

THE 24 HOUR BURDEN

He can see tomorrow. He cannot change it.

Grounded Science-Fiction Thriller / Character Drama • 108 pages
Written by Geoff McCue



THE HOOK

After a burned-out medical salesman accidentally gains the ability to see events twenty-four hours into the future, he discovers he cannot prevent what he sees—only prepare for the consequences—forcing him to choose between destroying himself trying to control tomorrow and helping people survive what cannot be changed.

He can see tomorrow. He cannot change it.



THE 24 HOUR BURDEN

THE STORY

Burton Steen is 52, exhausted, in chronic pain, and increasingly irrelevant in a world moving on without him. His medical-sales career is being displaced by automated ordering, his marriage to Jeanie has gone emotionally quiet, and his daughter Leah has grown tired of receiving advice when what she wants is her father. One sleepless night, desperate for relief, Burton combines medication, morphine, psychedelic mushrooms, and electrical stimulation from a TENS unit. In the resulting break from ordinary perception, he sees a conversation with Jeanie before it occurs. Exactly twenty-four hours later, the conversation repeats word for word. Burton begins testing the phenomenon and confirms that he is seeing fragments of the next day. But the tests reveal a brutal rule: once Burton clearly sees an event, he cannot prevent it. He can only alter the circumstances around it or prepare for what follows. At first the ability revitalizes him. He anticipates problems at work, responds differently to Jeanie, and begins listening to Leah rather than trying to fix her life. The stakes rise when Burton foresees Jeanie falling and breaking her ankle. He removes hazards and tries to stop the accident, yet circumstances reconstruct themselves and the fall occurs anyway. His preparation reduces the chaos afterward, proving that his power lies not in changing the event but in changing its consequences. Burton confesses the truth to Jeanie and seeks help from a Doctor.

KEY CHARACTERS

BURTON STEEN

52-year-old medical salesman whose unwanted precognition becomes a moral burden.

JEANIE STEEN

Burton's wife, whose skepticism becomes partnership as the visions prove real.

LEAH

Burton's adult daughter; repairing their strained relationship becomes part of his transformation.

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THEMES & EMOTIONAL ENGINE

Control vs. acceptance • Family • Regret • Responsibility • Community • Preparing for what cannot be prevented

The concept creates the spectacle; the characters create the stakes. The film is designed to keep the speculative idea grounded in choices about family, trust, responsibility, identity, and the human consequences of extraordinary knowledge or technology.

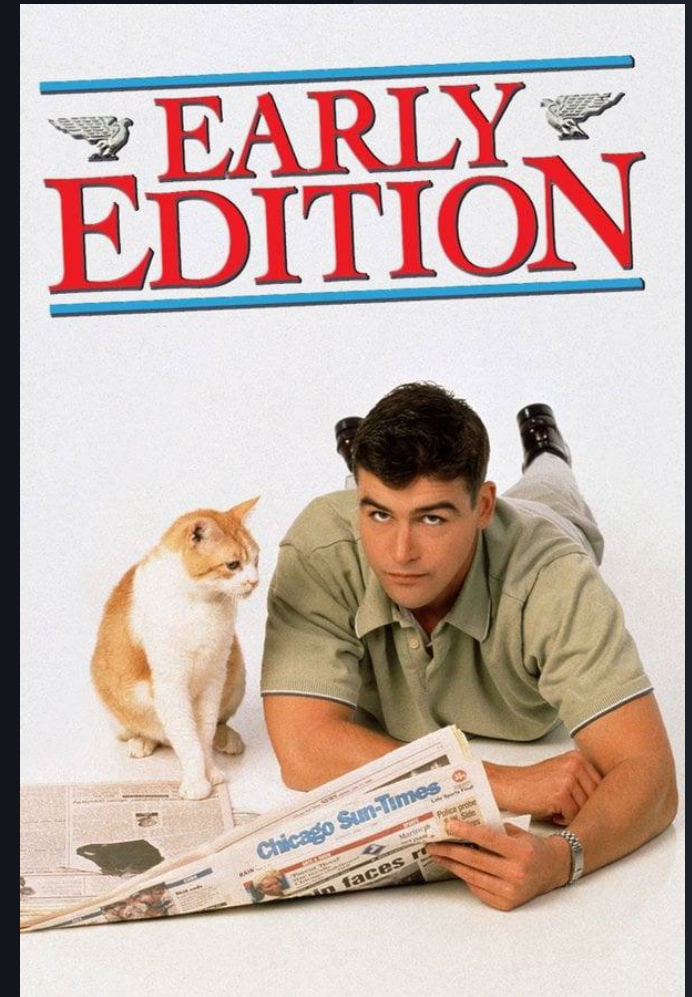


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CINEMATIC POSITIONING

The emotional inevitability of ARRIVAL with the grounded suspense of a disaster thriller—distinguished from conventional future-sight stories because the clearly seen event cannot be changed.

Designed as a feature with a clear high-concept marketing hook, contained character relationships, escalating cinematic stakes, and underlying intellectual property in Geoff McCue's published fiction.



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AUDIENCE & WHY NOW

Primary audience: adult thriller and science-fiction viewers, with crossover appeal driven by grounded science-fiction thriller / character drama.

The story turns a provocative “what if?” into a human problem audiences can immediately understand. Its central question is timely because technology, privacy, artificial intelligence, human performance, and the limits of control are increasingly part of everyday life.



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WRITER / UNDERLYING IP

GEOFF McCUE is an author, screenwriter, inventor, and retired technical sales professional whose career has combined product development, patents, commercialization, and creative problem-solving. His fiction frequently explores extraordinary abilities or technologies and the human consequences that follow.

**Feature screenplay adapted from Geoff McCue's underlying novel.
Screenplay and additional materials available for consideration.**



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