

# *Infinite Jest: a scene-by-scene guide*

Ch.	Scene	Page #	Year	Synopsis
1	1	3-10	YEAR OF GLAD	Hal narrates, Interview with University of Arizona Deans. Questions regarding Hal's rather stellar record.
	2	10-11	(unspecified)	Hal narrates. Eating the mold.
	3	11-13	YG	Hal attempts to explain his record to the deans. Is there something wrong with his voice?
	4	13-15	YG	Hal restrained in a U of AZ men's room
	5	15-17	YG	Hal is taken away in an ambulance
2	6	17-26	YEAR OF THE DEPEND ADULT UNDER-GARMENT	Steve Erdedy, preparing for a marijuana binge, waits for a woman to deliver the goods.
3	7	27-31	YEAR OF THE TUCKS MEDICATED PAD	4/1: 12-year-old Hal goes to see a "conversation" doctor; it turns out to be his father in disguise.
4	8	32-33	YDAU	5/9: Hal gets phone call from Orin, Mario wakes up
5	9	33-37	YDAU	4/1: The medical attaché comes home to relax and watch some "Entertainment"
	10	37-38	YEAR OF THE TRIAL-SIZED DOVE BAR	Clenette narrates, tells a tale about her friend Wardine's abusive family
	11	38-39	(unspecified)	The tale of Bruce Green and Mildred Bonk
6	12	39-42	YDAU	Hal and Mario in their room at night. They discuss Himself's funeral.
	13	42	YDAU	4/1: medical attaché is still watching...
	14	42- 49	YDAU	10/?: Orin wakes up in AZ, wishes last night's "Subject" would leave.
7	15	49-54	YDAU	17 yr. old Hal getting high in the basement of Enfield Tennis Academy
	16	55- 60	YEAR OF DAIRY PRODUCTS FROM THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND	Autumn: Don Gately's criminal career comes to an end after accidentally murdering a Canadian VIP during a robbery. This VIP has ties to various anti-O.N.A.N. groups
	17	60	YDAU	Description of a state-of-the-art teleputer
	18	60-61	YDAU	11/3: Troelsch sick in bed at ETA
	19	60-63	(unspecified)	1 <sup>st</sup> /(2 <sup>nd</sup> ?) person: description of 12 yr old's nightmare at E. T. A.
8	20	63-64	(as of) YDAU	Brief description and history of ETA and its founder, James O. Incandenza
	21	65-66	YDAU	11/1: Orin at football practice
9	22	66-67	YDAU	Michael Pemulis, as "Big Buddy," talks about drugs to his younger charges

	23	67-68	YDAU	1 <sup>st</sup> person: Hal, after a bong hit, relates a tennis dream
10	24	68-78	YDAU	Kate Gompert explains the extent of her addiction to marijuana ("Bob Hope") to a young doctor
	25	78-79	YDAU	4/2: the medical attaché's wife returns home...
	26	79-85	YDAU	Gerhardt Schtitt and Mario talk game theory
	27	85-87	YDAU	Tiny Ewell and an unnamed passenger are transported to the Enfiled Marine VA hospital
11	28	87	YDAU	4/2: the list of people who have come to the medical attaché's house to look for him...
	29	87-92	YDAU	4/30: Tuscon, AZ Maranthe and special agent Hugh Steeply (in drag) meet on a hillside to discuss the appearance, earlier that month, of a special form of Entertainment
	30	93	(unspecified)	Description of a herd of feral hamsters in the Great Concavity
	31	93-95	YDAU	4/30: Maranthe and Steeply continued
	32	95-97	YDAU	11/3: locker room banter at ETA. Troelsch, Pemulis, Wayne, Stice, Struck, Freer and Hal are present
	33	97	YDAU	4/30: Maranthe and Steeply continued. Sunset.
	34	97-105	YDAU	More banter in the locker room. Complaints about Schtitt's expectations of them
	35	105-108	YDAU	4/30: Maranthe and Steeply continued. Talk of love...
	36	109-121	YDAU	11/3: Hal with his "little buddies" (Kent Blott, Idris Arslanian, Ingersol). He convinces them that their resentment of Schtitt is engineered by Schtitt and his staff. Switches to John (NR) Wayne, Troelsch, Struck, and Stice, each with his group of younger students.
	37	121-126	YDAU	Mid-Oct.: "Mario Incandenza's First and Only Even Remotely Romantic Experience, Thus Far." It is indeed only remote, with the "USS" Millicent Kent
	38	126-127	YDAU	4/30: Maranthe and Steeply continued.
	39	127	YDAU	4/30: Maranthe and Steeply continued. (One line.)
12	40	127-128	YDAU	First description of the ETA's oiled guru, Lyle
	41	128-135	(unspecified)	"yrstruly" narrates a gruesome story involving C, Poor Tony, and the despicable Dr. Wo in Chinatown. C od's
13	42	135-137	YDAU	11/3: Hal receives a phone call from Orin O. asks him about Canadian Separatism.
	43	137-138	(unspecified)	Introduction to the Ennet House Drug and Alcohol Recovery House (sic)
	44	138-140	YEAR OF DAIRY PRODUCTS FROM THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND	Excerpt from a letter to State Farm detailing a bricklayer's bizarre accident. This is perhaps Wallace's most obvious example of borrowing

	45	140-142	YEAR OF THE PERDUE WONDER-CHICKEN	Hal's seventh-grade essay comparing "Hawaii-Five-O"s Steve McGarrett with "Hill Street Blues"s Frank Furillo. The latter is a post-modern, more complicated, and perhaps too mild hero.
	46	142-144	YDAU	8/10: "Helen" Steeply's <i>Moment</i> article about a woman who carried her artificial heart in her purse. She was mugged... [Poor Tony was the purse snatcher.]
	47	144	(unspecified)	Alphabetic list of anti-ONAN groups.
	48	144-151	(unspecified)	Why Videophony didn't work
14	49	151-156	YDAU	10/15: Urine tests at ETA, Pemulis sells clean samples
15	50	157-168	1960	James Incandenza's father narrates, addressing 10 yr old Jim. Discusses Marlon Brando, tennis, and his own father's reaction when he blew out his knee at a match.
	51	169-171	YDAU	11/4: Pemulis scores some DMZ (Madame Psychosis).
	52	172-176	YEAR OF THE SHITSU 2007 MIMETIC-RESOLUTION-CARTRIDGE- VIEW-MOTHERBOARD-EASY-TO-INSTALL UPGRADE FOR INFERNATRON/INTERLACE TP SYSTEMS FOR HOME, OFFICE OR MOBILE ( <i>sic</i> )	Hal's narration of <i>Tennis and the Feral Prodigy</i> , a film by Mario Incandenza
	53	176-181	YDAU	11/5: Selected transcripts from Patricia Montesian's Log at Ennet House. Voices of recovering drug and alcohol abusers.
16	54	181-193	YDAU	Late Oct: at WYYY, Sixty Minutes More or Less with Madame Psychosis, is about to go on. The late shift engineer goes to the roof to drink a Millennial Fizzy and listen top the show. Mario, with Hal at HmH, listens to the show.
	55	193-198	YDAU	Description of Unit #'s 1-7 of Ennet House
	56	198-200	YDAU	11/6: Freer and Kornspan work out while Rader consults with Lyle. Pemulis eavesdrops.
	57	200-210	YDAU	More detailed introduction to Ennet House and its residents. Tiny Ewell's obsession with tattoos.
	58	211-219	YDAU	Michael Pemulis explains that he has scored some DMZ, the "Yale U. of the Ivy League of Acid" from some Canadian insurgents. The boys decide to plan on taking it the weekend before the WhataBurger Invitational, 11/20-21
17	59	219-223	YDAU	11/7: Joelle Van Dyne, star of Jim Incandenza's movies, goes to Molly Notkin's MA thesis party.

	60	223	YG	Chronology of Subsidized Time
	61	223-226	YDAU	Joelle thinks about Orin and his father, the "world's best hailer of Boston cabs."
	62	227	YDAU	Helen P. Steeple's (Putative) Curriculum Vitae
	63	227-240	YDAU	Joelle attempts to overdose in the bathroom at a party of cinema graduate students
18	64	240-242	YDAU	Geographical description of Enfield, MA
	65	242-258	YDAU	11/5: Hal and Orin on the telephone. Now Orin wants to discuss Himself's suicide. (He put his head in a microwave.) Meanwhile, Hal is clipping his toenails and making miraculous shots into the wastepaper basket.
19	66	258-270	YDAU	11/6: Tennis meet at Port Washington Tennis Academy, Long Island, NY. Descriptions of Hal and John ("No Relation") Wayne playing their respective games. Pemulis gets sick Schacht plays a French-Canadian.
	67	270-281	YDAU	Gately (substance-free for 421 days) is now staff Ennet House. Geoffrey Day, Charlotte Treat, Randy Lenz all appear.
	68	281-283	YDAU	ETA returns from Long Island Triumphant
20	69	283-299	(unspecified)	The story of Orin and Joelle, the Prettiest Girl of All Time (PGOAT). His switch from tennis to football in college.
	70	299-306	YDAU	11/14: Poor Tony goes through withdrawal in the bathroom stall of a Boston public library.
21	71	306-312	YDAU	11/6: description of ETA's Saturday academic classes. Ex.: Mary Esther Thode's "The Personal is the Political is the pathological." Ex. of an exam on psychopathological double-binds. Troelsch's broadcast of the morning's games on WETA (ETA's intercom). Hal is in Theirry Poutrincourt's class on Canadian political history. Some details of anti-ONAN activity (large mirrors across highways)
	72	312-317	(unspecified)	Mario's surprise birth, and a description of some of his deformities.
	73	317-321	YDAU	4/30-5/1: Maranthe and Steeple continued.
22	74	321-342	YDAU	11/8: Interdependence Day. A game of Eschaton.
	75	343-367	YDAU	11/8: Boston AA meeting. Description of several speakers, (a "fifty year old immigrant" waxes eloquently about his first solid bowel movement in years) and the "crocodiles." Gately is curious about new girl Joelle.
	76	367	(unspecified)	The Statue of Liberty's product is changed every Jan 1.
	77	367-375	YDAU	Boston AA meeting. A young girl describes her foster father sexually abusing her paraplegic stepsister...
	78	375	YDAU	4/30-5/1: Maranthe and Steeple continued.
	79	375-376	(unspecified)	James Incandenza's Found Drama came out of a late-night session with

				Lyle
	80	376-379	YDAU	11/8: Boston AA meeting. Story of baby's death.
	81	379	(unspecified)	James Incandenza and Lyle in the weight room.
23	82	380-386	YDAU	11/8: Mario Incandenza's film interpretation of the formation of ONAN
	83	386-394	YDAU	11/8: Lyle in the weightroom with sweaty ETA student Marlon and others (Anton "Booger" Douchette...) Return to Mario's film, which is now covering major political events with a montage of newspaper headlines. History of Johnny Gentle's CUSP and the Gre at Concavity.
	84	394-395	YDAU	11/8: Lyle tells Ortho "The Darkness" Stice, "Do not underestimate objects." Stice's bed has been moving at night.
	85	395-398	YDAU	11/8: Hal watching Mario's film. Description of Himself's <i>The Medusa vs. the Odalisque</i> and <i>THE JOKE</i> .
	86	398-410	YDAU	11/8: Continuation of Mario's film, with more headlines and a puppet show of Gentle and Rodney Tine, Chief, US Office of Unspecified Services. The story of legendary tennis player Eric Clipperton and his Glock 17 semiautomatic.
	87	410-418	YDAU	11/8: Hal watching Mario's film. History of Interlace, proliferation of advertising, and garbage in space.
	88	418-430	YDAU	4/30-5/1: Maranthe and Steeply continued.
	89	430-434	(unspecified)	Eric Clipperton's death.
	90	434-436	YDAU	Gately's other job, cleaning bathrooms.
	91	436-442	YDAU	Mario's film continued. More headlines and puppet's. The origin of subsidized time.
24	92	442-449	YDAU	Gately's relationship with the crocodiles. He remembers the death of his mother.
	93	449-450	YDAU	Very late Oct: Hal's bad dream.
	94	450-461	YDAU	11/9: Morning drills at ETA.
	95	461-469	YDAU	Don Gately's responsibilities at Ennet House. His boss, Pat Montesian.
	96	470-475	YDAU	Pre-dawn 5/1: Maranthe and Steeply continued. Discussion of BS govt experiments on human subjects...
	97	475-489	YDAU	Gately out in Pat M.'s car . Interesting shift, via a piece of garbage, to Lucien and Bertraud Anitoi's store. Arrival of and interrogation by the dreaded ATF
25	98	490-491	YDAU	Pre-dawn 5/1: Maranthe and Steeply continued.
	99	491-503	1963	Jim Incandenza helps his father fix a mattress...
	100	503-507	YDAU	At a NA meeting, Ken Erdedy gets a hug.
	101	507-508	YDAU	Maranthe and Steeply continued.

	102	508-527	YDAU	Hal anticipate an official scolding from Charles Tavis for the Eschaton game. He waits in "Lateral" Alice Moore's office, overhears Avril counseling the pre-teen female ETAs.
	103	528-530	YDAU	Pre-dawn and 5/1: Maranthe and Steeply continued.
	104	531-538	YDAU	11/11: Discussion between Gately and Joelle. The latter explains her membership in UHID
26	105	538-547	YDAU	Randy Lenz discovers his penchant for killing animals.
	106	548	YDAU	No door at Ennet House...
	107	548-549	YDAU	Early Nov: Rodney Tine and his special metric ruler.
	108	550-553	YDAU	Pemulis interrupts John Wayne and Avril Incandenza in a game of sexual football.
	109	553-559	YDAU	Randy Lenz and Bruce Green walking Boston at night.
	110	560	YDAU	Hal in bed after lunch. John Wayne stops by.
	111	560-562	YDAU	Randy Lenz and Bruce Green walking Boston at night.
	112	563-565	YDAU	11/11: Selected snippets of Gately's interactions with Ennet House residents.
	113	565-567	YDAU	Orin and a Swiss hand model in a motel room.
	114	567-574	YDAU	Idris Arslanian, in a blindfold, runs into first Ted Schacht, then Mike Pemulis.
	115	574-575	YDAU	Orin at motel door with a man in a wheelchair.
	116	575-589	YDAU	Bruce Green and Randy Lenz. Green remembers the death of his mother (coiled toy snake in a can). Lenz separates, kills a dog tied up in yard of a house having a Hawaiian party.
	117	589-593	YDAU	Mario, who can't sleep, walks outside.
	118	593-596	YDAU	More of Gately's responsibilities at Ennet House.
	119	596-601	YDAU	Still at the motel door, Orin answers the man in the wheelchair's "survey."
	120	601-619	YDAU	Gately's showdown with the Canadians. Gately seriously wounded.
27	121	620-626	YDAU	"The new millennium's passion for standing live witness to things." Grad student engineer for WYYY is kidnapped by a man in a wheelchair.
	122	627-638	YDAU	11/11: Suppertime at ETA. Troelsch's conspiracy theory that the milk is powdered.
	123	638-648	YDAU	5/1: Maranthe and Steeply continued. Steeply's father's addiction to BS-era show "M*A*S*H."
	124	648-651	YDAU	11/13: Kate Gompert, Geoffrey Day, and Bruce Green late-night rap session. Day describes the "large, dark, billowing, black shape" he's felt twice in his life.

	125	651-662	YDAU	11/11: The match between Stice and Hal. Narrative "clicks" to scan Gatley, Poor Tony, Pemulis and Struck, Steeply's sedan, CT, and even Orin in AZ. Steeply chats with Aubrey deLint as they watch the match.
	126	663-665	YDAU	Epistolary exchange between Steeply and Marlon Bain, friend of Orin's during adolescence.
	127	666-673	YDAU	11/11: sub-14 males in ETA's tunnels on clean-up detail. There are rumors of feral hamsters, but instead they find a refrigerator full of rotting food.
	128	673-682	YDAU	11/11: Steeply speaks, in French, to female prorector Thierry Poutrincourt.
	129	682-686	YDAU	11/11: Matty Pemulis, male prostitute, eats in a diner. Memories of sexual abuse from his father.
	130	686-689	YDAU	11/11: after supper, Hal decides to watch some of Himself's films. Description of <i>Wave Bye-Bye to the Bureaucrat</i> .
	131	689-691	YDAU	11/14: Poor Tony contemplates a purse snatching before he heads to the Antitois.'
	132	692	YDAU	Geoffrey Day: almost misses Lenz "brandishing the Hog" in the 3-man room.
	133	692-698	YDAU	On Kate Gompert's depression and depression in general. Himself's <i>The American Century as Seen Through a Brick</i> described.
	134	698-700	YDAU	11/14: Kate Gompert and Ruth van Cleve on the street, followed by Poor Tony Krause.
	135	700	YDAU	Troelsch puts in a pro-wrestling cartridge.
	136	700	YDAU	Pemulis adjusts a ceiling tile in Subdorm B.
	137	700	YDAU	Lyle sitting.
	138	701	YDAU	Coach Schitt with Mario in his BMW
	139	701	YDAU	Avril calling Arizona.
	140	701-711	YDAU	Hal watches <i>Blood Sister: One Tough Nun</i> . The plot of this film in detail. Hal thinks about another of his father's films, <i>Low-Temperature Civics</i> . Switch to Joelle at a Cocaine Anon meeting, listening to a speaker describe his lowest moment (walking out on his wife and child.)
	141	711-714	YDAU	The end of <i>Blood Sister: One Tough Nun</i> .
	142	714-716	YDAU	Kate Gompert right after Poor Tony snatched her purse.
	143	716-719	YDAU	Lenz, high on coke, plans to rob the "Oriental women."
	144	719	YDAU	The plan of <i>Les Assassins des Fauteuil Rollents</i>
	145	719-721	YDAU	Poor Tony running from Ruth van Cleve.
	146	721-723	YDAU	AFR's USA cell's leader, Fortier: how the AFR found the Entertainment at the Antitois'.

	147	723	YDAU	Fortier enjoys the USA's condescension toward the wheelchaired.
	148	723-724	YDAU	Joelle worries about her teeth.
	149	724-728	YDAU	The Wheelchair Assassins discover the <i>samizdat</i> Entertainment.
	150	728-729	YDAU	Lenz in a back alley after robbing the Asian women.
	151	729-735	YDAU	Maranthe at Ennet House.
	152	736-747	YDAU	Joelle cleaning her room. How Joelle and Himself became close. Descriptions of <i>Prenuptial Agreement of Heaven and Hell</i> and <i>The Medusa v. The Odalisque</i> . Thanksgiving dinner at the Incandenza house.
	153	747-751	YDAU	Maranthe's entry interview (with Pat M.) at Ennet House.
	154	751-752	YDAU	Joelle cleaning
	155	752-755	YDAU	Maranthe's entry interview (with Pat M.) at Ennet House continued.
	156	755-769	YDAU	11/11: Mario filming for his documentary. Interviews Felicity Zweig, LaMont Chu, and then the Moms. He asks her, "How can tell if somebody's sad?"
	157	769-774	YDAU	Mario and Hal talk in their room. Hal describes how Pemulis talked his way out of the urine test.
	158	775-782	YDAU	Maranthe and Kate Gompert meet in a bar
	159	782-785	YDAU	Mario tells Hal that he seems sad.
	160	785-787	YDAU	11/17: Johnette lets an upscale kid (Hal) into Ennet House.
	161	787		footnote 324
	162	787-795	YDAU	Results of Rodney Tine Jr.'s interrogation of Molly Notkin. Description of Thanksgiving dinner at Joelle's parents house, YTMP.
	163	795		footnote 332
	164	795-808	YDAU	Hal at what he thinks is a meeting for Narcotics Anonymous. Turns out the meeting focuses on the Inner Infant, and one of the speakers is Kevin Bain, Orin's friend Marlon's brother.
28	165	809-827	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. Interactions with Tiny Ewell, Joelle, Pat M., Calvin Thrust.
	166	827-845	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. The wraith. Gately remembers the MP that used to live with his mother.
	167	845-846	YDAU	11/16: The AFR's plan to replace the Quebecois tennis players en route to ETA
	168	846-851	YDAU	Gately in the hospital: His memories of Mrs. Waite and his vision of Joelle as death.
	169	851-854	YDAU	11/20: Hal narrates. He wakes up after a bad dream.
	170	854-864	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. Joelle visits him.

	171	864-876	YDAU	Hal narrates: Ortho "The Darkness" Stice with his forehead stuck to a window in the dorm's hallway. Late introduction of Kenkle and Brandt, ETA janitorial staff.
	172	876-883	YDAU	11/20: Meeting between Rodney Tine, Sr. (and staff) with Glad regarding Year of Glad and "Fully Functional Phil," the prancing ass.
	173	883-896	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. Memories of "Nom" from "Cheers!" Ferocious Francis visits. More about Gately's past: how he started crewing.
	174	896-902	YDAU	Hal narrates: in his room, he lies down and is unable to get up.
	175	902-906	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. The history of his substance abuse.
	176	906-911	YDAU	Hal narrates: he talks with Pemulis then watches part of his father's film <i>Good-Looking Men in Small Clever Rooms That Utilize Every Centimeter of Available Space with Mind-Boggling Efficiency</i> .
	177	911-916	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. Remembers working for Willie Sorkin with Gene Fackelmann.
	178	916	YDAU	Pemulis finds several drop-ceiling panels on the floor of Subdormitory B. He's looking for an old sneaker behind the relevant panel.
	179	916-934	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. Memories of More on Gene Fackelmann. His ex-girlfriend Pamela Hoffman-Jeep. His dream about a kid and Joelle in a graveyard... "Too Late."
	180	934	YDAU	Joelle is apprehended.
	181	934-938	YDAU	Gately in the hospital. Remember getting high with Gene on the drug Gene bought with stolen money.
	182	938-941	YDAU	Joelle being interviewed by Helen Steeply.
	183	941-958	YDAU	Hal narrates: Mario and Kyle Dempsey Coyle are also watching one of Himself's films. Explanation of what happened to Stice. Description of <i>Accomplice!</i>
	184	958	YDAU	Joelle returns to Ennett House, sees a police car stationed outside
	185	958-960	YDAU	Mikey, a "sick fuck," tells his story at an AA meeting
	186	960-964	YDAU	An ADA talks with Pat M. about the Ninth Step. He needs to Gately to forgive him.
	187	964-971	YDAU	11/20: Immediately Pre-Fundraiser Exhibition Fête. Narrated by an unnamed ETA student.
	188	971-972	YDAU	Orin in a huge inverted glass, interrogation by Luria P-----
	189	972-981	YDAU	Gately in the hospital: After the drug binge, Bobby C arrives to punish Gene Fackelmann.

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