

THE LAYMAN'S ANSWERS TO EVERYTHING
Book Preview

OPEN ON **PHIL**, A YOUNG MAN IN HIS MID-TWENTIES TYPING AT A COMPUTER IN AN APARTMENT.

PHIL (VOICEOVER)

All my life, I've had the worst luck with everything: Jobs...

CUT TO:

A FAT, BEARDED **CAMP DIRECTOR** IN A TIGHT CAMP T-SHIRT YELLING AT COUNSELOR PHIL WHILE A YOUNG BOY CRIES HYSTERICALLY.

CAMP DIRECTOR

What the hell is wrong with you?! You gave him an *Indian burn*?!

PHIL (VO)

...women...

CUT TO:

A **BITCHY YOUNG WOMAN** HAVING DINNER WITH PHIL.

BITCHY YOUNG WOMAN

...and I would never date guys who wear, like...digital watches.

CUT TO:

PHIL ROLLING HIS EYES AS HE CHECKS THE TIME ON HIS DIGITAL WATCH.

PHIL (VO)

...dairy products...

CUT TO:

PHIL POUNDING ON A BATHROOM DOOR CLUTCHING HIS STOMACH IN PAIN.

PHIL

For the love of God! Please! Open the door!!!

CUT TO:

PHIL TYPING ON THE COMPUTER

PHIL (VO)

They say whatever doesn't kill you can only make you stronger. Well, if that's true, I was on my way to becoming Yoda freakin' Schwarzenegger.

CUT TO:

MIRIMAX LOGO AS THE WHO'S "THE SEEKER" BURSTS IN

CUT TO TITLE SCREEN:

"Some people were born to change the world."

CUT TO:

PHIL SITTING IN A COLLEGE DORM ROOM WITH SAUL GOODMAN,
AN UNSHAVEN, UNKEPT CRUNCHY TYPE.

PHIL

I've always felt like I was meant to do something...something really,
really important.

SAUL

Here man (offering Phil a joint), this will make that pain go away.

CUT TO TITLE SCREEN

"Others have to work at it a bit harder."

CUT TO:

PHIL, NOW WITH PONY TAIL, TALKING TO AN **ATTRACTIVE**
WOMAN IN A BAR ILLUMINATED BY CANDLES

PHIL

Yeah, I write a newspaper column about life—I really feel like I've been
chosen to help move the world in a more spiritual direction. Like I'm
destined for greatness.

ATTRACTIVE WOMAN

What's that smell? Ohmigod—your hair's on fire!!!

PHIL

(Twirling around frantically to snuff it out with his hand) Aah!! Aah!!
Aah!! Aah!! Aah!! Aah!! Aah!!!

CUT TO:

PHIL, APPROACHING **CHESTER**, AN OBESE, BLACK HOMELESS
MAN.

PHIL

Hey my name's Phil, I've got some peanut butter crackers here if you'd
like.

CHESTER

Do I *look* like I need any damn peanut butter crackers, fool?

CUT TO TITLE SCREEN AS JOE WALSH'S "LIFE OF ILLUSION" PLAYS:

"From the best-selling novel comes the story of one man who figures out the
meaning of life."

CUT TO:

PHIL FLIPPING THROUGH TV CHANNELS

PHIL (VO)

All the answers we've been seeking have been hidden in the media this
whole time! *Quantum Leap*, *The Matrix*, *Scooby-Doo*...!

CUT TO TITLE SCREEN:

"But still doesn't have a clue how to get one."

CUT TO:

PHIL WITH A WOMAN IN A BAR

PHIL (VO)

I was getting plenty of dates. What I wasn't getting many of was *second* dates.

WOMAN TAKES OUT A PACK OF MARLBORO LIGHTS

PHIL

Ah, I see you're smoking Death Lites.

CUT TO TITLE :

"Until one day, life finds him."

THE BEATLES "A DAY IN THE LIFE" PLAYS (JOHN LENNON'S HYPNOTIC CHANT IN THE MIDDLE) AS WE CUT TO MONTAGE:

PHIL HOLDING MEETINGS IN HIS APARTMENT WITH A SMALL GROUP

PHIL'S BOOK SOLD OUT AT BOOK STORE

PHIL TALKING WITH JAY LENO ON "THE TONIGHT SHOW"

A CURTAIN RISES ON PHIL REVEALING A CROWD OF THOUSANDS

KIDS PLAYING WITH SPIRITUAL ACTION FIGURES

CROWDS LINED UP IN FRONT OF A "PLANET GURU" RESTAURANT

PHIL HAVING SEX WITH ADORING GROUPIES

RELIGIOUS PICKETERS AT ONE OF LAYMAN'S SHOWS

NEWS REPORTS OF PLUNGING ECONOMY

PHIL BEING STRAPPED DOWN IN A MENTAL HOSPITAL

A GIANT TIDAL WAVE OVERSHADOWING A BEACH

PEOPLE TAKING DISNEY-ESQUE TOURS OF UNDERWATER NYC

THE GAP, STARBUCKS, BARNES AND NOBLE, PLANET GURU, JAMBA JUICE ALL UNDERWATER.

A MUCH OLDER PHIL OVERSEEING THE CREATION OF AN AMUSEMENT PARK AMONGST THE RUINS.

CUT TO:

OLDER PHIL SITTING AND TALKING TO AN OLDER SAUL

PHIL

All I ever wanted to do was help make the world a better place.

SAUL

Well dude, you did help in wiping the Hamptons off the map, and that's a start.

CUT TO:

VARIOUS ACTORS IN SCENES WITH THEIR NAMES SUPERED TO DEPECHE MODE'S "PERSONAL JESUS."

CUT TO:

"THE LAYMAN'S ANSWERS TO EVERYTHING"

CUT TO:

PHIL, CHESTER, AND A GROUP OF OTHERS, DANCING AND SINGING IN THE STREETS

CUT TO:

MOVIE INFO SCREEN

CUT TO:

LAYMAN SITTING WITH CHESTER ON THE SIDEWALK AS A WOMAN WALKS BY GIGGLING

CHESTER

Dat's right! You think ya pretty funny, ho! But you really need ta suck my d—

CUT TO TITLE:

WINTER 2012