

***GAME***

***SHOW***

***HELL***

**by Eric Berlin**

How did you get here? You don't know. One moment you were watching the Game Show Network and the next... well, there was a puff of brimstone and then the most *abrupt* change of scenery.

Your senses are just becoming accustomed to the notion that you are not in your living room anymore when a voice says, "Welcome to Game Show Hell!"

He is wearing a bad suit. And he has horns on his head. And he is smiling. A lot.

You have no idea how to respond, but that is okay, because he doesn't wait for a response.

"Since this is Game Show Hell and not regular hell," he says, "we offer you a chance for the grand prize: Escape back to your living room! Would you like to play? Of course you would! Follow me!" The Game Show Devil—if that's who he is, and who else *would* he be?—turns and walks away. You quickly follow, while attempting to brace yourself for what you might see down here...

"You are going to play a number of game shows," says the Game Show Devil. "Play each of them successfully and you will wind up with a series of words. Then it's on to the bonus round! Get through *that* and, if you're smart and savvy, you should wind up with both my real name—it's always valuable to have the Devil's real name—and instructions on what you need to do to leave. Ready to begin?"

# JEOPARDY!

"Here we are," says the Game Show Devil. "Our first stop. All you have to do is determine the six answers for each category. That will get you well on your way to escaping."

"Um, those don't look like regular Jeopardy! questions," you say. "I mean, answers."

The Game Show Devil ceases his Game Show Smile for just a moment. It is not a moment you wish to see repeated. "No. I suppose they are not. Would you prefer not to play?"

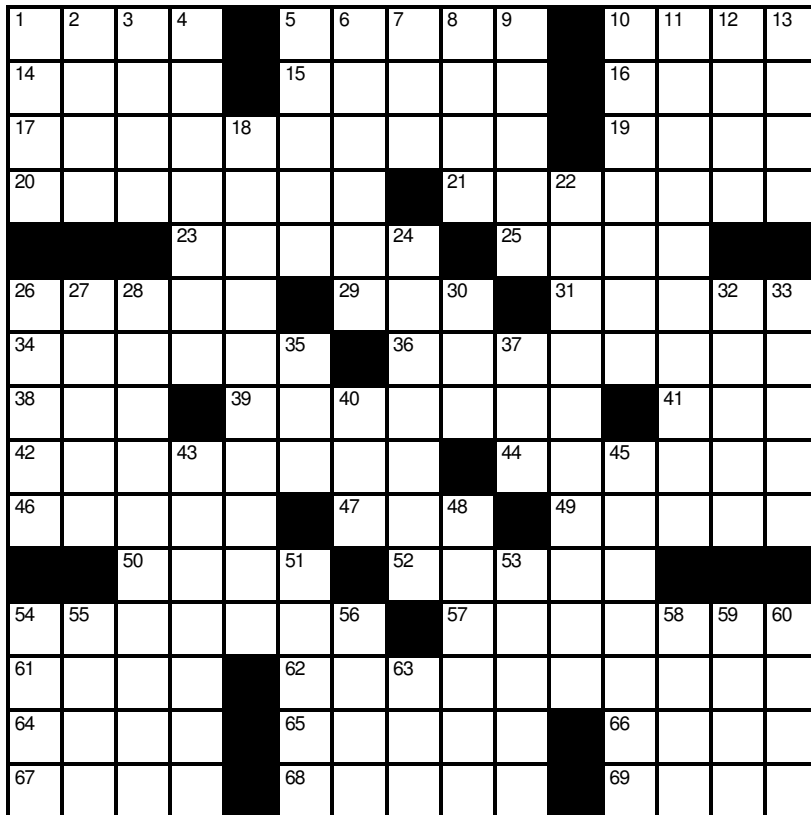
"No," you say quickly. "I didn't say that." You decide not to bring up the fact that the categories aren't there. Or that there are only five answers per column, and the Devil said there would be six. Maybe it's best to work this out on one's own...

Strike this groin while it's hot	Start a taboo computer	Pairs? Octuples!	Pint sticker	Restraint replacement	Straight, racy line
Clinked small change	Device for a plump bicycle	Get dementia between two sides	Put wader down on paper	One in the lead rafts	Preach someplace for a bird
Poison scenario	"Flume," a farm animal	Smote some cats	Clergyman phobias	Secluded, mother one	Stabs a guitar
Badge material: Lint	Ethel: "He's a real cad"	Picker put value on something	Calmeest place for royalty	Onus: Yellow orb	Go streak on blades
Deals a kind of balloon	Clumsy, sloppier person	Angriest oddball	Place in the "Elfin" folder	Two people resolve dating each other	Only one slope

# CROSS WITS

"Oh," you say. "It's a crossword puzzle. Just a plain old, ordinary, run-of-the-mill crossword puzzle with no tricks whatsoever. Right?"

"Uh," says the Game Show Devil.



## Across

1. First name in horror
5. Oscar nominee for "The Insider"
10. Washington or Lincoln
14. Feast of sorts
15. Took a plunge
16. 1975 Wimbledon winner
17. Monster of myth
19. Ref's calls
20. Saved
21. Food that literally means "pierced body"
23. USN officer
25. They're subordinate to a 23-Across
26. Exciting win
29. Start to fix?
31. "Die Fledermaus" role
34. Lit

36. Summertime drink
38. It's often beaten
39. \_\_\_ fish
41. Ans.
42. Local tournament
44. Enthusiastic corrida cheer
46. Take care of
47. One-time detergent brand
49. Pimply
50. Show stoppers?
52. Start of many Latin American place names
54. 1945 conference site
57. Craze
61. Cut, maybe
62. Some cruise ship quarters
64. Bush staffer Karl
65. Hosts others
66. Starship letters
67. 1960s title character
68. Saw
69. Some votes

## Down

1. Become less sharp
2. Sly trick
3. Thin batteries
4. Macho man's pride
5. This, for instance
6. Learn about, with "on"
7. Granola bit
8. They have desktops: Abbr.
9. Joel's moviemaking brother
10. Part of CRT
11. Winter, for many
12. Shoemaker McAn
13. "\_\_\_ Know" (religious song)
18. Better than average
22. Followed
24. Shakespeare title character
26. Online denizens
27. Curved molding
28. Not exactly risqué
30. Architect's addition
32. Also-ran of 1996
33. Sniggled
35. Comfortable room
37. Name in 1995 headlines
40. Craze
43. Took a sip
45. Ben Bernanke's concern
48. Full-figured
51. "Peter and the Wolf" bird
53. Tennis's Lacoste
54. Salon offering
55. B.O. part
56. 1959 hit song
58. Defense possibility
59. Disco classic
60. Computer bailout keys
63. Simile middle

## CONCENTRATION

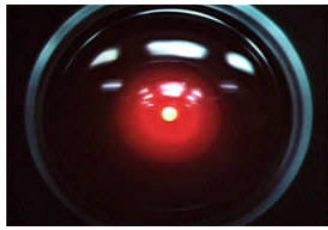
"Ah, a classic game show, don't you agree?" says the Game Show Devil. There is a pause. "I said, *don't you agree?*"

You agree quickly.

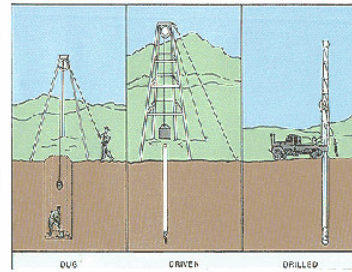
"Nothing but the best for our contestants! In fact, we're so nice down here, we give you an extra picture with each rebus puzzle. Did they do that on the show up on Earth? They did not. They gave you exactly what you needed every time. How *boring*. Down here we know how to do game shows right! Are you sure you don't want to stay? Hmm?" The Devil's smile becomes even toothier.

You decide to duck this question and start solving.

1.



2.



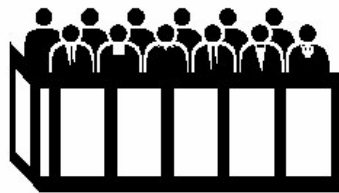
3.



4.



5.



# FAMILY FEUD

"We've had to change this game a little," says the Game Show Devil. "Unless you'd prefer that we bring your family down here...? That's what I figured. So you'll be playing by yourself. In each round, you'll start off with two strikes against you. And while you won't actually know the question for the round—sorry!—you will have most of the board filled in. All you have to do is fill in the right final answer from among the choices given. Easy, right?"

<b>1.</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>3.</b>
SENSEN	BODY	CREW
CHILD	POINT	BAY
SWAMP	CROSSING	BUTTERFLY
BIKING	HONOR	SPAN
BLINK	RIGHT	NECK
<b>MERCK</b> <b>PFIZER</b> <b>NOVARTIS</b> <b>ROCHE</b>	<b>WILLOW</b> <b>COCOON</b> <b>RANSOM</b> <b>SPLASH</b>	<b>BOTTOMS</b> <b>CONWAY</b> <b>ROBBINS</b> <b>DALTON</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>5.</b>	
AMMONIA	BEAN	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> </div>
ENTHUSED	CLEAN	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> </div>
STATUETTE	BIG	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> </div>
ERSATZ	BUBBLE	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> </div>
BOYFRIEND	PEANUT	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> <div style="width: 20px; height: 20px; background-color: #ccc;"></div> </div>
<b>SWEDISH</b> <b>FRENCH</b> <b>SPANISH</b> <b>DUTCH</b>	<b>COCOA</b> <b>MILK</b> <b>WATER</b> <b>COFFEE</b>	

## **WHEEL OF FORTUNE**

"I've got good news and I've got bad news," says the Game Show Devil.

"Uh-oh," you say.

"The *good* news is that we give you all of the letters you need to solve each Wheel of Fortune puzzle below. (In fact, we're so generous, we give you all the letters you need plus one!) The bad news is, you don't get to place any of the letters before you solve the puzzle. Other than that, this is exactly like the game show."

"Except there's no wheel."

"Well, right. That, too. We used it for a while, but people here in Hell tend not to be very lucky. They kept landing on Bankrupt. Slowed down the game."



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ABCEFGHLMOTU

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ABCEGHINORST

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ABCDEHNORSTW

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AEHILORSTW

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BCDEIKLMNOPRSTVY

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DEFGHIMNOSTU

# LET'S MAKE A DEAL

"I'm afraid you've arrived too late to participate in this game show," says the Game Show Devil. "Although perhaps you will ultimately feel that's for the best. In any event, can you match the five contestants to the costumes they wore, the doors they picked, and the prize each contestant won?"

1. Steve came dressed as Superman.
2. Peter did not win the pickles, which were hidden behind door #1.
3. The contestant who won the mildew (who isn't Jeffrey) didn't choose door #5.
4. The mashed potatoes (100 pounds of them!) were behind either door #3 or door #4.
5. The contestant who came dressed as an Eskimo—in hell? What was he thinking?—chose an even-numbered door, one number up from Oscar.
6. The contestant who came dressed as Freddy Krueger won the grout.
7. The contestant who dressed as a doctor picked a door one number greater than Peter, whose door was odd numbered.

		Door Number					Prize					Costume				
		1	2	3	4	5	Gravel	Grout	Mashed	Mildew	Pickles	Doctor	Eskimo	Freddy	Phantom	Superman
Contestant	Jeffrey															
	Oscar															
	Peter															
	Ronald															
	Steve															
Costume	Doctor															
	Eskimo															
	Freddy															
	Phantom															
	Superman															
Prize	Gravel															
	Grout															
	Mashed															
	Mildew															
	Pickles															

# THE PRICE IS RIGHT

“Unlike so many of our other games, this one plays exactly as you might remember: Just match each item to its price tag.”

You are immediately suspicious. “That’s it? That’s all I have to do?”

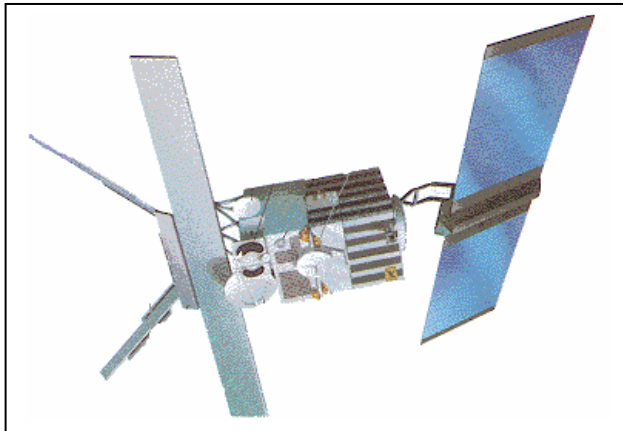
“Sure! Of course, pricing works a bit differently down here...”



\$358.30

\$2,479.50

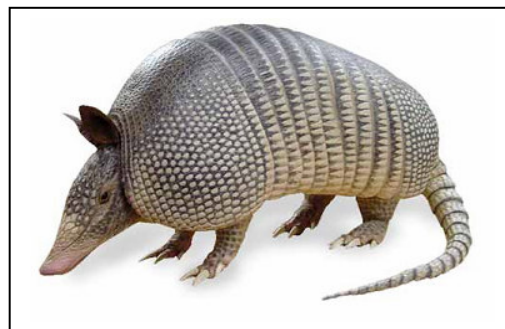
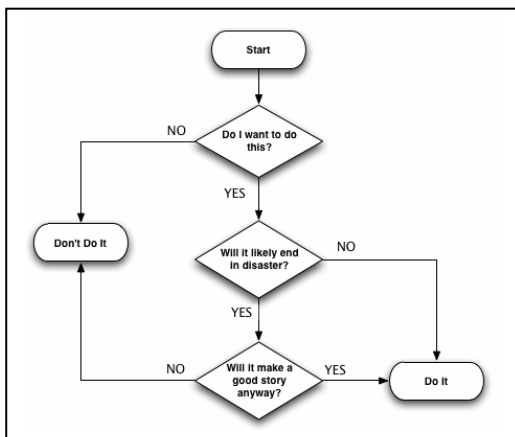
\$279.40



\$37.70

\$1,469.80

\$2,468.40



# BONUS ROUND!

4\* 8\* 3 5 2 3 "4 2 3 4..." 4?

A	A	C	C	D	E	K	O	R	T	T	V	W	Y
K	N	S	W	S	H	T	A	N	E	K	N	I	O
O	T	I	H	G	D	L	W	E	W	H	F	A	T

GLXZ TH ZLK MXHZ IXCK PN ZLK \*XNUTJXI-  
 \*XCKUTJXI XJZPU XIA YXUTZPIK GLP  
 XVVKXUKA TI \*YUPXAGXB VUPAFJZTPIH PN  
 ^ZXYPP, ^HLPG ^YPXZ, XIA \*PZLK MMP?


**Across**

- Settled for less
- This puzzle's answer
- It might be by the seaside
- Perfectly
- Most tremendous
- Big blasts

**Down**

- Girl's name in a Beatles title
- Went for a bite
- Information on a particular bottle
- Overdoes it, in a way
- Worst of all
- Fair-sized musical groups

4 5 6 3 5 5 2 9 \*6?

DEF EAR EAT EBY FIR HIS ING ITL  
 LIS NED STT TBO TON WHA XER

E H T E E T E L  
 A T H L E T E E  
 R L A E T A R T  
 T A R E T L A H  
 H E T H R H E A  
 E H E R E T R L  
 L R E A E A E L  
 L E L T T A T R

- ATHLETE
- EARTH
- HALTER
- HEALTH
- HELL
- LEATHER
- LETHAL
- RETREAT
- TAR HEEL
- TART
- TATTLE
- TEETHE
- TREE