

A Penny on Day One

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EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - MORNING

Looking toward the front door of Andrew's house, we watch in silence as the day goes by. Sarena walks up the stairs and knocks on the door.

ANDREW'S VOICE
What the fuck was that?

Soon enough, he opens the door.

ANDREW
Uhhh. Hello?

SARENA
Hello! Do you have a minute to speak?

ANDREW
Are you a Jehova's Witness?

SARENA
(chuckling) No, no.

ANDREW
You're not? Then what's this about?

SARENA
This is about Project Fortune.

ANDREW
Project Fortune? What is it?

SARENA
It's an exciting money-making opportunity!

ANDREW
Not interested. Good-bye.

He closes the door.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - SOON

JOHN
Who was that?

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ANDREW

I don't know. Some broad knocking on the door.

We can hear the sound of her knocking on the neighbor's door.

SARENA'S VOICE

Hi! Do you have a minute to speak?

JOHN

Was it a religious Mormon thing?

ANDREW

No, it wasn't religious at all.
The Jehova's Witnesses have knocked here
before. They explain about God's true name
and God's plan . . . this was more of a . . .
"money-making opportunity".

JOHN

Was she trying to get you to put a bunch of money into something?

ANDREW

I don't . . . think so.

JOHN

When they do, that's the warning sign of a scam.
A bunch of money into something is a Ponzi scheme.

ANDREW

No, I'm a complete moron who didn't already know that.

JOHN

Well at least you have the courage to admit it.

A moment of silence.

JOHN

I didn't come up with that myself. I got it from this
comic strip Calvin and Hobbes.

ANDREW

Never heard of it.

JOHN

So, I'm sorry. Wait a second. Walk me through it again?

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She wasn't asking you to put a large sum of money into something?

ANDREW

No. She wasn't.

JOHN

Oh. (*snaps his fingers*) Was planning for later, I bet.
That's what they do. "Oh, there's no money involved."
But later on . . . boom, suddenly they hit you with a huge cost.

ANDREW

Exactly.

JOHN

Dude, that's kind of psycho, in a way.
Door to door to get money?

ANDREW

People go door to door to spread the word of religion.

JOHN

But that's religion. That's spreading the word of God and the Bible.
That's not supposed to be used to make money.
God, and yet people do end up using religion to make
money sometimes.
So wait. What did she say exactly?

ANDREW

Uhhh, she asked me if I'd want to join some thing called Project Fortune.

JOHN

Never heard of it. Sounds kinda . . . dangerous.

ANDREW

Is there some way we can just . . . verify stuff?

JOHN

. . . (*in an overly dramatic voice*) But there is *one* way.
Specialized tech equipment - capable of accessing
information from *anywhere in the globe*.

SOON - they're looking over a laptop computer.

JOHN

Okay, yeah, they're all saying it's a scam.

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ANDREW

Yeah, I'm not giving that psycho any of *my* money.

JOHN

I'm glad you didn't.

ANDREW

I thought *you* would have!

JOHN

Why?

ANDREW

It just seems to me like something you would do.
Just fall for anything.

JOHN

Yeah, whatever dude. You don't know what you're saying.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - SOON

Outside Andrew's house, both stand around as he smokes a cigarette when they notice her starting to leave.

JOHN

(She's still here?)

ANDREW

(I guess nobody was interested.)

JOHN

(We should ask what exactly it is - make sure.)

ANDREW

(I guess.)
Hey. Ummm.

SARENA

Yeah? Oh, I'm just heading out.

ANDREW

Wait. Can you tell me what exactly this "Project Fortune" thing . . . *is?*

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SARENA

Awesome. You're the only person who wanted more information. I need five minutes to explain Project Fortune to you. Understandably, you might be cautious about it at first. But if you can watch the entire five-minute presentation, I think you'll be convinced. Would you care to hear an explanation indoors, or outside?

ANDREW

Uhhh . . . indoors.

He opens the door, and she walks around it and enters.

SARENA

This is a great place!

JOHN

(whispering) This is kind of scary, how good she is at speaking.

ANDREW

(whispering back) It is.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - SOON

ANDREW

Am I really the only one who wanted to know more?

SARENA

So far, today, yes.

ANDREW

How many people are involved in this project?

SARENA

. . . So far? . . . Zero.

ANDREW

. . . Oh . . . kay. Well, anyway. So what's Project Fortune?

SARENA

Simple. It's a 30-day trial experiment where you work doing simple menial tasks. But you choose how to get paid: either you choose to get paid \$10,000 a day, regardless of how good the work was done; or you choose to get paid

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one penny on Day 1, and every day that follows twice the amount of money as the day before, for an entire 30 days.

ANDREW
\$10,000 a day?

SARENA
Correct.

ANDREW
And the other's . . . one penny?

SARENA
On Day 1 - but twice the amount every day after.
So, two pennies, four pennies, eight pennies, and
so forth.

ANDREW
For 30 days?

SARENA
Correct.

ANDREW
What about 35?

SARENA
No, no. Not 35. Not 25. Not 26.
30 days.

ANDREW
(sarcastically) I'm sorry. I didn't know I breached something.

SARENA
So, those are the two ways to get paid.
It would not be up to me to recommend
which of those two paths to try.
You are free to choose.

ANDREW
I'd choose the \$10,000 a day!

SARENA
Well, if you're certain that you would -

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ANDREW
I'm certain.

SARENA
Okay. What about you?

JOHN
Well, he chose the \$10,000, right?
So I'll choose the penny on day one.

ANDREW
What? No, bro, don't choose the penny!
No. No. Choose the \$10,000.

JOHN
You already chose the \$10,000.
I choose the penny.

ANDREW
Dude. Don't make a mistake on this.

SARENA
It's okay. Look. This is perfect. One of you
chooses the \$10,000, and the other chooses the penny
on day one - this is perfect.

ANDREW
No. It's not perfect.
Why is that "perfect"?

SARENA
The idea is to measure some people that chose the \$10,000,
and measure some people that chose the penny. Here we
have both. This is fine. This is perfect.
Now, you both do it these two different ways . . . you both
stick through with it for *all* 30 days . . . and at the end, you
can compare results - see who ends up with more. Fair?

ANDREW
Well. (*laughing*) That's a pretty no-brainer!

JOHN
I'm sorry, what's in this for you?

ANDREW

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(glaring) Bro.

SARENA

What's in this for me? I get paid to do this.
I want to do this right. That's what's in it for me.

ANDREW

Good answer!

JOHN

Why is this project a thing?

SARENA

Project Fortune has its reasons. It's going to
teach the whole world how it works.

JOHN

So what's the catch?

SARENA

Simple: for all 30 days, neither one of you can have
any money - at all - in addition to those wages.

JOHN

We have to agree to *that*?

SARENA

You don't have to. You could just say no to the whole thing.

JOHN

Well. Yeah.

SARENA

You could choose to try this, or just remain
as you are already. However, those are the
conditions of Project Fortune - take or leave.

JOHN

Well, let's negotiate. Meet partway.

SARENA

No. Project Fortune is Project Fortune.
Its rules are its rules, and they aren't
meant to be tampered with or "negotiated".
In short, it is black and white, a binary choice,

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yes, or no.

JOHN

All right. Just asking.

SARENA

Now, you still shouldn't make your mind up so quickly about such a thing. So I'll return in 24 hours to see if your answer is yes or no.

JOHN

Sounds good.

ANDREW

Well, my mind's made up already!

SARENA

Still wait 24 hours before you give your answer. Discuss as much as you need.

ANDREW

All right.

SARENA

Gentlemen, thank you for your time.

She exits.

JOHN

Okay, she is way too good at talking to people.

ANDREW

Dude, \$10,000 a day? That sounds like what's up.

JOHN

No! No! There just HAS to be some catch to it. There is literally no way on Earth that this could happen with zero strings attached, for no good reason. What's her story? Is she some secret weapons contractor or something? I mean, what are these "menial tasks"?

ANDREW

What are you talking about, dude?

JOHN

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It just seems fishy. That's all.

ANDREW

You're just thinking too much. That's all it is.

JOHN

Maybe I am, but it just seems a little weird -
"here, \$10,000 a day? Or a penny on day one?"
Why would someone do this?

ANDREW

We work, doing basic tasks.

JOHN

Now, hold on. Did she actually ask you to put a bunch of
money into this "thing" at all?

ANDREW

You were right here, bro - no, she didn't ask for money.
No, she isn't trying to scam us out of money.
Just stop.

JOHN

All right, well . . . usually, you know, a scam will be where
at *first* it's nice but *later* it gets -

ANDREW

Bro, there is nothing you're gonna tell me right now
that I haven't already thought over. And no. I don't
pay any money to her. Neither one of us does. Okay? All right?

JOHN

That's the part I wanted to make sure of.
One more time - I just don't think this is a good idea.
I'm gonna tell her no.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - A DAY LATER

Both John and Andrew are dressed completely differently,
and are playing Call of Duty.

JOHN

You know, the video-games in the 90's led to this.
Doom led to this. Then there was GoldenEye . . .
Perfect Dark . . . Halo . . . slowly building up toward this.

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I don't know. This is too realistic.
It's more depressing when it's realistic.

A knock comes on the door.

Andrew pauses the game.

JOHN

Who is that *now*?

ANDREW

You think it's that same crazy lady from yesterday?

JOHN

I don't think so. I don't know.

ANDREW

Who is it?

SARENA

It's the woman from yesterday.

Andrew opens the door.

ANDREW

Come on in.

She enters. He closes the door for her.

SARENA

Hello! It's been 24 hours.

ANDREW

You're right! It has! I *completely* forgot . . .

SARENA

So, you've had time to think it over.

What is your decision?

ANDREW

I agree. I agree to Project Fortune. I agree to \$10,000 a day.

SARENA

And what about you?

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JOHN

No. It doesn't sound right.

Andrew glares at him.

JOHN

. . . I meant, I agree, to the penny on day one.

SARENA

Really, now?

JOHN

Yeah. I'm being serious now.
I agree to the penny on day one.

SARENA

All right! Perfect!

JOHN

So, what do we do? Shake on it? Pinky swear? What exactly?

SOON - they both go through a long form with a pen.

SARENA

All right. You will sign here, here, and this is just an agreement about how you agreed to a full 30 days, yadda yadda yadda . . . initials here, here, and date here.

JOHN

Uhhhh, let me just read through the whole thing first.
Wait. I don't have a pen -

SARENA

(handing him a pen) Use mine.

ANDREW

So, it's just a choice between \$10,000 or one penny.

SARENA

It's a 30-day agreement. This also means you cannot leave town during these 30 days or travel very far.

JOHN

Yeah, I'm getting to that part here. "No travel beyond three cities" . . . okay, I guess I can live with that.

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It's just 30 days, right?

SARENA

Correct.

JOHN

What if something comes up in those 30 days?
Hey, how many pages is this agreement?

SOON - as she goes over the rules.

SARENA

You get paid once a day, at 2:00 p.m. every day.
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, any day of the week.

JOHN

Paid?

SARENA

Payment is in cash, inside a manilla envelope
with "Project Fortune" written in blue letters.
Your first name will also be written on the envelope.

JOHN

So. Here was my big question.
We're getting paid to "do" what exactly?

SARENA

Basic menial tasks. Drive here. Drive there.
Pick up medication from the doctor. Drive it
to an old person. Small little things that make one rich
old person's life a Hell of a lot easier.

JOHN

That's it? Well, all right. I guess. I still just can't understand
why "some rich old guy" would just want us to *have* all this.

SARENA

Uhhh, it's more about the end results speaking for . . .
you know what . . . I've said enough. You'll understand
when it's over.

JOHN

Oh. Kay.

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SARENA

Every day, you record your progress into a video log. It's optional, so, you don't necessarily have to do this for all 30 days; however, at least 10 days of video logs *is* a requirement. At least 10 days.

ANDREW

Gotcha.

JOHN

Can I use my cell phone?

SARENA

Absolutely.

JOHN

Cool! How do we do it?

SARENA

Just talk about your progress. How it's going so far. How you feel about it so far. But keep it to no more than 30 seconds ever. At the end of it, the world will be able to see and compare - who did better?

JOHN

If I mess it up, can I re-do the video logs?

SARENA

Of course. Remember: keep it short and simple.

ANDREW

Sounds like some good shit. I'll try not to humiliate this guy too much with my winning!

JOHN

Yeah, you can try!

SOON - as she is leaving.

SARENA

Good day, guys - and good luck!

JOHN

Good day!

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She leaves.

JOHN

God. What did we just agree to??
Are you sure about this?

ANDREW

Damn right I'm sure! I just agreed to \$10,000 a day!

JOHN

Why did we agree to this??

ANDREW

Hey, I agreed. YOU said you were gonna tell her NO.

JOHN

Yeah. I did. But then I decided: fuck it. Supposedly it's just \$10,000 for free or a penny on day one for free. If it's free, just say yes. I mean, I really didn't think anything was gonna materialize anyway - but just say yes just in case it could. But now . . . now it looks like she was . . . serious. Genuine.

ANDREW

Yeah. She was. We just agreed to \$10,000 a day, bro!!
. . . Oh . . . I mean, *I* did. *You* took the penny.
That was stupid, bro. No one takes the penny.
Nobody chooses the one penny. You shoulda chosen the \$10,000 a day.

JOHN

Actually, the penny on day one ends up with *more* than the \$10,000 a day, because it's 30 days.

ANDREW

What? No, bro, that was just a gag or something - it's like a joke, like, you just won a million dollars, would you rather take \$10,000 or one penny? The penny thing wasn't serious.

JOHN

No. No. It was . . . it was a penny on *Day One* . . . but *twice* the amount every day after.

ANDREW

Great, two pennies a day! I'm telling you: it was a gag.

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The penny thing wasn't supposed to be serious.

JOHN

The penny is double the amount *every day*. For 30 days.

ANDREW

The \$10,000 is way more, bro. Way more.

JOHN

You sure?

ANDREW

Sure as Hell sounds like it to me.

JOHN

Think about it. If it was 50 days. 60.
100 days. How much money would it
grow into then?

ANDREW

Really? Whoa. Yeah, I guess so, after 50, 60
days, or 100. But we're talking about 30 days here,
kiddo. Don't get too excited. It's only 30 days.

JOHN

Hey, I'm one year older than you.

ANDREW

We're talking about a 30-day stretch, KID.
That's *not* gonna compare to \$10,000 a day.

JOHN

I'm telling you, the penny on day one will
be better over the long term. You'll see.

ANDREW

No, we'll see tomorrow, when I have money and you don't.

JOHN

Well, let's just drop it. I believe, sir,
you were in the middle of battle.

They return to the game.

ANDREW

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Bro, if you're gonna be playing a shooting game with me,
I'm gonna need you to take it more seriously.

JOHN

Well, I'm sorry. There's no teleporters or anything in
this one. I'm not used to multiplayer without teleporting.

ANDREW

All right. First off, follow my lead.

FADE TO:

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Andrew walks to his car and drives it out of the lot.

SARENA'S VOICE

All right. Today's the first day. For your one hour
of tasks, today you'll be driving to pick up paperwork
from the gastroenterologist so that the boss doesn't
have to.

ANDREW'S VOICE

Then what?

SARENA'S VOICE

Then you give it to me, and me to him.

ANDREW'S VOICE

Okay. Sounds simple. That's worth \$10,000?

SARENA'S VOICE

There's a plan in place. Yes. It's worth \$10,000.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - THAT SAME DAY

SARENA'S VOICE

The boss wants ten copies made of these papers.
They'll be distributed to ten teams of staffers.

JOHN'S VOICE

These papers, ten copies made each?

SARENA'S VOICE

Correct.

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JOHN'S VOICE
Front *and* back?

SARENA'S VOICE
There's no back. Just the front.

JOHN'S VOICE
Okay. Ten copies. And I get paid today, or later?

SARENA'S VOICE
Today. 2:00.

JOHN'S VOICE
Okay, cool. I'm on the way.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - 2 P.M.

A man drops a manilla envelope labeled PROJECT FORTUNE
in blue letters, then knocks on the door. He walks away.

Andrew opens the door, sees no one there, curses -

ANDREW
What the fucking Hell, bro.

- and notices the envelope.

ANDREW
YES!

He takes the envelope and goes back inside.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

He carefully opens the envelope.

He carefully removes the contents, yelping giddily with excitement
as he empties \$10,000 of cash onto his clear glass table.

ANDREW
Ho hooooooooo!
Ten thousand dollars of cash!!

SOON - he's filming a video log.

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ANDREW

Video log! Day One! Stardate . . . uhhh . . . today!
I just got \$10,000, motherfucker. I am the happiest
man on Earth right now! \$10,000, for *me!*

I just feel kind of bad for the other guy.
He actually chose the penny on day one like a *sucker*.
I feel kind of bad, but then . . . it was his own choice.
Some day perhaps he'll see that he should have done
what I'd done instead. Because look at me now!

TEN. THOUSAND. DOLLAAAAARS!

Dude. Do you know what you could DO
with that kind of cash? Oh. Right. I gotta keep
this to 30 seconds. Night!

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - THEN

A man drops a manilla folder in front of the house,
knocks on the door, and leaves.

John retrieves the envelope.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

He opens the manilla envelope on the wooden picnic table.

One penny is inside.

He looks closely at the penny in one hand.

From his POV, we see the penny in his hand
at a close angle.

Back to an outside-the-body angle, behind him,
which curves around him toward the front.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

He attaches a paper to the fridge.

He writes over the paper:

Day 1. \$0.01. Total: \$0.01.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

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He's recording a video log by filming himself on his phone.

JOHN

Okay, so they said that we could do the video logs
on our phone, so here goes.

CUT TO the phone footage itself.
Small details like yawning and rubbing
of eyes are permitted.

JOHN

This is the first video log out of 30 that I'm
gonna film. Soooo . . . fuck. Let me start over.
Take Two. This is the first video log of 30 days.
So, the whole 30 days is . . .
No, wait. Damn it. Start over.
Take Three. So it's Day One of the project, and I . . .
and I damn it.
Take Four. So it's Day One, and I've made a penny.
One whole penny. On one hand it . . . is kind of nothing
to be thrilled about. It's a penny. However, it's a penny more
than I had. I haven't made any income in the whole last month.
It's more than I had, but . . . it's still just one penny.
But on the other hand, I'm glad, because this *is* the beginning.
It's the first step.
It's just gonna be a very long and arduous journey.
Well jeez, I don't even know what "arduous" means.
Well, whatever. That's not the point.

BACK TO the backyard, where he's talking to his phone.

JOHN

But today, it's Day One. And it's one penny.
I'm glad that the first step was taken. But that's
all I can say was done today. So, end of log.

He concludes the video, and looks it over.

He nods his head.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - RIGHT THEN

Andrew throws cash around.

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ANDREW

I'VE GOT TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!!!

I'm rich beyond my wildest dreams!!

Well, no. This? This is just Day One.

By Day THIRTY I'll be rich beyond my
wildest dreams!

This is Day One, and I guess I'm not really
required to make out a log for all 30 days,
just 10 days at least, but, this is one of those days.

I'M RICH, BEE-YACH! Honk, hooooonk!

And on that note, good *night!*

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Andrew heads into his car, and drives it out of the lot.

ANDREW'S VOICE

So what are my tasks today?

SARENA'S VOICE

There's a pick-up order at a restaurant that you are
to pick up and deliver. It's meant for six people in
one take. Give a tip of \$15.

ANDREW'S VOICE

And that's it?

SARENA'S VOICE

Then the drugstore after.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - JUST THEN

JOHN'S VOICE

So what are my tasks today?

SARENA'S VOICE

A few garden tools have gone bad over
time and need to be replaced.

JOHN'S VOICE

Bad over time?

SARENA'S VOICE

They were left somewhere outside where it turns out they
catch rust . . . whatever. Garden tools have to be

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replaced, that's all.

JOHN'S VOICE

Right. Sorry. Umm.

I'm guessing it's got to be replaced with exactly the same kind? Not just "similar", but exactly the same?

SARENA'S VOICE

Uhhh, just whatever does the job enough. Does not necessarily have to be the same size or anything.

JOHN'S VOICE

Oh. Really?

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - 2 P.M.

Andrew gets another knock on his door from a man who just left a manilla envelope there.

He squeals giddily as he takes the envelope.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - SOON

He empties out another \$10,000 of cash onto his glass table.

ANDREW

Ten thousand dollars!

Ten thousand dollars!

Now I am at . . . twenty-thousand dollars!
Guaaah ha ha ha ha ha haaaaaaa!! The power!

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - JUST THEN

A manilla envelope is dropped, and a man knocks on the door and walks away.

John exits the house, retrieves the envelope, and walks back inside.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

Walking to the backyard with the envelope, he sets it down onto the wooden picnic table and retrieves its contents.

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Two pennies.

JOHN
Awesome.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

He writes onto the paper:

Day 2. \$0.02. Total: \$0.03.

He looks over the paper for a second, and sighs.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - JUST THEN

Andrew is filming his second video log.

ANDREW
Video log, entry two. \$10,000, bitch!
I'm at \$20,000 total now, bitch!
I can't believe this came through!
I'm so glad she knocked on my door!
I'm so glad I was home at the time!
I'm so glad I said yes! I'm so glad I
wasn't an idiot who chooses the penny!
I mean, COME ON! Who chooses the
penny?

Laughing, he starts playing with his money.

ANDREW
He chose the penny.
He chose the one penny.
Ohhhh, my God. Poor him.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

John is filming his log.

JOHN
So it's Day Two. And I got two pennies.
Two pennies that I can't do anything with.
You know, in medieval times, a penny could
buy *something*. *Something*. Two pennies,

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you could say was worth two pence.
The halfgroat was worth two pence, and the
groat was worth four pence. So where
am I at now? Three pence. Three cents.
Three pennies. It's Day Two and he has
\$20,000 and I have three cents. I don't know.
This isn't working out too good so far.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

SARENA'S VOICE

Today is Sunday. Boss says you don't have to work
on Sundays. You are off, and you get paid.

Another envelope is delivered.

Andrew, with a big grin, picks up his envelope.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - SOON

He empties out another \$10,000 onto his table.

ANDREW

That's \$30,000, bro. \$30,000!

He writes down onto a sheet of paper with
black magic marker. The number \$10,000 has a
strike written through it. He now writes a strike
through the number \$20,000. He writes down the
number \$30,000.

ANDREW

Haaa ha ha!! Haaaaa ha ha!!

He makes a phone call.

DENNIS

The fuck you want?

ANDREW

DENNIS! Call up the boys. I just got \$30,000,
and I want to throw a LAVISH party!

DENNIS

What does "lavish" mean?

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ANDREW

I don't know.

. . . Throw a lavish party!

DENNIS

When? Tonight?

ANDREW

No. Plan for tomorrow. I mean, get everything together, I want drinking, I want girls, the whole nine yards.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

John drops the daily envelope onto the wooden table.

He retrieves the cash. Four pennies from inside the envelope.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - SOON

He writes onto the yellow paper:

Day 3: \$0.04. Total: \$0.07.

SOON - he's recording a video log.

JOHN

Day 3. Four pennies today. My grand total: double-O seven. Seven cents. So I'm going through everything that I have in the fridge, everything I have in the pantry, pasta that hasn't been cooked yet, soup I can cook. Breakfast cereal. Overall I am finding that I can eat through all three days and have enough. It just really sucks that I can't buy a soda. I can't afford anything. But, it's only day three. Things *will* get better. I'll just ignore everything until it's been one whole week and check back again then. It'll be much better then. End of log.

Done with the log, he calls up Andrew.

JOHN

Hey, man.

26

ANDREW'S VOICE

Hey, broke person! What's up? Wanna hang out?

JOHN

It's kind of hard. I can't have any money coming in besides what I'm getting in from this project. I'm kind of broke right now - I can't go out and do things.

ANDREW'S VOICE

It's straight. I'm throwing the most *lavish* party at my house!

JOHN

I . . . can't afford gas.

ANDREW'S VOICE

Really?

JOHN

I can't afford to drive at all except to work and back, until it's been about a week and I can afford more gas.

ANDREW'S VOICE

Sorry then, bro.

JOHN

If you can drive me, that's the only way.

ANDREW

Okay. I'll drive you.

JOHN

Really?

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

Andrew is flipping his money around, laughing, squealing with joy. Dennis is there, and two girls.

ANDREW

This is \$30,000, bro. And it was *immediate. Immediate.*

JOHN

I'm happy for you, man. I really am.

27

ANDREW

What did *you* make, again? Three cents and that's it?

JOHN

Three cents today. Seven cents for the grand total, because it's Day 3.

ANDREW

Hey - hey, what are you gonna spend it on?

JOHN

I'm gonna save it.

ANDREW

Ohhhhh, saving up big cash now!

JOHN

These seven pennies . . . I'm always gonna keep these.
I'll try to never spend these seven. It's a little thing called
patience.

ANDREW

I don't *have* any patience,
I don't *need* any patience,
**YOU DON'T NEED PATIENCE
WHEN YOU'RE RICH!!!**

JOHN

I'm glad we said yes to this project.

DENNIS

So, what happened here? Who offered you what?

JOHN

Some lady came along, knocked on the door,
and basically said: if you had to choose between
\$10,000 a day, or a penny on day one, which
one would you choose? So we can choose which
way to get paid: \$10,000 a day, or a penny on the first
day, and after that -

DENNIS

Oh, don't agree to that shit. It's a scam.

JOHN

28

Yeah, well . . . I said that too, actually -

ANDREW

This guy was like “Oh, it’s a scam, it’s a scam.
I’m not listening to her. I’m telling her no,
I’m saying no to her.” Then a day later, she comes
back - he agrees to the penny! \$10,000 or a penny
on day one - and HE chooses the penny!

JOHN

Don’t rub it in. Please. I lost out on \$10,000 a day
- you don’t gotta rub it in.

ANDREW

Oh, I’m rubbing it in! I said \$10,000.
He said he chooses the penny!

JOHN

If I could do it over again, I’d pick
that path instead now. Believe me.

ANDREW

You lost out, when you wouldn’t have
if you had just said what I’d said!

JOHN

Well, you already chose Path A. I chose Path B.

ANDREW

Dude! I’ve got \$30,000 to my name!
I’M RICH NOW!

JOHN

Well, I’ll get there too, some day.

ANDREW

Not with that “one penny”!
Look. It’s okay. Call up that lady,
tell her you want to switch to \$10,000 a day.

JOHN

Yeah, I guess I’ll have to.

LATER - in the kitchen.

29

Two girls are pouring a drink.

JOHN

So, how do you know him -?

They exit the kitchen, ignoring him.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - DAY 4

A knock on the door. The delivery man exits. Andrew retrieves the manilla envelope.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - SOON

John retrieves his manilla envelope.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - SOON

Andrew empties out \$10,000 of cash onto his table.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

John empties out a nickel and three pennies onto the wooden table.

Holding up the nickel, he smiles.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

He writes onto the yellow paper:

Day 4: \$0.08. Total: \$0.15.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - FRONT

Andrew is wearing black against black.
(John's dress attire hasn't changed.)

JOHN

What the?? Look at how you're dressed!

ANDREW

You like it?

JOHN

30

You look all spiffy.

ANDREW

That's right, I went and got myself some nice clothes.
I started realizing. I can't be hanging out around poor people
anymore. And if I'm dressed like this, it implies that I'm around
poor people a lot. Don't want them to be contagious or anything.
Now I look more like a big-money kind of person.

JOHN

Yeah, well. I can't quite afford that yet.
I've got fifteen cents grand total as of today.

ANDREW

So switch to the other path.

JOHN

You can't do that - it's in the rules.

ANDREW

What? No it isn't.

JOHN

Yes, it is. It's in the rules. Okay?

ANDREW

You chose the wrong path, brother.
It's as simple as that.

JOHN

Yeah. I understand. Well, still, I'm glad for you.

ANDREW

Really?

JOHN

Really. I'm glad. I'm glad-glad-glad-glad-glad.

ANDREW

Wonder if he's glad.

They both laugh.

JOHN

So you've seen Spaceballs.

31

ANDREW
Of course, bro.

JOHN
Ha ha! Yeah.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

He empties out another \$10,000 onto the table.

Andrew writes a strike through the number \$40,000
and writes the number \$50,000 beneath that.

ANDREW
Time for another lavish party!
Only this time . . . twice as lavish!

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

John empties the manilla envelope out onto the wooden table.

A dime, a nickel, and a penny. Sixteen cents.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

He writes onto a paper:
Day 5: \$0.16. Total: \$0.31.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

JOHN
Video log. Okay, so I've had one penny, two pennies,
four cents, eight cents, and now, Day 5, sixteen cents.
Sixteen fucking cents. It's Day 5. So far I've been eating
through all the groceries in the house. Cooking pasta.
Cooking old soup. Eating everything that I have already,
because I'm not supposed to have any additional money
besides what I have here. But it's getting difficult. I just
don't see how long I'm supposed to actually stick through
with this path. This is ridiculous. How long is this supposed
to take to actually work?

Day 6: \$0.32. Total: \$0.63.

Day 7: \$0.64. Total: \$1.27.

32

Day 8: \$1.28. Total: \$2.55.
Day 9: \$2.56. Total: \$5.11.
Day 10: \$5.12. Total: \$10.23.

ANDREW'S VOICE
DAY TEN, MOTHERFUCKER.
One hundred thousand dollars.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

He shuffles an enormous wad of cash in John's face.

ANDREW
\$100,000 right here.
\$100,000 in 10 days.
See this? This is \$100,000 since Day One of this project.
Now tell me. How much money have YOU made?

JOHN
Today? Uhhh . . . 5 dollars and 12 cents.
But the grand total: 10 dollars and 23 cents.

ANDREW
So you give up now, right?

JOHN
No, of course not.

ANDREW
WHAT?? Okay. One more time.
Are you *sure* you don't give up?

JOHN
NEVERRRRR! The penny on day one is gonna -

ANDREW
Dude. You can't even afford to eat.
You can't afford to go out and do things.
This isn't right. I had to give you food to
eat because I felt bad!

JOHN
I'll be able to pay it back in just a few days.

ANDREW

33

Don't stress it, I'll let you have it. The point is we're at Day 10 and you're still broke!

JOHN

\$100,000 won't make you happy.

ANDREW

Bro. Come on.

You've got to stop sticking with this "penny on day one" thing - if you had done it my way, you'd have \$100,000 right now.

JOHN

I told you, I'm all right. I can spend money on food again as of today. I'm good.

ANDREW

Whatever - I had to pick you up because you're out of gas in your car.

JOHN

Yeah, well. Another day or two and I won't need a ride from you ever again.

ANDREW

So. Either you talk to her about switching to \$10,000 a day, or I do.

JOHN

No. The rules are the rules. I gotta stick with the 30 days. If I just hold out a little bit longer, it'll grow larger.

ANDREW

How many days? How much you gonna have by Day 20 . . . 30 bucks?

JOHN

No, more than that by then.

ANDREW

It WON'T be \$200,000, like me.

JOHN

Yeah, well . . .

ANDREW

34

Bro, this is the problem with you. You won't try the right approach. Whatever. You'll end up realizing that I was right. You look like Ben Foster.

JOHN
I don't know who he is.

ANDREW
The actor?

JOHN
I don't know.

LATER - during the video log.

ANDREW
Today is Day 10, and I have a grand total of \$100,000. Himself, a grand total of 10 dollars and 23 cents. However, he still sees it as though his way works better.

JOHN
Yeah, it's true. Not doing too good yet, but . . . over time it'll get there. Over time it builds up.

ANDREW
Conclusion: not enough food, not enough fuel for the brain. By Day 20 I will be at \$200,000 and he will be left behind. Better get some anti-depressants lined up.

JOHN
Yeah, yeah.

The video log ends.

JOHN
Anyway. Now what?

ANDREW
I don't know. Watch a movie?

JOHN
What kind?

35

ANDREW
Horror.

JOHN
I guess. Isn't it kinda dark?

ANDREW
I'm not trying to watch a comic book movie.

JOHN
Well, yeah. So what's on?

ANDREW
You seen this one before?

JOHN
Part of it. Not the whole thing. Yeah, put it on.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - THE NEXT DAY

Day 11: \$10.24. Total: \$20.47.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

ANDREW
Are you serious? You're just now making \$10 in one day?

JOHN
Well . . . "making"? Come on, I'm not making it at the National Mint. I'm not counterfeiting it.

ANDREW
You're just now getting that much money at once.

JOHN
My grand total is over 20 dollars.

ANDREW
I could give less of a fuck about 20 dollars!
Dude! Here! Here! Take 100 dollars, and I don't care!
Oh shit, no, wait, we're not supposed to do that! Wait, don't.

JOHN
Do you realize this means that tomorrow I make \$20 in one day?

36

ANDREW

Oh, whatever dude. I was just saying. I could light a \$20 bill on fire, right in front of you, just to prove a point. I could lose more than you make, and not be hurt.

JOHN

Okay, don't actually light it on fire.

ANDREW

Why not? Because I'm right?

JOHN

Uhhh, money isn't supposed to be on fire. Wouldn't that fuck up the economy?

ANDREW

A lot of stuff takes its toll on the economy. The counterfeiters. The bills that get burned. Who cares?

JOHN

Whatever. Today was \$10. Tomorrow, 20.

ANDREW

And that little bit is actually good enough for you.
(He shakes his head.)
\$10,000 a day. Now I'm up to \$110,000 and you're talking about how you made 10 and tomorrow you'll make 20.

JOHN

I can't explain it. It's better to just stick with my path than to switch over to yours.

ANDREW

You're an idiot.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - BACKYARD

An envelope is emptied onto the table:
a \$20 bill, and 48 cents.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Day 12: \$20.48. Total: \$40.95.

37

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

ANDREW

Guess what? I made \$10,000 today.

JOHN

Okay. And?

ANDREW

And you made 20 dollars.

JOHN

And 48 cents.

ANDREW

We're at Day 12, and you think 20 dollars is good enough.

JOHN

It's . . . maybe not right now but eventually.

ANDREW

You keep doing the same thing over and over again
expecting things to just change.

JOHN

Not quite. I expect the path to stay the same.
But the path is actually . . .

ANDREW

My path is \$10,000 a day. Guaranteed \$10,000 a day.

JOHN

I'm good. Let's just not talk about this at all
until after some more days have gone by.

ANDREW

It's \$20 today and you're on Day 12, bro!
You're almost two weeks in and you're
still not making shit!

JOHN

Well, let's just wait until it's been two weeks. Okay?

Andrew shakes his head.

38

ANDREW

What is wrong with this kid?

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Day 13: \$40.96. Total: \$81.91.

Day 14: \$81.92. Total: \$163.83.

Day 15: \$163.84. Total: \$327.67.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

ANDREW

John, bro. It's Day 15. It's Week 3.
I'm starting off this week with a grand total of
\$150,000.

JOHN

Well yeah.

ANDREW

And you have?

JOHN

Today I made \$163.

ANDREW

That's all?

JOHN

No, and 84 cents.

ANDREW

84 cents! 84 cents!

JOHN

You can't say it's \$163. It's actually closer to \$164 -

ANDREW

DUDE! STOP IT ALREADY!
This isn't something to brag about!
It's been two weeks and this is all
you've made so far!

JOHN

I'm just saying. We're only at Day 15.

39

And my grand total is \$327.67.

ANDREW
WE'RE HALFWAY THROUGH THE THIRTY DAYS!

JOHN
We're only at Day 15.

ANDREW
Dude. This is bad. We're 15 days in and you're still sticking with the "penny on day one". We're in Week Three and you're still not making anything!

JOHN
I know.

ANDREW
Doesn't a *guaranteed \$150,000* sound at least *somewhat* tempting to you?

JOHN
But the other way is guaranteed to be a penny on day one that doubles every day. *That's* guaranteed.

ANDREW
IT TAKES FOREVER TO CLIMB UP FROM PENNIES!
Look how long it took you to get to 163 dollars, bro!
DON'T YOU SEE YOU'RE COUNTING 84 CENTS
AND YOU'RE PROUD OF YOURSELF??
"Oh, look, it's almost another dollar! Look, it's almost another dollar!" Anyway. I'm guaranteed to have money right away, all the time. And that's a lot of money.

JOHN
But the penny on day one is more.

ANDREW
No it isn't.

JOHN
How much do I end up with on Day 30? That's the question.

ANDREW
I don't know, what, \$200,000 for you?
I don't have time for this dude.
Maybe you have . . . all the time in the world.

40

ALL the time in the world. But me? I'm a grown man. I don't have time to wait till Day 30. I've got right NOW to worry about.

JOHN
I understand.

ANDREW
And you're sticking with the penny on day one.

JOHN
It's guaranteed, isn't it?

ANDREW
BRO, you can't even have additional income besides that one! You're just now filling up your gas tank and having enough food to eat!

JOHN
So a few more days and I can pay off the month's rent.

ANDREW
You're aiming too small. I'm aiming for a lot of money right now, guaranteed. Oh my God. Don't you understand? This whole thing is meant to teach us - both of us - that one ends up winning and one not so much!

JOHN
Well you don't have to shout.

ANDREW
This is guaranteed. \$10,000 a day, *every* day, guaranteed. You know what you could do with that kind of money? You could attract girls with that kind of money.

JOHN
Look, I can't just change course midway through the program. Okay? We have to actually stick through with all 30 days.

ANDREW
Duuuuude. Please. This is making me upset to see this.

JOHN
Let's just stick with the whole 30 days. I never changed from boat to boat in college about my major.

41

ANDREW

What if you end up losing? What then?

JOHN

Then, I'll try it your way.

ANDREW

See, you could have been HAVING \$150,000 already.
You would have it - guaranteed! And instead here's
what's guaranteed. You've got \$163.

JOHN

And 84 cents.

ANDREW

And 84 cents.

JOHN

Eventually, later on, it'll be . . . different.

ANDREW

No, dude. No. No. Get over yourself!
Stuff doesn't "change" magically over time.
Stuff stays the same.

JOHN

Stuff . . . fluctuates . . . up and down . . .

ANDREW

No, dude, no. It doesn't. It really doesn't.
\$10,000 a day is \$10,000 a day is \$10,000 a day.

JOHN

I mean . . . that's worth the same today as \$5,000
used to be worth . . . or \$1,000 used to have that much
value . . . therefore, stuff DOES change SOME bit.

ANDREW

Okay. That is true, yeah. However, you said no to
guaranteed money, and as a result, you remain there
broke. You could be having \$150,000 right now.
Guaranteed. But no, because it's too much of a
"limit" for you. Whatever the fuck you even believe.

42

JOHN

We're only halfway into the program.

ANDREW

And you think another 15 days gets you even *close* to my \$300,000 that I'm gonna end with. I am telling you - the difference will *not even be close*.

JOHN

I'm telling you, somehow the penny will do better! . . . Anyway.

ANDREW

. . . Maybe we should have said no.

JOHN

What, like everyone else on the block?

ANDREW

Yeah, dude. Everyone said "Hell no" to her except us. So we just think we're special or better than everybody. Like we know better than them.

JOHN

We could have said no. But, I don't know. It's still better than nothing.

ANDREW

You could have had \$10,000 a day, guaranteed.

JOHN

Maybe we should have just said no this whole thing.

ANDREW

Not me, bro. I've got \$10,000 a day and I'm doing good with it! I'm at \$150,000. Where are *you* right now?

Day 16. John makes \$327.68. Total: \$655.35.

Day 17. John makes \$655.36. Total: \$1,310.71.

Day 18. John makes \$1,310.72. Total: \$2,621.43.

Day 19. John makes \$2,621.44. Total: \$5,242.87.

Day 20. John makes \$5,242.88. Total: \$10,485.75.

EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

Now John is dressed just as nice as Andrew.

43

JOHN

I made \$5,000 today. You said I'd never catch up.
Well it's Day 20 and I'm catching up.

ANDREW

Yeah, yeah - it's Day 20 you just now reached \$5,000.
I made twice that much money on Day One. Okay?
It's Day 20 - I won.

JOHN

That means that tomorrow I'll make \$10,000.

ANDREW

Oh, whatever. Tomorrow. Tomorrow, Day 21.
So it took you *three weeks* to make \$10,000 in
one day. Whoop-de-doo.

JOHN

I don't understand. I thought I'd be ahead of you
by Day 20. Why can't this just work *faster*?

ANDREW

You're not ahead of me. And you never will be at that rate.

SOON - Andrew records a video log of himself.

ANDREW

Video log, motherfucker. It's Day 20 and I've made a grand total
of . . . drumroll, pleaaase . . . \$200,000 in cash. And he? He just
made \$5,000 for the first time today and reached a grand total
of \$10,000, today. Let's give him a round of applause,
folks. He actually thinks he's winning.

He aims it at John.

JOHN

NO, NO, NO, NO. It is not just \$5,000.
It is not. It's actually . . . \$5,242.

ANDREW

And?

JOHN

And 88 cents.

44

ANDREW
And 88 cents.

JOHN
Look . . . let me just say this. My way is WAY more than your way -

Andrew aims it back at himself.

ANDREW
LA LA LA. Can't hear you over the sound of my MOOOONEEEEEY.

JOHN
Money doesn't make a sound.

ANDREW
Oh? Then explain this.

He makes sounds with the shuffling of enough bills.

ANDREW
Can't do that with your money.

JOHN
I could make shuffling noises with my money.
Or, supposedly, if you fold it up just so, all these . . .
insane messages or something, I don't know. Anyway.

ANDREW
Okay, so. \$5,000 . . . wait . . . wait, I'm sorry.
5-2-4-2. And 88 cents.
And that's more money, than TWO HUNDRED
THOUSAND U.S. DOLLARS.
TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND U.S. DOLLARS.

JOHN
But I'm . . . some day I'll have more than you.

ANDREW
HEY EVERYONE, I HAVE TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND
DOLLARS AND THIS KID JUST MADE FIVE THOUSAND,
TWO HUNDRED, FORTY-TWO DOLLARS, AND EIGHTY-
EIGHT CENTS.

JOHN

45

By Day 30 I'm wealthy too.

ANDREW

Yeah, but then you've got all that lost time.
Do you not understand? Time is money.
You lose enough time, you lose enough
money that you could have made, in that time.
Boom. That's how it works.

JOHN

I know. But -

ANDREW

No. No buts. You lost this game. You lost this game in
front of everyone in the world. It's okay, though. We won't
have to show anyone. It's okay to be wrong sometimes.

JOHN

Video log end, let's check back tomorrow.

INT. JOHN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN

Day 21: \$10,485.76. Total: \$20,971.51.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE

ANDREW

I made \$10,000 today, motherfucker. What did YOU make?

JOHN

\$10,485, and 76 cents.

ANDREW

What?? You made more than me today?

JOHN

Correct. Oh - don't know if I mentioned it yet.
From here on I make more than you every day.

ANDREW

What?? Hold up. You were just barely at
\$5,000 yesterday.

JOHN

It doubles. \$5,000, \$10,000.

46

ANDREW
What??

JOHN
And doubling from there.

ANDREW
. . . Whatever, it took you two weeks to be able to afford food and gas, and I had to drive you around. And *now* you get to \$10,000 a day - which I've *been* making since *Day One!*

JOHN
I made more than \$10,000 today.
I made \$10,485, and 76 cents.
Meaning, I made the larger amount of us two.

ANDREW
No. That's not possible. Not in real life.

JOHN
I made more than \$10,000 today, because now it's Day 21, so now it's been three weeks. And from here on I'm always the one that made more.

ANDREW
No! I was winning!

JOHN
Well, remember going go-karting?

ANDREW
What?

JOHN
Going go-karting. You know. Let's say you're winning for the first two laps. Doesn't matter during the final lap, now does it?

ANDREW
You're lying.

47

JOHN

I'm ahead of you now.

ANDREW

No. No! You can't be! You can't be winning!
Whatever. You're just now catching up to
\$10,000. You'll never make up for those
lost three weeks of time!

JOHN

I have this one week ahead of me. In fact,
one week and a couple of days.

ANDREW

Whatever. You can talk tough, but actually my grand total
still stands at \$210,000, and yours - yours is almost \$21,000.
Meaning my grand total is still ten times what yours is -
and you wanna talk about how you made more than \$10,000 today.

JOHN

Get this: tomorrow, I make twice what you make.

ANDREW

What??

JOHN

And from there twice, and twice again, and twice again.

ANDREW

Oh, whatever! My grand total is \$210,000 and
yours is almost \$21,000 - I am still winning,
I am still in the lead! Okay?

JOHN

. . . Let's work on that. You have ten times what I have,
for the grand total.

ANDREW

YEAH!!

JOHN

Tomorrow that number is cut in half.
And every day after that, again cut in half,
and again, into one-fourth, into one-eighth.
Until eventually I've made double your grand total.

48

ANDREW

Yeah right! Oh my God. You're right.
Stop it. I feel like that lady's the Devil, and I
agreed to a deal with her. Oh, whatever. I have
\$210,000 to my name!

JOHN

Not sure about that, with how recklessly you've been
spending on drinks and these lavish parties.

ANDREW

Why did she have to knock on *my* door?

JOHN

Aren't you glad she did? You're rich now.

ANDREW

Yeah. I'm rich!

LATER - the video logs are being filmed together.

JOHN

Video log, today I made more than \$10,000.
Today I made the more of us two.

ANDREW

Whatever. I've had 21 days of making \$10,000.
He just now got his first one. I'm still on top,
and I still have the greater grand total. Me.

JOHN

We'll see now as time goes on. End of video log.

Day 22. John makes \$20,971.52. Total: \$41,943.03.

ANDREW

I made \$10,000 today, motherfucker! \$10,000!

JOHN

I made \$20,971, and 52 cents.

ANDREW

What??

49

JOHN

Therefore, over twice what you made.
But I would hate to be a show-off.

ANDREW

Oh, whatever! My grand total is \$220,000. What's yours?

JOHN

. . . Okay, all right, yes, you actually *are* still ahead
of me, as far as the grand total goes.

ANDREW

Yeah!

JOHN

Mine's only at \$40,000. But I'm catching up.
Don't you see? Slowly but surely.

ANDREW

Slowly - I got there quickly. I got there quickly, I'm still
ahead of you, I still have more, and you're getting there slowly.

JOHN

My daily income is twice yours today.

ANDREW

Today! But still just look at our grand total right now.

JOHN

Look ahead to Day 30.

ANDREW

What?

Day 23: \$41,943.03. Total: \$83,886.05.

Day 24: \$83,886.06. Total: \$167,772.11.

Day 25: \$167,772.12. Total: \$335,544.23.

John is filming Andrew with his phone.

ANDREW

Your grand total is more than mine??

JOHN

That's right. I've got more than you now.

50

Your grand total is \$250,000. Mine is now over \$300,000.

ANDREW

How?? Your path took forever!

JOHN

But where it was aiming at was higher.
So once it got there, it got there.

ANDREW

I made \$10,000 today. I'm at \$250,000.
I don't understand this.
How did you reach that much off of one penny?

JOHN

Not just one penny. One penny doubled every day.
And tomorrow, by the way, I make your entire grand total
in one day. *One* day. But, it's okay.
We both chose this. We chose which paths.

ANDREW

I . . . I still just don't understand . . .
how could you surpass me with one penny?

JOHN

Simple. It keeps doubling every day.
Still think that \$10,000 a day is winning?

He aims the phone at himself.

JOHN

End of video log.

Day 26: \$335,544.24. Total: \$671,088.45.

EXT. JOHN'S HOUSE - FRONT - MORNING

John discusses things with the landlord.

JOHN

I'm interested in buying this house.

LANDLORD

I'm afraid it's not so simple.

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JOHN

For \$20,000 more than you had it.

LANDLORD

Sounds like a deal.

Day 27. \$671,088.46. Total: \$1,342,176.91.

He goes to a new car lot.

JOHN

I'm interested in purchasing a new vehicle.

Day 28. \$1,342,176.92. Total: \$2,684,353.83.

JOHN

So I'm thinking of starting my own business.
I'm thinking of what "themes" to play on
for a diner that haven't been done before.

Day 29. \$2,684,353.84. Total: \$5,368,707.67.

He's reading several book purchases at once.

JOHN

So I need to read about businessmen and how they
did it, before I'm ready.

Day 30. \$5,368,707.68.

Total: \$10,737,415.35.

INT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM

John is wearing a red shirt and white suit with a red tie.
Andrew is wearing black against black with an orange tie.

ANDREW

No. No. I made \$10,000 today.

I have \$300,000 total!

JOHN

Please, I made more than that today alone.
Today I made five million, plus three hundred thousand.

Plus sixty-eight thousand.

Plus seven hundred and seven dollars.

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And. Sixty. Eight. Cents.

ANDREW

No way! You did not! You made \$300,000
on top of FIVE MILLION???

JOHN

Oh, no, no. That would be a lie, if I said I had
only five million. I said I made five million *today*. *To-day*.
But the grand total? 10 million. That's right, 10 million.

ANDREW

You did not!

JOHN

Oh, I didn't finish. 10 million.
737,000 - that's more than *double* your 300,000.
415 dollars. And thirty. Five. Cents.

ANDREW

No! No! I have \$300,000!

JOHN

So you just aren't at that "millionaire" level yet, I suppose.
You're just not thinking like a "millionaire". Here - now you
have \$600,000. Go. Have it.

ANDREW

You can't be serious.

JOHN

Oh, I am. The 30 days are over, right? Now it's just money
that I can do as I wish with. I just gave you *twice* the money
you had before, bringing you to three times where you were.

ANDREW

I can still buy cool shit!

JOHN

Oh, and not invest your money, and help grow it?
Tsk, tsk. No wonder you'll likely end up broke.
Everything I gave you - invest it.

ANDREW

Invest?? No. I don't need to know shit, I have money!

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JOHN

But not enough to buy a house for yourself
AND a house for your parents.

ANDREW

FUCK!! No, I still probably could.

JOHN

Well, I could buy both my parents brand-new cars,
AND houses, and have a lot left over to invest.
So, that's the first thing you want to do.

ANDREW

I can't believe this. It was 30 days.
Not 50. Not 60. Not 100. It was 30 days!

JOHN

30 days of the guaranteed \$10,000 a day
every day? Or 30 days of the penny on day one?

ANDREW

So the penny made more? Fuck, dude.
I guess I should have picked the penny.

JOHN

I don't know, would that starvation period
have been very fun? No, probably not.
You needed money now. And as such,
you weren't so on-board for this.

ANDREW

What, you didn't "need" money now?

JOHN

Of course I did. But I chose the patient path.
Did I have time to be inconvenienced? Not
really, but remember . . . it's just 30 days.

ANDREW

Well, whatever. I have enough for what I need in life.

SOON - they film the final video log.

JOHN

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This is gonna be the final video log for Project Fortune.
It was a fun 30 days. We got paid a lot of money for what
almost looked like no good reason.
At the end of it, he has amassed a grand total of \$300,000 and
myself ten million dollars, plus over twice what he made, 767,000.

ANDREW

I can't understand it. I really can't. It was immediate. It was
guaranteed. It looked like so much more than having nothing!

JOHN

But at the end of it the most you ended up with was
really only \$300,000. Not a whole million like me.
Let alone ten million.

ANDREW

I can't understand this.

JOHN

End of video log.

...

Hey, you read the agreement. You signed and dated.

ANDREW

I guess. Well this fucking sucks.

JOHN

How? You have plenty of money.

ANDREW

I made \$300,000 when I could have gone for 10 million. This sucks.

JOHN

Sorry, man. I did try to tell you . . . well,
I understand how you had doubts.

ANDREW

Yeah. Wow. I can't believe this shit happened.

JOHN

So now what? Do we talk to that lady again tomorrow?

ANDREW

I don't know. Just wait for her to call us or something.

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EXT. ANDREW'S HOUSE - LATER THAT EVENING

Knock, knock! Sarena knocks.

ANDREW

God, what now? I swear to God, if it's some other project -

Andrew answers. It's Sarena.

ANDREW

You!

SARENA

You!

Andrew and John step outside, both dressed
as extremely nice as possible.

ANDREW

Okay, so we should discuss things for a minute.
All 30 days are up.

SARENA

Correct, Mr. Sashi is very thankful for your time and work.
Whether it was garden tools or dental records, you guys
came through all the time.

JOHN

Yeah, yeah. No problem.

SARENA

The video logs, I'm going to need.

JOHN

I have them on my cell phone. I can put it onto the computer.

SARENA

Can you send me the video files of the logs?

JOHN

Yeah. Is the AVI format fine?

SARENA

AVI, MPeg, MP4 - either format. Just send all the videos to my e-mail.

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ANDREW

I just can't understand how one penny getting doubled
would build up to that much in that small a time.

JOHN

It reached seven cents by day three.

ANDREW

I . . . guess, I just . . .

JOHN

Oooooone thing I still don't understand. One thing
that I'm still not quite getting here.
Why do this to total strangers?
Why offer total strangers all of this?
10,737,000, on top of 300,000 . . . it's
over 11 million dollars total just given away
to two people.

SARENA

Almost all of it going to the person who chose the penny.
Well, Mr. Sashi clearly believed it would be worth it.

JOHN

Worth it. That's a lot of money to give two people
just to prove a point. I still don't get it. Why do this
to two total strangers?

SARENA

Well, I didn't *make* anyone do anything - I just offered.

JOHN

Well, yeah.

SARENA

Total strangers are considered cold-market.
Everyone in my warm-market wasn't very interested,
people said no, and eventually I managed to resort to this.
You two said the magic words. You said yes.

JOHN

I guess, but . . . why give that much money out to two people?

SARENA

It's simple. Project Fortune has shown you two

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how it works. How money *really* works.

ANDREW
Us two people.

JOHN
Yeah, in a planet with over six billion people in it total.

SARENA
Correct. Now you two are enlightened
as to how it really works.

JOHN
You can't replicate this for over six billion people.
You can't replicate this on one million people.
You can't replicate this even on one *hundred* people.
Over 11 million dollars spent, on teaching two people.
So that's an average of over 5 and a half million spent
per person, on two people.

SARENA
Who, in turn, will teach the world.

JOHN
I don't think so . . . I can't "teach the world".

ANDREW
Everyone out there would still choose the \$10,000 over the
penny. You know that, right? Literally, like, everyone.
What we've learned here won't change anything out there.

SARENA
Until after they get the details of your whole story.
When people see the video logs, they can compare specs.
Then the whole world can learn from you two, seeing your
experience in this and comparing your results.

JOHN
Yeah. My results were better with the penny.

ANDREW
Well, I would have never known before.
But shit, if only I had seen our video logs
back then, two months ago, yeah. I would
have chosen the penny instead - *after* seeing those logs.

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SARENA

You two have taught the world.

JOHN

We're just like mice, though.

SARENA

Correct. Rich mice.

JOHN

Yeah. *Rich* mice! 10,737,000 for me,
300,000 for him. Sorry, man.

ANDREW

Hey. I should have chosen the one penny.
Guess I'll have to be happy with 300,000.

JOHN

Okay, so how many other people are involved
in Project Fortune exactly? I can't imagine that
anyone can replicate this a lot.

SARENA

Just you two.

JOHN

Just us two.

SARENA

Just you two. Everyone else said no. You two
were the first two, and also the last two.

JOHN

Seriously?

ANDREW

So, because we said yes . . . because no one else
before us had said yes . . . it was us two?

SARENA

Correct, that's how it works. Now the project is over.
It was done one time only - it doesn't need to be
"replicated" on anyone else. It just needs to be done
once and seen.

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JOHN

No one else said yes to this.

SARENA

Right. And along the way I've been called everything in the book about it; moron. Delusional. Scam artist. Crazy-lady. Even had one person threaten to call the cops. But a lot of people were nice about it, actually.

JOHN

It's just . . . nobody said yes to the penny, okay. But nobody said yes to the \$10,000 a day either?

SARENA

Somehow, I don't exactly think they thought it would be a good idea.

JOHN

Yeah, actually, that's right. If you just say yes to everyone who just offers you a \$10,000 check for no good reason, it's *usually* a bad idea.

ANDREW

I . . . guess he won and I lost?

JOHN

We're all winners. I just have more than you.

ANDREW

This sucks.

JOHN

Just invest your money. Make it grow. Okay?

ANDREW

What are you *talking* about? Oh. Wait. I do need to do that.

SARENA

You two, this has been a great experience. Mr. Sashi sends his regards. He is sorry that he isn't feeling well enough to come be here in person.

JOHN

Thank *you* - this has changed things forever!

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SARENA

Well, I'll be going now. Have a great rest of your day!

JOHN

Yeah! You also!

ANDREW

Come back any time!

She leaves.

ANDREW

So I should have chosen the one penny.

JOHN

You should always choose the one penny.

ANDREW

But my path is good enough for me.

JOHN

I don't know, I guess.

END.