

DADVENTURE

Written by

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INT. JOEL'S GARAGE - DAY

SUPER: YUMA, AZ 1982

Gospel song BOOMS from the stereo. A 1977 Yellow VW Bug sits, bikes hang, gardening tools on the wall, bench press...etc.

Phone rings just inside the door frame to the garage. A young man slides out from underneath the Bug. It is JOEL, 18, fit, in chucks, greased up tank and dirty jeans.

JOEL
Relentless!

Joel rises to his feet and steps into the doorway. He grabs the phone on the wall inside, and brings it to his ear.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Hello!

CYNTHIA (V.O.)
Turn the music down Joel!

He reaches inside the garage, turns the stereo knob.

JOEL
Sorry ma.

CYNTHIA (V.O.)
Listen, I gotta cover here at work.
I need you to go pick up Calvin.

JOEL
But ma, the Love Bug, she's still
on the fritz.

CYNTHIA (V.O.)
Some advice... don't call her that.

JOEL
Ok, well, no matter what I call
her, she's not road ready.

CYNTHIA (V.O.)
Not my problem. It's already bad
enough we couldn't make the game.

JOEL
How am I gonna get there?

CYNTHIA (V.O.)
I trust you'll figure it out. I'll
grab a pizza when I'm on my way. K,
gotta run, bye.

Cynthia hangs up the phone. Joel hangs up and stares off in wonderment. He sees skateboards against the wall.

EXT/INT. JOEL'S STREET/CURB - DAY

Joel, with another skateboard in hand, skates by a Toyota Celica parked on the opposite side of the street of his home.

Inside the Celica on the driver side sits, TODD, 20s, slim and slimy. And CLYDE, 20s, husky. They eye Cynthia's home.

TODD

There she is Clyde. Our new bachelor pad.

CLYDE

What about the one bedroom apartment mom offered?

Todd glares at him.

TODD

We already shared a womb. And that was nine months too long! Just imagine the ragers were gonna have... coeds galore.

Clyde looks up to the sky, imagining.

CLYDE

Wait, what's a coed?

TODD

You'll know soon enough brother. School starts in a few weeks and ma promised us a place before that.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD - DAY

Banner across fenced backstop reads: Babe Ruth Championship. Fans stand beside the burning hot bleachers.

The pitcher, JOHNNY, 14, is set, then delivers a pitch.

The batter SMACKS a hard grounder between third and short.

The shortstop pounces, dives and snags it, keeping it in the infield. It is CALVIN, 14, a couple years removed from breaking girls' hearts in a letterman's jacket.

Calvin springs up and checks runners at every base. He then decides to jog the ball into Johnny.

Scoreboard reads: 2 - 1 and 2 Outs.

JOHNNY
Nice stop Cal.

CALVIN
Hey. We just need one more.

A man steps out from the dugout, he's burly and bearded, it's COACH OLSON, 40s. Last name across back of the jersey.

COACH OLSON
Time Blue.

The umpire throws up his hands.

JOHNNY
Shoot, here he comes.

Coach Olson strides to the mound, and waves in the infielders.

COACH OLSON
Huddle up boys.

The infielders jog in to the mound and huddle around him.

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)
You're tiring Johnny. Thinking about switching it up.

JOHNNY
Come on dad. Let me finish it.

Coach rubs the back of his neck, unsure.

COACH OLSON
I don't know, what do you think...

NOAH (O.S.)
Leave'em in coach.

Everybody turns their heads, perplexed, at NOAH. He's 14, skinny, pale, with red hair.

NOAH (CONT'D)
What?

COACH OLSON
Noah?! Get your butt back in right and pray the ball doesn't come your way. I sure know I am.

Noah drops his head and sulks out of the huddle.

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)
 How did that kid... Anyways,
 Calvin, what's your opinion?

Calvin eyes Johnny. Johnny looks back sympathetically.

CALVIN
 He's good to finish it!

Coach, hesitant, eyes Johnny who perks up with confidence. He then takes the ball in his hand and holds it out in front of Johnny. Johnny holds out his glove; Coach drops the ball in.

COACH OLSON
 Get it done son!

Coach exits the huddle. All the other infielders follow suit as Calvin sticks back.

JOHNNY
 Thanks Cal.

CALVIN
 This kid's a dead red hitter...
 Stick with the slow stuff.

Calvin jogs back into position. Johnny stares, growing faith.

MOMENTS LATER

Umpire holds fingers up indicating 2-2 count. Johnny checks catcher's signs. He smirks and nods "yes" on the changeup.

Batter grits his teeth. Johnny comes set, checks the runners. He then fires the pitch. The batter's eyes light up as the ball approaches. He swings through his shoes, WHIFFS!

The batter falls to the ground, dejected. The catcher pops up from the crouch and raises both arms excited. Johnny throws up his glove and the team rushes him in jubilation!

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD/OUTFIELD - DAY

The team huddles around Coach Olson. There's a buzz in the air between the players, excited for their victory.

COACH OLSON
 Alright, alright settle down.

The boys quiet down and listen in.

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)
Great season guys. Couldn't be more proud of all of you. Let's give it up for Noah, those spikes finally touched a base.

Boys cheer sarcastically. Noah cheeses, drinks in sarcasm.

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)
Ok, ok. We want to celebrate this season properly. We're gonna have a Dogs and Dads day at my house.

NOAH
But I don't have a dog!

COACH OLSON
Hot dogs Noah, hot dogs.

Noah mouths "ohh".

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)
With 4th of July this weekend, we haven't nailed down a day. But I'll get with your dads and let ya know.

The boys nod in understanding, while Calvin looks unsettled as Coach's voice drowns out.

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD/DUGOUT - DAY

Coach Olson picks up his large baseball bag, steps across the dirt floor to exit where Johnny stands.

COACH OLSON
Ready son?

JOHNNY
Dad, you need to talk to Calvin.

COACH OLSON
About?

JOHNNY
Uh, the party. You know he...

EXT. BASEBALL FIELD/PARKING LOT - DAY

Calvin throws his Louisville Slugger baseball bag over his shoulders and looks up to see his teammates celebrate their victory with their dads at their cars.

He drops his shoulders, a deep-rooted envy sets in. Coach Olson lumbers up beside him.

COACH OLSON
Nice job today Calvin. We couldn't
have done it without you.

Calvin doesn't respond as he's locked in on his view.

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)
Calvin, you ok?

CALVIN
Every boy should know who their
father is.

Coach nods and surveys the parking lot of Fathers and sons.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
I'm gonna find him.

COACH OLSON
Been praying for that since we met.
And for the party, you can bring
your cousin Joel. At least you have
him, right.

CALVIN
He'll be leaving me next month too.

Coach Olson eyes Calvin, empathetic, as Joel rides into the parking lot on his skateboard.

COACH OLSON
Speak of the devil. Have a good
weekend Calvin, and know I'm here
for you if you need anything.

Coach pats his shoulder, Calvin appreciates it.

MOMENTS LATER

Calvin steps up to Joel as he stands on his skateboard.

CALVIN
Where's Aunt Cynthia?

JOEL
Had to cover at the hospital.

CALVIN
They don't pay her enough.

JOEL
Nope. You ready.

Joel kick slides the skateboard he brought toward Calvin.

EXT. SUBURBAN COMMUNITY - DAY

Calvin and Joel skate on the sidewalk in a middle-class neighborhood.

JOEL
So, did Noah get some action?

CALVIN
He actually got on base.

JOEL
What? He got a hit?

CALVIN
He got a hit-by-pitch!

JOEL
Haha, bet he squealed like a pig.

CALVIN
Nah, he handled it well. Even did a bat flip.

Joel bobs head, slightly impressed. Boys make it home, hop off of boards and walk up to their house.

INT. TALK SHOW STAGE - DAY

What looks like a low budget Johnny Carson show. Behind the desk stands the HOST, a man in his 40s, neat and smug.

HOST
And our next guess, former Cosmo
Crusades star, actor Ben Eaton!

AUDIENCE APPLAUSE

Out walks a man from backstage, mid 30s, tall, dark, and suave, a total cliché, it's actor BEN EATON.

Ben waves to the audience before he shakes the host's hand then grabs a seat in the chair next to the desk.

A picture of Ben's movie character is displayed on the wall behind the men. Definitely a Star Trek rip-off.

HOST (CONT'D)
Thanks so much for coming on Ben.

BEN
What else I got to do?

HOST
Come on, a past his prime wealthy
man like yourself. I'm sure the
ladies around town keep you busy.

BEN
(puzzled)
Yeah, I guess.

HOST
Real question is, is there someone
special or has there ever been?

Ben ponders the question for a moment.

HOST (CONT'D)
Ahh. There was or is.

BEN
Yes, there was one.

HOST
I knew it, and she broke your
heart. Come on didn't she?

Ben sheepishly nods "yes".

HOST (CONT'D)
Now you're a fledgling burned out
bachelor because of it.

BEN
What?

HOST
You're a charmless Bruce Wayne!

BEN
Yo, what's your problem? You begged
me to come on to boost ratings.

HOST
You getting perturbed old chap?

Ben holds his frown.

HOST (CONT'D)
Good, conflict drives viewership.

Host cheeses creepily into the camera. Ben is ticked.

BEN
What kind of setup is this?

HOST
Whoa, the last time the world saw
your face that wrinkled was...
(turns to camera crew)
Roll the tape Tawny.

On the screen behind the men a video begins to play. It's Ben walking between a crowd of adoring fans, mostly teens.

He leans over to sign an autograph; a hand reaches out and slaps his Padres hat off his head. He springs up to find it.

The hat disappears into the crowd. Ben is heated and grabs a kid next to him that he believed did it. He pulls him up by the collar and berates him as the cameras roll.

The video pauses on Ben holding up the kid, face wrinkled.

HOST (CONT'D)
Fireworks! Ope, wait a minute.
(holds hand over earphone)
Yes! Why didn't I. My producer, the
genius he is, just said... The
Hatman.

Ben looks confused and still ticked.

HOST (CONT'D)
Think about it. Millionaire
bachelor actor Ben Eaton by day and
teen crime stopper Hatman by night.
I can see it... can you?

Ben boils, wishes he could deck him, but his image is already tattered. He calmly stands up, and removes his mic.

He then turns and stomps off the stage.

HOST (CONT'D)
If you use that moniker at Comic
Con next week, be sure to give
credit where it's due.

Ben ignores him and continues off stage. Audience stunned.

REVEAL: Noah, in his Sunday best, watches the interview play out from his living room.

CALVIN (O.S.)
Why do you watch that garbage?

Noah turns and eyes Calvin who's in board shorts, polaroid camera around his neck and a beach towel over his shoulder.

NOAH
You know I can't miss my boy Benny!

Calvin nods, fully aware of Noah's fandom.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Didn't see you at church today.

CALVIN
Wasn't in the mood, decided to veg.

NOAH
(nods, understanding)
What's up with the camera?

CALVIN
Gotta document every holiday...

Calvin spots and grabs a card off the couch.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
What's this?

NOAH
Oh, Ethan's birthday party, you going?

CALVIN
I didn't get invited.

NOAH
Ohhh.

Noah senses his sadness.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Well, I'm not going anyway. Dudes got bad breath, and he's always got a boog in his nose and you're like, come on, you don't feel that?

CALVIN
(glum)
Yeah.

Noah grabs the card from him and tosses it on coffee table.

NOAH
So, what's up?

CALVIN
You ready to soak up some Sun?

Noah tilts head, annoyed.

NOAH
Never! But I'll suffer to celebrate
the birth of our great nation.

Noah tosses a Padres hat on the couch. It's the same as Ben's hat that he lost in the crowd.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Gimme a minute to get changed.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY

Music is JAMMING. It's 4th of July, the pool is packed with families. Kids with water guns, beach balls, the whole nine.

Parents lay on chairs, sipping drinks, ignoring their kids. One MOM, 30s, is sitting up peering at her son FORREST, 9, as he runs by the edge.

POOL MOM
FORREST!

Forrest is jolted by her shout and begins speed walking. Next to the Mom sits Noah. He's rubbing sunscreen on his shoulder, over a BLUED bruise from the hit by pitch.

NOAH
(to Calvin next to him)
How bad does this look?

CALVIN
Which part?

Noah's full body is covered in sunscreen, he's the spitting image of bologna covered in mayo.

NOAH
No, you don't get to do that.
You're the cute one. I'm the funny one.

CALVIN
(huffs)
Makes you look tough, if that's possible.

NOAH

Hmm. What's up with this music?

Pool DJ is BRAMBERG, a pudgy late teen, with a fro underneath his headphones. Shirt says "Jamberg Productions".

As he mixes, he's feeling the song he's playing.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Bramberg's killing me with these slow jamz.

CALVIN

You mean Jamberg.

NOAH

I'm not calling him that! Hasn't earned it in my book. I'm showing up early next year, and jumpin on the ones and twos.

Joel makes his way to the open chair next to Noah.

JOEL

Dang Noah. You're a livin breathin Old Glory. Red, white and blue!

NOAH

(unamused)
Everybody's got jokes!

JOEL

(takes a seat)
In all seriousness. Heard you shook it off like a man.

NOAH

Shor did!

JOEL

Well, congrats on being productive.

NOAH

Thank you. There'll be more where that came from next season.

JOEL

Better crowd than plate then.

Joel grins, Noah doesn't find it funny.

A man in his 30s, muscular, oiled up, steps in front of the boys, it's Mr. SCHWARTZ (Noah's Dad, and couldn't be more his opposite). He speaks in a faint Austrian accent.

MR. SCHWARTZ

Joel, I'm proud of you young man.
Volunteering to serve your country
is courageous and a great honor.

JOEL

Thank you Mr. Schwartz.

NOAH

I thought you were working out dad?

MR. SCHWARTZ

Between circuits son. And hey,
after tonight's pump, we're going
to the cinema to see our guy Arnie
in Conan the Barbarian.

NOAH

(annoyed)

Your guy... He's your guy dad.

Mr. Schwartz stares at Noah, perplexed.

CALVIN

Got any comps coming up Mr.
Schwartz?

MR. SCHWARTZ

Miami next weekend for Mr.
Beefcake.

He flexes before he finishes the sentence.

CALVIN

Awesome. Good luck... Hey, you mind
taking a quick pic of us?

Calvin removes the camera from around his neck and hands it
to Mr. Schwartz.

MR. SCHWARTZ

Not at all.

The boys move in close for the picture. Mr Schwartz sets to
snap the photo.

MR. SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)

K, everyone say burpees on three.
One, two, three.

Boys mutter "burpees" through clinched smiles. Mr. Schwartz
snaps the photo then hands the camera back to Calvin.

CALVIN

Thank you.

MR. SCHWARTZ

Course. Well, enjoy the Sun fellas.
I'm going to tread some water.

Mr. Schwartz dives into the pool.

CALVIN

What's up with the accent?

NOAH

It's all Arnie, all the time!

Mr. Schwartz stands in the pool. He raises hands to put on his glasses. He's in a flex position and pauses while looking around to see if anyone is enjoying the show.

Partygoers could care less. He slips on the glasses.

CALVIN

You're so lucky to have him.

NOAH

(distracted)

Whoa! Look who's back from USC.

Striding into the pool is an early 20s blonde, KALI CLARK. She's a Charlies Angel, in a classic 80s one piece swimsuit, rocking a headband, an adolescent boys dream.

She struts across the pool deck as if she's on the runway, causing everyone to pay attention.

She locks eyes with Bramberg while he's mixing. He freezes up; she hits him with a seductive wink. His mouth agapes, and after a moment, he falls over like a torn down statue.

NOAH (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Kali Clark! I would walk barefoot through burning sand. I'd get in the ring with Sugar Ray. I'd bear hug a porcupine. Just for a...

JOEL (O.S.)

She ain't no Penny!

The statement abruptly stops the boys gaze.

CALVIN

Here you go again with Penny.

JOEL

She was a saint. Ya never get over your first girlfriend, your first love.

CALVIN

You guys didn't date.

JOEL

Almost.

NOAH

What's the story again? You had a sneeze attack or something.

EXT. MIDDLE SCHOOL/LUNCHTIME - DAY - FLASHBACK

Joel, 13, sits outside at the lunch table, eating. There are a few boys seated with him. One is DONNY, 13, preppy.

DONNY

I'm telling you Joel, I overheard her say you have beautiful eyes.

Joel tilts head, skeptical.

DONNY (CONT'D)

Why would I lie about that? Bet you don't have the guts to ask her out.

Joel eyes the boys at the table, not wanting to look weak.

JOEL

Please, I'm not afraid of anything. I'll ask her out.

DONNY

Then do it. I just saw her go in the bathroom.

JOEL

Fine, Donny!

Joel gets up from the table, proud. He struts to the outside of the girls bathroom. His nerves mount with each step.

Donny begins to gather more kids around him in anticipation of his interaction.

Joel stands outside the bathroom, crowd around him. PENNY, 13, girl next door, emerges from the bathroom.

She's wearing a cross and is with a friend.

JOEL (CONT'D)
H...hi Penny. So, I was talking
with Donny.

Penny looks over at Donny, who flashes a devious smile.

JOEL (CONT'D)
He said, you were... well, I was
wondering if you'd like to go...

Before he can finish, his allergies kick in and he lets out a huge sneeze. Startling Penny.

He brings his head up. Penny's eyes widen, then she snickers.

The crowd gets a look at Joel and they all begin laughing. Joel is embarrassed, but doesn't know why. Donny grabs a small mirror and holds it up for Joel to see.

A LARGE snot clump rests just above his cheek. He looks sheepish as kids continue to laugh. Penny hands him a tissue.

EXT. COMMUNITY POOL - DAY - BACK TO PRESENT

Joel continues the story.

JOEL
Thankfully we moved from San Diego
that summer, saving me future
humiliation. But that was a life
defining moment. You boys'll have
one some day.

Kali has made her way in front of Noah's chair.

KALI
Hey, it's Moses right?

Noah is dumbfounded that she's even talking with him.

NOAH
Umm, it's actually Noah. The flood
guy, not the Red Sea guy.

Kali looks on confused. Joel and Calvin look at Noah like "why"? Noah shrugs.

NOAH (CONT'D)
But you can call me whatever you
want.

KALI
Ok Noah. It looks like you know
your way around some sunscreen.

NOAH
Shor do!

KALI
I can never get my back even.

Kali sits down on Noah's chair, back turned. Boys are stunned and intrigued.

She pulls down the spaghetti straps on her swimsuit. She then holds sunscreen up over her shoulder.

KALI (CONT'D)
You mind helping me out?

Noah's in complete shock, this is his life defining moment... He focuses himself and looks straight on while DECLARING.

NOAH
God Bless America!!

EXT. CALVIN'S STREET - NIGHT

Calvin and Noah walk together in board shorts and towels over their shoulders. Noah is sniffing his hands.

NOAH
I'm neva washing these mitts again.

CALVIN
I don't blame ya. You might have a
future in sunscreen application.

NOAH
I can dig that. Hey, who's that
talking with Aunt Cynthia?

Cynthia stands on her front porch facing Todd when she drops her head, saddened while he talks.

Todd is unfazed by her gestures. She rubs her forehead, exasperated before turning and marching inside the house.

Todd turns and heads to his car on the curb. Calvin is within in earshot of him.

CALVIN
Who are you?

MAN
(startled)
Todd Gilbert. Who are you?

CALVIN
I live here. What'd you say to my
Aunt?

TODD
My mom wishes she could-a been here
to tell her. Hey, no hard feelings,
but family comes first.

Todd gets in his car and drives off as Calvin and Noah stare at him perplexed.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - NIGHT

Calvin creeps up to Cynthia's bedroom door. He presses his ear up to the door, silence.

He gently knocks on the door.

CALVIN
Aunt Cynthia, you okay?

There's no response. After a moment he slowly moves down the hall, hoping for any response, but one never comes.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/BEDROOM - NIGHT

Calvin tosses his towel on top of his hamper. He steps over to his desk while digging in the back pocket of his shorts.

He pulls out a polaroid photo, sets it on the desk, and sits in the chair.

He grabs a sharpie and writes on the photo. Once he's done, he grabs a photo book nearby.

He flips through the pages, then stops toward the end. He inserts the photo inside the plastic. It's the picture that Mr. Schwartz took, and he wrote on it-- 4th of July 1982!

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Calvin open the fridge and examines the contents. His eyes light up as he sees something he wants.

CALVIN
Sweeeet!

He pulls out a new bottle of Sunny Delight. He takes the bottle to the counter and pours himself a glass.

He puts the cap back on the bottle, turns and heads to the fridge to return it.

CYNTHIA (O.S.)

Ah, ah. Are you gonna make it drinkable for me?

Calvin stops and turns back to see his Aunt and smirks.

He takes the bottle to the sink, opens it and fills it all the way back up with water.

He puts the cap back on and again heads to the fridge. Cynthia has grabbed a glass.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

You gonna leave me hangin too?

Calvin stops, turns and takes the Sunny D over to her. He pours her a glass. She smiles appreciatively.

CALVIN

Are you gonna tell me what happened last night? With Todd.

Cynthia takes a sip of orange juice, then looks at her watch.

CYNTHIA

I gotta get to work, but we can talk about it tonight.

She stands up and slings her purse over her shoulder.

CALVIN

You're making me nervous.

CYNTHIA

Everything's gonna be alright. Can you do me a favor, and get the basement organized today.

CALVIN

Really?

Cynthia flashes him a stern look. He minds his manners.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Yes ma'am.

INT. HOSPITAL/NURSE STATION - DAY

Cynthia trudges to the nurse station and sits next to a woman in her 20s, another NURSE, at the desk.

NURSE
You look tired.

Cynthia looks at her slightly annoyed.

CYNTHIA
Well, thankfully I'm not trying to impress a man.

Nurse snickers.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
Worked three doubles in a row.
(she rubs her neck)
I'm gettin too old for this.

NURSE
Yes you are.

Cynthia looks at her annoyed again.

NURSE (CONT'D)
Sorry, I didn't mean it like that.

CYNTHIA
Hmm hm. You know, I'm thinking of taking that job transfer.

NURSE
The one outta state?
(Cynthia nods "yes")
But that town...

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/BASEMENT - DAY

The basement is a cluttered mess, full of cardboard boxes, luggage, holiday bins, sports gear and random knick-knacks.

Calvin hauls a duffel bag across a narrow path, plops down.

CALVIN
(mutters, sarcastic)
Organize the basement. What a waste of a perfectly good Monday!

The top flips open and he sees a baseball picture. He pulls it out. It's of 11 year old Joel in uniform, and Joel's dad in military uniform, with his arm around him.

Calvin eyes the photo, somber, then sets it down and grabs another photo on the top. This one is of him, 6, and Joel's dad, again in military uniform.

His somberness extends as he sets the photo down. He then rummages through more contents pulling out trophies and medals.

He finds a picture of all four of them, (Himself, Joel, Cynthia, and Joel's dad) and pulls it out.

He cracks a small smile, then glances in the empty bag and concealed below the bottom pad sits the corner of a letter.

He pulls the letter out, it's damaged but he can see that it's addressed to "Cheryl Perry".

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Mom.

He's intrigued, so he opens and reads the contents. As he reads his eyes widen; could it be?

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Dad?

The signature is smudged, but he attempts to read it.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Remy Faton?

He turns over the envelope and views the sent address. It's unreadable, but the city "San Diego" is clear.

CYNTHIA (O.S.)

CALVIN! You can take a break honey.

Calvin's startled as he wasn't expecting her back already.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Calvin, moves toward Cynthia who's in the kitchen rummaging through fast food bags.

CYNTHIA

They let me go early, so I stopped at Joel's and grabbed us some burritos. Hope you're hungry.

CALVIN

Perpetually.

CYNTHIA

Good.

(slides him his food)

There's something I need to talk to you about.

Calvin unwraps the burrito and they both eat while talking.

CALVIN

Same here, but you can go first.

CYNTHIA

Well thank you. So, Todd from yesterday is one of Mrs. Gilbert's adopted sons.

CALVIN

I didn't know she had kids.

CYNTHIA

(nods)

They're fresh outta rehab and she's offered them the house while they take classes at Arizona Western.

Calvin is stunned.

CALVIN

But... I thought Mrs. Gilbert said she would never kick us out.

CYNTHIA

Her offer for us to buy the home remains on the table, but there's just, no way.

CALVIN

Where are we gonna go?

CYNTHIA

Well, it's an opportunity for another fresh start. Remember that job transfer I told you about?

CALVIN

Outta state?

CYNTHIA

Yep. I think I'm gonna take it.

Calvin can't believe it.

CALVIN

All we do is bounce around. Zona to Cali back to Zona. Now another state.

Cynthia eyes him, growing empathy.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

I can't, I just feel like I've never belonged. I mean, Noah is my first, best friend.

CYNTHIA

He's your best... friend?

Calvin huffs as he nods "yes". Cynthia doesn't quite understand their connection, but ok.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

I understand how you feel. I really do, and I'm doing my best given our circumstances.

CALVIN

I know you are.

They share a moment of understanding each others plights.

CYNTHIA

So, what did you want to tell me?

Calvin pulls the letter out from his shorts pocket and slides it across the counter for Cynthia to see. Her eyes widen as she snatches it up and starts reading.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

Where did you find this?

CALVIN

The basement.

Cynthia continues to read.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Is it from who I think it is?

CYNTHIA

It is!

(purses lips)

Your mom and I didn't talk for years, sisters, it can be hard. But we reconciled a couple days before the accident.

Calvin's giving Cynthia his full attention.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
 She told me your dad had sent her a
 letter. She was going to see him.

Cynthia puts the letter back down on the counter, a
 somberness fills the room.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
 She wanted him to know about you...
 After, well, you know, I wanted to
 know who he was. I searched all her
 belongings, but found nothing.

Calvin grins, snatches letter and bolts to the front door.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
 Where you going?

CALVIN
 To finish what you started.

INT. NOAH'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Noah hurries to grab his front door while looking back at his
 TV. He opens it, Calvin is standing there wearing a backpack.

He barely looks at him while still staring at the TV.

NOAH
 Yo. What you waiting for, come in.

Calvin steps in confused at what has Noah sidetracked.

CALVIN
 What you watchin now?

NOAH
 Man, I was gonna tell you, there's
 a Jefferson's marathon. Haven't
 moved off the couch.

The boys make their way to the couch. Calvin drops his
 backpack down. On the coffee table sits a shaker cup full of
 what looks like chocolate protein.

CALVIN
 I don't blame you.

NOAH
 What's up?

CALVIN
We're getting kicked outta the house.

NOAH
What? I thought Aunt Cynthia was tight with the homeowners?

CALVIN
She is, but her son's tighter, and she's gonna give him the house.

NOAH
Bummer.

CALVIN
Yep, and my Aunt's taking a job transfer and moving us outta state.

NOAH
Nooo, where?

CALVIN
Las Vegas.

NOAH
Ahh, fancy hotels and buffets.
Sounds like y'all are
(singing)
Movin on up, to the northside, you finally...

Calvin cuts him off.

CALVIN
It's Las Vegas, New Mexico!

Noah stops singing and looks on baffled.

NOAH
There's such a place?

Calvin pulls out a map from his pocket and shows Noah.

CALVIN
Had to verify for myself.

Noah looks at the map and spots it, there is such a place.

NOAH
Well, that's brutal. We can't let that happen.

CALVIN
Agreed. So, I found this letter.

Calvin pulls out the letter from his other pocket.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Aunt Cynthia confirmed that it's
from my dad.

NOAH
Really, what's it say?

CALVIN
It's like a love letter to my mom.

NOAH
Pops was a romancer, that's cool.

MR. SCHWARTZ (O.S.)
The shake Noah! I don't hear ice
clanging the bottle?

Mr. Schwartz has been doing pull ups from the hallway
entrance on the bar he's set up. His back turned to the boys.

Noah rolls his eyes, grabs the bottle off the coffee table
and starts shaking.

MR. SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)
That's the sound I love to hear.

NOAH
(to Calvin)
Is there a return address on it?

CALVIN
Could only make out San Diego.

Noah's intrigued.

NOAH
Ahh, I would kill to be in San
Diego right now.

CALVIN
Let's go.

NOAH
Where? San Diego?

CALVIN
Yeah, why not? My pops signed the
letter, guess his name is Remy
Faton.

I grabbed a phone book from the library and found two Remy's in San Diego.

NOAH

And you wanna go find them?

CALVIN

I need to go find them. What are the chances that I find this letter right before I get shipped off to Nowheresville?

Noah nods as if to say it's quite the coincidence.

NOAH

His perfect timing. What did Joel say?

CALVIN

Haven't had a chance to tell him. He's manning the drive thru today.

NOAH

Oh, I thought he hung up the headset.

CALVIN

His last day's tomorrow.

Noah nods in understanding.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Listen, this letter,
(holds it up)
It's an opportunity, an opportunity to know where I come from? You don't know what it feels like to know he could be out there. And maybe he's been searching for me too. I'll walk, bus, hitchhike, doesn't matter. I'm going to find out who he is. I'm asking that my best friend come with me.

Noah pauses for a moment, empathetic.

NOAH

I'm gonna need a good excuse to get out of going to Mr. Beefcake with the old man.

Mr. Schwartz hops down with a thud from doing pull ups. He's dripping in sweat.

MR. SCHWARTZ
 Whoo, hand over my fuel son.

Noah hands him the protein shake. He opens it.

MR. SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)
 How do we like our beef boys?
 (boys are puzzled, he
 flexes)
 Well done! Ooooh yeah.

He grins, then sips his shake and moves down the hall. Noah turns to Calvin.

NOAH
 You sure you wanna know who your
 father is?!

Calvin nods and smirks.

INT. CAR RADIO - DAY

Driver is eating chips and guacamole. The tail end of a GOSPEL SONG plays. When it ends, the show's Host comes in.

MALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
 Oooh, that song always gets in my
 soul. Now, like we said before the
 break, we got two tickets to Comic-
 Con to give away. I don't know why
 us, but hey, it be what it be!

FEMALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
 How can our listeners win?

MALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
 We're going trivia with The
 Jefferson's, of course. Now, the
 first caller with the correct
 answer will win these tickets. Here
 it is - Florence was engaged to
 Buzz Thatcher, but what caused her
 to call it off?

There's a moment of silence.

FEMALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
 Lines are wide open. Come on now. I
 know y'all know this answer.
 Moochie, I know you're listening.

MALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
We got a caller. Hello, caller you there?

NOAH (V.O.)
Yeah, I'm here.

FEMALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
What's your name sweetie.

NOAH (V.O.)
It's Noah, Noah Schwartz.

Drivers hand reaches out and turns up the dial on the radio.

MALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
Thank God you called Noah. Do you want to go to Comic Con?

NOAH (V.O.)
Since I was four.

FEMALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
Well Noah, do you have the answer to the question.

NOAH (V.O.)
Yeah, you see Buzz was a God-fearing man. He attended church daily, didn't drink, swear, or listen to rock and roll. And when Louise gave Florence a nightgown, he believed she corrupted her and he called Florence a sinner, so she dropped the zealot.

Another moment of silence.

NOAH (V.O.)
Did I lose you?

MALE RADIO HOST (V.O.)
No sir. We're definitely here, a little stunned, but we're here. Congratulations Noah! You stay on the line and we'll get your contact info to send you these tickets.

NOAH (V.O.)
Sounds good.

Drivers hand reaches out and turns down the volume. Reveal: It's Joel. He's in his Taco Titan uniform, and looks completely confused, mutters.

JOEL
What is going on?

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - DAY

Calvin open the pantry door. On the middle shelf sits multiple cereal boxes. He pans through them.

CALVIN
No Frosted!

He grabs the Corn Flakes, takes it to the bowl on the counter and dumps it in next to the milk carton and storyboard paper.

He grabs a bag of sugar in the cabinet below and pours a huge portion on the flakes in the bowl.

He pours milk on top when the phone RINGS next to him. He picks it up and turns back to the counter.

INTERCUT - Calvin at the counter and Noah on his couch opening the tickets to Comic Con.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Hello.

NOAH
Hey, I'm in for this weekend.

CALVIN
Sweet!

NOAH
But how we plan on gettin there?

CALVIN
Remember, in VBS, when we storyboarded your favorite bible story.

INT. YOUTH GROUP CLASSROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK

Inside the room, there are a dozen kids sitting and watching the head of the room. Standing there is Calvin in bible times garb, standing next to a storyboard easel.

The picture on the board shows the Sun rising over a hill.

CALVIN
When Samson woke the next morning.

Noah springs up into view from lying down. His head is shaven with patchy red spots, and donning a tan muscle shirt.

He stares in shock as he touches his bald head.

NOAH
I should've never trusted that
jezebel!

INT. CALVIN'S KITCHEN/NOAH'S COUCH - DAY - BACK TO PRESENT

CONTINUE INTERCUT

NOAH
You swore to never speak of that
again.

CALVIN
Well, I found that easel in the
basement. Come over in ten, I've
got a plan.

EXT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/SIDE GATE - DAY

Todd creeps around the backyard surveying the property size.

He goes through the side gate in front of the house, and it closes with a BANG on the latch.

It startles him and he peers at Clyde in the car across the street. Clyde "shhh's" him. He nods agreeing.

As he tiptoes to meet Clyde, Joel's Bug pulls up in the driveway, and he's forced to hide behind a bush next to the garage.

Joel steps out of his Bug in his Taco Titan uniform holding a plate covered in foil.

He steps up to the garage, pulls it open with his free hand.

The garage opens to Calvin and Noah standing beside the easel storyboard. Joel's puzzled as he steps inside.

NOAH
Welcome home Joel. How was your
last day?

JOEL
Whatever it is, the answer's, no!

CALVIN
Come on cuz, at least hear us out.

NOAH
Yeah cuz.

Joel peers at Noah, then eyes Calvin who looks eager.

JOEL
You got five minutes. I gotta eat
this German chocolate cake anyway.

Noah slides over and pulls out a chair for him to sit in.

Joel grabs another chair and faces the chairs together, so
one acts as a table for his cake. He sits down.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Heard you on the radio today Noah.
This got anything to do with that?

NOAH
It's got everything to do with
that. Comic Con is only the tip of
the iceberg.

Noah takes out a pointing stick and flips the paper on the
easel. The page reads: San Diego

NOAH (CONT'D)
We're going to San Diego.

Joel takes a bite of cake and has no reaction.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Why, do you ask. First off.

Noah flips to the next page on the storyboard. The picture is
a father hugging his son in front of a house.

CALVIN
Because my dad lives there.

Joel eyes Calvin, somewhat shocked by this information.

NOAH
And second off.

Noah flips to the next page, it's San Diego Forecast for the
coming Thursday thru Sunday. Low 70s, partly cloudy everyday.

JOEL
Oh wow!

NOAH

Right! They call it June gloom...
it's glorious!

JOEL

No, this cake, it's the perfect
balance between coconut and
chocolate.

NOAH

Hey, I'm being serious.

JOEL

So am I. Guacamole Gina outdid
herself on this one.

Joel takes another bite.

NOAH

Who's Guacamole...

JOEL

Hmm hm, that's divine!

CALVIN

Come on Joel. This is serious. What
if, I know it sounds crazy, but
what if I find him and he comes
back here and somehow makes things
right.

Joel knocks off the games and perks up.

JOEL

That's a long shot, Cal. You don't
actually believe that will happen.

CALVIN

Mark 9:23. If you can believe...

Joel's impressed by his spiritual determination.

JOEL

Ok, well what's this got to do with
me?

CALVIN

Tell him the best part Noah.

NOAH

You're gonna love this. One last
hurrah before you're bunked up with
jarheads for four months.

Noah flips another page, it's the backside of two beach chairs on the beach. The names on the back of the chairs say "Joel" and "Penny".

They're holding hands between the chairs.

Calvin flips on the stereo, a love song plays to set mood.

JOEL
 (eyes lit up)
 Ok, you've piqued my interest. But,
 how am I gonna find her?

Calvin whips out the phone book.

CALVIN
 Got that covered. This is how I
 found my dad, Remy Faton.
 (flips through pages)
 What's her last name again, Van...

JOEL
 Van Belmont.

NOAH
 What the, does this chica fight
 vampires or something?

JOEL
 You should be concerned, night
 walker!

Joel smiles, Noah is unamused.

CALVIN
 Boom! Found her. There's just one
 Van Belmont in here.

NOAH
 Shocker.

CALVIN
 So, what do you say Joel? We leave
 this Thursday?

Joel pauses in thought a moment and puts his cake down.

JOEL
 I'm tempted to supersize the deal.

NOAH
 What's that?

JOEL

When you're on the opposite side of
an eager man, get all you can.

Calvin and Joel eye each other pondering his wisdom. Joel
wipes his face and stands up, confident.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Penny's enough though. Let's go
find my girl!

CALVIN

Let's go find my dad!

Calvin slides over and gives Joel a bro-hug.

NOAH

Comic-Con, we're comin for you. All
we need now is a yellow brick road.

NEARBY

Todd has heard the entire exchange and he's troubled by it.

INT. TODD'S CELICA - DAY

Todd slides into the driver side next to Clyde in passenger.

CLYDE

So, is there enough room back there
for a hot tub?

TODD

These little snots are attempting
to throw a wrench in my plan.

CLYDE

What? How?

Todd grabs his sunglasses off the dash and pops them on, then
looks over at Clyde.

TODD

Pack your flip flops Clyde. We're
going to San Diego.

CLYDE

Yes! I was built for SoCal beaches.

Todd shakes his head at him, husky and beach don't go.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/LAUNDRY ROOM - DAY

Joel pulls clothes out of the dryer and dumps them in a nearby basket, next to Cynthia pulling clothes from washer.

CYNTHIA

I don't know Joel. It's almost three hours away.

JOEL

I know, but I'm telling you, he needs this.

CYNTHIA

Could you grab the laundry soap?

She head gestures to shelves behind Joel. He turns, grabs the soap, then hands it to her.

JOEL

He'll be with me. I'll take care of him.

Cynthia still isn't quite sure. As she goes to pour in soap, Joel quickly STOPS her. He reaches in machine, pulls out a black sock that would've ruined her whites.

JOEL (CONT'D)

You're welcome.

CYNTHIA

Ok... Cuz it's you, I'll allow it... Don't make me regret it.

EXT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/DRIVEWAY - DAY

The Bug sits with the front trunk open. Calvin strides toward it holding his luggage.

Once he reaches the trunk, he tosses his luggage on top of the bag sitting there. Meanwhile, Joel, in a leather jacket, rubs a smudge out on the driver's side window.

NOAH (O.S.)

Beautiful day for adventure boys!

Calvin and Joel turn heads and spot Noah.

He's in colorful jams shorts, a Ben Eaton Cosmo Crusades shirt, knee-high tube socks, Fila shoes, and holds a small duffel with a backpack over his shoulders.

The boys are unfazed by his eccentric look as Noah approaches.

JOEL

That's what you're... bringing?

NOAH

You know I'm a minimalist.
(pats his bag)
Just my Comic Con threads, Ben
Eaton's hat and beachwear.

CALVIN

What's in the backpack?

NOAH

That'd be my protection.

JOEL

Didn't know you pack?

NOAH

What? No, I screen, it's just
sunscreen.

JOEL

Ooooh!

NOAH

What's up with the leather, it's a
hundred degrees.

JOEL

It's my second love.
(grabs collar)
And it's always leather weather!

Noah shakes head, throws his stuff in the trunk and closes it. A sign on the hood, reads: "Brick Road". Noah smirks.

NOAH

Are we sure old girl is fit to go
the distance?

Joel looks unsure.

CALVIN

Only one way to find out.

EXT. CALVIN'S STREET - DAY

The Love Bug pulls away from the house, and Todd's Celica follows behind.

EXT/INT. OPEN ROAD/LOVE BUG - DAY

Boys drive the open road. Noah's in the backseat.

He looks out one window, desert. He slides over to look out other window, desert. He looks through front window, desert!

He's beyond bored. Throws his head back on the headrest.

NOAH
Should've brought my crosswords!

INT. LOVE BUG - DAY

Joel hands Calvin three bags of fast food as he drives away from drive-thru window.

Calvin checks the contents inside the bags, then hands one bag to Noah.

CALVIN
This is you Noah.

NOAH
(grabs the bag)
Grindage!

The boys dig into their food.

JOEL
Didn't know you were a pescatarian,
Noah?

NOAH
What can I say, I'm a man of
mystery!

Calvin and Joel chuckle. Noah takes a bite of a "Big Mac" looking fish sandwich.

JOEL
How is that Big-Mackeral?

NOAH
It is... stain your pants good!

JOEL
(snaps head back)
What?

Noah's pants are covered in sandwich drippings.

NOAH
Swimming in tartar sauce.

JOEL
Oh. Be careful on the seats, huh.

NOAH
Yeah, yeah. You ever think, it's
this broken insect on wheels that
hinders your estrogen attention?

JOEL
What do you know about estrogen,
salmon skin?

NOAH
I know the smell of jock strap on
the way to the movies ain't
appealing. An air freshener
wouldn't kill ya.

JOEL
Don't push me Noah. I'm doin my
best to stay Holy, but if you wake
the dragon, you'll catch the burn!

NOAH
What are you talking about?

JOEL
Talkin about kickin you out, what,
it's about 110 in El Centro? How
long you think before you turn into
an anorexic Kool Aid Man?

Noah squirms in his seat, he doesn't like the sound of that.

NOAH
I'll be quiet.

CALVIN
Good, that's enough anyway. Joel,
we're coming up on her exit.

Joel looks at Calvin, sympathetic, and nods.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - DAY

The Bug parks to the side of a freeway on ramp. Calvin steps
out of the car holding flowers.

He turns back before closing the door.

CALVIN
I'll just be a minute.

He closes the door, takes a few steps to the dirt off the side, then kneels down and drops flowers next to a roadside memorial (cross sitting inside a heart-shaped rockbed).

Calvin is somber as he stares at the display.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Hi Mom. Not a day goes by that I don't think of you. So, I found a letter, and Aunt Cynthia told me about... well you know.

INT. CALVIN'S MOM'S CAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Calvin's mom waits at a stop light, reading the letter that Calvin found. She smiles, then folds it up in the envelope.

She reaches to the back seat and shoves the letter into the open duffel bag.

INT. TEENAGER'S CAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

A TEENAGE BOY, driving, drops a beer can in the cupholder. He leans over to the passenger seat, where a TEENAGE GIRL sits, eyes off the road.

TEENAGE BOY
I know there's a pack in here somewhere.

He pats her down. She shoves his hand away, flirting.

TEENAGE GIRL
Stop. Keep your eyes on the road.

TEENAGE BOY
I'd rather keep my eyes on you.

She smiles at him, he's staring at her, oblivious to the road ahead. He tries to lean in for a kiss.

Lights FLASH in her peripheral. He ran the red light.

TEENAGE GIRL
WATCH OUT!!

Calvin's mom's eyes go big as the boys car barrels into hers.

EXT. STREET OF CAR CRASH - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

MOS - A police officer jumps out of his car, the first on scene to the accident.

The teenagers sit outside their car sobbing as Calvin's mom's car is pressed up against an embankment.

A police officer runs up to the driver side window and peers in. He's devastated by the sight. Just then the hood catches on fire.

He steps back, concerned that it will blow. Then he peeks in the back and sees something important.

He quickly fiddles the handle, locked. Without hesitation, he breaks the window, unlocks the door and yanks it open.

He removes the duffel bag and throws it on the ground, then dives into the car. After a few intense moments, he emerges from the car, holding a baby.

He picks up the duffel bag and scurries away from the car, as firefighters arrive on scene and try to put out the fire.

INT. POLICE OFFICER CRUISER - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

The police officer holds the baby in his driver seat. He stares down at him.

POLICE OFFICER
You're gonna be okay.

His badge reads: Officer Olson (Coach Olson), and he has a baby photo of his son (Johnny) on his dash.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - DAY - BACK TO PRESENT

Calvin continues.

CALVIN
I'm gonna find him mom and I don't
know why, but something tells me
he's going to make everything ok.

He looks up to the sky, then back down.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Ok, I gotta go, but I'll see you on
the way back. I Love you!

EXT. PARADISE INN/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

In an empty parking lot of a shoddy looking hotel. A few of the lights on the "PARADISE INN" sign have burned out. The Love Bug rolls up and parks.

INT. JOEL'S CAR - NIGHT

The boys look exhausted after the road trip. They glance around at the rundown surroundings.

JOEL
Ahhh. America's finest city!

One of the letters on the hotel sign crashes to the ground.

INT. PARADISE INN/FRONT DESK - NIGHT

The front desk matches the hotel's exterior, long overdue for a makeover. Behind the desk sits the CLERK, 40s, pudgy, and scruffy.

His head is down as he flips through a comic book. The boys push in through the front door, and step up to the desk.

JOEL
Hi, we're here to check in.

Clerk doesn't lift his head.

CLERK
Ya don't say, I thought you was here for Shamu.

Joel huffs. Calvin and Noah look on confused.

CLERK (CONT'D)
(head still down)
Last name?

JOEL
Barrett.

Clerk turns head and flips through some paperwork next to his comic book.

CLERK
Ahh. Room 143. Ocean views.

He turns his chair to grab the keys from behind him.

NOAH
You have one hundred and forty
three rooms here.

Clerk turns his chair forward to face the boys, and stands up with the key in hand.

CLERK
We only count odds, skipping every
other.

NOAH
Well, that's odd.

Clerk reaches his hand into a bowl of pistachios. He grabs a few and pops them in his mouth, whole, and chews them up.

CLERK
Is it?

An awkward pause as the boys are baffled by this ability.

JOEL
Can we get the keys?!

CLERK
But of course.

Clerk hands Joel the keys. The boys turn to the exit.

CLERK (CONT'D)
Out the door to your left. Enjoy
Paradise, Musketeers!

INT. PARADISE INN/ROOM - NIGHT

The room is a shoe box. One twin size bed with a small night stand, lamp, a magazine and a clock radio.

The boys stand at the front door amazed that this place is still in business.

NOAH
Where's our bed?

JOEL
You're standing on her!

CALVIN
It's just three nights. It'll be
worth it.

Noah eyes Calvin, skeptical.

INT. PARADISE INN/BATHROOM - NIGHT

Noah finishes brushing his teeth, and looks for a spot to store his toothbrush. There is nothing available.

Calvin stares out the window at O'SHINS GAS STATION across the street.

CALVIN
O'Shin views.

He attempts to shut the window but it's stuck, cracked open.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Dang thing won't shut.

Joel sits in the bed, reading a San Diego Tour magazine.

JOEL
Of course... So Cal, you wanna go
bright and early tomorrow?

Calvin closes the curtains and drops down into his sleeping bag on the ground.

CALVIN
I'm thinking after work hours. So,
you can see about Penny after you
drop us at Comic-Con.

Noah steps over to his sleeping bag next to Calvin's. There's a bulge in his sock, his toothbrush. He climbs into the bag.

JOEL
Sounds like a plan.

CALVIN
You nervous?

JOEL
Come on, I'm not thirteen
anymore... How bout you?

CALVIN
A little. I mean, what if he
doesn't like me?

JOEL
No chance. We all love you, there's
no way he won't feel the same.

Calvin smiles, Joel matches it.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 Alright, gotta get some beauty
 sleep.

He flips off the lamp.

JOEL (CONT'D)
 Goodnight gents.

Noah is already asleep. Calvin stares up at the sky, eyes
 beaming, a look of destiny as he grasps the letter.

EXT. PARADISE INN/OUTSIDE BOYS ROOM - NIGHT

Todd stands near the cracked window having once again heard
 their plans. He flashes a devious smile.

EXT. COMIC CON/ENTRANCE - DAY

The outside steps of Comic Con are buzzing with people. It's
 mostly men in their 30s and 40s, in suits, or just button
 ups, with some hippie looking folks sprinkled in.

Calvin and Noah stand and stare at the movement.

CALVIN
 Should-a listened to me.

NOAH
 Shor should've.

Noah looks like a fish out of water as he's fully decked out
 in a full FLASH GORDON costume, blonde hair wig and all.

NOAH (CONT'D)
 This is gonna be a big thing one
 day.

CALVIN
 Yeah, if they make a superhero film
 about a middle aged accountant.

INT. COMIC CON/VENUE - DAY

A sparse crowd of attendees stand around a conference style
 room. Ben Eaton stands with a man, lean, casual, it's his
 Manager/Limo Driver, TERRY.

Terry brushes his shoulders.

TERRY

Today starts your comeback. For the next three days, we lay on the charm.

Ben nods in agreement.

TERRY (CONT'D)

I'm gonna mingle, see what interviews I can set up.

BEN

You're leaving me already?

TERRY

You'll be fine, just don't assault any kids, ok.

BEN

Funny!

Terry smirks and steps away.

INT. COMIC CON/VENUE - DAY

The boys walk through the halls, passing attendees. There are actually some folks dressed up in costume and Noah connects with them through head bobs.

They eventually see Ben in the conference room. Noah holds his hat.

CALVIN

There's your guy.

Noah stares, star-struck.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

You gonna go up to him or what?

NOAH

Or what!

Ben starts to move around the room. Calvin gets impatient with Noah and he swipes the hat.

CALVIN

Gimme that hat.

He marches in Bens direction as Noah stands like a statue.

MOMENTS LATER

Calvin approaches Ben.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Excuse me, Mr. Eaton.

Ben turns around. Calvin holds out the hat.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
I believe this is yours.

Ben sees the hat then peers at Calvin. He then yanks it from his hands and looks at the inside lip to verify it's his.

BEN
So, it was you. You got some gusto,
strolling up to me all nonchalant.

CALVIN
Hey man, I'm just the messenger.

BEN
(mocks)
Hey man, I'm just the messenger.

CALVIN
Whatever, have a good one.

Calvin turns to leave, Ben reaches out and grabs him by the shirt collar.

BEN
Hold on. You got some explaining to
do. You know how much this...

He's interrupted by a MEDIA MEMBER, who's got their camera turned directly on them.

MEDIA MEMBER
Ben. Who's that with you?

Ben sees the camera and begins brushing Calvin's collar, because he can't afford anymore bad publicity.

BEN
Oh, this, uh... this is... my
nephew.

Calvin looks up at him shocked. Ben looks at him as if to say play along.

BEN (CONT'D)
Yeah, my nephew.
(puts arm around him)

He's a huge comics fan and Uncle Ben couldn't miss the chance to bring him along.

MEDIA MEMBER

That's great. What's his name?

Ben hesitates then looks down at Calvin hoping he'll respond. Calvin knows he's in a pickle and stays silent.

BEN

Well, don't be shy nephew, tell the man your name.

CALVIN

(smirks)

It's Calvin.

MEDIA MEMBER

How great is it to have Ben Eaton as your Uncle, Calvin?

CALVIN

Oh, it's the best, let me tell ya. He's always taking me on set, to ballgames and movies. Can't get enough of good ole Unc.

Ben smiles, appreciative.

MEDIA MEMBER

Wow, that's shocking, we all assumed he hated kids because of... well you know...

Media Member mimics Ben holding the kid who he thought stole his hat up by the collar.

BEN

It was a fluke mistake. Just glad you get to see the real me now.

MEDIA MEMBER

(not convinced)

Riiight. Well, you enjoy the festivities Calvin.

Media Member turns and moves in the opposite direction.

CALVIN

(to Ben)

Hey, can I get back to my friend now.

BEN

Yeah.

(Calvin begins to depart)

Hey,

(Calvin turns back.)

Thanks Calvin!

Calvin nods "you're welcome".

INT/EXT. LOVE BUG - DAY

Joel drives slowly through a middle class neighborhood as he stares at a piece of paper and looks at the addresses.

He's in his Sunday best, ready to impress. He spots the address he's looking for and parks the Bug.

He turns off the engine. He takes a deep breath and looks in the rearview mirror.

JOEL

Moment of truth Joel boy.

He licks his thumbs and rubs them along his eyebrows. His nerves are setting in as he taps the steering wheel.

JOEL (CONT'D)

No need to rush. Maybe some tunes to help ease that tension.

He turns the car engine back on. Radio BLASTS, it's 2:02.

INT. COMIC CON/VENUE - DAY

Ben strolls through the venue when he's confronted by Terry.

TERRY

(breathless)

Ben, wooh. You will not believe who just approached me about you.

Terry has the most awkward grin on his face.

BEN

Uhhh, who?

TERRY

Lucas!

(Ben's stunned)

Uh huh, I was awestruck too... think I need to change my chonies!

BEN

Well, what did he say?

TERRY

He saw you with some kid, loved your tenderness, his words not mine. You know Return of the Jedi is on deck, he might have a part for you.

Ben is intrigued. Terry grabs him by the jacket.

TERRY (CONT'D)

You gotta find that kid, your "nephew". We need interviews with him. It's time we reimagined your image and that kid is the gateway.

Ben processes for a moment, then turns in a haste to leave. Terry smiles, proud of his motivation.

INT. COMIC CON/VENUE - DAY

A line of about a dozen women stand and wait to take a picture with Noah by the Flash Gordon booth.

A couple of elderly women, beaming, are taking a picture with him. After the picture they pinch his cheeks, like proud grandmas.

Calvin watches, shaking his head at the spectacle.

NOAH

(to the girls waiting)

Sorry ladies, but nature's calling.
I'll be back in a FLASH!

Noah departs for the restrooms, ladies swoon.

Calvin browses by the booth when Ben approaches.

BEN (O.S.)

Knew I'd find you young bucks here.

Calvin eyes Ben.

CALVIN

What's up, Unc.

BEN

(chuckles)

Hmmm, you're funny. So, are you here with your parents?

CALVIN

No.

BEN

Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts?

CALVIN

No, we came with my older cousin.

BEN

Got it. You around the entire weekend?

CALVIN

Yes, even though I think we've seen it all. Why, what's up?

Noah slides up next to Calvin, in awe of Ben, mouth agape. Ben closes it shut.

BEN

Well, I need a big favor. Our little interaction played well with the crowd. It was a good look for me.

CALVIN

Ok.

BEN

Over the next couple days would you be down to join me in interviews?

CALVIN

What's in it for me?

BEN

Great question....I'm staying at the hotel across the street.

NOAH

You got extra bedrooms, and toothbrush holders?

BEN

No...no. I was gonna say, you boys can stay at my beach house in PB.

Calvin eyes Noah. They're both excited about the offer.

NOAH

(mutters)
Supersize it.

BEN
Whatta ya say?

CALVIN
We need wheels.

BEN
I'll throw in my limo.

CALVIN
And I'll need time to search for my
dad, so no evening interviews.

Ben is somewhat puzzled about the dad comment.

BEN
Done.

Calvin looks at Noah, he's satisfied, then extends hand.

CALVIN
Deal.

Ben smiles and shakes his hand.

EXT. COMIC CON/CURBSIDE - DAY

Terry leans against the limo doors. Calvin and Noah approach.

CALVIN
Excuse me, you Ben's limo driver?

TERRY
Limo driver, manager, we've cut
back, so I wear many hats.

Terry plops on his limo driver hat. Boys look on bemused.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Ohhh, you must be his kid!

CALVIN
His kid?

TERRY
Yeah, the one that's gonna change
our fortune.

Terry excitedly opens the door for them.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Where to?

Calvin and Noah eye each other, cheesing, then Calvin steps to the car. Noah quickly blocks him with his arm

NOAH
Hold up. We sure this guys not a
psycho?

Terry holds the door, definitely looking suspect.

CALVIN
Come on. Who's more healthy and
stable than an actor?!

NOAH
True, true.

INT. JOEL'S CAR - DAY

The clock radio reads: 3:02. Joel hasn't moved a muscle. He turns the radio down and looks in the mirror.

JOEL
Hi Penny, it's Joel. What's goin
ondie, blondie?

He shakes head, how cliché. Gathers, looks back in mirror.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Sup Penny, wow, have the years been
good to you girl.

Shakes head again, rubs forehead, then gives it another go.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Afternoon Penny, remember me, I
couldn't forget you, boo-boo.
(embarrassed)
What was that?

He pauses in thought. He feels hopeless.

JOEL (CONT'D)
I can try again tomorrow.
(looks up to the sky)
Unless you wanna give me a sign.

Just then his car engine dies.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Oh, no, no, no.

He turns the ignition to start it back up multiple times with no luck. He stops and looks up to the sky again.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Ok, fine, we do it now.

EXT. PENNY'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - DAY

Joel knocks on the door and takes a deep, anxious breath.
He's wearing a cross similar to Penny's in middle school.

A GIRL, late teens, opens the door. She's effortlessly cute,
wearing a leather jacket, your typical guys girl.

GIRL
Hi.

Joel hesitates, analyzing, doesn't exactly look like Penny.

GIRL (CONT'D)
Can I help you?

JOEL
Hi, umm sorry, you're not
Penny...are you?

GIRL
Who's asking?

JOEL
Well, uhh, it's me Joel. We went to
middle school together.

Girl looks on confused. Joel continues.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Ok, seventh grade. Remember I was
the kid, you know, the allergies.

Girl remains confused.

JOEL (CONT'D)
Nothing? I tried to ask you out, I
had an attack. When I came too,
there was... come on, how could you
forget?

GIRL
What, did you have some mucus on
your shirt or something?

JOEL
Shirt, face what's the difference.

GIRL
Oh my gosh, how embarrassing.

JOEL

Yeah, couple years of therapy, it's a distant memory. Now that you remember.

GIRL

Oh, I don't remember. Ya see, I'm Penny's step sister. She graduated early and now lives in Canada with her fiancé.

JOEL

Seriously?! Why didn't you start with that?

GIRL

Your little story hooked me. I did SNOT see that coming.

Joel shakes his head, still embarrassed.

GIRL (CONT'D)

Let me guess. You're a nervous wreck on my doorstep as one last ditch effort, before college, to see if my sis has feelings for you.

Joel eyes widen, can't believe that she nailed it, and doesn't muster a response.

GIRL (CONT'D)

I knew it.

JOEL

(shifting gears)
Well, what's your name?

GIRL

You move on quick, don't you Joel.
(ref: his cross)
Where are you at with your faith?

JOEL

It's a journey.

GIRL

Hmm. You know, some friends and I are doing a bonfire at Moonlight...

As she speaks, Calvin and Noah pull up in the limo, hanging out the sunroof.

NOAH

Joel, let's go, we gotta get back
to the beach house.

Joel eyes the limo, perplexed.

CALVIN

Penny's more than welcome to come.

GIRL

Wow, nice treads.

Joel plays along, might as well ask questions later.

JOEL

Yeah, that's how we roll. Wanna go?

GIRL

I can't right now, but Moonlight
beach tonight, you should join us.
I think you'll enjoy it.

Joel realizing he's got the upper hand, plays it cool.

JOEL

I'll check my calendar. Enjoy the
rest of your day.

Joel turns and struts confidently to the limo.

GIRL

It's Lyla by the way.

Joel doesn't respond to her and continues to the limo. Once
he's in earshot of the boys...

JOEL

I'm not asking questions.

Boys smile.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Limo pulls up to the beach house.

TERRY

You've arrived boys.

It's a hip cottage style house. The boys look out the window,
excited to check it out.

INT. BEACH HOUSE/ROOMS - DAY

MONTAGE - BOYS ARE KIDS IN A CANDY STORE

- Calvin opens fridge, full of Mello Yello soda and Sunny D.
- Noah checks out a bedroom with a big king size bed.
- Joel checks out records next to an old school record player. Lifts up Luther Vandross "*Never Too Much*".
- Calvin looks in the pantry, there's rows full of cereal, mostly Frosted Flakes.
- Noah checks out the glorious bathroom in his room, equipped with a toothbrush holder that he picks up and kisses.

END MONTAGE

Terry stumbles in through the door carrying bags.

JOEL

You need some help with that?

As he fumbles the bags he looks up at Joel.

TERRY

Ya think?! You mind getting the rest from the car?

Joel moves swiftly for the exit. Noah pops out the bedroom.

NOAH

Ben Eaton's beach house, are you kiddin me! You're gonna have to drag me by my Fila's to go back to that fiery furnace.

Calvin grins.

TERRY

Did you boys see the back patio?

Boys eye each other then look behind them at the back patio.

MOMENTS LATER

Calvin and Noah push open the doors to a decked out patio with 4 piece seating, bbq grill, and right on the boardwalk a step from the sand. They remain in awe.

EXT. SIDEWALK - DAY

A STOUT KID bops down the sidewalk, eating a cup full of ice cream. He comes alongside Todd in the driver seat of his car.

TODD
Hey kid. Where'd you get the scoop?

Stout Kid stops and faces Todd, mouthful of ice cream.

STOUT KID
There's a parlor a block over.

TODD
Sorry, I'm a little hard of hearing.

Stout Kid steps in closer, raising voice.

STOUT KID
I said, there's a...

Todd SNATCHES the ice cream from his hands.

TODD
Gimmie that!

STOUT KID
Hey, that's mine!

TODD
Was yours!

Todd takes a bite, Stout Kid could cry.

TODD (CONT'D)
Now chug along tugboat. Were done here.

Stout Kid drops head and sulks away. Clyde jumps in the car.

CLYDE
You won't believe what I scored.

He holds up a clear baggie with a solid brown substance.

CLYDE (CONT'D)
Somebody dropped their chocolate bar. Finders keepers.

Todd's stupefied by his unawareness. Clyde starts to open it.

TODD
That ain't no Baby Ruth, it's doggy-
doo.

CLYDE
(whiffs it)
Eeeyoo!

TODD
Throw it out already.

Clyde quickly rolls down the window and tosses it.

TODD (CONT'D)
So, what number did you change?

CLYDE
I took the first.

TODD
Why the first?

CLYDE
Cause it's seven. Sevens my
favorite number.

Clyde holds up the number with a big smile. Todd slaps it out of his hand.

CLYDE (CONT'D)
Hey, what did you...

TODD
Pay attention, we got action.

Out Clyde's window, Terry's limo slowly drives by.

EXT/INT. LIMO/DAD #1 HOUSE - DAY

Terry stops the limo as he stares at a house in a tidy neighborhood; manicured lawns and white picket fences.

TERRY
Huh?

CALVIN
What is it?

TERRY
I think this is it, but look.

The boys look out the window to see the address number missing on the mailbox.

CALVIN
Course, this would happen to me.

Just then, Noah notices the full address is on the house.

NOAH
Look, on the porch railing... This
is it.

Calvin realizes he could be minutes away from meeting his dad for the first time. He looks at Noah and Joel and takes a deep breath.

Calvin starts to open the door.

JOEL
Wait, aren't you gonna practice
your greeting.

CALVIN
(scrunches face)
No. What kind of weirdo does that?

Joel's a little stunned, but doesn't show his cards.

JOEL
Yeah, someone told me it helps, not
necessary. Good luck cousin.

CALVIN
Thank you.

Calvin pops out of the car and begins walking to the door.

INT. TODD'S CELICA - DAY

Todd sees that his plan didn't work.

TODD
Freakin railing.

CLYDE
Time for plan 2.

TODD
You mean plan B.

CLYDE
No, the first plan didn't work, so
now on to plan 2.

TODD
The expression is plan...

Stops himself, understanding it's futile to explain.

TODD (CONT'D)
Nevermind. Plan 2 is, we wait and see.

EXT. DAD #1 HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - DAY

Calvin rings the doorbell. A man, 40s, in basketball shorts, looks like an older Calvin, answers. It's JEREMY.

Calvin's face lights up, could it be...

JEREMY
Good afternoon young man.

CALVIN
Dad?

The front door man turns his head, confused.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
I'm sorry, are you Remy Faton?

JEREMY
No, I'm not.

CALVIN
Oh, does a Remy Faton live here? Ya see, I got this letter he sent to my Mom.

A grandmotherly woman comes close to the door to hear what's going on.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
I believe he's my father.

GRANDMOTHER
WHAT?!

JEREMY
Oh boy!

The grandmother steps away from the front door further into the house.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
REMY! I knew it, fourteen years ago when you came home smellin like perfume. I knew it wasn't from a catalog.

DAD #1 (O.S.)
What are you huffing on about now?

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
You've got a son. Jeremy, ask him
if his mom is Roxanne.

JEREMY
Is that her name?

Calvin shakes his head "no".

JEREMY (CONT'D)
That's not it Ma.

GRANDMOTHER (O.S.)
Yeah right, kids a spittin image of
Remy's old secretary. Remember when
you came home late from that
Christmas party?... Traffic, you
claimed.

DAD #1 (O.S.)
Come off it Winifred. Besides,
Roxanne was what, fifty something
at the time. Don't think she was
poppin out kids.

WINIFRED (O.S.)
You kiddin me. You see that girls
hips. She had plenty of years...

DAD #1 (O.S.)
You got a point there, forgot about
those curves, hmm.

WINIFRED (O.S.)
WHAT?! I CAN'T BELIEVE...

DAD #1 (O.S.)
Well you painted a picture...

Winifred continues to yell at Remy as Jeremy and Calvin
listen in shock.

JEREMY
You betta go. This could go on for
hours or until I give them their
meds, and we just did that.

Calvin understands and slowly creeps away.

JEREMY (CONT'D)
Pray for me.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Calvin enters as Joel and Noah look on.

JOEL
Wasn't him?

CALVIN
(shaking head "no")
Guess we'll try again tomorrow.

I/E. TODD'S CELICA - DAY

Todd and Clyde watch as the limo rolls away.

TODD
One down, one to go.

EXT. BEACH/BONFIRE - NIGHT

Boys stroll up to the beach. There are multiple bonfires going on in the sand.

NOAH
Hope your allergies aren't
bothering you, Joel.

Joel eyes him, annoyed.

NOAH (CONT'D)
How we gonna find her anyway?

Just then Lyla comes running up.

LYLA
Hi boys, we're over here.

NOAH
Well, that was easy.

MOMENTS LATER

About a dozen teenagers sit around the fire as Lyla and the boys join in.

LYLA
Everybody, this is my friend Joel
that I was telling you about.

Joel waves, the group waves back and some say "Hi Joel".

LYLA (CONT'D)
And this is Joel's cousin, Calvin
and their friend, Noah.

Calvin and Noah wave and the group returns in kind.

LYLA (CONT'D)
Have a seat, we were just wrapping
up prayer requests.

The boys sit down and eye each other. They had no idea it
would be a Christian event.

LYLA (CONT'D)
Is there anything we can be praying
for you?

The boys turn sheepish.

LYLA (CONT'D)
Come on, don't be shy now.

JOEL
Ok, I could use some prayers. I'm
heading off to boot camp soon, it
will undoubtedly be the hardest
thing I've ever done.

LYLA
Thank you for stepping up to serve.
Have you always wanted to join the
military?

Joel pauses as he gets a little emotional before responding.

JOEL
My dad was my hero. The greatest
man I knew, and an admirable
Marine. He died in Nam, it crushed
me... But before that he taught me
about, integrity, service, honor,
duty. I think it's my job to follow
in his footsteps, and make him
proud.

The group nods, admiring Joel's words.

BONFIRE BOY
I'm sorry about your father Joel.
I'm also jealous, sounds like you
had a good one. My father left my
mom when I was just a baby, started
a new life with another woman and
essentially disowned us.

BONFIRE GIRL

My father was a junkie. Couldn't
beat his addiction. Thankfully, my
grandparents stepped in and filled
the gap.

A somberness fills the atmosphere.

LYLA

You know, some can be good and some
are terrible, but there is one
Father who is always good.

Some in the group nod, picking up what she's putting down.

LYLA (CONT'D)

And when things are at their worst
and all seems lost, in the Father
we are found!

Calvin internalizes her words, as they're timely for him.

EXT. BEACH/BONFIRE - NIGHT

The group is still gathered around the fire. Lyla emerges
from behind her chair and holds up a bag of marshmallows.

LYLA

S'mores before toons?

The group smiles excited and they hold up their sticks.

As Lyla passes out marshmallows, Noah leans over to Joel.

NOAH

Hey Joel, come here I wanna show
you something.

MOMENTS LATER

Noah and Joel stand about twenty yards away from the group
near the water.

JOEL

What is it Noah?

NOAH

I wanted to get you alone, away
from the group, in private.

JOEL

Bro, you're weirding me out.

NOAH
It's about Calvin.

JOEL
What about him?

NOAH
You thought about how he's gonna
feel if he doesn't find his dad?

Joel thinks for a moment.

JOEL
Yeah, it might not happen. He'll
have to learn that life ain't fair
sometimes.

NOAH
Is your mom really gonna move him
to New Mexico? Can't you change her
mind or something?

JOEL
Have you met my mom? Head strong is
her middle name.

NOAH
I just wish there was someway.

As Joel shakes his head in thought of a plan, his processing
is interrupted...

DONNY (O.S.)
Joel!

Joel turns and sees his old middle school friend, Donny, now
18. He strolls up to the boys with two friends by his side.

JOEL
Ehh, Donny Hawk, third generation
dipstick!

DONNY
Thought I'd never see that mug
again. Boys meet Joel Booga Face
Barrett, aka The Sultan of Snot!

Donny's lackeys chuckle. Joel rolls his eyes.

JOEL
Nothings changed, huh Donny?

DONNY
Nope, how's the desert? Still hot?

JOEL
 Sure is. Not everyone can handle
 the heat, takes strength, some
 ain't built for it.

NOAH
 Shor ain't.

Joel elbows him. Donny huffs.

DONNY
 You still board?

JOEL
 Every day.

DONNY
 You know, we're having a skateboard
 tournament at the Y tomorrow.

Lyla approaches and interrupts, as she comes beside Joel.

LYLA (O.S.)
 There you are. Why don't you come
 hang by the fire.

DONNY
 (ref: her shirt)
 Hey Lyla, love the tank.

LYLA
 Hi Donny.

DONNY
 You know, I still got those two
 movie tickets when you're ready.

LYLA
 Oh yeah, I'm still lookin for my
 calendar. Once I find it, I'll
 check it and get back to ya.

Donny looks confused.

DONNY
 Oook. I was just telling Joel here
 about The Skateful Grateful.

LYLA
 Oh yes. You should compete. You
 have a board?

JOEL
 I didn't bring one.

LYLA
I got one you could borrow.

DONNY
You talkin about the board that I
got...

LYLA
Great to see you Donny, we gotta
get back.

Lyla grabs Joel's hand and pulls him away. Noah eyes Donny and his friends, it's a little awkward.

NOAH
Really great to meet you guys.

He turns and leaves as Donny and his friends stare.

Lyla walks with Joel still holding his hand.

JOEL
So, you and Donny?

LYLA
Never! I like holy, humble men.
That which he is not.

Joel smirks, the exact answer he was looking for.

LYLA (CONT'D)
You know, I'd love to hear more
about your dad sometime.

They lock eyes, some sparks are rising. After a few steps they make it back to the group by the fire.

LYLA (CONT'D)
(to the group)
So, I guess Rudy's not gonna make
it. Anybody here know how to work
turntables?

A DJ setup sits on concrete by edge of the sand. Everyone looks around, while Noah smiles.

EXT. BEACH/BONFIRE - NIGHT

Noah slips on the headphones behind the DJ table and puts a record on, it's Swing MUSIC. The song plays and youth group swing dances on the sand.

Joel sits making s'mores with Calvin by the fire. Lyla comes up to him.

LYLA
So you can skate, but can you
swing?

She puts her hand out. Joel hands Calvin his s'mores stick.

JOEL
I've been known to boogie.

He meets her hand with his own and gets up. They head off to dance while Calvin sits there still feeling down, but now with double s'mores.

Youth group continues to dance in their own quirky styles as Noah continues to bump the tunes.

Joel and Lyla have fun while they swing dance. They eventually end up falling to the ground as Joel tries to do too much.

While on the ground, there's an intimate moment as they lock eyes. Joel gets the courage to take advantage of it and leans in for a kiss. Before he can reach her...

LYLA
You know I'm not her?

Joel halts, processes her statement.

JOEL
I know.

The tide rolls in high right after his response and soaks Lyla while she lies on the sand.

LYLA
Oh my gosh!

She springs up, Joel assists her. She snickers through the cold as Joel quickly takes off his coat and puts it around her, and they stroll back toward the fire.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE/BACK PATIO - DAY

Calvin steps out to the back patio holding a bowl of cereal and a full to the brim glass of Sunny D.

Before he sits down, he looks out at the ocean and sees what looks like father and son duos, surfing together. He's downhearted at the sight, and plops down in his chair.

He starts eating his bowl of cereal when Noah pops outside, ready for the beach.

NOAH
Paradise, ain't it.

Calvin eyes him.

CALVIN
Yeah, for some. Looks like I'm
flyin solo today.

NOAH
Is that's cool?

CALVIN
That's cool.

I/E. TODD'S CELICA/OUTSIDE BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Todd wakes up to Clyde's snoring. He nudges him on the shoulder, jolting him awake. They both look haggard.

CLYDE
I might regret, Robertos.

He licks the crusted white cream on the side of his mouth.

CLYDE (CONT'D)
Hmm, still sour.

Todd is eyeing the house, limo is gone.

TODD
They already flew the coop.

Todd turns the engine on, when Clyde notices something.

CLYDE
Hey, look.

Todd matches his gaze. Out the front door comes Noah and Joel, headed for the beach.

TODD
Well, whatta ya know. It's wonder
bread and jarhead. But where's the
all-american.

They continue to watch, Calvin never emerges. Todd turns, reaches in the backseat, grabs walkie-talkies and hands one to Clyde.

TODD (CONT'D)

Here, you're gonna discreetly keep an eye on those two while I scope the house.

Clyde nods, understanding.

TODD (CONT'D)

Alert me on this if they're on to me. And don't mess these up, they weren't cheap and I plan to return'em.

INT. COMIC CON/INTERVIEW - DAY

Calvin and Ben sit at a table with INTERVIEWER #1, 20s, a little too clean cut.

INTERVIEWER #1

Welcome back to KUS/SCI-FI radio. We're excited to have Ben Eaton and his nephew Calvin join us.

Calvin and Ben nod.

INTERVIEWER #1 (CONT'D)

So Ben, it's great to see you roaming the halls of our small but growing conference.

BEN

Great to be here Brad. Gotta say, I love the energy and passion of the folks here.

BRAD

Yes, some are a sight to behold.

On his sentence, a man in his 60s, out of shape, walks by in a Riddler's latex fitted costume. He looks around, lost.

INTERVIEWER #1

So, when will we see you on the big screen again?

BEN

(slightly glum)

Well, there's no tellin, as you know, we can't control these things.

Calvin recognizes the glumness and shifts gears.

CALVIN

The real question is, when will we see you on the big screen, Brad?

BRAD

Me?

CALVIN

Yeah, I mean the hair, those pearly whites, they're being wasted on radio.

BRAD

(cheeses)

Ya think so, huh?

CALVIN

Most definitely.

BRAD

What kind of film do you see me in?

CALVIN

Gotta be Action/Thriller, save the planet. Then some Rom-Com, get the girl. You got that kind of range.

Calvin smiles, Ben matches him. Brad's head in the clouds, dreaming of his potential.

BRAD

(poses)

Maybe I should update my headshots. What ya think?

His cameraman looks around the camera at him like "what is going on"?

BEN

No maybe, you definitely should.

BRAD

It's settled then, and I might need to borrow Calvin as my hype man for auditions, Ben?

Ben eyes Calvin.

CALVIN

I don't come cheap Bradley!

They all chuckle.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Joel makes his way out of the water from bodysurfing. As he moves up the shoreline, he BUMSPS into Clyde.

Clyde is strutting shirtless, stereo up to one ear. Definitely not built for the beach.

TODD
Oops. I'm sorry.

CLYDE
(startled)
Uhh, hey... I mean, uh, no worries.

Clyde abruptly turns and continues his strut, while Joel looks on puzzled.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

A line of about a dozen girls stand in bikinis. At the front of the line sits Noah on a beach chair rubbing sunscreen on a girl's back with a stand behind him.

The sign on the stand behind him reads: "Sunscreen Attendant" with a tagline below - "I Got Your Back!" He finishes applying the sunscreen on the girl.

NOAH
You're all set. Thank you for your business Becca. Enjoy the rays.

Becca stands up, turns to Noah, winks at him then departs.

Noah looks over at the next girl in line. She's a REDHEAD, with freckles and a little awkward.

NOAH (CONT'D)
I feel your pain sista.

She purses lips and drops head, doleful.

NOAH (CONT'D)
You came to the right place.

She hands Noah her sunscreen, he grabs and views it.

NOAH (CONT'D)
That's your first mistake.

He tosses the sunscreen to the side and grabs a tube behind him from the stash in his stand.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Have a seat.

She sits in front of him with her back turned.

NOAH (CONT'D)
This one's got tanner.

He opens the bottle, squirts some on his hands and begins applying to her back.

NOAH (CONT'D)
We'll have you lookin like
margarine by cloud break. And you
know what they say; once you go
yella, you won't need the umbrella.

The redhead smiles ear to ear. Just then, Joel strolls up.

JOEL
Ya finally found your calling Noah.

NOAH
Thank you Kali Clark!

Joel snickers. Noah looks past him and spots Todd creepin around the outside of their beach house.

NOAH (CONT'D)
What the... Hey, can you takeover
for me? I'll be right back.

Noah stands up and hands the sunscreen tube to Joel. He then hurriedly moves toward the boardwalk.

Clyde spots Noah moving in Todd's direction. He goes to pull out the walkie-talkie, but it's stuck on his shorts.

He forcefully YANKS it off as time is running out to alert Todd, but loses his grip and the walkie FLIES in the ocean.

His eyes widen, worried, he chucks the stereo and goes diving in the ocean to retrieve it.

As he flails in and out of the water like a lunatic, some parents nearby become concerned and pull away their children.

EXT. BEACH HOUSE/BACK PATIO - DAY

Noah steps up toward Todd who's back is turned.

NOAH
HEY!

Todd JUMPS, startled. Eyes Noah as he moves closer, then looks out in the ocean to see Clyde still deep sea diving for the walkie.

NOAH (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

Todd struggles to come up with a response.

TODD
Uhh, nothin... Bye!

He then turns and sprints down the boardwalk as Noah watches confused.

INT. COMIC CON/INTERVIEW - DAY

Calvin and Ben sit at another desk beside a woman, it's INTERVIEWER #2, 30s.

INTERVIEWER #2
Ok, gentlemen, we're doing three rounds. Let's see how well you know your Uncle, Calvin?

Boys nod "ok, pens in hand, large cards in front of them.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
Calvin, what's Ben's favorite soda?

Ben writes, Calvin thinks for a moment then writes. Once they're both done.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
K, let's see'em.

They both hold up cards, and they both wrote Mello Yello.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
Nice job. I'm a Mountain Dew gal myself. K, round two. Calvin, what's Ben's favorite cereal?

Again, they both write their answers down.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
K, what we got?

They both hold up their cards, both say Frosted Flakes.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
Wow, that was too easy, who doesn't love the Frosteds!

Calvin and Ben share a grin.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
Ok, last question Calvin - who's
Ben's favorite musician?

This time they both take a moment, then write their answers.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
I don't know if you're on the same
page this time. Let's see it.

They throw up their cards and Calvin nailed it as they both
wrote Luther Vandross.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
Amazing!

They both toss their cards over their shoulder and share a
fist bump.

INTERVIEWER #2 (CONT'D)
Thank you both for spending some
time with us today.

BEN/CALVIN
You're welcome.

They look at each other and smile after being in unison.

EXT. TODD'S CELICA/BEACH HOUSE STREET - DAY

Todd stands outside his driver side, fuming, as Clyde lumbers
up. He's a wet, soggy, sandy mess.

He holds up the damaged walkie.

CLYDE
I saved her. She might be...

The walkie slips out of his hand and SHATTERS on the ground.
Clyde looks up at Todd, apologetic. Todd shakes his head.

TODD
(clenching teeth)
Get in the car, we're going to the
second house.

INT. COMIC CON/VENUE - DAY

Calvin and Ben walk together through the halls. Ben waves at
a few folks, and signs a couple autographs from fans.

BEN
You hungry?

CALVIN
I'm fourteen, what do you think?

BEN
(grins)
Should we pickup Joel and Noah?

CALVIN
(checks his watch)
They're busy.

EXT. SKATEPARK - DAY

Joel and Noah amble up. Banner reads: THE SKATEFUL GRATEFUL!

Kids, 7 - 18, flood the park in full skate gear as they drop into bowls and ride rails without any regard for bodily harm.

Joel and Noah make their way to the vert ramp. The competition is already going on.

NOAH
Ya think we're too late?

Joel shrugs, unsure.

DONNY (O.S.)
Yo fellas, the desert rats made it.

Donny's lackeys chuckle.

DONNY (CONT'D)
Didn't think you had it in you to show Joel.

JOEL
Well, we ain't in middle school anymore Donny. I'm gonna enjoy embarrassing you on your own turf.

LACKEY #1
Fat chance, Donny's the best boarder in the county.

LACKEY #2
Well, besides cousin Anthony.

DONNY

Cuzo's nursing an injury, so that makes me the best right now. And I'm going taco cheese today.

JOEL

Taco cheese?

DONNY

Gonna shred it!

Joel shakes head, annoyed. Donny high-fives his lackeys.

NOAH

Who's that on the ramp now? They're killin it.

On the vert ramp, a competitor is in the middle of a great ride.

The boys stare in amazement.

JOEL

(to Donny)

Hey, have you seen Lyla around?

Donny eyes his lackeys, grins, and then they walk off.

Joel eyes Noah, and they're both confused. They turn back to watch the competitor finish their ride. Once done, the competitor removes helmet at the top of the ramp, it's Lyla.

Joel and Noah eye each other, shocked at her skill.

MOMENTS LATER

Lyla steps up to Joel.

JOEL (CONT'D)

Wow Lyla, I didn't know you could...

LYLA

What, boys can't have all the fun.

Joel and Noah grin.

LYLA (CONT'D)

Girls division's almost done, and I already signed you up.

JOEL

Thank you. And a board.

LYLA

Oh yeah.

Lyla looks past the boys.

LYLA (CONT'D)

ANTHONY!

A boy, 14, skinny, wearing a walking boot and a backpack with a board turns around, it's ANTHONY. He spots Lyla and heads in her direction. Once he's next to them.

LYLA (CONT'D)

Can I get the board?

ANTHONY

Absolutely!

Anthony grabs the board from his backpack, hands it to Lyla.

LYLA

Thank you for holding it.

ANTHONY

My pleasure Lyla.

Lyla smiles.

NOAH

You're Donny's cousin?

ANTHONY

Yeah.

NOAH

What happened to the leg?

ANTHONY

Tried to land a 720... Maybe next time.

NOAH

Got it. Something tells me, there's a 900 in your future.

Anthony's eyes widen.

ANTHONY

Whoa, that would be epic.

(nods, dreaming)

Anyways, good luck out there.

Anthony hobbles away. Lyla hands the board to Joel. Joel gets a view of it and flips it upside down.

On the bottom of the board it reads: To: Lyla From: Donny

JOEL
Donny gave you this?

LYLA
A birthday present.

Donny, now fully geared up, approaches.

DONNY
(to Joel)
See ya out there, sport.

Joel holds up his board, and Donny recognizes it.

JOEL
Can't wait.

Donny frowns at Lyla.

DONNY
How bout a little wager Lyla? If I
win, you accompany me to the
movies.

LYLA
And when Joel beats you?

DONNY
Then I stop askin you, and I'll
give you the tickets to take
whatever lame you want.

Lyla ponders the offer for a moment, then eyes Donny.

LYLA
I usually hate machismo matches,
but I'll make an exception to watch
you go down. You got a deal.

Lyla and Donny shake hands.

INT. HODAD'S BURGERS/TABLE - DAY

The swanky popular burger joint, is full of people from all walks of life - hippies, surfers, professionals...etc.

Ben strides through the crowd, incognito, holding a tray of food.

He drops the tray of burgers and frings (fries and onion rings) down on the table where Calvin sits and sits down.

BEN
So, you gotta try the frings first.

CALVIN
Frings?

BEN
Yes. Take an onion ring and combine it with a fry, like this.

Ben demonstrates, Calvin follows suit.

BEN (CONT'D)
You'd think they might not go, but you'd be surprised... Now execute the dip.

They both dunk their frings in ranch dipping sauce.

BEN (CONT'D)
And enjoy.

They both take bites of the ranch drenched frings. Calvin loves them and Ben loves watching him enjoy his first time.

BEN (CONT'D)
So, you mentioned yesterday that you're here to find your dad.

CALVIN
That's right.

BEN
Hmm. Did he leave your mom or something?

CALVIN
Nah. He didn't know about me, and when I was a baby my mom...
(he pauses, somber)
She went to tell him, but she never made it.

Ben processes this information, and the shift in his mood.

BEN
So, your mom, she's...?

Ben hesitates, as sorrow builds in his voice.

CALVIN
Yeah, drunk driver.

BEN
I'm so sorry.

CALVIN
Thanks... How about you? You and
your dad get along?

Ben's sorrow doesn't dissipate as he pauses to respond.

BEN
You know, we all got dreams, but
you never know how someone's gonna
respond when they fall apart.

Calvin looks on questioning where he's going.

BEN (CONT'D)
Ours fell apart when I blew out my
pitching arm in college. He was
supposed to be my manager when I
made the Big Leagues.

CALVIN
What did he...

BEN
He responded by numbing the pain
with the bottle. Soon his tolerance
grew, and his escape required
harder and harder substances.

Calvin stares at him, empathetic.

BEN (CONT'D)
My mom moved on because he was
unrecognizable. And I did the same.

Ben's emotions rise as he becomes teary eyed.

BEN (CONT'D)
An amazing woman inspired me to
reconnect with him, and I did years
later. I call him and he tells me
he's got cancer, and it's bad. I
flew back from a shoot the next
week to see him, and it's too late.

Ben wipes at his eyes.

BEN (CONT'D)
Interestingly enough... Now I
mostly see him in my dreams!

CALVIN
I'm so sorry. I'm sure he'd be
proud of you now.

BEN
For what?

CALVIN
Really? Your cars, your houses, the
money to do anything you want. Who
wouldn't think that's cool.

Ben steadies a response.

BEN
You know what's truly cool...

Ben looks behind Calvin, head gestures.

BEN (CONT'D)
That!

At a table behind Calvin is what looks like a father with his
three sons eating a burger.

BEN (CONT'D)
And that's what you're after. Kudos
to you, for recognizing that at
your age.

Calvin nods in appreciation of the compliment. Ben grabs his
uneaten burger and Calvin does the same.

They lift them up.

BEN (CONT'D)
Here's to finding your dad.

They both smile and take a bite.

EXT. SKATEPARK - DAY

Joel stands at the top of the vert ramp, ready for his ride.

ANNOUNCER
Up next, Joel Barrett.

Joel stretches his neck then drops in. His ride is "Total 80s
style", think "RAD" with slo-mos and music playing.

He executes all his tricks, to the amazement of the crowd,
including Donny's lackeys. He receives two 10s and one 9 from
the judges.

His name gets placed at the top of the leaderboard. He walks by Donny, who's up next on the ramp, strapping on helmet.

DONNY

Not bad, but the Hawk's bout to soar!

ANNOUNCER

And our last skater, Donny Hawk.

Donny drops in, and like Joel, executes all his tricks with precision. On his way to a perfect score, he gets too cocky and decides he's going to land the 720 before his time is up.

The crowd cheers him on as he drops in, but before he sets up the trick, he glances at Lyla and flashes an arrogant smile.

She blows him a seductive kiss which throws him off, he botches the trick and lands on his face.

He looks up embarrassed and the crowd is embarrassed for him. Lyla returns an arrogant smile.

Judges hold up their scorecards, it's 8s across the board. Lyla jumps into Joel's arms as he has won the competition.

EXT. SKATEPARK - DAY

Donny lumbers up to Joel and Lyla. Joel has his arm around her and he's wearing the 1st place medal around his neck.

DONNY

Congratulations. A deals a deal.

Donny extends hand toward Joel, holding movie tickets. Joel stares at him, feeling sorry.

JOEL

Keep'em Donny. We got other plans.

Donny, stubborn, slides them back in his pocket.

DONNY

Whatever, she ain't all that anyway. Let's go fellas.

Donny turns and begins to leave as his lackey's follow suit.

LACKEY #1

Bro. Yeah she is.

Donny elbows him. Joel and Lyla watch on, disappointed that after all that, he's still a punk.

EXT/INT. LIMO/DAD #2 HOUSE - DAY

Todd, in a mailman costume, strolls up to the mailbox. He's taking his time as he looks on toward to the front door.

Calvin steps up to the front door, takes a breath and knocks. A girl, 10, answers. She looks like she could be his sister.

FRONT DOOR GIRL

Hi.

CALVIN

Hi. Is Remy Faton here?

FRONT DOOR GIRL

No, he's at the barbershop down the street. Make a left at the light, you can't miss it.

INT. BARBERSHOP - DAY

The boys walk into - "Clippers 4 Life". The walls are covered in NBA Basketball posters, mostly San Diego Clippers.

There is one BARBER, again, he looks like he could be Calvin's dad with a perfectly shaped Afro. He eyes the boys as he takes payment from a customer.

BARBER

How many will it be?

The boys look at the hairstyle photos behind him with an array of haircuts for men of African descent - Fades, High-tops, Afros...etc.

NOAH

(awkward, ref: Calvin)

One!

Barber chuckles.

BARBER

Of course, y'all have a seat.

(to Calvin)

And I can take you young man.

MOMENTS LATER

Barber is in the middle of cutting Calvin's hair. He turns his back to grab a new guard on his clippers.

BARBER

(to Noah)

You know red...

(turns back around)

Once Walton gets healthy, we'll be competing for championships in a couple years.

He goes back to work on Calvin's hair.

NOAH

Maybe, but the Clippers will be in LA by that time.

Barber halts his cutting, and peers at Noah.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Don't blame the messenger.

BARBER

(to Calvin)

What do you think?

CALVIN

I don't know, he's pretty spot on with his predictions.

Barber shrugs and continues cutting.

BARBER

If Sterling gets his way and takes them to LA then I'm done with'em. I'm San Diego through and through.

Noah nods in agreement. Just then, Todd, still in a mailman costume, and Clyde, come walking through the door.

They're both awkwardly uncomfortable as they head for a seat. The Barber acknowledges them. Then he yells to the back room behind a curtain.

BARBER (CONT'D)

REMY... REMY, get out here.

Calvin's eyes light up, could this be him. Everyone is anticipating who will come out from behind the curtain.

After a second, REMY FATON #2 emerges eating carne asada fries. He's in his early 20s and nearly as light skin as Noah with a high-top fade.

REMY FATON #2

Ya's ain't gots to yell.

BARBER
We got customers.

Remy stops mid bite and looks over to see Todd and Clyde.

REMY FATON #2
Oh. Ok, just a sec.

He slides over behind his chair and puts his fries down on the counter as he gets setup to work.

Calvin's hopeful face turns to despair. Joel and Noah eye him empathetic. Todd smiles, while Clyde also flashes a touch of empathy for Calvin.

Remy is ready to go.

REMY FATON #2 (CONT'D)
Ok, big boy, I can take you first.

Clyde's nervous, didn't expect to get a haircut. He stands up and steps over in his flip flops, trying to avoid the skunk like hair clippings littered across the floor.

BARBER
(to Todd)
And slim jim, I'm almost done here, then I'll be with you.

Todd nods. Calvin remains heartbroken in the chair.

INT. LIMO - DAY

It's eerily quiet in the limo as the boys are downtrodden.

JOEL
You know, maybe he moved.

NOAH
Yeah, I mean that letter is pretty old Cal, he's probably in a different state.

The attempt to give Calvin hope doesn't work, he's defeated.

CALVIN
Appreciate you guys trying to soften the blow, but it's not just about him. It's about us, about this... I don't want another fresh start.
(shakes head)
It just doesn't seem fair.

Joel slides over to Calvin and puts his arm around him. Calvin looks up at his cousin and appreciates the comfort.

JOEL

Hey, no sense in being sad about a future that's not guaranteed. That's in His hands. Let's enjoy the time we have now... Even if it's with Noah!

Joel and Calvin smirk at Noah who doesn't find it funny.

EXT. BARBERSHOP/FRONT DOOR - DAY

Todd and Clyde step out onto the curb in their fresh haircuts. Clyde, a wet Jheri Curl. Todd, a low top Gumby.

TODD

(proud)
Our work here is done, Clyde.

CLYDE

Wasn't much work at all.

TODD

Thankfully for them.

CLYDE

You know, with these new doo's we might not need the house to get the coeds.

Clyde pushes up his curls. Todd shakes his head at him.

INT. BEN'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ben opens the door to his hotel suite. Terry stands there holding a duffel bag.

BEN

Yo, what's going on Terry? Is it pep talk time?

TERRY

No, I got something better for you.

Terry unzips his bag and reaches in to pull out a facemask costume which resembles Nien Nunb from *Return of the Jedi*.

TERRY (CONT'D)

A guy from LucasFilms wanted me to have you try this on.

He hands the facemask over to Ben.

TERRY (CONT'D)
You need to bring it to the
interview tomorrow.

BEN
Cool!

TERRY
This is the opportunity to get us
back to where we belong. You better
charm their pants off, huh.

BEN
That's the plan.

Terry smirks then zips the bag closed, but before he leaves.

TERRY
Oh, and one more thing. Calvin
struck out last night on the dad
front. He's pretty down. Might
wanna do something special for him.

Ben looks glum at this news, as he thinks of what he can do.

INT. BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Calvin sits at the island eating his frosted flakes and
drinking his Sunny D when the doorbell RINGS.

He opens the door, it's Lyla in a bathing suit and towel.

LYLA
Hey Cal, you're not hitting the
beach with us?

Calvin steps aside to let her enter.

CALVIN
Nah, Ben and I have our biggest
interview yet... LucasFilms.

LYLA
Whoa, that's big time. Well, good
luck, you'll be missed. Seen Joel?

CALVIN
I think he's out back.

Lyla spots Joel sitting on the back patio listening to tunes
and heads his way.

Calvin shuts the door closed, but a foot reaches out and stops it. It's Ben's, Calvin is surprised to see him.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Oh no, did I miss the interview?

BEN
Terry told me what happened
yesterday. I'm sorry Cal.

Calvin shrugs solemnly.

CALVIN
Me too, but that's life I guess.

BEN
Yeah. Hey, instead of doing another
boring interview, whatta ya say we
hit the Padres game.

Ben pulls out tickets from his pocket and flashes them to Calvin. Calvin's intrigued.

CALVIN
But, what about your image?

BEN
Image, schmimage. If it's meant to
be, it'll be.

CALVIN
Terry's fine with this?

BEN
Yeah, he threw up a little when I
told him, but he understands. So...

Calvin looks around Ben at the sunny day behind him.

CALVIN
It's a great day for baseball!

EXT. JACK MURPHY STADIUM - DAY

The boys with Ben, Terry and Lyla walk the concourse looking for their seats. Calvin looks down at the tickets, points.

CALVIN
There we are. Section 103.

BEN
Cool. Terry, you mind taking a
quick pic?

Ben hands him the camera hanging around his neck.

TERRY
Not at all.

Terry moves in front of the group as they get in close.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Ok, on three... Ben take those
stinkin glasses off.

Ben, unaware his glasses were on, swiftly removes them.

TERRY (CONT'D)
Ok, everybody say Padres Victory on
three. One, two, three...

They all say - "Padres Victory" then Terry snaps the photo.

With his glasses removed, a girl, in a group of a dozen teenage girls, has spotted Ben.

BALLPARK GIRL (O.S.)
OH MY GOSH! Ben Eaton.

She's star-struck, and all the girls in her group turn and spot him. They gush as they charge toward him.

They crowd around Ben, nudging the boys out of the way as others in the concourse join in.

BEN
Whoa, whoa. Ok, who's got a pen?

CALVIN
We'll see you at the seats.

A hand springs up holding a pen from the crowd. Ben grabs it.

BEN
Thank you. Ok, gimme what you got.

Ben signs shirts, hats, coke cups, ice cream bowls...etc. Then a PREGNANT WOMAN, 20s, African descent, comes up.

BEN (CONT'D)
Lady with a baby.

She smiles and hands him her hat.

PREGNANT WOMAN
Love your work Benny.

BEN

Wow, I haven't been called Benny in over a dozen years.

PREGNANT WOMAN

I've been a Crusader since day one. Had your first poster on my wall,
(blushes, reminiscing)
Signed Benny Eaton. You're forever Benny to me.

BEN

(smiles)
What's your name?

PREGNANT WOMAN

Lorri Taylor.

BEN

Pleasure to meet you Lorri. What's the little one's name?

LORRI TAYLOR

I'm going with Christopher.

Ben grins, then starts signing her hat.

BEN

To Christopher. Dream big, love bigger and always listen to your mother!

He then signs, and the signature is an EXACT MATCH to Calvin's letter... What!!

Ben hands her back the hat and smiles. She looks at the signature and returns a smile.

EXT. JACK MURPHY STADIUM/SEATS - DAY

The stadium is mostly empty as the boys sit first base side, lower field level.

NOAH

(to Terry)
Where's everybody at?

TERRY

We won forty-one games last year. And the beach never disappoints.

Joel makes his way to the seats holding two hot dogs. He hands a dog to Lyla.

LYLA
Thank you JB.

Noah and Calvin eye each other and mouth "JB", what?

JOEL
You're welcome baby.

Noah and Calvin, still eyeing each other, mouth "baby"?

CALVIN
Thanks for grabbing us one... JB.

JOEL
Five dollars for two dogs. I don't
love you that much Cal.

Joel grins and puts his arm around Lyla who leans into him as she unwraps her dog. Calvin's unamused.

TERRY
(to Noah)
Hey, whatta ya think about this
rookie, Tony Gwynn, coming up?

On the field, Gwynn steps foot in the box.

NOAH
He's a surefire Hall of Famer.
Three hundred plus career average,
destined to become Mr. Padre!

Terry looks at him, bewildered.

TERRY
You're crazy. I got him as a yo-yo
guy. He'll bounce between minors
and majors for the next decade.

NOAH
Hmm. Only time will tell.

CALVIN
(to Noah)
Look at this Casanova.

Calvin is staring at Joel. Noah looks over.

Joel and Lyla have interlocked arms as they gaze at each other, both holding their hot dogs.

Joel's allergies kick in and he sneezes on his dog. When he comes up, Lyla chuckles, similar to Penny in middle school.

Joel starts to feel embarrassed, not again! Lyla grabs a napkin and wipes mustard off his cheek and smiles.

They take a bite of the dogs at the same time, then Joel rubs noses with her.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Puke. I'm gonna grab a link, you wanna come?

NOAH
Shor do. Terry, want anything?

TERRY
I'm good.

Calvin and Noah head up the aisle. Ben makes his way down on the opposite side of the stairs. He's added a fake mustache with his galsses and hat to conceal his identity.

BEN
(to Joel)
Well, aren't you two just the cutest.

Lyla smiles. Ben sits down next to Terry.

EXT. JACK MURPHY STADIUM/CONCESSION - DAY

Concession ATTENDANT drops mustard packets on the counter in front of Calvin, next to two foil wrapped hot links.

ATTENDANT
Everything else is on the counter behind you.

MOMENTS LATER - CONDIMENTS TABLE

Calvin and Noah stand at the counter. Calvin unwraps his link. He then puts his hand in his pocket to grab the mustard, but it's the wrong pocket and he grabs the letter.

He stares at the letter for a moment, melancholy. He looks up to see three teenage Padres fans walking the concourse together, bonding. One has a "Keep the Faith" shirt on.

CALVIN
You know, maybe Lyla's right about the whole Heavenly Father stuff.

NOAH
Yeah. His timing, it's always perfect. Something's gonna happen.

CALVIN

Well, I'm not gonna wait around
sulking, time to move on.

He slides over to the trashcan and flips the letter on top.

NOAH

You sure?

CALVIN

Yep! I've got everything I need in
Aunt Cynthia and Joel...

Noah stares at him, waiting for him to finish the sentence.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

And you. How could I replace you?

NOAH

(feigning emotion)

Ya can't.

Calvin smirks, then catches Ben out of the corner of his eye as he moseys toward the bathroom.

Calvin begins to realize that there is something very familiar about Ben, but what?

Ben stops to let a couple pass by. The man bumps into Ben's camera as he passes. Ben adjusts the camera around his neck and keeps moving.

All of a sudden it HITS Calvin as to what is familiar about him, who else is into taking pictures at events? He can't believe he hadn't seen it before.

CALVIN

No way!

His eyes dart around and he spots Lorri Taylor polishing off her hot link at the counter near him.

He turns and scoops up his letter off the top of the trash, then slides over to Lorri.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Excuse me ma'am. Did you get Ben
Eaton's autograph?

Lorri nods an affirmative while she chews her last bite. She then removes her hat and hands it to Calvin to see.

Calvin views the signature, eyes ping-pong back and forth from hat to letter, UNBELIEVABLE, signatures match. His eyes widen, mouth agape.

LORRI TAYLOR
 (ref: his hot link)
 You gonna eat that?

CALVIN
 It's all yours.

Lorri grins and slides the link in front of her. Calvin taps Noah and shows him the matching signatures. Noah's amazed.

NOAH
 Perfect timing!

Calvin looks up to spot Ben as he exits the restroom and heads for the seats. He glows at him, like a long lost son in search of a father would.

EXT. JACK MURPHY STADIUM/SEATS - DAY

Calvin and Noah are back in their seats with the gang. Ben moves through the aisle to his seat, holding his hat.

Ben takes his seat next to Calvin who still beams at him.

BEN
 Ok, we're gonna play pass the cap.

Ben takes out multiple wads of \$1 bills out of his hat and hands them to each person.

BEN (CONT'D)
 Everybody put a dollar in the cap.
 (everyone puts one in)
 Now, I'll start. If the batter reaches base then I get the pot and we start over. If he doesn't then I pass the cap and we all add another dollar. Everybody get it?

Everybody nods "yes" at Ben.

MOMENTS LATER

They play the game to their enjoyment as Noah wins a big pot.

EXT. JACK MURPHY STADIUM/PARKING LOT - DAY

The group strides to the limo after the game. Calvin walks with Ben ahead of everyone else.

CALVIN

Thank you for the game. It meant a lot.

BEN

You're welcome. You know, I'm gonna miss you guys. Haven't had that much fun in years.

CALVIN

Hmm, I think we'll have more time together because I found my dad.

Ben abruptly stops walking and looks curious at Calvin.

BEN

What? Where, at the game?

CALVIN

You could say that. Ya see...

Calvin pulls out the letter, a nervous anxiety overtakes him.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

He wrote my mom, Cheryl Perry, this letter, I read the signature wrong, but now it's clear.

Ben's eyes widen in complete shock of the familiar letter. He grabs the letter and reviews it. Stares at Calvin a moment.

Calvin stares back, unsure how Ben will react to the news.

Ben then drops down full of emotions waves Calvin over. He takes off his hat and reveals the inside lip, it reads:
Reconnect with your Dad, Before it's too late! Love Cheryl

Calvin and Ben are overcome by the moment, eyes well up with heavy tears, as they hug. After a few moments.

NOAH

(to Joel)

Well, what happens now?

EXT. LYLA'S HOUSE/STREET - DAY

Joel sits in Love Bug driver seat. Lyla slams down the hood.

LYLA
Ok, give it a go.

Joel turns the ignition and the car starts up.

LYLA (CONT'D)
Yes!

Calvin and Noah hang out the sunroof of the limo.

NOAH
Is the insect, ALIVE?!

Lyla has made her way around the car next to Joel, who stepped out of the car.

JOEL
Betta than eva. Can I get a sec?

Joel gestures to him and Lyla. Calvin and Noah grin.

CALVIN
Great hangin with you Lyla.

LYLA
Likewise, glad my prayer was answered for ya Calvin.

Calvin grins, him and Noah duck down inside limo.

JOEL
(to Lyla)
It won't be bye for long. Boot camp starts up soon. I'm gonna be counting down the days. I'll write, I'll call, I'll...

LYLA
Cut the mushy stuff and kiss me already.

Joel smiles and leans into her as their eyes lock. As he goes to kiss her, Calvin and Noah pop their heads out the sunroof.

Lyla catches them in her peripheral and lifts up her hat, concealing their kiss.

NOAH
Ahh, come on.

Their kiss ends and Joel peers at the boys while Lyla wipes the corners of his mouth.

Ben pops out of the limo passenger.

BEN
Joel, hop in the limo, I'll cruise
the Love Bug... Let's get goin.

Joel smiles, excited.

MOMENTS LATER

Love Bug pulls away, the limo follows. Lyla waves from the street as Joel pops out of the sunroof and waves back at her.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/KITCHEN - NIGHT

Cynthia is doing dishes with the phone up to her ear.

CYNTHIA
Yes, yes that's what he told me.
So, it's not true?

MRS. GILBERT (O.S.)
No it ain't! I'm gonna be in town
tomorrow. We'll make this right.

CYNTHIA
Ok, ok bye.

Cynthia hangs up and stares off, unclear.

EXT. SIDE OF THE ROAD - NIGHT

Limo and Love Bug are parked next to Calvin's mom's memorial.

Calvin stands in front of the memorial as Ben steps up. Ben stares for a moment then kneels down and drops flowers.

He then puts his arm around Calvin who leans into him as they share a touching moment.

EXT. CALVINS DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

Limo is parked. Ben, holding luggage, looks back inside thru passenger window as Calvin and Joel move toward front door.

BEN
Have fun at your sisters. I'll call
you if I need you to come back.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Joel and Calvin charge in through the door.

JOEL
MA, WE'RE HOME!

Cynthia emerges from the hallway in her pajamas.

CYNTHIA
Ya think I don't have ears. How did
it go? Did you find...

Cynthia eyes Calvin, then Ben emerges through the door.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)
Ben Eaton?

Ben flashes a charming smile at Cynthia.

CALVIN
Also known as, my dad.

Cynthia is stunned. She eyes Joel and he nods in affirmation.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Cynthia steps up to Ben near the couch holding a pillow and sheets. They both setup the couch for Ben to sleep.

CYNTHIA
Did you call her?

BEN
About a thousand times after I got
back from shooting Cosmos. Then I
found out she had moved, so I sent
the letter as one last ditch effort
in hopes it would reach her.

Cynthia eyes him, sympathetic as Calvin comes up beside them in his pajamas.

CALVIN
Good night Aunt Cynthia, night Ben.

CYNTHIA
Good night Cal.

BEN
Night son.

Calvin beams. He then turns and heads for bed.

BEN (CONT'D)
Thank you for taking care of him
these last thirteen years.

CYNTHIA

Been a pleasure. He's a great kid.

BEN

Is there some way I can repay you?

Cynthia thinks for a second as the bed is finished being set.

CYNTHIA

Well, I could use some help around here gettin ready to move.

BEN

Oh yeah, Calvin told me about that. I'd be glad to help.

CYNTHIA

Thank you sir. Well, I'm gonna call it a night.

BEN

You know, I don't know the first thing about being a dad. What if I'm terrible?

Cynthia eyes him, sensitive to his insecurity.

CYNTHIA

Well, I'd say the best way to avoid that is... show up. And being here, means you're already off to a good start.

Ben flashes a tender hearted smile. She nods, then turns for bed. But after a step, she stops and turns back to Ben while grabbing the photo book off the table behind the couch.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

One more thing...
(hands him the book)
Calvin made this for you.

Ben looks down at the book, curious, as he reads the title. Cynthia cracks a smile, then moves to her bedroom.

Ben sits on the couch, staring at the title: "Walk Thru Time"

As he flips through pages. He sees pics of Calvin from his toddler years to present of all the major holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, New Years...etc).

Ben becomes more emotional with every page flip as realizes the precious time he's missed.

When he gets to the last page, he's fully tearing up. The last photo is of them at the Padre game, titled: Dadventure!

EXT. TODD'S CELICA - DAY

Todd and Clyde are once again parked across the street from Calvin's house, admiring it.

TODD
Just three more weeks, brother.

All a sudden, Ben pushes through the front door, quietly.

TODD (CONT'D)
What the...
(peers in)
Isn't that, that washed up actor?
Why is he...

Clyde eyes Ben, the wheels spinning in his head for the first time. He gets it, smiles.

CLYDE
He found him!

Todd turns and looks at Clyde who shakes his head an affirmative. He looks back at Ben, after a moment MRS. GILBERT, 50s, eclipses his gaze, frowning.

TODD
(sheepish)
Uhh. Hi Mom.

MRS. GILBERT
Don't think I don't know what you tried to pull. I'll deal with you soon.

Todd and Clyde look nervous.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/HALLWAY - DAY

Calvin pads down the hallway in his pajamas, still waking up.

He comes up on the couch. Blanket is folded and Ben is nowhere to be seen as Calvin surveys the area.

He's concerned when Cynthia comes up from behind.

CYNTHIA
Maybe he went for breakfast.

Calvin turns to the window and scurries over to look outside.
He stares out the window.

CALVIN
He's still here. With Mrs. Gilbert.

EXT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/FRONT CURB - DAY

From the window, Ben talks with Mrs. Gilbert. After a moment, they shake hands and Mrs. Gilbert turns to head to her car.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/FRONT WINDOW - DAY

Cynthia, now at the window, catches the tail end of the interaction. She and Calvin eye each other, wondering...

EXT/INT. TODD'S CELICA/CALVIN'S STREET - DAY

Mrs. Gilbert approaches Todd and Joel in the car. Stern look on her face.

MRS. GILBERT
I'll meet you boys at the
apartment!

She marches off to her car parked behind theirs.

CLYDE
So, what's plan 2?

Todd hesitates thinking, then he turns to Clyde.

TODD
(heartfelt)
We should go find our dad!

Clyde smiles.

INT. CALVIN'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Ben steps inside the house.

CYNTHIA
What was that about?

BEN
Guess she sold the house.

CYNTHIA

What?

BEN

Yeah, she couldn't believe I bought it either!

CYNTHIA

You what?!

Calvin grins while Cynthia looks like a deer in headlights.

BEN

It's the least I could do for you.
Now we just gotta find me a house
in the neighborhood.

Cynthia runs over and gives him a big hug, ecstatic. Then Calvin joins in on it.

Joel comes down the hall and interrupts the lovefest.

JOEL

You mind keeping it down! I'm talking with Lyla.

He turns and heads back to his room as they all smile.

EXT. COACH OLSON'S HOME/FRONT PORCH - DAY

Coach Olson opens the door, holding a hot dog. Calvin, Joel and Ben stand on the porch.

COACH OLSON

Hey boys, glad you could make it.

Coach recognizes Ben, but hesitates as he tries to determine where from. It hits him.

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)

Cosmo Crusades?

Ben smirks and nods "yes".

COACH OLSON (CONT'D)

What are you doing with the boys?

BEN

I was told that dads are invited.

Coach Olson eyes Calvin, could it be? Calvin signals "yes". Coach Olson smiles. Then puts his hand out for a shake with Ben. Ben meets his hand and they shake.

COACH OLSON
Well, come on in!

EXT. COACH OLSON'S HOME/BACKYARD - DAY

Fathers and sons hang out in the spacious backyard. Some around the grill, others around the patio watching the baseball game on TV.

In the grass area, stands Ben, holding a wiffle ball.

BEN
You sure you're ready for this? I don't want to embarrass you now.

About 50ft in front of him stands Calvin, in hitting stance.

CALVIN
Enough yammering, let's see what you got, Hatman!

BEN
(taken aback)
Ok, for that, I'm coming with something real nasty.

Ben fiddles with the ball, then winds up and fires it in.

Calvin's eyes lock in on the ball and he takes a huge cut, SMACKING the ball clear over Coach Olson's fence.

He trots around the makeshift bases. He hi-fives Coach Olson at first, then Noah at second, and Joel at third before coming to home plate where Ben stands.

He meets him with a big hug, and the two men are right where they belong!

EXT. COACH OLSON'S HOME/BACKYARD - DAY - **BONUS SCENE**

Calvin, Noah and Joel sit around the back patio.

NOAH
Hold on! That can't be it.

CALVIN
What is it now?

NOAH
You found your dad, Joel got the girl, but what about me? Nada?

JOEL
You never said what you needed.

NOAH
Yeah but...

Mr. Schwartz interrupts, holding a hot dog on a plate. He's wearing his Mr. Beefcake gold medal around his neck.

MR. SCHWARTZ
Noah, good news. Ben's friends with our boy Arnie.

Noah rolls his eyes.

MR. SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)
And we were talking, he thinks I'd make a great stunt double for him.

NOAH
Ooookay.

MR. SCHWARTZ
And he's looking for one for a new movie he's apart of. Something about machines wiping out humans.

NOAH
That actually sounds awesome. What's it called?

MR. SCHWARTZ
Life Terminated, I believe.

NOAH
Hmm. The Terminator would be rad.

MR. SCHWARTZ
Arnie as The Terminator, huh. I'll bring it up to the Director when I audition next week.

NOAH
What?

MR. SCHWARTZ
That's right, pack your bags, we're heading to LA.

Mr. Schwartz flexes as he brings hot dog up for a bite.

MR. SCHWARTZ (CONT'D)
Told you these bad boys would pay off one day.

NOAH
(looks up, dreaming)
LA...

EXT. LA BEACH - DAY - FANTASY

Noah sits on a beach chair. He holds a 1982 Nokia cell phone to his ear; it's a brick.

NOAH
Sorry Magic, I can't make it tonight. You know how it goes, gotta keep her happy... I'm looking forward to meeting Worthy too... Alright then, talk to you tomorrow.

Noah hangs up the phone on the machine sitting in the sand as Kali Clark saunters up to the chair next to him, dripping in ocean water, and sits down.

KALI
Let me guess, Earvin?

NOAH
Yep.

KALI
What did he want?

NOAH
He invited us over, but I told him, it's date night with my schnookums!

KALI
Ahhh, honey.

She leans over and grabs sunscreen out of her bag.

KALI (CONT'D)
Could you give me another layer?

She turns her back to him. Noah stares up to the heavens in appreciation, then looks into the camera...

NOAH
Life Defining!!

IT'S FINISHED