

"FLYING HIGH"

by Ken Gildin

FADE IN:

EXT. WE ARE SOARING THROUGH THE CLEAR BLUE SKIES

As we start to turn, WE HEAR THE HIGH-PITCHED WHINE OF A SMALL PLANE ENGINE. WE GRACEFULLY ZOOM OVER tree-tops, fields, cows grazing, horses in a corral, hogs in a pen, an old wagon, the frame of an old crop-duster, a barn, a house.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)

I wanna land the plane!

OLDER BOY (O.S.)

You're too young.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)

I am not!

OLDER BOY (O.S.)

Let go.

YOUNG BOY (O.S.)

Gimme!

OLDER BOY (O.S.)

Quit it, you little baby!

THE ENGINE STARTS TO SPUTTER. THE ZOOMING BECOMES ERRATIC. WE ARE FLYING TOWARDS THE GROUND AND TOWARDS TWO YOUNG BOYS, TOMMY WILSON, age 10, and his older brother JOHN, age 14, standing with a remote-control device. WE CRASH AT THEIR FEET.

EXT. THE WILSON FARM -- JOHN AND TOMMY

John picks up the remote-controlled plane and shows his brother that one of the wings is dangling loose.

JOHN (OLDER BOY)

Now look what you did.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY (YOUNGER BOY)
It wasn't my fault.

JOHN
When are you going to grow up?

Their father, MIKE, APPROACHES.

MIKE
What's going on here, boys?

JOHN
Tommy busted my plane.

TOMMY
I did not.

MIKE
Let me see.

John holds the broken plane up to show his father.

MIKE (CONT'D)
That's nothing that some glue...
and a little patience... can't
fix.

John gets the message.

MIKE (CONT'D)
Now put that away and go do your
chores.

JOHN
Yes, sir.

TOMMY
Yes, sir.

John runs into the house with the plane, while Tommy
heads off in another direction. Mike smiles after them.

EXT. WILSON FARM -- HENHOUSE

Tommy picks up a bucket of feed and scatters it on the
ground and in a shallow trough for the chickens.

TOMMY
Sometimes John gets me so mad.

He puts away the bucket and ENTERS the henhouse.

INT. HENHOUSE

Rows of hens sit on their perches. Some wander around. Tommy picks up a basket and carefully collects the eggs.

TOMMY

One of these days he'll see I'm
not a little baby.

He finishes collecting the eggs and EXITS the henhouse carrying the basket of eggs.

INT. BARN

John is fussing with the engine from an old tractor. The tractor sits, dismantled, in the corner of the barn, while the engine hangs from a chain and a pulley.

The Wilson's dog, SHEP, a Border Collie, lies nearby and watches John. Mike ENTERS, carrying some lumber. He puts down the boards and looks over at John.

MIKE

(to John)
What are you doing?

JOHN

I'm trying to fix the old tractor.

MIKE

You don't have to do that.

JOHN

But I know I can get it to work.

MIKE

I'm sure you can. You've kept it running longer than I'd ever imagined. But I ordered a new tractor. It's being delivered next week. Now stop this and do your chores.

JOHN

Yes, sir.

Mike EXITS. Tommy WALKS IN another doorway carrying the basket of eggs. He trips over John's toolbox and the basket crashes to the ground, breaking the eggs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tommy falls on top of it and gets covered with the egg mess. John laughs.

TOMMY

Now look what you made me do!

JOHN

What I made you do?

TOMMY

You shouldn't leave the toolbox way over here.

JOHN

Why don't you look where you're going, you little doofus?

An angry Tommy runs towards his brother and jumps on him, knocking him down and getting egg all over him. The two roll around on the floor of the barn, as hay sticks to them. Shep, the dog, runs around them, BARKING.

Their father ENTERS, carrying some more lumber. He puts the boards down and runs over to the boys, separating them.

MIKE

Hey, hey, hey! What's going on here?

JOHN

He tripped and dropped the eggs and jumped me.

TOMMY

He made me trip.

JOHN

He tripped over his own feet.

TOMMY

I tripped over the toolbox he left out in the middle of the barn.

MIKE

Enough! John, you know better than to leave the toolbox out where someone can trip over it.

Tommy sneers at his brother. John gives him a quick whack on the back of the head, unseen by their father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE (CONT'D)

And Tommy -- you need to be more careful. The price of those eggs is coming out of your allowance.

TOMMY

But...

MIKE

Uh, uh.

TOMMY

Yes, sir.

MIKE

Now, the two of you, clean up this mess, put away the tools and go inside and change your clothes.

JOHN

Yes, Dad.

TOMMY

Yes, sir.

MIKE

Come on, Shep.

Mike EXITS and heads to the house, followed by Shep. Tommy starts picking up the broken eggs. John goes to the tools.

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- KITCHEN

ELLEN, Mike's wife, is finishing up a phone call. Mike and Shep ENTER. Shep lies down in a corner.

ELLEN

(into phone)

Don't worry about it. We'll make other plans. Okay. Talk to you soon.

She hangs up.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

(to Mike)

What was all that commotion?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Just some more brotherly love.
Who was on the phone?

ELLEN

My sister. She has to go to a
medical conference in Fargo the
same time we're supposed to go to
Kate's wedding in Minneapolis.
She won't be able to come stay
with the boys while we're gone.

MIKE

I'm sorry, but I don't see how we
can go, then.

ELLEN

I know.

The boys come in and see their parents upset.

JOHN

What's wrong?

MIKE

Your Aunt Joan just called. She
won't be able to come stay with
you while we're in Minneapolis.

JOHN

We can stay by ourselves.

MIKE

I actually might have considered
that, but after the way you two
have been acting? Out of the
question.

JOHN

Then what's happening?

ELLEN

We're not going.

Ellen heads towards the door.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I'll be in my vegetable garden.

Ellen LEAVES. Mike turns to the boys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE

I'm very disappointed in the two
of you.

John gently pushes Tommy out of the kitchen and they go
up to their room.

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- BOYS' ROOM AND BATHROOM

There are model airplanes hanging on wires from the
ceiling all over the boys' room. There are a couple of
leather aviator helmets, gloves and goggles on shelves.
There are posters of planes on the walls. From their
room, the boys look out their window.

SHOT THROUGH THE WINDOW

The boys watch Ellen work in her vegetable garden.

BACK TO SHOT

The boys change their clothes and wash up.

TOMMY

Mom was really upset. I think we
almost made her cry.

JOHN

And Dad was really mad.

TOMMY

He didn't seem mad. He wasn't
yelling.

JOHN

That's how you know he's really
mad. When he's all quiet and
stuff.

TOMMY

Oh.

JOHN

If only we could convince them to
trust us. Then they could go to
that wedding.

TOMMY

How would we do that?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Well, we'd have to stop fighting.

TOMMY

That's not going to be easy.

JOHN

And we have to show them we can get along.

TOMMY

I guess we could fake that.

JOHN

And you have to tell them that you promise to listen to me and do what I tell you.

TOMMY

You want me to lie?

JOHN

Well, just promise them that you'll do your chores without complaining.

TOMMY

I could do that.

JOHN

Great. Let's go down and tell them.

As they start out, John stops Tommy.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hold on. You've still got a piece of egg-shell in your hair.

He picks the egg-shell out of his brother's hair.

JOHN (CONT'D)

There.

TOMMY

Thanks.

THEY EXIT.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN

Mike is there. Ellen WALKS IN.

MIKE

I'm sorry about the wedding.

ELLEN

I know.

MIKE

How are the vegetables?

ELLEN

They'll be ready any day now.

The boys ENTER.

JOHN

Mom, Dad. We know how important that wedding is to you. Kate's your best friend from school and we want you to go. I'm fourteen. I'm almost an adult.

TOMMY

Me too.

JOHN

I can look out for myself. And I'll keep an eye on Tommy.

TOMMY

And we promise not to fight. And we'll do our chores, and everything.

JOHN

You can trust us.

Mike and Ellen look at the boys, who look back at them.

MIKE

What do you think?

ELLEN

I think we're crazy for even considering it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE

I think they just might surprise us.

ELLEN

I could make a bunch of meals and put them in the freezer for them for dinners.

MIKE

And we can have Rick and Sue check in on them every day.

JOHN

We really want you to go to your friend's wedding and not worry about us.

ELLEN

I'll always worry about you. You're my babies.

Ellen hugs her boys. Shep jumps up for a hug, too.

FADE TO:

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- ENTRYWAY -- A FEW DAYS LATER

Mike brings down a suitcase.

MIKE

Who wants to pull the truck around?

JOHN

I do.

Mike tosses John the keys.

TOMMY

I'll help.

The boys and Shep run outside. Ellen meets Mike in the entryway.

ELLEN

I know they've been getting along without any fighting for the past few days. But are you sure they'll be okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE

There's got to be a first time we
leave them alone.

ELLEN

I know.

MIKE

We have to trust them at some
point.

ELLEN

I know. But we're talking about
John and Tommy. I can't help
worrying.

MIKE

Well, go ahead and worry if it
makes you feel better.

TOMMY (O.S.)

The truck's ready!

MIKE

(to Ellen)
They'll be fine.

Mike gives her a reassuring hug and brings the suitcase
out to the front porch.

EXT. WILSON FARM HOUSE

John gets out of the truck.

MIKE

Give me a hand with this old bag.

JOHN

Okay. C'mon, Mom.

Mike and the boys laugh.

ELLEN

Very funny. I don't know why I
love you clowns so much.

John helps his father put the suitcases in the back of
the truck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MIKE

Now, we're trusting you to be on your best behavior.

ELLEN

We figure you're old enough to be left alone.

JOHN

Then why are you having the Millers check in on us?

ELLEN

Just to make sure everything's okay. And you have our cell number if you need to call.

MIKE

Don't forget to do your chores.

TOMMY

We won't.

MIKE

And don't forget to feed Shep. And remember to look after the animals.

TOMMY

We know, we know.

ELLEN

And check my vegetable garden. It should be ready to be harvested any day now. When we come back I'll make us a nice big fresh salad for dinner.

JOHN

(unenthusiastically)
Salad. Great.

TOMMY

(also not thrilled)
Yeah.

Ellen smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MIKE

And help each other. We're counting on you boys to stay out of trouble. Find something to keep yourselves busy.

JOHN

Don't worry.

TOMMY

Yeah. I'll keep an eye on John.

Mike and Ellen laugh, hug the boys and give Shep a pat.

ELLEN

(to Shep)

Look after them, boy.

Shep gives a BARK. Mike and Ellen get into the truck. As they drive off, they wave good-bye. The boys stand there with their arms around each other, smiling and waving back.

MIKE

Behave yourselves.

ELLEN

We'll call you every day to check in. We love you and we'll see you in four days.

JOHN AND TOMMY

Bye! Have a good time! Don't worry about us!

Mike and Ellen drive off. Shep runs after the truck for a bit, then turns around and runs back to the boys.

When John is sure the truck is out of sight, he pushes Tommy away.

JOHN

Get off of me, you little jerk. Now go do your chores.

TOMMY

What about your chores?

JOHN

You can do them too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

TOMMY

That's not fair.

JOHN

Life's not fair, you little dip-wad.

John pushes Tommy away and heads into the house.

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- KITCHEN

John grabs a bag of potato chips and a can of soda and heads into:

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

He plops down on the sofa, grabs the TV remote and turns on the TV. He flips around the channels until he comes to a science-fiction show. He settles in with the chips and soda.

EXT. WILSON FARM -- PIG PEN

Tommy and Shep approach the pig pen. Shep lies down nearby in the grass as Tommy pulls on a pair of big boots and picks up the bucket of corn, grain and slop.

The gate of the pen is held shut with a rope placed around a post. Tommy lifts the rope off the post, enters the pen and pulls the gate shut, forgetting to put the rope back over the post. He starts pouring the feed into the troughs.

TOMMY

(mimicking his
brother)

Get off of me, you little jerk.
Do my chores, you little dip-wad.
I'm going to tell Mom and Dad.

Shep notices something and BARKS.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

No, then I'll just be a tattle-tale.

Shep BARKS again. Tommy turns around to face Shep.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY (CONT'D)

What is it, boy?

Shep BARKS again. Tommy turns back to see several of the large hogs coming at him rather quickly. Before he can scream, the hogs knock him down into the mud and poop and push the gate open.

The hogs run out of the pen and start wandering around the farm. Shep BARKS and tries to round the hogs up and herd them back into the pen.

Tommy gets up covered in mud and pig poop and tries to lure the hogs back with the bucket of food.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Oh, no! Oh, no! Come on, guys.
Come on back. Look what I've got.
Some nice, yummy slop.

Tommy sees several of the hogs trampling and digging up Ellen's vegetable garden.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Not Mom's vegetable garden!

He runs over and pushes the hogs out of the garden, back towards the pen. Shep continues to BARK and round up the hogs.

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

John is watching TV, but Shep's BARKING distracts him.

JOHN

Tommy, Shep's barking.

He continues to watch TV. After some more BARKS:

JOHN (CONT'D)

Tommy, what is Shep barking at?

John turns around and there is a giant hog in the house staring at him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What the...?

John is stunned speechless. Suddenly, the big hog sneezes all over him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN (CONT'D)

Eww! Gross!

Covered in pig mucus, John wipes his face, jumps up, grabs the hog by the ear and leads it to the door. As he steps outside, he sees:

EXT. WILSON FARM

Hogs running all over the place, being chased by Tommy, covered in mud and pig poop and Shep running around and BARKING.

JOHN

What the...?

John grabs a piece of rope from the porch, ties it around the hog's neck and leads him to the pen. He then goes after another hog with the rope, while Tommy and Shep bring more of the hogs back to the pen.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What happened?

TOMMY

The pigs got out.

JOHN

I can see the pigs got out. How did they get out?

TOMMY

I don't know. Just help me get them back in the pen.

They finally get the last of the pigs back in the pen and John shuts and locks the gate. He and Tommy look around.

PAN AROUND THE FARM

The boys look over the mess the pigs made -- knocked over plants in flower-pots, and especially Ellen's vegetable garden.

BACK TO SHOT OF THE BOYS

John is furious. Tommy is exhausted and near tears.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Now, you want to tell me how they got out?

TOMMY

I don't know. I guess I didn't lock the gate.

JOHN

Gee, ya think? You're such a little screw-up!

TOMMY

It wasn't my fault. If you did your chores and didn't make me do them, this wouldn't have happened.

Tommy starts to cry. Beat, as John realizes he's the one who is really at fault.

JOHN

You're right.

TOMMY

I am?

JOHN

Yeah.

Tommy stops crying.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I should have done my own chores, like I promised Dad I would. I should never have asked you to do stuff you couldn't handle. I'm sorry.

TOMMY

Well, thanks. But I could handle it.

JOHN

Yeah, I see. Let's make a deal. You can help me with my chores...

Tommy reacts.

JOHN (CONT'D)

And I'll help you with yours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOMMY

That sounds fair. Deal. But look at everything.

JOHN

It's not that bad. A few overturned flower-pots. We can straighten this out in no time.

TOMMY

But Mom's vegetable garden. She's gonna kill me for ruining it.

JOHN

Only if she finds out what happened.

TOMMY

Huh?

JOHN

Well, you don't want her to know you let the hogs out.

TOMMY

You mean, you don't want her to know you made me do your chores.

JOHN

Uh, yeah, whatever. So, maybe Mom won't have to know anything about this. We can go into town before she comes home and replace all her vegetables with ones we buy at the market. We'll put them in the big fridge and tell her we picked them for her.

TOMMY

We can do that?

JOHN

We have to. Besides, you look so pathetic right now.

Tommy looks down at himself, covered in mud and pig poop and he begins to laugh.

TOMMY

Yeah, I am a mess. I'd better go inside and clean up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN

Uh-uh. You can't go in the house covered in that.

TOMMY

Well, what am I supposed to do?

JOHN

Close your eyes and shut your mouth.

TOMMY

Huh?

John has picked up a hose and turns it on Tommy, washing him down.

FADE TO:

EXT. WILSON FARM

MONTAGE of the boys doing their chores: collecting eggs and placing them in the large refrigerator on the back porch, feeding the chickens, bringing bales of hay and apples to the horses, cleaning out the stalls... They also fix up the mess the pigs made -- put the flower-pots back in place, hose down the porch...

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN

The boys are finishing eating lunch.

TOMMY

You know, the chores didn't seem as hard to do as usual.

JOHN

That's because we split the work with each other.

TOMMY

I liked that. Now what?

JOHN

I want to fix that model airplane.

TOMMY

Can I help?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

You can watch. After you wash the dishes.

TOMMY

Okay.

Tommy puts the dishes in the sink and starts washing them as John goes up to his room. WE HEAR A CAR PULLING UP outside. Tommy looks out the window.

EXT. WILSON FARMHOUSE

A car pulls up. The neighbor, SUE MILLER and her fat 13 year old son, JERRY, and his pretty twin sister, JENNY, get out and go up to the house.

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- ENTRYWAY

Tommy greets his neighbors and lets them in.

TOMMY

Hi, Mrs. Miller. Jenny.
(not pleased)
Hi, Jerry.

SUE MILLER

Hi, Tommy.

JENNY

Hi, Tommy.

Sue looks at her son who doesn't respond. She nudges him and gives him a look.

JERRY

(sullenly)
Hi, Tommy.

JENNY

Where's John?

TOMMY

He's upstairs working on a model plane.

Jenny wanders over to the stairs and looks up towards the boys' room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SUE MILLER

I was driving in to town and
thought I'd stop by to see how you
boys were doing, all on your own.

TOMMY

We're fine.

SUE MILLER

Did you do your chores?

TOMMY

Yes, Ma'am. John and I helped
each other.

SUE MILLER

That's good.
(brightly, to her
son)
Isn't that good, Jerry?

Jerry rolls his eyes.

SUE MILLER (CONT'D)

(back to Tommy)
And did you have lunch?

TOMMY

Yes. I'm just cleaning up now.

SUE MILLER

And I know your Mom left you
dinners in the freezer. So, it
looks like everything's under
control.

TOMMY

Yes, Ma'am.

SUE MILLER

I'm going to bake some pies this
afternoon. How about if I bring
you one tomorrow?

TOMMY

We'd like that, thank you.

JERRY

You gonna make a pie for me too?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUE MILLER

I would, honey, but the doctor said you need to cut back on your sweets. I guess he thinks you're just sweet enough as you are.

Jerry rolls his eyes again.

SUE MILLER (CONT'D)

Say, why don't you stay here and play with John and Tommy while your sister and I go into town?

JERRY

Do I have to?

SUE MILLER

Make an effort, Jerry!

JENNY

Can I stay too, Mom?

SUE MILLER

I need you to help me with the grocery shopping, honey.

Jenny is disappointed.

JERRY

Will you pick me up on your way home?

SUE MILLER

You can walk home, sweetie.

JERRY

But it's almost a mile!

SUE MILLER

You can use the exercise. Now you boys have fun and I'll see you tomorrow. Come on, Jenny.

Sue and Jenny EXIT and WE HEAR THEM DRIVE OFF. Tommy and Jerry just stand there looking at each other. Finally:

TOMMY

Come on upstairs.

They head up the stairs.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- BOYS' ROOM

John is busy fixing his model plane. He refers to the instructions and glues pieces back together.

Tommy and Jerry ENTER. Jerry walks around the room, looking at all the model airplanes.

TOMMY

Look who's here.

JOHN

Hey, Jerry.

JERRY

Hey, yourself.

JOHN

Is Jenny here?

JERRY

She was, but she had to help my mom with the food shopping.

TOMMY

Mrs. Miller's going to bring us a home-made pie tomorrow.

JOHN

Nice!

JERRY

What are you doing?

JOHN

I'm trying to fix this Curtiss Wright One Junior plane that Tommy broke.

TOMMY

I did not!

JOHN

It's remote-controlled. I'm hoping it'll fly again.

JERRY

What is it with you and these planes?

Jerry swats one of the planes hanging from the ceiling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Hey, watch it. That's an American Eagle A-101.

JERRY

So?

TOMMY

Are you kidding? Planes are the most amazing things ever.

JOHN

Imagine something that heavy that can actually fly.

JERRY

Big deal. You should see my mom drive her car. When she gets going and hits a bump in the road, she's practically flying.

JOHN

I don't think flying a plane is anything like driving a car. For one thing, in a plane, your road...

JOHN AND TOMMY

...is the open sky!

John and Tommy high-five each other. Jerry shakes his head.

JERRY

I'm going to go.

JOHN

Suit yourself.

Jerry EXITS. John and Tommy go back to their model plane.

EXT. ROAD

Jerry walks down the road to his farm. He slowly puts his arms out like wings and begins to run, flapping his arms.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

After a few seconds, he stops and bends over, panting and coughing. After he catches his breath, he continues walking, panting heavily.

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- THE BOYS' ROOM

Tommy looks over John's shoulder as he works on the model plane.

JOHN

Do you have to stand so close?

TOMMY

I want to see.

JOHN

You can see from over there. Hand me the tweezers.

Tommy gives John tweezers that he uses to hold a small piece in place as the glue sets. Tommy looks over at the instructions.

TOMMY

Are these the instructions?

JOHN

Yeah.

TOMMY

Hmmm. This is a one-sixteenth scale model.

JOHN

Yeah, so?

TOMMY

So, if you followed the instructions and built it sixteen times bigger, with a couple of modifications, you could build a real plane.

John stops and thinks about this.

JOHN

I guess. But it would be too difficult.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN (CONT'D)

You'd have to build the body of the plane first, somehow get an engine to mount in it...

TOMMY

Unless we already had those things.

JOHN

Huh?

Tommy points out the bedroom window.

SHOT LOOKING OUT THE BEDROOM WINDOW

From inside the boys' room, looking out the window. Tommy is pointing at the old crop-duster.

Then he points into the barn where the old tractor motor is still suspended from a chain and pulley.

INT. WILSON FARM HOUSE -- BOYS' ROOM

John's eyes widen as he turns back to Tommy.

JOHN

Mom and Dad did tell us to keep busy...

BEAT. They RUN OUT of the room. John RUNS BACK IN and grabs the model airplane instructions and RUNS BACK OUT.

EXT. WILSON FARM

The boys run out to the frame of the old crop-duster near the barn.

JOHN

I knew Grandpa's old crop duster would come in handy one day. I've got an idea. Help me push it into the barn. It's not heavy.

The boys push the light-weight crop-duster into the barn where they can work on it.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Watch out for the wings.

INT. BARN

They get the plane into the barn and walk around it examining it.

JOHN

We'll have to fix the broken struts and make sure she's solid.

TOMMY

There's wood, wire and canvas in the tool-shed.

JOHN

Come on!

They RUN OUT.

EXT. TOOL SHED

Pieces of wood, coils of wire and canvas drop-cloths come flying out of the tool-shed, followed by the boys.

JOHN

This should do it.

They scoop up the supplies and run back to the barn.

INT. BARN

They drop all their supplies near the plane.

JOHN

You get to work on the struts.
I'm going to get that old tractor motor working.

INT. BARN -- MONTAGE

Tommy fixes the broken struts on the plane with the wood they've brought in. He glues pieces together and then nails them in place.

John works on the engine hanging from a chain. He gets it to sputter, makes some adjustments, then revs it up again. It ROARS to life!

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CONTINUED:

The boys check the model airplane plans and examine the body of the crop-duster. They nod and high-five each other.

They throw a canvas drop-cloth over the frame of the plane and attach it with nails and a staple gun.

Once the frame is covered, they find some paint cans and brushes and paint the plane. These shots are all in CLOSE-UPS, so WE DO NOT SEE HOW THEY'VE PAINTED THE PLANE.

They look up and realize that it is now early evening.

JOHN

Wow. Look at the time. We can work on it more tomorrow.

They put down their brushes, close the paint cans, rinse out the paint brushes and EXIT the barn, turning off the lights.

EXT. BARN

They look back at the plane, which is in shadows, and close the barn doors. They go into the house.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN

They wash up. As they talk, John takes food out of the freezer and puts it in the microwave.

JOHN

Mom and Dad should be calling us soon.

TOMMY

I can't wait to tell them about the plane.

JOHN

No. You can't.

TOMMY

Why not?

JOHN

Because, they wouldn't understand. They'd think it was dangerous or something. We can't tell anyone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

John dishes out the food -- spaghetti and meatballs. The boys eat.

TOMMY

Won't everyone know about it when they see us flying?

JOHN

Well, we'll have to fly pretty much just over our farm. Or take her up at night.

TOMMY

It'll be tough to see where we're going.

JOHN

Yeah, whatever. Now clean up. I'm going to work some more on the model plane you broke.

TOMMY

First of all, I didn't break it. And second, I cleaned up after lunch.

JOHN

So?

TOMMY

I thought we were going to help each other with our chores.

JOHN

I cooked.

TOMMY

You mean putting the stuff Mom prepared in the microwave and pressing the "Start" button?

JOHN

I also had to input the time.

TOMMY

You're not being fair!

Tommy picks up a meatball and throws it at his brother, hitting him square in the head. John REACTS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

I can't believe you just did that.
You are so dead.

John picks up a hand-full of spaghetti and hurls it at Tommy. It goes all over Tommy and drips on to the floor.

John chases Tommy around the kitchen. Shep comes in and starts running around, eating the food that lands on the floor.

JOHN (CONT'D)

You are such a little brat!

TOMMY

You are such a Delta-Bravo.

JOHN

A what?

TOMMY

A Delta-Bravo. A D-B.

JOHN

What does that mean?

TOMMY

A dooze-bag.

John stops and laughs.

JOHN

Dooze bag? Where did you hear that?

TOMMY

I heard Jerry call someone that.

JOHN

That figures. I'm still gonna kill you.

John starts chasing Tommy again. Tommy slips on the spaghetti sauce on the floor and falls down, hitting his head. He GROANS. John runs to him.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Oh, no. Tommy?

John picks up Tommy's head and sees a large area of blood on his scalp.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN (CONT'D)

Tommy? Are you okay?

He grabs a cloth napkin and presses it on Tommy's head.
The PHONE RINGS.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(angry)

Perfect!

John reaches up and gets the phone off the counter. He sees his Mom's cell phone number on the caller ID and tries to act calm.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hello?

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Ellen and Mike are calling the boys from Minneapolis.

ELLEN

Hi, John.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THE BOYS AND THEIR PARENTS AS NEEDED

JOHN

(nervously)

Hi, Mom.

ELLEN

You sound funny. Is everything okay?

JOHN

Everything's fine. How's Minneapolis?

ELLEN

It's beautiful. How are you boys?
You keeping busy?

JOHN

Yes.

ELLEN

And you're doing your chores?

Tommy tries to grab the phone from John.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Yes.

TOMMY

Mom!

ELLEN

And you're not fighting?

JOHN

No, we're not fighting.

ELLEN

Good. Kate says hello.

TOMMY

Mom!

JOHN

Say hi back from us.

ELLEN

I will. I can hear your brother
in the background. Put him on.

JOHN

Okay.

John looks at his brother with a pleading look. He covers the phone so his Mom can't hear.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(quietly pleading
with Tommy)

Please! Don't tell her you're
hurt. We'll both get into
trouble. I'll clean up in here.
I promise!

John hands Tommy the phone.

TOMMY

Hi, Mom.

ELLEN

Hi, Tommy. How is everything
there?

Tommy stares at his brother, who is still giving him a pleading look. Finally:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOMMY

Everything's fine. We're just cleaning up after dinner. We had the spaghetti and meatballs. It was delicious.

ELLEN

I'm glad you liked it. I hope you didn't make too big a mess.

Tommy looks around the trashed kitchen.

TOMMY

It's about what you'd expect from us.

ELLEN

And you boys are getting along?

TOMMY

Are we getting along?

John quietly begs him.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Yeah, we're getting along... now.

ELLEN

We're trusting you boys to behave.

TOMMY

Oh, we will.

ELLEN

I'm glad. Dad says hi. We'll call you tomorrow. Love you.

TOMMY

Love you, too.

BACK TO SHOT OF WILSON FARMHOUSE KITCHEN

Tommy clicks off the phone and takes the bloody napkin off his head.

JOHN

Thanks for not ratting me out.

TOMMY

Mom's gonna kill you anyway for getting blood on her napkin.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

John Looks at the napkin. Then he looks at Tommy's head.

JOHN

Wait a second. That's not blood.
That's spaghetti sauce.

TOMMY

(upset)
Then I won't need stitches?

John shakes his head and Tommy looks disappointed. Shep comes over and starts licking Tommy's head.

FADE TO:

INT. WILSON FARM -- BARN -- THE NEXT AFTERNOON

The boys continue to work on the plane.

JOHN

I have to admit, this is one of
your better ideas.

TOMMY

Thanks.

JOHN

Shhh...!

John stops his brother and listens. THEY HEAR A CAR
PULLING UP outside.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Someone's here. We can't let them
see what we're doing.

The boys RUN OUT of the barn.

EXT. WILSON FARM

They start to close the barn doors, when A VOICE
surprises them.

VOICE (O.S.)

Hello, boys.

They turn around to see CLAYTON JONES, the town's shady
character. He is unshaven and a bit sinister.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAYTON

I haven't seen you boys in years.
Look at how big you are. Why,
Johnny, you're practically a grown
man.

JOHN

It's John, now.

CLAYTON

Okay, John. You don't remember
me, do you?

JOHN

You do look familiar.

CLAYTON

I should. I worked for your daddy
for two years.

JOHN

That's right. You're Clayton
Jones.

TOMMY

How come I don't remember him?

JOHN

It was years ago. You were too
young.

TOMMY

Where've you been, Mister Jones?

CLAYTON

Let's just say I had to go away
for a while.

TOMMY

How come?

CLAYTON

You're starting to ask a lot of
questions that don't concern you,
boy.

Tommy shrinks back behind John.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

What are you boys doing in the
barn?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

We're just doing our chores. We help out here now.

CLAYTON

Chores, huh? I drove by here yesterday and saw you going in and out of the barn with wood and canvas and paint. What are you boys up to?

JOHN

Now you're starting to ask a lot of questions that don't concern you.

CLAYTON

Don't give me any sass. You may call yourself John, but you're still just a boy named Johnny to me. Now what's going on in that barn?

Clayton starts to walk towards the barn as the boys try to block his way, without getting too close to him.

JOHN

You can't go in there.

CLAYTON

Out of my way.

JOHN

Get off of our property.

LOUD VOICE (O.S.)

Clayton!

Clayton stops in his tracks. The boys look up to see SHERIFF PETE MURDOCK, who has arrived, unnoticed.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

What's going on here?

CLAYTON

The boys and I were just having a little fun, Sheriff.

TOMMY

We were not!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

John quiets his brother.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

You boys okay?

JOHN

Yes, sir.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

Clayton, you mind telling me what you're doing here?

CLAYTON

I know the boys' parents are out of town and I just came by to see if I could help with the chickens and the cows, like I used to.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

I don't think they need your help. Now why don't you leave these boys alone?

CLAYTON

Yes, sir.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

And Clayton, don't let me catch you anywhere near these boys again, or I'll send you back to where you've been living these past few years.

CLAYTON

On what grounds?

SHERIFF MURDOCK

Just give me a reason.

Clayton stares at the Sheriff, who stares right back at him. Finally, Clayton walks to his old truck, gets in and drives off.

SHERIFF MURDOCK (CONT'D)

You boys sure you're okay?

JOHN

We are now, thanks, Sheriff.

Sue Miller pulls up in her car and gets out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SUE MILLER

Was that Clayton Jones' truck?
What's he doing back in town?

SHERIFF MURDOCK

My hunch is he's behind the recent
string of cattle thefts.

SUE MILLER

Clayton's the cattle rustler?

TOMMY

A cattle wrestler?

JOHN

Rustler, not wrestler. It means
thief.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

I was just coming over to check on
John and Tommy while their parents
are at that wedding. It seems
Clayton knew they were out of
town, too.

SUE MILLER

How would he know that?

SHERIFF MURDOCK

He seems to know everything that
goes on in this town.

JOHN

If you know he's the cattle
rustler, why don't you arrest him?

SHERIFF MURDOCK

I don't have any proof.

(to Sue)

I was coming to see you and Rick
next to tell you to keep an eye
out. You've got the biggest herd
of cattle in the area.

SUE MILLER

I'll let Rick know, thanks,
Sheriff.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

You boys sure you're okay, staying
here by yourselves?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

JOHN

We're fine, Sheriff.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

Well, if you need anything, don't
hesitate to give me a call, okay?

JOHN

Okay. Thanks, Sheriff.

The Sheriff gets into his car and drives off. Sue gets a
pie out of her car and hands it to John.

SUE MILLER

This town used to be so safe. You
could leave your house and not
lock the front door. Until
Clayton Jones came around.

TOMMY

He was creepy.

SUE MILLER

You can say that again. Here,
boys. I hope this takes your mind
off of that shady character.
Fresh baked apple pie.

TOMMY

Wow. Thanks, Mrs. Miller.

SUE MILLER

My pleasure boys. Save it for
dessert after your dinner tonight.
In fact, would you boys feel safer
staying at our place? You could
stay in Jerry's room. His snoring
has gotten a lot better.

JOHN

Thanks, but I think we should stay
here to keep an eye on things.
We'll be fine.

SUE MILLER

Okay. The offer's there if you
change your mind.

She gets into her car and drives off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

TOMMY

I can't wait to have some of that pie.

JOHN

We'll have it for dessert after dinner.

TOMMY

Then let's eat dinner early.

JOHN

And not a word about Clayton Jones to Mom and Dad when they call tonight. It'll just worry them.

TOMMY

Okay.

JOHN

Are you sure you don't want to stay at the Miller's until Mom and Dad get home?

TOMMY

What about you?

JOHN

I've got to stay here and protect the farm.

TOMMY

Then I'll stay here and protect you.

John smiles at his brother.

INT. WILSON FARM -- BARN -- LATER THAT AFTERNOON

The boys continue to work on the plane.

JOHN

I think she's ready. Let's test her. We'll check the ailerons and elevator first.

TOMMY

The what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

The wing flaps are called
ailerons. And the tail flap is the
elevator.

TOMMY

Isn't it easier to just call them
flaps?

John shakes his head. He jumps in the pilot's seat and
pulls some levers.

JOHN

"Wing flaps" test.

The lever pulls cables connected to the flaps. One wing
flap goes up as the other goes down.

TOMMY

Check.

JOHN

Now the other way.

The flaps reverse.

TOMMY

Check.

JOHN

"Tail flap" test.

The tail flap moves up and down.

TOMMY

Check.

JOHN

Rudder left.

The tail rudder moves to the left.

TOMMY

Check.

JOHN

Rudder right.

The rudder moves to the right.

TOMMY

Check.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

Engine.

John flips a switch, but nothing happens.

TOMMY

Try it again.

He does, but again, nothing.

JOHN

I've got an idea.

John climbs up to the engine and makes some adjustments. Tommy gets into his seat, which is just under and behind the engine. He stands up to watch.

John gets back into his seat and flips a switch. The ENGINE SPUTTERS several times and kicks into gear, belching out a huge cloud of black smoke.

TOMMY

Hey!

John turns off the engine. Tommy turns around to his brother. His face is covered in black soot. John LAUGHS and hands Tommy a rag to wipe his face.

JOHN

We'd better do this outside.

The boys get out of the plane.

EXT. WILSON FARM

With smoke still pouring out of the barn, the boys push the plane out of the barn. WE FINALLY SEE how they painted the plane, with "THE WILSONS" in big letters on the sides.

JOHN

I've got an idea. We should take her to the back road and use that as a runway. There won't be any traffic at this hour.

TOMMY

Okay. Oh! Wait a minute.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tommy runs into the house. John fiddles with the engine again. Tommy comes running out and hands John one of two leather aviator helmets, gloves and goggles.

JOHN

Great idea.

They each put on their helmets, gloves and goggles. Tommy reaches into his pocket and pulls out a large pack of gum. He takes a piece and starts chewing.

TOMMY

You want a piece of gum? It'll keep your ears from popping from the altitude.

JOHN

We're not going to go that high. If we can get her off the ground at all.

They get into the plane and start the engine. The plane starts to roll forward. They take it to the nearby road. The plane picks up speed and they lower the flaps to get some lift. They're actually flying three feet off the ground!

JOHN (CONT'D)

We're flying! We're really flying!

But something is wrong. The flaps are stuck and they can't get much higher than a few feet off the ground.

Still, they're flying! Unfortunately, they're flying right into the path of an oncoming truck!

TOMMY

I thought you said there wouldn't be any traffic.

JOHN

I didn't think there would be.

TOMMY

Well, pull up! Pull up!

They try to get more lift and try to turn but the flaps and tail rudder are stuck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

I can't!

TOMMY

Turn, then.

JOHN

Something's stuck!

Tommy looks over the edge and sees that a piece of canvas used on the body of the plane has ripped off and snagged onto cables connecting to the flaps and the rudder.

The TRUCK DRIVER sees the plane coming at him and starts HONKING.

Tommy leans perilously out of the plane and unwraps the fabric just in time for John to raise the plane and they fly just a few feet above the truck.

Now that they're in control, they fly over their farm and zoom down on the chickens, scattering them all over the yard.

They land the plane and taxi it into the barn. They jump out, excited and close the barn doors.

TOMMY

That was awesome!

JOHN

We did it. We actually built a plane that can really fly!

They high-five each other and sit down to catch their breath.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Let's celebrate!

They start to head into the house but are stopped by:

JENNY (O.S.)

Celebrate what?

They turn to see Jenny. She has come on her bike with a cooler in the basket.

JOHN

Huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JENNY

What are you celebrating?

JOHN

Um... Our freedom from our parents
for a few days. What are you
doing here?

JENNY

My mom forgot to give you some
fresh whipped cream for the apple
pie she made.

She reaches into the cooler and hands John a bowl of
freshly whipped cream.

JOHN

Thanks. We were just going to
have some pie now. You want to
join us?

JENNY

Sure. Thanks.

They head into the house.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN

John takes Mrs. Miller's pie and cuts three pieces.
Jenny puts a spoonful of whipped cream on each piece.

TOMMY

Won't that spoil our dinner?

JOHN

Dinner's not for two hours. This
is just an afternoon snack.

They eat.

JOHN (CONT'D)

(to Jenny)

Your mom sure can bake.

TOMMY

No wonder Jerry's so fat.

JOHN

Tommy!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

What?

JOHN

That's not a nice thing to say.
Especially in front of Jerry's
sister.

JENNY

Please, like I don't know he's
fat?

JOHN

It wouldn't be so bad if he wasn't
so obnoxious.

TOMMY

You guys are twins, right?

JENNY

Yes.

TOMMY

Are you identical?

Jenny and John laugh.

JOHN

If they were identical they'd both
be brothers or sisters.

TOMMY

Well, they're brother and sister.

JENNY

We're fraternal twins, not
identical.

TOMMY

That must be why you're not at all
like your brother. You're much
nicer.

JENNY

Thank, Tommy. I think you're nice
too. Just like your brother.

Jenny smiles at John, who looks away, embarrassed.

JOHN

Hey. Can you keep a secret?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JENNY

Sure.

JOHN

Come with me.

John stands up, takes Jenny's hand and leads her outside towards the barn. Tommy runs after them.

EXT. WILSON FARM

Tommy runs after his brother and Jenny as they head towards the barn.

TOMMY

John! No! You can't! You said we couldn't tell anybody!

JENNY

Oh, now I really want to know what this is about.

JOHN

It'll be okay, Tommy. We can trust her.

TOMMY

This was supposed to be our secret.

Tommy stops, almost on the verge of tears. John takes Jenny to the barn and opens the barn doors. Her eyes widen at the sight of the plane sitting inside the barn.

JENNY

This is amazing. Did you guys do this?

JOHN

We rebuilt the old crop-duster. I used the old tractor motor for the engine.

JENNY

It's incredible.

John notices Tommy walking back towards the house, upset.

JOHN

Actually, it was all Tommy's idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tommy stops, stunned that his brother is giving him credit.

JENNY

Tommy, you came up with this?

Thrilled to be included, Tommy turns back to Jenny.

TOMMY

I got the idea while we were working on a one-sixteenth scale model. I saw the crop-duster and the tractor engine and thought, why not?

JENNY

That's genius.

JOHN

And she flies like a dream.

JENNY

She files? I thought it was just a big model you guys built. She can really fly?

JOHN

Yeah. You want to go up for a ride?

Again, Tommy feels he'll be left out and starts back towards the house. Jenny notices this and gives John a look, nodding at Tommy.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Hey, where are you going? I need my co-pilot.

TOMMY

It's a two seater. We can't all fit.

JOHN

Jenny could sit on my lap.
(to Jenny)
Would that be okay?

JENNY

We could give it a try.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

Come on, Tommy. Let's get the plane back outside.

The boys push the plane out of the barn. Jenny runs up to help.

JENNY

Here. Let me help.

TOMMY

You're much nicer than your brother. He actually made fun of flying and our model planes.

They get the plane positioned outside.

JENNY

You want to get back at Jerry?

Tommy's eyes widen.

JENNY (CONT'D)

When I came over here, he was outside playing with his toy soldiers.

The boys smile at each other.

TOMMY

I've got an idea. I'll be right back.

Tommy runs into the house. John checks the plane again.

JENNY

This really is amazing. Did Tommy really come up with the idea for this?

JOHN

Yeah. He's not always a total dweeb. Sometimes he can be pretty smart for a little brother.

Tommy comes running out with a garbage bag stuffed with something. John and Jenny look into the garbage bag, then look at Tommy.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Brilliant!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Tommy throws the bag into his seat in the plane and climbs in. John gets into his seat and Jenny climbs in and sits across his lap. She wraps her arms around his neck and smiles.

EXT. MILLER FARM

On the ground, Jerry is playing roughly with some toy soldiers, smashing them with rocks.

JERRY

Incoming!

Before he can smash more of the soldiers, he hears a strange WHINING SOUND. He looks up and sees the plane coming right at him. He starts to run.

JOHN

Ready, Corporal?

TOMMY

Yes, Captain!

JOHN

Fire one!

Tommy reaches into the garbage bag and pulls out a water balloon. He holds it over the side of the plane and drops it. It lands just in front of Jerry, who stops dead in his tracks.

Jerry tries to run in a different direction, but the plane circles around and drops more water balloons.

Jerry can't escape the torrential barrage and falls, landing in a giant puddle of mud. The plane flies away, the boys and Jenny laughing hysterically.

EXT. WILSON FARM

They land back at the farm, put the plane in the barn and close the doors.

JENNY

That was incredible!

JOHN

It was awesome!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

That was unbelievable!

JOHN

Remember, you can't tell anyone about this.

JENNY

Are you crazy? My parents would kill me if they knew what we just did.

TOMMY

You mean torturing your brother?

JENNY

That, and going up in a plane you guys built. I'm sure what we just did is illegal in so many ways.

JOHN

I never thought of it that way.

JENNY

Well, don't worry. I won't say a word about this. I've got to get home. It's almost dinner time. Thanks for the amazing afternoon.

JOHN

Bye.

TOMMY

Bye. Thanks for the whipped cream.

Jenny gets on her bike and rides away. John and Tommy head towards the house.

JOHN

Come on. Let's make dinner.

TOMMY

And Mom and Dad should be calling soon.

JOHN

Remember -- not a word about the plane or about Clayton Jones.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOMMY

I know. You can count on me.

JOHN

Yeah. I know.

They head into the house.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

The boys are watching TV. Shep is on the sofa with them.
The PHONE RINGS. They answer.

TOMMY

Hello?

INT. HOTEL ROOM

Mike and Ellen are on the phone to the boys.

ELLEN

Hi, Tommy.

INTERCUT BETWEEN THEM AS NEEDED

TOMMY

Hi, Mom.

ELLEN

How are things going?

TOMMY

Fine. We're just watching TV.

ELLEN

Shep isn't on the sofa, is he?

TOMMY

No, of course not.

Tommy tries to push Shep off the couch, but the dog just gives him a look.

ELLEN

What did you do today?

TOMMY

After our chores, we worked on the plane and got it to fly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

John frantically motions to Tommy.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

You know... the remote-controlled model plane that broke.

ELLEN

I'm glad you were able to fix it. Have you seen any of your friends?

TOMMY

We saw Jenny and played bombs away with Jerry.

ELLEN

Is that one of your video games? That's nice.

TOMMY

And Mrs. Miller baked us a pie.

ELLEN

I'll have to thank her when we get home. Well, it sounds like you boys have everything under control. Now, tomorrow is the wedding and tomorrow night is the reception, so I don't think we'll have a chance to call you tomorrow night. But you can always call our cells and leave a message, or send a text if you have to. And we'll be home in two days.

TOMMY

Okay, Mom.

ELLEN

I'll let you get back to your TV show. Don't stay up too late.

TOMMY

We won't.

ELLEN

And try to get Shep off the sofa. Love you.

TOMMY

Love you, too. Bye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

They hang up.

BACK TO SHOT

Tommy looks at John with a big "How'd I do?" smile on his face. John looks at his brother.

JOHN

Real smooth.

John just shakes his head.

FADE TO:

INT. WILSON HOUSE -- KITCHEN -- THE FOLLOWING MORNING

The boys are finishing breakfast.

TOMMY

Mom and Dad will be home tomorrow.

JOHN

Yeah?

TOMMY

Mom's vegetable garden...?

JOHN

Oh, right. We'll go in to town and buy vegetables at the market to replace the ones she was growing.

TOMMY

Can we take the plane?

JOHN

Uh, where would we park? Besides, we don't want to be seen flying it.

TOMMY

Oh, yeah.

JOHN

We'll ride our bikes.

TOMMY

Yeah. That'll be less conspicuous.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They finish cleaning up and head out.

EXT. MARKET IN TOWN

The boys ride up to the market. John's bicycle has a wagon attached to it and it gets pulled along as he rides.

They get off their bikes and Tommy notices the morning newspaper. He points it out to John. The headline reads:

CLOSE-UP OF NEWSPAPER:

"Mystery Plane Terrorizes Town."

Also on the front page is an article about the cattle rustler having hit another farm the previous night.

BACK TO SHOT

John and Tommy look at each other. They talk quietly to each other:

JOHN

That's crazy. All we did was scare Jerry a little. Unless Jerry is now considered to be a town.

TOMMY

Well, he has put on weight.

JOHN

We've got to be more careful. No one can know that's our plane.

TOMMY

Then we probably shouldn't have painted our name on the sides.

JOHN

Yeah. Wait out here with the bikes and the wagon while I go in and get the replacement vegetables.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Do you remember what Mom was growing?

JOHN

Yeah. Lettuce, carrots, potatoes and radishes.

TOMMY

Yuck.

JOHN

Tell me about it. I'll be right back out.

As Tommy waits, he hears an argument coming from the alley next to the market. He peers around the corner and sees CLAYTON JONES, pushing around another SHADY MAN.

CLAYTON

I told you, I'd have all them cows for you. I'll be getting them tonight.

SHADY MAN

You'd better, or we'll get someone else to do the job.

CLAYTON

You ain't never gonna find no one can do the job like me. I know everything that goes on in this town.

SHADY MAN

Well then get it done. You have until tonight.

Tommy, backs away, terrified at what he's overheard. He goes back to wait in front of the market. He turns around to make sure he wasn't seen and finds himself face to face (or face to stomach, actually) with Clayton. He freezes.

CLAYTON

Something wrong?

Tommy shakes his head.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

You're Tommy, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Tommy doesn't respond.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

I don't like when people eavesdrop on my private conversations and then blabber about what they think they heard, you understand me?

Tommy just stands there.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

Your folks are still out of town, aren't they? That leaves you and your brother all alone, right?

JOHN (O.S.)

What's going on?

Tommy is relieved to see his big brother. John sees Tommy is terrified and puts a protective arm around him.

CLAYTON

Me and your brother was just having a friendly little chat, wasn't we, Tommy?

John just stares at Clayton. With John there, Tommy gathers up his courage.

TOMMY

No we weren't!

CLAYTON

You mind what I said, now. I'll be seeing you boys.

Clayton starts to walk away, but stops when he hears:

JOHN

The Sheriff told you to leave us alone. You better not come anywhere near my brother or me again.

Clayton turns back to the boys.

CLAYTON

Or what? What are a couple of boys going to do to me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN

You don't want to know.

CLAYTON

(laughs)

Big talk for a little man.

Clayton walks off, laughing, gets into his truck and drives off.

JOHN

Are you okay?

Tommy nods nervously.

JOHN (CONT'D)

What did he say?

TOMMY

I overheard him talking to someone in the alley. He's the one stealing the cattle. We have to go to the sheriff and tell him.

JOHN

We have no proof.

TOMMY

He also knows Mom and Dad are still out of town and we're at the farm by ourselves.

JOHN

Don't worry. I won't let anything happen to you. You okay to ride home?

Tommy nods and gets on his bike. John puts the bags of vegetables in the wagon and the boys ride home.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN

John ENTERS. Tommy is playing with Shep.

JOHN

I put the vegetables in the big fridge. We'll tell Mom we knew they were ready and picked them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Okay. What are we going to do about Clayton? I'll bet he's going to be hitting the Miller's tonight. They've got the most head of cattle around. We should tell the Sheriff.

JOHN

But we have no proof.

TOMMY

Then we should at least tell the Millers.

JOHN

Who'd believe a couple of kids anyway?

TOMMY

I would.

JOHN

That's because you're such a little optimist.

TOMMY

An eye doctor?

JOHN

No, an optimist is... look it up. Besides, the Millers already know that the Sheriff suspects Clayton is behind the cattle thefts. They'll be keeping a look out. We shouldn't get involved.

TOMMY

But we have to do something.

JOHN

We can take the plane up and scout around.

TOMMY

After what the newspaper said?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JOHN

You're right. The police are looking for the plane that "terrorized the town." But this is our last chance. Mom and Dad will be home tomorrow.

TOMMY

But we can't fly again. People will see us!

JOHN

So, we'll fly when people can't see us.

Tommy gives his brother a quizzical look.

EXT. WILSON FARM -- THAT NIGHT

The boys push the plane out of the barn that night. They are wearing their helmets, gloves and goggles.

TOMMY

Are you sure this is safe?

JOHN

Of course it is. We'll be the only ones up there. Who would be stupid enough to fly at night?

TOMMY

Us.

JOHN

We'll take a pass over the Miller's farm to check things out.

They get into the plane.

EXT. ROAD BY THE WILSON FARM

The boys take off in the plane.

EXT. THE BOYS FLYING IN THE NIGHT-TIME SKY

The night flying is almost dreamlike. Tommy sees something down on the ground and points it out to his brother. John looks down and sees:

EXT. ABOVE THE WOODS

OLD MAN EMMETT loading his truck with bootleg whiskey from his still, hidden deep in a small clearing in some woods. The still is lit by the truck's headlights.

BACK TO SHOT

The boys laugh. They fly around some more, but something catches their eye.

EXT. ABOVE THE MILLER'S FARM

Someone is trying to herd cows onto a truck.

BACK TO SHOT

JOHN

Who'd be moving cattle at this hour?

TOMMY

That's Clayton Jones' truck. I'd recognize it anywhere.

JOHN

Yeah. You were right. Clayton is stealing the Miller's cattle. We've got to do something.

TOMMY

I still have a bunch of water balloons here.

John smiles at his brother.

The plane circles around and the boys begin dropping water balloons on the cows.

EXT. MILLER FARM

The falling water balloons upset the cows and they run off of Clayton's truck and start to scatter, MOOING quite loudly.

Lights come on in the Miller farm house and RICK MILLER sticks his head out the window.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RICK MILLER
What's going on out there?

Rick sees what's happening and rushes outside, followed by Ellen, Jenny and a sleepy Jerry.

Jenny has her cell phone and starts recording video of CLAYTON jumping in his truck and driving away. The plane chases him.

EXT. ROAD

Clayton leans out the window of the truck with a gun and begins firing up at the plane as he drives.

BACK TO SHOT

The boys in the plane.

TOMMY
He's got a gun!

JOHN
He can't hit us up here.

Just then one of the bullets rips through the floor of the plane right between Tommy's feet.

TOMMY
Let's get out of here!

JOHN
You said it!

John is about to turn the plane, when:

INTERCUT BETWEEN CLAYTON AND THE BOYS AS NEEDED

More GUN SHOTS and another bullet tears through the oil pan of the plane's engine.

TOMMY
We're losing oil! The engine's gonna conk out! Fly home! Fly home!

JOHN
I've got an idea!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

I hate when you say that!

JOHN

Do you have some empty balloons?

TOMMY

Yeah.

JOHN

Fill them with the leaking oil.
But be careful. It's hot. If we
can't catch Clayton, we can at
least mark him.

TOMMY

Oh! Gotcha!

Tommy holds an empty balloon under the dripping oil.

INT. CLAYTON'S TRUCK

Clayton's driving is suddenly interrupted by an oil-filled balloon splattering on the hood of his truck.

CLAYTON

Sons of...

Just then another oil-filled balloon splatters on his windshield, blocking his view of the road.

EXT. ROAD

Clayton veers off the road and into a ditch. He jumps out of his car and takes aim at the plane with his gun.

CLAYTON

You Wilson boys think you're so
smart...

Just before he fires, another oil-filled balloon lands on his head and oil runs all over his face and clothes.

EXT. THE PLANE

John is having trouble flying the plane.

TOMMY

Why aren't you heading home?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Something's wrong with the steering.

The engine starts to sputter.

TOMMY

Take us down, Land somewhere before the engine dies.

Just then, the engine dies.

JOHN

You had to say that!

The SILENCE is eerie as John tries to control the plane. Tommy looks down as they fly over their farm.

TOMMY

You went right past our farm.

JOHN

I know. I'm having trouble getting the plane to go down.

They keep gliding in silence over fields and trees, getting closer and closer to the ground. They hold their breath.

Seeing a large field before them, John gives it all he has and gets the plane to land with a quiet thud. They finally breathe again.

EXT. ABANDONED FARM

The boys get out of the plane.

JOHN

Are you okay?

TOMMY

Yeah. That was some pretty neat flying!

JOHN

That was some pretty neat balloon dropping.

They look around the eerie landscape. They are in a field of hard, dry dirt surrounded by dead trees illuminated by moonlight peeking through the clouds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nearby is a farmhouse that is falling down. There is also an old barn, a tool shed and a few other decrepit buildings.

TOMMY

Where are we?

JOHN

We're only a few miles from our farm.

TOMMY

What is this place?

JOHN

This is the old McKeaver farm.

TOMMY

How come I've never heard about it before?

JOHN

It's been abandoned for years.

TOMMY

It's creepy. Why doesn't anyone live here?

JOHN

The soil's no good.

John stabs at the dirt with the toe of his shoe and kicks up a little cloud of dry dust.

JOHN (CONT'D)

The McKeavers didn't take good care of the land. Nothing will grow here now. Not without putting a lot of money into it.

Tommy continues to look around while John examines the plane's engine.

Suddenly, a loud CREAKING NOISE comes from the barn. Tommy jumps.

TOMMY

What was that?

JOHN

Probably just the barn settling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

John sees the hole in the oil pan and gets an idea.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Do you have more gum?

Tommy reaches into his pocket and pulls out a large package of gum.

TOMMY

Yeah. Why?

JOHN

Start chewing.

Tommy takes out a couple of pieces of gum and stuffs them in his mouth and chews.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Help me turn the plane around.

They do so.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Great. Now you see if you can fix the flaps and the tail.

TOMMY

You mean the ailerons and the elevator?

JOHN

Smart aleck. I'm going to check out the tool shed and see if maybe there's an old can of oil in there.

TOMMY

Okay.

John walks towards the tool shed as Tommy starts inspecting the plane. He discovers that two of the cables have snapped and are hanging loose.

He looks around for a way to reconnect the cables. He sees the nearby wire fence that is falling apart and goes over and picks up two pieces of wire.

He ties those pieces of wire between the dangling cables, reconnecting them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

He jumps into the cockpit and pulls the levers to test the flaps. They work.

Meanwhile, John goes to the tool shed. He opens the door slowly and the rusty hinges CREAK. He goes inside.

INT. OLD TOOL SHED

It is dark inside and difficult for John to see anything. Suddenly, the clouds part and the moonlight pours in, illuminating the inside of the shed.

John GASPS as he sees a human body on the floor of the shed. As the moonlight brightens, he realizes it is the remains of an old scarecrow and he breathes a sigh of relief.

John sees an old open can of motor oil. He picks it up and swirls it around. There's still some left.

He sticks his fingertip in it and rubs it between his finger and his thumb. He smiles and wipes the oil off his fingers onto his pants. He EXITS the tool shed.

EXT. ABANDONED FARM

John begins to walk back to the plane when he hears more noise from the barn. He goes to the barn and slowly opens one of the doors. He looks inside and is astonished at what he sees.

INT. OLD BARN

The barn is wall to wall full of cows. Some are just standing there, some sleep, some chew hay.

JOHN

(to himself)

This is where they're hiding the stolen cattle.

John is about to leave when he hears VOICES coming from a small structure attached to the barn.

EXT. ABANDONED FARM

John heads towards the voices.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE #1

What happened to you? And where's
the Miller's cows you promised me?

VOICE #2

There was some trouble.

VOICE #1

What kind of trouble?

John has made his way outside to the small room attached to the barn. He peeks in the window and sees Clayton Jones, his face and clothes stained with oil, and the Shady Man.

INTERCUT BETWEEN JOHN OUTSIDE AND THE MEN INSIDE AS
NEEDED

CLAYTON - VOICE #2

Those Wilson boys.

SHADY MAN - VOICE #1

What did they see?

CLAYTON

Pretty much everything, Russel.
They were flying over.

SHADY MAN

Flying over? In a plane?

CLAYTON

Yes, in a plane. They must've
rebuilt that old crop duster.

John accidentally steps on a dried twig and it makes a loud SNAP. He freezes.

The Shady Man (RUSSEL) puts his finger up to his lips, motioning for Clayton to be quiet. He goes to the window and looks out.

John presses tightly up against the wall out of view of Russel and holds his breath. After a moment, Russel goes back to talking to Clayton.

SHADY MAN - RUSSEL

Well, what are you going to do
about them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAYTON

Me?

RUSSEL

You're the one they saw. You need to take care of them.

CLAYTON

Fine. Let me borrow your truck.

RUSSEL

What happened to your truck?

CLAYTON

It's in a ditch.

RUSSEL

Well, then, you're not driving my truck.

CLAYTON

How am I supposed to get to the Wilson farm?

RUSSEL

You can walk.

CLAYTON

Give me a drink first.

Russel gives him a look.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

They're not going anywhere.

Clayton picks up a bottle and takes a sip.

EXT. ABANDONED FARM

With that, John takes off running back to the plane, trying not to make any noise. Tommy is there, waiting.

TOMMY

Where've you been?

JOHN

Clayton and that shady man are here. They're hiding all the cows they've stolen in the barn. I heard that man tell Clayton to come to our farm and deal with us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Deal with us how?

JOHN

I don't know.

TOMMY

Then let's not go back to our farm.

JOHN

We have to. Remember, the police are looking for the plane that terrorized the town. We've got to hide the plane back in our barn.

TOMMY

I fixed the rudder and the flaps. But what about the oil?

JOHN

Give me your gum.

John holds out his hand. Tommy spits the wad of chewing gum into John's hand. John takes the gum and plugs up the hole in the oil pan with it.

TOMMY

That'll never hold.

John pours the oil he found into the engine.

JOHN

It only has to hold until we're safely in the air.

TOMMY

What about until we're safely back on the ground?

JOHN

Come on. We've got to go.

The boys get in the plane and John tries to start the engine. It SPUTTERS and dies. He tries a second time. Same results.

INT. ROOM OFF THE BARN

The NOISE of the engine has attracted Clayton and Russel.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAYTON

What the...?

They run out of the barn to see what the noise is.

EXT. ABANDONED FARM

Tommy sees Clayton and Russel running towards them.

TOMMY

Hurry up! They're coming!

John tries a third time and THE ENGINE CATCHES AND REVS UP. The plane starts rolling forward, faster and faster until it's in the air.

Tommy looks behind them and sees Russel yelling at Clayton, who starts running.

EXT. PLANE

The boys pilot the plane back towards their farm. Tommy keeps an eye on the chewing gum plug, as it starts to vibrate, but it stays in place.

John lands the plane on the service road but can't slow down as the plane rolls towards the farm.

TOMMY

Slow down! Slow down!

JOHN

No brakes!

The boys SCREAM as John steers the plane into the barn through the open doors. The engine suddenly dies and the plane stops inches short of the back wall. Dead silence. The boys breathe a sigh of relief.

Just then, the chewing gum pops off and hits Tommy right on his goggles. He scrapes the gum off.

The boys get out, shaken, but not harmed.

JOHN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

TOMMY

Yeah. But Clayton's coming after us now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

On foot. That should give us a few minutes to get ready.

TOMMY

For what?

JOHN

Operation vegetable garden.

Tommy gets it and smiles.

EXT. WILSON FARM -- TEN MINUTES LATER

Clayton comes running up to the farm. He calls out:

CLAYTON

You boys are pretty smart. But I recognized that old crop duster. I don't know how you re-built it and got it to fly, but that was mighty slick.

Clayton peeks into the barn.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

Yup. There it is.

He continues searching the farm for the boys.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

You boys are in a whole lot of trouble, you know that? Why don't you come on out and let's talk about it?

Clayton walks around slowly looking for the boys.

CLOSE UP ON JOHN

Crouched down in the dark, hidden behind some shrubs. He pulls a rope near the ground taut. Clayton trips over the rope and lands in the mud near the hog pen.

BACK TO SHOT

Clayton is mad. He sits up, covered in mud.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CLAYTON

That the best you got? You boys
are gonna have to do a lot better
than just tripping me.

Suddenly, Tommy darts out and throws a bucket of hog feed
all over Clayton. Now he's furious.

CLAYTON (CONT'D)

What do you think throwing hog
feed on me is going to do?

TOMMY

(yelling out)

Now!

John opens the hog pen gate and chases the hogs out
towards Clayton.

JOHN

Yaa! Yaa!

Clayton wipes the feed off of his face and reaches for
his gun. He turns around to see dozens of hogs
stampeding towards him.

Before he can move out of the way, the hogs run all over
him. His gun goes flying. As he reaches for the gun,
Shep suddenly appears and stands over the gun, growling
at Clayton.

Clayton rolls the other way and snatches Tommy by the
ankle as the boy tries to run past him.

CLAYTON

Now I got ya.

Clayton gets up and grabs Tommy. There is a loud CLICK
of a gun.

SFX: CLICK OF A GUN

Clayton looks over to see John holding his gun aimed
right at him.

JOHN

No one messes with my little
brother.

Beat. Tommy reacts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CLAYTON

You think you can hit me and not
risk hitting your brother?

Beat. Then the sound of THREE GUNS CLICKING and:

SHERIFF MURDOCK (O.S.)

I can.

Clayton, Tommy and John look over to see Sheriff Murdock and TWO DEPUTIES standing a few feet away, their guns aimed right at Clayton. They have driven up, unseen during the commotion.

SHERIFF MURDOCK (CONT'D)

I told you Clayton, just give me a
reason.

Clayton stares at the Sheriff and the Deputies with their guns aimed squarely at him. He releases his grip on Tommy, lets the boy go and puts up his hands.

FADE TO:

EXT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN

Clayton is being led towards a police car in handcuffs. John is locking the hog pen gate, as the hogs have all been rounded up and put back in the pen. John goes over and stands with his arm around Tommy. Shep is by their side.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

Thanks for the call, John. We got
here as soon as we could. My men
picked up Russel Thatcher at the
old McKeaver farm and found the
stolen cows, just like you said.

Behind the police cars, Rick, Sue, Jenny and Jerry Miller drive up in their car. Rick runs up to the Sheriff.

RICK

There he is, Sheriff. I saw
Clayton Jones trying to steal my
cattle.

Jenny runs up to the Sheriff and shows him her phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY

And I got it all on my phone.

The Sheriff takes Jenny's phone and watches the video.

SHERIFF

There's the proof we need.

Jenny goes to John.

JENNY

(quietly, to John)

Don't worry, I didn't film the plane.

JOHN

Thanks.

JENNY

Are you okay?

JOHN

Yeah. Thanks to Tommy's help with the balloons and the hogs.

Tommy smiles. John and Jenny stand there looking at each other awkwardly. Tommy gives his brother a little nudge, pushing him into Jenny's arms. John and Jenny smile at each other and Jenny gives John a quick kiss. She then runs back to her mother.

RICK

(to the Sheriff)

I guess Clayton's going away for good now. Good job catching him, Sheriff.

SHERIFF MURDOCK

These boys caught him.

RICK

Really?

(to John and Tommy)

Thank you, boys.

Rick turns to Jerry.

RICK (CONT'D)

Why can't you ever do something like that, Jerry?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

But Jerry is not there.

RICK (CONT'D)

Jerry?

Jerry has walked over to the barn. The door is ajar and he is peeking in. His eyes widen with what he sees. He runs back to his parents.

JERRY

They built a plane! They built a plane!

John and Tommy freeze in a panic.

SUE MILLER

Yes, we know. John and Tommy build model planes.

JERRY

But this is a real one that flies.

SUE MILLER

You know they built that remote controlled one that flies. Honestly, Jerry. You need to get a hobby to keep yourself busy like John and Tommy. Now get in the car.

JERRY

But...

SUE MILLER

I said get in the car.

Jerry gets in the car. John and Tommy breathe a sigh of relief, knowing no one will believe Jerry. The Deputies are about to put Clayton in the Sheriff's car when:

SHERIFF MURDOCK

Uh-uh. I don't want that mess in my clean car.

The Sheriff picks up the hose and looks to John and Tommy.

SHERIFF MURDOCK (CONT'D)

Boys, will you do the honors?

John takes the hose and hands it to Tommy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JOHN

It's all yours, Tommy.

Tommy takes the hose and hoses down Clayton, washing off the mud and the pig feed. Clayton has no choice but to stand there and take it.

FADE TO:

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN -- THE NEXT DAY, LATE MORNING

The boys ENTER from outside and plop down in some chairs, exhausted.

TOMMY

I'm pooped.

JOHN

Yeah. It was a busy night. And we still had to do all our chores this morning and clean up the place.

TOMMY

Mom and Dad will be home late this afternoon. You think we cleaned up enough?

JOHN

Enough for us. If it's too neat, they'll get suspicious.

TOMMY

You think they'll find out about Clayton?

JOHN

This is a small town. I'm sure they'll find out.

TOMMY

You think we'll get into any trouble?

JOHN

He's a cattle thief. He came after us. We defended ourselves.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

Yeah. If only we can explain all that before they ground us.

John nods in agreement.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

How old were you when you asked everyone to start calling you John instead of Johnny?

JOHN

A little older than you are now, I think.

TOMMY

Why?

JOHN

I don't know. I guess I thought Johnny was more of a little kid's name, and I wasn't feeling like a little kid any more. Why do you ask?

TOMMY

I'm thinking maybe it's time people started calling me Tom instead of Tommy.

JOHN

Well, after the way you acted yesterday, you earned it.

John tousles his brother's hair, as Tommy smiles.

SFX: DOG BARKING AS A CAR PULLS UP OUTSIDE

The boys hear Shep BARKING and a CAR PULLING UP outside. Tommy looks out the window.

TOMMY

It's Mom and Dad. They're home early!

The boys run outside.

EXT. WILSON FARM

John and Tommy run up to the car, as Shep runs around, BARKING. Mike and Ellen quickly get out of the car and hug the boys.

ELLEN

Are you boys okay?

MIKE

We left as soon as we got the Sheriff's call.

JOHN

Oh. He told you what happened?

MIKE

Yes. What were you thinking, taking on Clayton Jones like that?

JOHN

We didn't have much choice.

ELLEN

You could have been hurt. Or worse.

TOMMY

Don't worry. We took care of him.

MIKE

Well, we won't have to worry about him again. He's going away for a long time.

TOMMY

We missed you.

ELLEN

We missed you, too.

MIKE

Anything else happen while we were gone?

JOHN

No. We just did our chores, like you asked.

Ellen has walked over to check on her vegetable garden.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOMMY

We saved you some of the pie Mrs. Miller made.

ELLEN

What happened to my vegetable garden?

JOHN

Oh. We picked them. They were ready.

TOMMY

Yeah. I've never seen vegetables so ready to be picked. They were practically screaming to be picked.

JOHN

We put them in the big fridge.

ELLEN

Thank you, boys.

MIKE

Would you bring the suitcase upstairs? I want to check on the animals.

The boys get the suitcase and bring it in the house as Mike goes off.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE - MIKE AND ELLEN'S ROOM

The boys watch Ellen unpack.

JOHN

How was the wedding?

ELLEN

It was lovely. Kate looked beautiful.

Mike ENTERS.

MIKE

So, did you keep busy while we were gone?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN

Kind of.

TOMMY

Yeah. There's not much to do around here.

MIKE

Nothing unusual happened?

JOHN

Nope.

TOMMY

Uh-uh.

MIKE

I see.

Beat.

JOHN

Do you need us to help anymore?

MIKE

No. You can go.

The boys start out. As they get to the door:

MIKE (CONT'D)

Oh, just one thing. How do you explain the airplane in the barn?

The boys freeze in their tracks. Ellen drops whatever it is she's holding, horrified. They all stare at each other.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- LIVING ROOM

The boys are sitting on the sofa. Mike and Ellen are pacing in front of them.

ELLEN

You could have been killed. If not by Clayton shooting at you, then by the plane itself.

TOMMY

We've built enough model planes to know what we were doing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN

But you've never built a real plane, let alone flown one. And John, I'm surprised at you. You're supposed to be the older, smarter one. How could you put your brother and yourself in this situation?

JOHN

I'm sorry.

ELLEN

Well, sorry is not gonna cut it this time. I don't know what to say, except that you boys are grounded.

TOMMY

(quietly, to John)

Told ya.

ELLEN

For the rest of the summer, if not the rest of your lives! Now go upstairs to your room!

JOHN

Yes, ma'am.

MIKE

And tomorrow you're going to take apart that plane.

TOMMY

Yes, sir.

The boys go upstairs. Mike and Ellen are besides themselves. Then:

MIKE

Pretty clever kids, huh?

Ellen starts out.

MIKE (CONT'D)

Where are you going?

ELLEN

To take some milk and cookies up to Orville and Wilbur.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She EXITS.

INT. WILSON FARMHOUSE -- KITCHEN -- LATER THAT DAY

Mike is going through the mail. Ellen ENTERS, carrying some vegetables.

MIKE

What have you got there?

ELLEN

The vegetables the boys supposedly picked from my garden.

MIKE

What do you mean, supposedly?

ELLEN

I planted lettuce, carrots, radishes and potatoes.

MIKE

Yeah...?

ELLEN

I planted Romaine. This is Iceberg. And I'm pretty sure my potatoes didn't grow with price tags on them.

She holds up a head of Iceberg lettuce and a potato with a price tag on it. Mike stares at the vegetables. Then:

MIKE

Do we really want to know?

ELLEN

Maybe it's best that we don't.

Ellen gets a sly smile on her face and calls out:

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Boys! You can come downstairs now and help me make lunch.

The boys ENTER, excited to no longer be grounded.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

I'm going to make us a nice big fresh salad with all the vegetables you picked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOHN AND TOMMY

Awww...

Mike and Ellen smile.

INT. WILSON FARM -- THE BARN -- THE NEXT DAY

The next day, John is taking apart the plane. He has the toolbox out and the engine suspended on a chain. Tommy ENTERS carrying a basket of eggs and trips over the toolbox. Just then, Mike and Ellen ENTER.

MIKE

What happened? Did you drop
another basket of eggs?

Tommy is still a bit startled to say anything. As he is about to talk, John speaks up.

JOHN

It wasn't Tom's fault.

ELLEN

Tom? Who's Tom?

John motions with his head toward his younger brother. Ellen gets it.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

Oh.

JOHN

I shouldn't have left the toolbox
out where someone could trip over
it. If you're going to take the
price of the eggs out of someone's
allowance, take it out of mine.

Tommy looks at his big brother in awe. Mike and Ellen are also impressed. After a beat:

MIKE

We'll let it go this time. Why
don't you clean this up and take a
break?

John goes right over to help his brother. Mike and Ellen look on and smile.

FADE TO:

EXT. WILSON FARM

The old crop-duster sits besides the barn once again. John and Tommy have repaired their remote-controlled model plane and have taken it outside to fly.

JOHN

I'll get her up in the air and then you can take the controls.

TOMMY

Okay.

The plane starts moving forward and John adjusts the remote control. The plane lifts off and is air-born. John hands the controls to his brother.

JOHN

Here ya go.

TOMMY

Okay.

JOHN

Easy. Easy. You got it. Good job.

EXT. FLYING

From the POV of the plane. WE SEE THE FARM HOUSE BELOW, THE BARN, THE DISMANTLED CROP-DUSTER BACK OUTSIDE.

WE FLY OVER THE FIELDS AND ANIMALS AND PASS OVER THE BOYS. John has his arm around his younger brother who flies the plane. WE HEAD BACK UP ABOVE THE TREES AND INTO THE BLUE SKY, and WE:

FADE OUT.

THE END