

BRAINDEAD

GUSTAV

GUSTAV SIDES

GUSTAV (30s) is a cross between Steve Wozniak and Kramer. Brilliant and crazy at the same time. Keeps you guessing as to which is which.

SCENE 1:

INT. LAUREL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Someone knocks at Laurel's front door. Laurel in her nightgown, opens it. Gustav is there.

LAUREL

What are you doing--?

But Gustav quickly raises a finger to his mouth: shh. Throwing on a bland suburban voice:

GUSTAV

Hi, I'm your neighbor. Bill. And I just wanted to borrow some...
(no idea)
...eggs. No margarine. For baking a cake.

Laurel eyes him oddly, but plays along:

LAUREL

Okay. Won't you come in, "Bill"?

Gustav pulls Laurel forward, whispers into her ear:

GUSTAV

They're watching.

LAUREL

Who?

GUSTAV

(Bill's voice)
Just three eggs will do, ma'am. I mean, butter.
(whispers)
The FCC. Do you have a screwdriver?

Laurel sighs, starts off, as Gustav moves toward the flat screen TV, steps to the side of it, takes out his Android phone, turns it to a low hum, tapes it to the side of the screen. Laurel returns with a screwdriver, whispers:

SIDE 1
START →

LAUREL

What?

Gustav pulls Laurel to the side. Quiet, but not a whisper:

GUSTAV

Never talk or stand in front of a flat screen TV. It has a 120 degree peripheral view. Stay wide here. And there. You're okay.

He starts to work on the TV:

GUSTAV (CONT'D)

You need a 35 decibel recording of the Taos hum.

LAUREL

Are you breaking my TV, Gustav?

GUSTAV

I'm fixing your TV. It's the Digital TV transition act. Every TV had to be switched over from analogue by 2009. That's when they put cameras in to watch us.

LAUREL

(incredulous)

You're saying there's a camera in my TV?

GUSTAV

(duh)

I'm saying there's a camera in every TV. You have to buy analogue. Go to a thrift store. I'll show you how. It's because of the 111th congress. Get it. One-hundred-eleven. One-one-one. Swiss Air 111. The diamond loot. Revelation 11:1. It's all connected.

And Gustav pulls a small device from the flat screen TV.

LAUREL

(incredulous)

That's a camera?

GUSTAV

Yes. It's okay to talk now.

LAUREL

Gustav, as much as I enjoy these times you wake me up in the middle of the night--

GUSTAV

The enemy never sleeps, Laurel. It's awake right now. Sending out signals on TV Land. Planting codes on yogurt coupons, experimenting with Korean beer.

LAUREL

Okay. I have to get some sleep. What do you need?

GUSTAV

Senator Feinstein. Do you know her?

LAUREL

Yes.

GUSTAV

She's not human.

FINISH →

————— ————— —————
SCENE #2:

INT. LAUREL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Laurel and Gustav sit across from each other at a restaurant. Late. Almost everybody else gone.

GUSTAV
Is Gareth your boyfriend?

LAUREL
(surprised)
What? No.

GUSTAV
He's a Republican, you know?

LAUREL
I know. He's not my boyfriend. What's going on, Gustav?

GUSTAV
Nothing.
(trying to find his words)
(MORE)

SIDE 2

START →

GUSTAV (CONT'D)

I just... If I... dressed differently; and if I didn't mind the TVs, and I didn't have the coasters on my ears-- and the duct tape-- if I did all that-- would you...?

(um, stops himself)

I would be more presentable, right?

LAUREL

Okay?

GUSTAV

(hard to say)

Would you like me then?

LAUREL

I like you now.

GUSTAV

Yes, but... would you...?

(sad)

I don't know. I just don't want to be alone...

Laurel eyes Gustav. Thinks she knows where this is headed.

LAUREL

Gustav, are you asking if I would consider-- [dating you]

GUSTAV

No, I didn't say it.

(quickly adds)

But if I did say it?

LAUREL

Here's the thing, Gustav-- I'm not dating anyone right now-- I'm not--

GUSTAV

Okay. Don't keep going. I get it. I get it.

LAUREL

It's not about you.

GUSTAV

Please stop talking.

Gustav looks off, heart breaking.

LAUREL

Gustav, I like you. Please can we
leave it there--

GUSTAV

As long as we stop talking.

And they sit there is silence.

↑
FINISH