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DRAFT

THE LAST BROADCAST

By Britta Johnson

Characters: CJ- The left
 JEANINE- The right
 JACKIE- The cynic
 PATRICIA- The hopeful
 DIANE- The moderator; a consummate journalist
 BRIAN- Host of *BARGAINS WITH BRIAN*
 TODD TODDS- The guest
 VOICEOVER

A bright network TV studio, some time in the near future.

1. THE BEAT OPENING

VOICEOVER: Get ready- Your Monday morning is about to heat up because The Beat is LIVE.
 These ladies are talking news, politics and pop culture and they are NOT pulling punches.

THE LADIES: THE BEAT/THE BEAT/THE BEAT
 TELL ME, WHAT'S THE BEAT, BABE? (*repeating*)

VOICEOVER: It's THE BEAT with CJ!

CJ: Justice for all and patience for none.

VOICEOVER: Jeanine!

JEANINE: When did capitalism become a dirty word?

VOICEOVER: Jackie!

JACKIE: I wish happy hour could start at 11 am!

VOICEOVER: Patricia!

PATRICIA: I'm a momma bear, and that means I bight!

VOICEOVER: And Diane

- DIANE:** I am looking for truth with a capital T!
- VOICEOVER:** Today on The Beat, Todd Todds, inventor of the popular app *Shop, Drop and Roll* will be here to discuss his new autobiography *Dreams, Schemes and What it All Means*.
- TODD TODDS:** *(Flash cut of TODD who is waiting backstage)* I dreamed a dream, I schemed a scheme and I'm here to tell you what it all means.
- PRODUCER:** And as usual, the ladies will be lighting up the table with these hot topics:
- PATRICIA:** What to do if they're too close with their ex?
- CJ:** Dental Insurance- How much should you be paying?
- DIANE:** And most importantly, the highly controversial mining operation which began last week seems to be tied to last night's catastrophic flooding and land disappearances with still uncalculated human mortalities. An expert will be joining to tell us: Is this the end of humanity as we know it?
- (Beat. The all look terrified.)*
- JACKIE:** And Brian- what do you have for us today on *Bargains with Brian*?
- BRIAN:** Well Jackie, today on bargains with Brian we have got just the item to get your summer sizzling and deals to make you sweat! Stayed tuned to get your bargains!
- VOICEOVER:** All of this and more, today on the BEAT!
- THE LADIES:** THE BEAT!
TELL ME, WHAT'S THE BEAT, BABE?
- The ladies sit at the hot topics table. There are visibly in varying states of distress but are powering through and hosting the show with the energy we expect from morning TV. This dialogue moves quickly- there is a frantic energy.*
- DIANE:** Good morning and welcome to THE BEAT. How's everyone doing?
- CJ:** Are you serious?-
- JACKIE:** Mondays, ammlright?
- JEANINE:** Well, my husband and I took a fabulous trip this weekend. Niagara Falls-

PATRICIA: -Oh I love the Falls. The kids just go crazy for the wax museum.

JACKIE: -Yikes. No thank you. Real people are scary enough. -

CJ: -Are you serious? We're not even going to acknowledge/what's happened

DIANE: /No. We are. /We are

JACKIE: /Jeez CJ. Let me have a sip of my coffee/

PATRICIA: That's why I got off caffeine. The dependency/

CJ: *(with force)* We need to acknowledge what's happened.

DIANE: *(beat)* Right. Yes. I suppose that should be our first topic of discussion. The thing... the... happening. Because of course, that's what everyone is thinking about this morning.

JACKIE: That and coffee.

PATRICIA: You gotta get off caffeine. The dependency.

DIANE: We don't have many answers but later on we will be welcoming an expert who does and... For now let's discuss I suppose.. how we got here? How did we get here?

2. IT STARTED WITH THE OCEAN

DIANE: IT STARTED WITH THE OCEAN
THE POLLUTION
THE POLLUTION OF THE OCEAN
REMEMBER THE COMMOTION
THE DAY THAT EVERYTHING STOPPED
SO WE COULD HEAR THE LEADERS SAY

OTHER HOSTS: HEAR THE LEADERS SPEAK TO US-

DIANE: THAT SOON WE'D RUN OUT OF TIME
SOON WE'D RUN OUT OF OXYGEN
THE OCEAN WAS OUR OXYGEN
AND WE HAD FILLED HER UP WITH POISON

OTHER HOSTS: POISON/POISON/ POISON

CJ: THEN CAME THE TIME OF INNOVATION

OTHER HOSTS: AH

CJ: ALL THE STUDIES, ALL THE TRIALS AND INNOVATION
EVERY LAB IN EVERY NATION
WAS LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER SO THAT THEY COULD LEAD THE WAY

BEFORE WE RAN OUT OF TIME

OTHER HOSTS: BEFORE WE RAN OUT OF TIME

CJ: BEFORE WE RAN OUT OF OXYGEN

OTHER HOSTS: BEFORE WE RAN OUT OF OXYGEN

CJ: THE OCEAN WAS OUR OXYGEN

OTHER HOSTS: JUST TRY TO KEEP ON BREATHING

CJ: AND WE HAD FILLED HER UP WITH POISON

OTHER HOSTS: POISON/ POISON

ALL HOSTS: AND THE CLOCK WAS TICKING
BUT NOTHING WAS STICKING
THERE WAS NO CURE TO BE SEEN

TILL A LAB IN SWEDEN
A TEAM FROM SWEDEN
PROPOSED A NEW MIGHTY MACHINE

TO TAKE CARE OF THE MESS
TAKE CARE OF THE OCEAN
AND LEAVE THE OCEAN CLEAN

PATRICIA AND JEANINE: (REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE)

ALL HOSTS: BUT THEY NEEDED MATERIAL
IN ORDER TO BUILD IT
AND THEY NEEDED IT FAST

THE KIND OF MATERIAL
THAT WAS GONE
THE KIND THAT WE COULDN'T GET TO LAST

JACKIE: LIKE LITHIUM

OTHER HOSTS: LITHIUM

JACKIE: AND PHOSPHORUS

OTHER HOSTS: PHOSPHORUS

JACKIE: AND OIL

OTHER HOSTS: OIL

JACKIE: AND COAL

OTHER HOSTS: COAL

DIANE JOINS: WE NEEDED MORE LITHIUM

OTHER HOSTS: LITHIUM

DIANE/JACKIE: AND PHOSPHORUS

OTHER HOSTS: PHOSPHORUS

DIANE/JACKIE: AND OIL

OTHER HOSTS: OIL

DIANE/JACKIE: AND COAL

OTHER HOSTS: COAL

DIANE: SO TO GET THE SUPPLIES, OF WHICH THERE WAS A DEARTH
THEY DECIDED TO DRILL

OTHER HOSTS: DRILL/ DRILL

DIANE: TOWARDS THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

(Spoken) It has been exactly one week since the highly controversial mining operation began. It was off to a promising start until around midnight last night, when startling reports began to emerge.

OTHER HOSTS: AH

DIANE: Reports claiming that parts of South America, Scandinavia, Southeast Asia, and Antarctica had.... Disappeared.

ALL HOSTS: AND WE DON'T KNOW MUCH
WE'LL GET MORE INFO AS WE GO
BUT LATER ON WE HAVE AN EXPERT AS A GUEST HERE ON THE SHOW
WHO'S GONNA TELL US ALL WHAT'S HAPPENING
AND TELL US EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW

WHAT HAPPENED?
WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?
WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW
THE BIGGEST QUESTION OF THEM ALL IS THE QUESTION KNOWN AS
HOW
DOES A COUNTRY SIMPLY VANISH?
IT'S PEOPLE AND IT'S LAND?
WHAT HAPPENS IF WE CAN'T PROCEED EXACTLY AS WE PLANNED?
AND WHO IS IT TO BLAME FOR LETTING THINGS GET OUT OF HAND?

DIANE: WHAT MADE THESE PLACES VANISH IN THE OCEAN?
IT'S LIKE THEY VANISHED IN THE OCEAN.

ALL HOST: AH

3A. ALRIGHT, CAN I SAY SOMETHING?

JEANINE: ALRIGHT, CAN I SAY SOMETHING?
IS FLOOR NOW OPEN?
CAN I SAY SOMETHING?
CAUSE I GOT A LOT OF THINGS TO SAY

DIANE: OK.

JEANINE: OK.

JACKIE: Oh God.

JEANINE: OK.

I THINK THAT IT'S A PROBLEM
THAT WE IMMEDIATELY BLAME THIS ON THE MINING OPERATION
DID I MISS THE PART WHERE THERE WAS LITERALLY ANYONE AT THIS
STATION WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON?

PATRICIA: WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ALL

CJ: Right, but I think all things considered, it's a logical assumption we can
make-

JEANINE: I wasn't finished
THOSE HARD-WORKING MINERS DID WHAT HAD TO BE DONE
YES, THOSE WERE-HARD WORKING MINERS WHO WERE UNDER THE GUN
AND IT'S THE HARD-WORKING MINERS WHO THE MEDIA IS LOOKING TO
BLAME

CJ: THAT'S INSANE-

JEANINE: THAT'S THE LIBERAL MEDIA

CJ: CAN I SAY SOMETHING
ARE YOU FINISHED YET, COULD I TRY TO SAY SOMETHING?
CAUSE THAT'S A REALLY BACKWARDS THOUGHT

JEANINE: No it's not.

CJ: You're a lot.

JEANINE: Really?

CJ: Really, you're a lot.
THERE IS LITERALLY NO ONE
NO ONE ON THE PLANET WHO WOULD BLAME THIS ON THE MINERS

JEANINE: Um-

CJ: IT'S THE SNAKES WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF THEM, THE NASTY BOTTOM
LINERS
WHO DID ANYTHING TO PUSH THIS PLAN AHEAD

JACKIE: BUT IF THEY DIDN'T, WE WOULD SOON BE DEAD

CJ: Right.

DIANE: Right.

PATRICIA: Um.

JEANINE: Well-

CJ: THERE WERE HARD WORKING SCIENTISTS WHO WARNED US OF THIS
THAT IF WE DRILLED ANY DEEPER, THINGS MIGHT JUST GO AMISS
IF WE DRILLED ANY DEEPER THEN UNPRECEDENTED THINGS MIGHT
OCCUR

PATRICIA: IT'S A BLUR
ALL THE PANIC AND FRENZY

ALL: IT'S A BLUR
ALL THE PANIC AND FRENZY

PATRICIA: BUT CAN I SAY SOMETHING
I REALLY THINK THAT I HAVE GOTTA SAY SOMETHING
NONE OF THE WARNINGS MENTIONED ANYTHING LIKE THIS

JEANINE: Exactly. Exaaaactly-

PATRICIA: THIS IS BIGGER AND STRANGER
AND SO WILDLY UNEXPECTED

JEANINE: WHICH IS WHY I THINK THAT WE WOULD BE REMISS TO MAKE
ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE CAUSE/

PATRICIA: BUT ALL MY KIDS AT HOME ARE TERRIFIED

JACKIE: IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT THE KIDS..

PATRICIA: AND I THINK IT IS OUR DUTY HERE TO SAY

CJ/DIANE: IT'S OUR DUTY HERE TO SAY

PATRICIA: THAT THIS IS NOT THE MOMENT NOW WE SHOULD BE TERRIFIED
WE HAVE AN EXPERT WHO IS ON THEIR WAY

OTHERS: (ON THEIR WAY)

PATRICIA: THEY'RE GONNA TELL US HOW TO FEEL TODAY

OTHERS: (FEEL TODAY)

PATRICIA: THEY'RE GONNA SAY HOW MUCH IS REAL TODAY
THEY'RE GONNA SAY HOW MUCH IS--

UNTIL THE EXPERT COMES TO PROVIDE SOME REASSURANCE
I THINK MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST MOVE ON TO DISCUSS DENTAL
INSURANCE....

DIANE: I'm happy to move on to another topic until the expert gets here, if that's
what everyone would like. And the expert should be arriving... soon, So
says the producer in my earpiece. Which brings us to dental insurance. Is
it worth it? How much should you be paying? How much should you be
paying for your /children/

JACKIE: /ALRIGHT, CAN I SAY SOMETHING?

DIANE: Well, we were gonna move on-

JACKIE: (to PATRICIA) NOT DISCUSSING THIS WON'T MAKE IT GO AWAY
AND JEANINE, DO YOU BELIEVE A SINGLE WORD YOU SAY?
DO YOU REALLY THINK THE MINING AND THE FLOOD ARE NOT
CONNECTED?

JEANINE: I JUST THINK THAT IT IS RASH TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS-

JACKIE: CAUSE AND EFFECT
THIS IS JUST A MATTER OF CAUSE AND EFFECT
SPECIALISTS SAID THERE MIGHT BE AN EFFECT
MAYBE EVEN ONE THAT COULD BRING US TO OUR KNEES

WELL HONEY, HERE'S THE EFFECT
LIKE WHEN MY HUSBAND HAS DAIRY, THERE'S AN EFFECT
SO WHEN HE GETS GASSY I CAN DETECT
AND SAFELY ASSUME THAT MY HUSBAND ATE SOME CHEESE

JEANINE: Please-

CJ: FURTHERMORE,
WE WOULDN'T HAVE DRILL TO THE PLANET'S CORE
IF THESE INDUSTRIES THAT YOU ADORE
HADN'T RAVAGED THE EARTH WITHOUT SO MUCH AS BLINKING

JEANINE: DO YOU DRIVE A CAR?

CJ: Yes...

JEANINE: WELL SWEETIE, IF YOU DRIVE A CAR,
BLAMING MINING IS LIKE BLAMING THE BAR
FOR GETTING YOU DRUNK WHEN YOU'RE THE ONE THAT'S DRINKING

CJ/JACKIE: What?

DIANE: CAUSE AND EFFECT
IF WHAT WE'RE DISCUSSING IS CAUSE AND EFFECT
THEN I FEEL AS THOUGH I SHOULD INTERJECT
LET'S NOT NEGELCT THE MATTER OF THE OCEAN/

CJ: /THAT'S SO BACKWARDS
TO BLAME THE INDIVIDUAL
THAT'S SO BACKWARDS/

DIANE: /IT WAS THE OCEAN'S HIGH TOXICITY
THAT LED TO THE CATASTROPHE
IT STARTED THE WHEELS THAT SET THIS ALL IN MOTION/

CJ: IT'S CORPORATE INTEREST!

PATRICIA: CAUSE AND EFFECT
YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT CAUSE AND EFFECT?
DON'T TEAR ME DOWN FOR TRYING TO PROTECT
THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF OUR CHILDREN/

JEANINE: CORPORATIONS ONLY THRIVE
WHEN PEOPLE REALLY WANNA BUY WHAT THEY SELL THEM/

CJ: /I'M A VEGAN
AND I USED TO DRIVE A HYBRID/

JACKIE: /MY HUSBAND SHOULD BE VEGAN
IT WOULD HELP WITH THE GAS/

PATRICIA: WE SHOULD NOT FORGET
WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED YET
WE SHOULD TELL OUR VIEWERS NOT TO FRET
DON'T PANIC YET, LET'S DO IT FOR OUR CHILDREN!

JEANINE: /WE KNOW YOU'RE A VEGAN/

JEANINE: This studio is so old it is literally falling apart.

CJ: Or..

JEANINE: Or what?

CJ: Or we are in the middle of a catastrophic world event involving flooding.

JEANINE: That is so typical.

CJ: What?

JEANINE: These assumptions. This fear mongering. This-

CJ: Your denial... your way of thinking is exactly what has gotten us into this mess.

JEANINE: Oh my *thinking*? My *thinking* got us into this? Ok how about you *think* our way out/ then.

PATRICIA: /MAYBE IT'S JUST A LEAK IN THE CEILING
MAYBE IT'S JUST A CRACK IN THE ROOF

CJ: But/it's not-

PATRICIA: OUR VIEWERS AT HOME
ARE ALREADY REELING
THEY DESERVE SOME CONCRETE PROOF
BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT DISASTER

JACKIE: Oh you mean the children? The children who love watching a daytime political talk-show aimed at suburban women/ at 11 am on a weekday?

PATRICIA: Excuse me for caring about the next generation!
CAUSE THEY ALL DESERVE TO DREAM
THEY DESERVE A WORLD WHERE THINGS ARE BETTER AND BRIGHTER
THAN THEY SEEM
THEY DESERVE EVERYTHING

DIANE/JEANINE: EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING

PATRICIA: BETTER THAN WHAT WE HAD

JACKIE: HA! OK- HAVE YOU SEEN THE NEWS, HONEY?

PATRICIA: Please stop.

JACKIE: THERE'S NOT MUCH FUTURE LEFT TO CHOOSE
WE WERE DAMNED IF WE DRILLED
DAMNED IF WE DID NOT
BETTER JUST GIVE IN AND DRINK SOME COFFEE WHILE IT'S HOT

PATRICIA: *(beat)* You know I'm off caffeine.

JACKIE: Yes. You tell us every day. That's the joke.

PATRICIA: Well I don't find your jokes funny.

JACKIE: MY THERAPIST SAYS THAT JOKING'S HOW I COPE
(under her breath) AT LEAST I'M NOT DELUSIONAL

PATRICIA: It's not delusion.
IT'S HOPE.

DIANE: *(water starts to drip on DIANE'S head)* Let's um... let's take it over to
Bargains with Brian. Brian- Do you have some bargains for us today?

Camera pans to Brian in the BARGAIN'S WITH BRIAN BARGAIN CORNER.

4. SUPER DURABLE BEACH BAG

BRIAN: Diane- you KNOW I do!!!

This dude is excited and he looks fantastic.

PEOPLE SAY THAT LIFE'S A BEACH
BUT YOU DESERVE A HOLIDAY!
AND IF THAT'S A FINANCIAL REACH,
WELL THEN YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY
THROUGH THE NOSE

FOR A SUPER DURABLE BEACH BAG
THIS BABY IS FASHIONABLE AND FUN!
YOU KNOW HOW WELL A SUPER DURABLE BEACH BAG
GOES WITH A SIDE OF SUN!

JACKIE and JEANINE appear a bit breathlessly.

JACKIE participates with a fair amount of sarcasm. JEANINE is all in.

JEANINE: I'm hooked, Brian! Tell me more!

BRIAN: THESE LITTLE POCKETS SHOULD DO THE TRICK
FOR BRINGING ALL YOUR LITTLE SNACKS

**JEANINE+
JACKIE:** ALL YOUR LITTLE SNACKS
OO

BRIAN: AND THIS FABRIC IS STRONG AND THICK
IF ANY SCARY SHARK ATTACKS

**JEANINE+
JACKIE:** OH SO SCARY!

BRIAN: CAUSE ALL THE SHARKS WILL LOVE A

**JEANINE+
JACKIE JOIN:** SUPER DURABLE BEACH BAG

BRIAN: THERE'S EVEN A COOLER FOR YOUR ROSÉ

**JEANINE+
JACKIE:** I LOVE DRINKING!

BRIAN: IN THE BOTTOM OF THIS

**JEANINE+
JACKIE JOIN:** SUPER DURABLE BEACH BAG

BRIAN: I WON'T TELL YOUR KIDS IF YOU DRINK ALL DAY!
AND I GOT A BARGAIN SO GOOD
IT'S LIKE I'M GIVING EM ALL AWAY

JEANINE: What kind of a bargain are we talking about, Brian?

BRIAN: Well Jeanine, if you call in today, I can offer you forty percent off its retail price.

JEANINE: Forty percent?

BRIAN: That's right! If you call 1-888-123-4567 before the end of the show, I can send you one of these beauties for only \$29.99.

JACKIE: \$29.99?

BRIAN: It's a no brainer!

JACKIE: I can't wait to pack this baby up with some pinot grigio and hit the waves.

JEANINE: We know how you love your pinot!

BRIAN: But wait- there's more!

**JACKIE+
JEANINE:** What?!

BRIAN: THE FIRST HUNDRED CALLERS TO PHONE IN NOW
WILL GET A SPECIAL BONUS PRIZE

**JACKIE+
JEANINE:** I WISH, I WISH

BRIAN: THE OTHER BEACH BATHERS WILL LIKE "WOW"
BECAUSE THEY WON'T BELIEVE THEIR EYES

**JACKIE+
JEANINE:** I WISH MORE THAN ANYTHING

BRIAN: WHEN YOU OPEN UP
THIS SUPER WHIMSICAL BEACH UMBRELLA
THESE BABIES ARE BUILT TO LAST
I'M CERTAIN WITH A SUPER WHIMSICAL BEACH UMBRELLA
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A BLAST
SO CALL IN RIGHT NOW
BECAUSE THESE BABIES ARE GONNA GO FAST!

Back to you, Diane!

Back at the hot topics table, the ladies are looking a little panicked. Three super durable beach bags are now sitting on the table in an attempt to collect the water now dripping much faster from the ceiling.

5. MAYBE IT'S JUST A LEAK IN THE CEILING

HOSTS: OO-

DIANE: Thank you so much Brian! Those items look absolutely phenomenal.

OTHER HOSTS: HOO- HOO HOO HOO

DIANE: And I can tell you first-hand that these bags are indeed super durable.

OTHER HOSTS: HOO-HOO HOO HOO

DIANE: Just a quick legal note from the producers backstage to clarify that the bargain items were chosen long before last night's um... aquatic happenings.
(to herself) No kidding.
 So sorry to our viewers at home- just experiencing a little bit of leaking from the ceiling here in the studio which the producer in my ear tells me is being taken care of.
 AND I'M TOLD THAT THE EXPERT WILL BE HERE ANY MOMENT
 BUT THERE HAS BEEN A SLIGHT DELAY
 BUT IF YOU JUST HOLD ON FOR A MOMENT
 YOU'LL HEAR WHAT THE EXPERT HAS TO SAY-

CJ: COULD WE JUST TAKE PAUSE A MOMENT
 WHAT EXACTLY IS HAPPENING HERE?
 SO THE ROOM JUST FLOODS FOR A MOMENT
 MOMENTS AFTER COUNTRIES DISAPPEAR/ IN THE OCEAN

PATRICIA: Could we not do this right now?/

JACKIE: THIS IS REALLY, REALLY, REALLY GOOD TELEVISION...

CJ: ARE WE JUST MEANT TO CARRY ON?

PATRICIA: What's the big deal? It's just a little water?

CJ: No-THOSE PEOPLE, THOSE PLACES, THAT LAND IS GONE/
 /NO IT IS DANGEROUS TO GO AND MAKE ASSUMPTIONS

DIANE: I THINK THAT WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT-

JEANINE: EQUATING A LITTLE BIT OF LEAKING TO A FLOOD

DIANE: THAT THIS IS A CHALLENGING DAY AND-

CJ: YOU AND YOUR DANGEROUS AND IGNORANT PRESUMPTIONS
THEY WON'T WASH YOUR HANDS OF BLOOD

JEANINE: Oh but you driving a hybrid for two years does?

DIANE: /ALL THOSE PEOPLE AND THE PLANS THEY MADE
ALL THOSE PEOPLE AND THE PLANS THEY MADE
ALL THOSE PEOPLE AND THE PLANS THEY MADE

CJ+
PATRICIA: THE PLANS THEY MADE
THE PLANS THEY MADE

DIANE: AND I'LL ADMIT THAT I'M AFRAID.

*Suddenly, there is an extremely loud cracking noise. The lights flicker.
Long pause.*

PATRICIA: *(quietly at first)*
BUT MAYBE IT'S JUST A LEAK IN THE CEILING
MAYBE IT'S JUST A CRACK IN THE GLASS
WHEN MY DAUGHTER GETS SCARED
OR HAS A NAGGING LITTLE FEELING
I TELL HER THAT IT SOON WILL PASS

MAYBE SOME PAINT AND A LITTLE BIT OF PLASTER
MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO KEEP US SAFE AND TIGHT
MAYBE IT'S JUST A LEAK IN THE CEILING
MAYBE WE WILL BE ALRIGHT
I THINK WE WILL BE ALRIGHT

ALL HOSTS: OO—

*There is another loud cracking sound.
The water is getting higher.
Some lights have gone out.*

A long pause.

JACKIE: Diane? *(DIANE is clearly trying to listen to a producer in her ear)*

DIANE: *(into her earpiece)* What?

JACKIE: Should we move on to the next segment, Diane?

DIANE: Sorry, I- I can't hear what-Hello? Hello?

JACKIE: *(pause)* **Okaaaay---** It's time to invite out our guest. I think everyone who owns a phone is familiar with the app *Shop Drop and Roll*. But only recently did we all become familiar with the man behind its genius. Todd Todds grew up from humble beginnings to become one of the world's most powerful tech entrepreneurs. And he's given us all a peek behind the curtain of his success with his new autobiography *Dreams, Schemes and What it All Means*. Please welcome the handsome, the innovative, Todd Todds.

6A. THE BEAT STING

THE HOSTS: *(as he enters)*
THE BEAT/THE BEAT/ THE BEAT
TELL ME, WHAT'S THE BEAT, BABE?

JACKIE: Todd. Welcome.

TODD: Thank you so much for having me.

JACKIE looks to DIANE who was supposed to be conducting this interview. DIANE looks far away, distracted.

JACKIE: Diane? Are you-- *(beat)* Mr. Todds. Your book is very--- How is it that you- uh- that you-

PATRICIA: *(swooping in to let JACKIE off the hook)* Here's something I've always wondered. Todd Todds- is that your real name? It's so—

JACKIE: Snappy.

PATRICIA: Exactly. It's so snappy.

TODD: No actually, it's not. I uh- I changed my name ten years ago.

PATRICIA: Really? Why?

TODD: I don't know. It felt... expedient, I guess.

PATRICIA: How so?

TODD: Because no one could pronounce it.

PATRICIA: I understand that.

TODD: *(beat)* It's funny how you feel you have to .. make yourself fit and-I'm sorry. I have a brother who has been travelling in Peru and-- we haven't heard from him since last night—since the flood- and- and—

DIANE re-engages.

6B. DESERVE TO DREAM

DIANE: Let's talk about the contents of your stirring new book. You spend a lot of time describing your childhood in Suburban Ontario-

JEANINE: I actually grew up in suburban Ontario as well-

TODD: -Wow. Not a lot to do.

JEANINE: -Not a lot to do.-

PATRICIA: -And what was that childhood like?

TODD: WELL, WE WERE NEVER POOR
BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE MONEY
AND I WAS ALWAYS SURE
THAT I KINDA LOOKED FUNNY
BUT I WAS OK

**JACKIE/
CJ:** HA HA HA-

JEANINE: You? Funny looking? I can't imagine that.

JACKIE: Neither can I.

PATRICIA: And your parents- what were they like?

TODD: WELL, MY PARENTS WORKED HARD
AND THEY DIDN'T NEED MUCH
WE HAD A NICE YARD
AND WE NEVER LOST TOUCH

AND THEY WOULD ALWAYS SAY
THE THING THAT PARENTS SAY
THAT PARENTS SAY TO CHILDREN

DIANE: Like what?

TODD: LIKE IF YOU SHOW UP
TO EVERY TEST
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN
AND TRY YOUR BEST

THE WORLD WILL DELIVER
DELIVER YOUR DREAM

TODD: AND OH, DIDN'T I DESERVE TO DREAM
DON'T I DESERVE EVERYTHING THAT WAS PROMISED TO ME?
DON'T I DESERVE EVERYTHING

HOSTS JOIN: EVERYTHING/ EVERTHING
IS FLOATING IN THE OCEAN

*The lights flicker/ a loud sound??/ more water??
The ladies look up at the leaking ceiling.*

HOSTS: I WISH-

The lights in the studio are starting to change.

CJ: In the later chapters, you talk about some of the struggles you faced as a young man after dropping out of college.

JACKIE: I actually dropped out of college as well.

TODD: -It's not for everyone-

JACKIE: -It's not for everyone-

DIANE: Can you elaborate on that time?

TODD: Sure.
WELL, I NEVER QUITE THOUGHT
THE WAY THEY WANTED ME TO THINK
IT FELT LIKE I WAS BEING TAUGHT
TO BE AGREEABLE AND SHRINK

SO I HAD TO GET AWAY

**JEANINE/
PATRICIA:**

HA HA HA

PATRICIA:

I so relate to that sentiment.

JACKIE:

I think we all do.

JEANINE:

And what did you do next?

TODD:

I STARTED WORKING AT A STORE
PAYING OFF THE MONEY THAT I OWED
DAILY I WAS DREAMING OF MORE
DAILY I WAS LEARNING HOW TO CODE
AND I WOULD ALWAYS SAY
THE THINGS THAT PEOPLE SAY
WHEN THINGS AREN'T COMING EASY

LIKE WHEN YOU FALL DOWN, TRY AGAIN

HOSTS:

(AH)

TODD:

TRY SOMETHING NEW, AND MAYBE THEN
THE WORLD MIGHT DELIVER, DELIVER-

AND OH, DIDN'T I DESERVE A CHANCE?

HOSTS:

WE ALL DESERVE A CHANCE, DON'T WE?

TODD:

I THOUGHT IF I LEARNED ALL THE MOVES
THE WORLD MIGHT ASK ME TO DANCE

HOSTS:

THE WORLD IS YOURS FOR THE TAKING

TODD:

BUT I'M CERTAIN THAT EVERYTHING

HOSTS JOIN:

EVERYTHING/ EVERYTHING
LOOKS DIFFERENT UNDER WATER

TODD:

I LEARNED ALL THE RULES
SO I'D KNOW HOW TO BREAK THEM
FOUND ALL OPPORTUNITIES
AND LEARNED HOW TO TAKE THEM

I LEARNED ALL THE STEPS
AND I WORKED WITH VIGOUR
GIVE THEM WHAT THEY WANT AND MAKE IT

HOSTS JOIN: FASTER
MAKE IT BIGGER,
MAKE IT CHEAPER
MAKE IT STRONGER
NOW DELIVER!
DELIVER!
DELIVER!
DELIVER!

TODD: AND OH, IT SEEMS REDUNDANT NOW
DID I KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
HOW WE'D END UP UNDER WATER?

DIANE: *(beat)* Thank you so much for being with us today. We wish you all the best. I hope your brother is-

TODD: Yes. Thank you. Thank you for having me.

End of song.

TODD exits.

Some of the stage lights go out as a part of the ceiling falls in.

There is a long pause. Suddenly-

PATRICIA: I have to... I have to try to get home.

DIANE: What?

PATRICIA: My family my- I have to make sure they are ok. I have to try to get home.

JACKIE: But I thought it was just a leak in the ceiling.

DIANE: We're still live-

JEANINE: We can just leave?-

PATRICIA runs off the set.

DIANE: *(calling after her)* Patricia! Um. *(beat. She is trying to listen to her earpiece.)* I'm sorry everyone. I'm having some trouble hearing what the producer is trying to tell me. Sorry? I—

BRIAN: I have another giveaway, Diane. Should we do that?

DIANE: Sure. Yes. Take it away, Brian.

7. SUPER DURABLE BEACH BAG REPRISE- WIN A CRUISE!

BRIAN stands under a super whimsical beach umbrella looking extremely freaked out. The studio is not almost entirely dark. The flooding is knee-high.

BRIAN: I THINK EVERYBODY SHOULD CALL IN NOW
CAUSE YOU GOT NOTHING TO LOSE
IF YOU BUY A BEACH BAG, GUESS WHAT? HOLY COW!
YOU'LL BE ENTERED TO WIN A CRUISE!

YOU COULD WIN YOURSELF A HOLIDAY ON THE OCEAN
I HEAR THERE'S A FABULOUS SHRIMP BUFFET
IMAGINE HOW A HOLIDAY ON THE OCEAN
MAKES EVERYTHING FEEL OK.

DIANE: Hello? I don't.... I don't have the producer in my ear anymore. Can you hear me backstage? Can you hear me?

OTHER HOSTS: AH

BRIAN: MAYBE YOU COULD WIN IT
MAYBE IT COULD BE YOURS
THE VACATION OF YOUR DREAMS!

DIANE: Can anyone hear me at all? Anybody?

BRIAN: MAYBE WHAT IS HAPPENING
ISN'T QUITE AS DIRE OR AS SCARY AS IT SEEMS

DIANE: Anbody?!?

BRIAN: THERE'S NOTHING SCARY ON A HOLIDAY ON THE OCEAN
WE KNOW THAT THE NEWS HAS BEEN SUCH A DRAG

DIANE: Do I just keep going or????!!

BRIAN: BUT THERE'S NO CABLE ON A HOLIDAY ON THE OCEAN
HONEY, JUST BRING YOUR NEW DURABLE BEACH BAG
SO CALL IN RIGHT NOW

The last of the lights are starting to go out.

The ladies are starting to have to climb on the furniture to get out of the way of flooding.

JEANINE: What's going on?? I don't like this!!

BRIAN: CALL IN RIGHT NOW

CJ: When is the expert gonna get here??

BRIAN: CALL IN RIGHT NOW

JACKIE: Is anyone even watching?

**BRIAN/CJ/
JEANINE:** CALL IN RIGHT NOW!

DIANE: I don't know! I don't know! I don't know!

BRIAN frantically runs off the set but is stopped by PATRICIA who has reappeared looking pale.

PATRICIA: *(whispered)* Don't go back there.

PATRICIA walks up to the hot topics table and chugs a cup of coffee.

Every host, on some level, knows that this is over.

After a long pause..

JACKIE: We should have called a plumber.

PATRICIA: *(beat)* I should have left sooner.

CJ: *(beat)* We shouldn't have drilled.

JACKIE: *(beat)* Coulda woulda shoulda.

8. MY FEAR WON'T KEEP MY HEAD ABOVE THE WATER

DIANE looks out at the seats in the audience.

The other hosts climb onto the furniture to avoid the flooding.

She looks into the camera.

She takes a breath and delivers the last word of the television show.

DIANE: IT STARTED WITH THE OCEAN
IS IT ENDING ON A DINGY TV SET?
REMEMEBER THE COMMOTION
LOOKING FOR THE ANSWERS
ALL THE ANSWERS THAT I STILL DON'T HAVE YET?

HAVE WE RUN OUT OF TIME?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT SINCE WE'RE AT THE END OF OUR SHOW
I SHOULDN'T FILL YOU UP WITH POISON
AND FEAR MIGHT BE THE POISON.

AND MY FEAR WON'T KEEP MY HEAD ABOVE THE WATER
MY FEAR WON'T KEEP MY FEET UPON THE GROUND
BUT MY FEAR STOPPED ALL THE WORDS I SHOULD I HAVE SPOKEN
WHEN I HAD A VOICE, A VOICE TO MAKE A SOUND

OTHERS JOIN: SO LET FEAR NOT STOP THE BREATH THAT'S LEFT FOR BREATHING
LET FEAR NOT STOP THE CHOICE THAT'S LEFT TO CHOOSE

DIANE: LOOK AT ALL THE RICH, THE STRANGE, THE COMPLICATED BEAUTY
OF WHAT WE GOT TO HAVE

OTHER HOSTS: WHAT WE GOT TO HAVE

DIANE: AND WHAT WE HAD TO LOSE

OTHER HOSTS: WHAT WE HAD TO LOSE

DIANE: WHAT WE GOT TO HAVE

OTHER HOSTS: WHAT WE GOT TO HAVE

DIANE: AND WHAT WE HAD TO LOSE

OTHER HOSTS: WHAT WE HAD TO LOSE

DIANE: WHAT WE GOT TO HAVE
AND WHAT WE HAD TO LOSE.
IT STARTED WITH THE OCEAN

PATRICIA: MY CHILDREN

JACKIE: THE WATER

JEANINE: THE PURSUIT OF SOMETHING MORE

PATRICIA: MY CHILDREN

CJ: THE WATER

DIANE: IT STARTED WITH THE OCEAN

PATRICIA: MY CHILDREN

JACKIE: THE WATER

JEANINE: THE PURSUIT OF SOMETHING

OTHER HOSTS JOIN: BIGGER AND BRIGHTER THAN EVER BEFORE

ALL: AH---

*The screen goes to static and then to black.
The end.*