

The Tylenol Killer

Written by Bob Francis

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CHARACTERS:

Announcer
Bob
Dave

CUT TO GRAPHIC: SPECIAL REPORT.

ANNOUNCER

(v.o.)

We interrupt this program to bring you a special news bulletin.

CUT TO NEWSDESK. TWO SHOT SHOWS BOB and empty chair.

BOB

Good evening. The Tylenol Killer is again at large.

DAVE walks in with a can of Pepsi in his hand and sits at the second chair. He sips loudly.

BOB

This time –
(to DAVE)
Uh, Dave?

DAVE

Yeah?

BOB

Could you drink that soda later? We're on the air.

DAVE

I'm sorry, Bob. I'm really thirsty.
(takes another sip)
Ah! Nothing like a cold Pepsi!

BOB

(clears throat and addresses camera)
The Tylenol Killer is again at large.

As BOB speaks, DAVE puts the can down and begins looking through his pages.

BOB

This time, cyanide has been detected in 12 ounce cans of Pepsi. If you think you have been stricken with cyanide poisoning, look for these symptoms. One, blurry vision. Two –

DAVE
(taps him on the shoulder)
Bob?

BOB
What now?

DAVE
I can't read this.

BOB
(takes a look at the page DAVE is holding)
It says "Weather Update", okay?

DAVE
Thanks. Please, go on.

BOB
Thank you.
(to camera)
The second symptom is a hacking cough –

DAVE has been straining to read his pages and now begins to violently cough.

BOB
What's wrong now?

DAVE
(regains breath)
Sorry. It's just – well, oh, go on. Continue.

BOB
(to camera)
The third symptom is a noticeable increase in temperature.

DAVE is fanning himself.

DAVE
(loudly)
Is it hot in here, or is just me?

BOB
I hadn't noticed. Now, I'm almost done. Will you please let me finish? It's really important. People could be dying of cyanide poisoning at this very minute!

DAVE
You're right. I'm sorry. I won't interrupt you again.

BOB
Thank you.
(to camera)
The final stage of cyanide poisoning includes shortness of breath,

DAVE is choking silently.

BOB
And finally, you just drop dead.

DAVE keels over below news desk.

BOB
If you, or anyone you know has died from cyanide poisoning,
please tell them to call 555-5523. That's 555 DEAD.
And now, for the weather update. Dave?
(turns around)
Dave?
(looks down)
Dave!

BOB ducks below news desk for a moment and then returns to his seat, flustered.

BOB
Well, it looks as if the weather update is going to have to wait awhile. We'll be back
after a word from our sponsor; I need to make an important telephone call.

FADE OUT.