

Leaving the Firm

By Scott R Adkins

Characters:

PINCUT – Male. In his thirties.

ANNA – Female. In her thirties, married to Pincut.

S/HE – A woman/man androgynous beautiful being. Played by a female.

CO-WORKER – Male. In his twenties. Works with Pincut at the firm/company. They work together.

VIP-1 – Female in her forties. Pincut's boss at the company.

VIP-2 – Male in his forties. Pincut's bosses boss at the company.

MF – Male. In his sixties. Pincut's bosses bosses boss. Cheese.

All – is everyone but Pincut, Anna and co-worker (but could be co-worker sometimes).

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE – Female. Emanates from a speakerphone.

STAGE DIRECTIONS Some stage directions are meant to be read allowed as indicated by brackets. Dark digitally modulated female voice preferred.

[Office. A place in the sky.
High above the ground. A
defunct church on top of a
skyscraper that is now a
successful, very successful
financial company that makes
almost as much money as the
church once did. DING DONG DONG
DING. A kind of church. It doesn't
smell like anything, not like a
church does. It is not hot and it
is not cold. Climate control is
crucial to making lots of money.
Shades of green. The candles are
not allowed in financial services.

The emotional temperature is based
on how the DOW is doing, how the
company stock is doing, people are
helpless when the DOW is plummeting –
all their hopes and dreams shattered,
the DOW jumps up high in the air and
everything is good again – dreams of
dollars and bank accounts in foreign
tax free accounts float up and down
the hall ways]

PINCUT

How was your weekend?

VIP-1

We went sailing.

PINCUT

Was it fun?

VIP-1

It was a great weekend to sail, the last weekend of the
season too.

PINCUT

I don't sail.

VIP-1

You don't? Winter is coming and we have to get our boat ready for winter. It's a lot of work to get a boat ready for winter.

PINCUT

Is it a big boat? I've never been sailing, well I've been on a two-person boat where you're about four inches out of the water. My parent's friends took the boat one weekend and broke the mast. It sat in the garage for years.

VIP-1

It's a little bigger than that. You're talking about a dinghy boat. Ours is a 30-foot day cruiser. Then we went to my mom's birthday and my dad got sick.

PINCUT

I'm sorry. Is he okay?

VIP-1

Yes, I mean it wasn't serious, just an overnight thing, you know what I mean. He's okay now but we were scared, you know what I mean, going into the hospital is scary. I was confused but not sad and not nervous. And then everything was gone. It is what it is. You know, better to sit than to rise and fall.

PINCUT

Yeah.

VIP-1

What are you working on today?

PINCUT

The web site and some filing and some faxing and some stuff.

VIP-1

How long will that take you?

PINCUT

I'm not sure. I have twenty pages to update on the web site.

VIP-1

How long does it take you to update one page?

PINCUT

It depends on the country that the page is about, if it is Venezuela it doesn't take long but Greater Europe is hard.

VIP-1

On average.

PINCUT

Probably fifteen minutes.

VIP-1

You should be able to do them in ten minutes.

[A train.]

PINCUT

Welcome aboard
Amtrak's metroliner
Ask your conductor
About stepping up
Amtrak's metroliner
Club class
Offers big seats
Ask your
Stepping up to
Train. Welcome aboard
Service. Exit. Offers big
And elegant ask you
conductor club class. Restrooms.
Train Amtrak's metroliner
Offer's big and an elegant
Stepping up to restrooms.

I don't like the tunnel. The first part. It reminds me of nowhere.

ANNA

The taxi driver said to me there's going to be a big storm in January, snowing all the time but not a lot of snow. It will be very cold and winter will go very late this year. He says "I like the cold, you may not believe me because of the way I look but I like the cold. It doesn't matter if you believe me." I say I don't believe you. He says you are going to get sick sick very sick. You will be very sick and you will think of the cemetery. Often.

I ask him, where are you from? He tells me Paraguay. Uruguay. Brazil. Argentina. Don't be afraid. I am from there. Peru. I ask him, how can you like the cold? I don't believe you. How can you stand the cold, I can't stand the cold and I grew up in the cold where the cold was colder than cold. It was so cold. All he says is you will feel like you are going to die. I say I should take care of myself then. Get rest. Stop drinking. Exercise. I have a cabinet full of vitamins. A to Zinc. He says, no. That will make it worse. You should receive the sickness. Accept it.

PINCUT

Did you believe him?

ANNA

I don't know, I sat down on a bench today and thought to myself for a moment before I began journaling in the journal I had just purchased at the Duane Reade. The first thing I wrote was the date, I hesitated on the year, I almost wrote 1993 - my brain is like a fold inside of itself the lines of scriggle scraggle are deeper than they should be, unnaturally deep.

[Office.]

VIP-1

He has parsley in his teeth. It's disgusting.

VIP-2

You should tell him.

VIP-1

I'm going to throw up.

VIP-2

Oh, if it bothers you that much than you should definitely tell him.

VIP-1

No. I couldn't do that, that would be so mean and he might take it as a threat.

VIP-2

I don't think he would.

VIP-1

Really? No he would...especially coming from me.

VIP-2

Well I can't tell him. That would be even worse.

VIP-1

No it wouldn't. He respects your opinion and it would probably help you in the long run.

VIP-2

I didn't see the parsley to begin with which means he would realize that you and I have been talking about his teeth behind his back and that we concocted a plan to tell him about a piece of parsley in his teeth in a very calculated manner. Now the whole situation becomes threatening and volatile.

VIP-1

You're right. I should've just told him but I couldn't.

VIP-2

Now I think you're right, you shouldn't tell him. Too much time has passed.

(PINCUT Enters.)

PINCUT

Morning.

Good morning. It's freezing out there.

VIP-1

It is.

VIP-2

It is?

PINCUT

It felt like it.

(VIP-1 exits. CO-WORKER enters.)

CO-WORKER

Morning.

PINCUT

Morning.

VIP-2

Don't forget we have an 8am.

(VIP-2 Exits)

CO-WORKER

What's the meeting about?

PINCUT

I think it's a general.

CO-WORKER

No it's gotta be more than that. We all "have" to be there.

PINCUT

Something weird just happened. I came in and VIP1 and VIP2 are standing there talking or at least they had been talking and then they stopped talking as soon as I came in. I say good morning and they don't even hardly acknowledge me.

CO-WORKER

Maybe they didn't hear you.

PINCUT

That's what I thought and so I said good morning again and mentioned the temperature outside and

CO-WORKER

It's freezing out today.

PINCUT

Exactly. And they responded to the weather but then that was it.

CO-WORKER

What's your point?

PINCUT

You walked in and we got the directive to not miss the 8am. What time is it?

CO-WORKER

7:55.

PINCUT

Something's going on. Something big.

(A theatre/chamber. A S/he stands next to a giant sphere of gauze and is surrounded by a group of people wearing robes. Some wear turbans, the ones who have achieved yoga guru status in their neighborhoods. All but S/HE wears prosthetic masks.)

S/HE

Nora I Morrow.

ALL

Nora I Morrow.

S/HE

I bring you the telepathic challenge of command: extend free will of autonomous human pulsar bomb units into collective group mind experience of...of equality for all life on the planet.

ALL

Moon warriors unite.

S/HE

Here our voice.

ALL

Here our voice.

S/HE

Feel our heart.

ALL

Feel our heart.

S/HE

The crusade now begins here.

ALL

Now begins here. Here begins now. Begins here now.

S/HE

We will now have a moment of silence. Hold hands. Think of our fellow warriors in Argentina, Brazil, England, Spain, Italy, and the whole of the world, Miami too, think of the universe, free your minds and feel the moon. Let the moon time pulse in your hearts. We are one with nature.

ALL

We are one with nature.

S/HE

We are one with nature.

ALL

We are one with nature.

S/HE

WE ARE ONE WITH NATURE!!!

(Silence.)
[Train.]

PINCUT

What is "nocturnal butterflies of the Russian empire?"

ANNA

I don't know.

PINCUT

Is it fiction or non-fiction?

ANNA

I honestly don't know. I haven't ever heard of it.

PINCUT

Huh. I like that combination, nocturnal butterflies.
99,865. 99,872.

ANNA

What are you doing?

PINCUT

I'm counting trees in clumps now. Tree's are much easier to count in the winter.

ANNA

Because they are dead.

PINCUT

Asleep. This is my training. My first step. This is how I begin to reconnect/realize I am one with nature. I've found already that counting one tree at a time is impossible. I look at a clump and see seven or ten or two I don't see individual trees I see individual trees in clumps. They have more meaning. When I see one tree by its self out there alone I hesitate and wonder if I should count it. I do count it and I am sad for that tree.

ANNA

I know.

PINCUT

They offered me my job back at the firm. I turned them down.

ANNA

What?

PINCUT

I feel so good, all over. My heart is lighter or something, I'm tingling. Look at me, do I look good? I love you Anna.

ANNA

Counting trees.

PINCUT

This is just the beginning.

[Office.]

CO-WORKER

I just assumed that if you were a top line athlete that you couldn't have fatal health problems, you know? I mean it makes sense to me, I understand it now but it happened, so suddenly. Apparently he suffocated to death...sleep apnea.

PINCUT

Do you want a coffee? I'm getting a twenty-five center at the machine, do you want one.

CO-WORKER

I was on the 18th floor on a video conference yesterday with London. It was going on and on after it was over, going over font sizes and delivery dates and font types and summarizing the summaries of decisions we had made and I'm sitting there after drinking like three or four cups and now I am in pain and I look over at them and I say I gotta go. And they all nod in the delayed video conference way and they keep talking and eating their biscuits and man I am in pain sitting there and all I can see are the colorful artifacts of their faces and I couldn't wait any longer because I was literally about to burst, the pain was traveling up my back at this point so I clicked them off.

PINCUT

Did you sign off?

CO-WORKER

Yeah yeah yeah I signed off but I didn't wait to hear what else they were going to go on about and ran out of there.

PINCUT

I didn't know there was a video conference room on that floor.

CO-WORKER

Well I didn't know where the bathroom was on that floor. I come out of the room and I can hardly walk and I have no idea where to go so I take a guess and found a bathroom and I'm standing over the urinal and nothing comes out. Nothing. I am in screaming pain and nothing comes out till finally a trickle then the flood and then more pain. I started seeing spots and my head was woozy and all I could think was

PINCUT

Jesus.

CO-WORKER

Someone's going to come walking in here and find me in a puddle of my own urine with my pants at my ankles. I got to the toilet and sat down, put my head between my legs.

PINCUT

Have you ever heard of a book called "Nocturnal Butterflies of the Russian Empire?"

CO-WORKER

No.

PINCUT

It's one of those books someone reads on a train.

CO-WORKER

I'm one of those people on a train, I don't like trains. I don't like what I see from trains. I don't like corrosion.

(Theatre/Chamber. PINCUT is
up to his neck in gauze.)

PINCUT

There was an accident sort of, I didn't mean for this to happen, it was an accident in the scriggle scraggle of my brain and in a flash so much became clear to me, crystal clear to me, not just ideas and concepts, it was a clarity like x-ray vision, like I can see the fabric between us, the connection between all things and beings. All I had to do was stop living by a set rules that have nothing to do with nature, the galaxy, the universe, stop following a set of rules designed to benefit a few people, to transfer power and money to a few people.

It's not always dark in the scriggle scraggle. I imagine there are flashes like lighting - a shining just beyond the horizon or deep within a storm system. A scriggle scraggle will smell too, like a static charge of immense magnitude just after it has been unleashed. Rotten eggs. Soft. Not dry. Sweet. ANNA says: he didn't ask me to come along but I know he loves me doesn't he? Something is wrong, he isn't like he used to be, I guess neither of us...why didn't he ask me to come along - maybe he doesn't love me. What is this inside of me - he put it here and now what do I do - I want this piece of him - I want it to live - why does he have to die - why can't he stay. Is he happy this way? I know I'm not - I can't be happy this way. I think he is confused - but what is he to me if he is dead. Another lost soul - another lost body - and the sum of him equals an oozing ball of gauze - isn't that what it is - an oozing of him -

he is oozing out of the gauze. Maybe I could get a sonogram of him, one last image of him. Oh my god. Oh. This is terrible. Oh.

Maybe if I sing I will feel better. Yes. A song.

ANNA ANNA doesn't have a gun
She prays that life would be fun
Underwear, bra's and peppermint gum
Thumb, drum, sum
scum, plum, plume
tum tum rum fume
rum sun
her favorite moments kept in a photo album

Stupid song.

(ANNA enters.)

PINCUT

There is something caught in my teeth, I can feel it pushing creating a pressure between my teeth but I can't feel it with my tongue - it's probably a piece of rye or ham - ham would be worse because it will rot and fester.

ANNA

Let me see. I don't see anything. You should floss though.

PINCUT

I do.

ANNA

I just don't understand what you think you can do about it.

PINCUT

I know. Cogs wheels widgets. Count them. Sell them. Buy them. Save them. Hold them. Make them. Make believe you make them. Make the wheel but not the cog. Make the cog but not the widget. Make them all. Yes make all of them. Make all of them buy all of them sell all of them. Oh yes. That is the way.

[Office.]

PINCUT

What's she doing in there?

CO-WORKER

I don't know but it must be important. She was here late three nights last week working on it.

PINCUT

It's a report?

CO-WORKER

It's gotta be. Nothing takes this much time. It's not the quarter end, it's not the month end, it's not the weekend. It's the Wednesday in the middle of the month - it's a reporting day.

PINCUT

I'm hungry. I'm going in.

CO-WORKER

I wouldn't do that. She could be working on a report about us and that's why we don't know anything about it.

(VIP-2 enters and knocks on the door. VIP-1 says: "Come in.")

PINCUT

I'm going, I'm getting low blood sugar.

CO-WORKER

She said she wanted to eat with us.

PINCUT

I'm going to pass out.

[Home of PINCUT and ANNA.]
(PINCUT enters.)

ANNA

Where have you been Pincut? You've been gone so long I thought the street swallowed you up and spit you out in the sewer and that the sewer dumped you someplace in the mid-Atlantic. How long does it take to go to the store?

PINCUT

I went to the store but it took longer than I thought. I think my wisdom teeth are growing back in.

ANNA

You went to the bar.

PINCUT

I had to be sure. I kept running my tongue over the lumps where my old wisdom teeth lived. I thought a Guinness would tell me – like finger print dust can reveal a perfect finger print on an empty glass of wine.

ANNA

But you went out to come right back and then you went to the bar. Did you get it?

PINCUT

Yes.

(PINCUT holds a brown paper bag.)

Here. My mouth tastes like a mix of cherries black olives and garlic.

(ANNA opens the bag and removes a small box.)

ANNA

You promised you were going to quit.

PINCUT

I had one. I feel I needed it.

ANNA

But now you taste funny.

PINCUT

Yes.

(ANNA leaves the room to the bathroom. PINCUT is alone in the room. He hates being alone and is very nervous now that his wife has taken the package into the other room.)

PINCUT

I've decided to leave the firm honey. There are a lot of demons in the world and I don't think staying at the firm is doing any good.

ANNA

I can't hear you Pincut.

PINCUT

I'm going to do something with my life now. Something that will make a difference. Get rid of some of the demons.

ANNA

Pincut - what are you saying, I'm in the bathroom and the water is running just a minute. The water's off now.

PINCUT

I said I'm going to leave the firm. It's time for me to do something.

ANNA

You can't leave the firm now. Not now Pincut, what will we do, we have too much, why would you leave the firm? They love you and are so good to you.

[Office. PINCUT arrives at work today after a grueling train ride and sits down at his desk in his office which has no windows. He peels open a cold toasted sesame bagel with cream cheese and opens a paper cup of coffee, and pours it into a real mug.]

(VIP-2 enters.)

VIP-2

Fax this to Smith Barney, Merrill

(PINCUT's ears are ringing.)

VIP-2

Pru, JP, Goldman

(VIP-2 rattles like a machine gun.)

VIP-2

Lehman, Pru, Merrill, UBS, no not UBS

(VIP-2 exits.)

VIP-2

fuck UBS, Smith Barney

[PINCUT continues chewing his bagel. He never makes eye contact in the morning while he is eating his bagel or drinking his coffee. Not that that matters. The others rarely make eye contact when they are giving orders to fax.]

(VIP-2 pokes his head in.)

VIP-2

Uh when you're finished but right away. Okay? Okay.

(VIP-2 is gone, Mudder Funker enters.)

MF

I need five bound copies of this by ten AM. Big meeting today. Getting paid meeting know what I mean?

(MF is gone.)

[PINCUT continues to chew his bagel. It is very important not to make eye contact until you are ready to be engaged.]

(VIP-1 emerges from one of the desk drawers.)

VIP-1

You're here, oh good.

(PINCUT stops chewing and nearly vomits. Maybe it is the sound of her voice or the fact that she is always closer than he expects.)

VIP-1

Is it up yet?

PINCUT

What?

VIP-1

Is it up? I went on. And it's still the old information. The old page. You said you would update it before you left yesterday.

PINCUT

I did.

VIP-1

But it's not up. It's still old.

PINCUT

You need to refresh.

VIP-1

Oh. How do I do that again?

PINCUT

The button on the top bar with an arrow. Click it.

VIP-1

But will everyone have to do this? How will they know they need to refresh?

(VIP-1 exits.)

PINCUT

Pincut stares at the wall contemplating the other half of his bagel. The first half feeling more like a rock than a bagel in his stomach. He takes a long sip of coffee. He could feel the building swaying again. He has noticed that when it was really windy the building creaks and sways. He notices a crack in the wall above his desk. The others keep coming into his office and making piles around him as he

watches the thin crack grow. He doesn't recall what they say because he isn't listening to them he is listening to the crack. It is. Saying something. To Pincut. The crack is a map, a path that will lead him to a new and important place. The piles of paper, the presentations, the web pages, the numbers, the reports, the performance charts of money growing and shrinking and hopefully landing somewhere higher than the initial point of investment. This path could take him away from this stuff. This stuff, this work, very important work. The crack demonstrates the flaw in the place, that the place is not permanent. Pincut realizes that he isn't supposed to do this work that these people are giving him, this work is a way of asking him to leave. To repulse him away away far away. This is all a test to see if he is strong enough. Testing if he can see that the repulsion is intentional. Crystallization. Order from chaos. That's why they smile the way they do when they speak. PINCUT walks into VIP-2's room and says "I'm leaving."

VIP-2

Pincut. Finished already? You're so fast. I can't believe how fast you are. Look at you.

PINCUT

I haven't sent the faxes.

VIP-2

Oh, huh. You know Pincut, you live in late time, past due, never on the money, missing the mark by a mile
You live in the late - escaping the future
Never planning or thinking
Always over achieving or trying to, you're never on time.

So, little early for lunch isn't it? How long? We have so much to do today, are you leaving for the day?

PINCUT

I'm leaving the firm.

VIP-2

Oh, I thought you meant you were leaving now.

PINCUT

I'm taking the package.

VIP-2

Hold on a minute. Sit. Look at me. Are you all right?
Everything okay at home? How's the wife, she all right too?
Do you have a reason for leaving?

PINCUT

You offered me a package. I thought it'd be prudent to take
the package while the package was still on the table.

VIP-2

Huh. Hang on, hang on, hang on. Got it.

(VIP-2 pulls a sheet of paper
out of his desk and begins.)

Okay. I'm going to ask you a series of questions. Do you
have an unusual disinterest or disregard of work? No. Do
you miss deadlines? No. Are you having increased difficulty
in handling assignments?

PINCUT

You want me to answer that?

VIP-2

...

PINCUT

No.

VIP-2

Are you sure?

PINCUT

Well there hasn't..

VIP-2

See? Think before you answer Pincut. This is very
important.

PINCUT

Why?

VIP-2

Have you been making unusual mistakes? Sort of, no, not really. Now you have been late but you've always been late. Don't know what that means.

(VIP-2 considers Pincut for a moment.)

Are you upset?

PINCUT

Now?

VIP-2

Worried? About anything in particular? Fearful? Pre-occupied? Mood swings? Do you feel isolated from others? I can't get you a new office, that's out of the question out of the budget you know that. You've always been argumentative, do you feel irritable or angry? How's your memory, can you remember instructions and details? Are you able to concentrate normally? Do you feel I am criticizing you? Are you jumpy? Yes. Easy to startle? BOO! Yes. What do you feel right now in this moment? What's your heart doing? Is it beating really fast? Do you feel disoriented?

[Home. ANNA is in the bathroom.]

PINCUT

They do seem to care about me but why?

ANNA

They like you. You do a good job.

PINCUT

I don't do anything. What's taking so long,?

ANNA

It's hard to hit these things.

(Pincut considers this and leaves.
ANNA enters holding up the pregnancy test.)

ANNA

Pincut?

[Pincut is gone. He's out walking around wondering why he's walking around. He look's up at the stars but it's cloudy. The ground is wet. He can hear an underscore in his head. This would make a great movie he thinks to himself and keeps walking on a street that he doesn't remember but still thinking he's in a movie. He goes to work perhaps, tries to find a center there somewhere.]

[ANNA the wife stands alone in the apartment holding the pregnancy test and instructions. Pincut is gone. She waits for a moment. He's coming back, he must have gone out for a smoke, she thinks. So she stands, looking around the room, waiting quietly. But he doesn't come back.]

[The Office. The Meeting.]

(A SPEAKER PHONE that speaks, VIP1, VIP2, MF, and CO-WORKER sit. PINCUT enters and then leaves.)

MF

Where's he going?

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Who was it?

MF

Pincut. He walked in and walked out.

CO-WORKER

What's on the agenda today?

MF

Wouldn't you like to know? What do you think is on the agenda today? What's the single most talked about topic in this company today?

(PINCUT enters.)

PINCUT

Sorry, forgot my

(MF makes an L symbol with his fingers and puts it on his forehead.)

MF

LLLLLLLoooooooooser. Are you there London?

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Here.

MF

Miami? Miami? Are you with us?

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Yeah, uh yes.

MF

Brazil?

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Yes I am here but can we make this brief my cell phone is burning a hole in my head. Yes?

MF

Yes.

(MF pushes a button on the machine.)

What's his problem?

(MF pushes a button on the machine again.)

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Boston is here as well. We are all here.

MF

I'll keep this brief for Brazil because we know you're in a taxi and on your way to the play-offs.

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Something like that.

MF

Who's playing?

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Argentina

MF

I thought they were eliminated last week.

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

No. Uh no. Uruguay was last week.

MF

Did you win?

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

Of course, heh, it is not even a question.

PINCUT

Uruguay is the largest producer of spam.

VOICE FROM THE MACHINE

(Different voices from the machine chime in.)

What? I didn't get that last bit - who's talking -

(Heavy breathing from the machine.)

VIP-1

That's a good tid-bit for the web site, is that on the web site?

PINCUT

I can get it up there today if you want.

VIP-1

Is it true?

PINCUT

Sure.

VIP-1

No no no I mean, do you have a source for it or something where I can see it like where did you hear this information.

PINCUT

I know someone who grew up there and he told me.

VIP-1

Oh.

MF

Are you finished? Good. I'll keep this brief. As you are all aware back in February we were given the option to either move to Frankfurt or be severed from the company. The company has now reconsidered their position and would like the group to remain in place as is. You now have the option to stay or take the severance package.

CO-WORKER

I don't understand, what does that mean stay, I mean we can stay or we can go but if we stay do we have the same job or are they moving us to different parts of the company.

MF

The group stays intact and functions the same as it always has with new leadership. This is good news everyone, the job market is a barren desert right now and thank your lucky stars you aren't out there. I need your decisions by three o'clock today. Speak with your managers.

(MF leaves.)

CO-WORKER

I don't understand what decision, we have to make a decision about what today.

PINCUT

Are you staying or going?

CO-WORKER

Let me get this straight, first they want to get rid of us now they want to keep us.

VIP-2

It's as simple as that although your benefits won't be the same as they were before.

[In the scriggle scraggle. Neither consciousness nor unconsciousness. S/he stands quietly and sniffs a little, sucks her/his teeth once or twice even. It is a very quiet place that has no time, no place, - it is just before an event is going to happen, just before something major is going to alter the course of history which could be as subtle as a roto virus or as complicated as a butterfly. We are in the S/he meditative state.]

S/HE

I met this man, the man, not my man but the person, I didn't know if they would be a man or a woman I only knew that I would meet a person that would change everything. I was lost. I'm new, never been here before and I only had these directions that my friend had sent to me and they weren't very clear. I don't know where I was, a restaurant but not like any restaurant I'd been to but that's what it must have been. There was a lot of food. Tons of food, baked ziti (which I'd never seen before in my life, looked like fancy goulash), stir fry? Chicken baked fried rotisseried? Red meats of all kinds. Three different kinds of soup. Wow. I guess I looked like a deer in the headlights because he came up to me and said, can I help you, are you alright, do you know what you're getting, something like that. His voice was so familiar and friendly, I knew I would know him for a long time. Instant recognition? I stopped, I couldn't speak, I just stood there drinking him in. Holding for a long long moment. I think I must have locked my knees because the room was disappearing around him and I was looking through a tunnel and it was becoming very quiet. He said something, I couldn't hear him and now I was completely blind. I only had a vague sense of movement, a hand on my arm, or

shoulder or around my back, I knew I was being guided. Down. Sitting. Silence. Calm. This could be a good way to go. Right here on this chair in front of a stranger that was so familiar. Whoosh. I was back. Lights on. People everywhere. Everyone looking at me? I was already talking. I didn't know what I was saying, the words were spilling out of my mouth at an incredible speed. His words were slow. He was saying SLOW DOWN. I held my breath again drinking him in letting the words soak into me and take hold and I said this is impossible but I know you, or I feel I should know you can you help me and I handed him the scratchy directions. He smiled and said there's no theatre below the Citicorp building. I said show me. And we went there. And there was.

[Train.]

ANNA

What if you don't count all the trees? You might miss a few, you might not see them because we're going too fast or something.

PINCUT

I don't understand. What I see I count.

ANNA

Oh. But how can you count everything you see?

PINCUT

Why so many questions Anna? You are making me uncomfortable with all these questions and I feel as though you are doubting me in a way. Like you don't really believe in what I am doing which is fine. You don't have to believe in what I am doing but please don't attack me. I'm not hurting you.

ANNA

But you can't...

PINCUT

It doesn't matter. When I am looking I am counting when I am not looking I am not counting but I should be looking. You see? I should be looking at the trees and counting them.

ANNA

Not looking at me then. Not talking to me then. Not being with me then then.

[Office.]

VIP-2

You alright?

PINCUT

Yes. Thanks.

VIP-2

Good. Okay we need to get started on this report, I don't know why you brought it up in the meeting but you did and now Mudder Funker wants it, he thinks it will add value.

PINCUT

I met a woman.

VIP-2

Now?

PINCUT

Yeah. Yes. When I went to the deli to eat, on the corner, over there.

VIP-2

Was she hot? Stupid question. She must have been otherwise you wouldn't be telling me.

PINCUT

She looked like a man. Sort of.

VIP-2

Oh.

PINCUT

But beautiful. Something about her him, she. She was so scared. I saw her staring at all the food and she wasn't moving. I was trying to get to the potato salad. So I said "can I get to that?" you know. And she looked at me and her eyes got really wide all of a sudden and she started swaying and I thought maybe she was going to be sick or something so I moved her to a table and she started talking so fast. Her voice, that's how I knew I guess, that she was

a woman but not really I mean it was a strange voice, it could have been a man's voice.

VIP-2

Was she built?

PINCUT

Yeah, sort of.

VIP-2

So there you go.

PINCUT

That part was clear though but that doesn't mean anything.

VIP-2

Wait a minute, he had tits?

PINCUT

Forget it.

VIP-2

No no. What was she wearing then.

PINCUT

Plain clothes but low cut everywhere you know.

VIP-2

Belly?

PINCUT

Yes.

VIP-2

Come on. Come on Pincut. Pincut. When was the last time you wore a shirt that showed your belly? Huh?

PINCUT

She needed help finding a place under the Citi-Corp building.

VIP-2

Did you get her number?

PINCUT

No. Just this card. It's beautiful isn't it?

VIP-2

You didn't get her number? Let me see that. Nora I. Morrow?
Nora. Nice name.

PINCUT

Yeah. Nora I. Morrow. It's not her name though. She it's
more than that.

VIP-2

Should have gotten her number, you'll never see her again.

PINCUT

It's not about that. I'm meeting her later I think at this
place. It's I don't know. I feel weird. In a good way.

VIP-2

You're full of shit man. You are full of shit.

PINCUT

No.

VIP-2

Yeah.

PINCUT

I left her there.

[Theatre/Chamber.]

(Pincut enters the theatre.
Standing in a circle around
S/he are the followers.)

S/HE

Welcome.

ALL

Welcome.

PINCUT

Welcome.

S/HE

Tonite we are in the midst of destiny and the moon warriors will rise around the world. And the battle ground will be in the minds of all and the objective will be time and the warriors will defeat the dictators of time with a revolution that will cut the pulsing heart of money and the people will open their eyes to see our time, the moon time. They will see the simplicity of the thirteen month calendar and the thirteen cycles of the moon and the human link to nature will be re-established. Inner creative instincts will be unleashed and art will surface again as the object of time. Time is not money. Time is art. You may not feel it yet but the war has begun, the revolution is now and taking hold, the shift is happening. The warriors are awake, we are awake and here Pincut has arrived.

ALL

Pencut.

S/HE

No. Pincut. Like Pinket but Pin---CUT.

ALL

Pincut. Pincut. PinCUT.

S/HE

Pincut. Step up here with me please.

PINCUT

Okay.

S/HE

Thank-you. Tonight we begin engineering the human pulsar bomb in preparation of our first time shift event. Tonight at 2am we meditate and Argentina will hear us and know that we have found Pincut and have begun the task one of engineering the human pulsar bomb. 'time is art' 'time is art' 'time is art'.

ALL

Time is art.

PINCUT

art.

S/HE

Consider the three principles. First Principle: Time reversal. Second principle: Telepathy and Interdimensional Displacement. Third Principle: Collective Time Power, or Pulsar Bombs. It is important to remember that by its nature telepathy cannot be the truth of a single operant, but at minimum, two. The effects of directed telepathy can only increase by the number of operants creating a specific telepathic field.

[Office.]

VIP-1

Okay. So I put together something some slides, a little presentation for you. So I'll just get started. When you look at how the people react, that's something that is important. You have to think about that when you are writing your business model or figuring out what you want to tell. How people react to what you are doing. I can show you all kinds, every kind of model that exists and works but really it's up to you to figure out how your model should look. We have a trend line here, that you can follow all the way to the top. We have the population divided into three segments. One third of the population is very young and they don't do much. The next third is middle aged and they do a lot. The last third is old, they don't do much like the young ones. Based on these facts you should be able to focus your sites on the middle third as your target. Capture this third and you can't lose. People buy airline tickets, they buy books, they even do some of their banking ie financial services, but not everyone likes computers or even has one, so you should do everything on TV. A click through on TV right to your web site. They'll have the standards figured out soon so that will be an option for you. That's it. Any questions?

(MF appears.)

MF

You do good work.

VIP-1

Thank you.

MF

Do you want a raise?

VIP-1

Yes.

MF

Why should I give you a raise?

VIP-1

I work hard.

MF

I am a runner. I run. Far sometimes until there is no more pain. I run through the pain and I keep running. This is something I like to do and it is not self destructive it is a positive experience. I don't run anymore though and I don't know true pain anymore. I sit in this office and I look at my running shoes and I try to imagine how many miles I've touched.

VIP-1

Sir. I like to run.

MF

Good. That's going to take you places. Here's what I've got for you, twenty percent increase in salary, double your current potential bonus, promotion to vice president, and one extra week of vacation.

[Theatre/Chamber.]

(One big giant unfortunate ball
of gauze. It is not oozing yet.)

ANNA

I have to go Pincut. Where are you? I need quiet time with you. Are you in there?

PINCUT

...

ANNA

I think maybe you can hear me. I feel like I can feel you in there and that the ball is still warm because you are still generating heat. They ran out of gauze. I know the spinning in the end was making you woozy. So that's stopped now. I'm going outside now.

PINCUT

...

(S/HE enters will ALL.)

S/HE

The paradigm of time is changing. I can feel it. Soon we will all be aware of the law of moon time. This is a great day Anna. We are coming to the end of the belief in the male dominant, warrior hero, fear and separation paradigm.

(ANNA continues to leave.)

Wait. Anna. My name is Nora I. Morrow. We are Nora I. Morrow. Hear my words. The human species represents the power of self reflection. In the human order, the transition of conscious to continuing conscious is the domain of its self-reflective powers. I am talking about self reflective discovery of the Law of Time, which marks the shift from time is money to time is art. Dance with us. Dance for Pincut.

(All march around Pincut. ALL speak in Gregorian chant crossed with that song 1,2 Step by Ciara for the following. You know 1,2 Step goes automatic supersonic hypnotic funky fresh, work my body so melodic, this beat flows right through my chest...)

Boom	boom	bedahkydahky bah
Boom	boom	bedahkydahky bah

[Verse 1]

Time shift mind shift money doesn't matter new age
Closing up the mind rift
The power flows through our sage
Look at me wizardry come be free
Argentina ChinaHungary
Boom boom bedahkydahky bah

[hook]

Do a g'lactic moon prance
A funky way to dance
In this land we demand
Galactic moon prance

Boom boom bedahkydahky bah
Boom boom bedahkydahky bah

[verse 2]

Nora I. Morrow moon warriors rise
Supersize lutionize g'lactic prize
Hear our hear our hear our time
Boom boom bedahkydahky bah
Boom boom bedahkydahky bah

[bridge]

In this night we walk a walk so light
(Boom boom bah)
We are a no time new time flight
(Boom boom bah)
In this night we walk a walk so light
Boom boom bedahkydahky bah

...
...

[Office. MF is listening to the
conversation.]

VIP-2

It's good to see you Anna. How have you been?

ANNA

Alright I suppose. I'm looking for Pincut.

VIP-2

Did you check his office.

ANNA

It was locked.

VIP-2

Locked? That's weird.

ANNA

Have you seen him lately?

VIP-2

Hmmm.

VIP-1

He was at the meeting.

ANNA

When was that?

VIP-1

He's probably down in the server room or something. He's gotta be around here somewhere.

VIP-2

Exactly. Odd that his office is locked but we have had some wallets stolen around here, wallets, laptops, tiffany cufflinks, you know someone is going around stealing stuff out of peoples offices so he probably is being extra cautious.

ANNA

He hasn't been home for a few nights. I am worried and thought, it's crazy, I thought maybe he was still at work or something I know you guys have some really big projects that you are working on. May I see his office?

VIP-1

What do you think? Things get cloudy sometimes.

VIP-2

It's highly unusual. I wouldn't recommend it.

VIP-1

I don't think it will be a problem. I think I have a master key, yes here, take this. Just bring the key back, all right. All right. Okay.

ANNA

Thank you.

VIP-2

Did I tell you what happened to me last night?

VIP-1

No.

(Long pause.)

What happened?

VIP-2

This is weird. I was preparing a room for sleeping. We have this beautiful soft white carpet on the floor but I needed a mattress, so I placed it on the floor for my wife and I. As I'm making the bed I notice a spider spinning long strands of web across the room directly above the bed. It was a small spider at the time but as it spread its legs it appeared larger much much larger. There was a small swarm of flies that had arrived from the kitchen vent and I thought this is good, the spider will catch the swarm of flies and we can sleep easy. By the time I finished making the bed the spider had finished spinning a monumental size web suspended above the entire mattress. The flies were gone but the spider was huge. I lay on the bed on my back staring up at the belly of the spider which was about the size of my torso and the spider crawled up to the center of the web and he was so fat that the weight of the spider stretched the web until the spider head was inches above my face. The mandibles looked sharp and dangerous and loud. I realized that the spider was preparing to eat me to trap me in its bone crushing mandibles and gobble me up. I grabbed the spider's front two legs and I tried to scream. It was like there was something lodged in my throat and I couldn't breathe in or out but there was nothing in my throat it was just my muscle's constricting, then somehow I screamed my wife's name.

(VIP-2 exits. MF enters.)

MF

He was talking about me don't you think?

ANNA

Oh.

VIP-1

I wouldn't know sir. He was very serious though.

MF

You know what's he doing now? He's gone to have a smoke outside. To get a cup of coffee. To have another smoke and then he'll come back to work with a clear head. That's what I need around here. Clear heads all the time. Do you agree?

VIP-1

Yes. Sir.

MF

Hmm?

ANNA

Oh. I wouldn't know. You know. My husband Pincut works here and I'm trying to find him. You are his boss right?

MF

Pincut. Yes. Indirectly. Pincut reports to VIP1 who reports to VIP2 and myself. So indirectly I am Pincut's boss. But I don't know where he is and yes you may look in his office. Of course. Take any personal belongings that are his as well. We need that office. New hire's coming in tomorrow.

[Chamber/Theatre]

S/HE

Each loop of gauze contains the telepathic force of a member of the moon warriors. When wrapped together in a specific manner the ball becomes a very powerful pulsar bomb.

(Pincut is threading the apparatus and becomes entangled.)

S/HE

Are you stuck?

PINCUT

I seem to be stuck.

S/HE

Don't move, once the apparatus begins rolling it won't stop until the gauze has run out. You're doing good work Pincut. I'll be right back with a helper. To untangle you.

PINCUT

It's alright, feels nice. Warm.

(PINCUT is alone as he sings a song the apparatus begins rolling.)

I walk along
Along the sidewalk
The sidewalk and I see
Everyone has three
Everyone has three
Everyone has three
But us, we have two

Everyone has three
Everyone has three
Everyone has three
But us, we have two

Everyone has three
Everyone has three
Everyone has three
But us, we have two

Everyone has three
Everyone has three
Everyone has three
But us, we have two

(Darkness. Out of the darkness the
S/HE speaks)

S/HE

Money is corrosive, addictive, eats away at the human heart. Money is the most powerful form of alchemy. Money can transform into anything. It can be a toaster, a car, gasoline, power, sex, religion, food, roses. The desire for money makes people do terrible things to other people. Money is not the end all be all. Money is like water because it is essential to sustaining humanity but money is not life. Money is not peace or harmony. That comes from somewhere else. That desire comes from nature. When the human pulsar bomb detonates, a pulse of Pincut's desire for balance will hit everyone in this area. They will snap out of their money time and shift into our moon time. This building will not collapse. There will not be fire or riots or mass destruction. People will look up from their desks relieved, refreshed, they won't care so much about money.

(PINCUT is now wrapped in a sphere
of gauze, the machine seems to be stuck.)

CO-WORKER

Pincut?

PINCUT

Hello? I think it's broken...

(CO-WORKER enters.)

CO-WORKER

It's me.

PINCUT

Uh, hey. What are you doing here?

CO-WORKER

...Anna. She came to the office. She is worried. She is looking for you. What is this thing? Who did this to you? I'm getting you out of there.

PINCUT

Stop. Wait. Breathe buddy just breathe.

CO-WORKER

This is insane. What do I do?

PINCUT

You're breathing now...you have no idea what is going to happen and you breathe.

CO-WORKER

I.

PINCUT

Yes.

CO-WORKER

Am here. I am here. Looking at you in a ball of gauze? And I'm pretty freaked out. You shouldn't be in that ball of gauze and yet I think - cool. It's pretty cool. You're going to die.

PINCUT

We're making a human pulsar bomb.

CO-WORKER

Better to sit than rise and fall I always say.

PINCUT

You know, I'm not sure you should be here but maybe you should be, you found me, I'm confused right now. I have this pressure in my belly that seems to be building up.

CO-WORKER

I met a girl. (pause) Last night. The other night.

PINCUT

Is she nice?

CO-WORKER

She doesn't, didn't wear any under wear.

PINCUT

Hmmm. Oh hey, is the web site still up?

CO-WORKER

Yeah.

PINCUT

Good. Good. You going to see her again?

CO-WORKER

I don't know.

PINCUT

Do you have her number?

CO-WORKER

No.

(Both men are quiet.)

PINCUT

Do you hear that?

CO-WORKER

Shhhh. What is it?

PINCUT

They're coming back. You should...

And then he ran as fast as he could into a closed door. He lay whimpering on the floor like a hurt dog. He could smell the winter dirt in the carpet. He bled for a while but was never discovered.

[Office]

MF

The world is a business place Pincut. That's what it is here for. The entire globe is a giant market place where phenomenal amounts of money can be made and lost. I just happen to make phenomenal amounts of money and I don't lose it. It's the only thing I'm good at. Money touches everybody. Everyone wants it and there's not enough for everyone. It's beautiful. Ah I'm boring you. Here. Here's something for you to ponder. Look at this Pincut. If you stretch this rubber band like this and hold it on your fingers. You see what I've done? I've transferred energy from my body into the rubber band. I can feel that energy right now because the rubber band is pulling on my fingers. But to keep it full of energy you must continue to transfer a continuous amount of energy. It's not very efficient unless you stretch the rubber band over a couple of nails like this. See, look at that now, the rubber band is storing my energy. Although don't the nails need to be transferring energy into the rubber band continuously in the same way that we have to when we hold that rubber band on our fingers.

PINCUT

I don't know sir.

MF

Come on think about it. Ponder a bit Pincut. This is a great question that you should think about while you work. Eh? Well I've thought about it and I think that those nails do transfer a continuous amount of energy into the rubber band in order to sustain the energy that I originally put into it. And those nails could hold that rubber band much longer than I could. Just imagine. Two little nails.

(The phone rings.)

MF

Are the performance sheets up on the web site yet?

(The phone rings. MF answers the phone.)

Mudder Funker here.

(PINCUT leaves.)

[Chamber/Theater.]

(All but Pincut's head is encompassed in the large sphere of gauze. He struggles to speak because of the pressure from the gauze wrapped around his body. ANNA is there. S/he is there. The prosthetic mask people are there. CO-WORKER is there.)

PINCUT

The pressure is great. But only up to my sternum or just above my sternum. I can't feel my limbs.

S/HE

The ocholon has begun to form Pincut.

ANNA

Excuse me?

S/HE

A ah tesseract. A four dimensional cube has begun to form in his belly region and is growing outward with the bomb. Half of his body is here and the other half is held in balance between time and space. He is a great man Anna. He will be a martyr. He is already a saint but he is not dead but in my mind in our world look at him he is already a saint. He might as well be dead. Because he is already so great.

PINCUT

Why do you love me? I am mean. I am an asshole. I am lost. I am in pain. Why do you love me? I can't remember things. I am not smart I am stupid. Why do you love me? I have no confidence. There is no hope in me. I am hopeless. Hapless. Sad. Depressed. Alcoholic. Self centered. Self destructive. Look at me. I could have stopped this but I did not. I let it grab me wrap me and roll me into a giant ball.

S/HE

No. Pincut. This is no accident.

PINCUT

I used to weep. I used to cry for no reason. I used to cry.

ANNA

I'm going to get something to drink. Do you want anything?

PINCUT

Yes. But wait...do you think I care about money? I don't really at least not how they do I mean I like money like to make it somehow but not like that. I don't know. Itch. Thanks.

ANNA

I know.

PINCUT

I don't think you do. I don't even know because it is ridiculous what they do all day they say things like "my husband has more money than god..."

ANNA

Stop. I stand here and look at you and want to weep but I can't. I don't feel anything, I am thirsty. I am pregnant but I don't know what that means. It is in there like a leafless twig inside me...cry cry cry, why won't you cry - you always said that you cried but I never saw you cry. I want to see you cry. I never saw you cry.

PINTCUT

I can't. I feel as though I could but this thing inside of me, filling me up, expanding out stops me. You know what I realized. I look around at everything all the time and I see it, what it is made of, everywhere. Star stuff. In the fibers of this gauze is star stuff, your hair, my eyes, the air, the ring on my finger, your belly. Your belly. It's all star stuff. That's all we are, that's all anything is. It just so happens it's all arranged in a way that makes you and me. It's a formula. I can see yours and mine and his and hers and s/hes. Unique formulas made from a basic principle and all of it made from the same stuff.

ANNA

That is so stupid Pincut. That is the corniest thing I've ever heard. And you can search and hunt and look and dig and try to find an answer or a sentence or a word that can justify all this stupidity that you are in right now but you can't boil it down. I won't let you, not like this because the moment you are gone will stay with me for the rest of my life, with us. You will always be gone. So you can have your stupid ball of gauze and all of you can have your stupid martyr because I don't care I don't care I don't care.

PINCUT

And I say to myself, if I were a genius what would I do in this situation? Nothing comes to mind. I have no scriggle scraggle. Just smooth open space. Like a sheet of ice.

ANNA

Will you dream a dream of me? A sweet dream that is safe and lovely with a little girl named tiger lily and yellow daisies and people and music.

PINCUT

I'll dream a dream of you if you dream a dream of me.

ANNA

I'll dream a dream of you. I will. Full of life and people, full of stars and a full moon with a sunshine rain with blades of grass that are short but tall - I'll dream all kinds of dreams of you.

(The play has ended however the actors do not realize that the play has ended. Each one is waiting for the next line. This long awkward moment should last about a minute ending with PINCUT getting out of the ball of gauze and walking off stage.)

End Play.