

THE FREE WATER PEOPLE

Written by

Ry Graves

RMCGRAVES@GMAIL.COM  
(610)506-7882  
WGA REG: 2027586

PROLOGUE

In 1994, the Daughters of Mary orphanage and the Golden Hill retirement home in New York City each experienced a budget crisis. To continue both programs, they were combined into one facility located at 8280 Brouwer Street.

INT. BEDROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

JULY

Mr. POTTER, a nicely dressed elderly man of seventy-two, ENTERS the room carrying a box of belongings. Mr. Potter surveys the simple room as he stands holding his box. MR. Potter HUFFS and places his box on the bed.

JOE MLLER, A black man in his forties with a mustache and head orderly of 8280 Brouwer Street enters the doorway of the bedroom.

JOE

You need anything else, Mr. Potter?

MR. POTTER

Is there anything else?

Joe smiles and pulls a paper bag in the shape of a bottle from behind his back and shakes it.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Joseph, you're a wonderful man.

Joe hands the paper bag to Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter takes the bag and shakes Joe's hand, slipping him a twenty-dollar bill in the process.

JOE

Anytime. You gonna be all right in here?

MR. POTTER

I ain't good anywhere. Just keep those damn kids from screaming too loud or stealing my scotch, I'll be fine.

JOE

Yeah, I know it's an odd thing they're trying here, we do appreciate your patience and understanding.

MR. POTTER

It'd be pretty screwed up for an old man that no one wants to be pissed off by a bunch of kids no one wants. It's fine, I'll share. Just not my scotch.

JOE

You better be sharing with me when we play Gin Rummy later.

MR. POTTER

That ain't sharing, that's just drinking. And dealing with Ms. Friendly Personality all day earns you at least two fingers.

JOE

Who, doctor Slater? She's not that bad.

Mr. Potter looks at Joe in astonishment.

JOE (CONT'D)

Ok, she's pretty bad, but she'll ease up.

MR. POTTER

Well, we see how she treats you Joe and we see how she treats us. We've been here three days and she can barely manage this as a retirement home. Throw in an orphanage on top of that, a bunch of kids? Somethings gonna break, Joe.

JOE

As long as it's not my wallet when we play cards later, I think we'll be all right. Besides, you got me here, right?

MR. POTTER

For Christmas shakes, Joe, that's the only reason I haven't smashed every window in this place.

The noise of CHILDREN TALKING LOUDLY can be heard down the hallway.

JOE

Duty calls.

MR. POTTER  
Good luck, soldier.

Joe halfheartedly salutes as he EXITS. Mr. Potter opens the scotch, finds a glass in his box on the bed, and pours himself a drink. After he takes a sip, Mr. Potter reaches into his sweater and finds his cigar case. Mr. Potter cuts and lights a cigar before walking to the window with his drink.

After a large puff of smoke, Mr. Potter raises the window and leans out to admire the street two floors down.

The hot summer New York night during sunset is busy and the women wear short clothing. Mr. Potter smiles as he watches women line up to enter the bar, Tequila Mockingbird's, across the street.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)  
Whoa! Evening, ladies.

Mr. Potter finishes his drink and returns to the room to fill his glass. As he fills another drink, he sees the picture of his dead wife, SHERI, on the nightstand.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)  
Sher-Bear, I'm just looking, no harm in looking. Not my fault they got a parade of Picasso's rolling down the block.

Mr. Potter again quietly admires the picture of Sheri.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)  
Ah, you're right, you're right. I should quit being creepy. Especially when I got you to look at. I'm coming soon, darling. Can't wait

Mr. Potter raises his glass to the picture of Sheri. The sound of a WOMAN TALKING LOUDLY outside, takes Mr. Potter's attention.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)  
But while I'm still here.

Mr. Potter leans back out the window. Two stories below, DR. BECKY SLATER, A short woman in her thirties and the person in charge of 8280 Brouwer Street, stands on the steps below ushering children into the building. Potter chomps on his cigar as he calls down to Dr. Slater.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)  
Hey, doctor dictator! Hey,  
sweetie!

Dr. Slater slowly realizes someone from above is yelling at her. Dr. Slater looks up and sees Mr. Potter smoking and drinking. Mr. Potter raises his glass to Dr. Slater. Dr. Slater immediately motions to an orderly to take care of Mr. Potter. Dr. Slater motions and mouths for Mr. Potter to put out his cigar.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)  
Absolutely.

Mr. Potter takes another sip of his drink and then continues to puff on his cigar as he stares into the sunset and the camera rises into the sky and rests on the setting sun.

EXT. HOSPITAL - SUNSET

SEPTEMBER

The camera stays on the setting sun for a moment before a hospital is revealed and a boy, PETER MCCLATCHY, a thirteen-year-old read head that appears dirty and tired as he stares out the window at the setting sun.

The theme from the sitcom Taxi, Angela, begins to play. Peter looks behind him at the television in the corner.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME TIME

Peter watches the episode of Taxi begin. After a moment, he turns back to the window.

PETER  
Ah, they just played this one.

Peter picks several comic books up from next to his chair by the window and rifles through them. Peter realizes he's read each comic too many times and stacks them back on the floor.

Peter stares out the window. PETER'S MOTHER, a bald, sickly woman in the hospital bed a few feet away from Peter wakes up and sees Peter staring out the window.

PETER'S MOTHER  
It'll come.

Peter realizes his mother's awake and rushes to her side.

PETER'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

It'll be here very soon my big,  
thirteen-year-old man.

PETER

I wasn't thinking about that.

PETER'S MOTHER

Well, you better start. We're  
going to do something special,  
even if it has to be in here. I'm  
sorry I can't...

PETER

It's fine, please don't worry.

Peter's Mother reaches out for a hug.

PETER (CONT'D)

Mom, the germs, I haven't  
showered.

PETER'S MOTHER

I don't care.

Peter hugs his mother while feeling guilty about his cleanliness. Peter's Mother begins to cough. Peter leaves his mother's side and rushes into the bathroom.

INT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

Peter quickly enters the bathroom and washes his hands several times. Peter stares at himself in the mirror as he prepares a cold washcloth for his mother and a dry washcloth to collect what Peter's Mother is coughing up. Peter EXITS the bathroom carrying the washcloths.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME TIME

Peter enters back into the room and rushes to his mother's side. Peter puts the cold, wet wash cloth on his mother's forehead and holds the dry washcloth to his mother's mouth. Peter collects his mother's discharge and examines the washcloth. The washcloth is covered in mucus, dry blood, and new blood. Peter puts the washcloth away. Peter strokes his mother's face. Peter's mother's eyes begin to dart wildly in and out of consciousness.

PETER'S MOTHER

I don't know what I'd do without  
you, Peter Rabbit. You take such  
good care of me.

(MORE)

PETER'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

It's just me and you, my Peter  
Rabbit. Just me and...

Peter's mother's eyes dart one last time before they remain completely open.

PETER

Mom?

The monitor next to the bed turns to a still line and a LONG BEEP.

PETER (CONT'D)

Mommy?

ALARMS begin to sound, and several doctors ENTER the room. Peter is moved out of the way and out into the hall by NURSE BETTY, a young nurse.

EXT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME TIME

Nurse Betty continues to hold Peter outside of the hospital room as Peter looks in through the door's windowpane. Peter sees a doctor slamming defibrillator paddles into his mother's chest.

A moment later, Nurse Betty moves Peter back as doctors urgently rush Peter's Mother's bed out of the hospital room and down the hall. Nurse Betty crouches down to Peter.

NURSE BETTY

Wait right here a second. Please,  
I'll be right back, just wait  
here.

Nurse Betty jogs down the hall after Peter's mother. Peter stands alone in the hallway, emotionless.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Peter lies emotionless in the fetal position on a hospital bed inside of a dim hospital room. A patient COUGHS in the bed next to Peter.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NEXT DAY

Peter stands in front of his mother's grave emotionless with a priest and a tall well-dressed black man holding an umbrella, Peter's social service worker, JACK FITZ.

INT. CAR - LATER

Peter sits in the back of Jack's Chrysler and stares out the window of the car as they drive through Peter's neighborhood. Peter sees children riding bikes.

EXT. PETER'S HOUSE - LATER

Jack walks with a clipboard to Peter's front door as Peter follows him. Jack smiles at Peter as a collection van parks in front of the house.

INT. PETER'S HOUSE - LATER

A framed picture of Peter catching a fish flashes in front of the camera. A framed picture of Peter in a school production flashes in front of the camera. A framed picture of Peter and Peter's mother building a stone light house flashes in front of the camera. A framed picture of Peter's mother sitting near the ocean reading flashes in front of the camera. A framed picture of Peter's Mother kissing Peter's cheek while Peter squirms above a birthday cake flashes in front of the camera.

The Framed Picture of Peter's Mother kissing Peter is taken off the stairwell wall by a man in a blue jumpsuit and stacked onto a pile of framed pictures as another man in a blue jumpsuit carries a box of dresses and shoes down the stairs and out of the house.

Peter watches from the living room facing the stairwell wall as a television plays in front of him. A moment later, the theme song from Taxi fills the room. Peter immediately changes the channel with anger. A moment later Saved By The Bell Comes on the television. Peter watches.

INT. CHRYSLER - LATER

Peter sits in the back seat of his Chrysler with his suitcase and belongings and stares out the window. Jack looks in his rearview mirror and watches Peter.

JACK

The place we're going, St. Anastasia's, it's, it's not so bad. Used to be a hospital, and then a lot of other things. Now, it's for... It's an ok place, I promise.



Jack continues to look at Peter through the rearview mirror as Peter continues to stare out the window.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - LATER

The Chrysler parks in front of 8280 Brouwer street. Both Jack and Peter exit the vehicle. Jack takes most of Peter's belongings. As they walk the many steps leading to the freshly painted beige double doors of the multiple story building, a HOMELESS MAN approaches Peter and Jack.

HOMELESS MAN

Hey, buddy, you got a quarter?

JACK

No, sorry, pal.

The Homeless Man spits on Jack's shoes and continues walking. Jack becomes upset, but realizes his hands are full and Peter's right next to him. Jack continues to walk up to the freshly painted beige double doors.

JACK (CONT'D)

Peter, mind getting the door?

Peter takes his free hand and tugs on the door, but the doors don't come open. After another attempt, Jack puts down Peter's belongings and pulls on the doors. After a movement Jack forcefully opens the door, HUFFS, and picks up Peter's belongings while Peter holds the door.

INT. LOBBY - LATER

Peter and Jack ENTER the lobby. The lobby is old and dim with dying fluorescent lights in the ceiling. The Lobby contains several doors and halls as, TIFFANY, a young redheaded woman with neon red hair and purple eyeliner sits at a tall wooden desk with a counter in the middle of the room, filing her neon green nails. The desk is covered in stacks of papers.

Tiffany watches All My Children on a small black and white television between stacks of paper. Jack and Peter approach Tiffany and put down Peter's belongings. Jack leans on the counter of Tiffany's desk and smiles.

TIFFANY

What can I do for you, Jack?

Tiffany doesn't stop watching the television or filing her nails.

JACK

Evening, Tiff. How are the stories?

TIFFANY

All My Children has gotten predictable.

Without looking away from the television, Tiffany reaches her hand out for paperwork.

JACK

They should put some black people in the cast, nobody would see it coming.

Tiffany smirks at Jack.

JACK (CONT'D)

I could be one of the children.

Tiffany LAUGHS and leans over the counter.

TIFFANY

Stay, there's enough drama here. Like the new paint job on the doors?

JACK

Whoever did it doesn't know what they're doing, the paint's sticking. What happened this time?

Tiffany curls her index finger and makes a HISSING noise.

JACK (CONT'D)

Local artists, huh? Seems like every week. Hope you got a fresh bucket ready,

TIFFANY

Real dirty stuff last week. Dr. Slater was pissed.

JACK

Slater's gonna Slaughter, watch out.

Jack and Tiffany LAUGH. Jack remembers Peter at his side.

JACK (CONT'D)

Peter needs a badge when you can, Tiff.

Tiffany Writes on a Name tag and then walks around the desk to place it on Peter's chest.

TIFFANY

Hi, Peter, I'm Tiffany. We're going to get you all set up here, ok?

Tiffany smooths out the name tag on Peter's chest. Peter looks down at the name tag and notices that PETER is spelled PETTER.

PETER

It's only one T.

TIFFANY

What, sweetie?

PETER

Peter's spelled with one T.

TIFFANY

Oh, I'm sorry, sweetie.

Tiffany crosses out her mistake and writes Peter on the name tag.

PETER

Thanks.

TIFFANY

All better.

Tiffany YELLS down the hall for Joe. Joe ENTERS the Lobby.

JOE

Present.

TIFFANY

Joe, this is Peter. He's going to be staying with us for a while if you wouldn't mind showing him to his room. I think 304 is open.

JOE

Nice to meet you, Pete.

Joe picks up Peter's belongings. Peter realizes he's to follow and picks up his belongings. Joe extends his free hand.

JOE (CONT'D)

Put it there.

Peter shakes Joes hand. Joe shakes his mustache. Peter slightly smiles.

JOE (CONT'D)

That's a good man. Right this way.

Peter follows Joe out of the lobby. As they EXIT Peter overhears Jack.

JACK

It's his birthday to top it all off, poor kid.

INT. HALLWAYS - SOMETIME LATER

Peter follows Joe through several hallways and double doors only accessible by a key card. Eventually, Joe opens a set of double doors into a new lobby attached to three colored hallways.

The hallway floor leading left is painted blue, the hallway leading straight is painted green, and the hallway leading right is painted red.

JOE

Ok, this is our stop. Now, all you need to remember is to the left is where the older people stay. The kids stay on the right. The cafeteria, common room, and everything else is down the green. Just remember, red and green is for you, no blue.

Peter nods, understanding. Soft CRYING comes from behind the red hall's door.

INT. RED HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER.

Joe opens the door of the red hallway and the CRYING grows louder. The hallway has rooms on its left and a long, grated window the length of the hall on its right. As Joe and Peter enter, they see a six-year-old boy, CHARLIE, sitting on the floor and crying.

JOE

Damn it, Charlie! You're supposed to be in your room. I'm not telling you again.

Joe and Peter continue walking as Charlie continues crying behind them.

As they walk, they pass an open door with a fourteen-year-old girl inside, Mazzy, dressed in dark clothes and goth makeup.

Peter and MAZZY make eye contact as Peter passes. Peter and Joe travel down the hall a few more doors until they reach room 304.

JOE (CONT'D)

You might be getting a roommate soon. You never know in this place. For now, enjoy the privacy. Dinner is in an hour if you're hungry.

Joe opens the door to 304, flips on the light, and puts Peter's belongings on the floor. Joe immediately walks to Charlie, Picks him up, and carries him past Peter's door further down the hallway.

INT. ROOM 304 - MOMENTS LATER

Peter ENTERS 304 carrying some of his belongings. The walls of the room are white with chipping paint containing a mirror on one side and a calendar by the room's only window. A small made bed, a nightstand with a light and an alarm clock, along with a small chest of drawers and a closet are the only things in the room.

Peter puts his belongings down, walks around the bed, and sits on the bed facing the window. Peter sees the sun setting through the window and then looks at the calendar. The calendar has a picture of the Statue of Liberty.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - PAST

Peter's Mother sits next to Peter on a field trip to the Statue of Liberty, laughing with him.

INT. ROOM 304 - PRESENT

Peter sits on his bed staring at the calendar emotionless.

EXT. FERRY - PAST

Peter and Peter's Mother ride the ferry to the Statue of Liberty. They both wear foam hats and someone takes a picture of them together.

EXT. DOCK - PAST

Peter and Peter's Mother stand together looking through a coin operated telescope at the sunsetting over New York City.

INT. ROOM 304 - PRESENT

The Dock sunset transforms into the sunset outside of room Peter stares at the sunset emotionless. Peter lies on his side facing the window and curls into a fetal position.

INT. ROOM 304 - MORNING

Peter opens his eyes and hears YELLING and LAUGHING in the hall outside. Peter closes his eyes. Peter opens his eyes and hears LAUGHING and RUNNING in the hallway. Peter closes his eyes.

Peter opens his eyes and hears WHISPERING coming from outside his door. Peter closes his eyes. Peter opens his eyes and Charlie is lying on his side facing Peter.

CHARLIE

You gotta shower and have  
Breakfast, my name's Charlie.

Charlie hears his name being called several times outside of the room. Charlie laughs and quickly rolls off the bed and hides underneath. Peter sits up. A moment later, a twelve-year-old boy with shaggy hair, TOMMY, ENTERS room 304. Tommy and Peter look at each other in awkward silence.

TOMMY

Hey, I'm Tommy. Have you seen a  
little kid named Charlie?

PETER

I'm Peter, he's under the bed.

Tommy GROWLS and reaches under the bed. Tommy pulls out Charlie and holds him upside down in the air as Charlie laughs.

TOMMY

You're lucky I don't kick your  
ass!

CHARLIE

You're lucky I don't kick YOUR  
ass!

Charlie swings wildly at the air.

TOMMY

Oh, Charlie cursed! I'm telling  
Joe.

CHARLIE

No, you cursed. I'll tell him  
first.

Tommy puts Charlie down. Charlie fixes his shirt and runs  
out of the room. Tommy locks the door and walks over to  
Peter.

TOMMY

So when did you get in?

Tommy and Peter look at the door as Charlie POUNDS and  
SCREAMS on the other side.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

He'll give up eventually.

After another moment, Charlie laughs and runs down the  
hallway.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

See?

PETER

Last night, I got in last night.

TOMMY

They must a snuck you in while we  
were in the green. Who died?

Peter doesn't respond. Tommy sees Peter's belongings and  
delicately looks through them.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

My folks died in a car wreck, wow,  
like, four years ago. I was living  
with my grandmother until she died  
too. I was over at Daughters for a  
year and then they moved us here a  
few months ago. It's not that bad,  
Daughters didn't let us watch  
cartoons. Oh, no way...

Tommy sees a binder filled with X Men trading cards and begins flipping through it. Peter watches Tommy. Tommy smiles at Peter.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Who's your favorite?

Peter lowers his head, shows his teeth and makes his fists into a cross in front of his chest. As Peter does this, an illustrated Wolverine mask appears on Peter's face and illustrated claws grow from his fists.

PETER

Wolverine!

Tommy laughs and collects himself.

TOMMY

I like Gambit.

Tommy takes a deck of cards out of his pocket. Tommy takes one card out of the deck and an illustrated glow surrounds the card. Tommy throws the card across the room. When the card hits the wall, an illustrated explosion consumes the card. Peter laughs.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

We can watch X-Men on Saturdays if you want. That's what me and Charlie do.

PETER

What happened to his folks?

TOMMY

He was a drop-off. He's always been here, I mean, an orphan or whatever. I think he's used to it. Just don't hug him. He'll never leave you alone if you hug him.

Tommy closes the binder, rises, and walks to the door.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Well, you need to get clean and grab something to eat. You're way late and they'll probably try and teach us something today. Showers are down and left. I saw Joe put your suitcases outside the door earlier. I made sure Charlie didn't mess with them because I thought a kid would be coming later,



Tommy opens the door.

PETER

My mom died.

Tommy stops and looks down.

TOMMY

Yeah, I really miss my mom. My dad was never really around. He must have loved his job a lot. I really miss my mom, though.

Tommy brings in Peter's suitcase then EXITS. Peter sits alone.

INT. CAFETERIA LATER

Peter sits with wet hair alone at a table in a small green and white cafeteria. Peter picks at his cold plate of breakfast food. Peter eats as much as he can, clears his tray and EXITS through the cafeteria's strong, thick, green double doors with glass windowpanes.

INT. TELEVISION ROOM - SOON AFTER

Senior residents sit in loungers and a circular couch watching the Price is Right. A few other residents sit around the room reading and playing board games. Peter walks past the television room, comes back and slowly ENTERS. Peter stands for a minute admiring the room. As soon as he hears the Price is Right theme music, Peter moves closer to the television. Peter sees an empty recliner and sits down. The contestants on the program begin to bet on the showcase. The senior residents around Peter also bet on the showcase.

PETER

Five hundred dollars!

All of the elderly people turn and stare at Peter.

DR. SLATER

And where are you supposed to be?

Peter turns his head and sees the angry face of Dr. Slater hovering over him.

PETER

I don't know.

Dr. Slater becomes more irritated.

DR. SLATER

It's time for lessons. All of the children are at lessons right now, why aren't you?

PETER

No one told me where...

DR. SLATER

What's your name?

PETER

Peter, Peter McCl...

Dr. Slater turns from Peter.

DR. SLATER

Joseph, get in here!

Joseph ENTERS and stands in front of Dr. Slater.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Why is this child not with the others?

Joe acknowledges Peter.

JOE

Hey, Pete, there you are, buddy. I was just looking for you. Cant keep me away from the Showcase Showdown neither. Dr. Slater, this is Peter McClatchy. Very sorry, ma'am, he came in last night. We like to give the children a little time to adjust in the morning when they first get here. It's easier on all of us that way. I'm sure he just finished breakfast and Bob Barker never did anyone bad.

DR. SLATER

We have rules here, Joseph.

Dr. Slater motions for Peter to stand. Peter stands.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

One of the rules is that you leave our elderly residents alone. You are not to be in this room, bothering everyone, when there is somewhere else for you to be.

(MORE)

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Everyone has to follow the schedule or there will be chaos, Peter. Do you know what that is? If you don't follow the rules, there will be consequences. You must learn that too. You will be punished for today, but it will not go on your record. Do you understand? I will make sure Joseph gives you a copy of the daily and weekly schedule to memorize and the book the group is currently reading so you're not behind. You will spend the rest of the day in the Disobedience Room.

Dr. Slater begins to exit and points high up into Joe's face.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Keep a better eye on the children, Joseph, or I'll find someone who will.

Dr. Slater EXITS. Joe watches her leave and shakes his head before turning to Pete.

JOE

Sorry Pete, I didn't think Slater would be by today. I meant to grab you earlier, but I wanted to let you sleep in a little. Let's get you to the room before I get you in any more trouble.

Peter follows Joe out of the television room as the senior residents watch Peter. As soon as The Price is Right returns, all of their attention is drawn back to the television.

INT. HALLWAY - LATER

Joe leads Peter down a long, brightly lit hall. Joe brings Peter to a door labeled OPERATION ROOM Q. Joe unlocks the door. As soon as Joe opens the door, a small amount of smoke pours into the hall. Joe shakes his head and ENTERS.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - SAME TIME

Joe and Peter stand in the doorway of Operation room Q. The room is covered in pale tiles and has two tables with two chairs at each table. Mr. Potter sits in the furthest chair at the furthest table, smoking a cigar.

JOE

Mr. Potter didn't mean to surprise you, sir.

MR. POTTER

She threw me in here early, Joseph. I'm glad, I was craving a stogie.

JOE

We both know you cant smoke in here, Mr. Potter. Save it for coffee tonight and I'll have one with you. Im sure Pete here would like it better if it was out too. He's your new cellmate.

MR. POTTER

They let us smoke at Golden Hills!

JOE

No, they didn't. My buddy, Larry, worked over there.

MR. POTTER

They also didn't put us in time-out, with kids. This place, everybody's welcome here, from eight to eighty. Its written over the damn door, for Christmas Shakes!

Dr. Slater's HIGH HEELS can be heard stomping down the hallway. Dr. Slater ENTERS.

DR. SLATER

What exactly is going on in here?

JOE

We just walked in.

MR. POTTER

I'm as shocked as you are, sweetie. You know they got kids in this place?

Mr. Potter smiles and puffs his cigar.

DR. SLATER

We have been over this too many times. There is no smoking on the premises, Mr. Potter.

Dr. Slater marches across the room and takes the cigar from Mr. Potter's mouth. Potter slams his hand on the table.

POTTER

They let us smoke at Golden Hills, damn it!

DR. SLATER

This is not Golden Hills. This facility is different, and we have rules here. I don't want to have this conversation with you again.

MR. POTTER

Then don't. You know, sugar, you're not as delightful as you think you are.

Dr. Slater walks back toward Joe.

DR. SLATER

He gets two weeks straight in here, besides meals and sleep. Understand, Joseph?

Dr. Slater moves into the doorway and points to Peter, Joe, and Mr. Potter.

DR. SLATERR

You will learn the rules, all of you,

Dr. Slater EXITS. Joe waits until he knows Dr. Slater is around the corner.

JOE

All right, I'll go grab the T.V.

Joe begins to EXIT.

MR. POTTER

Hey, Joe, what are the rules?

JOE

Rules are; Taxi reruns start at noon and Mr. Potter doesn't miss 'em.

MR. POTTER

Good man.

Joe EXITS. Peter and Mr. Potter awkwardly try not to look at each other.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Bourbon?

Mr. Potter offers his glass to Peter. Peter is stunned, but slowly moves to take the glass.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Yeah, right! No one touches my bourbon. If that dame tried to yank this away from me, I'd a popped her.

PETER

I don't mind if you smoke.

MR. POTTER

I'd do it anyway. What's your name, kid?

PETER

Peter.

MR. POTTER

Call me Potter. If you keep standing there, Joseph's going to run you over with the cart.

Potter kicks the seat next to him out and Peter sits down. Joe pushes a rolling cart holding a television into the room. Joe hums the theme from Taxi as he plugs in the television, pours himself a bourbon and sits down. Peter looks uneasy between Mr. Potter and Joe relaxing.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

What'd they paint the doors?

JOE

It's like a peach.

MR. POTTER

It ain't white though, right?

Joe shakes his head and goes into his pocket for money.

JOE

No, ain't white. They better use it next time. They got three big damn buckets of it down there.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

So, when is your man gonna paint  
'em?  
I'm already putting twenty down on  
white.

MR. POTTER

Tuesday, Ill put you down for  
twenty, Joseph.

JOE

Good, if I lose one more  
week...that damn Latka makes me  
laugh every time. Just looking at  
him makes me laugh.

Joe laughs hard at the television. The sound of DR.  
SLATERS VOICE comes over Joe's radio.

JOE (CONT'D)

Up, duty calls.

Joe finishes his drink and EXITS. Peter and Mr. Potter  
sit in awkward silence. Peter is still uncomfortable  
watching Taxi.

MR. POTTER

You see this show before? It's a  
classic, you'll like it. Takes  
place in a Taxi Depot in New York  
back in the late seventies. It  
stars Danny Vegito, you probably  
know that guy. It also stars Andy  
Kaufman, but you wouldn't know  
him. No one funnier than that Andy  
Kaufman. You probably won't like  
any of this, but it's what we're  
watching. See, that guy, that guy  
right there thats...

Peter erupts in frustration.

PETER

Tony Danza, he plays Tony Banta  
and was also on Who's the Boss?  
That's Christopher Lloyd, he plays  
Iggy and has been in lots of  
things, including Back to the  
Future which I've seen, like, ten  
times. Oh, and it's Danny DeVito,  
not Vegito, or whatever you said.  
Did you know he played the Penguin  
in, Batman Returns? It took me  
twice watching to figure that out.

MR. POTTER

That was mildly impressive. Let me get a little liquored up and then you can show me some half decent cartoons, deal?

Peter agrees.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - LUNCH

Peter and Mr. Potter both eat plates of spaghetti as they watch The People's Court, and both hum the theme song.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - AFTERNOON

Peter and Mr. Potter laugh at an episode of Animaniacs as Joe ENTERS the room holding money.

JOE

Alright, Pete, you've served your time. Now, you gotta go to dinner in the green. Here you go, Potter. Lenny was the only pay out.

Joe hands Mr. Potter the money and Mr. Potter counts it.

MR. POTTER

Why isn't he letting it ride, Joseph?

JOE

I tried, I tried. He said he was tired of losing,

MR. POTTER

Any takers for next week.

JOE

Frida wants ten on green.

MR. POTTER

Ha, They don't even keep green paint downstairs. That's an easy ten.

JOE

That's why I just smiled and took the money. Alright, Pete, we best get to eating.

Peter rises and Joe begins to lead him out of the room.



POTTER

You want a job or what?

Peter turns back in surprise.

MR. POTTER

You seem to keep your mouth shut, you don't ask questions and don't seem like a complete and total cretin. We could use you in the racket. Agree, Joseph?

JOE

Pete's my man.

MR. POTTER

Good, now, your first job is to tell that little dipshit, Billy that he's out. That kid didn't know what he was doing anyway. You get a trial period like everyone else, even Joe had a trial period, once upon a time. You make it through the trial period, and you'll feel like you own this place. You're going to need to get yourself one of these little notebooks to keep track of people, but I'll lend you mine for now.

PETER

People?

MR. POTTER

Bets! We take bets on everything. Your first bet is going to be, What color they paint the front doors next week? You have to take all bets by the end of Monday night. The graffiti will happen on Tuesday night. We collect, or, in the rarest of occasions, we payout on Wednesday. I take the old folks, Joe handles the staff, and now, you, handle the kids. Take the bets, take their money, and bring it back to me. Here's something to start out with so, you know, you look legit.

Mr. Potter hands Peter a small wad of money and a notebook. Peter stares at the money and notebook, perplexed.

PETER

What if, what if everybody wins  
and I have to give them all my  
money?

Mr. Potter and Joe laugh.

MR. POTTER

Peter, my boy, we're the house.  
Nobody beats the house. In fact,  
if someone does beat you or thinks  
they did, just tell them to let  
the bet carry over until next  
week.  
They never win twice in a row.

JOE

Never.

MR. POTTER

Just go talk to Billy tonight at  
dinner. It's Wednesday, so collect  
what people owe him and bring it  
in to show me on Friday. That  
gives you two days, kid. We'll  
watch more Taxi. Welcome aboard.

Peter smiles and nods as he EXITS.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Peter stands in line for dinner behind BILLY, a nine-year-old boy with thick glasses and a constant dumb look on his face. Billy turns in line and looks at Peter.

BILLY

Are you new or something?

PETER

Or something.

BILLY

I'm Billy.

PETER

You're Billy?

BILLY

Yeah, I'm Billy, who are you.

PETER

I'm Peter. Potter says you're out,  
I'm in.

Billy looks sad and scared for a moment.

BILLY

Oh, thank god!

Billy pulls Peter out of line. Peter looks around, embarrassed, as Billy talks loudly and digs through his pockets.

BILLY (CONT'D)

Mike paid, that's the quarters. Julie said she would pay me tomorrow, but she always says that. Roger broke even from guessing brown two weeks ago. Tommy still owes, Charlie still owes, and Mazzy, well, she usually takes my money whether she wins or loses, so...

Peter reads Billy's notebook.

PETER

It says five bucks and blue next to your name, Billy.

BILLY

Oh, that.

Billy finds five more dollars and hands it to Peter. Peter stops Billy and makes him nicely fold the money before handing it to Peter.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Peter carries a tray of food and sits at a table with Tommy and Charlie. Tommy is playing Three-card Monte with Charlie. Charlie is losing.

CHARLIE

Tommy's cheating... I think.

TOMMY

(CAJUN ACCENT) You must pay more attention, Mon Ami. Would you like to try, Wolverine?

PETER

Play what?

Tommy shuffles and places the cards.

TOMMY

Just a little Three Card Monte.  
It's simple. Just find the lady,  
couldn't be easier,

Peter eyes the cards and picks the third card on the right. Tommy laughs and flips the card but is stunned the card is actually a queen.

PETER

That'll be ten bucks.

TOMMY

We never bet money, Mon Ami. Good thing too, beginner's luck.

PETER

Not for the cards, Cajun, for the doors.

Peter shows Tommy the notebook.

TOMMY

You mean for Potter? What happened to Billy?

PETER

He's out, Bub.

TOMMY

Man, you work fast, Pete. We're gonna have to start betting less. We never paid Billy, nobody did. Whose next on your list?

Tommy and Charlie go through their pockets and shoes collecting Peter's money.

PETER

Uh, Mazzy?

TOMMY

You mean the Dark Queen! She will not be as easy for you as the two of us. You'll be lucky if she doesn't crush your nuts.

CHARLIE

Those boots, Tommy. Could you imagine with those boots?

Charlie SQUEALS and rolls under the table. Tommy reshuffles the cards and lays three down.

TOMMY

Yeah, she wears Doc Martens. They're like army boots, thick rubber. Hard to heal back from, Wolverine. She's Goth, she likes the darkness and dark things and plays her music too loudly. My point being, she will want to crush your nuts.

PETER

Any advice, Cajun?

TOMMY

Yeah.

Peter flips over a three of spades.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Crush her nuts first.

Charlie continues to roll on the floor laughing as Peter rises and walks across the cafeteria. Peter counts the steps and walks slowly toward the table in the far corner where Mazzy sits alone only eating the pudding off of her full tray of food. Peter approaches and tries to act cool.

PETER

You Mazzy?

Mazzy slowly eats pudding and doesn't acknowledge Peter.

PETER (CONT'D)

Billy says you owe seven dollars for the doors. You guessed black, they painted 'em peach. Well, like a peach. I don't really remem...

Mazzy spits pudding onto the crotch of Peter's pants. Peter stares at Mazzy and gathers a wad of mucus and spits it into Mazzy's pudding. Mazzy is completely shocked as Peter moves out of the range of her boots.

PETER (CONT'D)

You owe seven. You owed Billy, now you owe me. I know change can be difficult, so you have 'till Thursday to pay me. There is no Friday. Friday does not exist between you and me. I wouldn't want to have to put on my Doc Martens and dance all over you while I eat your pudding, Bub.

Peter confidently turns around to walk away. As Peter turns around, He walks directly into an elderly resident, JOAN DAILY, and knocks into her tray, causing them both to fall onto the floor and Joan daily on top of Peter.

Joan Daily smacks Peter repeatedly as she's helped off of him. Peter lies on the ground covered in food. Mazzy appears over Peter, laughing and holding a spoon of pudding. Mazzy flicks the spoonful of pudding directly onto Peter's forehead.

INT. CAFETERIA - BREAKFAST

Peter, Tommy, and Charlie sit at their table eating breakfast. Mazzy approaches and all of the boys stare at her silently. Mazzy holds out a five-dollar bill. Peter smiles and rises to take the bill. As soon as Peter is standing, Mazzy kicks Peter in the groin.

Peter YELLS in Pain. Tommy and Charlie SCREAM in terror. Mazzy stands over Peter and laughs. Mazzy drops the bill on Peter's chest. Peter smiles as he watches Mazzy walk away.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - DAYS LATER

Peter and Mr. Potter sit and watch an episode of Knight Rider. During the break, a commercial for the movie, The Crow plays. Peter stares at the television with wonder and excitement.

MR. POTTER

What's this garbage you're pining over?

PETER

It can't be garbage, that's Bruce Lee's son. Have you ever seen a Bruce Lee movie?

POTTER

You gotta stop with the old man routine, kid. Next you're gonna tell me how many kills you had in Korea. I was watching Bruce Lee movies before your daddy was still crapping in his pants. The man was a legend. Have I ever seen a Bruce Lee movie?

Mr. Potter attacks Peter with karate chops. Peter defends himself with karate chops. Both Peter and Potter bow to each other.

POTTER (CONT'D)

Well, we gotta go see it now.  
Gotta see if he's as good as his  
pappy, don't we?

Peter smiles with excitement.

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Peter eats dinner with Tommy and Charlie as he suspiciously looks to the back of the cafeteria at Potter's table and to Joe standing by the double doors. Suddenly, Joe makes a CROW SOUND. Peter laughs and quickly finishes his meal. Tommy notices how weird Peter is acting.

TOMMY

What's that all about?

PETER

Nothing, later stuff.

TOMMY

What about later? Nothing happens later, it's game night. You'll watch me try and teach Charlie Gin Rummy again and we'll fight the old folks for the remote control. Same as last week.

PETER

Not me, I have plans.

TOMMY

You going on a mission or something, Weapon X?

PETER

Or something.

Joe again makes the bird sound. Tommy looks at Joe, then at Mr. Potter and then points at Peter.

TOMMY

You're getting out.

PETER

What?

TOMMY

You're getting out, you sly dog!  
With Potter, Joe's signaling both  
of you. Don't forget, you're the  
one who's new here, Mon Ami. Where  
are you going?

CHARLIE

It's gotta do with birds.

TOMMY

Yeah, what was that, a bird noise?  
Sounded like a bird. Why the hell  
you seeing birds on a Friday  
night? He taking you to the zoo or  
something?

Charlie SQUEALS with excitement.

CHARLIE

The Crow, Tommy! Tommy, The Crow!

TOMMY

No way, no way! There is no way  
that old man is taking you to see  
The Crow. We've been seeing  
commercials for two weeks. Man, if  
I didn't want to be Gambit so bad,  
I'd be the crow. Take us with you.

CHARLIE

Yeah, take us with you!

PETER

Um...

TOMMY

We were gonna bribe Potter to take  
us in a couple weeks anyway if it  
makes you feel better.

PETER

It doesn't.

INT. BLUE, GREEN, AND RED LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

Potter and Joe stand in the Lobby. Peter enters followed  
by Tommy and Charlie. The boys stand in front of Potter.  
Potter looks over the boys, annoyed.

MR. POTTER

What's this bullshit?



PETER

I, they knew the calls. It wasn't a secret.

MR. POTTER

Damn liabilities, Joseph. That's all kids are, damn liabilities.

CHARLIE

We'll pay.

MR. POTTER

Damn right you'll pay! What'd you think this was, a free ride? How old's that kid? He's a damn baby, for crying out loud!

CHARLIE

I'm not a...

Tommy covers Charlie's mouth.

TOMMY

He'll be cool, we'll all be cool, Potter. We were gonna ask you in a couple weeks anyway. We didn't mean any disrespect. We just, it's The Crow, man.

MR. POTTER

You'll be cool, man? Who taught you how to speak, hippie? You call me sir and nothing else. That goes for the baby, too. And I ain't changing diapers. All right, all right! I gotta make a stop. We gotta go. I swear if any one of you acts up, I'm gonna sell you to the gypsies. I know one over on Third. Joseph, the way, please.

Mr. Potter follows Joe followed by Peter, Tommy and Charlie.

EXT. HARDWARE STORE - EVENING

Mr. Potter walks in front of a hardware store and turns to Peter, Tommy, and Charlie.

MR. POTTER

All right, you kids stay here. I gotta go in and I ain't watching you. Hold hands in a circle.

PETER

What?

MR. POTTER

Hold hands in a circle and pretend like you're praying or something. No one will bug you.

TOMMY

Praying? For what?

MR. POTTER

That I don't kick your smart ass before we even make it to the show, cool guy.

Mr. Potter ENTERS the hardware store as Peter, Tommy, and Charlie hold hands in a circle and pray.

INT. ALLEYWAY - LATER

Mr. Potter carries a spray paint can in a paper bag and walks past an alley covered in graffiti as a group of youths skateboards around, smoke, drink, and listen to loud music. Peter, Tommy, and Charlie watch in fear as Mr. Potter gingerly walks down the alley toward the boys.

The leader of the boys greets Mr. Potter warmly, shaking his hand and laughing at a joke. Potter hands the youth leader the paper bag and a few bills. Mr. Potter and the youth leader shake again before Mr. Potter walks back toward the boys.

MR. POTTER

Gotta support the local artists.

EXT. MOVIE THEATRE - NIGHT

Potter approaches the theatre and sees the line. Potter tells the boys to wait in the alley. Peter, Tommy and Charlie walk behind the theatre as Mr. Potter enters the theatre.

EXT. BACK OF MOVIE THEATER - LATER

The rain pours down on Peter, Tommy, and Charlie as they stand under the small roof of theater's exit and hold their jackets over their heads.

TOMMY

He's just gonna leave us out here.  
He'd do it, you know? He's sitting  
with a big tub of popcorn just  
laughing it up. I bet you two  
bucks.

PETER

I'll take that bet.

TOMMY

We'll be wet as hell, but at least  
I'll have two...

A moment later, the boys SCREAM as thunder crackles and the theatre door behind them flies open. Potter stands holding a bucket of popcorn in the doorway.

MR. POTTER

Pipe down, babies, and get the  
hell in here!

INT. MOVIE THEATRE - MOMENTS LATER

Mr. Potter leads the boys into the busy theatre. Mr. Potter finds a row with three empty seats. Peter and Tommy sit, and Mr. Potter makes Charlie sit on Tommy's lap. Mr. Potter sits, takes a handful of popcorn, and passes the bucket to Peter.

The lights in the theatre begin to dim and the previews start. As the theatre turns completely black, Mr. Potter looks around and notices that people are still talking.

MR. POTTER

Hey, shut the hell up!

The theatre begins to quiet down. Soon, the feature presentation begins. As the Crow begins with its violence and darkness, Mr. Potter, Peter, and Tommy all enjoy the movie. Charlie becomes noticeably uncomfortable and begins to cry quietly.

TOMMY

Charlie, stop! Look away.

AUDIENCE MEMBER

Who brought a baby? Get him out a  
here.

CHARLIE

I'm not a baby!

Charlie CRIES OUT loudly. A MALE USHER's flashlights turns on in the back of the theatre and begins to scan the audience. Mr. Potter sees the Usher coming toward him. Mr. Potter grabs Peter by the arm and pulls him up as Mr. Potter rises and leaves the aisle. Tommy and Charlie follow. Mr. Potter and the boys walk quickly toward the exit.

MALE USHER

Hey, stop right there!

The Usher's flashlight finds Mr. Potter and the boys. The boys, followed by Mr. Potter, take off running toward the exit.

EXT. ALLEY WAY - SECONDS LATER

Tommy ENTERS the alley first through the theater's exit, followed by Charlie and then Peter. Mr. Potter struggles to keep up with the boys and as soon as he's in the alley, the Male Usher catches up to him and grabs Mr. Potter by the sweater.

MR. POTTER

Let go of me you little shit! I was in the Korean War. You know how many people I've killed?

Peter hears Mr. Potter and turns back. Peter then turns and sees that Tommy and Charlie are rounding the corner as fast as they can. Peter pauses, then runs back toward Mr. Potter.

When Peter reaches the Male Usher holding Mr. Potter, Peter kicks the Male Usher hard in the groin. The Male Usher wales in pain as he falls into trash cans. Mr. Potter looks at Peter, mesmerized before the two escape.

INT. TAXI - MINUTES LATER

Mr. Potter and Peter sit in the back of a taxi. Mr. Potter smiles as he watches Tommy and Charlie running and the taxi quickly passing by them. Peter looks out the back window, worried for Tommy and Charlie.

MR. POTTER

Let 'em walk, they earned it. That was something else back there, kid. Never leave a man behind. We could have used you in Korea.

(MORE)

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

If we got surrounded, you could have just jumped out of the bushes and kicked everyone in the balls. Made Bruce Lee proud tonight, his son too. We'll see the next one he's in. I'm sure he'll be a star.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - LATER

Peter waits with Mr. Potter as Mr. Potter smokes a cigar. Soon, an exhausted Tommy and Charlie jog around the corner to meet them.

TOMMY

I'm sorry, I got scared. I just started running. We didn't mean to leave you.

MR. POTTER

Wasn't cool, man.

CHARLIE

I'm sorry.

Peter walks over to Charlie and hugs him. Peter looks back to Mr. Potter.

PETER

Same time next week?

MR. POTTER

Yeah, sure. Let's bring more babies next time.

INT. RED HALLWAY - LATER

Peter, Tommy, and Charlie walk down the hall, loudly discussing the minutes of the movie that they had seen while asking Charlie what made him cry. The boys pass by Mazzy's door. Mazzy is standing inside her doorway and she and Peter make eye contact.

PETER

Hey, thanks for the move, really came in handy.

Peter, Tommy, and Charlie continue down the hall talking. Mazzy leans her head out into the hall and watches Peter, smiling.

INT. CLASSROOM - NEXT DAY

Peter sits in a room with children of varying ages as an elderly woman reads a novel to them. Peter looks at the clock and realizes Taxi is almost on. Peter stands and interrupts the elderly woman's reading by flapping his wings and acting like a bird. The elderly woman becomes angry and points to the door.

INT. HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Peter and Joe strut on their way to Operation Room Q.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - SOON AFTER

Potter sits with a new, comfortable chair beside him for Peter and a large carton of chocolate milk on the table in front of the chair when Peter and Joe ENTER.

MR. POTTER

At ease soldier, I thought you wouldn't make it for a minute. Didn't want your milk getting warm or whatever. Yeah, your chocolate milk, Joe already has his. We need to keep muscles on those kicking legs.

Joe starts to LAUGH and then mimics Peter kicking the Male Usher in the groin. Peter smiles and sits in his new chair.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

I want you to know I really appreciate what you did for me the other night. Everything would have gone to shit, I can see it now. Kid would have had me, called the cops, and Dr. Slater would a slaughtered and would have all our asses. Cowards, those babies you brought with us. Not you. You're a good guy, could use more of them around here. You shouldn't hang with those boys anymore. They'll waste your time. Tonight at dinner, come sit at my table. I know the kids and the folks don't usually mix, but that could change. Why not? Besides, I don't eat my pudding. Its all yours.

Peter sips his chocolate milk and agrees.

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Peter carries his tray through the line and notices the staff is kinder to him and gives him larger helpings. Peter walks toward Tommy and Charlie's table carrying his full tray. Peter shrugs as he makes eye contact with Tommy and continues walking toward the back of the cafeteria.

Mr. Potter sees Peter and motions for him to sit next to him. Peter sits at the table with Mr. Potter and several other seniors, Oscar, Arthur and Estelle. After a moment of awkward stares, Potter finally points at Peter with his fork.

MR. POTTER

This is Peter. He kicked an usher in the jewels for me.

ARTHUR

Oh, you're Peter?

ESTELLE

Good for you, honey. I got goosed by an usher at the Paradigm back in seventy-two. I wish some nice young man would have handled him like that.

MR. POTTER

Big helpings tonight, huh Pete?

PETER

Yeah, lots of bad food.

Everyone at the table laughs.

OSCAR

He fits right in! Where'd you find this kid, Potter?

MR. POTTER

Had him shipped in last week, special.

The seniors people begin talking again as Peter eats his dinner and listens.

MAZZY

Can I have your pudding?

Mazzy suddenly stands feet away from Peter.

PETER

You can have a nice day.

MAZZY

Look how much you have? They took my dessert for a week.

PETER

Why's that?

MAZZY

I cursed at Carlson. It got boring after you left, bird boy.

PETER

I wish I could help. But I don't want to.

Mr. Potter realizes what is happening between Mazzy and Peter.

MR. POTTER

I'm trying to hear a wonderfully told story over here and you brats can't shut up. Here, sweetheart, take my pudding and this bastard and go sit over there for me.

Potter hands his pudding to Mazzy and pushes Peter toward the adjacent empty table. Mr. Potter winks at Peter. Peter and MAZZY sit alone at the empty table, awkwardly.

MAZZY

So, you guys looked like you were drying out on Friday night. Did you go play in the rain?

PETER

No, we went to the movies.

MAZZY

The movies? I didn't know there were any new Disney flicks out. How'd you guys manage that?

PETER

We didn't see a cartoon. We saw, The Crow, and we barely saw any of it. We got kicked out. One of the ushers tried to grab Potter and I kicked him, and we got away.



MAZZY

No way, The Crow? Oh, my god, I want to see that so badly. Brandon Lee is so hot. I want to get the soundtrack, but that will take, like, a million years in this place. Have you ever heard of The Stone Temple Pilots? They're on the soundtrack. Their lead singer is really hot, too. I have a CD of theirs in my room. We could listen to it later.

PETER

Um, yeah, I don't know, maybe. It's Monday night and I have to take bets for Potter. Plus, I promised the boys I'd play cards with them when the old folks watch the news.

MAZZY

I'll probably be hanging out in my room anyway if you want to come by. Hey, thanks for cleaning up.

Mazzy rises from the table, leaving her garbage, and exits. Peter smiles as he watches Mazzy leave. Peter turns to look at Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter stares at Peter with a cartoonish grin.

INT. RED HALLWAY - LATER

Peter nervously walks down the hall towards Mazzy's room and hears LOUD MUSIC playing from the room. Peter stands in the doorway of Mazzy's room.

INT. MAZZY'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Peter stands in Mazzy's doorway and looks at the room. The room is dark, and the walls are covered in band posters. The ceiling has a handful of glow in the dark plastic stars scattered over it. A clock radio/ CD player sits on a nightstand by the bed, producing the loud music.

Peter watches Mazzy as she finishes hanging a poster. Mazzy sees Peter.

MAZZY

I didn't think you were coming.

PETER

I was taking bets and I forgot you might want to make one. So, I thought I'd stop by.

MAZZY

Five bucks on black.

Mazzy lies down on the bed and stares at the stars.

PETER

I'll make a note of it.

There is silence until the music becomes too intense to ignore.

PETER (CONT'D)

Who the heck is this?

MAZZY

Nirvana, it's not for everybody.

Mazzy turns on the bed and pushes stop on the clock radio. MAZZY takes out the CD and puts another one in. Mazzy hits play and lies back down.

MAZZY (CONT'D)

This is the band I was telling you about.

PETER

They're better. I like 'em.

After a moment, Mazzy turns to Peter.

MAZZY

Quit standing, you're making me nervous. You can hear them better over here.

Peter nervously lies on the bed next to Mazzy.

PETER

Much better.

MAZZY

They're pretty good. The lead singer is really hot. He's not as hot as...

PETER

Jeesh! Is there anyone you don't think is hot?

MAZZY

Yeah, you.

Mazzy laughs. Peter blushes.

MAZZY (CONT'D)

Ah, you're all right.

PETER

Thanks, you too.

Mazzy turns toward Peter and shifts closer.

MAZZY

This place is so boring, I hate it.

PETER

I don't know. It's not so bad.

Peter smiles as he and Mazzy's faces are only inches away from each other.

CHARLIE

Do her!

TOMMY

Damn it, Charlie!

Peter and Mazzy turn and are surprised to see Tommy and Charlie watching from the doorway.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, we're sorry.

MAZZY

You will be!

Mazzy jumps out of bed and chases Tommy and Charlie out of the room. Peter holds a pillow over his face and SCREAMS.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - DAY

The double doors of the building are continuously covered in graffiti between being repainted: grey, black, green, red, blue, white, orange.

INT. CAFETERIA - HALLOWEEN

HALLOWEEN

Simple Halloween decorations hang on the walls of the cafeteria. The staff and residents are dressed in costumes. Peter, Tommy, and Charlie ENTER dressed as Wolverine, Gambit, and Cyclops of the X Men, respectively. After a moment, Mazzy enters dressed like Catwoman and walks by the boys.

TOMMY

Meow.

MAZZY

Shove it, Michelle Pfeiffer was a badass as Catwoman. Besides, little Lois wanted to be Batman, so I thought it'd be cute.

PETER

Adorable.

MAZZY

Better be careful, Wolfman, I'll scratch your eyes out.

Mazzy begins to walk away.

PETER

Hey I'm, I'm Wolverine.

MAZZY

Are you?

Mazzy joins other people in the cafeteria. Tommy looks at Peter suspiciously.

MR. POTTER

Then why the hell am I dressed like Dracula, for Christmas shakes?

Mr. Potter stands behind Peter dressed as Dracula.

PETER

Oh, no I, I meant Wolfman.

MR. POTTER

Good, did you see Frankenstein anywhere? I want to make sure we got everything,

PETER

Joe was in the T.V. Room, last time I checked.

MR. POTTER

Great, keep an eye on the place.

Mr. Potter covers his face with his cape and EXITS. Tommy and Charlie crowd Peter.

PETER

Ha, silly old man. Telling him Wolverine was like the Wolfman was the only way I could explain it to him.

TOMMY

You wouldn't be trying to win the costume contest with two groups, Would you, Mon Ami?

PETER

Fine, you got me, but it's not like that. I just wanted to do it with both of you. Please, don't tell Potter. I'm not trying to get on his bad side over a Halloween costume.

TOMMY

No problem, man. Twenty dollars, please.

PETER

Seriously?

CHARLIE

Yeah, twenty bucks, please.

TOMMY

Yes twenty, winners get like three hundred smackers, so, after the costume contest, fork it over. If you win, of course.

PETER

Of course.

CHARLIE

Of course.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Three judges watch as group after group walk into the center of the cafeteria and present themselves. Potter makes sure, he, Joe, and Peter go first as the Universal Monsters. After they're done. Mr. Potter exits.

Noticing Mr. Potter has left, Peter gets in line with Tommy and Charlie. Soon, Peter, Tommy, and Charlie enter the center of the cafeteria as the X Men. No one in the cafeteria seems to know what the boys are dressed as. Peter, Tommy and Charlie leave the center in defeat.

A few groups later, Mr. Potter enters the center of the cafeteria dressed as the Joker, holding Lil' Louis, a small eight-year-old girl dressed as Batman, followed by Mazzy dressed as Catwoman. The entire cafeteria erupts in applause. Peter can't believe what he's seeing.

INT. CAFETERIA - MINUTES LATER

Mr. Potter counts prize money and divides it between he, Mazzy, and Lil' Louis. Mazzy and Lil' Louis EXIT. Peter Enters and confronts Mr. Potter.

PETER

What the hell was that? You had another group?

MR. POTTER

Yeah, Pete, it's a contest. I'm trying to win here. Old monsters, of course, that's a classic and a nice fallback, but the Joker holding a little Batman, come on, Pete.

PETER

It was pretty good.

MR. POTTER

Pretty good?

Mr. Potter playfully smacks Peter with his winnings.

INT. CAFETERIA - NIGHT

The costumed elderly residents and children eat dinner together as music plays. Everyone seems to be enjoying themselves.

DR. SLATER

What's going on here?

Dr. Slater enters angrily, dressed in a lab coat.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Joseph, here, now!

Joe sighs and walks toward Dr. Slater as everyone watches. Joe towers over Dr. Slater in his Frankenstein boots.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

None of this was cleared with me.

JOE

Yeah, I know, I know. Sorry, Dr. Slater, it was kind of last minute. It just happened.

DR. SLATER

Two separate parties, Joseph. I agreed that if we would do anything for the holiday, it would be two, separate parties. Shut this down.

Joe shakes his head and turns back toward everyone. Joe slides his finger across his throat. The music stops playing. The cafeteria erupts with complaints. Joe begins moving the children out of the cafeteria. Eventually, Dr. Slater stands addressing only the elderly residence.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

I want all of our older residents to know they are welcome to stay here and enjoy the, the party.

All of the elderly residence sit in silence. Eventually, EDNA rises and walks past Dr. Slater.

EDNA

I'm going to my room.

Edna EXITS. One by one everyone EXITS except for Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter walks by Dr. Slater.

MR. POTTER

Enjoy the room, Pumpkin, it's all yours. You and your friends have fun.

Mr. Potter EXITS. Dr. Slater stands alone, irritated. Dr. Slater sees a bowl filled with candy.

DR. SLATER

Oh, Whoppers!

Dr. Slater fills her pockets with boxes of Whoppers.

EXT. TELEVISION ROOM - LATER

Dr. Slater walks by the television room as the many boxes of Whoopers RATTLE in her pocket. Dr. Slater stops in front of the television room and sees that the elderly residence and children have gathered together to watch television. Dr. Slater shakes her head as she continues down the hall and the Whoppers continue to RATTLE.

INT. TELEVISION ROOM - SAME TIME

A group of elderly residence and children including Peter, Mr. Potter, Mazzy, Tommy, Charlie, and Joe, watch Halloween episodes of T.G.I.F.

INT. TELEVISION ROOM - LATER

Less of a crowd remains in the room as the movie, the Monster Squad, is watched. In a scene where a boy kicks the wolf man in the groin, Mr. Potter LAUGHS loudly and pats Peter on the shoulder.

INT. TELEVISION ROOM - LATER

Only a few people remain in the television room including Mr. Potter, Peter, Mazzy, Tommy, and Joe. Mr. Potter holds a VHS tape in his hand.

MR. POTTER

Ok, who wants to watch a real scary movie?

Everyone raises their hands. Mr. Potter plays the movie. John Carpenters The Thing appears on the screen. Mr. Potter begins pouring bourbon into tiny Dixie cups and hands them out. Mazzy takes a Dixie cup from Peter and moves closer to him.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - DAY

The double doors of the building are continuously covered in graffiti between being repainted: grey, green, yellow, grey, blue, and red.



INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - DAYS LATER

Peter sits with Mr. Potter watching, The People's Court. Peter obsessively counts a large wad of cash in his pocket. Suddenly, Peter takes the money and forcefully shows it to Mr. Potter.

PETER

I want to have a party!

MR. POTTER

Get that crap out a my face. Why do you wanna do a thing like that, for the holidays or something? Feeling generous? Ill just take your money if you are. You can donate it to Potter's Pockets Fund, its a new charity I'm starting.

PETER

No, I, I want to have a birthday party. It has to be perfect. It has to go perfectly, Potter, hear me?

MR. POTTER

Put away your Monopoly money, junior. That's too much and not enough. You're doing this wrong, thinking about it wrong. You have no idea how much a shindig like this will even cost and you're just willing to hand me your earnings, everything you've earned because you earned that money, Peter, and I could just take it and keep it and throw some shit party for you and there ain't nothing you could do about it. You could take me to People's Court, but Wapner would probably laugh at you. Always pay after, Peter, and don't be a jerk about it, neither. If you get what you pay for and things are adequate, then just be satisfied and be done with it. Don't get crazy like these nut jobs.

Peter begins to put away his money and then offers it again.

PETER

I need a CD, too.

MR. POTTER

Now why does this party have to be seedy?

PETER

No, not seed... they're letters.  
C, D, it stands for Compact Disc.  
It's like an album, but smaller.

MR. POTTER

No ones got time to say words  
anymore. Damn go-go eighties made  
everyone too eager. Quick, quick,  
quick. CD, thats DC, Dumb Crap!

PETER

I still need it, if you could.

MR. POTTER

I can do a lot of things, kid.

Mr. Potter smokes his cigar and watches television for a moment.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

All right, Pete, I was saving this  
for a special occasion, because we  
can only do it once, got me?  
Halloween was a test and the way  
Dr. Party Slaughter reacted, well,  
Its gonna take a lot on my end and  
were gonna catch all the crap for  
this, get that?

PETER

Yeah.

MR. POTTER

And I'll give you the bill for  
everything, at the end, square?

PETER

Deal.

MR. POTTER

Fantastic, now, when do we have to  
throw this Birthday-Bash?

PETER

December 8th, she was born  
December 8th, 1980, the same day  
John Lennon from the Beatles was  
killed. Do you know who the  
Beatles are?

MR. POTTER

Kid, if you ask me one more damn  
time if I know about something you  
shouldn't even know about, Im  
going to smack you 'till you  
forget everything.

PETER

Im sorry, Im sorry, I just want it  
to be perfect for her.

MR. POTTER

So, a girl, huh? It's that sweet  
little Mazzy who wears too much  
black crap, isn't it? My Catwoman?  
With the money she won, she should  
be treating us. Peter wants a  
party for his best girl, huh? A  
real party? If thats what you  
want, Pete.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK LOT - DAY

Two large vans drive toward each other, one by Joe and  
the other by, RITA. Joe drives slowly as Rita drives  
quickly towards him. Rita slams on the breaks in front of  
Joe. Joe looks relieved.

The van doors open and Mr. Potter, dressed nicely and  
wearing sunglasses, steps out of the van and lights a  
cigar. Elderly residents and children, including Charlie  
and Mazzy, also EXIT the van. Peter Exits and stands next  
to Mr. Potter.

PETER

Sure we gotta do this?

MR. POTTER

We need the extra scratch to pay  
off the staff and the rest of  
these folks could use a little  
extra too. You want a real party,  
or what?

PETER

But, like this?

MR. POTTER

Don't feel bad, they're placebos.  
Blood pressure meds, shit like  
that. Do these junkies more good  
than harm.

Mr. Potter walks further into the park as Peter stays nervously behind momentarily.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK - LATER

In the park, Joe stays with senior residents and small children as a few senior residents sit on strategic benches around the area. Mazzy and Peter play soccer as Peter also watches Mr. Potter.

Mr. Potter stands away from everyone, making drug deals by taking peoples money, signaling for an elderly person on a bench to give medication to a child, and the child bringing the drugs to Mr. Potter.

After a few deals, Joe sees POLICE OFFICE DOUGLAS, a white police officer, watching Mr. Potter and moving closer to him as Mr. Potter talks with a MALE HIPPIE. Joe Signals to a senior resident on a bench and that senior signals Mr. Potter.

Mr. Potter CALLS Charlie over, picks up Charlie, holds Charlie for a moment, and then releases Charlie. Charlie runs off playfully.

Soon, Peter sees Officer Douglas feet away from Mr. Potter. Mazzy notices how odd Peter is acting.

MAZZY

Whats wrong with your face, freak?

PETER

Nothing, nothing. Hey, I cant hang out much longer, but Ill see you tonight at dinner, right?

MAZZY

No, seriously, are you all right?  
If you're feeling sick tell me. I told you how my aunt died and I...

PETER

Mazzy, I'm fine.

Peter continues to watch Mr. Potter nervously. Mr. Potter sees Peter and prepares for Officer Douglas. Mr. Potter turns to the Hippie.

MR. POTTER

This is your lucky day, Hippie. If you want drugs, come back later. That tall, black gentleman will take care of you. But, if you stick around for a minute, you're gonna get a real show.

Officer Douglas finally stands in front of Mr. Potter.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Fine day for the park with all these wonderful people and children around, Officer.

OFFICER DOUGLAS

I see you've been talking to a lot of people. They all look alike, in fact.

MR. POTTER

I'm a people person, Officer. I can't help who the people are. I just gotta talk to them. That's my nature.

OFFICER DOUGLAS

Your nature, huh? I think you're doing more than talking to these rejects.

MR. POTTER

Rejects? No need to insult another man, Officer. Hippies have feelings too, you know. In fact, I was just telling my hippie friend here about what the sixties were really like. He was in diapers.

OFFICER DOUGLAS

All right, all right, old timer. Just give me the drugs and put your hands behind your back.

MR. POTTER

Pardon me, officer?

OFFICER DOUGLAS

We've seen you here before, old man. Don't play dumb, make this easy on yourself. You to buddy, empty your pockets.

HIPPIE

What the hell did I do, man? This is America, man. You cant just come up and arrest two people for, like, having a conversation.

OFFICER DOUGLAS

This is New York City, pal, and I can do whatever the hell I want. Now, empty your pockets before I add resisting arrest and failure to comply with an officer to your drug possession.

HIPPIE

Drug possession! What drugs, man?

The Hippie empties his empty pockets. Mr. Potter smokes his cigar.

MR. POTTER

I ain't going through my pockets, Officer. Im a veteran. I didn't go and beat a bunch of Koreans to death just so I could show you what's in my pockets in the middle of the most famous park in America.

HIPPIE

Yeah, man, tell him!

MR. POTTER

I don't need your help on this, Junior.

Moments later, OFFICER DINKMEN rides up on a horse and dismounts.

OFFICER DINKMEN

What seems to be the problem here, Officer Douglas?

OFFICER DOUGLAS

I got this, Officer Dinkmen. I've seen this old guy in the park before. He's selling drugs.

MR. POTTER

I ain't selling shit!

HIPPIE

This is America, man, America!

OFFICER DINKMEN

Why wont you empty out your pockets, fella? You could end this right now.

MR. POTTER

Principles.

Mr. Potter puffs a large cloud of smoke from his cigar into both officers faces.

OFFICER DINKMEN

Id appreciate it if you'd put that out while you addressed officers of the law.

MR. POTTER

When they show up, Ill put it out.

OFFICER DINKMEN

Now thats enough, sir. At the very least, you will show some respect to...

MR. POTTER

Respect? Respect? I got shipped to a place I couldn't even pronounce and killed a lot of guys I never had a problem with for reasons I'm still trying to understand. I did that out of respect. You pay me some respect first, son.

OFFICER DOUGLAS

What, are we gonna get a warrant for his Dockers? Im tired of this shit.

Officer Douglas advances on Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter puts his hands up in warning.

MR. POTTER

Don't touch me, Pally. It won't end well for you, I promise.

OFFICER DINKMEN

What are you doing, Douglas?

OFFICER DOUGLAS

Simple pat down, standard procedure.

Officer Douglas advances closer to Mr. Potter.

MR. POTTER

I warned you, Pally.

Peter sees Officer Douglas grabbing Mr. Potter and becomes petrified. Peter looks back into Mazzy's worried face for a moment before Peter takes off running as fast as he can toward Officer Douglas. When Peter reaches Officer Douglas, Peter kicks him as hard as he can in the groin.

Officer Douglas falls on the ground in pain. Unable to stop the adrenaline, Peter jumps on top of Officer Douglas and begins to pelt him with fists. It takes both Mr. Potter and Officer Dinkmen to pull Peter off of Officer Douglas.

Mr. Potter pulls on the back of Peter's sweater and Peter begins GROWLING and BARKING wildly.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Get off him, lay off already! He's just a boy and you got him all scared. Whats wrong with you? This is New York's Finest? Bunch of cowards. What, couldn't make the service? Couldn't hack it? Thats why you're running around here? Ever use that gun? Think you could?

Peter looks up at Potter worried. Potter realizes what he's doing and pulls back on Peter's sweater. Peter BARKS wildly.

OFFICER DINKMEN

Everybody just calm down.

MR. POTTER

This has gone far enough now. I told you not to touch me, pig. You made the kid go crazy. Were here from some institution for nut jobs. This poor bastard was raised by wolves or some crazy shit like that, cant control him. I'm the only one who can feed him. I gotta give him raw meat underneath the table in the kitchen away from the rest of the inmates. Nobody can touch either one of us or he'll bite the crap out of 'em. He's not bad with his left foot either, is he?



Mr. Potter pulls on Peter's sweater and Peter BARKS.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

You want to see what's in my damn pocket? Here you go, Sherlock.

Potter empties his pockets revealing a mostly empty cigar case, a lighter, and a box of Tic Tacs.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

I'm a pretty high rolling drug dealer, huh? I'd have to be, selling primo stuff like this.

HIPPIE

Ha, no way!

MR. POTTER

Breath mints illegal in Central Park, New York City, New York, United States of America, Officer, Dickhead was it? Here you go, friend.

Mr. Potter turns to the Hippie and gives him a breath mint. Officer Douglas rises to his feet. Joe jogs over.

JOE

What the hell is going on over here?

OFFICER DINKMEN

(TO JOE) Alright, I've had enough. You in charge of these two?

JOE

Yes sir.

OFFICER DINKMEN

Get them out of here. Please, sir, just get them out of here.

JOE

I cant help you, officer.

OFFICER DINKMEN

Why the hell not?

JOE

Man, I've got seven other kids running around here and five elderly folks enjoying the afternoon that would have my ass if I tried to take 'em home early.

(MORE)

JOE (CONT'D)

I've got two huge vans, probably being vandalized right now, and only one nice young lady helping me. If you think I can drop all that just to drive all the way across town in weekend traffic to drop two people off just because your deranged partner cant stop bothering 'em, you're as crazy as he is. Why don't you just put 'em on that horse with you?

Joe LAUGHS. Officer Dinkmen engages his shoulder radio.

OFFICER DINKMEN

Officer Dinkmen requesting cruiser for transport.

OPERATOR VOICE

For a prisoner?

OFFICER DINKMEN

No, its for, um, an old man and a boy. Just get them over here.

OPERATOR VOICE

Copy.

Mr. Potter and Peter smile at each other.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK LOT - LATER

Mr. Potter, Peter, and Joe sit on the curb with Officer Dinkmen as a squad car races into the parking lot. Officer Dinkmen talks to the SQUAD CAR OFFICERS for a minute before the Squad Car Officers open the back seat and Mr. Potter and Peter ENTER.

Peter looks over and sees Mazzy watching, mesmerized by Peter. The Squad Car EXITS. Joe walks back toward the park and CALLS Charlie over. Charlie runs to Joe. Joe reaches into Charlie's pocket and pulls out a pill bottle and a wad of money.

INT. SQUAD CAR - LATER

Mr. Potter and Peter LAUGH and smile at each other as the Squad Car speeds through traffic. Mr. Potter makes a joke to the officers in the front seat and they both laugh.

INT. SQUAD CAR - SOON AFTER

The squad car parks in front of 8280 Brouwer Street. Mr. Potter looks out the window and sees Dr. Slater walking up the front steps carrying a bagged lunch. Mr. Potter smiles deeply.

MR. POTTER

Could you gentlemen do us one last favor? See that lady, thats the lady who runs this place, the lady going up the stairs right there. Would you gentlemen mind letting her know what happened today, so we don't have to? Oh, and the kid is going crazy for the sirens back here, mind running them one more time?

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - SAME TIME

As Dr. Slater climbs the steps to the entrance, loud POLICE SIRENS ring out and scare her. Dr. Slater turns around and sees Mr. Potter and Peter in the back of the squad car. Dr. Slater descends the stairs quickly, slips slightly, and accidentally throws her bagged lunch. The bagged lunch hits a passing FEMALE JOGGER in the face.

The Female Jogger stops angrily. Dr. Slater stares at the Female Jogger in horror and then at the group of men now outside of the squad car starring at Dr. Slater in surprise.

FEMALE JOGGER

Hey, What the hell?

The Female Jogger looks to the two Police officers.

OFFICER ONE

You want to press charges?

FEMALE JOGGER

(TO DR. SLATER) Watch what you're doing, bitch!

The female Jogger Exits. As soon as the group of men have finished watching the female jogger leave, the officers address Dr. Slater.

DR. SLATER

What seems to be the problem, officers?

(MORE)

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Im sorry about that little, um, I was startled by the siren and the sight of two of our residents in the back of a police car.

OFFICER TWO

No problem, ma'am. Just a little, a, incident in the park. We just had to give these two a ride home.

DR. SLATER

Oh my, where is everyone else? Are they all right?

OFFICER TWO

No, no, nothing like that, ma'am. Everybody's fine. There was just a, a misunderstanding that got out of hand. I wasn't there personally, so I cant tell you any more than that. I know you got a special little kid here and we wanted to bring him back all right. I bet he's hungry for some raw meat, right boy?

Peter BARKS happily. Potter pulls on Peter's sweater and makes Peter stop.

OFFICER ONE

We do suggest you keep him away from the park for a while. Being raised by wolves and all, we think being out in nature might have set off some of his feral instincts. Amazing kid though, right?

Dr. Slater forces back anger and smiles.

DR. SLATER

Well, thank you, gentlemen so much for bringing them back. I think I can take it from here.

Both police officers ENTER the squad car. Officer Two leans out the passenger window.

OFFICER TWO

Hey, that bag don't look too ruined, if you had something in it. Pick it up anyway, ok? You cant be littering.

The squad car EXITS. Potter lights a cigar.

DR. SLATER

Inside, now!

MR. POTTER

Hold on, Im finishing my stogie.

DR. SLATER

I said now, you old coot!

Dr. Slater reaches for Mr. Potter's cigar. Mr. Potter dodges her and continues to smoke.

MR. POTTER

I'm smoking this at the moment. You said there ain't smoking in there, so I ain't smoking in there. I already lit it, no turning back now.

DR. SLATER

Fine!

Mr. Potter, Dr. Slater, and Peter stand awkwardly for a moment.

MR. POTTER

Hey, shouldn't you pick up your garbage like the nice officer asked?

DR. SLATER

What did you just say to me?

MR. POTTER

Gotta keep the streets clean. You want to be a good influence on young Peter here, don't you?

Dr. Slater GROWLS as she marches toward her bagged lunch. Dr. Slater stops midway and turns to Mr. Potter.

DR. SLATER

You told police officers that he was raised by wolves! Influence, you fu...

Dr. Slater realizes she's still in public and controls herself. Dr. Slater picks up her bagged lunch and throws it hard into a nearby trashcan, almost knocking the trashcan over.

MR. POTTER

You got a mean arm, lady. Hit that other broad in the face real good. You play softball or something?

Dr. Slater calmly walks up to Potter and stares in his face.

DR. SLATER

If I had my softball bat right now, you'd know why they used to call me Slaughter.

MR. POTTER

Oh, people still call you that, sweetie.

Mr. Potter takes a few more drags on his cigar, drops the cigar on the ground, and stomps it out.

DR. SLATER

Aren't you going to pick that up?

MR. POTTER

Nah, someone will get it.

DR. SLATER

Inside!

As Dr. Slater, Mr. Potter and Peter begin to walk inside, Peter picks up the cigar on the ground and throws it away.

MR. POTTER

See? Someone got it.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - LATER

Peter and Mr. Potter sit in two open seats next to each other. In slow motion, Dr. Slater SCREAMS and throws chairs around the room. Peter sits in his chair terrified.

Peter looks to Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter appears bored. Peter turns his attention back to Dr. Slater. Dr. Slater mouths the word, Motherless. Mr. Potter's foot taps Peter's foot. Peter rises.

PETER

I'm out of here!

Peter slowly turns and walks toward the door. Dr. Slater rushes toward Peter and stands directly between Peter and Mr. Potter. Dr. Slater violently grabs Peter's arm.

DR. SLATER

You're not going anywhere, you orphan waste of life! I own you now, got it? I say when you leave, and when you stay, and you're not going anywhere! You want to joke around and be a dog? Im going to put a chain around your neck and drag you up and down the halls. Then, Im going to lock you in a dark room for days and let you shit and piss all over your...

Dr. Slater's eyes become wide and she is silent. Dr. Slater turns and stares at Mr. Potter.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Did you just grab my ass?

MR. POTTER

Well, I can see you're fine with assaulting people. And if you're gonna just stick it in my face, I'm gonna do something about it.

Dr. Slater draws her fist back.

JOE

What in the hell?

Dr. Slater sees Joe standing in the doorway, looking at the dents in the walls and the broken chairs on the floor. Dr. Slater walks to Joe and points up into his face.

DR. SLATER

Neither of them gets anything ever again and if I find out they got something, you're fired!

DR. Slater EXITS. After a moment Joe laughs and walks over to the broken chairs and picks one up.

JOE

That crazy lady messed up my chair, man.

Mr. Potter removes a few tiles on the wall and takes out a bottle of bourbon, some glasses, and a cigar.

MR. POTTER

I'll get you another one, partner.  
How'd the rest of the afternoon  
go?

JOE

Better than last time. Of course,  
we got to sell more because of  
that little show you put on.

MR. POTTER

I told you it would work, Joe,  
even got a ride home out of it.  
Oh, right as Slaughter was on the  
steps, you should have seen it.  
She was so mad, she threw her bag  
and hit this young broad right in  
the face in front of two cops. I  
nearly crapped my pants, Joseph. I  
wanted to laugh so damn hard.

JOE

How'd it go on your end?

PETER

Yeah, it was a little more intense  
than Potter said it'd be. I kind  
of thought she was gonna kill me.

MR. POTTER

Ah, you did fine Pete. I had to  
feel her up, but I got it. My  
hands aren't as quick as they used  
to be. Getting that keyring back  
on her ass wasn't easy.

Mr. Potter dangles a single key in the air.

JOE

I guess that makes a complete  
collection. Was it at least a good  
squeeze?

MR. POTTER

I think I felt the stick that's  
stuck up there.

INT. CAFFETERIA - MAZZY'S PARTY

DECEMBER 8TH

Multiple keys are placed in a sock. The sock is handed to  
Charlie to hold.



The cafeteria is busy for lunch and everyone watches Dr. Slater as she watches over the cafeteria. Joe helps a senior sit down. Slowly and almost unnoticeably, the entire staff of the cafeteria begins to leave the room.

Peter and Mr. Potter ENTER the cafeteria and walk to the back table and sit down. Mazzy sees Peter and smiles. Dr. Slater sees Peter and Mr. Potter in the cafeteria and becomes irate. In order not to cause a scene, Dr. Slater pulls Joe out of the cafeteria so she can yell at him.

As soon as Dr. Slater and Joe EXIT the cafeteria, there is no more staff inside of the cafeteria.

EXT. CAFETERIA - SAME TIME

Joe stands in the hall so that Dr. Slater's back is to the cafeteria's double doors. Mr. Potter gives a nod to Joe. Mr. Potter closes the double doors of the cafeteria and locks them. Dr. Slater turns and sees that the cafeteria doors are closed, and Mr. Potter's face is in the wired windowpane.

Dr. Slater marches to the door in a panic and pulls on the handle.

DR. SLATER

Open the door!

MR. POTTER

When we're done.

DR. SLATER

Open the door, now!

MR. POTTER

You open the door.

Mr. Potter walks away. Dr. Slater reaches for her keys and searches for the key to the door. The key is missing.

INT. CAFETERIA - SAME TIME

All of the seniors and children in the cafeteria, except for Mazzy, rise out of their seats and begin doing several tasks for the party including hanging streamers, bringing out balloons, snacks, cakes, liquor, and a record player. Mazzy sits completely surprised and amazed as she watches Peter and Tommy hang a banner on the back wall that reads, Happy Birthday Mazzy! As Peter steps down from hanging the banner, he is violently hugged by Mazzy.

MAZZY

Thank you, thank you, thank you,  
no one has ever... Thank you!

MUSIC plays and the party begins.

EXT. CAFETERIA - SAME TIME

Dr. Slater again searches her key ring and then throws them at Joe.

DR. SLATER

Give me your keys!

Joe tosses his keys to Dr. Slater. Dr. Slater searches the keys and finds the door key missing. Dr. Slater throws the keys at Joe and SCREAMS. Dr. Slater notices a large amount of staff watching her in the hallway.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Why is no one in there?

JOE

Shift change and breaks. You and I were supposed to be in there, but you didn't want to scream at me in there.

DR. SLATER

Everyone give me your keys right now! Why the hell doesn't this door have a keycard reader?

JOE

It doubles as a shelter. No electricity means no reader. You see Jurassic Park?

Dr. Slater SCREAMS and tries another set of keys, followed by another. The door key is missing from each ring. Dr. Slater throws each key ring at Joe.

DR. SLATER

What the hell is going on in there? I know you have something to do with this, Joseph.

JOE

I'm out here with you! How'd I do something? Nobody's got keys. Where's your key, doctor?

Dr. Slater SCREAMS and rushes at the door. Dr. Slater yanks on the door and punches the door before kicking the door with her stiletto heels. Eventually, Dr. Slater takes her heels off and pounds on the door until they break, and the door is covered in dents.

Sweating, Dr. Slater presses her exhausted face against the door's wired windowpane. On the other side of the glass, Charlie dances to MUSIC while he holds a sock full of keys. The sock shakes as Charlie dances and keys fall out onto the floor just beyond Dr. Slater.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER.

Mazzy sits at the head of a cafeteria table in front of two large cakes as everyone sits around her. Mazzy opens different presents: Christmas lights, pink boa, star shaped sunglasses, The Crow Soundtrack.

DANCING MUSIC fills the cafeteria and Mr. Potter takes Mazzy by the hand. Joan Daily takes Tommy by the hand, Oscar takes Edna by the hand, Lil' Louis asks Charlie to dance. Peter sits watching Mr. Potter dance perfectly with Mazzy.

MR. POTTER

Hey, Pete, this ones too short for me. I feel like Im gonna smash her feet, mind taking over?

Peter grows terrified as he slowly walks over to Mr. Potter and Mazzy. Peter WHISPERS to Mr. Potter.

PETER

I don't know how.

MR. POTTER

Figure it out.

Peter takes Mazzy by the hand. Mr. Potter moves across the room and steals Joan Daily away from Tommy. Peter dances awkwardly with Mazzy, Mazzy LAUGHS. Peter looks to Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter shows Peter what to do with his hands and where to step. Joan Daily realizes what Mr. Potter is doing and kisses him on the cheek.

Peter adjusts his hands and footing. Mazzy stops LAUGHING. Mazzy begins to move with Peter. Mazzy puts her head on Peter. A Spotlight covers Peter and Mazzy as they dance and the room around them fades to black. As the shot moves back, Peter and Mazzy appear as a bright star in otherwise dark and empty space.

INT. CAFETERIA LATER

Everyone sits quietly in the cafeteria as the cakes and snacks have been half eaten. Mr. Potter stands by the door of the cafeteria.

MR. POTTER

Everybody ready?

Everyone nods to Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter unlocks the door. As soon as Mr. Potter turns the key, the double doors are kicked open by Dr. Slater.

In slow motion, Dr. Slater enters the cafeteria like a wild beast, shoeless and kicking chairs and toppling over the record player. Dr. Slater sees the banner on the back wall and tears it down furiously.

Dr. Slater sees the half eaten cakes and shoves her hands into both cakes and then shoves both hands in her mouth. Dr. Slater turns and looks at all of the residents. Dr. Slater laughs madly as she licks cake off of her fingers.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Oops, think I broke her.

DR. SLATER

Did you have fun, did everybody have fun? I hope you did. I hope you all had so much fun!

Dr. Slater slightly slips on cake. Everyone is silent.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

I hope you had fun in this place because they're going to close it down. It's just as well, you are all pathetic animals and should be put out of your misery. You do nothing but walk around an abandoned hospital that looks like shit because they have nowhere else to put you. That's why they stuck all of you here. You're an experiment! They nearly had to bribe me to spend any kind of time with you crazy, disgusting losers because they had no one else. No one qualified wanted anything to do with any of you.

(MORE)

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

The only reason I took this job was to receive a better job and I wont let you ruin that for me, I wont let you beat me. I wont let you beat me, Potter!

Dr. Slater points at Mr. potter. Mr. Potter looks around and points to himself in shock.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Here's the deal, rejects. You're going to clean everything up and nothing like this will ever happen again. The board of directors visit on Christmas Eve and again in March. There will be no more incidents between then and now. If you don't cooperate and somehow I do not receive my promotion, the warden over at Rikers Island owes me a favor. This building will be condemned immediately, and you will all be moved over to whatever empty cells or cots are available. They'll keep you all locked away, where you should be, for months until they can figure out where to move you, so I suggest you all reconsider your attitudes.

Dr. Slater walks across the room. As she passes Mr. Potter, she punches him a few times uncontrollably before she is stopped by Joe. Dr. Slater controls herself and calmly addressees Joe.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Bring them to Operation Room Q, Joseph, and I swear to Jesus Christ, Buddha, and Allah, if I didn't actually need you here, Id strangle you to death.

Dr. Slater quickly EXITS. Joe, Peter, and Mr. Potter slowly EXIT. Everyone remaining in the room sits in quiet astonishment.

EDNA

What the hell was her problem?

HANK

Did she smash all the scotch? If that loon broke my records and the scotch, Im gonna bust her lip.

CHARLIE

I wish I could have eaten the cake like that.

JOAN DAILY

She ain't getting any, I'm telling you.

Everyone LAUGHS.

JOAN DIALY

Same thing happened when my Larry used to be on the road for weeks selling insurance. Id get crazy! I mean, not as crazy as Slaughter, I think she has other problems, but I'd get pretty bat-shit. But then Larry would take me up to Lake Placid for a couple of days and I'd even out.

TOMMY

I've been there, did you get to see the Adirondacks?

JOAN DAILY

Kid, I couldn't tell you what anything looked like outside of Cabin eight. I know the room had a nice-looking ceiling fan.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - LATER

Dr. Slater sits with wet hair in a ponytail and medical scrubs as she sits backwards in a chair in front of two empty chairs. Around Dr. Slater are smashed liquor bottles, ruined cigars, and a broken television. Peter and Mr. Potter ENTER the doorway and survey the damage as Joe stands behind them.

DR. SLATER

I found all your toys! I would have never looked for them. I thought you just had dementia or something, that's why you loved spending time in here. But it was because of all your little toys and you gave me so much time to find them.

Dr. Slater waves Joe away.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

Don't think for a second this is all right, Joseph. Go do your job.

Joe EXITS. Mr. Potter and Peter sit in the empty chairs a few feet away from Dr. Slater.

MR. POTTER

I think you've had enough for today, sugar. Maybe you should go home and play with your cats or something

DR. SLATER

I eat cats, Potter!

MR. POTTER

What, like ALF? Hey, Pete, you ever see that show, ALF? That show was all right.

DR. SLATER

Keep it up, Potter, because here we are. I'm not going anywhere, and neither are you. I'm going to sit here and watch you serve your time. I'm going to come back tomorrow and sit here and watch you sit here. I'm going to make sure you're miserable. I have a busy life outside of here! But I'm going to put that aside to come here for twelve hours a day, five days a week and sit here with you two. That's all were going to do. That's all you're going to do, Potter. You're going to sit there, and if Im lucky enough, you're going to die sitting there and Im going to get to watch.

MR. POTTER

Well, then let me help speed things up.

Mr. Potter pulls out a cigar and lights it with a strike anywhere match.

INT. OPERATION ROOM Q - LATER

Dr. Slater sits asleep in the chair in front of Peter and Mr. Potter with I'M INSANE written on her forehead.

The ALARM on Dr. Slater's watch goes off and wakes her up. Dr. Slater rises and EXITS. Peter and Mr. Potter laugh.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Peter, Mr. Potter and Joe sit in the cafeteria after hours and eat a late dinner. Mr. Potter takes a few tiles off of the cafeteria wall and brings out a bottle of bourbon, secretly stashed.

PETER

We gotta have a name, were like a gang.

JOE

Brooklyn ball busters.

PETER

Well, I was thinking, Frustrated Incorporated, it's from a song I like.

MR. POTTER

Perfect, it's like the Molly Maguires, you ever heard of them, Pete? They took down the coal company from the inside. That's exactly what our purpose is from here on out. We gotta cause that crazy broad as much frustration as we can. Man, it was a hoot drawing on her face. She was passed out, Joe.

JOE

I'm not surprised. You guys didn't see her out in the hall while you were living it up in here. She would have beat the shit out a six Bruce Lees and their sons, no problem. I think she was thinking of your balls when she was busting up that door, Potter.

MR. POTTER

It was worth it. What a great party, huh? Sorry, you had to miss out, Joseph.

PETER

Thanks, Potter, really. And thanks to you too, Joe.

(MORE)



PETER (CONT'D)

Really, it was perfect until Slaughter came in, worth every penny. Speaking of, how much do I owe you?

MR. POTTER

That one was on the house, Pete. This place needed a decent party. See, that's why you don't pay upfront. Hell of a job by everybody in, what was it, Frustrated Incorporated? For Christmas Shakes, that dame was frustrated.

INT. MAZZY'S ROOM - LATER

Peter ENTERS and stands in the doorway of Mazzy's room. Mazzy has already hung up Christmas lights and is taking posters off of her wall. Mazzy is dressed in sweats and no makeup. Mazzy sees Peter and hugs him with excitement.

MAZZY

Where the heck have you been? Slaughter didn't lobotomize you or anything, did she?

PETER

You're calling her that, too?

MAZZY

Yes! We were all calling her that. One of the staff said it and all of us couldn't stop. I don't think she'll ever earn doctor back. But, seriously, we thought she killed you both.

PETER

No, we just sat there, and she just kind a sat there with us. We did draw on her forehead when she fell asleep.

MAZZY

We kept partying after you left. Those old people are cool. Everybody's cool here. Except for Slaughter, she's insane, but her absolutely flipping out on top of an amazing party was a dream.

PETER

It didn't ruin it?

MAZZY

No! Are you kidding me? People don't even act like that in the movies. She raged, like, snapped. It's all anybody could talk about for the rest of the night. You should have seen Joan Daily's impression of her, I died.

Mazzy begins pulling down another poster.

PETER

What are you doing?

MAZZY

Its too dark in here. These posters don't help and I'm getting tired of looking at them. Hey, do you think Potter would get me some more Christmas lights to put in here? Ones with all the colors? I want it to feel like Christmas in here every time I plug them in.

PETER

I'll see what I can do.

The song ends and Mazzy changes the CD. She invites Peter to lie on the bed next to her. Peter lies down, exhausted.

MAZZY

Do you want to listen to more John Lennon? It being his death birthday and all, I thought it might be nice. I used to listen to the Beatles every day, nonstop before my dad went to prison. I listened to them every now and again before my mom went away, but I really haven't listened to any of these since I was sent to Daughters. I need more stars in here.

Mazzy lies beside Peter and stares up. Peter closes his eyes and smiles.

PETER

Happy birthday, Mazzy.

Mazzy kisses Peter. Peter smiles more and opens his eyes.

MAZZY

Don't go thinking that just happens all the time now, or that it'll go any further.

PETER

Yes, ma'am.

MAZZY

Good.

Mazzy kisses Peter again.

MAZZY (CONT'D)

When's your birthday?

PETER

What?

MAZZY

Your birthday, duh. Everybody's got a birthday. You never told me yours.

PETER

Nah, no, its nothing. It's not a thing.

MAZZY

You always say that. Come on, you've been here for what, three months? I hardly know anything about you besides who died to send you here and that you're a very handsome badass.

PETER

I can't remember. What else do you want for Christmas?

MAZZY

Come on, when's your birthday?

PETER

Nope.

MAZZY

When's your birthday, when's your birthday, when's your birthday!

PETER

It, it already happened.

MAZZY

What? You're telling me that we were just hanging out one night and it was your birthdays and you didn't even say anything? When's your birthday?

PETER

When I got here.

MAZZY

What?

PETER

The day that I got here, that was...

MAZZY

Hold on, just hold on a goddamn second. So, you're telling me, the day of your mom's funeral, the day after she died, the same day they brought you here was your birthday?

PETER

um, yeah.

MAZZY

Thats the saddest, darkest thing I've ever heard in my life. Holy shit. Why aren't you crying all the time? I haven't seen you cry once since you've been here. I cried for like a month straight when I got to Daughters and my parents aren't even dead. Seriously, cry. It's not good to hold it in and Im already tearing up just thinking about it.

PETER

I, I can't.

MAZZY

No, Peter, none of that macho man bullshit.

PETER

It's not like that. It just, it hurt so fucking much. It still hurts. I just, like, wont let myself.

MAZZY

I get it. No, I really get it. When I was like ten or something, I ran straight into a wall and whacked my shoulder on a nail that was sticking out. It was like fire, hurt like hell, but the real messed up thing was it didn't bleed. Like, at all. The most painful thing to ever happen to me and Im crying and running around and expecting buckets of blood, but there wasn't any. Sometimes deep cuts don't bleed, at least, not right away. You're just in shock, that's all. Man, Im so happy you're not trying to be a badass with me, that makes you so much more badass.

PETER

Really?

Mazzy suddenly stands and picks up a poster of the band, The Cure.

MAZZY

Yes! The rest of these guys are just posers, they're trying too hard. Oh, you think you're dark and troubled, Robert Smith? You don't have shit on my boyfriend. He can't even cry he's so messed up.

Peter laughs. Mazzy jumps back into his arms and lies her head on his chest.

MAZZY (CONT'D)

Happy birthday, Peter. I want to get you a gift. What can I get for you?

PETER

Can you just call me your boyfriend again?

MAZZY

Im going to call you better things than that, Sweet Bear.

INT. CAFETERIA - CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS EVE

The cafeteria is bright and beautifully decorated with a full Christmas tree and many presents underneath the tree. Everyone wears Christmas sweaters. Billy helps put popcorn on string. Mr. Potter sees Billy doing it wrong and scolds Billy as he helps him. Joe helps Charlie hang a star on the top of the tree.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

Dr. Slater marches down the hall wearing a wreath pin,

DR. SLATER  
(TO SELF) Please have put something up, Joe. A paper Santa or something.

INT. CAFETERIA - SOON AFTER

Dr. Slater ENTERS the cafeteria in amazement of how wonderful everything looks.

MR. BAXTER  
This is quite impressive, Dr. Slater.

MR. BAXTER, A Finely dressed man and the head of the board in charge of the program, stands behind Dr. Slater with the other board members. Dr. Slater is again surprised and composes herself.

DR. SLATER  
We like to give our residents the best possible holiday that we can provide. Mr. Baxter, I'm so pleased that you and the other board members could join us this evening. Right this way.

Dr. Slater leads the board members into the cafeteria. The board, Mr. Baxter, and Dr. Slater observe the party for a moment. The residents begin caroling.

MR. BAXTER  
The children and the old...um, elderly residents, are all together. I thought our discussions were clear about keeping the programs separate.

DR. SLATER

Well, it is the holidays and they all, together, insisted on a party. We try and promote a healthy, welcoming community. I can make them disperse if you'd like.

MR. BAXTER

No, no, it's fine. They all look happy like they're getting along with each other. To be honest, we didn't think that would happen. That's why we suggested the separation to begin with.

DR. SLATER

Well, they're all so wonderful, they make it easy for everyone.

MR. BAXTER

Those cookies look delicious!

Mr. Baxter walks over to a table and picks up a cookie. As soon as Mr. Baxter picks up a cookie, all of the seniors and children drop to the ground with their faces lowered and pray to Mr. Baxter.

Mr. Baxter looks around in shock. Dr. Slater can't believe what has happened and begins flailing her arms and pacing around the praying residents.

DR. SLATER

No, no, what are you doing? Get back up. Have fun, sing, sing!

Everyone rises and stands stiffly. They all begin to speak in unison.

RESIDENTS

Dr. Slater is our supreme leader. Dr. Slater loves us. We should be thankful for the pain she gives. The pain is a gift we should thank her for. Thank you, Dr. Slater. We love Dr. Slater.

MR. POTTER

Again, ma'am? Should we sing it again for you?

DR. SLATER

What are you talking about, what was that? I meant, like, sing more Christmas carols.

The residents robotically SING jingle bells.

MR. POTTER

Did that displease you, Dr. Slater? Please, let us try again! We can do better for you! Please let us try! Oh, no, we've displeased the supreme leader. Do it again, you worthless pigs! Sing for your leader.

The Residents sing Jingle Bells again.

DR. SLATER

Stop singing, stop singing! Stop this, stop all of this. Just stop!

Everyone stops singing and again lowers to the floor as if to pray. Mr. Baxter still holds his cookie in shock.

MR. BAXTER

What exactly is happening right now?

DR. SLATER

They're joking. Its all just a joke. Mr. Potter likes to play practical jokes. Although this one isn't his best-timed joke, it's still all just a joke. Mr. Potter, please tell these people you're just kidding around.

MR. POTTER

(ROBOTIC) I was just kidding around.

DR. SLATER

All right, this was hilarious, everybody. Now, I command you all to have fun. Joseph, music please.

Joe puts MUSIC on as Dr. Slater privately addressees the board.

DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

They have a very strange sense of humor, but as long as they're having fun.

(MORE)



DR. SLATER (CONT'D)

With all the time they have cooped up here, and me being the only form of authority to rebel against, it's only natural that I would be the target of their mischief.

MR. BAXTER

Of course, we're just going to have a walk around.

DR. SLATER

Of course.

INT. SCENE HEADING - CAFETERIA - LATER

Dr. Slater watches nervously as the board members interact with the residents and staff. Dr. Slater drifts off into thought.

INT. DR. SLATER'S MOTHER'S HOUSE - PAST

Dr. Slater stands with DR. SLATER'S MOTHER in the kitchen surrounded by holiday decorations. Dr. Slater's sister, KAREN, KAREN's HUSBAND, and their children play in the living room.

DR. SLATER'S MOTHER

Did you hear Karen is going to sell her paintings?

DR. SLATER

Yeah, and I'm getting a promotion, but you haven't mentioned it.

DR. SLATER'S MOTHER

Yeah, well, we'll see.

INT. DR. SLATER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dr. Slater fights with her boyfriend in her apartment.

DR. SLATER

Yeah, well you better shape up buddy, because when I move to Florida, You can just stay the hell here!

INT. CAFETERIA - PRESENT

Dr. Slater continues to stare off. Mr. Baxter stands before her.

MR. BAXTER

Splendid party, Dr. Slater. Will you please walk us out so we can have a word in private?

DR. SLATER

Of course.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - LATER

The board members begin ENTERING a limo. Mr. Baxter stands alone with Dr. Slater outside of the limo.

DR. SLATER

I'm glad to have the opportunity to discuss this with you, sir.

MR. BAXTER

No need, we're running late. It looked better in there, Dr. Slater. It looked better than it did in August and twice as good as when we started, but its still not Forest Springs. Needs improvement and you do as well. I don't know what that whole cult business was about, but it better be eradicated before March. Forest Springs can easily still go to Dr. Gordon.

DR. SLATER

He's a drunk, Leon

MR. BAXTER

Yes, he is most definitely a drunk, but his facility runs like a train conductor's watch, and no one refers to him as, Supreme Leader, Becky. Better, but needs improvement, merry Christmas.

Mr. Baxter ENTERS the limo.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Dr. Slater ENTERS the cafeteria. She is stunned that all of the residents are waiting for her. Mr. Potter stands in front of the crowd and smokes a cigar.

DR. SLATER

Well, that was hilarious! What did I tell all of you about...?

MR. POTTER

Save it lady. We already heard all the nasty you can say about us. You've made all the threats you can make, plus a lot of other crazy crap. Here's what you taught us, Doc. We all like each other and we don't like you. We like this fishbowl and we want you out of it. You saw how good we can be and how much trouble we can make. I was in the Korean War, how about you, Arthur?

ARTHUR

Korea.

MR. POTTER

How 'bout you, Hank?

HANK

I was in the big one.

MR. POTTER

And you, Oscar?

OSCAR

The, Big One.

MR. POTTER

Oscar was in the Navy during World War two, Slaughter. Hear that? How about you, Pete?

PETER

Oh, um, I a, I've played, Mortal Kombat?

MR. POTTER

Hear that, Slaughter? My boy Pete here has played, Mortal Kombat. That sounds crazy. How many wars have you been in, Sweetie? How many combats have you combatted?

DR. SLATER

Well, I...

MR. POTTER

None was the answer you were looking for, Darling. You've been in none. I got a room full of soldiers who have seen combat and some tough kittens who'd I'd put up against any bastard, any day. You want to go to war, we'll go to war. But this bullshit you keep eating and trying to feed us stopped on the eighth. We don't buy it, we don't care. You take the holiday and think about your war and if you want to have it. Me and my troops are having a party. You, of course, ain't invited. So, don't let the door hit you on your good side.

Merry Christmas, doll face.

Dr. Slater shakes her head and slowly EXITS.

EXT. THRIFT STORE - BEFORE DAWN

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Mr. Potter, Joe, Peter, Tommy, Charlie, and several other boys stand outside of a closed thrift store before sunrise all dressed in coats and hats. All of the boys are tired and cranky.

TOMMY

Why do we have to do this, I don't want to do this. The girls don't have to do this, why you making us?

MR. POTTER

Because the girls have been excited about this and have been making their dresses since Christmas to get ready. All you bastards look homeless.

The lights inside the Thrift Store turn on. The owner, TONYA, A middle aged woman unlocks the front door.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Come on, move!

Everyone ENTERS the thrift store.

INT. THRIFT STORE - MINUTES LATER

Joe helps the boys in the back find shirts and suit jackets that fit.

MR. POTTER

Thanks again for doing this,  
Tonya.

TONYA

Save it. I wouldn't have a store  
or a vacation if it weren't for  
you, so what did you expect me to  
say?

MR. POTTER

I know, I know, its just early on  
a holiday. If the tables were  
flipped, I'd have more of an  
attitude is all I'm saying.

Mr. Potter sees Billy trying on a horrible suit jacket.  
Mr. Potter walks over, takes the jacket off of Billy,  
slaps Billy in the back of the head, and picks out  
another suit jacket for him to try.

INT. ROOM 304 - MORNING

Peter lies on his stomach in bed, still in a collared  
shirt and slacks. Peter opens his eyes and sees Mazzy is  
in his room admiring her dress in Peter's mirror. Peter  
sits up and smiles.

PETER

Do I know you?

MAZZY

I know, right? I feel like such a  
Dipshit. I made this, though. Joan  
taught me. I haven't worn one in a  
while. I think it was to one of my  
parent's trials, cant really  
remember which one. And I don't  
care today.

PETER

You did a great job, it's great,  
you look really great.

MAZZY

Thanks, Shakespeare. You gotta get all nic-ed-up too, Potter said so. He wants everybody dressed nice, but he really just said that all the boys better have a collar on or no bacon. Something like that.

PETER

Terrific, now I'm going to be just as uncomfortable as you. I haven't worn a suit since my mom's funeral. At least Potter let me get a different one.

MAZZY

Man, trials, funerals. It sure is horrible to dress up. I don't know, maybe Potters trying to teach us something by doing this.

PETER

You mean by doing this to us?

MAZZY

Yeah, it's kind of selfish I guess, but, you know. I went to Daughters after one of my parent's trials and you came here after your mom's funeral.

PETER

And?

MAZZY

And, maybe he's showing us that you can dress up and have a good time. That it can feel good. Because now the next time I have to wear a dress I can say the last time I wore a dress was with my boyfriend, Sweet Bear.

PETER

Oh yeah?

MAZZY

Yep, and I'll remember how hungry I was because you keep making me wait for breakfast! Get moving.

INT. CAFETERIA - MINUTES LATER

Peter and Mazzy enter the cafeteria in awe of the rooms transformation. A STRING QUARTET plays music in front of tables with tablecloths. A full breakfast buffet lines the back wall of the cafeteria, and a small waitstaff bring drinks to seated residents. Tommy and Charlie run up to Peter and Mazzy.

TOMMY

Oh good, we were just coming to get you. This is insane! Potter has lost his mind.

CHARLIE

Yeah, we're fancy now!

Mr. Potter waves to Peter as he continues from table to table, hosting.

INT. ROOM 304 - SUNSET

Peter sits on his bed in a suit attempting to tie his tie as the sunsets through the window. Peter becomes frustrated and stares out the window. Peter glances at the calendar next to the window. Peter grows upset.

PETER

This will be the first year without you, mom. I'm scared. I don't think I can do this. I miss you. I'll just tell 'em I'm sick, they'll understand. I just can't do this right now.

PETER EXITS.

INT. RED HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER.

Peter walks the hall anxiously. Peter watches his untied tie sway, and begins attempting to tie it again. Peter walks over to the window and watches himself successfully finish tying his tie.

INT. CAFETERIA - MINUTES LATER

Peter ENTERS the cafeteria. The cafeteria has again transformed into a ballroom with a large black tarp covering the ceiling above the dance floor.

Everyone is dressed impressively. Joe and Rita ENTER behind Peter. Joe puts his hands on Peter's shoulders, lovingly.

JOE

Hey, Pete, can you believe this?

Joe and Rita move further into the cafeteria. Mazzy, in a new dress, sees Peter and embraces him. Mazzy notice Peter seems odd.

MAZZY

Are you okay, is everything okay?  
Are you sick? You don't look sick,  
you look handsome.

PETER

Yeah, yeah, I thought I wasn't  
feeling well, but now I am.

MAZZY

Good, you're with me.

Mazzy takes Peter by the hand and takes him onto the dance floor.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

Everyone stands around Mr. Potter, holding drinks in the air, counting down from ten as midnight approaches. Once the crowd reaches one, Mr. Potter pulls a rope and balloons drop from the ceiling.

Mazzy kisses Peter and Joe and Rita kiss, and Joan Daily kisses Mr. Potter. Lil' Louis finds Charlie and kisses him before running away. Charlie is stunned and then smiles and fixes his hair.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - DAY

JANUARY

Dr. Slater stands in front of the building wearing dark sunglasses.

INT. BAR - PAST

Dr. Slater is incredibly intoxicated while in a bar. She throws herself at men and breaks glasses. Dr. Slater is escorted out by security.



INT. DR. SLATER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Dr. Slater ENTERS her apartment and finds that it's half empty. Dr. Slater finds a note on the table. The end of the note reads: I'm done, I'm leaving. Dr. Slater crumples the paper.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - PRESENT

DR. SLATER BARES HER TEETH AND MARCHES INTO THE BUILDING.  
INT. RED HALLWAY - LATER

Charlie and Tommy watch as men paint the walls black and change the fixtures with dimmer light bulbs.

INT. CAFETERIA - SAME TIME

Mr. Potter smokes a cigar and watches while the cafeteria is painted black and the light bulbs are changed. Mr. Potter struts toward the door.

MR. POTTER

Camp out!

INT. CAFETERIA - SOME TIME LATER

Electric lanterns are turned on as blankets are pitched on tables and chairs, making the entire cafeteria into a tent fort.

INT. CAFETERIA - LATER

The residents play charades. SUGGESTIONS: Taxi, The Crow, Batman the Animated series, Animaniacs.

INT. CAFETERIA - SOME TIME LATER

Hank works his projector and the movie, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, plays on the wall as the residents watch. Mazzy sits next to Peter with her head on his shoulders.

INT. CAFETERIA - SOME TIME LATER

A banner reading Lip Sinking Competition hangs on the wall.

Joe, Potter, Billy, and Tommy stand with their heads lowered behind Charlie. The group begins lip sinking to I Can Love You Like That by All-4-One.

INT. FIRST FLOOR - DAY

As the music continues, Dr. Slater walks the halls of the first floor as contractors renovate. Dr. Slater smiles slyly.

INT. DR. SLATER'S OFFICE - DAY

The music continues as Dr. Slater sits at her desk reading a resume. CARL, A large, scary looking man sits on the other side of Dr. Slater's desk.

DR. SLATER

And if the residents didn't comply with your orders, you'd be willing to use force, correct?

CARL

Of course.

DR. SLATER

Of course. You'll be hearing from me very soon.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - DAY

FEBRUARY

The music continues as Dr. Slater smiles and watches as the double doors of the building are painted black.

INT. BLANKET FORT - NIGHT

The music continues as Peter sits with MAZZY inside of the fort and admires Mazzy's multiple colored fingernails. Peter hands Mazzy a ten-dollar bill.

PETER

You won.

Mazzy smiles and takes the money.

MAZZY

Always bet on black.

PETER

Yeah, those doors are black, like, super black. Joe said there are drums of it in the basement now. Everybody's pissed.

MAZZY

Why?

PETER

Because, that's the end of that. No more door betting.

MAZZY

Oh.

PETER

I know, I know. There are plenty of bets, but still, that one was kind of special. Its the end of an era.

Mazzy becomes upset.

MAZZY

I'm leaving on Sunday. My mom's getting out of rehab. She's different. I haven't talked to her in almost two years. She sounded all right for a change, she remembered stuff. She apologized a lot.

PETER

That's, that's great.

MAZZY

No, it's not, I know. I know me leaving means you staying. I don't have a choice. You'll forget about me anyway.

PETER

I'll never forget you.

MAZZY

Come visit?

PETER

I don't think even Potter could pull a trip like that off.

MAZZY

I wish I could just take you with me. I'm gonna get a dog and name it Peter and I'm gonna take such good care of him and I'm gonna pretend it's you. We're gonna go on long walks through my favorite parts of the woods and he'll never wear a leash. He'll sleep with me every night and never outside alone. I promise, Peter.

PETER

No, no we're not going to end like this. You're still here and we still got Potter. Will you go out with me tomorrow?

MAZZY

I don't think I can.

PETER

Well, why the hell not?

MAZZY

I already have plans to hang out with this awesome guy named Peter. He's kind a my boyfriend.

PETER

Drop him, I heard he's a dog.

MAZZY

No! He will always be a sweet bear.

The camera leaves Peter and Mazzy in the blanket fort and finds Joe, Mr. Potter, Tommy, Billy, and Charlie still lip sinking while Charlie holds a large trophy.

INT. BLUE, GREEN, RED LOBBY - MORNING.

Peter stands in his suit holding a flower alone in the Lobby. Soon, Mazzy enters wearing a dress. Mazzy takes Peter by the hand and kisses him on the cheek.

INT. MEDICAL WING - LATER

Joe walks Mazzy and Peter through the medical wing of the building equipped with hospital rooms, doctors, and medical machines.

Peter and MAZZY see several senior residents on life support and oxygen machines being tended to by staff. Joe opens the back door. Peter and Mazzy exit.

EXT. CAFE - EARLY MORNING

Through the window of a cafe, Peter and Mazzy eat breakfast and drink coffee.

INT. EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - LATER

Peter and Mazzy hold hands while they wait in line to see the top of the empire state building. Peter sees an elderly couple holding hands and laughing affectionately. Peter smiles and looks at Mazzy.

EXT. TOP OF EMPIRE STATE BUILDING - LATER

Peter and Mazzy kiss on the top of the Empire State building as an entire school field trip points and SCREAMS at them.

EXT. STREET - LATER

A taxi stops at a red light. Moments later, Mazzy and Peter EXIT out of the back of the taxi quickly and run. The Taxi Driver exits his car and YELLS. Realizing he can't catch Mazzy and Peter, the Taxi Driver slams his hands on the hood.

INT. CHINESE RESTAURANT

Peter and Mazzy attempt to eat Chinese food with chopsticks.

INT. METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART - LATER

Peter and Mazzy walk around the Metropolitan Museum of Art somewhat bored. Peter and Mazzy stand in front of a picture of penguins. Peter and Mazzy look at each other and smile.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - SUNSET

Peter and Mazzy run down the steps and ENTER the Central Park Zoo.

INT. CENTRAL PARK ZOO - LATER

Peter and Mazzy watch through glass as penguins dive and swim. Mazzy whispers in Peter's ear.

PETER

I don't think they have cats here.

Mazzy smiles and shakes her head, no.

INT. THEATRE - LATER

Peter and Mazzy watch CATS. Mazzy loves the show, but Peter looks bored.

INT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT - LATER

Peter and Mazzy eat pasta as an elderly man SINGS Italian music.

EXT. STREET -LATER

Peter and Mazzy walk the street holding arms as the snow begins to fall.

INT.BLUE, GREEN, AND RED LOBBY - LATER

Mazzy and Peter enter the dark lobby after everyone has gone to bed. Peter can see a lantern still on in the cafeteria. Mazzy EXITS. Peter ENTERS the cafeteria hallway.

INT. CAFETERIA -MOMENTS LATER

Peter ENTERS and sees Mr. Potter at the back table playing solitaire, drinking, and smoking. Peter approaches. Mr.

Potter appears upset.

MR. POTTER

How was it?

PETER

New York's a wonderful town.

MR. POTTER

Only when you got a girl.

PETER

Yeah, it didn't hurt. Well, I guess that's it for tonight. See you tomorrow, Potter. Thanks again for the extra green. The lady likes restaurants.

Peter begins to EXIT.

MR. POTTER

It's gonna hurt, you know?

Peter turns back around.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

When she's gone it's gonna hurt. I'm just letting you know from experience. Don't feel so bad about it. It would have hurt if she stayed too. Love's stupid like that, kid. It's like picking a fight with Bruce Lee. No matter what, it's gonna hurt.

Mr. Potter waves Peter away. Peter EXITS.

INT. MAZZY'S ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Peter ENTERS and sees Mazzy ready for bed. Peter and Mazzy crawl into bed together. Peter and Mazzy face each other in bed. After staring at each other for a moment, Mazzy slowly begins to cry hysterically. Peter holds Mazzy.

INT. MAZZY'S ROOM - SUNRISE

Joe enters the room and sees Mazzy and Peter sleeping together. Joe coughs loudly. Peter and Mazzy wake up.

JOE

Sorry, guys. It's time.

INT. 8280 BROUWER STREET LOBBY

Peter and Mazzy stand together as Joe and Mazzy's Mother take Mazzy's things and EXIT.

MAZZY

Oh, I almost forgot I had this! I left you another present in your room, I don't want them anymore, but I really wanted to give you this, all of you. I hoped it would keep the spirits up.

Mazzy hands Peter A CD, Let Your Dim Light Shine, By Soul Asylum. Mazzy makes a power fist.

MAZZY (CONT'D)

Frustrated Incorporated forever.

Mazzy and Peter kiss.

EXT. 8280 BROUWER STREET - MINUTES LATER

Peter stands with Joe as Mazzy waves from the back window of her car. Peter continues to watch after the car turns the corner. Joe helps Peter back inside.

INT. 8280 BROUWER STREET LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

Peter is escorted through the Lobby by Joe. When they reach the door to the stairwell, Mr. Potter is standing in the doorway, waiting for Peter.

When Peter sees Mr. Potter he stops and grows angry. A phantom version of Nurse Betty stands behind Peter and holds him. Wolverines mask is illustrated over Peter's face as illustrated claws spring from his fists.

Peter begins punching and kicking the door and throwing things around. Joe attempts to calm Peter down but Peter swings at him. Mr. Potter grabs Peter. Peter beats Mr. Potter's chest and sides. Mr. Potter hugs Peter.

MR. POTTER

Let it out.

Peter stops for a moment while Mr. Potter holds him. Peter lets out a few more weak punches on Mr. Potter's side.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Let it out, tough guy. I got you.

Peter finally hugs Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter holds Peter and rubs his back.





CARL

If I have to tell you again, I'm gonna beat the shit out of you for making me. Do it! You have two minutes.

Peter stands and begins packing his clothes and few items.

INT. RED HALLWAY - MINUTES LATER

Peter walks with his things as Carl pushes him from behind. Peter sees Billy ENTER the hallway carrying his belongings and holding back tears as a male staff member pushes him from behind.

INT. BLUE, GREEN, AND RED LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Peter ENTERS the lobby and sees the senior residents are already lined up with their belongings. A Man dressed in a tie and holding a clipboard stands waiting in front of the crowd.

Peter sees Mr. Potter ENTER holding his things being followed by a male staff member. Both Mr. Potter and the male staff member have bloody noses.

MAN WITH CLIPBOARD

People! Can I have your attention please? We have reason to believe there is an outbreak of Croatian Flu on this floor. Everybody will be confined to the first floor. This section of the building is quarantined. Please follow me.

INT. STAIRWELL - MINUTES LATER

Mr. Potter slowly carries his things down the stairs. Peter catches up to Mr. Potter.

PETER

What the hell do we do now?

MR. POTTER

I don't know, do what I was doing. Wait to die.

PETER

There has to be something we can do to her.

(MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)

There has to be something to get her the hell out of here quicker.

MR. POTTER

Save the thinking, Pete. We lost. I made a mistake.

PETER

What, when?

MR. POTTER

I thought we were the house, kid. Turns out, we were betting against it like saps. Wars over, we're P.O.W.S now.

Mr. Potter moves quicker down the stairs. Peter stops. At the bottom of the stairs, seniors go down one hallway and children go down the opposite hallway.

INT. BEDROOM - MONTAGE

MARCH

Dr. Slater stands in front of two large staff members in different residents rooms, cornering them alone. She repeats the same thing to each resident.

DR. SLATER

We're going to behave now, right?

All residents agree.

INT. MR. POTTER'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mr. Potter paces around his room. He eyes and picks up empty bottles of liquor. Mr. Potter walks to the window. The view from the window is now a brick wall. Mr. Potter walks to his door and KNOCKS.

EXT. MR. POTTER'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Two staff members stand outside of Mr. Potter's door. They hear the knocking.

INT. MR. POTTER'S ROOM - SAME TIME

STAFF MEMBER

What?

MR. POTTER

Anybody want to make a trip out  
for some scotch and stogies? I'll  
make it worth your while.

STAFF MEMBER

Let's see the money.

Mr. Potter slides fifty bucks underneath the door.

STAFF MEMBER (CONT'D)

What an idiot. I just made fifty  
bucks.

Mr. Potter punches the door.

INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Mr. Potter ENTERS the bathroom and turns on the light.  
Mr. Potter stares at himself in the mirror. Mr. Potter  
cries. Mr. Potter leans.

EXT. BATHROOM - SAME TIME

A CRASH is heard in the room and Mr. Potter's leg falls  
outside the bathroom doorway.

INT. CHILDREN'S COMMON ROOM - DAY

Carl guards the double doors leading out of the  
children's common area. Peter sits on a chair in the room  
as Charlie, Billy and some other boys sit and play around  
the room.

Tommy sits by the window and tapes cards on the window. A  
reveal shows Tommy is playing cards with Hank across the  
yard. Hank is also taping cards to the window. Joan Daily  
tapes a note on the window next to Hank's cards. Tommy  
reads the note.

TOMMY

Potter's in the I.C.U.

Peter leaves his chair and walks to Tommy.

PETER

Are you sure?

TOMMY

Yeah, Joan Daily's handwriting is pretty shitty, but it says, Potter's in I C U. What's that, like a band?

PETER

No, it's like a death sentence. I have to see him.

TOMMY

You're serious? Pete, this place is now like one of those crazy compounds from X-Men. The board is doing their inspection today. We'll be lucky if Slaughter doesn't tie us up and gag us.

PETER

I don't care. You know how the X-Men broke in and out of those compounds?

TOMMY

Yeah, they were X-Men.

PETER

No, because they were a group. They worked together. Plus, they were badass. You want to be badass with me, Gambit?

TOMMY

You haven't called me that in months, Mon Ami. All right, Wolverine, they're holding Professor X behind enemy lines. How we gonna rescue him?

Peter looks at the keycard attached to Carl's belt.

PETER

We walk right through the doors, Bub. All we need are two more good mutants to run interference.

TOMMY

Jesus, you mean Charlie and Billy?

PETER

Unfortunately. Tell them, I'll be right back.

TOMMY

I'll let the folks know.

Peter EXITS. Tommy scrawls a note and tapes it to the window. The note reads: Seeing Potter. Joan Daily writes a note and tapes it to the window. Joan Daily's note reads: Miss You. Tommy wipes tears from his eyes.

INT. CHILDREN'S COMMON ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Peter ENTERS wearing Mazzy's Doc Martin boots. Tommy, Billy, and Charlie look at the boots in shock and then look at Carl. Peter begins to build up speed moving closer to Carl and finally kicks Carl so hard in the groin, the boot comes off of Peter's foot and stays between Carl's legs.

Carl falls to the ground. Peter takes the keycard off of Carl's belt and opens the double doors. The boys EXIT.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME TIME

Mr. Potter lies in a hospital bed. A Nurse checks on Mr. potter. As the Nurse leaves, Mr. Potter's heart monitor begins to flatline. The Nurse calls for a doctor.

INT. HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Peter, Tommy, Charlie, and Billy run down the hallway to another set of doors. Peter swipes a keycard and all the boys EXIT.

INT. 8280 BROUWER STREET LOBBY - MOMENTS LATER

Peter, Tommy, Charlie, and Billy run through the lobby. They are SCREAMED at by Tiffany. Tommy stops, picks up a pile of papers and tosses them into the air.

INT. MEDICAL WING ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

Peter ENTERS the hallway that both contains the entrance to the senior residents section and the double doors leading to the Medical wing. A male staff member sees the boys ENTERING and rushes at them.

Tommy takes out his deck of cards and throws them in the staff member's face before knocking into the staff member and taking him to the ground.

Peter runs to the Medical Hall's double doors and attempts to swipe his keycard. As he does, another staff member rushes at Peter.

Charlie sees the staff member, runs at him and rolls on the ground, tripping the staff member. Peter again swipes the keycard. Carl ENTERS from behind.

CARL

I'm gonna kill you!

Peter turns and prepares for Carl's attack. Billy, while terrified behind a wheelchair, sees Carl. Billy begins to run at Carl while SCREAMING.

Billy slams the wheelchair into Carl and both Billy and Carl fall to the ground. Billy CRIES. Peter swipes the Keycard acceptably and EXITS.

INT. MEDICAL WING - SECONDS LATER

Peter jogs down the hallway checking the rooms door's windowpanes for Mr. Potter. As Peter moves down the hall, he hears Mr. Potter FLATLINING. Peter runs toward the noise.

Peter looks into Mr. Potter's room and sees a doctor using a defibrillator on Mr. Potter's chest. Peter rests his head on the window.

PETER

Come on, old man. Get up, soldier.

As Peter looks into the window again, his face is shoved into the glass by Carl. Peter is thrown to the ground by Carl. Peter crawls back toward the double doors he came through.

CARL

You like to kick like a girl, you shit?

Carl kicks Peter in the stomach. Carl drags Peter to the double doors.

CARL (CONT'D)

We're gonna put you and your friends in little kiddie comas. I know a bunch of molesters from prison. I'm gonna give them all a call and let 'em have a private party with you boys.

INT. MEDICAL WING ENTRANCE - SECONDS LATER

Carl ENTERS dragging Peter. The two other staff members hold Tommy, Charlie and Billy. Tommy has a black eye, Both Billy and Charlie's noses are bleeding. Mr. Baxter, Dr. Slater, and the board ENTER from the senior Residents hallway.

MR. BAXTER

What the hell is going on out here?

CARL

We were just disciplining, they tried to escape.

MR BAXTER

Let go of those children immediately.

BOARD MEMBER

Oh, my, is that boy, those boys are bleeding!

Peter shoves Carl's arm off and begins to leave. Peter points at Dr. Slater.

PETER

You murdered him! You wanted him dead so bad that you murdered him. She killed him. She killed my best friend.

Peter EXITS. A board member, LINDA crouches by Charlie and wipes the blood and tears from his face.

LINDA

Hi, fella, Im Linda. Can you tell me whats been really happening around here?

CHARLIE

Hi, I'm Charlie. We had a war. Slaughter beat us, so now we gotta be prisoners.

LINDA

Slaughter? Who is that, sweetie?

Charlie points at Dr. Slater. Dr. Slater stands completely shocked at what is happening.



INT. 8280 BROUWER STREET LOBBY - MINUTES LATER

Dr. Slater follows Mr. Baxter into the lobby begging him. Mr. Baxter turns and stops her from speaking. A POLICE OFFICER stands at Tiffany's desk and helps her stack papers. The Police Officer sees Dr. Slater and approaches her.

POLICE OFFICER

Excuse me, folks, can you tell me if this is 8280 Brouwer?

DR. SLATER

Yes sir, it is. What can I help you with?

POLICE OFFICER

Fantastic, and can you tell me where I can find Dr. Becky Slater?

DR. SLATER

Yes sir, you're looking at her.

POLICE OFFICER

You, you're Dr. Slater?

DR. SLATER

Guilty as charged.

The police officer takes out his handcuffs.

POLICE OFFICER

Im afraid that's up to the judge, ma'am. Please put your hands behind your back slowly and tell me if you have any weapons in your pockets or on your person.

The police officer handcuffs Dr. Slater as she stares at Mr. Baxter in shock.

DR. SLATER

Excuse me?

POLICE OFFICER

I have a warrant for the arrest of Dr. Becky Slater.

DR. SLATER

What? What possible charges could there be?

POLICE OFFICER

Multiple counts of child abuse,  
child neglect, endangering minors,  
assault and battery, defrauding a  
Government program, the list goes  
on, ma'am. We'll talk more once  
your lawyer's present. You have  
the right to remain silent, and  
Joseph Miller sends his regards.

Dr. Slater is hauled away by the Police Officer.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - SAME TIME

The Doctor discontinues working on Mr. Potter.

DOCTOR

Ok, I'm calling it. Time of death,  
two twenty-seven.

The Doctor covers Mr. Potter with a sheet. The Doctor's  
hand is grabbed by Mr. Potter.

MR. POTTER

Hold on a minute, Doc. Your  
robot's broken, I ain't dead yet.

INT. PETER'S ROOM - SAME TIME

Peter ENTERS his room and punches the wall, throws things  
and exhausts himself until he falls asleep on the floor.

INT. PETER'S ROOM - MORNING

Peter wakes with scabbed knuckles. Peter finds a Disc-man  
with headphones and plays Misery by Soul Asylum. Peter  
EXITS.

INT. NEW CAFETERIA - LATER

Peter ENTERS the cafeteria and looks around. The seniors  
and children are again sitting together. Peter looks to  
two empty chairs where he and Potter would have sat and  
then EXITS.

INT. MEDICAL WING ENTRANCE - MINUTES LATER

Peter continues to listen to the song as he sees the double doors where the incident happened the day before. Joe Enters behind Peter.

JOE

Hey!

Peter sees Joe, takes off his headphones and hugs Joe.

PETER

I thought I'd never see you again.

JOE

They asked me to come back.  
Couldn't keep me away, man. Had to  
make sure you guys were okay.  
Can't leave a man behind and all  
that jazz.

Peter pulls back and can't look Joe in the eye.

PETER

Joe, Potter... He didn't make it.

JOE

What?

PETER

He died, I saw him. Potter's dead,  
Joe.

Joe points behind Peter.

JOE

You mean that Potter?

Peter turns and looks as the double doors behind him open and Mr. Potter ENTERS attached to an oxygen tank. The lyrics Frustrated Incorporated are repeated through Peter's headphones.

MR. POTTER

Hey, soldier. Guess we won.

Peter runs too Mr. Potter and hugs him. Peter cries hard. Mr. Potter is also emotional.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

It's all right, tough guy. Just  
let it out, I got you.

Peter continues to cry as he hugs Mr. Potter.

INT. NEW CAFETERIA - DAY

APRIL

Peter and Mr. Potter sit at the back table of the cafeteria. The cafeteria is busy with the family members of seniors and potential parents and foster homes for the children. Mr. Potter takes out a strawberry bubble gum cigar and chomps on it.

PETER

Last day.

MR. POTTER

You know where you're going yet?

PETER

No.

MR. POTTER

Good.

Mr. Potter sees his son, JACOB and Jacob's wife, ABBI enter the cafeteria and calls to them.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

You're late!

Peter sees the couple and is confused.

PETER

Who are they?

MR. POTTER

My son Jacob and his lovely wife, Abbi.

PETER

You've got a son?

MR POTTER

Two, and a daughter.

PETER

I didn't know you had kids.

MR. POTTER

Pete, you don't even know my first name.

PETER

What is it?

MR. POTTER

I'll tell you later, we got company.

Jacob and Abbi sit down.

JACOB

Sorry, Dad, were not used to the city traffic. It took us an extra fifteen minutes because we thought the building was condemned. I'll talk to somebody immediately. They said it was going to be exactly like Golden Hills or better.

MR. POTTER

It is. That place was terrible anyway. Jacob, I want you to meet Peter. He's an old war buddy of mine. Pete, this is my son, Jacob, and his absolutely stunning wife, Abbi. I need both of your John Hancock's on this.

Mr. Potter pulls papers out of his sweater. Jacob and Abbi sign them.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

Great, now these.

Mr. Potter pulls more papers from his sweater and Jacob and Abbi sign them.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

All right, enough with the pleasantries, let's get the hell out a here already. I'd like to be in my lounge before Judge Wapner starts yelling at idiots.

ABBI

Great, we'll pull the car around. It's so nice to finally meet you, Peter.

Jacob and Abbi EXIT. Peter sits, sad.

PETER

You're leaving?

MR. POTTER

No, kid, we're leaving. Now, go get your stuff.

(MORE)

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

I will not have this kind of dilly-dallying in my house, understood?

PETER

What?

MR. POTTER

Whats to what, kid? I own you now. Go get your stuff already

PETER

How did you...can we just leave?

MR. POTTER

Pete, this place might seem crazy, but my half is a retirement home. I kind a chose to be here. After my wife Sheri died, you'll see pictures of her, I got lonely. I just wanted to be around people like me, so my family took me to Golden Hills. This place is fun and all, but I ain't moving around anymore. It's time to go home. We got a good home, Pete, I want you to come and share it with me. I'm gonna take care of you, tough guy, alright? I've wanted that since the night you kicked that young punk right in the goods for me. Joseph helped streamline line the process, of course. I mean, your name's gonna be Peter Potter. Is that all right with you?

PETER

I'll live.

MR. POTTER

Fantastic, now, let's get your stuff already! This place is giving me a rash.

Mr. Potter and Peter walk by Billy who sits at a table alone. Mr. Potter points in Billy's face.

MR. POTTER (CONT'D)

You gonna listen to me and stop being such an idiot all the time?

BILLY

Huh?

MR. POTTER

Great start, kid. We're going to make a proper man out of yet, Billy. Go get your stuff and don't take your time about it. Go!

Mr. Potter pics Billy up and Billy EXITS.

PETER

Billy's coming?

MR. POTTER

For Christmas shakes, Pete, that kid's a mess. He needs me way more than you do.

EXT. SHORELINE - SUNSET

The camera stays on the sunset for a moment before descending and finding Peter standing by the water reading a letter. Peter stops reading and looks over to the beach.

Mr. Potter is helping Billy cook hotdogs in a campfire. Mr. Potter indicates that the hot dogs only have a minute left. Peter smiles and bends down as a puppy runs to him. Peter picks the puppy up. The dog's collar reads: MAZZY.

END

POST CREDITS

The entire cast lip-syncs to I Can Love You Like That by All-4-One. Dr. Slater sings along happily with her prison softball team.