

My Name is Earl  
"Conned an Old Man"

a spec script by

Cooper Johnson

&

Anthony Scodary

Timber Cave Unlimited  
405 W. Elk Ave  
Suite Six  
Glendale, CA 91204  
Timbercave@gmail.com  
818.396.6395

ACT ONE

1 FADE IN: 1  
2 EXT. STREET -- DAY 2

Earl and Randy are walking down the street. At every newspaper vending machine, Earl puts in quarters, opens the machine, and shuts it without taking a paper.

RANDY

(pleading)

Can't I just have one newspaper, Earl?  
I like to do the jumble.

EARL

Sorry, Randy. I have to make up for all the times I've stolen papers from these machines. Any business based on the honor system was like a bad Karma buffet for the old Earl Hickey.

RANDY

Kind of like those money trays at church.

EARL

You've been steeling from the collection plates, Randy?

RANDY

No, Earl, I just make change. Although, I can't always remember how many coins go into other coins.  
(pulling coins from his pocket)

Dimes are hard, because they're the lightest but they're worth the most. Say Earl -- could I give you these six dimes for two of your quarters, so I can buy a paper?

EARL

Tell you what, Randy, you just give me five of your dimes and we'll call it even.

Randy buys a paper.

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

When you're making up for the little things on The List like years of taking all the papers from the machine, Karma has a funny way of using the opportunity to tell you what's next.

RANDY

(pointing to the paper)

Hey look, Earl, Electronics Village is doing a liquidation sale. Even at these prices, I don't know if I'd want a TV that they turn to water. Although, if they turn it into Sunny Delight, it'd probably be pretty worth it.

EARL

(looking down at the paper)

I don't know, Randy, I'm pretty sure it would have to have liquor in it for the price to even out.

Earl's eyes widen.

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

And that's when I saw next to Electronics Village, an obituary that said I was too late for number 215: "Conned an Old Man."

CUT TO:

EXT. OLD MAN'S HOUSE -- FLASHBACK

Earl walks up the porch steps of a house.

EARL (V.O.)

I hadn't even meant to con old Mr. Simmons; I had got a flat tire outside his house, and Randy had used the spare to make a swing.

Earl knocks on the door, which is opened by EDGAR SIMMONS, an extremely elderly man.

EARL (CONT'D)

(gesturing over his shoulder)

Hi, can use your phone -

EDGAR

Oh you must be from the electric company.

(chuckling)

It's time for the bill again, eh?  
Let's see if I have cash.

EARL

No, I just need -

Edgar takes out a wallet that is loaded with cash. Earl's eyes go wide.

EDGAR

What do I owe you?

EARL

Uh...a hundred dollars?

EDGAR

(paying)

Here you go. Now you have a good day.

The door closes, and after a few steps, Earl stops and turns around.

EARL

(to himself)

The phone...

Earl knocks on the door again, and Edgar reopens it.

EARL (CONT'D)

Sorry, also, I forgot to ask, can I just use your phone--

EDGAR

Oh you must be from the electric company.

Close on Earl's eyes.

EARL (V.O.)

You know how in cartoons, sometimes their eyes turn to dollar signs? Well, when I met Edgar and his wallet full of retirement, I'm pretty sure that happened to me.

CUT TO:

Various shots of Earl knocking on Edgar's door in various clothes.

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

Edgar was my golden goose. He always paid me his electric bill on time. Sometimes several times a week. This continued for a couple months. If I hadn't been hit by that car, I'd still be running that scam now.