

VENKMAN
It means you're bright, ambitious, outgoing
and very, very sexy,

Dana looks at Venkman, flattered by the remark but more than a little
suspicious of his motives.

DANA
Is that your professional opinion?

VENKMAN
It's in the stars.

STANTZ
Why don't I check out the building? It may
have a history of psychic turbulence.

VENKMAN
Good idea.
(to Dana)
Were any other words spoken that you
remember?

DANA
No, just that one word -- Zuul -- but I have
no idea what it means.

VENKMAN
Spengler, see if you can find the word
"Zuul" in any of the literature. I'll take
Miss Barrett home and check out her apartment.

INT. DANA'S APARTMENT -- LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The door opens and Dana enters the darkened flat with Venkman. She
switches on the light and leads him to the living room.

VENKMAN
Have you ever thought of moving out -- at
least until this disturbance blows over?

DANA
No. If I moved out now I'd be acknowledging
that what happened was real. I'm not ready
to do that.

Venkman sees the cello leaning up against the wall.

VENKMAN
You play the cello! It's my favorite
instrument.

DANA
Really? Do you have a favorite piece?

VENKMAN
(thinks)
I'd have to say Prokofiev's third concerto.

DANA
That's a violin concerto.

VENKMAN
Yeah, but it's got a great cello break.

He grabs the cello and starts playing it like a stand-up base. Dana takes the instrument out of his hands and gently puts it back in the case.

DANA

You really don't act like a scientist.

VENKMAN

No? What do I act like?

DANA

Like a used car salesman.

VENKMAN

Thanks.

(he gets down to business
and starts looking around
the apartment)

What's in there?

He points to a door.

DANA

That's the bedroom, but nothing ever
happened in there.

She takes off her jacket.

VENKMAN

(noticing her body)

That's too bad.

DANA

What?

VENKMAN

Nothing. Is that the kitchen?

He points to another door.

DANA

(nods)

Uh-huh.

VENKMAN

Well, let's check it out.

DANA

I'll wait here if you don't mind.

He enters the kitchen.

INT. THE KITCHEN -- DAY

The room is a real mess. Utensils are lying all over the floor. The cabinets and walls are splattered with food.

VENKMAN

(calls out)

You're quite a housekeeper.

DANA
(off-camera)
I told you, I ...

VENKMAN
I know. It happened by itself.

He scans the room with his monitoring device.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
Nothing.

He looks in a couple of cabinets, then confronts the refrigerator. With mild trepidation he grasps the door handle, then suddenly jerks it open. The handle comes off in his hand.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
Damn!

DANA
(off-camera)
Are you all right?

VENKMAN
Yeah, yeah.

He grips the side of the fridge door and pulls it open.

INT. LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dana stands there nervously watching the kitchen door. Finally, it opens and Venkman comes out munching an apple.

VENKMAN
There's nothing there now and I don't get any significant readings.

DANA
This is terrible. Either there's a monster in my kitchen or I'm completely crazy.

VENKMAN
If it's any comfort to you, I don't think you're crazy.

DANA
(laughs ironically)
Thanks. Coming from you that really means a lot to me.

VENKMAN
I'm a qualified psychologist. I've got a degree and everything. I believe that something happened here and I want to do something about it.

DANA
All right. What do you want to do?

VENKMAN
I think I should spend the night here.

DANA
(she's had enough)
That's it. Get out.

VENKMAN
On a purely scientific basis.

DANA
Out!

VENKMAN
I want to help you.

DANA
I'll scream.

VENKMAN
Don't scream.

DANA
(urging him to the door)
Then leave.

VENKMAN
Okay, okay. But if anything else happens,
you have to promise you'll call me.

DANA
(opening the door)
All right.

VENKMAN
Okay. Then I'll go.

DANA
Goodbye.

VENKMAN
(in the hall)
No kiss?

She closes the door in his face and triple locks it.

EXT. HALLWAY -- DAY

Venkman stands there with his nose flattened against Dana's door. He starts to leave just as Louis Tully pokes his head out the door hoping to see Dana. He jealously eyes Venkman. Venkman ignores Louis and gets on the elevator.

Louis spots his newspaper lying on the floor across the hall. Holding the door open with one foot, he reaches for the paper but can't quite stretch far enough. Trying another approach, he swings the door open, leaps for the paper and darts back to the door just as it slams shut in his face, locking him out again.

INT. FIREHALL KITCHEN -- NIGHT

Stantz and Spengler are eating Chinese food from several take-out containers. Venkman enters.

STANTZ

How was your date?

VENKMAN

It wasn't a date. It was an investigation.

SPENGLER

Did you see anything?

VENKMAN

Didn't see anything, Didn't get anything.
Nice girl - no ghost. I'm starting to
worry. You said your graph was pointing to
something big. You told me things were
going to start popping.

STANTZ

They will.

VENKMAN

Do you know when that might be? We're on
the brink of a very serious cash-flow problem.

He plucks a garlic shrimp from one of the Chinese food cartons and walks off disconsolately.

EXT. HOTEL SEDGEWICK -- NIGHT

Two uniformed DOORMEN help people in and out of taxis and limos under the hotel's elegant awning.

INT. HOTEL -- NIGHT

A "DO NOT DISTURB" sign hangs on the doorknob of Room 1210. Soft music is heard coming from the room.

INT. ROOM 1210 -- NIGHT

The room is dark but we can hear the sighs and heavy breathing of a man and woman making love on the bed. The camera PANS across the floor following a trail of dropped clothing -- a tuxedo jacket and cummerbund, white satin high heels, a lacy wedding gown, striped tuxedo trousers, satin ladies underpants, stockings and garters.

BRIDE (V.O.)

Aren't you glad we waited?

GROOM (V.O.)

I don't know. It probably would've been the
same.

BRIDE (V.O.)

(indignant)

Well, thanks a lot.

THE BED

The Groom turns his back to the Bride and pulls the sheet up to his neck.

BRIDE

What are you doing? Are you just going to
roll over and go to sleep?
(he doesn't respond)
I don't believe this.

She switches on the lamp on the nightstand and picks up a magazine.

THE AIR VENT

There is a throbbing shudder as if something powerful was rushing through the air duct. A hint of yellowy vapor wafts through the grating and into the room.

THE NIGHTSTAND

The travel clock reads 9:45 P.M. Suddenly there is an audible hiss, then the glass clockface cracks down the middle with a snap.

THE BRIDE

Startled, she looks at the clock and picks it up to examine it.

BRIDE

Roy? Your clock broke.

GROOM

Nice going, honey. It was brand new.

BRIDE

I didn't break your precious clock, Roy!

He gets up and heads for the bathroom.

BRIDE (CONT'D)

Now where are you going?

GROOM

To the bathroom, where do you think?

BRIDE

(to herself)
Have I done the right thing?

The Groom enters the bathroom and closes the door behind him. The sound of water running in the sink is heard. Then the Bride hears a sound like the noise a cat makes when trying to dislodge a hairball from its throat.

BRIDE

(calls out)
Roy? Are you all right?

The noise increases to the level of ten cats with hairballs.

BRIDE
(disgusted)
Hey, sweetheart, will you CUT THAT OUT!!!

GROOM (O.S.)
Uuuuuuugh!!

BRIDE
(getting quite nervous)
What's the matter, dear?

She gets out of bed just as he comes charging out, stuttering in stunned horror. She goes into the bathroom.

BRIDE (V.O.)
What did you do in here? It smells awful!!
OH ... Oh, no ... Oh, my God.

The Bride runs out of the bathroom into the arms of her husband who is on the telephone.

GROOM
... right ... It's smelling up the whole
suite ... I don't know ... It's just hanging
off the ceiling ... I've never seen anything
like this ... 1210 ... Quick ...

INT. FIREHALL OFFICE -- NIGHT

Janine turns off the light at her desk. She packs up her purse and puts on her coat. The phone rings. Janine answers it unenthusiastically.

JANINE
Ghostbusters ... Yes, it is ... Yes, of
course they're serious. You do! You have!
Yes, sir. Well, they're out on another case
now, but if you'll give me the address ...
Don't worry, they'll be totally discreet.

She hits an alarm button and a loud bell starts ringing frantically.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

The alarm sounds and everyone jumps up, scattering takeout cartons.

INT. DORM -- NIGHT

The alarm continues. Everyone enters in haste and scrambles into jumpsuits. There is much hopping on one leg and bumping into one another.

BRASS POLE

Fully suited, Venkman jumps on and slides down followed quickly by Spengler. Then Stantz jumps at it but hits it at the wrong angle. He slowly slides down out of sight with a stunned look on his face.

INT. GARAGE BAY -- EQUIPMENT RACKS -- NIGHT

Everyone pulls throwers, traps, packs and harnesses off the wall.

EXT. FIREHALL -- NIGHT

The garage door slides up and in a blaze of light and screeching tires, the ambulance squeals out and makes a right turn. The vehicle has been painted flat black and has been fitted with communication wafers and antennae. All the original lights have been replaced with purple and white strobes and the siren has been altered to emit a low, unearthly moaning. The purple and white strobe bars give the car a strange ultraviolet aura. It rounds the corner and heads up the West Side Highway.

EXT. HOTEL -- FRONT DOOR -- NIGHT

The black ambulance screeches up to the main entrance, siren blaring. Emblazoned on the door is the Ghostbusters' new logo. It's the international symbol of prohibition, a red circle with a diagonal red stroke across a ghost. The DOORMAN steps forward as Venkman, Stantz and Spengler leap out of the car. They open up the rear door and remove their equipment. People on the street stop and gawk.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY -- NIGHT

As the Ghostbusters enter, people turn and stare at their strange appearance. They all wear matching blue futuristic jumpsuits with proton packs strapped to their backs. They also wear brushed-metal, flip-down ecto-visors worn on the head like a welder's mask. Knee and elbow pads complete their strange outfits.

VENKMAN

He looks ill-at-ease and embarrassed by their outlandish getups as the HOTEL MANAGER descends on them accompanied by a Slavic MAINTENANCE MAN and a worried BELL CAPTAIN.

MANAGER

(agitated)

Thank you for coming so quickly. The guests are starting to ask questions and I'm running out of excuses.

STANTZ

Has this ever happened before?

MANAGER

Well, most of the original staff knows about the twelfth floor ... The disturbances, I mean ... But it's been quiet for years ... Up until two weeks ago ... It was never ever this bad, though.

STANTZ

Did you ever report it to anyone?

MANAGER

Heavens, no! The owners don't like us to even talk about it. I hoped we could take care of this quietly tonight.

STANTZ

Yes, sir. Don't worry. We handle this kind of thing all the time.

They cross the lobby to the elevators, attracting lots of curious interest from the hotel guests.

VENKMAN

A GUEST accosts him while they wait for an elevator.

GUEST

What are you supposed to be?

VENKMAN

Me? We're ... uh ... the exterminators.
Somebody saw a cockroach on the twelfth floor.

The Guest looks at Venkman, noting the heavy proton pack on his back, the odd-looking particle thrower and flipdown ecto-visor.

GUEST

That's gotta be some cockroach,

VENKMAN

Well, you can't be too careful with those babies.

The elevator arrives and he gets on with the others.

INT. THE ELEVATOR -- NIGHT

The Ghostbusters look nervous as they ride up the elevator.

STANTZ

I just realized something. We've never had a completely successful test with any of the equipment.

SPENGLER

I blame myself.

VENKMAN

So do I.

STANTZ

No sense worrying about it now.

VENKMAN

(doubtful)

Sure. Each of us is wearing an unlicensed nuclear accelerator on our back. No problem.

The elevator stops at the Twelfth Floor.

INT. TWELFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

The elevator doors open and Venkman peeks out into the hall. He steps out cautiously, followed by the others.

THE END OF THE HALL

A BELLBOY comes around the corner behind them, pushing a room service cart loaded with dirty dishes.

STANTZ

He hears the rattle of the dishes behind him, whirls and fires a stream of protons from his wand. Spengler is so keyed up, he too spins and fires wildly.

THE BELLBOY

He ducks as the particle streams blow the dishes off the cart and scorch holes in the wall behind him.

VENKMAN

(shouts)

Cease fire!

The Bellboy peeks out from behind the cart.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They breathe a sigh of relief.

STANTZ

(to the Bellboy)

Sorry, Buddy!

SPENGLER

We'd better adjust our streams.

He leads them down the hall to Room 1210.

INT. ROOM 1210 -- NIGHT

The Ghostbusters enter trepidatiously and start taking readings.

SPENGLER

(looking at his meters)

Something was definitely here.

VENKMAN

Yeah, I can smell it.

STANTZ

I'm getting high readings near the air vents. It must be using the duct system to get around. See, I told you we'd get something.

VENKMAN

So far all we got is a shit smell on the twelfth floor and we almost fried a Puerto Rican bellboy.

STANTZ
All right. Let's cool the negative vibes.
These things can sense them.

They exit the room.

INT. A CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Spengler makes his way down the hall reading valences at the door to each room. He knocks on one of the doors, then passes his sensor over the top of the door and down the jambs. Then he gets on his knees to read the crack at the bottom of the door. Suddenly the door opens and he looks up to see a really stunning woman wrapped in a bath towel with another towel twisted turban-style around her wet hair.

WOMAN
(noting his unusual attire)
Yes?

SPENGLER
(stands up)
Were you recently in the bathroom?

WOMAN
(sarcastic)
What on earth gave you that idea?

SPENGLER
(seriously)
The wet towels, residual moisture on your lower limbs and hair, the redness in your cheeks indicating ...

WOMAN
(cutting him off)
You're a regular Sherlock Holmes. Now what do you want?

SPENGLER
When you were in the bathroom, did you notice anything that was yellow and unusually smelly?

She slams the door in his face. Spengler shrugs and moves on.

INT. ANOTHER CORRIDOR -- SAME TIME

Stantz moves down the hall checking PKE valences.

HIS PKE METER

The needle jumps into the red.

STANTZ

He alerts Spengler through the walkie-talkie headset he wears.

STANTZ
(hushed)
Egon! I got something. I'm moving in.

Slowly and cautiously, he turns the corner at the end of the hall.
Suddenly, he sees the object of their search and freezes.

STANTZ
(frightened)
Yaaaaaaaaaah!

STANTZ' POV

The vapor is hunched over a room service cart loaded with dirty dishes.
It hangs there, translucent, foul, yellow, feeding off table scraps and
leftover beverages, knocking dishes off the cart and scattering refuse.
It looks like a misshapen potato with a pushed-in face and spindly arms.

SPENGLER
(over the walkie-talkie)
Ray! Where are you? Are you all right?

STANTZ
(amazed)
God, it's ugly!

THE VAPOR

It raises a half-empty bottle of wine to its gaping maw and chugs down the
liquid. The wine is visible as it pours down his gullet and passes
through his system, finally spilling through his body onto the floor.

STANTZ

He edges closer.

STANTZ
(whispers into his head
set)
I'm moving in. I don't think it's seen me
yet.

THE VAPOR

It crams some leftovers into its mouth and belches loudly.

STANTZ

He is growing increasingly more disgusted as the initial fear leaves him.

STANTZ
Ugh! What a slob! I'm going to take him.
(shouts at the vapor)
Freeze, Potato-Face!

He fires his particle thrower at the vapor.

THE VAPOR

It dodges Stantz' first shot and the ion stream tears away fifty feet of wallpaper in a searing ricochet. Then the vapor flies off down the hall, pulling the room service cart along in its wake.

STANTZ

He chases it down the hall, shouting into his headset.

STANTZ

He's getting away!

THE VAPOR

It reaches the end of the corridor but instead of turning, it passes right through the solid wall. The room service cart crashes into the wall, smashing dishes and sending the debris flying.

INT. A HOTEL ROOM -- NIGHT

A MAN is just pulling the plastic bag off his recently dry-cleaned white dinner jacket when the noxious vapor comes shooting through the wall. It blows right over him with a great rush of stinking wind and exits through the air vent.

THE MAN

He looks at the air vent then back at his dinner jacket which has turned several shades of sickly yellow and brown.

INT. A CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Venkman is alone in a long hallway. He leans against the wall, clearly not taking any of this seriously. He hauls on a cigarette and mutters to himself.

VENKMAN

This bites it. I actually work for a company called Ghostbusters.

Suddenly from the end of the hallway comes the sound of rattling dishes and silverware, accompanied by footsteps. Venkman's PKE meter beeps and a red light winks on.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)

(into the walkie-talkie)

Ray -- Something's here.

STANTZ (O.S.)

(crackling over the communicator)

Where are you, Pete?

VENKMAN

(backing away)

Third floor. Get down here,

STANTZ
Sit tight. I'm on my way.

VENKMAN
Well, hurry up.
(checks his meter)
The needle's going wild.

VENKMAN'S POV

A room service cart sails past along a perpendicular hallway and rolls out of sight. Then immediately behind it comes a reeking yellow haze. It is the vapor. It doesn't follow the cart but instead makes the turn at the end of the hall and hovers there, apparently looking at Venkman.

VENKMAN

He's scared now.

VENKMAN
(into his head set)
It's here, Ray. It's looking at me.

STANTZ
(on the radio)
Don't move. It won't hurt you.

VENKMAN
How do you know?

STANTZ
I don't know. I'm just guessing.

Venkman sees the vapor start down the hall toward him.

VENKMAN
(panicking)
Well, I think you guessed wrong. Here he comes!

THE VAPOR

It flies down the hall toward Venkman.

INT. STAIRWELL -- SAME TIME

Stantz runs downstairs taking them three at a time as Venkman is heard screaming over the radio.

VENKMAN
(screaming)
Veeaaaaaahh!

INT. THIRD FLOOR

Stantz comes running around the corner and sees Venkman flat on his back, flailing his arms and legs frantically, Sickening, yellow-green ectofluid covers his head and chest.

VENKMAN
Aagghh -- aaagggghh -- uhh -- uhh -- It slimed
me! It slimed me!

Suddenly Spengler's voice crackles over the communicator.

SPENGLER (V.O.)
Ray! It's here! It just went into the
Banquet Room on the third floor.

Stantz helps Venkman to his feet and they rush off.

INT. BANQUET ROOM -- NIGHT

The Ghostbusters enter a large dark room with a high, ornately-corniced ceiling and a crystal chandelier hanging in the center.

STANTZ
Visors down. Full stream.

They flip down their visors and scan the room.

STANTZ

He peruses the room but sees nothing. He looks up and scans the ceiling.
A form flits behind a carved beam.

STANTZ
There! On the ceiling!
(the others look)
Come on down here, you slug!

Stantz drops to one knee and fires at the vapor.

THE CEILING

The vapor dodges as the beam blasts a sizable chunk of plaster out of the ceiling and destroys half the crystal chandelier.

VENKMAN

He fires at it, too, wasting the rest of the chandelier but the vapor dodges away. They are both ready to start blazing away again when Spengler stops them.

SPENGLER
(urgently)
Wait! Wait! There's something I forgot to
tell you.

VENKMAN
What?

SPENGLER
(emphatic)
Don't cross the beams.

VENKMAN
Why not?

SPENGLER
Trust me. It will be bad.

VENKMAN
What do you mean "bad?"

SPENGLER
It's hard to explain, but try to imagine
all life as you know it stopping
instantaneously and finding yourself
confined forever in another dimension.

Venkman considers his own safety and decides to take charge.

VENKMAN
(with military authority)
That's it! I'm taking charge. You guys
are dangerous.

They yield command to him.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
Now nobody does anything unless I order you
to, okay?

STANTZ AND SPENGLER

They nod obediently and glance nervously at the vapor, still hovering near
the ceiling.

VENKMAN
Let's do it. This thing's not going to hang
around all day waiting for us. Ray, give me
one stream wide right of it. I'll go wide
left. Now!

STANTZ AND VENKMAN

They trigger their throwers and two streams are emitted, shooting off to
either side of the entity. The entity swirls but stays between the beams.

VENKMAN
(talking them through it)
Good ... Good ... Nice and wide ... Move
with him ... Easy. Hold steady.

THE VAPOR

It bobs and weaves, trying to slip past the visible lines of light, but
Venkman and Stantz manage to keep it boxed in.

VENKMAN
(speaking clearly)
Now, very slowly, Ray, let's tighten it up.
You hold steady. I'm coming down.

They start closing the distance between their ion streams.

SPENGLER
(cautious)
Don't cross them! Watch it!

STANTZ

The vapor is trying to get around his streams, causing him to waver as Venkman's stream gets closer and closer.

VENKMAN
Spengler! A little help! Cut him off.

THE VAPOR

It slips past Stantz and races for the air vent.

SPENGLER

He fires with such poor marksmanship that he comes only centimeters from crossing Venkman's stream. Venkman jerks away to avoid crossing Spengler's erratic bursts and maneuvers. Together they do extensive damage to the walls.

INT. CORRIDOR -- SAME TIME

The Hotel Manager and the Maintenance Man look nervously at each other as they hear the sound of heavy property damage coming from the banquet room.

INT. BANQUET ROOM - NIGHT

Stantz has the thing cornered to some extent.

STANTZ
(to Venkman)
I'll nudge it out of the corner. You cut off the left side.

Stantz moves closer to the wall and Venkman counters to trap the vapor again.

VENKMAN
(encouragingly)
You got it! That's good. Easy now.

They manage to guide the vapor out into the center of the room, all the time closing the figurative box around it.

STANTZ
It's working!

SPENGLER
Easy ... Easy ... I'm going to throw in my trap now.

Spengler jerks his leg up, triggering a release on his equipment belt. A cord and foot pedal fall to the floor. At the end of the cord there is a long, flat black metal box two feet long, four inches wide and two high.

He kicks the box under the apparition and toes the foot pedal into position. The apparition blasts them with a flatulent gust. They recoil but hold the configuration.

STANTZ

Easy ... Easy ... Open the trap now!!

Spengler stomps on the foot pedal and with a loud electronic snap the long metal box on the floor sprays up a fixed multidimensional inverted pyramid of bright, beaded white light.

Stantz and Venkman herd the vapor to the top of the trap.

VENKMAN

Watch it ... Watch it ... Now!

Spengler stomps the foot pedal again.

Suddenly there is a loud double electronic snap and a blinding flash of pink light. Wisps of brown smoke and carbonized particles rise to the ceiling in a large residual puff. The Ghostbusters stand there for a long moment not quite sure the battle is over.

SPENGLER

He cautiously approaches the trap end looks at the valence indicator on it.

SPENGLER

(confirms it)

He's in here.

STANTZ AND VENKMAN

They whoop in triumph -- and considerable relief.

STANTZ

(pulling off his slimy
visor)

Well! That wasn't so bad, was it?

Venkman looks askance at him.

VENKMAN

Are you kidding? That was like trying to
push smoke into a bottle with a baseball
bat. Now what do we do with it?

He looks at Stantz.

STANTZ

He looks at Spengler.

SPENGLER

He shrugs.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
(not pleased)
We'll have to work on that.
(to Stantz)
Grab that, would you, Ray?

They exit, leaving Stantz to deal with the trap.

INT. LOBBY -- NIGHT

The elevator opens and the Ghostbusters emerge. Stantz holds the trap by it's foot pedal. He dangles it away from his body as if it is something putrid. The Hotel Manager approaches them.

HOTEL MANAGER
What happened? Did you see it? What is it?

Stantz removes his infra visor and wipes some slime off his face. He is beaming,

STANTZ
We got it!

He holds up the trap.

HOTEL MANAGER
What was it? Will there be any more of them?

STANTZ
Sir, what you had there was what we refer to as a focused, non-terminal repeating phantasm or a Class Five Full Roaming Vapor ... A real nasty one, too.

VENKMAN
(starts writing a bill)
That'll be \$4,000 for the entrapment plus \$1,000 for proton recharge and storage.

HOTEL MANAGER
(shocked)
Five thousand dollars! I won't pay it. I had no idea it would be so much.

VENKMAN
Fine. We'll let it go again.
(calls out)
Ray! Bring it back.

HOTEL MANAGER
No! All right. Anything.

EXT. HOTEL SEDGEWICK -- NIGHT

The Ghostbusters come through the revolving doors and see a real mob scene on the street. A large crowd has gathered around the Ectomobile and the police have put up a barricade to hold them back. Photographers are taking pictures of it and several reporters are there waiting for them.

As the Ghostbusters cross to the vehicle, people in the crowd cheer and the reporters start firing questions at them.

REPORTER #1

Nate Cohen. I'm with the Post. What happened in there?

REPORTER #2

Did you really see a ghost?

REPORTER #3

Is this some kind of a stunt?

STANTZ

(holding up the trap;
loudly to the crowd)

We got one!

REPORTER #1

Can we see it?

STANTZ

Uh...I'm afraid not.

VENKMAN

This is not a sideshow! We're serious scientists.

REPORTER #4

What proof do you have that what you saw was real?

STANTZ

Proof? Well, the manager of the Sedgewick just paid us five big ones to get something out of there. Is that real enough for you?

REPORTER #2

Are you saying that ghosts really exist?

VENKMAN

(pitching)

Not only do they exist, they're all over the place! And that's why we're offering this vitally important service to people in the whole tri-state area. We're available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We have the tools and we have the talent. No job too small, no fee too big. We're ready for anything.

SPENGLER

He's confused by all the commotion and the barrage of questions from the press. A STREET PUNK in the crowd behind the police barricades keeps hissing at him.

STREET PUNK

Mister! Hey, Mister! Come here! Mister.

He finally gets Spengler's attention and waves him over.

STREET PUNK (CONT'D)
Hey, Mister! Can I see those guns?

SPENGLER
They're not guns. They're particle throwers.

STREET PUNK
Yeah, yeah. I just want to see 'em.

SPENGLER
I couldn't do that. You might hurt someone.

He turns away.

STREET PUNK
Wait! Wait! Let me ask you something. If you like shot Superman with those guns, would he feel it or what?

SPENGLER
(with authority)
On Earth -- no. But on Krypton we could slice him up like Oscar Mayer Bologna.

STREET PUNK
Wow!

VENKMAN AND STANTZ

They are in high spirits as they continue to field questions. A minicam is videotaping them.

MINICAM REPORTER
Sing the song from your commercial.

STANTZ
(reluctant)
No, we have to get back and ...

MINICAM REPORTER
(wheedling)
Come on. It's free advertising.

VENKMAN
There's a thought. Hit it, Ray.

Stantz shrugs and starts singing the Ghostbusters song with embarrassed restraint.

STANTZ
(singing)
Ghostbusters ... If you have a ghost
But you don't want to play host ...

Venkman joins in with a harmony and they continue with more confidence.

STANTZ & VENKMAN

(singing)

They can be bad houseguests
And all-night pests ...
You can't sleep at all
So who do you call?

Spengler joins them for the big finish with no perceivable sense of melody or rhythm.

ALL TOGETHER

(singing)

Ghostbusters ... Ghostbusters.

At the moment a flashbulb goes off freezing the Ghostbusters in a still-frame that becomes a front-page news photo.

FRONT PAGE

The New York Post carries the picture with a big headline reading:
GHOSTBUSTERS?

The Ghostbusters' song really starts to cook with full production now as a MONTAGE begins.

TELETYPE MACHINES

A bank of whirring, clicking teleprinters spits reams of hard copy and wire service photos depicting the team at work.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Hello, America. This is Ronald Gwynne reporting from United Press International in New York. Throughout my entire career as a journalist I have never reported anything as exciting and incredible as the trapping of an actual supernatural entity by a team of men based in this city who call themselves Ghostbusters.

INT. FIREHALL

The team hears the alarm buzzer. They leap from their beds and slide down the pole.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Now, most of us have never even heard of a floating, slime-like substance called ectoplasm, but these gentlemen claim we will be seeing a lot more of it than ever before.

EXT. YANKEE STADIUM -- DAY

The Ectomobile is parked at home plate. The Ghostbusters enter the Yankee dugout as a concerned Groundskeeper looks on.

EXT. TIMES SQUARE -- NIGHT

The electronic Seiko sign flashes the news: Ghostbusters Nab Phantom Bat Boy at Yankee Stadium.

FULL SCREEN VIDEO OF ROGER GRIMSBY

ROGER GRIMSBY

Good morning. Today the entire Eastern Seaboard is alive with talk of hundreds of reported incidents involving multiple sightings in what can only be described as extreme events of paranormal extraphenomenical proportions. It seems everybody is willing to bring their old ghosts and skeletons out of the closet. Roy Brady reports from New York.

EXT. IN FRONT OF FIREHALL

Minicam set up in street.

ROY BRADY

Thank you, Roger. Everybody's heard ghost stories around the campfire. Heck, my grandma used to spin yarns about a spectral locomotive that used to rocket past the farm where she grew up. Now, as if some unseen authority had suddenly given permission, thousands of people here are talking about encounters they claim to have had with ghosts.

Music and Teleclicker up.

EXT. TUDOR CITY -- DAY

The Ectomobile pulls up to a Gothic apartment building in the complex. The Ghostbusters jump out, end hurry into the lobby.

A POLICEMAN

He notices that the Ectomobile is illegally parked and walks over to gawk at the odd vehicle.

THE ECTOMOBILE

As the Policeman approaches, a set of double antennae on the roof are automatically activated. They rotate and tilt to point at the Policeman. The Policeman is a little unnerved by the antennae and starts to walk around the car, but the antennae follow him with unerring accuracy.

THE POLICEMAN

Eager to get away from the vehicle, he quickly writes a parking ticket and sticks it under the windshield wiper.

THE WINDSHIELD

As the Policeman withdraws his hand, the ticket heats up, bursts into flame and burns up.

THE POLICEMAN

He stares at the ashes for a moment then slowly backs away from the car.

INT. ECTOMOBILE -- NIGHT

Stantz is driving. Spengler and Venkman are asleep. They all look completely exhausted.

THE JOE FRANKLIN SHOW -- ON CAMERA

JOE FRANKLIN

Ray, every time I hear about your company, I can't help thinking about the old Bob Hope movie.

STANTZ

Actually, Joe, the title of that film was "Ghostbreakers," and Olsen and Johnson did one called "Ghost Catchers" and the Bowery Boys did "Ghost Chasers," "Hold That Ghost," "Spooks Run Wild," "Spook Busters," and "Spook Chasers."

JOE FRANKLIN

Well, in any case, I guess there's one big question on everybody's mind and you're certainly in a position to answer it for us: Have you seen Elvis and how is he?

INT. RADIO STUDIO

LARRY KING is doing his phone-in talk show.

LARRY KING

Our phone-in topic today: Ghosts and Ghostbusting. The controversy builds as more sightings are reported and some maintain that these professional paranormal eliminators in New York are the cause of it all. Why did everything start just when these guys went into business?

EXT. LINCOLN CENTER -- DAY

Larry King continues voice-over as members of the New York Philharmonic come out the stage door of Avery Fisher Hall.

LARRY KING (V.O.)

Should they be allowed to carry around unlicensed proton mass drivers? And what's wrong with ghosts anyway? Call us ... All our lines are open. Hello, Larry King.

Dana is walking with another man, a VIOLINIST, when she sees Venkman sitting on the edge of the fountain in the center of the plaza. She asks the Violinist to wait and crosses to Venkman.

FEMALE CALLER (V.O.)

Hello, Larry? I think what Dr. Spengler said in his interview with you last night was true. The world is in for a "psychic shock" 'cause like my aunt reads coffee grounds and she ...

(fade out)

VENKMAN AND DANA

She is surprised and a little bit pleased to see him.

VENKMAN

Great rehearsal.

DANA

You heard it?

VENKMAN

You're the best one in your row.

DANA

(skeptical)

Most people can't hear me with the whole orchestra playing. You're good.

VENKMAN

I don't have to take abuse from you. I have other people dying to give it to me.

DANA

I know. You're quite a celebrity these days. Are you here because you have info ... about my case?

VENKMAN

(looks at the Violinist
who appears to be getting
impatient)

Who's the stiff?

DANA

The "stiff?" He happens to be one of the finest musicians in the world and a wonderful man.

VENKMAN

Is he dying or something?

They glance at the Violinist.

THE VIOLINIST

He takes a hit of nasal spray in each nostril.

DANA AND VENKMAN

She looks at him trying to decide whether she likes him or not.

DANA

He is a very close friend. Do you have some explanation of what happened in my apartment?

VENKMAN

Yes, but I have to tell you in private at a fine restaurant.

DANA

Can't you tell me now?

VENKMAN

I'll cancel the reservation, I found the name "Zuul" in ...

(reading)

The Roycastle Guide to Secret Societies and Sects. I don't suppose you've read it.

DANA

You must have gotten the last copy.

VENKMAN

Well, the name Zuul refers to a demi-god worshipped around 6000 B.C. by the ...
What's that say?

DANA

Hittites, the Mesopotamians and the Sumerians. "Zuul was the Minion of Gozer."

VENKMAN

"Gozer" -- he was very big in the Sumerian religion. One of their gods.

DANA

What's he doing in my refrigerator.

VENKMAN

I'm checking on that. I think we should meet Thursday night at nine to talk about it.

DANA

I don't think so. I'm busy Thursday night.

VENKMAN

(persists)

You think I enjoy giving up my evenings to spend time with clients? I'm making an exception because I respect you as an artist and as a dresser.

DANA

(laughs)

All right. Since you put it that way.

VENKMAN

I'll pick you up at your place. I'll bring
along the Roylance Guide -- we can read
after we eat.

DANA

I've got to go now.

She walks toward the Violinist. Venkman shouts after her.

VENKMAN

Remember. I'm the only one standing between
you and a heavy Hittite.

She starts walking away.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)

(calls after her)

I'll pick you up at your place.

DANA

She waves goodbye and rejoins the Violinist,

VIOLINIST AND DANA

VIOLINIST

(jealous)

Who was that?

DANA

Oh, he's an old professor of mine.

VIOLINIST

(doubtful)

Really?

DANA

Yes. He's smarter than he looks.

They walk off.

INT. RECEPTION AREA -- DAY

Janine is handling a steady barrage of phone calls, switching from one
line to the other. WINSTON ZEDDEMORE, a large, impressive-looking black
man sits across from her filling out a job application.

JANINE
(answering a call)
GHOSTBUSTERS -- please hold.
(switches)
Good afternoon, GHOSTBUSTERS -- please hold.
(switches back)
Yes, can I help you?
(pause)
Yes ... yes, Is it just a mist or does it
have arms and legs ...? Uh-huh ... Well,
the soonest we could possibly get to you
would be a week from Friday ... I'm sorry,
but we're completely booked until then ...
Uh-huh ... Well, all I can suggest is that
you stay out of your house until we can get
to you. Thank you.

She hangs up.

WINSTON
Let me ask you something. The ad in the
paper just said "Help Wanted." What's the
job?

JANINE
I really don't know, Mr. Zeddemore. They
just told me to take applications and ask
you these questions.
(she reads from a
questionnaire as if for
the hundredth time)
Do you believe in U.F.O.'s, astral
projection, mental telepathy, ESP,
clairvoyance, spirit photography,
full-trance mediums, telekinetic movement,
black and/or white magic, pyramidology, the
theory of Atlantis, the Loch Ness Monster,
or in general in spooks, spectres, wraiths,
geists and ghosts?

WINSTON
Not really. However, if there's a
semi-regular paycheck in it I'll believe
anything you say.

EXT. FIREHALL -- SAME TIME

A gaggle of autograph hounds is waiting on the street as Ecto One pulls
in. The front of the building now bears a big neon sign with the
Ghostbusters logo on it.

INT. GARAGE BAY -- DAY

Venkman and Stantz disembark. They carry a couple of traps apiece. Their
jumpsuits are covered with smoldering ecto-slime. The Ectomobile looks
like it's been through a war.

STANTZ
(exhausted)
Boy, that was a rough one.

VENKMAN
I can't take much more of this. The pace
is killing me.

RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Venkman enters with Stantz, crosses to Janine and drops a paid invoice on her desk.

VENKMAN
Here's the paper on the Brooklyn job. She
paid with a Visa card.

JANINE
(hands a sheaf of work
orders to Stantz)
Here are tonight's calls.

STANTZ
(shuffles through them)
Oh, no. Two more free-roaming repeaters.

JANINE
And this is Winston Zeddemore. He came
about the job.

STANTZ
Hi. Ray Stantz. Pete Venkman.

They shake hands.

JANINE
(to Venkman)
And someone from the EPA is here to see you.

VENKMAN
The EPA? What's he want?

JANINE
I didn't ask him. All I know is that I
haven't had a break in two weeks and you
promised you'd hire more help.

VENKMAN
(surly)
Janine, I'm sure a woman with your
qualifications would have no trouble finding
a top flight job in the housekeeping or food
service industry.

JANINE
Oh, really? Well, I've quit better jobs
than this one, believe me.

He exits.

STANTZ

He scans Winston's resume, ignoring the flare-up between Janine and Venkman. They start downstairs to the storage facility.

STANTZ

Very impressive resume. Electronic countermeasures, Strategic Air Command ... Black belt in Karate ... Small arms expert ... Mr. Zeddemore, as you may have heard, we locate ghosts and spirits, trap them with streams of concentrated quantum energy and remove them from people's homes, offices and places of worship.

WINSTON

Yeah, I heard that. Now tell me what you really do.

INT. THE OFFICE -- SAME TIME

The walls are plastered with newspaper and magazine stories on Ghostbusters. WALTER PECK, junior E.P.A. administrator, is reading one of the articles when Venkman walks in.

VENKMAN

Can I help you?

PECK

(turns all business)

I'm Walter Peck. I represent the Environmental Protection Agency, Third District.

VENKMAN

(not impressed)

Great! How's it going?

PECK

Are you Peter Venkman?

VENKMAN

Yes, I'm Doctor Venkman.

Peck looks at Venkman's soiled jumpsuit.

PECK

Exactly what are you a doctor of, Mr. Venkman?

VENKMAN

I have Ph.D's in psychology and parapsychology.

PECK

I see. And now you catch ghosts?

VENKMAN

You could say that.

PECK

And how many ghosts have you caught, Mr. Venkman?

VENKMAN

I'm not at liberty to say.

PECK

And where do you put these ghosts once you catch them?

VENKMAN

In a storage facility.

PECK

And would this storage facility be located on these premises?

VENKMAN

Yes, it would.

PECK

And may I see this storage facility?

VENKMAN

No, you may not.

PECK

And why not, Mr. Venkman?

VENKMAN

Because you didn't say the magic word.

PECK

(sighs)

And what is the magic word, Mr. Venkman?

VENKMAN

The magic word is "please."

Peck laughs nervously.

PECK

May I please see the storage facility?

VENKMAN

Why do you want to see it?

PECK

Well, because I'm curious. I want to know more about what you do here. Frankly, there have been a lot of wild stories in the media and we want to assess any possible environmental impact from your operation. For instance, the storage of noxious, possibly hazardous waste materials in your basement. Now either you show me what's down there or I come back with a court order.

VENKMAN
(he's had it)
Go ahead! Get a court order. Then I'm
gonna sue your ass off for wrongful
prosecution.

PECK
(exiting)
Have it your way, Mr. Venkman.

VENKMAN
(shouts after him)
Hey! Make yourself useful! Go save a tree!

INT. FIREHALL BASEMENT -- SAME TIME

Spengler is at the work bench repairing a damaged proton pack. The place is a mess with equipment, work orders, parts, catalogs and old lunches piled everywhere. Half the room has been sealed off from floor to ceiling with concrete blocks to form a storage facility for captured spirits. Winston is standing at a viewing slit staring into the storage facility.

STANTZ

He inserts a trap into a metal-lined slot in the wall of the storage facility. Spengler crosses to a control console to assist him.

STANTZ
(pushing buttons)
Set entry grid.

SPENGLER
Neutronize. System shut.

He pushes more buttons and the slot lights up. Several grating electronic snaps are heard, like the sound of bugs being fried on an outdoor insect light. Then Stantz withdraws the trap and tosses it into a bin marked: FOR RECHARGE.

SPENGLER (CONT'D)
I've got to sleep.

STANTZ
I need two new purge valves. How's the grid
around the storage facility holding up?

SPENGLER
I'm worried, Ray. It's getting crowded in
there. And all my recent data points to
something big on the bottom.

WINSTON
(concerned)
What do you mean "big?"

Spengler picks up a Hostess Twinkie from the workbench.

SPENGLER

Well, let's say this Twinkie represents the normal amount of psychokinetic energy in the New York area. According to this morning's PKE sample, the current level in the city would be a Twinkie 35 feet long weighing approximately six hundred pounds.

WINSTON

That's a big Twinkie.

STANTZ

We could be on the verge of a fourfold crossover ... or worse. If what we're seeing indicates a massive PKE surge, we could experience an actual rip.

Spengler nods gravely. Venkman enters looking very concerned.

VENKMAN

Egon, how's the grid around the storage facility holding up?

STANTZ

It's not good, Pete.

WINSTON

Tell him about the Twinkie.

Venkman lets that remark go and crosses to a TV monitor linked to a camera inside the storage facility.

VENKMAN

(peering)

I can't look anymore. It's too depressing.

THE MONITOR.

We zoom in on the monitor and get our first real look inside the storage facility. It is a bleak repository for souls of many species. Strange lights, mists and spectral shapes waft about aimlessly. Human-like figures lean against the walls in despairing convict poses. Others flit and hang on the ceiling. It is a sad and frightening limbo and a most unholy makeshift asylum.

EXT. MANHATTAN SKYLINE -- NIGHT

A mysterious cloud takes shape and hovers over Dana's apartment building. Then a strange glow starts to radiate from the temple-like structure on the roof.

EXT. THE TEMPLE -- NIGHT

The moon shines through the odd cloud configuration, illuminating the ornate temple door with its two stone Terror Dogs posed rampant on either side of the portal.

TERROR DOG

Its hideous stone features are bathed in moonlight. The camera PANS down its grotesque body to one of its claws. Suddenly there is a hiss and an audible crack of disintegrating mortar as one of its stone talons comes to life.

ITS HEAD

The stone figure opens its eyes, revealing glowing red pupils beneath the scaly lids.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Dana gets off the elevator and immediately hears loud music blasting from Louis' apartment as his party hits full swing. She tiptoes past his door but despite the loudness of the music, Louis somehow senses her presence and comes rushing out into the hall.

LOUIS

Oh, Dana, it's you.

DANA

Hi, Louis.

LOUIS

Hey, it's crazy in here. You're missing a classic party.

DANA

Well, actually Louis I have a friend coming by.

LOUIS

Great! Bring her, too. But you better hurry. I made nachos with non-fat cheese and they're almost gone. I'll make some more though.

DANA

(entering her apartment)

Fine, Louis. We'll stop in for a drink.

LOUIS

I got the Twister game for later ...

Dana closes the door leaving Louis alone in the hall, once again locked out of his own apartment.

LOUIS (CONT'D)

(knocking on his door)

Hey. Lemme in ...

INT. DANA'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

She enters and takes off her coat. She's wearing dance clothes and appears to be really tired. She sits down in an overstuffed chair and takes off her leg warmers. Then leans back and closes her eyes. It is very quiet. Something dreadful is about to happen. Then it happens.

The phone rings so loudly it makes Dana jump. She picks it up.

DANA

Hello ... Oh, hi Mom. Yes ... yes.
Everything's fine. No ... nothing. Just
that one time ... I am ... I will ... I
won't ... Mother! I'm all right. I told
you. Everything's fine ...! All right.
I'll talk to you tomorrow ... I promise.
'Bye.

She hangs up the phone, leans her head back and closes her eyes again. We hold on her for a long beat.

INT. THE KITCHEN DOOR NIGHT

An eerie light is seen coming through the cracks around the door.

DANA

She sits up in surprise and looks at the kitchen door.

DANA

Oh, shit!

She starts to get up but suddenly a pair of scaly, inhuman hands rip out of the chair cushion on either side of her and clutch her around the waist. She screams and tries to break their grip, but another pair of claws tears through the upholstery and grabs her around the chest and neck, pinning her to the chair.

THE CHAIR

As if drawn by a powerful force, the chair with Dana in it slides across the living room floor toward the kitchen door.

THE KITCHEN DOOR

The whole door is now pulsing.

DANA

She is horrified.

THE KITCHEN DOOR

It swings open, revealing a fiery chamber where the kitchen used to be. One of the Terror Dog creatures seen earlier in the fridge is standing there waiting for Dana with outstretched claws.

DANA

She screams as the chair propels her into the kitchen. Then the door swings shut behind her.

EXT. DANA'S ROOFTOP -- NIGHT

A bright flash shoots out from the center of the pyramid, lighting up the roof of Dana's building.

ROOF TEMPLE

All is as before except that both stone Terror Dogs are ominously missing from the structure.

INT. LOUIS' APARTMENT -- SAME TIME

Louis is playing the perfect host to his clients, a general cross-section of nerds and nerdettes, The music is much too loud and the guests are scattered about the living room in small groups making dull conversation.

LOUIS

He is emptying ashtrays and cleaning them with Windex. A TALL WOMAN approaches him.

TALL WOMAN

Louis, do you have any Excedrin or Extra Strength Tylenol?

LOUIS

I have acetacylasilic acid but generic from Walgreens cause I can get 600 tables for 35% less than the cost of 300 name brand. Is it a headache?

The woman moves away.

THE BUFFET TABLE

Two stiff men are helping themselves. One is about to bite into some lox when Louis joins them.

LOUIS

That's Nova Scotia salmon. The real thing. It costs \$24.95 a pound but really \$12.48 a pound net after tax. I'm writing this whole party off as a promotional expense. That's why I invited clients instead of friends. Try that Brie, it's dynamite at room temperature. Maybe I should turn the heat up a bit ...

A SECOND WOMAN moves up to Louis.

WOMAN #2

C'mon Louis, maybe if we dance other people will start.

They start to dance.

The doorbell rings. Louis bolts for the door hoping it's Dana. It's another couple. Louis escorts them in and take, their coats.

LOUIS

Everybody, this is Ted and Annette Fleming. Ted has a small carpet cleaning business in receivership, but Annette is drawing a salary from a deferred bonus from two years ago and the house has \$15,000 left at eight percent.

He goes to the bedroom door with their coats and opens it.

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

On the bed, standing up on all four legs, is a bristling, panting, live Terror Dog. Too preoccupied to notice it, Louis reflexively tosses the coats onto the bed. They both land on the Terror Dog's head.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

Louis comes out of the bedroom and closes the door. Then from within there issues forth a tremendous roar that freezes the quest.

LOUIS

Okay. Who brought the dog?

BEDROOM DOOR

An instant later, the Terror Dog bursts right through the door. Wood chips and splinters shower the guests.

THE GUESTS

They drop their drinks and canapes as the Terror Dog lands in the center of the room, snarling hellishly.

It quickly scans the room, looking for Louis.

LOUIS

He yelps and runs for the door.

TERROR DOG

He lunges after Louis, but Louis gets out just in time and slams the door behind him.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Louis tears off down the hall, bellowing. The Terror Dog bursts through the door, lands in the hall and runs after him.

Louis ducks into the elevator.

EXT, DANA'S BUILDING NIGHT

A DOORMAN stands at his post near the revolving door, Two elegantly dressed visitors wait as he phones to announce them to one of the building residents. Suddenly Louis comes running out of the door.

LOUIS
Help! Help! There's a bear loose in my
apartment.

He runs across the street and disappears in the park.

THE DOORMAN

DOORMAN
(mutters)
How he's got animals up there.

The Doorman turns just in time to see the Terror Dog before it runs right over him and bounds across the street.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK

TWO BUMS stroll casually along discussing current events.

FIRST BUM
I think you're right about Central America
but I completely disagree about the other
thing. A good heavyweight boxer could take
a Karate guy every time.

Louis runs by them, almost knocking them over.

LOUIS
(screaming)
Run! Run!

They turn to watch him go.

SECOND BUM
(shaking his head)
Rush, rush, rush.

They turn back just as the Terror Dog streaks past them in hot pursuit.
They recoil in fear and watch as the creature sprints after Louis.

SECOND BUM (CONT'D)
That is one speedy mutt.

FIRST BUM
He's a big one. You don't want to mess with
that particular breed.

SECOND BUM
Definitely some sort of fighting Spaniel, I
think.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - NIGHT

Louis runs for his life, afraid to look back. He races through a tunnel
then sees the twinkling lights of the Tavern on the Green restaurant and
heads straight for it.

Louis comes tearing into the courtyard of the restaurant. Through the large picture windows he can see well-dressed people sitting in the elegant dining room. He goes for a door into the dining room but finds it locked. Then he tries another door but it, too, is locked. Suddenly, he hears a low rumbling growl from the bushes. Desperate now, he starts pounding on the glass.

LOUIS
(muffled)
Help! Help!

LOUIS
(trembling)
Nice doggie. Nice.

LOUIS
(to the horse)
I am Vinz Clortho. Keymaster of Gozer,
Volguus Zildrohar, Lord of the Sebouillia.
Are you the Gatekeeper?

The COACHMAN sees Louis talking to his horse.

COACHMAN

Hey! He pulls the wagon. I make the deals.
You wanna ride?

LOUIS

(to Coachman)

Are you the Gatekeeper?

COACHMAN

No, I'm the Governor of New Jersey. Now get
outta here.

Louis glares at the Coachman. His eyes begin to glow, magically.

LOUIS

(to Coachman)

You will perish in flames, subcreature!

Gozer will destroy you and your kind!

(he whispers to the horse)

Wait for the sign. Then all prisoners will
be released.

Louis lopes off across the street. The cars come screeching to a halt to
avoid hitting him.

THE STREET

TWO MOUNTED POLICEMEN notice his strange behavior and follow him down the
street.

EXT. DANA'S APARTMENT BUILDING -- NIGHT

Venkman enters dressed neatly in a suit, holding a bouquet of flowers for
Dana. He sees two COPS talking to dishevelled party guests. He sidles up
to one of the cops.

VENKMAN

What's going on?

THE COP

Some moron brought a cougar to a party and
it went berserk,

VENKMAN

Oh.

He goes to the elevators.

INT. HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Venkman walks past Louis' apartment and curiously notes the splintered
door. Then he rings Dana's bell, waits, rings again and knocks.

VENKMAN
(calls out)
Dana?

The door opens and Dana is standing there, but she has changed radically from the woman we met earlier. Her hair is down, flowing loosely over her naked shoulders, her eyes are wide open, filled with a kind of love-slave longing, her lips are parted and wet and her clothes are seductively tattered. She stares at Venkman.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
Hi.
(he notes the change in
her)
What happened to you? The cop downstairs
said an animal got loose up here. What's
the story? Are you all right?

She stares at him as if she hasn't heard a word he said.

DANA
Are you the Keymaster?

Venkman realizes that something bizarre has happened.

VENKMAN
Not that I know of.

She starts to close the door but Venkman slides past her into the apartment.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
(worried now)
Hey, Dana. What is it? What happened?

DANA
I am Zuul. I am the Gatekeeper.

He looks around the apartment and notices the holes ripped in the chair. Then he sees the kitchen doorframe charred and blackened with soot.

VENKMAN
I think we better get out of here.

DANA

She crosses to the window and gazes at the sky as if waiting for something.

DANA
We must prepare for the coming of Gozer.

VENKMAN
(humoring her)
Okay, I'll help you. Should we make some
dip or something?

DANA
He is the Destructor.

VENKMAN

Really? Can't wait to meet him.

(he has an idea)

As long as we're waiting for him, I'd really like to try something with you -- in the bedroom.

He takes her hand and she yields. They enter the bedroom.

INT. DANA'S BEDROOM -- NIGHT

They enter and Venkman steers her onto the bed.

DANA

(wantonly)

Do you want this body?

VENKMAN

(taking her pulse)

Well, I'll just use it for a while and get it right back to you.

DANA

Take me now.

He checks her pupil dilation with a penlight.

VENKMAN

Well, I make it a rule never to sleep with possessed people.

She pulls him down on top of her and kisses him with supernatural lust.

VENKMAN

(coming up for air)

Actually, it's more of a policy than a rule.

DANA

(stroking him)

I want you inside me.

VENKMAN

(reluctant)

I don't know. You've got two people in there already. It could get a little crowded.

(he gently pushes her back down on the bed)

I want you to close your eyes and relax.

(she complies)

Now I'm going to speak to Dana and I want Dana to answer.

DANA

I am Zuul. I am ...

VENKMAN

Right ... You're the Gatekeeper. But I want Dana. Dana, speak to me ...

DANA
(in a low, horrible
unearthly voice)
There is no Dana. I am Zuul.

VENKMAN
(recoils)
Whoa!! Nice voice.

She starts to sit up, but he restrains her with a light touch on the shoulder.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
(trying another approach)
All right -- Zuul. Listen carefully. I don't know where you came from or why, but I want you to get out of here and leave Dana alone. I'm going to count to ten and when I'm finished, you better be gone. Okay? Here goes. One ... Two ... Three ...

A shudder runs through Dana's body, then she slowly starts to levitate, rising a full three feet off the bed.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)
(aghast)
Wow!

He stands up and circles around the bed looking for some sort of explanation. He passes his hands over her, then under her, looking for wires or a force field. Then he makes a few theatrical moves like a cheap magician.

EXT. HUDSON PARKWAY -- SAME NIGHT

Ecto One speeds northward, strobes lit.

INT. ECTOMOBILE -- NIGHT

Winston is at the wheel. Stantz pops open a beer and lights a smoke. They both look completely wasted. Stantz is looking over some blueprints.

WINSTON
Hey man. What is it you're so involved with there?

STANTZ
Uh ... Oh these are blueprints of the structural ironwork in Dana Barrett's apartment building ... And they're most unusual.

WINSTON
(changing the subject)
Are you a Christian, Ray?

STANTZ
(examining documents)
Mmmhmmm.

WINSTON

Me, too.

STANTZ

(reacting to something in
the blueprint)

Boy! Solid cores of shielded Selenium .325.

WINSTON

Do you believe in God?

STANTZ

No. But I liked Jesus' style.

WINSTON

Me, too. Parts of the Bible are great.

STANTZ

(hardly listening)

The whole roof cap was fabricated with a
magnesium-tungsten alloy.

WINSTON

Ray, do you remember something in the Bible
about a day when the dead would rise up from
their graves?

STANTZ

(still absorbed by the
blueprint)

And the seas would boil ...

WINSTON

Right. And the sky would fall ...

STANTZ

Judgement Day ...

WINSTON

Yeah, Judgement Day.

STANTZ

Every ancient religion had its own myth
about the end of the world.

WINSTON

Well, has it ever occurred to you that the
reason you've been so busy lately is because
the dead have been rising from their graves?

They exchange a look of puzzlement and concern.

EXT.. FORT DETMERRING -- NIGHT -- SAME TIME

Ecto One pulls up to a pair of massive parapets and a hewn timber gate set
in a thick redoubt on an escarpment high above the river. Two figures
approach them from the shadows. As they draw closer, Stantz and Winston
see their Stetson hats and uniforms.

PARK RANGER

Evening. We've had a problem here for quite some time. I called your outfit a couple of weeks ago.

WINSTON

Busy time of year.

PARK RANGER

Nobody likes to talk about this sort of thing.

STANTZ

You don't have to worry about that with us, sir.

WINSTON

Right. We'll believe anything.

INT. FORT -- GUNNER'S CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Stantz and Winston walk past a long line of cannon. Their visors are down. They wear the usual equipment.

STANTZ

You check the armory. I'll go down to the officers' barracks.

They split up. Winston takes a long, low passageway. Stantz descends a set of stone stairs. They both leave frame. The sound of their separate footsteps fades O.S.

EXT. FIREHALL -- NIGHT -- SAME TIME

A police van pulls up, the garage door opens and Spengler comes out of the building. He meets a POLICE SERGEANT. They walk around to the back door of the van.

SERGEANT

We picked up this guy and now we don't know what to do with him, Bellevue doesn't want him and I'm afraid to put him in the lock-up. I'm telling you, there's something weird about him. And I know you guys are into this stuff so we figured we'd check with you.

The Sergeant unlocks the door and pulls it open.

INT. THE POLICE VAN -- NIGHT

Louis is on the floor wearing a strait jacket. He is tied to the bench with leather restraint straps and ankle cuffs.

LOUIS

(forlorn)

Are you the Gatekeeper?

Spengler notes the strange glow in Louis' eyes,

SPENGLER
Bring him inside, Officer.

INT. BASEMENT -- LATER

Louis is hooked up to a variety of strange contraptions including something on his head that looks like an aluminum mixing bowl wired with hundreds of electrodes. Spengler monitors Louis' reactions as he questions him. Janine watches.

LOUIS
I am Vinz Clortho - Keymaster of Gozer.

SPENGLER
(reacts to the name Gozer)
I am Egon Spengler, Creature of Earth,
Doctor of Physics, Graduate of M.I.T.

JANINE
(looking through Louis'
wallet)
According to this his name is Louis Tully.

LOUIS
Oh, no. Tully is the fleshbag I'm using.
I must wait inside for the sign.

JANINE
Do you want some coffee while you're waiting?

LOUIS
(to Spengler)
Do I?

SPENGLER
Yes, have some.
(Janine goes to the table
and puts some water up to
boil)
Vinz, what sign are you waiting for?

LOUIS
Gozer the Traveller will come in one of the
pre-chosen forms. During the rectification
of the Vuldronaii the Traveller came as a
very large and moving Torb. Then of course
in the third reconciliation of the last of
the Meketrex supplicants they chose a new
form for him, that of a Sloar. Many Shubs
and Zuuls knew what it was to be roasted in
the depths of the Sloar that day I can tell
you.

Spengler stares at Louis for a moment then looks over at Janine.

JANINE

She rolls her eyes at Spengler and mimes the traditional sign for lunacy by pointing to her temple and tracing a circle with her index finger.

Then the phone rings and Spengler answers it.

SPENGLER

Hello?

INT. DANA'S BEDROOM -- SAME TIME

Venkman is lying on the bed with the phone. Dana is asleep next to him, still floating three feet in the air with a blanket over her.

VENKMAN

It's Peter, Egon. I've got a problem.

INTERCUT SPENGLER AND VENKMAN

SPENGLER

What is it?

VENKMAN

I'm with Dana Barrett and she's floating three feet off the bed.

SPENGLER

Does she want to be?

VENKMAN

I don't think so. It's more of that Gozer thing. She says she's the Gatekeeper. Does that make any sense to you?

SPENGLER

Some. I just met the Keymaster. He's here with me now.

(there's a long silence
on the other end)

Venkman? Are you there?

VENKMAN

Yeah, yeah. I was just thinking. It probably wouldn't be a good idea for them to get together at this point.

SPENGLER

I agree.

VENKMAN

You have to keep him there. Do whatever you have to, but don't let him leave. He could be very dangerous.

SPENGLER

He looks nervously at Louis.

LOUIS

He pours some instant coffee crystals into his mouth and chews them up, then he drinks a beaker of boiling water that's been heating over a Bunsen Burner.

SPENGLER
(into the phone)
All right. I'll try.

VENKMAN
I'll spend the night here and get back first
thing in the morning.

SPENGLER
All right, Peter. Good night.

They hang up.

JANINE

She crosses to Spengler.

JANINE
(worried)
Egon, there's something very strange about
that man.
(she indicates Louis)
I'm very psychic usually and right now I
have this terrible feeling that something
awful is going to happen to you. I'm afraid
you're going to die.

SPENGLER
Die in what sense?

JANINE
In the physical sense.

SPENGLER
I don't care. I see us as tiny parts of a
vast organism, like two bacteria living on
a rotting speck of dust floating in an
infinite void.

JANINE
That's so romantic.

She hugs him, Spengler responds awkwardly, not sure where to put his
hands.

SPENGLER
(nervous)
You have nice clavicles.
(he gulps)
I wonder where Stantz is. I think we're
going to need him.

INT. FORT DETMERRING -- SINGLE OFFICERS' QUARTERS -- NIGHT

Stantz is in a painstakingly restored period room with a four poster bed,
writing table and wardrobe hung with uniforms. His own jumpsuit and
backpack lie in a heap beside the bed. He fingers an officer's uniform
then tries it on.

He steps to a full-length mirror and models it, striking a few heroic poses. He shrugs, sits on the bed, bouncing the mattress and squeezing it. He then lies down full length and tests it, hands behind his head.

STANTZ

He yawns. His eyes droop, blink and finally close. His head lolls sideways, his mouth drops open slightly and he drops off to sleep, exhausted.

INT. WARDROBE -- NIGHT

A uniform sleeve moves slightly. A sabre in its sheath begins to tap lightly against the open doorsash. A phosphorescent light streaks out in between gaps in the clothing, casting patterns over the room.

STANTZ' PACK AND WANDS

A panel light winks on. The needle on his PKE meter jumps into the red.

STANTZ

He rolls over. From inside the wardrobe a shimmering pink mist rises up and begins to take form on the ceiling.

MIST

The vaguest remnants of a human form take shape. It hovers and shifts as if appraising Stantz,

STANTZ

He tosses and rolls onto his back, still deeply asleep.

BED CANOPY

The mist slithers in through the curtains and takes a position above him. It begins to descend slowly.

STANTZ

The mist widens and elongates and sprawls in suspension over his body. He wakes. The apparition is inches above his face. He gasps but can't move, totally transfixed with fear.

STANTZ' POV

He is face-to-face with a lost soul. It is a beautiful feminine face. It presses in closer. He sucks in his breath. Is he being smothered? The gaunt figure then slides slowly away from his face and down to a spot below his waist.

STANTZ

He props himself up on his elbows and looks down. Suddenly the apparition vanishes. Then his belt comes undone as if pulled by an invisible hand and his zipper slowly opens.

CLOSE-UP -- STANTZ' FACE

His look changes from fear to confusion to pleasure. He closes his eyes and submits.

INT. BARRACKS CORRIDOR -- NIGHT

Winston is smoking a cigarette, ambling down the barracks corridor. He hears voices and walks to the door of the barracks.

WINSTON

Stantz? You okay in there?

STANTZ

(from inside)

LATER, MAN!!

Winston shrugs and slinks out.

EXT. FIREHALL -- MORNING

Two cars pull up out front, a New York City Police car and a lime green K-car with U.S. Government plates. They are followed by a Con Edison utilities van and a County Sheriff's car. Peck gets out of the government car. Two COPS step out and flank him. A POLICE CAPTAIN joins them and they all enter the firehall.

INT. FIREHALL -- RECEPTION AREA

Janine is at her desk when the law enters and walks right past her.

PECK

(heading for the basement)

This way, Captain.

JANINE

(rushes over to block
their way)

I beg your pardon! Just where do you think
you're going?

PECK

Step aside, Miss, or I'll have you arrested
for interfering with a police officer.

JANINE

(not moving)

Who do you think you're talking to, Mister?
Do I look like a child? You can't come in
here without some kind of warrant or writ or
something.

Peck hands her the court orders.

PECK
(naming them)
Cease and desist all commerce order, seizure
of premises and chattels, ban on the use of
public utilities for non-licensed waste
handlers and a Federal Entry and Inspection
Order.

JANINE
(steps aside)
This is just like Poland.

Peck brushes past her and leads his cohorts toward the basement.

INT. BASEMENT -- LATER

Spengler is arguing with Peck. Louis is sitting quietly in the corner,
watching the argument with interest.

PECK
(high-handed)
I want to see what's in there. Now either
you shut off those "beams" or we'll shut
them off for you.

SPENGLER
(calmly)
You can see what's inside through the
monitor if you wish.

He switches it on.

PECK
(ignores it)
I'm not interested in TV right now.

EXT. FIREHALL

Venkman arrives in a taxi, sees the police cars parked outside and dashes
in.

INT. BASEMENT

The argument is still going on when Venkman enters and asserts himself.

VENKMAN
(to Policemen)
At ease, Officers. I'm Peter Venkman. I
think there's been some kind of
misunderstanding here and I want to cooperate
in every way I can.

PECK
(turns on him immediately)
Forget it, Venkman. You had your chance to
cooperate but you thought it was more fun to
insult me. Now it's my turn, smart-ass.

SPENGLER
(excited)
He wants to shut down the storage grid.

VENKMAN
If you turn that thing off we won't be
responsible for the consequences.

PECK
On the contrary! You will be held
completely responsible.
(to the Con-Ed Man)
Turn it off.

The CON-ED MAN steps to the control panel and looks at the switches,
meters and chasing lights.

VENKMAN
(to the Con-Ed Man)
Don't do it! I'm warning you.

THE CON-ED MAN

He looks nervously at the Police Captain.

CON-ED MAN
I've never seen anything like this before.
I don't know ...

PECK
(enraged)
Just do it, fella. Nobody asked for your
opinion.

The Con-Ed Man reaches for a switch but Venkman grabs him from behind.

VENKMAN
(to the Con-Ed Man)
Don't be a jerk!

The Cops grab Venkman and drag him off the Con-Ed Man.

PECK
If he tries that again, shoot him.

The Captain looks at Peck with contempt.

CAPTAIN
(to Peck)
You do your job, pencil-neck. Don't tell
us how to do ours.

VENKMAN
Thank you, Officer.

PECK
(to Con-Ed Man)
Now turn it off.

The Cops slacken their hold on Venkman. He looks at Spengler, worried.

SPENGLER

He mimes an explosion with his hands.

VENKMAN

He nods and backs towards the door. Spengler gets the same thought.

LOUIS

He sees Spengler backing away and starts to do the same.

CONTROL PANEL

The Con-Ed Man turns all the switches to the OFF position. The panel lights go out.

POWER METER

The needle indicator drops to zero.

PECK

He feels the floor start to shake.

VENKMAN, SPENGLER AND LOUIS

They run like crazy for the stairs. Spengler grabs Janine on the way out.

THE STORAGE FACILITY

A strange light starts to leak through the cracks between the concrete blocks. Suddenly one of the blocks is blown across the room.

EXT. THE FIREHALL

Everyone comes running out as the storage facility explodes. A powerful geyser of iridescent energy shoots out the top of the building like a phenomenal Roman Candle reaching a hundred feet in the air.

INT. DANA'S BEDROOM -- THAT INSTANT

As the explosion rumbles in the distance, Dana's eyes pop open as if cued by the blast.

EXT. FIREHALL -- SAME TIME

Venkman, Spengler and the others are dodging and ducking a shower of debris.

LOUIS

He stands there oblivious to the danger, looking up at the glowing geyser of energy. Janine is beside him.

LOUIS

It is time. This is the sign.

JANINE
It's a sign, all right ... "Going Out Of
Business."

Louis walks off down the street as if in the grip of some powerful psychic compulsion. The others are too busy to notice his departure.

EXT. LOWER MANHATTAN

A wide shot of the island shows the glistening geyser spurting high into the air. The iridescent cloud, generated by the geyser starts moving across Manhattan toward Dana's building. Sirens are screaming all over town as police cars, fire trucks and emergency vehicles race to the scene.

EXT. FIREHALL -- LATER

Firetrucks, police cars, Con-Ed trucks and a general mob are assembled, watching the roof of the building which is spurting a translucent blue substance. It looks like a massive natural gas flame. Bits of ecto material rain down on the on-lookers.

SPENGLER

Flanked by police, he tries to answer questions from fire department officials and a hazardous chemical EXPERT in a bulky decontamination suit.

GUY IN SUIT
... does it contain TCE, PCB or tailings
from styrene esters or any polyfluoric
groups...?

FIRE CAPTAIN
What are the pink particles? What will
happen if we use water?

Spengler just shakes his head.

SPENGLER
No ... no water. There's nothing you can do.

FIRE CAPTAIN
Did you have any kind of solvents or any
concentrated sulphurs of any kind?

Ecto One pulls up. Winston and Stantz jump out. Stantz finds Venkman and Spengler.

STANTZ
What happened??!!!!?

SPENGLER
The storage facility blew. This one ...
(indicates Peck)
... shut off the protection grid.

VENKMAN

Suddenly remembers another problem.

VENKMAN
(to Spengler)
Where's the Keymaster?

SPENGLER
(looks for Louis)
Oh, shit!

STANTZ
(at a loss)
Who's the Keymaster?

Spengler looks at Venkman. They both tear off to find Louis but Peck intervenes.

PECK
(to a Cop)
Stop them! I want them arrested, Captain.
These men have been acting in criminal
violation of the Environmental Protection
Act and this explosion was a direct result.

The Police Captain restrains Venkman from leaving.

VENKMAN
(shouts at Peck)
You turned off the power!
(to Captain)
Look, there was another man here ... You
have to find him and bring him back. A
short determined-looking guy with the eyes
of a happy zombie.

PECK
(to the Cop)
See! They are using drugs.

Spengler turns on Peck with uncharacteristic fury.

SPENGLER
If you don't shut up I'm going to rip out
your septum.

Peck backs off.

POLICE CAPTAIN
(exasperated)
I don't know what's going on here but I'm
going to have to arrest you all. You can
discuss it with the judge. I'm going to
read you your rights now, so please listen
carefully ...

EXT. THE BOWERY

Louis walks briskly and purposefully uptown, gazing at the symmetrical
lights in the sky.

SUBWAY ENTRANCE

As Louis walks by, a huge crowd of people descends the stairs into the subway. The last of them disappears around the corner. Then echoing screams are heard and the whole crowd comes charging back up the stairs pursued by a strange apparition.

INT. DANA'S APARTMENT

She is standing at the open bedroom window gazing down into the streets below.

EXT. SEDGEWICK HOTEL -- SAME TIME

A Sabrett HOT DOG VENDOR is dispensing pretzels and hot dogs from his pushcart.

THE VENDOR

He opens the top of the bin and reaches in to get a bun. He feels around inside, knowing the cart should be loaded with food. Then he peers inside and yanks his arm out with a shout. He falls back in fear.

THE CART

The gluttonous Onion-Headed Vapor rises out of the pushcart stuffed with hot dogs, buns and pretzels. It belches loudly at the gaping spectators, then flits down the street with the pushcart following under its own power.

EXT. EXXON BUILDING -- SAME TIME

A well-dressed BUSINESSMAN comes rushing out and jumps into a cab parked at the curb.

INT.. THE BACK SEAT

The Businessman leans close to the safety partition and shouts his destination.

BUSINESSMAN

Gulf and Western Building! And I'm in a hurry so let's not dawdle.

THE FRONT SEAT

Through the windshield we see that the driver is a badly decomposed corpse in a leather jacket and snap-brim cap.

THE PASSENGER

Through the partition he sees a skeletal hand reach out and start the meter.

EXT. THE STREET

The cab peels away from the curb at tremendous speed and turns the wrong way up a one-way street.

INT. AN OFFICE - SAME TIME

It's the accounts department of a major corporation. Young men and women are working at typewriters and computer terminals in the sterile, modern office.

A PROGRAMMER

She bends over at the file cabinets and something gooses her. She looks around, miffed, but sees no one. She goes back to her desk. Her skirt hikes up suddenly. She yanks it back down. Then she feels a strange, not unpleasant tickling under her. She squirms. Her skirt goes up again. The tickling gets unbearable, forcing her to stand. She walks briskly between the rows of desks, trying to get to the ladies room, fighting to keep her skirt down. Her co-workers begin to notice and laugh.

A TYPIST

She stands up to look and her blouse pops open.

THE OFFICE

All the women begin to scream and squirm as the invisible molester runs wild in the office.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK -- SAME TIME

Louis enters a long dark pedestrian tunnel.

INSIDE THE TUNNEL

A gang of MUGGERS is smoking something in a weird pipelike device. One of them sees the approaching silhouette of Louis and hisses to his cohorts. The others all look and slowly begin to fan out across the width of the tunnel.

LOUIS

He is staring straight ahead and entirely focused on his destination as the muggers approach and confront him. He stops. They are deliberately blocking his path.

MUGGER

(to Louis)

Okay ... give me.

Louis blinks stupidly.

LOUIS

Are you the Gatekeeper?

MUGGER

Come on. You want me to stick you? Come on.

VINZ

I am Vinz Clortho. I am the Keymaster. Do you bar my way?

MUGGER #2

Are you crazy, man? You don't give, Jino's
gonna rip you, man. Nobody gets by Jino.

LOUIS

(repeats)

Do you bar my way?

MUGGER

Yeah. We bar your way.

LOUIS

His eyes widen, he inhales deeply, then opens his mouth and roars.
Irridescent lights pour out of his mouth.

THE MUGGERS

They scream and run, horrified and disgusted by Louis' unearthly display.

EXT. STREET

The cab driven by the corpse weaves through traffic at breakneck speed.
Cars are forced up on the curb. Pedestrians run for safety.

INT. THE BACK SEAT

The Businessman is reading the Wall Street Journal, oblivious to the whole situation.

EXT. ST. MARKS PLAYHOUSE -- DAY

A worn, graffiti-spattered \$1.99 triple bill movie house in the New Wave district near Second Avenue. The bill reads:

ALL NIGHT ALL DAY HORROR SHOW IN 3-D

INT. THEATER

The house is packed with hooting, jeering, beer-drinking potsmoking downtowners, all wearing cardboard 3-D glasses. They are wildly razzing and throwing things at the screen on which is running a bad sixties British horror indie pic. The film breaks. The sound crackles off and the lights come on. There is a storm of protest and abuse hurled at the projectionist. Then from all around them there starts a thin whistling whine. It builds above the shouts and jeers in the theater until everyone stops to hear what it is. It is like no other sound ever heard -- a piercing, all-permeating shrill whistle like the fan blades of some massive unseen turbine beginning to rotate.

The lights in the theater flicker. The musty ancient curtains on either side of the screen are picked up in an unseen wind which lifts them, spreading dust and ripped old fabric about the house. There are shouts and sounds and noises from deep beyond the recesses of the backstage. The curtains are now flying in a serious wind. All the lights in the theater go out except that from the projection booth. From a point in the center of the screen, a searing bolt of phosphorescent light rips back along the projection beam into the booth. The beam evolves into an ethereal strand of unified glistening particles.

The wind dies down. People in the house are hushed. They gaze transfixed as a procession of phantasms emerge in single file through the illuminated screen. As if suspended on a clothesline, they weave and bounce along the length of the pulsating beam, and pass through the hole in the projection booth. The apparition is gone. All is quiet. Then the audience bursts into wildly enthusiastic applause.

INT. NYPD LOCK-UP

Winston is staring out through the bars talking to himself.

WINSTON
(depressed)
We're gonna get five years for this. Plus
they're gonna make us retrap all those
spooks. I knew I shouldn't have taken this
job.

He bangs on the bars and crosses to Venkman, Stantz and Spengler who are huddled together looking at blueprints of Dana's building.

STANTZ
(intense)
Look at the structure of the roof cap. It
looks exactly like the kind of telemetry
tracker NASA uses to identify dead pulsars
in other galaxies.

SPENGLER
And look at this, Peter
(indicates another diagram)
Cold-riveted girders with selenium cores.

Venkman leans in to look but suddenly notices that they have an audience.

THE CELL

The Ghostbusters are surrounded by a motley assortment of BUMS, PUNKS, HOODS and a particularly mean-looking gang of BIKERS, all listening intently to their discussion.

VENKMAN
(to their cellmates)
Everybody with us so far?

The other prisoners mutter and scratch their heads, then drift off.

STANTZ
(back to his point)
The ironwork extends down through fifty feet
of bedrock and touches the water table!

He looks at Venkman who doesn't see the significance.

VENKMAN
(shrugs)
I guess they don't build them like they used
to, huh?

STANTZ

No! Nobody ever built them like this! The architect was either an authentic whacko or a certified genius. The whole building is like a huge antenna for pulling in and concentrating psychokinetic energy.

VENKMAN

Who was the architect?

STANTZ

He's listed on the blueprints as I. Shandor.

SPENGLER

(exclaims)

Of course!

(the others turn and look
at him)

Ivo Shandor, I saw his name in Tobin's SPIRIT GUIDE. He started a secret society in 1920.

VENKMAN

(putting it all together)

Let me guess -- Gozer Worshipers.

SPENGLER

Yes. After the First World War Shandor decided that society was too sick to survive. And he wasn't alone. He had close to a thousand followers when he died. They conducted rituals, bizarre rituals, intended to bring about the end of the world.

VENKMAN

(now very worried about
Dana)

She said he was "the Destructor."

SPENGLER

Who?

VENKMAN

Gozer.

SPENGLER

(confused)

You talked to Gozer?

VENKMAN

Get a grip on yourself, Egon. I talked to Dana Barrett and she referred to Gozer as the Destructor.

STANTZ

(proud)

See? I told you something big was about to happen.

Winston has heard enough.

WINSTON

This is insane! You actually believe that some moldy Babylonian God is going to drop in at 78th and Central Park West and start tearing up the city?

SPENGLER

(corrects him)

Sumarian -- not Babylonian,

Winston just shakes his head. Then a uniformed GUARD appears with a high-ranking POLICE OFFICIAL and unlocks the cell door.

POLICE OFFICIAL

Are you the Ghostbusters?

VENKMAN

What about it?

POLICE OFFICIAL

The mayor wants to see you -- right away.
The whole island is going crazy. Let's go.

They exit.

EXT. CITY HALL

The official cars arrive and the Ghostbusters are hustled past a mob of reporters, all shouting questions at once.

REPORTERS

(as babble)

Are you under arrest? Did you have a bomb factory in the basement? What are you going to do about all these ghosts?

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE

Secretaries and aides scurry about in a chaos of telephones and waiting city officials. As the Ghostbusters are led through the outer offices, everyone stops what they're doing to stare at them.

INT. OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY

The Ghostbusters enter and see a very concerned group of leaders arguing like crazy. The Police and Fire Commissioners, State and City Police Commandants, the Archbishop of the New York Diocese, the Regional Director of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of New York, and various other high-ranking officials.

THE AIDE

(entering with the
Ghostbusters)

The Ghostbusters are here, Mr. Mayor.

At once, the group turns and instantly regains perfect decorum.

THE MAYOR

He is a likeable Democrat and a man of the people -- particularly the Irish, Italian and Jewish people.

MAYOR

(looking them over)

Okay, the Ghostbusters. And who's Peck?

Peck shoulders his way forward.

PECK

(adrenalin pumping)

I'm Walter Peck, sir. And I'm prepared to make a full report.

(holds up dossier)

These men are complete snowball artists. They use nerve and sense gases to induce hallucinations. The people think they're seeing ghosts and call these bozos, who conveniently show up to get rid of the problem with a fake electronic light show.

MAYOR

(to Venkman)

You using nerve gas?

VENKMAN

The man is a psychopath, Your Honor.

PECK

Probably a mixture of gases, no doubt stolen from the Army ...

STANTZ

Bullshit!!!

PECK

... improperly stored and touched off with those high-voltage laser beams they use in their light show. They caused an explosion.

The Mayor looks for help from the assembled leaders,

FIRE COMMISSIONER

All I know is, that wasn't a light show we saw this morning. I've seen every form of combustion known to man, but this beats me.

POLICE COMMISSIONER

And nobody's using nerve gas on all the people that have seen those ... things ... all over the city. The walls were bleeding at the 53rd Precinct. How do you explain that?

He looks to the Archbishop. Everybody focuses on the ornately attired Prelate.

ARCHBISHOP

Officially, the Church will not take a position on the religious implications of these ... phenomena. However, since they started, people have been lining up at every church in the city to confess and take communion. We've had to put on extra priests. Personally, I think it's a sign from God but don't quote me on that.

MAYOR

(shaking his head)

I can't call a press conference and tell everyone to start praying.

WINSTON

He steps forward.

WINSTON

I'm Winston Zeddemore, Your Honor. I've only been with the company for a couple of weeks, but I gotta tell you -- these things are real. Since I joined these men I have seen shit that would turn you white.

THE MAYOR

He rubs his eyes wearily.

MAYOR

(to Venkman)

So what do I do now?

VENKMAN

He seizes the moment.

VENKMAN

Mr. Mayor, it's a pretty simple choice. You can believe Mr. Pecker here ...

PECK

(snaps)

That's "Peck!"

VENKMAN

(ignores him)

... or you can accept the fact that this city is heading for a disaster of really Biblical proportions.

MAYOR

What do you mean "Biblical?"

VENKMAN

Old Testament, Mr. Mayor. "Wrath of God"-type stuff. The seas could boil, fire and brimstone falling from the sky ...

STANTZ
(chimes in)
... forty years of darkness, earthquakes,
mass hysteria, human sacrifice ...

MAYOR
Enough! I get the point.
(really torn)
But what if you're wrong?

VENKMAN
If I'm wrong then nothing happens and you
toss us in the can. But if I'm right, and
if we can stop this thing ... well, let's
just say that you could save the lives of a
lot of registered voters.

The Mayor starts nodding affirmatively, clearly convinced by Venkman's rational assessment.

PECK
(furious)
I don't believe you're seriously considering
listening to these men!

The Mayor takes a long look at Peck.

MAYOR
Get him out of here.
(Peck looks stricken)
We've got work to do. What do you need
from me?

EXT. DANA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - SAME TIME

Louis arrives in front of the building and looks up, Strange lights are beginning to flash from the windows, He enters the building and a moment later a huge tremor shakes the structure.

INT. DANA'S FLOOR

The elevator doors open and Louis gets out. A crowd of tenants rushes onto the elevator clutching their most prized possessions. He gets through the panicked tenants and walks down the hall.

MRS. BLUM, a neighbor, comes out of her apartment carrying an armload of small appliances.

MRS. BLUM
Louis! What are you doing standing there
... get out of the building ... don't you
know it's an earthquake or something?

LOUIS
The Traveller is coming.

MRS. BLUM
Don't be crazy. Nobody is going to come and
visit you with all this commotion going on.

She rushes off leaving Louis alone in the hall. He goes to Dana's door and mechanically knocks three times. His knocking echoes thunderously throughout the building.

THE DOOR

It opens and Louis sees Dana standing there. A tremendous thunderclap rattles the building.

LOUIS
(his eyes light up)
Are you the Gatekeeper?

DANA
(nods)
I am Zuul.

Hearing that, Louis grabs Dana with a passion that's been building in his unconscious for 8000 years. He kisses her with savage lust and pulls her to the floor out of frame as an explosive force blows through the apartment.

INT. CITY HALL CORRIDOR

Venkman, Stantz and the Mayor walk briskly toward the vehicle dock at the back of the building. Aides scurry along behind them, awaiting instructions.

MAYOR
I don't understand it, Why here? Why now?

VENKMAN
What goes around, comes around, Mr. Mayor.
The big Lazy Susan of Karma just keeps
turning and sometimes we get the short end
of the stick.

STANTZ
This may be Nature's way of telling us to
slow down. You have to admit it's kind of
humbling, isn't it?

MAYOR
(shouts after them)
We're humble already! Hasn't this city
suffered enough?

They come out onto the loading dock.

EXT. LOADING DOCK

The Ectomobile is parked there. Winston and Spengler are charging all the packs off the building current. There's a lot of police activity around them as orders are dispatched.

A POLICE CAPTAIN reports to Venkman.

CAPTAIN

We've cleared the whole building and
cordoned off the street. I'm massing our
own special tactics squad and the National
Guard is on standby.

AIDE

I better alert the Red Cross, too.

SPENGLER

He looks up and sees Janine standing on the dock. She crosses to him.

JANINE

(a little teary)

I want you to have this.

(she hands him a coin)

SPENGLER

What is it?

JANINE

It's a souvenir from the 1964 World's Fair
at Flushing Meadow. It's my lucky coin.

SPENGLER

I don't believe in luck.

JANINE

Keep it anyway. I have another one at home.

SPENGLER

Thank you.

They hug.

THE ECTOMOBILE

Stantz, Venkman and Winston get in. Spengler rushes over and joins them.

INT. ECTOMOBILE

Venkman turns around and looks at his friends.

VENKMAN

Okay. Just remember, whatever happens out
there, we are total professionals. Not
only are we the best Ghostbusters around,
we're the only Ghostbusters around. It's
up to us.

They all shake hands. Then Venkman sticks his hand out the window and
signals like a cavalry officer.

VENKMAN (CONT'D)

(shouts)

Move 'em out!

EXT. REAR OF CITY HALL

A pair of police motorcycles comes roaring up the driveway followed by the Ectomobile and two police cruisers. The motorcade turns up the street and heads uptown at high speed. They pass a column of National Guard trucks.

EXT. DANA'S APARTMENT BUILDING

The street has been blocked off with police barricades but a huge crowd has gathered nonetheless to watch the strange lights and flashes emanating from the upper floors of the building.

THE CROWD

The news media are out in front filming and taping everything. A contingent of Doomsday freaks is gathered with signs proclaiming "REPENT FOR THE END IS AT HAND!" A few Catholic priests are kneeling, performing rites of exorcism.

THE CROWD

A gang of punks is hanging around hoping for a disaster. A handful of Hassidic Jews behind them are wailing in earnest. The police work to restrain the crowd.

THE STREET

The screaming of sirens turns the attention of the crowd as the motorcade arrives. As the Ectomobile rounds the corner a huge cheer goes up from the crowd.

THE CROWD

The punks cheer. The Hassidic Jews wave their black hats and start dancing for joy.

THE ECTOMOBILE

It pulls up in front of the building. The doors fly open and the Ghostbusters all jump out at once. The crowd roars.

THE PRIESTS

They leap to their feet and give each other "high fives."

VENKMAN

He raises both fists like a victorious boxer.

VENKMAN
(shouts to the crowd)
Ghostbusters!

The crowd thunders its approval.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They quickly finish suiting up at the rear of the Ectomobile.

VENKMAN
(keyed up)
Are we all together on this now?

WINSTON
(in earnest)
I think we should get on a plane right now
and go to Australia or Indonesia until this
blows over.

VENKMAN
I'm going to make a note of your suggestion
and possibly bring it up later if this thing
really gets out of hand. Now let's move.

They start heading for the lobby entrance to the building,

VOICE IN CROWD (MAN)
Get 'em!

VOICE IN CROWD (GIRL)
All right, Ghostbusters!

The crowd applauds as the Ghostbusters approach the entrance.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They stop in front of the building and look up at the roof.

THEIR POV

A blinding flash of light shoots from the rooftop temple.

THE BUILDING ENTRANCE

The whole building seems to groan as if under enormous pressure. Then suddenly the concrete facade cracks open and the pavement in front of the building collapses dropping the Ghostbusters and a police car into the enormous sinkhole. The crowd gasps.

THE SINKHOLE

There is a tense moment of silence, then the Ghostbusters pop up and climb out of the pit.

VENKMAN
I've heard of underground parking but this
is ridiculous.

They flash the "okay" sign to the crowd and enter the building.

EXT. THE ROOFTOP -- SAME TIME

Dana and Louis emerge from the stairwell, approach the Temple and mount the pedestals once occupied by the Terror Dogs.

THE TEMPLE

The walls begin to vibrate in response.

EXT. THE STREET BELOW

Blinding beams of light flash from all the windows.

INT. STAIRWELL

The Ghostbusters trudge up thirty-five flights of stairs.

INT. THIRTY-FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY

The stairwell door opens and the Ghostbusters stagger into the hallway, completely exhausted.

VENKMAN
(gasping and spitting)
I'm glad we took the stairs.

INT. DANA'S DOOR

The Ghostbusters arrive. The door frame is charred and blackened by soot. Venkman rings the doorbell. DING-DONG.

VENKMAN
Dana?

WINSTON
Maybe we should go downstairs and call first?

Venkman knocks on the door and the door simply falls off its hinges and crashes to the floor. The Ghostbusters gape at the damage to the apartment.

INT. DANA'S APARTMENT

The exterior building wall is completely gone providing an unobstructed view of the Hudson and New Jersey. All the furniture is overturned and the other walls are cracked. A powerful wind blows through the apartment fluttering the shredded curtains.

WINSTON
(ready to leave)
Well, she's not here. Let's go.

VENKMAN
No! The kitchen!

INT. THE KITCHEN

The team enters and sees that the refrigerator has been blown away revealing a hole in the wall and the entrance to a stone staircase behind it.

VENKMAN

He looks at the forbidding portal and turns to Stantz.

VENKMAN
(slaps his shoulder)

Go!

Stantz realizes that Venkman expects him to go first. He leads the charge up the stairs.

EXT. THE ROOF

Dana and Louis stare at the Temple, then begin a miraculous and horrible transformation into the hideous forms of the Terror Dogs.

THE TEMPLE

The solid stone walls rumble ominously and start to separate.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They come running out onto the roof and gape at the scene.

THE TEMPLE

The walls open completely revealing the secret architecture of the Temple: A stone staircase leading to a set of monumental doors, and beyond them a massive pyramid that appears to be suspended in mid-air with no visible means of support.

LOUIS AND DANA

They complete their transformation into the Terror Dogs, which now turn and snarl menacingly at the Ghostbusters.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They can't believe their eyes.

VENKMAN
(aghast)
Shit! I've been out with some real dogs,
but this is ridiculous!

The heavy rumbling of moving stone draws their attention back to the temple.

THE TEMPLE

The Terror Dogs have now taken ritual positions on the staircase. The heavy stone gates begin to open and a bright white light starts to emerge. As the light descends the stairs a human form slowly materializes.

THE FORM

It is a thin, hollow-cheeked, distinguished looking man in his early sixties. His eyes are burning red pin-holes, He looks around at the spectacular rooftop view, then acknowledges the two Terror Dogs and starts stroking them like house pets.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They stare at the apparition,

SPENGLER
(recognizes him)
It's Shandor - the architect!

WINSTON
I thought he died!

VENKMAN
It doesn't seem to have slowed him down any.

STANTZ
I don't think it's Shandor.

He gets to his feet and speaks sharply to Gozer.

STANTZ (CONT'D)
Gozer the Gozerian?

GOZER

He looks up and seems to notice the Ghostbusters for the first time.

STANTZ

He 'busts' Gozer.

STANTZ
(forceful)
As a duly-constituted representative of the
City of New York, and on behalf of the
County and State of New York, the United
States of America, the Planet Earth and all
its inhabitants, I hereby order you to cease
and desist any and all supernatural activity
and return at once to your place of origin
or next parallel dimension.

VENKMAN
(to Stantz)
Well, that ought to do it.

GOZER

He stands up to his full height and regards Stantz curiously.

GOZER
Are you a god?

STANTZ
(compulsively honest)
No.

GOZER
Then die!

He raises his arms and blows away the Ghostbusters with searing bolts of energy.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

Momentarily stunned, they tumble all the way down the stairs and almost fall off the edge of the roof.

WINSTON
(to Stantz)
You should've said "yes!" He might have
been willing to negotiate.

Venkman gets to his feet first, really mad now.

VENKMAN
(setting his wands)
Okay. That's it! I'm gonna turn this guy
into toast.

The Ghostbusters leap into action. One by one they activate their Proton packs and take up positions for an entrapment.

GOZER

He braces for the onslaught.

VENKMAN

He shoots a particle stream at Gozer.

GOZER

He leaps out of the way with superhuman agility and executes a perfect double-flip with a half-twisting round-off at the end.

VENKMAN

He can't believe his eyes.

VENKMAN
Agile bastard, isn't he?

STANTZ
Forget the trapping! Just blast him!

The others adjust their units and they all blaze away at Gozer.

GOZER

He stands there calmly and absorbs the force of the streams. There is a brilliant pink flash and Gozer disappears.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They stare for a long moment, finding it hard to believe that they won. Then Winston lets out a triumphant whoop.

SPENGLER

He scans the temple with his PKE meter, not at all convinced the danger has passed.

STANTZ

He bounds up the stairs.

STANTZ

(jubilant)

We neutronized him! The guy's a molecular nonentity.

VENKMAN AND SPENGLER

He wants to believe it but sees the doubt on Spengler's face.

SPENGLER

(reading the meter)

Not necessarily.

There is a deep seismic rumble and the entire building begins to vibrate. The Ghostbusters look around nervously as the entire building starts to sway.

EXT. THE EAVES

Cement carvings and moldings around the edge of the roof crack and break off.

EXT. THE STREET

The crowd screams and runs as cement debris rains down the side of the building and crashes on the sidewalk.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They look up at the sky waiting for the big blow. An incredibly loud thunderclap rocks the rooftop.

THE SKY

A bolt of lightning crackles from the swirling dark cloud and strikes the rooftop.

The Ghostbusters stand there facing their new God like Moses on Mount Sinai. And then Gozer speaks to them in a voice that can be heard throughout Metropolitan New York and parts of New Jersey.

GOZER

SUBCREATURES! GOZER THE GOZERIAN, GOZER THE DESTRUCTOR, VOLGUUS ZILDROHAR, THE TRAVELLER HAS COME. CHOOSE AND PERISH.

VENKMAN

(shouting to be heard)

Is he talking to us?

WINSTON
What's he talking about? Choose what?

STANTZ
(to the heavens)
What do you mean "choose?" We don't understand.

GOZER
CHOOSE!!

SPENGLER
I think he's saying that since we're about to be sacrificed anyway, we get to choose the form we want him to take.

STANTZ
You mean if I stand here and concentrate on the image of Roberto Clemente, Gozer will appear as Roberto Clemente and wipe us out?

SPENGLER
That appears to be the case.

VENKMAN
(quickly)
Don't think of anything yet. Clear your minds. We only get one crack at this.

GOZER
The choice is made. The Traveller has come.

VENKMAN
(in a panic)
We didn't choose anything!
(to the others)
I didn't think of an image, did you?

SPENGLER
No.

They look at Winston.

WINSTON
My mind's a total void!

They all look at Stantz.

STANTZ
(guilty)
I couldn't help it! It just popped in there!

VENKMAN
(desperately)
What? What popped in there?

STANTZ
(pointing)
Look!

They all turn and look to the south.

GHOSTBUSTERS POV

Looking south past Columbus Circle, they see part of something big and white moving between the buildings accompanied by thunderous footsteps of almost seismic proportions.

VENKMAN

He doesn't know what it is yet, but he knows it's coming.

VENKMAN
(desperately)
What is it? Ray, what did you think of?

BROADWAY AND 55TH

The massive white shape passes behind some buildings, offering a glimpse of what appears to be a fat, white arm.

STANTZ

He's about to go into shock.

STANTZ
(babbling)
It can't be! It can't be!

COLUMBUS CIRCLE

The thundering footsteps continue to plod as the thing starts to emerge from behind the buildings. Now we can see part of a blue garment covering its enormous chest.

STANTZ

He recognizes the monster.

STANTZ
It's ... It's ... It's the STAY-PUFT
MARSHMALLOW MAN.

Winston, Venkman and Spengler gape.

THEIR POV

They look across the roof tops and see a large, square, white, bobbing, laughing head atop a massive body of similar puffed white squares. The being is dressed in a tiny sailor's hat, red bosun's whistle and lanyard and a little blue vest with a button undone in the middle revealing a little white belly. It is the cute, quintessential American brand symbol, looming as large as Godzilla.

STANTZ (V.O.)
(desperately apologizing)
I tried to think of the most harmless thing
... something that could never destroy us
... something I loved from my childhood.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They watch the Marshmallow Man plodding toward them.

VENKMAN
AND YOU CAME UP WITH THAT?

STANTZ
The Stay-Puft Marshmallow Man! He was on
all the packages we used to buy when I was
a kid. We used to roast Stay-Puft
marshmallows at Camp Waconda!

VENKMAN
Great! The marshmallows are about to get
their revenge.

THE STAY-PUFT MAN

He plods relentlessly uptown toward the Ghostbusters' rooftop vantage point. The ground rumbles as his big, soft feet come down on the pavement.

THE STREET

People are fleeing in panic as the marshmallow feet pad along kicking over lampposts and mail boxes.

A CAR

The driver jumps out just before an enormous white marshmallow foot comes down and flattens his automobile.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They stand there helplessly watching the laughing bobbing head of the Stay-Puft Man as he comes toward them.

VENKMAN
What now?

SPENGLER
(adjusting his thrower)
Full-stream with strogon pulse.

Venkman looks at Stantz. Stantz shrugs.

VENKMAN
(decides)
I guess that's all we've got.

They step to the edge of the roof, moving like warriors now ready to face the consequences.

EXT. THE STREET

Peck comes running up to the front of the apartment building. People are fleeing the oncoming monster. Peck grabs a COP who is just about to flee himself.

PECK
(in a rage)
Are the Ghostbusters up there?

COP
(desperate to get away)
Yeah!

PECK
I want you to go up on the roof and arrest them. This time they've gone too far.

The Cop looks at Peck like he's insane, then sees the Stay-Puft Man looming up at the end of the block.

COP
(knocking Peck's hands away)
You arrest them, numb nuts! I'm getting out of here.

He runs off. Peck turns to face the monster.

THE STAY PUFT MAN

The ground shakes with every step as he reaches the building. Then, using the church next door as a stepping stone, he begins climbing the wall.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They look over the edge of the roof as the Marshmallow Man climbs higher and higher.

VENKMAN
(shouts)
Hit him!

They each fire point blank at the Stay-Puft Man.

THE STAY-PUFT MAN

He bellows with pain and rage as the beams strike him right in the chest and set his skin on fire. He begins to burn with a blue flame that spreads quickly across his torso and down his arms. The Stay-Puft Man bellows even louder, flailing its huge arms in response to the searing flames that are starting to engulf him.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They stare at the horrible conflagration.

WINSTON
Good. Now we made him mad.

THE STAY-PUFT MAN

Carbonous, flaming hunks of melting marshmallow are flying from his arms as he waves them in wild rage.

THE STREET

Peck stands there paralyzed with fear. A mass of flaming marshmallow falls and flattens a news stand nearby. Then a huge glob of sticky toasted marshmallow comes zipping down from above and lands right on him, burying him up to his neck in melted sucrose.

THE STAY-PUFT MAN

The flaming monster keeps coming intent on their destruction. Most of his chest has melted away revealing horrid musculature and a skeletal rib cage.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They square off and face him for the last time, their weapons poised.

VENKMAN

(calmly)

We're going to be killed by a hundred-foot marshmallow.

THE STAY-PUFT MAN

He is almost on them now, fully engulfed in flames, reaching for them, ready to swat them with his burning fist.

VENKMAN

(to the others)

On the count of three! One ... Two ...

SPENGLER

(he has the best idea of his life)

No! Them! Shoot them!

(he points at the Terror Dogs)

Cross the beams.

THE TERROR DOGS

They stand beside the portal literally petrified.

VENKMAN

He hesitates.

VENKMAN

(protesting)

No! You said crossing the beams would be BAD. It'll kill her! And us!

SPENGLER

Life is just a state of mind.

VENKMAN
But it's my favorite state.

STANTZ
Either way we're history.

THE STAY-PUFT MAN

His burning fist is starting to descend on the Ghostbusters.

VENKMAN

He chooses the only way out.

VENKMAN
(shouts)
Now!!

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They turn and fire at the two petrified Terror Dogs and blow them to oblivion. The entire front of the temple is obliterated along with the door.

THE STAY-PUFT MAN

With the destruction of his earthly portal, the flaming monster is suddenly engulfed in a cyclonic wind that begins to swirl around him like a fire-storm. The flames are whipped higher and higher as the tornado begins to pick up rotational speed. Then the Marshmallow Man seems to explode from deep inside creating a flaming air burst high above the rooftops.

THE ROOFTOP

The Ghostbusters are blasted off their feet.

THE SKY

The fireball reaches its maximum explosive force, then a sudden jet of air pressure occurs like a titanic vacuum cleaner in the sky and sucks the flaming mass of gasses and ash up through our atmosphere and right out of our dimension. The dark clouds disappear with it, leaving a beautiful clear blue sky over the whole area.

THE TEMPLE

It now looks like an ancient ruin.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They are lying at the foot of the stairs. Everything is still. One by one they get slowly to their feet and look around to see that the crisis has passed.

STANTZ
Everybody okay?

Venkman looks up at the portal.

THE TERROR DOGS

They are still on the pedestals but charred almost beyond recognition. Venkman mounts the stairs and gazes sadly at the remains.

THE PEDESTAL

Venkman stands there mourning, then a slight movement under the blackened skin of the Terror Dog catches his eye. The movement gets stronger, then suddenly a human hand pokes through the carbonous coating.

VENKMAN

Hope surges in him and he starts frantically tearing away the black coating, finally revealing Dana alive and well under the burnt skin of the Terror Dog.

STANTZ AND SPENGLER

They peel the charred coating off Louis and help him to his feet.

LOUIS

He looks around wondering how he ended up on the roof of a wrecked high-rise. He looks at his scorched and ripped suit crusted with the still-smoking gobs of melted marshmallow.

LOUIS

(amazed)

Jeez! Somebody must have spiked the egg salad.

VENKMAN

He helps Dana to her feet.

VENKMAN

Are you all right?

She looks around at the incredible scene.

DANA

(totally confused)

Oh, sure. I'm getting used to this.

LOUIS

(seeing Dana for the first time)

I'm innocent! Honest, Dana. I never touched you. Not that I remember anyway.

DANA

(getting annoyed)

All right, what happened to me?

VENKMAN

Nothing! We just got rid of that thing in your kitchen.

DANA
Really! Is it gone?

VENKMAN
Yeah, along with most of your furniture and
a lot of your personal possessions. This
one took some work.

DANA
(noting the wrecked temple)
Thank you. Next time I want to break a
lease I'll know who to call.

She hugs him.

VENKMAN
This is going to cost you, you know. Our
fees are ridiculously high.

DANA
Talk to my accountant.
(she indicates Louis)

LOUIS
Oh, great! I bet we could write off all the
damage as an Act of God.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They look at each other and nod.

STANTZ
I'll go along with that.

EXT. STREET - NEAR THE APARTMENT - NIGHT THE TWO BUMS

They hear the cheering down the street as they cautiously inspect a
massive mound of cooling sucrose.

FIRST BUM
Well, that definitely looks like marshmallow
to me.

SECOND BUM
(sniffing it)
Yeah, it's some kind of mallow-type
substance - that's for sure.

FIRST BUM
You have to wonder why anybody would dump a
marshmallow that size right in the middle of
the street.

SECOND BUM
I wonder if there might not be a very large
cup of hot chocolate somewhere in the area.

FIRST BUM
That would definitely explain it.

EXT. THE STREET NIGHT

A happy throng of jubilant citizens is gathered outside the lobby entrance to the apartment building.

THE ENTRANCE

The battered but victorious Ghostbusters emerge from the lobby. Venkman and Dana are holding hands. The crowd roars with unrestrained joy and gratitude, Janine runs over and hugs Spengler enthusiastically. The Ghostbusters wave and head for the Ectomobile parked at the curb.

THE GHOSTBUSTERS

They get into the Ectomobile and drive off with lights flashing and sirens screaming as the crowd cheers wildly.

THE END