

One Big Happy

Written by:  
Nicholas Maiello  
(917)-605-8151  
nemaielo1230@hotmail.com

ONE BIG HAPPY

**ACT I**

**SCENE I**

FADE IN:

EXT. LOCAL CHURCH - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

The local church shines in the glow of the ever-present sun.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL CHURCH - AERIAL SHOT - DAY

The Congregation are seated in their pews, as they listen to FATHER MACDOUGAL speak from the pulpit.

OLD MAN

Lies fast asleep in his pew, as dribble trickles from the side of his cheek.

BABY

Starts to CRY, as his mother tries to pacify him.

YOUNG TEENAGE BOY

Closely reads him hymnal.

CLOSEUP - BOY'S HYMNAL

Secretly conceals a girly magazine.

BRETT DONOVAN, seated in the pew behind the boy, looks over his shoulder in approval. Brett's brother, NOAH, seated next to him, subsequently jostles Brett in the ribs and gives him a disapproving glare.

FATHER MACDOUGAL

Gives the closing rites.

FATHER MACDOUGAL  
 (speaks aloud to  
 congregation)  
 Let us all go in peace to love and  
 serve the Lord.

CONGREGATION  
 (aloud; all together)  
 Amen.

The CONGREGATION starts to disperse from their pews.

DREAM SEQUENCE - EXT. OPEN ROAD - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE  
 ANGLE - DAY

FAMILY SEDAN

Drives down the open road.

CUT TO:

INT. FAMILY SEDAN - DAY

MYRTLE DONOVAN busily drives, while her mother, GRANDMA  
 GERALDINE, sits in front. AUDREY DONOVAN, COREY DONOVAN,  
 LINDA DONOVAN, and her baby son, JOEY, accompany Brett and  
 Noah in the back seat.

MYRTLE  
 (focuses on road)  
 So, what did you learn at church  
 today, kids?

AUDREY  
 To love and serve the Lord and his  
 people. Hey mom, is it okay if I  
 join some of my friends tomorrow?  
 We're helping out at the local  
 shelter.

BRETT  
 Yeah, mom. I meant to tell you. I  
 won't be home for the next few  
 days. I'm painting Ms. Sellers'  
 house down the street. Being that  
 she's elderly, I figured she could  
 use some help.

COREY  
 (with mouth full; looks at  
 carrot sticks)  
 (MORE)

COREY (cont'd)  
 Wow, these carrot sticks are  
 delicious! I thought I'd never get  
 to have them.

Corey looks and smiles at Noah.

NOAH

Smiles back at his brother, as he looks warmly at everyone  
 and smiles.

LINDA  
 You know, I think Joey's starting  
 to speak his first words.  
 (looks lovingly at Joey;  
 in a baby's voice)  
 Isn't that right, sweetie?

MYRTLE  
 (focuses on road)  
 How's your hip feelin', mom?

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
 Oh, it's doin' great. I'll be  
 getting around the house in no  
 time.

MYRTLE  
 (focuses on road)  
 Noah, I was wondering if you could  
 watch over the house for me.  
 Linda's working late at the  
 factory, I'll be at the office, and  
 Grandma's hip is still a little  
 tender. Noah, Noah, Noah...

END DREAM SEQUENCE

INT. FAMILY SEDAN - DAY

Noah comes to, as the family has arrived home.

BRETT (O.S.)  
 (yells angrily)  
 Noah, get your head out of your  
 ass! We're home.

Noah looks around, as his family starts to exit the car.  
 Corey, still inside the car, looks at his brother.

COREY  
 (eats hideously melted  
 chocolate bar)  
 I hate it when it melts.

Noah looks on in disgust at his younger brother.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - DAY

Everyone starts to exit the car, as they head inside.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
 (painfully exits car while  
 grabbing her hip)  
 Oh, this hip ain't ever gonna get  
 better.

AUDREY  
 (frustrated; under her  
 breath)  
 God damn, I really hate going to  
 church.

LINDA  
 (worriedly feels Joey's  
 forehead)  
 Boy, I think Joey's running a  
 temperature.

ENTIRE FAMILY

Enter their house.

FADE OUT.

## **SCENE II**

FADE IN:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - DAY

SERIES OF SHOTS

Audrey is in her bedroom, as she gathers her clothes and cleans up around her room. She looks around to see if anyone is present. Seeing no one, she goes into her drawer and pulls out some pictures of some of her favorite teen idols and smiles and kisses them.

Noah enters into his bedroom, and plops down on his bed. He stares pensively up at the ceiling. He notices the sunshine from his bedroom window, and gets up to see. Noah looks pensively at the sun.

Noah looks around at Brett's side of the bedroom.

BRETT'S BED

Remains unkept, as the sheets are balled up.

PILE OF GIRLY MAGAZINES

Rest underneath the bed.

TATTERED FOOTBALL

Lies at the edge of the bed.

NOAH

Cringes, as he quickly shifts his focus back to the sun. He suddenly falls to the floor with a resounding THUD. Brett has entered, and has wasted no time in making his presence felt.

BRETT

(looks menacingly at Noah)

What are you looking at, pea brain?

Some of my girly mags, eh?

(sarcastically)

Someone like you could really use  
'em.

(plops down on bed and  
starts to read one)

By the way, mom wants to see you  
downstairs.

Noah gets up from the floor, and is about to head out, when Brett trips him again. Noah slowly gets up, as he composes himself and departs.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Noah has finished descending the staircase, as he passes through the living room into the kitchen. He is about to enter, when he hits his hip on the old family dresser. Noah winces in pain, as he enters the kitchen.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Noah is now in the bustling kitchen, where Myrtle busily prepares Sunday dinner, while Audrey feeds Joey, and Corey dries some dishes in the drainer.

MYRTLE

(spots Noah)

Noah, there you are. Listen, I  
need for you to help with dinner.  
Linda just left for the factory,  
and I have to watch Joey and I'm  
real short-handed.

NOAH  
 (takes out some dinner  
 plates from cupboard)  
 What are we having?

MYRTLE  
 (continues preparing  
 dinner)  
 Fried chicken and some sides.  
 (directs Noah)  
 Just get some dishes and flour and  
 start breading some piece. Noah,  
 I'm going to the bathroom. Just  
 set the stove on medium and I'll be  
 right back.

Myrtle departs from the kitchen, as Noah gets ready.

AUDREY  
 (feeds Joey; looks at  
 Noah)  
 Noah, I was wondering if you can  
 help me with my biology homework?

NOAH  
 (opens refrigerator and  
 gets out some food)  
 Maybe later, Aud.

AUDREY (O.S.)  
 Okay.

Noah gets out some small pans, as he separates some eggs in  
 one, pours milk in another, and puts bread crumbs in another.

AUDREY  
 (picks up Joey)  
 Isn't that right, Joey? We're  
 gonna have some chicken.  
 (imitates a chicken; looks  
 lovingly at Joey)  
 B-ga, b-ga.

Joey starts to CRY, as Audrey tries to console him.

BRETT (O.S.)  
 (sarcastic)  
 Do ya have to scare the poor kid?

Audrey turns around.

BRETT

Stands in the doorway, as he enters into the kitchen and heads over to Audrey.

BRETT  
 (puts out his arms)  
 Give him up.  
 (takes Joey from her;  
 speaks to Joey in a  
 baby's voice)  
 Yes, yes, baby doesn't want to stay  
 with ogre face. Yes.

NOAH

Busily breads the chicken, as he takes a brief respite and goes to take sip of milk from a glass he poured. However, Brett quickly grabs his arm.

BRETT  
 (grabs the glass)  
 Gee, thanks. I was getting kind of  
 thirsty.

NOAH  
 (looks cross at him)  
 Are you always this crass?

BRETT  
 (finishes drinking; burps  
 loudly in Noah's face)  
 Yeeeeessssss!

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

ENTIRE FAMILY

Sits around the dinner table, ready to eat their Sunday meal. The pre-dinner prayer is about to be said, as everyone bows their heads in silence and close their eyes.

NOAH

Has his eyes closed, when he notices something.

BRETT

Pops a couple of peas in his mouth during the pre-meal prayer.

AUDREY (O.S.)  
 (says grace)  
 And we thank thee Lord - -



NOAH  
(yells and looks at Brett)  
Hey, show some respect, you  
mongrel!

MYRTLE  
(stern)  
What's going on?

NOAH  
Brett ate some peas during the  
family prayer.

BRETT  
(derisive)  
How would you know if you had your  
four eyes shut?

NOAH  
(insulted)  
You take that back!

BRETT  
(daring)  
Make me!

Noah takes some mashed potatoes from his plate and hits Brett in the face. Brett angrily rises from his seat, as he grabs Noah by the shirt, as a scuffle ensues between the two. Some food falls on the floor. Everyone at the table spreads out, as they try to intervene.

MYRTLE  
(gets in between them;  
yells sternly)  
Alright you two, that's enough! Go  
to your room now!

The scuffle has ended, as Brett departs from the dining room, as Noah heads upstairs. The rest of the family remains, as they proceed with dinner, and clean up the floor.

COREY  
(finds some mashed  
potatoes and carrot from  
floor and eats them)  
Man, that's good eating!

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BOYS' BEDROOM - EVENING

NOAH

Lies pensively on his bed. There is a KNOCK at the BEDROOM DOOR. The door opens, as Myrtle enters.

MYRTLE

(stern)

Noah, you've always been a well-behaved boy. But tonight you really pushed it. Using God's food as a weapon against your own brother?

NOAH

Mom, I saw him put peas in his mouth.

MYRTLE

Nevertheless, I want you to come downstairs and apologize to everyone, including Brett.

NOAH

(looks incredulous at her)  
Mom!

MOM

(stern)

Now, Noah!

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

ENTIRE FAMILY

Stands and waits for Noah to arrive.

NOAH

Slowly descends the staircase into the living room, as he stops and faces his family.

BRETT

Stares mock-seriously at Noah.

MYRTLE (O.S.)

Noah, is there something you would like to say to everyone.

NOAH

(contrite)

I'm sorry for ruining dinner, everyone.

Everyone starts to exit from the living room. Noah is about to head upstairs, when his mom intervenes.

MYRTLE

(grabs Noah's arm)

Where do you think you're going?  
There's a sink full of dishes, and  
you've got nothing to do. Get  
goin'. And by the way, you're  
grounded.

Noah sighs exasperatingly, as he follows his mother into the kitchen.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Everyone is getting ready for bed. Myrtle prepares her bed, as Linda looks over Joey, who is fast asleep in his crib.

Grandma Geraldine gently massages her hip, as she pulls the covers over her.

Audrey busily writes in her diary under a dim lamp at a small night table.

Corey enters the bedroom, with a warm glass of milk, as he kisses his slumbering mom on the cheek. He places the milk on a nearby night stand, and gently hops into bed with her and Linda.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Noah enters his bedroom.

BRETT

Sleeps soundly in his bed.

Noah watches his brother intensely.

BASEBALL BAT

Rests idly in the corner of the bedroom.

Noah quietly goes over to get the bat. Noah picks it up, looks intensely at his brother, but decides to set it down. Noah places it back in place, and heads to bed.

FADE OUT.

**SCENE III**

FADE IN:

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - MORNING

The house is still in the morning sunlight.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BOYS' BEDROOM - MORNING

CLOSEUP - NOAH'S SLEEPING FACE

As a SPLASH of WATER BURSTS onto his face.

Noah quickly jumps up from his bed, as Brett quickly grabs him by the shirt and SLAMS him up against the bed post.

BRETT

(looks intense at Noah)

Wake up, sunshine. Thought you had the one up on me at dinner last night, eh?

(beat)

Consider this payback. Don't think I didn't know about the baseball bat either. Try it again, and you'll be pushin' up daisies. Understand?

Noah nods at Brett, as he proceeds to push Noah's head against the bedpost.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - MORNING

Noah walks down the corridor, painfully rubbing his head. He heads towards the bathroom, as it is vacant. He is about to enter, when Brett comes INTO VIEW, pushes him away, enters, and closes the door.

BRETT (O.S.)

(from behind door)

Age before beauty. If you think I'm comin' out early, think again, square.

Noah looks on despondently outside.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

Noah returns to the bathroom, as the door is closed. He is ready to enter, when he hears a TOILET FLUSH. Grandma Geraldine exits the bathroom.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
 (rubs her stomach and  
 looks at Noah)  
 Oh, baby. I shoulda stayed away  
 from those green beans.

Grandma Geraldine pats Noah on the shoulder and departs.  
 Noah looks at the bathroom disgustedly.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The kitchen is astir, as everyone is either cooking or eating breakfast. Linda feeds Joey, who is in a high chair. Myrtle is at the stove, busily flipping pancakes and bacon. Noah is the last to arrive, as he grabs a plate and is about to take a seat, when Brett beats him to it. Brett looks intensely at Noah.

MYRTLE

Places a plate full of pancakes on the kitchen table, as everyone takes their fork and grabs at them. Noah is last, as he is left with the smallest pancake.

KIDS

Eat breakfast at the kitchen table. Corey looks hungrily at his plate, which is overflowing with food. His siblings watch their younger brother dig in.

BRETT  
 (looks on in disbelief)  
 Good God up in heaven, do you  
 really need that much food?

COREY  
 (eats; with mouth full)  
 Hey, I'm a growing boy, ya know!

AUDREY  
 (witty)  
 Yeah, a boy with a growing  
 waistline.

COREY  
 (calmly explains; with  
 mouth full)  
 I'm cutting back though. Whenever  
 Grandma bakes a pie, I usually eat  
 three slices instead of six.

BRETT  
 (incredulous)  
 Jeez, I'd be surprised if you've  
 ever seen your toes.

NOAH  
 (stands up for Corey)  
 Hey, take it easy.

BRETT  
 (impudent)  
 Oh, shove it, Noah. It's bad  
 enough I have a lard factory for  
 one brother. It's even worse that  
 I have to tell people I'm related  
 to a spazz like you!

NOAH  
 (mock-pity)  
 Oh, my heart bleeds for you!

BRETT  
 (menacingly)  
 Keep it up and your heart won't be  
 the only thing that bleeds.

Audrey proceeds to laugh.

BRETT  
 (looks at Audrey)  
 I wouldn't laugh if I were you,  
 Aud. I hear you and that ditz  
 Melanie are hot and heavy for Scott  
 Palmer.

AUDREY  
 (curious)  
 Who told you that?

BRETT  
 (takes a forkful of food)  
 Five bucks and I'm the school  
 newspaper.

AUDREY  
 (jostles Brett)  
 C'mon, spill it!

Myrtle soon intervenes.

MYRTLE  
 (picks up empty plates  
 from table)  
 (MORE)

MYRTLE (cont'd)  
 Okay, kids. The bus will be coming soon. Finish up and get your books.

The kids heed their mom, as they rise from table and take their dishes to the sink.

MYRTLE  
 (puts dishes in sink)  
 Noah, when you get home from school, there's a bundle of laundry I need for you to put in the washing machine.

NOAH (O.S.)  
 Okay, mom.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - MORNING

AUDREY AND BRETT

Stand and wait for the school bus to arrive. Noah is noticeably absent.

COREY  
 (inquisitive)  
 Where's Noah?

BRETT  
 (derisive)  
 Who knows and who cares. He's probably looking for his manhood. If that's the case, he'll be late for every bus ride.

SCHOOL BUS

Arrives in front of the house. The kids hop aboard.

NOAH

Frantically exits the house, as he runs with his books. He drops them, quickly picks them up, and scurries towards and gets on the school bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Noah, out of breath, climbs slowly up the school bus steps. The BUS DRIVER watches in disdain.

NOAH  
 (out of breath; looks at  
 Bus Driver)  
 Sorry I'm late.

BUS DRIVER

(sarcastic)

Well, let me roll out the red carpet, your highness. We're already runnin' late. Why don't you run out in high heels next time to make it interesting? Find a seat!

Noah looks at the Bus Driver warily, as he looks for a seat.

KIDS SEATED ON SCHOOL BUS

Look speechless and mockingly at Noah.

NOAH

Finds his seat, next to his best friend, SETH SIMMONS.

BUS DOOR

Closes shut.

KIDS SEATED ON SCHOOL BUS

Start to chatter again, as the bus starts to move.

NOAH AND SETH

Greet each other and start to converse.

SETH

(witty)

You know, I really think you look better in flats.

NOAH

(mock-laugh)

Ha-ha. You're a regular Joey Bishop.

SETH

What's up buddy? Boy, we get so lost in the weekend that we fail to realize when it ends. So, do you have the trig homework?

NOAH

(looks incredulously at Seth)

What? Seth, this is the second time in three weeks. What's going on?



SETH  
 (a little embarrassed)  
 I got lost in the weekend.

Noah ruefully hands Seth his homework.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - PHYSICS CLASSROOM - DAY

Class is in session, as the Physics teacher, PROFESSOR CALVIN DANNON, carefully presides over his class.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
 (slowly ambles around  
 classroom)  
 So, in order for a reaction to  
 occur, what must be administered?

SETH AND NOAH

Sit next to each other, as Seth tries to start a conversation.

SETH  
 (whispers; sotto voce)  
 Hey, the new Ann-Margaret movie  
 will be at the drive-in this  
 Friday. Whadya say?

NOAH  
 (whispers; sotto voce)  
 Not during class. I'll tell you at  
 lunch.

SETH  
 (whispers; sotto voce)  
 C'mon.

NOAH  
 (sternly whispers; sotto  
 voce)  
 Not now, Seth.

Professor Dannon hears the boys talking, as he rapidly interrupts.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
 (looks sternly at them)  
 Mr. Donovan, would be so kind to  
 provide the answer to my query, in  
 hopes of enlightening your fellow  
 classmates?  
 (sarcastic)  
 (MORE)

PROFESSOR DANNON (cont'd)  
 You must know, since you and Mr. Simmons can conduct a conversation during my lesson.  
 (beat)  
 Well, Mr. Donovan?

NOAH  
 (slightly confounded)  
 Could you repeat the question, sir?

PROFESSOR DANNON  
 (repeats question)  
 Well, the question posed was, "In order for a reaction to occur, what must be administered?"

NOAH  
 (answers uncertainly)  
 An equal and opposite reaction?

PROFESSOR DANNON  
 Correct.

The CLASS BELL RINGS, as the students get up to leave, when Professor Dannon intervenes.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
 (halts class)  
 Hold on, class. I would like to remind you that your mid-term projects will be arriving soon.  
 (calmly explains)  
 I will be posting a bulletin for you to place the desired subject for your project. You can work in groups or by yourself.  
 (beat; sternly cautions class)  
 Need I remind you that your project will account for a considerable portion of your final grade? Some of your projects will also be chosen for the Science show, and you will be required to do an oral presentation in the auditorium. I would wisely plan ahead. That is all.

Everyone departs from class. Noah heads over to the bulletin board and writes down his entry for the mid-term project.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
 (looks over Noah's shoulder)  
 (MORE)

PROFESSOR DANNON (cont'd)  
Well, it seems that the smartest  
student in my class is also the  
most diligent.

NOAH  
(coy)  
Thank you, Sir.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
(looks closely at bulletin  
board)  
Let's see. Ah, Einstein's Theory  
of Relativity.  
(looks at Noah)  
You just keep raising the bar, Mr.  
Donovan.

NOAH  
(coy)  
All the way, Sir.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
Mr. Donovan, may I tell you that  
I've considered inviting a few of  
my acquaintances to attend the  
Science Fair?  
(beat)  
They come from the most prestigious  
universities and institutions in  
the country. You, along with some  
of your fellow classmates, can view  
this as a golden opportunity.

NOAH  
(coy)  
Yes, Sir. Thank you.

Noah is about to depart, when Professor Dannon halts him.

PROFESSOR DANNON (O.S.)  
Noah.

Noah turns to Professor Dannon.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
Noah, try and steer clear of Mr.  
Simmons. If you want to remind  
him, his past few tests have been  
far from stellar.

Noah nods and goes to depart, when Professor Dannon calls  
again.

PROFESSOR DANNON (O.S.)  
Oh, and Noah...

Noah turns around again at Professor Dannon.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
(smiles warmly)  
Keep up the good work.

Noah grins slightly, as he departs from class.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Noah enters the hallway and heads to his locker, where Seth is waiting for him.

SETH  
(complains)  
Where have you been? We've already lost ten minutes of valuable lunch time!

NOAH  
(goes through his locker)  
I was talking with Professor Dannon about the mid-term project.

SETH  
(laughs)  
Noah, Noah. It's not even Thanksgiving yet. Why must you always be super student?

NOAH  
(witty)  
Well, after hearing about your recent test scores, I can see you've been far from boy wonder in Physics.

SETH  
(mock-complains)  
Ah, you know Dannon's been after me since school started.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Seth and Noah stand on the lunch line, as they get their respective lunches, pay, and proceed to sit down at their table.

SETH  
 (curious)  
 So, what about Friday? Whadya say?

NOAH  
 (rescinded)  
 Alright.  
 (sternly points)  
 Barring any complications.

SETH  
 (stubborn)  
 No, I want a more positive answer.

NOAH  
 (concedes)  
 Fine. I'll be there with you on  
 Friday to see the new Ann-Margaret  
 movie.

SETH  
 (happy)  
 That's my boy!

At another table, Audrey and her best friend, MELANIE  
 TISDALE, are watching boys go on and off the lunch line from  
 their table.

AUDREY  
 (carefully watches lunch  
 line)  
 Wow. An ocean full of boys and  
 we've got no bait.

MELANIE  
 (confident)  
 Speak for yourself. Me, on the  
 other hand, I've got a full can of  
 worms. Did I tell you that Luke  
 Donaldson was eyeing me in study  
 hall?

AUDREY  
 (in disbelief)  
 Bullshit.

MELANIE  
 (confident)  
 I'm tellin' you. Senior year will  
 be great for us. Guys will be  
 coming in hoards, like cattle in  
 Omaha.

AUDREY

(defiant)

Well, I don't know about you, but I won't be overwhelmed by the opposite sex anytime soon.

MELANIE

(sharply observes)

Then why are you pouring milk on your green beans?

AUDREY

(a little embarrassed)

It tastes good that way.

At another table, Brett and his friends, RON SAMPEN, RANDY WILCOX, NICOLE DANIELSON, and TRACY PETERMAN eat lunch, as they watch Ron shove Twinkies in his mouth and chug milk.

EVERYONE AT TABLE

(cheer on Ron)

Chug, chug, chug, chug!

Ron finishes eating, as he takes a moment to catch his breath.

RON

(a little out of breath;  
exclaims)

There we have it, folks! Five twinkies in one sitting! Let's see who'll top that!

RANDY

(witty)

Maybe Brett's fat mess of a little brother.

BRETT

(punches Randy in  
shoulder)

You take that back, butthead.

RANDY

(painfully rubs his  
shoulder)

Ow! Sorry!

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - SETH AND NOAH'S TABLE - DAY

Seth and Noah finish up their lunch, when they are soon joined by their friend, STEVE MCARTHUR, a part-time aspiring aviator.

STEVE  
(arrives at table and sits  
down)  
Hey, you guys. Did you miss me?

SETH  
(sarcastic)  
Like a head cold.

STEVE  
(sharply retorts)  
Oh you're too sweet.

SETH  
So Steve, are you up for a movie  
Friday night?  
(mock-tempting)  
It has Ann-Margaret.

STEVE  
Sounds great, but I can't. I'm  
practicing for my solo.

NOAH  
(impressed)  
Wow, Steve. Looks like you're  
really adamant about a career in  
aviation.

STEVE  
(sober)  
More than you know. I hear some  
cargo pilots can make up to fifty  
thousand dollars their first year.  
Imagine doing what you love and  
getting paid for it.

SETH  
(sarcastic)  
Yup, the American dream.

STEVE  
C'mon now, I'm serious. Don't you  
guys have any ambitions in life?

SETH

(witty)

As a matter of fact, I do. I want to make lots of money, meet lots of beautiful women, live in a house made of twenty-four karat gold, serve my fellow man, and die. And not in that particular order.

Noah snickers, as Steve looks disappointingly at Seth.

STEVE

(dismissive)

Anyway, I could be doing solos before I know it.

(excited)

Man, I can hardly wait.

NOAH

(encouraging)

That's great, Steve.

STEVE

(finishes his lunch and gets up from table)

I'll see you guys later. I've got a history test to make up from last week. See ya.

Steve departs, as Seth and Noah wave good-bye to him.

SETH

I'm gonna get an ice cream sandwich. You want anything?

NOAH

No thanks.

Seth departs, as Noah opens up a text book and starts to read it.

BRETT

Stealthily approaches Noah's table. He has a pad of butter in his left hand. He furtively gets down on the floor and starts to rub the butter on the soles of Noah's shoes.

NOAH

Remains impervious, as he continues reading his book.



BRETT

Finishes, as he quickly leaps up, just as Noah turns around and to see him.

NOAH  
(looks suspicious at him)  
What do you want?

BRETT  
(genial)  
Nothing. I just wanted to see how you were doing. Can I get you a snack?

NOAH  
(stern)  
I'm fine, thanks.

BRETT  
Oh, I was wondering if you could help me with my English homework tonight? Maybe after that we could watch some TV. ISpy's on tonight.

NOAH  
(looks blankly at him)  
That sounds great.

BRETT  
(pats Noah on the shoulder)  
Well, I'll see ya later.

Brett departs. Noah looks at his watch, and seeing the time, heads up from his table with his tray. He slips on the floor and spills his whole tray on himself. EVERYONE in CAFETERIA BURSTS into laughter.

SETH

Looks on disappointingly from the lunch line.

BRETT

Looks on amused at Noah.

CLOSEUP - NOAH'S HUMILIATED FACE

As he lies on the cafeteria floor.

STUDENT (O.S.)  
 (yells out loud)  
 Hope you had a nice trip!

FADE OUT.

**SCENE IV**

FADE IN:

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - NIGHT

A full moon glistens over the Donovan house.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - AUDREY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Audrey and Noah go over Audrey's biology homework.

NOAH  
 (calmly recites)  
 Alright. Just remember, it goes  
 species, genus, then?

AUDREY  
 (tries to remember)  
 Oh, I know this. Wait.  
 (frustrated)  
 Oh, I don't know! I'll never  
 understand this, I'll never pass  
 Biology, then I won't graduate!

NOAH  
 (calms her down)  
 Take it easy, Aud. It's okay.  
 We'll go over it again.

Audrey settles down, as she and Noah continue studying.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Thirty minutes have passed, and Audrey and Noah have finished studying. Audrey seems much better as Noah exits her room.

AUDREY  
 (confident)  
 Noah, thank you so much! I feel  
 really good about tomorrow's test.  
 (affectionately hugs Noah)  
 Oh, I love you.

NOAH

No problem. Get to bed now.

Audrey goes back inside her room, as Noah is about to re-enter his room. Before he does, he takes a brief glimpse through a small aperture in the door.

NOAH'S BEDROOM DOOR POV

BRETT

Sits on his bed, reading a girly magazine.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah rolls his eyes in disgust, as he departs.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - MYRTLE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Myrtle is diligently counting money for this month's budget, while Linda plays with Joey.

LINDA

(looks lovingly at Joey)  
My goodness, Joey! You keep  
gettin' bigger and bigger.  
(calls to her mother)  
Mom, come look at Joey.

MYRTLE

(busily counts money)  
Not now, baby. I'm divvying up the  
family budget. I may have to cut  
back on groceries this week.

LINDA

(suggestive)  
Mom, why don't I lend you some of  
the overtime money I earned from  
the factory?

MYRTLE

(stubborn)  
No. That money should be for the  
baby. Besides, even with that, I  
would still fall short. I've got  
children with huge appetites but  
thin pockets.

LINDA

(digs in her purse and  
pulls out money)  
Mother please.  
(MORE)

LINDA (cont'd)  
 It's the least I could do. I mean,  
 Joey's food and medical are already  
 paid. Family comes first.

Linda looks at her hesitant mother.

MYRTLE  
 Are you sure you want to do this?

LINDA  
 (presents money to her)  
 With every fiber of my bean. The  
 blessed must bless.

Myrtle looks reluctantly at her daughter, but finally gives  
 in and takes the money from her.

MYRTLE  
 Well, may God's grace eternally  
 shine on you.

Myrtle continues to count money, as Linda changes the  
 subject.

LINDA  
 Hey, mom. How's Martha Sweeney?  
 You know, she works with you in the  
 office?

MYRTLE  
 (hesitates)  
 Oh... her. Yeah, she just came  
 back to work. She had the flu.

Myrtle continues to attentively count the money, as Linda  
 looks on.

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - LATE FRIDAY  
 AFTERNOON

The front of the school is empty, except for some school  
 buses, waiting for their daily passengers.

CUT TO:

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL CORRIDOR - WIDE ANGLE -  
 FRIDAY AFTERNOON

A Custodian slowly gallivants the corridor, with mop and  
 bucket in tow. The final SCHOOL BELL RINGS, as STUDENTS  
 frantically enter and run through the hall.

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - LATE AFTERNOON

Seth and Noah walk toward the bus, as they are stopped by an ecstatic Audrey and Melanie.

AUDREY

Noah, I did it! I aced my biology test. Thanks to the greatest tutor in the world.

(introduces Melanie)

Oh, Noah, this is my friend, Melanie.

NOAH

Hello.

MELANIE

Hi. Audrey's told me all about you.

AUDREY

Oh, Noah. Melanie and I are going to the ice cream shop. Her sister is picking us up. Could you tell mom?

NOAH

Sure. Just don't come home too late.

AUDREY

(witty)

I won't, Dad! See you guys.

Audrey and Melanie depart, as Seth and Noah continue towards the school bus, while they start to discuss their big plans for tonight.

SETH

(witty)

Oh, how nice. Are you sure you two are just brother and sister?

Noah looks incredulously at Seth and lightly punches him in the arm.

NOAH

Watch it, you.

SETH

So, I'll see you at seven tonight?

NOAH  
Definitely.

Seth and Noah reach the school bus and board it.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Everyone is sitting around the kitchen table eating dinner and talking amongst themselves. The TELEPHONE RINGS, as Linda goes and picks up.

LINDA  
(talks into phone)  
Hello? Really, are you definite?  
Oh, I'm not sure if I can. Can I  
call you back? Great. Bye.

Linda hangs up the phone, as she explains the situation to everyone.

LINDA  
That was Mister Weatherwax. Cindy  
McFarland called in sick and he's  
desperate for someone down at the  
factory. I would go but I have no  
one to tend to Joey.

MYRTLE  
Sorry, baby. I'm takin' Grandma  
and Corey out for some ice cream.

LINDA  
(looks at Brett)  
Brett?

BRETT  
Sorry. I'm going with the guys to  
the bar... I mean the library  
tonight.

LINDA  
(looks at Audrey)  
What about you, Aud?

AUDREY  
No can do. I'm sleeping over  
Melanie's tonight. By the way, mom  
could you drop me off at Melanie's  
on your way for some ice cream?

MYRTLE (O.S.)  
Okay. We're leaving in a few  
minutes, so you better get ready.

Audrey departs from the kitchen and heads upstairs to get ready. Audrey has one last hope.

AUDREY  
 (looks at Noah)  
 Noah?

NOAH  
 (hesitates)  
 Well actually, I - -

LINDA (O.S.)  
 (happily interrupts)  
 Great! You are a life saver. I'll  
 call Mister Weatherwax right now.

Noah looks on dumbfounded, fully aware that he was meeting Seth at the movie theater.

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Noah is on the phone, frantically dialing Seth's number in hopes of reaching him, yet he receives no answer.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Everyone, except for Brett is downstairs, as they are set to head out for the night. Noah holds Joey, as they both say goodbye.

LINDA  
 Okay, Noah. These are  
 Joey's things.  
 (hands them to Noah)  
 If he starts crying, he usually  
 wants his bottle. It's in the  
 fridge. I left the number of the  
 factory on the table in case of an  
 emergency. Noah again, thank you.

Linda kisses Noah on the cheek, as she also kisses Joey and departs.

MYRTLE  
 Noah, I was wondering if you could  
 finish the rest of the dishes in  
 the sink? I did what I could.  
 Love ya, baby.

Myrtle kisses Noah, as Noah kisses Grandma Geraldine and Audrey, as they, along with Corey, head out the door. Noah remains standing in the living room, with Joey in his arms. Brett soon arrives downstairs, as he approaches Noah.

BRETT

Boy, it seems Friday night has a special meaning for everyone. Everyone but you. How pathetic.

Brett looks pitifully at Noah, as he exits. Noah looks on disappointedly, when he decides to have some fun with Joey by lifting him up in the air.

NOAH

Who needs him! We got each other.  
(talks like a baby)  
Isn't that right, kiddo?

Joey proceeds to VOMIT on Noah and starts to CRY, as Noah gently brings him down.

NOAH

Good boy.

LIVING ROOM - HOURS LATER

The whole house is pitch black, as everyone has arrived home and is now asleep. A LIGHT goes on, as Noah quietly heads downstairs to the kitchen to get a glass of water. Noah suddenly stops, as he hears the sound of the FRONT DOOR opening.

FRONT DOOR

Slowly opens, as Brett staggers through, gently closing the door behind him and locking it. Noah approaches his brother.

NOAH

(sotto voce)  
Brett, is that you?

BRETT

(angry;sotto voce)  
Shhhhh!!! Yes, phlegm wad. Keep quiet!

As Brett speaks to Noah, he gets a waft of his brother's breath and is repulsed.

NOAH

(sotto voce)  
My goodness! Have you been drinking?



BRETT  
 (angry; sotto voce)  
 You say anything, you die!

NOAH  
 (sotto voce)  
 I won't.

Brett unsteadily heads over to and plops down on the living room sofa, painfully holding his head.

BRETT  
 (sotto voce)  
 Man, my head is pounding.

NOAH  
 (sotto voce)  
 How about I get you a nice glass of water and an aspirin?

BRETT  
 (sotto voce)  
 Sure, thanks.

NOAH  
 (sotto voce)  
 Wait right here. I'll be right back.

Noah heads to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - LATE NIGHT

Noah enters the kitchen, gets the bottle of aspirin from a cabinet and takes one out. He then proceeds to take a glass from the kitchen cabinet, and heads over to Nell's water bowl. He places the glass in the bowl, and scoops up some water. Noah departs from the kitchen.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Brett remains on the living room sofa, as Noah re-enters and hands the aspirin and glass of water to him.

NOAH  
 Bottom's up, bro. Good night.

Noah dashes upstairs. Brett takes the aspirin, takes a sip of water, and makes a disgusted face.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Noah lies awake in bed, as hears Brett throwing up downstairs.

BRETT (O.S.)  
Ugghhhh!!

The sound of Myrtle's voice, going downstairs after hearing the racket, can be heard by Noah upstairs.

MYRTLE (O.S.)  
Oh my God, it's all over the floor!  
Is that bourbon I smell? Oh, you  
are grounded but good, young man!

Noah can hardly contain his laughter as he continues to listen to the transpiring downstairs.

FADE OUT.

**SCENE V**

FADE IN:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SATURDAY MORNING

The entire family waits patiently, as they are about to depart to the Market Square, the local shopping district. Myrtle checks on everyone to see that they are prepared.

MYRTLE  
Okay, everyone. Do we have  
everything we need? Let's go.

EXT. MARKET SQUARE - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

The Market Square is astir with people, who amble along the sidewalks, looking and making purchases from the local shops and merchants. Small children ride happily along the sidewalks on their bicycles, red wagons and milk-crate made wagons, while others play with bottle caps, play hop scotch, and some even have a lemonade stand.

DONOVAN FAMILY

Walks slowly along the streets of Market Square taking in the sights and sounds. Linda slowly walks through, with Joey in her arms, as she looks uncomfortably around.

LINDA'S POV

RANDOM CITIZENS

Stare suggestively at her and Joey.

BACK TO SCENE

Linda, feeling uneasy, walks a few more steps, before she finally gives Joey to Audrey, and heads to a nearby public restroom.

INT. LADIES' PUBLIC RESTROOM - DAY

Linda stays secretly in the bathroom stall, as she sobs uncontrollably. Grandma Geraldine enters the restroom, as she washes her hands and looks at herself in the bathroom mirror. She suddenly hears the sounds of sobbing, and heads over the stall.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

Linda, is that you, baby?

INT. LADIES' PUBLIC RESTROOM - CORNER STALL - DAY

Linda stops crying, as she hears the voice of her Grandmother and curiously replies.

LINDA

Grandma?

GRANDMA GERALDINE (O.S.)

Can I come in, baby?

Linda unlocks the bathroom stall, as Grandma Geraldine joins her inside.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

(concerned)

What's the matter, Sweetie?

LINDA

(slightly sobs)

Just because I have a child, should that make me the town pariah?

GRANDMA GERALDINE

(gently consoles her)

Of course not, baby. I have a feeling Mark will be coming home soon. Not to mention your plans for the future.

Linda calms down, as she starts to talk with her Grandmother.

LINDA

Yeah. The money's been coming in pretty well. All of Joey's expenses are paid and with a few more months under my belt, I'll be able to go back to school.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

My child, you are just like your mother. You have her drive, diligence, not to mention her rosy red cheeks.

They both smile warmly at one another.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

C'mon. I'll get you a nice lime rickey.

They both happily exit the bathroom stall.

EXT. ICE CREAM PARLOR - TERRACE - LATE AFTERNOON

Corey and Noah sit at a table outside the ice cream parlor, as they share a hot fudge sundae and converse.

COREY

(looks astounded at sundae)

Wow, they really made it good this time, with some extra hot fudge.

Corey digs in, while Noah takes a small spoonful and looks slightly nauseated at it.

NOAH

Yup, a diabetic's wet dream.

COREY

Noah, we both know that I'm massively overweight for someone my age. Do you think I'll ever meet someone despite that?

Noah takes a spoonful of sundae, as he reassures his younger brother.

NOAH

Of course you will. Believe me, before you know it, you'll be slimmer than the actor Pickens.

(MORE)

NOAH (cont'd)  
 Before I grew, I looked just like  
 you.

COREY  
 (in disbelief)  
 Get out of town!

NOAH  
 I kid you not. When I was your age  
 I ate enough Twinkies to keep the  
 company in business 'til the  
 seventies. In fact, let me show  
 you something.

Noah reaches into his pants pocket and pulls out his wallet.  
 He then takes something out and hands it to Corey.

INSERT - FAKE POLICE BADGE

Inscribed with the words, "Official Deputy of Twinkie the  
 Kid".

BACK TO SCENE

Corey looks curiously at the badge, as he inquires Noah.

COREY  
 What is it?

NOAH  
 It's the badge for the official  
 deputy of Twinkie the Kid. In  
 order to get one of those you had  
 to send in sixty wrappers. I had  
 it in less than two months.  
 (beat)  
 Keep it. I want this to serve as a  
 reminder to you to believe in  
 yourself and to not let people put  
 you down because of what you look  
 like. People will see a lot in  
 you, and not just in pounds and  
 kilograms.

Corey, touched, looks up from the badge, and smiles warmly at  
 Noah.

COREY  
 Thanks, Noah.

Noah smiles back at Corey. Suddenly, he feels a light but  
 quick blow to his shoulder. Noah turns around.

BRETT

Smiles devilishly at Noah and dashes off. Noah accepts the challenge, as he rises from the table and looks at Corey.

NOAH  
Stay right here. I'll be right  
back.

Noah dashes off to begin his pursuit of Brett.

EXT. LOCAL ALLEYWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

BRETT

Dashes swiftly down the sidewalk, when he arrives at a nearby alley. Brett looks around to see if anyone is around. Seeing no one, he quickly enters. Moments later, Noah arrives at the alley, but is unsure of where his brother might be. Suddenly a VOICE emerges.

BRETT (O.S.)  
(from alley)  
I'm in here, stinkbrain.

Noah follows his brother into the alley.

EXT. LOCAL ALLEYWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

NOAH

Dashes down the alley in pursuit of Brett.

BRETT'S FOOT

Appears out from behind a dumpster and trips Noah.

NOAH

Falls to the ground, as Brett emerges from behind the dumpster and looks with pity on his fallen brother.

BRETT  
Down and out!

Brett quickly departs from the alley. Noah recovers and continues on the chase.

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - SIDEWALK

Noah runs out of the alley, as he looks around for any sight of Brett.

WATER PUDDLE

Lies still in the sidewalk.

NOAH'S FOOT

Lands in the puddle.

Noah slips and ends up hard on the pavement. He lies wincing in slight pain, as he looks up.

NOAH'S UP ANGLE POV

BACK OF FISH TRUCK

Loaded with slews of fish, begins to slightly RATTLE.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah, still on his back, looks on nervously, as he proceeds with caution.

NOAH  
Nice and easy...

BIRD

Flies overhead, as it lands on a building and then takes off, making one of its feathers loose.

FEATHER

Floats aloft.

NOAH

Slowly but steadily maneuvers himself up and is back on his feet. He breathes a heavy sigh of relief, as he speaks to himself.

NOAH  
Boy, I thought I was a gone - -

Suddenly, the fish fall out of the truck and AVALANCHE onto Noah.

EXT. LOCAL ALLEY - LATE AFTERNOON

Noah, covered in fish parts, walks despondently through the alley on his way back home. Noah suddenly stops in his tracks.

SMALL CAT

Stands in Noah's way, as it slowly approaches him and rubs up against his leg and PURRS. A slightly cheery Noah gently caresses it.

NOAH

Hey there, little guy. At least  
nothing can go wrong now.

Suddenly, a bunch of cat emerge from around the alley, and proceed to go to Noah.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

FRONT DOOR

As there is a KNOCK. The door is opened.

CLOSEUP - NOAH'S DESPONDENT AND FUR COVERED FACE

Myrtle looks in shock at her son, as she starts to question him.

MYRTLE

Noah, where have you been? We've  
been calling the neighbors,  
police...

Audrey gets whiff of her brother and is repulsed

AUDREY

Phew! You smell like Fisherman's  
Wharf!

MYRTLE

Be careful not to go on any of the  
rugs. I just vacuumed!

Noah, speechless, takes off his shoes and heads slowly upstairs.

INT. BATHROOM - SHOWER

Noah vigorously washes himself off.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT



BEDROOM DOOR

Slowly begins to open, as Noah, all cleaned up, quietly enters. He looks at Brett, who sleeps peacefully in his bed. Noah then heads to his bed to sleep.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT I

**ACT II**

**SCENE VI**

FADE IN:

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - MONDAY MORNING

The kids board the school bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Noah, the last one on, goes to find his seat and Seth. Seth's usual seat on the bus is empty.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Noah walks through the corridor, when he spots Seth, who is at his locker. Noah approaches Seth, who is none to happy to see him.

NOAH  
Hey, I didn't see you on the bus  
this morning.

Seth does not respond, as a concerned Noah tries to converse with him again.

NOAH  
Are you alright?

An angry Seth turns and explains to him.

SETH  
Gee, the movie we saw this weekend  
was pretty swell. Oh, let me see,  
the movie I saw this weekend!

Noah hits his head in forgetfulness and apologizes to Seth.

NOAH

Seth, I'm sorry. Linda was called into work and there was no one to look after Joey and - -

SETH

(angrily interrupts)  
I'm sick of your excuses! Call me when you want to be my friend. Or when you decide to get a life!

Seth SLAMS his locker DOOR shut and departs, leaving a visibly distraught Noah standing.

INT. LOCAL GENERAL STORE - LATE AFTERNOON

Noah is purchasing some cardboard placards for his Physics project, as he takes the bag from the cashier, and exits.

EXT. LOCAL GENERAL STORE - LATE AFTERNOON

Noah takes the bag, puts it on his shoulder, and rides his bicycle home.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BASEMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Noah arrives home, as he heads into the basement with the poster boards, as he hides them in a far corner. He soon finds something.

NOAH'S POV

LAUNDRY BASKET

Filled with clothes, with a note attached from Myrtle.

NOTE ON LAUNDRY BASKET

Reads, "Noah, Had to go to the supermarket. Could you please put these in wash? Love, Mom."

BACK TO SCENE

Noah takes the laundry basket and starts to sort the clothes and load them into the washing machine with clothes. Suddenly, Brett emerges, bearing gifts.

BRETT

Good timing. I just found these. Looks like they were underneath my bed for a while. Enjoy.

Brett hardly pushes the fetid clothes into Noah's chest, as he exits. Noah looks disgustedly at his brother's dirty laundry.

INT. DINING ROOM - EVENING

Dinner time is now over, as everyone is clearing out, as they bring their dirty dishes into the kitchen. Noah, with plates in hand, heads toward the kitchen, when he again hits his side into the family dresser. Noah slightly winces, as he enters the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Noah enters the kitchen, as he complains to his mother about the family dresser.

NOAH

Mom, when are we gonna get rid of that dresser? It's a darn death trap!

MYRTLE

(washes dishes)

Never. That dresser's been in the family for generations. Just watch where you're goin'!

NOAH

(places dishes near sink)

Mom, I can't help with the dishes tonight. I have a lot of homework.

MYRTLE (O.S.)

Okay. Audrey, your turn tonight.

Noah rushes downstairs to the basement.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BASEMENT - EVENING

Noah, now in the basement, closely looks to see if anyone is around. Seeing no one, he heads to the corner where he left the poster board. He takes out the poster board and gets to work.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Noah cuts some articles out of a Science magazine, and proceeds to put paste on the backs.

Noah carefully reads and writes down some information from a Science text, which he will also include in his project.

Noah looks through some other magazines for some additional information for his project.

Noah diligently draws on his poster board with his pencil.

Noah, with his hair standing up like a mad scientist, has finally completed his poster board, as he looks intently at it and proceeds to put it away in the same corner of the basement as before.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Noah and Steve sit at their usual table eating lunch and making small talk.

STEVE

(takes a fork full of  
food)

So, how've things been?

NOAH

Not bad. Except for Seth. He's still riled up about last Saturday.

STEVE

I hear ya. Hey, listen, I was wondering if you could help me with some of my Physics work? I'm falling a bit behind.

NOAH

Sure. Just name a time and a place. Steve, I was wondering if you would like to come to our family cookout. Some of my relatives will be there.

STEVE

Sounds great, but no thanks. I got some important lessons in the morning. I'll be flying my first solo.

NOAH

Maybe if you weren't so busy flying, Chuck Lindbergh, you wouldn't be so far behind.

STEVE

(looks at his watch)

Oh, look at the time. I gotta go. Listen, don't worry about Seth.

(MORE)

STEVE (cont'd)  
I'm sure he'll come around. I'll  
see ya later.

NOAH  
Take care, Steve.

Steve departs, as Noah continues to eat his lunch.

INT. LOCAL SUPERMARKET - PRODUCE SECTION - AFTERNOON

Myrtle and Grandma Geraldine are food shopping for the family cookout. Myrtle carefully inspects the produce, as Grandma Geraldine initiates a conversation.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
So, what do you think about Linda  
going back to school?

MYRTLE  
(looks closely at some  
onions)  
Well, I think it's great. I'll try  
and help her the best I can. I'm  
already feeding four other mouths.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
I must say, she's been workin' her  
way up in the factory for a while  
now. Speaking of work, how have  
things been going?

MYRTLE  
(cryptic)  
Let's just say as long as I keep  
busy I'll be fine.  
(looks at her mother)  
What do you think? Should the  
potato salad be with onions or  
without?

INT. LOCAL SUPERMARKET - FRONT AISLE - AFTERNOON

Corey stares up awestruck at something.

COREY'S UP ANGLE POV

DISPLAY OF TWINKIES

Looms large in the front of the supermarket, with a life-size  
Twinkie the Kid.

BACK TO SCENE

Corey, with a dime in hand, starts to quiver and he goes to grab two Twinkies.

COREY  
(tries to repel)  
Must resist temptation.

Corey finally gives in and grabs two Twinkies, heads over to the counter, pays the cashier, and heads outside.

EXT. LOCAL SUPERMARKET - AFTERNOON

Corey arrives outside, as frantically takes the Twinkies out of their wrapping and devours them.

COREY  
(with mouth full)  
Creamy, sweet, delicious.  
(exclaims)  
The food of the Gods!

INT. LOCAL SUPERMARKET - CANNED FOOD AISLE - AFTERNOON

Audrey ambles about the canned food aisle, when she notices a handsome Stockboy filling the shelves with the newest canned foods. Their eyes suddenly meet, as Audrey diffidently turns her head.

Audrey is about to depart, when she loses her balance and falls right on her backside. Audrey quickly gets up, grabs a nearby can from a shelf, and looks at the Stockboy, trying to retain her composure.

AUDREY  
(looks at can; looks  
embarrassed at Stockboy)  
Oh, there's the creamed spinach.  
Yup.

Audrey exits. The Stockboy gives a slight smile.

FADE OUT.

**SCENE VII**

FADE IN:

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The family cookout is in full swing, as grown ups and children are astir, conversing, laughing, enjoying food and drink, and basking in the beautiful weather that God has given them.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Corey arrives at a nearby table, with a plate filled with a mountain of food, as his younger cousins watch on in amazement.

Linda, with Joey in arms, talks with some of her relatives, as they marvel at Joey.

Audrey sits with Melanie and some of her cousins, as they enjoy some food and small talk.

Brett sits idly with some of his friends near the tool shed, as they talk idly amongst each other.

Grandma Geraldine converses with some of her own, as Myrtle diligently works the grill.

Noah exits the house, with a large bowl of potato salad in his arms, as he goes over to his mother.

NOAH

Mom, where do you want me to put  
the potato salad?

MYRTLE

(points with her spatula)  
Just put it near the plates on the  
table.

Noah heeds his mother, as he places it down, when his mother has another job for him.

MYRTLE

(hands Noah tray with  
food)  
Noah, could you bring this food to  
your brother and his friends?

Noah takes the tray from his mother, as he goes to bring it over.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - NEAR SHED - DAY

Brett and his friends sit and chat casually, as Noah arrives with their food.

NOAH  
Hey guys, I have your food.

BRETT  
Great. We're starved.  
(takes tray from Noah)  
Thanks.

Noah turns around to leave, when Brett calls him.

BRETT (O.S.)  
Hey, Noah.

Noah turns around.

BRETT  
We were just talkin' about you.

NOAH  
(intrigued)  
Really?

BRETT  
(derisive)  
Yeah. We were wondering how it was  
humanly possible for someone to go  
through their entire life without  
getting laid.

Everyone BURSTS into LAUGHTER, as a composed Noah looks on.  
Brett suddenly sees something, and swiftly warns his brother.

BRETT  
(cautious)  
Noah, wait! I think there's a huge  
bee on your shoulder. Don't move!

Noah stands stock still.

BRETT  
(carefully directs him)  
No, I want you to slowly move to  
your right, and then take two steps  
back.

Noah heeds his brother, as he carefully moves.

ROCKY PROTRUDERANCE IN GROUND

Juts out, as Noah's foot moves closely towards it.



NOAH

Moves, as his brother gives him one last edict.

BRETT

A little more.

Noah moves and trips over the protruderence, as he lands head-first into a pile of dirt. Brett and his friends LAUGH even harder this time, as Noah lies in the dirt, despondent and humiliated.

RANDY (O.S.)

(laughs)

You're right, Brett. He really is a shithead!

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BATHROOM - SHOWER - MOMENTS LATER

Noah is in the shower, cleaning off and talking to himself.

NOAH

(embarrassed; washes his hair)

Man, it never fails. What I'd give to trade places with Joey.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Linda holds Joey, who is being greeted by some of his relatives and their friends.

JOEY'S POV

RANDOM RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

Wet kiss Joey, pinch his cheeks, and make cute faces at him.

BACK TO SCENE

Joey CRIES loudly, as Linda pulls him away and tries to console him.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - BY SHED - DAY

Brett and his friends, among them, Randy, NICOLE SANDERS, AND SANDY BILLINGS, reflect on before and talk about Noah.

RANDY

(shakes his head in disbelief)

Man, I can't believe what you did to your brother.

BRETT  
You should see what I do to him  
daily.

NICOLE  
That's really mean, Brett.

BRETT  
(smiles devilishly)  
It is, isn't it?

NICOLE  
(softly punches him)  
That's not funny.

BRETT  
You try living with the pea brain.

NICOLE  
He seems like a pretty decent guy.  
(looks derisively at Brett  
and Randy)  
Unlike some guys I know!

Brett waves dismissively at Nicole, when he is struck with a  
brainstorm.

BRETT  
Wait a minute. I got an idea.  
More like a bet. I'll bet either  
one of you girls fifty dollars to  
pretend to like my brother and I  
mean REALLY like him.

SANDY  
No way.

NICOLE  
Out of the question.

BRETT  
I can't believe you two. A fifty  
just for pretending to like the  
little turd.

Nicole rethinks the proposition, and gives in.

NICOLE  
(concedes)  
Alright, I accept.  
(sternly points her  
finger)  
(MORE)

NICOLE (cont'd)  
 But don't expect me to do anything  
 funny? Got me? When do I start?

RANDY  
 Well, they say there's no time like  
 the present.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The back door opens, as Noah, fresh and clean, exits. He soon encounters Nicole. Noah looks curiously at her.

NOAH  
 Can I help you?

NICOLE  
 (concerned)  
 I just wanted to see how you were.  
 You took a pretty nasty fall back  
 there.

NOAH  
 I'm fine, thank you. Aren't you  
 supposed to be with my brother?

NICOLE  
 Can't I hang out with the both of  
 you?

NOAH  
 Not legally.

NICOLE  
 I'm going to grab some potato  
 salad. Wanna come?

NOAH  
 (taken aback)  
 Yeah, sure.

NICOLE  
 (warmly extends her hand)  
 By the way, I'm Nicole.

NOAH  
 (shakes her hand)  
 I'm Noah.

Nicole goes on her way, as Noah is set to follow her, when he is suddenly flanked by his mother.

MYRTLE  
 Where have you been? I need  
 someone to watch the grill.

NOAH  
 (pleads)  
 But, Mom - -

MYRTLE  
 (politely intervenes)  
 Please, baby. I'm shorthanded.

Noah stands unhappily by the grill, as he watches the food and converses with some of his relatives, among them his AUNT CECILE, who is accompanied by Linda and Joey.

CECILE  
 (yells loudly)  
 I want my bourbon, damn it!

LINDA  
 (softly reprimands her)  
 Now you know you can't have any liquids past three o'clock, Aunt Cecile.

CECILE  
 (yells defiantly)  
 I don't give a hoot. I'm thirsty!

LINDA  
 (talks audibly)  
 Aunt Cecile, do you remember Noah?

CECILE  
 (yells loudly)  
 What? You found my feather boa?

LINDA  
 (talks audibly)  
 No, Aunt Cecile. My brother, Noah.

CECILE  
 (yells loudly)  
 Oh yes, I love Nova Scotia. Your Uncle Marty was stationed there in the Army.  
 (sees Noah and exclaims)  
 Oh, hello Noah! You look just like your mom every day.  
 (pinches his cheek)  
 So cute.

Aunt Cecile wet kisses Noah on the cheek, as he smells the liquor on her breath and fissures a slight grin. Linda then cautions her brother.

LINDA

Noah, make sure that you eat. The food's goin' fast.

NOAH

I will.

EXT. FRONT OF DONOVAN HOUSE - HOURS LATER

The family cookout is coming to a close, as most of the relatives are headed to their cars. Uncle Frank, three sheets to the wind, is being helped to his car by his wife, COUSIN DORIS, and Brett.

MYRTLE

(concerned)

Do you think he'll be alright, Doris?

DORIS

(assuredly)

Oh, yeah. I should've stopped him after a few of those Schlitzes, though.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE BACKYARD - MAGIC HOUR

Noah is cleaning up the tables in the backyard, as he still has not yet eaten. Noah grabs a dish and heads to the table where all of the food is. Nothing. Noah looks on despondently.

HALF OF HOT DOG

Sits untouched on a plate on the table.

NOAH

Spots the half a hot dog, picks it up, shrugs, and goes to eat it, when he feels something. He looks down.

NELL

At Noah's feet, as she rubs warmly up against his leg.

NOAH

Concedes and feeds Nell the half a hot dog. He gently caresses her rich coat.

NOAH  
 (sardonic)  
 Nothing look a good ole cookout.

FADE OUT.

SCENE VIII

FADE IN:

EXT. MARKET SQUARE - SIDEWALK - DAY

A suggestively dressed Myrtle ambles along the sidewalks of Market Square, as she shops and searches for some bargains. She is receiving suggestive glances from some of the passerby. Myrtle feels them, but remains unflappable.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - AFTERNOON

The children are watching television. Audrey, Brett, and Corey are seated on the sofa, while Noah lies on the floor. Noah swiftly gets up to change the channel, much to the chagrin of his siblings.

AUDREY  
 C'mon, Noah. We were watching  
 that!

COREY  
 We're gonna miss the ending! Noah!

NOAH  
 Hold on. This is important.

TELEVISION SCREEN

Tuned to the White House. President Kennedy is now speaking at a special address to the nation.

AUDREY, BRETT AND COREY

Watch in boredom and frustration.

NOAH

Closely watches the television, while he places his hand into a nearby bowl of popcorn, takes some, and eats. Brett decides to get even. Brett furtively takes the bowl of popcorn, looks at Audrey and Corey, warning them to remain quiet.

Brett takes the popcorn, scratches some dandruff from his scalp, as it rains over the popcorn. He then swiftly places the bowl back in its original spot.

NOAH

Continues to watch, as he reaches over to grab some more popcorn. He eats a mouthful, as Audrey and Corey looks on repulsed. Noah turns away from the television, as he presents the bowl of popcorn to them. Audrey, Brett and Corey smile cryptically and politely decline.

NOAH  
 (closely watches  
 television)  
 That man will change the world.

BRETT  
 Yeah, when you have a girl.

NOAH  
 (turns around; looks  
 confidently at Brett)  
 Just you wait.

EXT. MCARTHUR HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

The moon radiates over the McArthur home.

CUT TO:

INT. MCARTHUR HOUSE - NIGHT

Steve and Noah are studying Physics, as they are just about finished with their lesson. Steve is taken aback by what he has learned.

STEVE  
 Boy, Noah. That was some of the best tutoring I've ever had. I'm sure to pass now.

NOAH  
 (modest)  
 Oh, please. You'll be fine.

STEVE  
 No, Noah. I had no notion of half of this stuff and how it related to aviation. All the formulas and theories I've learned will help me in my job. Thank you so much, Noah.

NOAH  
Any time, Steve.

Steve turns serious.

STEVE  
Noah, can I ask you something?

NOAH  
Sure, Steve. Shoot.

Steve digs into his pocket and pulls out a small box. He opens it up, displaying a medium-sized diamond ring. Noah is awestruck.

STEVE  
(shows ring to Noah)  
So, what do you think?

NOAH  
Oh my gosh, Steve. I don't know what to say. We hardly know each other and I don't have a vagina.

Noah smiles sardonically at Steve, as he jokingly punches Noah.

STEVE  
Don't flatter yourself. It's for Kim. I think we're ready to take the next big step.

NOAH  
Wow, Steve. It seems like you have your whole life just planned out in front of you.

STEVE  
(sober)  
You know after my father suddenly passed away, my mom and I struggled for a while. Yet the future seems shinier every day. Noah, thanks for your friendship and for everything else.

Steve extends his hand, as Noah firmly shakes it.

CLOSEUP - BOYS' HANDS

As they grasp firmly.



EXT. MCARTHUR HOUSE - NIGHT

The front door opens, as Noah exits the house, while Steve goes to say goodbye. Noah heads on his bike, as he prepares to ride home.

STEVE  
(concerned)  
You sure you can get home okay?

NOAH  
I'll be fine. It takes about  
twenty minutes, tops.

Noah slowly pedals his bike and is about to head off, when Steve calls him.

STEVE (O.S.)  
Hey, Noah.

Noah halts his pedaling and turns around.

STEVE  
I spoke to Seth. He seems to be in  
a better mood. I think it's safe  
to talk to him.

NOAH  
That's great.

Steve is about to head inside, when Noah calls him.

NOAH (O.S.)  
Hey, Steve.

Steve stops and turns around.

NOAH  
Congratulations. When you're  
flying for Delta, don't forget  
about us, okay?

STEVE  
Never. See you tomorrow.

Steve waves to Noah and returns inside his house. Noah waves goodbye, as he starts to pedal his bike home.

NOAH

Rides into the night.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - EVENING

Linda, Joey and Noah sit casually in the kitchen. Linda plays with Joey, while Noah enjoys a novel. The TELEPHONE RINGS. Linda picks up.

LINDA  
 (talks into telephone)  
 Hello? Oh sure, I'll get him. Are you sure you have the right number? Noah, it's for you.

Noah stops reading and gets up from the kitchen table, as Linda gives him the phone.

NOAH  
 Thanks, Linda.  
 (talks into phone)  
 Hello?

NICOLE (V.O.)  
 (over telephone)  
 Hey, it's Nicole. What are you up to?

NOAH  
 Just reading a book.

NICOLE (V.O.)  
 (over telephone)  
 Well, I was wondering if you would like to go for some ice cream tomorrow night?

NOAH  
 (hesitates)  
 Uh, uh... sure. That would be great.

NICOLE (V.O.)  
 (over telephone)  
 Splendid. See you tomorrow night. Eight sharp.

Nicole hangs up, as Noah, flabbergasted, holds the receiver.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Noah lies wide awake in bed, preoccupied with tomorrow's date with Nicole.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - ENGLISH CLASSROOM - MORNING

English class is now in session. Noah is sound asleep, his head buried in shoulders on his desk. Noah finally awakens, much to the chagrin of his English teacher, MISS SHELBY.

MISS SHELBY  
 (calls out loud)  
 Well, Mister Donovan, so nice of you to join us.  
 (looks upset at him; bends over and whispers to him)  
 See me after class.

EXT. CORRIDOR - DAY

Noah exits English class and enters into the hallway, as Seth is waiting for him.

SETH  
 Smooth move, Rip Van Winkle.

NOAH  
 (contrite)  
 Seth, I've been meaning to talk to you. I'm really sorry about missing the movie, and if there's anything I can do to salvage our friendship - -

SETH  
 (friendly intervenes)  
 Okay, okay. You're out of the doghouse. Treat me to lunch and we'll call it even.

NOAH  
 Deal.

The two head to their lockers.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Seth and Noah are at their usual table. Noah stares blankly at the food on his tray, while a curious but concerned Seth looks on.

SETH  
 Noah?

NOAH  
 (comes to)  
 Yeah?

SETH  
 (concerned)  
 You haven't said a word nor eaten a bite. Are you okay?

NOAH  
 Oh, sure. Just thinking.

SETH  
 (takes a fork full of food)  
 About what?

NOAH  
 Well, were you ever thrust into a situation that you both hoped for and dread?

SETH  
 No, not really. Why?

NOAH  
 (dismissively waves his hand)  
 Oh, nevermind. Listen, I'll see you on the bus.

Noah grabs his tray and quickly departs, leaving a puzzled Seth all-alone at the table.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

The back door opens, as Noah enters the kitchen, with books in hand. Noah looks up at the clock.

KITCHEN CLOCK

Reads four o'clock p.m.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Sitting at the kitchen table, Noah does his homework, as he quickly reads his text book and writes it down on loose leaf paper.

Downstairs in the basement, Noah rapidly puts laundry in the washing machine, adding the detergent and turning on the machine.

In the kitchen, Noah feeds Nell, as he scoops out her food from a can and into her dog dish, as well as replacing the water in her dish.

Noah sweeps a dusty spot in the living room with a broom. He finds a massive wad of dust, picks it up and looks disgustedly at it.

The laundry is now complete, as Noah quickly folds it up and places it in the laundry basket.

An exhausted Noah plops down on the living room sofa.

INT. KITCHEN - EVENING

Noah is ready to depart to meet Nicole. Before he leaves, he writes a note to his mother telling her his whereabouts. Noah takes the note and places it underneath a magnet on the refrigerator door.

INT. PUBLIC BUS - BACK SEAT - NIGHT

Noah sits all the way in the back of the bus, as he looks pensively out the window.

EXT. LOCAL ICE CREAM PARLOR - TERRACE - NIGHT

Noah arrives on time at the ice cream parlor. He sees no sign of Nicole, as he looks on disappointedly

NOAH  
(sotto voce)  
I knew it. A no show.

A VOICE suddenly emerges.

NICOLE (O.S.)  
(calls out to Noah)  
Noah?

Noah turns around.

NICOLE

Gently scurries down the block to the front of the ice cream parlor and Noah.

NICOLE  
Sorry I'm late.

NOAH  
(looks in awe at Nicole)  
You look lovely.

NICOLE

Thank you. I don't know about you,  
but I got a real sweet tooth  
tonight. Whadya say we go in?

NOAH

Sounds great.

INT. LOCAL ICE CREAM PARLOR - CORNER BOOTH - NIGHT

NICOLE AND NOAH

Sit and converse. Nicole is enjoying a nice hot fudge  
sundae, while Noah has a tall malt.

NICOLE

(takes a spoonful of ice  
cream)

I just can't believe you and Brett  
are brothers.

NOAH

(mock-surprised)

Yeah, it's hard to imagine.

NICOLE

I don't mean to sound harsh, but  
there is a world that exists  
outside of books, you know.

NOAH

Yeah. I guess I just haven't given  
it much thought or attention. Maybe  
I'll learn more once I go out on my  
own. It won't be that hard.

(beat)

I've felt alone most of my life.

(apologetic)

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm putting all  
this on you and - -

NICOLE

(softly interjects)

No, you can tell me. You're a very  
interesting person, with real  
dreams and ideas. Don't ever be  
ashamed of that.

Nicole and Noah continue to converse and enjoy their cold  
treats.

EXT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - HOURS LATER

NICOLE AND NOAH

Walk to the front porch of her house.

NICOLE

Well, I'd just like to tell you  
that I had a real wonderful time  
tonight. We should do it again  
some time.

NOAH

(smiles warmly)  
Yes, I'd really like that.

Nicole and Noah are speechless, as they look amorously at each other and move forward to kiss. However, Noah hesitates.

NOAH

(nervously looks at his  
watch)  
Oh my goodness, look at the time.  
The next bus comes in ten minutes.  
Good night.

Nicole smiles at Noah while she unlocks the front door and heads into her house. Noah stands disappointedly on the front porch.

INT. PUBLIC BUS - BACK SEAT - MOMENTS LATER

Noah sits in the same spot as before, as he quietly reflects on tonight.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATE NIGHT

The front door, slowly opens, as Noah quietly enters the house, carefully closing and locking the door behind him. He slowly heads toward the stairs, when he spots something.

MYRTLE'S BRIEFCASE

Lies idly by the stairs.

Noah kneels down and carefully opens up the briefcase. However, there is nothing inside. A VOICE suddenly emerges.

MYRTLE (O.S.)

(sotto voce)  
Looking for something?

A startled Noah turns around.

MYRTLE

Emerges from the darkness of the living room and looks at Noah. Noah looks at his mother and calmly explains.

NOAH

A pen. I was going to write you a note telling you what time I came home, in case you were worried.

MYRTLE

(stern)

Well, just to let you know, I close both my eyes when I know every member of this family is under this roof. Brett could tell you that.

(beat)

It's late and you've got school tomorrow.

NOAH

Yes.

Noah heads up the stairs, when his mother again calls to him.

MYRTLE (O.S.)

Noah.

Noah stops and turns to his mother.

MYRTLE

I love you, baby.

Myrtle smiles slightly at her son. Noah reciprocates with a warm but cryptic grin to his mother, and heads upstairs to bed.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT II

**ACT III**

**SCENE VIII**

FADE IN:



INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - DAY

Brett and his friends are eating talking at their usual table. Nicole arrives with her lunch and sits down, as she is met with awkward glares.

NICOLE  
Hey everybody?  
(looks curious at  
everyone)  
What?

RANDY  
Ronnie told us he saw you with  
Einstein at the ice cream parlor  
last night.

BRETT  
(punches Randy in the  
shoulder)  
You take that back.

RANDY  
(looks confounded at  
Brett)  
Ah! What was that for?

BRETT  
(stern)  
That's my brother you're talkin'  
about. If anybody's gonna make fun  
of him, it's me.

NICOLE  
Yeah, so?

SANDY  
Why don't you just crawl under a  
rock, cause your social life is  
going to be extinct if anyone hears  
you're dating Noah.

BRETT  
Man, you must really want that  
fifty bucks.

NICOLE  
(coquettish)  
Maybe I'm getting more out of this  
than just money.

Nicole looks cryptically at everyone, as she eats her lunch.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - LATE AFTERNOON

Fallen leaves are strewn all over the ground in the backyard, as a rake suddenly pulls them in. Noah diligently clears the ground, as he straightens out the backyard. Noah walks across the lawn, when he suddenly stumbles and falls.

Noah, now on the ground, looks over at something.

NOAH'S POV

ROCKY PROTRUDERANCE IN GROUND

BACK TO SCENE

Noah looks at the protrudance in the ground, as he gets up, dusts himself off, and continues working.

SERIES OF SHOTS

In the kitchen, Noah peels potatoes, as he helps his mom prepare dinner.

In the basement, Noah takes clothes out of the dryer and quickly folds and places them in the laundry basket.

In the kitchen, Noah fills Nell's dog bowl with fresh kibble, as Nell hungrily chows down, while Noah gently pets her thick coat.

Noah does his homework, carefully writing down his work on loose leaf paper.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Noah heads past his Grandma's bedroom towards the staircase, when she calls to him.

GRANDMA GERALDINE (O.S.)  
 (from her bedroom)  
 Noah, baby.

Noah stops in his tracks and pokes his head into her room.

NOAH  
 Yes, Nana?

GRANDMA GERALDINE (O.S.)  
 Could you get me two aspirin from  
 the closet?

NOAH

Sure.

Noah goes into the hallway closet, as he takes the bottle of aspirin, pours out two tablets, puts the bottle away, and brings them to his Grandmother.

INT. GRANDMA GERALDINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Noah hands the two aspirin to his Grandmother.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

Thank you, Noah.

Grandma Geraldine takes a glass of water on her night table and takes the aspirin. Noah is about to leave, when Grandma Geraldine beckons him.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

Wait a minute, Noah. I rarely get to talk to my darlings. Sit down and talk to me.

Grandma Geraldine shows Noah a seat. Noah sits, as Grandma Geraldine starts to converse.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

So, how are things going for you?

NOAH

Could be better, Nana. Time just seems to keep flying by.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

Well, do you have any acquaintances, or friends, as they say?

NOAH

I do. Seth and Steve are great. A few more couldn't hurt either.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

Oh, darling, don't you go pressuring yourself. That's the worst thing you could do. Time will serve you well, as long as you give time the chance.

NOAH

I guess you're right.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

(waxes nostalgic)

I remember when you and your siblings were all babies. You all were the apples of your mother's eye. I feel you will all amount to something special.

(beat)

I just wish your father stayed and your grandpa could be alive to see you all grow. They would be so proud.

Grandma Geraldine smiles warmly at Noah. Noah reciprocates. Her smile turns to a frown, when nature suddenly calls.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

(in slight discomfort)

Oh, sweetie, I gotta use the loo. Love you.

Grandma Geraldine hurries out of her room to the bathroom. Noah remains seated in her room.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - AUDREY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Audrey and Melanie, both dressed in their nightgowns, ogle at matinee idols in magazines, and swoon.

MELANIE

(looks at picture; points and exclaims)

Here it is. Look at him, Aud! He is sooo cute!

AUDREY

(confident)

He's not as cute as Rock Hudson. My grandma says he can melt all the snow in Alaska!

The girls giggle, as Melanie proceeds to kiss Audrey on the lips. Audrey looks both speechless and aghast at Melanie.

AUDREY

What are you doing?

MELANIE

My sister told me about it. It's called a French kiss. Whadya think?

AUDREY

I think I shouldn't have you sleep  
over my house any more.

MELANIE

Why?

AUDREY

(sternly; sotto voce)  
Are you nuts? Linda shares this  
room with me. If she walked in and  
saw us kissing, do you know what  
would happen?

MELANIE

Would you relax? You act as if  
you've never kissed a girl before.

AUDREY

(exclaims)  
I haven't!

INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Just outside, Noah, with laundry basket in hand, is about to  
enter Audrey's room with her clean clothes. He stands in  
shock, as he secretly overhears the girls from behind the  
bedroom door.

MELANIE (O.S.)

(from inside room)  
Okay, I'm really sorry. Can we  
just forget about it and enjoy the  
rest of the night.

AUDREY (O.S.)

(from inside room)  
Not a word of this to anyone! I  
mean anyone.

MELANIE (O.S.)

(from inside room)  
Okay. How about we play Monopoly?

AUDREY (O.S.)

(from inside room)  
Fine. Get the board.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - MORNING

The autumn sun shines on the Donovan house.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BOYS' BEDROOM - MORNING

Noah lies peacefully in his sleep. The look on his face indicates he is dreaming about something/someone pleasant. Noah moves around in his bed, as he slides his leg from underneath his blanket. He hesitates, as he likes the way it feels. Noah proceeds to do it again, and continues, smiling contently and keeps his eyes closed.

BEDROOM DOOR

Opens, as Audrey enters to call Noah down for breakfast, and gets a big surprise.

AUDREY

Noah, it's time to... Oh my God!

Audrey sees Noah, is appalled and quickly exits his bedroom. Noah opens his eyes, sees Audrey, and jumps out of bed and goes to explain to her.

NOAH

Audrey, wait!!

INT. KITCHEN - MORNING

The entire family sits at the kitchen table, eating breakfast and getting ready to face the day. Noah is the last one to arrive, as he prepares to sit down. Brett swiftly pulls his chair out from under him, as Noah hits the linoleum with a resounding THUD. Noah quickly rises and goes to hit Brett, when Myrtle gets in between them.

MYRTLE

(stern)

Okay, you two. Enough!

The kids are about to depart for school. Noah furtively removes Nell's flea collar, and proceeds to shake it inside of Brett's knapsack.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - MORNING

The kids board the school bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - MORNING

Brett sits in his usual seat, as he briefly but hardly scratches his head, then quickly disregards it.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Brett is seated at his desk, as his English class is about to get underway. A girl who he is infatuated with, KAREN DAVIDSON, enters class, as she warmly greets Brett.

KAREN

Hey, Brett.

BRETT

Hey, Karen. You are looking fabulous as usual.

Karen smiles coyly, as she takes a seat across from Brett. Seeing that he has no pen, Brett reaches into his knapsack to get one.

BRETT'S ARM

Digs into his knapsack for his books, as some fleas start to jump on his arm.

Class is about to begin, as Brett's English teacher, MISS PEARSON, enters the classroom and begins the lesson.

MISS PEARSON

(speaks aloud to class)

Okay, class. Today we will be reading excerpts from William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliette. Do we have any volunteers?

Karen raises her arm, as she looks coyly at Brett. Brett quickly raises his arm.

MISS PEARSON

(looks at them)

Oh, how wonderful. Miss Davidson and Mister Donovan, please begin.

Karen and Brett go the front of the class, as they read from their respective copies and re-enact the legendary play.

KAREN

Romeo, O Romeo, where fore art thou Romeo?

BRETT

'Tis East, and Juliette is the su --

Before he continues, Brett feels an intense itching all over his body. Brett starts to scratch and move frantically, much to the shock of the class.

BRETT  
 Oh, man. Aah, my ass. Oh God, not  
 over there!  
 (exclaims)  
 Wooooeeeyy!!!

The class BURSTS into LAUGHTER, much to the dismay of Miss Pearson.

MISS PEARSON  
 (reprimands class)  
 Stop your laughing! This is not  
 how Romeo and Juliette is  
 performed!

Brett falls to the floor, and drags his body across the carpeted floor, trying to quell the itch. Now rid of the itches, Brett sighs comfortably.

CLOSEUP - BRETT'S AGONIZED BUT CONTENT FACE

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BASEMENT - AFTERNOON

Brett, having completed some yard work, heads downstairs to put some of his sweaty clothes in the laundry. He places his shirt and socks in an empty laundry basket. He is about to head upstairs, when something catches his eye.

Brett goes over to a far corner of the basement, as he looks and takes out the item of interest. It is Noah's poster board. Brett removes the rubber band from the poster board, unravels it, and looks closely at it.

CLOSEUP - BRETT'S BLANK EXPRESSION

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

The kitchen is astir, as the family gets ready for dinner. Noah is on the telephone, as he talks to Nicole.

NOAH  
 (speaks into phone)  
 Yeah, I hear ya.



NICOLE (V.O.)  
 (over telephone)  
 So, I was wondering if we can get  
 together tomorrow night.

NOAH  
 (speaks into phone)  
 Sorry, I can't. I'm preparing for  
 my project presentation at school.  
 I showed it to my teacher and he  
 approved it. I'm giving a speech  
 in front of the whole school the  
 day before Thanksgiving.

NICOLE (V.O.)  
 (over phone)  
 Well, that's not for another few  
 days.

NOAH  
 (into phone)  
 I know, but I have to prepare.  
 There's going to be college  
 representatives from some of the  
 best schools in the country.

NICOLE (V.O.)  
 (over telephone)  
 You are too much. Okay, I'll call  
 you later Edison.

Noah grins sardonically, as Nicole hangs up.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dinner is finished, and Noah, having completed all of his  
 chores, heads upstairs, where he encounters Brett.

BRETT  
 Hey.

NOAH  
 Hey.

BRETT  
 (contrite)  
 Listen, I just want to say I'm  
 sorry for being a real creep these  
 past couple of weeks.

NOAH  
 You really mean that?

BRETT  
(intuitive)  
With utmost sincerity. Listen, I  
heard you were named to give one  
those speeches at that thing...  
What's it called?

NOAH  
The Science fair.

BRETT  
(points and exclaims)  
Oh yeah, that's the one!

NOAH  
Yeah. How did you know?

BRETT  
Are you kidding me? It's all over  
school. Everyone can't wait to  
hear ya.

NOAH  
Really?

BRETT  
Really. I was wondering if I could  
help you with your project.

NOAH  
No, thanks. I've already completed  
it. All I have to do is prepare my  
speech.

BRETT  
That's great. I can totally help  
you with that!

NOAH  
Really?

BRETT  
Really. Whadya say?

NOAH  
Sure, I guess it couldn't hurt.  
We'll start in a few minutes.

BRETT  
Deal.

Brett extends his hand to Noah, but then hesitates and  
enfolds his brother in a giant bear hug.

CLOSEUP - NOAH'S PUZZLED FACE

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Brett and Noah are writing his speech for the Science Fair, as they blue pencil it and contribute their ideas. Brett closely reads it, as he gives Noah his opinion.

BRETT

Yes, I like this. You've got great articulation in your introduction.

NOAH

(slightly astounded)

Wow, I never knew how much went into writing a presentation, in terms of oral speech.

BRETT

Well, you're not exactly the most vocal guy. If you just offered yourself to others, and put aside some of this scholastic mumbo-jumbo, you'd be flying high.

NOAH

Oh gosh, I almost forgot. My poster board's downstairs. I have to get it.

Noah is about to head downstairs, when Brett stops him.

BRETT

Hold it. Listen, I've helped you this far. Let me go a couple of extra miles. I'll make your poster board the best one ever. Here.

Brett reaches into his knapsack, and pulls out some books and hands them to Noah, who looks at them in both shock/amazement.

NOAH

Wow, these are the Time Life hardcover science and nature series. I wanted these for Christmas last year.

BRETT

Well, better late than never. They were about to throw them out from the library, but I know the janitor and he gave them to me.

NOAH

It even has a diagram of all the phases of light velocity.

BRETT

Little bro, I don't know much. But what I do know is that in order to keep an audience's full and undivided attention, you have to relate to them visually.

(beat)

Now I'm no Picasso, but I think I can add a little luster to your diagram. Do I have your trust?

NOAH

(concedes)

Oh, alright.

(sternly points at Brett)

But try not to make it too flashy.

BRETT

(puts his hand on his heart)

You have my word.

Brett takes the books and heads downstairs, when Noah calls him.

NOAH (O.S.)

Hey, Brett.

Brett stops and turns to his brother.

NOAH

(intuitive)

I know we haven't always been the closest, but I just wanted to say thanks for all your help.

(beat)

I think our presentation will go great and you'll be the first person I thank. This Thanksgiving will be a real memorable one.

BRETT

Absolutely.

Both brother grin at one another, as Brett takes the books and heads downstairs. Noah sits reflectively on his bed, when there is a KNOCK at the DOOR.

NOAH

Come in.

Linda enters, as she hands Noah an envelope.

LINDA

Noah, this came for you in the mail today.

NOAH

Thanks, Linda.

Linda warmly pats him on the back and departs. Noah opens the envelope and starts to read it. It is from the President of the United States, John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY (V.O.)

(from letter)

Dear Noah:

I am writing you in response to the letter I received from you. I apologize for the delay in my response, for our entire staff is busy organizing ourselves for our upcoming trip to Dallas. It is my distinct pleasure to know that wonderful people, such as yourself, are supporting my tenure as President. I would like to thank you, and everyone who has made my dreams of reaching the White House a reality, to know that I will work ever so hard to ensure that America will forever expand to new and unprecedented horizons. May God Bless you and our great nation, now and forever.

Sincerely,

John F. Kennedy

President, United States of America

Noah beams after reading the letter. The bedroom door opens, as Brett has returned from downstairs.

BRETT

Just completed it. You're all ready for Wednesday. Listen, I don't want you to see it until the big day. I've even hidden it. So no peeking!

NOAH

That good?

Brett nods assuredly.

SAME - THIRTY MINUTES LATER

The boys are getting ready for bed, as Brett turns to Noah.

BRETT

Hey, Noah. I really had a lot of fun working on this project with you. Maybe we could work on more projects in the future together.

NOAH

Yeah, that would sound great.  
(jokingly)  
Just don't ask me to do your homework for you.

Noah smiles teasingly, as Brett laughs, and then lets out a huge yawn.

BRETT

(tired)  
I don't know about you, little bro, but I am beat. See you tomorrow.

NOAH

Yup. Same time, same place.

Brett turns off the bedroom light.

FADE OUT.

### **SCENE VIII**

FADE IN:

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

The halls are mostly empty, as Noah drinks from a nearby water fountain. A VOICE suddenly emerges.

NICOLE (O.S.)

Hey.

A startled Noah stops drinking and quickly turns around. Nicole stands in the middle of the corridor.

NOAH

(slightly surprised)  
Hi.

NICOLE  
Whatcha doin?

NOAH  
I'm just getting a drink of water  
and then I'm going back to study  
hall.

Nicole digs into her bra, and pulls out the keys to her mother's car.

NICOLE  
(daring)  
Wanna go for a ride?

Noah stares wide-eyed at Nicole and nods his head in agreement.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - WIDE ANGLE - MAGIC HOUR

Nicole's car pulls up in front of the Donovan house, as she is set to drop off Noah after a long and fun day out.

INT. NICOLE'S CAR - FRONT SEAT

Nicole and Noah sit in the front, as they are about to bid each other farewell.

NICOLE  
Today was really great. Thanks for  
coming out.

NOAH  
Thanks for inviting me.  
(turns serious)  
Can I ask you something?

NICOLE  
Sure.

NOAH  
Did you really mean everything you  
said about me today?

NICOLE  
Every word. You're not like kids  
your age, Noah. And I mean that in  
a good way. Learn to appreciate  
who you are. Because I sure do.

Nicole leans over and gives Noah a kiss on the cheek. Noah is taken aback. Noah smiles and quickly gets out of the car.

NOAH  
I've gotta get goin'. Dinner's  
almost ready.

NICOLE  
No problem.  
(a little embarrassed)  
To tell you the truth, my parents  
don't know I have the car out. I  
really should be getting home.

NOAH  
I'll see ya around.

NICOLE  
Look forward to it.

Noah watches as Nicole pulls away. He heads toward the front door, but first watches the sunset over yonder. He then happily enters his home.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - EARLY EVENING

The front door opens, as an elated Noah enters, ready to tell his family about his great day and about Nicole.

NOAH  
Hey everybody, I just had the best -  
-

Noah stops. Everyone sits speechless and somber on the sofa, as they watch the news on television. President Kennedy has just been assassinated. Noah watches with his family, as his face goes cold.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Noah is sound asleep in bed, as there is a light RAPPING NOISE on the bedroom window. It persists until Noah finally awakens and heads to the bedroom window. Noah opens up the window and looks out.

NOAH'S POV FROM WINDOW

SETH

Stands underneath Noah's bedroom window, throwing stones.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah looks tiredly at Seth and inquires him.



NOAH  
 (sotto voce)  
 Seth, it's real late. What is it?

SETH  
 Noah, it's Steve.

EXT. LOCAL AIRFIELD - LATE NIGHT

Seth and Noah arrive on their bikes at a local airfield, where they are met with an astonishing sight. Steve's plane lies in the middle of the airfield, completely wrecked. Some police cars, an ambulance, and a fire engine are all on the scene, as they assess and try to repair the damage. Seth and Noah look around, as they encounter Steve's piloting instructor, MISTER JENKINS.

SETH  
 Sir, what happened?

MISTER JENKINS  
 (looks at wreckage and explains)  
 I warned him. There was too much cargo on the back end of his plane. He disregarded it, though. He said it was okay due to some Physics law or something.

Noah's face goes cold, as he pulls Seth aside and frightfully explains to him.

NOAH  
 (shakes; sotto voce)  
 Oh my goodness. We went over it together when we studied Physics a few days ago. Steve.

Also on the scene is Steve's girlfriend and would-be fiancée, KIM. She sobs and shrieks hysterically, as some police officers attempt to console her.

KIM  
 (hysterical)  
 I can't believe it, Steven.  
 Steven, honey, Steven!!

Noah looks on despondently, thunderstruck with guilt.

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE -  
 THE NEXT DAY

The school grounds are completely barren.

AMERICAN FLAG

Hangs at half-staff on the flag pole.

CUT TO:

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The corridors and classrooms are all empty, as Lincoln High School is closed for the day out of respect to the passing of both President Kennedy and Steve.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BOYS' ROOM - NIGHT

Noah is carefully looking over his speech for tomorrow's Science Fair, when Brett enters.

BRETT  
How's it going?

NOAH  
(slightly worried)  
Could be better.

BRETT  
See you're gettin' ready for  
tomorrow, eh?

NOAH  
(slightly anxious)  
This will be the most important day  
of my scholastic existence. I just  
want to get it over with.

BRETT  
(pats him on shoulder)  
Everything's gonna be fine.

NOAH  
Listen, I have to get my poster  
ready.

BRETT  
Not to worry. I already have it  
downstairs. I'll tell you one  
thing. It's going to be a day no  
one will ever forget.

Brett smiles assuredly at his brother.

NOAH

Listen, I really appreciate all the help you've given me these past couple of days. I know sometimes we're not on the best of terms, but I just want to say that I love you.

(beat)

Tomorrow will be the start of my future. What I did, who I knew will mean nothing. I'll be going on to college, hopefully making my dreams realities, and best of all, I'll finally be able to take care of everyone in the family.

BRETT

And I can't wait to see you do it.

Brett extends his hand, as Noah firmly shakes it.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - MORNING

The girls' gym class is in session, as they play a game of kickball. The red team is up by two runs. Two runners are on first and second, with two out in the final inning. The pitcher rolls the ball to the hitter. The batter kicks the ball into the outfield, as the runners quickly run toward home. The outfielder struggles with the ball, but picks it up and hardly throws to home. One run crosses home, as the other, Melanie, is on her way. Audrey, playing catcher, gets the ball, as Melanie is about to cross home.

Melanie CRASHES into Audrey, at the same time getting a feel of her chest. Audrey, despite the collision, holds on to the ball for the final out. Her team rejoices around Audrey, who seems preoccupied with what just happened.

INT. GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Most of the girls have already exited. Audrey, however, remains behind, as she changes herself. She is wearing jeans, but no top, except her bra. Audrey looks at herself in the locker room mirror, when a pair of hands touch her breasts.

MELANIE (O.S.)

Guess who?

Audrey angrily knocks away the hands, and sees it is Melanie. She is none too pleased.

AUDREY

What are you doing? Not in here.  
Nobody can know about this.

MELANIE

Good game today. Man you blocked  
that plate good. You're a regular  
Yogi Berra.

AUDREY

(sternly)

Don't try and change the subject,  
Mel. Do we understand each other?

MELANIE

Yes. Do you know your chest rises  
when you get angry?

AUDREY

Funny how you notice the little  
things.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - WIDE ANGLE - LATE AFTERNOON

Students are seated and astir, as the Science Fair  
presentation are now afoot.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - BACKSTAGE - LATE AFTERNOON

Noah sits pensively and nervously backstage. Professor Dannon  
appears, as he gives Noah a small talk before his oration.

PROFESSOR DANNON

You should see the crowd out there,  
Noah. The entire school and more  
are all seated. Did I tell you  
that one of my acquaintances is  
here from MIT? He is on the edge  
of his seat.

Noah nods quietly at Professor Dannon. He looks to his left.

BRETT

Looks at Noah, and give him an enthusiastic thumbs-up. He  
whispers "Everything's all set".

Noah sits tight, when an attendant backstage pats him on the  
shoulder, indicating that Noah is next. The attendant leads  
him to the side of the stage, as Noah looks around.

EVERYONE BACKSTAGE - SLOW MOTION

Noah looks around for his poster board, but the attendant whispers in his ear, telling him it is already at the front of the stage. He heads to the stage.

INT. SCHOOL AUDITORIUM - FRONT STAGE

Noah slowly approaches the microphone, as the audience is silent. He adjusts the microphone and stands next to his poster board, which is covered in a white sheet. He begins his speech.

NOAH

(speaks aloud to audience)

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Today I plan to educate you on the wonder and magnificence that is Physics. I will be explaining one of the most profound and complex scientific posits: Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

(beat)

First, I would like to start by explaining how Einstein discovered this theory. With the help of this poster board, I can properly illustrate to you the process. First...

Noah uncovers the poster board and looks at it. He is met with a shocking discovery.

POSTER BOARD

Shows nude women and some of their private areas. It is titled, "THE BIG BOOB THEORY".

Noah looks at the poster board in shock, as the AUDIENCE ERUPTS into both SHOCK and LAUGHTER. Noah is thunderstruck.

AUDREY

Sits in the audience, looks on in shock.

PROFESSOR DANNON

Watches backstage, both angered and astounded.

NICOLE

Sits in the audience, looks on in horror.

YOUNG FRESHMEN BOY

Shocked by the sight, covers his eyes.

One YOUNG BOY in the audience like what he sees.

YOUNG BOY  
(exclaims)  
Wow, Physics is great!

Noah tries his best to quell the unruly audience.

NOAH  
(nervously)  
Everyone, please. This is not what  
it looks like. If I can continue.

It is of no avail, as the auditorium is complete bedlam.

INT. PHYSICS CLASSROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

BLACKBOARD

Has a Physics problem scribbled on it.

PICTURE OF ALBERT EINSTEIN

Hangs in a far corner of the classroom.

PHYSICS DEGREES OF PROFESSOR DANNON

Hang proudly on the wall behind his desk.

A despondent Noah sits sunken in a chair by Professor Dannon's desk, speechless and stunned, as an irate Professor Dannon sets things straight.

PROFESSOR DANNON  
(stern)  
Well, I was completely unaware of  
how anatomy and Physics correlated.  
Do you realize what havoc you  
caused? I am utterly speechless.  
Not only did you embarrass your  
school, fellow students, and  
yourself, but you just permanently  
marred any chance of possibly being  
accepted to a top university.  
(beat)  
None of my colleagues were  
particularly impressed with your  
burlesque show.  
(MORE)

PROFESSOR DANNON (cont'd)

You have disgraced the good name of science, your class, and myself. You receive an F for your project, and will have to pass the remainder of your tests and assignments to graduate.

(beat)

Have you anything to say for yourself?

Noah remains still and speechless.

PROFESSOR DANNON

(angrily)

Now get out of my sight. Principal Gaines would also like a word with you.

Noah slowly gets up from his seat and heads toward the door. He turns to Professor Dannon, and looks strongly but sadly at him.

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - LATE AFTERNOON

Noah walks slowly through the corridor, as his fellow students look at him in both anger and humor. Noah arrives at the door of the Principal Gaines' office. He slowly opens the door and enters, as the door closes slowly behind him.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT III

## **ACT IV**

### **SCENE XII**

FADE IN:

INT. SCHOOL BUS - LATE AFTERNOON

Noah slowly boards and climbs the steps of the school bus, as he walks staidly to his seats. Noah heads to the back, when he stops in the aisle. He stands near Brett, who is already seated and is busy reading a magazine, completely oblivious to his brother. Noah stands, not even looking at his brother, and continues to the back.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LATE AFTERNOON

The school bus pulls up to the Donovan house, as Audrey and Brett get off.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - EARLY EVENING

The Bus Driver is taking the bus back to the lot, when he looks in his front mirror.

BUS DRIVER'S MIRROR POV

Noah lies quietly and crestfallen in a seat at the very back of the bus.

BACK TO SCENE

The Bus Driver puts the brakes on, and heads to the back to Noah.

BUS DRIVER

I know this may sound strange, but  
shouldn't you be home by now?

Noah sits unresponsive, as the Bus Driver continues.

BUS DRIVER

Had a bad day?  
(sarcastic)  
I see you're not much of a  
conversationalist.

A small smile fissures from Noah's lips.

BUS DRIVER

Can I at least take you home? I  
really gotta get this bus back.

EXT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

The school bus pulls up in front of Nicole's house, as it drops off Noah and pulls away. Noah waves and then slowly approaches the house.

EXT. NICOLE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

FRONT DOOR

As there is a knock. The door opens, as Nicole looks to see who it is.

NOAH

Stands on the front porch, looking despondently at Nicole.

NICOLE

(slightly surprised)  
Noah? What are you doing here?



NOAH  
 (voice cracks)  
 Are your parents home?

NICOLE  
 No. They're working late tonight.  
 Are you okay?

NOAH  
 (voice cracks)  
 I was just wondering if I could  
 come in.

NICOLE  
 Sure.

Nicole invites Noah in, as the front door closes behind them.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - THANKSGIVING DAY

The kitchen is astir, as the entire family gets set to enjoy another blessed Thanksgiving. Myrtle busily cooks by the stove, while Audrey and Linda set the table. Corey tries to furtively steal a dinner roll, when Grandma Geraldine catches him and shoos him away.

MYRTLE  
 Mom, please check on the sweet  
 potatoes and gravy. Audrey, don't  
 forget the plates for dessert.

Joey starts to CRY, as Linda tries to attend to him.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

KNOB ON FRONT DOOR

Slowly TURNS.

The front door slowly opens, as Noah has returned home. He slowly heads towards the stairs, when he stops.

BRETT

Stands at the door that leads to the kitchen, with some cans of food in hand. He looks blankly at Noah.

NOAH

Feels Brett's presence, but does not turn his head and continues upstairs.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - DAY

Noah sits on his bed, grossly absorbed in a novel. There is a KNOCK on the BEDROOM DOOR, as Myrtle enters to check on her son.

MYRTLE

(angrily)

Noah, where the hell have you been?  
We've been worried sick. I have a  
kitchen full of food that needs  
attending to. My God, what's the  
matter with you?

Noah doesn't move an inch, and continues reading. Myrtle decides to leave him alone.

MYRTLE

Well, if you decide you're hungry,  
a feast awaits downstairs.

Myrtle leaves the bedroom, closing the door behind her, as Noah continues reading.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - HOURS LATER

Everyone is seated at the dining room table, as they bow their heads in silence and say a prayer of Thanksgiving. They complete the prayer, as they all start to dine.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - DAY

Meanwhile, upstairs, Noah has broken his bow and has decided to join his family downstairs. He walks past his mother's room, and stops, when he notices something.

PIECE OF PAPER

Protrudes out of Myrtle's drawer.

Noah enters his mother's room, takes the piece of paper from the draw, and reads it.

INSERT - PIECE OF PAPER

Lists the names of some men in the neighborhood with dates and times.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah closely reads the piece of paper.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Everyone is enjoying Thanksgiving dinner. Noah slowly descends down the staircase, as he arrives at the dinner table and takes a seat. Noah quietly fills his plate, and begins to eat silently. Myrtle decides to start a conversation with her son.

MYRTLE

So, Noah, do you like the glazed carrots? Grandma made them herself.

Noah nods politely, as he stares down at his plate.

BRETT

Quietly eats, as he avoids any eye contact.

Noah takes the large carving knife, as he is about to cut some more turkey. Then, without warning, he suddenly leaps across the table, trying to attack Brett with the knife, as he takes entire spread with him.

Brett and Noah grapple on the floor, as everyone vaults from the table, and attempts to get in between the two. Myrtle gets in between them, as she angrily admonishes her son.

MYRTLE

What is wrong with you, Noah?!

Noah slowly rises and all is released.

NOAH

(intense)

Well, where do I start? Let's see. My older brother just destroyed my future, my younger sister likes girls, my older sister has a baby with no husband, my baby brother is the size of Wyoming, and to top it off, my mother is a whore!

Everyone is taken aback in silence, as Noah turns to everyone and tells them the truth.

NOAH

(intense)

That's right, everyone. We have food on our table, a roof over our heads, and clothes on our backs because our mother screwed every man in this sorry, podunk town!

(MORE)

NOAH (cont'd)  
(looks at them)  
Nana, Linda, I can't believe you  
knew about this and never had the  
decency to tell us.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
(soft)  
I never knew about it, Noah.

LINDA  
(soft)  
Neither did I.

NOAH  
The only thing worse than living in  
this house is living among the  
people within it.

Noah looks intensely at everyone and heads upstairs. Myrtle  
faces her family, who look at her in silence and shock.

MYRTLE  
Dinner's over. Time to clean up.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - LATE NIGHT

Noah sits on his bed reading a novel. He soon becomes  
restless, as he places the novel down and rubs his head in  
exasperation. There is a sudden RAPPING NOISE on the bedroom  
window. Noah runs to the window to see what it is.

NOAH'S WINDOW POV

NICOLE

Stands beneath the window outside, as she waves to Noah.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah looks down from his window at Nicole.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

NICOLE AND NOAH

Sit near the shed in the moonlight, as they talk with each  
other.

NOAH

(sotto voce)

Yeah, things have been less than perfect. I'll probably be grounded 'til New Year's.

NICOLE

(sotto voce)

So, what are you doing this weekend?

NOAH

(sotto voce)

Well, I am supposed to be grounded.

NICOLE

(suggestive; sotto voce)

Well, who's to say that we still can't have a little fun? How about I come over and we'll watch a little TV

NOAH

(slightly scared; sotto voce)

I don't think we should, Nicole. I mean, my mom doesn't even know I'm out here talking to you. If I get caught, I'll be grounded 'til I'm twenty.

NICOLE

(calmly; sotto voce)

Just relax. I'll see you this weekend.

Nicole gets up to leave, but not before giving Noah a kiss on the cheek. Noah feels his cheek where she kissed him, and then quickly heads back inside.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - THE NEXT NIGHT

Everyone except for Linda, who has work, and Brett, who is upstairs, is seated at the kitchen table. They are clearly bored, and sit quietly among each other. Except for Noah, who is clearly edgy, as he closely watches the kitchen clock.

KITCHEN CLOCK

Reads six thirty-five.

Noah sits, composed but edgy, as everyone continues to tarry away.

MYRTLE

(rescinded)

Well, I guess everyone is stayin'  
in tonight. What would you like to  
do?

Noah has his arm rested on the local newspaper. He needs a miracle. He soon gets it, as Audrey quickly spots something in the newspaper.

AUDREY

(exclaims)

Oh my gosh! The new Cary Grant  
movie is out. It's showing at the  
cineplex tonight!

GRANDMA GERALDINE

Oh, I love him. Such a gentleman.

AUDREY

(closely reads newspaper)

We can even take Joey. They're  
showing some cartoons as a double  
feature.

(implores)

Please, mom.

MYRTLE

(deliberates)

Well, I really wanted to stay in  
for the night. But I haven't been  
to the movies in a while.

(concedes)

Alright. Get ready. We don't  
wanna be late.

Everyone gets up excitedly from the kitchen table, as they go to get ready. Noah remains at the kitchen table, as he looks up at the ceiling at says a quiet "Thank you".

INT. LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Everyone is in the living room, as they are ready to head out. Noah sits on the living room sofa, as he sits quiet but nervously.

MYRTLE

Okay, is everybody ready? Just  
make sure you go the bathroom  
before we leave.

(looks at Noah)

Just make sure to watch over the  
house, Noah.

(MORE)

MYRTLE (cont'd)  
And remember you're grounded.  
(kisses him)  
Love you, baby.

Everyone heads out the door. Seconds later, Brett descends the staircase, as he looks at Noah and disdainfully shakes his head before exiting. Noah is now all by himself, as he looks at the clock.

LIVING ROOM CLOCK

Reads seven-fifty.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - NIGHT

FAMILY SEDAN

Pulls away from the house.

NICOLE'S CAR

Pulls up to the Donovan house seconds later.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

LIVING ROOM CLOCK

Reads exactly eight o'clock.

Noah lies pensively on the living room sofa, his head on the armrest. There is light KNOCK on the door. Noah gets up to answer it. Noah opens it and is taken aback.

NOAH'S POV

NICOLE

Stands in the doorway, dressed stunningly.

NICOLE  
So, what do you think?

BACK TO SCENE

Noah looks on in amazement, as he slowly musters out a response.

NOAH  
I think that being grounded has  
never felt so good.

SAME - HOURS LATER

NICOLE AND NOAH

Sit on the living room sofa and converse.

NICOLE  
So, have you ever wondered what it  
would be like to truly kiss  
someone?

NOAH  
All the time. I just never thought  
it would actually happen.

NICOLE  
(coquettish)  
If you believe, you might just  
discover more than you thought.

Nicole and Noah stare amorously at each other.

NICOLE  
(sensual)  
I'm ready. How about you?

NOAH  
(confounded)  
For what?

NICOLE  
(grabs him by the arm)  
Come on.

The two take off upstairs.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

Nicole and Noah arrive in his room, as they start to take off their clothes. Nicole, clad only in her underwear, plops comfortably onto Noah's bed. Noah finishes disrobing himself, clad only in his underwear, as he looks sensually at Nicole and tentatively approaches her.

NICOLE AND NOAH

Stare at each other in complete silence. Noah breaks the silence.

NOAH  
(soft)  
Can I touch them?



NICOLE  
 (curious)  
 I'm sorry?

NOAH  
 (soft)  
 Can I touch your...thingies?

NICOLE  
 Okay.

Noah gently extends his arms and places his hands on Nicole's breasts.

NICOLE  
 How do they feel?

NOAH  
 (two full beats)  
 Nice.

Noah quickly and embarrassingly removes his hands from Nicole's chest.

NOAH  
 (embarrassed)  
 I'm so sorry.

NICOLE  
 (laughs)  
 It's okay.

Nicole and Noah stare amorously at each other, as they grow closer to another to kiss, when there is a BARKING noise. Noah, frightened by the noise, jumps up and proceeds to fall off his bed. Nell, who is hungry, sits at the foot of the bed. Noah rises, as he looks incredulously at Nell.

NOAH  
 Nell?! What is it girl?  
 (looks at Nicole)  
 My dog's hungry. Be right back.  
 (takes Nell)  
 C'mon girl.

Nell and Noah head downstairs.

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

Nell and Noah enter the kitchen, as Noah picks up her empty dog bowl and heads to the cupboard for a can of dog food. While his back is turned, Nell yanks on his underwear, exposing his backside.

NOAH  
 (pulls up his underwear;  
 admonishes Nell)  
 Nell, cut it out, girl! I'm gonna  
 feed you.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Noah is now back upstairs, as he joins Nicole and his bed.  
 The two look ardently at each other and start to kiss.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - NIGHT

In a rare occurrence, Brett has arrived home early, and is  
 opening the back door of the house.

INT. BOYS' BEDROOM - NIGHT

NICOLE AND NOAH

Continue to kiss passionately.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - STAIRCASE - NIGHT

Brett moves quietly upstairs to his bedroom and arrives at  
 his bedroom door and enters. He is astonished by what he  
 sees.

Nicole and Noah stop kissing, as they look in shock at Brett.

NICOLE  
 Brett?! What are you doing here?

BRETT  
 I was about to ask you the same  
 thing. This is heavy duty.

(digs into his pocket,  
 pulls out some money, and  
 hands it to her)

Here's part of it. You certainly  
 earned this money.

NOAH  
 (looks suspicious at  
 Nicole)  
 What money?

BRETT

The one hundred dollars in a wager.  
You didn't think someone would date  
you because they were actually  
attracted to you?

NOAH

(looks at Nicole)  
Is this true?

NICOLE

(a little embarrassed)  
Well, yes, but...

NOAH

(interrupts)  
I should have seen it a mile away.  
Hope you enjoy your prize money.

Noah swiftly gets up, scoops up his clothes, and heads out of his bedroom. Brett looks slyly at a disappointed Nicole.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Noah sits despondently on the toilet, reflecting on tonight.

FADE OUT.

**SCENE X**

FADE IN:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - SATURDAY NIGHT

Noah, still grounded until Sunday, busily finishes up some weekend homework. Everyone has gone to the local fair. Noah looks at the clock.

SERIES OF SHOTS

Noah rides his bike down the open night road, unsure of where it will take him.

At the corner of town square, Noah purchases something from a tall, dark man. The man hands Noah a brown paper bag, as Noah hands him some money and thanks him.

The local general store is now closed, but not before Noah makes it in time to purchase some groceries. Noah thanks the store clerk, as he exits the store and hops on his bike and leaves. The store clerk, takes the sign, which says, "Open", and flips it over to the side that says, "Closed".

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The front door slowly opens, as Noah enters and looks around to see if anyone is home.

SAME - MOMENTS LATER

Noah lays on the living room floor, which is strewn with junk food wrappers/containers. He eats ice cream from the carton, while watching a movie on television.

TELEVISION SCREEN

Features a movie with a love scene. The male protagonist says, "I've always loved you and will continue to love you forever". The female lead smiles, as they kiss.

A disgruntled Noah takes a spoonful of ice cream and flings it at the television screen.

TELEVISION SCREEN

Is now stained with ice cream, as it slowly trickles down.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Noah drinks a bottle of alcohol, as he sits despondently downstairs in a far corner of the basement. He slowly picks up his grandfather's pistol, looks closely at it, and places it to his head. Tears trickle lightly down his cheeks.

FADE TO BLACK as the sound of a GUN FIRES.

SEGUE TO

INT. MYRTLE'S BEDROOM - HOURS LATER

NOAH'S HAZY POV

EVERYONE IN THE FAMILY

Looks worried at Noah.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah emerges from his hangover, as he looks around. Myrtle tends to her son.

MYRTLE  
(concerned)  
Noah, baby, are you alright?

Noah nods his head in a "Yes" gesture, as Myrtle hardly slaps him in the back of the head.

MYRTLE

What is wrong with you?!  
 (presents the gun)  
 I can't believe you found this!  
 Well, I know someone who'll be  
 staying in a lot this holiday.

Myrtle walks away, as Noah gently rubs his head. Corey appears, as he has brought a chili dog from the county fair. Corey brandishes it in Noah's face.

COREY

Hey, I saved you a foot-long chili  
 dog from the fair.

A queasy Noah covers his mouth, as he dashes toward the bathroom. Corey remains holding the chili dog in brief puzzlement, then shrugs dismissively and chows down. The sounds of Noah VOMITTING can be heard in the distance.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - DAY

The sun glistens on the Donovan house on a rare brisk December day.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The entire family is enjoying some fresh-baked cookies and milk, and talking of memories past, when there is a KNOCK at the FRONT DOOR. Brett gets up from the sofa and answers it. Brett opens, as he is met with a rare sight. MARK, Linda's boyfriend and Joey's father, stands in the doorway, as he pays a rare visit.

WHOLE FAMILY

Sits speechless on the sofa.

BRETT

(slightly surprised)  
 Mark.

MARK

Hello, Brett. May I come in?

BRETT

Of course.

Brett invites Mark inside, as he warmly greets everyone.

BRETT  
(waves warmly)  
Hello, everybody.

MYRTLE  
(stern)  
Mark.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
(holds up plate of  
cookies)  
May I offer you a cookie, Mark?

MARK  
No, thank you.  
(looks at Corey)  
Gosh, Corey, you're gettin' so big.

Mark looks warmly at Linda and Joey.

MARK  
Hello, Linda.

LINDA  
(shocked)  
Mark.

MARK  
Linda, I came here to discuss  
something with you. I was  
wondering if you and I could  
discuss it in private.  
(looks politely at  
everyone)  
If everyone doesn't mind.

Everyone politely rises from the sofa and are about to head inside, when Linda abruptly intervenes.

LINDA  
Everyone stay.

Everyone stops and return to the sofa. Linda hands Joey to Myrtle, as she rises from the sofa and talks to Mark.

LINDA  
(strong)  
Mark, you're not man enough to rear  
a child, so why can't you be enough  
of a man to speak to me in front of  
my family?

MARK

(calmly explains)

Well, I wanted to tell you that I've been declared eligible to receive funding from the government after serving in the Army.

(beat)

It's a considerable sum of money. I can receive even more if I verify with the proper bureau that I have a child. We could split the money fifty-fifty. I just need to borrow Joey for about two weeks. Whadya say to that?

LINDA

(strong)

Boy, that sounds great. A fat sum of cash, some vestige of financial security, and a tinge of a bright future.

(beat)

Well, you can keep it. All the money in the world can't compensate for all the time you were an absent father.

(yells strongly)

I had this baby on my own, raised him on my own, and will see him grow up on my own. You have nerve coming over here after all this time and try to borrow my son like he's some God damn lawn mower! He doesn't even know who you are.

MARK

(calmly)

I know I haven't been a model father. But why can't we use this as a way to rectify everything? A new start: you, me, and Joey. Won't that be great?

LINDA

(strong)

The only thing that would be great is seeing your back turn towards that door!

Mark stands despondently, as Audrey rises from her seat towards the front door. She opens it and shows Mark the way.

AUDREY  
I think it's time you left now,  
Mark.

Mark slowly heads towards the front door and exits, as Audrey closes it behind him. Linda sits back down and begins to sob uncontrollably, as her family consoles her.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Noah sits doing his homework while enjoying a light snack. Brett enters, and looks upon his brother's endeavours.

BRETT  
Whatcha up to, spazz?

NOAH  
Writing for English class.

Brett reaches over and nabs Noah's work right from under him.

BRETT  
Let's see what we got here!

NOAH  
(tries to grab it back)  
Hey, give it back!

Brett jokingly reads Noah's work aloud.

BRETT  
An auburn sunset, a lilac field,  
can never equate to a passionate  
heart's yield.  
(looks curiously at Noah)  
My God, are you sure you're not  
light in the loafers?

NOAH  
(irate)  
Give it back, now! I mean it!

BRETT  
(daring)  
What are you gonna do? I'd like to  
see you try and tangle with me.

Noah looks intensely at Brett, as he finally decides enough is enough.



NOAH  
As you wish...

Noah leaps at Brett, as the two begin to fight. They push off one another. Brett puts Noah in an arm lock, but Noah quickly maneuvers out of it. Brett charges at Noah, when Noah throws a punch with all his might. Noah's fist makes contact with Brett's face, knocking him to the floor. Brett lies on the floor, trying to regain himself. Noah stands, looking dumbfounded at Brett. Brett slowly rises, as he charges at Noah and quickly backs up and looks aghast.

BRETT'S POV

NOAH

Has been pushed into the sharp point on the dresser, as blood starts to flow from his stomach.

BACK TO SCENE

Brett continues to watch in horror.

BRETT  
(yells loudly)  
Linda, Grandma! Quick, come down here!

Grandma Geraldine and Linda descend the staircase, as they see Noah and take initiative.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
(astounded)  
Oh my goodness, what happened?  
Linda, call the ambulance!

Linda heeds her Grandmother, as she goes to the phone.

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
(motions to Brett)  
Come over here and help me with Noah, Brett.

Brett heeds his Grandma, as he and Grandma Geraldine go and tend to Brett.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - NIGHT

An ambulance is parked outside, while most of the neighborhood stands outside and watches. The front door opens, as some EMTs wheel out Noah in a gurney, while the rest of the family follows.

Myrtle, who has been at one of the neighbor's houses, fights through the crowd and reaches her family, as she inquires Grandma Geraldine.

MYRTLE  
(worried)  
Mom, what happened?

GRANDMA GERALDINE  
The boys got in a fight.

EXT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT

Ambulances pull in and out of the hospital parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

The entire family sits patiently, as they wait for an update on Noah. Noah's physician, DOCTOR WEST, appears, as the Myrtle quickly rises from her seat and goes to him.

MYRTLE  
Doctor, how's my baby doin'?

DOCTOR NORTH  
Well, he's sustained a lot of bleeding. We'll have to keep him overnight for observation.

MYRTLE  
Thank you, Doctor. Can we see him?

DOCTOR NORTH  
Actually, I wanted to discuss that with you. Noah has told us that he doesn't want any visitors.

MYRTLE  
(incredulous)  
You're kidding, right? Can we just go by his room?

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - OUTSIDE NOAH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The entire family stands outside Noah's hospital room, which is shrouded by a curtain. Myrtle calls out to her son.

MYRTLE  
Noah, honey. It's Mom. We respect your decision to be alone.  
(MORE)

MYRTLE (cont'd)

But we just want you to know that we all love you. If you need anything, we left our number with the nurses.

(fights back tears)

Love you, baby.

Myrtle motions to the family, as they leave the hospital.

INT. LOCAL HOSPITAL - NOAH'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATE NIGHT

NOAH'S REFLECTION

Silhouettes on the hospital room wall.

CLOSEUP - NOAH'S HAND

Holds a picture of the entire family.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - ESTABLISHING SHOT - WIDE ANGLE - THE NEXT DAY

The Donovan house is festooned with Christmas lights and other decorations, as the holiday season is now underway. There is light snow on the ground.

CUT TO:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - MORNING

The kitchen is astir, as Myrtle, in very high spirits, busily bakes some gingerbread men, Noah's favorite. The TELEPHONE RINGS, as Myrtle picks up.

MYRTLE

(talks into phone)

Hello. Oh, hello, Doctor North.  
Yes, yes. Oh, oh. Yes, well thank you for everything. Happy Holidays.

Myrtle hangs up, as she begins to break down in hysterics as the whole family surrounds her.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

Myrtle, what's the matter?

MYRTLE

(yells loudly)

Noah's dead! He developed an infection in his wound and died this morning!

Myrtle continues to sob uncontrollably, as she quickly grabs a knife and attempts to attack Brett, as the family detains her.

MYRTLE  
(looks angrily at Brett)  
You killed my baby!

The family holds back a hysterical Myrtle and they get her to the ground and console her.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT IV

## **ACT V**

### **SCENE XI**

FADE IN:

INT. FUNERAL HOME - DAYS LATER

Mourners are in attendance to pay their last respects to Noah.

NOAH'S CLOSED CASKET

Lies still in the middle of the room, surrounded by flowers and mass cards.

Corey somberly approaches Noah's casket, as he places something on it.

TWINKIE THE KID BADGE

Lies at the head of Noah's casket.

Off in the distance, Nicole secretly stands outside of the room, despondently watching the proceedings. She can no longer take it, and hurries out.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - DAY

NICOLE'S CAR

Rides down the open road.

INT. NICOLE'S CAR

Nicole, teary-eyed, drives unsteadily at the wheel down the road, when she spots something.

NICOLE'S POV

PERSON

Who looks like Noah, appears on the side of the road.

BACK TO SCENE

Nicole, shocked by the sight, calls out to the person.

NICOLE  
(shouts excitedly)  
Noah! Noah!

SHEET OF ICE

Lies on the open road, as the tire of Nicole's car goes over it. Nicole loses traction of the car, as she veers off the road and CRASHES into a tree. Nicole lies dead behind the wheel of her crashed vehicle.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BOYS' BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Brett sits on his bed, as he reads one of his girly magazines, but quickly puts it down. He is still distraught over Noah, and now, Nicole's passing. He quickly spots something.

BRETT'S POV

ONE OF NOAH'S OLD BOOKS

Lies at the foot of his bed.

BACK TO SCENE

Brett picks it up, looks to see if anyone is around, and begins reading.

EXT. NEARBY FIELD - LATE AFTERNOON

Even though her family has forbid her, Audrey is hanging out with Melanie, as they have Joey. They are resting on a grassy hill, taking in the vista.

AUDREY  
You know, I'm not supposed to be  
with you.

MELANIE

We can't be lovers, but I still  
want to be your friend.

(looks suggestively at  
her)

Can I have one more kiss for old  
time's sake?

Audrey concedes, as she places Joey down and puckers up.

AUDREY AND MELANIE

Kiss briefly.

MELANIE

I must say, you haven't lost your  
touch.

AUDREY

(looks sternly at her)

That's enough. I can't believe  
we're doing this in front of my  
nephew.

(looks down at Joey)

Right Joey? Joey?!

Joey is nowhere to be found, as Audrey and Melanie  
frantically look around for him.

EXT. ADJACENT WHEAT FIELD - DAY

Joey crawls into the husks of wheat.

MECHANICAL THRESHER

Driven by a local Farmer, travels through the waves of wheat.  
The thresher gets Joey.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATE AFTERNOON

Grandma Geraldine and Linda are busy preparing supper, when a  
hysterical Audrey comes running through the door to impart  
the horrible news.

AUDREY

Oh, Joey!

LINDA

(nervously)

Where's Joey? Audrey?!

AUDREY  
 He's gone! Joey's gone! He  
 slipped away when I was in the  
 field. I'm so sorry!

LINDA  
 (yells nervously)  
 Audrey! Why did you do that?!  
 (starts to sob)  
 Oh God, Joey!

Linda breaks down, as Audrey and Grandma Geraldine attempt to console her.

FADE OUT.

**SCENE XII**

FADE IN:

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BASEMENT - THE NEXT DAY

Audrey is doing some cleaning in the basement. She discovers a huge clump of dust from underneath the steps, looks at it, and promptly cringes. Audrey then heads to a far corner of the basement to clean, when she makes a surprising discovery.

AUDREY'S POV

COUPLE OF WRAPPED POSTER BOARDS

Lie covered in dust in the corner of the basement.

BACK TO SCENE

An inquisitive Audrey unwraps one of the poster boards and blows off the dust. They are blueprints created by Noah when he was alive. Audrey starts to closely view it.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - BACKYARD - DAY

Brett busily shovels some left over snow on the ground in the yard. He takes a brief respite, as he leans over his shovel. Brett quickly gets back to work.

ROCKY PROTRUDERENGE IN GROUND

As the tip of the shovel HITS it hardly.

Brett stops and stands still, as the GROUND beneath him begins to TREMBLE. He swiftly vacates, and heads to the back door, where he is met with Myrtle, who gives him a stern glare.

TREMBLING GROUND

EXPLODES, as oil gushes out.

MYRTLE AND BRETT

Drenched in oil, dance with glee.

AERIAL SHOT - BACKYARD

As oil continues to flow.

EXT. DONOVAN HOUSE - ONE WEEK LATER

A MOVING VAN is parked in front of the house, some moving men continue to convey boxes of the family's belongings to the van. The entire family, given a fresh start, is now moving away.

ENTIRE FAMILY

Exits through the front door for the final time.

MYRTLE

Make sure you have everything and go to the bathroom before you leave.

(looks for Grandma  
Geraldine)

Mom, are you there?

GRANDMA GERALDINE

(follows Myrtle)  
I'm right here, sweetie.

MYRTLE

I called the phone and mortgage company, post office, school, and pharmacy. Am I missing anyone?

GRANDMA GERALDINE

(witty)  
What about President Johnson?

Myrtle and Grandma Geraldine smile at each other before heading to their car, where the rest of the family awaits them.

MYRTLE

Okay, everyone. Get one last look at your former house.



ENTIRE FAMILY

Stares at their former abode. Brett notices something extraordinary.

BRETT  
 (looks and points)  
 Hey, look at the beautiful auburn  
 sunset.

ENTIRE FAMILY

Turn and face the magnificent sun above them.

FADE OUT.

**SCENE XII**

FADE IN:

CLOSEUP - MYRTLE

Caption underneath

Myrtle quit her "day job" not long after Noah's passing. Since she held title to the land where the oil vein was, she was entitled to a thirty percent stake in the oil company. She wisely invested her money in stocks and bonds and real estate, as well as donating to her local church and various charities. Myrtle is now retired and lives happily with her live-in companion and his daughter from a previous marriage in Treasure Island, Florida.

CLOSEUP - LINDA

Caption underneath

Since Joey's untimely passing, Linda has picked up the pieces. She graduated college with a degree in Business Management. She was later taken to court by Mark. Surprisingly, she won the case as the court determined Mark to be an absentee father, as well as a charge of infidelity after some "Army photos" surfaced. This entitled Linda to all of the money granted to Mark by the Federal Government, including parts of his future income. Linda now heads a company that specializes in safety equipment for infants. She lives happily with her husband and three children in Norfolk Virginia.

## CLOSEUP - GRANDMA GERALDINE

## Caption underneath

Grandma Geraldine was handsomely rewarded by Myrtle after the oil rush. She took that trip to Hawaii she always wanted, and participated in the National Backgammon Tournament, where she was a four-time champion. She later died peacefully in her sleep in an adjacent bungalow near Myrtle.

## CLOSEUP - AUDREY

Audrey never "saw" Melanie again. However, the two remain good friends. Audrey has even spoke at demonstrations advocating equal rights and opportunities for gays and lesbians. She puts Noah's designs to good use, entering college and earning a Master's Degree in Multimedia, with minors in Engineering and Architecture. Her company creates designs for buildings throughout the world. She lives happily with her husband and two children in New York City.

## CLOSEUP - COREY

## Caption underneath

Into his teenage years, Corey lost most of his childhood body fat. He skipped the desserts and hit the books, earning a BA in Advertising with a minor in Marketing. He now works for a food distribution company that specifies in health food and beverages. Their latest innovation: low-fat Twinkies. He lives happily with his wife and daughter in Hyde Park, Illinois.

## CLOSEUP - BRETT

## Caption underneath

Hell actually froze over as Brett started to study. Surprisingly, he achieved a near perfect score on his SATs, but first decided to proudly serve his country in Vietnam before entering college. He did return to school (where he did not partake in any "extra-curricular activities"), and graduated at the top of his class. He now works for NASA as an assistant to the head of the Physics and Aeronautics Department. Brett is single and resides in Fort Worth, Texas.

## CLOSEUP - NELL

## Caption underneath

Nell died three years after the family moved. She was twenty-five years old, one-hundred and forty-eight in dog years.

ENTIRE FAMILY

Heads into their car and drives off.

EXT. OPEN DIRT ROAD - MAGIC HOUR

The family sedan rides along the open road, when it stops and pulls over to the side of the road to a nearby lake.

INT. FAMILY SEDAN

MYRTLE

Okay, everyone, say one final  
goodbye.

Myrtle nods at Brett, as he nods back. Brett gets out of the car, holding an urn with Noah's ashes, and heads over to the lake. Brett takes the lid of the urn and tosses the ashes into the crystal waters of the lake. Brett looks on reflectively, as he heads back to the car.

FAMILY SEDAN

Rides off down the road, as a rainbow forms over the horizon.

FADE OUT.

THE END

**OMITTED SCENES**

FADE IN:

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Gym class for the boys is about to begin, as COACH CLEM DANIELS, the head coach of the football team and the Gym teacher for today, presides over his pupils, who stand quietly in a horizontal row.

COACH DANIELS

(sternly)

Good afternoon, ladies. Your principal wanted me to do some basic exercises with you. But that stuff's for trapeze artists or people who wanna join the circus.

(beat)

Now I don't think any one of you is joinin' the circus anytime soon, although a few of you certainly have the looks for it. So today, we're gonna play the sport that will make you boys into men...

Coach Daniels heads over to a bench, presents a football, and shows it to the boys.

COACH DANIELS

(slaps football hardly in his hands)

Football.

(points to boys)

You six, you're a team, you'll play defense. The rest of you come with me; your on offense.

Seth and Noah happen to be among those in Coach Daniels' class, as they whisper to each other.

NOAH  
(sotto voce)  
Seth, how do you play this game?

SETH  
(sotto voce)  
They throw you the ball, you catch it, and then you run with it.

NOAH  
(sotto voce; worried)  
That sounds hard.

The offense lines up to get their instructions from Coach Daniels.

COACH DANIELS  
Alright, you boys will be receiving. One of you will have to take the kickoff.  
(points to Noah)  
You, come over here.

NOAH  
(surprised)  
Me?

COACH DANIELS  
(sarcastic)  
No, your evil twin. Yes, you, come on now!

Noah goes over to Coach Daniels, as he instructs Noah on what to do.

COACH DANIELS  
Alright, you're gonna be takin' the kickoff.

NOAH  
(mock-complains)  
Do I have to, Sir?

COACH DANIELS  
(stern)  
Yes, you have to, Sir. Now listen. When they throw you the ball, you catch it and hold on tight. Keep your eyes peeled at all times for holes that you see openin'.  
(MORE)

COACH DANIELS (cont'd)  
 Follow your blockers at all times.  
 Otherwise, you're gonna have a  
 rough time.

NOAH  
 (nervous)  
 But I don't know how - -

COACH DANIELS  
 (interrupts)  
 Okay, let's get started.  
 (calls out to defense)  
 Alright, they're ready to receive.

NOAH  
 (nervous; sotto voce)  
 Oh my God, I'm dead.

The Kicker for the Defense kicks the football. Noah waits patiently for the ball near the end zone, as he catches the ball and starts to run. Noah runs past one tackler, when another leaps to tackle him. He quickly ducks, as the defender misses the tackle. Another Defender grabs Noah's ankle, but he quickly breaks free. One Defender leaps to tackle Noah, but he quickly leaps over him. Noah, frightened of being hit, follows one of his blockers and is off to daylight, as he speeds toward the end zone.

He drops the football by his side, as he gasps for air and tries to compose himself. Coach Daniels, taken by what he has just seen, quickly approaches Noah.

COACH DANIELS  
 (exclaims)  
 My God, son. That was the best  
 kickoff return I've ever seen in  
 all my years of coachin' football!  
 You were runnin' as fast as Mantle!

NOAH  
 (out of breath)  
 Who?

COACH DANIELS  
 (suggestive)  
 How about I sign you up for this  
 fall after gym class?

NOAH  
 (alarmed)  
 No!

COACH DANIELS  
 (excited)  
 Young man, I'm gonna call your  
 mama!

Noah tries to catch his breath, then faints in the end zone.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Noah is late for the school bus home, as he frantically runs with text books in hands, trying to catch up to it. It is to no avail, as Noah watches the school bus pull away. Noah stands despondently in front of the school.

NOAH  
 (frustrated)  
 Rats!

Suddenly, a VOICE emerges and beckons Noah.

TIM SCOBEEY (O.S.)  
 Hey, kid.

Noah hears the voice and turns around. It is TIM SCOBEEY, a ne'er-do-well/slacker from school. Noah looks at Tim.

NOAH  
 (uncertain)  
 Me?

TIM  
 Yeah, you.  
 (motions to Noah)  
 Come here a sec.

Noah heads Tim, as he goes over to him, as the two go to a corner.

TIM  
 See you missed your ride. That's a real tough one. But don't let it get you down. I think I have just the thing you need.

NOAH  
 A ride home?

TIM  
 No, even better than that.

Tim delves into his pockets and pulls out a bag of marijuana and presents it to Noah, who looks on in awe/fright.

TIM  
Trust me. Try some of this, and  
you'll feel like every ride will be  
nice and smooth.

Tim hands the bag of marijuana over to Noah and departs.  
Noah looks closely at the marijuana.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - EARLY EVENING

Noah is in the kitchen, near the kitchen cabinet that holds the spices. Noah carefully inspects the marijuana.

NOAH  
Why would Tim give me oregano?

Noah gently scoops the marijuana into the bottle of oregano.  
A VOICE suddenly emerges.

MYRTLE (O.S.)  
Noah?

A startled Noah turns around and looks at his mother.

NOAH  
Yes, Mom.

MYRTLE  
I was wondering if you could set  
the table. We're havin' spaghetti  
tonight.

NOAH  
Okay.

Noah goes into the upper kitchen cabinet and pulls out some dinner plates. Myrtle goes into the kitchen cabinet, as she pulls out the oregano and smells it.

MYRTLE  
(taken aback)  
My goodness. This oregano is so  
strong.

Myrtle places the "oregano" into the pot with sauce and stirs it in.



INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN TABLE - EVENING

The entire family sits at the kitchen table, eating dinner. They are all still and silent, as dinner appears to be a bit different this time around. They are all high, but completely unaware of it.

LINDA

Wow, that was the best tasting dinner I ever had. Thank you, Mom.

COREY

I agree. But I'm still hungry.

NOAH

(witty)

When aren't you hungry?

Everyone BURSTS into LAUGHTER, as they continue.

GRANDMA GERALDINE

My goodness, I haven't felt this good since I was teenager.

Audrey waves her hand by her face, trying to see if her eyes catch it.

BRETT

Man, I feel so strange, in a good way.

Brett starts to laugh, as he takes a sip from his cup and starts to GARGLE, as everyone watches in amusement/disgust.

JOEY

Sits in his high chair, his face covered in spaghetti sauce and a wide, beaming grin.

AUDREY

Hey, Noah, do that impersonation of Sammy Davis Junior.

NOAH

No, I don't want to.

AUDREY

(pleads)

Oh, come on, just this once. You never do it anymore.

The rest of the family pleads along with Audrey for Noah to liven up the after dinner affair.

NOAH  
 (concedes)  
 Alright, alright. Here it goes...  
 (impersonates Sammy Davis  
 Junior)  
 Knick, knack, paddy whack, give a  
 dog a bone!

Everyone ERUPTS into LAUGHTER, as Noah covers his face in embarrassment.

NOAH  
 May I be excused? I have to use  
 the bathroom.

Noah gets up from his chair, but loses his balance, and proceeds to FALL HARDLY on the floor. Everyone watches in silence, but soon BURSTS into laughter.

NOAH  
 (impersonates Sammy Davis  
 Junior)  
 My God, I think I broke my  
 sacroiliac!

Everyone hears Noah and BURSTS into LAUGHTER. Noah joins them in the humor.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - DAY

Noah is at his locker, opening the combination to his lock. He opens his locker, ready to put his books in, when something falls out of his locker onto the floor. Noah bends over to pick it up. It is an envelope. Noah opens the envelope and pulls out its contents. It is a letter. Noah starts to read it.

INSERT - LETTER

As it reads, "Hey there, cutie. I've seen you around school and I think you're real groovy. Whadya say you meet me by the Weeping Willow tree in Swan Park tonight at eight. It's Halloween, so I'll be in costume. Hope you will too.

Love,

Your Secret Admirer.

There is an imprint of lipstick on the letter.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah looks at the letter in admiringly, as he puts it in his pocket, closes his locker, and departs.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Audrey, dressed as a fairy, gives some Halloween candy to some trick-or-treaters. Linda, dressed as the Bride of Frankenstein, takes Joey, dressed as a tiger cub, and Corey, dressed as an astronaut, to the front door, as they are about to depart.

LINDA

Okay, Aud. I'm taking Joey and Corey trick-or-treating. Be back in about an hour.

COREY

(impatient)  
Could we go now? I'm missing out on all the good candy!

LINDA

Okay, let's go.

INT. DONOVAN HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Noah, dressed as a hobo, heads out the back door.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - NIGHT

Noah rides his bike along the dark streets, ready to meet his secret admirer.

EXT. SWAN PARK - NIGHT

Noah, dressed as a hobo, has arrived at the weeping willow tree, as he looks around and waits for his secret admirer. Suddenly, a VOICE emerges.

SECRET ADMIRER (O.S.)

Hello? Is anyone there?

NOAH

(calls out)  
Yes. It's me. I got your letter. It was so beautiful. I came in costume, just like you asked.

SECRET ADMIRER (O.S.)

Oh, I'm so glad. Please forgive me. I'm a little shy.

NOAH

There's no need to apologize. I am too. I never knew someone like you could have feelings for someone like me.

SECRET ADMIRER (O.S.)

Oh, yes, sweet dear. I've seen you around, and you are one hot potato!

NOAH

Thank you. I'd really like to see what you look like.

SECRET ADMIRER (O.S.)

Well, I'm kinda shy, I was wondering if you could come over here and meet me.

NOAH

Sure.

Noah starts to walk around the weeping willow tree. Suddenly he sees something.

NOAH'S POV

SILHOUETTE OF CURVY WOMAN

Shows in the shadows of the weeping willow tree.

BACK TO SCENE

Noah, taken by her beauty, goes over to her.

NOAH

(sotto voce; in awe)  
My goodness, she's so beautiful.

EXT. BEHIND WEEPING WILLOW TREE - NIGHT

Little does Noah realize that there is no secret admirer. It is actually Brett and his friends playing a mean trick on him. Brett has a cutout from one of his girly magazines, as Randy holds a flashlight up to it, and Sandy does the voice of the Secret Admirer. They have eggs and shaving cream ready. Brett and his friends try to contain their laughter.

NOAH

I'm sorry, but I don't see you.

SECRET ADMIRER (O.S.)  
Just come a little closer dear, so  
I can get one good look at your  
handsome face.

Noah heeds, as he approaches the silhouette.

NOAH  
Here I am, my love.

Before Noah can finish, he is ambushed by Brett and his friends, who pelt him with eggs and spray him with shaving cream. The friends quickly run off, as Noah lays despondently on the ground, all covered with eggs and shaving cream.

EXT. OPEN ROAD - NIGHT

Noah walks despondently home, with his bike by his side. A young TRICK-OR-TREATER, dressed as a ghost, approaches Noah and tries to scare him.

TRICK-OR-TREATER  
(exclaims)  
Boo! Trick or treat, smell my  
feet, give me something good to  
eat!

Noah looks sternly at the Trick-Or-Treater, who looks at Noah and quickly departs. Noah continues on his way home.

FADE OUT.

