

Title: Deadline at Midnight
Credit: An original PeriodCheck evaluation screenplay
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INT. METROPOLITAN LEDGER - CITY DESK - NIGHT

SUPER: "NEW YORK CITY - NOVEMBER 14, 1985"

Rain needles the newsroom windows. Telephones ring beneath a haze of cigarette smoke. The final edition closes in forty minutes.

NORA VALE, 40s, the night editor, points and clicks through a draft on a beige MACINTOSH computer.

At the next desk, copy aide JUNE PARK, 22, pulls the foam headphones of a SONY WALKMAN away from her ears.

JUNE
The university researcher sent us an electronic mail message. I printed it from the network terminal.

She hands Nora a sheet of continuous-feed paper.

LEO GRANT, 30s, an exhausted reporter, pushes through the doors carrying a bulky handheld CELLULAR PHONE and a rain-soaked briefcase.

LEO
The source called me back in the cab.
This thing cost more than the cab.

He drops the phone beside a portable CD PLAYER. A jazz disc spins behind its clear lid.

NORA
Tell me you brought pictures.

Leo opens the briefcase and produces a BETACAM videocassette.

LEO
Interview, documents, the whole exchange.
The camera crew made one clean copy.

Nora takes the cassette, relieved.

NORA
June, get this downstairs. Then open a WEB BROWSER and check the commissioner's biography.

June stops halfway out of her chair.

JUNE
Which browser?

NORA
Whichever one reaches the World Wide Web.
If the name looks wrong, GOOGLE it.

Leo studies Nora, uncertain whether she is joking.

NORA (CONT'D)

And pull up GOOGLE MAPS. I want the exact route between City Hall and the warehouse.

JUNE

On the Macintosh?

NORA

Anywhere. We have thirty minutes.

Leo removes a silver disc from another pocket.

LEO

The cameraman also burned the interview onto this DVD. The picture should be cleaner.

He sets it beside the Betacam cassette.

June takes a tiny square cartridge from her Walkman case.

JUNE

I can copy the source recording to my MINIDISC if the tape room is busy.

Nora nods, already editing again.

NORA

Good. Put the correction list in my PALMPILOT so I have it at the press check.

The newsroom falls silent around her.

LEO

Nora, how much coffee have you had?

Nora looks from the DVD to the MiniDisc to June's empty hands.

NORA

Apparently enough to see the future.

The clock snaps forward another minute.

FADE OUT.