



# Deadliners

Written By

Duane Capizzi

Story Editor:  
Duane Capizzi

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**Extreme Ghostbusters**  
**"DEADLINERS"**  
**(Script #0004)**

**REVISED CAST LIST**

**Regulars:**

GARRETT

KYLIE

EDUARDO

ROLAND

EGON - a couple lines

SLIMER - a couple lines

[NOTE: Janine does not appear in this episode].

**Guests:**

THE VATHEK - A trio of otherworldly 'HELLRAISER' type demons. They are:

1. CRANIAC - has a rotary saw stuck vertically in his head, so it resembles a mohawk.

2. CORPUSCLE - a fatter guy whose head is just a mass of pulpy MOLLUSK-type matter, without any facial features; he SEES with EYES on the palms of his hands. A LITTLE MAN version of himself (we'll call him "Corpuscle Junior") with claw hands and a razor-toothed mouth emerges from within his "face" area, partially mobile on a VERY LONG STALK (thus, no legs). "Junior" is more bestial, and will only SNARL and GNASH in a smaller voice.

3. GRISTLE - Something equally horrific and 'Hellraiser-esque': pending artist development.

They all speak with a dark, sinister intelligence.

H.P. KLINE - A reclusive HORROR WRITER -- think Stephen King. When we first meet him, he is horribly mutated -- but will speak with his regular voice. [we need someone who can do a tortured soul who's struggling with his inner demons -- literally and figuratively. A very INTENSE performance]. Mid-30's would be fine.

**Incidentals (a couple lines or so apiece):**

**CHEF** - from a greasy spoon diner.

**JIMMY** - Waiter from same diner; Jimmy Olsen-type. He will also be MUTATED by the VATHEK into a horrific zombie version of himself -- GROWLS and MOANS only.

**MAID** - at a hotel; a couple SCREAMS only; she will also be mutated into a monster, as per Jimmy above.

**HOTEL PATRONS** - About ten of them; "HELP US" WALLA only. They will all be mutated as well. Do they deserve it? No, but then it's a cruel world, isn't it. SNARL and GROAN walla only.

**SCARED WOMAN** - The only hotel patron who has a line. One line.

**BOOK CRITIC** - A bookish but attractive woman, hosting a book segment on an 'Entertainment Tonight' type show.

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**Teaser:**

INT. HOSPITAL-LIKE ROOM - LOCATION UNKNOWN - PROBABLY NIGHT.

ECU ON 'NAME BADGE' - as seen on diner waiters. This one reads 'JIMMY.' WIDEN TO REVEAL a colorful button pinned beside it: 'Ask About Our Pies.' We hear the <ECHO> of an o.s. slow drip.

PULL OUT to reveal JIMMY, a diner waiter. He's strapped to a SLAB in a dim room lined with white -- though filthy -- tiles. The tile suggests the sterility of a hospital; yet the filth suggests that we might just as well be in a roadside Texaco latrine. JIMMY - struggles desperately, trying to loosen his bonds.

JIMMY  
 <desperate struggle grunts, then  
 TAKE> Huhhh?!

Jimmy takes at the o.s. <CREAK> of an opening door. A shaft of not-as-dim light illuminates him.

HIS POV, LOW ANGLE - The backlit silhouettes of THREE GROTESQUE FIGURES solemnly enter the room: stately, composed, sinister. The one with a seeming MOHAWK speaks:

CRANIAC  
 Flesh.

CLOSER, SIDEVIEW ON TRIO - Reveal Craniac's MOHAWK is actually a rotary SAW BLADE, comfortably sitting in his cleaved skull.

CRANIAC (CONT)  
 To our specimen, a suit of skin.

GRISTLE  
 To us, sculpting clay ...

CORPUSCLE  
 (nods)  
 A blank canvas, promising  
 infinite aesthetic possibility.

INSERT JIMMY - He FREAKS OUT and agitates:

JIMMY  
 Huh??!! I ain't no "canvas!"  
 Lemme out of here! LEMME OUT OF  
 HERE!!! <struggle efforts>

ECU, CRANIAC - He betrays no emotion:

CRANIAC

My brethren...

CLOSE ON CRANIAC' HANDS - He produces (or, his hand IS) a horrific looking SURGICAL INSTRUMENT, <SCHWINK>! (think Cronenberg's 'Dead Ringers').

CRANIAC (CONT, VO)

... let the procedure begin.

INSERT ECU, JIMMY'S EYES - SHEER TERROR (think Brad Dourif in '... Cuckoo's Nest'):

JIMMY <CONT. THRU BELOW>

<terrified struggle> No! Don't  
touch me!! NO, NOOOO,  
NOOOOOOOOOOO ...

WIDE ON JIMMY - struggling desperately, as the trio closes in -  
- blocking our view of their supine victim. PULL OUT, out the  
door of the room which SLAMS shut.

CUT TO BLACK and begin CREDIT SEQUENCE.

## Act One

EXT. / INT. FIREHOUSE - NEXT AFTERNOON

ON TV - An 'Entertainment Tonight'-type celeb magazine show is on. An attractive yet bookish WOMAN hosts the BOOK FEATURE (intercut with appropriate visuals).

BOOK CRITIC (ON TV)

Today's topic on READER FRIENDLY:  
H.P. Kline, famous author of  
"horror" novels for children.

A PHOTO OF H.P. KLINE appears -- smug, confident.

BOOK CRITIC (ON TV, VO)

Not since Stephen King has a  
novelist enjoyed so much wealth  
and recognition --

REVEAL THE GHOSTBUSTERS - minus Garrett, hanging out but looking bored. EDUARDO'S slouched in front of the TV. KYLIE reads SPENGLER'S SPIRIT GUIDE.

BOOK CRITIC (ON TV)

... and dished out so much blood  
and viscera. But clearly, "GORE"  
sells -- and his pre-teen fans  
are crying for more.

KYLIE - looks up from her book for a moment to quip:

KYLIE

I'm cryin' for LESS: Kline's  
giving Demonology a bad rep. His  
books have no basis in reality.

CLOSER ON EDUARDO - He's got a dog-eared copy of a clearly-marked KLINE NOVEL on his lap ("Blood And Guts," by H.P. Kline). Off Kylie's comment, he covertly stuffs it under the cushion of his chair to hide it from her view.

GARRETT - bursts into the room, breathless with excitement:

GARRETT

Hey, 'busters. Any calls?

BACK TO EDUARDO - Welcoming the change of subject.

EDUARDO

Tons. That's why we're sittin'  
here, not moving.

FAVOR ROLAND - He turns, sincerely stating the obvious:

ROLAND  
 (to Garrett)  
 I think Eduardo's being  
 sarcastic.

INCLUDE GARRETT - He quips -- then explains, with cool bravado:

GARRETT  
 (asides to Roland)  
 Thanks, Roland.  
 (to room)  
 I didn't MEAN "who ya gonna call"  
 calls. I meant PERSONAL calls.  
 For ME. Specifically, from  
 'Hair-Raising Tales.'

EDUARDO - perks up a bit, betraying mild interest.

EDUARDO  
 The horror magazine?

WIDEN TO INCLUDE TV before him as Garrett ZIPS IN, blocking  
 Eduardo's view of it.

GARRETT  
 The very same one that gave  
 Stephen King ...(hooks thumb at  
 TV)... and H.P. Kline their  
 starts. I'm waiting to hear back  
 about my "manuscript."

WIDE - All the EG's STARE at Garrett.

KYLIE / EDUARDO / ROLAND  
 Say what?

GARRETT  
 (feigns "no big deal")  
 Whaaat? I wrote a story.

Roland gives him encouragement; Kylie remains wary.

ROLAND  
 Way to go, Garrett!

KYLIE  
 I didn't realize you had literary  
 ambitions, Hemingway.

ANGLE - Garrett heads for the fridge, opens it ...

GARRETT  
 "Literary?"

<makes gagging sound>  
 Hyuck! I have celebrity  
 ambitions. If Kline can get on  
 Letterman, I can too ...

... and pulls out a petri-dish shaped CANNISTER. With eagerness:

GARRETT  
 Heyyy, caviar! Gettin' a little  
 hoity-toity in the firehouse,  
 aren't we? <gulp>

He quickly gulps down the contents as EGON enters, leaning past Garrett to look inside the open fridge.

EGON  
 Hmmm, has anyone seen my mutant  
 spore experiment? It was in a  
 petri dish ...

Garrett's eyes BUG and he reflexively ...

GARRETT  
 <SPITS>

... out the spore samples, all over the back of oblivious Egon's head. Eduardo passes THROUGH FRAME, casually:

EDUARDO  
 (to Egon)  
 Check your hair.

Egon feels his head, looking puzzled.

ON TV - The book critic continues.

BOOK CRITIC (ON TV)  
 But the fans are restless: Kline  
 hasn't been seen or heard from in  
 several months. Has he retired?

The screen cuts to a PHOTO of Kline's mansion: a very unique-looking monolith with GOTHIC SPIRES.

BOOK CRITIC (ON TV, VO)  
 Or has he just gone into  
 seclusion, working hard on his  
 next, LONG OVERDUE gore-fest?

EDUARDO - shrugs, re: TV.

EDUARDO  
 Maybe he's dead.



GARRETT  
 Whatever. If he won't give his  
 fans what they want, I will.

INCLUDE KYLIE - she asks Garrett:

KYLIE  
 What makes you so sure 'Hair-  
 Raising Tales' is gonna BUY your  
 story?

GARRETT - whips out a copy of his MANUSCRIPT ...

GARRETT  
 It's gotta be better than any  
 Kline book. I'm a Ghostbuster,  
 I'm LIVIN' this stuff ...

CLOSE ON TABLE - Garrett <SLAPS> the manuscript down onto it  
 for emphasis.

GARRETT (CONT)  
 ... which means I got a lot more  
 stories where that came from,  
 baby!

WIDER - Garrett immediately SPINS away with excitement as the  
 PHONE <RINGS>. Kylie disinterestedly goes back to reading the  
 SPIRIT GUIDE, but Eduardo picks up the manuscript and starts  
 flipping through it, with interest.

SLIMER - enthusiastically answers the phone.

SLIMER  
 <enthusiastic "Good afternoon  
 Ghostbusters Slimer speaking how  
 can I help you?">

EGON  
 Slimer, your diction needs work.

SLIMER  
 <"oh">

Slimer hands the slime-dripping phone to Egon with  
 disappointment. Egon CAREFULLY takes the phone between two  
 fingers, SPRAYS it with some disinfectant, and wipes the SLIME  
 off with a clean kerchief.

EGON  
 (into phone)  
 Ghostbusters, Dr. Spengler  
 speaking.

WIDER - REVEAL GARRETT, anxiously perched beside Egon, breathing down his neck as Egon listens.

GARRETT  
Well?? Is it for me??

Egon puts the phone aside and turns to the others, with utmost gravity:

EGON  
It's for ALL of you: we've got a  
code seven abduction by Bipedal  
Interdimensional Corporeals -- in  
triplicate.

TWO SHOT, EDUARDO AND SLIMER - Eduardo's jaw gapes with confusion. Beat. He refers to Slimer:

EDUARDO  
I understood the green guy  
better.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CONNECTICUT COUNTRYSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON

The Ecto-1 leaves the Manhattan skyline behind.

ROLAND (VO)  
So Garrett ...

INT. CAR - CONT.ROLAND - Driving, speaks over his shoulder to Garrett in the backseat [EGON and SLIMER remain back at the firehouse].

ROLAND (CONT)  
... how, uh, "reality-based" is  
your story?

KYLIE  
I think what Roland's politely  
fishing for is: "we're in it,  
right?"

FAVOR EDUARDO - He finishes reading the last page of Garrett's manuscript, then SHUTS it.

EDUARDO  
Yeah, we're in it ... for about a  
page. Then we die.

Everyone's head spins. Eduardo quickly opens the manuscript to page one to read from it, adding to the effect:

EDUARDO  
(reading)  
"... squealing for mercy."

ROLAND  
(disbelief)  
We what?!

EDUARDO  
Well, not all of us. The <ahem>  
"handsome guy in the wheelchair"  
lives.

KYLIE  
(deadpan)  
What ... a shock.

FAVOR ROLAND - Clearly disappointed, he tries to keep a chipper attitude.

ROLAND  
Well it's okay, Garrett. I'm  
sure you had artistic reasons.

KYLIE  
Roland, don't be such a simp.

GARRETT - half-sheepishly fumbles his way through a series of lame excuses, off Kylie's INTENSE GLARE.

GARRETT  
Heh, don't take it personally,  
guys. It's just ... more  
"commercial" with one hero.  
(macho)  
Besides, I get to AVENGE your  
deaths.

Kylie's not buying it.

KYLIE  
Garrett, you made us squeal for  
mercy. I am NOT a squealer.

Garrett fumbles some more.

GARRETT  
Uhh, tell you what ...

EXT. CONNECTICUT COUNTRYSIDE - LATE AFTERNOON, CONT.  
THE ECTO-1 - ZOOMS away from CAMERA.

GARRETT (CONT, VO)  
 ... I'll bring you back as ghosts  
 in the sequel, promise.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ESTAB. / INT. CAFE - CONNECTICUT COUNTRYSIDE - DUSK

ON CHEF - Frazzled, looking past the ghostbusters with a faraway, frightened look in his eyes -- as if hypnotized, reliving the experience. ROLAND is in b.g. taking readings with the P.K.E. and various equipment.

CHEF  
 (delirious)  
 They didn't know I was here. But  
 they took Jimmy. He was  
 screaming, SCREAMING. They  
 didn't know I was here ...

Kylie tries to look the chef in the eye, to focus him:

KYLIE  
 Can you describe them?

The chef keeps repeating himself, deliriously, as if unaware that Kylie's before him:

CHEF (CONT)  
 They took Jimmy. He just kept  
 ... screaming. They took him ...

Kylie grabs the chef by the shoulders; FIRMLY, this time:

KYLIE  
 WHO took Jimmy?

ANGLE - The chef suddenly becomes FOCUSED, but even more frightened:

CHEF  
 There were three of 'em. One had  
 ...  
 (shudders)  
 ... a saw in his skull!

KYLIE and GARRETT exchange puzzled glances.

KYLIE  
 A saw?

GARRETT  
 You mean, like a Black and  
 Decker?

EDUARDO (VO)

CRANIAC.

Kylie and Garrett part to reveal Eduardo behind them. Roland looks up from his meter readings. They stare, puzzled:

KYLIE  
(with edge)

Whazziac?

EDUARDO  
(shrugs)

What? Am I the only guy in the room who reads H.P. Kline?  
Craniac: he's the main monster, from all the books ...

CUT TO EACH - as they react:

GARRETT  
(enthused; with agenda)  
You read H.P. Kline?

KYLIE  
(sarcastic)  
You read?

ROLAND  
Hey, my little brother reads H.P. Kline!  
(realizes)  
You read kid's books?

EDUARDO - embarrassed, covers defensively:

EDUARDO  
Yeah, well I ... read 'em to kids.  
(wax macho)  
They're GORY, you know.

INCLUDE KYLIE - She brushes Eduardo off as she turns back to the Chef.

KYLIE  
This is reality, not fiction, Eduardo.

Eduardo shrugs and plops down in a chair, mopey:

EDUARDO  
(muttering)  
Can't help if he says the dude looks like Craniac.

BACK TO CHEF - He pleads with the Ghostbusters.

CHEF  
Please ... find Jimmy. He never  
did anybody harm.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. ESTAB. HOTEL - NIGHT - SAME TIME.

QUICK ESTABLISHING SHOT - A quaint bed-and-breakfast style hotel. The sign outside reads: TUCK'S INN.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONT.

A MAID - Finishes turning down a bed.

MAID  
<busily humming>

CLOSE ON MAID, TRACK WITH HER - As she turns to leave, she bumps right into someone -- we cannot yet see his face, but the NAME TAG at the shorter maid's eye level reads 'JIMMY.'

ZOOM IN ON MAID'S FACE - As it registers HORROR.

MAID  
<SCREAM>

REVERSE, HER POV - REVEAL Jimmy is now a HORRIBLY MISSHAPEN MONSTER, his former self barely recognizable.

JIMMY/MONSTER  
<otherworldly MOAN>

WIDER - The maid reels back and, as "Jimmy" GRABS for her, she manages to duck and run out the room past him.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ROOM - CONT.

THE MAID - Halts in her tracks, however ...

MAID  
<gasp!>...

WHIP PAN to reveal her way is blocked by the sinister TRIO from the teaser.

BACK TO MAID - She's surrounded: Jimmy stalks toward her from behind.

BACK TO TRIO - They approach CAMERA, with sinister satisfaction.

CRANIAC  
New flesh.

GRISTLE

Be with us.

CORPUSCLE

Be one of us.

INT. CAFE - NIGHT, SAME TIME

INSIDE, EDUARDO - still sits, moping at the booth. Garrett sidles up to him, making like a buddy (but with a hidden agenda).

GARRETT

Don't let her bug you, Pachuco.

(re: Kylie/Roland)

THEY may be the brains of this operation, but you and me ...

we're the butt-kickers.

Especially me.

Garrett UNGRACEFULLY changes the subject, revealing his agenda -- provoking a double-take from Eduardo:

GARRETT (CONT)

Speaking of you, I didn't know you were a horror fan!

EDUARDO

(grumpy)

Lot about me you don't know.

GARRETT

Well tell me -- as a "fan of the genre" -- did my story rock?

EDUARDO - seems evasive.

EDUARDO

Well, uh ...

GARRETT

(confident)

Go on, like it is. I can take it.

EDUARDO

It blew. CHUNKS.

Garrett's jaw DROPS. Beat. CUT OUTSIDE TO ...

EXT. CAFE - NIGHT, CONT.

ROLAND VISOR POV - He scans the landscape.

ROLAND (VO)  
If they left ecto-trails ...

REVEAL ROLAND - Scanning from the cafe door, wearing a pair of ECTO-VISORS. Kylie looks on.

ROLAND (CONT)  
... they didn't have much of an afterlife.

KYLIE  
(frustration)  
There's a lead around here somewhere.

Her WALKIE-TALKIE activates.

EGON <VO>  
Kylie, it's Egon. We've got another call ...

ROLAND  
When it rains, it pours.

Kylie lifts the communicator.

KYLIE  
Egon, we're in the middle of THIS investigation ... we can't come back yet.

EGON <VO>  
Don't. The call's half a mile up the road from you.

Kylie and Roland EXCHANGE stunned GLANCES.

ROLAND  
Coincidence?

KYLIE  
Fat chance.

INT. CAFE - CONT.

BACK INSIDE - Garrett and Eduardo in mid-debate.

EDUARDO  
Look, these things are supposed to be scary. Your story has no jeopardy. It's just 40 pages of YOU, blowing away ghosts and chasing skirts.



GARRETT  
 (defensive)  
 What's wrong with that? Don't  
 you like girls?

WHIP PAN TO KYLIE as she sticks her head in, urgently:

KYLIE  
 Hey iron-johns, cut the guy-talk:  
 we got a call!

WHIP PAN BACK TO GARRETT - Ready for action, he asides to  
 Eduardo as he ZIPS off.

GARRETT (PARTIAL VO)  
 Blowin' away ghosts. It's what I  
 do.

Eduardo rushes off after him.

**EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - NIGHT, MOMENTS LATER**

ECTO-1 - speeds down the road, in a couple of exciting ACTION  
 SHOTS.

INT. ECTO-1 - KYLIE rides; her look of determination becomes  
 surprise as ...

KYLIE  
 Deja vu. Why does that look  
 familiar?

HER POV, PANNING FROM CAR - They pass the distinctive GOTHIC  
 SPIRES of KLINE'S MANSION (as seen on the E.T.-type broadcast  
 earlier), which poke above the treetops.

INSIDE - Eduardo responds, perhaps a bit cocky:

EDUARDO  
 (pointed)  
 Because we saw it on TV today.  
 It's Kline's mansion.

Kylie is clearly perturbed by the coincidence.

Garrett leans INTO FRAME from the back seat:

GARRETT  
 <mock eerie Theremin sound>  
 ooooooO0000000ooooooo ...

Roland turns to Kylie, sincerely:

ROLAND  
 Think it's another coincidence?

ON KYLIE'S LOOK, CUT TO ...

EXTERIOR WIDE - Remain on Kline's ominous mansion for a beat as the Ecto-1 <ZOOMS> PAST CAMERA!

EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT, MOMENTS LATER

ACTION ANGLE - The Ecto-1 PEELS INTO SCENE; the EGB's hop out, ready for action.

WHIP PAN TO HOTEL FRONT - we hear screams and pandemonium coming from inside.

VICTIMS (VO)  
<scream walla> Help us! etc.

A WOMAN who's managed to escape runs up, pointing at the hotel.

WOMAN  
(delirious)  
In there! It's horrible!

GARRETT  
Guy with a saw in his head?

WOMAN  
(eyes widen)  
Yes! How did you know??

The EGB's exchange glances; Eduardo SHRUGS.

EDUARDO  
Don't look at me.

The four EGB's charge forward.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - CONT.

THE EGB'S enter, stopping dead in their tracks at what they see.

THEIR POV - About 10 people (hotel patrons, the maid, etc.) are manacled together in some sort of bizarre SLAVE CHAIN -- except instead of steel links, it's comprised of organic, Gigeresque matter; the manacles are ORGANIC CREATURE-LIKE HANDS!

VICTIMS  
Help us!!

SIDE ANGLE - Kylie rushes INTO FRAME and begins pulling at the chains, but to no avail. One of the "creature hands" lets go long enough to CLAW at her!

KYLIE  
 <struggle grunts, then recoil>  
 Ahh!!

From the darkness beside her, a CREATURE lunges out: JIMMY!

JIMMY/MONSTER  
 RAARGH!!

KYLIE - REACTS.

QUICK POV - Jimmy's name tag.

WIDEN - Agog at the reveal, Kylie is taken by surprise as Jimmy knocks her aside.

KYLIE  
 Whaaat??--<oof!>

ANGLE - Kylie tumbles to the feet of the others; Garrett readies to FIRE his PROTON GUN at her attacker, but she stops him:

KYLIE  
 No! That's Jimmy! He's the guy  
 we're looking for!

GARRETT  
 (deadpan disbelief)  
 Who, Meatface? You got a  
 concussion, sister?!

Eduardo comes to her defense, all revved up for a moment -- then self-conscious as he realizes he's back on his "fiction" jag.

EDUARDO  
 (excited)  
 No, Kylie's RIGHT! That's what  
 they do, turn people into freaks  
 and stuff, JUST LIKE THEM ...

ROLAND  
 Who?

Eduardo hangs his head, self-consciously ...

EDUARDO  
 (trailing, under breath)  
 You know, "Craniac"...

ON KYLIE - irritated:

KYLIE  
Eduardo, not now ...

She's cut off by an o.s. sinister intoning:

CRANIAC (VO)  
Who knows my name??!!

WHIP PAN to CRANIAC, hovering over the proceedings. <STING!>

BACK TO EG'S - Eduardo cowers from Craniac, but turns to Kylie with attitude:

EDUARDO  
"Kline's books have no basis in  
reality," huh??!

KYLIE  
<gulp> My mistake.

ON THEIR DISBELIEF, fade to black ...

END ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

INT. HOTEL - NIGHT, CONT.

Garrett SETS UP THE GHOST TRAP and prepares to fire his proton gun ...

GARRETT

Truth or fiction, either way ...  
CRANIAC IS DUST!

GARRETT fires!

A PROTON BEAM - makes contact with Craniac, who struggles within its field for a moment; he starts to pull toward the ghost trap -- but instead EXPLODES!

CRANIAC

<painful RAAARGH!>

GARRETT - cockily <BLOWS> his proton gun like a gunslinger, as he asides to Eduardo:

GARRETT

"Jeopardy": don't think that  
word's in my vocabulary.

ROLAND reacts, confused:

ROLAND

But ... it blew him up! THAT's  
not supposed to happen.

GARRETT

(shrugs)

Hey, results is results.

Eduardo REACTS to what he sees o.s.

EDUARDO

Think again ...

CRANIAC - MATERIALIZES before their eyes, unharmed -- and pissed (though maintaining his sinister composure). CORPUSCLE and GRISTLE enter from either side, flanking him.

CRANIAC

You cannot harm us.

GRISTLE

But YOUR pain is our pleasure.

CORPUSCLE

Surrender your flesh.

CORPUSCLE and GRISTLE stalk forward.

BACK ON EGB'S - Eduardo counters to the agog Garrett:

EDUARDO  
(to Garrett)  
You were SAYING?

ROLAND  
(freaked, to Ed)  
Who're THOSE guys?

EDUARDO  
The big one's Corpuscule ...

Eduardo ducks as GRISTLE lunges INTO SCENE, onto Roland.

ROLAND  
Oof!

EDUARDO (CONT)  
Your buddy's Gristle.

Garrett helps Roland, who's holding his own with Gristle.  
Corpuscule ATTACKS Eduardo.

CORPUSCLE  
<SNARLS>

EDUARDO  
Yahhh!

TRACK KYLIE - she heads back for the manacled victims,  
confronting Jimmy:

VICTIMS <B-TRACK>  
<terror walla throughout>  
Help us! etc.

KYLIE  
Jimmy, look at yourself, look  
what you've become.

Jimmy snarls and SLASHES at Kylie, who ducks. She pleads.

KYLIE  
(re: victims)  
Please, Jimmy. Don't let it  
happen to them.

CLOSER ON JIMMY - He holds a glass FLASK filled with what seems  
to be BLACK FLUID ...

KYLIE (CONT)

Help me get everyone out of here!

WIDER - ... but when he tosses the contents onto the victims (who flinch), it emerges as OILY BLACK SMOKE which quickly envelops them and Jimmy -- quickly fading to reveal that the lot of them has disappeared (including Jimmy)!

KYLIE

(deadpan concern)

NOT what I had in mind.

BACK TO ROLAND - struggling with Gristle. He manages to fire his proton gun, which SEVERs one of Gristles arms off!

GRISTLE

<ROARS in anger>

INTERCUT GARRETT - He REACTS, impressed ...

GARRETT

Hmmm, "A Farewell To Arms."

... then COCKS his Proton Gun.

GRISTLE comes back at Roland, lunging with his remaining arm; a PROTON BEAM enters from o.s., severing THAT as well!

GRISTLE

<ROARS in anger>

ON ROLAND - recoiling as Garrett joins him.

ROLAND

(relief)

Thanks.

GARRETT

(re: Gristle)

Hope he doesn't pack a mean head-butt.

They REACT as Gristle's two disembodied arms suddenly LUNGE from the floor, around their throats!

GARRETT / ROLAND

<strangling struggles>

Eduardo - backs away from CORPUSCLE, freaking, as the LITTLE EYELESS MAN WITH RAZOR-TOOTHED MOUTH ON LONG STALK (we'll call him "Corpuscle Junior") emerges from the mass of meat which is Corpuscle's FACE and attaches to Eduardo's head.

CORPUSCLE JUNIOR  
<hungry SNARL>

CLOSE ON EDUARDO - freaking over the thing attached to his head.

EDUARDO  
YAAAHHHH!! DON'T LET HIM EAT MY  
BRAIN!!!

GARRETT - PULLS Gristle's hand from his throat, chucks it away,

GARRETT  
(mutters, re: Ed)  
And he wonders where I get  
"squealing for mercy."

Garrett quickly scans to spot a food cart beside him.

GARRETT  
Teatime!

Garrett LIFTS the entire STEAMING TEA POT.

GARRETT (CONT)  
Corpuscle, CATCH!!

He hurls the pot o.s.

ON EDUARDO AND CORPUSCLE - The big guy lets go of Eduardo in order to LIFT the palms of his hands to see what's coming his way. Eduardo DUCKS and ROLLS away, and the little guy REACTS and ZIPS back inside the meaty pulp out of harm's way as the EYES BLINK and the hands reflexively CATCH the boiling POT.

CORPUSCLE  
<ROAR OF AGONY>  
MY EYES! MY EYESSSSSSS!!

ANGLE - "Corpuscle Junior" lunges at Garrett, who BLASTS at the stalk -- severing it!

ON FLOOR - Corpuscle Junior lands and instantly WITHERS, shriveling up!

ON CORPUSCLE - Another Corpuscle Junior instantly regenerates!

ON KYLIE - She blasts CRANIAC, who evaporates. She turns to join the others, and BUMPS RIGHT into a newly-materialized Craniac!

ROLAND - pulls Gristle's OTHER arm off him, throws it down o.s. and BLASTS it; Gristle lunges from BEHIND with two newly REGENERATED ARMS!



ROLAND, EDUARDO, AND GARRETT - regroup.

GARRETT

Okay, what have we learned?

ROLAND

Proton beams won't take 'em down.

EDUARDO

Check.

Kylie joins them.

KYLIE

Which means they're not ecto as  
we know it.

ON SINISTER TRIO - They approach CAMERA.

KYLIE (CONT, VO)

The ghost trap is useless.

But instead of attacking, they retreat; Craniac brandishes  
another FLASK of BLACK OILY SMOKE and wafts it all around them,  
as he responds with a NOD:

CRANIAC

(cryptically)

If it is not written ...

GRISTLE/CORPUSCLE

... it cannot be done.

TWO SHOT, KYLIE AND EDUARDO - REACT, then engage in a rapid-  
fire patter:

KYLIE

What'd they mean by that?

EDUARDO

Beats me.

KYLIE

You're the expert!

EDUARDO

That part's not in the books!

WIDER - INCLUDE ROLAND, determined:

ROLAND

I'm going after the hostages!

Roland LUNGES o.s.

ON TRIO - disappearing in the black smoke; Roland LUNGES in, disappearing with them!

KYLIE

ROLAND!!

We hear Roland's voice over Kylie's walkie-talkie:

ROLAND (VO)

Guys ... HELP! Aaaghh!!

The walkie-talkie CUTS OFF with a burst of <STATIC FUZZ>. On the GB's concerned looks ....

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. HOTEL - NIGHT, MINUTES LATER

THE THREE REMAINING GB'S - are out by the Ecto-1, brainstorming their next move (Kylie is o.s. for the moment).

GARRETT

Okay bookworm, answer the \$64,000 question: how are these fictional characters coming to life?

EDUARDO

Maybe they're not fictional. Maybe they've always been around, and Kline just decided to write about them.

REVEAL KYLIE - Sitting in the Ecto-1, where she's got reading light. She's reading her dog-eared copy of SPENGLER'S SPIRIT GUIDE.

KYLIE

Or maybe they're the VATHEK.

EDUARDO

The who-zek?

KYLIE

The Vathek. The Spirit Guide says they're spectral forms who enter the realm of the living through the act of writing.

GARRETT

You mean, a writer channels them into our world ... by writing about them?

KYLIE

(nods)

Which explains why we can't nuke 'em ... "If it is not written, it cannot be done." If the text says they're indestructible ....

EDUARDO

(understanding)

That's what they be.

(agitates)

You think Kline's behind it?

GARRETT

I hope so! Kicking Kline's ghost-loving butt'll get me some great PUBLICITY!

(mock air headline)

"The Clash of The Literary Titans!"

**EXT. KLINE'S MANSION - NIGHT, MINUTES LATER**

UPSHOT ON GOTHIC SPIRES - On a <DRAMATIC STING>, then PAN DOWN to REVEAL the EGB's approach the massive front doors.

CLOSER - Kylie <RINGS> the bell. Beat. No answer. Instead, we hear the <CRACKLE> of a PKE meter.

ON PKE - Then WIDEN to reveal it belongs to GARRETT, pointing it at the front door.

GARRETT

(re: PKE)

Sounds like an invitation to me.

**INT. KLINE'S MANSION FOYER - CONT.**

BEAT - <POW>, the front doors are knocked open by a charging Garrett.

CLOSER - Kylie and Eduardo enter behind Garrett, as the <ECHO> of the violent entrance subsides. Kylie sardonically turns to Garrett with a finger over her lips:

KYLIE

Shhhhhhhh.

SEVERAL SHOTS - Mood and suspense, emphasizing the ominous gothic interior of the mansion, as the EGB's SKULK throughout.

ANGLE - They turn a corner and quickly duck back.

OTS GHOSTBUSTERS - A "SENTRY" walks past, not noticing them  
 [NOTE: it is one of their changeling victims]. Garrett's  
 PROTON GUN rises up INTO FRAME and takes aim at the unwitting  
 sentry:

GARRETT

(sotto)

I'm a sucker for sucker shots...

Kylie STOPS him, pushing the gun down.

KYLIE

(sotto)

No. It's not a Vathek; it's one  
 of their victims.

Garrett PATS his ghost trap.

GARRETT

(sotto)

I know. Gonna suck the evil  
 right out of 'im.

KYLIE

(sotto)

And if it doesn't work that way?

GARRETT

(sotto)

He blows up real good?

KYLIE

You're quick.

EDUARDO

(tense)

Can we just find Roland, huh? I  
 mean, before they turn him into a  
 gumhead too?

On that CUE, we CUT TO:

INT. HOSPITAL-LIKE ROOM - SOMEWHERE IN BASEMENT OF KLINE'S  
 MANSION - SAME TIME

CAMERA PROWLs THROUGH CORRIDORS - As we hear hideous PAINFUL  
 SCREAMING echo throughout ...

MAID (VO)

<screaming> Nooo, noooo ...

... then quickly subside.

CLOSE ON ROLAND - He's alone, manacled in that ORGANIC MANACLE MATTER, as seen on the hotel patrons from earlier. He sits in the "waiting room" outside that filthy white-tiled room from our Act One teaser, anxiously awaiting:

REVERSE - The door to the "surgery room" <CREAKS> open; after a beat, THE MAID (recognizable by her outfit) emerges -- looking like an inhuman combination of an OBIE DOLL and an APPLE DOLL (see Raynis' design).

MAID/MONSTER  
<otherworldly utterances>

ROLAND - freaks, recoils up against the wall; but manacled, he has nowhere to go.

ROLAND  
<frightened gasps>

BACK ON "MAID" - Behind her, the trio of sinister Vathek loom, brandishing their surgical instruments. Behind THEM, the silhouette of a small army of NEWLY MUTATED VICTIMS -- the dim lighting only HINTING at what horrors lie within (think 'Island of Lost Souls,' or 'Night of the Living Dead').

CRANIAC  
Next.

REVEAL, WIDER - ROLAND is the last hostage. It's his turn for surgery. <DRAMATIC STING!>

**end act two**

## ACT THREE

INT. KLINE'S MANSION - VARIOUS CORRIDORS - NIGHT, CONT.

Kylie, Eduardo, and Garrett continue skulking;

GARRETT

Alright, those Vathek guys are indestructible and you won't let me blast one of their slaves ... I HOPE I at least get to kick pencil-neck writer butt!!

KYLIE

Find it, and it's yours to kick.

EDUARDO

Big house. He could be anywhere ...

KYLIE makes a halting gesture, cocking her ear; they LISTEN, hearing the faint sound of <TYPING>.

INT. KLINE'S MANSION - OUTSIDE LIBRARY DOOR - CONT.

The <TYPING> is louder here. CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal the Ghostbusters (minus Roland) cautiously approaching.

GARRETT

Like a trail of breadcrumbs ...

INT. KLINE'S STUDY - CONT.

FACING DOOR - As the EGB's throw it open and enter like a S.W.A.T. team. The o.s. <TYPING> doesn't let up.

GARRETT

Kline! Stop typing now!

The o.s. <TYPING> STILL doesn't let up.

REVERSE ANGLE - The study is HUGE AND ELABORATE with thirty-foot tall walls lined with books; a LADDER on castors is on hand, for those hard to reach volumes.

The silhouette of Kline types away madly on the far side of the room, hunched over like a man possessed. The flickering light from a roaring fireplace nearby casts a HUGE GOTHIC SHADOW on the wall above him (basically, this should look like a scene from THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA -- but Kline giving an evil impression at a typewriter keyboard rather than an organ keyboard).

GARRETT (CONT)

Don't make me get out of this chair!

ANGLE ON KLINE - Still in silhouette; Garrett rolls toward him:

GARRETT

Kline, you hack!! Why are you  
doing this!!??

Garrett grabs onto Kline and SPINS him ... then <GASPS> at what he sees.

GARRETT

<GASP!>

HIS POV - <DRAMATIC STING!>. Kline now in direct light, so that we can see he's clearly TYPING against his will!

KLINE HAS BEEN MUTATED, like the other victims. His body is now a desk-shaped MASS OF FLESH; the TYPEWRITER is some kind of half-mechanical, half-organic thing that's somehow part of him; his hands are twisted around the typewriter in such a way that it's clear he's being FORCED to type against his will [perhaps utilizing the same "organic manacle" motif from Act 2 -- creature hands can be holding him by the wrists]. Aside from the manic <TYPING>, our SOUND DESIGN includes unintelligible ghostly WHISPERING, as if the sounds of the disembodied Vathek are telling Kline what to write:

THREE VATHEK <B-TRACK THROUGHOUT>

<eerie unintelligible WHISPERING>

FAVOR GARRETT - Eduardo and Kylie behind him: they look absolutely HORRIFIED. Garrett deadpans:

GARRETT

Oh.

KLINE

Forget about me. Save your  
friend ...

KYLIE

(urgent; realization)  
Roland! The book!

CLOSER ON PAGE - (though not necessarily featuring writing). Kylie peers INTO FRAME, urgently reading:

KYLIE

(urgent reading)  
"Craniac resembled a demented  
butcher. But he didn't see  
himself that way ... for to The  
Vathek, mutilation was a sublime  
art form ..."



INSERT GARRETT - anxious.

GARRETT  
We know this part! Skip ahead!

BACK TO KYLIE - reading, faster:

KYLIE  
(urgent reading)  
"Roland struggled bravely, but helplessly. The Ghostbuster was a moment away from becoming inhuman ..."

INSERT EDUARDO - Asiding to Garrett: sardonic but tense.

EDUARDO  
Jeopardy. Kline knows how to write.

BACK TO KYLIE - reading more urgently, searching for a clue:

KYLIE  
<incoherent speed read until ...>  
"His screams could not be heard, sealed as they were within the Chamber of Unspeakable Deeds ...  
(getting the clue)  
... deep below the mansion!"

KLINE - implores:

KLINE  
Hurry. If it is written ...

EDUARDO  
(tension coil)  
We know, we know!!

Kylie turns to Eduardo:

KYLIE  
Let's go!

They RUN out the door (Garrett remains behind).

GARRETT  
(realization)  
What if it's unwritten?  
(to Kline)  
You call yourself a WRITER, Kline!??? Kill off those Vathek deadbeats! Write them out of the story!



TIGHT ON KLINE - real intense: he means it.

KLINE  
I ... CAN'T! VOICES ... IN MY  
HEAD ... WON'T STOP ...

INT. HOSPITAL-LIKE ROOM - CONT.

ROLAND - is strapped to the SLAB, struggling; THE VATHEK close in with their strange surgical instruments, about to perform their surgery (NOTE: the slave minions are nowhere to be seen at this point: just Roland on the slab, surrounded by the sinister trio).

ROLAND <B-TRACK THROUGHOUT>  
<struggle sounds>

CORPUSCLE  
Bid your humanity farewell.

CRANIAC  
Embrace us.

GRISTLE  
Embrace The Vathek.

ROLAND  
(defiant)  
Go on, take me! When my friends  
find you they'll MAKE YOU PAY!!

CRANIAC  
(scoffs)  
They cannot destroy us.

CORPUSCLE  
If it is not written ...

GRISTLE  
... it cannot be done.

ROLAND POV, DRAMATIC ANGLE - The classic ominous "surgery" shot of the doctors surrounding FRAME; Craniac brings a DEADLY SURGICAL INSTRUMENT slowly toward CAMERA ...

'SURGICAL INSTRUMENT' POV - CAMERA PUSHES IN to Roland's sweaty, flinching face until we're in an intense ECU ...

ROLAND  
<flinching grunts>

INT. STAIRWELL - KLINE'S MANSION - CONT.

As if to illustrate the above point, EDUARDO AND KYLIE reach the end of a long stairwell, only to find themselves in a dead end!

KYLIE / EDUARDO  
<huffing and puffing>

Eduardo, pissed, kicks the wall -- Nicholas Cage-style.

EDUARDO  
<pissed kick effort> Errgh!

They RUN back UP the stairs, searching for another route.

INT. KLINE'S STUDY - CONT.

RE-ESTABLISH KLINE - typing madly. Garrett, with determination:

GARRETT  
I'll just hafta rewrite this  
thing myself!

Garrett wheels up so that he's sitting opposite Kline (facing him), and READS from the document freshly emerging from the typewriter:

GARRETT  
(reading)  
"It prepared to taste Roland's  
flesh -- the gleaming, exquisite,  
lethal BLADE ..."

GARRETT begins "counter"-typing on the keyboard:

GARRETT  
Backspace, CORRECTION! It  
doesn't say "blade;" I'll make it  
SAY --

INT. HOSPITAL-LIKE ROOM - BASEMENT - KLINE'S MANSION - CONT.

ECU ON ROLAND - As before: tense, sweaty, flinching, trying to pull his face away from the o.s. scalpel ...

ROLAND  
<effort strain>

Beat. He cocks open an eye and looks surprised. QUICK PULL OUT to reveal Craniac's hand no longer holds a scalpel, but a GRADE AA EGG.

ON VATHEK - They look surprised. Craniac throws the egg aside, <SPLAT>!

CRANIAC

Intruders!

GRISTLE

In the library!

CORPUSCLE

The book must not be unwritten!

The door flies open <SLAM>, and the sinister TRIO levitates out the door in supernatural creepy fashion. Beat.

ON ROLAND - strapped down. He's still confused.

INT. STUDY - CONT.

GARRETT - sits opposite Kline, TYPING and reading aloud what he "improvises":

GARRETT

(reading)

"AND ... AND THEY WEREN'T JUST  
REGULAR MONKEYS, THEY WERE RABID  
MONKEYS, UH ... WITH TIRE IRONS!"

Garrett REACTS to the sound of a door being SLAMMED OPEN.

WHIP PAN TO - Library doors. The Vathek Trio BURST IN; each has a rabid monkey on its back, clawing, biting, and pounding away with tire irons.

THREE MONKEYS

<rabid, vicious SCREECHING>

Each Vathek immediately HURLS its monkey aside (never to be seen again). They look PISSED. To Garrett, re: Kline:

CRANIAC

You will not disrupt him.

GRISTLE

He's on a deadline.

BACK TO GARRETT - sheepish.

GARRETT

Uh oh.

GARRETT goes back to TYPING even FASTER.

THE VATHEK - nod and gesture toward ...

THE FIREPLACE - which suddenly EXPLODES in a FUNNEL OF FLAME.

ON GARRETT - He REACTS and wheels aside to avoid being charred as the FLAME shoots THROUGH SCENE, <VOOOOOSH>!

GARRETT'S POV - Kline is now surrounded by a several foot high CIRCLE OF FLAME which he cannot cross. GARRETT gets as close to the wall of flame as he can stand, WHEELING back and forth like a caged dog, trying to find a "kink" in the circle of flame. He cannot; sweat beads, and he shields the heat from his face. He makes a lame attempt at CUPPING HIS MOUTH and SHOUTING direction to Kline over the wall of flame:

GARRETT  
(over din)  
KLINE, LISTEN UP!! "A 16-TON  
ANVIL DROPPED FROM THE CEILING,  
CRUSHING THE VATHEK CREEPS LIKE  
BUGS!"

Garrett plugs his ears and flinches as if expecting this to actually work; beat; he looks up ...

HIS POV - The Vathek just standing there, unblinking and uncrushed.

GARRETT - frustrates, the fire raging behind him:

GARRETT  
I'M in trouble.

INT. HOSPITAL-LIKE ROOM - BASEMENT - KLINE'S MANSION - CONT.  
KYLIE AND EDUARDO - breathlessly RUN IN ...

KYLIE / EDUARDO  
<huffing / puffing> Huh???

... and are surprised at ...

WHIP PAN TO ROLAND - Safe and sound, strapped to the slab.

KYLIE  
Roland, you're alright!

They get to quickly unstrapping him from the table.

EDUARDO  
I thought maybe you'd be dead!

ROLAND  
(confused)  
Yeah ... me too.

Eduardo notices something o.s. as they head out:

EDUARDO  
What's with the egg?

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE OF HOSPITAL-LIKE ROOM - CONT.

KYLIE, EDUARDO, AND ROLAND - Flee from the room, then stop in their tracks.

EDUARDO  
Awww, man!

REVEAL - Their path is blocked by the aggregate SLAVE MINIONS (Jimmy and the Maid in front -- think 'Night of the Living Dead').

SLAVE MINIONS <B-TRACK THROUGHOUT>  
<creepy moaning, groaning>

THE EGB'S - turn to run the other way, but THAT escape is blocked as well. Eduardo goes for his Proton Gun, but both Kylie and Roland stop him:

KYLIE  
No.

ROLAND  
I could've been one of them.

ANGLE - They try and 'clothesline' their way through the dark mob like football players, but it looks grim.

KYLIE/ROLAND/EDUARDO  
<grunts, struggles>

INT. STUDY - CONT.

THE VATHEK - close in on Garrett -- slowly (he's going nowhere fast, his back to the wall of flame).

CORPUSCLE  
(to Garrett)  
Your flesh is ours.

CRANIAC  
(to Kline)  
Write his demise, Scribe.

GARRETT  
(to Vathek)  
Maybe he doesn't feel like it!

THE VATHEK - Loom like some dark council.

CRANIAC  
Oh, he feels like it.

GRISTLE

The Scribe is but an "instrument"  
of our will.

CORPUSCLE

WE are the true authors; WE tell  
him what to write.

KLINE - Calls out over the din, STRUGGLING to be defiant; we  
can see the SHADOWS of the Vathek, looming behind the flames:

KLINE

(struggling; to Vathek)  
Hurting people wasn't part of the  
deal: you said your ideas were  
fiction.

GRISTLE

They WERE fiction ...

CORPUSCLE

... until you made us real.

KLINE

You tricked me into writing you  
into existence!

CRANIAC

You gained from our alliance:  
wealth, fame, success ...

GRISTLE

And now you will finish our  
masterwork, so that we may LIVE  
FOREVER.

CORPUSCLE

Never before has a novel by H.P.  
Kline ended like this.

CRANIAC

Yesssss, this time The Vathek win  
...

The THRONG of SLAVE MINIONS enters, clutching the futilely  
struggling ROLAND, EDUARDO, and KYLIE.

GRISTLE

... and the humans die!

ON VATHEK - As their SLAVE MINIONS get on their knees and bow  
down before them.

CRANIAC

Bow to your masters ...

GRISTLE

The Book will be finished ...

CORPUSCLE

The Book will be done ...

CRANIAC

And together, we will change the  
face of humanity!

CLOSE ON ROLAND, KYLIE, EDUARDO - They sotto among each other,  
struggling:

ROLAND

<struggles, sotto>

We can't let him finish the book.

KYLIE

<struggles, sotto>

We've got to destroy the text!

CROSS-CUT, VARIOUS ANGLES - between 1. the helpless  
Ghostbusters; 2. Kline <TYPING> maniacally against his will; 3.  
The Vathek looking eerie and backlit with the CIRCLE OF FLAMES  
behind them, and the SLAVE MINIONS before them (except for the  
ones holding The Ghostbusters) -- bowing religiously, on their  
knees, CHANTING THROUGHOUT:

SLAVE MINIONS <B-TRACK>

<chanting>

The Book will be finished, the  
Book will be done;  
he Book will be finished, the  
Book will be done; etc.

This builds to a crescendo until ...

GARRETT - spots his opening.

GARRETT

I'm gonna finish that book  
alright ...

HIS POV - The bowed backs of the suppliant SLAVE MINIONS.

ANGLE ON GARRETT - He HEAVES himself forward in his wheelchair,  
picking up speed, and with a mighty ...

GARRETT

<rebel yell>

... rides up the BACKS of two slave minions, using them as a makeshift RAMP to propel himself

... up and over the wall of flame!

REACTION SHOTS - THE VATHEK REACT with awe and the SLAVE MINIONS are momentarily distracted as they watch the o.s. airborne Garrett. The three GHOSTBUSTERS use the diversion to BREAK FREE.

ROLAND / KYLIE / EDUARDO  
<victory grunts>

INSIDE FIRE CIRCLE - Garrett comes to a hard landing beside Kline ...

GARRETT  
Ugh!

... then immediately gets his bearings, spins the wheelchair so that he's facing KLINE, and starts furiously TYPING on the typewriter.

GARRETT  
I'm gonna finish it ... MY way!!  
(reading as he types)  
"The handsome wheelchair-bound  
hero sat defiant and ..."

OUTSIDE FIRE CIRCLE - The Vathek galvanize and charge for the Ghostbusters, who listen to Garrett from the other side. But he just trails off. Beat.

ROLAND / KYLIE / EDUARDO  
AND WHAT!??

ON GARRETT - He's stopped typing, a pained look on his face.

GARRETT  
I dunno! You try being creative  
under this kinda pressure!

The Ghostbusters SCATTER defensively as the Vathek LUNGE INTO SCENE.

ANGLE - Eduardo LEAPS ONTO the LADDER, propelling it to SLIDE across the room, out of Corpuscule's immediate grasp.

DRAMATIC UPSHOT - The ladder SLIDES INTO FRAME, Eduardo now near the top of it -- a perfect perch to have his PROTON GUN BLAZING!



EDUARDO  
GIVE IT UP, GARRETT, YOU BLOW!  
CHUNKS!!

REVERSE - Garrett REACTS and ducks as the Proton Beam SHOOTs INTO SCENE, <VAPORIZING> the typewriter and pages between he and Kline!

ON VATHEK - They WITHER to dust -- without regenerating this time.

VATHEK TRIO  
<prolonged wither-to-nothing  
agony>

VARIOUS SHOTS - The SLAVE MINIONS transform back to their normal selves as the spell is lifted; END with KLINE, who turns to the Ghostbusters with complete exhaustion but great relief:

KLINE  
Thank you ... for releasing me.

He almost collapses; Roland catches and supports him.

ON JIMMY - the diner waiter. Garrett turns to him:

GARRETT  
So, Jimmy -- how ABOUT those  
pies?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIREHOUSE - A MONTH LATER - DAY  
WE HEAR ...

GARRETT (VO)  
Another rejection notice.

INT. FIREHOUSE - CONT.  
Garrett TOSSES the slip of paper ...

... it lands on a TALL PILE OF OTHERS.

BACK TO GARRETT - The others sit around, as in the beginning. Defensively:

GARRETT  
Hey, I can take it. What hurts  
is the success Kline's having  
with HIS new book ... at MY  
expense!

CUT TO OTHERS - in rapid succession:

EDUARDO  
(shrugs)

I liked it.

ROLAND  
So'd my little brother.

KYLIE  
(looks up from Spirit  
Guide)  
A somehow more realistic  
depiction of Demonology than his  
early work.

INCLUDE GARRETT - pissy:

GARRETT  
Awww, you just like it because  
you're all in it.

KYLIE  
Alive.

ROLAND  
Well so are YOU, Garrett ...

GARRETT picks up his copy of Kline's latest -- "More Guts, More  
Blood" by H.P. Kline -- and reads:

GARRETT  
(grousing)  
Yeah: "The Loudmouth guy in the  
wheelchair."

CLOSE ON EDUARDO - He shrugs:

EDUARDO  
"If it is written, it must be  
true ..."

IRIS IN on cover of Kline's book, brandished with an  
illustration of The Vathek ...

THE END

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