

THE ROOFTOP GUY

Scene One

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Monday morning

CAMERA ON: GAIL is in her home office, on a cell phone call to a colleague.

10 **GAIL:** Hi Judy, how are you? *(Pause)* No, I didn't. What happened? *(Pause)* No. Really? That's only a few hours ago. That's awful. How high is that building anyway? *(Pause)* Just a sec. *(Punches some numbers into a calculator on her desk)* Let's see. At a height of 65
15 meters...by the time he hit the ground, he'd have reached a velocity of... *(punches some more numbers into the calculator)* That would mean the point of impact would have a spread of ...Euhhh. That's disgusting. Do they know who it was? *(Pause)* No. Really? Oh, I've got to call Janet. Talk
20 to you later. Bye. *(Puts down her cell phone and types on her keyboard, while talking to herself)* Answer the invite, Janet. *(Pause)* Answer the invite, Janet.

JANET: *(CAMERA ON. JANET is in her home office)* This better be important. I was about to make a cappuccino.

25 **GAIL:** Judy just called. You'll never guess what just happened!

JANET: Gail. I do not have time to listen to idle office gossip.

GAIL: Oh, you're going to like this. I love your earrings, by the way.

30 **JANET:** Thank you. My stepfather gave them to me when I got my Masters. So what happened?

GAIL: Someone jumped from the Mackenzie Building.

JANET: Is that so?

GAIL: The police tried for about an hour to talk him down and
35 then he jumped.

JANET: Do they know who this person was?

GAIL: That's why I called you. You won't believe it.

JANET: Won't believe it? Who was it?

GAIL: Think of someone who might do it.

40 **JANET:** Really, Gail. I have never been good at these silly guessing games.

GAIL: Just give it a try.

JANET: I don't know. Some financial advisor caught defrauding his clients?

GAIL: No. I'll give you a hint. You know him. He's your 'buddy.'

5 **JANET:** (*Pause*) No... Dave?

GAIL: Yup. (*Smirks a little and then becomes serious*)

JANET: Really? Boring Dave?

GAIL: Yup. (*Smirks louder and then becomes serious*)

JANET: How do they know it was him?

10 **GAIL:** Judy heard some people talking about it, and they mentioned Dave's name.

JANET: They might have been mistaken.

GAIL: Not according to Judy. She called around. He hasn't been seen or heard from all morning.

15 **JANET:** That doesn't sound good. Boring Dave is Mr. Gold Star for punctuality and attendance.

GAIL: They even had security check his office. There's no sign of him.

JANET: It doesn't surprise me in the least. I told everyone he was a lunatic, but did anyone listen to me? No. (*Whiny voice*) He's just odd, Janet. You have to respect other people's differences, Janet. (*Normal voice*) Well, he's sure different now, isn't he, bits of him, spattered all over the road.

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25 **GAIL:** Have some consideration, will you?

JANET: Why? I might offend him? He's dead. Good riddance, I say. One less feeble-minded person in our section is fine by me. Too bad Dick wasn't with him.

GAIL: Stop that. Dave was not...feeble-minded.

30 **JANET:** Sure he was. He had this ridiculous fish collection on his desk. Dozens of them. Fat fish, skinny fish, ugly fish...Then again, I think all fish are ugly, unless they are on my plate.

GAIL: Have you seen all the stuffed animals in Adanna's office?

35 **JANET:** Adanna isn't crazy. Dave was. When the department switched to tele-work, he asked to stay downtown.

GAIL: So?

JANET: No one in their right mind would want the stress of driving downtown every day, when they could work from home.

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GAIL: Not everyone wants to work from home, and there is always the bus.

JANET: The bus? Please. Did you know that when we were downtown, he had a little office in the handicap washroom in the parking garage?

GAIL: What?

JANET: If that isn't insane, I don't know what is.

GAIL: An office...in the handicap washroom...how do you know that?

JANET: I had to use it one morning. He forgot to lock the door, so when I opened it, there he was, sitting on a chair with his laptop on a little table.

GAIL: What did you do?

JANET: Nothing.

GAIL: What did Dave do?

JANET: He asked me to shut the door. So, I did. It turns out, he went there every day for two hours.

GAIL: How do you know that?

JANET: I timed him.

GAIL: You timed him?

JANET: It was a slow month.

GAIL: Sure. Whatever. Did he have a wife or kids or anything?

JANET: I believe he was divorced, with two daughters.

GAIL: I wonder who'll pick up all his fish and stuff?

JANET: Dick, I suppose, except he'll probably sluff that off on one of us. That's something for Goosey Lucy.

GAIL: She knows you call her that, you know.

JANET: I don't care. That's what she is. A Canada Goose. Always squawking about something and all that comes out of her is poop. Two months ago, I put in a requisition for an ergonomic chair like Dave's. She said there was no more money left in the budget, so I'd have to wait until next year.

GAIL: Dave has an ergonomic chair?

JANET: Oh, yes. It's amazing. A fat lot of good it's doing him now...sitting there....in Dave's office...Dave's former office...Containing items that Dave is no longer using...

GAIL: Like an ergonomic chair?

JANET: Exactly. And if Dave no longer requires it...

GAIL: You're not going to take it, are you? That'd be like...like robbing the dead or something.

JANET: Who's robbing? Our section paid for that chair. I'm just reclaiming it.

GAIL: That's still kind of creepy. That was Dave's chair.

JANET: And he can have it back anytime he wants. All he has to do is ask.

GAIL: Maybe you should check with Lucy first.

JANET: Don't be ridiculous. That chair is mine. I wonder what else he's got. Do you need anything Gail?

GAIL: I'm fine. Just fine.

JANET: Let's go take a look.

GAIL: No way! Leave me outa this.

JANET: Didn't you tell me you wanted a footrest?

GAIL: Yeah.

JANET: Well, there's a footrest in Dave's office. And a keyboard rest. You could use one of those, too.

GAIL: I suppose, but we're not allowed to go into the office. It's part of the terms for working from home. We have to be available. At home. The Director General's memo is quite specific.

JANET: Don't listen to the D.G. Besides, the department is on the healthy home office environment band wagon these days. We're just making ours more ergonomic. They can't fault us for that. Plus, we're saving the government money by recycling Dave's old stuff. It's a win-win for everyone.

GAIL: Someone might see us and --

JANET: -- We'll be in and out in a flash.

GAIL: But --

JANET: -- Come on. We have to be quick, before word spreads and the place gets picked clean. I don't want anyone else taking my chair. It'll be like...shopping. You like going shopping, don't you?

GAIL: I guess.

JANET: Good. And on the way home, I can stop by Roberto's. They have a sale on Kate Spade bags.

CAMERAS OFF Janet and GAIL

End of Scene One