

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

WHAM!

A white FIST connects with a Middle eastern boy's face.

MATEK, 18, buckles at the knees, hits the ground hard, holding his bruised face.

PETE, 18, plain white t-shirt, varsity jacket, towers over him.

A crowd forms around chanting.

PETE

Get up!

Pete kicks Matek in the stomach. The crowd winces. Matek tries to get up slowly.

MATEK

Any particular reason for this or
are you trying to reach your daily
asshole quota?

The crowd tries to cover up their laughter.

Pete punches Matek really hard. Matek's head hits the vending machine nearly knocking him out.

MR. WHITE (O.S.)

Alright, that's enough!

MR. WHITE, a middle aged man in a sweater vest enters. The crowd immediately disperses. He yells at Pete while Matek slips in and out of consciousness.

INT. NURSE'S OFFICE -DAY

Matek lies on one of the beds. A pack of ice is resting on his head. He grips at his sides. Mr. White enters.

MR. WHITE

How are you feeling?

Matek tries to get up, but the pain makes him fall back down.

MATEK

I've seen better days.

Matek tries to laugh, but he grips his sides in pain.

MR. WHITE

If you want we can send you home
for the day.

Matek looks frustrated.

MATEK

And what about Pete?

MR. WHITE

I saw what happened. I'm headed to
the principal's office.

Matek's turns, facing away from Mr. White.

Mr. White leaves the room. He continues along the hallway
into the principal's office.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Mr. White enters. Pete sits with his arms crossed. The
principal taps his fingers aggressively.

MR. WHITE

Sir, I found Pete beating up Matek
and something needs to be done.

PRINCIPAL

Pete do you have anything to say?

PETE

Just suspend me already.

Mr. White scoffs and the principal looks disappointed.

PRINCIPAL

Fine. You're suspended for three
days. Now leave the premises.

Pete leaves angrily.

MR. WHITE

Three days?!

PRINCIPAL

The problem has been taken care of.

MR. WHITE

Matek is battered and bruised and
you think three days is it being
"taken care of".

PRINCIPAL

I'm the principal and I decide the
punishments.

Mr. White leaves. The principal pinches his forehead.

EXT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT - AFTERNOON

Matek walks into the FULL parking lot. He walks up to his 73'
challenger when he sees Pete walking by himself.

MATEK

Crap!

Matek ducks under his car. Pete takes a right from the school
parking lot. Matek follows but stops when he sees someone
with Pete. Matek quickly steps back, hiding behind the
building. He takes a peek and sees Pete kissing a guy.

The boy kissing Pete looks tall, dark, and handsome. Matek
pulls out his phone and takes several pictures of them
kissing. He rushes back to his car gasping heavily.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Matek opens the front door, holding onto his stomach. His
mother cooks dinner while his father prays.

MATEK

Hey guys!

MRS. ALI

You should be quiet while your
father is praying.

Matek lowers his voice. He looks through the mail see a USC
letter and smiles. He goes into his room.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - MATEK'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek enters his room. He places his backpack on his single
bed and heads to his personal computer. He uploads the photos
to his computer, then notices DOOMGUY wants to chat.

MATEK (TEXT)

Now isn't really a good time.

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

Jeez, what's eating you?

MATEK (TEXT)
*Some asshole knocked the crap out
of me.*

DOOMGUY (TEXT)
*That sucks dude, shit like that
happened to me too.*

Matek smirks.

MATEK
*You know there's a way you could
help me out.*

MRS. ALI O.S.
Matek!

MATEK (TEXT)
Brb.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - AFTERNOON

Matek heads into the kitchen. Mr. and Mrs. Ali are sitting at the table.

MATEK
Yes?

MRS. ALI
Sit down please.

Matek sits down.

MATEK
What's going on?

MRS. ALI
We got a call from the school
today.

Matek sighs.

MR. ALI
Why did Pete attack you?

MATEK
I don't know what set him off.

MRS. ALI
We need to go to the school and
take immediate action!

MATEK

For god sake that just going to
make it worse for me!

Matek gets up.

MATEK (CONT'D)

Senior year is almost over. I go
off to college and never see him
again.

Matek leaves the kitchen.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - MATEK'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek gets back on the computer. Doomguy left a message,
"What are you thinking?" Matek sends one of the photos.

MATEK (TEXT)

*I took photos of my bully kissing
this guy.*

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

*No freakin' way dude. Are you gonna
blackmail him?*

MATEK (TEXT)

*At least until the end of high
school and I never have to see him
again.*

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

*I say leak them right now then.
He'll probably have to leave town
and that more or less solves your
problem.*

MATEK (TEXT)

*I don't want to blow up his life. I
just want him to back off.*

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

Okay man. Can we play now?

Matek logs onto Destiny 2.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - MATEK'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Matek is sitting in his chair watching Youtube videos on his
computer. Someone knocks at the door.

MR. ALI

Matek?

Matek takes off his headphones.

MATEK

Come on in Dad.

Mr. Ali enters, grabbing another chair.

MR. ALI

Are you okay son?

Matek is briefly silent.

MATEK

I don't know.

MR. ALI

What is it with you and Pete? I remember you two being inseparable.

MATEK

I got no clue. Ever since last year he's been acting strangely. I've tried talking to him about it, but he just shuts me out.

Mr. Ali sighs.

MR. ALI

I've met lots of different people growing up that I believed I'd be friends with for the rest of my life. But eventually we all drifted apart.

MATEK

So you're saying we're doomed to be alone?

Matek and Mr. Ali laugh.

MR. ALI

No I'm saying you can always make stronger connections with other people. You're a young man!

MATEK

Thanks Dad.

Mr. Ali pats him on the back and leaves. Matek looks up the photos from today and deletes them.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - CAFETERIA - MORNING

Matek enters. A group of students crowd over something.

MATEK

What's going on?

Matek's jaw drops seeing the photo of Pete kissing that guy. Backing away slowly, Matek rushes to the hallway and sees two police officers talking with the principal. Matek starts walking at a brisk pace, trying to pass by unnoticed.

PRINCIPAL

Hey Matek!

Matek silently groans.

MATEK

Yes sir?

PRINCIPAL

Could you join us in my office?

Matek begins to sweat. The cops have a stern look, almost daring him to say no.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Matek sits quietly. The principal and officers look like a united front against him.

MATEK

So... how's everybody doing?

Matek awkwardly smiles. The officers stare him down.

PRINCIPAL

This is officer Dan and Michael.
They're here today to-

The principal notices the officers staring down Matek.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Officers, you're making my student
uncomfortable.

The officers sit down.

PRINCIPAL (CONT'D)

Now the matter at hand is that Pete
Daniels has gone missing.

Matek is visibly shocked.

MATEK

Wait, he's gone?

OFFICER DAN

He's not officially missing. His father said he didn't come home last night and we're just looking.

The principal and the officers look at each other.

PRINCIPAL

So you don't know where he is Matek?

MATEK

No I don't. May I ask why you're bothering me with this?

PRINCIPAL

The police are talking to everyone. Just trying to get an idea of where to start.

MATEK

I'm not a good place to start.

Officer Michael and Dan glance at each other quickly.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Care to elaborate?

OFFICER DAN

Were you enemies?

PRINCIPAL

Just some childhood spats, nothing more.

MATEK

That's a wild understatement.

Everyone stares at the Principal. Principal loosens his collar.

PRINCIPAL

We can discuss this at a later time, but right now we need to find out where Pete is!

MATEK

What's the urgency? He's probably with his boyfriend somewhere.

OFFICER MICHAEL

We still need to-

MATEK

You gotta ask around, I get it. But I have no idea and the fact he's been forced out of the closet means he's not coming back anytime soon.

PRINCIPAL

Well there goes state.

The officers and Matek stare at the principal.

MATEK

Can I go now?

Principal shoos Matek away. Matek sees Pete's girlfriend CASSIE ANDREWS next in line. Her raven hair, long legs, and status makes her unapproachable to most people.

CASSIE

Hey Matek.

MATEK

Did the police call you too?

CASSIE

No, but I figure I should help if I can.

MATEK

Well good luck with that.

Matek leaves. Cassie tries to reach out, but stops herself.

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Cassie enters and sits down in front of the principal and the officers.

PRINCIPAL

Thank you for coming Cassie.

CASSIE

Of course.

OFFICER DAN

So you're Pete's girlfriend.

CASSIE

Ex-girlfriend. We broke up yesterday.

OFFICER DAN

Why?

CASSIE

It was after Pete and Matek's fight.

OFFICER DAN

Why does that matter to you?

CASSIE

I was working on an English project with Matek, and Pete lost it when he saw us talking. It all just became too much with him.

OFFICER MICHAEL

You have any idea why Pete responded like that?

Cassie shrugs.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Matek walks to his locker. Everyone is talking about the photos.

RANDOM STUDENT #1

So Pete was batting for the other team?

RANDOM STUDENT #2

Who's pitching and who's catching?

They laugh. Matek opens his locker looking for something. Someone appears next him to him. The lacrosse vice-captain,

TYLER CORNELL is a tall and muscular white guy with the strong scent of beer in his breath. Matek tries to open his locker, but Tyler slams it shut.

TYLER

So those photos that have been floating around? Crazy right?

MATEK

Yeah... crazy.

TYLER

Makes me wonder who would have the most to gain.

Tyler grins as he walks away. Matek shivers.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - MATEK'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek rushes into his room, logs on and immediately tries contacting DOOMGUY.

MATEK (TEXT)

What did you do with the photo I sent you?

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

I released it. Why?

Matek is frozen in shock.

MATEK (TEXT)

*Why the FUCK would you do that!
It's all over my school! The cops literally questioned me!*

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

It seemed like you wouldn't go through with it. After all the messed up stories I figured the guy had it coming.

MATEK (TEXT)

His dad reported him missing.

Footsteps are heard approaching his bedroom. Matek's mom opens the door.

MRS. ALI

Matek, you didn't take out the garbage yesterday. Go and do it now!

MATEK

Fine!

MATEK (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Brb.

EXT. MATEK'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Matek heads downstairs. He exits through the kitchen door where his elderly looking father is reading the newspaper. Dragging the garbage pail out to the curb, he notices the officers from the principal's office right across the street.

MATEK

What is it now?

The officers exit the vehicle.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Will you guys please leave?

OFFICER DAN
We just need to follow up.

Mr. Ali arrives.

MR. ALI
What the hell is going on here?

OFFICER DAN
Hello Mr. Ali. I'm Officer Dan and this is Officer Michael. We wanted to talk to your son about Pete Daniels.

MR. ALI
Unless you have a warrant, this is over. Come on Matek.

MATEK
Have you talked to his friends yet?

OFFICER DAN
Why do you ask?

Mr. Ali grabs Matek.

MR. ALI
We're not talking about this now.

Mr. Ali and Matek leave. Officer Dan and Michael head back to the squad car.

INT. POLICE CAR - AFTERNOON - MOMENTS LATER

Officer Dan and Officer Michael sit. Officer Michael opens his notepad.

OFFICER DAN
What can we use?

OFFICER MICHAEL
All we got is Matek and Pete's history.

OFFICER DAN
Friends turned enemies.

OFFICER MICHAEL
What a tragedy.

The police car drives off.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Matek heads upstairs before he's stopped by his father.

MR. ALI

You need to tell me what's going on.

Matek groans in frustration.

MATEK

Okay, so there are these photos going around.

MR. ALI

Yeah.

MATEK

Of Pete kissing some guy.

A brief silence.

MR. ALI

Is it you?

MATEK

JESUS, DAD!

MR. ALI

I got to ask.

MATEK

No it isn't alright.

MR. ALI

Do you have them?

MATEK

No, but they've been sent all over the school.

Matek shows his Dad the picture.

MR. ALI

Listen, the cops are gonna need some time to trace the photos back to their original source, so keep minding your own business and you'll be fine.

Matek runs into his room. Matek checks his computer. DOOMGUY isn't responding.

MATEK
Damn it, damn it, DAMN IT!

Matek slams the table.

MR. ALI (O.S.)
What was that?

MATEK
Nothing!

A picture of him, Pete, and Cassie all smiling. Frustrated, he tosses it into one of the drawers and continues to stare at his computer.

EXT. DANIEL'S ESTATE - AFTERNOON

Officer Dan and Michael pull up in front of a two-story mansion. The porch looks like it has been cleaned recently.

OFFICER DAN
What does a guy have to do to live like this?

Officer Michael rings the doorbell. Mr. Daniels opens the door wearing a navy colored suit.

MR. DANIELS
Have you found him yet?

OFFICER DAN
We're still searching, but we'd like to ask some questions.

Mr. Daniels looks disappointed.

MR. DANIELS
Of course. Would you like to come in?

INT. DANIEL'S ESTATE - AFTERNOON

Officer Dan and Michael enter. The interior is filled with Christian decorations. Crosses, bibles, etc.

OFFICER DAN
Any idea where your son may have gone? Friends' house? Extended family?

MR. DANIELS

When he didn't come home last night I thought he was with some of his friends. Then he didn't show up in the morning so I started calling some parents as well as the school.

OFFICER DAN

Can you think of any reason why he may have run away?

MR. DANIELS

Honestly no? I checked his room earlier, but there wasn't any clues.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Mind if we take a look?

They all head into Pete's room.

INT. DANIEL'S ESTATE - PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

A single bed with a TV and video game console. Officer Dan starts looking through the drawers. He finds a bunch of protein bars.

OFFICER MICHAEL

When was the last time you saw your son?

MR. DANIELS

Yesterday. He was suspended from school three days ago, and he's pretty much stayed home the whole time.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Can anyone corroborate that? Maybe his mother.

A brief silence. Mr. Daniels scratches his head.

MR. DANIELS

My wife passed a few years back. Cancer.

Officer Dan stops.

OFFICER MICHAEL

I'm so sorry for your loss.

MR. DANIELS
I just really want to find my son.

OFFICER MICHAEL
We'll do our best.

Officer Dan continues his search.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - THREE DAYS LATER...

Everyone is talking about Pete. Some are even crying. Matek minds his own business when he sees a lot of people trying to console Cassie. Cassie and Matek briefly look at each other until Matek takes a sharp left pass an exit. Cassie follows him.

CASSIE
Hey Matek!

Matek stops.

MATEK
What's up?

A brief silence. Matek looks embarrassed.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Why did I say that?

CASSIE
It's okay really.

MATEK
I just don't want to sound insensitive.

CASSIE
I mean it's understandable if you're not upset.

MATEK
You think I don't care?

CASSIE
He was a pretty big jerk to you.

MATEK
That doesn't mean I wanted him to...

Matek can't finish that sentence.

CASSIE

To what?

Matek walks away.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY - AFTERNOON

Tyler sits in the study room typing on the school computer.
Eddie, Evan, and Cassie enter.

EDDIE

So why you'd text us?

An online article with the headline, "Bullied teen gets revenge?" Eddie, Evan, and Cassie look disturbed.

CASSIE

What the hell is this?

TYLER

This how we put pressure on Matek.

CASSIE

They only said Pete is missing.
Suggesting Matek might have killed
him is insane.

EDDIE

Dude this is straight up
defamation.

TYLER

It was literally on the monitor
when I went on the computer.
Regardless, who would have the most
to gain from Pete's disappearance?

CASSIE

I don't think he did it. When I
talked to him about it earlier he
seemed kinda sad.

TYLER

That could mean he feels guilty.

CASSIE

That could mean anything.

TYLER

Then what do you suggest we do?

CASSIE

Let me talk to him.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek enters his room. A voice call from Samantha Reed rings. Matek answers. She looks in her late 30's wearing big glasses and wide smile.

SAMANTHA

Hello Matek!

MATEK

Hello Samantha. How can I help you today?

SAMANTHA

Well it's about your scholarship.

MATEK

Are you upgrading me to a full ride?

SAMANTHA

Actually it's about this article I found. "Star athlete Pete Daniels goes missing, bullied teen Matek responsible?"

MATEK

What the hell that's completely slanderous!

SAMANTHA

So you don't know this Pete?

MATEK

What does it matter if I do? This article looks like some blog post crap you find on Facebook!

SAMANTHA

I understand that but after the admissions' scandal, USC can't afford another one.

MATEK

So what now?

SAMANTHA

Get in contact with the police and sort this out. Otherwise I can't promise you'll be starting in the fall.

Matek's jaw drops as the voice call ends. Matek gets up and lays on his bed. He punches the wall. Punches again.

Punches faster. His hand bloody. His starts breathing rapidly. He grips his heart.

30 MINUTES LATER...

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - MATEK'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek rests on his bed, wincing in pain with each breath. An open letter from USC with the words congratulations sits next to him. Cassie enters.

MATEK

What are you doing here?

CASSIE

You left the front door unlocked.

Cassie looks at his hand.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

What happened to your hand?

MATEK

It's nothing.

Cassie holds his hand. Matek winches. Cassie looks at the bloody wall.

CASSIE

Your parents are gonna ruin you.

Matek smirks. Cassie notices a letter in his other hand.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

You got into USC, congrats!

MATEK

Not anymore. Something about some bullshit website.

CASSIE

The one about you and Pete?

MATEK

Wait you've seen it?

Cassie pulls up the website on Matek's computer.

MATEK (CONT'D)

What the hell am I gonna do?

CASSIE

Go to the police. They'll probably agree it's slanderous, and arrest the person who created it.

MATEK

But how does that get me my scholarship back?

CASSIE

You could probably sue them. Taking away your scholarship for something like this feels like it should be illegal.

MATEK

It could be argued that my grades weren't good enough or some other reason.

CASSIE

So that's it?

A brief silence.

MATEK

I can try to find Pete.

Cassie is dumbfounded.

CASSIE

But he's been missing for days. If the cops can't find him how are you?

MATEK

Remember that time we found that journal at Pete's house last summer while he was at camp?

CASSIE

You think he's still using it?

MATEK

Let's find out.

CASSIE

You want me to come along?

MATEK

I mean... it looks better to Mr. Daniels if both of his son's friends were there to express condolences. Right?

CASSIE

Okay.

Matek and Cassie leave for Pete's house.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - SPORTS FIELD - AFTERNOON

A wide green field sits in the middle of a running track. The track team runs. The lacrosse team is doing its finishing drills.

HEAD COACH

All right guys huddle in.

The lacrosse team takes a knee, forming a circle around the coach.

HEAD COACH (CONT'D)

Now I know Pete not being here has brought us all down, but I know he would want us to pull through. We've been working our asses off for Saturday, and I know we're gonna win. Break.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - BOYS GYM LOCKERS- AFTERNOON

The guys are preparing to leave, but Tyler sits alone. He opens his locker and finds Pete's old jersey. The other guys stand behind him.

EVAN

We want you to have it.

EDDIE

Only thing that makes sense.

Tyler turns around, unsure what to feel.

TYLER

Thanks guys, I'll do us proud.

The rest of the team cheers and head outside. Tyler sits back down staring at the jersey. Tyler exits the lockers and meets Officer Dan and Michael.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

TYLER

Can I help you?

OFFICER DAN
We're looking into Pete Daniels and
we'd like to ask you a few
questions if that's alright.

TYLER
Go ahead.

OFFICER DAN
What was your relationship with
Tyler?

TYLER
We're just teammates.

OFFICER DAN
What about outside of school?

TYLER
Mostly parties and stuff like that.

OFFICER DAN
What about his girlfriend?

TYLER
Never hung out with her that much.

OFFICER DAN
Can you describe their
relationship?

TYLER
Not really. I mean I never knew how
they were behind closed doors. I
guess they just weren't that into
each other.

OFFICER DAN
But they were in a relationship for
a while.

TYLER
It was probably for the sake of
appearances. I mean it's high
school, what do you expect?

OFFICER DAN
How are you dealing with this?

Tyler sighs.

TYLER

Not well. I mean me and the team
are trying to stay psyched, but it
just hard man.

Officer Michael pats Tyler on the shoulder.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Thanks for your time.

Tyler waves them goodbye. He looks at the photo of Pete
kissing that guy.

TYLER

Wait a minute.

Tyler looks closely at the mystery guy.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Is that... son of a bitch!

Tyler runs out.

EXT. DEL'S COFFEE - AFTERNOON

Tyler stands outside of an independent coffee shop. A glass
plated window is surround by layered bricks. An industrial
sized coffee maker can be seen from the outside.

A raven haired boy in jeans steps outside with a coffee in
hand. Tyler approaches him by slapping the coffee out of his
hand and dragging the boy into the alleyway.

BOY#1

What the hell asshe-

The boy groans.

XAVIER

What do you want Tyler?

Tyler pulls out his phone and shows the photo to Xavier.

TYLER

Mind telling me why you're messing
around with Pete?

XAVIER

What does it matter? You guys broke
up.

TYLER

He's missing!

XAVIER
What happened?

Tyler lets go of Xavier.

TYLER
This photo essentially forced him
out of the closet.

XAVIER
So you were hoping that he was
hiding out with me?

TYLER
His escape plan was to crash here
and save up enough money to leave
town.

XAVIER
Listen I haven't seen him since
that day. Nobody else has seen him
around the shop either.

Tyler slams his fist against the wall.

TYLER
(silently)
Where the hell did you go man?

Xavier reaches out to Tyler, but stops halfway.

XAVIER
Maybe he just left without you.

TYLER
He wouldn't do that.

XAVIER
Like you said he was forced out of
the closet, so he must've been in a
rush.

Tyler storms out. Xavier sits down exhausted.

INT. DANIELS' ESTATE - AFTERNOON

Matek and Cassie walk up brick pathway to a blue two story
mansion. The porch looks like it was just cleaned. Cassie
rings the doorbell.

CASSIE
Bringing back any memories?

MATEK
Mostly late night smash.

Cassie slowly turns her head.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Super smash brothers melee!

CASSIE
Oh right.

MATEK
You were there!

The front door opens. MR. DANIELS greets them.

MR. DANIELS
Ah, Cassie and Matek. Come in.

Matek and Cassie enter.

MATEK
This house hasn't changed.

MR. DANIELS
Can I get you a water or something?

MATEK
I'm good.

CASSIE
Me too.

Matek, Cassie, and Mr. Daniels sit in the living room.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
We just wanted to see how you were holding up.

MATEK
I mean... he could still come back.

MR. DANIELS
I certainly hope so.

Mr. Daniels stands up and looks at Pete's trophies.

MR. DANIELS (CONT'D)
You know I never actually played sports. I gave him a lacrosse stick for his 10th birthday and he just never stopped.

Mr. Daniels chuckles.

MR. DANIELS (CONT'D)
 Seeing him give it his all like
 that made me think he was gonna go
 pro.

MATEK
 It made him really popular.

MR. DANIELS
 I mean he set up you good right?

MATEK
 What?

MR. DANIELS
 I mean you were his best friend.
 You must have gotten some action.
 Right?

Matek looks at Cassie confused.

MATEK
 Um... we haven't talked in a while.

MR. DANIELS
 Really? What happened?

Matek shrugs.

CASSIE
 Is it okay if we go into Pete's
 room for a while. We just think
 being in there might unpack some
 feelings.

MR. DANIELS
 Be my guest.

Cassie grabs Matek, leading him to Pete's room.

INT. DANIEL'S ESTATE - PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek and Cassie enter to a single bedroom with a TV and
 Nintendo Switch. A nightstand with a few manga comic books.

Matek stares at the gaming station.

INT. PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

Matek, Pete, and Cassie are playing Super Smash Bros.

MATEK
Take this!

PETE
So close!

CASSIE
Don't let me down!

The screen shouts finish. Cassie jumps up and down in victory.

PETE
Oh come on how did I lose?

CASSIE
Can't touch this.

Cassie does the hammer dance.

MATEK
This is extremely painful to watch.

CASSIE
Soak it in suckas!

END OF FLASHBACK.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Are you okay?

Cassie nudges Matek.

MATEK
It's nothing. Let's just look around.

Cassie and Matek check on opposite sides.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Why doesn't Pete's dad know about our falling out?

CASSIE
Do you tell your dad everything?

MATEK
That's fair.

CASSIE
Believe me I tried asking Pete, but he just never talked about it.

A brief silence.

MATEK
So what was it like?

CASSIE
What?

MATEK
Being his girlfriend?

CASSIE
It was okay I guess.

MATEK
What about the popularity?

CASSIE
Honestly, they're all really stuck
up.

MATEK
Their condescending attitudes make
you wanna head for the hills?

CASSIE
Makes me wanna smack them.

Cassie whips her hand back and forth. Matek chuckles.

Matek searches the bookcase.

MATEK
No way.

CASSIE
What?

MATEK
He has the Reckoners Trilogy.

CASSIE
What?

MATEK
Something about rebels fighting
against the evil Steelheart in New-

Cassie stares at Matek, clearly uninterested. Matek puts the
book back.

Cassie opens the closet, revealing a lot of different
clothes. A Monopoly game set rests on the top shelf corner.

CASSIE
Oh yeah.

MATEK

What?

Cassie opens the monopoly box, revealing only a single notebook.

MATEK (CONT'D)

He hid it in a board game?

Matek opens the notebook and starts reading.

MATEK (CONT'D)

My name is Pete and this is my story.

INT. VAN - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

Pete looks out the window uninterested. The van stops at Pete's estate.

DRIVER

Best of luck kid.

Pete grabs his bag and exits the van. The van drives off as Pete walks slowly to his front door. His father greet him with open arms.

MR. DANIELS

How was camp son?

Pete walks right past him. Mr. Daniels grabs Pete's shoulder. Pete freaks out.

PETE

BACK OFF!

Mr. Daniels looks scared and confused. Pete glares violently at him. Pete runs into his room.

INT. PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Pete tosses his bag on the floor and lies on his bed. Pete looks at his calendar. School starts tomorrow.

PETE V.O.

I can't believe my entire summer was wasted.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Students returning from break happily greet each other. Pete walks to his locker alone looking miserable.

Matek appears.

MATEK
Hey bro what's good?

Pete is slightly startled.

PETE
Hey.

MATEK
Why haven't you contacted me all summer?

PETE
No phones allowed at camp.

Matek looks confused.

MATEK
What kind of messed up place is that?

PETE
Look I don't want to talk right now. I'll see you later.

Pete walks away. Matek just shrugs it off.

EXT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - SPORTS FIELD - AFTERNOON

Students line up at the starting track line. Pete focuses on the finish line. Tyler is beside him.

HEAD COACH V.O.
On your mark. Get set. Go!

They sprint. Pete maintains a head start as he finishes first.

HEAD COACH
Good hustle everyone. Especially you Pete.

Pete gives a thumbs up. Tyler pats him on the back.

TYLER
Good hustle Flash.

Pete chuckles.

HEAD COACH

Keep doing that and we'll win big
this year.

The other teammates applaud Pete.

HEAD COACH (CONT'D)

Alright time to hit the showers!

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - BOYS GYM LOCKERS - AFTERNOON

Pete grabs loose dish towels and starts cleaning himself. The shower is on full blast. Pete keeps glancing at the showers. He immediately turns away when the guys come out.

TYLER

Why aren't you taking a shower?

PETE

I shower at home by myself.

TYLER

Are you gay or something?

Pete laughs.

PETE

Funny, did you come up with that
all on your own?

The teammates all ooh.

TYLER

Whatever man.

Tyler and the teammates walk away. Pete sighs in relief.

TYLER (CONT'D)

By the way, what's your deal with
that Cassie chick?

PETE

She's just a friend.

TYLER

But she's fine as hell.

RANDOM STUDENT #1

I'd hit that all night long.

TYLER

You already have a girlfriend.

RANDOM STUDENT #1

I'll let her know I'm trading up.

They all laugh. Tyler thrusts his hips and bangs the air. Everyone cheers him on. Pete stares disgusted.

EXT. DOWNTOWN PROVIDENCE - NIGHT

A relatively small town that gets busy during the night. Pete scrolls through his phone in a dark alleyway.

PETE V.O.

I've been texting with someone named DG for the past couple of weeks. He seems nice, but I feel naked out here.

Someone approaches him.

PETE

How are yo-

TYLER

Good to see you too.

Pete stares at Tyler confused and scared.

PETE

This is a mistake.

TYLER

Relax dude I'm down with this.

PETE

Wait... you're gay?

TYLER

I'm into a lot of different things.

PETE

I never got that vibe from you.

TYLER

We're in high school what do you expect? Also you might want to change you name on Gindr. Why would you use your real name if you're trying to keep your sexuality a secret?

Pete looks embarrassed.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Whatever, so you want to do this or what?

Pete slowly backs away.

PETE

I'm sorry this is too much for me.

TYLER

Conversion therapy camp didn't work did it?

Pete stops.

PETE

How did you know?

TYLER

I was initially shocked seeing you on Grindr. I also heard about you spend the whole summer at camp. I did the math.

PETE

I... gotta go.

Pete tries to leave, but Tyler stops him.

TYLER

Relax, I'm not trying to shake you down. People like us... got to stick together.

Tyler leans in slowly. Pete comes in closer. They share light kiss.

TYLER (CONT'D)

How was your first kiss?

PETE

That wasn't-

TYLER

With a guy I mean.

Pete awkwardly scratches his head. Tyler laughs.

TYLER (CONT'D)

Come on I know a coffee shop down the street.

Tyler and Pete walk down the street.

PETE V.O.
My shitty summer just started
feeling like a bad dream.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

Pete stands in front of the school building. Tyler arrives.

PETE
So what are we meeting about?

Tyler looks around to make sure nobody can hear them.

TYLER
If we're going to do this then we
need to establish some ground
rules.

PETE
Like what?

TYLER
Well we're both technically still
in the closet, so you need to just
appear straight.

Pete looks at his clothes.

PETE
Okay.

TYLER
For starters, you got to get over
your shower shyness cause it's
kinda weird.

PETE
I don't want to see a bunch of
dudes naked.

Tyler shushes him.

TYLER
Just keep looking at the ceiling.

PETE
I guess that could work. Anything
else?

TYLER
Try getting a girlfriend?

PETE
I'm sorry what?

TYLER
It's best way to show people your
straight.

PETE
But I'm not even into girls and at
some point they'd expect some
"action."

Tyler chuckles.

TYLER
I never said you had to date
someone at this school. My
girlfriend lives in Oregon.

PETE
Haven't your friends asked to meet
her or something.

TYLER
She... unfortunately committed
suicide after her parents died in a
car crash. I offered to help in any
way I could but-

Tyler starts chocking up. Tears form around his eyes. Pete
reaches out to him. Tyler smiles.

PETE
Woah, that was really good.

Pete claps. Tyler bows.

TYLER
Stick with me and you'll survive
this adolescent hellhole.

Pete and Tyler laugh as they walk inside.

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Pete and the jocks circle around his locker talking. Pete
sees Matek at his locker alone.

PETE
I'll be right back guys.

Tyler sees this and tries to stop him.

TYLER

I wouldn't do that if I were you.

PETE

Relax dude.

Pete walks to Matek.

PETE (CONT'D)

What's up man?

Matek looks around him. Pete chuckles.

PETE (CONT'D)

Dude, I'm talking to you.

MATEK

Why?

Pete doesn't respond.

MATEK (CONT'D)

You've been ghosting me and Cassie for weeks and now you want to talk?

PETE

Yeah I'm sorry about that man it's just that with sports everything been a little hectic.

MATEK

How hard is it to find time for you friends?

PETE

I said I was sorry.

Matek scoffs.

MATEK

Yeah whatever.

PETE

Screw you man.

Pete shoves Matek.

MATEK

Do you even know what's going on with Cassie?

PETE

What?

MATEK

Her Mom is in the hospital with cancer.

Pete is shocked.

MATEK (CONT'D)

I've been the one visiting with Cassie and she keeps asking where you are.

PETE

Dude... I had no idea.

Matek closes his locker.

MATEK

Well I certainly hope you find the time.

Matek walks away. Tyler comes to Pete.

TYLER

Yo what happened?

Pete just stand there feeling ashamed.

PETE

I got to see Cassie.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - AFTERNOON

Cassie sits beside her Mom's hospital bed. Cassie vacantly looks at her while holding her hand. Pete walks in saddened by what he sees.

CASSIE

What do you want?

Pete slowly approaches.

PETE

Hey, how ya doin'?

CASSIE

You sure you want to open with that?

Pete scratches his head.

PETE

I didn't mean it like that I-

Cassie arranges the flowers next to her.

PETE (CONT'D)

Listen I'm sorry I wasn't there for you. I just had a lot of stuff going on and-

CASSIE

Oh I'm sorry my mother's diagnosis inconvenienced you! At least Matek was here to pick up YOUR SLACK!

Cassie turns red. Pete is on the verge of crying.

PETE

I- I-

CASSIE

Just leave already.

Cassie turns her back on him.

PETE

I'm gay!

10 MINUTES LATER:

INT. HOSPITAL CAFETERIA - AFTERNOON

Pete and Cassie sit in the cafeteria eating ice cream.

PETE

And that's what happened at camp.

Cassie covers her mouth in shock.

CASSIE

That must have been so hard for you.

PETE

It was the second or third time for a few kids, so they learned how to fake it.

CASSIE

So how can I help?

PETE

You don't need to do anything for me. I came here to see how you were doing and apologize. Don't worry about me.

CASSIE

How am I suppose to do that? You just came out to me. Not to mention your dad might send you back.

PETE

I know what I'm doing.

Cassie holds Pete's hand.

CASSIE

Let me help you.

PETE

What did you have in mind?

Cassie scratches under her chin.

CASSIE

Well... I could be your girlfriend.

Pete is stunned.

PETE

Wait, what?

CASSIE

What'll be more convincing than that?

PETE

Yeah, but I was thinking more of the girlfriend lives far away story.

CASSIE

That's weak and you know it.

PETE

Yeah, but I don't want to put that on you. You're a beautiful girl and any guy would be lucky to have you.

Cassie blushes.

CASSIE

Yeah, but most guys are immature in high school, so I doubt I'll be missing much. Besides, not helping you don't sit right with me.

PETE

What about Matek?

CASSIE

W-what? I don't like him like that.

PETE

I don't believe you.

CASSIE

That's not important right now.
Just let me help through the rest
of this year. We graduate, tell him
the truth, and we can move past
this.

PETE

I don't know how to thank you.

CASSIE

What are friends for?

Peter smiles. Cassie grabs his hand tightly.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

But I think you should at least
tell Matek.

Pete retracts his hand.

PETE

I can't do that.

CASSIE

Why not?

PETE

It's a long story and I'm just not
ready okay?

CASSIE

I don't feel comfortable lying to
him like that.

Cassie gets up.

PETE

It's his fault I got sent there!

Cassie freezes up. Her face visibly shocked. She slowly sits
back down.

CASSIE

Why?

PETE

I'm not ready to talk about it yet.

Cassie holds his hand firmly.

CASSIE
Okay.

MATEK O.S.
Hold up!

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek interrupts angrily.

MATEK
You knew all of this and didn't
tell me?!

CASSIE
It was so much to take in. I didn't
know what to do.

MATEK
You TELL ME!

Matek looks away from her.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Also why would he think I got him
sent to conversion camp?

Cassie clutches her hair in frustration.

The doorbell rings. Cassie checks outside.

CASSIE
Oh crap.

It's Tyler, Evan, and Eddie approaching the front door. Matek
angrily turns to Cassie.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Oh don't you dare accuse me.

MATEK
Explain the timing.

CASSIE
You want to look through my
messages.

MATEK
No time for that.

Matek grabs the journal and tucks it in his pants.

CASSIE

Why don't we share the journal with Tyler? They could've be planning to leave town together.

MATEK

I doubt he'll be forthcoming if we talk about it in front of his friends.

CASSIE

I'll try to get him alone. Wait here.

Cassie exits the room. Matek calls someone.

CUT TO:

Mr. Daniels opens the front.

TYLER

Hello Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS

Good to see you. How may I help?

TYLER

We came by to check how you were doing.

Evan and Eddie nod in agreement.

MR. DANIELS

Cassie came earlier to do the same.

Cassie enters.

CASSIE

Hey guys.

Tyler looks surprised.

MR. DANIELS

With all due respect, I'm not in the mood to be entertaining anymore company.

TYLER

Of course sorry to bother you.

MR. DANIELS

It's fine. Take care of yourselves.

Mr. Daniels closes the door.

MR. DANIELS (CONT'D)
You can come out now.

Matek enters from the hallway.

MATEK
Mr. Daniels I just don't want to deal with Tyler right now.

MR. DANIELS
Well, I guess you can stay for a few minutes until they leave.

MATEK
Actually there's something I need to ask you.

Matek scratches his head.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Did you know about your son?

MR. DANIELS
Not really. I mean I had some inklings, but I never had anything concrete until I saw the photos.

A brief silence.

MATEK
But you still sent him to conversion therapy. Also why did Pete think I was responsible for sending him there?

Mr. Daniels doesn't respond. Matek sits down on the floor.

MR. DANIELS
I just sent him there as a volunteer to help the staff there. I wish your Dad had never called.

Matek is shocked.

MATEK
Wait, what did my dad say?

MR. DANIELS
I guess he was uncomfortable with how close you guys were getting.

MATEK

That doesn't make any sense we were just friends!

MR. DANIELS

Listen you need to have a serious discussion with your father.

MATEK

No, don't blame my Dad! He's not the one who sent Pete to gay death camp!

Mr. Daniels slams his fist onto the table. Matek recoils.

MR. DANIELS

I did what I thought was best.

Matek leaves looking angry.

EXT. DANIELS' ESTATE - AFTERNOON

Matek is confronted by Cassie, Tyler, Evan, and Eddie. Matek stands frozen in fear. Evan and Eddie grab Matek by the arms.

CASSIE

You said you were going to talk to him alone!

TYLER

Can't let him run away.

MATEK

Get your hands off me!

Tyler gets closer to Matek.

TYLER

Why'd you send the cops after me?

MATEK

I didn't do that.

Tyler punches Matek in the stomach.

MATEK (CONT'D)

Ahhh!

TYLER

They start grilling me after our conversation yesterday, and you expect me to believe it's a coincidence?

MATEK

That a police investigation into Pete would naturally lead them to his friends? Yeah I would believe that.

Evan and Eddie glance at each other.

TYLER

Regardless, I want to know what you did to Pete.

MATEK

I didn't do anything. I'm the one trying to figure where he went.

CASSIE

It's true.

TYLER

Why the hell would you care? If Pete gone then that's one less person for you to put up with.

MATEK

Yeah, but with everyone looking at me like I'm some sort of criminal isn't exactly a good consolation prize.

Eddie grabs the notebook from Matek and tosses it to Tyler.

TYLER

What's this?

MATEK

Take a look for yourself.

Tyler flips through the notebook.

MATEK (CONT'D)

Lotta interesting things about you.

Tyler gets angry and raises his fist. The police arrive and Officer Dan and Michael enter.

OFFICER DAN

Stop right there!

Tyler, Evan, and Eddie run. Officer Michael pursues them. Cassie rushes to Matek.

OFFICER DAN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Matek slowly gets up.

MATEK
I'll be fine, but I want to press
charges against them.

OFFICER DAN
You got it.

Officer Michael comes back.

OFFICER MICHAEL
I lost them when they jumped the
fence.

OFFICER DAN
Can you give us their names and
addresses?

CASSIE
Of course.

Cassie writes on a piece of paper.

OFFICER DAN
For now let's get you kids home.

They all go inside the police car.

INT. POLICE CAR - MOVING - AFTERNOON

Officer Dan is driving. Matek and Cassie sit silently.

OFFICER DAN
Mind tell us why you were at Mr.
Daniels residence?

MATEK
Just making sure he's okay.

CASSIE
He didn't seem all that distressed
to me.

OFFICER DAN
Grief comes in weird ways.

EXT. RANDOM STREETS - AFTERNOON

Tyler runs through the streets alone. A single squad car can
be heard in the distance.

Tyler cuts through the backyard of a random house. The squad moves slowly with Evan and Eddie in the backseat. The squad car leaves.

Tyler gasping for breath. He pulls out the notebook.

INT. TYLER'S HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Music blasting in the background. Multiple teenagers laughing and hooking up. Lots of drinking. Pete, Tyler, and Cassie sit together talking.

TYLER

So when did you guys start dating?

Pete and Cassie look at each other.

PETE

Well umm, we have a couple classes together and-

CASSIE

We had a project and the rest just sort of happened.

RANDOM STUDENT #1

Weak story.

CASSIE

I'm sure your first relationship will leave us teary-eyed.

TYLER

From laughter.

The crowd OH's. Random student #1 smiles as he flips them off and leaves.

CASSIE

I'm gonna go get us a refill.

PETE

Thanks babe.

Cassie leaves.

TYLER

So you went after Cassie huh?

PETE

Our past makes it believable and she's fun to be around.

TYLER
Just make sure keep her happy.

PETE
What do you mean?

Tyler stares at Pete.

PETE (CONT'D)
Dude!

Tyler sees Cassie talking to Matek.

TYLER
Yo dude someone's talking to your
girl.

PETE
So what I'm not her keeper.

Tyler stares at Pete.

PETE (CONT'D)
Damn it!

Pete approaches Matek. Matek groans as Pete comes closer.

PETE (CONT'D)
What are you doing here?

CASSIE
I invited him. You were cool with
it remember?

MATEK
The free booze... it calls to me.

Cassie laughs.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Besides, ever since we went our
separate ways I've been meeting new
people.

Matek points to the guy next to him.

MATEK (CONT'D)
What's good random person I'm
meeting for the first time?

The guy raises his cup. Matek grabs one of Cassie's cups and
toast with him.

PETE
Dude that's mine.

CASSIE
Just get another one.

PETE
Are you kidding me right now?

MATEK
Oh no trouble in paradise already?

Pete pushes Matek.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Learn to take a joke you ass. You
know what, this was a bad idea
Cassie.

Matek heads outside.

CASSIE
Matek?

Cassie is frustrated. She goes after Matek. Pete follows.

EXT. TYLER'S HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT

Cassie grabs Matek.

CASSIE
Don't leave.

MATEK

Cassie scoffs.

CASSIE
Excuse me, but he showed up for me
when my mom was sick-

MATEK
I did that. Everyday!

CASSIE
Yeah and I want all of us to bury
the hatchet.

MATEK
Pete doesn't make it easy.

Cassie groans.

CASSIE

At least Pete's trying. We both want you here, and the second there's a little pushback you want to bail.

MATEK

A little pushback? That's not fair and you know it.

PETE

HEY!

Pete confronts Matek.

PETE (CONT'D)

Do not yell at her.

MATEK

I wasn't yelling I was having a conversation, but I'm leaving now so don't worry about it.

Pete punches Matek across the face. The crowd looks silently. Tyler arrives and immediately stands between them.

CASSIE

Dude, what the hell!

Pete looks regretful.

MATEK

Screw you man.

Matek leaves.

CASSIE

Unbelievable.

Cassie goes after Matek, but Tyler stops her.

TYLER

Just leave the guy to lick his wounds.

Cassie heads back inside. Pete stands defeated with only Tyler by his side.

INT. PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Pete slams his backpack on the floor. He grabs his pillow and starts punching it. Tyler enters.

TYLER
Dude what's going on?

PETE
Someone took a photo of me and it's
already all over the internet.

TYLER
What kind of photo?

Pete struggles to answer.

PETE
I... was kissing someone.

Tyler looks upset.

TYLER
Other than Cassie? Or me?

Pete's remains silent.

PETE
I'm so sorry it just sort of
happened.

Tyler scoffs.

TYLER
Oh screw you man!

Tyler prepares to leave. Pete stops him. Tyler shrugs him off
and leaves.

END OF FLASHBACK.

EXT. RANDOM BACKYARD - AFTERNOON

Tyler falls back into a wall. Letting the notebook fall out
of his hand.

A screen door opens.

HOUSE OWNER
Who the hell are you?

Tyler runs away.

EXT. MATEK'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Matek and Cassie exit the police car.

MATEK

I took the photos of Pete kissing that guy.

Cassie covers her mouth in shock.

MATEK (CONT'D)

The plan was to only scare him into leaving me alone, but I didn't even go through with it!

CASSIE

Then how did they get released?

MATEK

I showed one photo to one guy on my friends list and-

Cassie punches Matek's arm.

CASSIE

One person is all it takes you idiot!

Matek rubs his arm.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Okay, who is this person you sent the photos to?

MATEK

He's in my Destiny 2 clan. Someone named... Doomguy.

CASSIE

Can you get in contact with him again?

MATEK

He has responded to my text.

A notification goes off. Matek checks his phone.

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

Sorry. It's been a long day. What's up?

MATEK

Finally!

MATEK (TEXT) (CONT'D)

Bro can we meet up IRL? It's real important.

DOOMGUY (TEXT)

Sure dude see you at Edison park.

MATEK

I'm gonna meet him at Edison park.

CASSIE

All right let's go.

MATEK

I think it's best if I go alone.

CASSIE

Seriously?

MATEK

I don't want to scare him away.

CASSIE

Is this because of Tyler?

MATEK

I promise it isn't.

Cassie takes a breath.

CASSIE

Fine.

MATEK

But really thank you for all your help.

Matek hugs Cassie. Cassie hugs him back. Cassie leaves.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Matek enters. Mr. Ali sits on the couch reading a book.

MR. ALI

Hey Matek, how are things?

Matek looks at him vacantly.

MATEK

I uh saw Pete's dad.

MR. ALI

How is he?

MATEK

As well as can be expected.

Matek sits next to Mr. Ali. Matek takes a deep breath.

MATEK (CONT'D)
 Speaking of Mr. Daniels, he said I
 should talk to you about why Pete
 and I weren't friends anymore.

Mr. Ali puts down his book.

MR. ALI
 You don't remember?

MATEK
 Remember what?

CUT TO:

INT. MATEK'S ROOM - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

Pete, Cassie, and Matek are playing Super Smash bros. Cassie is dancing in victory.

PETE
 Alright you won, can we just do
 another round.

Cassie's phone rings.

CASSIE
 Hello?

Cassie stops dancing.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
 My mom wants to me to help pack for
 our family vacation tomorrow, so I
 gotta go.

MATEK
 Come on one more round. I have to
 redeem myself.

CASSIE
 Save it for when I get back.

Cassie leaves. Matek starts another round.

MATEK
 Let's go again!

Pete focuses on Matek's face. He leans. Matek turns to him.

MATEK (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

A brief silence.

PETE
This!

Pete finishes off Matek's character and wins the round.

PETE (CONT'D)
Oooooohhhhhhhh!

MATEK
Oh come on you distracted me!

PETE
I win, I win, I win, I win!

Pete dances. Matek flips him off. Mr. Ali watches from the hallway through the half open door, looking uncomfortable.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

MATEK
I'm not understanding the problem.

MR. ALI
I thought Pete was making a move on you.

Matek starts laughing.

MATEK
What do you mea-

Matek's smile quickly turns into a frown.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Oh God!

Matek makes a frightened look and starts shaking slightly.

MR. ALI
Matek, are you okay?

Mr. Ali reaches out to Matek, but his hand is quickly swatted away. Matek runs out of his house.

Matek grabs his bike out of the garbage. He dashes through his streets. His bike hits a rock and he falls off. Lying on the ground, staring at the sky.

INT. DEL'S COFFEE - AFTERNOON

Xavier sits in the corner drinking coffee while looking at his phone. Xavier finishes his coffee and heads to the second floor. He opens the door revealing a small room with a single bed. Xavier lays on the bed and closes his eyes.

EXT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

Pete meets up with Xavier.

XAVIER

Aren't you worried you'll get in trouble for cutting class?

PETE

Don't worry about it. I texted you because I want to leave this town.

XAVIER

Trouble in paradise with Tyler?

PETE

No, I just sick and tired of having to hide all the time. I know you help people like me from time to time.

XAVIER

Yeah, but they have it a lot worse than you. Your senior year ends soon, so wait a while and I'll help you out.

PETE

Really?

XAVIER

Yeah dude. I can get you a job at my family's coffee shop and there's a room upstairs you can crash at.

Pete sighs in relief.

PETE

Thanks Xavier.

Pete hugs Xavier. Xavier hugs him back. Pete goes in for a kiss. Xavier pushes him back.

XAVIER

Dude!

END OF FLASHBACK.

Xavier gets up and texts Matek.

EXT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - SPORTS FIELD - AFTERNOON

A stage stands in the middle. Students set up chairs. A large portrait of Pete Daniels. Cassie watches from the bleachers. She stares at Pete's portrait.

INT. TYLER'S HOUSE PARTY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Only Pete, Cassie, and Tyler remain. Pete and Cassie argue while Tyler relaxes on the couch.

PETE

Can you just calm down Cassie?

CASSIE

Not after what you just did. This was supposed to be the three of us burying the hatchet.

PETE

He started it!

TYLER

Well sure ended hahaha.

PETE

Shut up man.

Tyler gets up.

TYLER

Look man there's no way he'll want anything to do with you guys, so just cut your losses.

Cassie is frustrated while Pete looks disappointed.

CASSIE
I've stuck by you for this long,
but if you lay your hands on him
again then we're done.

END OF FLASHBACK.

EXT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL - SPORTS FIELD - AFTERNOON

TYLER V.O.
Psst! Cassie?

Cassie looks around, finding nothing.

TYLER V.O. (CONT'D)
Down here.

Tyler stands under the bleachers. Cassie comes to him.

CASSIE
What are you doing?

TYLER
The cops already arrested Evan and
Eddie! I can't be seen right now.

CASSIE
Then get the hell outta here! I
don't want you around me.

Cassie pushes Tyler.

TYLER
Did he take the photos or not?

CASSIE
Even if he did why would he tell
me?

Cassie starts walking away.

TYLER
Does Matek know about my
relationship with Pete?

Cassie stops. She turns towards Tyler.

CASSIE
He could've outed you in front of
your friends, but he didn't.

Tyler doesn't respond. A notification goes off. Cassie checks
her phone.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

A recording?

Officer Dan and Michael enter. Tyler falls over.

TYLER

What the hell!

Officer Michael picks Tyler up and cuffs him.

OFFICER DAN

Thanks for the tip Cassie.

Tyler is shocked. Cassie refuses to look at him.

The officers drag Tyler away while everyone stares.

INT. POLICE CAR - AFTERNOON

TYLER

This is bullshit!

OFFICER MICHAEL

Shut up.

Officer Dan starts the car. Officer Michael flips through the notebook.

EXT. EDISON PARK - AFTERNOON

A large plot of grassy land. One bench and a playground for toddlers. Matek sits by himself rereading Pete's journal. Matek focuses on a bunch of kids in the playground playing.

EXT. EDISON PARK - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

Matek, Cassie, and Pete sits underneath the jungle gym. Laughing while smoking joints.

MATEK

Man this stuff is good!

PETE

Praise be to the guy behind the liquor store.

Laughing ensues.

MATEK

So what's gonna be your job when you grow up?

PETE

Beats me.

CASSIE

Maybe work for your dad?

PETE

Uh, anything but that.

MATEK

He'll have to forgo the devil's
lettuce.

Matek raises his cigarette. Pretends to resist smoking it.

MATEK (CONT'D)

Oh no, Satan is too strong. I'm
about to give in to my urges.
Noooooo!

Matek takes a puff. Cassie can't stop laughing. Pete slow
claps.

PETE

You should consider a career in
comedy.

MATEK

I need a steady paycheck to fund my
passions.

CASSIE

More weed.

MATEK

More weed! I will farm it from acre
to acre, and help others to fly
high above the clouds.

PETE

Sky-high.

Matek snaps his fingers.

MATEK

The perfect name.

They all laugh together.

END OF FLASHBACK.

EXT. EDISON PARK - AFTERNOON

Matek continues to dry his face. Xavier arrives.

XAVIER
You okay?

MATEK
Xavier I presume?

Matek wipes his face again.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Releasing that photo put my life in
a downward spiral.

XAVIER
I thought that's what you wanted.

MATEK
No, I specifically said I just
wanted to blackmail him.

XAVIER
What's to stop him from beating you
until he gets the photos?

Matek thinks for a moment.

XAVIER (CONT'D)
You seriously didn't think of that?

MATEK
I was riding high off the feeling
of having one over him.

Xavier feels slightly uneasy.

XAVIER
You're kind of a piece of shit.

MATEK
Screw you!

XAVIER
You're the one who keeps acting
like the victim.

MATEK
People think I'm some sort of
criminal for something I didn't do!

XAVIER
You took the photo. You wanted to
blackmail Pete.

Matek slumps down.

MATEK
Oh my god. I am a piece of shit.

Xavier nods.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Do you have any idea where Pete is?

XAVIER
I was going to help him leave town
as soon as he graduated.

MATEK
But the photo must of sped up...
the process.

Matek turns to Xavier.

MATEK (CONT'D)
He wanted the photo released.

Xavier snaps his fingers and points to Matek.

XAVIER
And he didn't want anyone to follow
him either.

Matek stares at the sunset. He looks defeated.

CASSIE O.S.
Matek.

Matek turns to Cassie. Cassie looks sad.

MATEK
What are you doing here?

Cassie opens her phone and plays the recording.

INT. PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

A voice speaks through Pete's phone. The caller ID is Tyler.

TYLER (V.O.)
Hey Pete so I managed to scrounge
up some money.

Mr. Daniels gets closer to the phone.

TYLER (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I know you messed up, but I figure
 I owe you that much. Just take care
 of yourself the best you can.

A brief silence.

TYLER V.O.
 I didn't think things would end
 like this but here we are.

Mr. Daniels looks confused and slightly disgusted.

TYLER (V.O.)
 You remember our first date? It was
 so cute how nervous you were. We
 stared into each others eye and-

Mr. Daniels interrupts.

MR. DANIELS V.O.
 Tyler?

A long silence. Tyler hangs up.

END OF FLASHBACK.

EXT. EDISON PARK - AFTERNOON

CASSIE
 Tyler was talking to Pete the day
 he was going to leave.

XAVIER
 Except Pete never showed up to
 Del's that day.

MATEK
 Then why didn't Tyler confront Mr.
 Daniels?

CASSIE
 Because he figured out Tyler was
 gay.

MATEK
 And he would've told Tyler's
 parents, which would've gotten him
 sent to conversion camp again.

XAVIER

Wow this Mr. Daniels sounds like a real piece of work.

A brief silence. Matek looks away.

CASSIE

Then where is Pete?

MATEK

The day he was going leave, the last person he talked to was his dad at his house.

A moment of realization.

CASSIE

You don't think...

They all look at each other. Matek pulls out his phone.

EXT. DANIELS MANSION - AFTERNOON

A police car parks in front of the mansion. Mr. Daniels looks out the window. He sighs in relief.

Officer Dan and Officer Michael step out.

MR. DANIELS

Evening gentleman.

Mr. Daniels looks like a weight has been lifted off his shoulders.

MR. DANIELS V.O.

Can I help you?

OFFICER DAN

We need to talk about your son.

Mr. Daniels sits down on the porch.

MR. DANIELS

What about?

OFFICER DAN

We've come into new evidence about your son.

MR. DANIELS

Really?

OFFICER DAN
We should do this down at the
station.

MR. DANIELS
Should I have my lawyer present?

OFFICER DAN
You're not under arrest.

MR. DANIELS
I'll have my lawyer meet us there.

Mr. Daniels enters the police car and leaves with the
officers.

Matek, Cassie, and Xavier pop out of the bushes. They quickly
head to the front door of Mr. Daniels house. They enter
inside.

INT. DANIEL'S ESTATE - PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

The group slowly enter Pete's room.

Matek grabs a flashlight out of his pocket.

Xavier turns off the lights. Cassie and Matek cover the
windows. Matek turns on the flashlight and looks over the
room.

CASSIE
Wait! Go over the bed frame again.

Matek goes over the bed frame and sees white spots at the
end.

XAVIER
Is that blood?

Everyone is silent. Matek shines the light outside the door,
into the hallway. The gang follows him, turning off the
lights as they go. Matek stops in the kitchen.

XAVIER (CONT'D)
Why are we stopping?

MATEK
There's too much natural light for
the flashlight.

CASSIE
The downstairs is still dark
enough-

The gang heads downstairs, staring at the basement door.

Matek opens the door.

INT. DANIELS' ESTATE - BASEMENT - AFTERNOON

A rather dusty place with few clothes hanging on a thread. A washer and a dryer. A water heater in the back. Plus a large cooler.

Matek shines the flashlight. The white spots lead to the cooler. They approach it slowly. Matek reaches out and quickly opens it. Slabs of butcher meat.

INT. DANIELS' ESTATE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Two couches facing each other. TV in the middle. Matek stares out the window. Cassie and Matek sit on the same couch.

XAVIER

How long will your cop friends be able to keep Mr. Daniels at the station?

MATEK

It's been like five minutes since they left, so they most likely have just arrived at the station.

XAVIER

Maybe Pete really did just leave on his own.

MATEK

But you say all the spots we did.

XAVIER

You saw the cooler. He got blood stain from the meat, and he got all over the place.

MATEK

In his son's room?

XAVIER

Makes more sense than Mr. Daniels killing him!

Matek gets in front of Xavier.

MATEK

I know he's here. He has to be.

XAVIER

You sound a lot like Tyler.

Matek and Xavier glare angrily at each other. Cassie steps in between them.

CASSIE

Will you guys knock it off!

Xavier backs off. Matek goes back to staring at the sandbox in the backyard. Cassie approaches him.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Why is the sandbox there?

MATEK

What do you mean? People have sandboxes.

CASSIE

No, I mean why is the sandbox on the left side.

MATEK

Wait what?

CASSIE

Mr. Daniels would always put it on the right side because the shade was always better over there.

Matek's eyes slowly widen. He opens the door and rushes to the sandbox. Cassie and Xavier quickly run after him.

XAVIER

Dude, what are you doing?

Matek grabs the sandbox and tries to lift it.

MATEK

Grab the other sides now!

Matek, Cassie, Tyler, and Xavier lift the sandbox together, revealing a dirt mound. The gang looks in horror.

A brief silence.

XAVIER

Maybe this the part where we call the cops?

CASSIE

Yeah that sounds good to me.

Matek runs back inside. Cassie and Xavier stare at each other.

Matek comes out with a shovel. Cassie tries to stop him.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Woah, woah, woah! What are you gonna do with that?

MATEK
Take a guess.

Matek starts digging. Cassie and Xavier back away slowly.

Matek hits something. Matek tosses the shovel and start clawing the dirt away. A red carpet rolled up appears.

Matek, Tyler, Cassie, and Xavier recoil at the strong odor.

XAVIER
Oh dear god!

Lots of dry retching.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

A two-story building. Police officers bringing arrested people into the holding cell. Random citizens wait in the middle of the room. Officer Dan takes Mr. Daniels into the interrogation room. Officer Michael grabs a cup of water and wipes his forehead.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Mr. Daniels sits on one side. Officer Dan sits across from him. Officer Michael stands against the wall.

MR. DANIELS
So you wanna just wait until my lawyer gets here?

OFFICER MICHAEL
The faster you answer our question, the faster you can leave.

MR. DANIELS
Alright fair enough.

OFFICER DAN

So you told us you last saw Pete a couple days before his disappearance. Do you remember what you talked about?

MR. DANIELS

As I said before he was in a rush to school that morning.

OFFICER DAN

Actually we received a recording that would put Pete at your house the day he was supposed to leave.

MR. DANIELS

Excuse me?

OFFICER MICHAEL

We know Pete was gay.

OFFICER DAN

Apparently he was in a secret relationship with Tyler Cornell, and Cassie was his "cover".

Mr. Daniels pinches his forehead.

OFFICER MICHAEL

His tower of lies are crumbling around him.

OFFICER DAN

Wanna tell us what happened to your kid?

Mr. Daniels takes a deep breath.

MR. DANIELS

Fine. Pete told me the truth. We had an argument. He left.

OFFICER DAN

Really? Wasting police resources on a wild goose chase is a crime.

MR. DANIELS

I'll wait for my lawyer to arrive then.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Matek waits in the lounge with Cassie and Xavier. All looking agitated.

Officer Michael approaches them.

OFFICER MICHAEL
Can I assist you?

Everyone but Matek is unresponsive.

MATEK
Is there somewhere private you and
I can talk?

Officer Michael sighs.

OFFICER MICHAEL
Follow me.

Officer Michael and Matek step into an empty office.

MATEK
I found where Pete is.

Officer Michael is shocked.

OFFICER MICHAEL
How? Where?

MATEK
In his Dad's backyard.

OFFICER MICHAEL
But wait why would he be hiding-

Officer Michael has a realization. He covers his mouth in horror. Matek looks at him sadly.

OFFICER MICHAEL (CONT'D)
Okay, tell me right now how you
found him?

MATEK
I was walking by Mr. Daniels house
when you guys took him to the
station.

OFFICER MICHAEL
You were walking by?

Officer Michael looks skeptical.

MATEK

Yes and I noticed a dog digging at the ground in Mr. Daniels backyard.

OFFICER MICHAEL

And that's where you saw Pete?

MATEK

Yes.

OFFICER MICHAEL

You really think I'm that stupid?

Matek looks confused.

OFFICER MICHAEL (CONT'D)

It sounds more like you went into Mr. Daniels house without his permission, and dug up Pete in his backyard! A BnE and trespassing!

MATEK

You saw me at his house earlier today. Who's to say I didn't find evidence at that time?

OFFICER MICHAEL

Fine, but you still trespassed.

MATEK

What will that get me?

OFFICER MICHAEL

Well you're a minor and it's your first offense so best case a slap on the wrist and a small fine.

MATEK

Okay that's not too bad.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Did you call the police when you found it?

MATEK

I wanted to come to you first.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Just go back to your friends and wait.

Officer Michael rushes back into the interrogation room.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Officer Michael arrives. Mr. Daniels lawyer is present.

OFFICER DAN

Your client admitted to making the disappearance up.

LAWYER

From where I stand, I see a distraught father looking for his son.

OFFICER DAN

He purposely withheld information.

LAWYER

That's not a crime, so unless you have anything actionable we'll be leaving.

The lawyer and Mr. Daniels get up, but Officer Michael stops them.

OFFICER MICHAEL

We have a report for Mr. Daniels neighborhood that a dog digging in his backyard found a body. The police are on their way right now.

LAWYER

Woah, woah, woah what the hell are you talking about?

Officer Michael turns to Mr. Daniels.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Now we both know what we're going to find there. You can either wait it out or you can just get it off your chest.

LAWYER

We don't have to listen to this. We're leaving now!

Mr. Daniels slams his fists against the table. Everyone becomes silent.

MR. DANIELS

Fine. I'll talk.

INT. PETE'S ROOM - AFTERNOON - FLASHBACK

Pete is quickly packing his clothes. Mr. Daniels enters.

PETE

Dad! I thought you were at work.

MR. DANIELS

I was until I found this.

Mr. Daniels shows Pete the photo.

PETE

Dad look I-

MR. DANIELS

I thought this was already sorted out.

Pete stops packing.

PETE

This isn't something you can just wish away.

MR. DANIELS

But what about your girlfriend?

PETE

I was LYING!

MR. DANIELS

What are you saying?

PETE

Dad... I'm gay alright!

MR. DANIELS

No-no you're not.

PETE

I'm leaving and I'm never coming back!

MR. DANIELS

And how do you plan to get by? Your just a kid.

PETE

I'm eighteen dad. I'll figure it out.

A brief silence. Mr. Daniels looks uneasy.

PETE (CONT'D)

Look dad I don't hate you for what you did. You come from a different time, but I gotta live in the present. You don't have to like it, but you're gonna have to learn to accept it... without me.

Mr. Daniels swing his fist, connecting with Pete. Pete hits the bed frame cracking his neck.

MR. DANIELS

Son? Son?

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Mr. Daniels cries into the table. Officer Michael can't look at Mr. Daniels. Officer Dan looks like he's about to jump out of his seat. The lawyer is still in shock.

Officer Michael and Dan leave.

OFFICER DAN

Some get Mr. Daniels into a jail cell.

A random officer heads into the interrogation room.

An officer moves Mr. Daniels out of the interrogation room. Mr. Daniels is thrown into a jail cell.

Officer Michael approach Matek, Cassie, and Xavier.

OFFICER MICHAEL

Mr. Daniels admitted to the murder. You can all go home now.

Matek, Cassie, and Xavier sigh in relief.

MATEK

Actually there's one more thing I need to ask.

INT. POLICE STATION - JAIL CELL

A cold and dark room. Steel bars surrounding cages. Tyler sits on his crappy bed. Matek enters.

OFFICER MICHAEL O.S.

Five minutes.

Matek approaches Tyler's cell.

MATEK
Where's Evan and Eddie?

TYLER
Parents came to get them.

MATEK
Too afraid to call yours?

TYLER
They had better things to do.

A brief silence.

MATEK
They figured out what happened to
Pete?

TYLER
It was Mr. Daniels wasn't it?

Matek looks frustrated.

MATEK
You knew?

TYLER
I had a feeling.

MATEK
So you couldn't do anything because
you were afraid of Mr. Daniels
outing you.

TYLER
I see Cassie shared the recording.

Matek paces back and forth.

MATEK
You know you're the reason why the
was such a wedge between Pete and
I.

Tyler gets up.

TYLER
I know how he ended up in
conversion therapy.

MATEK
That wasn't my fault.

TYLER
Sure it wasn't.

MATEK
I didn't even get the chance to
defend myself! I didn't even know
what happened until today!

TYLER
You could've tried harder.

MATEK
How could I with you poisoning him
against me?

Tyler doesn't respond. Matek leaves.

TYLER
You're just gonna leave me here?

Matek ignores him.

INT. MATEK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Matek enters as Mr. Ali is calling someone.

MR. ALI
Have you seen my son Matek? He left
the house over an hour ago.

MATEK
Dad, I'm right here.

Mr. Ali looks relieved.

MR. ALI
Okay he just showed up.

Mr. Ali hangs up.

MR. ALI (CONT'D)
Where have you been?

Matek heads to the couch. Mr. Ali sits next to him.

MATEK
Mr. Daniels killed Pete.

Mr. Ali gasps in horror.

MATEK (CONT'D)
Yeah.

MR. ALI
How? Why?

MATEK
Well...

Matek chokes up.

MATEK (CONT'D)
I don't know how nor do I ever want to know, but why is because of the phone call you had with Mr. Daniels. The one about you feeling uncomfortable about Pete.

Mr. Ali looks distraught.

MR. ALI
Oh god.

MATEK
I'm not trying to blame you Dad. I've gone back and forth on this and the only one to blame is Pete's dad.

MR. ALI
As a parent you do what you think is best for your children, but we tend to forget that we don't have all the answers.

Matek turns to his father with tears in his eyes.

They embrace.

2 WEEKS LATER:

INT. PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL HALLWAY - MORNING

Matek sits down near his locker, listening to the news. Cassie approaches him.

CASSIE
Hey.

Matek removes his headphones.

MATEK
Hey.

Cassie sits down next to him.

CASSIE
What are you listening to?

MATEK
News report about Mr. Daniels. He
pleaded guilty and they're trying
to figure out how long he's gonna
be in jail.

CASSIE
Wouldn't he get life?

MATEK
God I hope so.

A brief silence.

CASSIE
It's kinda of cool being hometown
heroes.

MATEK
Meh.

CASSIE
Really?

MATEK
In my case it's only because
everyone feels guilty for thinking
I did it.

CASSIE
Yikes.

A brief silence.

MATEK
So how did the memorial thing go?

CASSIE
Everyone was singing his praises,
which was nice.

MATEK
But?

CASSIE
They didn't know him like we did.

MATEK
He was always good at hiding.

Cassie nods in agreement.

CASSIE
How are you feeling though?

Matek shrugs.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Come on, after everything your
really just gonna shake it off.

MATEK
My Dad is making me see a
therapist. It's been only a couple
sessions, but I think it's helping.
I'm still trying to decide if I
should take a gap year.

CASSIE
USC welcomed you back?

MATEK
Once I basically threatened to tell
the news about how they tried to
screw me, I got a full ride.

CASSIE
Nice.

They bump fists.

MATEK
I just want to leave this town as
soon as I can. Other than my family
I don't have a reason to come back
here.

CASSIE
What about me?

Matek turns to Cassie.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
It's been a rough senior year, but
we still made it.

Cassie clears her throat.

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Remember back in freshman year when
those senior girls were giving me
grief and you and Pete were
consoling me?

Matek grins.

MATEK

Oh yeah! Pete and I rolled in on their pre-prom thing in ski masks.

CASSIE

And you shot em' full of paint balls.

Matek and Cassie laugh out loud.

MATEK

I was freaking out for months scared what would've happened to me.

CASSIE

Right!

The laughter dies down.

MATEK

Is that why you helped me so much? Even though you thought I was the reason Pete got sent to conversion therapy.

CASSIE

Pete said he would eventually tell me how, but he never did. I only had his side of the story, but I never once thought of asking you.

Matek embraces her.

MATEK

Hey come on don't beat yourself up. It's okay.

CASSIE

I understand how alone you've felt, but I promise I'm not going to do that again. I still want to be there for you. Do you think you could ever forgive me?

Matek puts his hand on Cassie's hand.

MATEK

Listen you did absolutely nothing wrong. You have the right to try and be more sociable. I didn't because I trapped myself in my own comfort zone.

(MORE)

MATEK (CONT'D)

I'm sorry for making you feel bad,
and I promise to you that I'll
always be your friend.

Cassie looks slightly disappointed.

CASSIE

Just a friend?

MATEK

If we started a relationship, I
worry that our only connection
would be Pete. You deserve someone
who won't constantly remind you of
the worse time in your life.

Matek wipes Cassie's tears.

MATEK (CONT'D)

You're going to find someone and
make him fall head over heels.

They hug with smiles on their faces. Evan and Eddie enter.

EVAN

Hey Matek?

Cassie and Matek scowl at them both.

CASSIE

What do you want?

EDDIE

We were hoping to talk to Matek.

MATEK

You can say what you want in front
of her.

Cassie crosses her arms.

EVAN

Look we wanted to say we were sorry
for-

MATEK

For letting Tyler beat me up at
Pete's house?

Eddie scratches the back of his head.

EVAN

We're just really thankful that we only got community service, and we just want to make amends.

Matek stands up.

MATEK

Stay away from me and we're good.

Evan and Eddie depressingly walk away.

EDDIE

(silently)
Fucking dead fag.

Matek gets angry and approaches Eddie.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE - MORNING

Matek sits down with a bruised lip and a black eye. The principal stares at Matek, looking pissed off.

MATEK

We got to stop meeting like this.

PRINCIPAL

It's the end of the year and you can't stop getting into trouble.

MATEK

Trouble just can't get enough of me.

Matek smirks.

PRINCIPAL

Are you a comedian now?

Matek scowls.

MATEK

How many times have we been in this room?

The principal stays silent.

MATEK (CONT'D)

Quite a few and it all comes back to Pete. Your star athlete.

(MORE)

MATEK (CONT'D)

Your golden ticket. Everyone else just seemed insignificant huh?

PRINCIPAL

What are you getting at?

MATEK

You ever think that if you really reprimanded Pete maybe things would've been different.

The principal shoots out of his chair.

PRINCIPAL

Are you saying I'm responsible for his demise?

MATEK

God no, I'm saying you letting him off easy didn't help anyone.

The principal sits back down, looking defeated.

MATEK (CONT'D)

You could've been stricter, I could've been more understanding. That kid was in so much pain, and our heads were too far up our own asses to see it.

The principal tries to say something.

PRINCIPAL

Y-you can't help someone that doesn't want to be helped.

Matek doesn't respond and just leaves. The principal looks at the state championship picture on his desk and throws it in the trash.

INT. DEL'S COFFEE - AFTERNOON

Matek and Cassie are greeted by the cashier Tyler.

TYLER

Welcome guys.

MATEK AND CASSIE

Hey.

Tyler signals his co-worker.

TYLER
Going on my break.

They all sit down.

MATEK
So how's the new job?

TYLER
I work at a coffee shop for minimum wage. What do you think?

Matek nods.

CASSIE
So where did you get accepted?

TYLER
I'm going to community college then a cheap state school.

CASSIE
Solid plan.

MATEK
How's the living situation?

TYLER
I live in a cramped apartment and smell like coffee.

MATEK
So you moved out?

TYLER
I can't see my parents right now. After what happened with Pete I just can't be comfortable there.

CASSIE
I'm going to grab our coffees. Do you want anything Tyler?

TYLER
Sure.

Cassie goes to the counter.

MATEK
So... about that website.

Tyler stares at Matek shocked.

TYLER

Listen man I-

MATEK

Considering what Mr. Daniels did,
it wouldn't be hard to pin it on
him.

Tyler is confused.

TYLER

What?

MATEK

I mean that's what I told the cops.

TYLER

But I'm saying it was-

Matek stops him.

MATEK

It. Was. Mr. Daniels.

Matek grins. Cassie comes back with the coffees.

CASSIE

What I'd miss?

MATEK

Nothing much. I'm gonna talk to
Xavier.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - AFTERNOON

Matek enters the graveyard wearing a blue cap and gown with
flowers in his arms. He kneels before Pete's gravestone.

MATEK

Hey Pete. As you can see I'm a high
school graduate. I'll be heading to
USC in the fall. I always said I
wanted to be a screenwriter, but I
probably won't get a deal straight
out of college so... accounting
maybe?

Matek chuckles.

MATEK (CONT'D)

You would not believe the amount of
ass kissing I've been getting
recently.

(MORE)

MATEK (CONT'D)

Everyone who saw the website has gone from, "I'm sorry" to "Want to go out some time?" Evan and Eddie basically begged for my forgiveness. I gave it to them... but then they called you a dead fag, so I knocked them out. Cassie and I became friends again, but I had to tell her we couldn't be any more than that. For the first time ever, I'm turning down a girl.

Matek shrugs.

MATEK (CONT'D)

It really sucks you're not here. I keep thinking back to when I took those photos.

His fists tighten.

MATEK (CONT'D)

I'm really gonna miss you man. I'll try and come back when I can. Probably play it by the year and see where it goes from there.

Matek places the flowers on the gravestone.

MATEK (CONT'D)

Goodbye friend.

Matek places his hat on top of the grave stone. He leaves.

THE END.