George Simon is a mid-level production engineer employed by Ajax Corporation. Due to a less-than-satisfactory relationship with his wife of 10 years, George tends to stay in the office until late in the evening, often just playingl computer games. As a result of his late hours, he has earned a reputation as a hard working and productive employee who is regularly permitted to take extra long lunch hours. George uses these lunch hours to visit his mistress, to whom he gives office supplies from work, which she uses in a business she runs from her home. One Dec. evening at approximately 11 p.m., George is staring mindlessly out of his office window when he sees an unmarked semi-trailer truck pull up to the loading dock. Curiously, he watches as the truck is loaded with industrial waste, which he recognizes as low-level radioactive waste products from the production line. Although this waste isl handled by the environmental division of the company, George knows its disposal is usually contracted out to an environmental disposal company that operates according to a strict set of government regulations. He has also heardl rumors that some in company management consider this to be an unnecessary waste of company resources, sincel proper disposal is a very expensive process. Recent changes in regulations have made the disposal of the waste twice as expensive as it was previously. This added expense occurs at a time when shareholders in the company have beenl pushing for a greater return on their investments. Having nothing better to do-and not wanting to go home to his wife-out of curiosity, George decides to follow the truck. After a half-hour drive, the truck stops at a lake and dumps its load near the shoreline. The truck then drives off, and George, somewhat reflectively, drives home. There his wife is waiting up to criticize him, since there is not enough money to pay the mortgage. She wants to know where all the money goes every month, since there never seems tol be enough to pay the bills. George slaps her across the mouth and decides to sleep on the couch. The next day, playing around on his computer, George looks up the lake where he witnessed the industrial waste being dumped. To his surprise, he discovers that lake is the principal source of municipal water for the community in whichl he lives. George decides to encourage his wife to start a new fad diet, which involves drinking 2 gallons of water every day, and looks forward to a few beers over lunch with his mistress

乔治·西蒙是阿贾克斯公司的一名中级生产工程师。由于与结婚10年的妻子的关系并不尽如人意，乔治常常在办公室呆到很晚，经常只是玩电脑游戏。由于他工作时间晚，他赢得了一个勤奋和高效的员工的声誉，经常被允许使用额外的午餐时间。乔治利用这些午餐时间去拜访他的情妇，他从工作中给她提供办公用品，这些用品是她在家里经营的一家公司使用的。12月的一个晚上，大约11点的时候，乔治正茫然地盯着办公室窗外，这时他看到一辆没有标记的半挂车停在了装货码头。奇怪的是，他看着卡车装载着工业废料，他认出那是生产线上的低放射性废料。虽然这些废物是由公司的环境部门处理的，但乔治知道它的处理通常是外包给一个环境处理公司，该公司按照一套严格的政府法规运营。他还听到传言说，一些公司管理层认为这是对公司资源的不必要浪费，因为适当的处理是一个非常昂贵的过程。最近法规的变化使得垃圾处理的成本是以前的两倍。当公司的股东一直在争取更大的投资回报时，就会出现这种额外的支出。因为没有更好的事情做，也不想回家见他的妻子，因为好奇，乔治决定跟着卡车。开了半小时后，卡车停在一个湖边，把货物倒在岸边。然后卡车开走了，乔治若有所思地开车回家。他的妻子在那里等着批评他，因为没有足够的钱支付抵押贷款。她想知道每个月的钱都到哪里去了，因为似乎总是不够付账单。乔治打了她一巴掌，决定睡在沙发上。第二天，乔治在电脑上玩耍，他看到了工业废料被倾倒的湖面。令他惊讶的是，他发现这个湖是他生活的社区的主要市政用水来源。乔治决定鼓励他的妻子开始一种新的流行饮食，包括每天喝2加仑的水，并期待着与他的情妇在午餐时喝几杯啤酒