

Waiting on Trains

5 Actor Version

D. M. Larson

<https://freedramaplays.blogspot.com/2017/11/waiting-on-trains-stage-play-script-5.html>

Stage Manager Script

Susan Weinhardt

Cast of Characters

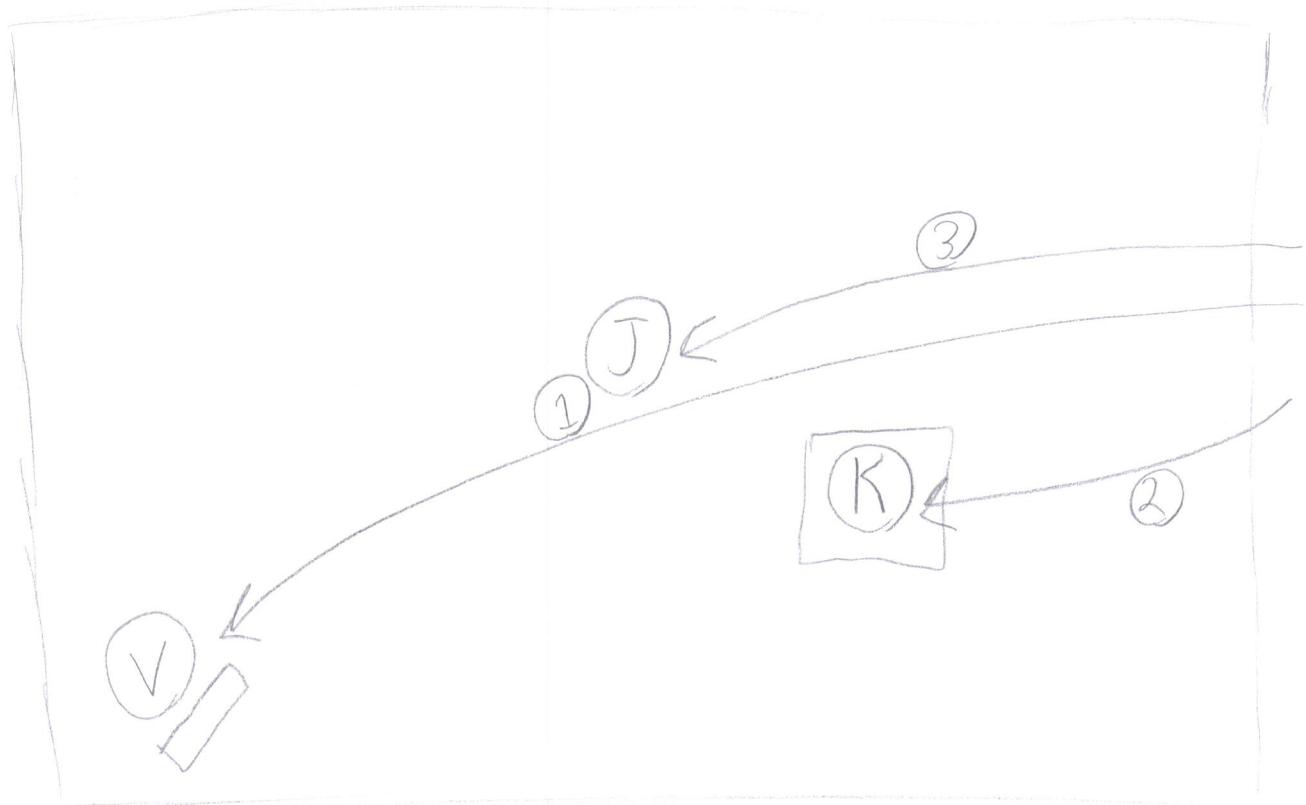
RADIO ANNOUNCER:

<u>VERNA:</u>	Stella Monner
<u>KIRK:</u>	Ash Rauch
<u>JEAN:</u>	Will Bush
<u>SUE:</u>	Elenora Fiel
<u>RUT:</u>	Ben Eggleston
<u>KIRK (CONT.):</u>	Ash Rauch
<u>JEAN (CONT.):</u>	Will Bush
<u>V:</u>	

① V en SL X SR [ticket booth]

② K en SL X SL [Chair in row]
w/ computer + briefcase

③ J en SL X CS → walks around + sweeps
w/ broom



III - Set**III - Props****III - Lights****III - Sound****III - Costumes***Cast of Characters*

Verna: A ticket window woman who would rather not be working. She is rude, crude, and unacceptable. Customer courtesy is not her specialty.

Kirk and **Sue:** Two business people who are waiting for their train. **luit**

Jean: A janitor who tries to keep the place clean. **jumpsuit**

Rut: A gentleman, called a bum by some, who simply wants a nice quiet place to sleep.

Time and Place

Dec. 31, 1999. A train station in an overgrown hick town

ACT I**Scene**

(Lights come up on the waiting room of a train station. A woman, **VERNA**, sits at a ticket window R, filing her nails and chewing gum to the beat of a song on the radio. A businessman, **KIRK**, works at his laptop computer. He sits at the R end of long row of uncomfortable chairs that are linked closely together. A janitor, **Jean**, sweeps and cleans the waiting room. There is an entrance L, a doorway UL, and an exit to the trains DR. The voice of a radio announcer comes over **VERNA**'s radio)

A**RADIO ANNOUNCER**

And here's another hit that rocked the '90's as we continue our New Year's countdown.

(Song begins to play)

Funnitton

→ Cue A: Start track at beginning

B**VERNA**

(Excited) Oh, I just love this song. (Sings along with the song, badly)

C**KIRK**

(While she is singing) Uh, excuse me. (She ignores him and continues singing) Excuse

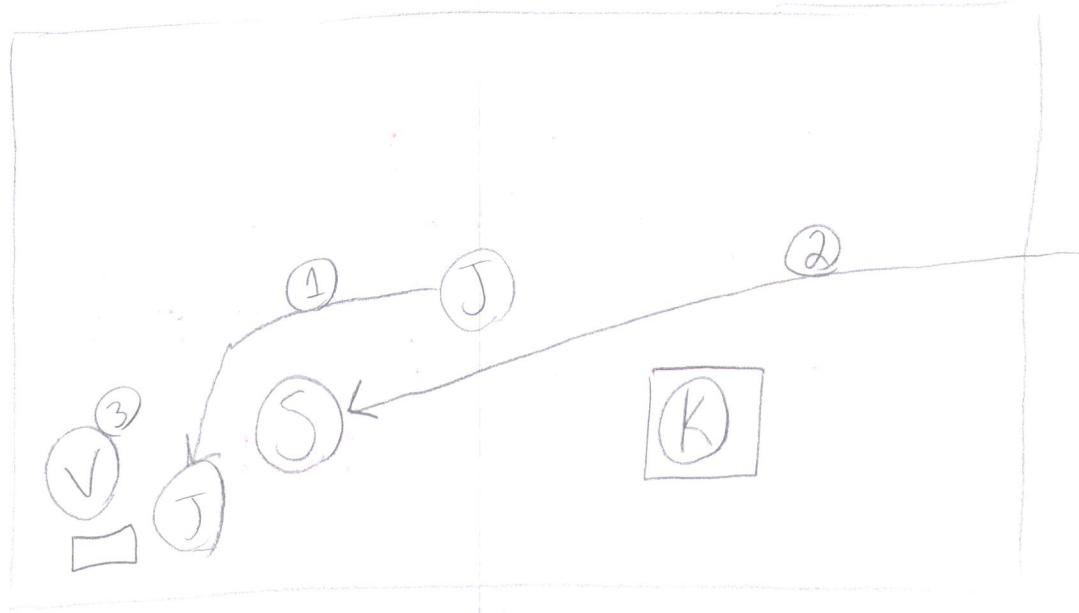
me...could you turn that down please... (VERNA still sings) Excuse me, miss!

① J x V

② S en SL x V [w/ briefcase] J

③ V drops notepad

④ J x CS to sweep



(A) (JEAN) stops her sweeping and goes to (VERNA)

A (JEAN) Verna?

B (VERNA) (Hearing JEAN with no difficulty)
Yeah, Jean?

C (JEAN) Guy over there's wonderin' if you'd turn down the radio.

D (VERNA) (Cue B: Fade out [I want it that way])
Sure. (Turns it down) Sorry, mister.

E (KIRK) That's quite all right.
(He begins typing again)

F (JEAN) Thanks.

G (VERNA) Hey, no problem.

(She now begins singing again just as loud as ever even though the radio has been turned down. KIRK is about ready to skip the train and find a bus. Sue enters immediately after VERNA begins singing again. SUE rushes up to VERNA who stops singing. SUE is out of breath)

H (SUE) (4) My train. To Seattle. Did I miss it?

I (VERNA) Not that I know of.

J (SUE) (Annoyed)
Would you check for me please?

(3) (VERNA) quickly lifts cover of a note pad and then drops it again. Returns to doing her nails)

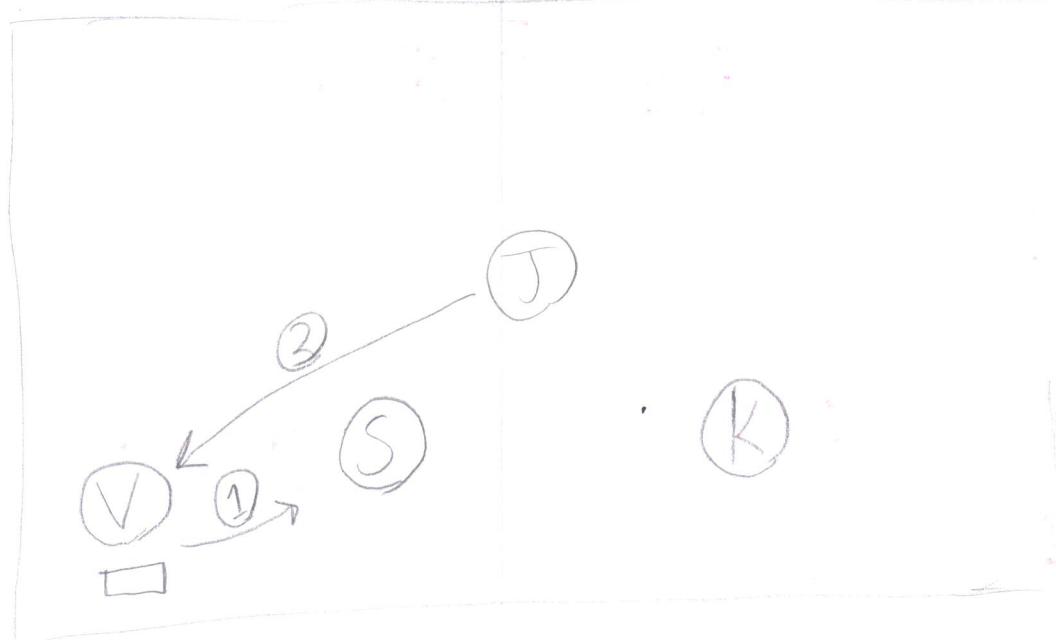
K (VERNA) It might be late.

L (SUE) Are you sure?

M (VERNA) Pretty sure.

① Ⓛ X SR [SR bench w/ briefcase]

② Ⓜ X Ⓛ SR



A [SUE] Could you be a little more certain?

B [VERNA] About what? The train. Yeah, I'm pretty sure it'll be a train.
(VERNA smiles at her joke)

C [SUE] (Not enjoying the joke) I mean about the time!

D [VERNA] Don't get testy, honey.
(VERNA stops her nail job and looks at SUE. Blows and pops a bubble at SUE. Glances at pad again)

E [VERNA] They called in and said they'd be in at midnight.
(Closes pad) Or it could come at 12:01. It's hard to be "specific" about these things.

F [SUE] But that's 30 minutes from now!

G [VERNA] Look. Do you want the train early or do you want it late?

H [SUE] I want it on time.

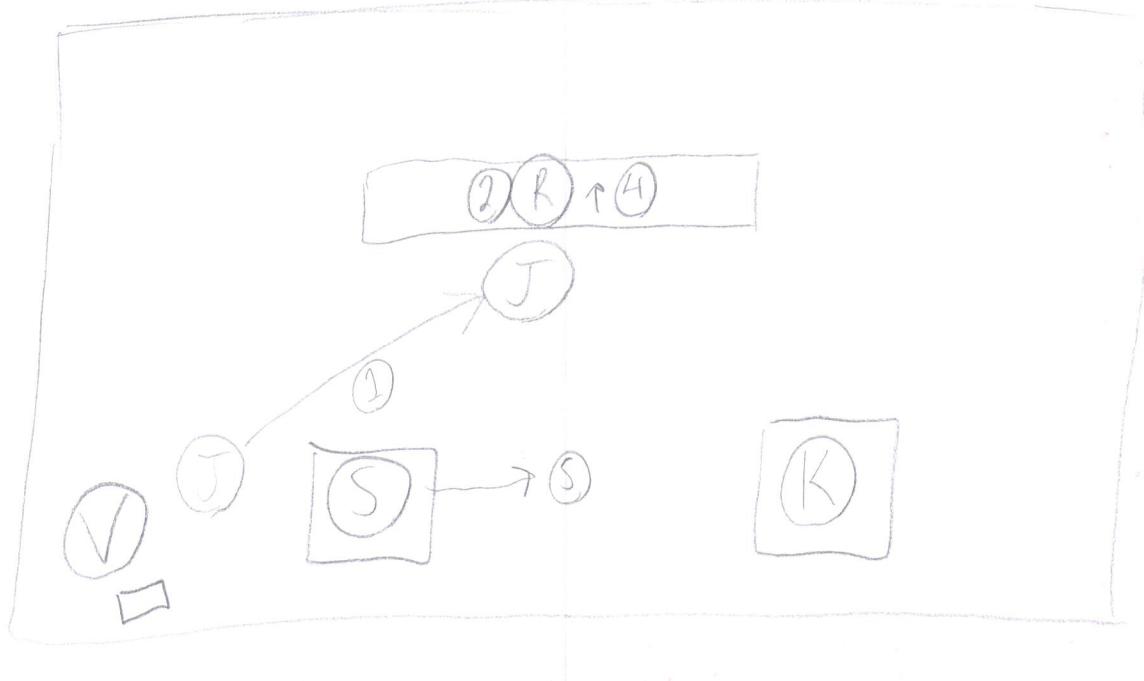
I [VERNA] You weren't on time. Why should you expect the train to be?

J [SUE] Forget it! Just forget we had this whole conversation!
(Walks away)

K [VERNA] Sounds good to me.
(SUE glares at VERNA who has returned to her nails. SUE turns to sit. Sees KIRK who is busily typing at his computer. She goes, still in a huff, to the very opposite end of the row of chairs)

L [JEAN] (Goes to VERNA)
Verna. You know what the big guy said about customer courtesy.

- ① J X CS to sweep around w/ broom
- ② R pops up from bench CS
- ③ S jumps up out of bench X CS - screams
- ④ B stands on chair w/ arms in sky



A VERNA I musta been gone that day.

B JEAN You're gone every day. Please, try to be nice.

C VERNA I'll be the model of kindness.

① JEAN sighs and returns to cleaning. A phone rings in SUE's bag. A poorly dressed gentleman, some might a bum, named RUT pops up from where he has been sleeping on the upstage end of the row of chairs)

②

D RUT (Cries to sky)
Hello!

E SUE (Jumps up when she sees RUT)
What in heaven's name?! ③

F RUT (Ring) → phoning 1x
Hello?!

G SUE (To VERNA and JEAN)
What's this bum doing in here?!

H VERNA Sleepin'

I RUT (Ring) → phoning 1x
Hello?!

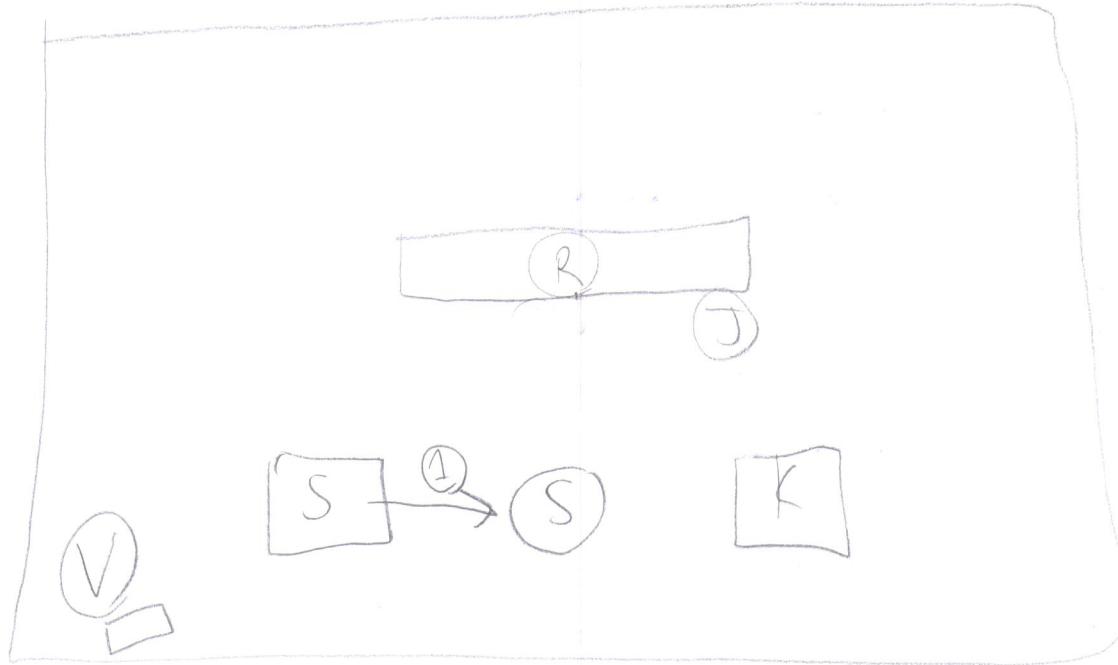
J SUE Shouldn't he be removed?

K VERNA What for? He ain't causin' no harm. ④

L RUT (Ring) → phoning 1x
Hello, God? Is that you? ④

M SUE Look at him. He's drunk.

① ⑤ X CS to talk on the phone



A **VERNA** Maybe we're the ones who's drunk and he's the only one who's sober. (Cue G)

B **SUE** ^{① phone ring 1x} ^{② sits down} ^{③ reaches into bns} (Gets phone) (Cue H: phone ring 1x) (Cue I: phonering 1x) Oh, you're just a regular philosopher. (To phone) Hello.

C **RUT** (Very intensely) Hello, God.

D **SUE** (This and RUT's next dialog over lap) Yes, yes. I'm sorry there's a lot of noise here.

E **RUT** (Overlapping) Yes, what? What do you want me to do God?

F **SUE** (Hand over phone) Will someone shut him up!

G **RUT** (Shocked) Oh, please God. Please don't be angry with me. Please be easy on poor little Rut.

H **JEAN** He thinks you're God.

I **VERNA** Bout time God had a little competition.

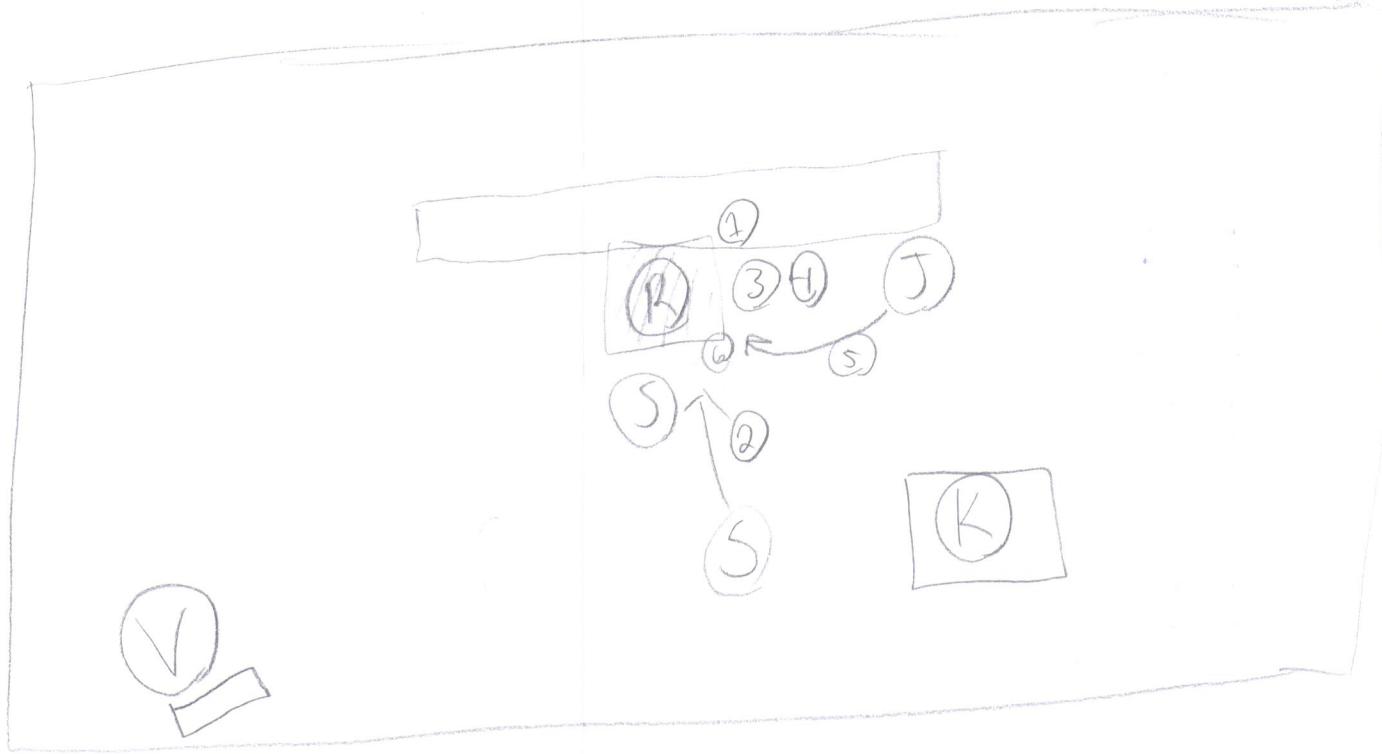
J **SUE** It's not funny.

K **RUT** I never said it was funny God.

L **SUE** (To RUT) Look here you.

M **RUT** (Innocent, saintly pose to sky) Yes, God.

- ① Ⓛ gets down from chair
- ② Ⓛ x in front of Ⓛ
- ③ Ⓛ gets under chair
- ④ Ⓛ stands on chair
- ⑤ Ⓛ x Ⓛ
- ⑥ Ⓛ gets down off chair



A [SUE] Quit calling me God. And...will you look at me.

B [RUT] I am looking God.

C [SUE] No, not up there; down here.

D [RUT] (Gets down) ①
Where?

E [SUE] (2) (trying to get in front of him)
Over here.

F [RUT] (3) (Under chairs)
Where are you God?

G [SUE] My name's Sue, not God.

H [RUT] (Shocked)
God's real name is Sue?

I [SUE] Will someone do something with him? I have an important call here.

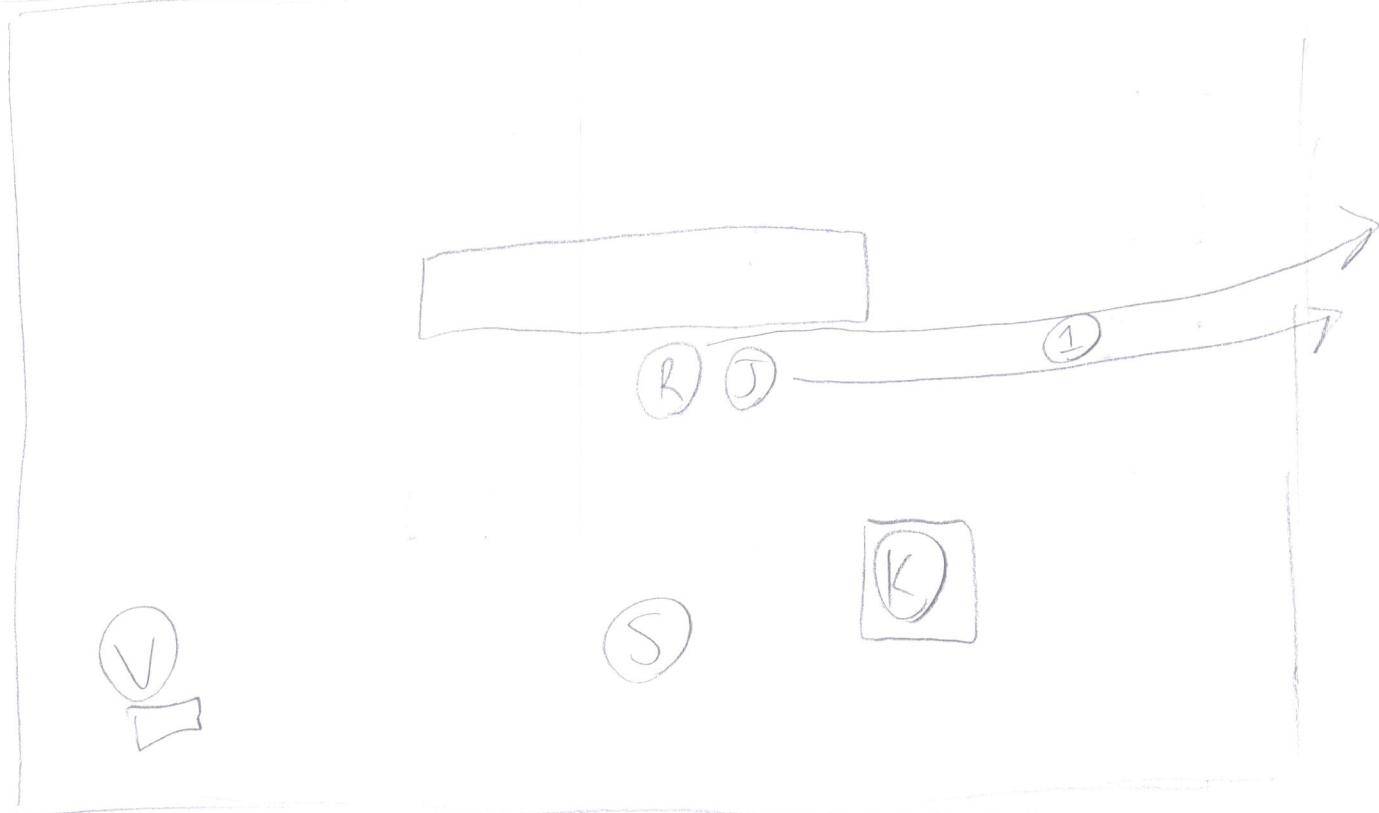
J [RUT] (4) (Stands on chair, to sky)
Please, don't be angry with me God...I mean, oh great Sue. Please don't cut me off.

K [SUE] (To JEAN) ⑤
Do something with him or I'll complain to your boss.

L [JEAN] Yes, ma'am. (Goes to RUT) ⑤
Okay, Rut. That's enough for now. Let's go.

M [RUT] (6) (As he steps down with JEAN's help)
I think I lost my connection.

① ⑦ + ⑧ ex SL



A JEAN We know, Rut.

B VERNA Rut lost it long before this.

C JEAN (To RUT) Come on. Let's get you some coffee. Ex SL

D RUT (As they exit) Funny. I always imagined that God's voice was a little more manly. Ex SD

E SUE Thank God! ^{cue: J.} → phonerings 1X

(Answers phone)
Hello, hello...He hung up.

F VERNA Who's that? You're hubby.

G SUE (Mocking)
No, it's not my hubby. It was a very important client who I may have just lost because of that "thing" out there.

H VERNA Chill out, honey. It's the holidays. Give it a rest.

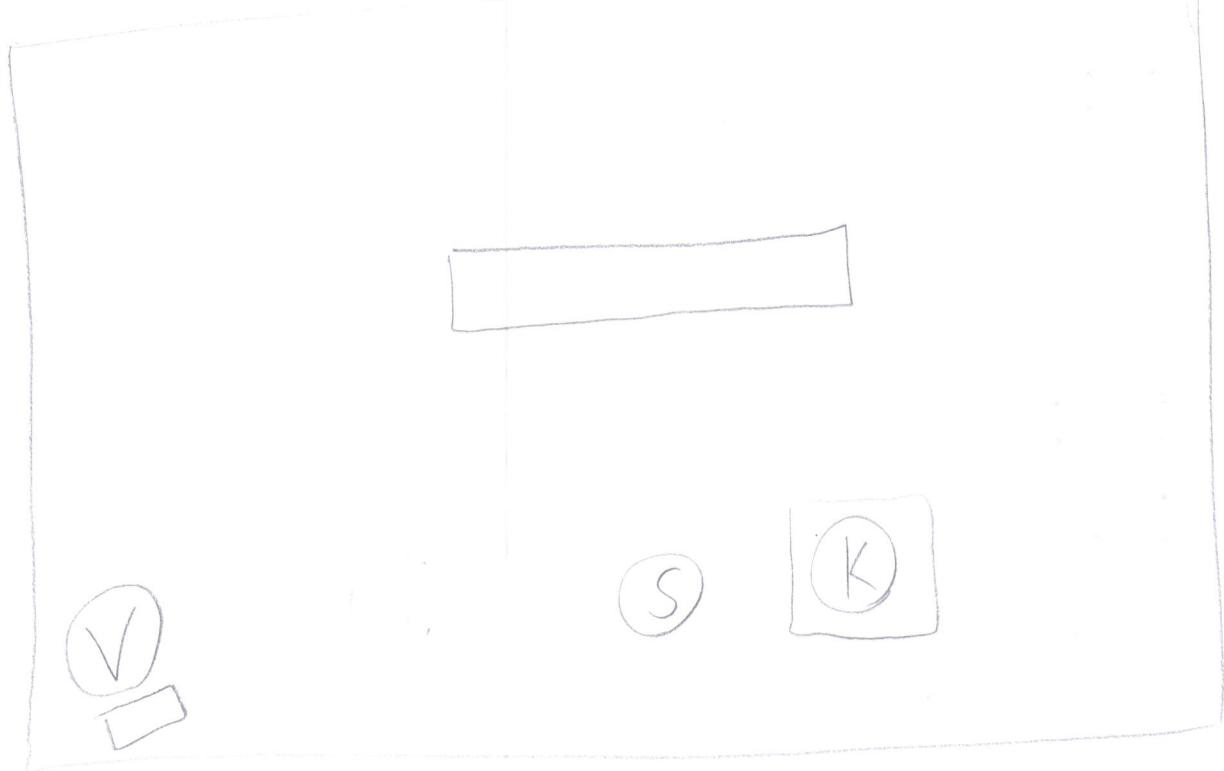
I SUE I never rest. That's how I got where I am. Any and every minute of the day is open game and I take advantage of it.

(Pause)

Why did I ever come to this little hick town?
It's been more trouble than it was worth.

J VERNA Hick town? It has at least a quarter million people.

K SUE Like I said, "hick town." Besides I thought we weren't talking anymore.



A **VERNA** Honey. Someone didn't spank you enough as a child.

B **SUE** I'll be glad when I'm done with this place.

C **KIRK** (He saves his computer file)
Agreed.

D **SUE** What's that?

E **KIRK** I would agree that this trip has been a rather futile one.

F **SUE** You were at the meeting weren't you?

G **KIRK** That's right. Kirk King.

H **SUE** Yes, I remember now.

I **KIRK** And you're Sue.

J **SUE** Or God, depending who you're talking to.

K **KIRK** Huh? Oh, yes, the vagabond. Darn shame all that human potential going to waste. If he'd
merely apply himself...

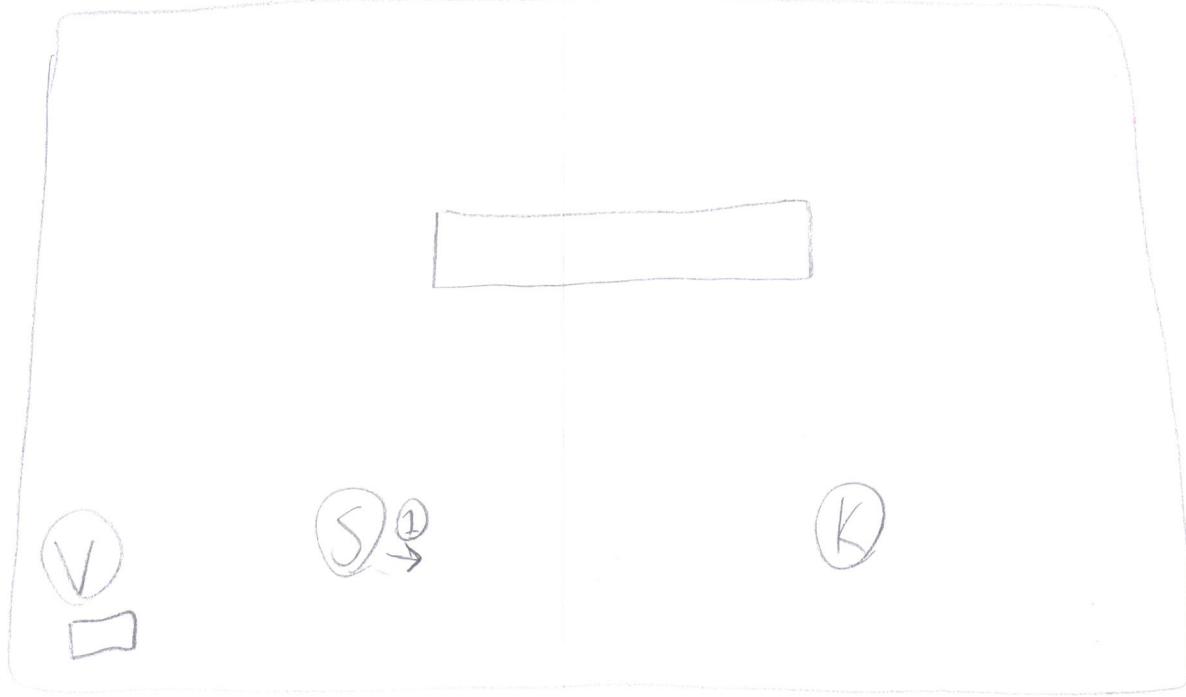
L **VERNA** Then he'd be like you and he'd be worse off than he is now.

M **KIRK** Look here Miss...

N **VERNA** Name's Verna, honey.

O **KIRK** Look here Miss Verna...we pay you good money to work here...

② ⑤ turns SL away from ⑥



A **VERNA** The railroad pays me. Not you.

B **KIRK** Yes, but they get the money from me.

C **VERNA** Not all of it.

D **KIRK** That's not the point.

E **VERNA** Then what is the point, honey?
(**KIRK** is flustered and confused)

F **SUE** If you valued your job, you would show us a little more respect.

G **VERNA** Hey, babe, they can't get no one else to do this shift. They ain't gonna drop me no time soon.

H **SUE** (1)
(Turns away)
This backward little town. I'm recommending we don't invest here.

I **VERNA** Good, 'cause we don't want ya'.

J **SUE** I wasn't talking to you.

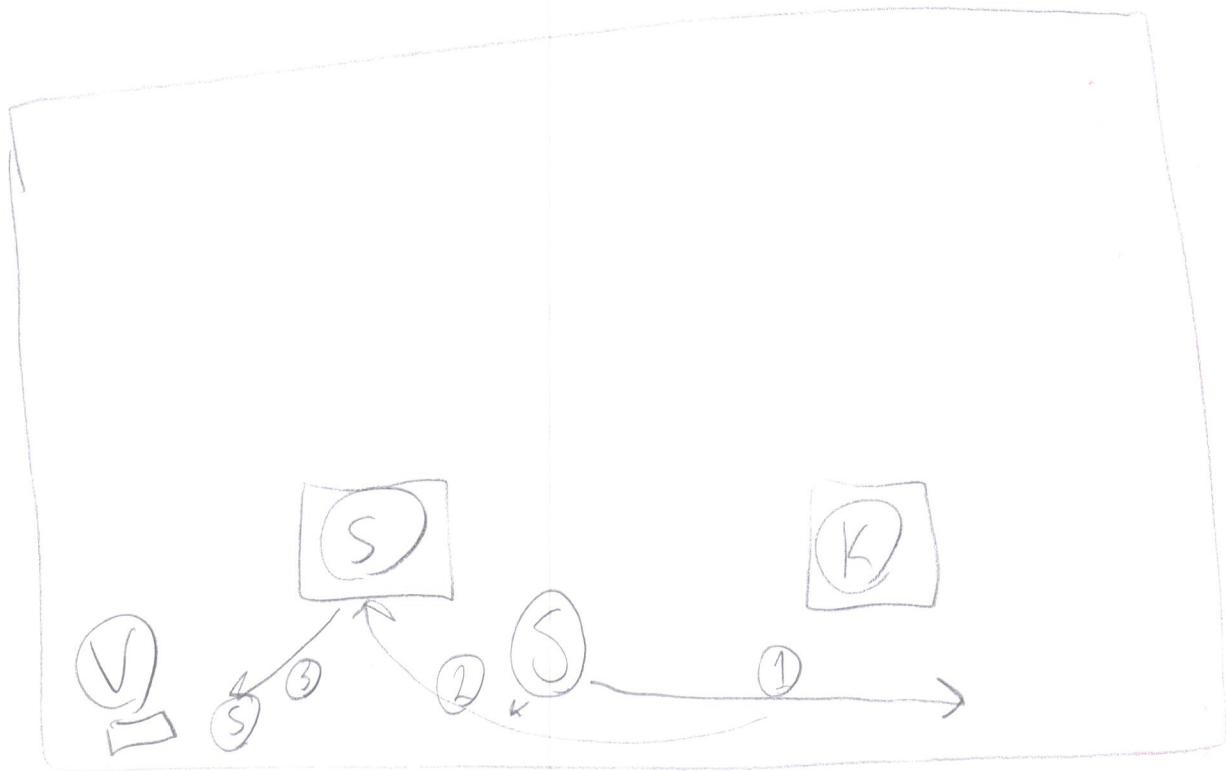
K **KIRK** They say this will be the hottest market next year.

L **SUE** I doubt it. Who'd want to base themselves here?
Between Miss Verna and the cows rollin' in all
the time, who'd have any time to do business?

M **KIRK** (Becoming cold)
I don't believe our employers would appreciate our conversation.
(Kirk returns to computer work)

N **SUE** (Glares at him) (2)
Businessman to the end. (Phone rings) I hope that's
↓ cue K:
phone rings 7x

① S X ⑤ window



Charles again.

A VERNA

(Suggestive tone of voice)

Who's Charles?

(up L:

phone rings. ix

B SUE

(Picks up phone. To VERNA)

Shut up. (Answers, pausing appropriately) Hello?
Hello, Charles. Sorry about the hold earlier. Train
stations are the magnets of the lowest life forms.
(Looks at VERNA) How's your party?

*Yes, sorry I wasn't able to make it. I'd like to
make up for it though. Dinner Thursday night. My
house. Yes, of course...yes, I'm in mixed
company also. (Whispers into phone) Me too...
I'll see*

you later. (Hangs up)

C VERNA

I thought that was a business call.

D SUE

(Feeling boastful)

It was.

E VERNA

What kind of business you running?

F SUE

(Goes up to VERNA's window)

①

Let me give you a little tip on being a woman in the
business world. When it comes to cutting

deals, we have a little more negotiating power.

G VERNA

Well, well.

*(SUE wonders why she is even talking to
VERNA and changes the subject)*

H SUE

Any new info on the train?

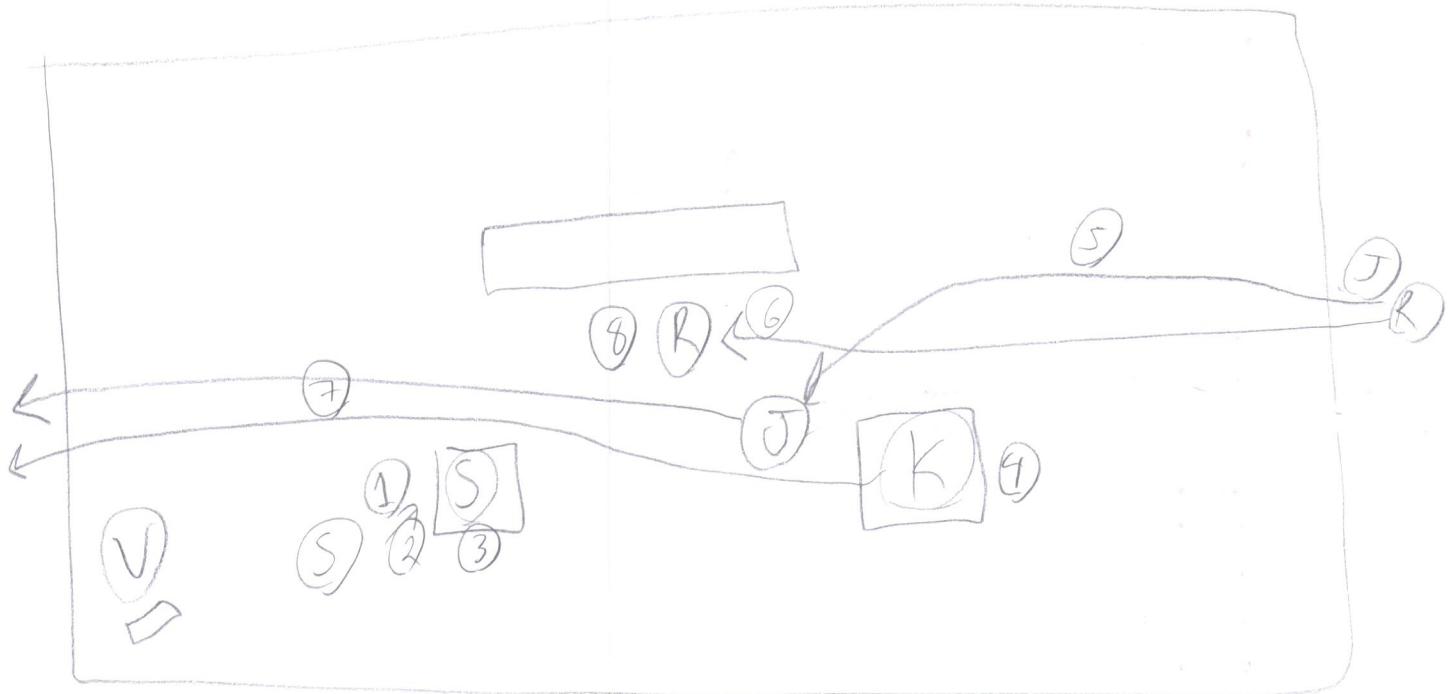
I VERNA

Nope.

J SUE

Have you checked?

- ① Ⓛ x SR Chair
- ② Ⓛ sits after staring at Ⓛ
- ③ Ⓛ puts on headset \rightarrow meditates
- ④ Ⓛ hits computer
- ⑤ Ⓛ en SL
- ⑥ Ⓛ pops up (from SL) holding a bottle
- ⑦ Ⓛ Ⓛ Ⓛ x OSR
- ⑧ Ⓛ Ⓛ drinks + offers to Ⓛ



A VERNA Nope.

B SUE Well, are you going to?

C VERNA Nope.

D SUE (1)
(Returns to chair)
Then there's no use asking.

E VERNA Nope. (2)
(SUE glares at her, then sits. (SUE puts on a headset and begins meditating) (3)

F KIRK (Computer's power is low)
Come on. (Hits it) My power's low! (To VERNA) Do you have an outlet I could use?

G VERNA Nope. (JEAN appears)

H KIRK (To JEAN)
Quick. I need a charge!

I RUT (Pops up. Holds up a bottle)
Here. This'll charge ya' right up!

J KIRK (To JEAN)
Hurry!

K JEAN This way. To my office. (JEAN leads him to door UR) X (05h)

L RUT Suit yourself.
(Drinks. To SUE)
What some, lady?

M SUE What's he doing back in here?

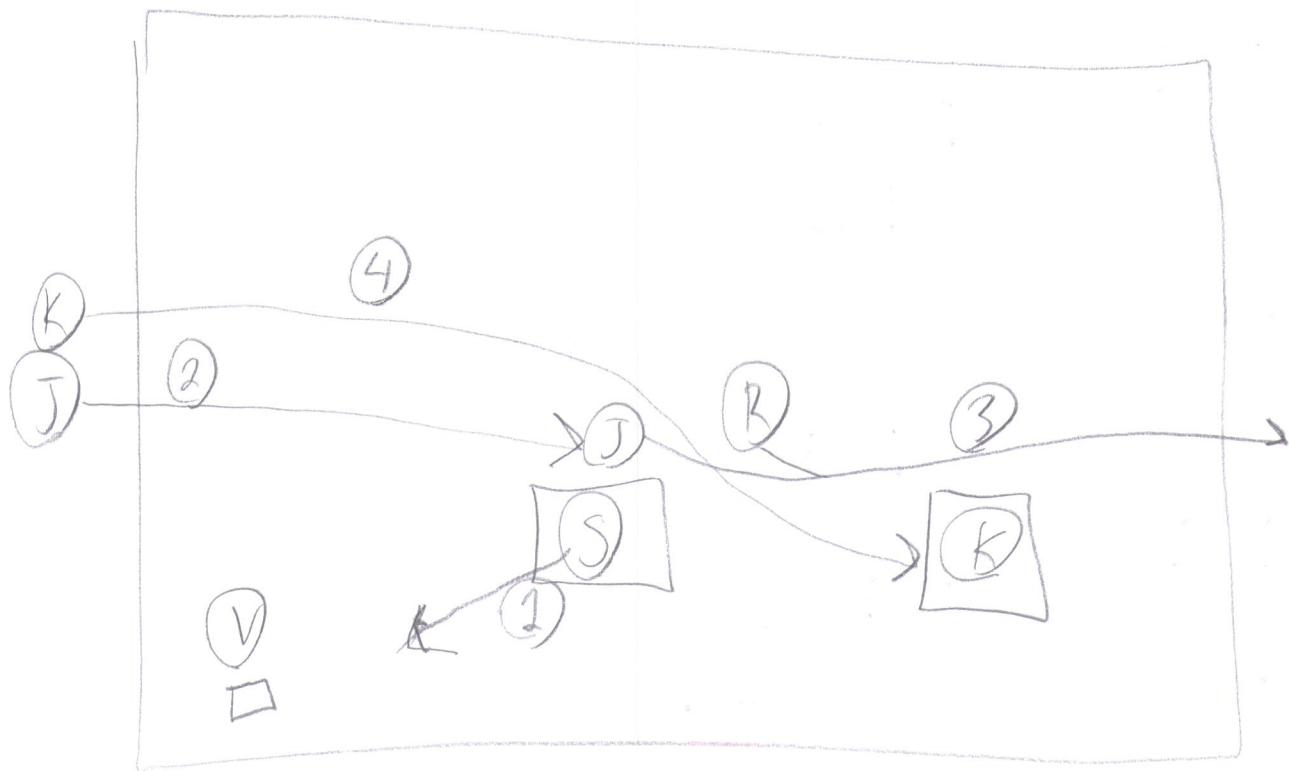
N VERNA He appears to be offering you a drink.

① S stands x V

② J en SR

③ J B ^{J lands} ex SL

④ B en SR x chair SL



A [SUE] I thought the janitor threw him out.

B [VERNA] Life's tough, isn't it?

C [RUT] Hey, good lookin'. Wanna share a little New Year's cheer? I got a lot right here.

D [SUE] Get away from me you disgusting brute.

E [RUT] (Begins to think, which is no small matter) Ya' know. You sound kinda familiar.

F [SUE] (①) (Stands. Crosses to [VERNA]) Will you shut him up?

G [RUT] (Profound realization) You sound like God!

H [SUE] Heaven help us.

I [RUT] Wow. Imagine that. (②) (JEAN reenters)

J [SUE] I thought you had him removed.

K [JEAN] (To RUT) You said you'd stay in the hall.

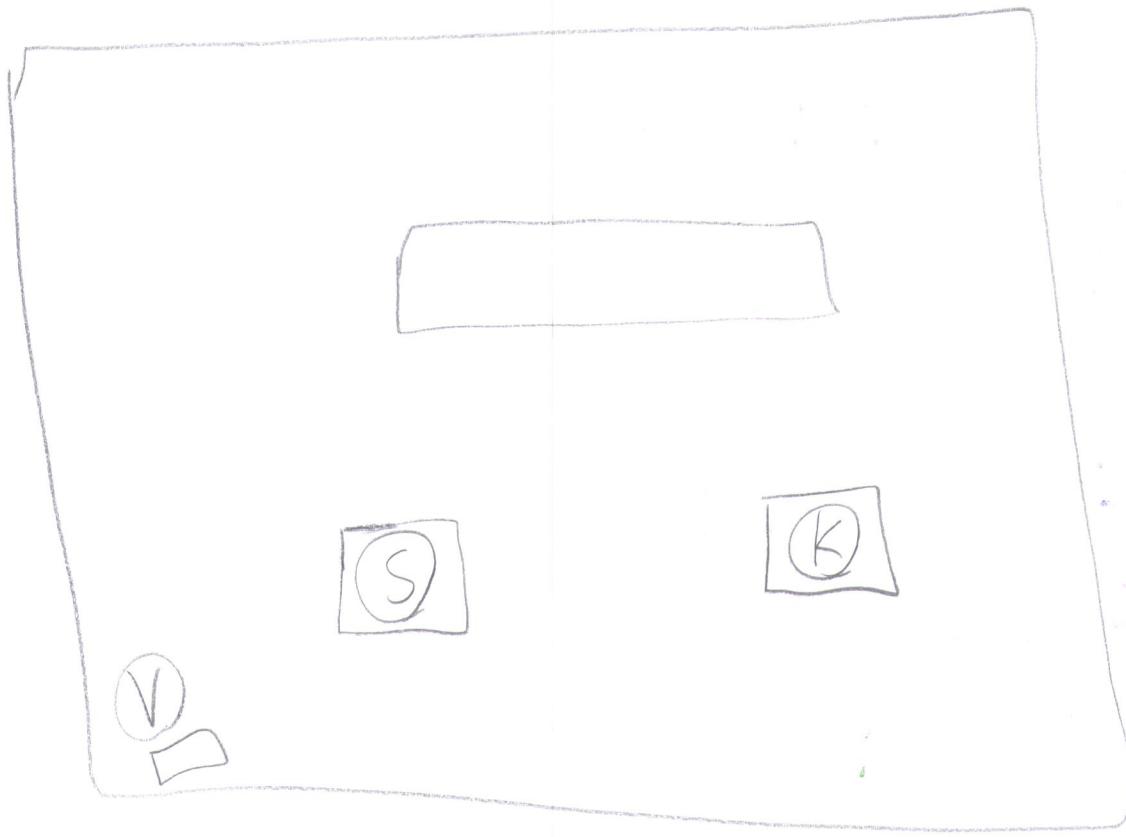
L [RUT] It's so lonely out there.

M [JEAN] (③) (Leads RUT out) Come on.

N [SUE] Thank you.

O [VERNA] When God talks, people listen. (KIRK reenters) (④)

enjx chn (5)



A [SUE] How's the computer?

B [KIRK] Fine. I think my file got saved.

C [SUE] Careful. You're talking to the enemy.

D [KIRK] Sorry about that. I'm a little on edge because of the train.

E [SUE] Are you anxious to get back to your family?

F [KIRK] Hardly.

G [SUE] Oh? Trouble on the home front?

H [KIRK] No, just divorced.

I [SUE] So why the rush?

J [KIRK] I'm playing golf with my boss and some clients tomorrow. I'd like to get a little rest before then.

K [SUE] Always business, never pleasure.

L [KIRK] What about you and your phone calls?

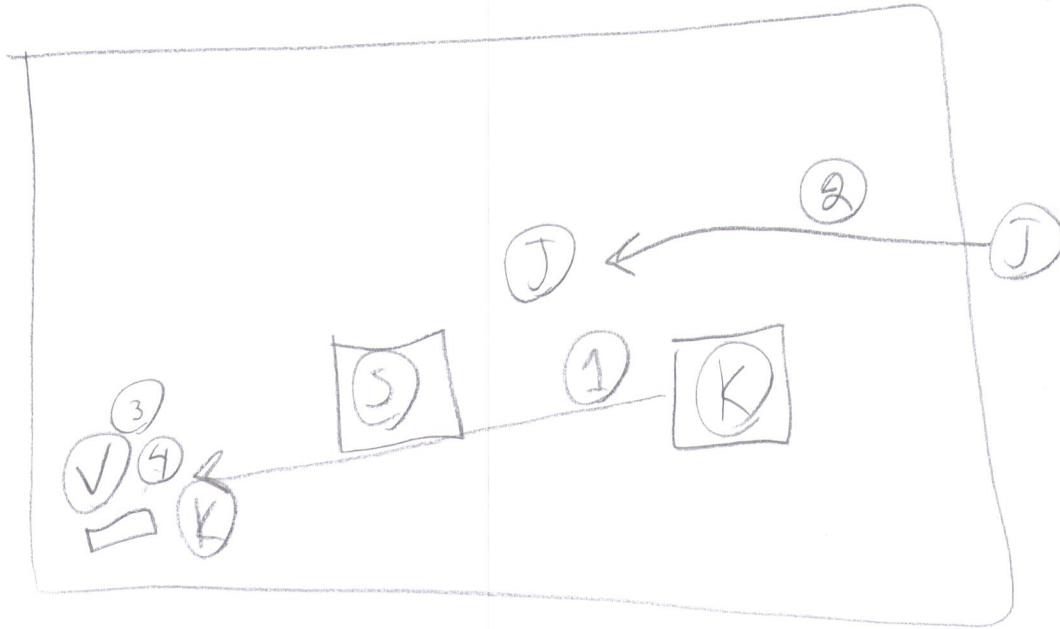
M [SUE] That's business and pleasure.

N [KIRK] I wouldn't know the difference.
(They both become lost in thought a moment.
KIRK changes the subject)

O [KIRK] (CONT.) I wonder how the train's doing?

P [SUE] I wouldn't know.
(Sue returns to seat. Listens to headset)

① K x V → ② Jen SL cont. sweeping
③ V stars at him
④ V looks at pad



A KIRK Excuse me, miss. (Goes to VERNA)
JEAN returns, continues sweeping)

B VERNA Hi, there. (Looks KIRK over, likes what she sees)

C KIRK (Nervous under her stare)
 Could you tell me when the Seattle train is expected in?

D VERNA (Still eyeing him)
 Maybe.

E KIRK Maybe?

F VERNA What's it worth to ya'?

G JEAN Verna!

H VERNA (Annoyed, looks at pad)
 Half hour.

I KIRK But that's what you said before.

J VERNA Haven't heard differently.

K KIRK Are they stuck somewhere?

L VERNA Maybe.

M KIRK Don't you know?

N VERNA Nope.

O KIRK Well, thank you anyway.

① B X seat SL

② V cont. staring K

③ J rolls eyes

④ K reads magazine

⑤ J X behind S

⑥ S listening to music / meditate on walkman, tape, headset

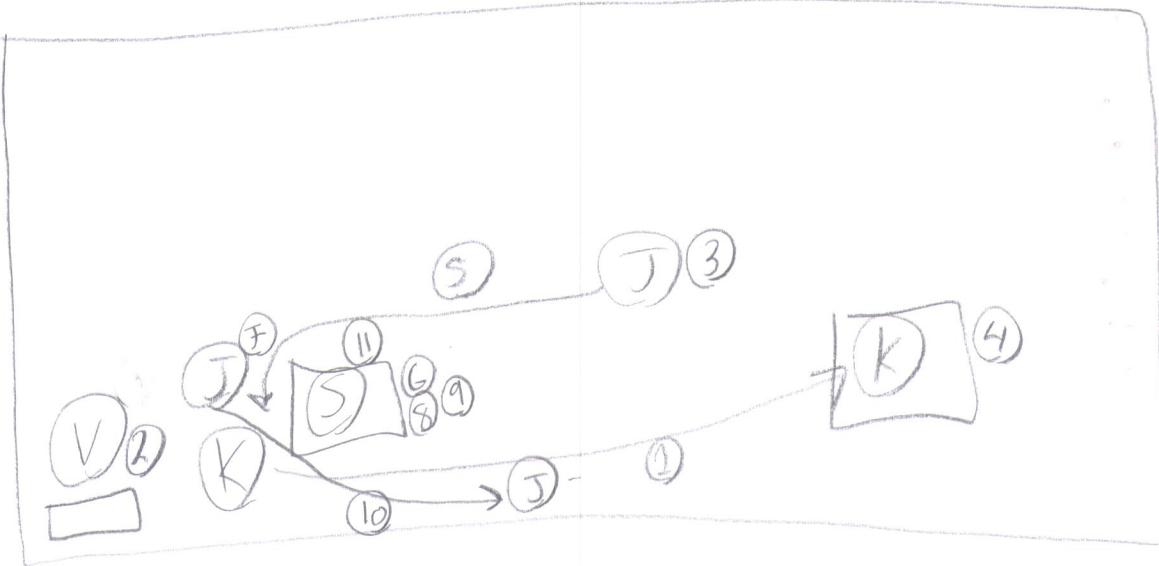
⑦ J listens

⑧ S holds up tape cover to J

⑨ S snatches tape cover away

⑩ J X OS → cleans

⑪ S puts away headset + walkman



A VERNA

Sure thing, honey. Just let me know if I can do anything else for you.

(KIRK returns to his seat. VERNA watches his departure with approval. To JEAN who passes by)

B VERNA

Boy, would I sure like to do a business deal with him.

(JEAN rolls her eyes and sweeps toward SUE. KIRK begins reading a magazine. JEAN comes from behind SUE. SUE is listening to her music and meditating. JEAN listens to SUE's headset)

C SUE

(Noticing JEAN)
What do you want?

D JEAN

Just wonderin' what you're listenin' to.

(SUE hands JEAN the tape cover and goes back to meditating)

E JEAN (CONT.)

"Ocean Waves." Is that some new punk rock group?

F SUE

(Snatches back cover)
It's not a group at all. It's simply sounds of the ocean recorded on this tape.

G JEAN

Why would you want to listen to that?

H SUE

(Angry, yells)
Because it helps me relax! Is that all right with you?!

I JEAN

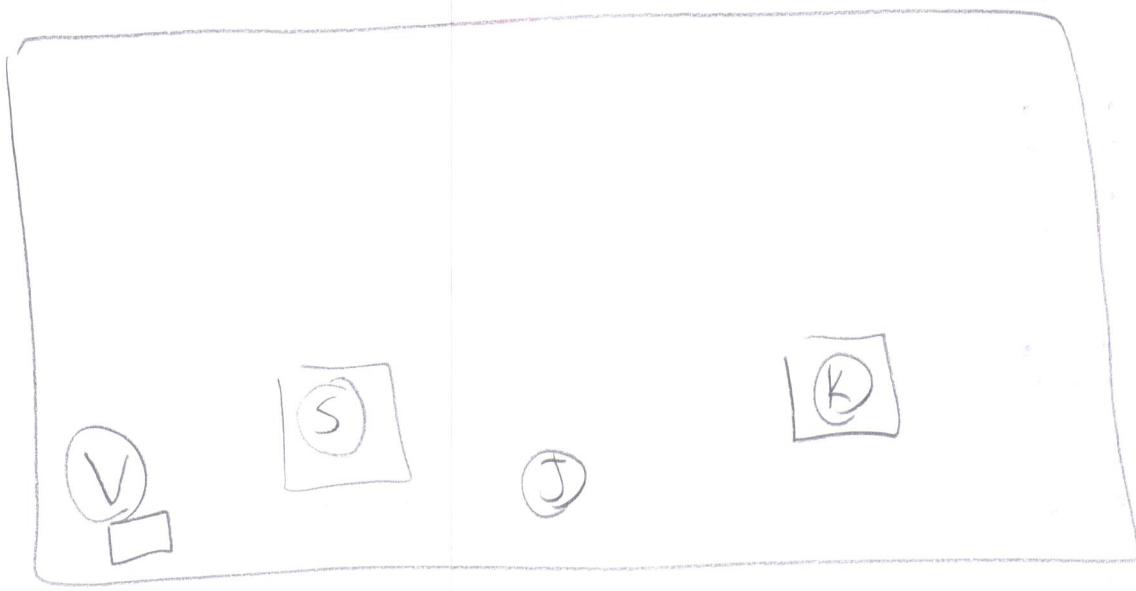
Sure, miss. Sorry.
(Cleans upstage)

J SUE

(Puts away headset. To KIRK)
When did she say the train was coming?

K KIRK

In half an hour.



A **SUE** (Angry)
That's what she said last time.

B **KIRK** And that's what she said again.

C **SUE** Maybe the train derailed.

D **KIRK** It probably hit a cow.

E **SUE** (Laughs)
Probably. There's something interesting about this town though. For the first time I've been able to relax a little. I don't even feel like doing as much work as usual.

F **KIRK** I feel the same way about this place. I even wrote a letter to my mother. At least I think I did depending how my computer is.

G **SUE** It's such a weird backward little place. It's kind of like a homely dog that grows on you after awhile.

H **KIRK** Yeah, kinda like mold.
(Laughs)
Kinda... I'm even talking like they do.

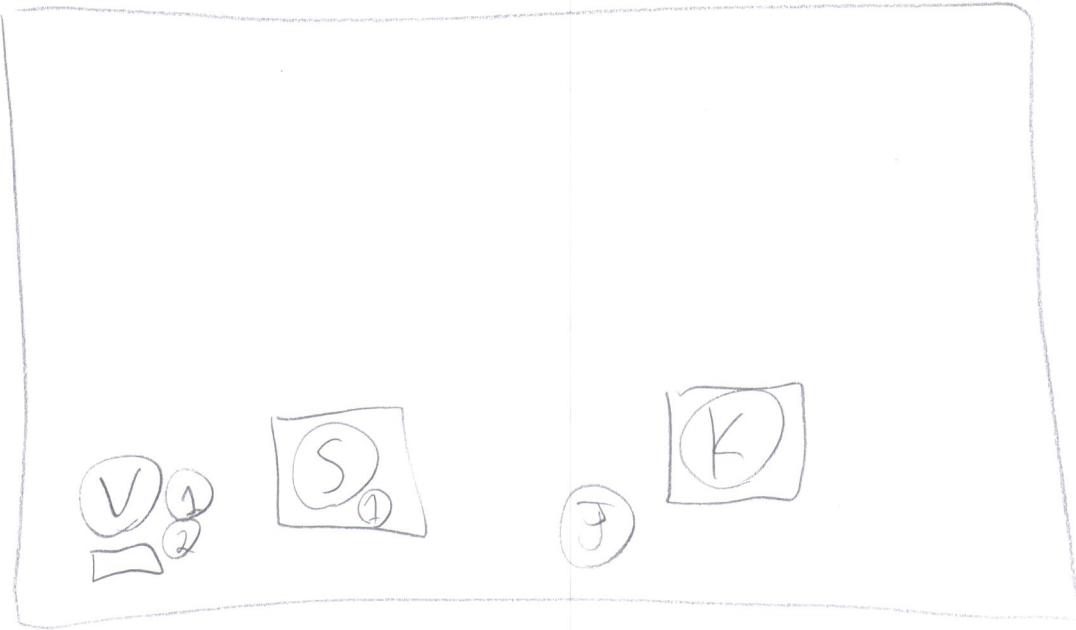
I **SUE** That will never do back in the big city.

J **KIRK** Ya' know. I darn near don't care.

K **SUE** I'd never get any work done in this place. There's almost this overpowering wave of laziness that hangs like a cloud over this town, making you want to nothing but sit and watch sitcoms.

① ⑤ ⑥ give each other cold stares

② ⑩ winks at ⑩



A KIRK

Frightening, isn't it?

B SUE

And before you know it, I'd be married to some plumber named Mac and get pregnant. Pretty

soon I'd begin to look like Verna.

C VERNABeats selling your soul. ASUE and VERNA give each other cold stares, then return to their own little worlds.D KIRK

Still this place might be an interesting venture.

E SUE

So would ice making in the Sahara Desert, but I wouldn't do it.

F KIRK

Where's your spirit? Where's your sense of adventure?

G SUE

At home in my hot tub.

H KIRK

City girl to the end.

I SUE

You got that right.

J KIRK

I think I could get to like this place.

K VERNA(Winking at KIRK)
We'd sure make you feel welcome, honey.L SUE

There's nothing to do here though. I'm already bored and I've only been here a week.

M KIRK

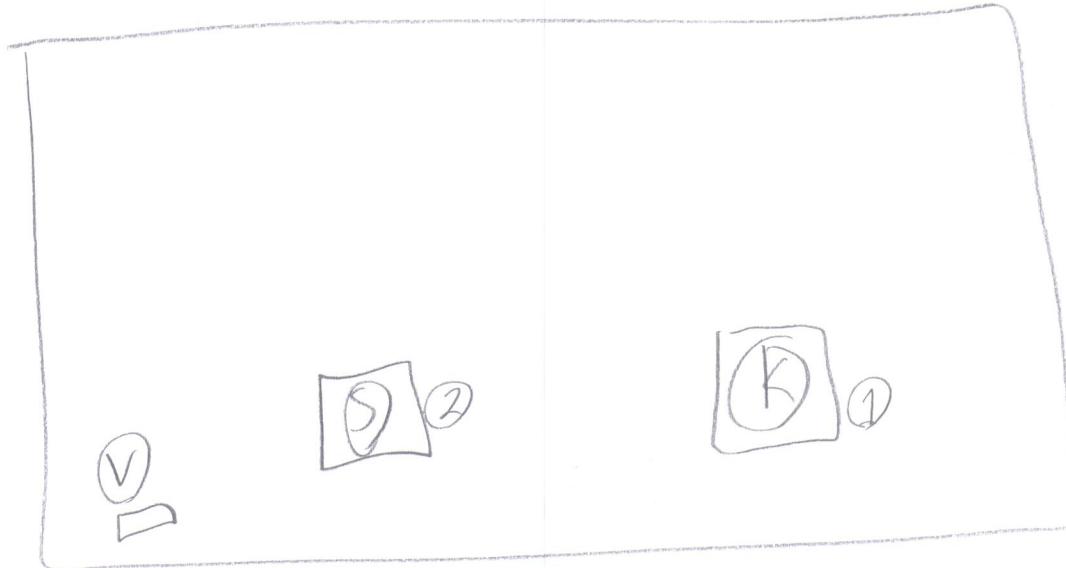
Boredom can be kinda nice once in a while. I think I could handle it for a few years.

N SUE

I think you're nuts.

① K looks at watch

② S looks at watch + shrugs



A **KIRK** It's better than getting ulcers.

B **SUE** True. There wouldn't be as many battles to fight... or victories to be one.

C **VERNA** You can't fight forever, honey. **SUE** is about to protest but decides not to

D **KIRK** (After a slight pause. Looks at watch) Hey, it's almost the New Year. ②

E **SUE** (Looks at watch. Shrugs) Big deal. ②

F **KIRK** 2000. It sounds like something out of a science fiction movie.

G **SUE** Sounds ominous to me.

H **KIRK** ONE-NIN I take it you're not very optimistic about the new century.

I **SUE** I try to never be optimistic about anything. That way I'm never disappointed.

J **KIRK** No big plans for the next decade?

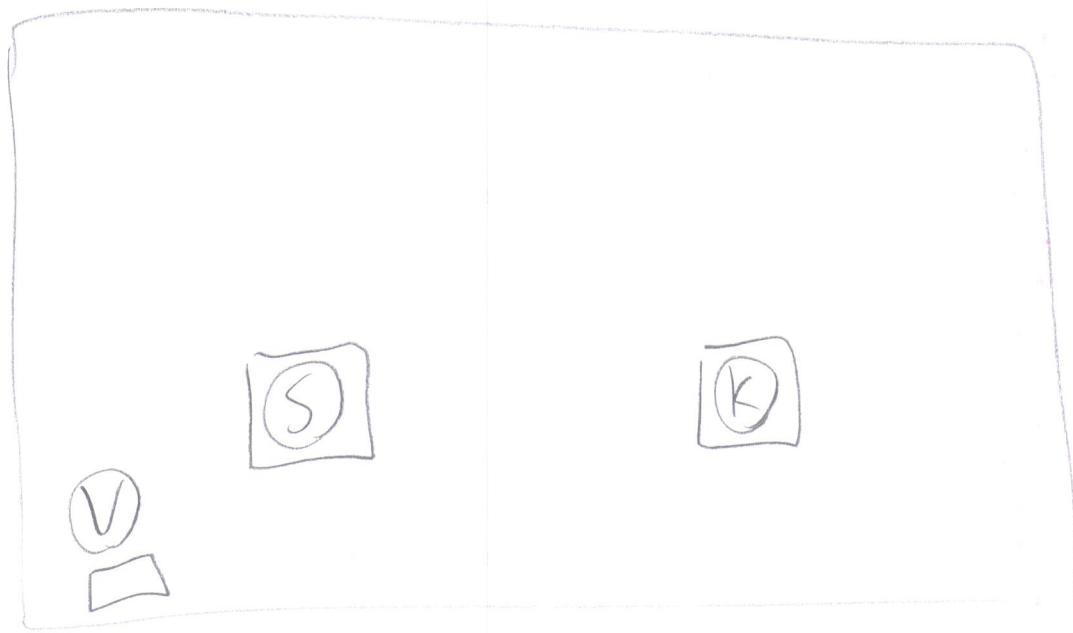
K **SUE** Oh, I have plenty of goals.

L **KIRK** Care to share any?

M **SUE** No.

N **KIRK** Fine. Then I'll tell you some of mine.

O **SUE** Go ahead if you really want to.



A **KIRK** I hope to be president of the company by the end of the decade. The big guy's old. He'll croak or retire before long and I plan on being next in line.

B **SUE** No next of kin? No princes waiting to be king?

C **KIRK** Nope, that's the beauty of it.

D **SUE** That must be nice.

E **KIRK** Okay, I told you my deepest desires. It's your turn.

F **VERNA** I can't wait to hear this.

G **SUE** (To **VERNA**) Do you mind?

H **VERNA** No, not at all, honey.

I **KIRK** Ignore her. Come on, confess.

J **SUE** (Thinks about it, but backs down) There's nothing to tell really.

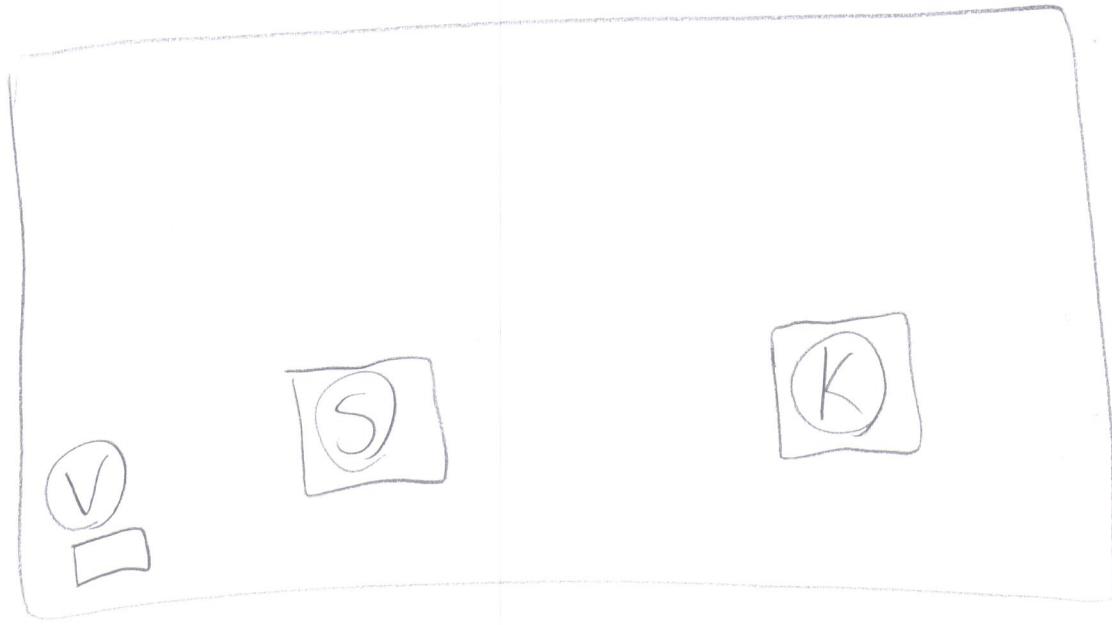
K **KIRK** Come on, everyone has dreams. Where would the human race be without dreams?

L **VERNA** A lot better off than we are now, that's for sure.

M **SUE** Who asked you?

N **VERNA** It's a free country.

O **SUE** I often wonder if free speech was a good idea.



A KIRK It is if you're a liberal.

B VERNA ERA all the way, honey.

C SUE Can't we put a muzzle on her or something?

D KIRK Come on. You didn't answer my question.

E SUE I don't want to talk about it.

F KIRK I won't leave you alone until you tell me your goals for the New Year.

G SUE Sorry... no plans. I think that whole Y2K bug is going to cripple our economy... I was hoping to get back to my bunker before midnight but I'm stuck here instead. What a way to end it all...

H KIRK You're not fooling me. You look like a very ambitious woman. You've probably got entire lists
of goals and objectives composed.

I SUE And why should I tell you anything?

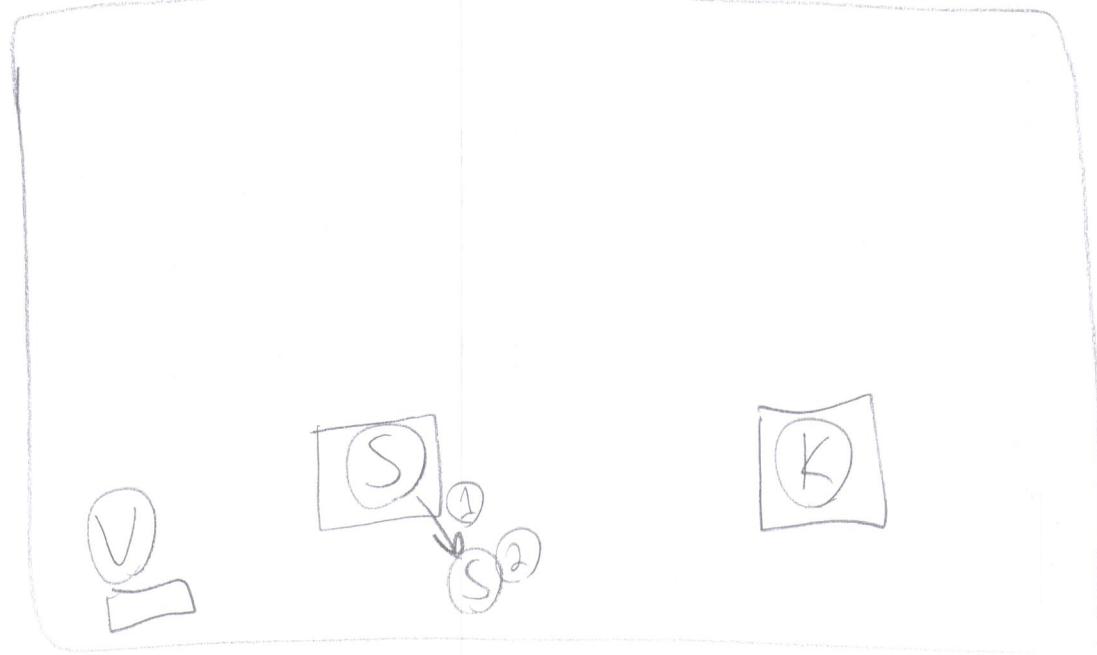
J KIRK Some people like movies; I like knowing about people. The most unpredictable story I've even seen is life. With life, the plots are more interesting and the characters are more realistic. You never know what's going to happen next and there's always something about people that we
have yet to discover. Besides, you'll never see me again so what does it matter what you tell me?

K VERNA I'll tell you anything, honey.

L SUE He wasn't asking you?

① S stands in frustration

② S turns away



A VERNA

Well, I thought he might wanna give me a try since I ain't being so difficult.

B SUE

Fine. You want to know my goals? I want to be on the cover of Time magazine. I want to be

rich. I want to hold the fate of Seattle in my hot little hands. I want the world to be at my door,

begging and pleading for my favors just so I can slam the door in their faces. I want to grind

mankind into the dirt and listen to them beg for mercy.

Pause. KIRK is silent. SUE is turned away. Her voice is soft now with a hint of sorrow. She sits

again.

C SUE (Cont.)

And I want my father to say "I proud of you" ...and mean it.

D KIRK

(After a moment)
I guess that's all any of us want.

E SUE

(Still looking away)
You, too?

F KIRK

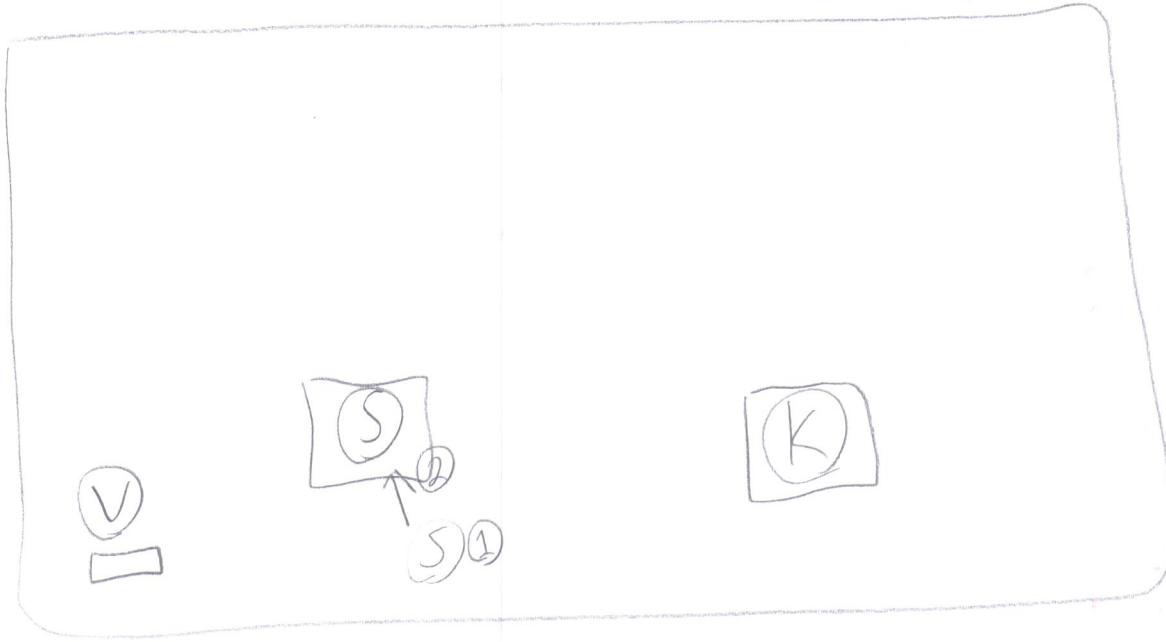
I don't think my parent's will ever be satisfied with what I do. They always want something more out of me.

G SUE

I don't really know what my parents want. I guess my Dad wants success, but I think Mom would rather see me settled down and pregnant. I sometimes wonder if it might be nice be a

① ⑤ looks at ⑩

② ⑤ sits chair SR



G wife and have kids. It's hard at times to come home to an empty home with a cat who could care less about you. But I don't think I could stand being a housewife like my mother. It seems so futile. (Pause) I want to work. I want to get somewhere. (Pause) Yet, I still wonder if I can live without love. At times, life just goes a little too fast for me. It didn't use to be that way, but now I'm beginning to wonder, (Pause) What does the new century hold for ~~the~~ woman? Will we finally get on top or will we settle down? Or is either one possible? (Pause) If only they'd find a way for men to have babies, then we'd be fine.

A VERNA Amen, sister.

B SUE Sorry to ramble on like that.

C KIRK Fine by me. Keep going if you like.

D SUE I don't know why I even said as much as I did. (Looks at KIRK ①) What about you? Any dark secrets of the heart?

E KIRK Well, my shrink says I'm just "trying to please my mother." Classic Oedipus Complex.

He stops in disgust

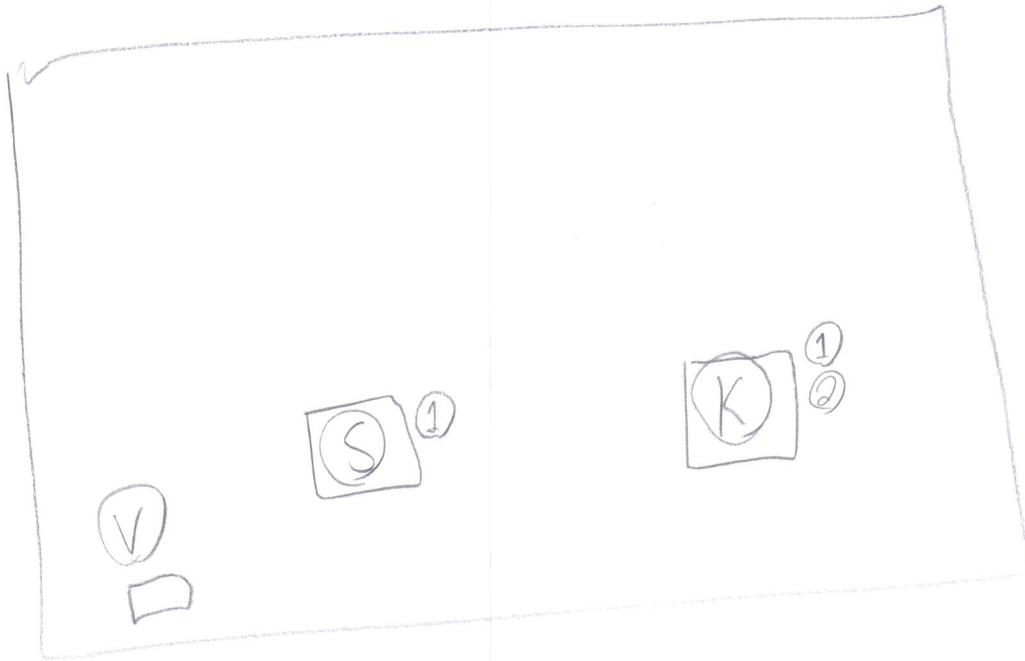
F SUE (Sits) ② My shrink said the same thing about my father and I.

G KIRK Just call us Oedipus and Electra.

H SUE Killed off your father yet?

① (S) (K) laugh

② (K) looks at watch



A KIRK

No, not yet. I'm working on it though. Wouldn't want people to start thinking Freud was wrong about anything.

B SUE

Just because Freud had a problem with his mother doesn't mean everyone else does.

C KIRK

(Pretending to be a psychologist)
YOU merely mock Freud because YOU see some truth in it don't you.

D SUE

I personally would rather see my father shot.

E KIRK

(Overdramatic)
What?! Could Freud be wrong?

(They laugh. VERNA is disgusted)

F VERNA

What is this? Some kind of deranged Yuppie humor?

G KIRK

(Ignoring VERNA. Looks at watch)
We missed the New Year's countdown.

H VERNA

And I missed my kiss. But I'll let you make it up to me.

I SUE

Dang... the world didn't come to an end.

J KIRK

2000 is here at last.

K SUE

Is that good or bad?

L KIRK

What has you so down?

M SUE

Oh, love and money. The usual things.

N VERNA

You just ain't got enough of either, huh?

① (K) (S) smile at each other

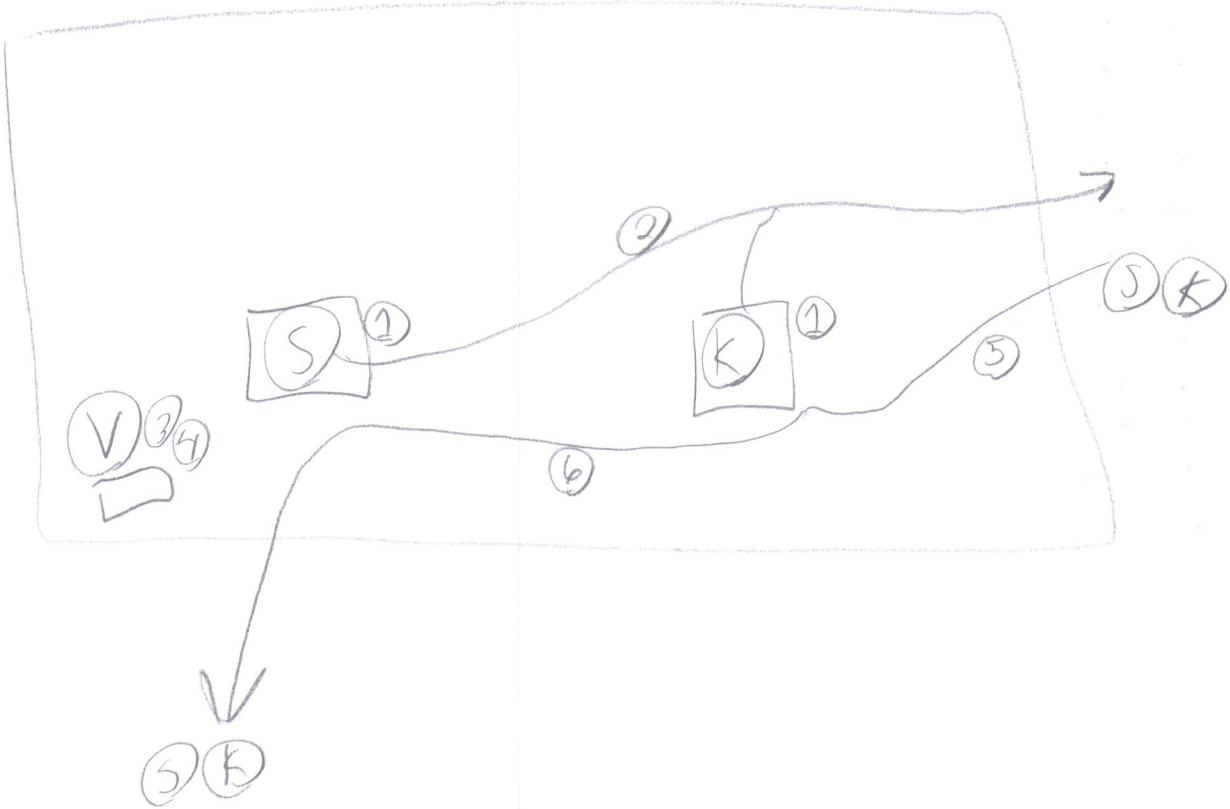
② (K) (S) ex SL

③ (V) answers phone

④ (V) calls over speaker

⑤ (S) (K) rush in from SL w/ coffee cups

⑥ (S) (K) grab their stuff X VSR down stairs



A **SUE**

Nope.

B **KIRK**

Maybe you've been looking for the wrong thing.

(They look at each other a moment, then smile. Sue gives him a little kiss on the cheek)

①

C **SUE**

Happy New Year.

D **KIRK**

Thanks.

(Stands)

What would you say to a cup of coffee? My treat.

E **SUE**

Sure. Why not. I've got nothing better to do.

F **KIRK**

②

(As they exit)

I think there's a machine out in the hall.

G **V ERNA**

V

③
↑
We M different phonings 1x(Phone rings. **VERNA** answers) Yeah? No lay over, huh? Okay. Gotcha. (Hangs up, mic for Verna's announcement)

calls over loud speaker) The midnight train to Seattle has arrived. There will be no delay as was originally scheduled. Please begin boarding

ex fully SL

immediately.

(SUE and KIRK run in from L, frantic. They grab their bags and rush out R. They say the following as they go:)

→ cue O: turn off SR mic

→ cue P: Train boards?

H **KIRK**

Hold the train!

ex VSB

I **SUE**

We're coming!

J **KIRK**

Don't let it go without us.

MIC

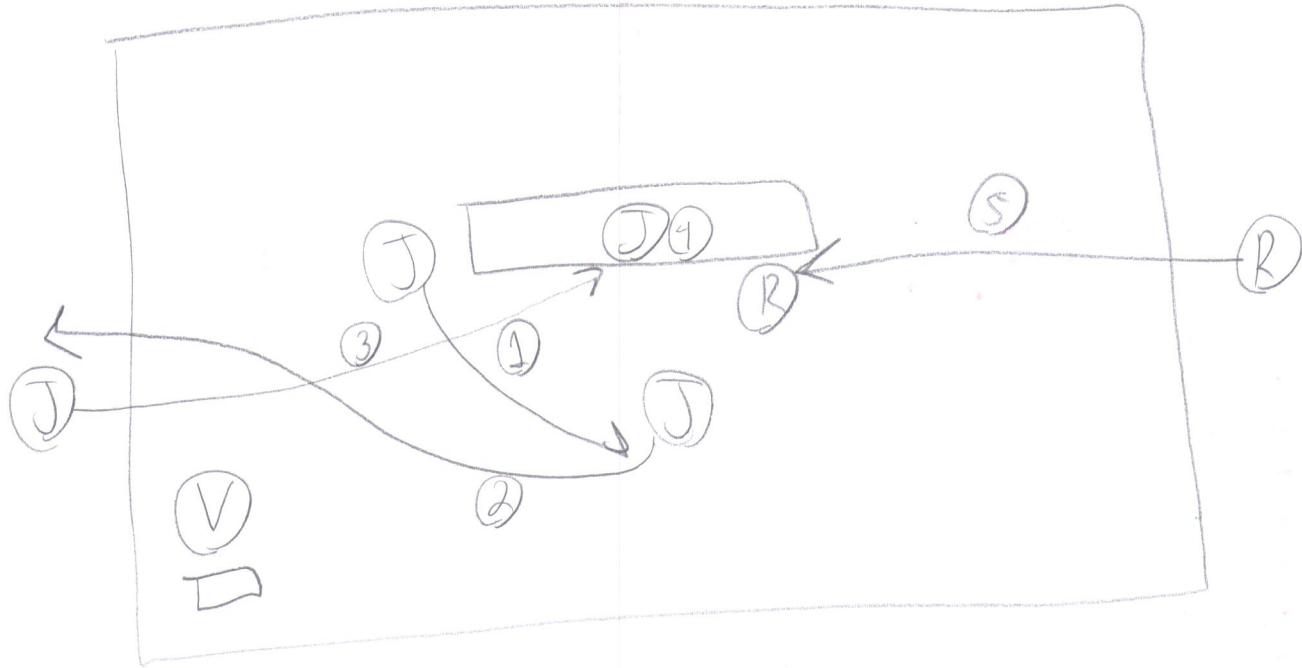
K **VERNA**

I'm holding it tight, honey.

L **SUE**

Let's go.

- ① J comes out of hall
- ② J uses a SR
- ③ J brings out laptop
- ④ J sits upset on bench CS
- ⑤ B en SL



A **KIRK** Okay. I think I have everything. Seems like I'm always forgetting something.
(They're gone)

B **JEAN** (1) (Comes out of hall where she has been cleaning)
They get off okay?

C **VERNA** Yeap. There it goes.

D **JEAN** I thought they'd never get out of here.

E **VERNA** It wasn't so bad. The guy was kinda cute. I hope he keeps doing business here. If he does, I may have to go back to school and get myself a business degree.

F **JEAN** (Remembers something, upset)
Oh, no.

G **VERNA** What's with you? You sick? (2) (JEAN rushes to office)
What is it, honey? You okay? (VERNA goes back to her nails) That woman is hard to figure out sometimes. Maybe those cleaning chemicals are going to her head.

H **JEAN** (3) (Brings out computer)
He forgot his computer.

I **VERNA** That's okay, he's got money. He can buy another. (JEAN sits, upset)

J **RUT** (4) (5) (Enters L)
Them Seattle folk gone yet?

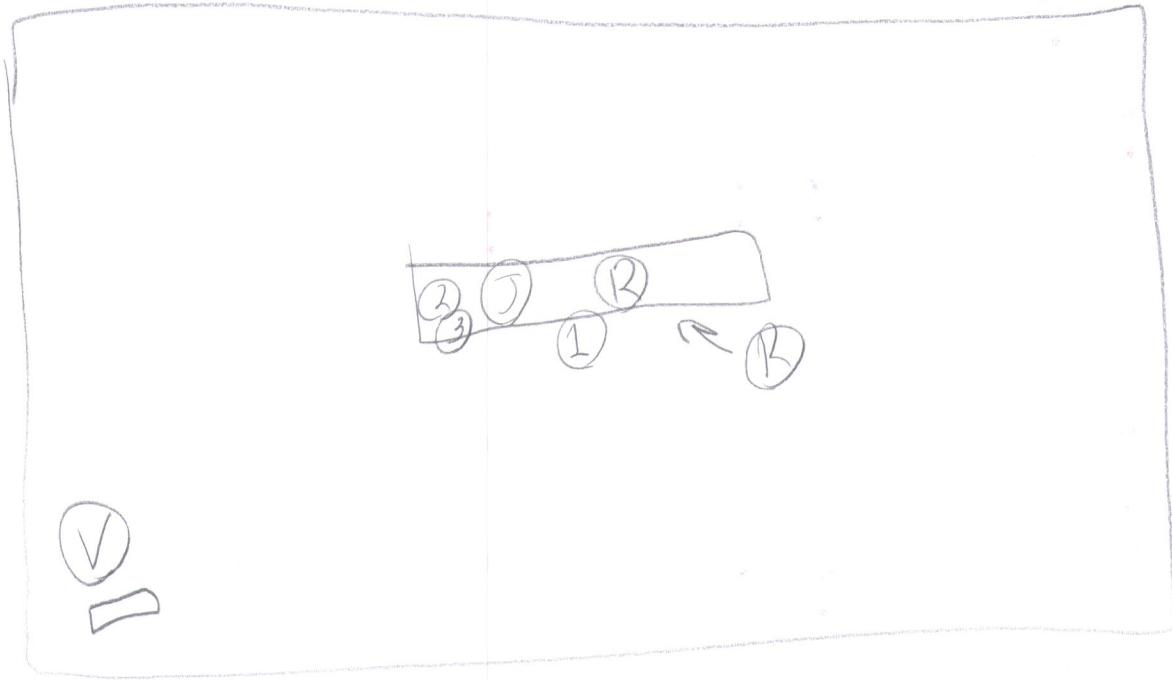
K **VERNA** Yeap.

L **RUT** Good. They sure was noisy. Thought they'd never shut

① Ⓛ sits next to Ⓛ SL

② Ⓛ turns computer on

③ Ⓛ pushes . button



L up. Now maybe I can get some rest.
 (Sees computer. Sits next to JEAN) ①

A JEAN That business guy's computer.

B RUT How'd they get it so small?

C JEAN Beats me.

D RUT Turn it on. I wanna see it work.

E JEAN I don't know. It's not ours.

F Verna Go on, Jean. Live it up.

G JEAN Okay. (Not needing much encouragement)
 (She turns it on) ②

H RUT Look at that sucker light up. ↴ Cue R: Windows start up sound Go

I JEAN Amazing what they can do now days.

J RUT What are you doing?

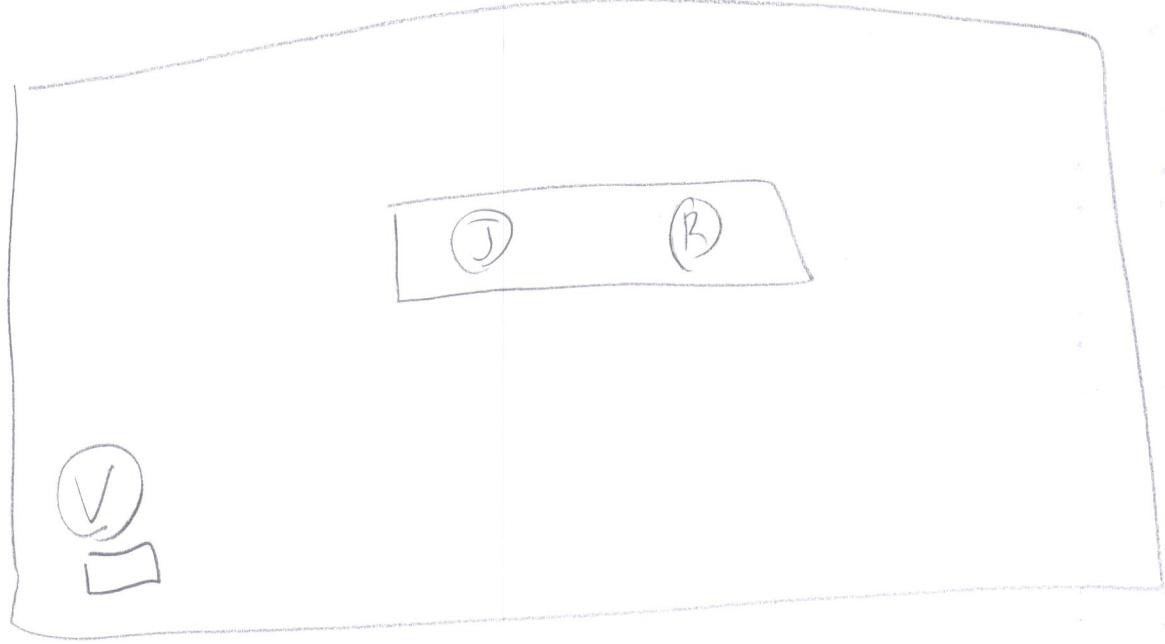
K JEAN I don't know really but it's fun.

L RUT What's that mean?

M JEAN I'm not sure.
 (Pushes a button) ↴ Cue R: Computer ding
 Ooops. ③

N RUT How come that disappeared?

O JEAN Ooops. ↴ Cue S: Computer ding



A **RUT** There goes another one.

B **JEAN** *→ cue T: computer ding*
Where'd they go?

C **VERNA** I sure hope they wasn't important.

D **JEAN** *→ cue V: computer ding*
Ooops. *(As lights fade)*

E **VERNA** Maybe you guys should stop playin' with that thing.

F **JEAN** *→ cue V: computer ding*
Ooops. *(Black out)* *↓ bigger?*

END OF PLAY

